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MINNEAPOLIS
COMMODORES

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, CHAPTER
**** A CHAPTER WITH AN ENVIABLE PAST - AN UNBOUNDED FUTURE ****

10,000 LAKES DIVISION - LAND O' LAKES DISTRICT

JULY-AUGUST 2015 - VOL.71 - NO. 7

Across the Pond with Paul and Sarah Wigley

Our trip of a lifetime in Wales



The phrase opportunity of a lifetime' can seem a bit overused these days, but when you get a chance to judge the "Choir of the World" contest in Llangollen, Wales, with your adult daughter as your traveling companion it truly IS the opportunity of a lifetime!

The Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod began in 1947, and was organized in a spirit of hope and idealism to repair the terrible conflicts of World War II. A story was told about the first (1947) Master of Ceremonies, a Welshman, who was introducing a children's choir from Germany. He simply said, "And now, our friends from Germany"...and the crowd gave them a rousing standing ovation. Can there be a stronger statement about the healing power of music? That is still the spirit of the International Musical Eisteddfod.

My (and Sarah's) journey to Wales began only two days after Becky and I had returned from the International Barbershop Convention in Pittsburgh, where I had been judging quartets and choruses for four straight days. Sarah and I landed in London, immediately took the train to Chester, and were met by our driver, who then took us to Llangollen, Wales. Llangollen is an amazing village that could be lifted right from any movie set that needed a small European village for a backdrop. It was stunningly beautiful, and we had wonderful weather to make it even more magical.

One feature of the Llangollen festival is a concert featuring a world-class musician every evening. The evening before we arrived, Burt Bacharach was the headliner. The evening we arrived, the headliner was a harpist that recently was the *Royal Harpist*. It also happens that the harpist, **Catrin Finch**, is the daughter-in-law of our Welsh rela-



Having the chance to take this once-in-a-lifetime trip with Dad was extraordinary on so many levels. Being that we are both musicians, clinicians, and educators, we had the opportunity to enjoy music from all over the world together while making friends with amazing people from France, Turkey, the Netherlands, and Malaysia. Both Dad and I have always agreed that music is the true universal language, but being at the Eisteddfod could not have made this statement more true.

Being a Wigley, there is an additional magical element of spending time together in our family's homeland of Wales and enjoying time with relatives who open our eyes to all of the reasons we are proud to be Welsh! I am very grateful to say I will be returning to Llangollen next year to judge the Eisteddfod while Dad is judging International in Nashville.

Sarah

tives! So we had a great time re-connecting with Catrin and our relatives. And, her concert was incredible. (Check out Catrin Finch on YouTube sometime she is amazing.)

The very next day I was off and running on my judging duties. My first competition was to judge the Vocal Ensemble category. This segment featured choirs from Wales, Singapore, and California. The scoring format is interesting, basically a narrow range of scores that are actually used (because you don't want to hurt anyone's feelings!), from about 70-95. The judges write comments

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Wigleys from Page 1

that the competitors will be able to read afterward (so I had to try and write neatly...not an easy task!). Then the judges confer and rank the contestants, eventually rewarding 1st, 2nd, 3rd places. But the contest is not anywhere near as exhausting as judging our International Barbershop contest, so that was great for me!

That evening we met a group of judges from all over the world, and had dinner in a great little Welsh pub. To make it even better, a dance judge from Turkey picked up the tab for Sarah and me! He became a great friend! (I did get a chance to repay the favor.)

The next day I was judging men's choruses (not Barbershop). They were all very strong, and sang glee-club style music. There was no choreography, but their involvement and passion for singing was truly evident, and it was wonderful to be a part of that contest. That evening, the headline performer was a pop star from North America, **Rufus Wainwright**. While we were not totally familiar with his music, I did know he was a very creative composer and performer. Sarah and I were offered complimentary seats in the judges' seating area that we happily accepted for his thoroughly enjoyable concert. He was a fantastic performer, and a very interesting composer in many genres. What was fun was after the concert, we were just getting our things backstage, and what was the first thing I saw was Rufus Wainwright kissing my daughter on the cheek! (It's that European thing, I guess.) We also knew that he was staying at our hotel, so we got to know each other at a little party later that night, and also chatted again the next morning as Rufus and his band were leaving.

A small world story: He was asking me where I was from, and I said Minneapolis, and then he said that he was

working on a collaboration with a choir from Minneapolis. I knew immediately that it was probably VocalEssence, and I asked him if he was working with Phillip Brunelle, and of course, he was. Another small world story is that Lucy Wainwright, his sister, also performed in

which meant that I gave verbal evaluations of every group...*to the entire audience!* Interesting, and a little nerve-wracking!

The final evening was the official *Choir of the World* competition, where all the 1st place winners of each choral category competed again,

for the overall championship. It was fantastic to see choirs from Jamaica, Ireland, Wales, Singapore, and England all singing their hearts out! The ultimate winners were from Ireland, and the auditorium went nuts when they were announced.

I was so blessed to be able to judge a music contest with judges

from England (one of whom had Prince William and Prince Harry as students!), France, Spain, Norway, Wales, Netherlands, Indonesia (Sarah became very good friends with her), and Poland. I was the only judge from the USA. That was quite humbling. What was so amazing was the realization that at breakfast on Thursday morning, we were all meeting each other for the very first time of our lives...and that by Saturday night, we were toasting each other at 2 a.m., realizing that music had made us worldwide friends for life. Hugs, smiles, toasts, exchanges of email addresses, and good wishes were the highlight of our last night at the International Eisteddfod. The spirit of the world coming together through music was as strong as ever.

It was the opportunity of a lifetime, and this couplet by the Welsh poet, T. Gwynn Jones, sums it up: "Blessed is a world that sings, Gentle are its songs." If only the entire world would truly embrace this credo...

We all need to embrace our wonderful opportunity to sing together every Tuesday night and be part of our blessed world that sings.

Paul



Paul and Sarah cruising the Thames. Wigley photo

Llangollen, and she will be performing in Minneapolis this September! She's great, and I'd encourage any Commodores to go and see her. She is also very relaxed, and very funny, as she performs.



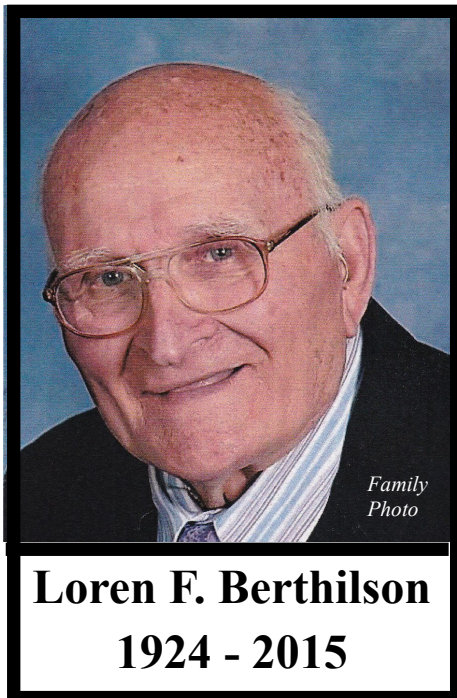
Welch visitors adding more class to Buckingham Palace and environs. Wigley Photo

Our last day in Llangollen was Barbershop-chorus-judging day. The only slight disappointment was that there were no men's Barbershop groups, only women's Barbershop groups. They were all very well-prepared, though, and did a great job of understanding what good Barbershop singing is all about. I was the 'lead judge' for that competition,

Loren has quietly moved on to a well-earned rest...

There is a warm feeling of nostalgia as well as a deep chasm of loss in the *Loren Berthilson Harmony Hall* at Richfield's House of Prayer Lutheran Church these days. The chairs and tables are no longer in place when the members arrive for chapter meetings. The seemingly endless supply of break-time cookies and sweets has abated and the gentle provider, our Sergeant-at-arms/Attendance-taker, who provided them, has left us, after 67 years as a Commodore, to join the Celestial Chorus.

Yes, our beloved **Loren Berthilson**, after seeming to recover miraculously from what too often is a fatal infection and returning home for follow-up rehab, passed away on the late afternoon of August 3. A visiting nurse was taking him for a short walk when she saw he didn't look well. She asked, "Are you all right?" In reply Loren said, "No" and then quietly answered the Lord's call..



Loren F. Berthilson
1924 - 2015

Loren was born on January 22, 1924, and married the love of his life, Jane, on May 26, 1951. They have three surviving daughters but tragically

lost a son, Daniel, in a motorcycle accident years ago.

It can be said that except for illness and occasional vacations Loren never missed a chapter meeting since becoming a Commodore in 1948. He stepped off the risers in the early 70s but continued attending chapter meetings assuming the role of venue-manager and Sergeant-at-arms.

Your Editor had the privilege of introducing Loren as the 1982 Barbershopper of the Year that spring, to the assembled Barbershoppers, wives and friends at Jax Café. Following his selection as the 1982 BOTY Loren became the custodian of the BOTY ribbon box, delivering it faithfully each year to the award venue. However his last illness prevented his attendance at this year's celebration this past June. He and his sweetheart, Jane, were sorely missed.

God keep you, dear friend Loren...

The Passing of a Great Barbershopper

By Bryan Lynch

[From the August issue of *Down Our Way*, bulletin of the *Lake Lanier, Georgia, Chapter*; Jack Martin, Editor/Publisher.]

The Barbershop Harmony Society celebrates the life and legacy of Gene Cokerof, a genial giant of our musical art form and culture. His towering achievements in any of a number of areas would qualify him as "unforgettable" but to have mastered and given so much, to the development and growth of Barbershop harmony, makes him a true legend.

Most Barbershoppers would recognize Gene primarily as the tenor of 1961 International Quartet Champion The Suntones, a landmark, trendsetting quartet whose musical innovations and wide-ranging public appearances brought the style to millions of listeners.

A prolific arranger and composer, Gene is credited with dozens of charts in our library, including definitive versions still sung today, and with his wife Iris, composed the stalwart show favorite "They Wrote 'Em In The Good Old Days." A committed chapter chorus director, Gene helmed the Miamians Chorus



for more than 40 years.

In the past decade, Gene has devoted himself to bringing barbershop to a new generation of singers, as a key player in the outreach movement. He formed, directed and took the Young Miamians to the International Youth Chorus Festival in 2009, a group which proved a hotbed of young talent.

For these, and many other unsung moments of mentorship and joy, Gene Cokerof earned the distinction as the only man to TWICE be inducted into the Barbershop Harmony Society's Hall of Fame: first in 2005, as part of The Suntones, and again in 2009, as an individual of immense merit.

**Minneapolis, Minn. Chapter
Land O'Lakes District, BHS
Meetings every Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.
House of Prayer Lutheran Church
7625 Chicago Avenue South
Richfield, MN 55423**

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- Past Pres..... Dan Williams 952/974-0026
- Exec. VP..... Denny Maas 952/447-8012
- Co-Marketing/PR VPs.... Russ Born 406/670-2098
Pete Jarnberg 651-765-9580
- V P Music /Perform..... Carl Pinard 612-927-9363
- V P Membership..... Harvey Weiss 763/439-4447
- Program V P Dan Cole 612/376-0779
- Secretary..... Bill Warp 763/531-2290
- Treasurer John Carlotto 952-925-0886

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- Andy Richards..... 651/639-9312

Through 2016

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- Blake Wanger..... 414-699-4950
- Nate Weimer..... 316-204-8756

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- Assistant Directors: Gary Jacobson, David Speidel,
and, James Souhan

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- Lead Section Leader. Gary Jacobson
Assistant - Dan Smith

- Bari Section Leaders Dave Speidel
Assistant -

- Bass Section Leaders..... Jim Richards
Assistant -. Dave Casperson

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- Singing Valentines..... Neal Mortenson
- Sunshine Rich Ongna

- Swipe Editor* Bill Warp
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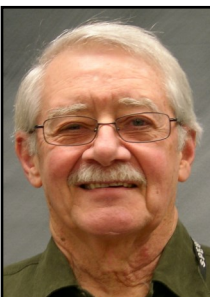
- Uniforms (Dress & Casual)..... Dan Williams



From the Prez ...

By Gordy Aumann, President

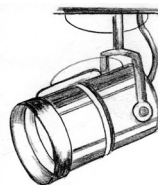
Hey guys, thanks for fighting the evening rush-hour traffic twice last week [July 21 and 22] to put on two fantastic shows! **Como** is always a fun experience, and Maple Grove was a great venue with a very enthusiastic crowd.



Gordy Aumann

I think we looked great, too, with our new blue uniform shirts. Thanks to **Dan Williams** for the shirts and

Commodore Spotlight



Dan Smith is that ...

sound-system-toting, *Finale*-transcribing, copyright-checking, dedicated Commodore who spends countless hours behind the scenes day and night to ensure our members will be properly prepared legally and soundwise for their Barbershopping endeavors.

However, he and **Carol** are in the process of selling their home in Bloomington and moving into their summer home in Wisconsin. Already a dual-member with the Polk County Barbershop Chapter, Dan plans to maintain his ties with the Commodores. Perhaps he will find a replacement bass and make an effort to revitalize the *Four Seasons Quartet*.

Dan and Carol leave with our love and our appreciation for all they have done for the Commodores in the past. I think we can be certain of seeing them frequently. They will not become strangers.

Paul Swanson for the fantastic new logo. I made it a point to talk to people after both shows to tell them about our upcoming shows using the classy new advertising-card designed and produced by the almost single-handed efforts of **Mark Ortenburger**. Thank you, Mark. Then it was back to COMO on August 2 with the ladies of the Twin Cities Show Chorus and looking forward to our Aug. 18 show at the Minnetonka Amphitheater. Too soon it will be October and the LOL District contests in Oshkosh.

Thanks again for all your hard work!

IT'S GREAT TO BE A COMMODORE!

Happy Birthday

- 08/10 Pete Jarnberg (65)
- 08/13 Rob Hartert (50)
- 08/15 Kirk Douglas (60)
- 08/17 Denny Rolloff (80)
- 08/18 Mike Hojan
- 08/20 Chuck Guthrie
- 08/21 Kathy Williams
- 08/23 Lynnay Wanggaard
- 08/24 Dave Speidel
- 08/26 John Lloyd (80)
- 08/28 Allison Richards
- 08/29 Dave Wall
- 09/02 Jane Rolloff
- 09/03 Fred Von Fischer
- 09/05 Catherine Wall
- 09/07 BreAnn Rumsch
- 09/08 Dick Hartmann

Happy Anniversary

- 08/10 Guy & Terry Jean St. Martin (30)
- 08/11 Bob & Pat Griffith
- 08/12 Lance & Janet Johnson
- 08/14 Bob & Brenda Duncan
- 08/14 Rod & Doris Hall
- 08/16 Dave & Linda Speidel (35)
- 08/20 Doug & Connie Miller
- 08/20 Dan & Karen True
- 08/22 Glenn & Shirley Retter
- 08/24 Bob & Nancy Dillon
- 08/26 Gary & Marilyn Jacobson (55)
- 09/05 LeRoy & DiAnn Zimmerman
- 09/07 Andy & Nancy Cook
- 09/09 Richard & Marge Riemenschneider

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

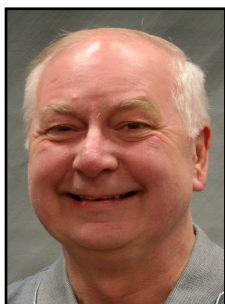


Chapter members are always welcome to attend the Board meetings.

From the meeting of July 16

By Bill Warp, Secretary

- The chapter 2014 tax return will be completed and filed prior to the August 15 deadline.



Bill Warp

- Member guest, **Al Matchinsky**, made his presentation to the Board on *The Inner Game and Barber-shop*. Al will be conducting a 12-week program for the chapter members.

- Marketing co-chairman, **Russ Born**, is collaborating with **Bob Dykstra** on a *Historical Perspective of the Commodores* for the website and also a future article on the *Chordettes*.

- Altruistic Purpose Chairman, **Denny Maas**, announced that the Commodores will be singing for the *YouthLink* staff and supporters in October or November. A date will be set for a check presentation.

- Membership VP, **Harvey Weiss**, has aligned the Commodores with *Give MN*, a vehicle for non-profit organizations to solicit financial support by registering for *Give to the Max Day 15*. The Commodores will be on a long list of like organizations that our friends and supporters can peruse, and if they choose, provide funds for us through GiveMN on November 12. Those on our mailing list will be notified in suitable time before November 12.

- **Nate Weimer** has assumed responsibility for the chapter's grant writing.

- Next meeting August 20 at Wooddale Lutheran.

SUNSHINE HOTLINE



By Rich Ongna, Sunshine Chairman

Phone: 952-829-7009

Email: ddongna@usfamily.net

Gerry Larson, a member of the **Random Sample** quartet (with



Rich Ongna

Commodores, Harlan Mellem and Darrell Egertson), had knee surgery on July 21. He is currently in rehab at the Masonic Home where it is said

he and his visiting friends have been doing some vocalizing.

Sharon Beaver, Jack's wife, had a knee replacement on June 24. Jack told me it went well and she's doing nicely. **Jack** himself had three stents inserted via an angioplasty procedure. He's back on the risers with us again.

Kaleb Smith spent the end of June dealing with a kidney stone. Ultimately doctors were able to break it up with ultrasound and give him relief. After some recuperation he is back on the risers.

Jim Richards is doing well after the low blood-platelet scare he had in June. True to form he continues to set an example for all of us of how to perform. A week at Harmony University with son, **Andy**, and grandson, **Matt**, was just what the doctors ordered

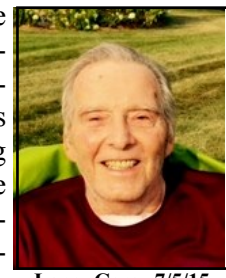
Pat Griffith, Bob's wife, had surgery the end of June to repair the broken wrist that she suffered from a recent fall. **Jane Rolloff, Denny's** wife, fell in June and suffered a concussion. She is at home recovering.

Romana Jorgensen, Jim's wife, is now in hospice care at St. Therese Nursing Home of New Hope. Jim informed us that her health has been

on a downward run for some time with a number of ailments and the medical staff recommended the change in order to make Romana's life as comfortable and pain free as possible. If her health improves she'll be taken out of hospice.

Former member, **Lloyd Collings**, (an annual-show thespian) had a heart-valve replacement on June 23.

Larry Gere, a former Commodore and a long-time TFLBTMOT (Barbershop lunch-bunch member) is slowly recovering from a severe case of pneumonia-induced Guillain-Barre syndrome



Larry Gere 7/5/15

manifest by near-complete paralysis requiring many weeks of highly-intensive care. He is well on the road to recovery but it will be a while before he gets home. (See Family photo above)

Remember: Please keep me informed about who is ailing and don't assume that I already know because generally I'm in the dark. Help me brighten the days of our ailing members. A short note of encouragement or a brief phone call can make the day of a person who's not feeling well.



July Reenlistments

- Matt Richards.....2 yrs.
- Andy Cook.....3 yrs.
- Don Bartals.....5 yrs.



Georgia Grind

By Jim Erickson, Baritornado Baritone



Jim Erickson

Having been so close to the Gulf waters and the Atlantic Ocean last spring, I am ever so glad to be back in the middle of the country. I can swim and paddle in the safe waters of Minnesota and Wisconsin without fear of losing an arm, or leg, or..... whatever to a huge, hungry, pointy-finned shark. Even though I once practiced law, I have no idea what goes on in an ocean shark's mind.

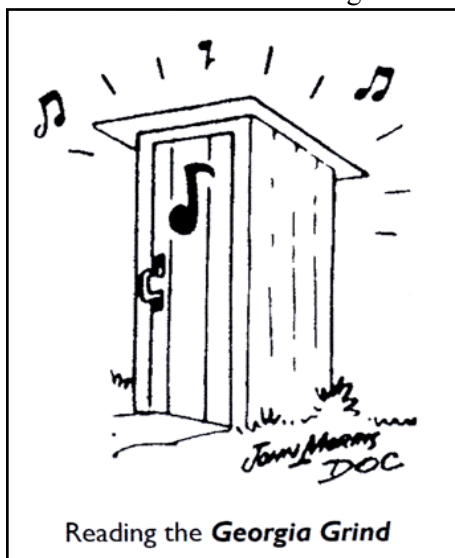
I mean, does he look at a swimmer and say, "Man, I haven't had *manshi* (that's a weak play on the word, sushi) for a long time. And hey, it comes in an appetizing wrapper. Sometimes I even see one on a colorful platter." (For those as slow on the uptake as I am, I'm referring to a surfboard.) Or do lady sharks see that image splashing and zipping through the water and dream of going on the shark's version of the **Bachelor**? "I'm gonna beat out all the other catty fem sharks and get me a hunk of that man all to myself!"

Anyway, I feel safe from sharks here. That is, I did until I saw the factual movies with *Sharknado* in the title. Now here was a real-life, down to earth, truth-based reality show about tornados that sweep up sharks from the ocean and drop them on unsuspecting, and suspecting but stupid, ordinary people. The sharks seem to have a veritable love feast of human flesh, a buffet of fresh, innocent, tasty morsels. But then, some of the braver appetizers find weapons and strategies to fight back.

OK, I have a confession to make. Not easy for a baritone as we so seldom need to do so. I have only seen trailers of *Sharknado* and sequels. Not the full thing. And, of course, have never seen the happy ending of

the sharks being defeated. And made into shark stew? If made into stew, would the shark that ate Aunt Milly be served up to the family? And would that then be cannibalism, notwithstanding the fishy intermediary? One step removed? You know this article started out discussing a fairly simple movie, but I now find question after question; morality issues heaped upon morality issues. Aaaagh! I'm caught in the *Jaws* of the turgid waters of moral turpitude [a legal oxymoron?]. (You somehow knew I would work the title of the now-famous movie into this scribbling, didn't you?)

Whatever shark stew tastes like, even with a hint of kind Aunt Milly, I do feel safer living away from the threat of an overwhelming monster fish. And what in the dangd uni-



Reading the *Georgia Grind*

verse, dear Mr. Erickson, does this have to do with Barbershop?

Good question. (Note the professionalism here. Like political candidates who haven't a clue what to spontaneously answer, they buy time by saying, "Good question." Impressed?) When you are asked to sing in a quartet or octet, or perform where you are pretty much on your own, or at least alone on your part, what is the shark attack you dread. Sometimes you know from whence the attack will come.

Other times it will suddenly smack you in the face. Or sneak up out of the murky depths smelling like day-old herring and snap you out of your

wits. Like when you blank on the starting words or notes or you realize you are singing the same notes as the lead and you aren't the lead. Or it seems someone is standing on your three inch air supply hose and you can't get anywhere near enough air to carry all those notes.

Got cotton mouth? That old cotton-mouth bugaboo strikes me from time to time. But sometimes when I least expect it. I may be completely relaxed, at least in my mind, and at the most, eager to sing. But then my tongue clacks against the roof of my "instrument" and I may as well have just had a handful of saltines lathered with peanut butter. What the? Gummy Bears are my only rescue when I remember to have them handy. Water? No. Sports water? No. Cold beer? Enough helps, but then I forget the starting words or notes and am back to Shark Attack #1.

Now you may have other threats. Singing flat, sharp, nasally, no "edge", too soft, and on and on. But what to do? Remedies for any of these additional stumbling blocks are beyond the scope of this article and most are probably beyond the scope of this writer. As just about everything is. But there are resources all around if you just start paying attention. And narrowing down to just a couple of significant things to start with is one strategy.

I believe it was our esteemed director, **Paul Wigley**, who once said that singing Barbershop well is one of the most difficult musical endeavors. Probably reflecting what many in our **Harmony Society** have professed over the years, but that just means that all of us can focus on some things to improve whatever our gifts are. And it means that we are in an exciting hobby that offers a lifetime of musical challenges and gratifications.

So, intelligent reader, wherever your shark attack comes from, just whack that toothy old shark in the snout with both fists, and to be specific, swim in the calm Pacific.

Lest you think that with summertime Go to *Grind*, Page 7, Column 1

Letters

Hi Jim [Richards],

Really wishing I was there to sing with you guys. I am missing it very much. Haven't gotten plugged in with a chorus here. Can't sing very well right now, the chemo seems to have affected my voice and I don't have the energy to stand for three hours any more.

I did visit the nearby chorus, all 12 of them. Would have given them a try, but then this cancer hit and everything became "OBE" (that's fighter-pilot speak for *Overcome by Events*).

Tell the guys that I said, "Hi"!

Paul [Martz]

Hi Hardin,

I'm writing this while sitting on my bed in the dorm room at Belmont University where Harmony University week is well underway. James, Andy, Matthew and I are sharing a 4-person dorm unit. It has been fabulous for me to be amongst my BBS

Grind from Page 6

laziness, I have set aside my research for the origins of the Georgia Grind, move aside ye scurvy dog. Sorry, but I came across that "scurvy dog" reference when I happened to do some other research on Blackbeard the Pirate. And I have been waiting too long to use it somewhere, anywhere. I have been dogged, though, in forging ahead and promise to make a renewed effort to reveal all in the next article.

Until then, don't feed the sharks, remember kind Aunt Milly, and MAKE THAT BARBERSHOP BUCKET LIST. Keep on recruiting, too, and hold fast to that which is good! Have a whale of the rest of the summer, shark-eating Killer Whale, that is.

Editor's Note: Anyone (such as this piece's essayist) who puts the capital "B" in Barbershop is a champion in my book. Kudos to my loyal contributor, James Erickson Esq.

friends and to share this experience with family and friends.

The loss of **Gene Cokeroff** has been awesome. Gentleman Gene was not only one of the 10 best ever tenor singers but was very active in promoting Barbershop singing amongst young people particularly in his state of Florida.

His funeral this past Monday was visited via Skype where the student body sang one of Gene's tags to Iris Cokeroff. That he will be missed is a monumental understatement.

Yesterday I happened to run into **Jeremy Reynolds** who sang with the Commodores up until the work that brought him to the Twin Cities was completed and he returned to his Villages Florida home. His quartet is getting big time coaching here. He and his quartet were on his way to

the local pub across the street from the Sahara-dry Belmont campus and I was invited to join them. That beer sure tasted good!

Andy and Matthew are actively involved in the Brigade singing where they have found that many of the "wannabes" have not prepared for the experience nearly as well as they each had. It helps to know your music.

It's time for breakfast and then off to classes in Woodshedding, Arranging II, and Song Writing. Ahh, so many choices!

Cheers to all!

Jim [Richards]

Editor's Note: Jeremy and I attended the same Arlington, Virginia, high school back in the 50s. His sister was in my class.

Sing we NOW of Christmas

140+
A Cappella Voices
Soaring in Harmony
Featuring
Twin Cities Show Chorus
and
Minneapolis Commodores

Vibrant
Girls Quartet
& **QUAD**
Lakeville North H.S.

Dynamic and Lively
BRASS ENSEMBLE

High Energy
UofM Mens
A Cappella Ensemble
BASSES WILD

Sunday · December 6th, 2015 · 3 pm
Kennedy High School, Bloomington, MN
Tickets · \$15 · Seniors/Students/Groups - \$12 · Kids under 5 - Free

Minneapolis Commodores Diana Pinard
pinardbbs@q.com
612.927.9363
minneapoliscommodores.org

Twin Cities Show Chorus Judy Clement-Lee
judy.leroy.lee@gmail.com
715.426.7975
tcshowchorus.org

Chord Candy #135

by Dr. Jim Richards, Der Tagmeister



Jim Richards

All the Barbershop world is mourning the recent loss of Gene Cokeroff, tenor of the Hall of Fame 1961 International Quartet Champion *Suntones*. Gene was an incredible talent who freely and humbly shared his musical gifts with everyone. The Suntones repertoire, considered a bit modern by some, was simply continuing the tradition of our founders who sang the popular songs of the day in the Barbershop style. Gene was a pioneer in the effort to share Barbershop with the youth of his home *Sunshine District* and influenced many who are now sharing what they have learned with their own generations. I was honored to have had Gene in my *Physics of Sound* class at Harmony College and treasure the experience of exploring some of the properties of his incredible tenor voice. At the most recent Harmony University at Belmont University in Nashville, the entire student body and faculty learned one of Gene's tags and sang it to his widow, Iris, via Skype during the day of his funeral. This tag is a bit more challenging than the tags usually printed in this column. However, if you would like to learn this one go to www.barbershoptags.com. There you can search for *Where Is Love* in the key of A, and by listening to the individual voice tracks, you can experience some of Gene's genius first hand. Enjoy!

Gene Cokeroff

Where, _____ Where, _____ is love? oh where, is love?
 where,



Riemenschneider wins the putting contest prize for the 3rd consecutive year. Ho, hum!



Sheila Cole, Becky Wigley, and Marilyn Jacobson are the 2015 B H Open Ladies' Champions.



Marilyn presents one of her two raffle-prize paintings to lucky winner, Dave Anderson.



The Commodores at Como Park on Tuesday, July 21, one of seven choruses participating the St. Paul Chapters annual area Barbershop concert. *Harvey Weiss Photo*



Commodores in concert at Maple Grove's Town Green Amphitheater on July 22. *Diana Pinard Photo*



The Commodores, as guests of the Twin Cities Show Chorus, at Como on August 2. *Diana Pinard Photo*



It was an extra-special treat at the August 11 Chapter meeting to see and hear our intrepid bass, **Bill Ward**, reunited with his 2015 *Northern Pines Harmony Brigade* quartet, from left to right; **Matt Richards**, **Bill**, **Ken Wentworth**, and **Mark Bloomquist**.

Bill's firm vice-like grip more than matches the iron will of his indomitable determination to overcome the relentless villain that has invaded his body. The odds may be against him but don't sell him short. When the going gets tough, the tough get going ... *and bill is nothing but tough!*

Staff Photo

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All copy and photos herein without a byline as well as those opinions and commentaries under his byline are the sole responsibility of the *Chord-Inator* editor and do not necessarily reflect the views of those of the Minneapolis Chapter Board or its officers.

Chapter Quartets

- EASY LISTENIN'
 Dan Slattery..... 651/747-6384
 FOUR SEASONS
 Rollie Neve.....952/470-2129
 HOT COMMODITY
 Dave Speidel.....612-437-4325
 RING IT ON
 Andy Richards.....651/639-9312
 NOTESWORTHY
 Harvey Weiss.....763/439-4447
 SWYPE
 Mark Bloomquist.....952/541-0232
 SOUNDS of RENOWN (VLQ)
 Mark Ortenburger.....952/942-8382



CHORD-INATOR
1st Place
 2013 PROBE HARD-COPY
 INTERNATIONAL
 BULLETIN CONTEST



The *Chord-Inator* is available on the Minneapolis Chapter's website minneapoliscommodore.org beginning with the January 2006 issue.



Neither shared with the Girl Scouts nor dumped by the Sweet Adelines.

Logo courtesy of Bob Clark

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To:

LOOKING AHEAD

Chapter Level

- August 18, Tuesday, **Minnetonka performance, Civic Center Park, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.**
- August 20, Thursday, **Board Meeting, Wooddale Lutheran, 7:00 p.m.**
- August 30, Sunday, **Early a.m. service singout at St. Andrew Lutheran, Eden Prairie**
- August 30, Sunday, **Twins game singout**
- November 12, **Give to the Max Day - givemn.org**
- December 6, Saturday, **Sing We Now at Christmas with Twin City Show Chorus, Bloomington Jefferson High School**

District Level

- October 23-24, **Fall Convention, Oshkosh, Wisconsin**

International Level

- July 3-10, 2016, **International Convention, Nashville, Tennessee**

**1st CLASS
 POSTAGE
 HERE**

2015 Barbershopper Of The Year
Rich Ongna

**Commodores and others *
 contributing to this issue.**

- Gordy Aumann
- Jim Erickson
- Bryan Lynch*
- Hardin Olson
- Rich Ongna
- Jim Richards
- Bill Warp
- Paul Wigley
- Sarah Wigley*

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 Minneapolis Chapter of SPEBSQSA
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 House of Prayer Lutheran Church
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 Richfield, MN 55423
GUESTS ALWAYS WELCOME**