Diversity in workplace is focus of GAGV’s Leadership conference

By Susan Jarden

Corporate equality and transgender rights in the workplace will be the chief topics at Equality Leadership Conference 2005, to be held Oct. 21. This workshop: Brayt Regency Hotel, 125 E. Main St. National activists and local corporate officials and business people will speak and present workshops at the Gay Alliance events.

The keynote speaker is Margaret Stumpf, chief investment officer for Quantitative Investment Management Associates (QIMA), an investment management subsidiary of Prudential Financial. Maggie, as she prefers to be known, will speak at the luncheon at noon on her experiences transitioning from male to female in the workplace. (See interview, page A6.)

The luncheon will also include the presentation of business and media awards.

Daryl Herrschaft, deputy director of the Human Rights Campaign’s Workplace Project, will present a workshop on The Corporate Equality Index and its impact on national corporate and public policy. This workshop will run from 8:30 to 10 a.m.

Two workshops will follow: "How to Create LGBT Alliances in the Workplace," at 10:15 a.m., will be facilitated by a panel including Clay Osborne, VP, Global Diversity and Workforce Development, Bausch & Lomb; Marie Philipps, VP, President of Diversity, Escolas BCBES; Laura Brooks, Operations Director, Engineering Research, Eastman Kodak Company; Cheri Wilkin­son, VP, HR Productions Systems Group, Xenos, and Bevna Foster, HR Specialist, Bausch & Lomb.

Simultaneously, the second workshop will address the topic, "How to Support Individuals Transitioning in the Workplace." The panelists include Donna Rose, author of Wrapped in Blue and representative of the National Center for Transgender Rights, and Pat Ponit, co-owner of Out Press in Rochester; Amber Dolziet, NY Transgender Rights Organizations, Amy Friend, President of Lambda, Eastman Kodak Company; Virginia Meredith, Senior HR Director, Research, Eastman Kodak Company, and Margaret Clemens, Partner, Nixon Peabody LLP. A continental breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m. The conference fee is $65.

The fee to attend the conference is $85 per person. To attend the luncheon only, the charge will be $50. For more information and to purchase tickets, call the GAGV at 244-8640.

On the record: Mayoral candidates talk about marriage rights, LGBT families

Tim Mains, April 2005 Empty Closet: "We have a huge challenge - that is, to really help our neighbors, friends, families and co-workers understand what marriage is, and that our families deserve the same rights as any other families. We have a tremendous amount of educating to do. We have to make sure our community is equipped with the information to educate the rest of society. We can’t sit back and cross our fingers and hope some judge will do it for us.

"Massachusetts is an example of how steady and persistent pub­lic education - people being out, talking about their lives - can win. Not one Massachusetts legis­lator who voted for marriage rights has lost an election - not one - because it was the logical next step. And people had done their work. Right now we’re deal­ing with the backlash, and we have to figure out how to be firmly planted when the wave comes back at us."

Bob Duffy, May 2005 Empty Closet: "We’re going to be a huge challenge for the public, who are just beginning to understand what marriage is, and what our families deserve.

"It is not going to be easy to win over the public, but we have to do it. The message of tolerance, as well as protecting the civil rights of all citizens, should never be denied basic rights.

"I honestly believe that marriage is a civil right, and people are supporting the rule of law. I have a strong faith, and have seen con­flict, but there’s an opportunity to bridge that gap. I believe there is going to be a coming together of the faith community and the LGBT community. It creates a sense of mutual understanding and respect."

A SUMMER GARDEN

Visit a special garden featured in the RGMC tour last summer.

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I N V E S T O R R E M E N T

B O O K S

IMAGEMAKER

Charles Busch (right) will receive ImageOut’s first Imagemaker award.

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LOCAL & STATE NEWS

Churches, seminary host marriage series

Third Presbyterian Church, 4 Meigs St. at East Ave., is presenting a marriage series on Oct. 23 at Third Presbyterian during the 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. worship services. A congregational luncheon will follow the 10:45 service to place a reservation, call the church office at 271-3500.

Dena Summers at dsmmers@thirdpresbyterian.org. New Anderson will also speak that evening at Third Presbyterian on "Blurring the Lines Between Church and State" and the "Marriage Series."

Also on Oct. 24, 20, and 27, Anderson will lecture at 10 a.m. at Col­gate Rochester Divinity School, 110 S. Goodman St., on "Same Gender Marriage: A Civil Right that can’t be Done." Also on Oct. 24, a discussion is scheduled at 7:30 p.m. at the Divinity School on the Theological Task Force on the Peace, Unity and Purity of the Church. (See Anderson on page 9.)

Two other events are planned at Third Presby­terian as part of the social justice series on same gender marriage. On Oct. 23, James Markrodt will speak on "A Denomination Reacts" and on Oct. 24, when he married his daughter and her female partner in a legal ceremony in Massachusetts on March 7, 2005. His daughter Ann Karedin is also an attorney.

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NUMBER 384
A PUBLICATION OF THE GAY ALLIANCE OF THE GENESSEE VALLEY
OCTOBER 2005

NEWSBRIEFS
Bisexuality and the "ex-gay" movement

The "ex-gay" movement is our first truly recruiting our youth. Following the right's politically correct line that there is no such thing as a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender teenager, the homosexual wigwam is pouring millions of dollars into re-education camps and other sinister initiatives to brainwash youth into being straight (and fundamentalist and Republican).

Of course, it is not possible to turn a homosexual into a heterosexual, even if you have the magical powers of the late Albus Dumbledore. It is equally impossible to turn a heterosexual into a homosexual. You are biologically, threatened and confuse people, especially vulnerable youth, so that they are afraid to act on their natural feelings, whatever those may be. It's the feelings themselves that you can't change. What makes everything more complicated is the issue of bisexuality. When an "ex-gay" or "ex-lesbian" is put on show, broadcasting their joy at being "normal," it is very likely that the person involved is a bisexual who has been programmed to act only on his or her heterosexual feelings, and to repress or at least reject those persistent "abnormal" feelings for people of the same gender.

Bisexuality is one of the most misunderstood, ignored and invisible of identities, and it may also be the most common human sexual experience. If you take the Kinsey scale as a model, there is a continuum from exclusively het on one extreme, to exclusively gay on the other. In the middle—well, that's where the big numbers fall on most continuums, and that's where the bi majority would live. No wonder the right wants to keep them invisible.

In this model, people who are exclusively heterosexual would be a minority, as would people who are exclusively homosexual—"exclusively" meaning never having had or wanted relations with a person of the same sex or the opposite sex, depending on which side of the continuum you're moving. In toward the center, both sides get closer to the bi Zone. These mid-way sections would include people who have had one or more same-sex or opposite-sex relationships, even though they may be basically straight or gay. The closer they get to the center, the more completely bisexual people would be.

Could it be true that we "the numbers"? If most human beings are innately bi, then we are actually the majority, and always have been so perverted after all. If this is true, sexual orientation should be seen as much more fluid and complex than it is generally considered now. But of course the Controllers of society make sure that everyone is programmed to see themselves, or to want to see themselves, as 100 percent straight.

Parents are led by right wing preachers to believe that there are two teams, the Bad Queens (a minority of people who choose to be perverse) and the Good Straights (the "normal majority"). Parents, don't let recruiters for the Bad Camp get to your kids, or the kids will magically be transformed from straight to queer. Turn your kids over to the recruiters for the Good Guys: they'll magically change them from queer to straight—by force if necessary.

How dangerous for youth. How oppressive for young people who are generally invisible to both straight and gay communities. And how ironic, if it turns out that most humans are basically bi. III

What's happening at GAVG

A lot is happening at the Gay Alliance, Oct. 21 marks the fifth annual Equality Leadership Conference. If you saw in the September issue of the Empty Closet, the event focuses on how to create an inclusive workplace, particularly for transgendered employees.

Our keynote speaker has a powerful story to tell about his transition from female to male while working as a vice president at Prudential Financial. Please take a moment to review the sponsor list in the conference ad on the back cover of section B. Corporate support for the event has been tremendous, and we hope you will take notice of who is supporting LGBT locally.

Oct. 11 is National Coming Out Day. Celebrate by coming out to someone new. You might be surprised at who doesn't know, and what a difference it makes to come out. The Human Rights Campaign has chosen "Talking About It" as this year's theme.

Next July 9, we will hold our biggest event of the year, the Pride Picnic, to raise funds for the Youth Program, the Anti-Violence Program, and our Community Outreach and Education Program.

Also, as you may have read in last month's paper, the library project is underway with exciting new additional resources. Eventually, the collection will be searchable online with the launch of our new website this fall.

Next month and occasionally during the year, we will ask our members and others to make a financial contribution to the Gay Alliance. These funds are critical to ensure we continue to provide the services uniquely delivered by the Gay Alliance. Our funding sources vary from year to year, but our membership continues to be strong and consistent. Through workplace giving programs like SEFA (the State Employees Federal Appeal) and the United Way Campaign, we receive gifts from nearly two hundred of you. These gifts provide sustaining support for day-to-day operations and programs.

Nationwide, it is true that as an LGBT community we give less to our own causes than to other charitable causes. In fact, we give much less to support our own causes. While this statistic is startling, there may be at least part of an explanation as to why this is the case when we look at the organizations who serve the LGBT community. There are many, the number is actually small when compared to the total number of charitable organizations.

Furthermore, most of us, like the Gay Alliance, do not have staff solely tasked with asking for money from donors, as larger organizations do. Our staff primarily focuses on delivering services directly to members and clients. Therefore, if you consider that one reason people give to any charity is that they are asked to give, so, please consider making a gift to support our own cause, who will "get" you to our own causes that than to other charitable causes.

This year, there is a particularly large need for charitable gifts for hurricane victims. We all feel compelled to help out however we can, and the Gay Alliance is no exception. I was relieved to learn of charities specifically helping LGBT victims of the tragedy, so we will be making our gift to one of them this month.

If you would like more information on organizations serving LGBT hurricane victims please visit our website at www.gav­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­&...
Judge Ellen Yacknin is running for NYS Supreme Court

By Susan Jordan

Judge Ellen Yacknin, now on City Court, is a candidate for the 7th District of the state Supreme Court. She is not, as some voters have imagined, running to replace Sandta Dock O’Connor on the U.S. Supreme Court.

“We had to change our flyers,” Yacknin laughs, “to make it clear this is the New York State Supreme Court!”

Few outside the legal world understand that, unlike the federal “Supremes” and virtually every other state supreme court, the NYS Supreme Court is the state’s highest trial court, and the state’s court of last resort is actually the Appeals Court.

However, like O’Connor, Yacknin is one of the few women who have succeeded a male dominated by white males. If elected, she will be the third woman of 15 justices on the state Supreme Court.

Yacknin emphasizes that she has more judicial and litigation experience than any other Republican opponent, Matthew Rosenbaum and John Owens, but that all the other Supreme Court candidates combined. She has authored many publications on legal topics, including legal legalese and has 20 years litigation experience in local, state and federal courts.

Yacknin is rated “Qualified” and “Recommended” by the Greater Rochester Association for Women Attorneys, received the NYS Bar Association Haywood Burn Award for Civil Rights and was Judicial Trial Lawyer of the Year finalist for the Public Justice Foundation.

Yacknin, a GAG board member for many years in the ‘90s, has also been involved in many community organizations, for example tutoring at Rochester Elementary School 29, and working with Mary Magdalen House for Women, of which she was a co-founder. She is, among many other things, a trustee of Health Care Access Trust, President of American Inn of Court, Monroe County chapter, and volunteer presiding judge for teen court, high school trial moot court, and Boy Scouts Law Explorers trial moot court.

Although many votes in the 7th District are Republican, Yacknin told the Empty Closet, “It’s a very challenging but winnable race, as long as we can raise money, and I expect to raise the money because I have a very good chance of winning.” According to Yacknin, 67 percent of 7th District voters, whether Republican or not, are women.

She believes that diversity on the bench enhances the quality of the justice system. “O’Connor’s resignation has heightened awareness of the need for diverse courts where the backgrounds and experiences they bring to the bench are diverse,” she said. “When balanced – gender, race, religion, etc. – it makes it a better court.”

“I think it’s important to have people of all backgrounds as judges, because that reflects what the community is.”

Yacknin said, “I’m very proud of the fact that because of my background and litigation experience of over 20 years, a public interest lawyer who has worked closely with working class families in terms of their medical and social system, I have an experience and background that is rare on the bench and can only enhance it. I will be the only Supreme Court judge in the 7th District to have that kind of experience and background.”

She says that Supreme Court judges often talk informally among other judges. “This enhances their understanding of those who are different. It’s important to understand many different perspectives: this enhances the legitimacy and equality of the bench. It’s so easy to be isolated as a judge; judges need to see the community they are knowledgeable and involved.”

In addition, every judge has their own philosophy, whatever their politics, would do their best to go into the courtroom very aware of their own background and prepared to go on them the back burner and listen receptively as they can. “But no judge would ever have ‘bias’ in the sense that they would go through with them to the benches.” Yacknin said. “If all judges have the same background and experiences, they won’t necessarily be able to understand litigants who are so different from them.”

As a City Court judge, Yacknin currently deals with thousands of cases, both criminal and civil. She tries criminal misdemeanor cases and also holds pre-trial hearings on felony cases. As a Supreme Court judge, she would have much broader jurisdiction over far more complicated cases, in terms of legal issues, more serious crimes, jurisdictional issues, financial amounts involved, etc. She would also have authority to preside over class action cases and other cases, such as those brought to enforce the state and federal laws and constitutional rights.

“Two cases are the same, and this is what I love,” she said. “Every single case is different and involves different levels of bargains, sentences, and so on. A judge must treat each case fairly. I’m proud to say that in any case I had, discovery was well, in terms of handling them and moving them along, and giving every litigant and lawyer time to say what they have to say. It’s judge’s obligation to give litigants the opportunity to have their say.”

The 7th District includes Cayuga, Monroe, Livingston, Ontario, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne and Yates counties. The district seat is here in Rochester.

Although she cannot comment on national political issues, due to the NY Code of Judicial Conduct, Yacknin does make it clear that she respects the judicial branch’s tradition as the “seventh branch” of government, and does not think that status should be weakened. She says that the HBCU “judges” are “vertically” and “horizontally” supported by the charter and rules of the court, and engaged with judges who were engaged in overturning state and federal laws.

Newspapers (continued from page 1)

RCA pastor and currently serves as pastor of the Greenpoint Reformed Church in Brooklyn.

Norman Kansfield was removed from the office of president of the New Brunswick, N.J. seminary, effective on March 25, 2005 – Easter Sunday. On June 11, after a formal trial, he was deposed from the office of bishop of Theology and suspended from the office of the Minister of Word and Sacrament, III.

GSAClubsNow works to restore GSA at Marshall

A new activist network, GSAClubsNow, has grown out of the situation at George Marshall High School, described below the advisor to the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) has been transferred in order to destroy the GSA.

The Gay Alliance hopes to meet with Marshall administration to discuss the situation and hopefully find a solution that will enable LGBT students to keep their GSA.

The group is circulating a petition asking that the GSA at Marshall be allowed to continue. The group’s new web site is at http://gsacistlesnow.tripod.com. They ask that people take a few minutes and sign an online petition. “We need to let the Rochester City School District know that the whole world is watching, and waiting for a response,” the network members say.


A statement from the network follows: “Four years ago, some students approached a school social worker at Marshall High School (Erika Eaton). Marshall is part of the Rochester City School District. The students asked Eaton to help them organize the GSA (Gay Straight Alliance). Eaton was the school’s social worker at Marshall, and Eaton was a club (Gay Straight Alliance). There is no such club.”

“A battle ensued. Flyers and information on support available to youth were torn down. The distribution of the buttons and t-shirts was blocked. Ultimately, the event happened, but with severe limitation by on anyone who wished to organize a National Coming Out Day. The students made T-shirts and buttons that I stood and said, ‘I support LGBT youths and National Coming Out Day.”

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Amnesty International says police mistreatment, abuse widespread in LGBT communities; poor, trans most at risk

The police are not here to serve; they are here to get served... every night I'm taken into an alley and given the choice between having sex or going to jail." – Amnesty International interview with a Native American transgender woman, Los Angeles.

(New York) – In the most comprehensive report of its kind to date, Amnesty International (AI) reveals that police mistreatment and abuse of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people are widespread nationwide and go largely unchecked due to underreporting and unclear, under-enforced or non-existent policies.

"Across the country, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people endure the injustices of discrimination, exploitation and verbal abuse, as well as brutal beatings and sexual assault at the hands of those responsible for protecting them," the report says. Dr. William F. Schlueter, Executive Director of Amnesty International USA (AIUSA), says, "In 1,200 complaints to the police, respondents were not given their power to inflict suffering rather than being 'entertained'."

In its 150-plus page report, "Stone-walled: police abuse and misconduct against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the United States," AI focuses on four cities – Chicago, Los Angeles, New York and San Antonio – surveys the 50 largest police departments in the country, as well as Washington, D.C., about LGBT policies and practices, and includes information from several hundred interviews and testimonies. AI's findings strongly indicate that there is a heightened pattern of misconduct and abuse of transgender individuals and all LGBT people, color, young people, immigrants, the homeless and sex workers by police. At times, the mere perception that someone is gay or lesbian provokes physical or verbal attacks.

The mistreatment and abuse documented in the report includes targeted and discriminatory confinement of prisoners based on sexual orientation or gender identity; police violence; verbal abuse; inappropriate pat-downs and strip searches; failure to protect LGBT people in holding cells inappropriate to their needs; lack of training; lack of policies that explicitly protect transgender individuals; and police officers refusing to take complaints on hate crimes.

Elaine Elkins, M.S. Psychotherapist
244-4837
Individual & Relationship Counseling

Anxiety & Depression
Loneliness & Separation
Resolving Conflicts
Communication Skills
Sexual Abuse Recovery
Drug & Alcoholism
Grief & Loss
obtaining convictions for bias-driven violence. This is beyond frustrating!

In response to Hurricane Katrina, Rainbow World Fund (RWF), a LGBT-based world relief agency, has raised $250,000 in donations to help survivors recover. The lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community in the United States has responded in force to help their fellow Americans. Hundreds of fundraisers in LGBT communities have taken place, or are planned, from impromptu beer busts to elaborate parties and concerts. In the first two weeks after Katrina, RWF raised more than $250,000 for hurricane relief, with more money on the way. Organizers of RWF’s work is about serving human; we respond to humanitarian crises, helping both gay and straight alike.”

A press conference following the trial. “Gov. Schwarzenegger promised Californians that he would enact legislation granting marriage equality to same-sex couples. If enacted into law, the amendment’s pre-1977 definition of marriage would be preserved, with the act, the amended California Family Code § 729, creating a “class of marriage” for the purposes of the amendment, defined as “the union of a man and a woman.”

While the abuse was brought to the school administration’s attention and again, no effective measures were taken by the school to end it.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force announced a lawsuit filed with the Superior Court of New Jersey in Monmouth County on behalf of a lesbian student who was verbally and physically assaulted and even the most liberal Republican politician will follow suit, said Kier. What makes me the most furious,” Garezeno added, “is knowing that three jurors would fail to pass a reasonable doubt that Jason Cazares was guilty.

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However, even without the hate crimes and hate crime protections, there was optimism. “Nothing is going to bring Gwen back,” said Arnold Schwarzenegger in a conference following the trial. “But this is at least a step toward closure.”

“Gov. Schwarzenegger announced his intention to veto the legislation through his press secretary, Margot Thompson. Governor Schwarzenegger is attempting to block the bill by stating that the bill is in conflict with Proposition 22, a ballot initiative passed in 2000 that banned California from granting same-sex marriages performed in other jurisdictions.

The Republican Party suffers from a chronic moral corruption caused by an industry determined to undermine the American family. Anti-gay advocates pull the strings of the GOP, and even the most liberal Republican politicians follow suit, said Kier. What makes me the most furious,” Garezeno added, “is knowing that three jurors would fail to pass a reasonable doubt that Jason Cazares was guilty.

The vote on the amendment passed by a 41-35 vote. All 41 votes in favor were Democrats; 31 Republicans were joined by four Democrats in opposition. Having passed the California Senate the previous week by a 21 to 15 vote, almost exclusively along party lines, the bill headed to the desk of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger for his decision to veto the bill.

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The bill to destroy the California Family Code § 729, creating a “class of marriage” for the purposes of the amendment, defined as “the union of a man and a woman.”

The vote on the amendment passed by a 41-35 vote. The amendment’s provisions would extend federal hate crimes laws that already cover crimes against race, gender, and religion to include crimes based on actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, disability and gender identity (including gender-redefined characteristics). New gender identity/characteristics language was added just this year to the bill that this legislation applied to hate crimes against trans-gender people. The vote on the amendment was 223 to 19 in the House of Representatives.
Interview

Just Maggie: conference keynote speaker Margaret Stumph talks about transgender

By Susan Jarden

Margaret S. Stumph, PhD, is Chief Investment Officer for Quantitative Invest­ment Management Associates (QMA) — an investment management subsidiary of Pru­dential Financial. In that capacity, she oversees the investment of approximately $50 billion across a myriad of asset categor­ies. She will be keynote speaker at the Gay Alliance’s Equality Leadership conference on Oct. 21.

Margaret, better known as Maggie, manages, or oversees management of, large asset pools for institutions around the world, including corporations, endow­ments, public entities and mutual funds. She also directs research on investment strategy and portfolio management and has published numerous articles in publications including The Financial Analyst’s Journal, The Journal of Portfolio Management, Jour­nal of Investment Management, and Annuity Papers in Public Utility Economics. Margaret has served on CNBC and her research and opinions have been covered in print media around the globe including such award-winning articles by Adam Geller of Forbes Press, entitled “Making One of a Million.” She has been honored with employers who have only seen trans­gendered people would be directed at them. In the same breath, she said, “People on exploitive TV shows like Jerry Springer and think we’re all drug queens, or clowns in dresses. I don’t identify as ‘gender queer,’” she simply identified as Maggie. III

The greatest obstacles had to do with my own insecurities regarding the conse­quences of my decision. I needed to be established enough in my career and need­ed to be able to convince myself and those close to me that this was not an irrational decision, but rather something that had been thought through and carefully con­sidered.

EC: Do you think sexual orientation is relevant to gender expression? Do you regard yourself as ‘lesbian, bisexual or heterosexual’?

MS: Despite what some individuals would like to believe, there is no evidence that being transgender was an identity choice prior to sexual orientation. It’s been said that being lesbian, or gay, is about who you love, where being transgender is about who you are. The sad truth, however, is that trans­gendered people, especially transsexuals, often face very steep lives. Neither men nor women find us attractive and there are very, very few people who are willing to have us as partners. Under those circumstances, sexual orientation takes a back seat to the need for love and companionship.

EC: Was coming out to management and co-workers a lengthy process requiring much education from you on issues, or were management and co-workers knowledgeable and accepting from the start?

MS: Everyone was clueless. No one had ever considered the possibility that some­one would transition at the firm. While I was having surgery, one executive who co-managed our organization called every employee I worked with individually to explain the circumstances and not do anything to give them an opportunity to ask questions. That individual approach helped a lot. People eventually informed themselves and all I needed to do was to provide a few literature references and not do anything com­pletely stupid. I’ve discovered that in many transitions, associates can be tremendously understanding and supportive.

EC: What would you suggest to people who are considering transition? Where can they find reliable sources of information?

MS: My strongest recommendation is to only transition if you absolutely have to. The financial and emotional toll associated with taking this path can be incalculable. If you must transition, be very secure in your job and be fully aware of your employer’s diversity policies. I’ve seen far too many people lose jobs and entire careers because they left an employer to transition and then lost their jobs, only to discover that very few firms are willing to hire a transgendered person. I’ve seen others lose jobs because they transitioned too early and were utterly unprepared.

Although this is a sad commentary on society, people who appear “different” have great difficulty getting and keeping employment. Transgendered people should be fair­ly far along in the process before publicly announcing their intentions to transition. Curiously, this does not involve trans­gender surgery, as we don’t publicly display genitalia. Rather, it involves superficial things like hormone treatment, decollet­age, hair, wigs, lessons and cosmetic surgery. Most of these can be fully addressed while one is still in the old gender.

EC: Are there any books or websites that you especially like?

MS: While there are a number of excel­lent biographies (Donna Rose’s book, “Wrapped in Blue,” is among them) and is generally available, HRCs workplace has an excellent resource for individuals and firms involved in workplace transitions: www.hrc. org/Template.cfm?Section=Work_Life.

Also, Lynn Conway has a gallery of suc­cessful trans people at http://ai.eecs.umich. edu/people/conway/conway.html and I’ve found her gallery to be a very useful tool with employers who have only seen trans­sexuals, for example, were among Hitler’s first victims.

I don’t identify as “gender queer,” I simply identify as Maggie. III

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Objectives for the LGBT community from one of your own!

For example, women work together in a der­ered spectrum. It includes effeminate men and assertive women, drag queens, cross dressers, transsexuals and many oth­ers. Issues vary widely across the trans­gendered spectrum.

Regardless of sexual orientation, or even gender affiliation, however, the transgen­dered have one thing in common — those who hate, all of us equally. People often forget that the general public per­ceives the entire transgendered population as “gay.” Regardless of sexual orientation, it is often the effeminate male or the asser­tive woman who is the target of violence and discrimination. Everyone should real­ize that the violence that is directed at transgendered people would be directed at anyone in the broader GBL community if they were as easily identified. Transsexual­ists, for example, were among Hitler’s first victims.

For some people, the word sex, or knew what it meant. In that sense, it took over 40 years to trans­it to something that most transgendered people fight all of their lives and for some, like me, the emotional journey becomes too much to bear and we simply must change genders. Until the advent of the internet, there was very little information concerning transgenderism and most therapists — certainly the ones I consulted with — were utterly unaware of the subject and equated it with being gay and in denial. Fortunately, people are more aware now and a whole new and young and many transition at younger ages.

Margaret formally became transgendered, and how long did it take you to come to terms with that knowledge and decide to transition? Maggie Stumph: Like many transgendered people, this is something I’ve coped with as long as I could remember. I remem­ber going to bed every night hoping that I’d wake up the next morning as a girl. Cur­rently, this realization occurred at a very young age — well before I had ever heard the word sex, or knew what it meant. In that sense, it took over 40 years to trans­it to something that most transgendered people fight all of their lives and for some, like me, the emotional journey becomes too much to bear and we simply must change genders. Until the advent of the internet, there was very little information concerning transgenderism and most therapists — certainly the ones I consulted with — were utterly unaware of the subject and equated it with being gay and in denial. Fortunately, people are more aware now and a whole new and young and many transition at younger ages.

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Newsfronts (continued from page 5)

stripped using the restrooms at school, forcing her to go to the bathroom only before and after school, despite abdominal pain. She also stopped using the school's locker rooms, wearing her gym clothes to and from school. She further avoided the dangerous hallways between classes and instead often walked outside the building, even in the cold and rain, to find an entry door closer to her next class.

The lawsuit is based on the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination that prohibits sexual orientation discrimination in all places of public accommodation including schools. This case is a continuation of Lambda Legal's work on behalf of youth in its sexual orientation discrimination in all schools. This case is a continuation of Lambda Legal's work on behalf of youth in

were often walked outside the building,

she was the victim of antigay harassment at school—the case set the precedent holding schools accountable when they fail to protect their students from antigay harassment.

"For me, going to school was about being humiliated. It was not about getting an education," said plaintiff Nancy Waldingston. "It was my school's responsibility to provide me with a safe learning environment, but instead they effectively ignored the harassment I was experiencing and left me to defend myself. I am not the only person to have unnecessarily been harassed because of their sexual orientation and I am here to say that we cannot just be silenced and swept under the rug."

Last year Lambda Legal launched an ongoing public education campaign about the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students. That campaign, called "Out, Safe and Respected," features television and radio public service announcements and a "tool kit" for use by students.

Lambda Legal is joined on the case by cooperating attorneys at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP. That team includes Robert Del Tufo, a former Attorney General of New Jersey, who was in office when the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination was amended in 1993 to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Massachusetts strikes anti-marriage amendment

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force hailed the Sept. 14 defeat of a proposed Massachusetts constitutional amendment seeking to ban same-sex marriage and create civil unions. The measure was defeated by a vote of 157 to 39 by the state Legislature meeting in a joint constitutional convention, having passed the body in March, 2004, by a vote of 105-92. Had it passed, it would have been on the statewide ballot in November, 2006.

The amendment would have defined marriage in the Constitution as between one man and one woman, effectively dismantling the more than 6,000 marriages that have taken place since equal marriage rights were first legally recognized in May 2004.

"Today's vote proves that dogged grass-roots organizing can change legislative votes," said Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "We were able to win this vote not only by being on-the-ground partners with them in preserving marriage equality in the one state where it now exists."

"The reality of thousands of our marriages in Massachusetts showed the utter fallacy of our opponents' arguments and dire predictions," Foreman said. "Not only did the crops not wither, the Red Sox won the World Series and the Patriots took the Super Bowl."

"This victory is especially sweet. The Legislature's resounding defeat of the mean-spirited amendment to strip away our right to marry affirms and echoes the courageous stand of our state's Supreme Judicial Court. In its Goodridge decision, the Court confirmed full recognition of our families' human dignity and goodness and today, our Legislature agreed," said Cambridge resident Sue Hyde, a longtime Task Force staff and co-founder and board member of MassEquality.

"The Task Force's Sue Hyde of Cambridge helped form MassEquality four years ago and since then the Task Force has only increased in commitment in Massachusetts," said MassEquality Campaign Director Marty Rouse. "We are proud of our partnership with the Task Force - with their expertise we were able to surpass our voter ID goals this summer. Together, we have built a growing equal marriage majority in Massachusetts."

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Articles of Faith: Sewing a quilt of Black gay and spiritual pride

By the Rev. Cedric Harmon

The Book of Proverbs tells us, "Pride goeth before a fall." In the case of Black Gay Pride celebrations, Pride went and will go on before the fall and throughout the fall, from July through October, as thousands of African-American lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people come together in cities across the country to celebrate their lives. The celebrations allow black people to pull together the strands of their identities, to sew the patches of race, ethnicity, gender identity and sexuality into one beautiful quilt.

But there must be another piece for this glorious Quilt of Blackness to be complete. Throughout history, black people have found tremendous strength in communities of faith. And yet those communities of faith have sometimes been the first to reject their LGBT children.

And so, in addition to celebrating Black Gay Pride, we must also learn to celebrate Black Gay and Spiritual Pride. In order for the Quilt of Blackness to truly cover the feet of our community, it must be sewn together with the Quilt of Faith.

I went to a conference in Chicago from June 22-25 called Souls Afire 2: Re-Imagining Black Religious Identity, that gave me a foretaste of the kingdom (or kin-dom) to come, where the different strands of my identity as a black same-gender-loving man of faith could be brought together.

Maurice Charles, an Episcopal priest and doctoral candidate at the University of Chicago Divinity School, advised us to "Live to resist." Resist every force that seeks to dissuade us from voicing our desires and dissatisfaction. Resist the urge to be silent. Resist the safety of living quietly in alcnoves of apathy and complacency. Resist the labels heaped upon us by those opposing progress. Resist and re-imagine. Ours is a mandate to grow. While we are fully aware of the rich soil we grow out of, we must push our shoots out of the soil toward warm sunlight of this new day.

Liberation is dissent. Celebrate the prophetic call. Live to resist. These were among the messages worked into the quilt of Black Gay and Spiritual Pride during Souls Afire. But there are more pieces to be sewn in. The beauty of a quilt is not to be found in monochromatic color, nor in homogeneity of material, but rather in the artful piecing together of various bits of cloth, each with its distinction and color. So it is with the Quilt of Blackness and the Quilt of Faith. Dis­tinctions are not to be feared, but rather celebrated. A new, liberative expression of life to emerge. She encouraged us to be willing to break through these hard pieces, to leave behind binding standards of normative behavior in order that others who come after us will have a path to follow.

Bishop Yvette Flunder, founder and pastor of City of Refuge UCC in Oakland, exhorted us to embrace that "we have been called out of eternity into this time to do a specific work and to celebrate the prophetic call upon our lives." She told us that an amazing opportunity is being realized in our presence. The great social movements of previous centuries changed society in amazing and unforeseen ways, and we are now involved in such a social movement for positive change. Among the benefits of this push toward greater justice are not always evident to us while we struggle, but there will be benefits, including those potential benefits for the LGBT community, and the black community as a whole, are stronger family structures, a healthier population, increasing economic equality, more children in loving homes, and people realizing their full creative potential without fear of rejection because of who they love.

So, let us build that Quilt of Blackness and the Quilt of Faith; let us push these shoots out of the soil toward warm sunlight of this new day.

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The Empty Closet

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Friday, October 28 ............ 6:30 pm ............ Young Family Service

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Since the first gay and lesbian couples have tied the knot, families together just like straight couples. After six years debating the issue, it is time for the principle of Equal Justice to be heard as more and more constituents -- including those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. This facility has not only failed at that; but it has created an environment that is downright dangerous and increases the risk of sexual violence.

When the history books are written, added Rose, "it will be remembered that those who rejected prejudice and stood instead for the principle of Equal Justice will be remembered that their relationship was "bad" and that they were going to hell and referred to the couple's relationship as "this b*tchish shit." Other guards routinely made lewd and humiliating remarks to the couple, including, "You two eating fish smut! At least you're not finger-banging yourselves in the TV room."

Youth charge abuse by Hawai'i facility

The American Civil Liberties Union filed a federal civil rights lawsuit last month on Sept. 2 on behalf of three young people who say they've been abused and harassed because of their sexual orientation and gender identity while at the state's juvenile detention facility.

The Hawai'i Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF) is one of two facilities is the state where minors who have had trouble with the law are sent primarily for re habilitation. However, papers filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawai'i by the ACLU paint a picture of a toxic, terrifying atmosphere for koban, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth at the facility.

HYCF is supposed to treat all young people who've had trouble with the law equally and help them make positive chang es in their lives, but for LGBT youth, being sent there is a brutal and degrading experience, said Lois Perrin, Legal Director of the ACLU of Hawai'i. "The government should take care of our state's most troubled youth and teach them how to be productive citizens, not brutalize and abuse them."

Citing an extensive list of shocking incidents, the ACLU alleges that officials at the Hawai'i Office of Youth Services and HYCF ignored and sometimes even participated in an atmosphere of anti-gay harassment, humiliation, and fear for youth in the facility, despite repeated pleas by doctors and psychologists who were concerned about the wards' safety and well-being.

Among the many incidents detailed in the ACLU brief:

- Male wards in the facility surrounded a ward who was perceived to be gay in the shower, threatening him with rape, and once rubbed semen into his face in the bathroom. When the young man reported the incidents, HYCF did nothing.
- On April 10, the head administrator at HYCF called a special meeting of all the guards and staff at one of the units in the facility for the specific purpose of singling out a lesbian couple to belittle them about their relationship. The administrator told the couple that their relationship was "disgusting," then required the other wards to create a list of rules for the couple; the wards decided that the girl shouldn't be allowed to even speak to each other under threat of disciplinary measures, including lockdown.

A male-to-female transgender student was repeatedly verbally abused and preached to by guards who called her "wrong" and "unnatural" and threatened to cut off her hair. After she was transferred to the boys unit, she was physically assaulted and groped, often in front of guards who did nothing. Rather than attempting to ensure her safety, HYCF segregated her for almost two months, and did not allow her to interact at all with other wards.

"HYCF has an obligation to ensure the safety of all young people in its care, including those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. This facility has not only failed at that; but it has created an environment that is downright dangerous and increases the risk of sexual violence." said Tamara Lange, a staff attorney with the ACLU's national Lesbian and Gay Rights Project. "This kind of environment is only going to make rehabilitation more difficult for these young people."

Representing a 17-year-old male-to-female transgender girl, an 18-year-old lesbian, and an 18-year-old boy perceived to be gay, the ACLU claims that the incidents at HYCF violate a host of plaintiffs' Constitutional rights, including equal protection and due process. The ACLU is asking the court to force HYCF to establish policies, procedures, and training to prevent further violating LGBT wards' civil rights.

Any LGBT person who has suffered similar experiences at HYCF and wants to tell his or her story should contact the ACLU of Hawai'i at office@acluhawaii.org or (808) 322-9900.

The ACLU of Hawai'i has long been involved in efforts to improve conditions at HYCF. In 2003, the ACLU issued a 34-page report detailing systemic problems at the facility. A year later, the U.S. Department of Justice also launched an investigation into conditions, policies, and practices at HYCF, and on Aug. 4, 2005, released its findings. Like the ACLU, the Department of Justice found widespread violations of the Constitu tion. See http://www.aclu.org/caseprofiles/...
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Arnie August was a big success, attended by 136 Motorcycle Club — but it has always been more like a family or brotherhood than just an organization.

The Rams' 30th anniversary run last August was a big success, attended by 136 men. An anniversary party open to the public, is planned for Oct. 22 at the Forum, 870 University Ave., starting at 10 p.m. Recently group members Russ S., President Bob F. and Chip M. talked to the Empty Closet about what has changed over the years — and what hasn't.

Russ said, "Eight or 10 men were in the first group — 30 years later there's still 10 of us! The high water mark for membership may have been 20 men c. 1983."

Bob joined the club in 1983, Russ in '87 and Chip in 1996. Russ said, "Some things have evolved, but a lot of things have stayed the same. I think we're more open in the community, and to the community. Most people don't perceive (leather) as being as scary as they used to. We do more public spirited, shall we say, involvement. We used to shy away from that."

Bob said, "From the beginning, the Rams have always given money. Over the years, we felt it was better for us, and the community, if we were more open about it. So we instituted the toy drive (for a children's center in Newark, Wayne Co.), and it's been very successful."

The 2005 Toy Drive will be Nov. 19. People are asked to come to the Forum with a new, unwrapped children's toy. Everyone who brings a toy or makes a donation of $5 or more will get a free beer or well drink from the Rams and the Forum.

The Rams have also donated to organizations like Docters Without Borders (during the tsunami disaster on Dec. 26, 2004), They raised $500 for Hurricane Katrina relief in September.

Bob continued, "One reason we're more comfortable is that leather is more accepted in the community. International Mr. Leather (IML) is in Chicago every year, and the whole contest concept has made things more visible. People see it more... and they also realize it's profitable."

While this and other things, like the pledge process, have changed, Chip noted that one of the things that hasn't changed is "our core values — our bonding, our closeness with each other."

The three agreed that many of the newer clubs are more social than fraternal. Bob said, "They drink beer a lot and party a lot, which is fine, but if you find they don't know each other real well. When the chips are down... well, a few years ago, when our president Rich was very ill, the Rams just showed up and made a work schedule..."

Russ finished, "The last couple weeks there was a Ram in the house 24 hours."

What does the future hold? Bob said, "That's a good question. I believe you evolve or you die. You have to change with the times. But you have to hold on to core values... The contests have changed the focus (of newer clubs), because people don't have to join clubs now to be part of the leather scene. New York and Washington D.C. used to have a lot of clubs, but now they just have a couple."

Chip said, "A lot of older clubs have gone in the last 10 years because it's easy now. New clubs are social and you just pay your dues and get your colors."

Empire City MC, at over 30 years, is the oldest club in New York State that is still going, they said. The Cleveland Unicorns celebrate their 24th anniversary this year. The Rams always enjoy going to the Unicorns run, which entails camping in the woods with no electricity or modern amenities.

Russ said, "As far as N.Y.S., we are probably the strongest club outside New York City."

Bob said, "We've been very lucky with Arnie and the bar, because having a steady bar and income makes all the difference."

Russ agreed, "The bar is integral to our club's survival."

The men have also witnessed many changes in society's attitudes towards gays and towards leather. Gay sexuality and leather sexuality have both always been demonized, and the open, unapologetic combination of the two still makes some people very uncomfortable, even in the light community.

Bob commented, "When I joined the Rams it was a year after I came out. I'd been going to Dignity Integrity, and when I came out, a lot of people there didn't seem to understand, so I stopped going. The sexual side was all that came to mind, and they didn't think of it as having a beer on the porch with your buddies."

Russ joked, "We separate the men from the pre-verts all right."

Chip said, "I heard stories about the Rams in the mid-'90s, and I was, 'Where's the bar? because it was something I was interested in, and I started hanging out with the guys.'"

Russ said, "I stood in awe of the Rams for several years before I had the nerve to join."

In some ways, Bob said, the old days of repression had their positive side. "It was more fun..."

Chip summarized, "It's very positive that we can be out, in the forefront, show who we are. It's giving kids who we are. It's giving kids who are into leather somewhere to go. The downside is the gay bashing. Some people very uncomfortable, even in the 1990s."

"I want to be a Ram!" Russ mocked.

Bob said, "That's one tradition we've held on to — our dress code. When I came out, I wanted to be no gay masculine role models at all."

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A new church is born: Tawa Pano Unity Fellowship Church

By The Reverend Dr. Sharon Jacobson

"I am about to do a new thing: now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

This statement found in the writings of the prophet Isaiah 43:19 could not be more true when it comes to Rochester. God is about to do a new thing in Rochester. God is creating a new church called Tawa Pano Unity Fellowship Church. Tawa Pano is Zimbabwean for "We Are Here."

The name comes from a Zimbabwean hymn called "Jesu Tawa" (Jesus, we are here). We picked the name for a few reasons: (a) it is about the church as a community of color to witness to the world (look at us, who we are); (b) it is a recognition that despite the trials in our individual lives WE ARE here to worship and finally (c) it is a statement of political survival, that despite what the church and others have said about us and our lives, WE ARE HERE as a same sex/same gender loving community of color to witness to the truth that Jesus loves us just as we are. This is our primary message – that God is love and that love is for everyone.

Tawa Pano Unity Fellowship Church is the newest member of the Unity Fellowship Church Movement. The inspiration or vision to establish Unity Fellowship Church was given to its founder, Reverend Carl Bean. After many years of study and seeking spiritual truth, it was revealed to Rev. Bean that the spiritual path is eternal and traveled by all. "We all partake of spirit for without spirit there is no life."

The one fact that was consistently revealed to Rev. Carl Bean in his dreams, visions, and other heightened spiritual experiences is that nothing compares with, equals or surpasses the love and that love is for everyone.

Elder Holland talks about Unity Fellowship Church’s vision of love

My full name is Elder Rev. Jacqueline Holland. I was born in Hickory, N.C., and moved to New York City when I was about 18 years old. Though I have lived in the city most of my life, I spent every summer in North Carolina until I was about 18 years old. So I consider myself a "country" woman. I love the quiet and living close to trees, grass, etc.

I graduated from Hunter College, I am presently finishing up my masters of theological study at Drew University. The Unity Fellowship Church Movement was started in 1985 by Archbishop Carl Bean. His experience of the church was that it has exclusivist practices. It taught about God and Jesus, however it did not welcome or embrace many of God’s children. People who were black and lesbians, gay, bisexual or transgendered were cast aside by the church.

He also felt there was no place for people who were IV drug users, commercial sex workers and homeless people. The church doors were not opened to this portion of God’s creation. Archbishop Bean searched the scriptures of the Bible and drew to the verse where Jesus says, "When I was hungry you did not feed me, when I was thirsty you did not give me water, when I was naked you did not clothe me."

It was in response to having done this to the "least of these," have you done this for me. The movement was started so that everyone who preaches the message of society would know God loves them as well. The motto of the movement is "God is Love and Love is for Everyone. God is not partial, God loves all equally."

Unity’s theology directly refutes the theological perspective of the fundamentalist. It is true most of what you see in the national media is not what we believe in. However, I think liberal views are getting out more and more. Unity's priority is to publicly speak out against fundamentalism, homophobia, etc. It is a very large job for a national movement. However, we also take the opportunity, when the public is receptive, to publicly speak out against fundamentalist doctrine.

It is our intention to be in the job of those who have access to media and who are liberal thinkers to get more press for organizations like Unity. We are often in the papers and on television.

I am very excited about the Tawa Pano Unity Fellowship Church of Rochester. I know Rev. Jacobson and the church will do great things for this community.
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Laurie Schulman
Associate Broker
Angry about the primary
To the Editor:
I write this the day after (primary vote) elected Bob Duffy as the (Democratic Party) nominee.
In short, I'm angry. I'm angry that Mayor Johnson, City Newspaper and the D&C admitted that Tim Mains was the most qualified candidate, but yet endorsed others. I'm mad that Bob Duffy slated through the process by spouting fuzzy generalities, instead of naming our city's problems and offering concrete solutions. And I'm mad that the electorate chose to view the democratic primary as a popularity contest, instead of a considered evaluation of the candidates' qualifications.

The best thing Bob Duffy can do right now is offer Tim Mains a leadership position (perhaps Deputy Mayor) in his administration, in return for Tim's endorsement. And, while we all know that gay people who should care about Rochester's future are voting for those candidates with support, enthusiastically endorsed Tim, calling him "an excellent leader who will work hard for this city, an individual who will soldier on through (often fallacious) to obtain hard-won gains, an acceptance from Tim would ensure that he could continue in public administration, in return for Tim's endorsement."

Yes. I've learned that anyone really knows what strength it takes, and how hard these people work so you can have a better life. The least you could do is get off your lazy ass and go vote when you are supposed to. We will have a great opportunity to elect like-minded hopefuls in several key roles in all levels of government. While these wretched accusations are still being propagated, I'm still not convinced that the local light community will be able to rise to the occasion. Perhaps this will be our ultimate victory.

Empire State Pride Agenda, which produces to play a significant role in shaping legislation with respect to light equality and civil rights, totally dropped the ball by not endorsing a candidate for mayor of Rochester. They did, however, endorse other races in Rochester and Monroe County. Let me go out on a limb and say that two local ESAs who ran in the Democratic Party campaign might have something to do with the "no endorsement" decision.

Joe Terrer, Communications Director for ESPA, publicly returned my calls after considerable deliberation, only to tell me they officially have "no comment" on why they didn't endorse a candidate. I'd be remiss if I didn't say that ESPA's support is critical to services that the GAGV offers, and we in the Rochester community are eternally grateful for that. However, it does hurt that we had to listen to the ESPA crowd say "we love Alex like no one else and I hope he won," while we're listening!

Love,
Tom Elston

Political apathy, tough talk, and ESPA drops the ball
To the Editor:
Some things never cease to amaze me. I'm really in a state of disbelief. It reminds me of the emotional rollercoaster I rode back on Nov. 3, 2004.
In these past seven months, I have walked through the streets, attended over 20 forums, knocked on doors, got chased by dogs, and talked to some really great people about the future of our city. Never in my wildest dreams would I have believed that only 34 percent of the 98,000 registered Democrats would vote on primary election day, Sept. 13, 2005.
In a time when issues of local and national importance seem to be omnipresent, the truth is that far too many people who should care about Rochester's future just don't give a damn. This is especially true for the light community, which was conspicuously absent when the local candidates needed them most. Were you on primary day?
It's not as if the candidates were just going through the motions, either. Does anyone really know what strength it takes, and how hard these people work so you can have a better life? The least you could do is...

Goodbye from Brendan McDonough
To the Editor:
Writing for the Empty Closet has been one of the best experiences of my career. Sadly, it is time for me to move on. I have accepted a position as a news anchor at a TV station in W. Virginia. Before I go, I would like to thank the Empty Closet for giving me an opportunity when no one else would. I enjoyed covering every assignment that was handed to me. Through these stories I learned so much about the many issues facing the GLBT community here in Rochester.
The men and women here truly opened their hearts to me. I have met some amazing people. Including one special guy named Alex. I shared so much with him and learned so much. Great dude at the same time. I love Alex like no one else and I hope he knows it.
Thank you Alex and thank you Empty Closet for all the wonderful assignments. It has truly been a pleasure writing for you. I will miss you.
Love,
Brendan McDonough

Local and State
(Continued from page 3)
Lifetime Care offers new Bereavement Group for grieving partners
Lifetime Care is sponsoring a bereavement support group from the perspective of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. Men and women whose spouse or other has will be welcome at the Community Center for Compassion and Healing, 2111 S. Winton Rd.
Meetings will take place the first and third Thursdays of each month, beginning Oct. 6, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Spots are limited by a professional facilitator and will include grief education, readings, and opportunities for talking and sharing similar experiences—all offered with special sensitivity toward "disfranchised" grieving people.
No pre-registration is required for these ongoing, open-drop-in meetings. A small donation to hospice is requested if participants are able.
There is convenient parking directly beside the building.
Please feel free to call Tom Munson, Manager of Bereavement Services at Lifetime Care/Hospice of Rochester, for more information (214-1441).

State Aging Society conference to include LGBT senior issues
The 3rd Annual Meeting of the State Society on Aging of New York will take place on Oct. 18-20. The theme of the conference is "Aging, Younger and Tornow: The Community of New York State".
Kim Dill, ED of Sage Uptown, will be one of the keynotes. Coordinating the Empire State Pride Agenda will also be attending and staffing an information table with information highlighting the special needs of LGBT seniors, as well as educating people about resources (like GAG, Rainbow Seniors, etc.) that Area Offices on Aging can use. The website is at www.sasny.org. Click on Annual Conference for more details about the three-day program.
GAG Community Relations Director Todd Plassk said, "It's very encouraging that LGBT issues are being gradually incorporated into area conferences on aging. We can use these progress reports to lure local agencies and politicians to be more proactive in addressing the unique needs of LGBT seniors."

Liberty Research Group hosts Halloween Party for children, families affected by HIV
The party will be at the Auditorium Theatre, located at 875 E. Main St. (corner of East Main and Prince St.) on Oct. 30, from 2-7 p.m.
The theme for this event is "We Care...for our Children, Families and Communities." Everyone will take care of affected families throughout the region.
It also gives a chance for families to express their feelings to medical and social support personnel and gives the general community a chance to embrace those who were once afraid of their families.
Ticket are $5 each; RSVP no later than 10/15/05.
For more information: (585) 244-9177.
GAY GRAND CENTRAL: Big Cup, a Chelsea coffeehouse, closed on 8/28. The coffeehouse was opened in 1994 and was nicknamed "Gay Grand Central" for New Yorkers. Pixie Couture performs for patrons on closing night.

I WANT MY GAY TV: Television's New Gay Networks at the LGBT Community Center. Out Professionals presented the event on Aug. 17, which analyzed marketing and programming appeal of gay and lesbian viewers. Pictured is Frank Olson (Q Television Network).

WIGSTOCK REVISITED: Wigstock 20th Anniversary at the Howl Festival in Tompkins Square Park. Founder Lady Bunny is at the microphone.

JERSEY DREAM: “One American Dream” Jersey City Pride Festival took place Aug. 27 at Exchange Place in Jersey City, N.J. Kiahala Temple sings the national anthem.

DRAG QUEEN DIARY: Queer Book Club presents “Diary of a Drag Queen” with author Daniel Harris at Barnes & Noble in Chelsea on Aug. 23. Pictured are Daniel Harris and Trai La Trash.
A Big Thank You
for your support so far,
from Tim Mains
and
the entire Mains For Mayor campaign

Tim is still very much in race for mayor, as the Working Families Party candidate.

For 20 years Tim has been the city’s best advocate for issues that concern you, and he needs your support now.

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For experienced leadership and innovative policies, to make Rochester a better, more exciting place to live, support Tim.

Volunteers and financial support are needed and welcome.

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585-325-6140
**Angels approaches Nazareth College**

**By Bobby Morris**

The Nazareth College Department of Theatre Arts is kicking off its 2005-2006 season this fall with Tony Kushner’s Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *Angels in America*, Part One: *Millennium Approaches*. For those not familiar with it, the play addresses the history of AIDS epidemic and its impact on society.

*Angels in America* is one of the finest plays written in the last half of the 20th century, says Director Lindsay Reading-Korth. "Like all important scripts, it transcends its contemporary period. On the other hand, it does speak to contemporary issues — issues such as sexuality and HIV/AIDS, which the play is well-known for tackling. As North explains, "No, we are not still in the first horrific throes of the AIDS epidemic, though AIDS is frighteningly still more present and more dangerous than our complacency as a culture would indicate, but we are still desperately in need of the very same dialogue in today’s world."

"On anything I’ve written before, I think that I’ve hit my stride yet?" Charles Busch looks back and toward the future

**By Daniel Haughery, Chichester, Publicity**

Charles Busch received the first ImageMaker Award Oct. 8.

For the first time in its 13-year history, ImageOut will be giving an honorary award to an individual in the global LGBTQ community for his or her "courageous contributions" and overall contribution to the arts.

When writer and actor Charles Busch was first mentioned as a possible recipient of the honor, the level of enthusiasm among the programming committee, the publicity committee, and ImageOut’s board of directors must have been high, for he was the perfect choice. It seemed like everyone had just adored his drag queen alter ego, but, in truth, Charles Busch was that he is about to hit it really big with his motion picture directorial debut, *A Very Serious Person*, set for release next year. It is true that the majority of Busch’s work thus far has been on the New York stage, but as most of his now-legendary theatrical productions indicate, his desire to ‘conquer the world’ began many years ago. "In 1976, when I first staged *Dinner at the Blackbird*, the New York Times called me a star, but I’m not sure that I was a star. In fact, I was rather unimpressed with the play itself. In 1978, when I produced *angels in America*, I was told I was a star, but I don’t think I was a star. In 1980, when I produced *Philly Beach Party* and *Die, Madonna, Die*, and the Los Angeles Times said that I was going to be a star, I was not sure that I was going to be a star. In 1982, when I produced *Psycho Beach Party and Die, Madonna, Die*, and the New York Times said that I was going to be a star, I was not sure that I was going to be a star. In 1984, when I produced *Blackfriars Theatre* was located directly across from the theater,"

Blackfriars Theatre is located at 28 Lawson St., off Broadway in the East End. The theater is on the second floor, accessible by elevator. Parking is available in the lot directly across from the theater entrance. An Induction Loop (IL) for the hearing impaired is available, tickets can be purchased at the box office or by phone.

Blackfriars Theatre Box Office is located in John Hal­doupis Design at 248 East Ave., next to the Little Theatre. Seating is reserved and MasterCard, Visa and Discover are accepted at no additional charge.

For information and reservations, please call 654-1260. If available, tickets can be purchased at the box office or by phone.

Blackfriars Theatre Box Office hours are Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday noon to 4 p.m. For more information regarding Blackfriars Theatre, please visit their website at www.blackfriars.org.

**Blackfriars Theatre presents Mamet’s Boston Marriage**

Blackfriars Theatre, a not-for-profit professional theater in Rochester’s Cultural East End District, is currently presenting the opening production of their 2005-2006 season, *Boston Marriage*, a comedy by David Mamet. The play, which opened in Septem­ber, runs until Oct. 8.

One of America’s most revered and provocative drama­tists, David Mamet (Glengarry, Glengarry, Sex, Lies and Videotape) conquer­ns new territory with this droll comedy of.Error set in a Victo­rian drawing room. Anna and Claire are two bantam­ting, schem­ing “women of fashion” who have long lived together on the fringes of upper-class society. Anna has just become the mistress of a wealthy man, from whom she has received an enormous emerald and an income to match. Claire, meanwhile, is infatuated with a respectable young lady whom she wants to enlist the jealous Anna’s help for an advantageous marriage.

The two women exchange barbs and take turns taunting Anna’s hapless Scottish parlor maid, Claire’s young inamorata, suddenly appears, setting off a cri­sis that poses both the valuable emerald and the nation’s future at risk. To this wicked­ly funny comedy, Mamet brings his trademark tart dial­ogue, and impecc­able plotting, spiked with Wildenstein wit.

*Boston Marriage* is directed by Linda Starkweath­er, with set design and costumes by John Hal­doupis, lighting design by Daniel R. O’Donnell, and stage manage­ment by Sue Beard. The cast includes Dawn McElroy as The Maid, Jill Ritten­ger as Anna, and Tamara Farias-Kraus as Claire. *Boston Marriage* will pre­sented at Blackfriars Theatre Oct. 6 at 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 7, 8 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 8 at 1 p.m. Tickets are available for $24 (Sr. Citizens 60-plus) receive a $2 discount; and Full-time student tickets are $12.

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Leathermen compete in Toronto next month

Mr. Leatherman Toronto Competition Inc. will present the MLT 2006 Competition Weekend will be held Nov. 24 - 25. The MLT Competition Weekend has become the largest city leather title event in North America and one of the most prestigious and popular competition weekends. It is ranked with the Mid-Atlantic Leather Weekend and The American Brotherhood Weekend.

Spanning four days, MLT has created an exciting package of events culminating with the MLT Competition and Victory Ball. Beginning with the MLT titleholders Roast on Thursday and wrapping up with the Victory Brunch and Wind-down Barbecue on Sunday, there are over 15 events planned as part of the weekend. Ticket prices for the MLT Weekend have been set at $125CDN for the VIP Weekend Package, $45CDN for the Competition and Victory Ball, and $35CDN for the Victory Ball only. Tickets will go on sale soon at Northbound Leather (Toronto) and Priape (Toronto) and through our travel provider Rainbow High Vacations.

The MLT Competition weekend comprises two major competitions. The premiere event is the Mr. Leatherman Toronto Competition. Competition started in 1978 and it went into hiatus in 1992. Reinstated in 1996, the MLT Competition has grown into one of the biggest night bar contests in the major weekend it is today. Preliminary contests held by local business are held to select the competitors for the Mr. Leatherman Toronto competition. The preliminary titleholders go on to compete in five different categories for the title of Mr. Leatherman Toronto. As part of the MLT competition, the competitors vote for the contestant who best displays the spirit of brotherhood and community spirit. The individual selected by the constraints is awarded the Mr. Leather Fellowship title.

This year, the MLT Competition will once again return to its traditional venue. The Koolhaus. Located on Queen’s Quay, the Koolhaus is part of the Government Entertainment Complex (132 Queens Quay East, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 3S7, www.thegovemment.com). The MLT 2006 Competition will be hosted by three emcees this year. Returning to the stage this year will be David Kloss, International Mr. Leather 1979, and joining him will be the world renowned Fetish Diva Mirdi www.fhp-inc.com/html/news.html (San Francisco), and the renowned comedic duo Sann Carr www.sann.carr.com. Sann Carr will be the featured performer for the MLT Competition. The Fetish Diva Mirdi will dazzle the guests at the Venery Ball by staging an incredible S/M Fantasy.

Beginning immediately after the MLT Competition concludes, the Victory Ball brings together the pounding rhythms and incredible stage shows to create a wild celebration of Victory! The Victory Ball launches our new titleholders into their year.

MLT has again partnered with Rainbow High Vacations to provide travel and booking services for our out of town guests. To book your air travel, accommodations and tickets contact John and his staff at 1-800-387-1245 or www.rainbowhighvacations.com.

This year, MLT has a new official accommodation partner. We have partnered with The Cawthra Square Inns to bring the best of our small intimate inns to our guests and to insure that we can provide for the needs of our out of town guests, The Cawthra Square Inns have brought on board, the Primrose Hotel to be their hotel partner. Be sure to check out what The Cawthra Square Inns can provide at www.cawthrasquare.com.

The Mr. Leatherman Toronto Competition Inc. is a registered not for profit corporation in Ontario. It is widely recognized as one of the largest, dynamic and prestigious leather community organizations in North America. Run by volunteer board of directors and staffed by over 30 dedicated volunteers it stages over 100 events a year including our signature events, Resurrection, Leather Ball and our premiere event The Mr. Leatherman Toronto Competition Weekend. Since its founding in 1989 MLT has donated in excess of $300,000 to its designated beneficiaries. In 2004, MLT raised and donated to the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives $11,000.00. For further information about MLT and its activities, please visit our website at www.mltinc.com.
Halloween History: what goes around...

By Susan Jordan

Halloween wasn’t always about vampire movies and little kids collecting mass quantities of candy. Some historians and folklorists trace the origins of Halloween back to the Celts’ Samhain festival, which was celebrated on October 31st. This day was believed to be a time when the boundary between the living and the dead was at its weakest, making it easier for spirits from the Otherworld to enter our world. The Celts, who believed in a pantheon of gods and goddesses, held a special reverence for the dead and marked the transition from summer to winter with a day of remembrance.

The festival was marked by feasting, dancing, and the letting loose of all kinds of supernatural beings. It was a time when ghosts, goblins, and fairies were said to be most active, and people would often wear costumes or carry items that were thought to ward off evil spirits.

As the festival spread to other cultures, it was adapted and transformed in various ways. In the Christian church, it was recognized as the day when the gates of hell were opened and souls were allowed to return to Earth for one last visit with their loved ones. It was seen as a time when prayers were answered, and the dead were allowed to speak and be heard.

Over time, the festival moved away from its religious roots and became more secular, particularly in the United States. Today, Halloween is celebrated with trick-or-treating, costume parties, and other festive activities. It is a time when people dress up in costumes and enjoy a night of fun and adventure, all while honoring the spirits of the dead.

While the origins of Halloween may be shrouded in mystery, one thing is certain: the spirit of the festival has endured for centuries, remaining a beloved part of our culture and traditions.
Busch (continued from page 1)

is able and with an amazing nobility of spirit. I really think I'm channeling them when I play my female characters. So drag becomes a way of keeping them alive and close to me. It doesn't come from an angry or even satirical place. If you take away the melodramatic excess of a movie like Die Mammie Die, it really is the story of an aunt who desperately wants her sister's children to love her. And honestly, I didn't realize that until I saw it with a full audience on a big screen.

DAN: With your big, mainstream Broadway success, The Tale of the Allegniter's Wife, and your work on the book of the American version of the musical Taboo, you've begun to work on projects that are very different from the work that first made you famous. You didn't even write parts for women for years. Was it really the story of an aunt who desperately wants her sister's children to love her? And honestly, I didn't realize that until I saw it with a full audience on a big screen.

CHARLES: It is strange that playing male roles is so challenging to me. I'm glad that a lot of people seem to think that what I did on Oz, I think I could have been better. I'm just not that experienced playing male characters. I've played thousands of performances in female roles and that's what I'm most comfortable at. But it's good to push yourself. And I'd like to go farther in expressing very real emotion in my acting. I also greatly admire a certain kind of very minimalistic scene acting and that's hard to do within the confines of a drag movie satire.

I just finished directing my first film this past summer. I co-wrote it with my friend, Carl Andress, and I'm playing a male character in it. It's stylistically very different from my previous films. It's called A Very Serious Person and it's a contemporary story about a 12-year-old gay boy who's being raised by his grandmother. I'd say it's emotionally if not factually autobiographical. The general tone of the film is very low and I play a rather enigmatic but sympathetic male nurse who comes to live with them.

It's very much about the mentor relationship I have with the young boy as I try to prepare him for his future after his grandmother's death. There's surprisingly a lot of humor in the story. I kind of think it's a mandate for every gay writer to write something about gay youth. Too many people in this country seem to think that at the age of 12, they just make an arbitrary decision to go gay. One of the interesting things about this movie is that it's not about external homosexuality. The boy is actually rather free and comfortable about his androgynous nature and budding sexual feelings. It's the gay adults who are conflicted by how he should express himself in public.

DAN: What is it about directing that has made you want to take on all that extra responsibility and all those innumerable headaches?

CHARLES: I've actually had wonderful collaborations with my directors in film and in theatre, but I guess it's a natural progression for many writers to want to be the one who has the final say. The director in both mediums is the ultimate boss. And I find the writer is usually in the role of a sort of 1950s housewife. If you have opinions, you have to whisper it to the director's ear and often make him feel like it was his idea. That's just the way the protocol is. You're instructed never to speak directly to the actors. At a certain point in life, you just want to tell someone directly what you're thinking. Also, in my previous films, I had no involvement in the visual look of the films aside from my own costumes. I have a strong visual sense and it's wonderful being able to use that. At the moment, we're editing the new movie and I'm learning so much. I can't wait to start another film based on what I've learned doing this one.

DAN: Looking at today's cinema, both mainstream and independent gay cinema, how would you rate it? Any particular likes or dislikes?

CHARLES: If I have any general criticism of contemporary movie making, it's the use of over editing. Everything is so chopped up and speeded up. I'd like to see movies that told a story in its natural pace and let the actors' faces and bodies express what they're feeling and not something imposed in an editing room.

I do think we've made great strides in telling gay stories today. The portrayal of gay characters has gone from negative stereotypes to politically correct roles models to more original and realistic interpretations. I loved Greg Araki's film Mysterious Skin. It had genuine mystery and made me see things differently. And it was told in a deceptively straightforward and classical style. That movie alone makes me want to work harder and learn more about filmmaking.

ET News: gay film and theatre

By Sherrill Fulghum

Two recent events have taken gay film and theatre out of the small local venues and cast it in the limelight, entertaining and enlightening audiences from Venice to New York and Wyoming to World War II. At the Venice film festival early in September, the director of Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon and "Hulk," Ang Lee, took home the Golden Lion for his independent low budget movie Breakback Mountain. Lee beat out 19 other films in contention for the award, including festival favorite George Clooney, for the coveted Golden Lion.

"Breakback Mountain" is the story of forbidden love between two cowboys in 1963 Wyoming mountains. Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal star as the two cowboys who carry on a love affair that lasts 20 years. Director Ang Lee describes the film as "a story of love against adversity.

As a part of the New York Musical Theatre Festival, the 36th Annual Miss Gay Rochester will be "Yank" -- a story about being gay in the military during World War II. The musical gets its name from a popular magazine for military personnel during the war. Using the musical genres of the '40s, "Yank" unfurls the love story of a war correspondent journalist and a private in the Army.

The New York Musical Theatre Festival spans the range in musical theatre. This year marks the third year of the festival, which celebrates the next generation of musical theatre. (Continued on page 8)
NOVEMBER 2005 • NUMBER 334 • GAY ALLIANCE OF THE GENESSEE VALLEY • THE EMPTY CLOSET

Please Note
The opinions of columnists, editors and writers and other contributing writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the collective attitude of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley or The Empty Closet.

Growing Up
The Old Man
By Eric Bellman
The Old Man made a mistake. Not in growing old, although at times that felt nearly a mistake, an unplanned state of being. Not in being a man, a choice he downsized. Since growing old is a gradual process, he’d gotten used to the changes in his body, he acknowledged, his hair, his taste, and his health. At times, he realized he was aging as a form of liberation. He could do and say what he wanted, and go as he pleased, move beyond claustrophobic boundaries. He remembered that for years he was the youngest person at any gathering. Now he was the oldest. Not that it had anything to do with drugs or aging, growing old. Growing up consumed more of his attention. He admired his hands, tanned and marked with the years, felt the veins he thought they betrayed was not yet unsettling. He believed he looked younger than his years. This was not the only gay cliché that defined his life.

He was mean. Not quite a man, a kid. Twenty-five: That’s what? Maybe not yet an adult, but no longer a child. But quite attractive, energetic and visible, possessing all those attributes we regret not having ourselves. And yes, he was too sexy. Not only all gay scenes are hard.

The mistake he now contemplated had enveloped him as gradually, as had age. The mistake was a relationship that had once seemed entertaining, amusing and meaningful, but which had turned difficult, just as the small ship in his behoof he tried to ignore turned into a persistent case of cancer. He had been a teacher. The Old Man had been a teacher. In his early career he was terrified of his students. They were too close in age. They triggered memories of the hardships and things he had suffered. He was desperate to suppress. As time passed, he came to regard teaching just as a way to earn money. He found the students either boring or irritating.

Then in recent years everything changed, told people that kids were different now. They had values, they were fun to talk with, and while they’d have a clue who Rita Hayworth was, they cared about the rain forests and reproductive rights. The kids were OK.

He reflected that perhaps in this new age of gay adoption and surrogate parenting, his interest in kids might be the flourishing of some recessive trait long dormant within his psychological makeup, only now bubbling to the surface. If he would love his founding if he were less attractive.

He had been grateful for support. He listened to advice. He tried even to meditate, to stay in the moment, but his troubling habit of overthinking problems persisted. To cope he smoked dope. The Old Man understood. Here was the solution for his behavior, a rational and unresponsive, the incomprehensible mood changes. He determined it was work that turned things.

The Old Man had been sober since C was in third grade. He, too, once found himself in some sort of coping with pain, a strategy he was fortunate enough to reconsider and then abandon. He understood that no line was inviolable because they’re naughty. Eventually, tenderly, C shared the ugliness of his facts, the injuries that always led to the same conventional form of pain relief, self-medication. The Old Man thought, indeed this is the work.

While C was able to articulate the problem, he was not so eager to explore solutions. His behavior did not change or, more accurately, his habits endured. He didn’t answer his phone, he showed up late to the meetings again after an answered up to say he couldn’t make it at all. C exhibited remorse. He said he knew he was a problem. He had a drive, he was stronger, he was more of a man; he had to deal with things. The Old Man’s experience had taught him. He was too set in his ways to change without help, therapy, treatment, the love of friends and strangers.

Then, one day when they were walking near Union Square, C turned and snapped at him. "You used to walk like a New Yorker!" I have burlies," the Old Man explained. C glared back. The Old Man’s heart ached—his child had turned cruel. It took him days to realize they had grown too close, he knew too much about him. He wrote a description of the perpetrator. He paid. C promised to cut the grass, shaved snow, anything to pay off the debt. Then he left.

For two years.

The Old Man was no slouch when it came to finance. He had good ideas, and they paid off the loan. "Are you sleepwalking with C?" his mother snapped, then added, "Not that it matters." He never stopped to consider why she said that. Her conversation revealed a smart woman who loved her son, knew his shortcomings. He never thought a about drugs for several days. Instead, he blamed himself for having made a mistake.

Weeks later, back home, he confided to a woman close to his own age, a mother of three, who listened, and smiled in sympathy, and said, "Welcome to parenthood." Email: ELBCGANDRT@EWEB.COM

Hear Me Out
COLD WATER POURED ON TRANSGENDER REFUGEE
by Madhur Das
After spending five harrowing days between being stuck on an Interstate 10 bridge in New Orleans and living at the totally lawless New Orleans Convention Center with precious little food or water, Sharmi Dominique, 22, wasnt cool enough.

But less than 24 hours after Dominique arrived at Texas A&M University in College Station, where she had been working on the campus’s Reed Arena with other evacuees facing the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, Dominique was booted out of jail. Simply for taking a shower.

Though Shari’s Dominique lives her life as a woman, she was born male, as Apollo Vicks.

As a pre-operative male-to-female transgender person, she is one of the female in the only clothes she escaped New Orleans with; a tight white shirt with the words " Ragnarok" on it in silver glitter, a pair of jeans and flip flops.

But in the shower, it was clear Dominique had been born male. The commander who runs the shelter at Texas A&M, John Van Alystne, says he had never encountered a colocated resident about Dominique using the women’s rest room.

He banned her not to use it again.

But Dominique says she felt unsafe using the men’s rest room, particularly to take a shower. So, she says, she asked and got permission from a shelter volunteer to take a shower in the women’s rest room.

After she came out of the women’s facilit-

BECAUSE Dominique was arrested for criminal trespassing.

Her being added the life-threatening peril of Hurricane Katrina, the 20-year-

age African American, who hopes to some-

day be able to provide a home for his niece to Texas A&M was going to be a lifesaver.

She never could have guessed she would last eight days for five days for wait to get clean.

Dominique’s case is one of the most dramatically illustrated cases of harassment and discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender offenders adds an extra layer of stress and anxiety for many who are also victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Unfortunately, members of the gay community, those under 21, and others, not as, they struggle to get their lives back to some semblance of normal.

If a heterosexual person lost his or her spouse due to the destruction of Hurricane Katrina, the surviving widow or widower believes they will receive Social Security benefits. Since the federal government does not recognize gay, lesbian, or other sexual partners, surviving partners in a gay or lesbian relationship will not receive any such help to get their lives back to normal.

Lawyers from Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, a national gay rights group, has expressed concern that the Federal Emer-

gency Management Agency — which is responsible for Social Security and regulations, including not recognizing gay, lesbian, or other sexual partners — excludes gay partners from family benefits.

But the most significant benefits, some of the most basic, are still denied. Social Security benefits are not given to same-sex couples, unless there is a legal union. Benefits are paid to those who are married and are married to their legal partners, unless there is a legal union. Benefits are paid to those who are married and are married to their legal partners, unless there is a legal union. Benefits are paid to those who are married and are married to their legal partners, unless there is a legal union.

Some of those questions are legal ones, and that does not fare well for gay people in the states hardest hit by the hurricane in Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi. None of those states are exactly known for their groundbreaking laws to protect gay people.

Neither is Texas, where many of the refugees have been evacuated.

But in one of the most dramatic of victories, the legal issues take a back to the more immediate and important questions of how gbt people will get the most basic, such as medical and other Social Security benefits are not given to same-sex couples, unless there is a legal union. Benefits are paid to those who are married and are married to their legal partners, unless there is a legal union. Benefits are paid to those who are married and are married to their legal partners, unless there is a legal union. Benefits are paid to those who are married and are married to their legal partners, unless there is a legal union.

After reviewing her file, Kubovick ordered Dominique to be released from jail.

C "lacked criminal intent to violate law," he said in published reports.

After her release from the women’s facil-

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As a pre-operative male-to-female transgender person, she is one of the female in the only clothes she escaped New Orleans with; a tight white shirt with the words " Ragnarok" on it in silver glitter, a pair of jeans and flip flops. She turned her back to the shower, to the comfort of the women’s rest room.

Although the outside of her women’s facil-

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Cleaning My Closet

by Meredith Elizabeth Reiniger

Halloweens in every nook and cranny of every store since August has driven me crazy. I have nightmares about my politically incorrect costume and the many others that I have yet, I now understand that costumes have been hanging in all of my closets.

Once upon a time, I was a bunny rabbit. "Rabbit" is the species and "bunny" is the cutest of the cutest. I was in kindergarten. My mother sewed the costume; my father made the ears from coat hangers. Once I was dressed-up, I hippity hopped to school and carried on. I switched to hot pink and its ilk. I wore vivid neckties, knotted loose, hanging down out of short skirts, toes and heels peek-a-booing from leather strapped shoes, brazenly and extravagantly popping above lowered necklines. Women want to their workplaces looking like it was trick-or-treat.

As if gender issues didn't cause enough clothes conflict. What to do when the once-a-girl, then-a-woman, now-a-womyn had to plan another wardrobe revision? Nightmares again... lipstick lesbians wearing a potato farmer who had origi­nally owned most of the property along the country road.

Something about the house caught our attention. I'm not sure if it was the odor of diesel fumes that came in on the floor in the basement right of some low budget slasher movie, or the pitch of my dad's voice. The reason I wasn't really dressing up like a man; I was, albeit naively, mocking an error of gender myths. The green witch girl is the species and "bunny" is the cutest of the cutest. I was in kindergarten. My mother sewed the costume; my father made the ears from coat hangers. Once I was dressed-up, I hippity hopped to school and carried on. I switched to hot pink and its ilk. I wore vivid neckties, knotted loose, hanging down out of short skirts, toes and heels peek-a-booing from leather strapped shoes, brazenly and extravagantly popping above lowered necklines. Women want to their workplaces looking like it was trick-or-treat.

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At this point Bernie turned to me and whispered. "The starting price's low. Do you want me to bid on this dog?"

"Of course, I enthusiastically nodded my head."

The next thing I knew, the auctioneer was rapping his gravel on the table and loudly announced: "Sold to the homosexual and his partner standing in the corner next to the window!" Okay, maybe the auctioneer didn't look at me, but he did "say" sold and instead of getting a chili dog, we got a house.

Just as the auctioneer announced that we had bought the house, there was a flash of lightning and a gigantic crash of thunder. Everyone jumped and my mother leaned forward, put her hand on my shoulder and whispered. "Don't worry. That's just Mother Nature saying she's glad you bought this place."

Over the next few weeks we discovered that two of the three wells on the property were dry. And the one good well pumped water. The roof needed to be replaced. The sexual and his partner standing in the corner next to the window was haunted."

"I'm not denying the importance of having a physical attraction to someone you love. But it should not be the only rule of attraction."

"And I have faith that there is someone willing to look beyond my physical attributes and see the potential I hold. And I promise to also look for the potential in others."

"Trust me when I say I'm not bitter. Just a little hungry for love yet."

Email: Misadventuresinboyland@bomenil.com

Queer & Healthy
COMING OUT FOR HEALTH
By Erik Libby
This month, on Oct. 11, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people all over the country will celebrate "National Coming Out Day."

A tradition began on Oct. 11, 1988, to commemorate the first ever March On Washington for LGBT Rights (which happened on that date the year prior), National Coming Out Day has become an event which gives LGBT people the opportunity to come out to others about their sexuality and identity and provides a means of increasing the visibility of gay people and their struggle for equality.

This "Holiday" for our community has become a day of real significance for many — especially for adolescents and on college campuses nationwide. This year I thought it was a good opportunity to revisit a coming out issue that we’ve addressed here before: coming out to your physician.

This is an important issue because a significant number of LGBT people have physicians and other medical providers with whom they have not shared their sexual orientation. In fact, an often-quoted study done in New York City and San Francisco, indicated that roughly one third of openly gay men had not disclosed their sexual orientation to their doctor(s). These findings lead (or can) be used to believe that in smaller cities, rural areas, and for those who are not "out" in other areas of their lives, percent- ages may be even higher.

There are a number of reasons, of course, why an LGBT person might not come out to a doctor. Many people have had negative experiences with providers. (A 1994 study conducted by the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association showed that 67 percent of physicians and medical students report knowledge of "unnecessary care or denial of care" to LGBT individuals.)

In addition, many people already feel insecure or vulnerable in medical settings so coming out to a doctor or nurse increases their anxiety level. Still others choose not to share their sexual orientation with a doctor because they feel it isn't important, or that topics so personal aren't any of the doctor's business.

Unfortunately, the exact opposite is the case. In ANY doctor-patient relationship, a certain level of trust, honesty, and openness is important to getting good quality health-care. In the case of LGBT patients, however, this becomes even more key. Numerous studies have shown that there are a number of health conditions, some of them very serious, for which LGBTI individuals are at higher/increased risk. If a doctor is unaware that they are seeing a patient who is gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, they may require transferring to a new provider. This is an important step in the struggle to come out to one's doctor.

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For Your Real Estate Needs
January will include a duet with the young British singer, which will not be released until March of 2007.

Leah’s song “Vampire” has ended its run on Broadway, but leaves a legacy behind with its music. In the East Village, the newsmagazine “In the Life” marks 14th season. The groundbreaking Showtime series “Queer as Folk” has begun its 15th anniversary with its annual fall dinner in New York City. Some 1,200 politicians and friends and supporters of the ESPA will attend the dinner, which will be emceed by Mario Contino and Gina Gerson.

Sir Elton John is vying for the title as the hardest-working man in show business. John says that he has been sober for 15 years and the energy he used to put into drugs he now uses on various entertainment projects.

On Nov. 8 John will release a holiday album “Elton’s Christmas Party,” which will include a duet with the young British phenom Joss Stone. The album is being released exclusively through Starbucks Coffee stores and $2 from each album sale will go to Sir Elton’s AIDS Foundation.

Sir Elton has turned up once again with his song writing partner of over 15 years, Bernie Taupin, to work on a new album with his partner Jennifer Scism to learn the process of producing a Yes album and making it successful. Defying a Vatican order sometimes radicals appear in the most unlikely places. Defying a Vatican order, sometimes radicals appear in the most unlikely places.

The season begins with “Looking Back,” a trip through “In the Life” colorful early years, when the show evolved from a hodgepodge variety show to an Emmy-nominated newsmagazine. In the special hour with the show’s creator John Scagliotti, former Executive Producer Charles Ignacio, and former host Katherine Linton to hear about the hurdles and personal rewards they experienced in launching America’s first gay and lesbian-focused television program.

In “A Chef’s Tale”, “In the Life” brings us back with a present day success story, as the show follows celebrity chef Anita Lo and her partner Jennifer Schumin to learn the recipe for running a successful Greenwich Village restaurant while maintaining a healthy relationship.

Sometimes radicals appear in the most unlikely places. Defying a Vatican order to silence heresy, a gutsy Catholic nun has spoken out against the church’s view of homosexuality for over 30 years. In this month’s “rant to read”, “In the Life” follows this woman’s quest in Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Barbara Risk’s documentary “In Good Company.”

For more than 40 years, the work of Broadway veteran Jerry Herman has defined the great American musical. In a segment drawn from “In the Life’s” rich history, 1TL profiles the successful career of Broadway composer and lyricist Jerry Herman in “Broadway Baby.” Special appearances by Tony Award-winning actors Carol Channing and Angela Lansbury are featured.

In the first of a new recurring segment, “Coming Out Stories” features six individuals who share their personal memories of “coming out” to their loved ones.

The Big Voice ends run Oct. 2 - act fast Catch it before it goes! The Big Voice, a musical by Steve Schalklin and Jim Brochu, will end its run Oct. 2 at Downstair’s Cabaret Theatre.

"There comes a time in a young boy’s life when he must decide exactly what he will become as an adult. He seeks guidance from parents, from friends, from psychiatrists and, if he’s a devout Catholic New Yorker, or an Arkansan Baptist son-of-a-preacher-man, he listens for a sign from the Big Voice. Sometimes God answers, sometimes Eileen Merman answers."

This production is a special polished-up return engagement with Jim Brochu and Steve Schalklin. The performances are at Downstair’s Cabaret Theatre Two, 172 West Main St. Tickets are $21-24 general admission (discounts for seniors, students, groups, DCT members). The remaining dates are Saturday, Oct. 1 at 5 and 8:30 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 2 at 4 p.m.

Rainbow Fall Dance Saturday, November 12, 6 - 10 p.m.

Join DJ Chuck Argento for a fun-filled evening. Music of the ‘50s through today. Featuring a secret auction, desserts, snacks, and beverages* for a nominal cost.

Roger Robach Community Center, Ontario Beach Park Ample parking across the street.

Tickets are $12 in advance, at Pride Connection or Outlandish, or by calling 585-544-2639 to order. $14 at the door. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Sponsored by Rainbow Seniors of Western New York. Rainbow Seniors events are drug and alcohol free. Casual dress. Accessible for all.

Counseling Services Energy Therapies Maxine McDonald LCSW, CASAC (585) 330-8891 16 N. GOODMAN ST., ROCHESTER, NY 14607 WEB: HTTP://HOME.ROCHESTER.RR.COM/MAXMC

Veterinary Hospital Andy Fleming, DVM Aida Aposte-Lann, DVM 1311 Marsh Road Pittsford, NY 14534 (585) 248-9590

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AIDS DIRECTORY

Free testing for HIV exposure is available from New York State Department of Health, Call Rochester Area Regional Hotline at (585) 423-8087, or 1-888-506-9262 for gay phones or calls outside Rochester. Daily testing hours at the Regional Hotline: Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; message machine other times.

Strong Memorial Hospital provides a complete range of HIV medical care, including access to experimental treatment protocols, and HIV testing. Also provides individual and group psychotherapy. For an appointment, call Healthline, 630-2190.

The health care professionals at the following organizations provide confidential HIV testing services.

Center for Health and Behavioral Training of Monroe County:
261 W. Broad St., Suite 500, Rochester, 585-442-2220. V/TTY; www.aidsrochester.org/county

Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley provides referrals to physicians and service agencies.
3rd Floor, 1305 University Ave., Rochester, 585-461-9203.

Planned Parenthood of the Rochester/Syracuse Region:
114 University Ave., Rochester, 585-461-9203. TTY: (585) 461-1310, E-mail: info@rochesternow.org Web page: http://www.rochesternow.org

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

SPORTS:
Lesbian Rugby
www.lesbianrugby.com

ONLINE:
RochesterDykes: www.rylikes.com;
email: sabrinabeach@yahoo.com

WOMEN'S RESOURCES

HEALTH:
Monroe County Breast Care Center
1070 South Ave., Rochester, NY 14620; (585) 341-8869. Specializing in breast health, diagnostic breast imaging and treatment and mammography outreach and education.

Catholic Charities AIDS Services
A multi-cultural and multi-lingual staff providing services to a diverse population people infected and affected with HIV/AIDS-based case management for all ages, a clinical crisis manager, a children's home care worker; transitional case management for children and family members going through bereavement, resources and support for individuals and their family, and teens, and camping experiences including Camp SOAR. We coordinate HIVPA (Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS) for emergency assistance with rent/food/util, housing and limited mortgage modification. 144 E. Ridge Rd., Suite 24, Rochester, (585) 339-9680.

Hutley Doyle
365 East Ave., Rochester, 684-0045. Offers drug, alcohol prevention, education, treatment. Risk Reduction Team offers services to HIV positive and those at risk through substance use. Programs include outreach, transitional case management, free confidential testing (CQRTQ Fast Testing). NYS Dept. of Health offers free on-site confidential and anonymous testing, (585) 353-5100, M-F 8-9 pm.

FAMILY RESOURCES

Pride & Joy Families
See Ongoing Calendar

Rochester Gay Mens' Support Group
Support group for gay men and women. Provides support, information, and counseling for gay men through a peer support network.
365 East Ave., Rochester, 684-0045. M-F 5-6 pm.

Gay Fethers Groups
Meet 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6:30-8:30 pm, GAY COMMUNITY CENTER, 139 Atlantic Ave, 585-359-9933.

Rochester Lesbian & Gay Family Building Project
Claudia E. Staffman, Project Director, Rene Institute, Inc., 124 Front St., Binghamton, NY 13905, Phone: (607) 744-0308; Fax: (607) 742-8290; E-mail: LesGayFamBldg@aol.com: Web: http://www.PrideAndJoyFamilies.org

GAY HEALTH

Monroe County Department of Health STD Clinic
Phone: (585) 464-5828

Monroe County Community College Student Health Services
Phone: (585) 298-2018 (MCC Students only)

Highland Hospital Nursing Staff
Richard & William Smith College Health Services
(585) 391-5680

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

Threshold Center for Alternative Youth Services
Phone: (585) 454-7300 (serving ages 12-25)

Women Gymnastics & Childbirth Associates, P.C.
Phone: (585) 434-9390 (Main Office)

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

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

MONROE COUNTY WOMEN'S HEALTH PERSPECTIVE

Women's Health Outreach
111 South Clinton St., Rochester, NY 14602; (585) 274-6919.

Elizabeth Wende Breast Clinic
170 Swegsweg Drive, 442-8342. Dr. Wende Logan-Yang and an all-women staff provide care.

AIDS Rochester Women's Health Outreach
111 South Clinton St., Rochester, NY 14602; (585) 5461-9032. HIV and primary medical care services for HIV positive women, their negatives partners and family members. GMATYN, HIV post-test and post-counseling, Confidential or free HIV testing.

Alternatives for Better Women
222-7350, TTY 232-1741, Shelter (women only), counseling, Lesbians, gay men welcome.

Victim Resource Center of Wayne County
Nawkow, 801-456-1111/722; office (585) 451-8277, E-mail: towcenter@aol.com

Mary Magdalone House
Women's outreach center for HIV positive women and women at risk. 267 Lyell Ave. Phone: (585) 271-1171.

Planned Parenthood of the Rochester/Syracuse Region
114 University Ave., Rochester, 585-461-9203. TTY: (585) 461-1310, E-mail: info@rochesternow.org Web page: http://www.rochesternow.org

POLITICAL:
National Organization for Women (Greater Rochester NOW)
PO Box 93196; (585) 461-1310. E-mail: info@rochesternow.org Web page: http://www.rochesternow.org

THE EMPTY MANSION

THE EMPTY MANSION

OCTOBER 2005 • NUMBER 354 • GAY ALLIANCE OF THE GENESSEE VALLEY • THE EMPTY CLOSET
At ImageOut:
Labor Council sponsors
Unveiled, on Iranian lesbian in exile

ImageOut will screen the compelling German human rights feature Unveiled (Fremde Haut) as its Centerpiece Premiere at George Eastman House's Dryden Theater, Saturday, Oct. 15 at 6:30 p.m. Focusing on an Iranian lesbian forced to flee her homeland under threat of criminal prosecution for a recent same-sex relationship, this film tackles a number of critical issues facing the world community today.

ImageOut board member Dan Humphrey considers Unveiled not just one of the most important films shown at the 12th Annual ImageOut festival, but one of the most important films released anywhere in 2005. “With the tragic hangings of two young men, Mahmoud Asgari, 16, and Ayaz Marhoni, 18, in northeastern Iran on July 19 of this year for homosexual acts, Angeline Macaroni’s heartrending new film is an essential reminder that the gay rights movement is far more than just an issue of marriage and workplace rights. In a world where homosexual love can literally be considered a capital crime, all people concerned with human dignity need to attend to issues of lesbian and gay rights.”

Humphrey is quick to point out that Unveiled is careful not to demonize the Iranian people themselves or the Muslim faith. “One of the most important moments in the film is when its protagonist, Fariba, has had to flee Germany and is living as an illegal immigrant, is seen on her knees, facing Mecca, offering her morning prayers. Although a lesbian, Fariba is nonetheless also an Iranian and a Muslim,” Humphrey reminds us, “and her culture and faith are clearly shown throughout the film as being an integral part of who she is and as deserving of respect as her sexuality.”

As Fariba finds herself living as an undocumented worker, exploited by an unscrupulous employer, Unveiled can also be seen as an important film in its focus on worker’s rights. For the first time in ImageOut’s 13-year history, the Rochester Labor Council, AFL-CIO, will be co-sponsoring a screening at the festival in order to make the larger Rochester community aware of the this important film. Jon Garlock, of the Labor Council, will speak briefly before the screening to discuss Unveiled’s importance as a labor film.

ImageOut, the Rochester Lesbian and Gay Film and Video Festival strives to inform, entertain, educate, and enrich film lovers. For more information about ImageOut, visit www.imageout.org or e-mail or call Bruce Calhoun at imageout@rochester.rr.com or (585)271-2640.

Artists’ Talks at U.R.:
Charles Lum on “Menace to Propriety”, Alix Olson’s feminist poetry

On Friday, Oct. 14 at 3 p.m., in a very special event co-sponsored by the University of Rochester’s Pride Network and Spectrum Graduate Group, internationally acclaimed video artist and photographer Charles Lum will visit the River Campus to present an artist’s talk entitled “Menace to Propriety,” regarding his body of work on HIV/AIDS. As part of his presentation, he will be screening a number of his provocative short pieces including “Mourning, Noon & Night,” “PARK,” “Tears, SUCK” and “INDELIBLE.” These videos deal with the struggle HIV positive individuals have in maintaining their drug regimens, the ethics and realities of HIV status disclosure among gay men having sex and the mixed signals gay men receive about the dangers of oral sex, among other issues.

Lum’s work has been screened at Anthology Film Archives in New York City, Inside/Out in Toronto, Canada, the High Risk Gallery in Chicago, and the LARGISH Festival in Mumbai (Bombay), India. He received his MFA in photography at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2004.

This talk is free and open to the public and takes place at the Gown Room of the Wilson Commons building on the River Campus of the University of Rochester.

Alix Olson’s Artistic Talk

On Thursday, Oct. 6 at 6 p.m., in the May Room of Wilson Commons, Alix Olson, acclaimed spoken-word poet and feminist, will be visiting the UR River Campus, to present some of her poems. A reception will follow her performance.

From the Alix Olson website: “Alix Olson is an internationally touring folk poet and progressive queer artist-activist. One part peace vigil, one part protest rally, and one part joyful rancorous concert, Alix ignites audiences everywhere she performs. Olson’s innumerable stage, broadcast, radio and print appearances include most recently, twice headlining HBO’s ‘Def Poetry Jam’ (Russell Simmons), and an inclusion in One Radio’s InRadio compilation. Unis’s website calls Olson “...the spoken word diva everyone’s talking about.” “Of her live performances, The Progressive Magazine calls Alix ‘an electrifying performer who seduces the audience with wit and energy, spinning tales of life on the road between her fiery poems. A sharp-shooter with theatrical flair, Olson sows both love and rage.‘”

More info on Alix Olson can be found at www.alixolson.com. She also has a movie showing at the ImageOut film festival, “Left Lane,” which will be showing on Saturday, Oct. 15, at noon at the Dryden Theater at the George Eastman House.

Please contact Claire LeBlanc at c3095m@mail.rochester.edu for more info about the event.

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

I think I can firmly state that the Fast Ferry is now here to stay. The Toronto Port Authority has sent preliminary buildings for the Ferry and you can tell by the website (http://www.ca.fastferries.com) that both cities are busily working on it as a means of transport to their respective cities.

This means you can comfortably utili­ze this vehicle to get you to Toronto and back. I won’t go on about the Fast Ferry, as the information in my previous articles still applies to the service Bay Ferries is offering here in Rochester, we went to "Hair of the Dog" pub and restaurant. It’s in the village (just down from Woody’s) just to experience and then went around to the smaller shops and coffee in the village. Not only is it exceptional coffee (I recommend the cappuc­ino), but it is a major cruise area. Everyone tends to be a "must see." We then headed to "Hair of the Dog." This is a bar I have a soft spot for this bar, as on one of my guest had never been to Toronto, I thought I told her of some surgery I was to have on my teeth the following week; then the operated of flowers in a soup bowl and a package of milk was working and I wanted to say hello. A few drinks (and shots) later we were ready for dinner and this time we chose "The Vil­lage Rainbow" at 477 Church Street. I’m sure everyone has at some point or another eaten here: Good food, decent prices and in the heart of everything in the Village. I love coffee, so it was back to Timo­thy’s for another cappuccino before heading back to the hotel.

Now, I realize not everyone is going to end their night at midnight. Since this isn’t my first trip to Toronto, I can say there are many, many other bars in the village that cater to men, women, men and women, and others. You should stop into the Black Eagle (just down from Woody’s) just to experi­ence it. However, I would recommend jeans and T-shirt if you have no leather because chinos and khakis won’t be appreciated in this bar (no matter how hot you may look in them).

Our first stop was Woody’s/Sailor Bar. I always find this bar comfortable and well patronized with friends. It’s a great place where you can drink and socialize. I also have a soft spot for this bar, as on one of my friend asked what we would have for dinner in Toronto you get three eggs, three strips of bacon, two sausages, three pieces of Black Forest ham, baked beans, grilled tomatoes, home fries and biscuits. It passed on the home fries and biscuit. It was 11 when we ordered and this was a solid meal (for a Canadian you get three eggs, three strips of bacon, two sausages, three pieces of Black Forest ham, baked beans, grilled tomatoes, home fries and biscuits). It was 11 when we ordered and this was a solid meal (for a Canadian you get three eggs, three strips of bacon, two sausages, three pieces of Black Forest ham, baked beans, grilled tomatoes, home fries and biscuits. It was 11 when we ordered and this was such a tasty solid meal that we didn’t feel the need to eat again until dinner. This is a regular haunt of the locals, so you will not only enjoy your meal, but also the friendliness of the locals gathering there.

Next up was shopping. You just aren’t going to leave Toronto without buy­ing something. We visited Eaton Center and then went around to the smaller shops in the village. Even if I hadn’t had a first time visitor with me, this would have been something on my list of things to do — my protein bars are so much cheaper up there.

While walking we came across Peggy’s Bar on Yonge Street. This is a bar I have never been in before, but for the sake of this article we ventured in. This is a very "Toronto" looking bar with a local clien­tele. If I had to guess how to categorize this bar, I think I would file it in my head as a hustler bar (I do not know what this is). It was 11 when we ordered and this was such a tasty solid meal that we didn’t feel the need to eat again until dinner. This is a regular haunt of the locals, so you will not only enjoy your meal, but also the friendliness of the locals gathering there.

Next up was shopping. You just aren’t going to leave Toronto without buy­ing something. We visited Eaton Center and then went around to the smaller shops in the village. Even if I hadn’t had a first time visitor in the village, I wouldn’t have thought of the bar in this way, since I just didn’t equate this one with the one I used to go to. Play is comfortable, friendly, clean, and fun and this is a bar I always visit when I’m in Toronto.

Next we went back to Woody’s, so I was working and I wanted to say hello. A few drinks (and shots) later we were ready for dinner and this time we chose "The Vil­lage Rainbow" at 477 Church Street. I’m sure everyone has at some point or another eaten here: Good food, decent prices and in the heart of everything in the Village. I love coffee, so it was back to Timo­thy’s for another cappuccino before heading back to the hotel.

Now, I realize not everyone is going to end their night at midnight. Since this isn’t my first trip to Toronto, I can say there are many, many other bars in the village that cater to men, women, men and women, and others. You should stop into the Black Eagle (just down from Woody’s) just to experi­ence it. However, I would recommend jeans and T-shirt if you have no leather because chinos and khakis won’t be appreciated in this bar (no matter how hot you may look in them).

Zipper’s, which is south and just off Church Street, was a casino bar (sometimes with a band and piano and singer for happy hours; otherwise videos or TV/Sports). Later in the evening they open the back area for danc­ing. If you are unfamiliar, the StableBar is closed (it was always a fun place to drink and dance). For those of you who party until dawn, you will want to check out FLX, located at 8 Gloucester St. This was the original "Babylon" on "Queer as Folk" and is certainly a "must see" for the fans of the program. You can check out their web­site at: http://www.flyngclub.com.

There also is much more to do in Toronto besides drink (I’m Irish, it’s what we focus on). There are plenty of galleries and museums in the village, day trips in the surrounding areas and you will notice on the Toronto harbor web page that gay weddings is one of the things that Toronto is highlighting as a draw to gay visitors. You can book individual gay wedding cruises or select one of their group gay wedding cruises. Go to http://www.lighthouseharbor. com/ to find out more. I must note that Rochester has no invitation to our commu­nity on its web page http://www.rochester­tourism.com/harbor.php ).

This article just touches on the many things the gay village has to offer. The Fast Ferry is currently running an offer where if you book a trip now, when you get your boarding pass there will be a coupon for half off your next trip, if com­pleted by 10/31/05. So take advantage of that offer and go visit or even enjoy a few times — get married, see some sights, or just have a blast in a country that lets you get married!!
Buying Your Home Away From Home

If it seems to you that more and more people these days are buying vacation homes, you’re right. In fact, statistics indicate that one-third of the 2004 residential home purchases were second homes. Why? That’s a pretty high percentage, which tells you that you aren’t by yourself if you’ve been thinking about doing the same thing.

If you’re already considering a vacation home, then you probably have your own reason. You may love the appeal of the getaway, the location, the climate, or as a potential retirement home. Whatever your reason, the time has never been more right than now for buying a second home.

The mortgage industry has adopted a take notice perspective to the amount of expendable income people have these days. What was once a luxury affordable only to the truly financially elite has become an option for many, simply for the choosing.

However, if you’re making the choice to buy a vacation home, you’ll benefit from some practical advice. Like making any other choice, you deserve to be well informed so that your dream of owning a second home is a dream come true, not a nightmare.

Where to Start

The first step to buying a vacation home is the same as it is in buying a primary home…your finances. Unless you can afford to pay cash, which most of us can’t, then you’ll need time and energy by getting pre-qualified for a loan. For financial services like pre-qualification, visit www.gaymortgage.com for assistance.

Since you’re considering buying a vacation home, you’ll want to consider renting the property to help cover the cost of annual property taxes and/or maintenance, and still have the allowable deductions for such expenses. Many second homebuyers are surprised to learn that if you rent out your second home for most of the year, you can only occupy it yourself for two weeks annually without incurring investment property status.

Where to Buy

Most people know right off the bat where they’d love to buy a second home. On the other hand, some people consider several locations, depending upon their interests. Believe it or not, some people actually buy a vacation home in a certain location without ever knowing much about the area. Wherever you’re considering a vacation home, it’s essential that you have hands-on experience before you buy. Is it total solitude what you really want, or will you be in withdrawal from some of your favorite perks like pizza delivery and local shopping malls?

If there’s a place you visited and fell in love with years ago, make sure to visit it again before setting your heart on buying there. Places change over time and areas that were once perfect for your second home may now be over-developed to suit your tastes. The Internet is a valuable resource for researching specific areas to learn about the climate, cost of living, recreation and other amenities.

How much time will it take to drive there roundtrip? Is it close enough for driving or will you have to fly? Would you have to limit the number of annual get-a-ways if you had to add the expense of flying? Since it’s not much fun to own a vacation home that you rarely get to enjoy, you may want to choose a location that’s not too far from your primary residence…at least not so far away that getting there and back is a hassle.

Where to Find Help

Hands down, the most valuable resource to help you in finding a second home is a professional real estate agent. Once you decide whether you want to buy at the beach, in the mountains or somewhere in between, you still have to find the vacation home that’s right for you. You may try to accomplish this on your own, but why spend valuable time and energy, not to mention the extra money of travel to weed through properties that might, if you’re lucky, be something you’d even consider.

Although you’ll still have to travel to view various homes, you’ll have the advantage of knowing that your agent knows what you’re looking for and has arranged viewings of homes that meet your basic requirements, plus your specifics as well.

In addition to finding homes that will interest you within a certain area, a real estate agent is a goldmine of information about that area. They know the amenities the area offers and those it doesn’t, plus the going rates of local comparable properties. Other knowledge they offer is potential resale value and information on the local tax base, just two items which you’re interested in as a buyer. They take care of the contracts and other paperwork for you.

Since you won’t be living your round in your vacation home, you’ll probably need local professionals to handle maintenance, lawn care, etc. A qualified agent can provide you with names and contact information of reputable service providers in the area. Some agencies even provide rental property management and marketing services.

To find a qualified real estate agent to help you in finding a vacation home, visit www.gayrealestate.com. They offer experience in buying second homes and specialize in serving the GLBT community.

Chuck Argento
585 529-5544
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Equality Leadership Conference 2005

Conference Agenda

7:30 – 8:15 am ..........Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 10:00 am ...... The Corporate Equality Index, CEI
Daryl Herrschaft, Deputy Director Workplace Project, HRC
An informative and educative session on the CEI, its impact and importance on corporate and public policy. Learn how to add your company to the 2005 Index or improve your current score.

10:00 am ................ Break

Concurrent Workshops

10:15 – 11:45 am ...... “How to Create LGBT Allies in the Workplace”
Panelists: Clay Osborne, VP, Global Diversity and Workforce Development, Bausch and Lomb; Marie Philippe, VP, President of Diversity, Excellus BC/BS; Laura Brooks, Operations Director, Engineering Research, Eastman Kodak Company; Cheri Wilkinson, VP, HR Production Systems Group, Xerox; Briana Foster, HR Specialist, Bausch and Lomb

“How to Support Individuals Transitioning in the Workplace”
Panelists: Donna Rose, National Center for Transgender Equality; Pat Pitoni, Co-owner, Oser Press, Rochester; Amber Dobiesz, NY Transgender Rights Organization; Amy Friend, President of Lambda, Eastman Kodak Company; Virginia Meredith, Senior HR Director, Research, Eastman Kodak Company; Margaret Clemens, Partner, Nixon Peabody LLP

12:00 noon ............ Leadership Luncheon
Presentation of Business and Media Awards
Keynote Address
“Transitioning in the Workplace as a Senior VP of a Major Financial Company”
Margaret Stumpp, Senior VP, Prudential Financial, NYC

1:30 pm ................. Conference Adjournment

Conference Fee: $75 per person
Luncheon Fee: $50 per person

The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley invites you to the 2005 Equality Leadership Conference

Hyatt Regency Hotel
125 E. Main Street, Rochester, New York
Friday, October 21, 2005
7:30 am to 1:30 pm

Keynote Luncheon Address:
Margaret Stumpp,
Senior VP, Prudential Financial, NYC

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Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley
875 E. Main Street, Suite 500
Rochester, New York 14605
Phone: 585-244-8540
Fax: 585-244-8246

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Fax: 585-244-8246

EqualRights
Youth Update: YOUTH GROUP SPONSORS IMAGEOUT FILM

By Toby Greenfield

This month we are thrilled to have the very popular Canadian singer/songwriter Ember Swift here on Oct. 4 at 8 p.m. to perform a benefit concert for our Youth Program. How lucky are we? Tickets are $8 and can be purchased at the GAGV, or at the door the night of the show. Ember puts on an amazing show, and her music combines folk, jazz, funk, punk, pop, classical and reggae. She is not to be missed, and neither are the great acoustics in the Youth Center. See the ad on page 82 for more info.

Our drop-in hours have officially begun and we’re off to a very successful start. Our drop-in days are Mondays and Wednesdays from 3-7 p.m. Please spread the word out to any youth who are looking for a fun, safe place to hang out, meet new friends, and just be themselves.

Our second Parent Group will meet Oct. 18, from 6-7 p.m. at the Center. October means two things if you’re a light teenager: ImageOut and Halloween. A wonderfully diverse selection of films is on tap at this year’s festival, and we encourage everyone – adults and kids alike – to head out to see some of these great light films. The Youth Group is very proud to be sponsoring the film “I Look Up to the Sky Now” on Oct. 10 at 9:35 p.m. at the Little Theatre. There are more excellent Youth films, so don’t miss out.

And of course, there’s always fun (and bad fashion) to be had at the Youth Halloween Dance! It’s Oct. 30, 4-8 p.m. at Muthers. Please check our Youth Website at http://youth.gagalliance.org for updated info.

Lastly, a couple of thanks you. I’d like to thank ImageOut for sponsoring a pre-festival screening – complete with prizes, pizza and ImageOut tickets – for our Youth Group on Sept. 25. A great time was had by all. I’d also like to thank everyone who donated stuff and came out to our Garage Sale last month. It was a huge sucess and we appreciate your support very much.

Anti Violence Project: IT’S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MONTH

By Alexandra Cobus

October is National Domestic Violence Month. You will no doubt see many public service announcements that aim to educate communities about the devastating realities of domestic violence.

You will also hear about many of the events in our local community that will serve to address this issue as well. Unfortunately, most of the faces you will see will be of heterosexual women being abused. While the LGBT community is used to being misrepresented in the media (usually with a seriously negative effect), or just plain ignored, when this happens in public service campaigns, the damage can be severe.

The ideas behind these campaigns is to educate and raise awareness of an issue that affects the entire community. And since domestic violence is pervasive (25-30 percent of ALL relationships experience domestic violence... this includes LGBT relationships), each of us either is a victim or survivor, an abuser, a child of a survivor or abuser, or we are the neighbor, teacher, friend, co-worker, or classmate of a victim or survivor.

When we don’t see the faces and hear the voices of LGBT survivors of domestic violence, people may conclude that it isn’t a problem in the community, or it just may never cross their minds at all. Many gay and straight people think that lesbians won’t be victimized by domestic violence because women aren’t violent. Or they assume that if both partners are male, they should be able to defend themselves more easily than women. We know this is to be false, and we have a lot of work to do to continue to get this message out there.

This October, as it is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, I encourage anyone in the LGBT community who has been affected by domestic violence, directly or indirectly, to do something to bring attention to this ignored issue in your community.

(Continued on page 2)
Family Matters (from page 1) people. In a time of increasing conserva­
tive, religious right anger over who should be allowed to be human and what informa­
tion and choices we all should be entitled to have about our own lives, this book pro­
vides a look at aspects of parenting that we can’t always know about in advance. And it is a testament to the on-going power of parental love.

In searching the Internet, I found sev­eral websites of other Parenting communi­ties that boasts a directory of 349 listings and 366 web links. Through ProudParenting, co-Parenting, a site with contact with over 6,200 other LGBT families. There are tect­matic sections on their website devoted to a host of parenting issues for families, Single Parenting, Generations (Seniors), Kids, Room, Issues, GLBT, Youth, Commitments (serving national and International events effecting the legal rights and protections accorded to same-sex parents). Reproduction, Surrogacy, Adoption/Foster, and Parenting. Some of these web pages in this website are in need of updating, but overall it is a useful source of information with a family focus.

Another excellent resource is the Family Pride Coalition. You can check out their website at www.familypride.org. A wonderful feature of this website is the online line. The FPC has published a newsletter, “Family Tree”, since 1999 and many of their past newsletters can be accessed, whole or in part, on the Materials & Publications Library website. Another noteworthy feature is the Featured Article and Publications sec­tion. You have the option of downloading the pdf or purchasing the documents outright. I took the time to review the Informational Booklet, “How to Talk to Children About Our Families,” which provides parents with helpful sugges­tions on how to respond “to their chil­dren’s (spoken and unspoken) questions as they come to understand who they are in the context of their family and who their family is in the context of their community.” Author Margie Brickley and Aimee Gelnar emphasize that “the earlier children are given appropriate information about their lives and fami­lies, the easier it will be for them to understand and appreciate them.”

The book is divided into three primary developmental age groups: children under three, children ages four to seven, and children ages eight and older. It is a must read for parents with young (pre-adoles­cent or adolescent) children.

I found out my list of resources, I want to remind our readers of the upcom­ing 2005 Pride and Joy Families Weekend Conference being held in Binghamton Saturday to the fourth. Families are invited to meet up at the entrance to the Seneca Park Zoo on Saturday, Oct. 22, at noon, for ZooBoo! I will be standing at the front gate from noon to 12:15 p.m., dressed in a friendly skeleton costume with a sign that says “Rochester Pride & Families”.

As they come to understand who they are earlier children are given appropriate information about their lives and families, the easier it will be for them to

GAGV sponsors five films at ImageOut

Saturday, Oct. 8

little man

Rochester Pride & Joy Families

Cinema, 7 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 10

I Look Up to the Sky Now (Youth Project Series), GAGV Youth Group and GLSEN. Little, 5:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 11

Natalie Coming Out Day — Guys and Balls. Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley. Dryden, 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 12

Hate Crime, GAGV Anti Violence Project and Episcopal Church. Little Theatre, 9:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 15

That Man: Peter Berlin. GAGV Library & Archives. Dryden, 2:30 p.m.

*FPC* is a collaborative program of the GAGV and the Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project.
NYTRO serves upstate transgender community

The New York Transgender Rights Organization (NYTRO) can trace its roots to the acrimony in New York State trans-politics at the turn of the 21st century. At one time, there was only one statewide New York trans-political organization, the New York Association for Gender Rights Advocacy (NYAGRA). Due to personality and policy conflicts, over a period of time several New York trans-activists found themselves pressured or voted out of the NYAGRA organization or its board.

Several of those who found themselves on the outside started to put together the NYTG Coalition, a loose alliance of individuals and organizations dedicated to putting an alternative face on New York trans-politics and set a course dedicated toward trans-inclusion in the Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act.

When that coalition was put together, NYTRO was born.

The brainchild of White Plains trans-activist Joann Prinzivalli, NYTRO originally had only one member, or as Joann was known to quip, “actually, three members – me, myself and I.” It was originally the equivalent of a “DBA” for Ms. Prinzivalli.

After the NYTG Coalition had unraveled and sort of faded away (it still exists as a Yahoo group), in mid-2004, a group of New York City activist friends of Joann, led by Melissa Sklarz and Paisley Currah, asked her if she would be willing to allow them to join NYTRO. After a few e-mails back and forth, it was decided that Joann would retain the title of Director of the statewide NYTRO organization, but that the organization itself would be built up with independently operating chapters. The only constraint on chapter organizations is that they subscribe to the principles and have at least one member involved with the state organization’s communications group.

Camille Hopkins volunteered to start the Western New York chapter. The Western New York Chapter of NYTRO made its formal debut at the Buffalo Pride Celebration on June 5, 2005.

NYTRO - WNY is currently assisting the City of Buffalo and Rochester’s Bausch and Lomb to develop written guidelines for transgender employees. In addition, NYTRO - WNY is in the process of putting together a coalition consisting of GLBT community members and straight allies in order to develop a stronger and meaningful anti-bias relief for the City of Buffalo’s anti-discrimination ordinances. Camille Hopkins has a commitment from City of Buffalo Councilmember Antoine Thompson (the elected official who intro-
ABC SCULPTURE LANDSCAPING

On Sept. 10, a gorgeous sunny day, founding members of the Gay Community Sculpture project, Gary Reese, Mike Polenske, Steve Love and Ray Shaver, gathered together with the help of several volunteers to begin landscaping and upgrading the ’Three Pride Symbols’ site at the corner of Beacon St. and Atlantic Ave.

Beautiful haul green sod was put down, creating an instant carpet of grass that blended in so well with the three sculpture pieces. Several people on their way to the Sculpture project, Gary and Mike, commented on how well the sod looks and to Doug Rice for lending ABCSC much needed gardening tools. A big thank you to our great volunteers, Scott, Bob, Russ, Sean, Jerry and Barry, who all helped throughout the morning. ABCSC is still accepting donations and landscaping assistance to complete our project. For more information about ABCSC, check out our website at www.ABSCI4607.org

ARTSY-FARTSY FILM GROUP

When the ImageOut film festival is over, keep the momentum going by viewing a film with the Artsy-Fartsy Film Group the Saturday after ImageOut closes. The afternoon of Saturday, Oct. 22, join us at the Little Theatre (240 East Ave.) to see a film and discuss it over coffee afterwards. (In order not to conflict with ImageOut, we’ll be meeting the third Saturday in October instead of the second.)

To learn the film selection and the time to meet at the theater, please do one of the following or on after the Thursday before the film call 271-8478 to hear a recording, check www.frontiernet.net/samoecl or email samoecl@frontiernet.net. We look forward to seeing you!

DIGNITY INTEGRITY

Why are liberal Christians so quiet and conservative Christians so vocal?

That is the topic of a talk sponsored by Dignity-Integrity that Rev. George Exley-Snijder will be giving on Sunday, Oct. 9. Rev. Exley-Snijder is a retired Episcopal priest with a long history of activism in the church and is a staunch supporter of the LGBT community. The talk will be at St. Luke and St. Simon Cyrene Church, 47 South Fitzhugh St. in downtown Rochester at 5 p.m. A coffee hour will follow the talk.

Other Dignity-Integrity events for October include an Episcopal Church service with Bishop Jack McKelvey at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 2. An reception will follow the service.

On Sunday, Oct. 16, there will be a Catholic Liturgy of the Word at 5 p.m. with five hour service at 6:30 p.m. The service will be on Sunday, Oct. 23, at 5 p.m., there will be a short Evening Prayer service with a potluck following. For further information, see our website at www.rocomissing.org or call our recorded info-line at 234-5692.

EMPIRE BEARS

GET LEED AT THE FORUM. That’s right, Saturday, Oct. 8, you can get leid at the Forum. It’s Hawaiian shirt night, so dress like a tacky tourist and have some fun with the BEARS at the Forum from 10-2.

Money raised through our raflles goes to charities. We sent $200 to a gay charity to help victims of Katrina last month, and still plan to give to our local friends. Earlier that same night, Oct. 8, we’ll be just down the street at the GAG. Every second Saturday, we have a potluck supper, starting at 6:30. October’s theme is Asian Food. We also have a brunch planned for this month.

Members are planning to attend the film festival. We are at Mel’s every Monday for supper at 6. We catch a movie after Mel’s, usually around 7:30 to 8:00 at Movies 10. Anyone who’d like to meet some new friends is welcome to attend events. Check us out at empiebear.org for a complete list of times and places to trap your BEAR, WOOF!

GLSEN

GLSEN Rochester recently finished an in-depth operations review as part of GLSEN National’s annual accreditation process. Part of the review involves identifying our goals and objectives for 2005-2006 and beyond. In case you’d like to volunteer, here’s what we’re up for in the next year:

Program Goals

1. Continue to assist local youth interested in starting Gay-Straight Alliances (GSA) in their schools. We collaborate with the GAG Youth Group on activities such as a GSA summit, a social activity and local Day of Silence support.

2. Expand local participation in No Name Calling Week (NNCW) to raise awareness of the effects of name calling and bullying on our youth. We want to make sure all local school districts are aware of the resources available on NNCW.

3. Expand the number of training sessions on LGBT issues conducted with schools and community groups.

4. Expand the number of presentations and Safe Space training to college-level teacher education classes.

Management Goals

1. Expand the membership to include at least once more teacher and more youth.

2. Expand and extend our volunteer base, especially in the areas of training and public outreach.

3. Expand collaboration with local organizations and interaction with employee resource groups.

If you’re interested in helping with any of the above, know someone with the skills you’re looking for or would like to donate to the cause, please get in touch with us at GLSENrochester@ascoal or 585-244-1549.

What does GLSEN do?

If your school or organization is interested in making schools safe for all students, consider the resources GLSEN Rochester has to offer. We offer programs to accommodate teachers, administrators and students with the knowledge and age-appropriate tools they need to successfully create a culture where all people are respected, free to express themselves and reach their fullest potential. To join us, schedule a program or get involved with an organization or event or make a tax-deductible donation, contact us at (585) 244-1549 or GLSENRochester@ascoal.org

GLSEN Rochester is the leading local organization dedicated to ending anti-bias and harassment in our schools. We strive to assure that every member of every school community is valued and respected, regardless of real or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

LAMBDA NETWORK AT KODAK

Debra Tiefenthaler

The Lambda Network at Kodak is a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender employee network at Eastman Kodak Company. Donna Rose, nationally known for her work in education on diversity and the needs of the Transgender community, will present a talk titled ‘Coming Out and Beyond’ on Oct. 23. Donna, formerly known as Dave Rosen, used to work at Kodak and has been an ally of Lambda ever since. The Arizonian Republican attended the workshop, and Chantel 13 carried an interview with her and Jeff Vollme, a current employee of Kodak. Unfortunately, CNN was not able to join us at the last minute as planned. Donna serves on the HRBC Business Council and is a frequent speaker at Our & Equal. She will be a panelist at the transgender summit, a social activity and public outreach. If you are interested in being a member of Lambda, please see our website for more information.

Lambda Global Diversity is planning to support the National Lesbian Gay Journalists Association annual conference. This is the weekend of Sept. 23-25 in Chicago.

Lambda will sponsor the film Gate of Memory at the ImageOut Film Festival on Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. at the Dryden Theatre. Come see this French comedy about a family on vacation and their high jinx and misunderstandings.

Lambda is piloting a mentor program aimed at middle- or senior-level leaders who are considering coming out at work and who would like support in this journey. If successful, we would love to expand. If you are interested, please email Ginny Meredith (of HR and a Lambda Board Member) or Amy Friend (Lambda President). All inquiries will remain confidential.

Lambda is partnering with community leaders for a community event to recognize GLSEN Rochester’s achievement in February 2006. If you are interested in helping, contact Jean Tischen, (585) 244-1821.

Lambda is planning our fall Membership Meeting in November. It will be open to all members and potential members of Lambda. For more information, see our website at www.lambdanetwerk.org.

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

Kris M. W. Warner, M.S. Ed.
Nationally Certified Individual, Couples, Adolescents, Families
Sign Language Proficient
(585) 385-4735

Liturgies:
Thursday: 7:00pm
Saturday: 5:00pm
Sunday: 7:30am
9:30am (at Hochstein, 50 Plymouth Avenue)
Rainbow Bridge Meetings:
2nd Monday, 7 – 8:30pm
www.rainbowbridgegroup.org

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self acceptance • family of origin work • communication patterns

Spiritus Christi Church
A CATHOLIC COMMUNITY WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME
121 N. Fitzhugh Street
Rochester, New York 14614
Phone: 325-1180
And we are not old! We are not teenagerti-friendly businesses to our growing elders, although some of us act like we are.

We have members who are drug queens, parents, bisexuals, single, those in long term relationships and we have heterosexuals in our community. Contact us for more information. PO Box 335202 Washington DC 20053; 202-235-6698; 202-265-9737; plagal@plagal.org; http://www.plagal.org. Rochester faith-color Dixon; Marie Kenny; 585-994-2099.

RAINBOW SENIORS

By Dee Dee Corcimiglia

I have some bad news. I went to a funeral on the 25th of August and it was very sad.

I have some good news. There were almost 20 members from our group, Rainbow Seniors of Western New York. Once again I am a proud member of this community. A year ago, when I was at another funeral, I met one of the people whom I told about RSWNY and they came and told their friends!

Rainbow Seniors of Western New York has been growing by leaps and bounds. And we are not old! We are not nongens. Although some of us act like we are. Maybe if we didn’t put that senior word in our name?

I am 49 years old and we have some members younger than me. Last year (2004) when I was in the Pride Parade, a friend asked if 49 years old is old. “What are you doing in a group of old people?” I feel my soul is old, but that is one of thousands of philosophies. Old like maybe I knew Moses or even Jacob. But anyway, we are a friendly bunch. If we’re quiet, it may be because we’re new in, or maybe we’re shy.

We also have a totally yoga class, real low key, if that is your need, to more advanced, if that is your desire. We have a Web site and if you’ve inquired, you’ll be on our monthly mailing list, e-mail or small mail. Let us know. Contact us by phone 585-442-6560; or fax 585-442-6561. Let us know. Visit us at our website www. rainbowpride.org.

Even if you don’t make it to meetings every month, your membership is only $30 for a single person and $50 for a couple living in the same household, a great price to support our community. We welcome membership to people on a sliding scale.

The most important thing is, as we do age, we learn to accept each other and never allow ourselves to be ALONE!

ROCHESTER GAY MEN’S CHORUS

Are you a wine aficionado, or perhaps just a casual enthusiast? Whether you are a novice or a true Grand Cru in the world of wine, the Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus (BMC) has something you need to attend!

A Fall Wine Tasting Benefit will be held on Saturday, Oct. 22, from 5 p.m.-7 p.m. at Wine Sense, located at 749 Park Ave. With their wide selection of local, national, and international vintages, Wine Sense makes buying wine fun! And because of their placement in the heart of Park Avenue, you have the option of wandering to any of the local restaurants for a delicious dinner, after raising your palate with a variety of exquisite wine sampling!

A donation of $20 at the door not only includes many scrumptious samplings but also entitles you to a souvenir Wine Sense tasting glass! For more information, please email us at info@thermc.org, or call 585-423-0640, or visit our website at www.thermc.org.

Season tickets are now available for our 23rd concert season, Sharing Our Journey. The season ticket price of $40 ($36 for students/seniors) includes preferred front-row seating at all three of our concerts and advance notice of special events. In addition, you will take advantage of a savings of over 25 percent off the regular ticket pricing of $18 at the door. Tickets may be purchased on our website at www.thermc.org, by emailing us at info@thermc.org, or by giving our office a call at 585-423-0056. Don’t forget; our holiday concert, Carols for the Holidays, is coming up soon on Dec. 9 and 10. Don’t forget to visit us at www.thermc.org.

ROCHESTER RAMS M.C.

Join us for Hell Night Saturday, Oct. 15. Come out to the Bachelor Forum and express your leather/fetish side. There will be hot men looking for a little after the bar action and fun, and see what hot men in ball look like on Hell Night.

Remember this is anniversary of our founding. We like young learning about a lot of different things. I like helping our community. RSWNY has been growing by leaps and bounds in the last few years. An active faith community since 1975.

Dignity-Integrity

Sundays at 5:00 p.m.

1st Sunday: Episcopal Eucharist with Music

2nd Sunday: Presentation or Discussion*

3rd Sunday: Roman Catholic Liturgy of the Word

4th Sunday: Evening Prayer & Pot Luck Supper

St. Luke / St. Simon Cyrene Church
17 S. Fitzhugh St. (corner of Broad St.)
— the church with the pink steeple

Each gathering is followed by Social Hour
For topics and presenters, refer to our monthly article, website or info-line.
Battling homophobia in school
By Josh Capuno
Following a great summer that moved me in many ways, I have taken on the role of an activist.

Through the course of my summer vacation, I have discovered that my school has lost its GSA (Gay/Straight Alliance). The reason? Ignorance and homophobia.

I have principal has "transferred" our GSA advisor because she was our GSA advisor. Since the loss of her, our GSA ceases to exist. I have now taken on the role of an activist. I now carry the hopes of all LGBT students of regaining our GSA on my shoulders.

Now I face a long road ahead of me. Filled with twists and turns that would never be expected. And though it is long and hard, I am ready. More than ever. With LGBT students, straight allies, and my family behind me I am ready.

I am confident that too, we can overcome this. We can knock down the barriers of homophobia that exist in our world. Even in high school. My goal now it to overcome this homophobia.

Talking about High School...
By Josh W.
Society these days is quite tremendous when it comes to homosexuality. We still seem to be split up into clashes of groups depending on age. School for me is one of the more I’ve had up things ever. I’m talking about High School, that is.

High School has all different types of people—the teachers, the jocks, the geeks, and much more. And may I not forget—the GAY KIDS. Here we are mailed into our own squares, where it seems that we are to be seen and not heard.

I’ve found that these years of High School are the hardest for us (the LGBTQ youth) in general. Every year, it’s the same thing—the harassment doesn’t seem to get any better, and that goes for the kids as well as the teachers and administrative staff. The thing that gets me is their little minds. It seems that some people just never grow up, which is just a fact of life. I’d like to get on with my life and I wish people would get on with theirs.

Being LGBTQ in High School, you face ridicule and embarrassment, wanting to hide away and cry, or that has been my story. But now, after all these years that I have been kicked to the curb, finally comes my senior year—my last year of High School. This year, I consider myself to be my own—without the words ‘and me to be.’

But as for others, it’s still school and some people just never change. As homophobia exists really high in High School, I must bring up yet another thing that is important— and that is for GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) to be created and not denied, so that all can feel safe and at ease with coming out. It is a horrible fact that ours has become deceased so it seems because of an important leader being transferred...

Wouldn’t that make you proud? Somehow the administration felt threatened by our little GSA. A safe space for kids. Makes a lot of sense to be scared of that, doesn’t it? This just proves that ignorance still exists in our community and it does not discriminate. What is needed is EDUCATION on all levels—principals, teachers and kids. We need to be educated on ALL aspects of life.

I like to think that the kids and adults in school who refuse to associate with us gay kids are just not secure with themselves. I will survive my senior year. It won’t be easy, but I can only go forward with the hope that the future will bring more acceptance, and that schools will not be a place to be fearful and scared, but a place to simply be yourself.

ImageOut offers six programs for youth
By Andrea Capone
Hello, all you lovely youth out there, did you know that Oct. 7 is the beginning of Rochester’s gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered film festival, ImageOut! Well, now you know, so you have no excuse for missing the opening films. The Focus (Little Theatre, 7 p.m., $12 advance, $15 at door) and the Mostly Unfinished Social Life Of Edith Evans (Little Theatre, 9:30 p.m., $12 advance, $15 at door).

This year we have a total of 41 programs to offer you, with six of these programs made available specifically for youth. (These are all free films! Well, sort of; you have to be 22 or younger.) So, I’ll give you a heads up if you haven’t checked out the ImageOut program yet what these six films are: Gay Sea in the 70s (Little Theatre, Saturday, Oct. 12, 8 p.m.); Keep Your Eyes Silent (Little Theatre, Sunday, Oct. 13, 230 p.m.); Inadvertently Innocent (Little Theatre, Sunday, Oct. 13, 4:30 p.m.); A Look Up to the Sky (Little Theatre, Monday, Oct. 14, 5:15 p.m.); Guys and Balls (Dryden Theatre, Tuesday, Oct. 15, 5:30 p.m.); Left Lane (Dryden Theatre, Saturday, Oct. 15, 12 p.m.).

For more information on these films you can pick up an ImageOut Program at any of a number of locations or you can run over to your nearest internet connection and go to www.imageout.org.

I Look Up to the Sky is our closing night film. Let me give you a heads up about the ticket price if you are unsatisfied, the price also includes admittance to our Youth Shorts program with many other talented actors and actresses. It stars youth, deals with youth issues, and is an overall great film. Exactly why it’s our closing night film. Let me give you a heads up about the ticket price if you are unsatisfied, the price also includes admittance to the Closing Night Gala (which is so much FUN) where the theme is the ‘70s! Come to party in your bell-bottoms, polyester, and platforms.

OK, so let’s move forward and assume you have read through the program and are now ready to take advantage of the advance ticket prices. You can buy advance tickets online at www.imageout.org.

Please, enjoy the 13th Annual Rochester Lesbian & Gay Film & Video Festival. It’s a real treat this year. Oh, and when you go, fill out those quirky little ballots we give you. Our filmmakers receive prizes based on the feedback you, as our audience, give us. Speaking from “experience,” filmmakers need all the help we can give them!

One last comment, and then I’m off. I have two films that I personally think are a must on your list: Left Lane and one that I haven’t mentioned yet: A Year Without Love. I’ll leave it up to you to find out more about that one.

Youth Group
Horrorifying Halloween Dance!
October 30, 4-8 pm
Muters, 40 S. Union Street

For information call 244-8640 ext. 13, or see http://youth.gayalliance.org.
Rivers of Gold
By Anna Burke

Part I
And some things go on because they’re too old to stop
This is one of them
I wish I could say it’s enough, that this ache is all I need
Devouring the haunting light of failing day
And the words you never said – never thought to say – echo in my ears
I carry conversations with your ghost
This time I didn’t run to see the pup at the nearest hydrant
Though it would’ve
And even if it runs too deep and falls too fast and it will fade, with time
That time hasn’t come yet
So pass me by and love me with your silence as the wind whispers a suggested name
And I’ll watch the clouds and lose myself in fire

Part II
Summer fades in a taste of cooling evening as I stand by and watch Helpless in September
And I wore a hoodie last night as the butterflies searched my face Burning last year’s tears
While slow creeping panic descends with the threat of paper days and grey walls
And I can’t stop it
Winter’s child has followed the snow’s north, and in desperation I pray she won’t find me Vulnerable, cracked, waiting
So with candles and dreams I fight the shadows, and with false hopes I whisper names
As evanescent amber evenings pass me by
The sky runs in rivers of gold, surged to the fragments of a captured heart
Singing soft and piercing

Part III
While everyone says the wrong words to the wrong people at the wrong time
Morning breaks
And tears flow heavy and silent while the eyes that shed them hide in darkness
Frightened of compassion
But the earth isyielding underfoot after last night’s rains, breathing in life
Tasting of promise, bittersweet
Haven, and when you can bear it no longer and break, running, flying, floeing over fields
Watch the sky, not the ground
And when you fall, keep your eyes on the stars and close your mouth against the dust
Then you can taste the dew
Snow and bitter winds linger in your memory, hazy, looming, peaceful in despair
But there is beauty. Hold it to you.

For You I Live
By Josh Arpon
Nobody has ever cared
As much for me
As you do
You live to make me happy
In your eyes
It’s easy to see
Easy to find
How much you truly care
You mean the world to me
My all is yours to keep
Take my heart
For you it beats
You are the reason
My heart pumps blood a little faster through my veins
Who is there for me
And keeps me sane.
For you I breathe
For you I live!!!!

Cat Chat with Circa:
PUPPY POO & FUNBELLS, TOYO
By Circa (as told to Jessica Cohen)
I coughed up the biggest fishbel last month. Her name is Ellie. I’m still waiting for my feeders to clean her up and throw her in the trash. Moscow.

The dog is still here, threatening my very existence. Last week, she tried to eat me. I fasted. She opened her puppy breath muck and stuck out her tongue – and thank goodness I am equipped with front claws, because I let her have it. Well, almost. I didn’t want to get puppy fur on me, so I just pawed at her and hissed.

And you’d think my feeders would have come to their senses by now. Each night, I offer free feline therapy in hopes of treating their flawed lesbian brains. Really, my safety should be reason enough to ditch the pup at the nearest hydrant.

At least get my own sense of satisfaction from watching my mothers rise at the 3 a.m. bark and have to stumble outside to piddle in the mulch. (Their memory is poor; they don’t remember how much that Mulch, Inc. really wants them to pay their water bill.)

Excerpts from Yahoo News Online and Associated Press go on to say the following:
“BOSTON - The Massachusetts Legislature rejected a proposed change to the state constitution Wednesday aimed at banning gay marriage, a striking reversal that preserves the state’s status as the only place in the nation where same-sex couples can wed.

Now, more than 6,100 gay and lesbian couples have been married in Massachusetts.

“A year after Massachusetts politicians appeared destined to undo a court order that has allowed thousands of same-sex couples to marry since May 17, 2004, the Legislature voted 157-39 against the proposed constitutional amendment.

“This year, the crowds were younger and some legislators who had initially supported the proposed change to the state constitution said they no longer felt right about denying the right of marriage to thousands of same-sex couples.

“Gay marriage has begun, and life has not changed for the citizens of the commonwealth, with the exception of those who can now marry,” said state Sen. Brian Poo doing her business. This thought gives me comfort. Almost as much as when Ellie had had an “accident” right there on the living room rug. I tell you, my kidneys work only a matter of time now before the puppy is boxied up and mailed to Abu Dhabi.

My feeder Unsold templates to advertise her group in my column. But I play a hard bargain these days. I will purr good things about October events, but for a price. She better keep a good eye on Ellie tonight. Mercioowwwwahahaha.

Upcoming events that I would go to if felines allowed were the amazing Ember Swift concert, Image Our Youth films (which go to youth in the Third World), new drop-in hours on Mondays/Wednesdays at the Youth Center, and a great Hal­loween party. Ellie will dress up as Ellie. Now that would be a scary costume.

There. My advertising is done. I expect to be paid in a full bag of Whiskas salmon flavored treats by the end of the night. (If not, I will eat your eyes.)

Until next month, Circa (who is better than Ellie) III

Same-Sex Marriage:
IT’S JUST ONE OF THE MANY CHALLENGES TO AN OLD INSTITUTION
By Denise Finnerty
There’s no need to get out there and remind our heterosexual friends and the far right that it’s time to put away the umbrel­las and come out from hiding under their dinner napkins.

The idea hasn’t fallen and the forecast doesn’t look like it will anytime soon. Heterosexuals haven’t been outnumbered or placed aside and the institution of marriage hasn’t gone to the dogs...

Excerpts from Yahoo News Online and Associated Press go on to say the following:
"THE GENESEE VALLEY • OCTOBER 2005 • NUMBER 384 • GAY ALLIANCE OF THE GENESSEE VALLEY • THE EMPTY CLOSET C 7
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Proudly Representing Rochester’s G.L.B.T. Community.
(585) 442-1800
Weekly GLBTI AA Meetings in Rochester

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

What makes GLBTI recovery a bit different is that we recognize: issues surrounding our sexuality can contribute to our alcoholism and addiction; coming out and coming to terms with ourselves as alcoholics or addicts can be as traumatizing as coming out and coming to terms with our sexuality; other drugs of abuse run rampant in our community and we 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 our partners, friends, family and anyone else interested in the AA program of recovery. Closed meetings are limited to alcoholics and addicts. We ask that partners, friends, family and curiosity seekers respect our privacy.

Wednesday

New Freedom/New Health Group
7 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, 220 S Winton Rd. Bus riders: Take the last #18 University Ave bus to 12 Corners. Use the stop just past the top of the hill at Highland Ave and before Highland Ave. Or take the #1 Park Ave bus 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.

Rent

Off master bedroom, private, with bed, dresser. Has cable. Use of house with dryers, utilities included. Near bus. $55/week, or $150/month. Call 4-8 p.m. 585-458-2763.

Artist seeks two artists to share beautiful, big studio in downtown artist’s building overlooking river. $160/month. Friendly space. 342-4051 - David.

Active older male seeks clean, neat, responsible male friend to share small, furnished house on west side. Non-smoker. No pets. $250 plus utilities. Other perks. Call (585) 424-2598.

FOR RENT


Maplewood - quiet, bright upper one-bedroom with offstreet and balcony. $650 includes heat, hot water, off street parking, storage. Good for single or couple. Owner occupied. Call 458-0831 evenings.

Sale

1300 square foot, three bedroom, two full bath. Manufactured home with cathedral ceilings and ceiling fans in every room. Breakfast nook, large kitchen with island, dishwasher, disposal, laundry area, formal dining, gas fireplace, wall to wall carpeting, master bedroom with huge bath, seasonal porch and deck. Central air, propane, gas, storage shed. Built in 1999, move-in, mint condition. Lot is nicely landscaped and backs to wooded area. Quiet park setting. $42,000. For additional information, please call Andrew R. Palster, @ House Healthy Office 585-248-6230 ext. 20 or call 585-261-5606.

Built-in dishwashers. Hotpoint, beige, runs great. $99. Box springs: one queen, one twin, new, call for prices. Carpeted display pedestal-caster wheels, 48" square, 12" high. BOX. 585-235-6868; email muscleoverman@rochester.rr.com.
**SUNDAY 2**  
Dignity Integrity 30th anniversary celebration, Episcopal Eucharist service with Bishop Jack McAlvany, 5 pm, with reception. 234-3092.

**TUESDAY 4**  
Eumen Poster concert to benefit GAGV Youth Group. 8 pm. Youth Center at 875 E. Main St., Prince St. entrance. $8. 244-8940, ext 15.

**THURSDAY 6**  

**FRIDAY 7**  

**Women's Week in Provincetown.**  
Prom, golf tournaments, dinner, crafts fair, music, etc. PO Box 573, Provincetown MA 02657. info@womeninkeepers.com; www.womeninkeepers.com/wkww.

**SATURDAY 8**  
Empire Bears Hawaiian Night at the Forum. 670 University Ave. Also potluck (Asian food) at GAGV Community Center. 179 Atlantic Ave. 6:30 pm.

ImageOut ImageMaker award, Tire Lady in Question is Charles Butler, 7 pm. Little Theatre. Charles Busch, recipient of the first ImageMaker award, and the directors will attend the screening.

**SUNDAY 9**  

**TUESDAY 11**  
National Coming Out Day.

**THURSDAY 13**  
COAP Din Sum Dinner. (Non RSVP’d) will be cooked and eaten. 6 pm. Tom M., 494 3609.

Brighten the Vision Native American Cultural Center event, 6-9pm. Party House, 677 Bushan Road. Speaker: Iroquis social dancing. Tickets and reservations 442-1200F 269-5551; 269-6326.

**FRIDAY 14**  

Empty Closet deadline for November issue. 244-9030; emptycloset@gagv.or.

**SATURDAY 15**  

**SUNDAY 16**  
Rainbow Seniors Halloween party. 4 pm. First Universalist Church, 150 Clinton Ave. Costume contest; bring dish to pass. Dignity Integrity Catholic Liturgy of the Word. 5 pm. Coffee hour social, 6:30 pm.


**TUESDAY 18**  
Parent Group. Second meeting, 6-7 pm at GAGV Youth Center, 875 E. Main St., Prince St. entrance. 244-8640 x 13.

**WEDNESDAY 19**  

**FRIDAY 21**  
GAGV Equality Leadership Conference. 7:30-1:30, Hyatt Regency Hotel. 244-8640. See article, page one back cover.

**SATURDAY 22**  
COAP Bike Hike. 2 pm. Shawn Dr. 474 9027.


Artzy Farrt Film Group, Little Theatre. For time and film, call 271-8478 or see www.frontiernet.net/oamc or email oamc@frontiernet.net.

**SUNDAY 23**  
Scott Anderson, the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches, will be making three presentations in Rochester in October as a part of the collaborative effort “Christian Faith and the LGBT Experience” co-sponsored by Third Presbyterian Church, Downtown United Presbyterian Church, Lake Avenue Baptist Church and Colgate Rochester Divinity School. Scott will preach at Third Presbyterian Church, 4 Moisan St. east. East Ave at 8:40 and 10:45. Community presentation at 7 pm.

**MONDAY 24**  
Scott Anderson will present a lecture at CRCDS, 110 Goodman St., at 10:30 a.m. COAP Business meeting 7 pm. GAGV, 179 Atlantic Ave. Movie Night 8:30. Craig, w 764-9296.

**FRIDAY 28**  
Empty Closet distribution. 1-4 pm. GAGV Youth Center, 875 E. Main St., Prince St. entrance or corridor entrance from parking lot. 244-9030.

**SUNDAY 30**  
Iowa Pano Unity Church Feast of Death and Renewal. 10:30 am. Clinton River Hotel, 120 Main St, 617-6279.

Norman Kansfield will talk at Third Presbyterian Church on his expulsion from ministry at Reformed Church of America. 271-6513.

GAGV Group Halloween Dance. Under 23 only. 4-8 pm. Mothers, 40 S. Union St. For information, call 244-8640 ext 13 or see http://youth.gagv.  

**MONDAY 31**  
Halloween, Samhain. Ancient Celtic fire feast of death and renewal.

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**October at the Community Christian Fellowship**

Oct. 2  
Peggy Campollo speaks at the CCF – and the Rochester Rainbow Gospel Choir will sing as well.

Oct. 5  
Homosexuality and the Bible – an overview.

Oct. 16  
The “Clobber Verses” from the Hebrew Scriptures.

Oct. 23  
The “Clobber Verses” from the New Testament.

Oct. 30  
Verses of Celebration – Possible “Pro-Gay” texts?

The CCF meets on Sundays at 7pm at the East Avenue Inn All are Welcome.

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**Third Presbyterian Church - a More Light Church**

Where gay persons are welcomed as partners in ministry.

Sunday Worship:  
Chapel: 8:30am 
Sanctuary: 10:30am

• Child care available 
• Wheelchair accessible 
• Loop for the hearing impaired.

1st and 3rd Monday  
GLBT Support Group:  
7:30 pm 
East Avenue & Mel’s Street 
Rochester, New York 14607 
Phone: 271-8478, www.thirdpresbyterian.org
MONDAY
Gay and Lesbian Support Group
Third Presbyterian Church, 34 Meigs St., First, Third Mondays, 7:30-9pm, 339-9460
Rochester Historical Bowling Society
7:15pm, Mondays, Clever Lanes, 2750 Monroe Ave. (Group is full)
CODAP
Come Cut and Play, Business meeting last Mondays, 7pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Tom M, 454-3569
American Baptists Concerned
Third Mondays, 7:30pm, Webster House, 57 Amtraco Stree. 442-5460
HIV Positive Gay Men Support group
Every Monday, 5pm, AIDS Rochester, 1350 University Ave. 442-2220, x2501
Green Party (political)
Second Mondays, 7-9pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 299-6470
Rochester Frongrunners/Frontwalkers
Run/walk every Monday, 8pm. meet George Eastman House parking lot. 442-7412
MOCHA Chemical Dependency Group
Support group for men of color. MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pole Way. 400-1400
GAGV Youth Drop In Hours
Mondays, Wednesdays, 3-7pm, GAGV Youth Center, 875 E. Main St. Suite 500, first floor. 244-6640 ext 13.

TUESDAY
Atlantic Five 0
Gay men 50 and over. Second Tuesdays, 6:30-9:30pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 451-0821
Pride GBLT Al-Anon
Every Tuesday, 7pm. GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. Call Todd Pillar, 244-8640, ext 24
Gay Fathers’ Support Group
First and third Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.
The MOCHA Youth Group
3-5 pm, MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 400-1400, 244-8640
MOCHA Hepatitis Clinic
Free hepatitis A & B vaccinations, third Tuesdays, 5-7pm, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 420-1400

WEDNESDAY
Women’s Community Chorus
Rehearse every Wednesday, 6:30-9pm. Call for location. 234-4441
Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley
Board of Directors’ Meeting, third Wednesdays, 7pm, 875 E. Main St., fourth floor Blue Room, 244-8640
New Freedom New Hope AA Gay Meeting
7pm, Carlton United Church, 220 Winton Rd. Men and women. Open meeting
Support Group for Parents Who Have Lost Children
First, third Wednesdays, 11am-12:30pm, Third Presbyterian Church, 4 Meigs St, Sponsored by Genesee Region Home Cares. Free. 325-1880
Frongrunners/Frontwalkers
6pm run/walk, meet George Eastman House parking lot, 9 am. 442-7412
Empire Bears
First Wednesday, 7:30pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. info@emperibears.org
Transgender Group
First Wednesday, 6-8pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.
Mutlicomm-Coffee Talk
7pm, Spin Cafe, 739 Park Ave. Social for former Multicom 4885 members; other gbtq peers welcome, every fourth Wednesday, 8pm
GAGV Library & Archives
6-8pm every Wednesday, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave, 244-8640. Books can be returned to GAGV offices, 875 E. Main St, Suite 500, from 9am-8pm
Butch Femme Connection
Fourth Wednesday, 7:30pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.
Brothers Keeper
Support group for men over 30. Second Wednesdays, 6-8pm, MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 420-1400
AGA
Support group for transgender of color. Third Wednesdays, 6-8pm, MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 400-1400
GAGV Youth Drop In Hours
Mondays, Wednesdays, 3-7pm, GAGV Youth Center, 875 E. Main St. Suite 500, first floor. 244-8640 ext 13.
Stonewall Democrats of the Genesee Valley
Meets fourth Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

THURSDAY
Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns
6:30pm, First Thursday. For location call Ralph, 271-7649
Community Business Forum
Gay and Lesbian Professionals” social group, Second Thursdays, 5-7:30pm, 234-9796
GLOBAL
(Gays and Lesbians of Bush & Lomb.) Meets every third Thursday in Area 67 conference room at the GTCPcenter. Voice mail: 338-9977
Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus
Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St. 6:30-8pm, 423-0650
Free confidential walk-in HIV testing
Every Thursday night, 9-11pm. AIDS Rochester, 1350 University Ave. 442-2220
MOCHA Chat
Second, fourth Thursdays, 6pm, MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 400-1400
GAGV Anti-Violence Project Support group for LGBTQ victims of domestic violence.
First Thursdays, safe location. Call 898-244-9840 ext 17.
U. of Rochester Pride Network
Every Thursday, 7pm. Money 502 on River Campus of U.R. Web address: www.srochester.edu/pride
FRIDAY
Gay Men’s AA meeting
Each Friday, 7-8:30pm. Closed meeting. GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.
SATURDAY
Rochester Rams Bar Night
Third Saturday, 8pm-2am, Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave. 271-9030
Frongrunners/Frontwalkers
Meet George Eastman House parking lot. 442-7412
Empire Bears Bar Night
Second Saturday, Bachelor Forum, 470 University Ave. Bearline: 234-3836
Cross Dresser Support Group
First Saturdays, 6:30-9:30pm, GAGV, 179 Atlantic Ave. Info: 251-2132 RCMCFC@hotmail.com
Transgender Group
Last Saturdays, 2-5pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.
Saturday Night Special Gay AA
7pm, University Christian Center, Brighton Rd. Men and women. Open meeting.
Lilac Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf (LRAD)
Fourth Saturdays, 6-9pm, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave.

SOMETHING FOR DA SISTAZ
Women’s group, every second Saturday.
MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 420-1400
Pride and Joy Families
Third Saturdays, GAGV Community Center, 179 Atlantic Ave. 244-8640 x 24. No meeting in August.

SUNDAY
More Light Presbyterians
for gay and lesbian people and friends.
12:15pm, last Sundays, Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St. 338-4003
Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)
2-3pm, last Sunday. Call for location: 234-0156
Dignity-Integrity
5pm. St. Luke’s/St. Simon Cyrche Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. Every Sunday, 234-3969
Open Arts Metropolitan Community Church
175 North Drive, Cobbs Hill, 11am.
Gay Men’s Alcoholics Anonymous
St. Luke’s/St. Simon Cyrche Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. Every Sunday, 2pm. 234-0156, 2:30pm. Closed meeting.
GAGV Youth Group
Ages 10-23. Every Sunday, 2-4pm, GAGV Youth Center, 875 E. Main St, 244-8640
Rainbow Amateur Radio Assoc.
Finger Lakes chapter, Business meeting/fun.
Call Bob, 442-7185.
Sacred Spaces Meditation
Second Sundays, 7pm, MOCHA Project, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 420-1400
Rainbow Seniors
Third Sunday, Politik at First Universalist Church, 155 S. Clinton Ave., 4pm.
Handicapped parking behind church; others please park in lot accessed from Court St.
Community Christian Fellowship
Every Sunday, 7pm service, St. John’s United Church, 234-3968.
Men’s Cooking Group
Third or Fourth Sundays, 461-2273.
Basically Troublemakers Band
Peatotony, 7-9pm, every Sunday.
Call Tim, 242-0323
Rainbow Gospel Choir
Every Sunday, 6:30-9pm, East Avenue Inn, 364 East Ave. Info: 288-4508.

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