

The Newyorker Times

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



New Series, Volume 3
Poughkeepsie, New York

Number 11
November 2002

DISTRICT SENIOR QUARTET CHAMPION INCLUDES NEWYORKER

Close Encounters of the Seventh Kind took the gold in the Senior Quartet contest at the recent Northeast District Convention and Contest in Lake Placid, New York. The quartet, which includes as baritone the Newyorkers' own Steve Plumb, will represent NED in the Seniors Quartet Contest at the Society's Midwinter Convention.

The District champion quartet, Prelude, includes a former Newyorker: bass (formerly bari) Dan Schwartz. Dan started his barbershop career in Poughkeepsie.

Other representatives of the chapter did not do so well. Our quartet Swing Shift, which took second last year and had hopes of going all the way this year, had to settle for 6th place, after being in 2nd at the end of the semi-finals. Top ranking went to Prelude, who were first all the way. The chorus itself made an even more disappointing showing. Instead of last year's score of 1085, for a percentage of 60.3, we managed only 959 points, or 53.3%. This yielded us only 19th place out of 23 contestants.

Observers have commented that the judging this year was noticeably more severe than in the past. They point out, for example, that there was no "Most Improved District Quartet" this year. The difference would presumably not have affected the Newyorkers' rank, but might explain our lower percentage score.

Our critique will doubtless provide guides as to what went wrong. It is now up to the membership to put that information to use so as to do better next year.

SWING SHIFT RETIRES

By Gary "Butch" Ashdown
Bari, Swing Shift

As the saying goes, "All Good Things Must Come To An End." This has been found true by Swing Shift.

We've contemplated retiring as this configuration since Jim had to move away. We all decided that we would keep going through District contest and see if it was feasible to stay together through prelims, with the hope of competing on the International Stage in Montreal in 2003. We have now realized that it will not occur.

We were saddened that the total scores were not nearly in the ballpark that Swing Shift would like to see to keep

the commitment of the quartet alive. Nevertheless, we were somewhat satisfied with our total performance and were VERY happy with the way we grasped the audience on Friday night.

Swing Shift is parting amicably and we wish each other the very, very best. It's been tough for us to be so far from Jim. But we realize that the distance factor has played heavily in our decision. We're not closing the door *per se* to singing with one another again, but some of us will pursue other quartet activity—hopefully in the near future. None of us have anything in the works, but a new quartet could form quickly.

One thing Swing Shift would like to do is acknowledge the contributions of a few folks who with their love and support made our three years together possible. First, our families. We all know that this great hobby of ours can be demanding as far as time is concerned. Knowing the passion we have about singing, our families have been our greatest supporters since we started Swing Shift. We acknowledge their love for us publicly to all of you. Next is some GREAT GREAT chapter guys like Dick Schaffer, Dave Reynolds, Bob Chieffo, and Bob Betscha. These four guys will always have a special place in our heart for the overwhelming support and encouragement they have always provided. A strong hug, a word of advice, and a sympathetic hand were just some of the wonderful things these guys did for Swing Shift throughout our quartet life. They will never be forgotten by us. THANK YOU! Next is Renée Silverstein. Renée has been with us since day 1 when we were just learning "I Didn't Want To Fall." She has coached Swing Shift with her expertise in Presentation and made a tremendous difference in our singing abilities. Renee will always have a place in our heart for the love and support she has given Swing Shift. Thanks Renee. :-). Next is our coaches. We would like to acknowledge the help of Steve Plumb, Roger Payne, and Richard Lewellen. These three guys are the experts we rely on to help motivate us, to help make a unit sound, and to help send love through song. To them, we're forever grateful. Last, but not least, are the members of the Poughkeepsie Chapter. THANK YOU SO MUCH from the bottom of our hearts. We appreciate everything you have all done for us and appreciate your kindness and support. We truly hope that we represented the chapter well and are disappointed we couldn't bring home a gold medal in 2002 for you. BUT we did bring home a Bronze medal in 2001 and we could only hope we made you proud.

In closing, Swing Shift's memory (*Continued on Page 2*)

The Newyorker Times

Published by the Poughkeepsie, NY, Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.
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Meetings

Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.
First Reformed Church
70 Hooker Avenue
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ALL SINGING MEN WELCOME

Website address www.angelfire.com/fl/gbnagy

**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.

Swing Shift Retires (From Page 1)

will always live on by these words of our quartet motto: "And if someday we ever meet again,/I will smile and stand in line/Just to sing one song, just one more time,/With "That Old Quartet Of Mine." "

With all of our love,

Jim, Greg, John and Butch
Swing Shift
2001 NED Bronze Medalists
2002 Yankee Division Most Improved Quartet

Happy Birthdays in November (date order):

Carol Ostmark	6
Marie Miller	8
Al Cavalari	10
Elinor Haverkamp	12
Ed Miller	22
Dick Schaffer	25
Macy Sherow	25

DON'T TOSS THOSE "PEANUTS"

By Bob Chieffo

I need packing and shipping materials to support our Ebay activities, so don't toss out those styrofoam plastic packing "peanuts." I'll also take bubble or foam wrap and "book sized" boxes [~12x12x(4 or 5), 12x16x(4 or 5)]. Bring them in a plastic bag to chapter meetings or call me to arrange pickup. Thanks.

MISSIN' PHISHIN'

By Al Cavalari

Phishermen!
Eleven of you are still lost at sea. We stand by the dock anxiously scanning the horizon for a (Continued on Page 3)



13 Nov	BOD meeting—6 p.m. at church
16 Nov	HarmonyFest—Central Valley High School, Montgomery, NY, 9 a.m –10 p.m.
25 Nov	Alternate chapter meeting
27 Nov	NO chapter meeting
28 Nov	Happy Thanksgiving
6 Dec	First Friday Luncheon—12 noon, Aloy's Restaurant
11–12 Jan	COTS (Chapter Operations Training Seminar)—Falmouth, MA

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
27 NOVEMBER

Missin' Phishin' (From Page 2)

sign of your return.

Those of you who have not baited your lakes and turned in your phorms showing when each bait was placed, please wrap it up.

One half of those participating have not phinished up. That is a lot of prepared bait still unaccounted for. Ray and other volunteers put an awful lot of work into preparing it. Please put it to good use. Complete your list of lakes and turn in the phorm.

Thanks.

NEW BUNDLE OF JOY

Thanks to Bob Chieffo

Bob Chieffo received the following note and photo on 20 October from an "Oldyorker," Jim Zeigler. He was the bari of Rave Revue, our 1991 NED Quartet Champion from the chapter. He was the New Yorker of the Year in 1989.

Bob,

Just thought I'd drop you a line to let you know that Debbie and I have adopted a baby girl (Ella Jee) from Korea. She arrived 2 weeks ago



and is now 5 months old. She's now sleeping the whole night and so are we. Say hello to everyone at the Chapter meeting for me.

Jim Zeigler

zeigler@us.ibm.com

CHORUS SCORES AT LAKE PLACID

Following are all the scores from the chorus contest.

<u>Chapter and name</u>	<u>Total score</u>
1. Nashua, NH Granite Statesmen	1446
2. Providence, RI Narragansett Bay Chorus	1332
3. Portland, ME Downeasters	1249
4. Concord, MA Sounds of Concord	1169
5. Saratoga Springs, NY Racing City Chorus	1162
6. Central Connecticut, CT Connecticut Yankee Chorus	1109
7. Manchester, CT Silk City Chorus	1103

8. Springfield, MA Chordsmen	1102
9. Burlington, VT Green Mountain Chorus	1068
10. Pittsfield, MA Berkshire Hillsmen	1055
11. Worcester, MA Men of Song	1028
12. Waterbury/Derby, CT Valley Chordsmen	1022
13. Dartmouth, NS City of Lakes Chorus	993
14. Lowell, MA Gentlemen Songsters	988
15. Bridgeport, CT Coastal Chordsmen	985
16. Portsmouth, NH Yankee Clipper Chorus	984
17. Hanover, NH North Country Chordsmen	983
18. Keene, NH Cheshiremen	960
19. POUGHKEEPSIE, NY Newyorkers	959
20. Scituate, MA South Shore Men of Harmony	957
21. Troy, NY Uncle Sam Chorus	955
22. Schenectady, NY Electric City Chorus	922
23. Brunswick, ME Nor'easters	895

Central Connecticut was the District Most Improved Chorus.

Rather remarkable is the close grouping in some ranges: seven points between 6th and 8th, 10 points between 13th and 17th, and five points between 18th and 21st.

LEARN "TEACH . . ."

From SPEBSQSA *Update*, October 2002

Does your chorus know the wonderful song "Teach the Children to Sing"? Not only is it the motto song for our Society's charitable mission, it is also a wonderful song to use when performing with a youth chorus or choir.

Many chapters are now inviting local high school or civic children's or young adults' groups to perform on their annual shows. This is a great way to support youth music in the community and it helps build a new audience for the chapter. "Teach the Children to Sing" is a natural finale for the combined groups. There is even a mixed-voice arrangement available for the number. Contact the song's composer Joe Liles at Society headquarters for details.

The Society's Charitable Mission is "To preserve our musical legacy through support of vocal music in our schools and communities." Nothing captures the heart of this mission like "Teach the Children" (Continued on Page 4)

Learn "Teach ..." (From Page 3) to Sing." You owe it to yourself and your audiences to make it part of your repertoire.

ART BURNS PASSES

By Bob Chieffo

Art Burns, former Poughkeepsie Newyorker and baritone of the foremost Chapter quartet of the 1960s, The Rogues Four, passed away on 14 October 2002, as a result of complications from surgery.

Art was very active in the Lions International but will be remembered by Poughkeepsie members as one of the best baritones this side of Kenosha. I was singing lead in the early days and used to envy his smooth style and blending. I used Art as a role model when I was a developing baritone. In my mind, he was the one to emulate.

We all have to leave this life, but if there is some great plan, hopefully we'll meet up with all our passed barber-shop brothers to ring some heavenly chords.

A NEW MISSION, A NEW STRUCTURE

By Darryl Flinn, Executive Director
Barbershop Harmony Society

As a result of Harmony Foundation's refocusing its mission and reorganizing its staff, Gary Stamm will no longer serve as the Foundation's Executive Director.

Gary has been a Society employee for nearly 20 years and has performed a wide variety of important functions here at Harmony Hall. Gary's departure is a great personal loss to me and I know to you, as well. Gary is a lover of barbershop harmony and our Society. We all look forward to seeing Gary out on the circuit as a COTS instructor, a presentation judge, and on staff at Harmony College. I know you join me in wishing Gary Stamm all the very best.

An active search for the lead role at Harmony Foundation is already underway; top candidates will need a professional background in fund raising. Gary's duties here at Society headquarters as Director of External Affairs have been absorbed by a staff reorganization. The details are as follows:

- Reed Sampson is now staff liaison to the Society's External Affairs Committee.
- John Schneider will be liaison to and manager of our relationship with our affiliate organizations.
- Brian Lynch will supervise communications and publishing, including web content development and THE HARMONIZER. Brian will now supervise our Heritage Hall Museum and will be part of the Archives Committee. In addition, Brian will serve as staff liaison to the Marketing Task Force.

Moreover, there will be nearly a dozen Headquarters staff folks whose jobs and lives will be impacted by these changes. We can all be proud of our talented, hard-working and flexible staff partners.

We are moving quickly to continue giving great service to all those affected but at the same time are cautious to do things correctly. If the above reorganization works, we'll

know it soon. Obviously the converse is true, as well. We plan to deliver a new organization chart at the Leadership Forum.

Thanks for understanding and for living into the spirit of this reorganization.

HELP NEEDED FOR INTERNATIONAL 2003

By I. Murray Phillips

Co-Chairman, SPEBSQSA International 2003

Greetings fellow Barbershoppers!

As you know, the barbershopping world is coming to the Northeastern District next summer, when we will be the hosts to the 65th SPEBSQSA International Convention and Contest.

There are many things that need to be done to get ready for our guests, and there are many things that will need to be done during the week that the Convention and Contest takes place here in Montreal.

I am looking to you for help. We are going to need a substantial number of volunteers to get involved with the many activities that take place before and during the Convention. Some jobs are a few hours of work, while others will require several days of commitment.

If you are interested in being a volunteer and helping to make International 2003 the best ever, please reply to this message (imphillips@videotron.ca) and let me know that you will be available. In return I can promise you a great time in a great city, and a volunteer shirt that you will be proud to wear. I hope to hear from you.

Ed. Note: Your editor can still provide a blank application form to anyone who would like to volunteer for this work. As Murray comments, there are many activities where help is needed; see the article "International Convention 2003 Committees" in the July *Newyorker Times*. There have been many complaints in the past about the handling of conventions in our District. Now is the opportunity to put our efforts where our mouths have been.

CRUISE WITH RIPTIDE

Harmony Travel (<http://www.harmony-travel.com>) Presents

Cruise the HAWAIIAN ISLANDS with RIPTIDE

An outstanding quartet... and four terrific guys! Sing with one of the best Barbershop Quartets as you travel around the world's most romantic islands! Enjoy Norwegian Cruise Line's spectacular Hawaiian Islands Ten-Day Cruise via the Norwegian Wind. Ten glorious days!

* Leave Honolulu on February 21, 2003 at 8:00 pm

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* Kona (Hawaii)

* Fanning Island (Republic of Kiribati)

* Hilo (Hawaii)

* Lahaina (Maui)

(See "Cruise" on Page 5)

Cruise (From Page 4)

* Nawiliwili (Kauai)

* Honolulu (Oahu)

Cruise pricing: \$1,299 (Cat. G), \$1,349 (Cat. GG)

Visit Harmony Travel for details and registration form:

http://www.harmony-travel.com/hawaii_cruise_with_riptide.htm

ALL THE ROCKS IN YOUR LIFEFrom the Internet, "Pearls of Wisdom,"
by way of Danbury's *Hatter Chatter*

A philosophy professor stood before his class and had some items in front of him. When class began, wordlessly he picked up a large empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with rocks, rocks about 2 inches in diameter. He then asked the class if the jar was full. They agreed that it was. So the professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles, of course, rolled into the open area between the rocks. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The students laughed. The professor picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. "Now," said the professor, "I want you to recognize that this is your life. The rocks are the important things—your family, your partner, your health, your children—anything that is so important to you that if it were lost, you would be devastated. The pebbles are the other things that matter, like your job, your house, your car. The sand is everything else—the small stuff."

"If you put the sand into the jar first, there is no room for the pebbles or the rocks. The same goes for your life. If you spend all your energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you."

"Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your partner out dancing. There will always be time to go to work, clean the house, give a dinner party, and fix the Disposall. Take care of the rocks first—the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."

PLANNING MEETING 2003

By Renée Silverstein

President Dick Schaffer has scheduled a planning meeting for the year 2003 to be held on Wednesday, November 6, at 6:00 PM at the Church. All members are invited to provide input for the coming year: what you would like to see occur, the scheduling of specific dates for events. Your ideas and suggestions are vital for the health and well being of your chapter.

If necessary, and it probably will be, another meeting is scheduled for the following Wednesday, same time, same place.

Ed. Note: It is recognized that this notice appears too late to be useful in planning to attend the 6 November meeting. However, it is published for the purpose of alerting members to the likelihood of a second meeting on 13 November.

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

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