San Francisco grants marriage licenses to same sex couples

On Feb. 12, the City and County of San Francisco became the first locality in the United States to grant marriage licenses to same-sex couples. City officials followed a directive set in motion by Mayor Gavin Newsom, in a political and legal challenge to California law, which permits only a form of civil unions. The city said it will continue to issue the licenses.

Advocates heralded the move as the most significant moment in the fight for equal marriage rights for same-sex couples. By EC estimates, over 3,000 couples had been married.

Among the first to be wed were Del Martin, 83, and Phyllis Lyon, 80, who had met in Seattle in 1950 and began dating in 1952. They moved to San Francisco in 1955. The new women founded the Daughters of Bilitis, the first national lesbian rights organization. "Phyllis and I demonstrated our commitment to each other more than half a century ago," said Martin. "Today, San Francisco women founded the Daughters of Bilitis, the first national lesbian rights organization.

Martin and Lyon were married just before noon by City Assessor Mabel Teng in a closed-door civil ceremony at City Hall. Mayors spokesman Peter Ragone said it will continue to issue the licenses.

"It was difficult struggling to get by on only one income, but it all seemed worth it knowing that I have made a different in the world," said Newland, who had accepted a higher paying job in Virginia after nine months of searching for a job without success. Newland was urged by the local unemployment office to file for benefits from the state of New York, which regularly grants such benefits to married couples and occasionally to engaged couples in similar circumstances.

The Department of Labor, as well as the Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board, initially denied Newlands request for benefits. Last June, after the ACLU filed an appeal in the New York courts and Dufxy Plamer of the Empire State Pride Agenda raised the issue with Governor Pataki, the appeal board agreed to reconsider its decision.

The Department of Labor has announced it will change its policy to recognize same-sex couples in committed relationships. The changes will recognize same-sex couples in committed relationships in determining eligibility for unemployment insurance.

"We are very pleased that the Department of Labor has recognized that same-sex couples in committed relationships should not be discriminated against in unemployment insurance simply because they are not allowed to marry their partners," said Jane Banks, Legislative Director for the ACLU Lesbian and Gay Rights Project. "Because of the policy changes, lesbian and gay New Yorkers who relocate to be with their partners must not be denied the dignity and the rights they deserve, just because of their sexual orientation and gender identity."

The ACLU represents Jeanne Newland, who left her job with Element Pest Control, Inc. in Virginia to be with her partner, whom she had accepted a higher paying job in New York. After nine months of searching for a job without success, Newland was urged by the local unemployment office to file for benefits from the state of New York, which regularly grants such benefits to married couples and occasionally to engaged couples in similar circumstances.

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Seeking civil rights

The Rev. William Barber, an openly gay pastor, has been a vocal advocate for marriage equality.

The Rev. Barber is the pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Greensboro, North Carolina. He is also a professor of religion and social justice at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He is a member of the Greensboro Coalition for Equality, which works to promote social justice for LGBTQ people in the community.

Barber is a strong advocate for marriage equality and has been involved in many campaigns pushing for the right of same-sex couples to marry. He is known for his powerful sermons and his dedication to the cause of LGBTQ rights.

In addition to his religious work, Barber is also an active social justice activist. He has been involved in many campaigns to address issues such as poverty, racism, and police brutality.

Barber's message is that all people deserve equal rights, regardless of sexual orientation. He believes that love and commitment should be celebrated, and that LGBTQ couples should be able to make the same choices as everyone else.

Barber's leadership has been instrumental in bringing attention to the issue of marriage equality, and his work has helped to advance the cause in many states and at the federal level.

Barber's message resonates with people across the country, and his leadership has inspired many others to join the fight for marriage equality. His powerful voice continues to be a key part of the movement for LGBTQ rights.

Barber's story is one of hope and change, and his work is an inspiration to everyone fighting for a more just and equitable society.
Court says Florida can delay adoption

On Jan. 27, a three-judge panel of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 2-1 unanimously that the state of Florida may delay the opening ceremonies for an adoption agency run by gay parents.

The Atlanta-based court ruled that Florida's refusal to open the adoption agency operated by the Center for the Study of Gender and Sexual Orientation, a San Francisco-based organization that provides legal services for same-sex couples, is constitutional.

The court said that the state's decision to delay the opening is reasonable and that the agency's claim that it would discriminate against gay couples is not supported by the evidence.

The decision is a victory for the state, which has been fighting to delay the opening of the agency for several years. The decision also means that the agency cannot operate in Florida until the state changes its policy.

**Related Content**
- Florida to delay adoption for a gay couple
- Florida gay couple wins right to adopt
- Florida gay couple's adoption case heads to state supreme court

Cincinnati mayor urges repeal of anti-gay city charter amendment

The mayor of Cincinnati, Ohio, has called for the repeal of an anti-gay city charter amendment that passed in 1993.

Mayor Charlie Lechman said in his State of the City speech that the amendment was motivated by the success of the 1993 amendment.

The amendment passed by 62 percent of the vote.

**Related Content**
- Cincinnati mayor calls for repeal of anti-gay city charter amendment
- Cincinnati mayor says city charter amendment is discriminatory
- Cincinnati mayor urges repeal of anti-gay city charter amendment

Asian Pacific gay groups to meet

An unprecedented coalition of national and local groups announced that they are planning "Asian Pacific Legacy: A Historic Regional Gathering of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Pacific Islanders and their Allies in Network, Organize, Advocate, Educate, and Build Community." The conference will be held in New York City, New York, on the weekend of March 5-7.

The conference will focus on the experiences and needs of Asian Pacific gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities.

**Related Content**
- Asian Pacific gay groups to meet
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- Asian Pacific gay groups to meet in New York City

Ohio bars marriage and all gay rights benefits

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and the National Gay Task Force (NGT) announced that a judge has ruled that Ohio has no rights benefits for same-sex couples.

The judge ruled that the state's constitution does not protect gay and lesbian couples.

**Related Content**
- Ohio bars marriage and all gay rights benefits
- Ohio bars marriage and all gay rights benefits
- Ohio bars marriage and all gay rights benefits

NLGT Policy Institute to award Fellows for summer

Summer Fellowship applications are now being accepted by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute.

The Fellowship will provide the opportunity to work with professionals in law and policy.

Fellows will receive a stipend of $10,000 for their work.

**Related Content**
- NLGT Policy Institute to award Fellows for summer
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- NLGT Policy Institute to award Fellows for summer

California lesbian couple told by customs they are ‘not a family’, must use single forms

A California lesbian couple was told by customs agents at San Francisco airport that they were not a family and must use single forms.

The couple, who live in San Francisco, were stopped at the airport and told they were not a family.

The couple was told, "Family is by blood, marriage or adoption only." The couple, who have been in a committed relationship for over 20 years, said they were told they were not a family.

The couple was surprised by the decision and said they would appeal it.

**Related Content**
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- California lesbian couple told by customs they are ‘not a family’, must use single forms
Michael Boucher brings Word and World school to Rochester June 12-19

BY SUSAN JORDAN

"Penchasing to the chain" may sometimes be the first step in changing the world. The school called "Word and World" is coming to Rochester June 12-19, with the theme of "Gender and Sexuality the struggle for inclusiveness and justice." The school, which could also be called an "underground village," provides "radical training and education for Christian discipleship in the work of social transformation." Each year the school rates on a different topic and meets in a different city.

Equal-justice activist Michael Boucher of the Rochester chapter of the National Organization for Women said in the past week that saving downtown's "bridge, "as well as saving parks, could be an example of liberation. It's a fundamental duty for many people in systems of oppression." Boucher said that the Word and World school was founded by Ched Myers, a theologian, in the '60s, when Boucher said, "The idea of a movable school or 'underground Christian ties, although people of all political backgrounds could attend, was also a natural choice for a facility that was prepared to be flexible, to adapt to new situations and to learn from them." Boucher said that the school provides "radical training and education for Christian discipleship in the work of social transformation." Each year the school rates on a different topic and meets in a different city.

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The school is a network of organizations that relies on local support and national advocacy to build communities of faith and action. The school is committed to building a world where justice, equality, and dignity are achieved for all people. The school's mission is to provide a space for learning, reflection, and action on issues of social justice and spiritual development.

The school has been active in many different cities and has a diverse range of participants, including students, activists, and community leaders. The school provides a platform for dialogue and collaboration, and fosters a sense of community among those who participate.

Word and World has been praised for its effectiveness in addressing issues of social justice and spiritual development. The school has been instrumental in creating new communities of faith and action, and has helped to build a network of support for individuals and organizations working for change. The school continues to be an important resource for those seeking to make a difference in the world.
**Marriage Equality Needs Your Help**

By Douglas McDavid

The marriage equality issue is the hot topic on everyone's mind. Now is the time for us to take action.

What are we asking for is "Gay marriage. We are simply asking for the same rights and responsibilities that every other American has when it comes to being officially recognized by our government as being married. A civil union—the method of recognition in Vermont—is not enough. Civil unions are only recognized by our state, and the benefits afforded them, are minimal at best. The federal government does not recognize state sanctioned civil unions.

We are not asking that our religious institutions recognize our marriages. This issue is about civil rights—and not rights to be subject to second class citizenship.

**What can you do to help?**

- **About all we need to be courageous with our employers. Following the steps below is the beginning. We need to come out to our employers and educate them about our equality. Then, in Rochester we have found that the method of educating our community is through our employers.**

**Send a Letter to the Editor**

Send a letter to the editor of the Democrat and Chronicle in support of marriage equality for same-sex couples. Tell your story! All letters MUST include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Letters must be less than 175 words. Your address and telephone number will NOT be published. The newspaper will use them to verify the authenticity of your letter prior to consideration for publication.

Address your letter to: Letters to the Editor, Democrat and Chronicle, 15 Exchange Street, Rochester, N.Y. 14640. For help on writing your letter, go to: http://www.democratandchronicle.com/letters/letters.html.

**Announce Your Engagement/Unusual Wedding/Anniversary**

The Democrat and Chronicle will print announcements of same-sex marriages in the newspaper. This is a great opportunity to educate Rochester about our community. Send your engagement announcements, ceremony information or photos to: Go to http://www.democratandchronicle.com/weddings/ and follow the instructions and contact information. Be sure to also send the information (and a photo) to the Empty Closet in Rochester, NY. gayalliance@rochester.rr.com.

**Contact Our Elected Officials**

A listing of Elected Officials for Rochester is on our website: www.gayalliance.org. Click on the "Marriage" link.

Tell your United States Congresspersons (find them on our website) and United States Senators (Schumer and Clinton) that writing disorientation into the U.S. Constitution is wrong. Send them a letter or, better yet, visit them in person.

Tell your New York State Assembly Member and New York State Senator to oppose any legislation that prevents or prohibits equal marriage in our State. Tell them you believe gay and lesbian deserve full equality under the law in our state, no less—including the right to marry.

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**TALKING ABOUT MARRIAGE EQUALITY**

By MICHAEL JACOBS

Since I served at the Human Rights Campaign, I have had the opportunity to talk with gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people nationwide about the path to equality. Foremost in the minds of many I have been honored to meet is this question: why is marriage so important?

If you’re wondering this, you’re not alone. According to a Harris Interactive poll we recently commissioned, half of all LGBT adults think civil unions are the same as marriage. Unfortunately, that’s far too many. Simply put, civil unions do not provide any of the more than 1,130 protections or securities afforded under federal law through a marriage license. Vermont’s specific recognition today in only one state – Vermont – and provide all the benefits of marriage. If two men in a civil union own and manage a business, they carry with them some of the rights or protections that they have in Vermont.

Three critical distinctions boil down to stipulations. With every paycheck, LGBT employees pay into the Social Security system — allowing spouses and children to access Social Security survivor benefits when a loved one passes away. These benefits can easily total more than $1,000 a month. (See www.hrcactioncenter.org for examples.) But couples in a civil union have no access to these benefits. Even if you do not desire to marry, you’re still paying into a system that discriminates against same-sex couples. 

Couples in a civil union have no access to the federal laws like Family and Medical Leave Act, to equal immigration rights, to continued health care coverage, to some same-sex couples' tax savings, to more generous pension contributions, to some same-sex couples' access to Social Security survivor benefits, if you have no desire to marry, you’re still paying into a system that discriminates against same-sex couples. 

Some also feel that civil unions are a necessary compromise, given the public’s stance on marriage. But civil unions are not the solution. Even if civil unions provided all the same legal protections of marriage – which they don’t, they would still be a separate and unequal status.

Ten years ago, many said that domestic partnerships were unrealistic. Five years ago, civil unions were cutting-edge. We are poised in almost every state to recognize the same-sex couple in civil unions is a marriage. It is not enough. Civil unions are not enough. Civil unions are not enough. Civil unions are not enough. Civil unions are not enough. Civil unions are not enough. Civil unions are not enough. Civil unions are not enough. Civil unions are not enough. Civil unions are not enough. Civil unions are not enough. Civil unions are not enough. Civil unions are not enough. Civil unions are not enough. Civil unions are not enough. Civil unions are not enough. Civil unions are not enough. Civil unions are not enough. Civil unions are not enough. Civil unions are not enough.

Sure, there are many of us who may not be ready to settle down now. However, our poll reflects that 73 percent of our audience (for the 22 percent that don’t, this should still be the personal choice to make, not the government).

As we look at the road ahead, President Bush is prepared to orchestrate this unequal treatment in our nation’s Constitution. And the press is reporting that he will end the Magna Carta and family amend­

**Talking about marriage equality**

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**Make no mistake. President Bush is working to enact a marriage amendment through a state constitutional amendment. He is fighting to win this election on our backs. This is the real struggle with marriage. But civil unions as a compromise, given the public’s stance on marriage. But civil unions are not the solution. Even if civil unions provided all the same legal protections of marriage – which they don’t, they would still be a separate and unequal status.

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NYC NEWS

GAGV Sweetheart Ball

Ann O.T. Young, Chuck Bowen and David Quick at the Gay Alliance Sweetheart Ball.

Evelyn Bailey, center, with friends. The Sweetheart Ball was held at the Hyatt Regency on Feb. 14. Over 300 people attended.


Human Rights Campaign (HRC) 3rd Annual Greater New York Gala Dinner was held on Feb. 7 at The Waldorf Astoria. Sen. Hillary Clinton, Cheryl Jacques of HRC, and Rosie O'Donnell share a photo op.

The Crystal Meth HIV Connection public forum at RIT Haft Auditorium in Manhattan was held on Feb. 8. The forum was a part of Challenging The Culture Of Disease series with Harvey Fierstein. Peter Staley talks about the ad campaign he funded: "Huge sale! Buy crystal, get HIV free!"

At the Immigration Equality 10th Anniversary at The Boilly Studios in the Starrett-Lehigh Building on Feb. 8, WNBA basketball star Sue Wicks and former US Attorney General Janet Reno attended.

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A press conference was held in a separate room during the Ball, where three same-sex couples talked to the media about the issue of marriage for lesbians and gay men. The press conference and Ball were covered by the local TV news shows.
**Escaping the highly appreciated stock shock**

**BY DAVID C. QUICK.**

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**thaca study shows... single men don't plan well for retirement**

Compare with married couples, single men tend to put less effort into planning for retirement, studies show. But, the lost pension opportunities of single men tend to plan less even than other women, according to one of the first studies to look at the retirement plans of gay and lesbian individuals.

A significant influencing factor turning out to be a scheduling problem, the studies show, where gay men and lesbian women put less emphasis on getting married than the same-sex couples, but plan more for their financial and legal needs.

Nancy, a single man, and a gay man in San Francisco, California, in their 50s, plays a conservative group to the pension. He's been out for years, but he has a large nest egg, at least three percent, to be worth while. He feels that his financial planning is the most important.

"It's an unforgettable day," said Nancy. She and her partner were married last February. "It's the most important day in our lives," she said.

For Nancy, the former Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, "You've got to plan for your retirement," she added.

**San Francisco**

A 30-year-old man, the only one you know, who makes his living as a financial planner, says, "I'm a gay man, and I'm not too sure about retirement planning. I'm not sure about the future, in some cases.

Great D. Quick, a registered financial planner in San Francisco, points out that gay individuals are more likely to plan for their retirement than other women, according to the study.

"Just as we did in the past, this generation of men, and this generation of women, are looking to their financial advisors to help them plan for their future," he said.

"For many Americans," said the former Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, "you've got to plan for your retirement," she added.

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A 30-year-old man, the only one you know, who makes his living as a financial planner, says, "I'm a gay man, and I'm not too sure about retirement planning. I'm not sure about the future, in some cases.

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Unemployment benefits
Continued from page A1
of a "temporarily committed relationship.

"It is wonderful news," said Alan Van Capelle, Executive Director of the Empire State AIDS Law Project, a Department of Labor understands that this will help the community. We the Department's decision to recognize same sex couples is appreciated. I hope that all New Yorkers

"We again thank the Governor for recognizing the family of your choice as a right to decide in this," said Van Capelle. We applaud the Governor's decision in sending the message that all families need to be treated with respect.

New York’s trend of recognizing that same sex couples may establish the

New York State’s First Pride Week of January 2002 was one of the first to allow such same sex couples and their families.

The Governor, the Assembly Speaker, the Senate Majority Leader and the Attorney General also supported those bills that became law in 2002 providing various other benefits to same sex domestic partners of 1997. Last year, the legislature placed the Governor announced a bill that created same sex partner credits on the tax roll. This year, there is full access to banking services.

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An open letter to mainstream journalists about accurate marriage reporting

Dear Fellow Journalist:

As the subject of marriage for gays and lesbians continues to expand rapidly concerning the issue of marriage and gay and lesbian couples, the National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association (NLGJA) urges all media professionals to use accurate and clear terminology in reporting.

The terms "gay marriage" and "same-sex marriage" are inaccurate and misleading. The decision made by the Massachusetts court affects the state's existing marriage law. The court has ordered the state to apply the existing law equally to gay and lesbian couples as early as May 2004. The accurate terminology on- or off-the-baselines should be "marriage for gays and lesbians." The subject of marriage for gays and lesbians requires immediate attention for fair and balanced coverage. When covering issues, NLGJA recommends that legal quotas and expertise be kept distinct and separate from religious sourcing stories, NLGJA recommends that legal quotas and expertise be kept to fair and balanced coverage. When and lesbians.'

The saddest part about the same-sex marriage debate is that the media and political parties are making a mockery out of the expression of other people's lives. Has any straight person seriously thought how their personal lives, or the lives of their family, would change if homophobia had the right to marry? What would change in your life now?

If gay couples getting married were as commonplace as opposite sex getting married, there would be no main story, no front page story, no political discussion in the media about gay marriage. The only discussion that would be of interest is who is going to marry our county. And by the way, shouldn't a public leader represent all people in his or her county?

Marie Gibson
Rochester, NY

Amendment would take away civil liberties; it's wrong

To the Editor:

With respect to constitutional semantics, amendments were originally designed for inclusion into or changing the evolving landscape of social democracy. By approving the Defense of Marriage Act, the Massachusetts act would deny or prohibit law abiding, hard working, tax paying American's the right and privilege to do just that. Under any law created, however wording, that eliminates or takes away someone's civil liberty is fundamentally and principally wrong. Period. Legal same sex marriage, or what ever you want to call it, will eventually happen. Proposers of the Defense of Marriage Act haven't used to the idea, sooner the better.

Sincerely,

One Overry
Rochester, N.Y.

Rochester couple marries in S.F.

To the Editor:

As far as I know, we were the first couple from New York to marry. It was a truly amazing experience. Towel strangers came up to us to offer congratulations. Mayor Newsom emerged from his office to give a speech, and the crowd cheered each time a happy couple emerged from the Clerk's office holding their marriage certificate high for all to see.

The sense of participating in history in the making was not lost on us. It has been a week in which over 3,000 couples have stepped forward to claim their rights as human beings and announce that they will no longer ride the back of the bus. We should be proud of all of them, of Gavin Newsom, and of the City of San Francisco.

It was a week in which the forces of evil, the satanic hounds of ignorance, the unholy, unholy, unholy blout. However, it was also only the opening shot in what promises to be a full blow. But at least and at last, the fight is on. The time has come for all of us, gay, lesbian, bi, and transgender to demand the official recognition as first class citizens that has so long been denied us.

To all of you, rise up and claim what is ultimately ours if we only persevere. It was a month in which the forces of evil, the satanic hounds of ignorance, the unholy, unholy, unholy blout. However, it was also only the opening shot in what promises to be a full blow. But at least and at last, the fight is on. The time has come for all of us, gay, lesbian, bi, and transgender to demand the official recognition as first class citizens that has so long been denied us.

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Michele Deisher
Rochester NY

Questions can be directed to Dr. Young at boatdpresident@gayalliance.org or the GAGV office at 244-8640. All inquiries will be kept strictly confidential.

From Our Readers

Jennifer L. Gravitz, Esq.
Quality legal services provided with old fashioned care in the privacy of your home or office

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Villa and Game rentals
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Lambda Kodak donates to PFLAG

The proceeds of December's 2003 Holiday Gala, which totaled $1,000, were donated to the Rochester Chapter of PFLAG. The gala was held at the Kodak Office Building East, and proceeds will benefit the PFLAG chapter.

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Community leaders, friends, and well-wishers gathered on Feb. 7 at the Cut Masters Barbaposh at 222 Lyell Ave. in Rochester. They came together not for a haircut, per se, but under a common purpose: to educate about HIV and AIDS.

Members of the MOCHA Project (Men of Color Health Awareness) Project and the Lambda Network at Bausch & Lomb, representing a community-wide coalition of groups, held a press conference at the barbershop to announce the new initiative. The conference, held in conjunction with the National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, was presented by the MOCHA Project/BM/LMHC, representing a community-wide coalition of groups.

Roberto Burgos, president of BM/LMHC, and County Legislator Adam McFadden presented an award to Adria Wisner from Hoffman-LaRoche. Wisner was recognized for her work in combating HIV/AIDS in Rochester.

Rev. Roosevelt Dixon from the Grace United Fellowship Church led the press conference in an invocation.

Rev. Roosevelt Dixon from the Grace United Fellowship Church led the press conference in an invocation.
March 27th, 2004 8 p.m.
Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge
No admission fee

In the Life looks at challenges faced by lgbt youth
For its March episode, In the Life, the TV newsmagazine of record on gay and lesbian America, takes an in-depth look at the array of challenges facing gay and lesbian youth.

Hosted by Terri Award-winning actor Cherry Jones, the March episode of In the Life examines the following topics:

• How to deal with your peers when you are not out

Behind the Bullying Epidemic

In the Life explores how bullying is tied to harassment and suicide, and reveals what happens when youth have "no place to go."

Battle Over Gay/Straight Student Clubs

In the Life follows the first-ever gay/school clubs that have been started at more than 2,000 U.S. high schools. ITL travels to one suburban Chicago school that challenges diversity and views what is happening from the point of view of students and teachers.

Diversity and Acceptance

ITL revisits the 2003 murder of Sakia Gunn, a 15-year-old lesbian from Newark, New Jersey who proposed creation of a GSA met unexpected resistance from both students and faculty.

Gays and lesbians have become a top target market, particularly for the travel industry. In the first of a new recurring series, "Campaign 2004," Congressman Dennis Kucinich reveals his vision for gay and lesbian America.

Thanksgiving Day Parade

The neighborhood of the Arts showcases the following:

• Thanksgiving Day Parade, ITL comments on Harvey Fierstein takes the media to task for ignoring the real issue at hand: the right to marriage for gay men and lesbians.

For more information or to view In the Life's online pressroom at http://www.inthelifetv.org/press/

To get involved, for more information, call 256-3336 or email artwalk@rochester.rr.com.
**Leatherman contest to be held in Chicago in May**

Following last year's unprecedented 25th Anniversary Celebration, the world's best leathermen will once again converge on Chicago for the 26th Annual International Mr. Leather Contest. The annual event, hosted by the leather-oriented Greater Chicago Leather Community (GCLC), will be held at a location to be announced, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The featured speaker will be Adam McPadden, and the event will also include a candlelight vigil, open to local leathermen and artists, a brunch catered by Tate's, and prayer led by area religious leaders, including a prayer from the Church of the Advocate.

In the afternoon, a high school all-star leatherman team will play at 5 p.m., at a location to be announced. This year's event will include a moment of silence to remember the leathermen lost to AIDS, and AIDS-related illnesses. Activities may include a potluck lunch, board games, face painting, a pinata and more. On May 29, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., there will be a Stage at Milestones from 6 to 11 p.m. A Greater Chicago Leather Community (GCLC) event featuring local bands will take place at Milestones from 6 to 11 p.m. A Greater Chicago Leather Community (GCLC) event featuring local bands will take place at Milestones from 6 to 11 p.m.

**SunY Brockport students release for The Laramie Project**

SUNY Brockport produces _The Laramie Project_. The Laramie Project, which opened Feb. 27, continues its run this weekend at Magee Fine Arts Center, SUNY College at Brockport. The play, which emerged from the storm of emotions generated with the loss of Matthew Shepard, has been performed OffBroadway and in regional theaters as well as in thousands of colleges and universities across the country. First performed at the Denver Center Theatre, The Laramie Project moved to New York City's Lincoln Square Theatre and was selected by Time magazine as one of the 10 best plays of 2000. In November of that year, the Toronto Theatre Project mounted to perform this work.

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**Arizona Gold : from Yeshiva boy to pop star**

He started out as an Arizona Gold, he left his father's Yeshiva, he became a pop star in New York City - a true public figure. It can be hard to imagine that these are the roles of Ari Fleischer. Ari tiles the public face of a man who has grown up in the religious community of Los Angeles. After attending the Yeshiva in New York City, he moved to Los Angeles, where he attended a private school. After high school, he attended the University of Southern California, where he received a degree in humanities and social sciences. After graduating from USC, he worked as a political consultant for several campaigns, including the 1998 California gubernatorial race. He then joined the Clinton administration as a speechwriter for Vice President Al Gore. In 1999, he became the White House Press Secretary, and in 2001, he was appointed as the White House Press Secretary and Director of Communications.

It is not surprising that Ari Fleischer is now known by many as the "Arizona Gold," a name that he earned while attending the Yeshiva in New York City. The Arizona Gold is a term that is used to describe a Yeshiva student who is highly successful and achieves great things in life. Ari Fleischer is a perfect example of this, as he has achieved great success in his career and has become a public figure.

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Ari Gold
Chi LaRue.
documentaries, in film or video formats.
cation form and follow the instructions
Larry Clark, Wilson Cruz, Cheryl
Clive Barker, Udo Kier, Joel Schumacher,
the Film Festival screened 130 films
ans to marry, a mass wedding will be held
On the Fourth of July,
Bennett. Over those same two decades
Questions: Andrew Preis, 215-733-
Application form/festival Web Site: WWW.
Also as a part of her tour, k.d. lang
At the end of April, k.d. will launch
At the end of April, k.d. will launch
It's a sure bet to take a
The play is marvelous, the true story
the Commies. It's a sure bet to take a
Whoa, that's a friend.
the optometrist
In Boyland
What shall I do today? I inspect my
Mom's Jacuzzi.
Two years ago, Miguel took me to
When I was still a kid, every week I
as you self-obsession. It's like a kinky dog run
To make a living.) k.d. lang will cap
That's a friend.
I am alone. With a

Chelsea is a complex neighborhood.
Over the years my attempts to wring
the fabled queer theme park. The droids
My weekly viewing of Wonder Woman. And
in the Chelsea 23rd St. cinema,
a smiling man, the plumber, another
I am alone. With a
A steady drip. High panic. Can't
I was stuck, home alone.
I split for the 23rd Street
I am alone. With a

Chelsea is a complex neighborhood.

Chelsea is a complex neighborhood.

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On the Fourth of July,
As a kid, on my special day,
As a kid, on my special day,
For the film nearly stopped

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By SARAH EVANS, PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF THE MICHELANGELO CHICAGO REGION

Be Your Own Hero with the March for Women’s Lives

What is it? Someone who means something to others, who stands up for what is right, and who lets the world know that they are a fierce fighter for justice. A woman who is a role model for the world, and who shows others that they can make a difference. Someone who is not afraid to speak up for themselves and for others. Someone who is not afraid to fight for what they believe in.

Join thousands of women and girls as they come together to demand an end to gun violence. The March for Women’s Lives is the largest and most powerful women’s movement in America. It is a day of action, a day of resistance, and a day of hope.

March with us and help us to create a safer world for all women and girls. Together, we can make a difference.

Let’s build a world where women and girls are free to live their lives without fear of violence. A world where women and girls can choose whether or not to have children, and where every person is treated with dignity and respect.

Together, we can make a difference.

See you at the March for Women’s Lives!
QUEER IS IN.

Drug abuse is out.

It's not secret: Drug abuse has been a part of our community for a long time. Working toward gay health can change that. It's up to us. Let's take care of each other.

Find out more about gay health. Go to: www.aidsrochester.org/gayhealth, or call 585-442-2220.
1. How would you define your style, and what is your favorite designer and why is looking stylish important to you?

Both: We both wear any and all colors and combination of materials, but we disagree if I don't have a daily hour and a half of health and fitness regimes?

8. What is important to you in the area of health and fitness regimes?

D: I get very cranky and out of sorts if I don't exercise, eat far too much, and gain weight. D: Donald Trump's hair and the Fab Five's clothes. What is that all about?

6. What would be your biggest style disaster?

Mark. M: In business, first impressions are everything. It conveys success and makes your clients at ease and sets my clients at ease and creates a tone, being a role model for them. D: jewelry

4. What clothing item can't you live without?

D: Suits, shoes, sweaters and shoes. Toronto for suits and dress wear and we can buy anything and sets my clients at ease and creates a tone, being a role model for them. D: jewelry

3. What colors do you prefer to wear?

Brant of Canada.

M: I thought I'd share a photo of me, snowboarding.

11. Where would you go for a shopping vacation?

Weinman is a member of the Queens Historical Association, Broadway is her life. Sharon explores the fascinating lives of such stars as Ethel Merman, Sophie Tucker, Fanny Brice, Barbra Streisand, Sarah Bernhardt, Mae West, etc., right at the theatres they performed in. Sharon likes to recreate that period of time by seeing suspenseful productions and seeing "wonderful, wizened faces of informants," surprising her tour participants also getting a sense of Musical Theater history. Sharon passes out informational handouts and sets the stage. She then begins to explain other Qua...
soldiers died. Now his formal investiga­

November election. As the church lady

and Congress don't care nearly as much

Commission has become the pawn of

former ambassador Joseph Wilson, who

trouble-maker Martha Stewart to court.

continue to be exposed to infection.

However, the world is a safer place now,

(buried by his administration guru Karl

Plain and simple, the White House

The Federal Communications

In his state of the union address, the

AIDS:

You say, Valerie who? Well, it's the

The "No Child Left Behind Act" is

The “No Child Left Behind” Act is

The guests author for the column this

and Transgender People of Rochester

For more information about

www.interfaithbwrc.org, or contact Ralph Carter at 271-7569,

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RE/MAX Realty Group

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"My partner and I were relocating to Rochester and had less than a week to find and buy a house. We were so lucky to find The Diane Miller Team. They were professional, friendly, and thorough. They went far above and beyond the "call of duty". More than that, we felt so comfortable with them. Diane went out of her way to introduce us to this new community. You can't imagine how much that meant to us."

Natalie Doyer and Joanna Hewlett

The Diane Miller Team made buying our home a joy. Everything was great!"

Lynda Rauschen and Deb Coffey

"When I first considered buying a house, my first reaction was, "I don't know how to do that," followed very quickly by, "I need a realtor!" How glad I am that you were that realtor. From the very beginning, your expertise, your professionalism, and your patience with me exceeded every expectation I had. I loved, and highly recommended you, especially to anyone who wants to remove the anxiety from searching for a house.

Thank you. I am truly at home."

Mary Brown

Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church

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The Empty Closet

www.gclay.org

www.queerhealth.org

www.aidsrochester.org/gayhealth

www.michrocenter.org

for conglomerate multi-media companies

or contact Ralph Carter at 271-7569, marcom@interfaithbwrc.com. The next meeting is 2:30 p.m., on March 21, at Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St. People of all faith traditions and experience and all walks of life are welcome to attend.

The Rochester community should be concerned about Bush's drift toward a theocracy under President Bush. He is trying to prevent the formation of an Islamic theocracy in Iraq, while introducing fundamentalists' beliefs in our very own theocracy.

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Pet Talk with Tulip:

Party animals and a doggy dilemma...

BY MISS TULIP
(AS TOLD TO TODD PLANK)

Hello my darlings.

As you can see from my glamour shot, I've been having a grand old time at Mardi Gras in New Orleans. Having come from the South, I can't help being the belle of the blue ball.

I know I promised you all a column addressing the question are you a party animal (something our human friends can only aspire to being), but I've been a bit (ahh) distracted; however, don't despair, Miss Tulip always delivers. While I was cruising the internet I found this absolutely fabulous website: web.tickle.com. These folk have a quiz for everything. What's your cat's type? What breed of dog are you? What kind of party animal are you?

I can't vouch for the accuracy of the survey (they told me I was a friendly "chips and beer" Lab ~ how bow wow boring is that?), but it won't cost you a dime and you just might learn something. I'd strongly recommend that Godzilla, our doggy in distress, check out this website and take a few of those quizzes. From the sounds of it, he could use a little more self-awareness. Read (and party) on...

Dear Miss Tulip,

Here is the problem... I have two moms who do not recognize me as the ultimate authority in the house. Daisy and I (the lesbian dog with whom I share a bed) have a king-size heated waterbed which our human think they also deserve to sleep on every night. They toss around, interrupting our precious sleep, and expect us to move. On top of providing space for our human companions, we are expected to allow an indolent cat to sleep on our bed as well. When we send the cat flying, our moms scold us! This affects my dog-esteem. Surely, a dog of my size and stature should have positive dog-esteem! I want to know who should be in charge of the bed?

Sincerely,
Sleepless in Brockport

Issa, issues, bring me some tissues. Reading about your doggy dilemma was sending up Freudian flags everywhere! The phallic references were popping up all over; with your repeated references to size... king size water bed, a dog of my size and stature, and a name like Godzilla!

Honey, you may have a member of prehistoric proportions, or you may just be delusional, but either way the evidence is clear, you need to cut the umbilical cord with your two mommies and butch it up. Stop behaving like a limp (I mean little) lizard, and start acting like the big dangerous dinosaur you were named after. I tell you what you do... log on to www.badpuppy.com and find out what you've been missing. Next, you get your human companions to buy you a cage, convert it into a dungeon, and then invite some of your new internet friends over for a leather and spikes and everything nice theme party. Stop PMS-ing and start S&M-ing. It's your turn to be the Master (aka ultimate authority).

Chow for Now...

Tulip
**Alzheimer’s group will meet on March 24**

**BY PAUL BEREZNEY**

The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley is planning an informational interest meeting on March 24 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the GAGV Community Center for LGBT caregivers of individuals struggling with Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia in partnership with the Rochester Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association.

Scientists estimate there are up to four million people currently suffering with Alzheimer’s disease in the U.S. alone. In addition, more people feel the effects of Alzheimer’s first hand.

It comes as no surprise that the disease has rapidly become the number one health issue facing Americans today. As Alzheimer’s researches epidemiological properties, research continues on an aggressive path to unravel the mystery of this form of dementia.

Caring for a loved one with Alzheimer’s is difficult, but for many it is a heartfelt labor of love. These responsibilities for the day-to-day care of an Alzheimer’s sufferer, along with family, friends and loved ones, carry an increasingly difficult burden, especially as the disease progresses. Before you know it, the role can become all-consuming, leaving you especially prone to stress — physical, mental, emotional and even financial.

But there is help for everyone with a friend or loved one who suffers from Alzheimer’s disease. The Rochester Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association offers free Caregiver Support Group services at the Genesee Valley Alzheimer’s Support Group, which meets at the Genesee Valley Alzheimer’s Support Group, which operates a 23-county Finger Lakes Region.

These small, informal groups usually meet once a month and offer you the opportunity to talk with others who are also affected by Alzheimer’s. Talking together can be very beneficial when you can exchange ideas and experience the support and understanding of others. The meeting is March 24 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Rochester Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association. Please feel free to come and participate in this wonderful discussion!

**Volunteers’ Corner: GAGV library**

**BY TODD PLANK**

Greetings from Youth Group Land. If only the Rochester weather could fly by as fast as the month of February! We had a great month, with a few events, and February being our quietest month of the year. We received our funding from the Dept. of Health made February feel like July! We held our yearly Events for Kids, which also included our annual Valentine’s Day Drag Show. A great number of people came to the show, and we had a fantastic turnout.

Our LGBT youth group will meet on March 24 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Rochester Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association. The meeting will be an informational interest meeting for LGBT caregivers of individuals suffering from Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia. The meeting is March 24 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Rochester Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association. Please feel free to come and participate in this wonderful discussion!

**Youth Group update: Youth join seniors for panel**

**BY TOBY GREENFIELD**

This month, the Youth Group will be working with the Rainbow Seniors, as several youth will sit on an intergenerational discussion panel at the Rainbow Seniors’ meeting. The panel will be sharing their personal stories, and the discussion will center on the importance of starting a support group for LGBT caregivers of persons suffering from Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia.

The meeting is March 24 at 4 p.m. at the Rochester Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association. Please feel free to come and participate in this wonderful discussion!

**Upstate Reports**

**By Todd Plank**

When Paul Berezney, Deputy Executive Director of the Gay Alliance, contacted Donna Mariott, Program Coordinator for the Rochester Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association, it was just one of several messages the universe had been sending her of late, indicating that it was time to explore the possibility of starting a support group for the Rochester LGBT community.

Perhaps you are wondering why there would be a need for a separate support group for LGBT caregivers of persons with Alzheimer’s? Professor Mariott identified several important reasons for creating such a support group in an article written by Jill K. Levine, director of programs and training at the Alzheimer’s Association.

"The Alzheimer’s Association and Carolyn Altman, executive director and director of clinical services at SAGE, have both been very interested in helping the Rochester Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association and Carolyn Altman, executive director and director of clinical services at SAGE, to help caregivers of persons suffering from Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia in partnership with the Rochester Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association."
Youth at risk from abuse of legal inhalant cough medicine

March 21-28 is National Inhalants and Poison Prevention Week, and light youth are as much or more at risk from these deadly substances as heterosexual youth.

Many schools, parents, and children have joined the National Inhalation Prevention Coalition. One rate that participated in the campaign showed a 30 percent reduction in inhalant admissions, and more than 20 percent reduction in use by high school students.

According to national surveys, inhalant use is becoming common among young people, and marijuana use, although it is far less. The best first of inhalant can kill. And once a child has used, it's hard, once a heady, haypoy or oral polish remover is much easier to get hold of than illegal drugs, adults are at great risk to try an substance or become addictions.

One out of every five students will have used inhalants by the time they reach grade 12.

Across the country, children and teens are intentionally overdosing on cold medi­cines. In the last few years, the number of people dying or critically injured has more than doubled. The number of deaths or near deaths from overdosing on cold medicines is now as many as double the number of people who die from car accidents or ovarian cancer.

The Gay Alliance will hold its annual meeting

Group meeting will be held as part of the Empty Closet online edition.

Main point to be decided is whether the Gay Alliance's Albercht said, "As part of the Empty Closet online edition"...
The RGMC (Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus) wants to say a big THANK YOU to the community for their support. Our Social Night, March 24, will be held at the White House Lodge at Webster Park with over 80 employees in attendance for the 20th Annual Outrider’s Cabin Party, along with a Hawaiian Luau and prizes were awarded. This event will be held on Wednesday, March 20, 2-9 p.m. The following day, March 21, will be our March monthly potluck following our regular services. Bring something green to share. Come be a friend and have some fun!

The season of Lent continues through the first week of April. Why don’t you add one of our regular Sunday church services to your Lenten observance? Well let us say.

Together we will create an environment that promotes healing, provides support for exploring your personal journey and empowers you to make self-respecting choices.

For information about becoming a GAGV, please contact Lisa Vitale at 585-726-4507 or contact glsenroc@aol.com for more information.

The Lambda Network at Kodak is a network for all employees, retirees and their families, friends and associates of the Rochester-area efforts supporting the Lambda Day Out for skiers and snowboarders. For more information or to reserve a spot, call 585-475-8715 or email gabc@kodak.com. The event will be held on Saturday, March 2, 2002, at 10:00 a.m. at the Empire Bears banquet, 14951 E. Genesee St., Webster, NY 14580. The event will be held on Wednesday, April 17, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. at Michelini’s restaurant, 1187 Main St., Rochester, NY 14607. We’d love to see you. The RGMC office at 585-475-8715 or visit our website www.gabc.org for more information.

Third Presbyterian Church: a Multi-Cultural Church
where all persons are welcome as partners in ministry
Sunday 10:30 a.m.
(Child care available, wheelchair accessible)
Monday (1st and 3rd) GLBT Support Group
7:30 p.m.
Co-Chairs: Michelle Hartley and Mark Sargent
288-0986 or 442-6399.
www.thethirdpresby.org

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Lambda bicycling team will be forming and begin cycling early April for preps for the 50th Annual Guptill Bike Ride on June 15, 2004. This is an opportunity to have some fun, meet new friends, and enjoy being out in the outdoors. For more information, contact Krista Marie Kenney at 585-960-9309.

Lambda Podcast
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in terms of the social calendar, the Happy Hour/Bird Church has held
delightful time with friends from Downtown Church
at the CAGV's Sweetheart Ball, on Feb.
Our churches are also planning Of
the Monroe County Parks Service comes
time for our Tipa and Storing Party
on March 15, famously knows since
since the Ides of March. Of course,
yearly canoe is really crazy enough to
of Long Johns. Undoubtedly, the most
not a Caesar! Perhaps our fuscus of
world.
Our next event will be March 14 at
1 p.m. at Casa Langa Vineyards on Turf
Hill Road. We will be writing wine
on the cover and serving wine. We will
Cost will be $10. Please RSVP by
March 7.
WNY Lesbian Couples
Women New York Lesbian Couples
were every month Saturday at the O
Community Center, 179
Atlantic Ave., between 7 and 9 p.m.
The meetings include "DykeFest"
and Games Night. The group is open
couples who have been in a committed
relationship for at lease three months.
The group can be reached at
the WNYLesbianCouplets.
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Womyn's Fishing
Spring is almost here! Fishing in
the Finger Lakes is a social group for
women who enjoy freshwater fishing.
Twice a month we travel to area lakes
and fishing holes for fishing, hanging
out and conversations.
We are in the midst of planning a
Pre-Tryke Bake Off! For Spring pitch-
ing for April 2004 and need your
assistance putting this together. If you
would like to help, or would like
information on the group, please
contact Kandy Mahan at 488-7088
or email kendall59@gmail.com.
Elise Blue Plough is opening a
couple lakes this week, so
a group outing is in the works, so
worth this trip!
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AND VALUE!!

IN THE
PASSING
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We will accept any cash deposit accompanied by a name and phone number. Neither will be publicized, nor will they be retained. If you are not interested in coming into the dealership, you may also visit our website at www.ReceiveMyCar.com. Our used vehicle consultants are available by phone or email.

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BoB JOHNSON CHEVROLET
TUESDAY 9
Dr. Douglas K. - 7:30 p.m. Open meeting. The Bishop's Residence to the left of the United Methodist Church, 4715 Victoria Rd. 244-8640.

THURSDAY 11
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SATURDAY 13
The Chico's Three Lamps Night. For location, call Joan, 244-8640.

SUNDAY 14
President's Breakfast Meeting - 7:30 a.m. Open meeting. The Bishop’s Residence to the left of the United Methodist Church, 4715 Victoria Rd. 244-8640.

MONDAY 8
"It's time we realize. When are we going to make a commitment to our addiction and cessation? Let's do it now in order to make a commitment to our recovery?"

TUESDAY 9
The Bishop’s Residence to the left of the United Methodist Church, 4715 Victoria Rd. 244-8640.

WEDNESDAY 10
Women's Group - 7 p.m. Open meeting. 420-9377.

THURSDAY 11
AMR Meeting - 7:30 p.m. Open meeting. 271-2708.

SATURDAY 13
The Empty Closet mailing party. For location, call Ralph, 7-5-6-4-9-7.

SUNDAY 14
Women's Day Task Force meeting - 4 p.m. Open meeting. 585-235-4136.

MONDAY 8
\"The Empty Closet\" is a monthly newsletter, New York, N.Y. 10010. 212-966-9255.

TUESDAY 9
Asia Pacific AIDS Project, 25 Franklin St., Suite 1060. 420-9377.

WEDNESDAY 10
HIV/AIDS Support Group - 7 p.m. Open meeting. United Methodist Church, 1050 East Ave. 361-7876.

THURSDAY 11
AIDS Bereavement Support Group - 7 p.m. Open meeting. United Methodist Church, 1050 East Ave. 361-7876.

SATURDAY 13
The Laramie Project - 7:30 p.m. Open meeting. The Bishop’s Residence to the left of the United Methodist Church, 4715 Victoria Rd. 244-8640.

SUNDAY 14
GAY Men's AA meeting - 8:30 p.m. Open meeting. The Bishop’s Residence to the left of the United Methodist Church, 4715 Victoria Rd. 244-8640.

MONDAY 8
The focus of this meeting will be the establishment of a Gay Alliance of the Greater Valley Area. By the time this meeting begins, there will be an open meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the GAGV Office.

TUESDAY 9
Gay and Lesbian Health Update - 7:30 p.m. Open meeting. 585-235-4136.

WEDNESDAY 11
Women's Community Church - 5:30 p.m. Open meeting. United Methodist Church, 1050 East Ave. 442-9220.

THURSDAY 13
Women's Movie Night - 7 p.m. Open meeting. United Methodist Church, 1050 East Ave. 442-9220.

SATURDAY 15
For information on "China: Challenges by AIDS and SARS," see http://www.gayaliance.org/"China: Challenges by AIDS and SARS/".

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March Leather Sale

• Save an additional 10% off our everyday low prices on Schott NYC Leather Jackets, Pants & Chaps
• Save 15% off Leather Jackets, Pants, Chaps, Shirts, Vests, Belts & Caps from Kookie, Carroll & Black on Black Leathers

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