Day of Silence rally is at Tilt, April 20

By Susan Jordan
Every year LGBT and allied youth across the country keep silent all day, and then break the silence, in memory of the youth who have been silenced by hate, violence, bullying and homophobic discrimination. This year the Breaking the Silence rally will take place at Tilt, 444 Central Ave., on April 20.

This free event is for youth ages 13-23 only. Tilt is a night club but will be totally free of alcohol on Friday, April 20. The rally begins at 4 p.m. and will be followed by a youth performance and then by a performance by Tony Award-winning Levi Kreis (to check out his music, go to krikis.com). The Day of Silence will end with a youth dance from 5-7 p.m.

GAGV Youth Services Director Jessica Cohen said, “Every year, the Day of Silence holds new meaning for LGBTQ young people. The GAGV youth rally and dance provide a space for (Silence continues page 6)

JCC to host exhibit on Nazi persecution of gays

By Susan Jordan
The Jewish Community Center will host an exhibit from The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum on “Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals, 1933-1945,” opening in late May. Related events will take place during the eight-week exhibit.

Opening night for the exhibit is May 24, with a talk by Rabbi David Horowitz, president of national PFLAG, on “How to be a straight ally,” and a performance by the Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus.

The evening will also include a dessert reception. The JCC is located at 1200 Edgewood Ave. John Getnick of the JCC told The Empty Closet, “The JCC is honored to host the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum exhibit “Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals, 1933-1945.” The exhibit exemplifies the JCC’s commitment to being an inclusive, welcoming agency. By hosting this exhibit we have been able to partner with a wide array of Rochester area organizations, bound together by our commitment to learning from the legacy of the Holocaust, and to standing up against intolerance and injustice in our own times. While the exhibit looks to the past, our programming looks to the future. We look forward to welcoming the community not only tour the exhibit, but also to attend one of the many thought provoking exhibit-related programs.”

The programs to follow the exhibit opening include a panel discussion on “LGBTQ and Religion,” on June 14; a reception and screening of “Gen Slient” (presented by Excellus and sponsored by the Gay Alli­ance); and on June 19 a screening of “Two Spirits” (in partnership with WXXI) on June 21, and a closing night celebration on July 19, with a talk by Alan van Capelle, longtime LGBTQ activist and president and CEO (JCC continues page 8)

COMMUNITY SAFETY ALERT

DANGER IN THE PARKS: Recently a man was photographed by a male who blackmailed him and demanded money. Be advised: Illegal behavior in the parks can result in Blackmail, Violent Attacks, Theft or Arrest!

See Page 10

File photo of one of around 15,000 gay men sent to death camps by the Nazis.

WNY transgender groups will meet here on April 28

By Susan Jordan
Transgender groups from Syracuse and Buffalo will meet here with the Rochester Trans Group on April 28. This gatherings is the first time that WNY transgender groups have formally come together to address issues like passage of GENDA, and to establish friendships and closer links among WNY transgender people.

The gathering will take place at the Gay Alliance Youth Center, 875 E. Main St., from 3-5:30 p.m. Other events for the groups are also in the works, but had not been finalized at Empty Closet press time.

(Trans continues page 6)

Over 70 Pride organizers meet at NERP conference

By Casey Sullivan

The North East Regional Pride (NERP) Conference on March 10 drew over 70 attend­ees from 18 North East Prides to the Radisson Inn in Roch­ester. The three-day conference included various workshops on (NERP continues page 6)
A Message from the Board of Directors:

The Board of Directors of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, Greater Rochester’s Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender service organization, announced on March 26, 2012 that Susan Cowell, Executive Director, has submitted her resignation from the agency. Susan is leaving the GAVC in order to return to work in electoral politics during this important election year. The Board has established a Transition Team to initiate a board search for a new Executive Director to fill this critical leadership role, while ensuring that the Gay Alliance continues to provide high quality programs and services and meet its obligations to the community throughout the transition.

The Board appreciates Susan’s service during her tenure as Executive Director as well as in many previous roles. Under Susan’s leadership, the GAVC initiated a merger with Rainbow Sage of the Finger Lakes to better serve LGBT seniors, educated the community on marriage equality, and responded to increased public scrutiny of bullying and its serious consequences on LGBT youth, stated John Alkire, Board President. In addition, and despite decreasing agency support through government funding, Susan’s efforts led to increased corporate sponsorship and private donations to offer these financial challenges and ensure the agency’s continued financial viability. During 2011, the agency began a strategic planning process to move forward and remain current in its response to community needs.

Susan Cowell stated, “After 35 years of service, it was time for me to focus on another chapter in my life. I have been proud to work with the Gay Alliance, most recently the last three as Executive Director; my belief has been reinforced that the LGBT community continues to need advocates to influence the political process on their behalf. I look forward to continuing my support to the organization and the community as I hope to return to my roots in electoral politics. It has been an honor to serve the LGBT community and to work with the board, staff, volunteers, donors and supporters of the Gay Alliance.”

The Board of Directors and staff of the Gay Alliance thank Susan for her many years of service and wish her well in all her future endeavors.

Since 1973, the Gay Alliance has served the Greater Rochester/Finger Lakes area, providing direct program services to LGBT individuals in addition to community education and activism. In 2005, the Gay Alliance transitioned into a professional LGBT competency training, community safety/violence programming, resource-referral and publication of NYS’s longest-running LGBT newspaper, The Empty Closet.

For more information regarding this leadership transition at the Gay Alliance, please contact John Alkire, Board President at president@gayalliance.org.

The Empty Closet is supported in part by the NYS Office of Cultural Development, the NYS Council on the Arts, the NYS Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and by the NYS Department of Health. The Empty Closet is also supported by the Rochester Gay Community Services Corporation, the Rochester Area Community Foundation, the Rochester Women’s Fund, the Genesee County Women’s Fund and the Genesee Foundation.

The Empty Closet is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. The Empty Closet does not discriminate on the basis of gender identity or expression. The Gay Alliance is a member of the National LGBTQ Taskforce, the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce, the Greater Rochester Community Foundation, the Genesee Community Foundation and the Rochester Area Community Foundation. The Gay Alliance is also a member of NYS’s 501(c)(3) orchestra, the Greater Rochester Community Foundation, the Genesee Community Foundation and the Rochester Area Community Foundation. The Gay Alliance is a member of the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce, the National LGBTQ Taskforce, the Greater Rochester Community Foundation, the Genesee Community Foundation and the Rochester Area Community Foundation.
ColorFEST returns to NTID April 6-8
National Technical Institute of the Deaf (NTID) at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) will host the fifth annual Deaf LGBT college students conference, better known as ColorFEST 2012, April 6-8. From Georgia to Maine and beyond, the event will be a vibrant celebration of diversity and inclusion in the Deaf community.

Spearheading the event are Stephen Willett and Dave Zook, both currently slated to attend RIT. In 2008, Kristen Pumphrey had a vision of reaching out to Deaf LGBT college students in an effort to transform students into leaders of tomorrow, which led to the inception of ColorFEST, an annual event alternately hosted by Gallaudet University and NTID and designed to provide Deaf LGBT college students with opportunities to flourish, network, and learn beneficial skills within a college setting.

Approximately 250 Deaf LGBT members, including but not limited to individuals from Gallaudet University in Washington, DC and regions across the nation, are expected to participate in this exciting national event April 6-8. The theme for this year is “Celebrate.”

ColorFEST will include an opening ceremony, a gallery filled with artwork by students, educational workshops, an evening social, performing arts and much more. Hearing and straight allies are expected to participate in this event, which includes educational workshops, an equality awards gala on Monday, April 2 at the Marriott Marquis Times Square, NYC.

SAGE Intergenerational Panel talks about allies
By Lore C. Thody
March 18 marked the ninth year of the Intergenerational Panel event, also sponsored by Rainbow SAGE and Gay Alliance Youth Group.

This year’s event was held at the First Universalist Church and was themed “The Importance of Allies in our LGBT Lives.” The event was attended by some 30 people, covering all generations.

Would a straight ally be someone who was helpful to her gay friends? Would she listen, talk through issues and help her out?

Bakker is a leader in the LGBT community throughout 2012. “This decision to honor Pastor Jay Bakker was one he played out in the public eye, much to the benefit of others who have wrestled with Deaf LGBT identity, and how it fits into their beliefs,” said Rev. Jay Bakker. To learn more about the 2011 Straight Ally Award winner, visit http://pflag.org/2011a.html. Other honorees this year include Entertainment honorees Audra McDonald and Will Swenson, and Workplace honoree KPMG LLP.

PFLAG honors Pastor Jay Bakker as ally
PFLAG National will honor Pastor Jay Bakker with the inaugural Straight for Equality in Faith Award, to be presented at the Fourth Annual Straight for Equality Awards Gala on Monday, April 2 at the Marriott Marquis Times Square, NYC.

Straight for Equality, a national outreach and education project created by PFLAG National, tirelessly educates and engages straight allies to advocate for and support gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.

Bakker said, “I felt honored to be recognized by PFLAG and enjoy associating myself with the gay community.”

Bakker has been an outspoken straight ally for a number of years, taking a very public stand on issues such as the importance of providing welcoming communities of faith for LGBT people, and marriage equality. In his book, Full Frontal: A Revelation of God, Self and Society, Bakker talks about his own family’s fall from grace, and how it colored his personal understanding of the need for God to be available to all people. His self-described "spiritual evolution" to becoming a GLBT-affirming minister was one he played out in the public eye, much to the benefit of others who have wrestled with Deaf LGBT identity, and how it fits into their beliefs.

“Pastor Jay Bakker’s influence, in and through his own story, is undeniably inspiring. His powerful message is something we are proud to honor at our Awards Gala,” said PFLAG National President Andrew Katzenstein. "Our decision to honor Pastor Jay Bakker this year was a simple one," said Jody Huckaby, Executive Director of the Greater Rochester, Inc. "We’ve seen faith communities all over the country taking up this discussion about what it means to support GLBT LGBT people, to welcome them, include them, and uplift them. In the Christian community, Pastor Bakker is a leader in these discussions, and we are proud to recognize the incredible work he has been doing around the country and around the world — to move equality forward in communities of faith.”

"I am very honored to be awarded for the work I love," said Rev. Jay Bakker. "I am excited to attend the Straight Ally Award gala, and to be in the company of so many wonderful other Straight Allies who will be honored this year. I am so proud to have a portion of the day, and in the hands of God to be available to all people.”

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Catholic Church trying to silence victims group?  
As part of their defense for priests accused of child molestation, lawyers for the Catholic Church have subpoen­ed SNAP, the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, demanding to see more than 20 years of their emails even though they are not party to either side in the lawsuit.  
A judge in Kansas City ruled that the network must comply because it “almost certainly” had information relevant to the case. The network and its allies say the legal action is part of a campaign by the church to stifle an organization that has been the most visible defender of victims, and a relentless adversary, for more than a decade.  
“If there is one group that the higher-ups, the bishops, would like to see silenced,” said Mark A. Hamilton, a law professor at Yeshiva University and an advocate for victims of clergy sex crimes, “it definitely would be SNAP. And that’s what they’re going after. They’re trying to find a way to silence SNAP.”

Denmark may legalize marriage equality by June, PM says  
News broke March 13 in Denmark that the Prime Minister has promised the legalization of same-sex marriage by June.  
An early blog report surfaced on JoMyGod.com.  
The Danish Government is ready with the Law Proposal, which will take effect by June 2014.  
In 1989 Denmark was the world’s first country to legalize gay and lesbian couples.  
In 2009, PM says, “We have seen significant jumps in a number of respected polls over the past few years, confirming it’s a question of when, not if, we achieve full marriage equality.”  
The NBOCSW showed marriage equality has been the most prominent issue among Democrats (52 points from 2009) and a plurality of Independents (up 9 points). There has been a large increase in support among African Americans - 32 percent favored in 2009 to 50 percent now. And a majority in both the 18-54 and 54-64 age brackets favor marriage for gay and lesbian couples.

Four arrested in brutal attack on Chilean man  
Four suspects in the brutal attack on a Chilean gay man, Daniel Zamudio, have been arrested. Chilean news outlets are reporting, Zamudio, 24, was buried, had his ear sliced, and was brandished with a swastika by his attackers. He was in a coma for days.

Weites Michael Lawyers at EDGE  
Prosecutors maintain that Raúl Alfons­so López Fuentes, 25, Alejandro Axel Angulo Tapia, 26, Patricio Iván Ahumada Garay, 25, and Fabián Álvaro Morá Mora, 19, brutally attacked Daniel Zamudio, 24, in Parque San Borya on March 6. The sus­pects allegedly struck Zamudio with bot­tles, rocks and other blunt objects before they cut off part of his ear, carved swastikas into his chest and burned other parts of his body with cigarettes.  
El Movimiento de Integración y Libr­eración Sexual (Movilh) a cor­pus­cular­ian Chilean newspapers have reported that López, Angulo, Ahumada and Mora called themselves “nazis del centro” or “the Downtown Nazis.”

Moñir spokesperson Rolando Jiménez told El Mercurio after police arrested the four suspects that they confessed to the crime. “We are happy,” said Jiménez. “When the authorities told me (about the arrest) I immediately called Daniel’s family.”

Zamudio has reportedly regained con­sciousness, according to Movilh.

Ky. Republicans say gay kids should be bullied  
Republicans in the Kentucky House Education Committee on March 13 squashed an anti-bullying bill because it is “about gay rights” and would help pre­vent gay children from killing themselves.  
The vote came after parents and friends of teenagers who killed themselves to end incessant school bullying told lawmakers about the need for stronger protec­tions for all students. Several lawmakers on the panel contended that existing anti­bullying laws are sufficient.  
Says Rep. Wiedie, R-Madisonville, said House Bill 336 was an attempt to “achieve equality by making some people more equal than others.” He said the measure was “absolutely not about bullying, but about gay rights in our schools.”

Four march polls show marriage gaining support nationwide  
NBC News/Wall Street Journal on March 5 released a national survey on marriage equality that reflects the ongoing change in public opinion on the issue - across a number of demograph­ics, including party affiliation, age, and ethnicity.

“Today’s poll is yet another sign of where the country is moving - and moving at lightning speed,” said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmo­nese. “We’ve seen significant jumps in a number of respected polls over the past few years, confirming it’s a question of when, not if, we achieve full marriage equality.”

The NBCWSJ survey showed mar­riage equality has been the most prominent issue among Democrats (64 points from 2009) and a plurality of Independents (up 9 points). There has been a large increase in support among African Americans - 32 percent favored in 2009 to 50 percent now. And a majority in both the 18-54 and 54-64 age brackets favor marriage for gay and lesbian couples.

Overall, 49 percent of Americans sup­port­edอน legal­izing gay and lesbian couples getting married, according to the poll, with 40 percent opposed. In support for marriage equality was at only 41 percent, with 49 percent opposed. Other recent national polls, including one from CNN, Gallup and AP, register­ed majority support for the issue.

The poll was conducted February 29-March 3, 2012, of 806 adults, includ­ing 200 cell phone-only respondents which included GOP primary voters.

March marriage initiative goes to Maine voters in November  
A citizen initiative to legalize same­sex marriage in Maine is headed for the November ballot, the Knockout Journal reports.

The Maine House of Representatives unanimously voted March 13 to indef­initely postpone the bill, which has the effect of sending it directly to voters.

House Speaker Robert Nutting, R-Oak­land, recognized Minority Leader Emily Cain, D-Orono, to make the motion. Cain is a supporter of marriage equality.

“We just think this should be decided by the voters,” said Cain's spokeswoman Jodi Quimmons. “We would like to see this citizen initiative succeed.”  
But the action by the House avoids a citizen initiative vote, which Democrats believe would pass by a narrow margin.

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Mark Roos, LMT

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An estimated 10,000 to 15,000 gay men were deported to concentration camps, where few survived. When a memorial to the Nazi’s gay victims was unveiled in Berlin in 2018, the LSVD said the last ex-prisoner that he knew of had died three years earlier. But the group said it was then contacted by Brazda, who visited the memorial at its inauguration and became an honorary member.

Brazda was born in 1913. He grew up in the former German town of Meuschwitz and repeatedly ran into trouble with Nazi authorities over his homosexuality before being sent to Buchenwald.

In 2011 Brazda was named a knight in France’s Legion of Honor.

Last gay Holocaust survivor passed in 2011 at 98

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Interview

Reverend Jim Mulcahy
By Susan Jordan
The Reverend Jim Mulcahy is retiring as pastor of Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church, Rochester’s branch of the worldwide LGBT denomination, this month, after nine years as Senior Pastor. His next steps in life will gradually bring him to a new home in Kiev, Ukraine, as he dedicates himself to helping LGBT people in a country where just attending a Pride Parade can result in serious injury.

Rev. Mulcahy was health care chaplain at Park Ridge for seven years before becoming hospice chaplain for the Visiting Nurse Service for 17 years. When he retired he agreed to become pastor at Open Arms for one year.

In 2004 he became Senior Pastor and now, 19 years after that “year” assignment, he has retired - but he is not planning a quiet life of parenting as a retired person. He said, “I thought I was retiring, period, but I was asked by the MCC denomination to be church development specialist in Scandinavia and Eastern Europe.”

He said, “Just as I had no particular interest in pastoring Open Arms at the beginning, I had no particular interest in Eastern Europe. In 2009 I took a working sabbatical for two months to assist a friend in Romania. MCC is in probably 30 countries across the world. But at this time we have no church in Eastern Europe. I went to Belgrade to march in their 2009 Pride Parade, but it was canceled because of violence.”

“When I left Romania in 2009, I did not know I could ever go to Eastern Europe. At our 2010 MCC World Conference in Acapulco, my friend from Romania was there, and said, ‘We’re having a conference in Kiev in September and I really need someone to come teach and preach.’

The conference was for LGBT Christian leaders. Rev. Mulcahy said, ‘The minute I set foot in Ukraine I felt I was at home. It’s hard to explain. The people were incredible and the conference was a life-changing experience for the people who attended it. They were from Russia, Central Asia, Moldova and other Eastern European countries.’

What made the conference unusual was that in Eastern Europe people don’t pray in other churches. Orthodox churches for the most part don’t permit their members to attend other churches or pray with people of different religions. The conference was wide open and people saw and experienced things they had never seen before - including women reading the scriptures and taking part in the service.

“Also, what I think is really appealing is that, because of Ukraine’s relatively recent entrance into democracy, gay and lesbian activists are all 35 or younger, becoming popular among Eastern European gay activists. “I was in Kiev for the International Day Against Homophobia (IDAHO),” he said, “and we gathered, about 300 people, at a monument called the Rainbow Arches. After the signal was given, there were brief speeches and balloons were released with anti-homophobia messages. After about seven minutes, the crowd dispersed before the police could arrive.

“With no media coverage to alert the media is to alert the police. But several people took iPhone photos and sent them to the media, which ran the footage. Of course the comment was negative, but at least people saw it. Flash mobs are a way to do what you ordinarily can’t do.”

On March 20, Rev. Mulcahy was formally received as an Orthodox priest. “I think I can’t name” he in the U.S. “Because I was once a Jesuit, I can simply be received into the Orthodox church, rather than having to be ordained. I had to work with an Orthodox priest to learn the liturgy, which can be done in English. The people I’ll be working with will speak Ukrainian or Russian and I’ll be speaking English for the time being, until I can learn Ukrainian.”

The Russian and Ukrainian languages are related, and most Ukrainians speak Russian. Rev. Mulcahy says, “I’m learning Russian through Rosetta Stone, but there’s no way to learn Ukrainian unless you have a personal tutor. There are few resources except for Harvard, which has the only Ukrainian Institute I am aware of in the country. There are many Ukrainians in Rochester, including students.”

Rev. Mulcahy says his motivation is to be a “bridge person” - embodying Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox religions. “It’s illegal for me to do any of this – no foreigner is allowed to hold religious services in Ukraine.” He says that MCC draws LGBT people from all religious backgrounds, and depending on what part of the world you are in, your religious traditions and forms of worship will be influenced by the local traditions you grew up with. “So in Ukraine, if we have a group of gay people, they come from many traditions, but there will be an Orthodox feel to it. So I’m not joining the equivalent of a diocese.”

Next month Rev. Mulcahy will attend the Kiev Pride Celebration and then a Rainbow Pride Festival in a city called Nikolaev. He said, “I was there last year and offered at several same sex weddings. I have a Lutheran Norwegian priest who would come from Oslo to help me if needed. Some Norwegian and German theologians (two male and two female) are coming to the school to teach this summer. It’s very low profile - it will have a name like ‘Bridal Weekend’ or something else innocuous.

The worst that could happen to us would be to be deported and forbidden to return to Ukraine.”

Rev. Mulcahy receives no salary for this work. “I’m using my life savings,” he said. He plans to move permanently to Ukraine in spring 2013. “It’s for a reason,” he says. “One: I love it. Two: I can’t afford to live here as a retired person, but I can live on my Social Security which you can’t easily do here. Apartments and food are reasonable, and public transportation is AWESOME. The subway system in Kiev moves a million people a day, the stations are beautiful, it costs 25 cents and I never waited more than two or three minutes for a train.”

Rev. Mulcahy talked about a young woman he met last year - Olena, aged 20. He is known by many in Ukraine as “Jenni”. This charming young woman, with spiky hair and piercings, said to me, “Jenni, next year you will marry ME.” I said I didn’t know she had a girlfriend, and she said the does – yet!”

The IDEAH flash mob in Kiev.
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Pre-performance lecture: 7 p.m.

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My Own Private Rochester: Tim Tompkins

By Susan Jordan

Everyone has their own private Rochester, but Tim Tompkins actually helps to create Rochester – one piece at a time. He has two major projects on hand right now.

“I love buying old buildings and remodeling them,” he says. “That’s my vocation and I enjoy it very much. It’s awful when beautiful historic buildings are torn down. I’ve never built a house – I’ve always restored them.”

At the moment, though, Tim is involved with a partly-new building project – although it is being built on a historic site.

The Voters Block Community includes the development of 92 units of housing, consisting both of new construction and rehabilitation, in the neighborhood of the Susan B. Anthony House. The new building going up at 431 W. Main St., which will incorporate the 1872 Cafe (to be operated by Spiritus Christi Church), is being erected literally on the site of the building where Susan B. Anthony was arrested for voting in 1872, and will overlook the Voters Block Memorial statue.

The other current project close to Tim’s heart is his newest restaurant, Benedetto’s, which may open as early as next month in a beautiful rehabilitated 1825 brick house on Alexander St. The two-floor restaurant is a tribute to Tim’s late mother. Tim also owns the One Restaurant at 1 Fares Alley, and the Spa and Body Club on Liberty Pole Way and has owned many gay bars over the years, as well as helping the Gay Alliance buy its first community center.

Born in Spencerport, Tim grew up in Churchville/Chili until his family moved to Wayne County and he went to high school at Wayne Central, where he played hockey and was on the swim team. He has always loved table tennis, as well as being Section 5 champion, going to the state finals several times. He enjoys long walks, especially at Cobbs Hill reservoir, where he enjoys the view and the water. He also spends time at Keuka Lake.

Tim bought his first property in Rochester shortly after graduating from St. Bonaventure. “I remodeled the third floor and rented out the first two floors,” he says. He has never looked back.

“Rochester has been very good to me,” he said. “I became a self-made man, as I like to say. I’m very fortunate. I really like the city, I think health care here is wonderful and we have a great community.”

Tim is a member of the congregation of Spiritus Christi Church, which has offices in Downtown United Presbyterian Church. The progressive congregation is led by Father Jim Callan and the Reverend Mary Ramerman.

Aside from his own restaurants, Tim’s favorite place to eat is Rocco’s on Monroe Ave. “Mark Cripola is an extraordinarily talented chef,” he says. “I like his spaghetti bolognese and Consumption with green sauce!”

In his spare time, Tim enjoys going to the movies. “I sometimes go alone, just to be there for two hours,” he says. He recently liked “War Horse” and thought “Tinker Tailor” was “beautiful.”

Tim’s favorite local events are political fundraisers. “My favorite was a fundraiser I held for Bob Duffy when he was running for mayor,” he says. He also tries to support AIDS causes. He said, “On my birthday last Dec. 3 I had a major event to bring attention to World AIDS Day. It was the opening of Dr. Atwater’s HIV/AIDS poster collection from around the world. He has donated part of the collection to U.R. I had at least 100 posters all around the first floor of my house” (on East Ave.—Tim may soon be moving to the Park Ave. area).

Tim was appointed to the NYS AIDS Council by former Gov. Paterson, and he is trying to get more publicity for PEP, the Post Exposure Program. “This helps people who may have been exposed to HIV. If they go to the hospital emergency room right away and get treatment – they immediately put you on a regimen of drugs—you may not contract the virus. There is an 80 percent success rate if you’re there within hours,” he said.

Tim feels that there has not been sufficient publicity about this potentially life-saving program. “I never thought much about it,” he said, “until a friend of mine called me, afraid that he had just been exposed to HIV. Unfortunately, it was too late for him and he is now HIV positive. I think PEP should be more visible and better promoted. Every AIDS care provider in New York should have something about it on their website. To me, there’s obviously a compassionate argument, but you also have a financial argument – it costs $800 a month for the drugs, but that’s against a lifetime of care for those who are HIV positive.

“There has been no health-care worker in New York State who has contracted HIV from a finger prick in the last decade, because they immediately go to PEP and get the drugs. This is proven to work. You can go to the NYS Department of Health website to learn more about PEP. There’s also a NYS doctor who has a website, PEP411.com.”

“I asked for PEP to be on the April agenda for the AIDS Council, to see if we can get every AIDS provider to put on the first page of their website, ‘I have been exposed. Click here: PEP411.com.”
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

(Hate continued from page 5)

riage discrimination in Minnesota, as documented in a recent report by Andy Birkey of the Minnesota Independent. Exodus International, the nation's largest "en-
gay" umbrella group, has also decided to weigh in this summer, bringing its annual conference to St. Paul from June 27-30, at exactly the same time that the debate over the proposed anti-gay amendment is expected to reach a fever pitch.

"This is no coincidence," said TWO's Becker. "Truth Wins Our planet to be on the ground in Minnesota during Exodus's road show, and we look forward to collaborating with local and state organizations to fight back against 'en-gay' lies."

AVP reflects on meaning of Clementi trial verdict

Tyler Clementi's death has brought national attention to the epidemic of LGBTQ youth suicide and the March 16 guilty verdict in the Dharian Ravi case reminds us of the work that we have to do to address the safety of all young people, the National Anti Violence Project writes.

While the focus right now is on the verdict and imminent sentencing, AVP wants to encourage all of us to think about the larger culture in which anti-LGBTQ bullying occurs: "We live in a country where LGBTQ youth are ostracized and shamed. We must address the root causes of bullying by making all people in this country feel safe, loved and accepted for who they are."

We are capable of recognizing and appreciating the talent and gifts that all young people bring to our lives, and we do them -- and ourselves -- a disservice when we wish others away because of their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression. We praise young people for their independence and autonomy, but stigmatize and reject them when they decide to tell us who they are. The solution to LGBTQ bullying and suicide will not be found in courtrooms, but in each of us when we decide to celebrate young people for all of who they are.

"AVP encourages you to report vio-

ence you experience or witness to our 24-hour bilingual (English/Spanish) hotline at 212-741-1414, where you can speak with a trained counselor and seek support, or you can report violence anonymously online via our website."

The Right continues to defame Sandra Fluke

Sandra Fluke wanted to testify to Congress about her friend who could not get treatment for her ovarian cysts because her employer wouldn't cover contraception insurance -- which is often used for purposes other than preventing pregnancy. Sandra found herself attacked and by Rush Limbaugh, and the sexually-obsessed, woman-hating Right continued to defame her two weeks later, as reported by gay groups and bloggers. Posted by Alvin McEwen Monday March 12 11:30 am on pamlhouse-blend.com.

For all of their talking about morality and following God's laws, religious right groups seem to throw these things out the window when it doesn't suit their purposes, particularly the amendment about not bearing false witness. The lgbtq community knows this hypocrisy very well. We need to connect the recipients of the religious right's lying vitirol.

But now they have a new target -- Sandra Fluke, Fluke who was viciously attacked by Rush Limbaugh two weeks ago for her testimony in front of Con-
gress regarding contraception, now has members of the religious right smearing her name.

According to Equality Matters:

"Spokespersons from groups like the American Family Association, Family Research Council, Liberty Counsel and the National Organization for Marriage have come to Rush's defense while continue
ting to demonize Fluke as an immoral and promiscuous 'sexual anarchist.'

These groups include: The American Family Association.

During the March 7 edition of his Focal Point radio show, APA spokesperson Bryan Fischer said in a segment entitled: "Sleeping With So Many Guys That She Can't Keep Track."

FISCHER: To think that you would have a leftist like the President of the United States saying that the parents of a woman who goes on national TV, admits that she's sleeping with so many guys that she can't keep track, doing it three time a day, running out of money, driving me to the poor house, and to think that that's right, he's saying that parents ought to be proud of that. You know, I just wonder if he would be proud if his daughters were doing the same thing. Would he be proud of his daughters going on national TV to say the same thing? [APAs Focal Point, 3/7/12]

(Except of course she didn't say any-
thing of the sort.)

N.H. House rejects marriage equality repeal by a vote of 211-116

On March 21, the New Hampshire House of Representatives voted down legislation that would have repealed the state's two-year-old freedom to marry law along with a key vote to defeat the Bates Amendment, which would have forced a non-binding referendum on marriage onto the November ballot and replaced marriage with civil unions.

The bill was pushed by conservatives, but approximately 100 Republicans voted against it. The final bill was defeated by a vote of 211 to 116 and the Bates Amendment bill by 162 to 186. Stripping away the freedom to marry in New Hampshire was a top priority of national anti-gay organizations, which had predicted that they would be able to garner the vote of two-thirds of both the House of Repre-
sentatives and the Senate to override the promised veto by Governor John Lynch.

Freedom to Marry's National Cam-
paign Director Marc Solomon commen-
ted, "Live Free or Die is alive and well in New Hampshire. Today's vote affirms that Granite Staters stand strongly against stripping away freedoms from any of their neighbors. Our opponents tried to abuse the 2010 Republican legislative sweep in New Hampshire to repeal the popular law. What they didn't count on was the fact that the freedom to marry is becoming a bipartisan value, as resoundingly reflected in today's vote."

UPDATE: Craig Stowell, co-chair for Standing Up For N.H Families (and Republican Marine brother of gay Cal-
vin Stowell) said, "Today is a banner day for the freedom to marry. Our opponents have been crowing about getting their two-thirds, but in the end, it's clear they couldn't muster the votes. This is a victory for our supporters -- the majority of Gran-
ite Staters who oppose any roll back of marriage equality -- because they reached out time and again and told lawmakers to keep this law alive."

"This was our opponents' best shot and they blew it. This was supposed to be the number one favorable legislative climate for repeal and they couldn't even get a major-
ity. Still, we cannot simply pack our bags and go. Opponents still want to end marriage equality in New Hamp-
shire and we must keep a watchful eye on the September elections to make sure we win.

Our opponents try to paint the marriage equality supporters as radicals. But this is a good day for all New Hampshire fam-
ilies who can celebrate love and know their marriages are no longer under attack in Concord."

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May 24 Opening Night
Presented by Rabbi David Horowitz, President of PFLAG
How to be a "straight ally"
Performance by the Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus
Dessert reception

June 14
Panel Discussion: LGBTQ and Religion
The Struggle for Inclusiveness

June 19
Reception and Special Film Presentation:
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June 21
Film Series: Two Spirits (a partner program with WXXI)

July 19
Closing Night Celebration
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For questions about Ride For Pride 2011 please contact Jeanne Gainsburg at jeanneg@gayalliance.org or 585-244-8640 ext. 14.

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Shallermen to Stand On

On the road with Shallermen To Stand On

By Evelyn Butler

On Feb. 16, 1984, I began a road trip south to interview members of the LGBT community who have moved away from Rochester.

Bill Pritchard's involvement with Rochester LGBT community began in the late '80s with the Political Caucus of the GAGV. Bill joined the Board of the Gay Alliance in 1992 and became Board President in 1994. In 2003 Bill was appointed to fill a vacancy on Rochester City Council, and in 2007 was named Vice President of City Council. In 1994 Bill was awarded the Vinnie Cup.

Bill, an openly gay government official for over 18 years, courageously fought to bring equality and full civil rights to the Rochester LGBT community. Now Bill is the Executive Director of the Foundation at Union Hospital of Cecil County, MD. He and his partner Michael live happily in Newark, Delaware with their three dogs.

Bob Dardano, currently working at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC as Senior Acquisitions Specialist, was a gay activist in Rochester in 1984. Bob was involved in fighting for passage of a County anti-discrimination proposal. In June 1984, Bob was awarded the Vinnie Cup.

For many years Bob was a staff member of The Empty Closet and in charge of subscriptions. He also was a member of the U of R Gay and Lesbian Association, the Rochester Gay Political Caucus and the NYS Lesbian and Gay Lobby, and represented the GAGV on the Rochester Regional Advisory Council of the NYS Division of Human Rights. Bob lives in Washington, DC and enjoys simply walking to work every day.

The next leg of my journey focused on the early history of Dignity/Integrity Rochester. Dignity/Integrity/Rochester (D-I-R) was chartered in 1975 as the first combined chapter of the national organizations of Dignity/USA (Roman Catholic) and Integrity, Inc. (Episcopal).

As lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender and intersected persons of faith, members of D-I-R form a small faith community with regional and national connections in the struggle for justice in church and society. In 1973, a group of gay Catholics, under the leadership of Kevin Scallill and Margaret Mary Lau, began a Rochester chapter of Dignity, the gay Catholic group. Fr. John Robbins, a basilian priest, was Chaplain. On Sunday they worshiped at St. Patrick's Catholic Church behind Kodak offices. St. Patrick's Catholic Church, a Hispanic Mission Church, was the only church in the Rochester Roman Catholic Diocese that welcomed them. Mass had to be said in Spanish. There were 15 present at the first Mass.

Early in 1975, Rev. Bruce Hanson, Rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, and Fr. Walt Smyrnowski, a curator at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, met to discuss bringing a group of gay men to St. Lukes from St. Thomas to meet on Sunday afternoons. Fr. John Robbins was to contact with Rev. Bruce and Fr. Walt. Kodak was expanding behind its offices and St. Patrick's was scheduled to be demolished. Rev. Bruce gained permission to use the worship space and the parish hall for social gatherings. In the late spring of 1975, the Episcopal group of gay men and the Catholic group of gay men and women came together for worship and socializing. Thus the beginning of Dignity/Integrity of Rochester!

Cindy Birch, Margaret Mary's partner described the experience of coming to D-I-R in this way: "With fear men and women entered the church - not knowing what to expect. They were greeted with open arms and warm hugs. After a few minutes they relaxed and said, 'I am HOME!!'"

These brief snippets of my travels among some broad tall shoulders - Bill Pritchard, Bob Dardano, Bruce Hanson, Margaret Mary Lau and Cindy Birch -- will be expanded upon in future articles, the Shallermen To Stand On documentary, our archives, our blog and our written history.

These men and women continue to contribute to a world of openness, passion, warmth, pride and spirit to the communities they now live in. Shallermen To Stand On is proud to know them and proud of the many contributions they have made to the greater Rochester LGBT community.
Oh happy days, I could sleep without dreaming of gold.

Each new dawn offered splendid benefits. At last I could carry over coffee on my porch, luxuriating in run warm as fashionable in the newspaper. And at last I could get an entire design endless days of Slow Time... to read, curled in my comfy pink chair... to dabble in my airy art... to decorate flowers... to putter in my gardens.

At last I could schedule Slow Time for an hour of day... to stroll, to stroll through the park with my love... taking Vegas and Nevada for leisurely morning walks of all on the street. I could spend most of the time to be mindful of glistening ponds, floating gowns, and dog joy.

And then the benefits continued. Unlimited Free Time gave me more days for more corpses, concerts, and plays. Entertainment, as I had thought it would, not have to be too long to last week. My concentration was not interrupted by thoughts rushing toward my next requirements. Any day could be Fun Day.

So that is why I decided to reinstate my fan status, to buy season tickets to Red Wings games. Chose Fireworks Fridays. Perfect, two Fun Things in one night.

But now and then there is a service, aYet one cannot be happy all the time, really, really. Without fall and without permission, my old eyes began to slacken. Neither spirals nor bangs could raise them.

Even in retirement, the Sleep Time was not without its enemies. One night... I welcomed hours of sleep, adored sleeping... even with one barrel-bodied daughter thrashing at my side. My pillow was required for my head. I took it off, and then oh, yes, possibly struggling near my soft weavey-woomy.

So, setting sleep time from my day keaves fourteen hours of wakefulness. Of course they are not all fun and games. You can spend my monthly salary on any number of choices. Of course, I expected Existence Choices to last forever.

But now another era was coming time-consuming Body Maintenance Choices. It turns out that my used body requires special care and attention. Like three hours of physical therapy just to be able to walk and use my arms. Like needing iron muscles to manipulate industrial-sized clippers to cut my nails. Like raising my legs high enough to sand my feet. And oh, yes, please, looking near my soft weavey-woomy.

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those closest around her. The Daily Mail reported that Houston's sister-in-law Tina Brown and her ex-boyfriend Kevin Ammons both believed Houston may have been a lesbian because she "had wild sexuality scenes with women while out of her mind on crack cocaine."

But it was her ex-spouse, bad boy Bobby Brown, who released a single in 1998 titled "Amish?" in which he self-righteously penned in his "I was accusing her of having a bisexual relationship with her image. In Whitney's situation, she formed her then two most recent hits, gospel singers Angie and Debbie Winans, her coffee mug.

"It's not funny," Turner grumbled.

I nodded. "Yeah, I'm not happy with the whole situation. He might help his uncles with those days when my niece was young and I could pick her up and hold her and talk to her. We may never know all the demons that took this internationally renowned pop star diva down a torturous and troubling road of self destruction, but one demon not mentioned is homophobia.

A Few Bricks Short of Sane

By David Hull

My niece is 16 years old, an A student in school; her lowest grade is a 95 percent. She's involved in school chorus, the drama club and works part-time at the dance studio where she takes lessons in jazz and tap dance. Practically perfect in every way, you say? No! What could be wrong? Everything! She has a boyfriend. Every weekend she and the boyfriend are busy doing something together. Her social calendar has never been so full. Her parents are fine with her; friends are excited for her. Well, everyone else is obviously crazy. It seemed it was time for me to do something about this insane situation.

I was giving my niece a ride home from work one evening, when we stopped by Dunkin' Donuts for our favorite snack: decaf coffees and glazed crullers. While seated at a corner table, I mentioned that I didn't particularly like this whole "boyfriend" thing one little bit. "I'm 16," she replied, with a shrug. "So I have a boyfriend. It's no big deal. What are we—Amish?"

"No, we're not Amish," I said. "But you're two always busy. What do you do when you're out on a date?"

"You mean besides the sex and drugs, right?" She smirked and toasted me with her coffee mug. "Not funny," I grumbled.

She shrugged again. "We go to the movies or hang out at the mall or go to dinner."

"Where do you go to dinner? I asked. "I don't know," she replied. "Anywhere. Burger King, the Poza Shack, the Village Diner. Where did you go to for dinner when you were dating, Uncle David — potheck dinner at the church social?"

"We're not talking about me right now. I took a bite of my doughnut for strength. "So, why did you pick this Alan guy to be your boyfriend anyway?"

She shrugged once more. Apparently struggling is the precursor to anything a teenager says these days. "He's cute. He's funny. And his name is Alex, not Alan."

"What about that gay guy who came to your birthday party? I said. "He's cute. Why not date him?"

"Uncle David, I told you, he's gay!"

"There's nothing wrong with dating a cute gay guy," I shook my head. "I dated hundreds of them in college. They are very nice people."

My niece sighed. "I thought we weren't talking about you right now?"

"Why is it so important for you to have a boyfriend all of a sudden? You're only 16! I didn't have a serious boyfriend until I was a sophomore in college."

"Well," my niece said, shrugging again. "Things have changed a lot since the Depression era."

"The Depression era?" I gritted my teeth. "How do you think I am going to remember when we were kids and you used to take me to see them, but now I went with Alex. Or how you and I used to have shopping trips to the mall, but we haven't done that in a long time."

My niece shook her head. "It's not that I've forgotten you. It's just that I'm really busy and I'm growing up. And you're always telling me that I was raised right, so isn't growing up what I was being raised to do?"

Nothing is worse than that moment in the middle of a disagreement when you suddenly realize that you are wrong. And nothing worsens that moment even more than hearing your teenage niece show you how wrong you really are.

I guess Alex really wasn't so bad. He was kind of cute and funny. I suppose. I didn't dislike him so much as I was enthralled with the whole situation. I had to admit that I did long for those days when my niece was young and I could pick her up and hold her and talk to her. Maybe that was still what I wanted to do, but, when you're dealing with a 16-year-old, that was... well, that was...
Both in U7 hat effect you would be seeing lots of brides selecting ivory colored dresses, they still are true bridal gowns. They are pricey. Consider looking online or in local non-bridal shops for these items at less, long line bras; slips; Spanx. They are considered glamorous and flattering.

Iris pants and loads of white and ivory, beads, scarves and bracelets. Talk to each other about what you want to wear. If each of you wants to shop independently, take one of your trusted "in common" friends with you to the store. That way you won't wind up both buying the same dress! While that might be funny to your guests, you may not be as amused when you each "surprise" the other on your wedding day.

You don't have to be locked into buying a gown at a traditional bridal salon, expect to order the dress 12 weeks before the wedding. It will come in sooner than that, but you will have to be fitted several weeks before the wedding. That is true for any gown you buy. You can have a dress altered at your salon or take your dress to a tailor shop that specifically works on wedding dresses. They also will press your gown and get it ready for the big day.

A practical point of using a bridal salon is that they will help you with the underpaintings of your dress — strapless, long line bra, slip, Spanx. They also have the trimmings — sashes, veils, tiaras, shoes, jewelry — that will "finish" your look. Be warned: salon accessories are pricey. Consider looking online or in local non-bridal shops for these items at more reasonable prices.

One thing not to overlook in your quest for a dress is Comfort. Be realistic about how much pain you can take for the sake of beauty and glamour. Navigating in a form fitting bridal gown for eight hours is not for everyone. Think about what it will be like to sit, stand and dance in the dress you are considering.

Plus Size brides face a challenge in buying a dress in Rochester. Most traditional salons do not carry and cannot accommodate size brides face a challenge in buying a dress in Rochester. Most traditional salons do not carry and cannot accommodate size brides face a challenge in buying a dress in Rochester. Most traditional salons do not carry and cannot accommodate size brides face a challenge in buying a dress in Rochester. Most traditional salons do not carry and cannot accommodate size brides face a challenge in buying a dress in Rochester. Most traditional salons do not carry and cannot accommodate size brides face a challenge in buying a dress in Rochester. Most traditional salons do not carry and cannot accommodate size gowns. The place that has the best selection in town is David's Bridal. They also have sample gowns in all sizes on sale. I recently stopped with a bride and she bought an $800 gown for $200. It looks beautiful on her and we both know what a great bargain it was.

Happy shopping and if you need help, the NY Gay Wedding Consultant is just a phone call away: 585 733-2579.
DIGNITY-INTTEGRITY
D-1 Rochester meets weekly at 5 p.m. at St. Luke’s and St. Simon’s Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St., corner of Broad St.


April Pledoth Theme: "Primavera," one of the words for spring, brings to mind fresh foods and new recipes.

Spring will have just begun on the fourth Sunday of April, so bring your favorite dish that means "spring" to your table. No time to cook? Join us anyway as there is always plenty to share.

Schedule Change: Easter falls on the second Sunday this year, and we will usually celebrate with a Roman Catholic Liturgy of the Word. However, the Rev. Michael Hopkins has offered to celebrate Easter Sunday for us with an Episcopal Mass. Join us if you can.

Special Program: Mary Ellen and Casey Lopata, the founders of Fortune Families, will join us on Sunday, April 29. They will update us on the work of Fortune Families and Equally Blessed (a coalition which also includes Dignity USA, New York and Northern New Jersey)

You can always check for updates at our website (http://www.di-rochester.org) or by calling the DI Hotline at 585-234-5092.

JUST US GUYS
Keeping up the momentum of the LGBT March Health Month, our April 10 gathering will focus on learning more about Yoga, Tai Chi, and Qi Gong basics.

We hope you will join us and that through practice we will explore some of the essential poses, postures and repetitive movements that make these practices so unique and powerful at all levels.

Since this is a new subject matter for most of the group, it should be worth taking note of your individual needs and good introduction of the group to any new visitor.

Gathering time is 6 p.m., in the lower level conference room at AIDS Care, 250 Montrose Ave. For visitors unfamiliar with the building, there is a security booth in the entrance hall that will provide directions.

Many of our guys are long time supporters of the Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus through attending concerts and benefit functions. We are pleased that a current JVG member is one of the At Large Members of the RGMC Board of Directors.

During the months of April and May there are three special benefit events which JVG members will be helping promote. The Chorus is a local gem that deserves support from all of us.

To learn more specifics about these events, make an online visit to www.jvgc.org or contact Ron at 729-2259 or email rmatter1@rochester.com.

LORA & DYKE PICNIC KICK OFF
L.O.R.A. (Lesbians Of Rochester & Allies) meets the second Friday of each month at the Rochester Fringe and Games Night, 6-10 p.m., GAGV Youth Center, 875 E. Main St. www.l-o-r-a.com info@l-o-r-a.com (585) 423-0690

Dyke Picnic Kick Off Party @ 40 Aeks takes place on Sat., April 21 from 6-10 p.m., 40 Aeks, Rochester, N.Y. 14610

Join us as we kick off our event day and entertainment! 40 Aeks has two menus to choose from—a bar menu and dinner menu. Lots to choose from! NO COVER!

So come hang out with us! Meet some of the female performers and have FUN! This event is limited so come early! First come-first served!

Special thanks to the kind folks at the Adrian Teather on College Ave., between N. Fitzhugh St. in Rochester, with the upstairs room for our kick off party.

ROCHESTER BUTCH FEMME CONNECTION
The Rochester Butch-Femme Connection will have two supper events in April 2012.

On Saturday, April 14, we will meet at Cracker Barrel Restaurant on Hylan Drive in Henrietta at 7 p.m. (take Hylan over Route 390 heading north from Wegmans and it's on the right).

On April 28, we will meet at East Ridge Family Restaurant on East Ridge Road in Irondequoit at 7 p.m.

For further information on the Connection, contact Kerry/Max (585) 288-7208, email DressyFemme@aol.com or check out our Facebook page http://facebook.com/dbcfconnection

ROCHESTER GAY MEN’S CHOIR
First rehearsal of the June Cycle is announced!

The Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus will hold voice placements and first rehearsal of the spring season on Thursday, April 26, at the Downtown United Presbyterian Church on Fitzhugh St., where the group meets.

We hope you can join us as we celebrate into the summer. Singing together with a common purpose is not only fun and fulfilling, but builds friendship and a great appreciation for the heritage of the group.

Now is the time to consider joining us and to meet with and party with other Trans group members in upstate New York!

To learn more about the group, contact Ron at 729-2259 or email rmatter1@rochester.com.

In June 2012, "Road Trip" will feature an eclectic mix of songs from pop to jazz to classical and back again, including California Dreamin', Georgia on My Mind, Last Letter Home, and the world premiere of the UPD version of Werre World, and Mine. The concert, Saturday, June 16 at 8 p.m. in Hochstein, is sure to thrill our audience.

Those with questions can go to our website, www.thergmc.org, or call (585) 423-0690.

ROCHESTER TRANS GROU

We have some really exciting news for our April 28 meeting! Through Jason Gainsburg's efforts (he's the Gay Alliance's Community Outreach person) and the Transgender Alliance of Central New York and, from Buffalo, members of Spectrum Transgender Group WNY and the Buffalo Belles will both be coming to Rochester to share ideas, food, and FUN!

This visit is supported by the fundraising event of the history of the RTG, so please plan to take advantage of this unique opportunity to talk with and thank YOUR PART, the Rochester Transgender Group members from Buffalo and Syracuse! So we hope to see you at 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 28.

Now back to our Feb. 25 meeting. Even though we were having one of the few blizzards of the season, we still had 16 people, including our engaged couple who came all the way from Waterloo! Our guest speaker began with Courtney Michie who is the Rochester community coordinator for ESPA (the Empire State Pride Agenda) enthusiastically introducing herself and explaining what ESPA is doing about getting GENDA (the Gender Non-Discrimination Act) enacted as a law in our state structure.

She also emphasized that since Marriage Equality was passed, the only thing ESPA will be lobbying for is GENDA. There is more information on all this and more at www.espa.org.

Then Kelly Clark, Director of Community Safety for the Gay Alliance, gave an insightful talk about crime and what makes a crime a "hate crime" or not and just how difficult it is to present a crime as a hate crime. There are a number of criteria the crime has to meet, including that the victim is picked because of who they are or that they are "perceived to be." She also discussed her (as she put it, personal project) in working on the new legislation to shift the conversation of the rights as guaranteed in our Constitution as compared to the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights as decreed by the United Nations in 1948. It was quite eye-opening and thought provoking.

We meet in the Gay Alliance's Youth Center, located on the first floor in the Auditorium Center, 875 E. Main St. Parking is available in the back of the theatre on College Ave., between Prince and Genesee. Note: if there is a group at the booth, just say you're here for the Gay Alliance and they have instructions to let you in without paying the parking fee.

And thank you Kayla for once again providing probably the rehersal "fuglyass" treat!

We hope you can join us for April's meeting. It might be a once in a lifetime to say you did it, to meet with and party with other Trans group members in upstate New York. (See article, page one.)

As a new member of this chorus, all I can say is, "Me too! And why not!" Ever since the first day I joined the group back in September, I've been welcomed warmly by this diverse gathering of women. Women of all ages, all political leanings, all ethics, beliefs, experiences and orientations---are embraced here. There are even opportunities for non-singing members (female or male). What could be more inclusive than that?

And then there is RWSCC's wonderful music director, Kristy Houston. Beyond her impeccable soprano voice, her terrific sense of rhythm and brilliant teaching methods, Kristy's enthusiasm and generous good cheer feel like fresh air. If we can't music, we're told, that's OK. If we need a tissue, we're asked if OIC too. Everyone learns differently. But we learn. We do. With most songs written in just an hour or so, we are taught to be learned in preparation for our two main concerts per year.

And speaking of concerts, our current performance venue is the magnificent sanctuary in St. Anne's Church on Mt. Hope Ave. We have our winter concert there and will sing there again on Saturday, June 9 at 7:30 p.m.

So we want everyone to know that "With You My Side." It promises to delight listeners with a lovely collection of music and also is your reminder that other concerts will be held. The Rochester community is invited to come out and enjoy each event.

If you're interested in further information, or perhaps joining us, please check out our website at http://www.thergmc.org.

ROMANS DO VOLLEYBALL IN THE NUDE!

Do you love to play volleyball? How about playing volleyball in the nude? Romans (Rochester Male Naturists) had their nude game Saturday evening, April 7. This is a fun game for anyone of skill or prowess to participate. If this sounds like something you would like to try, even if only once in a lifetime to say you did it, call the Romans at 585-281-4964 or email www.romans.com for the details. The group offers swimming, a hot tub, sauna, and steam room, along with workout machines and free weights. First time attendees get in for free!

The Romans group has been hosting nude game events in the Rochester and Western New York area for over twenty years. The group is open to all gay-friendly men ages 21 and over who respect men in all colors, sizes, shapes, ages, and textures.

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-Jerry Elman, Owner

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Special Easter Dinner Buffet served at 5pm
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Frankie & Jewels – 7pm – 10pm

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Saturday, May 5th
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The party starts at 4pm and runs
ALL Day & Night

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“Jersey Boy” Barry Anderson knows an actor’s life on the road.

By Susan Jordan

Barry Anderson plays Bob Crewe in Jersey Boys, which returns to the Auditorium Theatre April 3-29. Barry’s career includes the following credits: Broadway—Legally Blonde (Aaron Schultz), National Tour—Legally Blonde; My Fair Lady; Jersey Boys, and the Four Seasons, in The Cat, The Civil War; TV/film—30 Rock; “As The World Turns,” “Forward & Gone.”

Barry is a music graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, and a proud member of Actor’s Equity. Visit www.youtube.com/andersonandperry or www.andersonandperry.com for more information.

Recently Barry Anderson talked to the ImageOut staff about Jersey Boys and his career. “I’m from a small town of about 1,500 in rural Wisconsin,” he said. “It was a great place to be raised. And even though it couldn’t have been further removed from New York City, luckily there always seemed to be opportunities to perform. I come from a musical family; my dad and his brothers still play in a band. So performing with and for other people never seemed odd in any way. I began taking piano lessons when I was eight, and I LOVED it. Singing and acting seemed equally exciting, even if just for the small school and church programs. When I was 12, I did a summer stock production of Peter Pan, and I think that was the point at which the ‘show business bug’ first appeared.”

Barry hopes to have a diverse, varied, and long career in the entertainment industry, and admits those whose careers have lasted. “To be able to have ‘done it all’ would be fantastic, needless to say,” he noted. “The bulk of my work as an actor has been on stage, the other credits are mostly off, and I absolutely want to do more of that. It’s a completely different beast than doing a live show eight times a week, that’s for sure. It’s challenging in a whole different way. But it’s all fun. As far as the future goes, I think I will always remain content and grateful as long as I’m able to do work I’m proud of and enjoy. His inspirations are actors who have had long and varied careers. “Artists who don’t let their age stop them from performing and doing what they love are the ones I find most inspiring, hands down. Christopher Plummer, Angela Lansbury, Hal Holbrook, Bette Midler, actors with virtual, busy careers who just happen to be in their 80s and 90s! They are the sort of actors that I have the most respect for. To me, it’s always fun to get to work with people who have been in the business for a long time and are still there, in the trenches, doing the work because they love it. Cool stuff!”

Jersey Boys features a love of classic pop songs that take audiences of a certain age back to their youth, and send people of all ages out of the theatre with the tunes stuck in their heads. Barry says that Rochester audiences should prepare themselves for “a great night in the theatre! In addition to laurelizing all of the famous Four Seasons hits, the show is masterfully crafted and has a superb book. It is so well-written, so well-directed...Audiences get a ‘behind-the-music’ look into what it means to go from anonymity to stardom. The show makes people laugh, it makes them cry, and the music takes them back in time, it seems. Men love it. Women love it. By the end of the show, everyone has their feet, dancing and singing along. For those of us onstage, it’s a tremendous experience!”

Barry plays a real person, Bob Crewe, who not only managed the Four Seasons but also wrote much of their material. “I have an absolute blast playing Crewe,” he says. “I feel so lucky to visit the role every night! The fact that all of the characters in our play actually existed has made the research aspect so helpful. Crewe served as the Four Seasons’ producer and band co-founder, and he had such an impressive and colorful career through the years. He was a Jersey boy himself, raised in Belleville. But he was definitely refined. He recorded a bit as a soloist, he was a fashion model at one point, he had a love and talent for visual arts and design. And then, of course, he’s best known now as a music producer -- his influence on the industry is huge. With our play, audiences get a fun sense of his eccentricities and his sexuality. There are no apologies there. But he was also really good at his job. So all of these aspects fall into my characterization of this part. The writers have given Crewe some wickedly funny lines, the costumes are amazing, so it’s a complete joy!”

Life on the road can be challenging, as actors fly or bus from city to city, waking up in an unfamiliar place most days and seeking to win over new audiences. The Jersey Boys cast will be here for an entire month and will get to know Rochester.

Barry says, “I am having a great time touring with this show. Our cast is so talented, and our tour schedule is wonderful. We are getting to play some really cool cities. This will be my first time playing Rochester, actually, and I’m looking forward to spending a month in the city. This is my third time touring with a show, so I’ve had my share of crazy stuff happen on the road. Years ago, I did my first national tour, and I lived in college – a non-union, bus-and-truck tour. Towards the end of our grinding seven-month stint of mostly one-nighters, we were scheduled to sit-down in Oklahoma. I was so grateful for that, which we considered a luxury. Our second day in town, however, the hotel we were staying in caught fire and burned down. Not fun. And just a tad inconvenient. Fortunately, everyone was safe; no one was hurt, and the show went on...I think we all feel so lucky to do what we do. I am happy to report that our Jersey Boys tour has been nothing but a dream job, and I’m excited to be bringing the story to so many parts of the country.”

Tickets are on sale now for $30 and will be $35 at the door. They may be purchased online by credit card at www.imageout.org, or at the ImageOut office, 274 N. Goodman St, Suite A205, Monday-Friday from 1-5 p.m., or by phone, 585-274-2640. Group sales are available. For more information contact the ImageOut office by phone, 585-274-2640, or email at office@imageout.org.
Bread & Water Theatre protests city demand for big annual licensing fee

By Susan Jordan

J.R. Teeter, director of Bread & Water Theatre Company, a small theatre company which performs at New Life Presbyterian Church, 243 Rosedale St. in the Upper Monroe neighborhood, was stung to receive a letter from the Rochester Police Department on Jan. 25, informing him that he had not obtained an Entertainment Center License from the city—cost $475.

Teeter, whose troupe has been staging plays and events at New Life for seven years, including the annual gay-themed Rainbow Theatre Festival, was not aware that a license was required for small and/or non-profit theatre groups and had never received such a notification. A Shakespeare performance group, which staged plays at the church before Bread & Water was founded, had never been required to pay this fee.

Teeter says that the upcoming April and May Rainbow Theatre Festival series will continue as planned. “The Mirror of Life” opened March 30 and closes April 1, and “She Said/She Said” opens April 13. He told The Empty Closet, “Every year you must pay $475— and if you were notified and you paid in December, you will have to pay again in January—the license is renewable every January. I’ve reached out to City Council about this, to the ordinance to make it less crippling, but I’ve heard that the city would not allow groups to be exempt — anyone who will listen to us. We’ve also been petitioning City Council to revise the law. The more people find out about this, the more they get upset. It just doesn’t make sense.”

What’s coming up for April at Equal-Grounds

“Seasons of Change,” multi-media art works by Allison J. Nichols, will be shown at The Gallery at Equal-Grounds, 750 South Ave., April 1-28.

The opening reception is April 6, 7-9 p.m.

“Erotic Nights 2012” will present its second evening of multi-artiste exhibition on April 14 at 8 p.m. at Equal Grounds. The series is produced by Diane Conway of CSWA (Culture Stirs With Art).

Rivera-Ortiz Foundation seeks entries for 2012 photography grant


In 2011, the Foundation garnered nearly 200 entries from some 45 countries around the world, culminating in a $5,000 USD grant awarded to Mr. Mads Nissen of Denmark.

The Manuel Rivera-Ortiz Foundation for International Photography is again seeking entries for outstanding work in global and social documentary photo reportage. Covering such pressing issues as health, poverty, oppression, war, fami-

Looking for summer activities for the kids? Register now for the Creative Workshop’s Art Day School—all day, week-long art camps for 7- to 13-year-olds. Also offered in July and August: two-week morning sessions in clay, drawing, painting and more.
Travel

St. Louis
By Merle Exit

St. Louis, Missouri is a great travel destination for those who love the arts and entertainment. Here is part one of my tour.

St. Louis' Citygarden, a 2-year-old attraction, is a blend of lush plantings and sculptures with water, stone, architecture and landscape design, located in the downtown area and open to the public all year; there are no fences, gates or admission fees.

City Museum is just a few blocks away, with art made entirely from recycled pieces. In a former warehouse, the owner took items that would have become landfill and filled the floors with quirky and innovative artistic fun. You can certainly spot the museum by a bus that appears real ferris wheel a few steps away, with art made entirely from recycled items. In a former warehouse, the owner took items that would have become landfill and filled the floors with quirky and innovative artistic fun. You can certainly spot the museum by a bus that appears just about to fall off the roof, as well as a real ferris wheel a few steps away.

To the Fabulous Fox Theatre to see a musical, "The Addams Family." This 1929 movie palace, located in the Grand Center Arts and Entertainment District, is one of the first theatres built for talkies by movie mogul William Fox. It's quite a showy place with a style described as Siamese-Byzantine, a Buddhist monastery halls.

On Saturday, April 14, 2012 the Fox Theatre is having a grand re-opening. Thin, 3,100-seat theater in the heart of downtown has brought in Jay Leno and Aretha Franklin. A tour of an area of St. Louis known as "The Loop" is renowned for its nightlife. On one Wednesday every month, at 9 p.m. sharp, a white Cadillac pulls into the parking lot of St. Louis' Blueberry Hill, as Chuck Berry pulls his guitar case from the trunk to perform at the Duck Room. Chuck Berry's star on the St. Louis Walk of Fame sits at the entrance to Blueberry Hill, as well as a new statue of "The Father of Rock 'n' Roll." We later got to see him make a quick appearance at the Peabody Opera House.

We're outdoors for awhile as we ride through the Missouri Botanical Garden, said to be the oldest public garden in the United States and founded by English immigrant Henry Shaw. It's also considered one of the top three public gardens in the world. The New York Botanical Gardens is one of the other two.

In downtown St. Louis at Lindell Blvd. and Nonsed Ave. stands ornate Saint Louis Cathedral, with the largest collection of mosaics in the world. More than 41 million pieces of tesserae in 8,000 mosaics fill more than 83,000 square feet.

Off to the 1,300-acre Forest Park with attractions such as the Saint Louis Art Museum, St. Louis Zoo, Science Center, Missouri History Museum, and The Muny Theatre. Can't take them all in, but did manage the Missouri History Museum, which displays the artifacts of St. Louisans who have contributed to American and world culture, including musicians Miles Davis and Chuck Berry, writer T.S. Eliot and designer Charles Eames.

The Peabody Opera House (formerly the historic Kid Opera House) held its grand re-opening. Thin, 3,100-seat theater in the heart of downtown has brought in Jay Leno and Aretha Franklin. A tour of an area of St. Louis known as "The Loop" is renowned for its nightlife. On one Wednesday every month, at 9 p.m. sharp, a white Cadillac pulls into the parking lot of St. Louis' Blueberry Hill, as Chuck Berry pulls his guitar case from the trunk to perform at the Duck Room. Chuck Berry's star on the St. Louis Walk of Fame sits at the entrance to Blueberry Hill, as well as a new statue of "The Father of Rock 'n' Roll." We later got to see him make a quick appearance at the Peabody Opera House.

For further information on St. Louis, Missouri, go to www.explorestlouis.com.
Wegmans School of Pharmacy: A national leader in Transgender education

By Jeanne Gainsburg, Outreach Coordinator

For the past four years, the Gay Alliance has partnered with the Wegmans School of Pharmacy (WSOP) at St. John Fisher College to provide presentations on LGBT issues to the pharmacy students in their classroom. We were invited in by Assistant Professors Amy Parkhill and Jennifer Mathews, who felt that LGBT inclusion in their curriculum was an essential part of the diversity program for their pharmacy students. The Gay Alliance has been providing two classes a year: one focused on basic LGBT issues in the healthcare setting and the other on transgender education and the challenges faced by transgender clients.

Here is a quote from a student who participated in these classes this past January: “I don’t think my new found respect and increased understanding for those who under go a gender reassignment will wane anytime soon. I am very grateful that we were able to have an open discussion with the panel, and thankful that they were willing to put themselves out there like that. For those who are ready to cut, I will be glad to be their advocate and help to further awareness and fight against ignorance and hatred toward them.”

Dr. Parkhill and Dr. Mathews concluded that not only were those classes having a profound impact on the students, but that WSOP was one of the only pharmacy programs in the country who were providing this type of education.

The Gay Alliance seeks Pride Volunteers

If you can help out with two hours of volunteering at any Pride event, please go to www.gayalliance.org/pride_volunteer to fill out the form. That’s all there is to it! Thank you.

Gay Alliance of Rochester, Inc.

www.gayalliance.org

Gay Alliance of Rochester: A non-profit agency dedicated to cultivating a healthy, inclusive environment where LGBT individuals and groups can thrive and enjoy equal rights. We are a coalition of individuals and groups working to empower LGBT people, to affirm their identity and self-esteem, and to create an environment where the rights of all will be protected.

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The Empty Closet: Editor: Susan Jordan • Designers: Jim Anderson

Phone: (585) 244-9030 • Fax: (585) 244-9246 • Advertising: (585) 244-9030 • E-mails: emptycloset@gayus.org
Youth Update

The GoGay Prom ("Born This Way") will be Friday, May 18th from 7-11 p.m. at Artisan Works, 565 Blossom Rd. Tickets are $10 pre-sale and $15 at the door.

Tickets can be purchased at the Gay Alliance during Youth Drop-In and Teen Group. To purchase tickets at another time, please contact Jess to make arrangements.

Day of Silence is Friday, April 20th! Join us in breaking the silence and challenging LGBTQ youth voices! The event will be held at 11th Nightclub & Ultralounge from 4-7 p.m., located at 404 Central Ave. in Rochester.

This space has been graciously donated by Tilt and all alcohol will be removed from the club. This event is ONLY open to youth ages 12-20. We are also incredibly lucky to have Tony-award winner Levi Kreis performing for us! Check out his amazing music at www.levkreis.com.

The rally, youth performance and special interest: Transgender Youth, Arts/Crafts, Movies, Writing. A friendly dance battle! Who knows, their dance skill may just surprise you (probably not, but it will be fun to watch them try to move!).

Community Safety Alert: new danger in the parks

Gay and bis men are attacked each year to avoid sexual activities in the parks, since there is danger of gay-bashing, pick up violence, theft and of course arrest. This year there is a further danger.

Community Safety Director Kelly Clark says, “We have received a call from someone who was taken advantage of in a local park. A person was forced to give money to a male who photographed him and threatened blackmail. As the weather is warming, this may continue. There are many reasons not to seek sex in the parks. This could have been a violent crime—people could be hurt. Not to mention the threat of arrest, fines and publicity.”

Youth Services for Rochester area LGBTQ and allied youth ages 13-25

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

Monday thru Thursday: Drop-in hours: 2-6pm

Tuesday Teen Group: Ages 13-18: 5-7:30pm

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

Special Events:
- Youth Dances, Day of Silence, Big Gay Prom, Pool Table, LGBTQ Youth Library, and Internet Access
- Fun, friendly, safe adults are needed to volunteer their time and talents, providing positive role models, maybe sharing a talent or skill.
- Contact Jeanneg Gainsburg, Outreach Coordinator for an application: jeanneg@gayus.org or 585-244-8640, ext. 14.

On-line Resource Center

The Gay Alliance On-line Resource Directory (GARD)
The online community tool providing local, statewide and national resources, 24/7 at www.GayAlliance.org.

Library & Archives

Internet Access? The Gay Alliance Library has internet access available during library hours:

Monday & Wednesday: 6-8pm
Just Us Guys
Gay men of all ages. 2nd Sundays, 6:30pm.
AIDS Care, 259 Monroe Ave. 223-2629

Charlie's Group
2nd Tuesdays. Monthly peer-facilitated support group for married men who have sex with men. Confidential. Free. For line, please email: charliefag@gmail.com
MOCHA Youth Drop-In
Tues., Fri. 1-6pm, MOCHA Center, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 424-8640

MOCHA Hepatitis Clinic
Free Hepatitis A & B vaccinations, third Tuesdays. 5-30pm - 7:30pm. University Ave. 424-8640

Women's Community Choir
Rehearsals each Tuesday, 6:30pm. Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St., 6-30pm, 423-0650

Free HIV Testing
8am-7pm. AIDS Care, 259 Monroe Ave.

TUESDAY

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Free HIV Testing
8am-7pm. AIDS Care, 259 Monroe Ave.
SUNDAY 1
Floral presentation. The incredibly rare Stinking Corpse plant is flowering at Cornell. Join in as community members present consigns to its anti-gay political losslips.org.
No Fooflin’. ComecoutDancin’, Friends Meetinghouse, 84 Scio St. 3-5 pm. comecoutdancin@gyalliance.org 585-244-8640.

THURSDAY 5
RGMC voice placements, first rehearsal, 6:30 pm. Downtown United Presby­terian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St. Info www.rgmc.org, or (585) 423-6850.

FRIDAY
Gallery at Equal-Grunds are open during “Seasons of Change” by Allison J. Nichols. 7:9 pm, 750 South Ave.
Brian O’Neill art show opening, “The Bridge Between Two Worlds.” Arts & Cultural Council, 277 N. Goodman, 3-5 pm.
Beth Bailey art show opening, Gallery Salon & Spa. 780 University Ave. 5-9 pm.

SATURDAY 7

SUNDAY 8
Bullied: Teen Stories from Generation PRX at 9 pm on WXXI AM 585-244-9030; Susanj@gayalliance.org.

TUESDAY 10
Join Us: Yoga, Tai Chi and Qi Gong basics. 6 pm, lower level conference room, AIDS Care, 299 Monroe Ave. Ron at 729-0259 or email rmatter@rochester.rr.com.

THURSDAY 12
Out & Equal monthly Second Thursday social networking at the Bachelore Forum, 070 University Ave. 5:30-7:30 pm.
Out for Justice Workshop. Adoption and Custody, with Jennifer Gravitz, attorney. 6-8 pm, GAGV Youth Center, first floor, 875 E. Main St. 244-8640 ext 265; info@gyalliance.org.

FRIDAY 13
Kate Clinton “All Fracked Up” Tour. Presented by ImageOut. 8:30 pm, Hochstein Performance Hall. $30 in advance, $35 at door, Schmooze with Kate at VIP reception, 7-8 pm, tickets. Info at www.imagout.org. Equal-Grunds, Outsiders, GAGV.

SATURDAY 14

SUNDAY 15
ComecoutDancin’ at Friends Meeting­house, 84 Scio St. 3-5 pm. comecoutdancin@gyalliance.org or call 585-244-8640.

MONDAY 16
Easter Closet deadline for May issue. 24-4050, susanj@gayalliance.org.

FRIDAY 20
Day of Silence rally, youth dance. Thr, 414 Central Ave., 4-7 pm. Levi Kreis performs. Youth 13-23 only. Info, Jess. 585-244-8640 ext 13; jess@gyalliance.org.

SATURDAY 21
Dyke Picnic. Kick Off Party at 140 Alex. 6-10 pm, 140 Alexander St. Upstairs room.

SUNDAY 22

THURSDAY 26
Community Place fundraiser. Woodhill Hotel & Spa 6 pm. Live jazz, food, silent auction, revenue raffle. Tickets $100/person or $100 per $100 of table for eight. 585-244-2001 or e-mail kullin-cibdale­ro@communityplace.org.

SATURDAY 28
Rochester Trans Group, “Summit” with transgender groups from Buffalo and WNY. 3:5-5 pm. GAGV Youth Center. fringe. 875 E. Main St. 244-8640 ext 265.
Butch Femme Connection. Meet East Ridge Family Restaurant, E. Ridge Rd. in Irondequoit, 7 pm.

SUNDAY 29

MONDAY 30
Beltain, May Eve, Ancient Celtic: Fire Feast celebration of spring, sexuality, renewal of life force. Sacred tree: Willow. Ill

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Treat yourself to a very soothing, relaxing massage by a licensed massage therapist. Message reduces stress and can enhance your wellbeing. Convenient cen­tral locations. Call John at 585-314-0197.

Classifieds ads are $5 for the first 30 words; each additional 10 words is another $1. We do not bill for classifieds, so please send or bring ad and payment to: The Empty Closet, 875 E. Main Street, Suite 500, Rochester, NY 14605. Paying by check: checks must be made out to Gay Alliance or GAGV. The deadline is the 15th of the month, for the following month’s issue. We cannot accept ads over the phone. Pay when you place your ad. We will accept only ads accompanied by name and phone number. Neither will be published, but we must be able to confirm placement. The Empty Closet is not responsible for financial loss or physical injury that may result from any contact with an advertiser. Advertisers must use their own box number, voice mail, e-mail or personal address/phone number.

Introducing a new comic feature by Justin Hubbell

Lake Avenue Baptist Church
An LGBT Affirming Church
Invites You!
10:00 AM: Sunday morning worship service
11:15 AM: A Time for Fellowship
11:30 am: Adult Education
Childcare & Sunday School for children are available.
Lake Avenue Baptist Church
Lake Avenue Baptist Church is located just off Lake Avenue near the stop light at 145 Lake Avenue.
www.lakeavbebaptist.org
www.facebook.com/pages/Lake¬Ave-Baptist-Church

Want a job? Need a date? Seeking a group for fun? All your ads go here for just $5 per word. Ads must be 15 words or less. No lettering or bold type. Photos不可以. Ads $5 for the first 30 words; each additional 10 words is another $1. Length of time placement is 30 days. Maximum length of any item is 50 words.

In the Classifieds
By Justin Hubbell

HER NAME WOULD BE "JARA" AND SHE WOULD HAVE THE MOST SOOTHING, PASSIVE VOICE IN THE UNIVERSE!

Lake Avenue Baptist Church
Lake Avenue Baptist Church
Lake Avenue Baptist Church
FREE Home Staging consultation with all listings!

"Bed & Breakfast"

Kyle’s Bed & Breakfast by Greg Fox

LANCE? SHOULDN’T DAVE BE WITH YOU? I THOUGHT YOU GUYS CARPOOLED TODAY.

VANCOUVER? HE HAD A CLIENT EMERGENCY.

DIDN’T YOU CHECK YOUR CELL? I BELIEVE HE LEFT YOU SEVERAL MESSAGES.

DAVE’S ALWAYS TELLIN’ ME I NEED TO CHECK IT MORE OFTEN.

WELL, NOW I FEEL LIKE A TOTAL MORON.

I’M ASSUMING BY THE FLOWERS, YOU WERE GOING TO MAKE SOME GRAND ROMANTIC GESTURE?

RIGHT, I LIVE IN THE REAL WORLD, LANCE.

WHAT ARE YOU DOIN’?

I WAS GONNA’ ASK HIM TO MARRY ME.

OH, REALLY? WHY NOT FLY OUT TO VANCOUVER AND SURPRISE HIM? I SUPPOSE THAT WOULD BE ROMANTIC.

I CAN’T AFFORD SOMETHIN’ CRAZY LIKE THAT.

BUYING A FIRST CLASS TICKET FOR YOU IT’S ON ME.

WHOA... WHY ARE YOU DOIN’ THIS, LANCE?!

BECAUSE I’VE GOT ENOUGH FREQUENT FLYER MILES BUILT UP TO FLY TO THE KUPFER BELT AND BACK.

AND BECAUSE I’M NOT THE COLD-HEARTED WOLVERINE EVERYONE THINKS I AM.

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

Join us!

Questions? Call: 585-244-8640 and leave a message, or e-mail: pflag@gayalliance.org

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