

# The Newyorker Times

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



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October 2003

## SPRINGFIELD CHAPTER SUPPORTS HARMONYFEST!

By Bill Standish

The Springfield, Mass., Chapter recently sent us a check in the amount of \$250 in support of HarmonyFest. Below is a clip from *The Chordsmen*, Springfield's chapter bulletin. It points out the qualities of one of its members, Dick Bourbeau, who asked that the donation be sent to defray expenses for this year's festival. And below that is Poughkeepsie's letter of thanks to Springfield. This, gentlemen, is what brotherhood is about

### "A VERY VALUED MEMBER"

"The 2002 chapter picnic went in the red for \$150 which was paid out of his own pocket by Dick Bourbeau. When the Board found out about this matter we decided to pay the \$150 to Dick. He made a deal. It seems that he has a buddy in the Poughkeepsie Chapter that is starting up a program for youth in his area and needed some money. This is the deal... Dick would give his money if the chorus would add \$100 and give the \$250 to his friend. The Board said that it was a deal. ... Dick Bourbeau ... a very valued member."

### THANK YOU, SPRINGFIELD!

Dear Chordsmen,

On behalf of the Poughkeepsie Newyorkers I would like to sincerely thank you for your generous and thoughtful donation to our chapter's youth festival, HarmonyFest 2003. It is encouraging to know that our great Chapters of the Northeastern District share the same path of bringing our young people into the barbershop fold. Having been a member for over 20 years in a couple of different chapters, I am well aware of the efforts it takes to provide financially for the health and maintenance of a chapter. With that in mind, your board extended its goodwill to a brother chapter and we are indeed appreciative.

It is also no surprise that Dick Bourbeau was involved in this decision. I knew Dick when he directed the Monroe, New York, Chapter back in the '70s. Not only a fine director, he is also a thoughtful and giving guy. And, it goes without saying, a wonderful baritone! Thanks to your chapter newsletter, it came to my attention that part of the financial donation was made on his behalf. All of us in Poughkeepsie thank Dick personally and each member of the Chordsmen for their support. Your chapter will be rec-

ognized in our program.

I know your chapter sends a lot of young men to the Harmony Explosion Camp, and you are to be congratulated for your strength of commitment to propagating this great music to our future members. While we are sorry that the distance makes it difficult to involve your local youth, please know that we would like to offer complimentary tickets to members of your chorus to attend the evening show. It's a bit of a drive, but the show should end around 9 p.m. and allow for a decent return to Springfield. Just e-mail me and let me know if you have interested people and we will reserve some complimentary tickets at the door. Again, our heartfelt thanks for your financial and spiritual support.

Sincerely,  
Bill Standish, Chairman  
HarmonyFest 2003

## CHANGED DATE AND VENUE FOR "FIRST FRIDAY"

By Rudy Veltre

The first Friday lunch for October will be on the second Friday, 10 October. Also, once again, it will be at Rudy's house, at 12 noon sharp.

Bean and noodle soup—or bring a sub, pizza, or Oriental dish from Red Oaks.

## A NEW MEMBER'S STORY

By Tom Koman

Hi! My name, as the by-line says, is Tom Koman, and I am a new member of the Newyorkers. I have lived in the Hudson Valley since 1969; I now live in Wappingers Falls. I am another IBM retiree, having worked there for over 30 years as a technical writer/communication specialist. I have a wife, Pat, and three daughters: Cindy, Judi, and Andrea. I have a wide variety of interests, including woodworking, carpentry, and furniture restoration and refinishing; saxophone and clarinet repair and reconditioning, and teaching sax and clarinet; music arranging, especially barbershop and woodwind duets; barbershop tags; and software programming. My current gig is as Street Corner Sax Man at Ground Hog Coffee Shop in Wappingers Falls, Friday mornings from 8 to 9 a.m.; drop by and listen.

Music, it seems, has always been a part of my life. I started playing the clarinet (See "New Member" on Page 2)

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 John "Duke" Chisholm  
 Public Relations Officer ..... Bill Standish  
 Youth Outreach ..... Bill Standish  
 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](http://www.newyorkerschorus.org)**


**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 October (date order):**

Charlotte Howard	7
Bill Booth	8
Dave Maurer	15
Frank Ruggiero	15
Bob Chieffo	20
Nancy Rand	22
John Haverkamp	24
Joan Ross	25
Rudy Veltre	31

**Happy Wedding Anniversaries in October:**

Bill and Linda Standish	9
Eric and Suzanne Bram	16



10 Oct "First" Friday luncheon—12 noon at Rudy Veltre's home, 18 Hampton Road, Poughkeepsie (See related article, Page 1)

4 Oct Grape Harvest Festival at Washingtonville—2 p.m.

10 Oct Benefit for church organ—7 p.m. at church

**24–25 Oct Fall District Contest, Saratoga Springs**

**15 Nov HarmonyFest—8 a.m.–10 p.m., Valley Central H.S., Montgomery, NY**

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

**New Member** (From Page 1)

when I was six and saxophone several years later. Why? My older brother was playing clarinet and sax and, like many little brothers, I wanted to do what the "big guy" was doing. We often played duets, and I think that's how I developed an ear for a song. If you can sing it to me, I usually can play it (albeit with a few missteps along the way). The type of music I played didn't matter much—Mozart, Stephen Foster, Dixieland, polkas, or Dizzy Gillespie. There was magic when I heard myself contributing to a song, a chord, a phrase, a tune, or an arrangement.

Learning the sax and clarinet was hard early on and harder to stay the course through having to practice, the lousy tone quality, the various teachers, the lazy fingers, and the tired embouchure. It seemed that just growing up was the major distraction to practicing the horns. I often wonder how I was able to keep doing it. But at some point (I think high school), I felt substantially present with my horns and developed a strong

(Continued on Page 3)

**New Member** (From Page 2)

interest in jazz. I could play alone, in a combo, with an orchestra, and hold my part with some confidence.

So, how does singing become part of my life? It started in grade school in a church boy's choir, falsetto all the way, under the scrutiny of nuns. But unlike the sax, singing was exercising an instrument that proved always unpredictable in its response. Where I could read and play a B♭ on the horn, reading and singing a B♭ with my voice was a real challenge and still is today.

From the boy's choir, I yodeled throughout high school along with some basic deep growling. My voice was some uncontrollable beast until I finally began taming it in college. My college fraternity maintained a barbershop singing tradition, serenading our sister sorority, entering college singing contests, and performing for alumni. When I experienced barbershop harmony and how my voice could be an integral part of producing a chord, I was hooked. With practice, I was able to hold my bass part, and barbershop singing became a joy in my life. When everyone was enjoying the Beatles, I was enjoying barbershop harmony. Go figure.

The discipline to practice at perfecting my part, the encouragement of chorus members, and the friendships along the way make the "real music" in my life, a musical life enriched by all the Poughkeepsie New Yorkers.

**ANOTHER NEW MEMBER**

by Jim Larkin

I have been a barbershopper for two years. I am the proud father of seven children and four step-children, who range in age from 47 to 24. I have six grandchildren and ten step-grandchildren.

My main career was as a Corrections Officer. I retired in 1984 with the rank of Deputy Warden. At the time, I was in charge of a large prison facility on Riker's Island.

I was one of the New Hyde Park Players, and appeared in seven of their productions. I also sang in my church choir at Holy Spirit R.C. Church for over fifteen years. In addition, I have done some em-ceeding and public speaking.

Two years ago, a friend invited me to his annual Barbershop show. I enjoyed it so much that I went to the group's rehearsal the following week. I auditioned and was accepted, and have been at it ever since.

**A THANK-YOU LETTER**

Forwarded by Rudy Veltre,  
with explanation

Here is the text of a letter we received, thanking us for the white shirts that we donated to the Dutchess County Coalition for the Homeless.

To: The Poughkeepsie New Yorkers  
c/o Rudy Veltre

We would like to thank you for your recent donation of

14 Men's Arrow Shirts. We are always in need of these items..

The Shelter could not be the success that it is without the kindness of others. Again many thanks.

Barbara Vitale  
DCCCH Operations Manager

**HARTFORD SHOW NOVEMBER 1**

Forwarded by Scott Salladin

The Insurance City Chorus  
59th Annual Festival of Barbershop Harmony

**Let Freedom Ring**

2003 International Quartet Finalists  
METROPOLIS

New England College Quartet Champions  
MEN IN BLACK

From the U.S. Coast Guard Academy  
THE IDLERS

and—THE INSURANCE CITY CHORUS

Saturday, 1 November 2003, 7:30 PM  
Newington High School  
605 Willard Avenue  
Newington, CT

To receive tickets by mail, fill out order form below and mail with check to

Joe Forte  
1807 Asylum Avenue  
West Hartford, CT 06117  
Phone (860) 236-0331

Make Checks Payable to The Insurance City Chorus. (Please include a self addressed stamped envelope.) Orders received after October 22nd will be held for pick up at the box office on November 1st.

Insurance City Chorus Festival of Barbershop Harmony  
Newington High School, November 1st, 2003-7:30 PM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City & State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

General Admission \$15 X \_\_\_ = \_\_\_

Seniors & Students \$10 X \_\_\_ = \_\_\_

Afterglow \$10 X \_\_\_ = \_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## UNIFORM DONATION TO ST. AUGUSTINE

By Rudy Veltre

We received a thank you from the St. Augustine chapter for the red vests that we gave them. But there is a problem: It seems that they have 3 more extra large members than we do. Please, if any of you has a large or extra large vest that you have not returned, *do it now*.

## DANBURY ANNUAL SHOW OCTOBER 12

Forwarded by Scott Salladin

Just reminding everyone, the Danbury Chapter is having our Annual Show this October 12th, at 2:00 PM at Roger's Park Junior High School in Danbury. We have Saturday Evening Post, Conundrum, and the Danbury High School Madrigals as our guest quartets. We are selling out of tickets fast and we may be SOLD OUT before the show date so send me an email if you want to get tickets for this show. See you all there.

Joel R. Knecht  
Director, Danbury Mad Hatters Chorus  
Bass, Conundrum College Quartet

## REGISTER FOR CONVENTIONS

From *SPEBSQSA Live Wire*, 15 September

### REGISTER FOR THE BILOXI MIDWINTER CONVENTION

Get away to sunny Biloxi, Mississippi, for a great week of barbershop harmony, shows, and the international seniors quartet contest. To register, go to [www.spebsqsa.org/midwinter](http://www.spebsqsa.org/midwinter) or call 800-876-7464 x8462. The midwinter convention runs from January 25 to February 1, 2004.

### REGISTER FOR THE LOUISVILLE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Join us in "Derby Town" for the barbershop run for the roses. Louisville, Kentucky, is the site of the 2004 international convention. To register, go to [www.spebsqsa.org/louisville](http://www.spebsqsa.org/louisville) or call 800.876.7464 x8462. The international convention runs from June 27 to July 4, 2004.

## ADDITIONAL BILOXI ATTRACTIONS

From *SPEBSQSA Live Wire*, 15 September

### SHUTTLE AVAILABLE TO GRAND CASINO BAYVIEW HOTEL

Flying to Biloxi for midwinter convention? According to their web site, the Bayview Hotel shuttle meets every flight arriving in Biloxi. A round trip is \$15 (\$17 curbside without a reservations); one way is \$12. Reservations can be made on line at [www.casinoairportshuttle.com](http://www.casinoairportshuttle.com). You can also call

228-396-3636. You'll find complete shuttle information at that web site.

### MIDWINTER TOURS FOR EVERY TASTE

A variety of tours await those attending the Biloxi midwinter convention. For those who seek elegance and beauty there's the Bellingrath Home & Garden tour in Mobile, Alabama; for the adventuresome, a Gator Swamp tour; or see the "Big Easy" on a New Orleans City tour. Other tours include a Biloxi to Bay St. Louis tour, a Seafood Industry tour, a Biloxi Schooner Cruise, or a Painted Pot Gallery tour.

To make tour reservations, go to [www.spebsqsa.org](http://www.spebsqsa.org) > Happenings > Midwinter > Biloxi Tours and Order Form.

## NEW "TAKE" ON READING

Contributed independently by  
Renée Silverstein and Bob Chieffo

Instructions: Just read the sentence straight through quickly without really thinking about it.

Accordnig to an elgnsih unviesitry sutdy the oredr of letetrs in a wrod dosen't mttae; the olny thnig thta's iopmrant is that the frist and lsat ltteer of evry word is in the crceot ptioion. The rset can be jmbueld and one is stlil able to raed the txet wiohtut delftfuuiy.

Amazing, isn't it??

## THE CHORUS MEMBER'S CREED

From *The Harmonet*  
Forwarded by Renée Silverstein

1. I will learn my notes and SP without having to be harangued by the director, section leader, or choreographer.
2. I will, at all times, keep my eyes on the director or his/her assistant and try not to laugh.
3. I will remember: There are others singing in the chorus who also need to be heard—even though they may not create dulcet tones as well as I do.
4. I will remember the creed for my individual part and follow it faithfully.
5. I will always remember to keep the pitch firmly in mind; I shall not intentionally flatten any note.
6. If I sing a part other than lead, I will listen and follow the leads wherever they leadeth (pun intended)
7. I will arrive at rehearsal fully warmed up and ready to start.
8. I will arrive at rehearsal early, if at all possible, to sing tags or in a pick up quartet.
9. I shall always attempt to bring others to rehearsal so that they, too, can learn the joy of harmonizing.
10. I will not interrupt the director when he is instructing or directing (unless, of course, I feel the director has made an egregious error.)
11. I will always remember: (See "Creed" on Page 5)

**Creed** (From Page 4)

Good singing is fun; poor singing is garbage.

12. I will keep in mind that we come to practice to have fun and to ring chords.

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## PRACTICE YOUR FACE, TOO

From Western Suffolk (NY)'s *Twin Shorelines*,  
Jon Ayres, Editor, by way of Worcester's *Key Notes*,  
Roy Hayward, Editor

It's been generally accepted that an audience reacts as much, if not more, to what it sees as it does to what it hears. We've all sat in the seats enough to have experienced both positive and negative reactions to what we see of the performer, whether it's the Alexandria Harmonizers or the New York Philharmonic.

We're supplied with sheet music, learning tapes (and now CDs), vocal coaching, and every conceivable tool to help us learn the words and notes, but none of these addresses the issue that has a great deal to do with our success (or lack thereof) in "reaching" our audience, and that's your face.

Whether we realize it or not, every time we sing we practice our face; and practice, as we know, does not make perfect, it makes permanent. A quick look around the risers will all too often reveal that men are concentrating so hard on words, notes, tuning, etc., that their faces assume the appearance of intense concentration. That would be good if we sang songs whose lyrics had to do with that subject, but they don't. Moon, spoon, and June don't rhyme with scowl.

If you want to know what you look like, here's a handy tool. It's called a mirror, and there's very likely one in your bathroom. Stand in front of it at least three times a week and mouth the words to a song. Every day is better. Does your face reflect the emotion (whatever it is) of the lyrics you're mouthing? Are you really smiling? Do you really look sad?

As you look at your face, without raising your head lift your forehead. The whole upper part of your face should follow along. This will raise the roof of your mouth and create a larger open space, which will increase your reso-

nance. A side benefit, of course, is that it prevents you from frowning, and makes it much easier to smile with your eyes.

Guaranteed, if you practice your face at home, you'll find it much easier to put that face on when you sing. If we all do that, our audiences will enjoy our performances more, and our presentation scores will climb.

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## SOME NEWYORKERS NAME HISTORY

By "Oldyorker" Bob Chieffo

Here's the official scoop on Newyorkers chorus and chapter names.

Newyorkers is the official name of the chorus (one word, lower case y). Years ago in the mid-1960s when a banner was designed to be used at regional and international conventions (we did perform in four of the latter), the chorus name Poughkeepsie Newyorkers was chosen for it. That was probably to differentiate from New York City and give a catchy, memorable name to the chorus. Official score sheets will always say Newyorkers, not Poughkeepsie Newyorkers. In our PR materials we use Newyorkers or Poughkeepsie Newyorkers interchangeably as appropriate.

We are the Poughkeepsie, NY, Chapter of the Society. We are NOT the Poughkeepsie Newyorkers chapter.

Re Members called Newyorkers: For many years, everyone (with an exception of one or two) in the Chapter was a chorus member; hence it was easy to say anyone in the chapter was a Newyorker. It was a handy and recognizable nickname. So it became common practice that any chapter member is a Newyorker. Hence our top award, Newyorker of the Year.

The Newyorker Times title origin is slightly different but applicable. It's a play on the New York Times newspaper. That's why the title is in Old English font. Earlier Newyorker Times had copied the Newyorker Magazine title format.

Bottom line: Traditionally any chapter member is a Newyorker. I lovingly call former members Oldyorkers and have e-mail distribution lists so named. Some other chapter members have adopted this term, too.

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