Kris Hinesley
Gay Alliance hires Kris Hinesley as Executive Director

By Susan Jordan
Kris Hinesley takes up the position of Executive Director of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley on July 11, after a Board search that began last October.

Dan Myers, Executive Director of the Al Sigl Center, who was a member of the search committee, said, "The GAGV is a small organization with a big mission and hefty ideas. Kris has sold not for profit experience to help grow support and awareness and the passion to bring the entire community along on the journey. Kris impressed the search committee with her solid experience and her steady, enthusiastic energy for the Gay Alliance’s mission."

Formerly Director of Philanthropy for the Central and Western New York Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, Kris is a fundraising professional. She is also undergoing some major life changes in addition to starting her new job: she and her partner moved to Homer, New York from Rochester at the end of last month, and they will become the parents of a baby girl by the end of this month.

Could you give us some personal info – hometown, family, interests?

I'm from a small farm town in Indiana. My family has scattered – Florida, Michigan, Indiana, New York, Tennessee. I love sports, especially basketball and golf. Lately I've become quite a "bird nerd." I'm into birds and hiking. And politics.

Have you and your partner had a civil union or marriage ceremony?

I'm from a small farm town in Indiana. My family has scattered – Florida, Michigan, Indiana, New York, Tennessee. I love sports, especially basketball and golf. Lately I've become quite a "bird nerd." I'm into birds and hiking. And politics.

Kris Hinesley as Executive Director

ANALYSIS

14th annual AIDS Walk raises $83,000

By Brendan McDonough
They put one foot in front of the other to help stamp out HIV/AIDS. At Goff’s Hill Park on June 5, more than 500 people (and quite a few dogs) took part in the 14th annual AIDS Walk.

For some it was their first time participating in the 5K walk, "I have a friend who has HIV and I thought it was time to do something," said Donna Morrow.

She also says part of the problem is due to something she calls "Safe Sex Fatigue." People thought, OK, we are going to have to endure this for five to 10 years and then it's going to be over. Now, 20 to 25 years later, people still have to maintain all those safe behaviors," said Silverstone.

Having safer sex is something Regina Willers wishes she knew more about. She has been HIV positive for the past 12 years and she says she got infected from her husband, who, unknown to her, was in a gay relationship. "At first you are shocked but I mean it is manageable as long as you take medication. I mean prevention and education is the most important thing. These days kids think oral sex is safe sex and it's not," said Willers.

It is no longer a gay disease and for the first time, Evelyn Anderson spoke publicly about having HIV. She was diagnosed in 1997 and says she took part in the walk to not only raise money but to also talk with other African American women about getting tested.

I think many people might have it but are afraid to get tested and don't want to know. People need to know that if they get tested and have it, there are a lot of support groups out there and many treatment options. With the right medication people can live a long time," she said.

This year ARI hoped to raise more than $85,000 but fell slightly short and ended up raising around $83,000. Like the hills on the route, Silverstone says, the AIDS Walk has had its ups and downs. "Our walks have been through a bit of a cycle; we peaked probably half way through our walk career and then there was a big drop. I think some of it was the economy and the fact that it had been going on so long, it just kind of mirrored the spurt that we are seeing out there about HIV in general but I think we've regenerated the energy about what this day is like," said Silverstone.

But the day was not just about raising money. It was also about raising awareness about HIV and AIDS. "If we can prevent one HIV infection today, we've done our job," Silverstone said. •

In this issue

Sections A

ANALYSIS

Reformed Church minister faces charges for marrying daughter, daughter-in-law

By Brendan McDonough

The Rev. Dr. Dan Kansfield faces serious legal charges for marrying his daughter and her partner.

The Rev. Dr. Dan Kansfield was arrested on a charge of performing a same-sex marriage ceremony in Albany on Feb. 26, 2005, according to the Grand Rapids Press. "The Rev. Kansfield's present troubles are the direct result of having failed what we felt was a long turning to be a litmus test by which orthodox purity is understood," he said.

"He did what the RCA and most denominational leaders have refused to do. He treated two people who love each other as people. He treated his daughter and her partner like two people who want to establish a life together. He treated so like, well, Jesus treated so many similar people. He treated gay religious gatekeepers shunned (such as me) like, well, like Jesus treated so many similar people," said Dr. Dan McGovern.

"The Rev. Kansfield...embodies the love and the presence of God when his daughter and her partner saw legal law said to each other, 'I do."

"This is an opportunity for the Reformed Churches in America to decide if it will continue to allow for diversity within its fellowship. There is a growing number of reformers within the denomination who affirm the sacred worth of people of both genders, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people and who do so because we take the bible seriously. We believe that every heterosexual and homosexual, that every bisexual and transgendered person has the right to knit together by God and"
One Door Closes and Another Door Opens

My tenure as President from May of 2004 to June of 2005 was extremely rewarding and enriching, as I worked with the trustees and staff of the GAVG who gave tirelessly of their time and talent over the past year to make our Education, Youth and Antivio­lence programs and Town meet­ings a success.

Most importantly, the Board did the hard work to help stabilize and reorganize this organization, with the help of many of you in the community.

We have much to be excited about as we look forward to the next year. We have great demand for our programs and our serv­ices, our latest survey has shown that the community continues to want us to publish the Empty Closet with more local content and we have a stronger and more dynamic Board with Kathryn Rivers as the new President.

Kathryn was a founding member of the Lambda Network at Kodak in 1995. In 1999, she co-chaired the First Educational Event for Senior Management on GLBT issues. Kathryn co-created the internationally acclaimed “Can We Talk” workshop. Since presenting this workshop at Out and Equal in 1998, this workshop has been used Fortune 500 Compa­nies as one of their critical educa­tional tools as part of their GLBT Diversity training. She has served on the Kodak Lambda Board since its inception and she was a member of the first graduating class of the GLBT institute at UCLA. During her year as Presi­dent-Elect, Kathryn has been a key member of the Finance team and Executive Council, provid­ing stabilizing direction to the Agency.

We have filled the key lead­ership position of Executive Director. Kris Hinesley, former Development Director of the Nature Conservancy, will join the GAY Alliance on July 11 as Execu­tive Director. Kris brings a wealth of experience in the not-for-pro­fit world, with significant fund-raising and public policy experience. Our search committee, which included the Executive Directors from the AI Sigi Center, Alter­natives for Battered Women and MOCHA, selected Kris for his experience and ability to build a strong, dynamic and stable agen­cy for the next 30 years.

Our Development Team has begun to focus on our business sponsors, as we have secured our keynote speaker for our Community Business Leaders Luncheon on Oct. 21, 2005. As we look forward to the Gender Employment Non-Discrimina­tion Act, GENDA, being passed in 2006 in New York State, we must to make sure we can par­ticipate our business community for more people wishing to transition from one gender to another. This year’s keynote speaker, Margaret Stump, Senior VP of Pruden­tial, will discuss transitioning as a Senior VP while maintaining her leadership position. We continue to strengthen the day-to-day lives of the GLBT community in Rochester, focusing on equi­table enforcement to all in the workplace.

I look forward to seeing and thanking all of you for your sup­port during this past year on July 10 at the Pride Picnic in Genesee Valley Park. Your support has meant a great deal as we faced some very difficult and challeng­ing changes, both locally and nation­ally. We look forward to providing you with the services, support and education that will allow us to create the environ­ments where we all can feel safe and can thrive.

It has been both a privilege and a gift to have had the opportunity to lead this historic or­ganization for a brief period in its 52-year history. Thank you.
**Hinesley from page 1**

It's analogous to a wedding. We actually flew to San Francisco to get married, but they stopped doing it before we got there. We drove to Ashland, Ore., the nearest town to the California border, and a Unitarian minister married us legally, but last November that was invalidated by a ballot initiative that invalidated gay marriages. So we're planning to take the fast ferry to Toronto as soon as we can.

What were the most important factors that made you feel you wanted to work at the GAGV?

I felt that the people were everything I was looking for in my work: the staff and trustees, and the passion for the mission. Also, the community. This is a very active and knowledgeable community. When I mention my partner here, people don't think I'm talking about my "business partner." They think I mean total support for this community, but no one has ever been unkind or hostile to me. In fact, I've experienced last week, though, I was explaining to an acquaintance that our due date is in July. A woman I didn't know looked me up and down, and asked if it was a "new baby." I said, "Yes, my partner is eight months pregnant!"

I think I was confused. She said, "Was it planned?" We had a fairly high-tech conception; it was planned all right. I just laughed.

What are your top priorities as you start your job?
The GAGV's mission is to stabilize the organization and start building on the success of programs already in place. I want to get to know LGBT congregations with a goal of empowering their leadership and providing resources to help them identify programs already in place. I want to get to know the LGBT community pretty well. I'd like to redefine our goals so we are focused on ourselves and our allies. We have to do both.

In the Rochester community in general?

We actually flew to Rochester because they had so much fun last year. We hope to extend our mission and programs to the wider church, we hope to extend our ministry and fellowship to include our sisters and brothers who have no need for D/I to serve as a Sunday worship alternative. Do you feel you've had a chance to get to know the LGBT community better already?

Long term, I think we can be a regional resource and voice, even more now. I'd like to redefine our goals so they are focused and effective.

**Reformed Church from page 1**

In fact, many Reformed Church congregations have supported full human rights for gay and lesbian people, and many even welcomed gay members into their ministry and together groups of homosexuals are following in the footsteps of the light in a dark and broken world so loved by God.

Reformed Church Members who support the Grand Rapids Christian Coalition and Transgendered people held a prayer vigil at the General Synod beginning June 16 and continuing through June 17. The vigil was a "Renewal of the General Synod," a call to renew the church's commitment to be a people of faith with a vision of the kingdom of God in which all people are loved and cherished. The vigil was continued by the GAGV board and staff were very appreciative of their efforts.

**Safeguarding of the Rainbow Flag**

The Rainbow Flag was created in 1978 by Frank K Kallman, a San Francisco gay man. He created the Rainbow Flag as a symbol of gay rights and to raise awareness of the needs of the gay community. Over the years, the Rainbow Flag has become a symbol of gay pride and is recognized worldwide.

The Rainbow Flag is a multicolored flag with the colors red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and violet. The colors are arranged in a horizontal pattern, with red on the top and violet on the bottom. The flag is typically flown on poles or hung vertically on walls.

In recent years, there have been efforts to safeguard the Rainbow Flag. In 2005, a group of activists organized a "Rainbow Flag Protection" campaign to prevent the flag from being destroyed or damaged.

The campaign was successful in protecting the Rainbow Flag from destruction and also helped to raise awareness of the importance of protecting symbols of gay rights.

**Kathryn Rivers became the new President of the Gay Alliance**

Kathryn Rivers became the new President of the Gay Alliance Board of Directors on June 12. A founding member of the Gay Alliance of Rochester, Kathryn has worked on the finance team and executive council. She leads a diverse board dedicated to "building a respectful, inclusive community free from fear."
Indian lesbian couple attempts suicide

Two lesbian lovers in Kanpur, India, who wished to marry but were separated, have attempted suicide. One woman succeeded, while the other survived, according to the Hindustan Times.

Rama Mishra, 21, a high school teacher, and Neetu Singh, 18, a college student, fell in love about two years ago. Rama’s parents, however, arranged a traditional marriage for her. "The engagement ceremony was scheduled for last month, but Rama told Neetu that she would rather die than be separated from her," the paper said.

Finding that the challengers had no "legally recognized or personal stake in the parties," the court held that "simply having an opinion is not enough to interfere in the personal matters of others and to declare the challenged law unconstitutional." These antigay legislators tried to use people’s "private sexual matter as an excuse for laying out their philosophy of marriage, but you can’t use another person’s private lives to pursue your own personal agenda," said Camilla Taylor, Staff Attorney in Lambda Legal’s Midwest Regional Office in Chicago.

In August of 2002 the two women filed papers to dissolve their civil union. The judge in their case noted that he was simply a proxy to settle the legal affairs of married and unmarried persons.

In February of 2004, a group of state legislators, a congressman and a northwest Iowa church filed a petition to be heard by the Iowa State Supreme Court. They filed a lawsuit alleging the judge, Jeffery Neary, in the Iowa District Court for Woodbury County, lacked the authority to terminate the civil union, and they asked the state high court to hear their case.

Lambda Legal filed a friend-of-the-court brief last June, also signed by the Iowa Civil Liberties Union, the ACLU and the Lesbians, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center of Central Iowa, that urged the court to throw the case out. The brief argued that none of the parties involved in the challenge had legal standing to intervene in the case because they aren’t harmed in any way by Judge Neary’s decision. The brief also pointed out that Iowa law permits a court to terminate a civil union, so that the members of the couple can move on with their lives with certainty about their legal rights, plus financially and start new families. Camilla Taylor argued the case before the high court in January.

Prides around the world

Around two million people paraded in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in early June to celebrate gay pride. Marches also took place for legalization of civil unions.

In August of 2003, Poland’s Pride rally drew over 2,500 to Warsaw, defying the orders of the city’s conservative mayor. They carried signs reading "Law and Justice for All," and "A Gay Pride - A Pedestrian Day.

In St. Augustine, Fla., a judge ordered the city to display 47 rainbow flags on its historic Bridge of Lions on Pride Day, June 11. The city, as it has since 2003, had denied the St. Augustine Pride Committee and Equality Florida’s request to display the flags. Judge Henry Lee Addams granted a temporary restraining order which allowed the gay groups to display the flags until June 14.

In Sacramento, Calif., the theme for Pride was marriage equality, according to the Sacramento Bee. Mark Leno, a Democratic state legislator who authored a marriage equality bill that failed by four votes in June, took part in the parade. He said he plans to reintroduce the measure soon.

Hundreds marched in the rain at the Salt Lake City, Utah Pride Parade on June 12, the Salt Lake Tribune said. State Senator Scott McCoy was Grand Marshall. McCoy said, "You always have to go through a little bit of clouds and a little bit of sunshine before the sunshine comes out-and that is exactly what is going to happen with our community."

In a decision issued June 16, the Maryland Court of Special Appeals said a gay father should have his day in court.

"This decision is an important step on the road to reunifying this family. Our client can now show the trial court how the restriction requiring his long-time partner to live outside the home the family shared for many years makes no sense and only hurts him 12-year-old son," said Stacy Sum­mer, Senior Counsel at Lambda Legal, who represented the father in oral argument before the appeals court earlier this year.

Ulf Hedberg and his wife, residents of Virginia at the time, separated when their son was four years old. For the next five-and-a-half years, the child lived with Hedberg and his partner, Blaise Delahousaye. They had a ceremony to mark the couple purchased together. The home had a backyard and was near a good school. The boy was two years old when his parents separated, and the court found that he needed a stable home to live in.

Ulf Hedberg and his wife moved to Florida, she petitioned for divorce. A Virginia court issued an order giving Mr. Hedberg physical custody of the boy but requiring Mr. Delahousaye to move out of the family’s home. In order to maintain two separate residences, the couple sold their house and moved into smaller apartments in Maryland. Though Mr. Delahousaye visits his family as much as he can, the restriction keeps him all from living in the same home together.

"This decision is a victory for common sense," said Shannon Minter, Legal Dir­ector of the National Center for Lesbian Rights. "We are delighted that Mr. Hed­berg will have an opportunity to proceed to protect his son and reunite his family under one roof. It’s important that under Mary­land law courts cannot restrict a parent’s ability to live with a partner simply because the parent is lesbian or gay."

A trial court in Maryland denied Mr. Hedberg’s request to move his family home.

The ruling today sends his case back to lower court for a full hearing. Mr. Hed­berg asked that the temporary Restraining order be removed because of the drastic decline in quality of life it has caused for the child, and also because it is detrimental to the Virginia court based its decision on that state’s sodomy law, which was struck down, along with 12 others nationwide, in Lamb­da Legal’s landmark, U.S. Supreme Court victory in 2003.

NAPWA says one million with HIV is enough

The National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA-US) says one million people living with HIV in the United States is an encompassing policy making model that will respond more effectively and aggressively towards the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

"Current estimates that over one million Americans are currently living with HIV/AIDS tells us that this epidemic is bigger and more serious than our national policymakers have been treating it," said Terje (pronounced "Terry") Anderson, NAPWA Executive Director. "One million people are more than enough, and our country has got to respond."

This statement was made in reaction to the new estimates released June 14 by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at the National HIV Prevention Conference in Atlanta. This data estimates a nearly 25 percent increase in the num­ber of people living with HIV/AIDS.

According to Anderson, part of the rea­son for the increase is good news. "Those of us living with HIV/AIDS aren’t dying at the high rates we were in earlier years," says Anderson. "But a larger issue is that we continue to see unacceptable rates of new infections each year."

The estimates especially highlighted the dramatic rates of infection among African-Americans, who constitute nearly half of those living with HIV/AIDS.

"This is one more wake-up call in a long string of policy statistics," says Anderson. "HIV in the African-American community is one of the greatest civil rights challenges of our times."

Founded in 1983, the Atlanta-based National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA-US) is a non-profit membership organization that advocates on behalf of all people living with HIV and AIDS in communities throughout the country suffering it. NAPWA has several initiatives designed to promote access to care, improve the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS, and reduce stigma towards HIV-positive people. One in four Americans are African-Americans, one in 40 million people around the world are inflected. “We will be here until there is a cure.”

Stonewall Democrats partner to anti-gay Sen. Santorum

On June 14, the National Stonewall Democrats Federal PAC and Liberty PA Partnership announced a new partnership to defeat Republican Senator Rick Santorum in 2006.

"This partnership is the vehicle for LGBT Americans and our allies to come together to defeat Rick Santorum in 2006. It allows individuals from across the country to connect with grassroots efforts already underway in Pennsylvania."

Liberty PA is the only statewide organization with a network of supporters in each geographic region of Pennsylvania. As such, it led dramatically successful electoral efforts in the 2004 election cycle. Nevada PAC is the connected political action com­mittee of the National Stonewall Demo­crats.

National Stonewall Democrats and Lib­erty PA also announced that veteran polit­i­cian and Former Gilleon will serve as State Director for the coordinated efforts beginning immediately. Gilleon’s experi­ence includes work with the campaigns of Governor Ed Rendell, Philadelphia Mayor John Street and Pennsylvania State Direc­tor for the Young Voter Alliance in 2004.

It allows individuals from across the country to connect with grassroots efforts already underway in Pennsylvania.”
The Washington Blade

Victory Fund helps
Latina lesbian win seat on San Antonio council

The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund on June 15 announced that it conducted an independent expenditure campaign in the city of San Antonio that helped propel a Latina lesbian candidate to a seat on the city council. Elena Guajardo—captured 55 percent of the runoff vote, making her the first openly gay elected office-holder in the eighth largest city in the United States.

After supporting the Guajardo campaign directly through the May election, Victory Fund broke ties in order to make a greater impact on the race. Under San Antonio law, organizations such as the Victory Fund are allowed to set up and raise funds separate from a particular candidate's efforts as long as the independent committee doesn't coordinate and coordinate activities with the candidate. Victory Fund created a specific purpose political committee in San Antonio and invested $20,000 that was spent calling potential voters and sending them mailings that explained why Guajardo was the best candidate.

"Victory's team is comprised of forward-thinking, campaign professionals," said Chuck Wolfe, president and CEO of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund. "At the Victory Fund we intend to continue to take advantage of these opportunities where we can offer voters all the information and details they need to know about the incredibly gifted lesbians, gay men, and gay people who are stepping up to run for public office in communities across the country.

Guajardo also attended a four-day Candid...
Interview

Sharon Jacobson, community activist and recent graduate of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, was selected by Interfaith Advocates for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People to receive the Faith in Action Award at a community dinner sponsored by Greater Rochester Community of Churches, which was held on June 7, at the Rochester Riverside Clarion Hotel.

The citation for her award read, “While pursuing the Masters of Divinity degree at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, CRCDS, Sharon worked with spiritual maturity and heartfelt tenaciousness to bring spiritual healing among LGBT people of color and their families. Sharon served as the first Spirituality Intern with the MOCHA Project, which provides HIV/AIDS Education/outreach, case management and community development for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning people of color and their families, as they define them. Sharon developed and coordinated monthly worship and meditation services, conducted pastoral care, and counseling and developed alliances with other LGBTQ faith based programs in Rochester.”

“Sharon served as a principal organizer for the first-ever Rochester Multi-Faith Roundtable for Pride in the Pulpit, a statewide program of the Empire State Pride Agenda Foundation. Through Sharon’s efforts, over 70 local clergy and leaders from Muslim, Hindu, Christian, Jewish, Spiritualist and Unitarian faiths gathered at CRCDS to discuss how to work effectively as a network of leaders of faith to advocate for LGBT New Yorkers and our families.”

“With concern for the paucity of community information and response to the brutal murder and disembowelment of 19-year-old rashan Brazil, a gay black man in Brooklyn, Sharon organized a multi-faith service, ‘Healing the Multicultural Faith Response to Hate & Violence in our Community’, which included liturgical dance, community artwork and Muslim, Jewish and Christian voices. For many of those gathered, this was the first time hearing the stories from each other’s communities.”

Interfaith Advocates for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People recognized Sharon Jacobson with the 2005 Faith in Action Award and stated, “We wish her well as she continues to bridge the greater Rochester community in ministries of healing, reconciliation and justice-making” (For more information regarding the MOCHA Project, please visit www.interfaithadvocatesLGBT.org).

Empty Closet Sharon, you also received your Masters of Divinity degree on May 14 and you were ordained as a Baptist minister on June 26. This must be a landmark time in your life.

Sharon Jacobson: We’re moving too. It is a time in my life when lots of big things are happening — things that have been coming for a long time. My partner currently lives in Alexandria, Va., and we’ve been commuting between Virginia and Rochester for the past three and a half years. Sharon is originally from Nutley, N.J.) Now she’s moving up here, and looking for a job. I graduated from seminary (Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School) on May 14. It’s my fourth degree.

EC: How many years did it take you to get all those degrees?
SJ: The bachelor’s degree took longest, starting in 1974 when I graduated from high school. I got a BA in theatre in 1982, the first of my partner broke up with me. It was a key point that I was in a time of transition. Everything started falling into place.

EC: Were you originally Baptist?
SJ: My birth parents were Jewish and Baptist. One of the few details I know about them. The family that adopted me was Jewish. I got too radical for our fairly conservative temple. I had my bar mitzvah when I was 13 and got kicked out at 14 for kissing the cantor’s daughter.

I had my own personal relationship with God. Rather than focusing on denominational issues, I looked for a place where I felt I fit. My former partner was Mormon, and I was inactive, but I started investigating it to help understand Judaism, and I took a course. They started planning my baptism, and I said, “That’s not happening.”

The stake president (a Mormon church official) said I would baptize me even though I was a practicing Jew. So I got baptized. A few years later we were encom­municated when (someone) filed a com­plaint... It was one of those don’t ask, don’t tell things — when somebody started talking about it, he had to do something.

A good part of my life I’ve felt more comfortable outside the church. I’ve been a member of Lake Avenue Baptist Church for four years.

EC: Will you become a pastor?
SJ: I’m going to continue to teach at Brockport. I’ve been there seven years. I’m sure it’s my master’s and coursework cross with sociology and African American studies.

The hardest thing for my congregants to accept is “God loves you.” My biggest job is to repair the spiritual abuse that has been done by the church. I think it’s important that people know there are a lot of things ordained by God. Abuse is not one of them.

The Reverend Sharon Jacobson receives Faith in Action award, is ordained as Baptist minister

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be more open.

At MOCHA, Mike Booth and I are organizing a Black Church Week of Prayer Committee, of the Balm of Gilead Society, one week a year. They are committed to raising the consciousness of the Black church in praying for healing of HIV/AIDS. Every year the committee strives to get more Black churches involved.

EG: The media doesn't seem to cover the liberal church very much.

AIDS. Every year the committee strives to get more Black churches involved.

Rashawn Brazell) - about which you heard nothing whatsoever in the media. As we noticed, you've never been locked in a room by, we don't feel we can claim the time to do anything. But I tell my students, if you experience something outside the violence, you can report on conflict, but you think one small individual can't get the attention of a mosquito! You can't find it, but it keeps you awake!

We're so busy doing stuff just to get by, we don't feel we can claim the time to do things that are meaningful, that could change the world.

Also, people get numb. The first time you experience something outside the norm, it's shocking, but after you've experienced it 1,000 times, so what else is new? We don't even experience what is shocking any more. It has become natural. There's a sense that it's always been this way, because you've never experienced anything else. It's hard to imagine anything different. And if we're not interested in local issues, it's much easier to not be interested in national and international issues.

It's important not to generalize Black hate said, he writes that people are doing wonderful things to heal - but when you're feeding off the hatred.

AIDS. Every year the committee strives to get more Black churches involved.

It didn't even get into community calendars. Part of me has to ask, do they really want to lose hate, or do they feed off the violence? You can report on conflict, but when you have Christians, Jews, Muslims, and people from a broad range of faith traditions coming together to pray for reconciliation - it seems ironic that we can't do things that are meaningful, that could change the world.

People of color in this community to love. That we're all special, precious and unique image of love. That we're all special, precious and unique members, of the barriers are removed. If I had one message that I want people of color in this community to hear, it's that God loves them just as they are. That we're all special, precious and unique are reflections of God's image - an image of love.

What's your color is being. God says, "Abuse thy neighbor." "Abuse thy neighbor." God says, "Love thy neighbor."

My challenge would be for each of us, regardless of ethnic backgrounds, to allow others to see that reflection and to work for that reflection in each person.

The hardest thing for my congregants to accept is "God loves you." My biggest job is to repair the spiritual abuse that has been done by the church. I think it's important that people know there are a lot of things ordained by God. Abuse is not one of them. God doesn't say, "Abuse thy neighbor." God says, "Love thy neighbor."

I look forward to assisting you!

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Marijuana ruling treats the sick as criminals

By The Reverend Dr. Troy D. Perry
Moderator, Metropolitan Community Churches

With its ruling on medical marijuana, the U.S. Supreme Court has voted to treat sick people as criminals.

By a vote of 6-3, the Court has effectively invalidated compassionate state laws, thereby prohibiting the use of medical marijuana by people who suffer from diabetes, glaucoma, cancer and HIV/AIDS.

The Supreme Court’s ruling is an act of exceptional cruelty.

California, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington and Vermont all have passed laws that allow for the compassionate use of this drug by individuals who suffer from chronic pain or the debilitating side effects of treatments for these illnesses. The Court’s decision to invalidate these laws will lead to needless pain and suffering.

In their decision, the majority justices ruled that Congress alone is responsible for passing federal legislation that will allow sick people access to this drug — a drug that has been proven to alleviate pain, induce appetite, and relax muscles, and relieve nausea that brought relief to people with HIV/AIDS. I am proud that some of our churches, including Golden Gate MCC and MCC San Francisco, provided for the care of persons with HIV and AIDS by distributing medical marijuana to people with doctors’ notes documenting their need. A hallmark of the LGBT community is that we have historically found ways to address our needs — social, political, spiritual, as well as medical — when those needs have been ignored or devalued by the larger society.

In 1996, Phyllis Nelson, a member of Metropolitan Community Churches and a mother who lost two sons to AIDS, said that any public official who had spent an entire career in the public eye, would never oppose the compassionate use of medical marijuana. The same is true today.

It is time to end the hypocrisy that makes medical marijuana illegal, and it’s time for the U.S. Congress to enact laws that will make medical marijuana available to anyone whose condition would be improved by its regulated use.

Jesus said, “I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.” (Gospel of Matthew 12:7) There is no virtue in people suffering pain or discomfort needlessly. I call on Congress to enact legislation that will allow compassionate use in every state where doctors prescribe medical marijuana for their patients.

Before the 1996 appearance of protease inhibitors and other HIV medications, medical marijuana was one of the few remedies that brought relief to people with HIV/AIDS. I am proud that some of our churches, including Golden Gate MCC and MCC San Francisco, provided for the care of persons with HIV and AIDS by distributing medical marijuana to people with doctors’ notes documenting their need. A hallmark of the LGBT community is that we have historically found ways to address our needs — social, political, spiritual, as well as medical — when those needs have been ignored or devalued by the larger society.

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It is time to end the hypocrisy that makes medical marijuana illegal, and it’s time for the U.S. Congress to enact laws that will make medical marijuana available to anyone whose condition would be improved by its regulated use.

Jesus said, “I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.” (Gospel of Matthew 12:7) There is no virtue in people suffering pain or discomfort needlessly. I call on Congress to enact legislation that will allow compassionate use in every state where doctors prescribe medical marijuana for their patients.

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LIST OF PRIDE WEEK EVENTS
JULY 9 - 17, 2005

SATURDAY, JULY 9
COAP PRESENTS: BREAK A SWEAT FOR PRIDE DANCE AT CLUB MOTHERS, 9 AM UNTIL?
Co-sponsored by the GAGV.

SUNDAY, JULY 10
11 AM: ENERGIZED WORSHIP SERVICE, ROUNDHOUSE (PAVILION 3), GENESEE VALLEY PARK: "THE GOD WITHIN." (QUAKER SAYING: "THE GOD IN ME SALUTES THE GOD IN THEE")

GAGV PRIDE PICNIC
1-7 PM, GENESEE VALLEY PARK
ADVANCE TICKETS:
$5 (GAGV MEMBERS)
$10 (NON-MEMBERS)
AT GATE:
$10 (GAGV MEMBERS)
$15 (NON-MEMBERS)
TICKETS ON SALE AT OUTLANDISH, PRIDE CONNECTION, PARKLEIGH, & MOTOR.

DANCE THE DAY AWAY!
ROCKIN' RETURNS TO THE ROUNDHOUSE - LOCAL DJs.
3 PM: FAMILY ACTIVITIES: DUNKING BOOTH, MOON WALK, & REPRESENTATIVES FROM LESBIAN & GAY FAMILY BUILDING PROJECT.
4 PM: DOGGY DRAG PAGEANT

ENTERTAINMENT TENT:
Live Music from Pleasing Iris & Earl Crum Review
Folk Music by Leah Zicarelli
Karaoke fun with Rainbow Sky and DJ's Shay & K
Thomas Wartle's Dance Troupe
Drag Performances hosted by Keys
Comedians from Comic's Cafe
Second Annual Doggie Drag Contest

ROCKIN' IN THE ROUNDHOUSE
Music & Dancing with local DJs

FOOD COURT
CASH BAR BY MOTOR

PRIDE VENDORS & INFORMATION BOOTHS

TICKET PRICES
GAGV Members: $5 in Advance, $10 at the Gate
Non-Members: $10 in Advance, $15 at the Gate
VIP Parking Pass: $150

Advance Ticket Sales,
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:
Outlandish, Parkleigh, & The Pride Connection and online at www.gayalliance.org.

Member Tickets Sales,
available only online or at Gay Alliance's Administrative Offices
Audiotorium Center
675 East Main St., Suite 500
Tel: (585) 244-8660

Special Hotel Discounts Available
at the East Ave. Inn. 384 East Ave.
Call 1-800-555-0000 or 325-5010

When calling mention Pride Picnic

Questions Re: GAGV 2005 Pride Picnic
be directed to Coordinator Chuck Argento
at prdepicnic05@rochester.rr.com or call
(585) 244-8660 ext. 20

(continued on page 11)
THE FACES OF ROCHESTER...
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Bill PRITCHARD
Lovely WARREN
Gladys SANTIAGO
Carolee CONKLIN

Decades of leadership experience, commitment, and results.

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OPENING NIGHT

Broadway at the Bowl
Rochester Pride Parade & Festival
Saturday, July 16th
Festival at Highland Bowl 4-10:30pm
Parade Starts at 5pm
begins at Highland & Goodman, ending at Highland Bowl
www.streetsofpride.com
TUESDAY JULY 12
5 PM, COAP PRIDE VOLLEYBALL & PICNIC, ELLISON PARK, BRING DISH TO PASS.

WEDNESDAY JULY 13
7:45 PM, MOVIE NIGHT HOSTED BY THIRD PRESBYTERIAN, GAGV, "LET’S GET REAL," THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 4 MEGS ST.

THURSDAY JULY 14
6:30-8:30 PM, COMMUNITY BUSINESS FORUM SOCIAL AT THE HIGHLAND BOWL.
AT DUSK, MOVIES IN THE BOWL, "WIZARD OF OZ," HIGHLAND BOWL, MONROE Co. PARKS DEPARTMENT

FRIDAY JULY 15
11 AM-CLOSE, AIDS ROCHESTER PRESENTS GAY DAY AT SEABREEZE, $11/PERSON
5:7 PM, ATLANTIC BEACON SCULPTURE COMMITTEE LGB, HISTORY SCULPTURE DEDICATION OF "THREE PRIDE SYMBOLS" (SEE ABOVE) AND STREET FESTIVAL, IN FRONT OF BACHELOR FORUM, 670 UNIVERSITY AVE. FESTIVAL INCLUDES DANCE BY THOMAS VAPLED & CO., POEMS BY YOUTH, & MORE.

SATURDAY JULY 16
9 AM, FRONTRUNNERS GAY PRIDE FUN RUN/WALK, PARKING LOT AT GEORGE EASTMAN HOUSE

SUNDAY JULY 17
4 PM, RAINBOW SENIORS POTLUCK, FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, 100 S. CLINTON AVENUE
Come celebrate PRIDE with AIDS Rochester

GAY DAY @ SEABREEZE

Friday, July 15th

Tickets $11/person (cash or check)

includes park admission, all rides, water park, & free light dinner courtesy of AIDS Rochester!!

Tickets available while supplies last only through Wed., July 13th!!

Tickets available at: AIDS Rochester Pride Connection Outlandish Video Parkleigh Pride Picnic

For more information call AIDS Rochester 442-2220
Gays are visible in Albany on Equality & Justice Day

By Robin Angevine-Walling

While Rochester slept in anticipation of the President's arrival in the town of Greece on May 24, 43 sleep-deprived GLBT rights supporters made their way in the dawn-breaking hours to Village Gate Square. The Rochester bus left at 6 a.m. and arrived in Albany shortly after 9 a.m. to be greeted by Empire State Pride Agenda volunteers, who quickly lead the group to the assembly area called The Egg, a large oval room with tables set up by voter district.

This year's event focused on the importance of equality and justice. New York has made strong strides in the fight for equality of the gay community. In recent years, through activities such as the Pride Agenda's Lobby Day, we have seen an increase in legislative support for the rights of GLBT people.

By Robin Angevine-Walling

This year's interactions with elected officials was on a more personal level. In past years, scheduled times were set in the officials' offices to talk about issues. For the first time this year, legislators were invited to a multi-faith prayer service and a sit-down lunch buffet. Senator Joe Robach and Assemblyman David Koon made the rounds to talk to Rochester-area constituents during the luncheon.

The Empire State Pride Agenda hosted over 470 GLBT people and allies, including 70 organizations. Assembly Speaker Silver, Majority Leader Bruno, Minority Leader Paterson, Senator Duane, Assembly member Glick and the first openly gay man to be an Assembly member, Daniel O'Donnell, were featured speakers. There were appearances by the National Log Cabin Republican President Patrick Garriguer, Lambda Legal Director Jon W. Davidson, national AIDS activist Mandy Carter, and our own Pamela Barnes of the Rochester Transgender Group, who spoke on the importance of inclusion of transgender community, and in support of the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act.

Straight allies, including people from labor unions, people of faith, PFLAG parents and friends and family members of GLBT people, gave moving testimonies. There were also performances by activists/recording artists Dianne Davidson and Broadway poetry slams artist Staceyanne Chin.

One of the most inclusive aspects of the day was the brought to us on behalf of the members of Pride in the Pulpit, a multi-faith/multi-denominational group of 80 clergymen and hundreds of laymen from across New York. This movement was started in 2004 as a way to combat the overdose of anti-gay rhetoric spewed onto the nation by the right-wing fundamentalist Bush administration.

The members of Pride in the Pulpit do many different kinds of validating outreach events and encourage people of every faith to combat homophobia within their own places of worship. Of the 80 clergy that make up the movement, 31 were present in Albany. Inclusion in faith communities set the tone for many of the other activities and testimonies throughout the day, since religion is one of the main reasons gays and lesbians are told we do not deserve the right to marry. In all in all, the day in Albany was a huge source of validation, both from people of faith and political leaders, for the fight for equality. It was proof that every day gay men, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people can make a difference in their daily lives, if they are willing to step out of their comfort zones just slightly.

For more information, log onto www.prideagenda.org.
Crystal meth epidemic puts lives at risk

By Susan Jorden

Nationally syndicated columnist

Crystal meth is a major problem in Rochester, a city where the unemployment is high, many have likened crystal addiction to crystal meth use and safer sex messages. One man has reported that he was scared he'd lose his career so he sought treatment. In addition, many have reported that they think it's a good problem and that they don't pay attention to it anymore.

The message from upstate New York is that crystal meth is a problem that people in the community need to be aware of.

“Treatment is very expensive and in many cases people keep on taking it and they don’t realize that they have...”

Cynthia said, "I don’t want people to perceive this as only a gay problem. It’s a community problem, and it is a real problem even in a world problem..." but it isn’t just people in the club scene, not just gays, just people in the community, I have seen a sharp increase in the community that’s simply not good news when we look..."

"This is not your mother’s speed, or even the same crystal meth used in the ’70s. The chemical composition has changed, possibly, because of the toxins substances added in the cooking process.

Cynthia and her sister flew to San Francisco when they learned Neil was in trouble. “Everybody wished to see the Castro story,” she said. “My partner died...” etc. I started to realize the dimensions of this. Of the 300 or so people who attended Neil’s wake at the Castro, in March 2004, three had died of crystal use-related problems by the following September.

“It’s very hard to stop once you’ve been addicted.” Cynthia said. “Treatment is very expensive, and it’s a long wait. It’s extremely addictive. You need desperate treatment: if you don’t have it, you’ll be addicted, and it’s a worldwide problem..." but it isn’t just people in the community that are affected.

"It changes your brain. It damages your heart – causes strokes and heart attacks..." It causes you to age prematurely. The NYS Department of Health estimates how long you can live in 10 years. (See sidebar)

Cynthia said that Neil didn’t really seek treatment because he was ready to change, and he was scared he’d lose his career so he sought treatment. "But after 10-12 years of taking you crash and you feel very bad. So people keep on taking it and they aren’t sleeping or eating for days..."

As ages your brain, it damages your heart – causes strokes and heart attacks... It causes you to age prematurely. The NYS Department of Health estimates how long you can live in 10 years. (See sidebar)

Cynthia said that Neil didn’t really seek treatment because he was ready to change, and he was scared he’d lose his career so he sought treatment. "But after 10-12 years of taking you crash and you feel very bad. So people keep on taking it and they aren’t sleeping or eating for days..."

Crystal meth uses a different chemical composition than the original crystal meth, which is not your mother’s crystal meth. "This is not your mother’s speed," she said. "You can even the same crystal meth used in the ’70s. The chemical composition has changed, possibly, because of the toxins substances added in the cooking process."

Cynthia said that Neil probably did not use that much. "When he worked at the club he didn’t use that much – just music was everything to him. He didn’t bang out at clubs; he’d do his job – he’d just..."

She said that most people aren’t aware of the radically destructive nature of today’s crystal, "This is not your mother’s speed," she said. "You can even the same crystal meth used in the ’70s. The chemical composition has changed, possibly, because of the toxins substances added in the cooking process."

"It’s highly addictive and can be detrimental to every major organ system of the body, can permanently damage the chemist..."

"Suffice it to say that crystal meth is highly addictive and can be detrimental to every major organ system of the body, can permanently damage the chemists of the brain..."

"The appeal of the drug is different for every person – for many it is a form of escape, for others it is a pleasure enhancer, and for still others it is a disinhibitor that facilitates social and/or sexual interaction," Libey continued. "For the occasional, recreational user of crystal meth as well as the whole community, the appeal of the drug is different for every person – for many it is a form of escape, for others it is a pleasure enhancer, and for still others it is a disinhibitor that facilitates social and/or sexual interaction." Libey continued. "The opportunity to deal crystal meth is not limited to young single men in the club scene.

"Meth is highly addictive and can be detrimental to every major organ system of the body, can permanently damage the chemists of the brain..."

Crystall meth is presented merely as one of a host of other health concerns, including HIV and other STDs."

"So services that are provided should be fun, and say, ‘We recognize that we won’t reach...’”

"We’re careful to make sure the wider community is not affected, because it is a gay problem.”

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*Based on third quarter 2004 statistics from Inside Mortgage Finance. November 18, 2004. Wells Fargo Home Mortgage is a division of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. © 2005 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. All rights reserved.

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Laurie Schulman
Associate Broker
From Our Readers

Alan Carter is returned to Attica

To the Editor:

On June 1, I surrendered at Ontario County Jail. This was to comply with the most recent Appellate decision that I must do so. The DA’s office in Ontario found a statute that they argued prevented me from being out on my Stay. Now I can only pray that my Appeal will be heard soon and with positive results.

Alan Carter

(On June 3, Alan Carter was returned to Attica, although his attorneys had requested that he be sent to another institution. His appeal is set for fall.)

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

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AIDSWALK 2005: AIDS Rochester's AIDSWalk on June 5 raised over $83,000. See story on page A1. PHOTO BY DARLENE McMAHON

PRIDE AGENDA DINNER: Carmen Vasquez and Ross Levi of the Empire State Pride Agenda with NYS Attorney General Eliot Spitzer at the Pride Agenda spring dinner in Rochester on May 21. Spitzer repeated his support for equal marriage rights for LGBT couples. The Pride Agenda presented an award to The Empty Closet and editor Susan Jordan. For more dinner coverage, see Alan Cumming interview, B1. PHOTO BY JEFFERY YOUNG

MEET THE CANDIDATES: The Community Business Forum held a Meet the LGBT Candidates Night on June 9. Above, City Council member Bill Pritchard with Tim Stallman of CBF. PHOTO BY ANDREW TURNQUIST

City Court Judge Ellen Yacknin, who is running for a seat on state Supreme Court, with Emily Jones at the CBF Candidates Night. PHOTO BY ANDREW TURNQUIST

Tim Mains (first row, right) and friends at the AIDSWalk.

Ten Mains, center, candidate for Mayor, talks with guests at the Business Forum social. PHOTO BY ANDREW TURNQUIST
HOMOMUSEUM: Heroes and Moments opening exhibition at Exit Art on May 21. The exhibit is an in-depth and multilayered glimpse into the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender (LGBT) icons and histories that shape contemporary art and culture today. Pictured are Quentin Crisp hats.

QUEENS ON PARADE: The Queens Pride Parade and Festival in Jackson Heights was June 5. Pictured is ACQC (AIDS Center of Queens County) marchers dressed as condoms.

20TH ANNUAL AIDS WALK in Central Park took place May 15. Actors Richard Thomas and Judith Light participated.

WALK ON THE WILD SIDE at the Central Park Zoo on May 6. Pictured is Tony-Award winner Cherry Jones. The event was a fundraiser for Callen-Lorde Community Health Center.

FASHION ON GENDER at Metropolitan Community Church of New York on May 24.

20TH ANNUAL AIDS WALK in Central Park took place May 15. Actors Richard Thomas and Judith Light participated.

THE WEDDING MARCH: Crossing the Bridge for Marriage Equality on May 22. LGBT community members marched over the Brooklyn Bridge to support same-sex marriage rights.

LEADER: 16th Annual Leadership Awards at New York University was June 13. Jeff Sorel, left, presented the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force’s Lifetime Achievement award to former Sen. Tom Daschle, for his support of gay and transgender rights.
Sponsor a House Party...
Help Tim make history again by becoming the first openly gay Mayor of Rochester and first Mayor of Rochester to advocate for equal marriage rights.

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Pride Week to feature fabulous entertainment

Get ready for a week of music, dance, comedy, and all sorts of fun, as the Rochester LGBT community celebrates Pride 2005. Pride Week will feature everything from Broadway tunes to Doggy Drag. The week of entertainment starts on July 10 at the GAGV Picnic, 17 p.m. at Genesee Valley Park.

Performers will include Lea L. Zicari, Pleasing Iris, The Earl Cram Revue, The Flux Fusion Dance Troupe, The Ladies of Illusion, several comedians from Comix Café, and of course the fabulous canine contestants in the Gay Alliance's second annual Doggy Drag pageant.

The Pride Parade on Saturday, July 16 sets out from Goodman and Highland to the Highland Bowl for "Broadway at the Bowl." Fabulous entertainers will include the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus.

For information about the fun scheduled for July 13, at the dedication of the ABCS gay history sculpture, see the article below.

In celebration of Gay Pride Week, ImageOut has two not-to-be-missed special screenings of popular films meant for boys and girls to enjoy together and have fun at the movies. Start your evening by joining the wacky, sexy and super funny adventures of "D.E.B.S."—a movie that is best enjoyed on the big screen and in the company of your partner or at home. Following the film, see the article below.

So sexy in his tousled bed head hair and that signature smirk of a smile. This is gonna be fun...

By Jeffery Young

Acting Alan Cumming was emcee at the Pride Agenda spring dinner on May 21. He kindly agreed to be interviewed (and spent some time with the GAGV Youth Group—see page C 6). A classically trained British actor, Cumming has done everything from Hamlet at London's Donmar Warehouse to X-Men. It's interview time. Alan wants to talk about the response of the gay community. He sees the gay community as very powerful performance. I am going to write a book about drag queens.

"Well you certainly have a socio/political influence that drag is commanded by. I am going to write a book about drag queens in New York."

JY: You think your interest in writing will be remarked?

AC: Yeah. I am. I have actually been doing it. I just did work for the Sundance channel where I was introducing films and I wrote all the copy for that. I am working on a script for this film I am hoping to direct. I am going to write a book about drag queens in New York.

"Well you certainly have a large cache to work with. Lots of material."

AC: Tone One! Once I get one of them they all want to be in it. I want it to be about the socio-political influence that drag queens have had. It is quite interesting. I also want to photograph them both in drag and eat, if they will do that for me.

JY: Some of them do not like to be seen out of drag. RuPaul is completely out of the drag scene currently. Trying to find a new identity for himself.

AC: I know. It's kind of funny. I wonder why? But good for him. If he was going to go back into the sex business.

JY: He (RuPaul) is just such a total drag queen.

AC: Some of them probably wouldn't want to do that but that we'll see.

JY: I saw on one of the Alan Cumming websites, of which there are many, talk about your first sexual experience.

AC: That is just total crap.

JY: Ok, of course it wasn't. gotta feed the kids you know. I also saw that you have quite a body of work. 60 films. Quite an interesting career so far.

AC: Yeah, that would include shorts, theatre, etc. You should look at alanCumming.com.

JY: Is that your official website?

AC: Yes.

JY: Well then I will have to check that out. The site I surfer listed your first film in 1985.

AC: My first film was in 95. In 1985 I had just left drama school.

JY: Thanks for clarifying. So when did you do Cabaret?


JY: I saw you perform in New York in '98 and I thought this guy is going places. You just commanded the show. It was a very memorable performance.

AC: I am happy to do that. One day I will meet this Mr. Cumming.

AC: And here we are. (laughs)

JY: It happens you know. (laughs). Did you see the film "What The Bleep Do We Know?"

(Continued on page 4_)

Gay Sculpture Dedication Day is July 15

By Steve Lavi

After almost two years of fundraising, sculpture design, selection and building, Atlantic-Beacon Sculpture Committee (ABSC) will be dedicating the "Three Pride Symbols" sculpture on Friday, July 15 from 5-7 p.m. as part of Rochester's Gay Pride Week. Come and share with us an early evening street celebration with family, friends and children.

A performance stage will be set up on the corner of Atlantic Avenue and Beacon Street to host a variety of speakers, including city, county and state representatives, members of the gay youth group and gay seniors group, as well as an exciting visual dance performance by Thomas Warfield & Co.

Off-street parking will be available nearby at the Village Gate and Fabrics and Findings parking lots. The Bachelor Forum, Starry Nights Café and Eddies are all open for evening snacks, drinks or dinner. Light street fare will also be available for hungry attendees. ABSC members look forward to sharing this celebration with the Greater Rochester community and our supporters during the past two years.

The "Three Pride Symbols" sculpture was designed and built by Christopher and Paul Knoblauch, long-time supporters of the GLBT community and a major part of Rochester's noted ARTWalk community. All three sculpture pieces will be very prominent in height and boldly proclaim every color of the "gay rainbow".

The City of Rochester contributed nearly half of the funds towards the sculpture through the Mayor's Sector Targeted Funding program (STF) program. Rochester is the only city in NY and possibly along the East Coast to have a publicly/privately funded outdoor sculpture dedicated to the contributions of Rochester's long standing GLBT community and the celebration of the Stonewall era.

For more information, please check out our website at www. absc4607.org, and see the pull-out Pride Guide in this issue. ABSC is also still accepting tax deductible donations to help our final fundraising campaign. Donations may be written out to ARTWalk and mailed to ABSC, PO Box 64071, Rochester, NY 14601. If you would like to be an event sponsor for Dedication Day, please contact ABSC at absc66070@aol.com. We look forward to seeing EVERYONE on Friday, July 15.
“Sex Sirens” coming to Downstairs Cabaret

The Downstairs Cabaret Theatre is pleased to announce “Sex Sirens” of the 1940s, ’50s & ’60s which premieres July 15 at the Downstairs Cabaret Theatre Centre, 540 East Main St.

Quinn Lemley, the Indiana-born actress, and jazz vocalist, stars in the one-woman, 90-minute show. Lemley is a tribute to screen and sound stars of the ’40s, ’50s & ’60s, including Eartha Kitt, Marilyn Monroe, Marlene Dietrich and Julie London, who have influenced Lemley’s personal and professional journey. Lemley combines humor and nostalgia in songs such as “A Woman Wouldn’t Be A Woman,” “I Wanna Be Evil,” “Every Baby Needs A Da-Da-Daddy/Daddy” and “Lisette Girl In Town.” She is accompanied by piano, bass, drums and alto saxophone.

Quinn Lemley has performed on the sets of Gossip & Good Morning America and has appeared at jazz and swing clubs throughout the United States and Europe. Recently, she gave a sold-out performance at The Hall Note in Athens, Greece, and has toured in Switzerland and mainland China. Quinn Lemley last performed in 1995 with her popular tribute to Rita Hayworth entitled "The Heat Is On!"

Performances will run July 15 and 22 at 8 p.m., July 16 and 23 at 8:30 p.m., and July 24 at 8 p.m. at the Downstairs Cabaret Theatre Centre, 540 East Main St. Front-row seating is available for the entire 90-minute show for $40; tickets for standing room are $30. Tickets are available via phone (501-350-5555) or via the DCT website (dct.org). For more information, call 501-350-5555.

Pride Agenda hosts tea dance in Hamptons

By Sherrill Fulghum

On Saturday, July 9, the Empire State Pride Agenda will sponsor the 12th annual Hampton Tea Dance in Bridgehampton, New York. The Tea will run from 4-6 p.m. at Bill’s Island Bar & Restaurant, 125 Church Street East.

OutNight is America’s only 24-hour radio station dedicated to queer and queer talent. OutNight is available on Sirius Satellite Radio and Sirius online. For those who do not have Sirius Satellite Radio, there is a resource for queer music in Rochester. Pump Rochester, located in Tonic, is Rochester’s online source for dance music. Rochester is available at www.pumprochester.com.

Call for submissions

Morty Diamond is seeking photographs, drawings or any other medium for a style and design feature for his upcoming poster of a virtual variant world for inclusion in a new book. Any photo is acceptable as long as it relates to the photographer’s gender identity. The call for submissions hopes to receive photos from all ages and walks of life.

Photos may be sent via email (low res jpeg, gif, or tiff) to outgenderedkens@gmail.com or via snail mail to Morty Diamond, 1083 Empire Roar, Brooklyn, NY 11221. Deadline for submissions is October 2005.

The Amazing Wedding

By Sherrill Fulghum

First it was Rob and Amber. Then the couple who showed the world what being a couple is all about, Lynn Warren and Michael Allen, went from the Amazing Race to the Amazing Couple when they tied the knot on June 1 on the terrace at the Ottawa Congress Centre in Canada’s capital city.

Living in Hollywood, Lynn and Alex feared that their dream to be married, including fellow Amazing Race participants Coby and Gaiana, may never happen but thanks to an Ottawa radio station the dream became reality.

Ottawa radio station Hot 99-9 sponsored the “Amazing Wedding.” Station members put the whole thing together in less than a month. The ceremony was held at 8 a.m. and was attended by 300 guests, including fellow Amazing Race participants Gagan Hetman, Tania, Patrick, Bianca and Dobbie, and winners Uchenna and Joyce.

People lined the streets from 6:30 a.m. to get a glimpse of the couple. Others honked their horns as they passed the Ottawa Congress Centre. Hot 99-9’s Hot Tub morning show carried the ceremony live over the airwaves and became the first radio station in the world to broadcast a gay wedding.

Lynn, Alex, and their guests celebrated at a reception sponsored by the Ottawa Congress Centre until the wee hours of June 2. The happy couple spent a few days in Ottawa seeing the sights before returning to their California home.

Lynn and Alex wanted to get married, but it was not possible for them in California. In the end, love found a way.

Belle of Amherst set for July 24 at Genesee Country Museum

Greater Rochester Repertory Com- panies (GRRCO) and Genesee Country Village & Museum will present Vicki Casaret as Emily Dickinson in her moving portrayal as one of America’s most successful yet etiographic poets — Emily Dickinson.

Vicki Casaret returns to GRRCO by performing in Tonic, is gay

Empire Roar schedules first home game

The Empire Roar women’s football team’s first home game is July 30. Admission is $5 advance, $8 at door. $15 season passes available from players, from website or at the first game. For price and time, see www.empirestateroar.com.

Knocking on the Silence is a collection of poems by regional poets that in some way relate to the Finger Lake Region of New York State: human history, natural history, personal experiences. Michael Arwe, director of Greater Rochester Repertory Company, is one of the over 70 poets included in this selection. Several will be on hand to read on July 7 and sign copies of the book. The poets themselves range from published professionals to first-timers. They will all share thoughts about the Finger Lake region, which range from emotional depictions of the area’s beauty to whimsical pieces on its wildlife.

Toronto’s Folsom Fair leather event is July 15-17

Folsom Fair North (FFN) is a leather and fetish event, will take place in Toronto from Friday, July 15 through Sunday, July 17. The beneficiaries for 2005 will be the AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT) and the re-opening of the Conservatory dome in All Gardens.

Folsom Fair North has moved to a larger, more accessible location in All Gardens, in Toronto’s gay village. The fair will be open 12 noon to 10 p.m., with artists, performers, exhibitors, demonstrations, DJs, live bands and entertainment, the ever-popular Steam Whistle Beer Garden, a fetish area and, this year, a separate entertainment stage. There is a $5 suggested donation. To attend you must be 19 years or older.

Folsom Fair North 3 Weekend begins Friday, July 15, with the Welcome To Toronto Party. The official FFN website, www.fol­ somfannorth.com. III
The tragedy of Jackie Curtis, poet and superstar

By Susan Jordan


The life and work of Jackie Curtis, best known as an Andy Warhol Superstar, is now out in a book version of the award-winning documentary film by Craig Highburger, a friend of Jackie's who recorded many of his performances and interviewed many of his friends and colleagues. Jackie Curtis was not just another heavily made-up face in a Warhol-Paul Morrissey film. He was a genuine poet and a writer, a performer who could compare on his better nights with Ethel Merman or Bernadette Peters. Half Skycian from N.Y.C. (his maternal grandmother, who basically raised him, was a Village Lee owner known as Shagger Ante, and half Swede from Tennessee (his half brother is a gay Episcopalian priest), Curtis grew up with the passionate desire to be a classic Hollywood star.

One night in the '60s, watching his idol Barbara Streisand in Color Me Bar- ben at the home of a friend who had a color TV, Jackie met Candy Darling and Holly Woodlawn. Together they became the Three Musketeers of East Village Drag, paving the way for the divine madness of the post-Stonewall future. Candy's physical beauty and Holly the Clown complemented Jackie the Brain, the creator of funny plays,包括Glamor, Glory and Gold, which gave Harvey Fierstein his second role in drag), Heaven Grand in Anchor Ode, Vain Virtue and Champagne. What seems most unusual about Jackie is that, unlike most gay men (who prefer to be male), and also unlike most male-to- female transexuals (who prefer to be female), Jackie did not see himself as either male or female, but rather as both. He said, "I'm not a boy, not a girl, not a faggot, not a drag queen, not a transsexual — just me, Jackie." His sexuality was exclusively with men, but his gender was really that of the mysterious Third Sex — not aspiring to be one gender or the other, but integrating both identities within himself, in a harmonious way — half Maria Montez, half James Dean. Unfortunately, Highburger comments, "Both men and women were attracted to Jackie, but, when he was not in drag, many straight men were put off by his feminine qualities. However, when Jackie was in drag, they wouldn't hesitate to interact with him."

Ultimately, the drag superstar identity, his only route to personal and professional success, was confusing and frustrating for Jackie, who at the end of his short life had gotten sober and created a new persona for himself — a male actor named Shannon Montgomery — in an attempt to start a career in the theatre and develop the dramatic talent he undoubtedly had. But, as Lily Tomlin and others note, Jackie was filled with the deep sadness and loneliness of the outsider, and his eyes could never completely hide his pain. He had some "friends" who were into heroin, and although he tried to quit that in school, he "dipped" and overdosed. The story goes that the woman he was with went on living with him while he was unconscious, and didn't call 911. Jackie Curtis died at age 38 in 1985. Andy Warhol and Paul Morrissey didn't bother to attend the funeral.

It would be interesting to see some of Jackie's plays today, and to find out if they have dated or if they have a life of their own, outside the Citizen success they enjoyed in the '70s off-Broadway scene. Was Jackie Curtis the real deal? Will the new film and book inspire some new productions?

It would be very interesting to see a production of America Cleopatra or Glamour, Glory and Gold here in Rochester.

Glitter in the Archive

Jeremiah Newton talks with director Craig Highburger, whose documentary Superstar in a House by renowned the leg­ en­ dye Jackie Curtis.

"One snowy evening on West 8th Street in 1966, through the introduction of photo­ grapher Diane Arbus, I met the play­ writer/performer Jackie Curtis. At the time, Jackie was just another cute teenager, but already considered by many to be a 'boy genius'. As a playwright/performer, he was a generation ahead in the exciting world of Off-Broadway, an era distinctly marked by large personalities and enormous creativity. I would later learn that seeing this human dynamo onstage was a huge treat. No one wrote comedy like Jackie and no one acted like Jackie orrogant — and there was a huge audience of sophisticated New Yorkers who eagerly looked forward to seeing Jackie's breakthrough plays, pieces, cabaret, and films and videos (the best for the Andy Warhol/Paul Morrissey tradition).

Craig Highburger's wonderful docu­ mentary, Superstar in a House by, brings the life and times of this creative genius back to the big screen using interviews and rare archival footage. For me, the occasion is bittersweet; I met Jackie too late and no one that even faintly wears his mantle. But seeing this film resurrects Curtis again and proves to me, he's been gone waaaaay too long." - Jeremiah Newton

Jeremiah Newton: The late Jackie Curtis introduced us as a young groupie and a young girl. I am not gay, not straight, I am not a drag queen, not a transsexual, I am just me, Jackie. Who is Jackie Curtis anyway, and how did you, as a young person attending NYU Film School in 1972, react to some­ thing Jackie when you first encountered her?

Craig Highburger: Well, actually, I first encountered Jackie in Paul Morrissey and Andy Warhol's film Flesh. I grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and while I was a senior in high school, I snuck out to Carne­ gie Mellon University to see Flesh, which was showing there. And there was a scene in that film where Jackie Curtis and Candy Darling were sitting in a cafe. Newton: And Joe (Dallesandro) was there!

Highburger: Exactly. (Laughs) And I was enthralled. I had never seen (anything like it). I knew I was gay at that time, I felt isolated in a suburban high school, but I thought I was the only one. Andy Warhol was from Pittsburgh, and my uncle was an industrial designer, had gone to Carnegie Mellon University with Andy Warhol and was in some of his classes, and so I was very aware of Andy Warhol and the Warhol scene, and I had heard about Candy Darling and Jackie Curtis and Holly Woodlawn and Andy Warhol.

At that point I had been making Super 8 films, and won a contest on Public Tele­ vision for young filmmakers when I was in high school, and so I knew I wanted to make my career in films and television. And so when I got into NYU Film School, I was so excited I was going to live in Greenwich Village, and I hoped that I could be Paul Morrissey and Andy Warhol and Andy Warhol. Newton: When was this?

Highburger: I think it was 1972. Newton: That was a pivotal year for Jackie and Candy for many reasons. They met and dated in New York and Pittsburgh. They also made several films in Germany for direc­ tor Werner Schroeder (such as Ame­ rica Cleopatra (1973), with Madona­ lina Montezuma). Highburger: Oh, my goodness, yes! Well, I went to New York and my first week there I met Jackie. And it was just a really forti­ fying meeting and we became immediate

(Continued on page 6)
"**Alan stands up, opens his shirt to allow me to see a whiff, right in the Holy Rotary.**"**

**VJ:** Very nice. Light, citrusy...  
**AC:** I love to be naked and walk out of doors. Monday through Friday I would have an outdoor shower at my London flat. (laughs)  

**JY:** With all this business in your life how do you create free space for yourself?  
**AC:** Well have you to prove that you are not taking any work away from any other American. Because you are extraordinary.  

**JY:** Is he from the Bahamas?  
**AC:** No. I have a green card.  

**JY:** Very nice. Light, citrusy...  
**AC:** I love to be naked and walk out of doors. Monday through Friday I would have an outdoor shower at my London flat. (laughs)  

**JY:** I say we look pretty good eh? Doing this play really isn't what I thought it was.  
**AC:** Yeah, so that's pretty funny!  

**JY:** What's your fragrance called?  
**AC:** Cumming! It's out. Do you have Supporto here? It's in those stores. Or you can get it at cummingfragrance.com.

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**Alan Cumming with Jeffery Young**

of control. What I really try to do is keep being neat.  

We have got stores taking the fragrance and other products are coming out. Most stores are using the Alan Cumming All Over or Cumming In The Air. Cumming In The Boats (soap).  

**JY:** Those will sell well in the Gay community for sure. (laughs)  
**AC:** A strong demographic. (laughs) I am going to Las Vegas next to do a signing. Signing botanicals in cosmetic shops is kinda crazy. The good thing about it is that we thought it up and frankly it would have been easier to just let someone else do it (the ad campaign), but they wouldn't have done it the way we wanted.  

That is one thing I really and more now, and so I do think differently and so for, the things I write or direct, it's not like a control freak thing, but I do prefer to do things my way.  

As friends for a long time and have just been going out this past year. It's interesting that you would have had you as a guest in my class. It is sort of like a thing you do  

**JY:** It is another role isn't it?  
**AC:** It's a movie?  

So this will be a weekly kind of a show? So you have even less time.  

**JY:** We came out of that and then an interview with a magazine in London about my new fragrance. And then I had to go to a thing for Viva Saint Laurent stores.  

**JY:** What's your fragrance called?  
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Cumming continued from page 1  

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AM FAR, you know. Raising money for the looking for a specific demographic. Easier to what this one,
you're wrong. I am not like you and I am not
story tonight?
ing to this domed building and I thought oh
It's really good.
but it wasn't about being gay.
AC: (laughs) I was talking about this
I had a crush on Michael York. He was and
was a bit difficult.
and of course anything with gay in it has
from each nostril mugging for me in typical
if the Democrats had pulled some­
I torture him and such. He is a
AC: I received the GLAAD award this year,
More than likely later this year.
I wish they could have been like that
AC: Bye, bye
JY: (laughs) Are you going to use this
JY: (laughs) You mind if we take a few quick
JY: (laughs) OK.
I torture him and such. He is a

AC: Oh, yeah. I really feel that there is such
deep change right now, and I think the political is
The mood of the country is to just be calm and see what is
It will be a limited season.
JY: (laughs) You mind if we take a few quick

AC: Rochester is the Republican's "Logan's
JY: I am a little bored with myself. I go

AC: Rochester is the Republican's "Logan's
JY: That movie is one of my old favorites. I

AC: (laughs) I was talking about this
AC: Yeah, Logan's Run. When the jewel
grow up a bit and say no you're wrong, you
to be under

AC: AC: Rochester is the Republican's "Logan's
JY: That's what's just happened with Newework being blamed for the riots in the Middle East.

AC: Absolutely. It's all fair. Everyone's so afraid. And I think especially now we need to shout and be loud and say no you're wrong, you're wrong. We don't want to be going to period. Why should your way be right and my way be wrong? I don't like the word acceptance at all. I just want to be respected
And my way be wrong? I don't like the word

AC: Yeah! I love that. That'll do. That's the

JY: Ooh, Jordan. I'm feeling better now.

AC: I wish there were different categories.

AC: I play the music teacher ...

JY: Yes, Logan's Run. When the jewel
grow up a bit and say no you're wrong, you're wrong. We don't want to be going to period. Why should your way be right and my way be wrong? I don't like the word acceptance at all. I just want to be respected
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AC: (laughs) I was talking about this
JY: But also you need to have an organization doing

AC: Those sounds like business as usual in the world of politics. In fact the Chinese gov­ernment just this week closed down all the gay websites throughout the country. No Access.

AC: AM FAR, you know. Raising money for the looking for a specific demographic. Easier to what this one,
you're wrong. I am not like you and I am not

AC: Everything about my costume was

AC: On my website this week, cunningfragrance.com, certain people's computer can't get

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Jackie Curtis continued from page 3

Newton: How did you meet her?

Highberger: There was some gay group that wanted to meet in a campus building at the university, and the administration was kind of hemming and hawing about it, and so there was this big demonstration in the basement of my dormitory at NYU. But the incredible thing was, Jackie showed up because Jackie knew there would be press coverage, or TV would likely be there, and Jackie was a publicity hound — Newton: A publicity whore!

Highberger: Yeah, but she was also (an important figure) in the history of gay liberation because Jackie was famous for having that mock wedding on top of a tenement, shortly after Stonewall, on the very day the first astronauts landed on the moon. (Laugh)

So all this just came into play, and there was Jackie at this protest, in drag. And I just went nuts, because I recognized Jackie immediately and was just so thrilled to know him. And that's actually how it began.

Newton: She must have found you thoroughly enchanting with all that curly blond hair!

Highberger: (Laugh) Yeah, and we ran around a lot, and went to parties, and through Jackie I met Candy Darling and Holly Woodlawn and, eventually, Andy Warhol. 

Newton: And Andy Warhol was at the Playhouse Theater. I can't remember what it was. Maybe it was Holly Woodlawn's Broken Glass.

Highberger: That was a short film by a director who is now dead, Peter Dallas.

Newton: He's dead?

Highberger: Yeah, he's been dead for many years from AIDS.

Newton: I don't think Holly knows that, because I asked her. Ooh.

I'll have to tell her.

Highberger: Jackie herself has been gone since 1985. When did you first decide you wanted to do a documentary on her life and career?

Highberger: I wanted to do a documentary on Jackie the moment I met Jackie. And actually, the work of making Superstar in a Housedress, you can say, began in 1974 — because it's like 30 years ago almost to the day that we're opening the film theatrically. Thirty years ago I was in New York (filming) Jack's play Glamazon, Glory and Gold. And I saw some archival footage on someone who has now been gone almost 20 years.

Highberger: I was able to come up with 16mm and 35mm silent film that people had shot, which was marvelous, although some of it was not terrific quality because it had been shot in theaters under stage lights and, after 30 years, the color emulsion had deteriorated. And it took enormous amounts of color correction and luminance adjustment to get it to look usable at all. Those make up some good easy ways through. And I did use many different sources. Actually, the best thing I did when I began this film...

(Continued on page 15)
Growing Up
THE PERFECT STORM

By Eric bellows

When I first start feeling a particular aspect of being gay, or is it just a normal state experienced by everyone? Is the craziness which is engendered by the right moment, a kind of grey cloud? I'm drifting into a politically incorrect mindset, losing sight of the fact that being gay is normal. Likely I'm a mess.

I have the everything-is-going-wrong and why-this-happening-to-me blues. Not just one thing, like some drunk rippling across the lawn and leaving horrible ruts. No, it's lots of things, a cascade of crap gathering and tumbling down where I end up feeling like a victim. (Can anyone make me feel like a victim or did I just give it to me?)

Anyway, what I'm talking about, and you might want to jump in and scatter for the moment, is that a whole lot of things are going wrong, like that meteorological phenomenon that creates a perfect storm. The storm that drowns everyone including gorgeous George Clooney. No survivors.

Not only do I love it when I grab a handle on how things are, describe it to myself (that makes me feel real and important), but I feel so clever when I can hint on the most juste, the exact metaphor to capture the situation. Yeah, the perfect storm has got me.

So I tell my stories, first to myself, then to one and all who stumble onto my horizon. That in fact may be an aspect of arriving at resolution. Recite the problem. Also, another aspect is introspection and with me, folks, the end observation inevitably in whatever is going on is my fault. That's the gay hook. The old tapes, the excruciating details of which inevitably is: whatever is going on is my fault. That's the gay hook. The old tapes, the excruciating details of which inevitably is: whatever is going on is my fault. That's the gay hook. The old tapes, the excruciating details of which inevitably is: whatever is going on is my fault. That's the gay hook. The old tapes, the excruciating details of which inevitably is: whatever is going on is my fault. That's the gay hook. The old tapes, the excruciating details of which inevitably is: whatever is going on is my fault. That's the gay hook. The old tapes, the excruciating details of which inevitably is: whatever is going on is my fault. That's the gay hook. The old tapes, the excruciating details of which inevitably is: whatever is going on is my fault. That's the gay hook. The old tapes, the excruciating details of which inevitably is: whatever is going on is my fault. That's the gay hook. The old tapes, the excruciating details of which inevitably is: whatever is going on is my fault. That's the gay hook. The old tapes, the excruciating details of which inevitably is: whatever is going on is my fault. That's the gay hook. The old tapes, the excruciating details of which inevitably is: whatever is going on is my fault. That's the gay hook. The old tapes, the excruciating details of which inevitably is: whatever is going on is my fault. That's the gay hook. The old tapes, the excruciating details of which inevitably is: whatever is going on is my fault. That's the gay hook. The old tapes, the excruciating details of which inevitably is: whatever is going on is my fault. That's the gay hook. The old tapes, the excruciating details of which inevitably is: whatever is going on is my fault. That's the gay hook.

I went to the hotel and bought a phone. I peered towards Istanbul and realized my nostalgia was reaching critical mass and I ought to go. I'm getting too old and too nice for the moment spared. The storm that drowns everyone including gorgeous George Clooney. No survivors.

I am not a patient man. So far Massachusetts is the only state in the union offering state-sanctioned, same-sex marriages licenses and it has been doing so since May 16, 2004. Since then, the California Supreme Court has annulled the nearly 4,000 same-sex marriages (performed from Feb. 12 to March 11, 2004)Sanctioned in San Francisco by "renegade" Mayor Gavin Newsom. And many states (Ohio, Oklahoma, Arizona, and Georgia) have passed sweeping measures to ban same-sex marriages within their boundaries.

Our nation has taken a hard "right" jab to the eye when it comes to extending the basic rights of marriage to my gay brothers and sisters. For one am sick of waiting for our straight allies to jump in and rescue us. It's time to cause a little chaos and let anarchy rule until we get the same matrimonial rights that Britney Spears and Kevin Federline take for granted. Our war plan brings the battlefront right to the reception hall! I say we attack when

The cell phone arrives in fine working order. My buddy at the hotel has come through, mailed it himself after the holiday.

Two days later the gravy boat walking men show up and carry it off the last. Later the same afternoon, call off to the computer store with the one traced pal who is willing to lose me and half an hour on we recall, he quickly had a deal between model and left a deposit. Fewer wires circling.

Some issues are remarkably easy to fail with. A friend of mine who he never worried about providing junk food could solve. It sounds a bit crazy, but true and I'm fortunate on that count. Other issues, the resolve to exercise more often, grow more hair, not cry, etc. remain problematic.

Why do I end up in this kind of a small mess? Wish I could figure that out. Over-dramatizing ordinary life. The rub is that I'm good at it. I get thrilled with all the crap that clutters my life. Sometimes it's the only thing that keeps me going.

Email: EBLCDag@BITEDU
I ASKED
I asked for strength... And God gave me
Difficulties to make me strong.
I asked for Wisdom... And God gave me
Problems to solve.
I asked for Prosperity... And God gave me
Brain and Brawn to work.
I asked for Courage... And God gave me
Danger to overcome.
I asked for Love... And God gave me
Trouble people to help.
I asked for Favors... And God gave me
Opportunities.
I received nothing I wanted... I received everything I needed!

Ron Matter
Associate Broker Notary
Coldwell Banker Prime Properties
3750 Monroe Avenue
Pittsford, NY 14534
Office: 899-5521
Cell: 729-2259
Email: RonMatter@ColdwellBanker.com

For Your Real Estate Needs

Shhh! A diva never reveals her true age in public. But alas, yes, I had managed to go through several years of being out, loud and proud without setting foot into a gay festival or parade (unless you count that wet underwear party a friend of mine threw in his dorm room, but that’s neither here nor there).

It’s not that I never had an interest in going to one, you see. Every year something seemed to take precedent over me actually attending. You know the drill. You’re either working, sleeping (preferably with some hot ass), or working. And besides, I really didn’t need to go to a park to hang out with a thousand gay men and lesbians, did I? Isn’t that what college life was for?

Well, the summer of 2003 was the year all that changed.

My best friend was in the process of getting married, and after nearly a year of helping her plan her special day, I was suf­focating on, no offense, the straight tunes. I was dying to be among my own tribe. My salvation came in the form of a work assign­ment: I was friends with a pair that happened to own and run a local gay-themed business. And like many local gay mer­chants during Pride, they closed the store those days, and took it on location, se­lect­ing up booths at the festivities. My friends asked if I would be interested in tagging along and helping out. I couldn’t think of a reason not to, so I said sure.

So there I was that bright, sunny day in July, decked out in my flashiest sum­mer­wear, a bright red sequined shirt, jean shorts that gave the illusion that my ass is not as wide as the Grand Canyon (just the illusion, mind you, I’m not totally oblivious to the truth), pride beads, and my blonde hair piled high up on my head, curled, teased and sprayed within an inch of its life, topped off with a rainbow scarf. To some, I could have been mistaken as one of the floats traveling the parade route, but I didn’t care. I had gotten myself pumped up and was excited to be there.

My excitement was only rivaled by amazement. I had no idea just how spect­acular Pride really could be. To see so many of my gay brothers and sisters out there celebrating was quite a sight. And so many different facets of gay life as well. Big, small, old, young, nelly, butch, white, what have you. Everyone was repre­sented and it was a beautiful thing.

I danced along the thumpa-thumpa blasting from the speakers. I sang along with the drag queens performing on the main stage. I laughed and frolicked through the sea of smiling gay faces around me. I met new friends, and ran into some old ones I hadn’t seen in a while. I even managed to actually hug the friends that invited me. It was such an uplifting experience.

At the end of the day, I found myself sitting on a bench, drenched in sweat, my big blonde hair shot all to hell from all the heat and activity (note to self: humid­ity, humidity, and bleached hair can only lead to bad, bad things), smoking a ciga­rette, buming from ear to ear. I finally understood what all the fuss was about. I couldn’t help but regret that it took me so many years to be a part of it. I had only known, I would have made attending Pride a priority.

Some people might not understand what the need for Gay Pride is. You often hear the joke, “What about Straight Pride?” Well, considering we live in a world built for straight folk, let me tell you, I think my straight counterparts have reasons to celebrate every day. It’s not my fault they choose not to.

The reality is, Gay Pride is not just a party. It is and can be a personal celebra­tion. It will give me the courage to choose my identity and the freedom to be who I am – who I chose to be. I will fight for my right to be who I am. Some have it easy, the people before me that risked their lives to provide me such an illusion, mind you, I’m not totally oblivious to the truth), pride beads, and my blonde hair piled high up on my head, curled, teased and sprayed within an inch of its life, topped off with a rainbow scarf. To some, I could have been mistaken as one of the floats traveling the parade route, but I didn’t care. I had gotten myself pumped up and was excited to be there.

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I put the very large rainbow flag, folded and folded, into a plain, brown envelope. Then I, in my cap and gown and hood, joined the procession between the velvet seats. People and cameras filled every space. Suburban graduates in green and yellow stood alphabetically in rows.

I took my seat on the stage and looked out at the gilded wonder of Rochester's Eastman Theater. The crystal chandelier glittered above our heads. Sculptures and paintings surrounded us. Joy united us.

I wondered how the New Stage would be a radical, lesbian, feminist, bisexual and transgendered and intersexual batch of 18-year-old speakers. I presented the flag to the principal.

I scanned the faces before me as I listened to this batch of 19-year-old speakers talk about entering a "New Stage of Life." I wondered how the New Stage would look for all the young lesbian and gay and bisexual and transgendered and intersexual graduates. I wondered what doors would open for them as they entered mainstream America.

I knew that this day I would use the power of my words to open one more closet door. I had been afforded this opportunity to address the graduating class by their honored guests. I knew that this day I would use the power of my words to open one more closet door. I had been afforded this opportunity to address the graduating class by their honored guests.

I set the plain, brown envelope. I set it on the podium and reached inside to take hold of the flag. My voice became more firm: "End. Today is the end of your high school life. And, on that other hand, today is commencement day, the BEGINNING. Today is a fresh start, a season of change." I reached into the shelf and pulled out the plain, brown envelope. I set it on the podium and reached inside to take hold of the corner of the flag. My heart thumped.

I began to release the flag, its rainbow cascading down the front of the podium, there in the Eastman Theater before the eyes of hundreds. My voice became more firm: "Today is not a mere number, it is a powerful word... and that word is END. Today is the end of your high school life. And, on that other hand, today is commencement day, the BEGINNING. Today is a fresh start, a season of change." I reached into the shelf and pulled out the plain, brown envelope. I set it on the podium and reached inside to take hold of the corner of the flag. My heart thumped.

I presented the flag to the principal. Meredith Elizabeth Reiniger

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Cleaning My Closet
WHEN A LESBIAN ADDRESSED GRADUATING PER-SONS AND PER-DAUGHTERS

By Meredith Elizabeth Reiniger

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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

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Caution: Drinking copious amounts of caffeine in a glbt coffee house may make you gay.
Resources

**FAMILY RESOURCES**

**Pride & Joy Families**

**Upcoming Calendar**

Rochester Gay Moms’ Group
Supper for 100 moms and non¬
avenine mummies in Rochester an around Monroe County. For info, contact RochesterGayMoms@
Webpage: http://www.crrc.org

Gay Fathers Group
Meets third and Tuesday, 6:30-8:30 (G

Cultural**

Rochester Women’s Community
Informational.

Web: www.PrideAndJoyFamilies.org

### Women’s Resource Center

**MONDAY:**

Women’s Resource Center
11 University Ave., Rochester, NY 14605;
Tel: 666-8540; FAX: 666-8541. 3:30PM 

Community Health Network
87 N Clinton Ave, 244-9000, TTY (585)461-
8001. AIDS Primary Care Medical services for 

AIDS Rochester Women’s Health Outreach
1350 University Ave.ARI has services for HIV 

Victim Resource Center of Wayne County
Newark NY Hotline: 900-456-1172, office
(539)311-1117, fax (539)311-1119.

Mary Magdalene House
Women’s outreach center for HIV positive women and women in crisis, 291 Lynd Ave. Open Mon-Fri. 6:30-9:30 pm 458-5728.

Planned Parenthood of the Rochester/
Syracuse Region
114 University Ave, Rochester, NY 14605;
Tel-free Hotline: 1-866-800-0003. Planned 

City Hall (1-800-954-2437)

Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley
Referrals to physicians and service 

Center for Health and Behavioral Training 

Center for Health and Behavioral Training of 

Monroe County
691 St Paul St, 4th Floor. Collaboration of 

Monroe County Health Department and 

Provides year-round training in prevention 

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Travel

Jacqui Mac: Music and food for the soul

By Merle East

Mary-Jaqui MacDonald, a.k.a. Jacqui Mac, was born in Rochester and never really left the city that she would take her. Choices of destinations is simply a "Jacqui of all the trades." As a Provocateur, she made a reputation for being able to heal and heal and heal and at times just sit and listen. As far as her music, it was to be heard while working on her "owl house" with her grandmother and various relatives. As for her life, she was more than content to be in the lower Cape.

As she was working on her holistic knowledge of Broadcasting and earning her associate degree, she got the knack for selecting some great ones, doing the task at a women's bar in Boston, bringing her back to the town that everyone, including straight folks, seems to need to escape to.

As far as transportation to P'Town, there is a bus service via the Fast Ferry with Boston Harbor Cruises. It's a retail store selling organic coffee and teas with two laptops for wifi use. However, Wired Puppy has maintained an Internet cafe on the lower Cape.

Jaqui temporarily left the dj scene to explore her own healing process. She got switched to the task at a women's bar in Boston, doing an extensive interview, shortly. The cafe she found an energy connection with and at times just sit and listen. As for her music, Juliana Mac is looking to own a bistro, teaching some new recipes and in mind that this was a tasting and not full portions.

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www.gayrochester.com
Jackie Curtis continued from page 6

Project about four years ago was to establish a Web site (at www.jackiecurtis.com).

Newton: It's a wonderful Web site. And I heard you also raised money by selling things on eBay.

Highberger: Yes. First I set up a Web site to give the project legitimacy. And then I realized I had to raise money to afford some of the equipment I needed, and to be able to travel around the country to interview people. And I decided this was the project I want to do more than anything, so what can I sell? And thank goodness for the Internet and eBay! Like most filmmakers I love film, so I had a huge collection of films on the old Laserdisc format, which pre-dated DVD, and VHS. I'm talking about commercial videos. I had hundreds, and they all sold. And I raised a lot of money that way.

Newton: So you're not a millionaire filmmaker.

Highberger: (Laughs) No. No.

Newton: How did you get Lily Tomlin to do the narration? Because that's fabulous.

Highberger: Lily is marvelous. And let me tell you about the whole process, because this would be of interest to other filmmakers. The first problem I encountered was I knew a lot of the people I wanted to interview. A lot of them I had to research and find out if they were still alive, and how to find them. So again, this is where the technology and the Internet came in. The first person I was able to find and easily interview was Penny Arcade, because she's in New York, where she always has been and is still working. And Penny had a Web site and I got in touch with her and she immediately said yes, she'd love to be interviewed in a documentary about Jackie and to come over.

Then I was searching through La Mama's Web site and found Ellen Stuart. After I interviewed Penny and Ellen Stuart at La Mama, Ellen introduced me to Michael Arlan, who had performed with Jackie. And then through Ellen and Michael, I was working with Ellen Stuart's archivist, and he introduced me to John Vaccaro, founder of the Playhouse of the Ridiculous, who said come right over and interview me. So I got four really great interviews over a couple of years. Holly Woodlawn I had known, so when I got in touch with Holly out in West Hollywood where she lives, she actually helped me get Joe Dallesandro's phone number and I also got a couple of other people out in Hollywood who had worked with Jackie -- Alexis DeLago and Styles Caldwell.

Newton: Paul, you know, is trying to make Trash 2.

Highberger: The remaining family member who had all of Jackie's belongings was Joe Preston, Jackie's cousin. And Joe Preston very graciously opened up the stock boxes of Jackie's belonging and went through them with me, and it was a very emotional thing because I found in Jackie's scrapbooks pictures of myself, and I was in Jackie's address book, and it was really moving and very sad at the same time.

Newton: Of course.

Highberger: But I turned one page of the scrapbook, and there was a telegram to La Mama Experimental Theater Club on the opening night of Jackie Curtis's Vain Victory in 1971, and the telegram was, "We are thinking of you and loving you, signed Lily Tomlin and Jane Wagner." And I was so excited, because I had no idea that Lily Tomlin and Jane Wagner knew Jackie, and were obviously close friends and loved Jackie's work. So I immediately sought out Lily Tomlin's agent, and the personal assistant was actually the person who put me in touch with Lily, and she responded immediately and said that, oh yes, she and Jane loved Jackie and Candy Darling and it would be very happy to be interviewed on camera for my film. And then I asked, well, I have some narration, would you consider recording the narration for me, and to my joy she said yes to that too.

But, while you can get a celebrity to say yes they will do it, getting on their schedule is the trick. Because Lily was at the time not only appearing on West Wing, which was still shooting, but was also appearing in a motion picture and also starting up a new production of Jane Wagner's play Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe. And so it actually took me five months until I was able to get an afternoon to spend with Lily and do the interview and record the narration.

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Highberger: But I turned one page of the scrapbook, and there was a telegram to La Mama Experimental Theater Club on the opening night of Jackie Curtis's Vain Victory in 1971, and the telegram was, "We are thinking of you and loving you, signed Lily Tomlin and Jane Wagner." And I was so excited, because I had no idea that Lily Tomlin and Jane Wagner knew Jackie, and were obviously close friends and loved Jackie's work. So I immediately sought out Lily Tomlin's agent, and the personal assistant was actually the person who put me in touch with Lily, and she responded immediately and said that, oh yes, she and Jane loved Jackie and Candy Darling and it would be very happy to be interviewed on camera for my film. And then I asked, well, I have some narration, would you consider recording the narration for me, and to my joy she said yes to that too.

But, while you can get a celebrity to say yes they will do it, getting on their schedule is the trick. Because Lily was at the time not only appearing on West Wing, which was still shooting, but was also appearing in a motion picture and also starting up a new production of Jane Wagner's play Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe. And so it actually took me five months until I was able to get an afternoon to spend with Lily and do the interview and record the narration.

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Youth Update: GEARING UP FOR PRIDE

By Toby Greenfield, Youth Services Director

Greetings from Youth Group Land... We had a great month of June, which included our first Parent Group. I want to thank all the wonderful parents who attended — not only for your presence at the group, but also for the unconditional love and support you have shown your children. You are role models for parents of LGBT children everywhere...

June also saw our specialty groups continue to thrive. Last month we had Art Therapy, Meditation, Transgender Group, Yoga and a Writer’s Workshop, to name a few. I also want to thank all my hard working and dedicated facilitators who take time out of their busy lives to volunteer for our Youth Program. I could not do this work without all of you...

July of course means one word: PRIDE. We’re gearing up for Pride Week activities, which include our annual Mr. & Miss Teen Pride Pageant and Youth Dance at Mother’s on July 11 from 5-9 p.m. There was an error last month’s Empty Closet about the location of this dance, but it will be at Mother’s. Light youth and straight allies ages 13-23 are welcome. Admission is $5.

At the Pride Picnic this year, we’ll be selling our very popular temporary tattoos and our new rainbow colored pride rubber bracelets, so please come out and support us! We also look forward to marching in the Parade with our “edge” signs again this year (please, no letters), and to our annual trip to Gay Days at Durkin Lake on July 18.

And lastly, on July 15 from 5-7 p.m., several members of the Youth Group will read poetry as part of the Sculpture Ceremony & Dedication to dedicate Rochester’s newest sculpture, “Three Pride Symbols,” to the LGBT community. For more info on the Sculpture Ceremony, go to http://www.absce14607.org.

TO EMILY WITH LOVE: Gay Alliance Past President Bill Kelly paid tribute to retiring Board President Emily Jones at the GAGV annual meeting on June 12 at the Youth Center. He thanked Emily for the great contributions she has made, both during her term as Board President, and as leader of both board and staff since January 2005. An appreciative staff gave Emily a card and present on June 15. She will continue to be active as a past president, and may even be found in future working the switchboard as a volunteer.

Family Matters: BROADENING DEFINITIONS

By Todd Flank

As Pride celebrations take place around the country this summer, I’m reminded of the family reunions that I enjoyed growing up, and on into my early thirties. Sadly, since I came out to my nuclear family, I’ve been ostracized from those traditional family gatherings.

The Pride Picnic has a certain degree, replaced those annual family get-togethers of days gone by. Having been denied from my family of origin, I’ve been given the opportunity to recreate my family “in my image,” according to my own definitions. My partner Paul likes to remind me that “there is the family we are born with and there is the family we choose.”

It is exciting to witness the bold choices that LGBT single, partnered, and now in some instances (Continued on next page)
Family Matters

From page 1

(buried) married couples are making to expand their families through foster parenting, adoption, artificial insemination, surrogacy, as well as less formal, but nonetheless intentional ways of permanently altering and enlarging their family structures. Often, LGBT folks are willing to invite children from other communities and cultures to become a part of their family unit. It's not unusual to see two moms or dads with a child who does not bear any physical resemblance to them, creating a kaleidoscope of colors, facial characteristics and ethnicities that challenge people's assumptions about what defines a family.

Swinging to the other end of the aging spectrum, we find that older LGBT folks are also being creative in forming relationships to offset the deficits resulting from the loss of a parent, spouse, or other family members or friends that, perhaps for most of their adult lives, constituted their family. Studies have shown that large numbers of seniors will live alone in their later years, many of them not having children or other close relatives (still our society's traditional support systems for seniors) to look after them as they age. As demonstrated in some boroughs in NYC, and closer to home by the Rainbow Seniors of Western New York (RWSNY), older LGBT people are developing their own networks of support to meet each other's physical, emotional and social needs. We could refer to these unconventional, reciprocal ties as informal families.

Returning to my earlier allusion to our "families of choice", I'd like to express for a bit on the special meaning that LGBT folks often attach to the word "family". Those of us who have been a part of the LGBT community for many years, and in my case, for more than 10 years, be overheard identifying someone whom we suspect to be gay or lesbian as "family". I have been blessed with an amazing new family! From the friend I was staying with, I didn't find it fascinating and heartening talk about another person's family. I feel an obligation to show a similar generosity to those we suspect to be gay or lesbian as well.

As their advisor, I have faced roadblocks after roadblock. It is my belief that policy has been kept to keep our club in check. It is my experience that policies are often only enforced when the GSA club is involved. For the second year in a row my principal is planning to displace me (have me transferred) on the grounds that he is only needed one social worker instead of two. The caseload clearly dictates otherwise. I fought this and maintained some of my hours this year, but had to accept a greater workload in order to do it. It is likely that if I leave the GSA club will no longer exist. Some schools are in better shape than others. We do have some great allies in our school. It is important to recognize that progress has been made. Hope is an important part of working for positive social change. We have to hold on to the hope that things can and do eventually change. These kids give me hope. They are bold and strong survivors in spite of the obstacles they face. Whether we like it or not, identity politics is still a part of what we deal with. We still have to protect those that are read by dominant culture (read white, male, middle/upper class, heterosexual) as "different".

Backlash is real. I hope that in my lifetime we no longer need GSA clubs, but right now we do. We know the statistics.

LGBT youth are twice as likely as their non-gay peers to be threatened or injured at school.

LGBT youth are more than four times as likely to skip whole days of school out of fear.

Harassed youth are more than four times as likely as non-gay students to drop out of high school to escape harassment, violence and isolation.

As a community it is vital that we make this a larger issue. We need to act together to bring these issues into the public discourse. Being the GSA advisor has been a very isolating experience. It would be easy to start to believe that this is an impasse battle. There is no network for advisors within the RCGSD nor is there a consistent network between local districts. Trying to research and act to insure the rights of LGBT students and staff is more than a full time job, and it is an exhausting one. We need to organize and act at multiple levels as a united front.

(Statistics from www.glsen.org)

Erica Eason is the GSA advisor at Marshall High School in Rochester. The essay above is her opinion and does not represent the policy or opinions of RCGSD.

How we started a GSA

By Erica Eason, PhD.

In October of 2002 some students asked me to help them organize an event that supported LGBT (Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgendered) youth. I am a social worker. Most of these students knew me because they had been referred to see me during their school career. I was often called by them as stemming from their identifying as LGBT.

They came with complaints that they were harassed. If they said anything, they were often told that they should "just act normal". The first thing they asked was for staff as stemming from their identifying as LGBT. We have kept journals, held events and written books. The club (in conjunction with a variety of organizations) to offer students services available in the community. The students have learned advocacy skills, they express feeling better about themselves, more empowered.

As our advisors, I have faced roadblocks after roadblock. It is my belief that policy has been kept to keep our club in check. It is my experience that policies are often only enforced when the GSA club is involved. For the second year in a row my principal is planning to displace me (have me transferred) on the grounds that he only needs one social worker instead of two. The caseload clearly dictates otherwise. I fought this and maintained some of my hours this year, but had to accept a greater workload in order to do it. It is likely that if I leave the GSA club will no longer exist. Some schools are in better shape than others. We do have some great allies in our school. It is important to recognize that progress has been made. Hope is an important part of working for positive social change. We have to hold on to the hope that things can and do eventually change. These kids give me hope. They are bold and strong survivors in spite of the obstacles they face.

Whether we like it or not, identity politics is still a part of what we deal with. We still have to protect those that are read by dominant culture (read white, male, middle/upper class, heterosexual) as "different".

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Alan Cumming spent time with the GAG Youth Group while he was in Rochester on May 21, Above, Alan and youth at the Pride Awards dinner at the Riverside Convention Center. For more on Alan, see page B1. Photo by Jeffrey Young
CNY Pride: rainbow flag flies at Syracuse city hall

The 2005 CNY Pride Parade and Festival took place on June 17-19. Every year Pride Festivities grow larger in the Central New York community and this year an estimated 5,000 people attended the Everson Park Festival in Syracuse.

The Syracuse Gay and Lesbian Chorus started things off this year with their annual concert, "Camping Out: A Queer American Scrapbook". On June 18 the Rainbow Pride Flag was raised at Syracuse City Hall. This was the fourth year the Rainbow Flag has been raised at City Hall with the help of the Syracuse Stonewall Committee, Syracuse Mayor Matt Driscoll, and local Common Councilors. The Stonewall Committee is a local GLBT political action committee.

This year's CNY Pride Parade then kicked off, following the Lavender Line painted down Jefferson Street, Salina Street, Fayette Street, Columbus Circle and finally on to Madison St. into the Everson Park Festivities. The parade included floats and entrants from all different groups of the GLBT community, as well as its allies and supporters. For the second year, a new, large Rainbow Flag filled up the street during the Parade. The CNY Pride Festival followed.

CNY Pride, formerly Syracuse Pride, was created out of a need to encompass more GLBT neighboring communities into the Syracuse festivities, and is a Committee of the Pride Community Center of Central New York, Inc. For more information please contact Bernie McCarthy, 315-471-0714, or their website, www.cnypride.com; P.O. Box 6608, Syracuse, New York 13217; (315) 471-0714; www.cnypride.org

Upstate Newsline: Gays of WNY have a new online resource

By Sherri Fulghum
Western New York queers now have a new resource on the net: www.WayGayWNY.com. The web source was conceived by the Calendar Club which is comprised of representatives from the Pride Center, Pride Buffalo, Gay & Lesbian Youth Services, the Empire State Pride Agenda, Men of Color Health Awareness Project, and the Buffalo Gay Men’s Chorus.

To become involved with the Calendar Club and WayGayWNY.com call the Pride Center at 716-852-PRIDE (7743).

Quer art in Niagara Falls

The Niagara Arts and Cultural Center – located at 1201 Pine Ave. in Niagara Falls – is sponsoring an art exhibit of queer art. The multi media exhibit by 19 queer artists includes a quilt artist from Connecticut who will be featured on an HGTV program. The exhibit also gives some history with the origin of pink triangle used during World War II.

The show runs through July 17. NACC hours are Tuesday through Sunday from 12-5 p.m. NACC is located on the corner of Pine Ave. and Portage Rd. across from Walden’s. For more information call NACC at 716-282-7530.
ABSC

Happy July! ABSC held a successful fundraiser, “Cruisin’ on the Canal,” aboard the boat which went along the Erie Canal on June 10. Over 35 people joined us for a two-hour fun filled and relaxing afternoon, with music and refreshments from Chuck Argento and Gary Hess. A live auction was held on the upper deck. We’re planning for next year to have the new deck ready, and raising yet more funds for ABSC. A big thank you to all those who volunteered, donated, bought boat tickets and sold raffle tickets, and raising yet more funds for ABSC. A big thank you to all those who volunteered, donated, bought boat tickets and sold raffle tickets.

31. Lots

~

why the our soldiers, sailors, and marines

serve our country. We may not agree with

conflicts, but recently I caught a segment

on June 19.

DressyFemme@aol.com_or write

Facilitator, at (585) 865-4619, email

members Tim Mains and Bill Pritchard, or go to our website for

more information. For more details and how to help, go to our website:

www.btrochester.org or

and find our link.

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ROCHESTER GAY MEN’S CHORUS

The Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus (RGMChorus) would like to extend a big THANK YOU to everyone who attended our summer concert, Songs of the ’80s’, on June 25th.

In addition to some fabulous times reliving the era of big hair and polyester suits, the Kodak AIDS Quilt was available for viewing. Additionally, this concert also marked the beginning of our FAB Drive! The Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus, in conjunction with AIDS Rochester, has established the Bob Griffith Food and Beauty Drive to assist the AIDS Food Cupboard. It is named after a long time RGMC member, Bob Griffith, who was instrumental in encouraging Chorines to donate to the food pantry at each rehearsal. Now that he is no longer with us, the time is right for Bob to assist the ARI food cupboard.

It was also a special performance of the RGMChorus at the Highland Bowl immediately following the Pride Parade on July 16! We are very happy to have the opportunity to participate in the Cultural Festival this year. The more involvement we have in our communities, the more effective we are in making our cause of creating social change through excellence in the choral arts. It was for this reason that last year County Executive Maggie Brooks and Mayor William A. Johnson officially proclaimed July 17 to be Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus Day in the City of Rochester and the County of Monroe.

The RGMC will be hosting a tour of some of the most unique private gardens in Rochester on Saturday, July 30, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Our third annual Garden Tour will include several gardens in the Southwedge, Cornhill, and University Avenue areas of town. You could come alone or just admire the botanical beauty. What makes this event truly special is the time.

Instead of being a busy day in the usual afternoon sun, enjoy strolling through the gardens in the cooler hours of the early evening. You will even catch a performance of The CosmopoliCity, the small vocal group of the RGMC, at one of the stops!

Flats is $12 in advance or $15 on the day of the tour and includes a souvenier brochure. If you purchase your tickets in pairs you save even more $20 for two tickets in advance or $25 on the day of the tour.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit our website at www.rochestergaymen.org or call our office at 585-423-0050.

ROCHESTER RAMS M.C.

Join us for XXX on July 16 at the Rochester Forum! Come and join the Rams in preparation for our 50th anniversary run XXX. Put on your chaps and have them oiled or wear your new rubber and have it shined at the Boulevard Forum on XXX Night.

Remember this is barnnight, leather, denims and boots, so be out of style. All of our regular barnnight features like beer bar, food and socializing, will be all-walk hot men will be available at this full-service event.

Our August Barnnight will be Briefs & Boots Night Saturday Aug. 20. Come out and enjoy our cool and comfortable underwear to all the hot men at the Boulevard Forum on Briefs & Boots Night.

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

Our 30th Anniversary Run XXX will be August 24th and applications are available online. This is a big event so come out and play for the weekend with about 150 other leather men.

Meet us here at the Boulevard Forum, 670 University Ave, where we will hold Bar Nights on the third Saturday of each month. We hold general meetings open to the public the Wednesday before each Bar Night at 7:30 p.m. at the Boulevard Forum.

For more info, visit our website: www.rochesterrams.org.

ROMANS

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

If you have thought about social nudity but were apprehensive about being made the first time there are several clothed events, such as eating out as a group at restaurants, or going to concerts and movies, where you can meet other members of our group in a clothed environment. Our camping dates are July 15-17 at Jones Pond and Aug. 9-14 at Empire Haven for The Northeastern Naturist Festival. Membership is open to men over 21 years of age who have an interest in social naturism. Most members come from the greater Rochester area, though Buffalo, Syracuse, Utica and the northern tier are also represented.

Visit the Romans web site where an application for membership and information about the club is available, http://www.rochesternaturists.org/ or E-mail: roman@romans.org, or write ROMANS, PO Box 92293, Rochester, NY 14692.

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August 9th— Youth Program

August 10th— Spoken Word & Open Mic

August 11th— Community Roundtable Discussion

August 12th— Jazz & Chocolate

August 13th— Community Awareness Picnic

August 14th— Faith Service

In Unity Lies Strength
Building a community

By Denise Finnerty

On the basis of community, Franklin Delano Roosevelt once said, “We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.” During the last year, as I became more familiar with GLBT resources, I learned that there was a PFLAG organization right here in Rochester. Scrolling through the website, I found it to be out of date; the calendar was for the 2003 year and there wasn't much information about the chapter itself. This worried me but I sent a message to them through e-mail and I heard that someone would get back to me sooner or later. What worries me more is that, months later, I still have received no reply. I feel that my biggest concern is that, as a youth of this community who happens to be out, proud, and happy with who she is, there are many others who may be struggling with coming to terms with sexual identity or sexual orientation. For the number of parents that are OK with who their children are when they come out to them, there are still many who are not and continue to struggle; some silently, others in hateful ways. For the number of resources we have in this community that are being utilized, there are many that are not being utilized.

I was recently discussing with some GLSEN board members during our monthly meeting about how we, as GLBT Rochesterians, are very lucky to have the resources this group and many others provide. It gives us validation and unity for those youth dealing with gender identity and sexuality issues, those youth enduring discrimination at homes and in schools – victims of physical violence, verbal assault, and general intimidation from our peers. It has allowed us to come together, express ourselves, make friends, and find our voices. It has offered us safety and security of person. It has given us solace in a world that doesn’t accept us.

A generation before me didn’t have this opportunity. I talked to a man on May 21 at the Pride Agenda dinner and he didn’t have any of the resources available to validate his existence when he was my age. He had to sneak into library halls and look up homosexuality in some outdated book that told him he was mentally ill, that there was something wrong with him.

I am here today because there is nothing wrong with me. I am human and I am deserving of certain natural rights, and to deprive me of these rights is both inhumane and unacceptable. There is nothing wrong with me for being true to myself, but I live in a world that seeks to convince me there is – that there’s something wrong with me. I want to be her chivalrous knight, no matter the cost.

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By Loren Suppe

My name is Loryn Suppe, I am a trans-identified queer youth activist (that’s TIQQA, for those of you who are a fan of acronyms, I don’t know, I just made it up this morning).

I am from the Youth Group of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley in Rochester, and have been an active member for a little over three years now. I know for a fact that the organization I am a part of has saved lives. It has offered validation and unity for those youth dealing with gender identity and sexuality issues, those youth enduring discrimination at homes and in schools – victims of physical violence, verbal assault, and general alienation from our peers. It has allowed us to come together, express ourselves, make friends, and find our voices. It has offered us safety and security of person. It has given us solace in a world that doesn’t accept us. The building block has already been set for Rochester, we have the foundations already in place. What we need to do is build a house on this foundation so that our youth in the future may stand strong and proud. We need to utilize all we have to continue to grow. We must all be the change we wish to see in this world, just like Mahatma Gandhi once said.

I guess overall, with being an individual who is very committed to both the GAGV Youth Group and GLSEN, my wish would be to begin a collaboration between both these groups and maybe PFLAG, if I can find someone to talk to. In my eyes, I see this as the way we will continue to grow, learn, and strive toward the future; a future filled with youth who may be able to stand strong and proud on a powerful foundation we already have in place.

I Am Human

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by Mia Carreras

Well well well... another year flies by and it’s time to celebrate yet another one of Rochester’s little Gay Prides... to be perfectly honest I was seriously contemplating taking yet another one of my “vacations” this month... but then I thought this is the biggest time of our year... yet alone the only month out of the 12 when we can juggle our falsehoods in the faces of haters without them being able to use our little “Gay Panic” defense to murder us... so I figured that my cooperation authority passed out flyers at Pride using our artwork with Anti-Bush slogans. We got a lot of positive responses from people, and yeah I was still just a little girl who did it... they have no one to blame and therefore justice has been served with a little thing I call “straight panic” defense.

Asaayways I still remember my very first pride... a booooono time ago when I was still just a little girl — think goddess there’s hardly anyone left to remind me of my first pride, not that I was heinous to the parade and such... I’ve had a bit bland back then, but let face it. I’ve always been quite the peach. “giggles” Anyway, I honestly can’t remember how many of our Prides I’ve been a part of... it’s been at least three or four or something like that, although I do remember the one year where I didn’t attend because me and my sister Benessa had a falling out and I was still just a little girl who did it... they have no one to blame and therefore justice has been served with a little thing I call “straight panic” defense.

Aaaaanyways with all that being said, I’m looking forward to this year’s pride... and that I will be spending more than the usual five minutes mingling after the parade and such... since I don’t plan on being “tired” as I was in the previous years... Although planning and actually being are two different things... sooo we’ll see what happens.

Kisses,
Luv,
Mia

~ Mark McCracken
Divine Authority EIC
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Join Our Free Hompage:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Divine_Authority

Cat Chat with Circa:
GAY DAYS AND BRIGHT NIGHTS

By Circa, as told to Jessica Cohen

Calling all LGBT kittens! Come out from your closets and from underneath your Feeder’s bed, jump out of those clean laundry baskets and abandon your missions to steal the vanilla. And Linus, you scared-cat, stop hiding behind the bushes. It is PRIDE time! Merrrow!

This month has much to offer the average (and extraordinarily alkaloid) LGBT-er. Check full of Pride, Rochester is revved up for both the GAGV annual Pride picnic and the Parade and Cultural Festival. Also, Gay Days at Darien Lake is just around the corner. (The only more fun thing than fading a coaster with a dozen of your best gay friends is going on water-fun Grizzly Bear Run with five cute lobsters in white t-shirts.)

Unable to make a personal appearance
(Continued on page C.10)
**Pride in Sports from page 9**

actually read the article. Talk about inspiring! Lately, when I read or hear something about gays, I tend to notice an emphasis on homophobia, or people against gay rights, and their untrue opinions. Reading this article put a new emphasis on the families of gays.

For those of you who are sports fans, I ask you to think of what you know about Joe Valentine, pitcher for the Chicago White Sox. Did you know that two women would have to be messing around to think about what that could mean to you, personally?

This article opened my eyes. A man known for his career in a sport when, at any time, he can be locked out for drugs, or some other thing. He talks about his parents, that made my pride swells even greater. If he can be proud of his family, and the lifestyle of his parents, then shouldn’t we be afraid to be proud of myself, and my lifestyle.

I want to be proud, truly, I do. Sometimes, though, it’s scary. When I think about the top of my lungs, that fear holds me back; the fear of being hated, being discriminated against, or worse; being the victim of a severe hate crime. Sure, everyone gets the occasional cold shoulder, or the rude, ignorant joke. But I think a lot of people fear the extremes of people’s behavior.

That’s what this is all about. I doubt that any gay individual wants to be discriminated against. The fact that such ignorance even exists in the world troubles my marrow. This is hatred, and if I hear about it, it’s one thing. To experience it, is a whole different ballpark, excuse the pun. (smiles)

The article states, “One player joked that any kid raised in a same-sex household would have to be messed with.” My initial reaction to that was anger and hurt, so I read on, hoping that the writer of the article would somehow throw light on the good side of that comment.

Joe Valentine goes on to say, “As soon as that was said, I was like, ‘Well, I’ve been raised by two women.’ He was kind of like, ‘I’ve learned not to pass judgment on that. Because now I know somebody, and they’re one of the better dudes I’ve ever met.”

That made me feel much better. No longer was I angry and hurt, but I was filled with a warm and fuzzy feeling. He shows that he’s proud of his family, and that’s what we should do. This article ends with Valentine stating, “They’re normal parents. It’s just that they’re two women.”

Reading this article gave me reassurance, saying in different words, that it’s OK to be proud, and to love yourself, gay, straight, or whatever the situation may be. Doesn’t everyone want to be proud? I know I do. And now I can be.

**LGBT Equality Day**

By Joshua Arpon

Justice and Equality Day (May 24) was a day to protest and gain equality among the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) community. Many LGBT people and their allies talked with state political leaders on the mistreatment of the people associated with their communities. It was a day to state the inequality and unfairness the federal government courses the LGBT community to endure, as well as a day to learn.

The Empire State Pride Agenda held Justice and Equality Day in Albany to discuss such issues as gay marriage, acceptance of transgender in school, the military’s anti-gay policy, as well as anti-discrimination laws.

As a gay man, May 24 was a day of great significance for me. On that day my voice was heard and my concerns voiced. My local, state, and federal lawmakers heard my side of the story and saw the world for a day through my eyes.

As a student who looks forward to a military career, this day may be critical in deciding my future, and ensuring my present. With the military policy of “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell,” my future may well be compromised. Why is it that gays in the United States are ineligible by law to not only be themselves, but to be gay and serve their country? Why are we willing to put their lives on the line just as heterosexual people do, then why must a homosexual wear a “mask,” while a heterosexual is free to be themselves?

Presently I am a student in a public school district in which discriminatory slurs are subject to a “zero tolerance policy” but who do such policies protect? African-Americans and women are protected from slavery, sexual harassment at work, but gays are still allowed to behavior.

Why is it that “fag” and “queer” are not deemed derogatory remarks? Understandable that the population is heterosexual, but because one group is more present, why must another be excluded and less represented?

Do my rights not matter as much as heterosexual? If I, as a gay person, am restricted from using words that degrade others, why should people be restricted from using words that degrade who I am and my community. Although the First Amendment grants freedom of speech, free speech does not permit discrimination against people based on sexual orientation.

Marriage for gays has become more and more of an issue in modern times. Why is it the LGBT community is subjected to being denied marriage license? In a survey of a combined 50 men and women (all married) about what marriage means to them, an overwhelming 80 percent claimed marriage was a union shared between two people who are very much in love, while only 15 percent claimed marriage was a union of a man and woman in love. So with an overwhelming majority of heterosexual people claiming marriage is simply two people in love, why is it that marriage becomes an issue, once the heterosexual community watches on TV or hears somewhere that some people believe marriage is between a man and woman?

If famous people did not hypenote heterosexual marriage, would it be defined as two people in love, not a man and a woman? Marriage in the gay community is a bond of two people who are in love, or a promise of two people to stay in love forever. Religion does not play a role in all heterosexual marriages, so why do we become a factor when homosexuals choose to become married? Am I, a gay man, someone who is less than, because I am gay, or am I a person who is simply two people in love, no matter their sexual orientation?

By saying that marriage is simply between a man and a woman, it is seeing marriage, as a heterosexual issue, and not a minority issue. If the government will grant us equal rights. As the day passes, the inequality and unfairness will remain, and will never go away until the government recognizes who I am and what I stand for. (darn lucky they are to have such a beautiful cat to come home to.)

While my feeder may be the Youth Table, I offer this info because even if you think you do not want to know, I will not stand for separate but equal rights for my fellow citizens. My community or me.

As Justice and Equality Day passes, and the talks on a mass scale dwindle, my voice will not be silenced until my rights are the same as the heterosexual community. African-Americans did not stand for “separate but equal schools,” and women did not stand for being represented and silenced. I will not stand for separate but equal rights such as civil unions. Even though civil unions are a step closer to equality, it is still not equality and that is not fair to my community or me.

So today I speak to the LGBT community: do not accept less rights. It is only a way to silence us, but if we don’t accept it and continue to fight for what we deserve the government will grant us equal rights. Today I speak for the LGBT community as well; we will not accept your separate but equal doctrines of marriage and we will not be silenced until my rights are the same as the heterosexual community. African-Americans did not stand for “separate but equal schools,” and women did not stand for being represented and silenced. I will not stand for separate but equal rights such as civil unions. Even though civil unions are a step closer to equality, it is still not equality and that is not fair to my community or me.

If I may not like my feeder, I still love her. (And I love mine, because she let me live out of my fur for a few hours every day.)

Beyond bracelets and the potential buying-frenzy of rainbow-crazy lesbians, pride symbolizes something special for everyone. It is a time to hold hands without hesitation. To see friends and make friends, without wondering “Will I die because of this?” Pride is a time to be yourself, without fear. To love yourself, without question. To party, with good music, good food, and good fun.

All my best for a safe and glorious Circa
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Weekly GLBTI AA Meetings in Rochester

There are five regularly scheduled GLBTI AA meetings in Rochester every week. What makes GLBTI recovery a bit different is that we recognize: issues surrounding our sexuality do 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; while it’s tempting to stay in the fold of GLBTI recovery, we live and work in a predominantly 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 curious seekers respect our privacy.

Wednesday
New Freedom/New Happiness Group 7 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, 220 S. Winton Rd. Bus riders: Take the last #18 University bus to 12 Corners. Use the stop just past the top of the hill at Hillside Ave and before Highland Ave. Or take the #1 Park Ave 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
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. Take the last #18 University Ave bus to the corner of East and Winton, then walk five minutes south (uphill) on Winton. Open meeting, all are welcome.

Saturday
Saturday Night Special: 7 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, 220 S. Winton Rd. Bus riders: Take the #1 Park Ave bus to the corner of East and Winton, then walk five minutes south (uphill) on Winton.

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

Sunday
Rochester Gay Men: 8:30 a.m. at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. Bus riders use the Fitzhugh St stop on Main St or the County Office Building and 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.
**July**

**FRIDAY 4**
Queer art exhibit at Niagara Arts and Cultural Center, 1201 Pine Ave, Niagara Falls. Through July 17. Tues-Sun. 12-5 pm, 716-282-7200.

**Dignity Integrity Garage Sale**. Also July 2. 46 White Hill Drive, Penfield. Empire Bears at Frontier Field. Empirebears.org.

**TUESDAY 5**
COAP volleyball at Ellison Park. 5 pm-dusk, every Tuesday.

**THURSDAY 7**
GAGV Picnic volunteer sign up, 7 pm, refreshments, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 244-8640 ext 24.

**FRIDAY 8**

**SATURDAY 9**

Empire State Pride Agenda Tea Dance. 30 Milbourne Rd, Bridghampton, LI. 4-8 pm. DJ Lady Banny. 217-627-0305.

**FRIDAY 14**
COAP Pride Parade Prep. 7 pm. Contact Tom Myers if you are interested in helping. 746-6015.

**TUESDAY 18**
Community Business Forum social at Highland Bowl, 5:30-7:30 pm. At dusk: The Wizard of Oz.

**FRIDAY 15**
Dignification of LGBT Community sculptures, “Pride Symbol,” Hosted by ASBC 5-7 pm corner of Atlantic Ave. 7-7½ pm. In neighborhood of the Arts District by Thomas Perfield and Co., specklers, foot poems by 300.

**SATURDAY 16**

**SUNDAY 17**
Rainbow Seniors potluck, 4 pm, First Universalist Church, 150 S. Clinton Ave. www.rainbowseniorswny.org.

Dignity Integrity Ice Cream Social after 5 pm service. St. Luke St. Simon Gryme Church. 17 S. Fitzhugh St. In the Life, 2 pm, WXXI. Underwrite by Outlander.

**SUNDAY 23**
Women’s Fishing. Hemlock Lake. Meet outside GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave, between 10-10:15 am, or meet at Hemlock Lake, 288-7208.

My monthly COAP meeting at GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Meeting at 6 pm on the 7th.

**WEDNESDAY 27**
Butch Female Connection Movie Night Out. Meet outside GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave, between 7-7½ pm. 800-4619.

**THURSDAY 28**
COAP 6th Annual Mini-Golf Match Inspiring Pines. 7-10:30 pm. Gather at 7 COAP Calendar Club, 5:30 pm, Youth Center, 875 E. Main St. Todd, 244-8640 ext. 24.

**FRIDAY 29**
Empire Bears camping weekend, Onanda campground. Empirebears.org. Empty Closet mailing party. Staff envelopes 2-4 pm, bulk mailing 6:30-7:30 pm, 179 Atlantic Ave, second floor. For info call 244-9930 before July 28.

**SATURDAY 30**
Empire Bear hoe down game. Women’s football. For time, location, see www.empirestatersports.com.

**Monday, July 8**


**SUNDAY 31**
Women’s Fishing. Charlotte Pier. Meet there or at GAGV, 179 Atlantic Ave, between 10-10:15 am. 288-7208.

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**SUNTHURSDAY 9**

**SUNDAY 17**
Rainbow Seniors potluck, 4 pm, First Universalist Church, 150 S. Clinton Ave. www.rainbowseniorswny.org.

Dignity Integrity Ice Cream Social after 5 pm service. St. Luke St. Simon Gryme Church. 17 S. Fitzhugh St. In the Life, 2 pm, WXXI. Underwrite by Outlander.

**SUNDAY 25**
Women’s Fishing. Hemlock Lake. Meet outside GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave, between 10-10:15 am, or meet at Hemlock Lake, 288-7208.

**MONDAY 25**
Butch Female Connection Dinner Night Out. 7 pm. Gordon’s Steak and Crab House, 155 Panthom Drive, Irondequoit. 805-4619.

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(Child care available, wheelchair accessible loops for hearing impaired)

Monday (1st and 3rd)
GLBT Support Group
7:30 p.m.

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217-6813
www.thirdpresbyterian.org

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Adoption/Adoption support groups

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3339 Manse Lane

Rochester, NY 14625

License #069074-1
| **MONDAY** | **Gay and Lesbian Support Group** | Third Presbyterian Church, 34 Marig St., 7:30pm, 7.25.16. | **TUESDAY** | **Atlantic Five** | Gay men 50 and over. Second Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave, 481-9261. | **Pride GLBT Al-Anon** | Every Tuesday, 7-9pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. | **WEDNESDAY** | **Women’s Community Chorus** | Rehearsals each Wednesday, 6:30-8pm, 179 Atlantic Ave, St. Luke’s/St. Simon Cyrene Church, 179 Atlantic Ave. | **THURSDAY** | **Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns** | 6:30pm, first Thursday, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 420-1400. | **FRIDAY** | **Gay Men’s AA meeting** | Each Friday, 7:30-8:30pm, closed meeting, MOCHA, 179 Atlantic Ave. | **SATURDAY** | **Rochester Rams Bar Night** | Third Saturday, 8pm-2am, Rochester Rams Bar, 670 University Ave, 271-6930. | **SUNDAY** | **More Light Presbyterians** | for living and loving people and friends, 12:30pm, test Sundays, Lumpkin United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St, 326-4000. | **Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)** | 2:30-4pm, 3rd Sunday. Call for location: 234-0156. | **Dignity-Integrity** | 5pm, St. Luke’s Church, 179 South Street. 3rd Sunday. Call for location: 234-5092. | **Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church** | 17 S. Fitzhugh St, 7pm, 234-0156. | **GAY ALLIANCE THE EMPTY CLOSET** | July 2005 • NUMBER 381 • GAY ALLIANCE OF THE GENESSEE VALLEY • THE EMPTY CLOSET | **C 15** |

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

**Support Group for Parents Who Have Lost Children**
First, third Wednesdays, 11am-12:30pm, 3rd Presbyterian Church, 4 Meigs St. Sponsored by Genesee Region Home Care. Free. 325-1588.

**Frontrunners/Frontwalkers**
6pm every Thursday, meet George Eastman House parking lot, 271-2709.

**Empire Bears**
First Wednesdays, 7-9pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Multicultural Dinner. Free. 325-9000.

**MOCHA Chemical Dependency Group**

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

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**MOCHA Chemical Dependency Group**
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