Bishop Robinson to speak here April 29

The Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson of New Hampshire — the first “honestly gay” bishop in The Episcopal Church — will speak in Rochester on April 29, at 7 p.m. during an Ecumenical service at St. Luke & St. Simon Cyrene Episcopal Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St.

Bishop Prince Singh of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester will also participate. Afterwards, Bishop Robinson will speak further and answer questions from the congregation. Members of the public are invited to attend.

“It’s a great honor to have Bishop Robinson visit the Diocese of Rochester,” said the Rev. Michael W. Hopkins, rector of the parish hosting the event.

(Robinson continues page 3)

Rainbow SAGE hosted its seventh Intergenerational Panel on March 21 at the Gay Alliance Youth Center. More coverage on page 18. Photo: Laura McSpadden

Rainbow SAGE panel: talking about self acceptance

By Laura McSpadden

On March 21, Rainbow SAGE hosted the seventh annual Intergenerational Panel at the Gay Alliance Youth Center. The theme for the evening’s panel was self-acceptance. As a result, all of the panelists shared their personal experiences about how they were able to discover, accept and embrace all aspects of who they are.

The panelists’ ages ranged from 16 to 65, allowing for a truly intergenerational experience. Their ages were not the only source of diversity either; some had grown up in rural settings, others in urban areas. Some were devout Christians, others were atheists. There were lesbian, gay, bisexual, MTF and FTM panelists. The result was a diverse range of perspectives that was both informative and engaging.

The panelists were Tara Cal lan, Peter Vaillancourt, Andrea Palumbo, Cheyenne Lynch, Michael Davey, Sean Soper, Dustin Hilton and Chuck McKin tosh. (See page A18)

“Having the panel in the Youth Center made it a very intimate setting,” said one communi gilla, the Intergenerational Chair for Rainbow SAGE. “We probably could have stayed there a few more hours just talking…We heard all of the speakers explain their conviction to be able to be who they are, some getting there with the love and acceptance of their families and friends, some through groups, some with anger.” Smith continued. “Some prayed to just be the people others wanted them to be, and some are true to themselves because they just know the others had it wrong. And so starts the journey to self-acceptance.”

One disturbing similarity throughout most of the panelists’ experiences, regardless of their age, was the presence of fear and internal conflict at some point in their life. (Acceptance continues page 3)

Jose Peralta defeats anti-gay Hiram Monserrate

By Susan Jordana

Hiram Monserrate was expelled from the New York State Senate for his domestic violence conviction, but the rules do not prohibit him from running again for the seat. And, in a last-ditch effort to win the March 16 special election, Monserrate made anti-gay views the centerpiece of his campaign, according to Julia Rosen of the New York Daily News. The result was a campaign that was negative in tone and the presence of Cynthia Nixon.

At “a cynical anti-gay rally” organized by Monserrate, one of his supporters even went so far as to say “Misery loves company and LGBT taxpayers have more reason to feel miserable than heterosexuals on April 15.” Disgruntled queers have been invited to “Unhappy Hour” on Unfair Gay Tax Day 2010. (Tax Day continues page 3)

April 15 is Unfair Gay Tax Day Rally, “Unhappy Hour”

By Susan Jordana

Misery loves company and LGBT taxpayers have more reason to feel miserable than heterosexuals on April 15. Disgruntled queers have been invited to “Unhappy Hour” on Unfair Gay Tax Day 2010. (Tax Day continues page 3)

Day of Silence honors lost voices

By Susan Jordana

The Day of Silence 2010 rally will take place April 16, in the Apollo Room on the lower level at the Auditorium Center, 875 E. Main St., sponsored by the Gay Alliance Youth Group and GLSEN. Students and schools across the country participate in this annual national event, which typically draws several hundred.

Day of Silence continues page 3

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

Gospel Eastman Kodak Company: Excellus, Mass Mutual Financial Group, Merrill Lynch, MetLife, Nissin Produce, LLP Silver Ace Making Services; Busch & Lomb Inc.; Corning Incorporated; Harrer Secret & Emory LLP; Haveron & Hewson CPR; ITT Corporation; Monroe Plan for Medical Care; Sage Advisors of Sage Ruffin St. John Fisher College; Tim Tompkins Enterprises; Xerox Capital Services Bronze Canandaigua National Bank; Edgerton Florist; Empire State College; GALAXE Pride at Work; Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church; Third Presbyterian Church; Wegmans Food Markets; The Woolbright Group

Pride Thomson Raulers

The Empty Closet

Section A

NEW YORK STATE’S OLDEST LGBT PUBLICATION

APRIL 2010

Number 433

A PUBLICATION OF THE GAY ALLIANCE OF THE GENESEE VALLEY

PFLAG workshop

On Tuesday, April 6, from 7 to 9 p.m., PFLAG will host a workshop titled “The Films of Borghere: A Look at the Negative Impact of the Bible,” at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 2000 Highland Av., at the corner of South Win ton (parking on street).

This workshop, including a PowerPoint presentation, lecture and discussion, is drawn from Episcopal Bishop John Shelby Spong’s book The Bibles of Scripture. The event will examine how a certain reading of the Bible has influenced modern culture in negative ways, such as oppression of women and gays, racism and oppression to reproductive choice.

Reverend Jim Mucalcy of Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church is the invited speaker. For information, contact The Gay Alliance: (585) 244-8640 x27.

Share memories

The late Virginia West Davidson will be honored on April 10 at Downtown Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St., where she was an elder. Davidson was also co-founder of That All May Freely Serve, which promotes LGBT inclusion in the church. The event will take place at 2 p.m. in Celebration Hall on the first floor; it is wheelchair accessible. Feminist scholars Johanna Bos and Sylvia Thomas-Smith will reflect on Ginny’s work for women’s and gay rights, and U.P.B. (Unrepentant Practicing Bisexuals) will perform. A reception will follow.

Ginny’s friend and fellow conspirator “the Reverend Jane Adams Spahr will be present and will reflect on Ginny’s work following the day at 11 a.m. service at DUPC. For more information, contact her at jane@spahr.com.

Vagina Monologues

See Page B-1

Section B

Employment: Consuls 1
Columns 5
GAY News: Gender 10
Groups 14
Calendar 15
Classifieds Ongoing Calendar 15

Inside

NewsBriefs

LOCAL & STATE NEWS

LOCAL & STATE NEWS

NEW YORK'S OLDEST LGBT PUBLICATION

APRIL 2010

Bishop Robinson to speak here April 29

The Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson of New Hampshire — the first “honestly gay” bishop in The Episcopal Church — will speak in Rochester on April 29, at 7 p.m. during an Ecumenical service at St. Luke & St. Simon Cyrene Episcopal Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St.

Bishop Prince Singh of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester will also participate. Afterwards, Bishop Robinson will speak further and answer questions from the congregation. Members of the public are invited to attend.

“It’s a great honor to have Bishop Robinson visit the Diocese of Rochester,” said the Rev. Michael W. Hopkins, rector of the parish hosting the event.

(Robinson continues page 3)

Rainbow SAGE hosted its seventh Intergenerational Panel on March 21 at the Gay Alliance Youth Center. More coverage on page 18. Photo: Laura McSpadden

Rainbow SAGE panel: talking about self acceptance

By Laura McSpadden

On March 21, Rainbow SAGE hosted the seventh annual Intergenerational Panel at the Gay Alliance Youth Center. The theme for the evening’s panel was self-acceptance. As a result, all of the panelists shared their personal experiences about how they were able to discover, accept and embrace all aspects of who they are.

The panelists’ ages ranged from 16 to 65, allowing for a truly intergenerational experience. Their ages were not the only source of diversity either; some had grown up in rural settings, others in urban areas. Some were devout Christians, others were atheists. There were lesbian, gay, bisexual, MTF and FTM panelists. The result was a diverse range of perspectives that was both informative and engaging.

The panelists were Tara Cal lan, Peter Vaillancourt, Andrea Palumbo, Cheyenne Lynch, Michael Davey, Sean Soper, Dustin Hilton and Chuck McKin tosh. (See page A18)

“Having the panel in the Youth Center made it a very intimate setting,” said one communi gilla, the Intergenerational Chair for Rainbow SAGE. “We probably could have stayed there a few more hours just talking…We heard all of the speakers explain their conviction to be able to be who they are, some getting there with the love and acceptance of their families and friends, some through groups, some with anger.” Smith continued. “Some prayed to just be the people others wanted them to be, and some are true to themselves because they just know the others had it wrong. And so starts the journey to self-acceptance.”

One disturbing similarity throughout most of the panelists’ experiences, regardless of their age, was the presence of fear and internal conflict at some point in their life. (Acceptance continues page 3)

Jose Peralta defeats anti-gay Hiram Monserrate

By Susan Jordana

Hiram Monserrate was expelled from the New York State Senate for his domestic violence conviction, but the rules do not prohibit him from running again for the seat. And, in a last-ditch effort to win the March 16 special election, Monserrate made anti-gay views the centerpiece of his campaign, according to Julia Rosen of the New York Daily News. The result was a campaign that was negative in tone and the presence of Cynthia Nixon.

At “a cynical anti-gay rally” organized by Monserrate, one of his supporters even went so far as to say “Misery loves company and LGBT taxpayers have more reason to feel miserable than heterosexuals on April 15.” Disgruntled queers have been invited to “Unhappy Hour” on Unfair Gay Tax Day 2010. (Tax Day continues page 3)

April 15 is Unfair Gay Tax Day Rally, “Unhappy Hour”

By Susan Jordana

Misery loves company and LGBT taxpayers have more reason to feel miserable than heterosexuals on April 15. Disgruntled queers have been invited to “Unhappy Hour” on Unfair Gay Tax Day 2010. (Tax Day continues page 3)

Day of Silence honors lost voices

By Susan Jordana

The Day of Silence 2010 rally will take place April 16, in the Apollo Room on the lower level at the Auditorium Center, 875 E. Main St., sponsored by the Gay Alliance Youth Group and GLSEN. Students and schools across the country participate in this annual national event, which typically draws several hundred.

Day of Silence continues page 3

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

Gospel Eastman Kodak Company: Excellus, Mass Mutual Financial Group, Merrill Lynch, MetLife, Nissin Produce, LLP Silver Ace Making Services; Busch & Lomb Inc.; Corning Incorporated; Harrer Secret & Emory LLP; Haveron & Hewson CPR; ITT Corporation; Monroe Plan for Medical Care; Sage Advisors of Sage Ruffin St. John Fisher College; Tim Tompkins Enterprises; Xerox Capital Services Bronze Canandaigua National Bank; Edgerton Florist; Empire State College; GALAXE Pride at Work; Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church; Third Presbyterian Church; Wegmans Food Markets; The Woolbright Group

Pride Thomson Raulers
Social injustice rules...

Faux News host Glenn Beck, has received criticism for his attacks on churches that are “social justice” (a code word for what Beck terms “socialism”). Or was that Nazism? Or both? Whatever.

Not only are liberal Christians saying that Christians should stop watching him, but even the conservative Church of Latter Day Saints (Beck is a Mormon) disowned his remarks.

Not the self-appointed “pundit” (who has no formal education past high school) will pay any attention to what liberals say. Instead he may take his agenda to the next level. After exposure to Jon Stewart’s Beck take-offs, one can easily imagine it...

“Join churches that promote Social Injustice (a code word for social injustice)? Put a few pennies in the charity box — the poor better be grateful! Bring back slave labor! You can’t eat for low overhead and high CEO bonuses.

“Join churches that tell you to hate women, queers and people of color! If you have a priest who tells you to hate and discriminate, follow him! He is the only representative of Jesus Christ! Anybody who tells you different is a Nazi Socialist! Nazism and Socialism are the same thing — liberals! Only straight white men like me deserve to RULE THE WORLD!”

Live United

Spring has officially arrived! The warmer weather brings longer days and the Kick Off for the Rochester United Way Annual Appeal. United Way has been a great partner with the Gay Alliance for many years. Under the leadership of Peter Carnigan, the United Way has reached out to the LGBTQ community. The Gay Alliance receives a significant amount of funding through Donor Designed Funds from the local annual appeal.

In addition to these funds, the United Way is currently providing technical and legal assistance to the Gay Alliance as we explore the options for bringing another non-profit under our umbrella. This assistance will result in significant cost savings to the Gay Alliance and our community partner as we move forward without in pocket of our mission.

Go online to gayalliance.org and look for the “Support Our Work” link.

In addition to the Spring Appeal, I want to thank all of our funders, donors, Board of Directors and our staff for their generous support of the Gay Alliance. I hope you will join us in support of our mission.
Day of Silence from page 1

light youth and allies in the Rochester area. Over 250 students attended last year’s event from more than 40 schools in Monroe and surrounding counties.

Youth Program participants say, “Day of Silence is a reminder that LGBT youth are not alone. There are other people out there who are going through the same thing and support us.”

Youth who take part in the observance during the day until 4 p.m., the moment of breaking the silence at the rally. The event will offer free, confidential HIV testing, and a performance by the Rochettes, the dancing ensemble of the Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus. The rally will be followed by a reception and networking event.

The Day of Silence is an opportunity to honor the memory of LGBT youth and adults whose voices have been silenced by forces of discrimination. Too many LGBT youth and hate groups are actually trying to silence the voices of others in our communities.

In 2008, the American Psychological Association (APA) released its first National Summit on the Rights of LGBT Youth. The report found that LGBT youth are at risk of suicide, depression, and other mental health issues, and that they are more likely to experience social isolation and discrimination. The report also found that LGBT youth are more likely to experience physical and verbal abuse, and that they are more likely to experience discrimination in housing, employment, and education.

Bishop from page 1

“Come to the rally and then come for dinner and drinks,” Watts said. “It looks like marriage equality is not happening overnight, so let’s pace ourselves.”

Peralta from page 1

as to say, I have seen a generation of children sink down to the gay community.

AUGUST 2006 • NUMBER 433 • GAY ALLIANCE OF THE GENESSEE VALLEY • THE EMPTY CLOSET

LOCAL AND STATE

ACCEPANCE FROM PAGE 1

Many people told me that they have experienced depression, suicidal tendencies, spiritual crises or addiction.

Follow me, there was time and opportunity for the attendees to ask the panelists questions. The inquiry “What are your fears regarding and hopes for today’s queer youth?” asked by community member Lee Bander, sparked an incredible conversation and exchange of ideas.

“My fears for the younger generation of LGBT youth is very similar to my fears for young African-Americans,” said panelist Chan McKenzie. “I fear the growing disconnect between LGBT and gay youth and the history of our community, the context and struggles that tell how we got to where we are. People don’t understand when their bills come up for a vote. He will be a promise keeper and not a promise breaker like the person he is replacing.”

“Now it’s time to go back to work in the State Senate. We have just three more years left in the legislative session,” said Peralta. “The Pride Agenda is ready to work with Joe, the Senate Leadership and every Democrat in the Senate, who is ready to advance LGBT issues and make New York a better place to live.”

Tax Day from page 1

The Tax Day events will take place on Thursday, April 15, beginning with a rally at 6:30 p.m. at the Kennedy B. Keating Federal Building, 100 State St. After the rally, from 5:30-8 p.m., din­

Ten states have enacted comprehensive laws banning discrimination based on gender identity and expression, covering public and private employers as well as other areas of everyday life. Eight additional states including New York have civil rights orders covering public employees only.

According to a March 2008 Global Barometer Poll, 78 percent of registered New York voters support passing a bill to protect transgender people. This sup­

NYS Assembly passes GENDA again; Senate again urged to act

On March 2, the New York State Assembly once again voted by an overwhelming bipartisan margin to amend the state’s human rights law to include anti­discrimination protections based upon gender identity and expression.

The bill (A5710), known as the Gen­

erally, the bill’s sponsors said that state bias .. They want to send a message that they felt that this was the best Int­

CRF at RIT: Sherry Wolf, nationally known LGBT activist and author of “Sexual­ity and Socialism” was keynote speaker, shown with local activist Ralph Bean at Civil Rights Forum held at RIT workshop on RIT at Feb. 20. See page 18 for another photo. Photo: Bess Watts

Twelve states and the District of Columbia have comprehensive laws banning discrimination based on gender identity and expression, covering public and private employers as well as other areas of everyday life.

Ten states have enacted comprehensive laws banning discrimination based on gender identity and expression, covering public and private employers as well as other areas of everyday life.

Facts on Gender Identity and Expression Non-Discrimination Protections In the Public and Private Sec­

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), a federal law that would protect LGBT workers from discrimination in employment, was introduced in Congress in 2003. The bill has been reintroduced in every session of Congress since then, but has never been enacted.

As of August 2006, 14 states had enacted laws or ordinances that prohibit discrimination based on gender identity and expression in public accommodations, housing, employment, credit, and public accommodations. These laws or ordinances cover LGBT people in a variety of settings, including schools, hospitals, and public transportation. In some cases, these laws have been challenged in the courts, but they have generally been upheld.

According to a survey conducted by the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce, 78 percent of Americans support laws or ordinances that prohibit discrimination based on gender identity and expression in public accommodations, housing, employment, credit, and public accommodations. The same survey found that 68 percent of Americans support laws or ordinances that prohibit discrimination based on gender identity and expression in schools, hospitals, and public transportation.

In 2008, the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce released a report called The State of Equality, which surveyed LGBT people and their experiences with discrimination.

The report found that LGBT people are more likely to experience discrimination in housing, employment, and education. The report also found that LGBT people are more likely to experience discrimination in the workplace, including being denied a lease on an apartment or home, being denied a job or promotion, and being discriminated against in the workplace.

The report also found that LGBT people are more likely to experience discrimination in the legal system, including being denied a fair trial, being denied a fair hearing, and being denied equal protection under the law.

In 2008, the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce released a report called The State of Equality, which surveyed LGBT people and their experiences with discrimination.

The report found that LGBT people are more likely to experience discrimination in housing, employment, and education. The report also found that LGBT people are more likely to experience discrimination in the workplace, including being denied a lease on an apartment or home, being denied a job or promotion, and being discriminated against in the workplace.

The report also found that LGBT people are more likely to experience discrimination in the legal system, including being denied a fair trial, being denied a fair hearing, and being denied equal protection under the law.

In 2008, the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce released a report called The State of Equality, which surveyed LGBT people and their experiences with discrimination.

The report found that LGBT people are more likely to experience discrimination in housing, employment, and education. The report also found that LGBT people are more likely to experience discrimination in the workplace, including being denied a lease on an apartment or home, being denied a job or promotion, and being discriminated against in the workplace.

The report also found that LGBT people are more likely to experience discrimination in the legal system, including being denied a fair trial, being denied a fair hearing, and being denied equal protection under the law.

In 2008, the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce released a report called The State of Equality, which surveyed LGBT people and their experiences with discrimination.

The report found that LGBT people are more likely to experience discrimination in housing, employment, and education. The report also found that LGBT people are more likely to experience discrimination in the workplace, including being denied a lease on an apartment or home, being denied a job or promotion, and being discriminated against in the workplace.

The report also found that LGBT people are more likely to experience discrimination in the legal system, including being denied a fair trial, being denied a fair hearing, and being denied equal protection under the law.

In 2008, the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce released a report called The State of Equality, which surveyed LGBT people and their experiences with discrimination.

The report found that LGBT people are more likely to experience discrimination in housing, employment, and education. The report also found that LGBT people are more likely to experience discrimination in the workplace, including being denied a lease on an apartment or home, being denied a job or promotion, and being discriminated against in the workplace.

The report also found that LGBT people are more likely to experience discrimination in the legal system, including being denied a fair trial, being denied a fair hearing, and being denied equal protection under the law.

In 2008, the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce released a report called The State of Equality, which surveyed LGBT people and their experiences with discrimination.

The report found that LGBT people are more likely to experience discrimination in housing, employment, and education. The report also found that LGBT people are more likely to experience discrimination in the workplace, including being denied a lease on an apartment or home, being denied a job or promotion, and being discriminated against in the workplace.

The report also found that LGBT people are more likely to experience discrimination in the legal system, including being denied a fair trial, being denied a fair hearing, and being denied equal protection under the law.

In 2008, the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce released a report called The State of Equality, which surveyed LGBT people and their experiences with discrimination.

The report found that LGBT people are more likely to experience discrimination in housing, employment, and education. The report also found that LGBT people are more likely to experience discrimination in the workplace, including being denied a lease on an apartment or home, being denied a job or promotion, and being discriminated against in the workplace.

The report also found that LGBT people are more likely to experience discrimination in the legal system, including being denied a fair trial, being denied a fair hearing, and being denied equal protection under the law.

In 2008, the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce released a report called The State of Equality, which surveyed LGBT people and their experiences with discrimination.

The report found that LGBT people are more likely to experience discrimination in housing, employment, and education. The report also found that LGBT people are more likely to experience discrimination in the workplace, including being denied a lease on an apartment or home, being denied a job or promotion, and being discriminated against in the workplace.

The report also found that LGBT people are more likely to experience discrimination in the legal system, including being denied a fair trial, being denied a fair hearing, and being denied equal protection under the law.

In 2008, the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce released a report called The State of Equality, which surveyed LGBT people and their experiences with discrimination.

The report found that LGBT people are more likely to experience discrimination in housing, employment, and education. The report also found that LGBT people are more likely to experience discrimination in the workplace, including being denied a lease on an apartment or home, being denied a job or promotion, and being discriminated against in the workplace.

The report also found that LGBT people are more likely to experience discrimination in the legal system, including being denied a fair trial, being denied a fair hearing, and being denied equal protection under the law.

In 2008, the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce released a report called The State of Equality, which surveyed LGBT people and their experiences with discrimination.

The report found that LGBT people are more likely to experience discrimination in housing, employment, and education. The report also found that LGBT people are more likely to experience discrimination in the workplace, including being denied a lease on an apartment or home, being denied a job or promotion, and being discriminated against in the workplace.

The report also found that LGBT people are more likely to experience discrimination in the legal system, including being denied a fair trial, being denied a fair hearing, and being denied equal protection under the law.
Choi arraigned for March 18 White House protest

Lt. Dan Choi and Gay, Jim Pietrangelo were arrested March 18 for chaining themselves to the White House fence in protest of foot dragging by the White House administration and Congress regarding the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell. Choi was reacting to a statement by Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass) to The Advocate, that the Obama administration does not plan to push DADT repeal this year.

Choi had asked to speak at a Human Rights Campaign rally on repeal of DADT. He then stated, "You've been told that the White House has a plan, but we learned this week that the president is still not fully committed. ... Following this rally, I will be leading the protest to the White House to say 'enough.' ... I am still standing, I am still lighting, I am still speaking out, and I am still gay.

On March 19, Choi and Pietrangelo pleaded not guilty to "Tahere to obey a lawful order." They had been handcuffed and refused bail, but were unshackled and allowed to leave after arraignment.

For more information, see "Empty Closet News" at www.emptyclosetnews.org.

A group of LGBT activists was arrested the same day at Speaker Pelosi's office, where they were calling for passage of ENDA. GetEqual activist C.D. Kirven, one of those arrested, e-mailed

pamshouseblends.com, "Our court date is April 6, 2010. There will be support rallies for Lt. Dan Choi all over the country the next few days. We are planning one for Dallas.

On March 18 there was another brand of activism on the Hill, by two Iraq/ Afghan veterans and former clients of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, former Air Force Major Mike Almy and former U.S. Navy Lieutenant Junior Grade Jenny Kopfstein. They appeared before a Senate committee to explain the impact of DADT on their lives and how it has affected their lives.

Former U.S. Navy Lieutenant Junior Grade Jenny Kopfstein told the committee that two years after her DADT discharge hearing saying they were opposed to her being kicked out, one of them was handed over to the FBI, aBlend that was not a detriment to unit cohesion, morals, or good order. Both Major Almy and Lieutenant Kopfstein provided senators with documentation showing that their superiors and subordinates thought highly of them professionally and personally.

"We are so proud of both Major Almy and Lieutenant Kopfstein," said Aubrey Sarvis, SLDN executive director. "Not only did they explain how the archaic ban is harming military preparedness, but they illustrated the generational divide on the issue by sitting next to General Sheehy, whose stories bring to life the new poll numbers out this week indicating 73 percent of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans say it is personally acceptable to them if gay and lesbian people were allowed to serve openly in the military.

"When abusive priests are discovered, the response has been to not investigate and prosecute but to move them to one place to another. So there's total disregard for the victims and for the fact that you are going to have a whole new crop of victims in the next place. This is happening all over the world.

Wedding bells ring out in Washington D.C.

On March 3, marriage became legal for same sex couples in Washington, D.C. The Supreme Court rejected a last minute attempt by right wing opponents of LGBT civil rights to overturn the law. However, the Court of Appeals has said it plans to hear oral arguments on whether the initiative can go forward in May.

The campaign for All DC Families, which represents a diverse coalition of District of Columbia residents working to win and secure civil rights in an explicit marriage law, applauded as the district's first gay and lesbian couples applied for a marriage license.

"Today, committed Washington D.C. gay and lesbian couples are able to take the first steps toward providing the long term promise to take care of and be responsible for each other," Campaign for All DC Families President Frans Sarvis said.

"Our nation's capital turned another page in its progressive history and continues to set an example for the rest of the country.

At 8 a.m. on March 3, couples, along with friends and family members, lined up on the steps of the Superior Court Marriage Bureau located in H. Carl Moultrie Courthouse, and applied for their marriage licenses, allowed them to legally get married.

"Being able to finally marry the woman to whom I have been committed for more than 12 years, is a dream come true," said Angelia Voiley, who with her partner Sinnamon Townsend were among the first couples to apply for a marriage license. After all the years of waiting, Sinnamon and I are finally able to begin our lives as a legally married couple," she said.

"This law is an important step towards equal dignity, equal respect and equal rights for all residents of our nation's capital," said HRC President Joe Solmonese.

"Starting today, same-sex couples in D.C. will be able to enjoy all the rights and responsibilities that come with civil marriage. At the same time, the law also preserves the right of clergy and congregations to adhere to their faith traditions. Today represents a hard-fought victory for the LGBT movement," Solmonese said.

Longtime activist and member of Congress Harris, pastor of Lincoln Congregational Temple, United Church of Christ, and member of D.C. Clergy United for Marriage Equality supported the new law. "Today is a historic day in our community for social justice and inclusion, and the churches which adhere to historic traditions of our religious heritage," said Harris. "For too long it has been unjust that we have not had the opportunity to consecrate relationships in the same way in which we allow opposite-sex couples. Our couples today have been given the same opportunity as our friends who hold different views and are pleased that today's law embraces our nation's strongest traditions of religious freedom.

On Dec. 15, 2009, the D.C. Council overwhelmingly passed the Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Equality Act of 2009. The bill was signed by Mayor Adrian Fenty and transmitted to Congress for review. Marriage equality opponents attempted to stop the legislation from reaching the president.

However, the D.C. Board of Elections and Ethics ruled in February — for the first time — that the proposed ballot measure would violate the D.C. Human Rights Act and therefore is not a proper issue for the referendum process. A D.C. Superior Court judge recently denied opponents' request for a preliminary injunction to stay the legislation, which followed two previous court rulings rejecting opponents' efforts for a referendum initiative.

On Dec. 15, 2009, the D.C. Council passed the religious freedom legislation and the D.C. Superior Court denied opponents' emergency appeals.

The bill, which effectively nullified the mandatory 30-day Congressional review period. During this period, Representatives Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah) and Senator Robert Bennett (R-Utah) introduced legislation that would have halted implementation of the new law. Both bills attracted only minimal support and did not move through their respective House and Senate chambers.

The initiative continues to pursue a ballot initiative defining marriage as "between a man and a woman." On Feb. 8, the D.C. high court.

The Court of Appeals has said it plans to hear oral arguments on whether the initiative can go forward in May 2010.

Under a law enacted last June, same-sex couples living in D.C. legally married elsewhere were recognized as married in D.C. and received the rights and responsibilities of civil marriage.

Peru to the new law, same-sex couples may now enter into civil marriages in

SOFIA'S CUSTOM CARPENTRY

- BUILT-INS - KITCHENS - BATHS
- THE ART OF DESIGNING AND BUILDING A PROJECT IS ITS ABILITY TO ENDURE
- GRANITE - STEEL - GLASS - WOOD
ERIC FRANZ KRUG
585-703-0001 PORTFOLIO AVAILABLE

COME PITCH YOUR TENT AT THE POND

Just over 1 hour from Rochester in Western New York State!

Jones Pond is a members only, adult male (21+) gay camping facility with 22 Tent Sites, 26 Tent Test Sites, 20+ Acres. Large RV & Tent Sites, Cabins and Guest House. D/J/Dancing every weekend, hiking, swimming and social events all year round. Call or visit our web site for directions and the event schedule. See ya there!
The scandal now envelops Balducci, a well-known and powerful figure who is married with two children, and who is alleged to have taken remarkable risks in setting up sexual affairs even in Chigi Palace, home of the Italian prime minister, or immediately after a private audience with a cardinal.

In 72 pages of transcribed wiretaps, Ehime tells Balducci about one possible candidate: “Angelos... I’ll say no more.”

Those new regulations will raise the bar, but won’t endcharges

The Department of Defense has announced new “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” regulations. The new regulations released today by Secretary Robert Gates were called the bar for investigations and charges under “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”.

This is a major victory for the gay, bisexual, and transgender community as well as other non-military purposes.

Military leaders, including Secretary Gates and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral, Michael Mullen, recognize that LGBT people are our nation’s military personnel.

Who carved a place in the history of two states?

On March 3, Washington D.C., national capital of the U.S., opened legal marriage to same-sex couples. The Washington Post recently published an article about the new policy. In 2005, the New York Times reported that about 140 million Americans -- about 46 percent of the nation's population -- live where there is some form of official notice of same-sex couples.

New Mexico City, the 10 million strong national capital of Mexico, has become the latest and largest national capital in the Western Hemisphere to honor this foundational human right of its citizens.

Did Papal aide mess with the choir boys?

Police wiretaps are expected to result in charges against Angelo Balducci, 63, a Papal Gentleman, as Vatican lay assistant to Pope Benedict XVI. On March 2, the Holy See’s Public Works Department, which itself caught up in a corruption scandal, was suspended by the Pope.

According to police, Balducci regularly contacted Chinedu Ehiem Thomas, a Nigerian man who sings in St. Peter’s Cappella Giulia, to engage the sexual services of young male members of the choir, along with seminarians and undocumented immigrants of various ages seeking residency status.

The scandal now envelops Balducci, a well-known and powerful figure who is married with two children, and who is alleged to have taken remarkable risks in setting up sexual affairs even in Chigi Palace, home of the Italian prime minister, or immediately after a private audience with a cardinal.

In 72 pages of transcribed wiretaps, Ehime tells Balducci about one possible candidate: “Angelos... I’ll say no more.”

Those new regulations will raise the bar, but won’t end charges under “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”.

This is a major victory for the gay, bisexual, and transgender community as well as other non-military purposes.

Military leaders, including Secretary Gates and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral, Michael Mullen, recognize that LGBT people are our nation’s military personnel.
**Emily Jones**

*By Susan Jareno*

Emily Jones, Gay Alliance board member and this year's recipient of the Empire State Pride Agenda's Community Service Award (to be given May 22 at the Sprinng Dinner), is active with the Human Rights Campaign. On March 4 she was part of a 300-member delegation of HRC lobbyists from around the country who went to Capitol Hill to advocate for major bills relating to LGBT rights.

"I found the whole experience exhilarating," she said, "even all the walking around Capitol Hill. I was so impressed with the competence of the people in the NY1 delegation, and all 300 lobbyists, and also with how well prepared each legislator's office was for our people. It was amazing. I don't usually come back and talk a lot about these things, but I've been telling everyone about this!"

HRC has identified key gay-related legislation for the 111th Congress, including the Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act, or DPBO (providing benefits for same-sex domestic partners of federal civilian employees on the same basis as similar benefits the Early Treatment for HIV Act, or ETHA (providing states with the option to provide Medicaid benefits to low-income HIV-positive Americans); the Employment Non-Discrimination Act or ENDA (prohibiting discrimination in the workplace on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity); the Military Readiness Enhancement Act (to repeal Don't Ask Don't Tell) and the Respect for Marriage Act (repealing the homophbic Defense of Marriage Act); and the Rights of All Lawfully Married Couples including same-sex couples.

Emily Jones is the only upstate member of the five-member NYS delegation. She said, "We met with a lot of legislative aides who were engaging; Brian Indivina, aide to Congressman Anthony Weiner of New York's Ninth District, was apologetic that they hadn't accomplished what they had promised a year ago. Rep. Weiner, along with Rep. Nagle and 20 other House members, has a letter pending which would result in treating marriage in the same way as interstate commerce, so you would have reciprocity and we wouldn't have to deal with all these laws in order to have our legal marriages recognized throughout the country."

Some of the meetings with Republican lawmakers were less encouraging, Emily recounted her experience in appr. NY Rep. Christopher Lee's office. She said, "His aide Jeff Freeland was very good and really listened. He asked a lot of questions and took a lot of notes. Then Rep. Lee came in and was gracious. I started to talk to him about repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell. He is against repeal and said 'If it isn't broken, don't fix it.'"

"I said, 'What do you mean it's not broken? We've let 56 Arab linguists leave - if that isn't compromising our military security, what is?' He said he'd think about it. I then said that I had been director of research at Kodak, which has been on the cutting edge of ending discrimination against LGBT workers, and I'd like to keep capable employees in Rochester, so we'd like to see employee discrimination ended. He avoided dealing with that totally and just dismissed it, saying it's 'Albany's fault.'"

Emily feels that Republicans have decided on their positions for political reasons and are not open to information that contradicts their party line.

She said she was able to talk with Bridgeget DeHart, senior legislative counsel for Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke of New York's 11th district. DeHart said that they are marking up the ENDA bill (which means it's going to the floor) and that the jobs bill is passed, while the Health Care bill would be done by Easter. Then they will get ENDA to the floor. As for DADT, Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Majority Leader Harry Reid "want it done and off the table."

"In relation to Tax Equity for Health Care Benefits for domestic partners, Emily said she was told by Sen. Charles Schumer's aide Alex Lory that the senator will make sure tax equity is in the reconciliation bill in the final version. She said, "I talked to every person about tax equity. Although I have never needed to have a partner covered by my insurance, I feel this is extremely important. The HRC has identified key gay-related legislation for the 111th Congress, including the Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act, or DPBO (providing benefits for same-sex domestic partners of federal civilian employees on the same basis as similar benefits), the Military Readiness Enhancement Act (to repeal Don't Ask Don't Tell) and the Respect for Marriage Act (repealing the homophbic Defense of Marriage Act); and the Rights of All Lawfully Married Couples including same-sex couples.

Emily Jones is the only upstate member of the five-member NYS delegation. She said, "We met with a lot of legislative aides who were engaging; Brian Indivina, aide to Congressman Anthony Weiner of New York's Ninth District, was apologetic that they hadn't accomplished what they had promised a year ago. Rep. Weiner, along with Rep. Nagle and 20 other House members, has a letter pending which would result in treating marriage in the same way as interstate commerce, so you would have reciprocity and we wouldn't have to deal with all these laws in order to have our legal marriages recognized throughout the country."

Some of the meetings with Republican lawmakers were less encouraging, Emily recounted her experience in appr. NY Rep. Christopher Lee's office. She said, "His aide Jeff Freeland was very good and really listened. He asked a lot of questions and took a lot of notes. Then Rep. Lee came in and was gracious. I started to talk to him about repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell. He is against repeal and said 'If it isn't broken, don't fix it.'"

Emily feels that Republicans have decided on their positions for political reasons and are not open to information that contradicts their party line.

She said she was able to talk with Bridgeget DeHart, senior legislative counsel for Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke of New York's 11th district. DeHart said that they are marking up the ENDA bill (which means it's going to the floor) and that the jobs bill is passed, while the Health Care bill would be done by Easter. Then they will get ENDA to the floor. As for DADT, Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Majority Leader Harry Reid "want it done and off the table."

"In relation to Tax Equity for Health Care Benefits for domestic partners, Emily said she was told by Sen. Charles Schumer's aide Alex Lory that the senator will make sure tax equity is in the reconciliation bill in the final version. She said, "I talked to every person about tax equity. Although I have never needed to have a partner covered by my insurance, I feel this is extremely important. The HRC has identified key gay-related legislation for the 111th Congress, including the Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act, or DPBO (providing benefits for same-sex domestic partners of federal civilian employees on the same basis as similar benefits), the Military Readiness Enhancement Act (to repeal Don't Ask Don't Tell) and the Respect for Marriage Act (repealing the homophbic Defense of Marriage Act); and the Rights of All Lawfully Married Couples including same-sex couples.

Emily Jones is the only upstate member of the five-member NYS delegation. She said, "We met with a lot of legislative aides who were engaging; Brian Indivina, aide to Congressman Anthony Weiner of New York's Ninth District, was apologetic that they hadn't accomplished what they had promised a year ago. Rep. Weiner, along with Rep. Nagle and 20 other House members, has a letter pending which would result in treating marriage in the same way as interstate commerce, so you would have reciprocity and we wouldn't have to deal with all these laws in order to have our legal marriages recognized throughout the country."

Some of the meetings with Republican lawmakers were less encouraging, Emily recounted her experience in appr. NY Rep. Christopher Lee's office. She said, "His aide Jeff Freeland was very good and really listened. He asked a lot of questions and took a lot of notes. Then Rep. Lee came in and was gracious. I started to talk to him about repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell. He is against repeal and said 'If it isn't broken, don't fix it.'"

Emily feels that Republicans have decided on their positions for political reasons and are not open to information that contradicts their party line.

She said she was able to talk with Bridgeget DeHart, senior legislative counsel for Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke of New York's 11th district. DeHart said that they are marking up the ENDA bill (which means it's going to the floor) and that the jobs bill is passed, while the Health Care bill would be done by Easter. Then they will get ENDA to the floor. As for DADT, Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Majority Leader Harry Reid "want it done and off the table."

"In relation to Tax Equity for Health Care Benefits for domestic partners, Emily said she was told by Sen. Charles Schumer's aide Alex Lory that the senator will make sure tax equity is in the reconciliation bill in the final version. She said, "I talked to every person about tax equity. Although I have never needed to have a partner covered by my insurance, I feel this is extremely important. The HRC has identified key gay-related legislation for the 111th Congress, including the Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act, or DPBO (providing benefits for same-sex domestic partners of federal civilian employees on the same basis as similar benefits), the Military Readiness Enhancement Act (to repeal Don't Ask Don't Tell) and the Respect for Marriage Act (repealing the homophbic Defense of Marriage Act); and the Rights of All Lawfully Married Couples including same-sex couples.**
Massa's departure helps Republicans (or not...)

By Susan Jordan

Skilled Maloy wrote on EDGE NY on March 4 that former Rep. Eric Massa's pending resignation would bring to 16 the number of House of Representatives seats that Democrats are leaving; four have left since January. Massa resigned March 8.

Nineteen Republican House members will also be retiring, but whereas 11 of the seats being vacated by Democrats face stiff competition from Republican challengers, most of the seats currently occupied by retiring Republicans are viewed as likely to remain with that party. Vanishing Democrats, such as Massa, Evan Bayh, etc. are reducing the hard-won respect for each other's cultures and beliefs does not include encouraging the murder of blacks.

Massa (D-Corning, Steuben Co,) said on his weekly radio broadcast on WSGQ-AM on March 7 that, at a wedding on New Year's Eve, a staffer who Massa said had been drinking heavily suggested Massa should "chase after" a bridesmaid, and Massa said he replied, "What I ought to be doing is fraking you" – a "salty" remark which Massa said was replicated by another staffer to Hoyer.

When Massa appeared on the Glenn Beck and Larry King shows on March 9 to deny that he had groped three male staff members, as reported by The Washington Post. He said he had "wrestled" with male staff members at his 50th birthday party.

When King asked Massa if he is gay, he dodged the question by saying, "Why would you ask that in this day and age?" and telling King to "ask my wife."

Morgan Chase (NYC), Liz Claiborne Companies (NYC), MetLife (NYC), Morgan Stanley (NYC), New York Life Insurance (NYC), Omnicom Group (NYC), Pepsi Bottling Group (Somer), PepsiCo (Purchase), Pfizer (NYC), Starwood Hotels & Resorts (White Plains), TIAA-CREF Fund (NYC), Time Warner (NYC) and Viacom (NYC)


Beanie Man makes hate music; gays resist

"All faggots must be killed."

"Yes, that is what he sings," says Kelly Clark, Director of the Community Safety Program at the Gay Alliance, referring to Jamaican Dance Hall artist Beenie Man, who performs at "Water Street Music Hall on March 13 stoked anger in the LGBT community.

The Gay Alliance on March 10 called for all Rochesterians who believe that these lyrics are indefensible to join a "virtual protest" on Facebook. The protest was a link from the Gay Alliance homepage at www.gayalliance.org.

Just six months after calling for the Rochester community to stand against such hate music, which glorifies mob violence and the murder of lesbians and gay men, Rochester's LGBT community found itself once again defending the most basic of rights – the right to live.

"In September it was Buju Banton, now it's Beenie Man. They sing in Jamaican Patois and many fans of Dance Hall music can't understand the lyrics," said Clark. "We want to help educate them." Clark recommends The Dance Hall Dossier composed by Outrage! and Stop Murder Music, two activity groups in the United Kingdom. The Dossier gives backgrounds of the most popular Dance Hall artists and translations of the music, so consumers can know exactly what they are supporting.

"Supporting artists who produce murder music defend such lyrics on cultural grounds. They say that LGBT people don't understand Jamaican culture, where the sentiment and the lyrics come from. But LGBT activists will encourage folks to keep up with the current political and legal activism to do the right thing and call for these performances," says Sue Cowell, Executive Director of the Gay Alliance.

There are a number of ways for people active in the call for basic civil rights and protections, says Cowell. "I encourage folks to visit the Empire State Pride Agenda website to keep up with the current political and legal fights LGBT New Yorkers are still waging and find ways to help make positive change."

For an African American view of Jamaica's underground gay Christians and their struggle to survive, go to www.gayalliance.org.

Have You Been A BUSY BOY?

Don't let Syphilis screw up your sex life. It is easy to test for and easy to cure.

Free Walk-in Syphilis Testing for Gay and Bi Men

Tuesdays and Thursdays
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
259 Monroe Avenue - Back Door

Also Offering Free Rapid HIV Testing
Tuesdays and Thursdays: 9:00 am – 7:00 pm
585-545-7200 | www.acRochester.org

AIDS CARE
The Center for Positive Living
THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
...a community of diverse people
...and a PLACE where LGBT persons are welcomed as full partners in ministry

SUNDAY WORSHIP
9:00am Third Church chapel
11:15am Incarnate Word sanctuary

LGBT SUPPORT GROUP
7:30pm First & Third Mondays
34 Meigs Street

www.thirdpresbyterian.org
Third Presbyterian Church
4 Meigs Street (at East Avenue)
Rochester, New York 14607

John Magere: 339-3924
If you’re buying or selling, Call John!
magere@nothnagle.com

For all your accounting needs:
“Call the Gay CPA”
✓ Full service income tax preparation including electronic filing
✓ All other states available (that have an income tax)
✓ Corporation, Trust and Partnership returns
✓ Available year-round for tax questions
✓ Year-end planning for the lowest legal tax

Mr. Jean Thibodeau, CPA
(Certified Public Accountant)
31 Putting Green Lane
Penfield, NY 14526
(585) 586-6160 by appointment only, please

GRAND OPENING 4/9/10
140 Alex Bar & Grill
(Formerly Nasty D's)
140 Alexander Street
Rochester, New York 14607
585-256-1000 • www.140alex.com

Open at 4pm • Half-price appetizers
2 for 1 well, call & domestic draft beer
• Give-aways hourly • Liquor/beer vendor promos throughout the night!

Follow us on our website and facebook for more details.
**Union Hill Country Grill**

**Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner - Catering**

**Homemade Pizza**

**DINE IN - TAKE OUT - DELIVERY**

1891 Ridge Road, Webster, NY
(Next to the Union Hill Fire House)
PHONE: (585) 265-4443
FAX: (585) 265-4270

---

**Geri Stanton**

**Counseling Services**

NYS Licensed Mental Health Counselor
Sign Language Skilled

---

**Silver**

Dry Cleaners and Launderers

**Drive-in Dry Cleaners**

270 Monroe Avenue
232-6306

**$3 OFF**

Dry Cleaning on any order over $15
Not valid with other offers. One coupon per customer per visit. Restrictions apply.

**$6 OFF**

Dry Cleaning on any order over $30
Not valid with other offers. One coupon per customer per visit. Restrictions apply.

---

**Mark Roos, LMT**

**BODY KNEAD Massage Therapy**

Massage is an investment... an investment in your well-being.
Invest in yourself.
Get a massage.
You'll feel better in minutes... GUARANTEED!

Blackwatch Office Park
6605 Pittsford Palmyra Road, Suite E-9
Fairport, New York 14450

Call (585) 729-9908. Mention this ad to receive $20 off your initial 1 hour session!

---

**YOUR BODY MASSAGE**

**www.yourbodymassage.com**

James R. Yost, L.M.T.

60 & 90 Minute Therapeutic Massage Sessions by Appointment, phone 202-8754 or visit us online

Now Accepting VISA and Master Card.

---

**Outlandish Videos, Gifts & Leather**

Western New York’s Premiere Gay & Lesbian Video & Gift Store

Where it’s IN to be OUT

**Hop On Down To OUTlandish Today!!!**

Outlandish Videos, Gifts & Leather
274 North Goodman Street (In the Village Gate)
Hours: Monday – Saturday 11 AM until 9 PM & Sundays Noon until 5 PM
After-Hours Video/DVD Drop Box Is Available!
Phone: 585.760.8383 • www.outlandish1.com • outlandish@frontiernet.net
Committed to providing personal financial planning for all families.

Same-sex and unmarried heterosexual couples face unique challenges when it comes to enjoying the rights afforded married couples. How can you provide for your family's financial future when you and your partner are considered strangers in the eyes of the federal government? At Brighton Securities, your goals are our goals.

As a financial advisor committed to tackling the unique challenges of LGBT families, I will partner with you to ensure your goals are met, your assets are protected, and your loved ones are provided for in a way that's right for you.

Susan L. Light

Experienced Advisor, Committed Advocate.

1703 Monroe Ave.
near 12 Corners in Brighton
Office: 585.473.3590
Direct: 585.340.2229
slight@brightonsecurities.com

Brighton Securities
Insights. Investments. Income.

Thursday, April 29th, 7:00 PM

Evensong With Bishop Gene Robinson

St. Luke & St. Simon Cyrene Episcopal Church

17 S Fitzhugh St
Rochester NY

585-546-7730
rector@twosaints.org
www.twosaints.org

A healing place for souls, a school for justice, and a welcome table for all.

The Episcopal Church Welcomes You

The Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson of New Hampshire is the first openly gay bishop in The Episcopal Church. Bishop Robinson will preach during the service. Bishop Prince Singh of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester will also participate. Afterwards, Bishop Robinson will speak further and answer questions from the congregation. Members of the public are cordially invited to attend. Bishop Robinson has been interviewed by secular media icons such as Jon Stewart and Rachel Maddow. He was a candidate for Bishop of Rochester in 1999.
RSBC
rochester spa & body club
let the sun shine
STANDUP TANNING
NOW AVAILABLE

FREE
hour of tanning
with this ad valid Sun 6pm - Thurs 4am

play it safe, for life.
Rochester Spa & Body Club | 109 Liberty Pole Way
rochesterspa.com | 454.1074 | open 24/7

Film Screenings | April 14th | Cinema Theatre
Presented by the Gay Alliance of Genesee Valley & ImageOut

7:00pm
St. Trinians
School for Girls

9:00pm
Misconceptions

Tickets: $8.00 each movie ~ sold at the door.
Proceeds to benefit the Shoulders to Stand On documentary project.
Learn more at www.shoulderstostandon.org

Rochester Spa
6:109 liberty pole way
rochesterspa.com | 454.1074 | open 24/7

Tickets: $8.00 each movie ~ sold at the door.
Proceeds to benefit the Shoulders to Stand On documentary project.
Learn more at www.shoulderstostandon.org
The 2010 United Way Designation Number that Benefits the Gay Alliance is

1135

Thank You

Helping LGBT Seniors Live at Home with Independence, Comfort, and Dignity

Kindred Senior Care™

• Trusted companionship
• Serving the Rochester area
• Alzheimer’s care
• Fully bonded & insured

585.210.0296
www.kindredseniorcare.com

Pride 2010

Welcome to Pride 2010 Corner!

This is where you can learn about the progress in planning for Pride 2010. We want you to know what is happening and we want you to share this information with all those you love – let’s get our straight pals involved too!

Mark your Calendars!

Saturday, July 10: ...Gay Day at Seabreeze, 11am-4pm
Sunday, July 11: ......Rainbow Flag Raising at City Hall
Monday, July 12: ......Youth PRIDE Dance
Friday, July 16: ......PRIDE Kick-Off at the Strathallan Hotel
Saturday, July 17: ......PRIDE Parade & Festival,
(same locations as last year)
Sunday, July 18: ......PRIDE Picnic, Genesee Valley Park, 1-7pm

Pride in April:

Sunday, April 18, a fun and “fashionable” fund-raising event that you will not want to miss! Attendees at this event will learn the PRIDE 2010 Theme, and the Talent providing the entertainment at the Festival.

Attend PRIDE 2010 meetings if you have ideas and/or want to get involved. April 20, May 18, June 22 in the Gay Alliance Youth Center, 6pm.

If you enjoyed last year’s PRIDE events, you, your friends and family will love to attend all the events this year!

Thank you for all those that came to our March into Pride – Monte Carlo Style Event at 140 Alexander Street and made it a huge success! See you at the RIT Inn & Conference Center on April 18 for the Fashion Show Fundraisers!

We hope to see you around town,

PRIDE-fully,

PRIDE 2010 Co-Chairs:
Carrie Vernon and Michael J. Hardy
**April History Corner:**

**REMEMBERING DR. KING**

By Evelyn Bailey

“I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.’

-Martin Luther King, Jr. Aug. 28, 1963

On April 14, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln and his wife were attending a show at Ford’s Theatre in Washington D.C. when John Wilkes Booth shot him in the head.

On April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. was fatally shot while standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

1929 Born on Jan. 15.

1948 Graduated from Morehouse College. Admitted to graduate studies.

1953 Marries Coretta Scott. Settles in Atlanta.

1958 The Civil Rights Act was signed into law.

1959 Visited India to study Mohandas Gandhi's philosophy.

1963 April 28, the “March on Washington” demanding a $12 minimum wage and full employment for all African-Americans was launched.

1968 King announces that the Civil Rights Act of 1968 will be passed into law.

1968 King is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

1968 King announces that the Poor People’s Campaign will culminate in a March on Washington demanding a $12 billion Economic Bill of Rights.

1968 Martin Luther King Jr., is fatally shot.

1968 On November 2, a national holiday is proclaimed in King’s honor.

We have a dream: Equal Rights for all!

Perhaps more than any other self-identified African-American, King’s legacy was defined by his vision of justice, equality, and unity.

**Shoulders to Stand On:**

**HATE VIOLENCE**

By Evelyn Bailey

The month of April is Sexual Violence and Prevention Month. For many of us this topic is not easy to consider.

The Gay Alliance Council on the Genesee Valley • The Empty Closet

**Collector’s delight**

These Schonbek lamps display authenticity, elegance, precision, crystal and semi-precious stones — rare gemstones unique in the universe. From foot to finish, Schonbek lamps are original designs, worthy of a discerning collector.

And, incidentally, they are highly functional light sources, with built-in dimmer switches. See the collection in our showroom.

**DISAPPEARING LGBT RECORDS ARE DISAPPEARING**

Records are no longer accessible or available due to individuals dying, organizations, agencies, and groups relocating, and not having a repository to preserve records.

Help preserve Rochester's GLBT history

The Gay Alliance in conjunction with the Documentary Heritage Program wants to be sure the record of work done by these groups and their impact on Rochester and the Genesee Valley region is part of New York State’s rich cultural, political, and social economic history.

What is Needed


If you have any information you can share, to identify and locate these records, contact GASHV or the Archival Consultant. Nicole Menarchem, at NicoleM@gayalliance.org or (585) 244-8940 x32.
Planning a financial future: choosing an advisor

By William Costella, CLF, LUTCF, CLTC, Special Care Planner, General Agent

In my last column, I wrote of the importance of having good trusted advisors as a result of the fact that gays and lesbians are legal strangers in the eyes of law. This is very important. You would not want to feel comfortable being able to work with hundreds of people from all walks of life, if I am perpetually stunned by the lack of financial awareness from very successful people. For heterosexual people, the law and certain civil rights afford specific legal protections. For gays and lesbians, single or partnered, this is not the case. Hence, it’s important that gays and lesbians know how to go about selecting a financial advisor. This very important decision should not be made lightly. It’s not who you know, it’s who the person you select knows.

Here are a few questions you may want to ask in interviewing a candidate for the important role of financial advisor.

1. How comfortable is the advisor with non-traditional relationships? In other words, does the advisor bring to the table that may be appropriate? Does he or she show empathy and understanding? You should feel comfortable being able to speak candidly to your financial advisor without having to hold back. Your relationship must be open and honest.

2. What experience has the advisor had in structuring the financial affairs of gay and lesbian single or partnered couples? This is very important. You would not hire a surgeon to perform a procedure he or she has never done before. You should not engage a financial advisor who has little-to-no experience or resources at his or her disposal.

3. What additional relationships can the advisor bring to the table that may be of value? For example, does the advisor have standing business relationships with competent attorneys, accountants or other “experts”? This is important, as a financial advisor is the be all and end all on all matters of importance.

4. How will the advisor keep you, perhaps even more than their straight brothers and sisters, need trusted advisors in their lives that can help them secure and protect what they hold most. Joan M. Bardi, author of Estate Planning for Same-Sex Couples, has said: “For a myriad of reasons, LG clients — individual and couples — must do more life and estate planning than heterosexual clients must do. Nothing in the law of most states protects the families that gay men and lesbians create.

In closing, I am reminded of the sad story of a long-partnered gay couple where the senior partner died suddenly at the young age of 56. While coupled for more than 20 years, neither partner had ever discussed their financial future or done any planning. As a result, the deceased had no life insurance. There was no will to guide the disposition of assets that were perceived to be community property and there was no health care proxy in effect. Sadly, this failure to plan left the surviving partner with no resources to tide him or her over until inheritance. The deceased’s assets, which included hundreds of thousands of dollars in life insurance proceeds, were passed to a 90-year-old, semi-stranged mother who did not even attend the funeral. The emotional trauma and hardship was compounded by a fundamental failure to acknowledge and plan for the future — a situation that was entirely preventable.


The firm offers a range of insurance programs and financial services through its field representatives and its financial planning services through Multi-Mark Invester Services, Inc. mailing Address: P.O. Box 488, Springfield, Massachusetts, 01104-0488, 855-526-5600.

The information provided herein is not written or intended as tax or legal advice. It may not be relied on for purposes of avoiding any federal tax penalties. Entities or persons distributing this information are not authorized to give tax or legal advice. Individuals are encouraged to seek specific advice from their personal tax or legal counsel.

My philosophy on LGBT life planning

By Mary Blanchett

It is estimated about 15 million self-identified lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender (LGBT) adults live in the United States today. New York State hosts over 55,800 same sex couples in 2005. The LGBT community has to endure unique complications and difficulties in navigating around public policies that discriminate against us. The Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) does not allow our relationships to be recognized, so we cannot enjoy the same legal and tax benefits different-sex married couples are provided. These include Social Security, inheritance laws, Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), Medicare, COBRA (Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act), estate tax, and presumption of spousal authority in decision making. Struggling around discriminating laws which sustain inequalities is not simple. Our national LGBT advocacy organizations have been mobilizing citizens, lobbying elected officials, and educating the public to obtain our equal rights on marriage, taxation, inheritance, and partner benefits among other issues. Realizing the need for action, in 2000 the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) published a guide called Planning with Purpose: Legal Basics for LGBT Elders so that LGBT adults can plan for ourselves and our families.

In an emergency, will your doctor know whose name to write on your chart? Is your life partner allowed to give consent for medical treatment? Does the State allow your health care proxy to manage your assets? In the absence of a legal instrument, the State will appoint a court-appointed guardian and not your partner. In a same-sex marriage, the surviving spouse automatically inherits the estate tax-free. Because people think they have the time in the world to “get their affairs in order”, they put it off, usually until it is too late. In the Ours and Aging study, more than a quarter of those surveyed in their 40s did not start any advanced planning. Failing to make informed life planning decisions causes the medical and legal systems to take control of you. It is hard to plan for your future when you have to focus on the negative possibilities that may impair your authority over your life, your relationships and your property. I have my own philosophy on life planning, based on 27 years of hindsight from my professional experience in long term care. I want authority over my life until my life is over. And since I plan to live a very, very long stress-free life, I have my affairs in order. I work as a life planner to empower LGBT adults through education on planning around punitive laws to minimize damages. Every LGBT adult, regardless of age, needs to start life planning to protect yourself, your relationships and your possessions. Professionals that can assist you include LGBT-savvy elder law or estate planning attorneys, certified financial planners, insurance brokers and certified public accountants.
When you take 10 minutes to answer 10 questions, you help our community get what it needs for the next 10 years.

Fill out and mail back your Census form and help our community get its fair share of funding for the things it needs—like better schools, hospitals and roads. It's ten questions and takes about ten minutes. We can't move forward until you mail it back.
While my departure from the school may not have been due to discipline based on my sexual orientation, it was facilitated by the enormous silence that I faced as a queer student of the college. I knew then as I know now, that there were supportive and affirming people on this campus, but there was no way to know who exactly they were. For their silence on the issue of queer identities meant that there had to be the assumption that they were in agreement with the policies and the theology of the fundamentalist wing of the Christian Church. And it is with this experience that I went to the planning of the Equality Rider's visit.

On arriving in Houghton I had no idea what to expect. Our discussions with the College had been tenuous at best, with little give on their side as to what we were allowed to do on campus. One of my greatest reliefs, though, regarding the restriction of our movement and interaction with students, is that several students noticed how ridiculous it was.

A few commented to one of our Riders that we had come out of our cage in the Dining Hall where we had been cordoned off so that we could continue to talk with the hard-picked students, faculty, and staff over lunch. And that seemed to be the story of the day. Students went out of their way to come talk with us and listen to us. Several hundred students must have shown up to the small boardroom that nobody had ever heard of before.

At the forum that the college sponsored, the main floor of the Chapel was heavily populated. There were many students who were affirming of our message, and then there were those who just wanted to learn more, even if they couldn't agree with us that our queer identities are morally good gifts from the Creator.

At the end of the day, we as the Equality Riders know that Houghton College is not going to change its policies regarding sexual orientation or its ignorance surrounding gender identity, from just our one visit. This visit gave me hope that someday, however, it might. As I said, there was an enormous silence while I was at the school. But the silence has been shattered.

And somebody in the queer population has heard that. They have heard that voice of affirmation that we brought to the world. And, as we saw many straight allies come out and start to plan the formation of a Queer/straight Alliance, I know that voice will continue to resonate in this community for years to come. I have achieved something in my silence -- and that is good.
In response to “Be proactive, not reactive”

To the Editor:

This is in response to Jeff Briggs’ sten­cere letter to the editor, in which he stated he apologized to Senator Joe Robach for the demonstrations directed at Senator Robach by members of the LGBT com­munity after Joe’s “no” vote on marriage equality.

In a word, Mr. Briggs ... DON’T. Don’t apologize for my actions, my spouse’s, my friends’ or any gay activists’ actions and don’t presume to speak for the people who for years, have put all their spare time, money and energy into the fight for LGBT civil rights.

Instead, read history and learn that it took 72 years for women to get the right to vote. Without that, any partial gains that women got, could be (and repeatedly were) taken away by litigation, legislation and political reversals. Similarly, marriage equality is the “brass ring” for LGBT civil rights.

In my activism I have learned that job #1 for any politician is to get re-elected. Senator Robach is a masterful politician and he is very good at his job ... getting re-elected. His district includes theocracy­advocating, homophobic Christian consti­tuents in Greece and gay business owners in the South Wedge.

So he is “anti-choice” and “anti-gay marriage” for the conser­vative churches and throws some money at gay events to hedge his bets with the progressives. This is known as “pan­der­ing” and it has nothing to do with taking a moral stand for LGBT rights. It is about getting re-elected.

Joe Robach is in fact a roadblock to full LGBT civil rights and needs to be replaced.

Perhaps you, Mr. Briggs, have the time and financial security to wait for “progress” on LGBT civil rights. My wife Bess and I don’t. I’m 58, have two chronic diseases and my blue-collar family turns pale every time one of our cars hiccup.

For some couples marriage equality is about survival. I know a middle-aged gay couple who had to file bankruptcy when one had a stroke and required nursing home placement. Another surviving spouse lost her home when she lost her partner of almost 30 years, as she could not access survivor’s pension and Social Security ben­efits. Marriage rights would have protected them.

Mr. Briggs, this movement, like every civil rights movement, will require that enormous political pressure be put on poli­ticians to force them to do the right thing.

So please develop your relationship with Senator Robach. Urge him to stop pan­dering to gay voters by simply sending gay taxpayer money back into our community and get him to introduce real LGBT rights legislation.

Saying he will “support civil unions” is a red herring ... Joe knows that legislatively equal marriage has passed the State Assembly three times and will not be rolled back and re-introduced as civil unions.

But put him to the test: Ask Senator Robach to write and introduce civil union legislation that awards all the same benefits to same-sex couples as marriage. I wish you luck. In the meantime, marriage equality activists in Rochester will keep sending him the message that he is out of time and we are out of patience.

Without apology,
Anne Tischer
EqualityROC and Civil Rights Front

From Our Readers

JOIN UP and Volunteer for Victory today!

The HIV Vaccine Trials Unit at the University of Rochester is now The Rochester Victory Alliance. One of our currently enrolling studies requires healthy, HIV-negative men who have sex with men, ages 18-45.

FACTS:
- HIV vaccines are synthetic (man-made).
- It is IMPOSSIBLE to get HIV infection from the vaccine.
- Participants are paid an average of $750.

For more information, or to learn if you qualify, call (585) 756-2329

RochesterVictoryAlliance.org

Pleasant Street Apothecary is now located at 259 Monroe Avenue!

Pleasant Street Apothecary Has Just What You’re Looking For... Friendly, Personalized Service From the Experts!

* Locally-owned and operated
* 24-Hour prescription ordering
* Delivery service available
* Special expertise in:
  - Diabetes
  - HIV/AIDS
  - Medicare D
* LGBT affirming
* Free parking

NEW LOCATION!
259 Monroe Ave.
Rochester, NY 14607
www.pleasantstreetrx.com
585-241-9000 or 800-923-9394
Fax: 585-454-2017
Pharmacy Hours
Monday - Friday: 8:30 am - 6:00 pm
Tuesday: 8:30 am - 7:30 pm
Saturday: 9:00 am - Noon

Chain-store pharmacies can’t always offer you the personalized care and specialty service you deserve.

Our expert pharmacists are always available to answer questions and provide friendly assistance.
INTERGENERATIONAL PANEL: Sean Soper, Americorps member, told the audience he was able to eventually come out to himself and his family. “The acceptance and support I have received from my family was beyond anything I had ever expected.” Photos: Laura McSpadden

Tara Cullen talked about the role of courage along the path towards self-discovery and self-acceptance; she also emphasized her gratitude for the many ways that the path was paved for her by the people in earlier generations.

Ron Zacchi, Executive Director of Marriage Equality New York (MENY) at the MENY lobby day in Albany, Feb. 23. Zacchi came to Rochester March 24 to be part of “The Nearly Wed Game” (see May EC) and detail MENY-planned statewide actions for marriage equality in the coming year. Equality ROC will coordinate Rochester participation in the statewide actions. Photos: Bess Watts

Michael Davy shared with the panel attendees his experiences of growing up in a rural environment, the taunting he endured since he was 12, and his development of self-acceptance.

Andrea Palumbo, a 65-year-old transgender woman and native Rochesterian, told the audience, “It’s not about quitting doing the things that make me unique, it’s about being who I am in my mind and my heart.”

Chan McKenzie came out to her mother on the day that the APA decided to remove homosexuality from the DSM, “I had a willingness to lose every thing... except myself,” she said.

Dustin Hilton had a conservative Baptist upbringing that focused on a literal interpretation of the Bible. “My eventual reconciliation of my spirituality and my sexuality allowed me to drop away.”

WNY activists lobby in Albany; plan local actions

By Todd Plank

On Feb. 23, a busload of activists from Buffalo and Rochester traveled to Albany to lobby their elected officials for marriage equality. Kitty Lambert, a busy Buffalo activist who was the catalyst behind the formation of the grassroots organization OutSpoken for Equality, and Anne Tischler, who recently launched Equality ROC, to make the trek to our state’s capital.

The statewide lobby effort, organized by Marriage Equality New York (MENY), was intended to keep the conversation with legislators about equal rights for same-sex couples going after the disappointing results of last December’s marriage vote in the NYS Senate. This is the first year that WNY has organized a contingent to participate in MENY’s annual winter lobby day.

Marriage Equality New York is stepping up its efforts to mobilize grassroots activists throughout the state. Executive Director Ron Zacchi made his first visit to Rochester on March 24. He spoke at a fun educational event, “The Nearly-Wed Game”, hosted by Equality ROC and several other local activist groups.

Four local same-sex couples faced off in a redo of the popular game show “The Newlywed Game” at Equality ROC’s signature event, the Rainbow National Wedding March.

To learn more about these and other future events, call 805-426-0862 or e-mail EqualityROC@gmail.com or rochester@meny.us.

Todd Plank in Albany.

Spring DINNER 2010

Saturday, May 22, 2010

Rochester Riverside Convention Center
Reception 5:45 pm
Dinner and Program 7 pm

Community Service Award: Emily Jones
Emcee: Mark Valley

To purchase tickets, sponsorships or journal advertisements, or for more information, visit www.prideagenda.org or call 212-627-0305.
THANK YOU, PAULA: On March 9, Monroe County Legislators Paul Haney and Harry Bronson of the Democratic Caucus presented Paula Silvestrone, the former head of AIDS Rochester, with a proclamation celebrating her 20 years of service to the community. The proclamation praised her “unflinching efforts” and “extraordinary leadership.”


CLARA ENGEL sang at KC Tea and Noodles March 12. See B 3 for a review. Photo: Laura McSpadden

LGBT HEALTH MONTH: The Gay Alliance, MOCHA Center and Empire State Pride Agenda hosted a transgender healthcare panel at the GAGV Youth Center on March 18. L-R: Judith Bauman (MOCHA), Pam White, Patrick Pitoni, Lukas Pfaff, Blanca Castro, Mary Zicari (ESPA). Photo: billijo wolf

Portofino BISTRO & CATERING

Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays until Easter

MOUTHWATERING AND DELICIOUS
ALL DINNERS COME WITH POTATO & VEGETABLE

Fish Fry ................................................................. $14.95
Pan Seared Lightly Breaded Haddock or Beer Battered
Linguine Del Pescatore ............................................. $16.95
Clams, Mussels, Shrimp & Calamari In A Light Tomato Sauce
Zuppa di Pesce .................................................. $19.95
Clams, Mussels, Shrimp & Calamari In Marinara
Grouper Piccata .................................................. $22.95
Artichokes, Capers, In White Wine Sauce

Brunch Served Every Sunday 11am-2:30pm
$16.95 Adults & $6.95 Children 10 and under

BREAkfST STATION: French Toast on homemade bread, Create your own Omelet Station, Eggs Benedict, Bacon & Sausage

Roasted Potatoes

SALADS: Tomato Salad with Cucumbers & Onions, Orange, Onion, & Fennel Salad, Fresh Fruit Salad & String Bean Salad

CARVING STATION:
Prime Rib and Ham

CHICKEN & PASTA:
Penne Vodka, & Chicken French

PIZZA MARGARITA

DESSERTS: Italian Assorted Cookies Pastries, Cakes & Cannolis

Lunch: Mon-Fri • Dinner: 7 Nights a Week • 2171 W. Henrietta Rd. • 427.0410
www.portofinorochester.com
HOPE TAKES ACTION

Join us in the effort to stop HIV.

Men who are between 18-45 years old and HIV negative can take action by volunteering in an HIV vaccine study. Volunteers receive reimbursement for time and travel. You can’t get HIV from the vaccine.

Call 585-756-2DAY or visit www.HopeTakesAction.org
**Radiant Losses: A talk with Rochester poet Tony Leuzzi**

By Susan Jordan

Tony Leuzzi's new book of poems, *Radiant Losses*, (New Sins Press) will be published this month. Tony, a longtime Empty Closet contributor who teaches at MCC, spoke with the EC about his new work. He will read at Writers & Books on April 15 (see Calendar).

**Empty Closet:** A lot of your poems resemble condensed short stories, or the starting point of a novel, introducing a character or a place or a situation. Do you ever write fiction or do you write poems?

Tony Leuzzi: (Radiant continues page 7)

---

**ImageOut's Gamilla does jury duty at Berlin Film Festival**

By Susan Jordan

Michael Gamilla, director of programming for ImageOut, Rochester's LGBTQ film and video festival, spent 10 days in Berlin in February, doing "jury duty" at the Berlin International Film Festival's gay film awards.

The Berlin Festival, celebrating its 60th year, is well known for its Silver and Gold Bear awards. The festival's award for LGBT films, given for the past 24 years, is called the "Teddy Bear." The Festival ran from Feb. 11 to Feb. 21.

Michael has gone to the Berlin festival for the past six years, but this year was special because he was a judge. "It's a very tough job because you have to watch 25 feature films, around 30 shorts and so on," he said. "We would start at 9 a.m. and some nights would go until 1 a.m. There were eight of us on the jury for the Teddy Awards — six Europeans, an Indian guy and me, the Asian American.

Teddies were given to best feature film ("The Kids Are All Right" by Lisa Chodosh), best documentary ("The Wolf's Mouth," an Italian film) and best short film ("The Feast of Stephen" by James Frankel). Gamilla hopes especially that "The Kids Are All Right" (directed by Julianne Moore, Annette Bening and Mark Ruffalo) will be available for ImageOut next October.

Michael said, "The Teddy is a significant award, considered the most important gay film award. Aside from the trophy, the winners get $3,000 Euros — around $4,500. The first film to win a Teddy was Pedro Almodóvar's "The Law of Desire" and the first short to win was a film by Gus van Sant."

Jury members for the Teddy are selected from film festival organizers all over the world. They meet several times to discuss the

Gamilla (continued on page 7)

---

**Klea Blackhurst channels Merman at SOTA on May 1**

By Susan Jordan

Ethel Merman, legendary vocalist of Golden Age Holly-

wood and Broadway, has been described as "brassy," "a
dramatic tenor" and "a 3-and-a-half," due to her rounding, powerhouse voice, so untypical of her era when female singers were usually demure. Klea Blackhurst, well-known Broadway, cabaret and recording artist, will bring her Merman show, "Everything the Traffic Will Allow," to School of the Arts on May 1.

Blackhurst has often visited Rochester, because her sis-
ter, Nanette Elliot, lives here and heads Friends of SOTA, the group that raises funds for the School of the Arts, where her two daughters are students. She asked Klea to do a benefit for the school, and, for the first time, Blackhurst is working with a back-up band composed of stu-
dents.

Gary Crocker, drummer and

Blackhurst (continued on page 17)

---

**Vagina Monologues from the inside**

By Laura McSpadden

Last Saturday was it — Rochester's benefit performance of The Vagina Monologues.

When I arrived at Rochester for the final read-through, I felt as if I were in a chocolate store -- the chocolate, chocolates in the cookies I prepared for the reception after the show.

Oh, yes, I was excited to be part of the V-Day movement and perform in front of hun-

dreds of people. And I was proud to be part of the efforts to raise money for Rape Crisis Servi-
ces and the women and girls of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

But I was also filled with sad-
ness — I had spent nearly every night since November in rehearsal with The Vagina Warriors (the term used to describe the cast and crew of V-Day perfor-
mances) and I knew I was going to miss them.

The afternoon was filled with preparation and, last minute rehearsing, and a bit of nervousness: all that I would expect right before a big performance.

What was perhaps less expected was the behind-the-

scenes performance that the audience didn't get to see. While the Vagina Warriors waited backstage for their turn on the main stage, spontaneous enter-

Vagina (continued on page 3)

---

**Corsets on Parade benefits Pride on April 18 at Radisson**

inADHaUS theatrical pres-
ents the world premiere of "Cor-

The fashion show, to benefit PRIDE 2010, will take place on April 18 at The Radisson River-

side in downtown Rochester. The show is "for both the man and woman in you," organizers say. It is sponsored in part by Waterloo Outlet, Brighton Secu-

rities, Radisson Hotel, Hamilton Audio Visual and the Gay Alli-

ance of the Genesee Valley. Production Stage Manager is Emily Taradash.

There will be two shows and the evening will include a cash bar, silent auction and 50-50 drawing. An audience favorite award and best in show prize will be awarded at the end of the second show. Audience members will vote for the best design, and all ticket holders get gifts at the door.

General tickets are $10 and $25 advance and $15 and $30 at the door; special waiting for VIP donations.

The first show of Corsets on Parade starts at 3 p.m. (doors open at 2 p.m.) and the second show at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.) The event is for those 18 and over. For more informa-

tion and to buy advance tick-

et, check out www.gayalliance.


---

**Art is theme for Rainbow Theatre Festival 2010**

Bread & Water Theatre has announced the production schedule for Rainbow Theatre Festival 2010, centered on the theme color of turquoise, which represents Art on the original Rainbow Pride Flag designed by Gilbert Bolen.

This year's focus on artistic endeavors provides BWT with a unique opportunity to embrace a wide variety of stories that help spotlight the little known history of GLBTIQ artists and performers. The festival lineup includes Lambda Project: The Art of Pride, Ladies and Gentle-

men, and Nijinsky's Last Dance. Lambda Project: The Art of Pride is a series of real-life stories from the public on the topic of sexuality and the Rainbow Pride Flag, brought to life by Bread & Water Theatre's company of actors. This year's proj-

tect features a selection of all new stories, including those created as part of a writing workshop hosted by Nazareth College's GLBTIQ student organization, NazLamb, as well as a selec-

tion from acclaimed drag queen Samantha Sullivan, detailing her rise to stardom from her meager beginnings to Miss Gay Roch-

deme 2003. (Performance dates: April 9 and 10 at 8 p.m.; April 11 at 2 p.m.)

Ladies and Gentlemen by Emma Donoghue was inspired by an 1899 newspaper expose of Annie Hindle — the musta

(Rainbow continues page 3)
Dining

Sakura Home

By Paul Huffman

The parking lot of Sakura Home is frequently filled to overflowing with people trying to park nearby, wherever they can. This place is very popular, and it was opened in November 2009 by restaurateurs Mark Teng and Peter Sun.

They feature new-style Japanese cuisine, with traditional sushi and sashimi as well as tempura, teriyaki, and other typical dishes. "New style" is slippery to interpret and borrows from other cultures. Sakura Home also features Japanese hibachi, quite a different type of cooking, heavily influenced by western cuisine and born in Japan after World War II.

The décor of Sakura Home is attractive, with carefully selected woods, leathers, and fabrics that play well together. A waterfall trickles down the glass tiles behind the bar and a koi pond with a wooden bridge greets diners as they enter. The lushly furnished dining area is heavily influenced by western cuisine and born in Japan after World War II.

The parking lot of Sakura Home is attractive, with carefully selected woods, leathers, and fabrics that play well together. A waterfall trickles down the glass tiles behind the bar and a koi pond with a wooden bridge greets diners as they enter. The lavish furnishings and fixtures speak to the new style Japanese dining.

The parking lot of Sakura Home is attractive, with carefully selected woods, leathers, and fabrics that play well together. A waterfall trickles down the glass tiles behind the bar and a koi pond with a wooden bridge greets diners as they enter. The lavish furnishings and fixtures speak to the new style Japanese dining.

The parking lot of Sakura Home is attractive, with carefully selected woods, leathers, and fabrics that play well together. A waterfall trickles down the glass tiles behind the bar and a koi pond with a wooden bridge greets diners as they enter. The lavish furnishings and fixtures speak to the new style Japanese dining.

The parking lot of Sakura Home is attractive, with carefully selected woods, leathers, and fabrics that play well together. A waterfall trickles down the glass tiles behind the bar and a koi pond with a wooden bridge greets diners as they enter. The lavish furnishings and fixtures speak to the new style Japanese dining.

The parking lot of Sakura Home is attractive, with carefully selected woods, leathers, and fabrics that play well together. A waterfall trickles down the glass tiles behind the bar and a koi pond with a wooden bridge greets diners as they enter. The lavish furnishings and fixtures speak to the new style Japanese dining.

The parking lot of Sakura Home is attractive, with carefully selected woods, leathers, and fabrics that play well together. A waterfall trickles down the glass tiles behind the bar and a koi pond with a wooden bridge greets diners as they enter. The lavish furnishings and fixtures speak to the new style Japanese dining.

The parking lot of Sakura Home is attractive, with carefully selected woods, leathers, and fabrics that play well together. A waterfall trickles down the glass tiles behind the bar and a koi pond with a wooden bridge greets diners as they enter. The lavish furnishings and fixtures speak to the new style Japanese dining.

The parking lot of Sakura Home is attractive, with carefully selected woods, leathers, and fabrics that play well together. A waterfall trickles down the glass tiles behind the bar and a koi pond with a wooden bridge greets diners as they enter. The lavish furnishings and fixtures speak to the new style Japanese dining.

The parking lot of Sakura Home is attractive, with carefully selected woods, leathers, and fabrics that play well together. A waterfall trickles down the glass tiles behind the bar and a koi pond with a wooden bridge greets diners as they enter. The lavish furnishings and fixtures speak to the new style Japanese dining.
Art show at U.R. will promote world peace

From a culture of violence to a culture of peace— "Transforming the Human Spirit," an exhibit promoting peace, will take place the weekend of April 9-11.

This exhibit is organized by the Soka Gakkai International, a worldwide Buddhist lay association that promotes peace, culture and education through personal change and social contribution. The SGI, as a non-governmental organization accredited by the United Nations, shares the mission of promoting international peace and security. For more information, see www.sgi.org. The exhibit is sponsored by the Value Creation Club of the University of Rochester.

Doors open at 9 a.m. at the University of Rochester’s Hirst Lounge in the Wilson Commons. Admission is free and the event is open to the public.

Clara Engel: HIDDEN TREASURE

By Laura McSpadden

On March 12, Clara Engel performed at KC Tea and Noodels, 563 Goodman St.

The evening also included performances by Rad Unicorn (who play "dirty songs for broken hearts"). They Took These Pictures ("Three guitars, one question") and Bogs Visionary Orchestra (whose most recent album is described as "Daniel Johnston meets the Carter Family at an Allen Ginsburg reading").

Clara Engel is a hidden treasure in the music world: although few people are familiar with her, she is without a doubt an artist and a visionary. Imagine the music world: although few people are familiar with her, she is without a doubt an artist and a visionary. Imagine the music that would arise from the point where Harvey meets William Faulkner, or maybe where Charles Bukowski meets Chopin. She continued. "I love slow deliberate movements, which are sort of like films that can transport our thoughts and experiences.

"If not, may I recommend that you go to the stage is a bit of a blur: the cast photo, anyone who is interested in learning more about the comfort woman should view the video at historyinaction.com/watch/90178-japan-comfort-women.

The alluring mystery that is contained within her songs and her lyrics is no accident: it is an inherent part of her writing process.

"My approach is mysterious, even to me," she said. "Songs are sort of like films for me, in that I want to cast a spell, and I love slow deliberate movements, which draw you in gently — suddenly you realize you’ve been swept out to sea, in another world, in a trance. I also like to always be creating. I can’t ‘rehearse.’ I have finished songs onstage before, I just started playing a fragment of a song, and it unfurled itself.

"My work is formless in a sense, and I like to kneel the bones showing.

Engel’s lyrics are imbued with rich imagery as well as engaging characters, resulting in songs that can transport listeners to achingly ephemeral realms of their own creation: although the songs may be grounded in the day-to-day realities of their life, they transcend the mundane and encourage listeners to reach beyond their thoughts and experiences.

"Even if there is a moment, phrase or experience which plants the seed for a song, the finished work itself sort of blasts its limits like a tree into the stars, and has no desire, or even capacity, to look back at its roots, or to search for the original inspiration," Engel said. "I think being brutal and deferring to the poetic principle is my modus operandi.

"But the emotions behind my songs are definitely real and sometimes very personal," she continued. "I just can’t help but blur the divide between self/other, reality/fiction when I am in the state of writing and creating.

This state of openness within the songs would be impossible without a similar state of openness within Clara herself.

"My work, voice, and self are unbound by concepts like gay/straight and male/female," Engel said. "There is a quote I love about the best singing being androgynous, transcending gender. I forget who said it. But when I read it, it resonated so much with where I want to be as a singer and as a person: somewhere amorphous and bound to no rigid identity.

All of which contributes to the poetic accessibility of the themes within her melodies. "My music seems to appeal to romantics, whatever the gender of the people they fall in love with may be," she said. "My work is pretty preoccupied with mortality as well, which also transcends orientations and identity politics. Pretty much everything I write could be said to be about love and/or death, two inextricably related concepts.

Clara has released five CDs to date, that can be purchased at CADilly.com. III
Thousands of people came to see her and what was it like being on Hell’s Kitchen? Would be interested in being a contestant on Season Two. That didn’t mean she was off to Los Angeles and told that she was going to be a Sous Chef at two restaurants on the eastern end of Long Island, Almondino and Almond, when the casting crew of Hell’s Kitchen popped in asking if she would be interested in being a contestant on Season Two. That didn’t mean that it was an assurance. There were still interviews, photos, videos and making it past hundreds of people to be one of the twelve.

I was off to Los Angeles and told that I would be in a hotel room and totally cut off from all communication for the first three days.

That meant not being able to speak to her dad, Jack, who sees her as her best friend, as well as the rest of her family and friends. “We were told to expect to be void of communication for a month. I didn’t even send the other contestants until we arrived, blindfolded, at the location of Hell’s Kitchen.”

Perhaps the logistics have changed since Season Two. However, Heather tells me that they were taped 24 hours a day except for when they went to the bathroom or were in bed) and given about an hour and a half of sleep each night. “We could only eat at certain times and between the deprivations and the Sous Chef yelling at us, it placed a lot of stress on my mind and body. In fact, I lost 15 lbs.”

She got much support from a fellow contestant, Rachel Brown. In fact, Heather tells me that it was “love at first sight” for both of the two lesbians. It would have been quite interesting if they were the final contestants vying for the win. When it did come down to it, Heather chose Rachel as her first choice team player for her finale.

Heather may be in command at Monterey Restaurant, but, unlike Gordon Ramsey, she is not degrading and gets along with the entire staff where American cuisine reigns. Whenever possible, fresh local produce and meats are in the recipe. It’s not too difficult as there are both farms and farmers’ markets to choose from on Long Island. As the summer approaches and Monterey starts catering to a beach crowd, Heather will have a new menu, beginning this month.

I would expect that one of the top sellers would be her ice cream prepared “brulée” style. You can expect flavors such as express with cherries, maple cream, and spearmint chip.

While I was at the restaurant, Heather prepared a few items that, like all, are “cooked to order.” Escarole and White Bean (cannelloni) soup is a constant request. The soup begins with sautéing shallots and garlic, then tossing in the white beans and escarole. Heather uses her own vegetable stock and “pam, pam, pam,” first in the cooking, then at the bottom of the dish and sprinkled on the top. The sweetness comes from the sautéed shallots and she’s easy on the salt. If that wasn’t great enough, the second cooking was prepared using fresh gnocchi.

The sauce was composed of garlic, onions, cherry tomatoes, white wine, a bit of chili pepper flakes and finished with butter. Hey, sometimes there is just no substitute for butter!

Once a month, on a Wednesday evening, Heather does a cooking demonstration and dinner for $39.95. She prepares a three-course meal with instructions, where guests learn how to prepare the dishes they are served, then are given a recipe card so they can replicate the dishes at home.

With returns of Hell’s Kitchen on the Fox network, you can either catch Heather on Season Two as a contestant or as a Sous Chef on Season Six. If you are on Long Island this spring or summer, check out the restaurant at www.monteryny.com.

The Avenue Pub
35 Year Landmark in the Gay Community
Check out our New Specials
Every night of the week!

Happy Hour
Every day of the week
Half-priced well drinks and drafts
4pm-8pm

Monday
$3.99 Night
$2. Coors Light Bottles, 2 for $1 Well Drinks, Draft Beer and Free Pizza
5pm-2am

Tuesday
Come see our Guest Bartender – 2nd Tuesday of every Month
(See Bartenders for details and to sign up!)
Bud/Bud Lite $2. Bottles
9pm-2am

Wednesday
Over the Hump “Bomb” Night
$3. Bomb Shots – all varieties
10pm-2am

Thursday
3 for $2 Thursdays are Back
And Free Pizza
10pm-2am

Friday
Flashback Fridays
All Drinks just $3 – All Beer just $1.50
10pm-Midnight

Saturday
Skyy Saturdays
$3. Skyy drinks – All flavors
10pm-2 am

Sunday
2 for $1 Well drinks and Draft Beer
10pm-2am

We offer a large, enclosed outdoor patio. Come check it out!
The opinions of columnists, editors, writers and other contributing writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the collective attitude of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley or The Empty Closet.

Growing Up PARTING GLANCES

By Eric Ballhaus

I bit the bullet the other morning and finally took a look at my New York City landlady who’s been dead for a while now, since she broke her hip nearly a year ago. I had gone to see her early on when she was in a nursing home, but she’s been back in her own apartment one flight above me for a long time.

For a time Marta seemed to be improving. Twice she had woken up and tried to get out of bed, but she’s been in a wheelchair ever since. Too much suffering for the frailty of her body, her forty and lately her behavior is changing back to see her early on when she was in a nursing home. She was unintelligible, and they are now a joyous part of my new life. Marta stays at home in bed comforted by many eyes and ears. Unless you have your own apartment one flight above me for a time, it’s the law.

Then Marta was diagnosed with bladder cancer. Bladder cancer is slow moving and die. Sounds harsh, I suppose and maybe it is, but it is now necessary to learn why the people he knows and loves and trusts. It is not at all clear what will happen when I was engrossed in a Geva play, I bit the bullet. Right now I’m told she is pissed off and not dead. Sounds harsh, I suppose, but it is now necessary to learn why the people he knows and loves and trusts.

I thought of calling this column “Deathwatch,” which is accurate but too grim. Instead those involved with both Marta and Graham are looking at them, thinking about them, thinking about cancer, It is not at all clear what will happen to Marta. No one wants to think about dead.

Cleaning My Closet

By Meredith Elizabeth Reiniger

A silence. Now a public service announcement. Everyone sneeze in my presence, expect some rearranging of my closet.

I have decided to withdraw my participation in the Second Call and Response. I have always felt there was an obligation that I can no longer accept. Yet, indeed, after much thought, I have elected to withdraw from the God Bless You Superintendency.

It was only recently that I was motivated to write a letter to the faithful, The blue light of the sternos to dunk buns into, hipster bowl, cheese, wine, infused foods, and local honey. Apparently calories and cholesterol had not yet been invented. It was the The thing to do in the seventies, I used my wedding presents... three fondue pots. Their long forks had usually colored handles the Stib & Cooker was the same as the Remove & Replace. The sneeze. A sputum. A purge of the gut. The blue light of the sternos to dunk buns into hipster bowl, cheese, wine, infused foods, and local honey. Apparently calories and cholesterol had not yet been invented.

I have the idea of getting married in Toronto because we want to be married in our own country, want to feel that we are accepted as whole citizens.

Regrettably, our civil rights still don’t include health. I loved One and I will drive far away from Monte County, very far away from Albama. Definitely out of New York. On the 30th of June or the state of Massachusetts will honor our civil right to a legal marriage license. The long and the short of it is that now in order to remain on welfare.

For example, I just found an artifact that is of my own days, while all foods were undeniably friends, not inedible enemies.

The recipe, yellowed with age, calls for eight ounces baby calves liver, drenched in flour, browned in butter and cut into tiny cubes, then mixed with one cup grated cheese. In the margin I had noted: made this January 1967, easy, delicious. From a friend whose two adult sons her circle of friends has learned to be cautious with Marta, to no guard, to be alert for the unexpected.

Graham has people who will help him die, it’s that simple, not now, not yet, but eventually. The vet will come to the house, he will be comfortable, he will be with the people he knows and loves and trusts. It is not at all clear what will happen to Marta. No one wants to think about death.

The sneeze. A sputum. A purge of the gut. The blue light of the sternos to dunk buns into hipster bowl, cheese, wine, infused foods, and local honey. Apparently calories and cholesterol had not yet been invented. It was the The thing to do in the seventies, I used my wedding presents... three fondue pots. Their long forks had
"She has eighty names, thirty addresses, twelve Social Security cards and is collecting benefits on ten existing deceased husbands. And she is collecting Social Security on her cards. She's got many Medicaid, stamps, and is collecting welfare under each of her names."

The feeling that Precious takes place in 1983. And while the book shapes the character Precious and that of her mother Mary, in both the comedic and cultural context of the Reagan era, the movie "Precious" does not. And this one-dimen­sional depiction of Mary consistently re­

Virtuousness of multi-racial stereotypes. The movie tries to bring to life in a new way re­

Cuts... And if Daniels won't take my advice on this, then he should just pause for a moment and go ask his momma.

Conundrums
MASSA AND THE MEDIA: A HEAD-ON COLLISION

By Ode Goerner

Guilty until proven otherwise — this is the new American way.

And, no evidence is required to destroy someone's career or public identity. Just ask the ACORN fakes or New York Democrats David Pat­

ers, Charles Rangel and Eric Massa.

Everything Americans have worked for over the past two hundred years, to establish the democratic rule of law over the emotions of white supremacy has been nullified by overzealous media hounds, political wannabes, scared staffers and har­

Unsubstantiated accounts of ethics violations and wrong doing, fake fear and horror are being perpetuated by those whose sole mission in life is to "take some­body down" or find your own journalistic 15 minutes of fame. Indulged conservative activist and ACORN video pimp James O'Keefe comes to mind.

Media vigilant justice is nothing new.

Due process, the right to a fair trial, the right to be safe and secure in one's home are all things of the past — things we used to defend as the best traits of American virtue before we succumbed to the over­

The political environment, Massa's behavior. Despite losing a strong progressive —

In Eric's attempt to set the record straight, so to speak, he did himself, his family and everyone who cares about good government a huge disservice. The news

The study of ethics is his fault and his alone. But in the incredibly toxic atmosphere that is Washington D.C., with the destruction of our elected leaders having become a blood sport as he calls it, especially in talk radio and on the internet, there is also no doubt that most reasonable people would not subject themselves to such scrutiny. If you truly want to find out the dirt on someone, it's there for the taking. If it doesn't suit your needs, all you have to do is embellish a bit, or begin your ques­

Our elected leaders having become a

Let's turn the page with the hope that the good people of New York's 29th Dist­

Eric Massa used to be a beacon of hope for many of us in the labor commu­

Our press club is no longer the same.

This national debate has ended, and that of her mother —

But when the artistic portrayal

We never got the return on our

The emotions of white supremacy have been nullified by overzealous media hounds, political wannabes, scared staffers and har­

Unsubstantiated accounts of ethics violations and wrong doing, fake fear and hor­

We need to protect ourselves from the negative effects of the mass media

Let's turn the page with the hope that the good people of New York's 29th Dist­

Eric Massa used to be a beacon of hope for many of us in the labor commu­
The main thing on my mind was, ‘Will Wainwright and a lot of European film work just for me, but for said. Then I wanted to, as it were, boil stories and characters a bit. ‘As a regular festival-goer, you always every year you get invited to all these big deal and a huge responsibility, because they come to a field and played in its vegetation for hours and hours. There, I encountered a field of plants and flowers. “There’s a huge party afterwards. You get invited to a lot of different parties. Participating isn’t mandatory— but it feels that every year you get invited to all these parties— so, basically, you don’t sleep!”

Michael met James Frankel, Rufus Wainwright and a lot of European film directors. “You get to extend a personal invitation,” he said. “When they come to Rochester, it takes them off guard— they are surprised by the warmth and the size of audiences at ImageOut.”

Radiant continued from page 1

I was another early favorite. By the 6th grade, I had read Dostoevsky’s entire works— which I read in more oblique ways. Looking back on it, I suppose those first poems were literary equivalents to my yelloing. ‘Look at me— but not too closely!” I’m older now and more comfortable in my skin. I am no longer repressed, but I am still performatively prose to writing poems that conceal much as they reveal. This is not a defect. The recently deceased luminary Stanley Kurtz once said, “I want poems that do not tell secrets but are filled with them.” I think that’s a sound aesthetic for artists working in almost any medium.

I am an avid gardener. I also love animals and have a big garden cat. (I often tell people I am one wide-brimmed hat away from being an old woman.) In my childhood, I grew up in the suburbs next to a field and played in its vegetation for hours and hours. There, I encountered deer, rabbits, and other critters. Now that I live in the city, I am often visited by strangers in my own yard.

My first full book of poems, Tongue-Tied and Singing, is filled with poems about animals like deer or skunks, or refer to gardening, or the lives of plants and trees. In “One Hallowen” you “become” a peach tree. In other poems, I try to twist up antis or fingers become tendrils. Your poem “E” says, “enter earth and its entanglements.” Care to comment?"

TL: As I moved through grade school, my experience— “a man like me who looks at men”—but only two seem overly political. How do you write poems with political content, without becoming polemical and losing the poem to the politics?

EC: Many of the poems are clearly about gay man experience— “a man like me who looks at men” but only two seem overly political. I often feel as if her desire to dominate, or his admission is fetishistic for the poem to begin to articulate late desire in ways that chafe against common assumptions about how a man should feel.

Comparatively speaking, very few women poets— even today— write explicitly about their sexual desire for men. Some do, and it do very well. Sharon Olds comes to mind. But many readers— male and female— judge her harshly for this when they wouldn’t judge a man for speaking in such terms about a woman.

Then Again Maybe I Won’t

PR: My poems are made from all manner of materials— stories, urban legend, elevator graffiti, instruction manuals... My first book of poems, Tongue-Tied and Singing, is filled with poems about animals like deer or skunks, or refer to gardening, or the lives of plants and trees. In “One Hallowen” you “become” a peach tree. In other poems, I try to twist up antis or fingers become tendrils. Your poem “E” says, “enter earth and its entanglements.” Care to comment?

SANDYRELLA CLEANING SERVICES

Make your home or office sparkle like a candle.
Fully insured. Call for a free estimate today.
Sandy Jacques
(585) 767-2001 • Cell (585) 792-4604
sandyjacquesclean@aol.com

SANDYRELLA CLEANING SERVICES

GAY ALLIANCE

Rochester, New York 14614
Ph: 305-1190

CARE TO COMMENT?

THE EMPTY CHURCH

A CATHOLIC COMMUNITY WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

121 N. Fitzhugh Street • Rochester, New York 14614 • Phone: 305-1190

Liturgies: Thursday: 7:00pm, Sunday: 5:00pm
Sunday: 7:30am – 5:30pm (at Rochester, 5 Plymouth Avenue)

FENWICK CONTRACTING

Design · Drywall · Decks · Carpentry · Additions · Painting.
Repairs to full replacement. Call 288-0032 for estimates.

Good Reason #2

Starting your puppy on the right paw requires the right trainer.

Premier Dog Training

A Good Reason for Good Dogs

585.764.8187
PremierPaws@rochester.com
Diane J. Gardner, CPTD
Certified Pet Dog Trainer

PremierPaws@rochester.com
Diane J. Gardner, CPTD
Certified Pet Dog Trainer

R.D.F. MANAGEMENT

Property Management • Rentals • All Areas of Rochester - 1, 2 & 3 bedroom apartments.
Call 279-0936 for availability.

Visit www.rdftime.com for up-to-date listings.
What? Are you kidding me with this? I swear. I checked out the time I’d been rejected from: there were plenty of “diverse” poems in there about race, but gay male sexuality was absent — it remains the “other” other.

I guess what I’m saying is, representations of male homoeroticism are still pretty edgy in mainstream reading circles. The fact that almost one-third of this new collection of poems deals squarely with gay male desire is a risk. It’s political. It took me a long time to get to this place. I had to gain the confidence to allow myself to write about such things.

Now a good poem — political or otherwise — is a good poem. I once thought why did I have to suffer the likes of Sarah? was being correct in pointing out to me that the students are introduced to him. All his poems come very slowly. These, however, arrived in a burst of inspiration. Kevin Killian, one of the blurbers for the book, told me that was fun! I am not terribly prolific by nature and usually my poems come very slowly. These, however, were written much more carefully at that suppressed tradition and discovered powerful voices I never knew existed.

Edwin Rolfe is a good example. His commitment to Socialism got him blacklisted in the McCarthy era. He died demoralized and penniless, yet his poems are magnificent. Where was Rolfe when I was being “vouched” for in high school? Why did I have to suffer the likes of Sarah and Poe’s “Annabel Lee” when I could have been reading this man’s rage and fire?

The same thing goes for Whitman. Much of his poetry has a political dimension, but you’d never know it the way students are introduced to him. All his political energy and challenges to the status quo are quietly edited out of excerpts and anthologies. On the other hand, I have read my share of bad political poems.

EC: How did Radiant Losses come about?
TL: After Tongue-Tied and Singing was released in 2004, I began slowly amassing poems for a second book. I knew I wanted something different this time, something thematic and/or formal unity that would make Radiant Losses a book rather than just a collection.

That solution came in what is serving as the center section of this three-part book. Called "Gorceans and Prefaces," each poem in this section is based on the Fibonacci number sequence that was initially developed by a mathematician named, obviously, Fibonacci.

In terms of how I adopted his sequence, the number of syllables in any given line is the total of syllables of the two previous lines so the pattern is 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13. As a result, the first few lines in each stanza are very brief, but they gradually expand and ultimately go into a long, flowing line. For each poem the sequence is repeated three times in as many stanzas. The following example comes from the first two stanzas of a poem called “Character”:

In a Chinese photograph
the word And looks like
a hand with three outstretched fingers
grasping at space, ready to seek or
accept what is
there
within
reach or beyond

reach though still subject
like the soft gold of a small bird
our admiration, like the stars to our
yearning...

While playing with this form, I was reading Marcel Proust, who is known for his dense, sprawling prose sentences. From him I realized I wanted to try carrying a single sentence across several lines. In fact, many of these 21-line poems are precisely one sentence. Very few of them have traditional iambic rhythms, which pleases me.

I was getting tired of writing blank verse and I found it began to choke out new ways subject could be handled through it.

Some of the poems are about visual art. Some about romance. Still more derive from bits of overheated conversations. In the course of a year, I wrote 65 of these, mostly at Spot Coffe, though a few were scribbled during the Jazz Festiva-, others jotted down during dull meetings or as I waited in lines. Because I knew the exact length of each line, most of the formal considerations were decided in advance. I wrote them in longhand on one of those unlined Moleskin notebooks. Man, that was fun! I am not terribly prolific by nature and usually my poems come very slowly. These, however, were written much more carefully at that suppressed tradition and discovered powerful voices I never knew existed.

In a Chinese photograph
the word And looks like
a hand with three outstretched fingers
grasping at space, ready to seek or
accept what is
there
within
reach or beyond

reach though still subject
like the soft gold of a small bird
our admiration, like the stars to our
yearning...

While playing with this form, I was reading Marcel Proust, who is known for his dense, sprawling prose sentences. From him I realized I wanted to try carrying a single sentence across several lines. In fact, many of these 21-line poems are precisely one sentence. Very few of them have traditional iambic rhythms, which pleases me.

I was getting tired of writing blank verse and I found it began to choke out new ways subject could be handled through it.

Some of the poems are about visual art. Some about romance. Still more derive from bits of overheated conversations. In the course of a year, I wrote 65 of these, mostly at Spot Coffee, though a few were scribbled during the Jazz Festival, others jotted down during dull meetings or as I waited in lines. Because I knew the exact length of each line, most of the formal considerations were decided in advance. I wrote them in longhand on one of those unlined Moleskin note-}

If you have a legal matter?
• Call the lawyer for you, your family and our community.

Harry B. Bronson, Esq.
585.233.8789
harry@bronsonatlaw.com

Wills
Health Care Proxy
Power of Attorney
LGBT Partnership & Estate Planning
Buying/Selling a House
Name Changes
Anti-Discrimination and Harassment
Small Business Law
Non-Profit Representation
SO MUCH HAPPENED BEFORE DOROTHY DROPPED IN.

“Divas and romance and thrills: Oh My!”
- TimeOut New York

A NEW MUSICAL
WICKED
THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE WITCHES OF OZ

APRIL 14 – MAY 2
AUDITORIUM THEATRE

GOOD SEATS STILL AVAILABLE

Auditorium Theatre Box Office, Ticketmaster.com or 800-745-3000
Group Sales: 585-222-5000

wickedthemusical.com • Grammy® Award-Winning Cast Recording available on Decca Broadway
They say hair loss doesn’t matter... What do you think?

NEW-U
Hair Replacement Specialists
1425 Jefferson Road, Saginaw Plaza
Rochester, New York 14623
585-272-7320 • www.newuhairloss.com

Elaine Elkins, M.S.
Psychotherapist
244-4837
Individual & Relationship Counseling
• Anxiety & Depression
• Loneliness & Separation
• Conflict Resolution
• Communication Skills
• Sexual Abuse Recovery
• Drug & Alcohol Abuse
• Grief & Loss

Joe Russo, Psy.D., CGP
Licensed Psychologist
Certified Group Psychotherapist
25 Canterbury Road, Suite 308
Rochester, New York 14607
Phone: 585 506-6996
E-mail: drjerusso@gmail.com

Need a DJ for an Upcoming Party?
DJ Chuck Argento
585 317-6477 • 585 529-5544
cjargento1@yahoo.com
One Flat Rate: $500 All Night Long

SPRING Community Dance
April 10th, 2010
5:30PM – 10:00PM
Roger Robach Center
180 Beach Avenue
Rochester, NY 14612

PARKING ACROSS THE STREET
$8 presale
$12 at the door

Tickets can be purchased at
Equal Grounds, Outlandish and Parkleigh
Or call dd at: 585.872.2631 ext. #3

FOOD AVAILABLE
A drug and alcohol free event
Hosted by Rainbow SAGE
DJ - Laurie Roland
Chris Del Conte
Licensed Realtor
Interior Designer
Home Staging Professional
585.780.0876
CDeIConte@CDeIConte.com
www.CDeIConte.com

**Bed & Breakfast**

*Kyle's Bed & Breakfast* by Greg Fox

Where we left off last time...

What?!! You have a lump on your breast... and you haven't even??

I haven't been to any doctors

Breyer...

That's what this is about? Money? After you just bought all those new clothes?!

I'm sure there are places that can help you free clinics or something.

Gloria... even if you were broke...

Well... maybe I don't want that.

All right, this is nuts.

Breyer...

...my family in New Jersey... they want nothing to do with me. They wrote me off a long time ago.

...he's through with me, too. You're all I have, Breyer. I'd like to spend whatever time I have left...

AND YOUR FATHER, WELL...

...with my son and not in some hospital ward.

WE'RE GOING TO DOCTOR IF I HAVE TO DRAG YOU THERE BY THOSE HAIR EXTENSIONS.

THOSE AREN'T HAIR EXTENSIONS! THIS IS MY REAL HAIR!

Right, and I'm... Anderson Cooper...

**APROPOS**

Financial Planning

Kay Conheady, CFP®

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

Anthony G. Sandonato, CPA, J.D.

Accounting and Tax Services

I am a licensed CPA with over 11 years experience. I provide accounting and tax services to businesses, individuals, non-profit organizations, estates and trusts. QuickBooks consulting.

Free initial consultation.

585-732-5792

Angela M. Oddone LMsw

Supportive, affirming psychotherapist with 15 years experience serving the gay/lesbian community.

100 Linden Oaks - Suite 200, Rochester, NY 14625

(585) 586-1600

angela@resiliencystrategies.com
Youth Program: Queer College Tours Update!
By Jess Cohen

The newest program of Gay Alliance Youth Services, Queer College Tours, is off to a grand start!

Thanks to the amazing support of patrons of local LGBTQ businesses, over $500 was raised to keep the college tours fee/lowlow-cost to youth.

The tours started in February at SUNY Geneseo, continued on March 26 with a visit to Rochester Institute of Technology and will go to SUNY Brockport on April 5. The youth attend a variety of events and info sessions, such as meet-greets with campus pride organizations, a talk by Feministing.com founder Jessica Valenti, a drag show at RIT and meetings with CSTEP/McNair, Residential Life and Women & Gender Studies Programs.

Many thanks to Allegra and AIDS Care for their support of this program, along with The Bachelor Forum, Equal Grounds, Outlandish, The Avenue Pub, 140 Aler Bar & Grill, and Mothers.

Youth Center Happenings

• Drop-in: Monday and Wednesday 2-6pm
• Support Groups
  • Sunday 2pm-4pm ages 13-23
  • 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 585-244-8640, ext. 14
Inquiring minds want to know: InQueery Community Learning

I am so glad I came*

By Scott Fearin

*I am so glad I came.*

These words were written on the program feedback form of a recent InQueery event. Someone else simply wrote, *This was a lot of fun, and I learned a lot.*

I noticed the name that the Gay Alliance launched the InQueery Program. We wanted to provide LGBT and allied individuals with fun and informative things to do. InQueery is about learning and about socializing. Like traditional "Adults Only," InQueery sessions are not offered for "credit," but for personal and professional development and the experience of learning in community.

InQueery classes are taught by people with no particular expertise, and not necessarily a degree. The topics are broad reaching, and most likely will have something to do with topics related to LGBT people, but not necessarily. Our recent class on Basic Volleyball Skills is a good example of a session, the topic of which was not queer, but the event sure was. The rainbow flag flying at HotShots got a lot of attention, and the sand court crowded with LGBT and straight participants, the focus of the evening was on having fun in an inclusive environment.

Most of the InQueery classes are free, but some will have material or ticket fees connected with them. For example, coming up in May we have an InQueery tour at the Memorial Art Museum. The ticket for the tour is $5, but that includes your museum admission for the night. Many other special tours and tastings are in planning for the next year or so.

InQueery is always looking for people to lead sessions in subjects as diverse as art, cooking, gardening, cocktailing, creative writing, computer skills, acting -- you name it, and want to reach others, InQueery can be your opportunity to reach out to LGBT and allied learners.

For more information on how to lead a class or about upcoming classes, simply look for InQueery under the Education tab at www.gayalliance.org. Here you will also find a quick calendar of upcoming sessions, class descriptions, and the form to submit to teach an InQueery Class.

InQueery: because inquiring minds want to know.

A Gender by Any Other Name: On Gender, Pronouns and an Upcoming InQueery

By Laura McSpadden

The first time that I walked into the offices of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley was shortly after my graduation from college; I was going to meet with Susan Jordan, the editor of The Empty Closet, in the hopes that I could volunteer as a reporter and photographer for this fine publication. During the interview, I asked whether or not The Empty Closet had a policy regarding the usage of gender-neutral pronouns at the time; there was not.

It is something that we are working on currently. It is not that most people, whether cisheterosexual or transsexual, are able to identify with either masculine or feminine pronouns. However, there is a large body of us are, and if The Empty Closet and the Gay Alliance don't make a stand for the androgynous, transgender, genderqueer, bigender, intersex, and pangender people in our community, then who in Greater Rochester will?

You may notice the usage of the gender-neutral pronouns ze and hir in some of the recent articles in this issue as an attempt to keep up with the upcoming issues. These are not typos; they are a conscious step towards greater inclusivity, and it is a step that means a great deal to me and many other members of the trans community. As far back as I can remember, I engaged in a kind of intuitive flirtation with different gender identities and questions about gender. Even in my earliest days, I have been the most comfortable within a realm of fluidity. I have, for instance, lived my May way for years, not being spiritfully dance before I would take a leap into the calm domesticity of being barefoot in kitchen, chopping away and bersin vegetables, before spending the next day tromping through the halls of my Midwestern school in Doc Martins, a lacy skirt and baggy flannel

The thing about gender that always seems most mysterious to me is the assumption of stagnancy; I have always experienced and expressed my gender as something that is neither and beyond such concepts. If you must, you can call me genderqueer; if your sensibilities are offended by the brilliantly correct final syllable, pangender works too.

Throughout my entire life, I have found it necessary to interpret the characters to explore who I truly am. had a policy where one is born and stays in for an entire life span. There was no space for me to say that a thing labeled is a thing understood. I identify strongly as female. And as and as something that is neither and beyond such concepts. If you must, you can call me genderqueer; if your sensibilities are offended by the brilliantly correct final syllable, pangender works too.

Depending on how you choose to label your gender; despite all the politically-correct assertions otherwise, Americans do love our labels, and many of us believe that a thing labeled is a thing understood. I identify strongly as female. And as and as something that is neither and beyond such concepts. If you must, you can call me genderqueer; if your sensibilities are offended by the brilliantly correct final syllable, pangender works too.

Throughout my entire life, I have found it necessary to interpret the characters to explore who I truly am. had a policy where one is born and stays in for an entire life span. There was no space for me to say that a thing labeled is a thing understood. I identify strongly as female. And as and as something that is neither and beyond such concepts. If you must, you can call me genderqueer; if your sensibilities are offended by the brilliantly correct final syllable, pangender works too.

Depending on how you choose to label your gender; despite all the politically-correct assertions otherwise, Americans do love our labels, and many of us believe that a thing labeled is a thing understood. I identify strongly as female. And as and as something that is neither and beyond such concepts. If you must, you can call me genderqueer; if your sensibilities are offended by the brilliantly correct final syllable, pangender works too.

Depending on how you choose to label your gender; despite all the politically-correct assertions otherwise, Americans do love our labels, and many of us believe that a thing labeled is a thing understood. I identify strongly as female. And as and as something that is neither and beyond such concepts. If you must, you can call me genderqueer; if your sensibilities are offended by the brilliantly correct final syllable, pangender works too.

Depending on how you choose to label your gender; despite all the politically-correct assertions otherwise, Americans do love our labels, and many of us believe that a thing labeled is a thing understood. I identify strongly as female. And as and as something that is neither and beyond such concepts. If you must, you can call me genderqueer; if your sensibilities are offended by the brilliantly correct final syllable, pangender works too.

Depending on how you choose to label your gender; despite all the politically-correct assertions otherwise, Americans do love our labels, and many of us believe that a thing labeled is a thing understood. I identify strongly as female. And as and as something that is neither and beyond such concepts. If you must, you can call me genderqueer; if your sensibilities are offended by the brilliantly correct final syllable, pangender works too.

Depending on how you choose to label your gender; despite all the politically-correct assertions otherwise, Americans do love our labels, and many of us believe that a thing labeled is a thing understood. I identify strongly as female. And as and as something that is neither and beyond such concepts. If you must, you can call me genderqueer; if your sensibilities are offended by the brilliantly correct final syllable, pangender works too.

Depending on how you choose to label your gender; despite all the politically-correct assertions otherwise, Americans do love our labels, and many of us believe that a thing labeled is a thing understood. I identify strongly as female. And as and as something that is neither and beyond such concepts. If you must, you can call me genderqueer; if your sensibilities are offended by the brilliantly correct final syllable, pangender works too.

Depending on how you choose to label your gender; despite all the politically-correct assertions otherwise, Americans do love our labels, and many of us believe that a thing labeled is a thing understood. I identify strongly as female. And as and as something that is neither and beyond such concepts. If you must, you can call me genderqueer; if your sensibilities are offended by the brilliantly correct final syllable, pangender works too.

Depending on how you choose to label your gender; despite all the politically-correct assertions otherwise, Americans do love our labels, and many of us believe that a thing labeled is a thing understood. I identify strongly as female. And as and as something that is neither and beyond such concepts. If you must, you can call me genderqueer; if your sensibilities are offended by the brilliantly correct final syllable, pangender works too.
AIDS
Healthcare providers across the state of New York offer HIV testing. For information, call 1-800-232-4636, 24 hours a day.

Resources
AIDS
Trials, Dental
Promotions to a diversity of the LGBT
vaccines and education to members of the LGBT
vices in Rochester and the Finger Lakes, was
workshops,
AIDS, learn
Substance Use and Addiction
461-3520,
Toll-
racial HIV
259 Monroe Ave. A9 has services for HIV
positive women and others in the lesbian
community, 442-2220.

AIDS Community Health Clinic
259 Monroe Ave. A9 can offer HIV testing and
information, call 1-800-232-4636, 24 hours a day.

AIDS Resources, Rochester
Search for HIV/AIDS related services in the

Health
Trials, Dental
"..."
GAY SQUARE DANCE GROUP - THE LILAC SQUARES

Our newest class is progressing along quickly. We've danced at other clubs before getting our first audience. Mainly, every Wednesday night at 6 for supper. See you there.

BUTCH FEMME CONNECTION

The Rochester Butch Femmes connection supper club will have two events in April. 10. Look for April 3 we will meet at Monroe Diner on Monroe Ave. in Pittsford at 7 p.m.

On April 17, we will meet at Wintons on North Winton Road in Rochester at 7 p.m. For further information on the Stonewall Network: www.stonewallnetwork.su or call Kerry/Max at (585) 288-7200.

We now have a Facebook page - check out Rochester Butch Femmes Connection.

COLAGE
(Children of Lesbian and Gay Parents)

Colage Rochester plans a kick off meeting/fundraiser for April 11, for kids of LGBT parents aged 8 and up.

The event is 5-7 p.m. at the GAGV Youth Center, first floor, 875 E. Main St. RSVP to Pride & Joy Families, 585-244-8646 x37 or lgbtqinfo@joyandfamilies.

For information about the national group, see www.colage.org.

DIGNITY INTEGRITY

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the light." Dignity-Integrity of Rochester welcomes you to come to the light of worship and fellowship with other gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Christians. We alternate Episcopalian and Catholic worship each week at 5 p.m. at St Luke's/St Simon's Church in downtown Rochester at 17 S. Frighten Ave. All are welcome.

We especially welcome those who would like to participate in our meeting on Sunday, April 4, and those who may not have attended church in a while, and are looking for a new place of worship. We will celebrate the Easter season with you as you renew your faith and connect with the creator. Services for this month are as follows.

April 4 at 5 p.m. - Easter Sunday. Episcopalian service with Holy Communion, and the Rev. Phil Schaefer preaching.

April 11 at 5 p.m. - Roman Catholic Liturgy of the Word with Gloria Utterback presiding.

April 18 at 5 p.m. - Quiet Episcopal Eucharist with Reverend Don Hill presiding.

April 25 at 5 p.m. - Prayer service to start the week, followed by a “Gifts of the Earth: Potluck supper.

EMPIRE BEARS

Spring is here at last! Time to get out of the house and have some fun.

Come to Beannacht at the Forum on Saturday, April 3. The theme is Leather-Beavers, their lids proud.

The following weekend, we'll host a poolat the GAGV Youth Center on the 10th. The theme is new recipes, but we don't care whose recipe it is. Break out one of Gramma's that you've never tried before. And bring your own potluck.

Check out our website at www.empirebeauc.org for information. New members are always welcome, and we know you can do it online. We'll put you in our yoga group, and you'll get our updates and other things.

Don't forget, we're at the Wintonaie on Winton, between Atlantica and East Main, every Wednesday night at 6 for supper. See you there.

RAINBOW SAGE:
"SENIOR" IS NOT A DIRTY WORD

By Tony Perri

Five dollar tickets at the Little, discount garlic on many foods and significantly established, acquired wisdom (hopefully) and the ability to let things go a little easier. These are just a few of the privileges of getting older.

So what's wrong with aging? Why are so many in our community in denial about this fact of life? Many of us are privileged to age gracefully, many of us are not so lucky. So why are so many in denial about this wonderful stage of life?

As a member of Rainbow SAGE (Service and Advocacy for GLBT Elders) of the Genesee Valley and active in Rochester Gay Men's Chorus we would like to take the opportunity to discuss issues and celebrations in our LGBT community. Rainbow Sage has over 110 members of all ages. There is no age requirement for membership. If you are interested in finding out more about SAGE contact us at sagergvg.org. We welcome you to attend our monthly meetings to learn about aging, death and the challenges we will experience as we grow older. In future columns I will be discussing some of these issues and celebrations.

I can’t tell you how many times I have heard the term “senior” or “elder” used for inappropriatevent. Oh I can’t join Rainbow SAGE, I’m not a senior,” when in fact the person standing in front of me clearly looks like that, or the person may be not of a certain age, but clearly is not looking forward to aging gracefully. The truth is many of us do not want to admit to aging.

Which leads me directly to the topic of “Ageism,” also known as age discrimination. Ageism is defined (Wikipedia) as stereotyping and discrimination against individuals or groups because of age. It is a set of beliefs, attitudes, and norms, and values used to justify age-based prejudice and discrimination. While in future columns I will discuss ageism as it affects older adults, it should be noted and remembered that ageism can exist in youth, community, who often feel disenfranchised. We should all be aware of it: Ageism and age discrimination can happen all up front, such as discrimination because of ageism in the workplace, say, “too old for this job,” or “too old for that course,” or “too old for this remark, such as, “Wow, you look good for your age,” or “You look so young, you can’t be over 40”, (which I get a lot! Smile), which, while taken as a compliment by many of us, can be looked upon as an ageist remark. Like there is something wrong with it when an individual does look their age, whatever that means.

On a more LGBT community, being young, vibrant, and buffed is looked upon as the ideal, examples of ageism can be seen every day. So please, when someone compliments you on your age, whether you are 30 or 60, while accepting it as a compliment, perhaps a great remark could be, “I am happy and content to look my age!”

Aging can be beautiful for many of us, but not everyone is as fortunate. We as a community can make it better for everyone. See you next time.

RAINBOW SAGE:
CALLING ALL EUCHRE PLAYERS

By Ginny Debin

Our GLBT group is sponsoring its second annual euchre tournament this spring. Save the date: Saturday, May 23 at 2 p.m. at the location in Temple B'rith Kodesh at 2131 Elmwood Ave. The temple is accessible to all and has adequate parking.

No matter what your game is, play as this is an individually scored tournament with prize money for first place — $10; second place — $5; third place — $2. Fees include food and water will be available.

To register, please call Ginny at 585-473-0664 or www.rochesterrams.com. The deadline to register is Wednesday, May 19 which is the fee, not including and paying the $15 fee is Wednesday, May 19. This is a great chance for you to meet and make friends of all ages. If you’re looking for fun, join us May 23.

ROCHESTER GAY MEN’S CHORUS

The Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus would like to extend thanks and gratitude to all those who attended and participated in our recent concert “Joining Forces” at Rochester. May 30 2009.

The show went off wonderfully and there were some missteps but would anyone expect anything less?


We would like to invite everyone to “anything goes” Spring Grand fundraising event.

One event at restaurant at 1 Ryan Alley in Rochester.

When: Sunday, May 24 from 4-6 p.m. Ticket: Individual: $20, Couples: $35. Sponsor: Mezzanine: $250 - $499

Dress Code: $500 - $999

Orchestra: $1000-$1499 

Benefactors: $1500 and Higher

For more information please contact Todd L. Perkins at 585-743-1172.

ROCHESTER GLBTQ MOTORCYCLE GROUP

Our last event at Great Grounds was a success. Our newest member showed up, and had a great time.

Our group is made up of newbies, people who put on a lot of mileage, and long-time bikers. We are all joined, apart from the biker, by our sport, and living each other. A real nice group of people!

There’s a new(ish) LGBT group in Rochester called Bike Pride: Yorkshire Group. Please check us out at rochesterrams.com. We have also called Bob at 478-1560, or e-mail bmdineald@frontier.net. Let’s ride with pride.

ROCHESTER RAMS M.C.

Once again, the Rams are hosting our May Memorial Day weekend events for Can Am weekend. If you like to attend, please check out the CanAm link on our website.

The Rochester Rams M.C. is Rochester New York’s foremost gay motorcycle club founded in 1969. We welcome you to join our club. For more information, please contact the club at 585-452-8686.
And the Dynamic Duo would once again waiting desperately for the thrilling volleyball with the Rochester ROMANS?

This episode begins about two years ago, when I was invited by a Gay Alliance Speakers Bureau member to visit the Rochester Kink Society (RKS). I hesitated for three reasons. First of all, the purpose of my "Stepping Out" project is to visit and learn about LGBT community groups. RKS, although extremely welcoming, is not an LGBT organization. Second, I did not want people reading my article to associate that RKS is what they are looking for. RKS gets to meet and make new friends, not just a few days after our RKS visit, Laura McSpadden, Gay Alliance Office Administrator, led an InQueery class called "BDSM: A Guide for Lay People, Well-wishers, and Newbies," which examined the most common myths about BDSM and kink. Pam and I attended, hoping the presentation would help us avoid any unnecessary kink faux pas.

The presentation was excellent and informative. (Note: This presentation will be repeated in early summer. Watch for it on our InQueery schedule at www.gayalliance.org.) I learned, among other things, that most activities relating to BDSM were considered pathological until 1994, when they were removed from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM). The behaviors now must "cause clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning," in order for it to be considered an illness. Consensual BDSM activities that are pleasurable to all parties involved are now considered healthy sexual behavior.

I also learned that accessing medical care can often present issues for people who practice BDSM. Because of requirements and reporting policies that medical personnel must follow regarding bruises and wounds on patients, people practicing BDSM may choose not to seek medical attention for themselves when they need help for unrelated issues. This unfortunate situation reminded me of the experiences of many transgender individuals, who have avoided seeking medical help due to discrimination and a lack of education among medical professionals.

Finally, we talked about how some people only participate in BDSM behavior, a kind of role play, and how others take on this lifestyle 24/7, as an ongoing master/slave type relationship. This brought up some male/female power issues for me and gave me a chance to voice some of my own personal concerns about the way that submissive women are treated in BDSM relationships.

The feminist in me had trouble holding her tongue (she always does) and ranted a bit about my assumption that there are many more submissive females than males and how I found this to be the case at the core of BDSM is trust, fulfillment, love and the giving of oneself. The gift of submission to a partner is one that must be more valuable when the submissive is a strong, self-confident and powerful person.

I'm a submissive woman who is a member of RKS, explained her joy at giving up power and control in this way. She said, "I used to be with a man who was a terrible driver. I refused to give him control of the car because I didn't trust him. Now I am with a man who loves motorcycles. I sit on the back and I trust him to control the vehicle and keep me safe. People keep asking me why I don't get my license and learn to drive the motorcycle myself. I don't want to. I love giving up the control to him. I get to sit back and enjoy the ride."

Dominators must be knowledgeable, skilled and very in tune with their partners, or else they will lose the trust that has been given to them. The submissive, actually the one who has the most power in the relationship as she/he decides where the boundaries will be set.

The night of the workshop and play party, Pam picked me up at my house around 5:45 p.m. and drove us to the secret location, which had been entrusted to us after the social. We found it easily and sat for a moment in the parking lot trying to prepare ourselves for what lay ahead. With a deep breath, we stepped out of the car and walked slowly toward the dungeon. We approached the door to the building and rang the bell. A man welcomed us, showed in (no secret handshake necessary), led us downstairs and opened the door to the dungeon.

"Holy Bastards, Pam," I exclaimed! "I can't believe my eyes!"

"Flying Floggers, Jeezus! Are these people really striking their teeth into..."

Will this be the end of our Dynamic Duo? Will they be tied to tables while saws spin rapidly toward their head? Will they be suspended upside down while hot wax is dripped on their feet? Will they be gagged and forced to create kinkily knitting project??!! Tune in next month! Same Bat-Time. Same Bat-Channel...
Wha t BISEXUAL writing was the first singer where they could add wanted and should start writing her own such as Cole said. This was the first successful right away. This was the first impressionist. I'm just me paying a lot of brass to the orchestra - she could realize she was getting the parts she expected. She said, "It's a great way to get an overview of American musical theatre from the '30s to the '80s. So kids who don't know this era can see it." Nanette Elliott said that SOTA has to turn away many students who apply. "Over 1,000 kids auditioned for 250 spots," she said. "What I love most about SOTA is that kids come in with a passion and are surrounded by adults who have that passion and will support them. That's what Friends of SOTA is all about. Our kids have to do regular schoolwork, but we also have to get an art degree. We don't get any funding and most of our students come from underprivileged backgrounds." For instance, one student currently has an opportunity, but no drum set, so the Friends can buy him the brushes he needs. That's why Friends of SOTA is a community-based organization that does take to support the academic, arts, and recreational needs of the students at School of the Arts.

Susan SanFilippo, C.S.W.  234-3561 Counseling & Psychotherapy  - Why can't life be fair? - If I change, will my partner? - What effect does my past have on me? - What can I do about my future? Individual and couples therapy (sliding fee scale) 500 Helenende Road, Suite 155, Rochester NY 14609

Kavod Ha'briot  Respect for Human Dignity

Temple Beth David  A Conservative, Egalitarian, Haimish Synagogue.

3200 St. Paul Blvd.  585/266-3223  http://tempelbethdavid.uschost.net

HUTHER-DOYLE HELPING YOU PUT THE PIECES BACK TOGETHER

NOW OFFERING SPECIALIZED CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY TREATMENT TO THE GAY – LESBIAN – BISEXUAL COMMUNITY  SAFE AND CARING ENVIRONMENT EXCLUSIVE GLB TREATMENT GROUP SENSITIVE TO GLB ISSUES GLB EXPERIENCED CLINICIAN  (585)-325-5100  360 East Avenue Rochester, New York 14604
The 2010-2011 M&T Bank Broadway Season

Disney presents

THE LION KING
BROADWAY'S AWARD-Winning
BEST MUSICAL

MARCH 22-APRIL 17, 2011

A CHORUS LINE

OCTOBER 5-10, 2010

IN THE HEIGHTS

JANUARY 25-30, 2011

WEST SIDE STORY

MAY 31-JUNE 5, 2011

MEL BROOKS PRESENTS

YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN

NOVEMBER 9-14, 2010

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!
Auditorium Theatre Box Office • 585-222-5000
Individual tickets for these shows are not on sale at this time • www.rbtl.org