

SOUND BEACH CHORAL SOCIETY

A 7.5" X 12 gray notebook was found among the old records of the First Congregational Church. Its cover contains the hand-written title above.

Sound Beach, CT changed its name from Sound Beach back to Old Greenwich in 1932. The Choral Society changed its name at the same time to "Greenwich Choral Society." This is probably the reason why the notebook ended with no further input after 1931.

Many names listed in this document are of some very prominent citizens of Old Greenwich at the time.

Starting with page 1, all hand written is the following:

Sound Beach Choral Society

Sat. Oct 11, 1924: Organization meeting at Community Pres. Church
Present:- Mr. & Mrs. Cox, Mrs. Finney, Mr. & Mrs. Dreur(?), Mr. L. Taylor, Dr. MacLean, Mr. Turton, Mrs. Stanton, Mrs. Fish. Address by Mr. Steele.

Oct 18 12 members present
Oct 25 21 present First rehearsal of music
Nov 1 28 present
Nov 10 28 present Temporary officers elected: Mr. Turton, chairman of meeting, Pres. John Cox, Vice Pres Mr. A. Nichols, Sec'y. Mrs. Fish
Nov 17 32 present
Nov 24 28 present
Dec 1 25 present
Dec 8 25 present Following officers elected for 1 year

Conductor: Roy Williams Stele
1st Vice Pres: John Howard, Jr
2nd Vice Pres: Viola Worrell
Sec'y: Ethel P. Fish
Treas: A. J. MacLean
Librarian: Melville Dreher

Motion made and carried that new officers frame constitution and by-laws, and fix dues for adoption. Nominating committee Mrs. Shaw, Mrs. Fish, Mr. Howard and Mr. A. Nichols retained to secure a President. Plans made for a Community Xmas tree and Carol singing led by Choral Society on Xmas eve in front of Sound Beach School. Mr. Cox and Mr. Howard appointed a committee on arrangements.

1925

Jan 12 Rehearsal postponed because of storm
Jan 19 31 present. Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4 of constitution adopted as read. Also sections 5, 6 and 7. By-laws adopted as read. First concert to be presented in May. Nominating committee moved that first Vice Pres. John Howard, Jr. become President, leaving office of 1st Vice Pres. Open. Motion carried. Hours of rehearsal fixed at 8:15 to 10 P.M. Members requested to sign membership list.
Jan 26 29 present Storm
Feb 2 23 present Storm
Feb 9 19 present Storm
Feb 16 31 present Storm
Feb 23 26 present Fog and damp
Mch 2 30 present Storm

Mch 9 postponed
 Mch 16 27 present Clear
 Mch 23 24 present Clear
 Mch 20 28 present Clear
 Apr 6 32 present Clear
 Apr 13 28 present Clear
 Apr 20 32 present Clear
 Apr 27 33 present Clear
 May 4 32 present Clear
 May 11 27 present At executive meeting, following chairmen were appointed, for concert,
 June 2nd:

Arrangements: John Cox
 Decorations: Mrs. Bednall
 Tickets: Dr. MacLean & Mrs. Fish
 Publicity: Mrs. Stanton
 Ushers: Mr. Howard

Motion made to supply two \$1.50 tickets to Dr. Bigelow as patron

Following complimentary:

Dr. and Mrs. Barney
 Dr. and Mrs. Daum
 Advocate" Mrs. Eackley
 Gr'wich Press: Miss David
 Gr'wich News: Mr. Fiske

June 2 First concert present at Sound Beach Congregational Church with 51 voices (17 assisting from Choral Art Society of Norwalk). Soprano Soloist, Mme. Esther Nelson of NY. Five string soloists from NY Philharmonic Society: Messrs. Lichstein, Lifskey, Barr, Sear and Fortier. Assisting artists entertained at dinner at Sound Beach Golf Club. Church filled to capacity. Refreshments served to chorus and artists following concert. Flowers presented to Mme Nelson and Mrs. Worrell. Assisting accompanists Mmes. Stanton and Taylor.

Ushers: Mr. Ray Mortimer & Mrs. Howard, Jr.

Tickets: Messrs. Stanton and Ferris

Piano (Steinway) donated by Mr. Brodie

Carting donated by Drinkwater of Greenwich

Twenty-one patronesses as follows:

Jas. Brice	Mrs. A Washington
Mrs. W. C. Earl	Mrs. D. E. Ward
Mrs. J. B Coombes	Mrs. Caroline Fay
Mrs. Edw. Lucas	Mrs. Russel Smith
Mrs. A. J. Post	Mrs. J. G. Montague
Mrs. A. Millikin	Mrs. B. M. Maynard
Mrs. Edw. Binney	Mrs. A. M. Morris
Mrs. Wm. Farrell	Mrs. Valeria Langcloch
Miss Rose Lorenz	Mrs. Jas. Davey
Miss Jane Dorman	Mrs. A. F. Kitchel
A.B. Stanton	Miss Grace Marks
	Mrs. A. E. Austin

Forty four associate members as follows:

J. K. Tod	Miss Duffs
Mrs. J. K. Tod	Mrs. G. A. Preuss
Miss. M. W. Stephenson	Mrs. J. H. Kerley
Mrs. Edw. Sandreuter	Mr. F. Cusack
Mrs. R. Reynolds	Mr. Robt. Bednall
Mrs. H. Rydell	Mrs. Jas. Farrar
Mr. Loren Russell	Mrs. Alfred Clark

Mrs. T. J. Murray	Mrs. Leonard Watson
Mrs. E. B. Lockwood	Mrs. A. D. Dickenson
Mrs. J. P. Graham, Jr.	Mr. David Stephenson
Miss Elsa Keil	Mr. Harry Hubbard
Mrs. W. J. Worrell	Mrs. Louise Mead
Miss Kate Byrne	Mrs. E. G. Budington
Mrs. A. D. Woods	Mrs. F. J. Clifford
Mr. P. A. Havenstein	Mrs. J. H. Rose
Mrs. G. E. Malcolm	Mrs. Harry Maken
Miss Evelyn Howard	Mrs. Al J. MacLean
Miss Nellie Bigelow	Mrs. M. B. Bates
Mr. W. A. Dreyer	Mrs. Geo. P. Palmer
Mrs. R. G. Starr	Mrs. B. I. Dryer
Mr. Harry Frost	Mrs. F. W. Howard
Mr. Harry Graham	Mrs. F. A. Dinger
Mrs. Quayle Hawkes	

- June 4 Executive Comm. Meeting
Treas. Reported concert proceeds.
Motion made Treas. pay all concert expenses
Motion made Treas. pay Mr. Steele \$150.00
Motion made present flowers to Mrs. Steele at first annual dinner to be held at Sound Beach Golf Club, Wed. June 9 at 7 P.M.
- June 9 Annual dinner, business meeting and election of officers, followed by dancing. Pres. Mr. John Howard presided. Meeting opened with Secretary report for the year, read and accepted. A gift of appreciation presented to Mr. Steele, accepted by him in short speech of encouragement to the chorus, suggesting that rehearsals be resumed the first week in September. Treasurer's report read and accepted. Miss Worrell presented with dressing case in appreciation of her services as accompanist. Motion made and carried to leave decision as to number of concerts with executive comm.
Yearly dues for active members (\$3.00) due Sept. 1st.
Motion made and carried that each member pledge to obtain at least one contributing member at a minimum of \$10.00. per year, each to receive two tickets for each concert, dues payable September 1st.
Motion made and carried that Associate membership be \$5.00 per year, with two tickets for each concert, dues payable Sept. 1st.

Five more pages of meeting notes through June 1926

Pages 100-101 contain a list of "Active members" as of September 1925 with individual phone numbers, mostly 3 digits, and some addresses and notes

Pages 116-117 contain a list of "Patronesses for 1925-26 – 26-27"
A few men are included.

Pages 106-120 plus the inside back cover (except pages 116-117) contain pasted newspaper clippings of original concert reviews from June 1925 through June 1931.

A loose page is as follows:

**Statement of Purpose and Benefits of Associate
Membership in the Sound Beach Choral Society.**

Quoting the Constitution of our Society, Article #2 states:

"Object"

"The object of this society shall be to advance the interest and promote the culture of music".

On June 2, 1925, under the direction of Mr. Roy Williams Steele, the first concert was given by the Society. Since that time, ten concerts in all have been given, all of which have received very favorable comment.

It is not too much to expect that we will be able to go on to still better work, which will reflect credit not only on the director and the active members, but on the associates, whose community spirit makes them desire to support the choral society in its constructive efforts.

In their preparation for these concerts, the active members feel they receive a very valuable addition to their musical training and that they have helped to further the object of the Society.

It has been felt, however, that the patrons and associate members have not been brought close enough to the active work of the Society, to really feel the interest that their association warrants; neither have they been able to obtain the benefits that their association should afford.

This condition we are now trying to eliminate, and propose.

1st. That all patrons and associate members be invited to a general meeting to be held about two weeks before each concert, at which time plans for the success of the coming concert will be discussed, and also the matter of making it more surely a permanent figure in the cultural life of our community. After the business meeting an interesting talk will be given by a well known music critic on the numbers to be given at the concert.

2nd. That all patrons and associate members be invited to all social affairs of the society, including an annual social gathering, the first of which is to be given late in January or early in February, 1931.

3rd. That each patron and associate shall received two admissions to each concert.

4th. The dues for associate membership to be \$5.00 per year.