

Desert Aires

Barbershop Chorus

ENTERTAINING THE WEST VALLEY

2026
Issue 6



from the desk

2026 Officers
& Directors

of the President...

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Botterbusch**
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Large**

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**Barney
Barnhart** 2y

Greg Layne 3y

Retirement has kept me busier than expected, and as I've grown older, I've realized I need more time to recover/recharge and manage my time and priorities more carefully.

As we adjust to summer without Snowbirds, vacations, work, and the need for rest, we are striving to keep rehearsals enjoyable while reviewing both new and familiar songs that will shape our future repertoire.

Each of you has assigned a level of importance to Barbershop given other life's many demands prioritizing both personal and shared goals to pursue.

I encourage you to recharge when needed while staying focused on your personal goals and our shared goals as the Chorus continues to grow in size and skill.

Roy

If you have a friend, who might be interested in singing with us. Invite him to our next rehearsal. All are welcome



CARY'S CORNER

Honorary Members

Periodically, the Barbershop Harmony Society recognizes individuals or groups by awarding them Honorary Life Membership in the Society. "The Honorary Life Membership is presented to those who have had a significant impact on Barbershop or a cappella singing – as well as those individuals or groups who, through their celebrity, bring positive attention and awareness of the Barbershop Harmony Society." (BHS Website)

Here are some of these honorees.

1959: Irving Berlin, Composer of God Bless America, White Christmas &, hundreds of hits

1959: Meredith Willson, Author and composer of The Music Man

1960: Arthur Godfrey, Radio and television personality

1984: Fred Waring, Choral conductor, leader of the Pennsylvanians

1985: Mitch Miller, Orchestra leader, host of television show

1986: The Osmond Brothers, preteen quartet, pop music stars

1991: Bill Hanna, Creator of the Flintstones

1995: Victor Borge, musical comedian who often had barbershop choruses open his shows

1996: Jerrold Ottley, director, Mormon Tabernacle Choir

1996: Jim Pike of The Lettermen

1999: Dick Van Dyke, Television and film actor

2002: Sherrill Milnes, operatic baritone

2002: Bob Flanigan, of The Four Freshmen

2006: Bill Gaither, multiple Grammy-winning gospel singer

2008: The Oak Ridge Boys, Popular country and gospel group

2013: The Nylons, a cappella group founded in 1978. This was the first a cappella group I ever heard and cemented my interest in a cappella singing.

2015: Lynn Abbott, Tulane University scholar whose groundbreaking research identified the African American roots of the barbershop style

2016: Deke Sharon, considered the godfather of contemporary a cappella. Directed the movie, Pitch Perfect.

2016: The Fairfield Four, multi-Grammy winning gospel singing group

2017: Mike Rowe, starred in Dirty Jobs and narrator of The Deadliest Catch. Credits his show business career in part to his high school music teacher, Fred King, who was a prolific barbershopper.

2018: The Manhattan Transfer, one of the most prolific singing groups of all time. The golden standard of modern harmony singing. They are still touring 50 years after their Inception.

These awesome folks are fellow barbershoppers!
Who do you think should be next to be honored?

Cary

38 year member of BHS,
Musically Judge since 2010, 2024 Desertaires Barbershopper of the Year,
Coach and arranger,
Director of a senior men's chorus, the Desertaires of Sun Cities, AZ Chapter,
Director of a women's a cappella chorus, Wicked Pitch of the West,
Director East Valley Harmonizers, Director Chordaires
Director of a 175 member community chorus for 20 years



My Life in Music, Academe, & the Law **– by Bob Gorman**

I first fell in love with the piano when I started at the age of six to take lessons from my mother, an extraordinary by-ear player and a great teacher. She was also teaching my older brother and sister. I soon moved to a more professional teacher for several years, and I carried on with lessons through elementary and high schools. I stopped during my college years, but resumed again for a decade when in my forties. I still tinkle around today, and regard myself as a darned fine sight reader at the keyboard. Barbershop singing has become the core of my musical life, about which more below in this essay.

I was lucky enough to get into Harvard College, where I soon became a member of the Harvard Glee Club. The HGC gave performances both in and away from Cambridge, and we even performed at Boston Symphony Hall along with the Symphony Orchestra. I also sang with a lighthearted small men's group known as the Krokodiloes, which is still performing today some seventy years later.

After graduation, I spent a year on a Fulbright Scholarship studying legal and political philosophy at Oxford University in England. After that, I enrolled at the Harvard Law School -- not much time for music there. I did well academically and was elected to serve on the Harvard Law Review, and on graduation I served as law clerk to a fine federal court of appeals judge in New York City. (He was Irving R. Kaufman who is perhaps best known, sadly, as the judge who sentenced Julius and Ethel Rosenberg as Communist spies.) After a year working at a large Manhattan law firm (the Proskauer firm, which is still flourishing), I moved into the academic world at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where I remained until my retirement in the year 2000, after some forty years on the faculty. In the meantime, I had several gigs as a visiting law professor, at such fine law schools as at Kansas, Iowa, Texas, University of Southern California, New York University, Columbia and Harvard (twice).

I also taught, memorably, in Europe – once at the Hague in the Netherlands, and three times in Salzburg, Austria, where my wife, three sons and I had the luxurious thrill to live in an eighteenth century palace where the exterior scenes were filmed for “The Sound of Music” (including the little chamber where the young romantic leads sang “I Am Sixteen Going on Seventeen” and the nearby lake where Julie Andrews sank in her rowboat along with the Von Trapp children!). I also had many years of gigs with three so-called international tribunals, linked to the World Bank, the Inter-American Bank and the Asian Development Bank, which issue judicial rulings on employment disputes (e.g., compensation, pensions, promotions, discipline for misbehavior) between those banks and their employees. Those jobs, running across more than twenty years, took me regularly to Washington, London and Manila (very hot there!).

I have been now living at the Colonnade senior living community in Surprise (where Fred Anderson lives as well), where our chorus performs periodically, and I have just received a membership card showing forty-four years in the Barbershop Harmony Society. I love the music we sing, our phenomenal leadership (especially our awesome director Cary) and the friendships I have made. Thanks to all of you.



Arizona Division Chorus Champions
April 18, 2026

Not only did the Desert Aries become the Plateau AA Champions again, but also qualified to go to the Mid-Winter Convention which will be held in Virginia Beach, Virginia held on February 3-7, 2027.



TULSA, OKLAHOMA

The Founding of the Society

Some say it was an accident, some say it was fate. Either way (or perhaps both) the movement we now enjoy as the Barbershop Harmony Society (aka. Society for The Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America (SPEBSQSA)) can be credited to a meeting in Tulsa organized by [Owen Clifton Cash](#) on April 11, 1938.

In the late 1930's, the family unit was still very musical, with pianos in most homes and singing (harmonizing) still a popular pastime. Many could still remember, first hand, enjoying the old vaudeville quartets and the professionals such as the Peerless Quartet from the turn of the century. The love of close harmony existed even though it was no longer the most popular music of the day.

In 1938, men harmonizing together had not completely died out, but it was becoming rarer and certainly much less popular than 30 years before. Cash was really only interested in getting a few guys together to sing. There was no grand plan, no grand scheme. He and acquaintance Rupert Hall had a chance meeting in Kansas City several weeks before and discussed forming a Song Fest. On his return to Tulsa, Cash drafted an invitation and mailed it to the 14 singers he knew might show up and encouraged them to bring guests to the Tulsa Club - a high class place and popular destination for special dinners, weddings and meetings.

The date was set for Monday, April 11 at 6:30 PM. Hall, a member of the opulent, rich oil men's Tulsa Club, had arranged for the meeting to be held on the Roof Garden (up on the roof – in open air – under the stars). (The Tulsa Club still exists and is located on the northwest corner of 5th and Cincinnati. Built in 1923, it stands 11 stories tall. It's across the street (due north) from the Stanolind Oil Building where Cash worked. Closed for many years, it has escaped demolition many times. Its future is still in doubt.)

Cash states that he had invited 14 men and 26 “crashed the party”. They sang and harmonized to some old songs for several hours with several breaking off into quartets as well.

Apparently some Tulsa club members on the floors below complained of the “noise” so the next week, April 18, they met at the Hotel Tulsa (3rd and Cincinnati). 70 men showed up at this second meeting, showing there was interest in this idea and maybe an early indication of the future growth.

By the end of May, the newly formed group began meeting at the Alvin Plaza Hotel (7th and Main) and hosting 75 to 150 men each week. What would later be known as the Tulsa # 1 Chapter would continue to meet at the Alvin for 37 years.

The popular joke is ... “There were 26 men who attended the FIRST meeting April 11, 1938 ... I've met 150 of them.”

June Birthdays

Steve Clausing 3rd, Randy Payne 23rd, Dave Starcevich

SAVE THE DATE

Desert Aires
HOLIDAY SHOW

HARMONY FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 6,
2026**

2:00 PM

VENUE:
**Desert Palms
Presbyterian Church**
13459 W Stardust Blvd
Sun City West, AZ

Classic barbershop harmonies
Beloved holiday songs
A joyful, family-friendly atmosphere

**FREE WILL
OFFERING
ACCEPTED**

Ring in the season with song!

Featuring Great Quartets
&
The Westwind Harmony Chorus

I JUST REALIZED THE PAPER TOWELS BY THE GAS PUMP ARE FOR WIPING AWAY TEARS AFTER FILLING YOUR GAS TANK.



You think you know stress? When I grew up, if you missed a TV show you just missed it. Forever.

I DON'T FEEL LIKE I'M GETTING OLDER



IT'S MORE LIKE MY WARRANT HAS EXPIRED AND MY PARTS ARE WEARING OUT



hcchorus.org



♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

May your day begin
With a giggle
in your wiggle,
and end with
a pep in your step

Free Spirited

The Circle of Fifths
Key Signatures

<http://musl.in/c5ths>

Funny text posts aren't my *f*

Puns like that could get you in

give it a

Yeah I think the joke might be falling

This would probably be a lot funnier if I could read sheet music

It's no one else's fault that you aren't that

#

“Music speaks what cannot be expressed, soothes the mind and gives it rest, heals the heart and makes it whole, flows from heaven to the soul.”

arizona girl choir

unknown

Bed: The magical place where you remember all the things you were supposed to do today.

*Send a gift

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Appreciate your
Comments or complaints