



TOOSDAY TOONS



Mid-Atlantic

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

PROBE

www.longislandharmonizers.org



VOLUME XI, NO.1

HAPPY NEW YEAR

JANUARY 2013

Long Island Harmonizers spread the joy of the holiday season throughout Long Island

*St. Johnland Nursing Facility
December 8, 2012*



Photo by Eva Milauskas

*Mercy Medical Center
December 16, 2012*



Photo by Bob Heim

*South Communities Hospital
December 16, 2013*



Photo by Bob Heim

LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING --Nurse Trudy O'Brien is shown receiving a red rose from Ray Shotter.



Photo by Bob Heim

HOLIDAY "HAT-MOSPHERE" — Patients, their loved ones and staff personnel were recipients of holiday serenading from Santa-hatted *Long Island Harmonizers*. Posing with the barbershoppers is Unit Secretary Shana Edouard.

*St. Francis Hospital Heart Center
December 14, 2012*



Photos by Bess Bell

*Lynbrook's Winter Celebration
December 2, 2012*



GETTING TO LOOK LIKE YOU KNOW WHAT: The kickoff performance to the winter season at the annual Lynbrook Winter Celebration.

WRAPPED FOR THE HOLIDAYS: Bundled up and in attendance at an outdoor performance was Nassau Mid-Island Chapter alumnus, Harry Ruvolo, and his wife, Agatha, shown with Bob Miraglia (left) and John Brolly.

TOOSDAY TOONS

A 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.

All 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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CHAPTER CENSUS

(as of December 31, 2012)

Life	1
Regular	31
Senior (L)	19
Senior (N)	6
Youth	1
<hr/>	
TOTAL	58

The editorial staff
of
TOOSDAY TOONS
wishes you and yours a
Healthy and a Very



NASSAU MID-ISLAND HOME PAGE

A SMOOTH TRANSITION IS ANTICIPATED FROM 2012 TO 2013

2012

2013

President

JON AYERS

JON AYERS

One good term deserves another.

Secretary

KEN WUNSCH

KEN WUNSCH

More faithful than the geyser, "Old Faithful."

Treasurer

STEVE STOJOWSKI

STEVE STOJOWSKI

The best man when it comes to nonprofits.

VP Music and Performance

HAL VERITY

HAL VERITY

Back by popular demand.

VP Chapter Development

JOHN BROLLY

GEORGE SEELINGER

A proven success at any job.

VP Program

WAYNE LAZAR

WAYNE LAZAR

He still has more jokes (?) to tell.

VP Marketing and Public Relations

VACANT

BOB HEIM

Welcome back. He was doing this job unofficially anyway.

Trustees

CHARLES MUSCARNERA (2014)

VINNIE COLONNA (2015)

RAY SHOTTER (2014)

DON RAUSCH (2015)

BOB HEIM (2013)

CHARLES MUSCARNERA (2014)

GEORGE SEELINGER (2013)

RAY SHOTTER (2014)

STEVE BRAUSA (2012)

JOHN BROLLY (2013)

BOB MIRAGLIA (2012)

BOB ROTH (2013)

SUPER JOB!

DO AS WELL.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Monday, December 10, 2012



- **Trustee George Seelinger** reported that the visit to AHRC had to be cancelled due to the hurricane. Instead, a letter with a check enclosed was sent for our donation.
- **Show Chairman and Trustee Steve Brausa** suggested an increase from \$12.00 to \$13.00 for the price of advanced sale tickets to seniors and students. It was felt that this could add \$400.00 to our ticket sales without being a burden on the seniors and students.
- **Steve Brausa** plans to give a presentation on getting journal ads for the annual show.
- Other items discussed regarding the show: (a) Giving out show brochures at our Singing Valentines appearances, and (b) Look for advertising on WHLI, Paul Richards, and (c) Look for a show sponsor.
- **Trustee Bob Heim** raised several questions concerning Installation Night, a Singing Valentines Chairman, the timing of next year's budget, Ladies' Night, and, finally, the fact that he will be publishing *Toosday Toons* for the months of February and March while the Editor is vacationing in Florida. The deadline for submitting articles for those two months is January 15 and February 15. ♪

TWO NEW FACES ON THE 2013 BOARD



Vinnie Colonna



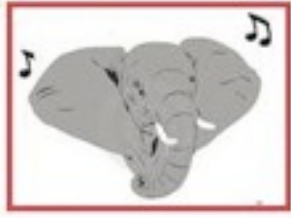
Don Rausch, (on Left)

One of the two new faces on the 2013 Board of Directors is actually a “return appearance;” namely, **Vinnie Colonna**, who has presided twice previously as president of the chapter in addition to many years as a trustee member of the board. For **Don Rausch**, this marks his first venture into the administrative ranks of the chapter. The net result of this combination will be experience from Vinnie's viewpoint and novelty and innovation from newcomer Don's. Welcome aboard, gentlemen! ♪

ROCKWELL'S "THE QUARTET"



Norman Rockwell, whose illustration, “The Barbershop Quartet,” is so familiar to all of us, used live models in that much-admired masterpiece. The foursome — all residents of New Rochelle — included a local fireman, Rockwell's personal assistant, an actual barber in town, and an accomplished artist friend of the famous illustrator. The wife of Jeff Raleigh, the bass, was not particularly fond of barbershop harmonies, declaring it sounded like “men howling at the moon!” ♪



PERFECTING YOUR PERSONAL LISTENING IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE

Are you meeting the challenge?

Bob Heim

Associate Editor, *Toosday Toons*

(And Public Relations Practitioner For Close To 60 Years)

The subject this month? Listening. The hows and whens. Quite obviously, the responsibility is yours, both in rehearsals as well as in performances. But, I respectfully ask, have you made it a habit to (1) listen to yourself and others as it relates to much, much more than allowing yourself to fit perfectly within the overall sound of our chorus; of not only being cognizant of your particular part, but the blending of your voice and the matching of vowels and cutoffs as well? *Even more importantly*, are you (2) remembering to do so *at all times*? It most assuredly takes concentration, a great deal of focus and, yes, it doesn't always come easily.

As Chorus Director **Maurice Debar** would be quick to point out (and has), self-awareness or, put it another way, the ability to hear (AND feel) how you are producing sounds is one contributory key to self improvement. Knowing how your voice works allows you to work on your voice. The importance of inward focus—calling up the proper mechanisms of your body again and again to achieve and maintain proper vocal production, your best sounds—cannot be minimized.

There is also, of course, carry-over from one rehearsal to the next. Carefully listening to skillfully presented instruction is one thing. *Consistently* applying all those good things that spring from our director and our coaches are the stepping stones to excellence. Again, it takes determination and commitment.

Then there's the actual performance. Listening most certainly comes into play again. As we have all come to realize, our rehearsal hall offers reverberations that may be absent on stages elsewhere. Some halls suck up sound like sponges. Singing Valentines are given in all kinds of settings. Our personal hearing allows us to make necessary adjustments, adjustments that may additionally be required especially when adrenalin kicks in.

Finally, there's the bottom line. Listening to our audiences. How they react to shtick (and how we do so without allowing laughter, unexpected hand clapping etc. to mar our overall professionalism and performance). There is also, we should add, hearing silence. The times when

(Please continue on page 7)

Perfecting Your Personal Listening

(Continued from page 6)

we realize that our audiences are buying into every note, every phrase, every emotion. The result? We hear approval in the form of enthusiastic and genuine applause. If our fans are delighted, so are we.

When it comes down to it, we all agree. Successful singouts are most certainly worth every second of solid preparation, every moment of top-of-mind awareness and understanding of vocal tools, how they musically relate in singing with fellow chorus members, and, last, but certainly not least, how our concentrated efforts handsomely pay off. Together we'll lock and ring. 🎵

An idea for retirement!

From an email sent by Paul White, Editor, *Concho Capers*, San Angelo, Texas Chapter

Now that I'm retired & need a little extra income to get me through, I got my new snow plow ready for the cold and snowy winter.

So just let me know when you need your sidewalks cleaned ... I can probably work out a good rate for you as long as we keep it under the table!

For all you other retirees, I'm thinking of setting up a dealership and will be selling these new snow plows starting in early January.



🎵 🎵 🎵 🎵



OUR BARBERSHOP

New Year's Resolutions

Happy New Year
Bob & Eva 2013

- ✓

I PROMISE NOT TO SING SNATCHES OF REPERTOIRE IN MY SLEEP. THERE'S TIME ENOUGH TO GO OVER MY PART IN THE SHOWER, BEFORE LUNCH, AT THE COMPUTER, WALKING THE DOG, IN THE SUPERMARKET (WELL, YOU GET THE IDEA). Bob
- ✓

I'LL CONSIDER LEARNING A PART IN A "TAG," BUT ONLY IF I'M OUT OF EARSHOT OF THE NEIGHBORS AND IF THE CAR WINDOWS ARE CLOSED AT RED LIGHTS WHEN OTHER DRIVERS PULL ALONGSIDE. Eva
- ✓

I PROMISE TO KEEP MY CHAPTER JACKETS, FORMAL WEAR, VESTS, TIES, ETC. ON HANGARS IN ONE PLACE, SO IT'S NOT ONE MAD SEARCH BEFORE SINGOUTS. Bob
- ✓

WHEN JOINING CHAPTER MEMBER WIVES AND SIGNIFICANT OTHERS AT PERFORMANCES, I WILL ONLY SPEAK BETWEEN SONGS IN CATCHING UP WITH THE GIRLS. Eva
- ✓

I PROMISE NOT TO EAT MORE THAN ~~ONE TWO~~ THREE PIECES OF CAKE WHEN WE HAVE REFRESHMENTS AT REHEARSALS. Bob

AND YOUR BARBERSHOP RESOLUTIONS?
WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY 2013
BOB AND EVA

Sean Devine displays his multiple talents to a focused Nassau Mid-Island audience

Sean, the Vocal Coach

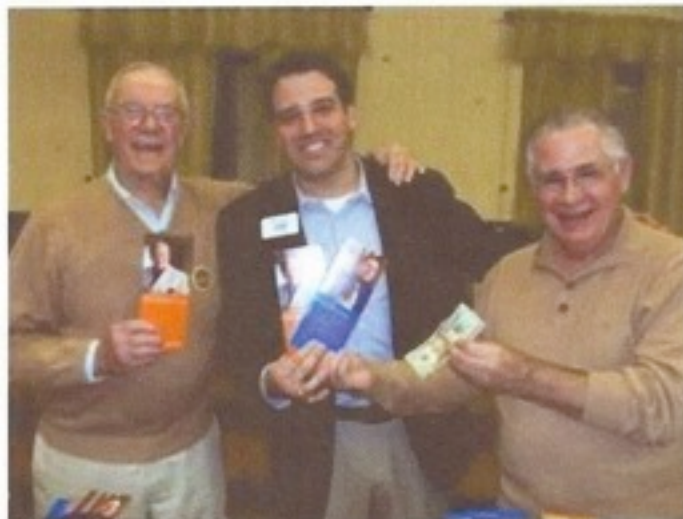
The Nassau Mid-Island Chapter was honored in December when **Sean Devine**, Director of Development with the Barbershop Harmony Society's Harmony Foundation, performed in the dual capacity of vocal coach and promoter of the Harmony Foundation.

Sean brought truly impressive credentials as a vocal coach, having achieved gold medal distinction in the 2002, 2005, and 2008 International Chorus contests. Sean is also a two-time Far Western District Quartet champion and a founding member of the gold medal *Westminster Chorus*. A certified presentation judge, Sean emphasized the importance of our facial expressions as a means of conveying the message of the songs we sing.



Sean Devine, Director of Development for the Barbershop Harmony Society's Harmony Foundation International, makes an impassioned plea to chapter members for monetary contributions in support of the worthy program.

It was encouraging to witness the instantaneous response of some of the members at the end of Sean's dissertation as they handed him their pledges of support.



DEVINE INSPIRATION: Sean (center), shown distributing Harmony Foundation promotional brochures to President John Ayers (left) and Chorus Director Maurice Debar.

Demonstrating the thoroughness of the man, Sean e-mailed follow-up message of appreciation to several individuals for the warmth of the chapter's reception. 🎵



"OPEN SEASON" FOR GIVING: An appreciative holiday "Thank You" by the Long Island Harmonizers for the efforts of its hard-working Musical Director, Maurice Debar, is presented by President Jon Ayers.

Bill Ruth introduces Bob Merrill



Our newest addition to the bari section is **Bob Merrill**, who sings, plays the trumpet and flugelhorn and is an experienced conductor, composer and arranger. *(Talk about finding a treasure trove!)* His wife, **Christine**, works as a director of a nonprofit in New York City. They have four boys, ages 8 to 18. (A busy household to say the least.)

Bob received his degree in music from Harvard, leading the Harvard Jazz Band, touring New England and overseas. He also spent three years as a teaching fellow for Harvard's Schimmerin' Jazz" course. *(Even Harry James didn't go to an Ivy League school.)*

In 1986, Bob returned to New York City where he opened a 48-track recording facility, specializing in music for commercials and host for recordings by top artists, including Patti Labelle, Sting, Art Garfunkel and others. He was recently featured on the American Music Classics channel, leading the AMC orchestra in the television series, "Gotta Dance." *(He's almost as productive as our Maurice Debar.)*

You can see and hear more of Bob's musical background by visiting his website (<https://www.bobmerrill.net>) and listen to some of his music

Bob became interested in the *Long Island Harmonizers* thanks to **Joel Fairman**, whom he has known for 25 years. During that time, they were active ice hockey players, generally at the Beaver Dam Winter Sports Club in Locust Valley. *(Can you believe Joel was known as "The Enforcer"?)* He heard us sing at the Oyster Bay Historical Society and then attended our annual show, where he was "knocked out."

Bob likes Maurice's direction and musical wisdom *(high praise from an accomplished musician)*.

Here's to a mutually rewarding experience in barbershopping. 🎵

Bill Ruth

BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY

January 2	Howie Bailin
January 5	Jane Marrin and Kathe Stojowski
January 9	Patricia Kenny and Bob Ost
January 10	Mary Jane Debar
January 13	John Brolly
January 17	Florence Schlageter and Tony Leone
January 19	Steve Stojowski
January 21	Bill Hardman

NO WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2013

OFFICERS:

President	Jonathan Ayers jayers1@optonline.net	(631) 223-2911
VP Music & Performance	Harold Verity Sanman99@optonline.net	(516) 208-3483
VP Chapter Development	George Seelinger gs1027@aol.com	(516) 333-0803
VP Marketing & P.R.	Robert Heim heimbob@aol.com	(516) 652-0601
VP Program	Wayne Lazar jwayne314@aol.com	(516) 292-0021
Secretary	Kenneth Wunsch kensroom@hotmail.com	(516) 328-4716
Treasurer	Stephen Stojowski Stephen.Stojowski@gmail.com	(516) 747-4715
Past President	Harold Verity Sanman99@optonline.net	(516) 208-3483

TRUSTEES:

Class of 2014	Vincent Colonna and Donald Rausch
Class of 2013	Charles Muscarnera and Ray Shotter
Class of 2012	John Brolly and Robert Roth

<u>Chorus Director</u>	Maurice Debar mjdebar40@aol.com	(631) 587-8694
<u>Assistant Chorus Director</u>	Stephen Stojowski Stephen.Stojowski@gmail.com	(516) 747-4715

Section Leaders:

Tenors: William Ruth and Harold Verity
 Leads: Vincent Colonna and Eugene Kammerer
 Baritones: Robert Miraglia and Robert Roth
 Basses: Stephen Stojowski

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

<u>Chorus Manager</u>	John Brolly
<u>Librarian</u>	George Seelinger
<u>Uniforms</u>	Tony Leone
<u>Attendance</u>	Eugene Kammerer
<u>Show Chairman</u>	Steven Brausa
<u>Web Site</u>	Bob Heim
<u>Bulletin Editor</u>	Chiz Bell
<u>Mid-Atlantic District Delegate</u>	Hal Verity
<u>Chapter Counselor</u>	Steve Marrin
<u>MAD Northern Division VP</u>	George "Oley" Olson
<u>BHS Leadership Academy Instructor</u>	Stephen Stojowski

2011 BARBERSHOPPER OF THE YEAR

STEPHEN STOJOWSKI

TOOSDAY TOONS — 3rd Place



CHAPTER QUARTETS

AfterGloWorms

Harold Verity, Tenor
 Bob Miraglia, Lead
 Steve Stojowski, Bass
 Maurice Debar, Baritone
 Contact: aftergloworms@aol.com

All In A Chord

Bill Ruth, Tenor
 Steve Brausa, Lead
 Bernie Genzer, Bass
 George Seelinger, Baritone
 Contact: SBrausa@verizon.net

Cloud 9

Jon Ayers, Tenor
 Vinnie Colonna, Lead
 John Brolly, Bass
 George Seelinger, Baritone
 Contact: vinmar9@optonline.net

4 Gone Conclusion

Harold Verity, Tenor
 Steve Brausa, Lead
 Maurice Debar, Bass
 George Seelinger, Baritone
 Contact: Sanman991@optonline.net

Long Island Express

Bill Ruth, Tenor
 Gene Kammerer, Lead
 Joe Massaro, Bass
 Bob Roth, Baritone
 Contact: bjr52@optimum.net

No Treble At All

Tommy Barone, Tenor
 Bill Vesely, Lead
 Ken Wunsch, Bass
 Wayne Lazar, Baritone
 Contact: wvesely1@aol.com

Quatrain

Bob Kelly, Tenor
 Steve Marrin, Lead
 Al Fennell, Bass
 Paul Santino, Baritone
 Contact: Smarrin1@aol.com

