



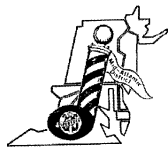
The Charivari Dundalk, Md. Chapter

Chapter for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America
Meets every Tuesday, 7:30 P.M. at the Govt. Center Auditorium, Merritt Blvd. and Wise Ave., Dundalk, Md.
Official Bulletin of the Dundalk Maryland Chapter, Western Division, Mid-Atlantic District
P.R.O.B.E. International bulletin champion, 1971, 2001
International chorus champion, 1961, 1971



Let's get behind
our music plan

**Home of the Chorus of the Chesapeake, Mr. Rick Taylor, directing
2006 Barbershopper of the year - James Yeh**



Volume 49 Number 5-6

Just Do It !

May-June, 2007

May Show Packs Goucher Auditorium

by Cross O'Donovan, editor

The annual May Show entitled Fifty Years of Harmony was held on schedule on May 5, 2007, at Kraushaar Auditorium. Show chairmen **Bob Fogle, Sr.** and **Jim Hackman** reported that the show was a near sell out, and the crowd really enjoyed the performance.



Bob Fogle, Sr.



Jim Hackman

The show featured a number of chapter quartets including **Calliope, Classic Connection, Dundalk Avenue, and Cruisin'**. **The Reign-Beaus End** made a reunion appearance too. The featured guest quartets, **Sage** and **Metropolis**, both put on spectacular shows. All in all twenty chapter members strutted their wares on stage in quartet members.

Ticket chairman **Dennis Hawkins** had a smile on his face for a couple of weeks prior the show, and Dennis reported that he loved the fact that he had a problem finding seats for people who called in. The audience seemed to come alive during the contest set, sensing that these songs would be sung in Denver.

Jim Kimos was equally happy as his five year labor of love, the History of the Chorus, made its debut that night.

Metropolis came to Baltimore from the Midwest via the International Stage where they finished 3rd at the International Competition in 2005. Their antics lived up to expectations, and the audience loved them. The chorus and their guests at the Afterglow were in stitches all night long as well.

Chapter Founder, Bob Seay Dies

by Cross O'Donovan, editor

Death claimed one of the Chapter's former leaders, **Bob Seay**, on May 11 following a long fight against the ravages of Alzheimer's Disease.

Bob was a South Carolinian who graduated with an civil engineering degree from Georgia Tech. He found himself in Maryland following his enlistment in the Army in 1941. While he was being processed at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, he met his future wife, **Helen McMillen**, who was a payroll clerk there. They married within a year, before Bob shipped out to war.



Bob Seay 1919-2007

Bob served as a first lieutenant in North Africa, Italy, and Germany, supervising transport and tank maintenance. He received a Bronze Star before his discharge as a captain in 1946.

After World War II, Bob returned to Baltimore and worked at Bethlehem Steel until he retired in 1981. While at Sparrows Point, he met **Vernon Leonard**, and they helped found the Chorus of the Chesapeake. They recruited over 100 men before chartering with the Society, and promptly went on win International Championships in 1961 and 1971. Bob sang with the chorus almost up until his death.

Bob Seay was enormously influential to the development of the Chorus, but his love seemed to be for singing in quartets. He sang with a premier comedy quartet, **Freelancers**, (**Gene O'Dell, Nelson Lawhon, and Vernon Leonard**) for years. He also entertained with **Over the Hill Street Blues** and **Grandmothers' Husbands** for many years.

Helen Seay died three weeks later, and they left behind a family of barbershoppers including **Rob** and **Robbie Seay, V**, and daughter **Kathy Seay**.

Prez Sez:

by Paul Murrell, Chapter President



The day **Helen Seay** died, I received the following from her.

“Dear Paul, Having said our goodbyes, it is now time to turn to the living. I’ve been trying to think of a way to express my gratitude to the Chorus of the Chesapeake for their outstanding performance in

honoring Bob, both at the Duda-Ruck Funeral Home and at the 50th Anniversary Show. If Bob could have picked a way to go, that would have been it. I’m sure anyone who knew Bob, knows of his deep commitment and love for Barbershop harmony.

I can tell you how I felt. I felt gratitude, love, appreciation, honor--all these and more--respect. I felt respect for the kind of men such an organization brings together. (They share a) spirit of harmony, good fellowship, and yes, a mobility that raises them above their expectations. It makes them perhaps better than they were. Because of men such as these, I still have hope for America. I thank each and every member of the Chorus of the Chesapeake for showing his respect and affection for Bob. Thank you for “Showing Up.” God bless you all. I wish you many happy, successful years of harmony. Sincerely, Helen Seay.

On July 1, I went to a memorial service for both Bob and Helen, and it was an amazing display of family talent. The Seays made piano study mandatory for all of their children, and in high school, they studied another instrument. As a result, the service had 42 different poetry recitations and musical performances by family members. I would love to list all of the grouping who performed, but the program kept on going, all different, all talented, and all heartfelt. I’ll tell you more in another Charivari.

How to help your chapter

by Paul Murrell, president

Get ‘er Dun-
Dalk!

Our 2007 Board of Directors

Office	Name
President	Paul Murrell
VP-Membership	Dave Gemmell
VP-Program	John Myers
VP-Music/Performance	Rob Wolfe
VP-Marketing/PR	Bill Fogle
Recording Secretary	Frank Sigwart
Financial Secretary	Bruce Neumann
Treasurer	Tim Pratt
Chorus Manager	Dick Dods
Secretary	Ed Baker
Sergeant at Arms	Nick Biscotti
Members at Large	Jim Hackman
	Bob Hastings
	Jim Kimos
	Tom Wheatley
Immed. Past President	Bob Fogle, sr.

Splinters from the Board: May-June

by Frank Sigwart, Recording Secretary

Membership stands at 191 with the additions of Barry Brown, jr., Cal Goeller, and Nelson Lawhon.

Rob Wolfe (Music) reported that 112 good quality learning CDs have been distributed. Unless there is a medical reason, facial make up is required.

Paul Murrell reported that several shows are in the works including one with Pottsville in 2008 and one in the fall of 2008 for Monumental Life. We are already booked to sing the National Anthem at the Camden Yards before a Yankees game on July 27th.

Milt Greffen reported on the upcoming Fall Show will showcase two guest quartets, Sweet Adelines quartet, **Capri**, and **Rick Taylor** and **Joe Connelly**’s new foursome, **Old School** have already been signed up. Efforts are already underway to book a top line quartet for the May Show.

Dick Dods noted that he will be making sure that the non-e-mail members receive paper copies of the Charivari. Other members will continue to receive the newsletter electronically.

The Board also approved a donation to each of the M-AD quartets going to Denver.

The Board meets at Catch 22 on the second Monday of each month except December. Members are invited to attend.

Poet's Corner by Tom Wheatley, Poet in Residence**Fifty Years and Counting**

For fifty years we've been around
 Our vocal skills a-buzzin'
 We've sung our songs to thousands
 And we've sung to just a dozen.

The Dundalk Chapter sets the tone
 That others strive to meet.
 Our Chorus of the Chesapeake
 Is one that won't be beat.

We started out a hundred strong,
 With thirty-three to spare.
 Bob Johnson was our mentor then;
 He had us walk on air!

In Nineteen Hundred Sixty-one,
 He led us to the gold;
 A decade later, Freddie King
 Repeated with our fold.

We sang for good old "go, go, Colts."
 We sang in London Town
 We've sung in concert halls and jails,
 Our spirit never fails.

Our chorus and our quartets, too
 Have kept our honor grand.
 For fifty years, we've been the group
 That's known throughout the land.

So as we pass this magic mark,
 We'll rally to the fore,
 And arm in arm, we're marching through,
 All set for fifty more.

We love it when the curtain parts -
 Excitement always mounting,
 And we're prepared to sing right on -
 Fifty years and counting.

From Fireside Fellowship 2007

Something Old: Tom Wheatley,**Member at Large** by Cross O'Donovan, editor

By any standard, Tom Wheatley has had a full life and barbershopping has just been a piece of it. He is a member whose wife's membership in the **Sweet Adelines** brought him into the Society. Dolly had been a Sweet Adeline since 1971, and **Frazier Pittman** brought Tom into the Baltimore Chapter in 1981.

The truth of the matter is that Tom had been singing for years. His first paid singing job was at age five when he got five cents for singing "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town." In 1981, Tom had been a Boy Scout leader for ten years, and his forte was spirit activities: sing outs, campfires. He figured

rightly that training in barbershop harmony would help him sing better in front of a scouting group. He already knew the melodies to 200 songs, and he loved to write parodies of old songs which featured easy rhymes and music. Both skills played well before children and other scout leaders.



Tom Wheatley

In 1989, family commitments forced him to switch to the Dundalk Chapter, and by 1996 he was Charivari editor, a position he held until 2005. The MA-D acknowledged him as the top District bulletin editor for five years, and they even asked him to edit the District newsletter for two years. The crowning honor came in 2001 when he won the gold medal as the International Champion editor after flirting with the top spot for a number of years. It appears to be hard for Tom to choose between writing and singing; so his chorus activities combine them.

Wheatley has been a Dundalk board member for five years, including serving as President in 2003 and past president for the next three years. He was selected Barbershopper of the Year in 1999, and he has also been named Master Barbershopper. He has sung in four quartets including **WSNH-Dundalk** with **Bill Nash, Bob Hamilton, and Roger Snyder** and **Dundalk Clippers** with **Nash, Ray Rudacille, and John Treff**.

He learned basic writing skills at Southern High School. After graduation, he enlisted, and the Army stationed him in D. C. and Fort Meade in personnel and cryptologic operations. He then went to the College Park where he earned an electrical engineering degree. He spent thirty years at Allied Armaments, retiring in 1989.

Scouting has remained a big part of Wheatley's life since 1968. In addition to being Assistant Scout Master to troop 328, he also does adult leadership training and is the District Training Chairman for North Baltimore County. In the summer he spends a week in Ontario for Wood Badge Reunion where 1300 scouts from all over the world gather annually.

Tom and Dolly have been married for 55 years. All three of their children live in the Baltimore area, and share five grandchildren with them. Tom happily notes that two great grandchildren are in the offing. Tom has a fecund poetic muse which has guided him through two books of poems. In 2004 he was nominated for Poet Laureate of Maryland on the basis of his production of over one thousand poems.

My Two Cents Worth by Cross O'Donovan, editor

Bob Seay's death this month was a personal loss for me. Bob was a friend and neighbor. He was one of many original chapter members who took me under his wing when I joined in 1971.

One of the first times I met Bob, he was flat on his back, at home, in bed, after blowing out his back, riding a bike back and forth to work at Bethlehem Steel, about five miles each way.

When my daughter, age 7, announced that she wanted a "surprise birthday party," I asked Bob and Helen if we could use their pool to hang out while my wife got the "surprise" organized at a local park.

Bob's family seems to ooze musical talent, and many of them play Irish traditional music. Every so often, Bob would slip me a tape of the Chieftains or from his own family playing Irish tunes. He and Helen happily walked 200 yards to our home for our annual St. Patrick's Day neighborhood party.

Bob Seay was a frequent contributor to *The Harmonizer*, the Society's official magazine. Usually he was taking issue with some official position Kenosha had taken. The story goes that Bob had an earnest discussion with a Society bigwig. The *BW* said, "I infer that you have a problem with our decision." To that Bob replied, "If I ever have a problem with one of your decisions, you won't have to infer anything. I'll tell you flat out."

Bob and Helen had enormous respect and love for music of all types, and it surprises no one if I say that his passion was for quartet singing. He had a huge collection of music, and he was usually the ringleader of a comedy quartet, the most renown being **The Freelancers**. Bob would stay up all night watching Johnny Carson, listening for one liners he could steal for their routine; hastily jotting them down on scraps of paper as they tumbled out of the TV set. One of my favorites: "You're such a nice audience, I wish we had a better act."

Back in the mid '80s, **John Myers** promoted the *Aegis* program for the Chapter. To promote better singing, each chapter member was urged to form a quartet, and about ten foursomes were cobbled together within the Chapter.

I was Fall Show Chair that year, and at the fall MA-D convention, John and I decided that *Aegis* would be a good basis for the upcoming show, a different format from our usual program. We would stage a mock quartet contest. We asked **Bob, Fred King**, and **Jim Hackman** to script a contest—with about six weeks notice—and of course they did. And it was hilarious.

Fred was at the judges table with a couple of chapter members. Not all the quartet members were able to make the show; so three singers would walk on stage, and Fred would jump up to sing the missing part while Hackman would bellow, "**Fred, you can't do that! You can't judge and sing too. That is against the rules.**" Fred sang anyway. The kicker was that Bob had written his own quartet in as the mike testers. He also rigged the scoring so that the judges awarded first place to **Grandmothers' Husbands**, Bob's mike testing four. It was a great show.

Bob's quartets were so numerous that I am sure I will leave some out, but his foursomes included **Gene O'Dell, Nelson Lawhon, Vernon Leonard, Whitey Sauerwald, Len Webster, Dick Merriam, ??????**

One of his crowning moments was when he sang in the Four Seay's Sons, a *four generation quartet* with his grandson, great grandson, and son:

One of my own most enjoyable evenings woodshedding came at the old City Hospital rehearsal hall at an Old Timers' Night, singing with **Bob, Bob Hastings**, and **Ed Doerr** over a quickly emptying keg. Nothing was sung pianissimo; it was all done full throat, at paint peeling volume. Lord, it was fun.

I don't know if I will ever meet another barbershopper like Bob Seay. There may be others who know as many songs, as many voice parts, have the passion to care about the integrity of the craft, and the ability to define the difference between discussing points and "telling you flat out." I don't think these qualities come in one package very often. They came together in Bob Seay, III.

Denver Information



Bob Fogle, Sr.

Bob Fogle and **Marilyn Doyle** have announced that they will be putting together a package of information to prepare us for the International Convention in Denver in July. The packet will have all the information about our hotel, rehearsal times and places, and our performance schedule.

The packet will have some information about what to do and see in Denver plus some limited information about restaurants.

Marilyn is also planning to put together an outfit for the wives, and she has asked for people to sign up for Chorus T-shirts for the ladies.

Flag Day at Fort McHenry

The **Patapsco Valley Chorus** again invited Dundalk to participate in the annual Flag Day celebration at Fort McHenry on June ???

Members from Patapsco Valley, Greater Baltimore, and Dundalk combined to form a nice, large ensemble which performed "God Bless America," "Service Five Medley," and, of course, "The National Anthem." The Flag Day event organizers provided the performers with box lunches and a fireworks spectacular, fired from a barge anchored close by in the Patapsco River.

The Chorus of the Chesapeake is grateful to Patapsco Valley and its director **Kevin King** for including us in this event again this year, but we respectfully ask Kevin to provide warmer weather next year.

Something Borrowed: Jim Hobbs

by Cross O'Donovan, editor



Jim Hobbs

Jim Hobbs started life in Detroit where he lived for most of his first 36 years. He graduated from Michigan State with a B.A. in Social Science, and promptly went to work for General Motors with whom he stayed for ??? years. In 1978 GM asked him to transfer to Baltimore, and he took the position of Materials Superintendent at the Broening Highway plant for the next ??? years.

Soon after his transfer and settling in Bel Air, Jim's wife **Nancy** saw an ad in the Bel Air *Aegis* about the formation of a new barbershop chapter. Since Nancy and Jim had sung in church choirs for years, she called the number in the ad, and **Beverly Snyder** answered. The ad resulted in 45 men assembling at the Bel Air band shell in 19?? where they met Bob Seay and Dick Webber. Few of the men knew one another at that first organizational meeting, but the tags that Dick taught them were enough fun so that they stayed together to charter as **The Bay Country Gentlemen**.

After singing in Bel Air for ten years, Jim found out that he could the Dundalk Chapter meetings when we rehearsed at the Back River Waste Water Treatment Plant. He would leave the evening shift at the GM plant and take his lunch hour plus 30 minutes of vacation time on Tuesday evenings. That is why he showed up at rehearsal in a coat and tie each week.

Jim ranks singing competitively in a quartet among his greatest thrills. He has sung tenor with

Bob Gulas, Jim Lober, and Royce McDaniels in **Once in a While**, and in **Pacemakers** with **Gulas, Barry Gabler, and Mike Drossner**.

Hobbs has been president of the Harford County Chapter twice. He has served on the Executive Boards of both Harford County and Dundalk, and we know him best for his efforts in the thankless job of Uniform Chairman. Jim has held Mid-Atlantic Board positions as Area Counsellor, Area Vice President, and Treasurer. He was elected to DELA sixteen years ago. He has the distinction of being chosen as Barbershopper of the Year for both Harford County (1980 and 2003) and Dundalk Chapters (1990).

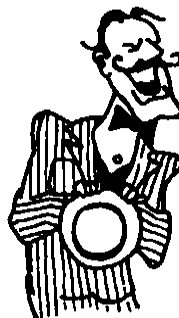
Personally, he and Nancy have been married for 43 years after meeting in a dental office in Michigan where Nancy worked as a dental hygienist who cleaned his teeth. They married eighteen months later. The Hobbs family includes two children, a daughter in Abingdon and a son in Playa del Carmen, Mexico. The son has provided them with two grandchildren, a three year old girl and a year old son.

The best barbershopping tip Jim ever got was to breathe deeply at the start of every line.

Denver, Here We Come!

Pat and Ike

by Tom Wheatley



Hey, Pat, I understand there were about ten father-son sets singing with us in Denver. How many brothers were there?

Well, Ike, when you're singing with the Chorus of the Chesapeake, every man's your brother.

Here's part of what's in the works

Day	Date	Event	Location
Wed-Sat.	7/3-7/8/2007	International Contest	Denver, Colorado
Friday	7/27/2007	Orioles v. Yankees	Orioles Park at Camden Yards
Saturday	8/11/2007	Chorus Boat Ride	Baltimore Inner Harbor
Sunday	9/9/2007	Chorus Picnic	Dundalk Athletic Club
Saturday	11/10/2007	Fall Show	Kraushaar Auditorium, Goucher
Tuesday	12/18/2007	Christmas Party	Rehearsal Hall
Thursday	12/27/2007	Bowie/Dundalk Blast	Michael's Glen Burnie

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Visit us on the Web at <http://www.dundalk.org>

Dundalk Md. Chapter, SPEBSQSA, home of the Chorus of the Chesapeake, Mr. Rick Taylor, directing

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1st Place International Bulletin of the Year - 1971, 2001

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