



The

Undertone



What's Happening in the Burlington, Vermont, Chapter
Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop 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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www.nedistrict.org/greenmtn
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Greg Morrill wins \$1,000! 20 Week Club dinner a hit

by Jerry Walter, Editor

SOUTH BURLINGTON - The 34th annual 20 Week Club Banquet, held at the South Burlington Knights of Columbus Hall, was another success for the Burlington Chapter. More than 160 members and guests attended the cocktail hour and buffet dinner and awaited for the final drawings for both door prizes as well as the treasured \$1,000 grand prize..

The entertainment

Following dinner, entertainment was provided by chapter quartet The Dreamer singing the debut of "Let Me Call You sweetheart" and, of course, "All I Have To Do Is Dream" followed by Harmony, Inc.'s Charisma singing the serious version of "Fit As A Fiddle" and Bing Crosby's "Swinging On A Star." Then they were joined by High Voltage to sing as an octet singing "And So To sleep Again" made famous by Patti Page. High Voltage rehearsed their contest package (see the article on page 3) singing "Tin Roof Blues" and "Orange Colored Sky;" finishing up with their hilarious dramatized version of the "Old Record Player."

Next, the Green Mountain Chorus, mostly under the direction of Greg

Morrill, took the stage and sang 2004 Annual show songs "Way Down Yonder In New Orleans" and "Hush" (directed by Pat Heise) followed by "The Battle Hymn Of The Republic." A special request by Harold Grevatt was honored by singing one more song with Harold -- he continues to gradually recover from a serious debilitating illness.

Between musical acts, just to keep the crowd interested, several door prizes were given out to those in attendance hold lucky tickets. Prizes ranged from Champagne to free tickets to our annual show.

The drawings

Finally, came the drawings. First up was the last of the 20 weekly drawings and the winner was #63 held by Barbara Gleason, sold by Bill Baker. Next the winning numbers were selected in reverse order of the amount so that all 250 club members were eligible for the \$1,000 grand prize. The \$50 winner was #14 held by Tina Walter (and paid for by Jerry Walter -- I didn't even get a cut.), the \$75 went to Meg Gortych's #5, sold by Greg Morrill; the \$100 went to Any Comeau's #235, sold by Steve Comeau and the grand prize of \$1,000 went to none other than our Music Director, Greg Morrill! His winning number was #29.

Alice's Celebration, a moment to remember

by Jerry Walter, Editor

STOWE, April 17 — This sunny Saturday saw nearly 260 friends of Alice Kruidenier and Greg Morrill crowded into the not so small Stowe Community Church to celebrate the life of Alice. Attendees included family, church members, the Green Mountain Chorus, the Champlain Echoes, representatives from the Barre-Tones, old friends like Dick and Jan Sears, Bob Hothem, Joe Kaelin, Renee Tramack and I'm sure others which I failed to observe.

The service was preceded by an organ recital of a medley of Alice's favorite hymns played by John Henzel, Stowe and the Community Church's well known organist. This was only a prelude to no less than ten songs, all verses, to follow, all except one, selected by Alice.

The service began with the entrance of Alice's children Laura and Curt and Greg. Before taking their places in the front pew, they went to the altar and

See Alice page 3

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The Undertone

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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Chapter Barbershopper of the year 2003

Dick Labrecque

Division Barbershopper of the year 2000

Charlie Church

There'll be some changes made

by Jerry Walter, Editor



This may be the last issue you see bearing the now familiar format. As all of our readers know, this issue is only the third weekly (?) issue of 2004.

There are several reasons for the lack of bulletins: one reason is that I have only received copies of articles written by members so far this year enough to fill only **one** issue; a second reason is that I have produced 464 issues since taking over this job in March of 1993, following the sudden death of John Austin, and putting out a chapter bulletin-like issue every week is mighty stressful. Several people have not been happy to be deprived of their weekly reading material and I don't blame them. Since email is available to about 90 percent of our members, timely communication is available, and is used, for virtually all messages. In many instances, email has scooped the news which normally would have appeared in *The Undertone*.

As an editor, or should I say writer and publisher, I prefer to print the news as soon as possible following any newsworthy event. Once the next week rolls around—for me at least—it's too late to print. (One thing I always hated about monthly or quarterly publications is that it takes virtually months for the word to get out.)

It has been suggested that it is important to have a weekly publication with all of the current facts about current events to provide each member with all there is to know. I agree, but I have finally discovered that a weekly scoop sheet and a chapter bulletin are two different beasts.

The weekly news needs to provide up to the minute facts for the near, and perhaps far, future.

A chapter bulletin needs to inform members of interesting things they might like to read about, to provide a record of past activities from a historical sense, to entertain, to provide a written record of events and activities, to inform members about members, both within and without the chapter, and to provide a forum for opinion.

For those interested, here is a brief history of chapter publications, as best I can recall for the last 30 or 40 years.

For many years, until 1985, we had only a monthly bulletin, *The Green Mountain Overtone*, volume 1, Number 1, dated March 23, 1970. This single sided one page edition, edited by Ray Miller, proclaimed how a new director from Poughkeepsie led the Green Mountain Chorus to third place in the division to qualify for the upcoming fall contest in Lake Placid.

No other editions are known until 1971 when John Marriott assumed the editor's job and the earlier format went to both sides of one page, until November 1971 (3 sides), then four sides in July 1972 and five in October 1972.

In November 1972 the *Overtone* got a preprinted masthead complete with a Green Mountain Boy superimposed on a map of Vermont. Soon John caught the editor's fever and in 1973 won the first

of four Northeastern District Bulletin Editor of the Year (BETY) awards.

The *Overtone* continued as a folded 11 x 17 four-side bulletin, with an occasional insert. Then in July 1975, the size doubled to eight sides which led to a second BETY award for 1975. In 1977 there was an expansion to six pages. The following year saw the introduction of computer layout, no more typewriter input, which led to the NED BETY awards for the years 1977 and 1978. Then John announced his retirement at the end of 1978.

George Walker took over as editor early in 1979 but lasted only two issues. John Austin picked up the ball in October of 1979, but by the following month, John Marriott was coached out of retirement to publish a mini-*Overtone*. This effort lasted to June of 1981. Then silence.

Then in January 1984 there suddenly appeared an **eight** page bulletin with articles contributed by six different members. (What luxury!) The new editor of *The Green Mountain Overtone* was Steve Tremper, now famous as the Society's Harmonet Reporter. Steve continued with the 12 page layout for the next three and a half years, winning the NED BETY award in 1986. Then in July of 1987, Steve was transferred by IBM to Raleigh, North Carolina. Bad for us, good for Raleigh's Research Triangle Park Chapter where he and John Marriott coedited their bulletin for several years.

The more silence until February 1989 when Al Kousen took over the job as editor, but lasted for only four issues.

The Undertone was first published on January 29, 1985 by *Overtone* editor, Steve Tremper. Issues were one page and were produced sporadically (11 in 1985, and 7 in 1986). Early in 1987 they ceased when Steve was transferred.

Since there were no *Undertones* or *Overtones*, Chapter President Charlie Church began a monthly *Chapter President's Bulletin*, which lasted until November 27 of 1987. John Austin then began the publication of a weekly edition of the *The Green Mountain Undertone*.

In 1990 John changed the name back to *The Undertone*. His version evolved to both sides of a legal (8.5 x 14) size sheet. John published a weekly edition consistently until his untimely death in March of 1993, when I assumed the role of editor. In 1994, I changed the format to 8 x 11 printed on 11 x 17 paper, which it remains today.

So, here we are today. What path will be taken? Perhaps someone will take up the reins of *The Undertone*. Perhaps someone will reestablish *The Green Mountain Overtone*?

To take a line from Vermont's poet laureate, Robert Frost, "When I started this article only God and I knew what I planned to do, now only God knows."

Thanks for listening.

Contest cycles complete -- some news

by Jerry Walter, Editor

High Voltage qualifies

by Bruce Spector

High Voltage had a great time traveling to West Hartford, Connecticut to compete out of division, at the Yankee Division Contest, to accommodate our scheduling difficulties this Spring. We were accompanied on Saturday by Coach Extraordinaire, Pat Heise. It was a bit disconcerting not to have our usual fans in the audience but Pat hooted and hollered as best she could!

We sang "Tin Roof Blues" and "Orange Colored Sky" and scored respectably at 725 (for a 60.4 average), enough to qualify for the District Contest in Lowell this coming Fall. We were particularly pleased to see "Tin Roof Blues" score well because it was the first time we'd performed it in front of judges. We made some tuning and sync errors on "Orange Colored Sky" that gave the judges the opportunity to ding our scores on that song. As usual, we got compliments from the judges on our dapper contest costumes: this time out we wore the red tux jackets and black trousers with white tux shirts and collar studs. And, of course, we wore our trademark High Voltage black and white "chick magnet" shoes!

The judging panel included that incredibly funny guy, Dave LaBar, who made our analysis and review session more like a meeting with Jay Leno than a critique. He did, however, have some very valuable tips that he shared with us.

Another fun judge we got to spend time with was the **awesome** Ev Nau, currently of Kenosha fame.

High Voltage wishes to thank everyone in the Burlington Chapter for their incredible long standing and fervent support and encouragement.

And, special thanks to our great coaches, Pat Heise and Dan Signor.

Boston Accent winner

Boston Accent, that Harmony, Inc. and Sweet Adelines dual membership quartet, including Chorus Coach, Karen Rourke on bass, has handily won the HI Area 2 Quartet Preliminary Contest, held in Laval, Quebec.

Their luck was not as good this past weekend when SAI Region 1 competed. They finished third.

Alice from page 1

placed on it a single red rose.

The first number was "Give Thanks For Life," which set the atmosphere for the entire service. It was pointed out that the sharing of the hymnals was intentional, as they were brand new and were a gift from Alice.

Next the Reverend Bruce Comiskey offered words of introduction to the next song, "In The Bulb There Is A Flower."

Following the Exchange of Peace was the reading of psalm 100, which begins, "Make a joyful noise to the Lord all the earth, serve the Lord with gladness; come into God's

Harmony Choruses qualify

At the Harmony, Inc. Area 2 Convention and Contest held April 23, two Vermont Choruses qualified for their International Chorus Contest this fall. The Champlain Echoes, under the co-direction of Becky Senesac and Cindy Repasy placed 8th and received the Rising Star Award for the most improved chorus. The Barre-Tones, under the direction of Carol Hollenbeck, finished 9th.

Neither Vermont quartets, Charisma or The Long & Short of It, qualified for the International Quartet Contest.

NED gets second quartet in Louisville

This year the Northeastern District has gained a second quartet to compete in the International Chorus Contest.

Last year's 29th place finisher, Reveille, sang for the Mid-Atlantic District, since the members are from the Manhattan Chapter.

Well, it works like this. Reveille members are big fans of the Bolton Landing Barbershop Festival, held Labor Day Weekend in close by Bolton Landing, New York.

All four singers joined the BL Chapter, formed last year by a number of New York nonresident members. Being dual members, they could choose the one district from which to be represented. They chose NED.

MaxQ scores highest

The prince of Montréal, MaxQ has maintained its reputation as potential gold medalist by scoring the highest of all 261 contenders in the 2004 International Prelims at 89.5 percent. While this is lower than Power Play's 90.0 after three rounds in Montréal, and Gotchal's 89.7, it is threateningly close. They qualified by singing out of district in the Mid-Atlantic Prelims.

MaxQ for those not in the know, is a composite of Dealer's Choice (Greg Clancy - 1973 champs), Acoustix (Jeff Oxley - 1990), Keepsake (Tony de Rosa - 1992) and PLATINUM (Tony de Rosa and Gary Lewis - 2000 champs).

presence with singing... ."

The Green Mountain Chorus, under the direction of Pat Heise, sang "It is Well With My Soul."

Then Reverend Comiskey read the lyrics from Carlton Buck's hymn which begins "All praise God for song God gives, for music and hope that lives. ..."

Next the congregation sang "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," followed by the well-know reading from 1 Conrinthians 13 extolling the gift of love and which ends "and the greatest of these is love." The Aldersgate Choir sang a choral response.

Lake Effect Harmony qualifies

At the Patriot/Granite and Pine Division Contest in Nashua, New Hampshire on April 16, Burlington's Lake Effect Harmony qualified to compete in the Northeastern District Fall Quartet Contest by finishing with an average score of 60.2. Great going guys.

NED Chorus mix-up

After five division chorus contests the competition for the fall contest in Lowell has some new rivalries. Manchester, Connecticut moved from 8th to 5th, scoring 62.1 vs 69.3. Hanover, New Hampshire (Dan Signor's chorus) went from 6th to 8th (63.9 vs 65.2) despite improving their score.

Burlington moved up one place to 6th primarily due to Saratoga Spring's decline (66.1 vs 64.8).

Fraser Brown goes for 25

That's right, Louisville will make the 25th consecutive year that Fraser Brown will be competing in the International Quartet Contest. His latest quartet, Broadway, qualified on May 1 in the Sunshine District Prelims.

Remembrances by Laura and Curt, praising the kindness and love which Alice gave to them, were then read by Reverend Comiskey. These were followed by a reading from Albert Schweitzer's book, *The Quest of the Historical Jesus*, relating that although Jesus will come to us unknown, we shall learn by our own experience who He is..

Another hymn, "Lord You Come To The Lakeshore," followed, and then the reading of remembrances by Greg, recalling the 25 he and Alice spent together.

Next the hymn "Be Thou My Vision" followed by the Champlain Echoes, directed by Cindy Repasy, singing "The Lord's Prayer." Which was in turn followed by "Amazing Grace" by the congregation and "From A Distance" by the Youth Choir."

The last hymn was "God Be With You" followed by the benediction.

Next came the bell-like sound of a female lead voice singing the words "Some say love, it is a river that drowns the tender reed. ..." It was Alice's voice as recorded singing "The Rose" with the Champlain Echoes several ago. It stunned everyone who knew that voice. What a fitting tribute to a wonderful person.

When the recording ended, Reverend Comiskey went to the alter, took the rose and presented it to Greg.

DIRECTOR'S

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It's great to be back!

by Greg Morrill, Music Director

It was sure great to be back last Tuesday! I want to thank all of you for your support and sympathy through these difficult times. I've learned that it does make a huge difference!

Also, congratulations to the Mountain Division Champs! That's something you can all be very proud of and it points out the hard work you've been doing.

Special thanks to Pat Heise for really stepping up. That is evidenced not just by the contest results, but also in the show song preparation. Thanks again, Pat.

As I struggle to get back up to speed, I do want to remind you that there's only about six weeks to the show. We need to get all the new music "out-of-spots" by the end of April. That means really hitting those learning CDs and tapes particularly on the songs we're just starting to cover in rehearsal.

Show update from column 2

Tech rehearsal Saturday May 29:

10:30 a.m. at South Burlington High School

Saturday May 29 Performance:

Warm up 12:30 p.m. at South Burlington High School

Warm up 6:30 for the 8 p.m. show

Saturday May 29 Afterglow:

Following the show at the South Burlington Knights of Columbus Hall. Tickets \$10.



Annual show update

It's no secret, our 56th annual show **Take Me To The Land Of Jazz** will be held the weekend of May 28-29. There will be three (3) shows. The first show will be held in the Barre Opera House Friday at 8 p.m. and two shows will be held in the South Burlington High School Saturday at 2 and 8 p.m.

We will be hosting four guest quartets: **Charisma** (Burlington area Harmony, Inc.), **The Long and Short of It** (Barre area Harmony, Inc.), **Moments to Remember** (Burlington and New Jersey quartet) and special guests **chordiac arrest**, a comedy quartet from the Chicago area.

Here are a few details you need to know:

Tickets:

Mail order ticket forms have been sent. You had better hurry and sell tickets before they are ordered by mail. See Jim Mallabar for tickets.

Program ads:

Turn money in to Jerry Huetz and copy to Jerry Walter. Submission deadline is next Tuesday, May 18.

Costumes:

The locale for the show is New Orleans and we will be dressed like northern tourists. So that means you will need to look like a tourist. You will also need some sort of light jacket -- not a Spector Suit blazer, or sweater and colorful casual wear.

For the second half of the show we will be wearing our contest uniforms: black tuxedo pants, white tuxedo shirt, paisley vest and bow tie and black shoes and socks.

Call times:

Tech rehearsal Thursday May 27:

7:30 p.m. at the Barre Opera House, entrance at rear and up the stairs.

Friday May 28 Performance:

Warm up at the Opera House at 6:30, show at 8.

See Show update column 1

20 Week Club Winners

Date	Winner	No	Seller
12/16	Andy Farrington	206	A. Farrington
12/23	Mike Morin	12	D. Brochu
12/30	Jesse Ouimette	151	C. Church
01/06	Cookie Wallbridge	127	D. Pierce
01/13	Dominic St Pierre	244	D. Labrecque
01/20	Aaron Richards	241	G. Brunell
01/27	Elizabeth Gendreau	108	B. Grevatt
02/03	Judy Huetz	203	J. Huetz
02/10	John Baxendale	134	E. Bechtel
02/17	Pat Heise	193	C. Church
02/24	Kent Mitchell	9	G. Morrill
03/02	Bob Beauvais	137	R. Allen
03/09	Ron Freemyer	20	J. Huetz
03/16	Nancy Farrell	245	D. Labrecque
03/23	William Rensch	72	A. Allen
03/30	Jackie Labrecque	124	D. Labrecque
04/06	Walter Fischer	18	E. Bechtel
04/13	Bill Eichhorn	248	Dick Labrecque
04/20	Joseph Gonillo	90	Ed Bechtel



May 27 (Thursday)	--	Tech/Dress Rehearsal for Annual Show - Barre Opera House. See article this page
May 28 (Friday)	--	Central Vermont Annual Show Barre Opera House, Barre, Vermont
May 29 (Saturday)	--	Tech rehearsal S. Burlington High School - 10:30 a.m.
May 29 (Saturday)	--	Annual Show featuring S. Burlington High School 2 and 8 p.m. Guest quartet Chordiac Arrest
June 1 (Tuesday)	--	Guest Night Invite your ticket purchasers
June 11 (Friday)	--	Package Show - Hyde Park Opera House. Warm up -- 6:00
June 15 (Tuesday)	--	Early bird sing out, Sisters of Providence Convent, W. Spring St. Winooski. Warm up 6:30
June 27 (Sunday)	--	Package show - Tunbridge, 2 p.m.
June 27-July 4 (Tues.-Sun.)	--	International Convention and Contests - Louisville, Kentucky
August 10 (Tuesday)	--	Vermont Expos Baseball 50/50 Raffle and National Anthem
August 13 - 15 (Fri. - Sun.)	--	Harmony College Northeast Fitchburg, Massachusetts