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6-2009

### On Vacation

Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

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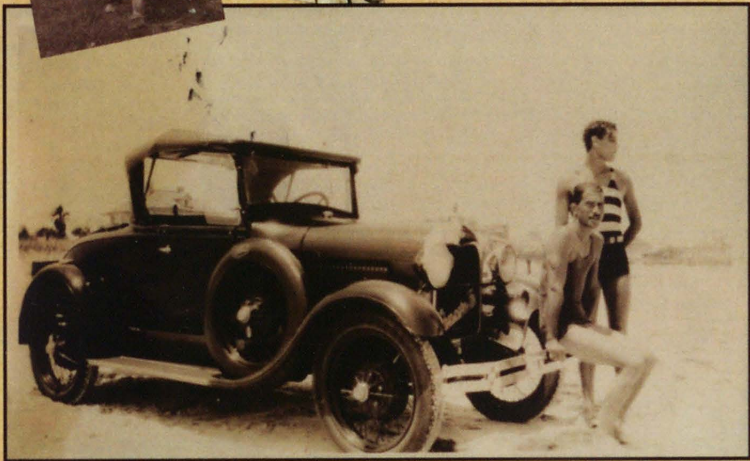
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# Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

On Vacation!



MODERN  
**CHIC**  
FRESH  
ELEGANT  
PRETTYHIP  
SEXYCOOL  
**NOW**  
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**BgMC**

The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

**Office:**

51 Colonial Circle

Buffalo, New York 14222

716.883.1277

[www.buffalogaymenschorus.org](http://www.buffalogaymenschorus.org)

A NEW YORK NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION

*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 also to enlighten.

We sing to create harmony as we celebrate pride in our communities and in ourselves.



# CITY OF BUFFALO

BYRON W. BROWN  
MAYOR



June 2009

Dear Members and Supporters of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus:

Greetings and salutations to the BGMC on the occasion of your summer season of song and celebration during National Pride Month!

We send warm wishes on behalf of the City of Buffalo as you present "On Vacation" at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo on June 19<sup>th</sup> and at First Presbyterian Church on June 20<sup>th</sup>. We also wish you success with your appearance at the Church of the Nativity on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

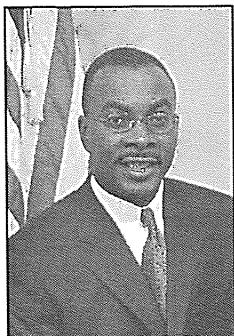
Your continued success under the direction of Maestra Barbara Wagner represents all that is best about the arts in our region: beauty, harmony and excellence!

While we listen to your "vocal music of high quality in the rich tradition of men's choral singing," we know your sounds are the fruit of hard work and many rehearsal hours.

Congratulations on the ever-growing positive impact you have on our community and region, and continued best wishes as you enlighten and entertain in our City of Good Neighbors!

Sincerely,

Byron W. Brown  
Mayor



65 NIAGARA SQUARE / 201 CITY HALL / BUFFALO, NY 14202-3392 / (716) 851-4841 FAX: (716) 851-4360 / www.city-buffalo.com

## Special Thanks

Our Friday Hosts

Rev. Joel Miller and the Unitarian  
Universalist Church of Buffalo

Our Saturday Hosts

Rev. Geri Lyon and the First  
Presbyterian Church

Our Sunday Hosts

Pastor Daniel J. Schifeling, Rev. Dr. Ruth  
Snyder and the Church of the Nativity

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Cat Hardesty

Tickets

Paul Cassavaugh

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and other gracious volunteers

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Norm Duttweiler, Jr.

Assistant to the Web Master

Jaime Goldfuss

Please feel free to notify the Chorus of any changes or corrections for future programs at [www.buffalogaymenschorus.org](http://www.buffalogaymenschorus.org) or by letter to the Chorus at 51 Colonial Circle, Buffalo, New York 14222.

BGMC has "gone green". Please recycle your concert program if you do not wish to keep it as a souvenir. You will find collection boxes at the rear of the concert hall. Thank you!

## Friends of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

From all of the BGMC Family, a very special and heartfelt thank you to the Friends of the BGMC. Your generosity allows us to bring enlightenment, inspiration, healing and harmony to the greater community and to all of us. We are most grateful that you have added your "voices" to ours.

*The Friends of the BGMC listed in this program are those whose contributions were received between June 1, 2008 and June 11, 2009.*

### Maestro \$1,000 - \$2,999

Corinne and Victor Rice

### Virtuoso \$500 - \$999

Brian and Barbara Baird

Paul A. Cassavaugh

Douglas P. Charles and Gary A. Bienkowski

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David Mathewson and Merrill Lynch Foundation, Inc.

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Key Bank National Association

M & T Charitable Foundation

### Conductor \$200 - \$499

Thomas R. Alcamo

David Batt and Michael Shanahan

Robert Black

Peter and Belmore Bridgford,

*Honoring Barbara Wagner,*

*David Mathewson and Russell Link*

Dr. and Mrs. David S. Clifford,

*Honoring Jason A. Ward*

Colin and Margaret Drury

Francis J. Felser and David H. Shaver

Ronald J. Galena

David C. Hetherly

Ronald Houk, *Honoring my*

*family, with Love*

Jim Jagow

Nicholas E. Marchelus

Ramón Meléndez

Douglas R. Milander

Alice Palazzetti Minion

Dr. Edwin A. Mirand

Sharon Osgood, Esq.

Michael Osika and

Daniel M. Salcedo, MD

Jeffrey H. Platt

Linda Reznick, *To all my dear*

*friends at BGMC*

Denise and Bob Scheig

Timothy P. Socha and Robert F.

Carlson

Barbara L. Wagner, *Honoring*

*William G. Wagner*

Michael Warner

### Soloist \$100 - \$199

Paul G. Berglund

Michael J. Bonilla

Will and Bonnie Botsford,

*Honoring our friends, Frank and*

*Monty, Michael and Paul, Dave*

*and Mike and, especially, CB*

Nancy W. Bukaty

Martin A. and Sheila P. Casey

Colvin Cleaners

Laurie Dann and Tom Hunt

Charles A. Deacon

James and Mary Frances Derby

Sharon A. Corrigan and

Michelle L. Eschborn

Tricia M. Grace

Terry M. Griggs

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Karen Keil and Family

Edward W. Koryl

Norma Jean Lamb

Kathleen S. Ludwig

James Mack

Sam Maislin, Attorney

Marie A. Marshall

R. Mark Meyer

Louis J. Moran, LCSW-R,

*Honoring Bill Coplon and*

*Michael Duclos*

Scott Nachbar

Irene E. Norton

Debi Overton and Kathleen Niles

James B. Palka

Arthur J. Picogna, *In memory of*

*Arthur E. Neeb*

Richard W. Price

John Rex

Bob and Luann Roberts

Alan D. and Paula Alcalá Rosner,

*Honoring Russell Link*

Brian Rotach and Cheryl Bird

Harriet B. Stewart

Eunice Stuart, *Honoring Mark*

*Meyer and Del Milander*

Ceal Tachok

Hans Tamberg

A. Dean Theiss, Jr.

Urban Valet Dry Cleaners and

Eric Pyne

Cynthia M. Van Ness, *Honoring*

*OUTspoken For Marriage*

Joseph Vuich

Edward J. Witul

### Singer \$30 - \$99

Andy Anselmo

D. Jeanne Aydelotte, *Honoring*

*Russell Link*

Virginia Barron

LaVerne M. Behr

Michael and Pamela Benz

*Singer \$30 - \$99 (Continued)*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Alan B. Block   | Dr. Richard J. Lee   |
| Pam and Alex Borok, <i>Honoring Jason Ward</i>                              | Dorothy M. Lien, <i>Honoring Mark Faltyn</i>                                       |
| Barbara and Philip Brogadir   | Mark G. Littlefield  |
| Ruth L. Bury  | Marjorie Lord, <i>Honoring Donald Savage</i>                                       |
| Paul Carroll, <i>In memory of Jim Cain</i>                                  | John P. McCarthy, <i>In memory of Sam Herr</i>                                     |
| Judith Clarke and Alan Dozoretz   | Peter and Mary McNally   |
| Ruth Cohan  | Dr. Horace Mann  |
| James N. Connelly   | Sandra Marshall, <i>Honoring Christopher Proffitt</i>                              |
| Dave Davis  | Kathryn A. Meyer   |
| Florence Davis and Clarence A. Davis, Jr.                                   | R. Mark Meyer and Delwyn P Milander, <i>In memory of James D Haynes</i>            |
| Joan M. Doerr, <i>In memory of Suzanne Manson Dwyer</i>                     | Karen and Buz Miranda  |
| William G. Englebrecht  | Louis M. Molisani, <i>Honoring Orlando Del Zoppo, my partner for over 30 years</i> |
| Irene M. Enright and Family   | Susan H. Nealon  |
| Charles L. Epes   | Russell A. Newbert   |
| Dom DeFillippo and Arlan Peters   | Donald and Andrea Oswald   |
| William J. Fay  | John Pellegrini  |
| John Fleischman, Jr.  | Benjamin Phillips  |
| David and Anne Floyd  | Jim and Trudy Possinger  |
| Marcia Frankel, <i>Honoring Glen Adam and Lucy Mayo Cohen-Frankel</i>       | Thekla Putnam, <i>In memory of John Putnam, Jr.</i>                                |
| Elaine Gardner and Curt Steinzor  | Hon. Gregory P. Rabb, <i>President, Jamestown City Council</i>                     |
| Marion and Bob Gibbon   | Renovatio Physical Therapy, P. C.  |
| Clara Gillies   | Charles Robbins, Sr., <i>Honoring Hanford Searl, Jr.</i>                           |
| Lynne B. Giroux   | Jennifer and Tony Scarozza   |
| Sylvia Gold   | Norman and Gail Sfeir  |
| Claire Goldberg   | Debbie M. Sheehan, <i>Honoring members of the military</i>                         |
| Carl and Eloise Granger   | Eunice Stuart, <i>Honoring Mark Meyer and Del Milander</i>                         |
| Robert P. Graves  | Paul and Gloria Stuart   |
| Peter G. Hart   | Summer Street Cat Clinic   |
| Robert and Norma Henderson  | Frank N. Summit and Monty Hale   |
| Jack Hogan  | John and Elaine Swaine   |
| Barbara D. Holender   |  |
| Robert Hughes and Margaret Fisher, <i>In memory of Carolyn Grove Hughes</i> |  |
| Paula, Ellen and Douglas Jack   |  |
| Doris Jones   |  |
| Norma Jean Lamb   |  |
| John P. and Jennifer C. Lane  |  |

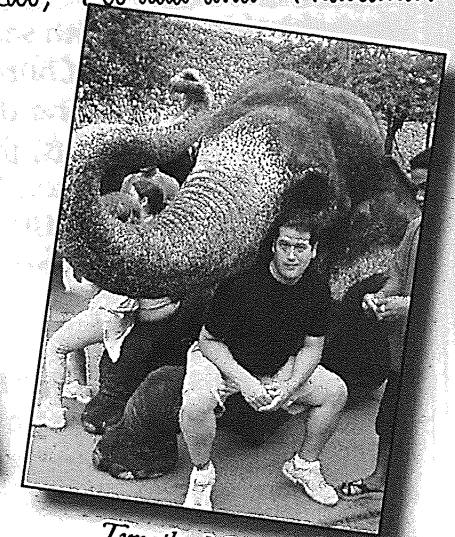
*Singer \$30 - \$99 (Continued)*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Joanne Tarnowski  | John and Noreen Visone                        |
| Mary G. Therrien  | Robert A. Wiechman and John R. Molinaro       |
| Alan R. Thompson  | Diane Williams-Foster                         |
| Dom Trapani   | Tom Zawadzki                                  |
| Johanne Haberstro Trotter, <i>Honoring Barbara Wagner</i> | Thomas Zimpfer                                |
| Edward K. and Shirley Y. Tuttle                           | Rita H. Zwink, <i>In memory of Peg Barone</i> |

*On Vacation in Puerto Rico, Florida and Thailand!*



*Russ Link*



*Timothy Mihiques*



*Top row right to left: Ryan, Dion, Norm  
Bottom row right to left: Matt, Pee Lee*



*Dave and Michael*

***On to St. John's Grace Episcopal ...  
... With Special Thanks to our Host, the  
Unitarian-Universalist Church***

On July 1st, the Chorus will move its operations to St. John's Grace Episcopal Church, 51 Colonial Circle, Buffalo 14222.

We make this move with some regret. The Unitarian-Universalist Church has been our home from our beginning. The UU's have been fully supportive of the Chorus, in every conceivable way. Our Artistic Director, Barbara Wagner, is the Minister of Music at the UU Church, and a number of our directors and members are long-time Unitarian-Universalists.

But the issue is space. As the scope of our activities has increased, so also has our need grown for larger office and storage space than the UU building can offer. We will have that additional space at St. John's

So, we say "Good-bye" to our UU Hosts with sadness, but with the greatest possible gratitude for all they have done for us in the first eight years of our existence. And it is not really "Good-bye"! We will still be regularly performing here at the UU venue and we will continue to maintain our ties to our many UU friends.

All at the same time as we greet and work with new friends at St. John's!

*On Vacation!*

**G. Michael Liska, President**



The year seems to be sailing by, and I wonder where the time has gone. Here we are at the June concert. As a child, it always took forever for Christmas to get here. The school year would drag on forever. We could hardly stand the last week of school, and exam week was so stressful. What would it be like to be a young kid in today's days of uncertainty? Would you trade any of your life for a new beginning?

As we think of new beginnings and reworking things, I would like to reflect back on the last two years of my term as President of the BGMC. We have experienced many changes in the way we conduct the business of the chorus. The Board of Directors has had many planning sessions to forward the cause of the chorus, and make strides toward the next level of excellence. Taking the yearly programming to a three concert series including the much requested Holiday concert sounded like a totally winning idea. As we look back over the past season, we have struggled with this decision. While providing three events meant fewer people at each event initially, we thought that the extra space would provide more comfort for our patrons, and allow for our fans to bring more friends to enjoy our concerts. The venues were still full, but not as packed as we love to see them. Was it the fact that the economy has taken the downturn that it did? Are people not attending special events because of their own personal finances? Are we losing our appeal with the community? Are three concerts each year more than WNY can handle? Obviously, there really isn't a clear answer to any of these questions. For now we have committed to the series of three events into 2010. Change is always good and never easy or immediate. It takes time to implement change, and we hope we are on the right track.

We also were extremely busy last year with everything we took on locally, not to mention our trip to Miami and all the preparation that went into that event. Our singers are finding it difficult sometimes to live their lives and commit to the strenuous schedule that BGMC requires. Commitment from the guys is never usually an issue. However being torn between work commitments, family obligations and the love of producing beautiful programming for our community has placed pressure on the membership.

BGMC has done much in the Western New York area. We have tried to open people's eyes to the need for change and acceptance. Gay Marriage is nearing a point of passing. What is fair for some should be fair for all. Call it what you want, but the members of the Gay community need the recognition they so richly deserve. Think of your husband or wife in a hospital bed with you visiting whenever you want. Now think of a gay person lying in a hospital bed. You may have already discussed and made decisions with your partner regarding your health options. Suppose the families do not accept your lifestyle. They can reverse your carefully thought out decisions and even have the Dr's and Hospital bar your partner from visiting you in your hospital bed. Change needs to happen **Now!** We are not second class citizens nor should we be denied the simple pleasure of being recognized as a loving couple, committed to each other. If you feel strongly, please write a letter to your Congressman and demand equal rights for Gay men and women. Your sons and daughters, nieces and nephews, friends or neighbors will all thank you for your

support. Life and issues become so much more important to us when it strikes close to home. Someone you know may be struggling with coming out, and your support could really help them.

As I leave my position as President, I know that the chorus will continue to work for our causes and be supportive of other organizations that need help in the community. The past two years have been both exciting and rewarding, filled with new ideas. Above all, it has been one of the best experience of my lifetime. I wish the new Board President well, and best wishes and thanks go to the Board of Directors for the many hours of hard work.

My thanks and gratitude also go out to our Patrons and loyal fans. Without your participation and support we could fade away as many other chorus' have done. In these extreme economic times, it is even more critical for those who can, to show their support, not only to BGMC, but all of the cultural Arts organizations and non profit groups that offer so much to enrich our lives.

It has been my pleasure meeting so many of you, and I look forward to continuing my membership in the BGMC in the coming years.

Sincerely,  
G. Michael Liska (Spike)



## COME JOIN US IN SONG

The BGMC thanks all its members, volunteers, and audiences, past, present and future. We also extend to the entire Western New York community an invitation to join our organization as either a volunteer or singer. We welcome new singers with open arms. And, as always, we welcome any man, straight or gay, who wishes not only to sing but to join our mission to seek through song to enlighten as well as to entertain.

Phone our Artistic Director, Barbara Wagner,  
at 668-1124 or 359-1894  
to make an appointment for an audition.

## On Vacation!

Barbara Wagner, Artistic Director

Dear Friends and Loyal Fans,



Before I tell you the news, I want to thank you for being such loyal friends. You've seen us through eight seasons now. You've listened to all kinds of music and continued to support us through it all, so much so, that, when we look at the audience now, it looks like old friends and family. You are the people that have helped build this organization. Welcome to our concert.

It feels like the last two seasons of our short history together have blended into one very, very long, but enormously successful year. We arrived home in late July, 2008 from our second GALA Festival, with our hearts and souls filled with

memories of glorious music sung by beloved new friends from all over the world, as well as the heartfelt compliments we received from our "brothers in song." We shopped, we sang, we swam in the pool and the ocean, we sang, we ate too much and we sang on all of the planes and in the airports. What a joy for us to be together for those kinds of experiences. It was almost sad to say goodbye to each other when we finally found ourselves at the Buffalo Airport again. I think we took a week off to take a few deep breaths before we launched into rehearsals for our new Holiday Concert, that included making a major recording. We never stopped after that and here we are at the end of another successful season in which we sang for several benefits, made our debut at the Lancaster Opera House, had 2 more successful performances in the suburbs, recorded for NPR through the UB Music Series, sang again at Gusto at the Gallery and more, along with 9 major self sponsored concerts. And now, we're about to do our very first almost all pop concert (along with a generous dose of "camp" thrown in). We've included several extraordinarily lovely pieces — "Bridge Over Troubled Water", (I've always loved that), "Will You?", a beautiful song from *Grey Gardens* and a breathtakingly gorgeous song by Bradley Ellingboe, in which he sets the beloved poem, "Innisfree" by William Butler Yeats. The combination of the words and the music sometimes almost stop my heart with their images of peace and quiet. Yeats says of Innisfree "and I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow, Dropping from the veils of morning where the cricket sings: There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow, and evening full of linnet wings." Yeats is one of my favorite poets and having the opportunity to sing this glowing setting of this ecstatic poem has been a real privilege.

We'll all be taking a short, much needed vacation soon, but will be busily preparing in late August for an appearance at Chautauqua in September. We'll be losing some of our faithful Board Members, including our President, Spike Liska, who has had the responsibility of keeping this vibrant, mischievous group of singers on task; David Batt, who's done our programs and posters; and Bill Gardner, our treasurer and lawyer extraordinaire. Thank you for all of your help and the love you've spread around. We'll see you all back in the ranks of your sections in the Fall. We'll see you, our beloved fans and friends, at our Holiday Concerts, if not before, and once again, a heartfelt thanks for all you do for us.

Love,  
Barb



# The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

## Tenor 1

Jerrold Baldwin  
Robert Black  
Joshua Blasdell  
Shaun Doyle, Jr.  
Norm Duttweiler, Jr. \*  
Scott Allen Heers  
Ronald Houk  
Dion Johnson  
G. ('Spike') Michael Liska \*  
B. Aidan Ngin  
Hanford Searl, Jr.  
Robert J. Szustak \*\*  
Jeff Wilson

## Bass 1

Franklin Ball  
Dave Batt \*  
Denis Bolton  
William H. Gardner \*  
Jeffrey C. Hunt  
Darrin Kahn \*  
Ramón A. Meléndez  
Ray Moore  
Raymond Neil  
Andy Newbert \*\*  
Andrew C. Pollard  
Joe Puma  
Jimmy Rigo  
Robert Rose  
Sherwood ('Woody') Sipprell  
Peter C. Smith  
Mark Smith  
Greg T. Stopa  
Dennis C. Stuart  
Kenny Williams

## Tenor 2

Donald Behr  
Paul Brundage  
Edward Ciszek Jr.  
William C. Hardy  
Gerry Klein  
Delwyn Milander  
Cliff Moore III  
Nelson A. Neels  
Roger Parris  
Mark J. Peszko  
Nathan E. Phillips \*\*  
Michael Rogers  
Michael Styn  
Jason A. Ward

## Bass 2

Christopher Babbitt \*  
Neal B. Flaig \*  
Jaime Stephan Goldfuss  
Lorne E. M. Gretsinger  
Jason Higbee  
Jim Jagow  
Randall D. Kozlowski  
Timothy H. Mahiques  
Mark Marquardsen  
David K. Mathewson \* \*\*  
Ryan J. McKane \*  
L. Martin Palcic  
Joseph A. Zimmerman

\* Board Member  
\*\* Section Leader

# The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus (continued)

## **Non-Singing Members**

Paul Berglund  
Robert C. Donner  
David Gannon  
Michael Gillis  
Michael Hunter  
John Jubulis  
Russell C. Link  
Michael Longo  
Ryan McDonald  
Mark Meyer  
Kyler Miller  
Mark Palmer  
Ben Phillips  
Linda Reznick  
John Rex  
Brian Rotach  
Michael Shanahan  
Larry Van Heusen  
Michael Zito

## **Artistic Director**

Barbara Wagner

## **Accompanist**

Debi Overton

## **News & Information Director**

Kathleen Bryce Niles

## **Archivist**

Chuck Alaimo

## **Board of Directors**

G. Michael Liska, President  
Christopher Babbitt, Vice President  
William H. Gardner, Treasurer  
David Batt  
Norm Duttweiler, Jr.  
Neal B. Flaig  
Darrin Kahn  
Ryan McKane  
David Mathewson  
Dennis Stuart, *ex officio*

## **Production Committee**

### **2009-2010**

Tim Mahiques  
Nathan E. Phillips  
Andy Newbert  
David Mathewson  
Nelson Neels  
Jason Ward  
Dion Johnson  
Jaime Goldfuss  
Damian Tremblay  
Darrin Kahn  
Christopher Babbitt  
Barbara Wagner

**BGMC**  
The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

## About the Artists



Incorporated in 2000, 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 62 men who are singing with pride as members of the BGMC.

The BGMC has been honored by the Empire State Pride Agenda with a Community Service Award. This award was given in recognition of BGMC's 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 in Pennsylvania and Ontario for many community events. Additionally, the BGMC traveled in 2004 to Montreal and again in 2008 to Miami to participate in the seventh and eighth quadrennial GALA Festivals, international gathering of gay and lesbian choruses. BGMC won the *Artvoice* Best of Buffalo 2008 Award for Best Choral Group. Also in 2008, the BGMC was honored by the Arts Council of Buffalo and Western New York, with its prestigious award for Community Service. It was a glorious day.

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 on two occasions. It has also 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 a Viva Vivaldi Concert with the Ars Nova Musicians, sang at Fredonia College for its diversity and multicultural groups and also performed at the Nichols School as part of its Diversity Week activities. Of course, our four major concerts (this year, increased to nine) annually bring our work to thousands of listeners in the Western New York area.

The BGMC is a New York not-for-profit corporation of member singers and supporters, dedicated to producing high quality vocal music in the rich tradition of men's choral singing. Through its music, the Chorus endeavors to entertain and enlighten, create harmony and celebrate personal and community pride.



**Barbara Wagner**, Artistic Director of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus, has served as Minister of Music at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo for 45 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), the 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 High 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, MENC; Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network (founding member, former vice president and board member); NYSSMA; the American Guild of Organists (former sub-dean and program chair for the Buffalo Chapter); and the Chromatic Club of Buffalo. She was a member of the Hymnbook Commission for Singing the Living Tradition and served as chair of the New Hymns Task Force of the Unitarian Universalist Association. She is presently the Moderator of the 900 member Unitarian Universalist Musicians' Network.

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



A native of North Carolina, **Debi Overton** (Accompanist/Conductor), 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. For many years she was active at the Summer Music Festival in Aspen, Colorado. As the coach/accompanist for the Choral Department in Aspen, 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. Additionally, she has coached with coach/accompanists David Garvey, John Wustman, Brooks Smith, Dalton Baldwin, and the local master, Livingston Gearhart.

Ms. Overton has accompanied Master Classes for Luciano Pavarotti, Phyllis Curtin, Jessye Norman, Leontyne Price and Sylvia McNair. She has accompanied the regional Metropolitan Opera auditions in Greensboro, NC; Philadelphia, PA; Atlanta, GA; and New York City.

In addition to her duties as Organist and Choir Master at Calvary Episcopal Church in Williamsville, NY, Ms. Overton has enjoyed the position of accompanist for the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus since it's inception in 2001; is a past chair of the Music Commission of the WNY Episcopal Diocese; currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the American Guild of Organists; and is active in Western New York teaching, guest conducting, accompanying and performing with singers and instrumentalists. In November of 2007, Debi was the musical director and conductor for the WNY premiere performance of Leonard Bernstein's MASS.

**Valerian Ruminski**



**Valerian Ruminski** is a resident of Western New York. He is also a renowned musician who regularly performs in major cities in the United States and abroad. He is a graduate of the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia and of SUNY-Buffalo. He is recognized as one of the most unique and versatile vocalists working in the world of opera and classical music today. A true basso cantante, his bold and powerful vocal lyricism and remarkable coloratura has resulted in worldwide recognition of his exceptional talent.

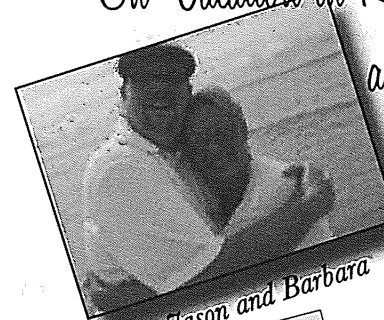
An excellent musician and creative interpreter, Mr. Ruminski has performed with many of the great opera companies in the world. He has appeared with

the Metropolitan Opera, Dallas Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Seattle Opera, Miami Opera, Minnesota Opera, Michigan Opera Theater, Opera Ireland, Opera Montreal, Opera de Monte Carlo, Birmingham Opera and Festival de Belle-ile en Mer. He can be heard on the Naxos label release of *Night at the Opera* with other singers who have debuted at the Metropolitan Opera. In 2007, Valerian portrayed Lord Walton in the highly acclaimed Metropolitan Opera high-definition broadcast of 'I Puritani', starring Anna Netrebko. He has performed a wide variety of operatic roles; a few examples being Figaro *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Ferrando *Il Trovatore*, Sparafucile *Rigoletto*, Colline *La Boheme*, Masetto *Don Giovanni*, Fenisco *Ermione* and Sarastro *Magic Flute*.

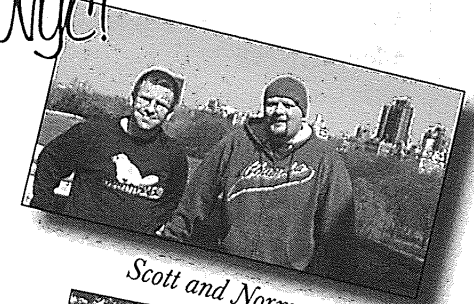
Mr. Ruminski will be producing and singing the role of Basilio in *The Barber of Seville* on June 26 and 28, 2009, at the Riviera Theatre, 67 Webster Street, North Tonawanda. Box office, 716-692-2413. Other contact information: [www.nickelcityoperaco.com](http://www.nickelcityoperaco.com) and [www.rivieratheatre.org](http://www.rivieratheatre.org).

The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus is proud to introduce its audiences to Valerian's magnificent voice and talent.

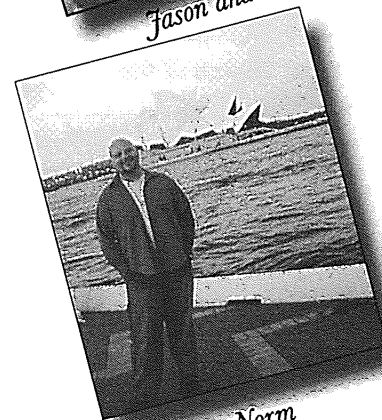
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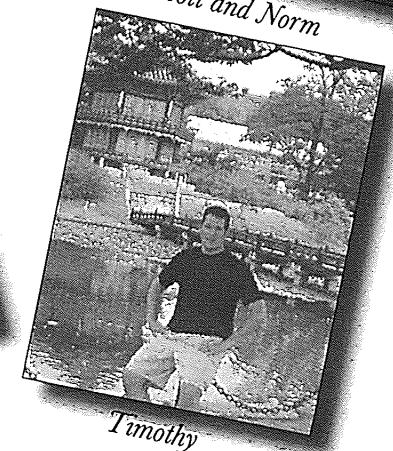
*Jason and Barbara*



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*Norm*



*Timothy*

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## BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

From the White House:

### LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER PRIDE MONTH, 2009

Forty years ago, patrons and supporters of the Stonewall Inn in New York City resisted police harassment that had become all too common for members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community. Out of this resistance, the LGBT rights movement in America was born. During LGBT Pride Month, we commemorate the events of June 1969 and commit to achieving equal justice under law for LGBT Americans.

LGBT Americans have made, and continue to make, great and lasting contributions that continue to strengthen the fabric of American society. There are many well-respected LGBT leaders in all professional fields, including the arts and business communities. LGBT Americans also mobilized the Nation to respond to the domestic HIV/AIDS epidemic and have played a vital role in broadening this country's response to the HIV pandemic.

Due in no small part to the determination and dedication of the LGBT rights movement, more LGBT Americans are living their lives openly today than ever before. I am proud to be the first President to appoint openly LGBT candidates to Senate-confirmed positions in the first 100 days of an Administration. These individuals embody the best qualities we seek in public servants, and across my Administration — in both the White House and the Federal agencies — openly LGBT employees are doing their jobs with distinction and professionalism.

The LGBT rights movement has achieved great progress, but there is more work to be done. LGBT youth should feel safe to learn without the fear of harassment, and LGBT families and seniors should be allowed to live their lives with dignity and respect.

My Administration has partnered with the LGBT community to advance a wide range of initiatives. At the international level, I have joined efforts at the United Nations to decriminalize homosexuality around the world. Here at home, I continue to support measures to bring the full spectrum of equal rights to LGBT Americans. These measures include enhancing hate crimes laws, supporting civil unions and Federal rights for LGBT couples, outlawing discrimination in the workplace, ensuring adoption rights, and ending the existing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy in a way that strengthens our Armed Forces and our national security. We must also commit ourselves to fighting the HIV/AIDS epidemic by both reducing the number of HIV infections and providing care and support services to people living with HIV/AIDS across the United States.

These issues affect not only the LGBT community, but also our entire Nation. As long as the promise of equality for all remains unfulfilled, all Americans are affected. If we can work together to advance the principles upon which our Nation was founded, every American will benefit. During LGBT Pride Month, I call upon the LGBT community, the Congress, and the American people to work together to promote equal rights for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2009 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month. I call upon the people of the United States to turn back discrimination and prejudice everywhere it exists.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

**BARACK OBAMA**



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## On Vacation!

- Hello Muddah, Hello Faddah** Alan Sherman  
(A Letter from Camp)  
Adapted from "Dance of the Hours"  
from the opera *La Gioconda* by Amilcare Ponchielli
- Swimming to the Other Side** Pat Humphries  
Arranged by David W. Fox
- Summer Nights** Music and Lyrics by Jim Jacobs  
from *Grease* and Warren Casey  
Arranged by Steve Milloy
- Just a Little Rhumba** George and Ira Gershwin  
Special Guest: Valerian Ruminski
- Standin' on the Corner** Frank Loesser  
from *Most Happy Fella*  
BGMC Chamber Singers
- Pansies Everywhere You Go** Eric Lane Barnes  
The Chorus and Ballerinas Jason Ward and Lorne Gretsinger
- The Caffeine Overload Polka** Eric Lane Barnes  
BGMC Chamber Singers
- Innisfree** Bradley Ellingboe  
Poem by William Butler Yeats  
The Chorus and Nate Phillips, Tenor
- Intermission —
- Fugue for Tinorns** Frank Loesser  
From *Guys and Dolls*  
BGMC Chamber Singers
- Will You?** Music by Scott Frankel  
From *Grey Gardens* Lyrics by Michael Korie
- Home on the Range** Arranged by Paul Peck

## The Bandit

Music and Poem by Madeline Davis  
Arranged by Phil Sims  
Commissioned by Rick Smith,  
Rigidized Metals

The Chorus and Larry Albert, Guitar  
and Al Schliseman, Accordion

## It's Raining Men

from *Mama Mia*

Words and Music by Paul Shaffer  
and Paul Jabara

## Color Out of Colorado

Music by Dick Gallagher  
Lyrics by Mark Waldrop

## Bridge Over Troubled Waters

Paul Simon  
Arranged by Phil Sims

## Anthem

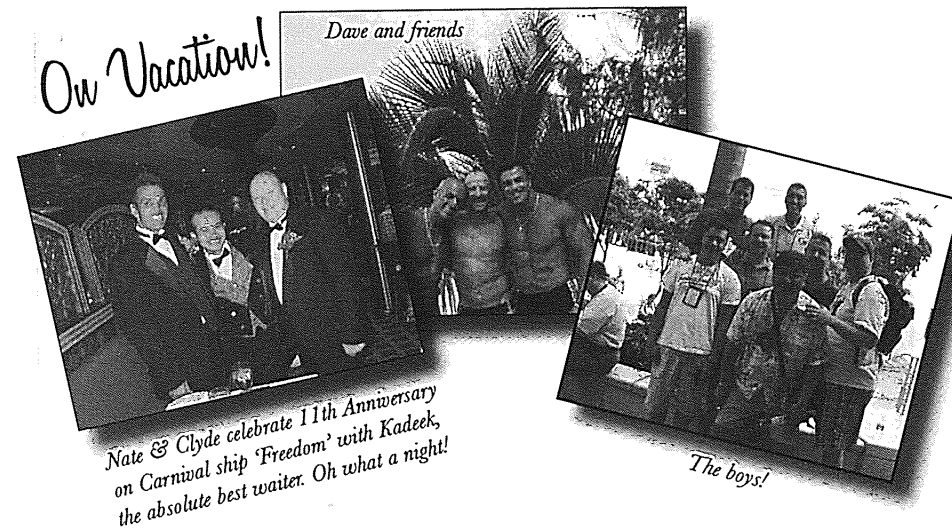
Words and Music by Benny  
Anderson and Bjorn Alvaeus

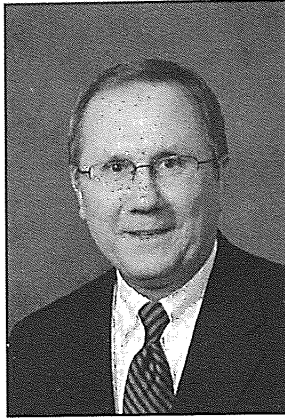
Christopher Hart, Percussion  
Timothy Mroz, Bass



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## On Vacation!





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### *Music Notes*

Jason Ward and Barbara Wagner

#### **Hello Muddah, Hello Faddah**

Allan Sherman's inspiration for his Grammy-winning novelty song came from letters of complaint he received from his son while attending camp. The song complains about Camp Grenada and is set to the tune of "Dance of the Hours" by Ponchielli.

#### **Swimming To The Other Side**

Originally recorded for Pat Humphries 2001 CD *Hands*, this song is sung at peace and justice events around the world and has been translated into seven languages. She said this song "did not just come out of me. This came from a lot of different people and different places, and I just happened to be here at the right time for it to flow through my pen, my tape recorder. It's very emotional for me."

#### **Summer Nights**

From the musical *Grease*, this song tells of the fling between Danny Zuko and Sandy Dombrowski. Of course, there are two sides to every story. Danny gives his version to the T-Birds, and Sandy gives hers to the Pink Ladies. Somewhere in between is what actually happened. We hope you enjoy our take on this Broadway classic.

#### **Pansies Everywhere You Go -- Caffeine Overload Polka**

Eric Lane Barnes, the composer of "Pansies" and "The Caffeine Overload Polka" is one of the wittiest and most talented people in the GALA movement. He's a composer, an arranger, the conductor of Seattle Men's Chorus's small group, Captain Smartypants and all around amazing musician. We've sung a couple of his serious compositions, including "Bist du bei mir", "The Angels and the Shepherds", which was arranged for BGMC, as well as his "Landscape", a theme and variations on "Mary Had a Little Lamb" and just recently "Middle Child". In "Pansies" the composer's greatest wish for us is that we have pansies everywhere we go -- vases, pillows, for breakfast and tea and even behind your dumpster!!! This charming song seems eminently appropriate for the season, as well as the theme of this rather zany concert. "Caffeine Overload Polka", sung by our wonderful "small group" (could you help us name this group?), is in much the same spirit, but deals with what happens when you have too little or too much coffee. We've had a grand time with this number and I want to thank Dion Johnson for his patient leadership.



### **Standin' On The Corner**

Written by Frank Loesser, this song was introduced in the Broadway musical, *The Most Happy Fella*. It gained further popularity when it was recorded by The Four Lads when it first reached the Billboard charts on April 28, 1956. It ultimately peaked at #3. The lead tenor for The Four Lads, Jimmy Arnold, is sometimes erroneously listed as co-author of the song.

### **Innisfree**

Shimmering with tranquility and peace, "The Lake Isle of Innisfree" is one of William Butler Yeats' earlier lyric poems and probably the most popular of all of his poetry. Throughout the poem, Yeats' yearning for the peace and tranquility of his boyhood haunt is palpable. He can escape the noise of the city and be lulled by the "lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore." On this tiny island, he can return to nature by growing beans and tending his bee hives. He can see the "purple haze of noon, the sounds of birds' wings and, of course, "live alone in the bee loud glade." He could even build a cabin and stay as long as he wanted. Sounds a bit like Thoreau, doesn't it? I wonder if Yeats read *Walden Pond*.

### **Fugue For Tinhorns**

Another Frank Loesser composition, "Fugue For Tinhorns" is the opening number from his 1950 musical *Guys and Dolls*. The song is a fugue trio about the joys of betting on horseracing.

### **Will You?**

This ballad is from the 2006 musical *Grey Gardens* with book by Doug Wright, music by Scott Frankel, and lyrics by Michael Korie. The show is based on the 1975 documentary of the same title about the lives of Edith Ewing Bouvier Beale ("Big Edie") and her daughter Edith Bouvier Beale ("Little Edie"). The Beales were Jacqueline Kennedy's aunt and cousin, respectively. Set at Grey Gardens, the Bouviers' mansion in East Hampton, New York, the musical tracks the progression of their lives from their original status as rich and socially polished aristocrats to an isolated existence in a home overridden by cats and cited for repeated health code violations.

### **Home On The Range**

The words to this classic come from Dr. Brewster M. Higley's poem called "My Western Home". The poem was first published in a December 1873 issue of the *Smith County Pioneer* under the title "Oh, Give Me a Home Where the Buffalo Roam". The music was written by Higley's friend, Daniel E. Kelley. It was later arranged in the early 20th century by Texan composer David Guion who is often credited as the composer. It was officially adopted as the state song of Kansas on June 30, 1947, and is commonly regarded as the unofficial anthem of the American West.

### **The Bandit**

Our beloved Madeline Davis has done it again. In her poem, "The Bandit", she has created a legend, a folk hero, if you will, for our own GLBT Community. The hero is left nameless, but he reminds me so much of Ned Kelly, another bandit and an Australian folk hero - even shades of Robin Hood. When I first read the poem and played and sang the music that Phil Sims created, the powerful images of *Brokeback Mountain* flooded my spirit. I saw again the torment and fear that were the lives of Ennis and Jack. I even saw, in my mind's eye the craggy mountains of the West that protected them for a while. I saw the faces of my brave BGMC brothers, and the agony and ecstasy that was Harvey Milk's short life. And there was Madeline, strong and courageous, even in the face of her own physical frailty, giving us the image of the lovers, bandit and cowboy, to inspire us as we continue the mighty struggle for equality. Thank you, Madeline and Phil.

### **It's Raining Men**

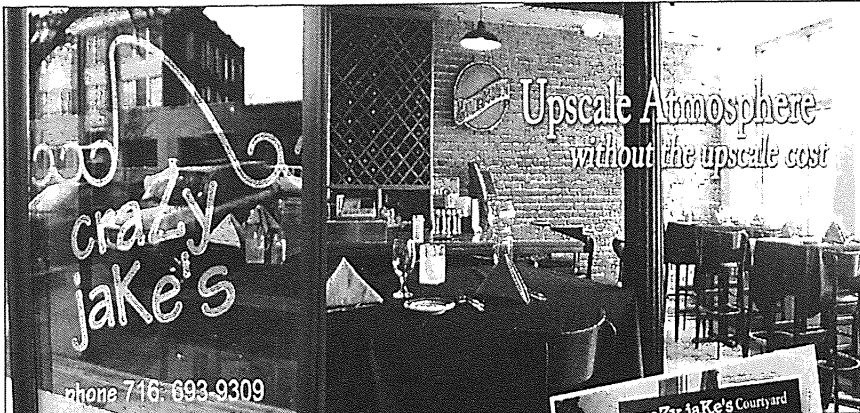
This international hit written by Paul Jabara and Paul Shaffer in 1979 was originally recorded by The Weather Girls in 1982. It has been offered to a Who's Who of legendary female singers, including Donna Summer, Diana Ross, Cher, Chaka Khan, Gloria Gaynor, and even Barbra Streisand before being accepted by Martha Wash and Izora Armstead of The Weather Girls. Their version went on to sell over 6 million copies world wide.

### **Bridge Over Troubled Waters**

This beloved, incredibly spiritual song is the title song of Simon and Garfunkel's final album together, released on January 26, 1970. This song's recording process exposed many of the underlying tensions that eventually led to the breakup of the duo after the completion of the album. There was controversy over who would sing the solo. Simon insisted that Garfunkel do it and later regretted it as he (Simon), of course, was relegated to backup status. Garfunkel initially didn't want to do the lead as he felt it wasn't right for him. Hmmmmmm -- sounds a bit familiar. Later, however, Garfunkel said the moment when he performed it in Madison Square Garden was "almost biblical." In recent performances on the Old Friends tour, they have taken turns singing alternate verses of the vocal. For me, no matter who sings it, the song is biblical and one of my favorite songs of all time.

### **Anthem**

This song comes from the musical, *Chess*, with lyrics by Tim Rice and music by Bjorn Ulvaeus and Benny Anderson, formerly of ABBA. It's the story of a romantic triangle between two players (an American and a Russian) in a world chess championship and a woman who manages one and falls in love with the other. The brash American ultimately loses both the championship and the love interest to the Russian, who runs off with her after the match. The Russian, who is attempting to defect to the West, has his loyalty questioned by the media at the event. His reply is that his "land's only borders lie around my heart".

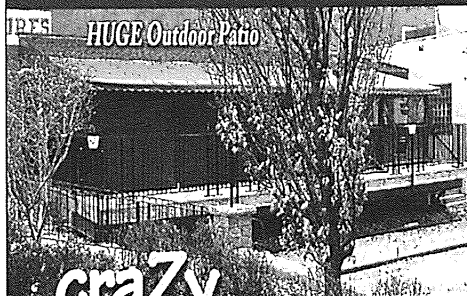


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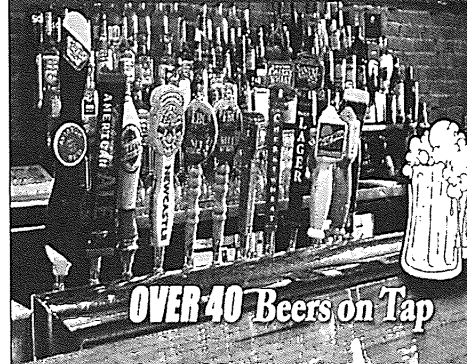
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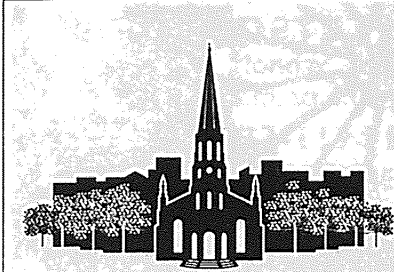


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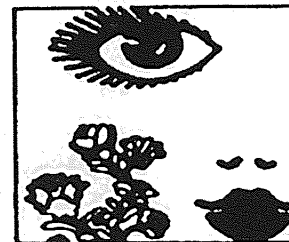
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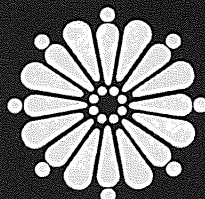
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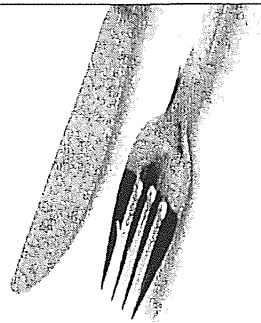
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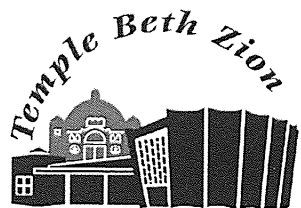
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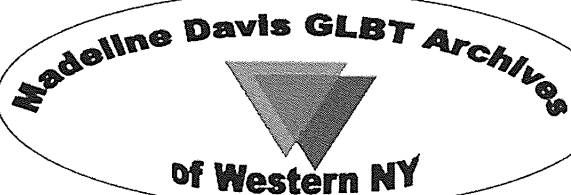
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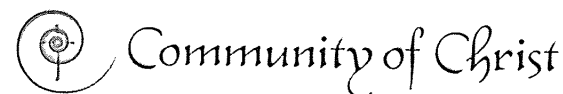
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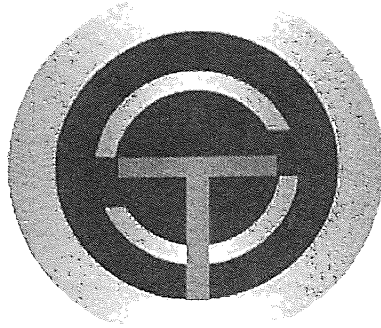
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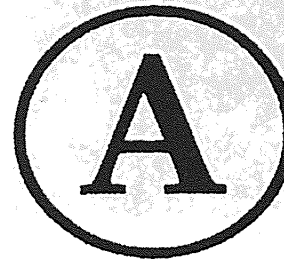
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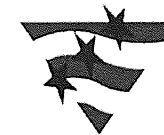
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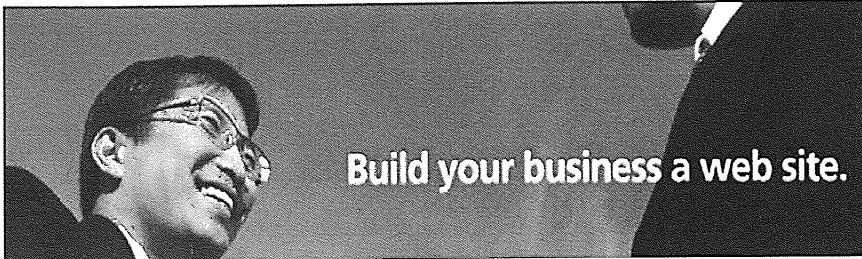
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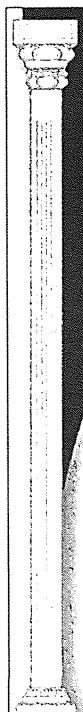
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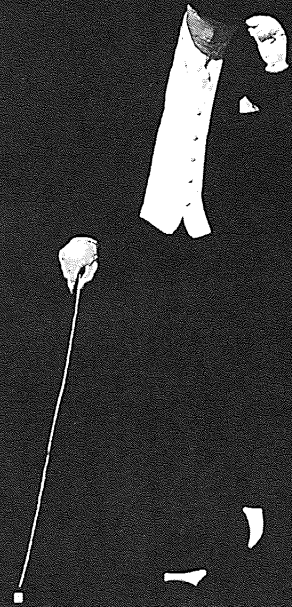
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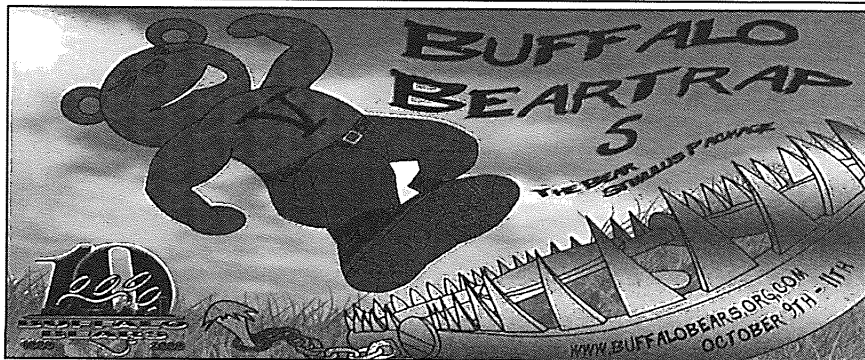
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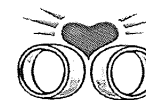
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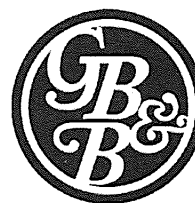
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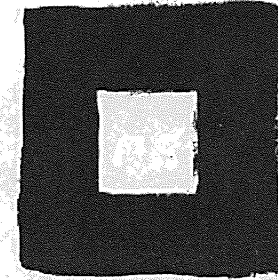
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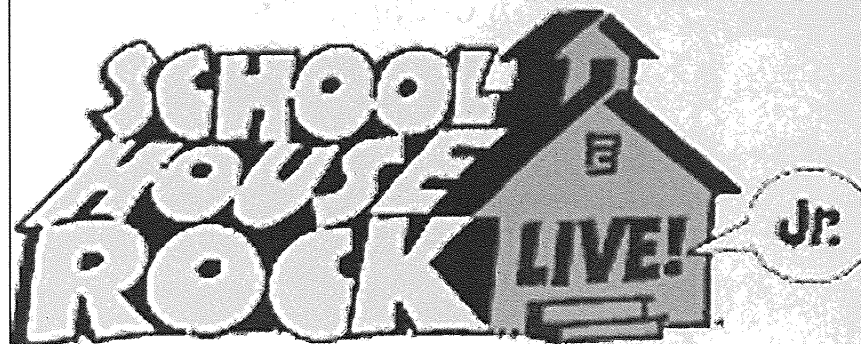
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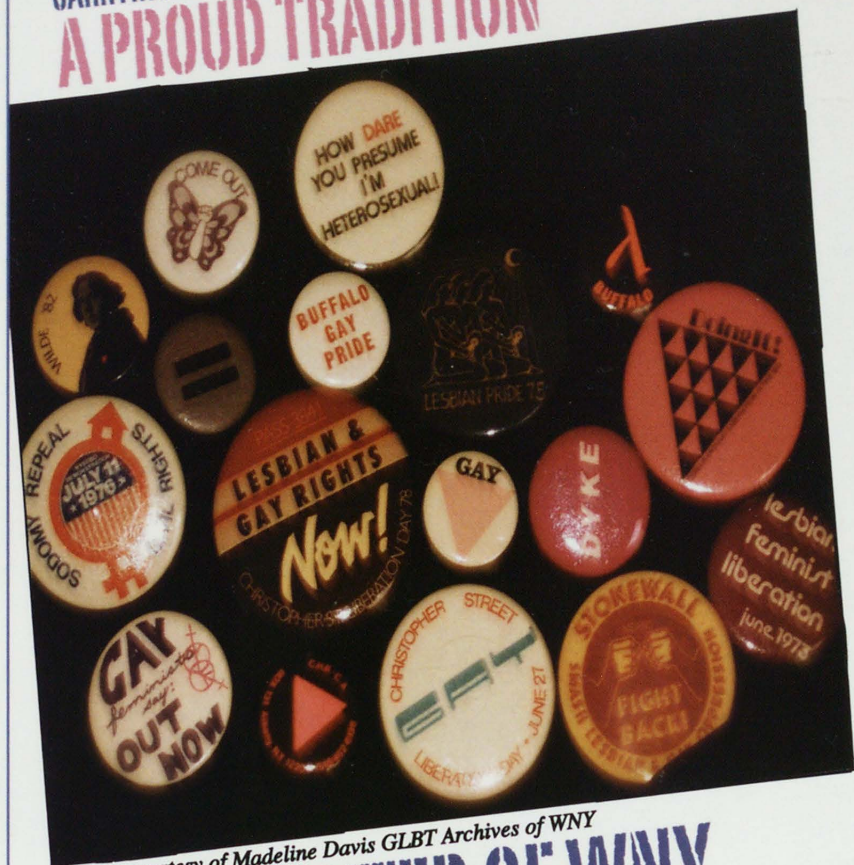


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