The “climate of change” that has brought us a new look to the landscape, heavier clothing to fight lower temperatures and more adjustments than found in a chiropractor’s hands has applied to our Nassau Mid-Island Chapter as well. New songs have found their way into our repertoire, and a new Board has been elected for 2016. Possible venues for next year’s Annual Show are on the agenda, one of them, a return to Carle Place High School. During October there were a number of “keepers” as well. Our holiday music, continued to round into shape. and the Long Beach Fall Festival was held on a sparkling fall day unlike what the Chapter endured in a rain-soaked afternoon a year ago (now there was a welcome change). Meanwhile our Inter-chapter was held much to the delight of all participants.

Hoped for changes? We want singers to accept our open invitation to come listen, experience barbershopping and join. We’d like all those good ideas suggested at our Board meetings to be implemented with positive results. And, of course, we want blend, balance and the musicality of our 40-plus Long Island Harmonizers chorus to continue to reflect remarkable improvement.

Every Chapter talks a great deal about teamwork. How one person cannot do it alone. The smaller the Chapter, the more responsibility falls on overburdened shoulders. Working together will translate those efforts for a bright future.

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Can & Can’t Dos

The other day, I slipped and fell and to my surprise had a hard time getting up. My wife tells me that she has had the same experience and it just underlines how the golden years ain’t so golden. I couldn’t disagree more. Sure, there are some things that we just can’t do any more, or can’t do as well (have you seen me golf lately?) but there are lots more things we no longer have to worry about.

I loved my job, frustrations and all, but now that I’m retired I love even more not having to go to work! As Alan Jay Lerner said in Gigi, "How lovely to sit here in the shade, with none of the woes of man and maid.” And of course, there’s barbershop and the friends I’ve made here. My work schedule never would have allowed me to spend so much time in this wonderful world of barbershopping!

We each have lived different stories, but if we’re attuned to it, our life experiences have mellowed and matured us like wine in an oak barrel. I think we spend too much time trying to sound young instead of being who we really are.

I remember being coached with a quartet at Harmony College East one year and being told that our quartet could never sound like the younger groups do, but our life experiences gave us the advantage of being able to interpret the songs more authentically. When studying a song, I pay special attention to the lyric and try to feel the emotion the lyricist was trying to create.

Most of us are fortunate enough to have stayed reasonably healthy through the years. And if our bodies wear down a bit, there are many studies that indicate hobbies like ours help keep our minds from the ravages of old age.

Of course I can’t speak for all of us, but I’m proud to have reached this stage of life in the shape I’m in and have no regrets about getting here. As Lerner said in the song referenced above, "I’m Glad I’m Not Young Anymore.”

From the Corner Office

George Seelinger, Chapter President
Winning Ways

To this writer’s mind we are missing some important opportunities. Not at our singouts where references in prepared scripts or impromptu remarks direct listeners to our website and plug the idea of membership. But in performances outside the scope of the Society.

When our talented members take stages to perform with other groups very often what they also do musically and how it can impact on the lives of audiences is generally an afterthought.

Program liner notes provide backgrounds, but there may only be an indication that “he is trained in barbershop singing.” It’s time to ensure there are additional specifics. Something about the Chapter itself and ways to contact it.

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Feedback. How often do Chapters get them? In my personal opinion member observations should be encouraged following each and every event, not just the major ones like competitions and annual shows. A simple way would be to have “what-did-you-think-of-it” forms at all rehearsals that can be privately filled out by members and returned with constructive ideas for those “next times.”

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Finally, the subject of mood-setters. I have always wanted the recorded sound of a champion quartet or chorus played just prior to rehearsal warm-ups. Three minutes of chorus focus on exemplary execution that would merit rapt attention and provide a measure of inspiration to boot. It’s a thought that perhaps our Board might like to consider.

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How It Started For Barbershopper Tom Shillue,

Excerpt from an interview found on the web.

Q: When did you start singing and how did you break into barbershopping?
A: I took up choir in high school. Me and a group of guys were goofing around and the choir leader wanted us to stop; we wouldn't sit still. So, while he was working with the other voice parts, he gave us music sheets to keep us out of trouble. We would go in a corner and learn it; we ended up loving it. A few guys started singing on street corners. Now, it’s kind of a way for us to keep in touch with our buddies. Bob Martin, who sang bass in our quartet in high school, does the arrangements for the Ragtime Gals; he helps us out at NBC when we do stuff for Jimmy (Fallon).

...and here was the start of an acclaimed show

Anything Goes, with music and lyrics by Cole Porter, ran 420 performances back in 1934 making it number four as far as longest-running musicals during the 1930s. The production did well even though disposable income of showgoers was vastly reduced by the Great Depression. Ethel Merman was in the starring role playing Reno Sweeny, with support from Victor Moore, and William Gaxton.
That Champion Season

What does it take to qualify for international competition? It’s the same answer to another question . . . "How do you get to Carnegie Hall?" *The Big Apple Chorus* was once a mighty giant of over 140 men but today it is reduced to about 22-28 men at most rehearsals. There have been small choruses of young talented singers who have qualified for International Competition, but most of the members of *Big Apple* are men like us . . . seniors experienced but with average talent. To overcome this difficulty, they combined with the *Princeton Chapter* with a similar mix of talent and of a common age. That’s Princeton as in New Jersey. Jack Pinto conducts both choruses, and he started by having them both learning the same music. This requires that about once a month the men from New York need to travel 2-3 hours to New Jersey for a joint rehearsal. In preparation for contest, they also had a joint retreat over a weekend at a camp in Western Jersey.

While this is hard, most champion choruses have an even more rigorous schedule with two or more rehearsals a week. Jack’s other chorus, *The Brothers of Harmony*, just completed an 18-page arrangement of *Stairway to Heaven*. To join *The Vocal Majority*, the audition consists of singing the whole repertoire from memory. Obviously, this is not for everybody! Contest preparation entails singing the same two songs week after week or even just part of them. There is also choreography to master. One *Sweet Adeline* chorus on Long Island will disqualify you if you make more than one mistake.

Is it worth it? That’s a personal decision. Going to International can cost between $500 and $1,000. Airfare to Las Vegas last year was about $500. The registration was over $200. When you go through this experience, it surprises these participants that singers in other choruses who don’t compete find it hard just to find a few hours to study music at home.

So again I ask it. Is it worth it? The joy of singing is like having a vision of heaven if it is done well.
Your New Board

*Formal Installation In January*

President – **George Seelinger**
VP Music & Presentation - **Bernie Genzer**
VP Chapter Development - **Bob Merrill**
VP Program – **Wayne Lazar**
VP Marketing and Public Relations - (vacant)
Treasurer – **Michael Creaney**
Secretary - **Ray Shotter**
Immediate Past President - (none)

**Board Members At Large**

Don Rausch 2016-2018
Howard Balin 2016– 2018
Bob Miraglia 2015 - 2017
Dennis Weiss 2015-2017
Bill Spencer 2014 - 2016
John Brolly 2014 - 2016

**Administrative Personnel**

Chorus Director – **Maurice Debar**
Attendance - George Seelinger
Bulletin/Website Coordination - **Bob Heim**
Librarian - **George Seelinger**
Uniforms - **Tony Leone**
Chapter Counselor – **Paul Santino**

**Annual Show - 2016**
Show Chairman - **Wayne Lazaar**
A lawyer was just waking up from anesthesia after surgery and his wife was sitting by his side. His eyes fluttered open and he said, "You're beautiful" and then he fell asleep again. His wife had never heard him say that so she stayed by his side. A couple of minutes later his eyes fluttered open and he said, "You're cute." Well, the wife was disappointed because instead of "beautiful" he'd said "cute." She asked him, "What happened to 'beautiful'?" His reply: "The drugs are wearing off." - From the October issue of the Johnnycake Ridgerunner

Overheard at a church Friendship Fair in October-"If you live long enough, you're going to get old.”

What do you call a fish that needs help with his or her vocals? An Autotuna
THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT

November is the month that begins with resetting clocks as we “fall behind.” Returning to “standard time” gives us the perfect excuse to direct you to some appropriate song titles.

Most of us rarely make that change at two in the morning when we are encouraged to make the switch, preferring to do it before bedtime or at wakeup. Nevertheless we thought you’d like to hear *This Is the Moment* sung by *The Masters of Harmony* in 2008. It’s found at: [https://youtu.be/GDib1vYVIGQ](https://youtu.be/GDib1vYVIGQ)

Many States including ours have been routinely implementing those forward and backward adjustments in the spring and fall year after year. Listen to the *Texas Harmony Chorus* at a Sweet Adelines Region 10 contest weekend attest to that fact as they performed *Time After Time*. You can click on it at: [https://youtu.be/2SOuVXRxtgI](https://youtu.be/2SOuVXRxtgI)

After sunlight hours continue to shorten in the Northern Hemisphere in winter, the maximum hours of sunrise to sunset won’t occur until June 20, 2016. Check out foursome Dan, Sonny, Julien and Deiter looking ahead in barbershopping the tune entitled *For the Longest Time*. You will find it at: [https://youtu.be/RNNQhoqtwisc](https://youtu.be/RNNQhoqtwisc)

**Question of the Month**

As a child, what was your favorite balloon or float other than the one carrying Santa in the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day parade?

“Sorry - no favorites. I was totally into sports and no room in my small cranium for other stuff.”  
- Alan Stern

“Mickey Mouse.”  
- Bill Vesely

“Mighty Mouse.”  
- Hal Verity

“My favorite Macy’s Thanksgiving Day balloon was the one that had the following logo on its side: ‘Gimbels Will Undersell Macy’s At Any Time.’”  
- Bill Ruth

“Being an avid sports fan, my favorite balloons or floats other than the one carrying Santa were the ones that carried the athletes from the any of the NY professional teams.”  
- Michael Creaney

“I don’t have a favorite. I just like the pageantry. I was in the parade with the *Big Apple Chorus* some years ago. We were supposed to lip sync but the audience didn’t like it so we sang along with the sound track.”  
- Maurice Debar

“I was really never much into those parades, but if I had to name a favorite, I suppose I’ll go along with the majority and say Snoopy.”  
- Steve Stojowski

Thankfully, we got what we wished for - Barbershopping
Audience Pleasers: Members of The Long Island Harmonizers Chorus once again entertained at a Fall Festival annually scheduled by The City of Long Beach much to the delight of area residents. - Photo by Barbara Weiss

Spreading Good Cheer:
NMI's Bob Merrill provided us with this photo of his album cover for *Cheerin' Up The Universe*, released in September by Accurate Records.

Years ago, our friend Steve Ritz reminded us that there are three kinds of service in this world: good, fast and cheap. At any time, you can only get two of the three. If it's good and fast, it's not cheap; if it's fast and cheap it's not good; and if it's good and cheap it's not fast.

From one of our old Chapter newsletters - submitted by George Seelinger.

Our Nassau Mid-Island Chapter Salutes All Of Our Veterans