

Tour 2000

Broe Choir sings at NFHS

In addition to a shared love of music, The Broe Tabernacle Therapeutic Choir has another thing in common. All 19 members are singers who have had traumatic brain injuries and receive therapy at the Broe Rehabilitation Services in Farmington Hills.

The choir was formed by its director, Len McCulloch, director of psychological services at Broe, who noticed clients often responded better to song than conversation. The seed was sown when one client, who had never spoken a word since his traumatic brain injury occurred, began humming. With a little encouragement from McCulloch, he burst into a robust version of "Amazing Grace."

The choir has performed at nursing homes, homeless shelters — even at a mother house for a religious order of nuns, who flattered choir members by asking for their autographs after the show.

Tuesday's performance at North Farmington High School was the first choir performance for a school. McCulloch hopes it's the first of many.

In addition to a 45 minute performance by the choir, featuring such tunes as "Michael Row the Boat Ashore," "You Are My Sunshine," and "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands," some choir members performed solos and gave a brief history of their injury.

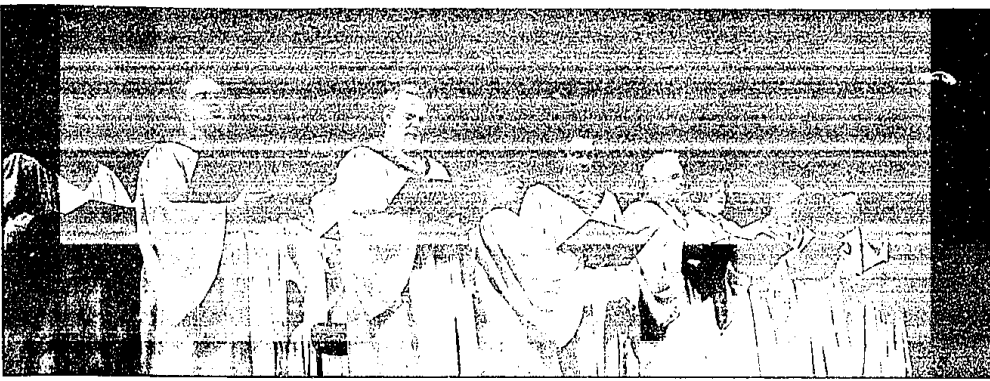
Timothy Broe, Ph.D., talked about traumatic brain injury: prevention, drinking and driving, sports related concussions. There was also an informal question and answer period with choir members.

For the 150 North students who came to the optional presentation, the response was overwhelmingly positive.

"We gave them a form for feedback and the responses were phenomenal," McCulloch said. "The ratings were all very impressive and they said Thank You for coming."

The entire presentation ran from 9 a.m. to 10:25 a.m.

For more information on the Broe Choir, call Len McCulloch at Broe Rehabilitation Services, 474-2763.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRENNER

Singing together: The BROE choir, a group of 19 singers with brain injuries, sing under the direction of Len McCulloch.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRENNER

Tambourine man: Some of the choir members have lost their voices due to injury. They participate with tambourines or other simple instruments.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRENNER

Applause: North Farmington students Michele Boothroyd, Natalie Olesko, Chrissy Dwyer and Ashley Lynch applaud the performance.

Women's seder planned

Women in the community age 12 and over are invited to attend the Jewish Federation Women's Campaign and Education Department women's seder, 6 p.m. Thursday, April 6, at Adat Shalom Synagogue, 29901 Middlebelt Road, in Farmington Hills.

The seder will give women of each generation an opportunity

to celebrate together the spirituality of Passover.

A Haggadah with special additional readings for women has been prepared for the seder.

Sharon Lipton and Terran Leemis are chairing the event.

For reservations and more information, contact Margo Lazar at (248) 203-1494.

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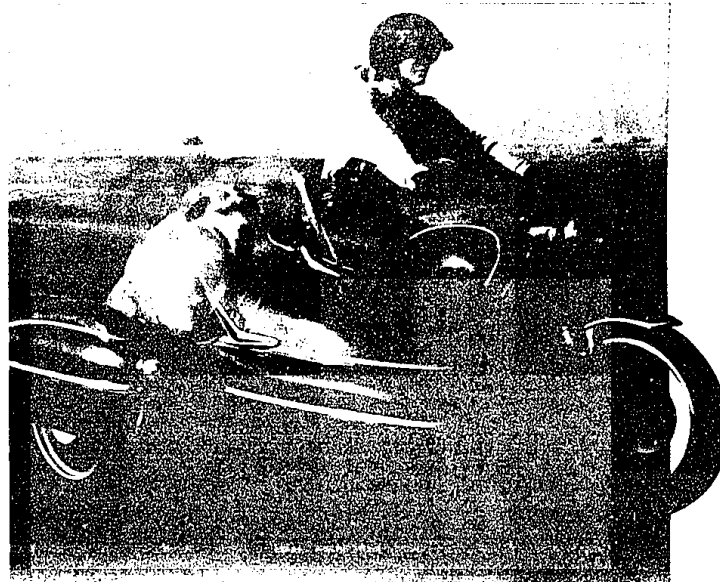
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