



THE GENESCENE



Volume 2, Issue 6

The Chorus of the Genesee

September, 2007



THE PREZ SEZ.....

President Bill Wise

Where to start . . . It's been a "short" summer, but a busy one. Meg and I became grandparents again in August. A little guy with "healthy" lungs who really knows how to get attention!

Lots of things happening in and out of Harmony House. Jack Thomas and I have worked out a PR/Marketing scheme with independent contractors, Carol Klem and Karen Siegelman, regarding the development of an informational brochure, a four (4) color tri-fold with photos on quality paper. This project also entails developing a distribution list and arranging for a distribution area. The ultimate plan is a distribution throughout the Rochester area. Since this brochure will be of professional quality, the intention is to take this, along with a cover letter, and propagate it within the Rochester business community. I am sure we will find other opportunities for this important project. This project is several months out and I am expecting the Long Range Planning Committee will handle it. Many thanks to Jack Thomas for setting up this project.

House Stuff

At past Board meetings we've discussed house activities, both normal maintenance and the extra things, and how to find "volunteers" to help with these tasks. There are a number of tasks that need to be done and our faithful Friday crew can't do them all. What I propose is a weekly work party, no less than two (2) hours and no more than

four (4) hours, with a rotating work crew. Done properly, nobody would have to "work" more than 4-6 hours a year. I believe this is doable. This scheme will allow the regular Friday crew to relax a little bit and at the same time allow the rest of the membership to do their share. Some of these jobs do not have to be done on Friday. We can mop floors, wash windows, vacuum carpets, etc. any-time. A bunch of us have keys, so getting into Harmony House shouldn't be a problem.

Membership

I approached Marty with a request for a membership drive this fall. This drive will be geared towards bringing "singers" in, but I think we should also investigate the possibility of utilizing non-singing people . . . nobody is born a barbershop style singer and this is where the Music Team comes in. The Music Team has outlined a general work plan for achieving this goal. I'm looking for an active membership drive and a written game plan from the Music Team on how to put perspective new people on the risers. I don't know what other chapters do with regards to their Music Team, but I believe ours is the best in the District. This is a challenge for them, but I have the utmost confidence in their capabilities.

Tuesday Nights

Mixed bag; and I know we can't please everyone, so I am not going to try! However, the half hour allocated for rehearsal night is for a "business meeting" only. We have a bulletin

board on the first floor and a “story” board in the rehearsal room. We also have a chorus web page and yahoo communication tool (if used properly). All are good communication devices. Note that a number of people are not “hooked up” so we need someone to make sure they get information in a timely fashion. People who routinely use the web for chorus information must accept the responsibility of notifying non-web members.

One of the many things that make us a great chapter is our ability to communicate with each other. As in the past, I welcome your ideas/suggestions, etc. And, as in the past, I might agree or disagree with your concerns, but they will be heard and discussed.



What can I do on my own to prepare for the contest?

Ken Bissinger

Most of us have been through the hectic pre-contest routines and jitters. There are things you can do to make sure that you personally maximize your performance in competition. It's important to remember that the root cause of nervousness in

The *Chorus of the Genesee* meets each Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. at Harmony House, 58 Main Street, Webster, NY. Visitors may call the *Barbershop Hotline* at (585) 265-9540.

2007 Chapter Officers

- President.....Bill Wise
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Alan McKenzie, Don Vair, Mike Root, Bob Wiley
- Music Director.....Allen Weitz

performance is an inner feeling that you're not up to the task, not prepared.

- **Vocalize daily.** It is highly unlikely that your best singing performance will occur on the one day a week you decide to sing. Start warming your voice *now* for our last chorus rehearsals, and the contest. It'll take that long to do the job. Easy warm-up exercises, or quietly singing our songs for 15 minutes each day should do the trick. You could tape one of our warm-up sessions on a Tuesday night, and sing along with that. And when you yell at the dog for chewing your slippers, please support properly.
- **Work on your facial expressions** in front of the mirror. Listen to yourself on one of the qualification tapes you made, and emote the message of the song. Be your own worst critic.
- **Visualization.** An important envisioning technique is to mentally put yourself on stage and go through the program. Relax, and let the curtain open on your performance, from beginning to end. Make sure you think about the lyrics to the song you're imagining, and find the message as you feel it. Get inside the song, inside your head.

A Note from Mike Morgan

Thousands and thousands of thanks to all of you guys who sent cards, made calls, sent messages through Kath, and came to the hospital and/or the rehab to visit me. You all helped to speed me homeward within just 11 days of double knee replacement surgery. (That's unheard of!) Therapy is going well, and you'll see me again sooner than you think!

Al and Don Stothard tell me the competition numbers are singing very well. Keep it up....with a smile on your face, and a song in your heart!

Mike



Thoughts from the Bobservation Post

Bob Lewis

Allan approached me recently and asked, "Are you going to have a *Bobservation* for the next Genescene?" I, of course, responded, "I don't know, I haven't been here long enough to observe anything!"

It was my first rehearsal in over a month, and I must say, the chorus is sounding very good. There are a few rough spots that need to be addressed, but after talking with Don, they are on his list. I was disappointed with the attendance however. I would think, with only a very few rehearsals to go before contest, *all* competing members would be on the risers!

I talked to Freddie. June is feeling a little better and is starting to eat a little better. She has certainly had her challenges over the last few months. Please keep her and Freddie in your prayers.

Over the past few years, COG members have asked me about Chautauqua. Marcia and I have been going to Chautauqua for the past 15 years.

We were first exposed to the institute when the COG won the right to perform at the AMP. Over the years we have been able to come up with a plan that suits our needs and also our pocket-book. We stay at the denominational houses. Actually the least expensive are the Baptist and Lutheran houses. Each one gives you the option of preparing your own meals and sharing with others your experiences of the day. In the Lutheran house you share the bathrooms and showers with other guest which has never been a problem. You eat in a common dining room at individual tables. Each room is assigned ½ refrigerator/freezer and a

storage cupboard for dry goods. There is a very well equipped shared kitchen to prepare meals. The cost for the week is about \$265.

In the Baptist house you also share bathrooms and showers. In the basement are 7 kitchenettes. Each is well equipped and you can prepare all or some of your meals in the house. The cost for the week is about \$175.

There is the additional cost of the gate fee, \$315.00 per person last year, and parking fee, \$45.00 per week. I believe the cheapest cost per week, with the exception of the denominational houses, is about \$1000 and up, not including gate and parking costs.

If you have any questions I will be glad to answer them. But keep this in mind, reservations for the year are taken by application starting *now*. The exceptions are most of the denominational houses which open their books the 2nd of January and are filled by early February. For information on the weekly programs for the 9 week season, go to CIweb.org.

In talking with my mentor, Freddie, I believe the bar will need help during the last of September and most of October. I will not be in the area and Freddie is planning to be out of town most of the month of October. I know we can count on you regulars to fill in for us and that is very gratifying. So, thanks in advance!

Well, I think that is just about it from here. I will not be in contest this fall. I will be thinking about all of you and wishing you the best luck. Have a wonderful fall season. Please stop and enjoy the wonderful colors mother nature has blessed us with.

Bob Lewis



Dr. Melody's Musical Quiz

Dave Kester

Hello music lovers. Most of you have been around long enough to have heard these songs on the radio and elsewhere. It's time to put on your thinking caps and see if you can come up with the song titles from which these lyrics came. Pretend it's before Algore invented the internet and resist the temptation to Google these lines. The good doctor got nineteen out of twenty-five correct long before he had a computer.

The answers will be printed in the October edition of the *Genescene*. So get crackin'! Let these clues roll around in your fertile minds for a while and you'll be surprised how much you can remember. You may be a quiz whiz yourself. Good Luck!

1. "Out on the briny with the moon big and shiny"
2. "Stead of flittin', I'll be sittin'" _____
3. "Then love won't come a knocking at your door" _____
4. "Don't have nobody to call my own" _____
5. "It was a lucky April shower" _____
6. "I'll stop my scheming and dreaming 'cause I realize" _____
7. "I'll tell you boys, it's tough to live alone" _____
8. "Jazzing around, painting the town" _____
9. "Days may not be fair" _____
10. "One day in May" I'll come and say" _____
11. "The summer's gone and all the roses fallen" _____
12. "Other arms reach out to me" _____
13. "They only told me we were parting" _____
14. "It's a Barnum and Bailey world" _____

15. "I'd let my golden chances pass me by" _____
16. "Every morning you greet me" _____
17. "All the sounds of the earth are like music" _____
18. "One hasn't got time for the waiting game" _____
19. "Just can't get my poor self together" _____
20. "You'll come to me out of the long ago" _____
21. "My arms long to hold you so" _____
22. "Well darling, I'm telling you now" _____
23. "A heart full of joy and gladness" _____
24. "The roses all have left your cheek" _____
25. "We'll cuddle all the time" _____

Allan's Prerogative

- I am impressed how much Al Weitz's directorial skills have grown in the past few months. (And his golf skills)
- It appears that we finally have a method for providing some needed assistance for the Friday work crew. Cheers, Bill.
- Jim Rawcliffe reports that he is Chairman of the Director Search Committee. Other members include Mike Morgan, Harry Fraysier, Don Stothard, and Bob Statt
- A critically important idea that Mike left with us before he went off for surgery: **Reenergize the beginning of every phrase.** Remember the night he stood and encouraged us at us at the beginning of each phrase. The energy kept building. We were a powerhouse chorus at the end of that song.



Great Day with Great Guys

Chuck Martello

The temperature was soaring into the 90's and some of our scores were approaching that number as well, but everyone attending the CoG annual golf tournament had a wonderful time. The spirits were high, the laughter and singing rang out, and the beer was cold.

Twenty-six golfers teed off at Shadow Lake starting at 9:30 AM and by 2:30 all groups made it back to the clubhouse for a well-deserved break. We had a number of guests this year including Frank Stewart and Alan Murray from Scotland who were invited by Allan Muskopf along with the Wander brothers, Chris and Jan, also friends of Allan. (I know it's hard to believe that Allan has so many friends but it's true). Also, Al Weitz had two friends, Mike and Ken, from work, and of course, Larry Michlin brought his three "ringer" buddies, Herb, Adam, and John to rub salt in the wounds by reminding us that they won last year. Just kidding!

Following snacks and beverages on the deck we moved to a beautiful room overlooking the course where dinner was served. Joining us was Dave Merilatt who hooked up with his quartet to sing several songs for us and staff members. The rest of us also sang a few, and one to Fannie, our waitress, who handled the whole dinner with very little help. She even moved the keg from the deck to the dining room by herself which is probably why she earned a song.

After dinner, prizes were handed out and once again Larry and his foursome had the lowest gross score (65) to capture one of the top prizes. Allan's foursome which included Jim Rawcliffe, Wayne Brigman and Rock Hugel had the lowest net handicap score (66) to win the other top prize. In the other direction. Ken Bissinger's group which included Little Bobby, Joe Bradbury, and Gerry LaDue had the high net score which has prompted

Ken to consider changing the name of his quartet from "Jump Start" to "Short Circuit." It should also be noted that our Scottish guests donated two bottles of excellent Scotch for prizes which were won by Bob Statt and Len Paganelli. Long live Scotland!!

By 5:30 most of the guys had gone home and only the memories of a good time and perhaps that certain shot each of us should've, could've, or would've made, but didn't, remained.

Note: It was reported that Allan Muskopf spent considerable time after dinner preparing a challenge to the scoring system which he claims prevented his foursome from winning low gross score. All I can say is "Wait till next year, Allan."

I just came across this exercise suggested for seniors, golfers, and barbershoppers to build volume control and muscle strength in the arms and shoulders. It seems so easy, I thought I would pass it on to my friends.

The article suggested doing it three days a week. Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room on each side. With a 5-lb potato sack in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute and then relax.

Each day you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer. After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb potato sacks. Then 50-lb potato sacks and eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb sack in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a minute. (I'm at this level.)

After you feel confident at that level..... put a potato in each of the sacks.

Singin' the Blues

Someone sent this to me. I have no idea who wrote it, but I thought it was too brilliant not to pass on to music lovers.

1. Most Blues begin with: "Woke up this morn-ing..."
2. "I got a good woman" is a bad way to begin the Blues unless you stick something nasty in the next line like "I got a good woman with the meanest face in town."
3. The Blues is simple. After you get the first line right, repeat it. Then find something that rhymes, sort of: "Got a good woman with the meanest face in town. Yes, I got a good woman with the meanest face in town. Got teeth like Mike Tyson, and she weigh 500 pound."
4. The Blues is not about choice. You stuck in a ditch, you stuck in a ditch. There ain't no way out.
5. Blues cars: Chevys, Fords, Cadillacs and broken-down trucks. Blues don't travel in Volvos, BMWs, or SUVs. Most Blues transportation is a Greyhound bus or a southbound train. Jet aircraft and state-sponsored motor pools ain't even in the running. Walkin' plays a major part in the blues lifestyle. So does fixin' to die.
6. Teenagers can't sing the Blues. They ain't fixin' to die yet. Adults sing the Blues. In Blues, "adulthood" means being old enough to get the electric chair if you shoot a man in Memphis.
7. Blues can take place in New York City but not in Hawaii or anyplace in Canada. Hard times in Minneapolis or Seattle is probably just clinical depression. Chicago, St. Louis, and Kansas City are still great places to have the Blues. You cannot have the blues anyplace that don't get rain.
8. A man with male pattern baldness ain't the Blues. A woman with male pattern baldness is. Breaking your leg 'cause you were skiing is not the blues. Breaking your leg 'cause an alligator be chomping on it is.
9. You can't have no Blues in an office or a shopping mall. The lighting is wrong. Go out to the parking lot or sit by the dumpster.
10. Good places for the Blues:
 - a. highway
 - b. jailhouse
 - c. empty bed

- d. bottom of a whiskey glass

Bad places for the Blues:

- a. Nordstrom
- b. Art gallery openings
- c. Ivy League colleges
- d. Golf courses

11. No one will believe it's the Blues if you wear a suit, unless you happen to be an old ethnic person, and you slept in it.

12. Do you have the right to sing the Blues?

Yes, if:

- a. you older than dirt
- b. you blind
- c. you shot a man in Memphis
- d. you can't be satisfied

No, if:

- a. you have all your teeth
- b. you were once blind but now can see
- c. the man in Memphis lived
- d. you have a 401K or trust fund

13. Blues is not a matter of color. It's a matter of bad luck. Tiger Woods cannot sing the Blues. Sonny Liston could. Ugly people also got a leg up on the Blues.

14. If you ask for water and your darlin' give you gasoline, it's the Blues.

Other acceptable Blues beverages are:

- a. cheap wine
- b. whiskey or bourbon
- c. muddy water
- d. nasty black coffee

The following are NOT Blues beverages:

- a. Perrier
- b. Chardonnay
- c. Mountain Dew
- d. Red Bull

15. If death occurs in a cheap motel or a shotgun shack, it's a Blues death. Stabbed in the back by a jealous lover is another Blues way to die. So are the electric chair, substance abuse and dying lonely on a broken-down cot. You can't have a Blues death if you die during a tennis match or while getting plastic surgery.

16. Some Blues names for women:
- Sadie
 - Big Mama
 - Bessie
 - Fat River Dumpling
17. Some Blues names for men:
- Joe
 - Willie
 - Little Willie
 - Big Willie
 - Otis
18. Persons with names like Amber, Jennifer, Tiffany, Debbie, and Heather can't sing the Blues no matter how many men they shoot in Memphis.
19. Make your own Blues name Starter Kit:
- name of physical infirmity (Blind, Cripple, Lame)
 - first name (see above) plus the name of a fruit, (lemon, Lime, etc.)
 - last name of President (Jefferson, Johnson, Jackson, Fillmore, etc.)
- Examples: Blind Lime Jefferson, Jackleg Lemon Johnson.
20. No matter how tragic your life, if you own a computer you cannot sing the Blues. (This will probably change in the future as most computers give adults the Blues)

News Re the Move To Nashville

Ed Watson, Executive Director of the Society
Contributed by Joe Bradbury

The move to Nashville is progressing. We have our server backbone being "racked" in the server room. Our voice-over-Internet-protocol phone system is finally behaving, allowing members to be answered when they call the 800 number. We have hired several new employees, after receiving well over 100 applications to the available jobs. A few more people are needed, and interviews are still being conducted. We will introduce each new staff member on the website and Live Wire as we move forward.

The building is really a beautiful monu-

ment to the past, while serving the present and enabling a bright future. I have already conducted several tours for barbershoppers who have stopped by, (locals mostly, but not all) and even though the movers are still here, with the attendant mess, the members have all expressed excitement and praise for the design of the building and the future of the Society.

The same company that constructed our new headquarters is working next door on the Tennessee Grand Masonic Lodge, and yesterday they had an accident which inflicted damage on our building. (They flatly deny that it was retribution on the Yankees for the war of Northern aggression, but we'll have to see.) About 20 feet and 8,000 pounds of stone trim came loose from their rooftop as the workers were re-roofing, and tumbled into the alley between buildings. No one was hurt, but our brand new awning was destroyed, a brick windowsill was pushed into the interior of the 3rd floor lady's restroom (no one there) and a window was broken on the 2nd floor. We'll closely scrutinize for any other damage, but it being the same construction company, I have no doubt they'll fix what they have broken. This would easily have crushed anybody under it so we are thankful all were clear.

We have a large batch of hand renewals, since we asked for that in anticipation of the computer moves. We will process them expeditiously and let you know when on line renewals are available.

No member who has his dues paid on a monthly withdrawal from the bank or via credit card will be disqualified as a contestant by virtue of the fact that his dues are already paid since this is a pay ahead system.
(Joe Bradbury)

Thoughts about Hearing Aids

I recently became interested in hearing aids and asked a friend to share his experience with hearing aids. Below is what my friend sent. I include it here because I realize that hearing aids is, or should be, a hot topic for old guys. Since then, I purchased a pair and would be glad to share my experience with you. (Allan)

First, you must get a complete hearing test which can be done by a doctor or by a licensed hearing aid technician. That will provide information about your hearing losses, how minor or extreme, and at which frequency ranges your losses are located. Degree of loss will be expressed in decibels (100 is normal hearing with no loss, small percentage loss will be characterized as 5, 10, or 15 decibels). If you have as much as 20 or 30 decibel loss, you will probably get recommendation for correction with one or two aids. If both ears show sizeable loss, then two aids will be recommended because you then will still be able to sense directional sources of sounds and you will keep the nerve systems of both ears working rather than let one fritter away and lose its acuity.

My first models were *Miracle Ear*. *Miracle Ear* products are excellent but very costly. My first two set me back \$5,000. They consist of a mold that fits in your ear. Within the first year I learned that the mold blocks nearly all sound from entering the canal, causes a feeling of stuffiness while worn, made me feel suppressed or depressed and caused me to lose my speaking voice if I kept them in for very long. All sounds are amplified and ambient sound waves are blocked. I discarded them.

About two years ago, each of the companies in the hearing aid business began producing "open fit" models with the little bud (about the size of a small raisin) that goes into the ear and takes the place of the larger mold. Open fit requires "behind the ear" placement of the amplifying apparatus. It is made in small dimension and hides itself behind the ear like the earpiece of one's glasses. The pair I just got last month are made by Starkey. The model I bought is unsophisticated but also inexpensive--\$1950 for the pair. A pair of open fit models from *Miracle Ear* might run as high as 6 or 7 thousand dollars.

There are new aids available from specialized hearing aid stores that you can locate through Google, or eBay but you don't get a local technician for maintenance and you may or may not be properly fitted by them. Their prices are amazingly low but I steered

clear of them after surveying the field.

You should know too that NY state requires sellers to allow customers 45 days for trial and must do a money back return if you reject the product during that time (maybe \$50 or so for the fitting expense). So you do get a chance to try out what you may buy. Also, not everyone's hearing loss is corrected by open fit models. You may have more than just high frequency problems and may have to have other types with canal molds or outer ear molds to correct the loss.



Mystery Bus Trip *Smilin' Jack Ernisse*

- Date: Tuesday, October 16, 2007.
- Cost: \$5 for bus fare.
- Time: Bus will leave Harmony House **promptly** at 6 P.M. For those living **west** of Harmony House, there will be a second pick up between 6:15 and 6:30 P.M
- Bus will depart for home at approximately 11 P.M., arriving back at Harmony House at approximately 12:30 A.M.
- Food and beverages will be available on the bus and at our destination.
- Al Weitz and the host chapter director are exploring songs we can sing together. We also plan to mix guys from both chapters to sing in quartets. Registered quartets are invited to participate. Let me know if your quartet will be singing.
- Wear your chorus badge and shirt for this trip.