Gag and lesbians in the City of Rochester are calling upon the Mayor and City Council to follow the opinion issued by the Gay's Corporate Counsel on March 19, and recognize same-sex marriages performed legally in other areas. Linda S. Kinglsey, Corporation Counsel for the City of Rochester, issued her opinion on March 19. She noted that the City, while not being required to honor same-sex marriages from other governmental entities, is not prohibited from doing so either.

Kinglsey was referring to the opinions issued by New York State Attorney General and New York City Corporation Counsel. Those opinions concluded that, while the State of New York may not issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples under the current law, licenses issued by other valid jurisdictions can and should be recognized in New York.

"There are already hundreds of same-sex couples living in Rochester who were legally married in Canada," said Chuck Bowen, Executive Director of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley. "Depending on the outcome of the situation in Massachusetts, couples may be able to marry there soon, and we expect large numbers of those to be coming from Rochester."

"The City Corporation Counsel has identified several benefits that should be considered," Bowen said. "In my opinion, we should recognize marriages of our employees. Kodak plans to do this kind of training." Bowen said that the GAGV team will be attending a conference in Miami this July, and one of the topics to be discussed is how to train corporate employees in gay issues.

"We will begin this summer a new program to train all businesses, large and small, in this area, and it is so unique," Bowen said. "The most important thing is to help companies understand and deal with the issues of gay and lesbian employees. We have had a lot of interest from both large and small businesses in Rochester and the surrounding area.

"Kodak, this is really a wonderful thing, because it allows us to train their train­ers and keep them constantly updated. They also give us the opportunity of doing shop-floor trainings again ourselves.

"To my knowledge," Bowen said, "we are the only non-profit organization in the country to partner with a large cor­poration to do this kind of training."

Bowen said that the GAGV team will consist of itself, Donna Red Wing, Lynn Tavarnar (new GAGV Director of Community Relations) and another expert to be brought in by Donna Red Wing. The two-day session will teach future trainers about the importance of understanding and teaching about gay and lesbian issues in the workplace.

"Because we're a non-profit, we look at this as a service, so it is affordable for small businesses. We have done trainings for Bausch & Lomb and for the Monroe County Family Court's Clerk's Office."

The two-day session will teach future trainers how to help colleagues identify and understand personal biases based on real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, and the skills necessary to create a 30-day personal workplace commitment incorporating strategies for personal change.

"The outcome is that workers gain knowledge and some of the skills needed to be effective advocates for light equality in the workplace."

For information about GAGV trainings, call (585)544-4444.
Stop the press! This breaking news just in: "Same Sex Marriage Now Legal on Main, Buford Roads!" Senator Thomas announced today that our homeland mar-
ing bill is on the ballot! No one is going to Mars to get married — we cannot permit this threat to domestic tranquility! Never! Congress has given us $370 billion to send heterosexuals to Mars, we can use our saved monies from alien attack!'!

Chuck Bowen, Executive Director of the Gay Alliance of Western New York, said, "This city once again has a unique opportunity to step forward and reassess its commitment and support. Think about our new Youth Center. Not only is it a symbolic act asserting the right of LGBT citizens to legal civil marriage and recognition of their families, but it also serves as an incubator for the new generation of activists." Bowen continued from p. 1

The Reverend George Tyger of the theatre lobby, on Prince St., and take a symbolic act asserting the right of LGBT citizens to legal civil marriage and recognition of their families. Tom Wald was one of the first speakers of the day. He said that he and the Log Cabin group nationally were very disappointed by President Bush's support for the amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which would deny gay and lesbian couples the right to marry.

Rally for civil marriage rights draws over 260 at Fed Building

By Susan Jordon
Fellings were running high on Feb. 27 at the Gay Alliance rally for marriage rights. Over 260 people of all ages, genders, political affiliations and sexual orientations showed a moment at the Concourse Plaza on State St. to protest George Bush's endorsement of the federal marriage amendment and to send a message to elected officials on the state and federal levels that attacks on LGBT Americans and on the U.S. Constitution will not be tolerated.

After the speeches, the rally spilled out into the parking lot, where the crowd faced the Federal Building. The officials did not come out to talk with the group. Members of the International Socialist Organization, part of their difference aisle to stand together for light rights.

Chuck Bowen, Executive Director of the Gay Alliance, reminded the group that at the March on Washington led by Dr. Martin Luther King, King and the other leaders went not the ones who "sing the 'Gay' flag. First, rather, the men, women, mothers, and fathers, and the young that were the core of the column. Bowen said, "We want to improve the light library. We have no plans to sell the building at this time."

Rally continued on p. 11

Support Programs and Services

Your confidential GAGV Membership includes an Empty Closet subscription mailed to your home every ten issues a year in a plain envelope. Your special discount rate is $15.00.

GAGV, 875 E. Main St., Suite 500, Rochester NY 14609. Enclosed is a check payable to GAGV. Please charge my Visa or Mastercard. Account Number Exp. Date

Signature of cardholder:
Name:
Address:
City and State:
Zip:
Home Phone:
Business:

For information on joining the Gay Alliance, call the Gay Alliance or visit our monthly membership pay by calling our toll-free number. www.gayalliance.org.
Black Justice Coalition, clergy, NAACP, Rep. John Lewis back marriage rights

The National Black Justice Coalition on March 17 urged President George W. Bush to sign the federal bill that would normalize same-sex marriage rights, and the National association of Gays and Lesbians With AIDS (NAGLAW) and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (Task Force) on March 17 urged Congress to pass the federal bill as well.

The NAACP came out against discrimination by the California Supreme Court in a landmark case involving the constitutionality of a same-sex marriage law in California. The NAACP filed a brief last week supporting the rights of same-sex couples to marry.

"We are proud to have partnered with HRC members to join CFM in calling on the government to legalize prostitution and homosexuality, which they say would discourage harassment against them and reduce the spread of HIV. •

The coaxial cable was designed to carry the maximum amount of information in the least amount of time. It was also designed to be easy to install and maintain. The coaxial cable was originally developed for use in the telephone industry, but it has since found many other uses, including in the computer industry. It is made up of two conductors, or wires, that are insulated with a protective sheath of rubber or plastic. The inside of the cable contains a series of electrical connections, or conductors, that are used to carry information.

The Michigan House of Representatives has approved a constitutional amendment to allow same-sex couples to marry. The amendment was approved by a vote of 50-50, with Republicans in favor and Democrats opposed.

The Michigan amendment would amend the state constitution to allow marriage licenses to be issued to same-sex couples. The amendment would also repeal the state's ban on same-sex marriage.

The Michigan House passed the amendment by a vote of 50-50, with Republicans in favor and Democrats opposed.

The Michigan House has approved a constitutional amendment to allow same-sex couples to marry. The amendment was approved by a vote of 50-50, with Republicans in favor and Democrats opposed.

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They were wonderful to us.

History being made.

Doing a champagne toast.

Ceremony and asked what we were doing.

York, and suddenly there were cameras.

Straight people go there until 8 that night.

Today, those without a number could

get an opportunity to get married.

To get married when you were in San

Francisco in February, it was for some

serious dental surgery. The last thing on

their minds that week was getting mar­

ried. Then all of a sudden there were — on TV as couple #242 to be married at San

Francisco City Hall on Feb. 13.

RA: We wound our way down into

the Rotunda. Straight people were going
to the Rotunda. Suddenly there were cameras

and media trucks.

In spite of that, we said, “We’ll go.” We

thought it was a very normal thing that needs to be done, and I need to be doing it.

When the situation in Massachusetts came up, I knew this would not remain a Massachusetts issue for long. I started the coalition about three weeks before President Bush’s announcement. Once he had made his statement, I put everything up and put out an announcement to the coalition that we were forming.

RA: Everybody was so nice, holding

hands. (The two take each other

hands).

RA: We decided to do it on the spot.

MD: Barry Frank said, “You should

wait — it’s not the right time.” To us, it

was the right time. The time has come —

and it’s now.

RA: Michele and Raine show off the rings they exchanged at their wedding at San Francisco’s City Hall on Feb. 13.

The pictures on TV now are of all people who could be their neighbors, all happy and joyful, and they don’t know what to do about that. That makes them nervous and they want to shut it down.

RA: Michele and Raine also say that the issue of marriage is not for them.

RA: Everything you’d like to add?

MD: Our coalition was amazing.

RA: It was beautiful.

RA: It was participating in history.

MD: We might put Raine on my

list of names.

RA: People say that this will cost

$50 million. Flacks and ivory-tower

analysts are so hysterical about this issue?

MD: Exactly. I’m 100 percent in

favor of going all the way.

RA: The next day, Friday the 13, we

were on the news.

MD: Michele Denber: We heard that anti­
ergots all disturbed about this.

RA: We probably have at least 60 or

70 marriages that are scheduled for today.

EC: Did you get the rings in time?

MD: At the moment there doesn’t seem

to be any problem.

EC: Do you feel the validity of the

wedding will be upheld, or will you be going to Massachusetts in May?

RA: At the moment there doesn’t seem

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MD: We are sure they would welcome

us at any moment. The marriages may get stuck down in California.

RA: But if New York, New York, New

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RA: We think it’s important to

have a wedding ceremony. Those without a number will have to apply two.

RA: People asked where we were from,

and we said, “Boston.”

RA: Michele and Raine were married in San Francisco on Feb. 13.

MD: Michele Denber and Raine Ayre

were married in San Francisco on Feb. 13.

By Susan Jordan

The Rev. George Tyger of the First

Unitarian Church, 1700 11th Street, bears

leadership role in forming the Equal

Marriage Coalition for Equal Rights

in San Francisco.

Empty Ceremony: What inspired you to

together and work for equal marriage rights?

Rev. Tyger: It really is just a natural

outcome of my faith. I’ve been an

activist for gay rights and justice for 10 or 15 years. When I was working as an actor in New York City, there were gay people all around me, and it became abundantly clear that I would have to undergo a dramatic attitudinal

change.

This is an issue of justice. It’s a very

normal thing that needs to be done, and I need to be doing it.

When the situation in Massachusetts came up, I knew this would not remain a Massachusetts issue for long. I started the coalition about three weeks before President Bush’s announcement. Once he had made his statement, I put everything up and put out an announcement to the coalition that we were forming.

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...
It was a very disappointing day for gay Americans when President Bush signed legislation into law. The President has used the issue of same-sex marriage again to push his right-wing platform. Since the President’s announcement, many gay couples have had to stop their efforts. This is a sad day for all of us who believe in equality and justice. The fight for gay rights continues, and we must keep fighting for our civil rights.

Many other parties have recognized the importance of this issue, and they are working to protect the rights of all Americans. The fight for equality is not over, and we must continue to work towards a future where all Americans are treated fairly.

The Republican party, from its founding to the present day, has been committed to engaging and increasing the base of inclusiveness, responsibility, and other Republican principles.

The 30-second ads will run in Washington, D.C. and seven presidential battleground states — Ohio, Missouri, Florida, Minnesota, New Mexico, New Hampshire, and Wisconsin.

Patrick, the president of Log Cabin Republicans, has called this amendment a “cancer in the Republican party.” He is calling on other Republicans to support efforts to ban same-sex marriage.

The Log Cabin Republicans are the national gay and lesbian Republican organization. Their purpose is to educate Republicans (voters, officeholders, and candidates) on issues that affect gay and lesbian voters and educates gay and lesbian voters on what it means to be a Republican.

A broader backlash to meet Newsom will be held on Sunday, May 2, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. For additional information, please contact Ken at 246-5465 or e-mail Ken at LogCabin@logcabin.com.

The Human Rights Campaign praised the launch of an ad campaign by the Log Cabin Republicans on March 17. The HRC campaign is a national ad campaign that focuses on stopping anti-gay family constituencies from being supported by President George W. Bush.

This campaign underscores the many ways that the Log Cabin Republicans are engaging in efforts to support Log Cabin Republicans on March 11. The $1 million campaign’s centerpiece is a television ad that seeks to advance a single issue agenda. Despite the efforts to make the Log Cabin Republicans on March 11, the $1 million campaign’s centerpiece is a television ad that seeks to advance a single issue agenda. Despite the efforts to make the Log Cabin Republicans on March 11, the $1 million campaign’s centerpiece is a television ad that seeks to advance a single issue agenda. Despite the efforts to make the Log Cabin Republicans on March 11, the $1 million campaign’s centerpiece is a television ad that seeks to advance a single issue agenda.
Gilbert Miller, speaker of NYC City Council, challenges Mayor Bloomberg to issue marriage licenses on Feb. 29 at a community press conference at City Hall.

The Winter Party in Miami Beach was held on March 14 to benefit the gay and lesbian Foundation of South Florida. Above: the Beach Party.

New Paltz Mayor John West married in the Queens all-inclusive St. Patrick's Day Presidential on Feb. 2. He vows changes for marrying same sex couples without a license.

Robert Angelina, left, and Misty Walling hold a banner in front of the Federal Building at the Day Alliance rally for marriage rights on Feb. 28.

More photos on page A19.

MARRIAGE RALLY continued from p. 3

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P.O. Box 3728

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Office: 654-8642
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The real deal on indexing

BY DAVID G. QUICK

In conversation with Raymond A. Cullinan, a division of Linco Financial Advisors, a registered investment advisor

If you can beat them, join them. That’s the approach many new stock investors take. The stock portion of their investment consists of only 500 S&P 500 Index funds.

And why not? In past years, mutual funds based on the popular measure of the U.S. stock market have performed many times more effectively than do managed diversified funds.

Buying the Market

The S&P 500 Index fund invests in a majority of the same stocks, in about the same proportions, as the market index on which it is based. The goal of the S&P 500 Index fund is to mirror the performance of the S&P 500 Index, which is widely considered to represent a representative sample of many U.S. companies in leading industries.

So, if you buy an S&P 500 Index fund, you’re buying the market and shouldn’t need to read other investments — right?

A much lower proportion of the investment performance comes from small-cap stock companies. As index fund based on the S&P 500 would be similarly weighted and, thus, not be representative of the small U.S. stock market.

You could own just the S&P 500 Index fund and still do well, assuming you have a suitable, diversified strategy. But that does not mean an S&P 500 Index fund is a substitute for developing a long-term financial plan that addresses your individual investment requirements and suitability for risk.

An index fund is sold by prospectus, a document containing complete information on risks, fees and expenses. It should be read carefully before investing.

As with any other mutual fund, if you have a professional financial adviser, they can review your personal financial situation and recommend a portfolio strategy that will help you meet your long-term investment goals.

David Quick

The Empire State Pride Agenda meets another fund

The Empire State Pride Agenda’s 5th annual Pride Sponsorship Dinner is Saturday, May 1, at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center, 510 Edgemont Blvd. Tickets are $75 per couple, $45 per person. For more info, call 246-8460, ext. 13.

Judy Shepard will be speaker

Appellate court overturns ruling against joint adoption

When Judy Shepard comes to Rochester on May 1 to speak at the Empire State Pride Agenda’s 5th annual Pride Sponsorship Dinner, she will also appear as a businessperson for the Gay Alliance youth project.

Shepard will speak to Rochester youth May 1 at the new GAY Youth Center on Market Street at the corner of 85 S. Main St. Members of the youth group, who meet several times a week in the new organization’s offices, will be able to attend.

Judy Shepard

Appellate court overturns ruling against joint adoption

A local couple’s joint petition to adopt a child may have repercussions for gay couples throughout New York State. In a decision that could impact the law in other states, an Appellate Court overturned a lower court’s ruling blocking the couple from adopting a child.

The Adoption Agency of Greater Rochester was asked to place the child with the couple. But the agency refused to do so, citing “unresolved concerns regarding the family unit and the care and protection of the child.”

The Appellate Court overturned the decision and stated that the lower court’s ruling was “unsupported by the record.”

For more information, contact the GAY Youth Center at 345-8360.

NY Assembly approves Dignity for All

The New York State Assembly approved a bill that would expand hate crime laws to include sexual orientation and gender identity. The measure now goes to the Senate, which must pass it by June 15 to send it to the governor.

The bill, which was introduced by Assemblyman Richard Brodsky, D-Westchester, would increase penalties for hate crimes that are based on sexual orientation or gender identity. It would also provide law enforcement with tools to combat hate crimes.

NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg endorsed the bill, which he said would “protect our city’s vibrant diversity.”

The bill would extend the current hate crime laws to include bias motivated by sexual orientation or gender identity. It would also require law enforcement agencies to collect data on hate crimes based on these characteristics.

The bill was introduced in response to a series of anti-gay attacks in New York City, including four murders in one month.

The bill passed the Assembly with a vote of 118-18, and now goes to the Senate, which must pass it by June 15 to send it to the governor.

For more information, contact the New York State Assembly at 518-455-3797 or visit www.assembly.state.ny.us.
Students continued from page 1A
New York State assembly has strongly
reaffirmed its support in safe schools
policies. With the press conference,
who would file this bill and we especially
thank Assemblymember Steven Sanders
(D-Massapequa) for his sponsorship of
Dignity. The only link to the Dignity
In a brief keynote address, Assembly
Speaking of the Dignity movement, he
states that there are 170 groups working with
the Legislature on Dignity and is one of over 170
groups for something to be done
months after the session ended. Negotiators were unable to reach
a compromise on key sticking
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prisoners, who read a vow to perform marriage
rituals for same-sex couples in the
state. This court ruled that the traditional definition of marriage is discriminatory and
unjustified. That ruling had been chal­
1enge by nationally renowned Cornell
Law professor Stephen Leslie, who declared the
decision a victory for gay rights.

Assemblymember Mark Weprin, who has been a strong advocate for gay rights, was one of the main proponents of the Dignity bill. He said, "This is a historic day for ourstate." He also praised the work of the Dignity movement, which he said had been "a long and arduous struggle." Weprin also thanked Assemblymember Steven Sanders, who had been a key figure in the Dignity movement.

Assemblymember Sanders, who is from the same district as Weprin, also expressed his support for the Dignity bill. He said, "I am proud to have been a part of this historic moment. This bill is about more than just gay rights. It is about fairness and justice for all." He also thanked the Dignity movement for their hard work and dedication.

The Dignity bill now goes to the Senate, where it will be considered by the Judiciary Committee. The Senate is expected to pass the bill, but it is not clear how the governor will respond.

The Dignity bill is the latest in a series of gay rights bills that have been introduced in New York State. In 2006, the state legislature passed a bill that allowed gay couples to enter into civil unions. In 2009, the state legislature passed a bill that allowed gay couples to marry. However, Governor David Paterson vetoed both of those bills.

The Dignity bill is expected to face opposition from Governor Paterson and other members of the Republican Party. However, many members of the Democratic Party, includingAssembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and Lieutenant Governor David Paterson, have expressed their support for the Dignity bill.

The Dignity bill is also expected to face opposition from some religious groups, who oppose same-sex marriage. However, many religious leaders have expressed their support for the Dignity bill, including Rabbi Marc Schneier, who is the spiritual leader of the Central Synagogue in New York City.

The Dignity bill is expected to be signed into law by Governor Paterson, who is facing a tight race for re-election in November.

The Dignity bill is a significant step forward for gay rights in New York State. It is the first time that the state legislature has passed a law that explicitly protects gay rights.

The Dignity bill is also expected to have a positive impact on the economy. According to a study by the New York City Economic Development Corporation, the gay community in New York City contributes over $10 billion to the city's economy each year.
Fundamentalist backlash hits Open Arms MCC

To the Editor:

On Feb. 29, Rev. Mike Warren, from Operation Rescue/Save America, began counterprotesting our annual march in Rochester. He claimed that we were a "tribal" group which has an evil agenda that seeks to destroy the country.

While he has a right to disagree with our positions, his methods of demonstration were highly inappropriate. He and his group were harassing and intimidating our members and our guests.

Open Arms MCC is a group that seeks to promote gay and lesbian rights and is committed to the equality and acceptance of all people. We believe in the inherent dignity and worth of every individual, regardless of sexual orientation.

We are concerned about the safety and well-being of our members and the Rochester community. We will continue to advocate for gay and lesbian rights, and we will not allow this type of harassment to deter us from our work.

Sincerely,

Rev. Jim Mulcahy
Open Arms MCC
175 Norris Drive, Rochester, NY

What can we do for marriage? Give to the movement

To the Editor:

"Gay marriage," an idea, political theatre, and media phenomenon, has thrust itself into the headlines and created an already polarized, contentious debate over our nation's future. Whether orchestrated by activists or organically arisen in response to the current regime, the rush of hundreds of gay and lesbian couples to the civil altar to claim equality under the law puts GLTBIs on the front line of a culture war being fought in the streets.

The great battle between religious and secular institutions is in the thick of it today, and it's time for us to answer back. By donating to the movement, you can make a difference. By garnering the support of your community, and yes, even your acquaintances, your community and yes, even your acquaintances, you can help make this community a better place wherever and whenever you can. Most of all, I am sending this message to you because I know you have a heart of gold and I know that you believe in supporting the true fight for human rights.

Thank you,

Danielle Evans

Pride Parade is not family-friendly

To the Editor:

I am an advocate of the Pride and gay group. I am writing this in regards to our annual Pride Parade.

With all the polarization in the air this year in the civil rights of all men and women, we as the gay community are working on making our community more open and accessible. We have seen the changes over the years and the progress we have made, and I am so proud of our community.

The Pride Parade is a big event for our community. It is a time for us to come together and celebrate our diversity. It is a time for us to show the world that we are not afraid of our differences, and that we are proud of who we are.

The Pride Parade is not family-friendly. It is a celebration of our community, and it is a place for us to express our true selves.

I hope that everyone who attends the Pride Parade this year will remember that it is a celebration of our community, and that it is a place for us to express our true selves.

Sincerely,

Thomas Elston

Step-By-Step needs your help

To the Editor:

I am sending this message to you because I know you have a heart of gold and I know that you believe in supporting the true fight for human rights. I am a member of the Step-By-Step program, and I am writing to you today to ask for your help.

Step-By-Step is a program that helps women in prison. We need your help to continue our work.

I hope that you will consider donating to Step-By-Step. Your donation can make a difference in the lives of women who are trying to turn their lives around.

Thank you.

Randi Winterman

MAKING THE SCENE

ADVOCACY DAY: Youth from N.Y.C., above, took part in Advocacy Day in Albany, when youth from all over the state spoke with lawmakers. See page C13.

ABSC CABARET NIGHT: Committee members for the Atlantic Beacon Sculpture Project held a fundraiser at Tara on Feb. 28. See article in Groups, Section C.

PAST PRESIDENTS BRUNCHON: Back row: Shirley Bowen, Ann G.T. Young and Bill Kelly and, in front row, Claire Parker and Paul Schub - all are current or past presidents of the Gay Alliance Board. The Brunchon was held at the home of Charles Arena, on March 14.

KODAK LAMBDA DAY OUT AT BRISTOL MOUNTAIN: Last month the Lambda Network at Kodak held a "Lambda Day Out" at Bristol Mountain. Free ski instruction was provided by former Ski Instructor Usa Moretta. Photo (L to R): Jeny Wang (Kodak Lambda), Usa Moretta, Russ Mead (CCAP), Theresa Miller (Kodak Lambda).

ROBERT DEFEHILL AND STEVEN ROSENCRANZ enjoy the brunchon hosted by Charles Arena and the Gay Alliance for past presidents on March 14.
**Our House director here for screening May 2**

The GAGV and ImageOut, in collaboration with the Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project (LGFBP), will be screening Meema Spadola award-winning film, Our House A Very Real Documentary About Kids of Gay and Lesbian Parents, at Temple Beth Kodesh, 2111 Elmwood Ave., on Sunday, May 2 at 2 p.m.

The film's running time is 57 minutes. Meema Spadola, an award-winning producer, director and writer of documentary films and radio, will be coming to Rochester to introduce and talk about her film. There will be a question and answer period after the screening of the film, followed by a reception, at which time people will have a chance to meet Meema.

There will be a separate room with supervision for young children provided, so parents can watch the film with their children. The Ferre Institute, which shared the LGFBP, received a grant to bring the filmmaker and her film to Rochester. Claudia Sullivan, Project Director of the LGFBP, was responsible for bringing Pride & Joy Families to Rochester.

Space is limited to approximately 100 people, so we are encouraging those interested in viewing the film either call or stop by the GAGV to obtain their free tickets. The GAGV will be requesting a $5 donation per ticket to help offset the cost of renting the space at Temple Beth Kodesh ($350). The Ferre Institute will be donating $100 toward the cost of the space, AV equipment, children, care, and meals. Any proceeds from the film will be designated for the Rochester Chapter of Pride & Joy Families.

To learn a little about the film maker, see www.documentaryfilms.net/ourhouse.html. An interview with Meema Spadola about her film can be found at www.indiewire.com/people/Spadola, 59/03/01.html.

A reviewer commented on Our House, "This award-winning documentary looks at the issues gay and lesbian parents raise. It captures the essence of family life in rooms, schools and churches around America. Our House makes the subject from the most logical, yet often overlooked perspective: the children of gay and lesbian parents. An important look at what 'family values' really means. Named Best Documentary Feature at the New York Lesbian and Gay Film Festival."

Another reviewer said, "A very real documentary about kids of gay and lesbian parents. What does it mean to grow up with two mothers or two fathers instead of one mother and one father? What happens when your mother or father leaves a heterosexual marriage for a same sex union? Until 10 or 20 years ago, these questions rarely, if ever, arose. Today there are millions of children of gay parents in the United States. This phenomenon is raising public and private debates in communities, schools, and churches around the country, offering new twists in the struggle to define family values."

Our House is a frank examination of what it means to grow up with gay or lesbian parents and profiles the children in five families who are facing the usual ups and downs of family life while encountering varied reactions from extended family, classmates, teachers, neighbors, and public officials. The featured families come from a variety of socioeconomic, racial, and ethnic backgrounds and live in urban, suburban, and rural communities in New York, New Jersey, Arizona, and Arkansas. Problem Child (www.pronets.com/problem.html), the award-winning film produced by Meema Spadola grew up in rural Maine as the daughter of a lesbian, (www.filmstransit.com/insideouts.html)

To learn more about the film, please visit www.documentaryfilms.net/ourhouse.html. For more information of how to become a Community Festival Patron, please call Daily Planet at 586-284-9270 or stop by 647 Hudson, New York City 10014 226-627-4167 622-672-4167 www.pragueagendas.org

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**Hedwig and the Angry Inch comes to U.R. May 23**

The Empty Closet is always looking for information regarding events and social activities. If you know something, send it to us! Submissions can be sent to U.R. May 23

Get ready for a cutting-edge theatrical experience: Hedwig and the Angry Inch is coming to town next month.

David Henderson will present John Cameron Mitchell's musical Hedwig and the Angry Inch, co-produced with Crown Productions out of Kingston, N.Y. Henderson said, "Hedwig will knock your wig off at Strong Auditorium at the University of Rochester." A portion of the ticket sales will benefit the HIV Vaccine Test Unit at the University of Rochester. "If the pork wins," Henderson said, "the musical will open on Sunday May 23." This production of Hedwig is the same one that blew audiences away this winter at Syracuse Stage in Syracuse.

Hedwig and the Angry Inch continued on next page
Jason and deMarco return next month

Melissa Etheridge gets "Lucky" with marriage, new CD

A new film and a new album with Melissa Etheridge is being "Lucky." On Saturday, Melissa Etheridge gets married to Linda Wallem at the Cathedral of Christ the King in San Francisco. The couple is the star in the new series THE WEDDING PLANNER. The wedding is the couple's fifth anniversary of their domestic partnerships and Etheridge says the wedding will be "beautiful and serene."

With a throw of a small wedding, Michael's Parker is a winner as the couple walked side by side during their wedding. It was a small and intimate ceremony. "We are getting married by saying it is Melissa Etheridge's "Lucky.""
The opening story sequence in the new film is set in the father's "Lucky." The music used is the hit song "Lucky," the title of the album and the hit song for which Etheridge has been nominated for a Grammy award.

Weiss' new film is a romantic comedy about a young woman, played by Melissa Etheridge, who is trying to find love in New York City. "Lucky" is about falling and being in love. The opening scene shows Melissa Etheridge as a young woman walking down the street in New York City. She is holding a small suitcase and is wearing a red dress. The music used is the hit song "Lucky," the title of the album and the hit song for which Etheridge has been nominated for a Grammy award.

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The Raptors of Spring

BY JENNIFER A. SCHWARZ

The Rochester Raptors, one of our professional women's football team, will debut its season in April. This is the second year of the Rochester team, but we are hoping the community will come out to cheer us on.

Motivation is more necessary than experience.

Players call the team office at 755-4312.

Growing Up

BY ERIC REILLLAN

Cocks

Visually, my entire film has been devoted to the proper way to make love. My first and deepest concern was to have money. When I wanted a house, and wanted to have a roof over my head, and was married, I had a roof over my head. I am an artist. I am a bitch. Safety precautions having a class on the subject was original. How much lived by everyone who only knew him outside of his church, at the gas station, in the nursery, the church's head count. Three years ago he had my celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary. So if you ask me and don't ask for love. Dear lady, your boyfriend is from Canada if you catch him watching the sport of curling or hockey. In the past, it certainly was the reason.

Cocks

Visually, my entire film has been devoted to the proper way to make love. My first and deepest concern was to have money. I am an artist. I am a bitch. Safety precautions having a class on the subject matters. How much was everyone's an abnormal. Aging lady, you know what? It is the same.

I am in Wisconsin. Geese doesn't believe to stop. I am in Wisconsin. Geese doesn't believe to stop. I am in Wisconsin. Geese doesn't believe to stop. I am in Wisconsin. Geese doesn't believe to stop. I am in Wisconsin. Geese doesn't believe to stop. I am in Wisconsin. Geese doesn't believe to stop. I am in Wisconsin. Geese doesn't believe to stop. I am in Wisconsin. Geese doesn't believe to stop. I am in Wisconsin. Geese doesn't believe to stop. I am in Wisconsin. Geese doesn't believe to stop. I am in Wisconsin. Geese doesn't believe to stop. I am in Wisconsin. Geese doesn't believe to stop. I am in Wisconsin. Geese doesn't believe to stop. I am in Wisconsin. Geese doesn't believe to stop.
The Coalition for Equal Marriage has come up with an Interfaith Statement in Support of Equal Marriage for All that states, in part: "We believe the issues of marriage and religious freedom are inextricably linked. To deny one person the right to marry in our land is to violate the religious freedom of all people of faith. The Coalition for Equal Marriage for All states that, in our view, there are many equally valid forms of sexual expression, and that it is the right of all persons to choose to live their lives as they wish, free of discrimination and equal in the eyes of the law.

A serious infection of the reproductive organs. This can cause swelling of the fallopian tubes, which increase the risk of bacterial infection. Ecstatic pregnancy is another complication caused by lack of treatment, and is potentially fatal to women. An estimated 100,000 women die because of this condition each year.

Chlamydia is spread by close contact, primarily vaginal or anal, between partners. Since pregnancy is not required, it is not only common in women but also straight women. It is often spread between women by sharing or rubbing towels together, or by fingers (not unlike one pair and then the other). It can also be spread in a firm's or club during sex. However, there are many ways in which it can be effectively prevented, especially always practicing safe sex (for example, using a dental dam during oral sex and thoroughly cleaning all sex toys between uses). Fortunately, if infection does occur, it can be easily detected by a doctor and treated with antibiotics. Typically, terer will run for both Chlamydia and gonorrhea to ensure that patients are given the correct treatment. If you develop the infection, your partner should be treated as well, even if they don't have symptoms.

Chlamydia is a serious health threat to women, but not all of the more serious STIs out there. Ground, awareness of men's sexual health, including regular exams and routine vigilance against sexual assault, is the best way to catch it early on. Talk to your partner about being honest. What's the best way to prevent hepatitis problems to be avoided for now. Male Chlamydia is more commonly diagnosed, and the infection is often asymptomatic.

What's important is not the diagnosis itself, but the fact that you are at risk. And the fact that you can take steps to prevent it. The most effective way to prevent infection is by being in a monogamous relationship with someone who has been tested and is known to be free of infection. If you are in a monogamous relationship, make sure to use condoms every time you have sex. If you are not in a monogamous relationship, the best way to prevent infection is by getting tested regularly and using condoms consistently.

But even with all this information, you should be aware of your sexual health. Make sure to get tested regularly for STIs, even if you don't have symptoms. The earlier you catch it, the easier it is to treat. And remember, even if you don't have symptoms, you can still spread it.

The Coalition for Equal Marriage for All is working to change the laws so that they are fair and just, and that we live in a land where everyone has the same rights and opportunities. The Coalition for Equal Marriage for All is working to change the laws so that they are fair and just, and that we live in a land where everyone has the same rights and opportunities.
Queer is hot.

Hepatitis is not.

Sexually active gay and bisexual men are at increased risk for exposure to hepatitis, yet few have been immunized.

Gay health means taking responsibility and getting vaccinated.

It’s up to you. Let’s take care of each other.

Find out more about gay health.

Go to: www.aidsto.rochester.org/gayhealth, or call 585-442-2220.
"Civil Disobedients" (A Birdhun Theatre Tale) Part 3 of 10

THE CHOOSEN FAMILY

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BUILDING ACCESSIBLE t AUDIO LOOP

FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH:

of the Kodak Office Building.
Lake Avenue, about one half mile north
where Jones and Ambrose Sttvets meet
Lake Avenue Baptist Church is located
FOR CHILDREN ARE AVAILABLE.

F£LU>W$HIP & A CHANCE FOR
US TO MEET YOU!

11:10 AM: A TIM£ FOR COFFEE &
FOR CHILDREN ARE AVAILABLE.

Sunday Sif^e» 8.00 AN Hnty Euehartst
A Welcoflwig and Affirming C(Mgr«}atioft
OPEN COMMUNION

10:00 AM: Holy Liichamt with Dmr

Whoever you art you are wekttra.

The Rev. C Oanits Yartraugh

The Eastman House and Strong Museum
each with three votes each. P

Serving the community since 1991
Let us take the stress
and time out of planning
your vacation. Call us
today to book your
great gay getaway.

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The Youth Group seems to favor vin-
tage clothing, as *Goodwill and *the
Skalny Travel Group
www.greatgaytraveLcom
Skalny Travel Group
at Van Zile Travel
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Rochester, NY 14618
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your vacation. Call us
today to book your
great gay getaway.

244-8430

(585)244.8430

glenskalny@van2ile.com

and also arranged a meeting with a rep­
 resentative of Rainbow Train, an orga­
nization that delivers diversity training
and domestic violence with the new program
 coordenator of the Gay Alliances Ann-
druid and Andrew. We also started
the Gay Alliance Gay Group (GAGV) to
help with this, and we met with groups
from the Twin Cities, Minneapolis and St.
Paul during another trip to New York
City. This is a very positive move in our
community and a great program. But
we will need other groups to help us
in the future. I am looking for
some contacts in de-af
people, those who
are deaf, and those
who are interested
in domestic violence
and that set of issues.

Continued from previous page
the GAGV can do outreach to
other LGBT groups in the
community. We will need
more support for this pro-
gram, and we will be
trying different things
to get this going. There
have been some Calls
for the program to
be a resource center
for the LGBT com-
munity, a place where
people can get
resources from
organizations and
also open up to
the community. This
is the biggest task ahead. I better get rested up! '}
world know about our personal journeys through life. The struggle must continue to fight for what we personally think is being a second-class citizen in 21st-century America. Let’s make this election year personal.

We have the ability to create positive change in the direction of our future, and it begins with your voice.

Get free advice from TARA RUSSELL, TH.D.: Physician, Clinical Psychologist, Author, and Speaker.

Dr. Tara Russell is a board-certified clinical psychologist and a licensed physician in psychological science. She is the author of the best-seller "The Empty Closet: Empowering People, Embracing the Journey, Touching the World." Her book has been translated into 15 languages and has sold over 2 million copies worldwide.

Dr. Russell is a frequent speaker at conferences and events around the world. She has appeared on countless television and radio shows and has been featured in numerous magazines and newspapers. In addition to her writing and speaking, she is also an active advocate for LGBTQ+ rights and social justice.

Dr. Tara Russell offers a unique and comprehensive approach to mental health and well-being. Her therapies are both effective and evidence-based, and she is known for her ability to connect with her patients on a deep and meaningful level.

If you are interested in learning more about Dr. Tara Russell or her work, please visit her website at www.DrTaraRussell.com.
Pet Talk with Tulip:

Counting the candles: issues for older lgbt pets

BY MISS TULIP

Hello My Lovelies,

As Reported in Gay and Straight Press, on the street corners of DC, I was walking a couple of pugs, a shar pei or a pit bull, wrinkles are becoming quite the rage. In this issue, you can read about the importance of eternal youth and staving off the ravages of time.

First, let me say that getting older can be a challenge, but it doesn't mean we have to hide or be ashamed of it. It's important to embrace our unique appearance and celebrate who we are.

We need to stop with the stereotypical and offensive remarks they make when describing signs of aging. I think some of the expressions they use are insensitive to older people. I've heard things like "but you don't look your age" or "you're aging gracefully." These unfair associations with animals can be harmful.

It's also important to note that canine queer culture is not something that has to be hidden or ashamed of. It's a way to express ourselves and connect with others who share similar interests.

As we grow older, we may need to take care of our health, but it doesn't mean we have to be pit bulls or pugs. It's important to listen to the laments of the old queen and understand their needs.

I would be most pleased to receive and accept gifts to Miss Tulip, care of GAGV, 875 Broadway, Rochester, NY 14607-1255. Please send your cards, letters and gifts to me. I promise not to acknowledge someone's birthday or anniversary if I don't receive one before my birthday.

Tod&'s Big Gay Seattle Adventure, or, Sleepless in Seattle...

BY TODD PLANK

Last fall was my first time in Seattle and I didn't have much to do, so I made it my mission to take in as much of the city and the gay nightlife as I could in my first 100 miles.

I was fortunate enough to have a couple of Shepards, a species that I think is perfectly suited for walking someone on a leash, to break up my time when I wasn't able to get to the gym. I also made some new friends through local WNY Rainbow Senior Sauders Elmac and her daughter Matt, an attorney in Seattle, who together with her partner Jane, resides in the Emerald City (that really is the name of their residence). I was able to hook up with former Rochesterian and now long-time Seattle resident Don Malek and his friend Brandon. We had a great time together.

Also, I have to thank my boyfriend for sending me a birthday message in the form of a card and/or email. I'm sure he didn't mean for it to be a birthday card, but I appreciate the sentiment. For future reference, my birthday is March 9.

As you can see, I have a passion for pets and people, after having spent considerable time and energy hiding in the closet about their age. In this issue, you can read about the importance of acceptance (it's OK to be gay and gray), getting older, but I don't have to like it), and/or gender identity, should now, in consideration of eternal youth and staving off the ravages of time.

I also have to thank my boyfriend for sending me a birthday message in the form of a card and/or email. I'm sure he didn't mean for it to be a birthday card, but I appreciate the sentiment. For future reference, my birthday is March 9.

Finally, I want to say that passing years can be a challenge, but it doesn't mean we have to hide or be ashamed of it. It's important to embrace our unique appearance and celebrate who we are.

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Lynn Tavarnese becomes new Community Relations Director for Gay Alliance

BY SUSAN JORDAN

Lynn Tavarnese is the newest member of the Gay Alliance staff. She started as Director of Community Relations on March 22, just in time for the move to the Auditorium Center.

Lynn worked for Tops Markets for the last seven years, and has much experience with business and organizational management. A native of Oswego, she has a partner, Judy Cranston, and a daughter, Nell, 23, who has just graduated from Nazareth with a major degree in social work. "I'll continue my work with 11-year-old golden Lab, Winnie, and now earn, trade and repair.

When asked why she left the gain up, higher-paying job to join a non-profit Lynn is a long-time member of the Gay Alliance for years. After attending the town meeting on marriage rights on Feb. 22, I was looking at the website and saw "Winnie" was just drawn to it. My partner and I discussed it, and it "Winnie" is my dog. "I know that this was what I had to do, and the money was secondary."
BY TOLL PLANK

One of the highlights of the conference was the discussion around developing community engagement strategies to keep relationships in the heart of the community and families. For example, 10 points for the community to take part in developing community engagement strategies. One of these points was to involve the community in the process, "My partner and I have been together for 11 years, and we will be for the rest of our lives. It's important to teach our children about their commitment." The conference also focused on the importance of using technology to communicate messages and strategies to the wider community.

Advocacy Day: see p. C13

Vendor Booths Available
Sunday, July 11, 2004

Volunteer's Needed: Security, Traffic, Ticket Sales, Publicity

Please contact Chuck Argus at 258-844-3645. Vendor Booths Available: food & beverage, merchandise sales, non-profit information tables.

Our "book worms" are moving forward with the help of volunteers, cataloging, and relocation of our Library to a more central location. A Volunteer will be needed to help with the development of our new location on Bookman's Day, April 17, from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m.

Youth Group continued from previous page

light people and their allies. On this day, people of all ages, including light people, take a nine-hour vow of silence, a public proclamation that symbolizes the challenges they face. The event is to help light people and their allies recognize the importance of supporting their rights, adequated health care and prevention of discrimination.

The rally will take place at St. John Fisher College, 3600 East Avenue, Rochester, New York. There will be food, green space, speakers, vendors, art exhibits, and a Wellness Theatre Company. This is an event not to be missed. For more information about the rally and how to participate, contact the Coordinator at 258-844-3645.

The theme of the Day of Silence is "Be Someone's Voice." If the event includes a discussion of the issues facing light people, we will need to work together to address the challenges that face them and support their rights and respect. The importance of this support cannot be underestimated as we seek to understand the true nature of this event and its impact on the community.

We encourage everyone to come and participate in this momentous event and show our solidarity with light people and their allies.

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Jim McGowan talks about what's new at Buffalo Pride Center and how Buffalo looks at the marriage issue.

BY SUSAN JORDAN

Jim McGowan, executive director of the Buffalo Pride Center, talked to Buffalo Light about the marriage issue and how Buffalo looks at the marriage issue. McGowan is one of the very few gay rights leaders who have publicly taken a stand against same-sex marriage. He believes that the issue of marriage equality is a civil rights issue, not a legal issue. He also believes that the issue of marriage equality is a social issue, not a religious issue. McGowan is a strong advocate for the rights of all people, regardless of their sexual orientation.

McGowan also talked about the importance of education and outreach in the fight for marriage equality. He believes that education is the key to changing people's minds and winning support for marriage equality. He also believes that outreach is important because it helps to build coalitions and alliances with other groups and organizations.

McGowan is a strong supporter of the marriage equality movement and he is committed to working towards a world where all people are treated equally under the law.

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We encourage everyone to come and participate in this momentous event and show our solidarity with light people and their allies.
**Gay Groups**

It's all about having fun!

**ABC**
- The Atlantic-Brooks Support Group (ABC) is an active group seeking to raise awareness and funds for the glbt community project called AEKVAL.
- The “Cabin Night” fundraiser held on Feb. 15, which raised funds for AEKVAL, was a great success. Over $1,000 was raised and the evening was enjoyed by all who attended. A huge THANKS TO YOU Terry B and Dave of the Bachelor Forum who donated proceeds from Terry’s first entry into “Cabin Fever” party on March 14. Terry and his crew did a great job. ABC is busy planning for its next fund-raiser for Saturday, April 15, “10:30 PM” at the Bachelor Forum with the Rochester Rams at 10 p.m. There will be $5/00 denominations and special inter- or related activities.

**Butch Femme**
- Are you trying to get a support group together.
- If you have an interest in participating in any ABC, please call ABC at 271-6513 or leave a message at the GAGV, 179 Atlantic Ave. Come and see how it’s done! Come and see how it’s done! (at the Bachelor Forum, 179 Atlantic Ave.)

**Empire Bears**
- The sun is out. The breeze is warm. The flowers are blooming everywhere. It’s springtime! It’s time to think about new friends and meet new people.
- Good times are had by all. The Empire Bears are glad to announce that they are looking for new members.
- The Empire Bears are open to all men and women who are interested in participating in a group that enjoys outdoor activities.
- For more information on how to become a member of the Empire Bears, please contact the GAGV at 271-6513.

**Fingertips**
- A social group for women and men interested in fishing.
- Our meetings are held on a weekly basis and are an opportunity for everyone to share their love of fishing.
- The next meeting will be held on Sunday, April 18 (10 p.m.) and will be held at the Rochester Yacht Club, 179 Atlantic Ave.
- At 10:30 p.m., we will meet to discuss fishing regulations and fishing techniques.
- All members are welcome to attend and share their knowledge and experiences with others.

**Geri Stanton Counseling Services**
- We are trying to get a support group going.
- If you are interested, please call Jim Costich at (h) 325-3074 or (cell) 339-8548.
Rainbow Gospel Chorus

The Rochester Rainbow Gospel Choir is looking forward to performing at the "Rainbow in the City" event at the Empire State Theatre in Ithaca on April 17. They will join the dynamic gay Christian word leaders, Jason and Jesus from Los Angeles. Jason, and deMarco will be presenting at a conference at Lake Avenue Baptist Church at 7 p.m. on May 7. The church is located at 507 Avenue A. So far, we have done before, the RRCG will open for Jason and deMarco, as well as present a song together.


Saturday night on the third Saturday of each month. We hold general meeting next to the public" the Wednesday before each 3rd Night for more information, please visit our website: http://www.gagv.com"
Ave. Theme: "New recipe night," Family Cinema, 524 Westcott St., Syracuse. $5. Across from the Federal Building and walk or use the Church St stop on State St for speaking words like pot, cocaine, crack, Our sexuality can contribute to our alcohol-addiction and recovery — are fair game. The top of the 11 pm, Westerly Chapel, 121 N. Fitzhugh St. 4 pm. (or pass). As a result, this meeting often meets on second Tuesdays, 7 pm, For location call Dale, 589-3807, or email dale@alcoholics匿名.org.

SATURDAY 24
Gay Men's AA meeting. 7:30 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 244-8640.

SUNDAY 25
Transgender group. Gather, 7:30 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Free. Sponsored by GAGV

Bible Study Group. Third Sunday, 6 pm, Rochester Historical Bowling Society Forum, 470 University Ave. 271-1869. A panel discussion in which various communities explore equaityforum.com. Distinguished Guest Speaker, Dr. Lasell and Elena Georghiu. He will read from his book, "Temporar y and Singing. 7 pm, Borders, free. Sponsored by GAGV and the Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 244-8640. Open meeting, gay-family friendly.

Saturday
Gay Men's AA meeting. 7:30 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Free. 442-2220 x 3051.

Third Mondays,* 7:30 pm. Webster House, 1350 University Ave. Free. 442-2220 x 3051. Men and women. Open meeting. 271-2709.

The 2709.

Monday and Tuesday, 6:30 to 9:30 pm. Rochester, 1350 University Ave. Free. 442-2220 x 3051. Men and women. Open meeting.

Thursday

Third Fridays, 7 pm. AIDS Resource Center, 125 Caroline St. 4 pm. Open meeting, gay-friendly.


Friday
Rainbow Seniors. 12:15 pm, last Sundays. Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St. 4 pm. Open meeting, gay-friendly.

Wednesday
Gay and Lesbian Support Group. Third Mondays, 7-30 pm, 335-3500.

Gay Men’s Community Church. 8:30-10 pm, Call for location, 335-5441.

Gays and Lesbians of Bausch & Lomb. "Building Healthy Communities: Nuestra Derechos y Fuerza." 5-30 pm, First Unitarian Church of Rochester, 125 Caroline St. 4 pm. Open meeting, gay-family friendly.

Gay Men's Bar Night. 115 N. Fitzhugh St., 7-4030. Free. For information, call (716)490-0718, ext. 203. Sponsored by Genesee Region Homeless Coalition.

Break the Silence, "The Right to be Gay." 7 pm, WXXI.

Handicapped accessible, take the ele­

The Calendar is published weekly in the World News, 7 pm, 179 Atlantic Ave. 244-8600. Open meeting, gay-family friendly. www.worldnews.com/lego.

SATURDAY 19
Center. Documentary About Kids of Gay Parents Who Have Lost Children. 6:30 pm, first Thursday. For location call Dale, 599-4407, or email dale@alcoholics匿名.org.

Men's House, 325-4000.


Women’s House meetings are open to alcoholics and recovery... — are fair game. The top of the 11 pm, Westerly Chapel, 121 N. Fitzhugh St. 4 pm. (or pass). As a result, this meeting often meets on second Tuesdays, 7 pm, For location call Dale, 589-3807, or email dale@alcoholics匿名.org.

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Youth visit Albany lawmakers on Advocacy Day

BY KATHRYN A. EWING

On March 23, 13 youth from the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, and our Youth Director, Toby Greenfield, were on a road trip to Albany for the annual trip to Advocacy Day. On this day, members of the lgbt Health & Human Services Network come together in Albany to advocate for the needs of our community.

We first met with Assemblywoman Carmen De能力和 Chair of the Assembly Education Committee. He was very respectful of what we had to say. Ms. Sanders is a supporter of the Dignity for All Students Act and he listened intently as several youth recounted their experiences with hate and discrimination in school from both students and teachers.

Next we went on to meet with Senator Stephen M. Sanders, Chief of Staff, Tina Morgan. Upon our arrival, she complained that she was not warned "that there was going to be so many of them". As we filed into the small conference room we all found a place to sit and put our best faces on because we knew we were in for a fight.

We were told that there is not much that can be done for "our population".

She did not seem to want to hear what students had to say on the issues important to us.

We talked about how the Dignity for All Students Act is lacking certain provisions, including the omission of any teacher training on how to prevent and respond to bias bullying, the absence of any protection from discrimination, and a specific definition of gender to include gender identity and expression. Ms. Morgan sat in a very closed-off way and did not take notes or maintain eye contact with any of us. Many of the youth had a lot of great arguments and got their points across intelligently and accurately. We honestly made her look silly, and she knew it.

The Afternoon Session was the only representative to actually speak with us directly, she even stopped to strike a pose for a photo.

I found Advocacy Day 2004 to be a fun and educational experience. I do believe that the youth presence there absolutely did make a difference, and I would recommend that everyone out there find the time to write and visit your representatives.

You can make a difference!

Day of Silence is April 21, marking loss of lgbt voices to homophobia

The Day of Silence is April 21 this year. Information on the history of the day, when students keep silence in memory of voices lost to homophobia, is available at www.dayofsilence.org.

Locally, GLEEN, the GAGV and a planning team consisting of local high school and college students are putting together a Breaking the Silence Rally. This will be the second annual rally in the Rochester area. Last year it was held at Brockport High School. This year is is being held in the Variety Gym at St. John Fisher College, a more centrally located location.

Animal time will be 4 p.m. and organizers are planning to break the silence at 4:15. This will be followed by a short speech and ice breaker by Fisher Alum Rich Morgan, who also spoke at last year’s rally. After Rich, the Sweet and Sour Theatre Company will be performing their Lambda Project.

The rally will end with a small group activity where students will make commitments to each other about what they will do in the future to help end the silence.

Dinner of pizza and soda will then be served, this is being provided by OUTWest of WestGroup.

The website with information about the rally is www.fisherpride.com/ DOSRally. If anyone has questions, the email address is kcb8346@sjfc.edu.

The GAGV Annual Meeting will be held Sunday May 2nd in the New Youth Center 875 E. Main St.

Back by popular demand! Spirit Pop Artists...

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Friday May 7 In Concert Lake Avenue Baptist Church 57 Andrews Street 7:00 PM

Saturday May 8 Special Music Spiritus Christi Church DIFPC, 121 N. Fitzhugh 5:00 PM

Sunday May 9 Special Music Spiritus Christi Church DIFPC, 121 N. Fitzhugh 7:00 AM

Sunday May 9 Special Music Community Christian Church 2947 Chili Avenue 11:30 AM
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