Have a Barbershop Quartet deliver your **SINGING VALENTINE**
February 12, 13, or 14

You Get:
- Two love songs by a Big Chief quartet
- Beautiful red rose
- Personalized Valentine card
- Photo of the recipient and quartet

To Order – Call Bill: (248) 698-1393
Cost $45

Bill Maxfield will coordinate the orders and deliveries.

**LIMITED EDITION, BIDIN’ OUR TIME, 4GVN (With Zach on Tenor), and 4 UR PLEASURE have all signed on.**

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**Officers Installation and Awards Ceremony, January 19**
Terry Webner, of **EVENIN’ GENTLEMEN**, and a 34-year barbershopper, installed our officers.

**Officers for 2016**
- President - Jack Teuber
- Past President - Doc Mann
- VP Membership - Walt DeNio
- VP Music - Roger Holm
- VP Public Relations - (Open)
- Secretary - Charlie Perry
- Treasurer - Jim Owens

At Large - Eric Domke, Fred Pioch, Zach Schroeder, Ray Sturdy

The 2015 Chorus Awards were presented by the previous winners:
- Barbershopper of the Year - **Mike Frye** - presented by Lance Shew
• Bill Pascher Founders Award - **Jack Teuber** - presented by Fred McFadyen

• Raleigh Hallman Music Award - **Gene Downie** - presented by Mike Frye

• Certificate of Appreciation - **Neil Braun** - presented by Chuck Murray

Afterward, **EVENIN’ GENTLEMEN** entertained us with a few songs.

Roger Boyer (Br), John Paul (Bs), Keith Opal (L), Terry Webner (T)

On **January 26 and March 22**, we will meet at the Lookout Lodge (the Fridge) 1702 Scott Lake Rd. about 1/2 mile behind the wave pool.

**Around the Patch**

**Learning tracks online**

From Jeff Doig:

All the learning tracks are now on the website. They are in bold type to make them easier to find.

**Copying chorus mp3 audios to your computer.**

To get there, go to [www.bigchiefchorus.org](http://www.bigchiefchorus.org)

Then,

- Favorite Links > Members Page
- There, you will need to enter the username and password that you gave to Jeff. (**If you haven’t done that, or can’t remember, contact Jeff at 248-624-3054.**)
- Click on your voice part for any song. That will open the list of MP3s for your voice part.
- Click on an MP3 to just play it.

Or, better,

- Right click on the MP3 and click on “Save link as” to save it to your computer so you will be able to access it repeatedly without going online. It’s easiest to save it to your desktop initially, and then put them all in a new folder entitled BCC songs.
From Director Tom:
Men and Friends of the BCC,
    Thanks again for a good rehearsal last week and congratulations to all of our officers for the coming year. It will be another wonderful year to serve with you all. Congratulations as well to our award recipients. You are all well-deserving and represent what is best about the BCC and the BHS. Thanks to all for your commitment to our organization as we continue to spread the joy of singing.
    Let us focus on our two contest selections, “The Little White House in the Glen” and “I Don’t Know Why (I Just Do).” I would like to be off the paper by the end of February, if not sooner.

Monty Bates, 84-year-old member of the Lansing chapter wrote the words and melody for “The Little White House in the Glen,” which was then arranged by Burt Szabo, (a one-time Lansing member), re-arranged by Lansing director Steve Warnaar, modified slightly by Tom Blue, and printed out from the resulting Finale file by John Cowlishaw. We are legal by buying 50 copies from BHS.

Jerry Ramey was recognized as a new member at the January 5th rehearsal. He also brought his son, Chris Ramey.

We had 34 members and guests at our Jan 5 rehearsal. Even 24 on snowy Jan 12. And 34 on Installation and Awards Night.

Mike Frye will be introducing one new tag each month. January’s tag is “When It’s Sleepy Time, Down South.”
http://www.barbershoptags.com/tag-4-Sleepytime-Down-South

From VP Roger Holm:
We’re off & running in 2016 with a couple little changes: (1) the weekly email schedule will be headed your way a little earlier each week than it used to (Friday instead of Sunday); (2) it’ll list the specific songs that Tom wants to work on for our main, new-songs rehearsal; (3) Freddie’s repertoire songs review will also list specific songs that he’ll work us on; and (4) following our break, Mike will be introducing a tag for us to learn (a new one each month)! These are no big things, but they’re a small step towards getting specific rehearsal info to you sooner, for, hopefully, more efficient song learning and retention!

Our 2016 song list contains 10 "new" songs (four of them we should already have in our books - but we never learned them) that Tom will be leading us through during the year!

Quartets

4GVN
(From Wayne Oberstadt - December 28 on Facebook)
It is with deep sadness to announce that I am parting ways with 4GVN. I have been feeling this for a while now, and believe I am doing the right thing by moving on in another direction, and feel that this is the proper time for me to do this. I have been singing in two Quartets, two Choruses, and my Church Choir. The busy months of October and November really over-stretched my capabilities. I want to devote more time to my Church Choir, as I feel God nudging me in this direction. I know we will remain great friends, and we have experienced some great times together. It has been a very hard
decision, and I pray for continued success for 4GVN as I know they will carry on. God Bless you guys! - Wayne

Limited Edition

Limited Edition returned to American House, Troy, January 24, to sing a 50-minute 14-song-set for 40 residents and guests. Charlie Perry chose the songs and narrated the event.

Chapter 2016 Performances thru January:
1 gig to 40 people

MEMBERSHIP: (at 49)
Renewals: None
Due in February: Bill Auquier, Eric Domke, David Stone
Overdue: Mike Keith, Mike Doyle
Feb Birthdays: John Northey (22nd), Pete Mazzara (23rd)
BSOM: Lance Shew, for managing show guests and risers among other things

In Memoriam:
Feb 1, 2014, Dick Johnson, #155
Feb 2, 2011, Marv Wilson #119
Feb 25, 2011, Jim Claflin, #120

District

FOREFRONT is the guest quartet on the D.O.C. show February 27 (2 pm and 8 pm). They were Silver in Pittsburgh. Will they win it all, in Nashville?

THE VOICE had its final rehearsal on January 17th and invited friends and guests to attend.

Uncle Sam Night was Friday, January 22nd in Windsor.

International

All information for International in Nashville is at:
http://www.barbershop.org/nashville/

Media

Westminster Chorus sings “Let There be Peace on Earth.”
https://youtu.be/Uj3UZ4dX8bQ

Listen to Deke Sharon, of a cappella fame speak eloquently on his three reasons why he thinks people don’t sing as much anymore.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sAmCEPFFpZ8

The BHS has its own YouTube Channel at
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJn75rK6IuYaYwal1Ald1gg
Recent postings include MAIN STREET, Jimmy Fallon’s RAGTIME GALS, INSTANT CLASSIC, Youth Choruses, and five videos for music educators.

Medical:

Jack Teuber and Bob Marshall may each be facing back surgery.
John Northey’s wife Sandy was rehospitalized, but is now back at home.
Glenn Frey

Glenn Frey - guitarist, songwriter, and founding member of the EAGLES - died Jan 18 at 67. Frey won six Grammy Awards and five American Music Awards, sold over 120 million albums worldwide, and was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

Born in Detroit, he graduated from Royal Oak Dondoro High School in 1966. His early career was aided by backing up Bob Seger and Linda Ronstadt. He met Don Henley in 1970. His collaboration with drummer Henley rivals that of Lennon-McCartney, both artistically and financially.

The Eagles posted a memorial on their web site, including Glenn’s poignant “It’s Your World Now,” at http://www.eagles.com/splash

“It’s your world now, my race is run, I’m moving on.”

The EAGLES held off accepting the Kennedy awards this year because of his illness. Hopefully, they will receive it next year.

History - Ten Years Ago (From the Feb 2006 Smoke Signals)

- The Big Chief Chorus performed at American House in Auburn Hills, singing “Hi Neighbor,” “I Feel a Song,” “Ain’t Misbehavin’,” “Heart of my Heart,” “Hello Mary Lou,” “Something,” Boardwalk,” “In My Room,” “In the Still of the Night,” “Good Night Sweetheart,” and “God Bless America.”
- NATURAL re-formed to sing several songs.
- On January 24, we re-created our Jukebox Classics show at Holly High School
- The Board hired Dick Johnson as our Director.
- Dave Shantz agreed to be our new Bari section co-leader.
- Neil Braun continued to bring 91-year old Bill Pascher, our charter member, to rehearsals and sing-outs.
- Plans underway for the 50th Annual Woodshed Contest

Vocal Health - TMJ

Do you suffer from tightness of the temporomandibular joint? TMJ? Painful to open your mouth as tall as Tom asks for?

There’s an easy exercise you might try to relax spasm in the jaw muscles. Open your mouth and put the meaty base of your thumb between your jaws. Then just relax for a while. The point is to have your mouth be open without using your opening jaw muscles to do it. That should help your closing jaw muscles to relax, releasing the spasm.

e-Technology

We have been presenting three short videos each week from the fifteen that are part of the Harmony University Outstanding in Front program for new directors. The three on warmups are valuable to all members in understanding the warmup process.

http://tinyurl.com/jpvh9oo
Numbers 7, 8, and 9 are on warmups.

What’s Up, Gil Schreiner?

Gil at 2015 picnic

Gil joined the chorus over ten years ago along with his friend Tom Newman, fellow Karaoke lovers. Tom soon moved to Ireland, but Gil has continued and grown stronger every year as a Chief. For
three years now he has quartetted, beginning as the very first Chris Miller Quartet (with Jack, Walt, and Lance) and then as 4 UR Pleasure, with Jack, Walt, and Bob. They try to practice an hour and a half each week, at Gil’s or Jack’s, and have sung on our last two shows.

Gil’s job at Fairlane Tool Company in Ferndale is demanding; he works five ten-hour days a week, and the drive is 56 miles round-trip. This doesn’t leave him much time for other activities than barbershop, but he has gotten away for a little bow hunting, and does some semi-relief wood carving, and improvements on their 1958 home. At age 66, he just signed up for Medicare, but views retirement as still several years away. His and Mary’s health is generally good.

Gil’s mother died last June. And putting down his dog was also difficult. He and Mary have five daughters and four grandkids. His twin “babies” both married recently, three weeks apart.

Editorial

Can we all commit to a little singing every day? Even if it’s just some humming, some scales, and maybe practicing one song.

Letters

From Fred McFadyen
Re: 2015 BCC Holiday Crossword Puzzle SOLUTION
Anyone with Macomb roots struggled with 1 across - “The Papa___Slamka.” Papa John, Jack’s Dad, was the Patriarch of the Chapter and a friend to all. We left his spot in the middle of the front row vacant for a period of time.

Erratum: the publication date on last month’s Smoke Signals should have been 2016, not 2015.

CALENDAR, (With Performance Times; Warm-ups 30’- 45’ earlier)

2016
Jan 26, T, 7:00 Chorus Rehearsal, Lookout Lodge (the Fridge)
Jan 26-31 Midwinter Convention, Reno
Feb 2, T, 7:00 Chorus Rehearsal, WOAC
RHYTHM DEMONSTRATION

Pop Tarts
Hot Cocoa
Scrambled Eggs
Chicken Nuggets
Pork Tenderloin

Cinnamon Bun
Strawberry Jam
Apple Turnover
Barbeque Chicken
Pizza Casserole

Carrot Sticks and Dip
Beef Ravioli
Rice Crispie Cookies
Pancakes, Maple Syrup
Cinnamon Applesauce

FOR MY MUSIC LEARNING FRIENDS.