

The Newyorker Times

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



New Series, Volume 4
Poughkeepsie, New York

Number 11
November 2003

CONTEST 2003—THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY

By Eric Dickstein

Well, another contest has ended. This was my second one. The opinions expressed are my own and do not reflect the views of the Newyorkers, NED, SPEBSQSA, or anyone else.

The Good: The competition. Our performance. Listening to the quartets and other choruses. The Afterglow; Rudy Veltre is just phenomenal at getting great quartets into our afterglow room. The association with other barbershoppers. The contest area we sang in (NO ICE!! My wife was warm!).

The Bad: George Trigg leaving his uniform home and couldn't compete; he was rooting us on. Renée almost not having her uniform for contest—she left it in the car and her husband drove off; Scott had to chase him and eventually caught up. Our overall score. We improved almost 90 points from Lake Placid a year ago and there was only about a 60 point difference between 10th and 14th place (where we finished). I think the judges scored us lower than we deserved. (See the third sentence of this article!) We sang 3rd and I believe that it hurt us. Had we sung later, we might have scored a bit higher. My greatest supporter and critic (my wife) said we looked sounded really good. We all FELT good coming off stage.

The Ugly: All the logistics about the contest—nobody seemed to know what was going on. As I said earlier, we were singing 3rd; contest started at 11:00 a.m. and so Renée wanted us at the rehearsal site at 8:00 a.m. to warm up fully. This was the school we competed at for qualification. None of the rooms were marked (they were still marked from the previous evening's quartet competition) so we ended up commandeering a room. The school is 5–10 minutes from the contest site and there were buses to take us there and back. The driver we had didn't know the route; he kept radioing for directions. When we got to the contest site, he didn't know where to let us off. We told him to stop and found our way about. In the middle of our warmup, Scott got called out for a bit, and when he came back in, he told us that pictures will be \$15.00, that we had to have the money right then and there, and to sign up immediately. Some of us didn't bring wallets and borrowed

money. I asked later when we would get the pictures and Scott said that he had "read" somewhere that it would be a week or two and they would be sent to the chapter.

With all of the above said, I STILL had a terrific time and wouldn't have missed it for the world. For those members who haven't yet been to a contest, or haven't been to one for awhile, really think about attending (even if only to cheer us on). I think we have some opportunities and challenges facing us to make us even better in the coming years. The Music Team (directors and asst. directors, section leaders, etc.) did a great job preparing us, and I thank them.

ORGAN FUND CONCERT GOES WELL

By George Trigg

On 10 October the Newyorkers gave a concert at the Poughkeepsie Reformed Church to benefit their organ fund, which is being used to pay for a new pipe organ in the church. It is easy to say that we all felt that we did a good job. The audience members were uniformly complimentary as they met us in the basement for refreshments afterwards. However, an unbiased opinion is given in a letter that was sent to the chapter afterwards, which follows:

An Organ for Tomorrow

October 11, 2003
Mr Scott B. Salladin
Poughkeepsie Newyorkers
2633 South Rd G-4
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601-5272

Dear Mr. Salladin,

On behalf of our Organ Funding Committee, I would like to thank The Poughkeepsie Newyorkers for an outstanding concert last night. We were pleased with the attendance, and clearly, the music was well received by both young and old. The concert contributed \$1,705.00 to our fund. Our sincere thanks for an excellent presentation and contribution to our funding goal.

The new organ will not only enhance our worship services, but will provide the cornerstone for a new music venue we are establishing for the community. We also plan to make our facilities available to music teachers and their students for recital purposes. (See "Organ" on Page 2)

The Newyorker Times
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 Chorus Director Renée Silverstein
 Chorus Manager John "Duke" Chisholm

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



7 Nov First Friday luncheon—12 noon at Aloy's Restaurant
 15 Nov **HarmonyFest—8 a.m.–10 p.m., Valley Central H.S., Montgomery, NY**
 26 Nov Thanksgiving Eve—NO MEETING
 11 Dec Shriners' performance; details later
 12 Dec Greystone Manor performance; details later
 20 Dec Harmony for Hospice—1 or 2 p.m. performance, Poughkeepsie Galleria

25 Jan–1 Feb 2004
Mid-Winter Convention, Biloxi, MS

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 November (date order):

Carol Ostmark	6
Marie Miller	8
Al Cvalari	10
Elinor Haverkamp	12
Gail Murphy	14
Nora Gould	14
Frances Brock	16
Duffy Miller	22
Dick Schaffer	25
Macy Sherow	25
Aline Dickstein	28

Happy Wedding Anniversary in November:

Bob and Diane Chieffo	26
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Organ (From Page 1)

Again, our thanks to your group for their generous contribution.

Sincerely,

John M. Coulter, Chairman
 Organ Funding Committee

BILL JAMES'S RECOVERY FROM SURGERY

Courtesy of Bob Chieffo,
 with addition by Bill James

As many Oldyorkeers know, Bill James was our the first Director. Under his leadership we won the NED championship and competed at Inter national four times. He lives in South Carolina and underwent a successful heart triple bypass on 29 September. The (See "Bill James" on Page 3)

Bill James (From Page 2)

first note below is his wife Peggy's note of status, followed by a note from Bill himself who was home over the weekend and corrected his home mailing.

From: Peggy James
To: Fred Gielow
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2003 9:23 PM
Subject: Re: Bill

Hi Fred: Just got home from the hospital. Bill came through the surgery just great—according to the doctor. The surgery lasted about 4 1/2 hours. I got in to see him about an hour afterwards. He was still under but looked pretty o.k. considering.

I visited three more times (you can only go in every 2 hours) before I left and he was “in there” all those times. We held hands and he said he was doing o.k.

Thanks for your concern.
Peggy

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "JAMES, Bill" <BJAMES2@lmi.org>
Date: Sat, 27 Sep 2003 09:24:13 -0400

Hello everybody,

Decided I'd better weigh in on the conversation regarding my health issues. I convinced the doctors that I could lay around at home Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in more comfort and cheaper to the taxpayers than at the hospital. So, here I am—“laying around” near my computer. :-)

This Monday morning at 8 am they saw me in half. I'm fully expecting the doctors to be as good as any magician and able to restore me into one piece again. I may return home as early as next Friday but will likely remain in the hospital until the following Monday. Then, it will take about three months for a full recovery. For those of you who were celebrating with me the success of the stent procedure four months ago, apparently the stents were completely operational. The problem seems to be that other blockages have developed at a somewhat rapid pace. Hence the decision to bypass the afflicted vessels. I look forward to celebrating the complete success of the bypass surgery.

Mostly, I wanted to correct the address that Bob and Fred sent out. Our new address is listed below. The only difference is in the street address; it is 106 Sanderling Drive. Mail coming to 100 Forrester Creek Drive still gets here, but only after a mandatory idle trip once around the planet.

Thank you all for your prayers and your interest in my life. Cheeeeeeeeeers . . . wtjiii

William T. James III
106 Sanderling Drive
Greenville, SC 29607
(864) 286-8737

<mailto:wjames@lmi.org>

From: "JAMES, Bill" <WJAMES@LMI.ORG>
Date: Tue, 21 Oct 2003 05:37:01 -0400
Subject: I'm still kickin'

Hey Chief!

Thought I'd weigh in on my own health report. Thank you for informing the Newyorkers and other friends regarding my situation. It's been three weeks now since they cut me open and zipped me back up. It's just amazing what they can do to a fellow these days. (I remember when one had to report only to a specific hospital and be operated on only by a renowned specialist for open-heart matters. Now, everybody can do it! But . . . at \$60K a pop, I guess that's no mystery, huh?)

I'm doing really well. Feeling great. Just lacking in my usual energy supply. But, even that is returning daily. If there is a difference in my recovery curve and the norm, it would have to be that the severed nerves in my chest have produced an unusual sensitivity in that area. It doesn't hurt; it's just VERY touchy. Ironically, a neighbor across the street had the same surgery performed five days before I did, and he has suffered a loss of feeling in a couple of fingers but, apparently, he's not nearly so sensitive in his chest. Oh well, we all seem to be uniquely wired. The doctors told me I would be at 80% within a couple of months and 100% by the end of three months. I'll probably not recognize the 80% level when I get there and, instead, will think it's the 100%.

My thanks for the prayers and concerns of all my friends during this glitch in the my travels. Cheers . . . wtjiii

THE SUNTONES—A LIVING LEGACY OF HARMONY

By Shel Molter of the Virginians
Forwarded by Bob Caldwell via “ENCORE”
Used with permission

I can honestly say that the reason I am a member of the Society today is because I heard the Suntones in a concert in Poughkeepsie, New York 25–30 years ago.

After college, where I did a lot of singing, there was the Army and then a new job with IBM. Along came kids with baseball games, hockey games, soccer games, building an ice rink, forming a hockey league, coaching baseball, etc. etc. The point is my life was too busy and involved for singing, but the old desire was there just under the surface.

Jan and I went to a concert by the Poughkeepsie Newyorkers, and the guest quartet was The Suntones. Jan saw my enjoyment, and when the Newyorkers invited men in the audience to visit their next rehearsal, she leaned over and said, “You have loved singing your whole life, maybe now you have time to do something for yourself.” That was all the encouragement I needed, and I have been singing barbershop ever since. We had a pretty good quartet in Poughkeepsie called the Hudson Heritage. I was Chapter Development VP there for a couple of years, and brought a quartet with dual membership into the organization. The lead in that quartet was Hal (See “Suntones” on Page 4)

Suntones (From Page 3)

Purdy, who lived in the Catskill Mountains across the Hudson River from Poughkeepsie. I still keep in touch with my friends in Poughkeepsie through the Internet. You know my recent history with the Virginians. I can trace all of these wonderful barbershop memories back to that concert in little old Poughkeepsie, New York with that marvelous guest quartet the Suntones.

THANKS RECEIVED FOR GIFT

Forwarded by Scott Salladin

September 22, 2003

Richard Schaffer, President
Poughkeepsie Chapter of SPEBSQSA, Inc
8 Osprey Hill Dr
Newburgh, NY 12550-1337

Dear Richard,

Thank you for your contribution of \$165 to Harmony Foundation for the registration of students to HARMONY EXPLOSION camp. Your gift will fulfill the SPEBSQSA charitable mission, "to preserve our musical legacy through support of vocal music in our schools and communities," by extending the joy of singing to young men and their teachers at the camp.

We know they enjoyed the experience and were inspired to enjoy vocal music. We also hope that the introduction to barbershop harmony will instill a lifelong passion for our art form.

Your willingness to support the HARMONY EXPLOSION camps enables our Society to continue to reach students and teachers in a positive manner. Once again, thank you for your vision and support.

Sincerely,

Rick Spencer
Young Men In Harmony Corrdinator

**HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS
GET THEIR "STAR"**

From *SPEBSQSA Live Wire*, 18 August

The Osmond Brothers, SPEBSQSA honorary life members, have been awarded their star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Thanks to Ken Custer (via the Harmonet) for the information below.

"I think one of the first breakthroughs for SPEBSQSA public relations happened several decades ago when our own Val Hicks made a wonderful discovery and helped the four Osmond lads to (eventually) become famous as a young barbershop quartet on the Andy Williams Show.

"Even though it was Andy Williams who has taken most of the credit for this 'discovery,' I'm sure Val would be one of the first to admit that it really doesn't matter who gets

the credit so long as the results end in a positive experience.

"On August 7, 2003, the Osmonds received their star on the famous Hollywood Walk of Fame at 7080 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, Calif. And for those who want to know precisely where their star is located, check it out at <http://www.hollywoodcoc.org/walkoffame/directoryframeset.htm>."

"A CHORUS LINE"

By Dan Landa

Hello, friends, Romans, yada, yada yada! This is Dan! I just wanted to give you all the dates, times, and so forth, for DCC's "A Chorus Line"! The play will be held at Dutchess Community College in the Dutchess Hall Theatre, from Nov. 13 to Nov. 23. The times are:

Thursday, Nov. 13- Sat., Nov. 15 @ 8pm.

Sunday, Nov. 16 @ 2pm

Fri., Nov.21 + Sat., Nov. 22 @ 8pm.

Sun., Nov. 23 @ 2pm

Tickets are:

\$10 for general admission

\$8 for seniors

\$5 for students

For any additional info, call the director at 431-8623, DCC Arts Department at 431-8696, or even myself, the Executive Producer, at 876-8383!

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE, AND HAVE A BLAST!!!!!!

**VINTAGE SHEET MUSIC
AVAILABLE ONLINE**

From *SPEBSQSA Live Wire*, 20 October

"Bohemia Rag"? "He May Be Old, But He's Got Young Ideas"? Members have the exclusive opportunity to take a peek at some vintage music online. Sheet music for these and more familiar tunes in the public domain is available in Adobe Acrobat format on the Society Web site in Members Only. The music is free for viewing or printing. Approximately five new titles are added each week—or as time permits. Go to the Old Songs Library Online (Members Only login required.)

Questions should be directed to Tom Barr at 800-876-7464 x8545 or tbarr@spebsqsa.org

DIXIE SENIORS CHAMP

By Mike Myers, former Newyorker
and lead of Brotherhood quartet
Forwarded by Bob Chieffo

Well, I just returned from the Dixie District quartet contest and International Senior's Quartet Preliminaries in Gatlinburg, TN. My quartet, Joint Venture, competed and won the Senior's Preliminary con (See "Seniors" on Page 5)

Seniors (From Page 4)

test, winning the right to compete in the Senior's International contest at the Mid-Winter convention in Biloxi, MS.

Chief's note: This is the second year they'll be competing as Dixie Senior's Champ. At the International Senior Contest last year they went head-to-head with Newyorker Steve Plumb's NED Senior Champion quartet "Close Encounters of the 7th Kind."

Editor's note: And again they will be competing with Steve Plumb's NED Senior Champion quartet, now named "New York Central Connection."

WORCESTER CHAPTER SHOW SET FOR 21 AND 22 NOVEMBER

Drawn from a mailed flyer

The Worcester Men of Song present "How the West Was Sung," a Barbershop Harmony concert, at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 20 and 21 November, at Worcester's historic Mechanics Hall, featuring the talents of cowpokes like Surprise, Region 1 Sweet Adelines 2003 champions; Men in Black, Northeastern District 2002 College Quartet champions; Theatrix, Patriot Division 2003 Quartet champions; the Men of Song chorus; and chapter quartets. Admission \$20.00 per ticket; all seats reserved. Order tickets from Men of Song, P. O. Box 3234, Worcester, MA 01613. Specify Friday or Saturday, and specify main floor, side balcony, or rear balcony. Include check payable to "Worcester Men of Song," or give credit card (Visa or MasterCard) information. Enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope for delivery of tickets.

SONG OF THE VALLEY SHOW VERY ENJOYABLE

By George Trigg

On 11 October, Song of the Valley Chorus presented its annual show, "Barbershop Harmony Coming Your Way," at Monroe-Woodbury High School. In addition to the chorus, the program included Andrea Loftus & Allen Voss, a jazz vocalist (a tenor in the chorus) with guitar accompaniment; the Newyorkers' own Footlighters quartet; Rhythm and Style, a quartet from the host chorus; Road Show, Northeastern District 2003 champions and International Quartet Contest quarter-finalists; and Moondance, 2003 quartet champions of Sweet Adelines Region 15. It was, as the nature of the cast suggests, quite a varied program.

Song of the Valley, who have been under their present director for only six months, did a workmanlike job. The only serious flaw was that the final chord of the last song of one of their sets was badly out of tune. Rhythm and Style was also quite good. Jazz vocalists are not this reviewer's bag, and so he cannot comment on the quality of that act, but it was pleasant enough. The Footlighters were their

usual zany selves. Moondance, whose tenor had to be heard to be believed in addition to being a striking-looking woman, gave an excellent performance that combined barbershop and modern jazz-type songs. Road Show, as might have been expected, was tops. Mike Maino served as M.C., and was his usual inimitable self.

All in all, the show was a fitting addition to barbershop-ping in the Hudson Valley. May there be many more such.

LEARN AND SING IN BILOXI

From *SPEBSQSA Live Wire*, 27 October

You can add to your overall midwinter convention experience by attending some great classes. There's no registration required—just show up! What could be easier? Classes will include the following (times and locations to be announced):

Thursday, Jan. 29, Tags with Bill Rashleigh

Friday, Jan. 30, Tags with Rick Spencer

Saturday, Jan. 31, Gold Medal Hour with Power Play led by Rick Spencer

Saturday, Jan. 31, Vocal Techniques taught by Bill Rashleigh

SCHEDULE SET FOR HARMONYFEST CONCERT

By Renée Silverstein

Here is the timing for the concert at HarmonyFest 2003. Those folks not volunteering any daytime hours should plan to arrive by 6:00PM. That will allow time to get focused, dressed (full competition uniform) and warmed up to open the show, which starts at 7:00 PM. Hopefully the show will be over by 9:00 or so and then we will reappear for the finale.

See you there.

PARENT THANKS FESTIVAL TEAM

By Bill Standish
HarmonyFest 20003 Chairman

Please read the parent note below; at the end she asks that I share her "thank you" with all those involved with the festival. And I add my "thanks" to all of you who help tremendously to cultivate these kinds of responses. KUDOS!!!

Bill

----- Original Message -----

From: "dawn gregg" <dawnsdestiny@hotmail.com>

To: <standish@frontiernet.net>

Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2003 9:30 AM

Subject: Good morning...

Hello, as the time draws near for the Harmony fest, I would like to know if any tickets for this show will be mailed to the students that are involved? I believe that in the past, Sarah, my daughter did (See "Parents' Thanks" on Page 6)

Parents' Thanks *(From Page 5)*

get tickets in advance. Both my husband & I are very much looking forward to going to the Harmony Fest. Sarah has been involved with this for three years, this being her third year. Sarah is sad that this will be her last year, since she will be graduating one year earlier, due to her hard work, in an accelerated program. Sarah has enjoyed being a part

of this great opportunity. We must thank you for allowing my daughter and our selves to be a part of this too.

Thank You!!!! Please share this Thank you, with all involved in this experience.

Sincerely,

DawnMarie Gregg (Sarah Gregg's Mom) :)

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

The Newyorker Times
18 Duzine Road
New Paltz, NY 12561-1304