New York becomes the sixth state to legalize same-sex marriage; vote is 33-29

At the vigil in Washington Square Park on June 24. The celebration rally took place there the next day. Photo: Jim Wilkins
A long week and a moment of transformation

It was a long, long week, the week of June 24. It seemed more like a decade. Then, when the vote came to abruptly on the evening of the 24th to take in. Suddenly everything had changed. It has been almost a decade since "gay marriage" became a hot national issue in 2002. It has been seven years since Massachusetts passed the first marriage equality law in the country. And now New York state has followed suit, taking the plunge to extend marriage equality to all of its residents.

The June 24 vote means that gay marriage is now legal in all the states of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. And it is a historic moment for the LGBTQ community, a moment of triumph and joy that has been long in the making.

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There are still many obstacles to overcome, but the June 24 vote is a step in the right direction. It is a moment of hope and progress for the LGBTQ community.

Marriage Equality—the time has come

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Who won Marriage Equality?

Mayor Tom Richards at the NY Business for Marriage press conference on June 7. Photo: Susan Jordan

Political and business leaders

Governor Andrew Cuomo has been the chief political supporter of marriage equality, recorded by Lt. Gov. Bob Duffy. The campaign has also been led by gay elected officials like NYC Sen. Tom Duane, and Assembly members Danny O'Donnell and Rochester's Harry Bronson, and by many straight supporters in the NYS legislature, like Sen. John Sampson, and political leaders in cities and counties around the state, including NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Rochester Mayor Tom Richards.

LGBT elected officials held a press conference on the steps of NY City Hall on June 8 to declare support. A Siena poll last spring showed that if the gay marriage bill would be "a vote of conscience for every member of the Senate." The clerical support of elected officials

Minutes after the senate voted Yes on June 24, Rochester City Councilman Matt Haag also sent a prepared statement to The Empty Closet. He said, "No matter how long it has taken, no matter how painful the fight, no matter how the fears attempted to be incited, no matter the dire predictions of demise pronounced, we as a state, a nation and a people have fought, stumbled, crawled and now walked back upon the path of justice, liberty and freedom.

Area activists warn the fight is far from over

At the June 23 Rochester vigil on the day of the senate vote, Rochester Equality founder Dana Miller. (Victory! page 1

families," Duane said. "Louis and I are family. And marriage strengthens all family. It's going to strengthen our family and all New York families.

Day of the vote, June 24

It was not clear until late Friday of tensions whether a vote would even take place on the matter, after a week's anxious wait. Rochester residents gathered downtown at a candlelight vigil and waited for news from Albany. The crowd grew to almost 400 and sang songs, lit candles and prayed. Other groups waited at Equal Grounds and the Bachelor Forum.

But shortly before 6 p.m., the state senate's Republican majority leader, Dean Skelos, announced he would call a vote on the legislation. That was good news to the crowd, who burst into spontaneous applause.

The message was clear - Cuomo would never let a bill come to the floor of the senate if it did not have enough votes to pass.

While party leaders almost always direct their members how to vote in the New York legislature, Skelos said decisions on the gay marriage bill would be "a vote of conscience for every member of the Senate."

Who won Marriage Equality?

By Susan Jordan

Thousands of committed activists — gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender and gender variant people and heterosexual allies — have worked for years to bring about marriage equality in New York State. Individuals like Kitty Moran and Deb Haze (pictured above at Equality and Justice Day in Albany on May 9) have devote.

Caty Moran and Deb Haze in Albany on May 9. Photo: Ove Overmyer

Faith leaders speak to the media at Third Presbyterian Church on June 14. Photo: Susan Jordan

Faith and labor leaders

Faith and labor leaders both provided crucial support in New York City and across the state. Here in the Rochester area, clergy announced their support for marriage equality legislation at a press conference on June 14, at Third Presbyterian Church, 4 Meigs St. Approximately a dozen clergy were present, representing, including the Empire State Pride Agenda, 734 faith leaders around the state who support marriage equality. The area clergy present included Bishop Prince Singh, Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, Rev. Jon Wallusen, Third Presbyterian Church, Cacy and Mary Ellen Lopata, Fortunate Families; Rev. Dennis Darnato, Mary Magdalene Church; Rev. Michael Hopkins, St. Luke St. Simon Episcopal Church Rev. Jen Crowe, First Presbyterian Church.

...and a 14-year-old in Fairport

All over New York State, heterosexual allies of the LGBT community have been stepping up and speaking out for equal rights. Many allies, of all ages, races and genders, were visible in Albany on Equality and Justice Day, holding signs that read "Another Straight New Yorker for Marriage Equality." Other individuals turned up all over the state, sometimes in unexpected places.

On the weekend of June 4 in Fairport, Jason Curtis, 14, counter-protested the red-caped extremists of the Catholic Society for Defense of Tradition, who were demonstrating against marriage equality.

"I know kids that are gay and I don't want them to be criticized," Jason said.  iJoeMyGod.com
Federal jury says Walker ruling on Prop 8 cannot be overturned

A federal judge on June 14 refused to invalidate last year’s ruling against Proposition 8, deciding the gay jurist who overruled the same-sex marriage ban had no obligation to step aside because of a possible conflict of interest.

The decision by Chief Judge James Ware of the U.S. District Court in San Francisco brings the ruling by retired Judge Vaughn R. Walker in place. Walker’s decision remains on hold pending a separate appeal to the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Proponents of Proposition 8 argued that Walker’s conflict was not sex related, but instead sexual orientation, but the judge found that fact he was in a serious same-sex relationship that could conceivably lead to marriage.

Prop 8 opponents argue that a gay judge must be banned from ruling on cases involving homosexuality, but most heterosexual judges, who presumably have their own agendas and biases. They ask if African American judges must be banned from ruling on cases involving African Americans, if female judges should be forbidden to rule on cases involving women, etc. – and if white heterosexual male judges are presumed to be objective in all such cases, too, they affect other, heterosexual and male.

ACLU honors Constance McMillen, Eddie Windsor

The American Civil Liberties Union presented the Roger N. Baldwin Medal of Liberty award to Constance McMillen, the teenager who successfully challenged her high school when it canceled the senior prom rather than let her attend with a girlfriend, and Edith Schlam “Eddie” Windsor, 82, who is challenging the discriminatory “Defense of Marriage Act,” which forces her to pay hefty estate taxes on the estate of her same-sex spouse and partner of 44 years.

The award is one of the highest honors the ACLU regularly bestows on people dedicated to defending the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The award ceremony took place June 14 at the Coralie Royale Hotel in Orlando, Fla.

McMillen’s case headed westward, and the school canceled the senior prom rather than allow McMillen to wear a tuxedo and escort her girlfriend to the dance. McMillen’s successful challenge resulted in the first public school policy protecting LGBT students from discrimination in Mississippi’s history.

Windsor became engaged to Thaia Spyer in 2007, and they finally married in 2009. Throughout that time Windsor and Spyer could not marry, but, according to multiple sources, although their home state of New York recognized their marriage as legal, DOMA prohibited the federal government from doing the same.

After Spyer’s death in 2009, Windsor was forced to pay several thousand in estate taxes, which she would have had to pay if she had been married to a man. Windsor filed a lawsuit in New York against the federal government, under the assistance of the ACLU and the law firm Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton and Garrison, LLP.

Iowa City gay man alleges violent assault

Eddie Kirch wrote on June 14 that Iowa City Police are investigating an alleged assault on a gay man, reported to have occurred on an alley on June 11.

The alleged victim told police he was confronted by an African-American man who struck him in the face. The man told police he then fell back against the curbing, sustaining cuts to his face, knee and ankles.

The release said the area of the incident was checked by officers along with the victim, but the suspect was not located. Police said the victim declined medical care.

In an interview with The Daily Iowan, the alleged victim said he was walking down Clinton street when a stranger walking the opposite way approached him.

The victim, who has requested anonymity, told The Daily Iowan the stranger called him a “fucking faggot.” The victim, who said he is an openly gay man, said he dismissed the comment and turned toward the direction he was headed. Then the assailant reportedly punched him in the eye, threw him into a brick wall, and kicked him several times.

The 30-year-old UI graduate student said he suffered a severe concussion, a shattered knuckle, a broken hand, and three fractured ribs, among other injuries.

Adam Lewis, friend of the victim and former grad assistant manager of the UI Police, told The Daily Iowan he attended the Resource Center at the University of Iowa, that was the second friend of his who has been beaten and sent to the hospital. “Working with the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Resource Center,” he knew about one other incident,” said Lewis. “I’ve never felt too concerned walking around downtown.”

Bill would end unfair health insurance tax

Senators Charles Schumer (D-NY) and Susan Collins (R-ME) are introducing the Tax Parity for Health Plan Beneficiaries Act in the United States Senate. The bill would end the unfair taxation of employee-provided health insurance for domestic partners. A companion measure was introduced in the House of Representatives the first week in June by Representatives Jim McDermott (D-WA), Richard Hanna (R-NY), Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Nan Hayworth (R-NY).

Under current law, although employer-provided health coverage for different sex spouses is excluded from an employee’s gross income, domestic partner benefits and coverage for domestic partners are not. As a result, an employer who chooses to cover his or her domestic partner or same-sex spouses pays more income and payroll tax than a similarly situated employee with a different-sex spouse. Moreover, because of this inequitable treatment, employees who only benefit their domestic partners face the administrative burden of calculating taxes separately, and they also pay additional payroll taxes.

“Many American families continue to struggle to make ends meet, pay for food, put food on the table and pay for their healthcare. LGBT families face an additional barrier to receiving affordable health insurance coverage,” said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. “This legislation would remove that added tax burden, which could be as much as $2,200 per year, as well as the penalty imposed on fair-minded employers who provide equal coverage to their LGBT employees.”

The number of major companies providing family benefits for domestic partners continues to grow. In fact, among the Fortune 500 companies, 60 percent of Fortune 500 companies offer these benefits as a master of fundamental fairness. That is why a coalition of top employers, like Dow, Corning, Chubb, IBM, Microsoft, Nike, and dozens more, support ending the taxation of health benefits, and endorse the Tax Parity for Health Plan Beneficiaries Act. To visit a full listing of businesses who have publicly stated their support for this legislation, go to: http://www.hrc.org/issues/ workplacebeneffits/business_coalition/ taxparityforbenefits.htm

Calif. moves on trans anti-discrimination bill

On June 14, the California State Sen. Judiciary Committee passed the Gender Identity Non-Discrimination Act (AB 887) in a 3-2 vote.

The bill is authored by Assemblymen Tom Ammiano (D-Drag) and is sponsored by Equality California and the Transgender Law Center. If passed, AB 887 will strengthen employment, housing, and education civil rights protections for all Californians, especially those who face discrimination based on gender identity and expression.

“AB 887 protects all Californians. No matter your skin color, your age, where you come from or whether you’re gay, straight, or transgender; we are all protected by the same rights. We share equal protection under the law and we are entitled to a safe and fair education. This bill ensures that no one is left out,” said Assemblymember Ammiano. “AB 887 takes a stand for trans people based on gender identity and expression and enumerates them as protected categories of inclusion under California law. In addition, while California non-discrimination laws already define gender to include a greater gender identity and expression, the bill clarifies that gender identity and expression are included in the definition of gender and sex in all California codes.

“Treating all Californians fairly where
work and live is a core American value," said Jim Carroll, Interim Executive Director of the Transgender Law Center. "Unfortunately, Californians who experience discrimination based on gender identity and gender expression are not afforded the same chance to work and to live in California free of bigotry and intolerance."

In 2009, the Transgender Law Center released its State of Transgender California report. The report revealed overwhelmingly that Californians who experience discrimination based on gender identity and gender expression at work or elsewhere often do not file complaints because they are unaware that they are protected by non-discrimination laws.

"California is at its best when we work together to realize the ideal that everyone should be treated fairly and equally," said Megan Davis, Executive Director of the Transgender Law Center. "Unfortunately, transgender people and others who don’t fit narrow gender stereotypes continue to face discrimination that undermines our common human dignity. AB 887 is a simple, common sense bill that would clarify California’s non-discrimination laws, and promote the equal treatment of all people throughout our fine state."

Connecticut passes transgender anti-discrimination bill

The Connecticut Legislature passed HB 6599: An Act Concerning Discrimination. The bill made its way to the State Senate Floor in the coming weeks.

Gay men kicked out of Kentucky public pool

Activists in Kentucky planned a peaceful response to the two gay men with developmental and intellectual disabilities were kicked out of a public pool. A maintenance technician reportedly cited the Bible while telling the two men they couldn’t swim at The Pavilion, a gender neutral recreational facility in Hazard, Kentucky.

"We own this place and can tell you to leave if we want to," the man was told, according to the Kentucky Equality Foundation. The Pavilion staff immediately cleared the pool area and asked my clients and their staff to leave the Pavilion," according to Executive Director Lynn Perkins recalled. "My staff asked The Pavilion staff why they were being asked to leave, and they were informed that ‘gay people’ weren’t allowed to swim there."

LGBT death count rises in Puerto Rico

Three LGBT Puerto Ricans were found dead over several days in early June. 18 LGBT Puerto Ricans have been murdered over the last year and a half.

President Barack Obama ordered the U.S. military to lift the ban on gay, lesbian and bisexual service in the U.S. Armed Forces. President Joe Solmonese, who now heads the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said the ban would be lifted within 90 days, but no time frame was given. Obama is time to liberalize military policy towards gays, he said.

"Moncho" Salgado was found dead along the side of a highway; Karolena Gomez, a transgender woman, was found shot to death at an intersection on June 6; and Alejandro Torres was found dead at a local rural facility in the weekend.

"The alarming rate of violence against LGBT Puerto Ricans cannot be tolerated," said HRC President Jane Solomone. "Puerto Rican government officials and law enforcement, as well as members of the U.S. Department of Justice, must ensure that LGBT people have the protection they need to survive."

California passes naturalization bill

On June 19, 2011, President Barack Obama signed S.1308 into law, which provides pathway to citizenship to millions of U.S. residents. Obama called it "an historic day for America."

California’s non-discrimination laws, and additionally federal law prohibits hate crimes based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The Community Relations Service of the Department of Justice created an agreement with the Puerto Rico Civil Rights Commission, the Puerto Rico Police Department and the College of Puerto Rico to create a cooperative effort to develop and implement hate crime training initiatives and civil rights curriculum for the Puerto Rico Police Academy and Puerto Rico Department.

Despite such legal protection and ongoing efforts to address hate violence, the murders of LGBT individuals continue.

U.S. puts Choi on trial for White House protest

"Choi is represented by Kurtland and Christopher R. Lynn, who came prepared to argue their case today. Although Judge Judge said repeatedly he thought it would make a half day for the trial, George said she expected it to take two days, as she was prepared to call multiple witnesses. She also told Choi’s attorneys that there was no way he could have failed to hear the order to disperse issued by the park service unless he’d had a hearing."

Read more: http://www.towleroad.com/FXTzr1MPkJ0nnP

Mariela Castro meets with U.S. women

Mariela Castro is the head of Cuba’s National Sexual Education Center. She is also a champion for LGBT rights in that nation.

She is also the daughter of Raúl Castro and sister of Fidel Castro. She met with a delegation of women from the United States that included Democratic strategist Ann Handley and Former US Representative Jane Harman, who now heads the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

They met in order to discuss topics such as gender, reproductive health and gay rights. Harman stated, “I believe that Castro is our immediate neighbor and it is time to liberalize US policy towards Cuba.”

Mariela also said, “It was exciting to hear about some of the social changes going on in your country.”

The Communist Party has approved several economic reforms intended to boost Cuba’s flagging economy. They have not been enacted into law yet, but they are intended to loosen the government’s control over economic matters and allow some free-market activity.

Ms. Castro showed the group a report 2011 • NUMBER 447 • GAY ALLIANCE OF THE GENESSEE VALLEY • THE EMPTY COTSWAYDLE DECKS · Carpentry · Additions · Painting

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Jay Rudman, CEO of AIDS Care

By Susan Jordon

June 5 was the 30th anniversary of the appearance of the AIDS epidemic, in the form of an article in “Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report” about five young L.A. gay men who had mysterious immune system damage. Thirty years later, the lessons learned from dealing with this unprecedented national (and global) emergency are influencing the new direction of American health care.

Jay Rudman is CEO of AIDS Care, the organization formed by the merger 18 months ago of AIDS Rochester and ACHC (originally Community Health Network). He told The Empty Closet, “After having come through our first 18 months together, we are now engaged in a strategic planning process. We’re talking about the next chapter - where do we go from here?”

AIDS Care is undergoing an in-depth analysis of environment, in terms of public sector support, the future of health reform, the demographics of Rochester, and the state of the epidemic itself. Rudman said, “We need to rethink the scope of our mission and vision, in order to achieve long-term viability.”

He believes that moving to more comprehensive models of providing care is the wave of the future, and that the lessons learned by ARI, ACHC and now AIDS Care fit into the new vision for primary and specialty medical care in general.

Almost from the first, it was clear that caring for people living with HIV would entail more than just dealing with the virus itself. “The impact on communities affected by HIV is greater than the infection alone,” Rudman said. “The AIDS epidemic, unlike past public health emergencies, involved homophobia, stigma and often patients were rejected by their families and those who normally have cared for the ill.” AIDS clinics and agencies had to combine social work, management with health care, and with prevention education. They found themselves required to provide in home support, housing, transportation, grocery shopping, counseling and much more.

Jay Rudman says that this type of patient-centered approach to care is where the future lies. “Historically, many health care delivery systems and resources were developed around caring for individuals with specific conditions. Large bureaucracies such as those created for HIV/AIDS and other chronic conditions are unlikely to be the approach to future health care delivery.”

He continued, “We have been taking a hard look at what makes our organization special. Providing HIV care and services is not what makes us unique. The model and the approach - not the condition - make us exceptional. This type of coordinated and consumer-centered delivery system is being considered the future foundation for the national health care delivery.”

An example of this new focus is the creation of a designation for Patient Centered Medical Homes (PCMH), which establishes a set of standards for bringing together quality processes, good health data and information. Federal and state governments provide financial incentives for organizations that satisfy these requirements of patient-centered medical homes.

Known for its work in developing HMO standards, the National Council on Quality Assurance (NCQA) is responsible for developing standards of care, measuring outcomes, and approving and regulating the new medical homes. The medical home will be a model of care that is accessible, comprehensive and delivers services around the needs of the patient and family. The model will have efficient access to appointments, preventive care, appropriate medications and electronic information. “AIDS Care has all the place to obtain PCMH designation,” Rudman said.

Rudman explains, “Those who meet the standards get increased funding through reimbursement rate adjustments. Health policy makers believe these models will actually reduce health care costs and also improve quality. This is only one of many new designations awarded to health plans that satisfy the requirements of the new health care delivery model.”

AIDS Care and its legacy organizations have embraced these principles throughout our history. Caring for complex chronic medical and psychosocial needs where access has been a problem due to lack of resources - this is where we have already provided valuable care.

Rudman feels that AIDS Care has inherited the coordinated, patient-centered approach from both its legacy organizations. “ARI took the social model and expanded it,” he said, “along with care management and prevention, ARI provided people with supportive services such as housing, meals and transportation to medical care. ACHC enhanced primary and specialty care by adding nutrition, medical care management, treatment adherence, behavioral health and pharmacy services. Eighteen months ago we took these two organizations, models that were already successful as separate entities, and combined them to create a one-stop shop for our medical home.”

AIDS Care will not change that one-stop-shop, but will become more inclusive of populations served. Individuals with similar risks and challenges could be provided primary care and all needed support services in one place.

AIDS Care already provides treatment with Hepatitis C and testing for STDs such as syphilis. “We’ve had dialogues with the county health department officials about the potential to complement county treatment for STDs,” Rudman said. “AIDS Care has a proven record of working with people who have been stigmatized. We’re open to thinking about expanding access to services - we currently serve a large LGBT client population and do a significant amount of health promotion/education and harm reduction that is not limited to HIV. The prevention work we do is really key - but we could also move into primary care. Some of our patients aren’t HIV positive, but are mono-infected with Hepatitis-C, and we also serve some who are partners of HIV positive patients. We’d have to research what the community needs and then ensure we have the capacity and resources to meet them. The strategic planning process will supply information on that, and how we can fill the gaps in care delivery without duplicating efforts that already exist.”

“Another change impacting care is the aging of our patient population,” Rudman continued. “AIDS Care has a proven record of being stable with HIV, but are still subject to other conditions of aging, such as hypertension, diabetes. Sometimes these conditions can strike earlier in those who have HIV and immune system issues, and medication issues.”

One of the most disturbing and alarming recent trends is the increased transmission in persons under the age of 25 in Monroe County. AIDS Care has identified this and is responding to it through outreach and prevention education. “The diversity of our present organization allows us to effectively reach and engage a wide range of age, ethnic, racial and socio-economic backgrounds,” Rudman said.

The recently completed strategic plan encompasses very critical issues. “We already have our mission, vision and values,” Rudman said. “Now we are working on an operating plan for the first year, and determining what the imperatives must be addressed in order to be the center of excellence for populations new to us. We want to maintain our level of comprehensive care and continue to provide the one-stop-shop for people living with HIV.”

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(Activists from page 3)

ed ingenuity, money, and countless staff and volunteer hours to the campaign for equal rights. Michael Barbaro wrote in "The New York Times" on June 26 that Gay. Castoro's victory in the campaign for marriage equality was inevitable. All that is needed is the persistence to keep demanding the rights we are guaranteed as American citizens. Today is a good day."

Watts, a local labor leader, who is president of CSEA Monroe County Local 282 and the president of the Rochester and Finger Lakes Chapter of Pride at Work. "This is the culmination of years of activism by labor folks who have always been on the forefront of equality for LGBT people. It really takes everyone to create social change and I’m proud to be a part of an organization that models inclusion."

Dr. Sophie Vandebroek, Chief Technology Officer at Xerox and president of the company "strongly supports gay marriage. She said that she is corporate champion for the Xerox LGBT Caucus. "We want them to have the same rights as all other Xerox employees," she said.

Other area business leaders who announced support for marriage equality included the chief executives of Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan Chase and Toshiba Sper." At the press conference, Ross Levi, executive director of the Empire State Pride Agenda, announced the formation of NY Business for Marriage, a coalition of businesses and business people around the state who agree that "marriage equality is a moral right, an ethical right, that people are entitled to and that it’s the promise of New York and the nation there is still a tremendous amount of work to be done to achieve full equality.

In an emotional statement dated June 25, Sen. Gillibrand said, "The Defense of Marriage Act is truly damaging. Every day, thousands of legally married LGBT men and women around the country are unable to take advantage of rights and privileges, from hospital visitation to inheritance to health benefits, that straight married couples take for granted."

She added, "But much like the historic vote last night in New York, it’s going to take a lot of hard work and our collective grassroots advocacy. And I believe it’s going to take telling more of our stories."
Youth Group member goes to White House

Donatella, Williamson, youth program participant, was selected by GLSEN to go to the White House for an LGBT Pride Reception on June 29.

He asked Youth Services Coordinator Jessica Smales to...
Buffalo's Pride Parade was June 5. Photos: Jim Wilkins
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was nor “terribly inspired by what I saw, going to the bars. There was always the

excerpts from an eyewitness account given

By Evelyn Bailey

said, “Some men in suits and ties entered

the floor and a jukebox. There was a back

room area which in those days meant

my gay life pretty much revolved around

being raided. Suddenly the lights were

turned up and the doors were sealed, and

all the patrons were held captive until the

police decided what they were going to
do. Everybody was anxious, not knowing

what was going to happen.

Morty continued, “It may have been

an ironic symbolism of that. But they found

us. They had their riot gear on. In those days

the New York City police and a cadre

known as the Tactical Police Force, the TPF.

Who knows whether the violence would have escalated in the way that it did if

the TPF had not come in? That’s what they always looked for; they wanted con-

frontation. Chasing after people and hitting them with their billy clubs, I think,

provoked a greater response than there

would have been otherwise. But the other, though gay people had stood

up and rebelled.”

This is why we celebrate Gay Pride! The call to be free and equal went out spontaneously from Stonewall — it was heard and still lives on in all of us.

Come and join the Rochester Pride festivities this year — be out, be alive, have fun and BE PROUD!!

Gay Pride — Why?

By Evelyn Bailey

All over the world, gay pride parades, picnics and festivals are held to remember

and celebrate an event that changed the course of history — Stonewall.

What really happened that Friday night 42 years ago? What follows are excerpts from an eyewitness account given by Morty Manford, taken from “Making Gay History” by Eric Marcus.

In the fall of 1968, Morty Manford began his freshman year at Columbia. One of the first things he did after arriving was to call the Students Homophile League. Morty attended a meeting but was not "terribly inspired by what I saw, and nothing they were doing really interested me."

By this time Morty had already dis-
covered the bars. He said, "I suppose

my gay life pretty much revolved around
going to the bars. There was always the

threat of bar raids. Everyone heard about
them. But the only raid where I was actu-

ally inside the bar was at Stonewall."

Mort continued, "The Stonewall was a dive. It was shabby, and the glasses they

served the watered-down drinks

were under age and all transvestites were

unfair harassment and prejudice. It wasn't

my fault that the bars where I met people in suits and ties entered the place and walked around a little bit. Then whispers went around that the place

was being raided. Suddenly the lights were

turned up and the doors were sealed, and

all the patrons were held captive until the

police decided what they were going to
do. Everybody was anxious, not knowing

whether we were going to be arrested or

do. Everybody was anxious, not knowing

whether we were going to be arrested or

ever tried to do their jobs. Once

all of the people were out and the prisoners

were on their merry ways, the crowd

started to grow."

Morty continued, "It may have been

10 or 15 minutes later that we were all told
to leave. We had to line up and our identi-
fication was checked before we were freed.

People who did not have identification or

were under age and all transvestites were

people. But they had to at least look like

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July 1971
What was our history 40 years ago – what were some of the significant events of July 1971 here and around the world?

**Rochester**

**July 4:** American Independence: George Washington Died For Us
GLF Dance at U of R, plus other festivities

**July 11:** DRAG BAG – A discussion of transvestites and Rochester Drag scene

**July 14:** Channel 27's TV Show "Call 27" hosts call ins for three speakers from U of R GLF: R.J. Alcala, Karen Hagberg, and Jim Fishman

**July 18:** Gay Marriage and Role Playing In the Gay Community
Presentation/Discussion (Yes, we've been discussing this for 40 years...)

**July 25:** Emotional Security For Gays. Presentation/Discussion

**New York State**

**July 2:** 78th Wimbledon Women's Tennis: Evonne Goolagong beats M Smith (64-61)

**July 6:** Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong, one of the most influential musicians of the 20th century, dies in New York City, age 69

**U.S., World**

- "Marijuana Revolution" by John Sinclair. Essay first published in July
- State of Washington becomes 1st state to ban sex discrimination
- Secretary of State Henry Kissinger lays groundwork for first meeting between Nixon and Mao.
- 26th amendment certified (lowers voting age to 18)
- Baseball all star game MVP: Frank Robinson (Baltimore Orioles)
- Bengali genocide reaches 1 million
- Apollo 15 launched (Scott & Irwin) to 4th manned landing on Moon
Jennings be fired.

"I chose to ignore it [at first] because I thought it was a bunch of extreme right-wing stuff that I'd never pay attention to, and then the next thing, I knew, it was on Fox News every night," says Jennings. He remembers being at a Department of Education meeting about preventing drug abuse when the story first hit Fox in September 2009. He says he "heard a state of shock, like, 'I can't believe this is happening to me.'"

"There were times in the fall of 2009 when I really went home and curled up in a ball in my bed and didn't want to go out of bed the next day," he says. "But I got out of bed every day. I went to 93 states and three foreign countries doing this work in two years, and we succeeded in doing what we came here to do."

At one point, 53 House Republicans signed a letter to President Obamaclaiming that Jennings had "played an integral role in promoting homosexuality and pushing a pro-homosexual agenda in American schools." They demanded that Jennings be fired.

But Jennings says he "never felt pressed" from his bosses to resign, and he credits the White House with standing by him. "I'm really proud to have had the chance to serve in this administration," he tells me. "I'm really proud of the White House for standing by me when a lot of people might have wanted to cut me loose. It might have been smarter politically for them to cut me loose, but they chose to stand by me because they valued the work I was trying to do here, and I'm incredibly grateful to the White House for that."

Jennings says that he'd made up his mind early on that no matter how bad the smears got, he wouldn't resign. In fact, he sees the attacks on him as analogous to the schoolyard bullying that it was his job to confront.

"I'd come here to do something very important, and that was to galvanize the national campaign against bullying. And I wasn't going to be derailed from that work by a bunch of bullies and liars, which is what I was dealing with... I thought it'd be ironic if I came here to fight bullying and I let the bullies win."

"So at the very beginning of this, my partner and I talked, and we said, 'No matter how bad it gets, I would not resign.' Under no circumstances would I give in. And I'm proud to say that the White House never even raised that as a possibility with me, so it was never a decision I was ever asked to make. But we decided — I remember the day the first attacks came out, Jeff and I talked, and we said no matter what happens, we're not going to quit. We're not going to let these types of lies, these types of bullies continue to run the show. We were going to stand our ground."

"It's a clearly a deeply personal issue for Jennings. In his memoir, he writes about being tormented as a child by other students who would call him "faagot" and "queer." As an adult, he founded GLSEN, an organization that has helped establish gay-straight alliances in schools across the country.

Jennings tells me he accepted the Department of Education job after reading a news story about Carl Joseph Walker-Hoover, an 11-year-old boy from Massachusetts. Walker-Hoover, who didn't identify as gay, hung himself in April 2009 after enduring repeated anti-glitch harassment at school."

"On my first day here, I'd had buttons made up with Carl's school picture on them, and I handed them out to all the staff and told them that's why I had come. I felt because I wanted to make sure there would never be another Carl Joseph Walker-Hoover," says Jennings. Last year, Jennings was confirmed with a highly publicized series of town meetings that were linked to anti-gay bullying.

"I knew the families of an enormous number of the young people who did die," says Jennings, explaining that the families brought him out after their children died. "It was really personally draining because I did care very much about this on a personal level, and I knew how much these parents were counting on me and counting on the president to actually do something... They'd lost their children, they'd been through the greatest tragedy I think any human being can experience, which is the loss of their child, and they came to us, to this administration — came to me and, by extension through me, to the president — and said, 'Please do something'."

"There were times when I questioned, 'Is this worth it?' " explains Jennings. "Because when you're seeing your entire character being systematically destroyed by a defamation campaign, you begin to ask yourself, 'Is this worth the price?'"

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Michigan court rules against "gay panic" defense in 2009 case

The Michigan Court of Appeals has ruled against the "gay panic" defense, used for decades to justify violent attacks on gays, from the court's rulings.

The case arose from the beating of Ryan Young. In the early morning hours of June 11, 2009, Young was celebrating his birthday with friends at a local bar. Defendant was also at the bar. Young did not know defendant, but defendant joined Young and his friends at their table and defendant and Young talked and became acquainted.

At about 3:30 a.m., Young and defendant were dropped off at Young's apartment. Young testified that he went into his bedroom to change and asked defendant, "Did you want to do anything or did you just want to go back to bed," to which defendant responded: "Yeah, I'm going to do something you faggot.

At trial, the jury believed that defendant checked him "so bad" that he "could not get away from him" and Young thought he was going to die. Defendant "Did you want to do anything or did you just want to go back to bed," to which defendant responded: "Yeah, I'm going to do something you faggot.

Ryan Young's attorney told the court that defendant had violated the "gay panic" defense in 2009 case
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A student speaks out on the right to marriage

By Amanda Bovely

It is in the United States Declaration of Independence that we find the phrase "all men are created equal" and the "pursuit of happiness" to be an unalienable right of all. If this is the argument that supports same-sex marriage, then every individual should have the right to marry, regardless of whom they are marrying.

This article will provide evidence as to why the benefits that apply to married heterosexual couples should also be made available to same-sex couples. Besides the emotional and economic benefits, there has been a study that the overall incidence of new infections has dropped by nearly 25 percent between 2001 and 2005. And today, if you live in a developed country and have access to anti-retroviral medication, a diagnosis of HIV or AIDS is no longer a death sentence.

As the epidemic wanes, a growing number of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people are seeking legal recognition of their relationships, just as heterosexual couples do. In 1967, after more than 34 million people are now living with HIV/AIDS, the outlook is better today than it has ever been. The United Nations has declared this year to be the International Year for People Living with HIV/AIDS. The recent 'Thailand' trials (involving vaccines used in the studies are expected to revolutionize the global vaccine field that I have not come across to date). They have found that the rate of infection for HIV in Thailand has dropped by nearly 25 percent between 2001 and 2005.

And today, if you live in a developed country and have access to anti-retroviral medication, a diagnosis of HIV or AIDS is no longer a death sentence. As the epidemic wanes, a growing number of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people are seeking legal recognition of their relationships, just as heterosexual couples do.

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Around 700 people attend
Pride Agenda Spring Dinner

By Susan Jordan

Attendance was at an all-time high — approximately 700 people attended the Empire State Pride Agenda’s Spring Dinner on May 21 at the Riverside Convention Center.

Among the elected officials attending the dinner were Congresswoman Louise Slaughter and NYS Sen. Jim Alesi, who stopped by briefly to congratulate Rich Ognibene.

NYS Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, a longtime LGBT rights supporter, said in his keynote address, “Justice belongs to everybody ... Discrimination hurts every family. Injustice hurts every one of us.” He said that making the Constitutional promise of “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” come true has always involved a struggle. “Every generation has been called to live up to the challenge.”

Duffy Palmer and Pam Barres presented the Community Service Award to Rich Ognibene, who is openly gay and was named NYS Teacher of the Year in 2008.

Rich said that, as an advisor to the Fairport Gay Straight Alliance, he and others decided that due to the high rate of youth suicides around the country, an after-school club was no longer sufficient. He arranged a meeting with students and district administrators.

“The students were quiet at first,” he said, “but then spoke from the heart... ‘We need more from you.’” He said that the stories of harassment made him think of how much things have changed in the past 20 years.

“What we have learned as a community,” Rich said, “is that each risk we take leads to a reward... I want to challenge you to continue to take risks. If we can find the courage to push beyond what is safe and comfortable, then inch by inch we can change the world — for ourselves and for gay youth.”

Mark Valentino Lenzi and Paul Michael McAndrew

On May 27, 2011, Mark Valentino Lenzi and Paul Michael McAndrew of Park Ave., Rochester, were married in Pittsfield, Mass. by Linda Tyer in an outside ceremony. Gold and diamond rings were exchanged and blue and purple orchid boutonnieres by Maura at Sassafras Flowers were worn. Both grooms wore black suits with Mark in purple tie and shirt, and Paul in blue shirt and tie. Almond raspberry cake from Savoia and sparkling water were served.

Evening cocktails on the terrace overlooking the Berkshires, and dinner reception in the Wyndhurst dining Room were at the Cranwell Resort and Spa in Lenox. Dinner consisted of veal chop and rack of lamb, all served with champagne. The world-renowned photographer Edward Acker of Lenox recorded the evening celebration.

The couple spent the weekend at the Historic Inn at LaUJel Lake in Lee. A local reception will be held in summer 2011, and the honeymoon will be in October in Provincetown.
Kevin Indovino

By Susan Jordan

Kevin Indovino is a producer and director at WXXI, where he has worked for the past 20 years. He says, "I wear many hats but my main duties now are producing and editing the promotional spots and other items you see between shows."

Kevin's interest in amateur theatre, and his skill as a lighting designer, helped get him hired as a production assistant at WXXI, "literally sweeping the floor. Gradually I learned the trade."

Born in Rochester and raised in Brockport, Kevin has many interests and community commitments. He is a producer and director with Shoulders to Stand On, a producer and director with Shoulders to Stand On.

Kevin has lived in the city for over 20 years, and currently resides in the Maplewood Neighborhood, which he describes as "an urban, small, family neighborhood. He travels a lot, mostly for pleasure.

Kevin said, "Rochester is a large town masquerading as a city" in a good way. It has a lot going on, but it's manageable.

Kevin's favorite place, along with MAG, is the AIDS Garden in Highland Park. "In the late '80s/early '90s I started being a volunteer with AIDS Rochester, Helping People with AIDS (Dining for Dollars), and Community Health Network," he said. "In '95 someone asked me to come to a meeting about an AIDS Garden planned for Highland Park. I eventually became president of their board and for five or six years we worked on getting that garden planted, cooperating with the Vietnam vets memorial. The AIDS Garden pays tribute to the people we have lost and to HIV/AIDS caregivers as well."

"We wanted it to be a serene place where people can go and reflect on their loved ones. It's a way for me to give back to the community in a way that validates and marks my place in the Rochester community - when I'm gone, it will be something to give to the people of the future."

The AIDS Garden has been honored by Rochester artist Leonard Urso. "If people asked me what I really dabble in, painting," Kevin says. "I've acted and directed at Blackfriars and JCC, and next spring may direct for GRRC. The last thing I did that people may remember was in spring 2009, when I was in a one-man show, 'Oscar Remembered,' at MuCCC. I did most of the fundraising for the AACTFEST (festival of local theatre from around the country) last month."}

The 2011 Miss and Mr Gay Pride Pageant

GAY PRIDE PAGEANT WINNERS: Congratula-

tions to Keke Velasquez-Lord, Miss Gay Pride 2011; and Nouveau Orleans, Mr. Gay Pride 2011. The pageant was held June 18 at ONE 1 Ryan Alley. Photos: Jim Wilkins

V’ta Valentino, Miss Gay Rochester; Annal Pleasures, Miss Club Marcella; pageant organizer Wayne Esposito (Lisa); Veronica Lace, Miss Pride Buffalo and Vanity Faire, Miss Rochester Gay Pride 2010.

Kevin Indovino with the Henry Moore sculpture at the Memorial Art Gallery. Photos: Susan Jordan

In the AIDS Garden: Kevin at the base of the sculpture “The Guardian” by Rochester artist Leonard Urso.
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Park Ave Bike shop (www.parkavebike.com) for donating a $150 gift card.
Eric Marshall, Designer, at Guerrilla Ink (www.guerrilla-ink.com) for donating the printing on our Ride For Pride tee shirts!
Scott Likely at Towpath Bike shop for the “drive by” donation of inner tubes.
Justin Waas, Scott Doody and MillerCoors for setting us up with some cold brewskies!
Scotland Yard Pub for hosting the Guest Bartender Fundraiser.

THANK YOU TO OUR RIDE FOR PRIDE SUPPORT STAFF:
Walter Polashenski and Tallis Polashenski for filling our tanks with an amazing lunch and “Sweat of a Pagan Bride” home brew!
Scott Fearing and Todd Gordon for the wonderful food, the Ride For Pride home brew, the refreshing garden spitz and the best frozen mofos north of the border!
Pauline Braun, Lisa Nolan and Heidi Klossner for being our amazing Sag Hags (LOL) and Maya Polashenski and Heather Fields, our Backup Hags.
Bruce Ingersoll for sitting all alone in a trailer park with his cooler waiting patiently to serve us cold drinks and for cleaning up wherever we needed it.
Pam Polashenski and Jason Croft for co-facilitating the event and for coming up with the great ideas in the first place!
Evelyn Bailey for finding our Ride For Pride bike shop sponsors and for the beautiful flowers at the end of the ride!
Owen Zacharias and Heather Fields for the beautiful photography.
Laur McSpadden for the office support, media and Facebook visibility.
Owen Zacharias, Ed Freedman and Jason Croft for helping with all the technical difficulties.
Sue Cowell for supporting us all and ensuring that the planning and prep work for the event was smooth riding!

AND A SPECIAL THANKS TO:
Pam Polashenski for being our top (non-Gay Alliance staff member) fundraiser, bringing in over $1,900!!

* It’s not too late to donate! Rider’s pages will stay active until September 18, 2011 at http://www.gayalliance.org/events/ride.html

Thank you for your support of this year’s Ride For Pride! We could not have done it without you!
T. Jones, who received the 2010 Stills from “You Should Meet My Mother,” screening at The Cinema on July 14. 

ImagOut will once again sponsor Rochester Pride 2011. ImagOut is not only Western New York’s largest LGBT film festival but also a consistent supporter of local LGBT events, including Rochester Pride. ImagOut brings back two audience favorites from last October’s ImagineOut for one night only during Pride Week, on Thursday, July 14 at The Cinema, 957 Clinton Ave at Goodman St. Admission is $8 in advance, $12 at the door; tickets available at Equal Grounds and Outlands.

At 7 p.m., a loving mother finds unexpected allies in her quest to find happiness and true love for her closeted gay son in “You Should Meet My Son!”. Rochester audiences were treated to this entertaining Q&A with writer/director Keith Hartman when this film had its New York State Premiere at ImagineOut last October. Popular among men and women of all ages, and with an broad theme of acceptance and its focus on the importance of family, “You Should Meet My Son!” is the perfect film to start an evening of celebrating LGBT pride.

At 9 p.m., ImagOut says, “Nothing can truly prepare you for the unique experience that is ‘Ticked-Off Trannies With Knives’. With its over-the-top, ‘authentic’ 70s B-exploitation style (complete with garish film stock, massaging scissors, and ‘please be patient while we switch reels’ inter titles), this film takes revenge to a different level as it tells the story of a sexy ‘group of tranny’ entertainers who respond to a deadly hate crime by fighting back in grand style and high camp.”

This controversial film, which has both opponents and supporters within the gender variant community, was a major hit last October, ImagOut says, adding, “Just be warned that ‘Ticked-Off Trannies With Knives’ contains excessive, graphic violence.”

Review: You Should Meet My Son!
By Bobby Morris
“You Should Meet My Son”, as audience favorite on the gay film festival circuit by writer/director Keith Hartman, could easily be called “You Should See This Movie!” Fortunately, now you can, as the film was recently released on DVD — and it will be screened by ImagOut on July 14 at 7 p.m. at The Cinema.

Conservative Southern Belle Mae gets the shock of her life when the overhears that her only son is gay. She then discovers that the guy he has been living with wasn’t just his roommate, but his boyfriend, and they have recently broken up.

Rather than dig in her heels and refuse to accept the truth about her son, she and her sparerke sister plunge into head first to embrace and educate themselves on gay culture, meet some new friends along the way and endeavor to find her son a new Mr. Right.

There is a reason this film has won several “Best in Festivals” awards, including Best Feature at Canada’s Rainbow Film Festival and Best Screenplay at the Festival Del Sol in Spain. It’s smartly written, incredibly moving, hysterically funny, and features standout performances by Joanne Macc as Mae and Carol Coons as her sister, Rose.

Unlike other films dealing with the issue of a parent’s acceptance of their offspring’s sexuality, “You Should Meet My Son” never wanders too far into preachy waters and the use of cultural clichés (Drag Queens, Go-Go Boys, and cruising on Market) are both intentional and played for laughs. One comic scene pays homage to an iconic scene in the classic film Auntie Mame and even references itself as such.

But before the plot has the chance to become too over the top, an exchange between Mae and her son quickly reminds us what the film is truly about. If you think that this world won’t give you a second chance if you want, love, kids, a family, then I am gonna have to change the world, because I will not have it change you.”

Writer/Director Hartman has managed to do what few others have been able to. He has taken a topic familiar to all of us in the gay community and used countless times as a plot device in gay themed films, and put a fresh and enduring spin on it. If you aren’t smiling at the end of this film, clearly, there is something wrong with you.

ImagOut, Rochester’s Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, will be showing “You Should Meet My Son” as part of their Summer Mayhem — Special PRIDE Week Double Feature Thursday July 14 at the Cinema The...
Select Drag Professors of “RuPaul’s Drag U” (L-R):Oniga, Shannel, Miss Sahara, Morgan McMichaels, Pandora Box (our heroine) and Bebe Zahara Benet. Photo: Aaron Young for Logo

181 photographers apply for Rivera-Oritz grant

The Manuel Rivera-Oritz Foundation for International Photography initial grant program of $5,000 has attracted 181 applications from 45 countries.

The maiden grant was announced in March. Photographers from all over the world submitted photographs with the Obama portrait with the words “Hope” and a message that Obama was the greatest hope for the future. The Obama portrait was a very public question of what marriage means and how to legally recognize gay marriage.

The Gallery @ Equal-Grounds seeks work by new artists

The Gallery @ Equal-Grounds is actively seeking artists to submit their work for consideration. All 2-D and 3-D mediums are welcome.

The Gallery welcomes your submission with the following information:

Name:
Email:
Contact Information:
As a visual arts organization, we are interested in seeing work that deals with the issues of race, gender, class, religion, and other issues that are relevant to our society.

The Gallery encourages artists to submit work that is politically engaged and socially aware. The Gallery is committed to creating a platform for emerging artists to showcase their work.

The Gallery is located at 677 State St., Rochester, NY 14623.

Submission deadline: July 11, 2011

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JULY 2011 • NUMBER 447 • GAY ALLIANCE OF THE GENEESE VALLEY • THE EMPTY CLOSET

B 3
Northwood Gratitude and Honor Memorial in Irvine, California

By Merle Exit

A trip to Washington D.C. allows you to view the names of U.S. military personnel who have fallen during the war in Vietnam. Many other memorials bear names inscribed in stone or marble but are not available until the conclusion of the war. In Irvine, California, there is the Northwood Gratitude and Honor Memorial, for U.S. military fallen in Afghanistan and Iraq, where the names of over 5,700 heroes are carved in granite from Operation Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn.

The engraved names cover a time period from October 7, 2001 to September 30, 2010. On this Memorial Day, the addition of those who have died from 10/1/10 to 4/11/11 were part of the dedication.

The Memorial, which is officially open to the public 24 hours a day, year round, had its official opening last year on November 14 and is the nation’s first memorial listing the names of all the fallen American service members in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Since 2003, a simple memorial for the country’s military fallen in Afghanistan and Iraq was set up in the southern California city by members of the community on the week before Memorial Day and then removed the week after Independence Day. For years, the community and visitors from all over the country came to share in the fellowship at the site of the Northwood Gratitude and Honor Memorial.

This expression of gratitude and honor, born from simple materials and community initiative, was approved on Dec. 8, 2009 by the Irvine City Council to become a permanent monument to the heroes that gave their all to the United States of America. The groundbreaking for the permanent Memorial took place on May 17, 2010.

For those friends and relatives who may be interested, it is worth the trip to Irvine, as the area provides further reason to spend several days. If you can’t travel to Irvine, you can still request a rubbing (tracing) of your loved one’s name be sent to you. For further information go to www.northwoodmemorial.com

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Travel

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Saturday, July 16th
Pride Parade
Open at 2pm ~ Come out to Celebrate before & after the Parade!
Happy Hour 2pm ~ 8pm!

Sunday, July 17th
Party after the Pride Picnic!
Happy Hour Specials til 10pm!!

KEEP the PRIDE Going Strong...
Thursday, July 28th
The Duo of Frankie Leigh & Jewels
7pm ~ 10pm

Wednesday Steak Nights
6pm ~ 10pm

Be sure to check out our Facebook Page and become a Fan!

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Columnists

Growing Up

By Eric Bellman

Justin Bond, incarnated as Kiki Monologues, is famously snarled. “Everyone, die,” the 63-year-old says, whatever you need to know? Ah, the truth of it. However, I was looking for some guidance on that path to that destination that we grow up. As I looked, 21 and that helped getting into bars underage. At 40 I passed myself off as 33. It was a great drill who I was because no one challenged. An vertices, “does this look like clothing you own?” was, I think, 17 and they didn’t question it, so dear, another reason to treasure the young.

Times have changed. It’s technology, the base of everyone’s existence. The cable goes out. Who knows? I was on television even though there’s nothing much to watch. I need it, that’s the bottom line.

I fumble for the manual under a pile of magazines next to the bed and the help I can rely on is a cable technician. After that answers even begin to speak before I think, “You have to try, I can’t do it. I’m 75.” I didn’t understand any of it.

Once again I am adding years after a half century of subtracting. Does everything come full circle? I don’t know. A credit score, but I was graciously assured it would be looked into. It was. I lose sighs; I can’t count on that. I cross the hallway and place left over a small amount. My Sensational Nature. My credit score.

I really try to cultivate a baby-is-now attitude, but the prospect of illness or old age is never far from my mind. I’m just that little bit of demented, it’s the monster looming in the doorway, not the generous caller who was waving down. It’s the nature that is needed to ride it, with my horse of tasting it.

Email: elkb@rdaa

Cleaning My Closet

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

By Meredith Elizabeth Reinner

Well, you have a pair of clown shoes in my mouth. I think I’m autschmen. I’d rather wear them. I’d much rather wear them, I’m in serious danger of having a stroke. I can’t remember what I was looking at.

I try to be sensible, that’s a major concern. I’m just that little bit of demented, it’s the monster looming in the doorway, not the generous caller who was waving down. It’s the nature that is needed to ride it, with my horse of tasting it.

Email: elkb@rdaa

Funding the Health Care of Older Americans

By Meredith Elizabeth Reinner

I don’t need to think of myself as a lesbian, like when I call the offices of my elected senators. Or, when I want to share my reality with co-workers, I ask, “Did I already tell you that I’m a lesbian?” When I want others to understand why I’m a lesbian, I ask, “Do you make much more than a girlfriend, I borrow the word lesbian to ush, proped into an audience, and heck them.

But sometimes I want more to present myself as a lesbian, like when I call the offices of my elected senators. Or, when I want to share my reality with co-workers, I ask, “Did I already tell you that I’m a lesbian?” When I want others to understand why I’m a lesbian, I ask, “Do you make much more than a girlfriend, I borrow the word lesbian to ush, proped into an audience, and heck them.

By Brian McNaught

Cross-dressers are cross-dressers. They are, in fact, cross-dressers. Cross-dressing is a current term that is often used to refer to the act of dressing as a different gender than one’s biological sex. Cross-dressers may identify as women, men, or both. They may engage in cross-dressing for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to personal fulfillment, social conformity, or simply for fun.

Gay and Transgender Issues in the Workplace

Cross-dressers are cross-dressers. They are, in fact, cross-dressers. Cross-dressing is a current term that is often used to refer to the act of dressing as a different gender than one’s biological sex. Cross-dressers may identify as women, men, or both. They may engage in cross-dressing for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to personal fulfillment, social conformity, or simply for fun.

The opinions of columnists, editorial writers and other contributing writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the collective attitude of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley or The Empty Closet.
Many people in the gay and corporate communities don’t know this, but transsexual persons, especially those not in leadership positions, are not always great advocates for cross-dressing persons, and vice versa, despite them building together under the Transgender umbrella. But, when a company adds “gender identity” to its non-discrimination policy, it’s promoting its cross-dressing employees, as much as its transsexual employees, that it will create for them a work environment in which they feel safe, valued, and included. People often cross-dress because of their fluid gender identity, and are thus covered by the words “gender identity.”

This means that cross-dressing employees, including all those who exhibit any transgender behavior, have not only the right to use the bathroom that matches their gender expression at the time, (seemingly the most pressing issue of the day) but also, and more importantly, protection from hostile col leagues and coworkers.

In order for corporate policies to be fully understood, and for behaviors to change, we all would benefit if more cross-dressing people put a face on this for us. Cross-dressing heterosexual men and women, and men and cross-dressing homosexual men and women, need to tell us who they are, and specifically what they need to feel safe and valued. If they don’t put faces on the issue, their needs will probably be ignored.


a writer, and spiritual companion. I say that about so many things. Forget that I am biracial, but never forget. I am so much time watching reruns of The Nanny on TV. I’m Black. Second, you must never forget that I’m Black.

I say that about so many things. Forget that I am a same sex-loving woman and at the same time never forget that I use a wheelchair, but never forget. Forget that I am biracial, but never forget.

When we take the time to get to know each other as human beings, as creations of the Infinite, then we get to see the divine in each other. We see each other as human beings, with all the labels, stereotypes, prejudices, and stuff that get attached once we begin to put people in categories. At the same time, in the process of knowing me, never forget that who I am includes me being a biracial same sex-loving woman with a disability. I never forget that my day to day realities are shaped by the systems of inequality that shape the realities of us all.

See, there is far more to each of us than what comes attached to the categories we are put in. I am more than a 54-year-old (at the time of this writing) same sex-loving biracial woman with a disability. I am more than the roles I fill in life. I am more than a partner, a parent, a professor, a writer, and spiritual companion.

Sometimes we are so busy judging the cultural divides way too hard, because we allow our fear about what we think we can separate us from one another. I remember sitting in a very painful meeting one day with people who I thought loved and respected me. I sat there and listened, what I heard were words that pierced my spirit as they spoke about how they were challenging me because I was white, rich and educated. In a matter of seconds, I went from thinking they saw me as a human being to realizing they had never really connected with me because they could never forget the categories they had put me in.

We are all more than the categories the world has created and that others put on us. We are human beings, reflections of the love of the Infinite Presence. As I seek to develop relationships with other creations of the Infinite, in this world, I strive to take the advice of Pat Parker and forget and remember the categories and labels attached to those I meet. So I forget that my friends are African American, gay, lesbian, heterosexual, black, Latino, Native American, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu, Agnostic, Atheist and at the same time, I remember.

What would the world be like if we all worked at forgetting and remembering at the same time? What would the world be like if we all had the chance to see beyond our prejudices, stereotypes and fears and took the time to connect with each other as one to one human beings?

If we did, would Pat Parker have ever needed to write her poem instructing where people to be her friend?


Faith Matters

WHY I LOVE PAT PARKER

By Rev. Irene Morrow

Pat Parker was an African American lesbian who died in 1989. While Pat and I never met, her poetry has been this powerful influence in my life.

Like so many poets she wrote about the world around her. However, it was her poetry that she found the place to give voice to her life and her realities as an African American lesbian feminist. She wrote about things that were personal and political. She wrote truth in her poems in a way that touched people’s lives and continues to touch people’s lives today. Perhaps the poem that has made the most significant impact on my life is called the writing which others want to know how to be my friend."

While I can appreciate the entire poem, it is the first two lines that continue to resonate with me today and I can continue to use in my teaching. She wrote: "If the first thing you forget that I’m Black. Second, you must never forget that I’m Black."

But they talk about so many things. Forget that I am a same sex-loving woman and at the same time never forget that I use a wheelchair, but never forget. Forget that I am biracial, but never forget.

When we take the time to get to know each other as human beings, as creations of the Infinite, then we get to see the divine in each other. We see each other as human beings, with all the labels, stereotypes, prejudices, and stuff that get attached once we begin to put people in categories. At the same time, in the process of knowing me, never forget that who I am includes me being a biracial same sex-loving woman with a disability. I never forget that my day to day realities are shaped by the systems of inequality that shape the realities of us all.

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Inspirational
NEVER ASSUME

By Rev. Dr.
Sharon Jacobson

Growing up, I remember hearing my parents and other adults say, “When you assume, you make an ASS out of U and ME.”

For the last 18 months, I have been working on no longer making assumptions in my life. I am not even sure that in the beginning I realized how often I made assumptions.

I know that I, like so many people, make assumptions. However, it was not until I consciously began to work on not making them that I realized how often I did.

I began to realize how many times I made assumptions about the little things in people’s lives.

It really hit me one day when I was having coffee with a few of my students and they began talking about a couple at a table near us and creating this whole life about them just by looking at them. I decided to make this a teachable moment for all of us.

I began asking them questions like, “What do you think they had for coffee?” As that is what I assumed they were drinking. What newspaper do you think they read? What kind of music do they like? What shows do they play or watch? What is their favorite movie? What political party do they support? What is their favorite color? They had no trouble answering these questions with explanations as to why they thought what they did.

I have done a similar exercise with my online students. I gave them a picture of me from when I had dreads and then asked them to tell me what they thought I knew about me based on the picture only.

The answers are quite interesting and often times humorous. In the seven years I have been doing this exercise with my students, none of them ever thought to have a discussion with me about any of these things. The students who were at the table with me that day never realized how easy it was to make assumptions.

Each time I do this exercise with others, it is a humbling moment for us all. It reminds me how easy it is to make assumptions about others and about situations without ever discussing anything. We assume we know someone likes, why something happened, and what will happen next, to name just a few things.

I always find it interesting to ask my students and others why they thought that about me. What beliefs are those assumptions based on?

At the age of 54, soon to be 55, I have come to the realization that I have made many assumptions in my life and never thought about whether they were accurate. Making assumptions has made an ASS out of U and/or the others involved.

There was a point in my life when I would have tried to justify or defend my assumptions. It was easier to try to get off the hook and avoid responsibility for what I had assumed.

What I have come to realize is that the more time I spend seeking clarification about others and situations, the deeper my relationship with my self and others becomes. I no longer have to fill in the blanks without having a discussion. When I remove the ASS before U and ME, it opens the possibility for deeper discussions between us, and a clarification I may not have had about a situation or person before. I no longer have to guess what you put in your coffee because you will have told me.

I have also come to realize that it is assumptions that separate us from one another as people, in a broader and more global sense. I remember having a conversation with my mother one day years ago. She assumed that all my female partner and I ever did was have sex. "Your father and I, we have a real relationship." I had to giggle for a moment when she said that. It felt as if she was telling me I didn’t know what their relationship was like, having lived with them for 20 something years. Well maybe I didn’t. There I was making an assumption. It was after we had a conversation about how similar our lives really were that I knew the walls between us came down. We were no longer making assumptions about what our relationships were like.

One of the things I have come to realize is that no longer making assumptions is a process that requires practice. It is not one of those things you can just stop doing cold turkey. It is a process of mastering the awareness of when we are doing it and then seeking clarification about it before we automatically fill in the blanks.

Sometimes removing the assumptions can be scary, because it challenges us to be aware of our own biases and prejudices. Sometimes having meaningful conversations with others can be challenging, because we may have to not only be aware of when we are making assumptions, we may have to be aware of when others are making assumptions about us, or at least we assume they are.

What would our lives be like if we stopped making assumptions about others and the different states, countries, nations and the world? How different would our lives be if we removed the ASS before U and ME?

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KYLE’S BED & BREAKFAST by Greg Fox
WHERE WE LEFT OFF LAST TIME...WITH A SURPRISING NEW ARRIVAL...
RICHARD?: HI, EVERYONE. I’M SORRY TO CRASH THIS SOIREE, BUT...I JUST GOT A TEXT ABOUT THE LAGOSTE-WEARING LEECH’S TAKEOVER SCHEME.

SOMETHING I WOULD ADVISE HIM TO SERIOUSLY RECONSIDER.
AND WHY WOULD I DO THAT?

BECAUSE I DON’T LIKE IT. KYLE MAY NOT WANT ME AROUND ANYMORE, BUT HE’S THE BEST FRIEND I’VE EVER HAD.

AND I WILL NOT SEE HIM TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE LIKES OF YOU.

HA! AND WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT YOUR ANNOYING LITTLE FAIRY?

OH, PRICE... HOW SAD FOR YOU THAT YOU DON’T REALIZE MY GIFT FOR UNCOVERING GOSPELS AND LANCE ALREADY TRIED THAT.

LANCE DOESN’T HAVE MY CONNECTIONS.

...WHO YOU WERE USING TO STEAL CONFIDENTIAL CORPORATE DATA? VERY SLOPPY, PRICE.

I... PAID GOOD MONEY TO COVER THAT UP!

SWEETIE... THERE ARE NO COVER-UPS IN MY WORLD. BUT LET’S MOVE ON TO THE MAIN EVENT. SHALL WE?

WHICH WOULD BE THIS:

I... I...

AND WE BOTH KNOW BIG DADDY KINGSBURY WILL DISOWN YOU. AND YOU’LL LOSE THAT KINGSBURY INHERITANCE. IF HE FINDS OUT YOU’RE A QUEER.

YOUR RIGHT-WING CHRISTIAN FATHER BACK IN KENTUCKY DOESN’T KNOW THAT YOU’RE GAY!

YOU... WOULDN’T DARE!!!

OH, BUT I WOULD.

KYLE... I BELIEVE I’D LIKE TO SIGN BACK CONTROL OF THE BBF TO YOU.

BUT WE HAVEN’T EVEN GOTTEN TO THE DENTAL NAKED FRAT-PARTY VIDEO STORY... ENOUGH!!!

...BECAUSE J: CON’T LIKE IT.

IF I WANTED A SON. HE’S THE BEST FRIEND I’VE EVER HAD.

Maryellen Meleca, LCSW • 14 years experience
585-905-4589 • maryellen.meleca@gmail.com

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Please advise for the LGBT community from one of your own!
Meet Ashley Shaffer, new Gay Alliance intern

By Susan Jordan

Ashley Shaffer of NTID/RIT has joined the Gay Alliance staff for the summer. She is not the only intern this summer. To schedule an ASL interpreter for a Pride event, email DeafAccess@gayalliance.org.

Ashley reports:

I have been enjoying studying graphic design for three years. Being a graphic designer is not the only idea I want to do professionally. There are so many things I love to do, like interior decorator, paint, fashion decorator, craft, and countless others. Art is something I want to do for the rest of my life. Creativity is my passion.

What are you studying at NTID and do you have a good idea of what you want to do?

I am planning to focus on making graphic design things, advertisement, brochure, logo and others for any kind of awesome event and include Rochester Pride 2011. I am also planning to helping to improve deaf access for the deaf community at Rochester Pride 2011.

Everything I have to work at as much as I can to reach my goal to make the Gay Alliance community bigger.

Where is your hometown? Baltimore, Maryland

Do you do internships and other groups and agencies, do more to make their services accessible to the deaf community?

Yes, they should do that because the deaf community is more than ready to enjoy themselves anywhere that would provide better deaf access. If instead there is no deaf access, then it would make the deaf community step back.

That is not what I want to see in the deaf community. All I want to see the deaf community do is to get recognized, with more motivation and be more involved around non-profits, other groups, and also agencies with hearing people. All of us are not different people.

Do you think that ASL should be taught in elementary and high schools as a regular part of the curriculum? Would it make hearing people more sensitive and aware, and able to communicate more effectively?

Yes, I absolutely think hearing people should do that if they are interested to learn how to do American Sign Language. It’s cool for them to learn their second or third language to communicate with deaf people.

There are a lot more deaf people around the world than hearing people ever imagine. American Sign Language is such a beautiful language. I’ll.

By Susan Jordan

Ashley Shaffer. Photo: Susan Jordan

Gay Alliance Youth

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

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

Monday and Wednesday Drop-in: 2-8pm

Sunday Support Groups: ages 13-23: 2-4pm; ages 18-25: 4:30-6pm

Special Interest: Transgender Youth, Arts/Crafts, Movies, Writing

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

Fun, friendly, safe adults are needed to volunteer their time and talents, providing positive role models, maybe sharing a talent or skill. Contact Jeanne Glaeser, Outreach Coordinator for an application: jeanne@gagv.us or 585-244-8640, ext. 14.

Youth & Adult Sunday group meetings and drop-ins are on hiatus for the summer!

We ask the Gay Alliance youth How are you celebrating PRIDE?

- Donatae, 16 “Being Peter Pan. Doing the flash mob.”
- Nereida, 21 “I am going to march with GAGV and going to be in the [youth] drag show!”
- Carmella, 16 “Being proud of being gay!”
- Quang, 20 “Gonna go with GAGV and be happy.”
- Courtney, 16 “Wearing a lot of rainbows!”
- Gabe, 23 “With respect and dignity and happiness.”

LGBT people in re-entry

There are 2,500 people each year who return to Monroe County from New York's jails and prisons. That's a lot of people, and some are bound to be gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex.

LGBT people in re-entry can have special needs, like finding support when coming out to a partner or helping parole officers understand why alcoholic and drug-free clothes are hanging in the closet. Some needs are much more dire.

Gay and bisexual men and transgender women are at a much higher risk for rape and sexual assault while incarcerated. One study found that up to 40 percent of male prisoners who identified as gay were sexually abused by other prisoners and even prison employees.

LGBT people in re-entry need significant mental health support upon returning to the community.

In June, Community Safety Program Director Kelly Clark presented a training session on SMART — the Safer Mon­ reife Area Reentry Team. SMART is a coalition of 30 individuals and agencies work­ing with people in re-entry and prisons. In addition to providing basic LGBT training, Ms. Clark was also able to give an overview about the special needs LGBT people in re-entry may have. Ms. Clark regularly attends SMART meetings and works closely with the Gay Alliance to help people in re-entry need­ ing support.

SAGE to gather at Pride Picnic for hot dogs

Euchre is July 10. The location is South Hamburg. Everyone is welcome to join us.

The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley is a non-profit agency, dedicated to cultivating a healthy, inclusive environment where lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people are safe, thrive and have opportunities. We are a coalition of individuals and groups working to empower LGBT people, to affirm their identities, and to create an atmosphere where the diversity of our community can thrive both collectively and separately. We educate and advocate for civil rights for all and for the eradication of homophobia.

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Groups

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

BUTCH FEMME CONNECTION

The Rochester Butch-Femme Connection will have two dinner events in July 2011. On July 9, we will meet at East Ridge Dinner on East Ridge Road in Irondequoit (near Elmhurst Avenue intersection) at 7 p.m.

On July 23, we will meet at Grand Super Buffet on East Henrietta Road (Route 15A) at 7 p.m.

For more information, contact Kerry Max at (305) 288-7208, e-mail Dressy-Femme@com or visit our Facebook page under Rochester Butch-Femme Connection.

DIGNITY-INTTEGRITY

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

First Sunday: Episcopal Mass, with music (includes healing service); Second Sunday: Roman Catholic Liturgy of the Word, with music; Third Sunday: Episcopal Mass in the Chapel; no music this week; Fourth Sunday: Evening Prayer, followed by a Potluck Supper; Fifth Sunday: Short Prayer Service, followed by a presentation on the Holy Land by one of our members.

July Pot Luck Theme: “Summer Salads.” At last, it is time to indulge in your favorite cool salads. D-I cooks are very creative! Bring along a favorite to share, or if you prefer, just come and join us for fun and great food!

News from the Pew: What a great GARAGE SALE we had in June! I’d like to say we sold everything... but we’ve got something left for those who missed us. We can still accept your donations for the “Follow-up” sale, not yet scheduled but usually held in late August. Check the website for details.

Pride: We’ve got it! We’ll have a display booth at both the festival and the picnic. Stop by and say hello!

One of our members went to the Holy Land not long ago. He took lots of pictures and has arranged them into a slide show to share with us. Join us on the fifth Sunday this month to learn more.

As always, you can check for any additions or changes to the schedule by looking at our website... here’s the address... http://www.d-i-rochester.org. We hope to see you there!

EMPIRE BEARS

Well, it’s finally, really, summer, even in Rochester. School’s out, and many of our members gathered on June 14 at the Winconaire, and come along. The Bears had a great time at the Irondequoit Lions Club, and we meet the Wednesday before our second weekend in Jones Pond or Hillside. Visit a little less often, but we all love to get away.

The Bears don’t plan many weekend events in the summer. The best place to find us is Western nights at the Winconaire at 6, having supper and laughs with our favorite straight lady waitress, Becky. We also are planning to do mini golf, a ball game, and a visit to Subzero this summer. It looks like they’ll all happen on a Wednesday night after supper, so join us at the Winconaire, and come along.

The Bears had a great time at the Forum on the first Saturday in June, and hope you’ll join us for some fun on July 2. Members usually gather to pass out some popcorn, and maybe do a raffle for a charity. Hope to see you there.

JUST US GUYS

Our members gathered on June 14 at AIDS Care for an ever-popular Potluck Dinner. The topics of discussion included Marriage Equality and the importance of being heard at a time when there has been so much said regarding the pros and cons.

The bottom line is that Marriage Equality is a basic issue of civil rights. Members were urged to express their opinion to their respective representatives.

As in the past, members of Just Us Guys are being encouraged to attend and support Rochester Pride 2011 Parade-Festival; July 8-17. Specifically, since our normal meeting date falls on July 12, a goal will be to attend the Third Presbyterian Movie Night, which is scheduled for that date. More information about this event will be available at www.Gay-Alliance.org and in the Pride Guide in this issue.

For more information about the group and the July 12 function, contact Ken at 223-2629 or e-mail madlernerch@gmail.com.

MARRY MAGDALENE CHURCH

Mary Magdalene Church is an inclusive church in the Catholic tradition. Join us for Mass followed by the Blessing of the Pets on Sunday, July 24, 5-7 p.m. at Holy Cross Church, 585-362-1155.

MAY BRIDE-TO-BE.

Mary Magdalene Church is an inclusive church in the Catholic tradition. Join us for Mass followed by the Blessing of the Pets on Sunday, July 24, 5-7 p.m. at Holy Cross Church, 585-362-1155.

OUT & EQUAL

The Rochester Rams M.C. is Rochester New York’s foremost gay motorcycle and leather club as well as being one of the oldest clubs of its type in the country. All who are interested in the leather club scene are invited to check us out. Our general meeting is open to the public and we meet the Wednesday before bar night at 7:30 p.m. Meetings are held at our clubhouse, the Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave.

For more info visit our website: www.rochesterrams.com.

Give them the most selfless gift of all, a more secure future
Gay Alliance Board of Directors
Mets: Third Wednesdays, 6pm, 875 E. Main St. 244-8640

New Freedoms New Happiness AA Gay meeting, 5pm, Utica Church, 220 Winton Rd. Men and women. Open.
Support Group for Parents who have lost Children
First, 3rd Wednesdays, 1:30-3pm. Third Presbyterian Church, 465 St. George Rowan House Center. Peer 325-8890

COAP
Come Out and Play. Business meeting last Wednesday, Equal-Grounds, 750 South Ave. 7pm, John S., 261-7263
Empire Bears
First Wednesdays, 7-4pm. Gay Alliance Community Center, 875 E. Main St. 5th floor. info@gaysbears.org

Rochester Rams General Meeting
2nd Wednesdays, 7:30pm. Bathsheba Fair, 875 E. Main St. info@rochesterrams.org

Bikers Keeper
Support group for men over 35. Third Wednesday of the month, Equal-Grounds, 750 South Ave. 7pm, John S., 261-7263

Frontunners/Frontwalkers
Mondays, 7pm. George Eastman House parking. www.rochesterfrontunners.org

Gay Alliance Library & Archives, David Bohan Cyber Center
Every Wednesday, 6pm. Fast Route. 875 E. Main St. 244-8640

Equality Rochester
6:30-8:30pm, Metro Justice, 876 Flinders St. 426-0822, alexischuck@gmail.com

Tuesday
Just Us Guys
Gay meeting. 7pm, 5th floor, 875 E. Main St.

Out for Justice Workshop Series
Fourth Tuesdays through Nov. 2011. Kelly Club, 244-8640.

Camp Out Coffee Night
First Tuesdays, 7pm, Equal-Grounds, 790 South Ave.

MOCHA Young Drop-In
Tuesdays, 1pm, MOCHA Center, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 420-1440, 244-8640

MOCHA Heptas Classic
First, 2nd, & 4th Saturdays, third Tuesdays, 5pm, 875 E. Main St. 244-8640

Trans Action Group (TAG) Meeting information: Peter Vallantina, delthetan@gaylife.net or www.transactiongroup.org GLOBAL (Gays and Lesbians of Buffalo & Lancast) micro-thursday in area 67 conference room at the optic center, vickirae.39877

Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus
Downtown Ithaca Presbyterian Church, 115 Ithaca St. 6:30-8pm, 423-6020

Free cold invocation walk in hiking Thursday every week. 7-5pm, AIDS Care, 259 Monroe Ave. 442-2420

Partner Reimbursement Group
First and third Thursdays, 5pm-7pm.

Open drop in sessions, professionally led Lowell beginner invitational hike at inexpensive reservation rate. First Unitarian Church, 318 Winton Rd. 214-1444

MOCHA/Gay Alliance Youth Team Group
First and third Thursdays, 5pm. Gay Alliance Youth Centre, 875 E. Main St., first floor. (Peer center entrance). 244-8640 ext 13.

Frontunners/Frontwalkers
Mondays, 7pm. George Eastman House parking. www.rochesterfrontunners.org

Empire Bears Perlick
First Sundays, Gay Alliance Youth Centre, 875 E. Main St. first floor, Peer Center entrance. 6:30pm dinner. 7pm dinner. @gbch pw.com, www.rogaysbears.org

Cross Dresser Support Group
First Saturdays, call for location. 281-2312 RCDNET@hotmail.com

Gay Guys Night
Third Sundays, Social group for men. First Unitarian Church, 220 S. Winton Rd.

Saturday Night Special Gay AA
7pm, Caucasian Church, 220 Winton Rd. 3rd and Women. Open meeting.

Lilac Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf
(219) 2nd Saturday, 6pm. rochesterfrontrunners.org. Sophia’s Support Club
First and third Saturdays, 6pm, www. sailrochester.org/conference/online-spiritual-revelations.

Sunday
Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)
Third Sundays, 1-3pm. Open AIDS Care, 244 Marshall Rd. 3rd Floor, 442-6369 ext 27. PFLAG@gayalliance.org.

Gay Alliance Library & Archives, David Bohan Cyber Center
Every Thursday evening. First Floor. 875 E. Main St. 244-8640

Come Out Decisive
Second Sundays, 5pm. Friends Meeting House, 404 Keen St. entrance on Charlotte St. 55

Adult Discussion Group
Ages 21+. Sundays, 4-6pm, Auditorium Center, Gay Alliance Youth Centre, 875 E. Main St. 244-8640.

On location.
Unity Fellowship Church
Sundays, 1:30pm, Spiritual Church of Peace, 125 Caroline St. 614-620-5998.

Dignity — Integrity
In Summer, 4th Annual Episcopal Eucharist with music. 2nd Sunday, 2nd Annual Episcopal Eucharist (4th Sunday) 4:30pm. 4th Sunday at St. John’s Episcopal Church. St. John’s Episcopal Church.

Open Arts Metropolitan Community Church
140 Marshall Rd. 711, 274-6787.

Gay Men’s Alcoholics Anonymous
St. Luke’s at Simon Cayce Church, 175 S. Flint Rd. 8:30pm, 232-6720. Weekly, Closed meeting.

FRIDAY
Gay Men’s A AA meeting
Fridays, 7:30-9:30pm, Closed meeting, Emmanuel Baptist Church, 835 Park Ave.

GLBTQ Motorcycle Group
Second Fridays, 5:30pm. Various locations. Back on GLBTQ at johnson. 463-6460. budginn@cable.net.

SATURDAY
Rochester Rams Bar Night
Third Saturdays, 7pm, 2pm. Bathsheba Fair, 875 E. Main St. 244-8640. www.rochesterrams.org.

Empire Bears Perlick
2nd Saturdays, Bimos, 875 E. Main St. 4th floor, Peer Center entrance. 6:30pm dinner. 7pm dinner. @gbch pw.com, www.rogaysbears.org

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Gay Alliance Youth Group
Ages 13-23. Every Sunday, 2-4pm. Gay Alliance Youth Centre, 875 E. Main St. or satellite locations. For weekly location check gay youth calendar. www.gayalliance.org or e-mail Jen at Jen@GayAlliance.org. On hiatus for summer.

Rochester SAGE
First Sundays: Eunch Church, 3-6pm. Third Sundays, Parkview at First Universalist Church, 150 S. Clinton Ave. 4pm.

Meas Cooking Group
Third or fourth Saturdays, 355-7664.

Civit Rights Front
Every Tuesday, 5pm, Equal-Grounds, 790 South Ave. http://www.civilrightfront.wordpress.com III
Advance tickets at Gay Alliance, ertsmithl936@hotmail.com. waterslides 11 am-10 pm. Pride Pavilion evenr. For Alliance.org (before Liturgy of the Word, for free.

ANNOUNCEMENTS to sign up ro leam how to play, contact


TUESDAY 12 Pride Movie Night and refreshments. 7 pm, Third Presbyterian Church, 4 Mephit St (at East Ave) "Par pkg. 15" in Swedish with English subtitles. Pride 2011 event.

TUESDAY 15 Empty Closet deadline for August issue. 244-9030, susan@gayalliance.org.

FRIDAY 11 PFLAG lunch. Pride Shabbat, Temple Sha, 353 Paulfild Rd. 5:30 pm; pre service Och; 6 pm: Erev Shabbat service.

Friday Weekend Kick Off Party, Holiday Inn Airport, 911 Brooks Ave, 7-10 pm, DJ show, brief announcements, sale of Grand Marshals. No entry fee; cash bar, food and good times.

SATURDAY 16 PFLAG lunch. PFLAG will sell lunches at a fundraiser before Parade from 11:30 am-2 pm at Ashby First Unit- ed Methodist Church, 1050 East Ave. $5 lunch features our yearly horser rack or bento box: sandwich, pasta salad, chili, cookies, water or soda. Child's version available for $3.

Family Day at Memorial Art Gal­lery, noon-5 pm. acoustic concert for kids; free admission to art gallery. Pride 2011 event.

PRIDE PARADE & FESTIVAL. Celebrate our great victory for mar­riage equality! Parade line up: 2-3 pm, Park Ave. at Brunswick/Airy. March down Park and Goodman St. to Festival Auditorium Central Park for live College St. Food vendors. DJ Jon Her­bert, Hector. Headliners: Pepper Mashay, Melissa Persick; opening act: Pawan. At 6:35: Flash mob dance ("Born This Way"). Fabulous appearances by Your Favorite Rochester Queens. 4:30-5:30 pm. Pride 2011 event.

SUNDAY 17 Pride Integrity Episcopal Mass in the round, no music. This week, 5 pm, St. Luke's and St. Simon's Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. http://www.di-rochester.org/

Pride Open Golf Tournament, $22.50, children 2 and under free, 11 am-4 pm, St. Luke's and St. Simon's Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. http://www.di-rochester.org/.

Sunday 23 Pride Integrity Short Prayer Service, followed by a presentation on the Holy Land by LR member. 5 pm, St. Luke's and St. Simon's Church, 17 S. Fitz­hugh St. http://www.di-rochester.org/

Mary Magdalen Church Mass followed by Blessing of Pets, 4 pm at Edmond Lyon Park Garage, Main St, East Rochester. Tammy Drollert, 585-362-1155.

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115 S. Main St.
Phone: 585-723-7140
E-mail: stmarysowl@aol.com
Web: www.stmarysrochester.org

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Proud Producer of Rochester Pride
City Hall Rainbow Flag Raising Friday, July 8 4-5pm
The Rainbow Flag Raising event is held in the atrium of the beautiful, historic Rochester City Hall. Learn more about the events of the week including any additions or changes. This is a great opportunity for everyone to help make LGBT Pride an important part of our city. This program will have ASL interpretation provided.

Sassy in the South Wedge Friday, July 8 5-9pm
Following the flag raising at City Hall, grab your friends and head to the South Wedge. Merchants in the South Wedge will be offering Pride Specials to community members on this evening, so, walk the streets of the newest Gayborhood in Rochester and see what Sassy fun awaits.

2011 Pride Volunteers will pick up event information and instructions for Pride week at Equal-Grounds. Participating merchants include John’s Tex Mex, Tattoo Kamikare, Echo-Tone Music, Boulder Coffee, Tap & Mallet, Lux Lounge, Altar Ink Tattoo, Hedonist Artisan Chocolate, Full Moon Vista Bike & Sport and Equal-Grounds. Dance the night away at Boulder Coffee on the outside patio.
If desired, please request ASL interpreting by contacting DeafAccess@GayAlliance.org before July 1.

Pride Day at Seabreeze Saturday, July 9 11am-10pm
Since 1879, Seabreeze has been Rochester’s favorite amusement park, located within view of Lake Ontario, near the north end of Culver Road. Seabreeze is the 4th oldest amusement park in the nation. (See ad this page.) Special Pride Day entrance is only $22.50, but these discounted tickets must be purchased through the Gay Alliance 585-244-8540 or at www.osnik.com/gayalliance. There will be a Pride Pavilion from 11am-4pm for picnicking. Running water and electricity is provided. You can bring your own food/ coolers into the park. The Jack Rabbit will give you a jolt, the Tilt-a-Whirl will spin you right ‘round baby and the Water Park will cool you off... Seabreeze is always a good time for people of all ages. (Children 2 and under admitted free) Be sure to wear your brightest rainbow outfit so we can be seen everywhere.
If desired, please request ASL interpreting by contacting DeafAccess@GayAlliance.org before July 1.

Pride Youth Dance & Drag Pageant Monday, July 11 5-9pm
The annual Youth Pride Dance and Drag Pageant will be held at TILT Nightclub, located at 444 Central Avenue in Rochester. $5 admission includes pizza and two free soda tickets. (Additional $5/ea) DJ Chuck Argento will spin the music. This event is open to all LGBT youth ages 13-23. Straight allies are welcome. It is an alcohol and drug free event. If desired, please request ASL interpreting by contacting DeafAccess@GayAlliance.org before July 5.

Pride Movie Night and Refreshments Tuesday, July 12 7-8:30pm
The Tuesday movie night has become a popular event during the annual Rochester Pride Week. And for the seventh year, Tilt Pride volunteers at Church St (at East Ave) Rochester has been its host. PARKING is 50 feet from the movie. Shows at 12& 2pm
This year the film is a 2008 Swedish comedy-drama film in which a gay Swedish couple adopt what they at first believe to be a baby. Patrik, only to have him turn out to be a homophbic teenager. This 903 minute film is sure to both disturb you and entertain you. Presented in Swedish with English subtitles.

Out & Equal Second Thursdays Networking Thursday, July 14 5-7pm
The Pride Edition of Second Thursday will be at the Horizons Lounge at the Woodliff Hotel & Spa, 199 Woodliff Drive, Fairport. Pride giveaways and 50/50 raffle to support Pride 2011. No cover, just good conversation.

Absolut Pride Tea Party at One Sunday, July 10 3pm
Absolut is the sponsor of the 2011 Pride Tea Party at One. Join the fun as Pride fills this Eastend establishment with a Rainbow of fantastic fun.
This is a 21+ event and tickets are $10 in advance and $15 at the door. Join local leaders as the Gay Alliance formally presents the Pride 2011 Grand Marshall.
Cash bar, food, great music by DJ Henry and DJ Jon Herbert, performances by Miss Gay Pride Kette Velasquez-Lord and Samantha Vega.
Purchase advance tickets at www.osnik.com/gayalliance or in person at Equal-Grounds, Outlands and, Bachelor Forum.
If desired, please request ASL interpreting by contacting DeafAccess@GayAlliance.org before July 1.

ImageOUT’s Pride Movie Hight Thursday, July 14 7-11pm
ImageOUT’s Pride Week double feature will be held at the Cinema Theater, 957 South Clinton Ave., 14620. It will showcase two audience favorites from their October lineup for one night only. At 7pm, YOU SHOULD MEET MARY at 7pm TICKED-OFF TRANNEIS WITH KNIVES (Note: This film contains excessive, graphic violence) More information at, http://www.imageout.org/screenings.php
To request interpreting services contact the ImageOut by July 8. Use the relay service, 1-800-662-1220 or e-mail office@imageout.org. This event is wheelchair accessible.

Pre-Parade Lunch with PFLAG Saturday, July 16 11:30am-2pm
“Mom and Dad want you to eat a healthy lunch before you go OUT to play.” Support PFLAG’s important work by buying a lunch.
Your choice of Pita w/Humus or Turkey Sandwich. ($5 adults/ $3 children).
Sale will be at Asbury First United Methodist Church, 1050 East Avenue, Rochester 14607.

City Hall Rainbow Flag Raising Friday, July 8 4-5pm
The Rainbow Flag Raising event is held in the atrium of the beautiful, historic Rochester City Hall. Learn more about the events of the week including any additions or changes. This is a great opportunity for everyone to help make LGBT Pride an important part of our city. This program will have ASL interpretation provided.

2nd Annual Pride Open Golf Tournament Saturday, July 9 1pm, Tee Time
Brockport Country Club is the location of the tournament. Registration is $90/person and proceeds benefit AIDS Care and the Youth Program at the Gay Alliance. For information and registration, e-mail jerry@igbomy2011.org or visit www.igbomy2011.org

Pride Youth Dance & Drag Pageant Monday, July 11 5-9pm
The annual Youth Pride Dance and Drag Pageant will be held at TILT Nightclub, located at 444 Central Avenue in Rochester. $5 admission includes pizza and two free soda tickets. (Additional $5/ea) DJ Chuck Argento will spin the music. This event is open to all LGBT youth ages 13-23. Straight allies are welcome. It is an alcohol and drug free event. If desired, please request ASL interpreting by contacting DeafAccess@GayAlliance.org before July 5.

Pride Movie Night and Refreshments Tuesday, July 12 7-8:30pm
The Tuesday movie night has become a popular event during the annual Rochester Pride Week. And for the seventh year, Tilt Pride volunteers at Church St (at East Ave) Rochester has been its host. PARKING is 50 feet from the movie. Shows at 12& 2pm
This year the film is a 2008 Swedish comedy-drama film in which a gay Swedish couple adopt what they at first believe to be a baby. Patrik, only to have him turn out to be a homophbic teenager. This 903 minute film is sure to both disturb you and entertain you. Presented in Swedish with English subtitles.

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ROCHESTER PRIDE GUIDE JULY 2011

LGTC Pride Family Day at the Memorial Art Gallery Saturday, July 16 Noon-1pm
People of all ages will enjoy free admission to the Gallery. Bring the kids or grandkids for art activities, giant bubbles, face painting and more. Hear the story of Rainbow Fish and make a rainbow fish puppet to take home!
Be done in time to get a great seat on the Pride Parade route.
If desired, please request ASL interpreting by contacting DeafAccess@GayAlliance.org before July 8.

Wedding Announcements
Send your wedding announcements and photos to susanj@gayalliance.org by July 15 for the August issue. Only $15!

Pride Flash Dance Mob!
At 6:30pm we will play Lady Gaga’s “Born This Way” – will you be in on the dance? Visit http://www.youtube.com/user/GayAlliance

Rochester’s Got Talent
Roundhouse Events at the Pride Picnic
Sunday July 17 - 1-7pm Genesee Valley Park
Rochester’s Got Talent Show
Dance with Til’s Own, DJ Jon Herbert, Rochester’s Own, DJ Hector, Rochester’s New, DJ KD.
With the best Sound of Rochester - Peewee Mays and DJ John Herbert.
Ticket are $5 in advance, and $8 at the gate. (SS for students with an I.D. at gate)
Purchase advance tickets at www.osnik.com/gayalliance.org or in person at Outlandish, Equal-Grounds, and Parkleigh.
If desired, please request ASL interpreting by contacting DeafAccess@gayalliance.org before July 8.

ABSOLUT VODKA IS PROUD TO SPONSOR THE ABSOLUT TEA PARTY.
SUNDAY 5PM, JULY 10 AT

DJ HENRY, DJ JON HERBERT AND DRAG PERFORMANCES BY:
KEKE VALASQUEZ-LORD OF BUFFALO • SAMANTHA VEGA OF ROCHESTER
INTRODUCTION OF PRIDE PARADE GRAND MARSHALL
$4 ABSOLUT DRINK SPECIALS
COMPLIMENTARY HORS D’OEUVRES • DECK MENU AVAILABLE
$10 IN ADVANCE, $16 AT THE DOOR. TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT EQUAL GROUNDS, BACHELOR FORUM, OR ONLINE AT ROCHESTERPRIDE.COM
1 RYAN ALLEY, EASTEND ROCHESTER 14607

1011 Rochester Pride Parade Saturday, July 16 3pm-6:30pm (Line-up 2-3pm)
Join the crowds lining the streets of Park Avenue and Goodman Streets for Rochester’s Annual Pride Parade.
There will be bands, floats, drag Kings & Queens, motorcycle riders, politicians (and of course the annual protesters). Parade steps off at 3pm from the corner of Park Ave. and Brunswick.

1011 Rochester Pride Festival Saturday, July 16 4:30-9:30pm
Immediately following the Parade the annual Pride Festival will be held behind the Auditorium Theater on College Avenue.
There will be food and drink (both soft and adult beverages) vendors and entertainment.
This year’s stage lineup is more than impressive - our featured entertainers are Pepper Mashay (back by Popular Demand) and Melissa Ferrick (performing for the first time at Rochester Pride) and of course, your favorite Rochester & Upstate NY Queens will also be on the Three Olives Stage.
DJ John Herbert and DJ Hector mix the music to dance the night away.
Tickets are $5 in advance, and $8 at the gate. (SS for students with an I.D. at gate)
Purchase tickets at www.osnik.com/gayalliance.org or in person at Outlandish, Equal-Grounds, and Parkleigh.
If desired, please request ASL interpreting by contacting DeafAccess@gayalliance.org before July 8.

1011 Rochester Pride Picnic Sunday, July 17 1-7pm
A great way to relax after the Pride parties of Saturday. The Annual Rochester Pride Picnic will be held in the beautiful Genesee Valley Park.
Enjoy the food and merchandise vendors, antique cars, dog show, join in on the picnic site contest, and of course, dancing in the Roundhouse.
Entry fee includes entry into the raffle to win a Lottery Basket. Tickets are $10 in advance, $15 at the gate, ($5 for students with an I.D. at gate)
Purchase tickets at www.osnik.com/gayalliance.org or in person at Outlandish, Equal-Grounds, and Parkleigh.
If desired, please request ASL interpreting by contacting DeafAccess@gayalliance.org before July 8.
Picnic Entrance Two and much of the park has sidewalks making many of the activities accessible.

NEW!
1011 Rochester Pride Weekend Kickoff Friday, July 15 7-10pm
The 2011 Pride Weekend Kickoff Party will be held at the Holiday Inn Airport, 911 Brooks Avenue, Rochester, 14624 (Brooks Ave. and I-390).
No entry fee, cash bar, food, and prizes.
A Pride program will only briefly interrupt the music by DJ Chuck Argento and dancing: The Sashing of the 2011 Grand Marshal and Honorary Marshal along with a big thank you for what they have done for the Rochester community.
If desired, please request ASL interpreting by contacting DeafAccess@GayAlliance.org before July 8.

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Pride Festival and Picnic stages will have interpreters.
Watch Pride website for ASL Symbol to be added to event listings. Questions? DeafAccess@gayalliance.org.
Rochester's Pride Parade began in 1989. The first Parades took place downtown, but for many years now the LGBT community has marched in rainbow-hued glory down Park Ave. and Goodman St. The parade represents our diverse community, from babies in strollers to the elders of Rainbow SAGE, from faith communities to glittering Queens to supportive elected officials.

Which floats and marching units will win awards this year?

The following awards are up for grabs:

- Mother's (Remembering Naiomy Kane) Show Stopper Award
  Cash Award $300, Best Float to incorporate the 2011 parade theme.

- Stonewall Award: Cash Award $250
  Most imaginative depiction of the 2011 Parade theme by a not for profit float unit.

- Rainbow Award Quarterly, 1/4 page color ad in The Empty Closet
  Best for-profit business float unit portraying pride.

- Community Award Cash Award $250
  The not for profit Walking unit which best exhibits community pride.

- Ruby Slipper Award Cash Award $150
  Most imaginative depiction of the 2011 parade theme by a walking unit.

Up-to-the-minute interactive map at www.GayAlliance.org
HELLO DARLINGS. MRS. KASHA DAVIS here. busy as i am as an INTERNATIONAL CELEBRITY HOUSEWIFE, THERE’S ALWAYS TIME FOR a cocktail & A PHONE CALL, so be a doll. PUT DOWN THE MARTINI & CALL.

One arm. One hour. One million lives can change.

Become a vaccine revolutionary and discover how you can help find an HIV vaccine in our lifetime.

Our study needs HIV-negative men who have sex with men, ages 18-50 for local studies. Participants are paid an average of $1,000.

FACTS:
HIV vaccines are synthetic (non-moral).
It is IMPOSSIBLE to get HIV infection from the vaccine.

rochestervictoryalliance.org  585-756-2329  Rochester Victory Alliance

Bob Johnson Chevrolet Supports the Gay Pride Parade!
Contact Ralph directly: 585.413.9369 ralphp@bobjohnsonchevy.com

IT’S A BETTER PLACE TO BUY A CAR*
1271 Ridge Road West  •  Rochester, NY 14615  •  585.663.4040  •  bobjohnsonchevy.com

19th Annual Festival  October 7-16, 2011
For more information about the Festival and events held throughout the year, including Pride Week screenings, please visit us at www.imageout.org
Follow the floats and rainbow flags to the Festival Stage, behind the Auditorium Center on College St. at Goodman. Pepper Mashay, Melissa Ferrick and Pawan will provide the evening’s excitement, sided and abetted by the most fabulous Queens and DJs in town. 6:15 p.m.: Flash mob forms when you hear “Born This Way” by Lady Gaga! Shop at vendor booths and savor the delicious food and beverages on sale. It’s your own private Pride party—with a few thousand amazing guests!

4:30pm
Gates open

4:30-7pm
Music. DJ Jon Herbert

5:25-5:45pm
Introduction of host, thank yous, Miss and Mr. Gay Pride Rochester

5:50-6pm
Parade awards

6pm
PAWAN

6:15-6:20pm
Flash Mob Dance

Back by popular demand
The dynamic Pepper Mashay returns to Rochester Pride this year. Pepper’s new release is a cover of “Use Somebody” by the rock band Kings of Leon. I went with tribal drums and acoustic guitars. Pepper says she can’t wait to see her Rochester fans again. “We’re gonna have a good time,” she promises, referring to her much-loved hit “Diving in the Pool”.

Lesbian icon
Since her first album in ‘93, Melissa Ferrick’s music has been both raw and polished, ballsy and vulnerable. In her own words, her music is “honest, self-searching and love-themed.” Melissa came out publicly in 1995, and has since become something of an icon in lesbian folk/rock circles: her song “Drive” is pretty much the anthem of Sapphic desire.

Pawan mixes genres
Toronto Pop/R&B recording artist Pawan’s music mixes the genres of pop, R&B, dance and electronica to give an innovative, fresh new sound. “Hurt Me So Good” is Pawan’s first commercial release. The song tells the story of what happens when a relationship between two lovers is torn apart, as one’s trust in the other is lost.

We would like to thank Kasha Davis for the dedication to Pride Events over the years! Rochester is lucky to have you!
BY THE LADIES

Your Favorite Rochester and Upstate New York Performers on the Pride Festival Stage

Ambrosia Salad
DeeDee Dubois
V'ta Valentino
Vanity Faire

Kasha Davis
Samantha Vega
Poison Waters
Keke Velasquez-Lord

V'ta Valentino
Poison Waters
Aneal Pleasures
Kyla Minx

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Shoes | Handbags | Hats | Costume Jewelry

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Ambient Candle Company Gift Shop

585-402-6465

www.VisitRochester.com

Professional Tutoring Service

244-9155
Serving students of Monroe County since 1964
After a weekend of partying, parading and fun, relax by the Genesee River on Sunday, July 17. Rochester gays have picnicked in Genesee Valley Park since the early 1970s—it's an even older tradition than the Parade. Mix and mingle with old and new friends, chill out under the trees, view the antique car show and the amazing picnic site contest designs, munch your own picnic food or buy everything from BBQ to popcorn to ice cream at the vendor booths, and—if you still have the energy—take part in volleyball, tug of war, and DJ dancing in the Roundhouse.

SUNDAY, JULY 17
Pride Picnic
1-7pm
$10 in advance; $15 at gate
- Bounce House
- Antique Car Show
- Sprint Races – Asphalt by the Reed by Canal
- Pride Dog Show – Lollypop Farm Area; Register online
- Tug of War – Grass Beyond Lambda Car Club
- Picnic Site Contest Judging: Register On-Line, Day of Picnic – Register at Picnic Info Tent
- Food Vendors: Abbott’s, Unkl Moes, Sonny V’s, Papa John’s, Nancy’s Friend Xtreme Popcorn

Pride Picnic Roundhouse Schedule
- Dance Prizes Given Out During Each Set

DJ Jon
DJ Hector
Marshall
Nick
DJ KD

EXPERIENCE WHAT MOVES YOU!

BILL T. JONES/ARNIE ZANE DANCE COMPANY

Body Against Body revives and reconsiders the groundbreaking duets and solos that launched Bill T. Jones and Arnie Zane (his late partner and collaborator of 17 years), on the downtown New York dance scene of the 1980s.

Bill T. Jones describes these pieces as being “rooted in the questions that Arnie and I found in exploring trying to dance together. We understood them in our lives together: 5’4” Jewish Italian man, 6’1” African American man. ... These differences and how we dared think that we could ... have a public conversation. And, we were companions... So, these were very important documents because we were this product of a certain time, of a certain cultural ferment, if you will, and we were trying to make it beautiful.”

Friday, July 15
7 pm: Pre-performance Lecture – Janet Wong, Associate Artistic Director (A14, Arts Center)
8 pm: Performance A (Body Against Body) (Callahan Theater)
10 pm: Post-show Discussion – Bill T. Jones (Callahan Theater)

Visit go.naz.edu/dancefest for tickets to the Body Against Body performance and a complete listing of Dance Festival events.
Bacardi is a proud sponsor of Rochester Pride 2011.

The Bachelor Forum
Rochester’s oldest, newest gay bar

Is a proud sponsor of Gay Pride 2011

Scan this code for updates and a schedule of events.
The Committee for Rochester PRIDE 2011 is happy to announce our Headquarter Hotel: The Holiday Inn Airport, 911 Brooks Ave., Rochester, NY 14624. The Holiday Inn Airport is offering a $99 per night rate! Call 585-328-6000 to make reservations. They have a huge indoor pool, great gym, awesome Italian restaurant and one of the most popular bars on the south side of the city! We look forward to a fantastic Kickoff Party there from 7-10pm on Friday, July 15, 2011. Visit www.hirochesterairport.com and www.VisitRochester.com and stay a couple days with us!

See Us In the PRIDE Parade
Visit Our Booth At the PRIDE Festival & Picnic!

Free Wine Tasting every Friday
“Always fun always free”
749 Park Avenue
Rochester, New York
585-271-0590
Pride Pre-Parade FAMILY LUNCH
Saturday, July 16
11:30am–1:30pm

Asbury First Methodist Church
1 block from Pride Parade line-up
1050 East Ave., Rochester 14607

Donation: $5 adults; $3 children
Menu: Pita w/ Humus or Turkey Sandwich
       Pasta Salad • Chips and Cookie • Water/Soda

Proud to Support the 2011 Rochester Pride Festival
City Councilwoman
Elaine Spaull

Photo by John Retallick
Paid for by Friends of Elaine Spaull
Holiday Inn Rochester Airport

The Holiday Inn Rochester Airport where guests “STAY YOU”

Hotel Features
- 279 Well Appointed Guest Rooms with High Speed Internet Access
- Largest Indoor Heated Swimming Pool with Whirlpool and Sauna in Rochester
- Wireless Internet in all guest rooms and public areas of the hotel

Guest Services
- 24-Hour Business Center
- 24-Hour Exercise Facility with Tread Mill, Life Cycles, Stainmasters, Free Weights, Elliptical Machine & Three-Station Universal Weight Machine
- Complimentary 24-Hour Airport Shuttle Service
- Complimentary Local Calls
- On-Premise Coin Operated Washer & Dryer
- Divino Italian American Restaurant, ROC Bar & Grill, and Room Service

Guest Room Features
- Pillow Top Mattress, Triple Sheeted Bed Linens, and “Soft” or “Firm” Pillows to Complete a Good Night’s Rest
- Bathrooms with curved shower rods and fabric shower curtains give you a fresh, spacious feel.
- All Deluxe Accommodations include: Iron, Ironing Board, Hair Dryer, Complimentary Hi-Speed Internet, Coffee Maker, In-Room Movies, Cable, and Movie Channels

Meeting and Event Facilities
- Perfect for Business and Social Events
- Over 12,000 Square Feet of Flexible Meeting and Banquet Space
- On-Site Catering Featuring Excellent Cuisine by Chef John LaRocca, served with Flair

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ROCHESTER PRIDE 2011
Call to reserve your discounted room of $99 from July 8—17, 2011