



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

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66 Bacon Drive, Shelburne, VT 05482

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## Singing Valentines - a real win-win for all!

by Jerry Walter, Editor



by

Jordan Silverman The Burlington Free Press

Debo LaPlante received her Singing Valentine from The Dreamers (Dick Labrecque, Dave Merrill, Jerry Walter and Ed Bechtel), one of seven quartets delivering Singing Valentines.

Valentines Day brought happiness at least 82 times to wives, friends and significant others throughout most of Chittenden County and Central Vermont. The Burlington Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society and the Chaplain Echoes of Harmony, Inc. sent out eight quartets, five male and three female, between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. and virtually every minute was lots

of fun. No blizzards, no chasing around campuses or airports, just plain good times for all. If there is anything that's "WIN-WIN" it has to be Singing Valentines.

This now traditional, annual project raised about \$3,000 to be split between barbershop groups, making it one of the top revenue producers of the year for both groups.

See Valentines page 2

## Spring Retreat Saturday!

by Charlie Church, Music VP

Don't miss this opportunity to improve your singing technique. This Saturday Karen Rourke returns to continue her efforts at improving how each of us sing in order that we improve our singing consistency.

Although some singers believe such retreat sessions are intended to polish the chorus' performance for the upcoming division contest, not so! While we may use contest songs as a retreat vehicle, we do so because these songs represent our current 'best' work.

We will be gathering at about 9 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier School, our regular meeting place, and, with a break for lunch, continuing until about 4:00.

Dress is informal, but be sure to bring your instrument!

See you there!

### Inside

Music Team report 2/03	p.3
A Chording 2 your Pres	p.4
Wanted:Choir Directors	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 802 859-3403
VP Devel. (Membership)	Reid Allen 802 862.-8987
VP Music & Performance	Charlie Church 802 879-1981
Quartet Vice President	Charlie Cerutti 802 485-6924
Secretary	John Zweighaft 802 879-6422
Treasurer	Denis Brochu 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]
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Harmony Foundation Chairman	Dale Higgs
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20 Week Club Chairman	Dick Labrecque
Uniform Chairman	Tif Crowell
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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**

**Valentines** from page 1

This year we had seven quartets in the field. They included four registered quartets from the Burlington Chapter of SPEBSQSA as follows:

**CVQ** - (They covered Central Vermont) Charlie Cerutti, Neil Cerutti, Chuck Laufer and Brian Stone.

**The Dreamers** - (They got their picture in *The Burlington Free Press*.) Dick Labrecque, Dave Merrill, Ed Bechtel and Jerry Walter.

**High Voltage** -- (They got to sing for the wife and friends of Burlington's Mayor Clavelle.) Charlie Church, Bruce Spector, Greg Morrill and Don Pierce.

**Lake Effect Harmony** -- (They had help from Denis Brochu singing lead with Ron Clarke switching to tenor.) Ron Clarke, Denis Brochu, Rick Bunning and Bill Baker.

One pick-up quartet: **GMC#1** - Charlie Church, Reid Allen, Don Caulley and Dave Stonecliffe.

Ladies quartets were:

**For the Moment** -- Margaret Bartholomew, Irene Knight, Deb Drury and Gail Kirby.

**Becky's quartet** -- Becky Senesac, Deb Bouvier, Lyn Perri n and Nancy L'Ecuyer.

**Ann Nichol's quartet** -- Ann Nichols, Heather Anderson, Diane Gosselin and Susan Culbert.

Quartet deliveries were as follows:

The Dreamers	14
For the Moment	13
AnnNichol's quartet	12
Lake Effect Harmony	10
Becky's quartet	10
CVQ	9
High Voltage	8
GMC#1	6

Among individuals, the men saw 17 'sellers' to the ladies 10. Individual sellers included:

Jerry Walter	8*
Margaret Bartholomew	7
Heather Anderson	6*
Rick Bunning	6
Susan Culbert	6
Dick Labrecque	6
Irene Knight	4
Don Pierce	4
Deb Bouvier	3
Deb Drury	3

\*Both Jerry and Heather had the luxury of having their phone numbers on the flyers, ads and in other Internet advertizing.

Plus, there were six persons with two each and nine with one each.

This marks the best year yet for sales and deliveries.

You can bet that I'll be delivering Singing Valentines again next year.



# Music Team Report - February, 2003

by *Charlie Church*, Music VP

1. The Music Team last met on January 30 at the State complex in Waterbury. The following are salient points from the meeting
2. Outside coaching update - in addition to Karen Rourke at our Saturday, March 8 Spring Retreat; we will be having Dan Signor on **Wednesday**, June 25 and Gary Bolles at our Fall Retreat on September 19-20. Our current plan is to obtain further Tuesday evening outside coaching during the Summer. We're targeting for the fourth Tuesdays in July and August.
3. 2004 Show Theme - the Team picked two themes. Mardi Gras/Jazz/New Orleans for the first half and Songs Of Inspiration for the second half. We're also looking at the possibility of having a jazz band. Chapter members are encouraged to send their song wish list for the two themes ASAP to C. Church.
4. The 2003 Western Regional Contest(s), April 4 and 5, will be at Watervliet, NY High School. The GMC will be singing first or second in the April 5 noon chorus contest in order to accommodate six chapter members performing in a play that evening in Barre. We'll be looking for Karen Rourke's assistance in upgrading the "Goodbye Dixie" tag at the 3/8 Retreat.
5. The status of 2003 Annual Show was reviewed. We looked at song learning status and concluded that we will most likely have all eight "Buffalo Bills" chorus songs ready. But a lot depends on each and every chapter member using their learning tapes. The number of second half chorus songs will depend the participation of outside groups such as The Half Steps and MMU chorus. We've not hear yet from Lake Effect Harmony as to their participation in the show. A quartet audition schedule will be worked out at the next Team meeting.
6. We reviewed a voluminous list of ideas on chorus vocal/performance enhancement. Some will be implemented soon; others are being re-assessed.
7. One year and five year Music Team goals were tabled due to meeting length.
8. Selection of 2003 Assistant Section Leaders and Assistant Director(s) was tabled.
9. Greg will not be at rehearsal on 2/25. Chuck. Laufer and Pat Heise will get together to plan out and implement the rehearsal. We're looking forward to seeing what their creativity will bring.
10. Date and time of next meeting - Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Secretary's Conference Room, North Corridor, State office complex, Waterbury. All are welcome.

Respectfully submitted by:  
C. Church, Music & Perf. VP  
2/18/03

# A Chording 2 your President

by *John Villeré*, President

## Presidential Proclamation

Now that I have been reelected and officially re-inaugurated I am going to take some presidential initiative to make chapter meetings more exciting. The first step I am taking relates to chapter meeting breaks. Typically, around 8:30 on Tuesday evenings we break from rehearsal, conduct a little business, have a few announcements, run to the bathroom and then get back on the risers about 15 minutes later.

I hereby proclaim that the ban on Pickup Quartet Singing and taking of refreshments during break is officially lifted.

You may think that there was no ban. However, when we moved from the Knights of Columbus Hall to South Burlington High School we had to honor the school's policy of no food or drink in the auditorium. Since moving out of South Burlington High School, we've done little to change that.

Pickup quartet singing during break time still happens occasionally, but it occurs infrequently enough that one might think that it had been banned. Besides quartet singing, I'd like to see more VLQ (five to eight voices) singing during break.

Since some singers really prefer to stick to strict quartet style, I suggest that holding up four fingers serve as a signal for others not to join in. Barring that signal, spectators could be invited to join in with an inward wave of the hand.

I'd like people to be able to assume that if there is no signal not to join in, that they are welcome to. The more we sing together in various size groups, the more fun we will have and the better we will sing in the end. Try it.

Now back to refreshments. Saint Francis Xavier School has been kind enough to permit us to use the little kitchen off the side of the Gym. The problem is that we have not taken ad-

vantage of that privilege. All it takes is a volunteer to coordinate the process. One person should not have to do refreshments all the time, but a take-charge person does need to start the process moving. Please, someone step up and volunteer!

These are just two little things that I think could really make rehearsals more fun. You may have some ideas of your own. If you do, just send me a quick little email or hand me a note at rehearsal. I'll see what can be done about acting on members' suggestions.

## Wanted -- Choir Directors

by *Reid Allen*, Development VP

Gentlemen: I would like us to embark upon a serious campaign to increase the membership of our Chapter. Therefore, I need your help in developing a list of potential contacts. Would you please submit to me a list of male directors of church choirs in your areas. We will approach them with an invitation to join us, not only to sing, but to take advantage of our teaching and learning methods.

Perhaps that will lead to their suggesting to male members of their choirs that they affiliate with us to some degree in order to improve the quality of their own choirs.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this project.

Please submit to me by March 25, either by Email or written.



## 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
2/04	119	Bob Goudreau	D. Brochu
2/11	231	Randy-Kay Lavalley	E. Bechtel
2/18	209	Rick Kotulak	J. Walter
2/25	Drawing to be made on March 4		



March 8 (Saturday)	-- Spring Retreat Karen Rourke - St. Francis School See Article page 1
March 14 - 15 (Fri. & Sat.)	-- Eastern Region Contest & Convention and 2003 International Prelims Peabody, Massachusetts
March 23 (Sunday)	-- Young Men In Harmony Mount Mansfield High School
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 3 (Saturday)	-- Saratoga Springs Show 1:30 and 7:30 Featuring The Boston Contact - Bill Pupkis wrpupkis@nycap.rr.com
May 31 (Saturday)	-- 55th Annual Show Featuring 2002 Champs Four Voices
June 6 (Friday)	-- Package Show Morrisville, VT
June 22 (Sunday)	-- Package Show Tunbridge, VT
June 25 (Wednesday)	-- Mini Retreat - Dan Signor
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!