**William (Bill) David Chappelle (1938-1998)**

William David Chappelle III was born December 16, 1938 in Columbia, South Carolina, the only child of Leona May Webber Chappelle and Henry Talmage Chappelle. He grew up in Columbia and in Washington DC. Bill attended Brown University, graduated from Antioch College in 1980 with a bachelor of arts degree in music, and studied music education at Wright State University. He was a member of Phi Kappa Phi.

William had a beautiful bass-baritone voice which enriched the musical community in Yellow Springs and elsewhere. Whether it be Gilbert and Sullivan, Johann Sebastian Bach, Shubert leider, *Porgy and Bess,* or *His Eye is on the Sparrow,* Bill could bring down the house. From 1955 to 1993 he sang professionally with eight different church choirs in Washington, DC and in Ohio, including the Grace United Methodist Church in Dayton. His musical credits include solo performances with the Dayton Opera, the Dayton Philharmonic Chorus, Yellow Springs Community Chorus, Yellow Springs Center Stage, Dayton Chorale and Opera Funatics.

He served in the U.S. Army for four years and played clarinet in the army band. He moved to Yellow Springs in 1967, with his first wife, Yvonne Seon, and was a Co-op Department faculty member at Antioch College, where he subsequently taught voice as an adjunct professor of singing. He later worked at the Greene County Public Library, free-lanced with Alice McKinney Graphics, taught voice privately in Yellow Springs and taught singing with the Dayton Public Schools’ Music Magnet Program.

Bill was a well-known social justice activist and civil rights organizer. He served on the Yellow Springs Human Relations Commission, which at that time (1970’s) was addressing profiling in business, schools and law enforcement; he was one of the founders, shapers and a board member of the African American Cross-Cultural Works (AACW), where Bill created the Youth Showcases and helped organize the “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner” events and the Blues Fest. He was a founding member, with his close friend Dr. Jim Dunn, of the grassroots organization H.U.M.A.N (Help Us Make a Nation), which addressed institutional racism and discrimination. With H.U.M.A.N William helped organize coffee houses, national leadership conferences to build the next generation of activists and Chappelle and Dunn co-taught the popular Addressing Institutional Racism at Antioch College.

Above all, Bill loved his family: wife and partner Joan Evans Chappelle, sons William (Sedar) and Dave Chappelle, daughter Felicia Chappelle Jones, and stepchildren Brian and Jennifer Evans.

Bill died of kidney failure August 1998 at his home on Herman Street in Yellow Springs surrounded by his family and friends.

*Joan Chappelle*