

TOOSDAY TOONS

Nassau Mid-Island Chapter, Westbury, Long Island, New York Home of the *Long Island Harmonizers*,
Maurice Debar, Chorus Director

www.longislandharmonizers.org

VOLUME X

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NO. 2

2011 B. O. T. Y.

Barbershopper of the Year

STEVE STOJOWSKI

Treasurer

Former Secretary

Former Board Member

Instructor, Chapter
Leadership Academy

Instructor, Harmony
College East

Chairman, Joint Audit
Commission, Barbershop
Harmony Society and
Harmony Foundation
International, Inc.



Bill Vesely photo

Assistant Chorus
Director

Bass Section Leader

Bass. *AfterGloWorms*

Sponsor, *BBQ*, Youth
Quartet

The Tall Man with
the stool.

BOTY: No stranger to awards on both the Barbershop Harmony Society's national and local levels, **Steve Stojowski** (right) is honored with a special plaque as the Nassau Mid-Island Chapter's "Barbershopper of the Year" for 2011. Doing the honors is the awards committee's **Vinnie Colonna**.

FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of several men, 2011 can rightly be considered as a job well done. President **Hal Verity** set the tone and provided the leadership that saw “no man left behind.” **John Brolly** booked us lots of performances, **Hal Verity** made us 100% in compliance with the law, **Bob Heim** made us much better known, the chorus went to competition for the first time in recent memory and performed well, earning us a spot in a higher plateau, thanks in great part to Chorus Director **Maurice Debar’s** insistence that we sing in tune. **Joel Fairman** managed a very successful Valentine program, with help from Hal Verity and Bob Heim. Hidden away from sight was **Steve Stojowski’s** training program to help the treasurer learn how to prepare an accurate picture of our finances, which incidentally are in good shape.



So, what does the year hold in store for us? For starters, John has already booked us two jobs, **Steve Brausa** has much of the show in hand, we have four coaching sessions with **Scott Brannon** planned, Joel will run the Singing Valentine program again, and the show precedes the Northern Division convention, giving us time to prepare adequately for both.

As noted last month, we’ll be making a concentrated effort to improve our membership; the details have yet to be decided, but we got a good start at our January board meeting, and hopefully will have a plan firmed up at our February meeting. This will take a lot of effort on the part of all of us to make it a success.

As is true every year, we’ll make an effort to improve both our entertainment value and our enjoyment of singing together. We’re going to try to make our rehearsals more productive as well as more fun. You can make our rehearsals more productive by coming prepared. Make good use of the learning materials your chapter provides. As a minister once told me, religion is a serious business, but you can’t leave all the fun to the Devil! The effort, of course, will involve all of us; we’re in this thing together, pushing the stone up the hill.

Unfortunately, there are some missing pieces; specifically regarding uniforms, our public image, and our mileage reimbursement program. Lest you think these are not important, they’re illustrated by some doggerel I learned as a kid that went like this: “For want of a nail, the shoe was lost. For want of a shoe the horse was lost. For want of a horse the rider was lost. For want of a rider the battle was lost, and so the kingdom fell.” We need one or two men to keep track of our uniforms and make sure new members are properly outfitted. Dave D’Antonio can give you all the details and will help you get started. We need one or two men to keep our chapter in the public eye, and Bob Heim is available and willing to train you. We need another man to take over from Will McCoy the job of providing mileage forms for each public performance. This will take a couple of hours at home for each performance, but will result in adding several hundred dollars to our Social Fund, which helps defray the cost of our annual Ladies’ Night dinner dance. Your chapter needs you.

TOOSDAY TOONS

4th Place, 2010 International Bulletin Contest
5th Place, 2010 Electronic Bulletin Contest

TOOSDAY TOONS is the monthly publication of the Nassau Mid-Island Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, a nonprofit, charitable and educational society.

Chapter meetings Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m. at Winthrop Hall, Church of the Advent, 555 Advent St., Westbury, New York.

Articles not accompanied by a byline have been written by the editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the members nor of the officers of the Nassau Mid-Island Chapter. Opposing points of view are welcomed and encouraged.

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Nassau Mid-Island Chapter, in order to enhance the enjoyment of music in the barbershop style for our chapter members and our audiences, participates in both quartet and chorus singing as a means of experiencing the thrill of barbershop singing and helping others to do the same. Our aim is also to support the Barbershop Harmony Society and the Mid-Atlantic District in their efforts to perpetuate our art form, to warmly welcome other singers into our hobby, and to contribute to the cultural quality of our community through our charitable activities.

WHAT A WAY TO START 2012!

Experiment perilous commences with this “Winter Edition,” as your editor is testing the waters and sands of sunny Florida in an attempt to escape the ravages of another Long Island winter.

There are certain characteristics, identifiable with the regular issues of this bulletin, that you will find in the forthcoming two issues of *Toosday Toons*, such as:

1. A paucity of graphics and photos
2. The absence of barbershop-related logos and identifiable graphics.

(The above two items are the result of my inability to transfer the “tools of the trade” from my home computer to my wife, Bess’s laptop, which we brought to Florida.)

3. You will find fewer pages herein than you are normally accustomed to, for which I apologize due to the technical limitations mentioned above.

By this time, **Maurice** will have returned to focus his (and our) attention on the newer songs to be used in this year’s annual show, “A Trip On a Musical Time Machine.” Show Chairman **Steve Brausa**, in the meantime, has been researching ways to enhance some of the technical maneuvers behind the curtain that would inculcate a professional presence to the entire production.

As you might expect, gathering news from more than a thousand miles away is not the same as being right there “Johnny on the spot,” but I am relying on many of you to pass along the news as it unfolds.

I do know that Team Ayers was installed this month (*January 17 to be exact*), and that he and his entire crew, *i.e.*, the Board of Directors AND the total membership, will be pulling their weight towards making his an epic year in the annals of the Nassau Mid-Island Chapter. (*See pages 2 and 8.*)

**PUT YOUR HEART INTO
SINGING VALENTINES**

Bob Heim and PROBE are now friends

Sounds like Facebook, doesn't it? Allow me to explain.

We Nassau Mid-Islanders all know who **Bob Heim** is. Right? But, do we all know who PROBE is? I thought not. Therefore, I'd like to elucidate:

We are **P**ublic **R**elations **O**fficers and **B**ulletin **E**ditors.

What PROBE is and what it does

PROBE (Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors) is an all-volunteer organization, affiliated with BHS, but self supporting and open to all. See the [History](#) page for background. Follow the links in the bullets below to learn more about each specific item.

- We publish [PROBEmoter](#), our quarterly bulletin about and for public relations officers and bulletin editors.
- We assist the districts in running a [Bulletin Editor of the Year \(BETY\) contest](#). See elsewhere on this web site for [district contest coordinators](#), guidelines and information on how to enter.
- We run the [International Bulletin Contest](#). See elsewhere on this web site for guidelines, how entries are selected, and a [list of winners](#) over the years.
- We run the [Public Relations Officer of the Year contest](#).
- We induct into the [PROBE Hall of Honor](#) those who have given to PROBE long years of outstanding voluntary service.
- We publish the [Bulletin Editors Manual](#) and the PROBE [Style Guide](#), available in print from the Harmony Marketplace, or available at this web site.

- We run the [bulletin exchange program](#). Information on contacting the coordinator to be included will be found on the linked page.
- We certify bulletin contest judges in the categories of Content, Grammar, and Layout and Reproduction, and are energetically seeking candidates. Those interested in becoming judges should contact the [Vice President, Bulletin Editors](#). Contact information is given in the listing of [officers](#) at this web site.
- We provide a link at this web site to any [online bulletin](#) of any barbershop organization desiring to be linked.
- We provide resources to bulletin editors in the form of readily copied and pasted articles under "[Aids for BE's](#)" and welcome new material to be sent to the [webmaster](#).
- We encourage bulletin editor classes at Chapter Officer Training Seminars (COTS), now called Chapter Leadership Academy, and we provide instructors upon request (contact: [Vice President, Bulletin Editors](#)).
- We [mentor](#) new bulletin editors, or those wishing to improve the quality of their bulletins with one on one assistance for anyone who asks.
- We welcome anyone with \$10 to become a member. See "[Membership](#)."

Editor's Comment: Now that you know as much about PROBE as you do about **Bob Heim**, you should be duly impressed when I tell you that Bob had his column in the April 2011 edition of *Toosday Toons* replicated in the January/March 2012 edition of PROBEmoter. This marks the second time within the last year that Bob has been so recognized by this national organization.

This one'll "kilt" you!



Bob Heim photo

OH...WE'LL TAKE THE HIGH NOTES, AND WE'LL TAKE THE LOW NOTES and we'll hope to sing at the Scottish Long Island Festival, set for Old Westbury Gardens in August, say Nassau Mid-Island Chapter's John Brolly (at left) and Chapter President Jon Ayers (right), showing some barbershop music to Festival Chairman Dennis Carter (second from left) and Committee Member Bob Thompson. The two guests, planning for the event, were on hand at a late January rehearsal to hear the Long Island Harmonizers chorus sing.

An editorial tidbit

Underlying all the good aspects of singing in the barbershop style is the fellowship and camaraderie that prevails wherever you may happen to be. Presently I'm enjoying my second sojourn to Florida in the past three years, and each time I found myself hooking up with fellow-barbershoppers. The commonality that all barbershoppers share is truly amazing. It leaves you with the feeling that you have never left home.

Two years ago, I sang with a group, similar in size to our chorus, based in Stuart, Florida. This year, the group of ten men I join with

every Monday afternoon is comprised of the remnants of the former chapter here in Vero Beach, which disbanded in 2009. Although lacking the structure of a bona fide chapter, this group of men has as much fun and down-to-earth dedication to their hobby as you can find anywhere.

This experience bears out the fact that whenever you find yourself away from home, you don't necessarily have to be away from the hobby you have grown to love. Fellowship and camaraderie will always be there.

CFB

BEING VOCAL...DO IT OFF THE RISERS, TOO!!!



Bob Heim
 Nassau Mid-Island Chapter
 Associate Editor
 (A Public Relations Practitioner For Close to 60 Years)

One of my very favorite musically-related anecdotes has to do with singing with a semi-professional chorus. I participated in a Leonard Bernstein rehearsal for the recording of Bach's powerful *St. Matthew Passion* for double orchestra, double chorus, soloists and in this instance, the Choir of New York's Church of the Transfiguration. There was the larger-than-life Lenny at a break, perched atop his conductor's stool in front of those massive forces, when he was boldly approached by one of the youngsters. "Yes, son?" he said, gazing down at the five foot nothing participant. Whereupon a great many of us heard the high soprano voice remark: "You've got this all wrong!"

My point? Although the youngster's claim might have sounded absurd, the boy was exercising a right—what he thought appropriate in offering an opinion. Do we in our Chapter, in our Society, care enough to similarly add our "voices" in that respect? Not in a rude fashion, mind you, but to give approbation, support, show disagreement, offer suggestions—all in constructive and rewarding ways.

There are tools for you to be heard. The "guest" page on our website carries comments from as far back as 2008. Comments from those who have listened to us perform on stage, in "Singing Valentines," at rehearsals, etc. I invite you to take a look and add your own thoughts. "Toons," too, offers a forum for your views. This column and others are cases in point. The "we get mail" text in "Toosday Toons" is

another. And, our Board of Directors are pleased to have any Chapter member sit in at our monthly meetings to add a thought or two if they wish.

The bottom line? Get INVOLVED. Give your suggestions to the Society for its improvement. Let Jon Ayers know your thinking concerning the Chapter. Be vocal OFF the risers, too. You'll feel gratified in expressing feelings...and so will we.

(P.S. Did you know that the ancient Romans had a set ritual of applause for public performances, expressing degrees of approval? Snapping the finger and thumb, clapping with the flat or hollow palm, or waving the flap of the toga? Finally, Emperor Aurelius substituted handkerchiefs that he had distributed to the Roman people.)

Mid-Atlantic District

Fun ♪ Fellowship ♪ Harmony ♪ Service

SPRING CONVENTION HOUSING

DATE: January 26, 2012
TO: Mid-Atlantic District Members
SUBJECT: Spring Convention Housing
Deadline February 15, 2012

Attention M-AD Members:

Please be aware that the Hyatt Regency Reston Hotel in Reston, VA is the headquarters hotel for the 2012 International Quartet Preliminaries and District Senior Quartet Convention on March 9 & 10, 2012.

The hotel reports that, so far, we have made reservations for only 30 rooms and the deadline of **Feb 15, 2012** is fast approaching. Our block of rooms has a special discount rate of **just \$115.00 per night**.

Please be sure to reserve your rooms as soon as possible if you plan to attend the convention, as we only have a limited number of rooms at the headquarters hotel at this rate. If you do not reserve a room at the special rate, the room cost increases to \$149.00 per night.

Please go onto the District web site today at www.MidAtlanticDistrict.com/Spring and make your reservations at the special rate, and so that the District will not be charged the penalty for unused rooms.

If there are any problems or concerns regarding making reservations or I can assist in any way possible, please do not hesitate to contact me immediately for assistance.

Thank you for your support and consideration,

[Walter L. Griffith, Jr](mailto:Walter.L.Griffith.Jr@EventsVicePresident.com), Events Vice President
IMABARI1@aol.com

2012 INSTALLATION CEREMONIES

On January 17, **Bill Ruth** stepped into the breach to formally administer the oath of office to the incoming Board of Directors for 2012. Donning judicial robes he had in his possession, Bill made sure to make it look official. He was filling in for **Vinnie Colonna**, Awards Committee Chairman, who was unable to officiate due to surgery scheduled for the next day.

Following his introductory remarks, Bill first swore in the new officers of the board—**President Jon Ayers**, **Secretary Ken Wunsch**, **Treasurer Steve Stojowski**, **Music and Presentation Vice President Hal Verity**, **Chapter Development Vice President John Brolly**, and **Program Vice President Wayne Lazar**.

He then swore in the six members-at-large on the board—**Charles Muscarnera** and **Ray Shotter** (3 years); **Bob Heim** and **George Seelinger** (2 years); and **Steve Brausa** and **Bob Miraglia**



Front row, left to right: President Jon Ayers, BOTY and Treasurer Steve Stojowski, Secretary Ken Wunsch, Installation Officer Bill Ruth, Chapter Development VP John Brolly, Immediate Past President and Music & Presentation VP Hal Verity, Program VP Wayne Lazar, Trustee Bob Heim.

Back row: Trustees Charles Muscarnera, Ray Shotter, Steve Brausa, Bob Miraglia, and George Seelinger

The Barbershop of the Year Award to **Steve Stojowski** (*see first page*) and a Distinguished Service Award to **Hal Verity**, outgoing President. (*below*) took place at earlier chapter meeting.



Bill Vesely photo

A SINGING VALENTINES BARGAIN

--By Joel Fairman and Chiz Bell

The Singing Valentines program is off to a strong start. **Bob Heim** is, as usual, the ultimate professional covering publicity. **John Brolly** is working with Bob contacting his media friends. **Hal Verity** is organizing the quartets and **Maurice Debar** is working with the quartets to sharpen presentation. Flyers are on hand at each rehearsal and on our web site for posting at supermarkets, retail stores, libraries and other public places. Orders are being taken for deliveries on Valentine's Day, Tuesday, February 14, and Sunday and Monday, February 12 and 13. **At \$50 a pop, these are really a huge bargain.**

Over the past several years, the Singing Valentines program has grown into the Nassau Mid-Island Chapter's second largest source of income throughout the year. Added to that is the range of emotions we witness when we deliver songs of love, a beautiful Valentine card, and a rose to the intended recipient. That alone is reward enough to validate our support of the program.