

# On the MOVE



**W**ant to help certain adults develop a more positive view of teens?

Erica Jacob suggests inviting them to attend "Sing-Out" — a teen musical revue for charity in which she performs.

"When (adults) go to something like this, and see us being supportive and positive and having fun, they have not such a negative image of teenagers," said Erica, 18.

Lisa Romach, Sing-Out's director and producer, agrees with Erica.

"I've known a lot of people, senior citizens, who come year after year after year, because they see the good things that these kids are doing," Romach said. "They're our future, and we shouldn't be so afraid they're our future."

If anything, the annual Sing-Out is a great source of pride for the village of East Rochester. Patterned after "Up With People," a world-renowned young adult musical troupe, Sing-Out features teens

performing a series of 20 high-energy numbers. This year's shows will take place May 7 and 8 at East Rochester High School.

"People are very, very supportive of the Sing-Out," Erica said. "It's a tradition."

"There's a huge turnout for it. The whole community comes, senior citizens and everything," added Vincent Reeder, 18.

Sing-Out unites nearly 100 teens from East Rochester and surrounding towns as singers, dancers, band and crew members. In addition, Romach

said, nearly 50 adults volunteer behind the scenes.

All the people interviewed for this story are parishioners at St. Jerome's Church. However, Vincent said that Sing-Out involves both Catholics and non-Catholics, most of whom are East Rochester residents.

The two-hour show will include tap dancing, a swing number, jazz and ribbon dances, solos and "a few songs with 70 people all dancing at once," Romach said. One special number will feature high-school seniors.

Sing-Out's music appeals to all ages, Erica said.

"There's oldies, new songs and some you might not have heard for five or six years that we've pulled out from under the rug," said Erica, who is both a performer and co-producer this year.

The upcoming Sing-Out's theme will be "Millennium Melody," a tribute to the 20th century. Romach said that Sing-Out's cast will encourage its audiences to embrace the 21st century, rather than fret excessively about such matters as the Y2K crisis.

"We'll be saying, 'Don't worry, we've made it through this century and we'll make it through the next,'" Romach remarked.

According to Romach, Sing-Out originated out of St. Jerome's Church in the late 1960s and early 1970s and was called "Up With People" at the time. Romach, who performed in those shows, revived them in 1990 as a tribute to a close friend and former co-



From left, Amy Ross and Justine Messmer practice a large-scale dance number to the song "I Will Survive" for the Sing-Out at East Rochester High School.

STORY BY MIKE LATONA

PHOTOS BY GREG BENENATI

performer, Tim Dunn, who died in 1989.

Funds raised from Sing-Outs have gone to Rochester-area charities. More than \$20,000 has been raised over the past nine years, Romach said. This year's beneficiary is the Alternatives for Battered Women Children's Center, which provides goods and services for children of abused women.

Vincent said that Sing-Outs are good options for participants who enjoy performing, but face schedule crunches because of other commitments.

"A lot of these people may not be able to do the school productions," he said.

Romach noted that the great majority of Sing-Out performers are involved in scholastic sports. "We rehearse on Sundays, so they can do this," she said.

The troupe began rehearsing weekly in January, with rehearsals becoming daily two weeks before the shows.

"The last few weeks, we go until 10 at night or later," remarked Vincent, who plays saxophone for the Sing-Out's 12-member band.

Romach noted that many performers invest time outside of rehearsal as well, going to recording and dance studios to polish their talents.

Even so, Sing-Out remains open to teens "regardless of acting and singing ability," Erica said. The only basic

requirement, she said, is that they enjoy themselves.

"Our motto is, 'It's got to be fun,'" Erica said.

"It's a very enjoyable atmosphere," Vincent agreed. "Very professional; very high-energy."

This setting enticed Laura Glaza to join Sing-Out for the first time this year, she said.

"I had seen the show for many years and I wanted to be in it, because it looked like a lot of fun," said Laura, 15.

"The feedback that I get from people is, 'You could tell those kids are having a good time on stage,'" Romach said. "The number one thing I tell the kids is that if you're having a good time, so will your audience."

...

**EDITORS' NOTE:** "Sing-Out" will be held at 8 p.m. May 7 and 8 at the East Rochester High School auditorium, 200 Woodbine Ave. Tickets are available in advance and at the door. For details, call Lisa Romach at 716/586-1473.

**COMING NEXT WEEK: EDUCATION FOR PEACE CONFERENCE**

Nashville Contemporary Christian Musician  
**BOB CARLISLE**  
Grammy winning Singer/Composer  
"Butterfly Kisses", "After bedtime prayer, stickin' little white flowers all up in her hair ..."  
1998 Grammy "Song of the Year"

In Concert with his very Special Guests  
**RUSS TAFF & NATALIE GRANT**

**SAT. MAY 15<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm**

To benefit the Daniel & Friends Summer Camp

**Our Lady of Mercy High School Auditorium**  
1437 Blossom Road

**Tickets: \$12 in advance \$15 at the door (if available)**

**Concert Info / Charge by phone 377-0214 or 334-1760**

## Conesus Inn



Make Your Reservations for  
**Mother's Day**  
Sun. May 9  
1-til?

### Early Specials

**Tuesday - Friday...\$10.95**

Prime Rib • Delmonico Steak  
Grilled Swordfish • Chicken Wellington  
Chicken Oscar • Stuffed Shrimp

**Available Every Day:** Four Cuts of Prime Rib  
• Alaskan King Crab Legs  
• Jumbo Shrimp • Lobster Tails • Fresh Grilled Fish

### Fish Specials on Friday

**All dinners available for takeout!**  
Serving Dinners Nightly Except Monday

**5654 East Lake Road  
Conesus Lake • 346-6100**

Special Attention Given To Banquets and Parties  
www.Conesusinn.com

