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Pride Agenda Board member

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To purchase tickets, sponsor­ships or journal advertisements, or for more information, visit www.prideagenda.org or call 212-627-0305.

The Afterparty will be at

Light in the darkness: Day of Silence draws 202 youth

By Susan Jordan

Pride Agenda

Two hundred and two youth attended the Rochester Day of Silence observance on April 16. Nationally, around 6,791 middle and high schools participated this year, according to GLSEN (Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network).

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 Linked by Love: Walk at Marketplace Mall

Equality ROC is planning a couple of events the week of May 17 to honor Harvey Milk (his birthday is May 22) and encourage members of the Rochester’s LGBT community to take a more active role in securing their full equality. All across the country on Saturday, May 22, those who support equal rights and protections for LGBT Americans and their families will assemble to demand full equality. Equality ROC is staging an equal­

ity walk at Marketplace Mall for National Harvey Milk Day, meeting at the Food Court at

(Walk continues page 7)

NewsBriefs

PFLAG, GAGV sponsor safety workshop

On May 4, Kelly Clark, Gay Alliance Community Safety Program Director, will address "LGBT safety” as part of anti-violence efforts, at an empowerment work­shop to be held in the lower level of the First Presbyterian Church, 2000 Highland Ave, corner of South Winton, from 7 to 9 p.m.

LGBT people, their rela­tions, and allies can learn how to be safer while being out in the community and how to examine effective ways of responding to violence, verbal, implied put-downs, bullying, or any kind of harassment.

This free event is co-sponsored by PFLAG and the Gay Alliance InQueery program.

Starry Night: Big Gay Prom is May 7

Youth will have stars in their eyes at the Big Gay Prom’s "Starry Night," which gives LGBT youth what teens across the world take for granted — a glamorous evening out that can be themselves, safe from harassment.

The Prom for LGBT youth and allies, ages 13-23, will be held from 7 to 11 p.m. at the Stratton Ballroom, 550 East Ave. A local artist who will provide the music, the Gay Alliance will provide food, raffles and fun, and the youth themselves will provide the magic that is the standard.

A admission is $10 at the door; tickets are $7 for alcohol-free event. For more information, call Youth Services Director Jessica Cohen at 244-8640 ext. 13.

May 18 is Vaccine Awareness Day

May 18, national HIV Vac­

cine Awareness Day (WAD), is a day to remember the lives of those we have lost to AIDS, and to thank those who are working to find a safe and effective HIV vaccine, and to educate about the importance of vaccine research.

Rochester is home to one of the oldest research centers in the country. A celebration will take place at noon on May 18, in the Community Room at the Davis Center on the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Institute on the Monroe Community College Campus.

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

Gold

Eastman Kodak Company; Excellus, Mutual

Financial Group; Merrill Lynch, MetLife; Nason Peabody, LLP

Silver

Ace Making Services; Bausch & Lomb Inc.;

Corning Incorporated; Hartner & Smurth MV;

Hewlett & Hewlett CPAs; ITT Corporation; Monroe Plan for Medical Care; Sage Advisors of Sage Realty St. John Fisher College; Tim Tompkins Enterprises; Xerox Capital Services

Bronze

CorningIndustries National Bank; Empire State College;

GALAXY: Pride at Work; Kittleberger Florist & Gifts; Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church; Third Presbyterian Church; Wegman’s Food Markets; The Woodbright Group

Pride Thomson Reuters

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The Views and opinions of the Gay Alliance do not necessarily reflect the views of its board or sponsors.

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Volume 28

Number 11

May 2010

NEW YORK STATE'S OLDEST LGBT PUBLICATION

PHOTO: FELICIA HANA

PHOTO: JOEL FRIEDMAN

DADT policy unfair, local soldier says

By Susan Jordan

Army Reserve Specialist Joe Soel, an Iraq veteran, may still be serving in the military when this article reaches print, but it won't be for long. Soel has requested a discharge due to LGB military personnel. "Don't Ask Don't Tell" is currently being re-appraised by the Pentagon, as part of the repeal process initiated by the Obama administration. Meanwhile, however, gay and lesbian soldiers are still being booted out of the military, under what

DADD continues page 3)
Marriage equality: a threat to straight families?

On what grounds do homophobes base their claim that our legal marriages and happy families are a threat to heterosexual families? It just doesn’t make sense. It’s a sloppy argument that gets twisted like a lot of irrational hate-propaganda, it sparks the emotions on a subconscious level.

If you define traditional marriage as an institution that maintains heterosexual male control of society, then for two women or two men to be legally wed might be seen as a threat - not to heterosexual marriages and families - but to male supremacy.

But those who look through the lens of patriarchal ideology might be seen as a threat - not to our partnership with Rainbow SAGE leadership, Gay Alliance staff and Kidnerd Care, Kidnerd Care is a locally owned company providing home health care services to the LGBT community.

In April Scott Pearing, Program Director at the Gay Alliance and Shelley Dono, Toni Peri and Brian Hurlburt from the Board of Rainbow Sage attended a “train the trainer” in Syracuse on Senior Issues Cultural Competency. The LGBT Health and Human Services Network Senior Committee developed the curriculum. I also had the pleasure to speak with the SAGE membership about all the programs the Gay Alliance has and ways to increase our partnership to better provide for our community as we all grow together.

In addition to increasing our partnership with the SAGE membership about all the programs the Gay Alliance has and ways to increase our capacity to provide Cultural Competency Centering our efforts to educate the LGBT community.

To recite the old phrase about familiarity breeding contempt - in the case of the Gay Alliance and Rainbow SAGE. Familiarity can breed contempt, understanding, respect and collaboration. It helps to create a huge umbrella big enough for everyone. III

The Gay Alliance Community Center and Beyond

I continue to be amazed at the number of LGBT organizations in our community. In addition to increasing our partnerships with LGBT organizations, we have also expanded our community spaces.

Over the past year, the Gay Alliance has expanded to number of partnerships with other organizations. In the fall of 2009 we added a large community room and the library, both of which are on the first floor of the Auditorium Center. We continue to make available the Noper Congress Room for smaller meetings. The Youth Center is a large special location for larger events and meetings.

We are also hosting In-Query Classes and information on classes, dates and times are available on our web site at gayalliance.org.

Although we do not yet own our own center, there are many nights that we are full capacity. In the first three and a half months of 2010, more than 400 people have attended meetings or events in our Center. There have been 20 different groups with a variety of missions and all age ranges.

One newly formed local group is COLLAGE, which is for all children who have a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender parent. The Gay Alliance has also partnered with Pride and Joy Families based in Binghamton to provide family oriented programming and activities in our area. Look for our family oriented events this year in addition to the anchor events of the Parade, Festival and Picnic.

Our partnership with Rainbow SAGE of the Genesee Valley continues to grow. We hosted a meeting with members of SAGE leadership, Gay Alliance staff and Kidnerd Care, Kidnerd Care is a locally owned company providing home health care services to the LGBT community.

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Le AUTO, an organization of youth for emergency housing for LGBT youth. I don't like to call them "homeless." Because they have homes. Their term more fitting would be "throw-away" youth. Kicked out. Rejected. Disowned. With the loss of home, they lose one of the most important things that religious community, access to previous care providers, health insurance, education, stability...and they come younger and younger each year.

I'd like to think that these youth find new families in the many members of the community have to do. It's funny, as the younger generation doesn't seem to be as embarrassed about being gay...as their elders do. But the surrogate families they create are budding branches of the networks that we have, and I think our community takes care of its young. I see it every day in the bright, cheerful young center. In the volunteer chaperons, facilitators and donors. I observe it within schools as teachers, both out and closeted, take any opportunity given to them to attempt to shelter them from the hateful language and environment that is so often found in the school setting. On the Day of Silence, I am always proud beyond words. For the energy it takes to be silent when the whole of a person wants to scream and be seen. For the courage it takes to scream and be seen. For the energy it takes to be silent when the whole of a person wants to scream and be seen. For the courage it takes to scream and be seen. For the energy it takes to be silent when the whole of a person wants to scream and be seen. For the courage it takes to scream and be seen.

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NewsFronts

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

Comments fly on Catholic church abuse

The clergy abuse scandal facing the Catholic church has drawn massive adverse publicity around the world, with the Vatican admitting the problem is not child abuse or the long term cover-up by church authorities, but rather a diabolical conspiracy of gays, Masons, pro-choice activists and "the media" to damage the church. At the same time, the church continues to oppose marriage equality and to claim that gay parents endanger children merely by having them.

However, many in Catholic countries are questioning the Vatican's homophobia policies. Oscar Arias, president of Costa Rica, said in April that the Roman Catholic Church should end its policy of celibacy for priests because it "goes against nature." Arias also said, according to the Associated Press, that he supports some civil rights for same-sex couples.

DignityUS, a national Catholic organization serving LGBT Catholics, observed that the recent comments were similar to language used to label defamatory, the Vatican's recent attempts to distract from the unfolding revelations about the Catholic Church's failure to deal with abusive priests.

"These are just the latest, desperate attempts from the Vatican to change the subject," said Marianne Duddy-Burke, Executive Director of Dignity USA. "It's time for church leaders to take responsibility for the harm they have done to people who came of age during the reign of this scandal in the 1980s."

GLAAD urges any media that are considering whether to publicize this anti-gay rhetoric to carefully examine the timing and apparent motives behind the comments.

"There's a clear pattern here," said Rashad Robinson, Senior Director of Media Programs at GLAAD. "Every day we are seeing a new attempt by some church leaders to distract people from the real issues at the heart of the crisis in the church. The more the odds increase, the uglier the attacks seem to be worsening." Last week's two weeks have shown anything, it's that if one distraction strategy doesn't stick, Vatican officials will try the latest, and most defamatory, strategy doesn't stick, Vatican officials

Church cuts funding for Maine homeless Governor fights back

"This was a leading last year's successful fight to overturn marriage equality for LGBT citizens of Maine. Working with children who deny funding to a homeless shelter in Portland on the grounds that the shelter supported their marriage rights for same-sex couples. The decision implied that supporting recognition of gay families is more important than sheltering the homeless or feeding the hungry.

"I am very pleased with the outcome of this case," said Maine Attorney General Janet Mills. "This decision is a victory for our church leaders to stop looking for any reason to avoid a scandal.'"

The man who was abused in Massachusetts, Joe Callander, was 14 when he was raped three times by Pezzotti in 1959 at Xavierian Missionary School. He claimed the priest made him promise to keep the attack secret. It is now open. There was a settlement in 1993 for $17,576; at that time there were at least two other people who were being mistreated by the same priest.

The case against Pezzoti served as the basis for the anti-gay campaign, and it is now open. There was a settlement in 1993 for $17,576; at that time there were at least two other people who were being mistreated by the same priest. The case against Pezzotti served as the basis for the anti-gay campaign.

"Discrimination touches every face of this group that supports LGBT people, including at times of crisis and illness, when we need our friends most," said HRC President Joe Solmonese. "No one should face the distress of lying ill or injured in a hospital bed with the loved one you designate barred from your bedside for any other than a compelling medical reason. For too long, such a ban has been arbitrarily denied many individuals, mostly to gay and lesbian Americans.

"The President's action tonight puts another step closer toward our goal of equal rights for all Americans and I applaud his decision," Solmonese said. According to the April 15 announce¬ment, the memorandum directs the National Equality March on Washington, D.C. to allow the right to affiliate with EAA. In unity with the victims of clergy abuse and calling for accountability by the church, National gay rights actions set for May

National gay rights actions set for May

"The march is the culmination of a series of regional conferences where activists from Seattle to Gainesville will debate political questions, discuss strategy and tactics and begin developing a broad new leadership.

"Because LGBT people come from all racial, ethnic, national, class and other identities. We encourage all grassroots organizations and what we value.

"In an investigation spanning 21 countries across six continents, The Associated Press found 30 cases of priests accused of abuse who were transferred or moved abroad. Some escaped police investigations. Many had access to children in another country, and some abused again.

"The pattern is if a priest gets into trouble and it's close to becoming a scandal or if the law might get involved, they send them to the missions abroad," said Richard Sipe, a former Benedictine monk and critic of what he says is a practice of international transfers of accused and admitted priest child abusers. "Anything to avoid a scandal."

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Arkansas court: gays may adopt, foster

An Arkansas court on April 16 struck down a law challenged by the American Civil Liberties Union that bans any unmarried person from being a foster or adoptive parent in the state of Arkansas.

"We are happy that the court recognized that Ark. law harms Arkansas' foster children because it eliminates potential qualified parents," said Holly Dickson, staff attorney with the ACLU of Arkansas.

"We have a critical shortage of homes now and this ban was denying good, loving homes to our most vulnerable children, including children of married gay couples," said Ben Cardin (D-MD), a member of the U.S. Senate who introduced the bill to reject the so-called "Anti-Homosexuality Bill." "This bill, which was introduced in the Ugandan parliament in October 2009, would expand penalties for homosexuality in Uganda to include the death penalty, and require citizens to report information about homosexuals to the police or face imprisonment."

"In addition to condemning the proposed legislation in Uganda, the bipartisan resolution also calls on all countries to reject the so-called "Anti-Homosexuality Bill." We are delighted that the court has found that the law was harmful to families and children, and we are pleased that the U.S. Department of State is continuing its effort to determine which items belonged to Harold and Clay owned and auctioned their possessions accumulated over the course of their 20 years together, or making any financial decisions on his behalf. The court denied their request for Clay to be Harold's 'roommate.' The court denied their request to pay for his care.

"I'm glad that so many political, religious and civic leaders in Uganda and around the world have publicly represented this hateful and dangerous bill before the Ugandan Parliament. Sadly, this legislation is just one example of actions taken around the world to restrict the rights of people just because of their gender or sexual orientation, and this continues consistently against all such discrimination."

"The Senates passage of this resolution begins to move us in that direction, and I will continue working with my colleagues and the administration to continue to address this issue," said Feingold, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on African Affairs.

"In the order, Judge Christopher C. Piazza of the Pulaski County Circuit Court held that the law casts an unreasonable burden and did not serve the States interest in determining what is in the best interest of the child. He also noted that he was struck by the fact that the law targeted gay people. The state of Arkansas is expected to appeal the decision.

"This law was harmful to families and children," said Christine Sun, senior counsel with the ACLU Lesbian & Bisexual Transgender Project. "The discriminatory policies embodied by this law did a disservice to children in need of a loving home by reducing the number of potential adoptive and foster parents. We are delighted that the court has found that it should not stand.

"This case was fundamentally about protecting some of Americas most vulnerable citizens children in state care," said Stacey Friedman, attorney with Sonoma County, Calif., which was featured on The Bikereno Project website.

"Only the Department of State to closely monitor human rights abuses that occur because of sexual orientation and to encourage the repeal or reform of laws such as the "Anti-Homosexuality Sexuality Bill" in Uganda that permit such abuses.

Achange for gay students

The American Civil Liberties Union filed legal papers on April 22 in federal court on behalf of lesbian high school student Constance McMillen regarding the school's violation of the free speech rights of McMillen, an 18-year-old high school senior who sued her school for canceling the high school prom rather than let her wear a tuxedo. The court ordered that prom be held on April 14.

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Interview

A Conversation with Joe Tarver: ESPA’s INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Ovet Overmyer

In a varied career that includes several major victories for the LGBT community, Joe Tarver brings to his new position as Interim Executive Director of the Empire State Pride Agenda (ESPA) a proven track record of accomplishment and a management style that has won him praise from his peers.

Many colleagues say that Joe has garnered a keen marketing acumen from both the public and private sectors, and has rubbed elbows with countless powerful and humble political operatives who have been rolling in and out of Washington D.C. since 1986. His ability to lead the organization through a transition period was never questioned.

Joe became the Interim Executive Director on March 1, when Alan Van Capelle left ESPA after seven prosperous years. Van Capelle now works for the New York City Comptroller’s office. Tarver says Van Capelle is now one of his peers.

In Washington, D.C., Joe was Director of the Office of White House Liaison at the Department of State during the first Clinton Administration and was one of a group of first-ever openly gay political appointees by any Presidential Administration.

Before that, he was a senior aide to Presidential Transition Committee Deputy Director Mark Gearan and assistant to Treasurer Robert Farmer on the 1992 Clinton for President Campaign and part of the Campaign’s senior finance staff. From 1986-1990 he was in the private sector, first with the public affairs communications firm Arnold and Porter Consultants and then with Cassidy and Associates. He was also a Legislative Aide in the U.S. House of Representatives for Texas Congressman Solomon Ortiz.

The Empty Closet caught up with Joe a few weeks ago. He said, “My first priority is to keep the Pride Agenda strong and to make progress on the important work that must be done for our community while a new Executive Director is being hired. I have to say, however, that I am very fortunate because we have an incredibly talented staff here at the Pride Agenda, a solid work plan in place for 2010 and a Board that is committed to seeing that we move forward without a hiccup during this transition period. I want the new Executive Director to take over an organization that is already poised to win this year and next in Albany on marriage equality, GENDA and Disability for All Students.”

Tarver says hiring the new Executive Director is a Board-driven process that includes input from many LGBT leaders and our allies from across the state, including some from the Rochester area.

Tarver added, “The Board has indicated its goal of having the new person in place by the spring and perhaps even by the Rochester Spring Pride on May 22. If not then, I feel sure it will be soon thereafter.” The Spring Pride in Rochester is one of the largest annual fundraisers for the nonprofit organization.

Tarver added that he is not a candidate for that position and this was in fact his communication to the Board at the same time he was asked to step up to become the Interim Executive Director.

Many ESPA Board members, and Tarver, quickly admit that Rochester has always been a fundamental part of achieving LGBT equality and justice in New York State. Historically, Rochester has led the state in victories for our community, even ahead of seemingly more progressive places like New York City. Tarver said, “Because it is such a population center — both for LGBT people and for deeply committed allies — the Pride Agenda recognizes both that the institutional support and community activism of Rochester is essential for legislative and social progress statewide on LGBT issues.”

On March 15, Tarver traveled to a cold and rainy Rochester to hear what local activists had to say. He told The Empty Closet after his visit, “We’re all New Yorkers, but we do approach LGBT issues differently. There’s a great deal of value in the viewpoints that I may not hear, living downtown in NYC. When I first started with ESPA, my first trip outside NYC was the then Communications Director was in Rochester to meet our community. So it was entirely appropriate that my first trip as the Interim Executive Director was again to Rochester to hear the concerns and viewpoints of those who are doing the day-to-day local work that’s necessary to win statewide equality.”

Asked point-blank why Rochesterians should support ESPA, Tarver said, “We can’t win statewide equality without the work of our allies across the state. Rochesterians’ powerful advocacy and contributions don’t just help us win our statewide legislative priorities— they also make a huge difference directly in your community.”

Tarver added, “Critical funds raised from events like the Spring Dinner go directly to the work we’re doing in and around Monroe County, including training for local Marriage Ambassadors, organizing local union members and staff, and strengthening relationships with faith leaders through the Rochester Interfaith Alliance. Rochester’s support also helps us secure millions of dollars in state funding for the members of our LGBT Health and Human Services Network, including local organizations like GAVG, MOCHA, AIDS Care and Rainbow SAGE.”

Tarver sounds convinced that ESPA will continue to be a leader in the fight for full equality for all New Yorkers. Looking forward to the Spring Dinner later this month, he added, “What stands out in my mind is how much the LGBT community in Rochester is an integral part of the fabric of the political and social life of the city. I don’t see this anywhere else in New York State and it’s really a special experience.”

About the long-term vision for the Pride Agenda, Tarver said, “The Pride Agenda exists to achieve equality under the law for LGBT people, with the larger goal of justice for all. Winning legislation is just one step — we also need to make sure that these laws, once passed, are implemented fully and that LGBT New Yorkers have every opportunity to live full lives. Our relationships with allies who care about our issues will continue to be important as we work toward the larger visions of racial, economic and social justice for all people.”

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10:00 AM: Sunday morning worship service
11:30 AM: Class on LGBT liberation theology
Childcare & Sunday School for children are available.

Lake Avenue Baptist Church is located just off Lake Avenue near the stop light at 145 Lake Avenue.

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when I came out, and helped me - I have
serving under DADT in
for the National Equality March, is plan­
ing a local action for Harvey Milk Week
ruary
marching officer. In spite of the attitudes
will go to such great lengths to burn a
violence, but we will not be intimidated
will make every effort to catch the culprit
as an out and
expressed outrage at an
project (AVP) expressed outrage at an incident that occurred on April 16, at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center (The Center) in Manhattan.
Staff members arriving to work discovered a burned rainbow flag hanging on a poster display case outside The Center. Center staff immediately contacted the NYPD and called AVP to report this despicable act of hate violence. The NYPD’s Hate Crimes unit is handling the investigation and AVP is working with the NYPD and The Center to respond to this incident. Over 100 people rallied outside the Center on April 21 to protest the vandalism.
"Hate violence comes not only in the form of physical assault, but in the bias, harassment, bullying and intimidation that LGBTQ people face every day," said Shawn Stapel, Executive Director of the New York City Anti-Violence Project. "This act of hate, aimed at The Center, a valued and valuable space for LGBTQ community members, cannot be tolerated in a city and world as diverse as ours."
"The act of hate demonstrated outside the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center in the Village is unacceptable," said Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn. "I was angered and deeply disturbed when I heard someone would go to such great lengths to burn a rainbow flag and pin it to the outside of the building. The Center has long been a safe space for LGBTQ people and will continue to serve New Yorkers who need specific health and social resources. We will continue to combat hate through education to ensure spaces like the Center stay safe. We will continue to speak out against hate and to ensure spaces like the Center stay safe. Our community will continue to stand up against all acts of hate."
"I was deeply aggrieved and angered to hear that the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center was vandalized under the cover of darkness Tuesday night," said New York State Senator Tom Duane. "The Center represents an entire community whose sense of security has been violated by this targeted violence, but we will not be intimidated and we will not be victimized. The Center is working with the New York City Police Department’s Hate Crimes Unit and the New York City Anti-Violence Project to respond to this apparent hate crime and I am confident that those responsible will be brought to justice. This event is only the latest indicator of the continued need to reduce ignorance, hate and bigotry in our society."
"I am appalled by the recent hate crime incident at the LGBT Community Center," said Assembly Member Danny O’Donnell. “Leaving a burned pride flag at the symbolic doorstep of our community is an act of intimidation that should be condemned by every New Yorker. I am grateful that the New York Police Depart
Karaoke Every Tuesday & Saturday 10pm-2am
Sunday Euche Tournaments @ 3:00pm
Prizes for 1st and 2nd place
Food Specials
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Monday Trivia 9-11:00pm
Featuring Blake from Kings of Karaoke
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May 14
140 ALEX BAR & GRILL

May 5th
(Wednesday)
Cinco De Mayo Celebration
$8 Dos Equis pitchers
$1 off Corona light bottles
$4 Tequilla shots
Menu specials to include quesadillas, tacos and other fiesta foods

May 12th
(Wednesday)
Featuring Frankie & Jewels 6-9pm
Buy one pasta dinner get one for ½ price

May 30th
(Sunday)
Memorial Day Cook Out
$3 plates: hamburger or hotdog, macaroni salad or potato salad & chips
Domestic pints $1.50

Every Friday Happy Hour Specials
2 for 1 drink specials
½ priced appetizers
$1 off fish fry

140 ALEX MAY SPECIALS

Pride Agenda continued from page 8)
the Center, should contact Mary Zicari, at the Empire State Pride Agenda (585-271-2420) or mzicari@prideagenda.org.

The campaign to pass GENDA (the Gender Expression Non Discrimination Act) is moving forward. Advocates from around New York State have continued educating their State Senators about the importance of passing this civil rights bill. During the first quarter of the year, activists and volunteers helped collect and distribute.

The Pride Agenda organized a letter drop day in early March. Those letters were delivered by state activists from around the state. The Statewide GENDA Call-In Day was implemented in late March, and in-district meetings are continuing in key Senate Districts across the state.

If you would like to participate in an in-district meeting, or are interested in working with the Pride Agenda and being involved in this campaign, advocates from key districts will be traveling to Albany on May 11 to meet with key senators who are crucial to the passage of GENDA before the end of session in 2010. For more information about key districts, please contact Mary Zicari at the Empire State Pride Agenda (585-271-2420) or mzicari@prideagenda.org.

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140 Alexander Street
Rochester, New York 14607
585-256-1000 • www.140alex.com
The LGBT community will not be intimidated by acts of vandalism directed at this important institution in our community," said Assembly Member Deborah Glick. "We stand united with the broader Village community to ensure the safety all those who visit the Center."

"This chilling act of hate reminds us that despite the gains the LGBT community has made, hate is still a very real and disquieting aspect of our society," said Assembly Member Micah Z. Kellner. "It is critical that justice is delivered swiftly where it sends a message — particularly to LGBT youth — that civil society does not align itself with bigotry, but rather embraces the diversity that makes our city great. As an openly bisexual man, I understand acutely how important these messages are in the social and emotional health of the younger members of our community. I am pleased to learn that the NYPD has acted appropriately and swiftly in the investigation of this deplorable hate crime."

"The LGBT community is a strong and proud community that will not be intimidated by cowardly acts of ignorance. Intolerance like this should not be tolerated by anyone," said Assemblymember Matthew Titone.

"This hateful act is yet another reminder of how far we have to go toward making our City one that is free of hatred and bigotry at all times and for all people," said Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer of Queens. "I am confident that the NYPD, along with the help of New Yorkers, will find those responsible for this attempt at intimidation."

"Constance is a very brave young woman, and she has suffered tremendously because of the animosity and hate she’s felt coming from her classmates and her community which the school’s actions have encouraged," said Kristy Bennett, Legal Director of the ACLU of Mississippi. "From a federal court found that the school violated her constitutional rights, an 18-year-old girl has been made the scapegoat and an outsider in the town where she has lived all her life. For the school to subject Constance to this type of hostility is simply inexcusable."

The amended complaint contains new details about events that have taken place since the ACLU first filed McMillen’s case on March 11, including about the way her classmates have intimidated by acts of vandalism directed at this important institution in our community."

"After the court ruled that IAHS acted illegitimately when it canceled the prom, we hoped that Constance would be able to attend the private prom without further incident," said Christine P. Sun, Senior Counsel with the ACLU national LGBT Project, who represents McMillen along with the ACLU of Mississippi.

"But instead there was a malicious plan to further ostracize and humiliate her. It is hard to conceive of adults behaving in such a cruel way."

McMillen is represented by Bennett and Sun, as well as by Norman C. Simon, Joshua Glick, and Jason Moffe of Bramer of Queens.

"The American Psychiatric Association (APA) proposes changes to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders."

The public comment phase of the review process ended April 20.

"Upon reviewing the APA’s proposed revisions, it appears that they no longer consider gender identity that differs from birth sex to be a basis for psychiatric diagnosis," said Human Rights Campaign Associate Director of Diversity Centre,Matthew Blalock.

"By focusing instead on the experience of incongruence, an often distressing conflict between a person’s physical characteristics and their sense of gender identity, the APA has made an important step toward the de-stigmatization of transgender lives."

While affirming this shift, HRC President Joe Solmonese pressed the APA to do more. “These diagnostic categories are frequently used by opponents of equality to deny basic civil rights to transgender Americans, and in that way become a significant source of emotional distress themselves,” said Solmonese.

“The APA must address this heinous practice and do more to empower mental health professionals as they seek to heal the damage caused by stigma, bias, and prejudice.”

HRC also called in its commentary for the complete removal of “transvestic disorder,” which pathologizes male-to-female cross-dressing, from the 2013 DSM-5 document.

“The persistence of this archaic category contradicts the positive shift the APA made with gender incongruence and tacitly affirms an understanding of gender based in sexism, not science,” said Solmonese.

The proposed changes are slated to go into effect in 2014.3

The state is planning to introduce legislation to prohibit the expression of hatred towards the LGBT community, with the aim of making our City one that is free of hatred and bigotry.

"We are confident that the school violated her constitutional right to subject Constance to this type of hostilities."

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Book by William Finn & James Lapine
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Starring:
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PRIDE FAMILY DAY
at the Memorial Art Gallery

When: Saturday July 17, 12-3pm
Where: Memorial Art Gallery (Parking in the Memorial Art Gallery lot is free for participants.)
Cost: $5 (Six and under free)
The Experience: Upon entering the Gallery, register children at the Pride table for an art class (taught in one of the MAG classrooms by a professional artist). Three different times will be offered. Visit the museum collection or take a guided tour and see the wondrous art that lives right here in Rochester. Then take a walk on the grounds. You never know what you might encounter: the bubble man, a face painter or one of Rochester’s finest storytellers spinning a yarn. Don’t forget the Parade starts at 3pm so get a good seat along Goodman Street. Most of all enjoy Pride with your family and your community. RSVP to (585) 244-8640 ext. 16

Contact:
Brian Doran, Gay Alliance
(585) 244-8640, ext. 16
E-mail: BrianD@GayAlliance.org
or Karen Goulet, Pride & Joy Families
(585) 244-8640, ext. 37
E-mail: kgoulet@prideandjoyfamilies.org
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History Corner

Famous Midge Costanza quotes:

“Human dignity is a right, not a privilege, a right inherent at birth. And it should be our goal to create a social environment in which every person can reach their full potential.”

“Every person can reach their full potential.”

Written and presented by Joseph Costanza and Concetta (Granata) Costanza.

History Corner

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A Call to Action

Dear Empty Closet Readers:

Will there ever be a vaccine to stop the spread of AIDS?

For the first time, in 2010, it looks like we can finally say YES. And it couldn’t be done without the more than 16,000 volunteers in Thailand who rolled up their sleeves and joined the vaccine study — in spite of pessimism from the scientific community. This study, conducted almost exclusively among heterosexuals, also pointed out that it is very possible that different types of vaccines will be needed for different types of exposures. In other words, for a vaccine to be licensed for gay men, it will need to be tested in gay men.

To be honest, there is growing concern at the highest levels of the federal government that sponsors many of the international HIV vaccine research studies. If a greater number of gay men do not enroll in the study which is taking place now in eleven cities across the U.S., including Rochester, then there is the very real possibility that future HIV vaccine research efforts will focus on more homogenous populations. What would this mean to the gay community?

Right now in Rochester, we are testing a new combination of vaccines that are synthetic (you can’t get HIV from the vaccine) and produce a balanced immune response. The study is limited to gay men and we desperately need your help.

The team at the ‘Rochester Victory Alliance’ is committed to working towards a world without AIDS and only a vaccine will make this possible. But again, we can’t do it without the gay community’s involvement. Our new website www.rochestervictoryalliance.org will answer questions you may have about enrollment. If not, then call us (585) 756-2329.

Please join us in this fight!

Sincerely,

Michael C. Keefer, M.D.
Principal Investigator, Rochester Victory Alliance
University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry

More info at:
RochesterVictoryAlliance.org
585-756-2329
An Open Letter to the Community

Dear Friends,

Drink up, Man Up, Join Up, Link Up...

IN ORDER TO AVOID THESE HEADLINES:

"An HIV vaccine may be possible but—only for heterosexuals..."

Why?
Because gay men are not volunteering for vaccine trials at the rate needed. Unless more of us get involved, the AIDS vaccine that gets developed may not help the gay community. Let me explain.

The good news is that a recent study known as the Thai study included 16,000 volunteers in Thailand. The results were very promising. The bad news for us is that this study was conducted almost exclusively among heterosexuals. If a vaccine is going to work in gay men then it needs to be tested on gay men. What if the first preventive HIV vaccine was not available to us, simply because we didn't participate? We cannot allow this possible outcome and certainly not by our choice!

The Rochester Victory Alliance needs more of us to get involved. They are testing a new vaccine combination and the study is limited to gay men. Will you be one of the people who steps forward?

Here's the sad truth; the URMC Rochester Victory Alliance study needs 80 men who have sex with men to enroll. With thousands of us living in this region, you'd think this would be easy. As of today, only 10 men have come forward. This needs to change.

Won't you join me in getting the word out and helping to recruit more guys to this effort? If you haven't volunteered, please consider it?

Sincerely,

Peter Mohr
Owner
Bachelor Forum
was truly a pioneer in our movement, and was just a wonder - effervescent, irreverent, revered and adored by so many people. She was in his and Rosalynn's thoughts when she died. She said, “She had so many people she had touched through the students she has worked with, politicians she has worked with, attorneys she has worked with. It’s such a big loss to all of us.”

Bonnie Dumanis also said that Jimmy Carter called Midge a week or so before she died. She said, “He called and told her she was in his and Rosalynn’s thoughts and prayers and thanked her for all she did for the country.”

Hilary Roser, now a Democratic political strategist who also works with the Huffington Post, was a board member for HRCF. Of Midge, Hilary said, “Midge was an LGBT rights pioneer of the inside game. From her high ranking place, she created inclusion where none existed before. She burst out of that closet years later and became a wonder woman — a trailblazer.”

Assemblyman Joseph Morelle, D-Irondequoit, chairman of the Monroe County Democratic Party, said, “Midge Costanza became a national figure, something that local Democrats were very proud of.” Mayor Robert Duffy echoed the same sentiments. “Midge has left her mark on the political life of Rochester and the country. Shoulders To Stand On is proud and humbled to recognize Midge Costanza as an icon of liberation and equality whose contributions will not be forgotten and who continues to live in the hearts and minds of all those she touched.”

There is no doubt that Midge Costanza has left her mark on the political life of Rochester and the country. Shoulders To Stand On is proud and humbled to recognize Midge Costanza as an icon of liberation and equality whose contributions will not be forgotten and who continues to live in the hearts and minds of all those she touched.

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KENTUCKY DERBY CONTEST
“WEAR YOUR HAT AND SHOW IT OFF”
$50 BAR TAB FOR THE BEST HAT

SATURDAY EVENING, MAY 1
BEAR NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5
CINO DE MAYO
$2 CORONA’S AND JOSE SHOTS

FRIDAY, MAY 7
DISCO NIGHT

SATURDAY, MAY 8
UNDERWEAR NIGHT

FRIDAY, MAY 14
COUNTRY WESTERN NIGHT

SATURDAY, MAY 15
RAM’S BAR NIGHT
CAN-AM

FRIDAY, MAY 21
FETISH NIGHT - WEAR YOUR FETISH GEAR

SATURDAY, MAY 22
TANK TOP NIGHT

SUNDAY, MAY 23
GAY.COM PARTY

FRIDAY, MAY 28
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SATURDAY, MAY 29
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MAY 2010 • NUMBER 434 • GAY ALLIANCE OF THE GENESSEE VALLEY • THE EMPTY CLOSET
Making the Scene

SCENEMAKERS OF THE MONTH: Sherwin Bethel prepares a pomegranate martini and Liza drops by at Mamooche Bistro. Gay Alliance raffles and many other events often take place at the fabulous new restaurant at the corner of East Ave. and Alexander (that round building). Photos: Susan Jordan

NEARLY WED: The panel at the Nearly Wed Game on March 24 at the Gay Alliance Youth Center. Photo: Bess Watts

CASINO NIGHT: Top left/right: Jeanne Gainsberg/Michael Hardy. Above: Sue Cowell, Gay Alliance Executive Director, with Carrie Vernon and Tom Ferrarase of the Board, at 140 Alex for a March fundraiser. Photos: Laura McSpadden

TAX DAY UNHAPPY HOUR: The EqualityROC executive board - Todd Plank, Mir Buchanan, Anne Tischer and Blanche Harling - at 140 Alex after the Tax Day protest. Photo: Bess Watts

Paw Protest: Mary Ann Sanford, Pride At Work Member, at the County contract protest on March 9. Photos: Bess Watts

Sins of Scripture: Rev. Jim Mulcahy, Judy Pfoltzer and Patti LaRosa at the PFLAG workshop on the negative use of the Bible, held at St. Thomas Episcopal Church on April 6. Photos: Bess Watts


Nearly Wed: The panel at the Nearly Wed Game on March 24 at the Gay Alliance Youth Center. Photo: Bess Watts

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LIPSYNCH FOR YOUR LIFE: At RIT’s drag show. Photos: Laura McSpadden

THE LATEST THING: The fabulous fashion show took place at RIT Inn on April 16. Above right: Thomas Warfield. Photos: Laura McSpadden

ON THE AVENUE: A Manhattan Easter by Eric Bellmann

COLORFEST: Top left: Geo Kartheiser and Kris Pumphrey, co-directors of RIT’s Colorfest 2010, at the opening ceremony. Photos: Tony Correa
HOPE TAKES ACTION

Join us in the effort to stop HIV.

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

Call 585-756-2DAY or visit www.HopeTakesAction.org
The Lipstick Massacre comes to Geva in May 27
By Susan Jordan

She’s baazzzack... Michael Steck’s The Lipstick Massacre: A Murder Mystery, directed by David Henderson and produced by Method Machine, runs from May 27 to June 12 at Geva Theatre Center, 75 Woodbury Blvd.

The Lipstick Massacre is a new murder mystery play from the twisted mind of Rochester’s Michael Steck. Pandora Box. Pandora Box was created by Daphne Von Hasenpfeffer, the current It Girl of local TV commercials, who quickly becomes the center of a murder investigation when her competition begins to get picked off one by one. A whirling detective is on the case, but he’ll need the help of his erstwhile protégé, Method Machine’s leading talent agent, Cooki McDoogle. Together they work the town of Flashing Hollow and its wacky residents to try and stop the rising body count. Take a sprinkle of gothic, a dash of boogy cowgirls, a pinch of sexual exploits and one man, shake it all up and you have all the ingredients you’ll need to crack the case of The Lipstick Massacre!

Michael Steck is a writer, entrepreneur and filmmaker, best known for his drag persona Pan­dora Box. Method Machine’s production of The Lipstick Mas­sacre comes hot on the heels of Pandora’s stint on RuPaul’s Drag Race. Widely touted as the “funny queen,” Pandora wowed the judges with her witty banter and creative solutions for the show’s campy challenges. Her Carol Channing was an ace, her viral video and RuPaul called her the Susan Lucci of the competition.

“Pandora is the funniest person I know,” says Artistic Director David Henderson. “And so is Michael. We are ecstatic to be working with Geva to bring what Entertainment Weekly calls a ‘master of comedy’ to this venue.”

The Lipstick Massacre premi­ered in November at MuCCC to sold out audiences and rave reviews. Method Machine is an ari­stic playground committed to producing and presenting daring, relevant and illuminating experiments in performance and art. Founded in 2007, Method Machine has presented such hits as Closer, Edge and The Lipstick Massacre, as well as provoc­ative art exhibits like “A Tibetan Pilgrimage” and “Bushwacked.” The Lipstick Massacre exempli­fies Method Machine’s desire to develop and foster new plays and playwrights.

The play features Marx J. San­vanato (called by the Daily­ city The­ atre’s Michael Steck. Pandora’s stint on RuPaul’s Drag Race), and Pandora’s stint on RuPaul’s Drag Race. Geva and MuCCC are very different spaces, so the new pro­duction has gone through some changes. David Henderson said, “We have something really good, and we’re trying to hump it up. Geva is a much larger space and also many more people will see it there. We have more room for the sets. The play will probably change the most.”

David Steck added, “The script has changed too. It has been re-arranged. Some things have been shortened, and some of it is funnier!”

David said, “We polished some of the relationships so now the comedy is more related to the characters.”

Michael noted that after per­forming the play four times, it became easier to see what works and what needs to be cut. For instance, some of Daphne’s less successful jokes have been cut, Michael said. “I tailored the part (of Daphne) to me, and it worked out better.” David added, “It plays more well-rounded now, since some of the characters are more fleshed out.”

Is comedy harder than trag­edy? Is it harder to make people laugh than cry? The two had different opinions.

Michael said, “For me, com­edy (Lipstick continues page 3)
Book Review:
AN INTERVIEW WITH Z
EGLOFF, AUTHOR OF VERGE
By Laura McSpadden
Verge is not your typical lesbian love story. It is a well-written, quirky and
unequivocally enjoyable read, driven forward by its eccentric cast of characters.
For instance, there is Claire. Claire serves as the protagonist of this tale. She
is a twenty-something film student who happens to be in her first year of sobriety.
Happily, however, she is denied access to the school’s equipment
and is left to worry about how she will be able to finish her final project.
Claire is in love with a nun (excuse me, I mean a woman religious) named Sister
Hillary. What can we say about Sister Hillary? She
is a wisecracking, deep-thinking character
who does an excellent job of calling
(or schmoozing and socializing, Rita is a
fauv-lesbian cougar who seems to have
developed manipulating others into an
art form.
And Sister Hillary. What can we
say about Sister Hillary, except that she
is undeniably an unsuitable mate for Claire... if only she weren’t so sexy, intel­
ligent and compassionate. But what sort of future could a young, sex-driven recov­
ering alcoholic hope to share with a nun? I guess you’ll have to read the book to
discover the answer to that one.
Verge is written in an accessible,
friendly and refreshingly sincere voice.
The book is replete with poetic turns-of-
phrase that make it a delight to read
each and every sentence. The pace of the
story moves along perfectly, allowing the
reader to get carried away with the pleas­
antly chaotic joys and struggles of Claire
on her journey towards happiness, health,
freedom and love.
The first novel by Z Egloff, Verge has
recently been nominated for a Lambda
Literary Award in the Lesbian Debut
Fiction category. If you are looking for a
light but thoughtful read, I strongly
recommend that you pick up a copy of Verge.
An interview with Z Egloff
Empty Closet: What was the biggest
surprise you encountered in the writing of the novel? I.e., did any of the characters
or plot elements take you somewhere you
didn’t plan on?
Z Egloff: I’m an outlier, which means
I spend months brainstorming, and then
I write according to the outline I come up with. This is not to say that changes don’t
occur when I’m writing, and Verge was no
exception to this. I had originally planned
for Claire and her friend Shelly to have a
strictly platonic relationship throughout
the novel. The minute I started writing,
however, the energy between them started
to get frisky. It was a surprise, but in a
good way, I think it makes the book more
interesting. Plus I love it when characters
surprise me like that.
EC: Why was it important to you to
write a novel that featured so many queer
characters?
ZE: My impetus to write came out of
hunger and desire to tell stories about queer lives. Despite the rise of queer visibility in the U.K.,
for example, several lesbian writers have
had huge mainstream success. Not so in the
U.S. At least not yet.
EC: What keeps you going when it
gets difficult e.g., when the words don’t
come as easily as you would like?
ZE: I’m an extremely disciplined writ­
er. Even if I’m in a bad mood, or happen to
think I suck as a writer that day, I just keep writing. I also keep a journal of
inspiring quotes from other writers and artists—that helps a lot too. And I have a
good posse of friends to keep me encouraged.
EC: You mention on your website that
you have a gender-flexible presentation.
Do you have preferred pronouns? Do you feel that your gender identity and pre­
sentation have influenced/informed your
writing in any way?
ZE: I’m okay with “she” to describe
myself, though I often get “he” from people who don’t know me. The “he”
used to bother me until I embraced my
genderqueer status. Now I like it. When
people get apologetic about it, I tell them
“No worries.”
As far as my writing, I haven’t yet
explored transgender issues as much as
I’d like to. Claire in Verge has a little gen­
derqueer stuff going on, but it’s not a big
part of the book. I have a first draft of
an upcoming novel with a transgender
character, and I expect there will be more
exploration on this topic in the future.
Also the timing has to be done perfectly — how you land a joke has to be just right.

David countered. “Comedy is a science and drama is an ‘art’. Comedy is harder because of all the variables, like the heat in the theatre can distract the audience. Also the timing has to be done perfectly — how you land a joke has to be just right. I find it harder. This is actually Michael Machine’s first big comedy production. It was also the first play we’ve ever worked from page to stage. Writers sometimes have a hard time collaborating in theatre, and seeing their work altered. Michael admitted, it was hard at first because I really wanted it to be exactly as written. I tried to re-write during rehearsals — during scenes I was in and David didn’t really want me to do that! So then I let go a little.”

David paid tribute to the cast, “that wonderful bunch of creative, talented people. We’re really looking forward to having it at Geva. This would be the first stage to moving it on. The next step in the theatre can distract the audience.

Drag backlash
Michael has received some national attention for his stint on RuPaul’s Drag Race, such as being on the cover of Entertainment Weekly. He said, “When I was killed off I was angry and sad. That was the first challenge I had felt good about. I was also partially relieved, because it was hard. Every day we worked from 9 a.m. to 10 or 11 at night… Then the backlash started — all the emails and blogs started coming in about how people were outraged. Entertainment Weekly said it was the worst elimination. So I was happy because I got more attention than I had won.

“It’s been exciting. I was in L.A. for a month and no one knew me — but suddenly people went crazy and wanted my autograph. We’d go out to a bar and I’d get recognized.”

He added, “RuPaul is really nice.”

David said, “I was interesting seeing the impact Michael and Pandora had on people here. I went to Tilt (for screenings of the show) and even lip-synched for my life — but I didn’t win.

“I want to get people from out of town to come to Rochester and see the play,” he continued. “You can read it but seeing it is a whole different thing.”

The Lipstick Massacre will be performed on Thursday, May 27 at 7 p.m.; Friday, May 28 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, May 29 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday, May 30 at 7 p.m.; Wednesday, June 2 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, June 5 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday, June 6 at 7 p.m.; Thursday, June 10 at 7 p.m.; Friday, June 11 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, June 12 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m."
trave

Boot Camp at the CIA
By Merle Exit
Hyde Park’s Culinary Institute of America (CIA) offers “Boot Camps” where you spend time learning how to cook. You don’t have to be a chef to do this, as there are both instructors for the course and student chefs to assist you in the kitchen.

The subject of my course was Healthy Cooking. Although it was a four-day event, I spent one day at Boot Camp on day two.

I met the other students the evening before, during dinner at St. Andrew’s Cafe, one of the restaurants at the CIA. Each one had their own story for being there, coming from different parts of the country and some as family members.

I was first given my “scrubs” so to speak—jacket, pants (with stretch waistband), hat and neckerchief. Actually it was Chef Skipity who attached my neckerchief and the moon of the two-member team that I joined that made sure I looked the part. I had no idea that any of the class members were simply cooks at home.

Naturally, I brought Esther, my rubber chicken, to the classroom and introduced her to Chef “Ski” as everyone referred to him. He got back at me by constantly screaming, but only letting us know how thrilled he was of our “fool chickens” variation. The sauce was complicated of arrowroot, chicken stock, evaporated skim milk, Dijon mustard, honey and ground black pepper. Rather than using a cut up whole chicken, boneless and skinless chicken breasts were substituted. They were basically covered with finely ground panko, chopped parsley, tarragon, basil, chives and buttermilk mix flour, eggs, milk, bread crumbs and oil.

That same “chicken” group turned recipes for Wild Mushroom and Goat Cheese Strudel, Fennel Braised in Char donnay and Stewed Chickpeas with Tomatoes, Zucchini and Chives.

Another group was given Cappino with Garlic Cones with the following ingredients: olive oil, diced onion, diced fennel, diced green onions, diced green bell peppers, minced garlic, tomato concasse, tomato puree, dry white wine, bay leaf, chervil, red wine vinegar, cumin (first cut up and disjointed), crushed black peppercorns, diced carrots, diced swiss chard, and garlic and salt. Needless to say there was much preparation time on this one. Oh yeah, the cones garnish consisted of whole wheat baguettes, vegetable spray, minced garlic and a saffron oil of nine ingredients.

“Chefski” cut up the protein and gave us demonstrations on how to cut up a chicken into eight equal pieces, how to cut up a live lobster for the chopping and how to prepare a polenta souffle.

The Healthy principles. Did you know that there is “salt” in the bones of meat? Therefore creating stocks using pork, beef, veal and chicken bones is a great additive to your menu.

Into the kitchen! I had joined the class on Day Two and the menu for Team Two was Grilled Tuna with Spring Herb Salad and Marinated Tomatoes, Peddlini with Broccoli Rabe, Panconetta, Parmesana, and Toasted Crumb Buttered Belgian Endives and Chianti Granita.

To add to the “healthy” we were also making two dressings. One was a Control Recipe of Port Wine Vinaigrette with the healthy variation of a Reduced-Fat Port Wine Vinaigrette.

The Control Recipe consisted of balsamic vinegar, red wine vinegar, salt, dry mustard, sugar, ground black pepper, extra-virgin olive oil, chopped chervil, chopped parsley and chopped chives. The healthy variation used arrowroot, chicken stock, balsamic vinegar, extra-virgin olive oil, chopped basil and half the amount of salt. With the healthy variation you have to first boil and cool the stock that is thickened with arrowroot.

One group had a “frood chickens” variation. They were not as yet in the kitchen.

Toasted Crumbs; Braised Belgian Endive; Tomatoes, Zucchini and Cilantro.

9. Use salt with care and purpose – explore a variety of seasonings, preparation methods and cooking techniques to reduce reliance on salt.

The last was one of the most important principles. Did you know that there is “salt” in the bones of meat? Therefore creating stocks using pork, beef, veal and chicken bones is a great additive to your menu.

Into the kitchen! I had joined the class on Day Two and the menu for Team Two was Grilled Tuna with Spring Herb Salad and Marinated Tomatoes, Pe...
### Columnists

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

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**Growing Up**

**By Eric Bellmann**

Eric made lists.
Each morning he would write down
the things he intended to accomplish that day.
He found satisfaction in checking off the day progressed.
To add to his sense of achievement, he would list items like
"floss teeth," "change bed linens," things he'd do anyway. He would then feel not quite so disparaged when he failed to deal with a more challenging task.

"Call cell phone company or book airline tickets." For a long time Eric used accomplishments as the measure of his value.

Eric's shameful secret, about which he feared his classmates would laugh, was that he was prone to incontinence. People didn't believe that this could really be true, since his life was marked by considerable achievement. Nonetheless, he knew he was easily overwhelmed and consequently easily irritated.
At this point, he had decided he relaxed a bit over his strong capacity to overreact.

Recorded as a single child (his only
sibling, a sister, was fifteen years older),
he had the capacity for being uncomfortable alone. Many of these nighttime needlepoint, travel — required no companionship. On the occasions when he had to work in committees or on teams, he found the experiences frustrating. He never developed much tolerance for the foibles of other people.

Eric allowed as he did not much like individual people, yet he delighted in engaging strangers. He viewed this interest as engendering casual conversations as a strategy for "being here now," which was an attention technique he had come across in practice. And through his entire life he was committed to equality and social justice. Always, he had insisted on whether it was a soccer team or a political faction. He liked the idea of revolution.

He was known to be a renegade and often identified himself, Eric had considered a number of spiritual disciplines over his lifetime. Raised in a conservative Protestant faith, his early awareness of his homosexuality contributed to a deep sense of alienation from the spiritual heritage of his childhood. He considered Catholicism briefly but ultimately found more spiritual solace in alcoholism. Recovery at 40, concurrent with the burgeoning gay rights movement, established an entirely new life for Eric in his 40s. He was out both socially and professionally.

The horse was a bonded a vague romantic notion
for the early days of gay life when it was covert, secretive. He felt fortunate at having lived a full and rich life before the plague. He'd lost two of his best friends early on, before treatment, men he missed today.

Once, in a sour frame of mind, he stared at the God he didn't believe in, "Thank you a lot!" As he continued to
vanished. Thanks a lot indeed; he'd lived
shops. He went to exotic places often.

Strangely, he encountered eventually came to be understood as evidence of the capacity to take life seriously. The thoughtful therapist told him the shots you miss for are the ones you don't take. All things considered, he had no complaints.

Some scattered takes on Eric would indicate that people that his heroes were independent thinkers like Gloria Steinem, Joan Baez, Mary McCarthy Coleen. He considered himself a Canadian.

He felt fortunate to have his grasp on his gender and one aunt, both of whom had lived through the firebombing of Dresden. He remembered his sister seven years before she died.

If a styled needs to list accomplishments you might want to know that once he saved someone's life by phoning 911 after a friend had taken sleeping pills.

But at this point the writer has begun to drift into reporting what he did, not who he was.

Eric's essay is the result of a suggestion from the pastor of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Rochester, who encouraged the writer to have a self-assessment with a goal of identifying goals and values in pursuit of living a better life.

E-mail: EBELC@RIT.EDU

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**Cleaning My Closet SPRING INSPIRATIONS**

**By Meredith Elizabeth Reiniger**

"Spring cleaning..."This message was posed on the large sign in front of the Starlite Drive-In every May. If the paper that they would have been forced to amend their announcements. Spring sprang sooner than they could have possibly thought.

What quirky spellings would explain that an April day of 87 degree sun that popped my crocuses right out of the ground?!

What quirky spellings would explain that an April day of 87 degrees sun that popped my crocuses right out of the ground?

How can I explain to you two need that kitten in your life right now? Then I understand that we have been a PetSmart. And here's the latest news: the little hearts could begin to sing again.

Such a time I accidentally fell in love once more. While waiting for Vegas vet, dd wandered over to a small crate sitting in the corner of the bench. "OH! OH! OH! Croc eyes!!" said the kitten turned seated, far away. I don't need to see a kitten. I explained. "OH! OH! Croc eyes!!" said the kitten.

I'm not sure how to react really. I can imagine it from here. "OH, OH, OH...please, just one second."

I love these two reasons and a dog, I reminded her as I walked over to the buttscrotch kitten. Oh, oh, oh, Love me, I'm so cute. I kiss the ride home, I heard "I know we don't need a fourth cat, but..." What exactly is this planet?

I need my cell phone. Really needed. Friday was another day where it should have been, call the vet, been, maybe, you really really wanted.

Clercly I used dd's cell phone to call the missing phone: To cordial, redial, rest the phone, dialing the phone that might not come when it is called. I kept that to myself.

Indeed, I could not just shout, and goldfinches race with them to see who can flaut their yellow first. Otherwise, No, not that person of interest.

By MeredithElizabethReiniger@fsvainter.net

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**A Few Bricks Short AN INSIDIOUS SISY**

**By David Hull**

Spring is in the air. The sweet smell of beaming, Birds are singing, flowers are blooming. A word of warning: The Republican Party has revealed my weaknesses and secrets.

And my secret was so clever that I didn't even know about it in my heart. I'm not saying I'm gay, everybody knows that!

It's my other secret. All the evidence needed to convict me is — I voted for Obama. I supported Health Care Reform. I'm pro-choice. So obviously, I'm a Social Democrat — at least, according to the Republicans. I guess this whole paying my taxes, voting the right way, celebrating the Fourth, and celebrating Independence Day every July 4th was all a cover. Yes, I'm an insidiously liberal Republican.

A Socialist Nazi who hates America! Who do these people think they are? People like Rush Limbaugh (he must be a big bowl of stupid every morning for breakfast) and Sarah Palin (in our house we call her Carrie Barbara) and Glenn Beck (a commentator as he makes an extremely funny comedic — except I'm laughing at him, not with him). You have any idea for these ads are a lie for all the Republicans and conservative groups and...yeah, I have no idea if we have a federal money available for abortion. However, I bet our own health care reform sacred to us from the abortionists abortions. And how many of those old, grey, dried-up male senators have ever been pregnant? Let's face it — if men ever did, abortion would not be legal; it would be free.

Not only the movement of the Tea Party Movement? So for I understand they're against Obama, they're against Health Care Reform, they're against abortion, but what are they? Why don't those people just say what the hell they want? They don't want a black guy for President!

So, believing that all Americans should be able to have health care coverage makes me a Socialist Nazi who hates America! Wait until they find out I think all Americans should have health care and a shelter too! I am an amiable sissy, indeed.

To me, those extremist Republicans
Conundrums

CONSERVATIVES ALREADY HYPERTVENTILATING OVER NEXT SUPREME COURT NOMINEE

By Dee Overmyer

Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens was unani­mously confirmed by the Senate in 1975, just 19 days after he was nomi­nated. His succes­sor can expect a far more arduous confirmation process.

President Obama’s choice to replace him will be one of the most important decisions he’ll ever make in our lifetimes. That’s because, right now, the current Supreme Court is packed with right-wing Republican appointments. The Court is more than twenty years older than the electorate. It’s using its infallible information to make decisions with far-reaching conse­quences. And it’s playing to win elections, not to serve the public interest.

For instance, earlier this year in the case known as Citizens United, the Supreme Court ruled that corporations have the right to spend unlimited amounts of money to influence elections. If corporations have more influence, they’re going to undermine our democracy by dramatically expanding the power of big corpora­tions and conservatives would like to keep the status quo.

President Obama should be looking for a Supreme Court nominee who will affect the Court in a very strategic way. Even the president has talked about how the Court is out of touch with everyday Americans. We saw him take a swipe at the Supreme Court in the State of the Union address back in January. This gives me some hope I can hang my hat on.

While Mr. Obama’s first nominee to the Court, Justice Sonia Sotomayor, was a strong candidate as well. She brought some much-needed diversity, but she’s not quite as progressive as I would like. And some conservatives may support her because she hired a lot of con­servatives at Harvard.

Kagan is a strong candidate as well. She’s been a professor at Harvard for several years, and she’s got a lot of experience with legal issues. And she’s a strong advocate for women’s rights.

But what about the Catholic Church? Will they support Obama’s pick? I don’t think so. It seems like they’re always trying to keep up with public opinion, and they don’t want to be left behind.

So, let’s review. I am supportive of all Americans having affordable health care. I support gay rights in the military. But I don’t think that’s enough. We need a Supreme Court that will stand up for our values. We need a Court that will protect our rights.

And that’s why I support Obama’s choice. I think he’s got a lot of wisdom, and I think he’ll make a good choice. And I’m looking forward to seeing what he’ll do with his second choice.

U.S.S. Metaphor

THE LAD THAT LOVED A SAILOR
A TRIBUTE TO MUSICAL THEATRE - GILBERT & SULLIVAN’S HMS PINAFARIM REINAGENED

JUNE 12TH, 8 PM
Hochstein Performance Hall
Tickets: Online at www.theRGMC.org
PARKLEIGH, OUTLANDISH, THE CREATOR’S HANDS, EQUAL-GROUNDS

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Beyond the Binary

TRANS INVISIBILITY IN THE QUEER COMMUNITY

By Laura McSpadden

As you, kind reader, may already be aware, March 31 was the first Annual International Transgender Day of Visibility. This is an event that will hopefully recur annually, and it really got me thinking.

Greater trans visibility is sorely and desperately needed. And, no, I am not just referring to the lack of visibility of trans identities within strait communities. Although the invalidation of my gender and the gender identities of others from heteronormative culture is painful, it is not entirely unexpected.

What is more, saddening to me is the invalidation of my identity by people within queer communities. Unfortunately, it happens way more frequently than you might expect.

For instance: a few weeks ago, my fiancé/fiancee and I were out at 160 Alex Bar and Grill, enjoying an evening out with each other. We struck up a conversa­tion with a cute gay couple about fashion and dancing, and before long we knew we had made some new friends.

And yet... Before long, they referred to us as a les­bian couple. No big deal, it happens fairly often when we meet people. We kindly and gently informed them that we are a trans couple, and that neither of us identify with the terms used by our interlocutors.

TheU.S.S. Metaphor

THE LAD THAT LOVED A SAILOR
A TRIBUTE TO MUSICAL THEATRE - GILBERT & SULLIVAN’S HMS PINAFARIM REINAGENED

JUNE 12TH, 8 PM
Hochstein Performance Hall
Tickets: Online at www.theRGMC.org
PARKLEIGH, OUTLANDISH, THE CREATOR’S HANDS, EQUAL-GROUNDS

ROCHESTER GAY MEN’S CHORUS
I'm not angry about these invalidations of the nature of my relationship to myself and my partner. For one thing, I'm tired of being angry, and for another, it doesn't really accomplish anything to indulge in anger. But I still wonder what can be done to change the silencing of so many people's expressions of their authentic selves.

Of course, I've considered the "P-friend" response, the decision to disregard the responses of other people. I've heard that this works for many people. But I'm a softie, and I've spent too many years of my life denying and hiding from my full self. I want to see and express my whole self, and to be able to share the truth of my whole self with the people with whom I come into contact. Sometimes, I get to a point where I just give up for a while and stop trying to explain it to people. But by doing so, am I failing to rise to the need for further visibility of and education regarding trans folks everywhere? I think that I am. So maybe I'll start to sound like a broken record every time someone calls me a lesbian. I guess I've just gotten to a point where I'd rather be boring than invisible.

The International Transgender Day of Visibility serves as a complement to the Transgender Day of Remembrance, which occurs in November. The Day of Remembrance is a somber occasion that memorializes those people who have been killed as a result of anti-transgender prejudice: in contrast, the Day of Visibility is a celebration of the day-to-day visibility of and education regarding trans people. The Day of Remembrance is a ceremony of mourning; the Day of Visibility is a celebration of the life and visibility of trans people's identities and accomplishments. The Day of Remembrance is a ceremony of mourning; the Day of Visibility is a celebration of the life and visibility of trans people's identities and accomplishments. The Day of Remembrance is a ceremony of mourning; the Day of Visibility is a celebration of the life and visibility of trans people's identities and accomplishments. The Day of Remembrance is a ceremony of mourning; the Day of Visibility is a celebration of the life and visibility of trans people's identities and accomplishments. The Day of Remembrance is a ceremony of mourning; the Day of Visibility is a celebration of the life and visibility of trans people's identities and accomplishments. The Day of Remembrance is a ceremony of mourning; the Day of Visibility is a celebration of the life and visibility of trans people's identities and accomplishments. The Day of Remembrance is a ceremony of mourning; the Day of Visibility is a celebration of the life and visibility of trans people's identities and accomplishments. The Day of Remembrance is a ceremony of mourning; the Day of Visibility is a celebration of the life and visibility of trans people's identities and accomplishments. The Day of Remembrance is a ceremony of mourning; the Day of Visibility is a celebration of the life and visibility of trans people's identities and accomplishments.

Although the official date for this celebration has passed, I choose to embrace the spirit of it year-round. I ask you to join me: there is so much worthwhile work to be done and so many heartfelt truths to be heard.
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The Latest Thing

Thank You

Thank you all for a great “The Latest Thing” presented by The Gay Alliance at the RIT Inn and Conference Center on Sunday, 4.16.10 — with the 1st show at 4:00PM & the 2nd show at 7:00PM — doors opened at 3 and 6:00PM. Respectfully to friends, family, volunteers and an audience who wouldn’t believe their minds after experiencing this “show about fashion” developed in a few short months by our stellar production team:

MADHAUS D., Production & Choreographer;
MARK ALLAN DAVIS
KIARA NATH, Assistant Choreographer
EMILY TARADASH, Stage Manager
SCOTT GINETT, Assistant Manager
KEN CUYLER, Wardrobe/Fashion supervisor
MICHAEL J. HARDY, Head Cook and Bottle Washer
BRIAN KEHOE, Master of Ceremony, Comic & Magician

This Pride 2010 fundraiser was brought to our audience through the generosity and generosity of the following people and organizations: KAREN DODSON and TAMMY CHISMAN of WATERLOO PREMIUM OUTLETS, JUSTIN CHESIRE HS TEAM of JESSE AND AUSTIN OF CHESHIRE AV SUSAN LIGHT OF BRIGHTON SECURITIES and MICHAEL CALABRESE OF GOOD LUCK RESTAURANT and FRANCINE and MATT at RIT INN and CONFERENCE CENTER — please thank them and frequent their businesses — they are why we are successful!

We are so very appreciative of the hours and hours of rehearsal and time given by our enthusiastic “latest things” models! They presented the clothing and merchandise beautifully and with energy and enthusiasm like no others could have! TYLER COTE, MICHAEL MARIO CASTRO, KATHRYN DEFEQO, MICHAEL DELANEY, RANDY KOHLMEIER, MELISSA LANTY, WANDA MARTINEZ, DAVID MCLUCKIE, KIARA NATH, KATIE O’CONNOR, AMBER ORLANDO, ERIC SHOEN, CARRIE WEREN

Special guest model & dancer, THOMAS WARFIELD

Participating stores from WATERLOO PREMIUM OUTLETS: BANANA REPUBLIC FACTORY STORE, BASS, BLACK & DECKER, BROOKS BROTHERS FACTORY STORE, CALVIN KLEIN, COLUMBIA SPORTSWEAR COMPANY, GUESS, HARRY & DAVID, JONES NEW YORK, LANE BRYANT OUTLET, NINE WEST, REEBOK AND TOTES/ISOTONER/SUNGLASS WORLD — much thanks!!! The clothing and merchandise were super and the swag bags, store coupons and great offers are sure to spur some shopping at your fine stores out there at WATERLOO PREMIUM OUTLETS!

Our thanks also go to OUTLANDISH for their leather ware and to them and EQUAL-GROUNDS for selling and promoting these shows. TOM JOHNSTON and CHRIS STEUBING for their impromptu modeling!

Finally, behind-the-scenes and the day-of effort and dedication by these fine folks are what truly made our event a complete success. Make-up by MARY GURNOW, CAROL LEE and SHORANDA IYEZ. Our photography by KEVIN WEST, GERRY SZYMANSKI, JOLI ONG and LAURA MCSPADDEN Video by JOHN HOWARD. And as always our fantastic volunteers from the gay alliance, especially SCOTT FEARING, JEANNE GAINBURG, BLANCHE HARLING, MARK LEONARD TERRY GREEN, THERESA SCHWARTZ, SARAH NORTHROP, AMANDA NEUBAUER, JOAN Granata, VITA TRINCALLI, KIM SMITH, HEIDI SIMMONS, DAVE CURTIS, JULIANA WHITE, JUDY JOHNSON, MEGGIE KAPTEIN, LIZ THYRATHTHONGSAY, JENNIFER RATCLIFF, MIR BUCHANAN, MICHELLE KARCH, TERRI CVETAN, KRISTY FUNDERBURK, XIN YI CHAN, JACQUE PAYNE, MELINDA JOHNSTON, SUSAN MCMANUS, CHRIS ROESNER, LEIGHTON JONES, MARY ANN SANFORD, DON DRACHENBERG, JOHN BRAUN, PAULINE BRAUN, SUSANNE STUPPERT, NEIL PETERSON, ERIC RODRIGUEZ

A big thank you to our 50/50 drawing contributors: THE RPO, VISITROCHESTER, PETER MOHR/BACHELOR FORUM, HEDONIST CHOCOLATES, MICHAEL KELLY/Massage, 360/365 FILM FESTIVAL, METHODE MACHINE (LIPSTICK MASSACRE AND LARAMIE PROJECT 10) AND GENEVRA PETTO/YOGA! We were also able to give a little back to a good cause with a $100 to BROOKS BROTHERS for their two make-a-wish teddy bears we included in our 50/50 drawing. Much thanks to JOHN OWENS and ERIC RODRIGUEZ for donating their winnings back to GAGV for PRIDE 2010 — your kindness and generosity were and are so very thoughtfully! Thanks to PLEASANT BUNS CATERING, MICHAEL HARDY and ANNE TISCHER for KEEPING THE MODELS AND VOLUNTEERS WELL FED!

Finally, to our audience who bought tickets, we hope you enjoyed the show. We’ll see you next spring. Thank you for your support!

A Pride 2010 Benefit
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First Tuesdays
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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.)

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Friday, May 7
Strathallan Hotel

Strathallan Hotel / $10 / Drug & Alcohol Free / Ages 13-23 / Straight Allies Welcome / Music by DJ Chuck Argento / For more information: BigGayProm@gayalliance.org / 585 244-8640, ext 13


Youth Services

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

Check out what’s happening:
• www.gayalliance.org or e-mail: JessC@gagv.us

Youth Center Happenings
• Drop-in: Monday and Wednesday 2-6pm
• Support Groups
  • Sunday 2-4pm, ages 13-23
  • Sunday 4:30-6pm, ages 18-25

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

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

Adult Volunteers Needed
Fun, friendly, safe adults are needed to volunteer their time and talents, providing positive role models; sharing a talent or skill. Contact Scott Fearing, Outreach Coordinator for an application: ScottF@gagv.us or 585-244-8640, ext. 14

QUEER COLLEGE TOURS continued in April at RIT (above) and at SUNY Brockport, MCC and Ithaca College. Photos: Laura McSpadden

Josh, Nereiea and Jess Cohen at RIT.
Support LGBT youth, shop at the Gay-Garage Sale on June 19

Speak Out! Speak Up! On Saturday, June 19, the Gay Alliance will host the Gay-Garage Sale & Book Extravaganza inside of the LGBT Youth Center at 875 E Main, 14605. Your donations to and purchases from the Gay-Garage Sale will benefit the Gay Alliance Youth Program and youth purchases from the Book Extravaganza will benefit the Gay Alliance Library. New and gently used housewares, clothing, collectibles, books, and other items can be delivered to the Gay Alliance Youth Center any time (To schedule a delivery time, please contact Jess at 385-244-8640 x 13. Sorry, no used textbooks, please.)

HIV Vaccine Awareness Day 2010: An HIV vaccine “n” our lifetime

May 18 is national HIV Vaccine Awareness Day (HIVAD). This annual observance is a day to recognize and thank the thousands of volunteers, community members, researchers, and scientists who are working together to find a safe and effective HIV vaccine. It is also a day to educate ourselves and others about the importance of preventive HIV vaccine research.

BOOK EXTRAVAGANZA

Cohen, Youth & Family Services Center, 304 South Genesee Street. This summer, we’ll be taking our Book Extravaganza to the Gay Alliance to benefit our community youth programming. With your support, we will continue over summer and through the fall. We are also looking for book donations and will feature a panel discussion of books which will be held at the community center.

UnBlood Drive

CAMPUSOUT will be partnering with RIT’s OUTspoken to run an UnBlood Drive to raise awareness about the critical need for blood donations and to minimize the potential for criminal activity stemming from MSM blood donations and will feature a panel discussion with representatives from SAFE, Cross and from AIDS Care. The event will be held Friday, May 7th with information tables located in Allegheny Community Room on the 4th floor at the Damon City Campus of Monroe Community College.

LGBT Youth Program blooms

Spring has brought new life into the Gay Alliance Youth Program. With flowers blooming and leaves budding, the LGBTQ youth of Rochester are feeling more comfortable and welcoming (and accepting themselves) to return to the LGBTQ community. With 200+ students attending the Day of Silence rally on April 16, the Youth Program is now gearing up for the annual Big Gay Prom, which will be held at PARC on May 7 at the Strathallan Hotel! For more details on the Prom or Youth Programs, please contact Jess Cohen-Gutnick at 385-244-8640 or JessC@gayalliance.org.

Queer campus visits to continue over summer

Youth Program participants have been visiting colleges as part of the Queer College Tour program. In April, they visited RIT, SUNY Brockport, MCC and Ithaca College.

Spiritual abuse: Using a book as a weapon

By Scott Fearing

Egalitarian, Jewish, Episcopalian, Atheist, Lutheran, Buddhist, Non-theist, Anamist, Baptist, Muslim, etc., and even the Bible is not my faith. I have learned in my nearly 20 years of educating people on HIV inclusion that faith and spirituality provide a cover to many people who are looking for a way to out source their own guilt from their own actions, their own hatred. Many a person whose only use for words common in the terms of the faithful are as exploitive, is quick to tell me that they can NOT accept their LGBT co-worker because “that” is sinful. The other way to enter into dialogue and discussion, we must all examine our own feelings around these issues. To simply say “that is not my faith” is not enough. We live in a nation that values every faith and non-faith experience on equal ground. We must not address spiritual abuse, we must learn how and when to have respectful dialogue with those from faith communities and with those from the LGBT communities.

To help community members engage in this dialogue, at 7 p.m., on May 11, Reverend Jim McLachy, Pastor Senior of Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church, will lead an InQueery class entitled “The Bible as a Weapon to Attack LGBT People: Misrepresentation and Misuse.”

Rev. McLachy will have participants examine the biblical texts from Old and New Testaments most often used to condemn gay and lesbian people. There will be time for discussion of actual texts and an examination of scriptural language, culture and context, as well as various views of the Bible.

For more information look for the InQueery link under the Education tab at www.GayAlliance.org, III

Fun in the Sand

By Jeanne Gainsburg, OUTReach Coordinator

Last month, as part of the Gay Alliance InQueery series of educational events, I ran a Basic Volleyball Skills class with LGBT youth at Hot Shots Volleyball Club and we had a great time playing around in the sand. Thanks to my capa­"
AIDS
Free testing for HIV exposure is available from New York State Department of Health; call Rochester Area Regional Hotline at (585) 244-8000, 1-800-563-5083 for phone help. Contact the AIDS热线 for immediate peer consultation, or call 1-800-224-3168 for the Statewide Prevention Hotline. The information on this hotline can be obtained by calling 1-800-541-4 AIDS. Other organizations which provide AIDS-related services are as follows:

AIDS Care
AIDS Care, the provider of HIV/AIDS services in Rochester and the Finger Lakes, was formed by the January 2010 merger of AIDS Community Health Center and Rochester AIDS Resources, Inc. On-site services include: HIV testing and limited STI screenings. Primary and Specialty Medical Care, Pharmacy, Behavioral Wellness, Case Management, Prevention and Education, Clinical Trials, Dental Services, Hepatitis Co-Infection Counseling, Club House Clinic, Housing Services, Laboratory Nutrition Services, Peer Intervention, Smoking Cessation, Substance Abuse and Addictions Counseling, Support Groups, Transportation Services, Treatment Adherence Counseling, and Women’s Health Care. AIDS Care serves those with limited or no access to primary care or those in the LGBT community. Information: Website: www.aids-care.org, Rochester, NY 14611.

Strengths: Provides comprehensive HIV/AIDS care to the upstate New York region, including medical care for perinatal HIV infection; provides access to specialty care and services for local residents; supportive service and education programs; and provides medical care to local residents.

Weaknesses: None known.

Planning Parenthood of Rochester and Genesee Valley offers testing and information (585) 546-2995.

Rural HIV testing
accessible to all communities in the Rochester Area. Information: 585-527-3510; Fax: 585-244-6449; Finger Lakes Office: 605 W. Washington St., Geneva, NY 14456; Southern Tier Office: 122 Liberty St, P.O. Box 624, Batavia, NY 14020-0624; 607-275-5181. Free anonymous HIV testing on weekdays during regular business hours. For more information call (585) 242-9340; Fax: 585-242-6572. Research sites that conduct vaccine studies sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

AIDS Care provides a range of HIV medical care, including access to experimental treatment protocols. HIV/AIDS providing HIV testing and counseling, and group psychosocial therapy. Training of health care professionals also available. Information: Website: www.aids-care.org, Rochester, NY 14611.

Planning Parenthood of Rochester and Genesee Valley offers testing and information (585) 546-2995.

AIDS Care offers free testing at its Health Centers. Contact Jackie Callahan, Client Advocate at 585-925-0010 ext 17. For women and men, (585) 244-8640 ext 17. For women and men, (585) 244-8640 ext 17. For women and men, (585) 244-8640 ext 17. For women and men, (585) 244-8640 ext 17.

AIDS Care provides free testing services for HIV-positive women, their negative partners and family members. Offers HIV pre-test and post-test counseling. Confidential HIV testing is free.

Planning Parenthood of Rochester and Genesee Valley offers testing and information (585) 546-2995.

AIDS Care provides a range of HIV medical care, including access to experimental treatment protocols. HIV/AIDS providing HIV testing and counseling, and group psychosocial therapy. Training of health care professionals also available. Information: Website: www.aids-care.org, Rochester, NY 14611.

Planning Parenthood of Rochester and Genesee Valley offers testing and information (585) 546-2995.
DIGNITY INTEGRITY
Come celebrate the Easter Season and Pentecost with Dignity Integrity of Rochester.

All are welcome to attend our weekly church services, which begin at 5 p.m. on Sunday at the Winton/West Ave. and St. Simon Cyrene Church, 17 South Fitzhugh St. in downtown Rochester.

Those in attendance are welcome to stay after the service for coffee hour and/or going out to dinner with the group following the service.

One highlight of this month's events will be a performance by jazz/blues pianist Tim Schramm, who will be returning to Rochester this year for a performance on Sunday, June 12 at 5 p.m. at the Universalist Church at 50 South Clinton Ave. Check our website, rainbowage.org, for more information and events.

JUST US GUYS
Join our gathering on May 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the All Star Cafe, 295 Winton Way Ave., for what promises to be a different and interesting program. The topic is "Butt Health!"

Anal health is an important, although not always easy to discuss, issue for gay men. This group will discuss how to get more comfortable in the bathroom, how to use lubricants, and how to find your way to comfortable anal sex. The goal is to help men find ways to get their feelings in touch with their bodies, and to help them feel more at ease with their own bodies, and to help them feel more comfortable with the idea of an anal health program. The goal is to create a safe and supportive environment for gay men to explore their own experiences with butt health.

For more information, please contact our executive director, Pam, at 585-423-8050.
very similar reaction to what we had just was reinforced for me repeatedly at this workshop. what I expected, and quite honestly, some of his handmade floggers (see photo focused on nibbling, licking and biting. ed about how the idea of being slapped was about saving money on sex toys by body that are dangerous and should be avoided to prevent injury. They are referred to as perverts. They are not men or woman. They are people with an open mind and mutual etiquette. Come Play With Us!™

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THURSDAY 20
An Evening with Yad Dayan, Israeli writer and peace activist speaks at Temple Brith Kodesh, 2331 Elwood Ave, at 7:30 pm on a two-state solution and the path to peace in the Middle East. Information: 585-8682.

FRIDAY 21
Civil Rights Front Rally for Harvey Milk at Rochester City Hall. Information at rochesterFRG.info.

SATURDAY 22

Linked by Love Walk at Marketplace Mall. Meet 2 pm, Food Court. Info: Call EROC at 278-4190 or 426-0862.


SUNDAY 23
Dignity Integrity Hymn Sing with Tim Schramm, 5 p.m., St. Luke/St. Simon Church, 17 South Fitzhugh St.

WEDNESDAY 26
Clara Engel at KC Tea and Noodles.

THURSDAY 27
Inquiry at Memorial Art Gallery. “Deportations of Gender.” $5. Pre-registration required: InQuery under the Education tab at www.gayalliance.org or call 244-8640 ext 20.

The Lipstick Massacre by Michael Sted, directed by David Henderson, opens at Geva Theatre Center Nextstage, 75 Woodbury Blvd., 7 pm. $20; 232-2530; www.geva.org.

SUNDAY 30
Dignity Integrity Roman Catholic Evening Prayer. Followed by “For Love Placed” in the Park: 5 p.m., St. Luke’s and St. Simon Cyrnce Church, 17 South Fitzhugh St.

...and A PLACE where LGBT persons are welcomed as full partners in ministry.

SUNDAY WORSHIP
9:00 am Third Church chapel
East Avenue at Arnold Park
11:15 am Incarnate Word sanctuary
East Avenue at Goodman

LGBT SUPPORT GROUP
7:30 pm First & Third Sundays
at New Life Presbyterian Church
243 Rosedale St. (at Monroe)

Third Presbyterian Church
Avenue at Second Presbyterian Church

THE GAY ALLIANCE OF ROCHESTER
NORTH END, ROCHES TER, NY 14621

9030 THURSDAY
"Nijinsky's Story" at the Highpoint Theatre. $35; couples $50. Information at 793-6571 or 793-8057.

6:30 pm, St. Luke/St. Simon Church, 17 South Fitzhugh St.

FRIDAY 28
"Time's Up" at the Gaslight Theater. $20: 232-8057.

SATURDAY 29

THURSDAY 31
"The Baby's Song" at the Gaslight Theater. $20: 232-8057.
Ongoing Calendar

MONDAY
LGBT Support Group
34 Magee St. First, 7:30-9pm. Canals, 492-3932.

Lilac: Square Gay Square Dance Group
Mondays, 7pm. Open Arms MCC, 740 Marshall Rd. 520-5396. mlilac@rochester.rr.com.

Free syphilis testing
AIDS Center, 259 Monroe Ave. 1st floor, 5-4pm. 642-2228.

Rochester Historical Bowling Society
7:30pm, Monday, Chess Lanes, 2750 Monroe Ave. (Group is full).

HIIV Positive Gay Men Support group
Every Monday. 5pm, AIDS Cares, 299 Monroe Ave.

GAGV Youth Drop-In Hours
Mondays, Wednesdays, 2-4pm. GAGV Youth Center, 875 E. Main St. 2nd floor. Free. 244-8640 ext. 13.

Frontrunners/Frontwalkers

Steps Beyond Stigma Crash Support Group
Mondays, 7:45pm Monroe Ave.

GAGV Library & Archives, David Bohnett Cyber Center
Every Monday. 6-8pm (First, 875 E. Main St. 244-8641).

TUESDAY
Just Us Guys
Gay men of all ages. Every Tuesday, 6:30pm, AIDS Cares, 299 Monroe Ave. 223-3269.

Civil Rights Front

Two Spirit Group
Second Tuesdays, 7:30pm, Equal-Gounds, 759 South Ave.

PELAG program meeting
First Tuesdays, 7-9pm meeting. St. Thomas Church, Winton & Highland.

Campout Coffee Night
First Tuesdays, 7-9pm, Equal-Gounds, 759 South Ave.

MOCHA Youth Drop-In
Tuesdays, 5-7pm, MOCHA Center, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 420-1920.

MOCHA Hepatitis Clinic

Rainbow SAGE Yoga
6-7:30pm Open Arms MCC, 125 North Drive, 442-6369.

Pride 2010 committee meeting
Third Tuesdays, GAGV Community Room, 1st floor, 875 E. Main St. 630-9850. Everyone welcome to plan Pride 2010 (July 11-10). 244-8460.

Women’s Community Chorus
Rehearsals each Tuesday, 6:30-8:30pm, Downtown United Pres. Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St. 254-4441, www.wcchorus.org.

Free HIV Testing
Every Tuesday, 2pm-7pm. AIDS Cares, 299 Monroe Ave.

WEDNESDAY
Tao Panu Piano Church, Study Bible Study 7:30pm, 738 South Ave.

Charlie Group
Third Wednesdays, 10am-1pm (free, 5-30pm). Open Discussion and Q/A session, 5pm-7pm. 220 Winton Rd. 7pm-9pm. Free. 244-8641 ext. 20.

Crossing Trees/Dancing Two Stepping
Every Wednesday, between 7pm-9pm. First floor, 875 E. Main St. 420-1920.

HEP III Women’s Reproductive Health Group
First Wednesday, 3pm, Equal-Gounds, 759 South Ave.

Nitty Gritty Group
First Wednesday, 5:30-7:30pm, Rochester Ads & Alcoholics Anonymous, 759 S. Clinton Ave., 4pm. 624-2555.

THURSDAY
Presbyterian’s Women’s and Lesbian Women’s Groups
6:30pm, first Thursday, 875 E. Main St. 244-8640.

Gays and Lesbians (GLP) & National AIDS & Gay Concerns (NAGC)
First and third Thursday, 5-9pm, Equal-Gounds, 759 South Ave.

Art and Documentary Film Night
First Thursday, 6-10pm, First Presbyterian Church, 220 Winton Rd. 7pm-9pm. Free. 220 Winton Rd. 7pm-9pm.

MOCHA/GAGV Youth Trans Group
First Thursday, 5-7pm, GAGV Youth Center, 875 E. Main St., 2nd floor. Free. 305-2242.

PELAG youth meeting
First Tuesday, 6pm, George Eastman House parking lot. www.rochesterfrontrunners.org.

Pano Poduck
First Thursday, 6pm, George Eastman House parking lot. www.rochesterfrontrunners.org.

Rainbow/ REACH SAGE
First Thursday, 7pm, MOCHA Center, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 420-1920.

Gays and Lesbians of SAGE (GLS)
First and third Thursday, 7pm, Equal-Gounds, 759 South Ave.

Pride Center Meeting
First Thursday, 6-9pm. AIDS Cares, 299 Monroe Ave.

FRIDAY
New Freedom New Happiness
A Gay meeting, 7th, Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Rd. Mon and women. Open. Support group for transgenders who have lost children. First, 3rd Tuesdays, 6pm, 875 E. Main St. 244-8640.

GLBTQ Motorcycle Group
Second Fridays, 5-9pm, Rochester MTB Group, 478-1565, info@charliesgroup.com.

SUNDAY
Rochester Rams Bar Night
Third Saturdays, 8pm-2am, Bachelor Forum, 671 University Ave. 274-6760.

Empire Bar Night

Frontrunners/Frontwalkers
9am, George Eastman House parking lot. www.rochesterfrontrunners.org.

Empire Bears Potluck
Second Sundays, GLGTB Center, 875 E. Main St., Open floor, 6pm-8pm, 6:30pm green 7pm dinner. Bring dish to pass. www.empirebars.com.

Cross Dress Support Group
First Saturday, 6pm, call for location: 251-2332, JCEIN@rochester.rr.com.

Transgender Group
Last Saturday, 2-4pm, Gay Alliance Community Room, 875 E. Main St., first floor (next to Youth Center).

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

Wednesdays
New Freedom/New Happiness Group
7pm at the First Unitarian Church, 220 S. Winton Rd. Bus riders: Take the #101 University bus to 12 Corners. Use the stop just past the top of the hill at H告s 206 Ave. and before Highland Ave. Or take the #1 Park Ave. to the corner of East and Winton, then walk five minutes south (uphill) on Winton. This is an open discussion meeting. All issues – as they relate to our alcoholism/vaccination and recovery – are fair game.

Fridays
Gay Men’s
7:30pm: Immune Baptist Church, 815 Park Ave.

• Closed meeting, restricted to alcoholics and addicts
• Men’s meeting
• Handicapped accessible

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

Saturdays
Saturday Night Special Gay AA
7pm, at the First Unitarian Church, 220 S. Winton Rd. Bus riders: The #18 University to the #12 Corners. Use the stop just past the top of the hill at H告s 206 Ave. and before Highland Ave. Or take the #1 Park Ave. to the corner of East and Winton, then walk five minutes south (uphill) on Winton. This is an open discussion meeting. All issues – as they relate to our alcoholism/vaccination and recovery – are fair game.

Sundays
Rochester Gay Men
8pm, at St. Luke’s/Simon’s Episcopal Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. Bus riders use the Fitzhugh St. stop on Main St. at the County Office Building and walk south one block.

• Closed meeting, restricted to alcoholics and addicts
• Men’s meeting
• NOT handicapped accessible

Meeting begins with a speaker, followed by open discussion.
The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later
by Moises Kauffman and Tectonic Theatre

In September 2008, Tectonic returned to Laramie to find out what has happened over the last 10 years. Tectonic Theatre asks the questions: Has Matthew Shepard’s murder had a lasting impact on that community. How has the town changed as a result?

June 24, 25, 26 @ 8pm
$10 to Benefit Rochester Pride 2010
Gay Alliance • 875 East Main Street
Ionic Room • 3rd Floor

Visit GayAlliance.org or MethodMachine.org for more info
Advance Tickets available at Gay Alliance, Outlandish and Equal Grounds Coffee Shop

The Lipstick Massacre
A new Murder Mystery play by Michael Steck

Starring Pandora Boxx and Kasha Davis
Directed by David Henderson
It’s murder by makeup and YOU choose the killer!

For tickets: 585.232.Geva
or GevaTheatre.org