



Swipes & Tags

The official Newsletter of the Sacramento Capitolaire, Sacramento, California Chapter
of the Far Western District of the Barbershop Harmony Society

Happy 69th Anniversary!

Where Singing Happens!

69 YEARS OF BARBERSHOP SINGING IN SACRAMENTO

Volume 69 - Issue 2

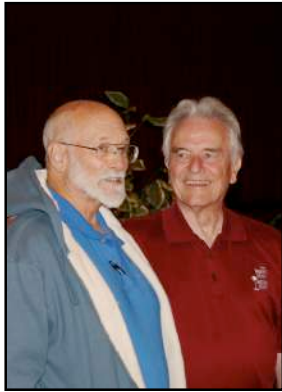
Chartered June 14, 1946

Summer 2015

“It’s Party Time” The Capitolaire held a surprise 80th birthday “Toast & Roast” during the September 15, 2015 chapter meeting. Two dozen guests from several chapters including chorus directors and members from Auburn, Folsom, Placerville and VoCal attended the event. The group sang, reminisced, and then enjoyed birthday cake and soft drinks. Director **Ron Black** said “I have known Ray for over forty years”. Ray directed the Capitolaire during the early 1980s and directed the Placerville chapter for fifteen years. He is the Editor of Westunes, the Far Western District newsletter, and was a contest judge. *Party committee members included Clark Abrahamson, Steve Allison, Les Cudworth, Robert DuPlantier, George Friend, Joe Samora, Dan Warschauer, Larry Womac, and Dave Young.*



The Sacramento Capitolaire meet every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at Christ Community Church,
5025 Manzanita Avenue, Carmichael, CA. Check out our website www.capitolaire.org or phone (888) 877-9806.



Pictures by Dan Warschauer

President Announces Barbershoppers of the Month

Steve Cudworth is the March Barbershopper of the Month. He is our Membership Vice President and Webmaster for our chapter website. Steve deserved to be recognized for the hours he spends managing the guest table at rehearsals and keeping our website up to date. Thank you Steve!

Dave Young is the April Barbershopper of the Month. Dave successfully chaired our annual spring show and volunteered to chair next year's show. Kudos, Dave!

Barbershopper of the Month for May is **George Friend** who can be found in the kitchen preparing refreshments for Tuesday rehearsals. George is always available to lend a hand. We are grateful for your dedication, George!

Thank you, **Joe Samora**, the Barbershopper of the Month for June! He serves as Public Relations VP and was the chair for the successful *Big Day of Giving*.

The Barbershopper of the month for July is **Clark Abrahamson**. He is our Music & Performance VP and does a great job communicating with the membership by producing the Weekly Update. Clark is also Immediate Past President. He created our chapter business plan and annual events calendar. Clark is our representative on the Sacramento Valley Choral Coalition. Congratulations, Clark!

(The BOTM is selected by the President with suggestions from Board members).



New Member Profile

Norm Hile sings Baritone and was the 1967 Director of Yale University's famed "Whiffenpoof Glee Club". He was also a finalist in Yale University's Quartet Contest. His family includes his wife, Belinda Beckett, and daughters Diana and Sarah. A 1st Lt. in the U.S. Army, he served as the Artillery Forward Observer during the Viet Nam War. Norm is a partner of Orrick Herrington Sutcliffe LLP. Norm's community service includes the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI, Sacramento). Welcome, Norm!



Whiffenpoofs Annual Reunion

The 1967 Whiffenpoofs met in Mory’s Place in New Haven, Connecticut on September 12, 2015 to ring some chords, reminisce and enjoy some meals. Norm Hile said the “gentlemen songsters spent the weekend rehearsing during the day and performing during the night.”

Norm is standing on the left.

New Member Profile

Steve Kennedy, a baritone, is a Bay Area native and worked in the medical/pharmacology research industry for 15 years. He currently works as a scientist for a food sanitization company. He attended the University of San Francisco and graduated with a degree in Biology and Pre-pharmacy. He has been married for ten years.

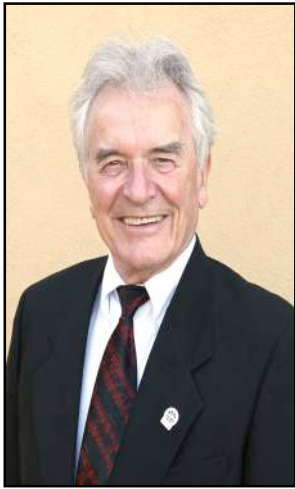
His first exposure to music was when he took trumpet lessons in elementary school. He played trumpet and baritone in the middle school and high school bands. Since then, he has taught himself to play guitar and drums. Steve enjoys playing music and singing. He was introduced to Barbershop in 2006 by his employer at the time. He informally sang in a quartet named **Jibboom** in Truckee, CA for a year, before moving and losing touch with the barbershop community. Steve discovered and joined the Sacramento Capitolaire in 2014 and has been singing Barbershop ever since. He currently sings with the quartet, **Les Is More**. Steve states “my wife and I are raising a future barbershopper.”



Sacramento Quartet Sings Out in Elk Grove

Les is More, a Sacramento based barbershop quartet consisting of **Mark Bain** (Lead), **Les Cudworth** (Tenor), **Larry Womac** (Bass) and **Steve Kennedy** (Baritone), performed at the Elk Grove Historical Society’s Annual Fall Craft Show on Saturday, September 19. The show was held in old town Elk Grove. The quartet

performed a number of Barberpole Cat songs and some barbershop favorites to an appreciative crowd between the sets by the featured artists. *Steve Kennedy stands on the left.*



Noteworthy Comments from our Co-Director Ray Rhymer

It's great to be a Barbershopper. We are a singing fraternity that extends over the USA and Canada, and the world for that matter.

I am convinced that singing extends our lifespan, principally because we get better air exchange in our lungs when we breathe to sing.

Singing Barbershop gives us the opportunity to lock those wonderful chords that other styles simple don't use, i.e., Barbershop puts the melody in the second voice and the Bass predominantly sings the roots and fifths of the chords. Chords with the lowest voice on the roots and fifths will ring better than those without that characteristic. It's just a fact of the physics of sound.

Barbershoppers develop relationships that last for many years. There is something about the shared experience of singing in a quartet that lasts a lifetime. For example, my Barbershop Bass friend **Willie Kleen** sent me a birthday email today remarking that we first sang together in 1970. Arithmetic says that's 45 years ago. He now lives in Portland, but we stay in touch and remember our quartet days together dearly. I have fond memories of other quartets over the years.

Friends from choruses I've directed and coached and quartets I've coached over the years show up at conventions and contests periodically and we have a good time recalling those experiences and catching up with each other. One quartet example is **Nostalgia** from Arizona. They were a comedy quartet during the 70s, & 80s and FUNNY! One year they costumed themselves (in contest) as a "monster" quartet – the Bass was Frankenstein, and was very realistic. My quartet, **Four Points West**, shared the stage with them in contest and on several shows. Well, the Bass was **Gordon "Mongo" Berghold** and he called me the other day just to check in. BTW, Mongo is the current FWD EVP and is expected to be elected FWD President for 2016 at the HOD meeting in Mesa.

Clark Abrahamson and I met in the early 80s right here in the Sacramento chapter. The monthly Harmony Foundation Lunch Bunch (HFLB) gathering at Sam's Hof Brau on the 3rd Thursday has several "old time" Sacramento chapter members still singing and enjoying the fraternity of Barbershop.

It appears I'm in a reflective mood with this writing. That is a result of this being my 80th birthday, so kindly accept my reminiscing. But these ramblings do support my opening statement: It's great to be a Barbershopper.

It's OK to Enthuse, Excite and Enjoy. Ray



CAPS Entertain during Navy Viet Nam Veterans Reunion

On Saturday, September 12; a dozen Capitolaire performed over a dozen songs for the Navy Veterans and their guests in the Embassy Suites Hotel in Old Sacramento. **Robert DuPlantier** directed. About fifty people applauded enthusiastically as the CAPS sang the Old Songs and songs from their repertoire. The audience joined the small chorus singing along during the patriotic songs including "God Bless America," "The Star Spangled Banner," and "Anchors Aweigh."

Harmony Youth Camp - 2015



Last week's camp culminated in a great, great show, such that it brought tears of joy to see and hear it Sunday. Sixty-five young men came prepared by learning four songs, "The Lion Sleeps Tonight", "Good Luck Charm", "Hallelujah", and "When I Lift Up My Head". By the fourth session on the risers they were off the sheet music and practicing some really fun chords. And, for the professional touch, the quartets (**Brannigan** and **After Hours**) helped direct, gave instructions in the classroom sessions and sang several songs in the show. Most of the fifty men who served as directors, clinicians, and volunteers participated in the practice sessions and the show.

Notable performers at the Saturday night talent show included **Jennifer Fulkerson**, Antelope High School choir director, who beautifully sang "I Could Have Danced All Night." Also, our very own, world famous **Les Cudworth** presented a magic show with a standing ovation... the audience cheering "Les is more, Les is more..."

Our Co-Director, **Dan Warschauer**, spearheaded our Youth Outreach effort with his persuasive ways to enlist the students from Antelope H.S. to attend the camp. He has been coaching the boy's chorus on Thursday mornings. He was a clinician, the camp photographer, and more.

Many of the young men who attended the Camp are excited enough to sign up for the Northern California Youth Festival in Reno in January, to return to Camp next year, and make singing Barbershop Harmony part of their life. MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Many thanks to **Richard Lund** (*in photograph above in red shirt*) for putting the whole camp system together. Now repeat after me... "I will mark my calendar to volunteer or at least see the Show next September."

by **Rick Cram**

In the 1800's, a fur trapper found an old Indian with his ear to the ground. As he came closer, the Indian put his arm out to stop him. "Wagon train, six wagons, six husbands, six wives, three sons, three daughters, three dogs, three cats and six oxen." "That's amazing," said the trapper. "You can tell all that with your ear to the ground?" "Ear to ground nothing," replied the Indian. "Wagon train run over me."

by *Larry Larsson*



A Letter to a Friend by Mike Aita

"Hello and I hope you are well. Writing is incredibly rare, yet necessary to be in touch with you. I just write, I don't obsess about what I should write. Every little detail I think about lights up a precious glimpse of something or someone. Right now I'm focusing on barbershop, on singing the Tenor part on the four part harmony. Every day I start out by ministering my voice box to sounding in much higher sound than I'm normally used to and it is challenging at my age.

The Tuesday night chorus practice is going very well. It could go better still if I devoted myself to it every minute of every day, but God didn't expect such super human dedication. I've been with the Capitolaires since May 2015 and I'm loving it because fellow members are amazingly well behaved and tolerant lot. They don't quarrel much at all. Just a bit of teasing and low level bickering sometimes, as you expect in any context where a bunch of very different people are trying

to get along and sing. I feel it's another leisure activity—singing in a chorus with people I admire very much. They are average people because I haven't seen any evidence that any of them write stories or paint or sculpt. I don't mean of average intellect, because they're obviously highly skilled, educated and smart. They're interested in practicalities in the area of singing the four part harmony together.

I don't know how I can begin to describe what the Tenor part sounds like. It's like trying to explain what a smell looks like or what a sound taste like. I'm still trying to make it stick into my head. They say practice makes permanence, but I need a super glue to help me stick into my head.

We have two music directors, and even with two, we sing challengingly that's because most of us are over sixty five bed bath and beyond. We are gentle, kind, humble, hardworking people. For me, it's a privilege to be with them and to sing amongst them. They are very, very caring, and it was evident at my first meeting. As we were singing it was evident that some of the vocals weren't sharp enough--difficult when you're not able to read music. We all got a big fright. But the way the directors rallied around us was extraordinary. These directors took to embrace with utmost tenderness and to explain why this part of the song should be elevated higher than normal—such an out pouring of concern. I'll do the work of a singer, and make full proof of my organization.

The Capitolaires are kind of pals of mine. We sing together on various types of music. Being a beginner Tenor I sometimes hit the wrong sound. And they're nice about it because I feel there's no need to apologize, because if I did, it's like apologizing to gravity or light. No one is keeping tab. At the end of Tuesday evening, I appreciate their encouragement.

I'm going to say good bye and send this E-letter to you. So long from RC. Mike & Jo"

Sent from my iPad

Calendar of Events

October 6	Harmony Open House <i>Christ Community Church, Carmichael</i>
October 16	Capital Pops Band Boos & Brews <i>Citrus Heights Community Center</i>
October 15-17	Far Western District Convention <i>Mesa, Arizona</i>
October 16	State Capitol Rotunda <i>Sacramento</i>
October 25	Celtic Cross Church's Shepherds Luncheon <i>Citrus Heights</i>
November 3	Election of Officers <i>Christ Community Church, Carmichael</i>
Nov 26 - Dec 20	State Railroad Museum's Polar Express <i>Old Sacramento</i>

For details on specific events check the Weekly Update and Call Sheets.

Editorial Comments



The mission of the “Swipes & Tags” is to provide members with timely and relevant information. It is also a record of past activities and events. Newsletters will be published quarterly and include color photographs. Copies will be available on the chapter website and hard copies made available for our guests.

“Swipes & Tags” deadline for the next issue is December 15. Send submissions to **Joe Samora** at tm39samora@comcast.net, a proud member of PROBE (Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors) since 2008.

News articles and photographs are appreciated. Thank you **Mike Aita, Rick Cram, Robert DuPlantier, Norm Hile, Steve Kennedy, Larry Larsson, Ray Rhymer** and **Dan Warschauer**.