Youths attack Eastman student, use anti-gay hate language

Students' injuries not serious

An Eastman undergraduate student was the victim of an assault that occurred at about 10:25 a.m. on Oct. 12, at the corner of Pleasant St. and Liberty Pole Way. The attackers used anti-gay epithets as they assaulted the student.

The student was walking east on Pleasant St. on his way to the School. He was approached by a group of approximately 10 high school-age youths walking west. A member of the group made a denigrating statement about the student's sexual orientation.

One of the youths then walked up beside him and struck him in the side of the face with a closed fist. The student immediately walked away without further contact with the youths.

He proceeded to the Student Living Center and alerted the Residential Life office has jurisdiction over the retirement system.

Residential Life staff notified University Security, who in turn notified the Rochester Police Department. The police responded and conducted a check of the neighborhood. The youths were not located.

The student suffered swelling where he was struck, to which he applied ice. The student declined further medical attention.

If you have any information about this incident, please call the Rochester Police at 911, or University Security at 553-5553. You may also call the Gay Alliance Anti-Violence Project at 244-8640, ext. 17, if you feel comfortable doing so on this crime or are seeking general information on hate crimes against lgbt people.

State OKs retirement benefits for Canadian marriages

On Oct. 13, information was made public by Empire State Pride Agenda that the New York State and Local Retirement System will treat Canadian marriages of same-sex couples the same as any other marriage for purposes of retirement benefit eligibility and obligations.

This makes the retirement system the first state program in New York's Lesbian and Gay Health and Human Services Network, which were approved in 2003's state budget, without displaying any reason for doing so.

Before leaving for his new post in Atlanta on Oct. 22, former Executive Director Chuck Brown told the Empty Closet, "A major problem is the lack of sensitivity by Albany bureaucrats to the needs of small non-profits. This money has been sitting in Albany for almost two years. Speaker Sheldon Silver agreed to give the funds in 2002 when there was only $1.25 million in the budget for members of the LGBT Health and Human Services Network. That year the GAGV's share was $75,000. Silver made up the difference (making $125,000 in all for the Alliance) using his member initiative money."

Bowen explained, "This is member money, not the funding for the Youth Program through the Department of Health (DOH), which actually part of the NYS budget. Member money is the million-plus dollar amount that Senate and Assembly members in lieu of their pork barrel purposes, funding everything from fire trucks to parks and museums. There's no oversight determining the use of these funds. However, they must be distributed GAGV funding continued on page 3
Light a candle

No leaves, no flowers, no light, November.

In Rochester that’s often true. As the days get shorter and winter starts setting in, it’s time to add to the ambient light of the universe by lighting a candle.

In upstate New York, in November, you might want to light a lot of candles. And it doesn’t hurt to have fresh flowers around, get a lot of exercise, cook warming soups and hot, hearty dishes, and play Mozart, salsa music or the flute. Some people are seriously affected by the lack of light, physically and emotionally.

In March the bees can first be found为一体的 energy of honey and wax.

In Rochester, New York, Papers are mailed to plain sealed envelope. Return to GAAGV, Inc., 875 E. Main St., Suite 560, Rochester NY 14605; address e-mail emptycloset@gagvs.org. 

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:
The opinions of columnists, editors and other contributing writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the collective attitude of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley or the Empty Closet. We will print letters at the editor’s discretion and on a space-available basis. We will not print personal attacks on individuals, nor will we be a forum for ongoing disputes between individuals. We reserve the right to edit for space or style. We print anonymous letters if the name and phone number are provided to the Editor; confidentiality will be respected. Submissions are due by the 15th of the month at: The Empty Closet, 875 E. Main St., Suite 500, Rochester NY 14605; email emptycloset@gagvs.org. Online edition of EC available at www.gagvs.org.

GAGV urged cancellation of Beenie Man concert

GAGV Acting Executive Director Lynn Tavernes informed the Rochester Broadway Theatre League about Beenie Man’s death-to-gays message, and on Oct. 17 approached, at the Auditorium Theatre was canceled.

“The man’s use of hatred and bigots, no place in Rochester,” said Chuck Bowen, then-Executive Director of the Gay Alliance, on Oct. 15. “This hardly even call it the shooting, burning, dawning and hanging of gays and lesbians. As an affirming and tolerant City, Rochester needs to send a signal that this type of hate language, which is primarily targeted against gay and lesbian African Americans, is not welcome here.”

“We met with the management of the theater and expressed concerns about the lyrics. Any time there is a call for the murder of persons because of their race, gender or sexual orientation, there is a call to be an outlier,” said Bowen. After the cancellation of his concert at the Auditorium Theatre, the Pussy Penny Band’s Rochester’s Rock Concert Nightclub, and in the new tourist district around the Rochester, Beanie Man’s lyrics, the owners of the club have just sent a message to Rochester’s gays and lesbians that he will be right if it lines their pockets.”

Beenie Man’s performances have been cancelled in several cities because of his advocacy of violence against gays and lesbians, including concerts in both Toronto and London, Ontario.

Correction

Erik Libby’s comments in the Oct. EC were misrepresented. He was not speaking about the general LGBTI population, but specifically about youth and the benefit that the GAGV’s YOUTH program provides in their lives.

Based on what we know statistically about teen suicide rates among queer youth, programs like the GAGV Youth Program cannot help but be viewed as a lifesaving resource for sexual minority youth.
The Broadway-themed dinner and reception was held at the WXXI studios on Oct. 5. Seven RGMC members were in attendance, including staff board members, and chorines.

New York Silverstein (President of WXXI and the Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus) mentioned the impression that it made on him when his first night in town, he saw RGMC on TV doing the pledge drive.

**State benefits continued from page one position.**

"It also happens to be the pro-family thing to do," continued Van Capelle. "It ensures that all families in New York have what they need to take care of themselves, particularly in times of crisis like the death of the main provider for the family."

The Comptroller has simply interpreted the law as Attorney General Eliot Spitzer explained in his 2004 budget and at least one trial court has read it, which is that New York common law requires that legal marriages from other jurisdictions, including marriages of same-sex couples, be fully respected here in New York State," said Ross Levi, Pride Agenda Director of Public Policy and Governmental Affairs.

"New York State law is clear: marriages validly executed in other jurisdictions must be respected in this state," said Alphonso David, Staff Attorney with Lambda Legal, the nation’s oldest and largest 1969 legal rights advocacy organization. "The Comptroller’s action complies with the law and will yield far-reaching benefits to married same-sex couples who were previously restricted to only a few large companies providing insurance to a third of all drivers in the state."

"Clarity, acceptance of same-sex marriage is becoming a trend in New York State," said the Pride Agenda’s Van Capelle.

"When New Yorkers see what it means to be treated on a very personal level and how marriage protects children and supports families, the overwhelming majority come to respect the police of equality and respect for all families, including LGBT families,” said David."

Mark Daigneault’s letter to Comptroller Howard B. Hanna and the Comptroller’s response can be viewed at the Pride Agenda’s website at www.prideagenda.org.

**GAGV funding continued from page 1**

through the applicable state agency, which in your case is the Health Department."

Bowen said that the problem does not lie with the DOH, but with the Speaker’s office.

Bowen said, "The funding set in Silver's office for about two years, and so we only budget $75,000 in any given year. We were told in April that he was finally going to release the money from his office. There had been some changes in fall, but how much needs to be divided. The LGBT Network first took the position that the money should be divided, most recently the Department of Health. There are a number of associations with area businesses, and its work with Monroe County, the City School Board and others in the Rochester community that, as well as the GAGV’s work earlier this year around the marriage issue."

"Now it's up to the community," Bowen said. "If they want to continue it services to our community, they need to step up their annual donations to the GAGV 100 people to each group $1000. The community’s got to realize that at the board retreat in August, Donna Red Wing and RGMC members accepted the Group of the Year Award from Norm Silverstein of WXXI on Oct. 5.

Oct. 5 was a spectacular evening of recognition for volunteers who have aided the nation’s oldest and largest LGBT rights organization. The Gala is conducted in March by Global Strategy Group for the Pride Agenda which revealed that 80 percent of New Yorkers believe extending the same pension benefits to same-sex couples is important. Support from Democrats (86 percent) and Republicans (71 percent) and respondents from NYC (89 percent), NYC suburbs (79 percent) and the rest of the state (73 percent) was uniformly high.

**Decision Signifies Acceptance of Same-Sex Marriage Becoming Trend in New York**

"Over the past year, hundreds of same-sex couples have traveled to Canada to get married," said the Pride Agenda’s Ross Levi. "They have returned home and are now 100 percent legally married in New York State. They are asking their employer, their local governments, their state and companies to do business with you and honor their marriage and many of these public and private players are responding by saying, 'Yes you're married.'"

	Comptroller Howard's decision is the latest in a series of decisions by elected officials, courts and companies across New York State to treat legal out-of-state marriages of same-sex couples the same way they treat other out-of-state marriages.

On March 5 of this year, Attorney General Elliot Spitzer, citing New York’s common law, said that marriages of same-sex couples should be treated as valid in New York State and must be treated as such. In 2003, a New York Court of Appeals Court ruled in Langan v. St. Vincent’s Hospital of New York in times of recognizing the legitimacy of fetal actions that "spouse" can also mean a surviving same-sex partner to a Vermont civil union.

After Attorney General Spitzer’s March statement, elected officials in the municipalities of Nyack, Ithaca, Buffalo, Brighton and Rochester followed suit and fully recognized legal out-of-state same-sex marriages, giving them the same rights as all other marriages within their local jurisdictions. In New York, for example, surviving spouses of veterans, including same-sex spouses, are entitled to certain types of city licenses and property tax exemptions.

In the private sector, Lambda Legal has reported that Allstate, State Farm, Geico and Electric automobile insurance companies have agreed to comply with state law and respect the marriages of same-sex couples, providing them with the same rights and coverage as married opposite-sex couples. According to Lambda Legal, Allstate, State Farm and Geico together provide insurance to a third of all drivers in the state.

"Clarity, acceptance of same-sex marriage is becoming a trend in New York State," said the Pride Agenda’s Van Capelle.

"When New Yorkers see what it means to be treated on a very personal level and how marriage protects children and supports families, the overwhelming majority come to respect the police of equality and respect for all families, including LGBT families."

Bowen said that some people might be reluctant to give to a non-profit with financial problems. However, he said, "We’ve got good, solid management. We’re also very well connected to the Rochester community."

He celled the cancellation of the death-to-gays BEENIE MAN concert at the Palace in Rochester as another big setback. "The whole network was divided. The LGBT Network first took the position that the money should be divided, most recently the Department of Health. There are a number of associations with area businesses, and its work with Monroe County, the City School Board and others in the Rochester community that, as well as the GAGV’s work earlier this year around the marriage issue."

"Now it's up to the community," Bowen said. "If they want to continue it services to our community, they need to step up their annual donations to the GAGV 100 people to each group $1000. The community’s got to realize that at the board retreat in August, Donna Red Wing and RGMC funding continued on page 12

Your confidential GAGV Membership includes an Empty Closet subscription mailed to your home eleven times a year in a plain manila envelope. If you would rather not receive The Empty Closet, please check this box:

- [ ] Enclosed is a check payable to GAGV
- [ ] Please charge my VISA or Mastercard
- [ ] Account No.
- [ ] Exp. Date:
- [ ] Signature of cardholder:
- [ ] Street Address:
- [ ] City and State:
- [ ] Zip:
- [ ] Home Phone:
- [ ] Business:
- [ ] E-mail:
African lesbian activist is raped and murdered

"Yet, despite all of the difficulties we face, I have faith that acknowledging the inherited dignity and respect for one another can lead to greater respect for our human rights..." Silence creates vulnerability. I urge you, members of the Commission on Human Rights, to break the silence. You can help us achieve our full rights and freedoms, in every society, including my beloved Sierra Leone."

Statement by International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission

Fannyanny Eddie broke the silence for us all. She courageously brought the struggle for freedom and dignity in her own country to the world stage. In early October that voice was silenced forever. Fannyanny worked late in her office in Freetown, Sierra Leone, and was brutally murdered. When she encountered difficulty, she didn’t give up. The world global movement has lost a daring and fierce human rights defender.

Our best tribute to Fannyanny is now to speak out, IGLHRC and our colleagues are actively investigating the details of her death and the level of response from the government and police. Once that is done, an Action Alert will be posted to our website, www.iglhrc.org. You can join our Emergency Response Network asking people to respond to this senseless murder. In the meantime, behind the Mask is collecting donations to support Fannyanny’s family and the Sierra Leone Lesbian and Gay Association. Details can be obtained by writing to Daniel@mask.org.za.

Study focuses on Black lesbian couples and Black same-sex couples with kids

A groundbreaking study released Oct. 6 by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute and the National Black Justice Coalition shows that Black lesbian couples are raising children at almost the same rate as Black married couples, and that Black same-sex couples are twice as likely as White same-sex couples to be raising children.

They also earn less, are less likely to own a home, and are more likely to hold public sector jobs. For all these reasons, Black same-sex couples have more to gain from the legal protections of marriage, and more to lose if states pass amendment banning marriage and other forms of partner recognition.

S.C. Republican says gays should not teach

South Carolina’s Rep. Jim DeMint, Republican candidate for a Senate seat, said in October that open gays should not be allowed to teach in public schools, according to the State newspaper.

DeMint said that government should not endorse homosexuality. “Folks teaching in schools need to represent our values,” he said.

DeMint’s opponent, Lieutenant Governor, who is the state’s education superintendent, said that DeMint’s stand was “un-American.” She told reporters, “The private life of our teachers should stay private. I was shocked to hear him say that.”

South Carolina’s Democratic opponents said they were not surprised by DeMint’s remarks.

The Washington Blade.

Louisiana judge throws out anti-marriage amendment

A state judge in Louisiana threw out a same-sex marriage amendment that passed by voters last month, ruling that the amendment was flawed and that its purpose—banning not only same-sex marriage but other forms of partner recognition—was illegal.

Statement by Matt Foreman, Executive Director National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

"All across the country, the forces of religion and political intolerance are trying to do the same thing they did in Louisiana—mislead voters about what’s at stake. They say it are only interested in preserving the ability of gay and lesbian African American couples to save money, provide for their children, buy a house, or protect food stamps."

Black men and women in same-sex households are about 25 percent more likely than White men and women in same-sex households to have public sector jobs. Many municipalities and state governments now offer domestic partnership health insurance to employees in same-sex relationships. Because most of the anti-marriage amendments are narrowly worded in the U.S. in order to ban same-sex marriage and other forms of partnership recognition, such initiatives are a disproportionate threat to Black same-sex couples and their children.

This finding is significant given that Black women are discharged from the military at a rate of nearly four times the rate of Black women married to a man (11 percent vs. 17 percent).

I have faith that acknowledging the inherent dignity and respect for one another can lead to greater respect for our human rights. Silence creates vulnerability. I urge you, members of the Commission on Human Rights, to break the silence. You can help us achieve our full rights and freedoms, in every society, including my beloved Sierra Leone.”
We want Gay-Straight Alliances mentioned and specified in those regulations, so that there can be no question that gay student groups and the Boy Scouts have equal rights to meet in public schools.

Gay-Straight Alliances have all the same rights as every other group, but their rights are routinely violated, in part because they are ignored and rendered invisible in regulations like these,” Cathcart said. “These regulations are tied to a law that specifically addresses the Boy Scouts, but it is perfectly appropriate to add Gay-Straight Alliances as an example of groups that have equal rights in public schools.

Lambda Legal’s new “Our, Safe & Respected” campaign aims to inform lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth about their rights in school, and it gives them tools to enforce their rights. The campaign includes in-depth information on starting and maintaining Gay-Straight Alliances. Full background on the campaign and the issues is at www.lambdalegal.org.

Lambda Legal announced that as part of its ongoing “Our, Safe & Respected” campaign, it is mobilizing its 20,000-plus active members and allies to take advantage of the Department of Education’s 45-day period for public comments by requesting that B gay and Gay-Straight Alliances be specifically mentioned in the new regulations. The Department of Education has established an e-mail address for public comments on the matter, at boy scouts comments@ed.gov.

In a statement, Secretary of Education Rod Paige said: “The goal of these regulations is to ensure that the Boy Scouts and other patriotic youth groups have equal access to public facilities, and today’s action is another step toward achieving this goal.”

Cathcart responded: “The purpose of our nation’s Department of Education is to ensure that all youth are treated equally, are safe at school and have access to the best possible education. By focusing on the Boy Scouts while ignoring gay youth, the Department of Education is failing our nation’s schools and putting young people in harm’s way. We aren’t going to sit by and let that happen without a fight.”

Lambda Legal filed their opening trial brief before the state legislature that would give paranbis couples the right to make burial, even though Mortiz presented him with legal documentation signed by Friendt stating otherwise. The director relented only after Mortiz engaged an attorney. In 2002, after a bill was introduced before the state legislature that would give same-sex couples the right to make burial arrangements for their partners, Attorney General Jon Bruning issued an opinion that it was unconstitutional because of Section 29, and the bill never reached a full vote. The proponents of Section 29 pulled a bait-and-switch on the citizens of Nebraska by claiming this law was about protecting marriage, when in reality it was about harming families,” said Michael Gordon, Executive Director of the ACLU Nebraska. “A win in court won’t result in any protections for our relationships, at least we would be able to talk with our elected officials again about the types of harms we face and the protections we need for our families.”

Section 29 was passed in November 2000 in a heavily debated election that received the second-highest turnout in the state’s history. The law defines marriage as only between a man and a woman and specifically voids the uniting of two persons of the same sex in a “civil union, domestic partnership, or other similar same-sex relationship.”

“We are not saying that Nebraskaans shouldn’t have broad discretion in determining what types of laws to pass,” said Tim Butte, Executive Director of the ACLU Nebraska. “But that discretion crosses the line when the core principles of fairness and equality at the heart of our Constitution are ignored.”

GSA rights denied by government, Lambda Legal says

Saying that the Bush Administration is focused on protecting the Boy Scouts access to public schools while ignoring the rights of gay student groups whose equal rights are often violated, Lambda Legal on Oct. 20 urged the U.S. Department of Education to add inclusive language to policy regulations that were made public this week and will go into effect within the next few months. The proposed regulations, which now enter a 45-day period of public comment before going into effect, guide schools on making sure Boy Scouts groups have access to schools for meetings, recruitment and other activities. Lambda Legal, which just launched a national campaign on students’ rights in public schools, said today that GSA groups should be specified in the new regulations as one kind of youth group that also has a right to meet in public schools.

“The Bush Administration wants to add thousands of words about the Boy Scouts to federal rules that don’t say one word about gay student groups, even though they’re both protected by federal law and Gay-Straight Alliances are unlawfully denied school access on a regular basis,” said Kevin Cathcart, Executive Director of Lambda Legal. “The Boy Scouts need no help getting access to schools but they’re the focus of the federal government’s attention, while gay youth are routinely ignored and left to fend for themselves when their rights aren’t respected.

In several places, the new regulations say the Boy Scouts should receive the same access to school facilities as “other programs.” Cathcart said Lambda Legal is urging the Department of Education to specify the kinds of “other groups” that have legal access to schools, and to include Gay Straight Alliances among the examples.
Jennifer L. Gravitz, Esq.
Quality legal services provided with old fashioned care in the privacy of your home or office

- Buying/Selling Real Estate
- Partnership and Estate Planning
- Wills and Estate Settlement
- HIV/AIDS Planning
- Consumer Bankruptcy
- Uncontested Divorce
- Name Changes
- Domestic Violence
- Traffic Violations
- DWI

3349 Monroe Ave., Suite 344 Rochester, NY 14618
(585) 244-8295

James Del Favero
211 Culver Road
Rochester, NY 14607

THE BARBER'S BARBER
(585) 442-9537
Certified Professional Pet Grooming
Pick-up & Drop-off Service Available

Jennifer L. Gravitz
Consumer Bankruptcy
Traffic Violations
Wills and Estate Settlement

The Reverend Jennifer Crowe of First Unitarian Church

BY SUSAN JORDAN

The Reverend Jennifer Crowe, who is openly lesbian, is one of three pastors at the First Unitarian Church, 220 S. Winton Rd. Born in Elliott City, Md., Crowe has moved many times. She and her partner Loretta Mitchell moved to Rochester in August when Jen was assigned to First Unitarian. Crowe says, “We came together and started off a new project and new work. She’s a social worker and actually found a job before we moved here. She’s a resourceful girl.”

The two are adapting to Rochester life. “We’ve been attending ImageOut,” Crowe said, “and we’re enjoying it.”

Empty Closets Were you brought up as a Unitarian, or did you join the church later in life? Why did you decide to become a minister?

Jen Crowe: I switched as a young adult, in college. I grew up Episcopal and was sure I’d be an Episcopalian priest. But I came to disagree with certain things, like placement of ministers — gays and lesbians were the bottom of the barrel. I want my sexual orientation to be just part of my work, and I knew it would be the first thing people would say about me in the Episcopal church.

I figured out I wanted to be a minister when I was sitting and spinning in one of those sit-and-spin toys in my living room, aged six. I stopped spinning and knew that I had to be a minister.

JC: I think it's time for equal rights for same sex couples. I think it's been an effective tactic for the right wing to drum up hysteria, but there's no validity to claims that same-sex marriage would affect heterosexual marriage.

In the original court case in Massachusetts (which resulted in the ruling legalizing same-sex marriage), seven out of 14 plaintiffs were Unitarian Universalists, and many of the first marriages performed this past year were done by Unitarian ministers.

EC: What do you feel are the most effective ways to combat the fundamentalist right and its political power?

JC: I think it's important to bring it back to face-to-face contact and remember we're talking about love and families and things they can relate to.

EC: Can you give us some information about First Unitarian Church and its policies on inclusion?

JC: It's an open and accepting place that goes beyond tolerating diversity to getting excited about it and embracing it.

The push for LGBT rights falls under the umbrella of family life, and we’ve been politically involved and have been keeping our eye on the City School Board’s proposal to extend domestic partnership benefits to employees.

Gay and lesbian folks at the church really feel connected and part of things, like equal members. Their sexual orientation is significant when they want it to be.

Social Security Disability

Jeffrey Freedman
Attorney at Law
www.jeffreyfreedman.com
Over 8,000 favorable decisions since 1980

Call for results
424-4040

Rochester, Greece, Henrietta

Call for results
424-4040

THE REV. JENNIFER CROWE
First Unitarian Church
Rochester, NY 14607
PLAY FOR KEEPS
We have come so far as a community! The 1979 March was the first time I took a national-level leadership role, and it has shined a spotlight on our aggressions, and prejudice in the quarter-century since. Personally, it was one of my big life achievements.

-Lore Cook-Daniels (San Francisco March on Washington co-chair, one of the organizers)

It is said by the number of folks who attended the 1979 march and such diversity! In order to take in the enormity of the day, rather than taking my place in the procession, I left my friends and myselfed myself at the corner of 14th and Pennsylvania. Later we were all disappointed that the number of marchers was so underpredicted.

-Jeffrey Slavin, former Task Force Board member

I remember how, that whole weekend, the streets of DC seemed to have been taken over by an invasion of lesbians and gay men, and it was the most exciting thing I had ever experienced. And I remember a grand queen from the Los Angeles Marching Band, in full uniform, twirling his baton like there was no tomorrow, flinging his hair while marching the dimmed thing on the way down.

-John Emilio (first director of the Task Force Policy Institute and renowned historian and author)

okay wasn't there but I remember seeing it and I was excited. A huge bulletin board at the Women's Resource and Action Center at the University of Iowa had been put up the day before I arrived and I had returned after two years of sexual discovery in san francisco. I'd left SF just before the Stonewall riots and when I returned to the bay city I was excited to get through being a college freshman for god's sake in a dorm with 2 small town iowa girls I kid you not but still trying to adjust and not being able to adjust and I knew nothing about being a sex worker and roommates who couldn't imagine having sex in those days. I didn't even have a landscape and was in office so I could have understood pain/cruise/pleasure/erth.

-Melinda Chateauvert, PhD, Washington DC

...as of my arrival, three of us drove from rural, redneck Pueblo County, Ohio, to go to the March. We loved DC and had been there for several anti-war marches in the early '70's. I will never forget walking away from the crowd to head home. And I remember that I could be heard for blocks and blocks. As we were departing, Meg Christian was singing... If I moved to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teach to teacher
What I remember most was the anxiety my family was not out at work, to most friends, or to well! I had come down with a bad case of flu, and spent the rest of the day in bed, really annoyed that I couldn't attend. When I think of the March I think of it as one of the first (the first?) times our gay communities around the country really worked on anything together. I remember it as the beginning of a real national lesbian and gay movement, which stopped in cities where our pride, or self-esteem, and our visibility. On this 25th Anniversary, the grassroots organizing process between early gay organizers, trying to identify activities in the streets waving banners and identifying our networks, we had to work overtime to identify and catalyze gay people in many states. I remember the frustration and disheartenment among early gay guides, trying to identify activities in the streets waving banners and identifying our networks, we had to work overtime to identify and catalyze gay people in many states.

Jerry Clark, Washington, DC

This was the first time I ever heard so much about social issues, and it was a heady time but an exhausting time, working 16-hour days, running up and down the gate.

Peter Cooper, Oak Park, MI

I was a student at the University of Delaware's contingent to the March on Washington. It was my first time being out in public with my friends, and it was a special life experience.

Ivo Dominguez, Jr., former Task Force board member

I recall the extraordinary sense of the power of our numbers, the diversity of our kinds, and the joy of our visibility. I also recall remaining in the closet as a bisexual, fearing the disapproval of my queer community for my progressive inclinations.


I was a 19-year-old out high school girl at the time of the March. I was wondering what I could do to help.

Elizabeth Taylor were nowhere to be found; only Lily Tomlin sent one of her cautiously worded letters which was read from the stage. Our own community-based stars headlined the stage including writers Allen Ginsberg and Kate Millet, musicians Holly Near, May Christmas, and Tom Robinson, Blackberri and comic Robin Tyler.

As the fundraising pitch was made, we organizers grabbed big plastic Fluffy bags and walked through the masses as people filled them with money. We raised them in a nearby trailer which served as our on-site headquarters and, as the rally wound down, gathered them up and dashed them to Washington's Women's Bank where we counted money into the wee hours of the next day.

The 1979 march stands as the single pre-AIDS mass event which attempted to unify lesbian and gay organizers whose work overwhelmingly had been based in local communities into a coordinated national force. Hence the organizing tells a great deal about the directions our movement had taken in the brief decade following Stonewall and serves as a snapshot of so-called "power" at the moment before AIDS struck.

I am consistently surprised by the writings of some prominent journalists who describe the pre-AIDS gay community as powerful, well-organized, and well-funded. Clerging to the ideals of social movements of the 1960s, we were unaware of the one-two punch that was about to strike. A year after the March Reagan was elected president, beginning almost two decades of the Reagan-Bush-Gingrich regime that opposed our movement at almost every turn. At the same time, the plague era began and soon took the lives of some of the best organizers of the movement.

We could not have mobilized as we did against the rising tide of Reagen's Religious Right or the threat of AIDS, without the 1979 march. Critical alliances forged through that organizing process between men and women, the networks developed in communities of color, the political organizations founded in its aftermath, became the basis upon which the new movement swept into a cyclone more horrific than any of us had imagined.

The fact that 25 years after our First March on Washington, some of us remain to this ambition and continue the process of organizing and fighting for a more equitable world, is a tribute to the ideals proclaimed at the Quaker Meeting House that snowy winter weekend.

Eric Roys is a professor at Humboldt State University and co-founder of AIDS, and a long-time activist. He has published 12 books including DRY BONES BREATHE: GAY MEN CREATING POSITIVE IDENTITIES AND CULTURES (Haworth, 1998) and is currently working on a social history of the gay movement in the 1970s. He can be reached at eross@humboldt.edu.
Summer memories...

Above: ArtWalk Alive on Sept. 19 was one of the memorable events of 2004. The winner of ABSC’s gay sculpture contest was announced, and members of the Diamond Boyz and Black Scorpion motorcycle clubs did a Motorcycle Mambo with dancers, choreographed by Thomas Warfield. Top: a sand painting designed by Lynn Parsons was created by children on University Ave. (Photos this page by Gerry Ilzynski unless otherwise noted.)

Buffalo’s Vicki Vogue at the Pride Parade on July 17.

Above: Eric Bellmann, left, and Pam Barres before the Parade.

Residential New and Old Work Specialists
Serving the Rochester Community for over 20 years

Ellenwood ELECTRIC
“We Do It Without Shorts”

- Licensed
- Fully Insured
- Free Quotes

Office: 654-8642
Emergency: 202-0402
Fax: 224-8228
The Fifth Annual ImageArt Gallery exhibit opened Oct. 3 at the Little Theatre Café Gallery, where the show originated in September of 2000. ImageArt is Western New York’s only annual professionally-juried LGBT exhibit of art and poetry. ImageArt is a program of ImageOut Rochester’s Lesbian & Gay Film & Video Festival, and this year’s dates for both coincided in the same venue.

The show’s theme, “A Closer Look At The Lesbian & Gay Community,” called for small artwork measuring no larger than 10x10x10 inches in an effort to embrace the space restrictions of the gallery and to provide an opportunity for the same number of artists to enter their work as in previous years at the Visual Studies Workshop, the Hungerford Gallery and Gateway & Co., said program Chairperson Aimee K. Wiles. “We were very pleased with the artists who created special works, and/or pieces outside of their usual size range just for this show.”

Five artists received equal “Jurors’ Recognition” monetary awards of $140 each at the opening reception awards ceremony. They are Beth Bloom, William Giancursio, Erin McGarr, Linda Solan and Thomas Somerville.

Artists Davya Brody, Dorothy Drake, Erica Eaton, Toby Greenfield, Erika Gualtiero Hackman, Don Hall, David Hoffland, Scott McCarney and Colleen Melisz also had artwork selected for the exhibit.

This year, the Board of Directors of the Gay Alliance of Genesee Valley funded a $100 award (raised to $140 by ImageOut) for the art jurors’ discretion. The jurors chose to give this award to local book artist Scott McCarney for his piece titled “Grunt: Punk & Wagnalls Vol. V/30,” a small old encyclopedia carved into an intricate design with photographs of eyes looking out from the pages.

The jurors bestowed the GAGV award this year in memory of Rachel Pearl, a local 21-year-old lesbian who passed away suddenly in September. Rachel’s deep love of books and photography led the jurors to pair this award with McCarney’s unusual and beautifully-crafted artwork.

The show was curated by jurors Aimee K. Wiles, professional photojournalist and ImageArt founder; Eric Bellmann, an art professor at the Rochester Institute of Technology and Board Member of the Gay Alliance of Genesee Valley and Paula Greer, a handmade paperworks artist and an associate professor of Art and Computer Design for the National Technical Institute for the Deaf.

ImageArt also held its first open-mic format poetry reading on Sept. 11 at the Visual Studies Workshop and included participation by Jessica Cohen, Pam Davis, Sandra Elman, Jonathan Everitt, Ellen Hibbard, Timm Louis, Joy Messinger, Maureen Owens, Sarah Rockfield, Patricia Roth Schwartz, Eddie Swane and Aimee K. Wiles.

To get more information about or to become involved with ImageArt, please email “imageart@frontiernet.net” or call the ImageOut office at (585) 271-2640.
The current cut in services means that there is no longer a receptionist to answer the phone, and when staff are busy, callers will have to leave messages. Programs for seniors have been cut. Staff will not be able to keep up with requests for information via phone or email, and the youth are facing reduction of services, as well as lengthy delays in creating their new space. Bowen said, “There will be a continual erosion in services and programs as dollars drop.”

He added that the situation makes hiring a new ED more difficult. “It’s going to be very difficult to find a person to come to an agency that is not supported by the community, and is in the process of reducing services. A 20 percent cut in salary means a 20 percent cut in everything we do. I’m very disappointed by the lack of major support from gay men. If you disagree with the way the CAGY is run, get on the board and make a difference.”

Bowen said that many men and women make annual donations, especially through the United Way, and these generous, small donations have been the backbone of the agency through the years. He noted, however, that almost all of the major supporters of and donors to the Gay Alliance are women.

Two recent advances in New York are the recognition by the state of Canadian marriages in order to benefactor relationships and the passage of visitation rights for same-sex couples. Bowen said the relationship between the Alliance and state legislators played a crucial part in approval of these experiences, strength and hope.

The Rochester area is not like many parts of the country where gays suffer extreme discrimination, and people here are comfortable and think there’s nothing we can do. But now, they realize that they need us — because they’ve been attacked by a gay-basher, or experienced homophobia in the workplace, or whatever reason — the next time they call, we may not be there.”

**GAG may start lgbt Al Anon group**

**BY SUSAN JORDAN**

Al Anon is a group which helps the families of alcoholics. The Gay Alliance is trying to determine whether there is a need in the community for an lgbt Al Anon group to meet at the GAGV Community Center.

Rose of Al Anon has met with Todd Plank, GAGV Community Education/Outreach Coordinator, to discuss beginning such a group. Al Anon deals with the problems caused in our lives by people who drink. It is not a therapy or support group for alcoholics, although alcoholics are welcome if they are present because they are close to another alcoholic and need to deal with those issues.

The group’s message is that we are powerless to control the drinking problems of others or to take responsibility for their lives, and that this fact must be accepted before we can stop seeking control and go on to deal with our own healing.

Rose said, “When you’re talking about people affected by alcoholism, you’re often talking about kids brought up by alcoholic parents. They’ve learned certain behaviors and ways of coping that don’t work in their lives now, like ‘don’t talk, don’t feel and don’t think.’ (In the lives of alcoholics and their families) everything’s a secret. The children often assume the parental role much too young. There are two major ways to react — either they become the Rebel Kid or the Good Kid.”

Rose continued, “Another thing that happens is the parent that is not drinking becomes just as ‘crazy’ as the drinker. What we do in Al Anon is to learn the behavior we learned when we were dealing with alcoholics. We have to say ‘We are powerless! You can’t fix the person’s drinking and you have no control.’”

Rose noted that other Al Anon members are affected by the drinking of their spouses, brothers and sisters or close friends. Al Anon is a 12-Step program. The 12 Steps keep the person on the right track and send the message that we can be helped when we realize there is a power greater than ourselves, to which some may say God, and to others may mean the group itself. Rose said, “You need to realize there’s something bigger than ourselves, something to hang onto to get past the addiction.”

The Al Anon traditions keep the movement alive. They include slogans like “Keep It Simple,” “One Day At A Time,” etc., and the Serenity Prayer that acknowledges there are certain things that the individual can’t control.

Rose said, “We learn how to set boundaries, we talk about detachment with love, and acceptance — we accept where the person is at and don’t try to advise or control others. It’s a very spiritual program, but we have no religion whatsoever. We try not to talk about the alcoholic or about other programs.”

Todd Plank noted that there are ground rules preventing any one person from taking over the meetings, which are not gripe sessions. “It’s about taking responsibility for your own life — not like a co-dependent relationship where you’re taking care of the other person.”

Rose said, “Anonymity is the foundation: what you see here, what you hear here, let it stay here. You listen to someone talk and then you say thank you and then you talk about your own issues. You never have a dialogue because that can exclude everyone else. Each person has a couple of minutes, so no one dominates.”

She said that dialogue can occur before or after the meeting itself. “That’s when you unburden yourself. New members especially have a real need to share and discuss the meeting afterwards. We share our experiences, strengths and hope. So what we’ll say in typical sharing is, ‘I’m having a tough time this week with control,’ and then we can talk about specific problems.”

Todd Plank said that many who come to meetings are angry and resentful about the devastation caused by their alcoholic partners or relatives. Rose replied, “We have a saying: ‘Renunciation is the poison you take to kill the other person.’” She said the group is open to anything that can help people let go of the resentment. “We share our experience in a gentle way.”

Rose said that lesbians and gay men are welcome in Al Anon meetings, and feel free to talk about their partners. Groups usually include at least five people who commit to at least two months.

Todd Plank said, “It’s hard for gay people who have been closeted — this is just one more secret they have to hide, and it’s hard for them to be in a group with yet one more secret to explain. That’s why we wondered if it would be good to have an lgbt group, so people would know there would be a safe place and they wouldn’t have to come out or explain.”

Plank said that if there are enough people in the area to support the five weekly lgbt AA meetings, it is likely that there are lgbt partners, children and others who could use the kind of support offered by Al Anon.

“We’re trying right now to see if there are enough of those folks to begin an Al Anon meeting at the GAGV Community Center. The Alliance has received several phone calls in recent months asking about such a group,” he said. “If there is interest, we’ll start a group — the earliest possible date would be by January 2005. Right now we want to poll the community to determine if there is sufficient interest. Call me at 444-8860 ext. 24 for information.”

Rose said, “Al Anon is really about healthy relationships for people who didn’t grow up relating in a normal way.”

Todd added, “You find hope through hearing and sharing each other’s stories.”

Rose agreed. “If it doesn’t help you, it’s not for you. One thing an alcoholic does is blame everyone but themselves. So people come to these meetings feeling it’s all their fault and they should be able to fix the problem. And of course you can’t.”
Winter Dry Skin? Static Shocks? What to do? Install an Aprilaire Humidifier!

$50 off Aprilaire Humidifier
$75 off Aprilaire Humidifier and Model 8570 Thermostat

Expires 12/31/04

Girl’s Night Out
3 Great Bands Lead by Women

Pleasing Iris
The Atomic Swindlers
The Earl Cram Revue

Friday, Nov. 19th
Nasty D’s, 140 Alexander St.
Show starts at 9:30 p.m.
Admission:
$12 regular, $10 student/senior, $7 child 12/younger
Save $2 per ticket by purchasing it in advance from a chorus member or at:
Outlandish Videos & Gifts • Parkleigh • Pride Connection
Special discount group rates are also available.

For more information visit www.therwcc.org or call 585.234.4441

RWCC is a not-for-profit organization

Discover the Piano

Want to develop your keyboard skills?
Study with Jack Bradigan Spula, classical pianist
Eastman School of Music bachelor's and master's degrees
Years of experience as a teacher, soloist, and chamber musician
Former principal accompanist, Rochester Gay Men's Chorus
All levels; half-hour or full-hour lessons available at Jack's studio in the Ellwanger & Barry neighborhood
Jack Bradigan Spula, 585-271-0255
jbspula@yahoo.com

Latin Latte Tableware Sale

20% Off
Ken Edwards
Plates • Cups
Bowls • Mugs
Serving plates and trays

20% Off All Ceramics
Much More!! (thru 11-28-04)
Students make Coming Out Day visible at RIT/NTID

BY KHANH LAO

Two GLBT organizations, RITGA and Spectrum, celebrated National Coming Out Week (NCOW) during Oct. 11-15, by providing the events for the GLBT community. RIT Gay Alliance (RITGA) started NCOW on Sunday night, Oct. 10. Despite bitter cold weather, some students showed up to chalk the cement in front of SAU and continue chalking along the sidewalk.

RITGA President David Guetzlaff commented, "Tonight is a night where members celebrate who they are, by turning the campus into their canvas. Also in hope that it will help others find who they ARE! A few members who commented as well. James Cooley said, "It is an excellent idea to do art on campus. It shows the support and strength of RITGA. I feel good and happy to draw." "I am happy to be proud and show my pride without any fears," said Brendan Ryan.

Spectrum, formerly Deaf GLO, is an organization for gay, bisexual, lesbians, transgenders, and gay-friendly people that gather in the NTID GLBT community for socializing, to increase awareness and cultural perspective. Spectrum promotes a safe environment and provides opportunities for a gay diverse community. The difference between the RITGA and Spectrum is that the Spectrum provides a deaf culture perspective.

Spectrum at NTID also did chalking on Monday night in the quad at front of Mark Ellington Hall tower. Meanwhile, RITGA had a vigil in honor of Matthew Shepard and all victims of hate at Infinity Quad. Guetzlaff stated, "The vigil is a time for us to reflect on where we as members of the GLBT community have come from, and realize our hopes for the future."

On Tuesday night, Spectrum Advisor Bryan Lloyd led a round table discussion of Perspectives on the World of GLBT. It allowed the students to share their experience on when they explored their identity. There were more GLBT issues. For example, some students believe there is a gay gene that the Spectrum provides a deaf culture perspective.

RITGA presented a movie on Wednesday night, Menino Indians, in SAU Clark B Room. It is a great comedy that brought pleasant laughter to the audience. I highly recommend it. Meanwhile, Spectrum brought its members to see the movie Iron Ladies 2 at the ImageOut Festival.

On Thursday, RITGA presented Gayspeak in the afternoon. It is series of dialing presentations by friends and members of the RITGA on a wide range of GLBT issues regarding health, relationships, and current events in the GLBT community. In the evening at NTID, Barbara Jean Wood gave her presentation Are Our Rights as a Gay Person in the Workplace Protected? Wood, alumni of NTID/RIT, has been a staunch advocate for Deaf Rights and communication accessible services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing citizens for more than 25 years. Her successful career began as Client Advocate for the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission. Governor Michael Dukakis then appointed her to lead the newly formed Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in 1985. Wood told the audience during her presentation about her funny experience in conversation with Gov. Dukakis. He asked Wood if she should be aware of anything that might embarrass him as a commissioner. Wood stated that she is to tell anyone that she is Deaf. "Oh, that is nothing! Anything else?"

Wood now serves as Executive Director for the brand new Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Once again, she has accepted the challenge of making government more efficient and accessible, this time for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing citizens living throughout the Rocky Mountain state.

Spectrum ended NCOW's events with its open house at NTID on Friday evening. It allowed people to meet Spectrum's executive board officers and members. At same time, RITGA banded with a Blue and Pink Party. It allowed people to play Twister, socialized over pizza, or gathered around the cotton candy machine," said Guetzlaff.

He added, "The Blue and Pink Party was a social event to wrap up the week. A place where participants of NCOW could relax and socialize with friends, both old and new. It was a fun laid back event, as a thank you for everyone's support."

Ptataki signs DP visitation rights bill

Governor George E. Pataki announced on Oct. 11 that he has signed into law legislation that will further protect patient rights by ensuring that the domestic partners of hospital and nursing home patients are granted visitation rights by hospitals and nursing homes.

"We are proud that New York is a national leader in ensuring patient rights and the legislation I am signing into law will further build on that record," Governor Pataki said. "This new law will ensure that no patient in a hospital or nursing home is denied the comfort of being with their loved ones when they need them the most."

Senator Nick Spano said, "Extending the ability of a domestic partner to visit his or her loved one who is in a hospital or a nursing home is simply the right thing to do. All patients need and deserve the comfort factor that a visit from a loved one provides. As the Senate sponsor of this legislation, I am gratified that Governor Pataki has signed it into law. The Governor continues his outstanding record of keeping New York State on the cutting edge of protecting patients' rights."

Assemblywoman Deborah Glick said, "This is but a single step on the road to full equality, but it is critically important that our relationships receive this recognition so that we can provide support to their loved ones."

The new law specifically provides that no domestic partner shall be denied any rights of visitation of his or her domestic partner when such rights are accorded to spouses and next of kin at any hospital, nursing home or health care facility. Domestic partner is specifically defined under the law.

Empire State Pride Agenda Executive Director Alan Van Capelle said, "The Pride Agenda applauds the Governor for signing this bill into law. New Yorkers believe in equality and they clearly believe that applies to same-sex couples and their families."

"Cher triumphant" "Cher delight"

New York Times Houston Chronicle

"Flawless" Newsweek

www.cher.com

with special guest

VILLAGE PEOPLE

N O V E M B E R 2 2 7:30PM

Get Tickets At CC.com

Tickets available at the Blue Cross Arena Box Office, all Ticketmaster locations including Kauffman's, charge by phone 323-1900, or online at Ticketmaster.com. All dates, acts and ticket prices subject to change without notice. Tickets subject to convenience/handling fee. A Clear Channel Entertainment Event. CC.COM and the CC.COM logo are service marks of Clear Channel Entertainment.
Temple Sinai

A Welcoming and Affirming
Reform Jewish Congregation

Friday, November 1  Family Service ................. 7:30 PM
Friday, November 12 ........................................... 8:00 PM
Friday, November 19 ........................................... 8:00 PM
Friday, November 26 ........................................... 6:00 PM

Temple Sinai
363 Penfield Road, Rochester, New York 14625
(585) 381-5890
Rabbi Alan Katz and Rabbi Amy Sapowith
www.tsinai.org

Park Ave

Chiropractic & Wellness Center
379 Park Ave.
Rochester, NY 14607
(585) 271-5590

Headaches, Neck, Extremity or Low back Pain?
Effective chiropractic care with
an emphasis on posture and structure can HELP!

Now Accepting New Patients
No Referral Necessary

Most major insurances accepted including
Blue Choice, Aetna, Preferred Care, United Healthcare,
Worker’s Compensation and No Fault
Convenient payment plans and office hours available

CALL NOW TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT!

Serving the Park Avenue Community for 5 years

The Secret Labs

www.thesecretlabs.com

- web hosting
- web design
- e-commerce
- personal
- professional
- affordable
- reliable

Share the Secret! (585) 415-6918

Integrative Healing Arts Center

Massage Therapy at its Finest!

- Couples Massage
- Sunday Brunch-time Massage
- Synchronized Massage

For more info call 429.0223 or 429.0382
healingarts@rochester.rr.com

Auditorium Center

875 E. Main Street, Rochester

Commitment Ceremonies and Parties
Accommodating small groups to over 300 guests

- Cathedral Hall available for receptions
- Large ornate conference and meeting areas
- Ample on site parking

BOOK YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW
For more information, call 585-423-0295

John Magere: 266-5565 x24
If you’re buying or selling,
Call John!

John Magere: Bringing You Home

KEN SALTZMAN
A PAINTER

654-6174
FREE ESTIMATES

Auditorium Center
875 E. Main Street, Rochester

Commitment Ceremonies and Parties
Accommodating small groups to over 300 guests

- Cathedral Hall available for receptions
- Large ornate conference and meeting areas
- Ample on site parking

BOOK YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW
For more information, call 585-423-0295

Integrative Healing Arts Center

Massage Therapy at its Finest!

- Couples Massage
- Sunday Brunch-time Massage
- Synchronized Massage

For more info call 429.0223 or 429.0382
healingarts@rochester.rr.com

The Secret Labs

www.thesecretlabs.com

- web hosting
- web design
- e-commerce
- personal
- professional
- affordable
- reliable

Share the Secret! (585) 415-6918

John Magere: Bringing You Home

KEN SALTZMAN
A PAINTER

654-6174
FREE ESTIMATES

Auditorium Center
875 E. Main Street, Rochester

Commitment Ceremonies and Parties
Accommodating small groups to over 300 guests

- Cathedral Hall available for receptions
- Large ornate conference and meeting areas
- Ample on site parking

BOOK YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW
For more information, call 585-423-0295

Integrative Healing Arts Center

Massage Therapy at its Finest!

- Couples Massage
- Sunday Brunch-time Massage
- Synchronized Massage

For more info call 429.0223 or 429.0382
healingarts@rochester.rr.com
YOUR BODY MASSAGE

www.yourbodymassage.com

James R. Yost, L.M.T.

60 & 90 Minute Therapeutic Massage Sessions by Appointment. Call 202-879-4 or Visit Us Online.

Gift Certificates and Prepaid Discounts Available!

Proudly Serving Our Community

Life getting “Hairy”? Need to “Smooth” things out?

You WORK hard to tone that body – now SHOW it off!

Waxing services provided by:

friday Brighton Salon
80 E. Main Street
Webster, New York 14580
(585) 872-0490

This holiday season, leave the past behind...forget about the future...focus on the PRESENT...it’s the greatest GIFT of all.

Over 25,000 Ornaments

20% OFF COUPON OFF ANY ORNAMENT

This offer is not to be combined with any other offer. Not valid on prior sales.

COUPON OFFER GOOD WITH FREE SMCC EC

This offer expires 11/30/04.

749 Park Avenue
585.271.0590
www.wedefinewine.com
Wedding announcement

Matt E. LaFever of Rochester, NY and Thomas E. Holmes, Jr. of Wellesley, MA exchanged wedding vows on Oct. 3, at the Cliffside Beachclub Hotel on Nantucket Island, Mass. Matt, an alum of RIT, is a registered nurse for American Mobile Healthcare and Thomas, an alum of Syracuse University, is a marketing and promotions director for NBC. Matt and Thomas had a commitment ceremony a year ago at the Rose Inn in Ithaca, NY, but chose to legalize their union after the recent ruling that MA would issue licenses to same-sex couples. The couple plan to reside in the Boston area.

GAGV History 101

The Gay Alliance recently released a video, The Changing Faces of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley. This 17-minute retrospective on the past 32 years of the GAGV is now available on both VHS and DVD for viewing by members of the LGBT community and general public.

Copies may be borrowed from the GAGV Library and Archive. The library’s fall hours are 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Saturdays. Arrangements may also be made to reserve a loan copy (call 585-244-8640 ext. 24) and pick it up at the GAGV’s main offices at the Auditorium Center, Suite 500, during normal business hours (9 a.m.-6 p.m.).

Remodel Your World

A-I SERVICES has been serving the Rochester area with over 10 years experience in quality work at affordable pricing.

- CARPET & TILE
- INTERIOR & EXTERIOR PAINTING
- PLASTERING & DRYWALL
- KITCHEN & BATH WOODWORKING
- WATER DAMAGE & MOLD REMEDIATION
- FACILITATION OF INSURANCE CLAIMS
- & ALL THOSE HANDYMAN PROJECTS YOU DON’T HAVE TIME FOR.

A-I SERVICES
40 Atkinson Street, Rochester, 585 615-9652
We provide our customers with peace of mind.

Getting political in L.A.

Above: At the Los Angeles Premiere screening of A Voice for Choice, documentary (10/10/04) on the 2004 March for Women’s Lives left to right actress Sharon Lawrence (Little Black Book), the filmmakers Andrea Buchanan & Gabriele Grant, Assembly Member Jackie Goldberg, actress Meredith Scott Lynn (Legally Blond)

Above: Susan McDougall (10/9/04) at the Writers Guild in LA for the screening of The Hunt for the President. The story of the 80 million dollar Clinton “investigation” led by Ken Starr. A must see for anyone who wants the “honest” story not told by Republicans! PHOTOS BY RENEE SOLTILE.

We Care

All women have special needs. Let us answer those questions you may feel uncomfortable asking other health care professionals. We care about you.

- Affordable gynecological health care
- Caring and friendly staff
- HIV and STI Testing
- Confidential
- Insurance accepted

Toll-Free 1-866-600-6886
www.pprsr.org

Talk to us. Turn to us.

Planned Parenthood of the Rochester/Syracuse Region Inc.
Images from ImageOut 2004

Gay Pioneers producer Malcolm Lazin presents Todd Plank with a DVD copy of the documentary for the GAGV Library. (see interview with Barbara Gittings, page B1.)

Benjie Nycum, director of the documentary about gay youth, Jim in Bold. ALL PHOTOS THIS PAGE BY GERRY SZYMANSKI

Above: Producers Brian Porter, Michael Gamilla (director of Slutty Summer), Casper Andreas and Dan Humphrey. Below: Duane Boulte, star of Brother to Brother, with Program chair Michael Gamilla. Above far left: Programming committee member Sam Roberts and Board member Amy Schwartz. Near left: Father and Son panelist Mark Denaci with Dan Humphrey.

FACTS AND FIGURES
ImageOut screened 96 features and shorts in 45 programs. Audience awards went to Eating Out (Best Feature), Paternal Instinct (Best Documentary) and Power Play (Best Short).
Seven shows were sold out and the festival hosted a record number of guests. ImageOut plans a fundraiser screening for Dec. 2. See the December-January Empty Closet for more information.

POWER IN YOUR PALM.

Every Nextel® phone has a built-in walkie-talkie, so you can connect coast-to-coast in under a second. And Nextel phones are GPS-enabled, and have speakerphone and Wireless Web services.

Everyting you need in one powerful package.

FREE Phone, FREE Car Charger & FREE Headset with new 2-year activation! Call 272-7777 for more information or visit us in the Marketplace Mall (Bon-Ton Wing)
Get Sculpted!
With Mesotherapy

Non-Surgical Body Sculpting and Weight Reduction

• Is your six pack, looking more like a keg?
• Want to loose those love handles?
• Is your pubic fat pad over shadowing something?

You can get Mesotherapy in Paris, Rio, New York City and Los Angeles. Now you can get it in Upstate New York!

At New Genesis you will relax on a massage table in our soothing medical spa where aroma therapy and soft music fill the air. Our medical body sculptors will design a treatment plan to help you obtain your desired goals of "just" shedding that gut or "just" looking like David. Mesotherapy can melt your fat but keep in mind you still have to break a sweat to get David's muscles.

After your treatment, we treat you to a soothing lymphatic stimulating massage where you just lay there and relax and think about the new wardrobe you are going to need as your fat melts away.

Mesotherapy involves virtually painless micro-injections of natural supplements that dissolve fat in as little as 3 to 5 treatments for body sculpting. Weight reduction for larger areas may require more treatments. Anesthetic cream is applied to the treatment area and the smallest needles made are used to make your treatment effective and virtually painless.

Mesotherapy is a safe, effective alternative to surgery and typically about 1/4th to 1/3rd of the cost. You walk in, receive the treatments and walk out. Many people return to work the same day.

New Genesis
The Mesotherapy Associates of Upstate New York
720 East Avenue, Suite 202
Rochester, New York 14607
Phons: 585.242.9110
www.anewgenesis.com

Uncovering natural beauty, naturally
Gay pioneer Barbara Gittings: a true American icon visits during ImageOut

BY OVE OVERMYER

You can definitely hear it in her voice -- a sense of purpose in how she fondly recalls her sometimes scary and very courageous journey through life. In her relentless pursuit for individual identity and self-discovery, Barbara Gittings has truly emerged as one of the greatest treasures of American gay culture.

We had the pleasure of meeting last month over a steamy cup of Seattle roast coffee at the George Eastman Cafe. She was in town participating in a panel discussion after the screening of the documentary film The Gay Pioneers, in which she is one of seven early lesbian and gay activists featured. This was all part of ImageOut, Rochester’s Lesbian & Gay Film & Video Festival, which entertained thousands of people in October for the 12th “straight” year.

Unpretentious, eloquent and graceful, Ms. Gittings looks at you as if she’s known you her whole life. Her warm sparkling eyes penetrate any protective skin. The eyeliner was smudged, but other guitarist Scott Ostrowski’s fanciful fretting makes you sit up and take notice on stage.

“We had the pleasure of meeting last month over a steamy cup of Seattle roast coffee at the George Eastman Cafe. She was in town participating in a panel discussion after the screening of the documentary film The Gay Pioneers, in which she is one of seven early lesbian and gay activists featured. This was all part of ImageOut, Rochester’s Lesbian & Gay Film & Video Festival, which entertained thousands of people in October for the 12th “straight” year.

Unpretentious, eloquent and graceful, Ms. Gittings looks at you as if she’s known you her whole life. Her warm sparkling eyes penetrate any protective skin. The eyeliner was smudged, but other guitarist Scott Ostrowski’s fanciful fretting makes you sit up and take notice on stage.

“We had the pleasure of meeting last month over a steamy cup of Seattle roast coffee at the George Eastman Cafe. She was in town participating in a panel discussion after the screening of the documentary film The Gay Pioneers, in which she is one of seven early lesbian and gay activists featured. This was all part of ImageOut, Rochester’s Lesbian & Gay Film & Video Festival, which entertained thousands of people in October for the 12th “straight” year.

Unpretentious, eloquent and graceful, Ms. Gittings looks at you as if she’s known you her whole life. Her warm sparkling eyes penetrate any protective skin. The eyeliner was smudged, but other guitarist Scott Ostrowski’s fanciful fretting makes you sit up and take notice on stage.

“We had the pleasure of meeting last month over a steamy cup of Seattle roast coffee at the George Eastman Cafe. She was in town participating in a panel discussion after the screening of the documentary film The Gay Pioneers, in which she is one of seven early lesbian and gay activists featured. This was all part of ImageOut, Rochester’s Lesbian & Gay Film & Video Festival, which entertained thousands of people in October for the 12th “straight” year.

Unpretentious, eloquent and graceful, Ms. Gittings looks at you as if she’s known you her whole life. Her warm sparkling eyes penetrate any protective skin. The eyeliner was smudged, but other guitarist Scott Ostrowski’s fanciful fretting makes you sit up and take notice on stage.

“We had the pleasure of meeting last month over a steamy cup of Seattle roast coffee at the George Eastman Cafe. She was in town participating in a panel discussion after the screening of the documentary film The Gay Pioneers, in which she is one of seven early lesbian and gay activists featured. This was all part of ImageOut, Rochester’s Lesbian & Gay Film & Video Festival, which entertained thousands of people in October for the 12th “straight” year.

Unpretentious, eloquent and graceful, Ms. Gittings looks at you as if she’s known you her whole life. Her warm sparkling eyes penetrate any protective skin. The eyeliner was smudged, but other guitarist Scott Ostrowski’s fanciful fretting makes you sit up and take notice on stage.

“We had the pleasure of meeting last month over a steamy cup of Seattle roast coffee at the George Eastman Cafe. She was in town participating in a panel discussion after the screening of the documentary film The Gay Pioneers, in which she is one of seven early lesbian and gay activists featured. This was all part of ImageOut, Rochester’s Lesbian & Gay Film & Video Festival, which entertained thousands of people in October for the 12th “straight” year.

Unpretentious, eloquent and graceful, Ms. Gittings looks at you as if she’s known you her whole life. Her warm sparkling eyes penetrate any protective skin. The eyeliner was smudged, but other guitarist Scott Ostrowski’s fanciful fretting makes you sit up and take notice on stage.

“We had the pleasure of meeting last month over a steamy cup of Seattle roast coffee at the George Eastman Cafe. She was in town participating in a panel discussion after the screening of the documentary film The Gay Pioneers, in which she is one of seven early lesbian and gay activists featured. This was all part of ImageOut, Rochester’s Lesbian & Gay Film & Video Festival, which entertained thousands of people in October for the 12th “straight” year.

Unpretentious, eloquent and graceful, Ms. Gittings looks at you as if she’s known you her whole life. Her warm sparkling eyes penetrate any protective skin. The eyeliner was smudged, but other guitarist Scott Ostrowski’s fanciful fretting makes you sit up and take notice on stage.

“We had the pleasure of meeting last month over a steamy cup of Seattle roast coffee at the George Eastman Cafe. She was in town participating in a panel discussion after the screening of the documentary film The Gay Pioneers, in which she is one of seven early lesbian and gay activists featured. This was all part of ImageOut, Rochester’s Lesbian & Gay Film & Video Festival, which entertained thousands of people in October for the 12th “straight” year.

Unpretentious, eloquent and graceful, Ms. Gittings looks at you as if she’s known you her whole life. Her warm sparkling eyes penetrate any protective skin. The eyeliner was smudged, but other guitarist Scott Ostrowski’s fanciful fretting makes you sit up and take notice on stage.

“We had the pleasure of meeting last month over a steamy cup of Seattle roast coffee at the George Eastman Cafe. She was in town participating in a panel discussion after the screening of the documentary film The Gay Pioneers, in which she is one of seven early lesbian and gay activists featured. This was all part of ImageOut, Rochester’s Lesbian & Gay Film & Video Festival, which entertained thousands of people in October for the 12th “straight” year.

Unpretentious, eloquent and graceful, Ms. Gittings looks at you as if she’s known you her whole life. Her warm sparkling eyes penetrate any protective skin. The eyeliner was smudged, but other guitarist Scott Ostrowski’s fanciful fretting makes you sit up and take notice on stage.

“We had the pleasure of meeting last month over a steamy cup of Seattle roast coffee at the George Eastman Cafe. She was in town participating in a panel discussion after the screening of the documentary film The Gay Pioneers, in which she is one of seven early lesbian and gay activists featured. This was all part of ImageOut, Rochester’s Lesbian & Gay Film & Video Festival, which entertained thousands of people in October for the 12th “straight” year.

Unpretentious, eloquent and graceful, Ms. Gittings looks at you as if she’s known you her whole life. Her warm sparkling eyes penetrate any protective skin. The eyeliner was smudged, but other guitarist Scott Ostrowski’s fanciful fretting makes you sit up and take notice on stage.

“We had the pleasure of meeting last month over a steamy cup of Seattle roast coffee at the George Eastman Cafe. She was in town participating in a panel discussion after the screening of the documentary film The Gay Pioneers, in which she is one of seven early lesbian and gay activists featured. This was all part of ImageOut, Rochester’s Lesbian & Gay Film & Video Festival, which entertained thousands of people in October for the 12th “straight” year.

Unpretentious, eloquent and graceful, Ms. Gittings looks at you as if she’s known you her whole life. Her warm sparkling eyes penetrate any protective skin. The eyeliner was smudged, but other guitarist Scott Ostrowski’s fanciful fretting makes you sit up and take notice on stage.

“We had the pleasure of meeting last month over a steamy cup of Seattle roast coffee at the George Eastman Cafe. She was in town participating in a panel discussion after the screening of the documentary film The Gay Pioneers, in which she is one of seven early lesbian and gay activists featured. This was all part of ImageOut, Rochester’s Lesbian & Gay Film & Video Festival, which entertained thousands of people in October for the 12th “straight” year.

Unpretentious, eloquent and graceful, Ms. Gittings looks at you as if she’s known you her whole life. Her warm sparkling eyes penetrate any protective skin. The eyeliner was smudged, but other guitarist Scott Ostrowski’s fanciful fretting makes you sit up and take notice on stage.

“We had the pleasure of meeting last month over a steamy cup of Seattle roast coffee at the George Eastman Cafe. She was in town participating in a panel discussion after the screening of the documentary film The Gay Pioneers, in which she is one of seven early lesbian and gay activists featured. This was all part of ImageOut, Rochester’s Lesbian & Gay Film & Video Festival, which entertained thousands of people in October for the 12th “straight” year.

Unpretentious, eloquent and graceful, Ms. Gittings looks at you as if she’s known you her whole life. Her warm sparkling eyes penetrate any protective skin. The eyeliner was smudged, but other guitarist Scott Ostrowski’s fanciful fretting makes you sit up and take notice on stage.
Documentary on Nicaraguan soap opera includes homophobia issues

The Ciudad Hermana Task Force of Metro Justice will show the prize-winning documentary *Noveda, Novela* on Friday, Nov. 5, at 7-9 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, 220 South Winton Rd.

A donation of $10 (regular) or $5 (students/low income) is requested.

Director Liz Miller is a talented documentary filmmaker who has produced an extraordinary documentary about the Nicaraguan telenovela (soap opera) “Sexo Sentido.” Margaret Randall has called “Sexo Sentido” “Friends” with an attitude,” but it’s much more than that. “Friends” portrays six attractive young adults whose lives revolve around trivial problems. “Sexo Sentido” portrays six attractive adolescents and young adults whose lives revolve around serious problems – domestic violence, homophobia, abuse, and alcohol, and unexplained pregnancy. Moreover, “Sexo Sentido” is the only telenovela produced in Nicaragua, and the one made with a progressive, feminist agenda.

This TV program plays an important role in the work of the feminist collective Puntos de Encuentro.

The visionary founders of Puntos de Encuentro came together to carry out a radical social and political agenda. They made the decision to accomplish this task by using alternative – but not marginal – media outlets. “Sexo Sentido” is the sixth (out of 26) most popular telenovela in Nicaragua.

Liz Miller’s documentary, *Noveda, Novela*, allows people in the United States to see and understand this extraordinary Nicaraguan media achievement. Not only is Liz Miller able to give us a feel for the people involved in the many aspects of *Noveda, Novela*, but she also gives us a feel for Managua as it exists today – noisy, littered, and traffic-filled, as well as quiet residential streets, houses, and trees. Central American solidarity activists will recognize these scenes immediately. The footage will provide an insight into the region for people who have never been there.

Ciudad Hermana Task Force will present a video program that contains two separate but related films: “Sexo Sentido” (2001), 44 minutes, which includes a complete episode and selected excerpts from the telenovela (Spanish with English subtitles) and *Noveda, Novela* (2002), 30 minutes, produced and directed by Liz Miller. (English and Spanish with English subtitles.)

Rachael Sage

Mpxres Records artist Rachael Sage has just released her sixth album “Ballads and Burlesque.” Rachael released her first album, “Morbid Romantic,” in 1996. Mpxres Records is Rachael’s own label. Rachael Sage was the highlight of the 2004 Buffalo Pride celebration. She will be performing at the Cybercafe in Rochester December 18.

Melissa Etheridge

Grammy-winning rocker and newlywed Melissa Etheridge cut short her current tour because she was diagnosed with breast cancer. The cancer was detected early and Etheridge is expected to make a full recovery. The first step of that recovery was completed when Etheridge had surgery in mid-October.

Etheridge may have cancelled her “Lucky” tour for medical reasons, but she is not letting it slow her down. Etheridge released the CD “Lucky” in February. In early October a live CD and DVD from the tour was released. Etheridge is already planning her next album – a greater hits affair to be released sometime next year.

Besides making music, Melissa Etheridge is making the jump to the screen. Etheridge is scheduled to start filming in January with Demi Moore andissy Skepp for the gender-bending film “Southern Comfort.” Etheridge is also planning to star in a “non-traditional family” sitcom on ABC. Further details of when the show will air are available at this time.

Dante DiFranco

Drag King Dante DiFranco has just released his new book, “The Art of Drag KInging: Drag’ing Out Your Inner King.” The 384-page book is divided into six parts, with 25 chapters that explore the history and culture of drag kings, along with the principles and techniques for becoming a drag king. “The Art of Drag KInging” may be purchased from Dante’s website at www.dantedifranco.com.

Sir Elton John

Citing a desire to spend more time with partner David Furnish, Sir Elton John has hinted that he may retire from touring. “I have a lovely private life with David but we don’t spend enough time together,” said Sir Elton.

On Friday Sir Elton is contracted to perform 75 shows at Caesar’s Palace in Las Vegas over the next three years. The 57-year-old Sir Elton said that there will come a time when his current lifestyle must change.

Lesbians on Ecstasy

Miss Gay Rochester pageant

This year, the Miss Gay Rochester pageant will be held at the Harro East Ballroom (400 Andrews St.) again this year, on Sunday, Nov. 14.

The Miss Gay Rochester pageant will be emceed by Miss Aggy Dune. Along with performances by this year’s contestants, there will be performances by Naomi Kane and Ambrosia Salud. Pandora Box will celebrate her 10th anniversary with a performance. And the Legendary Toreador, celebrating her 26th anniversary, will also appear – special treat.

Join the reigning Miss Gay Rochester, Samantha Suley, as she passes on her crown to a new Miss Gay Rochester. Tickets are $15 in advance and are available at Tanas, Mothers, Angelo’s Design, and Club Marelisa in Buffalo. Tickets are $20 at the door.

Learn to:

* Give voice to your emotions
* Develop your strengths
* Improve your relationships
* Conquer your fears

Edith Bernstein, CSW

Individuals, Couples, Family and Group Psychotherapy

624-A Pittsford-Victor Road

Burhans Basin 14534

Tel: 716-586-5830

Fax: 716-385-0427

www.aliensounductions.com

--
She later hinted that a rocky relationship with her mother could have resulted in her running away from home at the tender age of 17. This was 1949, folks, an incredibly naive thing to do — or possibly one of the bravest things any man or woman could possibly contemplate. This choice early on frames the picture for the future ground breaking decisions that she made time after time, altering and shaping gay American history as we know it today.

There were no services for people like me then. I was basically left to my own devices. I moved to the closest big city — Philly — to get some sort of mental labor or a clerical job. Books and music,” she said with a broad grin, “that's what kept me going. I sang in a choral group, it was heaven! I wasn't much of a bar person, and there were not many other ways to meet people. Most of them were very odd, freaky. I was in search of people like me, and that was very hard to do.

After enrolling at Northwestern University to study Theater, she candidly admitted, the female of her freshman year because she was spending most of her time in the library trying to find out what it meant to be a lesbian. As if this wasn't perplexing enough for Barbara, she also became the target of malicious rumors because of a close relationship with another female student. No physical relationship existed, and she was the last one to find out about the gossip.

When I asked her if she ever considered getting professional counsel, she replied, “I went to a psychiatrist in Chicago to talk about myself.” The doctor said, “Yes, you are a homosexual. I would like to cure you. “Well, I didn’t have the money for that, so I never went back. Reflecting on it later, she did me an enormous favor. I realized who I was, that this is me, and that’s what I am. I could deal with that.”

It was my impression that this was the epiphany of Barbara’s mission.
We are also gratified by the confidence support for the Gay Games movement. Our website, Gay.com <http://www.gay.com>, has doubled the size of their commitment for this event is based upon legacy,” said Mark Elderkin, president, PlanetOut Inc. "We are all excited to welcome back a sponsor that has been a part of the Gay Games since the beginning. It is especially nice to welcome back a sponsor that has grown with the Gay Games movement. PlanetOut becomes the Gay Games first million dollar sponsor ever.”

The practice with PlanetOut means that Gay Games VII will be able to expand its worldwide reach exponentially," said Kevin Boyer, Gay Games VII Co-Vice Chair and head of the Marketing Committee. "The partnership is expected to add advertising focus on Gay Games early registration discounts running on the worldwide PlanetOut network within the next 10 days as part of a US$2.5 million campaign to support this next event. Directed by the Gay Games VII Marketing Committee, the advertising campaign is being created by the Chicago design firm of McKnight Kurland Baccelli. Corporate sponsorship of Gay Games VII is inspired by how we've seen...
Thursday is garbage day. Early in the morning before the truck rumbles by, I walk outside to check on any trash that may have blown around overnight. Actually I do that nearly every morning. garbage day or not. It has become a morning ritual of sorts.

Half my neighbors live in rental units and, sadly, some of them do not share my concern for how the neighborhood looks. I suppose, to be fair, I did not give a crap either until I bought my own house. Anyway I no longer grimace picking up a beer bottle or a pop can. It is a nickel for me.

This morning, as I leaned over the back yard fence, I saw a flat rectangular shape, probably a newspaper that had fluttered off someone’s recyclable bin.

Not at all! It is the sign from my front yard. My fenced in front yard. The sign that reads “Bush Must Go!” This is not a good thing, not at all. As for the sign, you can smooth it back together — the flimsy metal poles are threadbare and so our renderings are less frequent. It is not a relationship, not of the kind that so many gay men are avid for these days. It is the old kind of relationship. Sex.

Ron was over last night. He had some kind of business meeting and was called ahead to see if I would be around. Not a problem. I spent the day cleaning. I love to clean. Preparation and anticipation are the hallmark per­foms of happiness. We had a nice time although I doubt he even noticed how I had spiffed up the joint.

Do not ask me to explain how a relationship like this comes to be. Sometimes things just fall into place. Or they do not. Whenever Ron makes a crack about one of my friends, sometimes I think well, I am just lucky. Other times I regard life’s treats as a gift from mysterious forces beyond my understanding. I always thought the real point was to accept situations on their own terms and make the best of them.

Ron is straight. He has a girlfriend. Our sex is different from what he does with his girlfriend. Actually the truth is that Ron’s a user, an opportunist, a very modern gay. Young people are a bit more hip, experimental, less judgmental, possessors of a whole slew of attitudes for which I have no understanding. I always thought the right answer was to reach out to someone else and provide them with my personal gay timeline:

Age 1: I was labeled as a “sensitive” child. Sensitive is code for gay. If you ever were called sensitive, then I’m pretty sure you grew up to be a big homo.

Age 4: I was the ring bearer in my aunt’s wedding. You would have thought I was a model on a fashion cat­walk, pranced that wedding aisle like I was the gayest spook ever. I wasn’t a Friendly Ghost. I wasn’t a big homo.

Age 7: I was a witch and also had given the school dance speech therapist, a drab by plump lady with a gay lisp. But I just wasn’t into all the camping thing. Anyway I was elected class treasurer on three separate occa­sions.

Age 9: I opened a restaurant with my younger sister’s Easy Bake oven. Whereas Wendy was satisfied making angel food cake, I was creating elaborate banquet with five course meals. I was the Emeril Lagasse of the elementary set. I was the Julia Child of the kindergarten. My next-door neighbor’s mom was the Commie Pinko sign and so he put on a Tupperware parties. I swapped recipes with my mother’s friends (my chicken with a little bit of cinnamon was legendary) and was soon invited to eat all the local affairs. But that came to a hasty end due to the unfortunate Chinese New Year inci­dent. Our school was only designed to be used with a wok (and scalding hot peanut oil).

Age 10: I could not dribble a basketball at all. Loose waves could not sink foul shots.

Age 11: Every Friday in gym class was “Dancing! My love of the dance floor was evident as my classmates made out under the bleachers or near the water fountain. I was just about to give up on the prettiest little brave you ever saw. The beat was infectious, and I had a fever for the strobe light.

Age 12: I let my mom talk me into getting a perm for my hair. A preteen perm for my mother’s thick coily van was legendary) and was soon granted access to the emergency brake and then grace­fully, as only an athlete in his prime can, vaulted the fence and smashed it, flying into the back yard. And he tossed that baseball cap fall out of the car unnoticed in the dark. It is possible.

And my second memory is attend­ing some Indian jamboree (way before the Boy Scouts even knew what a jamboree was) and winning a prize for the best Indian costume. My mom had worked for two weeks hand-painting the symbols of the Native American tribes and it was the prettiest little brave you ever saw.

Age 8: I was totally into Star Wars. And like most boys at that time, I loved playing with those “dolls.” I also love that Ron can be a gay limousine test driving upon which to character a little boy is drawn. Han Solo (the roguish scoundrel) = Straight. Luke Skywalker (the pretty boy hero with a dark secret) = Gay. Always I wanted to be Luke Skywalker. Enough said.

Growing Up

If it quacks like a duck... by Troy Robinson

Our sex is different from what he does with his girlfriend. Actually the truth is that Ron’s a user, an opportunist, a very modern gay. Young people are a bit more hip, experimental, less judgmental, possessors of a whole slew of attitudes for which I have no understanding. I always thought the real point was to accept situations on their own terms and make the best of them.

Ron is straight. He has a girlfriend. Our sex is different from what he does with his girlfriend. Actually the truth is that Ron’s a user, an opportunist, a very modern gay. Young people are a bit more hip, experimental, less judgmental, possessors of a whole slew of attitudes for which I have no understanding. I always thought the real point was to accept situations on their own terms and make the best of them.

Ron is straight. He has a girlfriend. Our sex is different from what he does with his girlfriend. Actually the truth is that Ron’s a user, an opportunist, a very modern gay. Young people are a bit more hip, experimental, less judgmental, possessors of a whole slew of attitudes for which I have no understanding. I always thought the real point was to accept situations on their own terms and make the best of them.

Ron is straight. He has a girlfriend. Our sex is different from what he does with his girlfriend. Actually the truth is that Ron’s a user, an opportunist, a very modern gay. Young people are a bit more hip, experimental, less judgmental, possessors of a whole slew of attitudes for which I have no understanding. I always thought the real point was to accept situations on their own terms and make the best of them.

Ron is straight. He has a girlfriend. Our sex is different from what he does with his girlfriend. Actually the truth is that Ron’s a user, an opportunist, a very modern gay. Young people are a bit more hip, experimental, less judgmental, possessors of a whole slew of attitudes for which I have no understanding. I always thought the real point was to accept situations on their own terms and make the best of them.

Ron is straight. He has a girlfriend. Our sex is different from what he does with his girlfriend. Actually the truth is that Ron’s a user, an opportunist, a very modern gay. Young people are a bit more hip, experimental, less judgmental, possessors of a whole slew of attitudes for which I have no understanding. I always thought the real point was to accept situations on their own terms and make the best of them.

Ron is straight. He has a girlfriend. Our sex is different from what he does with his girlfriend. Actually the truth is that Ron’s a user, an opportunist, a very modern gay. Young people are a bit more hip, experimental, less judgmental, possessors of a whole slew of attitudes for which I have no understanding. I always thought the real point was to accept situations on their own terms and make the best of them.

Ron is straight. He has a girlfriend. Our sex is different from what he does with his girlfriend. Actually the truth is that Ron’s a user, an opportunist, a very modern gay. Young people are a bit more hip, experimental, less judgmental, possessors of a whole slew of attitudes for which I have no understanding. I always thought the real point was to accept situations on their own terms and make the best of them.

Ron is straight. He has a girlfriend. Our sex is different from what he does with his girlfriend. Actually the truth is that Ron’s a user, an opportunist, a very modern gay. Young people are a bit more hip, experimental, less judgmental, possessors of a whole slew of attitudes for which I have no understanding. I always thought the real point was to accept situations on their own terms and make the best of them.

Ron is straight. He has a girlfriend. Our sex is different from what he does with his girlfriend. Actually the truth is that Ron’s a user, an opportunist, a very modern gay. Young people are a bit more hip, experimental, less judgmental, possessors of a whole slew of attitudes for which I have no understanding. I always thought the real point was to accept situations on their own terms and make the best of them.

Ron is straight. He has a girlfriend. Our sex is different from what he does with his girlfriend. Actually the truth is that Ron’s a user, an opportunist, a very modern gay. Young people are a bit more hip, experimental, less judgmental, possessors of a whole slew of attitudes for which I have no understanding. I always thought the real point was to accept situations on their own terms and make the best of them.

Ron is straight. He has a girlfriend. Our sex is different from what he does with his girlfriend. Actually the truth is that Ron’s a user, an opportunist, a very modern gay. Young people are a bit more hip, experimental, less judgmental, possessors of a whole slew of attitudes for which I have no understanding. I always thought the real point was to accept situations on their own terms and make the best of them.

Ron is straight. He has a girlfriend. Our sex is different from what he does with his girlfriend. Actually the truth is that Ron’s a user, an opportunist, a very modern gay. Young people are a bit more hip, experimental, less judgmental, possessors of a whole slew of attitudes for which I have no understanding. I always thought the real point was to accept situations on their own terms and make the best of them.

Ron is straight. He has a girlfriend. Our sex is different from what he does with his girlfriend. Actually the truth is that Ron’s a user, an opportumist, a very modern gay. Young people are a bit more hip, experimental, less judgmental, possessors of a whole slew of attitudes for which I have no understanding. I always thought the real point was to accept situations on their own terms and make the best of them.

Ron is straight. He has a girlfriend. Our sex is different from what he does with his girlfriend. Actually the truth is that Ron’s a user, an opportunist, a very modern gay. Young people are a bit more hip, experimental, less judgmental, possessors of a whole slew of attitudes for which I have no understanding. I always thought the real point was to accept situations on their own terms and make the best of them.

Ron is straight. He has a girlfriend. Our sex is different from what he does with his girlfriend. Actually the truth is that Ron’s a user, an opportumist, a very modern gay. Young people are a bit more hip, experimental, less judgmental, possessors of a whole slew of attitudes for which I have no understanding. I always thought the real point was to accept situations on their own terms and make the best of them.

Ron is straight. He has a girlfriend. Our sex is different from what he does with his girlfriend. Actually the truth is that Ron’s a user, an opportunist, a very modern gay. Young people are a bit more hip, experimental, less judgmental, possessors of a whole slew of attitudes for which I have no understanding. I always thought the real point was to accept situations on their own terms and make the best of them.

Ron is straight. He has a girlfriend. Our sex is different from what he does with his girlfriend. Actually the truth is that Ron’s a user, an opportumist, a very modern gay. Young people are a bit more hip, experimental, less judgmental, possessors of a whole slew of attitudes for which I have no understanding. I always thought the real point was to accept situations on their own terms and make the best of them.
Growth feels so damn good

It's been less than twenty minutes since she called to let me know she was cancelling plans to come over and watch a movie. It seems that her enthusiasm over being home with the best of her and she just needed to crash.

I'm in a light hearted voice I heard myself say, "Hey, no problem, I know you must be beat, don't worry about it, we'll plan another night."

Even as I said the words, I felt my heart sink a wee bit as an old familiar hurt from a previous break up surfaced. That of feeling rejected. Even though my logical side knew she wasn't rejecting me, just expressing her need for comfort. I was that boy.

I was fortunate to have the backing of my parents, friends, and the school administration. I made the team. I believe most social norms are challenged in schools by young (or future) gays and lesbians. Playing on the girls' volleyball team is one of my proudest and fondest memories of high school.

I didn't come out until the age of 20, but as you can see the signs were there. And although these signs may be stereotypical, I embrace them. This is often fraught (and humorous) in stereotypes. And they help us to bond with one another. Email: Misadventuresinybland@b

Let's Talk

BY JULIE WEST

No time to panic on marriage

It would be easy to be down about the immediate prospects around the country. After all, two states, Missouri and Louisiana (both of which bans gay and lesbian marriage rights in at least 11 states, including Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Montana, Oklahoma, Oregon, Utah, Michigan, North Carolina and Ohio), voted down gay marriage. And in Louisiana, voters will once again say no to gay and lesbian marriage.

And Missouri and Louisiana appear to be just the beginning.

There will likely be some sort of ballot showdown on gay and lesbian marriage rights in states, including Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Montana, Oklahoma, Oregon, Utah, Michigan, North Carolina and Ohio. In the just, five states - Alaska, Hawaii, Nebraska and Nevada - already passed such constitutional amendments.

Even gay rights activists admit that in the nearly dozen states where a state constitutional amendment is looming, only in two states do activists have any real hopes of defeating the measures. Those states are Oregon and Michigan. And those will be uphill battles, not guaranteed victories.

The religious right, which funds much of the movement to get anti-gay marriage initiatives on state ballots, is at this point gleeful. It's easy to understand why. They are winning big victories at the ballot boxes.

While the news on marriage amendments can't be prettyed up much in any way to be good for gays and lesbians, we still shouldn't feel defeated. We need to do what all civil rights struggles have done in the past: take a long view of history. And have we plenty of optimism on our side.

First and foremost, we already have full marriage rights in one state, Massachusetts. Legally, socially, politically and historically, that is going to prove to be an invaluable model and tool. And in a second state, Vermont, where gay and lesbian couples are permitted to marry, the movement in northeastern and New England states, marriage cases are working their way through friendly courts.

Further, the discussion on marriage is forcing many people in straight America to have the conversation for the first time. It's going to be a shock to many of them, and they don't like to talk about it, and they may even come down on the side against it -- but until we have these conversations with America, until we force the issue to be on the table, we can't make progress.

As with any controversial topic, you can't expect the first discussion on the issue to be the last. Many Americans will initially say no to gay and lesbian marriage rights. But the more we talk about it, the more we raise the issue, and the more we educate the public about it, the more people will begin to change their views.

The change may be slower than we want, but if we keep discussing it, the change will happen. If we wait, and keep living with the decision to vote until a "better time," then nothing will happen. There will never be a "good time" to ask for our full rights. We have to make the time and the demands.

Finally, those who are panicking about the marriage bans are not just losing sight of the future, they are losing sight of the past, too.

When were Missouri and Louisiana ever held up as bastions of progressive and liberal stances in our country? When did we start taking the lead on progressive social movements from the voters in Oklahoma and Utah and Georgia?

No offense to the citizens of these states, but history has shown us over and over again that residents in conservative states are not going to be resistant to progressive social change, like gay and lesbian marriage. It's no shocker that Missouri or Louisiana voted down gay marriage.

But that's not where we should be looking for change so early in this battle. Instead, we should be heartened by the successes in Massachusetts, the nearly cultural revolution pioneered in California, the hope in Oregon and the courage of a small-town politician in New York State.

When I look at these places, I see the future, not the past.


Conundrums

BY OVE OVERMYER

Pride at work
A friend of mine called me the other day. His name was Ames, a previous interim director of the Episcopal Church in Rochester, NY. IA was formed in 1981 to seek increased awareness, understanding and inclusion of LGBT people by our individual congregations and by the larger community. For more information, call 585-271-7645, or visit the IA website at www.interfaithadvocates.org to find information, agenda and ways of supporting congregations in greater Rochester, and to sign the Interfaith Statement in Support of Equal Marriage for All.

Guest columns for this month is Gavin Phillips, a member of St Thomas Episcopal Church and the Committee on Episcopacy in the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester.

The Episcopal Church USA is the American branch of the Anglican Communion, an association of independent national churches, which originated with the Church of England. In contrast to the large denominations in the United States, the Episcopal Church has been wrestling with questions surrounding the ordination of openly lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered congregations and clergy within the church.

Gavin Phillips, a member of St Thomas Episcopal Church and the Committee on Episcopacy in the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester.

The Episcopal Church USA is the American branch of the Anglican Communion, an association of independent national churches, which originated with the Church of England. In contrast to the large denominations in the United States, the Episcopal Church has been wrestling with questions surrounding the ordination of openly lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered congregations and clergy within the church.

Gavin Phillips, a member of St Thomas Episcopal Church and the Committee on Episcopacy in the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester.

The Episcopal Church USA is the American branch of the Anglican Communion, an association of independent national churches, which originated with the Church of England. In contrast to the large denominations in the United States, the Episcopal Church has been wrestling with questions surrounding the ordination of openly lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered congregations and clergy within the church.

Gavin Phillips, a member of St Thomas Episcopal Church and the Committee on Episcopacy in the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester.

The Episcopal Church USA is the American branch of the Anglican Communion, an association of independent national churches, which originated with the Church of England. In contrast to the large denominations in the United States, the Episcopal Church has been wrestling with questions surrounding the ordination of openly lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered congregations and clergy within the church.

Gavin Phillips, a member of St Thomas Episcopal Church and the Committee on Episcopacy in the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester.

The Episcopal Church USA is the American branch of the Anglican Communion, an association of independent national churches, which originated with the Church of England. In contrast to the large denominations in the United States, the Episcopal Church has been wrestling with questions surrounding the ordination of openly lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered congregations and clergy within the church.

Gavin Phillips, a member of St Thomas Episcopal Church and the Committee on Episcopacy in the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester.

The Episcopal Church USA is the American branch of the Anglican Communion, an association of independent national churches, which originated with the Church of England. In contrast to the large denominations in the United States, the Episcopal Church has been wrestling with questions surrounding the ordination of openly lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered congregations and clergy within the church.

Gavin Phillips, a member of St Thomas Episcopal Church and the Committee on Episcopacy in the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester.

The Episcopal Church USA is the American branch of the Anglican Communion, an association of independent national churches, which originated with the Church of England. In contrast to the large denominations in the United States, the Episcopal Church has been wrestling with questions surrounding the ordination of openly lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered congregations and clergy within the church.

Gavin Phillips, a member of St Thomas Episcopal Church and the Committee on Episcopacy in the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester.

The Episcopal Church USA is the American branch of the Anglican Communion, an association of independent national churches, which originated with the Church of England. In contrast to the large denominations in the United States, the Episcopal Church has been wrestling with questions surrounding the ordination of openly lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered congregations and clergy within the church.

Gavin Phillips, a member of St Thomas Episcopal Church and the Committee on Episcopacy in the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester.

The Episcopal Church USA is the American branch of the Anglican Communion, an association of independent national churches, which originated with the Church of England. In contrast to the large denominations in the United States, the Episcopal Church has been wrestling with questions surrounding the ordination of openly lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered congregations and clergy within the church.

Gavin Phillips, a member of St Thomas Episcopal Church and the Committee on Episcopacy in the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester.

The Episcopal Church USA is the American branch of the Anglican Communion, an association of independent national churches, which originated with the Church of England. In contrast to the large denominations in the United States, the Episcopal Church has been wrestling with questions surrounding the ordination of openly lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered congregations and clergy within the church.

Gavin Phillips, a member of St Thomas Episcopal Church and the Committee on Episcopacy in the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester.
Women's RESOURCES

HEALTH:
Monroe County Women's Health Partnership.
111 Westfall Rd., Rochester NY 14692; (585)274-6978. Comprehensive breast cancer screening services for uninsured and underinsured women.

Elizabeth Wendle Breast Clinic.
170 Baggsgrass Drive, 442-8482; Dr. Wendle Logen-Yang and an all-woman staff provide mammograms.

AIDS Rochester: Women's Health Outreach.
1350 University Ave. ARI has services for HIV positive women and others in the lesbian community. 442-2250.

Community Health Network.
87 N. Clinton Ave. 244-9000; TTY (585)461-9025. HIV and Primary care medical services for HIV positive women, their negative partners and family members. OB/GYN, HIV pre-test and post-test counseling. Confidential or free HIV testing.

Alternatives for Batter+ Women.
232-7353; TTY 232-1741, Shatter (women only), counseling. Lesbians, gay men welcome.

Victim Resource Center of Wayne County.
Newark N.Y. Hotline 800-455-1172; office (513)521-1171; fax (513)521-1169.

Mary Magdalene House.
Women's Outreach center for HIV positive women and women at risk. 291 South Main St. Open Mon-Fri. 8:30-9:30 pm 456-5728.

POLITICAL:
National Organization for Women (Greater Rochester NOW).
PO Box 9190; (585)461-1310. E-mail: info@rochesternow.org Web page: http://www.rochesternow.org.

CULTURAL:
Rochester Women's Community Church.
234-4411; (See Ongoing Calendar).

SPORTS:
Rochester Renegades Women's Rugby.
New players always welcome, any skill level. We will teach you the game. Hotline 692-2304; 3000; online at www.renegades-rugby.com.

Rochester Raptors.

ONLINE:
Roche+Dykes/ www.rykies.com; e-mail sabrinabeach@yahoo.com.

WOW/ gaysource.org.

WOWr/ @aol.com.

SPECTRUM:
Rochester Ny Lesbians.
http://groups.aol.com/rochesterlesbians

GENERAL:
Pride & Joy Families.
See Ongoing Calendar.

Rochester Gay Mas's Group.
Support group for gay men interested in expanding their knowledge of gay male sexuality. Call 585.442.2220.

Women's Resource Center.
YWCA, 175 N. Clinton Ave. 548-7740.

Butch-Femme Connection.
Rather, 8:55-9:19, or e-mail DressyFemme@aol.com.

Color Outside the Line Crew.
Contact Jackie Williams, 462-4949.

Check our monthly and ongoing Calendars and the Gay Groups section for more woman-centered groups and events, and call the Gay/lesbian Hotline for referrals, at 614-6580.

And send us your information!

Free testing for HIV.
Exposure is available from New York State Department of Health: call Rochester Area Regional Hotline at (585)423-8081, or 1-800-962-5563 for pay phones or calls outside Rochester. Deaf or hearing impaired people should call (585)423-8120 (TDD). New Rapid HIV Testing now available--tests results in 30-40 minutes! Statewide information can be obtained by calling 1-800-541-AIDS. Other organizations which provide AIDS-related services are as follows:

AIDS Rochester, Inc.
1350 University Ave., Rochester NY 14607. Provide, support services for people with HIV/AIDS and their families; presents educational programs related to HIV/AIDS to community groups; offers free, confidential testing every Monday and Thursday, 5-8 pm (no appointment necessary). Also testing on Outreach Van throughout city. Contact information: business line (585)422-2200; TTY: www.aidscenter.org, Rural counties served by ARI offices in Geneva (1-800-422-0282) and Bath (1-800-964-2437).

Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley.
Provides referrals to physicians and service agencies. Person on duty Mon./Fri. 9-9 pm; Saturday in season. Contact: 855-422-0282.

Center for Health and Behavioral Training of Monroe County.
691 St. Paul Blvd., 4th floor. Collaboration of Monroe County Health Department and U.R. Provides year-round training in prevention and management of STDs, HIV, TB and related issues, such as domestic violence and case management. (585)533-4382 (TTY). (585)533-8287.

AIDS Community Health Center (arches).
87 N. Clinton Ave. (4th floor). Compares HIV care and primary medical care for HIV positive individuals, their negative partners, and adult family members. ACHC provides nutritional evaluation, vision screenings, gynecological care, medical case management/counseling, and substance abuse counseling. The Center also offers outpatient treatments and interventions onsite, liaison nurses to coordinate home care needs, educational resources and support groups, an active Patient Advisory Committee (PAC), access to clinical trials, lab reference, and referrals to psychotherapy and other specialized health services. (585)244-9000. TTY (585)461-9202.

Rochester Area Task Force on AIDS
(BATAF) is a collection of agencies providing a multiplicity of resources and services to the upstate New York community. Their offices are located through the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency, which also provides medical literature and newspaper clippings, as well as demographic and statistical data for use in developing health care services. (585)461-3820

Men of Color Health Awareness Project (MOCHA).
HIV prevention focus for men who have sex with men (MSM) in the minority community. Support groups, one on one peer education, safer sex workshops, referral services, buddy testing. Sibley Tower Building, 25 Franklin St., Suite 1050. 600-1400.

Monroe County Health Department.
1855 W. Main St., offers testing and counseling for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. (585)464-9229.

Strong Memorial Hospital.
Provides a complete range of HIV medical care, including access to experimental treatment protocols, and HIV testing. Also provides individual and group psychotherapy. Training of health care professionals also available. Infectious Disease Clinic, (585) 275-6586. Department of

AIDS DIRECTORY

FREE TESTING:
Rochester Area Rapid Testing.
(See Monroe County Health Department).

CONFIDENTIAL TESTING:
Erie County.

CULTURAL:
Rochester Raptors.

ONLINE:
WOWr/ gaysource.org.

SPECTRUM:
Rochester Ny Lesbians.
http://groups.aol.com/rochesterlesbians

GENERAL:
Pride & Joy Families.
See Ongoing Calendar.

Rochester Gay Mas's Group.
Support group for gay men interested in expanding their knowledge of gay male sexuality. Contact 1-800-541-AIDS. Other organizations which provide AIDS-related services are as follows:

AIDS Rochester, Inc.
1350 University Ave., Rochester NY 14607. Provide, support services for people with HIV/AIDS and their families; presents educational programs related to HIV/AIDS to community groups; offers free, confidential testing every Monday and Thursday, 5-8 pm (no appointment necessary). Also testing on Outreach Van throughout city. Contact information: business line (585)422-2200; TTY: www.aidscenter.org, Rural counties served by ARI offices in Geneva (1-800-422-0282) and Bath (1-800-964-2437).

Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley.
Provides referrals to physicians and service agencies. Person on duty Mon./Fri. 9-9 pm; Saturday in season. Contact: 855-422-0282.

Center for Health and Behavioral Training of Monroe County.
691 St. Paul Blvd., 4th floor. Collaboration of Monroe County Health Department and U.R. Provides year-round training in prevention and management of STDs, HIV, TB and related issues, such as domestic violence and case management. (585)533-4382 (TTY). (585)533-8287.

AIDS Community Health Center (arches).
87 N. Clinton Ave. (4th floor). Compares HIV care and primary medical care for HIV positive individuals, their negative partners, and adult family members. ACHC provides nutritional evaluation, vision screenings, gynecological care, medical case management/counseling, and substance abuse counseling. The Center also offers outpatient treatments and interventions onsite, liaison nurses to coordinate home care needs, educational resources and support groups, an active Patient Advisory Committee (PAC), access to clinical trials, lab reference, and referrals to psychotherapy and other specialized health services. (585)244-9000. TTY (585)461-9202.

Rochester Area Task Force on AIDS
(BATAF) is a collection of agencies providing a multiplicity of resources and services to the upstate New York community. Their offices are located through the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency, which also provides medical literature and newspaper clippings, as well as demographic and statistical data for use in developing health care services. (585)461-3820

Men of Color Health Awareness Project (MOCHA).
HIV prevention focus for men who have sex with men (MSM) in the minority community. Support groups, one on one peer education, safer sex workshops, referral services, buddy testing. Sibley Tower Building, 25 Franklin St., Suite 1050. 600-1400.

Monroe County Health Department.
1855 W. Main St., offers testing and counseling for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. (585)464-9229.

Strong Memorial Hospital.
Provides a complete range of HIV medical care, including access to experimental treatment protocols, and HIV testing. Also provides individual and group psychotherapy. Training of health care professionals also available. Infectious Disease Clinic, (585) 275-6586. Department of
Monroe County Department of Health STD Clinic phone: (585) 546-9588

Monroe Community College Student Health Services phone: (585) 292-2618 (MCC Students only)

Highland Hospital Nursing Staff Hobart & William Smith College Health Services phone: (518) 436-3040

Rochester Institute of Technology Student Health Services phone: (585) 475-2255 (RIT Students only)

Threshold Center for Alternative Youth Services phone: (585) 454-7530 (serving ages 12-25)

Women Gynecology & Childbirth Association, Inc. phone: 585-244-3430 (Main Office)

List compiled by AIDS Rochester, Inc. Further information on this list and related gay health topics available at http://www.aidsrochester.org/gayhealth

This list is under construction. If you are a provider, or know of one who would like to be included in this directory, please call Erek Lieby at 442-2220 for more information.

Keep your Help, Lose the Hassle:

Employee leasing is the simplest way to handle:

- Payroll
- Workers Comp
- Unemployment
- NYS Disability
- Employee Benefit Plans

(with Domestic Partner coverage)

No business too small.

We help existing, new and seasonal companies.

16+ years industry experience.

Employ-Ease
“Make it Easy to Employ”
1125 Park Avenue · Rochester · 242-9513

First Unitarian Church
Worship Services
Family Service
Religious Education Class

MORNING REFRESHMENTS
AUGUST 1 - AUGUST 30

Counseling Services
Energy Therapies

MAXINE McDONALD
CSW-R, CASAC

(585) 244-9550

ONTARIO, NY AND
1427 MONROE AVE., ROCHESTER, NY 14618
WEB: HTTP://HOME.ROCHESTER.RR.COM/MAXMCC

Counselling Services

Russow Consulting

TARA RUSSOW, Ph.D.
CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST

120 Allens Creek Road
Rochester, NY 14618

(585) 442-4447

www.RussowConsulting.com

Gay Health

Anthony Jordan Health Center
Planned Parenthood of Rochester and Genesee Valley

offers testing and information (585) 546-2990.

Threshold Youth Center
provides confidential testing for young people ages 12-25. Fees on sliding scale, no one denied service. Threshold Center for Alternative Youth Services, 80 St. Paul St. 454-7530. Free oral HIV testing Thursday 2-4 pm, ages 12-25.

Rural HIV testing
anonymous and confidential, in Allegany, Livingston, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne or Yates Counties, call 1-800-502-5063.

Action Front Center
(Action for a Better Community.) Provides HIV prevention education and case management services. Training and technical assistance to service providers. Resource library open to public. All services free and confidential. Multicultural and bilingual staff. Jeannel Noble, program manager 33 Chestnut St. second floor. Hours 8:30-5 pm, Monday-Friday. 262-4330; fax 262-4572. Free anonymous HIV testing on walk-in basis, Thursdays 9 am-4 pm, provided through NYSODH at Action Front Center, 242 Andrews St. Can­ mere­ Hau. 262-4330.

Anthony Jordan Health Center
Prevention Counseling and Testing Program
Part of national initiative to increase testing among communities of color, targeting the GLBT population. Provides prevention case management, educational presentations, and access to other Jordan services. Prevention Counseling & Testing is a walk-in program; no appointments necessary. Office hours Mon.-Fri., 8:30 am­5 pm; extended hours on Mondays until 8 pm. (585)423-2822; fax 423-2893. Website: www.jordanhealthctr.org. For more information call Program Manager Pearlie Breedlove-Luttrell, (585)423-2874.

Evergreen Health Services, Buffalo,
Primary care, HIV and family care, HIV testing and counseling. (716)487-0319.

CDC National STD and AIDS Hotline
1-800-222-1222.

Thank you for your continued support.

SANDYRELLA CLEANING SERVICES
Make your home or office sparkle like a castle.

Fully insured. Call for a free estimate today.

Sandy Jacobs
(585) 787-2081 • Cell: (585) 762-4604
sandyrellaclean@aol.com

Our hardworking diverse pan-ethnic crew
encompasses the cuisine of China, Japan, Thailand and Vietnam. With ample portions and affordable prices set in a fun setting.

noodle co.

585.244.1052

muy sabroso, muy económico

AJA

AJA noodle co. 2602 Elmdorf Ave. Located at the 12 corners in Brighton. Just look for the Red Awnings!

noodle co.

585.244.1052

muy sabroso, muy económico

AJA

AJA noodle co. 2602 Elmdorf Ave. Located at the 12 corners in Brighton. Just look for the Red Awnings!"
Exploring New York City's forgotten boroughs

BY MERLE EXIT

Tourists flocking to New York City all seem to converge in Manhattan, only one of five boroughs. When you jet off to LaGuardia or JFK airports, you are in the borough of Queens. Take advantage of it, as accommodations can be less expensive and easily accessible to Manhattan, and Queens certainly has enough to see and do.

Long Island City and Astoria are the closest communities to the island of Broadway and are rich in culture and arts. The Isamu Noguchi Garden Museum, 32-37 Vernon Blvd. (718-760-0064), just across the way from the USTA National Tennis Center (718-760-6200) is happening. Along came the 1964 World's Fair, where it was transformed into the New York City Pavilion with its special indoor ride, a tour that allowed you to view an exact panoramic replica of the five boroughs of NYC. The ride is gone, but the replicas had been updated, so as you walk around, you can even find your own. Oh, yes, half of the building went back to being an indoor ice skating rink. In close proximity is Queens Theatre in the Park (718-760-0064), former site of the 1964 NY State Pavilion. You'll recognize the tower used in the movie "Men In Black". The theatre is an excellent alternative to off-Broadway shows. Walk across the footbridge and you'll see the Hall of Science (718-699-0675), another leftover from 1964. It's one of the best hands on Science centers in the U.S. The Queens Zoo (718-271-1500) is nearby. Small, but worth visiting.

If you happen to be here during the U.S. Open, the new Arthur Ashe Stadium, part of the USTA National Tennis Center (718-760-6200) is in walking distance of the Queens Museum, just across the way from the park is the home of the Mets, Shea Stadium. The area is quite accessible and is home to many aqua wildlife and loads of fun for all ages. Manhattan is the closest communities to the island. Queens and Brooklyn are part of Long Island and both Manhattan and Staten Island are islands of its own.

Most of the boroughs have their own botanical gardens, but not like the Bronx Botanical Gardens (718-817-8700). Huge and absolutely breathtaking! A minimum half day's event. What's more is that the gardens are directly across from the Bronx Zoo. The Bronx is actually the only borough on the mainland. Queens and Brooklyn are part of Long Island and both Manhattan and Staten Island are islands of its own.

Experience the riches of the Bronx by taking the free Bronx Tour Trolley, available on weekends. The trolley provides a convenient link from the Fort Hamilton Plaza Metro-North station...
to the Bronx Zoo, The New York Botanical Garden, and Arthur Avenue (home to Bronx’s Little Italy) at 187th Street. For a schedule and more information, visit www.ilovethebronx.com or call (718) 590-3518.

Have I left out Staten Island? Sorry. To be honest, it’s one borough that I barely frequent. It’s only accessible by ferry or bridge.

Oh yeah, I did go there last year when the New York Sharks had their venue there for two games.

BUT... if you do go into Manhattan, Susan Rosenbaum loves to talk about food. So much so that she refers to herself as "The Enthusiastic Gourmet". Susan conducts food tours such as "Chinatown Discovered", the one that I experienced. I chose this particular tour as I find myself shopping more and more in Oriental food stores and not knowing what the produce is about.

Susan handed me an Asian Vegetable Preparation Guideline, a list of vegetables with the best way to cook them. We stopped at some of the fruit and vegetable stands as she pointed out the items and sampled a few of the fruits.

Having done much of her shopping in Chinatown, we went to two of her favorite grocery stores where they sold meat, fish, fruits, vegetables and prepared foods to go. I was instructed that it’s best to buy a whole fish as one does not know how long the filleted item has been hanging around. You could, of course smell it before you purchase it. Fresh fish should not have a smell. With whole fish, look at the eyes of the fish to see if they are clear, not cloudy and check under the gills to see that it is red and not brown.

Dim Sum and then to Aji Ichiban for the Asian version of snacks. Bubble Tea is the fad. The more common drinks are composed of large tapioca, juice or tea and milk. Ten Ren Tea and Ginseng Co. was a stop, as well as Chinatown Ice Cream Factory where I sampled two flavors: ginger and lychee.

The food tours are both a learning and fabulous taste bud experience. Other Enthusiastic Gourmet tours are The Melting Pot (Latin, Kosher, Chinese and Italian); NY Nosh (the Jewish Lower East Side) and Ninth Avenue aka Hell’s Kitchen with something for everyone. Check out Susan’s website of www.enthusiasticgourment.com or call 646-209-4724.

I’m off to Flushing!
sexuality than the English, Canadian and American branches. For example, the western Canadian Diocese of New Westminster has decided to permit its clergy to bless gay relationships. Some of the conservative overseas churches have refused to meet with leaders of the Ugandan church, and there have been calls to suspend the Americans from the Anglican Communion.

A commission seeking to resolve the crisis over Bishop Robinson’s election and other gay issues concluded its deliberations on Sept. 10 and announced that it would publish its report on Oct. 18. Before the meeting, the chair of the commission, Irish Archbishop Robin Eames, said he would recommend radical changes in the ways Anglicans relates to its different constituencies. The commission is expected to publish its report in London at the start of a meeting of senior Anglican officials.

The archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, is the head of the communion, but has no authority to veto the actions of the 38 national constituting churches. Archbishop Williams, who has acknowledged ordaining a priest that he knew to be gay when he was a Welsh bishop, has been critical of the Episcopal Church for allowing Bishop Robinson to be installed without first reaching agreement within the communion.

Eight of 107 Episcopal dioceses in the United States have joined the Network of Anglican Communion Dioceses and Parishes, which was created by disgruntled clergy opposed to developments within the national church. In September, the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles announced that its diocese was filing lawsuits against three parishes in Virginia that have refused to install their own bishop because of his support of Bishop Robinson’s election. Dr. Carey stated that he was invited by the bishop of Virginia, PeterLee, whom he praised for his “spirit of generosity and humility as a demonstration that it is possible to avoid schism, if American bishops pay attention to the many Episcopalians who are exceedingly distressed by the consecration of Gene Robinson.

The Diocese of Rochester has a long and honorable history of offering support to its lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community over a number of years. Rochester was the first diocese with its own bishop who is a gay man. The current bishop, Michael Hopkins, past president of Integrity USA, an advocacy group for LGBT Episcopalians. However, controversial such developments may be within the national and world church in the short-term, the Committee for Gay and Lesbian Ministry of this diocese is confident that justice will prevail. For more information on the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, visit its website at: <http://www.rochesterepiscopaldiocese.org/>

For a copy of a brochure, which lists the acknowledged ordaining dioceses and affirming parishes in the diocese, please call 585-473-2977 or write to Diocesan House, 935 East Ave., Rochester, NY 14607.

A lubricant for everyone!

“Slippery when wet” or “wet and wild,” have your choice! All things sound better when the word wet is involved, and of course, there is no difference between the two. Lubricant is an important part of sex, especially for both pleasure and safety. Since “wetter is better,” it’s important to know about the different types of lubricants available and why some would choose one over another.

The first thing for a woman to consider when choosing a lubricant is what the lubricant will be used for. As a general rule, if you are looking for the most versatile lubricant, a water-based (and latex-friendly) lub is best. However, if you are not using latex condoms or sex toys, you may want to use a silicone or oil-based lubricant. Remember that it is always a good idea to use protection, such as condoms, with any sexual activity, so if you are in the market for just one lubricant, make sure it is safe to use with condoms.

Second, a woman should consider whether the lubricant needs to be spermicidal based. Some lubricants can contain Nonoxynol-9, a chemical that can reduce the chance of pregnancy. In recent years, it has been found that using spermicides may cause vaginal irritation or an allergic reaction, which could put you or your partner at greater risk for STIs (sexually transmitted infection). If you are concerned about the risks associated with spermicides, or have experienced any irritation in the past, it is best to seek medical attention and choose a non-spermicidal lubricant.

The next thing to consider when choosing a lubricant is what formula you may need. Lubricants come in four basic formulas: glycerin/water-based, silicone-based, petroleum-based and oil-based. All of the lubricants are safe and may have hypo-allergenic options, but they all serve very different purposes when it comes to sex. If you are looking for a lube that is both latex-friendly and can be used safely for any sexual activity or sex toy, water or glycerin-based lubes are best.

Silicone-based lubricants tend to last longer than the other types of lubricants and they are waterproof, so they can be used for underwater activities. Silicone-based lubricants cannot be used with silicone sex toys, but they will work just fine with any latex-based products. Petroleum-based lubricants should never be used with latex condoms or toys. They may cause vaginal irritation and are only recommended for male masturbation or anal play. And lastly, oil-based lubricants should also not be used with any latex materials, but can make great lubricants when using polyurethane condoms, like the female condom, or during masturbation. With that said, if you are still not sure which lubricant to choose, check out the packaging, it may be helpful.

When it comes to consistency, it is all about personal preference. Most silicone or water-based lubricants tend to be lighter and slick, while many petroleum or oil-based lubricants are much thicker. It all depends on what you prefer.

And now, the last thing to consider in your search for the perfect lubricant. Would you like it, flavored, scented, or temperature sensitive? You can find some pretty great options in this area that can bring a touch of flavor or a splash of scent to your toy box. Lubricants may also provide a warming sensation or desensitize the genitals for a longer lasting encounter. But did you know the world of lube was so far reaching, did you?

So that’s it — all you need to know to find the perfect lubricant. For more help check out our www.condomania.org or Ask an Educator on www.pppns.org. Good luck and enjoy!

Viagra

"What happened to the man who over-dosed on Viagra? They couldn’t shut his coffin!

We’ve all heard jokes about the drug Viagra — but it isn’t always a laugh- getter. In fact, the use of Viagra can have some pretty important health effects. Knowing those effects becomes increasingly important when you consider that not only is Viagra being prescribed more and more often now, but it has also become a very popular recreational drug — especially in the gay community.

Viagra, also known as sildenafil citrate (its chemical name), is the drug most commonly prescribed by doctors to treat impotence. It is generally prescribed as a 50 or 100mg pill. It works by helping your arteries to open wider to bring more blood into the penis when you are sexually stimulated. The effects usually start within an hour and can last for four to six hours... although more recently new forms of the drug including gummies, lozenges, and liquid forms have been released that can start working in a much shorter time.

So why do people use Viagra? Clearly, many people use it because their doctor has prescribed it to help them deal with physical problems getting and/or keeping an erection. Many others, however, use it more for fun than for medical reasons. Reasons for this range from simple experimen-
tion... to taking it because they believe it will give them a bigger, harder, longer erection. The danger is that men will continue to take it even after losing their erection... to taking it to counteract the effects of another drug they are taking that might make them impotent (such as ecstasy or crystal meth). Regardless of the reason for taking Viagra, however, the health consequences are the same.

Some of the most common health concerns about using Viagra are:

* Side Effects: In some men it causes painful headaches, distorted vision, and/or stomach upset.
* Priapism: In some rare cases, Viagra has caused men to get an erection that will not go away even after several hours... while this might SOUND fun it is actually very dangerous and can permanently damage the penis.
* Drug Interactions: Viagra can have dangerous interactions to other drugs. Combined with some prescription drugs (including some HIV meld antibiotics and heart medications that contain nitrates) it has led to severe complications and in some men even death. It can also react with recreational drugs. A perfect example is its use with poppers... a combo that causes a drastic drop in blood pressure and can be fatal.
* STD/HIV Risk: Viagra is used to facilitate sex... so it may increase the risk of the spreading of HIV and other STDs if you are not careful.

Here are a few recommendations for minimizing the above risks if you choose to use Viagra for medical or recreational purposes:

* Avoid combining drugs... especially those that are KNOWN to cause harmful effects (like poppers).
* Use only the recommended dosing... standard dosing is 50mg at a time not to exceed 100mg in a 24 hour period. Many men think they will have greater harmful effects (like poppers).

Of course always consider practicing safe sex protect against HIV and other STDs.

* Seek medical help immediately if you develop strange or unusual symptoms or if you experience an erection that will not go away after an extended period of time.

Because of the secrecy surrounding their identity, the specific health and human service needs of light seniors are particularly difficult to outline due to the lack of published reports.

**Needs of LGBT Seniors Transgender Awareness**

Studies have acknowledged the difficulties in sampling and service provision that have been found with transgender individuals. Specifically, transgender individuals have been left out of the limited published studies, and this population will be "the first generation to reach old age in sufficient numbers."(Cook-Daniels 2002) Research and data on the needs and challenges of transgender seniors is needed in order to address this growing population.

Health care provider education

As LGBT seniors age, they may have more frequent contact with health care providers and these providers may lack the knowledge and sensitivity to provide quality care. Education on specific obstacles and issues faced by LGBT people needs to be incorporated into health care curricula to ensure that these needs are addressed.

**Outreach and Support**

Throughout New York, seniors are living longer and studies have shown that LGBT seniors are at an increased risk for social isolation and loneliness. Many LGBT seniors experience this lack of connection and social support for community-based organizations that serve transgender seniors, develop base of anecdotal evidence on the unaddressed needs of transgender individuals as they age. Using this information, advocate for additional research and education around the needs of transgender seniors.

Develop educational materials for health care providers that address the specific needs of LGBT seniors. Incorporate these materials into mainstream providers existing curriculum and survey LGBT seniors on their experiences throughout the state.

Advocate for increased funding and support for community-based organizations which address the underserved needs of LGBT seniors in NYS. Supporting community networks, which are the primary defenders against isolation and loneliness, and advocating for legislation that expands the definition of family to include the diverse structures LGBT seniors may have created for themselves are essential in addressing the risks that LGBT seniors face in isolation and fear.

Recently a letter of support for Neal Lane, Acting Director for the NYS Office of the Aging, was sent out by the Senior Issues Work Group, recommending his permanent appointment to his current post. Mr. Lane has consistently demonstrated his sensitivity to and support of the issues of LGBT seniors and at the ESPA conference he was very open about his interest and willingness to dialog with our community on the critical issues affecting our senior members.

Letters outlining our most pressing concerns are currently being drafted and will be directed to Mr. Lane's office as well as Tiple A across New York State. It is hoped that we will be able to gain an audience with Mr. Lane in the next few months. I'll do my best to keep the Rochester LGBT community abreast of developments.

Next month: Why all the fuss over 2015?

*Entertainment news continued from page 4*

Two concerts set for World AIDS Day

Two concerts are planned for World AIDS Day. One on Dec. 1 and the second on Dec. 4.

The Dec. 1 concert is produced by Thomas Warfield and will take place at Unity Church, 55 Prince St. at 7 p.m. Admission is $10 and tickets are available at Outlandish and The Pride Connection.

The Dec. 4 concert, "Women and AIDS," will be at Kodak's Theatre on the Ridge, from 7 to 9 p.m. Thomas Warfield, the School of the Arts Jazz Band, Clyde Morgan and others will perform.

Donations will go to selected world charities that support women with HIV/AIDS and/or orphans of HIV/AIDS. See Calendar, page C10, for more information.

---

**Senior Moment**

**BY TODD PLANK**

**Issues on the table**

This month I confess to taking the easy way out. The information I'm sharing was researched and written by Nyla Yates, Coalition Coordinator for the Empire State Pride Agenda (ESPA).

Nora was a key organizer of the first ever statewide conference of the New York State LGBT Health in Human Services Network (held Sept. 9-10, at which some time was designated to discussing the needs of LGBT seniors, and she is acting facilitator of the LGBT Senior Issues Work Group, a coalition of senior advocacy groups and agencies from across the state. Sherlea Dony, a board member of the local RSWNY and I are on this task force, along with Kim Dill from SAGE Upstate, several individuals representing LGBT organizations in New York City (SAGE, The Loft, etc.) and others. I wanted to share some of the current issues currently on the table as we seek to identify and address needs, gaps, and resources for LGBT seniors.

First, a brief overview of the common situation of many older adults as we take our first tentative steps into the 21st century. "Ageing in isolation, LGBT seniors remain majorly ‘in the closet.’" Several studies which have tried to assess the specific needs of this community have been unable to do so due to the lack of self-identification.

Next steps to address the needs of LGBT seniors

* Working with community-based organizations that serve transgender seniors, develop base of anecdotal evidence on the unaddressed needs of transgender individuals as they age.
* Using this information, advocate for additional research and education around the needs of transgender seniors.
* Develop educational materials for health care providers that address the specific needs of LGBT seniors. Incorporate these materials into mainstream providers existing curriculum and survey LGBT seniors on their experiences throughout the state.

Advocate for increased funding and support for community-based organizations which address the underserved needs of LGBT seniors in NYS. Supporting community networks, which are the primary defenders against isolation and loneliness, and advocating for legislation that expands the definition of family to include the diverse structures LGBT seniors may have created for themselves are essential in addressing the risks that LGBT seniors face in isolation and fear.

Recently a letter of support for Neal Lane, Acting Director for the NYS Office of the Aging, was sent out by the Senior Issues Work Group, recommending his permanent appointment to his current post. Mr. Lane has consistently demonstrated his sensitivity to and support of the issues of LGBT seniors and at the ESPA conference he was very open about his interest and willingness to dialog with our community on the critical issues affecting our senior members.

Letters outlining our most pressing concerns are currently being drafted and will be directed to Mr. Lane’s office as well as Tiple A across New York State. It is hoped that we will be able to gain an audience with Mr. Lane in the next few months. I’ll do my best to keep the Rochester LGBT community abreast of developments.

Next month: Why all the fuss over 2015?

---

**CT’s Image Creations!!**

Gay owned and operated

GREECE RIDGE CENTER

585-339-9957

www.ctsimagecreations.com

image@frontier.net

Order securely online

Specializing in Photo

Tee Shirts

Hats

Mugs

Balloon-A-Grams

Mouse Pads

Felt Posters

Calendars

Keychains

Buttons

---

**MARK SIWEC**

REALTOR

585-218-6825

www.markswiec.com

---
Pet Talk with Tulip:
Georgia on my mind

BY MISS TULIP (AS TOLD TO TODD PLANK)

Well My Dears,

It appears that the cat is out of the bag. And when I say cat, I'm not refer­ring to that flea-bitten feline Circa (see the Youth Pages for Circa's attempt at a column). By now most of my readers know that Miss Tulip is headed South... to Atlanta, Georgia, to be exact. My human companion has taken a position (he's very versatile) with Georgia Equality and so I am packing my steamer trunk and preparing for the move to warmer climes.

I will continue to serve as the Southern correspondent for the Empty Closet; however, recognizing the necessity of having local representation for the LGBT pet community, the GAVG will be seeking an outgoing, well spoken, pet personality to serve as the acting ED (Elegant Dog).

Interested parties should send in a writing sample and current photo (this is not the planet out personals column, so please send in a real photo... no Benji or Lassie pics!) The ideal candidate would have a background in activism, be photogenic, have exceptional fashion sense, and possess a biting wit.

Miss Tulip will continue to make occasional appearances in the Empty Closet and will be keeping close tabs on that rabbie rouser (or mouser) Circa (Cat Chatter). Miss T has done her best to make the gay animal companion contingent during her reign in Rochester, and she is very disturbed by Circa's prejudiced remarks about her canine counterparts.

I hope that Circa will get over herself and use her influence to promote respect for the diversity in the animal queerdom. (See Cat Chat, page 6D, for Circa's conciliatory remarks.)

Miss Tulip has been proud to serve as the celebrity extraordinary for LGBT pets in the Greater Rochester Area and she will continue her proud tradition of advocacy in her new home, Georgia, here I come! Luv and Au Revoir, AufWiedersehen and Sayonara,

Miss Tulip

Objective advice for the LGBT community from one of your own!

Apropos Financial Planning

Fee-only
Kay Conheady, Principal
kconheady@aproposfp.com
www.aproposfp.com
Phone: (585) 533-1950
Fax: (585) 533-6420

AIDS Community Health Center* helps people with HIV live longer, healthier lives.

Our expert doctors, caring counselors, and on-site services provide complete care in a supportive, friendly environment.

*Formerly Community Health Network

Expert Doctors.
Compassionate Support.
On-Site Services.

AIDS Community Health Center
87 North Clinton Ave.
4th Floor
Rochester, NY 14604
(585) 344-9020
www.achcRochester.org

Confidential HIV testing available.
Well, let's see... Bird and I are sitting in jail cells for the next six months. I wouldn't exactly claim a great victory.


Do you still love Bird?

Of course—more than ever.

Then have they really won?

Give me that harmonica, you crazy old coot!

And when the skies are looking gray

Shall I send a guard around with more muzzles, sir?

For God's sake, man! Don't you know when to stop?! Let them sing! They're not hurting anyone.

I look for you. I look for you.

The End

Christina Smith
Licensed Massage Therapist

585•464•8957

Trick or treat continued

THE CHOSEN FAMILY

by Norman Stevens

Tiny Henderson at 12:00 clock

and heading straight this way... God, she's beautiful...

We use to give each other luxurious back rubs

I wonder what became of her...

Oh yeah... I came out during my first term of university...

I was dying for you to die for you to come back to high school

Remember those back rubs?

Hang on. I'm in a committed relationship and don't polyamory...
ON SALE NOW!

WINNER!
THE MOST TONY AWARDS IN BROADWAY HISTORY!

LEWIS J. STADLEN

THE PRODUCERS
the new
MEL BROOKS
musical

ALAN RUCK

THE LAUGHS ARE JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY!

DECEMBER 14–19
AUDITORIUM THEATER

Call ticketmaster (585) 232-1900 or visit www.ticketmaster.com

Tickets also available at the Auditorium Theatre Box Office

Groups 20+ call (585) 222-5000
Youth update:

October was busy, with ImageOut films, Youth Center dance, new EC Youth Pages

BY TOBY GREENFIELD

October was an incredibly busy and productive month for our Youth Program. Along with seeing a bunch of great ImageOut films, hosting our first dance at the Youth Center, and starting up several after-school and evening specialty groups, we also put together our first Youth Pages feature for the Empty Closet!

We appreciate all the great feedback and support, and hope you continue reading. Please see this month’s Youth Pages (C6-7).

We also want to send out a special thank you to Ross and Kelly Faehnle and all their friends for the wonderful benefit concert they put on for our Youth Program. We were overwhelmed by their kindness and support, and can not thank them enough for their generosity and big hearts.

If you were unable to attend the benefit and would like to make a donation to our Youth Program, contributions are always accepted at the GAGV administrative offices.

And while we’re thanking people, we also want to give a big thank you to the Empire Bears for donating a portion of the proceeds from their Oct. 2 Teddy Bear Auction to our Youth Program. Your continued support means a great deal to us.

We are continuing to add specialty groups to our Youth Program. This month our new groups include a Book Club, Movie Night, and an Art Therapy Group.

Please check out our Youth Website at http://youth.gayalliance.org for more information on days and times.

I also continue to look for new volunteers who want to contribute their talents to our Youth Program. We’re especially interested in a yoga/meditation instructor.

Please contact me at 244-8640 if you’re interested. The amount of time you volunteer is entirely up to you. You can come in and do a one-time group, or you can make it a monthly or weekly group.

You’ll be making some youth (and one Youth Director) very happy!!!

Family Matters

Calling All Dads (and Mid-Life Mommies)

BY TODD PLANK

On an early autumn day in October, while I was driving around the Park Avenue area, I found myself trailing behind a white Subaru Forester decorated with a subtle pride sticker on the rear window, an HRC sticker on the bumper, and a license plate that read 2DADS.

I was so excited that I had to resist the temptation to toot my horn, pull up next to the vehicle, and flag it down. Since it’s not every day that you run across two gay dads in your travels, I was pleasantly surprised to discover a gay couple celebrating their fatherhood in such a public way. This unexpected encounter gave me cause to revisit a question that I’ve been asking myself periodically over the past nine months: “Where are the gay dads in Rochester?”

Since the launching of the Rochester Pride & Joy Families group last winter, there has been a sizable number of lesbian couples, as well as some single moms, attending our monthly gatherings, but there has only been one pair of gay dads (Jim and Jeff and their two adopted sons) who have appeared at Rochester Pride (R&P) socials.

According to a little number of light people in the Greater Rochester Area (a conservative estimate is 70,000), I know that there have to be other gay couples and single gay men raising young children. I have heard through the grapevine of reports of local gay men who have adopted children, but so far I haven’t been able to make personal contact with any of these men.

I’m not the only one on the lookout for gay dads. In early October I was forwarded an email from a U of Rochester graduate who is doing his doctoral thesis at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology and as part of his research is seeking out gay male couples raising children 5-18 years of age to interview.

Describing the reason for and nature of his study, Stephen wrote, “Much of the research on gay parenthood focuses on the experiences of lesbian mothers. The N.Y.1 project is developing a broader understanding of the lives of gay families. Many recent studies have been designed to determine if children raised by gay parents are ‘OK.’ i.e. typical gender and orientation development, as well as emotional adjustment.”

Family Matters continued on next page
Anti-Violence
continued from previous page

Another successful event was the art exhibit and silent auction fundraiser for GAGV’s AVP, featuring the Queer Bashing Series and recent works of local artist, Thomas Somerville. We would like to thank The Bachelor Forum for hosting this show and for being so supportive. They did an incredible job that night, and the space looked great. And we definitely want to thank Thomas Somerville for offering his time and effort and art so generously to help educate and raise awareness in the Rochester community about hate crimes. We especially want to acknowledge his bravery and fearlessness in his work and his life.

Mr. Somerville’s exhibit proved to be more topical than he anticipated: anti-gay hate activity appears to be on the rise in our community right now. People are reporting more hate activity to the AVP than ever before. Hate crimes, sometimes called bias-motivated crimes, range from verbal harassment to physical assault to rape to homicide. They are crimes committed against people simply because of who they are or who they are perceived to be by the perpetrator. Hate crimes involving others are usually more brutal than other forms of attacks. In most of these attacks, the perpetrators usually outnumber their victims, use weapons that require close contact and brutal force, and result in the victim suffering from multiple injuries.

It’s crucial to note that this violent hate activity clearly occurs as a backlash against the local community. According to the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCADV), there was a 24 percent rise in the data for anti-gay violence from July to December for 2003, which corresponds to the timeframe of the equal marriage ruling. (Please see the 2003 NCADV Annual Report on Hate Activity, at www.avp.org). When this type of backlash occurs, these crimes are being used as tools to stop the movement for our civil rights.

Many of us have become so used to violence being perpetrated against us that we tend to "expect" certain harassments for being lesbian, gay, transgender, or bisexual. But the truth is that it's never OK to be harassed or hurt because of who you are or who you're perceived to be. Don't downplay what has happened to you by comparing it to other "more serious" assaults. All hate crimes and harassments are painful and threatening. Unfortunately, a hate crime victim may feel responsible for what happened to them. Many victims report feeling they were "too gay looking" or "shouldn't have worn those clothes" or "should never have gone to that event." A victim may begin feeling like he or she did something wrong, or that there is something wrong with him or her for being lesbian, gay, transgender, or bisexual. There is nothing wrong with them. The person who has hurt or harassed them has the problem.

After an attack, a victim may change certain things about the way they dress, act, or change where they go, who they hang out with and where, all in hopes of avoiding another attack, or more harassment. But being gay is not the problem: pervasive fear, ignorance, homophobia and heterosexism are the problem.

Hate crimes not only hurt the victim, but they are also meant to send a message of hate and fear to the larger community. Whether we have been personally attacked or not, we are all victims of these bias crimes. We may change or "alter" ourselves or our behaviors in different situations to avoid being harassed or hurt. An example might be choosing not to hold a partner’s hand in a certain part of town, or choosing not to show public affection for fear of causing attention and being hurt. You have heard the message that hate crimes have intended for you to hear: "If you show yourself, you could be next."

This is how hate crimes hurt all of us. We may not even be aware that we altered ourselves and what we do because it has become so routine, but we live in fear every day for what could happen to us if we’re identified as lesbian, gay, transgender, or bisexual.

There are things you can do. First, educate yourself. You know what hate activity is, now start talking to your friends and family about it. Talk about your experiences and share them with those you trust.

Second, report! Report! Report! Whenever you see anti-gay graffiti, report it. When you are harassed at the bars or pride events, report it. If you or someone you know are being targeted at school, on the street, anywhere, report it. If you don’t report it, it didn’t happen. If it didn’t happen, there is no need for police or legislative response.

If you are the victim or witness of an attack, and it’s an emergency, call 911. We understand the reasons why a victim might not report it to the police, but if you or someone else is in danger, you must call 911. When you are safe, call GAGV’s AVP at 585-244-8640. You can use the AVP to advocate for you with the police, or you can report it anonymously — but report it!

You can sign up for AVP’s self-defense classes to start soon. Call me at 585-244-8640 for more information.

Omar and Denise

Family Matters
continued from previous page

The goal of this study is to record the experiences of gay men who engage in parenting responsibilities. Specifically, this study seeks to document how gay couples prepare their children for the experience of being perceived as part of a minority group, which is held by gay men and lesbians.

I had the chance to speak by phone with doctoral candidate Stephen H. James, M.A., to learn more about his research project. Stephen explained that children of same sex parents (most of the research to date has been done on children in lesbian run households) report experiencing moderately higher rates of taunting and harassment from their classroom peers. Despite the added stress these youngsters face in school, they do not report elevated levels of depression and anxiety. Based on these findings, Stephen decided to learn what enables the children of same-sex parents to cope effectively with the difficulties of growing up in a heterosexist society.

How are these children equipped with the skills needed to deal with the prejudice and ignorance they encounter from other children and adults? What contributes to developing the strength and resilience that these youth have demonstrated in defending themselves and their families when they encounter homophobic attitudes and behaviors?

By studying the families headed by gay men, Stephen is hoping to learn what these men are doing to create this resiliency in their children, as well as looking for other contributing factors that allow these children to flourish in what is perceived in our culture as growing up in less than ideal circumstances. The results of this study are important, because the evidence will dispel the false notion that children growing up in gay and lesbian households are disadvantaged (gay men’s right wing opponents would even go so far as to say they are harmed) by not being raised by their biological mother and father.

Another erroneous assumption is that children raised by two moms or dads are more likely to be more conflicted about their own sexual orientation. While some studies have suggested that children of same-sex parents are more likely to be sexually adventurous and experiment with both sexes, there is no evidence to support that they are any more confused about their sexual orientation than their heterosexual counterparts.

Last I digress further, I’d like to come back to Stephen’s doctoral survey of gay dads and invite any local male couples who would be willing to help Stephen with his research to contact him at sjames@family-psychology.com. Stephen explains the survey process in his own words: “The procedure will involve one 60- to 90-minute semi-structured interview asking you and your partner about your own experiences as gay or bisexual men, coming out, and perspectives on gay cultural issues. The interview will also include questions about parenting techniques and communication with your children. It will not require any participation by your children. The interview will be confidential and place that is convenient for the both of you. At a date following the interview, your feedback about the researcher’s conclusions will be requested. Confidentiality will be ensured and you will be free to end your participation at any point.”

While this month’s column has focused on gay dads, I would like to let lesbian moms know about a study of mid-life mommies being conduct—

Family Matters continued on page 14
Ithaca’s Common Ground schedules salsa dance lessons, jazz, 
Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings and more

Going to be in Ithaca this month? Common Ground Nightclub in Ithaca, at 1230 Danby Road (R06B), is planning a full calendar of events. For more information, please contact Doug Miller (607)273-1505, e-mail info@ithacacommonground.com or visit the Common Ground website at www.ithacacommonground.com.

Tuesday, Nov. 2, Nov. 9, Nov. 16, Nov. 23, Nov. 30
Salsa Dance Lessons, 6 p.m - 10 p.m. Instructors: Nedim and Suzana.
Info: www.salsamigos.com
Note: Latin, 10 pm - 1 am. Latin Dancing (Merengue, Salsa, Bachata) with DJ Carlos Perez. No cover.

Wednesday, Nov. 3, Nov. 10, Nov. 17, Nov. 24
Chicken Wing Special, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Buffalo-style wings at 15 cents each. Singles Mixer with VJ Ross Brittain, 7pm - 10pm.

Thursday, Nov. 4, Nov. 11, Nov. 18
Club Dance Hits with DJ Mat, 9 p.m. - 1:30 a.m. No cover.
Friday, Nov. 5
Alex Speckler Quartet: Friday Jazz Club, 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. No cover.
Club Dance Hits with DJ Michael, 9 p.m. - 1:30 a.m. No cover.

Saturday, Nov. 6
Karaoze Cabaret, 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. Hosted by Kim Woodcock. No cover.
80’s Disco Night with DJ Joey, 9 p.m. - 1 am. No cover.

Sunday, Nov. 7
Britchdiner Buffet, 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Join us for a home-style combo of brunch and dinner every Sunday from 4 p.m. till 8 p.m. It's an all-you-care-to-eat affair for $7.95. The main entree for this Sunday is Chicken/Broccoli Breakfast Pies.

Friday, Nov. 12
Cookie Coogan: Friday Jazz Club, 6 - 8:30 p.m. No cover.
Club Dance Hits with DJ Michael, 9 p.m. - 1:30 a.m. No cover.

Saturday, Nov. 13
The Nines Jazz Ensemble, 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. Specializing in jazz standards of the '20s, '30s and '40s. No cover.
80’s Disco Night with DJ Joey, 10 p.m. - 1 am. No cover.

Sunday, Nov. 14
Britchdiner Buffet, 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. The main entree for this Sunday is Roast Pork. The buffet also includes a breakfast entree, salad, vegetable dish and dessert. Zedeco Dance Party, 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. Live jam session. No cover. $7.95.

Tuesday, Nov. 16
La Orchestra Fama Sin Gafas, 5:30 p.m. - 1 am. 10-piece tropical Latin dance band from Rochester. $5 admission. 21 and over or underage blue card.

Friday, Nov. 19
Bennie Upson & Friends: Friday Jazz Club, 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. No cover.
Club Dance Hits with DJ Michael, 9 p.m. - 1:30 a.m.

Saturday, Nov. 20
Wild West Party, 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. A country/western dance featuring two step, waltz, line dancing, dollar drafts and a special chuck wagon menu. No cover.
80’s Disco Night with DJ Joey, 10 p.m. - 1:30 a.m. No cover.

Sunday, November 21
Britchdiner Buffet, 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. The main entree for this Sunday is Stuffed Shells. The buffet also includes a breakfast entree, salad, vegetable dish and dessert. $7.95.

Thursday, Nov. 25
Thanksgiving Dinner with Friends, 5:30 p.m. Traditional family-style roast turkey dinner complete with hors d’oeuvres and cocktails. $10 per person. Reservations requested. Call 607-273-1505 or e-mail: info@ithacacommonground.com.
Friday, Nov. 26
Trace Sabo and AJ Strauss: Friday Jazz Club, 6 - 8:30 p.m. No cover.
Club Dance Hits with DJ Michael, 9 p.m. - 1:30 a.m.

Saturday, Nov. 27
80’s Disco Night with DJ Joey, 9 p.m. - 1 am. No cover.

Sunday, Nov. 28
Britchdiner Buffet, 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. The main entree for this Sunday is Shrimp & Chicken Jambalaya. The buffet also includes a breakfast entree, salad, vegetable dish and dessert. $7.95.

Native American November events include Treaty Day in Canandaigua

BY SUSAN JORDAN

Vanishing? Not Likely. There is a large, vital Native American community in the upstate region, traditional home of the Six Nations (Haudenosaunee) and there will be two major events this Thanksgiving month relating to spirituality and history, in addition to G. Peter Jemison’s art exhibit (see above).

A conference titled “Wisdom From the Four Winds; Honoring Native American Spirituality” will take place in Rochester Nov. 4-6. On Nov. 11, the annual Treaty Day observance will be held in Canandaigua.

Everyone is invited to attend all or part of the exciting conference honoring Native American spirituality, held at the Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School on Goodman St. beginning the afternoon of Thursday, Nov. 4 and concluding Saturday noon, Nov. 6.

The conference opens with worship, dinner and a keynote address on Thursday and continues with more worship and lectures by conversations with and panel presentations by Native American women on Friday and Saturday. On Friday night all are invited to bring the family and learn elements of Native American social dancing. This event is the 10th annual Helen Barrett Montgomery Conference, sponsored by the Women and Gender Studies department of CRCCDS.

St. Joseph’s (Seneca), on the faculty of the University of Creation Spirituality in Oakland, Calif., and Rev. Dr. Holly Haile Davis (Sinnecock), the first Native American woman to be ordained in the Presbyterian Church, USA, are the main speakers and worship leaders.

The cost for the entire conference with meals is $85. Thursday night keynote address only is $10. Friday only is $30. Saturday only is $15. There is no charge for the dance and worship services.

You may request a copy of the conference brochure or register for the conference by calling 271-1320, ext. 232 or sending an e-mail to ssauve@crcds.edu.

Treaty Day

The Treaty Day celebrates the 1792 Pickering Treaty, which established Six Nations sovereignty. Observances and a parade are held at the County Court House at Canandaigua, beside Treaty Rock in front of the building, at 1 p.m. After the ceremonies, everyone is invited to a dinner and other events at the Gilbert St. School.

This is a major annual event bringing Native and non-Native people together to “polish the chain of friendship”.

Pride & Joy Families Thanksgiving

Binghamton/Enfield: Nov. 13, 5-6 pm, Thanksgiving Feast at Doris and Marion’s home, 7 Vincent St., Binghamton. Bring dish to share. RSVP to listserve or Karen and Claudia at 607-724-4308.

Brynnell: Nov. 7, 11:30-1:30. Lunch at Ann and Mary’s, 218 Wellington Rd., Dewitt.
Bring dish to share. RSVP to listserve or to 607-724-4308, n

The Circle of Life, natural and man-made landscapes by G. Peter Jemison, is at NTID Dyer Arts Center, W/11 through Dec. 6. The reception will be held Nov. 6, 7-9 pm.

self acceptance * family of origin work * communication patterns
Gay Groups
it's all about having fun

ABSC
October marked a historic month for ABSC as we began construction of our new sculpture, “Three Pride Symbols,” which was shown to the public for the first time on Sunday, Sept. 19 at ARTWalk Alive!

Doug Rice, Executive Director of ART Walk, commented that without the strong collaboration of ABSC founding members Gary Pease, Mike Polsteinberg and Steve Lovi, as well as the supporting members of ABSC, this project would not have been possible. Doug also said, “All of the fundraising efforts, grassroots community outreach and publicity of the gay sculpture project are due to the entire committee of ABSC.”

The ARTWalk Alive! Event for ABSC was put together with the help of the website at www.ABSC14607.org. Support is always appreciated, as we continue to raise funds to assist with the construction of ABSC’s beautiful community sculpture. If you would like to be part of our holiday fundraising efforts, please contact us at ABSC14607@aol.com for more information.

Butch Femme
Our Dinner Nights Out are in full swing! November’s Dinners: Nov. 8 - Pellegrino’s, Mr. Hope Ave., 7 p.m. Nov. 22 - Fox’s Deli (Jewish/Kosher), Winton Road Plaza, South Winton Rd., Henrietta, 7 p.m.

December’s Dinners: Two birthday dinners for several of our holiday birthday members! Dec. 13: Aladdin’s, Monroe Avenue, Rochester, 7 p.m. Dec. 27: Aleksandar’s, East Ave, Rochester, 7 p.m.

There will not be a Social Event this month due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. Our Discussion Night Nov. 5 will focus on “Gratitudes”. Come share with us this bountiful harvest season what you’re truly grateful for in your life, be it friends, family etc., 7-9 p.m. at the GAGV, 179 Atlantic Ave.

Additional fundraising efforts will resume for the holidays and financial support is always appreciated, as we continue to raise funds to assist with the construction of ABSC’s beautiful community sculpture. If you would like to be part of our holiday fundraising efforts, please contact us at ABSC14607@aol.com for more information.

Dignity-Integrity
(Continued)

MEET PEOPLE: Check out this section and the ongoing Calendar to find the group that’s right for you! If you are already in a group, send a monthly news update to The Empty Closet, 975 E. Main St, Suite 500, Rochester, NY 14605 by the 15th of every month.

Open Arms
Metropolitan Community Church
Where we know God loves us just the way we are
Empowering People Embracing the Journey Touching the World
Sunday Morning Worship ... 11 am
Rev. Jim Mulcahy, Pastor
175 Norris Drive, Rochester, NY 14610
Email: oamcc@frontiernet.net
Website: www.frontiernet.net/~oamcc
Telephone 585-271-8478

“They will know we are Christians by our love…”

Dignity-Integrity
(Roman Catholic-Episcopal)
An active faith community since 1975

Liturgies every Sunday at 5:00 p.m.
Liturgy of the Word - first, third, and fifth Sundays of the month
Episcopal Mass - second and fourth Sundays of the month
Social Hour following Liturgy
Church of St. Luke and St. Simon Cyrene
17 South Fitzhugh Street (Corner of Broad and S. Fitzhugh)
(the church with the pink steeple)
D-I Info-Line: (585) 234-5092 (Recorded information and voice mail)
E-mail: info@di-rochester.org
Web Site: http://www.di-rochester.org/
Pastoral care is available.
All are welcome regardless of worship tradition, gender identity or sexual orientation.

Join us as we claim our rightful place in the Church!

Spiritus Christi Church
A Catholic Community Where All Are Welcome
121 N. Fitzhugh Street Rochester, New York 14614
Phone: 325-1180

Rainbow Bridge Meetings:
3rd Monday 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
www.rainbowbridgegroup.org

Our BEARS had a great month of October. We hosted our annual Lake Ontario Bear Rendezvous. We had friends attend from Toronto, Buffalo, Syracuse, Corning and Albany. We had a Friday night supper at Tan’s and listened to Peter Nickles tinkle on the ivories. We had a buffet breakfast Saturday, and partied all day. There was a hugs and suitcases, a charity auction to raise money for the Gay Alliance Youth Group and other charities of the BEARS. We voted for Mr. Empire Bear, Duddlybear, and Cub. We partied at the Forum. There was a Saturday afternoon party at the Rochester Spa and Body Club. Others showed up at Art Roaming Hopping. There were afterwards parties both nights.

We finished up with a great brunch at Michelin’s on Sunday. Exhausting, but we’re already planning next year. Thanks to The Forum, Tan’s, The Rochester Spa and Body Club, Outlandish. Also, if you have been away, as we await the coming of Christ at Christmas. Please join us at 5 p.m. any and every Sunday as we claim our rightful place in the Church. Please see our display ad for more information and how to contact us. Thanks.
thanks to Ron Weekes for his generous donations to the auction and Steve Lori for his work on the auction. Check out pictures at empirebears.org.

The club also elected four officers to our board for next year. We continue to meet every Monday at Michelle’s on West Henrietta Rd. for supper at 6 p.m., first Wednesdays at the GAGV for monthly meetings, and second Saturdays at the GAGV for a potluck at 6:30 followed by BEARNIGHT at the FORUM at 10.

The BEARS were proud to be the Community Sponsors of the Image Out opening night screening of Breathe. It was a great movie. Many of our members attended many movies this year. Kudos to the programming committee for providing Rochester with such an interesting mix of movies in 10 days. Thanks to the Little, the Cinema, and the Dryden.

If socializing with a bunch of guys who like eating, movies, theater, camping, traveling, playing board games and cards, and donating to some good causes sounds like fun to you, check out the BEARS at empirebears.org.

Womyn’s Fishing Group

Come join us for our last outing of the year! If you feel warm (or brave!) we will head out to Charlotte Pier in Greece for an afternoon of fishing, lure, salmon egg, and hopefully an aching arm or two!

For further info, contact Kerry/Cindy at 585-288-7208 or email FishingFolksNY@aol.com.

Gay Fathers

The Gay Fathers’ Group continues to meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley Community Center located at 179 Atlantic Ave.

Our new leader, John Stuart, facilitated the meeting of a dozen fathers. Issues ranged from relationships with our children and our former spouses, relationships with our partners, family and high school reunions, the ImageOut Film Festival, the coming out process, legal issues and tattoos. The possibility of setting up a web site was also discussed and we all agreed to go ahead and get it started. Everyone participated and all the conversations are confidential.

In general:

The group consists of men and in some cases their same sex partners. We are all at different stages in our lives. Some are married, some are going through separation/divorce, some have custody of their children and some don’t, and all are at different points in the coming out process. This is a support group (not therapy) intended to discuss all these issues and more. Everyone here is offered the opportunity to seek support and to give it.

A social night is sometime planned for the fourth or fifth Tuesday of the month. A holiday pot luck gathering is planned at a member’s home in December.

Please call GAGV at 244-8640 if you are interested in finding out more about us. There are also brochures available about our group at GAGV.

GLSEN

In early October, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) released results from a new national poll on students’ attitudes on sexual orientation, name-calling and general attitudes toward gay and lesbian people in schools. Results of the poll show that approximately five percent of American high school students identify as lesbian or gay; 16 percent have a gay or lesbian family member, and 72 percent know someone who is lesbian or gay.

The poll documents the pervasive problems of anti-light language, name-calling, bullying and harassment in American high schools. Key findings include that anti-gay language is rampant; 81 percent of students polled say they frequently or often hear homophobic language in their schools; 66 percent say they themselves use homophobic language.

Almost half of American high school students (48 percent) know a classmate who is LGBT, 30 percent have a close friend who is LGBT, 11 percent know a classmate who is gay, 30 percent have a close friend who is gay, and 7 percent know a gay or lesbian family member, and 72 percent know someone who is lesbian or gay.

The poll documents the pervasive problems of anti-light language in their schools; 66 percent say they themselves use homophobic language. Almost half of American high school students (48 percent) know a classmate who is LGBT, 30 percent have a close friend who is LGBT, 11 percent know a classmate who is gay, 30 percent have a close friend who is gay, and 7 percent know a gay or lesbian family member, and 72 percent know someone who is lesbian or gay.

The poll documents the pervasive problems of anti-light language in their schools; 66 percent say they themselves use homophobic language. Almost half of American high school students (48 percent) know a classmate who is LGBT, 30 percent have a close friend who is LGBT, 11 percent know a classmate who is gay, 30 percent have a close friend who is gay, and 7 percent know a gay or lesbian family member, and 72 percent know someone who is lesbian or gay.
Generation of Trannies: holiday dread

Finish out autumn with very earthy tones in your makeup, but extremely dramatic dark red lips or for a more subtle look, a good pink. Save the furs and longer clothing just a little bit longer until winter begins and keep your longer summery clothes that are beige, denim black or cashmere, because you can cover yourself up with a sweater when it's chilly. Sweaters were made for spring, summer, and autumn and coats are made for winter. So if anybody tries to tell you differently they are probably unfashionable weirdos and you shouldn't be talking to them in the first place! For more information on makeup and fashion please consult the bible (a.k.a. Vogue) or the New Testament (Topshop). Moving on from fashion, as the world turns and the days go by, we are coming closer and closer to two of the queer population's most dreaded holidays -- Thanksgiving and Christmas. This is a time for happiness, but to a lot of us in the community, it's a time of heartbreak, loneliness, misery, and annoyance. With the get together of families that don't have a huge part in your everyday life, it's the invitation to ridicule, ignorance, and a lot of annoying questions that you are so sick of answering. Especially for people who are not changing their sexual preference but their whole gender. Basically you have to re-meet all of your relatives and withstand the feeling of being left out. All of this I can totally relate to. The first few holidays that I had as trans were very difficult because I wanted to be accepted as my true self but I was just a confused boy in drag - which I wasn't. I was a perfectly fine little transgender in a dress. To me, family get-togethers always kind of felt like a funeral for my death, then a party. At times people would go up to my parents and literally say I'm sorry for your loss. Oh my Goddess it made me feel like a stranger in my own house. But over time and with the loving support of my mother and friends, we made people understand by using education as our tool. Plus I think the fact that I look better than most of the "real" women I come in contact with helped a little bit too.

Every member of our community has their own unique story when it comes to family and the holidays. Some are good, some are bad, some are sad, and some are ugly, but the only thing we have to remember is that the only person that we are required to love is ourselves. If your family has shunned you or doesn't accept you for who you are, then you don't need that darkness in your life. If you can't work past something or they won't listen, you need to make plans to move on and start fresh again without them holding you down.

The key to a bright healthy future is to find the roads in life that will ultimately take you to the best destination. Some of us are blessed to be able to travel with family and some of us are not, but if you take the right road and don't let anyone -- no matter who they are -- stand in your way, then you will find the place you are looking for. Just remember you can love and care for someone with all your heart but that doesn't mean you are obligated to like them.

Happy Thanksgiving,
Lisa

---

Cat Chat with Circa: This Parastis for You

Despite having promised a column this month exploring the 'ins' and 'outs' of claws in kittens, I have decided to stray from that topic in favor of discussing something more important: Family.

This month is pricey in the value of family. As the presidential election draws to a close, November cradles our loved ones in uncertain arms. At this time, with results being however they are, our need for family deepens. Commitment to our ideals and civil rights remains necessary, however may be leading, or misleading, the cause. Leadership does not come from one man, or even one government. There is still a remarkable beauty in being a citizen, human or feline, of this country. And that is the ability to persevere in the face of adversity. Kittens, this means that we all need to raise a paw in the post-campaign party for our families. Leadership is not elected through formal vote. Leaders are birthed, and grown, through the nurturance of love. You cannot defend reality with a gun to a common cause. Through Family.

It is time to bury our differences in the kitty litter. And even for me, the ever so hip Gay Queen, I can still spout off my tiara (only figuratively, one must not sacrifice all beauty) to be an example to other animal companions and their families. And with that, I stretch out a delicate paw to my arch nemesis, Miss Tulip.

Yes, Tulip, despite all your drool and fowl odors, I believe that it is time for cats and dogs to come together, in the name of "family." This month may be unceasingly in terms of political directions, but one thing is solid -- one thing cannot be shaken. And that is, "family." For all the obstacles that lie ahead, there is a road of yellow brick behind us. Just as in Rochester, the year is not without seasons, our journey is not without heavy winters and warm summers. If the path were to be paved for us, the ride would not be as memorable. We are together in one big bus, and it is not our president who will drive, but rather the spirit within our families. And with that, we can't be headed any place but Heaven.

This month, I take time to speak of my family, for my Feeder's, who are really more than simply distributors of turkey and giblets. My family is more than the home they provide. It is shin scratches and belly rubs. It is the one with them you know is always there to catch a mouse, to catch a mouse. It is the three of us. If sleeping in each other's arms, it is gratitude, love, and hope for our futures. It is their design, to be held in something seemingly smelly, and find the offering underneath. (T - I couldn't catch a mouse, so that parasite was my gay godfather)

Family in our community is more than blood or paper. It is unbreakable in its truest element -- our family is defined by love. It is shared, it is given, I leave with genuine pits of thanks, and the encouragement to keep "giving."

Miss Tulip, Circa

---

Call to equality: a struggle lies ahead for us all

BY DENISE FINENTRY

I have to be honest when I say I had a difficult time deciding what to write for the first page of the Gay Youths' Youth Page. As a young leader and activist among a future generation of gay citizens, I wanted to reach the masses with a message; a call to equality.

I was recently informed that the President's Census Department recently announced there are 70,000 gay identified citizens in the Rochester Area. So in joining my 70,000 gay comrades across the area, I have chosen to open my column this month as a queer youth, to increase that number to 70,001; this of course not taking into account the many others who have not yet come out of the closet to make room for more clothes. Without further ado, I give you my piece.

Living relationships, at their core, are about the emotional connection between two adult human beings. And what public institution is more central - more definitive - to that connection than marriage? The denial of marriage to gay people is therefore not a minor issue; it is the end of a lifetime of fights, a new beginning for the rest of their lives as one, who will raise children, that they cannot marry, we should never deny those individuals the freedom of loving relationships.

Living a full and rich life for many of us includes going through it all with a committed partner, someone "to come home to" in every sense of the word. Life is full of joys, disappointments, challenges, successes, failures, and more. And it is also full of the ordinary and the mundane. Sharing all of it with another person, for many people, enriches the ordinary as well as the extraordinary. The meaning of this is dependent on a person's sexual orientation.

It is incumbent upon all of us to let our families and friends know the true status of gay relationships in America - that we are union-less. We pay equal taxes but are eligible for few tax benefits - 1,150 fewer, to be exact. We have neither inheritance rights nor access to our partners social security or pensions. In many states we are not even allowed the right to visit our partners in the hospital.

Civil unions are a step in the right direction, but they still stigmatize same-sex relationships as deserving only second-class recognition. Gay marriage rights for gay and lesbians are certainly worth fighting for. They carry with them many legal protections of particular importance for working-class people. We are working-class citizens.
just like anyone else who gets up in the morning and has jobs to do.

Some of us are working to make a difference in the world for others, yet we are still denied the rights that we fight for: the rights of every other human being. Adoption rights, rights of protection to victims of violence, even immigration rights for partners have long been denied. Tax benefits, along with property rights and rights of inheritance, are all tied to the institution of marriage.

According to the Freedom to Marry Coalition of Massachusetts, civil unions only carry 350 benefits and rights, while civil marriages provide 1,400. Like women's rights to divorce and abortion, or the rights of women and African Americans to vote, the right for gays and lesbians to marry is a basic human civil and democratic right that must be won if we are to create a society based on complete equality.

For the youth of today, marriage rights would provide a profound example of gay and lesbians being integrated into society. For children of gay or lesbian parents, who often suffer discrimination themselves, marriage rights would offer legitimacy to their families.

We need to unite to be prepared to win the battles ahead. The decades-long struggle for gay and lesbian equality has been a crossroads lately. It is not going to be easy. We can either win civil marriage, and all its equal benefits, or we could face discrimination against gays and lesbians permanently. If the law banning same sex marriage is ever written into the constitution.

If people want to do something, and it doesn't hurt other people or reduce other's rights, we should let them do it. Why not? A heterosexual is not some we could face discrimination against while civil marriages provide.

The simple answer to bigots, conservatives, or anyone else who feels threatened is: "Equal!

In the process of blossoming I have lost one or two friends. I won't pretend that everything was perfect, but the pain of losing those couple of people who opposed homosexuality.

One thing that did amaze me after I came out, however, was that one of the friends that I was sure would never accept who I was, actually did. He still had difficulties at times, but the most important thing is that he tried. I don't think he'll ever know how much that meant to me.

For the youth of today, marriage rights would provide a profound example of gay and lesbians being integrated into society. For children of gay or lesbian parents, who often suffer discrimination themselves, marriage rights would offer legitimacy to their families.

The simple answer to bigots, conservatives, or anyone else who feels threatened is: "Equal!

The pain of blossoming was extremely frightening to me. I knew that I would lose friends. My decision to come out at school was one of the most important decisions that I have ever made. The pain of being in the bud, lying to my friends, which I hated doing, and trying to be someone I was not, was much greater than losing the few friends who opposed homosexuality.

One thing that did amaze me after I came out, however, was that one of the friends that I was sure would never accept who I was, actually did. He still had difficulties at times, but the most important thing is that he tried. I don't think he'll ever know how much that meant to me.

In the process of blossoming I have lost one or two friends. I won't pretend that everything was perfect, but the pain of losing those couple of people who opposed homosexuality.

One thing that did amaze me after I came out, however, was that one of the friends that I was sure would never accept who I was, actually did. He still had difficulties at times, but the most important thing is that he tried. I don't think he'll ever know how much that meant to me.

After all of these years After all of these days I've finally got what I long for And what for I crape

For sixteen long years Left all alone I've finally found something to call all my own

O the struggles I've seen O the mountains I've climbed I reached for the Heavens And yet still I climb

For six long months I've gazed from afar Afraid to confront What we truly are

Pasing in hallways Our thoughts were the same Confronted with ideas We were clinical insane

The blank answer to bigots, conservatives, or anyone else who feels threatened is: "Equal!

The simple answer to bigots, conservatives, or anyone else who feels threatened is: "Equal!

The pain of blossoming was extremely frightening to me. I knew that I would lose friends. My decision to come out at school was one of the most important decisions that I have ever made. The pain of being in the bud, lying to my friends, which I hated doing, and trying to be someone I was not, was much greater than losing the few friends who opposed homosexuality.

One thing that did amaze me after I came out, however, was that one of the friends that I was sure would never accept who I was, actually did. He still had difficulties at times, but the most important thing is that he tried. I don't think he'll ever know how much that meant to me.

In the process of blossoming I have lost one or two friends. I won't pretend that everything was perfect, but the pain of losing those couple of people who opposed homosexuality.

One thing that did amaze me after I came out, however, was that one of the friends that I was sure would never accept who I was, actually did. He still had difficulties at times, but the most important thing is that he tried. I don't think he'll ever know how much that meant to me.

In the process of blossoming I have lost one or two friends. I won't pretend that everything was perfect, but the pain of losing those couple of people who opposed homosexuality.

One thing that did amaze me after I came out, however, was that one of the friends that I was sure would never accept who I was, actually did. He still had difficulties at times, but the most important thing is that he tried. I don't think he'll ever know how much that meant to me.

In the process of blossoming I have lost one or two friends. I won't pretend that everything was perfect, but the pain of losing those couple of people who opposed homosexuality.

One thing that did amaze me after I came out, however, was that one of the friends that I was sure would never accept who I was, actually did. He still had difficulties at times, but the most important thing is that he tried. I don't think he'll ever know how much that meant to me.

In the process of blossoming I have lost one or two friends. I won't pretend that everything was perfect, but the pain of losing those couple of people who opposed homosexuality.

One thing that did amaze me after I came out, however, was that one of the friends that I was sure would never accept who I was, actually did. He still had difficulties at times, but the most important thing is that he tried. I don't think he'll ever know how much that meant to me.

In the process of blossoming I have lost one or two friends. I won't pretend that everything was perfect, but the pain of losing those couple of people who opposed homosexuality.

One thing that did amaze me after I came out, however, was that one of the friends that I was sure would never accept who I was, actually did. He still had difficulties at times, but the most important thing is that he tried. I don't think he'll ever know how much that meant to me.

In the process of blossoming I have lost one or two friends. I won't pretend that everything was perfect, but the pain of losing those couple of people who opposed homosexuality.

One thing that did amaze me after I came out, however, was that one of the friends that I was sure would never accept who I was, actually did. He still had difficulties at times, but the most important thing is that he tried. I don't think he'll ever know how much that meant to me.

In the process of blossoming I have lost one or two friends. I won't pretend that everything was perfect, but the pain of losing those couple of people who opposed homosexuality.

One thing that did amaze me after I came out, however, was that one of the friends that I was sure would never accept who I was, actually did. He still had difficulties at times, but the most important thing is that he tried. I don't think he'll ever know how much that meant to me.

In the process of blossoming I have lost one or two friends. I won't pretend that everything was perfect, but the pain of losing those couple of people who opposed homosexuality.
It's Fall Housecleaning Time at OUTlandish!
Stop in and check out our falling VHS Movie prices!

We're cleaning out the video room! Save $ on a huge selection of pre-viewed VHS videos reduced from $39.95 - $79.95 to only $4.95 and $9.95

-or-

Choose from over 400 New Videos & DVDs Priced from $4.95 - $19.95

2005 Calendars are In-Stock! Get 'em While the Gettins' Good!!

OUTlandish Videos & Gifts & Leather • 274 North Goodman Street, in the Village Gate
Hours: Monday – Saturday, 11 AM – 11 PM and Sundays, Noon – 5 PM • After-hours Video/DVD Drop is Available
Phone: 585.760.8383 • www.outlandish1.com • outndvid@aol.com

THE EMPTY CLOSET IS AVAILABLE AT:

Classifieds

THE RIGHT PRICE:
Classified ads are 55 for the first 30 words; each additional word is another $1. We do not bill for classifieds, so please send or bring ad and payment to The Empty Closet, 875 E. Main St, Rochester, NY 14605. The deadline is the 10th of the month, for the following month’s issue. We cannot accept ads over the phone. We publish free ads for prisoners on a space-available basis. Pay when you place your ad.

FYI:
We will accept only ads accompanied by name and phone number. Neither will be published, but we must be able to confirm placement. The Empty Closet is not responsible for financial loss or physical injury that may result from any contact with an advertiser. Advertisers must use their own box number, voice mail or personal address/phone number.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Volunteer for the Empty Closet. Seeking reporters, reviewers, photographers, mailing and distribution volunteers. Can you give two hours a month? Want to meet new friends, make a connection? Apply to sell ads in our programs and newsletters. Flexible part time hours, commission based salary. Please send cover letter and resume to: ROC/G, 121 N Fitzhugh ST, #325, Rochester. NY 14605.

HELP WANTED
The Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus is looking for an advertising sales person to sell ads in our programs and newsletters. Flexible part time hours, commission based salary. Please send cover letter and resume to: ROC/G, 121 N Fitzhugh ST, #325, Rochester. NY 14605.

SERVICES
Rochester’s Best Body-Muscle Rub by a handsomely masculine, Italian GM. Athletic build, clean-shaven, degree professional. Don’t waste your money on b-boys who are “gay for pay” in their ads. Support your local gay community! Relax with a real man having 10- plus years experience. Discretion assured, reasonable rates. Can’t wait to get your hands on you! In/out/hotel calls. Centrally located. Don’t delay, call today! 585-225-6688 or email me at muscleloverman@peoplepc.com.

Hot Oil Rub, Full-Body. Treat yourself to a relaxing and sensual rubdown. Massage table and exotic candlelight used. I’m very friendly, with eight years plus experience. Discretion assured. Students-only $19/hour, others $20/hour. For appointment only call 585-325-7241, 10 a.m. – 11 p.m or leave a call-back phone #.

Martin Ippolito, Master Electrician. Electrical work, telephone jacks, cable TV, burglar alarm systems, paddle fans. Call 585-266-6337.

Angela’s One On One Dog Sitting Service. I live in Penfield Village near the Canal path and work at home. I am a serious dog lover (lost my 16 year old Hannah last year). I’ll walk your dog, baby your dog and have him or her with me every minute. Dog families welcome, so let’s talk. Call Angela 766-5959.

Penis Rings: Non-piercing steel, silver or pink rings for casual wear. Choose from one of our five great classic, modern or exotic styles. Free shipping and discreet packaging. www.ringthatthing.com.

Hirsute husky men in need of a stress-relieving body rub by talented masculine hands, call 442-9677 or paulyosoro@rochester.rr.com.

ROOMMATES/HOUSEMATES

Roommate wanted to share three bedroom home in Gates/Chili. Great neighborhood, close to everything. $550/month includes everything. For info call Alisha @ 503-9954.

FOR RENT

Leased Space for rent on top floor of private home. Located corner Mt. Vernon/Rockingham. Bright spacious, vaulted ceilings, wide open floor plan. Four large windows, hardwood floors, exposed Red/Brick. Quiet (no other rental tenants on property) full bath/ kitchenette, two closets, space for dining table, sofa, queen bed/computer desk, dresser and still room to spare. Walk to Highland Park/Hospital/South Wedge Village. Call 242-9532; 233-4583; 454-6344.


Pure Platinum Entertainment
Phone: 442-1234
CALL FOR COMPLETE LIST OF SERVICES!
NOW HIRING SELECTIVE GAY MALES, CROSS DRESSERS, AND TRANSEXUAL ESCORTS!

JOINT VENTURE.

COME AND SING WITH THE
ROCHESTER RAINBOW GOSPEL CHOIR
Rochester’s Inclusive Gospel Choir is beginning its fifth season! Singers rehearse either Sundays 5 -6:30 pm or Tuesdays 7-8:30 pm at Open Arms MCC, 175 Norris Drive, beginning September 12.

For more information call: 288-4508 or e-mail: Rainbowchoir@hotmail.com

TOUCH OF PRIDE
HOME IMPROVEMENTS
ALL PHASES OF HOME IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDING LANDSCAPING & TREE TRIMMING CALL TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE MENTION THIS AD & GET A 10% DISCOUNT

BRANDIE RAUBER: 585-865-9156 585-820-9214 CELL

Susan SanFilippo, C.S.W., 234-3561
Counseling & Psychotherapy

- Why can’t life be fair?
- If I change, will my partner?
- What effect does my past have on me?
- What can I do about my future?

Individual and couples therapy (sliding fee scale)

500 Helendale Road, Suite 155, Rochester N.Y. 14609
Weekly GLBTI AA Meetings in Rochester

There are five regularly scheduled GLBTI AA meetings in Rochester every week.

What makes GLBTI recovery a bit different is that we recognize: issues surrounding our sexuality can contribute to our alcoholism and addiction; coming out and coming to terms with ourselves as alcoholics or addicts can be as traumatizing as coming out and coming to terms with our sexuality; other drugs of abuse run rampant in our community and we don’t need to add those so addicted (you will not be shouted down for speaking words like pot, cocaine, crack, heroin, ecstasy, K, speed, meth, pills, etc.); the bars play a large role in socialization within our community which can present challenges even when we are fully committed to our sobriety.

After our meetings, we frequently go out for coffee, dinner, movies, whatever, while it’s tempting to stay in the fold of GLBTI recovery, we live and work in a predominately straight society, so we encourage our members to attend “straight” meetings in their program.

Open meetings are open to alcoholics and addicts as well as to our partners, friends, family and anyone else interested in the AA program of recovery. Closed meetings are limited to alcoholics and addicts. We ask that partners, friends, family and curiosity seekers respect our privacy.

Wednesdays

New Freedom/New Happiness Group: 7 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, 200 S. Winton Rd. Bus riders: Take the #18 University Ave bus to the GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave, then walk five minutes south (uphill) on Winton St.

This is an open discussion meeting. All issues — as they relate to our alcoholism/addiction and recovery — are fair game.

Frederoom (2 meetings)

Free to Be: 7:30 p.m. at The Yellow House, 1601 Jackson Rd, Penfield. NOT accessible by bus.

Closed meeting, restricted to alcoholics and addicts

Handicapped accessible

This can be a speaker, discussion or steps meeting depending on what seems best at the time.

Gay Men’s: 7:30 p.m. GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. at Elston St. Bus riders: Take the #18 University Ave bus, use the stop between Portsmouth Terrace and Elston St. Walk one block north on Elston St. to the GAGV Community Center.

Closed meeting, restricted to alcoholics and addicts

Men’s meeting

NOT handicapped accessible

This is a round-robin discussion meeting. If you are shy about meeting people or speaking up in a group, you will find this meeting particularly warm and inviting because everyone gets their turn to speak (or pass). As a result, this meeting often runs long, so plan more than the usual hour.

Saturday Night Special: 7 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, 220 S. Winton Rd.


Sunday 21

In the Life “Generation Q”, Host StaceyAnn Chin. 11 p.m. WXXI. Underwritten by GAGV.

Dignity Integrity Thanksgiving Potluck. After 5 p.m. service, St. Luke St. Serbian-Cyrilic Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St.

Monday 22

Butch Femme Connection dinner out. Fox’s Deli, Winton Rd. Plaza, Henrietta, 7 p.m. 865-4619.

December

Wednesday 1

World AIDS Day Community Concert. Unity Church, 55 Prince St., 7 p.m. Hosted by Thomas Warfield. $10. Tickets at Outlandish, Pride Connection.

Thursday 2

Empty Closet mailing. 2-5 p.m., 7-8 p.m. shifts: 179 Atlantic Ave., second floor, 244-9030.

Saturday 4

World AIDS Day 2004: Women and AIDS. Kodak’s Theatre on the Ridge. 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Performances by Thomas Warfield, Clyde Morgan, School of the Arts Jazz Band, clips from Robert Bilheimer’s “A Closer Walk” and much more. Sponsors: Action for a Better Community. Ark of Christ Ministry, AIDS Ministry Community Health Network, Catholic Family Community Services, Healthy Start, Kodak, Liberty Research Group, McCoy McKeller Wellness Center, Peace Art, Planned Parenthood, Rochester Area Task Force on AIDS, Westside Health Services. Free to the public. Any donations will be sent to selected women’s charities that support women with HIV/AIDS and/or orphans of HIV/AIDS. To RSVP or for more information call Rita Eggert at 585-262-4330 ext. 3103, or e-mail Rfgett@alksinfo.org.
The Ongoing Calendar

CONSISTENTLY SCHEDULED HAPPENINGS

**Monday**

**Gay and Lesbian Support Group**
Third Presbyterian Church, 54 Mils St.
First and third Mondays, 6:30-7:30 pm.
GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

**Rochester Historical Bowling Society**
7:15 pm, Mondays. Clover Lanes, 2750 Monroe Ave. (Group is full)

**COAP**
Come Out and Play. Business meeting last Mondays, 7 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Tom M., 442-5009.

**American Baptists Concerned**
For Rochester Historical Bowling Society
57 Ambrose St. 442-5486.

**MOCHA**
Tuesdays, 7 pm. For GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.
Call 244-8640, or 589-9107, or Tuesday 2709.

**American Brotherhood of assaulting men. Coffee, refreshments.**
GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

**Green Party (political)**
Second Mondays, 7-9 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

**HIV Positive Gay Men Support group**
Every Monday, 6 am, AIDS Rochester, 1530 University Ave.

**Gray Area**
Support group for men who have lost children.
First, third Wednesdays, 11 am-12:30 pm, Third Presbyterian Church, 4 Meigs Ave.
Sponsored by Genesee Region Home Care. Free. 325-1880.

**Support Group for Parents Who Have Lost Children**
First Wednesdays, 6:30-8 pm. For location call DLAubac186@aol.com

**Support Group for Transgender People**
6 pm, run every Monday, 6 pm, meet George Eastman House parking lot, 271-2700.

**Tuesday**

**Atlantic Fire 0**
Gay men 50 and over. Second Tuesdays, 6:30-8 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

**Orleans Rainbow Fellowship**
Support/social group, meets second Tuesday 7 pm. For location call Dale, 589-9107, or e-mail DLAbauc186@rol.com

**Gay Fathers’ Support Group**
First and third Tuesdays, 6:30-8 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.
Meetings resume Sept. 21.

**MOCHA coffee chat**
Open discussion for men of color who have sex with men. Coffee, refreshments.
First and third Tuesdays, 6:30 pm. MOCHA Project, 25 Franklin St., Suite 1060, 420-1400.

**Youth of Color Group**
3-5 pm, MOCHA Project, 25 Franklin St., Stilley Center, Suite 1000, 420-1400, 244-8640.

**LGBT Alzheimer’s Caregivers Support Group**
Second Tuesdays, 7 pm. GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.
Second floor. Paul, 244-8640 x 14.

**Wednesday**

**Women’s Community Chorus**
Rehearsals each Wednesday, 6:30-9 pm, Call for location. 234-4441.

**Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley**
Board of Directors Meeting, second Wednesdays, 7 pm, 875 E. Main St., fourth floor Blue Room, 244-8640.

**New Freedom New Happiness AA Gay meeting**
7 pm, Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Rd.
Men and women. Open meeting.

**Support Group for Parents Who Have**
Lost Children
First, third Wednesdays, 11 am-12:30 pm, Third Presbyterian Church, 4 Meigs Ave. Sponsored by Genesee Region Home Care. Free. 325-1880.

** Frontier Runners/Frontwalkers**
6 pm run/walk; meet George Eastman House parking lot. 271-2709.

**Empire Bears**
First Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. info@empirebears.org

**Transgender Group**
Third Wednesdays, 6:30-9 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

**Multicultural-Coffee Talk**
7 pm, Blvd (789 Park Ave.) Social for former Multicum-4 BBS members; other gayb city geeks welcome, every fourth Wednesday, 8 pm.

**Gray Area**
Support/social group for bisexual women. First Wednesdays, 5:30-7 pm. For location, call 481-1338, 330-9738.

**GAGV Library & Archives**
Open 9 am-6 pm, every Sunday, Friends Meeting House; others accessed from Court St.

**Bearline: The Ongoing Calendar**
First Friday, 7-9 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

**Buffy-Feenome Connection**
First Friday, 7-9 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

**Transgender Group**
Third Wednesdays, 6:30-9 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

**Multicultural-Coffee Talk**
7 pm, Blvd (789 Park Ave.) Social for former Multicum-4 BBS members; other gayb city geeks welcome, every fourth Wednesday, 8 pm.

**Gray Area**
Support/social group for bisexual women. First Wednesdays, 5:30-7 pm. For location, call 481-1338, 330-9738.

**GAGV Library & Archives**
Open 9 am-6 pm, every Sunday, Friends Meeting House; others accessed from Court St.

**Empire Bears**
Second Saturdays, Bachelor Forum, 470 University Ave. 244-8640.

**Cross Dreser Support Group**
First Saturdays, 6:30-9 pm, GAGV, 179 Atlantic Ave. Info: 251-2132, RCDNET@hotmail.com.

**Transgender Group**
Last Saturdays, 2-5 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

**Saturday**

**Rochester Rams bar night**
8-10 pm, Bachelor Forum, 470 University Ave. 244-8640.

**Fromrunners/Frontwalkers**
9 am run/walk. Meet George Eastman House parking lot. 461-4246.

**Empire Bears**
Second Saturdays, Bachelor Forum, 470 University Ave. 244-8640.

**Cross Dreser Support Group**
First Saturdays, 6:30-9 pm, GAGV, 179 Atlantic Ave. Info: 251-2132, RCDNET@hotmail.com.

**Transgender Group**
Last Saturdays, 2-5 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

**Saturday Night Special Gay AA**
7 pm, Usharke Church, 220 Winton Rd.
Men and women. Open meeting.

**Lilac Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf (LRAD)**
Fourth Saturdays, 6-9 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

**Something for da Sistaz**
Women’s group, every third Saturday,

**Greater Rochester Gay and Lesbian Business Forum**
Professionals’ social group. Second Thursdays, 5:30-7 pm, 234-8706.

**GLOBE**
(Syndic and Lesbians of Bausch & Lomb), Meets every third Thursday in Area 67 conference room at the Opitic Center. Voice mail 338-9977.

**Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus**
DownTown Unified Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fithguth St. 7-4:30 pm, 403-5050.

**Free confidential walk-in HIV testing**
Every Thursday night, 5-8 pm. AIDS Rochester, 1550 University Ave. 442-2220.

**MOCHA movie night**
Second Thursdays, 6:30 pm. MOCHA Project, 25 Franklin St., Suite 1060, 420-1400.

**GLSEN board meeting**
7-9 pm, second Thursday, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

**Friday**

**Gay Men’s AA meeting**
Each Friday, 7:30-8:30 pm, Closed meeting. GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

**Butch-Femme Connection**
First Friday, 7-9 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

**Sunday**

**More Light Presbyterians**
for gay and lesbian people and friends, 12:15 pm, last Sundays. Downtown United Youth Center, 121 N. Fithguth St. 325-4000.

**Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)**
2-3 pm. Last Sunday. Call for location: 234-0156.

**Dignity-Integrity**
5 pm, St. Luke’s/St. Simon Cyrne Church, 17 S. Fitzguth St. Every Sunday. 234-5092.

**Open Arts Metropolitan Community Church**
220 S. Men and women.

**Finger Lakes chapter.**
Every Sunday, 2-4 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

**Rainbow Amateur Radio Assoc.**
U. of Rochester. Sundays, 5 pm, Moray Hall 401. 275-0079. E-mail: glfr@netsquirt.com

**GAGV Youth Group**
Age 15-23. Every Sunday, 2-4 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

**Rainbow Amateur Radio Assn.**
Finger Lakes chapter.
Business meeting/ lunch. Call Bob, 442-7165.

**Food Not Bombs free food**
2 pm, every Sunday. Friends Meeting House, 84 Bidg St., 254-0884.

**Rainbow Seniors**
Third Sundays. Potluck at First Universalist Church, 150 E. Clinton Ave, corner Court St. 4 pm. Handicapped parking behind church; others please park in ramp garage accessed from Court St.

Richard D. Fenwick Contractor
Now offering Hunter-Douglas louvered drapes & Kirsch mini and vertical blinds.
Design, Dry Wall, Decks, Carpentry, Property Management
Repairs to full replacement
Free estimates
Call & leave message
288-0032

Martha M. Howden, CSW, CASAC
49 White Spruce Blvd
Rochester, New York
716-272-1160 Voice 716-272-8986 FAX
M Howden,csac@twcny.rr.com

Anxiety • Depression • Alcohol • Stress • Grief
Relationship • Family • Parenting • Restorative Work
Holotropic Breathwork
Specializing in Work with Individuals and Families in the Coming Out Process
Family Matters
continued from page 2

ed locally by RIT Professor Cathleen Ashworth. She is seeking candidates to interview about their experiences as an older mother. The interview would potentially be used in a documentary about mid-life mothers called Beating the Biological Clock. Commenting on her own experiences as a mid-life mom who is the mother of a five year-old child who was born when she was 47, Cathleen acknowledges that being a mid-life mommy is challenging and unique. Whether your child is by birth or adoption, becoming a mother in your 40s and 50s has unique challenges and benefits.”

Women who have children after 40 are one of the fastest growing segments of society. Through her interview, Professor Ashworth is interested in learning why increasing numbers of women are choosing to embark on motherhood at mid-life and how they cope with the complex and demanding physical, emotional, and spiritual issues that come with raising children as a mature woman. While her study of mid-life mommies is not limited to lesbian moms, Dr. Ashworth is interested in including lesbians in her research.

If you are interested in participating in this study you can contact Professor Ashworth at ccapph@rit.edu or call her at (585) 889-9053.

The GAGV is underwriting the monthly In the Life show on WXXI. This month it airs at 11 pm on Nov. 21. The theme is “Generation Q.” Right: Some of the segments.
MLTV PRESENTS

The 34TH Annual

Sunday

November 14th

Harro East Ballroom
400 Andrews Street
Rochester, New York

Miss Gay Rochester Pageant

Advance Tickets $15
$20 at the door
Doors open 6pm
Showtime 7pm

Tickets Available at:
TARA’S
MUTHER’S
ANGELO’S DESIGN
CLUB MARCELLA'S BUFFALO

For Contestant Information
or Table Reservations
Call LIZA at: 585-263-7727

Starring the Reigning Miss Gay Rochester

Samantha Sulay

Come Celebrate:
TORRE ADORE’S 20th Anniversary
PANDORA BOXX’S 10th Anniversary

Performances By:
NAIOMY KANE
AMBROSIA SALAD
PANDORA BOXX
TORRE ADORE

The Fabulous AGGY DUNE as MC
Stage Setting and Flowers by EDGERTON FLORIST
Rainbow Seniors continued from page 5

One day she gave me an article and said, "I think this is what you've been looking for..." and it was.

As Michael Nava wrote in his book, "The Hidden Law," we are the only people born into the enemy camp, regardless of color, nationality or religion... gay babies get born into straight families and we survive it all is a miracle.

Growing up in the '60s in a divided family had its own problems, then the hell of high school and knowing I was different, but there was nothing to confirm how and what I was feeling.

I'm sure my family was trying to figure me out, but I couldn't figure me out.

Being drafted in 1950 was one of the best things to happen to me. After basic training, we were stationed near Baltimore, and getting to know the city, I became aware of the gay establishments and formed friendships that stayed with me for years and allowed me to know that I wasn't alone.

After being discharged in 1952, I stayed in Baltimore and began working in my chosen profession that I loved up to my retirement. I guess what I'm trying to say is that friends become like families and they give our lives meaning, purpose, and love as time goes on.

As we get older and time invades our lives, we find ourselves facing the loss of so many dear friends to us, and our lives begin to change as our circle gets smaller.

Health problems, loneliness, and isolation set in, and our lives seem less important, but I have some great friends both gay and straight who give all of us a big part of our lives.

Rainbow Seniors has given me back my first time to acknowledge my own sexuality.

So check us out. We meet the third Sunday of each month at the Unitarian Universalist Church on the corner of South Clinton and Court Streets, at 4 p.m. For more information, check us out at our Web site at www.rainbowseniors.org.

I hope you'll come and join with us and be a part of this group of friends and family. We need and care about you.

Rochester Rams

Join us for our Annual Rich R. Memorial Toy Drive on Saturday Nov. 20 at the Bachelor Forum.

Bring in a new unwrapped child's toy and get a free drink on the Rams and the Bachelor Forum. Help make this holiday season a little brighter for those less fortunate than us.

Remember this is barnight; leather, denim and boots never go out of style. All of our regular barnight features like beer bar, boot shine, coat check, raffle and wall-to-wall hot men will be available at this full-service event.

Our December Barnight will be Long John's Night on Dec. 18. Put on your union suit and check out the hot men ready to cuddle up on a cold winter night.

The Rochester Rams M.C. is Rochester's foremost gay motorcycle & leather club as well as being one of the oldest clubs of its type in the country.

Our home bar is the Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave., where we hold Barn Nights on the third Saturday of each month. We hold general meetings open to the public the Wednesday before each Bar Night at 7:30 p.m. at the Forum. For more info, visit our website: www.rochesterrams.com.

ROMANS

EROchester Male Naturists (ROMANS) is a social organization of gay naturists who enjoy camaraderie in the nude. Our affiliations include Gay Naturists International (GNI) and International Men Enjoying Naturism (IMEN).

If you want hot guys but were apprehensive about being nude the first time, there are several several events planned like eating out as a group at restaurants, going to concerts, movies, where you can meet other members of your group in a clothed environment.

Our nude swims are the first Saturday of the month, before hand our group meets for dinner in a clothed environment. Also we will be having a nude meeting night on Nov. 20. E-mail for details.

Membership is open to men over 21 years of age who have an interest in social nudism. Most members come from around the Rochester area, though Buffalo, Syracuse, Utica and the southern tier are also represented.

Visit the Romans web site where there is an application for membership and information about the club is available: http://www.geocities.com/wnyromans or E-mail: wnnyromans@yahoo.com, or write ROMANS, PO Box 92293, Rochester, NY 14692.

PLAGAL

PLAGAL prides itself on the diversity of its membership. It is one of the few pro-life organizations that accept all those who are pro-life. PLAGAL members come from different social and economic backgrounds, different political parties, some have religious affiliations while others do not. We have members who are against gay marriage, who support, bisexuals, single, those in long term relationships and we have even heterosexual individuals in our group.

Contact us for more information.


Women's Hiking

We're gearing up for hiking... join us! Cool way to meet great women.

We have lots of fun, and you are never alone because new ladies are always joining our adventures. Meet new friends or maybe find romance.

For info call Donna Marie Kearney, 585-442-6399.

Mision Latina/ Latino Mission

Misión Latina — a grupo social para Latinos/as GLBT y amigos. Todos son bienvenidos!

Latino Mission — a social group for GLBT Latinos and friends. All are welcome!


Para más información: Llame a Alex Camacho 442-2220 extensión 3063 o envíe un mensaje de correo electrónico a LatinoMission@yahoo.com. Todos son bienvenidos! Estamos planificando un PARTY para el Día de los Reyes Magos en Enero 5, 2005.

Latino Mission has just rejoined and will be getting together a couple of times every month for friendship, conversation, food, and fun. Be on the lookout for more information as the New Year begins. A big party is planned for Jan. 5, 2005! See the calendar for detailed information on our group.

Community Business Forum

Community Business Forum is a diverse group of business owners, employees, retirees, and people seeking to find support, education, and networking to enhance their personal and professional lives.

The group meets on third Thursdays, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Rochester Museum and Science Center, 657 East Avenue. Contact us via voice mail (224-8706) or e-mail, www.keyspianobar.com.

Impress your family and friends with an East Avenue address!

Then impress yourself with our exceptional service, elegant lifestyle, and incredible value. Simply put, this is city living at its best!

★ Fitness Center ★ Billiards Room ★ Business and Computer Center ★ Concierge ★ 24-hour Customer Call Center ★ Cats welcome ★ On-site Restaurant

585-244-6350
www.1600eastavenue.com

LOCAL KEYS

1600 East Avenue

One bedroom apartments $860 a month

Two bedrooms from $1,670

Extremely clean, spacious, light and airy.

Upcoming Appraoches by:
Doorly Center
Lucy Carey
Crystal Villas
Sara Fornes
Mara and Nanci

$5 @ Door
Promotions
Drink Ticket

PRIDE AND JOY FAMILIES

Rochester's Pride and Joy Families will meet for a Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 20 at the GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. It's 3-5 p.m; bring a dish to pass. The Alliance will provide the turkey, drinks and paper products.

For information call Todd Plank at 244-8640, ext. 24, or sign up on Pride & Joy listserv.

Presents:

DUELING PIANO DRAG REVIEW

Every Saturday

$2 Wells
$2 Labatts
10pm till Midnight

Dueling Piano 7pm-12am

Drag Show 10pm-2am
Working together we have been able to secure some of the basic rights to which all New Yorkers are entitled, but we still have work to do. And to do that we need your help!

Danny O'Donnell

Deborah Glick

On November 2nd
Vote for our friend and a true defender of your rights
Susan John for Assembly, 131st District
Endorsed by the Democratic Party, Working Families Party
Empire State Pride Agenda

gayrochester.com is all new!
Please let me introduce myself. My name is Tom Greco—sales and leasing professional for Bob Johnson Chevrolet. As an automotive veteran, I am proud to be working at the #1 Chevy dealership in Rochester—Bob Johnson Chevrolet. Bob Johnson Chevrolet sells more Chevy vehicles than any other Chevy dealership for many reasons, particularly:

At Bob Johnson Chevrolet, You'll get more for your money...

- We have more Chevy inventory—all colors—all options.
- We provide the best prices upfront—you’ll receive low, low financing, the highest rebates possible, our exclusive Platinum Plus Program, and special incentives provided exclusively by Bob Johnson Chevrolet.

For ADDITIONAL SAVINGS, call me and mention this ad!

You’ll get much greater value... It’s a better place to buy a car!