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

Gold:
- Morgan Stanley
- Smith Barney

Silver:
- MetLife

Platinum:
- Excellus
- NIXON PEABODY

Bronze:
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Champion:
- Champion:
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- Platinum:
- Chase
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- Bronze:
- KeyBank
- NU Colors

When the Pride Agenda organized the first rally for gay rights in 1991, marchers were taunted, chased, and very assaulted. What a far cry from the May 9 rally, where the organizers seamlessly transitioned activities from one venue to the next, all the while keeping them informed and well fed. Trying to predict the needs of the attendees, EPA offered workshops, bento lunches, coffee, beverages, snacks, language interpreters and a “Children’s Activity Center,” which highlighted toys and an offsite curated area for tots. One organizer told The Empty Closet, “We’ve come along way, baby.”

Harry Bronson, all the Equality and Justice Day activity, “I was impressed with all the speakers — especially Bob Duffy.”

Hilaire, a member of the GAGV Youth Group, also told the crowd in the convention center, “I was so impressed with all the speakers — especially Bob Duffy.”

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There is renewed hope for passing marriage equality in New York this year — maybe even this month. An April poll showed an all-time high of 58 percent of New Yorkers support marriage equality. Opponents — both Republicans and Democrats — have tried to insert language limiting the definition of marriage into the marriage equality bill that passes both houses and is up for a vote this year. One question right bill per year seems to be the limit. Nonetheless, we need to remember that there is still a major gap in civil rights protections for our transgender brothers and sisters. That gap concerns — or should concern — all gay, lesbian and bisexual New Yorkers, not just the transgender community. Why? Because the bigots — whether "respectable" men in expensive offices or lunatic gay-bashers on the street — don’t usually distinguish between the various identities that lie behind L, G, B, T, or any other alphabet letters. Such false distinctions are beyond them.

If gender-variance means people are at risk for discrimination and physical attack, that includes all gay men, lesbian and bisexual. Not to mention those unfortunate cis-gendered heterosexuals who may be mistakenly identified as gay. It is literally true that "where one is not free, no one is free." Transgender people can be denied promotions, fired, or not hired at all, simply because of who they are. They can legally be denied the right to buy a home, to eat in a restaurant or to stay in a hotel. And the people who are most often victims of hate violence are — transgender people, especially trans people of color.

A blue rider fundraiser was agreed upon, and the organization they chose to support was the Gay Alliance, as they believe in our mission of equality for all. Jeanne Gainsburg, GAGV Outreach Coordinator recruited her friends and friends of friends to kick off our first Ride for Pride in 2010.

On September 11, 2010, 18 riders set off along the Erie Canal Towpath, rode 300 kilometers (about 62 miles), and raised over $4,500 for the Gay Alliance! It was such a successful and fun day that it was decided that Ride For Pride should become an annual event.

This year the Ride for Pride will take place on Saturday, June 18. This year, 38 riders have registered to ride.

With your support, we can raise even more needed funds to support our programs.

And don’t miss Norma Holland’s Channel 13 interview with Ride for Pride organizers, June 5 at 11 a.m. on “Many Voices, Many Visions.”

Donations to the riders can be made by visiting www.gagvl.org/ride-for-pride.html.

Please contact Jeanne Gainsburg on (585) 244-8460 x 14 if you have any questions about the Gay Alliance or about Ride for Pride. Your support and level is appreciated by so many.

RIDE FOR PRIDE 2011 is June 18!

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NYC Bar report backs marriage, rejects civil unions

On May 3, The New York City Bar Association released a report titled, "Why Should New York Support Marriage Equality for Same-Sex Couples?" The report was co-authored by the Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights, on Sex and Law, and endorsed by a wide variety of City Bar committees covering areas such as trusts and estates, labor and employment and health law.

In turn, the Report concludes that there is no legitimate basis for denying same-sex couples the right to marry, or engagements of marriage that are extended to opposite-sex couples. Indeed, by virtue of the federal and state premises, statutes, measures and regulations of the country, the Report recognizes the validity of same-sex marriages performed in other jurisdictions.

However, according to the Report, this cannot substitute for the argument that the state grants to opposite-sex married couples. Likewise, the Report makes the argument that civil marriage is not a substitute for marriage, and, in fact, they would be a backward step for New York. In addition to being poorly understood and strategically recognized, civil unions have the same status, according to the Report, recognition of a particular group of New Yorkers, including their children, to an unacceptable second-class status.

City Bar President Sam Seymour said, "This report is a bill that provides full marriage equality, the legislature will clearly determine who is a marriage under New York law and their rights and duties, while honoring New York's history as a leader in the area of equality and civil rights."

The report may be read at http://bit.ly/H9fLBN

AIDS Walk is now "Keeping Pace" in September

AIDS Care's premier fundraiser, the annual AIDS Walk, is growing and changing in 2011. Now known as "Keeping Pace with AIDS," the fundraiser will include a 5K Walk, 5K or 10K Run and 20, 50- and 100-mile bike rides, as well as Paws for the Cause.

"Keeping Pace with AIDS" will take place Sunday, Sept. 18, at The Ritz-Carlton, One West 57th Street in New York City. The all-day event will feature sponsored tables and activities such as music, entertainment and food.

"Keeping Pace with AIDS," the new name for the event, was chosen this year to more accurately reflect the pace and excitement surrounding the event. The 25th annual AIDS Walk event, to be held in conjunction with "Keeping Pace with AIDS," will take place on Sunday, Sept. 18, at AIDS Care and continue through Sept. 18, finishing at Genesee Valley Plaza. The AIDS Red Ribbon Ride is co-organized by a core group of volunteers and AIDS Care.

NY Times says Republicans fund marriage campaign

The New York Times reports that the bulk of new money coming into the latest push for marriage equality in New York is coming from wealthy GOP donors usually known for backing conservative causes.

"Their behind-the-scenes financial support — about $1 million in donations, delivered in small installments over the last three years, including an additional $250,000 after a coalition of gay rights organizations said they could alter the political calculus of gay marriage, especially because Republican state senators in whose hands the fate of the measure rests." The donors represent some of New York's wealthiest and most political figures and include Paul E. Singer, a hedge fund manager and top Republican donor, as well as two other financiers, Steven A. Cohen and Clifford S. Amos.

The donors have been the subject of attacks by advocates of marriage equality. He also called for churches to dose on May 15, so that the bull< of new money coming into the latest push for marriage equality in New York is coming from wealthy GOP donors usually known for backing conservative causes.

The commercial claims "disc consequences" of same-sex marriage approved on both sides of the country. However, one of those "disc consequences" was proven to be a lie.

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Ross Douthat, the New York Times' prolific and thoughtful conservative reporter, was an early supporter of same-sex marriage and has written extensively on the topic. His work has been widely praised, but also criticized by some for its perceived bias against gay marriage advocates.

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Anti-gay and Christianist groups are organizing against Connecticut's proposed transgender civil rights bill by characterizing the measure as a "bathroom bill" that will allow men in dresses to molest little girls in public restrooms. This tactic, sadly, has worked in other states (Ed.: Like New York). The bigots' message, "The Connecticut Legislature is about to vote on HB6599, the 'Bathroom Bill,' which gives broad and needless special privileges to 'transgendered individuals' but from which all amendments to protect the public and children have been defeated by Democrats kowtowing to the constant LGBT lobby. As a result this bill, as now constituted, would permit" (sic) "ANY man who claims female 'gender identity,' even if he just wears a dress, cannot be excluded from any job statewide, and MUST be given access to women's facilities, including public and private women's restrooms, locker rooms and showers. The 'Gay Mafia' is fighting tooth and nail to win this fight, because it could be used as a model nationwide. We must stop this right here, right now, in CT."... 

The two documents on gay and lesbian history are displayed accompanying the first rendition of the Constitution with material about Susan B. Anthony; a suffragist's scrapbook containing to vote on the steps of the Selma, Alabama courthouse.

The Library of Congress also explains.

The Jim Collins Foundation for me is a miracle. They helped me to raise these funds, and with their help we are able to fulfill our mission by providing Drew with the surgery that he has long awaited.

Gay historical documents are now on public display in the Thomas Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress in 2006 on behalf of the Kameny Papers Project (www.kamenypapers.org). The two documents on gay and lesbian history are displayed accompanying the first rendition of the Constitution.

The Jim Collins Foundation is a model for the nation against transgender people for gender-confirming surgeries. The Jim Collins Foundation funds transgender surgery. The Jim Collins Foundation announced on May 9 that its first grant for gender-confirming surgery has been awarded to Drew Low

The Jim Collins Foundation of North Bradford, Ct., a group of nine private foundations, gave a total of $50,000 to the project. The Jim Collins Foundation has provided grants to transgender individuals who need, but cannot afford, gender-confirming surgeries. "Our hard work is paying off," says Trudy Petropoulos, one of the organization's co-founders. "Friends, families, and loved ones have helped us to raise these funds, and with their help we are able to fulfill our mission by providing Drew with the surgery that he has long awaited."

Drew came out as transgender to his family and friends in 2008. He wrote, "The Jim Collins Foundation for me is a miracle. They helped me to raise money to finance surgery for gender-confirming surgery."

The mission of the Jim Collins Foundation is to provide financial assistance to transgender people in need of gender-confirming surgeries. The Jim Collins Foundation recognizes that not every transgender person needs or wants surgery, but those who do, gender-confirming surgeries are an important step in their transition to being their true selves.

However, access to gender-confirming surgery is impossible for most. Discrimination against transgender people is so prevalent that many transgender people struggle to survive, never mind save for surgery costs. Even for those who have health insurance, coverage is systematically denied. Many insurance policies contain a "Transsexual Exclusion Clause" which excludes all medical procedures related to a person's transgender status. For many transgender people, access to surgery is out of reach.

Bigots try to block trans rights in Connecticut

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Brazil Supreme Court okays civil unions

The Associated Press reported on May 5 that Brazil's Supreme Court ruled May 5 that civil unions between same-sex couples must be allowed in this nation with more Roman Catholics than any other.

In a 6-0 vote, with one abstention, the justices said gay couples deserve the same legal rights as heterosexual couples when it comes to alimony, retirement benefits as of a partner who dies, and inheritances, among other issues.

The ruling, however, stopped short of legalizinggay marriage. In Latin America, that is legal only in neighboring Argentina and in Mexico City.

NewsFronts
Judge Daniel Moeser that if he could not continue to defend the case says the brief, filed by Walker's chief group Wisconsin Family Action is suing partners in hospital officials barriers to the ordination of gay, as ministers and lay leaders in their 2.4 presidential General Assembly to vote on church policy. This was a constitutional amendment, a ratification process began to garner the required majority of the 173 regional presbyteries. This other issues General Assembly leadership voted to eliminate the blocks that blocked gay clergy, this time, after decades of work for justice, a majority of regional Presbyteries ratified the policy change. "While it has taken longer for our Church to get to this amazing moment of coming into a new era of equality, this voting process has given us the opportunity to affirm that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons are part of God's good creation and can be called by God to serve the church. The thousands of conversations, prayers and the sharing of hopes and dreams are all part of building a Church that reflects God's heart," said Dr. Michael Aое, Executive, Director of More Light Presbyterians. "Passage of this amendment removes one more roadblock in the way of justice. Because of this action, the Presbyterian Church welcomes and values every person — because Jesus does. Its passage removes an enormous stumbling block for many who would otherwise be divided against itself," said the Rev. Mary Lynn Tobin, Co-Moderator, Covenant Network of Presbyterians. "This action does not obligate any Presbyterian to change their understanding of scripture, we rejoice that our church will now be able to receive the service of all whom God calls," added the Rev. David Van Dyke, Co-Moderator, Covenant Network of Presbyterians. We are standing at a new day in the Presbyterian Church that so many have been waiting for," said the Rev. Mieke Vandervall, Minster Director of Presbyterian Voices for Justice. "With this vote, our church is demonstrating that we are choosing to reach out to a new generation," said Lisa Larges, Minnesota Independent, For That All May Be Serve. "Young people can now be proud of our church. We're showing that we are serious about caring for people and sharing the Gospel." "Thanks be to God that this day has come," said Sylvia Thorton-Smith, from Presbyterian Voices for Justice. "We rejoice that God's justice-loving Spirit has blown like a mighty wind through our church after long decades of struggle. For years we have wept for the many lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Presbyterians who have left our church because their calls were denied. But today, we shed tears of jubilation that our church has finally said YES in its full participation. May God bless the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and all people of faith with wisdom, grace, and love as we go forward into this liberating future." The Human Rights Campaign applauded the decision. "History was made today," said Dr. Sharon Groves, director of HRCO Religion and Faith Program. "Presbyterians all around the country — from Alabama to Utah — voted to say no to prejudice and yes to those who are called to serve the church. Through this action, the Presbyterian Church (USA) removes one more roadblock in the way of justice. Because of today's decision, a young person in a free to claim his or her sexual orientation, gender identity and religion. This decision will have profound ramifications for people of all faiths everywhere." Three other times a vote has been taken in the Presbyterian General Assembly to open the doors to LGBT clergy, but did not reach the 51 percent ratification by regional presbyteries. "This is not only good for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, but it is good for the soul of the church," added Groves. LGBT Presbyterians have been Maryland teens who beat trans woman get hate crimes charge Hate crimes charges have been filed against the teen. The friend, 17, told a District judge that she had been beaten by a transgender woman at a Baltimore McDonald's while an employee laughed and filmed the beating. The indictment returned May 16 by a Baltimore County grand jury charges Teonna Brown with assault and a hate crimes charge in the attack on Chrissy Lee Polis, an openly gay intern who saved Rep. Gabrielle Giffords' life in the Tucson shooting. Photos: Tara Lessard
Paul Birkby and Jeff Henley of Penfield High School

By Susan Jordan

A government class at Penfield High School recently debated the marriage equality issue in a Supreme Court simulation. In what we can only hope was a” him of future reality, the “Court” gave its approval for same sex couples to marry legally.

Even more significantly, neither the student proponents nor opponents wanted to hurt the feelings of a gay faculty member through their debate.

Paul D. Birkby is School Media Specialist. What used to be known as a "librarian" at Penfield High. He explained to The Empty Closet, "This was a unit in Jeff Henley's Advanced Placement Government class. Jeff does a Supreme Court simulation in which the students take a case or issue and research each side. They don't re-enact original trials, but present their own cases for or against. Some students are robed as Justices, some rake the roles of pro or con lawyers.

"The way it came about, I was helping a student who needed extra credits and was assigned to write a brief on any Supreme Court case. I suggested a case on same sex marriage. "I'm pretty much out and most people know I was married in California in June 2008. Our marriage is still legal because we claimed it was in Nova Scotia, and the couple wanted to make sure all of their arrangements were in place. Today, happily, Paul's husband is doing well."

Paul continued, "Before I was a librarian, I was an attorney, so I suggested that the student write a hypothetical brief as if I were suing New York State for refusing to grant me a marriage license. So he did. Jeff Henley decided that this was an issue in the news and that students would be interested.

"Students were assigned their roles without any say as to whether they would be defending or attacking gay marriage rights. Paul notes, "Jeff Henley told me that I needed to talk to the students arguing against marriage because they were afraid I'd be hurt or mad at them."

"Jeff Henley told The Empty Closet, "That was the most touching moment to me of all that happened. The students have known Paul very well since elementary school, since he used to work at the elementary school before coming to the high school. Even my most conservative students, who oppose same sex marriage, didn't want him to feel hurt.""

Jeff Henley

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Jeff added, "Some of my students who are gay were excited, and those who are totally straight were also very interested by the constitutional arguments."

Both Jeff and Paul agreed that Penfield High School is a safe environment for openly gay youth. The school GSA is advised by science teacher Tom Krupica, a longtime Empty Court volunteer. Jeff said that the Penfield administration has done a lot of checks and surveys to make sure that LGBT students are safe.

Jeff said, "The Supreme Court simulation helped teach my students about federalism and the separation of church and state. I was very happy with the students - they did such a good job and came up with balanced arguments."

Paul told Jeff, "You told me at the end that it would be great if even one student decides to go into law because of that scenario."

Jeff replied, "That would be cool. That's what teaching is all about."

He continued, "I look at this issue, and have said this to my students, as the next civil rights movement. I always quote Mark Twain: 'History does not repeat itself, but it does rhyme.' "

"I live in the city with my wife and kids, and we may be the only heterosexual family in our neighborhood. At some point, we will have to have a conversation with our kids about the fact that one or more of their friends has two dads or moms."

Jeff said that both of the two classes involved in simulations found in favor of Paul's side of the lawsuit. "The vote wasn't unanimous; it was close," he said.

As far as feedback from students, he said, "I don't think we changed anyone's opinions, but I think now they view it as more of a civil rights issue. And they learned a little more about how the judicial process works."

Paul said, "It raised the conversation from the opinion level to a more civic conversation dealing with the Constitution, looking specifically at the amendments that affect arguments."

Jeff added, "It took it from the emotional realm to the realm of logic and reason."

Both said there was no feedback at all from parents, probably because the exercise was well designed and not meant to change opinions or beliefs, but rather to educate about the Constitution.

Jeff said, "In the past, what I've done was focus on cases in due process - for instance, a person was being executed who was mentally incompetent and was that constitutional. In this case, the Supreme Court decision on marriage doesn't exist yet, and the students couldn't go online and copy what had been done. They had to do some original thinking."
The Pentagon has revealed that the Pentagon has revealed that the Defense Department has approved the release of women who are transgender from military service.

The decision was announced in response to a lawsuit filed by transgender military personnel who were discharged under the military's policy known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." The policy, which was in effect from 1993 to 2011, prohibited the open service of transgender individuals.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Washington, D.C., challenged the constitutionality of the policy and the classification of transgender individuals as "undesirable." The plaintiffs argued that the policy violated their rights under the U.S. Constitution's guarantees of equal protection and due process.

In a statement, the Department of Defense said that the decision was made after a review of the military's current policy and the legal challenges to it.

The military has a long history of accommodating transgender service members, and the decision to allow transgender personnel to serve openly is seen as a significant step forward for LGBTQ+ rights.

The decision comes as the military is preparing for the arrival of a new transgender policy, which is expected to be announced in the coming months. The policy is expected to allow transgender personnel to serve openly, but with certain restrictions.

The decision also comes as the U.S. military is facing increasing pressure to address LGBTQ+ issues, including the need for better healthcare and support for service members who are transgender.
adulthood have marked the serious long­term health costs for LGBT children and youth. These new findings will help providers and school advocacy groups understand the critical role families can play in preventing and managing victimization and the importance of our work in engaging and teaching parents and caregivers how to support and advocate for their LGBT children in families, schools, and communities. The focus on serving LGBT youth primarily in peer-only spaces has prevented families and caregivers from learning the skills they need to advocate for their LGBT children.”

Anna P. Hax, Ph.D., Director of Prevention Projects for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, said, “This new study provides compelling evidence that negative environments pose long­term health and mental health risks for LGBT youth. The Family Acceptance Project’s growing body of research is building a solid foundation to develop preventive interventions to deal with the harmful effects of anti-LGBT environments on young people in their families, schools, and communities.”

Commenting on the study’s findings related to sexual health risks, Sean Cahill, Ph.D., Managing Director of Public Policy, Research and Community Health for Gay Men’s Health Crisis (GMHC) noted, “Once again, the Family Acceptance Project is helping us understand the social parameters of risk for LGBT youth by expanding on their work with families to show that school experiences also contribute to sexual health risk and risk for HIV among LGBT young adults. As the HIV epidemic continues to escalate among young gay and bisexual men and transgender women, and especially black gay youth, this study provides important evidence of the public health need for structural interventions and targeted anti­discrimination policies in our nation’s schools to prevent HIV and other serious health problems.”

Key Research Findings:
LGBT young adults who reported high levels of LGBT school victimization during adolescence were 3.6 times more likely to report having attempted suicide, 5.6 times more likely to report a suicide attempt that required medical care, 2.6 times more likely to report clinical levels of depression, and more than twice as likely to have been diagnosed with a sexually transmitted disease and to report risk for HIV infection, compared with peers who reported lower levels of school victimization.

Gay and bisexual male and transgender male adults reported higher levels of LGBT school victimization than lesbian and bisexual young women.

LGBT young adults who reported lower levels of school victimization reported higher levels of self­esteem, life satisfaction and social integration compared with peers with higher levels of school victimization during adolescence.

South African lesbians are being raped, killed
Donna Bryson of the Associated Press writes that South African lesbian activist Nokuthula Nogwaza was murdered by being repeatedly stabbed with broken glass, and beaten so severely with chunks of concrete that her teeth had been knocked out.

The neighborhood where the 24­year­old mother of two was slain once was known as a haven for black gays and lesbians, but activists say her death here last in April highlights an alarming rise in homophobic violence in some of the country’s most impoverished areas.

“If the police and other state officials do not act swiftly, it will only be a matter of time before they have to account for their failure to the family and friends of the next lesbian who is beaten and killed in Kwa­ Thema,” Human Rights Watch researcher Dipikaabeth said.

No arrests have been made in Nogwaza’s death, one of dozens that happen each day in a country with high rates of violent crime. Authorities are still investig­ating whether she had been raped.

South Africa’s Ministry of Justice announced in late April that it wants to open special shelters for people who fear for their lives because of their sexual ori­entation. But the governing party’s women’s league says the government must go further, and want the parliament to classify these attacks as hate crimes.

Same­sex marriage legal in South Africa and the country has among the most liberal laws on sexual orientation in a continent where many other countries punish gay sex with fines and jail terms. But cultural attitudes don’t always match the progressive constitution approved in 1996, after the end of apartheid.

The assaults on lesbians have been called “corrective rapes,” and are meant to humiliate and punish women who don’t fit the norm. Some attackers have reportedly said they believed they could “cure” women of being lesbians by raping them, said Vusi Reddy, a researcher at the government’s Human Science Research Council.

Victims are even believed to include a 13­year­old girl who was assaulted in Pretoria in early May.

Some attacks have been documented since 2003, and they have steadily increased over the years, Reddy said. But the real number is likely higher because victims can be reluctant to come forward for fear of being stigmatized or blamed, and because the motives of murderers aren’t always immediately clear.

In 2008, Eudy Simelane, an openly lesbian woman in South Africa’s women’s national soccer team and a Kwa­Thema resident, was gang­raped, beaten and stabbed. Another lesbian, Gaille Nkosi, was stabbed a dozen times in a Kwa­Thema club in 2009.

Three deaths led to the founding of Ekhukwak Pride Organising Committee, known as EPOC. One of its first events was a gay pride march through Kwa­Thema in 2009 that was endorsed by reli­gious and traditional leaders, Khalo said.

About 500 people marched in 2009, and even more turned out last year. Khalo, EPOC’s spokeswoman, thought the marches and discussions helped for a time. Then came Nogwaza’s death in late April.

Nogwaza, whose first name means peace, had been active in the group. Col­leagues said she was ready to help out with the unplanned work of putting up posters and knocking on doors to spread the word about events, and came to meet­ings regularly.

Her family reportedly accepted her homosexuality – an aunt quoted a local newspaper she used to buy her niece men’s clothes.

Khalo believes the violence in Kwa­Thema comes from a small group of people, and that it can be overcome. She plans another gay pride march this year, though she acknowledges it could stir anger among those who want gays and lesbians to keep quiet.

“We are afraid,” she said, “but I think sitting down and not doing anything doesn’t help.”

Donna Bryson can be reached on Twitter at @brysonAP.

Gay activist baptizes Gingrich in glitter
At a book­signing on May 17, a gay activist poured a bucket of glitter over Newt Gingrich and his (most recent) wife at they sat at a table at a Minnesota Fam­ily Council event.

ABC News reported that the gay activist is Nick Espinosa, a 24­year­old unemployed non­profit work­er and social activist from Minneapolis.

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Equality & Justice Day in Albany, May 9

NYS Senator Tom Duane.


Rochester activists Kitty Moran and Dab Heinz.

Assembly member Danny O’Donnell.

Buffalo area residents Aimee Rosario (left) and Shantelle Johnson prepare for a visit with anti-marriage equality Senator Mark Grisanti (R-60th).

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June: Impact of the Stonewall Riots on participants

By Evelyn Bailey

On the evening of June 27, 1969, at 3 a.m., eight plainclothes officers (including two women) raided the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village. The employees were arrested for selling liquor without a license. The customers were allowed to leave at once. They waited outside for their friends.

There was a sudden mood change when the paddy wagon arrived and the bartender, stonewall, drag queens and a struggling lesbian were shoved inside.

There were cat calls and cries to topple the paddy wagon. One of the paddy wagon left, the police moved quickly back into the Stonewall Inn and locked themselves in. The burch lebtain and drag queens fought back. The bar patrons threw ballots and rocks at the police. They chanted, “Gay Power!” and “Liberate Christopher St!” One person threw a rock through a window and eventually, a garbage can, ballots, and even a parking meter were used to assault the building.

New York’s Tactical Police Force arrived on the scene. The crowd was disbursed. Late that night and into Sunday morning a crowd again gathered in front of the raied bar. Many young gay men showed up to protest the flurry of raids, bars, and Laguna, being shut down. They were being taken to the handbuilding, kissing, and forming a choral line. “We are the Stonewall girls,” they sang kicking their legs in front of the police. “We wear our hair in curls! We have no underwear! We show our pubic hair!”

Police cleared the street without incident this time, but another street altercation occurred a few days later. The Stonewall Riots were over in less than two hours. Their impact would be felt for over four decades by many men and women. The participants and witnesses have never forgotten this life changing experience. Here are a few of those whose stories reflect the experiences of hundreds and thousands of LGBT men and women young and old.

Virginia Apuzzo was 28 years old. She made her way from Riverdale, New York, where she was a nurse at the Convent of Mount Saint Vincent, to New York City’s Greenwich Village within days of the Riot.

“I read about Stonewall in the newspaper,” she recalled in an interview, “and I was very, very curious. Before I entered that July 4th celebration at age 16, I had two lovers and knew I was a lesbian, but I tried to play by the rules. I thought the police should have left us alone, like my father-in-law, who had an old Stonewall Inn I would have had more opposition. So it runs the times I can tell you, I wish I was living with basically a happy life.”

On the first night of the Stonewall riots, a 10-year-old boy named Shelley was caught escorting two out-of-town guests on a tour of Greenwich Village. “They should be thrown from a Brownian chapter of the Daughters of Bilitis [DOB],” Shelly said, and as the former president of the group’s local chapter and current spokesperson, Shelly was the ideal guide. When Shelly and her friends stumbled from the Stonewall Inn, they didn’t realize what was going on. “We saw these people, who looked younger than us, throwing things at cops,” Shelly recalled. “One of the women turned to me and said, ‘What’s going on here?’ I said, ‘Oh, it’s a riot. These things happen in New York all the time.’

A day or two later, when Shelly learned about the uprising, he was ridiculously excited by it. “I was in shock! I was so young and I was feeling feverish and thought we had to have a protest march and go out on the streets. It was like I was on fire with it.”

In the days that followed, Shelly joined a meeting and was quickly organized by the Mattachine Society in response to the riots. “There were 100 people at that first meeting, and I raised my hand and suggested a protest march and everyone agreed. The said, ‘Okay, a committee to organize the march, which DOB and Mattachine co-sponsored. It was at a corner in the days later in the week where Shelly was widely credited with naming the first of the post-Stonewall gay rights groups. “People said I was the one who came up with the Gay Liberation Front name. But I was drinking beer and I really don’t recall that. What I remember saying was, ‘That’s it! We’re the Gay Liberation Front!’”

Shoulder To Stand On is proud to document these experiences, and to preserve the story for generations of future activists. To learn more, visit ShoulderToStandOn.org and share your story and experiences. Send contributions to Shoulders To Stand On, Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, 875 E Main St Suite 500, Rochester, NY 14605.
(NewsFronts from page 6)

Minn. Espinosa worked with a non-profit helping unemployed people for two years before being laid off due to budget cuts. His encounter with Newt on May 17 was in protest to Gingrich’s stance on gay marriage.

“Tonight, I invited Newt to feel the rainbow because he decided to bring his anti-gay politics to my state,” Espinosa told ABC News that night. “Newt has a long history of anti-gay politics and has chosen to focus on divisive social issues instead of working to fix our economy: I don’t think a free will adulterer like Newt is big on quality, always returns phone calls, offers fair and competitive pricing, is fully insured and is a member of the Better Business Bureau.

Said Espinosa during the glitter bomb: “Feel the rainbow Newt. Stop the hate. Stop the anti-gay politics. It’s dividing our country and it’s not fixing the economy.”

Said Newt after the attack. “Nice to live in a free country.”

As Espinosa was kicked out, Newt’s flunky said: “So you goes, you goes the rotting of our country. Have you ever seen this unwarranted state intrusion into the private resources during tight economic times.

Currently, more than 135 cities and counties have passed ordinances prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in Nashville.

HRC applauded the efforts of the Tennessee Equality Project, the Tennessee Transgender Political Coalition, and the City of Nashville to defend against this unwarranted state intrusion into local affairs.

The new law voids a Nashville ordinance barring companies that discriminate against gays and lesbians from doing business with the city.

The Tennessee Legislature has passed SB 652/HB 600, a bill that prohibits cities and counties from banning discriminatory practices by any means. Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam has the opportunity to veto this legislation.

Said Espinosa during the glitter bomb: “Feel the rainbow Newt. Stop the hate. Stop the anti-gay politics. It’s dividing our country and it’s not fixing the economy.”

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The new law voids a Nashville ordinance barring companies that discriminate against gays and lesbians from doing business with the city.
BREAKING NEWS: The Tennessee Chamber of Commerce lobbied for the bill, then decided to oppose it. FedEx, AT&T, Comcast, DuPont, Pfizer, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Caterpillar, KPMG, Whirlpool, Embarc, Alcoa, and United HealthCare are on that board, noted Americablog. A group of these companies started a campaign to pressure the governor to veto the bill.

On May 24, ignoring the input by corporations that bring money to his state, Gov. Haslam decided to sign the bill into law, in order to win the approval of right-wing extremist voters.

... and Tennessee also bans any mention of homosexuality in state classrooms

Tennessee’s Senate has approved Stacey Campfield’s hideous “Don’t Say Gay” bill, which would forbid discussion or even mention of homosexuality in public school classrooms.

Under the proposal approved 19-11 on Friday, any instruction or materials at a public elementary or middle school will be “limited exclusively to age-appropriate natural human reproduction science.” Republican Senate sponsor Stacey Campfield of Knoxville says that “homosexuals don’t naturally reproduce.”

Campfield says current state curriculum is not clear on what can be taught. The companion bill has been withdrawn from consideration in the House. Burris sponsor has said he will bring it up again next year if the Senate version passes.

On May 20, Gallup became the sixth national poll in the past few months to confirm majority support nationwide for the freedom to marry.

At 53 percent, the new poll corroborates the findings of a recent Washington Post/ABC News poll and others. The Gallup poll found a nine percent jump in overall support since last year, showing accelerating growth in the number of Americans who believe in the freedom to marry for all loving and committed couples.

Evian Wallis, founder and President of Freedom to Marry, stated, “This most recent poll reaffirms that Americans have been listening and, in Lincoln’s words, ‘thinking anew’ or, as President Obama would put it, ‘evolving.’ In conversations with their gay and lesbian neighbors, co-workers, and family members, and reflecting on their own values of fairness and respect, Americans have had the opportunity to learn about why marriage matters to same-sex couples and their families. As they’ve heard the stories of loving and committed couples harmed by the denial of marriage and the safety-net it brings, their hearts have opened and minds have changed.

“Americans believe in the Golden Rule of treating others as they themselves want to be treated. This growth in support in nearly every segment of the public, including people formerly opposed, shows that elected officials and judges who end the cruel exclusion from marriage are on the right side of history and delivering not just what loving and committed couples and their families need, but what the majority of Americans want.”

Gallup poll: 53 percent of Americans back marriage equality
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This service is funded by the Monroe County Office for the Aging and United Way.
We've never been closer to passing the marriage equality bill in New York and now is the time for everyone to get involved. Key state senators in the Rochester area are on the fence and need to hear from pro-equality supporters before the vote. We need letters, visits and calls to Senators. Encourage friends and family to call and leave a message at the Senate office today.

"Hi, my name is [full name] and I live at [street address and town and zip]. I am calling because I support marriage equality for gay and lesbian couples. I believe that all New Yorkers should be treated with the same dignity and respect. Please call me back and let me know how you plan to vote. I can be reached at [your number]."

Find your Senator at:

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- Senator Joseph Robach
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- Senator Michael Nozzolio
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  Phone: (315) 658-9818

- Senator George Maziarz
  District 63
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  SUNY Brockport
  Brockport, New York 14420
  Phone: (505) 637-5800
  Albany: (518) 455-2024

If you would like to volunteer, we encourage you to contact Human Rights Campaign Senator Field Organizer Karl Bach who joined us recently from Rhode Island and New Hampshire, where he coordinated local lobbying efforts to support marriage equality. Karl will be working with the local organizers already on the ground to make sure lawmakers know that Rochester supports equality. He can be reached at karlbach@hr.org or 212-280-5407. We have a great team working in Rochester and hope you will join us.

Teaching your partner about finances, budgeting, and investment risk

By Glen Conre

"It's clearly a budget. It's got a lot of numbers in it.
— George W. Bush

How do you teach your partner everything you know about money?

Make a list of everything.

Don't assume your significant other possesses the intuition to know where you keep sensitive information. You may think your financial records are in a pretty obvious location, but your partner might not.

Make sure your partner has access to what's needed.

Just knowing that these accounts exist won't be enough. If you want your partner to be able to take charge, you'll want to give him or her full access. Make sure your partner is a named account holder or the primary beneficiary on all major accounts, life insurance policies and any property you own.

Explain what everything is and why it's important.

People tend to complete tasks more successfully when they understand the purpose of what they are doing. Just telling your partner that this is where you put our savings isn't as good as explaining why you choose to put your savings there.

Different types of investments have their own purpose and levels of risk.

Maintain a budget and enlist your partner's help.

An budget is an excellent way to give your partner a big-picture idea of all the money in play — the income, the debts, the recurring expenses, the investments and so on. It can also help your partner pick up where you left off in managing the household's finances if you die or become incapacitated. It's a great way to build a strong bond of shared trust.

Gradually get your partner some financial responsibility.

For example, make your partner responsible for paying one small bill each month. As he or she becomes more adept, give additional tasks to manage until you both feel completely comfortable.

Discuss contingency plans.

Make sure your partner knows what you would do in an emergency or unplanned financial event. Discuss actual, concrete strategies to handle unplanned events. If there was a sudden loss of income, which bills would need to be prioritized, and which expenses could be reduced or dropped?

Encourage your partner's ongoing education.

Who knows, maybe you both can learn something together.

Take the time to provide him or her with a complete picture of your household's financial situation and provide access to all important accounts. It can be a key to taking the best possible care of one of the most important people in your life.

By understanding different types of risk and keeping an eye on your investments, you may be able to manage your money and investments more effectively. Remember, strategic investing doesn't mean you're more "chance"-y as much as "making decisions."

Glen Conre is an independent financial advisor with Commonwealth Financial Group, 1533 Empire Blvd, Webster, N.Y., and co-hosts "The Money Doctors" on WHAM 1080. He can be reached at (585) 218-1500 or gconre@paladinwealth.com.

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Making the Scene

ON THE ROOF AT ONE: Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus President Todd Perkins with Tim N. Tompkins. The Chorus honored Tim on May 15 for his years of dedicated support. The turnout for the party at ONE Restaurant, One Ryan Alley, was large in spite of pouring rain. Photos: Jim Wilkins

NYS Lt. Gov. Bob Duffy with Tim Tompkins, Chorus members and friends.

The Chorus performs. Catch their summer concert, “Walking on Sunlight”, on June 18 at Hochstein.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY EQUAL-GROUNDS: Co-owner John White celebrates the fifth anniversary of Equal-Grounds Coffee House on May 5.

Barista Sean Soper and Gay Alliance Youth Services Director Jess Cohen celebrate the fifth anniversary of Equal-Grounds, 750 South Ave. Photo: Susan Jordan

WOMAN BUILD: The Habitat for Humanity project at 6 Seneca St. in Seneca Falls was in its seventh week in May and progressing well. Inset: Sue Souhan.

Pam Barres was born in the city of Rochester in 1942. “I lived on Augustine St. from age two,” she says. “Everything has changed in my old neighborhood and in the whole city, of course.”

Pam’s old street, with a railroad embankment (still there) at the end, once gave way to woods and empty fields. It now has an industrial building where the woods used to be, and at one side a sports stadium and mowed grass.

“I remember watching Ringling Brothers Circus elephants walking on their way from the train to a big field on Edmont Street where the roustabouts pitched the Big Top,” she says. “They used to have rodeos in Edgerron Park.” She continues, “Once you couldn’t see the river at all when crossing it on Main Street. … I used to take the subway, which was above ground like a trolley and then went underground. One of the highlights of my childhood was going to see Santa at Sibley’s. Downtown now is totally unrecognizable from the city I knew as a little kid. Downtown then was vibrant. That probably started to change in the ’60s when they started building the malls and white people moved to the suburbs.”

Pam herself is now a suburbanite and lives in the Pittsford/Perinton area with Suzanne, her wife of 46 years. They have two grown daughters and are now both retired from Kodak. Pam worked at Kodak for 29 years in different areas, including sales and marketing. At various times she lived in the NYC area, Pittsburgh and Cleveland, and then returned to Rochester in 1978. When in international marketing, she traveled extensively to the Middle East and Far East and Africa. “Finally I transferred to Human Resources,” she says. “That wouldn’t be possible today, since people stay in their particular fields.”

Pam ended her travels after working in International Human Resources for Latin America. “Then, for one reason because I wanted to transition, I opted to be in domestic HR, where I worked until I retired in 1998.” Pam’s transition process took place from 1988 to 1998. “Around 1999 I started working with the Gay Alliance,” Pam says. “That was very liberating and empowering. And I learned about ‘comfortable shoes’!”

Pam was an early member of Lambda Kodak and the Rochester Transgender Group and has been board president of Rainbow SAGE. In 2002 and 2003 she served as Interim Executive Director of the Gay Alliance, and she is still very active in the Speakers Bureau. Pam does eight to a dozen presentations a year for the Bureau, talking to college students and others about her life as a transgender woman. Her main focus today, however, is her work with the Empire State Pride Agenda Foundation Board, on its Executive Committee.

Pam’s interests include reading, walking and biking. In the ’60s she was a member of the Rochester Crusaders Drum Corps, which won the national championships in 1965. In 2004 she joined Mighty Sr. Joe’s Alumni Drum Corp, a noncompetitive drum and bugle corps, whose members enjoy doing what they did when younger, but at a less hectic pace, as a member of its Honor Guard. She says that this summer will be her last as a flag bearer.

She and Sue also enjoy traveling in their motor home, and they spend several months each winter in Florida.

One of her greatest interests is politics. “I’m a member of the Perinton Democratic Committee,” she says. “Passage of GENDA is extremely important to me, and I am irritated that it is taking so long. It should have passed last year.”

Her favorite LGBT community event is the Pride Parade. “That’s the top,” she commented, “I like it even more than the Picnic, which I love.” She also enjoys ImageOut.

In your Easter bonnet

Photos by Eric Bellinson

Eric’s sharp eye focuses on April’s Manhattan Easter Parade. Note the man in the bottom row, far right. His footwear is fitted with springs to make him “hop on down the bunny trail.”
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Stories of LGBT lives air for Pride Month on WXXI

"Out in America" airs Monday, June 6 at 9 p.m. on WXXI-TV/HD. This is an uplifting collection of unique, transformative stories and inspired personal narratives told through the voices of some of the most prominent LGBT figures and pioneers, as well as as many average, yet extraordinary, American citizens from gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities.

The program weaves together diverse stories — from urban and rural America, from the heartland to New England, from San Francisco to Harlem.

"Swimming with Lesbians" is a film that explores the hidden past and, as an upbeat New York community's efforts to create an LBGT historic archive — led by Buffalo's extraordinary lesbian activist Madeline Davis.

"Swimming with Lesbians" brings viewers into the lives and histories collected for the archive. The stories — some sad, some quirky, some tender, some gently good-humored — are interwoven with scenes of Madeline at work, often frustratingly so, to build the archive. Madeline's and the film's shared goal are poignantly captured in this phrase from the film: "We are ephemeral. This is for the ages." Independent Lens "Two Spirits" by Lynda Nily is airing Tuesday, June 14 at 10 p.m. on WXXI-TV/HD. Teenager Freddie Bucquoche from Diné (Navajo) and also Two Spirit. He is "bug smashed" by a young man filled with guilt and his mother is left to grieve for the rest of her life. This documentary contains fascinating information on the traditional Diné concept of four genders — male, female, masculine female and feminine male. For more information, see http://swimmingwithlesbians.com/


Meet award-winning filmmaker David Marshall

By Susan Jordan

David Marshall is a Rochester-based Emmy award-winning producer, director and editor. He holds a B.S. in photography/film and a M.F.A. in animation and has worked in the film and television industry for 28 years, holding positions in facilities in the U.S., Europe and Asia. David directed the documentary "Swimming with Lesbians" in 2009, dealing with Buffalo's Madeline Davis and her struggle to create an LBGT historical archive for the Buffalo community. The film was aired on WXXI on June 13 at 10:30 p.m., as one of their Pride Month features.

David Marshall's work has been shown on Discovery, hallmark, PBS, ABC and at film festivals around the world, including Rochester's I Film, where "Swimming with Lesbians" was screened in 2010. He has written a children's book with his father, Bryan Marshall, which he also filmed. David says, "My documentary films reflect my interest in human rights and the power of contextualized history." He received an Emmy for his work as producer/director of "Hitching a Ride" and two NY Emmys for "Songs of Freedom" (producer and director). Recently Dave spoke with The Empty Closet about "Swimming with Lesbians," and his passion for local history. Empty Closet: I see you are an LGBTQ+ person originally from upstate New York. Dave Marshall: No, I'm mostly from the U.K. My family is British. My dad is British. My mom is British. I lived in the U.K. for 20 years. My dad was a musician and so was my mom. I grew up listening to music. It was really important to me.

Tim Hausmann. West Side Story's Tim Hausmann dreams only of Broadway

By Susan Jordan

Tim Hausmann plays Pedrino in West Side Story, at the Auditorium Theatre through June 5. He recently responded to some questions about his career and the classic. "Swimming with Lesbians" by Lydia Nily is airing Tuesday, June 14 at 10 p.m. on WXXI-TV/HD. Teenager Freddie Bucquoche from Diné (Navajo) and also Two Spirit. He is "bug smashed" by a young man filled with guilt and his mother is left to grieve for the rest of her life. This documentary contains fascinating information on the traditional Diné concept of four genders — male, female, masculine female and feminine male. For more information, see http://swimmingwithlesbians.com/

Tim Hausmann: I am from Yankton, SD. I was a big band "geek" in high school and didn't really become interested in music theatre until my junior or senior year, so I decided to go to college as a general music major for a year to choose between being a marching band director and an actor. After the first semester I became clear to me that I needed to be on stage performing, not on a podium singing a baritone. Do you consider yourself an actor first and foremost, or a singer, or a dancer — or all three equally?

TH: As I continue to work on my craft, I find that my strengths and weaknesses constantly change depending on what I’m focusing on at that time. One of the things I love and hate about the business is that there is always room for improvement.

EC: What is your take on Pedrino, the character you play?

TH: Pedrino is really fun for me because I have learned so much about Latin culture from the show itself and from the Latino actors that surround me. What I really love about my job is that I understand three of the Jett’s also, so I spend a lot of time with the other side too. It definitely keeps the show exciting for me.

EC: What should audiences expect and watch out for in this production of this classic musical?

TH: I think this cast brings a youthful energy to the show that is really unique. I’ve worked on many productions where the show is simply a job for many of the actors involved. This group is eager and ready to perform every show and it brings an honest spark to the production that is hard to miss.

EC: We have all grown up listening to this music. How can it be made fresh for a new generation — or is that even necessary?

TH: The incredible score that Stephen Sondheim and Leonard Bernstein created over 50 years ago has proven its worth.

RC: What is your favorite part of the show?

TH: My favorite part of the show is definitely the duets between Tony and Maria and between Maria and the Jets. It’s like watching two different stories unfold on stage. It’s fascinating to see how the characters develop over the course of the show. It’s also really exciting to see how the music and choreography work together to bring these stories to life.

EC: How do you think this production of West Side Story compares to previous productions?

TH: I think this production is different from any I’ve been a part of in that it’s much more focused on telling the story of Tony and Maria. It’s less about the gang warfare and more about the personal relationships. It’s really powerful to see how love can conquer all."

WRCV to sing about beliefs on June 4

The Rochester Women’s Chorale is presenting its spring concert, “We Believe,” on June 4. This musical kaleidoscope of WRCV’s belief’s includes songs about the innocence of children, peace, strength of women, embracing of world cultures, etc.

The concert will be held at Hochstein School of Music, 35 Plymouth Ave., at 7:30 p.m. Advance sale tickets are $10 general, $8 students, seniors, 55+ children. Tickets are available through choruses members and at Fairleigh Pharmacy and Equal Grounds Coffee, and will be available at the door for $12/15/20.

The performance is sign language interpreted and accessible for the physically challenged. For more information, call 224-4441 or see http://www.mwrcv.org, III
The road to glam will not be easy. The women will be put through "The Dragulator," a "highly-sophisticated piece of technology," that will reveal the ladies' full drag potential. Next, they are paired with a carefully selected drag faculty mentor who will be responsible for helping the women achieve their drag dreams through an outrageous lesson plan that will challenge the women inside and out. The drag transformations are unveiled at the culmination of each episode in a musical performance before an audience of family, friends, and the judges' panel. At the conclusion of the episode, all contestants will "draguate" with a boost in confidence, self-respect and a whole new take on the power of drag.

Pandora Boxx joins faculty of RuPaul's Drag U this summer

Summer school has never been this glamorous, with the return of Logo's hit series "RuPaul's Drag U." RuPaul and his drag queen faculty help a new batch of biological women unleash their inner diva through the power of drag. This season delivers new drag faculty, new guest choreographers, more iconic celebrity guest judges and gallons of glitter. The new one-hour, 10-episode season of "RuPaul's Drag U" premieres Monday, June 20 at 9 p.m. on Logo.

The faculty of fabulous includes Bebe Zahara Benet, Carmen Carrera, Jujubee, Manila Luzon, Mariah, Morgan McMichaels, Oriental, Rochester's own Pandora Boxx, Raven, Shannel, and Tyra Sanchez.

In addition, "Dean of Drag" and perennial judge, Lady Bunny undertakes their inner diva through the power of drag. This season will also feature a new batch of visiting celebrity professors, including: Molly Ringwald (actress), Lynda Carter (actress), Dee Jones (actress), "Glode," Shirley Jones (actress), Carnic Wilson (singer), Raven Simone (actress), Chato (singer/actress), Beverly Johnson (model), Asia Ortiz (actress) and Alec Mapa (actor/comedian). In addition, 1980s pop culture icons Stacy Q, Downtown Julie Brown and Jane Wiedlin enroll as students in the season finale.

As President of Drag U, RuPaul oversees each pupil's individual progress and imparts invaluable life advice that only the "World's Most Famous Drag Queen" can provide. The season continues to offer a wide spectrum of today's modern woman: the online dater, the virgin, the lesbian, the overworked nurse, the overextended mother and the unemployed woman. Of course, RuPaul will have many tricks up his graduation gown sleeve by including an incoming class full of family members related to the drag faculty!

Shakespeare, Albee take the stage at MuCCC

This month, MuCCC will present plays by William Shakespeare and Edward Albee. Shakespeare: The Shakespeare Company presents a new production of William Shakespeare's violent and bloody play "Titus Andronicus." It has been adapted and directed by Philip R. Prey. "Titus Andronicus" opened in May and will run through June 4 at MuCCC, the Multi-use Community Cultural Center, 142 Atlantic Ave. Tickets are $10 and will be available at the door and at www.MuCCC.org. Showtimes are as follows: June 2 – 8 p.m.; June 3 – 8 p.m.; June 4 – 8 p.m.

Edward Albee's Pulitzer Prize-winning play "A Delicate Balance" reveals the emotional savagery of suburbia and the psychological terror of empty lives. Filled with shades of meaning, subtleties, and brilliant dialogue, the play is a classic of the American theatre, a timeless mirror of modern life. Performances: June 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18.

"Junk: The Musical." a "Rent" for the overworked nurse, the overextended mother, the gay man in the '40s and '50s. One of the men then passed away and the other wasn't interested in talking. I had read Madeline Davis's book ("Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold"), and I called and asked her if she knew anyone I could talk to, and she said, "How about me?"

What I like about Madeline is that she's interested in history but she lives in the present. She sees the gay community as one community, rather than segmenting it into L, G, B, T, etc. I think that's best when we are all together and we are probably least effective when we are split. When it comes to the politics of being gay, that's when we especially need to speak with one voice.

I've never been one to latch on to "celebrity" talent. Of course I admire the work of great performers, but I have been inspired the most by the people that have surrounded me every day for the nine years I've been in this business. The determination, passion, and courage that it takes to be a professional performer is often hard to maintain, but being surrounded by such inspiring artists keeps me going!

If you could describe your ideal career, what would it be like? Would it be Broadway, films, TV, directing, or all of the above?

TH: I've always dreamed of being on Broadway. I've never really been interested in anything else.

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In February of 2009, it was announced that TANYS (The Theatre Association of New York State) had been selected to host AACTFest XI, a program of the American Association of Community Theatre. Rochester was selected as the host city for this national festival from an initial field of 30 applicants across the country and chosen out of a short-list of three to host the Festival, which is held biennially.

Two and a half years of preparation are nearly at an end and the festival is due to kick off in a matter of weeks. This is the first theatre festival which Rochester has ever hosted.

AACTFest XI begins with a Technical Theatre Conference offering workshops on lighting, stage design, costume design and other technical disciplines, as well as a Community Theatre Management Conference from Monday, June 20 to Wednesday, June 22. TANYS is hosting this aspect of AACTFest XI at the Roberts Cultural Life Center at Roberts Wesleyan College. This conference will be open to participants from community, high school and college theatres, as well as the many churches that produce plays.

TANYS was selected as the venue for the performances of AACTFest XI from June 22 to June 25. Twelve productions by community theatre groups from around the United States and overseas military organizations have advanced through adjudication from the state level to the regional level and finally to the national level here in Rochester. Each production will be adjudicated by a panel of distinguished and accredited adjudicators. The panel features Scott Richard Klein, Chair of the Arts Department at Cameron University in Oklahoma; Larry Neidich, a highly respected director and adjudicator from Benton Harbor, Michigan; Annice G. Procunier, one of the most sought after adjudicators in the United States; and Allen Ebert, Co-Director of the Wisconsin Film Festival and President of the Wisconsin Association of Community Theatre.

Other events exclusively for participants will be held at the Radisson Hotel Downtown. AACTFest XI will attract hundreds of people from around the country and will involve volunteers from Rochester’s community theatre groups and TANYS members from across New York State. The performance schedule at the Geva Theatre Center is as follows:

- Monday, June 22: 11:30 a.m.: The Bear – Addink Studio from North Tonawanda Mass.; Hauptmann – SHAPE from Monte, Belgium; 6:30 p.m.: The Gin Game – Broken Arrow Community Playhouse, from Broken Arrow, OK; Sunday in the Park with George – Manhattan Players from Bradenton, Florida.
- Tuesday, June 23: 1:15 p.m.: 23rd Annual Purim County Spelling Bee – Spokane Civic Theatre. From Spok-

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"Sister Act" is on Broadway, GAY GAZUTA HAY!

By Merle Exit

"Sister Act" is on Broadway and we've been blessed with the best. When standing ovations commence as the "ensemble" takes their bows, you know that a Broadway show deserves a wave of Tonys. Unfortunately there isn't a Tony that is slated for a co-producer; in this case Whoopi Goldberg, who starred in the movie version.

The scene is set in Philadelphia, where nightclub singer Deloris Van Carrier (Patina Miller) is auditioning her headliner act in front of her boyfriend Curtis Jackson (Kingsley Leggs), who owns a nightclub. This will be the first hearing of the song that will have you humming, "Take Me To Heaven".

Curtis is involved with much crime and upon hearing that one of his cohorts has snitched, murders him -- which Deloris happens to witness. She is off to the police for safety as Curtis decides he now needs to kill her.

He will send his sidekicks Joey (John Treacy Egan), Pablo (Caesar Samayoa), who only speaks Spanish and TJ (Demond Green), Curtis' awkward young relative. Meanwhile, Deloris encounters Eddie Souther (Chester Gregory), one of the officers, who she remembers from high school having a crush on her, and nicknaming him "Sweaty Eddie".

The cops need Deloris as a witness and to hide her before trial, they decide on the Queen of Angels Cathedral. Mother Superior decides to make her "fit in" by posing as a nun and gives her the task of teaching an extremely poor choir, as well as renaming her "Sister Mary Clarence".

Now, you have to have the token "gay men" stint thrown in. (At least here in New York City). Monsignor O'Hara (Fred Applegate) and Mother Superior (Victoria Clark) are discussing the church shutting down due to lack of funds and small congregation. Mother asks who will buy the church and Monsignor says, "Two bachelors who deal in antiques. Just last week I saw them eye the chapel, say the word 'Gothic' three times and then clung to one another for support." They will be referred to and more!

As for Sister Mary Clarence, Deloris will help the choir with a much more modern style of singing hymns, complete with rhythm and nightclub habits.

Where the movie version gave us songs that were "revised," the Broadway show has original music by Alan Menken and Glenn Slater. That's the next topic. Great score! Miller, who starred in the London production, will have enough occasions to display her magnificent talent with songs such as "Fabulous Baby", "Raise Your Voice", "Sunday Morning Fever", "Sister Act" and "Take Me To Heaven". Most of the numbers that she does are with the nuns.

Clark, who starred in "Light In The Piazza", shines with "Here Within These Walls" and "Haven't Got a Prayer". Gregory has "I Could Be That Guy," while Leggs goes to do his Barry White voice with "When I Find My Baby". Marla Mindelle, who portrays Sister Mary Roberr, delivers "The Life I Never Led".

"Sunday Morning Fever", the reprise of "Sister Act", the reprise of "Take Me To Heaven", the reprise of "Fabulous Baby" as Deloris' dream (where the "gay boys" come into play) and "Spread the Love Around" are the greatest production numbers, for which we have to thank choreographer Anthony Van Laar and director Jerry Zaks.

And you don't have to be a Christian to enjoy the humor. Hey, they even have Sister Mary Lazarus (Audrie Neenan) spouting a few Yiddish expressions. Head to NYC and see it at The Broadway Theatre!

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**The Empty Closet • The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley • Number 446 • June 2011**
CROSS-DRESSERS ARE LIKE BISEXUALS.

By Brian McNatt

Cross-dressers are like bisexuals. They are allegedly in the majority among the non-heterosexual community, but very few know who they are.

There are many people who are the acronym LGBT, yet do not possess any knowledge of cross-dressing beyond Priscilla, Queer of the Desert, and Robert. But one thing is true: they don't believe person, and the other is an entertainer. What do real people who cross-dress as part of their everyday lives look like? Why don't we know them? What do they want?

We point with pride, deservedly so, at our Decade of Solitude into Shared Life. We have a cozy rogerherness. We talk, our hearts when words won't work. Of the ten thousand people who call themselves gays or lesbians, only one thousand have ever been interviewed. Many people generally assume that gay men make up the bulk of cross-dressers, which is probably true in the area of entertainment, but not in everyday life. Heterosexuals and Transsexuals are usually referred to as "stifled." Many transsexuals are referred to as "butch." These gay women also face workplace discrimination, but their numbers are few, and they get much less attention than heterosexuals.

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.
Vanessa Sheridan is a hardworking woman, unlike some of the cross-dressing men who come to Provincetown, Mass., each year in the fall for the Fantasia Fair. I don’t know Vanessa’s name or number. I don’t need to know. What’s important about her is that she is one of the few cross-dressing people I know, and I know and love just one transwoman people.

If I were to consider the unique needs of cross-dressing, I might be tempted to think of them as just another minority, like those of rural California, that I would find to be a natural phenomenon, which I would then define as the “Gay Identity” of the time, which I would find to be a natural and logical classification of the world. Many people of this sort are often described as “gay identity” because they simply have the same identity as the people around them, which they feel safe, and valued.

If I were to think about the “Gay Identity” of the time, which I would find to be a natural and logical classification of the world, I would find that it is not just the people around them, that I would find to be a natural phenomenon, which I would then define as the “Gay Identity” of the time, which I would find to be a natural and logical classification of the world. Many people of this sort are often described as “gay identity” because they simply have the same identity as the people around them, which they feel safe, and valued.

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I was really, really sweaty after the workout and I couldn’t stand the stench. I went home, but there looked to be six deer. I was enough deer to actually be considered a herd, but I wasn’t sure if there were more. I pulled my car to the side of the road and climbed out, as tiny shattered pieces of glass fell everywhere - from my hair, clothing and shoes. Surveying the scene, I noticed that not only was my driver’s side window smashed, but broken glass was scattered all over the pavement and into the woods. Having lived in a rural area for many years, I knew exactly what to do. I proceeded down the road at a slow speed watching carefully for any more deer crossing the road. I also, as always, kept an eye out for any of the local legends to my area of New York State - the mystical white deer. Many hunters and hikers have claimed to have spotted the albino creature wandering the forests. A vision of the white deer always brought good luck to anyone looking for it in the woods. I called 9-1-1 and reported what had happened. Then I called Bernie. At first I thought it was an accident, but when I arrived, I saw a group of deer running in the breeze. "Looks like you rut a deer," said the bearded man in the driver’s seat. "He already said we could have the dead deer." "What ya’ going to do with it?" asked Cousin Clyde. "I don’t want it," I replied. "You can have it." A few minutes later, a group of people pulled over and asked if they could have the deer. "He said we could have it!" shouted Eula Mae. "Want what?" I replied. "The deer," she said with a smile, revealing both her teeth. "For free?" asked Cousin Clyde. "For free?" I nodded my head as I prayed the cops would show up soon. Bernie was next to arrive, but, needing to say, he had a difficult time finding a parking spot along the road. "Is this a reunion of the cast of Hee-Haw?" he asked as we walked up to me. The cops arrived about 15 minutes later. They no sooner got out of the squad car, then Eula Mae loudly announced: "He said we could have the deer!" While one cop stood on the paper work for my insurance company, the other cop asked me to explain what happened. "My car was smashed, I wasn’t hurt," I said. "The deer hit me. It seemed like kind of a suicide thing - maybe the white deer was bi-polar or something. Look, I am going to get in any kind of trouble for killing this thing!" I asked. The cop shook his head. "I wouldn’t worry about it. The excitement over the white deer has died down. This spring we’ve had lots of calls about people spotting a pair of albino raccoons down by the lake - that’s what everyone is looking for now. I don’t think anyone’s going to miss the white deer." At this point, Eula Mae started unloading chains from their pick-up to move their truck. I gathered up my paperwork, got into my car and headed for the repair garage in town. In retrospect I suppose my vision of the white deer had brought me good luck - I was lucky that I wasn’t cut by any of the shattered glass and since my car was smashed, I didn’t skid out of control and end up in the ditch myself. I just wish it could have had a luckier ending for the deer. Great circle of life, my ass! You can connect David as David.hull13@tco.com B7

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Roger Kim believes in the value of music for community building. He is the founder and Music Director of the Rochester Women’s Community Chorus, which presents its annual concert “We Believe” in June. The event features music spanning the infinite possibilities of human experience, from wild women and harmony to peace, friendship, music, diversity, adversity & triumph, and community.

Hochstein School of Music
50 N. Plymouth Avenue

at the door tickets:
$12 adults
$10 students & seniors
$7 children 12 & under

Save $2 on advanced tickets!
available from...
chorus members
Equal Ground Coffee
Parkleigh Pharmacy

June 4th
7:30pm

Hodge Podge Lodge
Indoor Flea Market ~ Over 8,000 sq. ft.
ANTIQUES • CRAFTS • WOODWORKING

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571 Stone Road, Greece, NY ~ Corner of Stone & Dewey
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OPEN 10 TO 7 EVERY DAY (EXCEPT WEDNESDAY)

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FINE WINES & SPIRITS at Corn Hill Landing
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Rochester Women’s Community Chorus presents

Hochstein School of Music
50 N. Plymouth Avenue
inside market
7-9pm

Indoor Flea Market ~ Over 8,000 sq. ft.
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Seeking Sex in the Park?
No ID on you = Automatic Arrest
Court Appearances = Public Shame
Court Fines = $1000
Attorney Fees = $2000
Reputation, Family, Safety, Peace of Mind = PRICELESS!

Anti-Violence Project
Gay Alliance
585-244-8640

Need to Talk?
I work with individuals and couples on a variety of issues including anxiety, depression, relationship concerns, sexuality & coming out.
Maryellen Meleca, LCSW • 14 years experience
585-905-4589 • maryellen.meleca@gmail.com

Residential New and Old Work Specialists
Serving the Rochester Community for over 20 years

APROPOS Financial Planning

"We Do It Without Shorts"
A Letter to Youth

Dear New,

I am so excited that you came to GAGV! This is a fun and safe place for you to be yourself. You will meet lots of people who are caring and nice and are just like you. This is a huge step that you are taking and many people before you have taken this step and had a great outcome.

The first day I came here, I did not come out because I was nervous. But I met awesome people and attended different events that helped me to come out. It also helped me to be more active in my Gay-Straight Alliance Club at school.

Some pretty cool things that we do here are watching movies (lots of gay themes and coming out stories), playing games, using the computers, playing Wii or video games and having cool events like the Day of Silence rally, Big Gay Prom, Movie Night and Pride.

The GAGV has helped me to be who I am, because now I am president of my GSA. I also sit on the GLSEN (Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network) board in Rochester. I also advocate for LGBT youth who can’t come out or deal with cutting issues and other similar stuff.

Even if you experience hard times related to homophobia or coming out, I hope it won’t get you down or stop you from experiencing your true self. How I deal with homophobia is by educating people who don’t know, and nor raking it per­

youth who can’t come out or deal with cutting issues and other similar stuff.

Many things

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

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

Monday and Wednesday Drop-in: 2-6pm
Sunday Support Groups: ages 13-23: 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 Gainsburg, Outreach Coordinator for an application: jeanneg@gagv.us or 585-244-9040, ext. 14.

Gay Alliance Youth
The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley is a nonprofit agency dedicated to cultivating a healthy, inclusive environment where lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people are safe, thriving and enjoying equal rights. We are a coalition of individuals and groups working to empower LGBT people, to affirm their identities, and to create a 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.

Youth Program Notes

Students Break the Silence on April 15
On Friday, April 15, 35 students participated in the annual “rally to break the silence” hosted at the Gay Alliance. The event featured youth performers and local drag sensations, Samantha Vega and Sami Moss. Students also had the opportunity to get peer dechaking, providing a chance for students to ask questions and discuss their concerns. The event also featured a performance by the Pulse of Rochester, a local drag troupe.

Youth Program takes on Pride Month
On Saturday, April 20, the Gay Alliance Youth Program hosted its annual “Silence” celebration at the Associated, a local drag bar. The event featured a drag show by local performers, as well as a performance by the Pulse of Rochester. The event also featured a Silent Auction, with proceeds going to support the Gay Alliance Youth Program.

Legal Workshop on Community Safety
On Saturday, April 23, the Gay Alliance hosted a legal workshop for community members interested in community safety. The event featured presentations by local attorneys and community leaders, as well as a Q&A session with workshop attendees.

Legal Workshops provide practical information
By Kelly Clark

OUT FOR JUSTICE legal workshop hosted April 26 to Kelly Clark of the Gay Alliance (right): The Twisted Debate of Marriage and Divorce
The workshop focused on the history of marriage and divorce in the United States, with a particular emphasis on the history of the fight for marriage equality. Kelly Clark, a local attorney, discussed the history of the fight for marriage equality, including the legal and political struggles that have shaped the modern movement for marriage equality.

Library News
By Andrea Hlobody, Library volunteer

Library hours
The GAGV Library and Archives has extended its hours: 6:00 p.m. on Monday, 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 3:00 p.m. on Saturday. For more information, contact Scott Fearing, Library Director.

Out for Justice: Legal Workshop Series
The Gay Alliance Community Safety Program is holding a series of legal workshops for community members interested in community safety. The workshops will cover a range of topics, from basic legal information to more advanced topics such as applying for a legal name change.

Educational Outreach
May 2011

Speaking Engagements
05/01: Elder Training at Catholic Services
05/02: Transgender Issues at NVB
05/05: LGBT Youth Issues and Safe Schools at School Without Walls
05/06: LGBT Issues in Human Services at MCC
05/13: LGBT Issues in Health Care at 1st United Methodist Church
05/23: SafeZone at Alfred University
05/25: Workplace Discrimination at Attorneys and Counselors at Law
05/26: Working with LGBT Clients at Rochester Outpatient

See Riders for Pride June 5 on Channel 13
On Sunday, June 5 at 11 a.m., Ride for Pride co-founders Jason D’Arienzo and Pam Polashenski, and Gay Alliance Outreach Coordinator Jeanne Gansburg, will be interviewed on the Norma Holland show “Many Voices, Many Visions.” Ride for Pride is a bike ride fundraiser for the Gay Alliance, on Saturday, June 16. For more information or to support a rider, go to: http://www.gayalliance.org/ events/ride.html
Resources

AIDS

Free testing for HIV exposure is available at The Community Place, 145 Parsells Ave., Rochester, NY 14605; TTY 1-866-244-8640 x27. The Community Place offers free rapid HIV testing on Monday evenings from 4 to 8 p.m., Thursday afternoons from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Friday evenings through to 9 p.m. The Center for Health and Behavioral Training of Niagara County, (585) 275-0526, provides free HIV testing Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Testing is also available at the Men’s Cancer Coalition of Rochester, 415 East Ridge Rd., Rochester, NY 14623; (585) 274-6978. Comprehensive breast cancer screening services for uninsured and underserved women available at Threshold Center, (585) 299-7400. To learn more about services available at Threshold Center, (585) 299-7400. To learn more about services available at Threshold Center.

AIDS Care

AIDS Care, the provider of HIV/AIDS services in Rochester and the Finger Lakes area, was formed by the January 2010 merger of AIDS Community Health Center and Rochester AIDS. On-site services include: HIV testing and linkages to care, Primary and Specialty Care, Home Care, Housing Services, Housing Case Management, and Home Care Services. Our mission is to improve health and wellness in communities of color through intervention and prevention, with a focus on LGBTQ communities. Our continuum of care includes diagnosis, care management, support, and prevention services. Our goal is to provide comprehensive and culturally competent care to all individuals, regardless of race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. For more information, please contact us at (585) 274-6978.

Planned Parenthood

Planned Parenthood of Rochester and Genesee Valley offers testing and counseling (585) 549-2915. Their service is free and confidential. They offer HIV prevention education, counseling, and testing. They also provide services to those who are HIV positive and need assistance with medications and treatment. Call for more information at (585) 357-9488.

Family

Rochester Gay Moms’ Group

Siberry Group for lesbian women and wahine mamas in Rochester and surrounding areas. For more information, please contact them at (585) 962-5503.

Action Front Center (AFC)

Located in Rochester, AFC provides HIV prevention education and counseling services. Their mission is to promote HIV prevention and provide support services to those affected by HIV/AIDS. They offer free and confidential counseling, testing, and support services to those in need. For more information, please contact them at (585) 575-3516.

Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley

The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley provides referrals to physicians and service agencies (585) 244-8600; gayalliance.org.

Victory Alliance

Victory Alliance is a non-profit organization focused on providing services to those affected by HIV/AIDS. They offer counseling, support groups, and advocacy services to those who are HIV positive and need assistance with medications and treatment. Call for more information at (585) 259-7350.

Threshold Center

Threshold Center is located in Rochester, NY 14611. They offer a range of services, including HIV testing and counseling, and assistance to those affected by HIV/AIDS. For more information, please contact them at (585) 259-7350.

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AIDS Resource Action Center

AIDS Resource Action Center is a leading provider of services to marginalized communities of color. They offer a range of services, including HIV testing and counseling, and assistance to those affected by HIV/AIDS. For more information, please contact them at (585) 259-7350.

Center for Health and Behavioral Training of Monroe County

The Center for Health and Behavioral Training of Monroe County offers a range of services, including HIV testing and counseling, and assistance to those affected by HIV/AIDS. For more information, please contact them at (585) 259-7350.

Planned Parenthood of Rochester

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Planned Parenthood of Rochester

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ADOPTIVE PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

The next meeting of the Adoptive Parent Support Group will be June 11, from noon until 2 p.m. in Rochester. It is a potluck, so please bring a dish to pass. Childcare is available with no charge, but reservations are required. Call Shari, 350-2529, for reservations and location.

BUTCH FEMME CONNECTION

The Rochester Butch-Femme Connection will have two dinner events in June 2011. On June 11, we will meet at Jay’s Diner on West Henrietta Road (Route 15) in Henrietta at 7 p.m. On June 25, we will meet at Morel Alban Mexican Restaurant on East Ridge Road in Irondequoit at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Kerry/Max at (585) 288-7208, e-mail DressyFemme@aol.com or visit our Facebook page under The Rochester Butch-Femme Connection.

GAY SQUARE DANCE GROUP – THE LILAC SQUARES

We graduated three dancers from our class which started in September. Congratulations to the graduates! The Lilac Squares meets each Monday at the Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church located on 740 Marshall Rd., Rochester 14624 at 7 p.m. We are a fun, lively and group made up of singles, couples, men and women, young and young at heart. We are learning new calls, we are telling stories, jokes, and lively anecdotes. We usually learn a couple of new calls each night and, if we make mistakes, our caller will review the calls for us. We are a very easy-going group, and mistakes happen. There will sometimes be a guide to help you to where you need to be. The night is fun and having a good time.

For more information, call Bob 467-6456 or brindaunclef彩虹@gmail.com. Hope to see you soon.

JUST US GUYS

Like so many others, we are anxiously awaiting the arrival and pleasures of summer months. Let’s hope that it will be a nice one!

On Tuesday, June 14 (Flag Day), we will gather at AIDS Care, 29 Monroe Ave., for a Pot Luck Dinner. Gathering time is 6:30 p.m. in the break area located on the lower level as you exit the elevator.

These events are a good time for new people to come and enjoy some networking with others. Time will also be set aside to discuss plans for July and August.

For more information about the group and the June Pot Luck, contact Ron at 223-6292 or email rmatterl@rochester.rr.com.

ROCHESTER GLBTQI MOTORCYCLE GROUP

New members and camping at Jones Pond on June 10, 11 and 12 are on the schedule for this month. Hope you can join us.

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

For more information, look at our Yahoo group profile: RochesterGLBTQI-Bikers. You can also call Bob at 467-6456, or e-mail brindaunclef@rochester.rr.com. Let’s ride with pride!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY RAINBOW SAGE

It is hard to believe but we are nine years old this June. A lot has happened, including changing our name from Rainbow Seniors to Rainbow SAGE and becoming a program of the Gay Alliance. Come celebrate our birthday on our new Third Sunday Potluck. The date is Sunday, June 19 at 4 p.m. and the location is First Universalist Church, 179 South Clinton, corner of Court Street. We, of course, will have cake to celebrate everyone’s birthday, plus our brand new in-house DJ. The food theme is your favorite birthday food.

Some other special events taking place this month at Rainbow SAGE are our first ever Movie Night and a Game Night. The Movie Night is Thursday, June 9 at 6 p.m. and we are showing the movie “Connie & Carla.” Game Night is Thursday, June 30 at 6 p.m., which will include a Wii, so let’s start a Wii bowling league. Both events will be in the Gay Alliance Community Room on the First Floor of the Auditorium Theatre, 875 East Main St.

We have dinner, men’s group, women’s group and more in June as well. Go to our website at rainbowsgage@gayalliance.org, for more information on all our events or send us an email at rainbowsgage@gayalliance.org.

DIGNITY-INTTEGRITY

D-I Rochester continues to meet weekly at St. Luke’s and St. Simon’s Church, 70 S. Fitzhugh St., corner of Broad St. We have the following services and activities for the month of June 2011. 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.

June Pot Luck Theme: “Easy Food for Lazy Days.” As soon as summer starts, no one really wants to cook up a huge meal in a hot kitchen, so this month’s theme is self-explanatory.

Get a favorite that takes virtually no time to put together and share it at our potluck. We’ve found our favorites to share with you!

It’s GARAGE SALE time again! Bargain Galore! DATE: June 3, 4 and 5. PLACE: 6963 West Main Road, Lima, 14485. TIME: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday and Saturday; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday. THIS is the same weekend as the annual “Trail of Treasures,” along Rte. 5 & 20 from Caledonia to Bloomfield. Great fun… bring family and friends!

Remember that you can always check for any additions or changes to the schedule or for details on our activities at our website… http://www.di-rochester.org/. We hope to see you soon!
**MONDAY**

**LGBT Support Group**
Every Monday, 7pm, AIDS Care, 259 Monroe Ave. For more info, call Dan, 462-2209. 

**GAGV Youth Drop-In Hours**
Mondays, Wednesdays, 6-9pm, GAGV Youth Center, 875 E. Main St. Prince St. entrance, first floor. 424-6846, x 13.

**Free syphilis testing**
Every Tuesday, 5pm, George Eastman House parking lot. www.nchtestingsite.org.

**Brokers Keeper Support group for men only.**
Third Wednesdays, 3-5pm, MOCHA Center, Liberty Park Way, 420-4100.

**GAGV Youth Drop-In Hours**
Mondays, Wednesdays, 6-9pm, GAGV Youth Center, 875 E. Main St. Prince St. entrance, first floor. 424-6846, x 13.

**Romantic and Social Support Group for Men**
Fourth Tuesdays, 6:30-8pm, 2nd Floor, Library & Archives, David Bohanet Cyber Center. 2750 Monroe Ave. 

**Trans Action Group**
Third Tuesdays, 6pm, 107 Randell St. off Thunlen Rd. 426-0862.

**Trans Action Group**
www.transactiongroup@googlegroups.com

**GAGV Library & Archives, David Bohanet Cyber Center**
Every Sunday, 6-8pm, 975 E. Main St. 424-6846.

**Free confidential walk in HIV testing**
Every Thursday, 5-8pm, AIDS Care, 259 Monroe Ave.

**Free HIV Testing**
Every Tuesday, 9-11am. AIDS Care, 259 Monroe Ave.

**WEDNESDAY**

**Charlie’s Group**
Third Wednesdays. Monthly peer- facilitated group for interested men who have sex with men. Confidential, fee 5.85pm, 875 E. Main St. 244-3758.

**Country Line Dancing/Two Stepping**
Every Wednesday, 140, 7-9pm. Lessons fee 5, dancing fee 5. Beginners in advance.

**ULP: Pride Network**
7:30pm, Gamble Room in Ruby’s Library光学 Center.

**Gay Alliance by Directors of Men**
Third Wednesday, 6pm, 875 E. Main St. 244-3758.

**New Freedom New Happiness AA Gay meeting**
Third Wednesday, 6pm, Shared House, 125 North Dixie. 424-5639.

**Gay Men’s Alcoholics Anonymous**
Second Wednesdays, 8pm, St. Luke/St. Simon’s Episcopal Church, 2750 Monroe Ave.

**New Freedom New Happiness**
Second Wednesdays, 8pm, Claremont, 125 North Dixie. 424-5639.

**Free confidential walk in HIV testing**
Every Thursday night, 5-8pm, AIDS Care, 259 Monroe Ave. 424-2220

**Peer Recovery Peer Group**
First and third Thursdays, 5-8pm. Open drop in session professionally led. For info: 423-0710.

**MOCHA/GAGV Youth Group**
First and third Thursdays, 5-8pm, AIDS Care, 259 Monroe Ave.

**Trans Action Group**
Third Thursdays, 6pm, 107 Randell St. off Thunlen Rd. 426-0862.

**GLOBAL (Gays and Lesbians of Bausch & Lomb)**
Mondays, third Thursday in Area 67 conference room at the Optic Center. 
Voice mail: 339-8977

**Gay Men’s Chorus**
Universtiy United Presbyterian Church, 521 E. Main St. 625-4511.

**Free confidential walk in HIV testing**
Every Thursday, 5-8pm, AIDS Care, 259 Monroe Ave. 424-2220

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**Trans Action Group**
Third Thursdays, 6-9pm, 2nd Floor, Library & Archives, David Bohanet Cyber Center. 2750 Monroe Ave.

**Gay & Lesbian Cancer Support Group**
Second Thursdays, 6-7:30pm, Glasie’s Clubhouse, 250 Alexander St. RSVP: 423-0710, info@gladdiahganhec.org.

**FRIDAY**

**Gay Men’s AA meeting**
Fridays, 7-9pm, Cloud meeting. Emmanud Baptist Church, 875 E. Main St.

**GLBTQ Motorcycle Group**
Second Fridays, 5-9pm. Various locations. Contact: Gildas, GLBTQ bikers@yahooho.com. 476-4546.

davushaid@frontierlastic.com

**SATURDAY**

**Rainbow SAGE**
Second Saturday Exchange Club, 3-6pm. 17 S. Fitzhugh St. 324-6730.

**LGBT Gay Men’s Breakfast**
First Saturdays, 2pm, Rainbow SAGE, 2750 Monroe Ave.

**Rainbow SAGE**
Second Saturday Exchange Club, 3-6pm. 17 S. Fitzhugh St. 324-6730.

**LGBT Gay Men’s Breakfast**
First Saturdays, 2pm, Rainbow SAGE, 2750 Monroe Ave.
FRIDAY 3 
Dignity Integrity Garage Sale. 6963 W ease Main Road, Lima (44526). Through June 5, 9 am – 5 pm. Food and Saturday, 5 pm - 3 pm. 

SATURDAY 4 
Rainbow SAGE Movie Night. 6 pm. "Connie & Carla." Gay Alliance Community Room, First floor, 873 E. Main St. (next to Youth Center). rainbowsage.org. 

SUNDAY 5 
“Swimming with Lesbians” 10:30 am on WXXI-TV/HD. Documentary on the Stonewall Riots. 

MONDAY 13 

TUESDAY 22 
For Out and Justice. "I Called 911: What Next?" Talk by Officer Kim Rabkeck, FRP liaison with LGBT community. 

THURSDAY 28 
Rainbow SAGE Game Night. Fun includes Wii. Gay Alliance Community Room, first floor, 875 E. Main St. (next to Youth Center). rainbowsg.org.
Walking on Sunshine

Long days and warm nights. Time to sit back and soak up some summer love.

June 18, 2011
Hochstein Performance Hall
8pm

www.thergmc.org
Tickets available at: Parkleigh, Outlandish
The Creator’s Hands, Equal-Grounds
Rochester Pride Guide

IT'S A GAY WORLD AFTER ALL • ANIMATED ON PARK

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JULY 8-17, 2011

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PROUD PRODUCER OF ROCHESTER PRIDE

Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley
**CAL.EMDARJ**

**FRI DAY JULY 8**
Flag Raising at City Hall, 4-5pm
Sassy in the South Wedge, 5-9pm

**SATURDAY JULY 9**
Gay Day at Seabreeze, 11am-6pm
(Advance tickets at the Gay Alliance)

**SUNDAY JULY 10**
Tea Dance

**MONDAY, JULY 11**
Youth Dance

**TUESDAY JULY 12**
Third Presbyterian Movie Night

**THURSDAY JULY 14**
ImageOut Movie Night

**FRIDAY JULY 15**
Pride Kickoff Party

**SATURDAY JULY 16**
Family Day at the Memorial Art Gallery
Pride Parade line-up, 2-3pm
PRIDE PARADE, 4-5pm
PRIDE FESTIVAL, 4:10-9:10pm
($8 at gate; $5 in advance; $5 students with ID)

**SUNDAY JULY 17**
Pride Picnic, 1-7 pm
Genesee Valley Park
($15 at gate; $10 advance; $5 students with ID)

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IS PROUD TO SPONSOR THE FESTIVAL STAGE FOR ROCHESTER PRIDE 2011.
FESTIVAL HEADLINERS

Pepper Mashay
By Susan Jordan
The dynamic Pepper Mashay is returning to Rochester Pride this year. Pepper says, "I was really honored and blessed to be able to come back to Rochester – not only for the music but to see old friends."
Pepper’s new release is a cover of “Use Somebody” by the rock band Kings of Leon. She commented, “I will be performing it in Rochester and looking for opinions on it – I went with tribal drums and acoustic guitars. I listened to all of the covers released in the last three years and feel like mine is the most exciting. What drew me to the song initially was that the young man who wrote the song is also lead singer (of Kings of Leon) His name is Caleb Followill. "The band is three brothers and a cousin, I think. It’s a family band out of Tennessee, where I spent a lot of time growing up. My mother married a man from Tennessee and we spent every other summer in Nashville (the other summers we spent in Indiana, where my mother was from). It’s amazing how a redhead black woman can relate so well to three white boys from mid-Tennessee!"
"But I love their sound. There’s a feel of gospel to their music.”
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,” she says, “We’re gonna get soakin’ wet!”

Melissa Ferrick
By Laur McSpadden
Since her first album came out in 1993, Melissa Ferrick has been giving the world with music that is simultaneously raw and polished, ballsy and vulnerable. In her own words, her music (more rock than folk) is “honest, self-searching and love-themed.” To all of our great fortune here in the Rochester area, she will be performing at the Rochester Pride festival on July 16!
"The best thing about my shows for me is that I am not thinking about anything, my mind doesn’t stray,” she said in an interview with The Empty Closet. “I don’t feel any rushes of nervousness or fear, I feel weightless—time kind of stops. It really is my favorite way to meditate. For my fans, I can only hope that they feel moments of the same.”

Pride festivals can take that experience to the next level. “It’s always a blessing to play any Pride festival,” she said. "When describing some past Prides that she’s played at, she said, "I just remember feeling such an overwhelming sense of happiness all around me.”
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. “I wrote it on a dare, which was fun,” she said when asked about the song. “Drive” has opened up new fans for me all over the world: I only hope it continues to make people feel sexy and free.
Her newest album, devotedly titled Enough About Me, is a compilation of thoughtful and heartfelt cover renditions of songs by a diverse array of artists such as Radiohead (“Creep”), Barenaked Ladies (“Call and Answer”) and Aimee Mann (“Deathly”), along with a few original tunes.

Pride Flash Dance Mob!
Sometimes during the festival we will play Lady Gaga’s Born This Way - will you be in on the dance? Visit: http://www.youtube.com/user/GayAlliance beginning June 6 to start learning the dance. Be part of Pride festival history!!
A Hardy-Vernon Hello PRIDE-ful People!

We are excited to provide this June Preview Guide for Rochester Pride 2011. In this guide you can meet the terrific sponsors who are helping us to put on 10 days of super events! We have great entertainment and a variety of vendors ready to pump up the Pride for you, your friends, and family members and of course all of our allies are welcome to join us July 8-17th.

Beginning June 1, we are glad to provide an improved on-line option for buying your Pride tickets. Go to www.RochesterPride.com or www.GayAlliance.org to find the banner ad to access the the Rochester Pride Store hosted by Osnik.

Purchase tickets for:
- Annual Gay Family Day at Seabreeze, Saturday July 9
- The Pride Tea Dance at ONE, Sunday July 10
- The Pride Festival, Saturday July 16
- The Pride Picnic, Sunday July 17

In addition you can purchase tickets in person Mon-Fri, 10am-2pm at the Gay Alliance offices. Tea Dance, Festival and Picnic tickets can also be purchased at Outlandish, Parkleigh or Equal-Grounds.

We are still seeking Pride Sponsors, and more volunteers. Visit www.RochesterPride.com or look for the Pride Event tab at www.GayAlliance.org

Get involved, have fun and remember, Rochester Pride supports the many programs of the Gay Alliance!

Hospitably,
Michael and Carrie
Rochester Pride 2011 Co-Chairs

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The Gay Alliance Family Day at Seabreeze
Saturday, July 9

Enjoy a full day of unlimited Waterslides (11am-8pm)
RIDES: (11am - 10pm)
TICKETS: $22.50 available online at www.gayalliance.org or at the Gay Alliance Community Center, 875 E. Main St. (5th floor)
Children two and under, FREE

Kick-Off Party
Friday, July 15
7-10pm
Holiday Inn Airport
911 Brooks Avenue
Dj, announcements, show, saluting of Grand Marshal and Honorary Grand Marshal

Pride Family Day at the Memorial Art Gallery
Noon - 3pm
Join us for our second Family Day at the MAG. There will be fun activities for the kids and free admission to the Art Gallery. Head from the Gallery to get a good seat on the Pride Parade route!

Roundhouse Events at the Pride Picnic
Sunday July 17 - 5-7pm
Genesee Valley Park, Rochester
Rochester’s Got Talent Show
Dance with Till’s Own, DJ Jon Herbert, Rochester’s Own, DJ Hector, Rochester’s New, DJ KD
With the best Sound of Rochester, Party at UR Place Sound System. Available to rent for events. www.partyurplace.com

Youth Pride Pageant & Dance
Monday, July 11
Tilt Nightclub and Ultralounge
Open to all LGBTQ youth and allies ages 13-23—a drug and alcohol free event. 2011 Youth Pride Drag Queen and King will be crowned! These winners will have seats of honor during the Pride Parade as Jeanne Gainsburg, their Ride for Pride chauffeur, cycles them around on a beautiful, eco-friendly rickshaw. For more information, contact Jess Cohen, Youth Services Director, at JessicaC@gayalliance.org.

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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
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 (man-made).
- It is IMPOSSIBLE to get HIV infection from the vaccine.

ROCHESTER VICTORY ALLIANCE
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...we simply decided to **change it**
VOLUNTEER FOR PRIDE JULY 8-17

What better way to show pride in the Rochester LGBTQ+ community than by taking action and helping to make sure Rochester Pride 2011 is a huge success! Straight allies are, of course, welcome at all our events and also as volunteers!

To register as a 2011 Pride Volunteer, please go to: http://www.gayalliance.org/pride/volunteer/ for questions about volunteering for pride, please contact Jeanne Cumburg at jeanne@gayalliance.org or 585-244-8640 ext. 14.
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!