Gay Alliance to host annual meeting Nov. 20

The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley will hold its annual meeting on Nov. 20 at 6 p.m. at MVP Health Care, 220 Alexander St. For more information call 244-8640.

Contents

Editorials .................................................. 2
Local/State News ........................................ 4
National/International News ....................... 4
Interview: Legal aid/Deaf issues ............... 7
Opinion .................................................. 10
Shoulders To Stand On ......................... 21
Columns ............................................... 22
Community .......................................... 25
Entertainment: ImageOut ................. 27
Gay Alliance: Volunteer appreciation .... 30
Calendar ........................................... 34
Classifieds ........................................ 34
Comics ........................................... 35
Proud Publisher of New York State's Oldest LGBT Newspaper

It's a wrap Page 27

Candidates to Watch

ROCHESTER MAYORAL ELECTION, NOVEMBER 5, 2013

Alex White
Candidate for Mayor of Rochester

By Susan Jordan

Alex White is running for Mayor of Rochester on the Green Party ticket. He is a strong supporter of LGBT rights. He told The Empty Closet, “I’ve been to rallies, have marched in the Pride Parade and wrote an article in support of the marriage act and how business owners should support it.” The Green Party feels we should have equal rights for all.

White himself owns a small business and he believes that backing LGBT rights is good for businesses like his and for the local economy. If elected, White says he would not appoint an LGBT community liaison – he would ask the LGBT community to appoint someone and he would accept whoever that person was.

“That’s the big difference here,” he said. “I know there are people in the LGBT community who know their issues and I want them to educate me.” He feels that his opponent, Democratic Party primary winner Lovely Warren, has a history of being against marriage equality and gay rights in general. “At the first Democrat Committee meeting,” he said, “she was asked about DOMA and she came up pretty much against repealing it.

How can a third party candidate win in our two-party political system? White responds that the race for mayor of Rochester is not a three-party race, since no Republican candidate is involved. “We’re the only party,” he said. “We’re the second party in this race! Our strategy is to let all the community groups oppose Lovely Warren and David Gantt know that we will support them. That would include labor, the LGBT community and a lot of the neighborhood development groups.”

White feels that the current administration has disappointed many neighborhood groups. He said, “When Bill Johnson left office, he left with the Neighborhoods Helping Neighborhoods program intact. Duffy turned it into Neighbors Helping the City. Membership has declined. The city now charges political groups and others $75 to hold a block party. If we’re in my neighborhood wanted to have an Averill/Clinton block party, we’d have to pay $75. I feel all of these groups would benefit from a Green Party/Alex White administration. Lovely Warren voted $20 million for the marina project and I don’t know how that helps anyone.”

“I’ve been to rallies, have marched in the Pride Parade and wrote an article in support of the marriage act and how business owners should support it. The Green Party feels we should have equal rights for all.”

White continues page 3

Lovely Warren
Candidate for Mayor of Rochester

By Susan Jordan

Lovely Warren is president of Rochester City Council and is the Democratic nominee for mayor. At the Rainbow Flag Raising last July she told the crowd that she has moved beyond her former disagreement of LGBT people.

She told The Empty Closet in October, “Watching Shoulders To Stand On I thought that I grew up in a world where I did not have the privilege of interacting with gay and lesbian people before I went to college. I don’t believe the government or anyone should tell people who to love. With gay marriage I believe I had to grow into my thinking and expand.”

“I mentored a young woman in high school, her relationships with men were really rocky. She started to date a woman and before my eyes she started to grow and blossom. She went on to college because her partner encouraged her and believed in her. I had to examine my own beliefs and ask myself if I was being discriminatory in my own thinking. I had a heart-to-heart with a young man also and they opened my eyes and showed me how I was being a barrier to progress. I don’t want that to happen. I believe everybody should be treated equally.”

“I had to examine my own beliefs and ask myself if I was being discriminatory in my own thinking. I had a heart-to-heart with a young man also and they opened my eyes and showed me how I was being a barrier to progress. I don’t want that to happen. I believe everybody should be treated equally.”

White continues page 3

Warren added that she has spoken with a trans woman who changed her understanding of gender issues as well. “I met a trans woman through my legislative office,” she said. “We talked for many hours and she said she had started the process of transition, but the government would not allow her to take the extra step. I wondered, ‘How could you stand in the way emotionally and cause pain to someone?’ I clearly understood the toll it takes on a person to be in a body where they don’t feel whole.”

At the Pride flag-rasing in July, Mayor Tom Richards and City Council member Matt Haag announced the appointment of a City Hall LGBT liaison, Molly Clifford. When asked if she would keep Molly Clifford on in the post, or possibly appoint a different liaison, Lovely Warren replied, “I’ll definitely make sure we have an LGBT liaison. It’s important to have someone representing every portion of the community. It was a great initiative that Mayor Richards and Councilmember Haag announced and I look forward to carrying it on.”

(Warren continues page 3)
GAY ALLIANCE OF THE GENESEE VALLEY Perspectives

The Empty Closet Editor

Susan Jordan

GAY Alliance Executive Director

Scott Fearing

The Empty Closet Editor

Susan Jordan

GAY Alliance Executive Director

Scott Fearing

Hard times for satirists

"Saying that they needed to be in peak physical condition for their looming effort to defund Obamacare, over a hundred House Republicans lined up for their free annual physicals today..." Rep. Cantor added that he had lost a few pounds since last year's free annual physical, as he headed to lunch before defunding food stamps."


Last month it became clear that these are hard times for satirists; reality was a satire already. Andy Borowitz did pretty well, though. Jon Stewart got in some digs at Faux News for its "reporting" on the shutdown: "How bad can it be if it doesn't personally affect Sean Hannity?" Michele Bachmann is definitely a satire already. She equates government-funded healthcare with crack cocaine addiction. Yeah people love that healthcare stuff, but maybe they should break their out-of-control addiction to seeing their doctors and getting all that medication they can't afford, and do the Right thing—just lie down and die.

Some of the news was hard to laugh at. The thought of kids going hungry without food stamps, while Teapublicans stuffed their faces at the latest hundred-thousand-dollar-a-plate anti-Obama fundraiser, is not funny. Then there are the mothers of newborns who depend on WIC, for infant formula. Let them eat cake! The 26 states with the highest concentrations of poverty have rejected the healthcare expansion funding; they are home to 68 percent of poor, uninsured blacks and single mothers and 60 percent of the working poor. Community? Forget Head Start, kids. Also, at the National Institutes of Health, nearly three-quarters of the staff was furloughed. One result: director Francis Collins said about 200 patients who otherwise would be admitted to the NIH Clinical Center into clinical trials each week were turned away. This includes about 30 children, most of them cancer patients, he said.

But brave Teapublicans rose up against the evil social fascist Obama plot to provide affordable health coverage to everyone! Oh wait, that’s our turn now, we’re just going to default... or no we’re not... et, never mind... Whatever. But even though our national parks were shut down, a dozen of them still remained open for gas drilling and mining. Thank God our multinatinal corpora-tion-persons didn’t lose money! Let’s turn to the sports pages. At least they are always a relief from the news. Hmmmm... the International Olympic Commit-tee (IOC) says there’s nothing bad happening to gays in Russia, and even if there is, they have no control over what Olympic host countries decide to do to their citizens, as if it doesn’t con-travene the Olympic Charter. Wait — isn’t that what they said when they rejected a boycott of Hitler’s Germany hosting the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games? Well, yes, but the IOC marketing people and corporate spon-sors don’t want any distractions from the TV ads next February. Maybe we’d better forget about the news and concentrate on the important things in life—if we can remember what they are.

Building Community

In the documentary film “Shoulders to Stand On,” Whit-ney LeBlanc, one of the founders of the GAY Alliance, explains that our main task is carefully and purposefully chosen as a statement about our mission. “...Alliance was created to signify different community groups coming together,” he explained. From the beginning the Gay Alliance was meant to give us a strong, unified voice and a broad Rochester presence. That desire to speak with a common voice remains a critical part of the work we do. How-ever, we know that we are not experts on every LGBT identity and experience, so we work hard to understand the breadth and depth of our communities. To remain as inclusive as possible we strive to be an active part of Rochester’s LGBT efforts and the ever-changing landscape of LGBT realities. We work to retain the strongest voice for the LGBT Communities in Rochester.

That said, we often call upon our community partners to bring their unique voices to the discussion. It is not uncom-mon for the GAY Alliance to get a call from a media outlet, asking us to look for information about an LGBT issue, and we will quickly send them to talk with MOCHA, ImageOut, Trillium, Open Arms, Victory Alliance, Planned Parenthood, NLYLU, or any of the dozens of other partners that we regularly work in alliance with. "Shoulders to Stand On" was also an important reminder that we have come a long way since the days when being "a homo-sexual" meant that you were sick. No longer are we relegated to the doctor’s office, therapist’s couch or the asylum for being who we are. Being LGBT does not require medical experts, but instead requires us to be community experts.

The community building lessons that come from watching “Shoulders to Stand On” are many and are a reminder to us, as an organization and as indi-viduals, of the importance of being fully engaged.

Get Kinky

As you may have already heard, the Gay Alliance is work-ing to increase the number of Sustaining Members that we have. That is kinkily about that.

We are running a Kiss Incentive. If you become a Sus-taining Member between now and the end of the calendar year, your name will be entered to win a pair of free tickets to see “Kinky Boobs,” the hottest show on Broadway.

Sustaining membership is the easiest way to support the Gay Alliance. Rather than trying to remember to send in a check or waiting for us to call you, simply arrange for your monthly gift to automatically come out of your bank account (or be charged to your credit card).

For as little as $5 a month you can become a sustaining member of the important work that the Gay Alliance does for LGBT people everywhere. You can call us (585-244-8640), email us (donor@gayalliance.org), or go directly to our website to show your support. If you complete the online donation form, we will send you buttons that say FREQUENCY and AMOUNT. And who knows, maybe you will be the lucky one to win a pair of tickets to “Kinky Boobs.”

Name
Address
City/State/Zip
Phone
E-mail

Membership Levels:

- $100 Advocate
- $100-999 Champion
- $1,000-4,999 Triangle Club
- $5,000+ Stonewall

- Check enclosed in the amount of ________
- (check #________)

- Please charge my credit card in the amount of ________
- To: American Express, Discover, MasterCard, Visa
- Credit Card #________
- Exp. Date
- I would be proud to have my donation publicly acknowledged.
- Please provide me Rainbow SAGA program news (age 50 & over).

Benefits includes: Subscription to The Empty Closet mailed to home or work, plus privileges at each level. Phone: 585-244-8640, or mail to: Gay Alliance, 875 E. Main St., Suite 100, Rochester, NY 14606. Home delivery of The Empty Closet is free with your annual membership in the Gay Alliance.
**Abby Wambach marries longtime girlfriend Sarah Huffman in Hawaii**

Abby Wambach of the U.S. women's national soccer team and New York Flash married her longtime girlfriend Sarah Huffman in Hawaii over the weekend.

The ceremony took place on the beach at sunset in front of the couple’s closest family and friends.

Abby Wambach said on Nov. 10, “I am so happy and I wanted to thank everyone for all the love and support. We couldn’t be happier. What an amazing week it’s been, #honeymoon.”

Until Oct. 16, Wambach had never spoken publicly about her sexual orientation. Huffman came out earlier this year with an announcement in support of Athlete Ally.

Cyd Zeigler, the co-founder of Outsports.com, told the Windy City Times that Wambach’s coming out, though not a shocker, certainly is a “big deal.”

Brandi Chastain, a teammate of Wambach’s on the USA’s 2003 World Cup team, told USA Today that she’s thrilled for the couple. “I knew about Abby’s engagement, I played with Abby for years,” Chastain said. “I’m very happy for her like I am for all my teammates and friends who get to experience that love that goes along with getting married. I’m thrilled for her.”

**Gays call out gay Dems, including NY’s Maloney, for voting with GOP on shutdown**

Bioceramic Arizona Rep. Kyrsten Sinema and gay New York Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, both Democrats, voted with House GOP to shut down the government and are being taken to task by LGBT advocates for doing so, the Washington Blade reports.

“I strongly support the president’s decision to close government offices without “being punished” for failing to purchase adequate healthcare coverage,” Maloney’s office defended his votes by saying that the “interagency review” is underway. But the Blade’s report says that after the SHHS offices closed because of the government shutdown, “government employees, including those in the SHHS, were allowed to access the government computer system in order to check the status of the next scheduled paycheck.”

**Self Made Men to host Transgender Day of Remembrance**

The Self Made Men group is hosting a Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil on Nov. 20.

The event is 7 p.m. at the entertainment center, Kitsch Village Apartments across from MCL. All are welcome.

For more information on TDOR events, see Opinion, page 15 and Calendar, page 54.

**Trans Community Forum is set for Nov. 12 at Trillium**

Trans* World Today: A Community Forum will take place today at 7:30 p.m. at Trillium, 295 Monro Ave.

A group of experts will address the current status of healthcare, employment, civil rights and more as they consider best practices for creating a trans-friendly space.
An excited Newark mayor and now Senator-elect Cory Booker married seven gay couples on Oct. 21 at midnight:

"It is officially past midnight, marriage is now equal in New Jersey," Booker said to applause and cheers.

Booker, who had never officiated a wedding since becoming Newark mayor in 2006, called the occasion one of "the greatest privileges and honors" and "one of the most magical moments" of his life. Booker officiated the weddings inside the rotunda at Newark City Hall. Each couple also took turns cutting cake.

Following the Oct. 21 marriages of same-sex couples in New Jersey, Governor Chris Christie announced that morning that he would no longer appeal the lower court ruling guaranteeing the freedom to marry.

Evan Wolfson, founder and president of Freedom to Marry, released the following statement: "At long last, the freedom to marry is now permanently law of the land in New Jersey. The marriages of loving, committed couples throughout the Garden State, combined with Governor Christie's withdrawal of his appeal, is joyous news to New Jerseyans, both gay and non-gay. The momentum continues to build nationwide and we are working hard to deliver victories in Hawaii, Illinois and New Mexico yet in 2013."

Rev. Tom Pivinski, a retired Catholic priest, married three couples on Oct. 21 in Lambertville, NJ. The couple had been together for 27 years.

FOX29 reports:

Asaro, a City Councilwoman and Schaley, a registered nurse were legally married in New York. They also had a civil union ceremony in Lambertville in 2007, but on Oct. 21 they made it official.

The town's mayor performed the historic ceremony, fitting for a town that has one of the largest percentages of gay and lesbian couples.

"I'm a 75 year old heterosexual male. I took it for granted for growing up I can get married and have a family, you know now Beth and Joanne can have the same dreams and aspirations and heartbreak, but it's full citizenship," Lambertville Mayor Dave DiezWecuio said.

In addition to the midnight weddings in Lambertville and those officiated by Cory Booker in Newark, three gay couples were married shortly after the clock struck 12 on the steps of the Paramount Theater at the beautiful plaza in the Jersey Shore town of Asbury Park. Reverend Tom Pivinski, a retired Catholic priest, officiated the weddings.

Read more: http://www.towleroad.com/8tzz2mV6hW9

A New Jersey judge had ruled that same-sex couples must be allowed to marry in order to obtain equal protection under the state constitution and ordered them to begin by Oct. 21.

New Jersey is the 14th state (plus D.C.) with marriage equality.

In a summary judgment issued Sept. 27, Judge Mary Jacobson said that the federal government recognizes gay marriage, and not doing so in New Jersey would violate the state constitution.

Judge Jacobson granted a summary judgment requested by Garden State Equality, which had claimed that the U.S. Supreme Court's rejection of the federal Defense of Marriage Act meant that same-sex couples in civil unions in New Jersey were being denied equal protection.

NJ.com reports: "The gay rights groups Garden State Equality and Lambda Legal had argued that after the U.S. Supreme Court extended more than 1,000 tax and inheritance benefits to same-sex couples in June, New Jersey was left behind with sequels-class civil unions. Jacobson, the head judge in Mercer County, agreed."

"The ineligibility of same-sex couples for federal benefits is currently harming same-sex couples in New Jersey in a wide range of contexts," she wrote.

For example, the judge said, "Civil union partners who are federal employees living in New Jersey are ineligible for marital rights with regard to the federal pension system, all civil union partners who are employees working for businesses to which the Family and Medical Leave Act applies may not rely on any family protections for spouses, and civil union couples may not access the federal tax benefits that married couples enjoy."

Jacobson was asked to square the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in June striking down the Defense of Marriage Act with New Jersey's own legal precedents.

**National Gay and Lesbian Task Force**

"This is a significant victory for same-sex couples in New Jersey. The state's motto is 'Liberty and Prosperity.' Now lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender couples will get the chance to experience the ideas behind the motto through the freedom to marry. We applaud Garden State Equality, New Jersey United for Marriage, ACLU and Lambda Legal on today's victory. We'll celebrate today, and tomorrow we will continue the hard work of changing legislators' hearts and minds until the freedom to marry is guaranteed for all New Jerseyans," said Rea Carey, Executive Director, National Lesbian and Gay Task Force.

**Human Rights Campaign**

"Civil unions are separate and unequal. Particularly in light of gay couples being married in this year's historic Supreme Court term," said Human Rights Campaign (HRC) president Chad Griffin. "These are all rational arguments why couples in New Jersey should be relegated to second class status. State officials should not appeal this sound decision and no longer stand in the way of loving couples being able to make a lifelong commitment with full state and federal recognition."

ACLU

"This is a great day for all of New Jersey. The court has recognized the love and commitment that same-sex couples share is no different from anyone else’s," said Udi Ofer, executive director of the ACLU of New Jersey. "The U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Windsor to strike down the Defense of Marriage Act made it clear that civil unions discriminate against same-sex New Jersey couples. Today's decision leaves no doubt that only the freedom to marry provides the equality that same-sex families deserve. We encourage the state to respect the court's decision and to not further prolong the very same-sex couples in New Jersey as soon as possible."

"The court got it exactly right. Civil unions aren't marriage, and they aren't equal," said James Esseks, director of the ACLU Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Project. "No married couple would trade the word 'marriage' for the words 'civil union.' But while we praise today's ruling, committed same-sex couples shouldn't have to wait for the courts. The legislature should grant them the freedom to marry now."
Harvey Milk

Harvey Milk will be first gay on postage stamp

Even in death, Harvey Milk is still achieving firsts. The old anti-gay Post Office will add a LGBT rights icon will become the first openly gay person to be featured on a US postage stamp. The US Postal Service confirmed on Oct. 10 that the stamp will be issued sometime next year.

"Another first!" the honoree's nephew, Stuart Milk, stated on the Facebook page of The Harvey Milk Foundation. "My deep gratitude to everyone that supported this effort!" Milk became the first openly gay person to be elected to public office in California when he won a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977.

"Milk was only in office for 11 months but was responsible for passing a string of gay rights ordinances for the city. On 27 November in 1978, Milk and Mayor George Moscone were killed by Dan White, another city supervisor who had recently resigned."

His story was told in his 2008 film Milk which won Academy Awards for Sean Penn (best actor) and screenwriter Dustin Lance Black.

-See more at: http://www.gaystarnews.com/article/slaint-lgbt-heroes-honored-us-postage-stamp10101#theshit.3U5EH4X.dpuf

Exxon Mobil will now give benefits to LGBT employees

On Sept. 27, in response to mounting legal pressure from the national LGBT organization Freedom to Work, as well as new Labor Department guidance stemming from the Supreme Court's marriage equality decision, Exxon-Mobil announced that they would be updating their employee benefits policy to include legal protection for same-sex couples.

"Today is a victory for the freedom to work. After years of stubbornly refusing to change, we commend Exxon for joining the majority of the Fortune 500 business leaders that already treat gay and lesbian married couples equally under employee benefit plans," said Tito Almeida, founder and president of Freedom to Work. "It's a shame Exxon waited until after the Labor Department issued official guidance explaining that their old policy does not comply with American law, and now it's time to move forward.

"It's time for Exxon to stop wasting its shareholders' money by running up legal bills on discrimination proceedings that can be settled right away if the corpora
tion would simply add LGBT protections to Exxon's official equal employment opportunity document," added Almeida.

"We'd like to begin settlement talks next week in our Illinois lawsuit stemming from evidence that Exxon gave hiring preference to a lesser qualified straight applicant over a more qualified lesbian applicant."

The news comes after Freedom to Work brought a legal complaint earlier this year against Exxon-Mobil, after the organization, in cooperation with the experts at the Equal Rights Center, sent nearly identical resumes to Exxon's office in Petara, Illinois, and Exxon gave hiring preference to a lesser qualified straight applicant over a more qualified lesbian-identified applicant.

Exxon Mobil is the nation's most profitable corporation, and has been singled out by the Human Rights Campaign as the only corporation ever to receive a negative score (25) on a standardized rating from zero to 100. Freedom to Work chose to bring this case in Illinois, as the State outlawed sexual orientation discrimination in 2006, while other states, like Texas, where the organization also found evidence of Exxon's anti-LGBT hiring discrimination, have no such law.

Kuwait readies "gay-detectors" to keep LGBTs out of the country

Not that anyone would ever think of Kuwait as the ideal destination for a laver
der holiday, but the country wants to make sure that you don't get the chance to visit at all. The government is planning to screen people entering the country to make sure that they are not LGBT.

"Health centers conduct the routine medical check that the health center wants to keep them and the healh center says that the health card is not valid if the person is not LGBT," the Kuwaiti health minister, said. "However, we will take stricter measures that will help us detect gay men who will then be barred from entering Kuwait or any of the GCC (Gulf Cooperation countries)," Yousef Mardar, director of public health at the Kuwaiti health ministry, said.

"We will be more stringent in our enforcement and we are considering medical tests in the future," said Al-Kassem. "We will also keep a list of individuals who have been barred from entering Kuwait to ensure that they do not enter illegally in the future."

Kuwait criminals homosexuality, with a penalty of up to ten years in pris on. The country has conducted ongoing campaigns against the LGBT commu nity, arresting LGBT teens and trans citizens.

-Querrey

Antigay forces fail to repeal San Antonio non-discrimination

Anti-gay forces in San Antonio have failed to gather the required signatures needed to place a repeal of the newly passed LGBT non-discrimination bill on the public ballot.

Pastor Gerald Ripley, a petition leader, estimated the group collected about 20,000 signatures, well below the required 61,046, or 14 percent of eligible vote ers.

The council approved the ordinance last month after lengthy debate about its protections for lesbians, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Religious conserva tives claimed it would restrict their rights of free speech and conscience, and a coal ition of more than 50 churches and min istries launched a petition drive to force it to a referendum.

Not all churches opposed to the ordi nance joined in, Ripley acknowledged. He said the city rules allowed for more time and if he had reached out more proactively to non-gay churches, it might be aren't detailed.

San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro feared the failure.

"Tim glad people can move on from divisive attempts to undo an ordinance that was always commonsense about treat ing everybody the same," Castro said.

On Sept. 5 San Antonio City Council passed the controversial ordinance that prevents discrimination against the lesbians, gay, bisexual and transgender community. Opponents promised to fight to repeal it. Ripley decided to build a website. A total of 53 churches from across the city officially registered on the site in order to collect petition signatures.

"Interestingly, no Catholic churches took part in the repeal drive.

Did NOM leader violate U.S. law in Russia?

National Organization for Marriage (NOM) President Brian Brown made a secret trip to Russia in June to meet with anti-gay politicians in Russia. Joined by five French-Catholic anti-gay activ ists, Brown advocated for legislation that would ban gay foreigners, including gay Americans, from adopting Russian children.

"However, doing so may have been a violation of U.S. law.

Fred Karger, President of Rights Equal Rights has written to Secretary of State John Kerry and Attorney General Eric Holder asking them to investigate whether Brown and his trip violated the Logan Act. Passed in 1799 and amended as recently as 1994, the Logan Act is a "federal statu te making it a crime for a citizen to con fer with foreign governments against the interests of the United States:"

"Any citizen of the United States, when he may be, who, without authority of the United States, directly or indirectly commences or carries on any correspon
dence or intercourse with any foreign gov ernment or any officer or agent thereof, with intent to influence the measures or conduct of any foreign government or of any officer or agent thereof, in relation to any disputes or controversies with the United States, or to defeat the measures of the United States, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than three years, or both."

"Right now you're having the fight about adoption, but the adoption issue is indivisible from the marriage issue. If you don't defend your values now, I'm afraid we're going to see very negative develop ments in the world."

Five days after Brown gave a "remark able speech" in the Russian Duma, that same body passed a bill that banned gay couples and single parents in countries that allow gay marriage from adopting Russian children.

It is unclear at this time whether Sec retary Kerry or Attorney General Holder will investigate Brown's trip and if so whether they will level charges against him. Rightwing extremist Scott Lively is being sued in a Mass. court by gay Ug anders for crimes against humanity, for his promotion of the "death to gays" law in Uganda.

Baryshnikov blasts Russia on oppression of gay citizens

By Andrew Potts on gaystarnews.com

Mikhail Baryshnikov, former prin cipal dancer with Russia's Kirov Ballet, has blasted his former homeland over its treatment of LGBT people in a statement released by the No More Fear Founda
tion.

"My life has been immensely enriched by gay mentors, colleagues and friends and any discrimination and persecution of gay people is unacceptable," the 63-year old dancer and actor wrote.

"Equal treatment of people is a basic right and it is sad that we still have to even speak about this in the 21st century."

"I salute the [the] No More Fear Founda
tion for stepping in so quickly to provide the much needed assistance to gay and lesbian people who are fleeing prosecu tion in [Russia] and helping them lead a peaceful life in their new country.

"The New York based No More Fear Foundation is a non-profit organiza
tion whose members of the New York City legal, financial, busi ness and entertainment communities that provide a lifeline to resettlement services to LGBT Russian individuals, couples and their families seeking refuge and asylum in the United States.

"Russia has passed a law banning the so-called propaganda of homosexuals to minors which effectively outlaws any pub lic positive action or expression around gay and lesbian issues."

-Baryshnikov continued page 6-
Planning debates, and channel 13 was 10 and the Regional Design Center were many people say to me, ’I agree with Democratic box. I can’t tell you how ter. It’s not that anything we propose is try to put everything up. I’m constantly Facebook sites as well,” White said. “We have better connections in the commu- nities that are being taken over by than the last Republican who ran. We have more of those low-skilled people. If 10 small businesses hire someone, that’s 100 jobs.”

Local and State (Trans continues from page 3) change as self-advocates and allies. The event is presented by the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley. Co-hosts include Pride at Work AFL-CIO, Tril- lium Health, Rochester Trans Group, MOCHA Center, Genesee Valley Gender Variants and The Self Made Men. ASL Interpreting services will be available.

Transgender Legal Defense partners with Rochester law firm Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund, Inc. in NY has partnered with pro bono attorneys at Nixon Peabody here in Rochester. Trans folks interested in changing their names in Monroe County can con- tact the Fund in NY to provide some preliminary information and then they will be paired with an attorney in Rochester who will help them through the legal process, free of charge.

Transgender Legal Defense & Educa- tion Fund, Inc, 151 West 19th St., Suite 1103, New York, NY 10011; 466.462.9396; fax 914.920.4057; email: cmather@transgenderlegal.org; website: transgenderlegal.org.

For more information on free legal help see the interview with Julia Hall of the Empire Justice Center on Page 7. Vol- unteer Legal Services Project offers free legal services for low low income people seeking name change. (232-3051).

National and International (Baryshnikov continued from page 5) Liberties and their rights, and there have been a series of homophobic murders and attacks on LGBT people in the Rus- sian federation.

Baryshnikov, born to Russian parents in Larvia, defected from the Soviet Union to Canada in 1975.


New Quinipiac poll: most American Catholics back marriage equality

Another poll has revealed how out of touch the Catholic leadership is with their congregants.

A majority of Catholics in the United States support same-sex marriage and the ordination of women to the priesthood, according to a Quinipiac University survey released Oct. 4. The survey found that 56 percent of Americans, 55 percent of Carhols who attend Mass weekly, and 65 percent of Catholchs who attend Mass less frequently would support “a law in your state that would allow same-sex couples to get mar- ried.” Support was stronger among Catho- lics of ages 18-49 (64 percent) than ages 50-64 (62 percent) or 65+ (46 percent). The survey was conducted among 482 Catholic women back same-sex marriage, while 49 percent of Catholic men do.

Female judge will hold trial on Michigan marriage ban By Sunnivie Brydum at The Advocate

A federal judge has announced that he will hold a trial in February to hear fe- minal arguments for and against allowing same-sex couples to marry in Michigan, reports the Associated Press.

U.S. District Judge Bernard Fried- man surprised attorneys representing the state and a lesbian couple who are seek- ing to adopt one another’s children when he announced that the case will go to trial, since the judge wants to hear from experts about whether there’s a legitimate state interest in denying same-sex couples the right to marry.

“If I could give you a definitive ruling,” Friedman said at an Oct. 16 hearing, according to the AP. “There are fact issues that have to be decided.”

The judge was expected to issue a rul- ing based solely on legal briefs filed and arguments from the attorneys represent- ing the state and the couple but instead announced that the case will go to trial Feb. 25, reports the AP.

The legal challenge was initially filed on behalf of Jayne Rowse, 49, and April DeBoer, 42, a lesbian couple together for eight years who wanted to legally adopt each other’s children, not challenge the state’s constitutional ban on same-sex marriage, which was approved in 2004. But last year Judge Friedman encour- aged the couple to refile their suit to challenge the state’s constitutional amendment, which forbids the state from recognizing any union other than that of one man and one woman as a marriage or similar union for any purpose.

While the federal case in Michigan was debated in February, state lawmakers have already introduced a package of bills to repeal Michigan’s mar- riage amendment and allow the state to recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states.

Cameroon reaches new low in oppression of LGBT people By Joe Morgan on gaystarnews.com

A new gay apartheid in Cameroon has seen LGBT people being openly banned from several public spaces.

In the capital Yaounde, a video taken by gay rights activists shows a bar with the sign “Espace Interdit Aux Homoho- sexuels” (“Gay people banned from this space”).

Eric Lembembe, the manager of the venue, told IPS Television he did “not want to see any more homosexuals in the bar.” He said, “I had to put these signs to limit certain behaviors and I noticed that it worked. This bar is now free of these people.”

Gay rights activists have said Nkou- moyo’s bar is not the only place to explicitly forbid LGBT people from congregat- ing there. But under the Cameroon law, which states homosexuality is illegal and punishable with up to five years, there is little they can do.

Josie Ichimora, Cameroon Minister of Communication, said, “There is neither a state plot, nor a social plot in Cameroon against homosexuals. It should be said loud and clear.”

Serge Douomong, a human rights activist, said while he wants a ban to forbid gay people from public spac- es, the Cameroon government wishes to segregate LGBT people from the rest of society.

The resurgence of a “gay apartheid” comes as a Cameroon official attempted to explain the ban as a measure for “protection of a woman’s body was discovered in his own home in July, with his neck and feet broken and hands and face burned with an iron.”

The attack happened weeks after the renowned gay activist issued a pub- lic warning about the threat posed by homophobia.

Anatole Marie Nkou, Cameroon’s ambassador to the United States

Older from page 3) Neighborhood and neighbors would choose and hire the local unemployed choosing name change. (232-3051).

RDF Property
Solutions, LLC.


www.bodyknead.com

Blackwatch Office Park 6605 Pittsford Palmyra Rd, Suite E-9 Fairport, New York 14450

Call (585) 729-9998. Mention this ad to receive $20 off your initial 1 hour session!

Schedule a massage today. You’ll be glad you did!

BODY KNEAD

MASSAGE THERAPY

Massage is an important therapeutic practice that will leave you feeling better, happier and better able to take on life’s challenges.

Mark Roos, LMT

Photo by Alex Smith

On crime, White said, “Problems are not simple. They are usually no simple solutions. But some times there are. Policing has to do with management. Too many officers have been pulled from patrolling. We just do stop and frisk of black and Hispanic males, which means we aren’t doing our job. Officers have been pulled from patrolling. It’s not that anything we propose is try to put everything up. I’m constantly Facebook sites as well,” White said. “We have better connections in the commu- nities that are being taken over by than the last Republican who ran. We have more of those low-skilled people. If 10 small businesses hire someone, that’s 100 jobs.”

Local and State (Trans continues from page 3) change as self-advocates and allies. The event is presented by the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley. Co-hosts include Pride at Work AFL-CIO, Tril- lium Health, Rochester Trans Group, MOCHA Center, Genesee Valley Gender Variants and The Self Made Men. ASL Interpreting services will be available.

Transgender Legal Defense partners with Rochester law firm Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund, Inc. in NY has partnered with pro bono attorneys at Nixon Peabody here in Rochester. Trans folks interested in changing their names in Monroe County can con- tact the Fund in NY to provide some preliminary information and then they will be paired with an attorney in Rochester who will help them through the legal process, free of charge.

Transgender Legal Defense & Educa- tion Fund, Inc, 151 West 19th St., Suite 1103, New York, NY 10011; 466.462.9396; fax 914.920.4057; email: cmather@transgenderlegal.org; website: transgenderlegal.org.

For more information on free legal help see the interview with Julia Hall of the Empire Justice Center on Page 7. Vol- unteer Legal Services Project offers free legal services for low low income people seeking name change. (232-3051).
at Geneva, claimed the descriptions of the murder as a hate crime and a homophobic murder were “just things that have been made up”. However, He also said “Look at the details of this person’s life and you will understand why he died.”

As the country prosecutes more people for being LGBT than anywhere, it is often described as the worst place in the world to be gay. See more at: http://www.gaystarnews.com/article-new-gay-apartheid-sees-lgbt-openly-banned-cameroon041013#sthash.DDy6r5wJ.dpuf

Greg Louganis marries in Malibu on Oct. 12

People Magazine has the story:


“It was amazing because I have so many people from all facets of my life here tonight and they are all here and celebrating, it is all wonderful.” Louganis told PEOPLE immediately following the sunset ceremony. “I already feel different. The ceremony was so reflective and representative of who we are.”

The recent Splash coach and Chaillot began dating in 2012 after finding each other on the online dating site Match. The ceremony was so reflective and representative of who we are. “Can my Right Honorable Friend the Prime Minister tell us when that pardon will be granted?”

Cameron made the commitment at the weekly Prime Minister’s Questions session when quizzed by openly-gay Liberal Democrat Member of Parliament (MP) Stephen Gilbert. Turing was a mathematics genius who worked as a codebreaker during the war, famously breaking the Enigma Code so the Allies could read Nazi communications. His work shortened the war and he later became known as the father of modern computing and artificial intelligence. But in 1952 he was prosecuted for homosexuality, which was illegal in the UK. He accepted chemical castration as an alternative to prison. But it is believed it contributed to his suicide in 1954. Campaigners have long demanded a pardon for him.

Now the issue has come to the fore again after Speaker of the House of Commons, John Bercow, gave him a posthumous Icon Award at the Attitude Awards (15 October). Gilbert asked at Prime Minister’s Questions on 16 October: “Last night, Mr. Speaker, you presented an Attitude icon Award to the nieces of Alan Turing, the gay world war two code-breaker who helped this country to win world war two.

“The government indicated in July that they would move to give a pardon to Mr. Turing for his conviction for gross indecency which led him to take his own life.

“Can my Right Honorable Friend the Prime Minister tell us when that pardon will be granted?”

Cameron replied, “Let me pay tribute to what Alan Turing and all the people who worked at Bletchley Park did for our country — it was absolutely remarkable and it was crucial in winning the Second World War. Clearly what happened to him was completely wrong and now, looking back, everyone can see that —”

(Gay genius continues page 12)
Qi Flow Acupuncture
Come in, Feel Good
Acupuncture
Cupping & Tui Na Massage
Facial Rejuvenation

Qi Flow Acupuncture
595 Blossom Road, Suite 315
585-205-3211
www.qiflowacupuncture.com

Eric Newberg LAc

25% off first treatment with this ad!

We now have reduced rates if you wish acupuncture in the Group Room.
A magical experience…
Tickets are disappearing fast!

Arts Center | Nazareth COLLEGE

MIKE SUPER MAGIC & ILLUSION
Saturday, November 23, 8 p.m.
Pre-performance VIP meet-and-greet with close-up magic: 6 p.m.*

One audience member will LEVITATE and another will VANISH when Mike Super—magic’s newest celebrity and the only illusionist to win a live magic competition on NBC’s hit show Phenomenon—performs spectacular illusions that have wowed millions worldwide!

Sponsored by the Nazareth College Campus Activities Board, Nancy and Larry Peckham

*$75 VIP event ticket required for admission (includes performance ticket).
Contact the Box Office to order: 585-389-2170. VIP event tickets NOT available online. Space is limited.

Tickets: 585-389-2170 or artscenter.naz.edu
Regular Box Office Hours:
Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.;
11 a.m. until curtain time on performance days.
Subscribe with Five Shows and Save 20%!

Scan our QR code to watch videos, buy tickets, learn about events, and more!

THE ROCHESTER GAY MEN’S CHORUS PRESENTS ITS TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY CONCERT WITH A TWIST!

December 13 and 14, 2013
8 pm
HOECHSTEN PERFORMANCE HALL • 50 NORTH PLYMOUTH AVENUE

Tickets available at:
Parkleigh
Outlandish
Equal Grounds
Online at www.thergmc.org
11. For an overview of the Festival, see p. 27. Photos: Lorraine Woerner-McGowan

Convenient. It feels more like a "It seems very comfortable and cut. Of the Wedge, Scott says, "I lived in that neighborhood when I first came to Rochester. I do a lot of traveling, so when I go to the Market, I feel like I'm home again.

Scott and his partner are not big on going out. "We don't go out much, but when we do it's within walking distance, like Flavors of Asia on Clinton and John's Tex Mex on South Ave. We share cooking – he's the baker."

Scott loves to bike on the trail along the river. "In summer I bike as much as I can. And I like the civil war encampment park. The complete name of my favorite spot on the west side of the river is the Fitz-John Porter Civil War Camp; however, I reiterate my complete allegiance to pacifism," he laughs. "You can sit there and it's right at the bend of the river, so you can see the distant city in one direction but mostly it's the riverbank, with blue herons and ducks, and it's like getting away from the city."

The Jazz Festival is one of Scott's favorite events. He noted, "I like it because it brings a certain density to the people downtown after 5 p.m. The feel of that is pretty great. And I like the variety at the JCC Film Festival, the Labor Film Series at the Dryden and the High Falls Film Festival."

Scott's work was included in this year's ImageArt show, and he is currently in a show at the Memorial Art Gallery. The MAG exhibition is titled "memory theatre 2013" and runs through Dec. 29.

One of his very favorite Rochester things is Wall Therapy, which has created murals all over town. Wall Therapy <http://wall-therapy.com> was initiated by radiologist Dr. Ian Wilson in 2012 as "a public community-level intervention using mural art as a vehicle to address our collective need for inspiration.... The sister initiative, IMPACT, sets up diagnostic imaging sites in developing countries. The connection between art and the medical philanthropy is imagery."

Scott said, "Erich Lehman, who operates 1975 Gallery and is the SMS pre-media facilities coordinator for CIAS at RIT, came on as a curator/co-organizer this year, which brought the project into the South Wedge."

The Lovecraftian squid mural at Stanley Steemer, on South Ave. near Gregory, which is shown in the photos on this page, is by "Bld." About Rochester in general, Scott said, "It can be frustrating at times and conservative in some ways, but Rochester has a tremendous amount to offer for a small city."
VOTE FOR BEEBE: Dick Beebe, candidate for Greece Town Supervisor, with Rochester City Council President and mayoral candidate Lovely Warren, at an October fundraiser. Photo: Bess Watts

SHOULDERS PREMIERE: Kevin Indovino and Evelyn Bailey with Michael Gamilla at the STSO World Premiere on Oct. 12 at The Dryden. Photo: Bess Watts

KINKY BOOTS: The Labor Film Series at the Dryden screened “Kinky Boots.” Above: Bess Watts of Pride at Work with film series organizer Jon Garlock.

BROCKPORT DIVERSITY: Bess Watts, Dr. Jennifer Ratcliff and Anne Tischer at SUNY Brockport's Diversity Conference in October.

FORUM's 40th: The Bachelor Forum celebrated its 40th anniversary with a party on Oct. 6. Above: Owner Peter Mohr with Rochester Mayor Tom Richards.

MORE IMAGEOUT: Filmgoers Yan Li, Fengsu Hou and Vince Silenzio. Photo: Garnetta Ely

Wanda Martinez and Sady Fischer at the STSO premiere. Photo: Bess Watts

Katherine Da Costa and Sara Gale at ImageOut. Photo: Garnetta Ely

Alan Van Camp, Brian Smith and Chris Roesch attend ImageOut at the Little Theatre. Photo: Garnetta Ely

Judith Johnson, Patti Evans and Anne Tischer at the STSO premiere. Photo: Bess Watts

ImageOut: Filmgoers Yan Li, Fengsu Hou and Vince Silenzio. Photo: Garnetta Ely
Gay teenager is science innovator, 60 Minutes says

Jack Andraka, a 16-year-old openly gay wunderkind, has developed a ground-breaking new way to detect the early stages of pancreatic, ovarian, and lung cancer.

An October episode of 60 Minutes featured a fascinating look into the Maryland teen’s journey from small-town science buff to internationally renowned innovator. “This kid is going to revolutionize science, and he knows it,” says Towleroad.com.

Gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) rights activists are lauding Andraka’s achievement, and the 16-year-old has been called a “genius” by a variety of sources.

French mayors may not refuse to perform same sex weddings

France’s Constitutional Council has ruled against seven mayors who demanded to be exempted from performing same-sex marriages.

The Constitutional Council deems that by not providing a provision to allow government officials to assert their disagreement with the dispositions of the May 17, 2013 law and allowing for the application of the law by officers and thus to guarantee proper performance of the State’s public service.

The show of force that police estimated at 3,000 people ran up against the public service.

3,000 rally for Illinois marriage equality

The Chicago Tribune reported on the Oct. 22 March On Springfield.

Gay marriage supporters flocked to the Capitol grounds by the bushload, waving rainbow-colored flags and wearing rain-soaked bridal veils to pressure lawmakers to make Illinois the 15th state to legalize same-sex unions.

The American Constitution protects the right to freedom of speech.

Rev. Hall of National Cathedral: Homophobia, heterosexism are sins

“In its wisdom, the church came to its senses and labeled both racism and sexism as sinful. And now we find ourselves at the last barrier — that barrier that homophobia, call it heterosexism.

“We must now have the courage to take the final step and call homophobia and heterosexism what they are. They sin. Homophobia is a sin. Heterosexism is a sin. A shaming people for whom they love is a sin. Shaming people because their gender identity doesn’t fit neatly into your concept of what it should be is a sin.

“Our job, as Christians, is not only to proclaim that Gospel. Our job is to live it. And if we are faithful in proclaiming and living it, today’s generation of LGBT youth will thrive and grow and take their places around this table, with Jesus, as we bless, forgive, heal, and love the world. Amen.”

Rev. Gary Hall, chief ecclesiastical leader of the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, in a sermon marking the 15th anniversary of the death of Matthew Shepard.

Australian capital district approves marriage equality

The Australian Capital Territory, essentially Australia’s equivalent to Washington, DC, has passed a bill legalizing same-sex marriage, the Canberra Times reported.

To thousand applause from the public gallery, the single-chamber Parliament voted to approve a marriage equality law
Native American men marry in Oklahoma with tribal blessings

In May of this year, two Native American JMG readers married in Michigan at the approval of the Otaawa tribe. And now two gay Native Americans have married in Oklahoma with the blessings of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes.

For the past five years, Jason Pickel has wanted to marry boyfriend Darren Black Bear. The two even planned a trip to Iowa, a state that recognizes same-sex marriage. But when the Supreme Court struck down the Defense of Marriage Act last June, Pickel had an idea. He called the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribe’s courthouse and asked a simple question.

“I was really expecting a flat no,” said Pickel. “I thought we’re on our way to Iowa, but I called the tribe and they said, ‘Yeah come on down, it’s twenty bucks.’” Twenty dollars for what no amount of money could buy in Oklahoma -- a marriage license made legal by the tribal code.

Its requirements are that both people be of Native American descent and live within the tribe’s jurisdiction. Nowhere does it specify gender.

“I do know at the end of the day the state offices won’t recognize it, but they kind of have to,” said Pickel. That’s because on sovereign Indian land, state laws don’t apply, making Jason and Darren the first publicly married same-sex couple in Oklahoma, a milestone he hopes is followed.

Pickel’s happiness is hampered by only one thing. “When we have equality in all 50 states and all U.S. territories, there is when we’ll have true equality. That’s when I will be truly, truly happy.”

(Tipped by JMG reader Brandon)


-JoeMyGod.com

Moldova repeals gay ban in bid to join EU

Moldova has repealed its “gay propaganda” ban as part of its bid to join the European Union.

Pink News reports: Moldovan officials narrowly voted to overturn the law in October with a view to being offered an EU Association Agreement at the Eastern Partnership summit in Vilnius, Lithuania this month.

In similar legislation to recently introduced Russian laws, the Moldovan ban made it illegal to promote “relationships other than those linked to marriage and the family”. The decision to repeal the law was opposed by Moscow, as well as Orthodox Christians in Moldova. “Today they are allowing this propaganda and tomorrow they will allow gay marriages,” Orthodox priest Ghenadie Valuta said.

Radio Free Europe reports that Orthodox Christian activists and dozens of Opposition Communist MPs tried to block the entrance of Moldova’s Palace of the Republic in Chisinau to try to stop the Moldovan Government from passing new LGBT anti-discrimination laws but lawmakers were able to overturn the ban on gay propaganda regardless.

Overturning the ban is the first step in passing the anti-discrimination law, as otherwise the Government could be found to be in breach of its own law.

The Moldovan Government repealed the ban in the hopes of being offered an EU Association Agreement at the Eastern Partnership summit in Vilnius, Lithuania this month.

The Russian aligned Orthodox Church in Moldova even threatened law makers with banning them from taking communion if they passed the anti-discrimination law.

Earlier last month, Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili accused Russian President Vladimir Putin of exporting homophobia to other former Soviet Union countries in an attempt to retain control over them.

For more, see here: http://www.gaystarnews.com/article/mol- dova-repeals-%E2%80%988gay- propaganda%E2%80%99-ban-161013

Shepard trial attorney refutes claims in controversial book

By James Whitworth on gaystarnews.com

An attorney involved in Matthew Shepard’s murder trial is pushing back against many of the conclusions revealed in “When Jimenez’s controversial The Book of Matt: Hidden Truths About the Murder of Matthew Shepard.”

Lawyer Tim Newcomb was the appellate attorney for Russell Henderson, Aaron McKinney’s accomplice in the University of Wyoming student’s killing.

Newcomb is listed as a source in Jimenez’s book. According to a Media Matters article, Newcomb had dealings with some of the very people who talked to Jimenez. This included a source who said Shepard’s death had nothing to do with homophobia.

“During the time I represented Russell, a man called his grandmother, saying he had been Matthew’s lover and had his diary. I called him and asked if that was true. He told me it was, so I asked for a copy,” Newcomb wrote in a statement.

This unnamed source’s story quickly changed. His sister had the diary. Newcomb asked for a copy. That couldn’t happen because the sister was worried about her brother’s life.

Shepard continues page 14
Homophobic violence and anti-LGBT discrimination continue to be widespread on the African continent. Archbishop Makgoba challenges leaders who have opposed the rights of LGBTI people to reconsider their positions.

"When you violate somebody on the basis of difference you’re not only violating them but you are demeaning yourself," Makgoba says in the video. MaKgoba calls on African leaders to take up their moral responsibility to stop the violence against people who are different.

"Archbishop Makgoba’s statement should serve as a call to national, religious, and cultural leaders across Africa who support the rights of LGBTI people to speak out publicly," Human Rights Watch LGBTI rights director Graeme Reid.

The archbishop’s message of respect for everyone’s rights should challenge religious, and cultural leaders across Africa to serve as a call to national, religious, and cultural leaders across Africa who support the rights of LGBTI people to reconsider their positions.

"Don’t fear," Makgoba says to LGBT people in the video message. "You’ve been given this task of helping the rest of humanity to realize that we are called to respect and we are called to honor each other. People may come and say this is un-African, and I’m saying love cuts across culture.

"I’m called to love all God’s children and if I move from that context I cannot allow people to be discriminated against and I cannot allow people to be subjected to violence just on the basis of their sexual orientation."

Human Rights Watch interviewed the archbishop for the video as part of an effort to highlight supportive voices for LGBT rights in Africa. Makgoba’s statement follows in the footsteps of his predecessor, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Desmond Tutu, in speaking out to combat homophobia and transphobia in Africa and around the world.

"When you violate somebody on the basis of difference you’re not only violating them but you are demeaning yourself," Makgoba says in the video. Makgoba calls on African leaders to take up their moral responsibility to stop the violence against people who are different.

"Archbishop Makgoba’s statement should serve as a call to national, religious, and cultural leaders across Africa who support the rights of LGBTI people to speak out publicly," Human Rights Watch LGBTI rights director Graeme Reid.

The archbishop’s message of respect for everyone’s rights should challenge religious, and cultural leaders across Africa to serve as a call to national, religious, and cultural leaders across Africa who support the rights of LGBTI people to reconsider their positions.

"Don’t fear," Makgoba says to LGBT people in the video message. "You’ve been given this task of helping the rest of humanity to realize that we are called to respect and we are called to honor each other. People may come and say this is un-African, and I’m saying love cuts across culture.

"I’m called to love all God’s children and if I move from that context I cannot allow people to be discriminated against and I cannot allow people to be subjected to violence just on the basis of their sexual orientation."

Human Rights Watch interviewed the archbishop for the video as part of an effort to highlight supportive voices for LGBT rights in Africa. Makgoba’s statement follows in the footsteps of his predecessor, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Desmond Tutu, in speaking out to combat homophobia and transphobia in Africa and around the world.

When you violate somebody on the basis of difference you’re not only violating them but you are demeaning yourself," Makgoba says in the video. Makgoba calls on African leaders to take up their moral responsibility to stop the violence against people who are different.

"Archbishop Makgoba’s statement should serve as a call to national, religious, and cultural leaders across Africa who support the rights of LGBTI people to speak out publicly," Human Rights Watch LGBTI rights director Graeme Reid.

The archbishop’s message of respect for everyone’s rights should challenge religious, and cultural leaders across Africa to serve as a call to national, religious, and cultural leaders across Africa who support the rights of LGBTI people to reconsider their positions.

"Don’t fear," Makgoba says to LGBT people in the video message. "You’ve been given this task of helping the rest of humanity to realize that we are called to respect and we are called to honor each other. People may come and say this is un-African, and I’m saying love cuts across culture.

"I’m called to love all God’s children and if I move from that context I cannot allow people to be discriminated against and I cannot allow people to be subjected to violence just on the basis of their sexual orientation."

Human Rights Watch interviewed the archbishop for the video as part of an effort to highlight supportive voices for LGBT rights in Africa. Makgoba’s statement follows in the footsteps of his predecessor, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Desmond Tutu, in speaking out to combat homophobia and transphobia in Africa and around the world.

When you violate somebody on the basis of difference you’re not only violating them but you are demeaning yourself," Makgoba says in the video. Makgoba calls on African leaders to take up their moral responsibility to stop the violence against people who are different.

"Archbishop Makgoba’s statement should serve as a call to national, religious, and cultural leaders across Africa who support the rights of LGBTI people to speak out publicly," Human Rights Watch LGBTI rights director Graeme Reid.

The archbishop’s message of respect for everyone’s rights should challenge religious, and cultural leaders across Africa to serve as a call to national, religious, and cultural leaders across Africa who support the rights of LGBTI people to reconsider their positions.

"Don’t fear," Makgoba says to LGBT people in the video message. "You’ve been given this task of helping the rest of humanity to realize that we are called to respect and we are called to honor each other. People may come and say this is un-African, and I’m saying love cuts across culture.

"I’m called to love all God’s children and if I move from that context I cannot allow people to be discriminated against and I cannot allow people to be subjected to violence just on the basis of their sexual orientation."

Human Rights Watch interviewed the archbishop for the video as part of an effort to highlight supportive voices for LGBT rights in Africa. Makgoba’s statement follows in the footsteps of his predecessor, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Desmond Tutu, in speaking out to combat homophobia and transphobia in Africa and around the world.

"When you violate somebody on the basis of difference you’re not only violating them but you are demeaning yourself," Makgoba says in the video. Makgoba calls on African leaders to take up their moral responsibility to stop the violence against people who are different.

"Archbishop Makgoba’s statement should serve as a call to national, religious, and cultural leaders across Africa who support the rights of LGBTI people to speak out publicly," Human Rights Watch LGBTI rights director Graeme Reid.

The archbishop’s message of respect for everyone’s rights should challenge religious, and cultural leaders across Africa to serve as a call to national, religious, and cultural leaders across Africa who support the rights of LGBTI people to reconsider their positions.

"Don’t fear," Makgoba says to LGBT people in the video message. "You’ve been given this task of helping the rest of humanity to realize that we are called to respect and we are called to honor each other. People may come and say this is un-African, and I’m saying love cuts across culture.

"I’m called to love all God’s children and if I move from that context I cannot allow people to be discriminated against and I cannot allow people to be subjected to violence just on the basis of their sexual orientation."

Human Rights Watch interviewed the archbishop for the video as part of an effort to highlight supportive voices for LGBT rights in Africa. Makgoba’s statement follows in the footsteps of his predecessor, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Desmond Tutu, in speaking out to combat homophobia and transphobia in Africa and around the world.

"When you violate somebody on the basis of difference you’re not only violating them but you are demeaning yourself," Makgoba says in the video. Makgoba calls on African leaders to take up their moral responsibility to stop the violence against people who are different.

"Archbishop Makgoba’s statement should serve as a call to national, religious, and cultural leaders across Africa who support the rights of LGBTI people to speak out publicly," Human Rights Watch LGBTI rights director Graeme Reid.

The archbishop’s message of respect for everyone’s rights should challenge religious, and cultural leaders across Africa to serve as a call to national, religious, and cultural leaders across Africa who support the rights of LGBTI people to reconsider their positions.

"Don’t fear," Makgoba says to LGBT people in the video message. "You’ve been given this task of helping the rest of humanity to realize that we are called to respect and we are called to honor each other. People may come and say this is un-African, and I’m saying love cuts across culture.

"I’m called to love all God’s children and if I move from that context I cannot allow people to be discriminated against and I cannot allow people to be subjected to violence just on the basis of their sexual orientation."

Human Rights Watch interviewed the archbishop for the video as part of an effort to highlight supportive voices for LGBT rights in Africa. Makgoba’s statement follows in the footsteps of his predecessor, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Desmond Tutu, in speaking out to combat homophobia and transphobia in Africa and around the world.
Homophobia was one key to shutdown

By Queerty.com

You may think the government shutdown and the debt ceiling debate are about money matters. And, in a way, they are. But that’s too narrow a reading of the House GOP’s motives.

At heart, the kamikaze caucus that got us into this mess are at war not just against government but modern life. And homophobia is a key part of that group’s philosophy.

Oh, sure, you may think Queerty sees homophobia lurking behind every flag pin. But the facts bear it out. Consider: The extreme right-wing House Republicans who have been calling the shots have been dubbed “the Chick-Fil-A Caucus” by the Los Angeles Times. Why? Because the group orders sandwiches from that fast food emporium to show their support for the company president’s staunch opposition to marriage equality.

All the polling from the shutdown show that the Republicans have taken a devastating hit to their popularity, with favorable numbers that are so low that some chronic diseases could run against the party and win.

Yet, it is one group that is standing by the shutdown caucus: evangelically Christians. (The Tea Party is the only other group that loves the shutdown.) More specifically, some of the antigay right’s leading figures are eclectic about the House GOP’s nihilism.

For example, John Stemberger told the National Journal that shutting down the government was the right thing to do. “Obamacare is objectionable enough to make this kind of a stand to show how odious it is,” Stemberger is best known to Queerty readers as the founder of OnMyHonor.net, the group formed as a “Christian alternative to the Boy Scouts.”

The leaders of the House conservatives haven’t exactly hidden their homophobia either. Rep. Paul Labrador has introduced a bill that would protect groups that don’t want to recognize marriage equality. Rep. Steve King has introduced a bill that would shape the events surrounding the Transgender Day of Remembrance as a positive affirmation of being Trans*. It is a powerful and empowering. This event will cap the events surrounding the Transgender Day of Remembrance as a positive affirmation of being Trans*. It is a powerful and empowering.

This year, there are multiple TDOR events remembering the lost lives and struggles of Trans* people. The remembrances will conclude on Nov. 22 as Equal Grounds Coffee Shop with an open mic for Trans* people. The open mic is an opportunity for us, the Trans* Community, to proclaim to the world that We Are Here, and that We Are Not Going Away.

The Good, the Bad, and the Funny returns to Equal Grounds Coffee Shop on Nov. 22 at 7:30 p.m. This event was standing room only during Rochester Pride 2012.

The Good, the Bad, and the Funny is an Open Mic event for the Trans* community to come and share our stories in a safe environment. Those who attended and participated in this event during Pride 2012 found it powerful and empowering. This event will cap the events surrounding the Transgender Day Of Remembrance as a positive affirmation of being Trans*. It is a day to tell the world that We Are Here and that We Have A Voice.

All are welcome to attend. Only those who identify as Trans* will be able to sign up for time at the mic. This event is sponsored by Shauna O’Toole/You Can’t Shave In A Minimart Bathroom; The Self Made Men and The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley.

For the full list of events, see Calendar page 34.

The events are open to all. Whether you are LGBTQI or a Straight Ally, come and join us! We look forward to seeing you there, ■

- Queerty.com

International Transgender Day of Remembrance is Nov. 20

By Shanna O’Toole

November 20 is set aside as a day to remember and celebrate the lives of Transgender people killed in hate crimes or hate crimes caused by simply being who we are.

Coming out as Gay, Lesbian, or Biexsual can be difficult. Coming out as Transgender has the additional challenge in that we alter our physical appearance to match our gender. Many see this change as a positive event. Others reject the person outright. Gee why we should we do this?

There are many events around the country where Transgender people killed in hate crimes.

This year, there are multiple TDOR events remembering the lost lives and struggles of Trans* people. The remembrances will conclude on Nov. 22 as Equal Grounds Coffee Shop with an open mic for Trans* people. The open mic is an opportunity for us, the Trans* Community, to proclaim to the world that We Are Here, and that We Are Not Going Away.

The Good, the Bad, and the Funny returns to Equal Grounds Coffee Shop on Nov. 22 at 7:30 p.m. This event was standing room only during Rochester Pride 2012.

The Good, the Bad, and the Funny is an Open Mic event for the Trans* community to come and share our stories in a safe environment. Those who attended and participated in this event during Pride 2012 found it powerful and empowering. This event will cap the events surrounding the Transgender Day Of Remembrance as a positive affirmation of being Trans*. It is a day to tell the world that We Are Here and that We Have A Voice.

All are welcome to attend. Only those who identify as Trans* will be able to sign up for time at the mic. This event is sponsored by Shauna O’Toole/You Can’t Shave In A Minimart Bathroom; The Self Made Men and The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley.

For the full list of events, see Calendar page 34.

The events are open to all. Whether you are LGBTQI or a Straight Ally, come and join us! We look forward to seeing you there, ■

- Queerty.com

Plan to take care of each other

A wealth plan that is thoughtfully constructed can help you provide for those you love. For same-sex partners, a wealth plan has to take account of specific federal and state laws that can have a material impact on your financial well-being.

As a Morgan Stanley Financial Advisor, I have the experience, knowledge and resources to assist you in preparing for the future. Together, we can choose strategies for planning, saving, and investing that are most appropriate for you, your partner, and your family. Please call me to arrange a convenient time to meet.

Morgan Stanley

The appropriateness of a particular investment or strategy will depend on an investor’s individual circumstances and objectives.

- Morgan Stanley

Martha M. Howden, CSW, CASAC

Anxiety • Depression
Alcohol • Stress • Grief
Relationship • Family Plan
Certification Work

Holotropic Breathwork
• Specializing in work with individuals and families in the Coming Out process

Martha M. Howden, CSW, CASAC
945 E. Henrietta Road, Suite A6
Rochester, New York 14623
Phone: 585 272-1760
Fax: 585 272-8969
Most Insurances Accepted
The AIDS Quilt Returns To Rochester
December 1-7, 2013

Equal-Grounds Coffee House

Join us for our 7th annual display of Quilt Panels honoring local men and women who are gone too soon. Please consider showing your support to help us in our commitment to remember and honor those lost to AIDS.

Sponsorship levels:
Red Ribbon $25  Rainbow $10  Triangle $5

Congratulations
585.738.2026
JOHN SCHLIA PHOTOGRAPHY
www.johnschlia.com

Weddings  Events  Portraits
ROCHESTER PRIDE 2013
FEATURED ATTRACTION

Bring the exhibit to your school conference place of worship place of business

FORGING ALLIANCES

Rochester, New York has a long LGBT community history. This exhibition highlights some of the people, places, events, movements, and moments that make up Rochester’s LGBT story –

and you can bring it to your own community.

Your installation of FORGING ALLIANCES will educate visitors about Rochester’s LGBT roots, highlight common cause with your own mission, and inspire greater community involvement.

For more info contact
GAGV
(585) 244-8640
info@gayalliance.org

1970

---

GETTING MARRIED?
Great, I love a good party!
15% OR MORE OFF ALL WEDDING RECEPTION WINE ORDERS!

CORN HILL
FINE WINE & SPIRITS
at Corn Hill Lending
260 Exchange Boulevard • Rochester • 585-232-5530
Mon-Wed 10am-8pm, Thu-Sat 10am-9pm, Sun 12pm-5pm
FIND US ON FACEBOOK FOR EVENTS & SPECIALS

Here to work for you!
Nino Vitale
Real Estate Agent

Proudly serving the Rochester area.
CALL: 315.729.2005
email: ninovitale33@gmail.com web: vincent-associates.com

---

AVL PRODUCTIONS presents

Miss Gay Rochester
2014 PAGEANT
HONORING
Olympia La’Paige • Miss Gay Rochester 2013

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2013
6pm Pageant at 7pm
$15 Advance/$20 Door

HOSTED BY AGGY DUNE
@ Harro East Ballroom
155 N. Chestnut Street
Rochester, NY

TABLE RESERVATIONS CONTACT WAYNE/LIZA AT 585.265.0110

Tickets Are Available at 160 Alex Bar & Grill, The Avenue Pub, The Bachelors Forum, Thomas Lawrence Salon, Green with Envy Salon & Club Marcello

DESIGNED BY • 352.455.2018

---

MARK SIWIEC
REAL ESTATE

MARK SIWIEC
Associate Broker

2349 Monroe Avenue • Rochester, NY 14618
marksiwiec@gmail.com • www.MarkSiwiec.com

---

Here to work for you!

Nino Vitale
Real Estate Agent

Proudly serving the Rochester area.
CALL: 315.729.2005
email: ninovitale33@gmail.com web: vincent-associates.com

---

Hodge Podge Lodge

23 HOUR PAJAMA PARTY!!!
DJ, FOOD, HUGE VENDOR DISCOUNTS AND MORE . . .

BRING YOUR PAJAMAS AND PARTY ON DOWN WITH LIVE MUSIC AND LIVE FUN!!!
271 Styer Road Geneseo
Party starts Thanksgiving eve 11pm sharp, until 10am Nov, 29th
LIFE HAS COMMITMENTS

Excellus BlueCross BlueShield is proud to support the Gay Alliance of Genesee Valley.
We remain committed to giving back to the local community, where we’ve lived and worked for more than 75 years.

Excellus

National strength. Local focus. Individual care.℠
A nonprofit independent licensee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association

Share your life's moments at LifeHasAPlan.com

RENAISSANCE EVENTS
Uniquely Chic Events

(The Renaissance Del Monte Lodge)
41 North Main Street / Pittsford / 585.295.2809 / delmonteweddings.com

585.295.2809 | ROCHESTERMARRIOTTWEDDINGS.COM | 1890 RIDGE ROAD WEST | ROCHESTER, NY 14615

for a wedding that’s one of a kind.
Red Ball 2014

... a Steampunk affaire

Saturday February 8
The Diplomat Banquet Center

redbhall@gayalliance.org
The Gay Alliance invites you to celebrate 40 years of LGBT history in Rochester with your very own CD of this powerful film.

**Shoul...**

**Fall SpeakOUT Training**

The Gay Alliance would like to invite you to participate in our Fall SpeakOUT Training: Providing Successful LGBT Education

The Gay Alliance SpeakOUT Training prepares participants to educate others on LGBT issues in a respectful way, to successfully advocate for LGBT individuals and to address challenges to full LGBT inclusion. SpeakOUT participants become more confident and articulate while talking with others about LGBT issues. This is a great experience for someone new to LGBT issues or someone who has lived or worked with the issues for years. Think of it as professional development for your life. This training is also the first step in becoming trained as a Gay Alliance Speakers Bureau member.

**Facilitators:** Jeanne Gainsburg, Gay Alliance Education Director and Scott Fearing, Gay Alliance Executive Director, draw upon their 30+ years of LGBT training and education experience to facilitate the class. A dynamic mix of interactive exercises and lecture make for a fast-paced, intense and valuable learning experience.

The SpeakOUT Training will run on

Friday, March 22 from 6-9pm

and on

Saturday, March 23 from 8:30am-5pm

and is $60 per person. It will be held in the Gay Alliance Community Center in the Auditorium Center (875 E. Main St. Rochester, NY 14605). We only offer this training twice a year and it fills fast, so don’t wait!

To register, go to: www.gayalliance.org/speakout.html. To ask questions or find out about paying through an invoice, please contact: SpeakOUT@gayalliance.org or 585-244-8640 ext. 14.

*ASL interpretation available if requested before November 12.*
Tony Mascioli - One of Rochester's gay success stories

By Evelyn Bailey

I met Tony Mascioli for the first time at the Gay Alliance building on Atlantic Avenue in the ‘90s. As I got to know Tony, I realized Tony’s life was one of Rochester’s gay success stories.

Tony was born in Rochester, New York on December 14, 1930. By 1930, the population of Rochester had swelled to 328,132, making Rochester the 22nd largest city in the United States. The University of Rochester opened its River Campus for men, and the Prince Street Campus became the Women’s Campus.

The Rochester Municipal Airport opened on Scottsville Road. It was in the 1930s that Eastman Kodak introduced Kodachrome® film. In 1936, the Rundell Memorial Building opened as the headquarters of the Rochester Public Library. Tony grew up around North Street. He went to Catholic schools. He knew he was gay as a young man.

Tony did not remember being harassed as a student, but did remember he was kind of a loner. When he came out to his family, his father was not very supportive. He left Rochester at 19 for New York City where he lived in a rooming house in for $7 a week rent. He did not make it in New York and returned to Rochester.

Tony decided to enter the army at the time of the Korean Conflict. Tony recounted the story of his father telling him to tell the recruiters how bad his feet were, that he had to wear special shoes, etc., so that the Army would not accept his application. His application to enter the army was rejected because of his flat feet. During this time he attended SUNY Brockport where he was involved in acting and writing.

He returned to New York and attend

ed Columbus University majoring in English Literature. In 1974 he went into partnership with his cousin and opened the Wall Street Spa and Spa. Soon after, Tony also opened the East Side Sauna, and a guest house on Long Island.

In October, 2011 I asked Tony for a rather large donation to the Shoulders To Stand On 90 minute Documentary on the LGBT History of Rochester. I explained that the documentary has been in the making for over 40 years, and that since 2005, the Gay Alliance has been focused on documenting and preserving Rochester’s LGBT history.

He responded by saying he was more comfortable with a Matching Donation rather than just an outright donation. Tony’s challenge was to raise $10,000 between December 2, 2011 and January 15, 2012. You need to understand that Tony was a very sharp businessman. His challenge energized the Shoulders To Stand On Committee to begin in a focused way to energize the community to raise the money.

Tony knew the imperatives of meeting his challenge would cause us to reach out to the community strategically, and to develop a long range plan for raising the money to complete the project. He was right! On Thursday, October 10, 2011, almost two years to the day of Tony’s challenge, our & Equal in partnership with Constella- tion Brands raised $3,200 for Shoulders To Stand On to bring our total fundraising efforts, kickstarted by Tony, to just over $100,000.

Tony’s faith in us, myself and Kevin Indovino, Director/Editor of Shoulders To Stand On, to complete the documentary for its World Premiere at ImageOut 2013, was well placed. Words cannot express my deep appreciation and gratitude for Tony’s support, interest, and fundraising suggestions. His belief in my dream gave me the determination and perseverance needed to make the Shoulders To Stand On Documentary a reality.

On Saturday, August 10, 2013, Tony died unexpectedly. Tony was a colorful and charismatic entrepreneur in New York City. He boldly celebrated being a gay man at a time when it wasn’t socially acceptable or safe. He provided a place for men, in and out of the closet, to socialize and find fulfillment in their identity. Most of all Tony lived his life openly with pride.

As a result of a recent bequest, Tony has left a very generous gift intended to support the Alliance for the next 10 years. Shoulders to Stand On is extremely grateful for Tony’s ongoing commitment to improving the day-to-day lives of LGBT people in Rochester and helping them live their lives as Tony lived his — openly, boun-

antly and with pride.

I believe the song “I Did It My Way,” written by Jacques Revaux, Claude Francois, Gilles Thibaut and Paul Anka and made famous by Frank Sinatra, describes Tony’s life pretty accurately, and his hope for his LGBT brothers and sisters.

And now, the end is here
And so I face the final curtain
My friend, I’ll say it clear
For what is a man, what has he got?

Yes, there were times, I’m sure you knew
When I bit off more than I could chew
But through it all, when there was doubt
I faced it all and I stood tall and did it my way

And more, much more than this, I did it my way

Yes, there were times, I’m sure you knew
When I bit off more than I could chew
But through it all, when there was doubt
I faced it all and I stood tall and did it my way

And more, much more than this, I did it my way

Yes, it was my way
The opinions of columnists, editors 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.

Growing Up GEEZER TIME

By Eric Bellmann

The year is 1987. It’s the dawn of AIDS. Getting colder. Time to be indoors. Time for a midday lunch with Joanne. Inevitably this devolves into a war of monologues. Your aches and pains, now mine. Occasionally we share about recent activities, ancient gripes. No one buys Art anymore, not ours at least. We drone on. Joanne’s a manic gardener, me a bit less so. She will have tales of college shop- ping for bulbs and hours spent on her computer planning where plants will go. I relate tales from New York City. Much as I resent the price of admis- sion to the Frischer, here we are, again, then I visit them. A major draw is the Museum of Art and Design at Columbus Circle, the latest incarnation of the Craft Museum. What is appealing is hunting for works by familiar names: Albert Paley, Wendell Castle, other craftsmen from western New York, from RIT where Joanne and I both studied.

Joanne worked on the legendary Frank Wildhaken. I never find any of his work on display any more. There is work by Marguerite, his first wife. Her work and most was a very big deal and it’s a puzzle why it’s not ours at least. We drone on. More are on display any more. There is work by Marguerite, his first wife. Her work and most was a very big deal and it’s a puzzle why it’s not ours at least. We drone on.

My mentor at RIT was Fred Meyer who worked in many fields: painting, ceramic sculpture, film. I loved Fred. He was a very weird guy and most people were intimidated by him, including—innately, me. One day I strolled by my paint studio, and the door was open. I peeked in and saw me if I knew about camp. He was reading Susan Sontag’s ‘Against Interpretation.’ ‘Yeah, I think I do.’ So, he nonchalantly over gay existence.

Fred exhibited at the very prestigious Madison Gallery on 5th Avenue and I went there once and found some of his exquisite gouache drawings. Fred’s sculpt- ure was never collected by famous people. Liza Minnelli had one, and he also was in the collection of the then recently com- pleted Lincoln Center. A few years ago I went there and asked a research librar- ian to check where Fred’s work could be found. No information available. Fred, too, is lost to history.

Joanne and I adored our teachers. That’s the way it should have been. Fred died of a heart attack in a railroad sta- tion Italy. He went there each year to work with a foundry that cast his work in bronze. One sculpture is still at RIT near the entry to the Bevier Gallery covered, alas.

For years I modeled my teaching on Fred’s masterminds. I even reinterpreted some of his paintings for my students. Once, as part of a painting assignment, he asked us to look at ‘the utterly charming work of Florentine Stendhal.’ Huh? Who ever heard of that painter? Her work is hung in both MOMA and the Met and when her work was first exhibited at the Met I insisted she trapeze aloft to see the Stendhal paintings. I’ve no idea if she liked them. They’re quite odd. Large compositions of salons, gatherings in stately mansions or cafes, quite refined yet primitive in a charming way. Oddly, I think of Stendhal as a rela- tive. Fred, a way of playing it forward, carrying on what I gained from my time with him into the present.

Where does this leave us? Two artists along years reminiscing about our lives and travels with no direction, not successful. Did they have more tal- ent or better luck? Maybe we weren’t as smart as we thought.

Franz has a Wikipedia page. It’s pretty impressive. Fred’s even has a piece of his sculpture on an auction site. Joanne has given most of her ceramics to her children and grandchildren. I’ve seen my work in garage sales. And so it goes.

E-mail: eb@kcharters.com

Faith Matters

NOW IS THE TIME FOR ATTENTION TO LGBT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

By Rev. Irene Monroe

Every Monday morning Alex (not his real name) and I met for breakfast at our favorite dive in Harvard Square. Rain or shine he would notice the visible bruises and cuts on his face, arms, and legs, but assuming it was black and blue marks were simply far for the price a guy who enjoyed the rough-and-tumble scenes combined with playing weekend scrimmage football.

I don’t recall a time when Alex didn’t have a bodyguard. He was very skinny, a bite into his skin, wets on his arms or stitches. I did notice, however, over time that Alex was really skinny, a bite into his skin, wets on his arms or stitches. I did notice, however, over time that Alex was really skinny, a bite into his skin, wets on his arms or stitches.

When I began asking Alex about his bruising and bleeding, we talked about something else. Some Monday mornings then he would call me at the last minute to cancel or he wouldn’t show up at all.

One morning he called me to can- cel telling me he was in Mount Auburn Hospital. His partner had stabbed him severely.

October is Domestic Awareness Month, and within lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) com- munities of color, not enough attention, education, intervention and advocacy is given to this issue.

Statistics estimate that 25-33 percent of the LGBTQ population will expe- rience some form of partner abuse or domestic violence in their lifetime. The Inter-Personal Violence (IPV) study con- ducted in 2011 stated that LGBTQ communities of color are one of the demographic groups experiencing high incidents of domestic violence. However, according to the statistics, it is accurate to say that how high IPV is in these communi- ties are obscured by social stigmas and cultural taboos, not excluding also rac- ism and other forms of oppressions and discriminations.

What also obscures obtaining accu- rate statistics on how high IPV is in these communities of color is that same- sex partners’ violence being classified with myths. For example, there is the myth that because the victim and the abuser are of the same gender and there is also in a consensual sexual relationship, the battering that occurs starts out as a matter of choice and usually that something during the course of the couple’s sexual encounter the violence goes out of hand.

Another myth is confusing with the gender sexual violence with homosexuality.

Sadly, because these myths still abound among many health care workers and law enforcers about what constitutes interpersonal violence in a same-sex relationship is, LGBTQ communities, particularly those ofcolor, are least likely to seek out and report IPV.

Domestic violence is not only an act of physical violence; it can also be an act of psychological violence and mental vio- lence such as threatening and stalking. Because Alex wasn’t out to his team — a flamboyant effeminate male who couldn’t simply be introduced as just a buddy without suspicion — we could only watch him play from a dis- tance. Alex’s partner’s eyes turned into suspicion as he watched friendly nonso- cial behavior on the brand new gay scene. Alex then he began stalking Alex. On the morn- ing we were to meet, his partner accused him of being a stalker, so we offered him a ride instead.

There are at least several factors con- tributing to the ongoing uninterrupted incidence of domestic violence in com- munities of color.

One is the dominant view that com- bines the social ills of race and violence to be the face of black males. Alex was seen as attempts every time for his scrapes, and bruises in the same Emergency Room at the same hospi- tal. However, with much higher rates associated with young black males, the presentation and treatment for domestic violence related injuries in inner-city hospitals and treatment centers are rarely introduced or followed up.

The third is the lack of police inter- vention.

The police were called to the house several times by Alex and his partner. If they came at all they were coming to the call of an inter alia complaint in domestic violence. However, the cops would leave Alex — African American, 6′2” and 200 pounds — and then his partner — 5′6” and 150 pounds — and did not com- mender was regarded as to who was the abuser.

Also, there is the belief that a his- tory of racism trumps serving a defense, healthy and violence-free relationship.

Non-intersectional relationships many victims oftentimes will not prose- cutive partners for fear of com- munity abandonment, isolation and scorn. Some rather rationalize the vio- lence as the root cause of persistent micro-aggressions, isolation and scorn. Some rather rationalize the vio- lence as the root cause of persistent health issues.

Because Alex wasn’t out to his team, the battering that occurs starts out as a matter of choice and usually that something during the course of the couple’s sexual encounter the violence goes out of hand.

Alex was seen as attempts every time for his scrapes, and bruises in the same Emergency Room at the same hospital. However, with much higher rates associated with young black males, the presentation and treatment for domestic violence related injuries in inner-city hospitals and treatment centers are rarely introduced or followed up.

But not all LGBTQ of color feel that way.

Many of color are expected to stay silent in the face of violence and as part of the LGBTQ community the silence becomes louder when law-enforcement, judicial and political figures ignore our calls for help. Not having power over our own behaviors and the promotions we exert to dominate and violent atti- tudes within our community and toward our neighbors. Scars that were written in the article ‘Implosion by Violence: Domes- tic Violence in the (Black) LGBTQ Com- munities.’

Resources and services have to be made available to LGBTQ communities of color. This is a discussion I’ve had to step out of. Everyone deserves a safe, lov- ing, healthy and violence-free relation- ship. LGBTQ communities of color have to be educated to embrace the fact that they deserve this, too.

A Few Bricks Short

THE RANSOM OF ROCKY

By David Hull

You may have heard of new scam making the news about the newest scam that’s happen- ing – the ‘missing pet’ scheme. Pet-Nap- ping. Crooks are stealing pets and keep- ing them until the owners advertise a reward; then the crooks return the “missing” pet for the reward money.

Peuant the Pomander fetched some- one’s dog for $500. The dog was a golden dachshund garnered a $500 reward. Even Tank the elderly basset hound was returned with a $500 reward. And police blame all the missing pets on some scam – Pet-Napping’

And now I am horrified to report that the same scam has happened to my hus- band, Bernie and me. Well, sort of the same.

My husband is a CP. That’s ‘cat per- son’. And being that we live on a some- what rural country road, we’ve been approached by several times in the past with the offer of monograms.

When the cats show up cold and hungry at our house, Bernie can’t help but rescue them. Some cats that are in some way healthy, or some pregnant, some are sick and some are just have anywhere to go.

Rocky is a cat that we acquired a cou- ple years ago and he is one of the cats that have issues. He’s big, he’s cranky and he’s always rather dirty. Within a couple of years we’ve acquired a number of stray, aban- doned cats that have dropped off in this area. Actually, two of the cats when the cats show up cold and hungry at our house, Bernie can’t help but rescue them. Some cats that are in some way healthy, or some pregnant, some are sick and some are just have anywhere to go.

One morning he called me to can- cel telling me he was in Mount Auburn Hospital. His partner had stabbed him severely.

October is Domestic Awareness Month, and within lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) com- munities of color, not enough attention, education, intervention and advocacy is given to this issue.

Statistics estimate that 25-33 percent of the LGBTQ population will expe- rience some form of partner abuse or domestic violence in their lifetime. The Inter-Personal Violence (IPV) study con- ducted in 2011 stated that LGBTQ communities of color are one of the demographic groups experiencing high incidents of domestic violence. However, according to the statistics, it is accurate to say that how high IPV is in these communi-
Cheese and bagels. It costs a lot to feed the whole thing. I didn’t know cats eat potato chips. "And he eats the box up for my inspection. He was contagious. 'You can have him back for a reward.' Your address, he said, holding the box. I have plenty of other cats. Thanks anyway.”

I think I taught a young pet-napper the error of his ways. It was a good day.

Contact David at davidhull59@aol.com

Randy G. Raetz, DDS

General Dentistry for the entire community including bleaching and cosmetics

WE ARE NOW IN OUR NEW OFFICE!!!!

Come check out our new modern office, offering patients the benefits of digital x-rays, Intralobal cameras, and flat screen tv’s in a relaxing and enjoyable environment.

2257 South Clifton Avenue Westfall Park Medical Center Rochester, NY 14618
(585) 473-1550

New Patients Welcome
Evening & Saturday app.s available

Call us out on the web at www.drrandyjdds.com
Call for an appointment today!!
rienced. I kept thinking about those two devoted womyn. Kept thinking about the great number of people who have helped and needed to keep helping Big Laurel Learning Center to continue “to inspire celebrations, education, and voluntarism as tools to promote healing and social change.”

Kept thinking about standing with Kath in that room with purple walls and green ceiling, a room in need of repair and serious repainting, Kept hearing Kath inquire: “So, do you think you will come back? What do you think...is there about a 60% chance you will return?”

MeredithElizabethReiniger@gmail.com
Rochester NY 14605
360 East Ave.
WWW.HUETHERDOYLE.COM

By Laine Delaney
Everyone in the LGBTQ spectrum has encountered some sort of resistance or negativity, even if it wasn’t directed at them but at others that they know. It’s difficult for anyone to be themselves in the face of potential hostility and violence. Feeling alone can prolong struggling with sexuality or gender identity. Many trans* people are suffering in silence, afraid to speak up, come out and be themselves. It is challenging to uncover a welcoming face when our communities are quiet and hidden, only found through extensive searching. Many have trouble coming to terms with parts of themselves and support us. They may not even be aware among their friends and family might support who they are. Even if one is aware that there are other people out there who are like them, they may feel separated by social divides.

We hear, “I can’t come out, because I don’t know anyone who is like me. All of those queer people are too fabulous I don’t share my views on other things / already know each other.” They don’t see the variety and numbers of us.

That was my dilemma. I was lucky enough to be brought into a community of other trans* people by my partner Mau, who is also on the trans* spectrum. Before I started seeing him, I was afraid to attend any of the groups or events in Buffalo where I lived. I didn’t know whether I would fit in with any groups local to me. I didn’t know anyone who belonged to them. Which of my friends would be supportive? Would they be okay with me embracing and being myself? My partner ran a meet-up group, Genesee Valley Gender Variants, and was part of Rochester Trans Group. Not everyone is so fortunate.

Possible solutions to this are:
1) Make your support known. Declaring your support gives someone who is lonely and terrified a place to turn. You may not be like them, but they’ll know that you are willing to treat them like a person and stand up to those who do not.
2) Tolerate differences within your community. Differences in politics, spirituality, capability, and personal taste will be taken into account regardless but should never be a reason to turn someone away or make them feel unwelcome.
3) Be present and be visible. Don’t be afraid to explain yourself and who you are, especially if it’s clear that people around you think otherwise. This isn’t always easy or safe; be careful, but be visible.

Few of us are lucky enough to be engaged to a community organizer. Many are still alone and afraid. Let’s be visible and show them that there is a place for them within our communities, and that there are those who will stand by them till we are all treated as equals.

What’s Bothering Brandon?

By Brandon W. Brooks
This November I determined to try and be less bothered by and more thankful for those around me. This includes my friends and adversaries, family members and coworkers, and those who have helped me grow into the person I am today.

Following this path, I am led into the world of nostalgia and reminiscence that I dare say, is not entirely unpleasant. As my heart and surrounding chest cavity begin to thaw out, old personal icons and role models begin to reemerge, reminding me of their role in carving and molding me into who I am today.

How heartwarming.

When I think of role models in my life, I am not altogether surprised that a vast majority of those figures were women. From Buffy Summers and Daria Morgenstern, to Wednesday Addams and Little Edie, these women spoke to some aspect of my psyche, strengthening my resolve to be the most authentic version of myself. That or maybe I’ve just always been a stubborn brat.

Either way, I find that most of these females to whom I was drawn were usually endowed with a killer wit, a dark demeanor, and general an outline of that of an outsider. I suppose this is because as a young gay kid I felt like an outsider myself, looking into this world that was seemingly made for someone else; someone straight.

What drew me to these “outsider females” was that they straddled both worlds. Their intellect and worldview made them outsiders in that they saw what others missed, and made a point to address it. This is turn would lead to their isolation; most people don’t like to be confronted regarding their shenanigans, verbally or otherwise. But these females were also able to live their lives in the light of day, be a part of dominant culture, accept and embrace their differing viewpoints.

I always wanted the lives these females lived, with one foot planted in another world. Whether I was slaying homophobic 575-ers, verbally eviscerating small-minded nematodes, or languishing over

By Brandon W. Brooks
This November I determined to try and be less bothered by and more thankful for those around me. This includes my friends and adversaries, family members and coworkers, and those who have helped me grow into the person I am today.

Following this path, I am led into the world of nostalgia and reminiscence that I dare say, is not entirely unpleasant. As my heart and surrounding chest cavity begin to thaw out, old personal icons and role models begin to reemerge, reminding me of their role in carving and molding me into who I am today.

How heartwarming.

When I think of role models in my life, I am not altogether surprised that a vast majority of those figures were women. From Buffy Summers and Daria Morgenstern, to Wednesday Addams and Little Edie, these women spoke to some aspect of my psyche, strengthening my resolve to be the most authentic version of myself. That or maybe I’ve just always been a stubborn brat.

Either way, I find that most of these females to whom I was drawn were usually endowed with a killer wit, a dark demeanor, and general an outline of that of an outsider. I suppose this is because as a young gay kid I felt like an outsider myself, looking into this world that was seemingly made for someone else; someone straight.

What drew me to these “outsider females” was that they straddled both worlds. Their intellect and worldview made them outsiders in that they saw what others missed, and made a point to address it. This is turn would lead to their isolation; most people don’t like to be confronted regarding their shenanigans, verbally or otherwise. But these females were also able to live their lives in the light of day, be a part of dominant culture, accept and embrace their differing viewpoints.

I always wanted the lives these females lived, with one foot planted in another world. Whether I was slaying homophobic 575-ers, verbally eviscerating small-minded nematodes, or languishing over

The Gay Alliance is seeking a reliable, energetic self-starter to sell Empty Closet advertising for a generous commission. For more information, phone Susan Jordan at 244-9030 or e-mail: susanj@gayalliance.org

Questions, comments or critiques? Please feel free to e-mail me at brandon-brooks@mail.adephil.org.
A MEN’S “GOLDEN GIRLS” HOUSE?  
It’s time for our community to establish our own “senior” home.
Any mature men (over age 50) who would be interested in living in a communal style large house (manison) in the Park-East Are corridor in Rochester, come and join us in their own room and bath, possibly a second room, sharing gourmet kitchen and common areas, spending quality time together. If interested in discussing, email: thomasso50@mac.com. Real estate agents who have insight are invited, too.

CRYSTAL METH ANONYMOUS MEETING  
The group meets every Sunday at 4 p.m. at Immanuel Baptist Church, 815 Park Ave.
Meeting is on the second floor in the Hanley Room.

DIGNITY-INTREGY  
3-D Rochester meets weekly at 5 p.m. at St. Luke’s and St. Simon’s Church, 17 S. Union St., Rochester. For more information, contact: Steve Mastrian, Black St. We have the following services and activities for the month of September 2013.
1st Sunday: Episcopal Mass/Healing Service, with music
2nd Sunday: Roman Catholic Liturgy of the Word, with music
3rd Sunday: Quiet Episcopal Mass in the Chapel.
Sign to the meeting: Evening Prayer, followed by a Potluck Dinner!
Our Potluck theme for November is “How to Survive Thanksgiving.” One of our famous cormorantas is “an amount or supply more than sufficient to meet one’s needs.” I think that describes the number of recipes you could create using our harvest foods — and perhaps what our table will look like when it is set out to share! No time to cook or shop? Just ask a friend or two and join us for food and fun!”

From the Potluck: The presentation on Transgender Issues was great! We learned a lot, including the terms and definitions used and the discrimination that transgendered folks encounter because people misunderstand the terms and conditions, as well as the laws that allow such discrimination. Thanks to the guys from Self Made Men who shared their knowledge and experiences with us.

EMPIRE BEARS  
We are loving ImagineOut this year. As this is written, we’re only half way through the festival, and it is great. A lot of BEAR meet in person and we’ve enjoyed some great get togethers. We were proud to be the community cosponsor of a film again this year, and it was a resounding success.

In November, you can meet the BEARS every Wednesday night at 6 at the QAGC conference room on the fifth floor of the Bausch St. building, just past the main entrance. Everyone is invited. Bring your favorite cassette and we will provide pop, place, and night life.

If you like to get together with friends for movies, bowling, dinner, hiking, walking, concerts, theater, cards, games, hockey and lacrosse games, meet the BEARS and get to know us.

ROCHESTER RAMS M.C.  
As we all prepare ourselves for another holiday season, we ask all of you to come out and support our annual toy drive to purchase for the children of our fellow brothers and sisters who are less fortunate. The toy drive will take place on the outskirts of City Hall on Saturday Nov. 16 and we will be there with our annual truck. We will have toys of all sizes and will be on hand to help you get them.

ROCHESTER TRANS GROUP  
There are so many TDOR events going on in November, we are sure to see it as the Trans Month of Remembrance! Please note that these dates may be tentative as we wait to check the websites for updated information. Here is a partial list as of 10/15:

EVENTS
11/12 - Educational Panel, The Trans World Today: Creating A Future With Our Allies - Information Will Be Posted
11/12 - Candlelight Vigil at RIT - OUTspoken - contact: Jay Strobeck.
11/12 - Candlelight Vigil at Rochester Village Center - contact: Jason Ballard.
11/12 - Candlelight Vigil at MCC Open Arts 7 p.m. - contact Cooper Townsend.
11/12 - Skyla Kregel speaking at SUNY Brockport.
11/12 - The Good, the Bad, & The Funny - contact: Shauna O’Toole. The Good, the Bad, and the Funny is an Open Mic event for the Trans’ community to come and share our stories in a safe environment. Those who attended and participated in this event during Pride 2012 found it powerful and empowering.

This event will be held at the meeting where we will also be holding the Transgender Day Of Remembrance as a positive affirmation of Trans’ rights.” It is a time to tell all of the truth about who we are and what we stand for.

This event is sponsored by: Shauna O’Toole/You Can’t Shave In A Minimart

This event will cap the events surrounding Remembrance Day and will be our Thanksgiving celebration. All activity information is available on the ROCS website at http://www.rochestertransgroup.com. You can also write to us at rochestertrans@rochester.org or contact the organizers at 585-281-4964.

TEAM ROCHESTER GAY GAMES 2014
Now that the autumn is here, Team Rochester is hearing from past participants for the Gay Games next August 9-16 in Cleveland. Roll up your sleeves, sports, band and choir events to embody a theme of the Gay Games: “You don’t have to be good... you just have to be 18 or older.”

Some of the 35 diverse sports include sailing, swimming, soccer, same-sex dance, flag football, billiard and squash. Even if you wish to merely watch, there will be plenty to see at swimming, diving and body-building competitions. Team Rochester already has individuals and teams expressing interest for the following sports: bowling, 10K run, softball, volleyball, squash, and golf. We welcome many more! This will be the closest the Gay Games will be to Rochester, so let’s go!

More information is available at www.ggbcle.org for registration and details. Hotel rooms are already going quickly -- some of the more reasonable ones are 20 miles away from downtown Cleveland. For local information, please contact thomasso50@mac.com.

In December Team Rochester will be hosting a general meeting to include gathering ideas for team shirts.
The Avenue Pub
38 Year Landmark in the Gay Community

Happy Hour Specials
Every Day of the Week 4pm – 8pm
Half Priced Well Drinks & Draft Beer
$1.00 off all Top Shelf Drinks

Sundays are
“Football Fundays” with Katie!
Open at NOON! Great Drink Specials!
The BEST spot for Sunday Football Kitchen Open during the games!

Monday Night Football
2 for 1 Well Drinks & Drafts / Free Pizza
10pm – 2am

THANKSGIVING SCHEDULE
Wednesday, November 27th
Pre – Thanksgiving Party
Frankie & Jowels
7pm-10pm

Then Stay as the Party continues ALL Night!
3 for 2 Drink Special 10pm – 2 am

THANKSGIVING DAY
turkey raffle
Open at 8pm
3 for 2 Drinks Special ALL Night!

Comfort Food
Wednesdays
6pm – 10pm
Menu changes weekly
Come out for a Great
Home Cooked Dinner!

Fabulously FUN
Fridays!
Enter to Win a
Pub Gift Certificate!
Come out for the
Famous Fish Fry!

Updates are posted daily with
drink specials and events!

The Avenue Pub
522 Monroe Avenue
585-244-4960

This event is sponsored by:
Shauna O’Toole/You Can’t Shave In A Minimart Bathroom
The Self Made Men
The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley

AN OPEN MIC
CELEBRATION OF BEING
TRANSGENDER

FRIDAY - NOV 22
7:30 PM
EQUAL GROUNDS
COFFEE SHOP
750 SOUTH AVE
ROCHESTER, NY

The Good
The Bad
And the Funny
November 2013 • Number 473 • Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley • The Empty Closet

Arts & Entertainment

World AIDS Day concert to benefit MOCHA Center

By Susan Jordan

"War Horse" is an anthem for peace

By Jon Riddleberger

Guinevere Turner (“Who’s Afraid of Vagina Wool!” and “Breaking the Girls”) with Michael Gamilla. Photo: Gannetta Eli

In addition to special guests and an array of programming, ImageOut took a closer look at home with the world premiere of Shoulders To Stand On: The LGBT History of Rochester, NY, produced and directed by local filmmaker and ImageOut member and volunteer Kevin Indovino. One of the first screenings to sell out (and one of the most anticipated), this documentary chronicles Rochester’s very own LGBT movement and its history of political and social activism. Local activist and historian Evelyn Bailey, who writes a column in The Empty Closet titled Shoulders To Stand On, served as the film’s executive producer. Both Indovino and Bailey agreed that the film should make its debut at Rochester’s beloved LGBT film festival.

"ImageOut is more than a cultural touchstone," Ms. Bailey commented. "Capturing our stories, real or otherwise, is important. The most outrageous and the most common are ends of the spectrum that each of us needs to see and appreciate. ImageOut gives us that opportunity.”

Another local filmmaker, Rick Podlir, whose short film Gay Expectations was included in one of this year’s short film programs, Horse(Grown) Boys, echoes those sentiments of why ImageOut and the programs it offers continues to be an integral part of our community.

"This festival shows that so many people are looking not just for expressions of themselves on a movie screen or for some escapism, but to share the experience with others," he offers. "It is a very human attempt to find our place in the world."

For more information about ImageOut and future events, visit www.imagout.org.
Keith Haring was a prominent figure in the contemporary art world. His work, which spanned the 1970s and 1980s, was characterized by its bold, graphic style and its themes of social and political commentary. Haring's work was often created on the walls of subway trains and other public spaces, making it accessible to a wide audience. His use of simple, repetitive motifs, such as the radiating sun and the running figure, became iconic and are still recognized today.

Recent years have seen a renewed interest in Keith Haring's work, with several major exhibitions and retrospectives dedicated to his art. One such exhibition, titled "Keith Haring: The Political Line," was held at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City in 2014. The exhibition explored Haring's political and social themes, including his work on AIDS awareness and his support for civil rights groups.

Haring's legacy continues to influence contemporary artists and activists. His work serves as a reminder of the power of art to communicate with a diverse audience and to address important social issues. The Keith Haring Foundation continues to support the preservation and exhibition of Haring's work, as well as educational programs that encourage artistic expression and social change.

For more information about Keith Haring and his work, visit the official website of the Keith Haring Foundation: keithharingfoundation.org.
Sonndheim revises “Company”; lead character is gay

The New York Times reports that Stephen Sonndheim is working with director John Tiffany on a new production of his 70’s musical “Company” that would be centered around a gay man.

“The biggest change in this new “Company” would be the central character of Bobby. Whereas he has always been a straight man struggling with commitment issues and multiple girlfriends, he has been reconceived by Mr. Tiffany as a gay man with commitment issues and multiple boyfriends. And some characters have had gender reversals; the character of Joanne, who sings “The Ladies Who Lunch” and was originally played by Elaine Stritch on Broadway, was played by the Tony winner Alan Cumming (“Cabaret”) in Mr. Tiffany’s reading of the work at Roundabout last month.”

For years Mr. Sonndheim and the musical’s book writer, George Furth, who died in 2008, batted back suggestions that Bobby was furtively intended to be a closeted gay man. But when Mr. Tiffany proposed actually making Bobby gay, Mr. Sondheim said in a telephone interview, the idea intrigued him.

Tiffany’s reading of the work at Roundabout raised the notion that Bobby Stegg was “the voice of Tom Hanks. You will certainly recognize the story of service and sacrifices that shaped our nation. You will certainly recognize the voice of Tom Hanks.”

Take the $5 tour where you first hop on a trolley that takes you to Adams Birthplaces. You’ll get a tour of the two homes. Back on the trolley for a tour of Peace Field, where you’ll visit The House and gardens. Trolley then takes you back to the Visitors Center where you can walk over to the United First Parish Church and view the crypt of the Adams family. I did notice that a rainbow flag was hanging from the church.

One last place to see… the original Dunkin’ Donuts. When you first walk in it looks like any other Dunkin’ but go to the left and you’ll see seating from the 1950s, when this place first opened. Photos and stuff to read on the wall. For further information on Quincy go to www.thequincychamber.org.
Forum hosts Gay Alliance Volunteer Appreciation party

By Jeanne Gainsburg

On Sept. 24, the Gay Alliance held their 2013 Volunteer Appreciation Event, hosted by the Bachelor Forum. All volunteers who donated a total of five hours or more in the past year were invited to attend.

The Gay Alliance currently has over 900 volunteers and just under 20,000 hours were donated last year! A huge thank you goes out to Peter Mohr, owner of the Bachelor Forum, for hosting and for financially supporting this event! To all of our amazing volunteers, thank you so very much for all your time and dedication to our agency.

A huge thank you goes out to Peter Mohr, owner of the Bachelor Forum, for hosting and for financially supporting this event! To all of our amazing volunteers, thank you so very much for all your time and dedication to our agency.

Gay Alliance Volunteer-of-the-Month: Kerry Hanratty

Congratulations to Kerry Hanratty for being chosen as the Gay Alliance Volunteer-of-the-Month. Kerry first got involved with the Gay Alliance in September of 2012 as a Library and Archives volunteer. Shortly after this he began his work as a Gay Alliance office volunteer.

Kerry comes in weekly to help with office tasks and answer phones. He has also jumped in as needed to assist with senior programming, bulk mailings and more. Kerry is so capable and he has done such a great job helping us out in the office that we recently assigned him the task of new office volunteer trainer.

Last summer Kerry joined Ride For Pride 2013, the Gay Alliance bike ride fundraiser. He biked a hilly 50-mile loop ride and helped us raise over $22,000 for the Gay Alliance.

Thank you to Kerry from the staff and board at the Gay Alliance for all of your hard work, energy and commitment. We are so grateful to have you on our volunteer team!
Youth Group update: meet on Fridays at Open Arms

By Dawn Balis

I just wanted to introduce myself again to EC readers. My name is Dawn Balis and I am an MSW student at Boston University.

As part of my field experience I am interning with the GAGV Youth Program. It has been a wonderful experience so far and the youth have been fantastic. I look forward to every Friday night.

The purpose of this group is generally for LGBT youth and their Allies to hang out in a safe place. Ages 13-18 are welcome. In addition to hanging out, we are incorporating educational components such as sexual health, healthy relationships, basic life skills, creative activities, etc. On occasion we will also show movies, play board games and follow any other appropriate suggestions made by the youth.

I am an MSW student at Boston University.

Dawn Balis

GAGV Youth Program

By Dawn Balsis

Rainbow SAGE members met for lunch at Crossroads Cafe, 725 Goodman St., on October 22. Photo: Brian Hurlburt

SAGE CALENDAR

November 5
10:30 Yoga, 11:30 lunch chicken & dumplings, salad, dessert, beverage. Planning December calendar.

November 7
11am Yoga, 11:30 Lunch Brown bag lunch & beverage, Game Day.

November 12
10:30 Yoga, 11:30 Lunch Brown bag lunch and beverage, 1 pm HCR Home Care Kathy Hart. 2 pm Book exchange

November 14
11 Yoga, 11:30 Lunch – to La-Tea-Da For lunch and tea

November 19
10:30 Yoga, 11:30 Lunch Brown bag and beverage, scrabble game, 6:30 Coffee and Conversation at Equal Grounds (750 South Ave.)

November 21
11 Yoga, 11:30 Lunch brown bag and beverage, 1 pm Lifespan Bryan Reilly. 2 pm Make table center pieces.

November 23
Sage Thanksgiving Dinner at Open Arms MCC Church, 707 E. Main St. 2:30 to 7 pm. BRING A DISH TO PASS.

November 26
10:30 Yoga, 11:30 Lunch, Brown bag and beverage, Euchre.

November 28
HAPPY THANKSGIVING! NO PROGRAM.

Note:

We will be meeting at Open Arms MCC Church, 707 E. Main St.
**CULTURAL**

**Rochester Women’s Community Chorus** 234-4441.
Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus

www.thergmc.org

**DEADVOC Services for Abused Death Victims**

Mailing address: c/o RADAR, P.O. Box 20223, Rochester, NY 14602.

(585) 457-3425

Lilac Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf

(585) 449-8709.

**SPECTRUM LGBTQ & Straight Alliance**

Rochester, NY 14602. 24-Hour Hotline: ASAD-Aid.

**ELDERS**

Gay Alliance Rainbow Sage

Many monthly get togethers, some at Open Arms MCC 707 E. Main St. 244-8640; SAGE@sageglance.org

**FAMILY**

CNV Family Center

Integrative Family Care. Support meetings, workshops, information, www.cnvfamilycenter.org

Rochester Gay Moms’ Group

Support group for lesbian mothers and their children. www.lesbiday.org

**LEISURE**

Rural HIV testing

Genesee Valley Health and Human Services, PO Box 790, Palmyra, NY 14524.


360 East Ave., Rochester 14604. Offers drug, screening services for uninsured and underinsured.

**BREAST CANCER**

Viewpoint Breast Cancer Support Group


See www.trilliumhealthny.org

**WOMEN**

Lesbian christians for color website.com.

The first networking site for lesbians of Black, Asian, African American, Latina, Native American, Pacific Islander, Chicano, Breast & other lesbians of color, launched 2009. OurSistacircle is a safe social networking site for lesbians of color to speak to someone in PDLR. 45-460.

Evergreen Health Services, Buffalo

Provides HIV testing, counseling and therapy. (716) 438-0327

Westside Health Services


McCree Mueller Wellness Center at Unity Health’s Connection Clinic

360-9000, 585-216-0000; Buffalo Keeney Bldg. 3rd floor. Full range of services, regardless of ability to pay. (585) 232-4049.

Catholic Charities AIDS Services

A multicultural and bi-lingual staff providing services to a diversity of people infected with HIV. Contact condoms@hh.org.

BCCR Women’s Health Support Group

Meets the third Thursday of every month from 7-9pm at 388 E. Main St. For more information, contact 585-305-2365.

**HIV/AIDS**

Free testing for HIV exposure is available from New York State Department of Health: call Rochester Area Regional Hotline at (385) 423-0891, or 1-800-962-5063 for pay phones or calls outside Rochester. Deaf or hard-of-hearing call the deaf: 423-8120 (TDD). New Rapid HIV testing now available in 30-40 minutes. Statewide information can be obtained by calling 1-800-541-4EBS. Other organizations which provide AIDS-related services are as follows:

**Resources**

Check our monthly and ongoing calendar as well as the community section for more groups and events. For further information, call the Gay Alliance at 244-8640 or visit www.gayalliance.org. And send us your information.

**BISEXUALITY RESOURCES**

AMBi Los Angeles; American Institute of Bisexuality (AMBi) Bisexual Network; Bi Cafe; Bi Definition: Milwaukee; BiNet USA; Bisexual Organizing Project (BOP); Bisexual Network of Northern Colorado; CBBN; Columbus, Ohio; Dallas; Fort Worth Bisexual & Transgender Project; Los Angeles Bi Task Force; New York Area Bisexual Network; Robin Croft’s site; Seattle B, Binghamton, NY: 609-724-4308.

The Bi-Writers Association: The Bisexual Resource Center (email bro@biselnet.net)

**TRAVEL**

**MONARCH**

Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley

Syracuse Region, 114 University Ave., Rochester, NY 14605; Toll-free Hotline: 1 866 600-6867. Planned Parenthood of the Finger Lakes provides HIV screening services for uninsured and underinsured.

**ODI**

You may qualify for low- to no-cost family plan assistance. You may qualify for low- to no-cost family plan assistance.

**CNY Deafness Bi-Polar Support**

Support group for residents of Central New York State Group Adult Support Group meets the third Thursday of every month from 6 to 8pm at Upstate 341 Lyman St. Syracuse, NY 13202. The Youth Group meets the third Saturday of every month from 5-7p.m to 6:30 p.m. at Transitions Living Services, 420 E. Genesee St., Syracuse, NY 13202.

**TRANSGENDER**

Rochester Transgender Support Group

Syracuse Regional group for gender variant people and last Friday, 3-5am, GAIV 3rd floor, 875 E. Main St. 244-8640.

Volunteer Legal Services Project


For low-income services for low-income clients. For low-income clients. We provide a full multidisciplinary team consisting of nursing, social work, physical, occupational, and speech therapists as well as home health aides. We have comprehensive programs for your care. Your culture and unique medical history is provided by the Gay Alliance. For more information, contact us at 585-272-1930 or visit our online at https://hiv/AIDS.

Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley

See www.gayalliance.org Resource Directory under “Health” for Gay Alliance referrals to physicians and service agencies.
MONDAYS
LORA Coffee Society Every 4th Monday, 8:30-9:30pm, Equal Grounds Coffee House, 750 South Ave. For more info: http://www.facebook.com/LORACoffeeSociety. Contact Person: Cathie; Email: cltimian@l-o-r-a.com; Phone: 585.313.3037

Gay Alliance Library & Archives, David l. Wright Center. Every Mon. 6-7, 6th floor, 875 E. Main St. 244-8460

BROTHERS KEEPERS
Brothers Group for men over 30. Third Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00pm, MOCHA Center, 17 Liberty Place. HIV+ Mixed Men’s Group Wednesdays, 11:30am-12:30 pm. Trillium Health, 259 Monroe Ave. FrontRunners/FrontWalkers Mondays, 6pm, Eastern Market parking lot. www.rochesterfrontrunners.org Gay Alliance Library & Archives, David l. Wright Center. Every Wed., 6-7 pm, 875 E. Main St. 244-8460

Empire Bears Every Wednesday, 6pm dinner at The Winston. www.empirebears.org

THURSDAYS
Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns 6:30pm, first Thursday, Ralph, 277-6121 Queer Radical Reading Group First and third Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 pm, Equal=Grinds, 750 South Ave. Gay Alliance Youth Gender Identity Support Group Thursday evenings, 6-8:30, GAgV Library, 1st floor, off Prince St., lobby, 875 E. Main St. Ages 13-18, 244-8460. Pride at Work First Thursday, 5:30-8:30 pm, 167 Flanders St. off Thuron Rd. 426-0882. GLOBAL (Gays & Lesbians of Bausch & Lomb) Meets every third Thursday in Area 67 conference room at the Optic Center. Voice mail 338-8977

TUESDAYS
Charlie’s Group 2nd Tuesdays. Monthly peer facilitated support group for married men who have sex with men. Confidential. Free. For time, place: email charlie@aygalliance.org.

Mocha Youth Drop-In Tues., 1-3pm, MOCHA Center, 107 Liberty Place. 244-1450, 244-8460

Mocha Hepatitis Clinic Free Hepatitis A & B vaccinations, third Tuesdays, 1-3pm, Trillium Health, 107 Liberty Place. 244-1450

Women’s Community Chorus Rehearsals each Tuesday, 6:30-9pm, Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 591 E. Main St. 219-4288; 1560 Jefferson Rd. 233-2441, www.thewcnc.org Free HIV Testing 9am-7pm. Trillium Health, 259 Monroe Ave.

WEDNESDAYS
L.O.R.A. Knitting Group Now meeting on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from 9 to 11pm at Cross Roads Coffee House, 752 South Goodman St.

Identity Group The identity group is for LGBT identified individuals who have a developmental disability diagnosis. The group meets Wednesdays 3-4 pm at ARC Health Services (2060 Brighton-duしていました). The group is facilitated by Delina Fico, LSW. For more information, please contact Delina Fico at d-fico@archoth- care.org or 585-271-0861 ext. 1552. Gay Alliance Board of Directors Meetings 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 8:30pm, 875 E. Main St. 244-8460

New Freedom New Happiness AA gay meeting, 7pm, 220 Winton Rd. Men and women.

Support Group for Parents who have lost Children First, 3rd, Wednesdays, 11am-12:30pm, Third Presbyterian Church, 4 Magnes St. Geneseo Regional Home Care. Free. 325-1690

COAP Come Out and Play. Wednesday game nights. 9-11pm, Equal, 750 South Ave. 7pm. paulkaeeman@gmail.com

Rochester Glasses Meeting General 2nd Wednesdays, 7:30pm, Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave. www.rochesterglasses.com

Brothers Keepers
Brothers Group for men over 30. Third Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30pm, MOCHA Center, 107 Liberty Place. HIV+ Mixed Men’s Group Wednesdays, 11:30am-12:30 pm. Trillium Health, 259 Monroe Ave. FrontRunners/FrontWalkers Mondays, 6pm, Eastern Market parking lot. www.rochesterfrontrunners.org Gay Alliance Library & Archives, David l. Wright Center. Every Wed., 6-7 pm, 875 E. Main St. 244-8460

Empire Bears Every Wednesday, 6pm dinner at The Winston. www.empirebears.org

THURSDAYS
Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns 6:30pm, first Thursday, Ralph, 277-6121 Queer Radical Reading Group First and third Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 pm, Equal=Grinds, 750 South Ave. Gay Alliance Youth Gender Identity Support Group Thursday evenings, 6-8:30, GAgV Library, 1st floor, off Prince St., lobby, 875 E. Main St. Ages 13-18, 244-8460. Pride at Work First Thursday, 5:30-8:30 pm, 167 Flanders St. off Thuron Rd. 426-0882. GLOBAL (Gays & Lesbians of Bausch & Lomb) Meets every third Thursday in Area 67 conference room at the Optic Center. Voice mail 338-8977

TUESDAYS
Charlie’s Group 2nd Tuesdays. Monthly peer facilitated support group for married men who have sex with men. Confidential. Free. For time, place: email charlie@aygalliance.org.

Mocha Youth Drop-In Tues., 1-3pm, MOCHA Center, 107 Liberty Place. 244-1450, 244-8460

Mocha Hepatitis Clinic Free Hepatitis A & B vaccinations, third Tuesdays, 1-3pm, Trillium Health, 107 Liberty Place. 244-1450

Women’s Community Chorus Rehearsals each Tuesday, 6:30-9pm, Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 591 E. Main St. 219-4288; 1560 Jefferson Rd. 233-2441, www.thewcnc.org Free HIV Testing 9am-7pm. Trillium Health, 259 Monroe Ave.

WEDNESDAYS
L.O.R.A. Knitting Group Now meeting on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from 9 to 11pm at Cross Roads Coffee House, 752 South Goodman St.

Identity Group The identity group is for LGBT identified individuals who have a developmental disability diagnosis. The group meets Wednesdays 3-4 pm at ARC Health Services (2060 Brighton-du调查显示). The group is facilitated by Delina Fico, LSW. For more information, please contact Delina Fico at d-fico@archoth-care.org or 585-271-0861 ext. 1552. Gay Alliance Board of Directors Meetings 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 8:30pm, 875 E. Main St. 244-8460

New Freedom New Happiness AA gay meeting, 7pm, 220 Winton Rd. Men and women.

Support Group for Parents who have lost Children First, 3rd, Wednesdays, 11am-12:30pm, Third Presbyterian Church, 4 Magnes St. Geneseo Regional Home Care. Free. 325-1690

COAP Come Out and Play. Wednesday game nights. 9-11pm, Equal, 750 South Ave. 7pm. paulkaeeman@gmail.com

Rochester Glasses Meeting General 2nd Wednesdays, 7:30pm, Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave. www.rochesterglasses.com

Brothers Keepers
Brothers Group for men over 30. Third Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30pm, MOCHA Center, 107 Liberty Place. HIV+ Mixed Men’s Group Wednesdays, 11:30am-12:30 pm. Trillium Health, 259 Monroe Ave. FrontRunners/FrontWalkers Mondays, 6pm, Eastern Market parking lot. www.rochesterfrontrunners.org Gay Alliance Library & Archives, David l. Wright Center. Every Wed., 6-7 pm, 875 E. Main St. 244-8460

Empire Bears Every Wednesday, 6pm dinner at The Winston. www.empirebears.org

THURSDAYS
Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns 6:30pm, first Thursday, Ralph, 277-6121 Queer Radical Reading Group First and third Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 pm, Equal=Grinds, 750 South Ave. Gay Alliance Youth Gender Identity Support Group Thursday evenings, 6-8:30, GAgV Library, 1st floor, off Prince St., lobby, 875 E. Main St. Ages 13-18, 244-8460. Pride at Work First Thursday, 5:30-8:30 pm, 167 Flanders St. off Thuron Rd. 426-0882. GLOBAL (Gays & Lesbians of Bausch & Lomb) Meets every third Thursday in Area 67 conference room at the Optic Center. Voice mail 338-8977

TUESDAYS
Charlie’s Group 2nd Tuesdays. Monthly peer facilitated support group for married men who have sex with men. Confidential. Free. For time, place: email charlie@aygalliance.org.

Mocha Youth Drop-In Tues., 1-3pm, MOCHA Center, 107 Liberty Place. 244-1450, 244-8460

Mocha Hepatitis Clinic Free Hepatitis A & B vaccinations, third Tuesdays, 1-3pm, Trillium Health, 107 Liberty Place. 244-1450

Women’s Community Chorus Rehearsals each Tuesday, 6:30-9pm, Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 591 E. Main St. 219-4288; 1560 Jefferson Rd. 233-2441, www.thewcnc.org Free HIV Testing 9am-7pm. Trillium Health, 259 Monroe Ave.

EDUCATION CALENDAR
SUNDAY 3
Dignity Integrity Episcopal Mass/ Healing Service, with music. 5 pm, St. Luke’s and St. Simon’s Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St.

TUESDAY 7
Election Day

SATURDAY 9
Women’s Family Festival, Noon-5 pm at Open Arms MCC, 707 E. Main St.

SUNDAY 10
Dignity Integrity. Roman Catholic Liturgy of the Word, with music. 5 pm, St. Luke’s and St. Simon’s Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St.

TUESDAY 19
Transgender Day of Remembrance Candlelight Vigil at Brockport, hosted by SUNI. Contact: Helen Fabo. Empire Bears potluck at GAGY conference room, 5th floor, Auditorium Center, 875 E. Main St. Bring a dish. 6-8 pm.

WEDNESDAY 20
Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) Candlelight Vigil at RIT. Hosted by OUTvillage. Contact: Jason Ballard. TDOR Day of Remembrance (TDOR) Candlelight Vigil at Rustic Village entertainment center, across from MCC, 7 pm. Contact: Jason Ballard.

Gay Alliance Annual Meeting, 6 pm at MVP Health Care, 220 Alexander St. For more information call 244-8640.

THURSDAY 21
Skylar Kerigil speaking on trans issues at SUNY Brockport.

FRIDAY 22
Gay Alliance Speak Out training at 6-9 pm at HCR Homecare 85 Metro Park, Rochester, NY 14623 Registration is required. http://www.gayalliance.org/speakout.html

The Good, The Bad & The Funny with trans open mic. Equal Grounds Coffee Shop, South Street at Caroline. 7:30 pm. Contact: Shauna O’Toole.

TDOR After Party at Tilt - Contact Jason Ballard.

SATURDAY 23
SAGE Thanksgiving Dinner at Open Arms MCC Church, 707 E. Main St. 2-4 pm. Bring a dish to pass.

Gay Alliance Speak Out training from 8:30 am-5 pm at HCR Homecare 85 Metro Park, Rochester, NY 14623. Registration is required. http://www.gayalliance.org/speakout.html

SUNDAY 24
Dignity Integrity. Thanksgiving Prayer. 5 pm, St. Luke’s and St. Simon’s Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. Potluck dinner.

WEDNESDAY 27
Thanksgiving

SATURDAY 29
Ithaca Trans Group. Open discussion and support group at 5:30-7:30 pm at Gay Alliance office, fifth floor, Auditorium Center, 875 E. Main St.

DECEMBER 1
World AIDS Day Concert. Third Presbyterian Church at 4 Mears St. (at East Ave.) 7 pm, student admission (with ID) $5. Tickets at Equal Grounds, OUTlandish, and online and at the door. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/diagnosingthehiv.

THURSDAY 5

SUNDAY 7
Dignity Integrity. Quiet Episcopal Mass in the Chapel. 5 pm, St. Luke’s and St. Simon’s Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St.
November 2013 • Number 473 • Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley • The Empty Closet

Advertisement Policy: The Empty Closet does not print advertisements that contain nude drawings or photographs, nor does it print advertisements that contain the promotion or sale of sexual services, or sex ads, or that you will “get” that particular person if you patronize the establishment advertised. Advertisements that are explicit, racist, sexist, agedist, anti-homosexual, or that promote or advertising that states that the person pictured in the ad is for sale, or that you will “get” that particular person if you patronize the establishment advertised. All political advertisements must contain information about who placed them and a method of contact. Advertisements that are sexist, racist, agedist, or anti-gay will also be refused. 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 person and no matter who the interest is. As it is a way to produce a negative advertisement is defined as one that focuses upon a multiplicity of factors or in the political area, a posed photo and to persuade the public to buy it for (not one from the last). The Empty Closet maintains ethical standards, neutrality regarding protests, political candidates and parties. The_empty_closet@emptycloset.org or e-mail: emptycloset@gagv.us.

Publication Information: The Empty Closet is published 11 times a year (December and January combined) by The Empty Closet Press for the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, Inc. Approximately 2,000 copies of each issue are distributed during the first week of each month. Every copy is made in plain sealed envelopes. The publication of the name or photograph of any person or organization in articles is not an indication of the views or approval of The Empty Closet or the members of that organization. For further information, please write to The Empty Closet, 875 E. Main St., Rochester, NY 14605; call (585) 244-8640 or e-mail: theemptycloset@emptycloset.org.

The Empty Closet is the official publication of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, Inc., as stated in the following paragraph: The Empty Closet is the Rochester gay community about local and national political, social and cultural issues, to provide a forum for ideas and creative work from the local gay community, to help promote leadership within the community, and to be a part of a national network of lesbian and gay publications that exchange ideas and seek to educate.

Part of our purpose is to maintain a middle position with respect to any and all issues. We must be careful to present all viewpoints in a way that takes into consideration the impact of the issue, (men, women, young and old, and those from various walks of life. We cannot make any claims or editorial opinions on the community. We reserve the right to edit for space and clarity. We will print anonymous letters to the editor if space permits. All letters provided to the Editor. Confidentiality will be respected. Submissions are due by the 15th of the month at: The Empty Closet, 875 E. Main St., Suite 500, Rochester, NY 14605 or e-mail: emptycloset@gagv.us. The online edition of EC is available at www.gayalliance.org.

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

The opinions of columnists, editors, 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. Published in Rochester, NY 14605; 875 E. Main St., Rochester, NY 14605 (www.emptycloset@gagv.us)

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. We will print letters at the editor’s discretion and on a space available basis. Only one letter by the same writer in a six-month period will be published. We will not print personal attacks on individuals, nor will we be responsible for correspondence between individuals. Individuals who are responsible for correspondence to the Editor. Confidentiality will be respected. Submissions are due by the 15th of the month at: The Empty Closet, 875 E. Main St., Suite 500, Rochester, NY 14605 or e-mail: emptycloset@gagv.us.

The online edition of EC is available at www.gayalliance.org.
CARE HAS MANY FACES.
AND ONE HOME.

Healthcare, as some may see it, is a big, faceless system. Impersonal. Indifferent. One size fits all.

Trillium Health is different—different from that perception. More like you. Of every culture. From every background. Warm, welcoming and caring.

Most of all, we’re like you in that we want a clear solution when it comes to our healthcare options. You may have known us as AIDS Care. Now we’ve expanded our focus to provide a more comprehensive, inclusive and proactive approach for everyone seeking better health.

We figure that might be you.