



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

February 4, 2003  
 Volume 19, Number 4

## Chapter pays tribute to Dale Higgs!



Photos by Jerry Walter

Al Carpenter presents plaque to Dale Higgs last Tuesday at his home where the Green Mountain Chorus serenaded.

Last Tuesday, a large contingent of the Green Mountain chorus squeezed in the living room of Dale and Barb Higgs supposedly to bring him a little cheer since he has been unable to attend regular chapter meets in recent weeks.

After singing through most of the chorus repertoire, and a couple of number by The Dreamers, Al Carpenter presented Dale with a Society plaque in tribute to Dale's continuous service to the chapter, particularly in the financial area.



Plaque inscription: "To DALE C. HIGGS In Appreciation of 31 Years of Dedicated Service to the GREEN MOUNTAIN CHORUS January 28, 2003."

Dear Green Mountain Chorus Members,  
 Dale and I had been looking forward to last Tuesday evening from the day Al stopped by to say that the chorus would be doing a sing out at our home on the 28th. Thanks for braving the cold, icy steps and somewhat close quarters. It was a great time for us and we appreciate it more than words can say. Dale really enjoyed the opportunity to join in for a few songs and is looking forward to better weather and being able to participate occasionally in the chorus rehearsals.

Our grateful thanks to you all for creating a very special memory for the members of the Higgs family.  
 Our very best,  
 Dale and Barb Higgs

## Singing Valentines next

Don't forget, there are only seven more days in which to sell Singing Valentines. At this printing we only have eleven confirmed sales (4 from the Chapter and 11 from the Champlain Echoes).

This program is a great opportunity for all of us to show the rest of the world what barbershopping is all about. Any of you who have had the pleasure of delivering Singing Valentines in the past know how enjoyable they are for both deliverer and receiver.

We have confirmed that sales can be made in the Barre/Montpelier area, as CVQ has offered their services, preferably in the 1 to 5 p.m. time slot.

In addition, High Voltage and The Dreamers will be participating. One pickup quartet including Bob Cauley, Dave Stonecliffe, Reid Allen and a yet to be named tenor.

| Inside                 |         |
|------------------------|---------|
| Harmony Workshop       | p.2 & 3 |
| A Chording 2 your pres | p.4     |
| In Memoriam            | p.4     |
| 20 Week Club Winners   | p.4     |
| Coming Events          | p.4     |

## The Undertone

### 2001 Northeastern District Bulletin of the Year

A publication of the Burlington, Vermont Chapter of SPEBSQSA, Inc., a nonprofit, charitable and educational organization, published each Tuesday on which a chapter meeting is scheduled.

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.

Deadline for copy is 9:00 p.m. Monday preceding each issue. Copy is accepted in the following order of preference: e-mail, IBM compatible 3.5 diskettes - almost any word processor, ASCII text; facsimile to 802-985-866, oral dictation by phone and, of course, hard copy.

E-Mail: JerWalter@hotmail.com

### Burlington Chapter Board of Directors

|                          |                                 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| President                | John Villeré<br>802 859-3403    |
| VP Devel. (Membership)   | Reid Allen<br>802 862-8987      |
| VP Music & Performance   | Charlie Church<br>802 879-1981  |
| Quartet Vice President   | Charlie Cerutti<br>802 485-6924 |
| Secretary                | John Zweighaft<br>802 879-6422  |
| Treasurer                | Denis Brochu<br>802 860-6465    |
| Program VP               | [Vacant]                        |
| Members at Large         |                                 |
| Al Carpenter             | Jerry Huetz                     |
| Dick Labrecque           | David Merrill                   |
| Serge Rizzo              | Jerry Walter                    |
| Immediate Past-President | Gary Brunell                    |

### Additional Officers

|                                   |                         |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Music Director                    | Greg Morrill            |
| Assistant Director                | Chuck Laufer            |
| Chorus Coaches                    |                         |
| Gary Bolles                       | Pat Heise               |
| Steve Janes                       | Brian O'Leary           |
| Steve Plumb                       | Dan Signor              |
| Karen Rourke                      | Steve Tramack           |
| Learning Tape/Quartet Coordinator | [vacant]                |
| 2003 Show Chairman                | [vacant]                |
| Harmony Foundation Chairman       | Dale Higgs              |
| Sunshine Chairman                 | Gary Brunell            |
| Public Relations Chairman         | Serge Rizzo             |
| 20 Week Club Chairman             | Dick Labrecque          |
| Uniform Chairman                  | Tif Crowell             |
| Booking Agent                     | Al Carpenter            |
| Section Leaders                   |                         |
| Tenor - Chuck Laufer              | Lead - Neil Cerutti     |
| Baritone - Bob Cauley             | Bass - Dave Stonecliffe |
| Librarian                         | John Zweighaft          |
| Chorus Manager                    | Don Pierce              |
| Package Show Producer             | Charlie Church          |

### Chapter Barbershopper of the year 2002

**Al Carpenter**

### Division Barbershopper of the year 2000

**Charlie Church**

## Harmony Workshop posts another winner!

As pointed out by our president, if you didn't attend the sixth annual Great Northern Barbershop Harmony Workshop in Montreal last Saturday, you really missed a wonderful time.

Thanks to the hard work of Steve Wheaton (and Addie) barbershoppers from three international organizations had a full schedule of workshops and entertainment, plus a free lunch!

Headliners as both coaches and entertainers was the 1999 International Champion Quartet FRED. They certainly have lost none of their comedy impact in the years since winning gold. Poor "Pooky" still takes the brunt of their jokes.

Burlington chapter representatives included quartets CVQ, The Dreamers, and Evergreen, our newest quartet from Central Vermont.

After a warm up session by Jim DeBussnam from Kenosha, all 200 plus barbershoppers, ranging from a two week member to our own 57 year member, Ed Bechtel, headed off for three hours of classes or coaching.

Each quartet was honored with at least one coaching session with a member of FRED. Those not being coached attended one of the many barbershop skills classes taught by one of the faculty of outstanding talents too numerous to mention here.

It was yet another feather in Steve Wheaton's cap.



*Steve Wheaton star of the workshop!*



*"Falling Rain" four using a three and one formation.*

# Scenes from the Great Northern Harmony workshop 2003



*Evergreen -- our newest quartet makes their debut in Montreal*



*1999 Champs, FRED do their Facinating Rhythm routine*



*Rob Mance puts the Island City Chorus through its paces singing "Roses of Picardy."*



*Rob Mance puts the Sweet Adelines West Island Chorus through its paces.*

# A Chording 2 your President

by John Villeré, President  
September 11, 2001 was my niece's 15th birthday. Tragedy has a way of detracting from the significance otherwise joyful simultaneous events. Although the infamous events of September 11 shall long be remembered, our family tries to give my niece her due each birthday.

Similarly, the Shuttle tragedy of February 1, 2003 makes other events of that day pale by comparison. So, without diminishing the reverence with which we hold the memory of the lost astronauts, I'd like to acknowledge the significance of how many of our fellow Green Mountain Chorus members spent that day.

Nearly half of our active chorus members chose to take advantage of The Great Northern Harmony Workshop in Montreal last Saturday. Not only did they leave before dawn to spend an entire day working on our craft, but also they chose to make the long trip in spite of a history of awful and frequently dangerous weather conditions on the day of the workshop. Fortunately, the weather was not nearly as bad as forecast.

I'm looking forward to the Chorus reaping the benefits of this training. Besides the actual training, the significance of such high participation is very encouraging. Greater involvement and participation in various chorus events enhances the total experience for everyone. I sincerely hope that this presages a reinvigoration of our membership.

Each of us has a few more days to promote the Singing Valentines Program for 2003. This annual effort can greatly increase the exposure of our craft to the public. Besides that, it can make a significant contribution to our operating fund enabling us to continue

subsidizing participation in training events like The Great Northern Harmony Workshop. Please do whatever you can to help make this year's Singing Valentine's a success.

## IN MEMORIAM

by Reed Sampson,  
SPEBSQSA Live Wire 02/03/03  
The loss of the Shuttle Columbia has touched each of us profoundly. We know that there are Society members who have had very close ties to the country's space program and NASA. Racine, home of Astronaut Laurel Clark, is a mere 13 miles from the headquarters city of Kenosha. We also learned of a barbershop connection with Mission Commander Colonel Rick Husband. Though he was not a Society member, Husband sang in a barbershop quartet in high school. All of his biographical material makes reference to his love of singing and that he was an active member of his church choir.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of the astronauts' families especially, and to those within the barbershop family who have been personally touched by this tragic loss.

## Reclaim your tuition: use vouchers

Don't forget if you attended the Great Harmony Workshop last Saturday, you can be reimbursed by the chapter for the \$37 tuition.

Please use the form sent out by Treasurer Denis Brochu, last week. If you don't have a copy, please see Denis and he will provide you with one.

**Board of Directors  
meeting next week 2/12  
at Shaw's 7:30**

## 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 | Virginia Charlotte | D. Labrecque |
| 1/21  | 129 | Arletta Allen      | A. Allen     |
| 1/28  | 222 | Terry Bechtel      | E. Bechtel   |



- February 12 (Wednesday) -- Board of Directors meeting Shaw's Supermarket 7:30
- February 14 (Friday) -- Singing Valentines Quartets wanted!
- February 18 (Tuesday) -- Early Sing Out Fern Hill Prospect St. Burlington Warm up 6:30
- 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!
- July 27-August 3 -- Harmony College St. Joseph, Missouri Sign up now!

