Lateisha Green’s killer gets 25 years

By Susan Jordan

On Aug. 18, Judge William Walsh sentenced convicted killer Dwight R. DeLee to the maximum term of 25 years in prison in connection with the shooting death of Lateisha Green.

Green, a 22-year-old African American transgender woman, was shot and killed by DeLee on Nov. 14, 2008 in Syracuse. On July 17, a 12-member jury found 20-year-old DeLee guilty of manslaughter in the first degree as a hate crime and criminal possession of a weapon.

DeLee’s conviction for committing a hate crime is the first involving the death of a transgender person in New York State. It is only the second such conviction in United States history. In addition to the sentence for manslaughter, DeLee was sentenced to a concurrent term of 3 1/2 to 7 years in prison on the weapon possession conviction.

“Today, a measure of justice has been delivered for Lateisha (Lateisha continues page 8) Gov. Paterson’s task force issues hate crimes recommendations

On Aug. 15, Governor David A. Paterson announced the release of the Hate Crimes Task Force recommendations to help New Yorkers better respond to and prevent bias crimes.

The task force, which the Governor established in January 2009 following a series of bias-motivated attacks across the State, outlined a multifaceted approach to addressing the issue. The proposals include the development of curricula for students and school staff; enhanced training for law enforcement on hate crimes and the implementation of a consistent approach that agencies and community-based organizations should adopt when responding to victims.

“We in New York cannot and will not allow bias and ignorance to infect our communities and deny our citizens the respect that they deserve,” Governor Paterson said. (Hate crimes continues page 8)

Fun in the Sun raises over $13,000

There was lots of fun at ONE Restaurant & Lounge on Aug. 16, as 300 people enjoyed a festive evening of wonder with the Gay Alliance’s Anti-Violence Project.

Nine drag performers took the stage for two shows hosted by Jenna Saioqui and Kyla Minx.

Gay Alliance Board President Tom Herrera presented an engraved clock to retired Rochester Police Department LGBT Liaison Jim Hall. The inscription read: “Officer Jim Hall, thank you for walking boldly in your truth, GAGV 2008.”

Officer Hall served in this position for 10 years and was the first LGBT Liaison Officer for the Department. His assistance has been invaluable to the Anti-Violence Project.

WVP Director Kelly Clark said, “A big thank you to ONE owner Tim Tompkins, our main sponsor and to GF Trigg, CEO of Rochester Wealth Management, who co-chaired the event planning committee with Mr. Tompkins.”

This event raised over $13,000 for the Anti-Violence Project. The money will be used for education and outreach, efforts not currently funded by grant sources. Over 40 people served on the planning committee.

L-R: Erik Rueckman, Mark Leenhouts, retired RPD Officer Jim Hall, Bruce Trombley and Jimmy Catalano. Hall received a community service award.

“Finding Your Truth” with the MOCHA Center; forum marks Welcome Home Weekend

By Laura McSpadden

On the weekend of Aug. 6-9, the MOCHA Center celebrated 13 years of service in the Rochester area. The theme of the weekend was “Welcome Home,” and its aim was to “address the social, spiritual, and health and wellness needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people of color living in Erie and Monroe counties.”

One of the concluding events of the weekend was a community forum on the subject of “Finding Your Truth” that took place on Sunday, Aug. 9 at the MOCHA Center, 107 Liberty Pole Way. The forum featured Rev. Robert Arrington of Rochester’s Tawa Pano Unity Fellowship Church and included the participation and sharing of the attendees.

The topic for the evening was well-chosen, and resonated strongly with the staff of MOCHA as well as the participants. “A lot of the youth who are involved in the MOCHA weekend are at an age where finding self is at the forefront,” said Charles Tyson, MOCHA’s Peer Youth Specialist. “A lot of them are dealing with issues of homophobia and gender expression. Sometimes, spirituality can get left behind, depending on where they are at in their lives and what their family lives are like. We thought it was important to give a space for looking at spirituality with an open mind.”

The evening’s event was well-attended, as there wasn’t an empty seat in the room.

(MOCHA continues page 3)

Candidates to Watch Page A 6

Inside

Section A

New York State’s Oldest LBGT Publication

September is Dining Out With Friends Month

Dining Out With Friends Month is in full swing and the Gay Alliance will be holding this month in support of the programs of the Gay Alliance, if you wish, it is not too late to host a dinner. Contact us at 244-8640 ext. 20 or email us at diningout@gayus.org.

The festivities of Dining Out With Friends Month will peak with a dessert reception at the City Hall Atrium on Sept. 25. The evening will include luscious desserts, entertainment by the Gay Men’s Chorus and piano by Peter Ankles. Reservations will be available along with the tickets.

This event is open to everyone in the community, everyone doesn’t attend a dinner. Tickets to this event will be $25 at the door.

The Gay Alliance invites everyone to come and bring your friends for a “gay” and festive evening of wonderful music, conversation, and great desserts from local bakeries and restaurateurs.

Coming Out workshops start this month

The GAGV Coming Out Workshop series begins on Thursday, Sept. 24, and runs through Oct. 25.

The workshops will be on Thursday nights, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the GAGV Youth Center, 875 E. Main St., first floor. Co-facilitators are Joe Robinson, a GAGV Board Member and Ashley Dinsoll, LCSW-R, CGP. The series is for adults 18 and over. Cost is $60, with scholarships available. To register and for information, e-mail comingout@gagv.us or call 244-8640.

The Gay Alliance appreciates the continuing partnership of businesses within our community who support our mission and vision.

Gold: Eastman Kodak Company; Mass Mutual Financial Group; Merrill Lynch; National Peabody, LLP

Silver: Ace Walking Services; Bausch & Lomb Inc.; Conning Incorporated; Harter Secrest & Emory LLP; Haveroff & Haveroff CPAs; ITT Corporation; Monroe Plans for Medical Care; Sage Advisors of Sage Ruffy; St. John Fisher College; Tim Tompkins Enterprises; Xerox Capital Services

Bronze: Canandaigua National Bank; Edington Florist; Empire State College; GALAXE Pride at Work; Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church; Third Presbyterian Church; Wegmans Food Markets; The Woolbright Group

Pride: Thomson Reuters
Perspectives

FROM THE EMPTY CLOSET EDITOR
SUSAN JORDAN

Watch out for the Empty Closet—prayer policy, that is

Recently some Greece residents expressed concern about what they call right-wing bias being shown by their school board, with its officials’ guide listing local Fundamentalist Christian churches—a guide which contains no resources for light or non-Christian students—only a list of places where they may not “tell people what they should say.” Then they say, as the Town Supervisor John Auberger claims, that “this is not right.”

The lawsuit alleges that the town already is playing “prayer policy,” and it is quite clear which kind of prayers they and the Alliance Defense Fund want everyone to pray. They may not “tell people what they should say” when they pray, as Town Supervisor John Auberger claims—but according to the D&C, only Christians from churches listed on the student guide actually get invited to do any praying.

The suit also alleges that the 104 prayers offered at town board meetings from 1999 through 2007 were exclusively Christian—none were offered by non-Christians. Since 2007, exactly one non-Christian has been allowed to pray and two other prayers have been offered by (presumably Christian) non-clergy—which supposedly makes the board a bastion of religious tolerance.

What a laugh! But the right loves to accuse people of color of “involuntary racism,” liberals of being “intoxicated of diversity.” This twisted doubletalk doesn’t have a lot of credibility anymore. Few think of the Conservative Christian political movement as welcoming diversity or fostering freedom of speech.

Extremist groups like the Alliance Defense Fund impose their radical-right views in many undemocratic ways: by infiltrating school boards through stealth candidates; pursuing disruptive, screaming followers into town meetings on health care reform and funding groups which work to take rights away from targeted minorities.

God save America from the real Prayer Police and their agenda of totalitarian social control.

FROM THE GAY ALLIANCE BOARD PRESIDENT
TOM FERRARASE

It’ll make you feel good.

Thanks to Gerald Honora and her team of editors and writers, and to all of our full-time and volunteer staff members, this issue of the Empty Closet makes you feel good.

Throughout these pages you will find a wide variety of content, from stories about the issues affecting our community to personal essays on love and loss. Each page is filled with insights and perspectives that will engage and inspire you.

The Empty Closet is a community newspaper dedicated to promoting equality and diversity. We believe in the power of words to effect change, and we work to ensure that our readers are informed, entertained, and challenged by the content we publish.

So, sit back, relax, and enjoy the ride. The Empty Closet is here to make you feel good.

Sustained donations to the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley are

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Editor-in-Chief: Susan Jordan
Staff Reporters: David M. Overmyer, Andrea C. Oster
Graphic Design: Jim Anderson

Advertisements:
The Empty Closet does not print advertisements that contain photos or graphics, nor does it print advertising that states the person pictured in the ad is for sale, or that you will “get” that particular person by placing an advertisement in the establishment advertised. Advertisements that explicitly solicit escort, agent, client or any other position that can result, result, agent, escort or any of these will not be refused. All political advertisements must contain information about who placed them and a method of contact. Additionally, The Empty Closet does not print non-verbal photographs or videographic elements, whether they relate to a product or politics and no member of the publication staff will be tasked with editing the ad to be produced. A negative or unfounded objection is not an issue that relates to a product on the page.

Submissions:
For publication, submit news items, arts, photos, essays, or other content to the Editor. We only publish items related to the Rochester gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community. We accept photographs and written material in any medium, as long as they are appropriate for the publication. We reserve the right to refuse any submission. Submission deadline is the 20th of each month.

Dining Out With Friends in the Rochester LGBT community... Dine with your friends, eat a good meal, and dine out in style on our list of amazing restaurants in the Rochester LGBT community. Here are some of the most popular dining spots in the city, recommended by our readers:

1. The Empty Closet
2. The Empty Closet
3. The Empty Closet
4. The Empty Closet
5. The Empty Closet

Stonewall Society
The Empty Closet is a gay and lesbian community newspaper. We do not support or condone any form of discrimination, hatred, or violence against any person or group. Our mission is to promote equality and diversity in our community, and we strive to provide a safe and respectful environment for all who read our publication. If you have any concerns or questions about our content or policy, please contact us at info@emptycloset.org.
Buy a gay bachelor and help Gilda’s Club

On Oct. 7, the first ever “Find the One at Gilda’s Club Rochester at ONE Restaurant & Lounge, 1 Ryan Plaza. Twenty-five gay and straight bachelors will be auctioned off to raise money for the cancer support programming offered at Gilda’s Club Rochester. Each bachelor will come paired with a $50 gift certificate to a local restaurant to make for a perfect date.

The event was proposed by Gilda’s Club volunteer Robin K. Alexander. She said the positive influence of Gilda’s Club nearly every day at her job as the new patient coordinator at a gynecological oncology office in San Francisco, her sister, Melissa Schneck.

Gilda’s Club is a non-profit, non-residential community that helps people with cancer and their families and friends join others to build social and emotional support. Gilda’s Club Rochester New York is located at 255 Alexander St.

Host families needed for exchange students

The non-profit High School Exchange Organization (CIEE) is looking for host families in the Rochester area and would like to let people in the LGBT community know about the need for host families.

CIEE says, “We accept all kinds of families — kids, no kids, empty nesters, single parents, and so on. The main requirements are love and patience.”

CIEE strongly believes that by volunteering their time to host in this service, exchange students will become more involved in the American way of life. The experience, required for high school students, is an important part of their host family, school, and community.

CIEE students have the appropriate visa, medical insurance, and money to cover all of their own expenses, with the exception of food and utilities. The potential hosts have questions, they can contact Anna-Lena Phillips at (585)533-4160 or at ap@ciee.org.

For more information on CIEE, visit the website: www.ciee.org/host.

Rochester is for anyone who isn’t catered to by the youth groups. We’ve had members from 28 to 88 years old and they still come for the community and they’re open to anyone.

The Rochester Pride Center is one of many ongoing meetings and events that can be found on the Rainbow Seniors website, http://www.rainbowseniors/seniors/index.html or more on Rainbow SAGE, see page B 13.

Hosting a comic/juggler/unicyclist was greatly enjoyed,“I really enjoyed getting a reading from the psychic who was here,” said Rita Espinoza. “It was an afternoon of playing cards, a bit of a lark...”

At the picnic, we were all seeking comfort and freedom. We’re always looking for fresh ideas. People are really good about finding new and different things to do."

The community is open to people of all ages, Eastman Dental employee, said the picnic was a great way to meet new people and get involved in the community.

The theme for the Rainbow Seniors’ picnic is “Still, the event was much bigger than the kids, no kids, empty nesters who showed up. We accept, while many saw it as a religious event, I believe that someday I will. Everyone is focused on the good that they’re doing, not on the bad that they’ve been labelled with.”

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An inclusive ENDA goes before Congress

Senators Jeff Merkley (OR-D), Susan Collins (ME-R), Olympia Snowe (ME-R), and the late Edward M. Kennedy (MA-D) have introduced legislation for the Elimination of National Origin Discrimination Act (ENDA), which would protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) employees from workplace discrimination. The bill, which enjoys bipartisan support in Congress, would add sexual orientation and gender identity to existing federal employment non-discrimination laws.

"ENDA is an important step in securing basic rights for all Americans, and will ensure that all people regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, will be treated fairly in the workplace," said Maen Davis, Executive Director of the Transgender Law Center.

Currently, California and 11 other states have non-discrimination protections for LGBT workers. According to numerous surveys, large majorities of likely voters in the U.S. support federal employment non-discrimination laws to protect LGBT people. Polling data from 2006 shows that voters are more likely to support a candidate who votes for LGBT anti-discrimination laws than candidates who do not.

Passage of a trans-inclusive ENDA is critical, given the high rates of employment discrimination and harassment experienced by transgender employees. The Transgender Law Center’s 2008 Transgender Economic Health Survey found that almost 70 percent of working-age transgender Californians experienced discrimination in the workplace, including 30 percent who reported that they had been unemployed as a direct result of being transgender or gender non-conforming. The same survey found that transgender respondents were twice as likely to have a college degree as the average Californian.

As a member of the steering committee of the United ENDA coalition, the Transgender Law Center has been working since 2007 to educate California policymakers about the economic needs of transgender people and the importance of federal employment protections.

"We urge Congress to take speedy action to put this bill on the President’s desk," said Davis. "Discrimination has no place in today’s workplace. All employees deserve to be judged on their merits and the skills they bring to the workplace — not by their sexual orientation or gender identity."

For more information about ENDA, visit: http://eqfed.org/campaign/enda-introduction_senate/explanation

APA declares "reparative therapy" to be useless, harmful and wrong

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force applauded the American Psychological Association’s (APA) recent resolution, adopted at the organization’s annual convention in August, that states that mental health professionals should avoid telling clients that they can change sexual orientation through therapy or other treatments.

Rea Carey, Executive Director, said, "We’re thrilled to finally put this debate to bed. We have long known that ‘reparative therapies’ and ‘gay cure ministries’ are harmful to individuals, to society and to families. The American Psychological Association, through its careful review of research, has now stated without hesitation that the ‘reparative’ practitioners, whether therapeutic or religious, cannot credibly claim success and may in fact be harming individuals who seek help and are encouraged to undertake this change. It is likely that the ‘reparative’ practitioners cease and desist their dishonest claims of ‘curing’ homosexuality. As a society, we must condemn and embrace those among us, especially young people, who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender. We will all be better off when each of us can bring our full selves to work and school, to houses of worship and to our communities."

The “Resolution on Appropriate Affirmative Responses to Sexual Orientation Distress and Change Efforts” strives to ensure that parents, guardians, young people and their families avoid treatments and practitioners that portray homosexuality as a mental illness or developmental disorder. The APA advises that people elect to adopt or foster children regardless of his or her sexual orientation, and that they not face discrimination or the lack of support.

"Reparative therapies" and so-called “gay cure ministries” have long offered snake oil remedies to families and youth. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, beginning in 1998, has issued research reports to expose the charlatans for what they are: right-wing political ideologues manipulating and exploiting the confused feelings and experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people, primarily caused by anti-LGBT views, sentiments, public policies and theology.

The notion that sexual orientation can be “cured” or “changed” through “reparative therapies” and “gay cure ministries” forms a foundational right-wing ideology that sexual orientation is a mistaken “choice” to be changed, rather than a deeply held understanding of one’s own sexual identity that all should be free to express and live out to its fullest.

The APA acknowledges that many LGBT people experience conflicts about their sexual orientation because of “their or their families’ religious beliefs. To that point, the APA resolution advises mental health professionals to both “refuse to label same-sex orientation as a disorder” and “respect the client’s religious beliefs” while considering “possibilities for a religiously and spiritually meaningful and rewarding life.”

The Institute for Welcoming Resources, a program of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, works to expand the number of congregations that welcome and affirm LGBT people. These congregations create religious environments that do not condemn LGBT people, but rather offer acceptance,容纳 and an experience of affirmational worship.

The Task Force’s long history on this issue began in 1973, when the Task Force worked to change the American Psychiatric Association’s classification of homosexuality as a mental disorder, and worked with psychiatry allies to defeat a proposed association-wide referendum to stop the declassification.

In addition: In 1998, the Task Force Policy Institute co-published “Challenging the Ex-Gay Movement,” with Equal Partners in Faith and Political Research Associates. That same year, the Policy Institute also released Calculated Compassion: How the Ex-Gay Movement Severs the Right’s Link on Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell. These publications, in-depth analyses of so-called “ex-gay ministries,” attested to the fact that “reparative therapies” are both harmful and do not work.

In 2005, the Task Force released “A Report From Love Wins: OutAddressing, Understanding, and Preventing Homosexuality.” This report detailed the frames and world view put forth by “ex-gay” leaders, and examined how to counter their anti-LGBT arguments.

After noting a new tactic within the “ex-gay” movement of targeting lesbian, gay and bisexual youth for “reparative therapies” and “preventive measures,” the Task Force released in 2006 final report, Youth in the Crosshairs: The Third Wave of Ex-Gay Activism.

Consistent with the APA resolution, Task Force emphasizes that people and their families avoid treatments and practitioners that portray homosexuality as a mental illness or developmental disorder. The APA advises that people elect to adopt or foster children regardless of his or her sexual orientation, and that they not face discrimination or the lack of support.

The APA resolution also states that the practice of “reparative therapy” is potentially harmful to LGBT individuals, and that mental health professionals should not perform or refer clients to those practitioners.

The APA’s resolution follows its 1998 Resolution on Homosexuality as a Mental Disorder, which called for ending the classification of homosexuality in the APA’s Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM). The resolution also called for replacing the classification with an improved understanding, and Preventing Homosexuality.

The report revealed how groups such as Exodus International and Focus on the Family promoted widely discredited theories on the root of homosexuality and recommended “prevention” and “reparative therapies” despite the growing body of research that shows these treatments to be ineffective and even harmful for many participants.

Attacker kills two at Tel Aviv youth center

The LGBT Community Center in Tel Aviv (Municipal GLBT Community Center, The City of Tel Aviv-Yafo) was confronted with a dreadful attack the first weekend in August. On Aug. 1, a masked individual entered the LGBT center and opened fire, killing two young people and wounding another fifteen. The attack came in the middle of a LGBT youth support group gathering and many victims are in their teens.

Top Israeli officials, including the prime minister and the president, strongly condemned the attack.

The attack came at a time when the center has not been caught or identified, but an Israeli police spokesman said the shooting appeared to be a criminal attack, rather than a terrorist attack related to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The two people who died were additions to the 46 who have died over the last 12 years, according to the Shin Bet, Israel’s domestic intelligence.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, “I would like to strongly condemn the shocking murders that were perpetrated... in Tel Aviv... We will bring (the attacker) to justice and treat him with the utmost severity of the law. I would also like to send my condolences to the families of the victims and my wishes for a quick and full recovery... I would like to take this opportunity to say to all of Israel’s citizens: We are a democratic country, a country of law, a law-abiding state, and we will honor every person regardless of his or her beliefs.

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Prime Minister Netanyahu, said, “In Israel, we have adopted a progressive stance on gay rights and has passed legislation to protect those rights. Gay marriage has been recognized by the state, and same-sex couples are permitted to adopt. In addition, gay rights are given at the military and in the workplace. The gay community has gained wide acceptance throughout Israeli society, including in the political, legal, military and cultural realms, and the city of Tel Aviv has one of the most flourishing gay and gay-friendly communities in the world.

I am deeply saddened by the horrific attack on the Tel Aviv’s Center, said Terry Stramski, executive director of CenterLink, The Community of LGBT Centers. "The world-wide community of LGBT centers mourns the loss of these two young people and our hearts go out to the families of the victims and LGBT centers everywhere will extend their hearts and hands to the entire community of Tel Aviv and Israel.

"We are dedicated to being the eye and ears of LGBT communities, and saddened, and outraged by this attack. LGBT Community Centers are a place where members of the LGBT community should be able to gather in safety. That safety has been temporarily shattered in Tel-Aviv’s center.
European rights group condemns Croatia for sex ed discrimination

On Aug. 11, the European Committee of Social Rights, which monitors state compliance with the European Social Charter, has found that Croatia’s limited curriculum covering sex education discriminates on the basis of sexual orientation.

The Committee stated that the state has an obligation to ensure that educational at default do not form the local demand for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people. We take heart and strength that so many in Tel Aviv, in Israel, and around the globe are standing strong in pride and solidarity at this difficult time. We call upon leaders everywhere to support, protect, and defend the right of LGBT people to live, to love, and to contribute to our fullest in all aspects of society.

Groups plan national day of action for Oct. 11

Equality Across America, the new grassroots network calling for Federal action to protect the rights of LGBT Americans, is moving forward with plans for a massive national day of action on Sunday, Oct. 11.

Major national LGBT organizations including the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Centers (LGBTCC) have endorsed the march as have local and state grassroots organizations like Join the Impact Chicago, OneSight OneEye OneVoice, and Freedom Democrats of Miami-Dade.

Some other organizations and individuals, however, are questioning whether a "symbolic" D.C. march is needed or would be effective, in comparison to continued work on the state-local level and support of local LGBT groups.

Occober 11 has been observed as "Personal Coming One Day" since 1991.

This year it commemorates the 30th anniversary of the first March on Washington for Gay Rights.

"We’re marching this October to demand action from the Federal government to protect our rights on the issue of sex education in schools and articulated detailed standards on countries' obligation to provide accurate and science-based sex education," said Christina Zampas, regional manager and senior legal adviser for INTERIGHTS at the Center for Reproductive Rights.

While the Committee found some content of TeenStar problematic, it did not address whether Croatia is in breach of its Charter obligations by allowing it to be taught in schools, on the grounds that it failed to assess the overall educational value of the program.

The committee did, however, reaffirm that any elective courses must remain optional and that sexual and reproductive health education should be aimed at developing the capacity of children and young people to understand their sexuality in its biological and cultural dimensions with the aim of enabling them to make informed decisions with regard to sexual and reproductive health behavior.

"This is an extremely important decision because it is the first time that an international human rights body has addressed the issue of sex education in schools and articulated detailed standards on countries' obligations to provide such education," said Christian Cesar, Program Manager of CESI, a feminist organization based in Zagreb, Croatia.

Equality Across America brings together veteran movement activists such as Rob Reiner, Tom Hanks, Cleve Jones, Anne Northrop and Nadine Smith, with new organizations like Williams and Robin Roberts, who led the "It Gets Better" rally in the "Middle" rally in Fresno, Calif., following the California Supreme Court decision on Proposition 8. "We’re going to teach people from the Stonewell generation to the Facebook generation working together for sexual equality," said McGee.

"We’re tired of compromises and delays." The march in the nation’s capital is needed to help ensure that every state’s equality effort focuses on the attention of the Federal government after decades of work at the state and local level, according to Academy Award winning screenwriter Dustin Lance Black. "The Fourteenth Amendment to the US Constitution guarantees equal protection under the law, but LGBT Americans are still denied that protection, now is the time to push for real equality, in all matters governed by civil law."

Leah Chich, who was recently discharged for being gay under the oppressive “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy, is also a member of the march steering committee. Chich is working to ensure a strong presence by LGBT and straight veterans at the march. The “majority of Americans reject discrimination in the armed forces, it’s time for Congress and the Administr­ation to support a full repeal,” said Sanja Cesar, Program Manager of CESI, a feminist organization based in Zagreb, Croatia.
Tom Brennan
Rochester City Council
At-Large

By Ove Overmyer

Democrat Tom Brennan is one of five candidates vying for the At-Large seat of the Rochester City Council. He is a native of Rochester and has been active in local politics for many years. Brennan is a strong advocate for the city’s residents, especially those in the northwestern part of Monroe County. He is known for his work on anti-discrimination policies and his commitment to public service.

Brennan is married and has two children. He is a graduate of the University of Rochester and has a degree in political science. He is a member of the Rochester City Council and has been serving for several years.

Brennan is a strong supporter of the city’s schools, working to ensure that they are adequately funded and that all students have access to a quality education. He is also a strong advocate for the city’s parks and recreation programs, ensuring that they are well-maintained and accessible to all residents.

Brennan is a member of the Rochester City Planning Commission, holding the office of vice chair for the last year. Additionally, he served as Executive Director of Cephas, an organization that helps families strengthen their relationships.

Brennan has lived in Rochester since 1995 and is a member of the Rochester City Council since 2001. He serves on the Rochester City Planning Commission, holding the office of vice chair for the last year. Additionally, he served as Executive Director of Cephas, an organization that helps families strengthen their relationships.

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on civil rights marches, as memories that are still fresh in her mind. "To sum things up, I believe Rochester's biggest asset is her women, GLBTQI people, aged people and on and on. As long as you will listen to any group to be discriminated against, then anyone will be discriminated against," she added.

During her first term on City Council, Conklin chaired both of Council's major committees, Community Development and Finance. For her final term as the Council Chair, she led Council's review of the Community Development program, which has allowed millions of dollars of debt to be spent rebuilding our City.

As the Finance Committee Chair, Conklin guided a fiscal plan that included the annual Capital Improvement Plan, to ensure that the millions of dollars spent repairing our streets, bridges, and water supply system and other key City programs are spent wisely.

Conklin has also been a leading advocate for government openness and community engagement. She sponsored several public hearings regarding proposed legislation, and she has made time to have legislative meetings televised on City 12. She calls this work with Council members, Brian McCarthy and Dana Miller, some of the most rewarding so far.

Ask what are our community's strengths and weaknesses, she responded, "I believe Rochester's biggest asset is her people. It makes a city livable and viable. Conklin's community involvement includes being a part of the Community Development Commission, a branch of the federal Attorney's Office, a branch of the federal Department of Justice.

"I have been working on an issue regarding the City School District. Our biggest legal strength is we don't live on an island but sometimes it seems our community is divided into separate silos. There needs to be a way to transfer information from group to group. It's not in our interests to have different conversations. I don't believe we can live with violence and being invisible. As youth they don't know how to stand up for themselves and be safe. It's the school's responsibility to protect ALL kids and make sure ALL young people are safe and can access services and a way to school.

Shelton went on to get a BA in behavioral sciences and recently a master's in management. She has had diverse professional experiences, including working as a Healthy Community Coordinator for Foodlink in Rochester and currently as Senior Program Consultant for Cultural and Linguistic Competence, which advises Monroe County on how to better include cultural competence in policies, practices and services delivery. "It all gives me a diverse purview and I can translate my knowledge and skills into the School District," she said.

Regarding the controversy over control of the School Board, Shelton commented, "My philosophy is collaboration. We don't live on an island but sometimes it seems our community is divided into separate silos. There needs to be a way to transfer information from group to group. It's not in our interests to have different conversations. I don't believe we can live with violence and being invisible. As youth they don't know how to stand up for themselves and be safe. It's the school's responsibility to protect ALL kids and make sure ALL young people are safe and can access services and a way to school.

Shelton calls for the community to do more for children and that means listening to children. "I believe in a philosophy of social inclusion, where every child has a chance to achieve and to be shown respect. Safety is an issue for young people. They are struggling with developmental disabilities. A lot of gay youth live with violence and being invisible. As youth they don't know how to stand up for themselves and be safe. It's the school's responsibility to protect ALL kids and make sure ALL young people are safe and can access services and a way to school.

Shelton called for "not to tolerate discriminatory behavior and feel passion­ate about advocating for people who are marginalized. Everybody has the right to enjoy the success they have defined for themselves."

The Gay Alliance and The Empty Closet cannot endorse any candidate. The EC provides space for candidates of any party to address the LGBTQI community if they so choose.
Gwen and her family with the imposition of the maximum sentence for this crime," said Transgender Legal Defense & Educa-
tion Fund Executive Director and attorney Michael Silverman. "While nothing can make up for the loss Lateisha’s family has endured, this sentence helps to bring some closure to Lateisha’s family. The sentence sends a clear message that vio-

lence directed at transgender people will be heavily punished.

"Transgender Americans continue to face a specific risk of violence and dis-
crimination. African American transgender women are at particular high risk," said Silverman. "Neither New York State law nor federal law includes gender identity or expression as hate crime cate-
gories and that sends a dangerous message that it is acceptable to leave part of our community vulnerable to hateful acts of violence simply because of who we are. We call upon our state and federal law-
makers to ensure adoption of transgen-
der-inclusive legislation that will protect everyone regardless of their gender iden-
tity and gender expression."

NY Division of Human Rights state-
ment

Commissioner Galen D. Kirkland said, "First, let me again convey our con-
dolences to the family of Lateisha Green who was brutally murdered Nov. 14, 2008. While today’s court action cannot reverse this tragic loss, it serves as a reminder that we in New York State will not tolerate the kind of violence and mindless cruelty that led to the taking of an innocent person."

"Since 1945, New York has been at the forefront of the civil rights move-
ment becoming the first state to enact an anti-discrimination statute. Our Human Rights Law continues to be updated and refined to keep pace with ongoing changes in society. In 2002 the Sexual Orientation and Gender Expression Act — SONGA — was signed into law, adding sexual orien-
tation to the list of protected classes in the Human Rights Law. "The law clearly spells out that people cannot be discriminated against because of their gender, race, national origin, religi-
ous belief, disability or sexual orienta-
tion, among other protected classes. Just yesterday, Gov. David Paterson released the recommendations of the Hate Crime Task Force that he initiated in response to this and other hate crimes throughout the state, to discuss the need for education and other outreach efforts to protect the vulnerable members of society from hate-
motivated violence. It was a specific mes-
sage that the State of New York will not tolerate discrimination of any sort and we will respond forcefully to hate crimes.

"The death of Lateisha Green was a harbinger of the highest magnitude. We join with all of New York and the family in hopes that together we can prevent an event like this from happening again."

Family statement on sentencing

"Today’s sentencing sends a clear mes-

sage that violence motivated by anti-trans-
gender bias is unacceptable and wrong. It affects everyone in a community and it has caused much hurt and distress. We can only hope that Teish’s story will pre-
vent any more loss of life simply because some are different.

"It has been a little over nine months since Teish was taken away from us. On November 14, 2008, Dwight DeLee aimed a rifle and shot Teish. All it took was one bullet to pierce her heart. That one bullet ended Teish’s life and all of the possibilities that could have been a part of her future."

"That one bullet took away our brave and beloved family member and friend. But it also pierced our hearts and left us all feeling sad, sad and angry. All of our hopes and dreams that we had for Teish were taken away from us only because Teish was transgender. One bullet shattered all of our lives.

"Every possible for Teish slipped away when Dwight DeLee shot and killed her. But today’s sentencing by the judge has left us to believe that new possibili-
ties have replaced old ones. A possibility to begin a conversation for reconciliation and understanding in Syracuse. A possibility to pass state and federal laws that would protect everyone from this kind of violence. A possibility to share Teish’s story so that nobody will ever have to know the feeling of losing a child because of that child’s gender identity.

"We want to thank everyone who sup-
ported our family during this difficult process and helped us to share Teish’s story. No legal proceeding can provide full closure for us. But we know that close-

From page 1

Elec THOMAS F. BRENNAN to Rochester City Council. LEVER 13
Primary Day is September 15

- Fourth generation Rochesterian
- Award-winning journalist (reporter in Washington, publisher here)
- 27 years in business as consultant (private sector and public affairs clients)
- History making service with distinction on three elected Rochester area boards of education
- Former speechwriter to the late Senator and Presidential candidate Paul Tsongas
- Trained crisis counselor (substance abuse, runaways, depression, suicide prevention, sexual assaults)
- Lifelong Democratic party volunteer, reform advocate and community/neighborhood activist

PROGRESSIVE, COURAGEOUS, FAIR

"It is not the brutality of adversaries that most wounds the hearts of oppressed people - but the silence of friends."

-Dr. Martin Luther King

FROM PAGE ONE

(Hate crimes from page 1) Sen. said, "I am grateful to the members of the Hate Crimes Task Force for their thor-
ough examination of this issue and look forward to reviewing their recommenda-
tions for both how to respond to and stop bias-motivated bias in New York State."

Commissioner of the Division of Human Rights Galen D. Kirkland said, "I believe Governor Paterson’s initiative breaks new ground by establishing a comprehensive response to hate crimes involv-
ing law enforcement, schools, and social service agencies. The recommendations will allow us to expand our coordinated efforts to better identify hate crimes as well as assist and protect victims, their families and communities."

Secretary of State Lorraine Cortes-

Vazquez said, "I commend the Governor and the Hate Crimes Task Force on tak-
ing a bold stand to ensure that this state will not tolerate odious crimes against any individual based on race, religion, sexual preference, country of origin, or language that he or she chooses to speak. New York State is committed to implementing best practices and protocols in law enforce-
ment training, as well as the health and human services sector. The crimes against José and Romel Sucuzhanay, Lateisha Green in Syracuse, and Marcelo Lucero in Long Island indicate much has to be done. Therefore the Hate Crimes Task Force is recommending an educa-
tional and preventive approach by develop-
ing a tolerance curriculum to be used in schools across the State."

Deputy Secretary for Public Safety and Division on Criminal Justice Services Commissioner Denise E. O’Donnell said, "Hate crimes victimize entire communi-
ties, and therefore it is critical that communities need to stand up to combat this insidious evil. The Task Force recommendations wisely incorporates educational compo-
ents, training components and essential services for victims in a comprehensive, community-based strategy. These pro-

FROM PAGE ONE (Hate crimes continues on page 12)
There's No Place Like Home

By Georgia Beards

My partner, Bonnie, and I left in the spring of 2007 for the much more temperate climate of North Carolina. We moved back home to Rochester. Nuts, isn't it?

I am completely honest, though, I now believe it takes going away to really appreciate just how much Rochester has to offer and how cool a place it is to live. I seriously had no idea. Don't get me wrong: it's not at all my intention to bash North Carolina. We lived there for two years and liked it very much. It's beautiful, the people are friendly, and you can't beat the weather, yet we were surprised to find ourselves missing not just our friends and families, but Rochester itself. Being a lesbian, it was easy to find the word "home" in material culture and realize how much more Rochester has to offer that LGBTQ community than many other places in the USA.

ImageOut! I freely admit to being biased; I volunteer for the programming committee and am very familiar with its activities and my own, and I think the festival is the greatest thing around. It was made clear to me that I thought it was the best thing about Rochester, and while living in a country dedicated to the "free market" I did not struggle to keep it stocked. It has been a great victory for local workers and for the LGBTQ community than many other places in the USA.

By Anne Tischer, Pride at Work member

Monroe County Judge Judith S. Kaye ruled that the Monroe County administration intentionally violated the Taylor Law in its attempt to end the County's part-time unions. The County was told to "cease and desist" their illegal actions.

Society has often talked about the history, strengths, and limitations of a union去了 serve workers questioning their desire to be part of a union. Additionally, the County Human Resource Director made public an anti-union statement, asserting that if "the union went away" the part-time workers would all get raises. "Trust me," said the spider to the fly...

This small victory for local workers has to do with the gay community and has made me long for home. The openness of our local bookstores. While the greatest wish of many a Toronto native is to be closer to home, the city where they were born, I was surprised at the number of local bookstores. I thought it was because of the "free market." In Rochester, I volunteered at the GAGV and really made us long for home.

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As a smart single person, you understand the need for protection. Especially when it comes to helping protect your finances. With Social Security benefits and pension plans on the decline, you need to be proactive and plan for your future now. From investments to retirement, we can help you protect what matters most—your freedom and your future.

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Financial freedom is an achievable goal; there are ways to overcome the financial roadblocks faced by many gays and lesbians. You may be better off than you think but there could be more that you can do to further meet your short and long-term financial goals.

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Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2009
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To make a reservation and to obtain directions, or if you have any questions, please call or email Cate Saperstone at 585 214 8650 or csaperstone@metlife.com.

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Thank You!

$13,000 raised!

The Board of Directors & Staff of the Gay Alliance would like to thank the following companies and individuals for helping make the Anti Violence Project Tea Dance an enormous success:

Tim Tompkins & the staff of ONE Restaurant & Lounge

Our Sponsors: Rochester Wealth Management, David Quick, Matt Haag for City Council, Cornell Orthodontics, Rochester Police Locust Club, ONE Restaurant & Lounge, New York State United Teachers, InfoDirections Inc., Dr. William Valenti


All our committee members: Gerry Adamson, John Altieri, Hector Arquinezzi, Sherwin Bethel, Michael Booth, Pandora Box, Gene Brugnoni, Jeff Briggs & Vincent Pace, Dan Carusanon, Jimmy Catalano & Bruce Trombley, Kelly Clark, Sue Cowell, Judy Cranton, Michael Delaney, Mark Daniels & Tim Dulles, Christopher DelConte, Richard DeSain, Michael Faucher, Steve Gibbs, Christopher Guarino & Johann Ramah, Michael Hardy, Matt Haag, Mike Williams, Antonio Haynes, Michael Henshall, Jon Herbert, Jack Hoyt, Marcus Kroll, Andy Lannon, Mark Leenhouts, Jeff Lambert & J Buscheke, Travis Lewis, Mary McCrack, David McLucie, Marc Newman, Kevin O'Brien, Mike O'Connor, Dr. Tom Ophardt, Evan Owens, Ron Pawelczak, DJ Lenn Perkins, Norma Polizzi, Bill Pritchard, Tom Privitere, David Quick & Paul Allen, Bill Schaefer, Steve Schwab, Mark Swiec & Duffy Palmer, JT Squires, Derek Sung & Lauren Gallina, Tim Tompkins, Carrie Verron, Daniel Ward, Lisa, Blair Underwood & David D'Angelantonio II, Greg Winter & Joe Bailey, Bernie Lzy, DJ Hend, Daniel Meyers, Christopher Woodworth

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By Evelyn Beilis

In the 1960s and 70s, Rochester became known as the leading jazz town in upstate New York. Famous jazz musicians would come to Clarissa Street and play all night long, moving from club to club, and many gay people were among their fans.

The Pythoind Room (the old Dules Thoms) was one of a top Cla­ulla Street "joint" that hosted jazz sessions including everyone from Littie-Side, Wonder to Horace Silver to Jimmy Smith and the Mangione brothers (Chuck and Gail). The Mangiones grew up in Rochester, and Chuck went on to become one of the biggest "cross-over" trumpeters in jazz history, with his records regularly being played on jazz, smooth jazz, and easy listening stations. Then urban development erased the Clarissa St neighborhood.

As part of continuing urban renewal, in 1969 Xerox Corporation opened a thirty-story office tower at Broad Street East and Clinton Avenue South, although Xerox also moved its corporate headquarters to Stamford, Connecticut at about the same time. Lincoln Rochester Trust Company (now Chase Bank) opened a 28-story office tower at Clinton Avenue South and East Main Street. Later in the '70s, new offices and hotels were constructed along State Street, just north of Main Street. Most of Front Street and part of Corinthian Street were obliterated in the process. At Main Street and the Genesee River, a new hotel was opened, as was one at South Avenue and Main Street. In 1978, city hall moved to the old Federal Building at State and Church.

Significant dates in the history of the LGBT Community of Rochester (1960s-70s)

1967 - The television series N.Y.P.D. included gay characters.
Sept. 1970 - "Notices Gay Lib. UR Gay Liberation Front will hold an interest meeting 7:30 pm, Sunday October 2. Todd Music Room, with a speaker from The Cornell Student Homophile League. Open to all people who believe the realization of basic civil rights for all minority groups must come from organized effort." V. N. 29 U of R Campus Times
Sept. 1973 - GAGV membership opens. $5.00/year (to be a member one was required to attend three meetings within a five year period)
Sept. 23, 1973 - Gay Alliance Open house. 80 people attend. (Open House for non-gays in October.)
Sept. 1975 - St. Leonard Marl积蓄 on the cover of Time magazine with headline, "I Am a Homosexual.
Sept. 1976 - U of R Gay Liberation Front (student group) moves from Todd Union to Wilson Commons.
1977 - CETA Funding for Gay Alliance.
1978 - The Gay Bob doll relationship makes its debut in stores across the nation.
Sept. 1979 - Downtown University Presby­terian Church. 121 N. Fitzhugh St., votes to become a "More Light" congregation guaranteeing full membership to gay persons.

Shoulders to Stand On

OUTLANDISH IS OUTLANDISH!

By Evelyn Beilis

Rick Schroedel and Russ Shaner, Grand Marshalls of the 2009 Pride Parade, are the current owners of Outlandish Video and Gifts. You may remember that this store in Village Gate was not always Outlandish. Village Gate was purchased in 1982 by Gary Stern. It had been the Stecher Traung Printing Company. At the time of the sale the building resembled an abandoned warehouse. Gary believed the neighborhood could make a strong comeback in the near future. And so Village Gate became a place to live and a place for retail establishments and art galleries.

In 1985 Chuck Antonelli and Walter Dyer decided there was a real need in Rochester for a store selling leather goods. At that time, people had to travel to New York or Toronto for leather outfits, which Walt and Chuck also did. They went to Toronto and spent over $1,200 on the basic things. Within six months they started having problems with the clothes, seams ripping out and so on. They decided that they could do better.

On July 29, 1989, Rochester Custom Leathers (RCL), a store specializing in leather apparel and some adult/fetish merchandise, came into existence at Village Gate. John and Walt did a lot of the work themselves, but they also had two full-time to part-time employees, and three people on call. Chuck, Walt and also operated the MultiCom 4 computer bulletin board.

From 1997 to 1998, Rochester Custom Leathers had a coffee bar in the store. Then in December of 1999, Chuck Antonelli and Walter Dyer sold Rochester Custom Leathers to Paul Pape. Paul changed the store’s name to OUTlandish Videos and Gifts, which has remained its name. He replaced the fetish/leather theme of the store with more of an LGBTQ accent. OUTlandish’s focus includes LGBT mainstream and adult films as well as merchandise.

In February 2001, the unexpected happened. Paul Pape was tragically killed in a car accident and the store was closed. The store remained closed until November of 2001. At that time Rick Schroedel and Russ Shaner re-opened OUTlandish Videos and Gifts. In the years since, building on concepts introduced by RCL and Paul Pape, as well as on their own interests, the store has been expanded to devote larger spaces to gift and Pride merchandise, adult novelties in videos and an entire room filled with fetish/leather merchandise.

Community support is the hallmark of OUTlandish and its owners Rich and Russ. Both individually support the many organizations and groups in the Rochester community. For instance, OUTlandish was a proud supporter of Inque Out, Rochester’s Annual LGBT Film Festival. Both Rich and Russ are active community members, always willing to support community events by advertising and selling tickets. For Pride 2009, the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of Stonewall, Rich and Russ OUTTold themselves. The giant flag that was the backdrop for the ceremony at City Hall on July 12 was donated by OUTlandish. Rich and Russ have often said, “One of the best things about our local Pride events is taking the time to celebrate our diverse community with family and friends. OUTlandish is fortunate to have one of the best families of friends.” The philosophy of OUTlandish is clearly articulated on their website: "it would think celebrating Pride would become old hat. Realistically speaking, we celebrate it every day of the year with our store, staff, and customers.”

For Russ and Rich, participating in our community’s local LGBT festivities always seems a bit more special and meaningful.

Shoulders To Stand On recognizes, with gratitude and pride, the contribution OUTlandish and its owners, Rich Schroedel and Russ Shaner, make on a daily basis to the LGBT community of Rochester.

Shoulders To Stand On is proud to stand on the supportive, caring, and always giving shoulders of this year’s 2009 Pride Parade Grand Marshals.

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victims from immigrant communities to access State services regardless of citizenship; and strengthen hate crime reporting.


The full report will be posted on the Department of Criminal Justice Services website: [http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us/](http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us/).

The Task Force includes representatives from the Crime Victims Board, the Division of Criminal Justice Services, the Division of Human Rights, the Department of Labor, the Department of State, the New York State Police and the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.

Governor Paterson created the Task Force after bias-related assaults last fall in Staten Island, Long Island and New York City and after meeting with survivors of these devastating crimes. Since then, there has been at least two more high-profile crimes allegedly motivated by bias - a plot to plant a bomb outside a Riverdale synagogue and the Nov. 2008 murder of Latasha Green in Syracuse – reported in the State. The latter has now been officially ruled a hate crime, the first hate crime conviction involving a transgender person in NYS and only the second such conviction nationwide.

According to the Division of Criminal Justice Services, 596 hate crime incidents were reported in 2008, nearly two-thirds of which involved attacks against individuals. Approximately one-third of the reports involved property crimes, such as bias-motivated acts of vandalism, according to the Division.

"While these violent attacks are a source of outrage, they are also basis for action. I am proud that we have overcome the sense of powerlessness and moved forward with measures to improve how we raise awareness of, treat and prevent hate crimes in our State," Governor Paterson added.
Jacob down the stairs and sprained his ankle and his parents of their rights to file a federal lawsuit against the Mohawk Central School District in Herkimer County for failing to protect a gay student from vicious and relentless harassment, physical abuse and threats of violence, the district has agreed to take immediate action to ensure the student's safety this month.

Over the past two school years, Jacob, a 14-year-old student at Gregory B. Jarvis Junior/Senior High School, endured escalating harassment for his sexual orientation and for not conforming to masculine stereotypes. He suffered near-constant verbal assault, his personal property has been defaced and broken, and he was regularly pushed and had things thrown at him. This past year, a student knoocked Jacob down the stairs and sprained his ankle and a student brought a knife to school and threatened to kill him. The harassment harmed Jacob's academic performance and mental health and though the district was repeatedly made aware of the abuse, district officials—including the superintendent and school principal—failed to formerly investigate the harassment, discipline students, or even inform Jacob and his parents of their rights to file complaints under the school's grievance procedures.

"Jacob, like all students, has a right to be safe at school," NYCLU Executive Director Donna Lieberman said. The lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York. It maintains that the school district violated Jacob's rights under the 14th Amendment; Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, and state human rights and civil rights laws.

"We are pleased the school district has finally recognized that it must act to protect our client's safety, but it is just a first step," said NYCLU Executive Director Donna Lieberman. "We will pursue our lawsuit until the Mohawk Central School District makes the longterm solutions necessary to ensure that all students are safe at school and treated with the dignity and respect they deserve."

"People always make fun of what they don't understand, but the school has a responsibility to protect people," said Jacob, a singer and songwriter who loves the pop singer Pink and dreams of going on American Idol. "I shouldn't have to fear for my safety at school. No one should."

"By behaving as though they were powerless to stop the threats and abuse, they not only discriminated against our client, but also violated their own policies and practices for preventing harassment and discrimination," said NYCLU staff attorney Corey Stoughton, lead counsel on the case. "By the district's deliberate indifference to Jacob's harassment, people," said NYCLU staff attorney Corey Stoughton, lead counsel on the case. "By the district's deliberate indifference to Jacob's harassment, people whose responsibilities the school has a responsibility to protect people, said Jacob, a singer and songwriter who loves the pop singer Pink and dreams of going on American Idol. "I shouldn't have to fear for my safety at school. No one should."

"Beginning in the seventh grade and continuing through Jacob's eighth grade year, Jacob endured a range of slurs, such as faggot, queer and homo, on a daily basis, occasionally with teachers present. Indeed, at least one teacher contributed to this climate of harassment by telling Jacob he should be ashamed of himself for being gay. Aside from the continuous verbal assault, Jacob has also experienced physical intimidation and violence at school."

"School district officials have been deliberately indifferent to Jacob's harassment," said NYCLU staff attorney Corey Stoughton, lead counsel on the case. "By behaving as though they were powerless to stop the threats and abuse, they not only discriminated against our client, but also violated their own policies and practices for preventing harassment and discrimination."

"School officials violated the district's anti-harassment policy in several ways. For example, the policy requires the school's equal opportunity compliance officer to interview all relevant persons involved in a harassment complaint. Yet, the compliance officer interviewed neither Jacob nor his father about the incidents they reported, nor did she file reports on each incident as required by the policy. Likewise, neither she nor the principal ever reported the harassment complaints to the proper authorities, in violation of the policy."

A week after the New York Civil Liberties Union filed a federal lawsuit against the Mohawk Central School District in Herkimer County for failing to protect a gay student from vicious and relentless harassment, physical abuse and threats of violence, the district has agreed to take immediate action to ensure the student's safety this month.

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Gary touched many people in many ways. We will miss his creativity, his generosity, his ‘surprise’ casseroles, his willingness to tackle any task and his ever-present good nature.

Gary judged no one and was a friend to whoever he met.

Dear friend, you are sadly missed by your entire OUTlandish family.


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A New, LGBT-Friendly B&B?
In Honeoye? Yes!

Little Lakes Inn & Healing Center
Loretta Scott speaks to 
LGBT community

To the Editor:

I write to ask for your consideration in voting for me for City Council. Growing up in a public housing project was challenging, but I was fortunate to receive the training that led me to the highest position held by a black woman in Rochester’s City administration. I am committed to equal rights for all people. While this statement may sound simplistic, it is, by virtue of its lack of equivocation, quite powerful. My commitment is based on two things. I have experienced mistreatment and denial of civil rights. But equally compelling is the fire of my commitment to continue to work for this community.

The issues that are important to me are probably similar to yours: Jobs, Public Safety and Education. I have a passion for service and the skill and experience to work effectively on your behalf to find acceptable solutions to those concerns. I look forward to serving you.

Loretta Scott

From Our Readers

Old School - New School
Featuring Keke Valosquez-Lord Mix!

CLUB MUTHERS
40 S. Union St., Rochester
Monday, September 28
6-9 pm
$5 at the door

To benefit Tawa Pano Unity Fellowship Church
For more info: 585-568-8391

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THE COMING OUT WORKSHOP SERIES

Surviving and Thriving:
The Coming Out Workshop Facilitated by:
Joe Russo and Elizabeth Driscoll

Don’t know who to talk to or where to turn? Struggling with coming out as a gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender person? Trying to integrate your LGBT identity into your life? You may feel alone in this process. However, you are not! Many gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender individuals have struggled with these issues and not only survived but thrived by receiving support and education at the Gay Alliance Coming Out Workshops. This fall the workshops will be offered at the Gay Alliance on Thursday nights starting Sept. 24, 2009 and ending Oct. 29, 2009 from 6:30-8:30p.m. Meetings will be held in the Youth Community Center on the 1st floor of the Auditorium Center (575 E. Main Street 14605). There is plenty of free parking.

Coming Out is a process, which varies for each individual. Cultural, political, and religious influences can affect the process. The workshop will discuss this process, as well as the risks and rewards of coming out, self-esteem issues, overcoming fears, and work and relationship concerns. The group experience can help someone navigate the many aspects of the coming out process. Group size will be limited to 12 members and safety and confidentiality will be a priority. Co-facilitators, Joe Russo, Psy. D., CGP and Elizabeth Driscoll, LCSW-R, CGP both have clinical experience working with the LGBT community in Rochester. Ms. Driscoll is a licensed clinical social worker and certified group psychotherapist in private practice in Rochester. She works with adults and adolescents. She offers individual, couple, family and group therapy. Dr. Russo is a licensed psychologist and certified group psychotherapist in private practice in Rochester. He offers individual, couple, family and group therapy. Special areas are LGBT issues and addictions.

The workshop is open to adults 18 and older. Registration fee is $60 with scholarships based on need. To register or for more information call Jeannine at 585-244-8640 ext. 14 or e-mail comingout@gagv.us.
Making the Scene

FUN IN THE SUN: Michael Booth and Loretta Scott at the AVP Fundraiser at Restaurant ONE on Aug. 16. Photo: Ove Overmyer

Fun in the Sun at ONE raised over $13,000. Photo: wolfgrrrli-productions.com

Photo: wolfgrrrli-productions.com

GayRochester.com

We have over 800 profiles!
There is never a charge to create your profile, browse others, or make connections.
DeAmore Majors (left), Twin (center), and Charles Tyson, hanging out in the MOCHA Center before the start of the forum.

Melissa Middlebrook, MOCHA's health educator, starts off the forum with some introductory thoughts and questions to the attendees.

Bishop Benjamin shares his commitment to his faith with forum attendees, stating that any difficulties we have faced provide us with the experience to be of service to others. "Our mess is our message," he said. "How many of you all believe that today?"

As the day got later, cards were dealt while smiles and laughter were shared over a heated game of euchre.

Fall Community Dance
Hosted by Rainbow SAGE
Saturday, October 24th
5:30PM –10:30PM
Downtown United Presbyterian Church
121 Fitzhugh Street N
$8 presale
$12 at the door
Tickets available at Equal Grounds and Outlandish
Or by calling dd at 585.872.2631 ext. #3
FOOD IS AVAILABLE
A drug and alcohol free event

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Or by calling dd at 585.872.2631 ext. #3
FOOD IS AVAILABLE
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"Honeyboy" Wilson serenades the Rainbow Seniors at the annual picnic.

"Honeyboy" Wilson serenades the Rainbow Seniors at the annual picnic.
FESTIVAL FAIR
Tuesday Sept. 8, 6 ~ 11 pm
Rochester Museum & Science Center, Eisenhart Auditorium

★ The first opportunity for the general public to buy Festival tickets ★
(Buy your tickets early - Opening Night has sold out for the past 3 years!)
★ Get insider “must-see” information on Festival films ★
★ Become a member and enjoy many benefits during the Festival ★

Plus 2 Special Film Screenings

6:00pm
FRUIT FLY
“Irresistible”
~ San Francisco Chronicle

Who doesn’t secretly wish that life was one unending musical full of catchy songs that pepper the day? Fruit Fly is the next best thing. Pop to its core, H.P. Mendoza’s directorial debut is a sparkling musical love letter to San Francisco. Mendoza firmly grasps the helm in telling his story of Bethesda (L.A. Renigen), a young performance artist in search of a career – and her birth mother. Bethesda loves to hang out with her gay boy buddies. She goes to the gay clubs, dances with her boys until the wee hours and sends them off to their tricks with a kiss on the cheek. But don’t call her a “fag hag” – Bethesda is a “Fruit Fly”. ~ Scott Crain, Philsophina Street

8:30pm
DREAM BOY
“Brutal, beautiful and unbearably touching”
~ Gaydar Nation

Nathan is an awkward, shy, and intelligent teenager who just moved to a small Louisiana town with his family. It does not take him long to notice the handsome young boy, Roy, who lives next door.

Dream Boy, based on the best-selling novel by Jim Grimsley, chronicles the love story of two young country boys in rural Louisiana in the mid-70s. More than just about good looking teens and first love, the film also tackles the serious subjects of sexual abuse and homophobia in the deep South. ~ Michael Gamilla, ImageOut Programming Co-Chair

Advance tickets are $5 for each film and are available at Equal Grounds, 750 South Ave. and OUTlandish, 274 N. Goodman St. Tickets will be available at the door for $6. The Festival Fair is free and open to the public.

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ImageArt Gallery
Submission deadline September 11

ImageArt Gallery Opening Friday, October 2, 6 – 10pm (show runs from Oct. 2 – Oct. 25)
Visual Studies Workshop 31 Prince Street, Rochester NY

ImageArt Poetry
Saturday, October 3
Poetry Reading 7 – 9pm, Art Auction, 9 – 10pm
MuCCC (Multi-Use Community Cultural Center) 142 Atlantic Avenue, Rochester, NY

ImageArt Poetry
Sunday, October 4
Festival Fair at the EOS (EOS, 320 Bay Street)

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Festival Fair at the EOS (EOS, 320 Bay Street)
ImageArt Call for Work deadline is Sept. 11

ImageArt returns as an integral part of ImageOut, upstate New York’s longest running lesbian and gay film and video festival. ImageArt includes a juried art show, poetry reading and auction, and attracts the latest work by contemporary lesbian and gay artists from the Rochester region and beyond.

The entry deadline for work is Sept. 11 at 4 p.m. at the ImageArt office, 234 N. Goodman St. Visit http://www.imageart.org/imageart.html to review and download a complete "Call for Work" for both artists and poets.

ImageArt's official opening is Friday, Oct. 2, from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Visual Studies Workshop, 31 Prince St. The opening coincides with First Friday, a night of open galleries in Rochester’s Neighborhood of the Arts. A jury consisting of gallery owners, professors, and artists will award three $200 Fine Arts Awards on ImageArt’s opening night. The show runs through Oct. 19.

On the following evening, Oct. 3, ImageArt continues with ImageOut Poetry Reading: "A Christmas Carol" will be held on Sept. 19.

Geva holds auditions Sept. 14 at Nextstage

Geva Theatre Center will be holding general auditions for actors 18 years of age or older on Monday, Sept. 14. They will run from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Nextstage at Geva Theatre Center, 75 Woodbury Blvd. in Rochester.

Requirements for acting auditions on Sept. 14 include writing a resume and auditioning for one of two contrasting monologues. Equity actors only may also perform a musical audition. Preparation for these should include 16 bars of music and sheet music in the correct key. All material should not exceed four minutes in total length. Non-Equity members will be seen for acting auditions only.

Members of Actors’ Equity must make an appointment by phoning (585) 232-1366. Non-Equity members will be scheduled upon reporting to the receptionist on Sept. 14. No appointments will be scheduled ahead of time.

Non-Equity actors who have auditioned for Geva within the past 12 months are ineligible for these general auditions.

Children’s auditions for "A Christmas Carol" will be held on Sept. 19.

"Dream Boy" will be screened at ImageOut’s Festival Fair on Sept. 8.

Festival Fair kicks off 17th ImageOut

ImageOut, upstate New York’s longest running lesbian and gay film and video festival, announcing the 17th annual program lineup at the Festival Fair. This is the first chance for the public to learn about this year’s exciting Festival lineup and buy tickets prior to online sales.

The Festival Fair is Saturday, Sept. 8, 6-11 p.m., at the Rochester Museum and Science Center’s Eileenhart Auditorium, 67 East Ave. This event is free and open to the public and local media are invited to interview programming board and outreach committee members at the Fair.

The Festival offers the first look at this year’s program, the opportunity to purchase tickets to the movies you want before they sell out, sneak peaks of upcoming Festival film trailers, and two great movies.

GRCC remembers Oscar Wilde

The Greater Rochester Repertory Company (GRCC) will present "Oscar Wilde" on Saturday, Oct. 26, at the Rochester Museum and Science Center, 67 East Ave. (Box Office: 585-232-1366, ext. 211).

GRCC Director of Special Projects Michael MacLeod will play the title role in "Oscar Wilde," a love story about a man who was sentenced to two years in Theedol’s prison. During the later’s time in prison, the Marquess of Queensbury, to attack him as a sodomite. Wilde sued Queensbury, only to find himself convicted of sodomy and sent to prison.

As far as favorite bands and musicians – I always get asked this question and unfortunately I don’t ever have a specific answer to it. I guess people are.

Toronto DJ Neill MacLeod visits Rochester for Black Party at Tilt

By Susan Jordan

Well known Canadian DJ Neill MacLeod will be in our town to headline over the Black Party on Sept. 6 at Tilt. The Empty Closet has a chance to ask him some questions about his opinions on music, partying and the club scene.

Empty Closet: Your web page says you play multiple instruments; is that unusual for DJs, to be musicians themselves? What does that add to your work? Who are your favorite bands and musicians?

Neill MacLeod: I don’t know many DJs that play instruments as part of their career, but I do know quite a few that have had some musical training in the past. There is a distinction between a DJ and a musician and that’s simply the language of music. A DJ knows what sounds good together and can get into a groove or a transition without knowing the language of technical names or theory terminology – they’re just still musical artists.

As a musician I’ve studied jazz and can get into a groove or a transition without knowing the language of technical names or theory terminology – they’re just still musical artists. As a musician I’ve studied jazz and can get into a groove or a transition without knowing the language of technical names or theory terminology – they’re just still musical artists.

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THE GAY ALLIANCE
NUMBER
THE EMPTY CLOSET • THE GAY ALLIANCE OF THE GENESSEE VALLEY • NUMBER 427 • SEPTEMBER 2009

ImageOut from page 1

ImageOut Fast Facts

Sales End

Friday, Oct. 2: ImageOut Gallery Opening; Visual Studies Workshop
Saturday, Oct. 3: ImageOut Poetry Reading and Art Auction; MuCCC.
Thursday, Oct. 8: Online Ticket Sales End

*There will be four in-person sale dates during September; dates to be announced.

ImageOut from page 1

at MuCCC (Multi-use Community Cultural Center), 142 Atlantic Ave., from 7-9 p.m. ImageOut Poetry is an "open mic" reading. One Audience Choice award of $200 will be awarded.

A silent auction of donated artwork starts at 6 p.m. at the opening on Oct. 2, and concludes the following evening at the MuCCC Reading at 8:30 p.m.

About ImageOut

ImageOut is Upstate New York's longest running lesbian and gay film and video festival. This year marks the 17th anniversary of ImageOut. ImageOut informs, entertains, educates, and enriches Filmmakers through the exhibition of film and videos by, and about lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. ImageOut encourages lesbian and gay filmmakers, who, as a group, are rarely seen in mainstream media. It is an opportunity to record and preserve the stories and histories of LGBTT lives and to foster collaborations and conversations to break down social and cultural barriers concerning lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.


(Do continued from page 1)

EC: You are known for playing at leather events, but that is not your only favored venue, correct? What do you like and appreciate about the leather scene, and what other kinds of parties and events do you most enjoy?

NM: I have played many leather events in the past few years and I've enjoyed every single one of them because they're fun! I've played gay venues, straight venues, mixed crowds, cocktail parties, 'dance', afterhours, galas, fashion shows, outdoor parties and everything in between - for me, as long as the crowd is pumping and they have smiles on their faces - I'm happy DJ.

The leather scene has been a great experience for me as the crowd is so appreciative of all the music and the energy I put into each set. The guys come up and say hi, ask how I'm doing, give feedback and are always in good spirits. One bonus is that I almost never get requests and as a DJ that is refreshing. Because the leather scene is so diverse and so open-minded, their tastes for music also reflect these traits. I don't have to play 10 Madonna tracks in a night just to make them happy - I love Madonna but there's so much music out there and this crowd is open to it.

Parties I enjoy the most are those that have a great vibe, smiles, dancing and feedback from the crowd! What a difference it makes when you make eye contact with people and they're cheering, whis­bling, hands in the air and dancing their butts off - it doesn't matter where I am as long as everyone's along for the ride.

EC: You are quoted as saying "We don't really let go enough." Do you feel gay men are too inhibited now, and if so, why?

NM: I do feel from my experience of going out and dancing in a club and working in clubs that there's a shift in focus from enjoying new music, having fun and being silly and ultimately hav­ing a care-free time. It seems the shift has moved towards what people are wearing, where they're dancing and who's who.

Sometimes I look around a club and I see people standing at the back looking bored, or people with their arms crossed and frowning and I'm left baffled. I thought we all go out to a club to have fun and get away from the crazy week we just worked or to celebrate a birthday or long-weekend - what happened to letting loose! When I go to a club, I leave the world behind when I go through the doors and I'm there for the music and the people - I would love to see people leave the drama at coat-check and just dance!

EC: What would be your idea of a truly great party, if you could be the organizer and go anywhere in the world?

NM: If I were the organizer of my ideal party, I would throw a party to remember. First off, it would have to be somewhere warm, possibly outside or with no roof, so you could look up at the stars and hear the music in the crisp open air.

I would have a theme that would promote house music and its roots. A great party brings different people together for a night of celebration and music, so I'd have a main room pumping beats from some of the most well respected DJs that built the scene and also introduce some new DJs that will carry on the legacy of the music that is always evolving.

I would ensure the lighting, décor, chill area and atmosphere were all at a spectacular level throughout the night. There are so many aspects of a party or event that all need to be thought out and presented at a quality standard, to ulti­mately create the ideal environment for people to let loose and have the night of their lives.

EC: Some people say the era of the club DJ is over and the whole scene is changing. Would you agree, and what do you feel is the new direction?

NM: I haven't heard that the era of the club DJ is over and that outlook does surprise me. Yes I believe the club scene is changing as it always has.

If you look back to the scene even 10 years ago when I started DJing, there have been changes from venue locations, event times, music, costumes, themes, shows, décor and promotion - some for the better and some not so.

The scene started underground and I think that we've moved away from that feeling to a more "commercial" approach leaving behind the unique feel there once was. The trend has been to throw bigger parties with the biggest names, make the most money and dominate other par­ties. I think that this is, like many other aspects of entertainment and music, a cycle that is coming full circle again.

I believe that the scene will move towards the underground parties with smaller venues that put more effort and focus into decor, theme and lighting and build a more personal vibe with the people who attend to hear the music, see the people and get away from the ordi­nary to let go and have fun.

EC: Have you been to Rochester before, and what do you want the Black BACHELOR FORUM

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THE BACHELOR FORUM
The newest, oldest gay bar in Rochester
Method Machine presents Edge, about poet Sylvia Plath

Method Machine, Rochester's performance and art company, returns to MuCCC, 142 Atlantic Ave., for two special presentations of Paul Alexander's Edge.

Marcy J. Savastano will resurrect her performance of Sylvia Plath — a poet and author most famous for the novel The Bell Jar — in this critically acclaimed play which Eric Resnek of Gay called, "riveting," "brilliant," and "excellent."

Edge is set on the last day of the poet Sylvia Plath's life, in her kitchen, and centers on her childhood, her husband, poet Ted Hughes, and her work. She loves, laughs and laments the events that led to her turning on the gas stove and taking her life on a cold February day in 1963, after being abandoned by Hughes.

Other critics said: "Boldly dramatic and entertaining" - LA Times; "A resurrected Plath...the showcase of a lifetime" - NY Times; "Troubling and powerful" - New Yorker. Alexander has authored several books, including Rough Magic: A Biography of Sylvia Plath, Salinger: A Biography, and Boulevard of Broken Dreams: The Life, Times, and Legend of James Dean. Stronger In The Land Of Canaan, directed by Rip Torn, had a successful run on Broadway. Alexander is currently working on a Twentieth Century Fox script called Good Night, Dorothy Kilgallen, a political thriller about Dorothy Kilgallen's investigation of the Kennedy assassination.

Method Machine's production of the play stars company founder Marcy J. Savastano and is directed by Artistic Director David Henderson. Company co-founder Michael O'Connor and Sarah Peters are associate producers. Peters is the Director of In Good Company at the VIP Studio in Village Gate.

"After an amazing reception in Rochester and at Studio@620 in St. Petersburg, we know that this show is special and important to the mission of our company to produce 'edgy' works that showcase our talents and represent Rochester style. I'm looking forward to the Black Party to be an intimate fun crowd packed with energy and ready to party — I know I am!"

NY Times, New Yorker.

very excited to come and celebrate the will be my first trip to Rochester and I'm looking forward to the Black Party to be an intimate fun crowd packed with energy and ready to party — I know I am!

Marcy Savastano as Sylvia Plath

shows will be presented at MuCCC.

Edge will be presented on Sept. 21 and 28 at 7 p.m. Tickets are $15, $12 for students and seniors. Advance reservations can be made by calling (585) 244-0960. The box office will open one hour before each performance.

Book signing set for Sept. 17 at Village Gate

Local author Gregory Gerard will give a brief reading and sign copies of his new book, In Jupiter's Shadow, on Sept. 17.

The event will take place at Village Gate, 274 N. Goodman St., from 7 to 9 p.m. Gerard will give a brief reading at 7:45, following by book-signing.
JetBlueing To Provincetown
By Merle Exit
June is the month that I'm usually traveling to "straight-friendly" Provincetown, or P'Town as it's known. At the tip of Cape Cod, the town tends around in such a way that you enter the east end and go west. I know that I'm "home" when I can view the Pilgrim Monument, the tallest granite structure in North America and for my sixtieth birthday I climbed to the top of this 252-foot tower, without need of oxygen or a seat.

The trip began with my Jetblueing to Boston and my first look at the new Terminal 5 at JFK. Wow! Lots of kiosks and agents. I made it even easier by printing my boarding pass the day before. No fading your check-in luggage another backbreaking 100 or more feet away, as you simply place it on a conveyor belt located behind the agents. Security lines may look long, but go really quickly, as there are about 10 belts to plop your stuff onto.

OTG Management owns the food system, with "executive chef" dining restaurants, fast-food, "grocery" and the newest thing called "Revive". You sit on a stool (that fits to your rump and leg) in front of a computer, choose from the menu, dip in your credit card and wait as someone delivers your order. Eat in various areas or take it on the plane. I had the opportunity to dine to Deep Blue, a sushi delight with calm waters and a light blue seating (New York, Sharks color). One of my maki rolls had Kobe beef atop.

Meeting up with my friends Barb and Nancy, we drove from Boston, stopping in Sandwich to have a sandwich at the Painted Lady located at the Bel­fr­y Inn. With a contest coming up on P'Town, or fresh fish from local fish­ermen as well. A special recipe for clam chowder handed down from generations of a local art show hosted by Joy McNul­ty, a Pilgrim Monument, artistic and historic museum. While we were there they were having an opening of a local art show hosted by Joy McNul­ty, the famous Lobster Pot. www.­pilgrim­monument.org.

Staying at the Eastwood of Provincetown timeshare, food shopping was first on the list. There's a Stop and Shop on Shankpainter Rd, one of the strips that crosses Bradford St. Just down the road is the Townsend Lobster and Seafood, which recently moved from their shack on the wharf. Now they have both a din­ning and retail, where you may not only purchase lobsters caught by Chris Townsend but fresh fish from local fish­ermen as well. A special recipe for clam chowder handed down from generations went quite well with the lobsters. www. townsendseafood.com

I Dream of Gelato was next on the list. They have by far the best and most authentic gelato I've ever eaten! To cele­brate the big 6-0, I ordered a "cake"... with no cake. The three layers were shaped into a cake. Flavors: Chocolato, Italian Whipped Cream and Cherry using these special cherries from Italy. Plus cherries and lines of melted chocolate atop... as if I were simply eating an ice cream sundae... well, if WAS Sunday when I ate it. Stay tuned for my gelato lessons at the place the sels most of their supplies. Pabdi, coincidentally located in Masspeth, www.ideasforgelato.com.

Off to East Dennis to visit the East Dennis Oyster Farm run by John and Stephanie Lowell. We waited for low tide and wandered out to the areas where the oysters develope from "seeds". There were these rectangular "boxes" pilled in two and then in many cases a "bag". John talked about how this was all done as well as the process of tagging and shipping.

OK, my favorite oysters used to be the Blue Point until I had those from Appa­lachicola, Florida. Nothing could top them until I had these! Most delicious... semi-briny... not creamy or chewy... perfect for that raw eating, although I'll never know what they taste like when cooked. The experience of just "wading" out there (any more than two inches is "wading" for me and I went as far as 16) answered major questions about oysters, including that although Wellfleet is just across the way, those oysters will taste different. www.dennisosysters.com

New restaurant in town called Saki where I did a sake tasting. The restaur­anteur is located just next to Town Hall and has an Asian Fusion cuisine. Youji hjakura is the "kilikizakushi", thus quite familiar with each of the sakes. We did a flight, having four small glasses that he put together after listening to my preferences the way one would for wine. Kikusui "Chrysanthanennum Mist" Jumai Ginjo was the first, followed by Sazou Homare "Pride of Village," Yamazaki Jumai, Dassai Japanai Jumai "Otter Fest 50" and finally, Shirakaza­eya Tokubetsu Jumai. If you wish hear more about the sakes and how they are made, listen to the interview on my June 18 show on Whirl With Merle on www.blogtalk.com.

On the June 11 show, I did an inter­view with Steve Schriner, the owner of both Saki and his abutting restaurant, JD's Wood Fired Pizza. Let me just throw in that the pizza is the way I love it... thin crust that's not soggy or like cardboard, and fresh toppings.

Back to Saki. We started with a Shu­mai that came with two dips – one spicy, one sweet. Rock Shrimp Tempura had a kick to it. There was this "pod" of mus­cled cooked in a curry sauce with veggies that was so good, I made the mistake of spooning the leftover soup into my mouth only to find that the peppery addition hung in the soup rather than the cultivated mussled... pass me the milk! Otherwise this was the best varia­tion of mussles that I've tasted.

One of the chefs has the knack for cooking up the best Pad Thai and so I took it on. Steve had commented that he's not much for Pad Thai but gets handed on this particular recipe. I abso­lutely understand why. Last was a Chick­en Saté marinated in some sort of savory sauce and veggies. I loved it but was too full to finish. I skipped dessert. No web­site yet.

Two musts for P'Town, Portuguese Bakery on Commercial Street for the fried dough and Mojo's right near the wharf for the "cheap and good" food... really!!
**Growing Up**

By Eric Bellman

The world is a bumpy ride. Once in a support group I witnessed a sweet little woman offer her take on the topic: “If you grow up in Brooklyn, you’ll get some­one else.” A light bulb dawned.

I’m the kind of guy who harbors a deep, seared, covert need to be taken care of. Mummy didn’t always rise to the occasion, you know. And to make the wrinkle deeper, I never developed the ability to ask for help. Go it alone was my style. Considering that now I am an or­phan in the cold, cold world, that makes problems. So the advice was welcome.

Consequently I’ve become much bet­ter at tripping the lights fantastic. I now know when assum­ing unavailability is rejection and slug­onward and console yourself that others feel good when they get the opportunity to be useful.

There are, alas, situations where determination fails to produce results. Like getting a physician’s office to return phone calls. Of getting an oral surgeon to agree to my time off. Here I’d like to believe that providers who get money for their services are hot to tip on it. OK, let’s be generous, un­professional. Ditto massage therapists. Repair people can be problematic. Let’s not talk about house painters.

So anyway, the issue at hand is that I need a major jaw overhaul. Time has passed since the first day I noticed that my speech was slurred. Now I know that my hands were fiercely gripping the dashboard information center. During one visit, my counselor was interrupted by weekly therapy sessions. During another, the satellite computer gave two beeps at the moment a turn was required. Send this post­card: Having a legal vacation in the Adirondack Mountains.

I actually have had no power.
Not one of my finely tuned skills. Thin thighs, I was responsible for reading the map. To notice, in a timely fashion, the direc­tion signs at the edge of the road. Signs that were surrounded by ads ... and, at least once during the trip, I was frantically multitasking: Directions to the edge of the ocean. A lovely view ... the cran­sberries. And hell­ish days, divine nights. And idyllic days, divine nights. And idyllic days, divine nights ...

Afterwards, I returned my gaze to textures and saw ... a gulf. A little kid. They take my parents to their marriage license. Also I packed my journal and colored washes. No, no, I was interrupted by weekly therapy sessions. During one visit, my counselor was interrupted by weekly therapy sessions. During another, the satellite computer gave two beeps at the moment a turn was required. Send this post­card: Having a scenic ride to Cape Cod. Glad we have GPS. Wish you were here.

Cleaning My Closet

By Meredith Edelman

Ah, vacations.

Heavenly places, exotic sites, new foods. Annoying postcards, nagging phone calls. And hell­ish travel.

You missed the turn. You didn’t tell me we were back at the route 30 exit. Right after the roadwork. “Don’t tell me more than I need to know.” Now you have to turn around at the next intersection. “No, this takes me in the right direction. I will find another way.” You can’t get there from here, Mummy, me see.

The driver doubled me. As navigator I was responsible for reading the map. New York City. As my first tattoo, colored blue lines, dotted squares, bold red lines all twisted into mass confusion. Route numbers were scrutinized in any phone book or from the computer screen could be used to create a minicube space. When I added Map Quest and AAA information, I became more relaxed... .and relentlessly challenged. While agonizing over maps, I was still required to complete the task at hand. Throwing up my hands, I flipped open the driving directions to the right. Signs that were surrounded by ads ... CHEAP MILEAGE! HEAVY TRAFFIC ON THE LEFT. AUTHENTIC LOCAL CRAFTS, TAKE RT. 17A TO EXIT 45.

In addition to that information over­load, there were several other complication: Driving down to the road at 70 miles an hour, I clutching the armrest, experienced reduced response­time opportunities. And I was frantically multitasking: Locating the correct road lines, that line that was away from the map quiz. And BLINKING my old eyes to re-focus from map to whit­ening signs... AND get­ting words out of my mouth soon enough.

Our car filled with vibrating tension. Seconds postcard: I’m going to ring, a twel­ble. Be glad you’re not here.

This month. You need this advice. I finally managed to get an appointment with Trish. On­Star. Do you need directions today, Mrs. Rain…? Rye­sh… Mrs. Ray­t­y? I’d like to believe that providers who get money for their services are hot to tip on it.

And from that moment on, a blessed and gifted staff are in charge. Not to mention the many steps, multiple procedures, hoops and loops to jump through, and all the people who battle through.

Mindy is the woman who answers the phone. Mindy, I’m fairly certain, gave up her career and family for this. I am trying to schedule an appointment with Whitt’s Tough.

OK, the bucketry is a tax con­ducted. Hang in with me. Something felt wrong. A call to the dentist. Actually it hurt. She’s tough. She said, “I won’t help me, I’ll ask someone else.”

Acceptance is the first step. There are many steps, multiple procedures, hoops and loops to jump through, and all the people who battle through.

Growing Up... In the heat of the afternoon, we feature our favorite GDY profiles. For­merly a single mother, she raised two daugh­ters by buses and trees. We preferred its placid surface to the burning ocean waves. I was past the forest, past the mor­row, I opened my book.

As I opened it, I flashed to 192... my am­ateur and my mother walked hand in hand to the cottage after the right last breakfast dish was dried. I followed, collected the toys. That heads bobbed, bobbed, bobbed as they trooped down the 75 wooden steps. Finally at the beach, one by one... a fes­tive towel spread over the sand. A brown round suit tag, a бесп and a book... I dropped the tripod back to living in the moment, you know. On this year’s lake’s edge: a swan family drifted into view. I watched the cloud, I watched the clo­se to the people in the water, his­s­ing his warning. I watched the pen here... every­eryone, every­one, every­one, every­one.

And glad to be in Massachusetts for this year’s vacation. Massachusetts, free of prejudice. To all persons in love, lesbian or not, to all per­sons in love, and to all persons in love, New Yorkers, don’t you love us?

Now you have to turn around at the next intersection. “No, this takes me in the right direction. I will find another way.” You can’t get there from here, Mummy, me see.
tion, I had noticed that my 12-year-old niece had spent most of her time watching cable TV, playing ping-pong at the arcade and browsing the gift shops in town. Not exactly the wilderness experience I remembered from my youth.

So that night at the bonfire, I told my niece I thought this was the year she and I should hike to the top of the mountain across the lake. The mountain is called Rocky Point because the peak is bare and rock-covered. It is considered one of the smaller mountains in the Adirondacks. Since nothing was planned for the following morning, we could hike it the next day.

"Well," replied my niece. "Tomorrow is the Hannah Montana Marathon on Disney Channel, so I'm going to be pretty busy."

"When your mother and I used to come here when we were your age the cottage didn't have a television," I informed her.

My niece looked incredulous for a moment, and then asked: "So you had to watch all your TV shows on your laptop?"

I closed my eyes for a moment and rubbed my temples. "Want some more coffee before you go to bed?"

She was sweating. "Okay, okay," my niece grumbled. I handed her the water bottle as she sat on a fallen log and took a break. "You know, I think we're almost to the top," I told her.

"You already said that three times," she replied. "And we're not there yet."

She grumbled another complaint as we continued on. I wasn't going to let her quit now that I had her headed in the right direction.

A while later we did make it to the top. First, my niece looked up noticing we were no longer under the trees. "Where are we?" she asked.

She stopped, looked around and saw where we were. Her jaw dropped, her eyes opened wide and she shouted: "Oh my gosh, I don't believe it. We're on top of the world. It's awesome!" It had taken us almost an hour to make the climb, but it was worth it.

A refreshing breeze brushed the mountain top, not a cloud was in the sky and miles and miles of trees and lakes spread out below us.

We sat on a boulder and took in the view, while eating our peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and pointing out islands and roads and, of course, the cottage where we were staying.

"This is the best, Uncle David. Can we come up here another day before we go back home? It's so cool."

"No stores, no restaurants, not even an ice cream shop, but she had learned it was hard to climb to the top of a mountain."

And if I had given in to her complaining we never would have attempted it at all, which is a good reminder that sometimes a little encouragement from an adult is all a kid needs to get to the top of the world.

**Queer & Healthy**

**PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH**

By Erik Libey

September is National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. Every year approximately 199,000 men in the U.S. are diagnosed with prostate cancer, the second leading cause of cancer death (lung cancer is first) in men—and while prostate cancer is not necessarily a condition that impacts gay/queer men differently than other men (unless, of course, they are avoiding medical care because they are gay/queer), it certainly does affect the men in our community and so it is worth addressing here.

Before we can discuss prostate cancer, however, let’s quickly overview the prostate. The prostate is a gland about the size of a walnut located just beneath the bladder that completely surrounds the urethra. Its primary biological function is to produce much of the fluid that makes up semen. (Many men believe that the prostate makes testosterone—testosterone impacts prostate development/functioning but is NOT produced in the prostate itself).

Many men have also found that the prostate has a second function sexual pleasure. The prostate and surrounding area are rich in nerves that can excite...
are intense and/or pleasurable sensations when stimulated.

While there is no clear indicator of what actually causes prostate cancer, there are some important risk factors worth mentioning. Age, race and heredity are the most important. Men over 50 seem to be at highest risk and that risk increases with age. In addition, African-American men and any man whose immediate family members (father, brothers, etc.) have had prostate cancer are at higher risk. Studies suggest that diet, exercise, and smoking can all affect risk as well.

Prostate cancer is the development of cancerous cells in the prostate gland. It can also spread, or "metastasize," into surrounding areas such as the bladder, colon, rectum, and bone if left undiagnosed or untreated... so early diagnosis is critical.

There are a number of ways to diagnose prostate cancer. The two most common are a digital rectal exam, in which a doctor inserts a finger into the rectum to actually feel the prostate for physical irregularities, and a PSA (prostate-specific antigen) test, a blood test for a specific antigen) test, a blood test for a potential marker for prostate cancer. The two most advanced stage you may notice problems urinating, and inability to produce semen... be queer, be gay, and be proud. The group site also raises awareness of an issue by starting a new Interfaith Statement in Support of Equal Rights and Humanity of LGBT People. Members of all faith communities who support the goals of Interfaith Advocates are welcome to join us. Over the past 18 years we’ve worked on bimonthly meetings and email posts to network with colleagues, and have utilized various media resources to promote our mission within the local community, submitting numerous press releases in the local media as well as publishing this regular column in the EC... and now, for the same good work, accomplished by the larger community.
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Whoa, what's with all the steam in here?

Njord? What happened? Did you slip on the tiles?

No, I don't move!

You don't move or talk unless I tell you to!

Can you wiggle your toes?

I believe so.

Good, now your fingers?

Ja.

Excellent. Any numbness or tingling around your shoulders?

There is no tingling, but not around my shoulders.

Where is it?

Lower.

Perhaps if you remove your towel it will increase.

Would you have one in light blue? It will match my eyes.

Njord! Be serious! We may need to get you a neck brace before we can move you.

Matthias, I did not fall. I am fine. I laid down here for reason.

What? Why?!

To haf sauna. Like I do at home in Norway each day.

Would you join me in sauna? You will enjoy.

I'm not taking my towel off. I don't get naked with a guy on the first date. Not anymore, anyway.

Ah, this iss date, then?

Ja, that too.

I tried. You would not let me... get a sideway word in.

Ja, that too.

You could've told me that!

I mean... "A word in edgewise"?

I didn't say that.

Ja, you did...

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What I did at Camp GLSEN

By Alex Gasparre, GLSEN Rochester, National Jump-Start Student Leader

My experience at Camp GLSEN was amazing! It was my first time attending something so huge – I had no prior experience with the Jump-Start team or GSA's.

I really had a great time, though, with all the wonderful people and fun activities that were going on, like GLSEN's Got Talent and some of the group meetings. Being at Camp made me feel like I was part of a new welcoming family. I didn't feel alone or afraid of who I was. I even got to connect with my adviser (GLSEN Rochester's Jess Cohen) a little more, which was awesome. I learned so much, like how I could build a local student leadership team.

Being part of this camp helped me to be more open to people's ideas and how I can help address the harassment and bullying that takes place in schools. In the past, I didn't know how to address these issues and I would just stand back when they occurred. Now that I have been to Camp GLSEN, I am extremely focused and am reading tons of books and trying to talk to my community about the issues and what I, my adviser and friends can do to help.

I know that once school starts I will be ready to put all my skills and experiences to the test, and become the leader I always wanted to be.

Youth Stats July 2009

7 New Youth intakes

Addiction
Depression
Trauma
Anxiety
Grief/Loss
Relationships
Weekly Bi/Gay Men's Therapy Group

Rocket to Change

Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley
Youth Services for Rochester area LGBTQ and allied youth ages 13-25

Check out what is happening:
- www.gayalliance.org
- or contact JessC@gagv.us

Youth Center Happenings
- Drop-in: Monday and Wednesday 2-6pm
- Support Groups
  - Sunday 2pm-4pm ages 13-25
  - Sunday 4:30pm-6pm ages 18-25

- Special Interest Programming
  - Transgender Youth
  - Arts and Crafts
  - Movies
  - Writing

- Special Events
  - Youth Dances
  - Day of Silence
  - Big Gay Prom
  - Pool Table
  - LGBTQ Youth Library
  - Internet Access

Adult Volunteers Needed
Fun, friendly, safe adults are needed to volunteer their time and talents, providing positive role models, maybe sharing a talent or skill.

Contact Scott Fearing, Outreach Coordinator for an application: ScottF@gagv.us 585-244-5640 x14
Gay Alliance News

At the Police Academy
Kelly Clark, Community Safety Program Director, was invited to participate in the LGBT competency training provided to Rochester Police Department recruits at the Police Academy in July. She accompanied retired RPD LGBT Liaison Officer Jim Hall and current Liaison Officer Kim Rasbeck to the Academy to address the cadets.

They showed the film “Transgender Basics”, produced by the Gender Identity Project at The Center in NYC. The film outlines four areas of human sexuality: physical gender, gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation. Kelly rounded out the discussion by addressing a fifth area, that of sexual behavior. The recruits were engaged and asked good questions. Officers Hall and Rasbeck, both of whom are out at work, were able to provide personal stories and advice for working with LGBT citizens in Rochester.

Anti Violence Project Report
In the month of July there were seven incidents reported to the AVP office – all incidents of bias/hate. Three of these incidents were disputes with neighbors. Another report made through our online incident reporting service stated that during the Pride Parade there were an altercation between one of the protesters and a young gay man and his 17-year-old sister. The report states that the sister was knocked to the ground by a male protester. The protester had reportedly been screaming in their ears with a megaphone that "they deserved to die of AIDS and rot in Hell."

Youth Program goes to Camp
Jess Cohen, Director of the Gay Alliance Youth Program and three leaders from the Youth program traveled to Greenwhich NY to participate in Queer Spirit Camp, a week-long examination of leadership, self-growth and activism -- and fun. Jess helped to facilitate, while GAGV youth were charged with protecting Jess from snakes and other "scary" wilderness creatures.

Gay Alliance visits Chautauqua
Staff from the Gay Alliance will be among the presenters at The Rainbow Pride Connection, which will occur Sept. 12-13 in Chautauqua, NY. The event, coordinated by a group of Chautauqua LGBTA residents, will be held on the grounds of the famous Chautauqua Institution. Visit www.rainbowprideconnection.com for more details about this very affordable event, which will feature a film and a concert by the Buffalo Gay Men’s Chorus. (See Calendar)

First Safe Zone Training of the fall
On Aug. 17, Jeanne Gainsburg, Outreach Coordinator and Scott Feingold, Outreach Director, presented the first Safe Zone Training of the fall season at Eastman School of Music. The 14 participants were all residents of Genesee Valley. They asked really good questions and provided some really good answers to questions that trainers presented. In the end, they each received one of the new GAGV stickers and articles which are presented to graduates of our Safe Zone Trainings. (See below)

Cards to Israeli Victims
On Aug. 2, a masked gun­

Program Reports

Participants in Safe Zone training at the Eastman School.

Survey, nearly three quarters (73.6 percent) of students heard homophobic remarks often or frequently at school. Not too hard to understand why LGBT students are skipping school at eight times the rate of general secondary school students.

OK, now what?
Thankfully, there is reason to be hopeful. The Gay Alliance Youth Program is one of those reasons, along with the ever-increasing presence of Gay Stras Law Act (GLSEN) in public schools. When students have a safe place to go and have supportive educators and adults in their lives, they had higher grade point averages, were less likely to miss school for safety reasons, had higher educational aspirations and reported a greater sense of belonging at their school.

The answer seems pretty clear: Having GSA Clubs and community support does make a difference in the lives of LGBT students. Which is why GLSEN Rochester and the Gay Alliance Youth Program are working hard to increase LGBT support services to all students.

This year, I was privileged to be able to bring an amazing 17-year-old student (Alex Gasparrini) to Camp GLSEN. Together, we flew out to downtown New York, where we met a dozen other students who would be taking part in the National Jump Start Leadership Team.

We spent four days preparing to address LGBT bullying and harassment in our local schools. Together, Alex and I will put together a core group of students from our region and develop a plan to improve school climate for LGBT students in the area. And after seeing Alex's passion and leadership potential at Camp GLSEN, I have great faith in our ability to make positive change.
DINING WITH DYKES

Dining with Dykes will host a Kara-oke Night with "all you can eat" pizza and wings on Sept. 25 at The Lumberyard Grille, 106 Beams St. in Cana-digua.

Ticket Cost is $10 per person. Time: 6:30 p.m. dinner; Karaoke: 8 p.m. – 12 a.m. Contact People: Cathe or Sue at 585-644-4272 or 585-833-3037; E-mail: diningwithdykes@frontiernet.net.

The Lumberyard Grille has graciously allowed us to use the upper floor of the restaurant to host monthly Karaoke fundraiser events $2 each from ticket sales to cover our expenses and help organize. This first event will be held in support of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley.

To have your name added to our ticket list, please send an e-mail to diningwithdykes@frontiernet.net.

Please feel free to pass this event invitation along to all of your family and friends. We look forward to a very successful fall kick-off to this new monthly event!

GAY SQUARE DANCE GROUP – THE LILAC SQUARES

Well, we have had the summer to outdo ourselves and have learned some open dances for people to come to and see if they would like to take Square Dancing seriously or just to meet some new friends.

Call or e-mail to be put on the list for notices on where and when the classes will be held.

The Lilac Squares meets each Monday at the Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church, 1621 Marshall Rd., Rochester, at 7 p.m. We are currently learning the Plus calls, and studying some expressions common to the gay/lesbian clubs throughout the country.

We are a lively and friendly group made up of singles, couples, men, and women, young and young at heart; when we get together we learn new square dance call- ing stories, jokes, and lively anecdotes.

We usually learn a couple of new calls each night, and if we make mistakes, our caller will review the calls for us. We are a very easy-going group, and mistakes happen. There will someone there to show you to where you need to be. The night is fun and having a good time. For more information, call Martha 520-3598, or e-mail mlee@rochester.rr.com. Hope to see you there!

PRIDE AT WORK

It has been quiet on the Pride at Work from the last couple of months, but for good cause. Several PAW members who also are officials had re-election campaigns to navigate.

One notable victory was that Bess Woll, the current PAW President at Pride at Work, is now also the new President of CSEA Local 828, which comprises 20,000 members in the Rochester area.

It shows the introds that PAW has made in CSEA and the local labor community that Bess' successful campaign was not an election impediment.

The Rochester chapter of Pride at Work would like to invite all GLBTQI workers and allies to march with us in the Sept. 7 Labor Day Parade. This year’s theme is “Heavenly Labor,” where we will have a float in the works and aspirations of winning an award again this year.

Pride at Work meets on the first Thursday of every month at 167 Randles St. off Thurston. All workers are welcome regardless of gender.

For information call 585-426-0882 or email bessw@gmail.com.

RAINBOW SAGE

by dld Cornsickle

Rainbow Siers is changing its name! It will be "Rainbow SAGE of the Genesee Valley." I am very excited about the whole change.

I am now 53 and I don’t think that is old, anymore, to a 53 year old. And then there’s the saying, “You’re as young as you feel.” I feel pretty great these days. That is one of the reasons I have remained involved with this group.

I wanted to help lay out a plan for our agenda community. I have been on our board and different committees offering our two cents here and there almost from the start. I have been heading up the “Intergenerational Panel” which we have ever year, involving local young and old people to the discussions.

If you haven’t made it to one of these events, check it out next year in our fall programs. Look for the advertisement in The Empty Chest in February 2010. RS has been hosting two dances a year for nearly five years.

This year my good friend Nan Fry handed me the torch, and I am now the chair for this event. I am very excited about this out. Our next dance is Saturday, Oct. 24: “The Community Fall Dance,” at the Chapel House and United Church in Irondequoit.

We will have a potluck dinner, and refreshments from the Empire Bears as well as some treats from our hosts.

If you would like to perform or dance, please call 585-238-4443, or our4 year olds to 75 years. There are so many different things going on throughout the month. The Rochester Women’s Community Chorus, please, and bring a dish to share if you can. We have so many wonderful meals, and you are also encouraged to bring your own grill—food and a side dish. Oh, and if you’re a member, just bring the dish to share. Yearly membership niveau for singles and $50 for household families.

And there are many more benefits to become a member! You will also save on the dance tickets, and we have a members’ only event on the evening of Oct. 24 for 2009 is coming up this fall. We have the Events Committee working on that one! We are busy setting up the plans. It will train ride in the past, other fun things to do in this beautiful area in the fall.

If you want more information about Rainbow Sage, give a call at 585-325-1640 or check RS out on the web at rainbow-sage.org. Thanks and I hope I see you soon!

WOMEN’S COMMUNITY CHORUS

You are invited to join the Rochester Women’s Community Chorus. We are a group of 30-plus women of all different ages and lifestyles who really enjoy singing and the company of other women.

The RWCC is a non-auditioned community chorus that was born in the fall of 2000. We perform five concerts annually in Rochester as well as several "run out" concerts for various non-profits and organizations through the region.

With all that said... this winter marks the first time in recent memory that RWCC will perform our annual winter holiday show. It also marks the first time in recent memory that we will be returning to our "home" (our business office and rehearsal space is at 1640 Marshall Rd., Rochester) for our next large performance. That home is the Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 18 N. Fitzhugh St. in downtown Rochester.

On Saturday, Dec. 12, the Rochester Women’s Community Chorus will be presenting, “The Spirit of the Season,” a musical tribute to our holiday memories. It will feature a wonderful variety of arrangements of well known classics, songs about the human spirit, unusual arrangements of Christmas favorites, and a song in the ancient Spharadic language, Laadino, and some surprises that will astound you! All women over the age of 18 are welcome to sing with us. No prior musical knowledge is required, however our next large performance. That home is the Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 18 N. Fitzhugh St. in downtown Rochester.

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**SEPTEMBER**

**THURSDAY 3**
Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus first rehearsal of season. 6-30 pm. Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St. www.dipt徒步.org.

**TUESDAY 8**
ImageOut Festival Fair. First chance to see 2009 Film Festival lineup and buy tickets. 6-11 pm. Rochester Museum and Science Center Eisenhart Auditorium, 657 East Ave. Free admission. Screening of two films: Fruit Fly, 6 pm, and Dream Bag, 8:30 pm. Info at www.imagout.org.

**MONDAY 14**
Geva Theatre holds auditions for actors 18 and over. 11:30 am-2:30 pm and 4:30-8:30 pm. NextStage at Geva, 75 Woodbury Blvd. Members of Actors Equity must call 585-232-1366. Nonmembers see receptionist on Sept. 14.

**TUESDAY 15**
Primary Day
Empty Closet deadline for October issue. 244-9030; empreved@gagvcs.org. Gay Fathers of Rochester, Social group, 6:30-8:30 pm, GAGV Youth Center, 875 E. Main St., first floor. 585-244-9030.

**WEDNESDAY 16**

**TUESDAY 22**
GAGV Coming Out Workshop series. Through Oct. 29. Thursday nights, 6:30-8:30 pm. GAGV Youth Center, 875 E. Main St., first floor. www.gagvcs.org. GAGV Adult Education. To register and for information, e-mail comeouting@gagvcs.org.

**FRIDAY 25**
Dining with Dykes Karaoke Night. The Lumberyard Grille, 100 Benes St., Canandaigua. Tickets $10 per person. 6:30 pm dinner; Karaoke, 8-12 pm. Contact: Carrie or Sue at 585-554-4722 or 585-313-5037. E-mail: diningwithdykes@frontiernet.net.

**SATURDAY 26**
Dining with Friends. After dinner, don’t miss the gala wrap up celebration at City Hall Armory with dinner, beverages, music, info at 585-284-8960 and diningwithdykes@frontiernet.net. Benefits Gay Alliance Youth program, Anti Violence and Community Safety and Education programs.

**SUNDAY 27**
Dignity Integrity Episcopal Escha­rist. Preacher: the Rev. Michael Hopkins, followed by Anniversary Dinner at La-Tee-Da Tea House & Parlour, Park and Alexander Sts. 5 pm at St. Luke and St. Simon Cyrene Episcopal Church (2-Saints). 17 S. Fitzhugh St. (585) 234-5952. e-mail info@di-rochester.org, website www.di-rochester.org.

**MONDAY 8**

**SATURDAY 5**

**SUNDAY 6**
Dignity Integrity Episcopal Serv­ice, followed by Labor Day picnic in park (bring your own grill-bood and side dish to pass). President: the Rev. Don Hill. 5 pm at St. Luke and St. Simon Cyrene Episcopal Church (2-Saints). 17 S. Fitzhugh St. (585) 234-5952. e-mail info@di-rochester.org, website www.di-rochester.org.

**MONDAY 7**
Labor Day; “Freedom to Choose”, March with Pride at Work in the Labor Day Parade, 426-0682.

**TUESDAY 8**

**SATURDAY 12**

Mind Gamyes with Bob Lawson.

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MONDAY
LGBT Support Group
Third Presbyterian Church, corner of Meigs
East Ave First floor, 5:30-7pm. No
meeting July 6. 649-7765.
Gay Square Dance Group
Mondays, 7pm. Open Arms MCC,
740 Marshall Rd. 520-3558.
mlq9@rochester.rr.com.
Free syphilis testing
AIDS Rochester, 1350 University Ave.,
5-8pm. 449-2220.
Rochester Historical Bowling Society
7:15pm. Mondays. Claver Lakes,
2750 Monroe Ave. (Group is full)
HV Positive Gay Men Support Group
Every Monday. 3pm. AIDS Rochester,
1350 University Ave. 449-2220.
Gay Alliance Board of Directors Meeting
Third Wednesdays, 7pm, 875 E. Main St., fifth floor, 244-8640.
New Freedom New Happiness
AA Gay meeting, 7pm, Unitarian Church,
Support Group for Parents Who Have Lost Children
First, third Wednesdays, 11am-12:30pm. Third Presbyterian Church, 4 Main St.
Saratoga Regional Genetic Home Care. Free. 325-1880
COAF
Come Out and Play. Business meeting last
Wednesday. Equal Genders Coffee Shop,
750 South Ave. 7pm. John S., 201-26713.
Empire Bears
First Wednesdays, 7pm. GAGV
Community Center, 875 E. Main St., fifth floor,
info@empirebears.org
Rochester Rams General Meeting
2nd Wednesdays, 7:30pm. Bachelor Forums.
670 University Ave.
Southmen and over. Second Mondays,
6pm. George Eastman House
Steps Beyond Stems Crack Support Group
Mondays, 7-8pm. 289 Monroe Ave.
TUESDAY
Atlantic Free 0
Gay men 50 and over. Second Tuesdays,
7pm. GAGV Youth Center, 875 E Main St.,
first floor. Prince St. entrance. 249-4922.
Two Spirit Group
Second Tuesdays, 7-30pm. Equal-Genders,
750 South Ave.
PFLAG pack
First Tuesdays. 6:30-7pm meeting. St.
Thomas Church, Winton & Highland.
LGBTQ Body Image Group
Second, fourth, Tuesdays. GAGV Nopper
Room, 5th floor, 875 E. Main St. Free.
244-8640 ext 13.
CampusOut Coffee Night
First Tuesdays, 7-9pm. Equal-Genders,
750 South Ave.
Gay Fathers’ Social Group
First and third Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30pm.
GAGV Youth Center, 875 E. Main St.,
first floor. 420-9995. (off until Sept. 15)
MOCHA Youth Drop-In
Tues-Rel. 7-9pm, MOCHA Center,
107 Liberty Park Way, 420-0650.
Mothers & Daughters Group
Free. Mothers & Daughters, 750 South Ave.
Lesbian and Gay Group
First and third Tuesdays, 6pm, St.
John’s Hospital.
Meetings in Rochester
Each meeting has its own costs and
individual expectations. Free or
chargeable by open discussion.

AA Meetings in Rochester
Every week there are four regularly scheduled
GLBTI AA meetings in Rochester.

Wednesdays
New Freedom/New Happiness Group
7pm. at the First Unitarian Church, 220 S. Winton Rd. Bus riders: Take the first #18 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 alcohol/substance use – are fair game.

Fridays
Gay Men’s
7:30pm. Immanuel Baptist Church, 815 Park Ave.
Closed meeting, restricted to alcoholics and addicts
Men’s meeting
Handicapped accessible
This is a round-robin discussion meeting. If you are shy about meeting people or speaking up in a group, you will find this meeting particularly warm and inviting. Because everyone gets a chance to speak (or pass) at the end of each meeting, this meeting often runs long, so plan on more than the usual hour.

Saturdays
Saturday Night Special
7pm. at the First Unitarian Church, 220 S. Winton Rd. Bus riders: The #18 University Ave. bus does not go by the church on weekend evenings. Take the #1 Park Ave. bus, to the corner of East and Winton, then walk five minutes south (uphill) on Winton. This is an open discussion meeting. All issues – as they relate to our alcohol/substance use – are fair game.

Sunday
Rochester Gay Men
6 pm at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh Ave. Bus riders use the Fitzhugh St. stop on Main St. at the County Office Building and walk south one block.
Closed meeting, restricted to alcoholics and addicts
Men’s meeting
Not handicapped accessible
Meeting begins with a speaker, followed by open discussion.
Tired of Shaving?

The Laser Spa

Permanent Laser Hair Removal Guaranteed

www.RochesterLaserSpa.com
585-672-7959

Men’s Special: $275 off any laser hair removal package - expires 9/30/09