

# The Newyorker Times

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



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New Series, Volume 6  
Poughkeepsie, New York

Number 12  
December 2005

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## Editorial Help Needed—Consistently

This is a rather full issue. But until essentially the last minute, there was only one article on hand that pertained specifically to the Poughkeepsie Chapter and/or its members. In our opinion, that is not the way it should be.

The people in charge of recognizing the Bulletin Editor of the Year share that opinion. Have you ever read the criteria that they look for in making the award? We won't quote them all, but we can describe at least some of them. It is expected that *every* issue will contain an article from the chapter president, the chorus director, and the chapter treasurer, and a summary, if not the actual minutes, of the meetings of the chapter Board of Directors. Other chapter officers are expected to contribute frequently, if not monthly. Registered quartets are supposed to report on their performances.

In our opinion, this is overkill. We agree that the President and the Director should contribute regularly, to keep the membership current on what these officers feel is going right and/or wrong. There should be communication from the Board whenever a substantial change is enacted. We agree that other chapter officers should make their opinions and activities known from time to time, and especially when special chapter activities are in the offing. And quartets should keep the chapter informed of their activities; it is particularly valuable to have advance notification of performances that will be open to the public, to give other members a chance to support the quartet as well as to enjoy the music.

But we also feel that "ordinary" members should undertake to submit articles on their own activities that might be of interest to other chapter members, or their views of what is going on in the chapter and the Society. There are two examples of this in the present issue, by Steve Hagerdon and Dave Lumb. This sort of material is what can make the newsletter truly interesting and useful to all of us.

We wish all our readers Happy Holidays and a Joyous and Prosperous New Year.

George L. Trigg

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## Newyorkers Play to Enthusiastic Audiences in November

By Renée Silverstein

The postman's creed begins with "Neither rain, nor sleet, nor dark of night." That's how I felt driving up to "The Fountains" on November 16th to perform for the residents. I truly expected a small turnout for this event because the weather conditions were terrible, torrential downpours, flooding; but troupers that we are, everyone showed up and boy, was it ever worth it! That audience was extremely pleased to hear what we had to offer and had no problem letting us know. The remarks after some of the songs were priceless, just enthusiastically shouted out after the applause. And the participation in the community sing of "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" prompted one woman to thank Rudy for making her aware of which words are pronouns. I think I detected a bit of sarcasm in her voice; won-

der why I would be tuned in to that! As I turned around to acknowledge the audience after our second song a resident came zooming in, literally zooming in her wheelchair. She had forgotten we were scheduled for that evening and had been idling in the hallway when someone reminded her, hence the zoookoom. Her remarks to me afterwards were, "I've lived here for 8 years and have attended all the entertainment provided for us, but your singers were the very best! I loved the songs you chose to sing but I really liked being able to look at all those men!!!" I like this woman.

The afterglow at Dr. Mike's was a lot of fun, and amazingly, even though the weather continued to be horrible, all but one performer showed up. Of course, we were all hungry but the lasagna took care of that. Thank you Mike and Nancy.

November 20th at the Reformed Church was just as successful. Where are these audiences coming from? Can we book them? Of course, I credit the singers on the risers for creating audience reaction. (See "November" on Page 2)

**The Newyorker Times**  
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 Barbershop Harmony Society  
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 Editor: George L. Trigg,  
 18 Duzine Road, New Paltz, NY 12561-1304  
 845-255-9488; e-mail [GeorgeL.Trigg@alum.wustl.edu](mailto:GeorgeL.Trigg@alum.wustl.edu)

**Chapter Officials**

President ..... Eric Dickstein  
 845-395-3577; erictd@hvc.rr.com  
 VP, Chapter Development ..... Bob Hitchcock  
 845-298-2728; Clownworld@aol.com  
 VP, Music & Performance ..... Steve Hagerdon  
 VP, PR & Marketing ..... Tom Koman  
 845-462-6192; kfam5@hvi.net  
 Secretary ..... Scott Salladin  
 Treasurer ..... Mike Murphy  
 BOD Members at Large ..... Steve Miller  
 Dick Schaffer  
 Jack Tacinelli  
 Rudy Veltre  
 Youth Outreach ..... Bill Standish  
 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](http://www.newyorkerschorus.org)



**11 Dec** Harmony for Hospice, Poughkeepsie Galleria  
 —4 p. m.  
**14 Jan** Newyorkers performance, Castle Point VA Med-  
 ical Center—2 p.m.  
**21 Jan** Newyorkers Installation Dinner, place TBA  
 —5:30 p.m.

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE**

**30 NOVEMBER**



**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 the Bar-  
 bershop Harmony Society

**Happy Birthdays in December:**

Lou Simmons	1
Jim Facciolla	6
Scott Salladin	16
John Hadigan	19
Eric Bram	21
Marian Harlow	25

**Happy Anniversaries in December:**

John and Elinor Haverkamp	25
Bill and Barbara Booth	26
Steve and Mary Hagerdon	27
Jack and Carol Ostmark	30

**November** (From Page 2)

The singing is staying in pitch, I can actually hear all the basses on the lowest of notes, the enthusiasm is infectious, the faces are alive, the bodies are involved. Think those things could please a paying audience??? They please me and have to please you. Everybody wins. Our division and district contests are fun as well as constructive and helpful for improving ourselves, but public performances have indescribable rewards.

That's why we do what we do. Sure it takes commitment and time and puts mileage on our cars (never mind the price of gas) but spreading this kind of joy and seeing those faces smiling at you is worth everything. That's how I feel, and I don't even get to SING!!!

**Newyorker Takes Musical Tour**

By Dave Lumb

Back again from another fabulous, musical trip! The VA-NMMG (VA-National Medical Musical Group) gathered in Houston for three days of (See "Tour" on Page 3)

**Tour** (From Page 2)

pretty intensive rehearsing (morning, afternoon, and evening) with over 100 voices and 60-plus orchestra members. The group derives its people from all over the U.S. to perform a Veteran's Day Concert in some U. S. city. After the concert, the group goes somewhere overseas to give additional concerts. This year the destination was Germany, where four concerts were given: Landstuhl (U.S. Regional Medical Center), Ramstein (U.S. Air Force Base), Frankfurt am Main, and Berlin. Because not everyone goes overseas, the group is augmented by local musicians, both vocal and orchestral. For two of the German concerts there was the support of the U. S. Air Force Band of Western Europe, who were outstanding.

For all the foreign tours, side trips are available. This year the excursions included Trier, Luxemburg City, Wiesbaden, Heidelberg, Leipzig, Dresden, and Potsdam in addition to bus tours of Frankfurt am Main and Berlin. It was a very busy schedule with little personal time but was highly worthwhile to see the countryside and get some feel for Germany.

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## Whiskers

### Preserving and Encouraging the Old-Time Barbershop

By Elliot Rosenberg

From the New York *Daily News*, 26 September 2005

Reproduced with permission

Forwarded by Renée Silverstein

*Sweet Adeline, my Adeline,*

*At night, dear heart, for you I pine.*

*In all my dreams, your fair face beams.*

*You're the flow-er of my heart, Sweet Adeline.*

Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia looked forward to the arrival in his town of nothing less than, he announced, "the greatest gathering of barbershop harmonizers in the history of the world." It was March 1940, and the barbershop national championship finals were set for July, at the World's Fair, and LaGuardia had invited mayors across the land to send forth their best and most melodious. "We move at a fast speed today," he said. "The strains of 'Sweet Adeline' bring back nostalgic memories."

It happened that the mayor was an enthusiastic barbershop singer himself, president of New York Chapter No. 1, Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc. Aiding and abetting him were a pair of unlikely kindred spirits: Acerbic city parks boss Robert Moses and gravel-voiced ex-Gov. Al Smith, both of them also confirmed SPEBSQSA members. It was this odd trio that had persuaded the Tulsa-based parent organization to choose New York as its championship venue. Indeed, it was Moses—never particularly noted as the sort of fellow who might socialize in a barbershop, which, as Smith noted, "used to be the poor man's club-

house years ago"—who had personally helped revive turn-of-the-century barbershop quarteting in the first place.

That was back in the summer of 1935, three years before the founding of the national society. In search of a draw for his public parks, Moses had instituted Gay Nineties nostalgia at several grassy knolls around town—and then, on Sept. 10, brought 14 foursomes together at the Central Park Mall to perform before 15,000 New Yorkers and a panel of judges headed by Al Smith.

They'd competed under a huge orchestra shell flanked by gilt-edged giant barber poles. Rakish top-hatted cherubs with shaving mugs, scissors and hot towels decorated a lunette atop the shell. Beneath, three plush-seated barber chairs centered the set. Pictures of John L. Sullivan, Jim Jeffries and Bob Fitzsimmons lined its walls.

Each group chose a pair of songs. "Drink to Me Only with Thine Eyes," rendered tenderly, and a rousing "There's a Tavern in the Town" helped propel Brooklyn's Bay City Four above all rivals.

Pleased by the way this event went off, Moses made the barbershop contest an annual parks event. By the end of the decade, Manhattan's Washington Square Park, the Bronx's Poe Park and Forest Park in Queens were all drawing large crowds to preliminary elimination tournaments featuring such groups as the Golden Crest Quartet, the Horn and Hardart Quartet and the Fireside Troubadours.

Now, six years into these matchups, Fiorello LaGuardia's town prepared for the nationals.

Elsewhere in the summer of 1940, Japanese troops were gouging chunks of China and Hitler's Wehrmacht was overrunning France and London's hastily trained Home Guard was girding for invasion. At Flushing Meadows, though, World's Fair visitors could momentarily dismiss the menacing present and step into a simpler and more confident past.

Leading his own pickup quartet, Smith publicized the upcoming July event on radio with a songfest featuring "The Sidewalks of New York," natch. A more polished group, St. Mary's Horseshoers, became the city's best hope, edging the Police Department's Glee Club Quartet and Con Ed's Gas House Boys and joining other entries who entertained Wall Streeters from the Sub-Treasury Building's steps during lunch hour, warming up for the show-down.

Gloomy headlines on the 26th reflected the free world's sagging fortunes: *Luftwaffe* Stukas pounding English coastal shipping, Britain's finest hour approaching. But here, for three hours beginning at 7:30 p.m., Gay Nineties tunes sedated the fairgoers. "On the Banks of the Wabash." "Annie Laurie." "Waiting for the Robert E. Lee." And the inevitable "Sweet Adeline."

When all was said and done, local quartets finished a respectable third and fourth among the nine finalists.

But the blue-ribbon panel of judges—LaGuardia, Moses, World's Fair President Grover Whalen and "Sweet Adeline" composer Henry Armstrong (Continued on Page 4)

**Whiskers** (From Page 3)

—anointed Oklahoma City's Police Department Flat-Foot Four best in America. The four winners proudly departed for the Sooner State, each carrying a state-of-the-art Crosley radio-phonograph, top prize.

Just after the war, local finals at the Central Park Mall continued to draw thousands. Promotion-minded New York Yankees boss Larry MacPhail at one point called on four borough-wide winners to regale early arrivals at a Yankee Stadium night game.

LaGuardia and Smith had passed on by now. But Moses still reigned over his parks empire, and the shows went on for years yet, into the age of Presley. Male hair was longer now—but annual throaty rivalry still evoked a civilization gone with the shaving mug and the handlebar mustache.

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### What If the Society Had Asked the Members for Logo Ideas? Here's What Might Have Happened

By Dick Cote, Editor and Publisher,  
Fullerton's *Barbershop Clippin's*,  
by way of Worcester's *Key Notes*,  
Roy Hayward, Editor

As many of us sat through the wonderful international convention in Salt Lake City, there was, in my mind at least, one jarring note. It was the omnipresence of the new Society logo as shown on the banner of this publication. It seems to have no connection to the Society we've known, and in fact similar designs have been rejected by other organizations, one of them being the Sweet Adelines and, I'm told, the Girl Scouts of America.

The word is that, like it or not, the new logo is here to stay, and the idea is that as older members pass on, the newer, younger men whom the Society is attempting to attract will not know the difference, nor will they understand the history behind the logo.

What would have happened if the Society had at least tried to get some feedback from its members? Well, our much loved baritone, Fullerton member, and 50-year member of the Society, Bob Clark, had an idea that could have been considered and would have met,

I believe, with much approval. Here it is, for those of you who care to look. I think it looks darn good, and continues the tradition while incorporating the new name. Too bad we weren't asked.

I'm sure others would have presented ideas that would have been more acceptable to our members, including the rapidly disappearing older members.

What do you think?

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## Chorus Order of Appearance Announced for Indianapolis

From the Society's newsletter  
*LiveWire*, 22 November

The draw has been done: Here's the lineup of whom you'll see next summer in Indy. Choruses 1–15 will sing in the first session, and choruses 16–30 will sing in the second session. The exact starting time for each session is still to be determined.

1. Helsingborg, Sweden (SNOBS)  
Helsingborg Barberboys
2. Manhattan, NY (MAD)  
Big Apple Chorus
3. Atlanta Metro, GA (DIX)  
Atlanta Vocal Project
4. Central Texas Corridor, TX (SWD)  
Heart of Texas Chorus
5. Chicago West Suburban, IL (ILL)  
West Towns Chorus
6. Rincon Beach, CA (FWD)  
Pacific Sound Chorus
7. Dallas Metro, TX (SWD)  
Vocal Majority
8. Bolton, LAN (BABS)  
Cottontown Chorus
9. Kansas City, MO (CSD)  
Heart of America Chorus
10. Greater Toronto, ON (ONT)  
MegaCity Chorus
11. Northbrook, IL (ILL)  
New Tradition
12. Terre Haute, IN (CAR)  
Banks of the Wabashh
13. La Jolla, CA (FWD)  
Pacific Coast Harmony
14. Buckeye-Columbus, OH (JAD)  
Singing Buckeyes
15. Greater Central Ohio, OH (JAD)  
The Alliance
16. Denver Mile High, CO (RMD)  
Sound Of The Rockies
17. Western Hills, OH (JAD)  
Southern Gateway Chorus
18. St. Joseph, MO (CSD)  
Voices of America

(See "Indy Order" on Page 5)

**Indy Order** (From Page 4)

19. Nashua, NH (NED)  
Granite Statesmen
20. Toronto, ON (ONT)  
Toronto Northern Lights
21. Bellevue, WA (EVG)  
Northwest Sound
22. Lake County, IL (ILL)  
Brotherhood of Harmony
23. Westminster, CA (FWD)  
Westminster Chorus
24. Wasatch Front, UT (RMD)  
Saltaires
25. Hilltop, MN (LOL)  
Great Northern Union
26. Alexandria, VA (MAD)  
Alexandria Harmonizers
27. Macomb County, MI (PIO)  
Harmony Heritage Chorus
28. First Coast Metro, FL (SUN)  
Metropolitans
29. Batavia, NY (SLD)  
Vocal Agenda
30. Greendale, WI (LOL)  
Midwest Vocal Express

Draw for order of appearance was conducted during the FAM trip to Indianapolis November 19. As before, choruses have the right to ask to sing first and will be apprised of that right and the procedure to follow in a Chorus Bulletin.

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## Tag Contest Gives Every Writer a Shot At Fame

From the Society's newsletter  
*LiveWire*, 22 November

Show off your chops to the world—including publication in *The Harmonizer*, on the web, and at the international convention.

Admit it: after years of late-night tag singing, you've probably had more than one occasion to think, "I wish people were singing *my* tag." Maybe they will, if your carefully crafted coda makes the cut in the 2006 International Tag Contest.

### Contest rules

1. It must be an original tag—original lyrics and original music. **You may not use copyrighted material of any kind.**
2. Entry deadline will be April 11, 2006, International

Tag Day (and also the Society's birthday).

3. By submitting an entry, you give the Society permission to the free use of that tag for any and all purposes.

4. Entries must be sent to Linda Neuenfeld (tags@barbershop.org). Electronic entries are preferred. For those who are electronically challenged, that's Linda Neuenfeld ATTN: Tag enclosed, 7930 Sheridan Road, Kenosha, WI 53143

5. Limit one (1) entry per person.

6. You do not have to be a member of The Barbershop Harmony Society to enter this contest.

7. Decision of the judges is final.

8. Current Society staff members and Society Board members are not eligible for prizes.

9. The **first place** tag writer will receive 2 complimentary registrations to the International Convention in Indianapolis. **Second place** is \$100 gift certificate to Harmony Marketplace. **Third place** is a \$50 gift certificate to Harmony Marketplace.

10. Entries may be used at the International Convention Tag Singing classes; displayed on the Free and Easy website; taught from the stage at International; put in the International Convention Program.

11. All entries must include name and contact information, but will be judged anonymously.

12. The tag submission must be legible (Finale or Acrobat PDF submission preferred)

13. Maximum acceptable length is 8 measures.

14. Tag will be judged on originality, how much fun it is to sing, and how pleasurable it is to hear.

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## Sunshine Chapter Struts Their Stuff in Tucson

By Steve Hagerdon

Two weeks ago I visited the Sunshine Chorus chapter (Tucson, AZ), bringing away some interesting impressions. They number 60–65 on the rolls, and 41 were there Tuesday night from 7 to 9:45. Several members forcibly dragged me kicking and screaming to their afterglow at the local Elks club until 11. All the guests and 5 of the members sat in the chairs as the chorus rehears—we didn't know the music and the risers are reserved for performance mode. 25 minutes of learning were done in the chairs and a 15-minute break and business session (combined) was the only other time the men were off the risers. Besides the Director, they have one presentation advisor, one Assistant Director, and one Assistant Director/note-doctor. They all worked together nearly seamlessly.

The music was largely barbershop, and the men enjoyed locking and ringing chords as they had done the week before in Pasadena's Far West District contest. Their closing song was "Let's Get Together Again," sung joyfully and meaningfully. They worked on "Keep the Whole World Singing" as a performance song and really challenged the basses to sing it right, using the (See "Tucson" on Page 6)

**Tucson** *(From Page 5)*

quartet method as an intro. Although there were pockets of leads, baris, and basses around the risers, they sang with a good unit sound. Some vowels needed work, but then who

doesn't? Although I did not get to sing much until the last song and afterglow, the men were gregarious, friendly, welcoming, and warm. If I ever moved to Tucson I would sing with this chorus in a heartbeat. I really enjoyed it.

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Website for Poughkeepsie Newyorkers: <<http://www.newyorkerschorus.org>>

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