



# The Dundalk Charivari

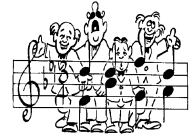
## Dundalk, Md. Chapter



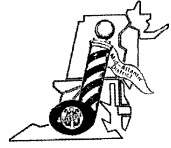
Barbershop Harmony Society, (formerly known as SPEBSQSA)  
Official Bulletin of the Dundalk, Maryland Chapter, Western Division, Mid-Atlantic District  
Meets every Tuesday, 7:30 P.M. at the Govt. Center Auditorium, Merritt Blvd. and Wise Ave., Dundalk, Md.

**International quartet champion Oriole Four, 1970**  
**SPEBSQSA International chorus champion, 1961, 1971**  
**Top P.R.O.B.E. International bulletin, 1971, 2001**

**Home of the Chorus of the Chesapeake, Mr. Rick Taylor, directing**  
**Dundalk Barbershopper-of-the-Year - 2007 Roger Heer**



Let's get behind  
our music plan



Volume 50 No. 4-7

*Make it happen !*

April-July 2008

# Chorus is 15<sup>th</sup> best in the world

## Nashville proves adventurous

There is something about going to an International convention that makes a lasting musical impression. Most folks get that impression while sitting in the auditorium, listening to some of the best quartets and choruses in the world. However, for members of the Dundalk Chapter, and particularly its Chorus of the Chesapeake, the journey proved to be much more "up close and personal."

For the chorus, this year marked the fourth time the group has competed at the top level. Singing "Hello My Baby" and "From the First Hello," we ended up right in the middle of the pack. However, when you consider that there are nigh onto 800 choruses that are eligible to start out on the journey, 15<sup>th</sup> out of 800 is pretty doggone good, in my book. Can we do better? You can bet your sweet boots that we're gonna try!

## "We're Doin' It For The King"

As we were preparing to head out to Nashville, our Director Emeritus, **Freddie King**, suffered a major stroke, from which he is still recovering. In our hearts we dedicated our performance to him, and each man on stage wore a badge proclaiming that "We're Doin' it for THE KING"



## The Spring Show presented a great potpourri of harmony

by **Ron Furrow**, staff reporter

What a fantastic show from start to finish! The show began with a terrific introduction by our very own *Dundalk Avenue*. Good job, guys! The chorus wowed the audience with a great performance. We sang a lot of great barbershop standards; "Hello My Baby," "Sailing Down the Chesapeake," and "How Deep is the Ocean." The chorus also sang what is becoming one of our best, "Sweet Hour of Prayer" stunningly! Then there were the great efforts from **Jim Hackman** and our MC's. Combine that with really good performances from our chapter quartets, *Classic Connection*, *Dundalk Avenue*, and newly formed *Bay Side Exchange*. To complete the first half, there was the awesome four-song set from our boys, *Ringers*!! WOW! What a first half.

After intermission, the fourth place International Quartet, *State Line Grocery*, came on stage to give us a great set of songs! With a great combination of excellent singing and good humor, we now know why they're fourth best in the world! Finally, the mighty Chorus of the Chesapeake came back on the scene to deliver what would be a stellar, tremendous, fantastic finale. For the first time on stage we sang our new contest song, "From the First Hello to the Last Goodbye." We sang the living daylights out of that song! The chorus sang the song so well the audience gave us a standing ovation! What an Awesome Experience! We also sang "God Bless America" with a touching intro solo from **Tim Brooks**. This could have been one of our best singing performances on a show.

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## Thoughts from the Prez

by **Paul Murrell**, president

Several of our members have mentioned to me that we have “become a competition chorus.” This was not really so much a complaint as an observation. As I view the situation from my 45 years as a chapter member, including four years as your chapter president, never a truer word has been spoken. We actually began our competition venture back in 1957. It has continued right up to the present and hasn’t really deviated from that charted course over the years. This pursuit has witnessed varying degrees of success. These have included two International chorus championships, as well as some placements at the division and district level that were not exactly what we would have wanted



*Paul Murrell, president*

In asking those members about their statements, they seem to feel that we are offering more challenging, intense and demanding rehearsal experiences to chorus members in recent years. How many years have you spent under Freddie and loved it? Enough said there.

We may be asked to do more in the musical and visual performance aspects of our hobby, to which I say, “thank goodness!” From my perspective, we are being shown that we can better perform the visual and physical requirements of our presentations that we, mostly as a collective body, had written off as not being “do-able.” By being asked to perform a variety of presentations, those asking for the same have shown us that we can, within reason, do what we are asked.

Some time ago, the Society conducted a poll, asking chapters and choruses how they wished to be identified. Dundalk responded, “We are a chapter that is social, fun-loving and strong competitively.”

When counting the shows, singouts, summer choir appearances, and social events scheduled in 2008, I figure there are 29 non-competitive activities in which members could participate, should they so choose. With that in mind, the chapter and chorus hardly appears to be only competitive in nature. In fact, a strong case could be made for just the opposite point of view. Still, I ask, do we want to perform at a higher level? The answer can only be that, of course, we do and will.

Those who are leading us do use the music of our competition package in a repetitious fashion to make us better in ALL the songs we sing. As long as we are getting better at what we do, and we are, what’s the problem in using the competition package as part of our musical vehicle to get us where we want to go? I cannot find an active chorus member who does not feel what he and we are performing is better in every aspect than we ever have done before. Of course, we can and do need to work harder to be better.

It’s great being a barbershopper,  
in Dundalk, and singing barbershop!

## Send me your chapter history items

by **Tom Wheatley**, editor

Be it hereby known to all and sundry that the Dundalk Chapter has a grand history stretching from its organizational meeting late in 1956 right through to the present.

When I first took over the editorship of the Charivari, I made a plea for first-person tales of some of these events. **Bud Crusse** provided quite a number, as did several of our members. Then as the years crept on, the contributions waned, until there was a total absence of such fascinating tales.



*Bud Crusse*

Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their Charivari. I am challenging each of you to send in some tales of our adventures.

Later in this issue, you’ll see **Cross O’Donovan’s** article on how we came to be using our current hall. Coming up soon will be a story by **Bill Moreland**, who has uncovered a fascinating tale of our performance at Baltimore’s Stanley Theater shortly after our 1961 championship was won. He still has a number of details to complete, but I think oldtimers and newtimers alike will find it interesting.

Now it’s your turn! Don’t restrict your reminiscing to times at the Catch-22 or when you’re just shooting the breeze. Share your tales with everyone.

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## COC sings at Boumi Temple

“At 2:00 PM sharp, I’ll bang the gavel and we’ll start the color guard’s opening ceremony. Then you sing.” So said the Boumi Temple Ambassador as we prepared to perform on Sunday afternoon, April 6. He was true to his word.

**Rick Taylor**, who would normally have been directing us, had a weekend quartet performance in Ohio. Directing us from that distance was even beyond the reach of so talented a director as Rick. However, standing in for him were **Bill Eberius** and **Freddie King**, and what a great job they did!

This was the first time that Bill had been director-in-charge for a full Dundalk show, and it was a full show indeed, what with the chorus performing a total of 17 songs. In addition, we had the benefit of four chapter quartets; *Classic Collection*, *Calliope*, *Dundalk Avenue* and the newly formed *Bayside Chord Exchange*. From the opening sounds of the “Star Spangled Banner” until we closed with “God Bless America,” it was clear that the several hundred folks in the audience were enjoying our presentation.

By the way, here’s a quiz for you. Is Boumi pronounced “Boum-eee” or “Boum-aye?” Here’s a case where the eyes don’t appear to have the winning vote.

## Good bye, Phil

While this edition was waiting to go to press, we received word that one of our newer members, but a long-time barbershopper, had passed on. This was **Phil Ayer**, who sang with us at Denver, even though he needed to be accompanied by his oxygen tank. Phil was a founding member of the La Plata, Md. Chapter and belonged to DelaSusqueHudMac, the honor chapter of the Mid-Atlantic District. Among his district laurels was having held the position of District Vice-President.

Our chapter wishes to send its condolences to his wife, Hannah, as well as to his entire family.

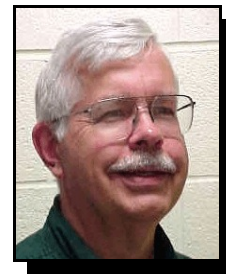
We’ll miss you, Phil.



*Phil Ayer*

## Roger Heer earns BOTY award

At Founders’ Night, the Dundalk Chapter was pleased to recognize **Roger Heer** as our 2007 Barbershopper-of-the-Year. Since the beginning, Roger has been active in many activities, both at the chapter level and on the M-AD events team.



*Roger Heer  
BOTY 2007*

For lo these past many years, he has been the custodian and maintainer of our mailing lists.

He has also been working at the side of **Bob Hastings** at the M-AD events handling the ticket sales and distribution. In addition, he is also a past chapter president. Roger has always been ready to pitch in wherever he might be needed. As a result of his many ongoing efforts, Roger was elected to the M-AD honor chapter, DELASUSQUEHUDMAC.

Many of you might not know that he was a member of the Project Aegis program, switching from bass to tenor to sing in the quartet, the *Baltimore Clippers*, accompanied by **John Treff**, **Ray Rudicille** and **Tom Wheatley**. This notable foursome had the distinction of beating a hand-picked quartet (the *Technical Advisors*) featuring both International champ **Freddie King** and M-AD quartet champ **Dick Webber**, along with first-time quartetters **Milt Greffen** and **Mitch Frances**. (I won’t tell you where they finished in the division contest, but if you look at the top 28 quartets you won’t find either one listed.)

Roger makes a welcome addition to the hard working core of past Dundalk Barbershoppers-of-the-Year, and we know he will continue to be a strong asset to our chapter’s efforts. If you haven’t taken the time to do so, please give him a well deserved pat on the back.

## Charivari distribution guidelines

*Please remember that while the Charivari is written as a hard-copy edition, all members who have Internet access should download it from the chapter web site. Paper copies will only be sent to those without web access and the widows on our mailing list. One advantage of downloading is that the bulletin becomes available soon as it gets posted to the web page, rather than being delayed by the mailing process. You also get to see all those pretty photos in color!*

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## We are not pianos!

How do we learn to speak? Of course, for virtually everyone, it's by listening to the word sounds and inflections we hear around us and then imitating them. Extending that concept to the musical world, what has been the dominant musical instrument that we have heard over the years? I would say that it is probably the piano. As a result, most of our casual singing has been patterned after the way piano notes sound.

Now just saunter over to your friendly neighborhood piano and strike one key. Being a barbershopper, I'll recommend that you hit a key somewhere in the middle of the keyboard. The note that you hear is pretty much in the range of the average barbershopper's voice, presuming you can find a barbershopper who will admit to being average. (Suggestion: Don't even bother to ask a baritone!)

As you hold the key down, listen to the volume of the note. It starts with a punch, and then it gradually fades away. When we sing, we often seem to be acting like the piano keyboard notes we've heard all our lives. That makes our singing very punchy and choppy, and it's not very pleasant, in general, for a singing voice. Now recognize that the piano really has no choice. It can only start out loud, depending on how hard the key is struck, and then die away.

On the other hand, we are not piano keys. We are capable of singing our notes in many styles, including "piano note style." However, that's probably the least musical way for us to sing, even though our high school music teacher did try to teach us to sing by pounding out the melodies. We also have the choice to sing smoothly and with connected notes. We can even start quietly and then swell. That would be swell. Such a choice could result in a smooth singing style called *legato*.

We can accomplish most of that by sustaining our vowel sounds and minimizing the consonants. For the most part, consonants are predominantly noise, while vowels are predominantly tonal. Tones make music. Noise tends to make noise. Of course, I realize that you've never heard any of this before — or have you?



*Not your average  
barbershopper!*

## Dundalk celebrates Flag Day

On Saturday, July 14, the nation celebrated Flag Day. One of the keystone observations of the occasion is the celebration held at Fort McHenry, the site that inspired Francis Scott Key to write "The Defence of Fort McHenry." It is probable that you and the rest of the known world know that work better as "The Star Spangled Banner." Now, that's some flag to celebrate, and it was flying over the fort in all its 30 by 42 foot glory, much as it had been by the dawn's early light on September 14, 1814.

As has been customary for many of the last several years, the men of the Dundalk Chapter shared the privilege of joining other barbershoppers in singing several patriotic songs. Under the direction of **Kevin King**, about 50 men formed a combined Dundalk-Patapsco Valley chorus. 'Twas truly an honor to share that event with the several thousand folks who came to honor and cheer our country's flag.

Why, the whole scene was so inspiring that I could swear that I even saw an officer of the War of 1812 walking toward the entrance doors of the star fort. Naw, that could never be!



*O, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*

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## Mrs. Emrich has passed on

by Tom Wheatley, researcher of odd tidbits

I just thought you ought to know. Mrs. Emrich left this earthly realm several years ago. “What’s that,” you ask, “who was Mrs. Emrich?” She was my third grade teacher at Baltimore City’s PS 84, but before I tell you about her, you really need some background.

You see, I started my schooling at PS 7 located in a farming area of Baltimore County. This was in an old-time three-room schoolhouse where the principal rang the loud brass school bell by pulling on its rope at the start and end of each of the day’s activities. My first teacher was Miss Zang. Anna Zang was her full name, as I recall. She taught first and second grade in one room, while another teacher and the principal handled the other four grades.

The school looked a little like this drawing. My room was the one on the right. I can still hear the bell ringing, if I listen carefully. There was a small playground where we played dodge ball during recess. It was to the right of the school. Out back we had two little wooden outhouses, one for the girls and the other for the boys.



I would say that my first and second grade experiences were fairly calm. We could actually smile and laugh from time to time. We learned that there were three characters in our first book, specifically Dick, Jane and Spot. They talked funny, not like real folks did. Dick said “Look, Jane, look. See Spot run. Run, Spot, run.” We even could use our crayons to color pictures of Dick, Jane and Spot. I never was very good at keeping my crayons inside the lines.

I also learned that school animals talked a lot differently than those I encountered around the real farms in our neighborhood. For example, the book roosters said, “cockle-doodle-doo,” while the roosters my daddy raised said something akin to “uhrr-ur-ur-ur uhrrr.” Spot was always saying “bow-wow,” while Rover, the dog at our house, seemed to talk in farm-speak. His bark sounded more like “rfff-rfff,” and sometimes he said “oowowooohhhhh,” though I never did know how to spell that. He was a beagle, you know, and beagles howl that way from time to time.

However, about the time I was ready to go into the third grade, my family moved into Baltimore City. I never figured out if it was the city that was different, or just moving up to the third grade, but I soon found that the first and second grades were merely a breaking-in period for what was coming.

Mrs. Emrich never had a first name from what I can recall. She told us that we were now growing up and were too old to do such childish things as laugh or smile or use any movements when we made our oral presentations. If we had a message to convey, we should do it with our voices, not our hands. Squirming and moving about were little baby things. Mrs. Emrich also expected the boys to wear ties. We had to keep still. We were now supposed to act like grown-ups. That’s what Mrs. Emrich said!

Under the new regime, we stood up straight when we had anything to say, and we never smiled or tried to convey our emotions or meanings by body language or using our hands or arms. Babies did that. We learned well, and I never forgot her admonitions.

I never dreamt that Mrs. Emrich was as influential as she seems to have been, but her credo appears to have set the standard for many of us, even up to this day, regardless of where we went to the third grade. I have to believe that many of you had Mrs. Emrich, too.

Well, listen up and listen well. Do I have a surprise for everybody! It seems that we no longer need fear the wrath of Mrs. Emrich. She left this earthly life a few years back, and we can now behave more like people and less like robots.

Since we have been freed from the reign of Mrs. Emrich, we can smile when we speak or sing. We can use our hands and body language to help convey what we want our listeners to see and feel. We can even do this when we are singing our barbershop songs. It is likewise permissible to use such physical expressions of emotions, whether we are just practicing old songs or learning new ones.

It’s all OK now. Mrs. Emrich has passed on.

I just thought you ought to know!



## Something Old: Phil Rink

by **Cross O'Donovan**, contributing reporter

**Phil Rink** celebrated 28 years with the chorus earlier this year, and he found us in a most unusual way. **Skip Lovas** invited him to Dundalk's Heritage Fair in 1980 to have a beer in the beer garden and listen to the music. Lo and behold, one of the music attractions at the Fair was the chorus. Phil had never sung harmony before. In fact, the only singing he had done was in plays at Patterson Park High School, but our type of music sounded good to him.



*Phil Rink*

At that time, the chorus was meeting in the Nurses' Residence at Bayview Hospital. He showed up for the next rehearsal, but he had no idea what voice part he sang. Rink tried bass, then baritone, before he found a home in the lead section. He kept coming back because it was fun and because he makes friends easily. He didn't know ours would be a hobby that would involve weekly rehearsals, shows, and even travel. The time commitment would be substantial, but he is glad that he doesn't live in Alexandria or Manhattan.

Since joining the chorus Phil has been a Member at Large for two years, and he is still a regular attendee at the monthly Board meetings. In addition, he has chaired the chorus picnic for many years, co-chaired the annual bull roast with **Bob Lidard** for six years, was chairman of the basket bingo for two years, chaired at least six afterglows, and had been on the uniform committee for two years, and is still the point person for the chorus's make up. The Dundalk Chapter recognized all of Rink's contributions when it certified him to be a Master Barbershopper in 2004.

Phil Rink graduated from Patterson Park High School in 1950 without singing a note, even though Bob Johnson was one of the music teachers there. He attended the Maryland Institute of Art for two years before joining the Navy. He was rated as radioman, and assigned to the Coral Sea for six years, seeing duty in Korea and in the Mediterranean during his tour of duty.

After the Navy, he worked for BG&E as a draftsman, and he really liked it. He continued the same line with Westinghouse, and later with AAI, from which he retired in 1995. Someone asked him what the biggest thing he ever made a design drawing of, and he quickly replied, "a nuclear submarine."

Phil and Marianne met in 1957, and they married in 1960. They have one son who sounds like he would be a pretty good bass, but the son reliably reports that he cannot carry a tune in a hammock.

## I ask me ...

by **Paul Murrell**, president

I find myself asking, "What can I do to make me a more complete contributor to the success of the Chorus of the Chesapeake?" I especially ask, "How much better would I be if I did my homework as completely as Director Rick?" I then ask me, "What might be a good slogan for next year's administration?" I answer, "Make It Happen!"

This is really the direction individual members need to take. Part of this slogan contains an implied subject, if I remember correctly from my English classes. When the implied subject is actually stated, the slogan becomes "YOU make it happen."

What the heck, why wait until next year. Now is the time to "Make It Happen!" so Just Do It, as someone has said before.

## Eberius reports on Boumi

by **Bill Eberius**, Asst. Director

What an enjoyable day of barbershop. Never in my life have I met a group of more encouraging individuals. It was an honor and privilege to direct the chorus. Looking back, I had a blast! I had friends and family in attendance at the Boumi temple show on April 6, and all thought it was a wonderful success. It was great to get the chance to sing under the great master, **Freddie King**, as well.

Thanks so much for all the encouragement and the support. As a team, we can do wonders. I'm looking forward to the Pottsville show on Sunday, April 13. *What A Great Hobby!*



## *A Glimpse at Our Chapter's History*

### Why we call it home

by **Cross O'Donovan**, reporter

In 1986 the chorus was faced with a huge dilemma. After close to 12 years, our rehearsal hall in the Nurses' Residence at Baltimore City Hospital was scheduled to be blown up, literally. Chapter President **Bill Taylor** formed a committee with **Jim Hackman**, **Bob Seay III**, and **Cross O'Donovan** to look for alternatives.

The Nurses Residence came down with the help of micro-timed explosives that summer, and we went to two other locations in search of a home. One of the surprises was that a nice hall was available at the Baltimore City Waste Water Treatment Plant at Back River. **Don Schaefer**, then mayor of Baltimore, was always eager to have Baltimore City facilities fully utilized, and **Bill Fogle** happened to talk with former chorus member **Jay Thorpe**, both of whom were city department heads. Thorpe made Back River available to us for over a year. The only problem was that there was no storage space for risers and other chorus hardware.

In a parallel universe and about five years earlier, Baltimore County had closed five schools because of declining attendance. One of them was the North Point Middle School which had a huge auditorium attached to it. **Neil Magness** was the Baltimore County's Area Director of Recreation and Parks in the Southeast Area. He and his boss, **Bob Staab**, another Dundalk resident, had a vision for the building which included making the hall a meeting place for a variety of performing arts.

They contacted **Bill Taylor**, **Cross O'Donovan**, and **Dick Dods**. Those three met with Neil at 9 PM one fall evening. Neil fumbled in the dark to find light switches, and when he turned them on, we wished he hadn't bothered. The hall had been vacant for years. Ceiling tiles had fallen down, walls were covered with graffiti, and there was water damage in many spots. There was even a little donkey engine running in a tiny hall closet, doing God knows what, while spewing out steam that was rotting the wood and rusting the steel that surrounded it. It was a dismal sight, but Neil and his vision convinced us that North Point would provide us with the type of space we needed. Our commitment to use the hall would be the nidus that would attract other worthwhile programs to the facility.

By happy coincidence, **Dick Dods** happened to belong to the same church as the county executive, **Dutch Ruppertsberger**. Dick asked Ruppertsberger about County money to rehabilitate the hall. Only three days after the impromptu meeting with Ruppertsberger, Dods got a call from Dutch's secretary, asking for a key for access to the hall. The County would commit \$50,000 and workers for painting and clean up.



*Cross O'Donovan*

Meanwhile Dick had also persuaded his wife Nancy to join him four nights a week for a month to clean up the decrepit hall. We moved to North Point in 1988, and it was barely habitable, despite the best efforts of the Dods family and the county. The only requirements the county put on us were to leave the hall in a condition such that others could use it, and we had to join the Dundalk Eastfield Recreation Council (DERC). The chapter board approved the move and the conditions, and suddenly we were a part of a group of soccer, football, and little league teams, but there was great synergy among all the programs.

We did not have to pay rent, and we had lots of space for risers, chairs, and sheet music. The DERC budget got an infusion on paper of about \$25,000. This money remains totally in our hands, but the DERC budget reflects a lot of activity which, in turn, attracts more Baltimore County money for support of its recreation programs. Interestingly the DERC is one of the County's top five programs, not just in budget money but more importantly, in the number of citizens its programs serve each and every year.

At the same time, Magness cautioned Dick that the hall needed more use. Dick suggested that the Dundalk Sweet Adelines might need a new home. Magness approached the Sweet Adelines' board, and pretty soon they moved in on Thursday nights. Magness came to **Dick Dods** about three years later to ask him to serve on a committee for several months which would look into the possibility of adding on to the side of the North Point Center Auditorium.

Dick's committee involvement is a civics lesson for all of us, in that the Parks and Rec heads said, "We

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don't usually hear from citizens who have the knowledge to help us make important decisions like this, and yours is the kind of input that we always need." After six months, the Baltimore County Council approved a budget that had enough money for the mirror room addition with much needed air conditioning, several bathrooms, and a lift for handicapped persons.

In 1991 **Debbie Staigerwald** brought into the Government Center an existing theater program which included handicapped citizens and operated under the aegis of Baltimore County's Division of Therapeutic Rehabilitation. Ms. Staigerwald expanded the project's scope with the help of **Wayne Larrivey**, **Cathy Steffen**, and several others, and renamed it The Sky Is the Limit Creative Arts Program. This extraordinary project has become a long-running program and usually meets at the Government Center five days a week, or six days a week during summer camp.

The Sky Is the Limit has become the largest user of the auditorium. They present as many as six productions a year, produce sets, help with sound and lighting, and enjoy themselves thoroughly all year long. The hall also becomes a before care and after care center to accommodate working parents. The Sky Is the Limit provides services and theater programs for 90-100 children during the school year and about half that number during the summer. **Dick Dods** has sat in the hall any number of times, watching Mrs. Steffen's infectious enthusiasm for the children and their theater arts program.

Several other recreation councils in the Southeast area benefit from the facility. At least two tap and ballet groups practice at their own facilities, but they have performances in the auditorium for the entertainment of family and friends.

Meanwhile, one of our Dundalk members, **Len Webster** volunteered to be our representative at the monthly DERC meetings. He performed that vital function until his health deteriorated, and **Dick Dods** succeeded him. Dick has been our representative at the monthly DERC meetings since 1990, and he has been the secretary of the DERC since about 1991. In addition, he attends other county meetings at the request of the DERC president about six times a year.

The hall is heated in the winter, and there are a couple of small meeting rooms that are air conditioned in the summer. The lighting, painting, rest rooms, and

overall maintenance of the center has come a long way since 1988, and happily, we now have janitorial service provided by Baltimore County instead of Dick and Nancy.

As you can see, our meeting hall has come a long way. The fact that we are at the North Point Government Center is a happy confluence of the vision of several Baltimore County officials and the boards of the Dundalk Chapter and the Sweet Adelines, plus individuals with a dream for a theater program to bring joy to handicapped citizens. These were coupled with the availability of a run down former school and a couple of extra dollars that the county was able to free up to make a derelict hall presentable.

In return for the Chorus of the Chesapeake being the group that was the wedge to open the doors to the auditorium, we have virtually unlimited parking space, parking for our truck and trailer, access to a rent-free rehearsal hall, stage space for 11 sections of risers and space to store them between rehearsals, storage space for our folding chairs, inclusion on the County's liability policies at no charge, as well as access to other recreation council space for special rehearsals, ALL AT NO CHARGE TO THE CHORUS. Our obligations are to attend the monthly DERC meetings while **Nancy Dods** handles many of the DERC e-mails.

Our space is not perfect, but it fills most of our basic needs plus a few we could never afford. In addition, we are able to provide vital support for other Dundalk recreation programs by getting the attention of the Baltimore County decision makers, solely by moving our budget through the Dundalk-Eastfield Recreation Council budget. That support of children's programs is the one extra thing that keeps **Dick** and **Nancy Dods** involved. As Dick put it, "Dundalk defends its community through participation, and we feel happy as the dickens to help that in any way we can."

### Contributors to this issue

Dan Dekowski, Kathy Dekowski, Dick Dods, Bill Eberius, Bob Fogle, Sr., Paul Murrell, Cross O'Donovan, Mark Reber,  
You can be a writer for your award winning Charivari, too.  
Come join the fun. Help the editor keep his sanity!

### Reflections on the Pottsville show

Yes indeed, it was a long ride from Maryland to Pottsville on the two buses we used. It would have been better had the buses been full. However, we still had a great time, and were treated like royalty by the Pottsville folks and their fans. One thing I can assure everyone is that the students who attend that school where we performed are in fine physical shape. To get from anywhere to anywhere else in that school, you have to go up stairs, down stairs or both. The school is built around and over a hillside.

I can't tell you how many people mentioned that they really appreciated our coming all the way from Dundalk just to perform for them. I had to respond, "After going out to Denver just to sing two songs, the bus ride to Pottsville seemed tame."

At the afterglow, I decided that I would take the opportunity to meet a few of the folks up there, so I stopped at a table and asked them if they had room for one more, explaining that instead of eating with the old fogies I was familiar with, I wanted to get to meet a few new fogies. What a nice group.

There were several quartets, including *Dundalk Avenue*, with **Joe Pollio** filling in on baritone in a memorable performance. When they were done singing "When I'm Sixty-Four," one of the new fogies commented that he'd have to travel backwards in time to reach 64. "So would they," was my response.

The chorus also got to sing a few songs, including requests for "Danny Boy" and "Darkness on the Delta." As we finished, there was an announcement from the back of the room that our buses were loading immediately. So ended a fine day in Pottsville. We now have some more friends.



Pottsville "On-The-Hill" High School  
Photo credit: Mark Reber

### Well, whaddaya know?

by **Tom Wheatley**, odd tidbits reporter

By now, assuming you read the Charivari from front to back, instead of the other way around, you are familiar with my article on Mrs. Emrich. Here's a little follow up on that story.

Right after I wrote it, I went to our Tuesday night rehearsal following the Pottsville show. I was talking to a few fellas and mentioned that I had come up with an unusual article for the Charivari. I told them that I wouldn't go into the details, but the title was "Mrs. Emrich has passed on."

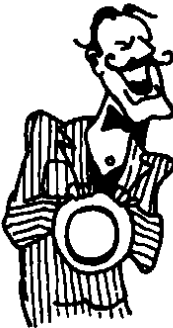

**Bill Nash** was standing nearby and exclaimed, "Mrs. Emrich!, I had her at PS 84." When I first sang with Bill in the *Flight of Four* quartet, I never dreamed that he would have had Mrs. Emrich for his teacher. Sometimes it's a cruel, cruel world, isn't it?



Bill Nash

If you would like to learn more about Mrs. Emrich, just ask Bill. His memories seem to be even clearer than mine.

*Pat and Ike* *by Tom Wheatley*

“♩ A-B-C-D  
-E-F-G-H  
-I-J-K-L  
-M-N-O ♪”

No, Ike, when Director Rick said "Sing 'A' through 'O', he meant to sing the vowel sound 'A' through the mouth shape 'O' "

## A Minute's Worth of Minutes

(This is a condensation of the official minutes of the Dundalk Chapter board meeting of June 19, 2008.)

by **Tom Wheatley**, acting recording secretary

**Board members in attendance:** Paul Murrell, Bob Fogle, Sr., Bill Eberius, Bill Nash, Tom Wheatley, Bill Fogle, Ed Baker, Bud Laumann, Rob Wolff, Neil Keihm, Dave McConagha, Dick Dods, Bruce Neumann and Sam McFarland. Non-board member present was Phil Rink.

**Secretary:** Ed Baker reported that our May membership is actually 196, but the Society records are still behind the curve. Ed has been in contact with the Society over the discrepancies. On the financial end, Treasurer Dave McConagha submitted a detailed financial status.

**Music VP:** Rob Wolff reported that John Myers has agreed to handle the music, while Doug Treff has agreed to handling the CDs. Many steps are being taken to insure compliance with the various legal procedures. There is a new CD learning package out for the chorus members with about 10 songs. Replacement CD's will cost \$3 to cover the cost of additional Mechanical License fees.

**Coaching Expenses:** It was noted that coaching expenses are included in the yearly budget. If coaching services are needed beyond the budgeted amount, Dave McConagha noted that such requests will require a budget submission estimate as part of the process.

**Show Procurement Chairman:** Paul Murrell noted that the Monumental Life Show is still on for August 10, with a rain date of August 17. Oakcrest Retirement Home has requested that the chorus perform on Tuesday, May 5, 2009. The chorus will be authorized to stay there and use the facility for our regular rehearsal after we perform. The board approved the commitment.

**Show notes:** Dennis Hawkins reported that we sold 721 tickets for our May 2008 show. Fall Show 2008: Chairman Dick Dods said that *Max Q* and *New Release* have been signed to perform. For the May 2009 show, Bob Fogle is considering Redline, Crossroads and Masterpiece for the gig, among others.

**Standard Uniforms:** Phil Rink opened the question as to what the chapter's policy is on the selection of uniforms for our performances. Bob Fogle noted that each performance is a matter to be considered after

consultation with Director Rick Taylor. In general, Jim Hobbs and Dick Dods will be handling these matters.

**Singing Valentines:** Neil Keihm noted that we really need to start our preparations for this program much earlier, if we expect it to become a viable money-maker.

**Fall Convention:** The chapter will be purchasing a block of 150 seats for the M-AD convention this coming October. Housing chairman Tom Wheatley noted that about 2/3 of the rooms at the Royal Hawaiian have been assigned.

**Ways and Means:** Neil Keihm expects that there won't be much in ways and means opportunities before September. He is looking into the possibility of having chorus and chapter related items for sale at the Goucher shows. These might include coasters, tote bags, etc., with our logo. These items will cost us the up-front monies. Neil indicated that he will get quotes.

**Performances:** *Lancaster:* The chorus performed as the mike testing chorus for the Western Division contest on Saturday, May 30, and in the M-AD International send-off on Sunday, June 1. We were evaluated and scored by the judges, but were not as part of the contest. 104 men signed up, with 99 actually performing as mike testers. For the send-off performance, 94 signed up of which 88 showed up. *Flag Day Performance:* Paul Murrell received a letter of appreciation from Jack Walters for our part in the Flag Day performance. The show produced very good audience responses. *NCEON:* (North County Emergency Outreach Network) The Dundalk Chapter sent a letter of appreciation to the Anne Arundel Chapter for their ongoing efforts to organize this event, and to include the Chorus of the Chesapeake on the program.

**SOP for the Collection of Monies:** Paul Murrell noted that this SOP is scheduled for rewriting after we come back from Nashville.

**Executive Assistant to the Director:** Bob Fogle has resigned this position and Rick Taylor and Paul Murrell will be looking into the matter of finding a replacement.

**Comment on M-AD Send-off:** Bill Fogle noted that there were about 88 of our men who sang for the send-off, and our share of the "take" was \$500. He estimates that there were about 50 men who stayed over, which may have come to an outlay of \$5,000. "Something is wrong here," was his comment.

## Don't miss the Chapter Picnic!

The day is Saturday, August 30, and the venue will be at the Dundalk Athletic Club, but you don't really have to be all that athletic to participate. Actually, this looks like it is shaping up to be one of the premier barbershop social events of the entire year.

Chairman **Bob Fogle** has reported that at least seven other chapters are expected to be in attendance. He has had positive responses from Sons of the Severn, Bay Country Gentlemen, Harbor City Chorus (Towson), Heart of Maryland, Knights of Harmony, Singing Capital Chorus and the Old Line Statesmen.

Rain or shine, the festivities will go on at 7801 Seaside Road in Dundalk, from noon to six o'clock. The cost will be only \$15 per person, and the goodies will include pit ham, pit beef, pit turkey, hot dogs, hamburgers, assorted salads, beer and soda. What to bring? Snake recommends a chair, a pitchpipe and yourself. Wives and others are welcome. Dessert contributions would also be welcomed.

For tickets, call **Phil Rink**, 410-866-3245 prior to August 26. Make checks payable to Dundalk Chapter, BHS. If you need additional information, you can contact Snake at 410-647-4710.



*From the 2005 picnic, New In Town, featuring Ron Schoepflin, Bill Taylor, Bert Hess and Rick Taylor. Make your own memories in 2008!*

## We're performing, again!

Once more, the Chorus of the Chesapeake will be performing on the Somerset Chapter's annual show. This is both the price and privilege of becoming a capable and entertaining chorus. On October 18, we look forward to putting over a hundred men on the risers. When the sign-up sheet is placed out, please make sure that your name is marked as coming or not coming. That provides vital information that the show chairman needs.

**DON'T MAKE US COME AFTER YOU!**



## Calliope quartet sings for the Orioles

by **Dan Dekowski**, baritone

*Calliope* sang the national anthems of both Canada and the US a little after 7 PM on Wednesday afternoon, July 23, at Camden Yards. This was just before the game between the Toronto Blue Jays and the Orioles. It was also Old Timers' night, and the team was celebrating the 1983 championship team. The photo was taken by Dan's wife, Cathy.

## Dundalk Chapter is selling books

In an ongoing project, the Dundalk Chapter is offering two books of verse, specifically Fireside Musings and Fireside Fellowship, comprising a total of 1,000 poems. Each book is available for only \$10 with all profits accruing to the chapter. Fireside Fellowship is relatively new, while Fireside Musings has been offered before. You may buy them singly or in any quantity. Mailing is available at additional cost.

These fine books of rhyming lines are the product of the mind of our own **Tom Wheatley**, who has the distinction of having been nominated for the position of Maryland Poet Laureate.

You can pick out your very own copies or buy several sets to be used as gifts. They will be made available at chapter meetings and other chapter functions. Tom will even sign each copy for you. This program has been approved by the Board of Directors.

**TANSTAFL - There ain't no such thing as a free lunch. Participate!**

## Summer Choir plans shortened season

from **Dick Dods**, chairman

Due to the conflicts with our trip to Nashville this summer, the choir's schedule will contain only four sessions. **Bill Eberius** has agreed to serve as our director for these performances. **Dick Dods**, who has been chairing this portion of our musical outreach, will be providing details at the regular weekly chapter meetings.

## Recent Guests

<u>Name</u>	<u>Home Chapter</u>	<u>Host</u>
Ward Maynard		John Myers
Gene Brownson		
Rich Galdi	Big Apple Chorus	
Bruce Fine	Ch. Of Brandywine	
John Reell	DC Chapter	
Lewis Baker		
Pete Bennet		
Ray Bush	White Rose Ch.	
Don Barnick	Frank Thorne	
Dan Poole Jr & Sr		
James Roberts	Newfoundland	
Luke McKusker	Baltimore	
Gary Chase	Pride of Iowa	
Tony Merelis	Sound of Illinois	
Steve Potorti		
Caine Clark		Doug Treff
Jack Worrow	DC Chapter	

(Spellings may be off, but that's as close as I could read the writings in the guest book. THW, editor)

## My two cents' worth

by **Tom Wheatley**, editor

### TANSTAFL



Tom Wheatley

It wasn't too long ago that the wail was often heard about having too many fund raisers. There seemed to be a feeling that we are a singing organization and that we ought to try to get our operating funds through our singing. Now that we have been getting paid singing jobs, we are hearing that we have too many performances scheduled. Those performances bring us much needed monies and allow us to minimize dependence on other options in the finance gathering operations. Another bonus of having a lot of these performances is that we get to hone our presentation skills before live audiences.

There is another choice. We don't really need to sing or to sell services/products to get the monies we need. All we have to do is to raise the chapter dues to about \$400 per man without losing 90% of our dues payers. After all, who would ever complain about such a sensible move?

Now let's look at our options.

- Fund raisers = Other People's Money
- Paid Shows = Other People's Money
- Dues Increase = **Our money**

All in favor of getting most of our monies from fund raisers, raise your hands. All in favor of getting it by more singing performances, raise your hands. All in favor of paying \$400 chapter dues, raise your hands.

I wonder how many didn't raise a hand for any of the above. It takes a lot more than singing to keep a good singing organization going. The free lunch program doesn't apply to barbershopping. Participate!



## Charivari staff and credits

All articles not written by the editor are as credited.

Be a contributor, and see your name in print.

Photos are by Tom Wheatley unless otherwise noted.

Editor Tom Wheatley 410-252-5584

Staff Reporters Cross O'Donovan, Ron Furrow

Production Dick Dods, Nancy Dods,  
Marilyn Doyle, Tom McPoyle,  
Dolly Wheatley

*The Dundalk Charivari - be part of it*

*Anonymous articles will not be used.*

**TANSTAF**L - There ain't no such thing as a free lunch. Participate!

## Barbershoppers-of-the-Month

There have been several of these awards given out during the recent months. I am pleased to be able to publicize the accomplishments of these gentlemen.

In March, we had one award, and it went to **Bill Eberius**, in recognition of his ongoing efforts to pitch in wherever and whenever he has been called upon to do so. It's true that he serves as our program VP, but he has readily stepped in to direct whenever the need arose. His physical warm-ups each Tuesday are almost legendary. Bill was also challenged to direct us at the Boumi Temple show with little advance notice or preparation time. Thank you, Bill

In April, we presented two awards. The first went to **Bill Nash**, who chaired the Pottsville show and went way beyond the usual call of duty in making sure that everything was in order. His effectiveness was such that most of us were never aware of the many hiccups he encountered along the way.

The second April award was given to **Chuck Hamrick**. (We apparently ran out of Bills.) Chuck took on the challenge of helping to arrange many of the little side details that had to be handled in getting ready for the International convention.

The member chosen to be the May recipient was **Paul Murrell**. Of course all of us see him going about his duties as chapter president every week, but there has been another task that he has been handling without fanfare for a few years now. This is as our show procurement chairman. Every paid show that we have done that has involved outside coordination has initially called for Paul to contact, negotiate and coordinate with the many organizations that have requested our services. The Dundalk Chapter appreciates his ongoing efforts.

For their efforts, which essentially culminated in June, the selection committee has picked two men. The first is **Dave McConagha**, who tackled the task of coordinating and handling many of the aspects of the chapter's trip to Nashville. His efforts actually started before we went to Denver, where he was a top side-kick (along with **Marilyn Doyle**) to **Bob Fogle**. It was a sort of chairman-in-training mode, so to speak. When we qualified for the 2008 International, he immediately started his work, and he never stopped.

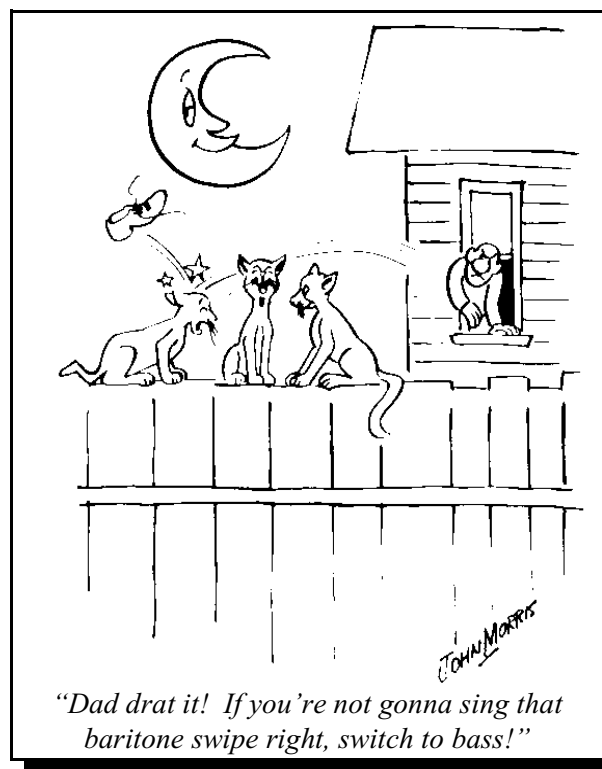
The second honoree was also involved in a lot of the work leading up to the International. Since he joined

the Dundalk Chapter, he has readily worked to help us become better singers. Often when Rick has had to step aside for various reasons, we find **Glenn Phillips** out in front, trying to keep us singing properly. The lead section, under his tutelage, managed to correct quite a number of erroneous notes before we got to Nashville.

These six men are representative of the wonderful membership that makes up the Dundalk Chapter, and the selection committee is pleased to have been able to provide some measure of recognition.

Just to set the record straight, the selection committee is comprised of the four Members-at-Large. Unlike the limitations on the Barbershopper-of-the-Year selection committee, the BOTM committee has been given the authority and privilege to honor more than one individual each month. And, yes, we can even recognize a board member.

One of the considerations that the committee acknowledges is that we have many members who continue to contribute mightily month after month. We regret that we can't recognize all of them all the time, but if we did the chorus wouldn't have any time to sing. And you wouldn't want that to happen, would you?



*"Dad drat it! If you're not gonna sing that baritone swipe right, switch to bass!"*

## No good deed goes “unpunished”

by Tom Wheatley, stranded barbershopper

So there I was, driving back from the International convention in Nashville. The day was bright and clear, and the traffic was rolling along I-81, just a few miles north of Roanoke, Va. We were doing around 70 in the outer lane when an 18-wheeler eased over into our lane. Not wishing to get into a shoving match, I eased over onto the left shoulder. Suddenly, I heard the thubby-dubbety of a totally flat left rear tire.

Now, normally that wouldn't have bothered me too much, but since it was MY left rear tire, I became quite concerned. It took about a quarter of a mile for me to wend my way across the lanes of traffic and come to a safe stop on the right shoulder. Traffic was zooming by, but eventually I was able to have a break in the flow of trucks and cars and get out to inspect the damage. Yep! The tire was flat as the proverbial pancake, and I wasn't in a mood for pancakes. On top of that, I figured that a quarter mile at high speed on a flat tire was enough to spell the end of that tire's useful life.

No problem, says I to myself. I'll just take out my handy-dandy cell phone and call AAA to come to my rescue. After all, that's the reason we carry a cell phone. That's when the dreaded “no-bars” phenomenon came into view in my display. We tried to signal passing motorists, but to no avail. After about 30 minutes, Dolly said, “Maybe we should take out a pitch pipe and some barbershopper will recognize it.”

Before we got the pitch pipe out, a car pulled over. Lo and behold, it *was* a pair of barbershoppers, no less. To top that off, it was our own **Bert Hess** and **Ron Schoepflin**! After we got the matter taken care of and returned home, I felt that such a good deed should be recognized. That's why I created a new award, the Barbershopper-of-the-Road certificate, and the first two recipients are, of course, Bert and Ron.



Ron Schoepflin



Bert Hess



## The Poet's Corner:

### THE SHIFTING TIDES

Ebenezer had a gal

Who made his heart beat so.  
The apple of his eye, she was,  
And folks all called her Flo.

They lived beside the river bank  
In sunny Georgia's clime  
And often went out fishing  
Just to pass away the time.

They'd cast their lines into the deep  
And drifted with the tide.  
Eb, he whiled away the day  
With Flo there by his side.

And if perchance a fish would bite,  
They'd never keep the thing.  
They just kept on a-driftin'.  
Flo would dream, and Eb would sing.

In time, folks set their watches  
By the time that boat would show,  
And the tides upon the river -  
Well, they named them Eb and Flo.

Thomas Henry Wheatley  
Md. Poet Laureate Nominee  
from Fireside Glow, 2008

**Table of coming events**

Date	Days	Event	Location	Time	Notes:
8/10	Sun	Monumental Life Show	Charles St, Baltimore	1:15	Arrival
8/15	Fri	STAG Corn & Doggie Roast	Mechanicsburg, Pa.	5:00	Bus departure
8/30	Sat	Dundalk Annual Picnic	Dundalk Athletic Club	12-6	Multi-chapter
10/3-5	Fri-Sun	M-AD Convention	Wildwood, N.J.		
10/18	Sat	Somerset Chapter Show	Somerset, Pa.	2:30 & 7	Show times
11/8	Sat	Dundalk Fall Show	Kraushaar Auditorium, Towson	7:30	
12/23	Tues	Chapter Christmas Party	Rehearsal Hall, Dundalk	7:30	Guests welcome
12/30	Tues	"Beer Blast"	Glen Burnie	TBA	Guests welcome

YES, WE HAVE AN ACTIVE SCHEDULE. ISN'T THAT A WONDERFUL PROBLEM TO BE FACING ?  
 We are a social chapter. We are a performance chapter. We are a competition chapter.  
 For best results, take all three.

\* Members are encouraged to wear any informal Dundalk Chapter shirt for casual events. The uniform for all performances will be as indicated in the Weekly News. Since that decision is usually made only in the week or two prior to performance, its too late to be included in this publication.

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

To download the Charivari, click on Chapter then Charivari boxes on the tool bar at the top of the page.

You will need to have a PDF reader, e.g. Adobe Acrobat Reader, to view & print the bulletin.

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

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Please Read Our  
 Bulletin Entirely.

*DON'T FORGET*

The deadline for the August Charivari is Tuesday, August 16  
**Please notify us of any address change as soon as possible.**