

TOOSDAY TOONS



Monthly publication of the NASSAU MID-ISLAND CHAPTER of the Mid-Atlantic District
The Long Island Harmonizers meet every Tuesday at Winthrop Hall, Church of the Advent
555 Advent Street, Westbury, Long Island, Nassau County, New York at 8:00 P.M.



www.longislandharmonizers.org

VOLUME VII

JUNE 2009

NO. 6

IT'S SING-TIME IN SPRINGTIME

BOB ROTH, Nassau Mid-Island Chapter's Vice President of Chapter Development, reminds us that Spring is traditionally the time to sow seeds leading to rewards harvested in the months ahead. So saying, Bob is leading an all-member drive to obtain new voices to flourish under our talented musical director, MAURICE DEBAR. Bob goes on to say, "We look forward to having budding barbershoppers with us in the weeks ahead to enjoy the art form and the camaraderie that goes with it."

How are we, the members, going to respond to Bob's challenge? Once we leave the ivied walls of Winthrop Hall on Tuesday nights, do we mention our barbershop experiences in our daily conversations with family and friends or our business associates? Then, too, we can let our fellow congregants in our churches and temples know the fulfillment we enjoy through this hobby we call barbershopping.

The job of recruitment does not stop there, however. How about inviting your male friends to a chapter meeting in order for them to see for themselves? If you recall your own experience, you must remember what it was about that first meeting that "hooked" you. The chapter has a supply of informative brochures for members to hand out and post, inviting rehearsal attendance and participation.



It ought to be easy for a tenor to get in here

-- BARBERSHOP HEAVEN --

OUR  SUCCESS HINGES ON  YOU

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Monthly Publication
of the
Nassau Mid-Island Chapter (J-084)
Winthrop Hall, Church of the Advent
555 Advent Street
Westbury, NY 11590

www.longislandharmonizers.com

Chapter Meetings at Winthrop Hall
Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m.

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WHAT'S COOKING? - NO. 2

--Submitted by Toosday Toons staffer, *Eva Milauskas*, and musically inspired by punster *Bob Heim*

We invite you to try:

"Sweet Add-A-Lime" Chicken

Ingredients: 3 lbs. of chicken (breasts, legs, thighs or combination); 3 cloves of garlic, crushed; 2 tablespoons of chopped fresh basil; 1/4 cup fresh lime juice; 2 tablespoons olive oil.

Preparation: Combine all ingredients in a large bowl and toss together. Refrigerate and let marinate 2 hours. Toss a few times while marinating. Grill chicken, turning frequently, until juices run clear when pierced with a fork. The marinated chicken may also be baked for about 50 to 60 minutes at 425 degrees or until cooked through.

*Editor's Note: Recipe No. 1 in last month's edition of Toosday Toons was the creation of **Bart Peluso**.*

A TAG A DAY

KEEPS YOU BUSY FOR TWO YEARS +

--Borrowed from *The Voice of Rushmore*, May 2009, *John Elving*, Editor

I found this new Barbershop Tags website. It is really extensive with about 800 tags there already:

www.barbershoptags.com

Apparently anyone can upload tags to the site, including sheet music, mp3 learning tracks, even YouTube video clips of the tags being sung. Tags can be given a rating out of five, so you can browse the highest-rated tags. You can also browse the most-downloaded tags or the newest tags, as well as searching for them by name.

Kudos to whomever created this amazing resource!



PRESIDENT GEORGE'S SPACE



It's so true that as we go through life with all of our daily concerns, we fail to see the forest for the trees. I'm sure you've heard more than enough stories illustrating the folly of getting so wrapped up in details with the resultant failure to grasp the big picture.

We've just finished our 59th annual show, and already the plans are being laid for next year's effort. In the coming weeks, we'll be introducing some new music and bringing back some old, although to many of us the old will also be new, since we weren't here when it was last used.

Keeping our presentation fresh is vital to maintaining the interest of our audiences and even of our members. The constant revisions to the repertoire with all the work required to refine it keeps us busy all year round.

But sometimes I think we get so wrapped up in our own agenda that we lose sight of the bigger picture. We fail to appreciate the fact that we are but one of 800 chapters that belong to the international Society--that there are tens of thousands of men around the country who share our love of this hobby.

The programs in support of local chapters, provided both by the Society and the District, is impressive and sadly invisible to the rank and file member. They provide us with music, coaching, organizational and legal support. They run conventions and contests that afford us the opportunity to interact with like-minded enthusiasts and receive evaluation and advice from experts in the field. It's no exaggeration to say that we could never do all that we do without their support--at least not without significant cost increases.

I've been to Harmony College three times now, and although other commitments will keep me away this year, I'll really miss the experience. The annual Leadership Academy provides invaluable officer training and opportunities to share experiences with other chapters. The Fall District Convention, which is to be held in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in October, is an outstanding entertainment value as we'll watch the best quartets and choruses in the Mid-Atlantic District perform for two solid days. I'm always amazed at the vast talent displayed there!

Unfortunately, year after year, attendance at all of these District events seems to be dwindling. I sometime worry that eventually some of them will disappear for lack of interest, and we'll all be poorer for it. If we truly love this hobby, we should go the extra mile to support as many Society and District events as we possibly can. You can begin by signing up with Vinnie Colonna for the Fall Convention in Pennsylvania. By supporting the District we'll be helping ourselves.

NASSAU NOTES

THE BOARD'S DELIBERATIONS

Monday, May 11, 2009
Winthrop Hall



All 14 members of the board were present for this meeting.

- A revision of the chapter's uniform policy was deemed advisable resulting in an increase in chapter dues, effective January 1, 2010, amounting to \$25 annually, earmarked for uniform expense only.
- An interchapter meeting of the Western Suffolk, North Brookhaven, Jamaica, Brooklyn, and Manhattan Chapters, with the Nassau Mid-Island Chapter acting as hosts at Winthrop Hall, was set for Tuesday, October 20.
- Vincent Colonna announced that a search into available hotel accommodations in Lancaster for the Mid-Atlantic District Convention on October 2 - 4 made it imperative to submit applications early.
- The need for an updated "official" group photograph for the chapter website and other purposes was discussed.

VERNAL STEVENSON, A 30-YEAR MEMBER PASSES ON

Nineteen members said farewell in song to **Vernal Stevenson** at his wake at the Flinch & Bruns Funeral Home in Lynbrook, on Sunday evening, May 18. Vern, a member since 1977, served the chapter in many ways, both as a strong

singer in the bass section and the man behind the curtain in several of the chapter's annual shows. Vern continued to help the chorus backstage at their annual show productions for several years after he had given up singing. He has been credited with being the instigator behind the colorful scrims that have adorned our stage ever since.

KUDOS TO JOEL FAIRMAN

Joel Fairman deserves recognition for having secured the latest two chorus performances; namely, a Sunday billing at the Bailey Arboretum Family Day celebration in Locust Valley on May 17 and the forthcoming Saturday evening performance at the East Woods School in Oyster Bay Cove in observance of D-Day on June 6.



Joel Fairman shown displaying his additional musical talent by strumming his ukulele and providing several songs on "Family Day" at the Bailey Arboretum, accompanied by John Schwartzberg on the keyboard.

"To sing like this, in the company of other souls, and to make those consonants slip out so easily and in unison, and to make those chords so rich that they bring tears to your eyes--this is transcendence. This is the power that choral singing has that other music can only dream of." --Garrison Keillor
Chorus America website

DIRECTOR'S DIVERSIONS

YOU'RE FLAT

Flat to what? What is the correct pitch?

Some people are born with **perfect pitch**. They can hum the tuning note without a pitch pipe. They are the most unfortunate of all barbershoppers, as they can hear so many out-of-tune notes. Or do they? What is perfect pitch? If you were to purchase an old fashioned tuning fork, it would have imprinted on the side "A440." That means it is tuned to the internationally accepted pitch for the note, "A," which is 440 vibrations per second. Our round pitch pipes are tuned to this note as is the electronic version of a pitch pipe. As time goes on, some pipes go flat, so "A" may sound at 438 or even 435, but as long as all the singers agree to start on that vibration, the quartet will be in tune with each other.



Many years ago, the Big Apple Chorus was to sing with Skitch Henderson and the New York Pops Orchestra. The oboe player would sound "A" and the chorus would tune. Most oboe players make their own reeds and adjust them to sound "A" at 440. The New York Philharmonic and many other orchestras around the world like to tune to 442 or 444 for extra brilliance, so the oboe player dutifully cuts a silly millimeter off the end of the reed so it will sound higher. So maybe "A" should be defined higher at 442. Pitch has continually changed over the centuries. It has gone higher and higher. Singers who perform Beethoven's Fifth Symphony have to screech out the high notes as Beethoven did not intend the singers to sing that high. His pitch was lower. Bach's pitch was even lower than Beethoven's. I have a keyboard that was designed for organists to practice on. It has a built-in adjustment to recreated the old tuning.

So, you could say to your director that you are perfectly in tune with the pitch of the 17th century.

Don't try it! We live in the 21st century, and on top of that, our tuning is not fixed to a tuning pipe. It varies with the chord structure and the position of

the note in the scale. We all know to sing thirds sharp and that "do" to "re" is the largest whole step in the scale and needs to be stretched higher than the piano or the tuning pipe. So what is **in tune**? Is it objective or subjective? Well, it certainly is **not fixed** to one vibration like 440. This is the skill of the barbershop singer. At an *a cappella* festival I attended many years ago, the presenter stated that if you want to improve your intonation, sing barbershop!

Where do you start? Well, octaves must be in tune. We identify this by listening to beats. That's the "wha-wha" that sounds similar to a vibrato. Next comes tuning perfect fifths. Sing a scale and make sure the last note is in tune with the starting note. Quartets need to isolate these intervals and check their tuning. The five chord drill was designed to match not only vowels, but also to practice perfect tuning of these five simple chords. In the first chord, the bass and the lead need to tune the octave. The baritone and the bass need to check their fifth. If these are in tune, then the tenor note will practically tune itself, but it can be checked against the bass, a tenth, or against the lead, a third. The process may be tedious, but it should be done at every rehearsal. Trying to do it on every chord would put you into an asylum.

*Editor's Note: I came across an article in **The Note Dispenser**, the newsletter of the Davenport, Iowa chapter, David Haase, Editor. The article addresses the issue of tuning in a less technical manner. It is entitled:*

Learn the secrets of in-tune singing Why can't I sing in tune?

Singing out of tune is a recurring problem that we hear from performers. An important element of the barbershop "lock and ring" sound is in-tune singing. We need to sing quality musical tones that are specifically in pitch to the anticipated melodic line. To make this happen, we must sing in tune both horizontally and vertically.

Do we sing out of tune because we cannot hear the pitch we are trying to sing, or because we just cannot support the pitch in good quality in which we are trying to sing?

(See **In-tune singing**, page 7)

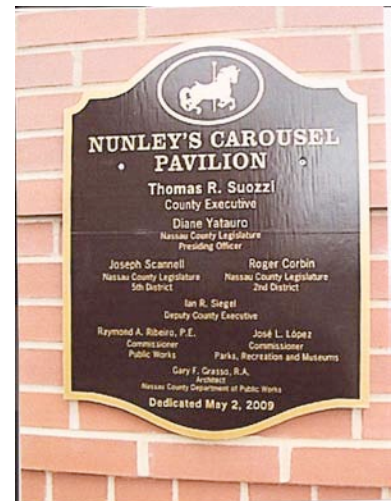
“CAROUSEL-EBRANTS”



Official ceremonies marking the restoration, relocation and reappearance of the landmark Nunley's Amusement Park carousel that operated between 1940 and 1995 in Baldwin, L.I. took place in early May at its new "home" on Museum Row in Garden City, where Nassau County Executive Thomas Suozzi, pictured with two barbershop quartets from our Nassau Mid-Island Chapter, was on hand for the ribbon-cutting and the first day's riders. Providing appropriate music befitting the occasion were (from left) George Seelinger, Steve Stojowski, Bart Peluso, Bob Miraglia, Hal Verity, Maurice Debar, Bob Heim and Joe Massaro.



The Nunley Carousel (left) and the commemorative plaque (right)



The secrets of in-tune singing

(cont'd. from page 4)

The answer is support. Chest breathing or shallow breathing causes the pitch to sag at the middle or end of every phrase. A freely produced, well supported, resonant quality tone with a good head voice will solve many tuning issues. Poor posture, mental and/or physical fatigue can also have significant influence on horizontal and vertical tuning.

Spend time on good diaphragmatic breathing exercises every day to help develop better support and, therefore, better tuning.

Singing with a heavy vocal production throughout your range can also cause flattening, especially as you carry the weight of your chest voice up into your head voice. Learn to keep your head voice in your voice throughout your range. Furthermore, the use of warm air to support every pitch of every phrase will open up the spaces needed for quality singing.

Some other more obvious reasons: singing wrong intervals, or taking too small of a step in an ascending line, or too large of a step in a descending line. Spend time singing major, minor and chromatic scales, both ascending and descending, with accuracy. Relaxing support when you're singing descending lines can also allow you to flat. Reaching for high notes without lightening up and using your head voice can also cause flattening.

Scoping is another cause of tuning problems for your quartet (or chorus), especially for the lead. Spend rehearsal time duetting in your quartet practice. It will make a difference in the overall sound and tuning of your quartet.

Lastly, it is important to pick songs appropriate for your quartet's vocal range and to sing them in the right key for your group. Avoid songs written too low for the quartet to sing comfortably. Be warned that if the melody has too many thirds or sevenths, there is a good chance the quartet will go flat.

An open invitation

Joe and Nancy Massaro will be celebrating their golden wedding anniversary at the 11 AM mass at Our Lady of Victory Church in Floral Park on Saturday, July 4. It will be 50 years to the hour since they originally exchanged nuptial vows at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Queens Village. The rites will be celebrated by their son, Rev. Thomas Massaro, S.J., Professor of Theology at Boston College. Their four daughters will act as Eucharistic Ministers and Scripture Readers at the mass. All are invited.



It's Renewal Time Again

ebiz.BARBERSHOP.ORG

5/15/09 - 8/15/09 Renewals Available Online

On Monday, 5/11/2009, e-mail notices were sent out to all members whose expiration dates fall between now and 8/15/2009, the bulk of which are 6/30/2009 renewals. If you are due to renew, you can log into Ebiz now and renew your membership any time. Some members have had first-time login trouble, and if that is the case, they can:

- Log into www.barbershop.org
- Click on Member Login "GO"
- Consult the login instructions on the eBiz.homepage.

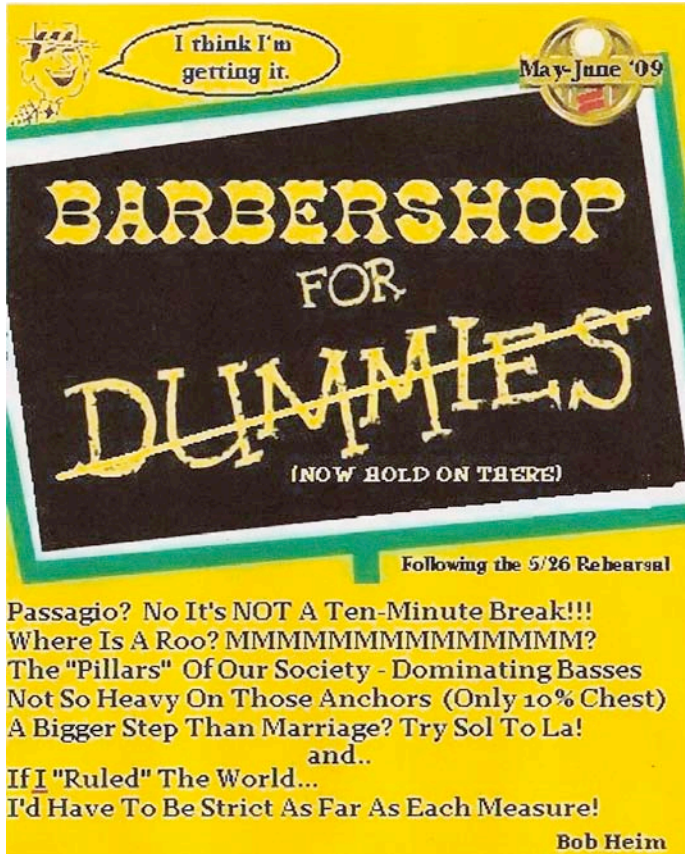
Why should you renew online?

- Fast Payment
- Fast Turnaround on your Membership Card
- Potentially 2 weeks faster than other data processing
- Keyword? **FAST!**

Can you wait for your paper invoice in a few weeks? Absolutely. We simply want to provide a quick, easy way for our members to renew online hassle free.

Thank you for renewing in the best hobby in the world!

**PRAISING DEBAR
OR
RAISING DA BAR**



**BOB HEIM REHEARSING FOR
“SHINE ON ME”**



About \$10 later (\$5 and change for the “Moon Light” and \$4 and change for the altered toy that holds it to my head, and at little duct tape) and:

Shineeeee Onnnnnnnnn Meeeeeeeeeee!

IMPORTANT CHAPTER DATES

June 2 - 9 - 16 - 23 - 30:

Weekly chapter meetings
Winthrop Hall, Westbury at 8 PM

Saturday June 6:

CHORUS PERFORMANCE
Oyster Bay Historical Society
East Woods School, Oyster Bay Cove
Commemorating 65th Anniversary of D-Day
Arrive at 7 PM
Uniform: Burgundy jackets, white shirt, striped tie, gray slacks, black shoes, socks, belt.

Saturday, June 6 (Unfortunate conflict):

The Voices of Gotham Show - “ENCORE”
University Parish of St. Joseph
371 Sixth Ave. at Waverly Place, NYC 8 PM

Tuesday, June 9:

NOVICE QUARTET CONTEST
Winthrop Hall, Westbury at 8 PM

June 18 - 21:

HARMONY COLLEGE EAST
Salisbury University, Salisbury, Maryland

Thursday, June 18:

LADIES' NIGHT
The Swan Club, Roslyn Harbor - 6:30 PM

June 28 - July 5:

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
Anaheim, California

July 13:

Barbershop Music Appreciation Day

July 26 - August 2:

HARMONY UNIVERSITY
Missouri Western State University
St. Joseph, Missouri

October 2 - 4:

MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT CONVENTION
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

CHAPTER OFFICERS - 2009

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Treasurer	Stephen Stojowski Stephen.Stojowski@gmail.com	(516) 747-4715
Mid-Atlantic Delegate	Vincent Colonna vinmar9@verizon.net	(516) 593-1347

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Class of 2011	Wayne Lazar and Willard McCoy
Class of 2010	Bart Peluso and William Vesely
Class of 2009	Robert Miraglia and Kenneth Wunsch

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

SECTION LEADERS

Tenors	William Ruth	Harold Verity
Leads	Eugene Kammerer	Alfred Schwab
Baritones	Robert Roth	Robert Miraglia
Basses	Stephen Stojowski	Stanley Squires

OTHER IMPORTANT JOBS

Librarian	George Seelinger
Uniforms	David D'Antonio
Show Chairman 2009	Harold Verity
Attendance	Eugene Kammerer
Web Master	Robert Heim
Vice President Northern Division	William Ennis

2008 BARBERSHOPPER OF THE YEAR

Sam Glicksman

TOOSDAY TOONS

A monthly publication of the Nassau Mid-Island Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, a nonprofit, fraternal and educational society. All articles, not accompanied by a byline, have been written by the editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the members nor of the officers of the chapter. Opposing points of view are welcome and encouraged.

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Proofreader	Bess Bell	

CHAPTER QUARTETS

Long Island Express
Bill Ruth, Tenor
Gene Kammerer, Lead
John Laughlin, Bass
Bob Roth, Baritone

AfterGlo Worms
Harold Verity, Tenor
Bob Miraglia, Lead
Steve Stojowski, Bass
Maurice Debar, Baritone

Lighthouse
Harold Verity, Tenor
Vinnie Colonna, Lead
Ed Andreassen, Bass
Chiz Bell, Baritone

You-Four-A-Ya
Bob Heim, Tenor
Bart Peluso, Lead
Bill McCoy, Bass
George Seelinger, Baritone

All In A Chord
Bill Ruth, Tenor
Steve Brausa, Lead
Bernie Genzer, Bass
Peter Kenny, Baritone

CHAPTER CENSUS 05/30/09

Regular Members	34
Senior Members	28
Student	1
Life Member	1
TOTAL	64

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.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

June 8	Mary Pavlicin
June 9	Gloria Stern
June 12	Marvin Goodman
June 14	Joe Rinaldi
June 15	Eleanore Schwab
June 17	Don Rausch
June 24	Bernie Genzer
June 30	Tom McCormick

JUNE WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

June 4, 1960	Joe & Peggy Butler
June 7	Don & Adriana Paris
June 8, 1963	Bill & Diane Vesely
June 14, 1969	Joe & Mary Rinaldi
June 20, 1959	Al & Eleanore Schwab
June 28, 1997	Jack & Susan Szaluta

From a *Chorus America* website:**Two Good Reasons For Being A Tenor:**

When you get really good at falsetto, you can make tons of money doing voice-overs for cartoon characters.

You can entertain your friends by impersonating Julia Childs.

Also from *Chorus America*:

According to a national study by *Chorus America*, nearly 28.5 million adults and children regularly perform in choral groups in the U.S., more than any other art form. One or more adults in 15.6 percent of households in America performed in at least one chorus, and of those, almost 45 percent performed with more than one chorus. The study also estimates the number of choruses in the U.S. to be 250,000.

The Nassau Mid-Island Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society

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(516) 656-3200

LADIES' NIGHT AT
THE SWAN CLUB
Shore Road, Glenwood Landing
Thursday, June 18, 2009 - 6:30 p.m.

Forwarding and address
corrections required

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