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### A Winter's Tale

Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

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Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus  
*presents*

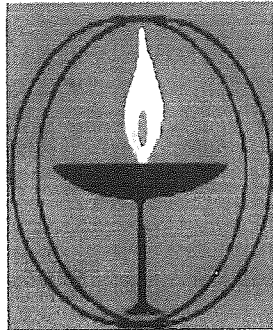
# A Winter's Tale



**Friday, January 20, 2006 at 8 pm**  
Unitarian Universalist Church  
695 Elmwood Avenue at West Ferry Street

**Saturday, January 21, 2006 at 8 pm**  
Temple Beth Zion  
805 Delaware Avenue





UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BUFFALO  
695 Elmwood Avenue  
Buffalo NY 14222  
Rev. Joel Miller, Minister  
Barbara Wagner, Music Minister

**OUR HEARTY WELCOME  
TO THE BUFFALO GAY MEN'S CHORUS**

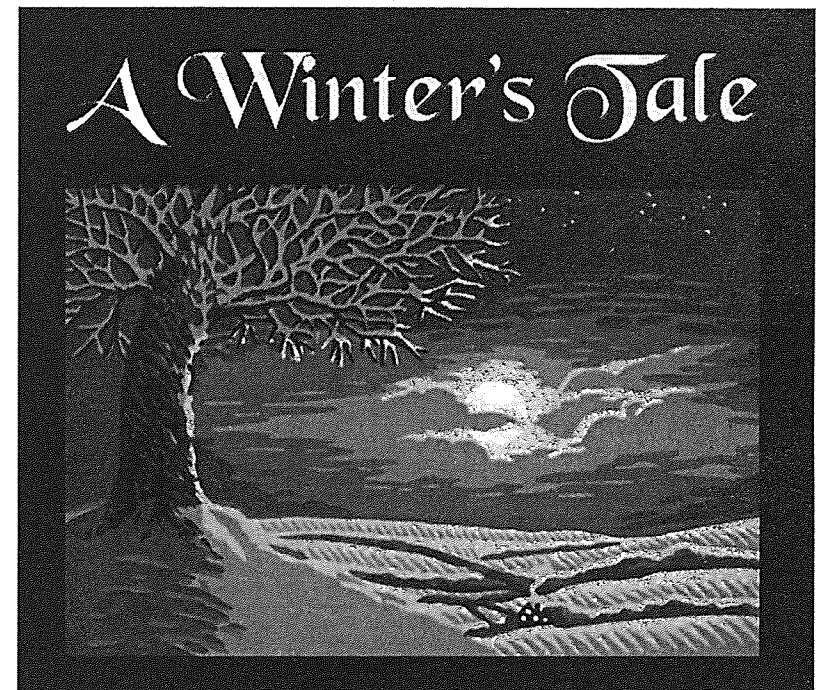
*AND TO ALL OF OUR  
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BROTHERS AND SISTERS*

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**is a**  
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**WORKING FOR EQUALITY SINCE 1831**

**BGM C**  
Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

Barbara Wagner, Artistic Director  
Debi Overton, Accompanist  
*presents*



8 o'clock

Friday, January 20, 2006  
Unitarian Universalist Church  
Buffalo

Saturday, January 21, 2006  
Temple Beth Zion  
Buffalo

### *A Message from the President*

Welcome to our fifth concert season. Tonight's telling of *A Winter's Tale* began more than 8 months ago during the warm Spring days of May and June. It seemed difficult back then, to imagine cold winter nights, roaring fireplaces, red cheeked children and adults enjoying, or in some cases, not, the snow and cold. But as with all of our efforts to bring you music to enjoy, the tale began to unfold as our Artistic Director, Barb Wagner and members of the Chorus Music Committee each gave their ideas of what music should be sung. Putting together a concert isn't always easy sledding, but just as Western New Yorkers work together when the snow hits, so does the Chorus put aside individual wants and needs and works together to bring you music that you enjoy. So sit back, enjoy the songs and if in the telling our winter tale, you recall some long forgotten memory of a winter past, then the warm Tuesday evenings spent shaking sleigh bells, trying to imagine cold winter days when the sun was still out at 8 PM, will have been worth the effort. As always, thank you for being here tonight, and may the telling of your own winter tales be as much fun as it is for us to tell you ours.

Dave Gannon  
*President, Board of Directors*

### *Special Thanks!*

**Friday Hosts:** The Reverend Joel Miller, Sara Kirkland - Sexton, Suzie McGowan and Adrienne Lynch — office staff at Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo.

**Saturday Hosts:** The Executive Board, Membership, and Clergy of Temple Beth Zion for hosting our winter concert, and for their continued support

Program Cover Artwork ..... **Laura Wilder**  
Program Design & Layout: ..... **Dave Gannon**  
Program Editor ..... **Tim Mahiques**  
House Manager ..... **Edward Giannino**  
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**BGMC**  
on  
Friday, June 23, 2006  
and

\*Saturday June 24, 2006  
show starts at 8:00  
doors open at 7:00

**BGMC**  
Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

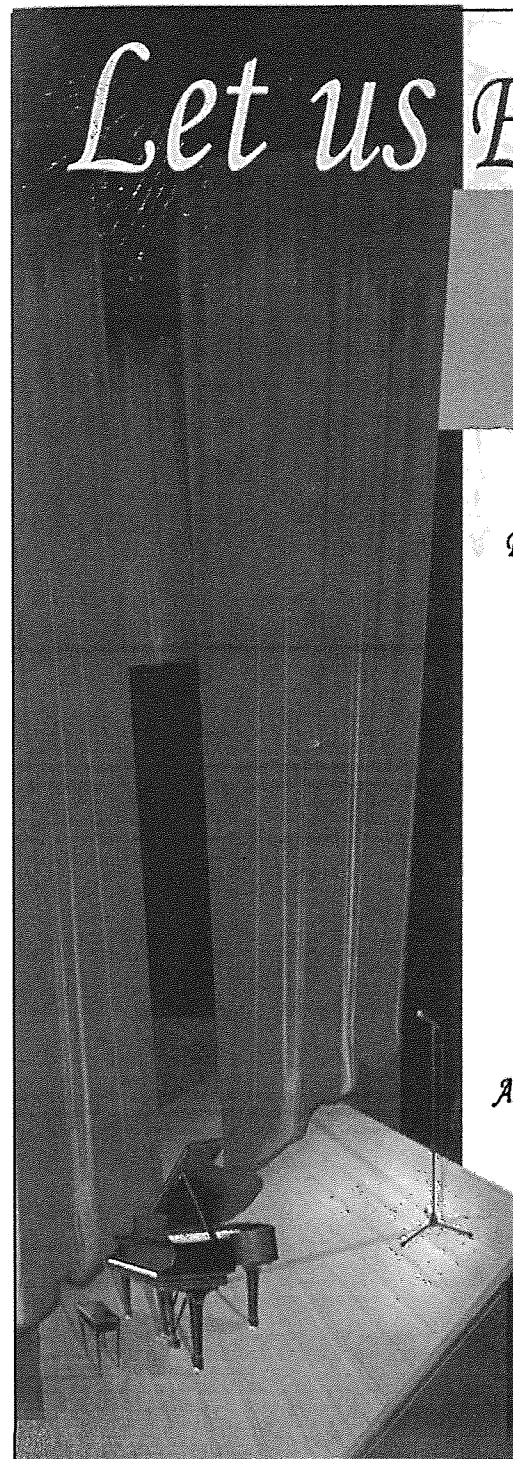
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Accompanist: *Debi Overton*

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\*The General Synod of the United Church of Christ endorsed gay marriage in civil law and religious sacrament on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

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885-9443

## *A Winter's Tale*

- In the Bleak Midwinter** Music by Gustav Holst, poem by Christina Rossetti
- Velvet Shoes** Music by Randall Thompson, poem by Elinor Wylie
- Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening** Music by Randall Thompson, poem by Robert Frost
- The Snow** Music by Edward Elgar, poem by Alice Elgar  
Amy Glidden and Jacqueline Galluzzo, Violins, with The Chorus
- Still, Still** Austrian carol  
Josh Blasdell, Tenor, with The Chorus
- A Glimpse from *The Adamic Songs*** Music by Roland E. Martin, poem by Walt Whitman  
Peter Smith, Clarinet, Glenn Einschlag, Bassoon, with The Chorus  
Ensemble – Rob Black, Shaun Doyle, Jim Estep, Dan Folwell, Andy Giarrizzo, Jaime Goldfuss, Lorne Gretsinger, Bill Hardy, Tim Mahiques, Nick Mawer, Matt Mooney, Roger Parris, Jim Rigo, Jason Ward
- Sim Shalom (Grant Us Peace)** Music by Max Janowski, traditional Hebrew text, revoiced for BGMC by Cantor David Goldstein  
Jennifer Mernitz, Soprano, with The Chorus (Friday)  
Cantor Goldstein with The Chorus (Saturday)
- Prelude in D Major, Op. 23, No. 4** Sergei Rachmaninoff  
Debi Overton, Piano
- Eine kleine Freimaurer** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
(A Little Masonic Cantata) KV623

### **Chorus**

Let the instruments sound loudly, announce our joy, may every brother's heart feel its echo within these walls. We consecrate this place through the golden chain of brotherhood and the true union of hearts.

### **Recitative**

Come brothers! Give yourselves over to the bliss of your feelings. May you never forget that you are Masons. May today's ceremony be a memorial to the firmly sealed union. Let envy, greed and slander be eternally banned from our Masonic hearts.

### **Duet**

Long may these walls serve as witness to our labors, and, so that they last forever, may concord consecrate them today.

### **Chorus**

Let the instruments sound loudly, announce our joy, may every brother's heart feel its echo within these walls. We consecrate this place through the golden chain of brotherhood and the true union of hearts.

Rob Black, Tenor, Kevin Thompson, Tenor, Aaron LeBeau, Baritone, Cedric Taporco, Tenor  
David Mathewson, Bass, and The Chorus  
With the Clara String Quartet  
Ms Glidden, Ms Galluzzo, Violins, Kate Holzemer, Viola, Amalie Fradette, Cello

## *Intermission*

- Sleigh Ride** Music by Leroy Anderson, words by Mitchell Parish  
arranged by Hawley Ades  
Christopher Hart, Percussion, Rae Frenette, Bass, with The Chorus
- Baby, It's Cold Outside from *Neptune's Daughter*** Music and words by Frank Loesser  
arranged by Kirby Shaw  
Mr Hart, Percussion, Ms Frenette, Bass, with The Chorus
- Too Darn Hot from *Kiss Me, Kate*** Music and words by Cole Porter  
arranged by Mac Huff  
Mr Hart, Percussion, Ms Frenette, Bass, with The Chorus
- Winter Song** Celtic Folk Song arranged by Jeffrey Jones-Ragona  
Peter Smith, Harp, with The Chorus
- If and When from *Naked in the Leaves*** Music by Robert Seeley, Poem by Philip Littell
- Fandango** Michael McLean  
The Clara String Quartet
- Hymn to the Night** Music and words by Brent Pierce
- The Angels Sing** Music and words by Eric Lane Barnes  
TTBB version commissioned by BGMC  
Rob Black and Aidan Ngin, Tenors, with The Chorus
- I'll Cover You from *Rent*** Music and words by Jonathan Larson  
Shaun Doyle and Matthew Mooney, Tenors
- Without You from *Rent*** Music and words by Jonathan Larson  
Paul LaDuca, Bass, Paul Newell, Baritone, Christopher Babbitt, Baritone,  
and Kevin Masse, Baritone  
Mr Hart, Percussion, Ms Frenette, Bass, with The Chorus
- Seasons of Love from *Rent*** Music and words by Jonathan Larson  
Mr Hart, Percussion, Ms Frenette, Bass, with The Chorus

*Please join us for a Reception  
immediately following the Performance*

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## *A Winter's Night*

by John Marohn

"In the bleak mid winter," the poet tells us, "frosty wind made moan." For those who have grown up in Buffalo and Western New York, window scrapers, snow plows, anti-freeze, insulated doors, down jackets, ear muffs, and gloves have become a way of life. We may pride ourselves on having "three and a half seasons," but it is the "Buffalo winter" that has given the city its notoriety. Ice storms, blizzards, twenty five mile-an-hour winds, lake effects, school closings, the morning traffic reports have all become part of the litany of language that seems to define us more readily than the somber orange and red colors of fall or the glistening green-filled summer days in Delaware Park.

All of us here tonight undoubtedly "may have miles to go before" we "sleep" in our daily routines of graduate school, two minimum wage part-time jobs, taking care of an invalid mother, fretting about a new baby-sitter we've hired, mending fences with a former lover, or worrying about how we're going to pay next month's rent. But tonight, we ask you to join with us in taking time out from the cares of our "bleak mid-winter" crises to enjoy the serenity of song, a quiet interlude between what we've left to come here and the still remaining fears of what we have to face when we walk outside these doors. It is inside this room tonight that the cold of what's outside and all the "troubles" we've "seen" can come to a gentle stop, a brief hiatus in our lives as we let the music and songs wash over us for one brief shining moment when those troubles can be quieted, can be put on hold.

And what better excuse can we find to warm up to the world, to caress the ones we love, to "hold" them in our arms to avoid the "cold wind" that "blows." In our isolated winter selves and those sometimes interior lives we are often forced to live because it's too "darn" cold to go outside, maybe, just maybe we can stop worrying about the "birds" that flew south, the "fruit" that "dropped," the "leaf" that fell from the tree, or the "brown earth" we can't see for four months. Perhaps we can just catch a "glimpse" of "ourselves" as the two lovers in the Whitman poem, "amid the noises of coming and going," just being "happy in being together, speaking little, perhaps not a word."

## The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

### Tenor I

+ Robert Black  
 + Josh D. Blasdell  
 Peter A. Bruschi  
 Robert C. Donner  
 + Shaun Doyle Jr. \*  
 Norm Duttweiler  
 + Martin English  
 Tom Gleed  
 Ronald Houk  
 Mike Liska  
 + Matthew Mooney  
 + Aidan Ngin  
 John Rex  
 + Brian Schuster  
 Hanford Searl Jr.  
 Michael A. Sulzbach  
 + Kevin L. Thompson  
 Brad Williams

### Bass II

Glenn Einschlag  
 + Jim Estep  
 Ronald J. Galena  
 + Jaime Stephan Goldfuss \*\*  
 + Lorne E. Gretsinger  
 Kenneth R. Hurlbut Jr.  
 Jim Jagow  
 Rob Keefe  
 Randall D. Kozlowski  
 + Paul LaDuca  
 Russell C. Link  
 Timothy H. Mahiques  
 + David K. Mathewson  
 Ryan J. McKane  
 L. Martin Palcic \*  
 Todd B. Ruth  
 Andy Steck  
 Derek K. Teneycke  
 Dr. Lawrence Van Heusen

\* Section Leader

### Tenor II

Donald Behr  
 Edward F. Ciszek Jr.  
 Dave Gannon  
 + William C. Hardy  
 Gerry Klein  
 Delwyn Milander  
 Michael Mroccka  
 Nelson Neels  
 Roger Parris  
 Mark J. Peszko  
 Mike Styn  
 + Cedric 'Flip' Taporco \*  
 Jason A. Ward

### Bass I

+ Christopher S. Babbitt  
 Dave Batt  
 Dan Folwell  
 William H. Gardner  
 Andrew Giarrizzo  
 Michael P. Gillis  
 Vincent Kuntz  
 + Aaron Le Beau  
 + Kevin Peter Masse  
 + Nicholas Mawer  
 Ramon 'Ray' Melendez  
 Raymond Neil  
 Andy Newbert \*  
 + Paul R. Newell  
 Benjamin Phillips  
 Joe Puma  
 + Jim Rigo  
 Robert Rose  
 Michael Shanahan  
 Sherwood 'Woody' Sipprell  
 Peter C. Smith  
 Dennis C. Stuart  
 Bobby Suwala  
 Steven Young

\*\* Chorus Marshall

+ We are most grateful to all of the men who auditioned for solo and ensemble work. The music that you will hear some of those men singing so well tonight represents many hours of careful preparation. We thank them for being willing to give of their time so generously.

## The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

### Board of Directors

Dave Gannon, President  
 Dennis C. Stuart, Vice President  
 Timothy H. Mahiques, Secretary  
 R. Mark Meyer, Treasurer  
 Christopher S. Babbitt  
 William H. Gardner  
 Edward N. Giannino  
 Michael P. Gillis  
 Steven Young

### Non-Singing Members:

Edward N. Giannino  
 David Hetherly  
 Mike Longo  
 R. Mark Meyer  
 Clifford Whitman

### Artistic Director

Barbara Wagner

### Accompanist

Debi Overton

### News and Information Director

Kathleen Bryce-Niles

### Archivist:

Chuck Alaimo



### Our Mission

The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus is dedicated to producing vocal music of high quality in the rich tradition of men's choral singing. We seek through song not only to entertain, but to enlighten. We sing to create harmony as we celebrate pride in the community and in ourselves.



While we could easily use several full-time staff, as a non-profit organization we thrive on the volunteers who assist us whenever they are able to do so. We always need volunteers to help out in many different support roles that enable the singers to do what they do best — sing! If you are interested in a volunteer position with the BGMC, please contact our office at 716-883-1277. "If you are willing to work for nothing, we definitely have something for you!"



## 'Our Voices Win Freedom...'

...is the motto of **GALA Choruses.**

The Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses, Inc., is the world's only association committed to serving the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered choral movement. The BGMC is a proud member of this now over 100 member association encompassing 10,000 plus singers. Formed in 1982, GALA provides support, and helps foster the artistic and organizational development of member choruses through a wide variety of programs and services. GALA produces choral festivals, educational conferences and publications and facilitates networking among members. It serves as a resource center for choruses and individual members. Member choruses are located throughout North America, Europe and Australia.



## enriching your community

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## About the Artists

The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus (BGMC) performs a rich catalog of classical, contemporary, Broadway, pop and multi-cultural music. The repertoire is as diverse as the 90 men who are singing with pride as members of the BGMC. A balance of educating, entertaining and enlightening allows us to maintain our integrity as a gay chorus while providing inclusion and appreciation by all members of our respective communities. The BGMC has been honored by the Empire State Pride Agenda with a Community Service Award. This award was in recognition of efforts to raise awareness and to enlighten our region through song. To that end, the BGMC has performed in a variety of venues throughout Western New York and Ontario for many community events. Additionally, the BGMC has traveled to Montreal to participate in the seventh annual GALA Festival, an international gathering of gay and lesbian choruses. While maintaining a strong presence within the gay community, The BGMC also has been privileged to perform with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra at Kleinhans Music Hall and has done benefits for the Amherst Unitarian Universalist Church music program; Blessed Trinity Roman Catholic Church's restoration; the annual World AIDS Day Memorial Service; and, the AIDS Community Services fundraiser Cause for Celebration. Additionally, BGMC performed for the arrival of The Amistad; participated in "Gusto at the Gallery" at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery; sang at the Ars Nova Musicians "Viva Vivaldi" Concert; sang at Fredonia College for their diversity and multicultural groups; and, at the Nichols School for Diversity Week. Of course, our four major concerts annually bring our work to thousands of avid listeners. Incorporated in 2001, The BGMC is a membership association dedicated to producing high quality vocal music in the rich tradition of men's choral singing. Through song, the Chorus endeavors to entertain and enlighten, create harmony and celebrate personal and community pride.

**Barbara Wagner (Artistic Director)** has served as Minister of Music at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo for 42 years. She was the director of choral activities at the Nichols School for more than 24 years and served the congregation of Temple Beth Am as its Music Director for 12 years. She was in charge of vocal activities at the Buffalo Seminary and conducts the Unitarian Universalist Church Choir as well as the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus. In addition to its Sunday morning responsibilities, the UU Church Choir has made two highly acclaimed European tours, the first to Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic and the second to Ireland, Wales, England and Scotland. The UU Church Choir, under the direction of Ms. Wagner, has recorded for American Public Radio, performed locally with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Amherst Saxophone Quartet and the Ars Nova Chamber Orchestra.

*continued on page 14*

Ms. Wagner was the conductor for the Peace Odyssey Tour of Hungary and the former Soviet Union. Choral singers from all over the USA participated in this tour. She was a member of the prestigious seven member Hymnbook Resources Commission that was responsible for the denominational hymnbook **Singing the Living Tradition**, published in 1993. She was chair of the New Hymns Task Force, which produced, **Singing the Journey**, another denominational songbook, published in June, 2005. She ran a choral program at Nichols High School that involved over 100 young singers including a concert chorus, women's ensemble, men's ensemble and a mixed chamber group. She was also guest conductor for the City of Good Neighbors Chorale.

Ms. Wagner earned a BFA degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo, where she studied Organ with Squire Haskin, and has done graduate work at Westminster Choir College. She did advanced Organ study with Karl Richter at Munich Conservatory and has done advanced conducting study with Raymond Harvey, the former Assistant Conductor of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and presently the Music Director of the Kalamazoo Symphony. She is a member of The American Choral Director's Association, Erie County Music Educators Association, MENC, Unitarian Universalist Musician's Network (founding member, former vice president and board member), NYSSMA, American Guild of Organists (sub dean of the Buffalo Chapter) and Chromatic Club. She was presented with the Erie County Music Educator/Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra award for excellence in choral education in May of 2002. Ms. Wagner is included in the 2004 edition of **Who's Who in American Women**, and will be included in the 2006 edition of **Who's Who in America**. She is the charter Artistic Director of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus.

A native of North Carolina, **Debi Overton (Accompanist)** is the Organist and Choirmaster at Calvary Episcopal Church in Williamsville. Ms. Overton has held positions as coach/accompanist at the University of Texas at Austin and served as Director of the Chamber Music Program at the New School of Music in Philadelphia. From 1979 to 1986, she was active in the summer music festival in Aspen, Colorado as the coach/accompanist for the choral department. In this capacity she served as assistant to noted conductor Fiora Contino. She has assisted in preparing choruses and soloists for such conductors as Tamara Brooks, John Nelson, Robert Shaw, Sergei Commissiona and has herself coached with coach/accompanists David Garvey, John Wustman, Brooks Smith and Dalton Baldwin.

In addition to her duties at Calvary Church, Ms. Overton serves as Chair of the Music Commission of the Western New York Episcopal Diocese and is active in this area teaching, accompanying and performing with singers and instrumentalists.

*continued on page 16*



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# Garden Walk

Saturday & Sunday,  
July 29 and 30, 2006



Lyric Soprano, Jennifer Grace Mernitz appeared as a guest artist in the BGMC's first concert in February 2002. She has gladly appeared with them as a guest artist on a number of occasions since that time. She is a graduate of Baldwin-Wallace College Conservatory of Music, with a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance, and holds a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from Boston University's School of Fine Arts. As soprano soloist and section leader for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo Choir, Ms. Grace Mernitz has participated in many acclaimed local performances and has toured with the choir to Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, Ireland, Wales, England and Scotland. She has appeared as a concert soloist with the Ars Nova Chamber Orchestra and made her opera debut in the Greater Buffalo Opera Company's production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. She received her New York State Teaching Certificate from the State University of New York at Buffalo in June 2003. She currently teaches Vocal/General Music in the Clarence Central School District.

Cantor David M. Goldstein has served Temple Beth Zion as Music Director since 1992. He holds three master degrees in music and theater from the University of New Orleans and Tulane University. He holds a fourth master degree from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion School of Sacred Music where he was invested as cantor in 1987.

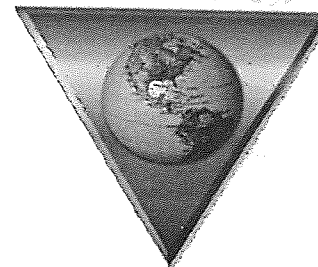
He has performed as solo artist with the New Orleans Opera Guild, Gulf Coast Opera, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Amherst Symphony and the Greater Buffalo Opera among others. Critics have said of him that his singing is "wonderfully communicative;" he "sings with great care;" his "singing is refreshingly lyrical;" and that he was "mesmerizing." He has been a featured performer at Merkin Hall and Town Hall in New York City and in many prestigious concert venues in the United States, Canada and Israel. Mr Goldstein is a featured cantor on a five CD set, documenting music of the Holy Days, entitled **Yamim Noraim** published by Transcontinental Music. He was the first cantor to be presented as the featured soloist at the "Interfaith concert" at the Chautauqua Festival in the main amphitheater. Cantor Goldstein released a CD **B'chol Libeinu – With All Our Heart** in 2003.

In addition to vocal performing, Cantor Goldstein has been invited to teach and give master classes at the University of New Orleans, Tulane University, Mercer University, Georgia State University, and the State University of New York at Buffalo. He is a member of the Amherst Symphony Orchestra playing violin. Cantor Goldstein has arranged pieces performed by the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and the Amherst Symphony Orchestra.

Mr Goldstein has been active in the American Conference of Cantors, serving as President, Vice-President, Secretary, and as chair of many committees. He

*continued on page 18*

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served on the boards of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, ARZA/ World Union NA and the local chapter of the American Jewish Committee. Presently he is an ex-officio member of the Board of the American Conference of Cantors where he serves on the Endowment Fund Committee, and is the Chair of the ACC Pension and Insurance Board. He devotes time and energy to the Executive Board of Buffalo Suzuki Strings. Cantor Goldstein serves as chaplain for the Amherst Police Department.


He lives in Williamsville with his wife Lauri, daughter Rachel, and son Max.

**The Clara String Quartet** was formed in 2002 by four Buffalo Philharmonic musicians and friends — Amy Glidden and Jacqueline Galluzzo, violins, Kate Holzemer, viola, and Amelie Fradette, cello. The Clara Quartet has a strong commitment to sharing the string quartet repertoire with audiences throughout Western New York, as well as collaborating with friends in other chamber works. Named after famed pianist and composer Clara Schumann, the quartet has appeared as soloists with the Buffalo Philharmonic and performed at many venues throughout Buffalo.

Though she did not always know it, **Laura Wilder (program cover)** has always had an artistic style similar to those of the early 20th Century. Laura followed a fairly traditional course of study in college, but felt disconnected from the contemporary art that her college emphasized. She looked instead to the masters of the early 20th century and before for her inspiration. After college, and searching for her style, Laura worked as an illustration and graphic artist for several years.

When she was first exposed to the work of the masters of the Arts and Crafts movement, she was both stunned and exhilarated. This style fit her perfectly, and a style she had been personally developing. Dissatisfied with commercial art, Laura decided to make her way independently, cultivating her own style reminiscent of the Arts and Crafts movement. She decided to do a series of block prints depicting "Artisans at Work," feeding her passion for portraiture. She met a Roycroft potter, Master Artisan Janice McDuffie, and asked her to model for a block print she named "The Potter." When McDuffie saw her completed work, she urged Laura to apply to Roycroft for membership. Not only was Laura accepted, but she was honored with the title "Master Artisan" just two years later. You will see the Roycroft Renaissance mark on Laura's work.

Laura lives in Rochester, New York. Locally, Laura's work is available at Elmwood Framing and Interiors (716) 883-2071.



The advertisement features three black and white portraits of real estate agents arranged in a row, framed by a decorative scalloped border. Below the portraits is a row of ten black chairs. The agents are:

- Judy Rosenbaum**, Broker Associate, 400-2427
- Mike Mroczka**, Licensed Sales Agent (BGMC Member), 743-5938
- John Kopera**, Licensed Sales Agent, 870-4525

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## Program Notes for *A Winter's Tale*

Jason Ward & Barbara Wagner

When I think about the voices of the men of the BGMC, colors and textures come to mind. We work diligently at every rehearsal to find the sound and the balance that is perfect for each song. The early numbers in the first half of this concert demand a lovely warm, velvety sound that will be flexible enough to provide the exciting fullness we need for **The Snow** and **Sim Shalom**. The colors and textures of the voices must reflect the meaning of the words. We owe that to you, our discerning audience and to ourselves as intelligent, skilled singers. How does that happen? Rarely is it luck. Often it's as simple as saying a word like "lace" or "weep" or "snow," or working for 20 minutes on a light "head voice" in warm-ups. I can't count how many times I've said, "remember how that feels when you sing **Velvet Shoes**," "drop your jaw," "raise your eyebrows," "put an 'H' before the vowel, so you'll come in on the air," "Shoulders down, chests up," "Sing 'aw, not ah,' we sound like Western New Yorkers." The vowels must be uniform. It's never easy, but worth every minute we spend striving for the very best. When we begin the second half, you'll hear a very different sound in some of the songs. We don't sing **Sleigh Ride** the same way we sing **In the Bleak Midwinter**. You'll hear a bright sauciness in the sounds. This too doesn't just happen. We work as hard to achieve that as we do to honor what we believe Elgar and Mozart wanted. So sit back and let the gorgeous warm sounds of these mens' voices flow into your hearts and souls.

"Shivering, frozen mid the frosty snow in biting, stinging winds: running to and fro to stamp one's icy feet, teeth chattering in the bitter chill. To rest contentedly beside the hearth, while those outside are drenched by pouring rain. We tread the icy path slowly and cautiously, for fear of tripping and falling.....this is winter, which nonetheless brings its own delights." The poet, Elinor Wylie invites us to "walk in the white snow in a soundless space — at a tranquil pace." Laura Wilder's serene woodblock print, reproduced on the program cover, urges us to listen for the "sweep of easy wind and downy flake" and the "voices of the angels" sounding over the moonlit land. It is midwinter and we rejoice that Johannes Chrysostomus Wolfgang Gottlieb Mozart came into this world to bless us with his music on January 27, 250 years ago. His music speaks of "secrets of the heart that both humankind and the artist well understood." And so, we hear the tinkle of sleigh bells, complain about the bitter cold, curl up beside a blazing fire, bask in the warmth and love of our families and friends and pray for peace for all people.

We open our fifth anniversary concert with the gentle carol, **In the Bleak Midwinter**, by Gustav Holst, set to Christina Rossetti's elegant poem, followed

by Randall Thompson's peaceful setting of Elinor Wylie's **Velvet Shoes**. The elegance of the marriage of music and poetry in both pieces is evident immediately. We follow this dreamy processional with Randall Thompson once more – this time his ageless setting of Robert Frost's **Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening**. For many years, I've known of **The Snow** by the 19<sup>th</sup> century Romantic composer, Edward Elgar, of **Enigma Variations** fame. **The Snow** was originally set for Womens' Chorus, later Mixed Chorus, and now, to my great delight, it's been revoiced by Stan Hill, Artistic Director of the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus for male voices. The text and music are a wonderful combination of old fashioned, unabashed, in your face, romanticism. Close your eyes and let this marvelous song, accompanied by two violins and piano cover you like Wylie's "white lace."

Next we turn to the wonderful old Austrian Carol **Still, Still**. This tender song about the birth of a child needs no introduction. **A Glimpse** is the third of the **Adamic Songs** that were composed for the BGMC by Roland Martin almost two years ago. Set to poetry by Walt Whitman, this song tells of a crowd of workmen and drivers in a bar room, sitting around a stove, while two lovers sit contentedly in a corner, holding hands, "happy at being together, speaking little, perhaps not a word."

The beautiful **Sim Shalom**, (Grant us Peace), is by the late Chicago based composer Max Janowski, whose settings of many of the ancient Jewish prayers are beloved in Reform Congregations everywhere. We are grateful to Cantor David Goldstein for revoicing this wonderful prayer for the BGMC and most importantly for singing it with us on Saturday evening.

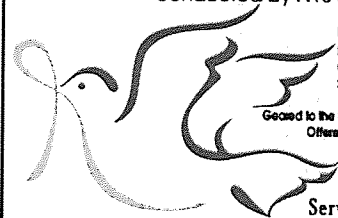
Mozart composed **Eine kleine Freimaurer**, (A Little Masonic Cantata) in 1791 to celebrate his Masonic Lodge's brand new facility, dedicated to the ideals of brotherhood. He completed the work on November 15, conducting the first performance three days later. It was to be the last work he composed. Mozart died just 2 weeks later. As with his other compositions for Masonic ritual, he writes a fairly straightforward part for Men's Chorus. Many of his melodic phrases contain a frequent Masonic symbol; two notes, usually eighths, slurred together as a suggestion of the bond or "tie" between 2 friends. Listen for those in the tenor/bass choral duet. In tonight's performance, you will hear the opening chorus, a tenor/bass recitative, a duet for tenors and basses and a final chorus. There is some unsubstantiated talk among musicologists that Mozart may have composed this piece as a way of apologizing to his brother Masons for giving away so many Masonic secrets in **The Magic Flute**. Who knows?

The second half of our concert opens with Leroy Anderson's **Sleigh Ride** which, ironically, was composed in 1948 during a July heat wave while

*continued on page 26*

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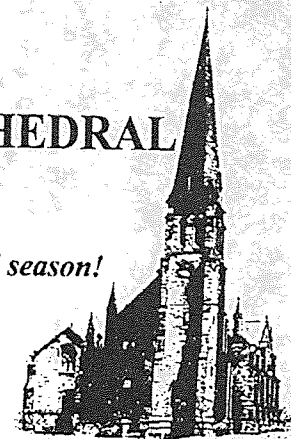
Anderson lived in Danbury, CT. The words were added in 1950 by Mitchell Parish. **Baby, Its Cold Outside** was written by Frank Loesser for the 1949 movie **Neptune's Daughter**. Sung twice in the film, first by Esther Williams and Ricardo Montalban then by Eve Garrett and Red Skelton, it went on to win Loesser an Academy Award in 1950 for Best Song. It's our pleasure to bring our spin on these winter classics to you. **Too Darn Hot** is one of the best known songs from Cole Porter's musical, **Kiss Me, Kate**. Porter experienced a terrible accident in 1937 which left him in continuous pain. Following the accident he continued to write songs and musicals but with limited success, and some thought he was past his prime. **Kiss Me, Kate** was in fact his biggest hit, receiving five Tony awards in 1949 (and again in its revival in 2000), and is the only Cole Porter musical to have more than 1,000 performances on Broadway.

**Winter Song**, from the Celtic Folk Tradition was arranged by one of our fine GALA composers Jeffrey Jones-Ragona. In this gentle winter song, accompanied by the harp and piano, we sing of winter snows, the autumn wind, the sea running high and the mournful cry of the wild geese. The incomparable Robert Seeley, another GALA composer brings us **If and When**, a song of love and passion that says that even when the wind blows and winter bears down on us, "I will hold you close and never let you go." Listen as the music gives every word life. **Hymn to the Night** is an atmospheric piece about night and its silence and solitude. Listen for the wind chimes, the strings of the piano being strummed from the inside and the whispers of the chorus. Sssshhh!!! There are secrets!! We're very excited about **The Angels Sing** for many reasons, the first and foremost being that it was composed by another brilliant GALA composer, Eric Lane Barnes who also arranged it for the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus. As the voices of the angels hover around us, they sing of peace on earth for all. No one or no thing is excluded. What a lovely thought.

**I'll Cover You, Without You, and Seasons of Love** come from Jonathan Larson's rock opera **Rent**, which is a retelling of the "La Boheme" story, but based in AIDS-era East Village, New York City. The theme of love striving to endure beyond all obstacles remains central to the story. **I'll Cover You** tells of two men declaring their new found love for one another. **Without You** shows the pain felt at the end of a relationship, and that no matter what may happen, life will still go on. **Seasons of Love** answers the question of how the life of a man or woman can be measured. It can be measured in love. Larson died unexpectedly four months before **Rent** premiered on Broadway. His passing is a sobering reminder to make the most of the time we have, and to celebrate all the love we have in our lives.

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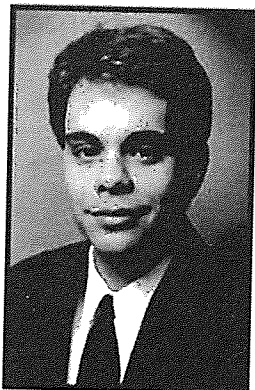
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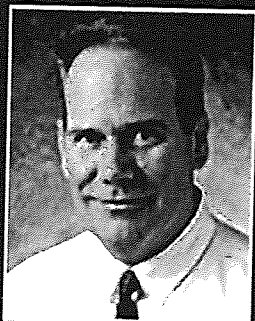
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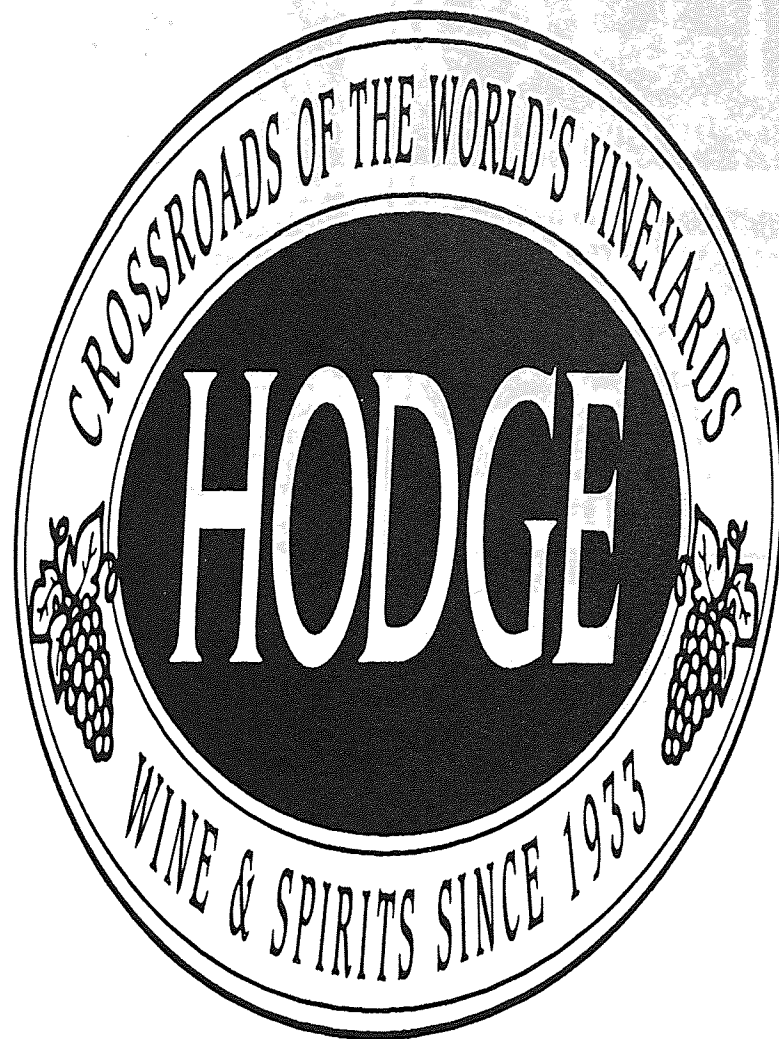


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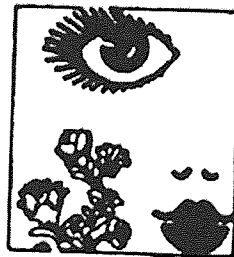
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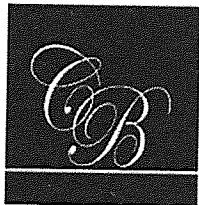
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To the **BGM**C

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Our hearts are lightened by your song*

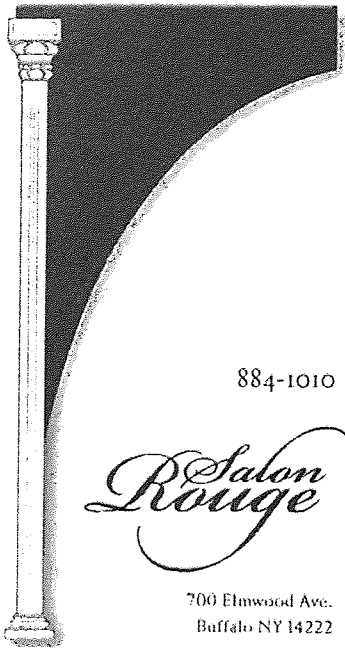
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## Pride Buffalo spring fundraising event!

WHEN: Saturday, April 8

STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS!

# BreakOUT

WHEN: Saturday, February 11 at 8 p.m.

WHERE: Buffalo Zoo Resource Center

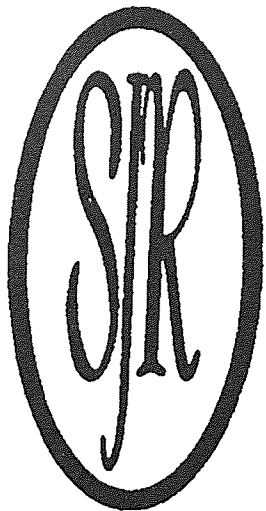
TICKETS: \$10 and includes one drink

Created by the Dyke March committee



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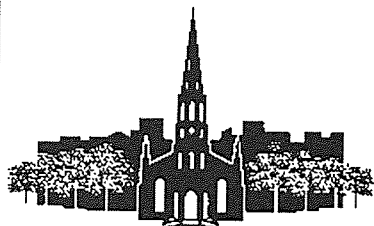
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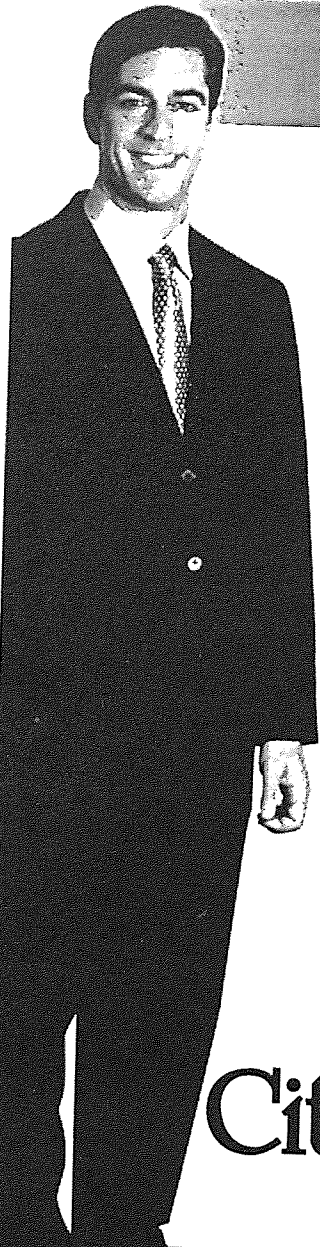
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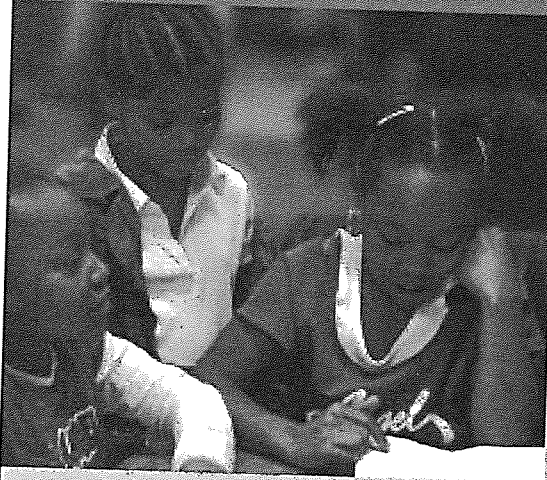
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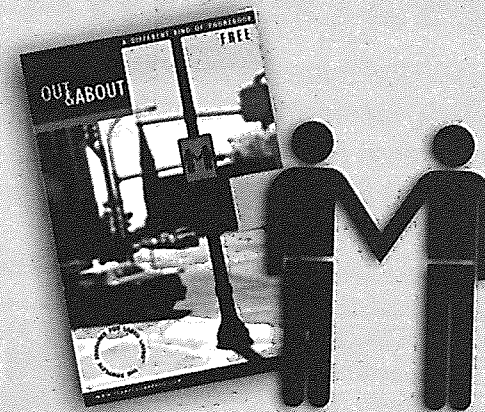


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Congratulations & thanks to the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

for helping to make Buffalo & Western New York an even more

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**Jim Mack**

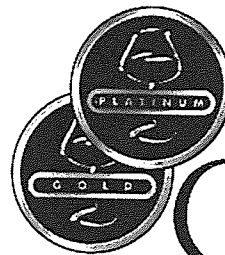
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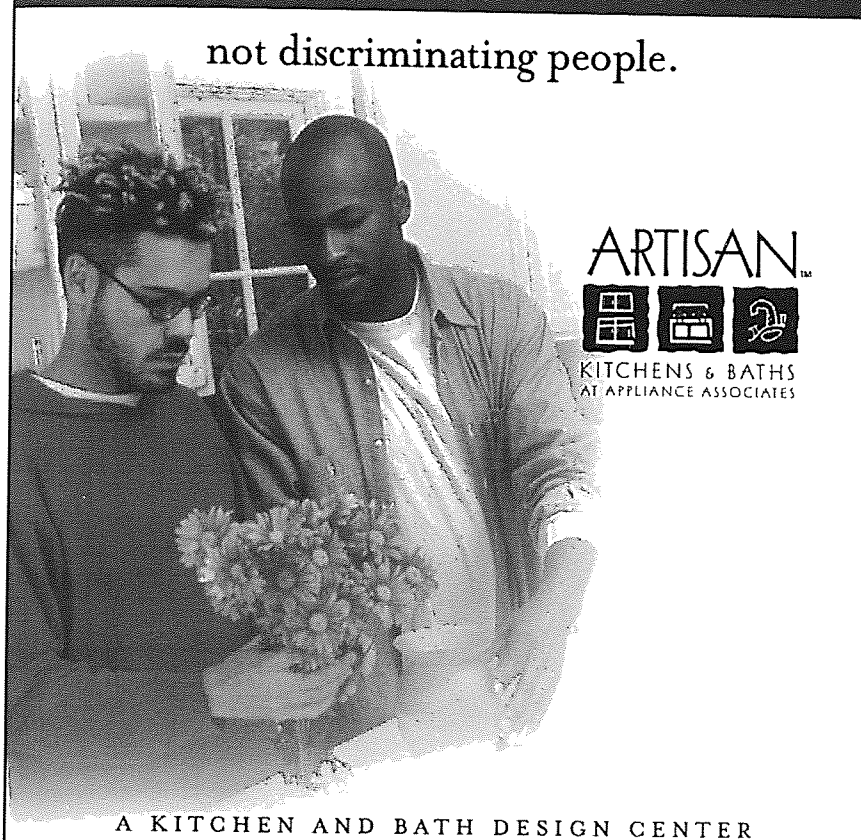
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