



BEST OF BUFFALO

QUEENCITY

: NOMINEES ARE LISTED IN RANDOM ORDER :

Talk about a changing landscape; it seems only a few years ago that **Best Festival** comprised the Allentown Art Festival, which is almost a half-century old, and the Italian Festival, and that was about it. Today, Artvoice readers vote for literally dozens of other festivals that are relatively new: **Elmwood Festival of the Arts; Music Is Art; Pride Festival; Artvoice Street Festival; Wingfest; Wingstock; Irish Festival; Guitar Festival; Rock the Harbor; Canal Fest;** etc.

On a similar note, given the economic stress of both the city and Erie County, Buffalo's capacity for fundraising is quite remarkable. There are lot of good nominations in **Best Annual Fundraiser**, all great, all quite different and all exceptionally successful.

While the nominees for **Best Building** are unquestionably some of our finest architecture, heavy voting pointed out a considerably larger list of buildings that included the modern **Hauptman-Woodward Institute**, a refreshing choice; **the Church**, home to Hallwalls and Ani DiFranco's Righteous Babe Records; the **Butler Mansion; M&T's gold domed building** on Main St.; the **Albright-Knox** and many others.

While we obviously can't print the thousands of comments sent to Artvoice in the categories for **Best Reason to Live in Buffalo, Best Reason to Leave**

Buffalo or **Best Way to Improve the City's Image**, it is worth pointing out some things that are not evident from simply looking at the nominations. Citizens by the thousands expressed frustration with politics—no surprise there. One of our favorite suggestions was to require that all politicians live in homes on the East Side. Our readers said they want dilapidated buildings demolished or rehabbed and architectural gems restored. They are particularly vocal that city developers should build urban-style developments instead of "fake suburban." Our readers also complained about the proliferation of billboards for injury and divorce attorneys that are "ruining our landscape." Maybe it's time for attorney Steve Barnes to do what his hair did, and disappear...

Many, many people want the Skyway down and Main Street open to traffic; they also want to "vote down the casino"—which, unfortunately, they were never given a chance to do since Pataki and the state legislature never allowed any voter participation in the Seneca gambling compact.

On a more humorous note, it is suggested that we find a way to stop people outside of Buffalo from making wings and that we teach people coming from the suburbs how to drive. And of course, everyone wants the Sabres to continue winning.

Best Annual Festival
 Music Is Art/ Ellicottville Summer Festival of the Arts
 Italian Heritage Festival
 Elmwood Avenue Festival of the Arts
 Artvoice Street Festival
 Allentown Art Festival

Best Annual Fundraiser
 Variety Club Telethon
 Ride for Roswell
 Artvoice Mardi Gras
 Hospice Fundraiser
 American Red Cross M*A*S*H Bash
 AIDS Community Services "Cause for Celebration"

Best Bowling Alley
 Voelker's Bowling Center
 Transit Lanes
 Kenmore Lanes
 AMF Thruway Lanes
 AMF Lancaster Lanes

Best Buffalo Tourist Attraction
 The waterfront
 The city's architecture
 Darwin D. Martin House
 Anchor Bar
 Albright-Knox Art Gallery

Best Building
 The Guaranty Building
 H.H. Richardson Complex
 Ellicott Square Building
 Darwin D. Martin House
 Buffalo City Hall

Buffalo Central Terminal
Best Cultural Organization
 Shea's Performing Arts Ctr
 Shakespeare in Delaware Park
 Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center
 Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra
 Big Orbit Gallery
 Albright-Knox Art Gallery

Best Place to Shoot Pool
 Slick Willie's Billiard Hall
 Pearl Street Grill & Brewery
 Hippodrome Billiards
 Classic Cue Billiards & Cafe
 2-2-3 Allen (The Old Pink)

Best Place to Take the Family
 Shea's Performing Arts Ctr
 Delaware Park
 Buffalo Zoo
 Buffalo Museum of Science
 Albright-Knox Art Gallery

Best Place to take Out-of-town Visitors
 Niagara Falls
 Erie Basin Marina
 Elmwood Strip
 Anchor Bar
 Albright-Knox Art Gallery

Best Place to Take Pets
 The Waterfront
 Losson Park
 Isle View Park
 Delaware Park
 Chestnut Ridge Park

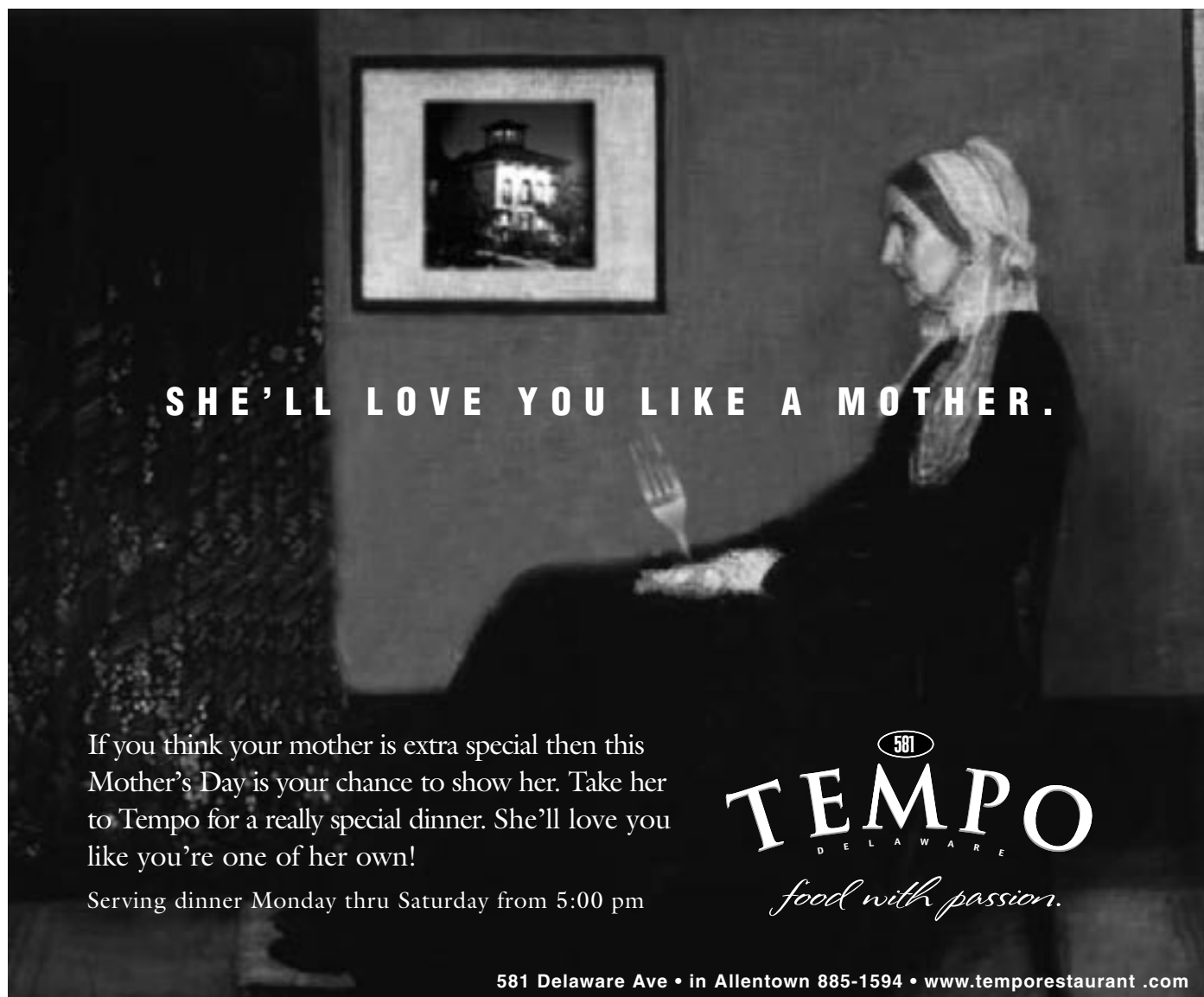
Best Playground
 Shoshone Park
 Maple East Elementary School
 Delaware Park Rose Garden
 Como Park Elementary School
 Chestnut Ridge Park

Best Reason to Leave Buffalo
 The weather
 The politics
 The economy
 Lack of jobs
 High taxes

Best Reason to Live in Buffalo
 The weather
 The people
 The food
 The cost and quality of life
 Family

Best Way to Improve City's Image
 Promote small business
 Promote & market the arts
 Develop the waterfront
 Clean up city streets
 Be upbeat

Best Street Corner
 Niagara Square
 Elmwood and Cleveland
 Elmwood and Bidwell
 Elmwood and Allen
 Delaware and Chippewa



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