



Schenectady, NY Chapter



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Director: Chuck Eaker
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Shampoo

Editor: Jim Bowen
Circulation: Ed Gifford

Visitors Welcome

Rehearsals are every Tuesday (except Holidays) at 7:30 PM at the Faith United Methodist Church at the corner of Brandywine and Eastern Parkway, Schenectady. Park at the side of the Church and enter from Brandywine. If no one is at door, ring bell and wait.

visit@electriccitychorus.org

We Went to Contest



But you will have to settle for this photograph. The photographer wouldn't take a photo for our editor, and he would charge \$120.00 for a digital copy for use in our newsletter. Good luck with that! So, the photo above is most of the same guys rehearsing a couple weeks before the Division Contest.

Well, how did you make out, you ask? "Not bad." We sang first and scored 721, averaging 60.1 with 24 men on the risers. That put us in second place in the Mountain Division. Director, Chuck Eaker, was enthusiastic about the follow-up with the judges. They were helpful with their suggestions.

The only quartet to compete was Fully Depreciated Four, a senior quartet, who should be proud of themselves. They scored 732 which gave them fourth place.

The Singing Valentine Afterglow!

By Roger Murphy, Chapter President

The Singing Valentine's delivered by three Chorus quartets from February 12 to 14 once again showed how much joy and laughter can be shared between all participants. Those of us singing are always amazed at the beautiful human reactions of happy faced people that are listening to our barbershop style love songs. There are many tears of joy at the receiving end because it declares in song one's love and affection for another. Each quartet vividly observes that its colorful presence, and its music and lyrics create a special and memorable moment. It's clear that

Valentines: Continued on page 3



Comments of the
Electric City Chorus
President,
Roger Murphy

Board Says Continue Annual Show

Let's congratulate and thank the three singing valentine quartets for their unselfish gift of time on February 12, 13, and 14. The Chapter realized approximately one thousand dollars net profit as a result of their efforts. The three quartets were: "JQP" (John Oppenheim, Joe Betz, Ron Messersmith, Fred Simon, Hal Stephens); "Revisions" (Walt Lane, Chris Jensen, Jack Richards, Jim Stearns, Dave Mattice); and "Homespun Harmony" (Ray Benoit, Joe Smith, Jim Bowen, Roger Murphy). Thanks guys for volunteering and giving up a part of your weekend.

The Chorus is seeking a significant number of paid performances this year in order to bolster our treasury. As you know, ticket sales for our Annual Show last October were anemic. Please mark your calendars and make every effort to participate in these important Chorus concerts. We need you!

Our Annual Show has been a highlight for me every year that I've been a member; now in my 21st year. It has also served as our major fund raiser for the year. However, that has been suffering during the past few years due to smaller and smaller ticket sales, and hit a low point this past October when the show experienced a net loss of approximately \$1300. Obviously, we need to turn this around. The Board received and carefully reviewed the January 2010 Report On Fund-raising Activities prepared by Jim Stearns, Chairman, and his Work Group (Don Flom, Chris Jensen, Jack Kidalowski, Mark Hodges). After much discussion and agonizing over the alternatives presented in the report, the Board determined that we should continue to present an Annual Show. Changes will have to occur, especially in the overall show expense category. For example, we will not hire a quartet of international competition level, and probably not a past or present District champ. Furthermore, we will cut other expenses. One objective, of course, is to have a net profit for the show, but we are more concerned with increasing show attendance and presenting our style of music to many more folks in the Capital District. This is going to take time, an array of new methods, and enthusiastic support by the membership. Keep singing your best and stay tuned for more exciting news!

Hanging around the Pole

with Jim Bowen, Editor



Water has gone under the damn since the last issue of the Shampoo.

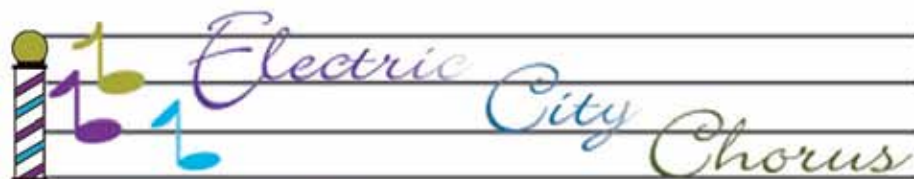
So we have some catching up to do. You will note that some of the articles are doing just that.

Nancy, wife of Ed Gifford passed away on February 21, 2010. Apparently he took her into the hospital to "see if something could be fixed," but it couldn't.

After reading Ed's "Off the Cuff" in the Shampoo relating to many barbershopping adventures Ed had in his younger years, we have grown to have a greater appreciation of this wonderful and talented woman.

For me, proofreading of contest headed Shampoos was helpful. Especially when she and Ed didn't agree. I can't remember any time when she was not in attendance at our contests, shows, and activities. God bless.

Also, we note that Ralph H. McCreadie, 78, died in his sleep on April 10, 2010. Ralph sang with us for a short while a few years ago.



Schenectady, New York

Member of The Barbershop Harmony Society

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we also have a significant impact on the observing audience, as well as the one receiving the valentine. Maybe that audience member has forgot to purchase, send or say something special for/to the love of their life for Valentines Day, until the quartet appears and becomes the needed reminder!

Yes, we are also hopeful that Singing Valentines help to replenish our treasury, but the financial outcome should not be used as a measure of success. Our success is immediately evident at the start of the day with that first valentines smiling face and is repeated over and over again with each subsequent valentine. At the end of the day, we revel in the knowledge that the quartet has impressed upon all listeners the importance and power of uttering those three little words, "I Love You."



Homespun Harmony

Some Thoughts On Perseverance:

As we grow more experienced we find learning the music gets harder and the temptation is to say, "Forget it." In such situations we need to be reminded that there is a virtue in try, try again, or perseverance. The following has that quality and is worth reading and thinking about:

The fall of dropping water wears away the stone.
—Lucretius.

Perseverance is not a long race; it is many short races one after another.
—Walter Elliott.

The difference between perseverance and obstinacy is that one often comes from a strong will, and the other from a strong won't.

—Henry Ward Beecher.

You win some, you lose some and some get rained out, but you gotta suit up for them all.
—J. Askenberg.

I know of nothing more important than perseverance. Genius — that power which dazzles mortal eyes — is oft but perseverance in disguise.
—Henry Austin.

Great works are performed not by strength but by perseverance.
—Samuel Johnson.



"Let Freedom Sing"

2010 International Convention

Philadelphia, PA June 28 - July 4, 2010

Kingsway Sing Out

by Editor

Sometimes words will not tell the whole story and we need a photo.

The chorus sang for the Kingsway residents on Thursday, 4/22/10. It was much like other concerts we had sung there. We stood on the floor and tried to see between each other's heads. Jim S. was especially long winded, yet very funny. Chuck and Joe were not too demanding and we sang with some joy.

Revisions was the only quartet and they sang three songs with Ed singing bass and were very entertaining.

One of our members Frank M., who has an apartment at Kingsway was in the audience. This was cool as he had been sick and out for a couple of months. I was so delighted seeing him singing right along with the Chorus that I got out my I Phone and took his photo between songs.

As it turned out, not only did I get Frank, but also a three generation family with a child holding her dolls. Following the show, I showed the family the photo, e-mailed it to dad, and made up a little song with her name in it.

That photo is to the right. (Frank is in the center back.)



Homespun Harmony — Auto Show Hits

by Jim Bowen, Baritone

Never, I said. I would never put on one of those red and white striped vests (they make me feel like a circus tent) and fake straw hats and sing. But there I am along with the other three of Home-spun Harmony.

The occasion was the Albany Auto Show. We were the featured entertainment for eight hours over three afternoons, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. The hats were too hot and funny to last longer than Friday, but the uniforms stayed. We walked around the exhibits and sang here and there, mostly to small groups of people, but sometimes to people in general. (And, occasionally to the young women who were car company representatives that traveled the country.) We had about 20 songs that we sang over and over again.

Saturday night, to appease the wives who had not seen much of us, we took them out to dinner at C... in Schenectady. Before our suppers came, to our surprise, we sang to standing O's.

We encouraged some men to sing with us and a couple seemed interested. Also, we handed out chapter calling cards to some.

Sunday, with thirty minutes to go, the car exhibitors collected their keys, hooked up the batteries and put the dealer plates on the cars as the place emptied out. So we sang to men waiting to drive out of the Times Union Center. By then, we were as ready to go home as they were.




New Member, Jack Anrold, dressed up and ready to sing in contest.



- June 24 - Glen Eddy, Niskayuna @ 7:00 PM
- July 24 - Chorus Picnic @ Ed Gifford's (Lead) place
- August 12 - Towasentha Park, Guilderland @ 7:30 PM
- August 17 - Cook Park, Colonie @ 6:30 PM
- August 18 - Freedom Park, Scotia @ 7:00 PM
- September 16 - Coburg Village @ 7:00 PM
- October 14 - Kingsway Manor @ 7:00 PM
- October 22 - 24 - District Convention, Portland, ME

Here's to the
Birthday Boys



APRIL:

Varro Clarke:	4/5
Ed Gifford:	4/6
Harrison Hall:	4/15
Ray Kidalowski:	4/16

MAY:

Don Flom	5/8
Richard Lenahan:	5/8
Mark Hodges	5/26
Bob Weinhold:	5/30

A Healthy Voice *

by Mark Hodges

Most of us strive for good health on by a daily basis...watching what we eat, exercise, etc. We need to do the same for our voices if we are to attain the best possible quality in our voices. My intention is to submit for your use or not a series of articles of how to maintain and improve your voice, while there may be some information you may know or not, and some information you may not like to hear, it is all vital to getting the best voice you can get. With that in mind I submit to you my first article, all of which will be more in a "Tips for Vocal Health"

For a Healthy voice:

1. Drink water to keep your body well hydrated, avoid alcohol and caffeine. Vocal cords vibrate very fast, and having a proper water balance helps keep them well lubricated. Foods containing large amounts of water are excellent hydration – conscious snacks including apples, pears, watermelon, peaches, melons, grapes, plums, bell peppers and applesauce

If you get a "dry" voice during or after singing you should avoid the following before singing:

1. Orange or Citrus Juice and caffeinated drinks – these can affect your throats lubrication and cause it to dry quickly.

Water is good for a singer...period! Regardless of the form it comes in (except mixed with alcohol or anything else that negatively affects the vocal cords). As long as you stay hydrated, it is wise to take water in whatever form it comes in. Room temperature water is better if you are having water just before or during singing, but if cold water is all that is available, it's not the end of the world.

While this next item is not necessarily a Vocal health suggestion, it's just plain good manners... When singing either at practice or out at a sing-out, just because a song is done is not a cue for us to start talking and laughing amongst each other totally disregarding the directors' job. Exercise discipline and self control so that we get done that much earlier which will also lead to a more professional appearance if we are out singing. Discipline and self control is important and SHOWS when we sing in public.

Keep healthy and sing better!

**The part of my tips for A Healthy Voice come from an article published April 17, 2006 entitled 10 Tips for a Healthy Voice from the LiveScience Staff. If you need the link I can provide it. The part on Dry voice comes from an article entitled "Things Singers Should Avoid" from Vocalist.org.*



Contest Winners Announced

Shampoo

**FEBRUARY
PHOTO
CONTEST
2010**



First Place: "Animas River Train" by Ann Bowen

The judges were unanimous in their choice. Judges said: "I can picture the excitement of this train ride," and "Very nice dynamic shot. The diagonals in the mountains and in the stream, together with the jagged rocks, reinforce the feeling of action conveyed by the train and the rushing water."



Second Place: "Grand Tetons" by Peg Lawrence

The judges said: "God's blessing," and "Another "post card" and another majestic subject. The composition has a nice balance, with the sky and lake like the fat parts of an hourglass, and the trees provide foreground interest."



Third Place: "Falls at Yellowstone" by Peg Lawrence

Judges said: "The energy of nature reminds us who is really in charge," and "An impressive "post card" shot. Nice composition, a good subject!"

Thank you to the ten who entered 20 photographs. Six photographs were selected by the Chorus as their favorite. These four were selected by our three judges Virginia Russack (art collector), Leah Bowen (art school graduate) and Austin Clarke (skilled photographer) to be the best. They commented that it was difficult decision to make.



Honorable Mention: Boy In Field by Tom Gifford

Judges said: There is a warm, poetic feel, and the photograph conveys emotion.

Sidebar Humor

An older, tired-looking dog wandered into my yard.

I could tell from his collar and well-fed belly that he had a home and was well taken care of. He calmly came over to me, I gave him a few pats on his head; he then followed me into my house, slowly walked down the hall, curled up in the corner and fell asleep.

An hour later, he went to the door, and I let him out.

The next day he was back, greeted me in my yard, walked inside and resumed his spot in the hall and again slept for about an hour.

This continued off and on for several weeks.

Curious I pinned a note to his collar: 'I would like to find out who the owner of this wonderful sweet dog is and ask if you are aware that almost every afternoon your dog comes to my house for a nap.'

The next day he arrived for his nap, with a different note pinned to his collar:

'He lives in a home with 6 children, 2 under the age of 3 - he's trying to catch up on his sleep..

Can I come with him tomorrow?

Wisdom From Past KC White Suffers Surprise Illness

The following was provided by Bob Weinhold, Chapter Historian. It is an excerpt from the November - December 1977 issue of the Harmonizer submitted by Shirley Hall, wife of Erie, Pa. Member Clifford:

A Wife Notes

"He came home from work exhausted and could hardly drag his feet. He managed to get to the table, but was too far gone to eat."

"He finally moved to his easy chair with the paper he planned to read. It was too heavy, as was his head, so I said, 'Dear, sleep's what you need.'"

"His eyes went closed for a moment, then opened, 'What night is this?' 'Good grief, I gotta get going!' He said goodbye with a kiss."

"I was watching the late evening news, when I heard his key in the door. The voice that hummed a familiar tune just wasn't the same as before."

"The fatigue had somehow disappeared; the frown on his face was gone. He shared with me his experience of good fellowship in song."

"The hours he spends with the chorus add fun and joy to his life. So - I'm not a barbershop widow, I'm a Barbershopper's wife."



Above KC is getting a little help with his tie. Was it too tight?

In an e-mail from Pat Clow we learned that K C White had a slight stroke. M J got him to the hospital quickly. Apparently he was unable to turn over in bed and she called the ambulance.

He was transferred to AMCH. They cleaned out one of his carotid arteries, and then did other one at a later date.

KC is home and there have been some complications that will slow his return to the risers. Seems they may have damaged his vocal cords during the operations.



New Gospel Quartet Formed

The New Messengers have been building a repertoire over the past six months. The quartet is made up of Joe Smith (tenor), Mark Hodges (lead), Carl Shepard (bass) and Jim Bowen (bari). Late in March they invited friends and relatives to come to the Alplaus United Methodist Church for a "practice concert." Those interested in inviting The New Messengers to sing may contact them by e-mail at: messengers@RobinhoodRoadGang.com



off the Cuff

by Ed Gifford



Here it is April and now I'm 86 and still singing. Last Tuesday, I told Bob Weinhold and Don Flom "I made it". They would have to wait till May. (We were all born in the same year.) Being that old reminds me of Billy Carter. He and a man named Keigher were real estate agents d/b/a Keigher and Carter in the Mount Pleasant neighborhood of Schenectady. I needed to ask Carter about some property matter (I've forgotten what) and I went to see him in his upper flat on Crane Street. He was 95 and had chronic hiccups, but his mind was really sharp. Right away he said "I knew your grandfather." I said "You mean my father!" since my father had been a title searcher and involved in real estate. He said "No, I mean your grandfather." And he got out of his chair and walked across to a magazine stand and brought back a picture of a group of GE machinists and there in the back row was my grandfather, (whom I'd never met but of whom I'd seen pictures). Point is, I'd like to be that sharp (minus the hiccups) when I'm that old.

About ten years ago, I met a little 3 year old neighbor girl whose grandmother was a teenager when we first moved to the farm. She and her sisters used to pick field strawberries where a mature pine forest is now. Their grandfather lived just up the road and was annoyed that his garden was being trampled by the neighborhood dogs, including mine. They were courting the little bitch from the house next door. After a warning to

me, which my dog ignored, Grandpa Heise shot to scare the dog, but hit him through the spine, so when I met Meghan, I said "Oh, hello! I knew your great-great grandfather. He shot my dog!" Words to eat. Bill O'Connor, the bright lead, had a saying; "I made a mistake in English once...As soon as I done it, I seen it."



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If You Can Breathe You Can Sing!

The Shampoo
Newsletter of the
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