Perspectives from Pride 2014: self discovery and having a good time
By Adam Young
Braving increasingly murky Rochester skies, people crowded into Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Park at Manhattan Square for the annual Pride Festival on July 19.

While ambivalent rain drizzled on and off, the spirit of Pride remained buoyant throughout the sea of smiling faces clustered under rainbow-colored umbrellas. “It’s Pride… I always do it. I’d come if it was snowing,” said Dean LaBarge of Pittsford. Though the weather may not have been ideal, LaBarge praised the new location of the Pride festivities at Manhattan Square over the Auditorium Theatre parking lot, where the event was formerly held. The “people-watching” is another incentive, LaBarge said. Pride-goers could indeed be seen in various states of colorful dress weaving among tents with vendors offering anything from Pride-themed rainbow trinkets to replacement windows.
The Trillium Health tent became increasing busy as “stress breasts,” squeezable stress relievers in the likeness of breasts, were a wildly popular prize for completing a survey about one’s health care experiences. Although as popular as the stress breasts were, some survey takers preferred a bright pink or aqua-colored t-shirt for their time instead.

On her way in, Samantha F. said she attended college here in Rochester, and came back specifically for Pride. “I discovered myself in Rochester. I would love to be here permanently,” she said. Unlike some smaller communities, Samantha described Rochester Pride as an event that is “very much childbirth.”

The Central Library was illuminated with rainbow lights again this year to honor Pride. Despite persistent drizzle, over 1,000 people marched in the Pride Parade on July 19, while many more watched along the route and gathered at Martin Luther King Jr. Park at Manhattan Square afterwards for the Festival.

Many young members of the community took part, either marching with the Gay Alliance Youth Group or other groups, or attending the Festival. Long-time Pride participants were impressed by the large numbers, youthfulness, and the self-confidence of the younger queer generation, so different from the world of a quarter of a century ago. The large crowd also provided a powerful contrast to the small downtown Pride March in 1989 that started it all.

Evelyn Bailey, executive producer of Shoulders to Stand On, served as Grand Marshal, and elected officials including City Council members Matt Haag and Elaine Spauls, NYS Sen. Ted O’Brien, Brighton Town Supervisor Bill Moehlle and NYS Assembly Member Harry Bronson were among the marchers.

Parade award winners were Mother’s Favorite: Tilt Nightclub and 14th Ave; Stonewall Award: GVA UCC Churches; Rainbow Award: Pop Show Band; Community Award: Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus; Ruby Slipper Award: University of Rochester. Videos of the parade and other activities at the Flag Ceremony the night before, the Gay Alliance’s 36x50’ rainbow flag flew from the superstructure above MLK Jr. Park. Latinx/Latina LGBT Voices performed to loud applause. Harry Bronson read a proclamation from the NYS legislature, while Rochester Mayor Lovely Warren read a proclamation from her office and City Council, recognizing Pride Weekend and the role the Gay Alliance has played for over 40 years in what Warren called “bringing our community together.”

Harry Bronson talked about the gains in LGBTQ civil rights since the days of bar raids by police and the Stonewall Riots. Matt Haag spoke about the city’s commitment to LGBTQ rights; his mention of “health benefits for our transgender employees and their families” got the biggest round of applause. Haag said that the City Council Finance Committee would amend the city charter to clarify transgender rights. “There is one item left,” he said, stating that those who do business with the city should be required to give LGBT employees equal benefits.

On July 22, City Council voted unanimously to pass updated language to Rochester’s tram’s non-discrimination policies, strengthening the language on gender expression and identity. Transgender and gender expression community activists Laine Glaistig and Pamela Barnes and Gay Alliance ED Scott Fearing spoke in favor of the re-opening of the David Bohnett CyberCenter.

The Gay Alliance announce the re-opening of the David Bohnett CyberCenter.

The re-opening reception, which will take place Aug. 18, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., in the Gay Alliance Lounge, fifth floor, 875 E. Main St.

Executive Director Scott Fearing said, “We are very excited to announce this upgrade to the computer systems that we provide for the LGBTQ community to use. The David Bohnett Foundation’s generous donation of six computer systems allows The Gay Alliance to provide a valuable service to the LGBTQ community. From homework to job applications to researching LGBTQ issues, these computers are here as a resource for those who need safe access to a computer work station.”

The Gay Alliance is publisher of The Empty Closet, New York State’s oldest LGBTQ newspaper.
The Empty Closet Editor
SUSAN JORDAN

We are winning because...

“Same sex marriage is a tool of Satan.” – Hate group leader Matt Barber

Same sex marriage “disrespects the laws of Nature.” – St. Louis Catholic Diocese

“We won’t baptize children of same sex couples.” – US Catholic Bishops

“Churches or a few wealthy extremists fund hate radio, funded by tax-exempt equality funders.”

Gay rights and families who get paychecks for attacking because…

We have resist...

The above quotes represent just a few of the vitriol going on.

Gay Alliance Executive Director
SCOTT FEARING

Champions for LGBTQ Life and Culture

Many times in recent months I have talked about how the Gay Alliance is striving to change its work to keep up with the times in which we live.

I have stressed how we are adapting our work from programs that focused on helping people to survive to programs that help people and our communities to thrive. We still face inequitable laws and sources of bias and more violence than our cisgender and straight brothers and sisters, and, the steps of improvements in LGBTQ lives have not always appreciated our need for each other as a complex community.

The Gay Alliance is embarking on the process of re-creating ourselves with a renewed focus on the common imperative shared by all members of the LGBTQ communi-
ty: living out, open, and honest lives. The dizziness array of LGBTQ identities and expressions include as many differ-
ences and contradictions as it includes similarities, but when we come together as LGBTQ people, we seek balance by embracing the authenticity of the joy and fear, frustrations and pride of each and every member of our community.

Our first step was to create new mission and vision statements to guide our work.

Using different words, I told you about them last month, but now let me make it public, our vision is to create the Champions for LGBTQ Life and Culture. From classrooms, homes and workplaces, through media and community events, all that we do will be measured by considering how much it champions the value and diversity of LGBTQ lives and cultures.

Our vision statement! Glad you asked: “We envision a future where all members of the greater Rochester LGBTQ communities, at all stages of their lives, are free to be fully participating citizens living in which they are safe, stable and fully included.”

We hope that you can feel the power behind our new vision and mission statements. We are here with you because we are you, and our work is best when we do it with you, our community.

We want to ensure that you are the generation of the next generation. We want to ensure that the resources of our 40-year history provides to advocate for you and your family.

When we first began, the Gay Alliance was often the lone voice standing up against great opposition, asserting that we were not sick, we needed no doctors to cure us. That we were not criminals, and that our love was legitimate. While some laws and opinions have changed, and we have been joined by countless organiza-
tions in our journey the Gay Alliance is uniquely positioned to build the necessary allian-
ces.

Now we need each of you to join us in the creation of the New Gay Alliance. Our new mission statement, we hope that it establishes a framework of commu-
nity engagement that can’t exist otherwise, because it exists through you. We need you to share with us; share your thoughts about us, share some information about what you want, and share your ideas for what the communities need. We are now conducting a com-

munity survey and until Sept. we would like you to hear from as many different voices from the LGBTQ communities as possible.

You can complete the sur-
vey online, or we would be glad to mail you a copy to complete. (Call us at 585-244-
8640 between 9-4 any day and request a Community Survey.) If you have access to the in-
ternet simply go to https://www.

The Empty Closet is free with your annual membership.

Gay Alliance Partnerships
Continued from page 1

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IMMEDIATELY
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28 years (from page 1) the training of the Empire State Pride Agenda Transgender Rights Organizer—was also commen- ted. “We commend Rochester for leading the way yet again on transgender equality.” The Codex that is further the definition of the Code to explicitly include protections on the basis of gender identity and expression. While Rochester was the first city in New York State to explicitly include gender identity pro- tections to transgender individu- als, last night’s actions by the Codex Council further strengthened and clarified the effects of the city’s human rights law by expressly identifying individuals with gender identity as protected from discrimi- nation. It also brings the language of the law into align- ment with laws recently passed in states like Maryland and President Obama’s Executive Order protect- ing LGBT federal contractors.”

Pride 2014 also included free Family Fun Time at MLK Jr. Park on Saturday afternoon (see page 7) and Roc Pride sports— albeit some of this year’s attention had to be can- celled due to the bad weather.

The Gay Alliance’s fundrais- er took place Sunday, July 20 at Genesee Valley Park. The weather was mostly sunny. Over 2,000 people took part in the 6.6 mile race on both sides of the street. City Council President Loretta Scott was one of the elected officials in attendance.

Judges Michael Gamilla and Thomas Warfield gave the Peanuts Best of the Peanuts Award to Katie Sweeney and crew, for their funny creation “Taste the Rain- bow…”

Robert Lowe shared his journey learning about the history of the Gay Alliance portrayed on large screen. Everyone is so loving and caring—I’m not really used to that. The amounts of love and support people gave each other is amazing—even toward total strangers. It is a wonderful feel- ing to witness.

As the Pride Picnic was winding down, Tyshan Coleman and Sasha Johnson were singing under a shade tree near the Roundhouse. Coleman told the EC, “This picnic has been a lot of fun today. I’m here with my friend, we’re eating a lot, we’re drinking a lot and the music is really great. What more could you ask for!”

Bill Valenti talks about the loss of HIV researcher

By Susan Jordan

Dr. Bill Valenti was the 20 July opening ses- sion of the 20th International AIDS Conference in Melbourne, Australia, there was a moment of remembrance for those who lost their lives aboard the Malaysian Airlines Flight which was shot down over Ukraine.

Prominent AIDS expert Pro- fessor Joep Lange, former presi- dent of the International of the AIDS Society was among them. He boarded the plane in Amsterdam to fly to Kuala Lumpur to join another flight to Melbourne. Lange, a Dutch citizen, headed the department of public health at the University of Amsterdam. His partner, AIDS communica- tion specialist Jacqueline van Tongeren, was also on the flight.

The EC, a friend of Prof. Lange and usu- ally contains his excitement. “The loss of HIV researcher Professor Joep Lange, former presi- dent of the International of the AIDS Society was among them. He boarded the plane in Amsterdam to fly to Kuala Lumpur to join another flight to Melbourne. Lange, a Dutch citizen, headed the department of public health at the University of Amsterdam. His partner, AIDS communica- tion specialist Jacqueline van Tongeren, was also on the flight.

The EC, a friend of Prof. Lange and usu- 

SAGE. (see page 10).

After the rain, the rain- bows…

(Cyber from page 1)

The Gay Alliance Cyber- Center, the center’s 20th anni- versary and a century of trans- formers loaded with a broad range of updated programs and soft- ware. The 100th International Gay Alli- ance CyberCenter workstations are in the fifth floor Commu- nity Room, and two are in the Library on the first floor, but all are on moveable work stations allowing the center to be relocated to better serve the community education and training.

(Profiles from page 1) where everyone can comfortably express their true nature, saying, “It’s okay to be gay.”

Samantha Vega and Deedee DaBuisson created the eowment. As Dr. Lange’s career progressed to a multi- national level, his vision for fighting AIDS remained clear and focused. "The main thing is that we’re on the right path and doing the right things. You can’t be complacent, you have to keep moving forward," he said.

Dr. Valenti respects Lange’s work and his dedication to fighting AIDS. "We are all in awe of what he accomplished," he said. "He was a true leader in the fight against AIDS, and his absence will be felt deeply by all those who knew him."
Judges strike down marriage bans in Florida, Virginia

On July 18 a Republican-appointed state judge struck down Florida's ban on marriage for committed same-sex couples. The ruling was stayed until July 22. Chief Circuit Judge Luis Garcia was appointed by former Governor Jeb Bush and reelected in 2002 and 2008. The case, Huntsman v. Heavilin, was filed in Key West, and as of now the ruling only applies to Monroe County. In his ruling, Judge Garcia wrote, “This court concludes that a citizen’s right to marry is a fundamental right that belongs to the individual.”

On July 25 a state trial court in Miami issued a decision striking down Florida's ban on marriage for same-sex couples and ordering Miami-Dade County to allow same-sex couples to marry. The court stayed the order pending appeal. On July 28 the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Va. ruled in favor of same-sex couples’ freedom to marry, upholding a lower court’s February decision that found Virginia’s marriage ban unconstitutional. This was the 29th ruling to find state bans unconstitutional, and it may apply to W. Virginia, North and South Carolina. The N.C. attorney general says he will not defend the ban.

AFL-CIO reacts: “The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit has affirmed that Virginia’s marriage ban is unconstitutional because it violates the Equal Protection and Due Process Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. Today’s decision sends the message that loving couples like our plaintiffs – Tim Bostic and Tony London and Carol Schall and Mary Townley – are entitled to the same basic rights and protections as every other American... Today’s decision is monumental as it also paves the way for West Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina to strike down their marriage bans as those states fall under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. An appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court by the Defendants is expected, and it will be costly.”

USA Today noted on the Va. ruling, “Like the first appeals court panel to rule on the issue this year in Utah and Oklahoma, the three-judge panel was deeply divided, but the swing judge -- in this case Henry Floyd, who was named to the bench by George W. Bush and elevated to the circuit court by President Obama in 2011 -- came down on the side of same-sex marriage.”

Said NCLR Legal Director Shannon Minter about the Miami-Dade ruling: “Today’s decision affirms the fundamental principles of equality and fairness and the common humanity of gay and lesbian people. As the Court recognized, these families are part of Florida’s community, and equal protection requires that they be given the same legal protections and respect as other families in this state. The Court’s ruling is a victory not only for the courageous couples who brought this case, but for everyone who cares about freedom and fairness.”

Human Rights Campaign

There are over 70 court cases challenging discriminatory marriage bans across the country in 30 of the 31 states where such a ban exists, plus Puerto Rico. Cases from 12 states are currently pending before six federal appeals courts. The Sixth Circuit holds the distinction of being the only federal appeals court to date that will consider marriage cases from all states within its jurisdiction. In total, 33 states either have marriage equality or have seen state marriage bans struck down as unconstitutional in court.

Gallup puts support for marriage equality at 55 percent with other polls showing support at even higher margins. And support for same-sex marriage rights continues to grow in virtually every demographic group. According to ABC News / Washington Post, 77 percent of adults under age 50 favor marriage equality. 40 percent of Republicans -- an all-time high and jump of 16 points in under two years -- now support marriage for gay and lesbian couples, while the number of Catholics supporting marriage has grown to 62 percent, according to the New York Times. These numbers continue to grow, with no indication that support will slow down.

Same-sex couples can legally marry in 19 states and the District of Columbia, while 31 states have a law or constitutional amendment restricting marriage to the union of one man and one woman. Learn more about this and other marriage equality cases at www.americansformarriageequality.org.

More about Florida page 15.

President signs order protecting LGBT federal employees from discrimination

In a White House ceremony July 21, President Obama signed a sweeping executive order protecting LGBT federal workers from job discrimination.

Executive Order 11246, issued by President Lyndon B. Johnson, prohibits federal contractors from discriminating “against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.” President Obama’s Executive Order will add sexual orientation and gender identity to the list of protected categories.

President Obama’s Executive Order does not allow for any exemption beyond the one added by Executive Order 13279, issued by President George W. Bush, which permits religiously affiliated contractors to favor individuals of a particular religion when making employment decisions, by specifying that Executive Order 11246, “shall not apply to a Government contractor or subcontractor that is a religious corporation, association, educational institution, or society, with respect to the employment of individuals of a particular religion to perform work connected with the carrying on by such corporation, association, educational institution, or society of its activities. Such contractors and subcontractors are not exempted or excused from complying with any other requirements contained in this Order.”

In addition, under the First Amendment, religious entities are permitted to make employment decisions about their ministers as they see fit.

Executive Order 13147 governs only federal contractors and subcontractors and subcontractors who do over $10,000 in Government business in one year. It does not affect grants and President Obama’s Executive Order does not impact the administration of federal grants. The Order is administered and enforced by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP). As part of these duties, OFCCP conducts compliance reviews, receives complaints from individuals who believe they have been discriminated against, and provides technical assistance to contractors regarding their contractual obligations. More information can be found at www.dol.gov/ofccp.

Executive Order 11478, issued by President Nixon, bars discrimination against federal employees on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, and age, and was amended by Executive Order 13087, issued by President Clinton, to include sexual orientation.

President Obama’s Executive Order adds gender identity to the list of protected categories. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and other federal agencies already apply Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to protect federal employees from discrimination on the basis of gender identity as a form of sex discrimination. The President believes it is important to explicitly prohibit — in both Executive Action and in legislation — discrimination on the basis of gender identity. Read more: http://www.towleroad.com/11478.html

Human Rights Campaign

The order, profoundly consequential in its reach, is an important victory for advocates President Obama’s own LGBT legacy of achievement, unmatched in history; three landmark pieces of legislation; 90 significant policy or regulatory changes, including the largest conferment of rights to noncitizens; and one added by Executive Order 11246, “shall not apply to a Government contractor or subcontractor that is a religious corporation, association, educational institution, or society, with respect to the employment of individuals of a particu...
President Obama explicitly protects transgender federal employees from workplace discrimination by amending an order issued by President Bill Clinton banning sexual orientation discrimination within the federal workforce. In the same order, President Obama will set strong new standards for federal contractors, which employ 20 percent of the American workforce. In addition, the Obama administration has guaranteed that 14 million more American workers will be protected from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

In the part that applies to federal contractors, the Obama administration declined to create a separate carve-out or standard for LGBT employees. Instead, the order directed the National Labor Relations Board to consider the landmark 2013 case, University of North Carolina v.雁iel, to make it possible to use the Blueprint for Positive Change — a checklist of actions the administration could take to dramatically improve the lives of LGBT Americans for the better. In the years since, President Obama, Attorney General Eric Holder, and others within every cabinet agency have spearheaded and achieved unprecedented progress on almost every front.

Executive Director Chad Griffin issued the following statement: "With this action, President Obama has cemented his legacy as a transformative leader. Consistently, this administration has taken unprecedented and historic executive actions to advance LGBT equality in this country and around the world." Viewed in full, President Obama’s legacy of achievement is unmatched in history; three landmark pieces of legislation, 90 significant policy or regulatory changes, including the largest conferral of rights in history to LGBT people via the implementation of the Windsor decision; and 15 federal judicial and seven ambassadorial appointments.

President Obama has signed the only legislative piece of LGBT-inclusive legislation to be passed by Congress — the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act. The President took this step in part to avoid the spill-over of hate crimes and violence against LGBT people that resulted from the 2013 U.S. Supreme Court Windsor decision which declared that federal law, and therefore federal regulations, cannot be applied to ban marriage equality for same-sex couples.

In the wake of the 2013 Windsor decision, the Obama administration worked across all federal agencies to ensure the fullest and broadest implementation of the decision possible under the law — resulting in the largest conferral of LGBT rights in history.

The Obama administration has also proactively and comprehensively addressed the issue of sexual orientation and gender identity in every area of policy. An additional 14 million workers will be protected from gender identity discrimination. Estimates take recent changes in state nondiscrimination laws into account.

As of May 2014, 86 percent of the top 50 federal contractors prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation, and 61 percent prohibited discrimination based on gender identity. All but two of the top 50 Fortune 500 companies prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation (96 percent) as of May 2014, and 70 percent prohibited discrimination based on gender identity.

Judge overturns Colo. marriage ban; ruling is stayed until Aug. 25

On July 23 U.S. District Judge Raymond Moore ruled against Colorado’s constitutional amendment banning marriage equality. In Burns v. Hickenlooper, attorneys with Kilmer, Lane and Newman, LLP sued the state on behalf of six same-sex couples who argue that Colorado’s ban on marriage equality violates the U.S. Constitution.

Judge Moore stayed his ruling until Aug. 25 to allow the state time to appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, which has already struck down bans on marriage equality in Utah and Oklahoma.

"Today’s ruling from Judge Moore provides even greater confirmation that Colorado’s ban on marriage equality is unconstitutional,” said Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Legal Director David Warburton. "Through civil unions, Colorado has already recognized the need for same-sex couples to have equal access to the benefits and obligations of marriage.

A new report released last week by HRC found that 73 percent of consumers who vote said they would support a federal contractor nondiscrimination executive order that would protect all employees from workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. This move will protect approximately 22 million additional workers from sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination, leaving a majority of American workers without protections.

An estimated 11 million more workers will be protected from sexual orientation discrimination when taking into account those already protected by state law or employer policy. An additional 34 million workers will be protected from gender identity discrimination. Estimates take recent changes in state nondiscrimination laws into account.

HRC Executive Director Chad Griffin issued the following statement: "Today's ruling from Judge Moore was a monumental decision that affirms the宪法 right of same-sex couples to marry in Colorado, while also extending protections to LGBT employees.

The Obama administration must do a more comprehensive job of ensuring that federal regulations or distinguishing palpably important categories that are protected by the patchwork of state laws.

The federal contractor executive order is broadly supported by the American public. A 2013 poll of likely voters conducted for HRC by GQRR found that 73 percent favored an order and support was strong regardless of age, race, education, political ideology, and a number of other demographics.

President Obama broadened a federal nondiscrimination executive order to prohibit workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity—a move that will protect approximately 22 percent (or 34 million) civilian workers in the U.S., according to research by the UCLA School of Law’s Williams Institute.

"The executive order will reach workers not protected by the patchwork of existing state-level nondiscrimination policies," said Williams Institute Executive Director Brad Sears. "Less than half of the states prohibit sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination, leaving a majority of American workers without protections."

HRC's Positive Change — a checklist of actions the Obama administration could take to dramatically improve the lives of LGBT Americans for the better — has dramatically improved the lives of LGBT people in all 50 states and around the world.

Judge continues page 6)
“THE NEW BLACK” PANEL: The Gay Alliance hosted a speakers panel following the WXXI screening of The New Black documentary at the Little Theatre on June 23. L-R: Rev. Marlowe, Rev. Jordan Green (Victims’ Voice), Brian Hofman (Pride Agenda), Bruce Small, Executive Director of The MOCHA Center, Deacon Paulette Hall of Unity Fellowship Church. Photo by Bess Watts

Pride Agenda endorses 2014 candidates

The Empire State Pride Agenda has announced its first round of endorsements for the 2014 election season. The Pride Agenda said it is proud to endorse qualified, pro-LGBT candidates for statewide offices throughout the Empire State.

The first round of endorsements includes:

Assembly:
AD 2 (Queens) Jim Brennan (D)
AD 61 (Richmond) Matthew Titone (D)
AD 66 (New York) Deborah Glick (D)
AD 69 (New York) Daniel O’Donnell (D)
AD 75 (New York) Richard Gottfried (D)
AD 88 (Westchester) Amy Paulin (D)
AD 115 (Clifton, Franklin) Janet Duprey (R)
AD 138 (Rochester) Harry Bronson (D)

Senate:
SD 12 (Queens) Michael Gianaris (D)
SD 22 (Kings) James Kammerer (D)
SD 26 (New York/Kings) Daniel Squadron (D)
SD 27 (Kings) Brad Hoylman (D)
SD 33 (Bronx) Gustavo Rivera (D)
SD 35 (Westchester) Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D)
SD 41 (Dutchess, Putnam) Terry Gipson (D)
SD 46 (Albany, Greene, Montgomery, Schenectady, Ulster) Cecilia Tkaczyk (D)
SD 55 (Montroe) Ted O’Brien (D)

The outcome of this statewide election year is critical to the future of equality and justice for LGBT New Yorkers and our families," said Human Rights Campaign Executive Director Nathan M. Schaefer. “We’re proud to endorse in this first round candidates who have shown leadership on issues important to our community and look forward to seeing them lead legislative change that will make New York a safer place for us all.”

This is the Pride Agenda’s first round of endorsements for the 2014 election year. Additional endorsements are anticipated later this election season. The Pride Agenda is nonpartisan and considers candidates from all parties for endorsement.

Candidates request consideration of an endorsement by completing and returning a Pride Agenda candidate questionnaire which is publicly accessible at prideagenda.org.

The state’s acting health commissioner, Dr. Howard Zucker, said that he believed that by 2020, New York could reduce its annual incidence of new HIV infections to about 1,000, from the current 3,000, bringing the number of new cases below the number of annual deaths, or 27,000, by 2020, “hitting the curve” in the direction of ending the epidemic in the state. This would put the number of new HIV cases on a par with that of new tuberculosis cases, he said. “No one views tuberculosis as an epidemic — it’s a reasonable disease at this point,” Dr. Zucker said.

The governor’s plan builds upon “key points already embraced,” the administration said, to track those infected, identify those who do not know they are infected and ensure that they are treated, and to treat those infected with HIV treatment with the aim of reducing new infections to the point that by 2020, AIDS would no longer reach epidemic levels in New York State.

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A Time to Celebrate Family
By Lorraine Woerner-MacGowan

Togetherness and an abundance of smiles could be found at this year’s Pride Family Fest time, a free event featuring entertainment by the Mambo Kings, along with games, crafts and stories that catered to all ages.

Despite a light rain, the afternoon event at Martin Luther King Jr. Park at Manhattan Square attracted many LGBT families and allies. Wearing his rainbow balloon hat crafted by balloon artist Lisa McTwister and her (trans) son, Mike, Dominick and two other children sat quietly as a GAGV volunteer read them a story. His mother and grandmother looked on.

Little Annalise carried a rainbow flag in each hand while her big sister, Eleanor, was busy coloring a mask at the craft table. Aunt Alice kept careful watch over both of them until their mom and grandmother arrived. Pride has become an annual event for Aunt Alice since she moved to Rochester. This year her family traveled from Indiana to share in the celebration.

“We come to visit Alice and her wife,” explained Alice’s mom, Ann. “We are always happy to be together, and Pride is a great reason to come together.”

Five-year-old Chloe sat with GAGV youth volunteers who helped her create a unique face mask with feathers, color and jewels to wear at the festival.

“It’s wonderful that there are things for kids to do here,” said Rosanne, Dominick’s mother. Her mother, Linda, is a member of the LGBT community.

“Now that he’s old enough, I’m so happy to be able to enjoy Pride with him,” Linda added before she and Dominick went to play with the giant bubble wand.

Kat, Sandra and Elijah love family time at Pride.

Mayor Lovely Warren speaking at the Flag Ceremony, with City Council members Matt Haag and Elaine Spaul. Photo: Ove Overmyer


Borinquen performs during PRIDE Family Fun Time.

The Rainbow Riders arrive at the Flag Ceremony. Photo: Manuel Pena

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Kat, Sandra and Elijah love family time at Pride.
Roc Pride 2014
Parade & Festival

Rochester/Canandaigua VA. Photo: Jill Frier

U. of Rochester Yellow Jackets won the Ruby Slipper Award. Photo: Garnetta Ely

Grand Marshall Evelyn Bailey. Photo: Ove Overmyer

Harry Bronson.

Pride co-chairs Michael Lill and Christopher Henneley. Photo: Ove Overmyer

Ungesee Valley Gender Variants. Photo: Jill Frier
Roc Pride 2014
Parade & Festival

Betty Who. Photo: Ove Overmyer

The Tilt float. Photo: Jill Frier

Divinity, Miss Gay New York, and Mercedes Sulay, Miss Gay Rochester, at the Festival.

Tangents. Photo: Jill Frier

Festival emcees DeeDee DuBois and Samantha Vega. Photo: Ove Overmyer
Roc Pride 2014
The Picnic

Kate Sweeney’s first-place-winning picnic site. Photo: Garnetta Ely

City Council President Loretta Scott at the Picnic.

Anne Tischer and Todd Plank. Photo: Ove Overmyer
You're the One Who Colors Me
By Jojo Oberholtzer

Out of blue, you're the one who colors me.
Red- Life is what we're having, bad and good times.
Orange- Healing is what we need for pains.
Yellow- Sun is the brightest and warmest smile.
Green- Nature is all forests and mother-nature.
Blue- Harmony, Love is about the butterflies you are feeling.

Everything happens for a reason
You are the one who colors me
Just follow your heart and dream

Wherever you go, I'll miss you,
I don't have to go far, all I do
Is look inside my heart, that's where I'll find you.
Love is full of surprises,
Sometimes, it's too good to be true.

You will never understand how much you mean to me,
You don't know how many sides of me you've seen-
But I've seen a few sides of you.

I'm just telling you: that's your colors
Deep inside of me, that I admire you,
You're the one who colors me.
appeal directly to the U.S. Supreme Court. It may also bypass an en banc session and decides whether or not to grant that request. The full bench of the Tenth Circuit, which announced the state would appeal the marriage ban unconstitutional.

The Bishop case in Oklahoma was scheduled for appeal with a similar marriage case at the Sixth Circuit set for Aug. 6. The appeals court in 1995. And Judge Paul Kelly Jr. was nominated by President George H.W. Bush and confirmed to the Tenth Circuit in 1992. Judge Carlos Lucero was nominated by President Bill Clinton and confirmed to the appeals court in 1995. And Judge Jerome Holmes was nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed in 2006. Judge Holmes was one of two judges who denied Utah’s request for a stay on same-sex marriages underway in Utah after a district court ruled the state’s marriage ban unconstitutional.


Gay “undocumented” journalist arrested at US/Mexico border

Jose Antonio Vargas, the openly gay Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who came out as an “undocumented immigrant” in a high-profile piece in the New York Times back in June 2011, was detained on July 15 by U.S. Border Patrol agents in McAllen, Texas. The Washington Post reports Define American, the nonprofit U.S. immigration-ref orm campaign founded by Vargas, announced the detainment. In a statement Tuesday, Define American campaign director Ryan Eller said: “This morning, Mr. Vargas attempted to board a plane to Los Angeles, where we are scheduled to screen our film ‘Documented.’ Mr. Vargas did not make it through security at the airport. We understand that he is currently being questioned by border patrol. The community leaders standing with him work with immigrants and live this reality each and every day.” Eller called on President Obama and Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson “to exercise prosecutorial discretion and immediately release Jose Antonio Vargas from Customs and Border Protection custody.”

White House and U.S. Customs and Border Protection spokespeople declined to discuss the detainment further however. The Post adds: Last week, shortly after his film, ‘Documented’ aired for the first time on CNN, Vargas wrote in a Politico magazine piece that he had gone to the U.S.-Mexico border “to visit a border that is uncom- plicated by the majority” and “perverted.” However that didn’t stop the Jobbik mayor of Szekszard, Milides Zoltán Oroz, trying to join the pride march along with around 50 “family values” demonstrators. Oroz had demanded that he be allowed to join the parade holding a sign covered with biblical quotations attacking homosexuality, but was not allowed to by police.

More successful in his attempt to rain on the parade was Jobbik MP Elid Novik who hung a banner from a win- dow in the parliament building which read “This house does not want your deviant propaganda.” When the parade reached Budapest’s Heroes’ Square some homophobic coun- ter-protesters broke through a cordon but they were quickly dealt with by police. The Jobbik party see a far right racist and homophobic political party and as of April this year the third largest party in Hungary’s National Assembly after gar- ning 20.5 percent of the vote. See more at: http://www. gaywarsaw.com/article/far-right-jobbik-party-nationalists-fail-rain-hungary%E2%80%99s-paradise-pride140714#sthash.L5KgkpjY.dpuf

ACT UP protests high pharma. co. prices for Truvada, Sovaldi

Gay rights activists dressed as Gilead vampipes took to the streets of Manhat- tan at June’s Pride march to protest what they called the big pharma companies’ bloodthirsty prices for the lifesaving drugs Sovaldi and Truvada.

Life-Saving Drugs at Bloodsucking Prices

Gilead charges $1000 per pill for Soval- di, the profitable new cure for Hepatitis C. The necessary regimen of 84 pills adds up to an $84,000 cure that actually costs $40 to manufacture. That means Gilead makes a 2800 percent profit on the backs of dan- gerously ill people with no alternatives.

Since Gilead charges as low as $2800 for the drug regimen in developing nations, ACT UP demands that the company regulate its pricing policies at home. Big pharma monopolists like Gilead are engorged with blood money due to their unfair pricing. ACT UP says, Cal- led’s first quarter sales of Sovaldi for 2014 raked in $2.3 billion worldwide— the most profitable drug launch in history. Gilead’s total revenues for 2013 were $11 billion with over $9 billion in antiviral sales alone.

PeEP Every Day Keeps HIV Away

Gilead’s drug Truvada was approved two years ago for the FDA and recom- mended by the CDC to prevent HIV when taken daily as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). Currently, Gilead is charg- ing over $35/day for this pill that costs 35 cents to make. Should safer sex pills that help prevent HIV come with a $14,000/ year price tag? In a marketer-based system, Gilead can charge whatever it wants, but should corporations dictate the cost of our lives?

Veteran AIDS activist Jim Eigo says Join Us for Our Annual Picnic in August

Check out our website for details

RKS5 Monthly Social
1st Thursday - 7pm - 9pm
California Brew Haus
(back room)
402 West Ridge Road, Rochester
2612 West Henrietta Road, Rochester

RKS5 Monthly Lunch
3rd Sunday - 2:30pm - 4:30pm
Jay’s Diner
(separate room to the left)

*** Check out our website for our calendar of events and more information ***

Rochester Kink Society
www.rochesterkinksociety.com
Email us at rks5@rochesterkinksociety.com

Rochester Kink Society (RKS) is a social organization dedicated to providing a safe environment for alternative lifestyles and has formed individuals to network, teach, learn, share, practice and discuss BDSM and related kink.
that Truvada-as-a-PREP will not result in a significant increase in new infections until many more people have access to Truvada. “I cannot see the U.S. government threaten to cease enforcement of a law that has saved thousands of lives.”

Patent Override for a Health Care Emergency

As many estimated 3.2 million people in the United States have chronic Hep C and about one quarter of HIV-infected persons in the United States (275,000 out of 1.1 million) are co-infected with Hep C, 15,000 annual deaths from Hep C surpass 13,000 annual deaths from HIV.

During a health emergency, the U.S. government can threaten and pursue a patent override for a lifesaving drug with unfair pricing. This happened with the antibiotic Cipro during the Anthrax scare in 2001. Activists and leaders need to push for such an action immediately to lower the costs of Sovaldi and Truvada.

Trans woman alleges discrimination by Illinois Hobby Lobby

By Mitch Kellaway on The Advocate

As many wait anxiously to see whether June’s Hobby Lobby ruling will lead to negative fallout for LGBT employees — including fears that the ruling would allow employers to discriminate against transgender employees — one woman in the state that the craft-store chain says she’s regularly experienced anti-trans prejudice for the past several years.

Meggan Sommerville, a transgender frame shop manager who has worked at Hobby Lobby in Aurora, Ill., lost her job after 16 years, first filed a complaint against the store in 2011 when, she says, management asked her to use the men’s restroom. Her complaint alleging discrimi- nation in employment and public accommodations was initially dismissed and then reinstated, and is still pending with the Illinois Department of Human Rights. 

Sommerville, who began her gender transition in 2009, recently expressed her frustration to the Advocate, saying, “I’m just looking to be treated equally with every other female in the company — not just in the frame department.”

She says the Aurora Hobby Lobby acknowledged her as a woman once she legally changed her name and state ID with certificate in 2010, yet management continues to deny her access to a gender-appropriate bathroom. “I always give me as female for certain things, why can’t they recognize me as female for everything?” she wonders.

The answer, in this case, comes down to a requirement that her attorney, Jacob Menter of GLAAD and unlawful, said, that she first undergo genital reconstruction. “There’s absolutely no support in the law that is related to the place of residency rather than the place of birth,” Menter said. “The General Assembly passed an amendment that allows clergy in marriage ceremonies to perform same-sex marriages, regardless of whether it is a same-sex or opposite-sex marriage. VA will therefore process claims and appli- cations involving same-sex marriage in the same manner that VA process- es claims based on opposite-sex marriage without any additional scrutiny or development. This means generally that VA will accept a claimant or appli- cant’s assertion that he or she is married as sufficient evidence to establish a Vet- eran’s marriage for the purpose of VA benefits. VA has made efforts to ensure that claimants will not be negatively affected as a result of VA benefits that have passed while developing this guidance. VA is now processing all claims and applications involving same-sex marriage that were previously being held by the program offices. VA launched a new website and is continuing to update forms to inform Veterans and beneficia- ries of their earned and benefits will con- tinue to be our focus as VA begins recog- nizing same-sex marriages to the extent that the law would allow.”

Gibson said, “We will work with lawmakers to address the changes that are necessary to allow all veterans to access the benefits they have earned and deserve.”

Veterans can learn more about VA’s guidance regarding same-sex marriage at http://www.va.gov/opa/marriage/ or by reaching out to one of our Call Cen- ters at 1-800-827-1000.

Presbyterian Church affirms marriage equality on June 19

The General Assembly of the Presby- terian Church USA (PCUSA), a church with nearly two million members, made history on June 19 by affirming the marriages of same-sex couples.

By a 71-29 percent vote (479-175) the General Assembly passed an amend- ment to change the description of mar- riage in the PCUSA church constitution from a relationship between “a man and a woman” to that between “two peo- ple.” This amendment will only become church law when approved by a majority of the church’s 172 presbyteries. At that time, all couples can be married in their home congregations. In another mea- sure, by a 61-39 percent vote (571-238) the General Assembly passed an amend- ment now allowing clergy in marriage equality states to perform marriages.

“[This is a giant step forward for the PCUSA Church and for people of faith](Presbyterian continue page 14)
everywhere. Presbyterian LGBT couples are now one step closer to being able to get married in the church of their choice,” said Sharon Groves, Director of HRC’s Religion and Faith Program. “Perhaps even more significantly, young people and their families can go into a Presbyterian church and know that their denomination has not turned a blind eye to them but has instead taken a giant step toward becoming a more loving and more welcoming place for all people to worship. We at HRC congratulate the Presbyterian Church (USA) for its leadership on this issue.”

The PCUSA General Assembly meets biennially and consists of commissioners elected by each of its 172 presbyteries nationwide. The proposal voted on was originally submitted to the Assembly by the Oregon-based Presbytery of the Cascades. The written proposal explained: “We believe that God created each of us with many differences, including sexual preferences, and that those differences are to be celebrated as part of the creative plan of God.”

The final vote took place after days of testimony and reflection, question and answer, and thoughtful consideration from the members of the General Assembly. The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Legal Director Sarah Warbelow said, “Today’s marriage ruling makes clear that Kentucky should not be denying committed and loving gay and lesbian couples the right to marry. We congratulate the plaintiffs and their attorneys and thank them for making today’s victory possible.”

In February of this year, Judge Heyburn ruled in Bourke v. Beshear that Kentucky’s ban violates the constitutional principle of equal protection and that the Commonwealth cannot refuse to recognize valid same-sex marriages conducted in other states. The judge, who was appointed to the bench by President George W. Bush, sided with four plaintiff couples who had legally married elsewhere before seeking state recognition in Kentucky. The Bourke case is on appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, and argument has been set for August 6.

Nationally, Gallup puts support for marriage equality at 53 percent – an astonishing 15 points increase from just five years ago – with other polls showing support at even higher margins. And support for same-sex marriage rights continues to grow in virtually every demographic group. According to ABC News / Washington Post, 77 percent of adults under age 30 favor marriage equality, 40 percent of Republicans an all-time high and jump of 16 points in under two years – now support marriage for gay and lesbian couples, while the number of Catholics supporting marriage has grown to 62 percent, according to the New York Times. These numbers continue to grow, with no indication that support will slow down.

There are over 70 court cases challenging discriminatory marriage bans across the country in 30 states and Puerto Rico. So far six federal appeals courts are presiding over 11 marriage equality cases over the coming weeks and months. The Sixth Circuit holds the distinction of being the only federal appeals court to date that will consider marriage cases from all states within its jurisdiction. Since the U.S. Supreme Court’s historic marriage rulings last year, no state marriage ban has survived a federal court challenge.

Same-sex couples can legally marry in nineteen states and the District of Columbia, while 31 states have constitutional amendment or constitutional amendment restricting marriage to one man and one woman. Learn more about this and other marriage equality cases at www.americansformarriageequality.org.

The judge praised the plaintiffs and their attorneys for making today’s victory possible.”

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Opinion

My WorldPride Musings
By Maurice Tomlinson

WorldPride 2014 drenched Toronto in a kaleidoscopic deluge. Everything from ATMs to Zebra crossings was emblazoned with rainbow flags, and the city simply pulsed with the energy of nearly 2.5 million additional rainbow revelers. It was, to put it mildly, electrifying to see my adopted hometown celebrate my LGBTI siblings and me in this very public way.

At points I was overwhelmed thinking how incredibly fortunate I am to have witnessed this historic event, which is the first time the world’s largest festival of all things queer was being hosted on the North American continent.

Technically, my own country, Jamaica, is a part of North America, but the realities for LGBTI people there could not be more different from Canada! Sadly, while the build-up for WorldPride was taking place in Toronto and politicians, policy-makers, and preachers were tripping over themselves to testify to their inclusive bona fides, the reverse was true just four hours away by plane in Kingston.

An unprecedented anti-gay moral panic has gripped Jamaica and LGBTI people are being accused of fomenting a sinister “gay agenda.” This aggressive fear-mongering, supported by the media and some irresponsible government ministers, has mobilized and unified traditionally irreconcilable faith communities on the island. Such is the power of us gays.

Despite these challenges back home, WorldPride filled me with a sense of the possible. My country will change. After all, Canadian Pride began as a result of horrific raids on gay establishments by police. The long road to WorldPride was littered with many broken bones, bodies, and dreams. But here we were!

With all the events during the week-long celebration, I had to pace myself. In addition to the countless official happenings that I had the good fortune of being invited to, there were several that sought to capitalize on the presence of such a sizable and globally recognized sexual minority community in Old Cabbage Town.

I deliberately mixed my revelry with reflection time, participated in a thought-provokingly insightful human rights conference associated with him, such as de-friending to take extreme measures to avoid being associated with him on Facebook. This is because the country’s new Anti-Homosexuality Act requires anyone who knows of a homosexual to report them to the police, or face imprisonment. So, to protect his lover, this activist has had to disown him.

There are times I get depressed about the fact that my own country seems to be marching decidedly backwards on LGBTI rights (for example, on the same day that WorldPride was taking place, there was the largest anti-gay demonstration in Jamaica’s history, orchestrated by the churches). However, Bryan’s story humbled me. What is even more inspiring is the fact that he is going back to Uganda, knowing that all his activities in Toronto would effectively make him a criminal. Yet, he proudly posted photos of his many Pride activities on social media, well aware that his movements are being monitored by his government.

The Ugandan government has clearly been feeling international pressure because of the barbaric Anti-Homosexuality Act. After a proud boast by the President that the country does not need the foreign aid that was cut as a result of the dreadful law, there was a weak attempt at back-pedaling. In a release a government spokesperson said that the law is being “misinterpreted” and does not penalize adults, but rather is a statement of children into homosexuality.

Of course, all of this is a confusing and convenient face. There is absolutely no credible evidence that any LGBTI Ugandan is engaged in recruiting children. On the contrary, there have been painful stories of gay Ugandan children being forced out of their homes and left with nowhere to turn for advice about their sexuality. And the number of attacks against LGBTI Ugandans has skyrocketed. (I was more arrested in early July for supposedly “promoting homosexuality to children”)

Putting the desperate situation of LGBTI people in Uganda, Jamaica and elsewhere around the world means that Pride is no longer political for the foreseeable future. The presence of corporate sponsorship at this festival must be used as a catalyst to push for equitable standards for queues wherever these large multi-national companies operate. These conglomerates must never be allowed to buy our silence, because we are speaking, and marching, for those who cannot.

I hope that this and every other WorldPride will serve as an opportunity for a much more engaged response to the rising tide of global homophobia. Because when the parties end, some of us have to return to very grim realities.

As Bryan shared on the panel, he was genuinely irritated with Canadian LGBTI people who avoided participating in the WorldPride celebrations because of “fear.” In his country, gays would die for the “right to children”.)

The theme for Uganda’s post Anti-Homosexuality Act Pride will be “Still Here, We Won’t Stop.” This event will be executed without major corporate sponsorship, and with only modest contributions from a crowd-sourcing campaign. Despite these challenges, the activists plan to send a message that three years after their first Pride (which I was also privileged to lead as Grand Marshal, and which was broken up by police) they WILL continue to fight for LGBTI equality.

That was, and is, the true essence of Pride, and I hope we never forget that.
Study shows visits by nurses help reduce premature deaths in childbirth

The University of Rochester and Nurse-Family Partnership announced a JAMA Pediatrics-published study showing visits by nurses to the homes of at-risk moms help reduce premature death of both mothers and their first born children. The study is available at http://archpedi.jamanetwork.com/artic le.aspx?doi=10.1001/jamapediat rics-2013-6015

The results outlined in the study further what we already know – home visits by nurses increase the likelihood that moms will receive critical early care – especially in the days and weeks following childbirth.

CDC says tobacco causes serious problems for HIV positive people

The CDC’s Tips From Former Smokers Campaign marks a historic partnership between the CDC’s tobacco and HIV divisions to spread the word about the synergistic—bad effects of smoking while HIV+. CDC has been hosting national webinars with all of their tobacco grantees, all of their HIV programs, and directly with HIV community based organizations to highlight the new Tips From Former Smokers ad featuring a gay, HIV-positive spokesperson who suffered a stroke as a result of complications from having HIV and smoking. The video Brian talks about his experience rebounding from advanced HIV infection, how despite successfully controlling his HIV he continued to be a smoker, and how he went on to develop a stroke that required surgery on an artery in his neck. “It took a stroke for me to actually stop smoking,” said Brian. “smoking is something that you do have control over. You can stop. And it’s your whole life to stop smoking.”

The video educates people that smoking with HIV increases the risk of cardiovascular diseases, heart disease, and stroke. Additionally, information on the CDC’s Tips website states that HIV-positive smokers are more likely to develop HIV-related infections than a nonsmoker with HIV; including thrush and Pneumocystis pneumonia, a dangerous lung infection. The print ad will run for the next seven weeks as part of the larger effort From Former Smokers campaign. Digital versions of the ad in English and Spanish, as well as social media buttons featuring Brian are downloadable from the CDC website.

Dr. Brooks noted that there appear to be no major drug interactions between medications for HIV and smoking cessation that would limit use of cessation medications in most HIV-infected smokers. The CDC’s ads urge smokers to talk to their doctors or call 1-800-QUITNOW for more information on how to quit. The website, CDC’s Health Equity has been working with quitlines to ensure staff serving many of the states in the country are trained in LGBT cultural humility.

“Again, that’s all through CDC fund- ing,” says Dr. Scout. “Many people in my communities don’t trust that they will be welcome when they come to quit lines, but CDC is making a demonstrated effort on many fronts to eliminate our smoking dispari ty.”

Concludes Dr. Scout: “These new Tips add to the vital information that helps HIV-positive tobacco smokers to need; that once your HIV is under control, that greatest threat to your health is a cure.”

US TOO and prostate cancer: local events

Several events are coming up this month and in September that will be of interest to men who are concerned about prostate cancer.

August 16–17 (9am-6pm): The 2014 Kwik Fill Rochester International Air Race, the Greater Rochester Interna tional Airport. Tickets are required and the cost range is $20-50. Proceeds-in-part will benefit the Camp Good Days & Perma nent Cancer Program. For tickets and more information, visit: www.kwikfillairshow. com or call (585) 241-1000.

August 23 - 24 [Free] A Summer Retreat! - For the first time ever, men diagnosed with prostate cancer from the three-state region are invited to enjoy a two-day summer retreat sponsored by Camp Good Days & Special Times and US TOO Rochester NY. All meals and comfortable overnight accommodations in cabins with private bathrooms are included. This is a great opportunity for survivors to get away from daily obligations or chores and focus on the challenges of living with cancer. The retreat takes place at the 13-acre recreational site for Camp Good Days in the town of West Bloomfield on beautiful Keuka Lake in Branch port NY. Plan to attend one or both days of the retreat. Housing, bedding and breakfasts are available. For more information, call (585) 524-9555 or visit www.campgood days-prostatecancerprogram.org.

September 6 (8am-2pm): [Free] Cars for Cancer - It’s a Guy Thing! - In recognition of National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, US TOO Rochester NY, East Coast Hot Rod and the DMGroup Marketing and advertising firm are hosting a grand collection of 200-400 classic cars, trucks and motorcycles where important information will be shared on prostate cancer. All men and women will be available, and a no-cost PSA-screening clinic identified. Major health agencies and pharmaceutical organizations are invited to register and provide exhibits [set up by 10:30a].

September 8 (8am-4pm): The health fair starts at 11 a.m., the health fair starts at 11 a.m. This event takes place in the parking lot of BayTowne Park, 1000 Empire Blvd., in Pittsford, Webster. Judging (by celebrity judges!) begins at noon; awards and prizes at 2 p.m. For more information or to register for an information table, visit: www.baytowne ercard.com or call (585) 787-4011, and ask for Patrick.

September ONLY: [Free] Prostate Cancer Screening! - At last, a community based prostate screening event in Rochester NY is at no cost to participants! Prostate cancer may be curable, but ONLY if detected early. This new campaign is designed to raise awareness, especially those in categories of greater risk or ‘watchful waiting’, are encouraged to be tested. The Greater Rochester Education Council and the Pins for Prostatic organizers state the event this year and the screenings will be done by one of our participating clinics [Center for Urology & Urologic, and only during selected weeks of September]. Medical insurance is not required but advance registration is necessary. For appointments, visit: www. prostateconditionsnyc.com, call (585) 999-2574, and ask for Renne.

About prostate cancer

Shawn Byrd, the American Cancer Institute estimates that there will be 233,000 new cases of prostate cancer in the United States this year and 20,480 men will die of this disease. According to the New York State Department of Health, approximately 13,000 men are currently diagnosed with prostate cancer in Rochester and other surrounding counties of the Finger Lakes region. These men are our family and friends, taxpayers and consumers. Many are military veterans. All deserve our time and knowledge, and can benefit by our support. While prostate cancer is currently found if detected early, there are often no symptoms. When symptoms are present, the US Preventive Services Task Force recommends against routine testing. Since the USPSTF does not give a recommendation, it is in the number of men showing advanced disease at the time of initial diagnosis.

Yet access to information that helps men make informed decisions regarding their health is limited at best and support groups for prostate cancer patients are few. For these reasons, men need to be more involved in their prostatic health, and the outcomes in category of greater risk including their ‘watchful waiting’. When diagnosed, medical professionals often do not have the time or can’t make the time to discuss the possible implications in detail, let alone identify the surgical, radiation or drug treatment options available, or discuss the possible outcomes of each. A majority of men diagnosed with prostate cancer look to the Internet as their trusted resource for information. Here, men get answers to questions they didn’t even know to ask while providers, oncologists and pharmaceutical companies are left to a patient to a patient educational model.

Who may be at greater risk for pros tate cancer?

African American men over age 50 [including trans-women],
• African American men over age 45 [including trans-women],
• Men with a family history of the disease,
• Men taking testosterone supplement,
• Military veterans exposed to Agent Orange.

For more information about US TOO Rochester NY, call (585) 787-4011 or visit our website through google pathology urostomy orchestra

Patrick Fisher is Chair of the Livin’ Free to Love prostate cancer survivor and Vietnam era veteran living in Penfield NY.
DRAG AUCTION 2: The second Drag Auction took place June 26 at South Wedge Wines and Spirits, to benefit the Gay Alliance. Shown are auctioneers Judson Stylez and Gloria Schaft. Photo: Jill Frier

O’BRIEN VISITS OPEN ARMS: Sen. Ted O’Brien joined Open Arms MCC in worship on June 22. During the coffee social he chatted with those in attendance. L-R: Jeff Myers (Moderator), Sen. O’Brien, JoAnne Metzler (office coordinator), Terry Kelly (Clerk), Deb Krusemark (Board member), Jerry Murphy (Board Member).

GRAND RE-OPENING of the David Bohnett Cyber Center
August 18, 2014, 5:30-7:30pm
Opening Reception with members of the Gay Alliance Staff and Board.

Gay Alliance Lounge
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So Ellen talked me into dying my hair last night. What do you think?

I don’t know...it’s a little too 90s for me.

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The history of transgender stretches back to the beginning of time, in all parts of the globe – the Far East, the more ancient civilizations of Egypt and Africa, the Greek and Roman Empires, Europe and the Americas. It seems that since Neolithic times as the Navajo (Diné), there have long believed there are four genders.

In 21 BC, there is nothing new about the gender variant identities of men and women in the 21st century. Records dating as early as 3000 BCE (the Sumerian or Common Era) document transgender or transvestite narrative. The Egyptian Queen Hatshepsut (or Heliogabalus), became known for wearing makeup, eccentric habits, behaving as a female, and was later granted male privileges. She was granted male privileges, while dressed as a woman, to marry the Pharaoh. She served as a queen for seven years, and was later declared a male god who would become a god to the king. The Egyptians believed that this would bring them good fortune.

In the seventh century BCE, King Ashurbanipal (Sardanapalus) of Assyria would wear female clothing and be dressed in female clothing and be dressed as a woman while serving at the royal court. He was later declared a male god who would become a god to the king. The Egyptians believed that this would bring them good fortune.

In the 18th century, French diplomat Chevalier D'Eon, became known for wearing makeup, eccentric habits, behaving as a female, and was later granted male privileges. He was granted male privileges, while dressed as a woman, to marry the Pharaoh. He served as a queen for seven years, and was later declared a male god who would become a god to the king. The Egyptians believed that this would bring them good fortune.

In the 19th century, in England, Brighton: Aug. 2 Brighton Pride. Volunteers were slow in coming especially to do Pride Weekend. Greta Garbo played the role of a transgender woman in the film “Man SGD” in 1936. She was later declared a male god who would become a god to the king. The Egyptians believed that this would bring them good fortune.

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I can start with wondering what I want. Is there something missing that will make me happy? Forget all that; it’s beyond useless unless I am honest. Nothing ever is enough. The fact of the matter is that wanting is the problem. When I am wondering something I am in fact ignoring what I have. The trick is to quickly inventory the pleasures and satisfactions of the present moment, which actually is all I have.

I can enjoy the birds feeding outside my kitchen window. I can listen for the phone call or email I am waiting for, the phone call that hasn’t come, may never come, that by its absence confirms my baseless fears of unworthiness. I can drift from the birds feeder and watch the leaves ripple in the wind, the slowly moving clouds in the sky. I learned in meditation to be grateful for red lights, stop signs. They provide a chance to look out for the sunshine, and breathe in slowly, to live in reality, not in a state of mind crammed full of speculations and imaginations.

Wanting, or craving is poisonous, just a list of what’s missing, what is thought to be needed, needed or neglected. It is present, what is real in the moment.

Being conscious of breathing in and out, being conscious of the beat to the way we experience life, to pull myself away from wanting, to enjoy the present moment. I can’t tell you how that was to learn and how very worthwhile.

Irisbellmann@gmail.com

Cleaning My Closet

By Meredith Elizabeth Reisiger

I am in possession of two 1956 school scrapbooks that had not, in my prancing, globular carriage, anticipated. Mickey and Steve. I also have mildew.

About the album: First question I might ask myself is why would anyone store three paper scrapbooks in a 1954 basement? I shockingly had forgotten, for 50 years, (failure to apply principles of science.) The same answer to why I would think that I could have my art studio in my 1834 basement; I forget.

Which question should I pursue next: where, what, or why. Even what next… ah, half, column.

The WHERE. I am familiar with classrooms. I have experiences with seven. I know that my father built his world class HO gauge model railroad, the Effluvia & O’Western, in our 200 year old, crawl-space-only house that required hundreds of friends and hours to dig out old (1700 earth that probably had rotated, no kidding), very old dirt to dig a cellar so that my 6 ft. 2 in. father could stand up and play trains with his fellow enthusiasts. The caboose never smelled like mildew.

The WHAT. I have three bulging memory joggers filled with stories from my early life. Paper Stuff: having a wonderful time! postcards; cards like the first you ever received. Edward Carey Jr.” letters on old time stationery, all connecting me to people with big mouths) 1957; “Piece of wood my father gave me. Very thin. 1957. (the wood) and five sugar cube wrappers (don’t that me die sooner bountifully back from her 1956 honeymoon.

The WHERE. Travelers brought back souvenirs for cute little Merry. Things easy to send through the mail and easy for collectors to scotch-tape into my big, red leatherette book: “The Beginning of Memories.” Free stuff, more fitting for our economic reality… toothpicks wearing green cellulose capsule logo-printed cocktails napkins and paper coasters from Hotel Rochester, Buffalo Hotel, Mark Twain Hotel, and other not preserved, long-gone buildings. Every moment pleased me because each was a storied thinking-of-you. Now those gifts help me remember, my long-gone persons.

While under construction, my collection was a celebration of the present. My hobby was an engaging activity for me. I was gladly alone. Peaceful in my room late at night when the house was silent and the sleeping others would not disrupt their artist in residence. I could not have guessed that many decades later I would incorporate archives from my post-WWII childhood.

I am glad I saved examples of my teachers’ kindnesses. “Piece of glass Mr. Granite Gen, Ed. Teacher gave me. 1957.” A thank you note from Mrs. Stein who brought her miniature collage to class whenever she read a Lassie book to us.

I kept my 8th grade Valentine sticker. Daly noted, “Mrs. Barker. My homeroom teacher passed these out to us.” It shows a little boy (1958 sexism). Written in the clouds: “I love you.” Spelling assures recipient understands it signifies merely a friendly greeting, not a LOVE. To represent something that is a person (which I recognized from my Dale Evans fan-s沪d period).

On that page, a norted rubber band. Label: “I had my hair cut. My last rubber band. February 15, 1958.” I remember that I, close to fourteen, wanted to give up my little-girl ponytail that was borer than Buttermilk’s tail.

Growing Up SATISFACTION

By Eric Bellmann

One morning towards the end of August, I decided to visit to New York for Gay Pride and that is how I ended up standing outside a Starbucks in Chelsea, happy of course to be gay Mecca and I noticed a hand- some man ready to cross 8th Avenue. I scanned him as one does and stopped where he looked. Wonderful blue sneakers. I wanted those shoes. If only I could have them, I thought. I’d be like him: perfect. Amazing how fast one can sink into this kind of self-judgment about clothing and style. It is sometimes unconsciously, sometimes with lights flashing and sirens blaring. I had finally realized I was dissatisfied with myself!

I suppose the seeds for this habit—this anxiety about what I should wear—planted in childhood or early adolescence when I realized I was not like other boys. I didn’t trust myself to be myself; love of clothes was among my gay role models, no media icons the way there are today. I looked at other kids for clues on how to dress and once I was noticed I was scanned him as one does and stopped where he looked.

A gay colleague looked at the shoes I was wearing. They were really quite cool, I thought. Sandals with cut-out designs of green and orange! I didn’t absorb with alternate life styles, for one thing. Realization came slowly and ultimately I got lucky. I had a long stretch of time when I distanced myself from gay society. I didn’t go to bars, drifted away from the track my many and lots of activi-

ties were, the size of your dick. Admittedly you looked, the neighborhood you lived in, what your friends were, the size of your dick. Admittedly it was a young culture and materialism was intended to mask the queer me. Over time I distanced myself from gay society. I didn’t go to bars, drifted away from the track my many and lots of activi-

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I hadn’t even realized I was dissatisfied with myself! I was the boy who didn’t know he was gay. I wanted to be the boy!–giver’s name, date and details. It was an era when we adolescents selected suggestive sayings... ‘Misty Moon River, Crimson and Clover...’ for our dances and their décor (we spent hours after school twisting crepe paper swags and flattering Kerleenas. Flowers and Laughing).

I, fervent recorder of events, added the brief and always the same summary: ‘I had a BALL!!’ (It seems that my ado-

lescent writing gene required frequently employed, serial exclamation points!!!) What was I thinking?!!

Fifty-eight years later, I still have my collection of wax paper bundles encasing brown and be-ribonned decreated vegeta-

tion. (I now realize that the proliferation of dead carnations is indicative of my dates’ finances, not botanical prefer-

ences.) Today I can, with sweet delight, clutch my then-thinly-wrist-coutages to my heart. Does that count for anything?!!

Other last-century artifacts, faithfully tagged, lashed buddy bubble gum and a razor blade, original wrappers, 16 inch wooden stick from a giant lollipop; ‘the wire from first sparkler I ever had 1956'; ‘FAT toothpick that I found in the pack (for people with big mouths) 1957'; ‘Piece of wood my father gave me. Very thin. 1957. (the wood)’ and five sugar cube wrappers (don’t that me die sooner bountifully back from her 1956 honeymoon.

I could be like him: perfect. Amazing how

thing’s right. While under construction, my collection was a celebration of the present. My hobby was an engaging activity for me. I was gladly alone. Peaceful in my room late at night when the house was silent and the sleeping others would not disrupt their artist in residence. I could not have guessed that many decades later I would incorporate archives from my post-WWII childhood.

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On that page, a norted rubber band. Label: “I had my hair cut. My last rubber band. February 15, 1958.” I remember that I, close to fourteen, wanted to give up my little-girl ponytail that was borer than Buttermilk’s tail.
Some artifacts elicit heart-stored memories. The tiny ticket. Under it, my caption: “Some kids walked by my desk and made fun of my painting. They hurt my feelings.”

Even today I can see second grade me, at my tiny desk, ardently carving all fifteen letters of my name in large, rambling letters. I can see beautiful Mr. Marino at his big desk. Even today I can hear my teacher gently coax me to bring up my deposit slip. Head down, I did. When he returned our deposit slips, on the back of mine, there was a smiley face. He had written a note: “Merry, your handwriting is fine. Smile, Mr. Marino.” Today my Inner Child lets fall new tears. From ancient humiliation. And Mr. Marino’s warmth.

Ah. I have found the treasures. While some of my memory has harbored wrongs, some of my artifacts have sheltered affections.

From my mother, an apology. 1956. “I was helping mom in the kitchen…” Yes, at the stove as we prepared “Swiss steak” which was really a cheap cut of beef beaten, literally, with a wooden mallet which was really a cheap cut of beef at the stove as we prepared “Swiss steak.” In it, I can see beautiful Mr. Marino’s warmth.

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burst in the air" this July 4th, American women still did not have the unfettered right to decide what to do with their bodies — a very American core value inextricably linked to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Trans*misons

CONTROLLING OUR NARRATIVES

By Laine DeLaney
I have a new message that I’m going to repeat until everyone is tired of hearing it. I’m also going to repeat it after everyone is tired of hearing it, because it is something that has become obvious to me and has been ringing through my mind for a while now.

Trans* people need to start controlling their own narratives.

For the longest time, the people who presented trans* narratives in popular culture fell among those who were hostile, or bigoted, didn’t try to understand, or wanted a convenient and socially acceptable scapegoat for whatever story they were presenting.

More often than not what was presented was a deceiving, conning, or psychopathic individual, manipulating and fooling those around them. Occasionally a sympathetic story would surface in the media, but it was always through a cisgender lens.

Over the last ten years or so, allies have been presenting trans* narratives. Documentaries such as Trans and more have been presenting trans* narratives in pop culture.

None of our lives revolve around what style or taste, our attitudes, or even our likes glitter, and when non-binary folks are visible at all.

What’s Bothering Brandon?

WHAT TO WEAR WHEN NOBODY CARES

By Brandon W. Brooks
As my readers may have surmised by now, I have a cherished affinity with all things noble, stately, and royal, especially the clothing or court attire associated with these offices.

I myself like to sport twed three-piece suits during the daysimes of winter, only to move over to white-tie once Mr. Carson has run the dinner gang. I try to stick to natural fabrics and textiles, both because they lie and wear better over time, and also because (and I do hate to be vulgar) this durability saves me money in the long run.

All of our lives revolve around what we choose to wear, for some more than others. And I do want to emphasize the idea of choice in this wearing of clothing (at least in the western First World). Clothing comprises a large part of our identities, displaying and broadcasting our professions, social status, gender (or fluidity of gender), our sense of personal style or taste, our attitudes, or even our rebellion against the so-called “mainstream.”

What we wear acts as a means of nonverbal communication, where we tell the world who we think we are, who we want to be, and what we want others to think about us. If I had to describe myself, I would be dressed every day (by my valet) in the finest silk breeches, waistcoat and jacket the world has ever seen. But this simply would not be appropriate to our time nor my (temporary) lack of social position.

As Americans we do not actually have a stratified social ranking or hierarchy of titles, peerages or hereditary status. We do not actually wear or the like, throw on a t-shirt. It is (you guessed it), dressed all about town these days, dressed casually acceptable, and visually pleasing, and for the most part, culturally acceptable, and visually pleasing, and for the most part, visually pleasing.

We live in the age of the jumpsuit, as one more known with whatever we want, when we want. We can dress as we please, without regard to our time nor my (temporary) lack of social position.

The empty closet • the gay alliance • number 481 • August 2014

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Questions, comments or critique? Please feel free to e-mail the author at: brandon@gayalliance.org


to them." They are often simplified to make culturally acceptable, and visually pleasing, and for the most part, visually pleasing.

The voices that need to be heard. These stories are the majority, and even the ones that are presented as stereotypes are often altered or streamlined to make them "more approachable" or "easier to understand."

Until we start presenting our own narratives rather than allowing cisgender people to pick and choose which ones are shared, people will continue to experience confusion about themselves. Until more of us come forward and tell our own stories, there will be kids out there watching television and movies and absorbing popular culture who will be whispering to themselves, "That’s not me. That’s not me. That’s not me. But I know that something isn’t right."

They will continue to wonder if they are "just gay" or if they are abnormal because they don’t fit the culturally approved stereotypes of trans* people. Cisgender people will continue to be confused when a trans woman prefers boots to heels, when a trans man likes glitter, and when non-binary folks are visible at all.

That’s why trans* people need to grasp a hold of the creative process as much as possible when it concerns telling our stories and presenting our realities to the public. We need to inject ourselves into media consultation and focus groups and advocacy organizations. We need to write our own articles and books, and make our own documentaries and movies.

The polished stereotypes that our society has developed and that so many are comfortable with have opened the way for dialogue, but it’s time that we steer the dialogue toward reality.

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Learn the history of the LGBT community in Rochester... from the people who made that history.

The Gay Alliance invites you to celebrate 40 years of LGBT history in Rochester with your very own DVD/BluRay of this powerful film.

Shoulders To Stand On
Evelyn Bailey, Executive Producer
Kevin Indovino, Producer/Director/Writer
Standard DVD $25 / BluRay DVD $30
Order at: www.GayAlliance.org

Team Rochester shirts are still available for purchase for $25. Contact thomas@50@mac.com

OPEN ARMS MCC COMMUNITY CENTER
Our Sunday Services begin at 10:30 a.m. and are followed by our coffee time and some good conversation!

On Tuesday and Thursday mornings Rainbow SAGE does Yoga with instructor Tom Somerville (read the interview: “My Own Private Rochester: Tom Somerville” in the June 2014 issue of The Empty Closet) from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and there is a $5 fee to participate.

Since we’re talking about Yoga , there is also Yoga class with Tom Somerville every Thursday at 6 p.m. This is a class for mixed levels and beginners are welcome. BTW BYO Mat (if possible). Cost is $3 per class.

On Tuesday evenings we sponsor Coffee Chat and Game Night. Catch up with the week’s happenings and enjoy some games and good conversations! This starts at 6:30 p.m. and goes to 8 p.m. and meets at Equal Grounds, 750 South Ave.

Open Arms is, as our name says, inclusive, actively accepting, and welcoming of all people.

Open Arms MCC & Community Center is located at 707 East Main St., almost right across from Delta Sonic. To learn more about Open Arms MCC, see the details in the August issue of The Empty Closet. You can call the Hotline at 585-234-5092 or check our website at www.di-rochester.org for updates on services and activities.

GAY GAMES CLEVELAND
The Gay Games are here! The Games take place Aug. 9-16 in Cleveland, Ohio — come enjoy the events and support Team Rochester!

All events scheduling can be viewed at ggcle.com, but here are some highlights: Saturday, Aug. 9, 7 p.m.: Opening Ceremonies at Quicken Arena, with Lace Bae, club PYT, the Pointer Sisters and Alan Newell from CLEE.

Sunday, Aug. 10, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.: Gay Redo.

Most sports begin competition. Other events during the week include shows with Hal Sparks, Gay Cruise, White Party, Gay Choral Concert, Gay Night at the Cleveland Indians, Closing Ceremonies and many other exciting events.

ROMANS
August has always been an exciting month for ROMANS. Members of the Rochester Male Naturists join a few hundred male nudists from around the world in the annual male nude camp organized by the Gay Naturists International (GNI) NakedFest - http://www.gaynaturists.org for a 10 days 24 hours all nude experience.

By living together in a cabin of 10 beds, ROMANS build special bond with one another and learn how to be a real naturist in a natural and completely clothes-free environment.

Some ROMANS members visited the nude beach in Toronto recently and had a great day swimming in the fresh water of Lake Ontario. The nude beach is easily accessible by taking a 10 minute ferry ride in downtown Toronto to Hanlan’s Point Beach. A short walk from the ferry pier through the beautiful maintained park leads to a stretch of sandy beach designated for clothing optional sunbathing [Friends of Toronto Islands - http://www.torontoislands.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=41&catid=41]. It’s the nearest beach in Toronto recently and had a pleasant day swimming in the fresh water of Lake Ontario.

You can call the Hotline at 585-271-8478.

Be there. This year the Gay Games are in Cleveland, Ohio — come enjoy the events and support Team Rochester!

DIGNITY-INTEGRITY
D-I Rochester meets weekly at 5 p.m. at St. Luke’s and St. Simon’s Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St., corner of Broad St. We welcome all, offering services and activities for the month of August 2014:

1st Sunday: Episcopal Mass/Healing Service
2nd Sunday: Roman Catholic Liturgy of the Word, with music
3rd Sunday: Episcopal Mass
4th Sunday: Evening Prayer, followed by a Potluck Dinner
5th Sunday: NO SERVICE at church on Aug. 31. Picnic in Lima (see details in article)

Our fourth Sunday Potluck theme for August is “Farmers’ Market Fare”. With the bounty of summer readily available, we thought it would be fun to see how many great dishes we could make using ingredients from everyone’s favorite farmers’ markets or the Public Market. No time to cook? Don’t worry, there is always plenty to share so go grab a friend or two and join us for a great meal!

August 31 is the Sunday of Labor Day weekend, so we’ve got a Picnic with Liturgy planned at our friends’ home in Lima. Dignity Buffalo will be joining us as well. We’ll be gathering at 2 p.m., liturgy at 3 p.m. and a potluck picnic will follow the liturgy. All are welcome, so contact us through the website/email or call the Hotline to get further details.

You can call the Hotline at 585-234-5092 or check our website at www.di-rochester.org for updates on services and activities.

US TOO
US TOO Rochester NY now provides support, education and advocacy for the Camp Good Days Prostate Cancer Program. Our monthly prostate cancer education meeting will be open to the general public.

We assemble at 7 p.m. every second Thursday in the Camp Good Days Conference Hall, located at 1332 Pittsford-Mendon Road in Mendon 14506. For more information about US TOO Rochester NY, visit www.sites.google.com/site/usooturoochesteny or call (585) 787-4011 (ask for Patrick).

Additionally, the first annual two-day retreat dedicated to men diagnosed with prostate cancer [with or without treatment] takes place Aug. 23/24 at the 13-acre recreation site for Camp Good Days. Located in the middle of wine country on Keuka Lake in Branchport.

Prostate cancer survivors from across NYS can attend either day, or both days. All meals and overnight accommodations are provided at no cost. Plus: access to boating, fishing, hiking, swimming, open spaces, educational discussions, and much, much more.

To register for the retreat online, go to www.camppoodays.org and follow the links for “Prostate Cancer Retreat REGISTRATION”; or call: (585) 624-5555 [Ask for James].

BUTCH FEMME CONNECTION; LORA KNITTING GROUP
The Rochester Butch Femme Connection dinner group will have two events in August.

On Saturday Aug. 9 we will meet at Bill Gray’s/Abbott’s on Culver Road in Seabrook at 7 p.m.

On Saturday, Aug. 23 we will meet at Peppersmitt Diner on Route 15 (West Henrietta Road) in Henrietta at 7 p.m. Any questions, call Kerry/Max at (585) 957-6627 or email DressyFemme@aol.com.

The L.O.R.A. Knitting Group will resume in September 2014 after a summer hiatus. Meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Crossroads Coffeehouse. Ella Kerry at DressyFemme@aol.com for further details.

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Rochester Pride 2014 – THANK YOU GAGV!

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**Wednesday FAMOUS STEAK NIGHTS**

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**TBT**
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Every Thursday 8-9pm
A Special Throwback Drink Special!

**Fabulously FUN Fridays!**
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**Summer Sunday Funnays**

With Katie!
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Updates are posted daily with drink specials and events!

**The Avenue Pub**

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Laverne Cox nominated for Emmy; will guest on Bravo series

On July 10, the Television Academy announced its nomination of Laverne Cox for the Outstanding Guest Actress in a Comedy Series Emmy for her performance in “Orange is the New Black.”

Laverne Cox is a true champion of freedom and justice for all LGBTQ people. We are very excited to join her in celebrating her well-deserved Emmy nomination. Earlier this year, Laverne gave one of the most memorable speeches at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force’s Creating Change Conference in Houston, which left an everlasting impression on thousands of LGBTQ equality activists from across the nation. Laverne sometimes likes to call herself a “possibility model.” We wholeheartedly agree. We look forward to more moving acting performances and more compelling activism from her for many years to come,” said Russell Roybal, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Deputy Executive Director of External Relations.

Via GLAAD: GLAAD today applauded the list of nominees for the 66th Primetime Emmy Awards, which was among the most LGBTQ-inclusive list in Emmy history. Laverne Cox became the first transgender person to be nominated for an Emmy in an acting category. Cox received a nomination for Outstanding Guest Actress in a Comedy Series for her role as Sophia Buxton in the hit Netflix Original Series Orange is the New Black.

The Normal Heart. Parsons was nominated for an outstanding guest actor in a Comedy Series for his work as the voice of reason in the series, he is in serious need of distractions.

Cox will portray a character named/16956/100240803

■■■

Laverne Cox’s cover on the June edition of TIME Magazine solidified the actress-cum-activist’s position as one of the country’s leading voices in the fight for trans rights. While TIME’s exposure strengthened Cox’s ability to amplify her message, the increased attention hasn’t been entirely positive for the Orange Is The New Black star.

“I’ve lived the cover of TIME Magazine, like all of a sudden like my Twitter feed and my Instagram, there’s all this negativity, I’d felt BET. I was getting Google Alerts about me [somehow being in league] with Satan.”

Fame monster nonetheless, Cox’s star is on the rise. In addition to being nominated for an outstanding guest actress Emmy, she’s producing “Free CeCe!,” a documentary chronicling the life of CeCe McDonald, a transwoman sentenced to 41 months in prison after surviving her own bathing.


Bravo, the network best known for its Real Housewives franchise, is launching its first scripted series and has lined up Laverne Cox as a guest star.

Cox, who was featured on the cover of Time Magazine, will appear in an episode of Girlfriends Guide to Divorce which stars Lisa Edelstein as a recently divorced self-help writer. The series website (www.peopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwwpeopleyoutubewwww
Trans women share wisdom “by us, for us”

By Mitch Kellaway on The Advocate

“If you could write just one letter to someone who is beginning their gender transition or to your younger, pre-transition self, what would you say?”

A new anthology, Letters for My Sisters: Transitional Wisdom in Retrospect, asked transwomen to answer this question, according to publisher Transpress. The result is a heartfelt collection of advice, confessions, regrets, and triumphs from 35 women — the largest number of contributors to a collection by trans women yet published.

Edited by engineer Deanne Thornton and film producer and activist Andrea James, the collection was inspired by a 2011 companion book for trans men titled Letters for My Brothers. The collection includes well-known writers, including GLAAD cochair Jennifer Finney Boylan, and many emerging voices who wish to comfort and help their trans sisters by sharing their own stories.

“For too long now we have let others define and describe us,” Thornton and James explain in the book’s introduction. This collection “excludes the voices of others. The only voices here are our own. ... This book isn’t biographies, but a distillation of our thoughts and feelings about who we are, where we’ve come from, and how we got here.”

Full disclosure: Mitch Kellaway is an assistant editor for Transpress. He was not involved with this book’s production.

“Dear [ ]” by Jennifer Finney Boylan

Listen, I know you’re afraid, right now. Don’t be ashamed of that. Fear is a human emotion, and while in future years, people will tell you how brave and courageous they think you are, it’s also true that it takes courage to survive the pre-transition time as well. Quite frankly, this condition can feel the barking off anyone, and I think of you as a hero, you sweet man, you. If I weren’t for you, you big goofball, I wouldn’t even be here. Let’s hear it for the boy!

I wish there was something I could say to you that would make it easier, that would take away all the pain, but like a lot of things in life, when things are broken it’s probably wasted on people who need it most. You have to stumble through it, making all your mistakes, if you’re going to learn anything, it’s the mistakes that make us human, not eluding them.

Still, here are a few thoughts, I don’t know if these will help, but they are things that come to mind, here in the heart of my middle age.

First, stay off of the television, and keep your name out of print until you are absolutely sure that your story is going to be the one worth telling. I have seen a lot of our sisters rush before the cameras because they were ready, and the result was that yet another trans girl was forever captured in the public eye as vulnerable and uncertain.

For a lot of trans women, a television camera can be kind of like The Biggest Mirror in the World. Make sure, if you’re going to be on TV, that you’re doing it in order to do well by others, and not in order to puff yourself up like Furious Frog.

And if you do wind up on TV, remember that you set the agenda. Without you, they don’t have a show. So if they try to put you on the defensive, just tell them, Hey, we’re not doing that. Make sure you know what your message is going to be, and don’t be afraid of practicing it. Before talking to a reporter, memorize the two or three things that you know you want to come out of your mouth. Then, no matter what they ask you, say the things you want you to say, regardless of the question...

In the meantime, if you have the chance, try to turn the conversation away from yourself. I know you are very interesting right now, but try to bear this burden with humility. In some ways being so interesting is a bit like having a disability. You can find a cure, enough, by opening your heart to other people. Practice saying the phrase “But enough about me.”

You may find that strangers want to pose questions for you right now, and you can do a lot of good in the world by listening.
Lancaster Arts Hotel
Stay And Dine
By Merle Exit

Lancaster, Pa. has a fabulous “stay” called the Lancaster Arts Hotel. Brick walls, heavy wooden beams and a very comfortable bed set the mood for an overnight or two. This former tobacco warehouse features the works of local artists and sculptures all about the hotel, including a separate gallery. I stayed in one of their suites, which had one room equipped with a refrigerator and microwave, a couch and desk as well as having robes and slippers awaiting me in the closet. Two bottles of water were placed next to my bed. A Jacuzzi is in the bedroom area and there’s a huge bathroom with a very roomy walk-in shower.

Not only does this hotel provide free indoor parking, there is a complimentary taxi service that will take you within a five-mile radius. This not only covers the downtown area of Lancaster, but a whole bunch of boutique places and outlet stores to shop. No meters or parking lots to contend with and they will arrange for your return.

Talk about romance, they place a long stem rose on your pillow along with the usual chocolate. Local phone calls are gratis, but if you just can’t wait to tell a more distant someone about this gorgeous place, you have free use of the internet in their business center as well as free wifi. A “Continental Plus” breakfast is included. There is a separate designated room set up with everything you would get in a continental breakfast and so much more. Hard boiled eggs and pre-cooked omelets were available along with a microwave to heat them up. www.lancasterartshotel.com.

Since we’re here we might as well eat at John J. Jeffries, the restaurant that is on site, although not owned by the hotel. I love when the chef sends out an amuse bouche. Chef Michael Carson was doing the preparations this evening and sent out a spoon of black bean soup. Rather than requesting an entrée, Laurie and I went for a number of “small plates”. It gives me the opportunity for a better menu tasting. What I love about the food is the use of farm fresh products as well as the talent to cause my taste buds to dance the horah.

We began with the Poached Beet, Carrot and Bacon Salad that had micro greens and a tarragon vinaigrette. Next up was the Lil’ Ponderosa Farms Grass-Fed Dry-Aged Steak Tartare with Crostini. Wild caught shrimp and heirloom stone milled grits was followed by Sherry shrimp bisque of butter poached shrimp and creme fraiche; a Surf and Turf of salt cured Bering sea scallops, shaved raw dry-aged beef sirloin, and herb relish. Grilled asparagus with Linden Dale farm goat cheese and bacon-herb beurre blanc. Got to have my vegetables.

There is always room for dessert when the chef makes his own ice cream. A sampling appeared with Singing Dog vanilla, organic coconut, local blueberry, and a butter cookie. I only had half of the cookie as I’m trying to lose weight. www.johnjeffries.com.
By Jeanne Gainsburg

Oct. 10 at Red Cross

On Friday, Oct. 10, the Gay Alliance will be offering their SafeZone Train-the-Trainer Certification Program open to the community.

This full day, interactive workshop will run from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Rochester Red Cross. The purpose of this training is to develop confident, knowledgable and effective SafeZone trainers, who can then run SafeZone trainings at their school, faith community or workplace.

Each participant will receive a SafeZone Training manual that provides a complete course guide for running SafeZone Trainings, a review of material from the course, handouts to use in future SafeZone Trainings, suggestions for keeping your training fresh and updated and on-going support from the Gay Alliance.

Registration is $125 per person, which includes breakfast, lunch and a SafeZone Training manual. To register click on the SafeZone Train-the-Trainer slide on our website at: www.gayalliance.org.

Please contact me at JeanneG@GayAlliance.org or (585) 244-8640 for questions.

Feedback From Our Most Recent SafeZone Certification Program in Rochester:

"Unlike any conference I’ve been to! I can’t wait to share my knowledge. Don’t change a thing! THANK YOU!"

"Fantastic. Thank you for the opportunity. The presenters, topic, location, materials were all awesome. Very affirming. Very helpful. The whole thing was great. Applicable, transferable, relevant."

"The quality of the presenters was outstanding. I am so thankful for this training. It will make a difference in the lives of people, especially GLBTQ youth."

"The best part of this workshop was the activities and the presenters! I am much more fired up to train others. Can’t wait to go back to school and use this knowledge."

"The best part was the facilitator tips and tricks, as opposed to basic SafeZone info. It was wonderful. Great techniques to create groups, great facilitation, spoke clearly, used inclusive language, open to discussion different points of view, able to answer questions. You guys are rock stars!"

"Safe, informative and inter-active presentation! They all were very respectful and knowledgeable. Glad there was the manual to refer to as there was so much good info. Excellent presentation!"

"Amazing! Worth the drive. Lived with all of us and kept everyone included. Humor and friendliness. Continue doing what you’re doing and broaden your reach!"

"Oh my goodness, amazing. The presenters kept control of the room, made people feel safe to ask and figure out, fostering conversation, digging deeper, engaging everyone, well-timed breaks, well-timed standing and sitting. Thank you so much for all of the information and stories! You’re such lovely people! Thank you. Thank you. Thank you!!"

"This was a great workshop! The focus, content and activities were among the best I’ve ever seen."

"100% of the participants in our most recent training rated the content of the presentation, the workshop as a whole and the presenters “very good to excellent!”"

Reviewer blasts young author for homosexual content

By Jeanne Gainsburg

Last month we shared an article with you about the new book, X Greene, Rebecca Gainsburg’s second book in her Deep on Chick Trilogy. During the interview, the author shared that even though including gay characters in her book might influence sales, she felt that she had to be true to herself and include them.

Interestingly, the first review on Amazon is currently in and it is a 1 star, due to “homosexual” in the book. This reviewer was so angry that she went back and changed her previous 5 star review of book one to 3 stars. Here is her comment:

"I anxiously awaited this book after reading the first one. I loved the first book. This second book started out just as great as the first, but then less than halfway through, the author threw a twist in the story. An interesting, yet extremely disappointing, twist. Readers, be advised, there is homosexuality in this book. I was shocked, heart broken, disappointed, and offended at such an addition to this story. As soon as I read that two of the main male characters were gay and kissed and were once intimate lovers, I stopped reading the book. I will NOT finish this book and I WILL not come back to buy the third book when it is released. You just lost a reader, Miss Gainsburg. Fellow fantasy fans, if you don’t like homosexuality in your fantasy novels, then don’t waste your money on this book…controversial issues have no place in fiction. If you don’t want to anger and alienate certain readers, then you leave such things out of fictional novels."

Rebecca, 17, is unhappy that her book has gotten such a low rating but proud of her choice and she does not regret her decision. She says, “Literature and books are today where film and TV shows were years ago. Like the first intersexual kiss on Star Trek. That was huge. There needs to be people who are willing to take risks.

"People need to see that being LGBT is normal. Putting characters into books in a way that is not a big deal is important.”
Youth Update:

Take Back the Night on Aug. 16

By Dawn Balis

First I want to thank all of the youth and adults who helped make Pride an amazing event.

To follow up Pride we held a cool and fun learning experience for the youth. It taught leadership skills, team building, the history of the LGBTQ movement and allowed the youth to talk about the ideas for the future. It was called “Our Fabulous Future.” As part of that the youth decided to lend their new found skills to supporting victims of sexual assault and abuse.

This has been in the works even before the leadership training program. After a wonderful and informative presentation on Teen Dating Violence by Sarah Keller from Changes and Changes in February of 2014, the youth decided they wanted to do more for survivors of sexual assault and violence.

We discussed various ways the youth could raise awareness while supporting survivors and victims of sexual assault and violence. It was decided that the youth would coordinate a “Take Back the Night Walk.” “Take Back the Night” is an event that gathers survivors, their families and those who want to get the word out about sexual assault and be a support to survivors and their families.

So often when we think of sexual assault we picture heterosexual women but the statistics show that sexual violence does not discriminate. Studies show that 64 percent of all transgenre individuals have experienced sexual assault in their life. One in eight lesbians has been sexually assaulted or abused and for bisexual women the rate is one in two. The sexual assault/abuse rate for heterosexual women is 1 in 6. Sexual assault doesn’t just happen to women either. Studies show that 16 percent of males will be sexually abused before the age of 18.

The walk will start at Open Arms MCC (707 E. Main St.), and go around the surrounding area. During this walk participants will be holding signs and chanting in support of victims and survivors of sexual assault.

We are happy to be partnering with Open Arms MCC, Restore and Alternatives for Battered Women in this initiative. The walk is scheduled for Aug. 16 at 7 p.m. Please join us in letting the community know that we will no longer be afraid of the night and that we are taking it back.

We need to band together to stop sexual assaults and abuse. It isn’t a male, female, homosexual, heterosexual, cisgender, transgender problem -- it’s a human problem. Please consider joining us Aug. 16 at 7 p.m. to “Take Back the Night”.

SAGE AUGUST CALENDAR

Tuesday 8-5: .....6-8pm: Enjoy an evening program with SAGE at Equal Grounds. Play a game and share a summer story while Roza will be your host for the evening.

Thursday 8-7: .....NO YOGA in the a.m. Meet at OAMCC no later than 10:30 a.m. sharp to car pool to Canandaigua Lady (205 Lake Shore Drive, Canandaigua), ship boards at 11:45 am. Lunch and cruise is $36 per person (price includes upper deck seating, lunch and two hour cruise). Please note refunds are not given out by the Canandaigua Lady if the cruise is cancelled but a RAINCHECK is handed out for future use. Jessie will be your host for this summer day on the lake; please bring a hat, sun tan lotion, medications, sunglasses and other required summer attire for it will be a hot day. RSVVP 8-3-2014 (Call 585-396-7350 if you need help with driving instructions.)

Tuesday 8-12: .....Meet at Genesee Brew House (25 Cataract St.), for lunch on the patio at 11:45 a.m. Tour of the brewery is optional. Call 585-263-9200 for driving instructions to Brew House.

Thursday 8-14: .....10:30am- NO YOGA in the a.m.) Audet will host Breakfast club at Friendly’s (2425 West Henrietta Rd.).

Tuesday 8-19: .....Brown bag lunch (11:30 am-12:30 pm) with our first ever inspirational Rainbow SAGE cold food challenge. Contestants will choose groups and have one hour to create the most creative fruit centerpiece using various fruits such as a watermelon, cantaloupe and other fruits for beauty and building. $3 requested donation per person for entry fee and the enjoyment of eating the centerpieces after the contest. Jessie and Roza, Rainbow SAGE hosts, will introduce a special guest for the judging of the contest. RSVP if you plan on participating in the challenge.

Sunday 8-24: .....Ready for a pinch hitter? Red Wings game with a 1:05 start time, meet Jessie your host at 12:30 pm at Red Wings stadium by main gate. Gate is on Oak Street across from Lot D. Tickets will be bought in advance so please RSVP to GAGV and specify event and Rainbow SAGE program (Accessible seating is available and cost will vary depending if you are a ticket holder or buying a ticket.)

Rainbow SAGE meets at Open Arms Metropolitan Community Center, 707 East Main St. We have chair yoga with Tom for $5 per session from 10:30-11:30 a.m. every Tuesday and Thursday. All programs are subject to change and Rainbow SAGE members are responsible for setting up their own transportation to and from any program. Please update member information or like FACEBOOK page for updates, cancellations, program changes and informative information. Please note there will be no Euchre or Rainbow SAGE picnic in the month of August.
Resources

BISEXUALITY RESOURCES
AMLI Los Angeles; American Institute of Bisexu- lity (Journal of Bisexuality); Bay Area Bisexual Network - BIB - USA; Bisexual Organizing Proj- ect (BOP); Biversary Boston; Bisexual Women's Network - Columbus; GWI; Fenway Health’s Bi Health Project. Los Angeles Bi Task Force; New York Area Bisexual Network; Robin Collins, The Bi Writers Association. The Bisexual Resource Center (email bi@bi-resource.

CULTURAL
Rochester Women’s Community Center 234-4441. See Ongoing calendar.
Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus
www.thermgc.org
Open Arms Community Center Available for gatherings of 100 or more, 707 E. Main St. Permission: accepting and welcoming all people
Google Earth Application
Large-scale mapping, has led the way in providing high quality, affordable

DEAF SERVICES
Advocacy for Abused Deaf Victims
298-5708. at area medical provider locations or by calling
No criminal cases. Appointments are scheduled
Volunteer Legal Services Project
981-5941; hl@volunteerlegal.org. Free legal services for low-income clients seeking
a name change. Other legal services for kin- nee-income clients including: immigration law; bankruptcy, unemployment insurance hearings, wills and advance directive documents for clients with
serious illnesses.
Gay Alliance Youth Gender Identity Support Group
Tuesdays 5-6:30 Gay Alliance, 6th floor. 875 E. Main St., Ages 13-18. 244-8440

Genesee Valley Gender Variants
Thurs.-7,5pm, Equal Grounds, 750 South Ave. Genesee Valley Gay Rights www.gayalliance.org

Guys Night Out
Social group for transmen. Second Saturdays, 10pm, Equal Grounds, 750 South Ave. 848-9941

WOMEN
Highland Hospital Breast Imaging Center (56) Red Creek Drive, Rochester 14623, 254- 367-3431. Specializing in breast health, diag- nosis, breast imaging, genetic counseling and mammography outreach and education.
Breast Cancer Coalition of Rochester
1440 University Ave., 585-672-9177; www.bccrc.
org; info@bccrc.org. Breast Cancer Coalitio
provides support services that include pro- grams designed to help those coping with a recent breast cancer diagnosis and those coping with a history of breast cancer. For more information, contact us at 585-
272-1923 or visit us online at DRCHC.com.
Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley
See www.gayalliance.org, www.everybody-.

FTQH LGBT
Trillium Health
See our monthly and ongoing calendar as well as

Check our monthly and ongoing calendar as well as the
community section for more groups and events.
For further information, contact us at 585-
642-8604 or visit www.gayalliance.org. Gay Alliance
Youth info group: pages 30-31.

Trillium Health
Trillium Health is the leading provider of HIV/
AIDS services in Monroe County and the Finger Lakes. On-site services include HIV testing and limited STI screenings, Primary and HIV Specialty med- ical care, PrEP counseling, and on-site laboratory work for patients in Geneva and Bath. Trillium Health is also a leader in providing services and education to members of the LGBT community. Contact infor- mation: Website: www.trilliumhealth.org, Main Office: 259 Monroe Ave., Rochester, 14607; Main Phone: 585-345-1200, Health Services After Hours: 585-275-0526. After Hours (Lifeline): 585-275-5155; Fax: 585-
244-6456. Finger Lakes Health System 505 Old Pin-
Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley
1-800-689-9777. Deals with health and wellness issues, including mental health, depression, and substance abuse. Information: Website: www. trilliumhealthny.org. Main of-
center, 145 Parsells Ave., third floor, 585-404-7290. Provides confidential HIV, STD testing and General Health Care, ages 12-25. For more in- formation: 8am-5pm; Tues., Thurs., Fri., 10am-2pm. 585-753-5382 x#ay.
Planning Parenthood of the Rochester/Syracuse Region
114 University Ave., Rochester 14605; Toll-
free: 1-866-600-0088. Offers confidential HIV test- ing and information. When you make your appointment, be sure to ask about our slid-
ing scale fees. No one is turned away for lack of ability to pay.
Rochester Area Task Force on AIDS
A collection of agencies providing a multiplicity of resources and services to the upstate New York community. They are led by women and the LGBT leadership. The Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency, which also provides medical literature and newspaper clip- ping as well as demographic and statistical data

for use in developing health care services. (585) 461-3520.
The MÖCHA Center of Rochester Our mission is to provide health and wellness in communities of color. Youth drop-in center; health center; testing, support, navigation for computer lab, referral services. 107 Liberty Park-
way (corner of Pleasant). 585-420-1400.
Monroe County Health Department at 855 West Main St., offering tests and counseling for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. (585) 753-5431; Hours: M W 8:30-10; R-
8:30-11; F 7:30-2:10.
Strong Memorial Hospital provides a complete range of HIV medical care, including access to experimental treatment pro-

ects, and HIV testing. Also provides counseling

for individuals and group psychotherapy. Training of health care professionals also available. Infectious Disease Clinic, (585) 275-0256. Department of Psychia-
Planned Parenthood of Rochester and Genesee Valley Offers testing and information (585) 546 2595.
Action Front Center
(Also for a Better Community) Provides HIV, sexual health, reproductive health counseling, reduction of violence, and educational programs including: school-based programming, community organizing, and development initiatives. Action Front Center, Contact: Nancy @ Rochester hotline.
Volunteer Legal Services Project (532-2305; www.vlsp.org). 1 West Main St., Suite 505 Rochester 14614. Free legal services for low-income HIV positive clients.
No criminal cases. Appointments are scheduled at area medical provider locations or by calling 255-7059.
DAILY
Free HIV Testing
9am-7pm. Trillium Health, 259 Monroe Ave.
MONDAYS
L.O.R.A. Coffee Social
LORA Late Bloomers Coming Out Group for Women
2nd & 4th Mondays of the Month. 7pm. Private Lot. Contact info: Kaara, 654-7516. www.rochesterfrontrunners.org. Email: Kate@loragroup.org.

Wednesday

Identity Group
The Identity Group is for LBGT identified individuals with a documented mental health diagnosis. The group meets Wednesdays 3-4pm at ARC Health Services (2600 Brighton-Henrietta Town Rd. 14623). The goal of the group is to provide a safe space to discuss identity issues, share personal experiences and increase self-esteem. The group is facilitated by Delilah Fico. LMSW. For more information, please contact Delilah Fico at dlafico@carolinasrogers.org or 585-271-0661 ext. 1552.
Gay Alliance Board of Directors
Meets Third Wednesdays, 6pm. 875 E. Main St. 244-8640
Support Group for Parents who have lost Children
First, 3rd Wednesdays, 11am-12:30pm. Third Presbyterian Church, 4 St. George Region Home Care. Free. 325-1680
CQAP
Come and Play. Wednesday game nights. 8-11pm. Equal-grounds, 750 South Ave. 7pm. wooden610@yahoo.com
Rochester Rams General Meeting
2nd Wednesdays, 7:30pm, Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave. www.rochesterrams.com
HIV+ Mixed Men’s Group
11 Wednesdays, 11:30am-12:30pm. Trillium Health, 259 Monroe Ave.
Frontrunners/Frontwalkers

Steps Beyond Stigma
Crack Support on Mondays, 7pm. 289 Monroe Ave.

Tuesdays
The Social Grind
10am-12noon and again 7-9pm at Equal-grounds, 750 South Ave. Email: Duhligt4567@outlook.com. Coffee and Game Night
Catch up with the week’s happenings and enjoy some games and potatoes! 6pm - 8:30pm. Equal-grounds 750 South Ave. Sponsoring by Open Arms MCC & Community Center. 271-6479
LGBTQ Healthy Living
Free sympathy testing
Trillium Health, 259 Monroe Ave., 5pm - 4:30pm.
Women’s Community Chorus
Rehearsals each Tuesday, 6:30-9pm. Downtown United Church, 17 N. Frederick Street. 234-4441. www.thewrc.org
LORA Knitters group
Trans* Youth Support Group
5:30-6:30pm, SAGV office, 5th floor, 875 E. Main St.

Wednesdays

Gay Alliance Library & Archives, David Bovahti Cyber Center. Every Mon./Wed. 6-8pm. First floor, 875 E. Main St.

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Trans* Youth Support Group
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FRIDAY 1

SUNDAY 3
Dignity Integrity. Episcopal Mass/ Healing Service, 5 pm at St. Luke’s and St. Simon’s Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. Hotline at 585-234-5092 or website at www.di-rochester.org/

Pride & Joy Families Picnic, Syracuse area. 1-4 pm, Jamesville Beach, Dewitt. Point Teen Shelter. RSVP 609-777-3717; info@headjoyfamilies.org.

THURSDAY 7
Rainbow SAGE cruise on Canandaigua Lake. Meet at Open Arms MCC, 707 E. Main St. by 10:30 am, car pool to 205 Lake Shore Drive, Canandaigua. Boarding: 11:30 am. $50/person, includes: upper deck seating, lunch, two hour cruise. Bring a hat, sun tan lotion, medications, sunglasses. RSVP by Aug 5; call 585-396-7350 if you need help with driving instructions.

SATURDAY 9
Rochester Butch-Femme Connexion dinner at Bill Gray’s/Abbott’s on Culver Road in Seabreeze at 7 pm. Kerry Max at (585) 957-6627 or email DressyWoman@aol.com.

Gaye Games, Cleveland Ohio. Through Aug. 16. Opening Ceremonies at Quicken Arena, with Lance Bass, the Pointer Sisters, Alex Newell from GLEE. Team Rochester shirts are still available for purchase for $29. Contact thomas0510@mac.com.

SUNDAY 10
Dignity Integrity. Roman Catholic Liturgy of the Word, with music, 5 pm at St. Luke’s and St. Simon’s Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. Hotline at 585-234-5092 or website at di-rochester.org/.

THURSDAY 14
Our Lady, Second Thursdays, 5:30-8:30 pm, St. Joseph Park hosted by the Landmark Society (Rain location Red Co) $10 entry.

SATURDAY 16

Take Back the Night, with Gay Alliance Youth Group. The walk will start 7 pm at Open Arms MCC (707 E. Main St.) and go around the surrounding area. Participants will hold signs and chant in support of victims and survivors of sexual assault. Partnering with Open Arms MCC, Restore and Alternatives for Battered Women.

SUNDAY 17
Dignity Integrity. Episcopal Mass. 5 pm at St. Luke’s and St. Simon’s Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. Hotline at 585-234-5092 or website at www.di-rochester.org/.

MONDAY 18
David Bohnett Cyber Center reopening. Reception with members of board and staff, 5:30-7:30 pm., in the Gay Alliance lounge, fifth floor, 875 E. Main St.

SATURDAY 23
Summer Retreat for men diagnosed with prostate cancer from tri-state region. Two-day summer retreat through Aug 24, sponsored by Camp Good Days & Special Times and Us TOO Rochester NY. All meals and overnight accommodations in cabins with indoor plumbing provided at no cost at 13-acre recreational site for Camp Good Days located on Keuka Lake in Barkport. Plan to attend one or both days and enjoy boating, fishing, hiking, swimming, ropes course, educational discussions, more. Advance registration required. Register online or get more information, at www.campgooddays.org or call (585) 624-5555 and ask about the prostate cancer retreat.

Butch Femme Connection dinner. Peppersmith Dinner on Route 15 (West Henrietta Road) in Henrietta at 7 pm. Kerry Max at (585) 957-6627 or email DressyFemme@aol.com.

SUNDAY 24
Rainbow SAGE at Redwings game. Meet Jesse your host at 12:30 pm at Red Wings stadium by main gate on Oak Street across from Lot D. Tickets will be bought in advance so please RSVP to GAGV and specify event and Rain bow SAGE program. (Accessible seating is available and cost will vary depending on if you are a ticket holder or buying a ticket)


Dignity Integrity. Evening Prayer, followed by a Potluck Dinner; ‘Farmer’s Market Fare’. 5 pm at St. Luke’s and St. Simon’s Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. Hotline at 585-234-5092 or website at www.di-rochester.org/.

SATURDAY 30
Trans’ Alliance of Greater Rochester (TACR). 3-5 pm. Film, refreshments, $1 donation if able. Open Arms MCC, Community Center at 707 East Main St.

SUNDAY 31
Dignity Integrity. Picnic with Liturgy at friends’ home in Lima. Dignity Bufalo will be joining us. Gathering at 2 pm, liturgy at 3 pm and potluck picnic will follow. All welcome. See website, email or call hotline for further details. Hotline at 585-234-5092 or website at www.di-rochester.org/.
The Empty Closet is published by the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, 875 E. Main Street, Suite 500, Rochester, NY 14605. © 2014, All rights reserved.

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Staff Reporters: Dan Overmyer, Grace Gay, Allison G. Anzink
Ad Sales: Deborah Brooks (brandond@gayalliance.org)

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Letters to the Editor:
Letters to the editor are the primary tenet that the Empty Closet values as its purpose is to inform the Rochester gay community and to provide an impartial forum for ideas.

The opinions of columnists, editorial writers and other contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect the views of all – women, men, people of color, young and old, and those from various walks of life. The opinions of columnists, editorial writers and other contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect the collective attitude of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley or The Empty Closet. The Empty Closet shall not be liable for any loss or expense that results from the publication of any letter to the editor in this publication. The publication of the name or photograph of any person or organization in articles is not an indication of agreement with all of the views of that person or organization. For further information, please write to The Empty Closet, 875 E. Main St., Rochester, NY 14605, call (585) 244-9030 or e-mail empcloset@gagv.us.

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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. Approved Advertisements:

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For publication, submit news items, ads, photos, letters, stories, poetry, art, photographs or essays by mail or in person to The Empty Closet office by the 15th of the month. Checks for acceptance must be made payable to The Empty Closet, 875 E. Main St., Rochester, NY 14605, call (585) 244-9030 or e-mail empcloset@gagv.us.

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“True Colors” Authors
Foula Dimopoulou, Erin Hayes, Leonides Ortiz, K., Lauren Shio, Alison Steinberg, Vimla Vondrell

Volunteers
Aaron Aqelga, Liz Alcicea, Paul Allen, Jeff Andrews, Chelsea Angelo, Robin Angevine-Funderberk, Margaret Aubel, Addison Auft, Kaelen Aulst, Stefan Baer, Ashley Behnike, Danie Bendesky, Sara Benson, David Bergmann, Michael Bernola, Vanessa Bishop, Keturah Bixby, Edward Brockenbrough, Chris Brunfield, Laura Buttiglieri, Marizza Cabrera, Mahalea Cabrera, Emily Call, Alice Carver-Kubik, Sarah Caternolo, Steve Cooper, David Copeland, Peter Corey, Pam Cornish, Nick Cornish, Jeffrey Couger, LaRosa Crawford, Caryn Davis, Jodie Dawson, Joey DeGrass, Barb Deitz, Mike Dejusas, Mike Delaney,

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Thank you for making Roc Pride 2014 the best ever!