Buffalo teenager kills himself after years of bullying

Jamey Rodemeyer, a 14-year-old gay teen from the Buffalo area, killed himself over the weekend of Sept. 18-19, after what his parents say was years of bullying.

Three other youth suicides have taken place in area school districts in the past year, according to the Buffalo News.

Amherst Police Chief John C. Ashby said Sept. 22 that the Special Victims Unit has started a criminal investigation. Police say that three students in particular may have been involved in the bullying, which apparently started when Jamey was 13.

(Buffalo continues page 3)

New transgender group forming at Gay Alliance

By Susan Jordan

Pam Barres, Shana O'Toole and Maur Delaney are co-facilitating the Rochester Transgender Group, a new, all-inclusive, transgender social/educational group in Rochester for any gender-variant individuals and allies ages 18 and over.

The Trans Group will run in affiliation with the Gay Alliance, using Gay Alliance spaces, having Gay Alliance staff support and using Gay Alliance resources. This group has taken the place of the previously planned Rainbow SAGE Transgender Group. The new transgender group will meet on the last Saturday of the month, from 3-5 p.m. in the Gay Alliance Youth Center, first floor, 875 E. Main St. An organizational meeting took place on Sept. 10, and the first meeting of the group was Sept. 24. This month the group will meet on Oct. 29.

The format will be part educational (scheduled speakers, films, etc.) and part social, giving members a chance to connect with each other.

Pam Barres told The Empty Closet, “I have thought it’s very important that a transgender group be in existence here when people need it, particularly when they’re first coming out. When I first came out, the group I (Transgender continues page 3)
California passes gender non-discrimination; why can’t NYS?

On Aug. 30, the California state senate approved the Gender Non-Discrimination Act in a vote of 25-3. The bill extends civil rights protections to workers, students and homeowners of all genders and orientations, but specifically provides civil rights to transgender individuals, who have not been specifically included in other statewide measures.

In June 2000 the New York state senate of transgender anti-discrimination protections scored about to pass—then came the extraordinary collapse of the Albany legislature. The business of the state didn’t get done for weeks and the moment passed. Then in 2010 conservatives pushed their “disgusting” “bathroom bill” propaganda to ensure the extraordinary collapse of the legislature.

What the Gay Alliance Youth Program can do to prevent suicides

The death of Buffalo area middle school student Jamey Rodemeyer on Sept. 18 jolted many LGBTQ Rochesterians, leaving many shocked not only by the promiety, but Kearsie of another adolescent suicide conflagration like that of the highly publicized gay youth deaths just one year ago.

For some community members, it may also have triggered memories and thoughts of their own painful life experiences or non-fatal suicide attempts.

When a young person dies by his or her own hand, it also leaves many people with the thought “what could have been done to save them?”

For Jamey, we may never know what, if anything, could have changed his life.

But for local LGBTQ youth, the support and resources are plentiful. The Gay Alliance youth program provides a variety of services including drop-in hours, a teen group, a train youth group, health education, counseling, social events and leadership opportunities. Many area schools also have gay-straight alliances, clubs and viable, safe adult allies.

As tragic as Jamey’s death was, I believe that focusing on the success of LGBTQ youth should headline in newspapers instead. So many teens are not just saying “it gets better,” but they are making it better. They are attending CSA clubs in our schools, coming out and reaching for the support that will help them reach their goals.

Some have hailed Jamey as a hero and Lady Gaga has even dedicated a song to him. Super-pop good intentions, this media attention is what research says may contribute to suicidology.

Teachers, administrators, counselors and friends need to provide attention to individual youth who feel things get to the point of suicide. When I may not be a pop superstar, my inner song is dedicated to the bridge LGBTQ youth who are overcoming barriers every day.

My heart sings to them and the multitudes of adults out there singing along with me.

Thank you for your support! Together we save lives!

Looking for an easy way to support the Gay Alliance?

Are you a New York State or Federal employee? Do you know New York State or Federal employees? The New York State Federal Employees Association (FEA) and the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) began in the middle of September.

The Gay Alliance is listed in their brochure. The GPA number is 680-0048. The CFC number is 9399. Thank you for your support! Together we save lives!
tended volunteer staff and interns, our many dedicated supporters, the widespread community of allies, in elected office and elsewhere, have been a tremendous organization and I truly believe that MENEY entrusted me with the responsibility to advance our community’s agenda in New York. I look forward to supporting MENEY's work in the coming years.

Town clerk refuses to issue same sex license; lawsuit may follow

People For the American Way Foundation, a New York law firm, LLP, a global law firm, sent a letter last month to the LDNY, demanding that the town clerk fulfill her legal duty to issue marriage licenses to same sex couples. The letter is copied to several LDNY directors, including Public Relations Director, Keith Roll, LLP, who has publicly stated that he will not sign marriage licenses for same-sex couples and refused to do so for Karie Carmichael and Deidre DiBiaggio on Aug. 30. With the help of the LDNY's Town Board's permission, Ms. Belforri decided to stop issuing marriage licenses altogether due to her opposition to the Marriage Equality Act, instead delegating the responsibility to a subordinate officer. Upon appearing before Ms. Belforri for a marriage license on Aug. 30, Ms. Carmichael and Ms. DiBiaggio were told by the clerk herself that they could not obtain a license that day and instead would need to return by appointment the next day to meet with a subordinate officer who would fulfill their request. Fees with disclaimers. Ms. Belforri was an elected official who placed her personal prejudices above the law, Karie Carmichael and Deidre DiBiaggio told the town clerk herself that they could not obtain a license that day and instead would need to return by appointment the next day to meet with a subordinate officer who would fulfill their request.

Call for discrimination, an elected official who placed her personal prejudices above the law, Karie Carmichael and Deidre DiBiaggio were told by the town clerk herself that they could not obtain a license that day and instead would need to return by appointment the next day to meet with a subordinate officer who would fulfill their request.

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NewsFronts
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

Lt. Josh Seefried

DADT is gone: Air Force officer comes out, naval officer marries

"JD Smith," the up-rill-Sept. 20 anonymous co-founder of Outserve, the organization of actively serving LGBT servicemembers, came out of the closet on the day that Don't Ask Don't Tell became history.

The group’s new issue of their magazine, which has been sanctioned to military bases internationally, profiles 101 gay and lesbian service members.

Says "Smith," now Josh Seefried, in an email received by Towleroad.com:

"My name is Josh Seefried and I am a finance officer in the United States Air Force and proud of the fact gay servicemembers can now do their job with their integrity intact."

The AP added: "Although he expects only a fraction of the 65,000 gay men and lesbians estimated to be serving in the armed forces to come out, Seefried said he did not bc alone. On Tuesday, his organization’s magazine will publish an issue featuring photographs and biographies of him and 100 other gay service members. It will be available online and at Army and Air Force posts around the world."

OutServe, which has grown to 4,300 members in more than 40 chapters from Alaska to Iraq, has had an exceptionally aggressive rise since its February 2009 launch. From the start, Seefried and a tech-savvy civilian friend, "JD," worked at this mission at go-between to ease the isolation of gay service members and to educate the public about the price of requiring them to serve in silence.

You can download the latest issue of OutServe, featuring the 101 faces of courage, at the group’s website. They write, of the issue: "The following 101 photos represent the approximately 70,000 currently serving LGBT military personnel. We serve in every country, in every corner, and in every career field. We serve because we are committed to our country. We serve to protect those we love. We serve because we are dedicated to this self-evident truth—that all men are created equal."

Said Seefried, "We could not be more proud of this magazine and the opportunity it gives us to educate and inform all service members—gay and straight—about who we really are. There is so much misinformation out there about the LGBT community and as we begin a new day for the American military, OutServe Magazine will be a vehicle to tell our stories and a way of helping all of us understand and stand each other better. As of today, we can speak up for ourselves honestly, so the troops on either side of us can understand, who we are in common than you might imagine."

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

Naval officer marries partner

Navy Lt. Gary Ross married his partner of 11 years, Larry Duffey, on Aug. 28, in Las Vegas, Nevada, at the stroke of midnight on Sept. 20, just as the military’s ban on gays in the military was officially repealed. The AP reported:

Ross, 33, and Dan Szymczyk, a 43-year-old civilian, traveled from their home in Tucson, Ariz., so they could get married in Vermont, the first state to allow gays to enter into civil unions and one of six that have legalized same-sex marriage.

Ross wore his dress uniform for the double-ring ceremony that began at 11:45 p.m. Sept. 19 at Duxbury’s Mount-Meadow Lodge, a log cabin bed-and-breakfast perched on a hillside about 15 miles northwest of Montpelier. The lodge says it hosted the state’s first gay wedding in 2009.

Justice of the Peace Greg Trudon proclaimed the marriage at exactly midnight.

"This is Gary’s official coming out," Trudon said.


California Senate passes Gender Nondiscrimination

On Aug. 30, the California State Senate passed the Gender Nondiscrimination Act (AB 887) in a vote of 25-13.

The bill is authored by Assemblymember Tom Atkins (D-San Diego) and is sponsored by Equality California, Transgender Law Center and Gay-Straight Alliance Network. AB 887 will strengthen employment, housing, and other civil rights protections for all Californians, particularly those who face discrimination based on gender identity and expression.

"AB 887 protects all Californians. No matter your skin color, your age, whether you come from or whether your race, straight or transgender, we are all protected by the same rights," said Assemblymember Atkins. "We share equal protection in employment, housing, and education. This bill ensures that no one is left out."

While California anti-discrimination law already defines "gender" to include a person’s gender identity and gender expression, AB 887 explicitly ensures gender identity and expression as protected categories in a number of state codes to provide clarity to those who are victims of workplace discrimination as well as for businesses, employers and other public and private entities required to provide clarity to those who are victims of workplace discrimination.

"All hardworking people in California, including transgender people, should have the opportunity to work and provide for their families," said Roland Palencia, Executive Director for Equality California. "No one should have to fear from discrimination and the costs associated with litigation. We thank Assemblymember Atkins for authoring this important piece of legislation."

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

"California has been fortunate to have laws protecting our workers and students from discrimination for several years," said Mason Davis, Executive Director of the Transgender Law Center. "Unfortunately, those fortunate rights have been hidden, making it hard for employees to know they are protected and for employers to know their responsibilities. The Gender Nondiscrimination Act brings our rights out of the closet and brings California one step closer to achieving its potential."

More than 100 cities across America and hundreds of employers already provide clear non-discrimination protections based on gender identity and gender expression. California cities that have separate protected categories in non-discrimination ordinances include: Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Cruz, Oakland and West Hollywood.

All students deserve to be safe and free of discrimination in their schools," said Gay-Straight Alliance Network Executive Director Carolyn Laub. "The Gender Nondiscrimination Act ensures that confounding, legal wording will no longer stand as a barrier to our gender-nonconforming students and their right to a safe learning environment."

GOP representatives used taxpayer funds for trainings by anti-gay Family Research Council

The Human Rights Campaign on Sept. 13 condemned four U.S. Representatives for using taxpayer money to send staff to a political training run by the anti-LGBT Indiana Family Institute.

According to the Capitol Hill newspaper Roll Call, Indiana GOP Reps. Larry Buschon, Dan Burton, Todd Young and Todd Rokita all paid from $500 to $1000 from their Congressional office accounts directly to the Indiana Family Institute, which is a state affiliate of the Family Research Council, the anti-LGBT organization classified as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

"Typically advocacy groups provide policy advice to Congress for free, rather than charging members of Congress to pay for it with public funds," said HRC President Joe Solmonese. "Instead of cooking up more anti-LGBT federal policies, these lawmakers should be working to create opportunities for all Americans, not working to lift the lid on a political operation run by a group that spent years engaging in false and misleading anti-LGBT tactics and training anti-gay activists around the country."
HHS sets new rules for hospital visitation, decision-making rights

On Sept. 7, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced new regulations that would protect hospital patients' rights to choose those people who can visit them during a hospital stay, and to be involved in their medical decisions (CoPs). The new regulations include enforcement rules that protect hospital patients' rights to choose their own visitors during a hospital stay, and to be involved in their medical decisions.

According to the regulations, hospital patients must be allowed to choose their own visitors, and must be able to make decisions about their hospital care. The regulations also require hospitals to provide information about their patients' rights to hospital staff, and to ensure that patients understand their rights.

Young and Rokira need to explain their victory for "gay panic," says CMS for Medicare for gays who have married under the current law. The regulations also require hospitals to provide information about their patients' rights to hospital staff, and to ensure that patients understand their rights.

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"The original form of the bill would have allowed both same-sex and heterosexual couples to form civil unions. That was rejected, and the bill was amended to allow only heterosexual couples to form civil unions. The new guidance was supported by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Education. The new guidance was supported by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Education.

"The killing followed a series of threats against Teddy Partridge in February, when the boy was attacked by a group of rowdy youths. Teachers have been attacked twice before. Teachers have been attacked twice before.

"The new rules, finalized by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in November, apply to all hospitals that participate in Medicare and Medicaid. The rules are based on the recognition of the right of patients to designate the person of their choice, including a same-sex partner, to make medical decisions on their behalf should they become incapacitated.

"The rules updated the Conditions of Participation (CoPs), which are the federal standards for hospitals, and apply to all patients of those hospitals even if they are not on Medicare or Medicaid. Among other things, the CoPs require hospitals to establish procedures to ensure that patients' rights are respected, and to ensure that patients understand their rights.

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two probes precisely investigating County government to be released publicly as soon as possible. These two investigations could take up to several months to complete and probably won’t be released to the public before Election Day, according to the tanked email.

The two probes include one from the New York State Attorney General’s Office and another from New York State Comptroller’s Office. Frankel said, “We must restore the public trust and confidence in county government.” Frankel also said she would establish an Office of Integrity that has independent oversight of all government functions — which she says isn’t the case right now.

Rochester area resident Tom Printz, a long-time labor leader and political activist, said that in his opinion, voters need to take immediate notice of Frankel’s impressive credentials. He said, “There is nobody in this community who has been more steadfast in advocating for and providing basic rights to working LGBT men and women in the public and private sectors. Sandy walks the walk — and has done so in every one of our struggles for equality in health, employment and yes, Marriage Equality.”

When asked by The Empty Closet about her personal commitment to equality and the role government can play when it comes to the lives of its citizens, Frankel said her belief system developed at a very early age, growing up in the South. “As a result of my upbringing very well. It instilled in me a determination to fight for social justice. Although the Civil Rights Law of 1964 abolished discrimination on many fronts, sexual orientation still remained an unprotected class and I knew people who went through what I’m talking about.”

As Supervisor, Frankel added sexual orientation language to the Town of Brighton’s nondiscrimination employment policy years before the Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act (SONDA) became the law of New York State back in 2002. By enacting this change, the Town of Brighton became the first town government in Monroe County to provide domestic partner benefits for its employees. The Republican County administration, by contrast, has failed to block equality for LGBT workers like Pat Murtha, who sued the county and won.

Frankel also chaired the New York State Democratic Party’s Task Force on Domestic Partnership and Civil Unions over a decade ago, which recommended that SONDA and marriage equality should be platform positions for the Party. Frankel said, “When the Marriage Equality bill finally passed this year, I was overjoyed. I am very proud to be part of affecting positive change for all New Yorkers -- and especially LGBT New Yorkers who just wanted the same rights and benefits as every other co-workers.”

Frankel spoke at the marriage vigil on June 28 and the celebration rally on June 25 in Washington Square Park. According to the New York State Board of Elections, as of April 1, there are approximately 330,000 registered Democrats and 141,956 Republicans registered to vote in Monroe County. There are also 10,000 registered (or who do not belong to a specific political party.

Additionally, there are 8,183 registered Working Families Party voters, 1,137 Green Party voters and 275 others.

Dr. Spaul is the sitting Vice President of City Council, a wife and a mother, an educator, a lawyer, a consultant, a Fulbright scholar, a speaker and a writer -- but most of all, she has been out there fighting the good fight as an advocate for Rochester’s diverse and vibrant youth.

Dr. Spaul has lived a remarkable life, both personally and professionally. She served as Associate Vice President at RIT, practiced corporate and tax law at Nixon Peabody law firm, teaches for both SUNY Buffalo and RIT, and currently serves as the Executive Director at The Center for Youth.

As the Executive Director, which she describes as the most important work she has ever done, Elaine is responsible for the administration of a youth-centered organization. Founded more than 30 years ago by a group of teenagers, the legacy of those original youth and their dreams of having a place for kids to go where they would be free to express their opinions and share their dreams, continue to drive the mission and philosophy of The Center for Youth.

In an interview with The Empty Closet, Dr. Spaul says her issues platform really hasn’t changed that much since her first election win back in 2007. Her primary focus will be a continuation of what she has already built upon -- primarily being a good partner with Mayor Richards on economic development initiatives to bring good-paying, stable jobs to area residents. She knows that her vast experience and solid relationships with key stakeholders in the business community, Rochester City School District and the nonprofit world concerning youth issues will continue to spur collaboration to create better outcomes and measurable results for children.

Spaul emphasizes that she relishes the opportunity to represent the residents of the East District to make sure that the City’s development programs and services improve the quality of life for all Rochester residents. One area of great concern to the City Council incumbent is providing oversight on the City’s public safety efforts to decrease street violence and property crime.

When asked what she would like to say to the readers of The Empty Closet, Spaul said she would like everyone to recognize that the work of government is a fundamental part of our daily lives. She has been dedicated to facilitating social change to increase opportunities and equality for all.

Spaul told The Empty Closet, “My deep commitment for equality comes from a place, all of them soundly embedded in my beliefs and values. First, as a lawyer who studied civil rights, the constitution and our history of a nation founded on justice for all, I believe that until we promise equality for all people, we will never fulfill our pledge.

She added, “Secondly, my life has been blessed by an enormous number of doors having opened for me in my community, and their happiness and their access to full equality are important to me. I owe them my advocacy and strong voice in support of their destiny and their dreams.

“Finally, I have the privilege and sometimes the challenge of serving many young people whose lives have been affected by the lifestyle they are living. These young people often end up in homeless shelters, on the streets or abandoned by their own families. This tragic result of discrimination has propelled my advocacy and furthered my leadership.”

Spaul, who is seeking her second four-year term on City Council, East District, is endorsed on the Democratic, Independence and Working Families Party ballot lines. She will face Republican Richard Tyson in the general election on Tuesday, Nov. 2

Sandra Frankel, Monroe County Executive

By Ove Overmyer

Towns of Brighton Supervisor Sandra Frankel gave up her chance to seek reelection far that office and is instead running for Monroe County Executive as the endorsed Democratic candidate.

Frankel was re-elected to her tenth term as Brighton Town Supervisor in 2009. She has consistently received support from Democrats as well as scores of Republican, Independents and Working Families Party voters, who all enjoy a high standard of living in Brighton and clearly appreciate her administration’s style of open government.

Frankel is running against incumbent Republican County Executive Maggie Brooks. This is a match up that the Democratic challenger knows the win can.

In an interview with The Empty Closet, Frankel said, “I am constantly reminded by Monroe County voters that we need to remain integrity to the office of the County Executive. We also must improve the way we deliver County government services, especially when it comes to our most vulnerable citizens.”

Without hesitation, Frankel expanded on why she has received the endorsement of so many people from all walks of life. This includes the business and local labor communities, and more specifically the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA). CSEA is the union that represents valued Monroe County public employees who provide the essential services and programs that our residents depend on in their everyday lives. I really look forward to working with a large, diverse coalition of partners to build a bright future for all the residents of Monroe County."

During a press conference on May 4, Frankel began her campaign by aggressively attacking Brooks over a series of county government scandals that have happened during her time in office.

Frankel mentioned scandal after scandal, including the Robusted workers, GOP operatives who did work on the homes and properties of Executive Officials and Republican supporters on the taxpayers’ dime the Airport $15 scandal; the ESU Sports Authority $48.9 million debt and the Navegante Communications deal, plus many other actions that objecting observers have called “highly unethical, if not downright illegal.”

Frankel also discussed the need for

Elaine Spaul, Rochester City Council, East District

By Ove Overmyer

City Council member Elaine Spaul is, in no uncertain terms, one of the busiest people on the planet. A Rochester native who returned to her hometown to raise her family and support her community, Dr. Spaul is the sitting Vice President of City Council, a wife and a mother, an educator, a lawyer, a consultant, a Fulbright scholar, a speaker and a writer -- but most of all, she has been out there fighting the good fight as an advocate for Rochester’s diverse and vibrant youth.

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Richard Beebe, Monroe County Legislature 6th District

By Susan Jordan

Richard Beebe, a Democrat, has represented areas of Greece and Charlotte since 2007 and is a member of the County Legislature’s Public Safety and Environment and Public Works Committees. He is currently running for re-election and he spoke with The Empty Closet about his priorities that he says represent voters as he runs for a legisla­tor. On the day of the interview he was involved in helping with the flood-related problems in eastern Monroe County and he took time out to stop by the Gay Alli­ance office.

Empty Closet: I see you from Higner and were Fire Chief there. Has this helped you as a member of the Legis­
We're increasingly getting a lot of media attention, as compared to some other counties, because we have such a large and diverse LGBTQ population and we have been proactive in providing support and recognition for our community. Our slogan is "Monroe County is a place where everyone is welcome," and we work hard to ensure that our policies and services are inclusive and respectful of all our residents.

I believe in a citizen legislature and would like to see more people involved in our political system. You don't need to be a lawyer or career politician in order to run for office. In fact, our system was designed to include a representative of the People and their interests in the legislature. People who are not all lawyers and politicians, but laborers, teachers, business people etc. So the person representing them should be the same.

EC: Why do you want to send a message to Empty Closets, and what would that message entail?

DB: I want to send the message of Freedom and Equality to all of the people in any legislative district in the entire county. The LGBTQ community have been denied freedom and equality for far too long. I think people in NY state now have Marriage Equality!

This past winter I became involved with M-Pry and worked with some very wonderful people like Anne Tisch, Jon-Muela-Verigt, Donice Pynwery, and Courtney Mische to name a few. We gathered signatures and letters to help Jim Ales make the right decision in the votes.

Ultimately I would like to see government completely out of the marriage business. I do not believe that young adults need the government's permission (license) to be married! The first laws regulating marriage have always been a mixing of certain ethnicities. We have had a lot of problems when it comes to marriage equality.

As a County Legislator I would go even farther. Since Marriage is a religious institution, the 1st amendment states, "...make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." I think government should not be involved.

Since it is involved, and it will be almost impossible to change that fact, we need to make sure that all people are equal. Now that we have Marriage Equality in NY, we are respecting the rights of same-sex couples to engage in a religious institution with state benefits. What about the freedom and equality of those that do not believe in the religious institution! If we are going to respect the designation of spouses as receivers of certain benefits, then for equality's sake we need to respect others as well. I would like to see that county executives can designate any one person to receive the same benefits that are currently given to spouses. It is not too hard, I know. All of the details yet, but I will work to make it happen.

This would strip the social conserva­
tives of their arguments over the word "Marriage" and take it out of the realm of religious thought and into the realm of simple equality.

EC: Which issues are most important to you?

DB: I would like to do is work to ban the red light cameras and "...make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." I think government should not be involved.

Since it is involved, and it will be almost impossible to change that fact, we need to make sure that all people are equal. Now that we have Marriage Equality in NY, we are respecting the rights of same-sex couples to engage in a religious institution with state benefits. What about the freedom and equality of those that do not believe in the religious institution! If we are going to respect the designation of spouses as receivers of certain benefits, then for equality's sake we need to respect others as well. I would like to see that county executives can designate any one person to receive the same benefits that are currently given to spouses. It is not too hard, I know. All of the details yet, but I will work to make it happen.

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EC: It's important to note that county executives can designate any one person to receive the same benefits that are currently given to spouses. It is not too hard, I know. All of the details yet, but I will work to make it happen.

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tives of their arguments over the word "Marriage" and take it out of the realm of religious thought and into the realm of simple equality.
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Shoulders to Stand On

MacDonald and Saland

By Evelyn Bleade

This month's shoulders To Stand On focuses on the last two of the four Republican Senators who turned the tide on passing Marriage Equality here in New York State.

They were not the only Senators who voted for Marriage Equality. They are however the only Republican bicultural voices and those with the most to lose. Those opposed to Marriage Equality are com­mitted to defeating these men when they run for re-election. Their courage in standing and speaking out for what they believed was right needs to be acknowledged by publicly standing with them.

Sen. Roy J. McDonald was born and raised in the Lansingburgh section of Troy, N.Y. He currently resides with his family in Saratoga County. Roy gradu­ated from the Lansingburgh Public School System and received his Associate Degree from the Lansingburgh Public School in Troy, N.Y. He currently resides with his family and many other relatives who also worked as labor­ers. As a decorated veteran of the Vietnam War, Roy served as an Artillery Forward Observer with the U.S. Army's 112th District. For 23 years, Roy served in the New York State Assembly since 2002, repre­senting the 43rd Senate District in New York State. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the State University of New York at Oneonta. Both schools have honored Roy with Distinguished Alumni Awards. Roy is a banker by profession, and is proud of his career journey, which began as a laborer in the same local steel mill that employed his father and many other relatives who also worked as labor­ers.

A decorated veteran of the Vietnam War, Roy served as an Artillery Forward Observer with the U.S. Army's 112th District. He participated in numerous combat assaults on the South Vietnamese and Cambodian borders, as well as in Cambodia itself. Roy is a member of the Saratoga VFW, Saratoga American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America and the Lansingburgh Veteran Association.

Roy, a Republican politician, was elected to the 43rd Senate District in 2008. Before being elected to the Sen­ate in 2008, he had served in the New York State Assembly since 2002, repre­senting the 112th District. For 23 years, Roy was Town and County Supervisor for the Town of Wilton, New York, play­ing a major role in the extremely success­ful economic development of Wilton. As a member of the Board of Supervisors, he proposed the County Budget, which led to Saratoga County being the lowest taxed county in New York State.

During his campaign in 2010, when asked, “Do you support the legalization of same-sex marriage?” Roy McDonald answered, “Although I did not vote for same-sex marriage, I am very supportive of protecting individual rights and am in favor of civil unions, similar to the view of President Obama. I look forward to working on new approaches on this issue to come to a resolution that will be accept­able to all those involved.”

On Tuesday, June 14, 2011, Sen. Roy McDonald said he would support the legalization of gay marriage should it come to the floor that week, bringing passage of the bill to within a single vote. “I think I’m doing the right thing, it’s the appropriate thing, and if the public respects that, I’m grateful,” Mr. McDon­ald said as reporters pressed him in the Capitol for his position. “If they don’t, then I move on.”

Mr. McDonald’s announcement fol­lowed a declaration by a Republican col­league, James S. Alesi of Monroe County, that he would also support the bill. Three Senate Democrats who had voted against the measure two years ago also said they would vote for it this year.

On Tuesday afternoon, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo introduced his bill to both houses of the Legislative Assembly, which would allow same-sex couples from New York to marry. On June 15, 2011, McDonald spoke to reporters. “You might not like that. You don’t have to like it, but I don’t care what you think.”

“I think I’m doing the right thing, it’s the appropriate thing, and if the public respects that, I’m grateful,” Roy said. “You get to the point where you evolve in your life where everything isn’t black and white, and good and bad, and you try to do the right thing.” McDonald, 64, told reporters. “You might not like that, but I might be very cynical about that. Well, fuck it. I don’t care what you think. I’m trying to do the right thing. I’m tired of Republican-Democratic politics. They can take the job and show it. I come from a blue-collar background. I’m trying to do the right thing, and that’s where I’m going with this.”

On that same day, June 16, 2011 Sen­ator Andrew J. Lanza of Staten Island, along with Senators Kemp Hancock of Long Island and Stephen M. Saland of Poughkeepsie, met with the governor. Lanza said, “The concern that I have expressed, and others have expressed, is that we don’t want to create a vehicle that will allow anyone to make a chal­lenge, to create, what I think is a funda­mental American freedom, and that is the freedom of expression when it comes to religion.” Mr. Saland said that he was undecided.

Stephen M. Saland was born Nov. 12, 1943. He is a native of Poughkeepsie, Saland earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University at Buffalo in 1965 and a Juris Doctor from Rutgers Law School in 1968. He maintained a law practice in Pough­keepsie, where he is of counsel to Gelber & Gelain, P.C. He is also a member of the

October, 1971

Rochester
From the University of Rochester, Campus Times October, 1971 October 13 - Letters to the Editor. “UR Gay Lib Furnishes Foods More Decent.”

Critics 1950s film “Boys in the Band,” shown by UR Cinema Group, as “UR Gay Lib Front Finds Movie Dated.”

October 23 - Saturday 1pm: sponsored teach-in in upper Strong. Outside Speakers: Barbara Git­tings, Chairman, ALA Task Force on Gay Liberation, Reverend Mr. Bob Gragy, associate pastor, Brighton Presbyterian Church; Joann Zuffett, instructor of soci­ology at RIT and UR; Tina Mendel of Daughters of Bilitis in New York; Isabelle Miller, author of The Plural Society. Winner ALA Task Force’s Gay Book Award, Strong, psychiatrist. 3-30pm: Jill John­son, dance editor, Village Voice, author Marmalade Me, Anthony Lounge, 9pm: Dance in the Frederick Douglass Building. October 24 – Sunday - UR Gay Lib will sponsor a Street Fair from 10am to 6pm at Todd Webb. New York/Nation/World October 12 – “Jesus Christ Super­star” opens at Mark Hellinger NYC for 711. How much is your history worth to you? Give today. Thank you.

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October 20 - Page 2 article. “GLF Plans Anniversary.”

October 22 – Friday – UR Gay Lib Fes­tival presents Chamber Concert and read­ing, 8:30pm and Coffee House 10am, Todd West.

October 23 – Saturday 1pm: sponsored teach-in in upper Strong. Outside Speakers: Barbara Gittings, Chairman, ALA Task Force on Gay Liberation; Reverend Mr. Bob Gragy, associate pastor, Brighton Presbyterian Church; Joans Zuffett, instructor of soci­ology at RIT and UR; Tina Mendel of Daughters of Bilitis in New York; Isabelle Miller, author of The Plural Society. Winner ALA Task Force’s Gay Book Award, Strong, psychiatrist. 3-30pm: Jill John­son, dance editor, Village Voice, author Marmalade Me, Anthony Lounge, 9pm: Dance in the Frederick Douglass Building. October 24 – Sunday - UR Gay Lib will sponsor a Street Fair from 10am to 6pm at Todd Webb.

New York/Nation/World

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Jews in Jerusalem, nor only the powerful. Your deliberative process I have a chance
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received separate assurances of support
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by Tuesday, June 22, Gov. Cuomo had
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you to meet with Gov. Cuomo.
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No. 32. In the case of Mr. Grisanti, the
other Republican was
Mr. Gri­
Mark Grisanti, Roy McDonald, and Ste­
By Tuesday, June 22, Gov. Cuomo had
Saland became the critical 32nd vote, tell­
Mr. Grisanti wavered, fearing the bill did not have
enough exemptions for religious organi­
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No. 32. fn rhe case of Mr. Gri­
Mr. Grisanti voted for the marriage bill
...
Halloween Hauntings: The Phantom of the Auditorium Theatre

By Susan Jordan

Rochester’s Auditorium Theatre was built in 1928-29 by Pecoreazzo, and stage crew members still sometimes find themselves surrounded by ghostly encounters. The theatre is owned by the Rochester Broadway Theatre League, while the rest of the stage crew members still sometimes find themselves in the presence of the CAGY moved into the building in 2004, and unsubstantiated rumors still circulate that the theatre is haunted. Certainly Rochester Broadway Theatre League employees have stories to tell. Gary Zaccharia, RBTL steward (head of the stage crew) told me he has seen many unexplained things, but he is hesitant to claim that they are paranormal phenomena. ”I have seen some shadows,” he admitted. “Maybe eight years ago I was here alone one night and out of the corner of my eye I saw shadows darting around.

“My daughter is a dancer and once she wanted to practice before a competition, so we came down to the theater and we were out on stage dancing. I was in the audience and I saw several shadows moving around. I didn’t mention that to her. When she stopped dancing, she asked if I had seen what she had just seen – and I said I had! It could have been car lights or something, but there was no one in the theater but us.”

The theater has no windows except up in the balcony area, where there are a few windows not visible from the first floor.

Gary went on. “Another time my daughter and I were in the theatre when a group of ghost hunters was investigating. We were all standing on the stage and all of a sudden they said, ‘Did you see that?’ And we did! A shadow was walking in the back of the theater and went back and forth at least seven times. My daughter and I saw at the same time, but we hadn’t said anything to the ghost hunters group. This was about four years ago.”

Gary said, ”I’ve seen a lot of stuff, shadows and images. Around ’96 or ’01 I saw a man wearing a blue jacket. Once when my son was here he saw a blue form that darted off down the hallway. That’s where I had seen a blue image before.”

“The Ghost Hunters’ Field Guide” calls the ghost “Tommy.” This was the name of the elderly man who spent much of his time at the theatre, leaving all the lights on! He added, “There was a time when they had this experience. Gary said, ‘I’ve seen a lot of stuff, shadows and images. Around ’96 or ’01 I saw a man wearing a blue jacket. Once when my son was here he saw a blue form that darted off down the hallway. That’s where I had seen a blue image before.”

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The Rochester Lesbian & Gay Film & Video Festival

OCTOBER 7-16, 2011

ImageOut

The Rochester Lesbian & Gay Film & Video Festival

OCTOBER 7-16, 2011

Opening Night

The Night Watch

Program 1 - Friday, Oct 7, 7:00pm, Little Theatre 1

Beginning in the war-torn, bomb-out, ashen gray of 1947 London, the film—like the Sarah Waters novel—moves backwards in time to 1943, then 1941, until returning us to 1947 once again. We follow three separate stories: a love triangle between three women, a mess of a single girl sleeping with a married man, and a young gay man trying to come to terms with his past and allow himself to look forward to a future. Fantastic cinematography, pitch-perfect acting, and Sarah Waters’ trademark realism all blend to make this a satisfying and engrossing story.

Four More Years (in Swedish with English subtitles)

Program 2 - Friday, Oct 7, 9:30pm, Little Theatre 1

David Holst is on the verge of reaching the pinnacle of his career. The Liberal Party chairman is poised to become the next prime minister of Sweden. But, as is often the case in politics, everything unravels in an instant, leaving David founded by critics and unsure of what to do next.

We Were Here: The AIDS Years in San Francisco

Program 21 - Monday, Oct 10, 6:30pm, Little Theatre 1

We Were Here tells the story of the onset and progression of the AIDS epidemic as told by five people who lived at the epicenter: San Francisco. It chronicles the unimaginable losses suffered by the gay community, and addresses the issues of fear, homophobia, and civil rights violations endured by a population that, already hated by many, largely was left on its own to deal with the epidemic that was killing its community.

“As grim as some of it’s images are, We Were Here is above all a film about love: not romantic love but the kind that really matters, in which people selflessly show up and keep on showing up for one another in the worst of times.” - Stephen Holden, NY Times

Rosa Morena

(In English, Portuguese, and Danish)

Program 37 - Wednesday, Oct 12, 6:30pm, Little Theatre 1

While legal in 14 countries, adoption by gay and lesbian couples continues to be a long struggle for legal rights and social acceptance. Starting a family is difficult enough as a couple, but taking on the task alone becomes a tricky road to travel. How far would you go to start a family? Rosa Morena is a thought-provoking drama reminding us that sometimes, even with the purest of intentions, lives cannot be simply bought and sold as a commodity.

Codpendent Lesbian Space Alien Seeks Same

Program 23 - Friday, Oct 14, 7:45pm, Cinema Theatre

A campy, tongue-in-cheek, sometimes touching, oftentimes raucous carnival ride of a film. The camp factor is high, and the story is both funny and sweet, but the stand-out feature of Codpendent Lesbian Space Alien Seeks Same by far the acting. Take a break from the real world and spend an evening with an average lesbian science fiction and some hilarious lesbian space aliens. You won’t be disappointed.

Longhorns

Program 34 - Friday, Oct 14, 10:00pm, Cinema Theatre

ImageOut is excited to shine a spotlight on writer/director David Lewis’ (Rock Haven, Redwood) as he tries his hand at romantic comedy and, in the process, delivers one of the funniest raunchy gay sex comedies in recent years. Complete with offensive wardrobe and eighties-inspired original songs by NY/MIX/Doozla (Comma the Musical, Flat Pak). Lewis also helms a convincing period piece. Kudos to a competent, handsome cast led by Jacob Newton and visiting guest Derek Villanueva.

Loose Cannons (in Hebrew with English subtitles)

Program 40 - Saturday, Oct 15, 7:00pm, Dryden Theatre

Filled with an eccentric cast of memorably funny characters with their own distinct voices and personalities, openly-gay director Firan Gdepalti presents a tight-chest family dramedy that is guaranteed to fill the Dryden theater with chuckles and laughter, while messing stereotypes and dening out critiques on homophobia and old-fashioned values. Beautifully shot throughout, the film culminates in an impressive marriage of fantasy and reality showing as a glimpse of how things should be.

www.imageout.org
Let's face it, homophobic is so gay
By Wayne Bezan
In early September, we learned that virulently anti-gay Puerto Rican sena­
tor Sotero Arias, at a reception for any straight man wanting to show off his sculpted new body, he posted pictures of his penis in the gay men's cruising soft­
ware Grindr.

The week before, a homophobic Indi­
an senator, Phil Scott, had answered a Craigslist's List ad for an $80 male prostitute looking for a Sugar Daddy. After they posed for some pictures, Scott li­
said that he isn't gay and declared, “I don't know what was going through my mind.” And, of course, we all know about Sen. Larry Craig (R-ID) who sought sex in a Minneapolis airport men's room by tapping his foot.

These tawdry tales of deception and deceit are tailor-made for the tabloids. They provide vindication for the LGBT community and punish villains who deserve their fate. However, it is time to look beyond the posturing and have the psychiatric community examine the heads of closet cases who inflict enormous dam­
age on innocent people. These disgusting betrayals are much more than hypocrisy.

They represent full-fledged pathology that has dire consequences for the LGBT community.

To protect their "dirty" secret, these socalled politicians are meeting periodically to pass discriminatory laws that lead to many forms of suicide, career, social, financial, spiritual, and actual abuse. Gay couples with limited rights must pay higher taxes and hire expensive lawyers to keep them from running up against these laws. Couples must also endure the emotionally devastating prospect of not having hospital visitation rights when emergencies strike. Carers are increasingly harmed when homosexual hit glass ceilings or are fired in states that don't offer any legal protections. Activists are losing every day when committees hear homophobic rhetoric from political opponents or those influenced by the political spectrum.

The menace homophobia that I employed took two distinct forms. The first was being deceived by coming out on television and telling the Goddess to gauge my own group's reaction, hoping I could seek protection from the heterosexual facade, while enjoying the sexual benefits of someone who is open and honest about their sexual orientation.

Of course, I'm not suggesting that the majority of people with anti-gay atti­tudes are actually homosexuals. Most of the people, those who are truly motivated by homosexuaJity probably have a strong desire to enter that arena.

We have to stop laughing (not com­plaining) at these people. I'm not in the business of writing more about the psychological dynamics that drive closet cases into coun­
seling practice and anti-gay activism. It is not as though we can't come up with any fresh issues that deserves scholarly attention from the top research institutions and universities in America.

A minister reflects on weddings
By Peter Howe
The day of June 24 was an his­
toric one for our community. After many long years and some painful setbacks, we finally achieved marriage equality in New York. In the giddy days that followed, I received many calls from couples anxious to exercise their long denied civil right as soon as possible.

I have been performing weddings since 1997 and I have taken hundreds of calls over the years from couples looking to get married. I immediately noticed that the calls I was receiving from same-sex couples were different than the ones I get from heterosexual couples. Heterosexual couples are looking for weddings when they call me. The same sex couples I have worked with so far, seem only interested in being married.

Part of my pre-wedding counseling sessions with heterosexual couples has always been to remind them that, while weddings are momentous and much anticipated occasions, the point of a wedding is to start a marriage. I point this out because the couples I work with are often so focused on the details of the wedding day itself, that they seem to lose sight of the fact that weddings last a day and mar­riages last a lifetime. They fixate on music and flowers and catering and as if the wedding were an end in itself.

The more elaborate the wedding, the more potential there is for some detail to be missed. I have seen brides in full blown panic attacks because the flow­
ner put the wrong shade of roses in the bouquet or the caterer ran out of scal­
llop wrapped in bacon before the cocktail hour ended. In an attempt to avoid having couples become a couple's own worst enemies on their wedding day, I always reminded them numerous times during the planning pro­
cess that the purpose of the day is not to be married at the end of it. In this way I hope to keep them focused on the real reason being married for all of their time and expense – to become married for life.

So far, the same sex couples I have been working with are at the beginning of the spectrum. They have been so con­
cerned with simply being married as soon as possible that they don’t even seem inter­
ested in having weddings at all. They have simply wanted me to say as few words as possible and type the license so that they can be married – no fan, no frills, and no sentiment.

To an extent, I understand this. The couples I have worked with that far have all been together many years and already "felt" married. Their haste in obtaining the license as soon as possible stems from a "this is too good to be true" attitude and a fear that marriage equality will be long­
ter taken away. But I think it also comes, undeniably, from the fact that mar­riage has never been part of LGBT culture before. It will take some time before we truly grasp its depth and meaning.

I am discovering that same-sex cou­ples need the opposite advice from their heterosexual counterparts. My advice to them has become “Don’t become so focused on the legal status that a marriage license confers upon you that you miss the joy of having a wedding”. Weddings are truly transformational events. Until you experience it for yourself, it’s hard to appreciate that fact. Even couples that get married in exactly the same situation that they felt closer and more connected after they got married. And a few couples I have worked with so far, after experienc­
ing this emotional shift, are regretful that they didn’t make more of an occasion of that day.

“Never realized we’d feel any differ­ent” a few same-sex couples have told me. “I thought it of as a legal formal­
ization of their romance” one man said. "And then I regretted not having done a little plan­ning at least inviting our friends and family to join us.”

Weddings are sacred occasions and the start of a marriage is perhaps the most important right of passage life has to offer. It seems especially sad for people who have been denied this experience for so long to miss out on making a memory because they fail to grasp the significance of what they are doing until it is too late.

Once the vows have been said and the license has been signed, a couple can never truly go back. The wedding is over. And even if a celebration is planned later, it is never the same. The opportunity to have had a real wedding has been missed.

If you don’t put some thought and effort into making an occasion, you are subtly communicating to yourselves, each other, and your family and friends that your relationship is "nothing special" and that you view your marriage as sim­
ply a legal technicality. I doubt that any­
one feels that way. They just haven’t appreciated what the wedding means until after it has taken place.

A meaningful wedding need not be elaborate or expensive. A few simple dec­
ors are all that is required to make them sacred occasions. Choose a mean­ingful location. Dress-up in nice clothes.

Peter Howe is the Summer Minister at the First Unitarian Church. 

Are you as Queer as a 3 dollar bill?

See page A7

A DJ with Good Sense

A DJ with good sense
A sense of music
A sense of taste
A sense of style

The Definitive Disc Jockey

A DJ with Good Sense

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A sense of taste
A sense of style

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Making the Scene

KEEPING PACE WITH AIDS: The bicycle race was Sept. 19. L-R: Dan Abbott, Lloyd Theiss, Stuart Mitchell.

The event raised around $115,000 for AIDS Care.

Riders approach the finish line at Genesee Valley Park. Photos: Jeff Mills Photography

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION: Jamie and Sally White with Marcel Solis and Kaelyn Rich at the Marriage Equality Volunteer Appreciation Party on Aug. 31 at Shea’s. Photos: Bess Watts

Sheila Sable of the Empire State Pride Agenda, Anne Tischer of Equality Rochester, Pam Barres of the ESPA Foundation Board, Alden Bashaw of ESPA and MEND’s Jo and Chris Mclevo Voigt celebrate at Shea’s.

9/11 COMMEMORATION: RGMC with ASL interpreter Cat Hardesty, left, at MCC.

Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks is front right; her Democratic opponent Sandra Frankel is front row, third from right.

Dennis J. Foley, Ph. D.
Licensed Psychologist
Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
University of Rochester Medical Center

- Individual and Couples Therapy
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- LGBTQI Concerns
- HIV/AIDS and Chronic Illness
- Trauma and Relationship Violence
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Love is different things to different people. No matter how you look at it, great love requires a special place in which to share it — and few venues rival the romance of a Holland America Line cruise.

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Michael Gamilla
By Susan Jordan

Michael Gamilla is co-chair (with Jessica Wilkie) of the ImageOut Programming Committee. On Oct. 3 he will be presented with the Little Theatre’s “Friend of Film Award.”

On Aug. 27 their private service which took place in a private service which took placein rural Schuyler County. The couple had a spiritual ceremony before friends and family, led by Rev. Janet Shortall, of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of nearby Ithaca.

Mr. Davis, 37, will change his surname to O’Brien-Davis. He is an assistant manager in the retail industry with a background in graphic design and consuming. In high school Ken­neth was an avid fan of horror and science fiction films. His interests would inspire him to venture into makeup and con­sumption with several film indus­try admirers. He is the son of Debbie Marshall Davis, and the late Albert Christopher Davis, both of Rochester.

Mr. O’Brien, 34, will also change his surname to O’Brien-Davis. He is an experienced employee in the telecommu­nications industry and has represented services from sat­ellite television, to broadband internet, and phone. He graduated high school from Camp­bell-Savona Central School with ambitions to pursue a degree in journalism. His travels have taken him throughout the west and he has lived in places such as Texas, California, and Colo­rado. He is the son of Lois Jean O’Brien, and the late Robert John O’Brien, both of formerly of Dryden at the George Eastman House, with its access to histor­ic films, and Rochester’s varied neighborhoods. His own neigh­borhood is Corn Hill, which has the elegant 19th century archi­tecture that Michael appreciates. “I love living in Corn Hill,” he says. “It’s a neighborhood, but once outside it you’re downtown. You get the fabulous mansions and also the new stuff. I volun­teer for the Corn Hill Neighbor­hood Association and do historic house tours in the holidays, as a guide.”

Michael has also done Landmark Society tours in the Browncroft neighborhood and last month he did the downtown tour. “Here in Rochester you get the old homes and the elegance – it’s unique to Rochester,” he says. “There’s architecture and history in the neighborhoods.

Before I got involved with ImageOut, I didn’t do anything much,” he explained. “I wanted to get involved and not just go to bars. Little did I know it would take up my whole life! So in recent years I’ve been getting involved with the Gay Alliance, and volunteering for the Pride Festival and Picnic. It gets me out of the ImageOut mode.”

For relaxation, Michael likes to lunch at Orange Glory, next to the Little Theatre, and dine at 2 Vanc and Good Luck. “When I have time,” he said, “I like cook­ing and going to theatres and shows. ImageOut takes up so much of my time that everything is when I can.”

One benefit of being so involved with ImageOut is that Michael, who loves to travel, often flies to cities like Berlin, Paris, Barcelona and San Fran­cisco to check out film festivals.

The wedding was performed by Justice of the Peace Hazel Washington. Above left: Richard’s brother Steve Young was best man; his mother June Young is at right. Photos. Jeff Mills Photography

Wedding announcement:
Kenneth Davis and
David O’Brien

Kenton Marshall Davis and David Joseph O’Brien were mar­ried Saturday, Aug. 27 in a pri­vate service which took place in rural Schuyler County. The couple had a spiritual ceremony before friends and family, led by Rev. Janet Shortall, of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of nearby Ithaca.

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On October 25, 2011, local restaurants will be participating in the Gay Alliance Dines OUT fundraiser. These restaurants have agreed to donate a portion of their sales on October 25 to the Gay Alliance in an expression of support for our mission, which is to “cultivate a healthy, inclusive environment where individuals of all sexual orientations and gender expressions are safe, thriving, and can enjoy full civil rights.”

Some restaurants are participating for the entire day, others for only one meal. Each restaurant has committed to donate a percentage of their sales for those meals to the Gay Alliance: some are giving 15 percent, while others have committed an impressive 50 percent of the day’s sales.

According to “The Gay Index Ranking,” which is extrapolated from data from the 2000 U.S. Census, Rochester has an approximately 60% higher proportion of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) households than the national average, and has the 13th largest per capita population of LGBT people in the nation. This event will be sure to bring new faces through the doors of the participating restaurants, while also helping to move towards full LGBT equality.

Participating Restaurants (so far)

Bachelor Forum
- Donating 25% of all beverage sales, all day.

Balsam Bagels
- Donating 15% of all food, coffee and tea sales for breakfast and lunch.

Boulder Coffee Company
- All locations, 15% of all food and beverage sales all day.

Edibles
- Check our website www.gayalliance.org

Equal Grounds Coffee House
- 15% of all food sales all day.

The Gate House
- 15% of all food and beverage sales at dinner.

The Cellar Door Restaurant
- All locations, 15% of all food and beverage sales all day.

Gusto Restaurant
- 25% of all food and beverage sales at lunch and dinner.

Jeremiah’s Tavern
- 25% of all food sales at lunch and dinner.

Jine’s Restaurant
- 15% of all food and beverage sales all day.

Magnolia’s Deli and Café
- 15% of all food and beverage sales all day.

One
- 15% of all food sales at dinner.

Portofino
- 25% of all food and beverages sales at lunch and dinner.

Sheas
- 15% of all food and beverage sales all day.

Tapas 177
- 15% of all food and beverage sales all day.

Warfield’s High Point
- 15% of all food and beverage sales at dinner.

Winfield Grill
- 50% of all food sales at lunch and dinner.

You can find an updated list of restaurants online at www.GayAlliance.org
**ImageOut 2011 exhibitions explore the collector’s discerning eye**

Two exhibitions this October uncover the discerning eye of the collector. ImageArt’s roch-collectors.

**Highlights of this year’s Festival**

Highlights include three movies selected for the 2011 Sundance Film Festival: *We Were Here, Gun Hill Road,* and *Cede-President Lesbian Space Alien Seeks Same.*

**Accessibility**

ImageOut remains committed to keeping the Festival accessible. Because of the tough economic times, the board felt it was important to keep ticket prices as low as possible. Prices range from $7 to $15.

**From “Gigola,” screening Oct. 9.**

ImageOut will screen 82 films in 10 days accessible. Because of the tough economic times, the board felt it was important to keep ticket prices as low as possible. People can save up to 20 percent by purchasing tickets in advance of the Festival’s opening. Students and students can get great tickets for as little as $5, and Paul Allen, chair of the Board of Directors, single ticket prices, prior to student or senior discount, will range from $7 to $15.

Discounts for In-Person Ticket Purchasers: A $2 discount is available to individuals over the age of 65 for films shown during the Festival. A student discount continues this year and also offers $2 off many films shown during the Festival.

**ImageOut Key Festival Dates**

Monday, Oct. 3: In-persion ticket sales end Sunday, Oct. 16: 10th Annual ImageOut Film and Video Festival

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The Gallery at Equal-Grounds presents their October show; "There is No Up or Down," paintings on paper by Bradley Butler.

The opening reception is Friday, Oct. 1, 7--9 p.m. at the Gallery at Equal-Grounds, 750 South Ave. Butler is a soft-spoken man. He doesn’t need to be a huge physical presence when his paintings speak so forcefully for him. He says, “The imagination is a powerful tool and seldom do we reach our full potential in using it. The ever-present feeling that there is something happening within and around us that seems to be outside the conscious and logical realm is a notion that interests me.”

Butler’s work is both abstract and concrete and gives the viewer the ability to push the viewer to what seems to be just beyond the edge of the paper. The feeling of knowing you may have seen something but never really knowing what it is you think you saw.

30 Diese Sonntage können Sie die Ausstellung besuchen und über das Medium Acryl und Lack diskutieren. Anschließend geht es zurück ins Studio für weitere Kenntnisse und praktische Übungen.

For more information, please contact the gallery at 555-1234.

Victoria M. LaVilla
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Victoria.Lavilla@axa-advisors.com
Tel: (585) 475-8400

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Rochester, NY 14623

www.axa-equitable.com
on stage! And I absolutely think that he's influenced countless artists who have appeared on his and other floors. A true talent and rock star if Jerry Lee Lewis influenced him in some way... I'd be shocked to hear anything to the contrary. This is something I've always been inspired by.

Early bird alert: Angels in America comes to Geva Nextstage in 2012

Method Machine, Rochester's premiere performance and art company, will stage both parts of Tony Kushner’s Angels in America in 2012 on the Nextstage at Geva Theater Center. Angels in America, Part One: Millennium Approaches will be presented in March and Angels in America, Part Two: Perestroika will be presented in October. Also in October, Parts 1 and 2 will be presented on one day — a one-hour theatrical marathon with a dinner in the middle.

Angels in America is set in late 1985 and early 1986, as the first wave of the AIDS epidemic in America is escalating and Ronald Reagan has been elected to a second term in the White House. This Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning play tells the story of a young gay man with AIDS and his frigulated, unloving, lover-a-cest: Mormon lawyer and his vialium addicted wife; the infamous New York lawyer Roy Cohn and a steel-winged, prophecy-bearing angel — as well as the ghost of Ethel Rosenberg, among many others.

The lives of these disparate characters intersect, intertwine, collide and are blown apart during a time of heartbreak, reaction and transformation. Ranging from earth to heaven, from the political to the intimate to the visionary and supernatural, Angels in America is an epic exploration of love, justice, identity and theology, of the difficulty, terror and necessity of change.

"We are so excited to be presenting Angels in America," says Artistic Director David Henderson. "Kushner’s play is the ultimate in modern theater. Great characters, wicked special effects and a message that is vital.

Henderson teams up with company founder Marcj J. Sasavanto (Hapner) and usual suspect Jill Rittinger (the Angel). Judy Molner (Flamazzed) and Peter Doyle as Roy Cohn. The company will also collaborate with acclaimed international video artist Monica Dunne to create the special effects and video for the production.

"Performing at Geva will give us the best environment to attempt some very difficult effects most companies our size would shy away from," says Henderson. "But we’re not shy!" Method Machine was founded in 2007 by Marcj J. Sasavanto, Michael Francis O’Connor and David Henderson as an artistic outlet to mount contemporary, breath new life into classic productions and develop multi-disciplinary projects.

Theatrical productions include This Is Our Youth, The Second Coming of Jim, Lose in Tenor, Love Triangle: An Evening of Music, Improv and Drama, (National Tour). The Lipstick Masquer (World Premiere), Clear, Something Cloudy Something Clear and Spring It On! A Broadway Cabaret.

Women to read from Mama’s American Herstory at Flying Squirrel on Oct. 30

Culture Starts With Art (CSWA) says, "Come explore the larger Female Art expression at the second practice read of M.A.H. (Mama’s American Herstory) monologues."

The event takes place Oct. 30 from 5:30 p.m. (with an open Q&A forum following afterwards) at The Flying Squirrel, 285 Clarissa St., Rochester 14608.

The performance is directed by Chan McKenzie and stars the women of SSS, who brought you the HER show following afterwards) at The Flying Squirrel, 285 Clarissa St., Rochester 14608. Kan McKenzie, Lu Highsmith, Jenna Rossi, Erica Eaton, Katrina Scott, Chan McKenzie, Judy Molner and many others.

Admission is $10-$15 sliding scale (no one will be turned away). The space is wheelchair accessible. M.A.H. monologues was a CSWA production.

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Travel

California’s Mendocino County

By Merle Exit

Mendocino County is located in the northern part of California, a hidden gem! The first stop was the city of Ukiah, one of the main towns in the Upper Russian River Valley area. A drive past the ancient redwood forests of Valley area. The City of Ten Thousand Buddhas is worth a stop. Quite a serene atmosphere and lots of acre. It was composed of an educational facility for one's entire schooling, from the hen house. Breakfast and off to the neighborhood of worship is where the ten thousand Buddhas are housed.

That evening we ate at a fabulous restaurant called Branches. There are three areas. The first is where you enter and view the delicious pastries in the bakery. A stairway is the butcher shop for those who want to purchase a fresh cut of beef, pork, or chicken as well as getting a sandwich to go. The restaurant portion actually houses two “restaurants” with the main dining room and a separate Irish “pub” food.

Our next destination was the Point Arena Light Station, in the area known as the Northern Coast, where there are two structures, one is Point Arena Lighthouse. We left Ukiah and first traveled some roads that were near the ancient redwood groves of Montgomery Woods State Park. The redwood trees are huge and well worth stopping a few times to view and compare your height to them.

Now we are at the Point Arena Light Station, in the area known as the Northern Coast, where there are two structures, which is the station that houses the history. First Order Fresnel lens and other displays. One of the rooms lends itself as a sheltered place to watch for whales and seabirds.

Then there is the lighthouse itself. Nancy climbed the steps while I looked around to see a gargoyle in the north corner of the station. That gargoyle was the remaining piece of movie set from “Forever Young.” BTW, the Point Arena tower is the only Pacific West coast lighthouse of significant height (135 feet) that you can climb to the top.

It was the seventh of June. A baby sable is one day old and this adorable animal, in the family of antelopes, has to be vaccinated and tagged. Frank Mello, co-owner of B. Bryan Preserve in Point Arena, drives his truck into the gated field to spot the newborn. The aphids are far away and do not appear upset with Frank picking up the calf, bringing it into the truck and returning it back to where it lived itself. I was in the truck to see it all and sneak in a little petting.

The B. Bryan Preserve is what I would term a “private zoo”. Frank and his wife Judy have been into breeding and preservation of African Hump Stock for the last five years. Animals, ranging from endangered to critically endangered, include various species of zebra and antelope. Thus you have rorqual and greater kudus, saab antelope, Grey’s Zebra and Hartmann’s Mountain Zebra.

Open to the public for tours and overnight stays, the animals are fenced in within their specific species. Frank feeds his “friends” but not close enough for contact, as well as naming each one of them (suggested by the guests). They are wild animals and this is not a petting zoo.

Corrages are fully furnished and the only food on the premises is fresh eggs from the hen house. Breakfast and off to Santa Rosa. For further information go to www.visitmendocino.com.

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Growing Up

By—Eric Belliveau

I’m not thinking about sex. I’m thinking about money or how far I’ve grown without a bicycle. In fact, I’m not thinking at all.

I am sitting in Washington Square Park in New York. It’s a beautiful late summer Saturday afternoon, sunny and clear and I’m sitting because I’m worn out from walking. My feet hurt.

The park is wonderful now after years of reconstruction. People complained that the changes were taking too long. They moved a lot of the benches to align with the arch. Most people thought that was an unnecessary undertaking but now, the old benches aren’t there anymore. All the new plantings were worth the wait. The circular benches turned out well. It’s really delightful.

Under the arch there’s a guy playing a grand piano! How he hauls it here is a mystery. I’m not even sure that it’s a grand piano! How he hauls it here is a mystery. I’m not even sure that it’s a grand piano!

If you come to the front of my consciousness because life is un-repeatable. But friendship is flexible.

The first call I hear is the one in her voice. “I had two seizures.” The search for the words that aren’t necessary.

The saddest but not the most surprising news.

And all of this Give and Take, all the forecasts, all the predictions, all the outcomes.

So we both know that this is the beginning, the closeness of the end. What if?

Our friendship has moved into a different level. Way beyond shared dinners. More intense than sharing tickets to the opening night. You are thoughtful about my well-being. More intense than scheduling tickets to the opening night. You are thoughtful about my well-being.

And all of this Give and Take, all the forecasts, all the predictions, all the outcomes.

But sadly that list too is short.

Tim Hardaway, a retired NBA All-Star player, has recently stepped up to speak on behalf of the LGBTQ community. “It’s not right to not let the gays and lesbians have equal rights.” Hardaway told the crowd at a gay pride parade in New York City. The parade came together because of queer former NBA star John Wooden, who recently stepped up to speak on behalf of the LGBTQ community.

Hardaway, however, is the last person one would expect to speak on behalf of the LGBTQ community. In a 2007 interview with Miami’s sports radio station, “790 The Ticket,” Hardaway was asked to share his thoughts on the current situation in New York City.

“Not right to not let the gays and lesbians have equal rights.” Hardaway told the crowd at a gay pride parade in New York City.

For many of us in the African-American community, it’s not right to not let the gays and lesbians have equal rights. But in the end, we need to focus on the issues that are most important to us as a community.”

Since too few role models come from the Black Church, many of us lesbians, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) brothers and sisters of African descent look to black role models, especially in the areas of community and activism.

"It’s not right to not let the gays and lesbians have equal rights. But in the end, we need to focus on the issues that are most important to us as a community.”

In African-American communities, we desperately need public role models to encourage our youth to become involved in activism and activism and activism. The irony that the only role model who is currently alive is playing the clarinet.

Gotta betta be known.

Now you know, dear reader, that I was working on the clarinet.

The clarinet is an instrument that is often played by children. The clarinet is an instrument that is often played by children.

My spouse, who is not a clarinet player, has been working on the clarinet.

She is a lady, you know, and she is a lady, you know, that I was working on the clarinet.

The clarinet is an instrument that is often played by children.

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It's important to remember in all of this that whatever we face and whatever we must face, death and make decisions that can mean life for them.
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By David Hull
I love Halloween—my kids do... but I know me knows I'm not going to have a costume this year. It has been ever since I was a little girl.

Now I know some of those evangelical Christians will say it isn't even really a holiday. Or if it is, then it is an evil holiday celebrating Satan or something like that, but I totally disagree.

How can having some kid come to your door dressed as a Power Ranger or Dora the Explorer have anything to do with Satan? Jack-o-lanterns, candy apples, it's The Great Pumpkins, Chris Brown or fun! It has nothing to do with Satan. It is connected with Satanism? The only thing that I find evil on Halloween is the excessive trick-or-treating that innocent children are forced to do. When I was a kid, I picked out the Frankenstein costume at the Five & Dime department store. It came in the brown cardboard box with the cellophane window on top that displayed the plastic mask. And on Halloween night, the pocky-crawly thin rubber band that held the mask to my face broke, and my face smashed with the sunfish. I was never to be able to see the first ten minutes of trick-or-treating. That was actually a good thing because I was forced to look away from the sun's brilliancy and let go, he too found life while looking for his wife and two small children.

Death brings new life. Letting go of one thing means the possibility of new life with another. Fall follows summer, and in life, every ending is a new beginning. And when I was 16 I went to a Halloween party dressed as the Wolfman. I wore a pair of plastic fangs, slicked my hair back and for the first time in my life I totally disagreed. It was one of the few Halloweens when I actually remember people, not being able to guess who I was.

Every year for Halloween, Bentie and I have a party at our house, and both remember how exciting it was to go trick-or-treating to a house and get a full-size candy bar. I would line the door to the neighborhood kids, putting an extra jack-o-lantern out to light the way. I totally disagreed. I used to have 12 other hallayers in your door to the neighborhood kids, putting an extra jack-o-lantern out to light the way. I totally disagreed. But Bentie says it is that well as well because the caise would be long over, the money would all be spent, but we still would be able to go out and have fun. I was happy on his front porch every October 31st.

Last Halloween we had a surprise when a new family moved into our neighborhood. We had to see the fairytale Frankenstein and the Dad actually remembered it from when he was a little girl trick-or-treating. But Bentie says it is that as well as well because the caise would be long over, the money would all be spent, but we still would be able to go out and have fun. I was happy on his front porch every October 31st.

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HE IS A COMMERCIAL AIRLINE PILOT, RICHARD. HE MES MY MOTHER BRIEFLY ON A LAYOVER IN KINGSTON...

DEY CERTAINLY DID NOT PLAN TO HAVE A CHILD, BUT...

...NINE MONTHS LATER, I ARRIVED. I SEE.

...I HAD LITTLE CONTACT WITH HIM GROWING UP... BUT HE WAS MY FATHER...

DEE, OF COURSE, DID NOT PLAN TO HAVE A CHILD, BUT... 

...HE TOOK HIS MOTHER TO THE DOCTOR AGAIN...

...YEAH, BUT... IT’S JUST A ROUTINE CHECK-UP. SHE’S OKAY.

...YOU’VE BARELY SAID A WORD TO ME SINCE I MOVED BACK IN...

...RICHARD...

...ANYWAY... I’M STILL BEST OFF TO WORK NOW...

...DON’T WORRY. KYLE WILL BE BACK TOMORROW.

...HE WANTS TO HAVE A CHILD...

MY MOTHER IS STILL WONDERING WHY YOU DIDN’T COME HOME WITH ME FOR PASSOVER THIS YEAR.

...I DON’T DESPISE YOU, RICHARD. AND I’M ALREADY GOING TO BE GRATEFUL TO YOU... FOR GETTING ME IN TOUCH WITH MY JEWISH SIDE...

...SO... THERE’S A CHANCE YOU’LL COME FOR PASSOVER NEXT YEAR?

...A GOOD CHANCE.

...AND DOES THIS MEAN WE ARE FRIENDS AGAIN?

...YEAH, I SUPPOSE IT DOES...

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One in Four

By Kelli Clark

Here’s a statistic for you: one in every four couples’ relationship is abusive in some way. This statistic holds true for straight and same-sex couples. Some studies suggest it might be even higher in some LGBTQ populations.

Think about that for a moment. That means in one of every four couples you know, one partner is engaging in behaviors that seek to gain dominance, power and control over the other. Behaviors that include emotional/psychological manipulation; control of finances; abuse of pets; withholding of medications/hormones; threats to “out” partner to family or employers; physical abuse of pets; withholding of medications; manipulation; control of finances; abuse of pets; withholding of medications/hormones; threats to “out” partner to family or employers and physical abuse.

I shared that statistic with someone recently and it stopped him dead in his tracks. He told me that everybody knows that there is domestic violence.

“But we don’t know that statistic!” he said.

He then thought about his daughter. He thought about his brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews. He then thought about his friends. He then thought about his family and friends. He then thought about his brain raced as he came to grips with the information that seeks to gain dominance, power and control over the other. He is going to spread that statistic and information on resources for people here in Rochester who need help.

Now that you know this statistic, what is your ability to respond? Do you have a friend whose relationship has just “too much drama?”

Threats, hitting and shoving are not just “drama.” Your friend may need some help. Could you respond by inviting your friend to a private place to talk about what you have observed? Could you respond by inviting your friend to a private place to talk about what you have observed? Could you respond by inviting your friend to a private place to talk about what you have observed? Could you respond by inviting your friend to a private place to talk about what you have observed?

Could you share this statistic at your next girls night out or potluck party? Talk with your friends about the reality of domestic violence. Make a pact with them to ask for help or share concerns when needed.

Is your friend the abuser? Maybe you have noticed how she treats her partner and you have been troubled. Could you let your friend know that domestic violence is intolerable? Could you suggest resources for help to your friend?

Silence and secrecy, embarrassment and shame keep this statistic alive. It will only change when the whole community -- all of us -- takes responsibility and strengthens our ability to respond.

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Gary D. Leenhouts, Affirming Faith Ministries, $200
Karen Morris (Judge, Brighton Town Court) - $100
Reverend Fr. Bill Heller, Sacred Heart Parish, Reformed Catholic - negotiable
Rev. Scott Fearing, Unitarian Universalist Life - $200 basic III

DO YOU NEED INTERNET ACCESS?

The Gay Alliance Library has two computers with internet access available during library hours: Sunday: 3-5pm Monday: 6-8pm

Library & Archives

The Gay Alliance Library provides two computers with internet access available during library hours:

Sunday: 3-5pm
Monday: 6-8pm

Rev. Cheryl L. Miner, Sanctuary of the Delivered, 1016 Ridge Road Apt D, Ontario 14519, Spiritual - $50 to 100
Rev. Kathy Paduanco, non-denominational - $250
Peter House, First Universalist Church, 150 S. Clinton - $400
Rev. Lauren Ratsbaf, New Seminary Temple NY, PO Box 103, Mclean - $250
Joseph Hossenfelder, Universal Life Church, non-denominational - $300
Gary D. Leenhouts, Affirming Faith Ministries, $200
Karen Morris (Judge, Brighton Town Court) - $100
Reverend Fr. Bill Heller, Sacred Heart Parish, Reformed Catholic - negotiable
Rev. Scott Fearing, Unitarian Universalist Life - $200 basic III
Domestic violence awareness

The upcoming Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the Gay Alliance Anti-Violence Project will serve as a test for the Sheltered Rainbow Intimate Partner Violence Network in the LGBT Community.

This full-day training is offered by the LGBT Subcommission of the Rochester/Monroe County Domestic Violence Coalition. Geared toward local professionals who work with domestic violence victims, this training will improve their knowledge and ability to serve LGBT victims. Trainers include staff from the Gay Alliance, Alternatives for Batterers and the Empire Justice Center.

For more information, call Jess Cahen at 244-4660 ext. 153.

Rainbow SAGE update

This is for a good October with Rochester Rainbow Sage. We have so much fun it is almost scary, Boo! Okay you get the idea.

The fun always begins with everyone's favorite game, euchre. Join us for the 5th Annual SAGE Euchre Tournament on October 22, from 5-10 p.m. The location is Roger Robach Center at 180 Beach Ave. in Charlotte. The dance features a basket raffle, food and more. We will get back to you on more information.

The Jim Alesi Family Health and Fitness Fair is on Thursday, Oct. 6 from 10-4:30 at the Fair & Expo Center Dome Arena in Henrietta. Admission is free along with screenings and seminars.

How can you tell it's fall in Rochester? The drag queen contest to turn colors and the Gay Alliance and Rainbow SAGE host a Fall Dance.

This year the dance is on Oct. 29, two days before Halloween, and the dance will include a Halloween decorations competition. Costumes are optional, but we do advise you to dress up (or cross-dress up) and be someone else for an evening! Queer people have loved this special holiday for a long, long time.

The dance will take place at the Roger Robach Center at 180 Beach Ave., from 5 to 10 p.m. Although SAGE is a group for LGBT folks over 50, people of all ages are welcome to join the fun.

The dance is drug and alcohol free, and a $10 donation is requested. Tickets can be purchased at Equal-Grounds & Outlandish, and if you want more information, call 585-244-9030.

The Gay Alliance 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 local individuals and groups working to empower LGBT people, to affirm their identities, and to create an atmosphere where the diversity of our community can thrive both collectively and separately. We educate and advocate for civil rights for all and for the eradication of homophobia.

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 local individuals and groups working to empower LGBT people, to affirm their identities, and to create an atmosphere where the diversity of our community can thrive both collectively and separately. We educate and advocate for civil rights for all and for the eradication of homophobia.

Educational Outreach September 2011

9/2: SafeZone Training at RIT
9/2: SafeZone Training at RIT
9/4: SafeZone Training at City of Rochester Bureau of Recreation
9/12: LGBT Youth Issues at Hillside AYP Program
9/12: Speaker Training at the Gay Alliance
9/16: WXXI's Journey To Wellness Women's Health Fair at the Riverside Convention Center
9/21: SafeZone Training at SUNY Brockport
9/22: Transgender Issues at Nazareth College
9/23: LGBT Safety Issues at United Way's African American Leadership Development Program
9/27: Wellness Fair at St. John Fisher College
9/27: Estate Planning & End of Life Issues at the Gay Alliance
9/28: Safe Night Out at St. John Fisher College
9/28: Bringing Workplace Issues Out of the Closet at Monroe County JSEC Program

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Tier free Helpline: 1-866-600-6886. 

your appointment, be denied, most insurances ac

Monroe County Health Department at 655 W Main St, offers testing and counseling for HIV/AIDS related diseases (585)752-5481.

Memorial Hospital provides a comprehensive range of HIV medical care, including access to national health protection, tests, and HIV testing. Also provides individual and group psychotherapy. Training of health care professionals also is sponsored by the Clinical Infectious Disease, (585) 275-0263, Department of Psychiatry, (585) 275-3379 AIDS Training Project, (585) 275-3379.

Planned Parenthood of Rochester and Genesee 

of Rochester. Offers confidential testing (Ora-Sure) for free. 24-hour Hotline: 1-800-347-6266.

when making an appointment, you can download a case management, (585)553-5826 why.

Planned Parenthood of the Rochester / 

Syracuse Region

114 University Ave, Rochester, NY 14607, Toll-free Hotline: 1-866-600-6886. Offers confidential HIV testing and counseling when making an appointment, you can download a case management, (585)553-5826 why.

Planned Parenthood of the Rochester / Syracuse Region

114 University Ave, Rochester, NY 14607, Toll-free Hotline: 1-866-600-6886. Offers confidential HIV testing and counseling.

Laura Nutting; 585-244-8640. Our women... services in Rochester and the Finger Lakes. On-the-spot confidential testing is also available.

Joy Frankel; 585-244-8640. Our women... services in Rochester and the Finger Lakes. On-the-spot confidential testing is also available.

NYSDOH. 24 HOUR HOTLINE: ASA-14602. 24 HOUR HOTLINE: ASA.

RIT/NTID. On Face- 

ng for other services. Prevention & Primary Care is a program in progress, no appointment necessary. Call the Health Hot Line: (585-244-8645). FAX: 585-523-2852.


New York State Department of Health's Connection Clinic, Open Mon TUES: 1-888-463-9595. For more information, call Program Director Patrick M. Trevor, (585) 453-2019.

Counseling and Testing using the Ora-Sure Rapid Test. Education presentations, and access to other Rochester services. Prevention & Primary Care is a program in progress, no appointment necessary. Call the Health Hot Line: (585-244-8645). FAX: 585-523-2852.


114 University Ave, Rochester, NY 14607, To-free Hotline: 1-866-600-6886. Planned Parenthood has led the way in providing, high quality affordable reproductive health care.

Our experienced and committed as- 

ple, the Breast Cancer Network of Western New York. Provides information about breast cancer, a lending library, and a community based breast cancer support group.


Community Health


DEAF SERVICES

Advocacy Services for Abused Deaf Victims


Rochester Area Regional Public Transportation System

14 B THE EMPTY CLOSET • THE GAY ALLIANCE OF THE GENESSEE VALLEY • NUMBER 450 • OCTOBER 2011

Resources

HIV/AIDS

Free testing for HIV exposure is available from New York State Department of Health AIDS/STD Hotline at (585) 423-8081 or 1-800-958-5952 for any phones or calls outside Rochester. Dead or hear- 
ing impaired people should call (585)453 920 (TDD) or 911.

HIV test results in 30-40 minutes. 

a report of any possible exposure to HIV or AIDS.

The Breast Cancer Network of Western New York.


LHRC

of Rochester. Offers confidential testing (Ora-Sure) for free. 24-hour Hotline: 1-800-347-6266.


Rochester Area Regional Public Transportation System

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The Breast Cancer Network of Western New York.


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HIV test results in 30-40 minutes. 

a report of any possible exposure to HIV or AIDS.
The Rochester Burch-Femme Connection will have two dinner events in October.

On Oct. 8, we will be having dinner at Shanghai Restaurant on the corner of Brighton-Henrietta Town Line Road and West Henrietta Road (Route 15) at 7 p.m. On Oct. 22 we will be having dinner at Monte Albán Restaurant in Webster on Empire Boulevard/Route 15 as an introduction to the Third Presbyterian Church, no music this week.

DINNERS-GENERAL

Dinner for Charlie's Group (the Married Men's Group).

Friday, Oct. 1, the group will meet on the second Tuesdays each month from 7-9:30 p.m. at the Third Presbyterian Church, 4 Meigs St.

Check in for the “Charlie’s Group” for the meeting room.

DIGNITY-INTEGRITY

D-1 Rochester meets weekly at St. Luke’s and St. Simon’s Church, 17 S. Firleigh Street, at the corner of Broad Street. We have the following services and activities for the month of October 2011.

Please note that all services start at 5 p.m. and are usually followed by a coffee hour. You might also want to join us for dinner at a local restaurant after coffee hour.

First Sunday: Episcopal Mass in the Church, with music
Second Sunday: Roman Catholic Liturgy of the Word, with music
Third Sunday: Episcopal Mass in the Chapel, no music this week
Fourth Sunday: Evening Prayer, followed by a Potluck Supper

October Potluck Theme: “Oktoberfest.” What’s your favorite German dish? Bearwurst? Sauerkraut? Kuchen? Whip up a batch and bring it along, no alcohol, please and thank you! Need to cook? Don’t worry; there’s always plenty to share.

News from the Pew: Save the date of Oct. 2 as we celebrate Dignity-Integrity’s 36th Anniversary. Seems hard to believe that we’ve been in the “business” of serving GLBTQ for all these years. We’ll be having an Episcopal Mass that evening and you are welcome to join us at 7 p.m. Remember to check out our website (www.rochester.org) for further details. You can also contact us at email info@rochester.org or by calling the D-1 Hot-line, (585) 294-3092.

EMPIRE BEARS

It’s been a long summer. We’re camped, picnic’d, biked, hiked, walked, partied, and tanned. Members have married and celebrated. New, fall in love. Let the film festival begin!

The BEARS are the community partners for the “Dine, Dance, and Celebrate”. On Saturday afternoon the 15th, we’re looking forward to this great film and all of the 45 programs. Hope to see everyone at the movies!

Another place to catch the BEARS this month is at the FORUM on Saturday the 1st. First Saturday is BearBrackets at the FORUM. Members and many friends gather to dance, drink, snack, and have fun.

Second Saturdays we usually have a poolcheck at the GAGV, but it may not happen in October, because of Image Out. Wednesday nights, you can always join the BEARS at 6 at the Winterwood for supper. Cool weather is here, so warm up with the BEARS! WOOF

JUST US GUYS

Plans for the remaining gatherings of this year were discussed at the September Pot Luck dinner.

Once again, the group is interested during October in supporting the ImageOut Festival with our attendance. Since the regular meeting date falls on Oct. 11, there will be an organized effort to specifically attend the ImageOut of The Archives showing of Hedwig and the Angry Inch. For those interested, plans are under way to meet for dinner at a local restaurant prior to the film.

In November we will return to AIDS Care for a program featuring a local breast cancer survivor. A holiday Pot Luck is scheduled for December. More details regarding the specifics of these events will be available in the November Emery Closet issue.

To learn more about the group and the ImageOut Festival plans, contact Ron at 225-2820 or email smatter1rochester.rr.com.

ROCHESTER WOMEN’S COMMUNITY CHORUS

RWC is excited about its great start to the busy fall season! The chorus is very happy to welcome several new members.

Once again, the chorus will perform at the opening ceremony for Making Strides against Breast Cancer. This event will be held at Frontier Field on Oct. 2.

RWC is honored to perform at a benefit concert and celebration of World Hospice Day on Sunday, Oct. 8. It will be held at 7 p.m. at the Brooksunited Church of Christ.

As always, the fall brings the fabulous ImageOut Film & Video Festival. RWC is proud to, once again, be a community partner of this event. RWC is the sponsor of the short film program, “Quick Links”. It will be shown on Oct. 11, 6:30 p.m., at the Little Theater.

You can now find us on Facebook!

“The Rochester Women’s Community Chorus is looking for singers and volunteers for its 2011 fall season. RWC is a non-auditioned chorus building community through excellence in choral music. Women with or without musical experience are encouraged to join. The RWC welcomes women of diverse ages and life styles. For more information about the Rochester Women’s Community Chorus, contact (585) 234-4441 or visit our website: http://www.rwhc.org. You can now find us on Facebook!”

RAINBOW SAGE WOMEN’S GROUP

Rainbow Sage Women’s Peer Group meets on the last Monday monthly from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the GAGV Library, first floor (Auditorium Theater), 875 East Main St. in Rochester.

Description: LGBT women peers engage as equals in non-clinical discussions on whatever affects their lives as LGBT women.

Contact chroph@frontier.net for more info, or rainbowwomenpeersvicec@rochester.rr.com.

ROCHESTER GAY MEN’S CHOIR

Rochester Gay Men’s Choir is an all-new, all-inclusive, transgender social/educational group which welcomes all gender variant individuals and allies over age 18.

Rochester Trans Group meets on the last Saturday of the month from 5-7 p.m. in the Gay Alliance Youth Center (875 E. Main St. First Floor) and runs in affiliation with the Gay Alliance. This month’s meeting is Oct. 29.

The format will be part educational, with structured programming, but will also have a social component, where members have a chance to connect with each other and share information.

For more information about this group, please contact Scott ( Scotia@gayalliance.org), Kelly (kellyc@gayalliance.org) or Jeanine (jeanm@gayalliance.org) at the Gay Alliance (585) 244-8640.

Are you as Queer as a 3 dollar bill?

See page 11.

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Many travel counselors at Whitaker & DePrez Travel Partners, LLC have received extensive training on Disney Destinations theme parks, resorts, cruises, vacation packages and more, and can provide the utmost in professional assistance in planning customized Disney vacations. In fact, one reason the agency attained the “Authorized Disney Vacation Planner” status is that at least 50 percent of the frontline leisure travel agents are College of Disney Knowledge graduates. The College of Disney Knowledge is an in-depth comprehensive course that allows agents to develop their expertise regarding the Disney Destinations – knowledge that consumers can take advantage of when planning a Disney vacation.
**Monday**

**LGBT Support Group**
New Life Presbyterian Church, 2431 Roberts Blvd., 3rd Mondays, 7:30-9:30pm. Carol: 442-3832.

**Rainbow SAGE Women's Group**
Last Mondays, 11-12:30pm, GAYCUM Union tion to Youth Center, 875 E. Main Sr. egh@vms.rochester.edu

**Born That Way**
Formerly Third Presbyterian LGBT Support Group, fixed Mondays, 7:30-9:30, 545 Maple St. Carol: 482-3832.

**Lilac Squares**
Gay Square Dance Group Mondays, 7-8pm, Open Arms MCC, 740 Marshall Rd. 6-474-4567; Ian@lilacsquares.net.

**Ferry Pool Pilates**
AIDS Center, 257 Monroe Ave., 5-8pm. 442-2220.

**Rochester Historical Bowling Society**
7:30pm, Chris's Lane. 2750 Monroe Ave. (rackets in fall)

**HIV Positive Gay Men Support group**
Every Monday, 5pm, AIDS Care, 259 Monroe Ave.

**Gay Women Drop-In House**
Mondays, Wednesday, 2-6pm, 226 East Ave. 289-2585

**MOCHA Hepatitis Clinic**
AIDS Care, 7:30-8:30pm, Closed meeting, Evangelist Baptist Church, 875 Park Ave.

**MOCHA Youth Drop-In**
Mon.-Sat., 4-7pm, MOCHA Center, 107 East Ave. Roch@mochasites.net.

**Frontrunners/Frontwalkers**
Mondays, Wednesdays, 2-6pm, 259 Monroe Ave. fronrierner.ner.

**CampusOut Coffee Night**
Confidential, 6:30pm, AIDS Care. 259 Monroe Ave.

**David Bohnert Cyber Center**
740 Marshall Rd. 467-6456; bdaniels@gayalliance.us.

**Gay Square Dance Group**
Monthly peer-facilitated support group for men and women. Open.

**Third Saturdays**
Every third Saturday, 1pm-3pm, AIDS Care, 705 Grove St. 244-8640.

**BomThatWay**
7:30-9:30pm, Carol, 482-3832.

**Gay Alliance Youth Group**
Ages 14-23, Every Sunday, 3-4pm, 875 E. Main Sr. or unlisted location. For weekly location check Youth Calendar. www.gayalliance.us or e-mail Jen at JustGayForcesAlliance.org. On hiatus for summer.

**Friday**

**Gay Men AA meeting**
7:30-8:30pm, Closed meeting, Evangelist Baptist Church, 875 Park Ave.

**GLBTQ Motorcycle Group**
Second Fridays, 5-9pm, Various location: Rochester.GLBTQfaq@yahoocom; bnyrdiede@si.ventaonet.net.

**Satudays**

**Rochester Rams Bar Night**
Third Saturdays, 8pm-2am, Bachelor Forum, 670 Union Ave. 271-6730

**Empire Bears Bar Night**
First Saturdays, Bachelor Forum, 875 E. Main Sr. 467-6456

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

**Empire Bears Potluck**
5pm, 2nd Wednesdays, 7-10pm, Bachelor Forum, 670 Union Avenue. www.rochesterfrontrunners.org.

**Gay Night Out**
Third Saturdays. Social group for transexuals, 4-7pm, Equal-Grounds, 705 Grove St. 3pm to 7pm. formations@roctown.com.

**Census Support Group**
First Saturdays, 6-8pm, call for locations. 213-212-8818; g.support@gmail.com

**Gay Night Out**
Third Saturdays. Social group for transsexuals, 4-7pm, Equal-Grounds, 705 Grove St. 3pm to 7pm. formations@roctown.com.

**Lilac Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf (LRAD)**
2nd Saturdays, 6-9pm, rochesterfrontrunners.org.

**Sophia's Support Club**

**Sunday**

**Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)**
First Thursdays, 5:30pm. 167 Flanders St. 244-8640

**Queer Radical Reading Group**
First and third Thursdays, 5-10pm, First Unitarian Church, 150 S. Clinton Ave.

**Pride at Work**
First and third Fridays, 5pm, 875 E. Main Sr. 244-8640

**Protestants for Lesbian and Gay Presbyterians (PLAG)**
Met every third Thursday in Room 67 conference Room at the Central United Church. E-mail: victor@rochester.com.

**Gay Men's Alcoholics Anonymous**
Sr. St. Patrick's, 167 Flanders St. 6-3:30pm. 222-6730.

**Gay Men's CA**
3rd Wednesdays, 6pm. 875 E. Main Sr. 244-8640

**Gay Men's Recovery Center**
107 Liberty Pole Way. 875 E. Main Sr. (or pass). As a result, this meeting often runs long, so plan on more than the usual hour.

**Saturdays**

**Step in the Right Direction**
7:30-9pm, 1275 Spencerport Road (Trinity Alliance Church) This is a NA meeting that is open to all addicts who have a desire to stop using. Although it is not specifically a gay-oriented meeting, it is welcoming to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Each week a feature reads from a NA literature, followed by discussion.

**Rochester Gay Men**
7-2pm. First Unitarian Church, 220 S. Winton Rd. Bus riders. Take the last #18 University bus to 12 Corners. Use the stop just past the top of the hill at Ridge Road Ave. and before Highland Ave. Or take the #1 Park Ave. to the corner of East and Winton, then walk five minutes south (uphill) on Winton. This is an open discussion meeting. All issues are welcome.

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**Rochester Gay Men’s AA/NA Meetings**
Every week there are four regularly scheduled GLBTI AA and two NA meetings in Rochester.

**Tuesdays**

**Narcotics Anonymous**
6-730pm, AIDS and Recovery
114 Victor Lane (Covenant United Methodist Church)

**AIDS Care**
This is an AA meeting that is open to all addicts who have a desire to stop using. Although it is not specifically a gay-oriented meeting, it is welcoming to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Each week a feature reads from a NA literature, followed by discussion.

**Wednesdays**

**New Freedom/New Happiness Group**
7pm. First Unitarian Church, 220 S. Winton Rd. Bus riders. Take the last #18 University bus to 12 Corners. Use the stop just past the top of the hill at Ridge Road Ave. and before Highland Ave. Or take the #1 Park Ave. to the corner of East and Winton, then walk five minutes south (uphill) on Winton. This is an open discussion meeting. All issues are welcome.

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SATURDAY 1
Gallery @ Equal-grounds opening of "There Is No Up or Down," paintings on paper by Bradford Butler. 7-9 pm at the Gallery @ Equal-grounds, 750 South Ave.

Human Rights Campaign Dinner Washington DC. Keynote by President Barack Obama.

ImageArt "Pecostu. GCT/COIcC"s showcases over 70 works of art from 11 regional LGBT collectors. Opens at Visual Studies Workshop Bookstore gallery, 31 Prince St., public opening reception 6-10 pm. Continues through Oct. 11, as part of ImageArt Film Festival. Visual Studies Workshop gallery hours are Thursdays 5-8 pm, Friday-Sunday 12-5 pm.

ImageArt "The Unseen Eye: Photographs from the W.M. Hunt Collection" at George Eastman House through Feb. 19.

ImageArt "Wish You Were Queer, Too" second annual benefit show and sale of original postcard-size artwork on paper by established and emerging artists. Visual Studies Workshop 31 Prince St., from 6-10 pm through Sunday, Oct. 23. All works will be sold first-come, first-served.

SUNDAY 2
Making Strides Against Breast Can­cer Walk, American Cancer Society, 10 a.m., Frontier Field. The Rochester Women’s Community Chorus will perform.

Dignity Integrity: 50th anniver­sary, Episcopal Miss in the Church, with music, 5 p.m. St. Luke’s and St. Simon’s Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. www.di-rochester.org; email info@di-rochester.org; D-I Hotline (585) 234-5092.

TUESDAY 11
Coming Out Day
Out & Equal Second Thursdays Networking Event. 5:30-7:30 pm, Henry F. Regenr East Ave. 5095 benefit Victory Alliance.

Wednesday 12
Rochester Rans general meeting Bachelor Forum basement clubhouse, 670 University Ave. 7:30 pm. All interested men welcome.

THURSDAY 13

FRIDAY 14
Empty Closet deadline for November issue. 44-9033@msn.com; RCCMailingList@gmail.com. RMGC Tag Sale to raise funds for choral trip to perform at GALA 2012 Festival in Denver next summer. 9 a.m. at 39 Woodmill Road.

SATURDAY 15

SUNDAY 16
Rainbow Sage/GAGV Fall Dance. 5-10 p.m. Roger Robota Club, 180 Beach Ave. Honey decorated cakes,costumes optional. Drug, alcohol-free. Rain dates 11/1-11. Tickets at Equal-grounds, Duralast, $39

SUNDAY 30
Halloween, Sabian. Ancient Cel­tic fire festival celebrating the death and rebirth of the year. Sacred "tree": joy, ill.
Wade McCollum
(The Emcee in Geva’s Cabaret)

AS

Dracula

Begins Oct. 11

By Steven Dietz

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