



SWIPES & TAGS

60 YEARS OF BARBERSHOP SINGING IN SACRAMENTO



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SACRAMENTO CAPITOLAIRES, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
CHAPTER OF THE FAR WESTERN DISTRICT OF THE BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY.



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MARCH 2006

CAPITOLAIRES' SUCCESSFUL RETREAT

Bobbitt Hall at the Community of the Great Commission in the mountains above Foresthill provided a great venue for the Capitolaire's Annual Retreat. Even though it was early in the year, we were treated to warm weather which is unusual at this elevation for this time of year. The food was good accompanied by the camaraderie of all the Capitolaire's. If you were not able to attend this year, you missed a great treat.

Our Coaches, Royce Ferguson and Gabe Caretto were very helpful in coaching the chorus to produce a more unified sound. One of the most important lessons learned was breath control during singing. By utilizing better breath control, the chorus stayed in tune and created a more uniform sound.



Jim Minoudis getting breathing instruction from Royce Ferguson

In addition to the learning sessions, we also had an event that was billed as a talent show on Saturday evening. The jury is still out on whether the word "talent" should be included in the description. None the less, it was fun and you have to give credit to the guys who stood up and performed.



Randy Finger Lip Syncing



Frank Kinnison playing the ukelele

SINGING VALENTINES

BY PAUL GREISEN,
VALENTINE CHAIRMAN



I want to thank everyone who participated in the Valentines day effort this year.

This year we had seven quartets who delivered nearly 100 Singing Valentines. Quartets participating were:

River City Music Company with Larry Larsson, tenor; Gib Hertler, lead; Jim Newlove, bass; and Winston Char, baritone; **4T9R4** with Steve Mathews, tenor; Verne Bagby, lead; Tony Prowense, bass; and Lind Bishop, baritone; **The Ambassadors** with Rosye Salz, tenor; Don Salz, lead; Don Sheffield, bass; and David Wilder, baritone; **The Lucky Four** with Norm Smith, tenor; Frank Kinnison, lead; Les Cudworth, bass; and Ed Comingore, baritone; **DeJay's** with Dennis Giebe, tenor; Joe Sisson, lead; Jim Minoudis, bass, and Jay Townsend, baritone; The quartet of Keith Slater, tenor; Paul Greisen, lead; Tom Reaves, bass; and Jack McPhillips, baritone; The quartet of Gary Heal, tenor; Ian Gayton, lead; Jim Corson, bass; and Wally McClain, baritone.

It appears we went through the deliveries with only one glitch, mine. I sent one quartet a day early but I guess that is better than a day late since we did get it covered on the right day. Otherwise, it appears that everything was done well and on time. The quartets were most accommodating in handling late changes and late orders.

(Continued on page 3, Valentine)

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THE SACRAMENTO CAPITOLAIRES MEET EVERY TUESDAY AT 7:00 PM IN THE PILGRIM HALL OF SIERRA ARDEN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, 890 MORSE AVENUE AT NORTHRUP AVENUE



PRESIDENT'S CHORDS

BY JIM CORSON, PRESIDENT



When we set the date for our retreat, I crossed my fingers hoping that there wouldn't be a blizzard that weekend. I would have settled for cold, with some snow on the ground, as long as it wasn't actually snowing. I just knew we were taking a big chance on a February date!

Did we get a break? Indeed we did, having our weekend fall in the midst of a taste of early spring weather. I don't think we could have asked for better conditions.

What a treat it was to get to know Royce Ferguson and have him work with us. I was delighted that so many of our riser regulars were able to attend, to share in the learning, and to enjoy the fellowship.

Once again, our thanks to Keith and his team for all their work in making the arrangements to provide us with a top notch weekend.

An email came across earlier this morning, on the day I am writing this, from Paul Greisen regarding our Valentine's Day effort. It looks like we did pretty well again financially. Paul, as usual, did his outstanding job of keeping everything well organized and on track. Once again, we had the ability to take credit card payments thanks to Norm and Betty Carol Smith. Chuck Marr took over the "contact central" duties that day, taking last minute orders, and dealing with special problems.

That kind of back-up support makes it easy for the quartets to focus on the fun task of delivering the valentines. I suspect we will have some interesting stories to share again this year. When we were having some difficulty connecting with a recipient, we got the sender on his cell phone to double check arrangements, and it turned out he was a barbershopper out delivering valentines himself, in Minnesota.

We should not underestimate the positive impact that we make on our image in the community. I have had several friends comment on seeing our "white coats" out and about that day!

So, thanks to all who helped make this project successful once again!

Looking ahead, even beyond contest, I want to direct our attention to a sing out in June. We have been booked to sing at Eskaton on the evening of June 9th. The date has been on our calendar, but apparently not everyone has made note of it. This paid appearance came about as a result of our singing for the retired Methodist clergy group last spring. One couple present that evening are resi-

(Continued on page 3)

REVIEWING MUSIC and PERFORMANCE

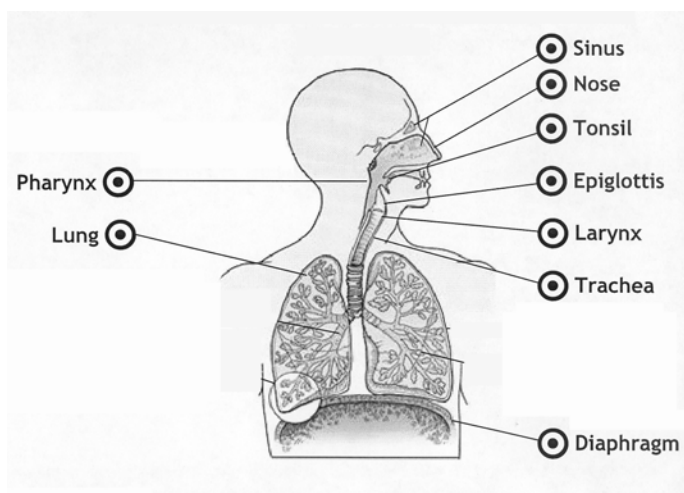
BY KEITH SLATER, VP MUSIC & PERFORMANCE



First of all, I would like to thank each and every one of you that attended the retreat in Foresthill a few weeks ago. Besides being a little chilly, the weather turned out perfectly for a weekend in the mountains. I know that it is not easy to spend an entire weekend away from home and family obligations, but I hope you agree that it was time well spent. I want to take this opportunity to reinforce some of the highlights of the retreat.

Our coaches, Royce Ferguson and Gabe Caretto, did a great job of honing our singing skills. I was hearing sounds I have never heard before from the Capitolaire, which was both amazing and enlightening. Royce's approach was to have us sing with lots of air, open the breathing mechanism to allow the tone to be generated in the larynx, then allow the air to resonate in the space above the soft palate. It is interesting that when we all concentrated on singing in this manner, we were suddenly singing in-tune, matching our vowel sounds and the expansion of sound that resulted was incredible. It gives me "goose bumps" just to think of it. I was also surprised at how effortless it seemed to sing in this manner.

To help illustrate the parts of human anatomy that are used in singing, please see the diagram below.



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**WHO IN YOUR CHILDREN'S SCHOOL
SHOULD BE SINGING
BARBERSHOP??
INVITE THEM TO A CHAPTER MEETING TO
GIVE THEM A TASTE OF BARBERSHOP.**

**BARBERSHOPPER WANNABE**

BY JOE SAMORA



Well Fellas, it has been six months since I was warmly greeted by the Capitolaires and stepped into the lead section to create some harmony. I appreciate your camaraderie and acceptance.

Watching the chorus rehearse "Rainbows" for the Pasadena competition, singing in the State Capitol rotunda, performing in the Holiday Show at the Towe Museum (as an elf) and serenading seniors in assisted living homes all were great experiences.

More recently my wife and I attended the officer installation and learned the "Art of Possibilities" plus "Rule 6" (Don't take yourself too seriously). Something I need to work on.

This past weekend, attending the Barbershop retreat in Foresthill capped my quest for musical fulfillment. Singing among the pines was "a blast" but most importantly I learned from Coach Royce that each of us is personally responsible for peak performance. I feel empowered to do my best and contribute to the Capitolaires. I know with your support and the capable leadership of Bill Borah, we are destined for new opportunities in 2006. Thank you, Al James, for sponsoring me.

I started Barbershopping too late to achieve my 50 year pin unless I live to be 116, however the rest of my life I can enjoy the musical journey because...

I am a Barbershopper.

Gratefully,
New Joe

(Continued from page 2)

dents of Eskaton, and managed to convince the powers that be that they should book us for a show. I hope everyone will save the date! This will help ease the financial pain of losing the Sacramento Jazz Jubilee!

We would like to do some summer Sunday mornings at some churches again this year. All those we sang for last summer, as I understand it, would like to have us back! If there are other opportunities we should be considering, that information should get to Keith or Bill rather soon.

BARBERSHOP HISTORY QUIZ

Author: Mark Axelrod, editor of "Blue Chip Chatter," Teaneck, NJ.

- 1- What is the proper musical term for the chord we all know and love as the barbershop 7th?
- 2- From what non-society event did SPEBSQSA get the idea of the format for our own competitions?
- 3- When did choruses begin to compete?
- 4- Who won the first international chorus contest and where was it held?
- 5- When did the society headquarters move to Kenosha, and where was it previously?

(Answers on page 4)

(Valentine continued from page 1)

The assistance of the Capital Forum was also invaluable, as usual. A special thanks to Jim Corson, Tom Reeves and Gary Heal who helped me get the packages together to give to the quartets. Jim Corson also spent two days acting as dispatcher which is a critical function in making sure everything goes smoothly. Chuck Marr sat by the phone on Valentines Day taking last minute orders.

It appears we will gross approximately \$4,400.00 most of which is profit.

All of the quartets had a great time delivering the Singing Valentines.



River City Music Company with Larry Larsson, Gib Hertler, Jim Newlove, and Winston Char presenting Valentine to Mary Prowense.

HAVE YOU SENT IN YOUR INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION FOR THE FWD SPRING CONVENTION?



Barbershoppers of the Month for JANUARY 2006

After due consideration, there were four of our members deserving of the Barbershopper of the Month for January 2006.

Clark Abrahamson for his outstanding coordination of the Capitolaire's involvement with the Barbershop Harmony Society's Mid Winter Convention in Sacramento.



Norm Smith for organizing the youth of our area into the Young Men in Harmony program for the Mid Winter Convention in Sacramento.



Joe Sisson for designing and building the storage corner at Pilgrim Hall to hold the chapter's equipment. This allows the equipment to be readily accessible and secure.



Don Salz for making arrangements and organizing the most successful Capitolaire's annual banquet. The slide show of the year's activities shown during the cocktail hour prepared by Rosye Salz was a big hit at the banquet.



THE STATE OF THE TREASURY



The Capitolaire's finished the year 2005 with all bills paid and current. Last year, our revenue was \$34,580 and our expenditures totaled \$37,859. Because we had money in savings we made it through the year. Therefore, we have started out the year 2006 tight or for lack of a better word, short, of the money that is needed to operate this chapter without a strained financial structure.

Until we come up with many functions that provide a profit, we will have a harder time trying to meet the long-range goals of the chapter. As of January 1, 2006 we had \$3585 in checking and savings. With monthly expected payments totaling about \$1000 and little money expected to come in, I have become concerned.

Thus ends a "short" report on the State of the Treasury of the Capitolaire's in 2006.

FAR WESTERN DISTRICT QUARTET PRELIMS AND NCENN CONTEST TO BE HELD AT JOHN ASCUAGAS' NUGGET

Dick Girvin, Acting C&J Chairman, Feb 20, 2006, announced the list of contestants for the Spring Prelims and the NCENN contests at Reno/Sparks Nevada the week-end of March 17-19.

NorCal East Quartets: (7)

Good Time Harmony
Highway 49
Late Show
The Lucky Four
Tune Struck
Twilight Time
Wild Cards

NorCal East Choruses(7)

Central California
Folsom
Fresno
Nevada Placer
North Valley
Sacramento
Stockton

FWD Spring International Quartet Prelims:(16)

Equinox
Expedia
Good Time Harmony
Harmony 101
Highway 49
It's About Time
Late Show
Men-So-Forte
Metropolis
OC Times
Stardust
Shades of Blue
Tune Struck
Uncalled Four
Vocal Ease
Wild Cards

(Answers from page 3)

1- The dominant seventh, so called because it is built on the dominant (or 5th degree) of the scale and on the 7th degree of the scale.

2- The NYC Parks Department Barbershop Quartet Contest, run by the dearly loved or hated, mostly hated, Parks Commissioner Robert Moses. This was an annual event from 1923 to 1960.

3- Although choruses existed since the mid-1940's (I have thus far been unable to pin down the exact start-up date of the first one), chorus competitions did not occur until 1952, but then only two districts, Johnny Appleseed and Land O' Lakes, entered contestants. The following year the chorus competition became a society-wide event.

4 - The Washington, D.C. Chorus in their own hometown.

5- SPEBSQSA headquarters moved to Kenosha, WI, in 1957, from its earlier site in Detroit, MI, where it had been since 1943. With the move came a new name... Harmony Hall.



YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT.

When the pitchpipe sounds, please exercise that right!



QUARTET CORNER

4T9R4 ENTERTAINS THE MODEL A FORD CLUB OF AMERICA



4T9R4 with Steve Mathews, tenor; Verne Bagby, lead; Tony Prowence, bass; and Lind Bishop, baritone.

Our Capitolaire quartet, **4T9R4**, entertained the more than 250 members and guests of the Model A Ford Club of America at their welcome buffet dinner at the Towe Auto Museum in Sacramento.

The Model A Club of America boasts over 15,000 members nationwide. They were having their 2005 annual membership meeting and banquet at the Red Lion Inn in Sacramento.

One of the highlights of the entertainment by the **4T9R4** was the singing of "My Old Model A" written by Lind Bishop especially for the event. You might like the words, sung to the tune of "My Wild Iris Rose."



My old Model A,
I love it more each day.
You may search near and far,
It's the best little car,
And if I had my way,
I'd junk all the rest.
Ship them all way-out west,
Dump them all at sea,
How happy I'd be,
When I drive off in my old
Model A.
Some day,
We'll all drive an old Model A
(echo) Old Model A



AMBASSADORS WILL SING AT THE OPENING OF IKEA

The **Ambassadors** will sing for the Grand Opening of the IKEA superstore in West Sacramento March 4 (2-5 pm) and March 5 (noon – 2 pm). Exit Interstate 80 at Reed, turn right to 700 IKEA Court.

We enjoyed delivering Singing Valentines, as usual. This was our third year with Rosye singing tenor. No one ever looked better in a tuxedo! On February 13th, to advertise our Singing Valentines, we sang on **Sacramento & Company**, a local magazine show on CBS, for the second time in a month. They are great over there at News 10. Next time, maybe the whole chorus could sing for the show, perhaps to promote our 60th anniversary in June.



The Ambassadors with Don Salz, lead; Rosye Salz, tenor; Don Sheffield, bass; and David Wilder, baritone

INTERNET BARBERSHOPPING

By Alan LeVezu and Eric Brickson, Co-Host of 4-Cast

4-Cast Number 9 is now available on your computer at <http://4-cast.tv>

This issue of 4-Cast, the only podcast dedicated strictly to barbershop music, features two special interviews. The first with Dale Syverson and Peggy Gram, **SAI Queens of Harmony**, directors, judges, coaches, etc and the second with Joe Liles. If you need an introduction to Joe Liles, just type his name into Google.

Plus you get to learn a brand new tag from Raymond Davis, and you get to hear the two hosts ramble on about a bunch of unrelated things.



NOTES FROM AROUND THE BARBERPOLE



From Bill Seibel

Note the passing of Munson Hinman on January 29. He was a long time barbershopper with a considerable barbershopping history. He was a 50 year member of "SPEBSQSA". His obituary was in the Sacto Bee February 22 & 23.

I don't believe Munson ever joined the Capitolairens and was, for a short time only, a member of the Folsom Chapter several years ago. He seemed to prefer Frank Thorne status. He was a controversial chap in barbershopping circles, but was a talented arranger, singer and musician. Nevertheless, with more than a half dozen arrangements published by The Barbershop Harmony Society. Far more about him than you can ever want to know can be found on his web site at www.hinmanfamily.com/biog01.htm.

U4EA will be singing a couple of numbers at his memorial service February 25.

This you gotta hear

Go to: <http://www.honda.co.uk/civic/>

It's a car commercial scored with a choir making the car sounds. Then there's a mini-documentary on how the music was done.

Go to the site, get through the intro, then hit "Watch."

SUNSHINE REPORT

It was good to see **Chuck Meyer** back on the risers on February 21st,



Jim McKenzie is at home in Gridley and recovering nicely from triple by-pass surgery. He still feels a little weak from the operation, but is walking every day and gaining strength. He is looking forward to singing with the Capitolairens.

FROM THE EDITOR

The goal of Swipes and Tags is to provide members with timely and relevant information about the chapter members and activities. **If you have friends who would like to receive a copy by e-mail, send me their e-mail address.** Do you have some barbershop stories to share? Send them to me. The deadline for the April issue will be Tuesday, March 21. Contact Alan Swanson 916-786-6018 or e-mail to Ahswanson@surewest.net



Grandfather-Father-Son Chorus Slated for Indy

The beloved family singing event returns for the 2006 international convention.

Share the big stage with your family! The Grandfather/Father/Son Chorus will perform on the main stage in the Conesco Field House during the convention.

Tom Metzger, bass of **Realtime** and his father Charlie, bari of seniors medalist **Antique Gold** will share directing duties. Those Metzgers know about family singing; with brother Mark (Realtime bari), they sang with Charlie in international semi-finalist **Counterpoint**.

A \$15 fee for each singer will cover shipping sheet music and part-predominant learning tapes in advance, and a performance shirt to be distributed at Indy.

The rehearsal will be between 3:30 – 4:30 PM on Friday, July 7th.

The chorus will be limited to 200 singers. Deadline for sign-up will be May 15th. Sign-up will soon be on the Society's website, but until then, contact Jim DeBusman event coordinator via his email: jdebusman@barbershop.org

ACOUSTIX ARE PERFORMING IN LODI

On March 30, 2006, the Lodi Community Concert Association will be presenting "An Evening With ACOUSTIX" at the Charlene Powers Lange Performing Arts Theatre at 125 South Hutchins Street, Lodi, California 95240.

Over a two-hour period, this award-winning quartet will be performing music from all five of their compact discs, plus some new selections, including their 10-minute, 54-song medley of TV themes. This special concert begins at 7:30pm and the doors open at 7pm.

Tickets are \$27 and may be ordered online at: http://www.ticketfusion.com/store/one/?store_id=7213&page_type=sched



Music is the only language in which you cannot say a mean or sarcastic thing.

John Erskine (1879 - 1951)



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BY FRANK KINNISON,
SECRETARY



Feb 2006 Board Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 AM by President Jim Corson with the singing of "The Old Song". Jim reported that Joe Samora has volunteered to handle the Entertainment Books.

The minutes of the prior meeting were approved as sub-

mitted. Treasurer, Tom Reaves reported that we received a check from the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission and that we are solvent with \$5,800 in the bank. Tom's report was accepted as submitted.

Keith Slater, Music and Performance VP, reported on the rollout success of our new song and that the Chorus is registered for the contest in Sparks 3/16-19/2006. Plans for our 2006 Retreat were discussed. Coaches will be Royce Ferguson and Gabe Caretto. Keith reviewed the schedule and the rollout of the performance standards which includes the music team's role to encourage, mentor, support, and provide remediation for chapter members. An attendance chart will be posted at chapter meeting. Notes and Charts from "How to Build a Better Chorus" video will be used at rehearsals as support material to reinforce good singing skills. He reported that a sub-group is looking at a possible new uniform prior to the contest in Sparks. The music team wants to schedule summer church sing outs again this year and recommends a late summer or early fall retreat or single day workshop for the chorus.

Dave Jones, Public Relations VP, reported that work during January consisted of helping advertise for Singing Valentines quartets. News releases with our Chorus photo were sent to all regional, daily, and weekly newspapers. Dave is planning to meet with Clark Abrahamson and Jim Newlove later in February to map out a strategy to increase and retain membership and create great public awareness through proactive public relations and marketing efforts.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 AM with the singing of "Keep The Whole World Singing".



"THAT'S GOING TO COST THEM STAGE
PRESENCE POINTS:"

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

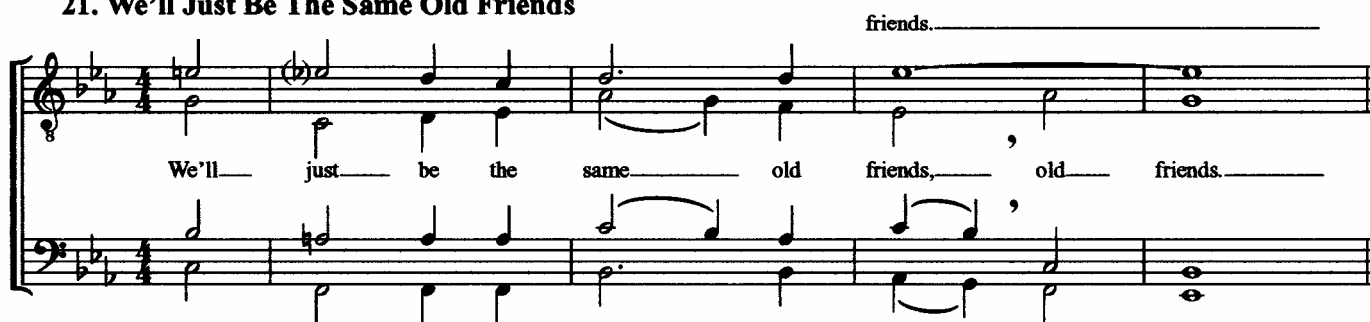
Cal Smith	03-07*
Dennis Gliebe	03-15
John King	03-30
Don Salz	03-30
Bill Seibel	03-30

*Chapter Night



TAG OF THE MONTH

21. We'll Just Be The Same Old Friends



Carl Dahlke, 1965
Sung by the Auto Towners

2006 CALENDAR SUMMARY

MARCH

4 9-11 Board Meeting
16-19 FWD Spring Convention NCENN Division
Contest, Sparks

APRIL

1 9-11 Board Meeting

MAY

6 9-11 Board Meeting

JUNE

3 9-11 Board Meeting
6 6-10PM Nevada Placer Bean Feed
9 Sing Out at Eskaton
tba Capitolaire Founders Day

July

2-9 International Convention, Indianapolis
15 9-11 Board Meeting
16 Stockton Area Picnic
21-23 Harmony College West at Redlands

August

5 9-11 Board Meeting

September

9 Cabaret Show
16 9-11 Board Meeting
22-24 YMIH Camp, Sly Park
26 Board Elections
? Show ?



SWIPES & TAGS

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Address Correction Requested



THE SACRAMENTO CAPITOLAIRES MEET EVERY TUESDAY AT 7:00 PM IN THE PILGRIM HALL OF SIERRA
ARDEN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, 890 MORSE AVENUE AT NORTHRUP AVENUE