

Welcome to the Relaunch of the Assembly Line

- We will provide you with advance information on upcoming performances and events
- We will engage you with stories about chapter members — their bios and accomplishments
- We will provide you this news quarterly and electronically

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Homecoming 2008

FALL—it's football, crisp autumn days, and college Homecomings.

We, too, at the RTP Chapter would like to welcome back our "alumni" for a special Homecoming. So mark your calendars for Monday, October 13, 2008 as we celebrate Homecoming 2008.

The festivities will take place at our fabulous new facility, "Events at Newton Square". Located in north Raleigh at 230 Newton Road, Raleigh, NC 27615, the new site features a restaurant, full service kitchen, and banquet facilities.

Come to the lower level where we will entertain you with some great quartets from the past and some rising ones from the present:



- Archives
- Locked & Loaded
- Chord of Appeal
- Doppler Effect
- Raucous Caucus

Hear what the General Assembly has been up to as they return from the contest stage in Chattanooga and get a taste of their upcoming performance of "Songs of

the Season—Together Again".

Flip through our photo albums of three decades of singing excellence and reminisce with your colleagues—or better yet sing a few songs!

So make plans to attend — it won't be the same without you. RSVP to our hotline at 833-6775, via email or on the web. See you there!



Songs of the Season—Together Again

Why tamper with success? Last year's production of Songs of the Season—Together for the Holidays was our most successful holiday show. So we're doing it again!

Carolina Harmony joins the

General Assembly onstage this December this Saturday, December 6, 2008 at Fletcher Theatre.

Also returning is the Men's Holiday Chorus and several of your quartet favorites: Never Home Four (who could forget their killer fruitcake). And what Holiday would be complete without Doppler Effect's "Mary Did You Know?" Plus

The Director's Voice

We have had a busy summer. With the initial recording sessions under our belts, we are on track for completing a CD. We have new music for the Nat King Cole Show as well as for the holiday Show with the SAs. We had a great coaching session with Darryl Flinn and he brought to light many of the details that it will take to move us forward musically.



Bill Rashleigh

I have to get honest here...with currently 37 signed up for contest, I begin to wonder where we want to go as a chorus. That is 3 down from a year ago and we have more members than a year ago. It is also only 9 more than went to contest 2 years ago. It is important that we know what we want to be when we grow up and the music team and I do not want to operate in a vacuum. Please feel free to email me personally and let me know your philosophy on this matter. It is important.

"The amateur chorus rehearses until they get it right. The pros rehearse until they can't get it wrong"

Our New Home—Events at Newton Square

Paul Martin

It's our dream facility.

The new site at 230 Newton Road has it all: a rehearsal hall with good acoustics, room for a 100-man chorus, easy riser set-up, a break bar, extra meeting rooms for sectionals and a full-fledge kitchen, restaurant and stage upstairs (Do I hear Cabaret



anyone?)

It's located in the corner of the Newton Square shopping Center close to the

intersection of Six Forks and Newton Road (between Sawmill and Spring Forest).

The site was chosen after an exhaustive search of several candidate sites. Hats off to **Tom Keefe** who headed the search committee and **Don Hyneman** who secured the permission of Anthony & Company for the use of this terrific property. Come check it out!

Songs of the Season (continued)

Santa's got a few new tricks up his sleeve.

Feel like singing along? Then join in with the Men's Holiday Chorus. We'll have a kick-off mixer at Homecoming with rehearsals starting November 3 and continuing each Monday through the 24th.

Tickets are available now for all shows. Performances are at 2pm and 7:30pm one day only—December 6—at the Fletcher Theatre at the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts. Contact your favorite chapter member or

place you order online at: GeneralAssemblyChorus.org.

Prices are \$25 for Reserved seats and \$20 for General Admission. But order now and get the advanced sale discount of \$5 per ticket.



MC Jack Deere playing Santa to Craig Ferri at the Holiday Show

Quartet Brings Harmony to Fort Bragg Medical Center by Larry Schlesinger



(Lto R) Neil Johnson, Lee Horton, Mike Muha and Larry Schlesinger

For the third year in a row, Locked and Loaded traveled down to Fayetteville, on June 26th, to entertain the medical staff at Fort Bragg for their Formal Dinner and Awards Ceremony.

Our own Dr. Niel Johnson has been the instigator of this collaboration. As a military doctor and long time barbershop fanatic, he (singing tenor) recruited a variety of singers, including Mike Muha, bass, to entertain his colleagues for this gala event.

This year, the quartet included Lee Horton, lead, and Larry Schlesinger, baritone. Three of the spouses were also in attendance for this formal occasion. During the evening, the quartet sang a series of six songs, including the Star Spangled Banner, and Follow the Flag, to a guests. The highlight of the evening was when the quartet was asked to sing an encore for the director of the hospital.

In appreciation for our music, each member received a certificate of appreciation in traditional military style. While money wasn't to be offered, each of us enjoyed a fine dinner and knew we supported the efforts of our military.

Fifty Fabulous Years

Paul Martin

Fifty years of doing anything is a life-time achievement. And RTP can be proud that four of its own were recognized at the 2008 International Convention, in Nashville. Each man and his wife were honored at a special recognition ceremony at the Renaissance Headquarters Hotel, by society president **Noah Thunderburg**. And so we could all share in the moment, their pictures were splashed on the jumbotrons during the international competition.

Each of these men will tell you how much they have gotten

from the society and their lifetime of barbershopping. But they may not tell you how much they have contributed.

John Adams has been a Seniors Quartet champion and has been the Tenor Section Leader here and with the Alexandria Harmonizers. He was instrumental in getting Bill Rashleigh to become our Director.

Bob Dickson continues to be a driving force for Youth In Harmony, chairing the programs for the chapter and the district and continuing, with his quartet the Never Home



Fiftieth Honorees (L to R) John and Jean Adams, Peggy and Gene Martin, Bill and Cathryn McFadden and Andi and Bob Dickson

Four, to attract young men and women to this "hobby" we love.

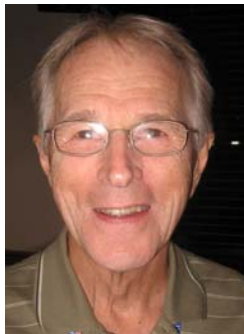
Gene Martin shows his dedication every week with his drive from Danville, VA. He continues to quartet with "Archives".

Bill McFadden has held chapter offices from Secretary to President and plays a continuing role in the Valentines program and database management.

Congratulations to all our honorees. We're fortunate to have them!

Meet the New Guys

Paul Martin



Gary Pixley is an 18-year Society member whose current home chapter is in Wilmington, NC. Yes, he is one of those dedicated singers that makes the trip to RTP to enjoy something special.

"It's the pursuit of excellence" says Gary "that makes the trip worthwhile."

Gary is not new to barbershopping. His first singing experience was in 1980 in Rochester, New York where he had just left a career in broadcasting sales. In the early 1980s, he started a second career as a custom painting and wallpaper contractor. Some of Gary's passions include camping, hiking, kayaking, and of course, golf. Since moving south and enjoying an extended growing season, he now takes pleasure in gardening.

He lives with Annie, his bride of 23 years. Each brought two children to the marriage from previous marriages and now spend their time spoiling four grandchildren.

Gary has been a district quartet champ twice in two different quartets in Senecaland District and an interna-

tional quartet representative and a senior District quartet champ. He is currently singing baritone with Mike Myers, Bob Cluett and George Cherney in a quartet so new it doesn't yet have a name.



Derek Walter chose to join our chorus after enjoying two of OUR Holiday Shows-almost joining after the first one. He has had some musical experience, playing in his high school band, guitar, and just singing for fun. He is a very enthusiastic bass and appreciates the availability of our learning tracks.

Derek lives in Chapel Hill and has been in the area for about four years. His six year old son and nine year old daughter enjoy his singing hobby. In addition to singing, Derek enjoys volley ball, bee-keeping, wood-working and building rehab.

Since joining our chorus he has been impressed with the effort to always improve the sound and enjoys the competition and performances. He believes that successful membership retention is tied to our drive to always improve our quality of singing.

Let's give a hearty welcome to the new guys!

Letter from the President Warren Fuson



After a long hiatus, the Assembly Line is coming out of retirement. Because of the dedication and commitment of our Membership VP,

Larry Schlesinger, you will be seeing a revitalized Chapter newsletter on a quarterly basis. I look forward to seeing what the editors will be bringing us but I know it will be full of interesting and informative articles.

The Assembly Line is not designed to replace the Hot Sheet which you will continue to see on a weekly basis under its capable editor Kenny Bland. It will continue to provide you with the latest details on upcoming rehearsals and performances.

On the performance side, we staged a very entertaining (and fun) *Grandpa's Attic* in May and we already have plans and songs for next Spring's show. The Music Team has broken all records in getting new music to us well in advance with 'Smile' and 'Write Myself a Letter' already well on the way to being committed to memory. We will have eleven Nat King Cole chestnuts under our belts by the end of the year and the last being introduced in January. I'm excited! We've never had music this early.

But I'm getting ahead of myself. We now focus on preparing for Fall Contest and making our performance the best it can be. That means bringing your personal recording device (PRD) every week and recording what you do. I am looking for solid progress in our scoring and it is up to each one of us to do our part!



THE ASSEMBLY LINE

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HOMECOMING 2008

Monday, October 13, 2008

Events at Newton Square

220 Newton Rd, Raleigh, NC 27165

7:30—Welcome Warmups Warren Fuson
Bill Rashleigh

8:00—Showtime
Openers General Assembly
Quartets
CD Tunes General Assembly
Quartets
Contest Set General Assembly

9:00—Intermission

9:20—Mens' Holiday Chorus
Quartets

10:00—Tag Time Bill Rashleigh

Coming Attractions

SEPTEMBER

27	ALL DAY	Neuse River Barbershop Festival	New Bern
29	5:30—7:30pm 7:30—10:30pm	Meeting of the Board of Directors General Assembly Chorus Rehearsal	Events at Newton Square Events at Newton Square

OCTOBER

3-5	ALL DAY	Dixie District Convention	Chattanooga, TN
6	6:15—7:15pm 7:30—10:30pm	Membership Committee Meeting General Assembly Chorus Rehearsal	Events at Newton Square Events at Newton Square
11	10:00—4:00pm	Elections of Chapter Officers Annual Planning Session	
13	7:30—10:30pm	HOMECOMING	Events at Newton Square
20	7:30—10:30pm	General Assembly Chorus Rehearsal	Events at Newton Square
27	7:30—10:30pm	General Assembly Chorus Rehearsal	Events at Newton Square

NOVEMBER

3	6:15—7:15pm 7:30—9:00pm 7:30—10:30pm	Membership Committee Meeting Men's Holiday Chorus Rehearsal General Assembly Chorus Rehearsal	Events at Newton Square Events at Newton Square Events at Newton Square
10	7:30—9:00pm 7:30—10:30pm	Men's Holiday Chorus Rehearsal General Assembly Chorus Rehearsal	Events at Newton Square Events at Newton Square
17	7:30—9:00pm 7:30—10:30pm	Men's Holiday Chorus Rehearsal General Assembly Chorus Rehearsal	Events at Newton Square Events at Newton Square
24	7:30—9:00pm 7:30—10:30pm	Men's Holiday Chorus Rehearsal General Assembly Chorus Rehearsal	Events at Newton Square Events at Newton Square

DECEMBER

1	7:30—9:00pm 7:30—10:30pm	Men's Holiday Chorus Rehearsal General Assembly Chorus Rehearsal	Events at Newton Square Events at Newton Square
6	2:00—4:00pm 7:30—9:30pm	Songs of the Season—Together Again! Songs of the Season—Together Again!	Fletcher Theatre, Raleigh Fletcher Theatre, Raleigh
11	7:30—8:15pm	Songs of the Season	Springmore, Raleigh
16	7:30—9:00pm	Songs of the Season	Temple Theatre, Sanford

