



the north shore harmony rag



Joseph Schlesinger, Third Assistant
Temporary Editor and Royal Keeper
of the Minor Typos

North Shore Chapter,
Society for the
Preservation and
Encouragement of
Barber Shop Quartet
Singing in America, Inc.

Meetings:
7:45 p.m. Wednesdays,
Presbyterian Home,
3131 Simpson St.
(Golf Rd.), Evanston, IL
(Guests are welcome!)

November 2002

29 Members

Volume 30, Issue 11

At its July meeting, the Society Board approved a new Youth Policy. It is rather comprehensive, covering standards of conduct, members' responsibility, youth responsibility, Society membership, youth participation, and other areas.

Every member ought to be familiar with the Society's Youth Policy Statement; to view it in its entirety, visit the Society's Web site at www.spebsqsa.org/Music/YMIH_Youth.htm.

Society Offers Harmony Hall for Sale

SPEBSQSA President **Roger Lewis** announced that the Society Board has approved offering Harmony Hall for sale. The announcement was made at the Society's annual Leadership Forum held in Racine, Wis., Nov. 1-2.

The decision follows a year-long study by the Harmony Hall Task Force, a blue-ribbon panel commissioned by the SPEBSQSA Board. The Society headquarters has been located in the historic lakefront Alford Mansion in Kenosha, Wis., since 1957.

The Board further directed that an action plan be developed by June 2003 that includes options to consolidate the headquarters staff in a remodeled or expanded Sheridan Road facility in Kenosha, or to relocate or build in the Kenosha-Racine area. The Sheridan Road facility is owned by the Society. The building underwent an extensive facelift and re-engineering in 1999, making it a valuable piece of commercial property. Inquiries regarding the sale are being made among leading commercial Realtors in the Chicago-Milwaukee corridor.

The Board will also consider opportunities to relocate outside the Kenosha-Racine

Continued on page 4—
see HEADQUARTERS

Will You Be Our "King of Hearts"?

It's time to think about North Shore Chapter's Singing Valentines program. In order for us to have a successful fund-raiser on Feb. 14 (which falls on Friday next year), we need a member to volunteer to be our "King of Hearts," to plan and coordinate our Singing Valentines, starting NOW. This enterprising individual will be responsible for recruiting members to sing in quartets, scheduling and deploying the quartets, developing the Singing Valentine packages and pricing, organizing promotion, and overseeing customer service and order processing. If you're interested, talk to **Joseph Schlesinger**. We are also looking for members who will assist the chairman.

Chicagoland Barbershop Workshop

BEST Seminars™ presents a weekend-long barbershop workshop featuring coaches **Jay Giallombardo**, **Don Clause**, and **George Gipp**.

The workshop will be held at the Embassy Suites in Rosemont Friday and Saturday, Nov. 22 and 23, and will provide training encompassing many skill areas for both chorus singers and quartets.

Teaching materials include sheet music and a learning tape or CD. Total registration fee is \$100 for an individual, \$75 per quartet member, and \$25 for a student. If you plan to stay overnight at the hotel, room charges are extra, and you are urged to reserve your room early.

For more information, or to register:

- Visit the Web site www.bestseminars.net
- e-mail Jay at JayG@bestseminars.com
- Phone Jay at 847/272-6854
- Fax Jay at 847/272-8408
- Write to Jay at
BEST Seminars
c/o Jay Giallombardo
3602 Lawson Road
Glenview, IL 60025

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Rag Deadline: Second Wednesday of Every Month

Board Meetings: First Sunday of each month.

However, the December Board meeting will be held at 7:45 p.m. Sunday, **Dec. 8**, at **Phil Schwimmer's** home, 3432 Salem Walk E., Northbrook. All chapter members are welcome.

Chapter Web site: www.nsn.org/evkhome/bflat

(Current Rag issue is also on the Web site!)

October/November Guests

Jeff Brown (Mimura)

John Cain (Northbrook Chapter—chapter coach)

Walter Clements (Prieto)

Don Drake (Mohawk Valley, N.Y. Chapter)

Frank Goode (Chicago #1 Chapter)

John Haynor (saw Pioneer Press calendar)

Steve Lyons (Prieto)

Richard Peralta (Frank Goode)

Dick Schoch (J. Buenz)

Meet North Shore's Newest Member

Welcome **John Buenz** to our bass section. (His name is pronounced "Benz," like the German automaker.) John and his wife, Oogie (Olga), have two grown children—in fact, they're proud grandparents, and they live in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood. John's an architect specializing in commercial and high-volume residential properties—one of his projects you may have seen is the Crate and Barrel store on N. Michigan Ave. He's also a watercolorist. **Phil Martin** is his sponsor.

Barbershop Harmony Chicagoland Web site:
www.bbs.singer.as

COMING EVENTS

North Shore Chapter:

Every Wednesday night—**Informal Guest Night—BRINGASINGA!**

Wed., Nov. 27—**Thanksgiving Eve—NO**

North Shore Chapter meeting. If you want to sing that evening, visit Chicago Metro Chapter, Sokol Community Center, 4855 N. Elston Ave., Chicago.

Sat., 12/21—**Sing Around the Kettle for Salvation Army**—11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Jewel Foods, 2485 Howard St. (just east of the

North Shore Sanitary Canal), Evanston.

Fri., 4/25-Sun., 4/27—**Illinois District Spring Convention**—Peoria.

North Shore Chapter Web Site:

www.nsn.org/evkhome/bflat

Elsewhere:

Fri., 11/22 and Sat., 11/23—**Chicagoland Barbershop Workshop**—See story on page 1.

Fri., 12/6-Sun., 12/8—**Northbrook Chapter Holiday Show**—2:30 (Saturday and Sunday) and 8 p.m. (Friday and Saturday) at Glenbrook South H.S., 400 W. Lake Ave., Glenview. Featuring: **New Tradition Chorus** (2001 International Champion Chorus), chapter quartets. Tickets: \$20 (VIP, evening), \$15 (main floor and mezzanine, evening), \$14 (main floor, matinee), \$12 (upper level, evening), \$12 (mezzanine, matinee); \$2 discount for students and senior citizens, matinee; all evening show seats reserved. For more information, call 800/SHOWCHORUS (746-9246).

Sat., 12/7—**Lake County Chapter Holiday Show**—2:30 and 7 p.m. at Lake Forest Academy, 1500 W. Kennedy Rd., Lake Forest. Featuring: **Chicago Shuffle** (2002 International Senior Quartet Champs), **All 4 Fun**, **Sound Decision**, **Geneva Sound**, **Great American Chorus**. Tickets: \$14 ("gold," evening), \$10 ("silver," evening), \$10 (matinee); all seats reserved (group discounts available for matinee). For more information, call **Dave Cowin** at 630/355-8556 or 815/372-9533, or the Great American Chorus Hotline at 888/494-8705.

Sun., 12/8—**Melodeers Chapter (SAI) Holiday Show**—3 p.m. at Stevenson H.S., 1 Stevenson Dr., Lincolnshire. Featuring: **Melodeers Chorus** (three-time SAI International Champion Chorus). Tickets: \$12 (\$9 for students and senior citizens). For more information, call 800/ACA-PLLA (222-7552).

Fri., 12/13—**Interstate Woodshed**—8 p.m. (dinner at 6:30) at American Legion Hall, Hwy. B, Silver Lake, Wis. All Barber-shoppers invited; \$5 donation requested to defray expenses. For information, call the hall at 262/889-8255 or **Gerry Carroll** at 630/543-8808 (days).

OUR

MISSION STATEMENT:

North Shore Chapter of SPEBSQSA is a group of men of all ages who enjoy gathering in fellowship to sing in the four-part, a cappella, close harmony style known as barbershop. As we participate in our varied social and musical activities, including both choral and quartet singing, our members can develop their vocal skills and their appreciation of the rich heritage of American song, which we share with our community through performances in a variety of settings.

"Gentlemen all:
No war talk, no
politics, no
mocho [sic]
besting. Just a
beautiful group
of guys having
a fantabulous
time finding the
heart of har-
mony. What a
rush! Thanks
from the new
guy. (signed)
Robert
Hinton."

—from the
Morris County,
N.J. Chapter
Web site;
shared via the
Harmonet

Lead's Creed

—George Gorsuch (Boise, Idaho Chapter)
from the Harmonet

Another one! We've never met a lead who doesn't have some kind of memory problem, so here's another Lead's Creed—just in case you leads out there forgot the first one.

1. I will learn and faithfully execute the melody of the song.
2. I will interpret each song, telling the story convincingly.
3. I will reveal a bit of myself in every song, digging deep to find emotions consistent with its message. I will endeavor not to "lose it" on stage, but will consider the occasional foray over that emotional line a hazard of the position.
4. I will sing with beauty, attempting always to purvey a high level of artistry.
5. I will maintain pitch.
6. I will remember the words. All of them!
7. I will respect my bass' need to sing in manly fashion. I will not let him overdo it.
8. I will respect my tenor's desire to lay in those really, REALLY high notes. I will not question
9. I will respect my baritone's need to "finish" the chord. I will not try to understand him.
10. I will hear, but not listen to, my quartet. If they are behind, I will not slow down to wait for them.
11. If I hear an incorrect note, I will not grimace and leer at the offending party, unless it was me—at which time I will grimace and leer at the baritone.
12. I will be responsible for the framework of the song, singing it the same every time so my bass, tenor and baritone can anticipate the melody, sing to that anticipated point and worry about those things that harmony singers worry about. I will make their jobs as easy as possible.
13. When I need to sing a harmony part BRIEFLY, I will respect the man singing the melody, but I will gladly take the melody back as soon as possible, if not sooner.
14. I will remember at least my own name.

Next month—well, you'll just have to wait and see.

"From the Top"

Just a quick note: Our annual Sing Around the Kettle for Salvation Army is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 21, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Jewel Foods at 2485 Howard St., Evanston.

complement of former members can make it. This is always a fun, worthwhile event, and the more the merrier. Singers from the community are also welcome!

We hope all our current members and a healthy

—Joseph Schlesinger
President

An Updated Chapter Roster is enclosed with each North Shore Chapter member's copy of this newsletter. See Secretary **Phil Schwimmer** if you would like any additional copies.

Quartet News

Alchemy: Naperville gets a double shot of this four-some: the quartet sang at Independence Village Nov. 14, and they'll be in the Naperville Hometown Holiday Parade Dec. 1. The Chicagoland West Suburban Chapter Holiday Show (Dec. 13-14) and a couple of corporate parties in December make for a busy holiday season.

Hospitality: They will perform for First Presbyterian Church of Deerfield Sunday afternoon, Feb. 9.

North Shore Four: You don't have to be crazy to sing in this quartet—but it helps. They (Mimura-Remien-Prieto-Schlesinger) did a surprise wedding anniversary performance at 6 a.m. Monday, Nov. 4, for a couple in River North.

Don't Miss the High School Contests!

Once again, Arlington Heights Chapter will host the Northern Illinois High School Boys Quartet and Ensemble Contests. The contests will be held at Barrington High School, 616 W. Main St., Barrington, Sunday, Feb. 9, starting at 1 p.m.

Admission is free, and the public is invited. Participation is open to all male high school students in greater Chicagoland, quartets and ensembles of 10 or more voices are eligible, there is no entry fee, and cash prizes will be awarded.

For more information, contact Contest Chairman **Jack Musich** at 847/255-0589.

We urge all area high schools to participate and all our members to attend.

P. O. Box 741
Evanston, IL 60204

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More information about Harmony Hall, including a tour guide and video, is available on the Web at www.spebsqsa.org/mansionfor-sale.

Any questions should be directed to mansionforsale@spebsqsa.org.

Hopes for a Harmonious Senate

[By the time you read this, we'll all know the outcome. —Ed.]

Control of the Senate, which will be determined by a handful of competitive races like the one in South Dakota, will have vast consequences for judicial nominations, economic policy and domestic affairs. Not to mention the fate of the **Singing Senators**, the Republican leader, **Trent Lott**, said.

The group, which consisted of Mr. Lott, **John Ashcroft** during his Senate days and Senator **Larry E. Craig** of Idaho, was disbanded when the fourth member, **James M. Jeffords** of Vermont, left the Republican Party in 2001.

That move disrupted Senate harmony on several levels and, by the way, cost Mr. Lott his position as majority leader.

Now there is hope, Mr. Lott told a campaign crowd the other day, noting that Representative **John Thune**, above, the Republican Senate candidate in South Dakota, is a tenor. "When he gets elected two weeks from now, we are going to start our Singing Senators back up," he promised. He added that some considered that more of a threat than a promise.

—from *New York Times*
Oct. 24, 2002, page A20
(submitted to the
Harmonet by **Jim Styer**)

Headquarters

(continued from page 1)

area, should they become available, as well as any offers from benefactors who might be interested in assisting with the move or relocation of the headquarters.

Society Executive Director **Darryl Flinn** said that leaving Harmony Hall will be bittersweet. "The sale of Harmony Hall will have several immediate benefits, which include the reduction of operating costs and maintenance expenses involved in managing two facilities, and an increase in efficiency by uniting the staff in one building. But it will be difficult to leave such a magnificent edifice that has served the staff and the Society so well for so long."