

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen!

December 2005 Volume 05 - Issue 12

HARMONOTES

The monthly newsletter of Kansas City's

Heart of America Chorus

The second-oldest chapter in the
Barbershop Harmony Society



*Drawn by Harmony,...
Bound by Friendship,...
Striving for Excellence!*

Key HOA Events Loom Early In 2006

by Jim Bagby

It was, as the song says, a very good year. But I'll leave the 2005 rehash to the administrators. As the holiday season arrives, and we bask in the glow of another successful December show, I want to look ahead to the first major events of a promising 2006.

The awards/installation banquet always is one of my favorite events, for several reasons. Aren't you curious and excited to know who will be the new *HOA* Barbershopper of the Year? When the dinner unfolds on Jan. 13, will there be an Oz Newgard Award winner? The Ozzie recognition, for musical accomplishment, is not given every year. And who will be the John Cross Award recipient, for best attendance and service to the chapter?

Couple all that (and introduction of the Heartbeat of the Year) with installation of our 2006 officers and recognition of our outgoing leaders, and it makes for quite a night. In fact, I always wonder how anyone could NOT be a part of the festive evening. I'd urge you to attend this time if for no other reason than to stand and cheer **Marty Oldehoeft** for two hard-working terms as chapter president, during some challenging—and productive—times.

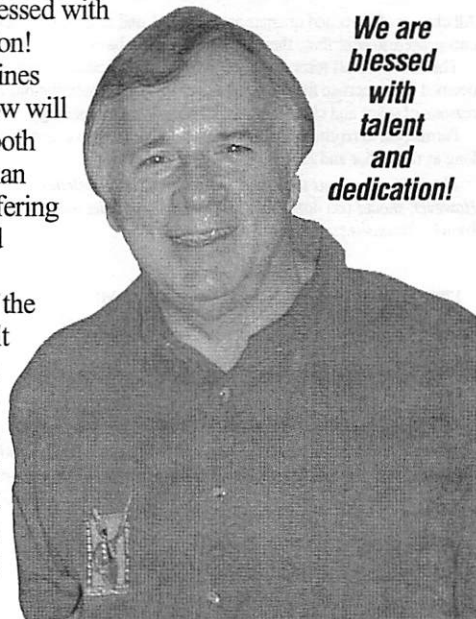
The same could be said for the music team lead once again the past year by **Keith Schweer**. He has worked tirelessly to make every dollar count in the service of our

most important product: music. My special thanks to the arm-waving team of **Mike Neff, Carter Combs** and **John Fortino** in furthering our mission.

Other key members of the team once again have included **Grant Hunget, Mark Fortino, Mike Schumacher, Don Young, Bruce Wenner, Phil Veltkamp, Darrell McCune, Harry Stewart, Mike Louque** plus the assistant section leaders and now the administrative section leaders. We are blessed with talent and dedication!

Singing Valentines and the March show will soon be upon us, both requiring lots of man hours, and both offering major intrinsic and financial rewards.

And that's one of the things so difficult to explain to an outsider about our hobby: how much more we get out of it than we put it in. (Continued on page 2 ♦)



*We are
blessed
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"HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A JOYOUS, HAPPY 2006!"

HARMONOTES

...is published by the board of directors of the Kansas City, MO., Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, a non-profit organization. Unless accompanied by a byline, all articles have been written by the Editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the officers and members of the chapter. Space will be made available for opposing points of view.

Heart of America Chorus

The Kansas City, MO. Chapter S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc.

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All chapter officers and quartets are expected, and chapter members encouraged, to contribute their ideas on a regular basis.

The editorial staff reserves the right to deny publication of material deemed inappropriate for *Harmonotes* and to edit all submissions for reasons of space and clarity (grammar, phrasing, and spelling).

Permission to reprint articles is granted to barbershop chapters as long as the author and *Harmonotes* are acknowledged.

The utmost care was used in preparation of this newsletter. However, should you notice erroneous copy, please let the Editor know! Comments/submissions may be made to:

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Chapter meets at 7 p.m. each Tuesday night, at:
St. Peter's United Church of Christ
110th & Holmes • Kansas City, MO 64105

The HOA Board of Directors meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of the month. Place TBA. Chapter members are welcome!

HOA Website: www.hoachorus.com
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(Continued from from cover)

At least, I hope you find that's true for you, too; if not, we need to talk!

Looking ahead, don't forget that Harmony College, now to be called Harmony University, returns to Missouri Western in St. Joseph this August. And it brings a new wrinkle: a weekend schedule and special tuition fee, Thursday night through Saturday night, for those who can't make the entire week. So here's a chance to experience a significant part of the "hot dip in barbershop" at a reduced cost. More on this later, but start planning now!

Meanwhile, from Joann and me, many thanks for allowing us to share your lives, and for all the effort you put into HOA. We know it's highly unlikely Kansas City would be 13-time CSD chorus champions if the *Ambassadors of Harmony* had not ascended to the gold. So we send out first and heartiest holiday wishes to St. Charles!

But we also would not hold those 13 district titles without the dedication and hard work of those in HOA, and their families, who come for the harmony, enjoy the fellowship and strive for the excellence.

So to all of you, once more, our warmest greetings and best wishes for a happy, healthy, harmonious New Year! ♥



Who? ME? by Tony Strub

Disbelief was my reaction when the nominating committee called and asked if I would serve as the next president of HOA. I felt very honored, humble and pleased that I would be considered for such a responsibility. I was also a bit puzzled as to what made me qualified to hold such a position, given my limited knowledge of the barbershop craft and short tenure as a member of HOA. I asked the committee for time to think it over.

In considering my decision, I thought of the leadership, expertise and dedication that John Stucker and Marty Oldehoeft brought to the office of president. Those models would be difficult to follow. What is it that I could bring to the position that would benefit our chapter? After some conversations with a few friends and colleagues in the chorus, I was confident that my professional background and work ethic would be an asset. Perhaps the one unique thing that I might bring to the presidency, however, would be a perspective not as steeped in tradition and history as a more experienced member. As I work and learn, I thought, I might be more inclined to ask the questions why and why not. From all of my conversations, there was one thing about which there was total consensus. It was that I would need help.

I informed the committee that I would accept the nomination. So as I prepare to begin my work in January, I am asking for your help and that we all work together in all of our activities, to be all that we can be. I pledge to you that the board will communicate with you concerning our activities and decisions. We will also be asking you to communicate to us your ideas and concerns. I hope to see you all at the Installation Banquet on Jan. 13. ♥

Photo courtesy of Ron McIntire

President's Corner by Marty Oldehoeft, Chapter President



Can 2005 be coming to a close already. My clocks are moving quicker or I'm moving slower. Maybe that's the thing that should happen when one retires. My 38 plus years of throwing wrenches at aircraft finally ended in June.

We as a barbershop family have had a very fun filled year, including all the major singing events. Our Singing Valentine program, our annual show at the Music Hall, singing in the park in August showed the folks in the community that we have been working hard on our craft. If that wasn't proof enough that we have been working hard and making steps forward in better performing both at weekly meetings and at extra rehearsals and the annual retreat in Atchison, then the competitive measuring stick showed it in Des Moines where we won the Central States District first-place honors for the second year in a row. How exciting to be headed for the International stage again in July of 2006.

I feel truly honored to have been able to serve our chapter this past couple years as president. With a very competent board guiding and pushing us along I think we are headed for exciting things in the not-too-distant future. Many thanks to all who have worked so hard this past year to make things seem to run on automatic. We have some real ducks in our chapter. You know, gliding along smoothly on the surface of the water and working very hard where folks don't notice, beneath the surface (or behind the scene).

I would like to use this opportunity to wish each of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed 2006. ♥

Attention All Members Of HOA!

Consider directing your tax-deductible contributions to
your very own charitable organization...HOA!

As you can see, it has already started. Certainly not everyone has the financial ability to participate, but consider that this is an opportunity to know how your charitable dollars are being used. *Be included in the list below, and proudly support your chorus...HOA.*

DONORS

Members and Friends Making a Difference!

*We gratefully acknowledge your generosity to the
Heart of America Chorus
2005-2006*

Gold Heart
(\$1,000 - \$4,999)
Thom Tisdall

Silver Heart
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(\$50 - \$399)
Arthur Gibson
Dick & Joan Korek
Hugh & Nancy McCreery
Tony Strub

Donors will be listed in HOA's monthly bulletin and the March 23, 2006 Annual Show program. The Heart of America Chorus is a 501(c) (3) organization.

Checks should be made out to: HOA

Give to any HOA Board member or mail to:

HOA, c/o Dale Neuman

816 W. 121st. St. · Kansas City, MO 64145-1011

Donors are listed from June 30, 2005 through July 1, 2006

Learning To Sing English

by Todd Anderson, *Harmonotes* Editor



I remember, upon joining HOA, my early exposure to correct vowel targets. **Mike Mathieu** quickly alerted me to how I was singing the word "Your." (Butchering is really a much better description.) Just ask Mike. My version sounded like "YORE," whereas he explained the word "Your" needed to sound more like "SEWER."

Suddenly I became painfully aware to how much the words I sing mimic my established [Southwest Missouri] dialect. How I speak was actually how I was singing! *Ouch.*

That makes me wonder about other chapters around the country. I mean, if we here in Missouri and Kansas have to battle sounding like **Conway Twitty** on the phrases we croon, what demons do others parts of the country have to fight?

Folks in Boston have to work on phrases like "PAHK the CAH in the DAHK." (Creative spelling for emphasis). While visiting New Jersey, I always "HOID WOIDS" that reminded me of Curly Joe.

I won't belabor the point. I'm sure you get the idea. Go on a trip anywhere in this nation and hear how the way folks grow up speaking, can really wreak havoc when they have to sing those same words later in life. Think how even more horrific it must be for International chapters when they compete here! Then again, do judges from Jersey score them differently than judges from Georgia? I guess they shouldn't, but it makes you wonder how subjective it could get. After all, we're all human.

Bottom line: We each must take ownership of those pesky vowel targets—to make them second-nature when singing.

Think how tough it must have been for Mayberry's **Gomer Pyle** (alias **Jim Nabors**, pictured above) to keep his character voice separate of his singing voice! Sha-ZAM! ♥

Harmony Foundation Report For November

by Jim Porter



Note that we will have our raffle each time we meet in our regular location. Half of the proceeds are designated to Harmony Foundation. You can, of course, give money directly to Harmony Foundation any time we are together, just tell me at the time of your intentions and I'll

direct your gift 100% to the Foundation.

As of Friday, Nov. 18, which is the end of the fiscal year: In the past month, our chapter has raised \$207 for the Harmony Foundation. The total raised for this year (since Nov. 20, 2004) is \$2,407. Last year, the total raised was \$2,466. In our best year (2003), the total raised was \$2,935.

Thank you all for your interest and participation! ♥

SONIC CARDS: Everyone Wins!

by Dick Korek, Marketing & P.R. Vice-President



HOA now has an easy way to raise cash. It's Sonic Cards! Do you realize that each coupon only costs \$5? And did you know that when you sell a coupon, HOA receives the entire \$5? In return, Sonic provides the coupon holder with up to \$18.51 of savings. *Everyone wins!*

And as if the deal wasn't sweet enough, check out these incentives that are on the way:

- For the next few months there will be bi-monthly SONIC CARD sales winners
- At some yet-to-be-determined date, the top SONIC CARD sales winner will receive two nights at the Marriott downtown (Friday, March 24 and Saturday, March 25, 2006). That's the weekend of the March 2006 HOA Show at the Music Hall. *WOW!*



Do yourself and your friends a favor...look over these savings and the benefits for HOA with these SONIC Cards!

For your information, over \$1,200 has been turned over to our treasurer to date. At least that much more is out there on consignment. Keep selling! ♥

Harmony University Announces The Honors Chorus

taken from the Barbershop Harmony Society's *LiveWire!*

It's chorus boot camp! Spend a week singing in a select chorus with Dr. Greg Lyne!



Harmony University, with the help of Dr. Greg Lyne, will raise the bar this summer with the introduction of the first *Harmony University Honors Chorus*. This group will be auditioned and spend 5 hours a day, in three sessions, honing their craft. Not only will you be able to study with one of the masters of our style, but also, the sessions will include rehearsal techniques, choreography, and sectionals. The chorus will premiere as a featured ensemble on the Saturday Night Show.

Auditions will be based on one of the performance songs. Open to Society members attending Harmony University, candidates will submit their auditions on tape or CD to the Society headquarters by May 1.

So start warming up and get ready to be part of a new and exciting ensemble, the 2006 *Harmony University Honors Chorus*.

You can garner more information by logging on to www.barbershop.org/harmonyu. ♥

Photo courtesy of Ron McIntire

Ask. You Might Receive!

by Phil Veltkamp

This is an ongoing project; phones can be given to Val Putzier at any chapter meeting.

I am writing this to tell you what I did at my workplace. I simply asked the person at my company, who is in charge of cell phones, if there were any cell phones that we would never use again, and if he could give them to me for charity.

He told me that he did indeed have cell phones that he would love to move along and get off of the shelves.

He brought over THREE BOXES of phones!

If YOU work for a company that uses cell phones, I can guarantee you that your company has retired ones in a box on a shelf somewhere that will never be used again.

GO FORTH...ASK for them, and get them to Val. ♥



October 21, 2005
Corwith, Iowa

**Dear Jim & all of the
great HOA Chapter:**

Words cannot express how grateful I am to all of you for the wonderful support you have given me over the past weeks! To all of those who talked with me in Des Moines, plus those who have sent cards, and to you, Jim, for your phone call, I can only say a heartfelt THANK YOU!!

I was released from the hospital on Wednesday of this week. I'm feeling good and healing well. It's nice to be gaining back my appetite after the long haul!

Probably some "relation of mine" has already informed you of the details, but in case not, I'll briefly explain. They discovered an abscess on my appendix which caused blockage between the small and large intestine. After four weeks of trying to shrink the abscess, it wasn't satisfactory. Thus, when I went back for the second checkup, I was immediately hospitalized and had surgery the next day. The surgery went well, and they assured me they removed all of the cancerous tissue in the area. They removed 12 inches of the colon, plus testing the lymph nodes in the area, which were free of infection.

And so, I will return in approximately three weeks for further evaluation and treatment. Whatever that may be, we will proceed from there. Presently, I am not on any medication, and trying to go about life in a normal way—just at a slower pace! Food is tasting good, but Connie thinks I need to beef up my girlish figure!

Through this whole ordeal, the good Lord did grant me a great pleasure, being able to go to District Contest and participate. But most of all, to see and hear my wonderful son and the rest of *TAKE 4* become District Champions! As you might suspect, Connie and I are so proud of him in so many different ways. He has been my energy injection in the Barbershop World. I never left him off the hook that he needed to be a second-generation District Champion, and so he well knows the next step! We are so grateful that he has the privilege of belonging to *HOA*, and we certainly feel that we almost certainly belong!

God bless all of you, and look forward to seeing you in the near future! ♥

Phil Hunget
511 SE Elm
Corwith, Iowa 50430



New Member Spotlight

by Ron McIntire

With this column, we introduce new members of the Kansas City Missouri Chapter who have joined since January 2005.



Jim Clark is a first-time barbershopper and sings bass in the chorus. He comes from a musical family, his father sang in minstrel shows and he sings in his church choir and plays guitar and banjo. He and his wife **Mavis** live in Grandview, MO.



Dick O'Dell sings bass with *HOA* and is a returning barbershopper, having sung in the North Kansas City chapter in the 1960's. He's a retired civil engineer living in Raytown, MO and is the father of fellow *HOA*er **Mike O'Dell**.



Jimmie Ballinger (he prefers Jimmie) is a former barbershopper who first joined *HOA* in the 1980's and later sang with the Overland Park chapter before dropping out for awhile. He is single and is a retired Kansas City, MO fireman singing a mean lead in the *HOA* Chorus. ♥

**"Glad to
have you on
the risers,
Fellas!"**



Photos courtesy of Ron McIntire

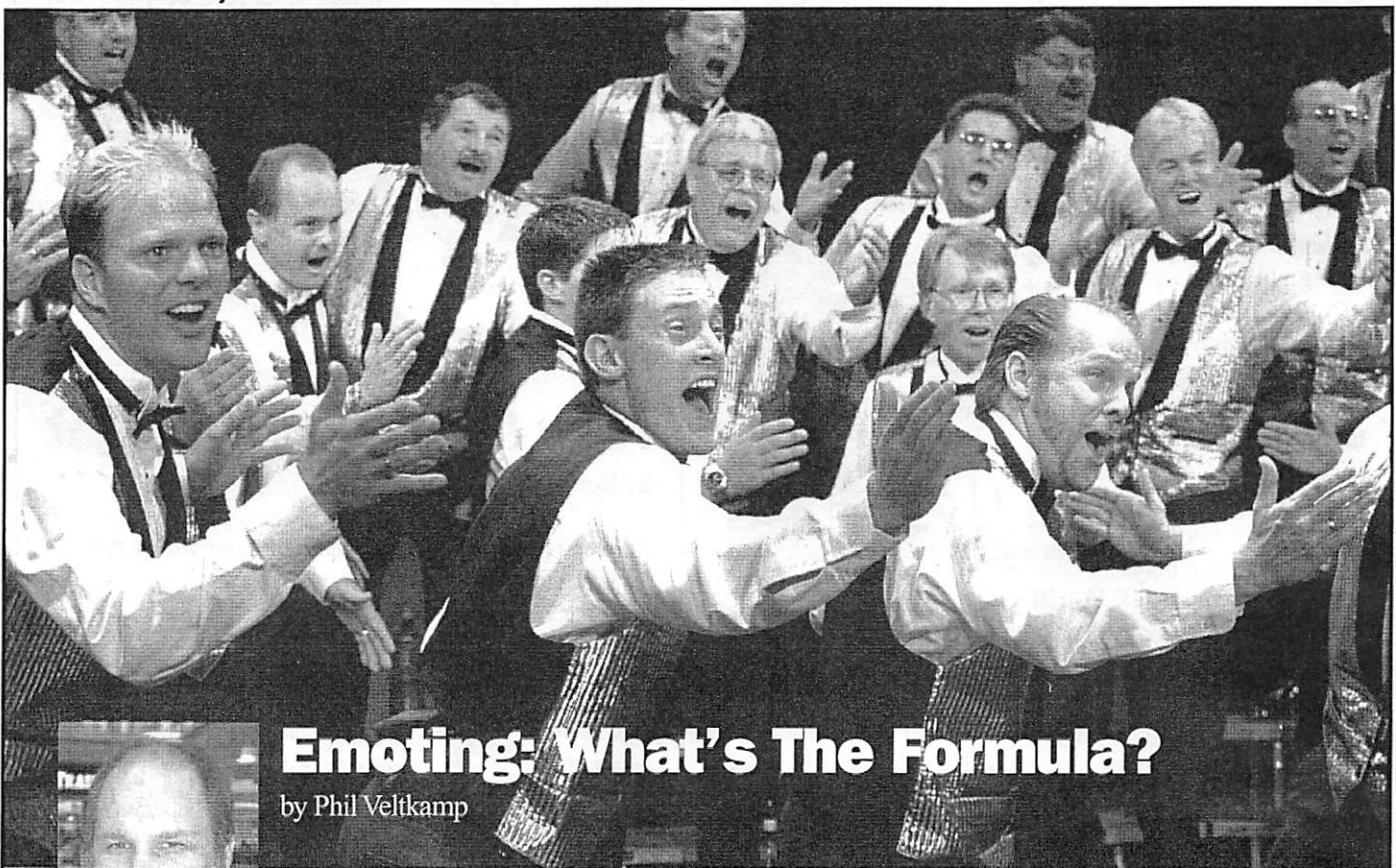


Photo courtesy of the Barbershop Harmony Society



Emoting: What's The Formula?

by Phil Veltkamp

Emoting:

- ...with your eyes, cheeks, eyebrows, forehead, head tilt, stance, learned choreography
- "Checked into the song look"

- Story-telling mode
- Compelling your audience, drawing them in
- Perform every time, during warmup, each song, don't waste a note

Q: Why don't you emote during a performance?

A: I CAN'T.

Ability - you *have* to be able to do it!

- Mirror work, practice
- Get with a presentation team member and discuss, experiment
- Video tape your self during rehearsal, review

Okay, I can, so...

Q: Why don't you emote during a performance?

A: I DON'T FEEL LIKE DOING IT.

Attitude - you have to *want* to do it!

- Start your positive attitude on your drive to the chapter meeting
- You warmed up your voice in the car - warm your face up, too!
- Leave your cares of work, home, the world, etc. at the door. Hit the ground running - meet, greet, smile, EMOTE from the time you leave your car to the time we start warm-ups

Okay, I can, I feel like doing it, so?

Q: Why don't you emote during a performance?

A: I FORGET TO.

Focus - you *have* to remember to do it.

- Look at the director, engage/listen to them, react to them
- Don't engage, listen to, react to those around you
- Keep remembering that whenever you are singing, you are in performance mode
- Perceive an audience if there is none
- Practice what you are going to do when truly performing for an audience
- Get enough sleep, eat right, hydrate, take care of yourself

Okay, I can, I feel like doing it, I remember to do it so...

Q: Why don't you emote during the entire performance?

A: I DON'T KNOW.

Experience - you have to go thru the "practice makes permanent" process

- You can't causally force to happen what takes years to develop (even a lifetime)
- Watch excellent performances (Live, video). What do the excellent do?
- Take energy from your audience, real or pretend
- Emote because the song's story calls for it

Okay, I can, I feel like doing it,

I remember to do it all the time so...

Congratulations!

You are a champion! ♥



It's Beginning To Look A Lot...Like Every Other Day

by Dr. Neil Johnson, LTC, MC Chief, Clinical Operations



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the Land of the Two Rivers!

All is well, and we're starting to feel like it's Christmas here in Iraq. For some of us, this is not the first time we've had to spend the holidays away from home, so it's not as uncomfortable as you might think. For others, there is definitely a change in the mood around here, but it's not too bad. Probably the main reason folks aren't all that depressed is that each day around here really is like every other. The same work, the same weather, the same people, the same hours, the same chaos—it doesn't change much from day to day. So Christmas isn't really much different in this environment anyway, nor have any of the other holidays we've had. The other reason is that there is no snow (it's still in the 90's by noon), no decorations, nothing spectacular that reminds you about the holiday—except the Christmas tree that will be put up in the main rotunda of the palace.

As far as things to do, nothing formal is planned for this year, like the USO Tours of years past. Travel restrictions surrounding the Iraqi Elections have put a damper on that. There will be a Christmas Eve service that the *Hard Corps Chorale* (a.k.a. the *Christmas Chorale*) has been invited to sing at, so that's something to look forward to, as well as the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Speaking of the *Christmas Chorale*, that is going very well. We're up to about 24 singers now, half men and half women, and it's starting to sound like a real chorus. I was a little worried after the first rehearsal when none of the new singers could get the hang of the harmony in the *Yuletide Favorites* book. Bases sang the melody an octave lower and tenors sang it an octave higher, and the leads sang the melody regardless of what notes or rhythm were on the page. Once they heard a few fleeting moments of 4-part harmony, they seemed to get it, and those moments turned into long sections, and now they're turning into whole songs. It really sounds neat!

In addition to some of the *Yuletide Favorites*, we're learning *Blue Christmas*, *The Secret of Christmas*, *Joy to*



From Top to bottom: Rehearsal time for some members of the Hard Corps Chorale, the foursome of "High & Tights" runs through Auld Lang Syne
Photos courtesy of Neil Johnson

the World, and *Let it Snow*. Our *High & Tights* quartet is learning *Auld Lang Syne* (just the *Free and Easy* arrangement—no *Fortinos* and *Varneys* out here!).

To share a little more with you, directing this chorale has been a lot more work than I ever imagined. And there are some over here who think directing a *Christmas Chorale* out here is a risky idea with the potential for folks to get real homesick or depressed, especially if this is their first holiday overseas. I respectfully disagree. I think the more "normal" you try to incorporate into your life in this environment, the easier it is to accept the fact that you're 7,032 miles away from home. All along we've believed that the chance to get together once in a while and do something we enjoy is something that provides tremendous respite for us. Continuing through the holiday season is a natural extension of that. Like it is back home, it's the music that brings us together, and the friendship that develops from being together sustains us. The lyrics at the end of *The Secret of Christmas* say it well, "It's not the things you do at Christmas time, it's the Christmas things you do all year through!"

By the time you read this, I'll be less than six weeks away from coming home. The Johnson's will be celebrating Christmas in late January, so if you hear caroling from the house, no need to worry. Call it jet-lag! B # you soon! ♥

A Half-Century Of Baritone

by Ol' Dan



Lemme say right off, "I can't help it!" I mean, when you've been doing the same thing for over 50 years, it's just real tough to change, right? Even if you're not there yet, ya gotta say, "You're right, Ol' Sage one!"

Well, I'm a 58-year barbershopper who has been singing baritone for almost all of that...until recently...when four guys, possibly under the influence or at least not of sound mind, decided they'd form a quartet. The problems with that decision were legion, but what sticks out is (1) three of 'em were baritones, plus one who thinks he's a bass, and (2) the bari they railroaded into the lead part just can't forget he's a baritone. (See the first paragraph)

Now, the purpose of this article is not to complain, although if you ask me personally, I'll be glad to do so in triple fortissimo. No, instead, this is an explanation and a pat-on-the-back, both aimed at the guy we left on the baritone part.

Ever wonder, when *Tone-Henge* is performing, why **Jim's** expression changes every so briefly from being "in the song" to "Rats! He's done it again!"...and then right back as if nothing happened. Well, Ol' Dan (paragraph one) has just hit the bari note and is holding on to it like a mad dog in a meat market, forcing Ol' Jim to immediately find the lead note...and that takes talent! He's gotta know which note, hit the note, and look like nothing happened. The talent extends to "finding" and "hitting," but while he's working on the "nothing happened" countenance he deserves our applause. But he's gotta keep workin' on it, 'cause you-know-who, well, first paragraph. ♥

Lots At COTS

by Tony Strub

Wow! What an experience! Intense, fast paced, informative, comprehensive and well organized are just a few of the positive adjectives that we can use to describe our COTS experience. **Dick Korek, Ron Fortino, Al Higgins, Jerry Garrard** and I were a part of a program that will benefit our chapter in many ways in the future. Kudos to **Don Fuson** and his colleagues who designed, promoted and made this outstanding educational program possible.

It was the consensus of all of the participants that the information contained in the classes, the motivation created by the presentations, the networking and the exchange of ideas and experiences were the core value of the of the curriculum. What I learned will help me work with the board to serve our chapter and pursue our mission. Oh! I forgot. The singing was the fun part.

Congratulations to **Jim Porter** and to the *HOA* membership for our chapter's contribution to Harmony Foundation. It was tops in CSD. ♥

The Songs We Sing



by Bob Niedringhaus, borrowed from *By-Lines*, the St. Louis Suburban Chapter bulletin, edited by John Conrad



Above: Library of Congress photo shows George and Ira Gershwin departing for Hollywood from Newark Airport on Aug. 10, 1936.

George and Ira Gershwin, as we all know, wrote many songs for many plays, along with many more for movies, etc.

Their song, "Soon," came from the Broadway play, "Strike Up the Band." This play actually got a second chance on Broadway, as it was originally introduced in 1927 as an anti-war satire and flopped. In 1930, it was recast and revised and was then successful.

Another of their songs was the hit tune, "I Got Rhythm," from the 1930 Broadway play, "Girl Crazy." This is the play in which **Ethel Merman** made her Broadway debut.

From the guy who likes to sing. ♥

True music must repeat the thought and inspirations of the people and the time. My people are Americans and my time is today. – George Gershwin

A song without music is a lot like H2 without the O. – Ira Gershwin

Barbershop in Fifths, Part II

by Dr. Bruce Wenner

What Chord Is This?

More on the importance in barbershop of a fifth. (That's not the fifth that produces four drunks around a lamppost. It's the interval of a fifth – say, C to G, or F to C, or Bb to F.) We're hearing a lot from our directors and coaches about the "high five" – in certain chords, we should tune the fifth a little higher than we would play it on the piano or a pitchpipe. Of course, in order to do this, we need to know when we're singing one of those chords, and whether or not we are on the fifth.

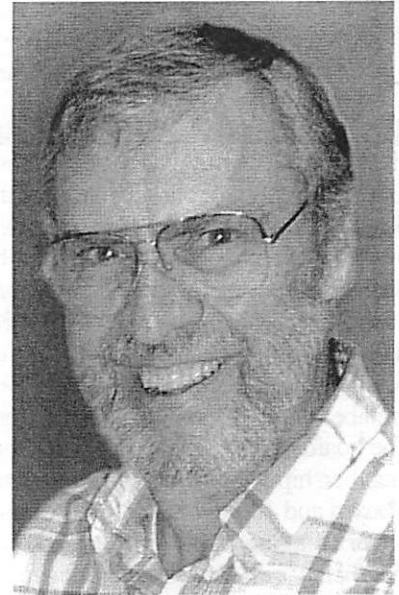
Almost all of the chords we use in barbershop fit into one of the basic six varieties: (1) major triad, (2) minor triad, (3) barbershop seventh, (4) minor seventh, (5) half-diminished, and (6) diminished (also called "fully diminished" or "double-diminished"). They build from the root (or "1") in the following ways. A major triad goes 1-3-5; if the root is C, then it's C-E-G. A minor triad has the third flatted, so it's 1-3b-5, or, rooted on C, it's C-Eb-G. The barbershop seventh is composed of a major triad plus a flatted seventh, ergo 1-3-5-7b, or C-E-G-Bb. The minor seventh is built similarly, from a minor triad this time, so it's 1-3b-5-7b, or C-Eb-G-Bb. The half-diminished is a minor seventh with diminished (i.e. flatted) fifth, so it's 1-3b-5b-7b, or C-Eb-Gb-Bb, and the diminished chord comes from this with a second flatting or diminishing of the 7th; it reads 1-3b-5b-7bb, or C-Eb-Gb-A (the A is a cleaned-up Bbb).

Do these last two seem pretty far-out? Well, there's some good news here. Although these chords do show up in our arrangements, they are usually just passing chords, and we really don't have to worry about identifying them and altering pitch to tune them properly. All of the "ringing barbershop" action is in the first three – mostly in the barbershop seventh and the major triad. These are the chords we want to recognize, and we want to identify the fifth so we can sing it high.

As it happens, we can do both by finding – Yes! – an interval of a fifth. In a given chord we look for a pair of notes for which the second note is a fifth above the first; then it is usually true that the first note is the root of the chord, and the second is that fifth that we want to tune high. Let's see how the process works by looking at the music to *Wedding Bells*. The very first chord is Bb, Bb, D, and F; since Bb to F is a fifth, it looks like we have a Bb chord here, and the only other note is the lead's D, so we have a major triad rooted on Bb (doubled in the bass and bari), and the tenor will want to tune his F (the fifth) a little high. And – a bonus for having analyzed the chord – the lead will see that he is on the (major) third, so he will also tune high.

Let's try the first chord of measure 2, on the word "church". From the lead's C up to the bass's G is our fifth, so C looks like 1 and G is 5. Filling in the chord with the bari's B and the tenor's E and arranging them up from the root C, we get C – E – G – Bb – precisely that C barbershop seventh that we discussed earlier. And the bonus again – the bass and tenor will sing the "high five" and the "superhuman three" that our coaches keep talking about.

A little side trip here – ignore it if you're just hanging on by your fingernails. Why do we say the fifth usually gives us this result – doesn't it always? Well, in measure 2 the next chord – on "bells" – looks just about like "church" – everybody's the same except for the lead, whose C has changed to D. You music majors will recognize what has happened – we have four notes of a (five-note) "ninth" chord: (C) – E – G – Bb – D (the D is the ninth added to the C-barbershop seventh, while the C root is missing – you can only sing



four notes at a time, after all. But – the routine we've been following would have us looking for a G-chord, with a fifth on D. So – the routine is not infallible, but it's still pretty good.

Back to the routine – try it on "heart" in measure 3. The lead F to the bass C is a fifth again, so we line up the other notes to get F – A – C – Eb, all the ingredients of an F barbershop seventh. One more. Scan down to "gang" in measure 15. Might have to look a little harder this time, but sooner or later we're going to notice that from the lead's A up to the bass's E is fifth, and we're off and running.

So there it is – the best way to analyze the most barbershop of chords (barbershop sevenths and triads) is to find the fifth. Of course, you don't have to mess with all of this if you don't feel like it – just ask a smart buddy to analyze the chords for you. And this chapter has plenty of smart buddies to turn to! But – if that's the route you want to go, don't even start reading next month's *Barbershop in Fifths, Part III*. ♥

Photo courtesy of Ron McIntire

A LOOK AT THE PAST IN HARMONOTES

by Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus · wadeliberty@aol.com

TEN YEARS AGO: DECEMBER, 1995:

HOA Membership Vice President **David Miller** reported a total of 14 guests at our meetings for the month of November. That amounts to an average of over three guests per meeting. These included a number of barbershoppers. In addition, we were treated to a performance by a chorus of 20 to 25 students from pioneer Trails Middle School who sang barbershop arrangements. Former HOA member **Jerry Bray**, father of our own **Burt Bray**, and now a member of the Salem, Oregon, chapter, also paid us a visit. The board of directors accepted the application for membership of **Jan Bethke**. Applications from **Michael Martin** and **Jeremy Katt** were still under consideration.

Our editor announced a tour next November hosted by the *Ancient and Harmonious Society of Woodshedders (AHSOW)* for barbershoppers and their spouses, that would feature a chorus directed by none other than our own **Jim Bagby**. The tour would depart from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, through the Panama Canal, and wind up in Acapulco. Must have been fun, eh, Jim? Did any of our own guys and their gals make the trip with you?

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO: DECEMBER, 1980

This is interesting! Editor **Joe Costigan** begins an editorial comment with the question, "How would you like to sing in a chorus of 122?" Joe goes on to explain, "That's how many chapter members have sung in the last five contests *Heart of America* has competed in. The five contests include three in district competition, which we won, and of course, two internationals in which we placed eighth and 10th.

"Of these 122 men, 13 have moved away or are no longer members for various reasons. That leaves 109 chorus members with valuable experience that can be put to good use in our next contest, the international in Detroit. The other 13 could easily be replaced by present members who haven't sung with us recently and by new members."

"As you can see, it would not be unreasonable to shoot for 125 on stage in July. So plan now to compete." Apparently that was more than just wishful thinking back in those days. Do you suppose those numbers could have been partly responsible for the good scores at the previous internationals?

Joe goes on to list the names of the 48 members who had all sung in the three championship choruses and the two internationals. Of those, an even dozen are still with the chapter: **Ron Abel, Jim Bagby, Jim Davis, Marv Faulwell, Dick Huyck, Kent McClean, Al Moritz, Dale Neuman, Val Putzier, Bob Rutherford, Keith Schweer, and Bruce Wenner.**

FORTY YEARS AGO: DECEMBER, 1970

In this column in the October issue of *Harmonotes*, I was writing about the *Heartbeats*, our ladies' auxiliary, and I remarked that the group was apparently not known as the *Heartbeats* thirty-five years ago. I inquired, "Does anybody remember when the present name, the *Heartbeats*, became official, and who was responsible for suggesting that name?" Old-timer **Ron Abel** responded with the following, "The chapter board authorized the formation of a Ladies' Auxiliary in April of 1969. **Bev Wasson** was the first president. With regard to your inquiry, the name, *Heartbeats*, was suggested by **Della** and **Clyde Mensen** in 1978 or 1979, when a *Heartbeats* Cookbook was published." Thanks, Ron. I plan to rely on your experiences in the chapter to a greater extent in the future.

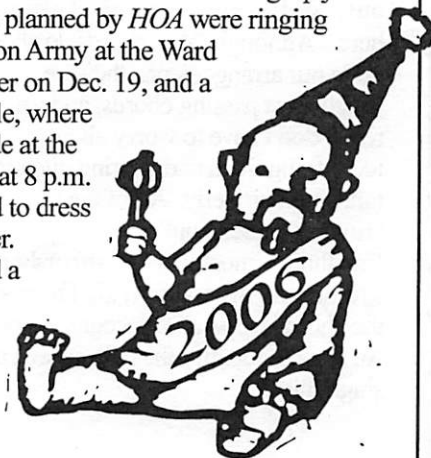
In the Dec. 1970 *Harmonotes*, then edited by **Dick Ham**, under the title, "This and That," we find the following items of interest:

The current CSD quartet champions, *Personal Touch*, with **Greg Lyne** singing tenor, as I recall, had been booked to appear on the HOA "Parade of Quartets" (that's what they called chapter shows in those days, even though there may have been a chorus on the program) at the Music Hall on March 13. They were to replace the *Kippers*, who had recently disbanded.

Editor **Dick Ham** extended congratulations to the Lawrence chapter for a fine show on Nov. 21. The featured groups were the *Mid-West Four*, the *Kansas Citizens*, the *Mid-Ameri-Chords*, and the *Barberhawks Chorus*. Thanks went to **Dick**, who very mercifully avoided revealing that there were probably fewer than 15 singers in the chorus. I do recall that we were grateful to the Kansas City representatives who were on the program at no cost to the Lawrence chapter. I'm sure this was because the Kansas City chapter sponsored the Lawrence outfit when it was organized. Your efforts were appreciated. By the way, **Dave Larson** was the master of ceremonies for the show and did a bang-up job.

Among future events planned by HOA were ringing the bells for the Salvation Army at the Ward Parkway shopping center on Dec. 19, and a performance in Parkville, where they were to sing outside at the corner of 1st and Main at 8 p.m. Everybody was advised to dress according to the weather.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, everybody! See yuh next year! ♥





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RR4 Help Howard's Hesston Hoopla

by the Short Guy on the End

On the last weekend in October, the great irony was almost overwhelming: here were **Calvin and Willard Yoder**, who took to school



the way a tank takes to water, literally basking in the Hesston College spotlight.

The *Rural Route 4* headlined the gala Saturday night show following the inauguration of **Dr. Howard Keim** as president of the nation's only Mennonite junior college. Then we sang on the Sunday morning church service, before another full house in the main Yost Center auditorium on the south-central Kansas campus.

The school motto is "Start Here, Go Everywhere." Mennonite church and school dignitaries from across the nation gathered for the inauguration, representing Bethel, Tabor and every Christian college in Kansas; Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisburg, Va.; Goshen (Ind.) College, Notre Dame and others.

But although the Yoder brothers both fled gratefully from high school to the farm, they had good reason to feel right at home at Hesston. Calvin's sister, **Linda**, and son, **Wesley**—who joined the *RR4* on tenor for the big homecoming—are Hesston graduates. So is Wesley's wife, **Kate**.

As for Willard, he says he figures he's sent enough money to Hesston he ought to own at least one building. Wife **Velma** is an alum (and her mother went when it was still a high school). Son **Daniel** and daughter **Emily** are both grads, and daughter **Megan** is a sophomore there now.

Daniel, now a youth minister in Illinois, is the reason the *RR4* had such a prominent role on this occasion—other than the Yoders' long-standing lay leadership in the Mennonite Church USA. He's married to the former **Talashia Keim**, and the quartet met the whole Keim family when we sang for Daniel and Talashia's wedding. Not long afterward, most of the Keims came to an *HOA* show—and enjoyed it so much they stayed for the afterglow.

Thus it was that after we sang "Sweet Hour of Prayer" and "Woke Up" for the offertory, the applause was loud and genuine as new President Keim got up to deliver the sermon. He chuckled and noted, "I didn't know that when I got a son-in-law I'd inherit a barbershop quartet, too." ♥

— Jim Bagby

12th Street Rag Still Kickin'!

by Mark Fortino



Well, you haven't heard much from us in the past several months and there's good reason. I have been under the weather so to speak since July 25th! I contracted a virus while in Salt Lake City that got progressively worse during the month of July.

After a weekend of coaching and singing at a HEP school in Rochester, New York, with the quartet, I returned home, went to bed and was awakened at 2 a.m. with my windpipe totally closed off...no air! Well, that wasn't fun! BUT...I did what any normal person would do, I pushed, and pulled and tugged (sounds like a **Bagby** joke) until I broke something free to get a very small amount of air, got to the emergency room and survived the night. The bad news is that I pushed and pulled so hard to breathe, that I severely damaged/strained the muscles in and around the vocal chords. Good news is the chords themselves, even the next morning, looked totally fine, not even a sign of inflammation. Well, after a week of absolutely NO TALKING...TOTAL SILENCE...(actually drove the family nuts!...they didn't know what to do with me), three weeks of speech therapy, a lot of drugs, and a lot of prayers, I began the long journey of recovery. I am still not 100%, although I can sing now, but not totally without pain in the larynx muscles. People say...you sound great! Well, that's because the vocal chords themselves were never damaged...thank the Lord. But the muscles around the cords is the issue. When they (the Larynx muscles) get upset with me for talking or singing too much they just flat FREEZE the vocal cords and the voice just stops right in it's tracks. That spasming of the larynx muscles is what I've been dealing with these past several months, and the doctors (all four that I've gone to see) tell me that the spasms will get less and less as time goes on. But it's like spraining an ankle and continuing to walk on it. It's hard for a guy that sings 4 or 5 days a week to lay off, especially for MONTHS at a time!

SOOO...what is in store for the quartet. Well, we are very much behind now in our preparations for next year. We have two new wonderful pieces of music that we plan to compete with that we've been learning during this whole fiasco. We had to cancel a youth camp we were supposed to do in California, but we have been able to make our other commitments, a youth camp performance in Orange City, IA, and a couple of shows in Winona, MN. Our next show is the same weekend of the *HOA* Holiday show. We will miss all of you this year, but our cousin directs the South Florida Jubilee chorus in Fort Lauderdale, FL and asked us earlier this year if we would be their featured quartet for their Holiday Show. I know you all feel really sorry for us having to go to Florida for show in December! But hey...after the year I've had...I deserve it!

Seriously, we don't take missing the *HOA* Holiday show lightly, you guys mean a great deal to us, and this really was, believe it or not, a very difficult decision for John and me. I know you'll have a great performance. Thanks to all of you that have been so supportive of me over these months. I honestly don't think I could have made it without all of your thoughts and prayers. ♥

Golden Moments From The Chapter

by Alex Scott



I wanted to take a moment to update everyone on how things are going over here in "Woodchipperville, MO". (Even the trees are afraid to grow!) It seems like it was last week that **Jim Henry** was telling us about the "gold

moments" in life that really matter. Two months ago, I began living one of those moments, and realizing how much each event, each rehearsal, and each time I see you guys is a special moment for me. In all my life I never been helped up, brushed off and put back on the road again the way you guys have done it. You guys have been the quintessential Barbershopper!

Just to update everyone, the healing is done and the open wounds are gone. I see a physical therapist 2-3 times a week, where we work on moving, stretching and strengthening my fingers. There are plans to have a "toe transplant to thumb" surgery done, but that's still a couple months away. I have the majority of range of motion back in my hand, and three weeks ago the doctor has ordered me to return to normal activity.

I would like to express deep gratefulness for everything all of you have done and given—from phone calls to monetary gifts to get well cards to well wishes, I appreciate all of them. I truly would like to thank each and every one. I had thought it would be nice to stand by the door and greet everyone some Tuesday night, but I don't think there'd be time enough to say everything I would want to. However, if you'd like to talk, feel free to stop me anytime.

As we approach the Holiday Season, I see that I have much to be thankful for. Maybe we could all get together for Thanksgiving and have a really big feast! REALLY!?! Oh, and for Christmas, someone please scratch the "woodchipper" off Santa's list. (Ha!)

Thanks Again! ♥

Photo courtesy of Ron McIntire

Riser Builder Fund To Continue

by Dick Irwin



Thanks to your generous contributions and those of the *Heartbeats*, the Riser Builder Plus-2 fund has achieved its initial goal of purchasing two complete riser sections with fourth step and back rails. The new units are already in use and you sure can tell the difference. There's less noise from people standing on those sections. The Kansas City Chapter board has decided to continue the fund with the thought of working toward

replacing all of our old riser sections. Some of these sections are more than 20 years old. Just keep dropping your spare change and any other money you would like to see used for a worthwhile effort into the green plastic bucket at each meeting. We'll make a purchase each time we reach enough funds to purchase a complete section, fourth step and back. ♥

What Motivates A Quartet?

by Monty Duerksen

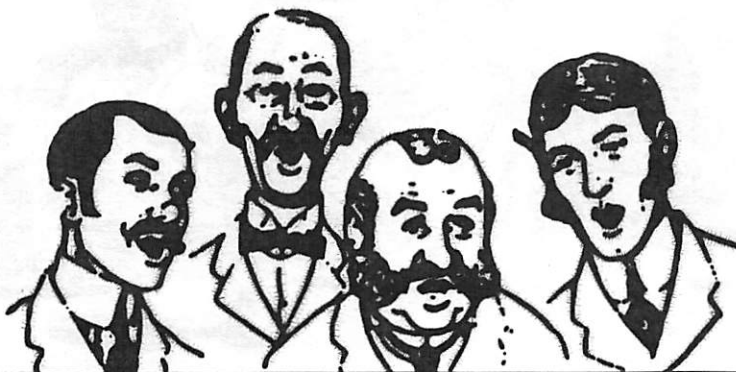
One of the best motivators for progressive improvement in quartet singing is the contest. Goals are established, coaching sessions are scheduled, rehearsals have direction and focus.

The contest score, whether it represents a "warm fuzzy" or a "cold prickly" for the quartet often becomes the "end-all" after the contest.

I have observed, in my short 56 years of contest attendance, foursomes that form, score well, then disband. Also, I have observed quartets that "broke up" after the contest due to a score below the members' expectations.

In both cases, audiences were never given the opportunity to enjoy the music these quartets could produce. Furthermore, the quartet members never gave THEMSELVES the opportunity to receive a whole lot of "WARM FUZZYS"/applause from their listeners.

Isn't there a lot more to "quartetting" than a contest score? Shouldn't this be only ONE QUARTET MOTIVATOR? ♥



Holiday Show Ticket Sales May Snowball To New Record!!

by Bob Rutherford, Jolly Olde Ticket Chairman

Show ticket sales, according to Auditor **Dale Neuman**, seem to be ahead of last year's pace heading into the final two weeks of sales. The matinee show is 96% sold with good prospects of being totally sold out by show time. The evening show is right at 60% sold. Overall, 78% of the seats for both shows were sold two weeks prior.

So, a last minute push of the Evening show to family and friends might help us hit a new record in Holiday Show ticket sales. ♥

Join Us For The Afterglow!

by Carter Combs



Some of you know that **Jeffi** and I are organizing the Holiday Harmony Spectacular AFTER-GLOW at the Yellow Rock Barn, which will begin approximately 30 minutes after the evening show. Building upon prior years (like the last so successfully hosted by **Janna and Don Young!**) we are planning for more music and more fun!

Quartets - You are CHORDially invited to "strut your stuff" at the 'glow. Please let me know if you plan to attend and would like to perform. We'll decide on number of songs once we know how many quartets.

Chorus - As in prior years, the 'glow is open to all chapter members, families and friends. Be advised that the facility only holds 150 people, so get your tickets early. **Dick Irwin** will be glad to sell them to you... still only \$5! ♥

Photo courtesy of **Ron McIntire**

Gala Installation Set For Friday, Jan. 13

by Jerry Garrard, Program Vice President



Next month, we will celebrate the beginning of the 67th year as the Kansas City, Missouri Chapter, SPEBSQSA Inc. at the Annual Installation and Awards Banquet. The 2006 Board of Directors will be installed at this commemoration Friday, Jan. 13, at the Overland Park DoubleTree. Socializing starts at 6:30 p.m.

For this year's event we will honor our membership with several awards to include

Barbershopper of the Year, The Ozzie and John Cross Award.

BOTY: The Kansas City Chapter has striven to recognize and honor certain members for significant and meritorious service during the past year. Through the years, this recognition has been designated "Man of the Year" award, "Honor Night" program, "Achievement Award" and is currently the Barbershopper of the Year. Last year the recipient was **Grant Hunget**.

The **Oz Newgard "Ozzie"** Award is presented to the individual who has provided outstanding musical service to the chapter and *Heart of America Chorus*. Last year we remolded the award to encompass one of our greatest staging instructors, **Mike Schumacher**.

John Cross Award, for which there is no office, is presented annually to the HOA barbershopper with the best attendance record and who is always on hand to take the job no one else wants. Your incoming president, **Tony Strub**, was the honoree, a year ago (hey, what does that say about being a Kansas City chapter president?)

Last year we institutionalized a new award. The **Joe Stern Lifetime Achievement Award**, recognizing **Gil Leftholz** as a member of the Kansas City Missouri Chapter who devoted many years to the betterment of the Chapter and Society as a whole. That's a special honor that will be given only on rare occasions.

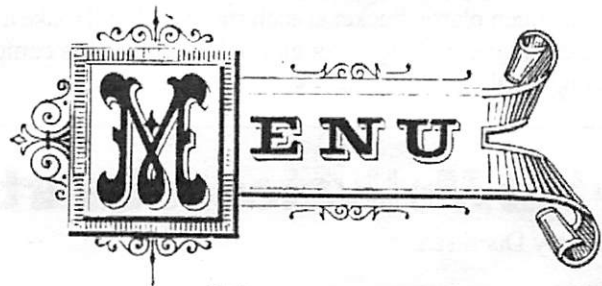
You're sure to find one of your chapter brothers, if not you, as this year's awardees. Bring your loved ones to see how we close out the year and bring in the new.

Adults - \$25.00

Kids 6-12 - \$12.50

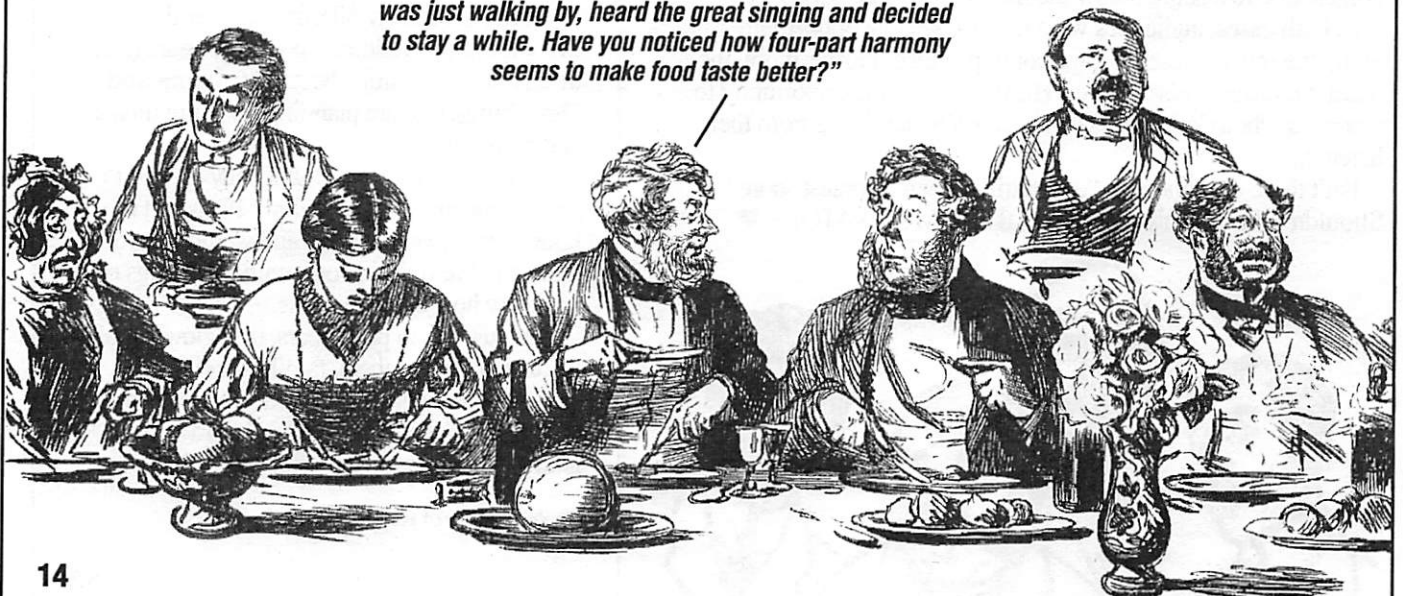
Kids under 6 are free

Sign-Up with **Al Higgins** starting Dec. 6 ♥



ENTREE:
**CHICKEN &
BBQ BRISKET
(BUFFET STYLE)**

"Oh, heavens no,...I'm not a member! To be honest, I was just walking by, heard the great singing and decided to stay a while. Have you noticed how four-part harmony seems to make food taste better?"



Heartbeats Hilites

by Sharon Oldehoeft, Heartbeat President

Heartbeats had their last meeting of the year, Nov. 15, but our work for the year is not finished. We will be providing a sack lunch for chorus members caroling at Metro North Mall, Dec. 17. Please contact **Sharon Oldehoeft** if you are able to provide an item for the lunches. We will be ushering at the Midland Theatre, Dec. 21, for the *Nut-cracker*. Please contact **Jeffi Combs** if you would like to help. Thanks.

Thank you, Heartbeats and all the ladies of *HOA*, for all you did to support the chorus this past year.

Thank you to the officers and board members of 2005: Past Pres. **Carol Ramirez**, Pres. **Sharon Oldehoeft**, V. Pres. **Joan Korek**, Sec. **Sandy Rule**, Treas. **Sarah Fortino**, and **Dessie Gathright** and **Roberta Porter** for serving on the Board. We accomplished our goals and had fun doing it.

Congratulations to the 2006 officers and board members: Pres. **Eilene Campsey**, V. Pres. **Jeffi Combs**, Sec. **Joan Korek**, Treas. **Sarah Fortino** and Board Members **Mary Jo Miller** and **Mary Fortino**.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year. ♥

Attention All Kansas City Chapters!

2006 Chapter Directory Coming Soon!

by Ron McIntire



It's time to begin work on the 2006 chapter directory.

If you have changed any part of your home address, home or work phone numbers or e-mail address and have not updated the information with Kenosha, please make the corrections now. Parts of the chapter directory use the Kenosha records and any incorrect data will appear in the directory.

If you are unfamiliar with updating your Society records, contact Secretary, **Kevin Tritsch** and he will do it for you. ♥



Are you forming your Singing Valentine quartets now? Feb. 13-14 will be here soon!

Musical Notes

by Keith Schweer, Music Vice President



On Thursday, Nov. 17 **Dr. Greg Lyne** paid a visit to Kansas City and spent close to 3 hours coaching our chorus. It's the first time since 1988 that Greg has coached *HOA*. It was a terrific session—one that I think could result in lasting improvements for us.

During the warm-ups he reminded us of some singing techniques that we had heard before from several of our coaches—funny how those things keep appearing. He talked about posture, breathing, vowel purity and other “singing things.” He also spent some time encouraging us to follow our director. I mean, really following the director—allowing the director to lead us. This is also something we have heard before from other coaches. Maybe we should really try to do a better job of following. When we did, the results were wonderful—remember?

After spending time on these “mechanical” things, he turned our attention to the music itself. As we were singing some of our repertoire numbers that night, he had us add different voice colorings, different treatments in a way that better fit or emphasized or helped more effectively deliver the message of the particular song we were singing. He encouraged us to have more FUN with the music, to not be afraid to experiment with different ways of expressing or interpreting a song. I especially liked what he had us doing in “Caroling, Caroling.”

I look forward to exploring new ways to get more out of each song we sing—more believability, more interest, more fun, in short, more MUSIC. ♥

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to the following chapter members!

Chris Kinghorn	December 2
James Davis	December 7
Dennis Taylor	December 7
Ron Fortino	December 9
John Warrior	December 10
David Glastetter	December 11
Valdean Putzier	December 16
Jim Kaut	December 20
Jeremy Kaat	December 23
Darrell McCune	December 24
Mike Louque	December 28
Grant Hunget	December 30

Board Of Directors November Meeting Highlights

by Kevin Tritsch, Secretary

MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE: Keith Schweer

Greg Lyne will be on hand Thursday Nov. 17 for chorus coaching.

MEMBERSHIP: Stew Grosser

New Guest Procedure will begin soon. This will involve orientation of the guests and prospective new members toward what to expect before they sign up. UCANSING 2 Program – Central States District will probably win the contest however HOA did not fare as well as hoped. The reason cited lack of enthusiasm in the chorus for bringing in guests and new members.

Name badges have increased in price, mainly due to the cost of shipping. The change to a local vender will be investigated, possibly Office Max or Office Depot.

PROGRAM: Jerry Garrard

COTS is scheduled for Nov.19-20.

Upcoming performances and programs include:

A joint rehearsal with Sweet Adelines for the Christmas Show - Sunday Nov. 20

Tech rehearsal - Dec. 2

Holiday show Dec. 3

Salvation Army Bell ringing - Dec. 17

Installation banquet - Jan. 13 at the Double Tree in Overland Park. Buffet prices are: Adults \$25.00, Children under 6 are free, Children 6 – 12 \$12.50

MARKETING AND VP: Dick Korek

Holiday Show program will go to the printer by Monday Nov. 21.

HOA will need to find a new venue for the 2007 show. Renovation of the Music Hall will close the facility for a year beginning in Nov. 2006.

Sonic Cards worth approximately \$1,000 are still out on consignment. Those holding the cards will be contact to turn in the money or return the cards.

Presentation of the awards for card sales will be during a chapter meeting, after the conclusion of the promotion.

Treasurer: Charles Ramirez

Total funds available to the chapter is \$20,531.84.

Old Business:

Riser fund: Dick Irwin

Year to Date donations to the riser fund - \$2,742.64.

Singing Valentines:

Marlin Weidler has agreed to be Singing Valentine Chairman for 2006.

New Business:

2006 President Elect, Tony Strub requested that VP's for 2006 complete a report on their duties..

COTS – 4 chapter members will attend the 2006 COTS. The chapter will cover room expense for one night and COTS registration.

Bruce Wenner has agreed to be 2005 Awards Chairman.

Increased insurance coverage for chapter equipment was discussed. No decisions.

MVP, Stew Grosser proposed renewing the "Just Weight" weight loss contest and requested suggestions and recommendations. ♥

George Park



He was a quiet man, steady and faithful and, until his health began to fail in late summer of 2003, he was always ready to sing even though he often needed help

getting on and off the risers. It was not uncommon for him to attend all rehearsals and performances.

George Park died at his home Nov. 7, ending 28 years as a barbershopper and a lifetime of accomplishments. He will be missed by the Barbershop Society, the Kansas City Chapter and the Heart Of America Chorus.

The following 40 members of HOA sang at the visitation services at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, Nov. 11:

Chuck Ames	Keith Schweer
Grant Hunget	Monty Duerksen
Tom Forsythe	Dick Irwin
Jim Bagby	Al Moritz
John Winfiel	Jerry Snyder
Rich Huyck	Jim Moynihan
Jon Gathright	Bob Howard
Bob Rutherford	Marty Oldehoeft
Mike Neff	Barry Sanders
Val Putzier	Bruce Wenner
Walt Patterson	Ron McIntire
Matt Bostick	Roy Manade
Ron Abel	Jim Davis
Carter Combs	Al Higgins
Kevin Tritsch	Rob Mathieu
Dale Neuman	Mike Mathieu
Frazier Allen	Gordy Coleman
Jim Porter	Steve Carruthers
Vince Perry	Carl Turlin
Dan Bowser	Tony Strub

Vince Perry and Mike Mathieu were on the "Fam" trip to Indianapolis the weekend of Nov. 19. Read all the details in the next issue!

Barbershop Memorabilia To Be Sold

by David Krause



Gil Lefholz

On Tuesday, Dec. 6, at our regular chapter meeting, we are planning to sell a lot of records, and plenty of other barbershop stuff that Gil Lefholz had collected over the years, as a fundraiser for the chapter and to get them to people who might like to have them. ♥



Chorus Qualifiers Named

taken from the Barbershop Harmony Society's *LiveWire!*

The invitations have been issued, and accepted. Here's who you'll see next summer in Indy, and their order of appearance!



1. SNOBS - Helsingborg Barberboys
2. Manhattan, NY - *The Big Apple Chorus*
3. Atlanta Metro, GA - *Atlanta Vocal Project*
4. Central Texas Corridor, TX - *Heart of Texas Chorus*
5. Chicagoland West Suburban, IL - *West Towns Chorus*
6. Rincon Beach - *Pacific Sound*
7. Dallas Metro, TX - *Vocal Majority*
8. United Kingdom - *Cottontown Chorus*
9. **Kansas City, MO - Heart of America**
10. Greater Toronto, ON - *MegaCity Chorus*
11. Northbrook, IL - *New Tradition*
12. Terre Haute, IN - *Banks of the Wabash*
13. LaJolla, CA - *Pacific Coast Harmony*
14. Buckeye-Columbus, OH - *Singing Buckeyes*
15. Greater Central Ohio, OH - *The Alliance*
16. Denver Mile High, CO - *Sound of The Rockies*
17. Western Hills (Cincinnati), OH - *Southern Gateway Chorus*
18. St. Joseph, MO - *Voices of America*
19. Nashua, NH - *Granite Statesmen*
20. Toronto, ON - *The Northern Lights*
21. Bellevue, WA - *Northwest Sound*
22. Lake County, IL - *Brotherhood of Harmony Chorus*
23. Westminster, CA - *Westminster Chorus*
24. Wasatch Front, UT - *Saltaires*
25. Hilltop, MN - *Great Northern Union*
26. Alexandria, VA - *Alexandria Harmonizers*
27. Macomb County, MI - *Harmony Heritage Chorus*
28. First Coast Metro FL - *Metropolitans*
29. Batavia, NY - *The Vocal Agenda*
30. Greendale, WI - *Midwest Vocal Express*

Membership

by Stew Grosser/Ron McIntire

The unofficial results of the UCANSING2 program are out. Beatrice, NE won the \$10,000 with 34 new members. St. Joseph came in second with 19 and Kansas City had 5. That's a good start for the District but Kansas City can do better. I talked with Todd Wilson the other day and he said the society picked up 980 new members total but, sadly, lost 709 for one reason or another. That leaves a net gain of 271 new members, society wide. So, we have work to do. WE, meaning the Kansas City Chapter and WE, meaning the Barbershop Harmony Society as a whole.

I've been involved with membership for a year now and it's been a thorough learning experience. It's no secret that a large chorus like HOA can be somewhat intimidating to first time visitors. Some may never return because of it. So the question becomes how can we reduce the anxiety and increase the chances the visitor will become a member?

In the past year I've developed a good sense of what guests feel when they come through the door. That sense has helped us establish a three-pronged approach toward making the guest more comfortable when he visits and keep him coming back.

First, to counter the anxiety factor, I believe that if the member who sponsors the guest plays a greater role in introducing him to what we do in the chapter and to barbershopping in general, we, as a chapter, stand a better chance of gaining a new member. Therefore, I will encourage the sponsor to stay close to his guest each week, helping him sign the guest book, filling out a name tag, showing him where to go for orientation and, later, standing near him on the risers until he has his feet on the ground. And, more importantly, taking an active part in follow-up and recruiting. It's vital that we all demonstrate to the guest how much we care about him and want him to be part of our organization.

Second, I will use the Music Team, and they have agreed, to help with orientation, voice placement, and securing guest music.

Third, I will assist the sponsor in the follow up process: making phone calls as needed, writing letters, sending e-mails and whatever it takes to make sure the guest returns.

So now we have our work cut out for us for 2006. *What do you plan to do?* ♥

FOCAL POINT

Up Close And Personal!

by Wade Dexter



Al Moritz

If you old-timers have been wondering whatever happened to "Hector, the Garbage Collector" and "Alice, the Cheerleader," I'm

happy to report that they're both happy and retired in the person of **Albert J. Moritz**, veteran *HOA* member and a practitioner of barbershop quartetting going way back to the early days of the Society.

Al was born and raised in Chicago (except for a couple of years in Kalamazoo, MI) where he went to high school. In high school, he sang with the Choral Club and served as president of the club during his senior year. His education includes many technical schools, which he attended during his 41 years with AT&T, and singing with the Illinois Bell Telephone Chorus from 1950 to 1962.

He joined the Society in 1956 when he became a member of the Southwest Suburban chapter in Oak Lawn, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. During that period, he served as Vice President of Stage Production & Scenery Construction and used his talents and skills many times after he transferred to the Kansas City Chapter in 1963. In Kansas City he served as chapter president in 1973.

But most of us remember Al as a fellow singer in the *Heart of*

America Chorus and a member of a quartet that went by four different names: *The Gamboliers*, the *BMA Beaconaires*, the *BMA Skyliners* and the *Kansas Citians*. Here's how he describes the derivation of the names:

"*The Gamboliers* were an active quartet prior to the formation of the Society in 1938. They joined the Kansas City Chapter, I think, as charter members. **Mr. Grant**, founder of BMA, the Business Men's Assurance Company, was also a charter member of the Kansas City Chapter, and agreed to sponsor a quartet in about 1950.

The BMA Company had a weather beacon on top of the office building at Pershing Road and the train station and it was easily recognized by the population of KC for reporting weather conditions by changing colors. Thus the *Gamboliers* became the *BMA Beaconaires*.

Years later, the BMA Company built a new building on top of Signal Hill and sold the old building and the beacon. The new structure was white and its design changed the skyline silhouette of KC. The *BMA Beaconaires* then became the *BMA Skyliners*.

After 30-plus years, BMA advised the quartet that they were dropping their sponsorship and thanked them for their loyal service. The quartet requested international headquarters change the name to just *Skyliners*, but they said it couldn't be done. The name was already registered to a quartet in Wisconsin. So the *BMA Skyliners* became the *Kansas Citians*. The quartet had many members over the years. It was the longest organized quartet in Kansas City Chapter history."

Al also brought a lot of quartet experience to *HOA* in another quartet he was in called the *Four Phonies*, an auxiliary unit of the Illinois Bell Telephone Chorus. He also claims membership in the *Barbershops*, a Chicago quartet active from 1960 through 1962.

Photo courtesy of Ron McIntire

One of the most exciting experiences Al recalls was the appearance of the *Barbershops* on stage at the McCormick Place in Chicago in 1962. They shared the same program with the popular recording artists, **Rosemary Clooney** and **Vaughn Monroe**. He describes how the quartet performed for both Clooney and Vaughn in their respective dressing rooms.

"Vaughn wanted to tag in. He sang bass and lead on 'Coney Island Baby' and 'Ol Joe.' Vaughn Monroe was probably a great bass, but can any of the old-timers imagine him singing lead in a barbershop quartet?"

Al is enjoying his retirement nowadays like most of the rest of us retirees. His dear wife, **LaVerne**, died in February of 1998, so he lives alone after 46 years. "I do a little part-time handyman work" he says, "it's more of a hobby than an occupation." He also says with firmness that he has no intention of ever dropping his *HOA* membership. "I can't sing any more," he says, "because I've lost a lot of my hearing."

Al has had an interesting and exciting barbershop career over the past 49 years and he's looking forward to his receipt of the Society's 50-year award in Indianapolis next summer. Wish I could be there to see you get it, Al. You deserve it. ♥



**BARBERSHOPPING
CAN BE FUN!**

Year-End Giving Reminder

by Dale Neuman



The calendar will soon turn over to the end of the year—and remind us of how little time we have before the holidays will be here. We know we will be busy in our hobby with the joint Holiday Show, our Bell-Ringing for the Salvation Army and the first looks at new music for next year. We also know we will be busy getting gifts for family and friends as well as making travel plans to see them or a place with warmer climate or, in the best of situations, both at the same time!

But December also is the month when many charitable organizations seek our contributions to help them move in a positive way into the new year. And Barbershoppers have a reputation for being very generous with our time, talent and dollars when the case had been made to us for a worthy need. December also ends the calendar year for tax planning purposes—which is why charitable organizations step up their efforts to combine the holiday ethos of giving with the reminder that the taxman is waiting.

All of this is my way of once again asking those of our members who are making such year-end charitable giving plans to include *HOA* among them. The Kansas City Chapter is a 501 (c) 3 organization under the IRS regulations and donations are tax deductible. Currently, as I pointed out in an earlier *Harmonotes* article, the Chapter has several ways to make such cash donations: one can just make an “unrestricted” donation to the Chapter to be spent in ways determined by the Board, or one can give to the President’s Helpers Fund, the Riser Replacement Fund or the Heart of America Charitable Fund. The President’s Fund aids members in times of need to go to contest, retreat and in other ways to participate in the music educational aspect of our hobby. The Riser Replacement Fund is precisely that: dedicated to the purchase of new, safer and less noisy risers. The *HOA* Charitable Fund is a vehicle for building an endowment that will support the activities of the Chapter in the future. The President’s Fund and the Riser Fund are administered by the Chapter under guidelines provided by the Board. The *HOACF* is administered by the National Heritage Foundation and can be used for a variety of advantageous tax and estate planning purposes that your financial advisor can assist with. If you are interested in seeing how *HOACF* may fit into your plans, have your financial advisor contact the National Heritage Foundation or David Hokanson, an *HOA* member who created this vehicle for the Kansas City Chapter, for more information.

But please remember that old adage ‘charity begins at home’ and think about *HOA* as well as the other worthy recipients you support at this time of the year.

Happy New Year! ♥



Photo courtesy of Ron McIntire

Where Are They Now?

by Wade Dexter



Harold Robinette

Jim Bagby considers that he was “a stalwart of the bass section through the 1970s and into the run of chorus championships, beginning in 1979.” He’s talking about Harold Robinette who, according to his lovely wife, Millie, joined the

Society and the *Heart of America Chorus* in 1954 and was an extremely dedicated and active member until he retired from his job with the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company in 1985. At that time, the two of them moved to the Lake of the Ozarks area and later to Arizona. They returned to Kansas City in 2004 because of health matters and in order to be near their children and grandchildren.

Jim says that quartet was Harold’s “claim to fame.” He sang with a high school quartet and later with church choirs. Harold recalls that *HOA* member Jimmy Byrne was the guy who brought him into the Kansas City Chapter and barbershopping in general. He served a term as Program Vice President for the chapter, but as Jim tells it, singing with a quartet was his main contribution to the chapter. He sang with the *Gambolliers*, (Barney Wasson, Eddie Schlieb, and Orval Wilson), who had won the CSD quartet championship in 1952, and later with the *BMA Gambolliers* when they won the district gold in 1957.

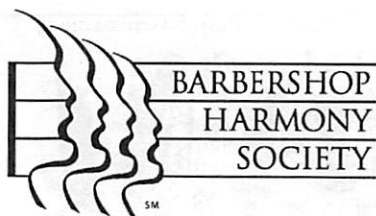
My thanks to Jim Bagby and Ron Abel for their help in putting this article together.

Millie and Harold are now living at 3103 NE. Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64119. Their phone number is (816) 412-0064. Give them a call. Millie will probably answer the phone, and it’s great fun chatting with her and Harold. ♥

Photo courtesy of Ron McIntire

DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY HARMONOTES

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19



BARBERSHOP
HARMONY
SOCIETY

Society for the Preservation and Encouragement
of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America
Kansas City Chapter, Inc.
816 West 121 Street
Kansas City, MO 64145

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Photo courtesy of Matt Bostick



- Dec. 3 -** Holiday Harmony Spectacular featuring
HOA and the KC Chorus of Sweet Adelines
Dec. 17 - Bell Ringing for Salvation Army,
Location TBA
Jan. 13 - Installation/Awards Banquet
Overland Park Doubletree
Mar. 25 - 60th Annual Show at Music Hall
2 & 7:30 p.m.
July 7 - International Chorus Competition
Indianapolis, IN

CALENDAR

Heart of
America
Chorus

