Canandaigua VA Center offers support to LGBT vets, employees

By Susan Jordan

Wanda Martinez, RN at the Canandaigua VA Medical Center, and GAGV Speakers’ Bureau volunteer, and Daniel Ryan, Public Affairs Officer, recently answered questions about the Center’s LGBT employee group. The employee group has won a national award from the Veteran’s Gay Alliance Program Director Scott Pearing says, “It is a very innovative LGBT employer program and unique in the country.

In October, can you tell us something about the Canandaigua VA Medical Center and the Rochester VA Outpatient Clinic’s LGBT employee group? When and how did the LGBT group develop?

VA Center: In June 2009, the Canandaigua VAMC and Rochester VA Outpatient Clinic’s Equal Employment Opportunity Committee held Diversity Day celebrations at each site, which for the first time included Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) as one of the topics. Interested employees, John Altieri and Susanne Dougherty created a LGBT display, had resource materials available and arranged for Scott Pearing from the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley to be a guest speaker. This was well received so we as an agency decided to see if there was interest in starting a LGBT Business Enterprise workgroup. The Canandaigua VAMC LGBTSA employee workgroup was formed in September 2009 within the Diversity Program of the Equal Employment Office. The first co-coordinators were Julianne Mallian and Wanda Martinez. Wanda cutinates to be a co-coordinator with Shelly Carlbirton. Since its inception, this workgroup has grown to 27 members. The members of the LGBTSA employee workgroup created a mission statement:

“To identify and address barriers, stereotypes and other related issues in the workplace; foster allies; increase awareness of health care issues and advocate for a caring and understanding” (Canandaigua continues page 9)

DADT repeal celebrations set for Sept. 20; local vets comment

By Susan Jordan

Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) on Aug. 9 announced its nationwide “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” (DADT) Repeal Day celebrations, which will take place when the law officially expires on Sept. 20. A Flagship event is scheduled in Washington, D.C. and 20 other events across the nation organized online by repeal supporters at www.sldn.org/RepealDay. This site will be updated regularly as new events are added.

Bess Watts, U.S. Army Veteran (1976-1982) and President of Pride At Work ROC and Chap. (DADT continues page 9)
Why I'm proud to call myself a Lesbian

I'm proud to be a daughter of Sappho of Lesbos, one of the most ambiguous of the ancient Greek poets who ever lived. No “gay woman” label for me!

Unfortunately, most of her poems have been lost -- or destroyed by men who did not approve of lesbians or of women being better poets than they.

Sappho ran an academy for girls on the Aegean isle of Lesvos (c. 625-500 BCE). She had a husband and daughter and therefore her identity was questioned. She may well have been bisexual, but it’s also true that before the 19th century, lesbianism and homosexuality were not recognized concepts. Girls were married off at an early age and, at least in the upper classes, lived a secluded life surrounded by other women, which meant that they could develop discreet lesbian relationships.

Male homosexuality was accepted in a degree: boys in Iron Age Greece could be homo- and andromono-sexual.

In any case, Sappho’s primary passion was to women. Classical Greece was a society so patriarchal that women had no civil or human rights and were the property of their fathers and then husbands. But Sappho was a princess of Aphrodite and as such had a degree of freedom.

Panarchia has defined Aphrodite as the ultra-femme goddess of love and sexuality -- sort of an immortal, divine Mary Tyrone. The truth is a little more complicated. There were many aspects of Aphrodite, including a barch Amazon form and Aphrodite Barbara -- bearded Aphrodite -- possibly an early form of genderqueer!

Even in her most feminine aspects, Aphrodite was a powerful and sensual female deity, not a passive, objectified Earth-Mommy. She was Queen of Heaven and Earth, and in pre-History, being female, powerful and sexual all at once was good and normal.


Ally support for equal marriage rights is strong

For the past 10 years, I have participated in an arduous water exercise class. The course is very friendly and social and over the course of time we can learn things about each other. When my partner had a knee replacement, I called the first question I would get when I walked through the door was, "How is Marra doing?"

In July I missed several of the Saturday morning sessions because of weekend PRIDE activities. One of the members said she was happy to see me. I told her I had been busy. She replied she knew because she saw me on television.

She told me she was happy to see the Equal Marriage Legislation passed. She commented that it must have been a lot of work. I said it was, but the work was done by so many people. As the polls showed, a majority of people supported equal marriage rights.

This issue resonated with so many allies. The wonderful part is that so many joined forces with us to call or write to their legislatures, to talk about the issue in their churches and homes and at work. They have donated time, energy and money to support the work and they thankfully celebrate with us.

I have been blessed to have worked with fierce Straight allies all past 33 years. I have learned to anticipate support rather than rejection.

I guess I am an optimist because what is the alternative? It is always wise to look for the good in people.
clearing up marriage equality misunderstandings

By Ove Overmyer

Misinformation and confusion are rampant regarding what the Marriage Equality Act in New York has become the law of the land. The Empire State has six other states or municipalities in which same-sex couples can get married in the United States.

What does this mean for all workers? What does this mean for the future of domestic-partner benefits and for those workers who are stuck in civil unions? Will unmarried straight couples be denied worker benefits if they choose not to marry?

When marriage official became legal in the state of New York in July, thousands of same-sex couples rushed to be among the first to take their wedding vows under the new law. Before the law passed, many gay employees requesting domestic-partner benefits had to prove to their employers that they were in a longstanding, committed relationship—providing evidence that they owned property together, held joint bank accounts or named each other beneficiaries.

Meanwhile, employers in New York and elsewhere are now mulled over this question: Should they stop offering domestic-partner benefits in light of the state’s new marriage equality law? As a result of these new laws and policies, employers should be mindful of their existing plan documents and the way in which they define these terms such as spouse and domestic partner.

Now in New York State, same-sex spouses receive the same rights and responsibilities provided to different-sex spouses under New York law. According to ESOP and leading New York law groups, there are over 1,300 such rights and responsibilities.

---

In New York City, same-sex couples have already been solemnized since we’re going to be there on Sunday, married by City Hall and Brighton Town Hall on July 24.

The Empty Closet, a key volunteer for the Gay Alliance, was pleased with the new law because I know friends and people I respect in the community who have received these awards before and I am pleased to have been chosen. It is great company.

Over the past three years, Michael and Carrie both say pulling off Pride Week has been a 365-day year commitment and the work load has been tremendous. There have been a lot of lessons learned from the Gay Alliance and I feel the planning committee and volunteers are now skilled in the art of long hours and many problems.

Michael Hardy and Carrie Vernon, Photo: Karen Wikins

Michael and Carrie have worked on the parade committees for 11 years. They formed the Gay Alliance for the Next Generation, a group that has worked on the parade committees for 11 years. They formed the Gay Alliance for the Next Generation, a group that has worked on the parade committees.

They are both significant in the community and the work load has been tremendous. They have been a lot of lessons learned from the Gay Alliance and I feel the planning committee and volunteers are now skilled in the art of long hours and many problems.

Organizing Rochester Pride was one of the most rewarding decisions that they ever made. It's like a beautiful flower that has grown and bloomed and spread its seeds to the world.

James, a trans woman and an associate professor of dance at SUNY Brockport, said, “It seems unlikely that it could happen.”

James and Brian have volunteered in marriage equality activism for the Empire State Pride Agenda for around three years. Brian, an artist, had donated artwork to ESOP fundraisers before that.

It is an exciting time for those in the community who have been waiting to marry after we started living together for after we started living together for five years ago.

James, a trans woman and an associate professor of dance at SUNY Brockport, said, “It seems unlikely that it could happen.”

James and Brian have volunteered in marriage equality activism for the Empire State Pride Agenda for around three years. Brian, an artist, had donated artwork to ESOP fundraisers before that.

It is an exciting time for those in the community who have been waiting to marry after we started living together for after we started living together for five years ago.
Federal court: Trans prisoners must be given medical care in jail

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit on Aug. 5 upheld a lower court’s decision to grant hormone treatment to transgender prisoners in Wisconsin. The court ruled that the state of Wisconsin must provide hormone treatment to transgender inmates.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Wisconsin and Lambda Legal had challenged a Wisconsin law that prohibited prisoners from receiving hormone treatment or sex reassignment surgery to transgender inmates. The appeals court ruled that “Surely, had the Wisconsin legislature passed a law that DOC inmates with cancer must be treated only with therapy and pain killers, this court would have no trouble concluding that the law was unconstitutional. Refusing to provide effective treatment for a serious medical condition serves no valid penological purpose and amounts to torture.”

In 2005, the state of Wisconsin passed a law that barred prison doctors from providing transgender inmates medically necessary hormone therapy or sex reassignment surgery to transgender women. The ACLU, the ACLU of Wisconsin and Lambda Legal sued the state to prevent transgender inmates from being treated appropriately.

The court ruled that transgender inmates should be treated with the same respect and dignity as other prisoners and that the state’s failure to provide necessary medical care to transgender prisoners violated the Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

A new bipartisan bill introduced in the U.S. Senate on Aug. 5 would ban discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in public accommodations, education, employment, and housing. The bill, known as the Equality Act, would extend the protections of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

The bill was introduced by Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) and Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) and has the support of 60 senators, including 14 Republicans. It now goes to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee for consideration.

The bill would also prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the workplace, including in health care, and would require employers to provide reasonable accommodations to employees with disabilities.

The bill has the support of 130 House Democrats and is expected to be debated in Congress in the coming weeks. If passed, it would go to the White House for President Obama’s signature.

The bill is part of a larger push to pass comprehensive nondiscrimination legislation at the federal level. While the Equality Act would provide strong protections for LGBTQ Americans, many advocates say that it does not go far enough and that more work needs to be done to ensure full equality for all Americans.

The bill would also prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in public accommodations, education, employment, and housing. The bill was introduced by Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) and Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) and has the support of 60 senators, including 14 Republicans. It now goes to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee for consideration.

The bill would also prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the workplace, including in health care, and would require employers to provide reasonable accommodations to employees with disabilities.

The bill has the support of 130 House Democrats and is expected to be debated in Congress in the coming weeks. If passed, it would go to the White House for President Obama’s signature.

The bill is part of a larger push to pass comprehensive nondiscrimination legislation at the federal level. While the Equality Act would provide strong protections for LGBTQ Americans, many advocates say that it does not go far enough and that more work needs to be done to ensure full equality for all Americans.

The bill would also prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in public accommodations, education, employment, and housing. The bill was introduced by Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) and Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) and has the support of 60 senators, including 14 Republicans. It now goes to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee for consideration.

The bill would also prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the workplace, including in health care, and would require employers to provide reasonable accommodations to employees with disabilities.

The bill has the support of 130 House Democrats and is expected to be debated in Congress in the coming weeks. If passed, it would go to the White House for President Obama’s signature.

The bill is part of a larger push to pass comprehensive nondiscrimination legislation at the federal level. While the Equality Act would provide strong protections for LGBTQ Americans, many advocates say that it does not go far enough and that more work needs to be done to ensure full equality for all Americans.
with the ACLU Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Project. "By blocking access to LGBT websites, by denying access to LGBT youth who either don't have access or the students they serve," said Barbara Johnson, executive director of FTRF.

More information on the ACLU's work to protect LGBT students can be found here: www.aclu.org/safeschools

Friends mourn losses in Indiana Fair disaster

At least seven people were killed and dozens more injured on Aug. 14 at the Indiana State Fair when a storm caused a stage to collapse. Among those lost were Christina Santiago, manager of programming for the Lesbian Community Care Project at Howard Brown Health Care in Chicago. She is survived by her partner Alisha, who was seriously injured in the same accident.

Tammy van Damm was also killed on Aug. 14. Her partner of 10 years, Janet Belyush, has filed a $60 million lawsuit.

Another tragic loss was that of Alina Bigjohny, 23, a friend of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley. "The sudden and devastating loss of Christina has left the entire community, including her, our Brown Health Center Family, heartbroken," said Jamil M. Edwards, President and CEO of Howard Brown. "Christina was an amazing woman - one of our very brightest stars - who worked tirelessly to improve the lives of women, particularly lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer women. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her friends and family. We are deeply saddened to lose such a beautiful partner Alisha Brennon, who is also a dear friend of Alina's and was devastated, but not killed, in the accident."

During her career at HBHC, Santiago was quickly recognized as a rising star. She recently received HBHC's 2010 Spirit Award, the highest staff honor. With a list of honors from outstanding employee recognition to being named to the Windy City Times "30 Under 30" list in 2008, Bigjohny was an instrumental figure in the expansion of women's health services division at the manager of LGTB, and a national advocate for the LGBT and women's community.

The Freedom to Read Foundation has been pleased to part of this positive effort to ensure that constitutionally protected library content is now available to all students.

The Freedom to Read Foundation has been pleased to part of this positive effort to ensure that constitutionally protected library content is now available to all students.

The Freedom to Read Foundation has been pleased to part of this positive effort to ensure that constitutionally protected library content is now available to all students.

The Freedom to Read Foundation has been pleased to part of this positive effort to ensure that constitutionally protected library content is now available to all students.

The Freedom to Read Foundation has been pleased to part of this positive effort to ensure that constitutionally protected library content is now available to all students.
Bill Moehle, Attorney for Brighton

By Susan Jordan

Bill Moehle has been Brighton Town Attorney for over 18 years, being appointed each year by the Town Board. He is now running in the Democratic primary for Town Supervisor. (Primary Day is Sept. 13 — polls open at noon and close at 9 p.m.)

Born in Detroit, Moehle moved to Brighton 32 years ago. He attended Williams College in Amherst, Mass., and says that as a Vietnam War protestor during his college years, he was one of those who built tiger cages on the campus next to Rte. 2, and slept there overnight, as a way protesting against the war.

His mother and father introduced him to social justice issues and activism at an early age. After graduation from Williams, Moehle attended law school at NYU. Right after getting his degree, he was offered a position in Rochester with Nixon Hargrave, but he has been here ever since.

"I settled into business law," he said, "which has continued to focus on — business law and finance — which is more important than ever now. It’s vital that Brighton have a supervisor with financial skills."

Along with fiscal responsibility, he lists public safety as his top priority. For instance, he has been very involved in the ongoing process of improving fire service, specifically for West Brighton. The section of the township that extends to Monroe Avenue more attractive to businesses, and to the public. People still walk in their neighborhood shops rather than go to the malls. We’ve got so many opportunities there.

On gay-related issues, Moehle told The Empty Closet that he has been a longtime supporter of marriage equality.

"I am proud of marching in the Pride Parade for the past two years," he said. "I worked with Jo Mieda-Neug and Jim Alci many times, recruited phone banking volunteers and participated in the candlelight vigil on June 24 and in the celebration rally on June 25.

"In my role as Town Attorney," he continued, "we were the first and I believe only suburb in town to grant domestic partner benefits to town employees. I drafted many of those myself. It was important because we were, in a time when not all LGBT employees couldn’t marry, and it was important that they have equal rights with our other employees.

"Conservatives want government to ‘run like a business’ — but business is ahead of the curve on domestic benefits. Maybe government can learn things from business! Conservatives say ‘no big government’ — but they want big government to control gay peoples’ lives. It’s ironic to say the least. Even a few conservative writers have recognized that inconsistency. We need to get rid of DOMA.”

Moehle issued a pro-GENOA press release on Aug. 12. He said, "I’m calling on the town of Brighton, Joe Morelle and Gov. Cuomo to support passage of GENOA. We want to make sure our transgender residents in Brighton are not exposed to discrimination. These are civil rights issues. As a community, we cannot afford not to see this as a friendly, welcoming place for the host and brightside. We have a diverse, welcoming community and this sends a message that Brighton is and will continue to be a community that welcomes that diversity. Again, it’s leading by example.”

Bill Moehle. Photos: Susan Jordan

Bill Moehle, Brighton
Town Supervisor primary

By Susan Jordan

Bill Moehle has been Brighton Town Attorney for over 18 years, being appoint­ed each year by the Town Board. He is now running in the Democratic primary for Town Supervisor. (Primary Day is Sept. 13 — polls open at noon and close at 9 p.m.)

Bill Moehle, Brighton

By Susan Jordan

Bill Moehle has been Brighton Town Attorney for over 18 years, being appoint­ed each year by the Town Board. He is now running in the Democratic primary for Town Supervisor. (Primary Day is Sept. 13 — polls open at noon and close at 9 p.m.)

Bill Moehle, Brighton

By Susan Jordan

Bill Moehle has been Brighton Town Attorney for over 18 years, being appoint­ed each year by the Town Board. He is now running in the Democratic primary for Town Supervisor. (Primary Day is Sept. 13 — polls open at noon and close at 9 p.m.)

Bill Moehle, Brighton

By Susan Jordan

Bill Moehle has been Brighton Town Attorney for over 18 years, being appoint­ed each year by the Town Board. He is now running in the Democratic primary for Town Supervisor. (Primary Day is Sept. 13 — polls open at noon and close at 9 p.m.)

Bill Moehle, Brighton

By Susan Jordan

Bill Moehle has been Brighton Town Attorney for over 18 years, being appoint­ed each year by the Town Board. He is now running in the Democratic primary for Town Supervisor. (Primary Day is Sept. 13 — polls open at noon and close at 9 p.m.)

Bill Moehle, Brighton

By Susan Jordan

Bill Moehle has been Brighton Town Attorney for over 18 years, being appoint­ed each year by the Town Board. He is now running in the Democratic primary for Town Supervisor. (Primary Day is Sept. 13 — polls open at noon and close at 9 p.m.)
Jennifer L. Gravitz, Esq.
Quality legal services provided with
old-fashioned care in the privacy of your home or office

- Buying/Selling Real Estate
- Wills and Estate Settlements
- Consumer Bankruptcy
- Name Changes
- Traffic Violations

3349 Monroe Ave. Suite 544 Rochester, NY 14618
(585) 244-8295

FROM PAGE ONE
(Wedding Bells from page 3)

get married that day. We met Ellen Yack­
nin and she was so supportive, and offered
to perform the ceremony. So we said yes!

James said he found the ceremony more spiritual and emotional than he had expected from a non-church wedding.

“There was a lot of mention of spiritual and moral issues in the ceremony, which was written by Judge Yacknin. It was beautiful but I didn’t expect it.”

Brian added, “Well probably use Judge Yacknin’s vows when we marry again on Sept 30.”

While they saw some hate-filled anti­
gay protesters on July 24, James empha­sized, “The people at City Hall were amazing — so friendly, positive, congratula­tory and excited. They had all volun­
teered to come in on a Sunday.”

Brian added, “The security guard who opened the door was smiling, the people at the desk were friendly — the atmosphere was electric. You could have held up a light bulb and it would have lit up.” The thing I was so taken with, aside from the fact of being there with my partner, was also to be there as part of a community — a community of gay men and women.

There was a deep connection standing in line — even if you didn’t know them, there was this feeling of connection with the other people. It’s something I’ll never forget.

The couple feels that national marriage equality will come about “purely through the courts” and state by state. Brian said, “NYS Attorney General Eric Schnittman on July 25 issued a lawsuit against the federal government to repeal DOMA.”

James said, “It’s interesting for us and I’m sure for others to negotiate how we, as the LGBT community, want to navigate these new traditions. We’re not straight. There are always expectations around marriage for straight couples — showers, bridal parties...”

Brian interjected, “Crowing stations...”

James continued, “It will be interest­ing to see how we create our own tradi­tions. I don’t think gay couples want to mirror straight traditions.”

Both agreed that internalized homophobia is taking a major blow now and that gay people will feel much better about themselves as society leaves homo­

Feldman Heating & Cooling
(585) 288-2050
QUALITY INSTALLATION & SERVICE
It's Hard To Stop A Trane

The couple feels that national marriage equality will come about “purely through the courts” and state by state. Brian said, “NYS Attorney General Eric Schnittman on July 25 issued a lawsuit against the federal government to repeal DOMA.”

James said, “It’s interesting for us and I’m sure for others to negotiate how we, as the LGBT community, want to navigate these new traditions. We’re not straight. There are always expectations around marriage for straight couples — showers, bridal parties...”

Brian interjected, “Crowing stations...”

James continued, “It will be interest­ing to see how we create our own tradi­tions. I don’t think gay couples want to mirror straight traditions.”

Both agreed that internalized homophobia is taking a major blow now and that gay people will feel much better about themselves as society leaves homo­

Super Majority. Between Rich and I and hopefully a third party, we could block that.

RT: My thoughts on crime arc, we do need jobs, but we have to stop government from incentivizing people to stay home and not apply for jobs.

‘Why do we send children out of their neighborhood schools when we could have them staying in their neighbor­hoods?’ If we see one city is doing well and another isn’t — we can bring neighbor­hoods residents together to bring attention to improving the school. We’re spending $23,000 a year for inner-city kids, and pri­

Dennis J. Foley, Ph. D.
Licensed Psychologist
Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
University of Rochester Medical Center
247 Park Avenue
Rochester, New York 14607
585.244.0813 Ext. 5

- Individual and Couples Therapy
- Multicultural/Diversity Consultations
- LGBTQI Concerns
- HIV/AIDS and Chronic Illness
- Trauma and Relationship Violence
- Grief and Bereavement
- Recovery Issues
- Depression/Anxiety/Self-concept

3349 Monroe Ave. Suite 544 Rochester, NY 14618
(585) 244-8295

www.yourbodymassages.com

James R. Yost, L.M.T.
60 & 90 Minute Therapeutic Massage Sessions
Call for Appointment
Phone 202-8754 or visit us online
Now Offering Hot Stone Massage

24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE
1843 E. MAIN ST. ROCHESTER
288-2050
www.feldmanhtg.com

There are always expectations around marriage for straight couples — showers, bridal parties...”

Brian interjected, “Crowing stations...”

James continued, “It will be interest­ing to see how we create our own tradi­tions. I don’t think gay couples want to mirror straight traditions.”

Both agreed that internalized homophobia is taking a major blow now and that gay people will feel much better about themselves as society leaves homo­

Feldman Heating & Cooling
(585) 288-2050
QUALITY INSTALLATION & SERVICE
It’s Hard To Stop A Trane

The two are not activists, but arc defi­

Jennifer L. Gravitz, Esq.
Quality legal services provided with
old-fashioned care in the privacy of your home or office

- Buying/Selling Real Estate
- Wills and Estate Settlements
- Consumer Bankruptcy
- Name Changes
- Traffic Violations

3349 Monroe Ave. Suite 544 Rochester, NY 14618
(585) 244-8295

www.yourbodymassages.com

James R. Yost, L.M.T.
60 & 90 Minute Therapeutic Massage Sessions
Call for Appointment
Phone 202-8754 or visit us online
Now Offering Hot Stone Massage

24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE
1776 E. MAIN ST. ROCHESTER
288-2050
www.feldmanhtg.com

Jennifer L. Gravitz, Esq.
Quality legal services provided with
old-fashioned care in the privacy of your home or office

- Buying/Selling Real Estate
- Wills and Estate Settlements
- Consumer Bankruptcy
- Name Changes
- Traffic Violations

3349 Monroe Ave. Suite 544 Rochester, NY 14618
(585) 244-8295

www.yourbodymassages.com

James R. Yost, L.M.T.
60 & 90 Minute Therapeutic Massage Sessions
Call for Appointment
Phone 202-8754 or visit us online
Now Offering Hot Stone Massage

24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE
1776 E. MAIN ST. ROCHESTER
288-2050
www.feldmanhtg.com

There are always expectations around marriage for straight couples — showers, bridal parties...”

Brian interjected, “Crowing stations...”

James continued, “It will be interest­ing to see how we create our own tradi­tions. I don’t think gay couples want to mirror straight traditions.”

Both agreed that internalized homophobia is taking a major blow now and that gay people will feel much better about themselves as society leaves homo­

Feldman Heating & Cooling
(585) 288-2050
QUALITY INSTALLATION & SERVICE
It’s Hard To Stop A Trane

The couple feels that national marriage equality will come about “purely through the courts” and state by state. Brian said, “NYS Attorney General Eric Schnittman on July 25 issued a lawsuit against the federal government to repeal DOMA.”

James said, “It’s interesting for us and I’m sure for others to negotiate how we, as the LGBT community, want to navigate these new traditions. We’re not straight. There are always expectations around marriage for straight couples — showers, bridal parties...”

Brian interjected, “Crowing stations...”

James continued, “It will be interest­ing to see how we create our own tradi­tions. I don’t think gay couples want to mirror straight traditions.”

Both agreed that internalized homophobia is taking a major blow now and that gay people will feel much better about themselves as society leaves homo­

Feldman Heating & Cooling
(585) 288-2050
QUALITY INSTALLATION & SERVICE
It’s Hard To Stop A Trane

The two are not activists, but arc defi­

Jennifer L. Gravitz, Esq.
Quality legal services provided with
old-fashioned care in the privacy of your home or office

- Buying/Selling Real Estate
- Wills and Estate Settlements
- Consumer Bankruptcy
- Name Changes
- Traffic Violations

3349 Monroe Ave. Suite 544 Rochester, NY 14618
(585) 244-8295

www.yourbodymassages.com

James R. Yost, L.M.T.
60 & 90 Minute Therapeutic Massage Sessions
Call for Appointment
Phone 202-8754 or visit us online
Now Offering Hot Stone Massage

24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE
1776 E. MAIN ST. ROCHESTER
288-2050
www.feldmanhtg.com

There are always expectations around marriage for straight couples — showers, bridal parties...”

Brian interjected, “Crowing stations...”

James continued, “It will be interest­ing to see how we create our own tradi­tions. I don’t think gay couples want to mirror straight traditions.”

Both agreed that internalized homophobia is taking a major blow now and that gay people will feel much better about themselves as society leaves homo­
FormData

Form Name: Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley
Form ID: GFV-123-456
Form Date: 2021-10-01
Form Submission: Yes

1. What is your name? [John Doe]
2. What is your role in the organization? [Member]
3. What are your primary responsibilities? [Fundraising, event planning]
4. What challenges have you faced in your role? [Time management, fundraising]
Going to the Pop Up Chapel of Love
TOM CORUJO AND SCOTT BAUMANN

Tom Corujo and Scott Baumann were married in the Pop Up Chapel in NYC’s Central Park -- or rather in one of two temporary chapels created for the event. The group marriage event was organized by www.popup-chapel.com in collaboration with The Knot (www.theknot.com). The event took place in Central Park at Columbus Circle on July 30.

Tom and Scott say, "We met nearly 30 years ago in NYC; moved to Milford, Pa., then to Cape Coral, Fla. We moved back to NY six years ago and we live a content life with ups and downs, worries and joys, as do all families. We accept what we have been given and make the most of our lives. We agree that our lives would not be complete without the other half. Regardless of where life has taken us, it’s only been possible because of the other person. We were extremely happy when NY passed the gay marriage bill. We knew that sometime within our lifetime, we would be able to legalize our commitment to each other. We were always married in a sense. All we needed was the document.”

Jeff Mills, a Rochester-based photographer, attended as a guest. Also in attendance were family and friends including Rochester’s Tony Perri.

Photos: Jeff Mills Photography

Tom Corujo and Scott Baumann. Jazell prepares for her marriage to Debra.

John and Jay are interviewed by local media after their wedding.
At Last!

You’ve fallen in love... You’ve set the date...

Now let us help you plan the perfect wedding as you start your new life together!

From start to finish, we’re dedicated to making your wedding the most memorable day in your life.

Our wedding packages are tailored to meet your every need, from rehearsal dinner to reception. Choose from our elegant Grand Ballroom or our picturesque Outdoor Pavilion. Call 585-546-3570 or email weddings@rochesterplaza.com to talk with one of our experienced wedding specialists.
ROCHESTER PHOTOGRAPHY

Jimmy C's Music Machine
"Congratulations"

NOW BOOKING
DJ • PHOTO • VIDEO • PHOTO BOOTH

jimmyc@jimmycsmusicmachine.com
www.jimmycsmusicmachine.com
585-338-3132

WE DDI NINGS & EV ENT S & RE NAIS S AN CE

at the Rochester Marriott Hotel

MEMORIAL ART GALLERY UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER
500 UNIVERSITY AVENUE ROCHESTER NEW YORK 585.276.8900

Clothesline
M&T Bank Clothesline Festival
Saturday, Sept. 10, 10 to 6
Sunday, Sept. 11, 10 to 5

fine art & crafts by NY artists
continuous live music & entertainment
food & drink
family friendly art activities

CLOTHESLINE.ROCHESTER.EDU

RENAISSANCE
DEL MONTE LODGE HOTEL & SPA

61 N. MAIN STREET
PITTSFORD NY 14534
DELMONTEWEDDINGS.COM
T: 585.381.9900

WEDDINGS & EVENTS by RENAISSANCE

celebrate Love

The Ridge Ballroom
at the Rochester Marriott Hotel

1890 Ridge Road West | Rochester | New York | 14615
rochester.marriottweddings.com | 585.295.2809
LGBT employees still suffer workplace inequalities. Labor advocates say DOMA is unconstitutional

Workers in same-sex relationships also continue to lose out on plenty of other benefits, such as Social Security survivor benefits. On the federal level as it stands today, same-sex couples are far more equal to opposite-sex couples — mostly when it comes to reporting taxes as earned income. When same-sex couples can not file jointly, they lose out on many tax benefits afforded different-sex married spouses.

Even if Congress were to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), most labor advocates agree that it should not mean the end of domestic-partner benefits or perpetuating the ill treatment of employees with different identities. Workplace advocates also say that the new marriage law in New York State and domestic-partner registries should, “co-exist very well together.”

“I still think domestic partnership benefits should remain as is — right now the states are the ones who define marriage and relationships,” says Bess Watts, president of CSEA Monroe County Local 828 and a national board member of Pride At Work, APL-CIO. She added, “DOMA is unjust and unconstitutional — it needs to be repealed.”

Watts and Tom Privitere, a WNY Director of Field Services for the Public Employees Federation who doubles as the Vice President of the local chapter of Pride At Work, APL-CIO, stress that union workers should continue to negotiate domestic partner benefits into their collective bargaining agreements, even though state laws on relationship matters are evolving at a rapid pace.

Privitere, who was the chief negotiator in the first effort to successfully adopt domestic partnership language in New York State collective bargaining agreement back in 1999, wants workers to know that domestic partner benefits and civil unions are not the same marriage.

“Back then, getting second-class status was not the goal and this was not just about LGBT workers,” Privitere told The Empty Closet. “Statistics show that the percentages of families who enjoy domestic-partner benefits are unmarried heterosexual couples. This was an effort that benefited all our state workers — gay and straight — who were job-tilted under our collective bargaining agreement.”

Watts and Privitere also say that if you live and work in New York State, you do not have to get married again in New York or otherwise register your marriage in New York if you are legally married elsewhere. In February 2010, an interstate appellate court ruled that same-sex couples who marry outside New York are entitled to full recognition of their marriages in New York.

In May 2008, the Court of Appeals, New York’s high court, unanimously ruled not to review the decision in Martinez v. County of Monroe, letting the appellate court’s ruling stand. Pat Martinez is an employee of Monroe Community College and a member in good standing with CSEA Monroe County Local 828. She successfully sued her employer to have her relationship legally recognized, and therefore, was eventually offered the same benefits as those married heterosexual couples worked right beside her.

On May 14, 2008, Governor Pataki’s legal counsel directed all state agencies to rescind rules and regulations in order to provide equal rights, benefits, and responsibilities to same-sex couples who marry in other jurisdictions, pursuant to the court’s decision in Martinez.

Watts and Privitere both say that if you want to receive spousal or family benefits at work, it will be up to you to inform your employer that you are married, single, or coupled, or to inform any other entity which is required to recognize or reflect your marriage or domestic partnership status.

Watts told The Empty Closet, “This is especially true if you have a name change on your marriage license and you want to get your personal documents in order, like your driver’s license, living will, health care proxy or home mortgage. You have to be your own best advocate.”

However, for example, if your employer does not require opposite-sex couples to provide a marriage certificate in order to prove the existence of their marriage, then you should not be required to do so either.

Although gains have been made towards workplace equality, Privitere cautions that until the federal government, including perhaps the Supreme Court, finally and fully recognizes the legitimacy of married same-sex couples, the slippery slope experienced by LGBT couples in California is still possible elsewhere — including here in New York State.

He said, “Until our marriages are ultimately granted federal recognition and every state in the union acknowledges the rights of married same-sex couples, I would be very skeptical about relinquishing any contractually guaranteed benefit at this point in time.”

NYC transgender woman killed on Aug. 1

The New York City lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community stands in solidarity with the family and friends of Camila Guzman, a transgender woman found brutally murdered in her apartment on Aug. 1. The community also calls for the media to report this story accurately and responsibly, said the Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund.

“We are saddened and troubled by the death of another member of our community,” said Michael Silverman, executive director of the Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund. “This horrible murder further underscores the violence transgender people, and particularly transgender women of color, face.”
She changed her mind.


degree in English.

Then, finishing his undergraduate degree, he received his June Doctorate from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

Alesi was defeated in the 2008 Democratic primary for the 60th Senate District, losing heavily to incumbent Thompson.

Mark Grisanti was defeated in the 2008 Democratic primary for the 60th Senate District, losing heavily to Antoine Thompson, 72 to 28 percent.

On June 17, 2011, it was reported that Grisanti had publicly stated that he would vote "no" on same-sex marriage.

I have never in the past four months researched an issue or met with so many gay community leaders, and I am proud to be a Republican.

In Phase three we will place a mini-exhibit on "The Legacy of the Lesbian Community sponsored by Metropolitan Community Church at Chaus-tauqua.

I have studied this issue. For those that have read studies about civil unions that think were a lot of good friends, people that supported me. When I told them that I am committed to giving people who live in America what every American wants, they told me I was no longer a friend.

In September 1971, Violette Duroux was a product of her times.

In Phase three we will place a mini-exhibit on "The Legacy of the Lesbian Community sponsored by Metropolitan Community Church at Chautauqua.

When the earth was not called earth but the navel of the world, she said. Was it not the woman? As for nor-for-profits .... As a lawyer I feel that the rights...
“Camila’s friends and the transgender community overall are not happy with her portrayal in the news. As transwomen of color, we feel alone and like we’re invisible targets for violence,” said Ruby Terez Chavez, friend of Camila Guzman. “We call on the media and the community overall to support them and prevent violence against transgender people in the future.”

“Violence Project, also urges the media to act responsibly and not resort to innuendos or other methods of spreading fear and hate,” said Anne and Bess, co-founders of the Prevention of Anti-Transgender Violence Project. It is important that we denounce any act of violence against the transgender community and send the message that they deserve the support they need.”

City Council Member Melissa Mark-Vivona, who is doing an incredible job of supporting transgender people, contacted us to fairly and accurately tell the story of Camila Guzman to reflect her life as a nurse and public servant of the New York LGBT community.

Lebian sue for sexual harassment at work

Openly lesbian real estate worker Priscilla Agosto, 33, is suing her former employer for sexual harassment, saying she has been physically and verbally bullied at work.

Agosto’s boss responded to the suit by claiming that she is “too ugly” for any- body to have ever been interested in her. Priscilla Agosto ran a4lue of sexual harassment wurh Priscilla Agosto is being praised by the New York LGBT community for her courage and bravery. She is a strong role model for transgender and gay youth.

The New York LGBT community, which includes the Gay City Council Member Melissa Mark-Vivona, who is doing an incredible job of supporting transgender people, contacted us to fairly and accurately tell the story of Camila Guzman to reflect her life as a nurse and public servant of the New York LGBT community.

National and International

(Safe Schools continued from page 5)

Safeguarding students and universities to complete the Campus Pride Index's questionnaire and use it as a tool for positive institutional change that supports them. In addition, Campus Pride's Full 2011 LGBT-Friendly National College Fair is giving schools the opportunity to actively reach out and recruit talented and driven students from across the country. The Fair's 2011 Virtual Campus Fair is also available online 24/7 through November with stops in Chicago, Boston, Los Angeles, and more.

For more information on Campus Pride's Campus Climate Index, visit www.campusclimateindex.org. For more details on the LGBT-Friendly National College Fair, visit www.campusclimateindex.org.

More info online at www.campuspride.org.

Last gay Holocaust survivor passes at 98

Rudlolf Braida, believed to be the last gay survivor of the Holocaust, has died at the age of 98.

The 81-year-old was born in 1924 to the Nazi's Buchenwald concentration camp in August 1942 and held there until his liberation by the US Army in 1945. After the war, Braida moved to the United States and began working as a baker.

In 1996, Braida returned to Nazi Germany to visit the Buchenwald prison camp that had served as his forced-labor work camp. He was then interviewed by the former Nazi Lagerkommandant, who was later sentenced to 18 years in prison.

Braudia was born in 1924 to the Nazi's Buchenwald concentration camp in August 1942 and held there until his liberation by the US Army in 1945. After the war, Braida moved to the United States and began working as a baker.

In 1996, Braida returned to Nazi Germany to visit the Buchenwald prison camp that had served as his forced-labor work camp. He was then interviewed by the former Nazi Lagerkommandant, who was later sentenced to 18 years in prison.

He was sentenced to roles in important positions and disappeared.

Brasil was born in 1924 to the Nazi's Buchenwald concentration camp in August 1942 and held there until his liberation by the US Army in 1945. After the war, Braida moved to the United States and began working as a baker.

In 1996, Braida returned to Nazi Germany to visit the Buchenwald prison camp that had served as his forced-labor work camp. He was then interviewed by the former Nazi Lagerkommandant, who was later sentenced to 18 years in prison.

He was sentenced to roles in important positions and disappeared.

Brasil was born in 1924 to the Nazi's Buchenwald concentration camp in August 1942 and held there until his liberation by the US Army in 1945. After the war, Braida moved to the United States and began working as a baker.

In 1996, Braida returned to Nazi Germany to visit the Buchenwald prison camp that had served as his forced-labor work camp. He was then interviewed by the former Nazi Lagerkommandant, who was later sentenced to 18 years in prison.

He was sentenced to roles in important positions and disappeared.
ACLU proceeds with lawsuit of Vt. innkeepers who refused wedding event for lesbian couple

The ACLU has received and reviewed the Wildflower Inn’s response to the discrimination lawsuit filed July 19 following the inn's refusal to host a wedding reception for a same-sex couple, Kate Baker and Ming Linsley.

The ACLU plans to pursue this litigation vigorously,” said Allen Gilbert, executive director of the ACLU of Vermont. “The Wildflower Inn owners do not deny that they refused to host Kate and Ming’s wedding reception. Instead, they continue to claim a right to discriminate against the couple, which is in violation of Vermont law. We are confident that the owners’ claims that they have a First Amendment right to discriminate will be found meritless by the courts.

“This case is about discrimination, plain and simple. Vermont’s nondiscrimination laws have been on the books for nearly 20 years - long before civil unions or marriage equality in Vermont. The bottom line is that a business that is open to the public cannot deny service to customers based on their race, their religion, or their sexual orientation.”

“We look forward to having the Vermont courts make it clear that this discrimination is illegal,” said plaintiff Kate Baker. "Nobody should ever be turned away because of who they are when they’re simply trying to hold a celebration with their family at a public venue."

The American Civil Liberties Union and the ACLU of Vermont filed a lawsuit on July 19 against a Vermont resort that refused to host a lesbian couple’s wedding reception due to the owners’ personal bias against lesbian and gay people. Vermont law prohibits denying access to public accommodations based on sexual orientation.

Kate Baker and Ming Linsley of New York wished to hold their wedding ceremony at the Wildflower Inn. The 24-room inn described itself as an award-winning, family run facility, while everyone else who sees the inn was excited. Instead, the owners denied the couple access to the inn.

Pleasant Street Apothecary has just what you’re looking for...

Friendly, Personalized Service from the Experts!

Locally-owned and operated

24-Hour phone or online prescription ordering

Confidential delivery service and free parking

LGBT Friendly

Most insurances accepted

259 Monroe Avenue in Rochester
585-241-9000 or 800-923-9394
Fax: 585-454-2017
pleasantsstreetrx.com

Square Dance @ 140 Alex
Mondays, 7pm
beginning Sept. 12

Single & Couples welcome
5-5 Donation

For more information: lesliejennings@rochester.rr.com

Kavod Ha’briot
Respect for Human Dignity

Temple Beth David
A Conservative, Egalitarian, Haimish Synagogue.

High holiday tickets available.

3200 St. Paul Blvd. 585/266-3223
http://templebethdavid.uschost.net

It’s OK to Admit You Need Help

Did you know that Catholic Family Center can help you or the ones you love pay for minimal housekeeping or personal care?

EISEP (Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program) is designed for adults 60+ years living in Monroe County who need assistance with the activities of everyday life.

The program also offers a sliding fee for the following services:

- Housekeeping (light cleaning, laundry, meal preparation)
- Personal Care (bathing, dressing, grooming)
- Respite at Social Adult Day Programs

For more information, call 585-262-7060.
Episcopal Diocese issues statement on marriage equality


"As we approach the implementation of the Marriage Equality Act, we are in the extension of civil rights to same-sex couples in New York. We believe this extension to be fully consonant with the Good News of God in Jesus Christ proclaimed by the church.

This extension of marriage equality follows quite naturally with the history of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, which has tirelessly promoted the full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons in the life of the church, including blessing their relationships as a pastoral response in many parish contexts, for almost forty years. While we recognize that there are differing opinions, even within our own church, we want to make clear that these differences do not break the fellowship by which we are bound together. Let us constantly seek reconciliation and act in ways that do not promote invective or convulsions and one another's dignity.

After careful discernment and consultation, we recommend that clergy who proceed with full wedding couples who seek to enter the marriage covenant of fidelity, mutuality and service. We encourage the celebration and blessing of all marriages in accordance with congregational guidelines. In doing so, we uphold the Episcopal Church's 2009 General Convention resolution (C056) that allows bishops to provide a "genuine pastoral response" in those jurisdictions which allow for equal marriage, civil unions or domestic partnerships. However, with our current canon law, presiding at any wedding is at the discretion of clergy.

It will take some time for the language of both the Canons of the Episcopal Church to catch up to this new reality. In the meantime, the bishop's office will be a resource for those seeking to celebrate and bless marriage with appropriate pastoral care and preparation. We encourage clergy to do whatever work of formation and discernment is necessary to maintain a clear conscience, as much as possible, before moving forward. Further guidelines for the clergy will be forthcoming. This matter will be a topic of a clergy gathering on September 25.

"May God bless us as we move forward in the spread of the freedom for which Christ sets us free (Galatians 5:1). And may God bless all couples who are seeking to celebrate their commitment and add the blessing of God on it."  

Courts must protect LGBT servicemembers

By Palm Center scholars Bonnie H. Margen and Alan Beilin

After "Don't ask, don't tell" (DADT) is repealed on Sept. 20, it would be difficult for any future administration to undo the legislation. Most of the provisions supporting allowing gay men and lesbians to serve openly, including a majority of Republicans, and it will be operationally and politically challenging to roll back the clock.

That said, it's legally possible, and presidential candidate Michele Bachmann's stated intent to reinstate the military's ban is therefore of some concern. Although some activists are calling on President Obama to sign an executive order forcing the Pentagon to treat gay and lesbian troops equally, the institution that's best positioned to lock in a policy is the court system.

Congress could repeal the law, or the courts could find it unconstitutional. During the past year, both options have moved forward in tandem, with Congress pressing repeal legislation as the federal courts entertained a case. Log Cabin Republicans v. Panetta, that questions its constitutionality.

After a lower court ruled in September 2010 that DADT is unconstitutional, as if the judicial branch might terminate the policy before the politicians got around to it. But now that the military, Department of Defense, and President have certified that the armed forces can live without DADT, the converse may be true. That would be a mistake and a lost opportunity, because a favorable decision in the case is still needed to protect the welfare of the troops, and because there's even more at stake than that. The administration argues that repeal will resolve the plaintiffs' concerns, and so the entire case should be wiped from the record as though it never happened, including evidence at trial and the district court's conclusion that DADT is unconstitutional. When a challenged law is repealed, courts sometimes strike all proceedings because there is no longer an active controversy between the parties. The case becomes moot, and subject to dismissal, if it lacks any practical significance.

Log Cabin, however, is not the usual case in which a constitutionally offensive statute is repealed and the plaintiff is completely protected. Congress's DADT Repeal Act does nothing to ensure equal treatment of gay and lesbian troops. All it does is repeal the conscription version of DADT and return total discretion to the military to decide what to do — the way it was handled before DADT.

As a result, even after repeal, there is no guarantee that gay service members will be treated in a way that respects the Constitution. Until that question is definitely resolved, Log Cabin should not be dismissed as moot. It's especially misguided to argue the controversy is over given that the House has already passed defense bills with provisions designed to obstruct repeal and Republican presidential candidates vow to bring DADT back.

And there's even more at stake in Log Cabin than the rights of gay and lesbian troops. At a fundamental level, the case is about whether or not the military is subject to judicial oversight. In its original Log Cabin appeal, the Justice Department announced a military exception to the arguments it has made in other cases about sexual-orientation discrimination. For civilians, it argues, courts should closely review discriminatory laws using heightened scrutiny, but for members of the military, courts should defer to the judgment of others. It's called "judicial deference" to military judgment, and it's become the centerpiece of the administration's approach to military equality. The administration is defending the military's freedom from judicial oversight more than it is defending DADT.

There's a good chance that if it continues to hear the case, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals would disagree with the idea that the Constitution is something less than a military context. But if the administration can convince the court that Log Cabin is moot, there will be no further court merits. If it is also successful in striking the district court's decision, it will eliminate any relief. If DADT was found unconstitutional.

The Ninth Circuit should take Log Cabin very seriously. Even if it side-liners the appeal, it should not take the district court opinion off the books. Log Cabin was the first case in which a court invited evidence on the justification for DADT. The government was unable to produce any, and that was why it lost the case. It is important to preserve the outcome of this trial as a reminder to future Congresses and Presidents that the military is not a Constitution-free zone.

Log Cabin establishes principles that must be defended whether or not DADT disappears. It sets a standard of fair treatment for those serving in uniform. It reminds us that there are limits to intrusions on personal liberty. Finally, it affirms that the military is part of our constitutional community, and that service members and civilians alike are deserving of judicial protection.

The Palm Center filed an amicus brief in Log Cabin explaining the proper role for judicial review in a military context. The Palm Center is a think tank at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Since 1998, the Center has been a leader in commissioning and disseminating research in the areas of gender, sexuality, and the military. For more information, visit www.palmcenter.org.\n
---

Elaine Elkins, M.S.
Psychotherapist
244-4837

Individual & Relationship Counseling
Anxiety & Depression
Loneliness & Separation
Conflict Resolution
Communication Skills
Sexual Abuse Recovery
Drug & Alcohol Abuse
Grief & Loss
2011 IMAGEOUT FESTIVAL
October 7-16, 2011
10 DAYS, 45 PROGRAMS
Online ticket sales begin Friday, September 16 at 5:00pm, visit our website for in-person ticket sale dates and program descriptions.

OPENING NIGHT
OCTOBER 7

The Night Watch

40 MORE YEARS

OCTOBER 7

Four More Years

DOCUMENTARY CENTERPIECE
OCTOBER 10

We Were Here
The AIDS Years in San Francisco

IMAGEOUT OF THE ARCHIVES
OCTOBER 11

Hedwig and the Angry Inch

NARRATIVE CENTERPIECE
OCTOBER 12

Rosa Morena

SPOTLIGHT FEATURE
OCTOBER 14

Codependent Lesbian Space Alien Seeks Same

SPOTLIGHT FEATURE
OCTOBER 14

Longhorns

CLOSING NIGHT
OCTOBER 15

Loose Cannons

Wish You Were Queer, Too!

is the second annual benefit show and sale of original postcard-size artwork on paper by established, emerging, and aspiring artists (that could include you). The exhibition and sale will open at the Visual Studies Workshop, 31 Prince Street, Rochester NY, on Saturday October 1 from 6 - 10 pm and continue through Sunday, October 23. All works will be sold first-come, first-served for $10 each.

Submission deadline is Friday, September 23, 2011.
For more information visit the ImageOut website.
All proceeds support ImageArt, a program of ImageOut.

www.imageout.org
Making the Scene

PARK AVENUE FESTIVAL: L-R: Errol Kelly, Greg Sezney and Fran Keefe stop by the Catalano-Trembley party for a cool one on Aug. 6.

L-R: Eleanor Chin, Peter Kaplan and Park Ave. Festival party host Bruce Trembley.

RIBBON-CUTTING: Stency Wegman (Mrs. Danny Wegman) did the honors on July 1 when she cut the red ribbon to open Tom Crane and Jason Harvey’s new business, Redken: Salon & Spa, at Parkway Plaza (5 & 20), 117 Eastern Blvd., Canandaigua. Tom and Jason also have a salon (Redken: Salon & Spa) on Pine Island, Fla.

L-R: B.J. Scanlon, Matt Haag, Derrick VanGrol and Wayne Stahler at the Park Avenue Festival.

The first full weekend of August marks the transformation of Park Ave. (from Alexander St. to Culver Rd.) into one of the largest community gatherings in Western New York. On Aug. 6, Park Ave. residents Jimmy Catalano and Bruce Trembley hosted a lavish soiree at the 35th Annual Park Avenue Summer Art Festival. L-R: Joe Burkett, Chris Beato, Tim Rawlings, Bruce Davie, hosts Jimmy Catalano and Bruce Trembley, Craig Knight. Photos: Ove Overmyer

OUT & EQUAL: Out & Equal’s August Second Thursdays Networking Event was held Aug. 11 at One Restaurant and Lounge, 1 Ryan Alley. A 50/50 drawing benefited the Gay Alliance and Pride 2012. The September event is Sept. 8 at Excellus, 165 Court St. Photos: Karen Wilkins
never thought l'd be a teacher— but working with my students has been a gift. Every year is an adventure. I do create my own world there, which is part of the charm. By Susan Jordan

A Rochester native, Thomas has deep family roots here. However, he spent many years travelling the world as a performer and in his own words, “never thought I’d end up living here.”

Around 1997 he returned to his hometown in order to spend time with his father. At that time he had not yet retired from the dance world, but in 1998 he took over the dance program at RIT. The program started at NTID, which Thomas calls “another place that means so much to me. I never thought I’d be a teacher—but working with my students has been a gift. Every year is an adventure. I do create my own world there, which is part of the charm.”

Thomas’s favorite Rochester places include a huge maple tree behind the Memorial Art Gallery, which he used to pass on his way to ballet lessons as a child. Another scenic spot is the herb garden behind the Museum and Science Center, where he went to kindergarten in a red building which is still there, although no longer used as a school. “I have great memories,” he says, “It was always there, reading or writing.”

He is also fascinated by the small bridge in Genesee Valley Park, visible off East River Road, which arches over the water in a wooded area and reminds Thomas of a painting by Monet.

For his favorite groups and events, Thomas says, “One of the most interesting groups I’ve been part of is ArtWalk.” Thomas suggested adding annual dance performances to the sculpture and other art along the trail. Two years later the event also added other kinds of performing arts, such as music and poetry. Thomas had a lot of fun choreographing dances for street sweepers, front loaders, bucket lifts and police segways, and one year he added an awesome display of trick riding by motorcycle clubs, which led to problems. Thomas said, “They did all sorts of things they were told not to do and boy did I get in trouble. But it was fun.”

The drivers of the front loaders, etc. at first had to be ordered to take part. But once they got into it and showed Thomas what their machines could do, so that they were involved in creating the choreography, they came to love it.

He said, “ArtWalk drew the community together in so many diverse ways. It was a community-building agent. Everyone was on the same level, whether they were professionals or not—it was all about art. Once you got money involved it becomes something different.”

Another event that Thomas has been deeply involved with is the World AIDS Day concert, which is now organized by Scotty Ginet. Proceeds from the annual concert go to orphans around the world who are affected by and/or infected with HIV. Thomas began the tradition as a student in Utah and held events in cities around the world who are affected by and/or infected with HIV.

As for his favorite Rochester places, Thomas says, “I love shopping at Burrows, buckin’rs and police segways, and one year I added an awesome display of trick riding by motorcycle clubs, which led to problems. Thomas said, “They did all sorts of things they were told not to do and boy did I get in trouble. But it was fun.”

The drivers of the front loaders, etc. at first had to be ordered to take part. But once they got into it and showed Thomas what their machines could do, so that they were involved in creating the choreography, they came to love it.

He said, “ArtWalk drew the community together in so many diverse ways. It was a community-building agent. Everyone was on the same level, whether they were professionals or not—it was all about art. Once you got money involved it becomes something different.”

Another event that Thomas has been deeply involved with is the World AIDS Day concert, which is now organized by Scotty Ginet. Proceeds from the annual concert go to orphans around the world who are affected by and/or infected with HIV. Thomas began the tradition as a student in Utah and held events in cities around the world who are affected by and/or infected with HIV.

As for his favorite Rochester places, Thomas says, “I love shopping at Burrows, buckin’rs and police segways, and one year I added an awesome display of trick riding by motorcycle clubs, which led to problems. Thomas said, “They did all sorts of things they were told not to do and boy did I get in trouble. But it was fun.”

The drivers of the front loaders, etc. at first had to be ordered to take part. But once they got into it and showed Thomas what their machines could do, so that they were involved in creating the choreography, they came to love it.

He said, “ArtWalk drew the community together in so many diverse ways. It was a community-building agent. Everyone was on the same level, whether they were professionals or not—it was all about art. Once you got money involved it becomes something different.”

Another event that Thomas has been deeply involved with is the World AIDS Day concert, which is now organized by Scotty Ginet. Proceeds from the annual concert go to orphans around the world who are affected by and/or infected with HIV. Thomas began the tradition as a student in Utah and held events in cities around the world who are affected by and/or infected with HIV.

As for his favorite Rochester places, Thomas says, “I love shopping at Burrows, buckin’rs and police segways, and one year I added an awesome display of trick riding by motorcycle clubs, which led to problems. Thomas said, “They did all sorts of things they were told not to do and boy did I get in trouble. But it was fun.”

The drivers of the front loaders, etc. at first had to be ordered to take part. But once they got into it and showed Thomas what their machines could do, so that they were involved in creating the choreography, they came to love it.

He said, “ArtWalk drew the community together in so many diverse ways. It was a community-building agent. Everyone was on the same level, whether they were professionals or not—it was all about art. Once you got money involved it becomes something different.”

Another event that Thomas has been deeply involved with is the World AIDS Day concert, which is now organized by Scotty Ginet. Proceeds from the annual concert go to orphans around the world who are affected by and/or infected with HIV. Thomas began the tradition as a student in Utah and held events in cities around the world who are affected by and/or infected with HIV.

As for his favorite Rochester places, Thomas says, “I love shopping at Burrows, buckin’rs and police segways, and one year I added an awesome display of trick riding by motorcycle clubs, which led to problems. Thomas said, “They did all sorts of things they were told not to do and boy did I get in trouble. But it was fun.”

The drivers of the front loaders, etc. at first had to be ordered to take part. But once they got into it and showed Thomas what their machines could do, so that they were involved in creating the choreography, they came to love it.

He said, “ArtWalk drew the community together in so many diverse ways. It was a community-building agent. Everyone was on the same level, whether they were professionals or not—it was all about art. Once you got money involved it becomes something different.”

Another event that Thomas has been deeply involved with is the World AIDS Day concert, which is now organized by Scotty Ginet. Proceeds from the annual concert go to orphans around the world who are affected by and/or infected with HIV. Thomas began the tradition as a student in Utah and held events in cities around the world who are affected by and/or infected with HIV.

As for his favorite Rochester places, Thomas says, “I love shopping at Burrows, buckin’rs and police segways, and one year I added an awesome display of trick riding by motorcycle clubs, which led to problems. Thomas said, “They did all sorts of things they were told not to do and boy did I get in trouble. But it was fun.”

The drivers of the front loaders, etc. at first had to be ordered to take part. But once they got into it and showed Thomas what their machines could do, so that they were involved in creating the choreography, they came to love it.
Eastman House congratulates New York... and we want to help you celebrate!

Booking now for
- Wedding party photos
- Garden or indoor ceremonies
- Receptions
- Rehearsal dinners
- Indoor and outdoor facilities
- Small- or large-scale events

Dates available throughout 2011 & 2012

Contact Special Events Director
Allen Buell to make Rochester’s #1 address part of your life together.

(585) 271-3361 ext. 222.
abuell@geh.org

900 East Avenue, Rochester NY • www.eastmanhouse.org
Meredith Powell stars in “Bronte” at MuCCC

John W. Borek Presents announces the casting of Meredith Powell in William Luce’s “Bronte,” directed by Michael Arve.

The play will run Sept. 15-18 at MuCCC, 142 Atlantic Ave. Meredith Powell is an award winning actor and director who has been working in Rochester theater and film for over a decade. She has been recognized by the Theatrical Arts of New York State (TANYS) for excellence in both ensemble and solo setting work (Theo Eisen, Helen Colker, 2009) and excellence in directing (Midternight, 2009).

She has been cast in a wide variety of roles over the years and has worked with a number of theaters in the city both on and off stage, including John W. Borek Presents, GRGC, Method Machine, Blackfriars Theatre, the Shakespeare Players, Out of Pocket Productions and The Penfield Players, among many others. She has also appeared in a number of RIT student films, as well as independent films, recently completed The Nurse with Rochester Movie Makers, and is in the process of shooting the full length screenplay action/comedy film The Essential.

Meredith appeared most recently as Julia in the John W. Borek Presents production A Delicate Balance, and prior to that played Honey in GRGC’s highly acclaimed production of Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf? (Meredith continues page 2).

Get your tickets: ImageOut’s Festival Fair is Sept. 9 on the Planetarium

What good is sitting alone in your room? Put down the knitting, the book and the broom. Time for ImageOut’s 6th Annual Festival Fair! On Sept. 9, starting at 6:30 p.m., ImageOut presents happy hour, a FREE movie and more. October is just around the corner and the excitement of the 19th annual ImageOut Lesbian and Gay Film and Video Festival is in the air. For the second year in a row, the Fair will be at the Strasenburgh Planetarium at the Rochester Museum and Science Center. The Festival will run from Oct. 7 to Oct. 15 and will include over 90 films. Come Taste the Wine and find the best and your favorite cocktails too, while you mix and mingle at this great event featuring hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar. This is your opportunity to catch up on the hot films of the fall season. Find out what your friends are planning on seeing. And don’t be left out. You can buy advance tickets (or why not a Full Festival Pass) before they sell out! In fact, get all your ImageOut business done in one evening! Watch trailers of the most anticipated 2011 films and get your questions answered about the festival lineup. Pick up a copy of the festival program. Sign up to volunteer. Purchase or renew your 2011 ImageOut membership. Ask the Outreach Committee about our deaf and hard-of-hearing services, wheelchair accessibility, and discounted tickets for students, seniors, and individuals with financial hardship.

Come Hear the Band That is the band of dedicated film programmers talking about the 2011 selections. Get an insider scoop on the edgiest, sexiest, funniest, most fabulous and short films that you will see this year. The Programming Committee has traveled to festivals from San Francisco to Berlin to select this year’s best dramas, comedies, thrillers, documentaries, and shorts. ImageOut organizers will be glad to talk about favorites and recommendations, and show some of exciting preview clips. Information will be available about the invited guest filmmakers and stars, or any films slapped with warnings, especially those in the always-intriguing ImageOut Thrill Series.

Come Blow Your Horn ● Just sit back in the Planetarium auditorium and enjoy a wonderful, first-rate free movie. ImageOut is proud to host the Rochester premiere of “Christopher and His Kind,” an adaptation of English-American novelist Christopher Isherwood’s autobiography by the same title. A couple of years ago, Iwerwood’s novel “A Single Man” was adapted into film by Tom Ford and earned high praise for actor Colin Firth. But Iwerwood is probably best known for his collection of letters “Berlin Stories” which inspired the award-winning Broadway musical and film “Cabaret.” “Christopher and His Kind” stars Matt Smith, the new “Doctor Who,” as a young Iwerwood experiencing life as a gay expatriate in 1930’s Berlin, which incant having sex with a lot of handsome German boys. Unfortunately, it also meant witnessing the rise of the Nazi regime. The film also stars the lovely Imogen Poots as English actress-singer Jean Ross, who is clearly the inspiration for the immortal Sally Bowles. So learn more about the real-life drama and intrigues that led to “Cabaret.”

Festival Fair

Friday, Sept. 9 Strasenburgh Planetarium at the Rochester Museum & Science Center, 657 East Ave. (FREE) Times: 8 p.m. - Programmer’s Preview of the Fall Festival.

3:30 p.m. - screening of Christopher and His Kind.

Festival Fair (FREE)

6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

First opportunity to purchase Festival tickets. Buy your tickets early. Opening Night has sold out for the past five years!

Become a member and enjoy benefits!

Talk to members of the Programming Committee about this year’s hottest films!

Volunteer to help out during the festival!

Have special needs? Our Outreach Committee will be on hand to answer questions.

Planetary Lounge

Time: 6:30 – 9 p.m. Hang out and mingle with friends to discuss films and plan your Festival experience!

Cash Bar

Complimentary light hors d’oeuvres

To request interpreting services please contact ImageOut office by 5 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 2. This event is wheelchair accessible. Contact ImageOut: Phone: 585-271-2640. Email: info@imageout.org
Ithaca’s Hangar Theatre offers Rocky Horror

“Don’t dream it, be it!” The Hangar Theatre of Ithaca is proud to present the completely outrageous, always hilarious, classic rock-musical Rocky Horror Show live on the Hangar stage.

Directed and choreographed by Deva- nand Janki (who helmed the Hangar’s acclaimed production of Rent), this cult favorite is the final show of the Hangar’s highly acclaimed 2011 season. With lots of audience extras, The Rocky Horror Show runs through Sept. 3.

The performance on Sept. 1 is at 7:30 p.m., and on Sept. 2 at 8 p.m. The closing night show, Sept. 3, will be at midnight. Regular tickets range from $20 to $45. Tickets can be purchased at www.hangartertheatre.org or by phone at (607) 273-9497. The recently renovated theatre is located at 801 Taughannock Blvd, Ithaca.

With book, music and lyrics by Richard O’Brien, The Rocky Horror Show is a deliberately kirschy, mind-bending mash-up of science fiction staples that explode into a lurching fleshy film alien and small town innocents as well as “a sweet Transvestic from Transsexual Transylvania.”

The Hangar production is set in an old abandoned movie palace, permitting everyone’s favorite aliens to mingle and visit in some iconic film imagery. “The world of Hollywood B-movies of the ’50s portrayed a more innocent time” says Director Janki. “Setting Rocky Horror in this time period allows the audience to be shocked and delighted by all the gender-bending, sexual escapades.”

What the audience will see onstage at the Hangar will be very different from the familiar images, so well known from countless midnight showings of the film. Artistic Director Peter Flynn states, “This is not your mother’s Rocky Horror! Long time fans of the show will experience the delicious craziness they’ve come to expect and love from The Rocky Horror Show that we are also introducing this sassy, hilarious musical to a whole new generation. This will be a truly singular, not to be missed event!”

To further extend the decadent fun into the audience, the Hangar is offering several special events surrounding their production of The Rocky Horror Show, such as an audience dance party on stage after every evening performance of Rocky Horror. Meet the cast and dance the time warp away!

Rocky Horror’s closing performance (Saturday, Sept. 3) will be an exclusive midnight show! Tickets are already going fast for this amazing, late-night, anything-could-happen performance.

In NYC Labor Day weekend? Check out Matinee parties

Marinette NYC Festivals will set for Labor Day Weekend, Sept. 3-4. After sold-out events at Winter Party Festival, Universal Studios and Las Vegas, Marinette has returned to NYC. “Direct from the island of Ibiza, Marinette takes over Fire Island and Manhattan”

The party starts Saturday, Sept. 3 at Pavilion in Fire Island Pines, with DJs Eddie Elias and Billy Lace. On Sunday, Sept. 4 the action moves to District 36 in New York, with DJ Hector Buzanca, Javier Medina and Tinkera.

Online only pre-sale tickets are available at www.marinette NYC.com. Save 50 percent by purchasing your tickets in advance. Prices will go up, organizers say.

Foundation announces winning photographer

The Manuel Rivera Ortiz Foundation for International Photography 2011 Grant Program announced on July 22 that the winner of the 2011 grant is Mads Nissen of Denmark.

Go to the Foundation website at http://www.mrfofoundation.org to see the 15-image winning portfolio by Mr. Nissen. The work of other international photographers who entered their work in this year’s competition is also available for view there:


“Hi-Rail” opens Sept. 2 at Equal-Grounds

The Gallery @ Equal-Grounds Show for September 2011 is titled “Hi-Rail” — a term used to describe three-rail O-Gauge trains operating in a realistic environment.

Layout and design are by Richard
Panke, photographs by Noeme Panke and Richard Panke.

O-Gauge trains operate on about a quarter to an eighth of an inch higher than scale track and have three rails, hence the name “Hi-Rail.” O-Gauge layout is sized approximately 20’x13’ on two levels, 250 feet of track.

“Hi-Rail” brings to mind iconic railroad photographs of O. Winston Link. Link’s photographs provide us with a connection to the railroads in their heyday. Noeme and Richard Panke, daughter and father, have collaborated to bring life to these photographs, showing Richard’s railroad passions and Noeme’s photographic passion, held together by their familial bonds.

The opening reception for “Hi-Rail” is Friday, Sept. 2, from 7-9 p.m. The Gallery at Equal Grounds is located at 750 South Ave.
Exploring Indianapolis' White River State Park

By Merle Ezell

On a recent trip to Indianapolis, I found out that you can purchase a pass to see six attractions at the White River State Park. It includes the Indiana State Museum, the IMAX theatre at the Indiana State Museum, Indianapolis Zoo, Victory Field -- home to the Indianapolis Indians -- Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, and the NCAA Hall of Champions. Adult price is $42.

How better to tour White River State Park than with Executive Director Bob Whitl and on segway. The Segway Hut is located just next to the parking, along side the Dr. Frank P. Lloyd, Sr. Visitors Center, how convenient. Although the park is 250 acres of urban greenspace we did not tour all of it.

Most prominent are the cluster of museums and the abutting Indy Zoo. There are also two outdoor entertainment spaces. One is called the Celebration Plaza and Amphitheater. The other is the Governor's Lawn where major concerts are held. I absolutely loved the segway and it becomes easier each time I ride one. You can get lots of info on the park by going to www.inwhiteriver.wrsp.in.gov.

The main attraction is the Indiana State Museum, where the IMAX theatre is located. This has got to be the best movie I've seen in IMAX. It's called "Born To Be Wild" and in 3D to boot! It is about orphaned baby elephants and orangutans being brought to safe areas to grow up and go back into the wild.

For lunch and just right there is the L.S. Ayres Tea Room, to indulge in their famous Velvet Chicken Soup, adding a salad and tea, of course. I took a quick tour of the museum to see one entranceway exhibit of women from the Indy 500, called "Women of the Winners Circle," as well as the facade of a public school that was formerly on this location. The museum has a hands-on overview of the best Indiana has to offer.

I had to take in the NCAAA Hall of Champions, as I heard that there was a large exhibit devoted to women's sports. Women in Athletics Historic Timeline is on their main floor, showcasing women that dared back to the 1800s and the adversity they overcame.

Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art just about abuts the Indiana State Museum. It gave me a lesson or two on both the history and art of American Indians. There are three levels with both permanent and temporary exhibits and collections.

We couldn't miss going to the Indianapolis Zoo. There are actually three attractions to take in: the aquarium, the zoo and the gardens. It seems that the "in" things to purchase arc pieces of art done by animals. It's common to have them done by elephants. My artists were meerkats.

At the Zoo, you can visit four biomes, living habitats for the animals at the Zoo, that attempt to replicate their natural habitat as much as possible.

Highly recommended is a gondola ride in the lindy canal, located within the park. Jeff Harum is the owner of Old World Gondoliers that won first prize for their float at this year's gay pride parade.

In the Indiana State Museum, visitors can get lots of info on the park by going to www.inwhiteriver.wrsp.in.gov.

Happy Hour Specials Every Day of the Week
Half Priced Well Drinks & Draft Beer
4pm – 8pm

Nightly Specials
10pm-2am Sunday - Thursday
Sunday: 2 for 1 well Drinks
Monday: 2 for 1 Well Drinks, 1/2 Priced Drafts
Tuesday: $3.25 Pitchers Miller Lite, Labatt Blue/Blue Light
Wednesday: $3 Well Drinks & Free Pool
Thursday: 3 for 2 Drinks & Beer

Friday & Saturday 11pm-1am
$1.00 off ALL Mixed Drinks

NFL Sundays
Starting September 11th
Open EVERY Sunday at 12pm
Come watch ALL the NFL games!
$5.25 Pitchers Miller Lite, Labatt Blue/Blue Light
$2 Bud/Bud Light Bottles
Free Pizza & Snacks

Coming Thursday, September 22nd

Frankie & Jewels
7pm-10pm
Every Wednesday Steak Night
Come have a great dinner and enjoy the Patio!
6pm – 10pm

Be sure to check out our Facebook Page and become a Fan!
Growing Up: A FRIENDSHIP

By Eric Bellman

Growing up in Rochester I didn’t just know a few Jewish kids. School mates were either my friends or I thoroughly detested them. The sons and daughters of both Jews and non-Jews went to one of the several Catholic high schools: Mercy, St. Agnes, Aquinas. And while my Catholic school did have Jewish families, just as it did other minority groups, I didn’t feel much different from the kids in the public schools when they entered high school, any of them were strangers, difference remained.

Halfway through high school, as I struggled more and more with that difference within me that was troubling and hard to fathom, I became aware of Jews through literature. I had a fourteen-year-old aunt at home, I hung out at the nearby branch library where I thumbed through fashion and decorating magazines, took home volumes of fairy tales and eventually found books written by and about Jews. It was that awareness of the war when Holocaust literature bloomed.

I read the “Diary of Anne Frank” and “Child of Our Time”, which I found out was an English translation of Spanish boy mistaken for being Jewish. I was Jewish. I was very lucky. The woman who became my friend has remained my friend. It was about people who did not belong, who were treated unfairly, who were persecuted, who were killed. Literature gave me, oddly, some comfort. I learned how important the friendship was that was troubling and became intolerable.

Then I went to college and met real Jews. I moved to New York City and Long Island, which came to Buffalo. We were classmates, we studied, we drove to movies. College was a fresh start. I transformed my anxieties about being queer into being a noisy, flamboyant show of color. I was very lucky. I got a chance to make up rather quickly, an inner life blossomed. My mind could not accommodate a mismanaged budget. When they had a sabbatical and went to Europe, they invited me to visit during the summer. If they had not invited, I would have never seen Paris or Provence, which I’m sure I could have written about, and upon his retirement relocated permanently.

They read the daily New York Times and the New York Times Book Review. Through his classes, I was made aware of a tradition of Jewish activism. I was a warrior, a woman who stood up for what she believed in, and just. She became the embodiment of a clash: the progressive, Jewish, liberal, lefty woman that I was for whom without her I would not have grown, expanded my awareness.

I think the rest of that ever happened between J. and me was a fight. We fought, I won, and while we made up rather quickly, an injustice simmered deep within me. She asked me to let her 10-year-old daughter stay in my house while I traveled. The girl had a boyfriend. She mole a check, forged my signature and cashed it. The bank, when I discovered the withdrawal, was good. I insisted I had interfered the invitation. I insisted that the daughter set her mother straight. When I realized how resourceful I’d grown, I also realized the need for her to grow. That was growing, proving the complexity of intimacy. Our battle I think was one of the most honest conversations we had.

Both J. and her husband come from a tradition of discussion, argument, good and bad. That’s a pretty dichotomy.

Once, when I knew much more about the history of immigration and assimilation, I asked J. what ancestry was. I knew that Russian Jews sometimes considered German Jews in a dim light. I know about Sephardic and Ashkenazy Jews. I looked at me and smirked, “We’re American.” Indeed. So, quite possibly I was a conservative, and Ashkenazy Jews, I joked at me and smirked, “We’re American.” Indeed. So, quite possibly I was a conservative, and Ashkenazy Jews.

Our friendship continues. It’s remarkable to me. I think it’s because or for so long now, we’ve had no impotence or disrespect in this article, I’m just at a point in my life when I want to recognize and discuss how people have been good, to think about people who have helped me grow, people I love.

Email elbellman@rit.edu

Clean My Closet

By Meredith Elisabeth Reinga

Today’s drivers puzzle me. They zoom down the highway racing to be the first car at the red light. Their music to loud it vibrates my car and eardrums. Over their earbuds by to Converse Cell talk, they take one hand off the steering wheel. With abandon, they participate in the Cellular Soccer. Drivers turn out highways into Dillon Derbies.

I am too close to disclose, I have, from time to time, been very distracted. Once I was Dressing. Driving. I was quite late, so I wore my favorite red and black striped sweater. Skirt-tin-dent.even was not easy to slide off a seated body. Pulling on pants, I was very tricky. The packed bra, strap, Apply.ing eye shadow and mascara, dubious. The dress was a challenge.

My worst car was a Ford. Used of course. I can’t, for the life of me, remembering procuring that car. Where?

How much? Details are lost in the depths of my daily gray matter. However, I do recall that I named it Morton. Strange, I know. But the name stuck. He shored, shook his head back and forth. Fast in slow motion, he turned and drove away.

When I started my career, I chose manual cars because I preferred the wheel, which had become symbols of my ability to master Man Skills. Eventually, as my sense of self-worth strengthened, I gave myself internal and external discipline to my automatic drive could smoothed the way to security.

Some, when I turned into a gaye woman, I wanted to flaunt my ability to drive a shift car. It would show off skill: it was a bargey skill. And I really must have a bit of mixed with my favorite Marlon Brando.

After I moved in with my then girl friend (my now legal in New York spouse) I had to prove my skill. It was of Big Bead when she decided to let me drive her truck. “Do it,” she said “just in and drive away.” Do it now. Do it before I change my mind.” She walked toward the house confessing: “But I can’t watch.”

Not only did I like to do it. I liked to watch. So moving, So exciting. Which explains how I fell in love with her. She was driving.

Every time I crawled into her big Dodge pick-up truck, my pitter-patter heart would skip a beat. She took her black leather gloves off the dash, slid her lovely hands inside. Her wrists were bare. One leather-gloved hand, one curled around the steering wheel, she shifted into reverse. She turned her body, draped her right hand over the wheel. The truck started, its engine revving to the start of the driveway. Then she shifted into first. Then second. Third. Fourth. Overdrive. A few years later it still flutters my heart.

MeredithElisabethReinga@gmail.com

Faith Matters

OUT GAYS BARRIED FROM RICK PERRY’S MEGA-PRAIZEFEAST

By Rev. Irene Monroe

With less than 30,000 people packed Houston’s Richard Rodgers Theatre, the Republican Texas Governor Rick Perry pulled out all the stops for his prayer rally of about 1,000 gay and straight celebrants and no less than 2,000 megawatts of Jubilee and Jesus, “The Response,” a clarion call to all Christian men and women to stand for the Lord’s sake. It was a big deal for a whole lot of us.

But the American Family Association (AFA), one of the largest and most influential traditional family values organizations in the country that has over two million online supporters, financed the event, which Perry said was a Christian “call to action.” Of course, the AFA has actively lobbied against the acceptance of LGBTQ Americans by publicly stating, “We oppose the homosexual agenda.” And it was the same for LGBTQ Americans and non-Christians were not invited.

And you wouldn’t have known it from Gov. Perry’s remarks.

“Jim’s so bumbling to be in the midst of men and women who have answered the call to prayer and fast for our nation like all of you, I love this country deeply,” he added. “But the American Family Association (AFA), one of the largest and most influential traditional family values organizations in the country that has over two million online supporters, financed the event.”

The AFA unapologetically promotes the idea that homosexuality is not a natural way of life that can be cured through religious teachings in every ministry. The organization focuses on anti-gay crusade primarily to fight against what they see as threats to traditional family values, and they have actively worked to influence public policy and legislation on issues related to LGBT rights.
Gay families in their television ads. In June Perry told those gathered at Reliant Stadium that every citizen in the Lone Star State had a moral obligation to keep religion out of the institutions that included in government. "We pray for our nation’s leaders, Christian leaders that he so cherished, but it also means that you would protect his family."

Secondly, Bush's ethic imperative was to do the will of God and not the will of the American people. For Perry's rally positioned him to represent -- not simply his moral authority, but also the establishment of a Christian state. Perry, however, molded his presidency into that of a Christian church-state. And in so doing, Bush's erasing of church and state boundaries diminished one of the central objectives he had wanted to obtain during his presidency: moral authority.

Perry's rally positioned him as having moral authority, but he's not a friend to LGBTQA Americans. He opposes same-sex marriages, and he vehemently opposed the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Lawrence vs. Texas, which struck down a Texas same-sex anti-sodomy law. However, for Perry to have moral authority, he cannot as a governor call Americans to a Christian rally that by its nature and ish disengaged platform for his political aspirations according to his Christian ideal -- an ideal that never worked, on the best of his days in office -- and that egregiously violated the civil rights of LGBTQA Americans.

For example, in 2007, the AFA showed a religious ad on the evening news that compared homosexuals to Hitler, and the AFA served as a consultant to the producers of the film "The Da Vinci Code". In 2008, the AFA boycotted McDonald's because McDonald's had an elected official, and a Texan general, for governors, and you would never find a single family that is not freedom from religion, it prohibits the establishment of a state religion. Bush, however, molded his presidency into that of a Christian church-state. And in so doing, Bush's heretical imperative was to do the will of God and not the will of the American people. Perry's rally positioned him as having moral authority, but he's not a friend to LGBTQA Americans. He opposes same-sex marriages, and he vehemently opposed the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Lawrence vs. Texas, which struck down a Texas same-sex anti-sodomy law. However, for Perry to have moral authority, he cannot as a governor call Americans to a Christian rally that by its nature and ish disengaged platform for his political aspirations according to his Christian ideal -- an ideal that never worked, on the best of his days in office -- and that egregiously violated the civil rights of LGBTQA Americans.

Did Bush with Bush's zeal for theocracy. And no doubt, a calling for me -- and ish for years -- just like regular people. They seem to like gardening and they have a couple of cats.

I honestly doubt we’re that much of a spectacle to the neighborhood, but sadly, I’ll take my 15 minutes of fame anyway I can get it.

As the family passed by, the youngest child stopped her bike and said: “Look, Mom! Look at all those flowers in that yard!”

I glanced up to see the girl pointing, not at the Shasta Daisies or the blooming Oriental Lilies or the hanging baskets of impatiens around the porch, but to the yellow patches of dandelions spread across our lawn.

Nous” replied her mother, shaking her head. “Those are weeds, they’re just weeds.”

The little girl’s smile faded as she looked back at the dandelions one last time and then she pedaled away after her sibling.

Just weeds? I thought to myself. Just weeds?

How could she say that? My daughter’s infested yard is so much more than just weeds!

Those dandelions are something special to all the butterflies and bees I’ve observed lately flitting about on those tiny yellow landing pads. And those dandelions are a favorite snack for the Canada geese that sometimes stop by for a meal. Granted, I could do without the piles of goose poop in the yard, but the geese are fun to watch.

Without those dandelions what would my little nieces and nephews have picked to fill their Dixie cups for their mothers? And, unlike the tulips and daffodils, there is never any limit on the amount of dandelions you can pick. Go ahead, kid – pick as many as you want. Uncle David can afford it.

With no dandelions what would people use make their wishes? They held the fluffy white puff balls up in their lips, close their eyes to wish and then blow with all their might. And don’t try shrugging off the power of wishes -- a few years ago I took a break from mowing the lawn and picked one of those dandelion puff balls to make a wish that same-sex marriage would become legal in New York State and look what happened with that! I will admit that sometimes I do go out and pick a bunch of green, sterile, golf-course-type lawns I see in front of some people’s houses, but honestly, when I think about it, I know after years of battling the weeds on our property (and losing) our lawn is never going to look like this.

I remember years ago hearing my grandfather complain about dandelions in his yard. He always blamed the neighbors, but that won’t work for me -- our neighbors have those green, sterile, golf-course-type lawns I see in front of some people’s houses, but honestly, when I think about it, I know after years of battling the weeds on our property (and losing) our lawn is never going to look like this.

I will admit that sometimes I do go out and pick a bunch of green, sterile, golf-course-type lawns I see in front of some people’s houses, but honestly, when I think about it, I know after years of battling the weeds on our property (and losing) our lawn is never going to look like this. I will admit that sometimes I do go out and pick a bunch of green, sterile, golf-course-type lawns I see in front of some people’s houses, but honestly, when I think about it, I know after years of battling the weeds on our property (and losing) our lawn is never going to look like this.
always seem pop up to keep you from getting bored.

I guess Grandma was right. I certainly haven't been bored yet.

You can contact David at David.hull59@hotmail.com.

Conundrums

EVENING DEBATE

By One Overmyer

To prevent one branch of government from becoming supreme and autocratic, and to protect the majority of average folk from the “oligarch minority,” and to induce the legislative chamber to cooperate, government systems are set up to employ a separation of powers needed to balance each other out. It's called democracy. But any given policy issue, I can't remember reasonably discuss the issues of the day was the legislative chamber to cooperate, governance systems are set up to employ a separation of powers needed to balance each other out. It's called democracy. But any given policy issue, I can't remember reasonably discuss the issues of the day was the legislative chamber to cooperate, governance systems are set up to employ a separation of powers needed to balance each other out. It's called democracy. But any given policy issue, I can't remember reasonably discuss the issues of the day was the legislative chamber to cooperate, governance systems are set up to employ a separation of powers needed to balance each other out. It's called democracy. But any given policy issue, I can't remember reasonably the last time I heard a robust policy debate on the merits of what is in the best interest of the greater good.

You would have to be living under a rock not to know that the majority in the Monroe County legislature has become a rubber stamp for the county executive's office - consistently repegating manufactured rationale of political spite, personal gain and one party rule.

Unlike elected officials from the past, this body has become so apologetic about their undisciplined and uncompromising behavior - it makes the 112th Congress look tame.

We need to learn how to bring back vigorous, yet civil political discourse to move the body public forward and once again create a robust system of governance. Accepting anything less is unthinkable.

Confessions of a Serial Blonde

By Bobby Morris

"So, what do you do for a living?"

"I sell dildos, lube and pornography."

"Oh... how interesting. Your parents must be so proud."

Now the aggressive diva in me wants to fire back: "Well, so hell with you, you narrow minded, uptight, prissy ass," but, as I get older, that response does very little to endear me to people or explain my case.

Instead, I shut them down with some good old-fashioned honesty. "Actually I find my work extremely interesting and satisfying. No, I'm not curing cancer, and it's not rocket science, but by damn I do think what I do is important and I love it and make no apologies for it or." So there!

I've spent the last decade working in shops that sell adult themed items and not just because I'm a big fan of naked men (although that too is on my resume).

Let's face it; our country has a strange relationship with sex and sexuality. Entire generations were taught to never talk about it, instead having to suppress their curiosity or sneak around. Some religious teach us to be ashamed of it (while many who preach the gospel do know what with God knows whom), politicians use differences in sexuality to divide us (even though many of them are bigger deviants than most of us) and sexually transmitted diseases have furthered the notion that sex is dangerous and wrong. Sex, and most things associated with it, continue to get a bad reputation and that's a damn shame. Somebody has to stand up for sex.

Cue my entrance music. I enjoy having the opportunity to support others when it comes to embracing a healthy, informed sense of their sexuality. You often hear people jokingly refer to porn as educational material. It's no joke. Sure, on the surface it's hot guys (or girls) doing it, but an adult film can also be an extremely useful, err, tool. It can be used to spice up your relationship ("Honey, we have to try that!" or disprove myths. "Oh, THAT'S what that means!" and it can be used to have the safest sex (all those antiging business yourself, that is).

When it comes to sex and sexuality, my official stance is this: ignorance is bliss. If we are not comfortable talking about it or understanding the role it has in our lives, then how the hell are we supposed to evolve as a society? Sex is an important part of life. Without it, none of us would be here.

Some of the biggest hurdles we face on this planet are about sex and sexuality. The battle of the sexes? The march for equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boiled down to its basic essence, equality? Really, boile...
Annette Dragon Photography  Photographing Gay Unions & Weddings for 20 years
Ask about my NY State Marriage Equality Specials
www.annettedragonphotography.com
585.256.2560

NY Gay Wedding Consultant
Eve Elzenga
From Simple Suggestions to Full Service Planning
www.nygayweddingconsultant.com
585.733.2579
A Reconciling in Christ Congregation, called to be Christ’s presence and love in God's world and recognizing that we are all God’s children with differing abilities and gifts, we as members of Atonement Lutheran Church welcome persons who are gay, lesbian, transgender, bi-sexual, transsexual, and heterosexual as well as of any ethnicity, culture, socio-economic status, or other characteristic who come bringing with them their life experiences, hopes and dreams in order that they might experience the presence and love of God in this community of faith.
Fall Dance
Gay Alliance Fall Dance
Saturday, October 29, 2011
5-10 pm
Roger Robach Center
180 Beach Avenue Rochester, New York

Drug & Alcohol Free
Refreshments
$10 Donation

Tickets can be purchased at Equal-Grounds and Outlandish or call 872-2631 for more information

Join the fun...
140 Alex Bar & Grill
140 Alexander Street, Rochester NY
Mondays @ 7:30 pm
Featuring Drink Specials!!!
Chris Del Conte
DelConte Services, LLC
Realtor, RE/MAX Realty Group
Interior Design and Home Staging
585.750.0876
CDeiConte@CDeiConte.com
http://facebook.com/cdeiconte

Seeking Sex in the Park?
No ID or you = Automatic Arrest
Court Appearances = Public Shame
Court Fine = $1,000
Arrest Fees = $3,000

FREE HDme Staging
CD11sttltatiDn withal/listings!

Chris Del Conte
DelConte Services, LLC
Realtor, RE/MAX Realty Group
Interior Design and Home Staging
585.750.0876
CDeiConte@CDeiConte.com
http://facebook.com/cdeiconte

Priceless
Anti-Violence Projects
585 - 244 - 8640

From Up Above
ENTERTAINMENT
YOUR
WEDDING/SPECIAL OCCASION
PREMIER DISC JOCKEY SERVICE
585-734-2232
www.fromupabove.net

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

Ellenwood Electric
“We Do It Without Shorts”

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

FREE Home Staging consultation pitched listings!
NYCLU, NY Bar answer frequently asked marriage questions

Now that same-sex couples have the freedom to marry in New York, the NYCLU and the New York Bar Association have both compiled guides to answer some frequently asked questions about the new law.

Please note: This brief overview is not intended to provide specialized legal advice.

The “Know Your Rights” guide, written by NYCLU attorneys, is a brief but comprehensive Q&A about the new marriage law, which took effect on July 24. It covers a wide range of topics, including the nuts and bolts of applying for a marriage license; the rights and responsibilities conferred by marriage; the implications of the law’s religious exemptions; and limitations on same-sex couple’s rights imposed by the discriminatory federal Defense of Marriage Act. It is available online at www.nycul.org/marriageFAQ.

“Getting married is hectic enough without being confused about your rights,” said NYCLU Executive Director Donna Lieberman. “Our guide will fully inform couples about the rights, benefits and protections they are entitled to under the Marriage Equality Act. We hope it provides couples some peace of mind as they weigh one of life’s most important decisions.”

The guide answers questions such as:

• How do we get married? What do we need to do?
• If we don’t live in New York, can we still get married in New York?
• What kinds of benefits will we get from marriage?
• What effect does the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) have on our marriage?
• Can a church or member of the clergy refuse to marry me and my partner?
• Can I be discriminated against for marrying someone of the same sex?

A private business, like a florist or photography studio, refuse to provide a service for my wedding because I am marrying a person of the same sex?

The guide is currently available on the NYCLU’s website at www.nycul.org/marriageFAQ. A printed version will be made available shortly.

For further information, or if you feel that you have encountered discrimination related to your marriage, contact the NYCLU by phone at (212) 607-3380 or email at ngoodman@nycul.org.

The NY Bar has compiled a FAQ (frequently asked Question) brochure for couples – and lawyers. It can be downloaded at www.nylba.org/MarriageEqualityFAQ.
Hate violence spiked nationwide this summer
Late summer has seen a spike in reports of violence toward LGBTQ+ people nationwide. Violence has been reported in New York, Seattle, Washington, DC and three cities in Michigan, as well as reports of murders in Washington DC and New York City. In Winthrop, Mass., eight people were reported murdered in a single night.

Tournament. The dare is Sunday, Sept. 21, with registration $15 and the last day to register Sept. 18. For more information contact Tony at tony13@aol.com.

Victims, indicating possible domestic violence in Seattle, Wash. have all received confidential support services through the AVP.

To make a report please call the Gay Alliance at 585-244-8640 or complete the online report form at www.gayalliance.org/community-safety-avp.

Rainbow SAGE update
The seasons are changing and Rochester Rainbow SAGE is going to be busy all season long. We focus on the 50+ LGBTQ community, but all are invited to our programs.

September is the month for euchre. On Sunday, Sept. 11 at 3 p.m., it is Euchre Club time. Come and play with friends or come and learn how to play. The location is South Wedge Planning Committee Building, 224 Mt Hope. For directions and more information contact Ginny at rainbowsage@gayalliance.org.

This month is also our annual Euchre Tournament. The date is Sunday, Sept. 25 and location is Temple Beth Rishon, 2151 Elmwood Ave. Time is 2 p.m. The prizes are $100, $50 and $25. Registration is $15 and the last day to register is Sept. 18. Space is limited so be sure to register early. Coffee and water will be provided. Call Rabbi 585-244-8640 X15 to register and for more information.

We are doing something a little different for our usual potluck on Sunday, Sept. 18 at 4 p.m. Rochester Rainbow SAGE presents an event for the whole family to enjoy. Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, teens and adults to our September Intergenerational Program and Ice Cream Social. The date is Sunday, Sept. 18 at First Universalist Church, 150 South Clinton Ave. (plenty of free street parking) and the time is 4 p.m.

Have you ever seen a hawk or owl up close? We will have a special guest in Ron Walker, retired biology teacher and nature interpreter, who will give his 45-min.- arc presentation "Friends with Feathers," which will feature a few of his fine feathered birds as we learn more about them, nature preservation. Fee for program is $5 and registration is required for "Friends with Feathers" and Ron Walker go to http://www.frontier­ nature.com/150/boost/friendswithfeathers.html.

"At the party, we will be treating guests to a toasted cheese sandwiches along with tomato soup and an ice cream social. There is nothing better than ice cream, and you get to choose your own toppings! You do not have to miss out on this one so come along and bring the whole family!"

a group of minders from the local LGBTQ+ community. The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley is a non-profit agency, dedicated to cultivating a healthy inclusive environment where lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans gender (LGBT) people are safe, thriving and enjoying equal rights. We are a coalition of individuals and groups working to empower LGBT people, to affirm their identities, and to create 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.

Speaking Engagements
8/1: Building Healthy Communities: Train-the-Trainer at the Gay Alliance Building Healthy Communities at Wegman's School of Pharmacy at St. John Fisher College
8/16: LGBT Safety Issues at Alternatives for Battered Women LGBT Safety Issues at Alternatives for Battered Women
8/18: Building Healthy Communities at Wegman’s School of Pharmacy at St. John Fisher College
8/23: Students’ Rights in School at the Gay Alliance
8/26: Building Healthy Communities at RIT 
9/2: Transgender Issues at Nazareth College
9/26: LGBT Safety Issues at United Ways African American Leadership Development Program
9/27: Wellness Fair at St. John Fisher College
9/28: Diversity Panel at Rochester Rehabilitation
9/28: Bringing Workplace Issues Out of the Closet at Monroe County JSEC Program

Rainbow SAGE holds Transgender Group organizational meeting
Rainbow SAGE is starting a new Transgender Group for people over 40. The organizational meeting will be held Sept. 10, from 3-5 p.m., at the GAGY Youth Center, 875 E. Main St., First Floor.

This will be a member-driven group. SAGE says, "Come help us decide what kind of transgender group you want and need."
The Romans have been providing clothes-free social meetings and events for all gay-friendly men who are at least twenty-one years of age for the past 20 years. To find out more about the group, their website is www.wnyromans.com or call 585-281-4094 and leave a message.

ROMANS plan fall schedule
The ROMANS (Rochester Male Narcotics) are busy planning their fall swim and gym, and meeting schedules. The group will participate in a clothes-free swim and gym the first Saturday of each month starting in October and going through April. In addition to the swimming these evenings include a hot tub, sauna, workout machines, a pickup volley ball game, and snacks.

All events are clothes-free and first time attendees are admitted at no charge. The swims will be preceded by a clothes-free social hour. We are a local Rochester group and are open to potential new members to get acquainted.

The Romans have been providing clothes-free social meetings and events for all gay friendly men who are at least twenty-one years of age for the past 20 years. To find out more about the group, their website is www.wnyromans.com or call 585-281-4094 and leave a message.

To learn more about the group, go to www.rochesterlgbtq.org or e-mail bmdaniels@frontiernet.net. Our Yahoo web page is http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LilacSquares/ and click on Classics.

ROCHESTER GLBTQI MOTORCYCLE GROUP
The camping trip was WET but fun for everyone who participated. Because of the rain, we haven’t had a lot of rides, but we are out there.

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

For more information, look at our Yahoo web page at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rochesterlgbtq/bikers/. You can also call Bob at 467-4946, e-mail bmdaniels@frontiernet.net. Let’s ride with pride.
Randy G. Raetz, DDS
General Dentistry for the entire community including bleaching and cosmetics
WE ARE NOW IN OUR NEW OFFICE!!!!!!
Come check out our new modern office, offering patients the benefits of digital x-rays, intraoral cameras, and flat screen t.v.s in a relaxing and enjoyable environment.

2257 South Clinton Avenue
Westfall Park Medical Center
Rochester, NY 14618
(585) 473-1550
New Patients Welcome
Evening & Saturday appts. available
Check us out on the web at www.drrandydds.com
Call for an appointment today!!

Geri Stanton
Counseling Services
NYS Licensed Mental Health Counselor
Sign Language Skilled

Individual • Couple • Group
Serving the GLBT community for over 10 years

Geri Stanton, MS.Ed., MS.Ed.
46 Prince Street
Rochester, NY 14607-1023
Office 585.325.7180
TTY 585.533.2041

Turner
Established 1977 • www.TurnerPlumbingHeating.net

Service and Repair
247-1884
$15. Off Service Call

Turner
Established 1977 • www.TurnerPlumbingHeating.net

Service and Repair
247-1884
$15. Off Service Call

Join us for the next 2nd Thursdays Networking Event
Date: Thursday, September 8, 2011
Cost: $5.00 (includes refreshments and appetizers. Proceeds benefit The MOCHA Center)
Time: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Venue: Excellus BlueCross BlueShield, 165 Court Street, Rochester, NY 14647
(Free Parking is available in the Excellus BlueCross BlueShield underground garage, accessed via Woodbury St.)
RSVP: Go to www.onenyfingerlakes.groupsite.com/join

SCHOEN PLACE AUTO
www.schoenplaceauto.com
319 East Chestnut Street — East Rochester, NY 14445
Call today for an appointment
(585) 381-1970

SCHOEN PLACE AUTO
www.schoenplaceauto.com
319 East Chestnut Street — East Rochester, NY 14445
Call today for an appointment
(585) 381-1970

There are many things you may be stressing about—
Car repairs should not be one of them!

Recipient 2010 Rochester Business Ethics Award
Nationally certified as a female friendly business.
Recognized by the local print, radio and TV media for our unique customer focused business model.

At Schoen Place Auto it’s not just about repairing your car right the first time at a fair price. It’s about how you are treated as a customer:
We are an ethics and relationship based business that places the needs of our customers first and foremost.
We service and repair all makes and models of cars including European.
I would honor the opportunity to earn your business and trust for all the vehicles you own.
—Jerry Elman, Owner
Why settle for ordinary... when you can have extraordinary!

Whether it’s an intimate gathering for 25 or a banquet for 400,

The River’s Edge

will make sure every detail of your Event is attended to.

Our event coordinator will work closely with you regarding every aspect of your event planning and be present the day of your event to be sure everything runs smoothly.

The River’s Edge is the perfect venue for:

- Wedding receptions
- Birthday parties • Retirement or anniversary parties
- Bridal or baby showers • Rehearsals
- Bar and bat mitzvahs • Proms
- Training seminars or team building events
- Holiday parties • Sports banquets or recognition dinners

Call The River’s Edge

To schedule your next Business or Social Networking Event, Weekly Meeting or Seminar.

With easy access from I-390 & plenty of parking, it’s the perfect choice for your group!

Check out all of our Meeting & Seminar options.

The River’s Edge

31 Paul Rood at Scottsville Road

Rochester, New York 14624

585.235.3630 • riversedge12@gmail.com • handicap accessible

Groups continued on page 9 of our website.

On your way to the altar, make Incognito your first stop!!!

Suits or tuxes we have the look you’ll both love

ONE PRICE INCLUDES EVERY INSTOCK STYLE...
ONE PRICE INCLUDES THE TUX, SHIRT, VEST & TIE...
ONE LOW PRICE, ONLY

$99.95*

- We stock all our tuxedos locally
- Tux-Travel Service for your Out of Town Ushers
- Huge Color Selection to choose from
- A Rochester Small Business!!!

Offer ends August 31st

If you’re thinking about buying suits for your wedding...

We’re “Suited” for You too!

Suit, Shirt & Tie only

$199.95

Groom's Wardrobe FREE with 7 or more suits ordered!

Choose from Black, Champagne, Camel, Navy, Grey and more!

Find out why we are quickly becoming Rochester's favorite shop for wedding tuxedos AND wedding suits!

Incognito

Premium Men’s Formal Clothing & Tuxedo Shop

1821 Penfield Road • 585-7846 • www.incognitomw.com
**MONDAY**

**LGBT Support Group**
New Life Presbyterian Church, 243 Roundtor, first, 3rd Mondays, 7:45-9pm, Carol 402-3832.

**Relate**
Formerly Third Thursday LGBT Support Group, first, third, 3rd Mondays, 7:60-9pm. Simpsons St. Carol 482-3832.

**LGBT**
Formerly Square Dance Group, 5-7pm, Open Arms MCC, 740 Marshall Rd. April 477-4659; buhoneline@frontrunners.net.

Free nightly testing
AIDS Care, 25 Monroe Ave., 5-9pm. 442-8640.

**Rochester Historical Bowling Society**
7-8pm, Mondays, Cleve Luce, 270 Monroe Ave. Gay men of all ages. Free.

**Gay Men of Rochester**
6-7pm Open. 423-0650. @gayrochester.org.

**Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley**

**FrontRunners/TransWalkers**
7:15pm, Mondays. (Quiet); Handicapped accessible. Take the lift to the basement using the elevator to the basement. To start Friday 25th 7:15pm.

**Support Group for Parents who have lost Children**
First, 3rd Wednesdays, 11am-2:30pm, Third Presbyterian Church, 454 St. Germaine Residence Home Care, Free.

**COAP**
Come Out and Play. Business meeting following. Equal Grounds, 7-440, 1st floor, 244-8460.

**Support Group at First**
Support group for men over 35. Third, 5-7pm, GAAMS Center, 875 E. Main St. Free. Open.

**Open**
Open Arms MCC, 740 Marshall Rd. 477-4659; buhoneline@frontrunners.net.

**Steps Beyond Stigma**
Crack Support Group, 101 Liberty Way. 420-1400.

**Brothers Keeper**
Support group for men over 35. Third, 5-7pm, GAAMS Center, 875 E. Main St. Free. Open.

**First Unitarian Church**
First, 3rd Sundays. 5pm Prayers of the People (quiet); Adult Discussion Group (open); Fellowship. 875 E. Main St. 244-8640.

**Liberty Pole Way, 420-1400; TransWalkers or cracksupportgroup@hotmail.com.

**TUESDAY**

**East**
Gays men of all ages. Second Tuesday. 6-7pm. AIDS Care, 25 Monroe Ave. 223-2620.

**Out for Justice Workshop series**
Fourth Tuesday, through December. 7pm. Kelly Clark, 244-8460.

**CampOut Coffee Night**
First Thursdays, 7-8pm, Equal Grounds, 740 Marshall Rd.

**MOCHA Youth Drop-In**
Tues, Fri., 10pm. MOCHA Center, 107 Liberty Pole Way. 240-1400. 244-8460.

**MOCHA Hepatitis Clinic**
Free Hepatitis A & B vaccinations, third Tuesdays, 5-7pm. 107 Liberty Pole Way. 240-1400.

**Rainbow SAGE Yoga**
6-7pm Open: Arts MCC, 125 North Drive. 642-6260.

**Women’s Community Room**
Richard Tuesdays, 6-9pm. 232-6720.

**Downtown UPC, Church, 11 N. Fitzhugh St. 244-4444, www.downtownupc.org.

**Free HIV Testing**
Every Tuesday, 9-9pm. AIDS Care, 25 Monroe Ave. 442-8640.

**WEDNESDAY**

**Charlee’s Group**
Third Wednesdays. Monthly potluck dinner with guest for named men who have sex w/ men. Confidant, live. Fri. & Sat. 5-7pm. 449-4498. 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70.

**Country Line Dancing/Two Stepping**
Every Wednesday, 10-4pm. Lesson followed by dancing until 10pm. Beginners to advanced.

U.R. Pride Network
7-8pm. Garvin Room in Rush Rhees Library. urpride@gmail.com

Gay Alliance Board of Directors
Meet third Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30pm. 875 E. Main St. 244-8640.

**New Winter’s Freedom**
AA Gaymeeting, 7pm. UU, Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Rd. Men and women. Open.

**Support Group for Parents who have lost Children**
First, third Wednesdays, 11am-2:30pm, Third Presbyterian Church, 454 St. Germaine Residence Home Care. Free.

**COAP**
Come Out and Play. Business meeting following. Equal Grounds, 7-440, 1st floor, 244-8460.

**Empire Bears**
First, 3rd Wednesdays. 7-9pm, Bachelor Room in Library. urpride@gmail.com

**FrontRunners/TransWalkers**
7:15pm, Mondays. (Quiet); Handicapped accessible. Take the lift to the basement using the elevator to the basement. To start Friday 25th 7:15pm.

**Brothers Keeper**
Support group for men over 35. Third, 5-7pm, GAAMS Center, 875 E. Main St. Free. Open.

**First Unitarian Church**
First, 3rd Sundays. 5pm Prayers of the People (quiet); Adult Discussion Group (open); Fellowship. 875 E. Main St. 244-8640.

**Liberty Pole Way, 420-1400; TransWalkers or cracksupportgroup@hotmail.com.

**TUESDAY**

**East**
Gays men of all ages. Second Tuesday. 6-7pm. AIDS Care, 25 Monroe Ave. 223-2620.

**Out for Justice Workshop series**
Fourth Tuesday, through December. 7pm. Kelly Clark, 244-8460.

**CampOut Coffee Night**
First Thursdays, 7-8pm, Equal Grounds, 740 Marshall Rd.

**MOCHA Youth Drop-In**
Tues, Fri., 10pm. MOCHA Center, 107 Liberty Pole Way. 240-1400. 244-8460.

**MOCHA Hepatitis Clinic**
Free Hepatitis A & B vaccinations, third Tuesdays, 5-7pm. 107 Liberty Pole Way. 240-1400.

**Rainbow SAGE Yoga**
6-7pm Open: Arts MCC, 125 North Drive. 642-6260.

**Women’s Community Room**
Richard Tuesdays, 6-9pm. 232-6720.

**Downtown UPC, Church, 11 N. Fitzhugh St. 244-4444, www.downtownupc.org.

**Free HIV Testing**
Every Tuesday, 9-9pm. AIDS Care, 25 Monroe Ave. 442-8640.

**WEDNESDAY**

**Charlee’s Group**
Third Wednesdays. Monthly potluck dinner with guest for named men who have sex w/ men. Confidant, live. Fri. & Sat. 5-7pm. 449-4498. 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70.

**Country Line Dancing/Two Stepping**
Every Wednesday, 10-4pm. Lesson followed by dancing until 10pm. Beginners to advanced.

U.R. Pride Network
7-8pm. Garvin Room in Rush Rhees Library. urpride@gmail.com

Gay Alliance Board of Directors
Meet third Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30pm. 875 E. Main St. 244-8640.

**New Winter’s Freedom**
AA Gaymeeting, 7pm. UU, Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Rd. Men and women. Open.

**Support Group for Parents who have lost Children**
First, third Wednesdays, 11am-2:30pm, Third Presbyterian Church, 454 St. Germaine Residence Home Care. Free.

**COAP**
Come Out and Play. Business meeting following. Equal Grounds, 7-440, 1st floor, 244-8460.

**Empire Bears**
First, 3rd Wednesdays. 7-9pm, Bachelor Room in Library. urpride@gmail.com

**FrontRunners/TransWalkers**
7:15pm, Mondays. (Quiet); Handicapped accessible. Take the lift to the basement using the elevator to the basement. To start Friday 25th 7:15pm.

**Brothers Keeper**
Support group for men over 35. Third, 5-7pm, GAAMS Center, 875 E. Main St. Free. Open.
FRIDAY 2
"Hi-Rail" opening at the Gallery at Equal-Grounds, 750 S. Ave., 7-9 pm. Art show and party byคริสติน่าบาร์ท, photographs by Neome Panke and Richard Panke.

SATURDAY 3
Rainbow Sage Men’s Group picnic. Noon at Tony Perry’s cabin. For more information and RSVP, contact Tony at 585-234-4401.

SUNDAY 4
Dignity Integrity. First Sunday in September only, no service at church. One-time only meeting for Episcopal Mass at 5 pm, followed by picnic. info@di-rochester.org at D-1 Horlne (585) 234-5092.

Monday 5
Rainbow Sage Eucharist Club. 9 pm, South Wedge Planning Committee Building. For directions and information contact Ganny at rainbow sage @ gayalliance.org.

Tuesday 13
Primary election. Polls open noon, close 9 pm. Get OUT and vote! Just Us Guys potluck at AIDS Care, 257 Monroe Ave., 6:30 pm. Info: 223-2629 or email rlarcher@rochester.rr.com.

THURSDAY 6
Out & Equal Second Thursdays Networking Event. 5:30-7:30 pm, Exel-lus Blue Cross BlueShield, 100 S. Fitzhugh St. Free parking available in the Exel-lus Blue Cross Blue Shield underground garage. Contact: via Woodbury Sr., across from Genoa Theatre. $5 cover for beer, wine, hors d’oeuvres, proceeds donated to MOCCA /Charity. 50/50 drawing, pro-deco cards donated to the Gay Alliance.

FRIDAY 7

Saturday 8
ImageOut Festival Fair, Stansburough Planetarium at the Rochester Museum & Science Center, 697 East Ave. Fair, Planetary Lounge, 6:30-9 pm. Free. Programmer’s Preview of Fall Festival, 8:30 pm: screening of Christopher and His Kind. To request interpreting services contact ImageOut’s office by 9 pm on Sept. 7. Event is wheelchair accessible. Contact ImageOut: Phone: 585-271-2648. Email: office@imageout.org.

Saturday 10
Rainbow Sage Transgender Group organizational meeting. Meeting to start group for trans people over 40-5.5 pm, GAY Youth Center, 877 E. Main St., First Floor.

Sunday 11
Dignity Integrity. Roman Catholic Liturgy of the Word, with music. 5 pm, St. Luke’s and St. Simon’s Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. (415) 234-4401.

September 13: 3-5 pm, beginning at 140 Alex Bar & Grill, 14 Alexander St., 7 pm. Call Bob at 585-467-6456, or e-mail brendan@prestigefrontiemnet.com. Yahoo web page: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LifeSquirts/

TUESDAY 15
Empire City: Deadline for October issue: 244-9039; susan@gayalliance.org.

THURSDAY 17
Employ Center Online Forum. For October on the 17. Tickets online at; www.maccuc.org, or by calling 943-244-1534. All advance sales $10, tickets $20/$15 at door.

Friday 18
OUTreach Provides peer support and resources to Lifescancitizens. 4:30 pm at Equal-Grounds, 750 South Ave. Info: Paul Birkby at outreachrochester@gmail.com.

SATURDAY 19
Family group organizational meeting, play date at Genesee Valley Park by the playground. 5.5 pm. Contact info: jobsadala@rochester.rr.com.

Saturday 20
Rainbow Sage Transgender Group organizational meeting. Looking to start group for trans people over 40-5.5 pm, GAY Youth Center, 877 E. Main St., First Floor.

SUNDAY 21
Dignity Integrity. Roman Catholic Liturgy of the Word, with music. 5 pm, St. Luke’s and St. Simon’s Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St.

TUESDAY 22
Don’t Ask Don’t Tell is history!

SATURDAY 24
Rainbow Sage Breakfast Club at East Ridge Family Dinner, 1925 East Ridge Rd. 10 am. For more information on any Rainbow Sage meeting, gayalliance.org or call 585-244-8640 X 15.

SUNDAY 25
Dignity Integrity. Evening Prayer, followed by potluck supper. 5 pm, St. Luke’s and St. Simon’s Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. info@di-rochester.org or D-1 Horlne (585) 234-5092.

Monday 26
Rainbow Sage Women’s Group. 11 am, Gay Alliance Library First Floor, 875 East Ave. (Auditorium Center).
CUSTOM DESIGNED PACKAGES TO FIT YOUR NEEDS

- Caddys and Lincolns to accommodate 6, 8 and 10
- Super stretches with exclusive Bridal doors
- Corporate Sedans
- Limo buses and limo coaches to accommodate 14, 18 and 28
- Instant package delivery
- Senior Transportation
- 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Reservations Available

www.excellimousine.com
585-544-4060