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Brothers in Song

Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

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BUFFALO GAY MEN'S CHORUS

BROTHERS
in Song

BgMC

Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

Singing with pride since 2001

Friday, January 21, 2005

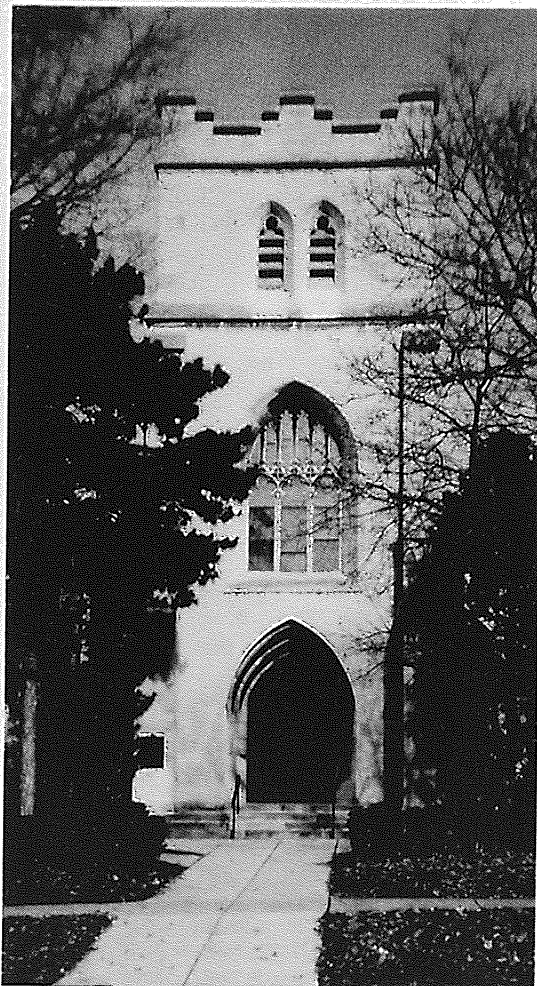
Unitarian Universalist Church

Saturday, January 22, 2005

Temple Beth Zion

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Looking back at our six previous concerts and their respective titles, one could imagine that it was all put together by a grand design. We agree that there may be a pattern to our concert titles - though not by design - but there does seem to be an evolutionary feel to it all. We started with *Music From The Heart* to let the world, or at least we here in Western New York, know that we had come together and what our purpose would be: to sing from our hearts with all our energy and to show that we were not planning to be just a "one concert wonder." We were here to stay. We followed up with *Sounds of Summer* in June.



President Dave Gannon

The following January we worked to unite ourselves as *Of Sweet Harmony* became not only a concert title but a goal for us to continue blending as one sound. As each member learned new skills and polished up old ones to create harmony with one another, friendships strengthened. The bond between chorus and conductor continued to interweave as we were learning to anticipate Barbara's every move. When we veered off course she quickly, kindly and firmly brought us back together. Patterns grew and varied as each rehearsal led to a final harmony of voices that you will hear tonight.

Next came *Songs of Freedom* in which we demonstrated our growth as one entity. Our goal was to continue to present music of high vocal quality, while embracing the freedom to express ourselves as gay men, in song. Wanting to fulfill our mission of "enlightening through music" this concert served as preparation for what would be our biggest "outing" as we set ourselves the goal of becoming more visible not only within the gay community but in the Western New York community as well. Our stated purpose of enlightening through song would only be met if we continued to reach out to wider and wider audiences.

We kept our momentum going with our music in *If Music Be The Food Of Love, Play On!* Some will say that this title was a stretch to fit in with the evolution theme. On the contrary, all of what we have accomplished and hope to accomplish cannot be done without love.

With that season's series we reached out to the world with appearances on several news programs to promote our January concert. Those appearances, I'm sure, caused a coffee cup or two to pause halfway in mid air. Those who prefer that gay men stay in the closet - and believe me there would be a lot of kicking and screaming before we would go back in - probably don't like the idea of gay men being in the open and in the news, but can't deny the high vocal quality and talent of this chorus. Our loud, clear and harmonious message said that we were here to stay!

We prepared ourselves for our trip to The 7th GALA Choruses Festival in July with *Singing With Pride* in June of '04. There would be no turning back now. Loud and proud, we kept singing until we arrived at the Place des Arts on St. Catherine Street in Montreal. The energy of that experience reinforced the vitality of the Chorus as we continued on through the summer and fall with appearances at the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens *Hot-Luck Festival* in August, with the Ars Nova Musicians in the *Viva Vivaldi!* series in November and *Gusto in the Gallery* at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in December.

All of this has led us to the evolutionary step of tonight's concert which is to sing as *Brothers in Song*. Permit us to clarify - and expand - the reference to "brothers," as all of us in the BGMC feel that it includes everyone here tonight. As you return to water cooler conversations at the office on Monday and lunch table reports of weekend experiences, we hope that you will discuss the wonderful concert you will hear this evening. That acknowledgement itself will help us grow musically and more importantly will help you grow as ambassadors of gay culture. Tonight you are our "Brothers in Song" and we thank you for helping us achieve our goals. We can never say enough to express our gratitude to you for being here and for allowing us to be ourselves. Your presence provides us with essential support and courage. We welcome you and thank you for being a part of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus family tonight!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Gannon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dave Gannon,
President, BGMC Board of Directors

PROGRAM

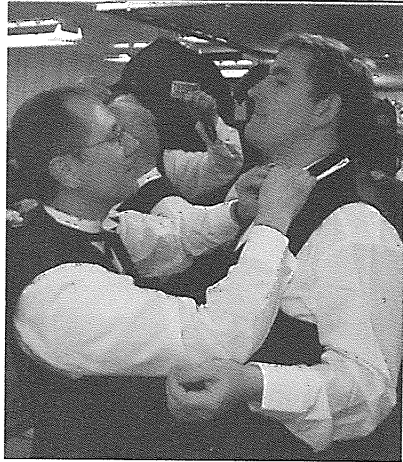
Be Our Guest	Music and Lyrics Alan Menken & Howard Ashman from <i>Beauty and the Beast</i>
Brothers, Sing On	Edvard Grieg
Ständchen	Franz Schubert arranged by Tim Seelig, Artistic Director, Turtle Creek Chorale.
The Nightingale	Deborah Henson-Conant arranged by Peter Smith Guy Tomassi, Tenor Peter Smith, Harp
Wie Melodien zieht es mir	Johannes Brahms arranged by Richard Herr
Jubilate Deo	Heinrich Schütz Ellen Barnum, Bassoon Richard Riederer, Trumpet Phillip Christner, Trumpet (Friday) John Maguda, Trumpet (Saturday) The BGMC
(Friday) Romance	Edward Elgar Glenn Einschlag, Bassoon Barbara Wagner, Piano
(Saturday) Ki K'shimcha	L. Lewandowski arranged by David Goldstein Cantor David Goldstein The BGMC
La Vergine de gli'Angeli	Giuseppe Verdi from <i>La Forza del Destino</i> Jennifer Grace-Mernitz, Soprano The BGMC
Nessun Dorma	Giacomo Puccini arranged by Robert Callaghan from <i>Turandot</i>

Intermission

Stouthearted Men	Music and Lyrics by Sigmund Romberg & Oscar Hammerstein II
When I Hear Music	Michael G. Martin
Hands, Eyes, Heart	Ralph Vaughan Williams from <i>Four Last Songs</i> David K. Mathewson, Bass
Der Herr segne euch	J.S. Bach from the <i>Wedding Cantata</i> Ms Barnum, Bassoon
An die Musik	Franz Schubert
Somewhere	Leonard Bernstein from <i>West Side Story</i> Cedric "Flip" Taporco, Tenor

Presenting our special guests **SOME LIKE IT HOT**

Joy to the World	Three Dog Night
Cherish	Madonna
Imagine	John Lennon
It's in His Kiss	The Chiffons
Sinner Man	Traditional Spiritual arranged by Kirby Shaw
Sixteen Tons	Merle Travis
Rhythm of Life	Music and Lyrics by Cy Coleman & Dorothy Fields arranged by Richard Barnes from <i>Sweet Charity</i>



Mark Peszko fixing Lorne Gretsinger's bowtie before the *Gusto in the Gallery!*

In the next few months you will find the BGMC appearing at these events:

- On Friday, April 15 the Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst will present *The Best of the BGMC* as a concert to benefit the church.
- On Sunday, April 24 please join us for *Glorious Jazz, Gospel and Sacred Music*, an afternoon concert where the BGMC will sing to benefit the work and the building fund of Blessed Trinity Church in North Buffalo.
- On Saturday, May 14 the BGMC will share the stage with Forté, the Toronto Gay Men's Chorus and WomEnchant Chorus of the Hamilton/Niagara Region at a fundraiser for Niagara Pride Support Services, Inc.
- On Sunday, June 5 the BGMC will march and sing at the annual Buffalo Gay Pride Parade and Celebration. No tickets necessary!
- *Fearless*, the BGMC's second concert of the season, will be performed at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo on Friday, June 17 and at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral on Saturday, June 18.

BGMC

Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

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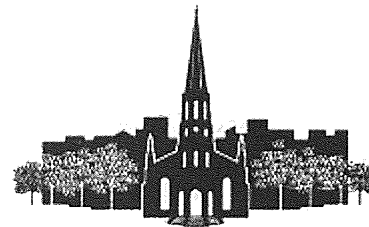
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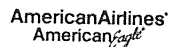
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GALA Choruses fosters the artistic and organizational development of member choruses through a wide variety of programs and services. They produce choral festivals, educational conferences and publications. They engage in advocacy; provide grants for the commissioning of new choral works; facilitate networking among members; and serve as a resource center for associate and affiliate choruses. GALA Choruses was founded in 1982 by 14 choruses and has grown to over 180. The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus is a proud GALA Choruses member.



Ryan McKane runs for freedom while Rob Black picks flowers.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

The **Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus (BGMC)** performs a rich catalogue of classical, contemporary, Broadway, pop and multi-cultural selections. The repertoire is as diverse as the 70 men who are singing with pride as members of the BGMC.

The BGMC has performed in a variety of venues throughout the Niagara Region and for many community events, including gay pride activities, the arrival of the Amistad, the annual World's AIDS Day memorial service and the AIDS Community Services fundraiser Cause for Celebration. In 2004, the BGMC performed with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra at Kleinhans Music Hall. Later that year, the group also traveled to Montreal to participate in the seventh annual GALA Festival of Choruses, an international gathering for gay and lesbian choruses. The group also performed at The Botanical Garden's *Hot-Luck Festival*, *Gusto at the Gallery* at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery and with the Ars Nova Musicians *Viva Vivaldi!* series.

The next BGMC concert is entitled *Fearless* and will be performed at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo on Friday, June 17 and at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral on Saturday, June 18, 2005.

Incorporated in 2001, the BGMC is a membership association dedicated to producing music of high vocal quality 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, the Music Director of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus, has served as Minister of Music at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo for 42 years and was Director of Vocal Activities at Nichols School for more than 24 years.

The Choir at the UU Church, in addition to its Sunday morning responsibilities, enjoyed two highly acclaimed European tours: the first to Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic and the second to Ireland, Wales, England and Scotland. The Choir under Ms Wagner's direction has recorded for American Public Radio, performed locally with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra (BPO), Amherst Saxophone Quartet and the Ars Nova Musicians. Ms Wagner was the conductor for the *Peace Odyssey Concert Tour* of Hungary and the former Soviet Union. Choral singers from all over the US participated in this tour.

She ran a choral program at Nichols School that involved more than 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, Buffalo's Gay & Lesbian chorus in the mid 1980s.

Ms Wagner earned a BFA Degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo, where she studied organ with Squire Haskin, and completed

graduate work at Westminster Choir College. Her advanced studies include organ with Karl Richter at the Munich Conservatory and conducting with Raymond Harvey, formerly Assistant conductor of the BPO and presently Music Director of the Kalamazoo Symphony.

She is a member of the American Choral Director's Association, the Erie County Music Educators Association, Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network (founding member, former vice president and board member), MENC, NYSSMA, the American Guild of Organists (sub-dean and program chair for the Buffalo Chapter) and the Chromatic Club of Buffalo. She is presently serving on the New Hymns Task Force of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Ms Wagner is the recipient of the Buffalo Philharmonic/Erie County Music Educators Award for Excellence in Choral Music in 2002, and is included in the latest edition of *Who's Who in American Women*.

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 and 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, Debi serves as chair of the Music Commission of the WNY Episcopal Diocese. She is active in WNY, teaching, accompanying and performing with singers and instrumentalists.

Cantor David M. Goldstein, has served Temple Beth Zion 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.

Cantor Goldstein has entertained audiences throughout the United States, Canada and Israel. 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 he was "mesmerizing." He was the soloist in numerous works including Handel's *Judas Maccabeus*, the baritone (Cantor) in Bloch's *Sacred Service*, and Bernstein's *Arias and Barcarolles*. He has been a featured performer at Merkin Hall and Town Hall in New York City and in numerous prestigious concert venues in the

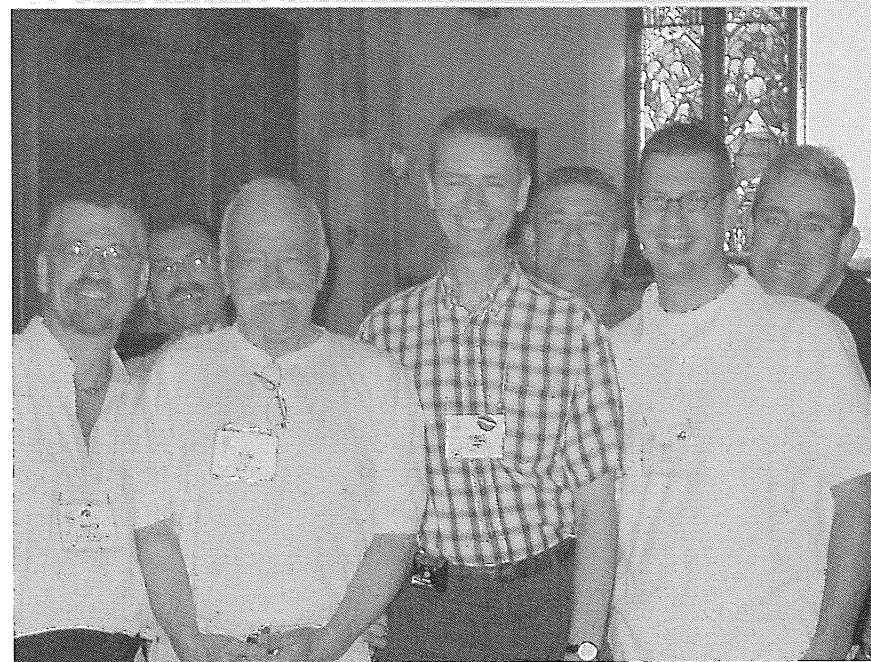
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United States, Canada and Israel. David is a featured cantor on a five CD set, documenting music of the Holy Days entitled *Yamim Noraim* published by Transcontinental Music. Cantor Goldstein was the first cantor to be presented as the feature soloist at the *Interfaith Concert* at the Chautauqua Festival in the main amphitheater.

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

David has been active in the American Conference of Cantors, serving as president, vice-president, secretary and as chair of many committees. Cantor Goldstein has 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 and serves on the Music Committee of the Amherst Symphony Orchestra and the Boards of Young Audiences of Western New York and the Greater Buffalo Youth Orchestra. David serves as a chaplain for the Amherst Police Department.

Some Like It Hot hails from SUNY at Fredonia, priding itself on being the only all-female a capella group on campus. Since being founded in 2002, the group members have loaned their voices to various fundraisers and benefits both in the surrounding community and abroad. Currently, the group is recording their second album and planning a future tour of New York State.

A native of Southern California, **Cedric "Flip" Taporco** has sung with choruses across the United States and Europe. He began his voice training in the 1970s at El Camino College, in Torrance, California with Jane Hardester, who became his friend and mentor. He sang with the Jane Hardester Chamber Singers (now the South Bay Chamber Singers based in Redondo Beach, California) touring Europe with them as their principal baritone soloist and performing in many of the major cathedrals. A highlight of the tour was a performance in Wales in honor of H.M. Queen Elizabeth, the queen mother.

Flip recently moved to Buffalo with Bruce, his partner of 20 years, and is ecstatic to be singing with the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus.

Peter C. Smith has many musical talents and has succeeded in bringing these diverse capabilities to play in his life as an active musician. Mr. Smith's most recent interest is the harp, which he has studied for the past seven years. His professional training has included harp courses at the Eastman School of Music while performing extensively with their Harp Ensemble. Peter

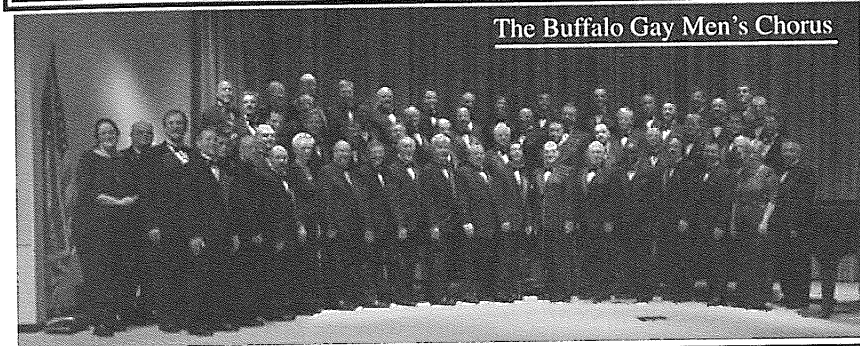



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has studied privately with Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra principal harpist Suzanne Thomas, as well as with internationally renowned SUNY at Fredonia professor and harpist, Mario Falcao. Other major musical accomplishments stem from his earlier career as a clarinetist. He studies at SUNY at Buffalo and has performed both locally and abroad. Peter serves as organist for two churches in his hometown of Niagara Falls. This is his seventh performance with the BGMC.

Originally from Morganville, NJ, **Glenn Einschlag** began his appointment as principal bassoonist of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra with the 1999/2000 season. Prior to that, he was a member of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and has performed with such ensembles as the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Boston Symphony and the Northern Kentucky Symphony. As a soloist, Mr. Einschlag has performed numerous recitals as well as concerti with the Ars Nova Orchestra, the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and the New York String Orchestra.

An avid chamber musician, Glenn has participated in many musical festivals including those of Aspen, Tanglewood, Spoleto and Domaine Forget where he became heavily influenced by the noted bassoon pedagogue Norman Herzberg. He has also studied at The Juilliard School, The Curtis Institute of Music and The Shepherd School of Music at Rice University where he was awarded a Master of Music degree under the tutelage of Benjamin Kamini. He recently performed John Williams' Bassoon Concerto with conductor JoAnn Falletta and the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra.

David K. Mathewson, Organist-Choirmaster at St. John's Grace Episcopal Church, Buffalo, since 1981, is active in the work of the Music Commission of the Episcopal Diocese and the American Guild of Organists, Buffalo Chapter. Other professional affiliations include the Association of Anglican Musicians, the Organ Historical Society and the Hymn Society. David received a Bachelor of Music degree from the Crane School of Music at SUNY at Potsdam where his vocal mentors were Dr. Mary Lou Hultberg and Dr. Richard Griffith. He recently received *The Presiding Bishop's Certificate in Church Music*. By day David works in the operations area at Merrill Lynch. This is his first year singing with BGMC. "Thank you Barbara and thank you gentlemen for putting a new song into my life!"

Bassoonist **Ellen Barnum** is a founding member of Vento Chiaro, a Boston based woodwind quintet, appearing regularly on stages across the US and Canada. Ellen also maintains an active freelance career in the Boston, MA and Buffalo, NY metro areas, performing with many local ensembles such as Boston's Kalistos Chamber Orchestra and the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. In addition to her performance engagements, Ellen coaches chamber music



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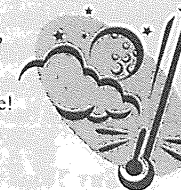
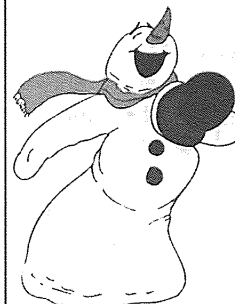


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at Boston University's Tanglewood Institute, a summer music program for talented high school musicians in Lenox, MA. In Buffalo, Ellen is an Adjunct Professor at Canisius College and Buffalo State College, teaching bassoon and Music Literature, and maintains an active private bassoon studio. Ellen received her Bachelor of Music and Graduate Performance Diploma from the Peabody Conservatory, and an Artist Diploma from the Longy School in Cambridge, MA. Ellen has received several awards as a member of Vento Chiaro, including the Saunderson Award at the Coleman Chamber Music Competition and the Silver Medal at the Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition. Ellen's principal bassoon teachers include Linda Harwell and Phillip Kolker.

Guy Tomassi is most frequently seen on a theatre stage. As a local actor, Guy has been entertaining for more than 20 years. Mr. Tomassi has had the privilege of working with some of Buffalo's finest voice teachers and coaches, Barbara White, Karen Wieland, Dr. Raymond Tynas Jones, Janet Balloch, and Quinn Patrick – and of course the chance to work with a brilliant music director, Barbara Wagner. His work in the theatre has been with several companies at the Lancaster Opera House, Buffalo United Artists, O'Connell and Company and the New Phoenix Theatre. Although this may seem to be enough to keep him busy, his day job is raising money to support the American Red Cross. Guy thanks his friends and family because in his words "without you I am nothing!"

Lyric soprano **Jennifer Grace-Mernitz** appeared as a guest artist in the BGMC's first concert in February 2002. 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 a soloist soprano and section leader for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo Choir, Ms Grace-Mernitz has participated in numerous acclaimed local performances and has toured with the choir to Germany, Austria, Ireland, Wales, England and Scotland. She has appeared as a concert soloist with the Ars Nova Chamber Orchestra and she 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 Music in the Clarence School District.

The BGMC would like to offer special thanks to Benn Kunz (603-3768) for the beautiful flowers, Righteous Jeffrey Proctor for his design and layout help and the gracious volunteers who helped make these events possible.

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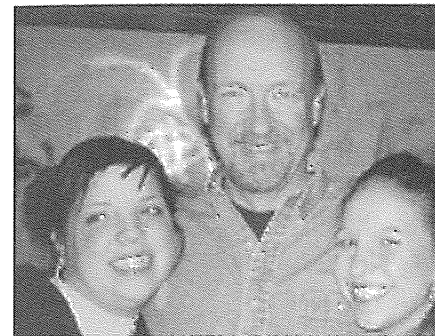
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 Robert Rose
 Michael Shanahan
 Lee Sheldon
 Sherwood Sipprell
 Peter C. Smith
 Dennis C. Stuart
 Bobby Suwala
 Dr. Lawrence Van Heusen
 Steven Young

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 Donald Behr
 Edward F. Ciszek Jr.
 Timothy J. Fox
 Dave Gannon
 William C. Hardy
 David Hetherly
 Gerald Klein
 Delwyn Milander
 Nelson Neels
 Roger Parris
 Mark J. Peszko
 Mike Styn
 Cedric "Flip" Taporco
 Jason A. Ward

BASS II

Glenn Einschlag
 Peter M. Ghiloni
 Jaime Stephan Goldfuss
 Lorne E. Gretsinger
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 Betsy Stambach
 Mindi Turek
 Mallory Valk
 Jen Weller
 Nicole White
 Michelle Wilson

BROTHERS SING ON

By John T. Marohn

Most of us have stored some favorite songs in our memory banks. We have associated certain words of songs with particular moments in our lives: romances, tragedies, departures, breakups, or events that we could never fully re-experience without recalling those particular songs. When we remember a song, or hear a song that transports us back to our pasts, our lives become enriched with that personal and intimate sense of continuity.

Nations have used their communal songs, their national anthems, to engage a citizenry in strong feelings of patriotism. These songs go beyond the personal associations that individuals might have on hearing a particular song. They are sung at disparate communal venues ranging from sports events to national tragedies.

Not all songs have moral innocence; they have not always been about a lover's eyes sparkling like a diamond or an evening star. The words of songs have often reflected anachronistic religious beliefs; beliefs, that by twenty-first century standards, might be labeled as primitive or medieval. Some songs reflect homophobia, racism and misogyny.

We present our songs tonight to you, our guests, in the hope that we are building a strong sense of inclusiveness and community. As your hosts, we invite you to listen to a wide diversity of songs from the romantic and lyrical to the robust, from the spiritual to the earthy, from the operatic to the commonplace. You may have to suspend your disbelief as you listen to some of the words or try to imagine the context of a song. You may find yourself sitting back and enjoying a familiar melody; you may discover with us the pleasure of double entendres in *Rhythm of Life*; or you may find a particular song jump-starting a fond memory from your past.

Whatever your response this evening, please join with us as "brothers in song" who are learning that we are all "standing on the side of love."

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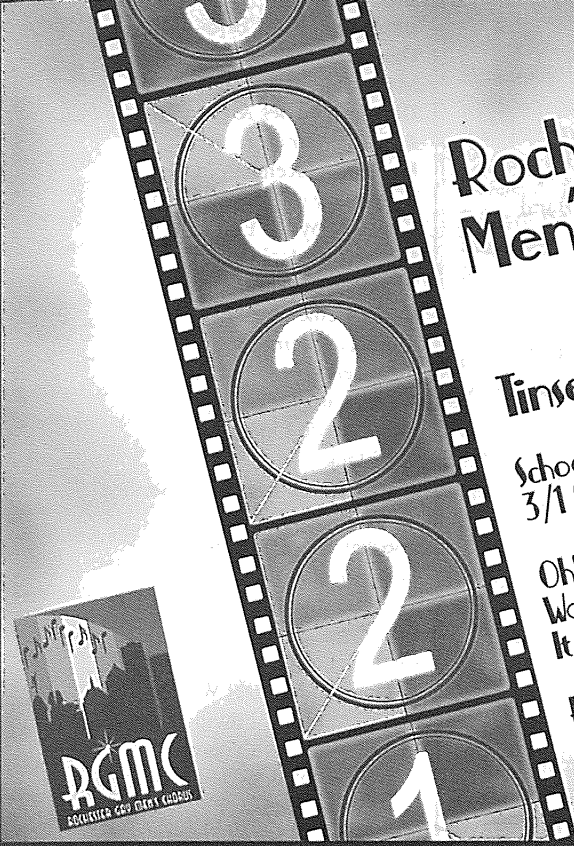
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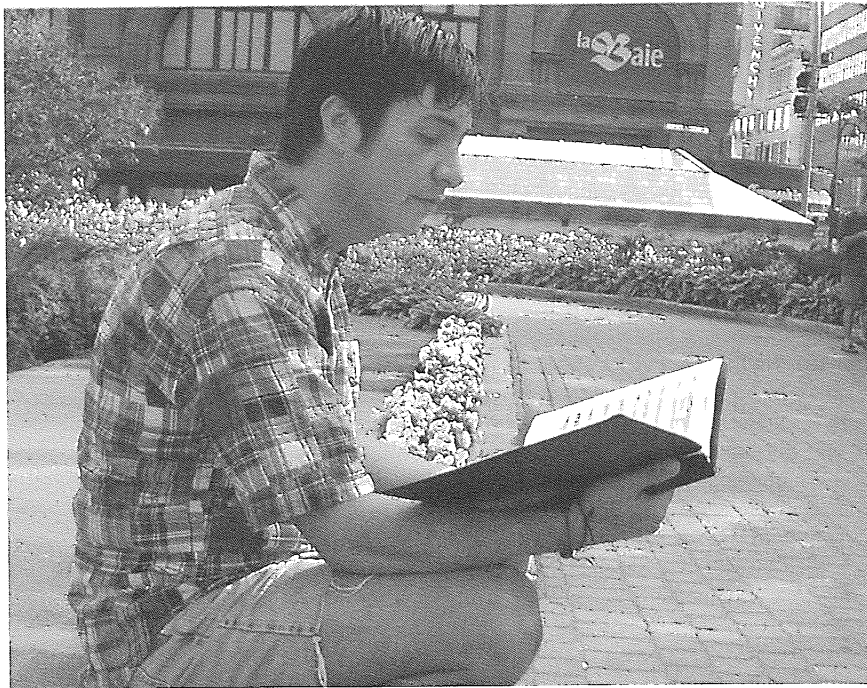
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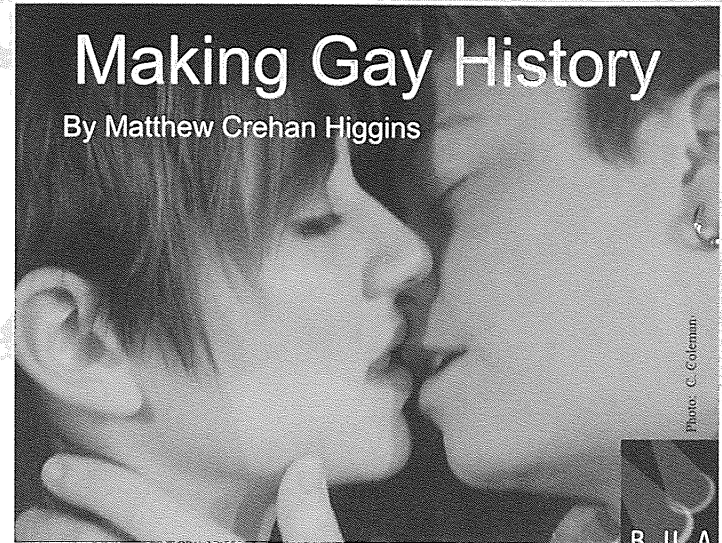
Shaun Doyle reviews his music before rehearsal in Montreal.



Glenn Einschlag in rehearsal.

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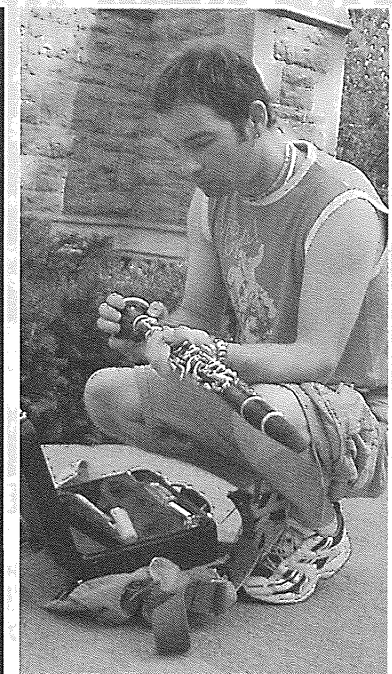
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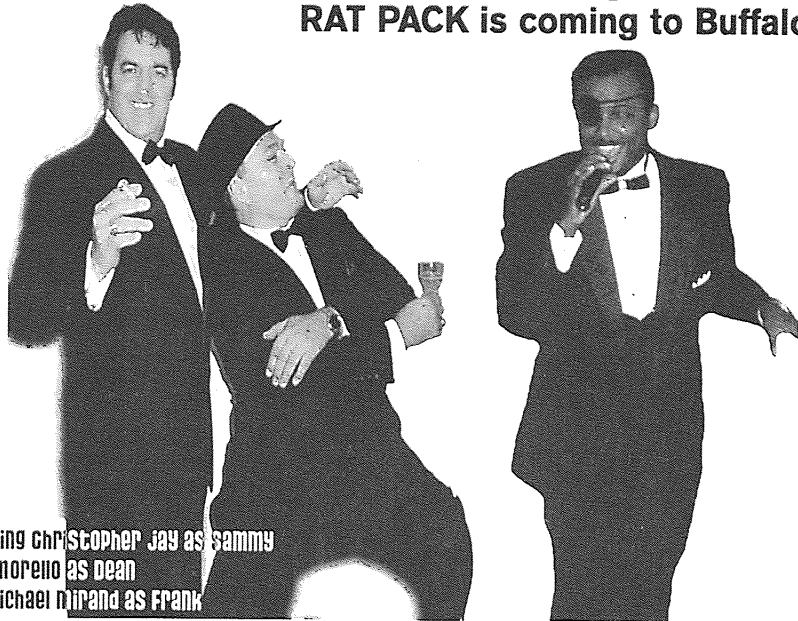
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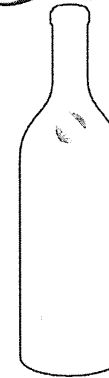


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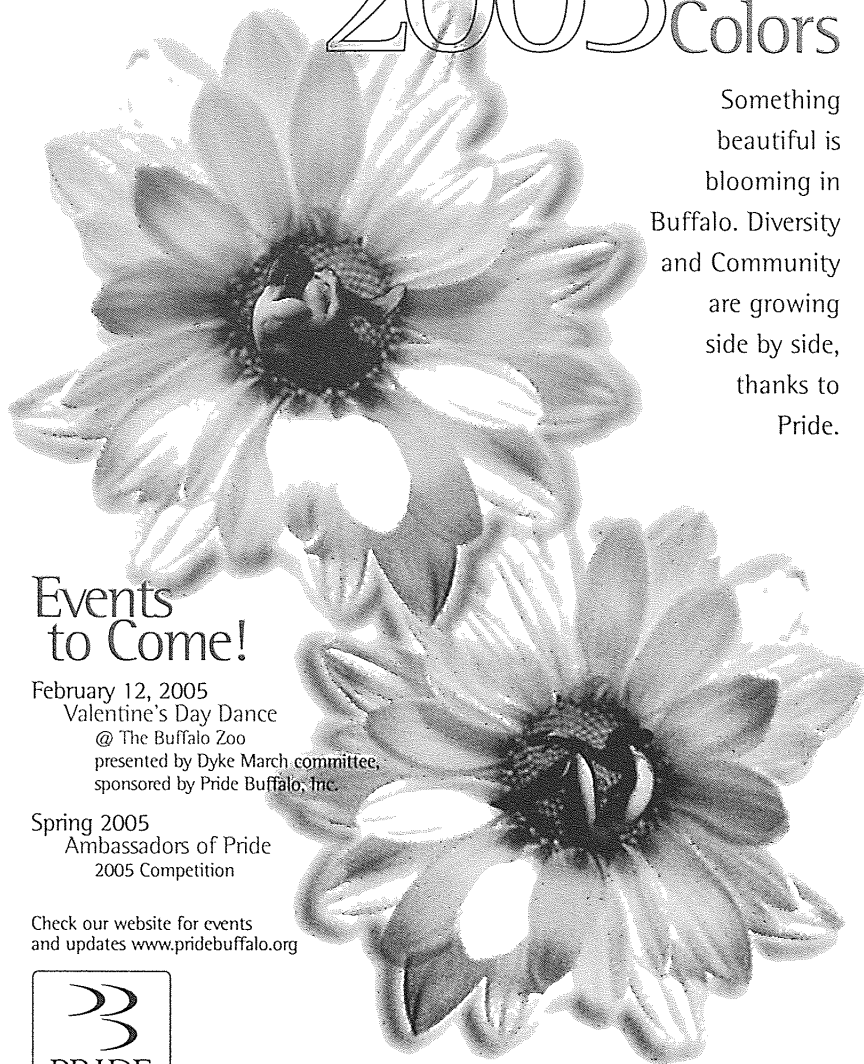


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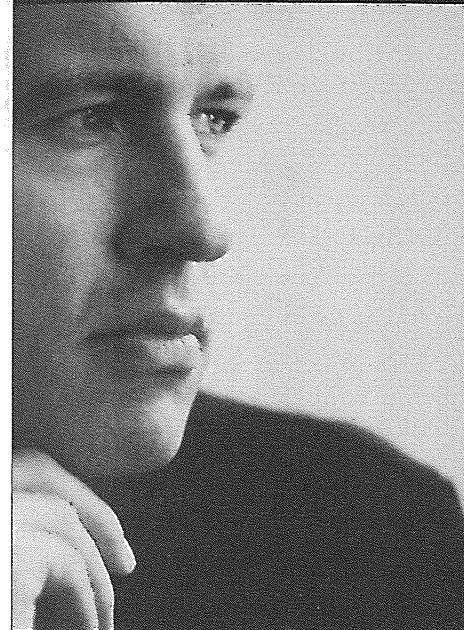
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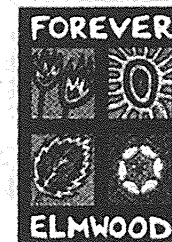
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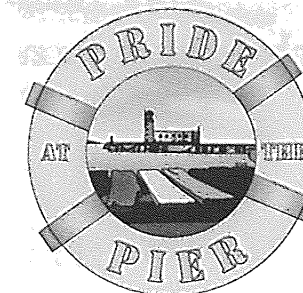
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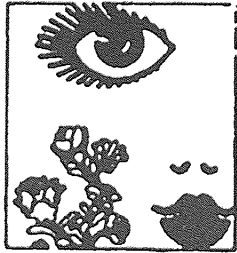


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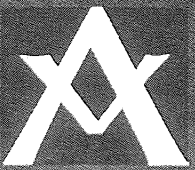
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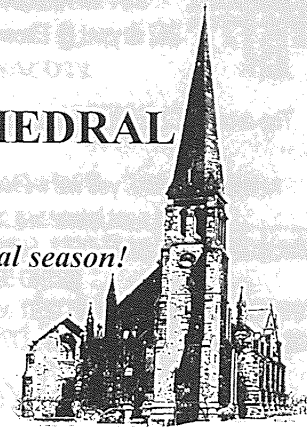
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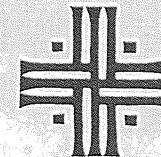
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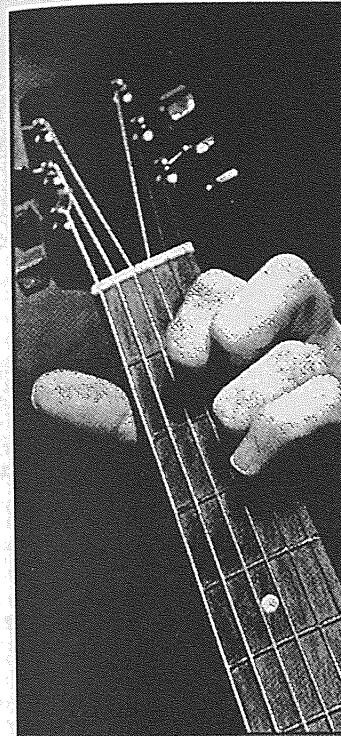
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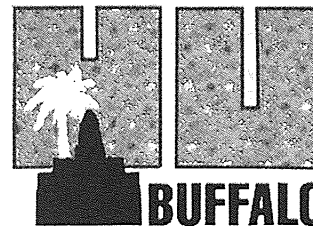
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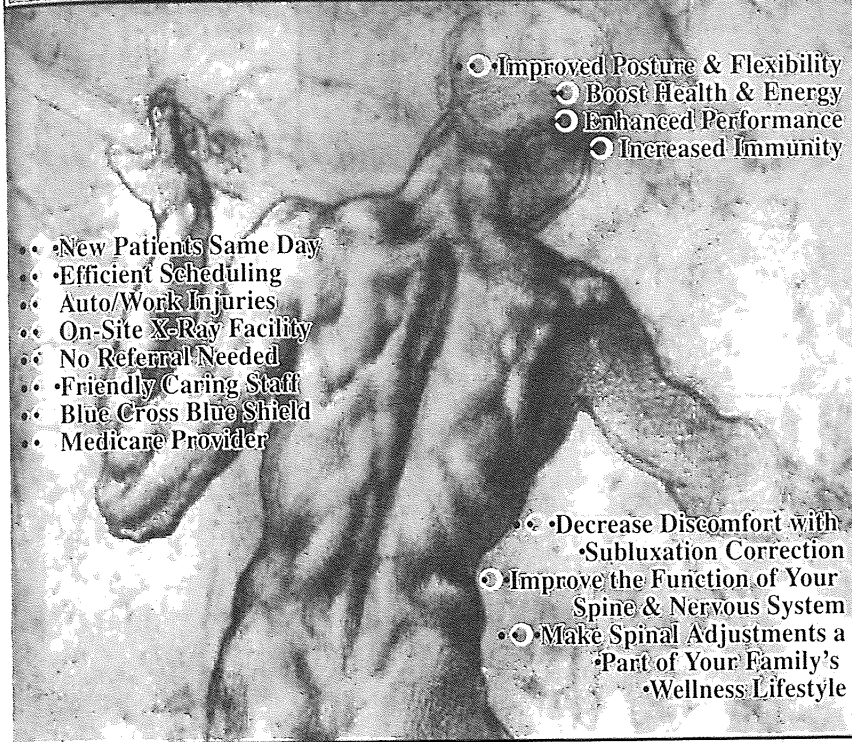
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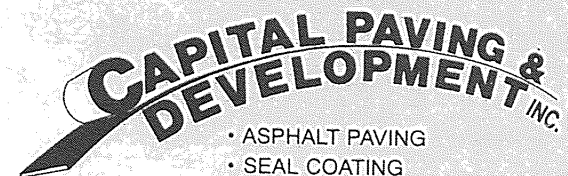
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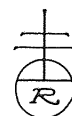
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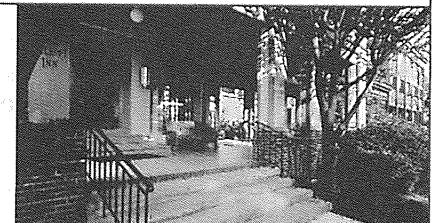
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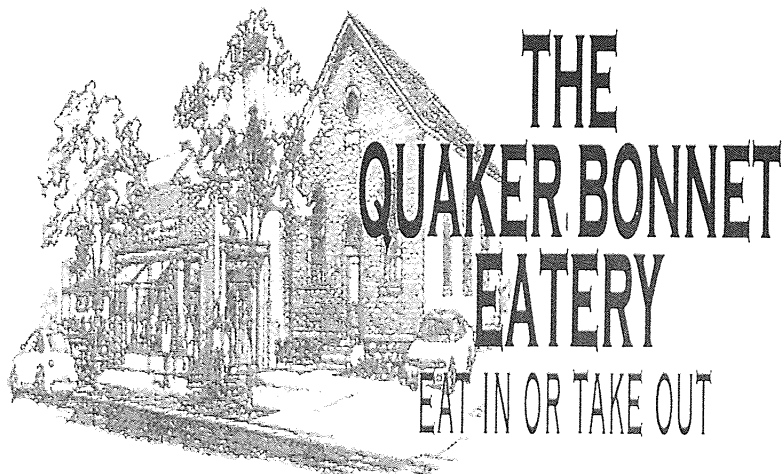
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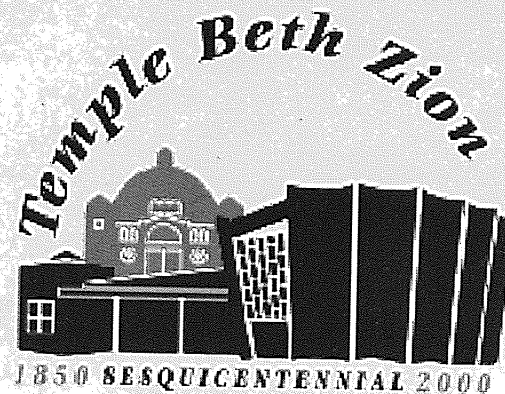
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