

The Newyorker Times

The newsletter of Poughkeepsie, New York, Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society



New Series, Volume 6
Poughkeepsie, New York

Number 4
April 2005

Installation Dinner a Festive Affair

By Antony Takahashi

The chapter held a festive Installation Dinner for the newly elected 2005 officers at the Hickory BBQ in Kingston on 26 February 2005. Despite the threat of some serious snowfall and some not-so-good instructions from Mapquest on its location, approximately 50 members and guests managed to arrive at the restaurant and filled the semi-private back room. After a fun warm-up activity, where guests created their name for the evening using a formula based on the initials in their real name, the evening's festivities began promptly at 6:30 p.m. with cocktails and appetizers, followed by a buffet dinner of chicken, salmon, and ribs.

Following dinner, the chorus performed three songs for those in attendance. The songs were, in effect, also sung for all those eating in the restaurant at that time—but more on that topic later! The Footlighters followed the chorus with a few songs, followed by congratulations to their members of 30 years, Bob Chieffo and Lou Di Stasi.

Scott Salladin then provided a recap of the previous year's events, focusing primarily on the good financial year enjoyed by the New Yorkers but also noting the events and performances participated in by the Chorus members throughout the year.

Following Scott's recap, the installation took place, with Bruce Checca [Past President of the Saratoga Springs Chapter, President of the Bolton Landing Chapter, Chapter Counselor, COTS (Chapter Office Training Seminar) Coordinator, and member of NEWCANEWENG Tribe (District Honor Club)] doing the honors.

As part of the swearing in, the new officers were formally charged and convicted of high crimes and misdemeanors in connection with the organization of the Poughkeepsie New Yorkers and duly convicted (in what amounted to a kangaroo court which would have done some third world countries proud) and sentenced to hard labor for a year, with credit given for time already served in office.

Following the installation, Eric Dickstein gave a wonderfully brief inaugural speech and allowed the festivities to continue without interruption, which, in retrospect, was

very wise since our time there was very limited.

For the final ceremony of the evening, the New Yorker of the Year (NYOY) award was presented. For those who were not there, it should be noted that the NYOY is chosen by a committee of the past NYOY selectees. This year's theme for the selection process was Survivor, where the intent was that at the end of the selection process, one person who best exemplified service and commitment to the organization would be left standing as the newly designated NYOY. Although it is possible that, in this game, some members may have been begging to get voted off of the island, they hid their desires well as befitting an honorable candidate for NYOY.

Despite knowing the tension building in the candidates' bellies, the committee showed absolutely no mercy, and all candidates were kept in suspense until the very end. Because there were so many fine candidates in the running, the choice was difficult and, in most ways, made much more difficult by the intentional obliteration of any rational or intelligent decision making process by the selection committee members. In the end, however, our treasurer, Mike Murphy, was selected as the NYOY to the great relief and joy of all present. Mike kept his composure and acted suitably pleased when presented with the framed certificate.

Because of unfortunate timing, the Hickory BBQ in-house entertainment, which was a very loud blues band, started up promptly at 9 p.m. Since there was no sound insulation between the rooms, this prematurely ended the event for the New Yorkers.

See also article on Page 3, and pictures on Page 4 and 5.

Harmony College Northeast

By Jim Dodge and Mike Nichols
Co-Deans, HCNE
NED/HEP Singing A's Coaching Staff

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!! HEAR YE!!!

It is not too early to be thinking about Harmony College Northeast, well on its way to coming to Fitchburg State College on the weekend of 12-14 (See "HCNE" on Page 2)

The Newyorker Times
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 Chorus Director Renée Silverstein
 Chorus Manager Scott Salladin

Meetings
Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.
First Reformed Church
70 Hooker Avenue
Poughkeepsie, New York
ALL SINGING MEN WELCOME
 Website address www.newyorkerschorus.org



8-9 Apr Regional Convention and Contest, Brattle-boro, VT
 13 Apr Performance, Fishkill Health Center, Beacon, NY
 —arrive 6:30 p.m. for 7:00 performance; rehearsal to follow at the church
 20 Apr BOD meeting—6:00 p.m. at the church
 27 Apr Performance, Castle Court, Concord Village, Poughkeepsie—arrive 6:30 p.m. for 7:00 performance; rehearsal to follow at the church
13 May Rehearsal for Annual Show, FDR High School, Hyde Park—time TBA
14 May Newyorkers' Annual Show, F.D.R. High School, Hyde Park

Poughkeepsie Chapter Mission Statement
 The mission of the Poughkeepsie Chapter shall be:
 To perpetuate the art of Barbershop Harmony, and
 To promote and provide opportunities for vocal harmony activities for its members and potential members such as, but not limited to
 Quartetting,
 Vocal crafts and techniques,
 Coaching,
 Chorus singing, and
 Competitive preparation and participation,
 and
 To provide public appreciation of barbershop harmony through public and charitable performances, and
 To promote good fellowship and camaraderie among its Membership, and
 To foster and enhance the ideals and principles of SPEBSQSA, Inc.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
27 APRIL

Happy Birthdays in April:

Alison MacAvery	2
Patricia Griffin	4
Ron Pierson	17
Bev Waltke	21
Lyndell Schaffer	23
Ann Salladin	24
Renée Silverstein	27
Joan O'Neill	28

Happy Anniversaries in April:

Jeff and Alison MacAvery	1
Joe and Joan O'Neill	24

HCNE (From Page 1)
 August 2005. Set that weekend aside now. You won't regret it!
 Our guest quartets are our 2003 International Champions, Power Play. Backing them up will be last years seventh place finalist quartet, Realtime. It should be a whale of a show.
 We are in the process of finalizing the course selections and should have them for you in a couple of weeks. We have some pleasant surprises for you in store as well as continuing some of the tried and true classes that make us better barbershoppers.
 If you are in a quartet, you should be getting ready to sign up for coaching. We have room for 36 quartets, and that will fill up quickly. So plan to get on board early! We will be using the acclaimed POD method of coaching that everyone raves about and can now offer you *trained coaches* who subscribe to the Singing A's (Continued on Page 6)



**BARBERSHOP
HARMONY SOCIETY**

Joe Alber Memorial

2004 Newyorker of the Year



The Newyorker of the Year is a Poughkeepsie, NY Chapter member who has exhibited sustained, unselfish service to the chapter, usually but not necessarily peaking in the award year. He or she epitomizes the spirit of the Newyorkers by cheerfully assuming and discharging many chapter responsibilities resulting in the short and long term health and success of the chapter. The award was founded by 1972 Chapter President Joe Alber who, at his passing, was memorialized in it.

Welcome to SURVIVOR - Newyorkers style!

Deep in the jungles of the Hudson Valley lives a native tribe called the "NYOYs". This tribe has shown its prowess surviving years of rigorous chapter challenges. For some, time has taken its toll. The buffness has lost its glow. But they survive, moving and guiding this harmonious ship of state.

Tonight the NYOYs meet in council to select a new member, the **2004 Joe Alber Memorial Newyorker of the Year**, one who has shown courage and ability above the ordinary. They will first present **Awards of Merit** to a tribe called the "My-Ties," then convene and choose the new NYOY.

The **My-Ties** have distinguished themselves in individual service to the Chapter this past year and are recognized with these **Awards of Merit**:

Magistratus of the Nightus award to **Bruce Checca**

...for sharing an evening with, and installing, the 2005 Poughkeepsie, NY Chapter Officers and Directors

Maxwell House award to **Bill Booth and Mel Hedlund**

...for making our breaks "good to the last drop"

Service Star award to **Ray Brock**

...for years of unselfish service on the Board of Directors and the Music Team

Scrooge McDuck award to **Mike Murphy**

...for producing plentiful pecuniary progress as Chapter Treasurer

Boaters to Baritones award to **Joe O'Neill**

...for "fishing" for members as newsletter editor of the Rogers Point Boating Association

Barnum & Bailey award to **Bob Hitchcock and Jack Ostmark**

...for being the creative sparks and playing the leads of our "Big Top Barbershop" annual show

Computer Weenie award to **Eric Dickstein**

...for becoming the Newyorkers' webmeister and Chapter Cyber-Guru

The NYOYs hold council but cannot choose the new member of the tribe on the first ballot.

They reconvene and reveal the new NYOY member's attributes and final identity...

- ❖ polite and unassuming; honest and straight-forward
- ❖ excellent singer in his voice part
- ❖ takes initiative and is always willing to serve the Chapter
- ❖ participates in Chapter "pick-up" quartets
- ❖ loves to run around and travel
- ❖ participates in Singing Valentines quarteting
- ❖ proactive in providing monetary gain for the Chapter
- ❖ an ardent animal lover
- ❖ an active quartet man
- ❖ our Chapter Treasurer and our...

**2004 JOE ALBER MEMORIAL
NEWYORKER OF THE YEAR**

Mike Murphy

Pictures From the Installation Dinner

By Jack & Carol Ostmark and Ron & June Pierson, except where otherwise noted



Installing Officer Bruce Checca (left) and Renée with the incoming officers and BOD



The "My-Ties" Tribe receiving their Orders of Merit



The "Survivor" Tribe NYOYs in council, picking the Newyorker of the Year



Mike Murphy receiving the NYOY award



Mike Murphy and past NYOYs



The Footlighters performing



The Footlighters ham it up a bit

Installation Dinner Pictures, continued



Bob Chieffo and Lew Di Stasi receive plaques honoring their 30 years as Footlighters



The Newyorkers entertain the audience
(Photo by Barb Troan)

“Newyorkers of the Year” History

The *Newyorker of the Year* is a Poughkeepsie, NY Chapter member who has exhibited sustained, unselfish service to the chapter, usually but not necessarily peaking in the award year. He or she epitomizes the spirit of the Newyorkers by cheerfully assuming and discharging many chapter responsibilities resulting in the short and long term health and success of the chapter. The award was founded by the 1972 Chapter President Joe Alber who, at his passing, was memorialized in it.

1972	Tom Enger		86	Steve Siegele	25th Anniv
73	Bob Royce		87	Scott Salladin	
74	Joe Alber		88	Breck Martyn	
75	Bob Chieffo		89	Jim Zeigler	
76	Rudy Veltre	15th Anniv Yr. of Chapter	1990	Dan Driscoll	
77	Jerry Andersen		91	Tony Krzywicki	30th Anniv
78	Lew DiStasi		92	Bob Tortorella	
79	Ray Benoit		93	John Hadigan	
1980	Ev Burke		94	Renée Silverstein	
81	Myron “Bud” Fair	20th Anniv	95	Frank Gould	
82	Bob Betscha		1996	Ed “Duffy” Miller	35th Anniv
83	Gene Mayer		97	Garry “Butch” Ashdown	
1984	Fred Gielow		98	Greg Howard	
85	Steve Plumb		99	Bill Standish	(See “NYOY History” on Page 6)

NYOY History (From Page 5)

2000	Dick Schaffer	
2001	Dave Reynolds	40th Anniv
02	Steve Hagerdon	

03	Bob Hitchcock	
04	Mike Murphy	
05		
06		45th Anniv

HCNE (From Page 2)

philosophy of coaching. We have been using this method and these men for four years now with very enthusiastic support from the quartets.

Tuition is still \$120 for those staying over and \$85 for commuters. Last time we talked, we mentioned saving your change every day to be sure you have the money. I save a couple of hundred dollars a year that way! How about asking for your trip to the school to become a birthday or anniversary present? You know, for the barbershopper who has everything (barber poles, pitch pipes, monogrammed shirts, etc), free passage to a school would be terrific!

Looking forward to a huge sign-up for 2005

Oldyorker Wins Photography Prize

By Bob Chieffo

While Jack Ostmark and wife Carol were on vacation in 2004 they visited Monument Valley, UT. They took a photo and entered it in the Bird Watcher's General Store [located on Cape Cod.- Ed.] contest, wearing and showing one of



The prize photo

their t-shirts. Carol won 2nd Place - Most Creative. Jack took the photo. Congrats to both!

Invitation to Halifax

By Mark Radcliffe, Sunrise Division Manager;
 Doug MacLean, NED Secretary;
 Al McKenzie, NED VP, CSLT;
 Ian Ferguson, HHE05 Chairman; and
 Ron Fralick, HHE05 Registrar

The Sunrise Division and the Halifax Harmony Experience 2005 Committee extend an Official Invitation to attend the HHE05/2005 NED Fall Convention & Contest in Halifax, Nova Scotia. We believe this will be a wonderful

experience for all our members and guests.

On 6 December 1917, two ships collided in Halifax Harbour, one laden with ammunitions for WWI. This was the worst man-made explosion in the world until the A-bomb. That night there was a terrible blizzard. There were over 10,000 killed and/or injured. The biggest relief response came from the New England States and, especially, around the Boston area. To this day, Nova Scotians send the annual Christmas Tree to Boston as a Thank You. The tree is lit in the Boston Common with representatives from Nova Scotia on hand, every year.

On 30 November 2004, President George W. Bush was in Halifax to thank the local people for the warmth, hospitality, and friendliness in helping approximately 33,000 people, mostly Americans, whose planes were diverted here on Sept.11/01. Many were taken into homes, fed, called home, etc. Many, many of these people made lifelong friends in just a short time, and many keep coming back.

We want to extend to you this same hospitality, in the fall of 2005. We hope you will come, with your spouses, partners, and friends, and stay some extra time in this Province. We are sure you will enjoy it. We have a wonderful program planned from 29 September to 2 October 2005, which you will be able to see on our Web Site:

www.HHE2005.ca.

SOMETHING NEW: [PRIZES](#) [PRIZES](#) [PRIZES](#)

For the very first time at a NED Fall Contest, you will be able to *register on-line*, as well as mail-in. Just go to the web site listed above and follow the easy-to-use instructions. Separate steps are used for Competitors and Non-Competitors/Spectators. We are encouraging two things:

Individual On-Line Registration (with payment options)

Early Bird Registration (a lot of **wonderful prizes** to be drawn for over the coming weeks)

Forms can be printed from the web site for mail-ins For Members who cannot access the web, we will enter the data upon receipt of their mail-in registration. *Please register on-line now, if possible, or as EARLY as possible. Also, mail in now!*

For questions, please contact ron.fralick@ ns.sympatico.ca or (**evenings**) 902-465-8113.

Vowel Matching

By Tom Raburn, Big D Chapter
 from PROBE web site, by way of
 Lake County Chapter's *Overtones*

Question: When does $2+2=5$?

Answer: When barbershop harmony is sung correctly, creating harmonic overtones and "expanded sound."

One of the most important factors in the achievement of choral blend and expanded (Continued on Page 7)

Vowel Matching (From Page 6)

sound is unity of vowel sounds. Vowels are what we sing and sustain, separated by consonants to make words. When we match vowel sounds, we create like harmonics, and the sound expands in intensity through reinforcement. In singing, vowels are created through the natural resonance of the human vocal tract. The tongue, lips, and jaw are used to fashion the resonators into their vowel shapes. Some basic rules to follow when forming vowel sounds are the following:

1. When producing all vowel sounds, the tip of the tongue should be placed gently on the lower gum ridge, with the tip barely touching the base of the lower teeth. This helps keep the throat open so that the vocal cords can vibrate naturally through the resonators (mouth, throat, and sinus cavities).
2. The jaw should be allowed to relax naturally with a swinging down and back motion.
3. The lips should leave the teeth uncovered.
4. Although the mouth must be open wide, it is not how wide it is open, but the shape that is most important.

Every vowel can be sung with one of these three mouth shapes: round (example: "oh"), square (example: "ih" as in "sit"), and oblong (example: "ah" as in "pop"). Refinements to form each specific vowel sound are made by the degree to which the tongue is arched in the mouth and the degree to which the jaw is dropped. For instance, both the "oh" sound and the "oo" (as in "moon") are made with the round mouth shape, but the "oh" sound is made with the mouth as open as possible, while the "oo" sound is made with the smallest, most rounded shape.

As we sing the songs in our repertoire, keep in mind the basic mechanics of producing vowel sounds, and think about the target vowel sound for each word in the song. Properly matched vowels can enable a chorus of 20-something men to "fill the hall" and create the expanded sound that makes barbershop harmony so much fun to sing and hear.

Schedule Variations For Newyorker Times

May issue: Deadline 27 Apr, distr. 11 May
 Jun issue: Deadline 24 May, distr. 8 Jun
 Jul issue: Deadline 30 May, distr. 13 Jul
 Aug issue: Deadline 28 Jul, distr. 3 Aug
 Sep issue: Deadline 1 Sep, distr. 14 Sep

Sacred Gold Concert Features Gold Medal Chorus

**The most awesome assemblage of gold medal
singers ever, combined with the 360 voices
of the internationally renowned
Mormon Tabernacle Choir**

From *LiveWire Newsletter*, 4 February

The place to be: Salt Lake City 2005 International Convention, Sunday morning, 10 July 2005, 10:15–11:30 a.m.—after the competition is over. Following the "Music and the Spoken Word" broadcast from the 20,000-seat, state-of-the-art Latter Day Saints Conference Center there will be a Free* Concert featuring

- the world renowned Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Dr. Craig Jessop, Music Director
- the exclusive debut performance of the 600-voice Barbershop Harmony Society Gold Medal Chorus under the direction of Jim Clancy and Dr. Greg Lyne
- and an incredible finale of the 960 combined voices of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and the Society's gold Medal Chorus under the direction of Dr. Craig Jessop
- plus guest performances by Acoustix, Four Voices and Power Play!

Be a part of this incredible event.

For the first time, a gold medal chorus featuring every living Gold Medalist Quartet and Chorus member! Champion Gold Medalist Quartets, Seniors Champions, and College Quartet Champions will be invited to perform in this, the largest Gold Medal Chorus ever assembled in the history of barbershop—perhaps even the world! A special invitation has been extended, and the chorus will be limited, to the first 600 gold medal singers to respond.

If you are a Society quartet or chorus Gold Medalist and you wish to participate, send your name, quartet or chorus name, championship year, voice part, and physical mailing address to:

GoldMedalChorus@spebsqsa.org -or-
 Barbershop Harmony Society
 7930 Sheridan Road
 Kenosha, WI 54143.

Visit www.SPEBSQSA.org/goldmedalchorus for more information.

*This special concert is being presented for all registered attendees of the 2005 International Convention.

The New Yorker Times
18 Duzine Road
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