Canada legalizes same-sex marriage

By Sebastian White

OTTAWA- Thirty-six years after a flamboyant, famously womanizing prime minister named Pierre Elliott Trudeau decriminalized homosexuality in Canada by declaring, "the State has no place in the bedrooms of the nation," America's neighbors to the north joined Belgium and the Netherlands in becoming one of only three nations in the world to legalize same-sex marriage.

In a much-anticipated vote on June 28, Prime Minister Paul Martin and his governing Liberal Party succeeded in passing their controversial civil marriage bill five months after its introduction in the House of Commons by a healthy 158 to 133 margin, thanks to an alliance with members of the left-leaning New Democratic Party and the separatist Bloc Quebecois. Supreme Court Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin signed the bill making it law two hours after it was approved by the Liberal-dominated Senate on July 19.

"We're a nation of minorities," the prime minister said prior to the June 28 vote, "and in a nation of minorities you don't cherry-pick rights."

"It's a right and a right is that what this vote tonight is all about," he said.

The legislation extends to gay and lesbian couples the many legal, financial, and adoption rights currently afforded couples of the opposite sex and brings full equality to the couple in Toronto. Since then, immigration rights currently afforded couples of the opposite sex have been rolled back from Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The legislation has pitted the Liberal-dominated Senate on June 28, 2003 against the Prime Minister. A new Senate bill moved forward in the Senate on July 19, 2003.

MOCHA plans week of events for August 8-14

The MOCHA (Men of Color Health Awareness) Project plans a series of exciting events this month; their theme is "In the Unity Lies Strength".

The MOCHA plans include a Meditation Service at MOCHA, 107 Liberty Pole Way, a youth open house, an exhibit at the Michael C. Hawn Regency Hotel, and a community roundtable discussion on August 11, from 6-8 p.m. at Unity Health System, 89 Genesee St. The topic is "Beyond the Color Lines: Racism Under the Rainbow".

On August 12, MOCHA Awards will be presented at a jazz reception from 6:30-9 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The suggested donation is $10.

The Community Awareness Picnic at Genesee Valley Park (Red Creek Pavilion) happens on August 13 - an annual event renowned for great music and BBQ. That evening's event is the Attire Club Night at Muthers, 40 S. Union St., from 8-11 p.m.

On Sunday, Aug. 14, MOCHA has scheduled a Faith Service at 2 p.m. at the Lake Avenue Baptist Church, 70 Lake Ave. At the church.

For information on any of these events contact MOCHA at 420-1440, or stop by the office at 107 Liberty Pole Way.

Rochester Pride 2005: Our spirit shines through

By Susan Jordan

Pride 2005 was special, but then every Pride is. The Gay Alliance Picnic took place on a gloriously sunny July 10 in Genesee Valley Park, and the Pride Parade on July 16 was big, beautiful and buoyant, despite the fact that the Festival afterwards at Highland Bowl was washed out by violent midsummer downpour.

Sculpture dedication

Perhaps the most special and historic event during Pride Week was the sculpture dedication on July 15, sponsored by Atlantic Beacon Sculpture Committee (ABSC) and ARTWalk. "Three Pride Symbols" by Christine and Paul Kröllbach had been installed in front of the Bachader Forum at 670 University Ave. that morning, and that evening around 200 people attended the dedication ceremony, where Mayor Bill Johnson and City Council members Tim O. Main and Bill Pritchard read an official proclamation.

Mayor Johnson praised ART-Walk organizer Dong Rice as a former "thorn in my side" who has become a major community builder. Steve Lovi of ABSC thanked Gary Pease, who had the original idea, and the other members of the committee for their dedication and hard work. Tony Perri talked movingly about being a gay grandfather of a gay grandson.

Gay Alliance Community Relations Director Todd Plunk introduced Kris Hinesley, new Executive Director of the GAGV, who said that she would look forward to driving by the site and seeing the sculpture every day. Pam Barres, director of the Rochester Transgender Group, gave an impassioned speech about the essential unity of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans communities, and the need to support GENDA (Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act) for New York State. Thomas Warfield and three dancers performed to "Let the Sun Shine," moving gracefully among the three elements of the sculpture.

The historical theme was best illustrated by the GAGV Youth Group members who read their poetry, and members of Rainbow Seniors, who read their own work or remixed about their Stonewall experiences. The youth (see photo, page 18) and the seniors, especially John Van Gorn, whose memories of gay life go back to the 1940s, gave a perspective on where we have been and where we are now, and hope for the future. Thanks to ABSC, the Kröllbachs and ARTWalk for giving the entire Rochester community a lasting gift. (See article, page B1.)

Gay Alliance Picnic

The GAGV Picnic drew around 3,000 people and raised $13,000 for Alliance programs and services, thanks to organizers Chuck Argento and Gary Hess, the GAGV board and staff (particularly Cindy Evedich and Todd Plunk), and many terrific volunteers. The picnic featured expanded vendors, live music and entertainment, DJ dancing, and family fun.

Sammie, a charming black long-haired Chihuahua (owned by Jane and Shari), took first prize in the Doggy Drag pageant, despite some very close competition. Kimmie and Sully (owned by Petunia and Jordan) took second place, while Petunia, a chocolate Lab (owned by Jennifer) came in third. Congratulations and doggy treats to all the contestants.

(Continued on page 3)
Protection or paranoia? 
Baby boomers grew up in a world where "Commies" were seen as the great threat to our democratic American way of life. The "50s Cold War paranoia about the Communist Menace is replicated today by the Religious Right's paranoia about the Homosexual Menace.

Roger Lancaster, professor of anthropology at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., and author of The Trouble With Nature, Sex in Science and Popular Cultures, said in the Aug. 14 Advocate, "Since 9/11, 'protection' is the big, over-arching theme of the Daddy State (fear) protects America from terrorists. Protect the family from gays, lesbians and feminists. Protect the innocence - the unborn, the brain-dead - from abortion and euthanasia-rights advocates. It's as close to fascism as anything a ruling party has ever embraced in the United States."

Close to fascism? The Nazi cry was "Protect the Fatherland from the Communists - and from the Jews." The topic of Jewishness in the Third Reich was "purely psychological." The connection was built on thousands of years of anti-Semitic paranoia. Founded by the church, Nazi Party was originally backed by wealthy upper class German conservatives, who wanted a working men's political movement of the right to counteract the left, which the conservatives feared would ultimately destroy capitalism.

Predictably, the rich men soon lost control of Hitler, who had his own crazed agenda to pursue once he had gobbled power in 1933 (a war on two fronts - how clever...). But his values remained theirs. His sacred duty was to protect The Fatherland, a.k.a. the Daddy State.

a.k.a. the Patriarchy To Hitler and the Germans of 1933, women were property, gay men had denounced their all-important male identity, Jews (and all "non-Aryans") were evil, Communists (and any kind of socialist) were traitors and the "Zigeuner" of the rich... therefore, Jews, fascists, gays, leftists et al had to be destroyed. The results included the slaughter of millions of men, women and children - and, inevitably, the near-destruction of Germany itself.

Since the Bolshevik takeover in Russia in 1917, the North American ruling class had felt similar fear, and had begun to brainwash Americans from their schooldays on to see the Left as a monolithic, demonic threat. After World War II, when Russia had been an ally of the West against Hitler, paranoia about Nazi aggression was quickly replaced by paranoia about Stalinist aggression. The ugly history of Senator Joseph McCarthy typifies that witch-hunting era. "Commies" weren't diverse groups of people you could talk to or compromise with - they weren't really human beings at all, just cardboard bogeymen. Bad Guys out to bring down the American Civilization. They had to be destroyed.

After the end of the Cold War, and in the wake of Soviet power, the American Right no longer had a bogeyman to scare voters into compliance. With the emergence of the gay civil rights movement, the Right's political strategies used Christian fundamentalism, hatred of gays and women, and fear and shame about sexuality to bring out the "Commies." All the old de-humanizing techniques are back today: gay bashing, The Family and Western Civilization: we bogeymen who must be destroyed. The politics of paranoia ride again.

Like Hitler, the current leaders of the ultra-right have insisted the country is in a seemingly endless war. We can expect more forwarding, more erosion of civil rights, more attempts to discount Americans from the loss of their sons and daughters in Iraq. Paranoia often creates the very reality that it fears. Hitler's fear-based aggression ultimately brought about the 1945 Soviet invasion and occupation of Germany. Where will the Radical Right's paranoid "protection" take us? 

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BY KRIS HINESLEY

Telling Our Stories

Pride Week has been a time of celebrating our lives and successes. You have welcomed me with hopeful expressions of gratitude for my commitment to lead the Gay Alliance toward improved stability, vibrant programs, and increased effectiveness. You have offered me encouragement, and shared your stories of participation with the Gay Alliance and partner organizations like MCC of Metropolitan New York, HTML (Men of Color Health Awareness), GLSEN (Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network) and ESPA (the Empire State Pride Agenda).

As the executive director of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, my goal is to build a team — a large team of individuals, organizations, and businesses who share our vision of equality, justice, and acceptance — and to work together to provide services to the youth who need us, to promote the Gay Alliance and our outreach to the local community, to educate business representatives, educators, government officials, and the general public about our issues, and to tell our stories.

As I look at our community, I am encouraged by the leadership of the Gay Alliance, and to breathe new life into this institution that has become the foundation of the LGBT community in the region. As we work for full equality, your participation is essential.

Participation includes everything from writing stories involved by becoming a member of the GAGV, to writing to your elected officials or to the editor of your local newspaper, to coming out and being yourself if it is safe for you, to just telling your story. Telling our stories may be more important than you think.

As we work on our stories outside our circle of friends, we expand our reach outside the LGBT community.

So, this is my challenge to you. Tell your story, and share it with us so we can compelling stories to tell the people we are.

I realize it is easy, in this political climate, to feel more marginalized and less hopeful, and to think our stories don't matter. But I have noticed a remarkable spirit of unity and cooperation in the LGBT community, and genuine warmth and support from allies. This is our time to gather momentum in our push for equal rights. This is our push for equal rights. This is our time to gather momentum in our push for equal rights.

I look forward to meeting you, to finding new ways to work toward our vision of a just, equitable and affirming community and world, and to hearing your stories.
ARI team will bike 560 miles to NYC Aug. 14-20

A team of 11 cyclists from the Rochester area has so far raised $41,000 as participants in this year’s Empire State AIDS Ride, to take place Aug. 14-20.

A.Riders, the team representing AIDS Rochester, Inc., will join an estimated 90 other cyclists, who will bike 560 miles starting in Niagara Falls and ending in New York City’s Robert Wagner Park.

Cyclists will bike an average of 80 miles each day and will spend their nights camping out in tents set up by volunteer crews.

Team member Debbie Wood Allen, of Newark, is riding in the event for the first time in memory of her brother. “This year will be the 20th anniversary of my brother’s death from AIDS-related cancer,” she says. “I couldn’t imagine a better way to celebrate his life than to help raise awareness of HIV.”

Allen says her brother, Tom, who died at age 43, did not tell the family he had acquired HIV until later in his struggle, because he feared being rejected. “So, fundraising for this cause is very important to me. I want to help ensure that resources will always be available for anyone infected with this virus.”

Kevin Judge, AIDS Rochester’s Board of Directors president, believes it’s imperative that he raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and help raise funds to support prevention and education services. “There’s no excuse with our research, technology and resources that we haven’t yet eradicated this disease.”

More than one million Americans are believed to be living with the virus that causes AIDS, according to recent government report. This is believed to be the first time the case load has surpassed the one million mark since the height of the epidemic in the 1980s.

As of December 2004, nearly 3,000 people in the Finger Lakes region were living with HIV or AIDS. This figure can be deceiving, however, since an additional 25 percent of the U.S. population does not even know they are infected with HIV. Last year, there were 27 new cases of HIV diagnosed in Monroe County. While medications have helped HIV-positive individuals live healthier, longer lives, AIDS Rochester continues to see, on average, one client per week die from the disease.

Team members must raise a minimum of $3,200 in sponsorships to participate in the ride. Proceeds, which totaled $250,000 last year, will be divided among four agencies dedicated to HIV/AIDS prevention and research services. Recipients will include AIDS Rochester, AIDS Community Resources (Syracuse), AIDS Community Services of Western New York (Buffalo), and African Services Committee (New York City).

Last year, the event raised approximately $40,000 for AIDS Rochester. If you would like to donate to or contribute to the team, please call 442-2220.

(Continued on page 14)

Online census produces info on our lives

One lifestyle to live? The lifestyles of the party! Those phrases don’t have much of a ring to them. So it’s understandable why gay people chuckle over the saying. Why is it that straight people have bills, and we have lifestyles?

What straight Americans and corporate America need is some information about these lifestyles.

That’s the goal of the Gay/Lesbian Consumer Online Census, an annual online survey that collects responses from gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) people. The survey, now in its fifth year, is a joint venture between OpinionComm Group and the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University. Last year the survey had approximately 8,000 respondents.

This year’s version of the survey runs from July 11 to Aug. 22 and invites all GLBTs to log onto www.glcensus.org to “Stand Up And Be Counted”. In the largest annual study of the gay community and their consumer behavior.

Survey responses help paint a clearer picture of GLBT people — their relationships, their families, their politics and their consumer and media habits.

“Information of this kind can go a long way in helping straight America understand the issues of GLBT people,” said Jeffrey Glar, president of OpinionComm Group.

“And it helps businesses target the GLBT community.”

The visibility marketing affords is crucial in fostering more understanding between gay Americans and straight Americans, said Amy Falkner of Syracuse University and lead researcher for the survey.

“When businesses find out what GLBT people look for in their purchases, and feel comfortable about publicly portraying gay people in their advertisements, it puts a face on a segment of the population that is underrepresented and not always understood,” Falkner said. “Our survey is long — it takes nearly 45 minutes to complete, so we know that our respondents are dedicated to this cause. They have told us so. Hundreds of the e-mails received by G/L Cen­sus last year from respondents had to do with praise, thanks and encouragement to continue to survey the consumer behaviors of the GLBT community.

“We are just a few of the comments.”

“I thank you for taking the time out of your day and my partner’s time to space our opinions and shopping habits. Today, it feels like I’ve done something that might mean something and cause some positive change. In turn, I’ve done something to help make a difference.”

“Great Survey, glad SOMEONE is taking the time to ask how WE feel!”

“Thanks for putting this census data online. I find the information quite relevant to the GLBT community. Thank you so much for remembering to count our opinions in your research!”

“Don’t be afraid to ask questions. Clearly, the questions are quick and easy to understand. So, the information is step by step in convincing the world we are a force to be reck­oned with.”

“I believe in this information is step by step in convincing the world we are a force to be reckoned with.”

“Thanks for taking the time to investigate our habits. I really care about and feel passionate about the attention of businesses.”

“I believe in this information is step by step in convincing the world we are a force to be reckoned with.”

(Continued on page 14)
Mautner Project, Lesbian Health Organization hold gala fundraiser in DC

Celebrate the 15th Anniversary of Mautner Project, the National Lesbian Health Organization, at the largest lesbian formal gala on the East Coast, with over 1600 attendees at The Annual Gala, Auction & Dance fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 17, in Washington, D.C.

Gala tickets are $160 and can be purchased by calling 202-332-5526 or online at www.mautnerproject.org. A sell out crowd is expected. For details or to donate to the Auction, purchase an ad, or for sponsorship opportunities, please contact abroccolino@mautnerproject.org or http://4545.mail.yahoo.com/yim?composeTo_abroccolino@mautnerproject.org&cc=mautnerproject@taylor4-36900&site=msn.html&domain=stamp&paste&cc=m@mautnerproject.org&YY=13669&a &view=a&head=b.

The gala begins at 6 p.m. at The Washington Hilton & Towers, 191 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, DC.

The celebration benefits the Mautner Project, which improves the health of lesbians and women who partner with women through advocacy, education, research, and direct service. The Mautner Project envisions a healthcare system that is guided by social justice and responsive to the needs of all people.

Spain approves same sex marriage in spite of church opposition

Spain’s parliament has approved a bill that would enact the civil code by stating “Marriage shall have the same requirements and effects regardless of whether the persons involved are of the same or different sex.”

The law passed the lower house, or Congress of Deputies, in a first reading on April 21. On June 22, the upper house, or Senate, narrowly rejected the bill. However, Spain’s Senate does not have veto power, and the lower house enacted the bill into law on June 30. Spain is taking a major step to end discrimination based on who people love and live their lives with,” said Scott Long, director of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights Program at Human Rights Watch. “Passing this bill will send a message that Spain is committed to equality.

Guaningermone-sex couples equal marriage has been a major priority of the government of Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero since it was elected last year. However, the legislation has been militantly opposed by the Catholic Church.

In April, Cardinal Alonso López Trujillo, head of the Vatican’s Pontifical Council on the Family, called the legislation “profoundly insidious” and urged officials not to perform wedding ceremonies for same-sex couples. On July 1, the Vatican newspaper denounced the approval of marriage equality in Canada and Spain as “direct and violent attacks against the family.”

Pope Benedict XVI called gay families “pseudo-marriages between persons of the same sex.”

“A basic part of human dignity is the right to have one’s intimate relationships recognized,” said Scott Long. “Spain is sending a message to the rest of the world that same-sex couples can dream of a future that includes equal rights.

Spain and Canada become the third and fourth countries worldwide to allow full equality in civil marriage, after the Netherlands and Belgium. However, in a Spanish court ruled the first week in July that gay Spaniards can marry only non-citizen partners in seven countries where gay marriage is legal. (See From Our Readers, p. 17)

To read Human Rights Watch’s position paper on equality in civil marriage, see http://hrrw.org/backgrounder/light/civil-marriage.html

Virginia UCC church vandalized after pro-marriage vote

St. John’s Reformed United Church of Christ (UCC) in Middleburg, Va., was vandalized in the early hours of July 9, with antigay graffiti and a small fire started in the sanctuary. Police and church leaders suspect the attack was in response to the UCC’s General Synod gay-affirming vote on July 4 when delegates overwhelmingly approved a resolution supporting same-sex marriage.

On July 12 a statement was released from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force National Leadership Roundtable.

"The Task Force National Religious Leadership Roundtable condemns the anti-gay violence committed against St. John’s Reformed United Church of Christ in Middleburg, Va. The General Synod of the United Church of Christ has expressed its support for full marriage equality for same-sex couples and has passed a helpful prayer and deliberation. Any backlash or act of violence against a UCC congregation for the denomination’s courageous action can only be interpreted as an attack on its constitutional right to free exercise of religion and should be condemned by all who respect that right. There is no question that hateful actions come from hateful words,” said Rev. Steven Bates, steering committee member of the National Religious Leadership Roundtable and elder in the Unitarian Universalist Church of Asheville, NC. "The Disciples of Christ denomination. ‘The perpetrators of this attack against a sacred space have been trained to hate by hate preachers who tell them gay people are sick and by state and federal governments that are working to enshrine discrimination in their constitutions. It is the responsibility of all people of faith to denounce this attack on what is the ride of homophobia that is flooding our country.’

"Crimes motivated by bias against one’s ‘race’ carried out by career law enforcement under penalties in Virginia’s hate crimes law, and we encourage law enforcement to prosecute these individuals regardless of whether the attacks were motivated by anti-gay hate.

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Virginia Black GLA collection

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture has agreed to house the original collection of the Black Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Archives (BGLA), the largest collection of Black gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, same-gender loving histories, and culture in the lives of gay people of African descent and has done so since 2000.

Since 1998, Blackfire, the Black Lace, and the Black Fire!! archives, which would house to the 1920’s with the explosion of the Harlem Renaissance.

Since 1998, Blackfire, the Black Lace, and the Black Fire!! archives, which would house to the 1920’s with the explosion of the Harlem Renaissance.

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture has agreed to house the original collection, and I am especially pleased that the BGLA project is to gather materials for a period of five years (2000-2005), a "in order to create a comprehensive collection of materials, which would function as a". The BGLA project is to gather materials for a period of five years (2000-2005), in order to create a comprehensive collection of materials, which would function as a...
MICHIGAN ALCU SAYS same sex families should get health care benefits

At a hearing on July 21, the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan asked the court to declare that the amendment passed by Michigan voters in November 2004, regarding same-sex marriage, does not prohibit domestic partnership (DP) benefits offered by public employers.

“This is our opportunity to convince the court that voters in Michigan never intended to take health care benefits away from families and children,” said Jay Kaplan, ACLU staff attorney for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Project. “Propositions of Proposal 2 consistently told voters that this amendment was limited to marriage and they believed them.”

The lawsuit, filed in March on behalf of a large coalition of National Pride at Work and 22 same-sex couples who receive health insurance from their public employers or who would have received DP benefits as part of a new state contract.

This followed Governor Jennifer Granholm’s announcement, in December 2004, that domestic partner benefits would be removed from a negotiated contract between the state and state employees. The benefits package included health insurance coverage for same sex partners of state employees and family medical leave.

Since the filing, the City of Kalamazoo has been added as a defendant after the city announced it would eliminate domestic partnership benefits as of January 1, 2006. This decision came after Attorney General Mike Cox issued a non-binding opinion in March stating that he believes Proposal 2 bars all public employers from providing domestic partner benefits.

Oral arguments were also heard on motions filed by Governor Granholm and Attorney General Mike Cox. The governor is asking that she be dismissed from the case or that the court find that Proposal 2 does in fact prohibit public employers from providing domestic partnership benefits.

In a separate motion to intervene, the Attorney General has requested that he be added as a defendant, maintaining that the AG’s position on this case is not adequately represented. This is in spite of the fact that his office is representing the governor.

The ACLU of Michigan recently released “Families Under Attack: Real Stories of Michigan Families,” to educate the public about the issues that LGBT families encounter on a daily basis.

To read the publication, go to: http://www.aclumich.org/pubs/storyproject.pdf.

To see documents, go to http://www.aclumich.org/modules.php?name=News&article&sid=426

Jim Mathewson, editor
Dan Mastrodonato of the Community Business Forum

By Susan Jordan

Daniel R. Mastrodonato is District Sales Manager for E-chx Payroll Solutions. A resident of Greece, he has lived in Rochester for 42 years. He has two “children,” Bear and Bull – a black Lab and a cockapoo. Very active in the community, Dan is an Executive Board member of ACHC and the GAGV, as well as being Assistant Chair Person/Social Director of the Community Business Forum, and is also a committee member of the Greece Chamber of Commerce.

How do you feel about being the new treasurer of the GAGV?

I am very excited about a successful year both in fundraising and financial growth for the GAGV.

How did you feel about the Parade?

It seemed to go off really well, in spite of the unfortunate thunderstorm that washed out the festival, and the usual hate groups with their bullhorns. The Parade got a nice write-up in the Democrat & Chronicle.

Everyone worked really well together to get this parade to be a memorable one. The Streets of Pride committee, along with the Community Business Forum, worked in unison to see that Rochester was given a new venue with this year’s theme of Broadway at the Bowl.

We have all become used to the hate groups with their bullhorns, but together as a community, we treat them more as a nuisance rather than a threat.

The D&C has always found kind words to say about the event and this year was no different. Any comments about the Picnic or other Pride Week events?

I felt that the picnic was very well run and organized. I am always amazed at the attendance of this event, as well as the Parade. The LGBT community really steps up to the plate to make sure that Rochester is always remembered for putting on one of the best Pride Weeks in the Country. I am very excited to be a part of that.

When is the next CBF social, and how can people get involved?

The next social is scheduled for Aug. 11 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Rochester Museum and Science Center. People can get involved by bringing a friend to the social and becoming a member of CBF.

Our membership has grown substantially over the last year and we are all thrilled with that. If someone is interested in speaking at the CBF, either regarding their place of business or an event that the LGBT and friends can benefit from, they can contact myself or Mary Ann Galliglio.

Next year’s Parade will remain a mystery until early 2006, at which time an announcement will be made by the Streets of Pride committee.

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Anything you’d like to add?

I’d like to thank the GAGV staff, board and past board members for welcoming me so graciously into the GAGV and I will do everything that I can to give my support to this fine organization.

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Proudly Serving Our Community
Standing up for unempowered women
By Merle Exit

It’s a hot Saturday afternoon as I come home from what was a marvelous trip to Newport, Rhode Island. With two back­ packs, I switch from Amtrak to the New York City subway. The E train takes me as far as Roosevelt Avenue in Jackson Heights, where I will then transfer to a local train and finally bus to my home.

The announcement over the p.a. system says the train will be making local stops from Queens Plaza to Roosevelt Avenue. At this point, the train is not crowded and seats are not hard to come by. There is a young, small­statured woman sitting directly across from me. Within seconds of the train’s departure, a tall, heavy set middle aged man approaches the woman, sits next to her and asks if the train stops at Queens Plaza.

"That’s where I’m going,” she says the train will be making local stops. She doesn’t appear concerned. Although she doesn’t appear embarrassed, and I walked to watch him and attempt to listen to the conversation.

I don’t hear all, but it begins to get personal. He tells her that he is from Saudi Arabia. I get even more uncomfortable as he looks her up and down and asks if the train stops at Roosevelt Avenue in Jackson Heights. He tells her that he is from Saudi Arabia.

I notice that she is doing her utmost to be polite. She too has an accent and he asks wher she is from. I did not catch that, but I am sure that she is from a country where many women are far from empowered. He is asking about her dating status and as he tells her, he takes his hand, places it on her arm and says something into her ear. His hand stays too long as far as I’m concerned. Although she doesn’t appear angry, I am totally oblivious to men bothering other women. There was a time when I was young and not empowered. But now, to the scenario, my evening plans would have me attending the New York Sharks game, where empowered women were playing full tackle football. Offense, Defense.

As I arose and put my backpacks on, I walked up to him, clutch my middle finger at his face and slowly yelled, “FUCK YOU! YOU LOST!”

The woman had left the train, probably angry for all of the times that I kept my mouth shut about men bothering me and so was I, but he was only aware of her moves. I said, “yes” but was still very angry. Angry for all of the times that I kept my mouth shut about men bothering me and about men bothering other women. There was a time when I was young and not empowered. But now, to the scenario, my evening plans would have me attending the New York Sharks game, where empowered women were playing full tackle football. Offense, Defense.

As I arose and put my backpacks on, I walked up to him, clutch my middle finger at his face and slowly yelled, “FUCK YOU! YOU LOST!”

The woman had left the train, probably embarrassed, and I walked off. As the door closed the man stood in anger staring at me. He was left to deal with the other passengers. Since I had been totally oblivious, the passengers that also got off awaiting the local train lanced out questions about what just occurred. All of them were under the impression that the two people knew each other. No one but myself thought about what the outcome of their meeting might lead to.

Each one seemed concerned about what the guy could have done to me. Unfortunately there was no thought on my part. My adrenaline was too pumped up and the upset came out even further as I broke out into what I thought were hives. Shingles. Caused by nerves. 

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The Empty Closet • The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley
Number 38 • August 2005

St Heller, The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley
The GAGV Picnic was July 10 at Genesee Valley Park
The Pride Parade was July 16 at Highland Park

Paul Brew was the bride, Emily Jones the groom. All Parade photos by Doug Meszler.

The faces of Rochester...
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AUGUST 2005 • NUMBER 382 • GAY ALLIANCE OF THE GENESEE VALLEY • THE EMPTY CLOSET

Left: Mayoral candidate Tim Mains; right: AIDS Rochester's "Wicked" float.

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In Unity Lies Strength...........
Pride (continued from page 3)

Bill Pilchard, candidate for office including Ellen Yackin, Harry Bronson and Patsy Mackay, as Republicans, and Angel Pichardo, a Democrat.

In that debate, the candidates were asked about their views on the GLBT population.

Pilchard, a Democrat, said that he would support the rights of gay and lesbian people.

Bronson, a Republican, said that he would protect the rights of gay and lesbian people.

Mackay, a Democrat, said that she would support the rights of gay and lesbian people.

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In the debate, the candidates were also asked about their views on other issues, such as education and healthcare.

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Laurie Schulman
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Rape Crisis offers sexual assault victims referrals, short-term counseling, and support during medical exams, police investigations, and court proceedings. Being a RCS volunteer is a very rewarding experience, and without these important individuals who volunteer their time, the 24-hour a day, seven-day a week service that RCS offers would not be available.

Interested applicants must go through a screening process and interview process. There is also mandatory training, which educates volunteers how to provide support to victims and their families, assist in the legal process, and how to work with RCS counselors and other volunteers.

In September, there will be a 32-hour training program taking place over several days. Those interested in volunteering for RCS must be at least 20 years of age, have their own transportation, and be comfortable working with victims in a crisis situation. RCS asks that anyone interested be able to make a one-year commitment to the service, and be available nights and/or weekends.

Further information about how to volunteer and become involved in Rape Crisis Service can be found on the internet at www.pprsr.org or by contacting Kathy Paxton, Regional Volunteer Coordinator of Planned Parenthood, at 585-546-2771 ext 338.

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Nothing to be proud of?
To the Editor:
Congratulations to the (Gay) Community Business Forum (of which I am a member) and to the Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus for promoting the negative gay stereotype of men in dresses and wigs during Rochester’s Pride Parade.

The Pride Parade and Festival does an excellent job of promoting this negative image every year! I did not attend because it is not representative of the world; the majority of gay people live here in Rochester. When will the Rochester GLBT organizations understand that the image that is projected in public is the image projected to the media and burned into the public’s mind? I’d like to say to these two organizations, “Thank you for making it more difficult for me to be out in business. Thank you for burning into my mind the idea that the majority of gay men look like guys in dresses, wigs and makeup.

Yes, I hear you when you say that you are just having fun. But take the responsibility to own the fact that your fun is damaging to you, your friends, and the rest of the gay community in the context of where the majority of us live and work. It is enough to make me want to start an exclusive organization called The Normal Gay Majority, comprised of and supported by the normal gay majority in Rochester. You want diversity? Well, how about PROPORTIONAL diversity?

You, find a way to project to the public the image that the majority of gay men look and dress just like straight folks. Promote to the public that guys in dresses are in the minority, which is where they really are. Allow one guy in a dress and a wig in the Pride Parade (for every 2,000 normal looking guys, keeping it realistically proportioned). I’m convinced that the gay majority in Rochester would be better served if Rochester had no Pride Parade at all.

Wayne Solotoff
The Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus responds:
“The Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus, by nurturing pride in and acceptance of the diversity of our community, creates social change through excellence in the choral arts.” This is the mission statement of the RGMC, which, for 23 years, we have passionately supported. In all that we do, in every performance we give and through our many volunteer activities, we continually work to uphold this mission statement.

The RGMC proudly supports the diversity of both the Rochester community and the many pride events that are held throughout the year, including the Pride Parade. We feel that the vast diversity of Rochester’s GLBT community is the core of its strength. If you are interested in being a part of what we, as gay men, do to help nurture pride in and acceptance of diversity, then join us for voice placements for our holiday concert, Carols for the Holidays. Voice placements start at 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 25 and are being held at the Downtown United Presbyterian Church (DUPC). Our first rehearsal for our holiday concert cycle is also being held at DUPC on September 8 at 7 p.m. If you are more interested in attending a concert than being in one, then make sure not to miss Carols for the Holidays on either Dec. 9 or Dec. 10 at 6 p.m. at Hochstein Music School.

To learn more about the RGMC, or for more information about our upcoming concerts and fundraisers, please visit our website at www.thergmc.org, email us at info@thergmc.org, or give us a single on The Choral Line at 585-423-4066.

Jackie Curtis’s cousin says thanks for article
To the Editor,
Thank you for such an ordaining article on My First Cousin/Godfather Jackie Curtis. I am the executor of his estate and I reside in New York City. I put on the stage production of “Glamour, Glorby & Gold”, in December of 2003, and am currently in production of the filming of the play.

You can visit the website at www.glam­ourgloryandgold.com <http://www.glam­ourgloryandgold.com> for more info. I am also currently seeking investors. We did our first scene shoot July 9 at St. Mark’s Church in the East Village, where Jackie's entire mother's side of the family comes from, including myself.

Thanks once again for such a lovely tribute. If anyone would like to produce "Glamour" on stage in your area, I have reached via this e-mail address jpsedlin@kolo.com or through the website.

Sincerely,
Joey Preston
Executive of the Estate of Jackie Curtis
NYC

About the rainbow flag colors in the ABSG sculpture
To the Editor:
There have been some questions since the sculpture was put up about the reason why we chose this color scheme. ABSG would like to have some kind of explanation in the GC about this.

The two female/lesbian symbols along University Avenue follow the first two colors of the gay pride flag. Followed by the second two colors, yellow and green on top pride flag with the gay male symbols, and then followed by the last two colors on the pride flag, blue and purple, with the third bi-sexual/intergendered symbol — with the color blue representing the fifth color on the flag and then purple representing the sixth/bottom color on the flag and symbol, all in that order.

There was some question about the order on the last third symbol, but it does follow the pride flag with blue being on top, representing the fifth pride flag color and then purple on the bottom of the sculptural representation of the pride flag. Hope this helps clarify any questions viewers or readers might have.

Steve Land, ABSG

Britain refuses to let gay citizen marry in Spain
To the Editor:
My name is Dan Downing, my partner of 13 years is a British Citizen. We are in the process of fulfilling the requirements of the city of Fuengirola in Spain to get a marriage permit. One of the requirements is to get a certificate from the British Consulate stating that my partner (a Brit) is single.

The Vice Consul in Malaga has today (July 20) at 10 a.m. refused to issue one, stating that the Embassy in Madrid has told them not to issue this type of certificate to same-sex couples. They will, however, issue this type of certificate to heterosexuals. We called the Embassy in Madrid and they confirmed that was the case.

We find this type of behavior to be appallingly discriminatory, since the UK will recognize marriages performed in Massachusetts or Vermont. We don’t understand why it is any business of the British Consulate who we are going to marry, all we need is a certificate stating that my partner is single.

Dan Downing

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PARADE GRAND MARSHALL: Sgt. Robert Stout, a combat engineer was awarded the Purple Heart. He is thought to be the first gay soldier wounded in Iraq to publicly discuss his sexual orientation.

SCULPTURE DEDICATION: Denise Finnerty, Erika Ward, and Chad Trate, members of the GAGV Youth Group, read their poetry at the ABSC sculpture dedication, July 15. Photo by Gerry Szymanski.

SIR ELTON IN PHILLY: At the City of Philadelphia Annual Independence Day Ceremony: Sir Elton John receives the City of Brotherly Love Humanitarian Award at Independence Hall on July 4. John headlined the all-star Freedom Concert on the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art on July 4, to raise funds for the Elton John AIDS Foundation and the Dr. Magnus Hirschfield Fund. Organizers estimated at least 1.5 million people were present. Performers included Patti LaBelle, Rufus Wainwright and Bruce Vilanch.

Mayoral candidate Bob Duffy talks to Eric Bellman at the Pride Parade.
THE LINCOLN CENTER PEOPLE: The Village People were OUT – that is, performing at the OUT at Lincoln Center: Midsummer Night Swing concert on June 22. It was the first time that Lincoln Center has observed Pride.

THE GOOD GAY POET: A celebration of 150 years of Leaves of Grass at Cadman Plaza Park in Brooklyn. A July 2 poetry reading was held across the street from the Rome Printing Shop, where Leaves of Grass was self-published by Walt Whitman, legendary 19th century “Good Gray” poet, played here by Darrel Blaine Ford.
There are still lots of chances to catch Tim:

**St. Luke & St. Simon**
Thursday, July 28th

**Arts & Cultural Council**
Tuesday, August 9th

**NBN Sector 6**
Wednesday, August 10th

**National Association of Industrial and Office Properties on Economic Development**
Thursday, August 11th

**Frontier Field**
Tim Sings - 7th Inning Stretch
Monday, August 18th

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Register to vote by August 13th and vote for Tim, the best candidate, on September 13th. We need your help, your financial support, and your vote!

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**WXXI/WDKX Interview**
Monday, August 15th

**Voice of the Voter**
**WXXI TV-21**
Monday, August 15th

**Third Presbyterian Church**
Sunday, August 21st

**Latino Political Academy**
Monday, August 22nd

**10 NBC Mayoral Debate**
**WHEC - TV - 10**
Wednesday, August 31st

**Voice of the Voter Debate**
**WXXI - TV - 21**
Wednesday, September 7th

**Voice of the Voter Debate**
**WXXI - TV - 21**
Friday, September 9th

**TV 8 Mayoral Debate**
**WROC - TV - 8**
Saturday, September 10th

**Primary Day - VOTE!**
Tuesday, September 13th

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Sculpture dedication completes two years of effort

By Brendan McDonough

They are three symbols, united as one. Outside the Bachelor Forum, three pride symbols are now very publicly displayed, representing gay men, lesbians, and bisexual/transgender people. The idea for the project came out of a simple discussion among people wanting to celebrate and recognize the efforts of Rochester's GLBT community. However, completing it was not an easy task. It took the Atlantic Beacon Sculpture Committee more than two years to raise half of the $14,000 it would take to build the sculptures. A City grant helped to pay for the other half. The ABSC collaborated with ARTWalk to develop the symbols, while Christine and her husband Paul Knoblauch came up with the design. “We are very happy and it’s an honor to be part of this whole thing; we are very happy to be associated with all these people, they have been great,” said artist Christine Knoblauch.

For the ABSC, it is the completion of a project that they hope will build allies among all communities. “The sculpture was designed by an ally, she is not a lesbian, she is not part of the gay community, but she considers herself to be a supporter of the gay community,” said Steve Losi, ABSC committee member. The three symbols are located on the corner of Atlantic and Beacon Streets. They are very hard not to miss and many hope people will step by not only to look at them, but to also understand more about gay community. “The Bachelor Forum is a gay-owned business and they were interested in some sort of theme where gays, bisexuals and transgender communities were represented for the contributions they have made in the city of Rochester, so this seemed like the perfect place,” said Doug Rice, Executive Director of ARTWalk. City Council member Bill Pritchard was pleased with the display. “I think over time it will become a focal point for community pride. It’s the pride colors and it’s next to a gay bar, it’s in the neighborhood of folks. I think over time it’ll definitely become a focal point for GLBT community.”

(Continued on page 2)
Sculpture (continued from page 1)

...ty's pride. It's not something that we've had in a long time and I think it's wonderful," said Pritchard.

And community members agree. "I think this festival is a big addition to the community and I'm very proud that we are one of those communities that have public displays of pride. It's great," said Scott Deane of Rochester.

But others weren't so happy with the sculptures. "I was disappointed to give him my name, said I told the sculptures are boring and that they could have been more interesting," he said. "I expected a little more from gay people."

But for the most part, people say the sculptures are nice and the whole idea of a sculpture garden is a good one. "I think it really is cool. They are really bright and eye-catching. I was here helping a friend and people up here were very happy, with what's there and help explain this to me," said Naomi Sandler, of Henderson.

The symbols are also designed to commemorate the Stonewall uprising which led to the beginning of the gay rights movement, back in 1969. Now in 2005 people in Rochester can see how far we've come, as the symbols of pride are now proudly on display for all to see and enjoy.

RGMC Buffalo (continued from page 1)

geometry. More important, it is here that really bright and eye-catching. I was here see plants gathered from around the globe can check out and maybe purchase one of inspired palm house and conservatories or hid show and sale that weekend.

From the copper dome, 18-foot high angels will be at 6:30 p.m. More information and directions are available at www.jacobspillow.org.

Hansen teaches Modern Technique, Composition and Dance History. His work has been performed throughout the country and has received enthusiastic reviews. In September, following his choreography, he received two space grants from the Harkness Dance Center in New York, funding "...to do something different to help students improve..." he said.

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Christopher Rice: Feeling his oats

By One Oversayer

Writing is definitely in his blood, so to speak. After all, he is the son of late poet and painter Stan Rice and the well-known bite-you-in-the-neck novelist, Anne Rice. As one of America’s most prolific storytellers, Anne Rice gave the world the gift of magic and darkness of Africa and two families’ destinies, spanning four generations, from early apartheid to present day free Africa.

Although his publisher told Christopher to expect some negative reviews simply because of who he is, this did not deter him. Failure at this point was unthinkable. The Density of Souls, his debut novel published in 2000, is a story of murder, madness, rape and suicide involving four friends growing up in New Orleans. The book sold 100,000 copies in hardcover, and became a New York Times bestseller. Rice followed this literary effort with the 2002 title, The Syringa Tree, a murder mystery centering on an affair between a gay student and his married art history professor. This title also made the NYT bestseller’s list, as well garnering the prestigious Lambda Literary Award for Gay Men’s Mystery writing for 2003.

As a result, his readership became secure with the promise of more complex. Rice told Linton Weeks in The Washington Post, “I took all my worst fears in high school and made them happen in one character.” He pointed out, like many authors who identify as gay, that he just wanted to create a story that he wished he could read when he was in high school.

Comparing his first two books, Rice told C.L. Jose in GayWired, “The second book (The Snow Garden) is a murder mystery from almost page one. The first book was kind of a hybrid. It began as an engaging, exotic, complex, deeply shocking ... a thoroughly persuasive over-the-top melodramatic Peyton Place, only the action in Density is exponentially more complex. Rice told Limon Weeks in the Washington Post, “I took all my worst fears in high school and made them happen in one character.” He pointed out, like many authors who identify as gay, that he just wanted to create a story that he wished he could read when he was in high school.

Christopher Rice is the three of us. He is a product of his connections, and not based on any inherent talent or authentic ability. In a notion that I’m just a product of nepotism and public appeal draws me out from under my mother’s shadow.”

WORMSWORD PROFILE:

Christopher Rice:

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Christopher Rice is still taking punches from heavyweight journal critics. However, his latest novel The Bear Culture challenges them to leave behind the sometimes awkward prose and dialogue (which seem between friends somewhat expressly dissolvent) that dampens the narrative tension he tries to cultivate.” (Source: Publisher's Weekly, Feb. 14, 2005).

Rice fires back, “When an author is defined by their minority status, it implies that they are somehow innately worthy of being compared to that of the heterosexual white male. That’s why I don’t like the term ‘gay writing’ because it’s a way of dismissing people who say morally indefensible and silly things about those book, there are still thousands of people who want to read them.

They want that vital world the author created, and are happy somebody is giving it to them. There is great value to me.

He adds: “It was incredibly rewarding when I got a huge positive response from the character of Bear Porter out of more than a thousand young gay men contacted me and said that I captured it as well for them as for those of us that means everything to me.

Growing Up

GUILTY FOR THIS I SAW TODAY?

By Eric Beilenson

I never wanted to see him again. Or I was afraid it would be, how I'd feel, if I did see him again. Whatever. Over is over. Clearer that way.

I avoided the restaurant near his house, even though I liked it, used to eat there from time to time. It was as if there was a
20-by-five-foot block square near his house. That's no entirely true. Sometimes when I was heading home, always late at night, I'd drive by. What did I hope to see, learn? If the gate was open, that sign of negligence mean he was out of the house.

Then one day I decided, no more driving by. Rather like when I decided not to fill packets of coffee from the office. That day I decided not to give a damn about the economic advantage of not having to lay out cash by taking packets of coffee, against the fact that I was stealing. I just didn't care. Other people who get caught stealing have diagnostic appeal: desperate, food-lover, rebel. Not so thief.

A certain power comes with a thief in the Eyes. A certain power comes with attacking troublesome habits. Spend a few bucks and regain

A Kryptonian.

I brought in a photograph.

It

more.


I bump into a casual acquaintance, nice woman going through a breakup. I never shy away from practicing my ama­

therapist skills. Out of the blue I create this weird metaphor. Great romance is like

waiting to be born.

We chat over iced coffee, outdoors in the

I'm right around the corner from Ben Gay.

As he leaned in to kiss me, I realized that when I was going to my first school dance he was still going to his pediatrician for immunization shots. When I went to my first rave, he was going to first grade.

I heard the call of the bedroom. Ordinary.

We went over iced coffee, outdoors in the late afternoon sun. And whaddya know, guess who appears?

No sign of the thrill. The thrill is most emphatically nowhere to be felt. I have no idea how my cheese actually helped my brother. I just knew it wasn't cool because I'm over the whole feeling of a casual acquaintance is a Kryptonian.

She and I meet again, this time we walk to Kum and um the dance floor. Ordinary.

We talked, people who are older than I am. Brad Pitt is 46 years old. The average age of the three members of the Beastie Boys is 38 (and they're still rocking the microphones). Johnny Depp just turned 42 in June. Hot actors: Patrick Dempsey is 48, and Dylan McDermott is 43. And Bono of U2 fame is 54 years old. Am I a moron compared to these dinosaurs?

I also remembered hearing a news story this past month that scientists were refining the aging process since everyone is getting older but acting much younger than their parents did at the same age. 40 really is the new 30. So under this theory, I'm closer to 24 then 34. But that would make him 11, which is smack-dab in the middle of Neverland Ranch territory (shivers).

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While dancing I learned that he was completing his senior year in college and was an officer of his fraternity. He was out of school, to his frat brothers, and to his family.

And then for some unknown reason he proceeded to tell me his mom was 43 years old.

Again I did a quick mental computation. There were only nine years that separated his mom's age from mine. Talking about one's mother can quickly kill the mood.

I was invited to go back to his room at the frat house. Luckily it was located off campus grounds, so I wasn't going to have to explain my presence to campus security. Rent-a-cops can be real jerks.

He didn't appear to be intoxicated. Again I asked him whether the age differ­

ence bothered him out. He said no. And although I should have been wiser, I decid­

ed to go with him. (Besides the frat house has the common setting for gay ports.)

We quickly said goodbye to his girl­

friends (whom I convinced that I wasn't some crazed ax murderer), and I drove us back to his place.

To say the frat was a dump is way too

kind. The big ramshackle house looked like it was ready to cave in on itself. This place would have given Thom Pricca of "Better Eye" fame a heart attack. I believe kids fell down abandoned wells and minor injuries were safer than this place.

But of course followed his lead as we traveled through the house of horrors. I thought they went using entering feet as end cap. There wasn't one wall that didn't have a "speed ball" hole in it. And there was garbage all throughout the house. All I kept thinking was, "Does your mother know you live like this?"

When we got to his room, which looked like a hurricane had stopped in to visit just moments earlier, we quickly turned off the lights and dove under the covers.

The kissing began again which soon led to grabbing and stroking and pulling. Crotch was covered covered by covered. He had the body of an Olympic swimmer. I have the body of a small Sumo wrestler. What the hell did he think I was?

But we didn't stop. And we didn't stop five times! (We were practically touching one another.)

Finally we collapsed in exhaustion.

Before asking each I said a quick prayer under his breath.

Dear God,

Please do not let me wake up in the morning a cloud blindsfolded and burla­

kned with the word "PERVERT" sprayed across my chest. I've read all about those frat house pranks. I don't need my picture in the local newspaper (again). Amen.

We woke up the next day around noon in each other's arms. He looked like a cross between a young version of Kevin Reeves (who is 40 years old) and Zach Galligan (the lead actor from the 1984 film "Gnu­

lin"") -- No way was I going to reference that movie in his presence).

We went one more round. Then he had to go to the gym, and I had to go take a nap.

He navigated me through the house back out to the driveway. On the way we met a couple of frat brothers. I have never felt so safe in my life.

He entered his phone number into his cell phone. I'm not holding my breath that he will ever call me. He was a sweet kid who made me feel safe.

And I'm sure I'm listed in his telephone directory.

That would be funny, if only he knew the movie reference.

Email: misadventuresinboyland@havana. iaportal67.com
Conundrums

A CALL TO ACTION: FIGHTING THE GOOD RIGHT

By Ourovermy

When you think about it for a moment, civil rights and the gay rights movement have made considerable progress in the last few decades. However, these advancements did not occur without great personal sacrifice. I think it was Thomas Jefferson who wrote, “It is the right of the people..., it is their duty to question, resist, and ultimately alter a government which no longer serves the interests of its citizens.”

In keeping with this notion, it’s not because of my homo-bi-literate ideology that I question the validity and competence of the current administration, but rather a pronunciamento and obligation motivated by me being treated as a second-class citizen.

It is fair to say that there are real heroes still out there today, fighting the good fight. They come from all walks of life. They are young and old, gay and straight, black and white, eloquent, some are rich, and some are ridiculously poor.

On the local front, City Councilman and mayoral candidate Tim Matos is just one of many people who are trying to make a difference right here in Rochester, New York. Solicited to those like him who have worked tirelessly for years, are the incredible, creative creatures of hetero-sensual absorption. The people who receive these folks know in life are the paths laid down by the gay community. The paths they opened up.

Last month, a good friend of mine who has three children was denied housing simply because of her race. I am sure of it. I heard it from myself. We have laws to protect people from this, and you can be damned sure that this landlord will be heard from. We have laws to protect the renter and not the landlord. We need to remove the stigma and hurt that burned a hole in that mother’s heart. These are wrong.

Scott Bloch, head of the Office of U.S. Special Counsel, who investigates charges of discrimination, removed references to sexual orientation from the agency’s website over two years ago. He maintains he has done nothing wrong and will continue to ignore antigay discrimination at the federal level. (Source: Advocate, June 34, June 21, 2005.) Would you call our laws equal, diverse representation?

The faith-based religious right, which holds that Republican party by the choice is so vicious that it in a way, whatever kind of reliable data one provides to show that issues of sexual orientation are not a barrier to any agenda is not in keeping with the Bill of Rights or the Constitution, they simply will not reason because they are just full of hate. They are not. They are gay people, or anyone who doesn’t live in their world.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfishness, if you find serenity & happiness, they may be envious...

Perhaps one of the better things I have learned that building a consensus is just as important as being right, and you should rely only on the strength of your convictions. You must demand to be reckoned with. If you haven’t already learned that building a consensus is just as important as being right, and you should rely only on the strength of your convictions.

You have to be careful about becoming a moralist, sort of getting high off being so righteous. You have to stand your ground. I was never between you and me in: Just next to us was a gay bar, the Out Advocate.com, May 2005.) Would you call our laws equal, diverse representation?

There was a huge plate glass window on the dark dome-shaped cylinder of the facade. It was a totally unremarkable façade, and I was burning with curiosity to know what was in there. The next day, same time, after dinner at home with my parents, I jumped in the car and nervously drove the 10 miles back to Harrisburg.

I passed the Neptune three times in my car that night, watching men go in and out, trouble, and the room was small enough so that when I turned the corner to the outside, you brushed up against either the walls or the patrons — your choice.

I turned in the doorway, the room was small enough so that when I turned the corner to the outside, you brushed up against either the walls or the patrons — your choice.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfishness, if you find serenity & happiness, they may be envious...
We have to teach others to see us as human.

We have to dispel the stereotypes that keep us confined in the closet. We were raised in an environment where the only role for someone like me was to hide behind a false identity. I know that I marched with mommy and daddy when I did. Lots of LGBTQ people were scattered around the route smiling, waving. There surely was an atmosphere of parade-nuns all around us.

But was anybody else there? No mayor or famous actor marched down the street with us. All the celebrities hid under the flowers—bedecked floats. No big-time anchor sat at the broadcast stand to narrate every step by step for billions of America’s watchful eyes. Yet, step by step, each participant moved into the mainstream view. Step by step, we became a crowd as we moved closer to the wall of cruel stereotypes.

We have to march because we are citizens of a diverse community, a diverse state, a diverse country, a diverse planet. We march because we can. We must. Meredith Elisabeth Reining

Cleaning My Closet

By Meredith Elizabeth Reiniger

We have to show the world that we exist. We bother because we have the freedom to do that. We must bother. Freedom to be who we are.

It is worth the whole walk.

Every year we must use the civil rights that protect us as we leave our closets. We have, now, the right to police protection.

With that freedom and that protection, we must continue to march. We must march, to march into reality, into focus, into vision.

We will march because we are citizens of a diverse community, a diverse state, a diverse country, a diverse planet. We march because we can. We must. Meredith Elisabeth Reiniger

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AUGUST 2005 • NUMBER 382 • GAY ALLIANCE OF THE GENESSEE VALLEY • THE EMPTY CLOSET

Continued on page 8
simply look in an online profile for status information. It is certainly a good place to start, but the truth is that some men may not choose to report their status in their profile -- or may not update their profile if their status changes.

Are men actually talking with online partners about their status, testing history and sexual practices? In my opinion, one of the best features of the online community in the way it allows us to have very honest and frank discussions about sex. Make sure that such chats ask whether a partner has tested, when they tested, and what their feelings about safer sex practices are.

Why are men choosing to have unsafe sex with online partners? This is certainly a stickier question. Men choose to have unsafe sex for a number of reasons, but it is important to realize that even when you feel like you're reading the profiles in detail and asking the right questions, the absolute BEST way to make sure you don't get exposed to HIV or another STD is to protect yourself in mind and wait for the whole thing to blow over.

Confessions of a Serial Blonde
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MIRROR
By Bobby Morris
I absolutely dread the end of summer.
No, I won't miss the heat (and I don't care what they say, this summer in Rochester has to be one for the record books) and God only knows my hair won't miss the humidity.

But as we move into the fall, my spirits kind of sink. Before you know it, August is gone, September is half over, and bam, there's the first week of October staring me in the face. Why does the idea of October make me recoil?
The first week of October signifies another passing year in my life. That's right. My birthday. And every year I have to smile and nod when the people who love me try and celebrate my life, when in real-  

ity all I want to do is hide under the covers and wish for the whole thing to blow over. You see, like many people approaching the end of their twenties, I constantly light myself on fire to where I am in this stage of my life. We have such lofty dreams when we're younger. don't we? I'm going to be wealthy. I'm going to have the partner of my dreams, the nice house with the picket fence, the kids and the dog running through the yard. I'm going to have that great job. I'm going to be loved by everyone who meets me. Hell, everyone who meets me is going to love me.

And then, as time passes you by, you wake up realize that this may not happen for you. And this is where the vicious cycle of bullshit begins. You go from dreaming big to doubting even bigger. I'm never going to get ahead financially. I'm never going to fall in love again. Everyone and everything is going to pass me by. I'm going to die alone.

Why do we do this to ourselves? I'll tell you why, It's because we have const- antly drilled into our heads the difference between success and failure all of our lives, and worse yet, there doesn't seem to be any in between, at least as far as society goes. And by society, I mean gay and straight alike. I know I'm not going to win any popularity contests with the moral right. That's a given. Quite frankly, I'm a little bit of a stick in the mud and I don't think I have a lot to offer for their taste. But I find sometimes the attitude among my own tribe, if you know what I mean, is just a little too easy.

When did we start judging each other? I got into a huge debate the other day with a friend of mine because I refuse to jump on the bandwagon when it comes to sup- porting gay marriage. Don't get me wrong. It's not that I don't support it, but realistically, that's not part of my life right now. The first boy I ever loved committed suic- ide because he, like so many of our youth, thought not living had to be better than living with this gay thing. It's been 16 years since that happened and I'm still not ready to let that one go. Likewise, I have run out of fingers to count the people I have lost to disease, illness, or drug use in such a relatively short amount of time. How can I possibly wrap my head around domestic bliss or furthering the gay movement when I can't even keep the people I love in my fucking life.

I'll level with you. The only agenda I have is to try and get through another day on this earth, loving myself and the people around me just a little bit more and being the best version of Bobby I can be. Sometimes dealing with myself seems more daunting than dealing with any kind of social cause. We have to stop this constant judging of ourselves and holding ourselves up to standards that we can not possibly conform to. And the biggest challenge of all is to do this and not feel guilty about it, or what we are at the moment, regardless of how people think we are.

All I can hope, in the next few months and with my birthday staring me in the face, is to see some film demon from a Clive Barker film, that is not just judging my life to pieces and feeling shame for not being "successful" enough, or for not feel- ing like the "right kind" of person, and instead, embrace what accomplishments I have had, feel blessed for the life I do have, every unconventional moment of it, and be OK with the reflection in the mirror. I wish the same for everyone. I don't know about you, but inner strength and confidence will be the first tools we need to make this a better world.

Serialblonde wants to hear from you! E-mail: Serialblonde@bluefrog.com

Money (continued from page 4) and complexity of the issues have been covered. To help with this, they include a financial planner. They provide tips on finding a planner and they suggest that you search for someone who specializes in helping unmarried couples.

As you can imagine, I would be eager to work with any and all unmarried couples wishing to tune their finances. It is an area of specialty that is near and dear to my heart, since I myself have been partnered to the woman of my dreams for 16 years.

Whether or not you seek the help of a professional to help with your finances, you will do well to read Money without Matrimo- ny and sense that private is to make the deck is stacked against unmarried couples and what you can do about it. I have donated a copy of the book to the GAGV library.

Down the road, perhaps a year or three from now, I believe that same-sex couples will be able to marry in New York State. Hopefully, federal recognition of our mar- riages won't be far behind. At that point, I promise to write an article that explores the financial pros and cons of putting married.

Kay Conheady is a financial planner serving the LGBT community in Western NY. She is the principal of Apropos Financial Planning, LLP, an independent, fee-only financial planning firm in Rochester. She can be reached at 585-553-1950 or by e-mail at kconhead@AproposFP.com. Please visit www.AproposFP.com for more details.

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Kay Conheady is a financial planner serving the LGBT community in Western NY. She is the principal of Apropos Financial Planning, LLP, an independent, fee-only financial planning firm in Rochester. She can be reached at 585-553-1950 or by e-mail at kconhead@AproposFP.com. Please visit www.AproposFP.com for more details.

An amazing, 7 day, 560 mile fundraising bike ride across New York State

WANTED: RIDERS FOR THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME!

RIDE WITH:
AIDS ROCHESTER’S BIKE TEAM
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EMPY CLOSET ONLINE EDITIONS PHOTO FEATURES COLOR
SLIDESHOWS
GO TO WWW.GAYALLIANCE.ORG AND
CLICK ON "EMPTY CLOSET", THEN
CLICK ON "PHOTO FEATURES", CHOOSE
YOUR FAVORITE ALBUM AND CLICK ON "SLIDESHOW".

DECEMBER 2005

THE OTHER GAY ALLIANCE OF THE GENESSEE VALLEY Number 382 • August 2005

Money (continued from page 4) and complexity of the issues have been covered. To help with this, they include a financial planner. They provide tips on finding a planner and they suggest that you search for someone who specializes in helping unmarried couples.

As you can imagine, I would be eager to work with any and all unmarried couples wishing to tune their finances. It is an area of specialty that is near and dear to my heart, since I myself have been partnered to the woman of my dreams for 16 years.

Whether or not you seek the help of a professional to help with your finances, you will do well to read Money without Matrimony and sense that private is to make the deck is stacked against unmarried couples and what you can do about it. I have donated a copy of the book to the GAGV library.

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EMPIRE STATE AIDS RIDE

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DECEMBER 2005
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"Let us help make a difference in your life"

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

Natasha Doty and Jeanne Newland

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

Lynda Baudanza and Deb Coffey

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

Nancy Brown

Veterinary Hospital
Andy Fleming, DVM
Aida Aponte-Lann, DVM
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Resources

FAMILY RESOURCES
Pride & Joy Families

To no­

Rochester Gay Moms’ Group

Group for lesbian mothers and same-sex mammas in Rochester area. To subscribe: rainbowland@rochester.rr.com.

Gay Fathers Group

Meet three and fourth Tuesday, 6-8 p.m., State Park Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave, Rochester, NY 14605; Phone: (585) 244-0351, E-mail: gayfathersgroup@yahoo.com.

WOMEN’S HEALTH:

Highland Hospice Breast Care Center

1000 South Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620; 585-941-3660; Specializing in breast health, diagnostic breast imaging and treatment and mammography and orthopedics.

Monroe County Women’s Health Partnership

111 Westfall Road, Rochester, NY 14620; (585) 274-6796. Comprehensive breast cancer screening services for uninsured and underinsured women.

Elizabeth Wende Breast Clinic

170 Sawgrass Drive, 442-8432, Dr. Wendie Logger-Honing and an all-woman staff provide mammograms.

AIDS Rochester Women’s Health Outreach

provides services for HIV positive women, their families and partners in Monroe, Erie, Genesee, Schuyler, and Wayne counties. (585) 274-3890.
We debarked and the engine was hushed.

"OK, gang, it’s Beach Night’s turn... ha... ha... When we get you the signal fly and perch yourself on the tree in front of them, as you did last year. I can’t believe what we’re hearing on that tape. They put out short coded bum fluffing squawks about the size of their pecker!"

Suddenly there were sounds of a bird flapping its wings. The small and beautiful creature settled on a tree branch as one of the men shone a light upon it for our viewing.

"There he is, guys. Wilson told him to just sit there and look pretty while they get as if they’ve never seen an owl before."

It wasn’t enough to just view the light brown, wide-eyed feather bird. Jim and Jeff were bent on hearing their breeding voices. More vocal and I-Pod renditions followed.

"You know, I can stay up all night listening to this and watching their ridiculous reactions, but I have a fabulous idea.

"What have you got there, you Common Loons? I can’t believe you brought your I-Pods! This is hysterical. Push the damn ‘play’ button and let’s take in their reactions! Wait a minute. Do you realize that you taped Martin fluting with that blackbird Merle? Oh veg, his wife is going to kill him. Good, they’re leaving, shut it off and let the hell out of here before feather fly!"

Two days later, we arrived at Pickerel Beach where the horseshoe crabs and migratory sea birds were gathering along the waters edge. As the horseshoe crabs emerge from the waters, and drop their eggs, the birds dine on the protein, giving them the energy to move on. Meanwhile the crabs continue to spawn. Various birds fly about as we meddle into the sex life of these ancient, hard-shelled sea creatures whose food value is of no use to us. "Hey, what the heck is going on here. It’s bad enough that those human beings refuse to give us privacy during our orgy, now they’re picking me up and looking at my anatomy. Put me down you censure-bearded creature. I’ve been wanting to wrap my pedipalps around that cute looking limulus polyphemus for weeks. Not to mention finding my way into her belly-up."

"Just in case you didn’t know, we crabs fly a vital, if little-known, role in the life of anyone who has received an injectable medication. An extract of our blood is used by the pharmaceutical and medical device industries to ensure that their products, e.g., intravenous drugs, vaccines, and medical devices, are free of bacterial contamination. No other test works as easily or reliably for this purpose. Hmmm... I wonder how many of my kids those flying fish mongers have noshed on."

As the gnats chewed upon my face, neck and head, I pondered over other parts of the trip. The quaintness and ambiance of The Inn at Canal Square dot com, in Lewes, the great seafood at Sambo’s Tavern and my future return to see the Tall Ships and how soy beans get converted to fuel. To every season, turn, turn, turn...
THE GAY ALLIANCE OF THE GENESEE VALLEY
THANKS EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THIS YEAR’S PRIDE PICNIC 2005.
IT WAS THE MOST SUCCESSFUL PRIDE PICNIC EVER...
...AND COULD NOT HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED
WITHOUT THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING:

Wells Fargo, Citi-Bank, Kodak, ERA, Open Arms Metropolitan Community
Church, Eric Johnson Scottsville Animal Adoption, Log Cabin Republicans,
AIDS Rochester INC., Dignity Integrity of Rochester, Episcopal Diocese of
Rochester, Rochester Community Women’s Chorus, ImageOut, Fortunate
Families, Planned Parenthood of Rochester, Empire State Pride Agenda,
P.H.A., Action for a Better Community, LTC Consultants, Cathy Mazzota,
Rainbow Seniors, MOCHA Project, HIV Vaccine Unit, Rochester Transgender
Group, Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus, Green Party of Monroe County, Conifer
Park, Maui-Wowí, Cassidy BBQ, Unkl Moe’s, Patrick’s Culinary Creations,
Motor, California Rollin’, The Café at Michael Stern’s, Mr. V’s, Kettle Korn
Station, Integrative Healing Arts, Outlandish, Pride Connection, Sharkware,
Treehug Trading Company, K.B. Designs, Crazy Critters, Nice NRG, Joy
Argento, Jewelry Outlet Boutique, C.T. Creations and Co., A.J. Faulds, Soul
Song, Michael Hannon, and to all of our hard working volunteers: Peter,
Antonio, Mike C., Iris, Shelia, John, Don, Allison, Kevin, Nathan, Douglas,
Kathy, Tom, Michelle, Nate, Mike L, Daniel, Geo, Galina, Frank, Joseph, Kyle,
James, Don, Robert, John S, Jacque, Anthony, Carrie, David, Ashley, Trip
Throttle, Pleasing Iris, Leah Zicari, Christina Leavy, Earl Cram Revue, Flux
Fusion, Shimmie the Entertainer, The Ladies of Illusion, Mike the Clown,
Annette Lorenzo, Studio 113, Daniel Ward, Pet Smart, Nasty D’s, Muther’s,
Key’s, Tara, Lambda Car Club, Charbroil House, Sunburst Tanning, Bisque
& Brush, Wegmans, Tops Friendly Markets, Rochester Fire Department,
Rural Metro, Red Cross, Incredible Graphics, Carnival Supplies, Shea’s
Outhouse, Sil’s Ice Service, Utter Clutter, Mystic Moon, Burger King, NY
Pizzeria, Judy’s Signs, Waste Management, Hyatt Regency, Comix Café,
Bison Security, University of Rochester, Nuttal Rentals, Budget Rentals,
DeRinzo’s Janitorial Co., Applied Audio, Sound Source, Insider, The Empty
Closet, City Paper, Freetime, Fox News, R-News, Channels 8, 10, & 13,
Richard Young, Alexandra C., Toby G. and the Youth Group, Susan J., Jim
A., Cindi E., Todd P., Evelyn B., Kitty M., Ralph C., Marge M., Lynn T., Judy
C., Maryann G., Emily J., Dan M., Chuck A., Gary H.
Hate crimes increase during Prides
By Alex Cobas

While Pride is for many one of the best times of the year, it can also be the most dangerous. Anti­meth activity tends to increase during Pride celebrations around the globe, and this is no different in western New York.

The Anti-Violence Project received a significant increase in calls during the last month. We find ourselves asking if we are receiving more reports because there actually is more activity, or because more people are reporting

Youth update: A WONDERFUL PRIDE
By Toby Greenfield

Greetings from Youth Group Land... We are just coming off a truly wonderful Pride. In my third summer as Youth Director, this has been our most attend­ted and successful Pride yet. Our youth tables at the Pride Picnic and Cultural Fest were great suc­cesses, as we sold a ton of pride bracelets and tattooed many arms (and necks, thighs and backs... Thanks to everyone out there for your support).

Our annual Mr. and Ms. Teen Pageant & Youth Dance was held on July 11 at Mother’s and we had a fabulous turnout of over 80 youth! Thanks to all the performers who were amazing this year, and also a big thank you to the audience — who continued to cheer and support every single performer. It truly was one of our best dances ever.

Congratulations to Holyoake and The Artist Formerly Known as Loryn, as they were crowned our new Gay Teen Pride 2003 Queen and King! A special thanks to Mother’s for being wonderful hosts, to all the judges for their great job, and to my wonder­ful facilitators Erik Libey, Jeff Matsarian, Doreen Russell and Chris Mansfield, for all their help during Pride. I couldn’t do it without them.

At the Gay Sculpture Dedica­tion on July 15, several youth read their poetry as part of the won­derful dedication ceremony. The sculpture “Three Pride Symbols” commemorates the Stonewall Uprising and recognizes the con­tributions of Rochester’s LGBT Community. We were so happy to be a part of it. A big thank you to Steve Lowi of ABS for hosting us in this great event, and for donating the proceeds of the beverage sales to our Youth Program.

The fun continued at the (Continued on page 2)

Coming out workshop series begins Sept. 21
By Todd Plask

If you are just beginning your coming-out process, or even if you have been out for a while but still find yourself struggling to come out in a particular area of your life (immediate and/or extended family members, co-workers, friends, straight friends, faith community, etc.), do not despair, help is on the way!

The Gay Alliance will once again be offering its popular Fall Coming Out Workshop Series. Having conducted four of the introductory workshops since I joined the GAGW staff in Octo­ber of 2003, as well as a comple­mentary part two in the Spring (Continued on page 2)

Anti-Violence Project: THANK YOU!

By Alex Cobas

First, I must give thanks and props to all of the wonderful people who helped so much with the 2003 Pride Picnic. There were so many people who helped in so many different ways, that I don’t think there’s a way for me to thank you all. So this is my attempt: THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!

Some of you volunteered to help administer the domestic vio­lence survey, some of you dropped in and asked if you could help, some of you helped us set up the tables, or reconstruct them when the wind knocked them down! And then there are loads of people that I didn’t see that day, and to all the performers who were amazing this year, and also a big thank you to the audience — who continued to cheer and support every single performer. It truly was one of our best dances ever.

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The fun continued at the (Continued on page 2)

Meet Fantastic People!

Women to the Empty Closet: We are looking for reporters, photographers, and distribution volunteers who can give two hours per month to the cause. Please call Linda at 244-9030. Thank you.
Youth Update (from page 1)

Pride Parade, as the newly crowned King and Queen, note in our youth cohort which is leading an incredibly large contingent of youth marching proudly down the parade route. We were thrilled to win the Stone-wall Award at the Parade – which is for most original unit expressing Pride. I have never been so proud of the youth that I was during the parade. They continue to inspire and amaze me every single day, and the amount of work and effort they put into Pride this year was remarkable. Thanks gang!

Finally, to cap off our Pride events, we enjoyed our annual trip to Gay Day at Dutken Lake on July 25 ... We (OK, me) are definitely looking forward to a little breather this month, and we'll be working on preparing our Youth Center for formal drop-in hours in the fall. Thanks to all of you out there for your continued support of our Youth Program. Please know how extremely appreciated you are.

Hate (from page 1)

board. But it also flies in specific communities
in the spotlight, such as when the Mayor of San Francisco began marrying same-sex couples, the number of anti-gay hate crimes decreased in San Fran-

and then as various communities across the globe celebrate Pride, anti-gay activity increases in an effort to send folks back into the closet. There are always these backlashes,

immediately and often violent, whenever any group of people acts to silence or advance their human or civil rights.

But there are some things you can do to keep yourself and your community safe at any time of the year. First, when you do go out, try to walk in groups. Carry a cell phone if you have one, or a whistle to draw attention if there is a problem.

Do not be afraid to call the police. If you are being followed, go into a store or another public place. Take a self-defense class. There are many offered through local schools, YMCA's and many times a year. Call Gay and Lesbian Advocates at 855-244-8640 x17 for the fall schedule of self-defense classes.

If you are in danger, or need immedi-
ate medical assistance, call 911. Get the responding officer's name and badge number, and do not hang up until you have been put in touch with a supervisor.

Whether you file a police report or not, if you are the target of, or witness to, any anti-gay hate crime, please let us know at GAGVA's AVP. We keep track of this activity so that other agencies might not. This data is collected by the National Coalition of Anti-violence Programs, which compiles an accurate, national report of anti-lgbt hate activity on an annual basis. Visit www.ncaavp.org to see copies of these reports.

If you are interested in volunteering for AVP, call us at 855-244-8640 x17, or email me at alexandra@gagva.org. Have a fabulous and safe August!

Outing (from page 1)

of 2004 (as of the previous workshop participants) I can testify to the power of these workshop-support groups to change lives. Here are a couple of com-

ments I received as feedback on the quality and effectiveness of past workshops:

"I can't believe how far I've come! I'm a very private person, so taking the plunge and coming to my own pace, I can clearly see the road ahead of me. There is more work to do, but I know it is possible and I am not afraid anymore!"

Another participant wrote: "I feel much more confident about being gay. It feels good to know other gay people in the area. I also feel more prepared to handle close friends' and relatives' reactions." To provide a little more background about the nature of the workshop, I am reprinting excerpts from the article that appeared in the October 2003 Empty Closet: "Obviously a six-week course cannot deal with all of an individual's com-
ing out issues. What this course hopes to accomplish is to assist folks in establishing a comfort level with where they are, and identify and develop resources to bolster and guide them through their coming out process.

In developing this workshop for the GAGV, my aim was to take a holistic approach to the coming out process. What do I mean by this? By using the term holistic I am not referring to eating granola, taking herbal remedies, practicing yoga or playing the sitar. (There is no condescend-

ing tone implied here. I may joke about new-age alternatives, but I am for try-
ing out new things to enhance the quality of life.

When I talk about taking a holistic approach to the coming out process, I am focusing on the importance of working toward creating and maintaining balance in the significant areas of one's life. We cannot separate being gay from the other important aspects of our lives (when we try to do this it's called compartmental-
ization, and it doesn't work very well). It is necessary that we all come out to these other people as well. In turn, our spirituality, health, employment (and by extension income), and ability to make friends, have fun and find romance are all affected by our comfort level with our sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

We lead whole lives. This fact does not change when we come out, there is no suspec-
tion that we are queer. It is also true that coming out takes a lot of energy, both emotional and physical, and can be draining on our personal resources. Part of the challenge of dealing with being gay or lesbian is not to let life consume so much of our time and energy that we neglect other important areas of our lives that deserve our time and attention. Failure to address these can lead to additional sources of stress and upset, which doesn't help when you're already feeling rather overwhelmed.

Regardless of where we are in our coming out process, a CASS workshop 

versus not, is that we can be with others who are queer, and that there is a supportive community that can be of help when you're already feeling rather overwhelmed.

Regardless of where we are in our coming out process, a CASS workshop identifies six distinct stages, which are discussed in the workshop, we can all identify with the experiences and insights of others. While I know that a lot of valuable information was communicat-

ing this first coming out work-
shop (attending as a participant, not a facilitator), the greatest value for me was found in the shared stories and camaraderie found among the workshop partici-
pants. The comfort and encouragement I am always coming from my own closet and was bolstered at a critical juncture in my life, a time when I was feeling vulnerable and needed a safe place to share my feelings, fears, tears, and life's little (and sometimes big) celebrations along the way. Recognizing that there is immense value in mutual support forged among workshop participants, my aim as group facilitator will be to ensure that people will not leave the workshop until they feel that there is plenty of quality time for folks to get to know each other through discussions and interactive exercises.

Here are some details about the upcoming workshop session. The workshop will begin on Sept. 21, 2005 and con-

continue through Nov. 9. The workshop will run on eight consecutive Wednesdays from 7:30 p.m. The registration fee is $50. The workshop provides a complimentary ticket to an ImageOut film run-

ning during the annual Lesbian & Gay Film Video Festival. (For more information on this event see the 2005 Festi-
vals runs from Oct. 7-16.) Scholarships are available based on need. Those persons wishing to participate who are age 21 or older and able to make a commitment to attend all eight weeks of the workshop.

The location of this workshop will be dis-

closed only to workshop participants and everyone's privacy will be respected and protected.

Interested individuals can register by mailing the form available online at www.gayalliance.org. A detailed registration form is directed to Todd Plank at (855)244-8640 ext. 24. The deadline for registration is Monday, Sept. 19. Space is limited, so don't delay!

Community Center newsbriefs: summer schedules

By Todd Plank

There are a number of groups that do not meet at the Community Center during the summer months and typically resume after Labor Day.

The Gay Dads group will resume with their normal meeting schedule, effective Tuesday, Sept. 20.

Rochester Pride & Joy Families will not meet in August. Plans are underway for an annual meeting on the third Saturday of the month in September beginning on Sept. 17, fami-

lies are invited to gather at the GAGV Community Center for a story hour and social. It is requested (not mandatory) that children bring one of their favorite stories to share with the group. Kids (and parents too, if they feel the urge) are encouraged to dress up to resemble one of the characters in their story. Prizes will be awarded to the best costumes, so be creative!

We'd like to invite any individuals interested in forming an LGBT Alzheimer's support group for the fall to bring me at 244-8640 ext 24. The attendance at the weekly Al-Anon support group has been dwindling over the summer. Please call me at the above number if you are interested in keeping this group going.

Pride and Joy Families host Binghamton conference Nov. 11-13 by Claudia Stellman, Project Manager, and Karen Armstrong, Project Outreach coordinator, Pride & Joy Families

Mark your calendars the 2005 Pride and Joy Families Weekend Conference will take place on Nov. 11-13 in Binghamton.

The Family Building Project with consponsors Family Pride Coalition and Empire State Pride Agenda, is planning the 2005 Pride and Joy Families Weekend Conference for LGBT parents, prospective parents and their kids in Binghamton (more information on location from Syracuse) on Nov. 11-13. Like our last conference, held in Ithaca in 2004, we expect this event to bring together LGBT families from all over upstate New York and beyond. Fifty families have already expressed their intention to attend.

We promise an exciting weekend of meeting and socializing with other families like yours, workshops for adults about gay parenting, and family building, children's and families special programming for children of all ages, off the family outings, a resource fair, and a Family Dance. Our theme this year is "Building Community" and our keynote speaker (TBA) will be inspiring.

We are working to keep registration and meal costs reasonable. Conference hotel room rates are $72/night (more information on location from Syracuse). We plan to offer financial sup-

port to families that need it.

If you haven't already, let us know that you'd like to receive additional information about the Conference. We are also looking for volunteers to help plan and work for the Conference. Please contact us with your interest. To receive more information about the 2005 Pride and Joy Families Week-
end Conference, please contact us with your interest. To receive more information about the 2005 Pride and Joy Families Week-
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end Conference, please contact us with your interest.

Your event is sure to be memorable and fun and will give you the opportunity to connect with other LGBT families from all over the upstate New York and beyond.

[Contact information]

Lake Avenue Baptist Church

Welcome & Affirming Congregation

Invites you!

Lake Avenue Baptist Church is located just off Lake Avenue near the stop light at 145 Lake Avenue.

4:30pm Sunday morning worship service

11:15am Class on lgbt liberation theology

Children are available

Lake Avenue Baptist Church is located just off Lake Avenue near the stop light at 145 Lake Avenue.

For more information phone: 585-458-5765

Lake Avenue Baptist Church

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9:45am Sunday morning worship service

11:15am Class on lgbt liberation theology

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Invites you!
Buffalo Pride at the Pier On Sunday, Aug. 21, Outmusic winner Ari Gold will headline the festivities at Pride at the Pier, 325 Fuhrman Road in Buffalo. Buffalo Pride at the Pier is sponsored by the Pride Center of WNY. Events run from 2 to 7 p.m. and include local DJs and aboutmagazine cover models. Tickets are $15 in advance and $20 at the door. Advance tickets may be purchased from the Pride Center’s website at www.pridecenterwny.org. Directions to The Pier are available on The Pier’s website at www.thepier.com or by calling The Pier at 716-332-6913.

If you're a guy 18-30 we have something fun for you!

Looking for something...

Do you kiss guys?

Fun?

Contact: Jeremy Wright
442-2220 x3063

jwright@aidsrochester.org

1st 20 guys to call get free bottle of lube!!

Healthy Gay Men
A program of AIDS Rochester, Inc.
1150 University Ave. Rochester, NY 14607
phone: 585-442-2220
e-mail: gayhealth@aidsrochester.org
website: www.aidsrochester.org/gayhealth
EMPIRE BEARS

August is a light month for our club. We end July with a camping weekend, so we do not hold our meeting that weekend at Oneda is always hot, with a host of tourists, rape, pool party, and fridays (too much for hospital us to handle). We get our monthly meeting at the GAGV Community Center, 1720 Atlantic Ave., on Wednesday the third at 7:30. Anyone is welcome to join, and we will add ideas for new activities. Monday, you can meet us at the Diner with Becky as she tries to keep up with orders and rollback for 20 were back in town after the Forum, hosting BEARnight. Hope to see you there. The theme is “Bantcheer,” so show off yourpees.

The end of the month we’ll be at Hillside campground from Aug. 26-28. Some members will also visit Jones Pond this month to check out their new facilities. Visit us at empressbears.org to find out what we’ve up to, and leave a message if you want any info. We look forward to meeting you. WOOF!

BUTCH-FEMME

CONNECTION

Dinner Nights Out: Our Dinner Nights out for August 2005 will be the 8th (Monday) at 7 p.m. at The Plum Garden (Jupiter), 334 Monroe Ave., and on Monday, Aug. 22 at Mr. Domino’s (Italian), 4609 Lake Avenue in the Town of Ontario. Our Butch-Femme Night is on Aug. 25. Meet us at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore on Monroe Avenue in Pittsford at 7 p.m. for an air-conditioned, comfortable, enjoyable evening of browsing the stacks (and checking out the latest in butch-femme literature). For further info, contact Terry, Fecundity, at 585-665-0639, email DressyFem@adm.com, or P.O. Box 187354, Rochester, NY 14618.

DIGNITY-INTEGRITY

Beginning in August, we’ve changed our schedule of services somewhat; our new schedule will look something like this: Thursday: 7 p.m. Episcopal Eucharist with worship. August 14: No service, but a lecture or discussion on the topic of faith. A free will offering will be requested. August 21: Roman Catholic Liturgy of the Word with music. August 28: Evening prayer (common to both traditions) with or without music. Please bring a towel to follow. A social hour follows each of our services and presentations (on the fourth Sundays this is combined with potluck dinner). Our topic for Sunday, Aug. 14 will be announced (all our Inf- Line or check out our web site). Our potluck dinner on Aug. 28 will be traditional. Services are 5 p.m. at St. Luke’s St. Simon Cyncere Church, 17 S. Bingham St. Also save the date, Saturday, Sept. 3, for our annual picnic with Dignity/Buffalo in Medina.

Please check out our display advertising for more information. Call us at 234-5092. Also check out our web site for details on upcoming events in the church with the pink meiee sometimes!"
All ages and levels of hiking skill because we hike an easy comfortable pace. Come check us out!

For more details, call Donna at 585-594-2699.

RAINBOW SENIORS
THE INCLUSION DELUSION

By Sherlot Dans, Vice President Rainbow Seniors of Western New York

Accessibility to events is an issue that we must continually remind event planners about, and not just in our GLBTIQ community. GLBTIQ organizations have it together, for most events, to have sign language interpreters present for those of us who are deaf and hard of hearing. It was, however, a long time coming. Change is like that. And there is still a lot to be done to improve accessibility for persons with a mobility disability.

It’s easy to point fingers and tell organizers it’s their responsibility to make sure events are accessible (it is!). It’s a good faith effort to offer to work together to make sure accessibility happens. Rainbow Seniors has been making the effort to educate event planners about accessibility for those members of the disability community with mobility needs.

Last year at the community picnic, one of our members who uses a cane had to walk from the main park road all the way to the pavilion where local organizations had info tables. Our vehicle was not allowed into the park despite the handicapped parking sticker. This particular Rainbow Senior had signed up to work at our info table and needed to get to it! The exertion of the long and bumpy walk over the grass left him unable to enjoy the day because of the intense pain walking that distance had caused him.

I understand that the donors who contributed large sums of money for the picnic got the accessible parking spaces. “VIP parking. No problem!” But there are people who legitimately need to park closer to the activity areas. Fortunately, finding a closer parking space was easier this year, and we were allowed to drive into the parking lot used by the big donors, where accessible parking was available early on. Volunteers were more sensitive to the need to find closer parking. Although the spaces filled quickly, we were not handed out parking on the grass.

I’m sad to say that the Community Business Forum of Rochester gets a thumbs down from Rainbow Seniors for inaccessible cultural events following last year’s pride parade. Manhattan Square Park was only accessible on the ground level to individuals with a mobility disability. Hey, the food is up there? On the second level! I’m hungry! People with mobility disabilities eat too! And what about missing out on information from local groups who had tables set up on the second level?

And then this year, the event was at the Highland Bowl. We were told that there was accessible parking behind the bowl. Hello! Accessible parking doesn’t mean a thing if the area where the event is held is inaccessible. Did planners think folks with mobility disabilities would stay close to the stage and just watch activities on the hill? People with wheelchairs, scooters, canes, or walkers would not have been able to access any of the festivities, food, and drink on the hill because, guess what, they couldn’t navigate the steep slope. Even though the event turned out to be a wash, Rainbow Seniors folks sure weren’t welcomed to participate.

Some event planners do get it though. Take ABC’s Gay Sculpture Dedication event, for example. Not only was there accessible parking, but the planners actually set up chairs in the shade with “Reserved for Seniors” stickers saving those rows. I could have wept with joy! Imagine — seniors were actually WELCOMED to attend this awesome event!

The Image Act planners get it now too. One year the art show was on the third floor of the Visual Studies Workshop, oh-oh. One of the artists (she won second place, in fact) is a senior who has a terrible time with stairs, and there was no elevator. Some of her friends were unable to attend because they couldn’t make it up the stairs. Last year the show was at an accessible location, and we applied this effort! This year the event will also be accessible.

We need to look at accessibility as a community and make changes so that all events are accessible to everyone. If they’re not, then believe me it is not the event shouldn’t happen. Either we all can get in or none of us can. It’s that simple. And, it’s the law.

On a lighter note, RSWNY recently celebrated the end of our second year of existence. Happy Birthday to us! We’re made up of GLBTIQ individuals ranging in age from 32 to 89. We’ve been successfully building a caring community within the group where those younger and more able reach out to those senior seniors and/or seniors with disabilities. Anyone can join us as a member, or come as a guest, to see what this caring community is all about. Sign language interpreters are always available.

We’ve got a Yoga class on Tuesdays, and our monthly potlucks on the third Sunday of the month at 4 p.m., First Universalist Church, 150 S. Clinton. There’s Euchre Club and a weekly swim, occasional get-togethers for dinner or breakfast, lots of camaraderie. Our annual picnic is on Sunday, Aug. 21 at noon, Sycamore Shelter at Ellison Park. Everyone is welcome. Check our Web site, www.rainbowsenior­swny.org or give us a call at 585.442.6309. We’d love to have you join us all!
Above:
Performers at the Youth Pageant at Mothers.

Left:
The two winners of the GAGV Youth Pageant on July 12. Mr. Gay Teenager: “The Artist Formerly Known as Loryn” on the left and to the right, Miss Gay Teenager: “Honey”. Photos by Toby Greenfield.

Tears
By Samuel Taylor

Tears are all that used to drop
Until I moved to a place with pop,
Happiness is all that blooms
Now that I have a peaceful room,
Life is great as I am free
Since before I was caged like a bee,
Don’t tell the lies that always harm one
Instead move to another bun.

Generation of Trannys
RAINING ON OUR PARADE
By Mia Carrera

Well well well, another year flies by...
and of course another Pride does too.

A quick little summary about the events of our kingdom’s festival starting with the unfortunate hand of luck for of all those sh*t head ignorant pieces of uneducated crap who protested.
It just so happened to rain on our marvelous parade... To their thoughts it was the tears of Jesus washing down upon our faggoty souls... but little do they know the whole ordeal made everyone drenched and allowed gorgeous pieces of men meat to reveal their half naked hard tanned delicious bodies. So in fact this rain was actually the tears of the goddess crying with happiness over our unburdened pride of being what she made us to be... and knowing our population’s love for half naked drenched men meat, she just so happened to make it a storm. :giggles:

Anyway, the rain was difficult for some of us who were wearing hair not natural to nature and thus the first glance of moisture becomes frizz to a deathly piece of $75 garbage. But for all other intensive purposes it was successful and fun to a point.

I was “unusually” being nice to everyone I came in contact with – even the dirty little f***er who destroyed my Cucci blouse with Diet Coke at the picnic. Anyway, I’m sad to bring up the news that I am no longer your teen queen of Pride... this being the new year and the new pride, it only made sense to relinquish my title as your teen queen of Pride and step back amongst my place in the kingdom, still as powerful and influential nobility of course”

But aaaaaaaaanyways I can promise you all without detail that I’ll have my chance quite soon to regain my title as your teen queen and that’s all I’ll say except that my crown better have Swarovski in it ! ...

Kisses.
Luv, Mia

Welcome aboard Alayna Johnson, creator of “GAGV”, the ongoing comic book from Diana (Anita) Ross. She created the idea of comics as a way to bring the comic to a more diverse audience with a narrative that was different from mainstream comics. She also created Edith, a character she says is a blend of all the characters she’s ever known. She’s currently working on a new series, “The Empty Closet: The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley”, which she started in 2002. The series is about the challenges and triumphs of being gay in the Genesee Valley region. She is also a member of the board of directors for the GAGV and is currently working on a new comic book, “The Empty Closet: The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley”. She can be reached at AlaynaJohnson@msn.com. She’s also working on a new comic book, “The Empty Closet: The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley”, which she started in 2002. The series is about the challenges and triumphs of being gay in the Genesee Valley region. She is also a member of the board of directors for the GAGV and is currently working on a new comic book, “The Empty Closet: The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley”. She can be reached at AlaynaJohnson@msn.com. She’s also working on a new comic book, “The Empty Closet: The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley”, which she started in 2002. The series is about the challenges and triumphs of being gay in the Genesee Valley region. She is also a member of the board of directors for the GAGV and is currently working on a new comic book, “The Empty Closet: The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley”. She can be reached at AlaynaJohnson@msn.com.
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Storage space needed no later than Aug. 5. Lockable, secured preferred. 10’ by 20’ (size of one car parking space). Downstairs inventory, so not a permanent need. 585-235-6688; email muscleloverman@rochester.rr.com.

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New cottage for rent on Canandaigua Lake. Sleeps four. Private beach, electric boat hoist, hiking trails. Weekly or monthly rentals. 266-4582.

FOR SALE

Pensfield: Serenity surrounds this two bedroom, one and a half bath townhouse at Lost Mountain. Fresh paint, lots of natural light, new laminate hardwoods, windows and doors. $50,000. 72-500. Bill Hepler, ReMax Realty Group, 390-0107.

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 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 do not exclude 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; 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 include “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, 220 S Winton Rd. Bus riders: Take the #10 University bus to 12 Corners. Use the stop just past the top of the hill at Highland Ave and Red Cedar to get to the corner of East and Winton, then walk five minutes south (uphill) on Winton. This is an open discussion meeting. All issues — as they relate to our alcoholism/addiction and recovery — are fair game.

Fridays
(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.
Mixed men and women Handicapped accessible. This can be a speaker, discussion or structured discussion meeting depending on what seems best at the time.

Open meeting, all are welcome, "straight-friendly." Mixed men and women Handicapped accessible, take the elevator to the basement.

This meeting begins with a speaker who is followed by an open discussion.

Saturdays
Saturday Night Special: 7 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, 220 S Winton Rd. Bus riders: The #10 University Ave bus does not go by the church on weekend evenings. Take the #1 Park Ave bus to the corner of East and Winton, then walk five minutes south (uphill) on Winton. Open meeting, all are welcome, “straight-friendly." Mixed men and women Handicapped accessible, take the elevator to the basement.

This meeting begins with a speaker who is followed by an open discussion.

Sundays
Rochester Gay Men: 8:30 p.m. at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 17 S Fitzhugh St. Bus riders use the Fitzhugh St stop on Main St at the County Office Building. Walk south one block. Closed meeting, restricted to alcoholics and addicts.
Men’s meeting NOT handicapped accessible. This meeting begins with a speaker who is followed by an open discussion.

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SUNDAY 21
WNY Pride Center Pride at the Pier. 7:25, Pulaski Rd., Buffalo. Art Gold performs. 2-7 pm, $15 in advance, $20 at door. www.pridecenterwny.org: 716-852-PRIDE

SUNDAY 27

SUNDAY 28

Dignity Integrity. Evening prayer common to both Catholic and Episcopal traditions. Potluck dinner to follow. 5 pm, St. Luke St. Simon Cyrene Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St.

SEPTEMBER
SATURDAY 3
Dignity-Integrity Picnic with Dignity/ Buffalo in Medina. 285-5992.

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**Ongoing Calendar**

**MONDAY**

Gay and Lesbian Support Group - Third Presbyterian Church, 34 Maple St. (7:30-8:30 pm, City Hall, and friends)

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

Support Group for Parents Who Have Lost Children - First, third Wednesdays, 11am-1230pm, Third Presbyterian Church, 4 Myers St. Sponsored by Genesee Region Home Care. Free. 325-1880

Frontrunners/Frontwalkers - 6pm onwards, meet George Eastman House parking lot. 9am. 442-7412

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

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

Multicom-4 Coffee Talk - 7pm, Spin Cafe, 795 Park Ave. Social for former Multicom-4 BBS members; other gay other peaks welcome, every fourth Wednesday, 8pm

GAGV Library & Archives - 6-8pm every Wednesday, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave, 244-8440. Books can be returned to GAGV offices, 875 E. Main St., Suite 500, from 9am-6pm.

Bothch Femme Discussion - Fourth Wednesday, 7-9pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

Brothers Keeper - Support group for men over 30. Second Wednesdays, 6-8pm, MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 420-1400


**TUESDAY**

Atlantic Five 0 - Gay men 50 and over. Second Tuesdays, 6-30-8:30pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 481-0821

Pride BLBT Al-Anon - Every Tuesday, 7pm. GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Call Todd Park, 244-8640, ext 24

Gay Fathers Support Group - Third and third Tuesdays, 6-9-930pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pole Way, NO MEETINGS UNTIL SEPT. 20

The MOCHA Youth Group - 3-5pm, MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 420-1400; 244-8640

MOCHA Hepatitis Clinic - Free inpatient A & B vaccinations, third Tuesdays, 5-7pm, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 420-1400

**WEDNESDAY**

Women’s Community Chorus - Rehearsals each Wednesday. 6-30pm, Call for location, 244-4414

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

**THURSDAY**

Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns - 6:30pm, first Thursday. For location call Ralph, 271-7649

Community Business Forum - Gay and Lesbian Professionals' social group. Second Thursdays, 5-7-30pm, 244-8616

GLOBAL - (Gay and Lesbians of Bausch & Lomb) Meets every third Thursday in Area 67, conference room at the New/Old Center. Voice mail: 338-6817

**FRIDAY**

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

Free to Be AA Meeting - 7-30pm, The Yellow House, 1601 Jackson Rd., Penfield. Men and women; closed meeting.

**SATURDAY**

Rochester Rams Bar Night - Third Saturday, 8pm-2am, Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave. 271-6930

Frontrunners/Frontwalkers - 9am run/walk, Meet George Eastman House parking lot, 442-7412

Empire Bears Bar Night - Saturday, 6pm, Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave. 271-6930

Cross Dresser Support Group - First Saturdays, 6:30-8:30pm, GAGV, 179 Atlantic Ave. Info: 251-2130 RCNED1@hotmail.com

Transgender Support Group - Last Saturdays, 6-8pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

Saturday Night Special Gay AA - 10pm, Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Rd. S. Men and women. Open meeting.

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

Somthing for da Sistaz - Women’s group, every second Saturday, MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 420-1400

Pride and Joy Families - Third Saturdays, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 244-8640 x 24. No meeting in August.

**SUNDAY**

More Light Presbyterians for Gay and Lesbian people and friends - 11am, last Sundays. UUURMC Unitarian Universalist Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitchburg St. 325-4000

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) - 2-30-7pm. Last Sunday. Call for location: 234-0156

Dignity-Integrity - 5pm. St. Luke’s, 520 E. Main St. 234-5902

Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church - 1/3 Natasha Drive, Cobbs Hill. 11am. Contemporary worship service. 7pm, 271-6478

Gay Men’s Alcoholic Anonymous - St. Luke’s/St. Simon Cyrine Church, 17 S. Fitchburg St. 8-30pm, 234-6720.

Weeklies: Closed meeting.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Friends Association (GLBFA) - U of Rochester. Sundays, 5pm.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Friends Association - 244-8640.

Rainbow Amateur Radio Assoc. - Finger Lakes chapter, Business meeting/fun. Call Bob, 442-7185

Sacred Spaces Meditation - Second Sundays, 7pm. MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 420-1400

Rainbow Seniors - Third Sundays, Potluck at First Unitarian Church, 150 S. Clinton Ave., 4pm. Handicapped parking behind church; others please park in lot accessed from Court St.

Community Christian Fellowship - Every Sunday, 10am service, The East Avenue Inn, 384 East Ave. 288-4588.

Men’s Cooking Group - Third or fourth sundays, 461-2273.

Basically Troublemakers Band - Penfield, 7-30pm, every Sunday. Call Tim, 242-0233


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