Youth break the silence on April 15 at annual rally
By Susan Jordan
How many thousands of LGBT youth -- or heterosexual youth for that matter -- have been driven to self-destructive behaviors, including suicide, by homophobic verbal and physical harassment and bullying? How many youth, whether gay or straight, have been murdered in cold blood by these so-called “queers”?

We will never know. These voices have been silenced. But on April 15, thousands of LGBT youth and allies across the country observed the annual Day of Silence. They kept silent during the day and then broke the silence.

Out & Equal regional summit on workplace issues draws 175 participants on April 14
By Susan Jordan
Around 175 LGBT business leaders and allies gathered April 14 at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center for a regional forum on equality in the workplace. Out & Equal Finger Lakes Chapter co-organizer Emily Jones told The Empty Closet, “The keynote and the summit met and exceeded the expectations of those whom I spoke to following the workshops. We were so privileged to have 17 of the highest rated workshops from the 2010 National O&E Summit showcased at this event. These national leaders were able to share the very latest in new approaches to business processes as legislation has changed over the past two years. I was extremely grateful for those who presented and those who attended. It truly exceeded my expectations!”

Co-organizer Ralph Carter commented, “Collegues in Pittsburgh, Ann Arbor, Philadelphia, and New York City, were so very pleased with the quality of the workshops, and ideas for creating a more diverse and welcoming workplace. Many were in Rochester for the first time and asked, what is the special about Rochester, the business community and LGBT community here which enabled the region to create such a wonderful summit on LGBT workplace equality? I said I thought it was because of our history as at the first boomtown west of the Appalachians, where the movement for equality should be a bipartisan priority.”

Generations speak out at Rainbow SAGE panel
By Susan Jordan
The Rainbow SAGE eighth annual Intergenerational Panel, held March 28 at the First Universalist Church, revealed at least one difference between the older and younger generations. Dontaee Williams, a 17-year-old student at the School of the Arts, recalled in childhood that he is not attracted to girls. While in high school, he heard about the Gay Alliance Youth group from a friend. There he “met a lot of great people” and now “I am happy and love people.” While his struggle for acceptance by himself and others has been far from easy, as a teenager in the 21st century he came to terms with his identity at least a decade earlier in life than most of the older people on the panel. For instance, Ginny Weiser, who has been married to her partner Marcy for 11 years, grew up in rural Ohio and went to

Out & Equal continues page 9

Inside

Section A

Newsbriefs
LOCAL & STATE NEWS

Lobby your senator in Albany on May 9
Equality & Justice Day in Albany is scheduled for Monday, May 9. LGBT New Yorkers and their allies will lobby for marriage equality, in opposition to the messages being promoted by right wing groups which have recently been criticizing gay rights advocates to continue discrimination against gays.

The Human Rights Campaign says we must make sure our elected officials follow the will of the people. Please join activists across the state to call for equality and justice for LGBT New Yorkers and our families.

“Equality & Justice Day is the Empire State Pride Agenda’s annual advocacy day, bringing the statewide movement together in Albany. It includes a rally, workshops, caucuses and an opportunity to speak directly with legislators about the issues that matter to LGBT New Yorkers and our allies. HRC, ESPA and their coalition partners ask that concerned New Yorkers of all orientations join in telling their representatives that equality should be a bipartisan priority.”

GAGV News:
Groups

Sections B

Sections C

Sections D

Sections E

Sections F

Sections G

Sections H

Sections I

Sections J

Sections K

Sections L

Sections M

Sections N

Sections O

Sections P

Sections Q

Sections R

Sections S

Sections T

Sections U

Sections V

Sections W

Sections X

Sections Y

Sections Z

Newsbriefs
LOCAL & STATE NEWS

Out & Equal continues page 8

LIFE

Out & Equal continues page 8

Pride Day in Fairport... see p. 19

Tax Day in Fairport... see p. 19

Inside

Section A

Newsbriefs

LOCAL & STATE NEWS

Lobby your senator in Albany on May 9
Equality & Justice Day in Albany is scheduled for Monday, May 9. LGBT New Yorkers and their allies will lobby for marriage equality, in opposition to the messages being promoted by right wing groups which have recently been criticizing gay rights advocates to continue discrimination against gays.

The Human Rights Campaign says we must make sure our elected officials follow the will of the people. Please join activists across the state to call for equality and justice for LGBT New Yorkers and our families.

“Equality & Justice Day is the Empire State Pride Agenda’s annual advocacy day, bringing the statewide movement together in Albany. It includes a rally, workshops, caucuses and an opportunity to speak directly with legislators about the issues that matter to LGBT New Yorkers and our allies. HRC, ESPA and their coalition partners ask that concerned New Yorkers of all orientations join in telling their representatives that equality should be a bipartisan priority.”

GAGV News:
Groups

Sections B

Sections C

Sections D

Sections E

Sections F

Sections G

Sections H

Sections I

Sections J

Sections K

Sections L

Sections M

Sections N

Sections O

Sections P

Sections Q

Sections R

Sections S

Sections T

Sections U

Sections V

Sections W

Sections X

Sections Y

Sections Z

Newsbriefs
LOCAL & STATE NEWS

Out & Equal continues page 8

LIFE

Out & Equal continues page 8

Pride Day in Fairport... see p. 19

Tax Day in Fairport... see p. 19
GAY ALLIANCE OF THE GENESEE VALLEY

Perspectives

I

Words that mean one thing today may not have the same meaning that they did in the past. In the world of language, there are many examples of this, and some words have even disappeared completely. This is especially true for words that exist in different cultures and languages. For example, the word "gay" has had many different meanings over time.

British gay slang language, which gays had more need of a private vocabulary for, may have meant something very different than it does today. This is because the meanings of words are not fixed and can change over time. The use of words can also be influenced by cultural and societal changes.

KAMP, which is short for "Keep and Maintain Peace," is an organization that was created to preserve the peace in a region that was at risk of violence. It was created in response to the need for a private vocabulary to help prevent violence. The word "gay" was also used to describe the people who lived in the region.

Today, the word "gay" is mostly used to describe someone who is attracted to people of the same sex. However, in the past, it had a much different meaning. It was also used to describe people who were not heterosexual.

Perspectives

What does the Gay Alliance do?

During the course of the past several years, the Gay Alliance has continued to evolve and develop new initiatives and community programs that help further our mission.

Our mission statement is "to bring together leaders, educators, and community members to help create a healthy, inclusive environment for all people, especially those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning." We are committed to creating a safe and welcoming space for everyone.

We also have a Youth Program, which is celebrating a 40-year history. Last year, 400 unduplicated youth who get the support they need. Presentations in a wide range of settings. We provide these presentations in a wide range of settings. We provide these presentations in a wide range of settings. We provide these presentations in a wide range of settings.

The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, Inc. (TGA) is a nonprofit organization that serves the Rochester, New York area. We are dedicated to bringing together leaders, educators, and community members to help create a healthy, inclusive environment for all people, especially those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning.

We provide presentations and workshops on a wide range of topics, including history, culture, and current events. We also offer a range of educational resources, including books, videos, and online courses.

The SAGE program is new to us in the past year and a half. More than 100 elders participate in a variety of ways as volunteers, educators, and community members to help create a healthy, inclusive environment for all people, especially those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning.

We provide these presentations in a wide range of settings. We provide these presentations in a wide range of settings. We provide these presentations in a wide range of settings. We provide these presentations in a wide range of settings.

We also have a Gay and Lesbian Student Union (GLSU), which is a student organization on campus. The GLSU provides presentations and workshops on a wide range of topics, including history, culture, and current events. We also offer a range of educational resources, including books, videos, and online courses.

The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, Inc. (TGA) is a nonprofit organization that serves the Rochester, New York area. We are dedicated to bringing together leaders, educators, and community members to help create a healthy, inclusive environment for all people, especially those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning.

We provide presentations and workshops on a wide range of topics, including history, culture, and current events. We also offer a range of educational resources, including books, videos, and online courses.
Lakes Chapter of Pride At Work, previously with the Republicans in New York, is setting into the lobbying job for the whole community. People who identify as transgender, lesbian and gay and bisexual people, and their friends - the focal point should be to make sure that everyone who supports ENDA supports the transgender inclusion." According to the Human Rights Campaign, a national leader in the movement of ENDA, 99 percent of companies, 87 percent have sexual orientation non-discrimination policies, and 46 percent have gender identity non-discrimination policies. Additionally, more than 85 companies have joined the Business Coalition for Workplace Equality, a group of leading U.S. employers that support the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

Despite the fact that the majority of Americans favor workplace protections for LGBT people, only 20 states plus the District of Columbia specifically ban workplace discrimination in the private sector based on sexual orientation and 13 states plus D.C. expressly ban discrimination based on gender identity.

Free mammograms will be available on Mother's Day.

Highland Breast Imaging in conjunction with the Breast Cancer Coalition of Rochester and the Susan G. Komen Chapter of Monroe County are celebrating Mother's Day by offering free mammograms to women 40 and older, who do not have health insurance, or whose health insurance does not cover mammograms.
The date is Saturday, May 14, at 10 a.m. at Highland Breast Imaging, 590 Red Creek Drive, Suite 130, Rochester.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Breast Cancer Coalition of Rochester, licensed ultrasound technicians will be available to perform clinical breast exams for women who have not had one during the past year.

Sienna poll results can be found at http://www.siena.edu/uploaded-files/home/PoliticalandCommunityResearch/SRS/2011/SR110503-SRS-42.pdf.

The more New Yorkers learn about marriage equality, the more they support this basic issue of fairness," said Brian Ellner, the Human Rights Campaign's New York State Director for the Campaign for New York Marriage. "We will continue our campaign to educate across the state so that everyone has the right to make a commitment and build a family with the person they love.

The previous Siena Research Institute poll conducted on February 25, 2011 found 57 percent of New Yorkers support marriage for same-sex couples with 38 percent opposed.

Momentum is clearly on our side with popular support and a Governor committed to this issue," said Ellner. "It's time for leaders in Albany to take up this critical issue and respect the loving and committed relationships of same-sex couples in our state.

TAG presents Career Fair on June 1 at MCC

The August Group (TAG), New York's premier networking organization, presents its 11th Career Fair and Networking event on Wednesday, June 1 at MCC. The Career Fair is open to all visitors.

The event joins those re-employment or a career change with 8,000 job seekers, 150 businesses, technical and professional firms with positions to fill. The Career Fair is also held and produced by TAG in cooperation with MCC's Office of Workforce Development and RochesterWorks.

TAG is a diverse volunteer organization committed to retaining local talent in the Greater Rochester area by facilitating career and business networking for professionals, both employed and those seeking new or different employment. TAG is an LGBTQ welcoming group.

A full line of companies who will be participating in the fair is available at The August Group website at augustgroup.org/careerfair. For employers interested in participating, to learn more or for additional information, e-mail careerfair@augustgroup.org.
ACLU to schools: stop censoring LGBT websites with filters

The American Civil Liberties Union and its regional affiliates on April 11 sent letters to schools in Michigan, Texas, Pennsylvania and Virginia demanding schools’ web browsers, and then report websites with filters. The ACLU’s work on LGBT school issues can be found here: www.aclu.org/schools.

Another longtime LGBT bookstore closes down

San Francisco’s A Different Light Bookstore is said to be going out of business. The store in the Castro, A Different Light Bookstore, one of the few remaining LGBT bookstores in the United States, is apparently closing. This comes on the heels of the closure of the Missouri’s Mediacenter, the “Gateway to Progressive” bookstore in San Francisco.

“Everything must go” signs were posted in the store on April 2. Dismantling shelving sat in a pile in the back of the store. Neighborhood chatter is that doors will close for good in this spring. A Different Light has been the gathering place for the Bay Area’s gay literati for decades — the company was first established in 1979. Local authors like Armistead Maupin would often park the store full of eager readers when launching their latest titles. Washington D.C.’s Lambda Rising closed early last year. In New York, Oscar Wilde Books in the West Village and A Different Light’s WeHo outlet both closed in 2009. What’s left? (joemygod.com)

Arkansas Supreme Court: ban on unmarried adoption violates state constitution

The Arkansas Supreme Court has upheld a lower court ruling that a law prohibiting adoption by unmarried couples is unconstitutional. The state's high court wrote in an opinion for April 7 that the law barred adoption by same-sex couples in the state and that the law could not be read as allowing adoption by relatives. The ruling is the latest in a string of victories for same-sex couples and their children nationwide. The court also found that by imposing a categorical ban on all persons who would not be married, Arkansas violated the Constitution. The case was brought by the American Civil Liberties Union. The court agreed that a law is unconstitutional. The case was brought by the American Civil Liberties Union. The court agreed that a law is unconstitutional.
corporation and work with Congresswoman Gillibrand we have inspired LGBT students across the country.

"Daniel fully embodies the mission and values of Campus Pride and our Voice & Action National Leadership Award. His leadership, integrity and humility has inspired many across the nation - simply put, he is an example of what it means to be "invisible,"" said Shaun Windmeyer, founder and executive director of Campus Pride.

"When you have national leaders about LGBT youth suicide, it is even more important to show a light on young adult leaders like Daniel who give hope and inspire," said the Voice & Action National Leadership Award. "At the end of the evening, the award is the culmination of all the work that Campus Pride is focused on the work of undergraduate college students who are creating positive change and, ally issues within their communities.

Campus Pride’s Summer Leadership Camp is a week-long leadership program that brings together over 60 LGBTQ and allied youth, from people across the country. This year’s planned students, finding their way into adult life, with access to summer opportunities, such as the right to vote and end the stigma.

Student and advisors can register online for Camp Pride or learn more about the Summer Leadership Camp through Campus Pride's website at www.campus­pride.org/camp/leader­ship.html.

Delaware passes civil unions 26 to 15
The Delaware House passed civil unions on April 15 by a 26-15 vote.

The bill now goes to Governor Markell for his signature.

"Today we celebrate a victory for all Delaware families who will have the tools to protect themselves in good times and in bad," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese.

"These are people who we know are in same sex relationships," said Governor Markell.

"What we have seen through testimony and that families with same-sex couples are not just as visible," said Shane Windmeyer, founder of Campus Pride.

"When it came to this legislation, it was clear that it was about rights, it was about parity, it was about power. It makes clear that if you’ve committed yourself to marriage, and you made that commitment to your life partner, if you work in partnership, if we live deaths come, we will respect your right to make those decisions together." Governor Markell said.

"It makes clear that civil unions are not just as strong as families with different parents. It means that just because both of your parents happen to be men or women, if one of these parents dies, you will not be one of those parents die," said Governor Markell.

"The courts have clearly decided that more people in all three counties and friends and family and coworkers and neighbors who they know are in same sex relationships," said Senator P.B. held, sponsor of SB 30. "These are people who we serve in our law enforcement, protect our country, teach our kids and they serve in our law enforcement."
Interview

Pride Grand Marshal nominees Catherine Bunce and Dr. Michael Keefer; Anne Tischer and Bess Watts; Todd Plank; Thomas Warfield

DR. MICHAEL KEEFER AND CATHERINE BUNCE, VICTORY ALLIANCE

Empty Closets: What areas have you focused on and what have been the highlights of your work in support of the LGBT community?

Dr. Michael Keefer and Catherine Bunce: We have been involved in the HIV/AIDS field for 23 years and have accumulated many friends and colleagues among the LGBT community in Rochester and around the world ever since. They have both been involved within the HIV/AIDS field since the early days of the epidemic.

While Dr. Keefer was in the hospital setting and Cathy’s in the homeless setting, both experienced the time when for a number of years there was very little in the way of effective treatment for it and the fear and stigma directed towards HIV/AIDS was such that family and friends sometimes abandoned the patients in their time of need. On a personal level Cathy has supported several teens that were struggling with their identity and having difficulty within their families. She found that providing an accepting community was sometimes all that was needed. Dr. Keefer’s take away from the early days was similar in that he learned the value of simply “being there” for the person and he has applied this same sense of “being there” for the LGBT community ever since.

EC: What does Pride mean to you?

MK/CB: To us, Pride is more than an organization, and certainly more than a familiar phrase. It’s a core value. Pride is the determination required to overcome what is the last great social injustice that exists in our society. Pride fosters courage, strength and hope among the LGBT persons that one day they and future generations may be seen as equal global citizens worthy of all equal rights and above all, equal justice. As members of non-profit organizations, we feel that community based PRIDE events allow each of us an opportunity to speak out and lead by example.

EC: Have you attended Pride observances in the past, and if so, when did you first take part?

MK: As the director and clinic coordinator for HIV vaccine research studies, we have crossed both human and financial resources in support of the annual PRIDE parade, festival and picnic since the year 2000 and we will continue to do so.

CPC unit has also been fortunate to have reciprocal support from local LGBT organizations. The RVA team has been present at most all of the major Pride observances over the past decade. Personally and as an organization we welcome invitations to speak up in support of the GLBT community to combat ignorance manifested as the disregard of the value of each and every person.

EC: What role does Pride play in building community?

Dr. Michael Keefer and Catherine Bunce: Programs like Pride in our community, “Pride” plays an essential role in assuring that the full diversity of our community is recognized and appreciated. Pride has raised awareness to the general public, helped change policy and provided a safe environment for LGBT individuals. We thank education to the cornerstone of what Pride is, helping to deliver the message that sexual orientation is not a choice, but something in us to be discovered.

ANNE TISCHER AND BESS WATTS

EC: What does Pride mean to you?

Anne & Bess: Pride is a verb in our house. While comfortable in our own skins as two middle-aged, blue collar "married in Canada" lesbians who never quite get the yard work done, a static sense of comfort in society, our neighbor­hood, church or family is impossible when we are at, as LGBT people accorded second class citizenship.

"Pride" to us means creating VISIBILITY as our part of standing this injustice: organizing rallies and forums, building floats, lobbying, painting signs, phone banking, canvassing, doing speaking engagements and a bit of civil disobedience, whatever it was that we were comfortable doing.

EC: What affect have you noticed and what have been the highlights of your work in support of the LGBT community?

AT/BW: Eight years ago our "general support" of LGBT issues morphed into personal leadership. We blame the naming of Todd Plank, the "Gay Mayor" of Rochester, Scott Fearing of the Gay Alliance and Reverend Jim Mulcahy of Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church for this transformation, as we had no obvious natural aptitude for the work, other than Anne’s ability to letter signs freehand and Bess’s willingness to drink beer with straight union guys....

There’s a lot of work needed to build the base of LGBT justice and eventually we began to hammer mainly one nail...marriage equality. Bess has worked within the unions as Rochester President of Pride at Work AFL-CIO and Civil Service Employee Association Local 828 President. Anne founded Equality Rochester and recruited Marriage Equality New York to mobilize a grassroots operation. We have alliances with Metropolitan Justice, Citizen Action and the Green Party and work intimately with Human Rights Campaign organizers as well as supporting Pride Agenda initiatives.

While "creating visibility" is difficult to measure, Bess’s influence helped get Domestic Partner benefits for Monroe Community College employees, helped get a CSEA resolution in support of Marriage Equality, got an LGBT place at the table on the Rochester Labor Council Executive Board, and has helped get LGBT issues considered in union candid­ate endorsements. Anne’s most "prideful" claim to fame is that we had picnics of events and rally signs appear in pay, labor and mainstream media 11 months in a row last year.

EC: Do you take part in Pride? What role does Pride play in building community?

AT/BW: As visibility junkies we embrace the Pride Parade and can be counted on to create a competitive float. Last year the successful Mott’s union strikers from Williamsson marched with the (prize-winning) Pride at Work float in the parade.

But our heart belongs to the CAGV Pride Picnic where we take all our many hats and just laugh with friends. God bless the Gay Alliance folks for their terrific Pride weekend...we wish they had the same chance to simply enjoy the vibrant, enveloped and colorful community they have fostered for so long here in Rochester.

TODD PLANK

EC: What areas have you focused on and what have been the highlights of your work in support of the LGBT community?

TP: The biggest highlight is in the area of Civil Unions. After over 10 years of efforts, the Rochester County Legislature finally recognized that gay and lesbian couples should be able to have a legal status recognized by the State of New York. The law initially was very limited but it paved the way for eventual marriage equality in New York State. Rochester Pride was there when I needed it and it’s very important for me, as well as the yet to be passed gender equality and marriage equality bills. I’m extremely proud of the amazing group of dedicated LGBTI WNY activists who continue to work hard to pass the marriage bill and GENDA. I’m confident that when marriage passes in the NYS Senate, and that could happen this year, that the extraordinary work that we’ve done building support for queer issues in WNY will deliver the decisive votes.

I’d also be remiss if I didn’t mention the Gay Alliance’s wonderful library and archives, currently housed on the main floor of the Auditorium Center. Gerry Szymanski, Ove Overmyer and Jeff Foulds get the lion’s share of the credit for what has been accomplished, but I take great pride in the fact that I had a vision of the possibilities when I first began working at the Gay Alliance on Atlantic Avenue and initiated the actions that served as a catalyst to what has grown into a quite remarkable and valuable resource for the community. It’s so important to preserve our accumulated knowledge, art, and the records of our heroes, heroes and social movements.

EC: What does Pride mean to you?

TP: My gay definition of Pride is never apologizing for your sexual orientation or gender expression. I could put up a more positive frame around Pride and say that it’s loving yourself and others uncondi­tionally, recognizing that LGBTIQ people are an amazingly gifted and resilient people. Historically, our contributions to soci­ety and culture have been consciously absent. It’s up to us and our straight allies to bridge that and let our collective Pride shine to the world!

EC: Have you attended Pride observances in the past, and if so, when did you first take part?

TP: I’ve been attending PRIDE observances every year since the nineties. Rochester Pride is my big gay birthday.

EC: What role does Pride play in building community?

TP: I’ve had the opportunity to cele­brate Pride in many different ways. Not only at our traditional summer events, but also at Pride Shabbats, commitment and
Pride is an integral part of how we create and sustain our diverse community. Pride is about celebrating our fabulous multi-faceted lives, loves and relationships. Pride is about acknowledging our own truth, we inspire others to live their own truth, we inspire others to live their own truth.

We'd like your feedback on all things Grand Marshal. See page 9 for details.

---

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 vaccine are synthetic [man-made].
- It is IMPOSSIBLE to get HIV infection from the vaccine.

[rochestervictoryalliance.org](http://rochestervictoryalliance.org) 585.756.2020

---

Thomas Warfield

**THOMAS WARFIELD**

EGC: What does Pride mean to you?

TW: Pride in terms of LGBT Pride is deeply rooted in the discovery and development of my own identity. In a way I grew up from young adult to adult going to Pride events, where I was allowed to unfold into my true self without fear of judgment.

Whether in NYC, San Francisco, Paris, Toronto, Providence, Tokyo or any of the numerous cities where I've participated in Gay Pride Celebrations, I've felt whole, worthy, and supported by everyone around me, even if I didn't know them personally. Pride has been a time to celebrate and embrace the diversity of who we are as a community; to remember where we've been and to march with unity and dignity to where we need to go.

EGC: When did you first take part in Pride?

TW: I believe my first Pride was when I moved to NYC in 1981. I marched with Riverside Church. I remember when we passed by the Stonewall bar my eyes swelled up, as if I could feel the history there as part of my own.

EGC: What areas have you focused on and what have been the highlights of your work in support of the LGBT community?

TW: I first went to the GAGV in 1978 when I was 16. It was on Monroe Ave. and I walked over many times, but just stood across the street until one day I finally went in and borrowed a book from the library and read my first gay novel. It awakened an activist's spirit in me.

In college I was president of the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Student Union (the largest student group on campus) and organized our trip to the March on Washington in 1987. I went to one of the first organizing meetings of ACT-UP at Larry Kramer's apartment in NYC and staged ACT-UP protests on the campus at SUNY Purchase where I was a dance student.

In 1991 in graduate school in Salt Lake City I created PeaceArt International and the first event was on World AIDS Day to raise funds for Romanian orphans with HIV and that work has continued over the last 20 years, raising funds for HIV orphans in cities around the world.

I worked on creating safe places in colleges and LGBT workplace groups. As chair of the RIT President's Commission on Diversity and Inclusion, I integrated LGBT issues into our diversity agenda. I've lobbied for gay rights and transgender rights in Albany, at the Utah State Capitol and at City Hall in NYC, and worked to get people from the LGBT community elected to political offices. I have been involved with all kinds of LGBT rallies and marches, fought for marriage equality, worked with faith groups in finding common ground with LGBT people and organizations, helped with the first gay pride in Tokyo and Thailand. But perhaps the best example of my supporting LGBT issues is my relationship with the students I teach, the friends and family with whom I am my authentic self.

EGC: What role does Pride play in building community?

TW: Pride is about acknowledging our own truth, but it is not just a time when the LGBT community comes together in unity like a family reunion but hey, you're any music & dancing I'm DJ Jon Herbert & I live to groove. some of this town's wildest, most unforgettable parties... yep, I'M THERE.

but hey, you really WANNA BE REMEMBERED? next time you step outta the club, GRAB YOUR PHONE & DIAL IT UP, BABY 'cause YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU.

---

**Mark Roos, LMT**

**BODY KNEAD Massage Therapy**

Massage is an important therapeutic practice that will leave you feeling better, happier and better able to take on life's challenges.

Schedule a massage today!

You'll be glad you did.

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

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

(Religious Summit from page 1)

the movement for workplace equality, noting the many gains made so far and the need for continuing work both on corporate policies and on legislation to ban discrimination.

Her address came on the same day that the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) was introduced in the U.S. Senate. Our & Equal strongly supports the passage of this legislation.

At lunchtime, participants learned more about The Levi Strauss & Co. and its marriage equality initiatives and the dialogues it inspired in 50 workshops from across the country, including California and New York - two states where marriage initiatives have recently been under consideration - displayed mannequins wearing the white knots that indicate support for equal marriage rights.

Atienza described the collaboration between his company and White Knot Campaign in Support of Marriage Equality. The campaign felt it was important to take a clear stance on equal rights. Levi Strauss stores across the country, including California and New York - two states where marriage initiatives have recently been under consideration - displayed mannequins wearing the white knots that indicate support for equal marriage rights.

Atienza also spoke about his own marriage and showed photos of himself, his husband and family members. His personal message to an appreciative audience was simple: "Don't give up, Don't ever give up."

The event included 17 high-quality workshops from both business leaders and advocacy groups, including the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley. Topics ranged from current issues, such as the impact of bullying, to building strong groups for LGBT employees, to addressing critical human resources topics such as equity-conscious benefits and health insurance.

Workshops also considered the needs of diverse groups, such as transgender employees, straight allies, and those seeking to integrate spirituality into their working lives.

Beth Bloom, also from an older generation, called herself "a professional lesbian" and said she came out "in the parking lot at Donny's in Henderson." She fell in love with her life partner, activist Dr. Troye Burtan, at age 30, only to tragically lose her to cancer.

Beth spoke about her debts to those who came before her, and added, "I hope my generation can be the shoulders to stand on for a younger generation today."

Evelyn Bailey, originally from Boston, is half Irish and half Hallfian, and came out around age 32. Although she knew she was different from the other girls in high school, she dated boys. A devout Catholic, she went into a religious order, only to discover that her attraction to women was at least as strong as her attraction to the religious life. She said, "There were many women in the convene who were involved with women. Some left and some didn't."

Evelyn was one of those who did. She embarked on a committed relationship and became active in the Women's Peace Encampment and then the Gay Alliance, while working as a math teacher and later heading a tutoring service. Her human resources department to start an ERG at Nazareth.

The second workshop I went to was "Managing Mentor Programs." I want to connect our LGBT students with LGBT mentors. I've brought LGBT alumni back to campus to speak to students. One person I brought in was Juliana Sylke, who is now an advocate for those who came before her, and added, "I hope my generation can be the shoulders to stand on for a younger generation today."

Evelyn Bailey, originally from Boston, is half Irish and half Hallfian, and came out around age 32. Although she knew she was different from the other girls in high school, she dated boys. A devout Catholic, she went into a religious order, only to discover that her attraction to women was at least as strong as her attraction to the religious life. She said, "There were many women in the convene who were involved with women. Some left and some didn't."

Evelyn was one of those who did. She embarked on a committed relationship and became active in the Women's Peace Encampment and then the Gay Alliance, while working as a math teacher and later heading a tutoring service.

Her "out" status in the late '80s as part of the then-president of the Gay Alliance did not exactly help her as a faculty member at Aquinas, although some of her students were accepting.

Evelyn's focus is Shoulders On, promoting the history (and heroines) of the Rochester area LGBT community. She said, "This community is extremely talented and we should be extremely proud!"

Scott Pearing, Gay Alliance Program Director, is another middle-aged person who had a comparatively leagues coming out process. Scott grew up in an idyllic home on a small farm, with "a good Minnesota liberal family." Although his parents were liberal and kind, when he was spotted pushing his sister's doll buggy, his parents pointed out gently that this was not something boys should do. He was told to play with his trucks instead - and he made a point thereof for keeping them meticulously, family polished and cared for.

In high school he dated a girl who was and has remained a close friend, rather than a romantic interest - "she was my safety net." He coming out in 1981, Scott says, "was timed with the arrival of AIDS."

He became involved with HIV education and then gay rights organizing. "For the last 20 years I have been doing it professionally."

The heterosexual member of the panel, Bonnie Hallman-Dye, is president of Rochester's PFLAG (Parents Friends and Families of Lesbians and Gays). She and her husband were accepting when their daughter came out to them, and she is now an advocate for LGBT rights - "which I had never thought I would do."

She feels her work with PFLAG helps her to be supportive of other parents who are in the position of trying to support and understand a gay, bi, transgender or lesbian child.

A question and answer session followed the panel presentation. Sandra Ehmans, a co-founder of the Intergenerational Panel, who served as m.c. along with her partner Ginny Dickson, asked Darrance Williams about "Clee" - this was the week of the famous kiss episode which sent the right wing into hysterics. Has the show changed attitudes at his school? Ginny added:

Darrance laughed and said he didn't know, but that for many people, "If it's on TV it's OK."
Youth rally to end the silence

On April 15, around 230 local youth rallied in the Apollo Room of the Auditorium Center, under the auspices of GLSEN and the Gay Alliance Youth Group. The rally ended with pizza and a dance. Depression screening by the University of Rochester was also available.

Youth held up signs (see below) and at 4 p.m. held up signs reading “3... 4... 5... 6... 7...” and then everyone let loose with loud cheers and applause. Dontrae Williams, 17, of the School of the Arts, did a dance performance; he was organizer for the rally, along with Alex Gasparre.

Erik Libey of AIDS Care then shared his own experiences when coming to terms with being a gay youth. He said, “DoS was inconceivable when I was 16.” He said that his first coming, our experiences dated to his baby pictures, when according to family legend he tearfully rejected a football in favor of a purple stuffed animal.

At age seven he was confronted with graffiti labeling him “jovial” — that week's vocabulary word, which the children had been told meant “gay, happy.” When asked in the principal's office if he knew what “gay” meant — and his mother, wife of a Baptist minister, told him it was something “very bad.” She told him it was something “very bad.” She then asked if he knew what “gay” meant — and his mother, wife of a Baptist minister, told him it was something “very bad.” She told him to avoid “gay” people or “it would rub off on me.”

But his own experiences were told to him by a Baptist minister, told him it was something “very bad.” She told him to avoid “gay” people or “it would rub off on me.”

So he dealt with the fact that I liked boys until I was in college,” Erik said. “Neither talking about being gay hurt me and everyone around me. Silence should never be part of your life. Queer people need to be out and proud and loud as we can be — that will change the world.”

Youth hold up signs during the countdown to break the silence. Photo: Laur McSpadden

Poem by Sami Hoffman, 22

We're told to sink down for too long now,
Eyes narrowed to the ground,
Couched in silhouettes spilling
Familiar words
That we memorize as lyrics,
Cherish as love letters.
But from poetry,
Try desperately to recall them
With pen in famed
On nights when the silence
Echoes in empty walls.
Reminding us of the silencing words we
Try to forget,
But can't help but remember,
Tongues swollen from biting down
So hard.
Ward dancing on our lip
But our voices unable to speak them
Out of fear, out of shame,
Out of the thought in our minds
That we're better off saying nothing...
Hope is never silent...

But yet we silence ourselves
In hope of disappearing,
Not realizing that even the
Sedes you let dip
On nights when you know
No one can hear
Still make a sound,
And are echoed by the
Same sins
On those same nights
By the same kid by a
Different name
With the same pain,
And same bleeding tongue.
From how hard they too have been
Forced to bite it.
Hope is never silent.

And it's time we break that silence.
Remove our teeth from the tongue that bleeds
And let our presence be known
To everyone who hopes to keep us quiet.

Don't let the memory of yesterday
Keep you from opening your eyes
To the sunrise of tomorrow.
Let your voices be heard.

Hope is never silent.

GAY ALLIANCE OF THE GENESEE VALLEY

THOUSANDS OF YOUNG LIVES POINTLESSLY LOST TO HATRED AND BIGOTRY.

On April 15, 2011, around 230 local youth rallied in the Apollo Room of the Auditorium Center, under the auspices of GLSEN and the Gay Alliance Youth Group. The rally ended with pizza and a dance. Depression screening by the University of Rochester was also available.

Youth held up signs (see below) and at 4 p.m. held up signs reading “3... 4... 5... 6... 7...” and then everyone let loose with loud cheers and applause. Dontrae Williams, 17, of the School of the Arts, did a dance performance; he was organizer for the rally, along with Alex Gasparre.

Erik Libey of AIDS Care then shared his own experiences when coming to terms with being a gay youth. He said, “DoS was inconceivable when I was 16.” He said that his first coming, our experiences dated to his baby pictures, when according to family legend he tearfully rejected a football in favor of a purple stuffed animal.

At age seven he was confronted with graffiti labeling him “jovial” — that week’s vocabulary word, which the children had been told meant “gay, happy.” When asked in the principal’s office if he knew what “gay” meant — and his mother, wife of a Baptist minister, told him it was something “very bad.” She told him it was something “very bad.” She then asked if he knew what “gay” meant — and his mother, wife of a Baptist minister, told him it was something “very bad.” She told him to avoid “gay” people or “it would rub off on me.”

So he dealt with the fact that I liked boys until I was in college,” Erik said. “Nor talking about being gay hurt me and everyone around me. Silence should never be part of your life. Queer people need to be out and proud and loud as we can be — that will change the world.”

Youth hold up signs during the countdown to break the silence. Photo: Laur McSpadden

Poem by Sami Hoffman, 22

We've told our hands down for too long now,
Eyes narrowed to the ground,
Couched in silhouettes spilling
Familiar words
That we memorize as lyrics,
Cherish as love letters.
But from poetry,
Try desperately to recall them
With pen in famed
On nights when the silence
Echoes in empty walls.
Reminding us of the silencing words we
Try to forget,
But can't help but remember,
Tongues swollen from biting down
So hard.
Ward dancing on our lip
But our voices unable to speak them
Out of fear, out of shame,
Out of the thought in our minds
That we're better off saying nothing...
Hope is never silent...

But yet we silence ourselves
In hope of disappearing,
Not realizing that even the
Sedes you let dip
On nights when you know
No one can hear
Still make a sound,
And are echoed by the
Same sins
On those same nights
By the same kid by a
Different name
With the same pain,
And same bleeding tongue.
From how hard they too have been
Forced to bite it.
Hope is never silent.

And it's time we break that silence.
Remove our teeth from the tongue that bleeds
And let our presence be known
To everyone who hopes to keep us quiet.

Don't let the memory of yesterday
Keep you from opening your eyes
To the sunrise of tomorrow.
Let your voices be heard.

Hope is never silent.
Committed to providing personal financial planning for all families.

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

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

Susan L. Light
Experienced Advisor, Committed Advocate.

Brighton Securities
Insights, Investments, Income.
Metlife understands that the LGBT community faces different "ifs in life. If your Social Security benefits won't pass on to your partner. If you’re married at the state level, but considered single at the federal level. If you and your loved ones can be protected for the future—with guarantees. MetLife believes these "ifs" should never hold you back—they should be managed with a plan of action. Together, we can develop strategies to address many of the uncertainties in your life... so you can focus on the possibilities.

Start planning for the "ifs in your life today. Call me at (585) 241-5200 for a free copy of MetLife's "Planning with Pride Financial Checklist."

Jarrett Felton
Financial Services Representative
400 Meridian Centre S-101
Rochester, NY 14618
585.239.7448
jfelton@metlife.com

Guarantees for the "ifs in life. Guarantees are subject to product terms, exclusions and limitations and are based on the insurer’s claims-paying ability and financial strength. Products are issued by Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, 200 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10166, and by MetLife Investors USA Insurance Company, 5 Park Plaza, Suite 1900, Irvine, CA 92614 and in New York, only by First MetLife Investors Insurance Company, 200 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10166 (collectively referred to as “MetLife”). September 2010. ©2010 MLPFS ©2010 Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.
Empire State Pride Agenda
Celebrating 20 years of victories for New York's LGBT community

Spring Dinner
Saturday
May 21, 2010

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

Keynote Address
New York State Attorney General
Eric T. Schneiderman

Emcee
Clinton Kelly, Host of TLC's What Not To Wear

Community Service Award
Rich Ognibene

Guest Auctioneer
Rochester's own Howie Jacobson

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

Thank You

To all of the volunteers who made the 2011 Pride and Joy Families Conference and Provider Training Day

A HUGE SUCCESS!

* The 2011 Provider Training Day and Pride and Joy Families Conference Steering Committee
Elizabeth Taylor (1932-2011)

By Evelyn Bailey

In 1929, at age 27, after nine months of study, Francis Taylor graduated from the Science to Judaism, taking the Hebrew name Elisheba Rachel. She stated that her conversion was "because I was tired of fighting, I had decided to give up the battle of caring which is the burden of life."

In June 1990, Elizabeth was awarded the National Medal of Science to Judaism, taking the Hebrew name Elisheba Rachel. She stated that her conversion was "because I was tired of fighting, I had decided to give up the battle of caring which is the burden of life."
Today is a great day for all residents of Hawaii," said Alan Spector, Equality Hawaii Co-Chair. "Providing employment protections to transgender people in Hawaii is a victory for civil rights. The people of this state should be judged on the quality of work they do and not on who they are — that's what this legislation guarantees."

"The State of Hawaii is on a steady march to full equality for all its people," said HRC President Joe Solmonese. "Being free from discrimination based on gender identity and expression, and to be judged on your merits and qualifications for work is a common-sense approach to employment policies. We congratulate the legislature for recognizing everyone should be treated equally in the workplace, and look forward to Gov. Abercrombie's signature." The Human Rights Campaign and Equality Hawaii have worked closely together to build both public and legislative support for this legislation. Through this joint effort, thousands of phone calls, emails and handwritten letters have been sent to legislators urging them to approve this legislation.

Hawaii law already protected people from sexual-oriented discrimination in housing, employment and professional services. The passage of this bill will make Hawaii the third state, after California and New York, to ban gender identity discrimination in all areas of public life.

HUD launc hes media campaign on ending housing discrimination

The Department of Housing and Urban Development has launched a new media campaign, "Live Free," that will, among other things, strive to ensure that people have equal access to housing regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity.

The Fair Housing Act prohibits housing discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or families with children. While sexual orientation and gender identity are not prohibited bases of discrimination under the federal Fair Housing Act, housing discrimination against someone who is LGBT may, in certain circumstances, violate the Act's existing provisions, including its prohibition against gender discrimination.

"While 20 states and over 200 local governments have the law to make LGBT-related housing discrimination illegal, HUD is firmly committed to supporting the right of LGBT individuals and families to lead productive and dignified lives, free from housing discrimination and fear of retaliation," said John Trasvina, HUD Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. "HUD is finalizing a federal rule to ensure that HUD housing and programs are open to all, irrespective of marital status, gender identity, and sexual orientation."

"The Live Free" print advertisements are focused on particular targeted audiences. For example, one print ad reads, "Should Gender Stereotypes Influence Where You Live? Learn More." The "Live Free" video will be streamed on the Web throughout the year and include Facebook ads, targeted print ads, digital videos, and podcasts.

HUD said the "Live Free" outreach effort will be used to help ensure equal access to housing for LGBT people. "We encourage everyone living in a state that has not yet added sexual orientation and gender identity to its fair housing laws to visit our website to learn how to file a complaint with HUD," said Assistant Secretary Trasvina.

Illinois Republicans amend bill for blind to restrict gay adoption

Illinois Republicans have quietly added an anti-gay adoption amendment into a bill to amend the Blind Rights and Education Act.

"The legislation would require anyone who works with survivors of sexual and domestic violence, "is deeply troubled by the recent reported domestic violence story that is being reported throughout the country," said Lysetta Hurges, a community activist who is in relationship with an abusive partner. "This amendment is one of those that we have worked closely with to ensure that it's not in the best interest of Illi­nois' children."

Mass. domestic violence programs respond to second homicide with a month on Cape Cod

The alleged domestic violence homicide of David Walton on April 3 directly touched several communities: Provincetown and the Cape where the murder occurred, Taunton where the couple lived, and the LGBTQ community everywhere.

"We are all responsible for supporting community efforts to end domestic violence," said Andrea Cooley, who is in a domestic violence situation in the Roxbury area and works at the Suffolk County Domestic Violence Project, 385-244-8640, or email sandracooley@alliance.org.

"We are all responsible for supporting community efforts to end domestic violence," said Andrea Cooley, who is in a domestic violence situation in the Roxbury area and works at the Suffolk County Domestic Violence Project, 385-244-8640, or email sandracooley@alliance.org.

M形态学学 depression and estate planning

The Forest County Sheriff's Depart­ment will reinstate Andre Cooley as a correction officer following a series of events involving immigration and domestic violence.

As part of the settlement agreement reached March 28, the sheriff's depart­ment will also update its nondiscrimination policy to make explicit that the sheriff's department does not discrim­inate on the basis of sexual orientation.

"I am looking forward to returning to a job that I loved in the sheriff's depart­ment," said Cooley. "I was very happy that the sheriff's department has clarified in writing that they do not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, and that those who are employed should be judged by their ability to do the job, not by their sexual orientation."

"Andre Cooley is a fine officer who never should have ended his career in the department. I am happy that the sheriff's department has done the right thing by making it clear that the department will not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation," said Bear Arwood, Legal Director at the ACLU of Georgia.
GOP: Lawyers from DOMA defense firm can't back gay rights

At Metro Weekly, Chris Geidt uncovered an intriguing stipulation in the GOP's contract with King & Spalding, the legal firm hired by the Republican House majority to defend anti-gay DOMA, according to Joe Jervis of JoJerviGonz.com.

All of King & Spalding's employees—lawyers and non-lawyers—are barred from advocating for the Bespect for Marriage Act—the bill that would repeal the Defense of Marriage Act—as in the 112th Congress, according to the terms of the contract that King & Spalding's partner Paul Clement signed on the firm's behalf on April 14.

The contract, which was entered into with U.S. House of Representatives General Counsel Kerry King on behalf of the House's Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group to defend DOMA in court, contains a provision that prohibits all King & Spalding attorneys and non-attorney employees from any advocacy to "alter or amend" DOMA.

"This million-dollar law firm overreached in this case," Watson said. "They got bear a lawyer fresh out of law school and a volunteer lawyer." Canvass For A Cause team members were out on April 8 at Target stores in Mission Valley in San Diego and in Encinitas. "We are celebrating our freedom of speech rights today," Watson said.

Target now has a track record of fighting the bigger retailer's business with U.S. House of Representatives Governor-gubernatorial candidate Tom Emmer.

The Right is out to stop anti-bullying programs by playing the victim and blaming gay youth

As states and school districts work to stem a tide of anti-gay bullying in American schools, a powerful group is out to stop them. The Religious Right has been leading a concerted effort to stop programs that seek to protect LGBT youths from bullying; and to deny that the problem of anti-gay bullying exists.

On April 15, People For the American Way released a report exposing the Religious Right's pro-bullying efforts and the myths it is using to promote them.


"The anti-bullying movement sounds like a joke, but it's frighteningly real. The Religious Right is desperately trying to poison bullies and further marginalize gay and perceived kids by stopping efforts to make schools safe for every child," said Michael Keegan, President of People For the American Way.

"The Right's anti-bullying effort relies on four central strategies, according to the report:

1. The Indoctrination Myth: Religious Right activists claim that anti-bullying policies will result in "homosexual indoctrination" in schools.

2. The "Special Rights" Smear: Opponents claim that recognizing and confronting the problem of anti-gay bullying amounts to granting "special rights" to gay kids.

3. Playing the Victim: The Religious Right has tried to turn the realities of school bullying on their head, claiming that anti-gay bullies are the real victims, and gay rights groups the real bullies. Blaming the Victim: In the cruder part of the anti-bullying effort, Religious Right activists are trying to blame gay rights movements and gay kids themselves for anti-gay bullying.

The pro-bullying movement shows just how far the Religious Right is willing to go to stop the recognition and acceptance of gay people at every level of society, and to paint themselves as the victims of the gay rights movement," said Keegan.

"The real bullies are the adults who are willing to hurt kids in order to push a political agenda of intolerance and exclusion.

GetEQUAL confronts NOM's Gallagher at congressional hearing

At a Congressional hearing on "Defending Marriage" in the Subcommittee on the Constitution in April, GetEQUAL—a national, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender civil rights organization using direct action and nonviolent civil disobedience tactics—presented Maggie Gallagher, one of those testifying at the hearing and the board chairman of the anti-gay National Organization for Marriage, with the "First Annual Anita Bryant Award for Ubiquited and Unparalleled Bigotry."

"In presenting this award to Ms. Gallagher, we are recognizing the bigotry that has been inspired over the past few years—most notably by her participation in the pack of the world of professional bigots who draw a paycheck each day from the hatred they stir among the "radical wing of the American public," said Robin McGehee, director of GetEQUAL. "At a time when significant over-reachingly minority support marriage equality, it takes a very special person like Ms. Gallagher to stand up and fight for discrimination and bigotry. It's gratifying to be able to draw attention to the underlying hatred that Ms. Gallagher and others at the National Organization for Marriage have been contributing to American life.

At the Congressional hearing, GetEQUAL was able to present Ms. Gallagher with an award certificate, which will be accompanied at a later date with a prize in honor of the award's namesake—a cream pie.

"I have seen the video of the four 'self-proclaimed homosexuals' who delivered the Anita Bryant Award in 1977," said Michael Dixon, a GetEQUAL activist. "It is truly an honor to walk in their footsteps and offer an anti-BUDDY recognizes and regards the stench efforts of Ms. Gallagher—the woman who has picked up the mantle of hate from Ms. Bryant—and worked so hard to promote bigotry and discrimination against an entire class of American citizens. I hope we can unite and shame the person as soon as possible. I have always believed that bigots should get their just desserts."

GetEQUAL will deliver the pie during a future public appearance by Ms. Gallagher, to ensure that she is able to celebrate the award publicly, in front of an audience. The exact moment of delivery is unknown at this time.

"Gay people have been in the Internet, some applauding GetEQUAL and others saying that tossing a pie at Maggie would make gays look bad and violent. The radical right's recent propaganda tries to make themselves seem the innocent victims of persecution by 'angry, militant homosexuals.' The pie can be delivered in a way rather than being thrown.

Founded in 2005, GetEQUAL is a national grassroots organization whose mission is to empower the LGBT, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) community and our allies to take bold steps to demand full legal and social equality, and to hold accountable those who stand in our way.


Va. state board votes down gay couples' right to adoption by 7-2

Following the advice of anti-gay Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, a state board has voted 7-2 against a rule that would have allowed gay couples to adopt.

The State Board of Social Services has voted overwhelmingly against a rule that some say would allow same-sex couples to adopt in the state for the first time. In a 7-2 vote April 20, the board opted against the new rules, first proposed by former governor Tim Kaine.

If the Virginia Supreme Court strikes down the anti-gay statutes, the bill would be accompanied by a new rule permitting gay parents to adopt or foster children.

Democrats hold a 5-4 majority on the board.

Elaine Elkins, M.S.
Psychotherapist
244-4837

Individual & Relationship Counseling
Anxiety & Depression
Loneliness & Separation
Conflict Resolution
Communication Skills
Sexual Abuse Recovery
Drug & Alcohol Abuse
Grief & Loss
What happens in Burma and around the world affects us all

By Laur McSpadden

My life is really, really gay. I work for an LGBT publication. When I do go out in the evening, it is as if we have come a long way since connection to Rochester's LGBT communities. When I get my paychecks, they say "Gay" in not more than a millisecond. One could easily get the impression that I do nothing but "gay" all day long. Now, this is not true. I am working regularly for LGBT issues with a very strong passion for those freedoms that relate to our personal identities. Perspective can be in present-day America, gays do not have a monopoly on struggle.

There I was, sitting in front of a man who has every reason to be furious, weighed down by the unrelenting heaviness of depression, haunted by unspeakable demons. And yet there he was, kind and profoundly dedicated to helping bringing healing to his country and the world.

Mya Myint relentlessly works for the freedom of political prisoners and the end of torture, as well as toward increased support for the families of political prisoners: this is partly, of course, from his deep empathy for their plight, and partly as a way to bring some degree of peace and meaning in his experiences. He was also one of the featured panelists at the Organizational Meeting. I knew I had to go.

The first day of the Organizational Meeting consisted of panel discussions regarding the present conditions in Burma and interactive workshops on grassroots campaigns and outreach, activism, and online community organizing/social networking.

The second day was an advocacy training meeting, in which participants discussed ways to be an effective grassroots activist. The first part of the day was the Organizational Meeting, but after it, I had my own time.

The third day was Congressional Lobby Day. I had been looking forward to this throughout the entire week. It was an opportunity to speak with the foreign affairs representatives of some of the most powerful nations in the world. It was an opportunity to show them what we're fighting for.

On the second day of the U.S. Campaign for Burma's Lobby Day, we went to meet with Senator Sherrod Brown and his staff. We asked our representatives to take a leadership role in convincing UN members from around the world to support the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry into the crimes against humanity that are being perpetrated by the military.

We spoke to the foreign affairs staff members about the importance of preserving humanitarian aid to Burma's refugees and internally displaced persons.

We advocated for the unconditional release of all of Burma's political prisoners. We mentioned the extremely important JADE Act of 2008, which allows President Obama to appoint a Special Representative for Burma and to initiate more aggressive banking sanctions against the military junta.

We asked our representatives to take a leadership role in convincing UN members from around the world to support the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry into the crimes against humanity that are being perpetrated by the military.

Mya Myint photographed by Laur McSpadden in his indiana apartment as he showed her a picture of him in the Umpien refugee camp in Thailand.

Laur McSpadden with U Pyinnya Zawta (right), executive director and a founding member of the All Burma Monks' Alliance, the organization that led the monks in the Saffron Revolution against the military junta in 2007. She served a total of 10 years in Burma's prisons as a political prisoner due to her pro-democracy activities. On the left is U Agga Nyana, also a member of the All Burma Monks' Alliance, and an active participant in the Saffron Revolution. They are both residents of the Motta Parami Monastery in Brooklyn, NY.
Making the Scene

OUT & EQUAL: Stephen Gould of national Out & Equal thanks and pays tribute to Rochester summit organizers Emily Jones and Ralph Carter at the Riverside Convention Center on April 14. Photos: Jim Wilkins

Selisse Berry, founder of national Out & Equal, welcomed participants.

OUTREACH SUNDAY: Rev. Rod Frohman welcomes Marriage Equality New York activists Anne Tischer of Rochester and Richie Jaquith from SUNY Geneseo to Third Presbyterian Church on Outreach Sunday, March 20. Photo: Bess Watts

PRIDE & JOY FAMILIES: One highlight of April’s conference was the Family Dance on April 9 at the RIT Inn and Conference Center. Photos: Jim Wilkins

RAINBOW SAGE INTERGENERATIONAL PANEL at Unitarian Universalist Church on March 20. Panelists are identified on page A1. Photos: Jim Wilkins

Dontae Williams, School of the Arts  
Bonnie Hallman-Dye of PFLAG.
MONTE CARLO NIGHT. The Pride fundraiser drew a fun-loving crowd to 140 Alex Bar & Grill on March 27. Pride co-organizer Michael Hardy (above) says, “Thank you to all who attended. I estimate that with admissions and 50/50 (after expenses) approximately $400-$500 was raised for Pride 2011. Special thanks to 140 Alex, Bill, Dawn and Tim of The Dealers, our two DJs Len and Geryl, our volunteers Neil, Sean, Blanche, Evelyn, Carrie and others and to those who contributed show tickets and prizes – MuCCC, JCC, RPO, RAPA, Outlandish, Bachelor Forum, NAPA Pizza and Boulder Coffee.”

Left: Carrie Vernon of Rochester Pride 2011. Photos: Jim Wilkins

CLOSING THE GAP: At the Tax Day Rally, held this year in Fairport, Jo Meleca-Voigt of MENY-ROC and James Bragg of HRC present a voided check for $302 million in wedding revenues and ancillary monies lost to NYS because gay and lesbian couples still cannot legally marry here. Photos: Bess Watts

First time rallier Amanda Wood enthusiastically joined 60 others at the “Civil Marriage Can Close the Gap” rally on April 15.

Vinessa Buickland of the Green Party and Errin Doyle of HRC onside at the Fairport Marriage rally.
TEN DAYS OF PRIDE

CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE!
Visit www.RochesterPRIDE.com to see our updated Sponsorship Forms!
Parade, vendor and art contest forms are all online as well – it’s not too early to plan, register and take advantage of our early payment deals. And NOW is the time for all who want to audition for Pride Picnic Entertainment to go to the web site and fill out the forms!

SASSY IN THE SOUTH WEDGE
SAVE THE DATE: (Friday, July 8) for “Sassy in the South Wedge” – the fun new afterparty following the City Hall Rainbow Flag Raising Ceremony! 4-5pm. “Sassy in the South Wedge” will run from 5-9pm, centering on a sunset dance in the courtyard of Boulder Coffee. Stay tuned for that evening’s offers, deals and events on our web site and in future ECs and in the June and July PRIDE Guides.

STILL TIME TO GET INVOLVED!
There are two General Public Pride meetings in May and June – come and ask questions, volunteer, discuss the parade theme and float ideas.
Dates/Time:
Wednesday, May 25 and Wednesday, June 22 7-9pm in the Gay Alliance Youth Center.
Everyone Welcome! We hope to see you there!

Parade/Festival: July 16
Park Ave to Auditorium Center

Picnic: July 17
Genesee Valley Park
Method Machine mounts Tennessee Williams play

METHODE MACHINE, Rochester’s premiere performance and art company, presents their new production of Tennessee Williams’ play Something Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs. Directed by Michael Kip, the little-known play is set as the prolific gay writer’s most autobiographical playwright and will be presented in the fourth floor studio at Garth Pagan Dance, Sat May 18 and Sun May 19, at 8 p.m. and 2 p.m. respectively. Tickets are $10 and can be purchased at the door or in advance by calling 385-3397-7407 or online at methodmachine.org.

A careful glimpse into autobiography in the form of a memory play, the main story involves a summer in 1948 Provencetown. It’s the account of a doomed triangle between Augustus, a young playwright; his lover; and two beautiful young dancers, Kip and his friend Clare, as he recounts the play that may bring him his first Broadway production. What’s cloudy and clear isn’t merely the sultry summer by the shore, but the artist’s vision and memory itself.

This late play by Williams is a masterwork of full dedicated, stylishly dark, tension and love, spanning between 1940 and 1950, with people, ghosts, and memory itself.

METHOD MACHINE

Founded in 2007 by Marcy J. Savastano, Michael Francis O’Connor and David Henderson as an artistic outfit to develop multi-disciplinary projects, most contemporary plays and Broadway’s new life. This production features the following Neighborhood 3 Repetition of Daisies, This Is Our Youth, The Second Coming of Joan of Arc, Luc in Turin (World Premiere), Love Triangle: An Evening of Music, Improv and Brass, Edge (National Youth, The Lipstick Mustache (World Premiere), Closet and Spring Is On: A Broadway Cabaret. As an art presenters, METHOD MACHINE has curated POST Poster Sept 11, Clarke Conde’s Big ID Photos, Mary Perpinto’s A Tibetan Pilgrimage, BUSHWACKED! & Famous Faces 2001 & 2006.

Tennessee Williams would turn 100 this year, been talking about this show for a few years now,” notes Henderson. “Tennessee Williams’ Centennial Birthday year is the perfect opportunity to share this rare gem.”

METHOD MACHINE

Traditional susctabut Peter Doyle and Jill Ritterman are also featured in the production.

METHOD MACHINE was founded in 2007 by Marcy J. Savastano, Michael Francis O’Connor and David Henderson as an artistic outlet to develop multi-disciplinary projects, most contemporary plays and Broadway’s new life into classic productions. Theatrical productions include Neighborhood 3 Repetition of Daisies, This Is Our Youth, The Second Coming of Joan of Arc, Luc in Turin (World Premiere), Love Triangle: An Evening of Music, Improv and Brass, Edge (National Youth, The Lipstick Mustache (World Premiere), Closet and Spring Is On: A Broadway Cabaret. As an art presenters, METHOD MACHINE has curated POST Poster Sept 11, Clarke Conde’s Big ID Photos, Mary Perpinto’s A Tibetan Pilgrimage, BUSHWACKED! & Famous Faces 2001 & 2006.

Mel Brooks, creator of The Producers, has often said that he had made it his life-long goal to reduce Adolf Hitler to a joke. In a 2006 interview for Germany’s Der Spiegel, he said, “It is impossible to take revenge for six million murdered jews. But by using the medium of comedy, we rob Hitler of his posthumous power.”

With that thought in mind, JCC CenterStage proudly presents The outrageous musical satire Mel Brooks’ The Producers, May 7-22, in the Jewish Community Center’s Harr Theater, 1200 Edgewood Ave. It’s a splashy send-up to the biggest musical in the theatre’s 36 year history.

“We had to think carefully about the choice,” says Artistic Director Ralph Meranto. “At first glance, it’s perfect for the JCC, but a chorus of dancing Nazis singing Springtime for Hitler is bound to raise a few eyebrows even with best intentions.”

Indeed, a dress rehearsal had to be rescheduled to ensure that it was not happening at the same time at a Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) event happening in an adjacent room. The musical is also the most lavish and expensive production in JCC CenterStage history, pushing the limits of technical staff, volunteers and budgets to the brink.

Based on the 1968 movie of the same name, The Producers is the comedic story of down-on-his-luck Broadway producer Max Bialystock, who enlists anti-Semitic accountant Leo Bloom in a scheme to get rich by producing a sure-fire flop. Max and Leo look for the worst musical ever written and find it in a B-movie thriller piece called Springtime for Hitler.

Brooks actually wanted to name the original movie Springtime for Hitler but the studio blocked the title. Like the “Springtime” musical within the musical, initial reactions to the film were often misinterpreted and it received mixed reviews.

Now, it is considered a cinematic masterpiece, even ranking #12 on AFI’s list of the top 100 Funniest Movies. The Broadway musical adaptation in 2001 won a record 12 Tony Awards and ran for over six years, spanning productions around the world as well as 56 cities.

Playing the lead role of Broadway producer Max Bialystock is Steven Manosco, who recently played another iconic Jewish character, “Tony,” for the JCC CenterStage production of Fiddler on the Roof. Also featured in the show is Ed Livny, also drag queen Kasha Davis, in the iconic role of Hambro “Springtime” director Roger De Brim. Danny Hopkins directs. A cast of 28 plays scores of characters and changes costumes more than a dozen times during the show.

Twelve back stage volunteers help with the costume and scene changes, even moving furniture and set pieces to the loading dock during the show to make enough room for the cast.

MuCCC celebrates second anniversary

The MuCCC celebrates second anniversary, the Second Anniversary Season began in April and will run through Monday, May 9, Sunday. May 1 is the date for Hotel Universe, a musical set in 1940, directed by Michael H. Arve, at 7 p.m. This is the second local production of Williams’ plays marking his Centennial Birthday year.

“How I Became Famous” will feature John Borek in a production about the intersection of his life and celebrity and the accident of fame that created his career as an international performance artist.

“The 24 Hour Play: Resident playwrights Kim Nielsen, Spencer Christiano and Michael Arve create a play in 24 hours. Dovers open 10 a.m. Friday, May 6. Play performance is Saturday, May 7 at 8 p.m.

Three Rochester photographers show work at Equal Grounds

The May 2011 Gallery @ Equal Grounds show is titled “BackBraced Exposure at Equal Grounds.” It will run May 1-May 15, with an opening reception on May 6 at 7:30 South Ave.

“Backbraced Exposure at Equal Grounds” combines the talents and friendship of three well-known local photographers, Gilbert Mekker, George Wallace and Don Menges. They are colleagues and partners at Image City Photography Gallery. The show combines their vast talent and experiences to bring to the gallery a cross selection of their lives and travels.
Gay “Real Housewife” releases first single


After four years starring on a reality TV show, Simon van Kempen takes a tongue-in-cheek look at himself. Created in collaboration with Joel Simon and JSM, the single was inspired by Simon’s real experience on the ‘Real Housewives of New York City.’ The song lampoons the experience of being a participant on the runaway hit show.

Says Simon, “Not many people know this, but I spent my childhood and early 20s studying and performing as a musician. Music has been a huge part of my life, and although I never thought of myself as a singer, I was thrilled and a little nervous when Joel Simon and JSM approached me about my real experience on the ‘Real Housewives of New York City.’ The title and lyrics are cheeky but hey, that’s the REAL me!”

The single will be available on CD Baby, iTunes, Amazon among other leading online music sites.

Everyone’s Theatre Co. produces Falsettos May 5-15

Falsettos, by William Finn and James Lapine, will open on May 5, produced by Everyone’s Theatre Co. The May 5 performance starts at 7:30 p.m., at W. Irondequoit High School Auditorium. Tickets are $24 general admission, $7 for students. In The Life Media is releasing a web video, produced with support from The Calamus Foundation, featuring the personal stories of two transgender women, Ja’briel and Michelle, and highlighting the findings of the first comprehensive transgender discrimination study completed by the National Center for Transgender Equality and the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force.

According to the Survey, over a quarter of transgender adults in the general population have experienced unemployment at twice the rate of the general population. Ja’briel shares her story from Hinesville, Ga.

Says Ja’briel, “I went to school and earned a degree, but because of discrimination I’m limited in my employment options, and so it’s been very troubling to know that this is an extra burden on me financially and in other ways.”

The National Transgender Discrimination Survey found that respondents experienced unemployment at twice the rate of the general population. Ja’briel shares her story from Hinesville, Ga.

According to the Survey, over a quarter of transgender adults in the general population have experienced unemployment at twice the rate of the general population. Ja’briel shares her story from Hinesville, Ga.

Says Ja’briel, “I went to school and earned a degree, but because of discrimination I’m limited in my employment options, and so it’s been very troubling to know that this is an extra burden on me financially and in other ways.”

The show is called PRIDE Rochester. This show runs through July to help celebrate what PRIDE means to each artist.

Call for work: Pride show at Equal-Grounds

The Gallery @ Equal-Grounds announces a Call for Work for the second Annual Pride Rochester Show. This show runs through July to help celebrate what PRIDE means to each artist.

The entry forms will be available at Equal-Grounds, on The Gallery @ Equal-Grounds Facebook Page, or a copy can be emailed, if you send your request to gallery@equalgrounds.com.

In the Life video features two transgender women

In The Life Media is releasing a web video, produced with support from The Calamus Foundation, featuring the personal stories of two transgender women, Ja’briel and Michelle, and highlighting the findings of the first comprehensive transgender discrimination study completed by the National Center for Transgender Equality and the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force.

According to the Survey, over a quarter of transgender adults in the general population have experienced unemployment at twice the rate of the general population. Ja’briel shares her story from Hinesville, Ga.

Says Ja’briel, “I went to school and earned a degree, but because of discrimination I’m limited in my employment options, and so it’s been very troubling to know that this is an extra burden on me financially and in other ways.”

The show is called PRIDE Rochester. This show runs through July to help celebrate what PRIDE means to each artist.
Video campaign urges HIV testing on June 27

The Positive Project encourages AIDS Services Organizations to utilize their innovative video database in their campaigns to urge Americans to get tested for HIV as part of the National HIV Testing Day on June 27.

The National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA) founded the day in 1993 and continues to lead its implementation each year. Non-profits and Public Health Entities around the United States that are seeking ways to attract more people to testing programs during that day may benefit from using videos in their campaign to de-stigmatize getting tested for HIV.

In a statement made by President Obama during last year's National Testing Day, he said, "One in five Americans who are currently living with HIV – more than 230,000 people -- do not know their status. The majority of HIV infections are spread by those who are unaware that they have the disease. And research shows that people who know their status take better care of themselves and take steps to reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others. That is why it is so important that people get tested."

"Established in 2000, The Positive Project is the largest searchable video archive in the world of people living with HIV. Our goal is to provide a mechanism by which people infected/affected by HIV/AIDS can share their experiences with those who can benefit from hearing them, to use their stories for the greater good. We know that people relate to people and stories are powerful tools. We aim to ensure that this disease does not lose its human face. Through The Positive Project, we are positioned to ask, listen, and unlike what we hear to raise awareness, reduce stigma, promote prevention, encourage testing, and enhance care and quality of life," said Tony Miles, co-founder and Executive Director of the non-profit organization. "It is our wish that all organizations take advantage of our extensive archive of videos from people infected and affected with HIV as their educational, prevention and access to care activities," added Miles. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that all Americans between the ages of 13-64 get tested for HIV as part of their routine medical care. Knowing their HIV status helps them take control of their health, protect their loved ones, and get connected to treatment, if needed. Close to 50,000 people get infected with HIV every year in the United States, and half of them are below 24 years of age.

After viewing clips from The Positive Project, Michelle (St Louis, Missouri), posted this comment, "Your clips are very encouraging. Up until now I have been very afraid to be tested, after having several partners in the past ten years. I believe I have now found the courage."

For more information, visit www.thepositiveproject.org, email, contact@ThePositiveProject.org, or call Tony Miles or Dawn Sherer, 303-733-0945.

Gayla XXXIII retreat is July 16-23 in Maine

Gayla is an annual retreat for adult gay men, single or partnered, and for adult bisexual or questioning men. It was established 32 years ago at Ferry Beach in Saco, Maine, as one of the earliest communities of gay brotherhood in the United States. (For details, visit gaylahearth.org)

Gayla offers the opportunity to customize an affordable, community-building week that meets individual needs, in a safe, nurturing space for self expression, sharing, and relaxation. This year’s theme will be "Telling Our Stories."

During the week of July 16-23, more than 100 diverse gay and bisexual men will celebrate the spirit of 33 years of brotherhood. More information at http://GAYLAhearth.org.

MCC drag show to benefit GAGV on May 12

Monroe Community College’s Pride Alliance is having a fundraising event on behalf of the GAGV on May 12. The event will be in Monroe A&B at MCC. Park in lot M. MCC students, faculty, and staff admission is $1, all others $3. The event is produced by both Pride Alliances of MCC. Professional performers are Aneal Pleasures and Deelicious, and hosting are DeDe Dubois and Samantha V, and also student host Lady K.

The show is a student competition as well. Student contestants will perform and the audience can tip them with "Pride Dollars" which Pride Alliance will be selling all week and at the event. The top three win prizes. There will also be a raffle for two prize baskets. Advance tickets are available at monroecctickets.com. All proceeds go to the GAGV.

Doors open at 7:30 p.m., and the show starts at 8, running until 9:30.

Author Tripp Evans to speak at MAG May 26, sign copies of new book

Author and professor Tripp Evans will appear at the Memorial Art Gallery, 500 University Ave, on May 26. The lecture begins at 7 p.m. and will be followed by a book signing.

Tripp Evans will receive the 2010 Marfield Price/National Award for Arts Writing for his latest book, Grant Wood: A Life.

The same book was also named a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award. Scott Pearing of the Gay Alliance will also take part in the evening’s program.

Spectrum Internal Medicine

Webster Welcomes Dr. Goltz

Spectrum Internal Medicine 1130 Crosspointe Lane, Suite 8 Webster, New York 14580 Phone: (585) 787-4407 Fax: (585) 787-4428

Dr. Hayden Goltz

Kavod Ha’briot

Respect for Human Dignity

Temple Beth David

A Conservative, Egalitarian, Haimish Synagogue.

High holiday tickets available.

3200 St. Paul Blvd. 585/266-3223 http://templebethdavid.uschohost.net
JetBlueing to Fort Lauderdale for gay fun
By Merle Exit

Getting away from the snow of NYC, I “JetBlue’d” to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where I stayed at the Riverside Hotel. The front of the hotel faced the river and the back was on E. Las Olas Blvd., the place to be.

That evening, I met up with my friend Linda to eat “Tex Mex” at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts.

I decided not to rent a car in order to experience the various local means of transportation, starting with a pedicab. Bogan Graham owns a company called Ocean View Rickshaw where the transportation is what’s known as a pedicab, with the seating pulled by someone pedaling a bicycle.

One of the areas that we explored was Wilton Manor, known as the gayborhood. This area is along the beach. Having rubber chickens Esther and Eunice along with me, they were more interested in the hangouts of lesbians rather than the gay guys. Here is the info given to me.

Beach Betty’s - 625 E. Dania Beach Blvd., Dania Beach. 954-921-9893. Tiki hut walls, palm trees, deep ocean blue ceiling, frozen drinks and Jimmy Buffet on the jukebox – this is a classic beach bar. Sit back and relax on the patio with a pina colada, shoot a little pool with your friends or challenge one of the regulars to a game of darts.

Cloud Nine Lounge - 7126 Stirling Rd. Davie. 954-499-3525. Lesbian-friendly nightclub with nightly drink specials such as 2-4-1 every day, Wednesday Night, Saturday Free Drinks 11 p.m.-1 a.m., and Sunday Karaoke 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

New Moon Bar - 2440 Wilton Dr., Wilton Manors. 954-563-7600. Whether it’s Martini Monday, Karaoke Thursday, or Sunday Fun Day, this lesbian-friendly bar is always letting loose. Sit at the world bar, enjoy the pool table and dancing. Or lounge at the outside bar and enjoy the fresh air. Either way, a good time starts here.

Sea Monster - 2 S. New River Dr., Fort Lauderdale, 954-767-2600. High energy gay nightclub playing popular house and dance music. Friday Nicole Linn is popular offering free drinks 9 p.m.-11 p.m. Flint Saturdays are lesbian-friendly with no cover and half-priced drinks 10 p.m.-12 a.m. Sunday T-Dance offers half-price drink specials 4-8 p.m.

Sidelines Sports Bar - 2031 Wilton Drive, Wilton Manors. 954-563-8001. Sidelines Sports Bar with its 16 flat-screen TVs, three pool tables, three dartboards, football table, and other video games, continues to provide a fun, friendly and comfortable environment for gay men and women who enjoy all kinds of sports. For the third year in a row since its opening, they were voted the winner in two categories of South Florida Blade’s “2008 Best of Gay South Florida” annual readership poll. The popular gay sports bar in Wilton Manors, Florida was named “Best Casual Bar” and “Best Place to Go Out by Yourself” in the local gay newspaper’s online survey.

On the last day, I met my cousins Molla and Dorothy with her daughter Jennifer. We had lunch at the Pelican Room. After so many years, it was a hoot seeing them after so many years. Well, back to NYC. Check out www.sunny.org.
By Eric Beallman

I'm walking down the street with not a care in the world. Until that is, a cold windy evening, the Friday after Thanksgiving. Martha cuts quite a sight.

She is always swathed in black. Always wears sunglasses, too, even when it's dark. She walks with a purpose, as though she's worried about losing her balance. I've run into her by chance and decide to escort her home to 70th Street.

As she leads on she glowers in her deep voice, “High, I think you need a piel-a-ser in New York.” Yeah, well, sure I do. I've been staying in hotels or, lately, at Sally's watching the damn cat. I can't imagine a piece of my own.

I've known Marta in a very casual fashion for a couple of years. I met her at a Jazz club one night. The support system in New York are marvelous, meetings for every addiction known to mankind. As we engaged in conversation, I named it, you can find a place to go. Marta has been sober about as long as I have.

She turns out to be quite a bit of floors in a building and on the floor below her is a small studio apartment initially designed for wintering out of town and out of town guests. It's vacant now. If I get her son's approval, I'm in. I pass and so begins a two and half year journey in Manhattan. In Chelsea. In every very, very liberal Chelsea. Who could ask for more?

She had been married before to a man named Marty. She is one of the most talented of the two but gave up her career to raise their boys. The two sons, one married in Jersey, the other living beneath Martha. Marta was an actress. She was considered the more talented of the two and even when I leave Marta's last name, I haven't a clue to where it all started.

Marta was married to a very famous actor. Once he was a stage actor, won a Tony award, and managed to still be married to her. To continue, I was in Manhattan. In a Chelsea. In Chelsea. In the very, very liberal Chelsea. Who could ask for more?

I, in a very casual way, have known Marta in a very casual way for a couple of years. I met her at a Jazz club one night. The support system in New York are marvelous, meetings for every addiction known to mankind. As we engaged in conversation, I named it, you can find a place to go. Marta has been sober about as long as I have.

She turns out to be quite a bit of floors in a building and on the floor below her is a small studio apartment initially designed for wintering out of town and out of town guests. It's vacant now. If I get her son's approval, I'm in. I pass and so begins a two and half year journey in Manhattan. In Chelsea. In every very, very liberal Chelsea. Who could ask for more?

I, in a very casual way, have known Marta in a very casual way for a couple of years. I met her at a Jazz club one night. The support system in New York are marvelous, meetings for every addiction known to mankind. As we engaged in conversation, I named it, you can find a place to go. Marta has been sober about as long as I have.

She turns out to be quite a bit of floors in a building and on the floor below her is a small studio apartment initially designed for wintering out of town and out of town guests. It's vacant now. If I get her son's approval, I'm in. I pass and so begins a two and half year journey in Manhattan. In Chelsea. In every very, very liberal Chelsea. Who could ask for more?

I, in a very casual way, have known Marta in a very casual way for a couple of years. I met her at a Jazz club one night. The support system in New York are marvelous, meetings for every addiction known to mankind. As we engaged in conversation, I named it, you can find a place to go. Marta has been sober about as long as I have.

She turns out to be quite a bit of floors in a building and on the floor below her is a small studio apartment initially designed for wintering out of town and out of town guests. It's vacant now. If I get her son's approval, I'm in. I pass and so begins a two and half year journey in Manhattan. In Chelsea. In every very, very liberal Chelsea. Who could ask for more?

I, in a very casual way, have known Marta in a very casual way for a couple of years. I met her at a Jazz club one night. The support system in New York are marvelous, meetings for every addiction known to mankind. As we engaged in conversation, I named it, you can find a place to go. Marta has been sober about as long as I have.

She turns out to be quite a bit of floors in a building and on the floor below her is a small studio apartment initially designed for wintering out of town and out of town guests. It's vacant now. If I get her son's approval, I'm in. I pass and so begins a two and half year journey in Manhattan. In Chelsea. In every very, very liberal Chelsea. Who could ask for more?

I, in a very casual way, have known Marta in a very casual way for a couple of years. I met her at a Jazz club one night. The support system in New York are marvelous, meetings for every addiction known to mankind. As we engaged in conversation, I named it, you can find a place to go. Marta has been sober about as long as I have.

She turns out to be quite a bit of floors in a building and on the floor below her is a small studio apartment initially designed for wintering out of town and out of town guests. It's vacant now. If I get her son's approval, I'm in. I pass and so begins a two and half year journey in Manhattan. In Chelsea. In every very, very liberal Chelsea. Who could ask for more?

I, in a very casual way, have known Marta in a very casual way for a couple of years. I met her at a Jazz club one night. The support system in New York are marvelous, meetings for every addiction known to mankind. As we engaged in conversation, I named it, you can find a place to go. Marta has been sober about as long as I have.

She turns out to be quite a bit of floors in a building and on the floor below her is a small studio apartment initially designed for wintering out of town and out of town guests. It's vacant now. If I get her son's approval, I'm in. I pass and so begins a two and half year journey in Manhattan. In Chelsea. In every very, very liberal Chelsea. Who could ask for more?

I, in a very casual way, have known Marta in a very casual way for a couple of years. I met her at a Jazz club one night. The support system in New York are marvelous, meetings for every addiction known to mankind. As we engaged in conversation, I named it, you can find a place to go. Marta has been sober about as long as I have.

She turns out to be quite a bit of floors in a building and on the floor below her is a small studio apartment initially designed for wintering out of town and out of town guests. It's vacant now. If I get her son's approval, I'm in. I pass and so begins a two and half year journey in Manhattan. In Chelsea. In every very, very liberal Chelsea. Who could ask for more?

I, in a very casual way, have known Marta in a very casual way for a couple of years. I met her at a Jazz club one night. The support system in New York are marvelous, meetings for every addiction known to mankind. As we engaged in conversation, I named it, you can find a place to go. Marta has been sober about as long as I have.

She turns out to be quite a bit of floors in a building and on the floor below her is a small studio apartment initially designed for wintering out of town and out of town guests. It's vacant now. If I get her son's approval, I'm in. I pass and so begins a two and half year journey in Manhattan. In Chelsea. In every very, very liberal Chelsea. Who could ask for more?

I, in a very casual way, have known Marta in a very casual way for a couple of years. I met her at a Jazz club one night. The support system in New York are marvelous, meetings for every addiction known to mankind. As we engaged in conversation, I named it, you can find a place to go. Marta has been sober about as long as I have.

She turns out to be quite a bit of floors in a building and on the floor below her is a small studio apartment initially designed for wintering out of town and out of town guests. It's vacant now. If I get her son's approval, I'm in. I pass and so begins a two and half year journey in Manhattan. In Chelsea. In every very, very liberal Chelsea. Who could ask for more?

I, in a very casual way, have known Marta in a very casual way for a couple of years. I met her at a Jazz club one night. The support system in New York are marvelous, meetings for every addiction known to mankind. As we engaged in conversation, I named it, you can find a place to go. Marta has been sober about as long as I have.

She turns out to be quite a bit of floors in a building and on the floor below her is a small studio apartment initially designed for wintering out of town and out of town guests. It's vacant now. If I get her son's approval, I'm in. I pass and so begins a two and half year journey in Manhattan. In Chelsea. In every very, very liberal Chelsea. Who could ask for more?

I, in a very casual way, have known Marta in a very casual way for a couple of years. I met her at a Jazz club one night. The support system in New York are marvelous, meetings for every addiction known to mankind. As we engaged in conversation, I named it, you can find a place to go. Marta has been sober about as long as I have.

She turns out to be quite a bit of floors in a building and on the floor below her is a small studio apartment initially designed for wintering out of town and out of town guests. It's vacant now. If I get her son's approval, I'm in. I pass and so begins a two and half year journey in Manhattan. In Chelsea. In every very, very liberal Chelsea. Who could ask for more?

I, in a very casual way, have known Marta in a very casual way for a couple of years. I met her at a Jazz club one night. The support system in New York are marvelous, meetings for every addiction known to mankind. As we engaged in conversation, I named it, you can find a place to go. Marta has been sober about as long as I have.

She turns out to be quite a bit of floors in a building and on the floor below her is a small studio apartment initially designed for wintering out of town and out of town guests. It's vacant now. If I get her son's approval, I'm in. I pass and so begins a two and half year journey in Manhattan. In Chelsea. In every very, very liberal Chelsea. Who could ask for more?

I, in a very casual way, have known Marta in a very casual way for a couple of years. I met her at a Jazz club one night. The support system in New York are marvelous, meetings for every addiction known to mankind. As we engaged in conversation, I named it, you can find a place to go. Marta has been sober about as long as I have.

She turns out to be quite a bit of floors in a building and on the floor below her is a small studio apartment initially designed for wintering out of town and out of town guests. It's vacant now. If I get her son's approval, I'm in. I pass and so begins a two and half year journey in Manhattan. In Chelsea. In every very, very liberal Chelsea. Who could ask for more?

I, in a very casual way, have known Marta in a very casual way for a couple of years. I met her at a Jazz club one night. The support system in New York are marvelous, meetings for every addiction known to mankind. As we engaged in conversation, I named it, you can find a place to go. Marta has been sober about as long as I have.

She turns out to be quite a bit of floors in a building and on the floor below her is a small studio apartment initially designed for wintering out of town and out of town guests. It's vacant now. If I get her son's approval, I'm in. I pass and so begins a two and half year journey in Manhattan. In Chelsea. In every very, very liberal Chelsea. Who could ask for more?
emphatically states that both the FBI and essential representation of black manhood presented the negation of them. The world has come to know through Alex businessman. Malcolm X’s assassination, as with King’s, reader in shock and awe. Malcolm X’s assassination plot, an through the Freedom of Information Act, many will miss the opportunity to purge of homophobic attitudes. This was his meaning to his people.

As a pop-culture hero to young black sex dalliances date back to childhood, according to Perry, Malcolm’s same-sex dalliances date back to childhood, when he spoke being masturbated or fellated. When he hit 20, Perry informs us, Malcolm had a suspended sexual relationship, with a transvestite named Willie Mac, and also he had sex with gay man for money, boating he serviced “queers.” I am not a heterosexist apologist, but if we, as LGBTQ, use this era of Malcolm’s life to dismiss our, as LGBTQ, use this era of Malcolm’s life to dismiss ourselves of homophobic attitudes.

When Malcolm came to Boston to live with his older half-sister, Roxbury’s Ella Lark behind bars, he was, having ideas for a new book and out of school at 15. With no job skills and looking for the most misdirected route to acquire money, Malcolm peddled cocaine, broke into homes of Boston’s well-to- die, gambled big in illegal games, and unabashedly serviced gay men for pay.

While it can be argued that Malcolm’s same-sex encounters were not solely financially motivated, let us also not dismiss that the only evidence we do have is the context in which he was...

Conundrums

SORRY, KOBE, APOLOGY NOT ACCEPTED

By Brian Overmyer

When referee Bonic Adams issued Kobe Bryant a technical foul in a NBA game against the San Antonio Spurs, TNT camer­eaxt caught Bryant yelling a derogatory homophobic slur at Adams. The Los Angeles Lakers star called the ref a “fucking faggot” and slammed his towel to the floor, I was watching at the time, was outraged.

According to Perry, Malcolm’s same­sex dalliances date back to childhood, when he spoke being masturbated or fellated. When he hit 20, Perry informs us, Malcolm had a suspended sexual relationship, with a transvestite named Willie Mac, and also he had sex with gay man for money, boating he serviced “queers.” I am not a heterosexist apologist, but if we, as LGBTQ, use this era of Malcolm’s life to dismiss ourselves of homophobic attitudes.

As a pop-culture hero to young black males of this generation and as the quint­essential representation of black manhood of both America’s Black Civil Rights and Black Power era, a gay Malcolm X will be... And we will know him then for what he was and is. A prince. Our own black shaming prince; who didn’t hesitate to die for us.

Everyone associated with the NBA should know that insensitive or deroga­tory comments by the players have no place in professional sports. But should know that insensitive or derogatory comments by the players have no place in professional sports. But some to discriminate.” Sorry, Mr. Bryant, I’m not buying your act one bit. You, Mr. Bryant, have once again put yourself smack dab in a controversial light that gives every breathing human being a better illumination of your true nature and character. You have proven time and time again you are a egotistical, shallow, hate-filled man. You had your chance to make amends, and you blew it. In the final analysis, you cannot make such theatrical homophobic comments and a day later distance yourself from it by saying you “think it may be hurtful and could be used by some to discriminate.” No shit, Sherlock. I don’t believe your sin­cerity for one second and neither should the rest of the world.

Gay and Transgender Issues in the Workplace

By Brian McTighe

You’re assigned to train the troops (players) in the NBA about the new policy on openly gay service. Imagine that you’ve budded behind a rock with three soldiers who have been pulled from their posts to listen to you. You have 30 seconds. Start talking.

You’re boarding an elevator and a colle­ague makes a derogatory joke about a gay person. You’re a well-known Human Resources employee. Two senior managers look at you waiting for your reply. You have just eight floors to address the issue. What is your “elevator speech?” You’re sitting at a table with a straight
ally, representing your company at a gay workplace conference. A gay person comes to your exhibition booth, picks up your company’s give-away rainbow wrist band, and makes a level comment about how he might use it. He then asks the straight man if he’s gay, and when he learns that he’s not, he says, “Oh, what a waste. How do you respond before he walks away?”

All three of these situations, the last one related to me on Facebook as having recently happened, require a response. Not to say anything is a gross violation of your role as an employee, not to mention the moral imperative we all have to speak up.

The U.S. Army has begun gay sensitivity training and plans to have over one million people educated by the end of the summer. They will begin with chaplains, lawyers, and investigators. Next, they will train commanders in the field, and then 2.2 million active and reserve troops. Army Command Sergeant Major Marvin Hill has said the training is forthcoming in the battlefield.

So, start talking. You have thirty seconds. With that time limit, I’d say: “Listen up. This is a direct order from your commanding officer. Gay people are allowed to serve openly. If you harass them in any way, with jokes, religious bullying, or graffiti, you’ll be involuntarily separated. If you see it, report it.”

That was just 15 seconds. I’d then allow for questions.

What people need to know at the most basic level is: What is the rule? Where does it come from? What is expected of me? What are the consequences? Thirty-second talks don’t increase sensitivity. They change behaviors. That’s the first goal: to speak up. You can do it in thirty seconds. I’d then allow for questions.

Many people remain silent in the midst of inappropriate speech or behavior because they insist that they don’t want to embarrass the person or make things worse. I think they usually are silent because they are so afraid of not being liked. There aren’t a lot of people like that in my circle of friends. They are not to be a lot of people like that in the foxhole, elevator, or conference center. It’s not like it takes a lot of your time to speak up. You can do it in 30 seconds or less.

www.brian-mcnaught.com

Collector’s delight

These Schonbek lamps display authentic, semi-precious rock crystal and smoky quartz ornaments – rare gemstones unique in the universe. From foot to finial, Schonbek lamps are original designs, worthy of a discerning collector.

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

VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Andy Fleming, DVM
1311 Marsh Road
Pittsford, NY 14534
(585) 248-9590

271-4040

Joe Russo, Psy.D., CGP
Licensed Psychologist
Certified Group Psychotherapist
20 Canterbury Road, Suite 308
Rochester, New York 14607
Phone: (585) 506-6096
E-mail: drjoerusso@gmail.com

• Addiction
• Depression
• Anxiety
• Trauma/PTSD
• Grief/Loss
• Relationships

Weekly, Bi/Gay

Men’s Therapy Group
8 B THE EMPTY CLOSET • THE GAY ALLIANCE OF THE GENESEE VALLEY • NUMBER 445 • MAY 2011

THE BACHELOR FORUM
ROCHESTER’S OLDEST, NEWEST GAY BAR

ROCHESTER’S BIGGEST, GAYEST HAPPY HOUR
3 FOR 2 HAPPY HOUR 7 DAYS A WEEK

FOR EVENT INFORMATION CHECK OUT: WWW.BACHELOR4M.COM

670 UNIVERSITY AVENUE • ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14607 • 585-271-6938

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

Russow Consulting
TARA RUSSOW, Ph.D.
CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST
120 Allens Creek Road
Rochester, NY 14618
(585) 442-4447
www.RussowConsulting.com

Feldman Heating & Cooling
(585) 288-2050
QUALITY INSTALLATION & SERVICE
FURNACE CLEAN & CHECK
$10 OFF ANY CLEAN & CHECK
With this coupon, one per customer,
Feldman Heating & Cooling • 288-2050

TRANE
It’s Hard To Stop A Trane
FURNACE CLEAN & CHECK
$10 OFF ANY CLEAN & CHECK
With this coupon, one per customer,
Feldman Heating & Cooling • 288-2050

Feldman Heating & Cooling
• HUMIDIFIERS • AIR CLEANERS • WATER HEATERS • FURNACES • AIR CONDITIONERS • BOILERS • STEAM • DUCT CLEANING • FIREPLACES

24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE
1776 E. MAIN ST. ROCHESTER
288-2050
www.feldmanhtg.com
MAY 2011 • NUMBER 445 • GAY ALLIANCE OF THE GENESEE VALLEY • THE EMPTY CLOSET

Friday May 20th 8pm
Saturday May 21st 8pm
Sunday May 22nd 8pm

Something Cloudy, Something Clear
By Tennessee Williams
Directed by David Henderson

$15 Adult, $10 Sr/St
www.methodmachine.org
(585) 319-7427

Pleasant Street Apothecary has just what you’re looking for...
Friendly, Personalized Service from the Experts!
Locally-owned and operated
24-Hour phone or online prescription ordering
Confidential delivery service and free parking
LGBT Friendly
Most insurances accepted

HUTHER-DOYLE
HELPING YOU PUT THE PIECES BACK TOGETHER

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

259 Monroe Avenue in Rochester
585-241-9000 or 800-923-9394
Fax: 585-454-2017
pleasantstreetrx.com
They say hair loss doesn’t matter...
What do you think?

23 years of restoring confidence

NEW-U
Hair Replacement Specialists
1425 Jefferson Road, 2nd floor, Saginaw Plaza
Rochester, New York 14623
585-272-7320 • www.baldness.com

Men’s and Women’s Hair Replacement • Surgical Hair Restoration
Laser Hair Therapy • Preventative Hair Loss Products


Paws to Reflect
Judith A Cartisano
Cat Care in Your Home
Rochester, NY 14620
585-355-4815
jcartisano@rochester.rr.com

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

THE MULE HAS GONE DIGITAL

CORN HILL
FINE WINES & SPIRITS at Corn Hill Landing
at Corn Hill Landing

A Broad Selection from AROUND THE WORLD
260 Exchange Boulevard
Rochester • 232-5530
www.cornhillfinewinesandspirits.com
Mon-Sat 10am-9pm, Sunday 12pm-5pm
Just three blocks from downtown!

JOIN US FOR OUR FREE WINE TASTINGS

PFLAG
meets the 3rd Sunday of each month.
Meetings are at
Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church
740 Marshall Road
Rochester, NY 14624
from 1 to 3 pm

Questions? Call: 585-244-8640 and leave a message, or e-mail: pflag@gayalliance.org and we will get back to you.
Chris Del Conte
Licensed Realtor
Interior Designer
Home Staging Professional
585.750.0876
CDeiConte@CDeiConte.com
www.CDeiConte.com

THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A community of faith where LGBT persons are welcomed as full partners in ministry

SUNDAY WORSHIP
8:30am Third Church chapel
East Avenue at Arnold Park
10:45am Third Church sanctuary
East Avenue at Meigs Street

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

Senate Marriage Vote:
Letters needed NOW!

“Dear Senator
Please support Marriage Equality because...”

Form letters are available or write your own. Drop in the Marriage Mail Box at Equal Grounds Coffee Shop, 750 South Avenue 14620.

Residential New and Old Work Specialists
Serving the Rochester Community for over 20 years
Ellenwood Electric
“We Do It Without Shorts”

- Licensed
- Fully Insured
- Free Quotes

Office: 654-8642
Fax: 224-8228
MLNWood@aol.com

caroline atti, lmhc
experienced therapist with adults, children and couples
95 aliens creek road bldg one suits 311 rochester ny 14618

tel 585 451 9607
fax 585 241 3094
Support Ride for Pride Bikers

Please Support a Ride for Pride Bikers! Ride For Pride came to life one night while two friends were hanging out and grunting about wanting to get in shape and make their efforts count for something. A bike ride 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. The second annual Ride For Pride bike ride fundraiser will take place this year on Saturday, June 18. Forty riders will bike 100 kilometers (approximately 63 miles) and bring in a minimum of $100 in donations. All of the money donated goes to the Gay Alliance (minus a teeny-weeny percentage that goes towards use of the Fundraising site). This year there are four Gay Alliance staff members riding! Check out our site and see who is pedaling! http://www.gayalliance.org/ride-for-pride.html. Donating is easy! Just click on the name of the rider you would like to support and you will go directly to their fundraising page. Click the “Donate” button and follow the instructions. You can also send a check made out to the Gay Alliance with the rider’s name on it to: Gay Alliance, Ride For Pride, 875 East Main St., Suite 500, Rochester, NY 14607. Your support at any level is appreciated by so many. Thank you! For questions about Ride For Pride 2011, please contact Jeanne Gainsburg at jeanneg@gayalliance.org or 585-244-8640 ext. 14.

Queer Career Tour:
At right: Jess Cohen gets into a playful mood at Strong Museum. Far right: Youth group members visited the Strong Museum of Play as part of the ongoing Queer Career Tours on March 4.

Many Things

The Empty Closet • The Youth Program • Rochester Pride Education Program & Speakers Bureau
Community Safety Program & Anti-Violence Project InQvacy • CampusOUT • Library and Archives
Gay Alliance Resource Directory
Shoulders to Stand On • Rainbow SAGE • SafeZone

The Gay Alliance plays a central role in advocating for the fair and equal treatment of all people, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. www.GayAlliance.org

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@gaygvs.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 585-244-8640, ext. 14.
Program Notes

NYS Fair
Volunteers and donations are needed to help ensure the continued presence of the LGBT booth at the New York State Fair. This year the NYS Fair runs Aug. 25 to Sept. 5 and will feature a number of special information days at the LGBT Booth including Senior Day (8-39), Ally Day(8-30), Youth Day(9-2), Transgender Day(9-3). Also in the planning are Family Day, Faith Day and Marriage Equality Day. Further, the organizers are promoting Aug. 26 at LGBT Day at the NYS Fair and are encouraging community members to attend the Fair that day wearing rainbows, or other LGBT identified shirts.

While the booth has always been staffed by volunteers, the organizers are reaching out more widely for financial help this year because fees to have the booth have increased dramatically. If you want to help with time or money, please contact FaiNFNY@wcny.com or leave a message at (315) 456-9872.

FYI: IDAH
Not the State, but the day. Thanks to some friends in Canada, since 2002 May 17 has been known as International Day Against Homophobia, which, like, are good day, comes with its own website: http://www.homophobiaaday.org/

One of their suggestions for action is to report homophobic behaviors when they occur. (The Gay Community Safety Program is ready to take your report.) Another suggestion is to download and hang your catchy free posters. These are available in 17 different languages — so you can hang one in your high school’s French or Chinese Language classroom.

The website states, “Homophobia is an insidious phenomenon that has succeeded in taking hold in a subtle, discreet and often invisible manner. Nobody is really immune from hostile manifestations toward homosexuals.”

Take a look at their site and join the international effort against homophobia.

Beyond Hatred
After four years of working to bring conversations about love and forgiveness to people across the nation, the Fetzer Institute, originators of the Campaign For Love and Forgiveness, recognized that Compassion was a key ingredient missing from the discussion. Dictionary.com defines compassion as “deep awareness of the suffering of another coupled with the wish to relieve it.” Our Spring 2011 Love and Forgiveness event — Beyond Hatred Films Screening and Conversation, which was held on March 18 — honed in on the human capacity to find compassion for those who have committed even the most heinous of acts.

This program took advantage of the Gay Alliance’s new participation with PBS — American Documentary/POV. POV allows organizations free access to their library of documentary films, teaching guides and web resources. The POV film Beyond Hatred is about the process one French family went through after their son was killed in an anti-LGBT hate crime. While most films that document hate crimes focus on the immediate aftermath of the crime, director Oliver Meyrou chose to chronicle the emotions and healing experienced by the family more than two years after the murder. Beyond Hatred was a perfect film to spark discussion about love, forgiveness and especially compassion. Those in attendance did not find it strange or even a stretch that the family could come to a place of expressing compassion for the killers of their son.

Tripp Evans at MAG
Author and professor Tripp Evans will appear at the Memorial Art Gallery on May 26. The lecture begins at 7 p.m. and will be followed by a book signing.

Scott Pearter of the Gay Alliance will take part in the evening. Tripp Evans will receive the 2011 Marfield Prize/National Award for Arts Writing for his last book, Great Word A Life. The same book was also named a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award.

Empty Closet celebrates its 40th year with very special offer of history
The Empty Closet is one of the longest continually published LGBT newspapers in the world. In its first year over the past 40 years you can find a movement defining itself.

From the very earliest days of the “Gay Liberation Movement” that started in the late 1960s, through the expanding awareness and social changes of the ’70s, the impact of the arrival of HIV and AIDS in the 1980s, and the expansion of efforts towards full legal inclusion of the past two decades -- it is all chronicled here.

The first issue of the paper was printed in January 1971, by a group of dedicated student activists on the campus of the University of Rochester. Working with a small portable typewriter and mimeograph machine, the first editors set out to represent and build a community.

Now, for the first time, every edition of this important document has been digitized (PDF files) and is available in one easy to search USB Flash Drive. Invaluable to researchers of LGBT history, and of interest to everyone, the pages of The Empty Closet document the LGBT movement here in Rochester, across New York State, around the nation and the world.

EC 40th Anniversary Items
USB FLASH DRIVE: For a limited time individuals can purchase a USB Flash Drive (works on any PC or Mac with a USB port) for individual use. Each flash drive contains an electronic version of every issue of The Empty Closet January 2001-January 2011 in PDF format. $40 (+$2.50 S&H).

FIRST EDITION REPRINT: A limited number of the very first edition of The Empty Closet have been produced and are delivered in an archival quality storage bag. $10 (+$2.50 S&H).

SPECIAL 40th ANNIVERSARY PACKAGE: Individuals can purchase both the Flash drive AND the reprint edition for only $45 (Free S&H).

INSTITUTIONAL SALES: Schools, Libraries, Businesses and other organizations or institutions may purchase the USB Flash Drive for $50 (Free S&H).

Educational Outreach

April 2011

4/11: Safe and Inclusive Schools at Warner School U of R
4/11: SafeZone at Nazareth College
4/1/11: LGBT Youth Issues and Safe Schools at School Without Walls
4/5/11: Breaking Down Stereotypes Panel at St. John Fisher College
4/5/11: Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Panel at St. John Fisher College
4/11: Wellness Fair at Nazareth College
4/7/11: LGBT Youth Issues and Safe School at School Without Walls
4/10: LGBT Youth Issues at St. John Fisher College
4/12: LGBT Youth Issues at Soldiers’ and Young Mothers Program
4/12: SafeZone Training at SUNY Brockport
4/12: Health Fair at MCC
4/13: Wellness Fair at SUNY Brockport
4/13: Gay Alliance Services/Resources at Hobart & William Smith Colleges
4/13: LGBT Youth Issues at Mendon High School
4/14: LGBT Youth Issues and Safe Schools at School Without Walls
4/17: LGBT Youth Issues and Safe Schools at School Without Walls
4/28/11: LGBT Issues at Depaul
4/25/11: LGBT Senior Issues at Greater ROC Area Partnership for Eldery
4/25/10: Out for Justice Workshop: Marriage at Gay Alliance
4/28/11: “That’s So Gay” Workshop at Finger Lakes Community College
4/28/11: School Without Walls LGBT Youth Issues and Safe Schools
4/30/11: LGBT Issues at Depaul

The Gay Alliance 875 E. Main St. Suite 500 Rochester, NY 14605 • Hours Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm • Phone (585) 244-8640 • Fax (585) 244-8266 • Web www.gayalliance.org
Empty Closet Phone (585) 244-9030 • Empty Closet Fax (585) 244-9026 • Empty Closet Advertising (585) 244-9030 • Empty Closet E-mail emptycloset@gagv.us
Board President John Allen • Executive Director Sue Cowid • Administrative Assistant Lorri Mccord • Program Director Scott Hearing
Empty Closet Editor Susan Latham • Youth Services advocating for Equal Rights Jessica Cohen
Youth Program Coordinator Marnai Mull • Outreach Coordinator Jeannie Ganzring
Youth Group Youth Center, 1st floor • Ages 13-23 Sundays 2-4 pm, Ages 18-25 Sundays 4:30-7 pm • http://youth.gagv.us for after school schedule and special events.

The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley is a non-profit agency dedicated to cultivating a healthy, inclusive environment where lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans gender (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 safer place 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.
Groups

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

ADOPITIVE PARENT SUPPORT GROUP
The Adoptive Parent Support Group will meet on May 18, from noon until 3 p.m.

BUTCH FEMME CONNECTION
The Rochester Butch-Femme Connection will have two dinner events in May 2011.

DIGNITY INTEGRITY
D-1 Rochester continues to meet weekly at St. Luke’s and St. Simon’s Church.

JUST US GUYS
Our group was privileged to have Evelyn Bailey of Shoulders To Stand On as our guest presenter this past month.

RAINBOW SAGE
It is spring weather. I know I am very anxious to get my patio set up and soon jump in the pool. Be sure to join us in May for all our special events.
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: RochesterGLBTQ-Bikers. You can also call Bob at 467-6456, or e-mail bmanderson@frontiernet.net. Let's ride with pride!

ROCHESTER TRANSGENDER ORGANIZATION

By Misty LaCroix

I hope that by the time you have picked up this month's issue of The Empty Closet, the snow and cold have cooled.

The Rochester Transgender Organization directed by myself, is no longer meeting twice a month at either of our previous locations, until further notice.

I took the leadership position for the old Rochester Transgender Group because it seemed for many months that the continual gist of the meetings was the "woe is us" mentality, with no desire by anyone involved to make changes within the group.

So being the got it done type person I used to be, the group's status caused me to come out of retirement and take the helm of the RTG.

As executive director, my first action was to change the focus and vision of the group. I produced a mission statement and re-named the group the Rochester Transgender Organization. I also had someone start a website bearing the name rochestertransgenderorganization.org as it was my vision that we'd become just that -- an organization that would be a leader in the areas of information for the trans community, with personal support for transgender persons and their loved ones, and education on trans issues for the trans person, the medical community and the mental health community, and for our allies.

But more important was the fight for equality, the fight against discrimination, the right to free speech through publications, and finally the fight for the right of trans folk to be able to be happy with themselves and comfortable in their own skin -- which ironically is the same unwritten right given to the societal majority.

During my first year as executive director, we hosted many events at our meetings in an effort to bring about the visions contained in the RTO's mission statement. We've had guest speakers from the medical community, the mental health community, the GAGV Anti-Violence Project, the Victory Alliance, and the Empire State Pride Agenda. We've also had some wine and dive events, a picnic, a luncheon, video presentations about trans issues, and many new guests.

In addition, the RTO's website has enjoyed several hundred hits each month since it was launched in June 2010, and the RTO rode in style in a classic Lincoln in the 2010 Pride Parade.

At the beginning of my last year I let people know that I would resign at the end of the year if I could not make positive things happen for this organization, but I never foresaw the magnitude of the homily and recourse against the RTO from the LGB community and surprisingly even from the trans community.

I have completed my first effective year with great success at the helm of the RTO's mission. It was a lot of work to line up all the speakers, events, guests and presentations, but this is the work of a leader. Looking back at the past year, it is pleasing to see all the successes, but the adversarial nature within that year brings me to my final managerial decision, and that is my immediate resignation.

It is my hope that the seeds I have planted will help others to flourish. Thank you to all who helped me achieve my mission.

ROCHESTER WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CHURCH

The Rochester Women's Community Church will be presenting its spring concert, "We Believe," on Saturday, June 4.

The theme of the concert is roughly based on the award winning radio series, "This I Believe" and is a musical expression of the collective ideals of the RWCC membership.

"Children are our future" is represented by "On Children" by Sweet Honey in the Rock. Our hopes for an end to the wars and unrest in the Middle East are expressed in "Iraq Peace Song." The belief that "women can do everything!" is humorously stated in "Power Tools Are a Girl's Best Friend."

The other songs in our current repertoire tell of such beliefs as the power of friendship and acknowledging and embracing all cultures of the world. We also step to the lighter side with our version of "Supportums," which was made famous by Snoopy in You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown.

In February, RWCC performed at a portion of a PRISM concert at the Kodak Hall at the Eastman Theater. This show, which was produced by the Greater Rochester Choral Consortium, included performances by over a dozen area vocal organizations. (i.e. Rochester, Barton Society, Madrigals, Women of Note, etc.)

Some in the standing room only audience were moved to tears during our singing of "Emily Remembers," a beautiful composition about a woman living with Alzheimer's disease.

Please join us in June for "We Believe" at the Hochstein School of Music. Ticket and concert information are available by going to our website, www.therwcc.org or by leaving a message on our hotline, (365) 234-4441.
Martha M. Howden, CSW, CASAC

Anxiety • Depression
Alcohol • Stress • Grief
Relationship • Family Plan
Rectification Work
Holotropic Breathwork
• Specializing in work with individuals and families in the Coming Out process

Martha M. Howden, CSW, CASAC
945 E. Henrietta Road, Suite A6
Rochester, New York 14623
Phone: 585-272-1760
Fax: 585-272-8986
Most Insurances Accepted

Pet Adoption Network
Center for Rescued Pets

Come visit our many rescued pets in need of loving homes!
4261 Culver Rd
Sat & Sun
12-4 pm
Bring a copy of this ad & receive a FREE kitty playhouse - while supplies last!
PetAdoptionNetwork.org
585-338-9175

Rick Locey, LMSW
Psychotherapist

Relationship Concerns
Life Transitions
Stress Reduction
Quality of Life
Trauma
Sexuality
Weight Loss
Binge Eating

16 N. Goodman St.
Suite 300
Rochester, NY 14607
(585)729-8893
www.ricklocey.com

OUTlandish Videos, Gifts & Leather
Western New York’s Premiere Gay & Lesbian Video & Gift Store
274 North Goodman St.
Rochester, NY 14607
www.OUTlandish.com
(585) 760-8383

AIDS Care Offers:
Free testing for gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, and HIV
Referrals for treatment & care
Free Safer Sex Supplies
Free Walk-In STD & HIV Testing for Gay/Bisexual men
Tuesdays 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Free Rapid HIV Testing
Daily 9 am - 5 pm
259 Monroe Ave. (Monroe Square-Back Door)
585.545.7200

AIDS CARE

NEW SUMMER GEAR NOW AVAILABLE!
FRIDAY 20

Rochester Rams Can Am WEEKend.
Through May 23, with Othawa Knights.
No applications accepted after May 6.
207-paerce@rochester.edu
or something Clodyning Something Clear,甲lined Machine production
of Tennessee Williams play May 20, May 21 at 8 p.m.; May 22, a 2 p.m.
Carth Fagan Dance fourth floor studio, 50 Chestnut
St. 630-350-7425 or available
at door or methodmachine.org.

SATURDAY 21

Pride Agenda Spring Dinner. River­
side Convention Center Reception 5:45 p.m.
program 7 p.m. Keynote-speaker:
NYS Attorney General Eric Schneider­
man. Community Service award Richard
prideagenda.org.

SUNDAY 22

Dignity Integrity Evening Prayer, folled
by Poets at 7 p.m. Luke's and St Simon's Church, 17 S.
Fitchburg. Poets Theme: 'Dogwood
Visits Us'.

TUESDAY 24

Pride 2011 planning meeting. 7:9 p.m.,
GAGV Youth Center, 875 E. Main
Street.

THURSDAY 26

Tripp Evans at Memorial Art Gallery.
'Author of Grant Wood: A Life' speaks at 7 p.m. book signing follows.

SATURDAY 27

Rainbow SAGE Breakfast Club.
East Ridge Family Restaurant, 1295
Westfall Road.

SUNDAY 29

Dignity Integrity Short Prayer Ser­
vice, followed by Picnic in the Park, at
Genesee Valley Park. 5 pm. St. Luke's
and St Simon's Church, 1900 Westfall Rd. Information
at info@lowerycitypride.com

FOR SALE

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

For more information phone
585-458-5765.
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