



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.



VOLUME 60 ISSUE 5

CHARTERED JUNE 14, 1946

MAY 2006

CAPITOLAIRE'S QUARTETS SPREADING HARMONY



Silver Springs, Nevada school performing with **The Ambassadors**



The **4T9r4** quartet performed two "Olios" between acts of the 1890's melodrama "The Fortune Hunter's Daughter" presented by the Lake of the Pines players during the weekend of April 1 & 2. The quartet includes Steve Mathews, tenor; Verne Bagby, lead; Tony Prowence, bass; and Lynd Bishop, baritone.

The Ambassadors sang for 400 Silver Springs, NV, K-4th graders on St. Patrick's Day, the day before the FWD convention in Reno. Bass, Don Sheffield, and his wife, Sally, are grandparents to two of the children. The proud grandparents raided the party store for props to make the event more special. Sally Sheffield dressed up a quartet of boys in green derbys and vests to act out "My Wild Irish Rose" and four little girls (including two special granddaughters) were bathing beauties in outrageous sunglasses during "Under the Boardwalk." Though we sang for 30 minutes, the kids were loving every minute of it and gave us the feeling we could have sung for 30 more.



Silver Springs, Nevada school learning about barbershop singing from **The Ambassadors**

Upcoming events include a lunchtime delivery of a prom invitation to a boy at Jesuit High School, Sun City Roseville 10th Anniversary Celebration, Annual Dinner for the Railroad Museum volunteers and a birthday party for a 90-year-young lady (we sang for her older sister's 90th two years ago).



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**THE SACRAMENTO CAPITOLAIRES MEET EVERY TUESDAY AT 7:00 PM at
SIERRA ARDEN CHURCH OF CHRIST, 890 MORSE AVENUE AT NORTHRUP**



PRESIDENT'S CHORDS

BY JIM CORSON, PRESIDENT



As I look ahead over the next several months, I am aware that there are a lot of things on the schedule about which we have not talked much. So for those of you who are into advance calendar planning, and who take time to read this column, I want to review some coming activities. I guess that implies that if you are not into advance planning, you don't need to read the rest of this column!

As far as May goes, I expect everyone is up to date on our sing out at Folsom Dam on the 19th. We will have a part in the celebration of the dam's 50th anniversary. We need not be surprised, I have checked and learned that the church will be hosting the Family Promise Housing Program the last of the month, so we will have our meeting in the Sanctuary on the 23rd.

The first Tuesday in June 5, we will be dark so that all who wish may participate in the Nevada Placer Bean Feed and Quartet Contest in Auburn. On the 9th we have a sing out booked for Eskaton Village on Walnut Avenue in Carmichael. This is a direct result of our sing out last year for the retired Methodist clergy group, one couple who were there that evening are Eskaton residents and lobbied for us to be booked to sing there.

On the 18th, I expect we will be singing for the morning worship at St. Marks UMC as we did last year. We are working on two more church dates. One is July 30th for our host church, Sierra Arden UCC. The other is a return engagement at Gib's church, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Granite Bay.

The final item of note on the June calendar is the observance of our Founder's Day, which has been scheduled for June 20. We will mark our 60th anniversary.

July brings the International Convention in Indianapolis at the beginning of the month, then on Sunday the 16th, the Stockton Area Picnic at Micke Grove, Harmony College West at Redlands the 21st to the 23rd.

August events include the Sacramento Area Quartet Workshop VII (SAQWA VII) and a coaching session being set up by Bill and the music team for Saturday the 19th. Again in August, the church hosts Family Promise and our Tuesday meeting on the 22nd will be in the Sanctuary once again.

If you like to work with dates in advance, I invite you to transcribe these into your calendar now. I have!



REVIEWING MUSIC and PERFORMANCE

BY KEITH SLATER, VP MUSIC & PERFORMANCE



For the first time in at least 10 years, we won't be performing at the Sacramento Jazz Jubilee later this month. While this is unfortunate, I believe there is always a silver lining in every cloud. By not having the demands of preparing for such a key program at a busy time of year, we have the opportunity to take some extra time to tackle a new song, "Mardi Gras March/South Rampart Street Parade Medley", which frankly, is a bit more challenging than most of the songs in our current repertoire. During our retreat earlier this year, we learned from Royce Ferguson how to sing effortlessly and in tune. The music team is very proud of what the chorus has accomplished during the past year and those that attended the retreat agreed that we want to continue improving our singing skills. Although the new song may be more difficult to master, it will be a very FUN song to sing, especially with some strategically planned stage presence. We feel that this song will be a great addition to our repertoire and we plan to combine it with "Way Down Yonder in New Orleans", for our FWD Contest package. These two songs will also be featured in our Cabaret Show planned for early September.

Lastly, please help the music team by checking your name on the large attendance chart every Tuesday that you attend the chapter meeting. We also ask that you indicate on this chart if you plan to perform with the chorus at upcoming events. This information is a great way for us to know who will be available to sing in each voice part prior to an event. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask anyone on the music team.



Opening Night 2006 Annual Show

May 6th, 2003 at 7:30 PM

Campbell Heritage Theatre

1 W. Campbell Avenue
Campbell, California, 95008

For Tickets go to:

http://www.vihchorus.org/2006AnnualShowOrdering_Heritage.htm
Dress Circle \$31, Adult seating \$21, Student/Senior \$16

Problems or questions?

Email tickets@vihchorus.org or call 925-443-7464.

100 Ways You Can Take Part in Your Chapter

From: www.barbershop.org/web/groups/public/documents/pages/pub_cb_00062.hcsp

- Bring a guest to rehearsal once a year.
- Show up early and help set up the risers.
- At the end of rehearsal, help take down the section of risers you are standing on.
- Thank the director for all of his/her effort.
- Thank your chorus administration for all of their work.
- Bring in doughnuts on your "barbershop anniversary" night - bring in a special treat for after rehearsal.
- Don't talk on the risers and don't let others talk on the risers.
- Smile. Act like you're enjoying your hobby and show it (let the director know you're "really" there).
- Take your quartet to retirement homes and share your hobby. Family members are often there visiting and recruiting new members is part of your performance.
- Volunteer to do a little more than you really want to in fundraising or committee work.
- Take your camera to chorus functions and turn in the pictures to your history book/scrapbook person.
- Subscribe to the Harmonet and print out hints & suggestions that look applicable to your chorus and pass them on.
- Talk to two or three people (before, during break or after rehearsal) that you normally don't talk to.
- When you are at social gatherings, quartet performances, etc. always talk about your chapter, you never know where your next guest might be.
- Surprise an ill member with a card or a phone call. Call an absent member and let him know you missed him.
- Offer to clean the chapter's storage facility or update the inventory.
- Keep your comments to yourself concerning choreography and costumes, especially when on the risers.
- Learn your part (words, notes, choreography, stage presentation) early so you can help the slow learners & new people.
- Offer to car-pool with others when possible.
- Learn to use a pitch-pipe and then memorize the keys to songs in the chorus repertoire.
- Go to Harmony College and other regional/district/international education events whenever possible.
- **Offer to help the newsletter/bulletin editor with whatever you can do.**
- **Write an article for your newsletter/bulletin.**
- **Review a barbershop show or album for your newsletter/bulletin.**
- Volunteer to work with an experienced member to learn a new chapter administration skill.
- Start a chapter quartet.
- Encourage the formation of chapter quartets.
- Offer to help an officer.
- Take a non-meeting night to help another baritone (or lead, or tenor, or bass) learn his/her part.
- Don't come to rehearsal with a contagious sore throat or anything else you could spread around.
- Be on the risers (or wherever you normally rehearse) 5 minutes early and eager to start.

**Barbershopper of the Month
for
March 2006 is
THE LUCKY FOUR**

Our chapter quartet, **The Lucky Four**, includes Norm Smith, tenor; Frank Kinnison, lead; Ed Comingore, baritone; and Les Cudworth, base. **The Lucky Four** showed the Capitolaire and the Far Western District that a new quartet can compete as a novice quartet. Congratulations to the men of **The Lucky Four**.



The Lucky Four including l-r, Ed Comingore, baritone; Norm Smith, tenor; Les Cudworth, base; and in front, Frank Kinnison, lead.

THE NEVADA-PLACER CHAPTER

PRESENTS THE 15TH ANNUAL

**"SOMEWHAT SERIOUS" INTERCHAPTER
QUARTET CONTEST
AND
CONCESSION BEAN FEED**

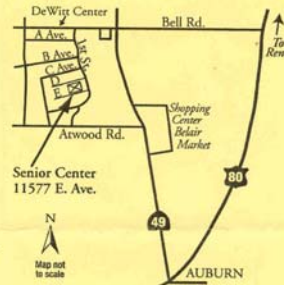
DATE: JUNE 6, 2006(Tuesday)

TIME: 6:00 p.m. DINNER
7:30 p.m. CONTEST

LOCATION: SENIOR CENTER
11577 E AVE.
DE WITT CENTER

CONTEST RULES

1. QUARTET MUST HAVE A NAME.
2. NO MORE THAN TWO MEMBERS FROM A REGISTERED OR ORGANIZED QUARTET.
3. QUARTET SINGS ONLY ONE SONG.
4. A MAN MAY SING IN MAXIMUM OF THREE QUARTETS, BUT MUST CHANGE VOICE PART IN ONE QUARTET.
5. MATCHING ATTIRE OPTIONAL.
6. LIMITED TO 25 ENTRIES.
7. PLEASE SEE NO. 2 ABOVE.



M.C. – To be announced

JUDGES – THE BEST MONEY CAN BUY–

NEVADA – PLACER CHAPTER – JUNE 6, 2006

SOMEWHAT SERIOUS INTERCHAPTER QUARTET CONTEST

QUARTET NAME _____

NAME _____

CHAPTER

TENOR

LEAD

BARI

BASS

MAIL TO: ROGER FOX, 17406 INCLINE WAY, PENN VALLEY, CA 95946 rnpfox@yahoo.com (DO IT NOW!)



The Impossible Dream!

Brothers draw inspiration from brother's sons to become champs.

*By Charlie Metzger, Baritone of **Antique Gold***

Some people need an example very close to home in order to get their motivational house in order. **Realtime** was just the group to provide a motivational boost to **Antique Gold**. You see, the Metzger boys in **Realtime**, Tom and Mark, are my sons and, of course, nephews to my brother, George. With John and Tim, they won before they really intended to do so, expecting a medal but not expecting the gold. **Realtime**, just naturally being themselves, making music the way they thought best, won it all and became International Quartet Champions in Salt Lake City in 2005.

Antique Gold had competed four times before at the Mid-winter Seniors Quartet Contest, placing second in 2004 and fifth in 2005 (not the right direction, I know. We realized that if we could win in 2006, Tom, George, and two more Metzger brothers would bring gold to **Evergreen** and to the **Gentlemen of Fortune**. We would add four gold medals to Canada's medal count, and could wind up on stage with **Realtime** on the Saturday night show in Sacramento! Reason enough for all of us!

Well, we worked hard. We got coaching from members of **Realtime**, from Marty Lovick, and from Sandy Robinson. We went to the Top Gun school and got some great coaching there. We rehearsed more often, making sure that we fit in a rehearsal session after every coaching session. We were more ready than we had ever been.

Arriving in Sacramento on Thursday, we spent a pleasant day Friday seeing the sights and attending the evening show. We were relaxed and singing well, performing now and again for groups of people – no pressure! Saturday we slept in a while, had a leisurely breakfast and went to the Gold Medal Hour with the Champs session where **Realtime** was sharing their story. That's when some of life's dissonance endangered our plans!

George Wakeham, our lead, had experienced a difficult night, was on a few medications, was fighting off a cold with Cold Fx, had a very light breakfast, and was severely

dehydrated and exhausted. Near the end of the session, he passed out, slumped in his chair unconscious, supported only by Pat Bates, the wife of Tom Bates, our tenor. People revived him. He sat up. He passed out again. Doctors advised. The paramedics came, and brother George, bass, traveled with lead, George, to the hospital for tests.

Tom and I went to our rooms to cool our heels and wait for news. Tom was a worried man singin' a worried song, and I immersed myself in some interstellar science fiction space opera, preferring that to the opera that was playing itself out in real life.

At the hospital, the nurse discovered that the saline IV George had been given in the ambulance was not properly in a vein and got it flowing. It's amazing what a little saline can do for someone who is severely dehydrated. George's status changed from "zombie" to "Zowie, let me out of here I need to sing!!" in short order. After a final test, the doctor cleared him for harmonious relations and brother George called to advise Tom and me to get dressed and ready. Tom had arranged for us to compete last.

George and George arrived and off we went to the theatre. We rehearsed a little, and sang – surprisingly well, we thought, under the circumstances. We lived through the countdown to learn that we, indeed, had won the contest, marginally ahead of a strong group of quartets. Joyfully up to the stage for trophy and medals we went.

We were squired over to the AISQC reception and duly inducted. The capper, though, was getting to perform on stage the song we had practiced with **Realtime**. It was now even more appropriate: "*The Quest – To Dream the Impossible Dream!*" **Antique Gold** and **Realtime**, all brothers together with half the octet Metzger brothers singing bass and baritone. It was **Antique Gold's** best singing ever! Exaltation, standing ovation and the elation of sharing barbershop love in one of the most profound ways – an experience of a lifetime.

Hm. And now Tom has two little boys. I wonder if sometime in the early 2030s...

FROM THE SOCIETY WEB SITE

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.

The June issue will be the FOUNDERS EDITION. Do you have some barbershop stories to share? Photos of your quartet from the past? Send them to me. The deadline for the June issue will be Tuesday, May 23. Contact Alan Swanson 916-786-6018 or e-mail to Ahswanson@surewest.net

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Al James	05-10
Jim Minoudis	05-12
Bill Borah	05-13
Tom Haag	05-14
Keith Slater	05-16*
Stephen Mathews	05-27

*Chapter Night



A H S O W ANCIENT HARMONIOUS SOCIETY OF WOODSHEDDERS

CONTRIBUTION FROM CASEY PARKER AND
<http://www.harmonize.com/ahsow/>

Register online now! <http://secure.spebsqsa.org/HarmonyUniversity/index.aspx>

The Barbershop Harmony Society will return to **St. Joseph, MO July 30-August 6, 2006** for an upgraded, exciting, new Harmony University.

While Missouri Western State University is the same location we have held Harmony College in the past, it is definitely **NOT** the same place. Significant remodeling and new meeting space (with room for more people) has once again made it an excellent fit for one of the most exciting weeks in barbershop...**Harmony University!**



Harmony College West
July 21-23, 2006
Redlands, CA

The primary purposes are to

- Coach quartets of all skill levels
- Teach individual barbershop skills
- Meet, work, and sing with top quartets

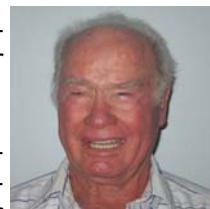
Our coaching gold medal quartet this year is **Happiness Emporium**. They are well known for the entertainment value of their performances. They'll be a big part of our Saturday night show too.

The Saturday night show will be pretty special. Each of the quartets that are coached over the weekend will be performing one song to show how they have progressed. Then along with **Happiness Emporium** we'll have **Star-dust**, the FWD 2005 second place quartet. And we'll have the current district chorus champ **Westminster** on the show too.

Deadline for registration is **Wednesday, June 21, 2006**, so sign up now to be sure you get the class you want. Cost for the weekend event is only \$150 per person which includes 5 meals, two nights lodging, and a pizza afterglow on Saturday night. If you are attending as an individual and plan to commute and do not need a room, the cost is \$95 per person. Every quartet must have at least one member housed on the campus.

For more information and registration forms go to <http://spebsqsafwd.org/hcw-uor/index.html>

Two members of the Sacramento Capitolaire, Dusty Rhoads and Dave Wilder have qualified as members of AHSOW.



Dusty Rhoads

In order to qualify for membership in AHSOW, you must sing at least two harmony parts of your choice (tenor, bari or bass) to three or more melodies not of your own choosing. You must satisfactorily demonstrate your proficiency (generally 75% accuracy, at minimum, with good instincts) to the certifier.



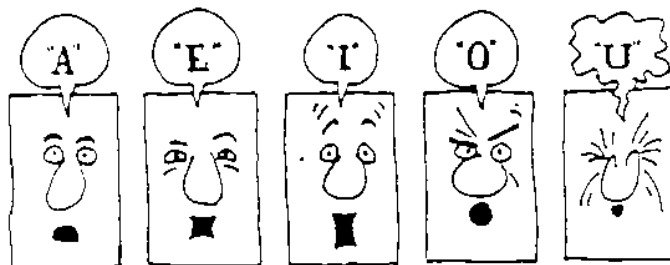
Dave Wilder

Woodshedding is how our Society began: three individual voices (tenor, bari & bass) harmonizing to a lead's melody without reference to any written arrangement. An intensely pleasurable experience for the four singers involved, woodshedding is meant for their ears only rather than for general audiences'. Of course, anyone wishing to become more adept at the art of woodshedding is welcome to listen.

As the idea of woodshedding is to ring chords rather than "sing songs," the best "woodshed" melodies strongly imply many barbershop-7th chords and are readily harmonized by those with a fair sense of our style's chord progressions and the production of overtones. There are so many existing and undiscovered "woodsheddable" melodies that we will always have a great variety of material to enjoy! Also, woodshedders are free to pitch songs where the singing is comfortable

Woodshedding isn't done by more than four singers at a time, except during a group-learning process or when a novice needs to hear barbershop chords; woodshedding isn't "faking" a fourth part along with three singers who are replicating an existing written barbershop arrangement; and woodshedding isn't singing polecat songs, tags, or other music that is highly stylized.

Congratulations to Dusty and Dave.



Waiting at a stoplight? Enunciating the vowels helps exercise facial muscles while killing time.



NOTES FROM AROUND THE BARBERPOLE



JUNE 10

1:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Special Guest Quartet
The Perfect Gentlemen

1:00 PM—\$20.00

7:00 PM—\$25.00

Student—\$15.00

Merlo Theatre Wells Fargo Center (LBS)
50 West Springs Rd
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
For Tickets Visit
www.redwoodchordsmen.com
Or call Beverly Wall
(707) 538-7000

JUST FOR PHUN

The Singing Fish

Lead: Hey, Chris! How's your new pet fish doing? You told me he was really something special.

Tenor: To tell you the truth, I'm really disappointed in him. The guy who sold him to me said I could teach him to sing like a bird.

Lead: You bought a fish because you thought you could teach him to sing like a bird? I can't believe it!

Tenor: Well, yeah. After all, he's a parrot fish.

Lead: I hate to tell you this, Chris, but while you might be able to teach a parrot bird to sing, you're never going to get anywhere with a parrot fish.

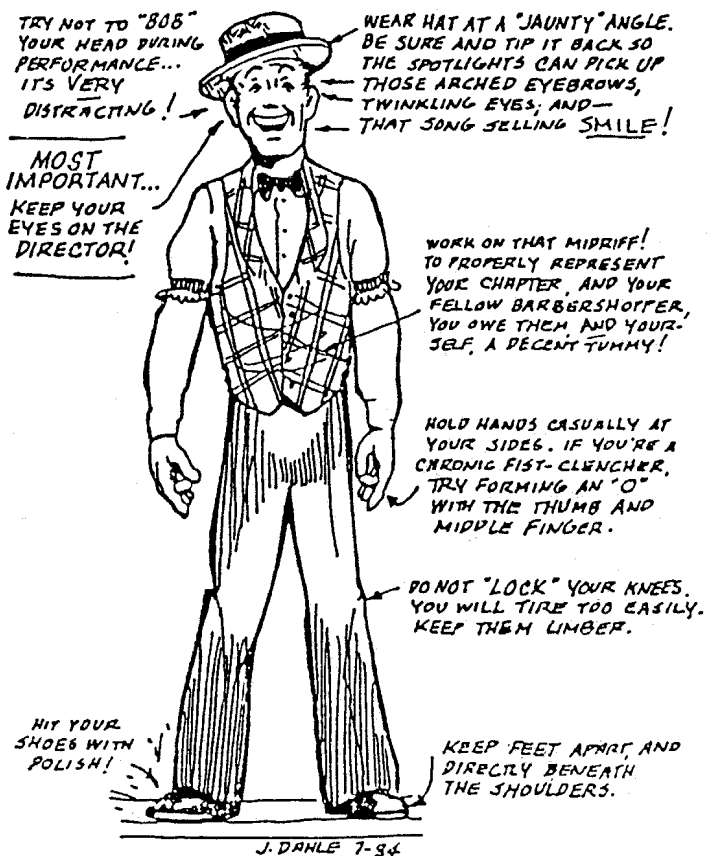
Tenor: That's what you think! He can sing all right. The thing is, he keeps singing off-key. It's driving me crazy. Do you know how hard it is to tuna fish?

(Chapter continued from page 3)

- Offer to help any standing committee in which you are interested.
- Videotape the chorus in rehearsal.
- Turn in your recordings to your section leader anytime prior to the deadline.
- Volunteer to do anything.
- Don't wait to be asked to do a job, volunteer. How will anyone know that you're interested if you don't express your desire to get involved?
- Bring a portable humidifier or vaporizer along to contests to help keep you and your roommates' vocal apparatuses hydrated.
- Sing everyday! Use proper technique of breathing and vocalizing regularly to the point that good singing is natural for you.
- Return from breaks on time.
- Bring a tape recorder to rehearsal - and use it.
- Teach a tag.
- Write a tag and then teach it.
- Contribute to your chapter's charity fund.
- Don't invite prospective members to a chorus rehearsal where the chorus will be spending three solid hours on the risers. Varied meetings/rehearsals are the key to pleasing everyone.
- Learn show music quickly so it can be polished to contest standards.

SO THAT'S NOT 100! PICK ONE EACH MONTH AND DO IT!!! (EDITORS NOTE: ESPECIALLY #22,23 &24)

"RISER & STAGE DISCIPLINE"





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BY FRANK KINNISON,
SECRETARY



April 2006 Board Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM with the singing of "The Old Songs".

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as received. Treasurer, Tom Reaves, reported an income of

\$4,075 from Singing Valentines. Approximately \$8,600 is in the bank plus \$784 belonging to The Fore'um.

President, Jim Corson, reported that we will be receiving \$2,388.49 as our share of the net from the Midwinter Convention. In order to avoid future surprises Jim checked with the church as to when we are to meet in the Sanctuary. The dates are May 23, August 15 and October 17. Jim represented the Chapter at the House of Delegates meeting in Sparks during the convention where it was announced that Al Swanson was once again recipient of the 2nd place award in the district bulletin contest. Congratulations Alan.

Chapter Development and Membership VP, Jim Newlove, reported that he, Clark Abrahamson (Marketing) and Dave Jones (Public Relations) are continuing to plan for events that might bring in new members to our chapter and build public awareness of our Barber-shop Chapter. Plans are to have Saturday workshop/auditions for musicians and good singers in the Sacramento Area and Auditions for Admissions on a Saturday at a local mall. Research and fact finding is now being done and all who are interested in helping are encouraged. We are planning on having fliers available at the three church sing outs this summer, having a quartet sing for some college choirs and promoting guest singers to sing on our Christmas show.

Music and Performance VP, Keith Slater, reported that the Music Team reviewed the qualification process for performance events. We will use the new large attendance chart to track member's qualification for events and develop two notices that will be given to members who have missed 2 out of 13 rehearsals and then another when they have missed 3, so that they know they will need to make arrangements to qualify if they wish to participate. A new song was introduced on April 11 "Mardi Gras March/So. Rampart St. Parade Medley". The learning track and PDF will be available within a week.

Plans for Folsom Dam will include those members from the Folsom Chapter that wish to join us. Special rehearsals will be on 5/9 & 5/16 with Folsom singers 1st half of rehearsal. Dress will be new vest/ ties with white long sleeve shirt, tux pants. Folsom guys can wear red or white vests with same shirt/pants as us.

Plans for Summer 2006: Church sing outs – Tentative St. Mark's UM 6/25, Sierra Arden 7/30, Lutheran Church, Granite Bay 8/25; SAQW – target date 8/12 at DDSO (if available); coaching session with Marty Lovick (EVG) target date 8/19 at Sierra-Arden.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 AM with the singing of "Keep The Whole World Singing". All members are encouraged to attend.



TAG OF THE MONTH

110. After Today

Jay Giallombardo, 1971
Sung by the Acoustix

2006 CALENDAR SUMMARY

MAY

1		Music Team Meeting—Norm Smith's
6	9-11	Board Meeting—Library
19	6	Performance, Beals Point, Folsom Dam
23	7-10	Chapter meeting in the sactuary

JUNE

3	9-11	Board Meeting—Library
6	6-10PM	Nevada Placer Bean Feed No Chapter Meeting
9	6:30	Sing Out at Eskaton Village, Carmichael
18		Sing Out St. Mark's Church
20	7-10	Capitolaires Founders Day
30	?	Sing Out Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

JULY

2-9		International Convention, Indianapolis
10		Music Team Meeting
15	9-11	Board Meeting
16		Stockton Area Picnic at Micke Grove Park
21-23		Harmony College West at Redlands

AUGUST

5	9-11	Board Meeting
19		Sacramento Area Quartet Workshop (SAQW)
22	7-10	Chapter Meeting in the Sanctuary



SWIPES & TAGS

Alan Swanson, Editor
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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