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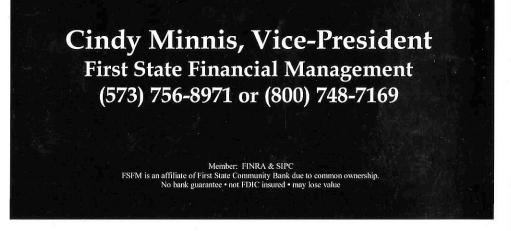
I am in the business of helping people succeed. Financial success is not a number; it is a feeling. It is about the good things that money can do.

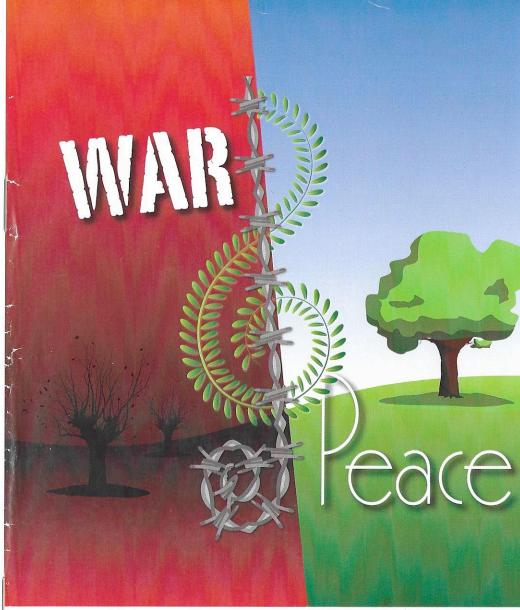
For many people, that means a secure retirement and comfort in their golden years. For others, it's a good education for their grandchildren or help for their church or charity. For some, it's about successfully selling or restructuring the family business or passing it on to the next generation.

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Missouri History Museum December 15 & 16, 2017 www.charischorus.org (314) 664-9340













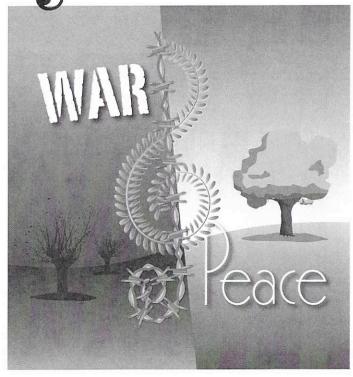






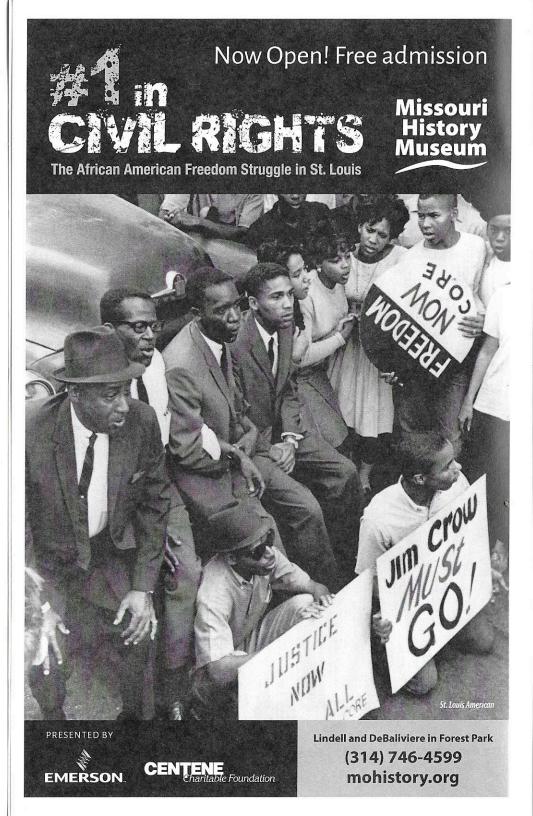
...then head upstairs for dessert & cocktails!





Dr. Stuart Chapman Hill, Artistic Director
Susan Young, Accompanist

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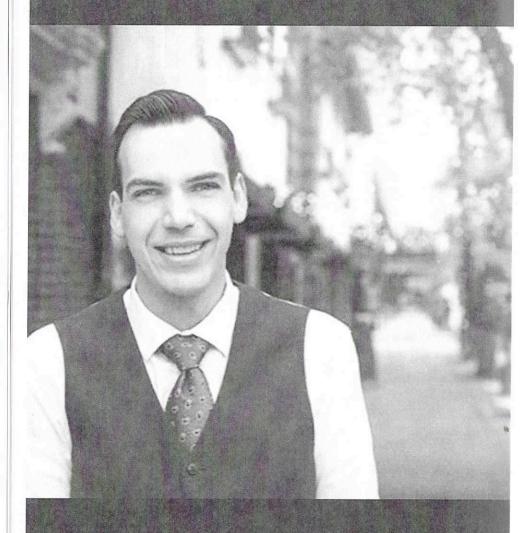
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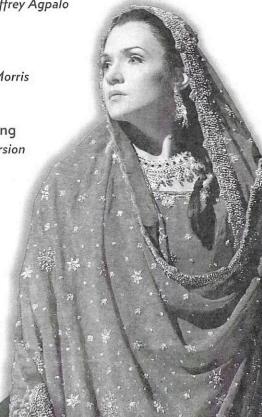
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Lisa C. Kastner
Chris Mabe
Eileen McGartland
Leslie A. Shipman
Carol Weisman

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Allison Benoit
Elizabeth Cason
Jessica Gomez
Loretta Haggard
Kat Horstman
Kim Powlishta*
Ana Quiring
Angie Rundle-Hart
Kyra Short
Lerleatha Smith
Molly Taylor
Julia Welsh
Pamela Yelton
Emma Young

*Section Leader

ALTO I

Wendy Bell
Faith Alma Boyd
Debbie Char*
Katie Corcoran
Mildred Hood
Virginia Malik
Fiona Morales
Colleen Mulvihill
Melinda Ohlemiller
Lucy Sappington
Jenny Yedvobnick
Diane Zeger

ALTO II

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Jessica Caves
EJ Cosby*
Kayla Dippold
Susan Forbes
Candice Freeman
Anna Ledbetter
Dani MacCartney
Tami McQueen
Sharon Opp
Hannah Petri
Jennifer Rooks
Sharon Spurlock
Gail Wiley



WHO WE ARE

CHARIS is a diverse group of women united in our mission to perform music that celebrates and encourages women and the LGBTQ community.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

CHARIS is a non-auditioned chorus that extends an open invitation for membership to anyone who identifies as a woman. Rehearsals are held on Tuesday nights from 7:00-9:30 p.m. at Peace UCC, 204 E. Lockwood Ave., Webster Groves. If you are interested in membership or volunteer information or in attending a rehearsal, please visit our website at www.charischorus.org or call (314) 664-9340

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Sharon Spurlock, President	Evan Adams Tia Adkins
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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT "War & Peace"



CHARIS has been performing music that speaks to the experiences of women and the LGBTQIA community for 25 years. When I joined (on January 3, 1994), a large percentage of our chorus was closeted to family and/or in their workplace. A handful of trail-blazers were married and raising families but many other singers felt that those opportunities were not an option. We had singers who couldn't stand on stage openly or who listed themselves in the program by their initials or as "anonymous".

Last year, I wondered to myself if there continued to be a need for a chorus like CHARIS. What a difference that year has made! In the wake of potential setbacks to our civil rights, there has never been a time when speaking up has been more important. CHARIS has almost doubled in size and our collaborations with like-minded social justice organizations have grown and flourished. We have revitalized our commitment to address women's issues and matters of social justice and civil rights for the LGBTQIA community through song.

One of the songs you'll hear tonight, "Fighting Over What We Believe," talks about what justice really looks like. I hope it inspires everyone to talk to their friends, family, and neighbors about meaningful action towards a just community and find a common vision for change.

If you want to be on stage for our next concert, consider joining us at our Singer Recruitment Party to ring in the New Year on Tuesday, January 2nd at 7 pm. We will be "Singing with our Sisters" to celebrate our 25th anniversary.

Sharon Spurlock
President
CHARIS – The St. Louis Women's Chorus



...was the realization of the dream of its founders Cindy Sohn and Juliet

Jackson. With the guidance and support of the Gateway Men's Chorus (GMC), they organized the Committee to Unite Women Singers in the fall of 1992, with the goal of creating a chorus open to all women, regardless of cultural background or musical experience. CHARIS has always been a non-auditioned chorus.

The chorus made its first public appearance on May 23, 1993 at Trinity Episcopal Church in a fundraiser to benefit Northside AIDS Outreach. CHARIS made its solo debut in October 1993 and has subsequently produced two to three solo performances along with community benefits each year.

Chorus highlights include a performance at the "Notes from Home" series in 1995, at which time the chorus recorded "Dream In Color," its first commercially released tape. CHARIS hosted and performed at the 1995 Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA) Leadership Conference and in 1996, CHARIS performed at our first GALA Festival in Tampa FL.

Merry Keller accepted the position of Artistic Director in January 2000. Many wonderful concerts ensued under her direction including Sing for the Cure, a concert benefiting the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and CHARIS' tenth anniversary concert, A Decade of Song, featuring special guest artist Holly Near. Aric Henson took the baton when Merry Keller left and directed CHARIS in Fired Up!, a history of protest music with special guest artists Symmetry and Legends featuring Kim Massie as our guest artist. In spring 2007, CHARIS staged the world premiere performance of The Vegans of Provincetown, a witty and lesbian-friendly homage to Gilbert and Sullivan.

In April 2008, the chorus invited special guest artist Lisa Koch to join CHARIS on the Couch. CHARIS' 16th season began with an ending, as Artistic Director Aric Henson brought his tenure to a close. He handed the baton to our next Artistic Director, Kourtney R. Strade. Strade directed CHARIS through a musical journey with Coming Out in May 2009. In our 17th season, Strade led the chorus into new territory with two musically challenging offerings — November 2009's Quantum Leap, a concert of music by women composers over the centuries, and May 2010's Unplugged, an offering of a cappella numbers.

CHARIS performed at our third Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses Festival in Denver CO in July 2012 and in 2013 celebrated our 20th anniversary with a "best of" performance. In 2014, we performed 7 Deadly Sins, under Kourtney Strade's direction for the final time.

Artistic Director, Dr. Jeremiah Selvey, joined CHARIS in time for Pridefest 2015 and directed CHARIS in Cravings and Behind the Scenes. Dr. Selvey resigned in July after leading CHARIS in an impressive fourth performance at GALA festival where we were recognized as a "showstopper" chorus. Claire Minnis stepped in as interim director for our 24th season directing crowd favorite concerts, Route 66 and Women Rising, where we partnered with local social justice organizations, St. Louis Black Pride, PROMO, Planned Parenthood, and League of Women Voters.

In May 2017, CHARIS hired Dr. Stuart Chapman Hill after an extensive artistic director search. Stuart will be leading the chorus in our first concert of our 25th season tonight, War and Peace.

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www.charischorus.org

LETTER FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of CHARIS,

I am thrilled to greet you on the occasion of leading my first concert with CHARIS, but I wish I were greeting you in different times. Recently, I was listening to one of my favorite podcasts—Pod Save the People—and the regular panel of guests was discussing last month's elections, in which Democrats careened to many decisive victories, including gubernatorial races in Virginia and California. The panelists all lean pretty far to the left, so the tone of the discussion was upbeat, celebratory, causing one panelist to remark that he'd almost forgotten what it felt like to rejoice after a victory.

Whatever your political persuasion, forgetting how to rejoice is never a good thing. And yet, the world seems to make rejoicing, or simply feeling at peace, harder each day, as each new headline delivers further evidence that things are coming apart at the seams. World leaders are at loggerheads. Hallowed traditions of civility in government face an existential threat. Previous victories won on behalf of immigrants, women, LGBTQ folks, or those who just need adequate healthcare, hang in the balance. Senseless, evil attackers fire weapons and drive vehicles into unsuspecting crowds, robbing innocent victims of their lives, robbing families of their precious loved ones, robbing all of us of the simple security we ought to feel each day as we carry on with our lives. It sure looks like a war zone out there.

Where do we turn for peace? We act, of course. We organize. We carry signs and telephone legislators. And, as humans always have when wrongs need to be righted, we lift our voices in loud, courageous song. I think often of the poem "My IQ," by my favorite singer, Ani DiFranco—which reads, in part:

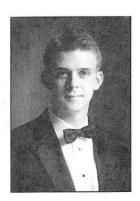
And I sing sometimes like my life is at stake, 'Cause you're only as loud as the noises you make. I'm learning to laugh as hard as I can listen, 'Cause silence is violence in women and poor people, And, if more people were screaming, then I could relax, But a good brain ain't diddley if you don't have the facts: We live in a breakable, takeable world, an ever-available, possible world, and we can make music like we can make do. [...]

For every lie I unlearn, I learn something new, And I sing sometimes for the war that I fight, 'Cause every tool is a weapon, if you hold it right.

We sing tonight because lives are at stake. We sing to tell the truth, even when it's ugly. We sing to heal ourselves with hope and, yes, with laughter. We sing of the war we can't ignore; we sing of the peace we seek with every fiber of our beings. And we sing to strengthen all of us for the hard work of making this breakable, takeable, everavailable, possible world a better place for us and our fellow travelers.

Thank you for joining us this evening. May this music challenge and awaken you, heal and inspire you.

Onward, Stuart Chapman Hill Artistic Director



DR. STUART CHAPMAN HILL is a teacher, composer, conductor, and scholar based in St. Louis, Missouri, where he serves as Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Music Education at Webster University—and is thrilled to be joining CHARIS, the St. Louis Women's Chorus, for his first season as Artistic Director. In the summers, his teaching takes him to his native North Carolina, where he serves on the choral music faculty of the Governor's School of North Carolina (East campus). Stuart's choral compositions are published by G. Schirmer and by Hinshaw Music, which re-

cently established a composer series in his name. He enjoys serving as a guest conductor and clinician with choirs of all kinds, with engagements this academic year in Batavia, NY; Murfreesboro, TN; Charlottesville, VA; and New Delhi, India. His scholarship focuses on forging stronger connections between the world of popular music and the curricula of K–12 school music programs, with a specific research interest in investigating the learning practices of popular songwriters. Stuart earned his Ph.D. in music education and choral conducting from Michigan State University and holds Master of Education and Bachelor of Music degrees from Vanderbilt University.

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CONDUCTING FELLOW



FAITH ALMA BOYD is a Junior Choral Music Education major at Webster University. This year, she is taking courses in Conducting, Musicianship, Theory, and Elementary Music Methods, as well as studying privately in voice and piano. As the CHARIS Conducting Fellow, Mrs. Boyd is taking on a new role, seeking to enhance her education while also providing musical support for an ensemble that she is truly passionate about. At Webster, Mrs. Boyd performs as

a member of the Webster University Women's Chorus, Concert Choir, and Chamber Singers. She also holds the current Choir Manager position for said Women's Chorus and Chamber Singers. Outside of the classroom, she serves as the President for Webster's National Association for Music Education Student Chapter, a role which keeps her busy planning supplemental events and experiences for her colleagues. In March of 2017, she took part with several St. Louis area colleges and Manhattan Concert Productions in performing Schubert's Mass in A flat Major at Carnegie Hall in New York City. In November of the same year, Mrs. Boyd performed with the Webster University Chamber Singers at Louisiana State University for the 7th Biennial conference of the National Collegiate Choral Organization, premiering a commission by Mike Engelhardt as well as a new arrangement by Dr. Stuart Chapman Hill. After graduating, Mrs. Boyd will seek to effect change and mindfulness in her future students, hoping to begin her career as a music educator and conductor at the high school level.

ACCOMPANIST



SUSAN YOUNG has been a part of CHARIS since 2002, initially as a singing member of the Alto section, and later as Accompanist. She has participated in both capacities in the GALA choruses festivals in 2008, 2012 and 2016. Susan also plays dual roles in BandTogether, where she is a humble member of the flute section, and sometimes pianist on that lovely Steinway. Susan and her wife, Dina, met through CHARIS and have continued to make music a central part of

their lives, whether singing silly made-up songs in the car, or performing professionally as The Ginger Snaps. Oh, and then there's that other 50 hours of the week when Susan works as an Oncology nurse at the Siteman Cancer Center, but that's another story.

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER



BECKI RHYNE lives in Alton, Illinois and has been interpreting professionally since 2002. She loves interpreting live professional theatre and concert performances and has provided interpreting services at major venues all over the metro St. Louis area. Becki is thrilled to have the opportunity to work with CHARIS this year. Becki has a BEI Master Certification and is an adjunct faculty member at Southwestern Illinois College.

15

War & Peace

www.charischorus.org

ACT 1

Caritas Abundat

Hildegard von Bingen

Lisa Kastner, Jenny Yedvobnic, Pam Yelton, and Julia Welsh

Megan's Gone to Fight

Melinda Ohlemiller

arr. Stuart Chapman Hill

Where Have All the Flowers Gone?

Pete Seeger

arr. Mark Sirrett

Loretta Haggard, flute; Hanna Kroeger, violin

What Is This Feeling? (from Wicked)

Stephen Schwartz

arr. Roger Emerson

Al Ludwig, bass; Tom Appelbaum, drums

Would You Harbor Me?

Ysaye M. Barnwell

arr. Mary Keller

Chris Mabe and Kyra Short, soloists

The Christians and the Pagans

Dar Williams

arr. David Maddux

Loretta Haggard and Ann Groner, soloists Al Ludwig, bass; Tom Appelbaum, drums

Adinu

Shireen Abu-Khader and Andre de Quadros

Katie Corcoran, EJ Cosby, Loretta Haggard, Chris Mabe, Leslie Shipman, Kyra Short, Carol Weisman, and Emma Young

Al Shlosha D'Varim

Allan E. Naplan

Jenny Yedvobnic, soloist; Faith Alma Boyd, conductor

Announcement Song
I Didn't Raise My Boy to be a Soldier

Alfred Bryan and Al Piantadosi alternate lyrics by Dina Young

Fighting Over What We Believe

Elizabeth Alexander

Debbie Char, EJ Cosby, and Emma Young, soloists Al Ludwig, bass; Tom Appelbaum, drums

INTERMISSION

ACT 2

21 Guns

Bowie, Williams, Armstrong, and Wright

arr. Roger Emerson

Leslie Shipman and Lerleatha Smith, soloists Al Ludwig, bass; Tom Appelbaum, drums

Shadows on the Rock

Jane Ramseyer Miller

Wendy Bell, speaker;

Al Ludwig, bass; Tom Appelbaum, drums

A Blessing of Cranes

Abbie Betinis

Carol Weisman, soloist

It Is The Silence (from Anne Frank: a Living Voice) Linda Tutas Haugen

Ani Ma'amin

Traditional Jewish Song arr. Paul Caldwell and Sean Ivory

Loretta Haggard, flute

Inscription of Hope

Z. Randall Stroope

Witness

Paul Caldwell and Sean Ivory

Happy Xmas (War Is Over)

John Lennon and Yoko Ono

arr. Mark Brymer

Al Ludwig, bass; Tom Appelbaum, drums

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for encouraging harmony and highlighting the rights and needs of women and the LGBTQ community.



Wishing everyone a peaceful, inclusive and joyful holiday season.



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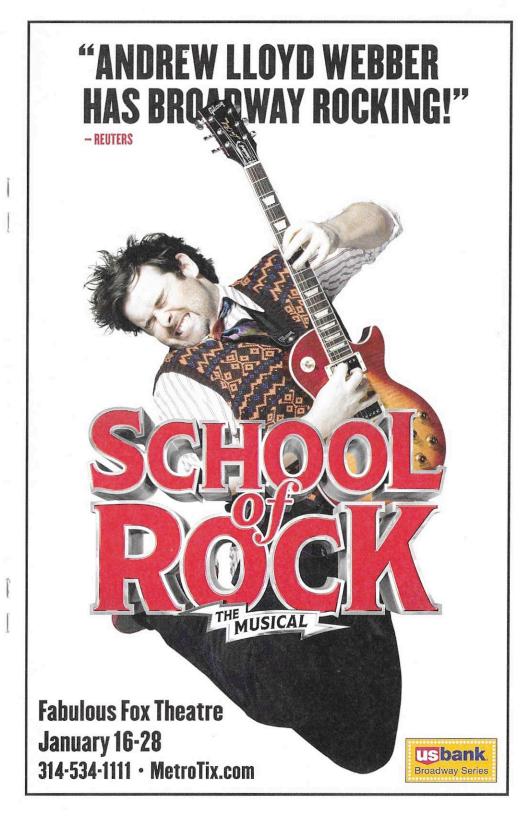
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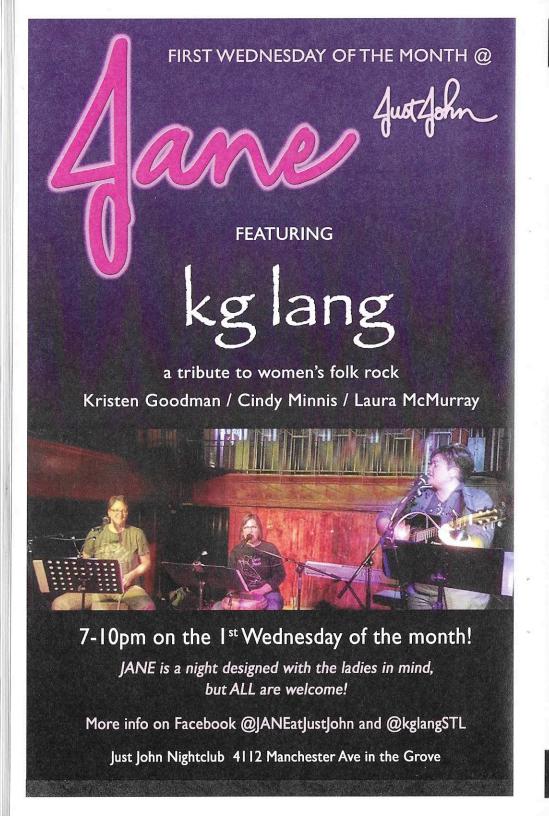
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In exchange we offer acknowledgement of your gift in many forms, from advertising in our program, acknowledgement in the program or from the stage, and/or in-kind tax letters.

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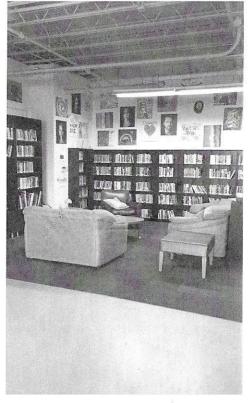
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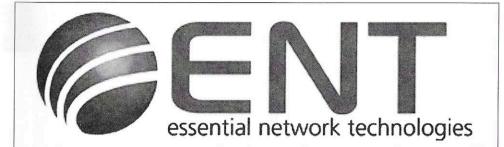
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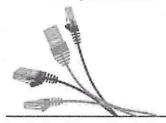


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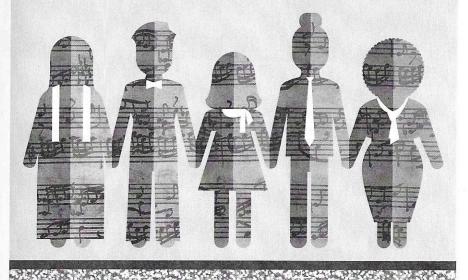


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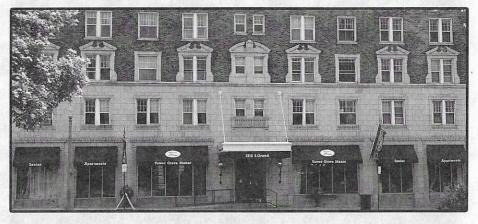
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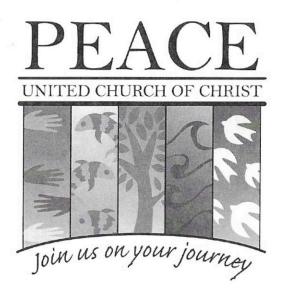




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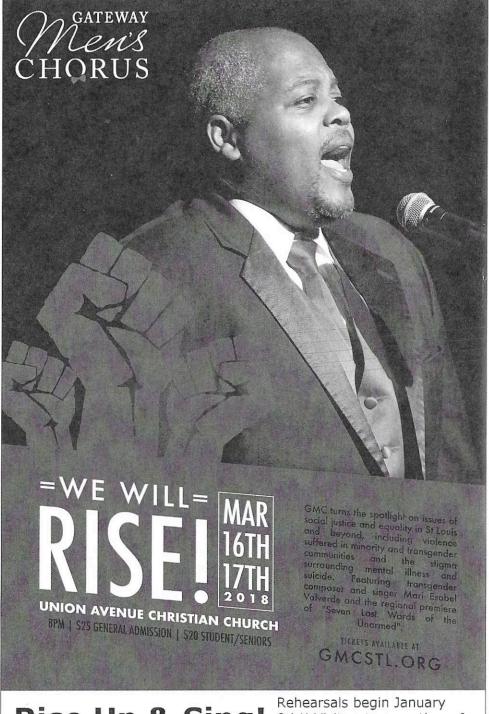


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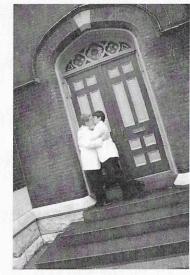
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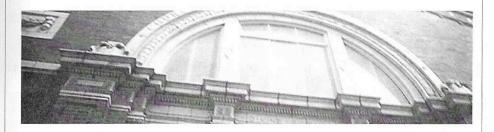
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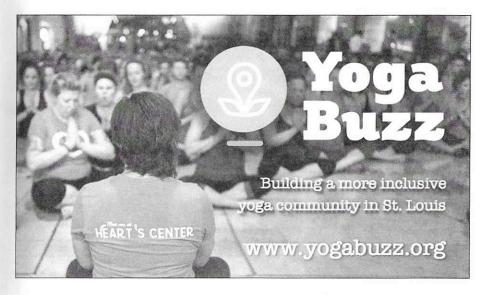
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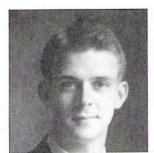
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