

The Newyorker Times

The newsletter of the Poughkeepsie, New York, Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society



New Series, Volume 8
Poughkeepsie, New York

Number 10
October 2007

Barbershopper on Wheel Of Fortune

By Garry "Butch" Ashdown
Baritone, "Swing Shift"

I'm Garry "Butch" Ashdown of the Poughkeepsie, NY, chapter and baritone of NED quartet "Swing Shift." I just found out on 5 September that I was selected to be a contestant on the Wheel of Fortune that will be taped in New York City on 30 September. The show will air during the third week in November, honoring firefighters, police officers, and EMTs and called "Heros' Week." I work full time as a career firefighter, and part time as a police officer, a county fire investigator with an arson K9 partner, and an EMT, and I co-own a defensive driving business (then I sing in a quartet when I'm bored).

When I auditioned, I mentioned all the public work that I do, but I believe that when I mentioned that I sing in a barbershop quartet, that put me over the top. So I will be trying to promote barbershop in any way I can while I'm a contestant on the show (but I will be trying to win some prizes too).

Thought it might be worth mentioning, and hopefully it will represent barbershop in a great way!

Grand Opening of a Barbershop in Walden

By Dick Schaffer and Scott Salladin
Photographer unidentified

We were asked by owner Kathy Trapani for a quartet for her Grand Opening of the Barber Lounge, in Walden, New York, on 15 September. A pickup quartet calling themselves, at the suggestion of barber Jack Tacinelli, "Just A Little Off The Top" and consisting of Earl Snyder (T), Jack Tacinelli (L), Bob Waltke (Br), and Dick Schaffer (Bs) were up to the task.

The Barber Lounge had been open for the preceding two weeks, and Saturday, 15 September, was the Grand Opening. It also happened to be the same day as Walden Day. While the weather was rainy in the morning for the parade and other activities during the Walden Day celebra-

tions, the rain finally let up just before the quartet was to perform.

Just A Little Off The Top arrived in tuxedos for this performance. Owner Kathy Trapani was so impressed by the way the quartet was dressed and performed that she is already planning to have the quartet back next year on the 1-year anniversary for the Barber Lounge.



Kathi Trapani surrounded by Just A Little Off the Top—Snyder, Schaffer, Tacinelli, and Waltke

The quartet sang for over 30 minutes doing at least 10–12 songs. They did the Newyorkers proud.

Charlie Cortellino Remembrances

Collected and edited by Bob Chieffo

From Bob Chieffo (Newyorker)

On 13 August I went to Charlie Cortellino's viewing about 7:30 pm. Parked outside the entrance to the Straub Funeral Home in Wappingers Falls was a fire engine draped in purple and black bunting and two fire vehicles. The firefighters were here. Charlie was a 42-year member of the New Hackensack Company. As I climbed the staircase, there were 20–30 uniformed firefighters all grouped outside the viewing room.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary was performing a service inside. Charlie was active with that group too. Newyorker Bob Hitchcock's wife Lois (See "Remembrances" on Page 2)

The Newyorker Times
 Published by the Poughkeepsie, NY, Chapter of the
 Barbershop Harmony Society
 Yankee Division, Northeastern District
 Editor: George L. Trigg,
 18 Duzine Road, New Paltz, NY 12561-1304
 845-255-9488; e-mail GeorgeL.Trigg@alum.wustl.edu

Chapter Officials
 President John Hadigan, Jr.
 845-485-2339; e-mail bigjohnbass1@aol.com
 VP, Chapter Development John "Duke" Chisholm
 845-462-0656; e-mail Unkie907@aol.com
 VP, Music & Performance Steve Miller
 VP, PR & Marketing Vacant
 Secretary Scott Salladin
 Treasurer Mike Murphy
 BOD Members at Large Bill Florie, Bob Hitchcock,
 Dick Schaffer
 Immediate Past President Eric Dickstein
 Youth Outreach Bill Standish
 Chorus Director Renée Silverstein
 Assistant Directors John Hadigan, Steve Hagerdon
 Chorus Manager Scott Salladin

Meetings
Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.
Reformed Church of Poughkeepsie
70 Hooker Avenue
Poughkeepsie, New York
ALL SINGING MEN WELCOME
Website address 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 the
 Barbershop Harmony Society



- 19–21 Oct NED Fall Convention and Contests, Lowell, MA**
 4 Nov Performance, Fishkill Health Center, Rte 9D, Beacon, NY—arrive 1:00 p.m., sing at 2:00 p.m.; uniform long-sleeved white shirts, green music ties, black trousers, socks, and shoes
 18 Nov Performance, VA Medical Ctr., Castle Point—arrive 1:00 p.m., sing at 2:00 p.m.; uniform long-sleeved white shirts, new patriotic design ties, black trousers, socks, and shoes
 2 Dec Harmony for Hospice, Galleria, Poughkeepsie—arrive at 3 p.m. for a 4 p.m. performance; uniform tuxedos minus jackets
- 29 Jun–5 Jul International Convention and Contests, Nashville, TN**

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
31 OCTOBER

Happy Birthdays in October:

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

Happy Anniversaries in October:

Bill and Linda Standish	9
-------------------------	---

Remembrances (From Page 1)
 was there in her CG Aux uniform. Bob is a member of the fire company and was there in his uniform. When the CG ceremony was completed, I paid my respects and got to talking with Charlie's younger brother Joe and his wife. I gave them a photo I had taken of Patricia and Charlie at the Newyorkers 40th Reunion Dinner on 8 September 2001 (see next page). My wife Diane had also used that photo to create a colorful digital scrapbook page, which I gave to them. They were very appreciative. I got email addresses of a nephew and great-niece to continue contact and send this Newyorker Times issue.

Before I left, the firefighters performed a touching spiritual ceremony honoring their fallen comrade. Charlie was dressed in his dress firefighter's uniform. His Coast Guard Auxiliary uniform was aside the casket.

(Continued on Page 3)

Remembrances (From Page 2)

After the funeral Mass the next morning, Charlie received full honors from two organizations: the New



Pat and Charlie Cortellino

Hackensack Fire Company and the US military. His casket was carried past two rows of saluting firefighters and raised to the top of that bunting-draped fire engine. Then a color guard led the engine and the parade of firefighters around the block to the cemetery. After being placed at the gravesite, there was a 9-gun salute from an Army color guard, Taps was played and the US flag draping the casket was ceremoniously folded and given to the family. Well done and very touching.

Disappointingly, the only recognition missing was the Newyorkers chorus singing a couple of songs. However, on Wednesday, 1 August, several hours before Charlie died, we were able to sing "My Wild Irish Rose" to him as the Vassar nurse held the phone to his ear. Hopefully we sent him off with a smile in his heart!

Charlie Cortellino first joined the Binghamton–Johnson City, NY, chapter in 1959. He joined the Poughkeepsie, NY, chapter on 18 September 1972, sponsored by Glenn Smith. (See him third from the right, second row, in the Royce chorus photo in the September issue.) Charlie was not a Society member for a number of years but Rudy Veltre convinced him to rejoin us on 17 December 1997. Although not active with the chorus, he was a chapter member for many years and a regular participant at our monthly Sing-For-Your-Lunch Bunch at Aloy's Restaurant.

I always related to Charlie as one of the small group of Italians in the Newyorkers thru the years—Calavano, Chieffo, Cortellino, DiStasi, Donnatelli, Iannone, Koziol, Patti, Veltre—so we had a bond right there. Then he was a sailor with his boat "Patchas" (named for wife Patricia and Charles) and so was I. In July of 1981 a bunch of Newyorkers who had boats staged a "Boatout" [i.e. singout] on the Hudson just north of Hyde Park. The target rendezvous time was about 11 a.m. Most of us were there early already into singing and brews—but where's Charlie? He finally appeared. His home port was about 15 nautical miles south, and chugging up the Hudson at 3 knots took him 5 hours. Yes, he had started out at 7 a.m., but by God, he made it! (See photo in next column.) Whew! Time for a smoke.

As personal computers came into being, he developed a database of barbershop songs. He always told me if my



Charlie in "Patchas"

quartet, The Footlighters, ever wanted to hear any song, he had them all categorized. He once gave me a listing print-out. Wow—talk about organized!

The fondest memories most of us had of Charlie was at our monthly luncheons for "pasta-e-fagioli" at Aloy's. He rarely missed this. He could sing the melody to a gang of old songs. A lot of times we just harmonized if they weren't barbershop tunes we knew. And there was always the consternation he caused Duffy Miller when Charlie couldn't remember all the words or hit the high notes. Charlie was often the only lead. But we laughed and teased each other all the time. You know—guy stuff!

Charlie was a warm person that touched many of us. A true barbershopper and friend.

From Don Bunch (former Newyorker)

I sang with Charlie in the Newyorkers and we traveled together to some of our competitions. He was a faithful monthly First Friday Lunch attendee after he stopped coming to chapter meetings. He always had a neat little sports car and had a great collection of old music. He was a smart and very likable friend.

From Bud Fair (former Newyorker)

Charlie was a talented, energetic guy, but he just couldn't get away from those cigarettes. Sorry to hear of his passing.

From Werner Schanzenbach (Newyorker)

I first met Charlie during one of Rudy's (Veltre) monthly First Friday Lunch Bunch at Aloy's. He knew more old songs than I knew existed. It hurt us to see him occasionally go outside for a smoke. Even after a lung operation he still did this. We talked to him about it but he knew what he was doing. He was a fun guy.

From Ed Koziol (former Newyorker)

I will always remember Charlie for his amazing ability to remember the words and music to literally hundreds of the old songs. It seemed that no matter where a few barbershoppers would gather together Charlie was always Johnny-on-the-spot with a suggestion of songs four guys could join in and harmonize with. (Continued on Page 4)

Remembrances *(From Page 3)*

Charlie's enthusiasm for barbershop singing was infectious, and he always seemed to be so very happy when he could get an old tune clicking. Charlie was also a regular whenever the Sing-For-Your-Lunch Bunch gathered at Aloy's, and true to form, always managed to do a mental Google and come up with a song we could all sing in 4-part harmony.

Of course, I will also fondly remember Charlie from our church, St Mary's in Wappingers Falls. Charlie was an usher and was faithful to his commitment to be there for the 10:30 AM Mass every Sunday. Charlie always loved to stand out in front of the church early to greet the people both young and not so young, as they arrived to attend mass. He truly loved to meet and chat with anyone who would take the time to stop and talk, and to make them feel welcome. He will be missed. God Bless you Charlie!

From George Trigg (Newyorker)

I didn't get to know Charlie until after he had become inactive in the chapter. Shortly after I joined the chapter in 1999, I became a member of the First Friday Lunch Bunch, and it was there that I met him. I was truly impressed by his knowledge of old songs—not only barbershop songs,

but the popular songs from the '30s and '40s that I had grown up with. I don't believe there was ever a song brought up in the conversation but what Charlie knew it. The other thing I remember about Charlie's singing was that he never remembered tags. We would kid him about that, but he never changed. He was indeed a great guy, and I will miss him.

Worcester Show on 16 and 17 November

Adapted from a flyer

The Worcester Men of Song present "Thanks For the Memories," a Barbershop harmony concert, on Friday and Saturday evenings, 16 and 17 November, at 7:30 p.m. at Worcester's historic Mechanics Hall. Featured performers include quartets Wheelhouse, 9th place International competitors, and Theatrix, a local favorite, in addition to the Worcester Men of Song chorus and Worcester Chapter quartets. All seats are reserved; the price is R20 per ticket. Tickets may be purchased from the Mechanics Hall box office, telephone 508-752-0888, website www.mechanicshall.org; a \$2.50 per ticket service charge applies for mail orders.

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

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