



# The Voice of Rushmore

Mt. Rushmore Chapter

Volume 19

March 2017

Number 3

## Two Great Losses... Jim Gogolin and John Sundby Join Heavenly Chorus



Jim Gogolin



John Sundby



Clayton Southwick

### Calendar of Events

#### Chapter Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 7, 7 p.m.  
Rapid City Library, Room B

#### Chapter Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 4, 7 p.m.  
Rapid City Library, Room C

#### Rocky Mountain Harmony College

April 21-23, 2017  
YMCA Camp  
Estes Park, Colo.

#### Tech & Dress Rehearsal

May 12, 2017  
Performing Arts Center

#### Annual Spring Show "Embrace"

May 13, 2017  
Performing Arts Center  
Guest Quartet, *Vocal Spectrum*

#### BHS International Convention

July 2-9, 2017  
Las Vegas, Nev.

#### Harmony Happening in the Hills

August 25-26, 2017  
Hill City Boys & Girls Club,  
Hill City High School,  
& Mt. Rushmore

#### RMD Fall Convention

October 6-8, 2017  
Zermatt Resort  
Midway, Utah



## BOARD SCRIBBLINGS



DAVID L'ESPERANCE  
Chapter Secretary



### CALL TO ORDER:

The regular monthly meeting for February 2017 of the **Board of Directors** of the **Mt. Rushmore Chapter** of the **Barbershop Harmony Society** was called to order by **President Al Kelts** at 7:04 p.m. on February 6, 2017, in Conference Room A of the Rapid City Public Library. The secretary certified the presence of a quorum of the elected directors. The proposed agenda was approved as modified.

### MINUTES:

The minutes of the January 2017 board meeting were approved as presented. The secretary gave an update on Jim Gogolin's condition, saying he may not make it through the night, and urged the board to continue to keep Jim and Lin in their prayers.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

**President Kelts** thought the Installation Banquet was excellent. He mentioned Rocky Mountain District Harmony College takes place at Estes Park in late April, and new RMD President Bob Fox is encouraging as many members to attend as possible. Gold Medalists Michigan Jake is "unretiring" to headline the events.

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

**Treasurer Ron Evenson's** report shows the chapter remains in good financial status. The annual audit for 2016 has been completed and forwarded to the district. Only one sponsorship ad for the 2016 show remains to be collected. The treasurer's report was accepted.

### VP and COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Music and Performance VP Jim Price** noted immediate focus is on Singing Valentines. Three quartets will be delivering. **Black Hills Blend** member **Wayne Anderson** noted Botticelli's had purchased their usual three packages, and may want one of those on Monday. He will update after he talks to owners, and would need one of the other groups to cover the Monday delivery. **Steve Ferley** reminded all that the HQ for Singing Valentines is the Pennington County Search and Rescue Facility.

**Marketing and Public Relations VP Jessica Kading** announced most of the radio spots will be on Homeslice Media Group stations, as will a couple of live interviews. Facebook

postings and TV Calendars will also be utilized. **Secretary L'Esperance** also suggested a Singing Valentine be delivered to RC Chamber of Commerce's **Linda Rabe** to remind the chamber of one of our main activities. He suggested delivery at the mixer, which is scheduled for Valentine's Day at the Ramkota.

**Spring Show Chair Pete Stach** said plans are moving ahead with **EMBRACE: A Mother's Day Celebration** and he presented his preliminary budget. Committees are being finalized, and **DYNAMIX** and **Black Hills Showcase** and **Stevens Boys Chorus** are all included in the program. The board advised him on purchase of roses for all the ladies and offered full support wherever needed. **Member-at-Large Bill Grant** discussed the sponsorship guidelines and timelines for submitting copy, etc. for the booklet. **Secretary L'Esperance** mentioned the PAC recommends we hire a sound technician who knows how to massage the systems for the best choral presentation. The PAC technical people don't necessarily have that specialized expertise.

### OLD BUSINESS:

**Secretary L'Esperance** attended the December and January PACRC/CMO meetings and noted the group has some projects planned for the facility. They also have a fundraising Pop-Up Party scheduled for July, with a theme of Summer of LOVE. The location is announced the day of the event, and participants bring their own food and table décor, and are given bottles of high quality wine for each person. Tickets are \$100 per person. Raffles and live auctions are also part of the evening.

### NEXT MEETING//ADJOURNMENT:

The next regularly scheduled meeting for the **Mt. Rushmore Chapter's Board** will be March 14, 2017, convening at 7 p.m. at the Rapid City Public Library. With no further business for the good of the chapter, adjournment was declared at 8:47 p.m. The board then sang the "**Irish Blessing**" in tribute for Jim Gogolin..

Respectfully submitted  
In Perfect Harmony,

DAVID L'ESPERANCE, Secretary

Being a musician  
isn't about  
perfection. It's about  
**PASSION.**  
People don't go to  
shows to hear a  
perfect performance.  
They go to **FEEL**  
something.



## “Grandma’s Feather Bed” Almost Wasn’t Recorded

From the **Gadsden (Ala.) Times**  
Jun 2, 2011

If Gadsden, [Alabama] native **Jim Connor** hadn’t bothered to clean out a guitar case before selling it, his classic song “**Grandma’s Feather Bed**,” made popular by **John Denver**, never would have been recorded.

Connor, who lives on Sand Mountain, said the song began as a letter that was a poem to his grandmother, who operated a boarding house in the Woodlawn area of Birmingham, [Ala.]. As a child, Connor would visit there, spending time with his eight cousins.

He was on tour in the winter of 1964 in Canada with Richard Lockmiller of Gadsden, as the folk music duo Richard and Jim, and they were staying in a cheap hotel in Hamilton, Ontario.

Connor said he was cold, lonesome and depressed and decided to write his grandmother a letter. He began recalling the fun times he had visiting her and his cousins and other family members. The “fantasy poem” and remembering those times made him feel better.

Connor recopied the poem. He put the original in his guitar case, made a copy for his grandmother and mailed it to her—then promptly forgot about it.

A few years later, he was preparing to sell the guitar and case and found the poem while cleaning out the case. He kept it and began thinking about developing it into a song.

“I didn’t change very many words at all,” Connor said.

In 1968, he was playing in a hotel lounge in Aspen, Colo. He was working on the song before the club opened when Denver, who he had met several years earlier, came in.

Denver asked him about the song, said he wanted to record it and got Connor to record it for him on a small cassette recorder.

Connor began playing with the **New Kingston Trio** in 1969 and used the song in the group’s act.

The group was playing in 1972 in Denver, and Connor again ran into John Denver, who asked for another copy of the song because he’d lost the first tape. Connor obliged, but Denver apparently lost that tape as

well.

Connor’s and Denver’s paths crossed again in the fall of 1973. Denver invited Connor to a barbecue at his mother’s house and got Connor to sing the song a cappella for his producer, Milt Okun, rather than having Okun listen to the song on tape.

“I got through like the first verse and the chorus and half the second verse and Milt said, ‘That’s enough,’” Connor recalled. “I thought, ‘Oh shoot he hates it.’ And he said, ‘Can you be at RCA March 1?’”

Connor said he showed up at the recording session and played banjo and harmonica and sang background vocals on several songs aside from “**Grandma’s Feather Bed**.”

Denver included Connor’s song on his “**Back Home Again**” album in 1974, which along with the title song featured “**Thank God I’m a Country Boy**” and “**Annie’s Song**.”

Connor said the delay in recording was good.

“A year or two later, when that thing went platinum over and over and over, I was kind of glad he put it on his biggest selling album so far,” he said.

Connor toured with Denver after the album’s release and was a guest performer at several concerts, singing a duet with Denver on “**Grandma’s Feather Bed**.”

Denver also included the song on a live album, and according to Connor it has appeared on 19 Denver albums and has been recorded by several other artists.

He said a recording of “**Grandma’s Feather Bed**” even went to No. 1 in Finland, with the name “**Bitte Bedstid**.” However, he only got half of those royalties because he had to split them with the translator.

Connor did an album for RCA, Denver’s label. Denver never released “**Grandma’s Feather Bed**” as a single, and allowed Connor to do so.

It flopped, and Connor said the record apparently didn’t get much airplay because people were wondering why he was doing “a John Denver song.”

In hindsight, he said, it probably would have been better for Denver to release the song as a single since it was so popular, but Connor had hoped it would boost his career as a solo artist.



## Presidential Prattling



Al Kelts  
2017 President

As I watched the chief engineer of a huge indoor railroad drive a variety of different locomotives pulling a variety of different railway cars, I began to wonder: "Who is this Bob Westman?" As you will learn, Bob has a very interesting "story" to tell.

Bob was born in 1943 in Blue Island, Ill., to parents of Swedish descent, his father a high school band director/principal and mother a school counselor. Eight years later, his parent's second "firstborn child", Christine, arrived and the "two firstborns never got along until after we left home," according to Bob. (Interestingly, Christine is now living in Seattle and married to a blind keyboard player whose band performs throughout the "Great Northwest.") As you might guess, based on his dad's profession, Bob was very active musically, playing baritone horn in the Concert Band and a slide trombone in the Jazz Band at Dwight D. Eisenhower High School, as well as singing bass in the school and church choirs. An interesting twist of fate occurred when the local Kiwanis Club sent Bob to a Twirling and Drum Major Camp in Indiana where he became a Drum Major First Class. This resulted in a shift from playing an instrument to leading the marching band at D.D. Eisenhower H.S.

Bob spent his first two years in college at Illinois State, but didn't like the music program. He found the music program at Northern State College, Aberdeen, SD, much more to his liking. He especially enjoyed the band program under Dr. Walker, playing baritone horn in the Concert Band and performing as Drum Major in the Marching Band. As fate would have it, Rhonda, a South Dakota girl from Miller and freshman at Northern State, was also in the marching band. Bob, as the leader, became quite annoyed when the entire clarinet section stopped and began searching an area on the football field, certainly an unscripted routine for the band! When he investigated the problem, he was told that Rhonda had lost a contact lens...hhhhmmmm.... RESULT: First date after band practice and marriage after his senior and her freshman year!

The couple moved to La Crosse, Wis., where Bob taught high school band for two years while Rhonda attended Wisconsin State. During the summers, Bob arranged and led American Express Railway Tours of Western America. Therefore, when the Wisconsin State Band went to the Rose Bowl, Bob made the travel arrangements. The couple then moved to Tucson, Ariz., where Rhonda finished her last year in a Bachelor of Music program and Bob did graduate work as well as teaching in the local high school. From Arizona it was two years in British Columbia, just across the border from the State of Washington. Bob was band director in the Alder Grove Secondary School and Rhonda taught piano for the Canadian Conservatory of Music. Although their first child, Roxanne, was born in Tucson, their second child, Robert, Jr., was born "south of

the border" in Sedro Willi, Wash. (Roxanne, at 42, is a home-maker and mom for their two grandkids. Robert, Jr., at 40, is now working at a Walmart Distribution Center in Florida after 14 ½ years in Army logistics.)

After British Columbia, Bob and Rhonda moved back to Arizona, where Bob was the director of the band and orchestra at the Patagonia High School, the Nogales Middle School, and Challenger Elementary School. During their time in Arizona, the school district received honors, such as an Arizona

A+ School Award and the U. S. Blue Ribbon School Award which necessitated a trip to Washington, DC. After 30 years, they moved to San Bernardino, Calif., and assumed teaching positions there for the next 12 years.

Bob and Rhonda's decision to move back to South Dakota is based on a rather complex turn of events, as you will see. While they were living in San Bernardino, Rhonda's unmarried brother built a beautiful home in 2003 on several hilly acres north of Rapid City. In 2010, he died of a Myocardial Infarction, two weeks after his 64th birthday. Rather than let his house go to strangers, Bob and Rhonda decided to retire, sell their 2000 sq.ft. house on a city block in San Bernardino, and buy her deceased brother's 3600 sq.ft. house in the beautiful Black Hills! In 2012 they moved "back home" to South Dakota where Rhonda has three brothers in the Rapid City area and a Mom still in Miller.

In their "retirement" Bob and Rhonda have not been idle:

\*\*They both play in the New Horizon Band and Jazz Band.

\*\*Bob is a member of the Northern Hills Rotary Club (Spearfish).

- They are active members of the Rushmore Winnies (the local Winnebago RV Club) and Bob is President of the State Club.
- They attend the Big Horn Canyon Community Church.
- And, of course, Bob and Rhonda both have been very active in the Shrine of Democracy Chorus, after Bob was recruited from the NHB by Clayton Southwick.

INTERESTING NOTE: Danesh De Sousa, known to many through movies such as "2016" and "Hillary's America," came to Arizona from India in 1977-78 as a Rotary Exchange Student. Bob and Rhonda became his "American parents" and helped him enter Dartmouth in journalism. After graduating from Dartmouth, he developed a reputation as one of Reagan's speechwriters and then, subsequently, produced the above movies.

WORDS of WISDOM:

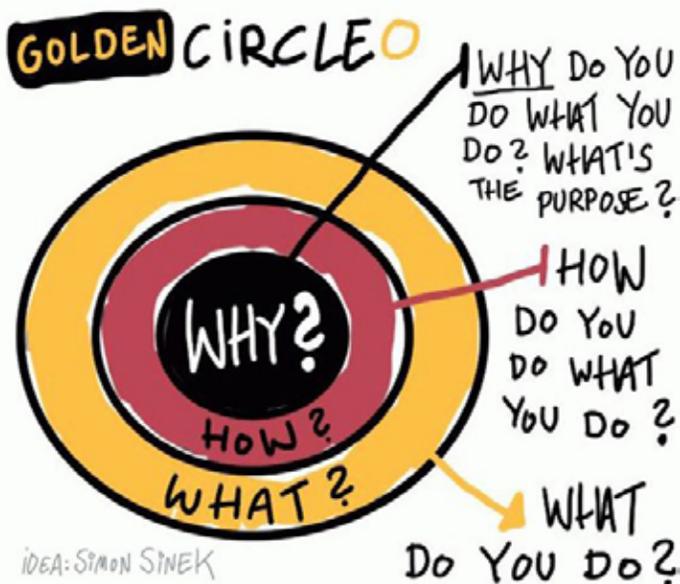
- In Britain during World War II: The British soldiers described the U.S. soldiers as: "Overpaid, oversexed, and over here," while the U.S. soldiers described the British soldiers as: "Underpaid, under sexed, and under Eisenhower!"
- Bob describes his standard answer to Rhonda: "Frankly, My Dear, I don't give a damn." HhhhMmmm... (Can we believe that?)
- FINALLY: When asked: "How long have you been married?" Bob answers: "48 years....the best 3 years of my life!?"

# HOW? WHAT? WHY? THE GOLDEN CIRCLE

Having read the latest edition of *The Harmonizer*, I was inspired to listen to a TED Talk referenced in another chapter's newsletter. This was a talk given by **Simon Sinek** about how great leaders inspire action.

It was interesting to see how great companies like Apple are able to get people to buy their products. You can put nearly every highly successful company in this same category. It's not just Apple. They all do the same thing, and it applies to successful Barbershop chapters as well.

Sinek talks about "the Golden Circle." Just what is the Golden Circle? Let's take a look at this graphic.



Every organization knows WHAT they do. It's the product or services they offer. As a Barbershop Chorus, we sing.

Some organizations know HOW they do what they do. These are the things they do that set them apart from their competition. It's what makes a Barbershop Chorus different than all the other musical organizations in their area.

Now comes the hardest part to define—the WHY. Very few organizations know WHY they do what they do. WHY is not about making money.

That's a result. WHY is a purpose, cause or belief. It's the very reason any organization exists.

Most organizations start with the WHAT and then work their way in to the HOW. More often than not, that's where things stop. They don't think about the WHY.

The really successful organizations start the other way around. They start with the WHY—what is their purpose? Why do they want to be an organization? Once they have defined the WHY of their existence, then they can move out to the HOW. HOW will they accomplish the WHY?

Finally, the last part of the equation is the WHAT. It is in this last circle that an organization is identified by the public. However, if, in the case of a Barbershop Chorus, the members don't know WHY they are singing, then it becomes an unrewarding exercise for the singer and the audience. If the singers understand WHY they are singing—the purpose of their chorus—then they tend to become a great chorus.

Not once do great organizations say they are going to be number one. Their purposes are to make people's lives easier, more enjoyable, easier, etc.

Successful choruses and chapters all know WHY they exist. It isn't just to sing. They have a real purpose in singing and doing the other things they may do.

When we talk to others about the possibility of joining us as singers, can we tell them WHY we sing? Now we all have our personal reasons for singing. What is the purpose of the chapter/chorus? Figure that out and make sure all people in the organization know it. You will find that it is easier to enthusiastically talk about the organization and why someone else would want to be a part of it.

If you haven't already done it, please read Donny Rose's article in the latest edition of *The Harmonizer*. It, along with this TED Talk can be transforming. (<http://bit.ly/2ku8JJZ>)





# SHOWPREP

The Music Team has decided on a schedule for learning the songs for the show. Below is a grid that has three dates for each of the songs we will be singing.

You will notice that there are three dates for each song. The first column is **“Read Proficiently.”** That means that you have spent some time with the learning tracks and are not totally needing to keep your nose in the music. You can watch the director for the most part and follow his directions.

The second column is **“Music on Lap.”** That means that you can sing the music for the most part with having the music there for reference only. Eyes should be on the director most of the time.

The last one, **“Off Paper.”** means that you have the music totally memorized and don’t have the sheet music in hand for reference. It also means that from that date forward you can work on musicality and performance skills.

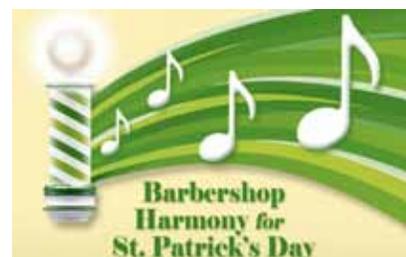
We realize that a schedule like this may be new to some of us, but it gives us the best idea of what’s expected of us. It means that we need to spend most of our time on Thursdays rehearsing and singing with less talking and socializing. We need to keep our business meetings and breaks much shorter so we can be productive in our rehearsal times.

## Show Song Learning Schedule

To make this a great show, these dates, as outlined by the music team, are to be adhered to

Song Title	Read Proficiently	Music on Lap	Off Paper
You Raise Me Up	Feb. 16	Feb. 23	Mar. 2
My Cup Runneth Over with Love	Feb. 16	Feb. 23	Mar. 2
Lullaby in Ragtime	Feb. 23	Mar. 2	Mar. 9
Mammas, Don't Let Your Babies...	Feb. 23	Mar. 2	Mar. 9
All I Do is Dream of You	Mar. 2	Mar. 9	Mar. 16
My Girl	Mar. 9	Mar. 16	Mar. 23
Mom	Mar. 16	Mar. 23	Mar. 30
You Are My Sunshine	Mar. 23	Mar. 30	Apr. 6
Grandma's Feather Bed	Mar. 30	Apr. 6	Apr. 13
No More Sorrow	Apr. 6	Apr. 13	Apr. 20

*I don't do things half-heartedly.  
Because I know if I do,  
then I can expect half-hearted results.*  
~Michael Jordan



# Remembering Jim Gogolin

To all of Jim's friends: In case you had not heard, Jim has departed for Heaven. He fought his cancer bravely for four years but once it invaded his lungs there was nothing more medicine could do. I will be taking his ashes to South Dakota in early summer (perhaps early June) for a memorial service at our church in Hill City.

Thank you for the pleasure you gave Jim during the last few years.

Sincerely,  
*Lin Gogolin*



The world lost another great man today to that nasty beast cancer! My heart is sad to see this great man leave us.

Jim Gogolin was a friend and Barbershop brother in the Rapid City Chapter, Shrine of Democracy Chorus. I had the pleasure of spending time with his wife and him on many occasions. They were both gracious and loving on every occasion!

My prayers will be with his wife Lin at this time.

I will try my best to be in Rapid City to honor him when he is laid to rest.

*Curtis Terry*

Very sad to hear. He was always wonderful to me anytime I ever saw him. May God bless the spirit of Jim and his family.

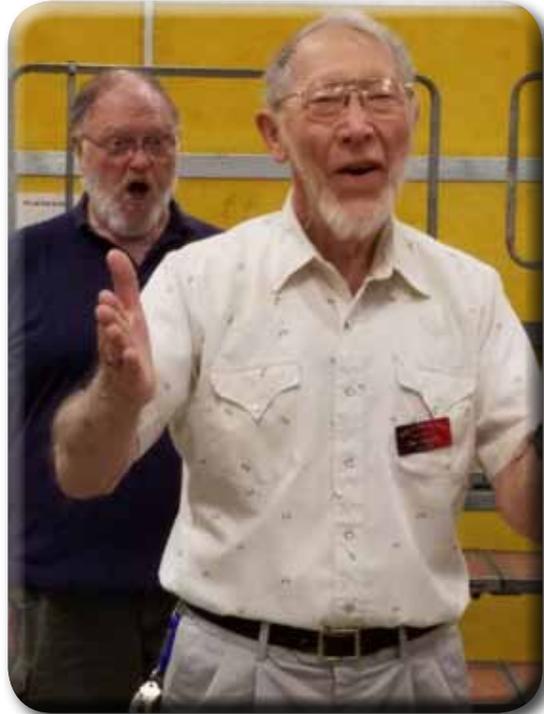
*Shawn Mondragon*

He will be greatly missed by my family. Gods blessing to you Lin.

*Doug Andrews*

I am heartbroken and blessed. Jim was an awesome man and his memory will always be with the ones he touched. He and Lin have taught me a lot. Hugs my friend Lin, may God keep you close at this time.

*Kim Hale-Sommers*



Jim directing the chapter closer at the end of his last meeting before going back to Florida for the final time. **PURE JOY!**



# THE JOY OF QUARTETTING



Al Kelts  
2017 President

I have sung in a quartet in Rapid City since before I joined the **Shrine of Democracy Chorus** 20 years ago. Certainly, one of my great joys of quartetting in the last 20 years has been our fundraiser, **Singing Valentines!** Can there be anything more thrilling than being paid by someone to represent him or her in an "up close and personal" encounter with his or her loved one? WOW! I will try to tell you about the experiences of **Black Hills Blend** this February.

Our Singing Valentines experience actually began on February 8 at 6:30 a.m. in the basement radio station complex behind Safeway. We were cordially invited into the studio of The Mix (KKMK) by Kevin who recorded us on the radio station's audio system and videoed us on his cell phone. Almost immediately, we were whisked away to the KAT Country studio to sing and be interviewed by Sam and his buddy. Subsequently, on February 9 at 10:30 a.m., we were interviewed and sang a song in the HIT 102.7 studio.



The "light of day" on February 13 revealed a somewhat different appearing BHB with Wayne singing bass and Carrol Korb singing baritone!



One of our first Valentines was to Diana and Vern while a camera crew from KEVN filmed "**Heart of my Heart**" and a brief interview (on the Nightly News at 9 p.m. hosted by Ms. Vidal).



From there, Alan shepherded us to the second floor of the Regional Rehabilitation Institute where we sang to patients and therapy staff assembled in the gymnasium.

*Send your sweetheart a  
Singing  
Valentine!*



Later in the day we frightened 6 year old Lorelei with a tenor post, although she did survive and even smiled—maybe it was the black hat?



The morning of February 14 came awfully early as BHB dragged ourselves down to Mostly Chocolates to meet with Rachel from KOTA and her camera girl for a song and interview. (The truly amazing thing is that Pete was actually awake and early for this gig!) Some highlights of our expedition in song are as follows:



Dr. Jim Bockwoldt in his dental office.



Brother Keith Schulte's wife and Brother Alan Schulte's Mom at The Thrift Store.

Continued on page 10

JOY OF QUARTETTING *Continued from page 9*



A truly joyous and appreciative Ms. **Lisa Behrens** at Dakotah Bank enjoying the tenor post on *“Let Me Call You Sweetheart.”* Hence the tenor’s hand.



A chance to sing for **Lynnell and Chuck Knowlton**, a longtime participant in Singing Valentines, and other folks at West Hills Village.



Singing to the “daycare ladies,” **Renée and Jane Anderson**, while Renée’s husband and the “daycare kids” loved it.



Truly touching a guy, **Eddie Benford**, at Strider Bikes with *“Heart of my Heart.”*

What would Singing Valentines be without a visit to our past Bass and now quartet Coach, Al Pitts, and his lovely wife, Marge! Al seemed to truly enjoy our valentine songs, but was scolded by Marge as soon as he began gearing up for critical assessment! (Thanks, Marge!)

Certainly the most memorable singout for **Black Hills Blend** out of the 17 we did on February 14 was the chance to have **John Sundby** sing along with us on *“Let me call you Sweetheart,” “Irish Blessing,”* and *“This is my Country.”*



*Singing Valentine* delivered to John Sundby by **Black Hills Blend**

Videos of these three songs can be enjoyed on the Shrine of Democracy Chorus Facebook page. We certainly marvel at this fine man and wonderful Barbershop Brother!

Many thanks to our newest Spark Plug Awardee, chauffer, and camera man—**Scott Wagner!**

AL



**“Remember that when we sing for an audience, for someone it may be the first time they have heard Barbershop harmony. For someone else ... it may be the last time.**

*~Unknown~*



# HEALTHY CHAPTER INITIATIVE

BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

## New Process for ASCAP Reporting for Chapters

All of our U.S. chapters must complete an annual ASCAP reporting form and submit that information (with corresponding payment, if applicable) at the end of each year.

Effective January 2017, chapters will no longer be sending their ASCAP Reporting Forms to their district secretary for processing. Instead, all ASCAP forms and applicable payments should be sent to the Barbershop Harmony Society directly to:

Barbershop Harmony Society  
c/o ASCAP Reporting Forms  
110 7th Avenue N  
Nashville, TN 37073

or by email to [chapters@barbershop.org](mailto:chapters@barbershop.org)

(Please only email if no payment is applicable.) Payment and Form should be post mailed together.

**PLEASE NOTE:** BMI/SESAC Show Clearance Forms will still be sent to districts for processing.

Please contact our BHS Licensing & Copyright Manager ([library@barbershop.org](mailto:library@barbershop.org)) or Chapter Leadership & Education team ([chapters@barbershop.org](mailto:chapters@barbershop.org)) if you or your chapter have further questions or need further information.



April 21 is the last day to get sponsorship sales in to Bill Grant and Lynn Deslauriers if they are to be included in the show program for our upcoming show. We have a large goal to reach again this year.

You have all received packets with information from both Show Chair Pete Stach and Ad Sales Chair Bill Grant. Now, go out and sell!



### *Singing Valentine... Skis?*

On a beautiful, sunlit and almost balmy Valentine's Day, **High Mileage** arrived at their next Singing Valentine delivery. As we headed up the walkway, two energetic blond boys were watching us through the front window. One of them hollered "*Mommy, there are men coming up the sidewalk!*" As Jim knocked on the door, a tall young woman answered. Her reaction really surprised us.

"*You have no idea how relieved I am it's you and I'm SO glad you're here.*" She explained that she had been stressing out most of the morning (it was approximately 10:30); her husband's ruse to make sure she was home was that he told her he had ordered her a \$400 pair of skis, and she had to be home at 10:30 because they had to be paid for. This is a young Air Force family, with three-year-old twins, another son almost five, and another son (seven) who was in school! She explained that the stressful part was she didn't think their budget could stand that hit and furthermore, he had not discussed this major expense with her at all. We sang our very best for her and the boys, bringing a few tears and a big smile or two, and received grateful hugs all around. The dog even "sang along" on one of the numbers—he was somewhere between the Bari and the Bass in pitch.

Later, we took a quick lunch break at the West Side MickeyD's, and the four of them were there. After she took a selfie with us, her comment was "*Since we didn't have that huge expense to worry about anymore, I decided we deserved lunch out.*"

And oh, by the way, she's never skied a day in her life!

DAVID L'ESPERANCE

*Embrace...*  
*A Mother's Day Celebration*  
 Pete Stach, Show Chair

The Spring Show "**Embrace**" is upon us. What better time and parallel connection is there than now to use the show's theme to embrace our learning tracks and study hard to learn your part AND embrace the ad campaign to help pay for the show and all the activities we support throughout the year. Embracing these two points is vital to our wellbeing for the coming year. We do a lot of good work out there, but it takes money and we have a very good excuse to get out there and sell ads. The cutoff for the ads for the book is mid-April so that Lynn and Bill can collate and get a presentable program for our supporters.

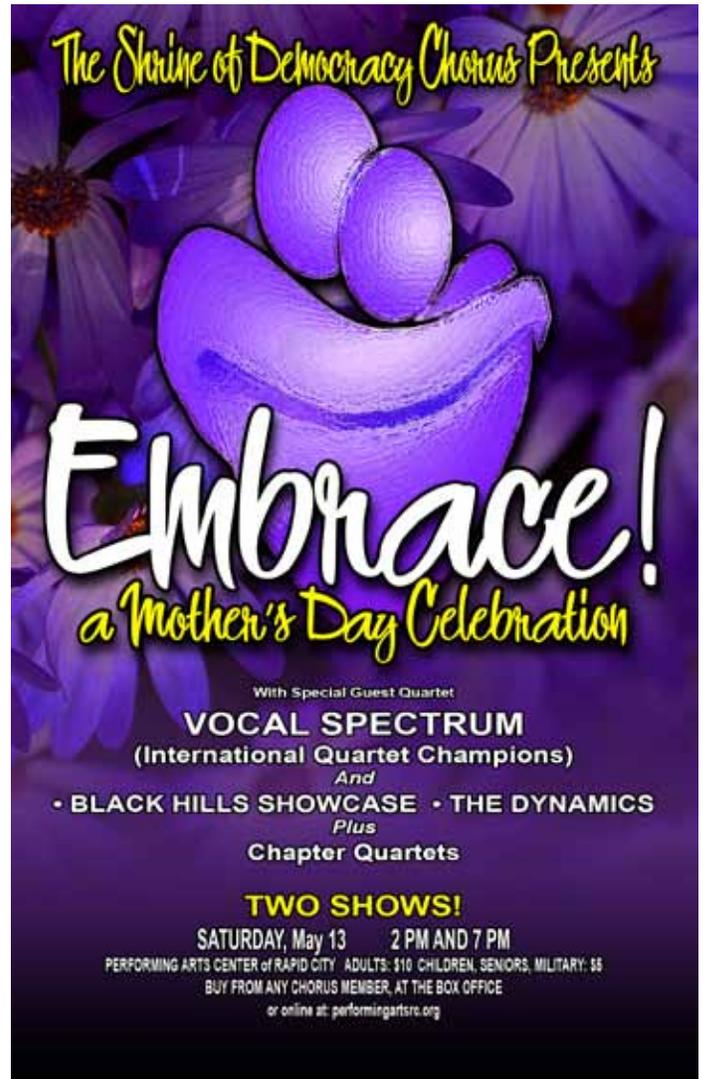
The show has a lot of challenges on the music venue side of the ledger and we have some challenges on the financial side of the ledger. The songs have a wide scope of vocals that will challenge the range of all of us. The choice of bringing Vocal Spectrum to our show puts a burden on our financial ledger. They don't come cheap, [none of them do –Ed] but for a half hour you will probably not hear a finer representation of Barber-shop singing in the world than this quartet. I can hardly wait. I have watched them on YouTube and OMG what a dynamic group these guys are. It might tip the scales on winning over a few new members.

With that said we must be prepared and perform the song, not sing them. We accomplish that by getting your part down early so you don't have to remember what part of the song is coming next. You should be in the moment and be aware of what Clayton is asking of us when we are singing. I experienced that singing Valentines this year. It was a thrill to sing to my wife with three other guys and be in the moment with the gal who holds my heart. Think of the person when you are singing all of these songs to and that will put you in the moment. It is a fantastic place to be when you are performing as you give of yourself and sometimes a big smile comes across your whole body when a particular phrase hits a cord in your life with the person who got you to where you are now.

Get the tracks down and sell, sell, sell gentlemen. Our goal is to get \$20,000 in ads sales. We made \$22,000 plus three years ago when the economy was not so good. It takes ALL of us to pitch in and contribute some effort to our biggest fund raiser. Do your part and we could easily exceed the goal.

I love singing with you guys. Let's wow them again this year!

The Shrine of Democracy Chorus Presents



**Embrace!**  
*a Mother's Day Celebration*

With Special Guest Quartet  
**VOCAL SPECTRUM**  
 (International Quartet Champions)  
 And  
 • BLACK HILLS SHOWCASE • THE DYNAMICS  
 Plus  
 Chapter Quartets

**TWO SHOWS!**  
 SATURDAY, May 13 2 PM AND 7 PM  
 PERFORMING ARTS CENTER OF RAPID CITY ADULTS: \$10 CHILDREN, SENIORS, MILITARY: \$5  
 BUY FROM ANY CHORUS MEMBER, AT THE BOX OFFICE  
 or online at: performingartsro.org



# MEMBERSHIP matters

## RECRUITMENT OR RETENTION?

Adapted from an article by Dick Kingdon  
As seen in The Voice

**W**hose job is it anyway? We often expect the role and activities of the “Membership VP” to focus on recruitment of new members. Agreed, it is a key responsibility and to that end we hold guest nights and Christmas Choruses, and implore the membership to be more active in inviting friends and family any time. However, **RETENTION** is an equally important role for both the VP and for the chorus members. In fact, as members you play an exceptionally large role in making sure that the rehearsals and events of the chorus are a productive and a positive experience for everyone. If it’s not, we end of losing the members we value.

**The key to retention.** It’s pretty obvious that being on time, having a friendly attitude, and giving attention to the director is basic to a positive experience. But there’s a much larger responsibility—one that only you own: **arriving prepared**. That means you have been singing daily, learning and listening to the music that is identified for you. It means you already know your notes and words when you arrive and don’t expect to learn them only at the rehearsal. It means the director doesn’t need to take time to repeat again (for the third time) the same directions/interpretations he gave before.

That’s what makes a rehearsal productive and positive. It is at the heart of the job we share when we talk about retention of members.

The good news is there are a lot of personal benefits beyond those that benefit the chorus when you spend time singing and preparing for rehearsal. They have been summarized in the list that appears in the next column. While you enjoy the benefits of daily preparation you also do your part promoting a productive and positive experience for all.

Also read the article by Donny Rose in the latest issue of The Harmonizer for more ideas as to what makes productive rehearsals/meetings in the eyes of guests. —Ed.

## HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

## Preparation Pays Off!

1. Singing releases **endorphins**, which make you feel **instantly happier**.
2. When you sing you also release **oxytocin**, which is a natural **stress reliever** and is found to alleviate feelings of depression and loneliness.
3. You’ll also **sleep better** as a result of having less stress.
4. Singing **improves your heart rate**, which reduces the risk of heart disease, so singing is clearly a powerful thing.
5. And, when singing with someone else, your heart rates can even **sync together**.
6. Your **posture will get straighter** because you have to stand tall to really belt it out!
7. And your feelings of **safety and confidence** increase when singing in a group.
8. It’s actually a **good workout**. You’ll work out your lungs, improve your circulation, and tone your abdominal and intercostal muscles.
9. Singing also has been proven to **boost your immune system**.
10. It’s really good for your brain and will **enhance your mental awareness, concentration, and memory**. Also, reading music in general improves your math skills, as well as other **cognitive functions**.
11. You’ll develop **healthier breathing patterns**, which can help cope with various lung diseases, as well as provide similar effects to yoga.
12. It’s been used as an **all-natural way** to help treat dementia, lung cancer, depression, and chronic pain.
13. You’ll probably **live longer**, in general. A 2008 joint study by Harvard and Yale stated that choral singing in a Connecticut town had increased residents’ life expectancy.

(As seen on Facebook and reported in **Downbeat**, January 2017.)



# 2017 Chapter Leadership Team



Al Kelts  
President



Steve Ferley  
Immediate  
Past President



David L'Esperance  
Secretary



Ron Evenson  
Treasurer



Jim Price  
VP Music  
& Performance



Dan Horsley  
VP Membership



Jessica Kading  
Member-at-Large  
Marketing & Public  
Relations



Rod Pfeifle  
Member-at-Large



Lynn DesLauriers  
Member-at-Large



Wayne Anderson  
Member-at-Large



Bill Grant  
Member-at-Large



Clayton Southwick  
Chorus Director



Jim Olson  
Chorus Manager



Pete Stach  
Show Chair



John Elving  
Editor-in-Cheap



*Seen in The Orange Spiel*

**If you aren't giving the world your best each and every time, what world are you saving it for?**

# Tag of the Month

## CAN'T HELP FALLING IN LOVE

Arrangement by SAM STEWART

The image shows a musical score for the song "CAN'T HELP FALLING IN LOVE". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the vocal line and a bass clef staff for the accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The vocal line starts with a rest for 8 measures, then begins with the lyrics "I can't help fall-ing in love with you." The accompaniment starts with a rest for 7 measures, then begins with the lyrics "For I can't help fall-ing in love with you." Both staves feature a triplet of eighth notes in the third measure of the vocal line and the fifth measure of the accompaniment line. There are also some longer note values and rests indicated by numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 above the notes.

### Seen on the Internet

Ever notice how being a Barbershopper is like being a vampire? Stick with me:

- Almost all events are held at night, and don't get me started on afterglows.
- The Barbershop bug bites a small percentage of people and hooks them for life.
- Those diehard Barbershoppers really want their friends to join up but for some reason it's a really low success rate of conversion.
- The culture is always thirsty for more singing
- Our best socialization is internal (80% of your Facebook friends are Barbershoppers, right?)
- Look at our cover photo: classic suit, teeth showing, red backdrop? C'mon, that ain't even subtle, man!

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Mount Rushmore Chapter and the Shrine of Democracy Chorus shall promote, encourage, and perpetuate the barbershop style of singing in both the chorus and quartets by bringing men together in harmony and fellowship, thereby enriching their lives through singing. We will continually use resources and opportunities available to us locally and through the Rocky Mountain District to improve our singing and performances.

### Awards Banquet

This is the wrong place for this, but here's the reason why.

After putting out at least two pleas for information to all members of the chapter, and getting no response, this poor editor had to go back to investigative reporting to find the answers needed. (Due to my duties at church (my job), I was unable to attend the installation and awards banquet. Finally, I was able to put together from several sources the following information.

Our Barbershopper of the Year for 2016, as seen on page one, is Clayton Southwick. (I would have congratulated you in person earlier had I known.)

There were four Spark Plug Awards given this year. Those recipients were:

- Jim Price
- Rod Pfeifle
- Scott Wagner
- Al Kelts

At this time, it is not known what those Spark Plugs were awarded for, but I'm sure they were well deserved.

As I understand it, and as it was told to me, the installing of the the officers for 2017 was done by Dwight "Digger" Edstrom. Apparently he had to scramble to find a ceremony to perform. If this is wrong, I'm sure someone will correct me, as they usually do.

Unfortunately, the information was garnered too late to find a place toward the front or the newsletter.