



FORTUNETELLER



Newsletter of the Greater Vancouver Gentlemen of Fortune
An affiliate chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, Evergreen District
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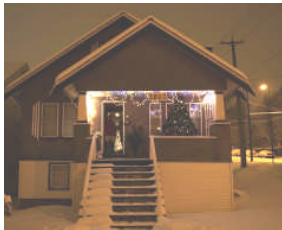
"WORKING TOGETHER IN FELLOWSHIP, WE ENRICH SOCIETY WITH A-LEVEL BARBERSHOP ENTERTAINMENT"

2009 - No.1 - January

Carolling with the GOF

By Shoji and Taro Whittier (with a bit of help from Dave)

It was December 21st, 2008, and the Whittier men (Dave, Shoji and Taro) prepared for our first time at the annual GOF Christmas carolling trip. Once we crammed our jacket covered bodies in the van, Dad slowly revved up the engine, backed out of the snow filled driveway, and



headed off to **Ray and Dorothy Fallan's** house.

There wasn't much talking during the ride because Taro was listening to his MP4 and Shoji was looking out the window, watching the clumps of powdery snow lazily drift

from the sky like tiny, white, paratroopers. When we got to the Fallan's, the snow was up to Shoji's knees on the curb, and it was only after much grief and struggle we finally arrived at Ray's back door. After taking off our winter jackets we sat, relaxed, and spent some quality time with our hosts.

Eventually, everyone got their candles, music books and headed outside to the first "audience house" which was about a block away. Ray had chosen the area very carefully, because after a few minutes our heroes found themselves smack in the middle of the Trinity Street



house lights competition. We even saw an entry that looked like a gingerbread house with a real-looking door! Taro counted another that had been decorated with 47 strings of lights on it.

Partway through the adventure, Taro heard a loud "Oh no!" from behind him, and turned around to find one of our fellow carollers pouring snow into his candle holder (a plastic cup) because it had caught fire. This apparently was the signal to commence open season on candle holders and both Taro and Shoji got into the act in a big way, although Taro managed to melt his in half

while Shoji only put a few holes in his. Dave's was unscathed.

After singing we all went back to the Fallan's to enjoy some Potluck supper and excellent company. It was an altogether excellent evening and the snow just served to make it feel more authentic. We didn't even mind the drive home! Well, Taro and Shoji didn't, anyways.



Carol Party comments

Ray Fallan The Caroling Night was a blast. Even with the snow we had about 21 people here, I can't believe they made it through all the snow. We went down to Trinity Street and sang Christmas Carols to a lot of people and they really enjoyed it. Later we came back to the house and had a wonderful dinner and a few drinks, enjoyed the fireplace and fellowship. The snow kept up all night so I was surprised to see so many people, it was great for me as I was already home, so I don't blame anybody that couldn't make it.. Thanks to all that did and I hope everybody got home safe.....

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Happy New Year

Marty Lovick. "It was a dark and snowy night ..." yet the drive to Ray's was uneventful, until I got stuck exactly in front of his home! The multitude of busses stuck around Ray and Dorothy's neighbourhood should have been a clue not to be too cocky however

Lynne and I saw the carollers disappearing in the distance on their appointed rounds but Gord, bringing up the rear, had a brilliant suggestion. "Let the mulled wine etc do it's magic and we'll easily get volunteers to push you out later". And so it was. Thanks for the shove guys!

As usual the homes we serenaded were very appreciative. We picked up a few camp followers, and soon decided on a limited repertoire which was well received. Adding to the mix were numerous cars which stopped and the occupants listened while admiring the lights. It's great that this "performance" allows for friends and families to participate vocally too.

Thanks to Ray and Dorothy for their great hospitality



David Jones. Once again Ray and Dorothy Fallan opened their home to the GoF, in order to have fun and fellowship and share the age old custom of singing carols to the local neighbours.

We arrived with our contributions to the pot luck supper, had a drink and a few snacks, and then wrapped up warmly before venturing out into the winter wonderland. The snow was falling gently snow on snow and we trudged a few blocks where, with our song books and lighted candles, we proceeded to sing our hearts out with good old traditional Christmas carols to the folks who had decorated their homes so beautifully, (and others who were passing by on foot or in vehicles).

Back to the Fallan's where we enjoyed some mulled wine and a veritable feast. Thanks to our hosts for their generous hospitality, and for providing an opportunity for Chorus members to meet together with their families and friends for a fun filled social evening.

Rod & Martha. It was one of the best yet, even though the snow was coming down in buckets. The lights that people put up & in their front yards created a spectacular light show with all that snow over them. Got stuck when we had to leave but fortunately there were still people there to help push us out. Great time.

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January 2009
**Down
Memory Lane**
By Ross Hood

40 years ago this month (1969)

New President Don **Scullard** spent two pages of the January bulletin outlining his plan for the year. He suggests that we set up a Music Committee under **Gerry Staton** to aid director **Abie Klassen** in selection of music and to set up a learning quartet to teach each section. His article included 12 suggestions. At the installation banquet we heard from the **Chordsmen**, the **Lake City Lads**, and the **Key Men**.

30 Years ago this month (1979)

This brought in the first of the New Years Eve parties at **Orland** and **Helen Lee's** home in Coquitlam. The **Sound Policy** entertained as well as another quartet called **No 2**. Their annual party continued for several years. Incoming president **Harry Magee** outlined his ideas for the year. New editor **Jack Faust** did a fine job

of his first issue including publishing a photo, a first for our bulletin; everything prior to '79 was drawn, or pasted in from some other publication. The photo was of **Chester Colpitts** who had been honored with a surprise party with many other chapter members visiting.

20 Years ago this month (1989)

There was a severe snow storm from Seattle to Bellingham that cancelled the **Bellingham Toppers** show. [Sound familiar?] It was rescheduled until the spring. There was a push to get everyone to hop on to the Polecat program learning one of the twelve songs each month. The Lunch Group was well in swing at the Landmark Hotel Pub. We met each Friday at noon until about 2:00, we'd eat and adjourn to the large Men's room where we'd sing a lot of songs including some new things that **George Meehan** used to show up with, or bend some new tag. It went on for several years, and the management presented a plaque to us with the names of all the regulars inscribed.

2008 Awards: Call for Nominations

It is time to recognize members of our barbershop family who have made outstanding contributions over the past year (and longer). Each year four formal GoF awards are presented - they are listed below.



Submit your nominations to any member of the Awards Committee: **Peter Lissett** plissett@shaw.ca
Ed Arnold ed_arnold@telus.net **David Jones**
davej34@telus.net by **Tuesday, February 3, 2009**

Nominations should include the name of the candidate and reason for nomination. Wives &/or significant others may nominate for the BWOTY award. Don't worry if you can't remember all of the contributions your nominee has made during the year. With your help the awards committee will research each nominee and prepare a list of qualifying criteria.

Hall of Fame

This is the highest award that can be bestowed upon a chapter member, who has been with the GoF for at least 10 years. It is primarily based on contributions, of an exceptional nature, over a long period of one's barbershop life, to the GoF, but could include contributions to barbershop in general.

Past Recipients: Charlie Metzger, Chester Colpitts, Elie Savoie, Marty Lovick, George Meehan, Tom Bates and Realltime.

Barbershopper of the Year (BOTY)

The criteria for this award are really wide open and all encompassing (with the exception of the criteria for the Barbershop Fellowship Award below). It includes contributions in any area of barbershop activity whether it is musical or administrative. They may have been within the chapter or external (District or Society-wide). Can be won more than once.

Barbershop Fellowship Award (BFA)

This award recognizes someone who has demonstrated a high degree of fellowship, love and harmony toward his fellow chapter members. The focus here is on the first phrase of our mission statement ('Working together in fellowship . . .').

Can be won more than once.

Barbershop Woman of the Year (BWOTY)

The criteria for this award are wide open and all encompassing. They may include, but not be limited to, contributions in the areas of makeup, costuming, special events, social events, conventions, etc.

Can be won more than once.

Consider which of your fellow members (and the ladies) deserve special recognition for the contributions they have made. There are many who have worked hard on your behalf over this past year and before, so get your nominations in to **Peter, Ed, or David** by **Tuesday, February 3**. Voting takes place on **February 17** and our four distinguished awards will be presented at the Annual Awards Banquet on **March 7th**.

What the Directors Discussed

By Peter Lissett



The last meeting was held on **January 5th, 2009** having been delayed from December due to the appalling weather and driving conditions. I can't say that they were a whole lot better in January! Here are the highlights.

Honorary Secretary/Treasurer **Don Rush** reported the chapter's financial position continues as expected but with an operating loss of about \$15K. Funds on hand are depleted due to the new uniforms which proved to be a tad more expensive than expected – the declining value of the Canadian dollar didn't help. There are a fair number of chorus members who haven't paid their \$150 yet – and that doesn't help the financial viability of the chapter either. Membership in the chapter stands at 74.

It was noted that no one has stepped forward to take on the position of Valentine Coordinator. VP of Music **Rick Morrison** will be contacting the chorus again for a volunteer(s) for this very important position. Without a coordinator there will be no Valentine singouts and a much needed source of revenue will be lost...and a whole lot of members won't be having any fun! [See Happenings & Reminders below. Ed.]

Incoming President **Rich Clark** requested funds for up to 8 people to attend the 'Barbershopping Workshop Extraordinaire' workshop Saturday, February 21st in Bellevue, WA. This was approved unanimously. **Ian McGillivray** stated he has purchased the requisite software to build the chorus web site and will work on improving and updating it in the very near future.

Our VP Music and Performance **Rick Morrison** outlined some of his plans for the coming year. He stated that the 2009 Christmas Show, and whether or not to hold one, would be discussed at an MLT meeting very soon. Out-going, soon to be on the scrap heap, President **Peter Lissett**, mentioned his preference of continuing our annual show in the same venue, having spent two years encouraging our audience to make this event their annual tradition, as have all the presidents before him.

New VP Chapter Development **Dave Whittier** spoke to his previously e-mailed power point document delineating the duties of the position, with several good ideas on how to accomplish its goals as stated in the BHS and Evergreen District manuals. A great deal of thought had been put into the document. The question of keeping attendance at rehearsals was discussed and it was agreed to continue the practice as it dovetailed nicely with some of Dave Whittier's plans.

Peter Lissett thanked the board members for their support and all their hard work on behalf of the chorus over the last twelve months

Happenings & Reminders

A First for the GoF?

Four weeks between rehearsals! That has to be some sort of GoF record. We last met on December 16th having completed all our Christmas Shows and singouts. Rehearsal for Dec 23rd was cancelled with so many guys absent close to Christmas Day, and Dec 30th was the usual 'dark night' before New Year. So, everybody was looking forward to starting 2009 with new and old repertoire on January 6th. It was not to be. The 3 weeks spanning the holidays gave us up to 60cm (2ft) of snow. Side streets were almost impassable (Charlie's lane for one) and parking at the church was just piles of snow, so we had another cancelled rehearsal. However January 13th went off well.

Strategic Planning Session

On Saturday January 21 the Board is holding a Strategic Planning Session 9:30am-1:30pm, in the clubhouse of Glenridge Estates at 15988 - 83rd Ave in Surrey. All members interested in contributing to planning the chorus future are invited. It has been a few years since we had a chorus planning session and since it was a new year we thought it was time. Please join us. **Rich Clark**.

Valentine's Day

After some concerns, the 2009 Valentine's Day Quartet Crew are up and running. They are:

Don & Roxie Giles – Valentines Coordinators

Rod MacLeod – Valentines Quartet Coordinator

Lawrence Spencer - Flowers/chocolates coordinator

Al Alain – Newsprint ads coordinator

Shanti Ghose – TV/Radio ads coordinator

Quartets are being formed, posters printed and ads prepared. Spread the Word guys. **Rick Morrison**.

2008 Awards and Installation Banquet

The Installation of the 2009 Chapter Officers and recognition of the 2008 GoF Award Winners will take place on **Saturday March 7th** at the Banquet at the Fleetwood Recreation Centre 160th & 84th in Surrey. The Call for Awards Nominations is out so get them in.

EVERYDAY LAWS

Law of Location:

No matter where you go, there you are.

Comment #47 by Bill Gibbons

"Show me a baritone who doesn't like over-tidied arrangements and I'll show you a man with violent opinions. All of them wrong."

Deadline for the next issue is February 10, 2009

CALENDAR

2009

Jan 16-17	QCED Show Seaside, OR
Jan 24	Chapter Planning Meeting
Jan 29-31	Midwinter, Pasadena, CA
Feb 13/14	Valentine's Day Quartets
Mar 7	GoF Awards & Installation Banquet
Mar 27-28	Division I Convention Vernon, BC
April 10	Easter
May 8-9	Prelims/Div IV, Portland, OR
May 12	BC Election Day
May 18	Victoria Day
June 28-July 5	International, Anaheim, CA
July 17-19	HCNW, Tacoma, WA
July 26	Anacortes Salmon BBQ

Sept 5-7 Harmony Hollow, Squamish, BC
 Sept 7 Labour Day
 Sept 11-13 **Retreat** Brackendale, BC
 Oct 12 Thanksgiving
 Oct 30-Nov 1 **District Convention** Whistler, BC
 Dec **Christmas Show**

2010

Feb 12-28 Winter Olympics
 Feb 14 **Valentine's Day**
 Mar 12-21 Winter Paralympics
 April 2 Easter
 May 24 Victoria Day
 June 27-July 4 International, Philadelphia, PA
 July 16-18 HCNW, Tacoma, WA
 Sept 6 Labour Day
 Oct 11 Thanksgiving
 Oct 15-17 **District Convention** Portland, OR

Internationals

2011 Kansas City, MO
 2012 Portland, OR
 2013 Toronto, ON
 2014 Minneapolis, MN
 2015 Pittsburgh, PA
 2016 Nashville, TN

Carol Party Scenes



Rod keeps Holly quiet while they sing carols



Photos by Carl Gung



Gung Hei Fat Choy
 (For January 26th)