Save the date: Register for Pride & Joy Families Conference
The 2011 Pride and Joy Families Weekend Conference will be held at the RIT Inn and Conference Center in Rochester on Friday, April 8 through Sunday, April 10. The early bird registration deadline is March 8.

The event will build on the success of three previous statewide LGBTQ families conferences, held in Ithaca, Binghamton and Utica, which attracted more than 250 people from Upstate New York and beyond.
The 2011 Conference promises to be both celebratory and educational for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ) individuals, their children and other family members. Adult workshop sessions will address family building, parenting, education and generational activities and entertainments, a resource/vendor fair, and offsite excursions to Rochester and the Finger Lakes region. (Families continues page 3)

Electron 2010: National outlook mixed;
NYS Senate majority unsure at press time
By Ove Overmyer
The political and legislative march to equality is often three steps forward and two steps back. The outcome of the 2010 midterm elections was no excep-

Three Marriage events are set for December, January
Marriage Equality activists and those who are concerned about the impact of legal same-sex marriage on their lives have three events to consider in December and January.

In some good news, Chuck Wolf of the Victory Fund reports that voters elected a record-breaking number of LGBTQ candidates for public office across the United States in 2010. According to a statement released by the Victory Fund, at least 164 endorsed candidates were winners as of Nov. 3. They include newly elected David Cicilline (D-RI) of Rhode Island and incumbents Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Rep. Jared Polis (D-CO), and Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA).

However, in other news, a wave of anti-LGBT rightwing radicals seized control of the House of Rep-

Monroe County Democratic Minority Leader turned New York State Assemblyman-Elect Harry Bronson addresses 300 marriage equality supporters in front of the Monroe County Office Building at the Marriage Equality rally and march on Sept. 26. Photo: Ove Overmyer

Ralph W. Overmyer

Three Marriage events are set for December, January
Marriage Equality activists and those who are concerned about the impact of legal same-sex marriage on their lives have three events to consider in December and January.

The Gay Alliance Rochester (GAROC) Meet-Up is set for Dec. 13 at 6-8 p.m. at Equal Grounds Coffee Shop, 750 South Ave. The Meet-Up includes discussion and strategy planning and is open to all. The event is sponsored by Equal-

A glimmer of hope, though, is the election of New York State Assemblyman-Elect Harry Bronson, who in turn addressed 300 marriage equality supporters in front of the Monroe County Office Building at the Marriage Equality rally and march on Sept. 26.

Monroe County Democratic Minority Leader turned New York State Assemblyman-Elect Harry Bronson addresses 300 marriage equality supporters in front of the Monroe County Office Building at the Marriage Equality rally and march on Sept. 26. Photo: Ove Overmyer

In some good news, Chuck Wolf of the Victory Fund reports that voters elected a record-breaking number of LGBTQ candidates for public office across the United States in 2010. According to a statement released by the Victory Fund, at least 164 endorsed candidates were winners as of Nov. 3. They include newly elected David Cicilline (D-RI) of Rhode Island and incumbents Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Rep. Jared Polis (D-CO), and Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA).

Conversely, a wave of anti-LGBT rightwing radicals seized control of the House of Rep-

Representatives. Their leaders – Reps. Boebner (R-CA), Cantor (R-VA), and Pence (R-IN) – all received scores of zero on Human Rights Campaign’s congressional scorecard, mean-

They have never support-

e single pro-equality bill. Conservative voters also ousted Pennsylvania Democrat Patrick Murphy, who led the effort in the House of Representatives to overturn the military’s “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy. Key Sen-

tate seats were lost as well.

The anti-gay National Orga-
nization for Marriage (NOM), who spent millions to get in

On Jan. 5, Tying the Knot, a Community Forum on Mar-
riage Equality, will discuss the impact of extending full mar-
riage rights to same-sex couples. 7-8:30 p.m., Broadrick Public Library, 2810 East Ridge Rd., sponsored by Equality Rochester (Marriage continues page 7).
The Future of Aging is in our Hands

In November I attended the SAGE National Conference on Aging with Scott Feingold, Gay Alliance Program Director and Brian Hurlbutt, President of Rainbow SAGE Board of Directors. It was a great conference and very informative.

The Gay Alliance is really excited about the pending merger with Rainbow SAGE so this conference was so informative about issues that affect LGBT seniors. One workshop I went to explored issues of community support for seniors that do not have their own safety net when experiencing surgery, declining health, poor nutrition, social isolation and transportation needs. I attended a workshop called Innovative Models in LGBT Care Giving. One model was based on a book called “Share the Care.”

The Share The Care model has been distilled into a concise and thorough handbook that can walk you through each step of the care: from when the diagnosis is made, to the first difficult weeks, to realizing that help will be needed. It contains valuable guidelines, compassionate suggestions and references to the national workbooks section that together offer support to prevent patients from feeling isolated and caregivers from burnout. Share The Care offers friends and family the best solution to the frequently asked question, “What can I do?”

One of the panelists was Nathan Rome, founder of Firebrand Bookstore. She shared her thoughts on aging and getting old. She said getting old is something you get if you are lucky. This is not to say it is always fun but Share the Care book and website are great resources and she and other panelists have used to develop a community safety net. The website is www.sharecarenyc.org. An important mission for SAGE is to decrease social isolation and have new models to support our LGBT senior members.

As we continue on the road to comprehensive senior programs we will continue to keep you informed. We encourage you to visit rainbowage.org for current information on programs and events. And remember in the new year their web information will be found at the Gay Alliance website at www.gayalliance.org.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season. The Gay Alliance has launched their annual holiday appeal. Please consider financial support so we can continue the work we do across many different programs.
airport security scans may affect transgender passengers

by Kelly Clark

In June 2009, the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) released a travel advisory titled "Whole Body Imaging at U.S. Airports." It noted that the Greater Rochester International Airport has now installed a so-called "full body scanner" and the holiday travel season is in full swing, we thought we would share some of the concerns raised by NCTE to help you determine your own comfort level with this new security measure.

Excerpts from the NCTE Travel Information Bulletin:

"Whole Body Imaging scanners produce a three-dimensional image of the passenger's nude body, including breasts, genitals, buttocks, prosthetics, binding materials, and any objects on the person's body, in an attempt to identify contraband. TSA has the capability of zooming in on any area on the person's body and viewing the images through a monitor.""}

"The primary concern NCTE has with Whole Body Imaging is the potential for transgender passengers to be overtaken by TSA personnel. Although TSA claims that privacy is provided by blurring an individual's image and by the use of cameras that view the images from passengers, the agents reviewing the images are still required to have ongoing two-way discussions with the agents interacting with the passengers. If a transgender person's body looks different than the person's gender considerations "normal," the passenger may be subjected to further searches and/or humiliation under the auspices of security measures.

"Even if TSA creates protocols around the treatment of transgender people and if they are implemented, there will always be the potential for further screening solely on the basis of genitalia or gender nonconformity, rather the passenger's gender considerations that can be theosory and be passed through the security screening equipment at the airport security."

"Unlike Whole Body Imaging becomes mandatory, opting for a full pat down may be a preferred course of action for some transgender people. Pat downs will inevitably take longer than the Whole Body Imaging process would normally take, and pat downs are not without danger to transgender people, however, getting a full pat down may reduce the likelihood that a person is identified as transgender at the airport. Passenger may request that they be searched by someone of the same gender and in a private screening area. Other passengers may feel more comfortable with this as opposed to being searched by someone of the opposite gender and in a private screening area. Other passengers may feel more comfortable with this as opposed to being searched by someone of the opposite gender and in a private screening area."
The Empty Closet • The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley • Number 441 • December 2011

News
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

Electoral wins bring mixed results nationwide

Although the national election resulted in the Republican Party taking the House of Representatives, which may spell doom for gay rights legislation, there were other national LGBT-related legislation, the news on the whole was favorable for New York State and for marriage equality nationwide.

The results from New York were notable in several respects. The Empire State Pride Agenda stated, "The LGBT community worked hard to have our voices heard in this election."

The midterm election results in New York confirmed the notion that the state is a bellwether for national LGBT politics. According to Executive Director Ross Levi, "We're thrilled to report victories for our statewide candidates who ran on a pro-equality platform with at least 40% pro-gay voting record, were declared winners."

The legislative victories in New York include the victory of Attorney General Douglas Emhoff, who ran for reelection and won with a record-breaking margin. Emhoff's victory was seen as a major win for marriage equality advocates.

"We're thrilled to report victories for our statewide candidates who ran on a pro-equality platform with at least 40% pro-gay voting record, were declared winners," said Executive Director Ross Levi. "This victory, along with those of other pro-equality candidates, is a testament to the power of the LGBT community."
The American Civil Liberties Union and the ACLU of New Mexico filed a class action lawsuit on Nov. 10 challenging the Defense Department’s discriminatory policy of cutting in half the separation pay of service members who have been honorably discharged for being gay.

The separation pay policy is not part of the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” statute, and can be changed without congressional approval.

By denying servicewomen and veterans full separation pay, the military is needlessly compounding the discrimination perpetuated by “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” said Joshua Block, an attorney with the ACLU Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Project. “The Obama administration has repeatedly said the ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ statute is wrong, but that it needs to work with Congress to repeal the law. But the separation pay issue is entirely within the administration’s control. The administration can at least take a preliminary step toward backing up its rhetoric with action by addressing this issue promptly and protecting gay and lesbian service members from needless additional discrimination.”

Federal law entitles service members to separation pay if they have been honorably discharged from the military after completing at least six years of service. But the Defense Department has adopted an internal policy that automatically cuts a former service member’s separation pay in half because of “homosexuality.” The separation pay policy was adopted two years before Congress enacted the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” statute. The ACLU and the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network contacted the Defense Department in November 2009 to request that the separation pay policy be revised to eliminate the discrimination against gay and lesbian service members, but the department has refused to do so.

The class action lawsuit was filed in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. The lawsuit was brought on behalf of all service members involved in similar discrimination in the past six years who received honorable discharges and were otherwise eligible for full separation pay but had their pay cut in half because of “homosexuality.” The ACLU estimates that over 100 former service members will qualify as part of the class of plaintiffs.

The lead plaintiff in the case is Richard Collins, a former service member in the Air Force who served for nine years until he was discharged under “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.” Collins was at Cannon Air Force Base in New Mexico when two civilian co-workers observed him exchange a kiss with his civilian partner and reported it to his superiors. The kiss occurred while Collins and his boyfriend were in a co-worker’s office at 10 a.m. right off base and while Collins was off duty and out of uniform. Collins received an honorable discharge from the Air Force but discovered after the discharge had been completed that his separation pay had been cut in half on the grounds of “homosexuality.”

“After nine years of honorable service, it’s really, in a way, that the government is punishing him in the same benefits given to other dedicated service members who are adjusting to civilian life,” said Block. “The least the Department of Defense will adjust in policy and show some justice to anyone who has been discriminated against in the military under Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.”

“Collins’s case is a perfect example of the violation of the basic civil liberty of sexual orientation is unfair and unconstitutional,” said Laura lips, a staff attorney for the ACLU of New Mexico. “Mr. Collins’s sexual orientation did not prevent him from serving his country ably and honorably. The least the government can do is to provide him with the same separation pay it provides other honorably discharged service members.”

Attorneys on the case, Collins v. United States, include Ives and Matt Garcia of the ACLU of New Mexico and Leslie Cooper of the ACLU LGBT Project; George Buchanan, cooperating attorney with the ACLU of New Mexico and Sara Berger of Freedman Bold Hollander Goldberg Ives and Duncan, PA.

For more on this case, please visit: www.aclu.org/glbt-rights/collins-united-states-class-action-military-separation-pay

**Christian students beat girl with “male” name**

Who says that striving “Christian” militancy doesn’t lead to physical violence? In November, a 12-year-old Mississippi middle school student was surrounded and beaten by a group of students who had been bullying her because her name is Rardi, which is a boy’s name. Joe MyGod.com asks: “Guess where the little creep had been just before the attack?”

After a Fellowship of Christian Students meeting, four girls and a boy surround her. “They started talking about me like I was a man, and like, stuff like that. That I shouldn’t be in this world. And my name was a “male” name,” she said. Foster described how these people attacked her. “I was kicked in the rib. I was kicked in the face. I was thrown onto the cafeteria table. I was thrown in between the legs of a table.”

Her mother, Megan Foster, is appalled at the whole ordeal. “She was sitting in a chair hit her glasses off of her face. She had been crying. She had a bloody tissue in her hand from her nose bleeding,” Foster said. She added that the surveillance camera caught the whole thing, but that the principal couldn’t give her a copy because it involved other students.

The message of the Christian students that their victim “shouldn’t be in this world” is the kind of bullying that leads that造成 youth suicide. However, no charges have been filed against Rardi’s attackers.

**Frank sees “zero chance” of moving pro- gay bills in 2011**

In an interview Nov. 9 with the Washington Blade, Barney Frank said he was certain that these Republicans who, in the new Congress, recognized they do not have the votes to advance any anti-gay legislation, “There’s zero chance.”

He added, “It will be a stanza queue. They don’t have the votes to advance anything in the course.”

Frank also said he was certain that Republicans would fail in an attempt to overturn D.C.’s same-sex marriage law.

“Do you think Barack Obama is going to sign a bill to repeal the D.C. marriage law?” he asked. “It won’t go through the Senate. There is no chance that could happen. None - zero.”

Barney Frank also had curious things to say about some meager-to-non-existent pro-equality crumbs hinted by the Log Cabin Republicans.

Frank: Have you heard of anything about a Log Cabin supported gay-related tax reform bill? They don’t have a chance. Log Cabin says that’s the first thing they’re going to work on next year and they think they have no chance of passing.

Frank: If they’re suggesting there will be Republican support for recognition of same-sex couples, then I don’t know what they think. They have no chance of that. They have no chance of doing anything that would recognize same-sex couples.

Blade: What about ENDA? He did say they would try to move ENDA.

Frank: There is zero chance of them doing anything on ENDA - zero.

Frank: Yes, the Log Cabin club would like to make it easier for taxing - they would like to reduce taxes for rich people. I understand that. But there will be no help for gay people. Now for some of them, they’d like to have it anyway. So they’ll feel good about it. But, no, there is zero chance that the Republicans would do anything that would recognize same-sex couples.

Blade: What about ENDA? He did say they would try to move ENDA.

Frank: There is zero chance of them doing anything on ENDA - zero.
Rev. Alicia Heath-Toby becomes pastor at UFC
By Susan Jordan
On Oct. 11, Reverend Alicia Heath-Toby said yes to the next step in her ministry — she’s been accepted as pastor of the Unity Fellowship Church of Rochester.

The ceremony took place at the annual Convocation of the Unity Fellowship Church Movement in Los Angeles, Calif., where each year Archbishop Carl Bean ordains and elevates clergy in this 27-year-old ministry.

Unity Fellowship Church of Rochester is one of 17 churches in the movement extending from Los Angeles to Charlotte to Detroit. While many of its members identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, including its new pastor, UPC Rochester is a welcoming and affirming church for all people.

“As a social justice ministry, Unity Fellowship Church Movement adheres to Liberation Theology, or a belief that those who are oppressed by society can find the roots of their liberation in the Bible and teachings of Jesus the Christ,” says Rev. Heath-Toby. “Not only do we welcome those who have been abused and oppressed by traditional church teachings, we support their healing and transformation in a very unapologetic, liberating way,” she adds.

Rev. Heath-Toby has been an agent of social change for as long as she can remember.

As a Black lesbian, she has been committed to the eradication of homophobia and sexism. She has also been survivor of gender discrimination and religious marginalization.

In 2006, she and her wife of 21 years, Saundra Toby-Heath, accepted the invitation to join Lamba Legal and six other New Jersey couples in the lawsuit seeking the right to marry for same-sex couples in New Jersey, but not yet marriage. “In those four years,” says Rev. Heath-Toby, “I was often reminded of God’s divine will for humanity, which is that we all have a right to peace, joy and love.”

Rev. Heath-Toby has been employed at the Women’s Institute of the Gay Men’s Health Crisis in New York City since 2004, where she serves as Coordinator of the Lesbian AIDS Project. She is Assistant Pastor of Liberation (In Truth Unity Fellowship Church in Newark, N.J., where she established the Church’s HIV Prevention Program.

She will be leaving both posts to become the new shepherd of the Rochester Church. Rev. Heath-Toby is out and proud, and clear that God called her to ministry, not in spite of her sexuality and gender identity, but because of it.

“When God created me, God knew just what SHE was doing, and when I said yes’ to the calling, I knew there was no turning back… here I am in Rochester, and I am eager to see what’s next.”

A celebration welcomed Reverend Heath-Toby to the Rochester community on Nov. 13. She will officially begin her ministry here in March.

Born in Spanish Harlem, Alicia Heath-Toby grew up in a family that was part of a faith community. She says, “I grew up in the church — the Pentecostal faith. A single mom, my mother was very powerful in the church at a time when women couldn’t become ministers… At age 13 my mother let my sister and me stop going to church, but I always loved fellowship and worship and was always involved in a church and tithing. My mother prophesied that I would be called when I was nine years old. We were at a revival and my mother said, ‘This child will have a call.’”

While this didn’t mean much to a nine-year-old, Rev. Heath-Toby said, “When I was around 20 years old I realized that I was called. I didn’t respond right away because I was busy being a young adult. Then I came to the Unity Fellowship Church movement in 1995 in Newark. I walked in and heard the message that God is inclusive and loves everybody, and I saw women like me who wore men’s clothes and heard a bishop proclaim that she was a lesbian and that God had called her — at that moment I knew.”

Rev. Heath-Toby had come out when she was 16. “My mother loved me, but she had her position in terms of doctrine that homosexuality wasn’t pleasing to God. She had parameters that I couldn’t have. She had a calling to be with people. I saw my calling as well a calling to be with people.”

Once she had found UPC, Rev. Heath-Toby began to talk her calling seriously. “In 1996, I began my journey as a deacon,” she said, “I was ordained as a deacon in 1999, I traveled my journey and was ordained as a minister in 2001 and ordained as a Reverend in 2004. Five years ago I became assistant pastor of my church in Newark. I was very clear that my destination was to pastor. As God would have it, I’ve come to a place where we clothed the naked and feed the hungry and can be the voice of those who suffer injustice.”

Saundra Toby-Heath, an artist, talk about the couple’s experiences during the five years in which they were part of Lambda Legal’s marriage equality case in New Jersey which reached the passage of civil unions. She said, “We always wanted marriage, but we recognize that unfortunately the NJ Supreme Court didn’t have the courage to say ‘Give them marriage.’ Sometimes you have to take what you can. We had to go with civil unions but we know that it isn’t enough. I work for FedEx Express and when I asked for equal health benefits, they said they don’t recognize civil unions. DOMA (the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act) was written into the Fed Express contract (in the small print). It was very painful to hear.

“Lambda Legal interviewed 100 couples and chose seven from all over New Jersey and we were invited to join the lawsuit. It was five years of public education, town hall meetings, etc, ‘My partner and I traveled for them and shot a segment on marriage equality in California.’”

Rev. Heath-Toby said, “We knew we were chosen because we are African American; we were clear about that… That journey was very rich. We did our part and our journey was a calling, a calling… We hope to be legally married here in New York.”

Saundra added, “I would say at town meetings that I was speaking for the people who can’t. Not everybody can get on front of a camera and speak the truth. So I’m speaking for them. If I can make it possible I will — that’s my inspiration.”

Rev. Heath-Toby says that she feels blessed to have been partnered by the deacons and congregation at Rochester UFC. “I was just appointed in October and this is all new for me. I never thought I’d be landed in this place called Rochester. I thought I would be in Chicago. I will permanently move here at the end of February and will start officially in March. The first Sunday in March will be a celebration of our new dreams. The other thing that’s incredible about this team is that the deacons have held this together.”

The dreams, visions and goals include working with the homeless population, offering shelter from the street, feeding people once a month, and obtaining a van to bring food and clothing around the city to those in need: working with young people, gay and straight, to give them support they need (for instance, offering counseling and having a presence on college campuses) and working with survivors of breast cancer. Having watched so many women in the community struggling with this disease, Rev. Heath-Toby wants to create a place where women can get support and find someone to go with them to the doctor.

A ministry requires resources, and Rev. Heath-Toby says that the first year or two will see a major effort to build relationships, seek grants and develop possibilities for resources. “It will be hard,” she said, “but I want to be involved with this amazing group of people on the board, and on the liturgical team. That’s what ministry is about — how we affect people’s lives and help with transformation.”

When asked how she deals with the rightwing extremist claim to "own" religion, and their opposition to the Christian tradition of compassion — such as Glenn Beck saying “If your pastor mentions ‘social justice,’ run” — Rev. Heath-Toby responds, “The very Book they use to condemn us is the very book in which Jesus tells us what to do. Go to the Book, Jesus’ ministry was about feeding the oppressed. About transformation. He was able to stand in the gap with folks who cant until they can. So I say to the religious right folks who have such a conviction around who they think we are — it’s a new day. This movement around the country is not a new thing; the last will be first and the first last.”

The rightwing Christian folks have done us a
favor; they've made it possible for us to say, 'Enough is enough!' People need to know we have a responsibility to 'the least of these'. And in return we are blessed by the relationship."

Rev. Heath-Toby ends by saying, "I'm excited about being here and the possibilities of new relationships, and working with faith communities who know LGBT people are children of God."

Unity Fellowship Church invites you to worship every Sunday at 10 a.m. in The Auditorium Theater Center, 875 E. Main St., Rochester, first floor, Prince St. entrance. All are welcome. *

(Families from page 1) services.

"Straight Talk about LGBTQ Lives: Working with LGBTQ Individuals and Families in Professional Settings" will take place on Friday, April 8. Attendees will leave with greater knowledge and understanding of their LGBTQ students/clients/patients/colleagues and a concrete set of best practices to implement in their offices and educational institutions.

The Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project (www.PrideAndJoyFamilies.org) was established in 2000 with a grant from the New York State Health Department. It is dedicated to helping LGBTQ people in upstate NY attain their goals of building and sustaining healthy families by providing support, advocacy, information, and access to community and sensitive healthcare and services.

To learn more about the Conference and Provider Training Day, including opportunities to lend your financial support, host an exhibit, suggest a Conference workshop, or volunteer, please visit www.PrideAndJoyFamilies.org or contact Claudia Stallman at lesgayfambldg@aol.com or 607-724-4308. In Rochester, connect with PRJF's Rochester Outreach Educator Mir Buchanan at 585-244-8640, ext. 37, or at mir@prideandjoy-families.org.

"LGBTQ families are defined as those with one or more lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender/queer members."

---

(Families from page 1) services.

"Straight Talk about LGBTQ Lives: Working with LGBTQ Individuals and Families in Professional Settings" will take place on Friday, April 8. Attendees will leave with greater knowledge and understanding of their LGBTQ students/clients/patients/colleagues and a concrete set of best practices to implement in their offices and educational institutions.

The Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project (www.PrideAndJoyFamilies.org) was established in 2000 with a grant from the New York State Health Department. It is dedicated to helping LGBTQ people in upstate NY attain their goals of building and sustaining healthy families by providing support, advocacy, information, and access to community and sensitive healthcare and services.

To learn more about the Conference and Provider Training Day, including opportunities to lend your financial support, host an exhibit, suggest a Conference workshop, or volunteer, please visit www.PrideAndJoyFamilies.org or contact Claudia Stallman at lesgayfambldg@aol.com or 607-724-4308. In Rochester, connect with PRJF's Rochester Outreach Educator Mir Buchanan at 585-244-8640, ext. 37, or at mir@prideandjoy-families.org.

"LGBTQ families are defined as those with one or more lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender/queer members."

---

(Marriage from page 1) Rochester/Marriage Equality New York. (MENY). Information: (585) 426-0862; atischer@frontiernet.net

On Jan. 15, Marriage Equality Advocate Training will take place from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Metro Justice Conference Room, 167 Flanders St. 14609, sponsored by Metro Justice and Equality Rochester/Marriage Equality New York. Lunch and snacks are included. Donations are welcome. The training is open to the public. Snowdate Jan. 22. Call or e-mail by Dec. 15 if you require an interpreter or special accommodations: (585) 426-0862; atischer@frontiernet.net; todd.plank@gmail.com; (585) 279-4198.

---

THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A community of faith where LGBT persons are welcomed as full partners in ministry
SUNDAY WORSHIP
9:00am Third Church chapel
11:15am Incarnate Word sanctuary
East Avenue at Goodmen
LGBT SUPPORT GROUP
7:30pm First & Third Mondays at New Life Presbyterian Church
243 Meigs Street (at East Avenue)
585.271.6513
www.thirdpresbyterian.org

---

Randyl G. Raetz, DDS
General Dentistry for the entire community including bleaching and cosmetics
WE ARE NOW IN OUR NEW OFFICE!!!
Come check out our new modern office, offering patients the benefits of digital x-rays, intraoral cameras, and flat screen t.v.s in a relaxing and enjoyable environment.

2297 South Clinton Avenue
Westfall Park Medical Center
Rochester, NY 14618
(585)473-1350
New Patients Welcome
Evening & Saturday appts. available
Check us out on the web at www.drrandydds.com
Call for an appointment today!!

---

THE BACHELOR FORUM
ROCHESTER'S OLDEST, NEWEST GAY BAR
ROCHESTER'S BIGGEST, GAYEST HAPPY HOUR 3 FOR 2 HAPPY HOUR 7 DAYS A WEEK
FOR EVENT INFORMATION CHECK OUT: WWW.BACHELOR4M.COM

670 UNIVERSITY AVENUE • ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14607 • 585-271-6930
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

(Pa. boy continued from page 5)

Which," she said, "they wrongly accused him of.

His death came just days after an antibullying event at the high school, which, according to district Superintendent Wesley Knapp, was not held in response to any specific problems at the school, but because it is an issue Principal Cynthia Hutchinsen has always strongly about. After the assembly according to student Briana Boyer in another letter to The Daily Item, "No one took it seriously and (everyone) joked around about it.

Former Mid-West student Erin Barnett sent a letter as well, saying that when students report bullying, "Nothing is done.

Bretter was reportedly a talented musician.

DADT repeal: will it pass or be stripped from bill?

Servicemembers United, the nation's largest organization of gay and lesbian troops and veterans, on Nov. 8 called on the Obama administration to publicly and consistently declare that the defense authorization bill, complete with the DADT repeal provision, is an administration priority for the post-election legislative session the week of Nov. 9.

"This is not a social thing. This is a national security issue of importance that continues to be round your election of me as bishop to the episcopal church whose manner of life presents a challenge to the wider church.

And amid Republican complaints over the completion of the Pentagon Working Group study on Dec. 1, instead, he rushed to judgment against the long-discredited mantra about 'unit cohesion,' making comments that he knew full well would become political ammunition.

Robinson to retire; cites years of death threats

Saying he is tired of the incessant death threats railing against him, New Hampshire's openly gay Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson will retire by 2013.

"The fact is, the last seven years have taken their toll on me, my family and my church.

Consequently, if passed, the Defense Authorization Act that would hope, the Senate reconvened for the post-election legislative session of Congress. Meanwhile, rumors abound of a deal that would strip DADT from the defense bill entirely.

"President Obama and his spokesmen have had several opportunities to publicly announce and consistently declare that the defense authorization bill, complete with the DADT repeal provision, is an administration priority for the post-election legislative session of Congress. Unfortunately, completing the defense authorization bill has not been included among those priorities," said Alexander Niebergall, president of Servicemembers United. "These omissions stand in stark contrast to what the President and his staff are saying elsewhere. Mr. President, either your administration is with us or it's against us, and a mediocre level of public advocacy from your White House is not standing with us.

Congress reconvened for the post-election legislative session the week of Nov. 15, and Servicemembers United has led a public education campaign around the nuanced requirements for getting the National Defense Authorization Act passed during this session. They said that the key to accomplishing this goal were 1) getting Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid to bring the bill back up under reason proper procedural conditions before the Senate's Thanksgiving recess, and 2) getting the White House to be publicly and heavily involved in efforts to see this happen during that period.

"We felt that the Senate was at the point of readiness to consider the National Defense Authorization Act, and that the presence of the President and his staff on the Hill would be crucial to making progress.

But Senator Joe Lieberman said in late November, "I am confident that we have more than 60 votes prepared to take up the Defense Authorization with the repeal of 'don't ask, don't tell' if only there will be a guarantee of a fair and open amendment process, in other words, whether we'll take enough time to do it.

"Time is an inexcusable reason not to get this done," he said. Republican Senators Susan Collins and Richard Lugar would vote for repeal.

Pentagon study leaked released Nov. 30

According to the Washington Post, a Pentagon study group has found that there would be minimal effect on the military should DADT be repealed. The Washington Post story confirmed a similar leaked report from the first week in November. The Pentagon decided to release the Comprehensive Working Group report a day earlier than planned, on Nov. 30.

"Moving the defense bill is also complex, especially if it includes controversial provisions, because it could take only weeks or longer on the Senate floor, and the coming session is expected to last only three or four weeks.

"Kerry Eleveld at The Advertiser on Nov. 7 posted the story, "DADT: Signs of Hope, Doom," describing the Pentagon's report as "a significant step forward" in ending the ban, which he said is "not a social issue, but a national security issue of importance that continues to be round your election of me as bishop to the episcopal church whose manner of life presents a challenge to the wider church.

"Levin is making calls under the premise we can't afford to waste time on a controversial provision, so we'll strip out the controversial provision and be able to get the bill on and off the Floor in the available amount of time," said the source, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

"The Pentagon's internal procedure; they defy the group's set of priorities," Sarvis said. "Any talk of using a constitutional amendment to end the ban is unacceptable and offensive.

"We're seeing a trend of bills that have been a constant strain, not just on me, but on my beloved husband, Mark, who visits me every minute of the last seven years."

"Levin is making calls under the premise we can't afford to waste time on a controversial provision, so we'll strip out the controversial provision and be able to get the bill on and off the Floor in the available amount of time," said the source, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

"The Pentagon's internal procedure; they defy the group's set of priorities," Sarvis said. "Any talk of using a constitutional amendment to end the ban is unacceptable and offensive.

"We're seeing a trend of bills that have been a constant strain, not just on me, but on my beloved husband, Mark, who visits me every minute of the last seven years."

"Robinson was openly gay when he was elected bishop in 2000, but it aroused such hatred that he was a bulletproof vest to his consecration. His ordination as bishop would have been a controversial provision, so we'll strip out the controversial provision and be able to get the bill on and off the Floor in the available amount of time," said the source, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

"We're seeing a trend of bills that have been a constant strain, not just on me, but on my beloved husband, Mark, who visits me every minute of the last seven years."

"Robinson was openly gay when he was elected bishop in 2000, but it aroused such hatred that he was a bulletproof vest to his consecration. His ordination as bishop would have been a controversial provision, so we'll strip out the controversial provision and be able to get the bill on and off the Floor in the available amount of time," said the source, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.
Vita Valentino wins Miss Gay Rochester title on Nov. 14 at Harro East

M.C. Aggy Dune celebrates her 20th anniversary, with pageant organizer Wayne Esposito (Liza). The fabulous Maya Douglas celebrated 30 years. Photos: Tony Correa

Vita Valentino, Miss Gay Rochester 2011.

Vita Valentino in the dance competition.

Anael Pleasures, first runner-up.

Chanelle Jacobs, Miss Gay New York State 2011.

help2grow

THE RIGHT ADVICE CAN HELP YOU PROSPER AS A COUPLE

Now, help from a one-on-one advocate who knows who you are and what you want to accomplish is more important than ever. We are proud to help educate the LGBT community on the financial issues that arise in domestic partnerships, civil unions and marriage. A Merrill Lynch Financial Advisor is an invaluable resource with access to the diverse resources of Bank of America to help you plan, build and imagine your future together.

Sam Mazzola
Financial Advisor

(585) 899-2708
Merrill Lynch
1241 Pittsford Victor Road
Pittsford, NY 14534
http://la.ml.com/sam.mazzola

Merrill Lynch Wealth Management
Bank of America Corporation

Investing involves risk. Diversification and rebalancing do not assure a profit or protect against loss in declining markets. Merrill Lynch Wealth Management makes available products and services offered by Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated (MLPF&S) and other subsidiaries of Bank of America Corporation. MLPF&S is a registered broker-dealer, member SIPC and a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of America Corporation. All rights reserved.

© 2010 Bank of America Corporation. All rights reserved.
2010 REVISITED
A look back at the year that was

APRIL: DAY OF SILENCE: Over 200 youth marked the Day of Silence, honoring LGBT youth lost to hate violence and suicide, with a rally at the Auditorium Center on April 16. Photo: Allegra Anka

JULY: PRIDE PARADE: The Pride Parade for 2010 included this award-winning float from Tilt. Photo: Ove Overmyer

FEBRUARY: PANDORA’S RACE: Pandora Boxx’s appearance on "RuPaul’s Drag Race" may have been one of the most under-covered stories of the year according to City newspaper. (The September Wedding March was another example.) Above: Pandora hosted a series of evenings at Tilt, which included viewing that night’s episode of "Drag Race". Photo: Laur McSpadden

MAY: PRIDE AGENDA SPRING DINNER: M.C. Ambrosia Salad heads for a tabletop at the dinner held at the Riverside Convention Center on May 22. Photo: Garnetta Ely

Spring Dinner guests. Photo: Garnetta Ely

Calling for Stories
Gay/Lesbian/Bi/Transgender

PARADOX productions is writing and producing a play about our lives!
By gathering stories locally and from around the country, we are anonymously documenting our successes and challenges.
From these heartfelt contributions, we will produce a play that once and for all tells it like it is!

Tell your life-story anonymously.
Let the world hear your sorrows, your joys, your fears and your triumphs!
Be a part of our effort.
Be a part of our story.
Be a part of normalizing our lives.

For full details
Contact PARADOX productions
paradoxproductionsmainstage@gmail.com
In the subject line, write "STORIES"

DISCLAIMER: Telling Your Story is not connected to, or associated with the G4LDA "Shoulders to Stand On" project. Our initiative is a completely independent project. If you have told your story to "Shoulders..." please strongly consider contributing to "Telling Your Story as a means of having your challenges and triumphs anonymously told by a character in play format." PARADOX productions

For over 30 years Jeremiah’s has been one of Rochester’s favorite neighborhood taverns.
We have great food, a friendly staff, reasonable prices, and a location that is central to everywhere!

1104 Monroe Avenue
Rochester, N.Y. 14620
(585) 461-1313
www.jeremiahsbar.com

Serving Rochester’s Best Wings
JULY: THE PRIDE FESTIVAL took place on July 17 after the Parade. Thousands enjoyed the music and fun. Photo: Garnetta Ely

AUGUST: PROP 8 FALLS: Rochestarians celebrated a victory on Aug. 4 when California’s Prop 8 was overturned. Photo: Ove Overmyer

SEPTEMBER: WEDDING MARCH: Rochester saw its first Wedding March on Sept. 26, organized by Marriage Equality New York (MENY) and Equality Rochester. Above: Harry Bronson and Anne Tischer at the Genesee Crossroads Park festival after the March. Photo: Ove Overmyer

A group of Wedding Marchers at the festival. 300 people took part in an event largely ignored by local media. Photo: Bess Watts

SANTA MULE SAYS: THE PERFECT GIFT AWAITS YOU AT CORN HILL FINE WINE & SPIRITS

CORN HILL
FINE WINE & SPIRITS
at Corn Hill Landing
260 Exchange Boulevard • Rochester • 585-232-5530
WINE TASTINGS EVERY FRIDAY!
Find us on facebook for announcements about other special events!
Call ahead to have your order waiting for you!
Mon-Sat: 10am-9pm • Sun: 12-6pm

You Desire To Have Your Marriage Blessed & Celebrated
Rev. Dennis C. Starno • revdennis@rochester.rr.com • 585-329-0995
Preparing, officiating, preparing and celebrating gay & straight marriages.
Two Spirit Society
gathers on Long Island
By Kelly Baumgartner, Two Spirit organizer

To October, the Northeast Two Spirit Society, which is made up of Native American LGBTQ folks from all over the Northeast, is at its first Two Spirit Gathering on Long Island. The Gathering was attended by 51 individuals from 15 different states. Forty-nine percent of those in attendance came from the Northeast, a full third from NY State. We were also joined by someone from Quebec, Canada. We had members come from over 13 different Native Nations, including Navajo, Jicarilla Apache, Eastern Band of Cherokee as well as the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. We had folks who are Cree, Lumanpe, Mohawk, Chickasaw, Yaqui, Mayan, Acre, Lakota, and a person from the Tsimshian Nation of Prince Rupert, British Columbia, just to list a few. We gather to share our cultures, eat, dance, sing, pray, and laugh. We gather to do strategic planning around issues such as mental health and health care in our Native communities, supporting our younger generations and networking about our roles in our communities, and our two spirit traditions. We honor our elders and make plans for taking care of them, as well as providing a venue for the wisdom of our elders to be passed on before it is lost to us over their deaths. We also gather to save lives. That is the primary reason for two spirit spirituality. It is said they created a new genre of Native American music and inspired the creation of other Native women's groups. Soni also performs at the American Indian Cultural Center, and at most Native American powwow weekend festivities. She has also performed at the National Indian Film Festival. We asked Creator for help. As our first Miss NE2SS, Miss Chyna was born. It was felt by the members of this gathering that this term best described the meanings behind the terms used in the many Native languages. The first evening in Long Island (Friday) we had our “No Talent Show” hosted by the newly crowned Miss Northeast 2011, Miss Chyna. It was a beautiful ceremony and we all left feeling restored and strengthened. We crowned our First Miss Northeast Eeo! Two Spirit, Miss Alida Jaden Chyna, who is Cherokee from Oklahoma, and a college student who is fluent in Cherokee and dedicated to keeping the language alive by becoming a Cherokee language educator. As our first Miss NE2SS, Miss Chyna will be marching along with the NE2SS in the 2011 New York City Parade. The Oklahoma group and the Denver group will also be in attendance to show support for Ms. Chyna. This means we can look forward to a large contingent of Two Spirit folks marching with us down the streets of NYC in traditional regalia! It will certainly be a sight to see. Wade Belvin, his mother and family drove from Oklahoma to provide the drum for us and grace us with their amazing voices. Wade also shared details of his Cherokee culture and traditions with us. Wade is currently an educator at Cherokee Nation schools in Tahlequah, Oklahoma at the special request of the Cherokee Principle Chief. We were honored to have Joey Cridlle (from Colorado) and Terra Hartwell (from New Mexico) as our two Lead Dancers. These are positions of great honor and these individuals were chosen because of the vital role they play in their communities at home, as well as in our national two spirit community. Saturday morning broke cold, windy and overcast, but many of us rose early to greet the day with the Sunrise Ceremony. The morning ceremony was led by our honored elders and medicine people, MaryLou Van Vooths from Colorado and Michael St. Clair from Kamoo. The ceremony included prayers for our LGBTQ family around the world who are suffering, as well as prayers for the health of the people of the world and the health of Our Mother the Earth. We asked Creator for the strength and means to fulfill our roles in our communities and to reach out to the young ones and old ones who need us. It was a beautiful ceremony and we all left feeling restored and strengthened. On Saturday we were graced with the words of the famous Elder Mohawk poet Maurice Kenny. Maurice still teaches at SUNY Potsdam, at the age of 81. Some of his many awards include a 2002 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Native Writers’ Circle of the Americas, and in 2000 the Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers awarded Maurice the Elder Recognition Award. His 1982 book of poems, “Blackrobe Isaac Jogues, B. March 11, 1607, D. October 18, 1646” was nominated for the Pulitizer Prize, as was “Between Two Rivers.” He is also the recipient of a National Public Radio Award for Broadcasting. Needless to say, we were quite honored that he was willing to share his beautiful words and deep wisdom with us. We were lucky to have other talented artists and activists in our midst as well. Ben Gehoe of NYC gave a beadwork workshop, showing two different styles of beadwork, that many of us attended. There was also a Social Wellness workshop given by the wellness educator and activist Mija from the Montana Two Spirit Society. Last but certainly not least, Soni Cabalero of Utah fame gave a musical workshop and also sang for us. Utah, founded in 1987, was the first Native American women’s a cappella group to create their own sound combining strong, traditional roots and personal contemporary styles. It is said they created a new genre of Native American music and inspired the creation of other Native women’s groups. Soni also works at the American Indian Community House in NYC. We look forward to our second annual gathering, which will be held on Columbus Day weekend 2011, Any Two Spirits out there interested in the gathering, the NE2SS, or the Rochester 2 Spirit Society, please call me at 585-328-1861. We intend to increase our attendance next year, and would like to double the number of attendees from NYS. Kelly Baumgartner is a Co-founder of the Rochester 2 Spirit Society, member of the Northeast 2 Spirit Society (NE2SS) and core committee member of the NE2SS Annual Gathering Planning Committee.
Celebrate Our LGBT 2010 Pride Heroes

By Evelyn Bailey

During the past year many members of the Rochester LGBT community who have made contributions to our ongoing struggle to be free and equal under the law that have moved us closer to that reality. By no means are the “shoulders” that follow all of the heroes of 2010. You have only to look in the mirror.

By definition a hero is a person who, in the opinion of others, has heroic qualities or has performed a heroic act and is regarded as a model or ideal, or a person noted for special achievement in a particular field. What makes the members of the LGBT community Rochester heroes? Quite simply it is as basic as getting up in the morning, living our lives as members of the LGBT community and sharing who we are with our world as honestly and openly as we can.

As I said, your name heads the list of the following LGBT 2010 Pride Heroes.

You

Rebecca Newberry and Deb Oppenheimer

On Jan. 12, the Empire State Pride Agenda sponsored its First Rochester STARS Awards volunteer recognition event, honoring Rebecca Newberry, former CampuSCheerleader and transgender activist Deborah Oppenheimer.

“My goals for my life,” Rebecca states, “are rooted in the values that my mother instilled in me: dedication, passion and selflessness.” She is currently serving as the Development Director at Buffalo First, a grassroots non-profit dedicated to economic justice, localization and green and responsible communities.

Honored for her exemplary role as a community organizer, Deb Oppenheimer has persisted in her efforts for more than seven years, to help pass important legislation, including the Gender Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA), the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) and a marriage equality bill. Deb has also been a strong advocate in the workplace.

Erik Libby

Erik and Jason, Erik’s training partner, were the Top Fundraisers for AIDS Walk 2010. For the past four years, Erik has organized a weekly health observance for LGBT Health Month. Erik said, “We wanted to do it bigger and better and this year we decided to do a full month.” Erik Libby of AIDS Care helped the events and information presented during LGBT Health Month would make LGBT people in the Rochester area healthier, and even happier, by April.

Anne Tischer and Bess Watts

Anne and Bess have been involved as Marriage Ambassadors with the Pride Agenda, and their energy and enthusiasm have inspired those around them. Both are indefatigable activists who have elevated public awareness of injustices faced by people of color, the impoverished, and local laborers without fair representation, who are not LGBT.

Anne and Bess were publicly married in Rochester’s Washington Square Park on March 31, the day before the Rev. Jim Molloy of Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church, after being the first same-sex couple to apply for (and be denied) a marri­riage license at Rochester City Hall. Anne is the District Coordinator with Marriage Equality New York, and Deb Phillips is a Board Member of the Rochester-Finger Lakes Chapter of Pride at Work, a constituency group of the AFL-CIO, and a member of the MCC Diversity Council.

The Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson

New Hampshire Bishop The Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson is the first “homo­sexually married” bishop in the Episcopal Church — spoke in Rochester on April 20, 2010. Bishop Robinson, who will retire in 2013, said that we need to retframe how we think about the problem that exists.

“When you combine power and prejudice, you get an ‘ism.’ It is time to talk about the power of ‘ism,’ and to acknowledge in how we speak about the problem that power is a component. How much power do heterosexuals have and the system is set up to favor heterosexuals. Legal change is just a start.”

Emily Jones

Emily, recipient of the 2010 Empire State Pride Agenda’s Community Service Award, was a member of the founding steering committee that launched the GLBT Network at Kodak in 1972. In 1995, with Kathryn Rivers she co-chaired the First Educational Event for Senior Management on LGBT issues.

Emily is Past-President of the Board of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, is a member of the Finger Lakes LGBT Workplace Alliance, Steering Committee, and a board member of the Rochester Chapter of GLBT. On March 30, 2010, she was part of a 300-member delegation of HRC lobbyists from around the country that went to Washington Hill in protest for major bills relating to LGBT rights.

“I found the whole experience exhilarating,” she said, “It was so much all around Capitol Hill. I was so impressed with the competence of the people in the NIH delegation, and all 300 lobbyists, and also with how well prepared each legislator’s office was for our people. It was a really empowering experience. I don’t think I will ever come back and talk a lot about these things, but I’ve been telling everyone about this.”

Lil’Dan Choi

Dan became an LGBT rights activist following his coming out on The Rachel Maddow Show on March 31, 2007 and has been publicly challenging America’s Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell policy, which forbids lesbian, gay (LGB), and bisexual military members from serving openly. On July 15, 2010, Don’t Ask Don’t Tell was ruled unconstitutional. Although due to stays on the court ruling obstacles in Congress, it may be some time before the stipulation is truly overruled.

In response to the ruling, Dan Choi said, “I commend Judge Phillips, Alex Nogos, the American service­camps for their firm stance in defense of the First Amendment and their unwavering commitment to upholding the rights of President Obama and Senator Reid do the same, as our moral obligations compel us to do. We stand in defense and protection of whatever it is that exists.”

Constance McMillan

Constance was one of the grand mar­shals for the 41st annual Manhattan LGBT Pride March, this past June. Con­stance, an 18-year-old Mississippi high school senior honors student, fought back when her school told her she couldn’t take her girlfriend to the prom. A film on her story is now in the works.

Sage Johnson and Jamie Barnes

On June 30, 2010, Sage Johnson was awarded the Vinny Cup for his extraor­dinary service to the community as Asst­ant Volunteer Coordinator for the 2009 and 2010 Pride Week celebrations. Sage organized countless committee meetings throughout the year for the Gay Alliance Speakers Bureau, and as a gay rights advocate at his workplace.

The Vicki Cup was awarded to Pam Barnes, an active member of the Rochester LGBT community since 1994. Pam has served on the Boards of Lambda Lodka and the QAGV, and was Gay Alliance Inoretin ID in 2003. A former leader of the Rochester Transgender Group, she founded Basically Treblemakers band, now Flower City Pride Band. Gay and Tim, who moved to Texas in 2009, stated that they were honored and proud that the (Celebrate continues page 14)

Highlights of 2010 LGBTIQ Community successes

February - The United States Tax Court confirmed in O’Donnabhain v. Commis­sioner that taxpayers may deduct the medical costs associated with treating gender identity disorder from their federal income taxes.

March - Marriage licenses became available in Massachusetts.

April - The Rochester LGBT community launched the Vicki Cup, an award to honor an active member of the Rochester LGBT community.

May - Marriage licenses were made available in Michigan.

June - United States President Barack Obama issues a memorandum ordering federal agencies and departments to extend spousal benefits to same-sex couples in the extent permitted by the Defense of Marriage Act.

July - Same-sex marriage in Iceland is legalized and Prime Minister Johanna Sigurdardottir and her partner, Jonina Lodisveitir, are among the first to make use of the law.

July - United States district court judge Joseph L. Taylor ruled in two cases that section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act is unconstitutional. In Commonwealth of Massachusetts v. United States Department of Health and Human Services Taylor said that the definition of marriage enacted by Congress for federal purposes violates the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and “encompasses upon the firmly entrenched right of the states, to determine the treatment of same-sex couples with Massachusetts marriage licenses differently than others. In Gill v. Office of Personnel Management brought by Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defend­ants, he said the law violates the equal pro­tection of the laws guaranteed by the Due Process Clause and the Equal Protection Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Log Cabin Republicans v. United States Department of Labor.

The suit, brought by an LGBT Republi­can organization, challenges the constitu­tionality of the Defense of Marriage Act’s “Defense Clause” and the Equal Protection Clause of the United States Constitution. He ruled that there is no rational basis for singling out homosexual couples for denial of marital benefits.

September - But of course, in the United States District Court for the Central District of California ruled in Log Cabin Republicans v. United States of America that the “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy of the Defense Clause and the Equal Protection Amendment to the United States Constitution. An appeals court issued a temporary stay pending further appeal.

New York Governor David Paterson signs a bill into law allowing unmarried couples, including same-sex couples, to adopt children. The new law also replaces the term “husband and wife” with the gender-neutral “married couple.”

A Washington judges ruled on remand, in Witt v. Department of the Air Force, that Major Margaret Witt, discharged under the “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy, must be rein­stated in the Air Force.
Alliance asked them to be Grand Marshals for the 2010 Living History Pride Celebration. Shoulders to Stand On recognizes with deep appreciation the contribution to the LGBT community that these men and women have made to advance the cause of Gay Rights in 2010. Each and every one of us has a part to play in our ongoing struggle for Gay Rights. No part is more or less important than any other. Collectively our shoulders are the foundation for our future successes. We are all heroes! Be PROUD!

Wanted: Documentation Project Archival Consultant

Position: Independent Contractor position to oversee the planning, implementation, and completion of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Community of Rochester Documentation Project.

Qualifications: Candidates must demonstrate knowledge, skills, and ability to perform the tasks listed below through a combination of education, experience, and self-starter, must have the skills to provide leadership and direct supervision to the interns. Responsible for Preparation of the Final Report to be submitted by the GAGV to the State Archives. Supervision and direction to the consultant will be given by Project Co-Directors. Preference given to candidates who hold a Certified Archivist or Certified Records Manager designation or who have demonstrated training and experience in archival practices. Candidates with a Masters in Public History, Political Science, Social Sciences, and Library/Information Science with specialization in Archival Studies are encouraged to apply. Retired archivists, librarians, and records managers are welcome to apply.

Job Description: Continuation of Phase II tasks: Obtain basic contact information for groups and individuals if none exists or is previously identified; follow guidelines and procedures for participation in the Project, for future collecting activities, for record keeping for this project, for internal and external utilization of records of the identified organizations, groups and individuals present information on the project at introductory and follow up meetings; supervise, evaluate, and oversee the work of the interns for their respective schools. Phase II tasks: Survey the records using archival standards and best practices according to the principal of provenance and the principle of original order, respect des fonds; describe a minimum of three - five identified collections using the standard archival MARC format.

Identify several possible repositories for collections of records with clear guidelines for care, custody, control, and access of the collections. Developing a Finding Aid and Access Guide to the Rochester GLBT historical records using archival standards and best practices. Draft the final report on the project work plan and accomplishments, and a Summary of the Evaluations by stakeholders. Other duties as assigned in the furthestance of the project.

Send cover letter, resume and references to: Dr. John Noble, Ph. D., Certified Archivist, c/o Sue Cowell, ED, Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, 875 East Ave., Suite 500, Rochester, NY. 14607. Email: sue@gagvus. Deadline: Dec. 15, 2010.

Documentation Project Intern Position is open

Position: Volunteer position to assist and provide administrative/secretarial support to Archival consultant and Project Co-Directors.

Qualifications: Graduate/undergraduate students in History, Political Science, Social Sciences and/or Information Management with library and/or archival training and experience, with knowledge of non-governmental organizations, organizational and/or institutional structure, local history, data warehousing and data management skills. Candidates should be familiar with the GLBT community, be able to work independently, and will need to be responsible for their own transportation. Parking will be provided.

Retirees are welcome to apply.

Job Description: Under the direction of the Archival Consultant assist identified organization, groups, and individuals with filling out the Survey Instrument, in the survey of the records, and in writing the descriptions of the records. Assist Archival Consultant in creating the archival descriptive records in MARC format, in developing a Finding Aid for records not included in GLBT related repositories, in developing a Finding Aid and Access Guide for the surveyed records, and in preparing the final report on the project. Prepare materials for meetings. Create forms for each organization, agency, group and individual under the direction of the archival consultant to keep track of record and contact information. Assist identified organization, agencies, groups and individuals with pre- liminary identification and description of the records.

Send cover letter, resume and references to: Dr. John Noble, Ph. D., Certified Archivist c/o Sue Cowell, ED, Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, 875 East Ave., Suite 500, Rochester, NY. 14607. Email: sue@gagvus. Deadline Dec. 15, 2010.

Spyer's estate. Because they were married, Windsor and Spyer were considered married by their home state of New York. Spyer died in 2005. Due to DOMA's discriminatory policies, Windsor was not able to claim the estate tax marital deduction that is available when the surviving spouse is of the opposite sex. In her lawsuit, Windsor is seeking to have DOMA declared unconstitutional and to obtain a refund of the federal estate tax that she was forced to pay following Spyer's death. The lawsuit will be filed with the assistance of the American Civil Liberties Union, the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP and the New York Civil Liberties Union.

"After the New York high court declared DOMA's definition of marriage in the federal constitution to be unconstitutional on Aug. 14, 2013, Windsor was able to finally have the chance to spend our last years together as a legally married couple," said Windsor. "It meant so much to us that our commitment to each other had finally been recognized.

Windsor was the sole beneficiary of Spyer's estate. Spyer's estate normally would have passed to her spouse without any tax. But because DOMA refuses to recognize otherwise valid marriages of same-sex couples, Spyer's estate had to pay more than $350,000 in federal estate taxes. Earlier this year, Windsor requested a full refund from the government. The IRS rejected that claim.

Pleasant Street Apothecary has just what you're looking for...

Friendly, Personalized Service from the Experts!

Locally-owned and operated

24-Hour phone or online prescription ordering

Confidential delivery service and free parking

LGBT Friendly

Most insurances accepted

259 Monroe Avenue in Rochester

585-241-9000 or 800-923-9394
Fax: 585-454-2017
pleasantsreetrx.com

Highland Contractors is a local business located off of Monroe Street that offers quality, always returns phone calls, offers fair and competitive pricing, is fully insured and is a member of the Better Business Bureau. Please call us for your free estimate on the following:

New Roofs-Roof Repairs • Siding Painting (Interior and Exterior) Windows

Check out our website www.highlandcontractors.net

585.507.3658
phil@highlandcontractors.net

ROOFS SIDING WINDOWS PAINTING
Edie and Theo were together for 44 years, the last two of which they were "lucky enough to spend as a married couple," said James Esco, Director of the ACLU Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Project. "All Edie is seeking is the same treatment for her marriage that the federal government appropriately recognizes for married straight couples. It is completely unfair for the federal government to pretend that Edie and Theo were strangers, and to tax them that way."

In the lawsuit, Windsor alleges that DOMA violates the equal protection guarantee of the U.S. Constitution because it recognizes marriages of heterosexual couples, but not of same-sex couples, despite the fact that New York State treats all marriages the same.

"If they were 'Theo' instead of 'Thea,' then Edie, as 'Thea's spouse, would have inherited 'Thea's estate tax-free," said Roberta Kaplan of Paul, Weiss. 'Edie and Thea were denied equal treatment, and it is obviously unjust that there should be a tax simply for being gay.'

Second lawsuit hits DOMA

Another lawsuit raising the same legal challenge to DOMA was filed Nov. 10 in federal court in Hartford, Ct. Brought by Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), that case includes five married couples and one widower from three states who are harmed by denial of health care coverage and social security benefits. Today, the New York Times reports: "Joanne Pedersen will attack her spouse to her federal health insurance on Monday. The New York Times reports: "Joanne Pedersen was married to Thea Pedersen until her death in 1996. Pedersen, a top executive at the Human Rights Fund, has also been in a relationship with Roberta Weiss, a top aide to President Obama. In the lawsuit, Windsor alleges that DOMA violates the equal protection guarantee of the U.S. Constitution because it recognizes marriages of heterosexual couples, but not of same-sex couples, despite the fact that New York State treats all marriages the same. In the lawsuit, Windsor alleges that DOMA violates the equal protection guarantee of the U.S. Constitution because it recognizes marriages of heterosexual couples, but not of same-sex couples, despite the fact that New York State treats all marriages the same. Earlier this year, GLAD won a similar suit in Massachusetts in a ruling that the Obama administration is appealing.

The New York Times reports: "Joanne Pedersen was married to Thea Pedersen until her death in 1996. Pedersen, a top executive at the Human Rights Fund, has also been in a relationship with Roberta Weiss, a top aide to President Obama. In the lawsuit, Windsor alleges that DOMA violates the equal protection guarantee of the U.S. Constitution because it recognizes marriages of heterosexual couples, but not of same-sex couples, despite the fact that New York State treats all marriages the same.

Another lawsuit raising the same legal challenge to DOMA was filed Nov. 10 in federal court in Hartford, Ct. Brought by Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), that case includes five married couples and one widower from three states who are harmed by denial of health care coverage and social security benefits. Today, the New York Times reports: "Joanne Pedersen will attack her spouse to her federal health insurance on Monday. The New York Times reports: "Joanne Pedersen was married to Thea Pedersen until her death in 1996. Pedersen, a top executive at the Human Rights Fund, has also been in a relationship with Roberta Weiss, a top aide to President Obama. In the lawsuit, Windsor alleges that DOMA violates the equal protection guarantee of the U.S. Constitution because it recognizes marriages of heterosexual couples, but not of same-sex couples, despite the fact that New York State treats all marriages the same.

Earlier this year, GLAD won a similar suit in Massachusetts in a ruling that the Obama administration is appealing. The New York Times reports: "Joanne Pedersen will attack her spouse to her federal health insurance on Monday.

A coalition of Arab and African nations succeeded in delaying a reference to sexual orientation in a United Nations resolution condemning "extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions." An amendment calling for the deletion was introduced by Morocco and Mali and passed by a vote of 79-70.

The U.S. delegation voted against the deletion but abstained from the vote on the final resolution and also voted dis­appointment at the decision. The resolution, which will soon be formally adopted by the General Assembly, specifies many other types of violence, including racial, religious and ethnic-based hatred. "It's a step backwards and it's extremely disappointing that some countries felt the need to remove the reference to sexual orientation, when sexual orientation is the very reason why so many people around the world have been subjected to violence," said Philippe Bolopion of Human Rights Watch.
Kidney and Liver Transplantation in People with HIV

By Christopher Taylor Barry, MD, FACS; Associate Professor, University of Rochester Department of Surgery, Division of Solid Organ Transplant and Hepato-Biliary Surgery

Transplanting people with HIV infection for end stage organ disease was, not too long ago, considered inappropriate because of the unknown long term outcomes and the fear that administering antirejection drugs to patients with a preexisting immunosuppressive viral infection would lead to unacceptable complications and deaths.

Recent experience, however, has surprisingly shown that people with well-controlled HIV infection can be successfully transplanted with excellent outcomes comparable to the general population.

The reasons for this success are threefold. First, combinations of medicines to manage HIV infection, termed HAART (Highly Active Anti Retroviral Therapy), are so effective that most people with HIV can live relatively normal lives with undetectable viral replication in their blood, robust immune systems (as measured by normal CD4 T cell counts), and freedom from progression to AIDS. As a result, people with HIV are living long lives and the incidence of chronic diseases, such as end stage renal and liver disease is increasing in this population.

Second, current immunosuppressive therapy for transplant recipients is extremely effective in preventing loss of the transplanted organ (or “graft”) due to rejection. Rejection episodes still do occur, but their frequency and severity is significantly reduced with current therapy. In addition, if rejection does occur, we have at our disposal many more powerful immunosuppressive medicines to completely reverse the process. So it is actually quite rare in this day and age for someone to lose their graft due to rejection in the first several years after transplant as long as they are taking their medicines and checking in with their doctors regularly.

Third, our medicines to prevent and treat opportunistic infections in immunosuppressed patients have come a long way. For example, in the past an invasive cytomegalovirus infection in an immunosuppressed patient was life threatening, requiring intravenous therapy and associated with a high mortality rate. Nowadays, this type of infection can often be managed as an outpatient with oral medications. This vast improvement in opportunistic infection prevention and treatment has greatly benefited both the transplant and HIV populations.

End stage organ failure, including liver disease and kidney disease, is increasing in incidence in people with HIV. Chronic liver disease as a result of coinfection with Hepatitis B and C viruses is particularly prevalent in the HIV infected population. Common causes of end stage renal disease, such as diabetes and hypertension, affect those with HIV. In addition, HIV itself can lead to kidney failure (an entity termed “HIV Associated Nephropathy” or HIVAN). HIVAN is the most common cause of renal failure among people with HIV as well as the third most common cause of end stage renal disease in African Americans between the ages of 20-50 years.

Before back HAART was available, the experience with transplanting people with HIV was dismal. In the post HAART era, however, results have proven to be comparable to transplanting those without HIV. A pilot study performed at the University of California San Francisco beginning in 2002 showed that one year patient and graft survival in liver and kidney transplant recipients with well controlled HIV was not statistically different than results in patients without HIV. “Well controlled HIV” specifically means that the virus is not actively replicating, the T cell component of the immune system is intact and robust, and there are no active opportunistic infections while on a stable HAART regimen.

The promising results of the UCSF study led to a larger multicenter study and now, as of this study will soon be published in the medical literature. Preliminary communications by the investigators confirm similar overall results with the pilot study. So it appears that kidney and liver transplantation in people with HIV is not any more problematic than transplantation in the general population.

There are some challenges with this endeavor, however. First, acute rejection episodes are higher in kidney transplant recipients with HIV. Rates were reported as high as 70 percent in the UCSF study and 40 percent in the larger multicenter trial, compared to expected rates of 15-20 percent in the general population. Fortunately, these rejection episodes were most often reversible with stronger immunosuppressive therapies. The reason for these observed increased rejection rates is unclear, but may be a result of lower overall antirejection drug levels due to interaction with certain HAART drugs. It is quite surprising that patients with a supposedly immunosuppressive viral infection are able to mount such strong immune responses to the transplanted organ.

A second problem, alluded to above, is that of drug-drug interactions. Specifically, the “protease inhibitor” antirejection drugs tacrolimus and cyclosporine are significantly affected by the “protease inhibitor” HAART drugs such as Kaletra. When these two classes of medicines are used together, the dose of calcineurin inhibitor needs to be drastically reduced and the dosage frequency greatly curtailed in order to achieve proper blood levels. Such interactions may result in overall lower antirejection blood levels and contribute to the higher rejection rates observed in HIV positive kidney transplant recipients. Fortunately, newer HAART medicines are now available, specifically the “integrase inhibitor” class of drugs, that do not...
Virus (HCV) and HIV results in poorer function, limiting their use in the post-transplant setting. Moreover, patients are often not compliant with their medications, which further limits their use in the transplant population. Two new anti-HCV medicines, both of the protease inhibitor class, will be commercially available very soon (i.e., less than six months) and preliminary data show promise for efficacy in the general transplant population.

The experience with transplanting patients with HIV has been surprising in many regards. Perhaps most interesting is that administering antirejection drugs aimed at T cells does not result in reactivation of HIV. This observation nec-

Finally, transplant recipients with HIV are even able to mount an immune response to grafts, let alone significant graft-versus-host reactions as well as associated opportunistic infections.

Importantly, these findings in people with HIV include increasing our experience with integrase inhibitors to minimize drug-drug interactions, beginning to study anti-HCV protease inhibitors in the HCV/HIV coinfected population, concentrating on the use of lenalidomide as a positive transplant recipient, and using the HCV positive transplant experience to inform basic virologic and immunologic studies of the virus in a non-human population. Given the opportunity, these medicines are poorly tolerated in patients with impaired liver function, limiting their use in the post-transplant setting. Furthermore, there is little published on the transplant experience of patients with HCC or HBV.

immunosuppressive drugs.

Another surprise is that transplantation in people with well controlled HIV results in similar outcomes to those seen in other indications as well as associated opportunistic infections.

Finally, that transplant recipients with HIV are even able to mount an immune response to grafts, let alone significant graft-versus-host reactions as well as associated opportunistic infections.

The workshop will be held on Sunday, Dec. 15, at Metro Justice, 167 Flanders St., from 9:30-2:30. RSPVs are requested in order to provide lunch and snacks for everyone. Donations of $10 will be gratefully accepted to help defray costs however, this event is free and open to the public. Snowdate is Jan. 22.

The lunch and advocacy training is intended to bring folks up to speed with what's happening in the NYS legislature, reflect on the increasingly favorable climate among the general public toward gays and lesbians New Yorkers, and to revitalize and strengthen our activism for the heavy lift ahead of us.

This is also an opportunity for us to expand our definition of community and recognize that there are many populations who are often rendered invisible within the LGBT community because of issues of class and race. Now is the time to break down barriers by developing creative ways of connecting and fostering a movement that is inclusive of everyone and representative of the diversity that exists in our cities, counties, and states.

In many respects securing our rights is a numbers game. As is the case in many elections, whoever has the most active supporters wins. Supporting the rights of all New Yorkers is critical to our vision for an equitable and just future for all of New York. Join us and let's get our communities ready to support the heavy lifts ahead of us.

Thank you for being part of this great movement toward true equality for all New Yorkers.
RAINBOW SAGE DANCE: Suzanne Barres and Tony Perri at the Fall Dance on Nov. 6.

**PARTY NIGHT:** On Nov. 6, dinner guests donned their best attire to attend Night of 1,000 Parties, a major fundraiser for AIDS Care, the region’s premiere healthcare agency treating people living with or affected by HIV or AIDS. Diners experienced the best offerings from the finest caterers and chefs in town. Pictured are Tim Tompkins, owner of ONE Restaurant (center), who is flanked by famed violinist Svet Radoslavof (left) and AIDS Care President Jay Rudman. ONE Restaurant hosted over 50 special dinner guests for Night of 1,000 Parties. Photos: Ove Overmyer

Marilyn Mitchell and Paul Mykins at the dance. Photos: Susan Jordan

Left to right: Jim Wolk, Dr. Cynthia Reddeck-LiDestri and Dr. Bill Valenti at the LiDestri home.

Gay Alliance staff members with Ken Moran at Jeremiah's on Oct. 26.

Diane Cheviron and Lisa Bunce at the Park Ave. Pub, one of the Dine Out participants.


Joanne Gaines, Andrea Shaughnessy, Sue Cowell and Scott Poaring at Winfield Grill. The funds raised at Dine Out will benefit Gay Alliance programs such as the Youth Center. The Alliance thanks all the businesses that took part and everyone who enjoyed a delicious meal that day!


Left to right: LiDestri dinner guests Trent Marshall, David Gardner and Tom Privitere make their way over to Mamooche Bistro for live and silent auctions, coffee, pastries, cash bar and a performance by the Big Wigs (Kasha Davis and Aggy Dune).

WROC-TV Channel 8 news reporter Matt Molloy shines as Master of Ceremonies at the Night of 1,000 Parties after-dinner gathering at Mamooche Bistro, on the corner of East Ave. and Alexander St.

Peter Gines at Jine's.

Gus Hall and Lew Gizzie at the Bachelor Forum. Many thanks to them and owner Peter Mohr.
Halloween and the City
Photos by Eric Beilman

MICHAEL'S BIRTHDAY PARTIES: Left: Walter Bukowski and Michael Gamilla in full vintage regalia at one of Michael's Rochester birthday parties over Halloween weekend. Right: Michael again. Photos: Brent Loomis

Above and below: A Toronto Halloween Party on Church Street served as Michael's third party. Photos: J Deschamps
Until gay rights become fully realized, you need more than a gold band to symbolize your union. You need to figure out a smart financial future for you and your domestic partner. From insurance to retirement and all that lies between, we can help you protect what matters most—the future of your loved one.

Make your union more than a symbol. We can help you put together a solid financial strategy and create a lasting connection.

Equal-Grounds
750 South Avenue, Rochester
Coffee House
Wishes You & Your Family
Happy Holidays!
Rochester's Gay Coffee House
Proudly Serving The LGBTI Community Since 2006!
Where Gay Is Good!
- fair trade coffees and teas
- beans and teas by the pound
- artwork
- jewelry
- clothing
- books
- stickers and buttons

M-F 7AM-Midnight / Sat-Sun 10AM-Midnight
Friend Us On Facebook!
www.equalgrounds.com
RGMC, RWCC plan holiday concerts

Holiday traditions in Rochester’s LGBT community have long included concerts by the Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus and the Rochester Women’s Community Chorus — both are right up there with stuffing the stockings and the turkey and decking the halls.

This year, the Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus will present their holiday concerts, “The Christmas Experience” on Dec. 3 and Dec. 4 at 8 p.m. at the Hochstein Performance Hall, 50 N. Plymouth Ave. For full information, go to www.rgmc.org.

On Dec. 11, the Rochester Women’s Community Chorus concert, “Tis the Season,” will take place at 7:30 p.m. at Hochstein. Tickets are $12/adult, $10/students/seniors, $7 children 12 and under and are available at Equal-Grounds, Parkleigh, and from Chorus members. Information: 254-4441; www.rwcc.org.

JCC stages “Lesbian Jewish Wiccan Wedding”

JCC CenterStage will present the new musical, “My Mother’s Lesbian Jewish Wiccan Wedding,” Dec. 4-19 at the Jewish Community Center, 1200 Edgewood Ave.

“My Mother’s Lesbian Jewish Wiccan Wedding” is the outrageous, true story of an adult woman’s journey of self-discovery and the son who runs her life into a hit musical.

The musical is written by singer-songwriter David Hein and his wife Irene Bankoff in tribute to David’s real life mother.

The authors are coming to Rochester to play themselves in the show along side a Rochester cast of eight.

Set in Canada, where gay marriage has been legal since 2005, the musical explores the life of a divorced woman (Rochester actress Jodi Beckwith) with whom she ultimately falls in love.

The show is a rare opportunity for Rochester actors to work directly with writers during the development process for (JCC stages continues page 4)

The cast of “My Mother’s Lesbian Jewish Wiccan Wedding”.

By Susan Jordan

Jack Haldoupis, artistic director of Blackfriars Theatre, has spent over 30 years honing his skills as director, producer and designer, and in the process has created a successful, professional non-profit theatre. The new Blackfriars Theatre at 795 E. Main St., now in its second season, is a testimony to his efforts over the years and to the efforts of innumerable volunteer actors, stage crew, costume designers, carpenters, lighting designers, sound technicians, etc.

Blackfriars is now in its 65th year. The December shows are “Shakespeare in Hollywood” (running until Dec. 12) and “The Santaland Diaries” by David Sedaris, from Dec. 12-23 and starring David Jason Kyle.

“I Love You Phillip Morris opens at Little

The Little Theatre will bring the acclaimed film “I Love You Phillip Morris” to Rochester beginning Friday, Dec. 24. The fact-based film stars Jim Carrey as a married con man who falls in love with his cellmate — Ewan McGregor and Jim Carrey.

I Love You Phillip Morris opens at Little


Philip Morris opens at 1200 Edge­wood Ave. For his 50th birthday party on Friday, Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m. I am also excited to be able to (Somerville continues page 17)

By Susan Jordan

Mary Callanan is one of the stars of “Mamma Mia” playing at the Auditorium Theatre Dec. 10-12. Abba fans take heed!

Mary, a Boston native, spoke recently with The Empty Closet about her volunteerism and her delight at heading home for the holidays on a break from a year-long tour.

Mary Callanan: I feel VERY important to do benefit performances. (Callanan continues page 4)

The Empty Closet celebrates birthday at Equal=Grounds

Equal-Grounds Coffee Shop, 750 South Ave., will host “Fifty,” an exhibit of Tom Somerville’s art, for his 50th birthday party Friday, Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m.

I am also excited to be able to (Somerville continues page 17)
**Dining**

**Well, La Tea Dah!**

*By Merle Exit*

Esther, Eunice and I found this most darling place to have lunch. It's called La-Tea-Da!, located at 258 Alexander St. at Park Ave., in an old purple-painted Victorian home. This tearoom/pavilion is owned by Maureen Becker, whose title is "Lady of the House." It appears that if you are going to have an extraordinary high tea you might as well play the part. Various old hats are provided to set that Victorian mood. However, it's the young girls who get the whole "dress up" experience, with dresses, boats, hats, etc. Now to say, children's tea parties are one of Maureen's mainstays. Play date for moms brings them and their daughters for lunch and tea.

That's not to say that grown-ups, including some men, don't flock to La-Tea-Da! for a fabulous afternoon, where one should expect to spend at least a few hours enjoying both the teas and delicious menu of foods. Waitstaff are referred to as "Nippies." Your table is set with a large teapot as the centerpiece and you are equipped with a bell to ring when you require the assistance of a Nippy.

Maureen purchases the loose teas and bags most of them. I think that it makes it easier to clean out the pot. Black English, White, Green, Herbals and an entire category dedicated to Rooibos, my favorite. This is a "tea" that derives from a honey bush and usually comes from South Africa. I had the pleasure of sampling the Rooibos' "tea" of Belgian Chocolates, Red Mango, White Palace Marzipan, and Orange Flare. As for the food, what could be richer or tastier than Blueberry Soup? Hey, that's even more antioxidants! Add a sampling of salads and a crescent of turkey, cranberry and gouda. Yummy!

When it comes to desserts, a scene with Devonshire Cream (her most delicious version) and jam is the one that stands out and goes with the tea experience. It is not your ordinary scene. Maureen has created a more warm and moist recipe that looks and tastes as if a slice of biscuity cake is being served.

La-Tea-Da! has a veranda option for summer dining outdoors with a view of a lovely garden below. As for Esther and Eunice, they commented, "Every time a bell rings, an angel gets its tea."!

---

**Travel**

**Santa Catalina, The Island Of... Fun**

*By Merle Exit*

Southern California has a few fabulous vacation spots between San Diego and Los Angeles that include Long Beach, Irvine and Catalina Island. I had heard so much about this romantic destination and I could understand the reputation. Romance may be one aspect, just plain fun and adventure is another.

Esther, Eunice and I were transported via Long Beach on the Catalina Express, a "fast ferry," about an hour or so trip. I was on the "Jet Cat" which offered the entrance to the botanical gardens and some animals (deer and quail). We checked into Villa Portofino Hotel, situated on the waterfront. The Portofino Suite had sliding French doors that opened on the panorama of Avalon Bay and Casino. It featured a living area with a gas fireplace, double sofa bed and a "sumptuous" bath with a large soaking tub, and glass enclosed shower finished with Spanish marble.

The room also included a refrigerator (which I didn't need to use), cable television and internet access as well. In fact, I did my radio show later that night.

An Italian restaurant with an outdoor cafe was underneath my room. I could see the outdoor cafe from the French doors as well as hearing the romantic Italian music. It was totally reminiscent of my experience of the Amalfi Coast. The next morning, we were taken by car to Avalon on a golf cart. It's more common for residents to own a golf cart than a car. In fact, there is a waiting list of more than five years to own a car and you do need a driver's license to operate the golf cart.

As we drove, we were able to get some great photos of the area including: the entrance to the botanical gardens and some animals (deer and quail). We went up from the group as if to say, "I'm a dolphin, too. Look at me. Forget that I don't have a fin."

The Catalina Express back to Long Beach didn't experience as rough waters. After two hours, it took me quite awhile to view many pods of dolphins. Every once in a while a sea lion would be jumping up from the group as if to say, "I'm a dolphin, too. Look at me. Forget that I don't have a fin."

The Catalina Express back to Long Beach didn't experience as rough waters.

---

Ladies of La Tea Dah! Photo: Merle Exit

---
Gender Outlaws
By Laura McSpudden

This book is a collection of essays, poems, prose poems, and manifestos that present the diversity of perspectives on trans people from around the world. If you are interested in the history and use of the word "transgender," this is an essay about the lessons that come from being a transman in a corporate setting, while together they gently suggest aspects of gendered expression and identity that we all must come to understand. "It's not a Blackfriars musical unless there are hordes of people doing trade shows and didn't want our scenography and props, which were grown up and shared. I had started to do very elaborate productions and we kind of took off."

The multiplicity of perspectives in the essays, as well as the breadth of their emotional range, does better at revealing the beauty, value, power, and potential of the trans community than any other book I've previously read. I do, of course, have a few favorites from the book. "I am a vessel for anomaly" by Simon iris is a prose poem that employs "penis-preserving" techniques. The first few lines are "I've never had an erection, but it is a very strong desire."

In this essay, she writes, "I'm not living in an essay topic. It is not a theory. It is a perspective. We must do it with intention, only as often as we can. ... Be entertaining, educated and roused by the change.

Haldoupis's fascination by textile, "I feel like more things are being done to accommodate" the changes that are happening, but all without losing hope. It is a letter from the kingdom in the hard realities of life (rather than intellectual theorizing), all without losing hope.

Haldoupis wrote this letter in response to being trans-friendly holiday gifting suggestion: Gender Outlaws: The Next Generation. Edited by Kate Bornstein and S. Bear Bergman. Paperback: 302 pages. Publisher: Seal Press (2010). ISBN-13: 978-1585583082. Of all the books I have read through-out my two decades of being trans, this one is the best one to read. It is a clever, heart-felt, and multi-layered piece that is "an essay about the lessons that come from being a transman in a corporate setting."

"It's not a Blackfriars musical unless there are hordes of people doing trade shows and didn't want our scenography and props, which were grown up and shared. I had started to do very elaborate productions and we kind of took off."

"I was absolutely tickled by the contrast in the drama that is in "transacademic" between the assertions that "I have always been this way" and "I have always been living this way." This is a letter from the kingdom in the hard realities of life (rather than intellectual theorizing), all without losing hope. It is a letter from the kingdom in the hard realities of life (rather than intellectual theorizing), all without losing hope.

"If I am an outlaw, is it because I feel like more things are being done to accommodate the changes that are happening, but all without losing hope."

This book is a collection of essays, poems, prose poems, and manifestos that present the diversity of perspectives on trans people from around the world. If you are interested in the history and use of the word "transgender," this is an essay about the lessons that come from being a transman in a corporate setting, while together they gently suggest aspects of gendered expression and identity that we all must come to understand. "It's not a Blackfriars musical unless there are hordes of people doing trade shows and didn't want our scenography and props, which were grown up and shared. I had started to do very elaborate productions and we kind of took off."

"I was absolutely tickled by the contrast in the drama that is in "transacademic" between the assertions that "I have always been this way" and "I have always been living this way." This is a letter from the kingdom in the hard realities of life (rather than intellectual theorizing), all without losing hope. It is a letter from the kingdom in the hard realities of life (rather than intellectual theorizing), all without losing hope.
I mean, who doesn’t? I can’t imagine a person on the planet that wouldn’t want them to be able to marry,” summarizes Meranto.

Rounding out the ensemble cast are Stacy Horrold, Michael Radi, Kimberly Schweizer and Cortine Scott, along with Director/Choreographer Ralph Meranto in a cameo role as “The Ex.” “My Mother’s Lesbian Jewish Wiccan Wedding” is suggested for sons and adults due to some adult references. “My Mother’s Lesbian Jewish Wiccan Wedding” is a new musical that’s moving toward a long run in Toronto’s Canon Theatre and is being pursued by theatres including two extensions. It won four awards, including the top prize of Most Promising New Musical.

The show also resonates differently in Canada, which legalized gay marriage in 2005, than in the United States, where a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage remains. The writers have made great effort to maintain the focus as a story about family and love rather than making a political statement, but the implications are unavoidable with this subject matter.

“When you watch these two women fall in love, you can’t imagine a person on the planet that wouldn’t want them to be able to marry,” summarizes Meranto.

Rounding out the ensemble cast are Stacy Horrold, Michael Radi, Kimberly Schweizer and Cortine Scott, along with Director/Choreographer Ralph Meranto in a cameo role as “The Ex.” “My Mother’s Lesbian Jewish Wiccan Wedding” is suggested for sons and adults due to some adult references. “My Mother’s Lesbian Jewish Wiccan Wedding” is a new musical that’s moving toward a long run in Toronto’s Canon Theatre and is being pursued by theatres including two extensions. It won four awards, including the top prize of Most Promising New Musical.

The show also resonates differently in Canada, which legalized gay marriage in 2005, than in the United States, where a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage remains. The writers have made great effort to maintain the focus as a story about family and love rather than making a political statement, but the implications are unavoidable with this subject matter.

“When you watch these two women fall in love, you can’t imagine a person on the planet that wouldn’t want them to be able to marry,” summarizes Meranto.
Growing Up At the EDGE
By Eric Bellmann
And how did you feel the day you were born?
I spent the whole day as well as the rest of the day
rehearsing a speech quoting this col-

umn, that's how deep the pain of the current
the wishes him well after the death of his
my ballot, ho hum, yes, fine folks all
Indeed, my own personal experience that
I have left me and my ilk, queers, in the

my equations early in the morning,
later in the day there are plenty of gay men
there have been a sprinkling of others
over the years, but many, many times
my central nervous system from boiling over.
I think anyone who was there in this
the word, in this life, so many different
women, the word, in this life, so many
to actually have them hands down, no
asked
And where are those topics being addressed and
by whom? Not too many politicians that I can tell.
I did an absence vote in Rochester before I left for New York. I can tell
you how disappointed I felt as a life long
Democrat, just checking off the top line on
my ballot, how, yes, fine folks all of them, and what
that long December got me? Well, I can look
my mirror in the mirror without it exfoli-
ing. I was not going to vote for a re-

nominated Republican, all of whom I consider
veteran, but, yeez, folks, the Democrats have
left me and my life, queers, in the
dust. My President, who has heroic stature on
so many counts, just doesn't get gay marriage
time. If that were all, it would be bad
enough. But then our disloyal Senator John
Boehner and Sarah Palin. The first
without any doubt in my mind living proof of what
three-inch dick! And my opinions about
of those Mother Warnings are deeply imbed-
ded in my brain.

Oh, what to eat? I pulled myself
together, God knows what I wore.
grabbed some potatoes and planted them
back against a wall. As I recall I had to
wear a name tag and then a good-looking
was the flash before she spoke, I thought,
Prince Charmings, Prince Charmings, he
found me, at last, at last.

Your columns made all the difference
in my life. In any event, I have read them.
I am not really crazy about

The first is
The second is

As one of the first gay people out of
the bedbugs bite.

I was not just

Surely some germs deserve brutal
attacks. Certainly, down to all the
toilet Seat Germs that, according to
my father's Sex Lecture circa 1955, could give me

It had symptoms.

It burns my skin.

Surely some germs deserve brutal
attacks. Certainly, down to all the
toilet Seat Germs that, according to
my father's Sex Lecture circa 1955, could give me

It had symptoms.

It burns my skin.

Surely some germs deserve brutal
attacks. Certainly, down to all the
toilet Seat Germs that, according to
my father's Sex Lecture circa 1955, could give me

It had symptoms.

It burns my skin.

Surely some germs deserve brutal
attacks. Certainly, down to all the
toilet Seat Germs that, according to
my father's Sex Lecture circa 1955, could give me

It had symptoms.

It burns my skin.

Surely some germs deserve brutal
attacks. Certainly, down to all the
toilet Seat Germs that, according to
my father's Sex Lecture circa 1955, could give me

It had symptoms.

It burns my skin.

Surely some germs deserve brutal
attacks. Certainly, down to all the
toilet Seat Germs that, according to
my father's Sex Lecture circa 1955, could give me

It had symptoms.

It burns my skin.

Surely some germs deserve brutal
attacks. Certainly, down to all the
toilet Seat Germs that, according to
my father's Sex Lecture circa 1955, could give me

It had symptoms.

It burns my skin.
and ready to fight for economic... but they... and then those... workplace issues must include educating... sexual turns for information on the gay... single, and referring to homosexuality as... to sexuality I am. I feel as if I've shared... for many years, and you know how very... sexualized. Closeted gay people see how... invisible, just like Ray. They either... has a girlfriend, assuming that a hetero... for many years, and you know how very... participatory in corporate life, and that it... A successful global diversity initiative... Aids, Goldman Sachs, Clorox, and IBM,... of the closet: today often report feeling... aIds, Goldman Sachs, Clorox, and IBM, (...single workers, “preference,”... gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender... are now in the place where next steps are... and nail for equality and the regular folks. But far too often, on things like the AIG... and body move through the world to the... Mountain Rise, Fairport NY. 80 Mountain... more for the idea to be appealing to the... "gay," "lesbian," "bisexual," and "transgender... Wheeler V. Blandin, for example... Conundrums PROGRESSIVES NEED TO FIGHT A LITTLE HARDER By One Overwary The 2010 elections tell us... doing men's clothing and passed as... progressive political agenda. We support... "and "their way," while the average working... but far too often, on things like the AIG... the LGBT community and the entire... a female president and equal rights for... mountain felt different - bigger, more expan... and nail for equality and the regular folks. But far too often, on things like the AIG... the LGBT community and the entire... mountain felt different - bigger, more expan... and nail for equality and the regular folks. But far too often, on things like the AIG... the LGBT community and the entire... mountain felt different - bigger, more expan... and nail for equality and the regular folks. But far too often, on things like the AIG... the LGBT community and the entire... mountain felt different - bigger, more expan... and nail for equality and the regular folks. But far too often, on things like the AIG... the LGBT community and the entire... mountain felt different - bigger, more expan... and nail for equality and the regular folks. But far too often, on things like the AIG... the LGBT community and the entire... mountain felt different - bigger, more expan... and nail for equality and the regular folks. But far too often, on things like the AIG... the LGBT community and the entire... mountain felt different - bigger, more expan... and nail for equality and the regular folks. But far too often, on things like the AIG... the LGBT community and the entire... mountain felt different - bigger, more expan... and nail for equality and the regular folks. But far too often, on things like the AIG... the LGBT community and the entire... mountain felt different - bigger, more expan... and nail for equality and the regular folks. But far too often, on things like the AIG... the LGBT community and the entire...
average red-blooded American male.

It fell at the time that being semi-out as a queer necessitated that I be that much more vigilant about hiding my gender fluidity and masculinity. I collected drawers full of makeup and hair products. I wore tight clothes, flowered dresses, and high heels as though they were my protective coat of armor. Because they were.

I think that it is likely that, during this period, my family forgot or downplayed the fact that I had told them I was bi. I certainly gave them cause to believe that my proclamation had been, in fact, no more than a phase.

I had taken one small step towards letting the people in my life know that I identified as part of the LGBT community in my heart, but I used this limited linguistic freedom to frighten myself into a life of inauthentic choices, relationships, and ways of showing myself to the world.

I now live a life that, for better or for worse, is about as out as it is possible to be. From my job at the Gay Alliance to the community discussions on transgender-inclusive language, trans identities, and effective queer activism and education inclusive language, trans identities, and ways of showing myself to the world.

I collected drawers filled with makeup and hair products. I wore tight clothes, flowered dresses, and high heels as though they were my protective coat of armor. Because they were.

I am coming face-to-face with these thoughts because this trip, like that train ride 16 years ago when I first experienced the freedom of embracing my masculinity and androgynous appearance says without words — I am transgender.

My gender is queer long before I get dressed each day, and goes much deeper than the aesthetics of a wardrobe. I share this truth with the people in my life because it matters to me that I do my best to share myself with the world in a way that is consistent with my truest understanding of who I am.

And so it is that I am on a train, and later today I will be seeing my Dad for the first time since he has read in print the confirmation of what my increasingly androgynous appearance says without words — I am transgender.

Every time a new Beyond the Binary column is posted online — first on the Empty Closet's website, then the link to it on my profile — I am coming out to people all over again, many of whom I know very well, some of whom I don't know at all.

And so it is that I am on a train, and later today I will be seeing my Dad for the first time since he has read in print the confirmation of what my increasingly androgynous appearance says without words — I am transgender.

My gender is queer long before I get dressed each day, and goes much deeper than the aesthetics of a wardrobe. I share this truth with the people in my life because it matters to me that I do my best to share myself with the world in a way that is consistent with my truest understanding of who I am.

But I'd just as soon do the explaining step just once, writing it out as honestly as I can and putting it out in the world, and then spend my time with the people in my life just being who I am, without feeling

(Binary continues page 8)
the need to explain it. I wonder, though, sometimes, how it has felt for my family members to learn that I am trans through the internet rather than a face-to-face conversation. I wonder if they have wondered why I didn't just tell them, or why I think it's necessary to post quite so much stuff regarding LGTB and especially F issues to my profile and blog. I hope they know that it is because I see how much the world as a whole has to learn before trans people are acknowledged by the dominant paradigm as sentient beings worthy of equality and respect, endowed with inherent worth and deserving safety from violence and discrimination, and I feel that it is important to bring visibility to this fact. And yet, I trust that my family members will see that my gender identity is the way it is, no more and no less.

I am their daughters and their brotherman, the same insightful and (at times) infuriating person they've always known, and my ever-deepening acceptance of myself doesn't change nearly as much as many less-ennobled cishumans might think. And I believe that they already know that.

But maybe that chicken shit, don't know. Maybe I'm more cowardly about having these conversations with my family than I'd like to admit.

I do wonder if the ever-expanding online social realm, in which we, as a society, are immersing ourselves is going to have any long-term effects on the ways and timing of how people come out, or as well as on the way we all experience the emotions that can occur through the coming-out process.

When I first came out (albeit only partially) 16 years ago, there was no way available except through a conversation or a letter that it was — if you wanted people to know, you had to tell each person, repeating as necessary through one nerve-wracking conversation after another.

What does it mean that we can now come out to hundreds (even thousands) of people at once, protected by a cushion of physical distance as well as by the impersonal, disembodied nature of online posts?

Is there bravery and rebellion in being so unequivocally expressible about our right to self-authenticity? Or is there cowardice in the shift away from those risky, heart-wounding conversations of first disclosing of identity?

Right now, in this moment, I think it's a bit of both, that each of these perspectives contain the truth. I wonder if my family members would agree?

One thing I do understand is that the online sphere is bold and in-your-face and everyone else's-face as it can be — is at best a temporary, stopgap sort of declaration. It does not reflect the need for and importance of coming out to the people in our lives in person, even if they already know the basic facts and the labels. I don't know yet what this visit will be like, how many conversations about my trans identity I may or may not have, how many dirty looks I will get when I use the "wrong" public bathroom wherever one I pick. I'm likely to get The Look, especially here in the Bible Belt.

However, I am integrating the idea that the importance of coming out to someone is maybe only one-quarter of the worth, and three-quarters of the trust it takes to say them and talk it all through. Here's hoping for the best from this visit home.

Faith Matters

RE-INTRODUCING LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER WOMEN OF AFRICAN DESCENT

By Rev. Irene Monroe

I thought I would re-introduce a subgroup in our LGBTQ communitiety that is too often forgotten and/or ignored — lesbian, bisexual, and transgender women of African descent.

I want to re-introduce this group because a groundbreaking study in July captured our tribe, "Black Lesbians Matter" examining the unique experiences, perspectives, and priorities of the Black LBT community, and sadly little is known about it.

This report reveals that LBT women of African descent are the most vulnerable in our society and need advocacy in the areas of financial security, healthcare, access to healthcare, and marriage equality.

The study is akin to a census conducted over several months in 2009 - 2010 where 1,596 LBT women from regional, statewide, and local organizations in New York, Atlanta, Chicago, and Denver, and also through an online survey participated. The study focused on five key areas: health, family/patenting, identity, aging, and invisibility.

Key findings of the survey revealed the following:

Health - There is a pattern of higher suicide rates among us. Scholars have suspected broad and intense communities of suicide rates with one's ability to deal with "coming out." Family/Paternity - 45 percent of Black female same-sex households include a biological child of one of the partners in their households. Anti-gay parenting policies in the United States will disproportionately affect Black LBT parents, or would be parents.

Identity - In the 18-24 age group 69 percent are least likely to identify as lesbian. Most identify as queer.

Aging - 25 percent over the age of 50 live alone and face poverty and homelessness.

Invisibility - 48 percent have been rejected and discriminated against, dis-
Out of Pocket Productions
Presents

STOPKISS
by Diana Son
Directed by Mario Savastano

A kiss can change everything

Geva Theatre Center
(585) 232-Geva
gevatheatre.org

March 11-19
Proceeds to benefit
ROCHESTER PRIDE 2011

The Fine Art of Gift Giving
at the Memorial Art Gallery Store
NEW! shop online at maggallerystore.com

500 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, ROCHESTER NY
585-276-9010

Clockwise from top right: Fine crafts by Michelle DaSilin, David Zaborowski, V活性炭inda Zimic, Clayton Hufford & Sara Silvio.

Understanding & Managing GLBT Issues in the Workplace
Presented by: Janet Donner & Vita Trincali

This training is directed at helping Supervisors & Managers understand issues relevant to GLBT employees and provides strategies to effectively handle a variety of workplace situations.

January 19, 2011
7:30 – 9 am Continental Breakfast
8 – 10 am Workshop
SUNY Empire State College
1475 Winston Rd N, Room 106, Rochester NY

Online Registration $15
www.elfylfingerlakes.groupsite.com
Seats available for first 30 people

Questions?
(585) 266-6504
Fingerlakes@outandequal.org

My Mother’s Lesbian Jewish Wiccan Wedding

December 4-19

““You’ll laugh, cry and get songs stuck in your head. You’ll leave smiling. Smiling is good.”
– Megan Murray, MODERNTHEATRE.com

“A funny, witty and gentle good time. Charming and touching.”
– Lara DeSantis, CBC Radio

Directed by Ralph Meranto

U.S. PREMIERE OF THE HIT TORONTO MUSICAL

Charge by Phone:
(585) 461-2000 ext. 235
Order Online:
www.jcccenterstage.org

Jewish Community Center
1200 Edgewood Avenue
Rochester, NY 14619
GIVE
YOURSELF
THE GIFT
OF OPERA!

Falstaff
Verdi's comic masterpiece

Friday, January 14, 2011, 8 PM
Sunday, January 16, 2011, 2 PM
Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre
with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra.

Tickets: $25 to $70, Students $10, Box Seats $85
RPO Box Office, 454-2100, www.rpo.org/Wegmans

ROCHESTER WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CHORUS

'Tis the Season
Saturday December 11th – 7:30 pm
Silent Auction opens 7 pm
Hochstein School of Music
50 N. Plymouth Ave.

Save $2 on advance tickets! Available from:
Chorus Members
Equal Grounds Coffee
Parkleigh Pharmacy

More information: www.therwcc.org * 585.234.4441

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
**Bed & Breakfast**

**Kyle’s Bed & Breakfast by Greg Fox**

HANDSOME VEHICLE, LANCE, I’VE ALWAYS BEEN A BMW ENTHUSIAST. IT’S NOT FOR SALE.

AND I’M NOT LOOKING TO PURCHASE IT. I’M MORE THAN SATISFIED WITH MY JAGUAR.

YOU DO KNOW THAT I’M NOW KYLE’S FINANCIAL ADVISOR. HE’S ALLOWED ME TO INSTITUTE SOME CHANGES AROUND HERE...

I WOULDN’T LIKE TO TALK WITH YOU ABOUT PARKING, THOUGH.

EXCUSE ME?

FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE BABY’S BUSINESS.

...TO MAKE THEIR STAY HERE MORE PLEASANT.

...I’D LIKE TO RESERVE THE PARKING SPACES OUT FRONT FOR SHORT-TERM GUESTS...

YOU WANT ME TO START PARKING MY BMW...OUT ON THE STREET?!

AS A BUSINESSMAN, I’M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THE...

HOLD ON, YOU’RE ABOUT TO CROSS A VERY DANGEROUS LINE...

I’VE HEARD HOW YOU’VE BEEN MAKING WAVES AROUND HERE...CHANGING POLICIES FOR RICHARD, BRAD AND THE REST...

BUT IF YOU’RE EVEN CONSIDERING TAKING ME ON...

...YOU’VE ENTERED A WHOLE NEW AREA, LANCE.

I’M CURIOUS, PRICE...WHY AN UP-AND-COMING FINANCIAL ADVISOR AT BRINKLEY-SLOAN...

I’D LIKE TO QUIT IT ALL TO START HIS OWN獨OLO PRACTICE OUT HERE ON LONG ISLAND.

...BUT THEN, NONE OF YOUR KENTUCKY CHARM AND BUSINESS SAVVY COULD GLOSS OVER WHATEVER IT IS YOU’RE HIDING.

LANCE, I HAD NO IDEA THAT PARKING SPACE WAS SO IMPORTANT TO YOU BY ALL MEANS...KEEP PARKING THERE!

OH, I WILL, AND JUST SO WE’RE CLEAR...

...I DON’T NEED YOUR PERMISSION TO DO SO...

LANCE, I COULD MAKE A "I"...FEW PHONE CALLS AND FIND OUT WHY.

AND THEN, NONE OF YOUR KENTUCKY CHARM AND BUSINESS SAVVY COULD GLOSS OVER WHATEVER IT IS YOU’RE HIDING.

OF COURSE YOU DON’T...

BUT I WILL MAKE THOSE PHONE CALLS...

Website - www.kylecomics.com E-Mail - Kfox1008@aol.com

---

**First Tuesdays**

7-9pm: Education Sessions
St Thomas Episcopal Church, 2000 Highland Avenue, Rochester 14618. Guest speakers present information followed by a group discussion.

**Third Sundays**

2-4pm: Support & Discussion
Auditorium Theatre 5th Floor 875 East Main Street, Rochester 14605. Facilitated discussion to provide support to attendees while engaging the group in a variety of topics. (OCCurs at the same time as the youth and young adult support groups that occur in the Youth Center on the first floor of the building.)
**Gay Alliance Youth**

The Gay Alliance offers Youth Services for Rochester area LGBTQ and allied youth ages 13-25

Check out what’s happening at: www.gayalliance.org or contact JessC@gagv.us

**Monday and Wednesday** Drop-in: 2-6pm

**Sunday** Support Groups: ages 13-25: 2-4pm; ages 18-25: 4:30-6pm

**Special Interests:** Transgender Youth, Arts/Crafts, Movies, Writing

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

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 or 585-244-8640, ext. 14

---

**Educational and outreach work of the Gay Alliance staff and volunteers**

**November 2010**

**Speaking engagements/presentations:**

11/4: A Hidden Life: Film and Discussion for the Baobab Cultural Center

11/2: Creating Safe Schools for the Rochester City School District (three sessions)

11/2: LGBT Issues on Campus for the SUNY Brockport Women’s Center

11/3: Gender Spectrum at St. John Fisher College

11/3: LGBT Youth Issues for the Finger Lakes Region HIV/STDs Coalition

11/5: Personal Safety in the LGBT Community for the NYS LGBTQ Domestic Violence Network

11/9: Gender/Homophobia/Safe Schools at SUNY Brockport

11/9: Safe School Summit at the Gay Alliance (trainings all day)

11/10: Creating Safe Schools School Without Walls (two sessions)

11/10: SafeZone Training at St. John Fisher College

11/15: LGBT 101 at St. John Fisher College

11/16: Lifeguard Training at the Gay Alliance

11/17: Advanced SafeZone at Xerox Center at Geneseo

11/18: LGBT Issues in the Workplace for the Workplace Diversity Network

11/18: Straight Ally Workshop at St. John Fisher College

11/19: Community Safety and Anti-Violence for the WNY Coalition for Crime Victims

11/19: Transgender Panel at Nazareth College

11/26: Lifeguard Training for the Greece School District

---

**WAY OUT WEST:** Gay Alliance Outreach Coordinator Jeanne Gainsburg and her sister Julie Gainsburg represented Rochester in November at Palm Springs Pride.

---

**THUMBS UP:** Jess Cohen, Alex Gasparre, Dontaee Williams and Lindsay D’Arcangelo at the Nov. 9 Safe School Summit. Photos: Jeff Markarian

---

50 LGBTQ youth attended the Nov. 9 summit held at the GAGV Youth Center.
Program Notes

InQueery Session explores BDSM

On Wednesday, Dec. 8, from 7 to 9 p.m, GAGV InQueery will partner with the Rochester Kink Society to host an interactive session to BDSM.

So you found that you want to know more about BDSM and Kink. You’ve gone online and looked at the myriad of sites, forums, images, infographics, OTK, CBT, BDSM, SS/M, SARC, Sadie, Maschiet, safe word, blah, blah, and so on. You stop that of there’s talk of etiquette...

How do you get solid, reliable, honest answers to your questions? Well stop dick-ing, relax, and attend this free discussion, which will offer you some answers in a safe and supportive environment.

The InQueery session will be facilitated by Todd and Kat of the Rochester Kink Society and held in the Gay Alliance Community Room at 875 East Main St., Rochester 14605.

Screening of award winning documentary on marriage equality

On Sunday, Dec. 5, from 6-8 p.m., The Gay Alliance InQueery program will feature a free screening of "Fighting the Beat," considered by many to be the best of the plethora of documentaries that have been made about marriage equality.

Filmmaker Jim De Seve presents an eye-opening examination of marriage, featuring interviews with influential individuals, including gay, straight, white, lesbian, hispoo, hippies, storming the Manhattan marriage bureau in 1971, plus inspired interviews with gay activists, historians, and right-wing politicians.

Interviewed with the interviews are the amazing stories of two people who face unbelievable challenges because they and their partners denied access to the rights and responsibilities of marriage.

The film "Fighting the Beat" will present to uncover the meaning of marriage and bring focus on such key issues as rights, love, marriage, and end life decisions, while not ignoring the human reality of love.

The film is 80 minutes, and a short discussion will follow the screening. The film will be screened in the Youth and Community Center, first floor, 875 East Main St., 14605. Details at http://www.gayalliance.org/education/inqueery/339-by-knot.html

Community Safety Program update

By Kelly Clark

On Nov. 18, I participated in a Homeless and Housing Truth Commission held by the Rochester chapter of the Social Welfare Action Alliance, also known to many in local activism community as SWAA.

You're likely familiar with truth and reconciliation commissions from abroad, the most famous being those held in South Africa. During truth commissions, people speak on how their human rights, rights established by the United Nations (UN) and outlined as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, have been violated.

Commissioners representing survivors of atrocities, and of entries both governmental and private, must "bear witness" to the testimony and record with respect for changing the story.

I was honored to be asked to serve as a Commissioner for the event and was invited by event organizers because of my interest in the development of homeless services for transgender people. There were many speakers and stories I was brought to the floor by members of the Greater Rochester community.

Many of the stories were difficult to listen to. All who testified before the Commission were incredibly strong and brave in sharing their own experiences and the stories of others.

Those of you who saw Fort Worth's "Fighting the Beat," know that there is truth in this world, and that truth can heart in ways that dates and statistics cannot. It can make us feel close and real. It can make us cry.

Those of you who saw Fort Worth's "Fighting the Beat," know that there is truth in this world, and that truth can heart in ways that dates and statistics cannot. It can make us feel close and real. It can make us cry.

Those of you who saw Fort Worth's "Fighting the Beat," know that there is truth in this world, and that truth can heart in ways that dates and statistics cannot. It can make us feel close and real. It can make us cry.

Those of you who saw Fort Worth's "Fighting the Beat," know that there is truth in this world, and that truth can heart in ways that dates and statistics cannot. It can make us feel close and real. It can make us cry.

Those of you who saw Fort Worth's "Fighting the Beat," know that there is truth in this world, and that truth can heart in ways that dates and statistics cannot. It can make us feel close and real. It can make us cry.

Those of you who saw Fort Worth's "Fighting the Beat," know that there is truth in this world, and that truth can heart in ways that dates and statistics cannot. It can make us feel close and real. It can make us cry.

Those of you who saw Fort Worth's "Fighting the Beat," know that there is truth in this world, and that truth can heart in ways that dates and statistics cannot. It can make us feel close and real. It can make us cry.

Those of you who saw Fort Worth's "Fighting the Beat," know that there is truth in this world, and that truth can heart in ways that dates and statistics cannot. It can make us feel close and real. It can make us cry.

Those of you who saw Fort Worth's "Fighting the Beat," know that there is truth in this world, and that truth can heart in ways that dates and statistics cannot. It can make us feel close and real. It can make us cry.

Those of you who saw Fort Worth's "Fighting the Beat," know that there is truth in this world, and that truth can heart in ways that dates and statistics cannot. It can make us feel close and real. It can make us cry.

Those of you who saw Fort Worth's "Fighting the Beat," know that there is truth in this world, and that truth can heart in ways that dates and statistics cannot. It can make us feel close and real. It can make us cry.

Those of you who saw Fort Worth's "Fighting the Beat," know that there is truth in this world, and that truth can heart in ways that dates and statistics cannot. It can make us feel close and real. It can make us cry.
Resources

AIDS
Free testing for HIV exposure is available from New York State Department of Health: call Rochester Area Regional Hotline at (585) 232-4809, or 1-800-563-5038 for pay phone. Ongoing rapid HIV testing is also available in Rochester. Statewide information can be obtained by calling 1-800-541-AIDS. Other organizations which provide AIDS-related services include:

AIDS Care
AIDS Care, the leading provider of HIV/AIDS services in Rochester and the Finger Lakes, was formed by the January 2010 merger of AIDS Community Health and AIDS Rochester. On-site services include: HIV testing and limited STI screenings, Primary and Speciality Medicine, Pharmacy, Behavioral Wellness, Case Management, Prevention and Education, Clinical Dentist, Dental Hygentists, Hepatitis C Infection Clinic, Housing Services, Laboratory Nutrition Services, Peer Interaction, Smoking Cessation, Substance Use and Addiction Services, Peer Counseling, Transportation Services, Treatment Adherence Counseling, and Women's Health Care. AIDS Care is also available to provide services and education to members of the LGBT community. Contact Information: Website: www.aidscare.org, POBox 2329 Rochester, NY 14603-2329; info@aidscare.org, (585) 423-8081, or 1-800-962-5063 for pay phone.

Trials, Dental
Youth drop-in center, Substance Use and Addiction Services, Peer formed by the January 2010 merger of AIDS Community Health and AIDS Rochester. On-site services include: HIV testing and limited STI screenings, Primary and Speciality Medicine, Pharmacy, Behavioral Wellness, Case Management, Prevention and Education, Clinical Dentist, Dental Hygentists, Hepatitis C Infection Clinic, Housing Services, Laboratory Nutrition Services, Peer Interaction, Smoking Cessation, Substance Use and Addiction Services, Peer Counseling, Transportation Services, Treatment Adherence Counseling, and Women's Health Care. AIDS Care is also available to provide services and education to members of the LGBT community. Contact Information: Website: www.aidscare.org, POBox 2329 Rochester, NY 14603-2329; info@aidscare.org, (585) 423-8081, or 1-800-962-5063 for pay phone.

Trials, Dental
Youth drop-in center, Substance Use and Addiction Services, Peer formed by the January 2010 merger of AIDS Community Health and AIDS Rochester. On-site services include: HIV testing and limited STI screenings, Primary and Speciality Medicine, Pharmacy, Behavioral Wellness, Case Management, Prevention and Education, Clinical Dentist, Dental Hygentists, Hepatitis C Infection Clinic, Housing Services, Laboratory Nutrition Services, Peer Interaction, Smoking Cessation, Substance Use and Addiction Services, Peer Counseling, Transportation Services, Treatment Adherence Counseling, and Women's Health Care. AIDS Care is also available to provide services and education to members of the LGBT community. Contact Information: Website: www.aidscare.org, POBox 2329 Rochester, NY 14603-2329; info@aidscare.org, (585) 423-8081, or 1-800-962-5063 for pay phone.

Trials, Dental
Youth drop-in center, Substance Use and Addiction Services, Peer formed by the January 2010 merger of AIDS Community Health and AIDS Rochester. On-site services include: HIV testing and limited STI screenings, Primary and Speciality Medicine, Pharmacy, Behavioral Wellness, Case Management, Prevention and Education, Clinical Dentist, Dental Hygentists, Hepatitis C Infection Clinic, Housing Services, Laboratory Nutrition Services, Peer Interaction, Smoking Cessation, Substance Use and Addiction Services, Peer Counseling, Transportation Services, Treatment Adherence Counseling, and Women's Health Care. AIDS Care is also available to provide services and education to members of the LGBT community. Contact Information: Website: www.aidscare.org, POBox 2329 Rochester, NY 14603-2329; info@aidscare.org, (585) 423-8081, or 1-800-962-5063 for pay phone.
**Groups**

Find the friends and fun you need in your neighborhood of the LGBTQ community.

**BUTCH FEMME CONNECTION**

The Rochester Butch-Femme Connection will have two dinner events in December 2010. On Dec. 4 we will meet at Zebb’s Restaurant in the Tops Lodihaman’s Plaza on South Clinton Ave. in Brighton at 7 p.m. On Dec. 18, we will meet at Mike’s New York Diner at 3423 Winton Place in Brighton/Henrietta at 7 p.m.

In January, we will also have two dinner events. On Jan. 8, we will meet at East Ridge Diner (not East Ridge Family Restaurant) in the South Wedge area of Rochester at 7 p.m. Next, on Jan. 1, it’s New Year’s Day. Wear your bibs and hot! We’ll collect personal care items for food to support the Lilac Squares club. For more information, call Bob at 585-464-8957.

**CALLING ALL LGBTQ FAMILIES: PRIDE & JOY IS HERE FOR YOU!**

By Mir Buchanan

Did you know that there is an organization in Rochester that is here to offer networking, education, support and a sense of community to LGBTQ families? Pride and Joy Families is that organization—founded in Brighton! Several years ago, P&JF’s focus is to assist lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender/questioning people to update New York to achieve their goals of building and sustaining healthy families. All LGBTQ families and aspiring families are invited to join. P&JF and its Binghamton-based parent Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project offer not only fun, family-oriented events throughout the year, but also provide educational programs for LGBTQ parents and aspiring parents, sponsor the Healthy Families Initiative (website: www.LGBTHealthinitiative.org), offer provider training for health and human services providers, maintain an online directory of services for LGBTQ individuals and families (www.LGBTservicesDirectory.com), and work to provide advocacy around the specific needs of LGBTQ families.

Pride and Joy Families is excited to co-host the upcoming Rochester LGBTQ Families Conference April 8-10, 2011. Check out the P&JF website at www.prideandjoyfamilies.org or connect with P&JFs Rochester Outreach Educator Mir Buchanan at 585-244-8640, ext. 37, or at mir@prideandjoyfamilies.org.

**DIGNITY–INTEGRITY**

D4 Rochester continues to meet weekly at St. Luke’s and St. Simon’s Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St., corner of Broad St. We have the following services and activities for the month of December and January. Please note that all services start at 5 p.m.

First Sunday: Episcopal Mass, with music.

(On Dec. 5, there will be a healing service as part of the Mass.)

Second Sunday: Roman Catholic Liturgy of the Word, with music.

Third Sunday: Episcopal Mass in the Church of St. Peter, with music.

Fourth Sunday: ANNUAL HYMN SING; DEC. 26, 5 p.m. FREE.

**DECEMBER HYMN SING with TIM SchRAMM... back by popular demand!**

Tim will lead us in song on our Christmas Eve service at 5 p.m. December 26, 5 p.m. FREE. This replaces our December HYMN SING with Tim Schramm... back by popular demand! This was a great success. Probably the “best in show” for food was a bowl of rainbow jello... it was gorgeous, but not too beautiful to eat. I think there was a table’s worth left at the end of the evening. In October, our 35th Anniversary Mass and Dinner had a nice surprise... Party Hayes, formerly our chaplain and the GAGY Youth Director, traveled down from Toronto to attend both service and dinner. Our meals at Sheila’s were fantastic, too.

DECEMBER HYMN SING: TIM SCHRAMM... back by popular demand! This has become a holiday tradition and we hope that you can make it part of your year. Sit back and sing the hymns and carols that make the season memorable. The cost is FREE—we have a wonderful “famous” singer in our midst...

There are other things on the drawing table for the New Year. As always, you can check for any additions or changes to the schedule by looking at our website... here’s the address: http://www.d4rochester.org. We hope to see you there!

**EMPIRE BEARS**

By Ailen von Camp

The BEARS had a busy November. We held our Young Frankenstein,” a costume dinner at Fratelli’s, enjoyed some movies, and met new friends. Bearnight at the Forum continues every first Saturday. 12/4 the theme is holiday favorites, and hot! We’ll collect personal care items for a donation to AIDS Care Stop by the store before Bearnight.

Then January’s Bearnight will be on Jan. 1. It’s New Year’s Day. Wear your bibs and get comy with the Bears. Remember, the “street meat” at the Forum is the best in Rochester.

Potlucks are always popular with the Bears. We held two second Saturdays at 6:30 in the GAGY Youth Center. On 12/11 the theme is holiday favorites, and hot! We’ll collect personal care items for a donation to AIDS Care Stop by the store before Bearnight.

On January’s Bearnight we will meet on Jan. 1. It’s New Year’s Day. Wear your bibs and get comy with the Bears. Remember, the “street meat” at the Forum is the best in Rochester.

**GAY SQUARES**

THE LILAC SQUARES

Our new class has started for the 2010 year, and it is fun watching them learn something new and really wanting to get it right. They will make some great additions to our club. The Lilac Squares meets every Monday at the Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church, located on 570 Marshall Rd., Rochester 14624, at 7 p.m.

We are a lively and friendly group made up of singles, couples, men, and women, young and young at heart; when we aren’t learning new calls, we are telling stories, jokes, and lively anecdotes. We usually learn a couple of new calls each night, and if we make mistakes, our caller will review the calls for us. We are a very easy-going group, and mistakes happen. There will someone there to guide you to where you need to be. The night is for fun and having a good time.

Great friends have been created in our club. For more information, call Bob at 467-6456, or e-mail Robert.danze@juno.com. Hope to see you soon.

**RAINBOW SAGE**

By Tony Perri

Wow, it’s almost a new year and what a year this has been for Rainbow SAGE! Our affiliation with the GAGY has been going strong for the past six months and we anticipate full merger in the near future.

We have expanded our reach with GAGY affiliation. Several new programs have been initiated and we continue with a full year of social activities that have been enjoyed by our community. Most of these programs have continued with a minimum of interruption, and with the dedicated support of our volunteers and members.

If you have been contemplating getting involved with Rainbow SAGE, now is the time to do it. We can only accomplish our future goals, and there are many, with support from our members, both in service and monetary support if you can do it. Brian, our current Board of Directors President, has been running SAGE office at the GAGY on a part-time basis and has been doing an outstanding job. I am sure he would welcome any support.

Due to severe budget cuts in the future, our hope of getting a paid SAGE staff member is on hold, which necessitates reaching out to our constituency for support. As mentioned before, this support could be in service or a monetary donation so that we can carry on our mission.

**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 Offering Hot Stone Massage

Now Accepting VISA and Master Card.
Aging in Washington, D.C. It is the agingcenter.org. workshop, or hosting an event. Several see you at our Christmas potluck on Dec. groups, annual members-only events and reduced ticket rate for SAGE dances, potlucks, men’s and woman’s discussion Speakers Bureau and we, along with Scott Court.

about the Resource Center and the nation­

and friends! For more information, visit our donated item needs to be something that please use.

"regift" Strauss looks forward to meeting the artistic direction of Dr.

"Music of the Day". Broadway favorites will invite us to reminisce, in this special tribute to the stage on March 19 at 8 p.m. Just in time for a summer rendezvous, we’ll present “Walking on Sunshine”, a musical tribute to summer love. Long days on the beach and the warm summer nights always feel alright. Come celebrate summer with us on June 16, at 8 p.m. Rehearsal begins at 7 p.m. at the church on Jan. 6. Those interested in joining the chorus are welcome to arrive at 6:30 p.m. for voice placement. Further information is available at www.thegmc.org or by calling (800) 423-0050.

ROCHESTER RAMS M.C.
Season’s Greetings from the Rochester Rams. We wish you all the Happiest and Merriest of Holidays along with the safest and most prosperous New Year ever. IT GETS BETTER!
As 2010 draws to an end, the Rams and all of us in the greater leather community would like to add our voices to the chorus that is selling GLBT people everywhere, and especially our youth, that it really does get better.
Always be proud of who you are and don’t ever let anyone tell you otherwise.

We are happy to report that our Annu­al Toy Drive was a great success. The pool table area of the Forum was again overflowing with an unbelievable array of goodies. The toys and the cash col­lected will again be taken to the Roosevelt Children’s Center in Newark to brighten the holidays for “our kids”. This event just gets better every year. Our heartfelt thanks go to Peter and the staff at the Forum, to Outlandish for supplying a collec­tion box there, to The Empty Closet for donating ad space and to all of you in the community who so generously contrib­uted toys or cash.

Be sure to join us for our December and January barnights at the Forum. December’s barnight is Saturday the 18th and January’s date is the 15th. Due to popular demand we are bringing back theme barnights. December’s theme will be “Long Johns”. We will supply bags for your outer clothing at the coat check so we encourage everyone to dress appropriately. January will be “Blue Collar Night” so use your imagination and suit up in your best workman gear.

The Rochester Rams M.C. is Western New York’s foremost gay motorcycle & leather club as well as being one of the oldest clubs of its type in the country. All who are interested in the leather club scene are invited to check us out. Our general membership meets open to the public and we meet the Wednesday before bar night at 7:30 p.m. each month. Meetings are held in the clubhouse at our home base, the Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave. Our next general meeting will be on Wednes­day, January 19, 2011. We will meet on Wednesday the 12th. For more info, please visit our website: www.rochesterrams.com.

ROMANS
Are you a closet naturist? Do you wish you could enjoy clothes-free swimming, camping, dining, and social activities? Check out the Romans (Rochester Male Naturists). If you are hesitant, attend one of our monthly clothed Meet and Greets at a local restaurant before the clothes-free swim and gym. The group is open to all gay-friendly iron ages 21 and up. The next clothed Meet and Greet will be Saturday, Jan. 8 at 5:45 p.m. Feb. 5 will be the Meet and Greet for the month of February. Interested men should check out the group’s new website www.romans.com or call 585-281-4964 for times and locations.

Rochester Rams M.C. is Western New York’s foremost gay motorcycle & leather club as well as being one of the oldest clubs of its type in the country. All who are interested in the leather club scene are invited to check us out. Our general membership meets open to the public and we meet the Wednesday before bar night at 7:30 p.m. each month. Meetings are held in the clubhouse at our home base, the Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave. Our next general meeting will be on Wednes­day, January 19, 2011. We will meet on Wednesday the 12th. For more info, please visit our website: www.rochesterrams.com.

Are you a closet naturist? Do you wish you could enjoy clothes-free swimming, camping, dining, and social activities? Check out the Romans (Rochester Male Naturists). If you are hesitant, attend one of our monthly clothed Meet and Greets at a local restaurant before the clothes-free swim and gym. The group is open to all gay-friendly iron ages 21 and up. The next clothed Meet and Greet will be Saturday, Jan. 8 at 5:45 p.m. Feb. 5 will be the Meet and Greet for the month of February. Interested men should check out the group’s new website www.romans.com or call 585-281-4964 for times and locations.

Rochester Rams M.C. is Western New York’s foremost gay motorcycle & leather club as well as being one of the oldest clubs of its type in the country. All who are interested in the leather club scene are invited to check us out. Our general membership meets open to the public and we meet the Wednesday before bar night at 7:30 p.m. each month. Meetings are held in the clubhouse at our home base, the Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave. Our next general meeting will be on Wednes­day, January 19, 2011. We will meet on Wednesday the 12th. For more info, please visit our website: www.rochesterrams.com.

Are you a closet naturist? Do you wish you could enjoy clothes-free swimming, camping, dining, and social activities? Check out the Romans (Rochester Male Naturists). If you are hesitant, attend one of our monthly clothed Meet and Greets at a local restaurant before the clothes-free swim and gym. The group is open to all gay-friendly iron ages 21 and up. The next clothed Meet and Greet will be Saturday, Jan. 8 at 5:45 p.m. Feb. 5 will be the Meet and Greet for the month of February. Interested men should check out the group’s new website www.romans.com or call 585-281-4964 for times and locations.

Rochester Rams M.C. is Western New York’s foremost gay motorcycle & leather club as well as being one of the oldest clubs of its type in the country. All who are interested in the leather club scene are invited to check us out. Our general membership meets open to the public and we meet the Wednesday before bar night at 7:30 p.m. each month. Meetings are held in the clubhouse at our home base, the Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave. Our next general meeting will be on Wednes­day, January 19, 2011. We will meet on Wednesday the 12th. For more info, please visit our website: www.rochesterrams.com.

Are you a closet naturist? Do you wish you could enjoy clothes-free swimming, camping, dining, and social activities? Check out the Romans (Rochester Male Naturists). If you are hesitant, attend one of our monthly clothed Meet and Greets at a local restaurant before the clothes-free swim and gym. The group is open to all gay-friendly iron ages 21 and up. The next clothed Meet and Greet will be Saturday, Jan. 8 at 5:45 p.m. Feb. 5 will be the Meet and Greet for the month of February. Interested men should check out the group’s new website www.romans.com or call 585-281-4964 for times and locations.

Rochester Rams M.C. is Western New York’s foremost gay motorcycle & leather club as well as being one of the oldest clubs of its type in the country. All who are interested in the leather club scene are invited to check us out. Our general membership meets open to the public and we meet the Wednesday before bar night at 7:30 p.m. each month. Meetings are held in the clubhouse at our home base, the Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave. Our next general meeting will be on Wednes­day, January 19, 2011. We will meet on Wednesday the 12th. For more info, please visit our website: www.rochesterrams.com.

Are you a closet naturist? Do you wish you could enjoy clothes-free swimming, camping, dining, and social activities? Check out the Romans (Rochester Male Naturists). If you are hesitant, attend one of our monthly clothed Meet and Greets at a local restaurant before the clothes-free swim and gym. The group is open to all gay-friendly iron ages 21 and up. The next clothed Meet and Greet will be Saturday, Jan. 8 at 5:45 p.m. Feb. 5 will be the Meet and Greet for the month of February. Interested men should check out the group’s new website www.romans.com or call 585-281-4964 for times and locations.

Rochester Rams M.C. is Western New York’s foremost gay motorcycle & leather club as well as being one of the oldest clubs of its type in the country. All who are interested in the leather club scene are invited to check us out. Our general membership meets open to the public and we meet the Wednesday before bar night at 7:30 p.m. each month. Meetings are held in the clubhouse at our home base, the Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave. Our next general meeting will be on Wednes­day, January 19, 2011. We will meet on Wednesday the 12th. For more info, please visit our website: www.rochesterrams.com.

Are you a closet naturist? Do you wish you could enjoy clothes-free swimming, camping, dining, and social activities? Check out the Romans (Rochester Male Naturists). If you are hesitant, attend one of our monthly clothed Meet and Greets at a local restaurant before the clothes-free swim and gym. The group is open to all gay-friendly iron ages 21 and up. The next clothed Meet and Greet will be Saturday, Jan. 8 at 5:45 p.m. Feb. 5 will be the Meet and Greet for the month of February. Interested men should check out the group’s new website www.romans.com or call 585-281-4964 for times and locations.

Rochester Rams M.C. is Western New York’s foremost gay motorcycle & leather club as well as being one of the oldest clubs of its type in the country. All who are interested in the leather club scene are invited to check us out. Our general membership meets open to the public and we meet the Wednesday before bar night at 7:30 p.m. each month. Meetings are held in the clubhouse at our home base, the Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave. Our next general meeting will be on Wednes­day, January 19, 2011. We will meet on Wednesday the 12th. For more info, please visit our website: www.rochesterrams.com.

Are you a closet naturist? Do you wish you could enjoy clothes-free swimming, camping, dining, and social activities? Check out the Romans (Rochester Male Naturists). If you are hesitant, attend one of our monthly clothed Meet and Greets at a local restaurant before the clothes-free swim and gym. The group is open to all gay-friendly iron ages 21 and up. The next clothed Meet and Greet will be Saturday, Jan. 8 at 5:45 p.m. Feb. 5 will be the Meet and Greet for the month of February. Interested men should check out the group’s new website www.romans.com or call 585-281-4964 for times and locations.

Rochester Rams M.C. is Western New York’s foremost gay motorcycle & leather club as well as being one of the oldest clubs of its type in the country. All who are interested in the leather club scene are invited to check us out. Our general membership meets open to the public and we meet the Wednesday before bar night at 7:30 p.m. each month. Meetings are held in the clubhouse at our home base, the Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave. Our next general meeting will be on Wednes­day, January 19, 2011. We will meet on Wednesday the 12th. For more info, please visit our website: www.rochesterrams.com.
(Somerville continued from page 1)
be part of the quilt's appearance in Rochester (at Equal=Grounds through Dec. 8).

The quilt has been very special to me since its conception, having lost so many friends to AIDS in the eighties. I don’t know how many panels I have worked on,” Somerville said.

A long-term survivor, Tom says he never thought he would live to see his 50th birthday.

“I was originally unofficially diagnosed in a public clinic in New York City back in October of 1982 when there was no test. It was more like they guessed based on symptoms. There were no medications and they still called it GRID (Gay Related Immune Deficiency Syndrome). Life expectancy was less than six months.”

Vagina Monologues 2011 seeks volunteers

By Xin Yi Chen

Planning has already begun for Planned Parenthood-Rochester’s 2011 V-Day production of Eve Ensler’s The Vagina Monologues. The performance is scheduled for Saturday, March 26 at 7 p.m.

The planning committee for The Vagina Monologues is currently seeking volunteers to assist in different domains: there are opportunities to help on the fundraising crew, public-relations crew, special events crew and/or the day-of-show crew (a four-hour, one-time commitment). The time input is flexible depending on the domain you are interested in. First-timers are always welcome!

V-Day Rochester 2011 will raise awareness and funds in a global effort to end violence against women and girls. This year, 90 percent of all proceeds will benefit the Rape Crisis Service and 10 percent will go to the 2011 V-Day National Spotlight, the women and girls of Haiti. Come join us and be a part of this meaningful event. Please email vdayrochester@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering or would like information on donating and sponsorship opportunities.

“Santanalia” revels are Dec. 10 at MuCCC

What’s up at MuCCC, 142 Atlantic Ave., for the holidays? On Dec. 10 at 8 p.m., The Bloody Noses Present the Third Annual Santanalia Pageant and Holiday Spectacular. Held at the MUCCC Theater for one night only... a holiday party with sundry entertainments.

Festivities will be capped off by The Bloody Noses Santanalia Pageant. Attendees are encouraged to bring a snack for sharing, and/or a wrapped “gift” for under the tree (if you bring one you can take one). There will be a cash Nog and Wine Bar. Events are more or less family friendly, maybe depending on your family. There is a $7 suggested donation at the door.
Edwardsville 1
World AIDS Day Activists hold benefit concert: "Embrace Life," raising funds for orphans in South Africa 7:30 pm at Hochstein, 50 N. Plymouth St.

Thursday 2
Bar outbreak at MOCHA Center, Gay Alliance, Victory Alliance honoring World AIDS Day. 7:30 pm at three nights, Drinkers Boys, 2-4, with "The Voice"

Friday 3
Central NY Gay Men's Chorus concert, "The Christmas Experience," Also Dec. 8, 4 pm, Hochstein, 50 N. Plymouth St.


Saturday 4
ROMANS (Rochester Male Naturists) clothed meet/greet at local restaurant prior to monthly clothes-free swim, gym, 5:45 pm. Contact www.romans.org or call 585-281-4964 for location.


Rainbow SAGE Euchre, 3 pm, South Wedge Planning Commission, call Ginny to RSVP at 585-473-6765.

Inquietory screening of "Tying the Knot," documentary on marriage equality. 6-8 pm. Short discussion facilitated.

SUNDAY 5
Dignity Integrity Episcopal Mass, with music. Healing service as part of the Mass. 5 pm at St. Luke's and St. Simon's Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St.

Rainbow SAGE Euchre, 3 pm, South Wedge Planning Commission, call Ginny to RSVP at 585-473-6765.

Tying the Knot: Community Forum on Marriage Equality: Dozens 

Wednesday 6
Tying the Knot: Community Forum on Marriage Equality: Dozens
Have a Gay Holiday!
It's that time of year. eggnog, tipsy relatives, & Kasha's Balls of Love. ...but it's also that time to give thanks. Thank you to the Rochester community for supporting the HIV vaccine efforts of the Rochester Victory Alliance. So raise a glass, have some balls, & get involved!

Kasha Davis
International housewife celebrity

Everyone can help. Even you.

Rochester Victory Alliance

On Sale December 13!

Disney presents The Lion King

Broadway's Award-Winning Best Musical

A Great Holiday Gift!

Call (800) 745-3000

Online ticketmaster.com

In Person Auditorium Theatre Box Office

885 East Main Street, Rochester

Groups (20 or more)
Available now, (585) 222-5000 x0

March 22 - April 17, 2011

Auditorium Theatre

M&T Bank

rbi