



**BIG CHIEF CHORUS**

# SMOKE SIGNALS



**Pontiac/Waterford Chapter**  
Meetings on Tuesdays: 7:30 to 10 PM

**Bulletin #16, August 13, 2002**

And on the web at [www.pontiacchapter.com](http://www.pontiacchapter.com)

Chorus Practices, August, at Silver Lake Church of the Nazarene, 520 W. Walton Blvd, west of Telegraph.

Beginning Sep 3: Back to Cray Middle School, 501 N. Cass Lake Rd, Waterford, MI

**The Pontiac/Waterford  
BIG CHIEF BARBERSHOP CHORUS**  
Proudly Presents Their **58th** Annual Show

**"DOROTHY RETURNS TO OZ"**  
Under The Direction of Chris Miller.

Featuring Chorus Quartets:  
Harmony Way  
Harmony Nights  
Four Wheel Drive  
B Natural

And Special Guest Quartet:  
**Chordiac Arrest**

Good, entertaining barbershop quartets usually come in one of two types. Those who sing well, of which there are quite a few. And those who can make people laugh, of which there are very few. Now, from Chicago, comes **Chordiac Arrest**, to create a third type. A good singing quartet that makes people laugh. They finished top ten in their first four International Quartet Contests, with fifth-place medals in two of them.

**Saturday, NOV 09, 2002  
7:30 p.m.**

**Clarkston High School Auditorium**  
6093 Flemings Lake Road  
Clarkston, MI 48346

Tickets are \$15.

### **AROUND THE PATCH**

**Show Chairman, Pete Mazzara**, writes: The Clarkston High School auditorium seats 1000 instead of 400; our break-even point is 700 tickets sold. We need props donated for the show: an ambulance stretcher, costumes for Munchkins & Crew. We need suggestions for possible Sing Out opportunities (quartets or chorus) to promote the show. The cast party will be at Liberty Grille in Clarkston, two miles from the high school.

#### **Show song list**

Over the Rainbow  
I Feel a Song Coming On  
I'm Beginning To See the Light  
Heart of a Clown  
After Dark

Mood Indigo  
Don't Blame Me  
I'm Sittin' on Top of the World  
If There's Anybody Here  
Irish Parting Prayer  
God Bless America

We had **two special rehearsal nights in July** – Lights Out and Listen (Favorite recordings), July 18, and Amateur Night, July 30.

**Harmony Way** has been busy rehearsing and then singing at the August 23rd Metamora Country and Heritage Days Festival and for a private 60th Anniversary Party in Commerce the next day. After that, serious Munchkin preparation in Sept/Oct for the Annual Show with regular coaching by Smitty and Bob Wisdom. Thanks for all the hard work by Mike Keith, Chuck Murray, Jeff Spires and Bruce Brede. As Dick says, "What a group!" After that, Christmas and Valentines quarteting. Whew!

**Four Wheel Drive** has registered for Bush League.

Have you checked out our **chapter's web-page** lately? Our Fall show is on the front page, providing all the info you need to advertise it to your friends and

colleagues, including time, price, and a link to Yahoo map for Clarkston High School location. Yong McDowell has also put a link to "Smoke Signals" on the home page, where it is a little easier to find.

Steve Sutherland has added a link to the Pioneer District's Chapter & Quartet news that includes Yong's link to our Bulletin page. Check out:  
[www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/links/Chapter\\_Bulletins.htm](http://www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/links/Chapter_Bulletins.htm)

For a list of folk willing to **coach quartets and choruses**, go to  
[www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/directory/dirframe.htm](http://www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/directory/dirframe.htm)  
and click on Pioneer Coaches. (In Adobe)

Thanks, **Barb Holmes**, for pianist aid on "Beginning to See the Light."

## AROUND THE DISTRICT

Al Fisk invites everyone to the annual **Macomb County Celebration of Power Play**. "We invite y'all (with family and friends) to the Harmony Heritage Chorus meeting site (First United Methodist Church, 57 South Bound Gratiot, Mt. Clemens on Tuesday August 20th at 8:00 p.m. Our Power Play Appreciation Night will have food (light snacks - fruit and/or veggies, dessert?), fellowship, frivolity, and fun, and our esteemed medallists will wow us with their wit, wisdom, and wonderfulness. I'm sure they'll sing, too."

Dick Johnson is one member who is excited about this upcoming show, featuring the 1985 Pioneer district champs, **The Ivy League**. **The River Raisin Sweet Adelines show** is Saturday, Sep 14<sup>th</sup> at 3pm and 7pm at Monroe Middle School. (Call Tracey Drouillard, 734-654-8923.) The Ivy League was the 1985 Pioneer District Champs, and represented the district at International four times. Bob Hartley and Brian Philbin are now the lead and bass of the current 5<sup>th</sup> place International medallist Metropolis. Scott Turnbull now directs the St Petersburg Florida chapter. Dave Drouillard sings in a Christian acappella quartet and plays in a Christian Rock band (same guys). Jim Pollard, who replaced Brian when he moved to California, is a Presbyterian minister in Lake Geneva Wisconsin. Jim sang and assistant-directed a small local chorus called The New Tradition. :-)  
Paul Hanson, the original Bass, is currently singing with the Huron Valley chapter.

We have a "sibling" relationship this fall with **The Spirit of Detroit Chorus** chapter of Sweet Adelines. Our sisters are pumping our show and we're pumping theirs. "**Spirit Sings 2002**" features the award-winning chorus, under the direction of LeAnn K. Hazlett, their in-house quartets, and guests **The Gas House Gang**, the 1993 SPEBSQSA International Quartet Champions. It's Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, at 3pm and 7:30 pm at Mercy High School, 11 Mile and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. Let's go!

## MEMBERSHIP

*Now at 59 members*

**August Birthdays:** Wally Plosky 18<sup>th</sup>, Bill Auquier 24<sup>th</sup>, Jeff Doig 29<sup>th</sup>, Thomas Tailford 29<sup>th</sup>

**September Birthdays:** John Cowlshaw 10<sup>th</sup>, Mel Parrish 13<sup>th</sup>, Neil Braun 13<sup>th</sup>, Chuck Barrett 15<sup>th</sup>, Jan Graham 15<sup>th</sup>

**BBS of Month, July** – Ted Preuter.

**Anniversary:** August 8<sup>th</sup> was Dick and Rexetta Johnson's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## Board Minutes

**August 8:** Treasurer Dick Johnson reported a balance of \$4431. Bruce Brede's research led to the choice of Liberty Grill for the Afterglow. Mystery Trip deferred til bus cost can drop from \$400 to around \$200. Gene Downie will now order 4 sections of risers, having received \$1800 from Al Dittrich Oldsmobile. Quartet contest is ongoing. Search for more permanent rehearsal facility is ongoing. Discussion about the purchase of a four-track recorder. The board is looking for a new chorus manager. Chris Miller is looking for 15 good men to audition to go to fall contest.

## Meet Chuck "Chuckles" Murray

We all recognize our bass, Chuck Murray, by his looming size and booming, yet well-oiled, voice. When I decided to highlight him this month, he eased my work by sending me a one-pager called "Meet Chuck Murray." Chuck was born in the Cumberland area of western Maryland, and raised as an East-coaster used to eating crabs, oysters, and smoked eel. In his Scottish/Czechoslovakian heritage is a great grandfather who died in the assault on Culp's Hill at Gettysburg. Chuck himself has become a Civil War buff. He likes to say that he was a male stripper in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, since he manually "stripped" the last few drops of milk from a dairy herd after the electric milkers had done their job.

His father's work brought the family to Niles, Michigan when Chuck was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Was he in sports in high school, I asked, imagining football? No, he did the mile-run on the track team, even breaking five minutes. (Not bad! I add appreciatively, as another high-school miler). He graduated as a lanky 174-pounder.

Chuck went to college on a Detroit Edison scholarship, and worked as an electrical engineer for many years for a major conveyor manufacturer. When that got too repetitious, he switched to sales, now marketing engineered lube systems from his home office.

Chuck was introduced to music by his mother's brothers and sisters who used to gather around grandma's upright piano and sing. Nevertheless Chuck was in his

40's before he finally joined a church choir, and, seven years ago, the Flint chapter of SPEBSQSA.

Chuck loves to quartet and tries to motivate others to participate. He was in a registered quartet called "**TIME OUT!**" at one time that went to district competition. He has also gone to Bush League several times, and took advantage of quartet coaching opportunities in the Flint region, such as from Fred Kienitz. He had a rare opportunity to "sit in" on a private practice by **Power Play** and came away truly motivated. He says, "Those guys really sing from their hearts!" But they also work very hard. Mike brings a laptop to every practice that has all their music on it. They do their initial warm-ups in their cars on the way to practice. They do a lot of duetting and trio-ing, with the nonsinging member(s) critiquing with written notes. That kind of seriousness!

When Chuck looked at his chorus-oriented Flint chapter, he was disappointed that there were no chapter quartets, nor quartet singing on rehearsal night, despite Chuck's work on a resolution in support of the latter. Two years ago, he had the opportunity to see Pontiac-Waterford and Chris's emphasis on quarteting and made the switch. He has been singing as bass in **Harmony Way**, bringing his experience and ear for harmony to that group.

Chuck's wife of 36 years, Jackie, is a Registered Pediatric Nurse. They have two children, Melissa and Todd. Chuck quarteted Valentines this spring to Jackie and his granddaughters. Some of Chuck's other hobbies are fishing and bow hunting. Jackie is an avid cross-stitcher and gardener.

We are approaching the **1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of 9/11**. This is the poem that was written by Dr. Cheryl Sawyer and used at musical events to commemorate the losses that day.

As the soot and dirt and ash rained down, we became one color.  
As we carried each other down the stairs of the burning building, we became one class.  
As we lit candles of waiting and hope, we became one generation.  
As the firefighters and police officers fought their way into the inferno, we became one gender.  
As we fell to our knees in prayer for strength, we became one faith.  
As we whispered words of encouragement, we spoke one language.  
As we gave our blood in lines a mile long, we became one body.  
As we mourned together the great loss, we became one family.  
As we cried tears of grief and loss, we became one soul.  
As we retell with pride of the sacrifice of heroes, we became on family.  
We are ... The power of one.  
We are ... United.  
We are ... America.

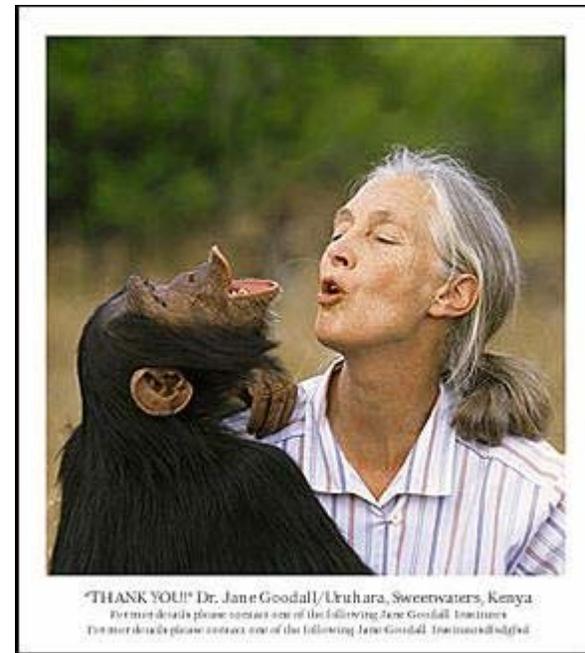
## Chimp Hooting, by John Cowlshaw

In a moment of inspiration, I realized that when chimps do their hoot-hoot-hooting, they are using all the characteristics of good vocal practice. First of all, they are vocalizing "from the belly," they are hooting WITH the body THROUGH the throat, they are projecting their voice against the upper palate, their upper lip is off their teeth, they are forming a square with their lips, and all the lip motion is "between the goal posts" as we say, their eyebrows are lifted, their eyes are wide and bright and entertaining, they're on the balls of their feet. Try it out. Find a chimp as your partner and co-hoot. If no chimp is available, look in the mirror. Start hooting. Get into it. Feel the breath coming out unrestricted through the throat in a rush of warm air. Then (this is the important part) gradually shift from a hoot to a tone, keeping the rush of air coming.

"Hoot"- "hoot"-ha-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-h.

"Hoot"- "hoot"-aee-eeei-eyeiie-oh-oooh

I'm doing it as part of my warmup before every sing.



Jane Goodall and John practicing chimp-hooting.

Tuesday night **afterglows** are currently at Overtime, 3400 Floradale Rd, just one block east of Dixie and Walton.

## **Calendar**

Aug 13	Chorus rehearsal, Church of Nazarene
Aug 16,17	Buckeye Invitational (w. Platinum)
Aug 17	Chapter Picnic
Aug 20	Chorus rehearsal, Church of Nazarene
Aug 27	Chorus rehearsal, Church of Nazarene
Sep 3	Chorus rehearsal, Crary Middle School
Sep 10	Chorus rehearsal, Crary Middle School
Sep 14	Sweet Adelines Show, River Raisin
Sep 14	Deadline, Sept Smoke Signals
Sep 17	Mystery trip (on hold)
Sept 27-29	Bush League
Oct 5	Sweet Adelines Show, Mercy High School
Oct 18-20	District Convention – Battle Creek
Nov 7 (Thu)	Rehearsal at Clarkston H.S.
Nov 9 (Sat)	Fall Show – Return to Oz – Clarkston H.S.
Jan 4-5	COTS, Okemos, MI
January 19-26, 2003	Midwinter Convention, Albuquerque, NM
Feb 22, 2003	Chorus Coaching Clinic, Lansing
April 25-27	District Convention – Lansing

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## **Chapter Executive Board**

### Officers

Chorus Director: Chris Miller  
President: Gene Downie  
VP, Chapter Development: Walt DeNio  
VP, Music and Performance: John Smith  
Secretary: Jeff Doig  
Treasurer: Dick Johnson  
Members at Large: Pete Mazzara and Wally Plosky

### Chairmen

Quartet Activity: Len Barnes  
Service (Charity): Bruce Brede  
Singing Valentine: Bob Marshall  
Chorus Manager: Jeff Spires  
Music Librarian: Bill Holmes  
Uniform Manager: Bill Auquier  
Sunshine (Chaplain): Bill Dabbs  
Bulletin Editor: John Cowlshaw