



The

Undertone



What's Happening in the Burlington, Vermont, Chapter

Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet singing in America, Inc.

Member of the great Northeastern District since 1947.

We meet Tuesdays 7:00 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier School, Winooski, Vermont -- Call 802 985-8714

Jerry Walter, Editor (802) 985-8714
66 Bacon Drive, Shelburne, VT 05482

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First Night shows thrill full house crowds!

BURLINGTON -- New Years Eve came early at Burlington's 20th First Night Celebration. The Green Mountain Chorus and quartets, The Dreamers and High Voltage, plus Essex Junction High School's Half Steps performed two shows in the afternoon at 1:00 and 4:00.

The sanctuary of the First United Methodist Church was filled to capacity despite the early times of celebration. The shows featured the best each group has to offer and included a couple of seasonal tunes like "Winter wonderland" and "Jingle Bell rock", but not holiday numbers, followed by songs from current repertoire including "Alexander's Ragtime Band," and "Oh, You beautiful Doll" to contest numbers like "I Can't Give You Anything But Love" and Mr. Touchdown USA."

The Dreamers did their best ballad, "Aura Lee/Love Me Tender Medley" while High Voltage chose that old favorite, "Java Jive."

Half Steps had their own portion of the show which included "Coney Island Babe" and the Nursery Rhyme song round in which their physical

antics nearly caused great injury to the singers. They also performed a short "Organ Recital" for the audience. They were very well recieved.

Because it has such a great punch line, High Voltage and the Green Mountain Chorus performed the quartet's version of "On Top Of Old Smokey" which ends with "... but you bought a button and we got in free! Scott free!"

Between shows the chorus and quartets literally marched down the street to the Converse Home for a special mini-concert featuring much of our 'official' performance from First Night.

We were warmly received, as usual, by Amy and Jackie and most of the 27 residents. We have made it a custom to visit the Converse Home during the holidays but missed then earlier in the season.

Quartets needed for Singing Valentines

We need quartets for this year's SV program. We will be singing from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Friday February 14. Contact Jerry Walter if you are available to sing.

Installation dinner set for Friday 1/17 at Holiday Inn

by *John Villere, President*

The Burlington Chapter of SPEBSQSA will be holding its Annual Chapter Officer Installation and "Barbershopper Of The Year" Award Banquet on Friday, January 17 at 6:30 pm at the So. Burlington Holiday Inn on Williston Rd.

Cocktail Hour starts at 6:00.

Dinner at 6:45.

The cost is \$16.80, plus the requisite 9% Tax and 16% Gratuity for a total of \$21.00 per person. Spouses and other adult guests are invited to join us.

Serge Rizzo is collecting money for the dinners. Your reservation and meal requests should have benn made last night at our meeting.

I hope to see you there.

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2001 Northeastern District Bulletin of the Year

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Unless accompanied by a byline, all articles are written by the editor, who assumes all responsibility for accuracy and content. Articles represent the opinions of their authors and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the members or officers of the chapter. To the extent permitted by space, all written communications received by the editor will be published. The editor, reserves the right to edit all copy for punctuation and length.

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E-Mail: JerWalter@hotmail.com

Burlington Chapter Board of Directors

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Chapter Barbershopper of the year 2001

Ed Bechtel

Division Barbershopper of the year 2000

Charlie Church



Nickelodeon 1974 (L to R) Jim Appelgate, Mark Yungfleisch, Jim Keefner and Ray Miller

James H. Appelgate 1934 -- 2003

Eagle Bridge, NY -- Former Burlington Chapter member Jim Appelgate passed away on 1/1/03 as a result of a heart attack. Chapter members with longevity will remember Jim for the quartets he sang in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s (Yankee Doodles, Original Junction City All Stars, Nickelodeon, etc.), for his expertise as a welder, for his artistic creativity in annual show set design (e.g. The Old Lamplighter show in 1975.), for his expertise in tuning a chord and thus making Ray Miller look good, and for his general all-around easy going and his fun loving nature. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Jim's widow Sandy and his family.

We'll miss him.

Although Jim moved to New York in the late 1980s, he made a point of coming to our annual show each year. He would always stop and say "Hello" just to let us know he was still around.

Memorial contributions may be made to either the family (Sandra Appelgate, Eagle Bridge, NY 12057) or the Buskirk Reformed Church through the funeral home (Mahar Funerak Home, 43 Main St, Hoosick Falls NY 12090).

VLQ Contest?

by *Cotton Damon*,

NED Contest & Judging VP

The Northeastern District is re-establishing the Very Large Quartet (VLQ) contest. It has been some years since we've had one but when we did it was a wonderful time. The contest will be held as part of the West Regional Convention in the Albany, NY area and will take place Saturday afternoon following the chorus contest.

The rules are:

1. A VLQ must have from 5 (five) to 10 (ten) men. The Society considers this a cho-

rus contest, **not** a quartet contest, so chorus contest rules apply. (This is different than what I said at COTS.) All participants must be members of the same chapter.

2. All entries must be done through the Society website.

3. The entry deadline is March 22.

I will be automatically sent a copy of your entry and will acknowledge receipt of it to you within 5 days. If you do not hear from me, it means I did not get it, so please contact me. (Please note — I will be away January 16-27 and will acknowledge all entries received during that time after my return.

2002 -- "It was a very good year!"

by Jerry Walter, Editor

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times... .

--**Charles Dickens**, *A Tale of Two Cities*

That's just about sums up the year 2002 for the Burlington Chapter. We had our ups and downs but managed to let the "best of times" out number the "worst."

January was kicked off with our annual Installation Banquet with Steve Janes as installing officer.

Ed Bechtel was voted Barbershopper Of The Year 2001. This honor goes with his Co-Barbershopper Of The Half-Century award he won in 1998.

In searching for a new meeting place we visited the newly remodeled Elley-Long Music Center at Fort Ethan Allen, but eventually turned down the facility for cost issues.

Jim DeBusman, on his way to Montreal in a typical Vermont blizzard, stopped by to give individual voice coaching to those who made it to the meeting.

February was kicked off with the, now annual, Mountain Division Harmony Workshop in Montreal. Over 200 barbershoppers from all three international barbershop organizations took part.

Singing Valentines saw five quartets, three from the GMC and two from the Champlain Echoes, deliver 40 sets of songs, candy, cards and balloons.

March Having missed Country Park senior housing at Christmas, we had an early singout there and recieved our usual check from past member Cliff Japhet.

As of March 19, *The Undertone* was made available on the chapter web site at

<http://www.nedistrict.org/greenmtn/Undertone.html>

Dr. Howard Slack, a pioneer of our chapter passed away on March 21.

Our Spring Retreat was spiced up by having a new chorus coach, Dan Signor, drill us for a whole day. We took the opportunity to try out the St. Francis School in Winooski as a potential new meeting place.

April was the month of "worst of times" as the district imposed an experimental division contest scheme on us. The contest was in Manchester, Conn., a mere 400 minles from Montreal. As a result several Mountain Division chapters chose not to compete. The GMC went by bus only to finish fourth in division and 14th overall in the district. High Voltage finished seventh in the division and qualified to travel to Lake Placid in the

fall. CVQ missed qualifying by just a few points.

Meanwhile, Lake Effect Harmony, had already qualified for the fall by competing in the Eastern Division Contest at Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

May will be remembered by Heather Anderson of the Champlain Echoes as she took home the \$1,000 from the 20 Week Club. As in past years some numbers were luckier than others as two person had double winners -- Becky Senesac (#70) and Dick Smullen (#65).

On the 14th we visited St. Albans Elementary School for a singout followed by a regular chapter meeting.

June saw our annual show "College Days" featuring current champs, Michigan Jake, this time all four came, and a new Essex Junction High School quartet, Half Steps, who nearly stole the show.

This was also the month we changed our permanent meeting place to St. Francis of Xavior School in Winooski. It has worked well for us and the school.

We had a mini-retreat on a Wednesday evening with Chorus Coach Dan Signor returning.

People's Academy, Morrisville, again was the scene of our first package show of the year. We also had a "first" singout at Eagle Crest, somewhere in Williston; just ask Ed Bechtel, he looked everywhere.

July is always Expos baseball month, however we only sang the National Anthem once in July and once in August.

We held a second mini-retreat, this time with Chorus Coach Karen Rourke.

August hosted two package shows, Troy and Vergennes. Both were very well recieved, if not well attended.

Dan Signor returned again for a third mini-retreat.

September was the high point of the year for some as we hosted Music Judge Gary Bolles, from California, at our Annual Fall Retreat held for the first time in many years at a site other than our famous Camp Keewaydin. This year we used the facilities of the Lone Pine Campground in Colchester., which we previewed earlier on a Tuesday at a singout for campers and then remained for the evening.

October saw the Green Mountain Chorus go all out, well perhaps not "all" out, for the Fall District Contest, by previewing our contest numbers at a package show in

Randolph, Vermont, for the first time in several years. The show went well as did a super afterglow at a local country club.

Lake Placid once again hosted the North-eastern District Contest and Convention. The GMC inched up one notch from last year -- ninth, while quartets Lake Effect Harmony and High Voltage finished 13th and 14th.

November started with a singout at Cathedral Square and ended with another successful event as our Holiday Ensemble sang at the University Mall.

December closed out the year, but with such a bang, as December became our busiest month of the year with at least nine performances.

First, we started at the Burlington Elks Lodge Memorial Service for lost members of 2002 on December 1.

Next, we sang at Fanny Allen Hospital's tree lighting service, followed by some songs for patients and nuns on December 2.

On Tuesday the 10th we performed a mini-show for St. Francis School.

On the 15th we had our sixth annual Barbershop Holiday Concert with the Champlain Echoes and the Barre-Tones. Venues were again in Burlington and Waterbury Center.

In between the Holiday Ensemble performed several more afternoons in the U-Mall, as did CVQ.

To top off the year the chorus and quartets gave two afternoon performances at Burlington's 20th Annual First Night Celebration where we twice filled the sanctuary of the First United Methodist Church with fans who obviously enjoyed themselves, as did all of us.

Membership - 2002

The year 2002 saw an increase in membership as the total active members increased by six, with the loss of only one member, for a net increase of five to end the year with 57 members.

Returning, transfers and new members are:

Bill Baker
Bob Cauley
Michael Hermann
Dan Miller
Paul St. Peter
Dave Stonecliffe

Based on 'early' returns, all six are already assets to the chapter.

Holiday shows

THANKS TO MANY BEHIND THE SCENE

by Anne Nichols, Champlain Echoes

Many thanks to all those who participated in the two holiday concerts on Sunday, December 15. I hope you all have heard good things about our performances. I know I have.

I want to take this opportunity to thank a number of people who helped get this "show on the road" in Burlington, as they say, who deserve the recognition, as you may not be aware of all that it takes to accomplish this feat.

I apologize in advance if I missed anyone and we couldn't have put the show on without you. So, without further ado, and in no particular order, the background crew:

- John Villere**, for having the 2200 flyers folded
- Dan Blouin**, for addressing all 2200 flyers
- GMC members**, for sticking the little seals on the flyers
- Sally Boutin** and **Dianne Potvin**, for manning the ticket sales table
- Denis Brochu**, for handling the finances and paying the bills
- Dick Labrecque**, for his Christmas decorations and setup of the stage in Burlington along with **Dave Merrill**
- Echoes**, for the wrapped "presents" for the set
- Don Pierce**, for hauling/moving those dang risers
- Glen** and **Lynn Allen**, for running the lights and sound
- Charlie Church** and crew, for moving and setting the lights and sound on stage
- Bruce Spector**, for stepping in to MC both shows
- GMC members**, for setup/breakdown of those dang risers and stage
- Serge Rizzo**, for arranging the PR
- Carol Hollenbeck**, for writing the script

and

last, but not least --
Our directors and all the barbershop singers!

Show Chairpersons:
 Burlington, **Dave Merrill**
 Champlain Echoes, **Anne Nichols**
 Barre-Tones, **Jane Watson**

Thanks again to all who helped make this year's concerts the best yet.

Goodbye & Hello

by Lake Effect Harmony

Goodbye -

It is with deep regret that the members of Lake Effect Harmony officially announce the departure of our bass, Jerry Huetz. After having been involved in the quartet for several years, Jerry recently announced his desire to "step away from the quartet." As many of you may already know, Jerry is retiring from his regular job at Pfizer next month and is looking forward to spending some time with his wife Judy, his children and grandchildren.

We, the remaining members of LEH, would like to take this opportunity to thank Jerry for his hard work, dedication and commitment to the quartet. We will be hard pressed to find a substitute that possesses the same level of commitment, talent and energy that Jerry did. We wish Jerry and his family all the best.

Hello -

After extensive formal and informal auditioning of chapter basses, we are pleased to announce that the new bass for Lake Effect Harmony is Bill Baker. Welcome aboard Bill!

We goofed!

Too many drawings made

Last week, on January 7, we made three drawings for the 20 week Club. At the time we believed that once the first drawing was started each Tuesday following warranted a drawing. We were wrong. If you check your entry sheet which bears your number, you will see that no drawings were scheduled for 12/24 or 12/31. Therefore, we have already made the drawings for 1/14 and 1/21.

Although this is a break in tradition, it nonetheless sets the schedule for the 20 weekly drawings to end with Friday of the 20th week falling on May 2, as scheduled.

We are sorry for any inconvenience.

Go to School for free!

Yes, there is still time to register for the great Mountain Division Harmony Workshop in Montreal on February 1.

Classes are offered on many aspects of barbershopping including: MC'ing, Vocal Care, How to be a section leader, How to Coach, History of barbershop singing, Barbershop Theory and many more.

See Jerry Walter for registration forms.

20 Week Club Winners

Date	No	Winner	Seller
12/10	219	Deana Higgs	D. Higgs
12/17	101	Murielle Rugg	D. Blouin
1/07	225	Carol Hathaway	E. Bechtel
1/14	136	Virgina Charlotte	D. Labrecque
1/21	129	Arletta Allen	Al Allen



- January 17 (Friday)** -- Installation Banquet
Holiday Inn, S. Burlington
- February 1 (Saturday)** -- Great Northern Harmony Workshop -- Montreal
Tuition paid by the chapter
- February 14 (Friday)** -- Singing Valentines
- March 8 (Saturday)** -- Spring Retreat
Karen Rourke - Place TBD
- March 14 - 15 (Fri. & Sat.)** -- Eastern Region Contest & Convention and 2003 International Prelims
Peabody, Massachusetts
- April 4 - 5 (Fri. - Sat.)** -- Western Region Contest & Convention - Troy, New York
- May 2 (Friday)** -- 20 Week Club Banquet
S. Burlington K of C
- May 31 (Saturday)** -- 55th Annual Show
Featuring 2002 Champs
Four Voices
- June 29 -- July 6** -- 2003 International Convention and Contest
MONTREAL! Sign up now!

From the Music Team

The Music Team is starting to look at themes for the 2004 Annual Show. If you've got some theme ideas and potential songs that fit the theme ideas, please submit them to Music Chair, Charlie Church.

Currently the following themes are being considered:

- God and Country**
- Heritage of Harmony**
- Mardi Gras/Jazz**
- I Love a Parade**
- Rock and Roll**
- Through the Years**
- Western**