



The MVEer Monthly

October, 2013

Top events for **October** include (1) the **District contest** on October 25-26 and (2) our coaching on September 29 and 30 with two time gold medal winner **Alan Gordon**

(1) For information on the Oct 25-27 the **LO'L District Convention**, see <http://www.loldistrict.org/events/2013fallconvention/PDF/2013LOLConventionScheduleOfEvents092513.pdf> Note to **Tim Zielke**, our VP of Music -- many of the events are in the **Zielke Suites!** How'd you do that, bro?



(2) Baritone **Alan Gordon** has been a member of SPEBSQSA since he was 10 years old. He has achieved much in the barbershop world, including becoming a **singing judge**. In addition to having been assistant director of the **Masters of Harmony Chorus** and their baritone section leader, he directed the **SAI Verdugo Hill's Chorus** at their

International competition. He is a **Master Director** in Sweet Adelines International as well as a "barbershop brat," having been introduced to our avocation by both of his parents in San Jose, Ca. With music in the family room almost every night, it wasn't a surprise that he was harmonizing with his sister at age 5. That early start has imbedded in Alan a vocal flexibility that allows for chameleon-like blending through a wide range. After moving to Southern California, he joined the **Masters of Harmony**, leading in various positions and ending up with the formation of **Gotcha!**, who became Quartet Champions in 2004. Alan and his wife, Cyndi, live in Fullerton, CA, with their daughter, Molly. And in 2013, his newest quartet **Masterpiece** won the Gold Medal. Twice gold and ready to help the MVE do the same. The MVE is eager to learn from



2013 BHS Quartet Champions
Masterpiece

Alan.



Performance at Miller Park on September 21 – Scott Ganswindt

We had a grand time at Miller Park. Thank you to the 31 singers who performed. The greetings from the fans after the show, even though many were from St. Louis, indicated how much they appreciated our outstanding demonstration of pride for our nation and for our chorus. Proud to be MVE.

Notable Barbershop Holidays

- **April 11** is **Barbershop Quartet Day**: this day honors four guys with great voices. It celebrates the founding of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America (SPEBSQSA) in Tulsa, OK on April 11, 1938.
- **July 13** is **Barbershop Music Appreciation Day**: this is a day to relax and enjoy the sweet voices of the Sweet Adelines International or a Barbershop Quartet in general. Edna Mae Anderson of Tulsa, OK invited some women to her home to sing on July 13, 1945.



Put these days on your calendar so we can celebrate our hobby.

Barbershop Superstitions

Steve Johnson cautioned us of his not-counting-your-chickens-until-they've-hatched superstition – not to speak of getting an invitation to the **International Contest in Las Vegas** until we have competed in La Crosse later this month. Mum's the word!

In sports, we've heard of the *Curse of the Cubs*, when the a super fan, the owner of the **Billy Goat Tavern**, brought a goat to a World Series game cursing the club for 67+ years. Some put on the same underwear to all Green Bay Packer's games. Some have special routines they follow before Badger or Brewer games. So superstitions are not limited to barbershoppers.



We also know about superstitions such as "*step on crack and you'll break your mother's back,*" or if a black cat crosses your path it is bad luck. Well, singers and theatrical people have many such superstitions. Not to wish a performer "luck," but to say just the opposite: **Break a leg**. Why tempt evil spirits by wishing good luck when they are so easily outwitted by wishing a friend bad fortune? Or like the "**knock on wood,**" phrase used to prevent hexes; opera enthusiasts say "**toi toi toi!**" as if mock spitting after making a declaration similarly to banish demons, or as a member of the **Florentine Opera Company** says, it is just like saying, "**break a leg.**"

But the world of shaving and hair cutting barbershops, from which our hobby draws its **Barbershop Harmony** name from is filled with their own rich superstitions. Not cutting one's beard to keep a winning streak in sports alive and well today. But historically, some believed that having a lock of another's hair will have some control over that person. In Gage Averill's **Four Parts, No Waiting: A Social History of American Barbershop Quartet**, he tells of early quartet contests where the prizes were shaving knives and other barbering paraphernalia. He says that barbershop prizes each came with a penny strapped to them. Some say the superstition is that if you give someone a knife, pair of scissors, or a sword, you will sever the relationship. Hence, you can't give or trade someone for a knife. You have to sell it to them, even if the price is just a penny.

If you have a barbershop superstition, you are not alone. So, until October 26, let's keep with **Steve Johnson's** superstition, and Mum's the Word on International.

October 2013						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sept 29 Alan Gordon Coaching at 1PM	Sept 30 MVE Practice with Alan Gordon	1	2	3	4	5
6	7 MVE Practice @7pm	8 MVE Board Meeting @6:30pm	9	10	11	12
13	14 MVE Practice @7pm	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 MVE Practice @7pm	22	23	24	25 Land O' Lake District Contest	26 Land O' Lake District Contest
27	28 MVE Practice @7pm	29	30	31	There's no bad day that can't be overcome by listening to a barbershop quartet; this is just truth, plain and simple. – Chuck Sigars	