

Shir Delight

FALL '09

A NOT -TO-BE-TAKEN SERIOUSLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE THREE



By the River of Hudson we stood up and sang

Shirah's First Shindig Opens New Season

On a glorious Sunday afternoon in September members of Shirah gathered together at the gorgeous home of Karen Acker and Glenn Kassel

With drinks in hand and plenty of food and noshes available there were smiles on the faces of the guests as they greeted each other at the magnificent property overlooking the Hudson River in the shadows of the Tappan Zee Bridge. "What a wonderful idea

this was!" exclaimed a soprano. "Let's do it again soon."

Singing in the Sun

Entranced neighbors and boaters were out and about listening to the beautiful sounds Shirah members created as they stood on a dock that jutted out onto the river. Beth Robin, able accompanist, set the tone playing keyboard and Mati Lazar, esteemed conductor, kept the tempo going with nods and hand gestures.

Look Ma, No Music!

It took nature and potent drinks to prove Mati's oft heard exhortation "You know this! Why are you looking down at the music?" Unknowingly, the singers had, indeed, committed to memory a large repertoire of musical pieces.

Alto Keels Over Gracefully and pledges not to do this at a concert. Claiming she was felled by *Uri Adama*, an alto who fainted while singing was

Recovering on the Dock



revived by Shirah medical personnel and with the kindness and caring of other choir members who helped get her back on her feet.

A good time was had by all!



Read on to find out



The river resounded with song
Kayakers were in for a treat as they paddled their way through the waters.



A Choir Member Reveals Thoughts

It's amazing how singing with Shirah can perk me up. After a long day you'd think that having to go to rehearsal would feel like one more thing to do but it doesn't. It's so absorbing that you can't think about anything else. You are busy thinking of not spilling your water bottle, making sure your phone is off and getting a seat next to someone who will not lead you astray when the going gets rough. Though Mati will probably move you elsewhere. He loves the word MOVE. It's usually the first thing he says at rehearsal.

Every now and then I feel my voice improving. Sometimes I think I even feel a vibrato coming on but then I remember that Mati doesn't even like it. Also, I'm hoping to advance my choir skills enough to pass that written test that Mati keeps talking about. So far I don't know any answers. With a little studying I should be all right. New people seem to know things I don't but maybe they're just oldish-new like Ruth Pernick who appeared 2 weeks before the concert and got to stand in front.



Fear of Singing 'Mixed'

Those dreaded words. To choir members this means they will have to get up, leave their section and stand in a different place. This is often quite dangerous as they may find themselves tripping over chairs and music stands. The person next to them will now be singing different notes which is challenging, especially for those who hardly know their own parts. This might then lead to an alto

singing tenor or worse, soprano. Many say it's much better to stay put. The alto section is notorious for this, claiming it's too much of a schlep to move. "It's easier for Mati if we don't move," said one. "Because when he yells 'altos' he looks for us in our usual corner anyway," said another. "It is amazing when you hear other parts and realize that the piece you are singing sounds different from what you thought."

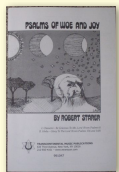


Shirah members show their enthusiasm for singing seen here during an informal concert outdoors in Nyack

“Boy, Do You Sound Great!!!”

Rehearsal Ends on Positive Note

At the conclusion of the first rehearsal of 5770 there could have been no more welcome words than those words uttered by Shirah's distinguished conductor, Mati Lazar.



2 Life-Cycle Events Marked

Shirah is attentive to the major events in members' lives, often observing them with cookies or cake. Thus far there have been the births of 2 grandsons and the marriage of one son. Mazal Tov!



First Timer Pledges to Return

In the parking lot we caught up with one of the newcomers to the choir who said he had enjoyed the first rehearsal and planned to return. "I'm pleased that the conductor gives clear instructions like when he told us to start at the beginning, it's the first page. Also, his advice is excellent. He told us we should breathe before we come here. What a genius!"

Shirah's New Manager Ed Encourages Choir to PWA



Choir members are impressed by Ed's ability to command attention

Learn to PWA

An anonymous source revealed that Shirah members have been receiving emails encouraging them to:

PRACTICE YOUR MUSIC BETWEEN REHEARSALS

WORK ON 'GETTING OFF THE PAPER' AND WATCHING MATI

ATTEND EVERY REHEARSAL

"I just don't know if I can fit one more thing into my very busy life," said one singer. "A few do re mis might be doable but PWAing seems more than I can handle." "I agree," added another, "I doubt I can PW

but I can probably A." "We've made such progress in the last year I'm sure we will be able to achieve even more if we all just do it!" concluded another. "We should all just PWA!"

Starer challenges Shirah with his 'Song of Joy'

"Last year you couldn't have done this piece," Mati announced at the end of the second rehearsal. "There were a few moments where I thought a Song of Joy might be deteriorating into a 'Song of Woe'. You did great work tonight. We should be able to sing it at the December concert, polish it up by June and really wow everyone at the Choral Festival."

PWA homework

**Getting your sh's together,
Hoh-do not hoe-do.
Yee-sra-el not yis-ra-el,**

JUST DO IT!