

# Letter from the President

First of all, my best wishes to all for a happy and healthy new year!

Your Board has had a busy 2008: a huge and splendid *Journal* (Dan Shea's last!), two newsletters, exclusive offers of CDs not available otherwise in the US, a new JBS brochure, two gatherings in Washington, D.C., the renewal of our commitment to the Jussi Björling scholarship at Gustavus Adolphus, plans for a Jussi Björling calendar (including pictures donated by Anders Björling) to be done in cooperation with the Scandinavian Sällskapet as well as the Jussi Björling Appreciation Society UK, preparations for the May Conference in Charleston, and work looking ahead to the centenary year of 2011.

All of this work is meant to keep the Society a valuable resource for current (and potential) members, without whom there is no Society. There will always be, I believe, passionate interest in Jussi Björling, whose great artistry and emotional power are unrivaled and irresistibly compelling, but a group of our sort allows us all to feel a sense of kinship and brotherhood not easily found otherwise. I'm sure we've all had the experience of watching someone's eye glaze over as we ramble on enthusiastically.

This group is one place where we never run the risk of seeing eyes glaze over, and that alone would be enough to make it valuable to me. To have a forum where we can obsess in great good humor and never worry that the

subject is boring, is genuinely precious.

The market, and the economy in general, have given all of us a real beating this year, but we need your memberships and we need your contributions for this Society to remain viable, so please renew your memberships by return mail with the form included in this *Journal*.

Please also make your plans to join us in Charleston in May. The program is varied and exciting, the city is beautiful and welcoming and the dorm is a real bargain!

*Sue Flaster*

