



The Dundalk Charivari

Dundalk, Md. Chapter



Barbershop Harmony Society, (formerly called 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

M-AD Western Division Champion Chorus - 2009

Dundalk Barbershopper-of-the-Year - 2008 Dennis Hawkins



*Let's get behind
our music plan*



Volume 51 No.12

... be a part of the TEAM !

December 2009

SING AND BE HAPPY!

Fall Show features Lunch Break

On Saturday, November 14, the Dundalk Chapter presented "Sing and Be Happy," the fall show production in our 52nd year of entertaining. Kraushaar Auditorium at Goucher College was the scene of the harmony presentation. The Chorus of the Chesapeake and various quartets took to the stage for about two hours of nearly non-stop entertainment, with the incomparable **Jim Hackman** as our show MC.

Featured quartets were *Maxx Factor*, current third place medalist at the recent Sweet Adelines International competition in Nashville, and *Lunch Break*, a comedy quartet that made the semi-finals in both the 2008 and 2009, International quartet contests. Chapter quartets participating included *Calliope*, *Dundalk Avenue*, *Maryland Express* and *Chairman's Choice*. Credit for the most-unbarbershoppy-but-liveliest song of the evening had to go to *Maryland Express*, as **Bill Eberius** led the quartet in "The Auctioneer."

Chorus songs included "Wait Till the Sun Shines, Nellie," "Lullaby in Ragtime," "Love Me and the World is Mine," "Sweet Adeline," "Where the Southern Roses Grow," "Hello My Baby," "From the First Hello," "Jingle Bells," "Sweet Hour of Prayer," and our traditional finale, "God Bless America." Kudos are due to **Rick Taylor** and **Glenn Phillips** for their excellence in directing the ensemble.

Handling aspects of the show were **Ron Furrow**, chairman; **Dennis Hawkins**, tickets; **Bill Day**, show publicity; **Bob Demmler**, design and printing; **Chuck Hamrick**, program ad sales; **Mike Frances**, stage manager; **Dick Dods**, stage design; **Bob Hastings** and **Bud Laumann**, hosted guest quartets. **Ron Furrow**, **Bill Chambers** and **Rob** and **Kay Wolff** handled the afterglow. Quartet procurement and afterglow duties were done by **Bob Fogle, Sr.**

Singing Valentines. *Singing Valentines!* **SINGING VALENTINES!**

by **Neil Keihm**, Chairman

No matter how you say it, it means one thing, FUN! Not just for the quartets that deliver them, but also for the recipient, whether they be boyfriend, girlfriend, lover, wife, husband or fiancée. Very few people have ever been serenaded with a love song, let alone the experience of a barbershop quartet serenading them.

Singing Valentines are a great way to accomplish a number of things at the same time. You get to sing with three of your best friends, you make someone very happy, giving them an experience they will remember for the rest of their lives. You perform a service for someone who might not have any idea of how to be romantic or say, "I love you" to his or her sweetheart. And last, but not least, you help by earning money for the chapter.

But one thing we all need to understand. This is not just another way for you or your quartet to go out and show how good you are. By delivering a "Singing Valentine" you are actually performing a service for the person who purchased it. As such, you (we) become "professionals" by accepting payment to perform an act.



*For more fun than
you can bear,
deliver Singing
Valentines this
February.*

(Continued on page 2, column 2)

Be a part of the Team

by **Roger Heer**, President

I can't believe that another year has come and is almost gone. Whew! It was just one year ago that we took our chapter survey and determined that we not only wanted to compete in the next barbershop International contest in Philadelphia, but wanted to place in the top 10. We set our goals high, worked together, and now we are on the road to Philly in 2010.

We should never take for granted the fact that we have qualified for the International contest the last four years. Most choruses in the Society don't even qualify once. So, pat yourself on the back. You deserve it. Shake hands with the guy standing next to you on the risers and tell him, "Thanks for working hard and helping us to qualify." None of us could have done it alone. It was a team effort and it still is.

I can't wait until next year. We have some really exciting things to look forward to, and some big challenges, too. I know that together, we can do it.

I also want to thank each one of you who have contributed in time and resources this past year. A lot of people compliment me for a good job when it is really a compliment for all of you. Without the work that individuals do, I wouldn't be able to accomplish anything. We have over 60 men involved in some extra way in making this chapter work like it does. That's fantastic!

Most chapters have a problem of the same few guys doing all the work, so I want to thank you for pitching in, many times without anyone asking. Thanks for making this chapter function as a Team.

Would you like to be more involved in the running of your chapter next year? Ask one of our vice-presidents or attend a board meeting. Find out what is needed and ... be a part of the Team.

My two cents' worth

by **Tom Wheatley**, Editor

Here's a thought for the coming year. Step up to the plate and do one extra job for your chapter. By a recent count, we had about 60 members who did just that during 2009. Look around you, and you'll see some of these workers. Now look in the mirror, and if you don't see another one, make a resolution to change that in the year ahead. By golly, this article is so short that perhaps it ought to be entitled "My one cent's worth."



Tom Wheatley

Singing Valentines (Continued from page 1)

This year, since St Valentine's Day falls on a Sunday, we will be delivering these "a cappella love" messages for three days; Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the 12th, 13th and 14th of February, from 8 AM to 8 PM each day.

It becomes critical that when your quartet signs up to sing, you commit to the entire day so the scheduling can be accomplished to make it efficient for all. **Tom McPoyle** has agreed to take the orders and produce the delivery schedule.

So, if you are not in an organized quartet and want to take part in this activity, there will be a sign-up sheet out for the next month for you to enter your name, voice part and the day or days you will be available.

Sign up now. An instruction sheet will be available with all of the rules by the end of the month.

Leaders journey to Pottsville

by **Paul Murrell**, Immediate Past President

At the invitation of **Joe Stangl**, Immediate Past District President, three of the Dundalk Chapter leaders, (**Neil Keihm**, **Dave McConagha** and **Paul Murrell**), journeyed to Pottsville, Pa. to attend a music training session conducted by **Mike O'Neill**. Mike is the bass of *Lunch Break*, director of the Philly-headed Nashville Chorus and works with the Society in Nashville. In attendance were 55 barbershoppers from 11 Mid-Atlantic chapters.



Paul Murrell

Mike offered suggestions on how to be better singers and performers, both as individuals and as a collective group. He also taught the group about half of "Sweet Kentucky Babe." The evening ended with fine food, good conversation and much woodshedding.

On the ride home, the three of us discussed the fact that the evening was indeed quite a success and that all that Mike offered had been repeatedly presented to us by director Rick. Just maybe this is why we have qualified to go to the International contest for these past four years.

Alert! While it's true that our Tuesday night meetings officially start at 7:30, **Glenn Phillips** has noted that he expects to resume the 7:00 workshop sessions. Be there!

Guest Night proves successful

Under the ongoing guidance of our Program VP, **Chuck Hamrick**, the Chorus of the Chesapeake entertained several guests on Tuesday, December 1. While we know that seven guys signed in, we think there was another one who snuck in without signing the guest book.

The evening started with a warm-up by Associate Director **Glenn Phillips**. Director Rick worked the whole group singing "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." Then Glenn took our guests and their sponsors into the mirror room, where the mini-chorus worked on "White Christmas." To top off the singing, we reassembled, where the guest chorus performed a fine version of their new song. The quartet *Chairman's Choice* demonstrated their dexterity as they performed that country favorite, "The Auctioneer." Then the Chorus of the Chesapeake performed "Make 'Em Laugh" and "From the First Hello." After closing, the group shared refreshments and comradery.

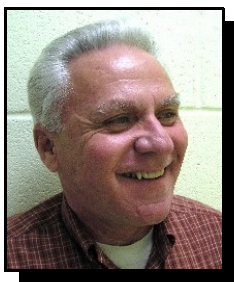
Here are the names we managed to snag from our guest registry. **Joe Dekowski**, bari, guest of **Dan Dekowski**; **Frank Roth**, bass, of Harford County Chapter; **Robert Rudisill**, tenor, of the Wilmington Chapter, guest of **Frank Hilfiker**; **Tim Sherer**, bass, guest of **Bobby Seay**; **Bill Shupe**, lead, guest of **Cross O'Donovan**; **Josh Smith**, lead, guest of **Dave McConagha**; and **Wayne Sperry**, bass. Wayne had the pleasure to have a reunion with two of his former singing buddies, **Bob Bartholomew** and **Tom Wheatley**. They all sang together with the Greater Baltimore Chapter for a few years.

Commendations are due to all who brought guests, as well as to the organizer of this event, **Chuck Hamrick**. Thanks are also extended to each and every one who tried to get someone to come. Keep asking, and don't be discouraged. A hundred "no's" and one "yes" is still one "yes." And one "yes" is all it takes to have a good chance of adding another singer to the great Chorus of the Chesapeake.

Support is appreciated

from **Scott Adams**, member

I would like to say thank you to the chorus for your prayers, support plus all the cards and phone calls. It's nice to know that I have an extended family.



Scott Adams

Every Tuesday is guest night

by **Chuck Hamrick**, V-P, Program

I just want to send a quick thank you to the many guys who stepped up to help with the preparation and execution of an enjoyable guest night. Special thanks are due **Dick Dods** (refreshments and hall set-up,) **Bill Day** (advertising,) and **Marc Dawson** (music copies.) I also want to recognize the fine job done by **Glenn Phillips** and **Rick Taylor** for being flexible and doing a great job directing us.



Chuck Hamrick

Remember, every Tuesday is guest night. Invite someone to come this week and be sure to ask those who did attend our recent guest night to come back. I'm looking forward to it.



Society announces convention schedule ...stay in the game.

from **Dave McConagha**, Dundalk Coordinator

Convention surveys told the Society that we wanted fewer overlapping events, fewer awards and more singing, and events that ended early enough that we could get an hour or two of tagging in before bed and still get a decent night's rest. The just released (December 3, 2009) schedule has exciting changes that will give us more breathing room—more time to *convene* at barbershop's international showcase. Here are some highlights:

Tuesday, June 29

Catch Harmony University courses and do some sight-seeing and shopping by day, then get ready for the first big event.

The exciting Bank of America Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest will be held at 6 p.m. in the same venue as the other contests. What better way to start off the week than to see the future of the Society at its very best.

Wednesday, June 30

An earlier start time for both **Quartet Quarterfinals** sessions will allow for an earlier end time so we can relax, meet up with old friends, take in the city of Philadelphia and sing the night away in any of the hotel lobbies!

Thursday, July 1

Twenty of the Society's best quartets compete in the Quartet Semifinal round.

Take a break from the competition for a while and celebrate world-wide Barbershop Harmony (with dinner) at the World Harmony Jamboree Dinner Show.

When you're done with dinner, head on over to the Association of International Champions Show that night.

Friday, July 2

The break between the **Chorus Contest** rounds has been shortened a bit to allow for an earlier end time. The greatest choruses on earth will be competing for gold; none will have more on the line than Vocal Majority and Westminster Chorus, who together will reprise their 2006 too-close-to-call showdown.

The competing 28 choruses can schedule their victory parties (everyone's a winner, right?) on Friday night, and all of us can have a party night that will rival Saturday night's festivities, because nobody has to wake up early Saturday morning for other events.

Saturday, July 3

No major events until late in the morning, so enjoy sleeping in, catching up on shopping and sight-seeing.

Catch **Crossroads' Master Class**, enjoy **Sing with the Champs**, and then join us at the **MegaSing**.

Support the mission of the Barbershop Harmony Society at the Harmony Foundation Presents show at 1:30 p.m. Ask anyone who went to the show in Anaheim and they'll tell us to never miss this event! (Performing groups will be announced soon.)

An **Awards and Preshow Event (6 p.m.)** has been added to respond to survey feedback. Come see our new chorus champions perform, Hall of Fame presentations, the new Collegiate Quartet champions, and others.

What we've all been waiting for: Starting at 7:30 p.m., the **Quartet Finals** round is the apex of the five-day celebration of barbershop harmony. We'll say goodbye to our outgoing quartet champion, *Crossroads*, crown our new champion, sing *Keep the Whole World Singing*, and still be at the lobbies around 9:30 p.m. to sing the night away.

--adapted from the Society blog, December 3, 2009

Liz and Bud celebrate 68 years

by **Paul Murrell**, Immediate Past President

Liberatore's in Bel Air was the site of the celebration of 68 years of marriage for **Liz and Bud Smith**. Both of these delightful folks spoke to the very positive effect that their barbershopping experiences have had on their lives and of the wonderful memories they have as a result. As many know, Bud is a 50+ year member of the Dundalk Chapter. For many years, he has been a leader within our group.



Bud Smith

Liz quickly embraced Bud's hobby and has worked hard to help insure our success. Liz had just been released from the hospital on Wednesday, yet appeared her lovely self on Saturday at the anniversary reception. Some special ingredient seems to keep barbershoppers going.

Contributor to this issue

Scott Adams, Warren Beckhardt, Dan Dekowski, Mitch Frances, Chuck Hamrick, Roger Heer, Neil Keihm, Dave McConagha, Paul Murrell, Cross O'Donovan, Glenn Phillips, Ed Ziegenfuss

You can be a writer for your award winning Charivari, too. Come join the fun. Help the editor maintain what little sanity he has left. Please!

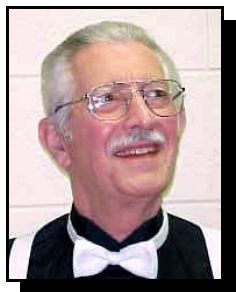
Member Profile: John Treff

Assistant Director

by **Crossan O'Donovan**, Ace Reporter

John Treff has been a Dundalk Chapter member since 1981. As a long time church choir member who had just sold his sailboat, he was a prime candidate for recruiting when he went to a Dundalk guest night, liked what he heard, and signed on that night.

He has also been a quartet member for years, starting with the Aegis Quartet promotion program in 1989 when he joined as the bass in the *Baltimore Clippers* (**Roger Heer**, tenor; **Tom Wheatley**, lead; and **Ray Rudicille**, bari.) More recently he has been singing with *Calliope* (**Ray Agnello**, the late **Ray Rudacille/Ted Evans**, and **Dan Dekowski**) starting in 1998.



John Treff

Their foursome has been among the most active quartets in the District, and they are especially proud of their involvement in the Youth in Harmony program and their long-time association with Patapsco Senior High School.

In addition to being a long-serving assistant director and occasional director of the Summer Choir, John has also occupied the offices of Music VP and Recording Secretary on the Chapter's Board of Directors. He attended Directors' College in 1991. In 1986 he received the honor of being Dundalk's Barbershopper of the Year. In 2003, he was awarded the title of Master Barbershopper.

John is a local product. He graduated from the old Edison High School in 1952 as a draftsman. After graduation, he promptly enlisted in the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard had little use for a draftsman, so they sent John to electronics school from which he graduated as a Electronics Tech, 3rd Class. From there he was assigned to the *USCGC Courier* with the "ultimate in hardship duty," afloat in the Mediterranean in Rhodes, Greece. The cutter's mission was to broadcast the Voice of America in 15 languages to Iron Curtain countries.

All good things must end and after 18 months afloat, John was transferred to Baltimore, of all places. His duties at the foot of Clinton Street included responsibility for the repair of the electronics for eight light houses from Piney Point to Craig Hill in the Bay. He mustered out in 1956 after four years as an Electronics Tech, 1st Class.

The Coast Guard had supplied John with skills that Westinghouse needed, and he joined them in 1956, starting at their Washington Blvd. shop as a tester for electronics, and moving to their BWI facility as a foreman to do calibration and repair of various electronic apparatuses that most of us cannot even pronounce. Then it was back to Washington Boulevard to test torpedoes. He accepted another local transfer to their Bay Bridge plant when Westinghouse needed someone to test the engineering design of a host of oceanographic equipment, many of which were deep-water towed vehicles. In 1990, after 40 years, he finally hung up his voltmeter and retired.

John has been married to **Elaine** for 51 years, and they have two sons, **Carl and Doug**, both of whom live almost within walking distance of his home in Riviera Beach. They also have three grandchildren, Dylan, Alex, and Aiden of whom he is justifiably proud. He continues to sing in a church choir, something he has enjoyed since he was 15 years old, and he volunteers one day a week at the National Aquarium in Baltimore.

Merry-go-round Four sings at wedding

by **Paul Murrell**, fill-in tenor

At the invitation of **Rob Morrow**, son of **Carol and Bob Morrow**, the *Merry-Go-Round Four* performed at the wedding reception for Rob and his lovely bride, **Julia Bassett**. (Actually, it would have been *Calliope*, but tenor **Ray Agnello** couldn't make it, so I filled in, and we changed the quartet name just for the occasion.)

The event took place on Saturday evening, November 28 at the fashionable Valley Country Club in Towson. Songs presented were "Lil' Lize," "Sweet and Lovely," "Wait Till the Sun Shines, Nellie," "Coney Island Baby" and "When Your Old Wedding Ring Was New." The groom had suggested these songs because they were a few of his Dad's favorites.

The plans originally called for Bob to join *Calliope* in the singing of two songs, but unfortunately the need for Bob to be hospitalized during the marital festivities made this impossible. The wedding party did video the proceedings. Then, still wearing their wedding attire, Rob and Julia went to the hospital in the wee small hours of the morning to play the tapes for Bob. The evening proved to be quite a beautiful but emotional one for all.



Bob Morrow

Christmas Card time nears

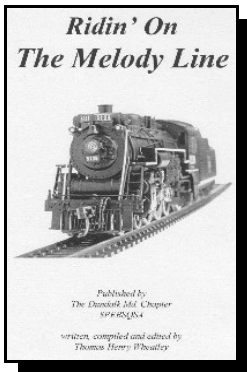
by **Roger Heer**, President

Again this year, we will have a Christmas card box available at the meeting hall. Feel free to drop your cards into the box, and they will be distributed at our Annual Family Christmas Party on December 22. However, this year, we are suggesting a new option. Instead of buying cards, how about placing a check or credit card form in the box for the amount equal to what you would have spent on the cards. Actually, you can make it for any amount. Then the chapter will make a donation to Harmony Foundation in the name of the Dundalk Chapter, and we'll send a Christmas e-card to every member and put your name on it.

Just make your check payable to "Dundalk Chapter" and note on the check or credit card form, "for Harmony Foundation." Then just drop it in the card box by Tuesday, December 22. For our out-of-town members who wish to participate, please mail your contribution to Roger Heer, 7 Nantucket Garth, Phoenix, MD 21131.



We're "Ridin' on the Melody Line"



Here's another look at some features of our new music resource book available to barbershoppers. It contains 137 old time melodies and all proceeds benefit the Dundalk Chapter.

On the fun side, there are several novelty numbers included. Among those are "The Oceana Roll" with the original melody and lyrics; "Come After Breakfast, Bring 'Long Your Lunch, and Leave 'Fore Supper Time;" "If You Talk in Your Sleep, Don't Mention My Name" and "Under the Anheuser Bush."

The book can be picked up at chapter events or by mail. The price is only \$8.00 (plus shipping) per copy. **Bob Hastings** has agreed to handle chapter sales. For mail orders, please send a check made out to the Dundalk Chapter, SPEBSQSA. Bob's address is 9013 Hedgerow Way, Baltimore, MD, 21236.

Didja Ever Wonder

... about the ugly step-sister vowel?
by **Tom Wheatley**, Editor



From time to time, Director Rick mentions that we should avoid singing this particular vowel sound. He calls it the ugly step-sister of the entire vowel family and with good reason, it seems.

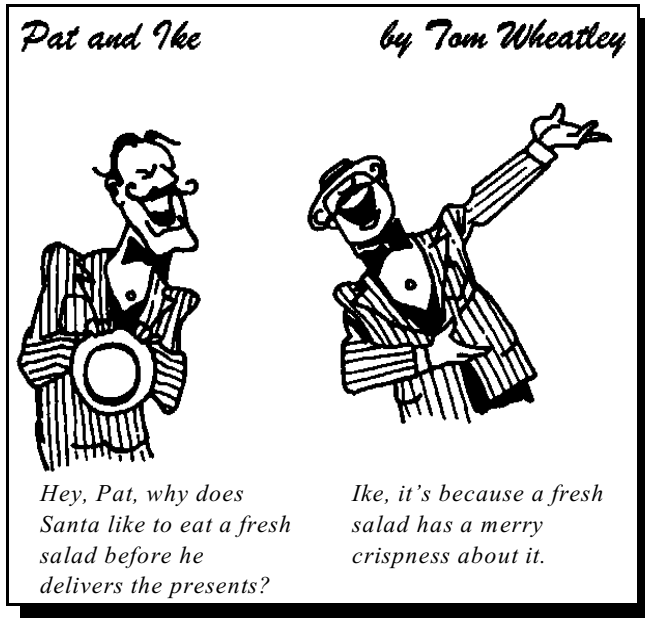
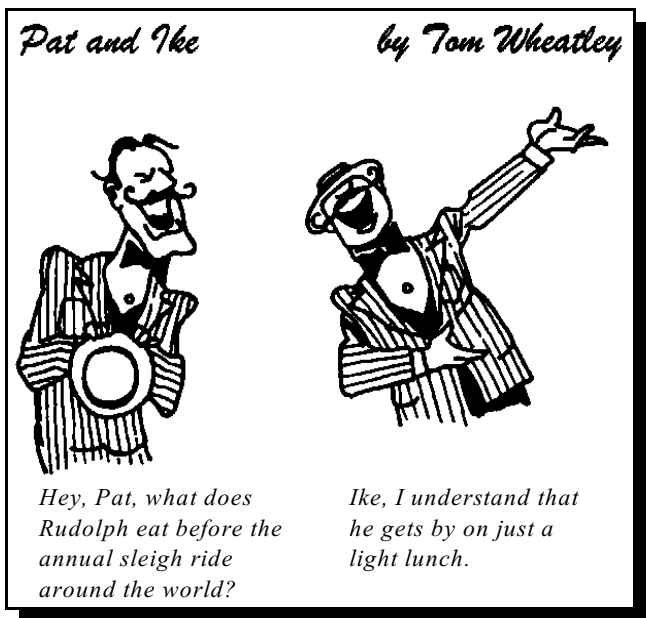
Other vowel sounds have the characteristic that they are predominately comprised of harmonically related frequencies. Harmonic relationships produce the ring we love. However, there is one vowel sound that is notably different. That's the "a" sound found in such words as mack, back and all those words with the "ack" sound embedded

To investigate this vowel farther, we have to go back to a word I first learned in elementary school grammar class, "onomatopoeia," which comes from the Greek words, onoma and poiein. If you don't believe me, just ask **Jim Kimos**. The term refers to words that are formed by imitating the sound that something makes. Two fine examples of this are "whippoorwill" and "moo." However, the one word I want to use for illustration is the sound of a duck, "quack."

Several months ago, I saw a Mythbusters television show that investigated why it appears that a duck's quack does not produce an echo. From a purely acoustic point of view, all sounds are capable of producing an echo, which is merely a reflection of the original sound. It turns out that the quacking of a duck consists of noise without any discernable harmonic content. One characteristic of noise is that when you add noise to noise, all you get is noise. When a duck quacks, whatever echo is produced from nearby objects simply blends in with the original sound.

This brings us back to the "a" sound of discussion. Since it is all noise, it is impossible to harmonize the sound. Ergo, we should do our best to shade the vowel sounds of such words to a vowel sound having more harmonic content. Ask Rick about how to do this, since I haven't yet found a way to make the words I put on paper actually sing at all, much less with harmonic content.





Dick Dods does the deed!

In an earlier issue, I lamented that the Dundalk Chapter was losing its cherished position as #1. Of course, I'm referring to the mailing permit number that we held for so many years at the Baldwin post office. Recently the U.S. Postal Service decreed that smaller post offices would no longer be authorized to handle bulk mailings. Baldwin was among those locations cut.



Dick Dods
Chorus Manager

Thereupon **Dick Dods** got busy and arranged for a new bulk mailing site. As is Dick's wont, he handled the process in person and spoke face to face to those in charge at the Timonium Post Office. "Why Timonium?" you may ask. Timonium is conveniently close to where the Charivari is printed so getting the issues in the mail will be easier.

In his little chat, he let slip that we were lamenting the loss of that prized #1 label. The manager took a look in his little black book. (Actually it was a computer file, but "little black book" sounds more romantic.) "Aha," says he, "it seems that permit #1 in Timonium bulk mailing has become vacant." Dick leapt upon the opportunity and noted that he'd be happy to grab it. And that's how it happens that the Dundalk Chapter is once more #1, at least in bulk mailing circles.

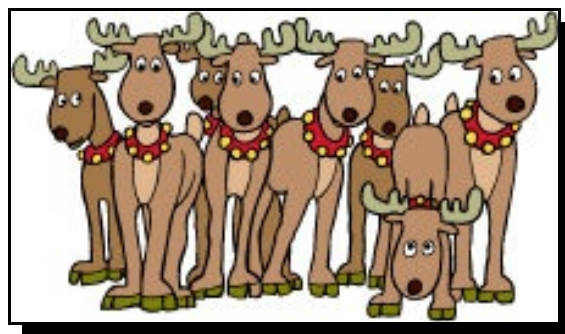
Reader survey:

Shown above are two Pat and Ike cartoons. I couldn't decide which I wanted to use, so I've put both of them in this issue.

It has become a routine practice in this media sensitive world of ours to conduct surveys on every subject imaginable. Just to show that the Charivari can hold its own in this wacky business, I am asking that you reply to me via e-mail about your thoughts on these. Here are the three choices.

- a. I like the image of Rudolph eating light bulbs best.
- b. Santa's salad sits well with me.
- c. My response is like a mute owl. I don't give a hoot!

To make things simple (for me, of course,) only e-mail responses will be considered in the survey. The results will be printed in the next issue of the Charivari. Don't let me down, now.



May there be no rain, dear, in your holiday gatherings.

2009 Board of Directors

(They're still serving you until the end of this month.)

Position	Name	Phone
President	Roger Heer	410-592-7482
Imm. Past Pres.	Paul Murrell	410-557-7623
VP-Chapter Dev.	Bob Hastings	410-256-2962
VP-Program	Chuck Hamrick	410-567-6471
VP-Music	Glenn Phillips	410-519-5385
VP-Publ.Rel.	Bill Moreland	
Secretary	Bud Laumann	410-256-3256
Financial Secretary	Bruce Neumann	410-437-1088
Recording Secretary	Tom Wheatley	410-252-5584
Treasurer	Dave McConagha	443-512-0184
Chapter Consultant	Bob Fogle, Sr.	410-647-4710
Chorus Manager	Dick Dods	410-252-3352
Members-at-Large	Neil Keihm	302-737-6141
	Marc Dawson	410-594-9439
	Bob Fogle, Jr.	410-685-1690
	Dan Mirota	908-797-1869

Have something you want brought to the attention of the board? Submit it in writing to one of the members-at-large, and they'll bring it before the whole board.

Don't forget the Beer Blast on December 29

Are you looking for a present?

Over the course of the past several years, one of the fund raisers authorized by the board of directors has been the sale of **Tom Wheatley's** poetry books, "Fireside Musings" and "Fireside Fellowship." You can get your own copies directly from Tom at any chapter meeting for \$10 each. If mailing is needed, send the check to Tom at 102 Washington Street, Timonium, MD, 21093. In either case, make the check payable to Dundalk Chapter, SPEBSQSA. Add \$2.00 per book for mailing. Gift giving time is not very far off, and these make unique presents.

Health problems? Call Milt Greffen!

by **Roger Heer**, President



Milt Greffen

If you know of someone who has some problems that keep him away from the chorus, let Milt know so we can get the information out to the fellows. We're family and we like to know when someone needs some help, support or prayers. You can either email Milt at mgref@verizon.net or call him at 410-744-4567.

Tom's Tune Tale Time

by **Tom Wheatley**, musical history nut

Till We Meet Again

Verse:

Tho' good-bye means the birth of a tear drop,
Hello means the birth of a smile,
And the smile will erase the tear-blighting trace,
When we meet in the after-a-while.

Chorus:

Smile the while you kiss me sad adieu,
When the clouds roll by, I'll come to you.
Then the skies will seem more blue,
Down in Lovers' Lane, my dearie.
Wedding bells will ring so merrily.
Ev'ry tear will be a memory,
So wait and pray each night for me
Till we meet again.

This number was written in 1918 by Raymond Egan and Richard Whiting. It touchingly expressed the hopes and dreams of countless couples as one partner left for France during World War I, while the other remained at home, yearning for the day of return.

I've heard and sung the chorus countless times over the years, but it was only recently that I stumbled across the verse as I gathered songs for the book, *Ridin' on the Melody Line.*" The verse quoted above is actually the second verse, but in my opinion, it best conveys the feeling that must have filled the hearts of countless Americans. This number is highly suitable for woodshedding, so if you've an inclination in that direction, give this one a try.

There was also a follow-up song, written after Armistice Day, which express the joy in being finally back together. It was "Hand In Hand Again" and was also compiled by the same team. It's a touching ballad, but it never attained the popularity of its predecessor. The opening lines of the chorus read, "Ev'ry heart is lighter, ev'ry smile is brighter. 'Sad adieu' is changing to 'hello' again. Sorrow walked before us, but a pray'r watched o'er us. We strayed far, but here we are, hand in hand again."

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

Join us at WWXXIII

This year's site is the Best Western, located at I-95 and O'Donnell St. in Baltimore City. The 23rd Danny Cuthbert Memorial Woodshed Weekend is being held on Friday and Saturday, February 5-6, 2010. Contact **Bob Hastings** or check in at the chapter website and get all the details on the Woodshed Weekend page.



Bob Hastings

If you've never been to one of these events, you should be forewarned that this is a weekend of singing, fun, singing, comradery, singing, some eating and, of course, some singing, plus a contest like none you'll encounter elsewhere in the Society. Did I mention that you should expect some singing? It's a blast!

We sang our farewell to Ron Hoobler

by **Dan Dekowski**, bari, *Calliope*

The service for **Ron Hoobler** was held at St. Mark's Catholic church in Catonsville on Friday, November 27. It was attended by 13 chapter members, **John Treff, James Yeh, Mike Frances, Dave Gemmell, Neil Keihm, Tom Wheatley, Jim Goetz, Ted Evans, Dave McConagha, Len Garey, Frank Sigwart, Paul Murrell and Dan Dekowski**. We sang "Sweet Hour of Prayer" as an introduction to the Mass and "Nearer My God To Thee" with **James Yeh** performing his remarkably beautiful solo. **John Treff** directed the ensemble.



Ron Hoobler

We received wonderful feedback from the family and church choir members. We also tried to recruit a friend of **Bill Chambers** who sings in that choir and liked what he heard. Bill must be persistent, because the guy told us that Bill keeps trying to recruit him.

After the service, we had lunch at the Hooblers'. Harper and her family really appreciated our remembering Ron for her. Those of us who knew him remember what a nice guy he was. I want to thank all who went out of their ways to attend.

[Ron Hoobler, a long-time member of the chapter, and a dedicated quartetter, passed away on November 18, after a long struggle with several infirmities that kept him from singing with us. He is survived by his wife, Harper Keech.]

Barberpole Cat songs are fun

Each week, the chorus warms up with a few songs. Very often, the songs come from the collection known as Barberpole Cat songs. These 12 numbers have been favorites for many years among barbershop singers and have lyrics, melodies and chord progressions that make it reasonably easy to sing them. Properly tuned, they ring! In short, they are good solid songs to learn.

The best step for any barbershopper is to grab the book and learn all 12 numbers. Unlike the chorus songs, where the director selects the interpretation, it's up to the singers to decide how they are to be sung.

There can even be a fine payoff in the process. If you learn these numbers, you'll be able to sing in almost any pick-up quartet or group anywhere in the Society. I can attest to this. Back when I first joined barbershopping, I decided that I would go to Harmony College, the "big school" in St. Joe, Missouri. While I was in the Chicago airport waiting for my transfer flight, I stumbled across about two dozen barbershoppers who were headed for my destination.

What do a gang of barbershoppers tend to do when they meet? They sing. And so it happened that we put on a "show" right there in the waiting area, primarily using the Barberpole Cat numbers. After we were done, a man from the impromptu audience asked me how long the chorus had been singing. I told him about 25 minutes. Feeling that I had misunderstood his question, he rephrased it to say, "How long have you been an organized chorus?" When I told him that we had really just met less than an hour ago, he was amazed. It felt GOOD!

So, learn the songs, and you, too, may someday be part of an impromptu quartet or chorus. It can give you a world of fun for a relatively little effort. Hop in and become a Barberpole Cat. You can even get a lapel pin for it.



A backwards look

by **Tom Wheatley**, Editor

Every once in a while, I run into the situation of having about 10 pages worth of Charivari in hand, while I need to have the page count divisible by four in order to make the printing process come out even. When that occurs, I grasp the golden opportunity to share a few articles from old Charivaris. I hope you enjoy the visit to times and friends we shared in days gone by.

The baritone

by **Mitch Frances**, our first Charivari Editor
[from the Charivari, June 1960]

When some character discovered that a well rounded fully packed chord contained four notes, the baritone entered the picture. Being the last one in, he was handed the missing note that nobody else could sing - and what a note it was!

It may lie somewhere between a low gurgle and a high squeak, requiring the bari to possess vocal cords with a Hydromatic shift. Most baritones are patient and self-effacing citizens who can be detected by their faraway look. The bari is inspired to keep on with it by the realization that the quartet would sound incomplete without him. He is sustained by the thought that when he loses his grip, he can always become a bass.

Science has never been able to discover how or why anyone started singing baritone, but some believe he fell out of his cradle onto a concrete floor - on his head. The name baritone is believed to be derived from the old Latin motto, Baro Tonum, meaning bats in the belfry. You may not have to be a crackpot to sing that part, but all true baritones seem to agree that it probably helps.

Recruit - Retain

by **Ed Ziegenfuss**, 1999 Dundalk Chapter President
[from the March 1999 Charivari]

These are two of the most difficult words to spell in any volunteer organization. The Dundalk chapter, SPEBSQSA is no different. The Society can come up with all kinds of programs. The chapter board can develop programs and events. However, it is only the existing membership that can make these things effective.

We have fun being committed to this wonderful hobby of barbershop singing. Let's all share our wealth. Get your friends to come to a chapter meeting. Give a call to that guy who usually stands next to you on the risers, but whom you haven't seen in months. As **Dick Dods** would say, "Be part of it." **Bob Fogle** would add, "Don't think about it. Just do it!"

Charivari distribution guidelines

The Charivari is published about six times a year for our members, friends and interested parties. It is also made available on-line at www.dundalk.org. If you want to get it on-line and save the chapter the cost of mailing, let the editor know, at charivari@dundalk.org. We will notify you when it is available.

Little things mean a lot

by **Warren Beckhardt**, Singing Valentines lead
[from the Charivari, March 1999]

I had the great and wonderful pleasure of delivering Singing Valentines this year. Two of the six ladies we sang to were moved to tears.

I recall one in particular who was on duty at the Giant Food store in White Marsh. My quartet was standing at the customer service desk near the checkout registers. When she was summoned to the front, she was quite surprised to see four men dressed in tuxedos waiting for her. We started singing "Let Me Call You Sweetheart." Her initial response was one of slight embarrassment. However, toward the end of the song, something wonderful and emotional started to happen.

First of all, the quartet was hitting on all four cylinders. It felt like we were right in there, and it was hard to believe that we had never sung together before. The emotion on her face changed from being embarrassed to having a great big smile that would have lit up any room. Then you could see the tears well up in her eyes. After we finished the first song, we presented her with a card and a single rose.

When we started singing our second song, beginning with the words, "Heart of my heart, I love you." she really broke down and our quartet to a man was emotionally moved by her response. When we had completed our presentation, her initial reaction was, "You guys are absolutely wonderful," as she thanked each one of us. I was even lucky enough to get a little kiss on the cheek.

With the above response, and the other five performances in mind, I would like to thank **Dick Webber**, tenor; **John Treff**, bass; and **Mike Taylor**, bari, for their part in letting me have such an experience. Appreciation is also due to **Jim Lober** who took over for Mike on our evening appointment.

It's now too late to take part in the 1999 Singing Valentines program, but remember next year [or 2010.] If you can't participate in the singing, consider buying your spouse or girlfriend this treat. It may seem like a little thing to us to go out and sing on Valentines Day, but from all the reactions that I got, such little things do mean a lot.

As a footnote, I must confess that I don't know who got the greatest pleasure out of the program. It could have been the gals receiving the Singing Valentine, but the four guys doing the singing took home their share of happiness and satisfaction, too.



Warren Beckhardt

Individual musical responsibility

by **Glenn Phillips**, Associate Director

Singing in a barbershop chorus is extremely rewarding. Barbershoppers everywhere love to lock and ring those chords all night long. Of course, it doesn't happen overnight. A lot of hard work and practice go into the finished musical project, and we rehearse once a week in order to learn new concepts, review and solidify old ones, and to put them all into play.

Every member of the chorus is important, and we each hold an equal share of responsibility to prepare ourselves individually and our chorus collectively to perform our music the best we can. Let's face it. That not only keeps the audiences coming back. It also keeps US coming back every Tuesday night.

To be sure, you can expect you chapter board and the Music Team to embrace their musical responsibilities in effectively running chapter meetings, organizing and planning sing-outs and shows, and teaching new and challenging music to the chorus. Beyond that comes a critical component that is vital for every chorus, especially those with aspirations of singing at an A-level, and that is individual musical responsibility. We all have an equal stake in this.

Knowing the notes and words to the music is, of course, a given. After all, we can't expect to sing for an audience if we don't know the songs. As we prepared for the recent district contest, your Music Team arranged for each man to verify that he knew the notes, words and choreography to the contest charts. I am very pleased to report that the chorus embraced the idea, and we had guys lined up and ready to demonstrate that they were fully prepared to sing at the district contest. In fact, every member of the competing chorus successfully claimed his spot on the risers, and the results propelled us to qualify for Philadelphia. Indeed, individual musical music responsibility is a matter of great importance.

However, knowing the notes and words is only the beginning, right? How many of us practice singing in front of a mirror so that we see what our faces really look like when we perform? How many of us practice breathing exercises on our own so that it becomes second nature to take those deep breaths that Rick wants us to take every time? How many of us write down as many things as we can remember about the previous rehearsal as soon as possible after we get home? How many of us pick a vowel sound like "oh" and sing it in front of a mirror, paying close attention to how open we keep that vowel sound, and then work to get better at that vowel sound if we find ourselves needing improvement? How many of us actually practice our



Glenn Phillips

choreography at home? How many of us get together with a barbershop buddy or two or three and work together to try to get better in this wonderful art form?

This is where individual responsibility truly lies, not in setting our sights on the *minimum* we have to do in order to sing with the Chorus of the Chesapeake. Rather, our individual musical responsibility is all about spending quality time on a regular basis to learn to sing better. I'm not talking about a major time commitment here. Fifteen minutes or so three to four times a week will result in considerable musical growth in every singer. I guarantee it! Let's face it. We all love to sing, right? It isn't a chore to practice our music at home or to work on our singing. It's fun!

Just think how much better the chorus could be in only a few short months if all of us took a hard look at our individual musical responsibility and then do something about it. What do you say? Are you with me?

The Poet's Corner

TINTINNABULATION

The snow has set my toes a-tingling
As the horses pull the sleigh,
With their harness bells a-jingling
As we plod upon our way.

All the bells sound like they're singing
As each hoof beat strikes the ground,
And they set my soul a-ringing
With their soothing rhythmic sound.

What a pleasure is their chiming
As the horse clip-clops along,
And I love the steady timing
Of the sleigh bells steady song.

I am filled with great elation,
And the joy within me swells
With the tintinnabulation
Of the gladsome ringing bells.

from Fireside Fellowship, 2007

Thomas Henry Wheatley,

Md. Poet Laureate Nominee

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DON'T FORGET The deadline for the next Charivari is Tuesday, February 16, 2010

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(Actual uniform and event times will be provided in the Weekly News.)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Dec 22	Thursday	Chapter Christmas Party	Meeting hall 7:30 PM
Dec 29	Tuesday	Beer Blast!	Michael's 8 th Ave., Glen Burnie, Md.
Jan 23	Saturday	Performance, Belair HS	Bel Air, Md.
Feb 5,6, 2010	Fri-Sat	XXIII Woodshed Weekend	Best Western, I-95 at O'Donnell, St., Balto, Md.
Feb 12-14	Fri-Sun	Singing Valentines	Around the general Baltimore area
Mar 12-13	Fri-Sat	Int'l Prelims	Harrisburg, Pa.
April 10	Saturday	Founders' Night	To be announced
April 30	Friday	Performance	Towson Methodist Church
May 8	Saturday	Dundalk Spring Show	Goucher College
Jun 29-Jul 3	Tues-Sat	International Convention	Philadelphia, Pa.

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