



THE GENESCENE



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The Chorus of the Genesee

January, 2010

A Bob Lewis Special Edition

Thoughts From the Bobservation Post *Bob Lewis*

It was a sad day when Allan resigned as Editor of the *Genescene*. He did such a great job of editing and publishing. One of the main reasons he quit his frustration in trying to get articles for the *Genescene*. In retrospect, when I was on the BOD and VP of Membership, I was told one of my duties was to write an article for the *Genescene* each month, without fail. In fact all members of the board, including the president, were required to write articles. In perusing this past year's publications, I do not find one article from our President or from the vast majority of the BOD members. Oh sure, we get a brief hint of what is going on during chapter meetings sometimes, but it doesn't cover all the happenings nor does it notify *all* members, many of whom can't make chapter meetings because of physical limitations. *It's time for a change!* I mean, how are we, the members of this chapter and its leading financial supporters, going to learn what is going on with *our* chapter, when no one tells us?

We need a new editor of the *Genescene*. I hope someone will pick up the challenge and continue the publishing of *our* newsletter. Please, someone, give it some serious thought and keep our *Genescene* alive.

How many of you have thanked Chuck Pickhardt for the great job he is doing to continue the *Barberpole Cat Program*? This program is alive and well, thanks to Chuck-- especially, the help he has been given from the chorus members that constitute the quartets that help the candidates grow in their appreciation of quartet singing and barbershop harmony.

Our sing-out at Pal-Mac in late October was a great success. Not only did we have a good turnout but the kids really enjoyed themselves. Seneca Land gave two scholarships and offered more to anyone that might be interested in learning about barbershop and singing. *High Hopes* did a magnificent job and the kids really enjoyed their performance. I personally want to thank Chuck Martello for all his work in getting this show together. We need more challenges like Pal-Mac. It makes the chorus feel appreciated, in different venues than just nursing homes.

We had an open house in early November. Kudos to the publicity committee. There were more new people that night than we have had in a long time. Not only did they come, but they came back and joined the chorus.

Oh yes, there was a Potluck Dinner on the 10th of November (our last one for the year). We had more people than usual and great selections of food. I know I have said this before, but, "You guys, and your significant others, are missing a

wonderful time of fellowship”.

The chorus has been working on Christmas Carols since before Thanksgiving. The object is to learn the repertoire so we can perform without music. As I see it at this time, it will be a real challenge. Good luck guys.

The “Director Training” session on the 23rd of November was a very productive time. Obvious improvement in direction was noted by all present. Keep up the good work guys. Who knows, we (the chorus) might get you trained after all. Just follow us and don’t try to lead so much.

The Pittsford Days holiday performance was a different sing-out experience. We have never sung in a bank lobby before. The turnout was good and the audience was very pleased with our selection of Christmas songs.

Eastview Mall was next. We had a good attendance. The audience was, as usual, passing by and really not that attentive, except for the partners of the singers. However, there were a few who stopped and listened, and that makes it worthwhile. Nice going guys.

The sing out at Strong Hospital was well attended and received. I was sorry I could not make this performance, but personal reasons prevented me from doing so. I understand the food afterwards was very tasty and appreciated. Our thanks to the Strong staff for not only providing the food and drink, but for giving us the privilege of helping those who needed a lift that day. We had quartets that went to some of the wards in the hospital and I hear that it was very rewarding. Thanks, quartets, this is what we (the COG) are all about.

The Christmas party was a great success. Over 90 people attended (even the Barnes’ made it, *eventually*). Bob Statt was named BOTY, and it was well deserved. Bob has done sooo many behind the scene jobs for the chorus. He has always supported the music team and has personally inputted and printed music for the chorus (legally of course), in order to make it easier for all of us to learn the music. Bob, please don’t give up that job. I really need to have a good (excellent) copy to learn from. Again, from a personal perspective, congratulations. Then there was the Jingle Bell Award. Mike Morgan did a great job. But Mike, you have just got to get a hat or something that lights-up, dances or does something (Hey, Kathy, that’s a challenge for next year). I applaud your choice of Brian Moore. Mike, your observations as to why he should receive the reward were excellent.

To Joe Bradbury, thanks for getting your family to serve behind the bar. What a VAST IMPROVEMENT from what we normally have to deal with. WOW!!! No offence you understand!

Oh, by the way, did you all appreciate the cleanliness and the wonderful appearance of the main floor? Thank the HOUSE TEAM for that. If you were there on the 8th of December, you would have seen Dick Secrist waxing the WHOLE floor while we were rehearsing upstairs. I mean, is that dedication or what? Those guys that donate their time to Harmony House deserve a great many thanks from all of us!! Yes, I mean YOU, the reader of this article!

Greece Ridge Mall was the usual mall performance. The piped-in music was playing while we performed. The actual location (by Bon-Ton) was not the greatest, but I can’t think of an excellent location in that mall.

Caroling in Webster was cold but most rewarding on the 22nd of December. There were a lot of friends and guests that helped spread Christmas cheer throughout the community.

We even had a photographer from the local paper that braved the cold and took pictures and videos of our performance. I think this year we had more families waiting for us than in the past. Of course, there is that one house on Dunning Street, where I think we, and they, look forward to singing each year. We sing, they sing, and we get hot mulled cider. What a wonderful experience!

The homemade soup and cookies afterwards, at Harmony House, were most rewarding. I mean we had split pea, cream of onion, minestrone and cream of potato. The cookies were delicious and just topped off the evening. My personal thanks to all that provided the goodies.

Did you see the article in the *Democrat and Chronicle* on Christmas day? What a wonderful surprise. The video on the D&C's web site was great. Maybe someone, with a laptop, could bring it to Harmony House so those members who do not have internet access could see the video. Whoever managed to arrange the publicity deserves a lot of thanks!

It was with sad heart, I learned of the passing of Gary Pixley. He was a TRUE barbershopper. He loved to sing and quarteting was, I believe, his favorite. My sympathies go out to Annie and the family. I understand the gathering at Harmony House is still on. I will not be able to attend. The 26 hour commute is a bit much! Please plan to attend and support Annie and the family as they morn Gary's passing and also try to cope with the staggering medical bills.

If you are reading this article it is because Allan has agreed to do one more issue of our Genescene. Thanks again, Allan!

This will be my last article till April (providing we have a new editor by then). Marcia and I will be on an adventure to Buenos Aires, Argentina for the next three months.

My hope is that you and your family had a wonderful holiday and will enjoy a blessed and healthy New Year.

Your Bobobservation reporter,
Bob Lewis

From the beginning, I always believed that the articles Bob Lewis contributed to the Genescene represented the true and best meaning of the Chorus of the Genesee. His was the beacon that shed light on essence of what we are all about...a brotherhood of men who enjoy singing and sharing together. Thanks for your honest contributions, Bob. I would love to be with you in Buenos Aires this winter. Stay safe.
Allan

Harmony For Lunch Bunch

We had a very successful *Harmony For Lunch Bunch* gathering at Cerame's Restaurant on Wednesday, January 6. It was attended by 20 singers. We had ten active CoG members, six inactive or prior members, and four prior members of the Monroe County Chapter. There was plenty of fellowship and singing.

Our next meeting will be held some time in April. Plan to join us.

Dick Wood

Community Chorus Performances

Jack Ernisse

Thursday, January 14: The Northfield Apartments located in Fairport, New York, just north of the Fairport Baptist Home on Nine Mile Point Road, Rt. 250. Report at 6:30, performance at 7. Uniform is red/black/ and white striped shirt, black slacks, shoes, and socks.

Thursday, February 25: Westgate Nursing Home, 525 Behan Road in the town of Gates. Report at 6:30, perform at 7. New members who are not aware of what community chorus is all about are urged to attend. It is our important community service project.

Jack Ernisse



Our very own Dick Secrist