Pride Agenda
Spring Dinner draws over 500

By Ove Overmyer

The Empire State Pride Agenda (ESPA) arguably the most vocal and visible LGBT civil rights organization in New York State, held its annual Spring Dinner fundraiser at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center on May 18. Organizers estimate 540 people attended the event, while tens of thousands of dollars were raised to support necessary programs and services provided by the agency.

Highlights of the evening included a Community Service Award presentation to Out & Equal activist Ralph Carter, a dynamic keynote address by Rochester native and national trans activist Donna Rose and a live auction featuring lavish getaways and the best Broadway seats money can buy. There were several local auction donors again this year, including Heds- nit Chocolate, Rochester Broadway Theatre League, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and Wegmans, among others.

The Beekman Boys charm Rochester

At the beginning of the program, ESPA Executive Director Nathan M. Schaefer was introduced by the Fabulous Beekman Boys who emceed the event. Primarily referred to as the “Beekman Boys,” Josh Kilmer-Purcell and Dr. Brent Ridge are best known for their first place finish on CBS’ multiple Emmy-winning hit show The Amazing Race, and for their hit television reality show airing on the Cooking Channel where the duo put their stylized stamp on seasonal rural living. While on stage, the couple announced plans to wed, much to the delight of the audience.

Schaefer gracefully thanked guests for attending, and got right down to business. He told the crowd, “We are here to celebrate our collective success and express gratitude.” He also thanked everyone for their loyalty and generosity.

He added, “I thank you for the warm welcome and your longstanding dedication to equality. You have truly created a name for yourself as a progressive, inclusive and forward thinking city. You set the stage for gender expression non-discrimination by passing the state’s first such local ordinance in 2001. You have continuously opened gay New York State legislature outside of New York City (Hon. Harry Bronson). You put your police chief (Chief James Sheppard) front and center as a leading voice for transgender civil rights. You host this event each May, which has become a steadfast and exciting demonstration of upstate New York’s support of the LGBT community. And you gave me the best grocery store retail experience I’ve ever had... at Wegmans.”

Ralph Carter wins Community Service Award

Local activist Ralph Carter, a Xerox employee, has been a tireless advocate for civil rights and equality in our community. Ralph was born on a cattle farm in northwest Florida and found himself in Upstate New York facing two important questions right after college: “Could I integrate my spiritual life as a gay man and could I fully be myself at work?” He told the crowd, “The answer was a resounding yes!”. Ralph is the founding member of CREATE, the first ecumenical gay civil rights advocacy network in Upstate New York fighting for justice for gays and lesbians. While working at Xerox, it took Ralph 10 years to finally join GALAXE Pride at Work, the Xerox LGBT resource group. After coming out, Ralph began to tell his story, and helped organize roundtable discussions between senior executives and gay employees. Ralph is also the co-founder of Out & Equal NY Finger Lakes (OENYL), and co-founder of the national LGBT Self-ID Community of Pride Agenda.

Activists rally for GENDA in Albany

By Ove Overmyer

Albany, NY: Over 700 LGBT New Yorkers and their allies travelled to Albany on April 30 for the Empire State Pride Agenda’s annual lobby day, billed this year as “Equality and Justice for Everyone Everywhere.”

As usual, Rochester had one of the largest contingents, with more than 60 activists attending the event.

Equality & Justice Day is New York’s largest statewide gathering of the LGBT movement. It features speeches from dignitaries, a rally at the Capitol, workshops, caucuses and lobby visits with elected representatives.

The top priority this year for activists was calling on the Senate to finally pass the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA), the statewide transgender civil rights bill that would extend basic civil rights protections to transgender and gender non-conforming people. It has now been passed six times by the Assembly, but Conservative Party opposition has kept it from the Senate floor.

Pro-civil rights New Yorkers also pushed elected officials to support the Child-Parent Security Act, which would provide more options for creating and protecting families in New York State, and urged lawmakers to fund programs for runaway and homeless youth and other vital organizations that provide health services to the LGBT community.

While activists were debriefing in the Convention Center, (Albany continues page 3)
Changing the world

In April Uruguay and France passed marriage equality. Fourteen countries worldwide now allow legal same-sex marriage, while three others (Mexico, Brazil and the U.S.) allow legal marriage in some states.

In May it was the turn of Rhode Island, Delaware and Minnesota. There are now 31 American states where LGBT people can legally share their lives with those they love and see their families acknowledged as real.

The recognition of LGBT marriage is about more than weddings and insurance benefits, important as those things are. It is also, most deeply, about seeing LGBT people as human beings.

Prejudice, fear and hatred are subjective emotions, not acceptable reasons for denying basic rights to American citizens. Yet those emotions are currently controlling LGBT people’s lives, fuelled both by those who have been taught that all gay people are monsters, and those who cynically exploit prejudice to win votes or financial contributions.

The Catholic and Mormon churches and rightwing political organizations like NOLN have poured billions into their campaigns to block marriage equality. Protestant evangelical groups have spread homophobic hatred and encouraged repression and murder around the globe, especially in the developing countries, for decades now. There is blood on their hands.

But the world is changing. People increasingly realize that they know and respect gay individuals, or have gay people in their families whom they love. More people understand that according human dignity and basic civil rights to gays will not harm society, or offend the Creator of gay humans.

Meanwhile, the professional bigots, those who get paychecks for spreading hate, claim that they are oppressed because their right to hate and to hate-discriminate is under threat. They angrily reject the name “bigot,” but what else can you be called if you campaign to take away the rights of an entire category of people you despise?

Change takes time. The long struggles to end racism and woman-hating have not ended, and even the right to vote is being challenged by conserva
tives who want to do away with the Voting Rights Act, claiming it is no longer needed — even as they attempt to block access to the polls for people of color, working people and the poor.

The struggle to end homophobia will also take many more years. Nonetheless, the recent changes bode well for a future world influenced by reason and by compassionate spirituality — not out-of-control anger and prejudice disguised as “religious conviction.”

Once our love and families are acknowledged as real, we will be seen as human beings, not stereotypes and subhumans, because our ability to love is what makes us human.

It’s amazing

“This is amazing.” That is my answer to the question that people keep asking me.

Since April 30, when it was announced that I would become the Acting Executive Director of the Gay Alliance, people keep asking me, “How does it feel to be the new Director?”

“It’s amazing,” seems like such a trite or flip response, but it is true. I feel I have been given an amazing opportunity at an amazing point in time with an amazing organization.

As I write this, the LGBT Communities and our allies anxiously await the decision from the US Supreme Court on two important cases. No matter the court’s decision, positive, negative or some mix of the two, the status of the LGBT Community will be different. Our identities, our lives and our families have become an issue for our national Court. So, whether we celebrate or commiserate, our lives will be different.

Beyond those two decisions, we find more and more states are acknowledging our love and our families, allowing for legal recognition. On May 16, I sat in an airport in Dallas, Texas star
ing at my iPhone as the Senators in my home state of Minnesota were voting on same sex marriage. Between Facebook and Twitter my fingers were a blur. I was so relieved that the affirmative vote was announced seconds before the cabin door closed and I had to “turn off my phone.” Before we taxied to the runway, I was flying high with excitement.

Then there is the fact that this is the 40th anniversary of the Gay Alliance; to be handed the reins of such an august organiza
tion at such an important point is nothing short of, well, amazing.

Our organization, like many LGBT organizations, was the offspring of rebellion and the need for personal authen
ticity. At a time when forced institutionalization was still a possibility for LGBT people, brave and wise souls saw a dif
f erent future. They bravely put forward a radical vision of a world where “gay” people could live open, honest and our lives.

No matter the court out
comes, the work is not over. The LGBT communities must move from trying to survive as individuals to thriving as a com
munity. History teaches that one must never take rights and lib
eries granted for granted. We remain vigilant and most importantly connected.

So, as I step into my role of guiding the amazing Gay Alli
ance, I hope that you will show your support for the work that has been done, and the new work that exists. Please support your 40th year old community organization. We may be 40, but we are also Fabulous. Your financial support is more impor
tant than ever, so please make a donation, renew your member
sip, make an additional gift or give a gift membership to someone else, but every donation helps to ensure that we will be amazing in the future.

Be green, help to save postage and mailing when you donate to the special Fabulous and Forty Staff Fundraiser at: http://goo.gl/2F7kH

It really is amazing what we can accomplish when we work together.

The Gay Alliance: Forty years of advocating for the fair and equal treatment of all people, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. Join us for forty more!
There were seven anti-gay attacks in Manhattan last month, one resulting in death. Port Authority cops made two arrests May 12 after they came upon a group of five men attacking a gay couple outside a midtown PATH station.

The two victims, one of whom required eye surgery, asked the police to release their photos in order to help find the other attackers.

Aslan Berisha and Brian Ramirez, both 21, were nearly three hours after Port Authority Sgt. Michael Thomas and two other Port Authority lawmen, Dwight Clark and Matt Vogelman, darted toward the brawl and called Berisha and Ramirez. The other attackers got away.

One of the victims said the hate-filled attackers "came after us and fought us because we're homosexual," a source said. Berisha and Ramirez, who both live in Manhattan, were arraigned May 10 on charges of mischief, assault and harassment, a violation. Berisha was later released on $1,500 bail. It was unclear if Ramirez made bail.

Another assault took place outside Madison Square Garden after a Knicks game. On May 16, Queer Rising and members of the public rallied outside Madison Square Garden demanding attention be paid to the protection of all New Yorkers on MSG property during games, and to denounce any violence against the LGBTQ community. Two days later a gay man was murdered (see below).

Another attack came in the West Village. A gay man was allegedly attacked outside a popular New York nighspot in what appears to be a spate of citywide assaults. ABC 7 reported that the victim, who was not identified, was coming out of Pieces, a gay bar in Manhattan's West Village, when he was attacked by two men who were yelling gay slurs. He was not seriously hurt.

Mark Carson dies in hate attack

The fatal attack came on May 18, when Mark Carson was murdered.

Morales was charged with murder as a hate crime and weapons charges after he allegedly volleyed antigay slurs at Mark Carson before shooting him, police said. Morales, who has a criminal history that includes several stints of incarceration, was arraigned in Manhattan Criminal Court and remanded to prison. He wasn't required to enter a plea. His court-appointed attorney couldn't be reached for comment. Being charged with murder as a hate crime means he could face a harsher sentence if convicted.

"It's clear that the victim here was killed only because and just because he was thought to be gay," New York Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said during a news conference on May 19. "There is no question about that. There were these derogatory remarks. The victim did nothing to antagonize or instigate the shooter in this case. It's only done because the shooter believed he was gay.

Morales "laughed in hidderous glee as he confessed," the NYDN reports.

"Yeah, I shot him in the head," steered Morales, 33, while "laughing on the ground" when cops were handcuffing him for shooting Carson. Morales was held without bail on charges of second-degree murder as a hate crime, menacing and two counts of criminal possession of a weapon, court records show. He is accused of harassing Carson on May 12, the day before the fatal attack. They were walking on Sixth Avenue near West Eighth Street around midnight and night, after they "looked at these faggots," said Morales, who was accompanied by two friends, according to police.

Judge Robert Stolz scheduled another hearing for May 23. Another anti-violence rally and march took place May 20, ending at the site of the murder on W. 8th St. and Sixth Avenue. An estimated 1,500 took part.

VERY RELATED: Carson was killed with what police are calling a six-shot .38 revolver. On its website, Taurus notes that such guns come with "a free one-year NRA membership." Dealers sell the weapon for $300.

New York City detectives report finding a second gun in a search of Morales' home and descript of a "Serbian-made Zastava assault weapon." Zastava sells numerous models of guns, including machine guns, submachine guns, and "automatic guns, and "other guns."
June, Hollingsworth v. Perry challenges the constitutionality of California’s Proposition 8, and United States v. Windsor challenges the so-called Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).

The win for marriage marks a sharp turnaround, coming only six months after voters defeated a proposed constitutional amendment to exclude gay and lesbian couples from marriage. Thalia Zepatos, Freedom to Marry’s director of public engagement and a strategic adviser to Minnesotans United for All Families, released the following statement: “After last week’s strong showing of support, legislators finished the job today, standing up for fairness and dignity for all Minnesota families. Coming on the heels of victories in Rhode Island and Delaware, this win for marriage shows that the freedom to marry is a value that Americans across the country stand behind. Freedom to Marry is proud to have helped create Minnesotans United for All Families, whose work to shore up legislative support – not to mention funding off an anti-gay amendment last fall – makes the whole movement proud.”

Openly gay Minnesota state Sen. Scott Dibble, sponsor of the marriage equality bill, said, “Minnesotans, when given a chance, understand that the values that unite us are stronger and so much more important than those that divide us. I am proud to be a Minnesotan today. Today good hard-working Minnesotans playing by the rules, trying to live a good life, contributing in so many ways to their communities will be treated fairly. For thousands of families, life will be better. We will be removing the barriers that they have had to the full joys that life has to offer. In doing so, we strengthen ourselves and we strengthen our democracy. This is over, we will have left Minnesota a better place. That is why we’re here.”

ABC/Washington Post poll finds majority acceptance of gays

By Gary Langer

A new ABC News/Washington Post poll finds further public support for gay rights in the United States, in areas ranging from the professional basketball court to the Boy Scouts, as well as the institution of marriage.

Nearly seven in 10 Americans support the decision by professional basketball player Jason Collins to disclose publicly that he’s gay, the survey finds. Most support the Boy Scouts of America’s plan to admit gay scouts, while opposing its continued ban on gay adults. And 55 percent say gay and lesbians should be allowed to marry legally.

While partisan and ideological differences on each of these are large, centrist groups – e.g., independents and moderates – are in balance, with a slight public swing in favor of gay rights that’s accelerated in recent years.

STRENGTH OF SENTIMENT – Backing is widest and deepest for Collins, with 68 percent of Americans saying they support the NBA center’s decision to announce his sexual orientation. Those who “strongly” support his step outnumber his strong critics by a 3-to-1 margin.

A substantial 63 percent in this poll, produced for ABC by Langer Research Associates, also support the Boy Scouts’ plan to begin admitting gay scouts younger than 18, while 56 percent oppose its intention to continue to ban gay adults. Among those 18 and older, 59 percent support gay rights, by 16- and 12-point margins, respectively. Both policies went to the vote of the group’s governing council, meeting the week of May 20 in Grapevine, Texas, when the BSA did in fact make those decisions.

Some of these views even overcome political sentiment to some degree. Majorities of all Republicans and conservatives, 52 and 54 percent, respectively, support Collins’ step, and 53 percent of Republicans favor admitting gay scouts. These groups are much less apt to support admitting gay scout leaders or legalizing gay marriage.

Support’s far higher in other groups. Nearly three-quarters of moderates and independents support Collins, as do more than eight in 10 Democrats and liberals. Than two-thirds or more in each of these groups favor admitting gay scouts, and six in 10 or more oppose continuing to ban gay adults from scouting.

Support for gay marriage, for its part, reaches six in 10 or more in each of these groups, far higher than its support among conservatives and Republicans, 53 percent in both groups.

There are other differences among groups. Gender differences are especially wide on one issue: While men divide almost evenly on the question of gay scout leaders, women oppose their exclusion by nearly 2-to-1. There’s a customary age gap on each item, with support for gay rights higher among younger adults; most striking, 76 percent of 18- to 29-year-olds favor gay marriage, while just 39 percent of seniors agree. Again, on all issues except gay scout leaders there’s a gap among education groups, with more-educated adults more supportive of gay rights.

ABC/Post polls since 2003 have asked people if they’d heard “it should be legal for gay and lesbian couples to get married”; again, saying “yes” is ahead of saying “no” by a low of 32 percent (among registered voters) in 2004 to 58 percent this March. This poll asks people if they support or oppose “allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally.” Support is similar, 55 percent, while strength of sentiment divides more closely.

The Supreme Court is expected to rule on two gay marriage cases next month.

Brazil judiciary: government can’t reject gay marriages

Brazil’s top judicial panel has authorized notaries to begin approving same-sex marriages nationwide, AFP reports.

The Superior Court and Council of Justice, which oversees the Brazilian judicial system and is headed by the chief justice of the Supreme Court, gives the offices that issue marriage licenses had no standing to reject gay couples.

The Superior Court “affirmed that the expression of homosexuality and homosexual affection cannot serve as a basis for discriminatory treatment, which has no support in the Constitution,” said Chief Justice Joaquin Barboza on the council’s website, referring to a 2011 ruling by the court.

Barboza also said there was no reason for the government’s marriage licensing offices to wait for the Supreme Court to pass a law authorizing same-sex marriages.

The Brazilian Conselho Nacional de Justiça (CNJ) decided by 14-1 vote that notary offices (where civil marriages are performed) in all 26 Brazilian states and the capital do Brasília have to officiate same-sex marriages. Until the beginning of May, the decision was up for local jurisdictions: 12 states and the federal district had already started doing them. Notary offices can’t refuse to perform the unions, as it was happening in some places.

In 2011, the Brazilian Supreme Court had banned the gay marriage offices, but left the regulation of marriage to Congress, that has never acted on the matter. The unions were nationwide for the past two years. Federal benefits, like pensions and immigration, have been the norm since 2001.

Delaware is 11th state to pass gay marriages

Delaware Gov. Jack Markell signed a law legalizing marriage for same-sex couples on May 7. Markell signed the bill shortly after its passage by the state legislature.

Delaware is now the 11th state, in addition to the District of Columbia, to recognize marriage for same-sex couples.
Goj. Markell sings the marriage bill.

It joins Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Maine, Mary-
land, Washington, New York, Iowa, and as of the first week in May, Rhode Island.
Minnesota followed on May 13.

365 days after applying for marriage licenses July 1 of this year.

Today marks a historic day for Dela-
wareans who have shown their support and
commitment to fairness and equality,” said Kathleen McRae, executive director
of the American Civil Liberties Union of Delaware. “We are proud to have worked with
so many dedicated partners to reach this moment.”

“The fight to achieve the freedom for marriage and committed couples across the country took another proud step forward today in Delaware,” said James Essek, director of the ACLU Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Project. “It is incredibly gratifying to see years of hard work paying off as more Americans embrace the idea that all families deserve the recognition and protection that only come with marriage.”

“As America waits for rulings from the Supreme Court on two historic marriage cases, Delaware today took decisive action and guaranteed equality for all of gay and lesbian couples of that great state,” said Human Rights Campaign (HRC) president Chad Griffin. “Thanks to principled impassion from state lead-
ers in Dover, the momentum for LGBT equality continues unabated.”

“In the years of hard work we have undertaken in Delaware, HRC has been an invaluable partner,” said Equality Dela-
ware president Lisa Goodman. “Their expertise and financial contributions have been a huge part of getting us where we are today.”

Marc Solomon of Freedom to Marry released the following statement: “Today’s historic vote makes Delaware the eleventh state across the U.S. where loving and committed couples can share in the joy and protection of marriage. Happy couples and their loved ones cele-
bcrate and prepare for the first weddings in Delaware including the win in Rhode Island just a few days ago – this milestone sends yet another message to the Supreme Court that it’s time for marriage for all Americans. Freedom to Marry is proud of its work with Equality Delaware to secure this victory, and we look forward to surg-
ing forward and continuing the moment-
ing in Illinois Minnesota later this month.”

NYS Attorney General Eric T. Schme-
ders said, “Today, Delaware became the eleventh state to allow gay and lesbi-
an couples to legally marry. This impor-
tant civil rights victory only strengthens the case for the Supreme Court to over-
turn the discriminatory Defense of Mar-
riage Act. As my office has argued in the Supreme Court, DOMA undermines the efforts of states like New York, and now Delaware, to provide equal rights and protection under the law for same-sex couples.”

LGBT families are left out of immigration bill

On May 21, in the Senate Judicia-
ry Committee, Chairman Patrick Leahy brought up an amendment to allow an American citizen’s foreign-born same-sex spouse the ability to become a citizen, just as straight couples are currently allowed to do, but after debate, the Chairman did not call for a vote on the measure.

An amendment to add LGBT couples to the Senate immigration reform bill was withdrawn in order to improve the bill’s chances of passage. Chris Geidtner has the news at BuzzFeed:

Sen. Patrick Leahy withdrew his pro-
posed amendment to the comprehensive immigration reform bill that would have recognized the marriages of same-sex cou-
ples for immigration purposes on Tuesday night, after several Democratic members of the committee stated that they would not be supporting it. A little past 7 p.m., Leahy said, “It is with a heavy heart … I will withhold the Leahy Amendment 7 at this point.” Leahy offered the amendment a half-hour earlier, saying, “I don’t want to be the senator who asks Americans to choose between the love of their life and the love of their country.”

Anti-gay Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham: “If you redefine marriage for immigration purposes [by the amend-
ment], the bill would fall apart because the coalition would fall apart. It would be a bridge too far.”

Sen. Chuck Schumer and Sen. Al Fran-
ken both vehemently agreed that removing the amendment to include gay couples was better than sinking the entire bill. Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin released the following state-
ment: “As we come together as a nation to tackle our broken immigration system, it is deplorable that a small number of Sena-
tors have been able to stand in the way of progress for lesbian and gay couples torn apart by discriminatory laws. Instead of working to achieve common-sense solu-
tions, Senators Graham, Flake, McCain and Rubio threatened to derail the entire immigration bill as a small but vocal group of anti-gay social conservatives that will do anything to stop progress for lesbian and gay couples.”

“We are extremely disappointed that our allies did not put their anti-LGBT colleagues on the spot and force a vote on the measure that remains popular with the American people. We will continue to work hard to include binational same-
sex couples as the bill moves to the floor and remain committed to the underlying principles of inclusive and comprehensive immigration reform. “We owe it to the estimated 267,000 undocumented LGBT binational couples the true recognition and protection that only marriage can provide. It is unconscionable that lawmakers committed to equality and fairness, and our fellow Americans who have shown their support pushed the Leahy Amendment 7 at the last minute. “Our primary goal is to pass a com-
mprehensive, compassionate immigration reform bill that puts our nation’s undocu-
mented men, women and children on a path to citizenship.”

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JUNE 2013 • NUMBER 468 • GAY ALLIANCE OF THE GENESSEE VALLEY • THE EMPTY COTOST
Michael Rosario-McCabe of HCR Home Care

By Susan Jordan

It is a sad fact that over 40 percent of LGBT people do not come out to their primary care physician, for fear of prejudice against their sexual orientation or gender expression, and people who need home care are often afraid of letting a possibly homophobic person come into their homes on a regular basis.

HCR Home Care has provided home health care to upstate New Yorkers since 1978 and has now implemented a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Care Program, with help from the Gay Alliance. This is the nation’s first home health care team to specifically support the needs of LGBT individuals.

Michael Rosario-McCabe, RN, is Director of Nursing for Monroe and Genesee-Orleans Counties for HCR. He is leader of a 10-person team, which received cultural competency training from Scott Fearing, Acting Executive Director of the Gay Alliance.

Mike said that the team consists of two registered nurses, a physical therapist with a doctorate, a speech therapist, an occupational therapist, a medical social worker and three home health aides who help patients with bathing and very light housework and cooking.

Mike said, “HCR is a privately owned company, started by Executive Chairman Louise Woerner. Individuals contact us, but usually referrals come from physicians or hospitals. For patients who are leaving hospital, we have discharge coordinators who get information for the office and set up an evaluation at home.”

He noted that the team is not made up entirely of LGBT individuals. “I am gay,” he said, “but we have a very strong group of allies. It’s a nice mix of Caucasian, Hispanic, Black – the team is diverse and well rounded. My goal for this program is to make sure patients can get on service and not have to worry about LGBT disclosure to their families. In some ways that fear is similar to the fear of disclosing HIV positive status.”

The needs of LGBT seniors – who are often forced back into the closet in old age for fear of homophobic rejection and/or abuse by family members and caregivers – were the original impetus for the program, but of course it is not only the elderly who may need home care. Mike noted, “There are multiple issues for the different age groups.”

He said that he and his partner were married in 2004 in Provincetown, have been together for 27 years and have a 17-year-old son. He added, “We’re hoping people will feel that HCR is a safe zone, and they know that if they self-refer. We’re trying to get the information out to gay elders to let them know. We do rounds at AIDS Care and one of our home health aides is going to be at SAGE meetings at The Center [Mondays and Tuesdays from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.].”

“Our physical therapist Dan Lewis will be there several times a month, and I hope to come frequently too.”

Mike has done a presentation for the GAVY Youth Group as well as for Rainbow SAGE. On March 14, the Gay Alliance, HCR Home Care, HCR Cares, AIDS Care, the Academy of Medicine and the Monroe County Medical Society co-sponsored the first symposium on “The Clinician’s Role in Welcoming and Affirming Health Care for LGBT Seniors.” The symposium, targeting physicians and healthcare professionals, took place at the Academy of Medicine. Dr. Joseph Kurnath, medical director for Rochester General Hospital, facilitated the panel discussion and said that a symposium will be held every year.

HCR has several cultural competency programs, including those for Russian, Somali, Hispanic and Mexican American constituencies. HCR’s LGBT cultural competency trainings – its newest program – consisted of two eight-hour sessions given by Scott Fearing. Mike said that another train-the-trainers workshop will be coming up in the fall, for the LGBT community.

He said that LGBT elders who would like information can call him at the HCR number, 272-1930, or his direct line, 295-6474, and leave a message. Physicians and hospitals can call the HCR main number.
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• A variety of dance including the exquisite Shanghai Ballet, the award-winning Pilobolus, and a collaboration between LehnertDance and the critically acclaimed Cordis Quartet, featuring aerial artistry;
• Exciting family programs, such as the stunning masks and larger-than-life puppets of Enchantment Theatre Company and the dazzling electromusical creatures presented by CORBIAN Visual Arts and Dance in collaboration with Lightwire Theater (and as seen on NBC’s America’s Got Talent);
• Musical programs including the award-winning Soweto Gospel Choir, the explosive Japanese drumming of YAO, and Jim Witter presenting an evening of the music of Elton John and Billy Joel;
• Illusionist Mike Super—the winner of NBC’s hit show Phenomenon;
• New Year’s Eve with the irreverent politically based satire of The Capitol Steps.

Above from left: Rochester Children’s Theatre photo: Alex Shucoff; Pilobolus photo: Grant Halverson; Soweto Gospel Choir photo: Lorenzo Di Nozze; Mike Super Magic & Illusion

ROCHESTER PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA SUMMER 2013

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Ward Stare Conducts Mozart & Beethoven

FRIDAY, JULY 19 AT 8 PM
KODAK HALL AT EASTMAN THEATRE

Ward Stare, guest conductor
Kenneth Grace, clarinet
The Robert F. Snaro Chamber Choir

WAGNER: Rienzi: Overture
MOZART: Clarinet Concerto
BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 7

Following a triumphant debut with the RPO in February, 2013, Rochester native Ward Stare returns to lead Beethoven’s dramatic Symphony No. 7.

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Making the Scene

My Own Private Rochester: Jason Roberts

By Susan Jordan

Jason Roberts is Community Education and Recruitment Director for the Rochester Victory Alliance at the University of Rochester, which conducts trials of potential HIV vaccines. He grew up in Elmira and the Finger Lakes area, and now lives in the North Winton neighborhood with his partner and their pit bull mix Gracie. However, the couple is hoping to move this year to the Highland Park area. Jason loves Highland Park and is a fan of architect Claude Bragdon, who, among other things, built several of the homes in the Mt. Hope/Highland Park area. Jason volunteers for the Landmark Society. He said, “I’m chairperson of the annual House and Gardens tour. I select houses that are aesthetically fit for the tours and work with homeowners. I’m a preservationist. Homeowners can consult me about issues and sharing resources, cost effective ways of being a homeowner, etc. I have a Facebook page, Good Home Steward, and am currently building a website that will be a resource for all things preservationists.”

Jason’s favorite restaurant is Rocco’s on Monroe Ave., which he calls “delicious and authentic – a foodie sort of place.” He and his partner like the restaurant and bar at Good Luck near Village Gate and the Bachelor Forum on University Ave. Jason says that the Corn Hill Festival is his favorite Rochester event. He works on the Victory Alliance presence at Pride, so Pride is not a recreational event for him. He said, “I’m a big Rochester proponent and very Rochester-centric, but I do like to get away. I have a lot of friends in Provincetown and try to get there on Memorial Day, in July, on Columbus Day and at the New Year.”

If he were showing out of town friends around Rochester, Jason says, “I’d tell them about Highland Park, especially the sunken garden behind the ‘castle’ on Mt. Hope Ave. I’d take them to visit some of our neighborhoods. I’m a big Claude Bragdon fan – he was a very prolific architect, artist and musician, and he worked with George Eastman. Then he had a falling-out with Eastman – I think it was over the color of a ceiling in the Chamber of Commerce. Eastman denounced him in front of their contemporaries and Bragdon left Rochester and moved to NYC.”

On an ideal Saturday night, Jason would be at a dinner party. He said, “There’s nothing I love more than a dinner party surrounded by friends. That’s what Rochester is all about – getting together at home with a close circle of friends. I like really good wine and really good food. When spring and summer hit, I love a good French rosé, and eating outside on a warm spring evening.”

Wedding announcement: Angevine-Funderburk

Robin E. Angevine and Kristine (Kristy) K. Funderburk are delighted to announce their engagement and forthcoming marriage. Robin is the daughter of Richard E. Angevine and Diane Anderson. She will be attended by James McPhall, David Anderson, Gary Duquette-Hess, and Laura Harrgrove-Wise. Kristy is the daughter of David McIntosh and Kay Brock. She will be attended by Katie Funderburk, Barrett Funderburk, Cody Lee, Mary Reynolds, Sara Loftus, and Sarah Rimerez.

The private wedding will be held at Sonnenberg Gardens and Mansion State Historic Park, Canandaigua, on July 13, 2013. The couple plans to reside in LeRoy.
Local and State

Local news continued from page 3

The nypd has announced that they have increased patrols in the west village, chelsea, and hell’s kitchen.

Bike for MS Finger Lakes Challenge set for July

Bike MS Finger Lakes Challenge, July 20 and 21, is a ride for all cyclists. Route options on Saturday include a 30-mile option, a metric century (67 miles), or a challenging 100-mile route. The scenery is fabulous—Keuka Lake, and on the century ride, the picturesque lakes Waneta and lamoka.

The last five years have been even more revolutionary for the ride. More than 120,000 people attend the event every year, which has raised nearly $40 million. Riders are committed to raising funds for research to end the devastating disease, multiple sclerosis, and to provide programs and services to more than 12,800 people living with MS in upstate new york and their families. The riders challenge themselves through the ride and fundraising, and acknowledge the challenges people with MS face every day. It costs $50 to register, and each person commits to raising $250.

Starting at keuka college, cyclists get a rousing send-off from volunteers. Rest stops provide snacks, water and port-a-johns along the way. Support vehicles monitor the routes and riders. Riders challenge anyone with a problem. Among those participating in bike MS are first-time riders, and veteran riders who have been doing bike MS for more than 20 years. You can form a team (a team consists of at least four people riding or volunteering), join an existing team, or ride as an individual. You will meet some interesting people, have a good time and help a great cause.

Immigration from page 5

Second-class citizens and create undue hardships along a pathway to citizenship.

Every day we fail to reform our system, 1,100 families are torn apart. As a nation, we pride ourselves on keeping families united, and our immigration policies should reflect our commitment to keep families together—all families. We stand firmly that the following principles must be included if we are to truly have comprehensive immigration reform legislation:

Provide a pathway to citizenship.

Ensure that family unity is at the heart of immigration law and policy; End unjust detentions and deportations; Uphold labor and employment standards, and ensure that the enforcement of immigration law does not undermine labor and employment rights; Promote a dignified quality of life for border communities by ensuring border agencies uphold basic civil and human rights protections and ensure immigrant members of our community are not relegated to second-class status with fewer rights and benefits;

Immigration Equality reacts:

Despite the leadership of chairman Leahy, judiciary committee democrats have caved to bullying by their republican colleagues, said brooklyn attorney Rachel B. Tiven, executive director of immigration equality action fund. “there should be shame on both sides of the political aisle today for lawmakers who worked to deny LGBT immigrant families a vote. Despite widespread support from business, labor, faith, latino and asian-american advocates, senators abandoned LGBT families without a vote.”

Riding chuck schumer, an architect of the immigration bill, had long promised LGBT constituents that the package would include their families. “from the beginning we told senator schumer that it would only get harder to add LGBT families to the bill,” said tiven. “we are disappointed that senator schumer and his gang of 8 colleagues accepted a false choice between LGBT families and immigration reform, when the truth is that including LGBT families from the outset would have strengthened the bill.”

U.N. campaigns for LGBT human rights

A striking new campaign video from the united nations human rights office speaks directly about the oppression of LGBT people and features messages from secretary general ban ki-moon and high commissioner for human rights navanil pillay.

says pillay: “every nation is obligated by international human rights law to protect all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people from discrimination and violence.”

adds ban and a chorus of voices: “the united nations has one simple message to the millions of LGBT people around the world...you are not alone. LGBT rights are human rights. Together we will build a world that is free and equal.”

read more: http://www.towleroad.com/ezzz2TDPWgBF

Western evangelicals push death penalty for ethiopian gays

Will Ethiopia consider imposing the death penalty for homosexuality? Bikyu news seems to think so:

An anti-gay organization that held a recent workshop on LGBT issues in Ethiopia is reporting that the death penalty against gay people in Ethiopia may be on the horizon.

The workshop reportedly looked at the social “evil” and “disastrous” effects of homosexuality in Ethiopia, and was led by
Parents sue S.C. for unapproved genital surgery on their child

The adoptive parents of an intersex child are suing the state of South Carolina for performing genital removal surgery in violation of the child’s constitutional rights.

Mark and Pam Crawford say that their child, identified as M.C., is now eight years old and chooses to identify as a boy, despite doctors deciding that M.C. should be a girl at 16 months old. The couple says that they chose to adopt M.C., who was in state custody at the time of adoption, knowing about the intersex condition.

“The first thought that I had was, let’s make sure they don’t do the surgery,” Pam Crawford said in an audio recording posted to YouTube. Crawford said the surgery happened about three months before the adoption.

The lawsuit was filed by the SPLC (Southern Poverty Law Center). An intersex support group has issued a statement of support.

Intersex conditions can occur across a broad spectrum. The Intersex Society of North America has posted a listing of categories and how frequently they are believed to occur.

Three black transwomen were killed in April

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAPV) is deeply concerned about three unsolved homicides of transgender women of color that occurred during the month of April 2013, which continues a trend of murders of transgender and gender non-conforming women and people of color in the past few years.

On April 3, Kelly Young, a 25-year-old black transgender woman, was found shot to death inside a home in Baltimore, Md. Then on April 4, 30-year-old Ashley Sinclair, a black transgender woman, was found shot to death in a wooded area in the Oak Ridge section of Orange County, N.C. Another young black transgender woman, Cemia Dove, also known as Ci Ci, was found on April 17 in a retention pond in Olmsted Township, Ohio. Dove, a 20-year-old woman, had multiple stab wounds, was tied to a concrete block, and was found naked from the waist down. The Cleveland Plain Dealer referred to her as “it.”

As of mid-May, all three of these homicides remained unsolved.

Each year, NCAPV tracks the homicides of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people in the U.S. in which an anti-LGBTQ motive is known. However for many LGBTQ homicide victims, especially transgender women and people of color who are disproportionately affected by anti-LGBTQ violence, a motive is never determined, said Chai Imdadust, NCAPV Co-Coordinator of the New York City Anti-Violence Project.

“It is imperative to call attention to these incidents or that the lives of these individuals are not forgotten or overlooked and so that we can bring all resources to bear to discover what happened to them, when that is possible.”

NCAPV has seen an increase in the severity of anti-LGBTQ hate violence incidents in the US. NCAPV’s most recent report on Hate Violence documented 30 anti-LGBTQ homicides in 2011, the highest number ever recorded by the coalition. Transgender women made up 40 percent of the 30 reported hate murders in 2011, while representing only 10 percent of total hate violence survivors and victims. Of the 30 reported hate murder victims in 2011, 87 percent were LGBTQ people of color.

NCAPV is collaborating with the National Black Justice Coalition (NBJC) and local NCAPV member organizations BRAVO and Sunserve Services to raise awareness of these unsolved homicides and to support the local communities affected by this violence.

The Buckeye Region Anti-Violence Organization (BRAVO), an NCAPV member organization that works to end LGBTQ-related violence and homicide, issued a press release about Dove’s murder, but media failed to pick up the story.

BRAVO is said to work in the most recent hate crime murder, and outraged at the media’s flagrant disregard for human dignity,” said Gloria McCauley, Executive Director of BRAVO. “Every homicide deserves to be investigated and all possible leads followed so that we can understand what the cause of the homicide was. This is particularly true when the homicide involves a community that we know is at a higher risk of bias-related homicides such as transgender women of color.

“Enough is enough. Three unsolved homicides within one month should elicit a national outcry,” said Sharon Letman-Hicks, Executive Director and CEO at BRAVO. “Our law enforcement officials accountable at every level – from local police departments that need to work tirelessly to find these killers and bring them to justice, to federal agencies such as the Department of Justice that should create a national task force to address the serial killings of Black trans women in this nation. How many more lives must be lost before we take serious action to stop this madness?”

NCAPV is a resource for anyone who experiences violence. For more information contact the group at info@ncapv.org.

Russian gay man murdered; gays fear more violence

Russian police have confirmed that a gay man was beaten to death in Volgograd on May 9 after he came out to men he’d been drinking with.

A spokesman for the Volgograd office of the Investigative Committee said on May 12 that the battered body of the unidentified victim was found on the morning of May 10. Two men, aged 22 and 27, have been arrested in connection with the attack. According to investigators, the 23-year-old victim had been drinking with the two men to celebrate Victory Day on May 9 when he told them he was gay. The two men then allegedly beat him, sodomized him with a beer bottle, and smashed in his skull with a stone. The story has caused outrage throughout Russia.

More from Reuters:

It is rare for law enforcement authorities in Russia to specify suspicions that homophobia was the motive in an attack, (Newsfronts continue page 14)
The House passed a modified version of a bill that had previously passed in January, which was then amended and passed by the Senate. Same-sex couples in Rhode Island will now be able to apply for marriage licenses.

Rhode Island joined other New England states, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Maine as states where gay marriage is legal and equality in Rhode Island, said Steven Brown, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign.

In speaking out to the state's House of Representatives, Brown noted that the following statement: "Today Rhode Island and New- and all of New England has embraced the freedom to marry and lived up to our American promise of liberty and justice for all. That the entire Rhod- Island Senate GOP caucus joined with a vast majority of Democratic lawmakers to unanimously support this legislation for marriage will inspire more momentum in more states. It is time now for the Supreme Court to uphold these American values for all loving and committed couples."

Over 100 Pa. lawmakers back anti-discrimination bills on housing, work

Over 100 Pennsylvania legislators have announced they will introduce bills to end workplace anti-discrimination protec- tions for LGBT citizens. The bills have 77 co-sponsors and are part of the legislatu- re's effort to pass several such bills this sea- son.

The bills will end the vestige of legal discrimination in Pennsylvania by discriminating based on an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. The bills are supported by Do- lyan, a Pittsburgh-area Democrat. "I'm pleased to announce that, for the first time, these bills introduced this year are being introduced with prime sponsors from both parties," he said.

One hundred members of the Gen- eral Assembly, a record number that re- presents all corners of the state, sponsored the bills, Frankel said. The widespread support stems from the fact that ending discrimination based on sexual orientation is not a partisan issue, according to Rep. Chris Ross, R-Chester.

"It essentially gives these people carte- blanche to commit such crimes," he said of the legislation. "A similar effort is already in place in Russia's city of St. Petersburg."

Alexseyev told Interfax that he will press for a hate crime law.

"This crime will increase in num- ber from year to year unless this policy is changed. We are planning to press for hatred of sexual minorities to be qualified as a hate crime," Alexseyev said.

"It is not enough to pass a law ban- ning the spread of 'homosexual propaganda' among minors, given preliminary approval by parliament in March, but it is necessary to take steps to prevent for attacks targeting gays."

"This monstrous incident in Volgodrav demonstrates the fruits of homophobic pol- icy that is being conducted in this country, including the initiative to ban homophobia propaganda," Interfax news agency quoted Alexseyev as saying.

"The act has inspired fears of more vio- lence, and the government looks to be giv- ing the public permission to commit such acts with its policies," Reuters reports.

"If people's 22-year-old friend and a former convict aged 27 were detained for the attack, which gay rights activists say is a brutal example of rising violence against homosexuals in the year since President Vladimir Putin latched on to family values and a conservative society."

Putin's criticism of gays for failing to help the war effort led to a brutal example of rising violence against homosexuals in the year since President Vladimir Putin latched on to family values and a conservative society.

The attack, which gay rights activists say is a brutal example of rising violence against homosexuals in the year since President Vladimir Putin latched on to family values and a conservative society, demonstrates the fruits of homophobic policy that is being conducted in this country including the initiative to ban homophobia propaganda.

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To The Editor:

As President of the Rochester Finger Lakes Chapter of Pride at Work AFL-CIO I wish to correct a significant misconception about Pride at Work AFL-CIO, while simultaneously thanking you for your excellent article highlighting local labor icon and LGBT ally Jim Bertolone, President of the Rochester Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

The origins of Pride at Work AFL-CIO (P@W) were mistakenly ascribed in the article to the Empire State Pride Agenda (ESPA). It is a common error, but ESPA focuses almost exclusively on legislation, while P@W offers resources and “hands-on” support for LGBT workers personally facing bias or harassment on the job or within their unions.

Unfortunately this confusion has had some significant consequences. Resources and recognition meant for P@W have sometimes been diverted to ESPA, but the more important consequence is that LGBT union workers who need immediate support when they are facing active discrimination do not realize that there is an organization dedicated to their survival on the job. P@W regularly encounters LGBT workers who have quit jobs because of harassment, overwhelmed by the prospect of fighting alone for their rights. Recently we were approached by a gentleman fired after a dozen years of good reviews because he was “outed” in a highly conservative job setting. It was clearly a discrimination case, but he had signed away his rights in a settlement rather than fight the system in isolation. He found P@W too late. The Empty Closet can help P@W get the word out to other workers that we can offer guidance to any members of the LGBT community who are experiencing workplace discrimination.

Pride at Work AFL-CIO is the official LGBT constituency group of AFL-CIO and is the only organization that supports gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender union members. We work directly with labor organizations at state and federal levels and locally have a seat on the Executive Board of Rochester Labor Council. We are familiar with union structure, culture and the nuances of contract negotiations. In the absence of full legal protections for LGBT workers, a well-negotiated union contract can offer benefit equity and broad workplace protections. For instance P@W is spearheading the effort to train contract negotiators to include language on “gender expression and identity” to protect transgender workers while state and federal legislation remains stalled.

Pride at Work also leverages their intentionally cultivated union relationships to pass LGBT legislation. In December 2011 the Rochester Chapter of Pride at Work AFL-CIO was the recipient of the “Mother Jones Award” given by the Rochester Labor Council in recognition of the work P@W did to educate and mobilize the local labor community to support NY Marriage Equality. P@W continues to work in collaboration with many organizations to advance legislation of importance to LGBT people.

The support of the labor community by this newspaper and the Gay Alliance has been outstanding over the years and we wish to express our on-going gratitude.

Thank you.

Bess Watts, President RFL Pride at Work AFL-CIO
LGBT leaders advocate for underrepresented in their community

By Nadia Pierre-Louis, RIT

Future LGBT leaders on college campuses are learning the importance of standing up for the rights of their community. These rights not only apply to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals, but also to the entire spectrum of the gay community. This includes those of lesser-known identities, such as intersex and genderqueer, that sometimes get pushed to the sides in the fight for equal rights.

In November of 2012, Tammy Baldwin, from Wisconsin, became the first open lesbian to be elected as a senator in the history of the United States. Barack Obama was also the first president to openly affirm that same-sex couples should have the right to marry in his 2013 inaugural address. “Our journey is not complete until our gay brothers and sisters are treated like anyone else under the law,” said Obama in his monumental speech.

Despite these recent victories in the gay rights movement and a growth in gay rights activism, there are other issues besides gay marriage and visibility that continue throughout their lives. Costich believes that if we had more advocates aware and fighting for this cause, the lives of many intersex individuals could change.

Advocacy for intersex people, among many other identities, was brought up at this year’s North East LGBT Conference. The conference was held at the Rochester Institute of Technology from April 12-14. The event allowed hundreds of college students to come together and attend a number of different workshops that students to come together and attend a number of different workshops that focused on issues relating to the LGBT community.

This year’s theme was “The Ally is You.” The theme referred to the importance of allies to the underrepresented in the gay community. Lesser known identities don’t receive as much support and visibility because they often don’t fit into the LGBT category. This included genderqueer, pansexual, and intersex. While some know about these identities, their ideas are often filled with stereotypes and misconceptions. The panel led an open discussion about the importance of being an ally to these lesser-known identities in the community so they won’t feel left out, and will know that they do have a role in the gay rights movement.

Jim Costich described the trauma many intersex people have to face. Genital reconstructive surgery is many times forced upon parents because they’re ignorant about what being intersex really means. If there were more advocates for the intersex population, many individualists wouldn’t have to deal with this suffering.

Jillian Strobeck, a volunteer at the conference and fourth year RIT student, believes that although there have been certain victories for the entire LGBT community, there is still progress to be made. “This progress includes issues more than marriage and spend more time giving people their basic human rights,” said Strobeck.

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Opinion

由 Nadia Pierre-Louis, RIT

Future LGBT leaders on college campuses are learning the importance of standing up for the rights of their community. These rights not only apply to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals, but also to the entire spectrum of the gay community. This includes those of lesser-known identities, such as intersex and genderqueer, that sometimes get pushed to the sides in the fight for equal rights.

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This year’s theme was “The Ally is You.” The theme referred to the importance of allies to the underrepresented in the gay community. Lesser known identities don’t receive as much support and recognition because they often don’t fit into the LGBT category. This was a topic brought up numerous times throughout the conference.

David Yipp, a student at RIT, has been attending the conference for a number of years. He described a panel of several people on the theme this year of being an ally within your own minority was effective in pointing out an issue in the gay community that people don’t typically think of. Advocacy is needed in order for change to happen.

“Fear of labels is bad,” said Wahls. “Courtey and respect are good.” People fear what is unknown to them, and for a long time many were unfamil- iar with homosexuality. Now that it’s a commonly discussed topic, it’s up to those that are more aware of the diversity of the LGBT community to advocate for the identities that are unknown to many.

For Sarah Funke, a fourth year RIT student, it was her first time attending the NELGBT conference. She thought that this year of being an ally within in your own minority was effective in pointing out an issue in the gay community that people don’t typically think of. Advocacy is needed in order for change to happen.

Zach Wahls, a speaker at the conference and advocate for intersex rights, among many others.

It’s sometimes overlooked and I think there are a lot of misconceptions that you have to identify with a community in order fully to understand it,” said Funke. “One workshop called ‘Expanding the Conversation’ had a panel of people identifying as lesser-known queer identities. This included genderqueer, pansexual and intersex. While some know about these identities, their ideas are often filled with stereotypes and misconceptions. The panel led an open discussion about the importance of being an ally to these lesser-known identities in the community so they won’t feel left out, and will know that they do have a role in the gay rights movement.

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Jillian Strobeck, a volunteer at the conference and fourth year RIT student, believes that although there have been certain victories for the entire LGBT com- munity, there is still progress to be made. “This progress includes issues more than marriage and spend more time giving people their basic human rights,” said Strobeck.
New Parade route leads to Manhattan Square Park, a.k.a. Emerald City

By Susan Jordan

The Pride Parade on Saturday, July 20 will start at the usual place — Park Ave. at Argyle (and a block north) — but this year it will head to Manhattan Square Park downtown for the Festival! Line-up is 2 p.m. on July 20, and the Parade, with a Wizard of Oz theme, will proceed down Park to Alexander St. at 3 p.m. Marchers will take a right on Alexander and then a left on East Ave. until entering Park St. Floats and units will continue on Parkin and wind up behind the Strong Museum, where they can park. Marchers however will go from Parkin to Broad St. and end up at Manhattan Square Park for the Pride Festival.

The Veterans Administration Canandaigua VA Medical Center (VAMC) and the Rochester VA Outpatient Clinic will be marching out in the Rochester Pride Parade for the fourth year. The VA wants to make it known that it is here to serve all who have served. This year the Canandaigua VAMC Color Guard will be leading the Parade. All Veterans and Service Members are invited to walk with the VA contingent in the parade.

The Festival will run until 9 p.m., featuring local live bands, drag performances and a headline TBA. A cash bar will be available. There will also be a History Pavilion in the former Canopies restaurant, along with a Rainbow SAGE Lounge (see article in this section). This area will be air-conditioned and will be open all day.

Family Time

Pride 2013 will emphasize Family Time. The History Pavilion will be open free of charge from noon until 3:30 p.m. There will also be games, face painting and arts & crafts for kids in Manhattan Square Park.

Pride Games

The Flag Raising on Friday, July 19 will also be at the new location in Manhattan Square Park. The Rainbow Riders will lead off the ceremony. That evening a VIP reception will take place at the History Pavilion for “Ruby Past” holders and Pride sponsors. And from 7-9 p.m. the colorful Youth Pagant will be held onsite, to select the Pride Queen and King and Gender Bender who will be featured in Saturday’s Parade.

Pride Games

A new and exciting feature this year is the Pride Games. A gay ice hockey tournament will run for (New continues page 20)

Pride Games

To feature ice hockey tournament, roller derby bouts

By Susan Jordan

For the first time, Rochester Pride will include a sports event: the exciting new Roc Pride Games. This year the Games consist of a gay ice hockey tournament and roller derby bouts.

The hockey tournament will feature players from NYC and Long Island at Bill Gray’s Regional Iceplex, 2780 Brighton Henrietta Townline Rd., starting Friday evening, and continuing until 5:30 p.m. on Saturday and 1 p.m. on Sunday. (See Calendar on page 19, www.gayalliance.org and July EC for details.)

This innovative event is the brainchild of Chris Woodworth, Director of Programming and Marketing at the Iceplex. He brought his idea to the Gay Alliance and then to the Monroe County Sports Commission, which gave it the stamp of approval.

Chris told The Empty Closet: “The concept initially started as running a hockey tournament during Pride weekend, which would allow us to enhance the players’ experience by incorporating pride events into the tournament. Once we sat down to Games (continue page 20)
We Serve All Who Served

Excellent care has no boundaries. VHA is committed to serving Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Veterans.

We Serve All Who Served

FRIDAY JULY 19

Rainbow Flag Raising
Manhattan Square Park, 6-7pm, FREE
Pride Community Mixer 7-10pm. Get your Mixer coupons at the Flag Raising for specials.
VIP and Sponsor Pre-Pride Reception: 7-9pm. Ruby Pass holders and Pride Sponsors admitted to preview of the LGBT History Pavilion at Manhattan Square Park.

ROC Pride Games
Bill Gray’s Iceplex
Ice Hockey Tournament: Noon-8pm, FREE
Roller Derby: 7-9pm, $5–$20. Bill Gray’s Iceplex

ice cream

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Best ice cream ever. Seriously.
Best ice cream ever. ~Sandy, Facebook Fan

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SATURDAY, JULY 20

Pride Festival
Manhattan Square Park
Family Time: Noon-3:30pm, FREE
Pride Celebration: 3:30pm-9pm, $10 in advance; $15 at the gate

Pride Parade
Park Avenue - Line up 2pm, Step-off 3pm
Parade starts at Argyle Street, travels along Park Avenue to Alexander Street to East Avenue to Pitkin to Broad Street.

ROC Pride Games
Bill Gray’s Iceplex
Ice Hockey: 10am-1pm, FREE
Roller Derby: 6-9pm, $5-$20 Bill Gray’s Iceplex

SUNDAY, JULY 21

Pride Picnic Fundraiser
Genesee Valley Park, 1pm-7pm
Admission $10 advance, $15 gate
Admission PLUS 3 beers $15 advance, $20 gate
Admission PLUS 3 beers PLUS food, $20 advance, $25 gate
Children under 12 free admission, food $5

ROC Pride Games
Bill Gray’s Iceplex
Ice Hockey: 9am-1pm, FREE

Thanks to photographers
Gerry Szymanski, Garnetta Ely, Ove Overmyer, Jeff Mills, and Jill Frier.
Pride History (from page 17)
in for free.” After the Parade, the admission charge for the Festival will include the History Pavilion.

Why is tracing our queer history important? Many young LGBT people—and some not so young—have little knowledge even of today’s Gay Alliance or the LGBT community, much less of the past 40-plus years. Will they be interested?

Tara said, “The Gay Alliance was the hub of the LGBT community. It’s a testament to the strength of the organization that 30-year-olds don’t know about it—they just accept that things have always been this way.”

Gerry added, “It’s integrated into the community. But we need to acknowledge all the people who have worked so hard over the years.”

He said that the response to the JCC’s Holocaust Memorial exhibit on Nazi oppression of gays last year was impressive. “It was well-attended,” he said, “and there was a lot of interest. I think this will be the same. For us to have all those ‘firsts’ in the 70s is amazing.”

Tara said, “And to have preserved (our history) and now be using it is amazing.”

Gerry agreed that, with the presentation of the History Pavilion in the Jean-Nickolaus Tretter History Pavilion and we welcomed over 2,000 visitors during Pride weekend.

“Over the years, the display has grown… The full exhibit is two dozen panels, each of which covers an element of GLBT history… Each panel provides a glimpse into GLBT past and important moments that shape events today. Some people who see the panels may want to explore the archives to dig deeper. Others may leave happy with the knowledge that the vibrant and dynamic history of the GLBT community is being preserved for future generations. Hopefully everyone will take away an appreciation for those who have come before and fought for equality and civil rights.”

Gerry Szymanski said the Library and Archive team is not sure exactly how many panels from Minnesota will be a part of the exhibit. “It will depend on the budget. The panels from Minnesota will be a part of the History Pavilion and we will welcome visitors this year to our Rochester history that can travel in time to colleges, churches, other community centers, etc.”

Check out the July Pride Guide supplement online at www.gayalliance.org for more information on the History Pavilion and our Pride journey back in time to honor Rochester’s LGBT community.

Roc Pride Games (from page 17)

Roc City Roller Derby

Roc City Roller Derby will be part of the Roc Pride Games, running July 19–21. There will also be a July 20 bout, time TBA. All bouts take place at Bill Gray’s Iceplex.

Roc City Roller Derby (501(c)3 non-profit athletic organization) was formed in 2008, started booting in public in 2009, and became members of Women’s Flat Track Derby Association in the fall of 2011. There are two Travel Teams: the Roc Stars and the B-Sides, who bout against teams from Leagues in other cities in spring and summer, and three Home Teams: the Rochesterens, the Midtown Maulers, and the 5-H8-5s, who bout against each other in the fall.

The Roc Stars placed second in a tournament of NYS Leagues in Long Island over Labor Day Weekend 2012. There are 131 League members.

Getting involved: There’s something for everyone in RCRD. Go to rocderby.com and click on the “Contact Us” link of the bottom of the page: www.rocderby.com/ContactUs.htm
The LGBT Rochester Community Looking Forward

By Evelyn Bailey

The last article in the Empty Closet series on LGBT Rochester history, written in 1990, looks toward the future, through and past the Gay '90s.

Jeff Lehigh notes that the cover story of the March 12, 1990 issue of Newsweek was “The Future of Gay America.” One of the questions raised by the article was, “Should gays pursue their own countercultural lifestyle or assimilate into mainstream, middle class America?”

Many historical figures who were gay assimilated with the predominant straight society. In 1970, however, but there are very few role models of gays in our past who remained themselves and stood up for their beliefs. The question of assimilation or becoming our authentic selves is a personal choice, much like coming out of the closet.

A 1990s look at the local scene saw many changes in the University-Arcade neighborhood, with the Bachelor Forum, newly located at 670 University Ave. Wild Seeds Bookstore and Cafe at 704 University Ave, now defunct women’s bookstore, celebrated their first anniversary in April, 1990.

Another anniversary that took place in April 1990 was that of Rochester Custom Tailors, which opened April 1989 at Village Gate. In May 1990 the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley moved to a new home at the corner of Elton Street and Atlantic Ave.

All these changes gave the community a reason to celebrate. For the GAGCV the move to Atlantic Avenue gave the community and the many LGBT groups in Rochester a place to call home. Our presence in the Elton Street neighborhood improved the neighborhood. The move to Elton Street represented an emergence from the back alley “closet” of the Genesee Coop.

Jeff Lehigh was in his article, “Marrying Alliances,” a major issue for both the gay and straight community, and will be throughout the 90’s, the issue of gay rights in New York State should not be ignored or put on the back burner. We need to keep fighting for our civil rights, including legal gay marriages (or “unions” as they are called) as well as health benefits, a bias-related crime bill, including legal gay marriages (or “unions” as they are called) as well as health benefits, a bias-related crime bill, including legal gay marriages.

In 1990 some gay and lesbian couples who were hopeful that gay marriage would be legalized in the 90’s, but then the question remained, is this part of assimilating ourselves to straight society? And should gay and lesbian couples as well as all gay and lesbian people assimilate into mainstream, middle class America? Perhaps that is a question best left up to each individual, for not everyone in the gay community is an activist, and no one should be ashamed of who they are. However, as the saying goes “if you can’t change the world, change yourself.” We need to keep fighting for what we want to become, the more accepted and the more powerful we will be.

Jeff Lehigh states in his article, “Shoulders To Stand On” is proud of the history of the Empty Closet, and by all those who document the progress in our rights. The Empty Closet article ended by recognizing the improvements that have been made, but with the hope of more changes in the decade ahead.

So let’s see! Changes is the hallmark of the Rochester LGBT community today.

In 2004 the Gay Alliance moved again to the Auditorium Center at 875 East Main St. AIDS is now a managed disease, and AIDS Rochester and Community Health Network have merged into AIDS Care, with more change coming in the next future.

New York State’s sodomy law was officially removed from state law on June 22, 2000. Gov. George Pataki signed New York State’s new hate-crime law July 10, 2000, 10 years after a version first passed the Assembly. The Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act (SONDNA) became law on December 17, 2002.

In June, 2011, after 40 years of hope and effort, the LGBT community of New York celebrated the passage of marriage equality in New York.

NY’s next horizon: passage of GENDA

The issue of assimilation continues to be one of individual choice. We take a great risk in losing our uniqueness as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender men and women by “blending in.” In “assimilating,” we also risk losing facets of our culture which in the past have defined who we are.

The labels of queer, queen, dyke, butch, femme, faerie, lesbian, gay, bi, trans, genderqueer, intersex, bear and many more, as well as our varied ethnicities and backgrounds, give the Rochester LGBT community its diversity of cultures and subcultures that maintain our unique identity. We may be repulsed by some of these labels, such as the derogatory “targg,” “tranny,” etc., which have mostly been used by anti-gay heterosexuals, or sometimes by insensitive gay people. But these too are part of our history.

Our brothers and sisters who identify themselves with one or more of these labels raise the level of visibility and help to create an environment in which all LGBT people and our allies can be more open and welcoming of ourselves and each other. With visibility comes an understanding of different communities and “neighborhoods” within the community, and as Jeff Lehigh implied in 1990, we become a force to be reckoned with.

What will the next decade bring? The future is in our hands to create. Shoulders To Stand On invites everyone to participate in creating the next decade of gay history.

Shoulders To Stand On is proud of the historical overview offered by The Empty Closet, and by all those who document and preserve our history. Shoulders To Stand On looks forward to celebrating WITH YOU our 40 years of pride-filled history. This year, the LGBT Rochester Pride 2013 on Saturday, July 20 at the Festival’s History Pavilion at Manhattan Square Park. DON’T MISS IT!!

History Corner

A monthly newsletter of the University Gay Liberation Front; May, 1973.

SUN 3 JUNE: “GUEST-PER” We are pleased to obtain an abstract reader for this meeting. Wash for details.

MON 11 JUNE: “Sensory Relaxation”

SUN 17 JUNE: “A Gay Look At Sexism”

SUN 24 JUNE: “CHRISTOPHER STREET WEST” A meeting to commemorate the Christopher St. Rebellion of June, 1970, which popularized the gay movement. Todd Union Music Lounge, U of R River Campus, 7-30 pm. This will be the last meeting on the U of R Campus. It is open to non-students.

TOWN GROUP SELECTS NAME FOR RCHS: The news of the student members of the Gay Liberation Front are forming a new gay student group on the U of R that needs the gay community not attending the University of Rochester. The new organization has selected the name “Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley”. The name was selected to imply a wider service area than just the city of Rochester. We felt “Gay” had to be the first word for ease in telephone listings. The U of R campus will retain the name “Gay Liberation Front”. The GLF will be an all-student organization functioning exclusively with student interests.

Pride Picnic News:

Save money! Buy a food ticket or a beer AND food ticket! At this year’s “old fashioned picnic,” for $15 in advance you can eat a hot dog, hamburger, cheeseburger, veggie burger, falafel, corn on the cob, baked beans (vegetarian or non), chips, soda, and watermelon. You will be able to purchase beer without a Food & Beer ticket at a greater cost.

Children under 12 do not pay an entrance fee, but will have to pay $5 for a “Picnic Meal”. If you want to buy food, you can only choose from the “Picnic Meal” menu. You can also save money on beer by purchasing a Food & Beer ticket in advance for $20. You will be able to purchase beer without a Food & Beer ticket at an increased cost.

There will be two food vendors at the picnic not included in the price of a Food or Food & Beer Ticket: Alborn’s, who will be selling ice cream and will give picnic goers a free puppy cup for their four-legged friend, and KP’s Kettle Corn, providing popcorn, cotton candy, candy apples, snow cones, and pretzels. There will be no other food vendors.

Save more – buy your tickets in advance. Ticket prices at the gate will increase by $5. Gate prices at the picnic will be $15 for Entrance Ticket, $20 for Food & Beer Ticket, and $25 for Food & Beer Ticket.

At the Gate, you need to decide whether you want to buy a Food Ticket, Food & Beer Ticket or Admission Only, and get into the appropriate line. This will make getting wrist banded for entrance and being ID’d for alcohol go more smoothly. You will keep your Food Ticket or your Food & Beer Ticket to give to the “Picnic Meal” vendor at Canalide.

Shoulders to Stand On
A few years ago there was a fine documentary chronicling her career, Up's and downs, all of it. Once, in California, to every song she played, I climbed up on top of the window of the cottage she was renting and wasn't seen for six years! Oh that I could, oh, that I had…

At the end of the film, when thoughtful friends have found her in a long term nursing home recovering from a broken arm, mostly forgotten, she declares she wants to sing again, to record. And she does. Goes to the studio. She looks like hell, gaunt, just plain old. And she sings. She really does.

Newish friends, when I inquire about the music they like, tell me about The Grateful Dead and Bob Dylan. One I've never listened to, the other sounds like a dog dying.

After you've listened to 'Georgia Brown', try to find O'Day singing, 'I'm Two For Two'. She does it double time and any other rendition you come across will pale in comparison.

Later in life, after another remarriage, she appears on a talk show and the host asks her, 'Why do you probably reside as possibly as well as you had in life, she replies, with a genuine smile, "To be a great singer. Amen to that."

Email: elba@crdi.org

Faith Matters
ANTI-KEYNESIAN ECONOMICS' HOMOPHOBIC NAIL FERGUSON

By Rev. Irene Monroe

There is a lot of sound reasons to critique Keynesian economics, but a reason that its creator was gay shouldn’t be one of them.

Niall Ferguson, the Laureate A. Tisch Professor of History at the Tenants Ahegno Congress in Carlbad, Calif. should have awed his audience; instead it shocked and offended them.

And with what some say were characteristically Fergusonian statements — con- trarian, provocative and offensive — the Harvard economic historian hinted that John Maynard Keynes (one of the most influential economists of the Twentieth Century) long-term economic theories were misguided, at best, and flawed, at worst, because he was childless and gay. "Keynes was a homosexual and had no intention of having children. We are not dead in the long run, our children are our progeny. It is the economic ideals of Keynes that have gotten us into the problems of today."

In a moment that should have highlighted Ferguson's erudition on economic history, during the opening-and-answer session when asked to speak on Keynes' philosophy of self-interest versus Edmund Burk's 'lees of the trees. Now, Ferguson, like all high profiled economists, has publicly made damage control to avoid potentially jeopardizing job security as well the reputation of his institutions affiliated with him. Ferguson's mea culpa, "An unqualified apology" can easily be accessed from his website.

"My disagreements with Keynes's economic philosophy have never had anything to do with his sexual orientation. It is simply false to suggest, as I did, that his approach to economic policy was inspired by any aspect of his personal life. As those who know me and my work are well aware, I denast all prejudice, sexual or otherwise.

If these words aren’t contrite or authen- tic enough, let’s remember that every bigot has at least one good friend to bail him or her out. And to Ferguson's rescue comes renowned gay author and editor of the blog 'The Drift,' Andrew Sullivan, who says of Fergusonian economics was meant to discredit Keynes and his entire body of work. That has rather quickly brought renewed international attention to a renowned economist and to another one of our LGBTQI un advertising forces.

A Few Bricks Short THE ROCKY LIFE

By David Hall

I can still hear myself saying: "Hey, that’s a wonderful idea" to my husband, Bernie, a couple weeks ago. What a fool I was. You see, a year and a half ago we had two gigantic trees cut down, one in the yard, and a smaller one across the street. They didn’t cut the trees down by choice; they were actually falling down on their own, and one would have fallen on our house – or on one of us – we decided that rather than having the trees taken down by one of the local lumber yards, we’d just have the trees taken completely down by a professional. And we did.

That transformed our yard, which had a rediscovered corral into “little house on the prairie” – hot all summer long in the blazing sun, no longer sheltered from those cold, winter winds. I didn’t have to spend hours in October raking leaves, but still I was not a happy little Laura Ingalls if you know what I meant. I missed those trees.

So, we decided to replace them – one sugar maple in the front yard, one red maple in the side yard. It was a little expensive and a bit of work, but at the end of the hot, hot summer, we decided it was worth it.

And since we were planting new trees, why not enlarge those circular flower gardens surrounding them? We’d always talked about doing that. My nephews helped with shoveling soil, spreading mulch and planting perennials and even- tually, even though it didn’t go as easily or quickly as it always seems to on the Home & Garden Network, our tree and flower gardens were complete.

Except for one thing: the old wooden borders we had around the old, smaller gardens no longer fit around the new gardens. No matter how I arranged or re-arranged them, it was like a geomet- rry math problem. I just couldn’t get it right. And, when I tried to fit around the garden circle without leaving a gap somewhere. "Well," said Bernie, observing my frustration, "Why don’t you get rid of

Columnists

The opinions of columnists, editorial writers and other contributing writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the collective attitude of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley or The Empty Closet.
The Ghost of Wedding Past seeps out of Want. "How about going out for pizza tonight? he was working to admire the rocks. "I'd created! You look at the visual interest and warm, natural edges! I mean, I'd seen numerous articles of all. And dealing with rocks, much like them work. Don't disregard a rock just because it's heavy and you can't move it. Slowly, carefully, I moved the rocks around the garden. Gradually, I pulled to the edge of the road in front of our house and began pouring an avalanche of rocks over the freshly mowed lawn.

It was then that I realized that, although Martha talked about creating visual interest in the garden, she had never once mentioned anything about lifting or moving or stacking all those rocks.

She never mentioned annoying neighbors either. "I have some rocks, huh?" said the guy standing in the doorway. "Got some rocks, huh?" said the guy with the mill. "I never mentioned annoying neighbors either."

I looked him in the eye and replied: "What's bothering Brandon?

Brandon W. Brooks

Every now and again something will shock me out of my reverie. I'm a writer, you know, and I need to gather the serenity to accept the things I can't change. The moment my eyes had fallen upon the empty closet, I was going to change. I called her name: "What's bothering Brandon?"

I AM NOT A BELIEBER

By Brandon W. Brooks

I have always wanted to do that. It was a wonderful idea.

Well, it was a wonderful idea until the Friday afternoon when the dump truck pulled to the edge of our house and began pouring an avalanche of rocks over the freshly mowed lawn.

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Being uncomfortable is not always physically painful or discomfort. Sometimes it is emotional, mental, and spiritual. A simple misunderstanding or a difference of opinion can create an environment in which people feel uncomfortable.

For example, for the longest time it was uncomfortable for me to talk to my brother because we had a difference of opinion. He thought Rush Limbaugh should be president and I had a very different opinion, and still do, of him. Over time, however, my brother and I have been able to find a way of interacting with each other in a way that is comfortable for both of us. This happened because he changed his views on Rush Limbaugh and in part, because I changed my ability to deal with being in uncomfortable situations.

Being uncomfortable can cause us to want to avoid people, groups, situations, or clothing apparel that are just not comfortable. Sometimes that is possible. Sometimes it just isn’t. If you have a pair of shoes that hurt your feet and are uncomfortable to wear, the solution is simple – stop wearing them. On the other hand, when we are faced with an uncomfortable social situation, we have to make a conscious choice about how we respond to the discomfort.

Is the discomfort so stressful that at this point in one’s journey, it is best to avoid the situation? Is it uncomfortable, but one in which you are able to create a way of being in the situation without it being emotionally, mentally, or spiritually damaging? For example, someone I know has an uncomfortable situation with her brother. It is not a situation she can avoid. However, she has created a way of spending time with him in the outdoors, which energizes her and makes the time with him less uncomfortable.

Sometimes, finding ourselves in an uncomfortable situation is one Spirit has called us to embrace and to allow our uncomfortable situation is one Spirit has made less uncomfortable.

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Serving Rochester's
Est. 1933
Serving Rochester's
Est. 1933
by Darren W. Plunkett

Out & Equal Finger Lakes host their monthly Second Thursday Social Networking event May 9 at Tapas 177 on St. Paul St.

This monthly networking event brings up to 90 businesspeople together to socialize and discuss current workplace issues.

The group meets on the second Thursday of each month at alternating locations.

Out & Equal is a national not-for-profit agency dedicated to the advancement of the LGBT community and its allies within the corporate structure. The local Finger Lakes branch is celebrating its fifth year.

In addition to the social networking, Out & Equal’s primary goal is to provide education and empower organizations, human resource professionals, Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) and individuals through programs and services that result in equal policies, opportunities, practices, and benefits in the workplace regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, expression, or characteristics.

According to Council Member Ralph Carter, the group has a quarterly leadership forum and many educational events. “We deal with human resource matters and workplace issues,” Ralph commented.

On July 17, Nixon Peabody is hosting the event “From the Closet to the Corner Office.” Keynote speakers include Michael Feldman and Kirk McLaughlin.

Out & Equal is represented by every major employer in the Rochester area including U of R, Xerox, Kodak, Corning, Wegmans, AIDS Care, Nixon Peabody and Ernst & Young, just to name a few.

Carter is proud of the work being done within our community. “We are already the second largest chapter in the country,” he said. There are currently over 600 members.

One of the major developments of the local chapter is the Corporate Quality Index. This index has been developed for corporations to follow to assure fair workplace treatment for its LGBT employees.

Some of the largest employers in the area are health care providers. This has lead to the Health Care Alliance Index, which insures non-discriminatory practices within the health facilities.

In general Equality’s impact on businesses will be discussed at the quarterly leadership meeting this fall. Again the OENYFL has begun training college graduates on the procedures of interviewing and work to an employer and provides a resume link for employers to seek out LGBT candidates for employment.

For more information about OENYFL, go to https://oenyfingerlakesgroup.com.
the empty closet • the gay alliance of the genesee valley • number 468 • june 2013

community

(Community continued from page 25)

come down to admire the erotic work that will be on display.
Remember this is barnight; leather, denim and boots never go out of style. All of our regular barnight features, like boot shine, coat check, and wall-to-wall hot men, will be available at this full-service event.
The Rams Run 2013 is coming Aug., 23-25; this will be our 40th Anniversary Run, and not to be missed. Information and applications will be available on our website. The run fee is $150 before July 20 or $165 by August 14. Space is limited so apply early. This single run fee gains you entrance to the event and includes all meals and beverages, round-the-clock snacks and sandwiches, a motorcycle tour of western NY’s beautiful lake country, clothing optional pool and campsite, fetish oriented parties and plenty of brotherhood and good times.
The Rochester Rams M.C. is Rochester New York’s foremost gay motorcycle and leather club as well as being one of the oldest clubs of its type in the country.
Our home bar is the Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave., where we hold Bar Nights on the third Saturday of each month. We hold general meetings (open to the public) the Wednesday before each Bar Night at 7:30 p.m. at the Forum. For more info, visit our website: www.rochesterrams.com.

romans

Rochester Male Naturists (ROMANS) is planning for an exciting summer.
The will be nude outdoor swimming at members’ homes in June and July. Plans are being made to attend the Toronto Pride parade with a visit to the nude beach. Arrangements are in the works for a trip to Empire Haven nude campground in Moravia, NY. Some members will go to Jones Pond campground for their annual BBQ.

And of course in August, many ROMANS will enjoy a clothes free weeklong celebration at the Gay Naturists International (GNI) annual gathering in the Poconos.

ROMANS is a social club for gay and gay-friendly male nudists over 21. For more information, check out our website at www.wnyromans.com. You can also contact us by phone at 585-281-4964, E-mail wnyromans@yahoo.com or via regular mail at PO Box 92293, Rochester, NY 14692.

third presbyterian church

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

sunday worship
8:30am Third Church chapel
10:45am Third Church sanctuary

Born this way (lgbt support)
7:30pm First & third Mondays Third Church Park

Third Presbyterian Church
4 mega street (at east avenue) 585-271-6065
www.thirdpresbyterian.org

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if we don’t have it, you don’t need it

(585) 621-5111

vista

Photo by Amoske Drogan Photography
Marcy will soon be co-directing a musical based on the music of Vanessa Carlton, for a group called Dream Vision Create. “We’re working on the script and casting now,” she said. “Dream Vision Create started at Wilson High and evolved into a community company. We operate out of MuCCC—which we get great support from them. The musical is called “More Than This” and will be staged in July at MuCCC.

She will also do a show for the Fringe Festival next fall, collaborating with David Henderson, who is her partner in Method Machine, and with Heather Fox. “Shakes Blood” is based on Shakespearean rewrites, especially his death scenes. Marcy loves Shakespeare and says, “I’d love to do more Shakespearean stuff—I’ve always wanted to play Brutus!”

She would also like to do a Paula Vogel play, especially “How I Learned to Drive,” and a one-woman show called “The Blonde, the Brunette and the Vengeful Redhead.” The sole character is a woman—but she plays two male characters. Another trousers role!

Performance schedule for “The Lesson”: June 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29 at 7:30; June 23 @2 p.m. Advance sale tickets $10. At door: $20. General Admission: $15/Seniors/Students. MuCCC is located at 142 Atlantic Ave, Rochester, NY, 14608. It can be ordered online through Pixelpreserve in Rochester. It can be ordered online through Pixelpreserve’s digital store: http://www.pixelpreserve.net/bookstore/ or at the museum shop at the Memorial Art Gallery. Told through the lens of a lover’s eye’s, “An Early Work Late in Life” takes place in the late 1960s and early 1970s when the sexual revolution, feminism, gay/lesbian rights, and what’s on the other side.

Marcy spoke with The Empty Closet about the play and her role. This is not her first “trousers” role—she also played a young boy in Michael Spier’s hilarious “Lipstick Massacre.”

“It’s something I like to do,” she said. “I like to mess around. I’m really fond of smashing gender roles; I’m a big advocate of that, and I think it brings something new to the role (which was originally written for a female; we thought that had misogynistic elements).”

For those unfamiliar with Theatre of the Absurd and its abstractions, representations and erasures, it is a theatrical sense but rather theatrical representations, celebrations of the bourgeois world, which Ionesco despised. Their inability to communicate (and the increasing futility, anger, and, eventually, violence which this provokes) is the real subject of the play.

Marcy spoke with The Empty Closet about the play and her role. This is not her first comic action a lot of credit!

Marcy’s favorite comedies include “9 to 5” and the British TV shows “Office” (the original version) and “Slings and Arrows.”

RGMG celebrates 30th anniversary of singing proud

The Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus (RGMG), under the direction of Dr. Robert Strauss, will celebrate its 30th anniversary on Saturday June 22, 2013 at 8 p.m. in the Hochstein School of Music & Dance Performance Hall, with a concert titled “The Rainbow Connection.

RGMG will be joined on stage by three choirs: the Buffalo Gay Men’s Choir, the Syracuse Gay Men’s Chorus, and the Ithaca Gay Men’s Chorus, all of whom were inspired by the RGMG to start their own choral groups. RGMG says, “In May 1983, the Rochester Gay Men’s Choir took the stage for the very first time, and now this history-making group will celebrate its 30th anniversary in true RGMG fashion, by not only showing that it’s gets better, but that it has, and so have we! June is LGBT Pride month and as we sing songs of pride, empowerment, and celebration, we honor the LGBT victories that have taken place during our existence.”

The Rainbow Connection will feature old favorites like “Michael’s Letter to Mama,” familiar tunes like “True Colors,” “Lean on Me,” and “You’ll Never Walk Alone,” and many other songs about Rainbows and what’s on the other side.

For more information and history about the RGMG, visit The Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus website at www.thergmg.org.

RCMG celebrates 30th anniversary of singing proud

The Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus (RGMG), under the direction of Dr. Robert Strauss, will celebrate its 30th anniversary on June 15 at 8 p.m. in the Hochstein School of Music & Dance Performance Hall, with a concert titled “The Rainbow Connection.”

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For more information and history about the RGMG, visit The Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus website at www.thergmg.org.

RWMG performs “Music of the Night” June 8

Let the RWMG sing you through the night! Following their sun-drenched winter concert, the Rochester Women’s Community Chorus returns this spring to perform “Music of the Night” on Saturday, June 8 at 7:30 p.m. in St. Anne Church (1600 Mt. Hope Ave).

The concert will open with songs of evening, including “West Side Story’s Tonight” and “Eric Whitacre’s ‘Lullaby.” From there, the audience will be taken on a musical journey into the
Jerry Scott, the extraordinary Manhattan entertainer whose stellar renditions of every genre of music, from show tunes to standards to pop to opera, fired up audiences on April 4, after a valiant struggle with cancer. He was 67 years old.

Jerry settled in New York City. For over 40 years, he performed in many venues including Harrah’s Marina Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City, various ports in the Caribbean, Europe, and Russia and countless NYC locations. He performed for Hillary Clinton at a fundraiser, and was then invited to perform for President Clinton two weeks later. He has received multiple OBIEs (off Broadway’s highest honor), MAC (Manhattan Association of Cabarets) and the Backstage Bistro Award. He has also received the Critics’ Choice Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Piano-Bar performance and released five albums. One of Jerry’s biggest accomplishments, for his many Rochester friends, has to be his appearances at the Avenue Pub.

A Special Remembrance of Jerry Scott

Jerry Scott, the extraordinary Manhattan entertainer whose stellar renditions of every genre of music, from show tunes to standards to pop to opera, fired up audiences in Manhattan, died peacefully at 1 a.m. on April 4, after a valiant struggle with cancer. He was 67 years old. A little bit about Jerry. After attending The Eastman School of Music here, Jerry settled in New York City. For over 40 years, he performed in many venues including Harrah’s Marina Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City, various ports in the Caribbean, Europe, and Russia and countless NYC locations. He performed for Hillary Clinton at a fundraiser, and was then invited to perform for President Clinton two weeks later. He has received multiple OBIEs (off Broadway’s highest honor), MAC (Manhattan Association of Cabarets) and the Backstage Bistro Award. He has also received the Critics’ Choice Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Piano-Bar performance and released five albums. One of Jerry’s biggest accomplishments, for his many Rochester friends, has to be his appearances at the Avenue Pub.

The book gives a portrait of Rochester as well — the beautiful Victorian houses with bat-filled belfries, and the piles of snow. Danny and Bill at various times encountered Rochester legends like the Shibley Watsons, Louise Brooks and Margaret Strong. What if anything did Rochester mean to Danny?

Bill said, “He did live for a while in San Francisco, and was very much a free spirit. Danny loved people and had a tremendous sense of loyalty — Nancy Rosin was like an additional sister.

“We knew he had troubles but still we were blindsided when he took his life. We didn’t have the maturity to read his signals. The thing about Danny is that he seemed very confident but that wasn’t the case. The secret stuff with Danny was troubled and insecure.”

Danny would probably have been astonished to see the book and his painting in the vault. Danny and Bill at various times encountered Rochester legends like the Shibley Watsons, Louise Brooks and Margaret Strong. What if anything did Rochester mean to Danny?

Bill Whiting spoke with The Empty Closet about the process of writing about Danny and recalling their life together so long ago. He said that writing the book had been helpful to him.

“It was helpful because I don’t think there’s ever been a day in my life that I haven’t thought about him,” Bill said. “My emotions were never properly resolved. I was going through some difficulties of my own before (the painting in the vault was re-discovered).

“I wrote the book while I was in psychotherapy,” he continued. “I wrote sections and put them online in my blog. I put it out there so Danny’s friends and family could comment on it, because otherwise there’d be no coming to terms.

“As for helping me… I think this book has helped a lot of people. A circle of friends re-told stories over Danny. A lot of people had different insights. I never felt free to talk about it at the time. I felt talking about him would be a betrayal, but now I don’t think that’s the case.”

Danny’s sister Christine Wheat commented, “Danny passed away when I was 10 years old so I didn’t know him well at all. I have very few memories. He was 18 when I was born and by the time I was 10 he was gone. People didn’t talk about it. So this book introduced me to him.”

Bill said that friends are discussing an exhibition of Danny’s work. He said, “Some of his friends in New York and I have talked about it. I think it would be important to have it here in Rochester. We’ll have to wait and see. I would love it.”

“Danny was beloved and admired by his many friends, but inside he was deeply troubled and insecure.”

“We knew he had troubles but still we were blindsided when he took his life. We didn’t have the maturity to read his signals. The thing about Danny is that he seemed very confident but that wasn’t the case. The secret stuff with Danny was troubled and insecure.”

We didn’t have the maturity to read his signals. The thing about Danny is that he seemed very confident but that wasn’t the case. The secret stuff with Danny was troubled and insecure.”
Tickets are available for Bill Maher on July 13

Comedian Bill Maher brings his latest comedy tour to the Auditorium Theatre on Saturday, July 13 at 8 p.m. Audiences can expect hard-hitting, no-holds-barred topical comedy on the most important issues of the day.

Tickets, priced at $38, $48, $58 and $78 (includes $3 facility fee), are available at Ticketmaster outlets, online at Ticketmaster.com and Auditorium Theatre Box Office. Visit RBTL.org.

Bill Maher’s “Making Back My Million” tour is his largest to date. The title is, of course, a tongue in cheek reference to the million-dollar donation Bill made last year to Obama’s re-election effort.

For the last 20 years, Bill Maher has set the boundaries of where funny, political talk can go on American television. First on “Politically Incorrect” (Comedy Central, ABC, 1993-2002), and for the last nine years on HBO’s “Real Time,” Maher’s combination of unflinching honesty and big laughs have garnered him 29 Emmy nominations. In October of 2008, this same combination was on display in Maher’s uproarious and unprecedented swipe at organized religion, “Religulous,” directed by Larry Charles (“Borat”). The documentary has gone on to become the eighth-highest-grossing documentary ever.

Tickets can be purchased from any chorus member or at the door: $10 for adults, $8 for students and seniors, $5 for kids and infants are free. There will also be a silent auction starting at 7 p.m. and continuing during intermission. If you’d like more information about this RWCC concert or about the chorus itself (including how to join) please visit the RWCC website at: http://www.therwcc.org/
The RIT Color Run.

**Color Run at RIT is a huge success!**

**By Jeanne Gainsburg, Gay Alliance Outreach Coordinator**

Sunday, May 5 was a beautiful day in Rochester and RIT was a happening place to be! It was the Second Annual 5K Color Run, a fundraiser and LGBT awareness-building event.

Over 400 runners donned their new white tees and ran around the RIT campus, getting sprayed with a different color every kilometer. RIT student volunteers stationed themselves around the course offering high fives and cheers of encouragement to the runners.

I ran the route with my best friend, Pam Polakowsky (co-founder of Ride For Pride) and her 18-year-old daughter, Ana, who stated at the finish line that she hates running and will never do that again… unless it will help the Gay Alliance.

I LOVE that woman! The Color Run raised over $4,500, which RIT will keep.

**Runners can’t wait to Run**

I LOVE that woman! The Color Run raised over $4,500, which RIT will keep.

**Ride For Pride is ready to go on June 15**

**By Jeanne Gainsburg**

On June 15, 40 riders will set out from Fairport to embark on the fourth annual Ride For Pride bike ride fundraiser for the Gay Alliance.

Riders will bike a 50-mile loop ride through Newark and back to Fairport. Last year Ride For Pride raised over $12,000 for the Gay Alliance! This year, our goal is $15,000.

Won’t you please support our riders who are doing so much to support us?

You might win a chocolate-almond turtle tart if you donate to Rider Ed. You might be able to pick the color that Rider Pam dyes her hair!

Please take a look at all of our dedicated riders at: http://www.gayalliance.org/events/rideforpride.html and choose a rider to support this year. Your support at any level is appreciated by so many!

**Roc Pride needs your help! Please volunteer!**

**By Jeanne Gainsburg**

The Rochester Pride theme this year is “There’s No Place Like Pride,” inspired by the fabulous classic film *The Wizard of Oz*. What fun!

We have several big events taking place from July 19-21, and we will need tons of help! We need individual volunteers and we need groups of people.

Might a group of your friends and/or coworkers be interested in working together to be marshals in the Pride Parade, perhaps dressed as flying monkeys? Or maybe help guard the entrances to the Rainbow SAGE program. His hard work and dedication are much appreciated, as his help allows programming to run with ease.

Audet has been a dedicated volunteer with the Gay Alliance for five years. He has generously volunteered his time at the Red Ball, Rochester Pride and the Holocaust Exhibit at the JCC, and he is currently an integral part of assisting with the Rainbow SAGE program. His hard work and dedication are much appreciated, as his help allows programming to run with ease.

Audet, now retired, used to be the Food and Nutrition Director at Westgate Skilled Nursing Home. Attendees of the Senior Center, SAGE potlucks and the SAGE picnic have most likely benefited from Audet’s food talents. He often generously supplies delicious goodies for events and sometimes just for the heck of it! Gay Alliance staff members are not likely to forget Santa Claus (Audet) arriving at the Gay Alliance office last December and handing out goodies to all of us, whether we had been naughty or not! What a wonderful holiday surprise and mid-winter pick-me-up!

Audet’s volunteering does not stop at the Gay Alliance. He also volunteers at the Rochester Broadway Theater League, JCC, and the Veterans clinic. When he is not volunteering, Audet enjoys playing cards and games, attending men’s coffee groups, cooking, gardening, traveling and helping out friends.

Audet’s willingness to put others first and help out in any way he can is what landed him the spot as the Volunteer-of-the-Month. We are beyond grateful for his dedication and on behalf of the staff and board at the Gay Alliance we thank him for all of his help over the years.
Youth

Gay Alliance Youth Program
The Gay Alliance Youth program empowers today’s teens to meet today’s challenges! It provides a safe space to explore their identity, make friends, build community, gain life skills, become a leader and have fun!

Wed./Thurs.: 3:30-7:30pm
Fridays: 7-9pm

Coming Out/Being Out Support Group
Thursdays 6:30-7:30pm
(13-18 yrs old)

Gender Identity Support Group
Thursdays 6:30-7:30pm
(13-18 yrs old)

Gay Alliance Community Center
Auditorium Theater Bldg., 875 E. Main Street, 1st Floor
Rochester, New York 14605
Phone: 585-244-8640

Check out our weekly programs descriptions and special events:
www.gayalliance.org/events/youth

Roza E. and other SAGE members potted flowers in May. Photo: Ashley Powers

“Living better with Arthritis... a multifaceted approach...”

Are you or is someone you know living with arthritis? Chances are the answer is yes, as arthritis affects nearly 50 million Americans.

It does not just affect the elderly either; two-thirds of people living with arthritis are under the age of 65. Arthritis is a complex family of musculoskeletal disorders consisting of more than 100 different diseases or conditions that can affect people of all ages, races and genders.

On Tuesday, June 11 at 11 a.m. we will have a presenter from the Arthritis Foundation speaking on the different types of arthritis and how to improve the quality of life while living with the disease. Please join us for this informational presentation and if you know someone who may benefit from this feel free to bring them along. All are welcomed!

International Picnic Day

What better way to spend a summer day than outdoors with family, friends, fun and food! So that’s what we are doing June 17 at 11:30 a.m....we’re having a picnic! Pack the basket and grab a friend as we head to Cobbs Hill Park for a day of fun in the sun. With that being said bring the sunscreen, perhaps a game or two and sign up to bring a dish to pass. We will provide the meat.

International picnic day is actually June 18 and picnicking dates back to the Victorian Era when picnics were very important social occasions. They offered the rare opportunity for young men and women to spend time together in the great outdoors. They were also quite elaborate. A picnic for 20 people might feature cold salmon, lamb, seal, chicken, ham, pigeon pie, sandwiches, fruit, a selection of cheeses, and a variety of baked goods! The modern-day picnic is much less complicated. In fact, the phrase “it’s a picnic” means “it’s easy.”

The online community tool providing local, statewide and national resources, 24/7 at:
www.GayAlliance.org

Puzzle of the month

It’s been fun seeing everyone’s submissions and listening as each of you tries to crack the clue! Well, this month it’s only one “brain teaser,” but I think you will find it tricky but fun once it’s solved.

If you throw me from the window, I will leave a grieving wife. Bring me back, but in the door, and You’ll see someone giving life! What am I?

Name:
Answer:

You asked for it, we listened!

We are aware many of the 50+ crowd are still employed and unable to make our open hours at The Center on Mondays and Tuesdays, so, we will be having some evening meet-ups and events. While at the moment they are tentative, when they are confirmed you can find them by visiting our Facebook page (Rainbow SAGE) or checking the calendar on the website.

Let’s give a round of applause...

As we go into our third month of having the puzzle “challenge” available for you, it has dawned on me something has been forgotten; recognition of our winners! So let me take the time to congratulate Pete F., our March winner and Scott B., our April winner! Keep those submissions coming so you too can be entered to win!

Nothing says spring has sprung like beautiful flowers! Roza E. and others gathered in The Center May 7 to plant some seeds that will hopefully grow into beautiful creations!

Rainbow SAGE at The Center June Calendar

The Center is open for adults 50+ Mondays and Tuesdays 11:30am-3pm.
Hot lunch $3. Internet access, billiards. Library open 1-3pm.

June 24: Games Day
June 25: OACC “Party Decorations”. ................................. 1pm
June 18: Conversation: Favorite Summer Memory .................. 1pm
June 17: Picnic at Cobbs Hill Park .................................. 11:30am-3pm
June 16: 0 ACC at The Center
June 10: Pride Planning .................................................... 1pm
June 11: Arthritis Foundation Presentation ........................... 1pm
June 2: June 4: Movie Day ................................................ 1pm
June 4: Games Day ....................................................... 1pm
June 6: Rainbow SAGE at The Center
June 3: Movie Day ....................................................... 1pm

You asked for it, we listened!

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Name:
Answer:
Volunteer Legal Services Project
305 Main St., Suite 200, Rochester, NY 14607
Volunteer Legal Services Project provides legal services to those who cannot afford to hire an attorney. For more information, contact 585-423-2873.

HIV/AIDS
Free testing for HIV exposure is available at several locations across the region. For more information, check the local health department or contact the Rochester Regional Health Services Coalition at 585-454-7520.

Resources
Check our monthly and ongoing calendar as well as the community section for more groups and events. For further information, call 585-545-7520, or visit www.gayalliance.org. And send us your information.

BISEXUALITY RESOURCES
AMOS Los Angeles, American Institute of Bisexuality
Bay Area Bisexual Network, Bi Cafe
Bi Definition: Milwaukee
BiNet USA, Bisexual Organizing Project (BOP),
Bisexual Resource Network, Carnevil - Columbus, Ohio; Dalla
Forth Street Hospital, Pride Group Counseling Program; Los Angeles Bi Task Force; New York Area Bisexual Network, Robin Och's Site; Seattle Bi Girls, Lgbtq+ Writers Association; The Bisexual Resource Center (email brc@bisexualresource.net)

CULTURAL
Rochester Women's Community Chorus
234 Marshall Rd, Rochester, NY 14624
Orchard Street Performing Arts
Gay Men's Chorus of Rochester

DEADLY SINS
Advocacy for Deaf Service Victims
Mailing address: c/o AASD, P.O. Box 20203, Rochester, NY 14602-2023 (www.aasd.org); FAX: (585) 585-2245.

Lgbtq+ Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf (LRAD)
Meets second Saturdays, 6-8pm. For location, information, call 585-585-2245.

Spectrum LGBTQ & Straight Alliance
Contact Information: Website: www.acRochester.org; Toll-Free: 888-962-5063 for pay

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ELDERS
Gay Alliance Rainbow Sage Senior Center
Mon/Tue 11am-3pm, 875 E. Main St, First floor, 244-9460; gayal@rochester.rr.com

FAMILY
CNY Confinity CARE Center
Supportive Care, meetings, workshops, information, call 315-437-CFNC (2362)

Rochester Gay Moms' Group
Support group for lesbian mothers and their families. Information: www.rocgaymoms.org

Lesbian & Gay Family Building Project (LGFBP)
Tel: 585-454-2392, or online at www.andrus.org for more information. A member of the American Public Health Association (APHA) and the National Coalition of LGFBPs.

Planned Parenthood of the Rochester/Syracuse Region
1660 E. Ridge Rd., Rochester, NY 14623; 585-454-6888. Offers confidential HIV testing and counseling. When you make your appointment, be sure to ask about our sliding scale fees. No one is turned away for lack of ability to pay.

Rochester Area Task Force on AIDS
A collection of agencies providing a multiplicity of resources and services to the upstate New York gay community. Tel: 585-454-7520.

MOCHA Center of Rochester
Our mission is to improve health and wellness and to increase the quality of life for people with AIDS. Tel: 585-454-7500.

Monroe County Health Department
855 W. Main St., 3rd floor, Rochester, NY 14607; 585-454-7380.

Rochester Strawberry Festival
4308 Marshall Rd, Rochester, NY 14624; e-mail: LeslieGayFamBldg@aol.com. Web: www.gayalliance.org.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)
PFLAG’s threadd program: supporting parents and family members in coming out of and processing the emotional processes involved in supporting a gay, lesbian or bisexual child. Contact Information: www.pflag.org or call 585-325-2500.

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

Angel Food Ministry
Box of fresh/healthy food for $30 in advance. Members only. For information and distribution sites, call 585-861-4815.

HIV/AIDS
Free testing for HIV exposure is available at several locations across the region. For more information, check the local health department or contact the Rochester Regional Health Services Coalition at 585-454-7520.
MONDAY
L.O.R.A. – Late Bloomers Group
Meets Monday 7pm (6-9pm). Coming out group for women of all ages and backgrounds. Meets weekly on Mondays at 7pm at private location (Group Facilitators: Cathie Timian & Wanda Martineau. For more information and meeting location contact Cathie at cltimian@verizon.net or call 585.313.3037 For more information on L.O.R.A. (Lesbians of Rochester) email: l-o-r-a.com)
Gay Alliance Library & Archives
David Bohnett Cyber Center. Every Monday 6-8pm. First floor, 875 E. Main St. 244-8640
Born That Way
Formerly 3rd Presbyterian LGBT Support Group. First, 3rd and 5th Wednesdays, 11am-12:30pm. 2nd Floor, 34 Meigs Street, 3rd floor, 2nd Floor, Rainbow SAGE www.rascb.org
Support Group for Parents who have lost Children
First, 3rd Wednesdays, 11am-12:30pm, Third Presbyterian Church, 451 West Main St., Geneva Free Eucharist (quiet); 4th Sunday: 5pm Prayers to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. www.empirebears.com
Gay Alliance Board of Directors
Meets Third Wednesdays, 6:30-9pm, 875 E. Main St. 244-8640
New Freedom New Horizons
Gay Men’s AA meeting, Wednesday 3pm, Unitarian Church, 226 Winton Rd. S. First floor, 645-6240 Open discussion.
Support Group for LGBTQs who have lost Children
Meeting begins with a speaker, followed by open discussion. Although it is not specifically a gay-oriented meeting, it is well-attended by people affected by HIV and AIDS.

TUESDAY
L.O.R.A. – Knitters Group
Everyone Welcome! 3rd Tuesday of the Month. 7pm – 9:30pm. Egleston Square Carriage House, 752 South Goodman St. Contact Person: Cathie: 585.313.3037, Email: ctimian@l-o-r-a.com; Website: www.l-o-r-a.com; For more information on L.O.R.A. (Lesbians of Rochester), email: l-o-r-a.com
Gay Alliance Library & Archives, David Bohnett Cyber Center
Free Hepatitis A & B vaccinations, third Tuesdays, 5:30-7pm, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 420-1400; 244-8640
MOCHA Hepatitis Clinic
Free Hepatitis A & B vaccinations, third Tuesdays, 5:30-7pm, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 420-1400
MOCHA Youth Drop-In
Tuesdays, 1-4pm, MOCHA Center, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 420-1400; 244-8640
MOCHA Women’s Community Chorus
Rehearsals each Tuesday, 6:30-9pm, Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 112 Fitchburg Street. 234-4493, mochawcc.org
Gay Alliance Library & Archives, David Bohnett Cyber Center
Free confidential in-Walk testing every Thursday night, 5-8pm, AIDS Care, 259 Monroe Ave. 442-2220
Gay Men’s AA meeting
Thursday evenings, 6-8pm, 3rd Floor, 259 Monroe Ave. 442-2220

THURSDAY
Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns
6:30pm, first Thursday, Ralph, 271-7649
Queer Radical Reading Group
First and third Thursdays, 6pm, Gay Men’s Center, 875 E. Main St., 2nd Floor, 244-8640 x 13. Gay Men’s AA meeting, 6:30-7:30pm. First floor, 875 E. Main St. 244-8640
Empire Bears
Every Wednesday, 6pm dinner at The Vononaire. www.empirebears.com

FRIDAY
Gay Men’s AA meeting
Friday, 5-7pm, Free confidential walk-in HIV testing on 1st floor, 259 Monroe Ave. 442-2220
GLBTQ Motorcycle Group
Social/educational group for gender-variant people. Last Fridays, 3-5pm. GAY/GYV, Center, first floor, 875 E. Main St.
Rochester Rams General Meeting
2nd Wednesdays, 7:30pm, Bacheror Forum, 670 University Ave. www.rochesterrams.com
Brothers Keeper
Support group for men over 50. Third Wednesdays, 5:30-7:30pm, MOCHA Center, 1st Floor.
Gay+ Mixed Men’s Group
Wednesdays, 11:30am-12:30pm. AIDS Care, 259 Monroe Ave. 442-2220
Gay Alliance Youth
Wednesdays, 3:30-7:00pm, Gay Alliance Youth Center, 875 E. Main St. Prince St. entrance, first floor, 244-8640 x 13.
Gay Alliance Library & Archives, David Bohnett Cyber Center
Rochester Rams General Meeting, 2nd Wednesdays, 7:30pm, Bacheror Forum, 670 University Ave. www.rochesterrams.com

SUNDAY
Parents Families of Students and Lesbians And Gay’s (PFLAG)
Third Sundays, 1-3pm, Community Center at the Gay Alliance, first floor, 857 E. Main St. 244-8640; info@pflagjags.org
Gay Alliance Library & Archives
Sunday hours ended.
Rochester General Assembly
Sundays, Plying Squirrel Community Center, 285-Grass St.
Gay Men’s AA meeting
Sunday, 6pm. First Unitarian Church, 220 S. Winton Rd., S. Men and women. Open meeting.
Lilac Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf (LRAD)
2nd Saturdays, 6-9pm, rochosterlorc@comcast.net
Sophia’s Support Club
First and third Saturdays, 2nd Floor, www. inspiritualnutrition.com

Ongoing Calendar
MURDER SPLICE
Delilah Fico, LMSW. For more information, please contact Delilah at 442-2220 or sfico@rochestermurders.org or 985-271-0661 ext. 1552.
Gay Alliance Board of Directors
Meets Third Wednesdays, 6:30pm-9pm, 875 E. Main St. 244-8640
New Freedom New Horizons
Gay Men’s AA meeting, Wednesday 3pm, Unitarian Church, 226 Winton Rd. S. First floor, 244-8640 Open discussion.
Support Group for LGBTQs who have lost Children
Meeting begins with a speaker, followed by open discussion. Although it is not specifically a gay-oriented meeting, it is well-attended by people affected by HIV and AIDS.

SATURDAY
Rochester Rams Bar Night
Third Saturdays, 6pm-9pm, Bacheror Forum, 670 University Ave. 271-6930
Rochester Trans Group
Social/educational group for gender-variant people. Last Saturdays, 6-8pm, First floor, 259 Monroe Ave.
Cross Dresser Support Group
First Saturdays, 6-8pm, call for location. 220 Winton Rd. Men and women. Open.
Gay Men’s AA meeting
Saturday, 6:30pm, First Unitarian Church, 220 S. Winton Rd., S. Men and women. Open meeting.

TUESDAYS
Narcotics Anonymous
6-7:30pm, AIDS and Recovery 1124 Culver Road Community Methodist 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 gay-oriented meeting, it is well-attended by people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, as well as anyone who is affected by HIV and AIDS.

WEDNESDAYS
New Freedom/New Happiness Group
7pm. First Unitarian Church, 220 S. Winton Rd. Bus riders: Take the #1 Park Ave. bus to the corner of East and Winton, then walk five minutes south (uphill) on Winton. This is an open discussion meeting about issues – as they relate to our addiction/alcoholism and recovery – is fair game.

FRIDAYS
Gay Men’s 7:30pm, Immortal Beach Ballroom, 815 Park Ave. Open meeting, closed to alcoholics and addicts
Men’s meeting
Handicapped accessible This is a round-robin discussion meeting. If you have any questions or things you want to bring up, we will try to make sure everyone gets their turn to talk (or pass). As a result, this meeting often runs long, so plan on more than the usual four hours.

Saturdays
Sunday Night Special
7pm. First Unitarian Church, 220 S. Winton Rd. Bus riders: The #18 University Ave. bus does not go by the church on weekend evenings. Take the #1 Park Ave. bus to University Ave., turn left, and walk three blocks (uphill) on Winton. Open meeting, all are welcome, “straight-friendly”
Mixed men and women.
Handicapped accessible, take elevator to basement
Meeting begins with a speaker, followed by open discussion.

SUNDAYS
Step in the Right Direction
7:30-9pm, 1257 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 gay-oriented meeting, it is well-attended by people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Each week features a reading from NA literature, followed by discussion.
Rochester Gay Men
8pm. St. Luke’s/St. Simon Cyrene Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. Bus riders use the Fitzhugh Street stop on Main Street at the County Office Building and walk south one block.
Closed meeting, restricted to alcoholics and addicts
Men’s meeting
Handicapped accessible Meeting begins with a speaker, followed by open discussion.

ROCHESTER GLBTIQ BIKERS
The #18 University Ave. bus does not go by the church on weekend evenings. Take the #1 Park Ave. bus to University Ave., turn left, and walk three blocks (uphill) on Winton. Open meeting, all are welcome, “straight-friendly”
Mixed men and women.
Handicapped accessible, take elevator to basement
Meeting begins with a speaker, followed by open discussion.
June

SATURDAY 1
Big Gay Prom. Theme: Alice in Wonderland. LGBT youth and allies ages 15-20. 7:30 pm, Cathedral Bistro, Auditorium Center, 875 E. Main St. Information: 244-8464 ext 19.

BUFFALO Dyke March, Allen Street Festival. For information at www.buffalodykefestival.com.

SUNDAY 2

FRIDAY 7
UnHappy Hour. Supporting passage of GENDA. 6-8 pm, 140 Alex Bar & Grill. Trinity, love, entertainment, prizes, drink specials.

SATURDAY 8
Rochester Butch Femme Connect supper club, Max’s Mexican Restaurant in Tops Jefferson Plaza, Henrietta at 7 pm. Call 585-288-7208, email DressyFemme@aol.com or Facebook page at www.facebook.com/bfconnection.

Rochester Women’s Community Chorus concert, “Music of the Night.” 7:30 pm, St. Anne Church, 1600 Mt. Hope Ave. $10 adults, $8 students and seniors, $5 kiddie, infants free. Silent auction starting at 7 pm.

SUNDAY 9
Dignity Integrity. Roman Catholic Liturgy of the Word, with music, 5 pm, St. Luke’s and St. Simon’s Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St.

THURSDAY 13
Out & Equal Second Thursdays Networking. 5:30-7:30 pm, Temple Bar & Grill, 109 East Ave.

FRIDAY 14
Empty Closet deadline for July issue, Pride Guide supplement: 244-9030; susan@gayalliance.org.

SATURDAY 15
Ride Downtown. Simple loop road ride from Fairport to Newark and back, benefiting the Gay Alliance. See our dedicated riders at http://www.gayalliance.org/events/ride/downtown.html and choose a rider to support this year.


Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus concert, “The Rainbow Connection.” Celebrating RGMG’s 30th anniversary, 8 pm, Hochstein. RGMG will be joined onstage by the Buffalo Gay Men’s Chorus, Syracuse Gay and Lesbian Chorus, and Ithaca Gay Men’s Chorus, all of which were inspired by the RGMG.

Rochester Rams bar night. Ink and Metal Night. 9 pm-2 am, Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave.

SUNDAY 16
Dignity Integrity, Quiet Episcopal Mass, chapter dinner. 5 pm. St. Luke’s and Simon’s Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St.

MONDAY 17
Water Street Music Hall benefit for GAGV. Randall Shreve and the Sidehose perform benefit concert for Gay Alliance. Doors open 7 pm; show starts 8 pm. Ticket $10 on sale at http://www.waterstreetmusic.com or Equal grounds (cash only). “It’s a rock ‘n’ roll carnival day.”

“Times There really isn’t another band that I can compare to Randall Shreve and this is something that makes them a band to know.” —prowcrocks.com.

FRIDAY 21
Summer solstice

SATURDAY 22
Rochester Butch Femme Connection supper club, Peppermints Restaurant on West Henrietta Rd (Res. 15) in Henrietta at 7 pm. Call 585-288-7208, email DressyFemme@aol.com or Facebook page at www.facebook.com/bfconnection.

SUNDAY 23
Dignity Integrity. Evening Prayer, followed by a potluck dinner: “Summer salads.” 5 pm, St. Luke’s and St. Simon’s Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St.

FRIDAY 28
Dignity Integrity Garage Sale, Also June 29, Call the hotline at 585-234-5092 if you have items to donate. See website for location.


— Classifieds

**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, 875 E. Main Street, Suite 500, Rochester, New York 14605.

**Paying by check:** checks must be made out to Gay Alliance. The deadline is the 15th of the month, for the following month’s issue. We cannot accept ads over the phone. Pay when you place your ad. We will accept only ads accompanied by name and phone number. Neither will we be able to verify phone number.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Children’s Ministry thriving at Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church for toddlers to tweens. Join us for vibrant, inclusive, progressive worship on Sundays at 10:30am. 740 Marshall Road off Chili Avenue. info@openarmsmcc.org (585) 271-8478.

**PERSONALS**

Single GWM adult seeks friendship with other adult-aged males. Please call 585-732-7840 any time 24/7. Let’s talk.

Male partner wanted. I like chess, go, gym, bowling movies, horror movies. 1 am 34 years old, clean-shaven and handsome. Serious replies only. Write to: Cedarwood (34 years old, clean-shaven and handsome). I like chess, go, gym, bowling movies, horror movies. I am 34 years old, clean-shaven and handsome. Serious replies only. Write to: Cedarwood (34 years old, clean-shaven and handsome). I like chess, go, gym, bowling movies, horror movies.

**SERVICES**

Main to Man Rhubadon. Relish with this experienced, fit, healthy, middle-aged, non-smoking GWM. Central location. Private home. Incahill@bouzcall. Reasonable rates. cell 585-773-2410 or home 585-235-6688 or email: magichands@rochester.rr.com

Wedding Space and clergy services available. Celebrate your special day at Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church 740 Marshall Rd. off Chili Ave. info@openarmsmcc.org (585) 271-8478.

Handyman: Simple repairs or full renovations, no job is too big or small. Carpentry, Plumbing, Electrical, Interior & Exterior. 35 years experience. Call Alan & Bill 585-204-0632 or cell 304-517-6832.

Have to paint or clean gutters? I have tall ladders! Dale’s Pleasure Painting and Gutter Cleaning has very reasonable rates for painting year-round and gutter cleaning in the spring or fall. 585-576-5042. Dale@durelong.com.

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JUNE 2013 • NUMBER 468 • GAY ALLIANCE OF THE GENESEE VALLEY • THE EMPTY CLOSET

June 2013

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Rochester, New York
875 E. Main Street, Suite 500

by the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley

The Empty Closet is published by the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley
875 E. Main Street, Suite 102
Rochester, New York 14602
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Advertising policy:
The Empty Closet does not print advertisements that contain nude drawings or photographs, nor does it print advertisements that suggest the commercialization of sex. For sale, or that you will "get" that particular person if you patronize the establishment advertised. Advertisements that are explicitly racist, sexist, adult, adultish or homo-photographs will be released, advertisements from organizations that are sexist, racist, adult, icon or anti-gay will also be released. All political advertisements must contain information about who placed them and a method of contact. Additionally, The Empty Closet does not print negative or "attack" advertisements, whether they relate to a product or politics and no matter in whose interest the ad is being produced. A negative advertisement is defined as one that focuses upon one’s dispossess in the political arena, or focuses upon a person or organization's faults and oversights or uses fallacy and sarcasm to discrediting an article. The purpose of the publication is to maintain a middle position between the extremes of the political system. The publication is not intended to present all viewpoints in a way that takes into consideration the views of all - women, men, people of color, young and old, and those from various walks of life.

Letters to the editor:
The opinions of columnists, editorial writers and other contributing writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the collective attitude of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley or the Empty Closet. The Empty Closet shall not be liable for any loss or expense that results from the publication (whether correctly or incorrectly) or omission of a news item in the event of non-payment, no supporting information should be submitted. The publication of the name or photograph of any person or organization in articles is not an indication of the views or affiliation orientation of the person or the members of that organization. For further information, please write to: The Empty Closet, 875 E. Main St., Rochester, NY 14605; call (585) 244-9030 or e-mail emptycloset@gagv.us.

Submissions:
For publication, submit news items, ads, photos, letters, stories, poetry, art, photographs or art in any form in person or by mail to: The Empty Closet office by the 15th of the month. Design services for non-camera ready ads are available for a fee. (www.emptycloset@gagv.us)

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ARTICLES

Gay Rights - Part II

by Greg Fox

Rudy... I Baked You Some of My Oatmeal-Raisin Cookies That You Like... To Take With You

I'D LIKE THAT VERY MUCH, RICHARD.

WE'LL JUST COME VISIT YOU, RUDY.

THERE'S NOTHING HERE TO TELL YOU.

YOU NEEDN'T BOTHER YOURSELF, RUDY.

WE'D BETTER GET IN THE CANCE, RUDY. THEY'RE EXPECTING US AT THE CRESTWOOD HOME.

SEE YA, RUDY.

TAKE CARE, RUDY!

FAREWELL, EVERYONE.

HOLD ON! EH?

RUDY... WHAT DO YOU WANT? THIS IS YOUR LIFE.

AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO ANYWHERE. YOU DON'T WANT TO!

WE'LL JUST STAY RIGHT HERE... WITH US.

LOOK, MISS MACAGGER... KNOW YOU WANT WHO IS BEST FOR YOUR UNCLE, BUT... ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU KNOW HE DOESN'T!

WELL, I THINK SHE HAS A LITTLE CRUSH

ON YOU, BUT... SHE DOESN'T!

SWEETIE, YOU'RE BLUSHING...

PRISONER

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK ALL OF YOU.

IT IS WRONG, BUT WHAT CAN WE DO?

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK ALL OF YOU.

WE'RE GOING TO KEEP IN TOUCH... LIKE I OR NOT!

blesse, you, kyle. you didn't have to go to the trouble.

I WOULD LIKE THAT, VERY MUCH, RICHARD.

WE DO NOT HAVE TO GO TO THE TROUBLE.

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK ALL OF YOU... BUT I HAVE.

web site - www.kylecomics.com

E-Mail: kyle@kyle.com

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• A positive result with this test does not mean that you are definitely infected with HIV, but rather that additional testing should be done in a medical setting.
• A negative result with this test does not mean that you are definitely not infected with HIV, particularly when exposure may have been within the previous 3 months. • If your test is negative and you engage in activities that put you at risk for HIV on a regular basis, you should test regularly.
• This product should not be used to make decisions on behavior that may put you at increased risk for HIV.