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## One Voice offers community remembrance concert

CHARLOTTE—Due to the warm response and healing felt as a result of last year's Remembrance concert, One Voice (Charlotte's gay, lesbian and gay-affirmative chorus) will perform "Circle of Life: A Concert of Remembrance" on March 12, 1995, 7:00 pm at Myers Park Baptist Church, 1900 Queens Road.

Two new choral pieces will be presented this year. The first piece, *Are You Out There?*, was composed by J. Breat Roland, a local performance artist, and arranged for chorus and orchestra by John C. Quillin, co-conductor of One Voice. Reflecting a very personal experience of loss, *Are You Out There?* is a beautiful and touching piece written in response to the 1988 death of David Westerfeld due to complications resulting from AIDS.

The second piece has the working title *Stories of Gifts*. Based on a Hebrew text expressing thanksgiving at being brought to a particular place and occasion, *Stories of Gifts* will replace the usual litany of names so frequently heard at memorial services.

"*Stories of Gifts* will be an opportunity for

people to express a particular gift or story of someone they have loved who has passed away," Quillin said. "Through this expression of thanksgiving I hope to encourage people to move beyond where they might be now in their mourning and to remember joy and beauty instead of pain."

Another selection on the program is *Patchwork Quilt*. First recorded by Sweet Honey in the Rock, this is a soulful tribute to those who have died of AIDS.

Among other pieces on the program are selections from the Durufle *Requiem* and *Circle of Life* the concert theme, which expresses continuance of life and hope in the face of adversity.

One Voice offers this concert as a gift to the community of Charlotte. Admission is free; however, donations will be accepted, and any profits over the cost of production will be shared with various community service agencies.

For more information, call John Quillin or Kathryn Mahan at (704) 371-3303.

## LGHP launches two new programs

DURHAM—The NC Lesbian and Gay Health Project (LGHP) has announced the formation of two programs to assist in the coming out process. Their "Coming Out Mentor Program" will provide a trained support person, or mentor, for people struggling with coming out of the closet. Their "Coming Out Support and Education Group" will focus on gay men over 30.

The "Coming Out Mentor Program" will be headed by volunteer coordinator Dr. Elliot Pack. "It was so important for me to have a gay friend to help answer questions and just to be there. We all need someone to help us through those agonizing days of indecision and fear. Mentors have been there and understand the benefit of having someone to talk honestly with and spend time with in the gay community — to learn about the positive diversity of gay life."

LGHP's staff program coordinator Lucy Harris, who is overseeing the program, believes, "Too many people come out alone because they think there is no one to turn to, and sadly, some of them make self-destructive decisions. With the help and guidance of a mentor, people can make better choices and avoid some of the anguish and the 'pitfalls,' including unsafe sexual practices, poor family interaction, job crises, substance abuse and so forth."

The Mentor program is a confidential and individual source of support for people wanting to come out in a positive and healthy way.

Dr. John Monroe of Innervations Counseling Center will coordinate the "Coming Out Support and Education Group." This group will provide men who want to come out a confidential, informative and non-threatening forum in which to openly discuss their questions, answers, hopes and fears. In conjunction with the group, LGHP will assign a volunteer from their "Coming Out Mentor Program" to assist each group member with his coming out process.

Each of the ten weekly sessions will provide members time to discuss the many issues raised by the coming out process. Along with practical insights, Dr. Monroe, his guest speakers and group members will look at the phases of coming out, historical perspectives, gay culture, local and national resources and organizations, internal homophobia, the biologic basis of sexual orientation, safe sex concerns, and the development of the skills needed to form and maintain positive relationships.

Dr. Monroe's goal is to make the group not just a supportive environment but also something "like the course that should have been offered at school: 'Coming Out 101.' We want to give the group useful, real information about how to come out and how valuable it is for each individual's growth."

For more information on either program, contact LGHP, PO Box 3203, Durham, NC 27715; (919) 286-4107.

## New Triangle AIDS house ready to open

by David Jones  
Q-Notes Staff

CARRBORO, NC—Orange County has a home for people with HIV who have no place else to live, located in the town of Carrboro, adjacent to Chapel Hill. The completion of the residence comes after five years of work, being rejected by another neighborhood, opposition from some residents in Carrboro, and a lengthy series of questions from the Town of Carrboro that had to be addressed. Plans are to accept residents after February 15, 1995.

The AIDS Service Agency of Orange County (ASAOC), sponsor of the home, held an open house for neighbors and supporters on Sunday, January 22, 1995. According to Deb Young, ASAOC's executive director, about 100 people came through during the three hours the house was open. "I was particularly happy to see a lot of our neighbors come by," she told *Q-Notes*, "since we had some problems around here at first." Many brought donations of supplies with them such as blankets and other items. Anonymous donations have also been left at the door of the house. Lists of things still needed in each room were posted for visitors to see during the open house.

Two local health care institutions have already provided substantial contributions of specialty furniture, Carol Woods retirement community and Durham Regional Hospital. Local art dealer Joe Rowand donated 22 works of art from his own collection and artists he represents.

The one-story, brick, ranch-style, six bedroom house structure is the first in the Tri-

angle built specifically as a group home with full handicapped accessibility and facilities (the Blevins House in Durham and Husted House in Raleigh were single-family residences before becoming group homes). Built to model specifications for a group home, some of the unique facilities include a specialty shower and bathing facilities, a medicine room and laundry facility. All residents' rooms are located on one wing, adjacent to the personal care areas. The dining, living room and den areas are accessible through doors at each end of the residential wing. A large dining room and kitchen sits in the center, rear of the house, separating the residential wing from a caregivers' room and office. There is a large patio off the dining area.

The rooms include hospital beds and reclining chairs that allow guests to sleep. The rest of the house is furnished with normal residential furnishings except the dining room table which was custom-made for group-home settings. It can be arranged in a variety of configurations depending on the number of people dining and special needs that some may have.

The new Orange County home received \$302,000 in federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) money. HUD will also provide some \$19,000 in operating cash, with the remaining \$200,000 annual operating budget coming from private donations, grants and state reimbursement for a portion of residents' daily costs. The cost of caring for residents is estimated at \$90.00 per day compared to \$1,000 per day and up at nearby hospitals.