Smithsonian accepts Helping People with AIDS collection

By Susan Jordan

Franklin Robinson Jr., Archives Specialist at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History in Washington D.C., formally accepted the gift of the Helping People with AIDS collection from the Gay Alliance Archives at a ceremony in the AIDS Remembrance Garden in Highland Park on Aug. 2.

Helping People with AIDS was founded in 1983 by Dan Meyers, Jerry Algozer and Dr. Bill Valenti, co-founder of Community Health Network. Bill Valenti told The Empty Closet, “HPA is a community grassroots response to HIV, and that was before any government projects to do anything about the epidemic. The money raised (close to $1 million) in 19 years allowed us to provide treatment for people who couldn’t afford it. It made going to work bearable, because we could improve quality of life and even save lives. In the early years HPA funding was very much funding for treatment, as well as services. New York State around 1987 and the Ryan White Act in 1989-1990 were the first providers of funding for treatment. So HPA became more of a service and support provider at that point.”

HPA’s services and support to those living with HIV included help with housing, transportation and nutrition, and also special things like TV sets, dream trips and health care for beloved pets. The organization raised money through annual parties and dances; two of the most memorable were a circus-themed dance and a dance with a dynamic salsa band.

The complete run of The Empty Closet for the past 41 years has also been accepted by the Smithsonian. Anne Waldeman, Gay Alliance Interim Executive Director, welcomed those in attendance at the Aug. 2 ceremony, and said, “We are here to honor the brilliant, beautiful lives lost to AIDS and the grassroots organizations and people who provided help and compassion.” She especially mentioned AIDS Rochester and Community Health Network, which merged to create AIDS Care in 2010; Jay Rudman, the current ED, was present at the ceremony. “Today AIDS remains a critical issue,” Waldeman said.

She also recognized Evelyn Bailey of the Shoulder to Stand On project and archivist John Noble, who, as coordinators of the Heritage Program of the Gay Alliance and NYS Archives DHP Grant Coordinators, were responsible for preserving the HPA collection and transferring it to the Smithsonian.

John Ahlstr, president of the Gay Alliance board, said, “The Gay Alliance Archive Project has diligently undertaken... to ensure that the history of our... (Smithsonian continues page 3)

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church becomes a reconciling congregation

By Susan Jordan

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church, 4801 Mt. Read Blvd. at English Rd., has become a Reconciling congregation, due to the initiative of congregation member Vicky Robinson, and this summer the Reverend Aileen Robbins performed two lesbian marriages.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) decided in 2009 to drop the prohibition on partnered gay and lesbian clergy, and on July 7 this year, presiding Bishop Mark Hanson keynoted the assembly of the pro-gay group within the church, ReconcilingWorks, in Washington D.C.

Rev. Robbins commented, “Mark Hanson has been a huge force pushing for reconciliation.”

Vicky Robinson said, “The revolution in 2009 wouldn’t have happened without him.” Rev. Robbins added, “He has been a very peaceful, listening presence, very compassionate and listening to all voices.”

Vicky Robinson has been a member of the congregation for 20 years. She told The Empty Closet, “My daughter is lesbian and I asked Rev. Robbins whether, if she and her partner came to Rochester, they would be granted a blessing at the church. That was something that mattered to me very personally, in addition to matters of justice.”

Rev. Robbins noted that Vicky is not the only member of the congregation who has lesbian gay family members. She said, “I had a sense that everyone in the congregation had their own personal feelings about the meaning of the congregation. It seemed to me we should be resolved on whether or not to be welcoming. Would we be a place that performs (same sex) weddings? We should have this discussion before it came to a crucial decision.”

The process of discernment started with education. Vicky said, “We invited a psychologist who works with gay people to come and talk to the congregation about homosexuality. She took some astonishing questions — I was astonished through this whole thing. I never felt male or angry toward gay people. People just did not have information. They had been taught things they had never questioned, and now we were questioning them.”

Scott Fearing from the Gay Alliance came twice and talked about how it feels as a gay man to walk into a church. We also had a Bible study group,... One lady said gay people are called to celibacy. People were trying to understand what the Bible says. It’s so much more complex than people have been taught.

How did they deal with these complexities? Rev. Robbins said, “Through scholarship. We were honest about the ambiguity of the language. For instance, what did ‘natural and abnormal’ mean?” (Messiah continues pg 3)
TRANSLATING RIGHT-WING CODE

Here's a lesson for the 21st century—how to translate Tea Party jargon. These translations are all over the Internet: EC readers are encouraged to send in their own versions! By the way, those quotes are all legitimate quotes from professional bigots (conservative and/or Tea Party spokesmen and activists), as heard/seen on the Internet, TV, news or print media.

Pro Family. We hate gays. Pro Life. We hate women. Obama is not a US citizen and his birth certificate is fake—we hate black people.

Homosexuality is chosen, changeable, sicko behavior, like bestiality, alcoholism, etc. — Did we mention we hate gays?

One Million Moms = One dozen Republican propagandists.

Reforming voter fraud = Disenfranchising people of color, elders, students, working people and anyone who looks like they might vote Democrat. Unionized against the economic collapse = Banks, Wall Street and corporations are not accountable for their actions.

Corporations are evil. The 99% aren't people. A fertilized egg is a person — Women are not persons. Obamacare is destroying America = The 1% will plunder.

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The Empty Closet is the official publication of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, Inc., a 501c3 tax exempt non-profit organization. Its purpose is to inform the Rochester area of the activities of the Gay Alliance and to reinforce the non-discriminatory and non-gyimited beliefs and practices of the Gay Alliance.

Questions about advertising, Subscriptions, Letters to the Editor, address changes and donations should be sent to the Empty Closet at 775 E. Main Street, Suite 500, Rochester, New York 14605 or to emptycloset@gagv.us.

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from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturdays, with flexible early or late appointments available as needed. Physicians may schedule an appointment by calling 922-2100. The Imaging Center will accept most medical insurance including Medicare and Medicaid, and is accessible via RTS Bus and LiftLine services. Additionally, validated free parking will be available for patients in the Alexander St. garage next door to the Imaging Center.

Free mammograms offered for women 40 and over

Women over 40 who do not have health insurance can get free mammograms on Sept. 22 from 7:30 to noon at Elizabeth Wende Breast Care, 170 Sawgrass Drive in Brighton. To schedule an appointment, or for information, call 585-442-2100 and select option 1 and then option 2. Have your doctor's name and where you may have had prior mammograms ready when you call.

A physician will be available for clinical breast exams. The mammograms are administered by Elizabeth Wende Breast Care and the Cancer Services Program of Monroe County.

Gay Alliance plans new fall hours, groups, events for elders and youth

There are new hours and groups for the Gay Alliance Youth, as well as a full September calendar of events for Rainbow SAGE at the Senior Center. (For complete details, see page 31). Starting on Wednesday, Sept. 5, new days and times for Youth programming in the Gay Alliance Community Center will be 3:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays and 7-9 p.m. Fridays (social time).

Friday programming will rotate between Game Night, Arts & Crafts Night, Movie Night, Friends & Family Night and Open Microphone Night. Every Friday will be Dance Night! Check out the Program Calendar every month for details at www.gayalliance.org/events.

New youth support groups include Coming Out/Being Out Groups, Thursdays from 6-7:30 p.m.; Gender Identity Group, Fridays from 6-7:30 p.m.. Remix Young Adults and Teens, Saturdays (ages 18-20) and Out Loud, Out Proud Youth, a leadership program on Wednesdays from 5-6:30 p.m.

The Senior Center calendar for September includes Sept. 4: Eldersource Presentation, 1 p.m.; Sept. 11: Patriotic Day - Remember 9/11 with a patriotic movie and popcorn; Sept. 24: Lollipop Farm Pet Therapy Visit, 1 p.m. and Sept. 26: Harry Jamison Boat Ride/Tour on the Genesee River. The Senior Center is open every Monday and Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and different programs are offed on each day. For more information on either of these programs, call Kelly at 244-8640 or email kelly@gayalliance.org.

**Friends of Louise Slaughter host a reception Sept. 22**

Rochestrians who care about equal rights for LGBT citizens will have a chance to talk to Congresswoman Louise Slaughter about her record of support for marriage equality and other LGBT issues this month.

Mark Haig, Bill Schofer, Mark Swick, Duffy Palmer and Sue Cornell will host a reception with Congresswoman Slaughter to benefit her reelection on Sept. 22, at 3 p.m. at 80 Westminster Road in the Park Avenue Community Center.

To RSVP or for additional information, please contact SueVeer@earthlink.net by phone at 585-416-6718.

Thank You Donors

We gratefully acknowledge all of our donors with a special thank you to those who contribute each month: who sponsored participants in the Out Loud, Out Proud Youth Camp; who supported the memory of Vincent DiScinco and who celebrate the marriages of Jeff Clark & Dave Doran and Emily Jones & Deborah Hughes.

The ribbon cutting for RGHs' new facility.
Lesbian, gay athletes were welcome in London; not next time at Russian winter games

From The Advocate, Aug. 10: Megan Rapinoe says she’s been playing better since she came out. So much so, that she helped the U.S. Women’s soccer team win a gold medal in the final game against Japan.

South African archer Karen Hultzer was the latest to join the official Outsports.com count of openly gay athletes, which reached 23 as the games wrapped up.

While efforts were made to ensure that gay athletes competing at the Olympic games in London this summer felt welcome and safe, the 2014 winter games in Sochi, Russia may prove difficult to provide the same conditions, the Associated Press reports.

Pride House, a gay-targeted spot for LGBT athletes and allies during the games, was a welcome part of the Olympic village in London and previously in Vancouver. However, a Russian court ruled in favor of officials who decided that the 2014 summer games in Sochi, Russia may prove difficult to provide the same conditions, the Associated Press reports.

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federal government to single out a certain category of marriages as excluded from federal recognition," Judge Bryant wrote, "thereby resulting in an inconsistent distribution of federal marriage benefits as all marriages authorized by certain states will receive recognition and marital benefits, whereas only a portion of marriages authorized by other states will receive federal recognition and benefits."

"Judge Bryant's ruling is very clear: married people are married and should be treated as such by the federal government. There is no legitimate basis for DOMA's broad disparate treatment of the marriages of same-sex couples," said Mary L. Bonauto, GLAD's Civil Rights Project Director. "We are very pleased that the Court recognized that DOMA's creation of second-class marriages harms our clients who simply seek the same opportunities to care and provide for each other and for their children that other families enjoy."

Court orders Tea Party Nation founder to pay Las Vegas hotel bill

A judge has ordered Tea Party Nation founder Judson Phillips to pay $748,000 to a Las Vegas hotel for a massive block of hotel rooms he reserved for a Tea Party rally that he later canceled due to lack of interest.

The Verioint Las Vegas Caesars Resort alleged that Phillips had reserved 1,637 rooms for the July 20th event and then cancelled the reservations just a few weeks before the scheduled date. He did not pay for the rooms. In a court order in July, which The Tennessean reported Aug. 9, a judge ruled that Phillips owed the resort $748,000, including the $554,000 hotel bill and $194,300 in accrued interest.

This is not the first time a Republic­

ian has found itself in trouble for an unpaid hotel invoice. In February, the Charlotten Hotel Suite said a South Carolina political consultant and the Southern Republican Leadership Conference for an allegedly unpaid hotel bill, $194,300

Ten openly gay Olympians win medals

Ten openly gay athletes won medals at the London Olympics. Seven of them took the gold. Cyd Ziegler at SB Nation has the recap:

GOLD: Semone Augustus (photo above), USA, Basketball. The U.S. women's basketball team was arguably the most dominant team in any sport at these Olympics.

GOLD: Carl Haas, Great Britain, Equestrian. Haas and his two teammates won Great Britain's first-ever Team Dressage gold. Haas finished fifth overall in the individual competition.

GOLD: Marilyn Agliotti, Carlien Dirkse van den Heuvel, Netherlands, Field Hockey. The Dutch women beat Argentin­

a, 2-0, in the gold medal match. Pau­

en and Dirkse van den Heuvel scored the team's two goals.

SILVER: Megan Rapinoe, USA, Sve­

cer. The Americans beatJapan, 2-1, in the gold medal match. Rapinoe had a key pass in the semifinal match. Coach Pia Sundhage is also openly lesbian.

SILVER: Judith Arndt, Germany, Cycling. Arndt was the first out athlete to win a medal in London, taking silver in the road race time trial.

BRONZE: Edward Gal, Netherlands, Equestrian. Gal was on the bronze-medal team for Team Dressage. He finished ninth overall in the individual event.

BRONZE: Lisa Raymond, USA, Ten­

nis. Raymond and partner Mike Bryan won the mixed doubles bronze medal.

Ziegler adds: "If Team Gay was a country, it would have finished sixth overall with all seven medals, tied with Iran, Jamaica, Czech Republic and Korea." JoMyGod.com

HRC, Louise Slaughter, Sen. Gillibrand condemn Paul Ryan's record

The Human Rights Campaign responded to Mitt Romney's selection of Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) as his running mate on Aug. 10. Ryan's voting record in Congress — and his public remarks — make it clear that he does not support the dignity of LGBT Americans, a matter on which he is out-of-step with the majority of Americans — even those within the Republican Party, HRC said.

HRC continued, "Ryan does not support LGBT families, and has voted against allowing gay and lesbian couples to adopt. He voted against hate crime protections. He opposed repealing Don't Ask, Don't Tell, and he does not support marriage equality. Recent polling shows just how out-of-touch Ryan's positions on LGBT equality are: support for marriage equality stands at 55 percent among those between the ages of 18-34 with those between the ages of 18-34 supporting marriage equality by 54 percent. According to a June CNN/ORC International Survey. Nearly 50 percent of Republicans under the age of 35 also support marriage equality, according to an NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll.

"Ryan's record on voting against fair­

ness, dignity and equality is out of touch with the majority of Americans and a fast growing majority of Republicans," said HRC President Chad Griffin. "LGBT Americans need leadership that will continue to fight for their rights to protect their families, marry the person they love, and enjoy equal protections under the law."

"Mitt Romney's record is no better than Ryan's on matters of LGBT equality. Romney does not support relationship recognition for LGBT people — making him even more conservative on LGBT issues than former President George W. Bush, who supported civil unions while in office, Romney views workplace pro­
tection for LGBT people as an "unfair burden on employers," and he does not acknowledge the dignity and respect LGBT families deserve.

At a sign of the National Organization for Marriage (NOM) "marriage pledge," Mitt Romney has committed himself to vigorously pur­

sus a federal marriage amendment — a goal his running mate shares. He has twice called for the abolition of the children of the LGBT people, calls for the government to "kill the gays" and the New Right is suggesting that the Southern Poverty Law Center's labeling of them as a hate group encouraged this shooting. If Senator Gillibrand said, "It is one aim at denouncing activists: responsibility for violence with equal rights have."

Sharon Stapel, executive director of the New York City Anti-Violence Proj­

ect, commented on the recent shooting, which is "not going to suggest all LGBT folks are not victims: because that would be silly. However, if we look at the majority of reports toward LGBT equality, there are no mainstream or even left of main­

stream organizations who advocate that the murder of people who are opposed to LGBT equality is a viable solution to their goal."

"Yet a quick scan of the internet shows that there are calls for LGBT people to be killed off, arguments for the destruction of the culture of LGBT people, calls for the government to 'kill the gays.' Now the New Right is suggesting that the Southern Poverty Law Center's labeling of them as a hate group encouraged this shooting. If Senator Gillibrand said, "It is one aim at denouncing activists: responsibility for violence with equal rights have."

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hate and calling out the institutions that perpetrate that hate.

"I must further suggest that SPLC did not urge its constituency to put any one up, take their children or ask the government to murder them. Much of the culture that is created from the right, however, is predicated on violence being the solution to the homophobia problem and inciting this violence. And we see that violence being carried out every day. Shooting anyone associated with FCR is wrong. And so is creating a culture that would suggest that this violence is ever a solution to our differences."

Signorelli offers to debate bigot

Michelangelo Signorelli has penned an open letter to Family Research Council president Tony Perkins and invited him to a debate on his SiriusXM show. An excerpt:

"Perhaps you recall that in July 2008, a man armed with a shotgun went on a shooting rampage inside a church in Knoxville. The Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, like many Christian churches and denominations across the country, is welcoming of LGBT people. The gunman killed two people and severely wounded several others. Police said that the killer's motive was to target gays and liberals. "This isn't a church, it's a cult," the killer wrote in a four-page letter he had left behind. "They embrace everyone that comes down the pike.... I'll tell you the way we can rid ourselves of this evil is kill them in the streets, kill them where they gather."

Signorelli concluded, "I wouldn't claim, as you did with regard to the SPLC, that the FRC gave that killer a 'license to shoot.' No one knows what's inside the mind of a premeditated killer. But I would ask: Where do people like this killer get the distortions and ugly mischaracterizations that convince them that gay people are evil? More so, where do others who wouldn't engage in gun violence but who do harm to LGBT people in other ways - firing them from their jobs, throwing them out of their homes, bullying them in schools - get their misinformation about gay people? They get it from a wide array of sources that contribute to a culture that demonizes LGBT people. And you and the Family Research Council are among those who feed into that culture."

Gay blogger gets death threats

Gay blogger Jervis informed Twitter Support, but the FRC gave the killer a 'license to shoot.' No one knows what's inside the mind of a premeditated killer. But I would ask: Where do people like this killer get the distortions and ugly mischaracterizations that convince them that gay people are evil? More so, where do others who wouldn't engage in gun violence but who do harm to LGBT people in other ways - firing them from their jobs, throwing them out of their homes, bullying them in schools - get their misinformation about gay people? They get it from a wide array of sources that contribute to a culture that demonizes LGBT people. And you and the Family Research Council are among those who feed into that culture."

Gay blogger gets death threats

Gay blogger Jervis of Joe.My.God reported he received death threats after tweeting information about the Family Research Council, which opposes same-sex marriage. Perkins sits on the draft committee for the platform, which will doubtlessly be adopted by general acclamation during the convention.

Perkins told Buzzfeed: "You should read the entire plank on marriage, which I wrote. I feel very happy about it. I feel pretty optimistic about the outcome here."

Calling out "an active judiciary," the draft document blasts "court-ordered redefinition of marriage," before taking on the Obama administration. "We oppose the Administration's open defiance of this principle [of separation of powers] - in its handling of immigration cases, in federal personnel benefits, in allowing a same-sex marriage at a military base, and in refusing to defend DOMA in the courts," the draft states.

Finally, after praising the benefits of marriage, the draft documents state, "[W]e believe that marriage, the union of one man and one woman, must be upheld as the national standard, a goal to stand for, encourage, and promote through laws governing marriage."

Perkins' contribution also calls for an anti-gay marriage amendment to the U.S. Constitution, a position endorsed by Mitt Romney.

Freedom to Marry response

Freedom to Marry, the campaign to win marriage nationwide, strongly criticized the Republican National Convention's draft platform language attacking the courts, the president, and the support for the freedom to marry now embraced by a majority of Americans.

The draft, according to Buzzfeed, "ditches the Obama administration for its principled determination that the so-called Defense of Marriage Act is indefensible under the Constitution - a [GOP] position page 11 -"

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VITO

Time: 6:30pm

Informational screening of the documentary. Free screening directed by Jeffrey Schwartz about activist Vito Russo, author of the Celluloid Closet (the documentary film adaptation of the book will be our 2012 Festival Archive Selection).
Maurice Tomlinson
By Susan Jordan

Maurice Tomlinson had to temporar­ily leave his homeland of Jamaica because of his sexual orientation. He was arrested, and that eventuality was publicized. The first ever Gay Pride march in Jamaica was very active in painting gays as vectors of disease, pedophiles out for young boys, their sexual orientation as a sin. "I was very upset - but the student explained what I and my mother's village, there were a lot of religious service in support of me. On the last day, the police officers refused to help her!" She said that the police are not the real problem. The police may not adequately investigate mob violence against gays. "Work in that area is ongoing," Maur­rice said. "Continued interaction with the Police is needed to ensure they are sensitive to gay rights."

The police for example told Maurice that they would trust law enforcers to protect him, but a year later they had done nothing. Of course, Maurice is not the only one. All crimes in Jamaica are inadequate. But, he added, the police are not the real problem.

The real problem is the existence of the anti-sodomy law itself. The law allows extortion: for instance, when police are two men and a woman, if the crime is a se­cluded area, they insist that the men pay a bribe or be arrested. Jamaican law crim­inalizes homosexual acts as "acts in public or private as gross 'indecency'". It's a "loose, broad definition," Maurice said, which would allow the police to extend this extortion. We must increase sensitivity to LGBT issues, because most persons think these are less serious than other intimate counts, the first step is human­izing gays.

As in this country, and around the world, anti-gay religious figures stereo­type gay men and lesbians as incapable of love, emotional intimacy and commit­ment. Jamaican homophobia and hate crimes - which have been known to be globally - are the direct result of 40 years of dehumanization of LGBT people by rightwing evangelicals and televisions from North America, Maurice said. Some of the most prominent exponents of big­otry have been, and are, the Assemblies of God, the Church of God, the Southern Baptist Church and Pentecostal circles, he said.

Some gay rights groups exist in Jama­ica, but they must step up. "They are there but they can't be visible," Maurice said. "I have been forced through the publication of my marriage to Tor­onto to be the face of LGBT humanity. That has been helpful, because as an attorney encouraging mob violence." He said that there is a Jamaican tagline - "comparison with only among you. I have been known to be in severe repression, extending even to the death penalty for those deemed hardened pedophiles, he said.

"I had the privilege of being the Grand Marshal for the first ever Gay Pride held in Jamaica. It was wonderful! I got my first ride in the back of a police van! This happened when the festive event itself was being planned for a few weeks previously. He had been detained for assisting a 60 year-old woman climb into the back of the police van after protecting her.

The March, dubbed Uganda Beach Pride, was held on the grounds of the Eastern Caribbean University in the majestic Lake Victoria. There was a wonderful party atmosphere and apparently once 100 people stood up before the police that we were conducting a gay wed­ding. Maurice said.

Maurice told The Empty Closet, "They (organizers) decided to hold it, even though they suspected it would be dis­approved from my interaction with the police, they are not clear what the limits of the law are. The law is unclear. The courts cannot clearly define it. It does­not and does not mention homosexuality.

The last words, Maurice and his husband say the truth is that what is really being exported by U.S. society, is a desire to control people.

After leaving Uganda, Maurice and Rev. Tom went to Suriname, in South America, where Rev. Tom with Maurice's help did sensitivity training for police. "It was tremendously well received," Maurice said. "The police usually think gays are a problem. But in this case they were there, and Tom is an ex-police officer, were important. They could see their own family and friends in those roles, and they can now challenge those stereotypes."

He added, "I also did human rights documentation training for groups working with LGBT issues. They want to report on the state of LGBT human rights in Suriname, so the government can develop appropriate policies. Surin­ame is a colony of the Netherlands, and there are supportive laws which just need to be observed. One politician in Suriname calls for the criminalization of homosexuality, and the speaker of the House challenged him and said that's not happening in Suriname. We're going to hold a Gay Pride Week in Suriname Oct. 7-11, and the human rights groups will report anti-gay re­pressions.

Although the situation in Suriname is not as bad as in many other countries, Maurice said he would consider extending the "drive gays underground" - which would also drive HIV underground. LGBT groups in Suriname are concerned with helping the LGBT Caribbean with their culture of tolerance."

Rev. Tom Decker commented, "What really needs to be addressed are issues have to Redchurch! Rev. Jim Mula­sky's work in the Ukraine is connected to that. Now with me as 'Visiting Pastor' and my husband, international activism can be done, and they be better, a center, which has been an important step along the underground railroad, has a long tradition of human rights protec­tion for all. It's important for Redchurch to make this connection."
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My Own Private Rochester: Tony Leuzzi

By Susan Jordan

Tony Leuzzi is a published poet and an Associate Professor of Literature and Composition at Monroe Community College. He is also a Gates native who now lives in a Victorian house in the South Wedge with a beautiful garden and a 12-year-old ginger cat named Thump. He has authored three books of poems, Tongue-Tied and Singing (Tosehills, 2004), Radiation Laws (New Sins Press, 2010), and Fake Book (Anything Anywhere Anytime Press, 2012)—all of which have received strong notices from mainstream and experimental writers.

In addition to his own poems and reviews of other poets’ books, Leuzzi has spent the last five years conducting interviews with some of America’s most prominent poets. Many of the interviews have been published in prestigious journals, such as Art and Letters, American Literary Review, ZoAGH, The National Poetry Review, Jacket, and The Kenyon Review.

BOA Editions, LTD. will publish the entire collection of interviews as part of its ongoing Poets and Poetry Series. Previews will be out in November. It consists of interviews with 20 poets, including Mark Doty, Dorian Laux, Gerald Stern, Billy Collins, Natalie Handel, Carol Frost and Jane Hirshfield.

“The project began with poets I like,” Tony said, “but then as I realized I had a book on my hands, I started to more mindfully select for balance and things like that. I chose a group of people who are very different from each other. The book was about five years in the making.”

He also has a chapbook coming out this month from Hank’s Original Loose Gravel Press, titled 46,000 Crows—a reference to what happened when massive flocks of crows arrived in downtown Rochester and the city wanted a “humane” way of getting rid of them—but, Tony said, “The crows weren’t going anywhere. I like that kind of persistence.”

The poems are called “cadsie”—a syllabic form based on a Fibonacci number sequence with earlier syllabic poems, where a line’s number of syllables is the sum total of the two numbers/lines that precede it 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, etc. That was something I chose to do three years ago, so I thought I’d try another math-based syllabic sequence.

Tony was awarded a sabbatical from MCC this spring to work on these books. Here is the poem about the crows:

Our city spent twenty thousand backs
we didn’t really have to score off forty thousand crows roosting on the tops of buildings and peaks of tall trees
just because someone somewhere said their cawing bothered those below who were not included, until that point, to look anywhere but down.

Tony confides, “I led a charmed life in the South Wedge. I’ve been living here since 1995 and just really love the neighborhood. It’s a lot of fun and there’s always something to do. It’s fashionable right now, but when that’s over it will still be great.”

Tony’s favorite restaurant in the Wedge is John’s-Tex Mex. “I affiliated at the owners’ wedding ceremony at the Tap & Mallet (a South Wedge drinking establishment) a few years ago.” He also enjoys Rococo on Monroe Ave. and Harry G’s on South Ave. He likes to eat out, especially hands, alone or with a friend.

“I also love the bar Lux on South Ave,” he says. “It’s another one of my favorite places to go, along with the Bachelor Forum. Peter Mohr has done a great job with the Forum.”

Tony is an avid moviegoer and sees films on an average of once or twice a week. “I’ll see anything,” he said. “I go to the Regal in Heinricha, the Little and Pittsford Plaza. I also like the Cinema but that’s second run and I’ve usually seen them already. Roman Polanski and Steven Spielberg are among my favorite directors.”

As for local events, Tony says, “I’m a huge Pride Parade fan. I go religiously every year. Also the Picnic—those are wonderful events. And the Jazz Festival is important to me. I love music and go to jazz and the RPO. I just don’t like opera—I prefer smaller forms, like preludes and suites, but I also go to symphonies.”

Tony paints in oils and is also a former pianist who is currently trying to reclaim his piano technique. He said, “I was just given an electric keyboard and I’m learning Bartok pieces.” He goes to all the area galleries, especially RoCo, where he is a member.

Tony keeps active and says, “A couple of friends and I found two new swimming holes this summer—I’m not going to tell you where they are and I go to the gym four or five times a week at the Downtown Fitness Club, or DFC.”

As a writer Tony loves to prowl used book stores, especially Greenwood Books at 123 East Ave. “It’s one of my favorite places to go.” He also loves the Public Market and garage sales.

Tony went to SUNY Potsdam and then the University of Louisville at Lafayette (he went back to Lafayette for Mardi Gras last winter). He returned to Rochester in 1994, supposedly for one year, but never left. He and Brad Pease produced a ‘zine called “Gerbil” for six years; he also wrote film reviews and much more for The Empty Closet, including a history of the paper.

Tony enjoys traveling and takes a trip two or three times a year, most recently to Washington D.C., and he also makes frequent journeys to NYC. However, he has no plans to leave this city. He said, “Rochester is small enough for people to afford to live here, but big enough so you can do what you want.”
African rights leaders denounce Cameroon “Gay Hate Day”

Human rights leaders from Africa united to denounce the organization of a “Gay Hate Day” which took place on Aug. 21, in Cameroon, and the ongoing arrests of persons suspected to be gay. Human rights groups, such as the Voice of the global movement AllOut.org, the group called on Cameroonian President Paul Biya to reinstate anti-discrimination and decriminalize homosexuality as an important step toward addressing the growing anti-gay sentiment in the country.

The influential Archbishop of Yaoundé contributed: "This homophobic call, charmingly "dama" and "an affront to the family, enemy of women," it is necessary to resist adding language to the Republican Platform in response to the draft platform of Freedom to Marry, released this state... It's actually tragic to see a party of Freedom to Marry, released this state-party, for its longevity. The placement of a pastor on the "national agenda," a state-party, for its longevity.

LGBTQ pastor named to staff of ReconcilingWorks

The Rev. Anita C. Hill, openly lesbian and partnered faith leader, made history this past week when she was sanctioned by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) for ordaining a pastor who has been described by the National Organization for Marriage as a "hate group." The DENomination was outside the ordination of Pastor Hill was placed on the General Synod of the ELCA. Pastor Hill was placed on the list of organizations by the DENomination, as a recognized specialized group called on Cameroonian President Paul Biya to reinstate anti-discrimination and decriminalize homosexuality as an important step toward addressing the growing anti-gay sentiment in the country.

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Jose Cruz, Candidate for NYS Assembly, 137th District

By Our Governor
Jose Cruz has made public service a priority in his life. He has served as an administrator of the NYS Neighborhood Service Center. His prior professional experience includes serving as the CEO of a micro-business development agency in downtown and western portions of the city's northeast side. Early on, along with David Gantt, he was active in the Black Students Union and sits on both the Finance Committee and the Worker Ownership Resource Center. Jose Cruz has been owner of an Allstate insurance agency and was the CEO of its Monroe County Local 828 President. His prior professional experience and his service as an elected official have prepared him to represent the residents in Northeast Rochester. He has served as a minority member of the Legislature's Human Services Committee and served as a member of the Agenda and Charter Committee. He also served as Minority Leader of the Democratic Caucus.

In an interview with The Empty Church, Mr. Cruz wholeheartedly supported same sex marriage and the repeal of DOMA and said he would fight to extend New York State's marriage equality law. His priorities have included fighting for civil rights issue of our generation, same sex marriage and the repeal of DOMA. His prior professional experience and his service as an elected official have prepared him to represent the residents in Northeast Rochester.

Ted O'Brien, New York State Senate, 55th District

By Our Governor
A lifelong resident of Monroe County, Ted O'Brien moved to Irondequoit 27 years ago. For his entire career in public service, Ted has fought for middle-class families and to create jobs.

As the Democratic Leader of the Monroe County Legislature, Ted is generally viewed favorably by folks from both sides of the aisle. Some local pundits characterize his good nature and respectful approach to governing as “refreshing,” which make him a bit of an anomaly on the local political scene. As the Democratic Leader of the Monroe County Legislature, Ted is generally viewed favorably by folks from both sides of the aisle. Some local pundits characterize his good nature and respectful approach to governing as “refreshing,” which make him a bit of an anomaly on the local political scene. Ted O'Brien has been a longtime supporter of equal marriage in New York State. Looking to fill the seat vacated by Republican Senator Jim Alesi, O'Brien is campaigning on what he says is “a proven record of accomplishments.”

In an interview with The Empty Church, O'Brien said, "I believe that the struggle for LGBT equality is the defining civil rights issue of our generation, one I have been proud to advocate on behalf of since well before I became an elected official. I've always stood for the principle that all citizens -- regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity -- deserve equal treatment under the law. Since I began participating in Pride events over a decade ago, fighting for LGBT rights has been a personal and public priority for me." According to Bess Watts, CSEA Monroe County Local 287 President, and the local chapter President of Pride At Work, AFL-CIO, O'Brien is a trustworthy ally. "Ted O'Brien has been a full supporter of LGBT equality in all its forms as long as I've known him...he has worked very closely with us in our struggle to achieve domestic partner benefits for Monroe County workers."

O'Brien added, “While I am so pleased that New York became the nation's largest state to legalize same-sex marriage last year, I also remember a time when there was much less public support for gay and lesbian rights. I remember participating as the only elected official in a public demonstration to demand that same-sex domestic partners receive benefits from the Monroe County government. I remember beating the drum for marriage equality long before it was politically fashionable to do so. We've come so far in such a short time, and I'm proud to have stood side-by-side with the LGBT community for many years.”

O'Brien readily admits that there is a lot of work ahead when it comes to civil rights. He said, "As a State Senator, I will support the passage of GENDA, the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act, which has in the Senate for over six years, and fight hard to pass the New York State Assembly. I will continue fighting to create a government that treats its citizens with respect and dignity, while giving citizens the opportunity to succeed on the merits of their beliefs. I will support raising the minimum wage, and work to pass the Fair Pay Act so that women receive equal pay for equal work. I will reject any efforts to scale back rights for minorities, women and LGBT individuals. I will fight for a state government that reflects the character and pride of the citizens it represents."

The 55th Senate District should also work somewhat to Mr. O'Brien’s advantage. As of Aug. 13, 2012, in Monroe County there are 62,187 Democrats registering to vote in this newly redrawn district. There are also 2,231 registered Conservative voters plus over 44,000 Blank and Independent voters that call the 55th District home. These totals do not include portions of Ontario County, which were not available at press time. Ted and his wife, Suzanne, have two daughters, Brynne, eight years old, and Corinne, seven years old.

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AIDS 2012: Where do we go from here?

By The Black AIDS Institute

At the close of the 2012 International AIDS Conference in Washington D.C., we stand at a threshold between the past and the future. We can now imagine an AIDS-free world; it's at our doorstep within our reach -- but only if we decide to act now and we must act now.


The End of AIDS: We have heard this phrase many times for the last five days. We have attended hundreds of sessions on the latest scientific HIV research, we have viewed thousands of posters pointing to new tools at our disposal; we have been inspired by numerous plenary speakers, leaders in their fields of research, science, advocacy and policy, who tell us that we are now beginning to turn the tide to on AIDS. But will we?

Despite the developments of recent years, serious problems remain.

There are approximately 50,000 people who become infected with HIV each year in the United States. This number has remained unchanged for nearly the past ten years. We need to make serious adjustments in our prevention methodologies.

"I charge everyone who attended this Conference to ask this one important question," said Phill Wilson, President and CEO of the Black AIDS Institute. "Is it all worth it? Was it worth the time, energy and expense to come to Washington for a week or more? When we leave D.C., where do we go from here?"

We are done with the sessions and the lessons. Now we must move on and out beyond D.C. and back to our families and our communities, where we must spread the news from AIDS2012.

The Black AIDS Institute now demands for implementation of what we learned at this Conference. It's now up to us -- each and every one of us has an obligation to take what we have learned back into our communities, to our local leaders, our non-traditional partners, to our policy makers at every level.

"It's a huge undertaking but we must accept the charge," said Wilson. "We must aim beyond the five steps I outlined in my plenary speech and act on them: to fully implement the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, to encourage every person with HIV to come out; to demand treatment to link individuals to the care they need; to integrate both biomedical and the behavioral therapies in our prevention and treatment efforts; and to ask AIDS organizations to re-tool themselves for a rapidly evolving AIDS landscape."

The Black AIDS Institute is doing just that by hosting post-Conference hubs in 15 U.S. cities most impacted by HIV/AIDS and by supporting training in community clinics and healthcare facilities to help build infrastructure and scale up access to care in the most impacted communities across Black America.

The End of AIDS is more than just a declaration: it's a commitment and it's a charge. We must now take the Conference on the road to turn the tide of HIV in our own neighborhoods. And we must do it now. An AIDS-Free Generation is within our reach only if we seize this moment and maximize this opportunity.

To end the epidemic, we have to bring the conversation home and re-energize our communities to act.

To end the epidemic, we have to bring the conversation home and re-energize our communities to act.
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WELCOME TO ROCHESTER: A GUIDE FOR ARRIVING LGBT STUDENTS

COFFEEHOUSES:
- Equal-Grounds, 750 South Ave.
- Boulder, Alexander St. at S. Clinton.
- Spot Coffee, 200 East Ave.
- Java, 16 Gibbs St.

SUPPORT/SOCIAL:
- Fridays 5-6 p.m.: Gay Alliance Remix Young Adult Support Group (18-20 years old), Gay Alliance Youth Center, first floor, Auditorium Center, 875 E. Main St. Info: Kelly Clark, 244-8640; kellyc@gayalliance.org.

KIDS (under 18):
- Saturdays 10-12 p.m.: Story time for children in Community Room, 875 E. Main St. (Ages 5-10).

NIGHT LIFE (over 18):
- Classic Rochester bars: 140 Alex, Bachelor Forum, Ave Pub
- Dance club/drag shows: Tilt

RESTAURANTS:
- Low cost but tasty: John's Tex Mex on South Ave in the South Wedge; Jines, 658 Park Ave.
- Drag brunch: Edibles, 704 University Ave. (Every two months or so.)

GAY GIFTS/VIDEOS/LEATHER:
- Outlandish in Village Gate, 274 N. Goodman St.

TRANS/QUESTIONING:
- Gay Alliance Gender Identity Group, Thurs. 6:30-7:30 p.m., Youth Center, first floor, 875 E. Main St. (Ages 13-18)
- Rochester Trans Group, Last Saturdays, GAGY Youth Center, 875 E. Main St., first floor, 3-5 p.m. (All ages)
- Genesee Valley Gender Variants, Thursdays 7-9 p.m., Equal-Grounds, GVGenderVariants@yahoo.com

ONLINE/PODCAST:
- Empty Closet News at www.gayalliance.org. Also on Facebook and Twitter. Gay Sunday Brunch podcast: www.gaysundaybrunch.com

FILMS:
- The Little Theatre, 240 East Ave.
- Dryden Theatre of George Eastman House, 500 East Ave.

ARTS FESTIVALS:
- September: Clothesline Art Festival, Memorial Art Gallery, 500 University Ave., Sept. 8-9.

MISC. FUN STUFF:
- Buy local fruit and veggies at the Public Market, recently voted the 2nd best in the country (after Seattle's Pike Place).
- Check out autumn foliage in the city at the arboretum in Mt. Hope Cemetery, burial place of Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass.
- Go to the Conservatory on Highland Ave. at Goodman to see blooming flowers, or the butterfly habitat and Strong Museum of Play downtown.

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Jack Drescher and Ellen Haller and August 16, the transgender treatment journey through life together since our wedding anniversary. We've been on a for the first time. As executrix of my mother's estate, retirement benefits, insurance, death end-of-life.

First date on my 18th birthday, raising introducing each other as husband or wife ing to various places, and witnessing the challenging and joys of our relationship and those of our parents, three of them through end-of-life.

"For heterosexual couples, it is very easy to take for granted the legal and societal benefits of marriage — health care benef­
cits, retirement benefits, insurance, death benefits, healthcare decisions, child-rear­
ing and custody; and many more, not to mention the meaning of the commitment of marriage that was so vital to us as we introduced each other as husband or wife for the first time. As executor of my mother's estate, the legal benefits of marriage in estate and health issues became even clearer to me over the past year. Marriage equality is important to the co-op because the legal, financial and societal understand­
ing that Warren and I have enjoyed these past 34 years should be available to any two people who want to express their love and make a permanent commitment to each other that is so clearly provided for in the legal definition of marriage."

Jewel's statement was delivered via blog post to REI's 11,000 employees. REI has 110 physical stores in 30 states and is the nation's largest. (JoeMyGod.com)

Mixed message: APA issues new positions on transgender treatment

Kelley Winters posted on The Bile­

Project on Aug. 21: ... (O)n Augus­

t, the APA announced two ... position statements, authored by Drs. Jack Drescher and Ellen Haller and approved by votes of the Assembly and Board of Trustees.

The first position statement... acknowledged the efficacy and med­i­cal necessity of hormonal and/or sur­
gical transition treatment and the barriers to accessing this care faced by those who need it. Similar transi­tion care position statements were issued in 2008 by the American Medical Association, the American Psychologi­cal Association, and the World Profes­sional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH).

Position Statement on Access to Care for Transgender and Gender Variant Individuals Therefore, the American Psychiatric Association:

1. Recognizes that appropriately­
evaluated transgender and gender variant individuals can benefit greatly­
from medical and surgical gender transition treatments. 2. Advocates for removal of bar­
ers to care and supports both public and private health insurance coverage for gender transition treatment.

3. Opposes categorical exclu­sions of coverage for such medically neces­sary treatment when prescribed by a physician.

The second statement... acknowl­edges harassment and discrimination that trans and gender variant people face in employment, education, parent­
ral rights and civil justice. It notes that trans people are frequently victimized in violent hate crimes and inappro­priately assigned in gender-segregated facilities. Similar nondiscrimination statements were issued by the National Association of Social Workers in 1999, the American Psychological Association in 2008, and WPATH in 2010.

Position Statement on Discrimination Against Transgender and Gender Variant Individuals Therefore, the American Psychiatric Association:

1. Supports laws that protect the civil rights of transgender and gender variant individuals 2. Urges the repeal of laws and policies that discriminate against transgender and gender variant indi­
viduals.

3. Opposes all public and pri­
vate discrimination against transgen­
der and gender variant individuals in such areas as health care, employment, housing, public accommodation, edu­
cation, and licensing.

4. Declares that no burden of proof of such judgments, capacity, or reliabil­
ity shall be placed upon these individ­
uals greater than that imposed on any other persons.

Although the APA lags years behind other leading medical and mental health associations in speaking out, these position statements represent an unprecedented shift in acceptance of human gender diversity by their lead­
ership and membership. Given the APA's unique position in setting diag­nostic policy that has been historically used to limit civil justice and transi­tion care access for trans people, these statements come far better late than never.

However, the APA statements fall short of debunking the false stereo­type that gender difference is inherent­
ly pathological. This is troublesome, because the proposed diagnostic cri­
teria for the Gender Dysphoria cate­gory in the pending Fifth Edition of the APA's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM­5) continue to mischaracterize gen­der identities and expressions that do not conform to birth-assigned gender stereotypes as symptomatic of mental illness.

By describing social and medical transition itself, or the desire for tran­
sition, as pathological, the new Gender Dysphoria diagnosis, like its contro­versial predecessor Gender Identity Disorder (GID), contradicts rather than supports the medical necessity of tran­sition care that is affirmed in the new APA position statement. Even worse, the Transvestic Disorder category in the DSM-5 ascribes nonconforming gender expression and medical transi­tion for many transsexual women and men to a defamatory false stereotype of sexual deviance and paraphilia.

Ironically, the Medical Care state­ment acknowledges these contradic­tions in the DSM: "...the presence of the GID diag­nosis in the DSM has not served its intended purpose of creating greater access to care—one of the major argu­ments for diagnostic retention."

Thankfully, there is evidence of change in attitudes toward gender diversity at the American Psychiatric Association. In 2010, the DSM-5 Task Force proposed to rename the wide­
lily designed Gender Identity Disorder title (intended to imply "disordered") gender identity) to Gender Incongru­ence and a further change in 2011 to Gender Dysphoria (from a Greek root for distress). The new Position State­ment on Discrimination... contains the APA's strongest statement to date that gender difference is not disease: "Being transgender gender or vari­ant implies no impairment in judgment, stability, reliability, or general social or vocational capabilities."

Though long overdue, these posi­tion statements on Discrimination and Access to Care for Transgender and Gender Variant Individuals represent a historic step forward in reducing barriers to civil justice and transition care access. But they do not go far enough in deconstructing false stereo­types that equate gender diversity with mental sickness and sexual deviance. In the context of the proposed gender diagnoses in the DSM-5 and the recent transition task force report, they rep­resent a mixed message.
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KRISTEN BECKER

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THE EMPTY CLOSET • THE GAY ALLIANCE OF THE GENESEE VALLEY • NUMBER 460 • SEPTEMBER 2012

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Helping People With AIDS collection placed at Smithsonian Museum of American History

By Evelyn Bailey

The day was Thursday, Aug. 2. The sun was out, the weather was warm. A tremendous sense of pride and excitement rippled through those in attendance at the Press Conference held at the AIDS Remembrance Garden at Highland Park. The Archives Center of the Smithsonian was in Rochester to formally accept the Helping People With AIDS record collection - What an amazing accomplishment!

In May 2012, the Helping People With AIDS Collection was sent to the Smithsonian in Washington, DC. Ms. Patricia Frenery, the Archival Consultant for the 2011-2012 HPA Documentation Project, made arrangements for the Rochester HPA Collection to be placed at the Smithsonian.

Helping People With AIDS (HPA) was a grassroots fundraising not-for-profit organization which provided financial support to persons with HIV in Rochester from 1986-2003. HPA donated funds to the Rochester Community Health Network, and to AIDS research at Rochester’s Strong Memorial Hospital, as well as provided service specifically for persons with HIV. These federally funded programs were in the forefront of the response to the AIDS crisis.

By 1999 HPA had begun the Wish List Fund dedicated to fulfilling the needs of people with AIDS. HPA became a model for other communities across the United States. Over 17 years of fundraising, they raised close to a million dollars to meet the daily needs of persons living with HIV. By 2003 federal, state, and local money was flowing through the pipeline to many organizations whose purpose was to provide for the financial, emotional, and physical needs of persons with HIV. The need for HPA was diminishing. AIDS had become a chronic disease that they could live with.

In November 2018, the Board of HPA voted to dissolve the corporation.

In addition, the Smithsonian has accepted the full run of the Gay Alliance’s 43-year-old newspaper, The Empty Closet, the oldest continuously published lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender newspaper in New York State and one of the oldest in the U.S. The Empty Closet documents the voice of the LGBT community through social, business, cultural, artistic, religious coverage and commentary.

In 2009, the Gay Alliance received its first National Historical Publications Project Grant. The purpose of this and subsequent grants was to identify, locate and survey as many of the records of the 260-plus Rochester LGBT organizations, agencies, groups and individuals as possible, and place a minimum of three in permanent repositories.

Tom Tompkins, the last Chair of HPA, released the HPA records to the Gay Alliance. The collection was surveyed, the Smithsonian agreed to accept the collection, and the decision was made. The Helping People With AIDS Collection was on its way to Washington!

On August 2 at 11 a.m., Frank Rejon, Archivist Specialist from the Archives Center of the Smithsonian, formally accepted the HPA collection. William Valente, Director of the Gay Alliance, signed the Deed of Transfer. Among those present: Dr. Matthew Baier, Archivist, HPA along with Jerry Algozer; Dick Eaton, organizer of the first Dining for Dollars event held at Village Gate; Gary Sweet, owner of the Avenue Pub who provided the liquor for the first six Dining for Dollars events; Paula Elezic, former Executive Director of AIDS Rochester; Jay Rudman, current President and Chief Executive Officer of AIDS Care, the agency which Community Health Network and AIDS Rochester merged to become in 2010.

Shoulders To Stand On was privileged to play a part in making this happen. This was a truly historic occasion for the Rochester community, and another proud moment in our history. Congratulations Rochester!

Read more about this historic event at www.shoulderstostandon.org.

The Empty Closet goes to Washington

By Evelyn Bailey

The Smithsonian Museum of American History Archives has requested a complete run of The Empty Closet from the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley. Pulling a copy of The Empty Closet from each month it was printed will take some time. Expected date of transfer is October 2012.

The Empty Closet newspaper is now preserved for future generations of LGBT Rochesterians, and greater Rochester Community. In January, 2011 The Empty Closet turned 40 – a milestone in anyone’s life, but an exceptional one especially today for any newspaper, let alone a gay newspaper. In October, 2012 The Empty Closet will achieve another milestone - inclusion in the Smithsonian Museum of American History Archive.

Congratulations, Rochester – be proud!
Growing Up

MARTA CURRIE

By Eric Bellemare

I first met the screen
motion filming of the original "Law and Order" on the streets of New York City, not only
nonsense, but it aroused the curios-
y of a certain segment of the communi-
n that was regularly depicted. Reputed Mafia
mbers came to check it out. That is how Marta became friends with Joey Gallo.

Marta was Jerry Orbach's (Detective Lenny Briscoe) first wife and at the
time when the TV series began she still managed his career. Marta allied any
comment made by the police to continue without problems. Gallo and
Marta became friends. Some people sus-
pected she had a crush on him, but Marta
believed, because Marta told them, that somewhere in the b切尔西 West 17th Street apartment lived a man named "Joe" and 1", No one knew for sure.

Marta abandoned her promising
career as an actress, in part because she considered herself primarily a writer (she
was a member of the Writer's Group at THE ACTORS STUDI), so managed Jerry's career. She lost the idea of his being on television. Jerry had a remarkable career as a stage and screen star and won an award for "Promises, Promises". He was the original star of the long running hit "The Fantastics," a rotating list of
drop-in, other folks from the theater world, including the Twits, staff artists. I became an honor-
ary "lady who lunches." Towards the end when Marta had been freed from the Village Nursing Home and had a remark-
able home care worker, Anne, she would come to lunch in the Queens chair.

Oh, The Village Nursing Home. Marta got so angry being there she called the police.

The police take calls from elderly people in nursing homes quite seriously. They are duly moved by the spastic psychic wing of Beverly. Finally she came home and spent the rest of her days in bed, watching TV with her two cars
lying in bed with a bag of chocolate on her nightstand.

Because if no one really paid much attention to Marta's vertigo and only later during her confinement was she allowed to have bladder catheter. Bladder cancer is slow moving and, in this case, deemed not needing radical treatment.

A couple of years ago Marta's sons decided they needed my studio to house
a building manager and I was added to the
vacate. I went to Marta to say goodby.
She no longer had speech but her eyes flared and she growled: clearly my exodus was news to her and not welcome news either. But, she knew, because I had told her earlier one I loved her and that she had given me the greatest gift, the gift of being, even for a few years, a New Yorker.

Marta Curro died July 30, 2012.
Email: ebillemare@frontier.net

Cleaning My Closet

SHOULDERS TO STAND ON

By Meredith Elizabeth Reiniger

Who decides what is in use in an obituar-
y? Which truths. What announce-
ments.

Some death notices are merely functional, announc-
ing "another one bites the dust" and the obituary becomes a reporter's
burden. Others, a mine more tender, state the facts that the dead one is survived by family and friends.

Such a time, after I developed a case of feminism, I noted that funeral direc-
tion, usually male, wrote obituaries that listed the children in gender order, males first. Instead of the truth of birth order.

Who writes the obituary for a tree? For the seven acres of trees that used to be my neighbors. Who shed tears as the dawn of the backwoods grabbed each trunk? And yanked.

How do robins explain to their nest-
ling the concept of ownership? Where do foraging bears sleep their first night there is no uprooted tree flat lay? What is the red cardinal stretching into the black of noth-
ing that will fill the entire dining air where all the singers are purged.

Who approved the architect's land-
scapes? Drawn by tiny circles symmetrically dotted at the edges of a white sheet of paper. How many birds can circle a circle to scale.

Who laments the developer's promise to plant ten foot tall dreams, knowing rhino horns are a certainty as well.

I knew the trees were doomed, sold to those who value bottom lines, not woods.

The day would come when the trees were surrendered to those who build for
-paying, not birds. But knowing rhino horns are inedible does not make it

my mind had understood. Never

who was my heart? While each snap, I
whispered "beloved tree, thank you for your life.

Death notices: the woods, survived by friends and foes.

So when I retired, I took up the hobby of daily reading. I became aware of the Power of Penmanship. Insetted after the obituary members of legally and emotionally (beloved) was named. But there were no paternalistic connections listed after the family members. The names of beloved pets were printed.

Who decides what words to use in an obituary. Which truths. What announce-
ments.

Sally Ride came out of the closet on her death. out of the closet. A hand, Sally Kristen Ride, with her beloved Tom O'Shanahan, composed her obituary. Revealed her 27-year relationship. Their choice.

Her exit strategy was judged. "Too late, whitewashed gay, better to have been those little gay girls out of a shot at self-esteem," admonished some bloggers.

Sally Ride's story, there were no records that all lesbians are females, but all males are lesbians. Understood that Sally Ride is a role model for all non-male children.

Others celebrated her courage for keeping her private life... well, private. Some admired her power to define herself.

Historically women did not have the option to control their labels. They were property. Pre-liberation women did not have the option to claim their own identity. They were accustomed to ac-
them with tights and jingo spinsters, old maid, Sally Kristen Ride, lady, Mrs. SomeMom, my better half.

During the many years of evolving feminism, women have chosen to be a whole, not a half. Indeed, those people who are female have earned a variety of names to express the excision of the variety of categories. Changed Wilmin have chosen to be identified by their skills and accomplishments.

Obituaries are often short biogra-
phies. Clearly aware of her competencies, Sally Ride Science, a business focused on R&D, Sally Ride Science, a business focused on R&D, the constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage Ryan stated, "I believe fundamen-
tally that marriage is between a man and a woman. Although I support the institutionalization of traditional marriage, that process cannot continue at this time given the failed attempt by the U.S. Senate to adopt an amend-
ment. Meanwhile, states could be forced to accept same-sex marriages because of a few judges in Massachusetts.

Ride made that statement in September 2004, just four months after same-sex marriage became legal in Massachusetts. In 2012, his position hasn't altered.

When Ryan was asked once again about the stance he held he stated on Meet the Press that he "... supported the Wisconsin amend-
ment. I believe fundamentally that marriage is between a man and a woman."

One of Romney's objectives in select-
ing Ryan as his vice-presidential pick, U.S. Congressman Paul D. Ryan from Wisconsin, is not only to attract "uninspiring to young conservative voters. He believes that the young are more tolerant.

When it comes to the issue of marriage equality Ryan has consistently voted in favor of it.

In defending his stallwart stance for a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage Ryan stated, "I believe fundamen-
tally that marriage is between a man and a woman. Although I support the institutionalization of traditional marriage, that process cannot continue at this time given the failed attempt by the U.S. Senate to adopt an amend-
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But Ryan, 42, is an outlier for a generation of young conservatives, especially his generation. A Pew Research Center barometer on social issues is not only way off, but also in lockdown. It shows that a large majority of young social conservatives, those born since 2004 when same-sex marriage was legalized in Massachusetts, our state coffers increased by $1 billion a year over a decade, according to a 2004 report by Congress. But Ryan is fast.

For a man so interested in balancing America’s budget, you’d think the revenue streams from marriage licenses would catch Ryan up to Biden.

A Few Bricks Short QUOTED?

By David Hull

Facebook, i-phone, Kindle, iPod, pad, τιτσινγ, Pinterest, Twitter, Google, instant messaging, Nook, digital 3-D. Wow, it’s like a foreign language to me.

I impressed myself back in the 1980s when I discovered how to set the clock on my VCR and now no one has a VCR any more. I’m definitely falling behind.

Whenever I want to talk to someone, I call them on the phone. I talk a book off of my shelves and pages it for you to read and hardly see any reason to worry about my television broadcasting in digital 3-D. My favorite show is reruns of M.A.S.H.

My young co-teacher was so concerned that I didn’t know how to text on my cell phone that she spent two lunch breaks teaching me about it. “Now you can talk to anyone anytime you want,” she told me proudly when I had finished my tutorial.

“Yeah,” I replied. “But now you don’t have to talk to them anymore.”

I didn’t have the heart to explain to her that I actually enjoy talking to other people. That is a good thing, right?

“Uncle David, you’re going to lose being on Facebook,” my 16-year-old niece said to me the other day. “You’re spending all this time talking about this.”

Whether both Obama and Biden have now made a commitment to gay marriage equality, in the last presidential election it would have been political suicide to support it. This November may be a risk.

As chair of the House and Budget Committee, Ryan wants to focus on his strengths in the national financial crisis — and not his campaign bid be bogged down with social issues, like abortion, women’s health and same-sex marriage.

But even social issues have an economic impact, and legalizing same-sex marriage brings a fiscal benefit on both state and federal levels.

On a state level, the evidence is obvious.

It’s an upmarket consumer base that will spend money on same-sex marriage licenses, rings, honeymoons, restaurants, wedding venues, and divorces, to name a few. Ryan even went so far as to suggest that marriage equality for Rhode Island, a study from the Williams Institute at UCLA’s Law School wrote that the state’s coffers had the potential to generate an additional $1.2 million over a three-year period.

And in the first two years since legalization, Massachusetts, our state coffers increased by $1 billion a year over a decade, according to a 2004 report by Congress.

For a man so interested in balancing America’s budget, you’d think the revenue streams from marriage licenses would catch Ryan up to Biden.

Conundrums

ROMNEY CHOSES RYAN

By One Overway

Matt Romney, the elder son of former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney, announced Paul Ryan as his pick for vice president in a statement Aug. 11, guaranteeing that this election will be about our taxes, Medicare, and the economy.

This is an admission of fear from the Romney campaign. You don’t make a risky pick like Paul Ryan if you think the fundamentals favor your candidate. You don’t pick the future if Paul Ryan tells you to think the fundamentals don’t favor your candidate. And, right now, the numbers don’t look good for Romney-Obama.

Ryan is a rock star for Republicans, the lead architect of the radical right’s successful campaign to gut Medicare in Congress. A budget that calls for huge tax cuts for the super rich, on top of spending reductions that are not even 1 percent of those in Medicare.McCain tries to shore up the most conservative elements of the party. This also calls into question the risk-reward of all the shots and the president basicallyiddles to explain that their vision will only over.

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We are feeling. We can create situations which we later will pass. You are feeling anger. Feelings are not self the time to move through the desire and pause before you react and give yourself to move through the feelings and know that this too will pass.

When we react out of impatience, we can create situations which we later regret. So much of the suffering in our lives could be eliminated if we could just practice the art of patience. The hardest thing about patience is giving ourselves the time to work through and understand the roots of our impatience.

It is not that we need more patience; it is that we need to learn how to practice using the patience which we already have, so that we can become increasingly patient with ourselves and others. So just for today, take a moment and pause before you react and give yourself the time to move through the desire to act impatiently. Take a moment to find out what is at the root of your impatience.

Legally Equal

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

By Marcus Kroll

This summer brings some interesting developments in LGBT rights. First, married same-sex couples scored a major victory in Federal district court. Under the current estate-tax rules, when one spouse dies the surviving spouse is entitled to inherit the estate free of any estate taxes—this is referred to as the unlimited marital deduction, and, at the federal level, has been a right which has been denied same-sex couples.

However, in the recent case, a woman left her estate to her partner of more than 45 years, who she legally married in Canada. Because of the Defense of Marriage Act, which barred the couple from being treated as married for purposes of U.S. law, the surviving spouse did not qualify for the unlimited marital deduction for Federal estate tax purposes.

The Federal district court in New York ruled this part of the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional. This decision has already been appealed, and, along with other cases that have found the law to be invalid, will eventually reach the Supreme Court.

When the Supreme Court decides the issue, estates of married same-sex couples should file protective claims with the IRS, and the agency will hold the claims until there is a final decision in the case.

In New York State, a married lesbian couple challenged a building owner and management company with regard to a rent-stabilized apartment in New York City. After being married for 11 years, the request was made by the tenant to have her wife added to the lease. In response, a representative for the management company berated the couple and emphasized because of her sexual orientation.

Gill was hired as a temporary professor by TCC. The suit alleges that a disgruntled student whom Gill had disciplined for academic reasons retaliated by falsely claiming Gill flirted with female students in class. Gill was subjected to a diatribe from school officials about "homosexuals" and how "Texas and Tarrant County College do not like homosexuals." She was not hired full-time as a result, despite high praise and a policy of hiring teachers who complete the one-year temporary worker contract successfully.

The settlement agreement provided Gill with a payment and a positive letter of recommendation. In addition, and independent of the settlement, TCC has written a policy prohibiting employment discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

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BUTCH FEMME CONNECTION

The Rochester Butch-Femme Connection will have one event in Septem­ber 2012, which is our annual Fall Potluck Gathering at the home of one of our members in Fairport.

Join us at the Gathering! This year’s Potluck will be on Saturday, Sept. 15th at 6 p.m. Please let us know if you’re coming by RSVPing to the number below.

Our focus this year is on the importance of male being expressed by and in a male being expressed by and in a female. This is something we will explore in more depth this year.

Please contact us at (585) 888-7288 for more information.

COMEOUTDANCIN’

CALLING ALL DANCERS . . . . . . . . . .

ComeOutDancin’s 2012-13 Season starts Sept. 8, 2012

Do you love to dance? Do you want a place where you can dance and meet others who share the same desire? Then ComeOutDancin’ is for you.

ComeOutDancin’ is a dance community created for the Greater Rochester community. Our goal is to provide a venue where people who love to dance can gather and enjoy dancing with one another. Our dance sessions are informal, inclusive, friendly and fun.

Our style of dance is primarily East Coast Swing, a partner dance. But you do not need to attend a partner in order to participate. Besides Swing we also add some 2-Step, Line Dance, Salsa and Freestyle to our mix. We use music from many genres – jazz, R&B, Rock, Latin, Country and Pop.

Our sessions are held on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. Our first session of the 2012-2013 season will be held on Sunday, Oct. 7, 3 p.m.-5 p.m. at The Friends Meetinghouse, 847 W. Main St.

Admission is $5 per person. All welcome. Join us and bring a friend! Questions? For more info email comeoutdancin@gayalliance.org. OR call 585-244-8646.

DIGNITY-INTEGRITY

D-J Rochester meets weekly at 5 p.m. at St. Luke’s and St. Simon’s Church, 17 S. Pittsford St., corner of Broad St. We have the following services and activities for the month of September 2012.


September Pot Luck Theme: "Suf­ferance, Suffering: God That Tastes Better Than It Sounds." Sylvester the Cat made the phrase memorable though he wasn’t talking about food! There are lots of dishes that sound awful but are really quite tasty: chicken fingers, lemon curd, buttermilk pie, smorgasbord, even succotash! So dig through your cookbook and see what you come up with and bring it along to share. No time to cook? Just bring yourself and a friend or two and join us for food and fun.

Sun. Labor Day Service/Picnic during the regular worship time. There will be no service at the church on Labor Day, Sept. 5. All activities will be at our friends home in Lima. Call us on the hotline if you want to attend and we’ll be happy to provide directions.

October is when we traditionally celebrate our anniversary. This year we are still tailoring the 36th year of service to the GLBTQI community and beyond.

To start our 37th year, we are having a Fall Steak Out on Sunday, Oct. 14. We’ll start with the Roman Catholic Liturgy of the Word, then head off to dinner at a yet to be identified local restaurant.

Further details can be found at our website (www.dj-rochester.org/) or calling the DJ hotline at 585-234-5092.

EMPIRE BEARS

Are you having a good summer? Eat­ting healthy? Exercising? Scan your drag­ster lately? Bears tend to be big men, and don’t always take the best care of their own health.

The Empire Bears lost a long-time member in August, and we’d like you to take better care of yourself in memory of Peter Nickles. We want you around for years to come, so get busy.

On a happier subject, The Bears continue to meet for supper every Wednesday at the Wintonwood at 5:30. We’ll restart our monthly Second Saturday pot­lucks in the GAYV Youth Center on Sept. 8, at 6-9 p.m. Bring a dish, we’ve got paper, plastic, and pop.

Camping season is winding down, and we urge you to consider the Gaybear Out and the Bear Scene. Check out the Image Our Film Festival. Have you got tickets?

JUST US GUYS

Our group has been on summer recess during July and August. As we’ve said before, there have been more than enough local activities to fill one’s calendar.

Our September 11th, 2013 meeting at AIDS Care, 250 Monroe Ave., for an end of summer Pot Luck Dinner. Gathering time in the lower floor lounge from 6:30 p.m. There is a Security Booth in the entrance hall that will provide directions. Guests or prospective new members are welcome to attend.

In addition to dinner and getting caught up with summer activities, plans for our meetings scheduled for the remainder of the year will be dis­cussed.

To learn more about the group and the meetings, please contact Ron at 729-2259 or email mae­turner(at)rochester.rr.com. We hope to see some new faces!

ROCHESTER GAY MEN’S CHORUS

Want to join? The Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus rehearses every Thursday at 7 p.m. at the offices of the Downtown United Presbyterian Church on North Fitzhugh St. For more info, contact Ron at 729-2259 or email mae­turner(at)rochester.rr.com. We hope to see some new faces!

ROCHESTER RAMS M.C.

“Save a horse, ride a cowboy!” Join the Rams for “Westerns Night” on Saturday, Sept. 15, 3 p.m.-5 p.m. at the Bachelor Forum.

October is the anniversary of the Ram’s founding and we’re celebrat­ing “Westerns Night” to celebrate.

The Rochester Rams M.C. is Roch­ester New York’s foremost gay motor­cycle club as well as being one of the oldest clubs of its type in the country. All who are interested in the leather club scene are invited to check us out. Our general meeting is open to the public and we meet the Wednesday before last night at 7-9 p.m. Meetings are held at our home bar, the Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave.

Our next general meetings will be held on Oct. 17, Nov. 14 and Dec. 12. For more info, visit our website: www.rochesterrams.com.

ROCHESTER TRANS GROUP

The Rochester Trans Group (RTG) exists to provide a warm welcome and create a safe environment. We have various Upstate group leaders will tell us what they have been doing over the summer and what they would like to do for the next four months.

Mallory Kendall from Transgender Advocates of Central NY will talk about the various Upstate group leaders and what they have been doing over the summer and what they would like to do for the next four months.

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We’re looking forward to October and our third Sunday meeting.

September is when we traditionally hold our annual Fall Potluck Gathering at the home of one of our members in Fairport.

Join us at the Gathering! This year’s Potluck will be on Saturday, Sept. 15th at 6 p.m. Please let us know if you’re coming by RSVPing to the number below.

Our focus this year is on the importance of male being expressed by and in a female. This is something we will explore in more depth this year.

Please contact us at (585) 888-7288 for more information.

COMEOUTDANCIN’

CALLING ALL DANCERS . . . . . . . . . .

ComeOutDancin’s 2012-13 Season starts Sept. 8, 2012

Do you love to dance? Do you want a place where you can dance and meet others who share the same desire? Then ComeOutDancin’ is for you.

ComeOutDancin’ is a dance community created for the Greater Rochester community. Our goal is to provide a venue where people who love to dance can gather and enjoy dancing with one another. Our dance sessions are informal, inclusive, friendly and fun.

Our style of dance is primarily East Coast Swing, a partner dance. But you do not need to attend a partner in order to participate. Besides Swing we also add some 2-Step, Line Dance, Salsa and Freestyle to our mix. We use music from many genres – jazz, R&B, Rock, Latin, Country and Pop.

Our sessions are held on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. Our first session of the 2012-2013 season will be held on Sunday, Oct. 7, 3 p.m.-5 p.m. at The Friends Meetinghouse, 847 W. Main St.

Admission is $5 per person. All welcome. Join us and bring a friend! Questions? For more info email comeoutdancin@gayalliance.org. OR call 585-244-8646.
performing this year’s winter concert in January. The theme of the concert is “Here Comes the Sun.” In addition to the title song, we will be singing a varied repertoire of fun and exciting songs chosen to bring a ray of sunshine to a typically cold and grey Rochester winter. Our concert will be on Saturday, Jan. 19, at St. Anne Church 1600 Mt. Hope Ave.

We made our first ever appearance at the prism concert, “A Taste of Song” held at the Eastman Theater in February of 2011. This performance featured many of the various choral organizations in the Rochester area. A prism style concert keeps you on your toes as your aural and visual senses switch from front to back and side to side around the theater. The music and ensembles rapidly change from classical to gospel, from large ensembles to small and everything in between. This collaboration is organized by the Greater Rochester Choral Consortium, of which RWCC is an active member. We will again be participating in GRCc’s prism concert, “A Taste of Song” in February 2013.

If you are unfamiliar with the RWCC, it is truly a community chorus that welcomes all women’s voices regardless of music training and background. There is no audition necessary, just a love of singing and a commitment to rehearsing on a regular basis. There are voice placements held during the first few rehearsals of the new season, at which time the conductor helps you find your appropriate vocal part.

Our first rehearsal is Tuesday, Sept. 4, from 6:30-8:45 p.m., with a short break for refreshments and announcements. New singers are encouraged to arrive at their first rehearsal between 6-6:15 p.m. We rehearse at the Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 Fitzhugh St.

As our mission statement reads, the RWCC uses beautifully sung choral music to build bridges in the community and the world. The group is a strictly volunteer organization and we have numerous opportunities for people of all genders to join us with non-singing tasks such as concert production, publicity, etc.

For more information about RWCC concerts and upcoming activities, check out our website: therwcc.org.

To become a volunteer, send a note to chorus@therwcc.org, or call and leave a message at (585) 234-4441. We can also be found on Facebook.

ROMANS

Rochester Male Naturists (ROMANS) is a social organization of gay naturists who enjoy camaraderie in the nude.

We are gay, bi, and gay-friendly men over the age of twenty one. We are all sizes, big and small. We are single, partnered, married, and divorced. We are short and tall, wide and thin, quiet and outgoing. We are young and not so young, furry and smooth.

ROMANS is an inclusive social group for all men who are gay-friendly, who love to laugh and learn, and who enjoy nude social activities.

Our fall schedule of events will begin in September. Our monthly meeting will be on the 5th and will include a dinner and group discussions about our summer events and planning for the fall. Our monthly swims will begin again on Oct. 6 and this is a good time to join the group for first timers. The group meets before the swims for dinner at a local restaurant, which will allow first timers to meet us fully dressed.

Visit the Romans web site where an application for membership and information about the club is available. http://www.romans.com or E-mail: romans@yahoo.com, call our message line at 585-281-4964 or write ROMANS, PO Box 92293, Rochester, NY 14692.
Angels in America: Perestroika

who plays the characters Harper and spoke with exhausted!

nee only on Sunday, Sept. 2.

Project.

body has a greater sense of the arc of each character. All of what we do in

everything - like true love and finding happiness."

David said, "I've been warning the actors to make sure they do their warmups and not just on Sept. 9, but all the way through."

Part I got several good reviews last spring, from Jack Garner in the Democrat & Chronicle, and Michael Geva City. David said, "Lasser had great things to say, he had some questions and challenges that are good. He said you're supposed to experience the stage magic, and it's OK if the wires on the angel show. It's the theatre."

Method Machine is a collaborative effort. David said, "We go back and forth - in different senses - like true love and finding happiness."

"It's the theatre. It's the script, the river, we're in the boat, and we make the oars as we go. We've been working together for seven years."

Next up for Method Machine is the Rochester Fringe Festival, also this month: 100 performances will take place at around 17 venues. For instance, Ed Popel (Kechta David) will stage his autobiographical play "There's Always Time for a Cocktail," with direction by JCC CenterStage's Ralph Mametti, at the festival's stage at Xerox Auditorium.

Method Machine was involved in the creation of the Fringe Festival, which runs Sept. 19-23, David said. "We've been working on this for two or three years now. I'm doing a play I wrote last year, "The Gay Fence." It's about a man getting ready to marry the man in the moon, who has locked himself in the dressing room at a tattoo shop because he's getting cold feet. This is a fantasy! It's about what our ideas of perfection are - in a lot of different senses - like true love and finding happiness."

Marcy Savastano, co-founder of Method Machine, is a well-known local actress who plays the characters Harper and Martin in Angels. She and David recently spoke with The Empty Closet about the two plays and what they and the cast have learned from this ambitious project.

Marcy said, "In terms of acting, everybody has a greater sense of the art of each character. All of what we do in Part II is informed by what we did in Part I."

David said, "It made our journey to Part II a little easier. We're refining some of our technical aspects - the video, the angel and so on. We're taking a bigger journey and it's a lot of fun. We laugh a lot at each other. There are some relationship conflicts and inner turmoil in the script. The artist's dream is that sort of anchor."

The play opened on Thursday, Aug. 30, and will also be performed on the evenings of Aug. 31 and Sept. 1, with a matinee only on Sunday, Sept. 2. On Tuesday and Wednesday the troupe will rehearse Part I, on Thursday and Friday they perform Part II and on Saturday, Sept. 8 they will rehearse Part I in the afternoon and perform Part II in the evening. Then on Sept. 9 both plays will be staged; there will be four intermissions and a dinner break, which the audience can take at Geva's Café or at nearby restaurants.

Marcy laughed. "We're going to be exhausted!"

David hints that surprises are in store for Angels in America audiences. "We like our audiences to have fun - when they have to sit so long! Part I is three and a half hours; Part II is three hours, and the Sept. 9 marathon will last seven and a half hours - with four intermissions and that dinner break. The two agreed. "We've never done anything like this and have no idea how it's going to be!"

Melissa Etheridge to perform here Oct. 28

Melissa Etheridge arrives Oct. 28 at the Auditorium Theatre.

 Lesbian icon, Oscar- and two-time Grammy winner Melissa Etheridge is set to embark on a North American tour in October in support of her latest studio album, "4th Street Feeling" (set for release on Sept. 4 on Island Records).

Melissa wrote 12 new songs for the album, which features Blair Stota on drums, Brett Simons on bass, and Zac Rae on keyboards. Melissa took the lead on vocals, piano, harmonica, banjitar and some of her most stirring lead guitar work to date.

The first single on the album, "Fallin’ Up," became available on iTunes on Aug. 7.

In addition to her recording career, Melissa hosts "The Melissa Etheridge Radio Show," syndicated through Bentown Radio Networks.

In late 2011, Melissa was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and this fall, will be honored by the National Women's Museum of Art in Washington DC with her inclusion in the exhibition, "Women Who Rock: Vision, Passion, Power."

Reserved tickets for the 7:30 show are $102.50, $67.50, $47.50 and $27.50, including facility fees and are on sale now at the Box Office, ticketmaster.com or by phone: 800-745-3000.

The Fringe Festival has many local sponsors for "Angels in America." Among the sponsors for "Angels in America" are JCC CenterStage, ImageOut, New York State's largest LGBT Film Festival, is pleased to announce its landmark 20th anniversary program lineup at the Fifth Annual ImageOut Film Festival on Friday, Sept. 14, 6:30-9 p.m., at the Rochester Museum and Science Center's Strasburgh Planetarium, 657 East Ave.

This will be the general public's first chance to learn about this year's Festival lineup and purchase tickets prior to the start of online ticket sales. The evening will include hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar, as well as a 30-minute Programmers' Preview including trailers for the Festival selections, followed by the documentation feature "Vito," about LGBT activist and author of the acclaimed "The Celuloid Closet" Vito Russo. The Fair and screenings are free and open to the public.

The 20th anniversary ImageOut Film Festival, which runs from Oct. 5 to Oct. 14, will feature over 90 films shown in three venues in Rochester (The Little Theatre, The Dryden Theatre at George Eastman House, and The Hudson Auditorium at the University of Rochester). With annual average attendance of 5,000, ImageOut continues page 28

Jason & deMarco

Jason & deMarco sing about struggle, love and inspiration

Are you a fan of Jason & deMarco? If so, rejoice that they are returning to Rochester this month for an evening of song and inspiration.

The gay Christian music duo will be performing live in concert on Saturday, Sept. 29, from 7:30-9:30 p.m., at St. Luke's and St. Simon Cyrene Church, 17 South Finland St. They will be presenting songs from their new album, "The One-ness of Praise."

Admission and parking are free. A love offering will be taken and CDs will be available for purchase. The church is wheelchair accessible.

Visit http://jasonanddemarco.eventbrite.com for details and to register. All are welcome.

Jason & deMarco are independent young artists and songwriters who have spent years touring the U.S. and abroad. "We All Angels," a documentary film about the couple, was released in 2007. Their music focuses on everyday challenges, relationships, and struggles. They also work as part-time church worship and youth leaders in Houston, Texas. They recently welcomed twin sons Mason and Nolan into their lives.

This concert is proudly sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, Oasis Rochester, St. Luke's and St. Simon Cyrene Episcopal Church, St. Mark & St. John Episcopal Church, St. Stephen Episcopal Church, Ascension Episcopal Church, St. Luke Episcopal Church, Fairport: Zion Episcopal Church, Palmyra: St. Michael Episcopal Church, Geneseo and the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley.

Visit http://jasonanddemarco.eventbrite.com for details and to register. All are welcome.

RGMC at GALA 2012: it's about belonging
By James Sullivan

In the beginning of July, members of the Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus (RGMC) traveled to Denver, Colorado for the Gay and Lesbian Association (GALA) of Choruses Festival 2012.

The festival occurs every four years in a different major North American city, and RGMC has sent delegates to every festival since the founding of GALA in 1983. Despite RGMC’s regular presence, the trip was for many members, including myself, our first GALA experience. We were, to say the least, GALA virgins.

Seventeen singers, along with our conductor, pianist, interprêter, and business manager, made the trip. The festival was meaningful to each of us in different ways. But with over 6,000 participants (making this the largest festival in the history of the GALA Choruses), it was a meaningful experience for all of us as both an exciting and humbling experience—exciting to sing for and applauding the numerous other choruses. It was about supporting and being supported in a way that might make up for the lack of such support in other aspects of our lives.

In this way, GALA is still doing what it set out to do when it was first formed nearly 30 years ago.

My piece of unsolicited advice—join a GALA chorus! I have been a member of the Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus for nearly six years. It has been and will always mean something to me. RGMC was just one of the many groups that RGMC has sent delegates to every GALA chorus! I have been a member of RGMC at GALA for 40 years. RGMC is a part of this. RGMC is one of us in different ways. And RGMC is a part of what makes it set out to do when it was first formed—supporting and being supported in a way that might make up for the lack of such support in other aspects of our lives. In this way, GALA is still doing what it set out to do when it was first formed nearly 30 years ago.

There were many times during our stay in Denver and on the plane flight home that I and other participants were asked, “Who won?” Those asking were non-participants who genuinely wanted to know more about the festival. But the question was slightly misplaced. The festival was not a competition between choirs.

Sure, it was a chance to show off what we had been working on back home in Rochester, but it was never about outdoing other choruses. It was about supporting and being supported in a way that might make up for the lack of such support in other aspects of our lives. In this way, GALA is still doing what it set out to do when it was first formed nearly 30 years ago.

Saturday, Sept. 15: Online ticket sales begin at 9am EST
Sunday, Sept. 16: In-Person Ticket Sales at ImageOut Office from 12:30-4pm
Thursday, Sept. 20: In-Person Ticket Sales at ImageOut Office from 6-8pm
Saturday, Sept. 22: In-Person Ticket Sales at ImageOut Office from 12:30-4pm
Wednesday, Sept. 26: In-Person Ticket Sales at ImageOut Office from 6-8pm
Monday, Oct. 1: Final In-Person Ticket Sales at ImageOut Office from 6-8pm
Thursday, Oct. 4: Online Ticket Sales End at 5pm EST
Friday, Oct. 7-Sunday, Oct. 14: 20th Annual ImageOut Film and Video Festival

Gay marriage play 8th comes to RIT Sept. 20

Dustin Lance Black's marriage equality play "8" comes to RIT's Robert F. Panara Theatre at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 20. Tickets for the production are free and may be reserved by emailing mgard@rit.edu.

Uncover the truth about marriage for gay and lesbian Americans. "8" — a new play by Academy Award winning screenwriter Dustin Lance Black (Milk, Edwards) — demystifies the debate around marriage equality and explores the legal and moral issues that created the now famous court case that led to the Supreme Court's decision in 2013 to strike down Proposition 8, the constitutional amendment that denied Californians the right to marry. The play follows a day in the life of the Royal Purple Players, the first-ever gay marriage trial that led to the historic landmark legal victory for the rights of gay and lesbian couples.

The performance will be at the RIT Panara Theatre. Tickets for this event will be free and available by emailing mgard@rit.edu.

Two-person show is at Equal-Grounds Gallery

The Gallery at Equal-Grounds is delighted to announce its September show, "things that are still," art show of Jenny Magnudr, the other artist.

This two-person exhibition showcases the work of recent college graduates Jenny Svendsen and Jenny Magnudr.

Ms. Svendsen's work is a photographic essay called "You are the only one" and the titular mural, a young Russian woman and her fanclub, a Latvian-born US Army private and her

"Red Scarf" by Heather Swenson, from "things that are still," at The Gallery @ Equal-Grounds this month.

"Tip toes" by Jenny Magnudr, the other artist, from "things that are still," at Equal-Grounds.

The importance of the film lies in the way for the current generation. Not only is this documentary engaging and captivating, it is a powerful educational tool and allies of the LGBT community, to pay tribute to and carry on the legacy of Vito Russo. The film does all of this, and more, in the past for our lives today and progress to come.

There is no better time to kick off the 20th Anniversary of ImageOut, allowing us to pay tribute to Vito Russo and the many things he stood for the way for the current generation.

"Vito." But it was important for this event to capture the question was whether or not the person did in life to teach us about the movie this year to demystify the debate around marriage equality and explores the legal and moral issues that created the now famous court case that led to the Supreme Court's decision in 2013 to strike down Proposition 8, the constitutional amendment that denied Californians the right to marry. The play follows a day in the life of the Royal Purple Players, the first-ever gay marriage trial that led to the historic landmark legal victory for the rights of gay and lesbian couples.

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RuPaul declared, “Unlike other reality competition shows, when contestants leave RuPaul’s Drag Race” they don’t fade away, they become internationally famous performers. “RuPaul’s All Stars Drag Race” is the perfect new franchise for fans to fall in love all over again with some of the most talented and unforgettable queens. The 12 queens entering the “RuPaul’s Drag Race All Stars” drag battle this season are Pandora Boxx, Tammin Brown, Nina Flowers, Jujaboo, Mimi Imfurst, Manila Luzon, Alexis Mateo, Chad Michaels, Raven, Latrice Royale, Shannel and Yara Sofia. Only one will walk out as the ultimate queen among queens.

For more information on “RuPaul’s All Stars Drag Race” and sneak preview clips, go to LogoTV.com. For up-to-date “RuPaul’s All Stars Drag Race” news and exclusives, join the “Pans Unlocked” super fan community on the “RuPaul’s All Stars Drag Race” Facebook page or follow the series on Twitter at @RuPaulsDragRace.

Book Review:

Transitions of the Heart

By Pasaula Carnish

As the mother of a transgendered boy, reading Transitions of the Heart was very much a healing experience for me. Transitions of the Heart is a compilation of stories written by mothers who have experienced transitioning with their transgendered child, and is edited by Rachel Pepper who co-authored the book The Transgendered Child: A Handbook for Families and Professionals. My daughter recently came out to me as transgendered. His announcement sparked a journey which the women in this book, in this book, can relate to, having made a similar journey with their own children. These mothers very eloquently share their stories. Although no two stories are the same, the essence of the journey which families of transgendered people make during their loved one’s transitions is at the heart of this book.

Like the mothers in these stories, I have always felt that my child was different that he didn’t quite fit the gender mold our society applies to girls and boys. These mothers express this sentiment about their own children. They speak of gender variant behaviors that are not easily defined as being either boy or girl. As a parent I realized this, though I did not discuss it with my child.

I have struggled daily with fear for my son. Many of these mothers struggled with fear for their children. They were concerned that society would harm them emotionally or physically. They worry that the medical profession will not be able to help, or that hormone therapy will be harmful.

As a parent I have asked myself what did I do wrong? Could I have done things differently for my child? Many of these women have asked these same questions. The fact is, we as mothers could not have changed that our children are transgendered. Confusion and sadness are common feelings for the parent of a transgendered child. However, these feelings are outweighed by the fact that no matter what, we love our children, and like all parents we want our children to live happy and healthy lives.
Exciting new programs are coming up for youth this fall at the Gay Alliance Youth Group

By Susan Jordan

Kelly Clark, Intergenerational Program Director, has some exciting news for youth in our community. New programming starts this fall, designed to help LGBT youth deal with the new challenges they face in 2012.

Kelly said, “Updated programming will meet the needs of today’s teens, which have changed a lot just over the past few years. We’ve always provided a safe space for youth to explore their identities and make new friends, and now there’s so much more.

“On any given day you’ll find us cooking, dating, playing, making art or music! We may be in deep conversation about religion and spirituality or laughing hilariously at our own theater improv. What does a tower made of spaghetti sticks and marshmallows have to do with leadership? You’ll have to come down to the Center to find out!”

“So many teens are out now at earlier ages; they see out gays on TV. President Obama has declared support for marriage equality. GSAs are in many local high schools, and we hear from many more parents who are supportive of their LGB or T children. But not everyone has the skills to handle that. Youths’ personal experiences with their schools, churches and families may not jibe with the life they see on TV or the Internet.” Kelly said.

“Life skills programming will be offered three hours a week, and there will be about two hours of leadership development programming per week. Check out the online program calendar each month for exact times (address below). We’re also starting three new support groups: Coming Out and Being Out (ages 13-18); Gender Identity (ages 13-18) and Remix Young Adults (ages 18-20).”

New days and times start Sept. 5

Starting on Wednesday, Sept. 5, new days and times for Youth programming in the Gay Alliance Community Center will be 3:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays and 9-9 p.m. Fridays (social times).

Friday programming will rotate between Game Night, Arts & Crafts Night, Movie Night, Friends & Family Night and every month that has a fifth Friday will be Dance Night! Check out the Program Calendar every month for details at www.gayalliance.org/events/youth.

New Support Groups

Sometimes parents and other adults forget how tough it is to be a teen. Add on issues related to sexual orientation or gender identity and it’s just say that having a safe, supportive place to vent your problems can certainly make a difference in your week! That’s why we have created three new support groups.

Coming Out/Being Out Group,
Thurs. 6:30-7:30 p.m. We don’t just come out and say it, we come out and live out!

Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933-1945

On behalf of the LGBT and Allied communities, the Gay Alliance would like to express its deep appreciation to the Jewish Community Center for hosting the traveling exhibition from the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, “Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933-1945.”

Your commitment in hosting the exhibition and supporting the extensive related programming was a remarkable healing gift to the Rochester area.

*Tikkun Olam is a Hebrew phrase that means “repairing the world” (or “healing and restoring the world”) which suggests humanity’s shared responsibility (with the Creator) to heal, repair and transform the world.
Rainbow Sage Senior Center Calendar for September 2012

By Ashley Powers

The Gay Alliance Rainbow Sage Senior Center, 875 E. Main St., first floor, Prince St. entrance, is open to LGBT older adults every Monday and Tuesday 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

September 3: Labor Day - CLOSED. No programming. Off for the holiday; celebrate the economic and social contributions of workers.

September 4: Elections Presentation 1 p.m. Join us for an introduction and presentation on their TRAC (Transportation Access) program that connects you with transportation and goes over eligibility, types, etc.

September 10: Alzheimer’s Association 1 p.m. Join us for a meeting and discussion on “Managing Challenging Behaviors.”

September 15: Patriot Day-Remembrance 9:00 a.m. with movie and popcorn. We will be showing a patriotic movie. TRS. Suggestions welcomed or bring your favorite.

September 17: Birthday Bash. We’d like to celebrate your birthday. Bring your party hat and head to the senior center as we celebrate all September babies with great fun, giveaways and CAKE! (Cake rests on Weight Watchers and is three points.)

September 18: National Play-Do Day and Pictionary. We all remember play-do, right? Some of us may remember its release in 1956 and have fond memories of modeling fun. Who will guess what? We’re going to make our own, followed by a game of Pictionary, molding our play-do into sculptures or “pictures.” Frizes awarded.

September 24: Lollipuff Farm Pet Therapy 1-2 p.m. Registered therapy dogs, cats, and/or small animals from Lollipuff Farm will be available to be held, petted, brushed, walked or just provide quiet companionship. Those with pet allergies please be aware.

September 25: Mary Jemison Boat Ride Tour. All Aboard! Join us on the Mary Jemison for a 75 minute tour beginning at noon. Meet us at Corn Hill prior to the departure or meet here at Auditorium for car pool. We really need your input by Sept. 11 to make this work so email or call Ashley at ashley@gayalliance.org at 585-244-8640. Guitar and fire will be finalized, timely notice will be given.

Activities Subject to Change Call 244-8640 to check.

SpeakOUT Training: Successful LGBT Education coming in November

On Nov. 9 and 10, Scott Fearing, Gay Alliance Education and Outreach Director and Jeanne Gainsburg, Gay Alliance Outreach Coordinator, will present their SpeakOUT Training.

On Friday, Nov. 9, the Training will run from 6-9 p.m. and on Saturday, Nov. 10 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

The SpeakOUT Training is an experiential, dynamic training that results in personal and professional growth. Graduates of this training will have improved skills to effectively educate about gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and their allies. When LGBT issues are discussed in today’s society, people often feel discomfort, anger, confusion, resentment or fear. To change systems of oppression, and the hearts and minds of individuals, it is critical that level-headed, productive and useful discussions occur. This training helps to inspire individuals to put fear and negativity behind them and to confront oppression, harassment and discrimination in useful and productive ways whenever and wherever it is found. SpeakOUT is professional development for your life.

Here is what SpeakOUT participants said about our last training:

“...the enthusiasm and knowledge and shared insights on the LGBT subjects covered. This was so much more useful than I ever thought possible.”

“...created a great atmosphere for learning how to be kind in responding to statements that are harmful. Extremely well-versed in all phases of subject matter. I will treasure and review and review the materials.”

“...interactive, personal, balanced with materials.”

“...the awareness and the group was diverse. It seems clear that each presenter was genuine and really knows their stuff. There was a flow and a comfort level that can only come from experience. It was great! Thank you!”

Don’t miss out on this special opportunity. SpeakOUT is open to and appropriate for everyone: all ages, all identities, all experiences. The training is 550 per person, which includes lunch and training manual. It will take place at the Gay Alliance Community Center (875 E. Main St. first floor). Scholarships are available. Information and a registration form are available at: www.gayalliance.org/speakout.html

Rochester LGBT History sessions are free

Shoutouts to Stand On, the History and Archive wing of the Gay Alliance Library, is proud to share some of the fruits of its Archival Project over the past three years. The roots of liberation can be traced as far back as 1897 and beyond. It is not difficult to see the connections between the social justice history of Rochester, N.Y., and the beginnings of LGBT equal rights here in the Rochester region.

Beginning on Tuesday, Sept. 11 and continuing over the following three Tuesdays, there will be discussion of the early days of Gay Liberation in Rochester. Sessions will be held at the Gay Alliance Community Center, first floor, 875 E Main St., 6:30 – 8:00. These events are FREE. For more information call 244-8640.

Tuesday, Sept. 11: Rochester Roots of Liberation: Pre-Stonewall

Tuesday, Sept. 18: The Stonewall “Uprisings”: Impact on Rochester, N.Y.

Tuesday, Sept. 25: University of Rochester Gay Liberation Front

Tuesday, Oct. 2: Formation of the Gay Alliance

The event organizer is Evelyn Bailey (owner of Professional Tutoring Services).
BISEXUALITY RESOURCES

AMIB Los Angeles: American Institute of Bisexuality (journal); Saue Asia Biexual Network; B: Definition (emailbox); BiAnnual (Ankara, Turkey); BiCare Unlimited (Project 89); Blurtay Boston: Boston Bisexual Women’s Network; ConnBis: Columbus. Ohio; Diffuse: digitally (email); ENY BI: New York; EBT: Health Program; Los Angeles BI Task Force; New York Area Bisexual Network; RubyCock南部: Science Foundation; Seattle Bisexual Lending Library; The Bisexual Resource Center Annual Report (bisexualresource.net)

CULTURAL

Rochester Women’s Community Chorus 234-4441. First floor, Fawcett Hall, Rochester
Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus www.thergmc.org

DEAF SERVICES

Lis: Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf (LARD)
Mon-Saturday 9am-6pm. For information: info@lrad.org
Spectrum LGBT & Straight Alliance RWI/PRD student group. <Spectrumcommunityresources@rochester.edu>

ELDERS

Gay Alliance Rainbow Sage Senior Group Mon-Tues 11am-3pm. 785 E. Main St. First floor. 585-871-8941. GayALLY-SAGE@rochester.edu

FAMILY

CMY Family Center Integrative Family Care. Support meetings, workshops. Information: ckmc@fertilitycenter.com
LGBT Families Support Group. First Saturday 2-5. For information: 585-475-6168.
Rocky Nicholas. Gay Moms’ Group Support group for lesbian moms and mon­

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) PFLG is a national nonprofit—supporting and advocating for personalматерства и создавая упорство и утверждение. Поэтому кри ­

Adoptive Parent Support Group Monthly potluck lunches. For information, loca­

Aged Food Ministry Bees of Freshfood food for $30 in advance. Must call 585-229-2509.

HIV/AIDS

Free HIV testing for free help is available, New York State Department of Health; call Rochester Area Regional HIVline at 585-229-3800. $5 voluntary confidential testing; $20 for non-confidential testing for Ph. 432-8120 (TDD). New HIV rapid test testing now available in 30-40 minutes. Statewide information can be obtained by calling 1-800-541-0403. 43095; e-mail: LgbtGayAlliance@rochester.edu; Web: www.IgbtGayAlliance.com

AIDS Care AIDS Care is the leading provider of HIV/AIDS care in Rochester and the Finger Lakes region. AIDS Care is committed to providing STD screenings, Primary HIV Specialty Care, and many other care services. AIDS Care satellite offices in Geneva and Bath. AIDS Care is also a leader in providing services and education to members of the LGBTQ community. Contact Information: Website: www.aids­rochester.com; 1265 E. Main St. Rochester, N.Y. 14607; Phone: 585-545-7300, Health Services After Hours: 585-256-3393. Care discrimination hot line: 1-888-256-7757. FAX: 585-256-3391. HIV testing isn’t on a list of Tuesdays, Wednesdays 1 pm, through HINS (585) 454-2030. Associated Baptist Church, 175 George St.
Anthony L. Jordan Health Center Services & Prevention Program Provides Medical Case Management, Mental Health, Primary Care, HIV Counseling and Testing; Education presentations, and access to other Jordan serv­

FAMILY

CMY Family Center Integrative Family Care. Support meetings, workshops, information. ckmc@fertilitycenter.com
LGBT Families Support Group. First Saturday 2-5. For information: 585-475-6168.
Rocky Nicholas. Gay Moms’ Group Support group for lesbian moms and mon­

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) PFLG is a national nonprofit—supporting and advocating for personalматерства и создавая упорство и утверждение. Поэтому кри ­

Adoptive Parent Support Group Monthly potluck lunches. For information, loca­

Aged Food Ministry Bees of Freshfood food for $30 in advance. Must call 585-229-2509.

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Ongoing Calendar

**MONDAY**
Occupancy Rochester
M-F 9-4, on Liberty Pole.

Born That Way
Formerly 3rd Thursday LGBT Support Group.
First, 3rd Mondays, 2:30-3:30 pm, 345 Mls St.
Carol, 453-352-5 or Kaisa, 654-7560.

Lilac Squares
Gay Square Dance Group, Mondays, 7pm.
140 Allen Ave. To reserve space: 675-4646.

Free syphilis testing
AIDS Care, 259 Monroe Ave., 5-8pm. 442-2220.

Rainbow SAGE
Senior Center, 11am-3pm, Gay Alliance Center, 875 E. Main St., 1st Floor.

Rochester Historical Bowling Society
7:15pm, Mondays, Dover Lanes, 2790 Monroe Ave. (Group is full).

HIV Positive Men’s Support group
Every Monday, 5pm, AIDS Care Center for Positive Living, 259 Monroe Ave.

Frontrunners/Forwarders
Mondays, 6pm, George Eastman House parking lot.
www.rochesterfrontrunners.org.

Steps Beyond Stems
Crack Support Group, Mondays, 7-8pm, 284 Monroe Ave.

Gay Alliance Library & Archives, David Bohnett Cyber Center
Monday 1-2pm, 6-7pm, First Floor, 875 E. Main St. 244-8640.

**TUESDAY**
Just Us Guys
Gay men of all ages, 2nd Tuesdays, 6:30pm, AIDS Care, 259 Monroe Ave.

Charlies' Group
2nd Tuesdays, Monthly peer facilitated support group for married men who have sex with men, Confidential, free. For time, please email: charlie@gayalliance.org.

Rainbow SAGE
Senior Center, 11am-3pm, Gay Alliance Center, 875 E. Main St., 1st floor.

MOCHA Youth Drop-In
Tues-Fri, 11am-1pm, MOCHA Center, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 424-1800; 244-8640.

MOCHA Hepatitis Clinic

Women’s Community Church
Rehearsals each Tuesday, 6:30-9pm, Downtown United Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh Street.

Free HIV Testing
9am-1pm, AIDS Care, 259 Monroe Ave.

**WEDNESDAY**
U.S. Pride Network
7:30pm, Gazebo Room in Nash Ruffalo Library, University of Rochester.

Rainbow SAGE Ruby Slippers
Wednesday, 5:45 pm, Calumet High Physical Therapy, 125 University Ave.

Gay Alliance Board of Directors
Meets Third Wednesdays, 5pm, 875 E. Main St. 244-8640.

**THURSDAY**
New Freedom New Happiness
All Gay meeting, on Dexter Church, 220 Winton Rd. Men and women. Open.

Support Group for Parents who have lost Children
First, 3rd Wednesdays, 11am-12:30pm, Third Presbyterian Church, 4 Meigs St. Gene­vee House Home Care, Free. 355-1065.

COAP
Come Out and Play. Windstream game nights; 6-7pm. Email: coap875@2700south.com.

Rochester Romans General Meeting
2nd Wednesdays, 7:30pm, Rochester Fun, 675 S. South Ave.

Brothers Keeper
Support group for men over 31, Third Wednesdays, 5-7:30pm, MOCHA CENTER, 107 Li­berity Pole Way. 424-1400.

HIV+ Mixed Group
Wednesdays, 2:30-4:30 pm, AIDS Care, 259 Monroe Ave.

Gay Alliance Youth
Wednesdays, 3:30-5:30pm, Gay Alliance Youth Center, 875 E. Main St. Prince St. entrance, first floor. 244-8640 x 13.

Frontrunners/Forwarders
6pm, Eastman House parking lot.
www.rochesterfrontrunners.org.

Gay Alliance Library & Archives, David Bohnett Cyber Center
Every Wednesday, 6-8pm, First Floor, 875 E. Main St. 244-8640.

Empire Bears
Every Wednesday dinner at the Web­site.

**FRIDAY**
Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns
6:30pm, first Thursday, Ralph, 271-7649.

Queer Radical Reading Group
First and third Thursdays, 6-8pm, Equal–Gendrons, 750 South Ave.

Pride at Work
First Thursday, 5:30pm, 167 Flanders St. off Thursday Rd. 430-5882.

GLOBAL (Guys & Lesbians of Bausch & Lomb),
Meets every third Thursday in Area 67 conference room at the Optic Center. Voice mail: 339-6597.

Gay Alliance Youth
Thursday, 3-5pm, Gay Alliance Youth Center, 875 E. Main St. Prince St. entrance, first floor. 244-8640 x 13.

Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus
Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St. 8:30-9pm. 425-6060.

Free confidential walk-in HIV testing
Every Thursday night, 5-8pm, AIDS Care, 259 Monroe Ave. 442-2220.

Gay Alliance Youth Gender Identity
Thursday, 6-8pm, Gay Alliance Youth Center, 875 E. Main St. 1st floor (uphill), 244-8640 ext 15.

Out & Equal Second Saturdays
Social/business networking, 5:30-7:30pm. Changing venues. Email: fingers@outandequal.org.

**SATURDAY**
Gay Men’s AA meeting
Fridays, 7:30pm. Closed meeting. Emmanuel Baptist Church, 855 Park Ave.

GLBTI Motorcycle Group
Second Fridays, 1:30pm. Locations: Rochester GLBTIBikers@yahoo.com; 487- 6456, brockside@frontnet.com.

GLG Remix Young Adult Support Group
Ages 18-35, Mondays, 875 E. Main St. 2nd Floor, Prince St. entrance, 244-8640. kecy@gay­alliance.org.

L.D.R.A. Pothole & Games Night
Fourth Fridays, GAY Youth Center, 875 E. Main St. 1st Floor. 6-9:30pm. 585-310-3637; Email: LDRA.rochester@rochester.com, or 1-800-336-7351.

Womyn’s Drum Circle
Fourth Fridays, 6-9:30pm, GAY Youth Center; Email: info@womynsdrumcircle.org. Website: www.womynsdrumcircle.org.

**TUESDAYS**
Narcotics Anonymous
6-7:30pm. AAS and Recovery 1201 Courier, 11th Floor. Closed meetings are held at the University Center. This is an NA meeting that is open to all addicts who have a desire to stop using. Although it is not specifically a gay-oriented meeting, it is well­coming to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, as well as to anyone who is affected by HIV and AIDS.

**WEDNESDAYS**
New Freedom/New Happiness Group
7pm, 1st Urbandan Church, 220 Winton Rd.

Gay Men’s AA meeting
Closed meeting, restricted to alcoholics and addicts.

**FRIDAYS**
Gay Men’s 7pm
Immanuel Baptist Church, 115 Park Ave.

Gay Men’s AA meeting
Closed meeting, restricted to alcoholics and addicts.

**SATURDAYS**
Saturday Night Special
Gay Men’s AA meeting
Closed meeting, restricted to alcoholics and addicts.

**SUNDAYS**
Step in the Right Direction
7:30-9pm, 1270 Spencerport Road (Trinity All­iance Church). This is an NA meeting that is open to all addicts who have a desire to stop using. Although it is not specifically a gay­oriented meeting, it is well­coming to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Each week features a reading from NA literature, fol­lowed by an open discussion.

Rochester Gay Men
8pm. St. Luke/St Simon’s Episcopal Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. 430-6072; info@rochestergaymen.com.

**SUNDAYS**
Step in the Right Direction
7:30-9pm, 1270 Spencerport Road (Trinity All­iance Church). This is an NA meeting that is open to all addicts who have a desire to stop using. Although it is not specifically a gay­oriented meeting, it is well­coming to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Each week features a reading from NA literature, fol­lowed by an open discussion.
SATURDAY 1
Lilac Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf (LRAD) Ban Night at the Avenue Pub 10 pm. Information: rochester@rochester.rr.com.

SUNDAY 2
Dignity Integrity. Episcopal Mass/ Healing Service, with music, 5 pm at St. Luke's and St. Simon's Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St.

TUESDAY 4
Rochester Gay Men's Community Chorus first rehearsal of season. 6:30-8:45 pm. Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St.

WEDNESDAY 5
New hours begin for Gay Alliance Youth Group, 3:30-7:30 pm Wednesdays and Thursdays 7-9 pm Fridays. GAGV Youth/Community Center, first floor, 875 E. Main St. 244-8440. (More information on new youth groups Sept. Senior Center calendar, see page 33)

THURSDAY 6
Rochester Gay Men's Chorus first rehearsal. 7-9 pm at 30, 1311 Marshall Rd. off Fitzhugh. Dale's Driveway 875-266-5860.

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified 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, 910 E. Main Street, Suite 600, Rochester, NY 14607. 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, but 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.

ANNOUNCMENTS

Calling all playwrights! Black Sheep Theatre putting together short-play showcase for Valentine’s Day, 2013 (exact dates TBD). Local playwrights invited to submit scripts for consideration. Looking for “black box” plays with between one and four characters, between five and 15 minutes in length, and which let actors show off their emotional range. Plays should have some connection to Valentine’s Day or, in general and alternative viewpoints, same sex relationships, or amour in general and alternative viewpoints. Questions and submissions: info@blacksheeptheatre.org.

Moscow Ballet and Dancing with Denise announce casting call for 20th Anniversary production of Moscow Ballet’s Love is the Root, November 18-19 at Auditorium Theatre. Children’s roles at all levels of ballet, include Party Children, Mice, Angelic Butterflies. Auditions for students from area dance studios invited to audition Wednesday, Sept. 19, 6:00 pm TBD at Dancing with Denise, 2556 Hudson Ave, Rochester 14617. Must be 15 to 17 years old, have one year of ballet training, dress in ballet shoes and Pointe shoes. Moscow Ballet soloist and Audition Director Natalia Misirovsky to conduct auditions. Looking for dancers with ballet training, poise, ability to work in groups. She will also work one-on-one with students in rehearsal after auditions. Register at www.nutcracker.com/auditions or contact Denise, 585-266-5860. Kids Ministry starting September 9 at Open Arts Metropolitan Community Church for ages 5-12. Join us for vibrant, progressive, inclusive worship on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. 746 Marshall Rd. off Chili Ave. oacpinterestnet.com.

SERVICES

Wedding space and clergy services available. Open Arts Metropolitan Community Church 740 Marshall Rd. off Chili Ave. oacpinterestnet.com. (585) 270-8420.

Rochester’s Best Man to Man Ruckdown. Unwind with this degree-employed, family-friend, healthful Italian GW&M. Middle aged, 5’8”, 165 lbs., 32 waist, nonsmoker, d & d free, HIV negative. My 10+ years experience guarantees your relaxation and satisfaction. Hotel visit, in call in my home or out call in your residence. Reasonable rates. Discount appreciated and practiced. Don’t delay, call me today at 585-773-2410 (cell) or 585-235-6568 (home) or e-mail me at magichands@rochester.rr.com.

Hate to paint or clean gutters? I have tagged Diveee Plumeau Painting & Gutter Cleaning has very reasonable rates for painting year round and gutter cleaning in the spring or fall. 585-576-5042. Email elzeelharting@yahoo.com.

Martin Ippolito master electrician. Electrical’s a pain in the butt? “I’ll dance your burglar alarm systems, paddle fans. 585-266-6537.

World renowned weddings. 42 years performing same sex commitments, now marriages (it’s about time). Nancy BB Mayo minister. Loved in Love-Animals are Angels ministry. 585-733-6213.

Piano lessons, all ages and levels. Are you getting married? I’d love to play for your event. Contact Frank Verna III, 585-544-6799, frank3dm@yahoocom.


THURSDAY 13
Democratic primary Out & Equal 2nd Thursday Networking Event. Place 45 at the Port of Rochester. 5:30-7:30 pm.

FRIDAY 14
Empty Closet deadline for October. 244-8100 www.gaygaygayalliance.org.

Image Out Fair. 6:30 pm at Rochester Museum and Science Center’s Strasen­ burg Planetarium, 657 East Ave. 8 pm. Programmer’s Preview of the Fall Festival. 8:30 pm “Vino.”

SATURDAY 15
ROMANS dinner, monthly meeting. Information: http://www.wnyromans. com or E-mail wnyromans@yahoo.com. Message line at 585-281-4114 or write ROMANS, PO BOX 92293, Rochester, NY 14629.


TUESDAY 23

TUESDAY 25
LGBT history sessions at Gay Alli­ ance Community Center, first floor, 875 E. Main St. 6:30-8 pm. FREE. LRAD Gay Liberation Front.

SATURDAY 29
Rochester Trans Group. 3-5:30 pm. Film: “Two Spirits.” Kevin Baugartner on experience as mixed-blood Cherokee Two Spirit. Gay Alliance Community Center, first floor, 875 E Main St.

SUNDAY 30
Dignity Integrity. Evening Prayer. Prayer: 5 pm at St. Luke’s and St. Simon’s Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St.

OCTOBER 2
LGBT history sessions at Gay Alli­ ance Community Center, first floor, 875 E Main St. 6:30-8 pm. FREE. Formation of the Gay Alliance.
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/cdelconte

PFLAG meets the 3rd Sunday of each month. Meetings are at Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church, 740 Marshall Road, Rochester 14624 from 1 to 3pm. Join us!
Questions? Call: 585-244-8640 and leave a message, or e-mail: pflag@gayalliance.org

Seeking sex in the park? No ID on you = Automatic Arrest
Court Appearances = Public Shame
Court Fine = $1,000
Attorney Fees = $2,000

Reputation + Family + Safety + Peace of Mind
PRICELESS
585 - 244 - 8640

KYLE'S BED & BREAKFAST by Greg Fox

Thank you for doing this, Mr. Graham.
Please call me Kyle, and I'm glad I can help out.

But I couldn't have him living alone any longer in his Green-Wich Village apartment.

My dear, you speak as if I've lost all brain function.

I do retain some level of sentience.

Are you? I'm afraid I don't share your enthusiasm.

And I can't say I care for this ski chalet decor.

Well, maybe you can give me some decorating tips!

Of course you do, Uncle Rudy. I'm delighted you're going to be staying with us, Rudy.

I believe my niece is under the mistaken impression that I'm incapable of taking care of myself.

She's just concerned about you. You're fortunate.

...a lot of elderly gay people don't have any relatives to look out for them.

Eld erly? My goodness, Kyle. I'm only in my eighties.

Oh, I...I'm sorry. An...in the eighties, at that...

The adult care facility won't be able to take my uncle for a few more months.

He's getting on in his years now, and...

He really needs someone to look after him.

He's getting on in his years now, and...

He really needs someone to look after him.

One flat rate: $500 All Night!

DJ Chuck Argento
(585) 317-6477
(585) 529-5544
cjargento1@yahoo.com

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WANDA SYKES
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5

Auditorium Theatre
(800)745-3000 ticketmaster.com

presented by AM Productions