

The Newyorker Times

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



New Series, Volume 4
Poughkeepsie, New York

Number 12
January 2003

Editorial COMMUNICATION DUPLICATION

Over the past few months, there has been a substantial amount of duplicate communication to the membership. Several times, a broadcast message has been sent by e-mail, containing material that we felt should be seen by all the members, not just those who have signed up for the messaging service. We therefore repeated the messages in this newsletter. Clearly, this is wasteful of something, whether space in the newsletter or time spent by the senders of the e-mail messages. We wish to suggest that in the future, any message for the entire membership that is not time sensitive—that is, that could just as well wait for the next issue of the newsletter—be circulated here, where it will be available to *all* the members, active and inactive. We welcome comments on this suggestion.

We take this opportunity to wish all our readers a healthy and prosperous New Year.

George L. Trigg

HARMONYFEST 2002 PICTURES!!!

By Bill Standish, Chairman
HarmonyFest 2002

Hello All...

Thanks to Bob and Diane Chieffo, we have some great shots from November's HarmonyFest now on the web. Thanks to Ken Hughes: he put them there! And coming soon to a theatre near you, HarmonyFest 2002 promotional video. Ken and I spent the weekend looking at all the video tapes taken on Saturday and think we have put together a fantastic video for fun, nostalgia, and promotional opportunities. Master videographer Ken took the wheel on this, and we all owe him a huge "THANK YOU" for spending the entire festival day videographing and interviewing, and this last weekend putting it all together. We're sure you'll love the video...in fact, we guarantee it!!! In the meantime, our website is: www.racingcitychorus.org/hfest2002.htm

ENJOY!!!

NEW POSITION FOR ASHDOWN

By Gary "Butch" Ashdown

Well, since Swing Shift has disbanded, there has been a void in my barbershopping life. It's only been a short time, but I've been going crazy without it. So, unbeknownst (is that a word?) to me, I received a phone call from NED President Alan Lamson [on 5 December] and he appointed me to the position of Manager of the Yankee Division. From what I understand, I'll be responsible for the Division, which covers from Poughkeepsie to Rhode Island. I'll be responsible for making sure Division contest goes off without a hitch, giving out awards and trophies at contest, and a

few other neat things. Alan also tells me that there will be a push on promoting the Seniors Quartet Contest at Division level as well as bringing back VLQ contests. Also in the near future, comedy quartet contests will be held. SO there is a lot of neat stuff in the works and I'm looking forward to the challenge.

I'm hoping all is well with everyone and I wish the best for you all in this upcoming holiday season.

BARBERSHOP BOOK REPRINTED

By Jim Coates

Hello fellow barbershoppers -

I have an exciting announcement to make, and just in time for the holidays, too! [Ed. note: delayed in getting into press.] Forget that new cell phone or that DVD player: I have the perfect solution to your shopping needs. :-)

Those of you who've been around for a while will remember Fred Gielow's wonderful book, *Laughter, Love and a Barbershop Song*. Many of the stories chronicled in this book are legendary, and every page brings a new delight. Since this book was published in a very limited edition way back in 1980, many, many barbershoppers have not had the pleasure of owning a copy. Heck, there's been a whole new generation of barbershoppers join since then, many of whom weren't even born yet when the book was published!


Well, I was able to track Fred down and talk him into allowing me to publish a new soft-cover edition of his book. So for all of you who came along too late to get a copy, and all of you who missed it the first time, now is your chance!

Being an active quartet and chorus man as he was writing the book, Fred brings a wonderful insight into the life and times of being a barbershopper. (See "Book" on Page 2)

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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.angelfire.com/fl/gbnagy



3 Jan First Friday luncheon—12 noon, place tba
11–12 Jan COTS (Chapter Operations Training Seminar)—Falmouth, MA
 15 Jan BOD meeting—6 p.m., at the church
18 Jan Newyorkers' Installation Dinner—6:30 p.m., Casa Mia Restaurant, Hwy. 9W, Highland
14 Feb Singing Valentines chapter fund raiser
18 May Annual Chapter Show, F. D. Roosevelt High School, Hyde Park

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
31 DECEMBER

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.

Happy Birthdays in January (date order):

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Jane Reynolds | 3 |
| Gerry Weiss | 7 |
| Bix Doughty | 10 |
| Faith Krzywicki | 12 |
| Steve Hagerdon | 13 |
| Steve Miller | 25 |

Book (From Page 1)

So what's in the book, you ask? Only a collection of over 200 anecdotes collected by Fred from over five dozen barbershoppers! Let me quote from the back cover: "You'll read about wild shenanigans and shows and the marvelous merriment practiced by barbershop singers. You'll read about touching and tender moments. You'll read about side-splitting, laugh-until-you-cry barbershop happenings. You'll read about the wealth of laughter and love that seems uniquely instilled in that curious creature called a barbershopper, and you'll discover there's boundless joy in his efforts to learn, perfect, and perform a barbershop song!"

Laughter, Love and a Barbershop Song is a wonderful documentary of the formative days of our Society, when the greats such as Lou Perry, Earl Moon, Buzz Haeger, Freddy King, and Forry Haynes, to name just a few, were creating memories. There are so many great stories about quartets from the Midstates Four to BGSU, from the Buffalo Bills to the Boston Common—in all, more than 100 quartets, 45 chapters, and 250 individual barbershoppers are mentioned by name.

Folks, you owe it to yourselves to get a copy of this book. Those of you who were around back then will love reliving the memories. And those of you who weren't around then will have a great time learning about and loving those chapters, quartets, and

(Continued on Page 3)

Book (From Page 2)

individuals that have made our Society what it is today.

And if you are lucky enough to already have a copy of the original edition, why not get a copy for someone you love to sing with?

The cost of the book is \$14.95. Shipping and handling is \$5 for the first book, and \$0.50 for each additional book in the same order. (Sorry, but my Canadian friends will have to add an additional \$5 for shipping, and those outside of the US or Canada will have to contact me for a quote.) There are several ways you can order:

1) The easiest way is online with a credit card, at my website <http://www.coatesbbshop.com>

2) By phone, with a credit card, by calling 937-886-0115 (anytime day or night). This is a secure voice mail box.

3) By mail, sending your order with a check, money order, or credit card information to Jim Coates, 154 Villa Pointe Drive, Springboro, OH 45066.

If you order online, you will be led through all the information you need to give. If you call or write, make sure to tell me how many copies you want and where to send them, the credit card information (including billing address, if it's different), and a phone number where I can reach you if I have questions.

This book makes a great gift for others. If you think it would be a great gift for you, why not print out a copy of this [article] and give it to someone as a hint? :-)

One other idea: these are great to donate to libraries, and this can be a good publicity boost for your chapter, both because of the donation (possible newspaper article/photo op), and in possible interest from readers. (You would put your chapter contact information inside the front cover, wouldn't you?) If you are interested in purchasing multiple copies for donations, please contact me either on my web page or by email (privately, please) for a special quote.

Thanks to all for reading this. Enjoy reading the book, and in the spirit of the season, I wish you all "Laughter, Love and a Barbershop Song."

CONVENTION HOUSING UPDATE: DON'T MISS OUT!

From *SPEBSQSA Update*, December

As part of the Society's contract with hotels and the local convention bureau that handle the housing arrangements for us, 30 days prior to the first official day of our convention (midwinter and international), all unreserved hotel rooms that each hotel is holding for our convention attendees are released back to the hotels for their use. Anyone who has not reserved a hotel room by that time runs the risk of not being able to get into one of our hotels and/or not being able to get the negotiated hotel rate for the convention.

Those people who have already registered for the Al-

buquerque midwinter convention have been sent housing request forms as part of their convention information packet. Housing request forms for the Montreal international convention will first appear in the March/April issue of *The Harmonizer*.

SOME BROTHERHOOD HISTORY

By Mike Myers

The Brotherhood was formed in 1975 to be the bickering School Board quartet in the Community Players production of "The Music Man."



Since we were made up of half of the Lavender Hill Mob (Tony Gross and I) and half of the Unlikelyhoods (Fred [Gielow] and Pete [Donatelli]), it seemed we should either be named The Brotherhood or the The Family (possibly the *Cosy Nostra* <grin>). Anyway, the Brotherhood won out as the name. We found such satisfaction with this foursome that we became

an official quartet and disbanded the other two. The gangster motif became one of our quartet personas. Pete became our Godfather, as he was the only real Italian in the quartet.

Pete, who was the administrator of Hudson's largest hospital, made a deal with a priest from another hospital in Hudson to trade four beds to the priest's Catholic hospital



in exchange for four used Franciscan monk's robes, and another Brotherhood persona was born. We used these uniforms on our first show. This was in Valatia, NY, where we were the comic relief for the Suntones. On the afterglow, we did a parody of their performance; later, they signed us up to do

their chapter show in West Palm Beach.

We performed all over the US and Canada up until 1986, when Pete died of a heart attack while jogging and Fred moved south to Raleigh, NC. We competed at International in 1976 (San Fran- (See "Brotherhood" on Page 4)

Brotherhood (From Page 3)

cisco), 1977 (Philadelphia), 1978 (Cincinnati), and 1979 (Minneapolis). Our best finish ever was 32nd, but we did score a 6th in Stage Presence in San Francisco with our vaudeville routine (a magic act and a soft shoe comic routine), with an exploding table that ended the first song and sent a giant smoke ring billowing to the ceiling of the Cow Palace. Many people I have spoken to even recently have recalled that performance in SF, even though it was 25 years ago.

We attended Harmony College in 1978 and left the Society with an original joke that we had repeated to us on several occasions all around the country. At that time, Bob Johnson, the Society's music director, was pushing for all quartets and choruses to return to our roots by performing no less than 75% pure barbershop music. In our bit at the quartet showcase, in our signature song "One of Those Songs," the following exchange occurred:

Mike: Say aren't you the famous arrangement judge?

Pete: Why, yes, I am, what can I do for you?

Mike: Well, I'm having trouble with this one chord.

Pete: Tell me about it.

Mike: Well, it has a root, a 3rd, a 5th and a MAJOR 7th, can I use it?

Pete: Of course. It's 75 percent barbershop.

Bob Johnson almost fell down laughing..

We changed basses in 1980, replacing Tony with Fritz Jones. All in all, we performed in about 200 chapter shows, roughly 25 of which were with the Boston Common (most of those were for NED chapters). My current quartet, Joint Venture, will be appearing with the original Boston Common on the Greensboro, NC, show on April 5th of next year.

My recollection of the White House story was that Bob Betscha was flying back from Washington, DC, and his seat mate told him that he was responsible for putting together the talent for a 4th of July show for the White House staff picnic and wanted an Americana theme. Bob said he should have a barbershop quartet, and the man said, "That's a great idea, but where would I find one?" Bob gave him my phone number and he called me, although I was not the regular contact man.



When he asked if we could do a show on the 4th of July, I hedged, saying that the guys might have personal plans, but in case we could do it, where would it be held?

He said Washington, DC, and I said that we had done several shows down there for different chapters; which chapter was this for? He said it wasn't a chapter, but was for the White House. After I asked him if Terry Clark put him up to this and he said he didn't know any Terry Clark, I said I would call the guys and get back to him, but I thought they would be inclined to do it. We did, of course. Each of us was allowed to bring a single guest. Fritz brought his wife, Peggy, and the other three of us brought our sons. It was a great event. President Reagan and Nancy were there, along with many other notables. We watched the fireworks on the Mall that night while sitting on the South Lawn, listening to patriotic music played by the Marine Corps Band. The entire thing was unforgettable and we got plenty of pictures to prove it.

We also appeared on national TV on the "Real People Show." They had seen us at the comedy quartet showcase when they were filming a segment on the Society at the Cincinnati International convention. When they decided to reprise the barbershop segment as part of their first annual "Real People Reunion" show, they selected us to represent the Society, probably because they caught us doing our "Invention of Vaudeville" Gregorian chant bit in monk's robes and thought we were just weird enough to fit the general mood of their program. We sang a tag at the start of a station break.

As you know, we were a very visual quartet; we considered ourselves to be a show quartet, not a comedy quartet, although a lot of what we did was funny. Our quartet motto was "Barbershop harmony you've got to see to believe." All in all, it was a wonderful time together. I only wish every barbershopper could experience even a part of what we had as a quartet. I'm sure [those of you who have been in quartets] know what I'm saying, from your own quartet experiences. Quartetting is where it is at, competing, performing and entertaining audiences, coupled with the cameraderie and mutual joy such a symbiosis can bring. It was truly a Brotherhood of minds and spirits.

HIGH SCHOOL QUARTET SUPER BOWL

By Jim Dodge
NED DVP, Music and Performance
From *NED Yankee*

As I was exchanging e-mails with Jack Dowd . . . about the High School Quartet Super Bowl . . ., it became apparent that not enough of you know just what this event is all about. It is a very special thing, and the Beverly Chapter should be praised for what they have done to promote barbershop singing in our high schools.

The Quartet Super Bowl was started in 1998, so this would be its fifth year. The Beverly Chapter raises money from independent sources and chapter donations, some \$18,000 since the program started. With that money in hand, they approach local (and fairly distant!) high schools and supply music, learning (See "Super Bowl" on Page 5)

Super Bowl (From Page 4)

tapes, song books, and coaching to any school that wants to enter a quartet or two into the contest. And it is a contest pretty much like the ones we experience except the winners are awarded cash prizes. The chapter also presents cash grants to those schools who enter quartets. Sounds like a win-win situation to me.

This year, they [had] entries from Lebanon (NH) HS, Wachusett Regional HS, Saugus HS, Newburyport HS, Malden HS, Peabody HS, and Masconomet Regional HS.

Another nice aspect of the program is the support given to it by our district champion quartets. This year Northeast Connection will be making their third appearance at the Super Bowl to entertain as well as cheer on the kids! . . .

So if . . . you really want to get into the spirit of giving, lobby your chapter to send a donation to the Beverly Chapter for this program. Every chapter I know of wants to support our YMIH program, but many don't know how to do it because they don't have an active program in their area. This is the way! Contact Jack Dowd (jimdowd@attbi.com) and he'll tell you how!

E-MAIL SUBSCRIBERS RESPOND

Thanks to Bob Chieffo

Chieffo,

I want to thank you again for keeping this E mail going. I appreciate the effort and am glad to be able to keep up with Poughkeepsie Newyorkers happenings. I still miss the old chorus, I had many happy times there.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year to you and your family.

Larry Ahlgren

From NED quartet champ Prelude's (Newyorker born) bass, Dan Schwartz:

Wow! That's two months in a row that I get mentioned in the Times. Thanks, Chief!

NYS SPEBSQSA LICENSE PLATES

By Bill Ennis, Manhattan Chapter

I'm Bill Ennis of the Manhattan Chapter in NYC and am working independently on a project to secure, for those who would be interested, NY State license plates embossed with the society logo.

I began with Reed Sampson and the NY State DMV, special plate division. Reed has been very supportive, but advised that those states that have attempted to do so have run into a great deal of difficulty. The DMV in Albany has been very cooperative and forwarded paperwork to me the next day. Cutting to the quick, I want to advise all chapter members in your district of this project and what's involved and seek their support and cooperation in disseminating the info to their members.

The process is very simple. There are two ways of funding this venture. One is to deposit \$5,000 with the DMV and provide the art work, and they will begin the process of producing the template. The second is to submit to the DMV 200 applications each with a \$25 check (the usual fee for special plates); this is the only quantity requirement and we have a year to fulfill it. Again with the art work they will begin to produce the template. Obviously the latter is the best way to go.

Reed has agreed the art work can and will be supplied by Kenosha. I will take care of giving him all the specifics required by the DMV.

I will also act as the point of contact for all interested members. Reed advised me that the membership rolls indicate approximately 1500 members residing in NY State. 200 respondents certainly seems doable. I prefer to work independently on this project, of course with the cooperation of the chapter presidents. What I need is a listing of the interested gentlemen, in any form you prefer

Thanks in advance for the assistance you will provide.

Contact information:

William Ennis
55 Arch Lane
Hicksville, NY 11801-4438
Phone: 516-942-1799
E-mail: aswe@vdot.net

**HARMONY TRAVEL POWER PLAY
CRUISE**

by SPEBSQSA Harmony Travel

Harmony Travel is proud to announce that Power Play, the 2002 third place International Quartet medalist, will host our Post-Montreal Convention cruise next July. The Post-Convention Cruise leaves Montréal at noon on Sunday, July 6, and ends in Boston on Saturday, July 12. 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. Airfare, port charges, government fees, and security charges of \$260 are additional.

Power Play moved up to third place at the 2002 International Quartet Contest in Portland, from fifth place in 2001, with a solid and exciting performance.

Power Play was formed in 1988, and won the Pioneer (Michigan) District quartet championship in the fall of 1989. The quartet consists of a father, his two sons, and his nephew. Jack Slamka, the father, sings bass and is a 30-year member of SPEBSQSA. Michael, his son, sings lead and is a 20-year member. Don, the nephew, sings tenor and is a 17-year member. Mark, the other son, sings baritone and is a 15-year member, proving that the family that plays together stays together.

Gather your friends and join Power Play on this unforgettable Post-Montreal Convention (See "Cruise" on Page 6)

Cruise *(From Page 5)*

Cruise!

For the detailed itinerary for this cruise, go to www.harmony-travel.com, or, call TravelEx International, a Harmony Travel Partner, toll-free at 1-866-QUARTET (866-782-7838).

PRAISE FROM HOSPICE

Following is the text of a letter sent to Bob Chieffo by Michael Murphy, Executive Director, Hospice Foundation, Inc.

On behalf of the Directors and Trustees of Hospice, Inc., and Hospice Foundation, Inc., as well as the patients and families we serve, I want to thank you and all the members of the Poughkeepsie NEWYORKERS Barbershop Chorus for the wonderful concert on Sunday, December 15 at

the Poughkeepsie Galleria Mall.

Everyone was excited with the songs and entertainment. It truly brought the Holiday spirit to the guests at the event. I truly believe, as did many who were there, that your organization is one of the best kept secrets throughout the Mid Hudson Valley region and it should not be so. Hopefully, our association with you has helped spread the word about your group and the great shows you do.

As was true of last year, we had another spectacular response to our Tree of Life during the concert. During the slightly more than one hour, we raised more than \$780. Please pass along to the members of the Chorus my sincere appreciation, especially knowing that they volunteer their Sunday afternoon to assist us.

Again, my heartfelt appreciation to you for your efforts to organize this year's event and to all your members. Have a Happy and Peaceful Holiday Season.

Website for Poughkeepsie Newyorkers: <<http://www.angelfire.com/fl/gbnagy>>

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