

Inside this issue:

My Lucky Valentine

page 1

Unforgettable

page 1

The Director's Voice

page 2

Extreme Quartetting

page 2

Songs of the Season

page 2

Jason Patrick named

BOTY

page 3

Meet the New Guy

page 3

High School Quartet

Contest

page 3

Letter from the

President

page 4

Winter Calendar

page 4

Editor-in-Chief: Paul Martin

President: Warren Fuson

Director: Bill Rashleigh

Special Features: Gary Pixley

Society Column: Steve Tremper

Graphics: Chris Mueller

My Lucky Valentine

Valentines

2009 is special this year. With the 14th falling on a Saturday, we have a whole extra day to celebrate with Cupid—in the office. Even though that day is Friday the 13th, it could be your lucky day.

According to **Curtis Russell**, who has a thriving florist business, “Plan on a big Feb 13th. In the flower game we say, ‘Conspicuous love goes to the workplace’. We’ll do as many on Friday, a workday, as Saturday, Valentines Day”

To get ready for the big event, the RTP Chapter is already forming up quartets to augment its five registered quartets. According to **Jason Patrick**, Valentines chair, “The Website is now ready to receive Singing Valentine Orders. You will also find there a printable flier suitable for posting around town, a Valentine FAQ, and a printable Valentine Order Form.”

Singing Valentines has traditionally been one of the chap-

Send a Singing Valentine.

Prices are \$75 for within 20 minute delivery, \$65 for morning OR afternoon delivery and \$55 for anytime delivery on the 13th or 14th. And new for this year, for \$85 you can have evening delivery (7 to 9 pm). For more information, check out the FAQs and place your order online at www.generalassemblychorus.org.

ter's favorite activities. Says former chair **Paul Martin**, “It gives us a chance to bring barbershop to where our patrons live and work, and touch them in a way that no other event can: personally, and from the heart.” So get Lucky with your Sweetheart and order a Singing Valentine today!



It's all about the music. But sometimes it's about the messenger. And that's the case this year.

The General Assembly dedicates its Spring Show to the charismatic balladeer Nat King Cole. An accomplished pianist and jazz musician, Nat King Cole was once introduced by jack Benny as “the best

friend a song ever had”.

The General Assembly returns to a concert format after two years of a scripted shows. Associate Director Larry Triplett has arranged three of the new offerings including 'A Thousand Thoughts of You' [a lush arrangement with a new verse by Bill Rashleigh], 'Love' and 'Too Young'. Other songs include the show title, “Unforgettable”, Who's Sorry Now, Mona Lisa and Love.

Mark your calendar now. 'Unforgettable' will be performed for one day only on Saturday, May 2, 2009 at the Fletcher Theater of the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts in Raleigh. Ticket prices are \$25 reserved and \$20 general admission. For more information or to order tickets click www.generalassemblychorus.org

The Director's Voice

Gentlemen, we have a busy schedule ahead of us. We need to continue to work on our Nat King Cole songs and our contest songs at the same time. Kevin Keller, category specialist for the music category, will be working with us on Feb. 7th. This is a Saturday and our plan is to have a 9 to 4 session as we have had in the past. He is an excellent coach, but we have to be ready for him to coach so we have to have the songs up and running at near contest level. If you get the chance please listen to and start to prepare, *A Thousand Thoughts of You*. This is a new piece that has never been performed in contest and we will premiere the work. I know you will make it the song of the event.



Bill Rashleigh

"Amateurs practice until they get it right. The pros practice until they can't get it wrong"

Join us 9am February 7, 2009 for a special coaching session with **Kevin Keller** at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, 804 High House Road, Cary, 27513.



The NC Harmony Brigade held its Rally once again in the golf capital. But instead of Pinehurst, NC, the brigadiers settled in at a new venue at the Little River Golf Resort in Carthage, NC.

The organization was formed to promote quartetting and enhance the barbershop experience of North Carolina chapter members. RTP has the single largest contingent of participants--23--including the Brigade Commander **Charlie Rose** and Music Director **Larry Triplett**. In addition to its quartetting activity, the Brigade put on a show Saturday, January 18th at the Sandhills Community College. The audience was not only appreciative of the 160-man chorus and outstanding quartets, it enjoyed the fact that they didn't have to trudge through the snow (missed it by one day!)

One of the quartet highlights was **Swedish Meatballs** which was organized by **Craig Ferri** (BR) and included **Simon Rylander** (L), **Steve Tremper** (T) and **Kevin Dickson** (Bs) singing *Sit Down Your Rockin' the Boat*. And congratulate the new inducted members: **Dick Dee** and **Chris Mueller** and first-time guests **Roy Gurney**, **Larry Schlesinger** and **Joe Simpson**.



Why tamper with success? The 2007 production of Songs of the Season—Together for the Holidays was our most successful holiday show. So we did it again for 2008.

Carolina Harmony joined the **General Assembly** on-stage Saturday, December 6, 2008 at Fletcher Theatre in the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts.

Also returning was the **Men's Holiday Chorus** and several of your quartet favorites: **Never Home Four** with their "Twelve Days after Christmas", **Tucker Street's** "The Christmas Song", and **Doppler Effect's** "Mary Did You Know?" Plus Santa had a few new tricks up his sleeve.

New quartets **Archives** and **Chord of Appeal** presented "I Wonder What Your Doing for Christmas" and "I'll Be Home for Christmas" respectively while **Carolina Harmony** quartets **Ruby** and **Southern Comfort** entertained with "Winter Wonderland" and "The Secret of Christmas". Delighted audience members left with a warm glow for the Holiday Season.



Dick Smith, Steve Spare and Hal Huit making a scene

For those who missed the performance at the Progress Energy Center, we took the show on the road.

First stop, Sanford, NC where we staged the men's portion of the show at the Temple Theatre. The performance was at 7:00pm Tuesday, December 16. The Theater, located at 114 Carthage Street, Sanford, NC 27330, had the patina of an antique. Although it was used for cinema for most of its life, it had a marvelous acoustic quality that instantly put the performers at ease and at one with the music and the audience. "I heard some of our best singing that night" said **Lee Horton**, Music VP. "It was Magic".



Temple Theatre Show promotion

And for our senior supporters who found it difficult to make it to one of the theaters, we took the show to them, staging the show at Springmoor and Forests of Duke retirement homes. And for those who needed Holiday cheer most of all, the General Assembly obliged with visits to Rex Hospital and Dorothea Dix.

Jason Patrick Named BOTY

The choice was obvious--**Jason Patrick** is Barbershopper of the Year. He has exemplified the true spirit of the best barbershopper: the experience to discern what needs to be done, the dedication to see that it is done (even, or perhaps especially, when it is not in his direct responsibility) and the skill to execute it brilliantly. He has made a difference in all our barbershop lives.

Jason arrived at RTP as a result of a job change with

his company DOW chemical. He's a Georgia Tech grad and became involved with barbershop while there. He sang lead for his college quartet and was a contemporary of Dylan Oxford who was singing lead for Class of '94 and is now the tenor of Stateline Grocery. Moving to Houston, he sang with the Tidelanders under Todd Wilson, Tenor of the Accoustix and now the BHS Director of Marketing.

Since his arrival at RTP, Jason has taken an active role. He sings Tenor with the

chapter quartet 'Tucker Street' but is capable of singing any voice part as demonstrated by the learning tracks he has uploaded to the web site. A talented soloist, he has entertained our holiday audiences with 'Shepard come Quick'

One of his greatest contributions was recognizing the need for additional rehearsal for many of the new Christmas songs and organizing 'Early Bird' rehearsals each Monday to review the repertoire.



Jason has moved from behind the scenes to join the BOD for 2009 as Program VP and take the reins of that money-making and favorite quartet activity, Singing Valentines.

Let's all congratulate Jason for a job well done.

Meet the New Guy

John Zweighaft

By Paul Martin



You may have heard that John has just stepped up to fill the secretary's position on the Board. Since he is new to the chapter, let's find out a little more about him.

John is a 16-year Society member who now resides in Apex, NC with his bride of 36 years, Carol. He is not new to barbershopping. His first singing experience was in Burlington Vermont and

the Green Mountain Chorus (yes this is the same chapter that spawned **Steve Tremper**) where he was working as chapter secretary. His 'day job' was an engineer with General Dynamics' Armament and Technical Products that produced the Vulcan Canon and Navy's Phalanx system.

He joined barbershopping as a result of a First Night where he saw the Green Mountain chorus. He was 45 at the time and hadn't sung since high school. Although he had sung in his church choir, it didn't quite do it for him. Seeing the chorus perform with **enthusiasm** was what sold him. Barbershopping was FUN. "I can do that" he told himself—"I'd like to do that!"

So what brings him to North Carolina? Two daughters and a grandson and 'one in the oven' in Cary and North Raleigh. "I enjoy babysitting for my grandkids" As for other past-times, he enjoys snow skiing and still does squats to stay in shape.

When asked about his new role as Secretary, he says it is one of the jobs that takes the most work. "I enjoy supporting the hobby and believe that new members should pitch in. I'm willing to step in where I can."

What would he like to do in the future? Attend Harmony College with RTP is near the top of the list. "I'm enthusiastic about going to Harmony College, and going with RTP just makes it that much better".

High School Musical Quartet Contest

with Bob Stewart



Susie Smith L and Paul Martin R with the 2003 Winners

The highlight of the Youth in Harmony program, the high school quartet contest enters its 13th year. "It's easy to remember the number of years" says RTP Youth in Harmony VP **Bob Stewart**, "because we had to get a new trophy. The traveling trophy, with 12 plaques, was full." The trophy will retire with Green Hope High School who has taken top honor the last two years. This year's competition will pit powerhouse New Hope, who won first in girls 'Starstruck' and first 'Incognito' and second 'Notable Four' in boys for 2008 against Wake Forest-Rolesville, who took men's third place. (remember **Daniel, Jimmy, Andy and Jonathan** who joined RTP?)

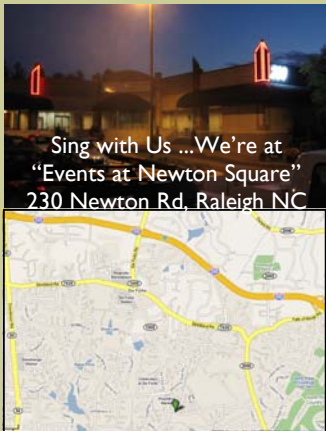
"Key to their success is coaching" says Stewart. "**Debbie Mickunas** was there virtually every day coaching the girls, freeing their teacher, **Margaret 'Maggie' Cook** to work exclusively with the boys. In case the Mickunas name seems familiar, it may be because her husband, **Mark**, sang with RTP in this year's holiday Community Chorus.

For an entertaining evening of fresh new talent, make it a point to see the HS Quartet contest. It will be 5:00 pm Thursday, February 19, 2009 at Green Hope HS off NC 55 in Cary at 2500 Carpenter Upchurch Road. The General Assembly will be singing as well during the final judging. For directions call the school at 919-380-3700, and event info call Bob at 919-272-8787. Admission to the public is free. (but feel to make a contribution).

THE ASSEMBLY LINE

RTP Chapter of the Barbershop
Harmony Society
PO Box 99183
Raleigh, NC 27624

Phone: 919.833.6775
www.generalassemblychorus.org
Email us at:
interest@generalassemblychorus.org



Sing with Us ...We're at
"Events at Newton Square"
230 Newton Rd, Raleigh NC

Visit us on the Web!
GeneralAssemblyChorus.org

HIGH SCHOOL QUARTET CONTEST

Thursday, February 19, 2009
Green Hope High School
2500 Carpenter Upchurch Road,
Cary, NC 27519

Want to help out? Add to the
RTP quartet contributions that
make possible the 24 medals
given to the top three quartets
for men and women.

Send your contribution to:
RTP Youth in Harmony
PO Box 99183
Raleigh, NC 27624



Letter from the President

I know I'm not the only one feeling like the New Year is full of promise. If we ignore the political and the economic arenas (hard to do) we are entering 2009 primed for great success and in moving our chapter to higher goals, higher performance standards and greater financial success.

Why do I think this? Our Music & Performance team led by Lee Horton has made important strides in getting us music in a timelier manner; they have started putting forward new performance goals and criteria and are in the process of raising the bar for all of us. Membership is increasing under the leadership of Larry Schlesinger. Our new PVP, Jason Patrick, is bringing his organizational skills to make our meetings more interesting, productive and yes, *fun*.

We finished a great Holiday Season having sung to hundreds of people bringing them the warmth of the holidays while having a great time ourselves. We made money on the Holiday show working with the Carolina Harmony Chorus for the second year. The Temple Theatre performance was warmly received, opening the door to future engagements.

We have Valentines coming up, two new songs to premier at contest in Winston Salem (no ten-hour drives!), an exciting show featuring Nat King Cole standards in May and so much more.

Have a great 2009! -Warren Fuson

Winter Calendar

DECEMBER

Mon	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
Sat	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
Mon	15	7:30—8:15pm	Songs of the Season	Springmoor, Raleigh
Tue	16	7:30—9:00pm	Songs of the Season	Temple Theatre, Sanford
Mon	22 22	7:00—7:30pm 7:30—9:00pm	Songs of the Season Holiday Party	Forest of Duke, Durham Forest of Duke, Durham
Mon	29 29	6:15—7:30pm 8:00—8:30pm	Songs of the Season Songs of the Season	Rex Hospital, Raleigh Dorothea Dix Hospital, Raleigh

JANUARY

Mon	5	6:15—6:30 PM 7:30—7:15 PM 7:30—10:30 PM	Membership Committee meeting Early bird rehearsal Regular Rehearsal	Events & Newton Square
Mon	12	6:00—7:30 PM 7:30—10:30 PM	Music & Performance Meeting Regular rehearsal	Events & Newton Square
Tue	13	TBA—snow	Get America Singing Again	Hunter Elementary School
Mon	19	6:30—7:30 PM 7:30—10:30 PM	Early bird rehearsal Regular rehearsal	Events & Newton Square
Mon	26	5:30—7:30 PM 7:30—10:30 PM	Board of Directors meeting Regular Rehearsal	Events & Newton Square

FEBRUARY

Sat	7	9:00am—4:00pm	Coaching session w. Kevin Keller	St. Michael the Archangel
Fri Sat	13, 14	8:00am—8:00pm	Singing Valentines Quartets	See chapter link
Mon	16		Songs from the Heart	Springmoor
Thur	19	5:00—9:30pm	High School Quartet Contest	Green Hope High School