

The Newyorker Times

The newsletter of Poughkeepsie, New York, Chapter, SPEBSQSA Inc.



New Series, Volume 4
Poughkeepsie, New York

Number 4
April 2003

BOB BETSCHA SUCCUMBS TO CANCER

Bob Betscha, a longtime Newyorker, died on 26 March after a long battle with cancer of the liver. He was 58 years old. In addition to his wife Angela, he is survived by two children, two grandchildren, a sister, a sister-in-law, and several nieces and nephews.

Bob joined the Newyorkers on 24 November 1980, sponsored by Bud Fair, and became a solid member of the Bass section.

The picture shows Bob in his chorus position, behind Bill Standish and with George Trigg on his right (left in the picture). Butch Ashdown is next to Bill.



ERRATUM

The “Coming Events” panel on Page 2 of the March issue gave an erroneous date of 12 May for the Annual Show. The correct date is 17 May. Please check your own calendars. We thank Bob Chieffo for pointing out this error.

WHERE, OH WHERE, HAS OUR SHEET MUSIC GONE?

By the Music Committee

Isn't it always the case that we always have in our sock drawer at least 10 pairs of black dress socks waiting for special even—and just when the big event arrives, we can't find a matching pair, even one lone sock? Well, this is just a “foot note” to ask all inactive members to please consider returning their collection of music from over the years.

Somehow it always happens that pieces of sheet music get lost, misplaced, or lent out and never find their way home. Because of the excessive cost for just one piece of sheet music, coupled with our always tight budget, it is necessary to solicit the help of those who have extra copies, not being used, to return them so that the chapter may save the expense of buying more copies for several of our songs. And if you would like to accompany the music back to chapter, so much the merrier—we do miss you. Thanks, on behalf of the Music Committee, for your help.

SHOW ADS AND TICKETS

By Scott Salladin
Show Ad & Tickets Chairman

Gentlemen, we have only a few short weeks for you to get out and get the show ads for this year's show. Deadline is Wednesday, 16 April, for all show ads. I have to make sure that all ads are in to Vittoria Sprague by 18 April. The show tickets will be out starting 2 April. Eric Dickstein will be handling the Show Tickets for the chapter members. Eric will be giving each member 10 tickets to sell. If you don't sell them, think about making a contribution to the chapter in the amount of the tickets. Remember this is tax deductible.

A QUARTETTING EXPERIENCE

By Eric Dickstein

As one of the newer member of the Newyorkers, I have been somewhat “shy” about quartetting. I finally decided to bite the bullet and sing in a Valentine's day quartet. The Poughkeepsie Paradocs Plus, comprising Gerry Weiss, lead, Bob Hitchcock, bass, Steve Hagerdon, bari, and Mike Murphy, bari, with myself as tenor, was finally put together for this occasion. Gerry had to drop out and Scott Salladin took over as lead. Almost as soon as we all got together, I got an e-mail from Bob stating, “FYI: I'm going to try to have us (all 5) scheduled as entertainment for the February Shrine Club meeting (Saturday Feb 8 . . .).” Wow, more singing already—now I'm in with both feet, up to my neck. We decide that for the Shrine engagement we would call ourselves “Four In A Chord.” Mike had to pass so that left us with a standard quartet.
(See “Quartetting” on Page 2)

The Newyorker Times
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Meetings
Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.
First Reformed Church
70 Hooker Avenue
Poughkeepsie, New York
ALL SINGING MEN WELCOME
 Website address www.newyorkerschorus.org



4 Apr First Friday Luncheon—12 noon, Aloy's Restaurant
 4-5 Apr **Western Regional Contest—Watervliet, NY**
 7-13 Apr Harmony Week
 11 Apr 65th Birthday Anniversary of SPEBSQSA
 16 Apr BOD meeting—6 p.m. at church
 17 May **Annual Chapter Show—8 p.m., F. D. Roosevelt High School, Hyde Park**



Poughkeepsie Chapter Mission Statement
 The mission of the Poughkeepsie Chapter shall be:
 To perpetuate the art of Barbershop Harmony, and
 To promote and provide opportunities for vocal harmony activities for its members and potential members such as, but not limited to
 Quartetting,
 Vocal crafts and techniques,
 Coaching,
 Chorus singing, and
 Competitive preparation and participation,
 and
 To provide public appreciation of barbershop harmony through public and charitable performances, and
 To promote good fellowship and camaraderie among its Membership, and
 To foster and enhance the ideals and principles of SPEBSQSA, Inc.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
30 APRIL

Happy Birthdays in April (date order):

Alison MacAvery	2
Kurt Hornick	3
Patricia Griffin	4
Dot Burke	14
Ron Pierson	17
Beverly Waltke	21
Lyndell Schaffer	23
Renée Silverstein	27
Joan Durand	27

Quartetting (From Page 1)
 When to rehearse, what to sing came next. Of course, Wednesday nights (starting early and ending late) would happen, but additional practice was certainly advisable. The program was to last 15 to 20 minutes, and we decided that a combination of polecat, Valentine's Day, and repertoire would give us a starting selection point. We came up with a list of 10-12 songs that we felt were potential candidates. Now, did we all know the music? Steve nixed a few, because he wasn't confident enough to sing them in bari, and we finally settled on Honey Little Lize, I Love You Truly, Let Me Call You Sweetheart, I Love That Old Barbershop Style, Irish Blessing, Down Our Way, Sweet and Lovely, and Shine On Me.

We met once prior to 8 February (besides Wed. nights) and had a pretty good rehearsal. Not International Gold Medal quality, but we wouldn't disgrace the Newyorkers or ourselves. We decided that to get more practice, we would meet early on the 8th at Bob's house, then get to the event.

I'm excited and nervous all at the same time. This is my first outside venture in a (See "Quartetting" on Page 2)

Quartetting (From Page 1)

quartet. It also happens to be exactly one year from the day I first went to visit the Newyorkers. It's 3 o'clock and Scott, Bob, and I are together. No Steve. By 4:30 we are all nervous. Is Steve OK? Did he forget? [We find out later that Steve had an emergency (he personally is OK) and didn't get to his messages till almost 7 p.m. He did call and say he could make the performance.] What are we going to do if he doesn't show? Can we call anybody else to sing bari and fill in? Assuming the worst, that Steve wouldn't show, we take a shot and call Bill Standish. We explain the situation and ask him if he can help us out, otherwise our group would be Four (Minus 1) (almost) In A Chord! Bill dons his shirt with the big "S" and graciously agrees to fill in, on no notice with no rehearsal! What a trooper! Wow, just the confidence booster I needed—right! As a group, we do one run-through of the music so we could say that we had practiced.

To top things off, there was an old Newyorker there (Bill Booth), and a couple of people who knew Rudy Veltre. We were going to be "reported on"!

It's time; we go on stage. Would we be entertaining? Would we sing well? Would they throw tomatoes? Scared? Yeah! I'm trying to remember everything I've ever been told about performing—follow the lead, be expressive, don't tighten up, if you miss don't let the audience know it, be entertaining, have fun....

It was a TERRIFIC experience! Sure, we didn't ring every chord, but we did ring plenty. I was watching (and listening to) the audience reaction. We got some polite applause, and some heartfelt applause. Some sincere "You sounded great" commentary afterwards. We even did a couple of songs afterwards more informally.

I ended up really looking forward to Valentine's Day.

MEDICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE IN CANADA

From *SPEBSQSA Live Wire*, 17 March 2003

This information was provided by the Society's insurance representative. We urge all members traveling to the international convention to check with their own insurance companies prior to departure to understand their coverage while traveling in Canada.

Check your health insurance before you travel to the international convention. Canada has a national health insurance plan that covers only its citizens. For non-Canadian citizens, all of the medical insurance companies we are familiar with cover insured employees, spouses, and dependents worldwide. If you are in need of care, in most cases, you will be required to pay for all medical services up front with a credit card. You will then need to submit receipts and an itemized claim form directly to your insurance company for reimbursement.

Benefits are typically covered at the "out of network" level. It is best if you can attempt to reach your primary care physician first to get advice. One concern to be aware

of is the usual and customary fee determination. Unfortunately, the patient can not control the amount a medical provider might charge. Any charge above usual and customary becomes the patient responsibility, so you are encouraged to ask the provider if they will accept the usual and customary fee.

NEWS YOU CAN USE FOR MONTRÉAL

From *SPEBSQSA Live Wire*, 3 March 2003

Traveling to the Montréal convention shouldn't be a hassle—and it won't be if you're properly prepared. Check out this web site for a wealth of useful information: www.nedistrict.org/montreal/international/. Here's just one point you'll learn: Save your receipts! Visitors to Canada are entitled to claim a refund of the Canadian Goods and Service Tax (GST), and must save their receipts to establish their claim. The Information Booth at the convention will have the forms required, as will all the convention hotels. Explore this site and its information so you can "travel smart."

Gospel Sing site announced

The Gospel Sing at the Montréal international convention will be held at St. James United Church, 463 Ste. Catherine Street West, Thursday, 3 July, from 9 to 11 a.m.

Dinner With the Champs is fun, charitable event

Dinner with the Champs will be held at the Marriott Chateau Champlain Ballroom from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Saturday, 5 July (between the chorus contest and quartet finals). The event is designed to allow convention goers to enjoy a delicious three-course dinner while being served and entertained by members of the Association of International Champions (AIC). Featured quartet performers will be Dick Van Dyke and The Vantastix. Tickets are \$50 and a cash bar will be available. A portion of the ticket price (\$20) and all tips to AIC waiters can be considered charitable donations to Harmony Foundation. Proceeds from the Dinner with the Champs will benefit Harmony Foundation and the AIC Endowment Fund.

Tickets can be purchased on line at www.spebsqsa.org/Montreal or by calling 800.876.7464 x8462.

NEWYORKERS TEAM WINS SPELLING BEE

The 11th annual Spelling Bee held by Literacy Volunteers of America, Dutchess County, was won by a team representing the Newyorkers. The team, consisting of Chorus Director Renée Silverstein and bass George Trigg and sponsored by Tacinelli Hardwood Floors, was one of 48 teams in the Bee. Two preliminary rounds, involving relatively simple words, reduced the number to 22. The final rounds brought in such words as *pochismo* and *arenaceous* and quickly eliminated all but four of the teams. The other three teams failed in turn to spell the word *diaspora*; our team knew the word (it means (See "Spelling Bee" on Page 4)

Spelling Bee *(From Page 3)*

a scattering or dispersion) and was declared champion, and there was a further spell-off to determine second place.

This was the second time that the team had entered the contest; last year they achieved a two-way tie for second, and no spell-off was held.

Tacinelli Hardwood Floors is owned and run by Jack Tacinelli's younger brother Tom. As far as is known, their sponsorship of the Newyorkers team is pure coincidence.

WESTCHESTER CHORDSMEN SHOW APRIL 26

By Phil Richards

Westchester Chordsmen Webmaster

Forwarded by Scott Salladin

The Westchester Chordsmen present:

THE BEST OF THE CHORDSMEN
Celebrating the Chapter's Fiftieth Anniversary

Featuring

THE WESTCHESTER CHORDSMEN CHORUS

Directed by Dusty Schleier

Bringing back such famous quartets as:

THE RACQUET SQUAD THE NOTEWITS
CAPT'N BILLY'S WIZZBANG SUNBURST EXPRESS
and

The Golden Anniversary Alumni Chorus

Saturday, April 26 at 7:32 pm
White Plains, NY Middle School

Directions at <http://www.chordsmen.org>

Reserved Patron Tickets - \$25

Advanced Purchase General Admission - \$15

At door - \$18

Three ways to order tickets:

By check or by credit card (VISA or MC only; include card number and expiration date) to Dave Maxwell, 23 Leslie Lane, Katonah, NY 10536. Please include your full name, address, phone number, and self-addressed stamped return envelope.

or

ONLINE through our web site. Click below:

<http://www.chordsmen.org>

Then click on the Show Link. Please include your full name, address, and phone number in the PayPal message.

Further info at 800-413-7153 or 914-232-2323.

WELCOME THE YANKEE DIVISION HEP TEAM

by Jim Dodge

NED DVP, Music and Performance

It is with great pride that the Northeastern District introduces you to the new Yankee Division HEP Team.

Eight men have come forward to be trained and become ready to go forth to coach the quartets and choruses of Yankee Division. Please welcome Garry Ashdown (Poughkeepsie), Steve Barrett (Lincoln), John Hadigan (Poughkeepsie), Steve Holtz (Manchester), Alan Lamson (Manchester), Todd Lamson (Manchester), Bob Ranno (Waterbury-Derby), and Dusty Schleier (Bridgeport) as our new team. Co-Chairs of the team will be Butch Ashdown (bigbutch29@aol.com) and John Hadigan (Bigjohnbass1@aol.com). Contact either man to arrange coaching for your ensemble.

The Northeastern District now has functioning HEP Teams in four of its five divisions. That means that we have 35 men prepared to help your ensemble sing and perform better. To access this coaching resource, contact . . . Butch or John . . .

All coaches certified for coaching on the HEP teams have been schooled in the Singing A's coaching concept, which stresses that singers and ensembles must master the basics (posture, breath management, vocal placement, etc.) to begin to see consistent improvement. Larry Bean and I conducted the training for our new HEP Team.

These men are ready to help you. Use them!!

NED SHIRTS

By Rick Barry

DVP Marketing and Public Relations
Northeastern District

Anyone who was at the Eastern Regionals saw for the first time the Northeastern District Shirts. They come in blue or gray and have on them the District logo, and under it the words "barbershop harmony." They are a great PR tool, and should be worn proudly by everyone planning to go to the Internationals in Montréal, to show those around the world that you are a proud member of the NED. They will be available at the NEDShed at the Western Regional in Watervliet.

DAILY WORKOUT

Passed on by Renée Silverstein

Physical exercise is good for you. We all know that we should do it daily, but our bodies don't want us to do much; so here is a program of strenuous activities that do not require physical exercise. You are invited to use this program without charge.

- 01) Beating around the bush
- 02) Jumping to conclusions
- 03) Climbing the walls
- 04) Swallowing my pride
- 05) Passing the buck
- 06) Throwing my weight around
- 07) Dragging my heels
- 08) Pushing my luck
- 09) Making mountains out of molehills
- 10) Hitting the nail on the head *(See "Workout" on Page 5)*

Workout (From Page 4)

- 11) Wading through paperwork
- 12) Bending over backwards
- 13) Jumping on the bandwagon
- 14) Balancing the books
- 15) Running around in circles
- 16) Eating crow
- 17) Tooting my own horn
- 18) Climbing the ladder of success
- 19) Pulling out the stops
- 20) Adding fuel to the fire
- 21) Opening a can of worms
- 22) Putting my foot in my mouth
- 23) Starting the ball rolling
- 24) Going over the edge
- 25) Picking up the pieces

TWO SOCIETY QUARTETS ADVANCE IN NBC MOST TALENTED SENIOR SEARCH

From *SPEBSQSA Live Wire*, 17 March 2003

Two Society quartets have advanced to the final selection round in the auditions for the new NBC television show "The Search for the Most Talented Senior in America." Gent's Nite Out qualified in the New York audition and Indecision advanced from the Charlotte, N.C. audition. Tapes of the groups' performances and interviews have been sent to NBC casting in Los Angeles. The last rounds of auditions are scheduled this week and selection for the show will follow.

Quartet members are, for Gent's Nite Out, Carlo Masciulli, tenor; Donald Myers, lead; Bernard Margolis, baritone; and Ronald Shuey, bass; for Indecision, Robert Yelton, tenor; Ed Avery, lead; Shelby Robert; baritone; and William Hickman, bass.

NEW BARBERSHOP TOURS ANNOUNCED BY HARMONY TRAVEL

Several new tours for 2003 and 2004 have been announced by Harmony Travel (www.harmony-travel.com). Among the tours are these:

- Ireland and the Irish Association of Barbershop Singers Convention, 28 September–6 October
- Oktoberfest in Germany with Harmony, 2001 International Senior Quartet Champions, 2–13 October
- Caribbean Cruise with the Aliens Quartet and Jim Bagby as Chorus Director, 26 October–2 November
- Famous Christmas Markets of Germany, 2–13 December
- Post-Biloxi Mid-Winter Convention Caribbean Cruise, 25 January–1 February 2004
- Hawaiian Splendor Cruise with Riptide, 22–29 February 2004
- Kerry Festival and Ireland, March 2004

- Post-Louisville Convention Riverboat Cruise, 4–10 July 2004
- New Zealand Barbershop Tour and Pan Pacific Convention, 19–31 October 2004

POST-MONTREAL CRUISE

RESERVATION DEADLINE APPROACHING!

The deadline to make your reservation to travel on the Post-Montreal Convention Cruise with Power Play is quickly approaching. The cut-off date for reservations is 11 April.

The Post-Convention Cruise leaves Montreal at noon on Sunday, 6 July, and ends in Boston on Saturday, 12 July. The cruise is on a 5-Star ship from Holland America, featuring tours of Québec City; a cruise of the scenic Saguenay Fjord; Prince Edward Island; Sydney and Halifax, Nova Scotia; and Bar Harbor, Maine. Cruise prices start from \$1,595. Port charges, government fees, and security charges are \$260. Airfare not included. Call TravelEx International, a Harmony Travel Partner, toll-free at 1-866-QUARTET (866-782-7838), to make your reservation.

For the detailed itineraries for these tours, go to www.harmony-travel.com.

NIGHTWATCH WINS HARMONY SWEEPSTAKES REGIONAL

From *SPESQSA Live Wire*, 17 March 2003

Nightwatch, a quartet from the Greendale, Wisconsin, Chapter (Midwest Vocal Express Chorus), has captured first place in the Harmony Sweepstakes Chicago Regional competition. The group is now preparing for the finals to be held Saturday, May 3, in California.

The Harmony Sweepstakes A Cappella Festival is the premier American showcase for vocal harmony music. The annual national competition draws from hundreds of vocal groups from around the country with regional competitions in eight cities. The winning group from each festival is flown to perform in front of celebrity judges and a sold-out house of enthusiastic a cappella fans at the National Finals.

To learn more about Nightwatch and the Harmony Sweepstakes, visit their web site at

www.harmony-sweepstakes.com.

HARMONY HALL SALE MOVES AHEAD

By Darryl Flynn
Executive Director

Harmony Hall officially went on the market as of 1 March. Wednesday, 12 March, the agent handling the sale held an open house that was attended by nearly 100 Realtors and prospective buyers. As of Friday, 14 March, a deal was struck, and we now have a contract pending for the sale/purchase of Harmony Hall. We have very quickly moved into the time when our buyers are doing their due diligence, including inspections, surveys, and getting their financial dealings in order. As previously announced, our Sheridan Road facility is (See "Harmony Hall" on Page 6)

Harmony Hall (From Page 5)

also on the market. So these are times of significant change for the Society and staff, but times of great excitement and opportunity as well.

We want you to know that although the sale of Harmony Hall is moving rapidly, you will not notice any interruption in the service provided by the terrific staff here at the headquarters. Our commitment remains to serve the members of our beloved Society.

We are approaching the 65th anniversary of the founding of the Society. That is an important age in the lives of most people, and certainly this 65th year of SPEBSQSA will be a milestone in the Society's history. But some things don't change—especially the joy and fellowship shared by Barbershoppers around the world. So as we continue to harmonize, we look forward to a bright and exciting future.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR VOICE! (PART 2)

By David Epstein MD, Wilmington, Del., Chapter
(From the SPEBSQSA web site,
by way of Greater Montréal Chapter's *Mini-Pitch*,
Murray Phillips, Editor)

In an earlier issue, I wrote about how to avoid vocal injury while singing. Here are things you can do every day, outside of rehearsals, to keep your voice in top shape.

- Exercise your voice for five or ten minutes every morning, *before* you start work. Sing a single-octave scale in the shower, for example. This way, you can limber up your vocal folds before your job can irritate them, especially if you talk a lot during the day. Everyone knows the need to warm up before singing, but few realize that warming up before a day of talking can also improve your voice and protect the vocal folds. The neighbors will love you!
- Keep the noise in your workplace to a minimum. This

will avoid overuse problems from shouting over noise.

- Try not to talk on the phone or to co-workers over the noise of computer printers, typewriters, copiers, etc.
- Keep singing and talking in the car to a minimum. Trying to out-shout auto noise can lead to overuse problems. Keep the ventilation fan off or on low. If you practice with a barbershop tape in the car, keep the volume low and try to sing softly.
- Try to use good posture while talking at work, just as you would when singing. With good air support, you can dramatically improve the efficiency of your voice and avoid overuse problems.
- Stay in good physical shape; exercise regularly. If your stomach and chest muscles are strong, your air support will be good.
- Avoid cigarette smoke. Everyone knows that smoking is bad for singers, but "second-hand smoke" can also make you hoarse.

**ROCKAPPELLA TO PERFORM AT
"HARMONY FOUNDATION PRESENTS"
IN MONTRÉAL**

From *SPEBSQSA Live Wire*, 3 March

The show will be held at 8 p.m. Tuesday, 1 July in the Bell Centre (the venue for the competition), and will also feature The Gas House Gang and Max Q. Tickets are available now and you can order your seats online at www.spebsqsa.org/Montreal. Prices are \$35 and \$25, with a limited number of VIP tickets at \$75, which will include the best seats in the house and a post-concert reception with the performers.

Ticket order forms for the show will also appear in the next two editions of The Harmonizer or you may call 800.876.7464 x8462. A portion of all ticket prices will be tax deductible.

Website for Poughkeepsie Newyorkers: <<http://www.newyorkerschorus.org>>

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