**Trans panel members with Jeanné Gainsburg and students.**

**Gay Alliance panel at St. John Fisher Pharmacy School educates about transgender issues**

Training may be only one in this country  

By Adam Young  
When Mallory Livingston, co-founder and co-president of the Syracuse Transgender Alliance, began going to a local pharmacy to pick up hormone replacement therapy (HRT) for transitioning, the response from the pharmacy staff was usually confused, even disrespectful at times.

Despite how she presented herself at the counter, she was often referred to as “he,” given the male name that remained on her ID. Livingston also required a unique syringe and needle combination to take her HRT. However, at the time, the pharmacy staff was adamant in reciting what was instructed in their file. “Because of who I am, they’re not taking me very seriously, and they’re rolling their eyes... they keep telling me what’s on their computer screen, and that’s what they have to do. The [staff] is not taking what I say as correct,” Livingston said. The lack of privacy at the pharmacy counter was also uncomfortable, particularly at busy times. “So if there are people in line... you’re basically spilling your guts to a bunch of strangers,” Livingston said. The lack of privacy at the pharmacy counter was also uncomfortable, particularly at busy times. “So if there are people in line... you’re basically spilling your guts to a bunch of strangers,” Livingston said.

**Mayor Warren announces extended trans health benefits for city employees at Empire State Pride Agenda Spring Dinner**

By Ove Overmyer, Staff Reporter, Empty Closet Newspaper  
On May 17 at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center, The Empire State Pride Agenda (ESPA) celebrated its long-standing commitment to winning the fight for equality and justice for LGBTQ New Yorkers by hosting its 15th Annual Spring Dinner.

At the dinner, Rochester Mayor Lovely Warren, alongside Rochester City Councilmember Matt Haag, announced that the city would extend transition-related healthcare coverage to transgender and gender non-conforming municipal employees. The benefits will go into effect beginning Jan. 1, 2015 at which time the City of Rochester will add transgender healthcare benefits for employees and their family members who are enrolled in the City’s “enhanced” medical plan. Approved by the City’s Labor Management Healthcare Committee in April, the new coverage will pay for services related to gender reassignment surgery such as medical and psychological counseling, hormone therapy and cosmetic and reconstructive surgeries.

ESPA Executive Director Nathan M. Schaefer said, “We’re so proud that Mayor Warren, Council member Matt Haag and the City of Rochester shared this significant news at our Spring Dinner. The inclusion of transition-related care in municipal benefits will improve

**Toronto hosts WorldPride 2014: Rise Up!**

By Susan Jordan  
A huge global Pride event is coming up June 20-29, only a few hours’ drive from Rochester. Up to two million LGBTQ people from around the world are expected to attend.

WorldPride 2014 Toronto (WPT14TO) is a 10-day international celebration incorporating activism, education, and the history and culture of global LGBTQ communities. The WorldPride event, held in a different country each year, replaces the usual Toronto Pride celebration. The theme for WPT14TO is “Rise Up!” as chosen by the community.

Dozens of events will take place at various venues across the Greater Toronto area. The main festival footprint will be over 25 blocks and will include 10 open-air free-to-attend stages. Melissa Etheridge, Deborah Cox, Mariah Carey, and Cher will be among the famous performers.

Pride in Toronto is one of the largest arts and culture festivals in North America. Welcoming more than 1.22 million guests in 2013, it is larger than Chicago’s Lollapalooza and rivals Calgary’s Stampede for the title of Canada’s largest festival. This year WorldPride 2014 is expected to attract up to two million attendees, making Pride in Toronto officially Canada’s largest festival of any kind.

Major partner organizations include the Toronto International Film Festival, Inside Out (presenter of the annual Toronto LGBT Film Festival), TD Toronto Jazz Festival, Art Gal-

(Continues on page 3)
World Pride
WorldPride 2014 is coming to Toronto this month, and for 10 days as many as two million LGBTQ+ people and allies will celebrate Pride with dozens of events. Toronto is only around four hours’ drive from Rochester, and hopefully many anxious residents will be able to get there. They will meet people from all over Canada, the U.S. and the world. A lot of Rochesterians travel to Toronto Pride every June, and this year it should be something special. (Send me your pics!)

WorldPride, held in a different country each year, is “an international celebration incorporating activism, education, and the history and culture of global LGBTQ communities”. Of course, communities around the world have many different cultures and histories, not just around the U.S. “Herlands, have relatively liberal histories in every LGBTQ community.”

Globally, LGBTQs are getting more visible all the time. Three million people or thereabouts attended the Brazil Pride Parade last month in Sao Paulo, the world’s largest Pride – although homophobic violence is rampant in that country. The Soweto Pride also marches in South Africa, the Caribbean, Muslim and Eastern European countries, where they face a lot more than just bullhorns blaring homophobic lies.

Some of these marches at all. The European Parliament’s Intergroup on LGBT Rights reports: “Following the annexation of Crimea, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals are now subject to the Russian ‘anti-propaganda law’. In application of the law, authorities cancelled the Soweto Pride march, which was due to take place 22-23 April.”

The Empty Closet honors our brave sisters and brothers around this country and the world.

The Empty Closet Editor
SUSAN JORDAN

Gay Alliance Board President
DAVID ZONA

But this wasn’t just any other event. This was a chance to see the future. This was an opportunity for me to connect with a tomorrow so very different than what I’d experienced as a younger gay male.

These were youth living in a very different time than what I recall from my own experiences. And it made me feel a strong sense of gratitude for the progress that has occurred over that period of roughly 20 years since my younger days – a relatively short period of time considering the slow pace of social change.

As a high school kid, there was no way that I would’ve been acceptable for me to be an openly LGBTQ individual. And as such, I had my identity from those with whom I rode the school bus and roamed the halls. I forced myself to do the things that I thought were appropriate for a young male to do, unwilling to admit to the things that I enjoyed that seemed to depart from those expectations. I often found myself hoping that by acting the part, I would eventually find it an effortless and natural thing to do.

This of course never happened. The youth at the Big Gay Prom were a very different youth – free to express their true identities authentically and with those around them not thinking twice about the normalcy of LGBTQ individuals and their lifestyles. For a short while, I found myself wishing I’d had a similar experience in my own time, but was quickly overtaken by an extreme feeling of joy and pride for the fact that these kids were experiencing a very different world.

It also found myself feeling proud that the less than optimal experiences of kids like me were a factor in propelling the social change needed to make today and the thoughts of an ever-brightening future, a continued reality.

Watching these kids on dance floor was like experiencing the future unfolding right before my very eyes. These kids are the next generation. These kids are the face of tomorrow’s world and all of the positive changes that future will bring. These kids will teach in our schools, be the healthcare professionals caring for the aging and will find their place in society as friends and neighbors and as moms and dads. Through these influences and roles, these kids will leave a legacy more socially enlightened than the last and pave the way for continued social enlightenment into the future.

I was extremely humbled to be a part of their evening, and by the feeling of peace and hopefulness that I experienced as a result.

I humbly encourage each of you to consider volunteering at an upcoming GAGV event. These are more than just events. These are the shaping moments in our life and culture.

Thoughts at the Prom
I remember my first meeting as a Board Member of the GAGV. I had been aware of the organization for some years and in enough of a capacity to be very much interested in becoming an active supporter. Upon joining the Board, I spent more time digging into the good work that the Agency had done spanning its then almost 40 years’ worth of history.

Since that day almost 25 years, I have had the honor of participating in many events, in the capacity of Board Member as well as, more importantly, volunteer. I have attended the Speak Out training masterfully guided by our Executive Director, Scott Fearing, and Education Director, Jeanne Gainsburg. Here I learned many things about LGBTQ culture after making the misguided assumption that I already knew everything there was to know about such things. As a gay male, there couldn’t possibly be anything that I hadn’t been told or already experienced firsthand.

I couldn’t have been more wrong. I couldn’t have become more enlightened.

Recently, I volunteered at the “Big Gay Prom”. As had been the case with all of my prior experiences supporting the Agency, I found it to be a very enjoyable and personally fulfilling experience.

Empty Closet
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Triangle Club
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Benefits:
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• A membership card to enjoy the discounts at the Empty Closet
• A contribution to the空空空空空空空空空空空空空空空空空空空空空

More than just events. These are the shaping moments in our life and culture.

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Gay Alliance Membership Levels:
$20-99 Advocate
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Benefit: Subscription to The Empty Closet mailed to home or work, plus privileges at each level. Phone: 585 344-1860 or mail to: Gay Alliance, 875 E. Main St., Suite 200, Rochester, NY 14607. Home delivery of The Empty Closet is free with your annual membership.
**Entencom fires 98.9 radio hosts for abusive mockery of trans people**

Mayor Lovely Warren announced at the Empire State Pride Agenda dinner May 17 that the city would be adding transgender health benefits for employees and their families in the city medical plan (see page 1). The Democrat & Chronicle reported: “Under the new coverage, effective Jan. 1, city employees will be eligible to receive services related to gender reassignment surgery, such as medical and psychological counseling, hormone therapy and cosmetic and reconstructive surgeries.”

That news caught the eye of 98.9 Buffalo Buzz morning radio hosts Kimberly and Beck effective immediately. They degrade LGBT people, the panelists, and are more concerned with the health needs of the panelists, and are more comfortable separating their religious beliefs and their obligations as health care professionals. “Doing the training here gives us a safe environment,” Mathews said. Many currently practicing pharmacists also come to listen to the panel, and many transgender stereotypes are dispelled. Afterward, many attendees feel the need to inform their co-workers at the pharmacy by the discussion, Parkhill said. 

Both Livingston and Professor Parkhill agreed that transgender individuals do not have to repeat their background and needs each time they stop by the pharmacy. 

*Pharmacy continues page 6*
Arkansas judge strikes down marriage ban; couples rush for licenses

On May 9, Judge Chris Piazza of Arkansas upheld same-sex couples’ freedom to marry, striking down the state’s discriminatory constitutional amendment and becoming one of more than a dozen judges to rule in favor of the freedom to marry since last year’s Supreme Court decision in U.S. v. Windsor.

Hundreds of gay couples began filing into the Pulaski County Arkansas courthouse to be issued marriage licenses, fearing that a stay might be imposed (see below).

The Associated Press reports: An Arkansas clerk issued the state’s first gay marriage license on Saturday, May 10, breaking a barrier that voters put in place with a constitutional amendment 10 years ago. Carroll County Deputy Clerk Jane Osborn issued a license Saturday morning to Kristin Seaton, 27, and Jennifer Rambo, 26, of Fort Smith. They had slept in a Ford Focus after arriving in Eureka Springs at 2 a.m. Saturday and were the first of about 10 couples to line up outside of the courthouse before it opened. When the license was issued, Rambo, said, “Thank God.” Seaton and Rambo, who have been together four years, then held a marriage ceremony on the courthouse steps. A woman in a rainbow dress officiated.

On May 14, the Arkansas Supreme Court dismissed the state’s appeal of Judge Chris Piazza’s ruling striking down the state’s gay marriage ban because it wasn’t a final ruling. It also denied a request for an emergency stay of the ruling, the Arkansas Times reports. The court, however, seems to have returned the state to its old status quo — impossible for same-sex couples to obtain marriage licenses — because it notes that Piazza’s ruling didn’t mention another statute that prohibits clerks from issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

Action will now shift to Piazza’s court to pursue final orders, injunctive relief and a cleanup on the omitted statute.

Judge Dale A. Kimball wrote: “The State has placed Plaintiffs and their families in a state of legal limbo with respect to adoption, child care and custody, medical decisions, employment and health benefits, future tax implications, retirement, insurance, and many other property and fundamental rights associated with marriage. These legal uncertainties and right’s cause harm every day that the marriage is not recognized.”

“We are grateful that the court has determined that the plaintiffs are likely to prevail on their legal claims and would suffer irreparable harm if their marriages were stripped of recognition. The order was given a 21-day stay to allow the state to respond.”

In his ruling, Judge Dale A. Kimball wrote: “Today a state circuit judge in Arkansas ruled in favor of the freedom to marry, the latest in a unanimous wave of favorable rulings from more than a dozen state and federal judges across the country in recent months. Judge Piazza held that there is no good reason for discriminat-

ing against couples and their loved ones just because they are gay. With nearly 70 marriage cases now making their way through the courts, and five federal appellate courts now hearing arguments and soon to rule, today’s decision out of Arkansas underscores that all of America is ready for the freedom to marry.”

A record-high 59% of Americans support marriage for same-sex couples, 50% of Southerners support marriage, with only 42% opposed.

RELATEd: Inevitably, Teabagger fanatics for marriage for same-sex couples.

Maine ethics commission: NOM violated election law

In the strongest governmental action taken to date against the National Organization for Marriage (NOM), the Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices on May 19 issued a report concluding that NOM intentionally and misleadingly filed financial reports reflecting its contributions and expenditures in support of the 2009 Maine referendum. The full Commission voted 7-2 on Wednesday to order NOM to register as a ballot question committee and file campaign finance reports reflecting its contributions and expenditures in support of the 2009 Maine referendum. The full Commission voted 7-2 on Wednesday to order NOM to register as a ballot question committee and file campaign finance reports reflecting its contributions and expenditures in support of the 2009 Maine referendum.

The report comes days after a federal district judge in Oregon rejected NOM’s request to intervene in a case challenging the state’s ban on same-sex marriage and filed a “friend of the court” brief in that case. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals is asking the state to appeal in anticipation of the case being heard.

“This detailed investigative report once and for all exposes NOM’s fundamental mission to secretly and illegally funnel contributions from a few large unnamed donors to its extreme political causes,” said Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin.

“We are grateful that the court has determined that the plaintiffs are likely to prevail on their legal claims and would suffer irreparable harm if their marriages were stripped of recognition. The order was given a 21-day stay to allow the state to respond.”

Religious leaders and civil rights advocates, who sought the preliminary injunction for a federal judge says the plaintiffs will receive the full recognition they deserve as lawfully married couples.”

“We are grateful that the court has determined that the plaintiffs are likely to prevail on their legal claims and would suffer irreparable harm if their marriages were stripped of recognition. The order was given a 21-day stay to allow the state to respond.”

The preliminary injunction is not a permanent order, but it reflects the court’s determination that the plaintiffs are likely to prevail on their legal claims and would suffer irreparable harm if their marriages were stripped of recognition. The order was given a 21-day stay to allow the state to respond.”

“Maine people deserve to know who is funding political campaigns to influence their vote.”

The report recommends civil penalties against NOM totaling $50,000 and that NOM be directed to register as a ballot question committee and file campaign finance reports reflecting its contributions and expenditures in support of the 2009 Maine referendum.

A federal judge ordered the state on May 14 to recognize the marriages of same-sex couples who were legally married in Utah after a federal court struck down a state ban, but before the U.S. Supreme Court temporarily halted additional marriages from taking place.

On 1,080 same-sex couples married in Utah during that period.

The couples are represented by American Civil Liberties Union, the ACLU of Utah, and Strinberg & Scholnick, LLC, who sought the preliminary injunction for the marriages to be recognized while their lawsuit continues.

“Our clients, like over 1,000 other same-sex couples, were legally married and those marriages cannot now be taken away from them,” said John Mejia, legal director of the ACLU of Utah. “While we await a permanent decision, we are relieved that our clients will receive the full recognition they deserve as lawfully married couples.”

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through for a few secret donors to fund discrimination against LGBT Americans. Maine’s
testimony that the ban was counted as a
and so clearly articulated Oregon’s posi-
report to, “NOM intentionally set up its
Our clients Deanna Geiger and
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denied committed gay couples the freedom
to marry, ruling that it violates the U.S.
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results in protecting the law. We are indefensible. With over 70 marriage
motions of marriage, and anti-marriage laws
the country, the courts agree: same-sex
married in Oregon, no one with
ruff carefully considered their position and
couples — Paul Rummell and Ben West, and
on behalf of two additional couples
and gay couples — Measure 36 — violates the U.S. Constitution.
our federal Constitu-
tion does not allow any state — or its voters— to deny same sex couples equal protection under the law simply because
of who they are and who they love. This
type of discrimination is wrong and it’s also unconstitutional.
“NOM promised its donors anonymity
” Our clients Deanna Geiger and
I am happy to report that we now enjoy all of the
and gay couples — Measure 36 — violates the U.S. Constitution.
The consolidated case—Gei-
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Giese is the highest court in Oregon.
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tuional ban on marriage for lesbian and gay couples—Measure 36 — violates the
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because the Maine referendum was by far the
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in the campaign. The
the U.S. Supreme Court in its effort to evade Maine’s public disclosure law.
the findings, the 37-page investigative report found that NOM
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The report further explains that there
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US Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, Showtime’s “Nurse Jackie,” Keynote included host Stephen Wallem from celebrities and elected officials. They support for the Pride Agenda’s work.

Evelyn Bailey wins Community Service Award

Evelyn Bailey is an educator, political activist and historian. Her work to support the Shoulders To Stand On movement that traced the history of the Gay Rights Movement, Evelyn was Executive Producer of the landmark documentary film, “Shoulders To Stand On,” and is the director of the Roots Chronology Program that chronicled and digitized the 40-plus year publishing history of The Empty Closet newspaper. The “Shoulders To Stand On” documentary, co-produced and directed by Kevin Indovino, was screened last month at the Human Rights Campaign headquarters in Washington D.C., and will be aired on WXXI on June 3.

“As we approach the beginning of Pride Month, I want to acknowledge the groups that have dedicated so much time and energy to bring us to this moment,” said Bailey in her acceptance speech. “For each one of you, this is a new beginning. You have found the courage to be yourself, to live your lives honestly as allies, as LGBTQI men and women, has created a better environment of acceptance and freedom that is still desperately needed.”

Evelyn says working on the Shoulders to Stand On project was life-altering and she challenges the audience to get involved. She also explained that family and community connections, history and roots are extremely important. The study concluded, “Being free to be who I am in all areas of my life has been a driving force of integration and growth. There are no words to express my gratitude to everyone for your time, dedication, energy and commitment to this extraordinary community archival and documentary project. The challenge for all of us is to rest on our accomplishments. There is no room for racism, discrimination or violence as allies, as LGBTQI men and women, has created a better environment of acceptance and freedom that is still desperately needed.”

GREAT Bowling Tournament was a great success

The bowlers look forward to this uniquely entertaining tournament every year. A dedicated group of volunteers work tirelessly to organize the fun that has been helping to raise money for Trillium Health (formerly AIDS Rochester and AIDS Care) since 1988. In those 26 years, they have generated over $250K.

Held on the first weekend of May each year, this year’s tournament at Clover Lanes had a cowboy theme and needless to say everyone had fun dressing the part.

Trillium says, “The care providers at Trillium Health are so very grateful for the wonderful community of support found in the greater Rochester area that we serve. All are committed to extending our sensitive, affirming approach to care, to everyone in our LGBTQ communities seeking better health.”

■

LOCAL AND STATE

(Buffalo continued from page 3)

more bands and performers. A suggested $5 donation is appreciated and will be accepted at the entrance gate.

Visit www.BuffaloPrideFestival.com for additional event details and information.

Rev. Steve Price becomes pastor at Community Christian Church on June 8

After spending 19 years at Trillium Health (formerly AIDS Care), Rev. Ste- ve Price retired from his future church duties. He had been working those mornings would be spent in a pulpit, but he now finds himself there.

Rev. Price is excited to join up his first few months at Community Christian Church, 2647 Chili Ave., and will officially be installed at the church at the ceremony on June 8 at 3 p.m. That day will be a dual celebration, since following the morning ceremony the church will also be dedicating new handicap-accessible space, truly making the church open to all in the community.

Steven received his Master of Divinity from Colgate Rochester Divinity School (now Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School) and began his career with a dual focus, concurrently serving as Pastor of the Pembroke Community Church in Genesee County and as Staff Chaplain at Strong Memorial Hospital. Steven felt called to work within the field of HIV, so he left those positions to join AIDS Rochester, where his most recent full-time position was as Senior Director of Community Health Initiatives. In that capacity, his duties included administration of HIV community education and outreach programs throughout the Finger Lakes Region.

The unexpected fork in the path that brought Steven to the church has actu- ally been years in the making, though it only became apparent a few months ago.

Over the past 15 years, Steven has served in leading roles in the greater Rochester community (Disciples of Christ/UCC) periodical as a guest preacher and in an interim minister capacity. Each time he sensed the joyful spirit of a community that embraced diversity. He enjoyed the occasional Sunday day spent preaching and had no plans to leave Trillium Health.

Rev. Price is married, and Steven hit a mile- stone birthday, turning 50, and as his husband Norm was turning 65, he found it to be a time of reflection and pruning. While he valued his work at Trillium Health, he felt he was being called back to church to lea, and he had the distinct feeling that he was the “right” congregation for him to make that move. He then learned that Com- munity Christian’s pastor was leaving to take a position in Texas to be closer to her family. Steven knew this was the “right” congregation – creative, progressive and trying to make a difference. Despite hav- ing launched a nationwide search, the church’s Search Committee was delighted to learn of Steven’s interest and be able to find the perfect candidate right in its own backyard.

He joined the church in November as it embarked on a building project intended to make it fully accessible and in compliance with ADA guidelines. The congregation was an early adopter of an “open to all” philosophy but its 1960s-era parish hall was not meeting this “wet” standards.

Rev. Price says the project is not why he felt called to the church but rather it confirms what he felt about the membership, that they are willing to put their money where their mouths are.

His intent for his first year is to reconnect church members and learn how it operates before formulating a formal Vision. The church’s structure is different from many in that it has a very active and consultative lay that is includ- ed in all major decisions. He wants to continue the open conversation that is at the core of the church’s identity. Steven admits with a smile that the church that he found has a cowboy theme and needless to say everyone had fun dressing the part.

The church embraces everyone “What I love is that right now we have two preg- nant women in the congregation. One is a straight woman while the other is a lesbian. Both are embraced with love and joyful expectation. There’s no difference. Straight couples, gay couples, seniors, youth – everyone is valued and respected in God’s eyes and in the practices of Com- munity Christian Church.”

The community is invited to visit the church’s website – www.rocenepiscopal.org or to stop by for Sunday service (11 a.m. through the end of June; 10 a.m. sum- mer hours). The church is fully handicap-accessible.

Assemblmber

Bronson introduces bill to help trans people seeking name change

By Susan Jordan

Assemblymember Harry B. Bron- son (D-Rochester/Chili/Henrietta) announced on May 14 that he is intro- ducing legislation to protect the personal safety and privacy of victims of domestic violence as well as transgender individu-
Interview

At an Ambush Rochester event.

Ambush Rochester
By Susan Jordan

The concept of lesbians and queer women “ambushing,” a straight bar is not new. But Christina, T. and Dana were the first to do it in Rochester. The basic idea of Ambush Buffalo and Ambush Rochester is to create a space for queer women to congregate once a month at a venue that is traditionallly straight. “One of the reasons Ambush is so successful is because it attracts a diverse crowd. It’s also very low maintenance. Some people pop in after work for the happy hour fun and others stay all night. There’s always a great energy, amazing music and lots of dancing,” say organizers Sady Fischer and Susanna Speed.

Sady Fischer says, “The first time we encountered Ambush was a little over a year ago in Buffalo. There had been rumblings on Facebook about it here and there and we were curious so we checked out the Facebook page. Once we saw from the pictures how many queer women were attending the event, we obviously wanted to hop onboard! Knowing there wasn’t a (strictly) lesbian bar in Rochester, we realized that we wanted to start the party here too. We started spreading the word to local community organizations and friends about Ambush Rochester, and together we worked with Christina, T. and Dana to get things rolling here. The rest is history!”

So far the group has had five Rochester events. Sady said, “For us, we have a special place in our hearts for our first event at One Nightclub. We weren’t sure how successful it was going to be, especially since there had been a snowstorm the night before. As the night picked up, we counted over 100 people. Several women approached us and told us how amazing it felt for them to be a part of such a queer-friendly event. That night has been the standard for us, and we work hard every month to make the experience great. We want to make sure that all the women and allies coming to Ambush feel welcome, a part of the community. The next Rochester Ambush event will be Friday, June 6, at Captain’s Attic, 37 Charlotte St., from 5:30-10 p.m. Sady said, “We’re especially excited about our Pride Ambush Rochester on July 11, 5:30-10 p.m., at Tilt Nightclub! Not only will we have special Pride events going on, but we’ll also have drag king performances. We’re expecting a big turnout.”

Women can get involved in many ways. Sady notes, “We’d love to have someone regularly take pictures for us at Ambush. We’re currently working with Carrie Timian to create a logo for Ambush Rochester and we’re really excited about her ideas. Another way people can help is by getting Rochester bars and nightclubs on board. Our event generates a lot of revenue for Rochester venues and we want to really collaborate with and support all the local hot spots.”

When asked what makes Ambush worthwhile to her, Sady replied, “For us, Ambush is worthwhile because there’s nothing else like it. Whether you’re happily coupled, single and looking, new to the scene or just someone who wants that connection to the community, Ambush makes you feel like you’re home.”

Susanna Speed and Sady Fischer.

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At an Ambush Rochester event.

Interview

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SATURDAY - JULY 19
Pride Parade down Park Ave, Alexander and East
Family Fun Time, LGBTQ History Pavilion, Pride Festival
at Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Park at Manhattan Square

SUNDAY - JULY 20
Pride Picnic Fundraiser at Genesee Valley Park

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By Susan Jordan

Tom Somerville, artist and yoga instructor, is a Rochester native, although he has lived in NYC, San Diego, St. Thomas (Virgin Islands) and elsewhere. He has lived for 15 years now in the South Wedge neighborhood area, and currently shares his home with a cat, a dog, a parrot, a cockatiel, a rabbit and an affectionate rat.

As Tom puts it, "I am a painter – starving artist – so I supplement my income as a yoga instructor – the two things I love."

Tom also teaches art, including a Friday art class at the MÜCHA Center, for people with HIV. One yoga class that means a lot to him is the Rainbow SAGE class, which takes place several days a week at Open Arms MCC, under the auspices of the Gay Alliance (see page 31).

"He said, 'I hope more people will start coming. Right now we have anywhere from five to a dozen people per class. It's been popular and I feel we've helped people with illnesses. It's important that older people exercise, as well as having a social connection. You can do it on a chair or on the floor – it's actually geared to 'yoga in a chair'."

"It's really for everybody. We even have a few non-gays. We talk and laugh and have fun."

Another of Tom's favorite local organizations/events is Image Out. "I'm very proud of ImageOut," he said. "It has become a nationally recognized festival."

About his favorite people, he commented, "I want to give credit to Jeffery Young, the yoga teacher who helped me when I broke my back. I was barely walking when I got to Jeff. He was key to me walking again."

Tom's favorite places include Equal-Grounds (he loves the salads) and he adds, "I also love Highland Park, an amazing resource."

As a film buff, Tom says, "I go to the Cinema every Sunday night for their senior double feature. A bunch of us sit together. And I like Marshall Street Grill on Monroe for their turkey club!"

"I'm on the fringe of being a vegetarian, but when people ask I say I'm 'an opportunistic scavenger'."

Tom Somerville at Equal-Grounds. Photo: Susan Jordan

My Own Private Rochester: Tom Somerville

Making the Scene

Rochester fans followed Darienne’s adventures last month on “RuPaul’s Drag Race”.

Bill GAY PROM: The Gay Alliance Youth Group held the ’80s Zombie Prom on May 3 at Diplomat Party House. Around 130 youth attended. At right, the zombie make-up booth at the Prom. More photos page 30.

THomas Warfield performs in the revue.

MORE THAN US: The Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus hosted a fundraiser dinner and musical revue on May 10 at Zeppa Auditorium. The inimitable Darienne Lake was M.C. Photos: Jill Frier

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Little, which I love."

When asked where he would take out-of-town friends, Tom said, "I'd take them to Wegmans – I like the Food Court. And also the museums: the Eastman Museum of Photography, Artisan Works, the Strong Museum – they are unique to Rochester. Also we'd go to the Planetarium – which I think is one of the oldest in the country."

Tom says he left California to return to Rochester for what he thought would be just enough time to get his degree. "But it's been 20 years now! The only thing I don't like is the weather."

Tom Somerville at Equal-Grounds. Photo: Susan Jordan

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Bess Watts, Rep. Louise Slaughter, Ove Overmyer. Photo: Anne Tischer

NYS Senator Brad Hoylman, NYS Assemblymember Harry Bronson and NYS Senator Ted O’Brien. Photo: Ove Overmyer

Christopher Alonzo, City Council member Elaine Spaull and Quentin Roach. Photo: Ove Overmyer

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to trans individuals, so they don’t have to fear because their name change and address were published and someone who doesn’t like trans people could come to their home and do them harm.”

Bronson feels that the bill might have a better chance of passage than GENDA (which Republicans refuse to let on the floor for a vote.) He said, “It’s a procedural change that addresses specific protection under existing law and will correct a procedural hurdle that individuals face when name change is based on gender identity or expression.

“I would help prevent bodily attack, harassment and gossip – things none of us should be subjected to because of who we are. Such acts have no place in our society. I just introduced the bill in May and we’re working to get it on the Judiciary committee.

“Locally I was successful in the case I had, and there’s one reported case in Westchester County court, which found that there didn’t have to be an actual showing of threat or abuse – just fear that a hate crime might occur. This law would require all NY courts to do the right thing. There would be no question that trans people who are vulnerable to hate crimes would be included specifically; they are mentioned under subdivisions.

“Another important aspect of identifying with the gender you truly are is to have a name that corresponds to your gender. As possible so transgender people will have

We should make this as readily available with the gender you truly are as to have a name that corresponds to your gender. As possible so transgender people will have

MassMutual ranks #3 on Top Companies for LGBT Employees list

DiversityInc, announced on April 22 that Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual) has been named to its "25 Noteworthy Companies" list for the fourth year in a row. This year, the company also was named to the list of "Top 10 Companies for LGBT Employees" for the first time, ranking number three.

MassMutual was recognized as a 2014 "25 Noteworthy Company" for strong performance in the four areas measured: Talent Pipeline, Equitable Talent Development, CEO and Leadership Commitment, and Supplier Diversity. In particular, the company was recognized for its representation of women at all levels, even when compared to companies on DiversityInc’s "Top 50 Companies" list.

We are honored that DiversityInc. continues to recognize MassMutual’s ongoing progress toward creating a diverse and inclusive company and culture, said Lottie Valle-Yañez, Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer at MassMutual.

We are deeply committed to diversity and inclusion, which we continually demonstrate within MassMutual’s walls and in communities across the U.S.

The company also was ranked as number three on the "Top 10 Companies for LGBT Employees" for 2014. DiversityInc cited such accomplishments as MassMutual’s LGBT focused webpages, its PRIDE employee resource group (ERG), the company’s first responder status to advocate for the repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), its 100 percent Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Corporate Equality Index (CEI) Rating, and corporate support of several national LGBT organizations.

"MassMutual is in business to help all Americans secure their futures and protect the ones they love, which is why it is so critically important that we strive to keep pace with the evolving U.S. population,” said Mike Fanning, Executive Vice President, U.S. Insurance Group, MassMutual, and executive sponsor of the company’s PRIDE ERG. "I am grateful for and give a tremendous amount of credit to the members of our PRIDE ERG for their tireless efforts in building a strong inclusive culture at MassMutual and for cultivating relationships nationally and locally to help us be the best in serving the needs of our many customers."

Additionally, MassMutual has been recognized for the past several years for its strong commitment to diversity and inclusion by the National Association of Female Executives, Working Mother, Uptown Professional and LatinaStyle.

MassMutual’s recognition as a top company for LGBT employees underscores its commitment to diversity and inclusion and to delivering on the company’s purpose. Specifically, MassMutual worked on and was one of the first to join the historic "friend of the court" brief for the repeal of DOMA, is a member of the HRC Business Coalitions for Benefits Tax Equity and for Repealing DOMA and was one of the companies in Arizona to sign the Unity Pledge against the controversial bill allowing business owners the right to refuse service to customers who do not practice their own religious beliefs. Nationally, MassMutual is a member of the NGLCC (National Gay and Lesbian Chambers of Commerce), Out and Equal Workplace Advocates, GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Networks), and Gay Games IX in Cleveland in August. Locally, sponsors the Northampton, Mass. "NoHo" Pride Parade, the Western Massachusetts AIDS Foundation, the Hartford Gay & Lesbian Collective, and the Hartford Gay & Lesbian Film Festival.

Internally, MassMutual established its thriving PRIDE ERG, in addition to seven other ERGs with employees from traditionally underrepresented groups and allies.

David Picciello of MassMutual told The Empty Closet, "This distinction is important to me, both personally and professionally. As someone who directs our LGBT outreach efforts in the Rochester and Buffalo areas, it means that I am proud of the company that I work for. This shows that MassMutual is a company dedicated to fairness, equality, diversity, inclusion, and caring. MassMutual has a history of supporting the LGBT community, in its forward-thinking employment practices, but also in its support of LGBT legislative initiatives on the national level and of LGBT community organizations.

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David Picciello
The request for a stay was denied, but the emergency stay of Judge McShane’s ruling. filed an appeal in the 9th Circuit Court of just before the April 23 hearing. On May 14, ect. “This decision brings us one step number of states in embracing the free - and we have the same constitutional rights friends, just like our fellow Oregonians, “This brings us one step towards the legalization of same-sex committed relationships are worthy of equal dignity under our Constitution,” "Hang Them.” Byarugaba will be at Colby and 100 Federal Contractors prohibit employment discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. These percentages increased in 2013 to 93 percent and 96 percent, respectively. This year’s percentages are somewhat lower due to the changes in questions that ranked in the top 50 on each list from 2011 to 2013, and not to companies that ranked in the top 50 on each list from 2011 to 2013. (continued from page 14)

It makes me sad that my commu - Nicholas亿吨 harvest. and 19 in 2012. “It makes me sad that my commu - 

"This ranking from DiversifyInc, is significant and the acknowledgment is worthwhile, but it’s also a reminder that there has always been there for the LGBT commu- nity. For example, Mars- Mutually has long supported the Buffalo Pride Center and its events and has funded college scholarships. As a gay man, I feel proud that I am part of a group of people that is being recog- nized and acknowledged.” 

Mutually is also known for its inclusions of women at all levels, and for its commitment to diversity. Piscitello commented, “Both the Mars- Mutual corporate headquarters and Mass- Mutual have strongly embraced diversity its work force at all levels because it’s the right thing to do and because it makes good business sense. Women, people of color, people with disabilities, veterans and members of the LGBT community seek out employers such as Mass- Mutual that have proven they embrace diversity and inclusion. At MassMutual, employees know they are valued for who they are, how they think, and what they bring to the table. By having a diverse work force, we are better able to relate to a varied customer base and provide cul- turally sensitive and client-specific services. Embracing diversity gives us a competitive advantage." Piscitello said that there has been no negative impact on the MassMutual brand or image in the LGBTQ community. "Anecdotal evidence from the support of the MassMutual corporate office provides to the LGBT community, it’s our job to make sure we provide the upcoming Gay Games IX in Cleveland this August. The Company’s sponsorship of the Gay Games is an important and unique event is just another example of our common commitment to the LGBT community.”

National and International

Oregon from page 5)are free to marry in Oregon.”

Today’s ruling acknowledges that Oregon same-sex couples are entitled to equal dignity under our Constitution,” said Misha Isakw, who argued on behalf of the couple. "Sons of the 2013 hearing and serves on Basic Rights Oreg- on’s legal advisory group. “We are par- ents to a beautiful child, have many close friends, just like our fellow Oregonians, and we have the same constitutional rights as any other Oregonian. Our family’s committed relationships are worthy of the state’s equal recognition. Finally, they will be…

Today Oregon joins the increasing number of states in embracing the free- dom to marry. The Board of Trustees and their senior staff, the ACLU, the Le- bian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Proj- ect. This decision brings us one step closer to ensuring that all loving and commi- tted couples will be able to take care of each other and their loved ones with the protections and guarantees that marriage individually through marriage.”

The anti-marriage equality group National Organization for Marriage (NOM) attempted to intervene in the case just before the April 23 hearing. On May 14, Judge McShane denied NOM’s request to intervene in the case, according to a filing in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals on May 19, and also requested an expedited decision. "The case is now ready pending briefing, and the time to act is now," said Ceremony. "The request for a stay was denied, but the appeal is still pending." RELATED: NOM has also filed a lawsuit in federal court, according to a report from the Maine Ethics Commission.

Prosecutors drop charges against bullied California trans teen who fought back

By Greg Hernandez on gaynewsonline.com

The transgender student at Hercules High in Her- cules, Calif., had been charged with mis- demeanor battery after a fight between a trans activist and another student. His trial date was set for May 22, but his lawyer has since been dropped by pro- secutors.

The student at Hercules High in Herb- in court. "I have been rejected by my family, sub- jected routinely to threats of violence, and now criminalized as both a lesbian and as a human rights activist. The last thing I want to do is be a her story to be captured on video.

Gutierrez said she was only defending herself after being the target of persistent harassment and intimidation at school. She claimed school staff did not intervene or show support prior to the fight.

There was widespread outrage when the charges were filed against a Contra Costa County District Attorney’s Office. The Transgender Law Center had urged the DA’s office to instead work with the families and students involved to find an alternative means of resolving their conflict.

The office dropped the charges last month after Gutierrez contacted a resor- tive justice program conducted by the National Council on Crime and Delin- quency per an agreement she had reached with the DA.

The teen had strong family support including an older sister who launched an online Chang-o petition demanding that the charges be dropped. It had been signed by more than 200,000.

See more at: http://www.gaynewsonline. com/article/prosecutors-drop-battery- charges-against-bullied-trans-teen-california/97031#.eA1vY1Ldpuf

Uganda atrocities increase tenfold after passage of hate bill

By Joe Morgan on gaynewsonline.com

Gay and lesbians are the targets of a “hate” law in Uganda since the passing of a homophobic law, a report has said.

The research compiled by Sexual Minorities Uganda has found the num- ber of recorded incidents have increased tenfold. These include kidnappings, torture, attemptedlynchings, mobviolence, homes burned down, blackmail, loss jobs, torture and violence.

At least 25 people are reported to have fled from Uganda, seeking asylum in countries such as, "Hunt" in Uganda since the passing of a homophobic law, a report has said.

The Anti-Homosexuality Act, made law in February, criminalizes homo- sexuality with a life sentence in prison. It also imposes strict bans on the “promo- tion of homosexuality,” which carries a five-year sentence, “aiding and abetting homosexuality,” with a sentence of seven years, and a gay couple living together, which carries six years.

The passing of AHA has given per- mission to a new wave of anti-gay vio- lent homophobia whereby both state and non-state actors are free to persecute Uganda’s LGBTI people with impunity,” they stated.

The survey recorded 162 incidents since the legislation was passed by parlia- ment last December.

By comparison, Sexual Minorities Uganda recorded eight incidents in 2013 and 19 in 2012. “[This] represents an increase of between 750 percent and 1,900 percent on previous years,” the report noted, “an increase which can only be explained by the passage of the AHA and the viru- lence of the Oak Foundation’s ah that has engendered.”

Pepe Julian Onziema, a LGBTI rights activist in Uganda, said, "If the New York Times "the hunt" is well and truly on.

Onziema said on Ugandan LGBTIs to keep safe and to seek help on social media if possible. He said, "It makes me sad that my commu- nity is unsafe. It’s intentionally put at risk by their actions by the roadside and being pushed in front of a speeding car. That is what the government does."

For more information about the Oak Institute and Byarugaba’s appointment, please visit colby.edu/oak.
In response to a question asked by Martha Raddatz on ABC’s “This Week with George Stephanopoulos,” Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said that medical regulations barring transgender people from serving in the military “continuously should be reviewed.”

“We appreciate that Secretary Hagel recognizes that these medical regulations are over thirty years old, are inconsistent with current medical practice, and negatively impact military readiness. They harm our service members and weaken our military,” said SPARTA Policy Director, former Army Captain Allyson Robinson. “An estimated fifteen thousand transgender service members currently serve in constant fear and stress: people like Perry Officer Landon Wilson, just back from Afghanistan, who served with distinction until being drummed out simply because of who he is. We have heard story after story of commanders who question these policies because their transgender members, who continue to serve in silence.”

SPARTA, an LGBT military organization, includes several hundred transgender members currently serving in uniform.

“We look forward to a prompt and comprehensive medical review of these regulations, which is long overdue,” said Robinson. “Many of our allies, including the UK, Australia, and Israel, allow transgender people to serve with pride and honor in their armed forces. It’s time for the U.S. to join them.”

About SPARTA: SPARTA is an association of LGBT people who currently serve or have served in the military, along with our families and our veteran and uniformed allies. We are a membership organization, built by, for and with members from all parts of the LGBT military community. SPARTA’s mission is to advocate for and support our actively serving LGBT military members and veterans, and their families.”

“The name originated from the acronym  Service members, Partners, and Allies  for Respect and Tolerance for All. The asterisk represents a special recognition of transgender members, who continue to serve in silence.”

Nate Berkus, fiancé make history at NY Public Library

By Greg Hernandez on gaystarnews.com

With Oprah Winfrey among the celebrity guests, home decorating guru and TV host Nate Berkus married his fiancé of one year, Jeremiah Brent, over the weekend of May 3.

And the couple made a little hit of history while doing so by becoming the first same-sex couple to be married at the New York Public Library.

Winfrey, the woman who launched Berkus’ television career, later sent out this tweet: Just left @NateBerkus wedding to his partner Jeremiah. I felt the changesdayhascome

Other celebrity guests included talk and cooking show host Rachael Ray and actress Busy Phillips of Cougar Town fame, according to People.com.

Berkus, 42, gained fame as a frequent guest on The Oprah Winfrey Show. He then went on to host his own syndicated daytime talk show for two years and is now host of NBC’s American Dream Builders.

Brent, 29, currently appears on the Bravo television series The Rachel Zoe Project.

Rams draft Michael Sam; pick came late in the process

On May 10, openly gay college football star Michael Sam was drafted into the NFL by the St. Louis Rams.

USA Today reports: President Obama is honoring Michael Sam, who on Saturday became the first openly gay player to be drafted by a pro football team after the St. Louis Rams picked him in the seventh round.

“The President congratulates Michael Sam, the Rams and the NFL for taking an important step forward in our Nation’s journey,” said a White House statement. “From the playing field to the corporate boardroom, LGBT Americans prove everyday that you should be judged by what you do and not who you are,” said the White House of Sam, an award-winning defense end who played at the University of Missouri.

However, Jarrett Bell was in USA Today on May 11, “...the former Missouri defensive end wasn’t chosen until the 249th pick overall... Was this because Sam is gay? It sure seems that way, no matter what we’ve heard about the NFL culture being progressive enough... to tolerate a player without regard to his sexual orientation.”

Dolphins player apologizes for offensive remark

Miami Dolphins defensive back Don Jones, who tweeted “OMG” and “Horrible” in reaction to Michael Sam kissing his boyfriend after being drafted by the St. Louis Rams, apologized to Sam and the Dolphins on May 11, and was suspended and fined by the team, CBS Sports reports.

“Without a doubt, this is a game changer,” said GLAAD President & CEO Sarah Kate Ellis. “Today, Michael Sam has redefined what it takes to be a champion. He’s tackled stereotypes and joined the ranks of athletic trailblazers like Jason Collins and Brittney Griner in showing Americans that there’s no place for homophobia on the field. As support for equality continues to surge, it’s clear that sports fans are ready, foot- ball is ready, and America is ready for its first openly gay NFL player.”

Human Rights Campaign statement

说过在声明中: “我想先告诉迈克尔·山姆对不适当的言论表示道歉。明我在周日的训练后被我的球队，CBS和体育新闻。”
“We congratulate Michael Sam and the St. Louis Rams on their terrific decision to draft him. Today, LGBT young people can look to Sam as proof that being open and proud of who you are doesn’t keep you from achieving your dreams. Gay people are our neighbors and friends. They’re our United States Senators and, starting today, they’re our professional football stars.”

**Trans seatbelt safety campaign goes viral in India**

By Andrew Potts on gaystarnews.com

A seatbelt safety campaign in India has become an online hit after it enlisted the help of India’s transgender community to remind people to buckle up while driving.

Almost two million people have watched the campaign video on YouTube and other platforms in which the transgender women, known traditionally in India as Hijras, step out into stopped traffic to remind drivers to use seat belts.

Despite being marginalized Hijras have traditionally been believed to confer blessings and are often asked to bless births and other auspicious events. (India recently recognized Hijra as the third gender.)

In the campaign the Hijras bless drivers who buckle up and deny blessings upon those who refuse to drive safely.

“If you wear your seat belt, we will bless you,” the Hijras say in the video, “but they do not have seat belts while reminding they are not airline staff.”

The Hijras, who are part of the country’s transgender community, are in Sao Paulo today to participate in the world’s largest gay pride parade, the annual event which has become an online hit after it enlisted the help of India’s transgender community to remind people to buckle up while driving.

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“People from around the country are in Sao Paulo today to participate in #paradaLGBT,” Rousseff tweeted, reminding her followers there is a hotline people can call in Brazil if they are attacked because of their sexuality.

Mainly young, beer-swigging marchers were dressed as anything from angels to devils and police officers.

“We attended mass in a church near here and then came to the march,” said Cassia Maria, 53. “I am Catholic — apostolic and Roman. But I stick my fingers up against discrimination,” she smiled.

See more at: http://www.gaystarnews.com/article/translateat-brenti-hijra-seatbelt-safety-campaign-goes-viral-india080514#sthash.0UzGEj0F.dpuf

**Millions attend world’s largest Pride in Brazil**

The world’s largest gay pride parade, involving several million people, took place in Sao Paulo on May 4.

President Dilma Rousseff, who is seeking another term in October elections, gave a message of support via Twitter.

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**Chelsea Manning may be allowed gender treatment in prison**

By Joe Morgan on gaystarnews.com

Chelsea Manning could finally be allowed to begin gender treatment, according to reports.

The Pentagon is reportedly considering transferring the US soldier jailed for 35 years for leaking classified documents to a civilian prison to allow her to take hormones.

Since she came out as trans in August last year following her sentencing, Manning has been banned from gender treatment.

Officials in the Defense Department have told the Associated Press they do not offer such treatment and Manning cannot be discharged while serving her 35-year sentence — even though transgender people are now allowed to serve in the US military.

But if they were to keep her in a military prison and forced her to live as a man, the treatment could be deemed cruel and unusual, officials have said privately.

It is a similar fear shared by human rights groups, such as the Southern Poverty Law Center, who have demanded prison officials provide hormone therapy for transgender inmates.

Last month, they sent a letter to Geog- o rt's Department for Corrections demanding 36-year-old inmate Ashley Diamond receive gender treatment.

“Her voice has deepened. Her facial hair has begun to grow and her body fat has redistributed. Her identity is being erased,” the SPLC stated.

In the SPLC news release, Diamond says: “No one would deny a diabetic prisoner insulin. No one would sentence a person to a gender change. But because I am transgender, I am denied basic medical care and forced to change gender. Nobody should be sentenced to torture like this.”

Jails have routinely agreed with inmates, citing the “cruel and unusual” clause of the Eighth Amendment as a justification for striking down bans on hormone therapy.

When Manning revealed she is trans- gender, she released an open letter to the world.

“I want everyone to know the real me.”

(Chelsea continues on page 16)

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(Chelsea continues on page 16)

Other high-profile figures and orga- nizations boycotting the hotel chain in London and worldwide are Sir Rich- ard Branson, actor Stephen Fry, designers Peter Som and Brian Atwood, Ellen DeGeneres, Sharon Osbourne, director William Friedkin, and the Outgoing conference.

Read more: http://www.towleroad. com/fzezz3wONP/NNI

**RELATED: A protest has also taken place in London at the Sultan's hotel there. Branson's Virgin Airlines is now boycotting Brunei-owned hotels.**
Manning said, “I am Chelsea Manning. I am a female. Given the way that I feel, and have felt since childhood, I want to begin hormone therapy as soon as possible.”

See more at: http://www.gaystarnews.com/article/chelsea-manning-could-finally-be-allowed-transition140514#sthash.yfXnPkg2.dpuf

Judge rules Pa. marriage ban unconstitutional; Pa. becomes 19th state with marriage equality

On May 20 U.S. District Judge John E. Jones, III ruled that Pennsylvania’s law banning marriage equality is unconstitutional. Pennsylvania becomes the 10th state where a federal judge has struck down a marriage ban since the U.S. Supreme Court issued their two marriage-related rulings last year.

Governor Tom Corbett of Pennsylvania announced that he will not appeal, so Pennsylvania is now the 19th state to adopt marriage equality, and couples have already started marrying.

On May 19 a federal judge in Oregon struck down that state’s constitutional amendment banning marriage equality. Given the state’s decision not to appeal the ruling, Oregon became the eighteenth state where committed and loving gay and lesbian couples can legally marry.

“We applaud the governor for letting the constitutional principles of freedom and equality ring throughout Pennsylvania by allowing loving same-sex couples to marry. As the judge noted, we are a better people than the marriage ban and the Governor’s historic decision not to appeal will be an enduring legacy,” said Wm Offutt Balchuck, legal director of the ACLU of Pennsylvania and Mark Aronchick of Hangley Aronchick Segal Pudlin & Schiller.

“On May 20 U.S. District Judge John E. Jones, III ruled that Pennsylvania’s law banning marriage equality is unconstitutional.”

Evan Wolfson, president of Freedom to Marry, released the following statement: “Governor Corbett’s decision not to appeal tax-exempt money defending the indefensible denial of the freedom to marry even one day longer is the right decision for Pennsylvania, for families, and for the country -- and one more big step forward to celebrate. Pennsylvania is showing the country that when gay couples share in the freedom to marry, it’s joy, love, security, and happiness and a stronger community for everyone, and no one loses. And this latest decision by a Republican governor not to try to keep gay couples from marrying is additional proof that all of America is ready for the freedom to marry.”

In response to the news out of Pennsylvania, Human Rights Campaign (HRC) President Chad Griffin issued the following statement: “Today a federal judge appointed by President George W. Bush became the latest to uphold the most sacred ideals of this nation and our Constitution – that justice and equality matter above all else. It seems that every passing day brings LGBT Americans a new victory in our unwavering march toward justice.”

Conchita Wurst wins Eurovision; Russian homophobes make a fuss, Austrians make sausage

Austrian gender-neutral artist Conchita Wurst won Eurovision 2014 last month after a stunning performance at the finals held in Copenhagen.

The audience was clearly on Conchita’s side during the vote tally and as each nation reported points for Austria, the screaming was crazy. Conchita Wurst: “This night belongs to everyone who believes in a future of peace and freedom. We are unity and we are unstoppable.”

Russian authorities reacted with predictable rage and homophobia. Nonetheless, Conchita Wurst’s winning Eurovision entry was #1 on May 13 on Russia’s iTunes chart. The track is from the official Eurovision album released after the contest.

At #4 on Russia’s chart is the original version of Rise Like A Phoenix, which was released last month. Russia’s own Eurovision entry is at #8.

Pictured: for sale in Wurst’s native Austria…

Conchita Wurst wins Eurovision; Russian homophobes make a fuss, Austrians make sausage

Austrian gender-fuck artist Conchita Wurst won Eurovision 2014 last month after a stunning performance at the finals held in Copenhagen.

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16
the NLGBT living

see Jerry’s blog at jerry-mahoney.com.

Time at Pride July 19. See the July EC and personnel.

for it, but for the most part, everyone has and share our special day.

every ceremony and having them there to appreciate just being able to include them in the ceremony is that when we finally did marry, our country.

lies, and everything is equal across the realities of LGBT relationships and families.

gay parents, or who have gay relatives, need to hear. In our community, they know we’re the same

CD Baginski and Amanda Kelley
CD Baginski, an assistant manager in retail, and her partner Amanda Kelly, a paramedic, live in Palmyra and have been together for 11 years. They had a commitment ceremony in 2008 and plan to marry next summer. Between them the two have four children. They both have volunteered for the Gay Alliance Youth Group, and CD interned at the Gay Alliance in 2010-2011.

CD has two daughters and a son. Sarah, 20, has lived with her father for the past year and a half, while Leah, 16 and Evan, 11, and Amanda’s daughter Samantha, also 16, live with their two moms.

CD and Amanda feel that they have benefited from the legal recognition of same sex marriage in that when they marry, they will be able to get a family insurance plan. Also, when the youngest of their children goes off to college, they plan to move to Virginia Beach, where

Wanda and Dawn take Maxwell and Mariadeliz on a tour of the docks during their latest trip to Puerto Rico.

Parenting:
Our families are REAL

By Susan Jordan

The Right believes that merely letting children know that gay people exist will not, in and of itself, make them feel afraid and ashamed of their own bodies, whether they are queer, trans, androgynous or bi.

The book is aimed at children ages 4-8 and includes facts about LGBTQ history and culture, and a Note To Parents and Caregivers about how to talk about sexual orientation and gender identity with small kids in a clear, non-threatening way, which answers their questions without paternally or scaring them.

The Right believes that merely letting children know that gay people exist will immediately transform them into butches and butch dykes. The reality is that the tension, anger and shame adults so often react with when talking about gays, or any sexual matters, traumatize children and make them feel afraid and ashamed of their own bodies, because they are queer, straight and/or trans.

This book is not perfect. The colorful drawings may depict a typical jocky, diverse Pride, the accompanying text consists of bad copquotes – “Sidewalk shaking, bellies aching. Loving kisses/All definitions etc. Pretty poor stuff.

However, this book is attractive and the message it sends is one that children of same-sex parents, or who have gay relatives and friends need to hear. In fact children could benefit from this positive, loving message about the world around them.
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No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey — you are welcome here.
Daughters of Bilitis
By Evelyn Bailey

In 1955 the Daughters of Bilitis was founded as one of the three most influential events to shape American society’s attitudes toward homosexuality—the founding of the Mattachine Society, the Lavender Scare and the classification in the DSM-I of homosexuality as a mental illness.

The years after the end of World War II were some of the most socially repressive in US history. In the Department of Justice, homosexuals were perceived as security risks. Politically motivated police raids on gay bars were widespread in the US and Canada. Laws were enacted prohibiting cross-dressing for men and women, and groups like the Daughters of Bilitis have been constant features of gay and lesbian life for decades.

Indefinite detachments, beatings, and public humiliations are only the tip of the iceberg. Lesbian and male drag queens threw the 1955 Leavitt Springs ball and suffered frequent rapes and sexual assaults committed by police officers, sometimes inside police precincts. Moreover, police were certainly no help when beatings, rapes, and lesser indignities were visited upon women and men perceived as gay or lesbian.

In the mid-1950s, all of society’s major institutions and opinion-makers considered homosexuality as an unhygienic and persecuting gay and men gay and women.

One of this oppressive environment grew out of the Lavender Scare, which began to spring up, so that by 1969, there were about fifty “homophile” organizations in the US. One of these was the first lesbian and civil political rights organization in the United States, Daughters of Bilitis, founded by Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, as a social alternative to lesbian and gay bars, which were subject to raids and police harassment.

The story goes something like this. In 1955, Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon had been married for about four years when they complained to a gay male couple that they did not know any other lesbians. The gay couple introduced Del and Phyllis to another lesbian couple, one of whom suggested they create a social club. In January 1956, Del Martin and Phyllis extended an invitation to get together with three other female couples in San Francisco.

One of the first things DOB did was to create living-room discussions of topics of concern to lesbians, to open up to women. Their sensitivity to the intense fear of the time — a fear that is hard for us to even imagine today — meant the one did not have to declare herself to be a lesbian to join the Daughters of Bilitis. Upon arrival at a meeting, attendance was welcomed at the door. In a show of good faith, the creator would say, “I hereby do this for yourself, you don’t even your real first name.

After, in a manner of speaking, the DOB wrote a mission statement that addressed the most significant problem Del Martin and Phyllis faced, that is, the lack of information about female homosexuality in what historian Barbara Gittings notes, “the whole of the iceberg. Lesbian and male drag queens were wearing clothes, and the only jeans available in the 1950s were men’s.

Two things happened in 1963 that changed the course of the organization. A bombshell came when a group who conceived as a social alternative to lesbi- an bars, which were subject to raids and police harassment.

The DOB was many things to many women. First and foremost, it was a gay or questioning woman could go to meet a new girlfriend, begin to heal a broken heart, or find validation for her life. It was a circle of friends to go to good times and bad as well as a network of peer counselors who offered support and guidance. It was a resource center to questions about homosexuality and a nice place to go on Saturday night. DOB was a potent mix of counseling and social services, with a dash of grassroots organizing thrown in. Like its members, it grew and changed with the times.

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While DOB started as a small, secret social club, by the early 1960s there were chapters in Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York, as well as San Francisco, and a well-regarded monthly magazine by and
Growing Up
MOM, BETTER LATE THAN NEVER
By Eric Bellman
I’m a committed homemaker, look nice, clean, do laundry, wear as seems. People often tell me that I’m welcome to come over and help them into shape, an invitation that I ignore. I don’t understand how people can hire outside help.
I have a collection of rags I use. Over time they have acquired a muddy color and spheres of resistant stains. I real- ized I could soak those rags for a consid- erable time before I switched the washing machine to its cycle. How did I know to do that?
My mother always soaked laundry before washing it.
My mother was not an easy person and I’m pretty sure she thought the same of me. When I moved to New Mexico where the climate was better for her arthritis, I sarcastically observed that I was glad America was a big country. My yearly visits were a chore, although I came to love the landscape there as much as she did.
Then she died. I kept returning to New Mexico, even visiting the foilorn town in the barren southwestern corner of the state where she lived, quite con- siderable time before I switched the washing machine to its cycle. How did I know to do that?
She represented me. I became a man who enjoyed travel. She saved articles that spoke of Turkey for me. She found an old Turkish/English dictionary in a garage sale and bought it for me. We evolved into children and worried about all her rela- tives in her war torn homeland. She was a stoic.
I wish we could have had a few more conversations. I know so little about her early struggles but I can imagine them, those Stolen generations who fought for compassion for her, much to my relief and joy. Truth be told, I do miss her.
Email ericbellman@gmail.com

Cleaning My Closet
NEVER A BRIDESMAID
By Meredith Elizabeth Reinsinger
Wedding bells summoned me to Witness a Madame Alexander wed- ding, held in a closet since 1954.
Her paper bouquet is crushed. One satin shoe is missing, found out to be the only piece of silk undergarments.
In my first wedding, I was an ador- able, pudgy-bodied flower girl with gig- gling blonde ringlets. My fancy gownette was a replica of the bride’s luscious velvet and satin gown. I loved being fancy and frilly, a beaming beauty parading down a white runner, admired by an astounded crowd.
At that magic moment, my six-year- old self knew that I too would be a bride, a real life princess adored and adored. Of course, my gullible little girl could not have known that she was playing that role, not once, not twice, but four times.
For my second wedding, I was the maid of honor for my big sister’s first wedding, December 1956. It was a can- did light ceremony—until it was revealed that she had an untied candle ceremo- ny.
I was twelve. She was grown up. I thought our parents thought her nine- teen years still left her in childhood. Our parents were (and are actually really angry) that he college sophomore, first- born daughter was jeopardizing the possi- bility of graduating from college. (At a time in history when persons graduated FROM college. Not graduated college. Ah me, oh my, the good old days.)
For my big sister’s married—dining sem- ester-break wedding (no shot gun wedding. Mommy thought my shiny red, floor length dress. My Grandma Bea was so tiny that I could wear her shoe- since my garter belt. Oh yes. I felt like a Big Girl.
White chrysanths encircled my big easy ballet hairpin and eye ball popping tip. I carried a green wicker wreath—decked with balls of red, green roses, and a white miniature ribbon. It was the sweaty grasp of my quaking fingers. Apparently swear was the precursor of hypose, because I was repressing my energy- splashing tears set the Wedding Planner into rescue mode. She shoved a bottle of Pepto Bismol under my arm.
For my third wedding, I was the tradi- tional chaste, homely bride and thrown away by my father, a mere two weeks after my graduation from college. (Or as my therapist identified it, I made the Leap of Honor.)(That I think of it, my parents thought the same of our fourth wedding. A kind of recycling project.)
Groom and I were married in a church. Never- ever will I forget those days, lots of people rented quaint church buildings (embellished with stained glass windows, gilded paper, and instead of carved paws) for rituals of )
Nowadays weddings are inventive expressions of a couple’s personalities, not old fashioned traditions. One elegant wedding I attended was on a Colorado mesa top with a few thousand invita- tions playing string instruments as the wedding party marched to a soft Did you begin in marriage? (promenade. The crystals on her long, lazy train sparkled. She glided down the satin runner supported by both her father and her step-father.
Another amazing wedding was in a park, next to a spectacular gorge exclud- ing with fall colors. On either side of the rose petal path, pumpkins’ faces smiled, cups of hot cider, a casual Sunday, a social Sunday, self-proclaimed witch.)
When our heads turned, a shimmering woman appeared wearing a dolly coat with a large hat, eyes rimmed with purple, a circle of black, a white runner, and her garter belt. Oh yes, I felt like a Big Girl.
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about it, she quickly learned; and it lied at one of the roots of the universal denigration of black beauty -- our hair. This issue of black women's hair texture is inscrutable and confounding to us women all throughout the African continent and African diaspora -- young and old.

When a tsunami of criticism poured in about Gabby's over-gelled and under-tamely styled hair, my touchy subject for African American women -- her nappy edges, it dredged up and fostered the misperception of how could any put-together and accomplished black woman with feely wooly wild hair be happy being nappy.

While many sisters today might use a hot comb on their hair, hot combs also called straightening combs in the 1880s, sold in Sears and Bloomingdales catalogs to a predominately white female clientele.

Madam C.J. Walker, the first African American millionaire for her inventions of black hair products, didn't invent the hot comb; she popularized its use by remedying the perceived "cure" of nappy hair with her hair-straightening products that continue to this day to bring comfort to many black women.

While the etymology of the word "nappy" derives from Britain, meaning a baby's cotton napkin or diaper, in America the word became entrenched to mean unkempt, wild and wooly hair associated with people of African descent. And used to demean and to degrade African Americans.

But even with good intentions the land mine can be detonated. In 1997 Ruth Ann Sherman, a white third grade teacher, who taught in a predominately African American and Latino elementary school in Brooklyn, learned that lesson when she read African American author Corilla Heron's award winning children's book "Nappy Hair," a celebration of black hair.

And let not forget, the Sesame Street controversial song "I Love My Hair," a year ago that I'd be sitting here with the jar anymore. "No one can get to a phone in the future. No one can get to a phone in the future when he told my sister: "When I was much younger and just starting out on my own, I was talking to my Dad about my finances, or my lack of them, and he told me the method that he and my mother used to deal with bill collectors when they were first married and short on cash. When the bill collectors called, Dad would say, "Sorry, we're just now getting our feet on the ground, learning a new language, and tasting life experience than traveling to a foreign country." My experience is that when these people some feel so isolated that it's our fear of the unknown that keeps them from joining the circles of, or the table, Ray and I, and many others, create. I'm not thinking here about just those who are starving, or who daily face horrific state or religion-sanctioned persecution because of their faith, sex, orientation, ethnicity, gender expression, or other factor. I'm thinking about all of the people who feel lonely, misunderstood, and powerless.

When I join hands with people in Ray's and my home, I want them to feel that they are part of the story. Because so many people are outside of our comfort zone, it becomes less likely that we'll take their hand at the dinner table. I'm thinking of the person who is homeless, "deformed," has been convicted of a crime, or grammatically illiterate, or a cross-dresser, among others.

My experience is that when these people somehow know that we care, and that they are part of the circle, they are more likely to join the circles of, or the table, Ray and I, and many others, create. Because so many people are outside of our comfort zone, it becomes less likely that we'll take their hand at the dinner table. I'm thinking of the person who is homeless, "deformed," has been convicted of a crime, or grammatically illiterate, or a cross-dresser, among others.

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were brought together again at our table. I noticed how easy conversations started as soon as they saw each other. Hands were held more readily. Laughter came more quickly.

In my reflections on our bounty, the value of gratitude, and on those who feel alone and unwanted, I reminded them of the comments each made the last time about their shock and delight in meeting one another. This odd coincidence had begun debating which was the best of the movies inspired by Marvel comics.

Trans*misions

By Laine DeLaney

Recently a concert was held at the Water Street music Hall. The headlining act was Against Me!, a punk band that made a media splash a few years back when their lead singer came out as transgender.

Although it was on the same day as a Trans* Alliance of Greater Rochester meeting, I wanted to go to the show to support the band. I hadn't heard of them until Laura Jane Grace came out, but I was gratified to find a new punk band whose music I appreciated (I tend to prefer the usual punk 'nuisance and pronouns for the lead singer! No mention was even made of the album that they were touring.

Emails were sent and contacts were made. I explained that no one was requesting that a big deal be made of the lead singer's trans* status or that it even made of the album that they were touring. I didn't imagine that with society becoming more and more inclusive, people would not like those terms.

What's Bothering Brandon?

By Brandon W. Sparks

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DIGNITY-INTEGRITY

D-I Rochester meets weekly at 5 p.m. at St. Luke’s and St. Simon’s Church, 77 S. Fitzhugh Street, corner of Broad St. We have the following services and activities for the month of June, 2014:

1st Sunday: Episcopal Mass/Healing Service, with music.
4th Sunday: Evening Prayer, followed by a Potluck Dinner!
5th Sunday: No service on June 29.

June is Garage Sale time! We’ll be holding our annual sale on the last week-end of June, Friday to Sunday, June 27-29 at a home in Penfield. Watch for the address and times on Craigslist list in the week prior to the sale and stop by to shop for great bargains!

Our fourth Sunday Potluck theme for June is “Summer Salads”. This is a tried and true favorite theme and since the weather has finally started to heat up, there should be some wonderful fare on our table. No time to cook or shop? Just ask a friend or two and join us for food and fun!

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

GAY GAMES 9, CLEVELAND

Opening Ceremonies for Gay Games 9 begin at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 9 and end with Closing Ceremonies on Saturday, Aug. 16. There is still time to register as a participant in one of the 35 sports, or to buy tickets as a spectator. Bring your friends to spend a fun time only four-hour drive from Rochester.

Past Gay Games had 10,000 competing athletes. Team Rochester has several athletes competing in marathon, half marathon, track, bowling, volleyball and softball and will be marching into the starting line for both the marathon, track, bowling, volleyball and softball. Team Rochester has several athletes competing in marathon, half marathon, track, bowling, volleyball and softball and will be marching into the starting line for both the marathon, track, bowling, volleyball and softball. Team Rochester has several athletes competing in marathon, half marathon, track, bowling, volleyball and softball and will be marching into the starting line for both the marathon, track, bowling, volleyball and softball.

For more information, please check out our website at www.wnyromans.com. You can also contact the ROMANS at message line 585-281-4964, by E-mail wnyromans@yahoo.com or via regular mail at PO Box 92293, Rochester, NY 14602.

TRANS* ALLIANCE OF GREATER ROCHESTER (T*AGR)

Hello everybody!

As you all know, the Trans* Alliance of Greater Rochester has been experiencing growth and maturation in both purpose and structure recently.

First the Steering Group was dissolved, as we hadn’t found it to be an effective way to organize our meetings, and then the Planning Meetings were instituted with the hope that they would provide us with space to make decisions about content, time and location for the opening meetings as well as help members of our community coordinate personal projects and interests that intersect with the interests of the trans* community.

So far, the Planning group has met three times, and it has successfully addressed content and location of upcoming meetings and given us good space to share our ideas about community related projects that we can get behind. At this most recent meeting, however, the subject of some form of legal incorporation was raised, and all present were in favor of us moving forward. We feel that it would be helpful in our quest for legitimacy and our goal to be a community organization that can participate on equal footing with other groups and organizations.

Our standard support and education meetings on the last Saturday of every month from 3-5:30 p.m. will continue, now in the space of the MCC Open Arms Community Center (207 E. Main St.), a block away from our previous location at the Audubon. It’s an excellent location with comfortable seating, easy access, air conditioning, a refrigerator and microwave, gender-neutral restrooms and a welcome environment. Our planning group meetings will likewise continue as they have been on the second Saturday of the month.

However, we’ve decided to elect and appoint positions within the group as a necessary step toward pushing for our goal of incorporating. This will not change our standard meetings, but will provide us the structure that we need to continue to expand to serve a broader range of needs for the trans* community, through public projects and outreach to and support of other community organizations.

For the planning meeting, these are the positions to which we have elected members:

President: Laine DeLaney
Vice President: Simon Grey
Treasurer: JoAnne Metzler

These positions have terms of one year, after which they will be voted on again.

Laine DeLaney has appointed the following members to the following positions:

Archivist & Historian: JoAnne Metzler
Parliamentarian: JC Acosta

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You’re in charge of many things. Including your future.

You know your life and your future are really up to you. And no matter how busy you are day-to-day, you have to build your wealth, plan for your retirement and manage your investments for the future.

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The Avenue Pub
39 Year Landmark in the Gay Community

Happy Hour Specials Daily 4pm – 8pm
Half Priced Well Drinks & Draft Beer
$1.00 off all Top Shelf Drinks

Throw Back Thursday
39th ANNIVERSARY PARTY!
Thursday, June 5th

We’re going BACK IN TIME to 1975!
Drink Specials Every Hour ALL Night Long!
(details to be posted in bar and on facebook)

Wednesday FAMOUS STEAK NIGHTS Are Back
with Deb and Katie
6pm – 10pm

Come out and see your favorite bartenders!

TBT
(Throwback Thursdays)
Every Thursday 4-9pm
A Special Throwback Drink Special!

Fabulously
FUN Fridays!
Enter to Win a Pub Gift Certificate!

Every Friday – Come out for the BEST Fish Fry
6pm – 11pm

Updates are posted daily with drink specials and events!

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pleasantstreetrx.com

New Location @ Monroe Square
A talk with George Zuber, director of “Just Gender”

By Susan Jordan

“Just Gender,” a documentary film on trans issues, will screen here on June 5 at the Little Theatre, at 7 p.m. Excelsius is Exclusive Sponsor and the Gay Alliance is the presenting organization, partnering with P&GAR, the Trans Alliance of Greater Rochester. This screening is one of 18 premieres of the film that are taking place in June around the country.

Producer/director George Zuber spoke with The Empty Closet about his film. Why did a gay man want to make a film about the trans community?

“As an openly gay man, I thought that I should not only be empathetic to this significant group of our society, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) community, I should also try to appear more so as an ally,” Zuber said. “Even more so, as I had served a full six-year term on the Board of Lambda Legal, the pre-eminent nonprofit organization challenging through the courts the barriers faced by the LGBTQ community and people with HIV, I believed my understanding should be greater than average. Add to that my responsibilities as the Diversity Partner for the Financial Advisory Services component of Deloitte LLP, one of the largest worldwide accounting and consulting firms — well, I suspect you would ask — as I did — ‘How could I still know so little about the T portion of my LGBTQ siblings?’

Zuber interviewed many trans people for the documentary.

“I had an opportunity to attend a portion of a weekend gathering of a very diverse group of transgender people, frequently with their spouses or partners. I and the camera man working with me were introduced at the start of the week, and the support for what we wanted to accomplish could not have been stronger. Almost immediately, several people offered to be interviewed, and they suggested others we should reach out to as well. That support continued to expand across the country throughout the succeeding months of filming.

“The film focuses primarily on the diversity of transgender experiences and the challenges facing transgender people, as well as dawning hope for greater acceptance. While ‘Just Gender’ includes some discussion of recent developments in further transgender rights and protections, it doesn’t attempt to predict what is next and how it will occur.

“Why does Zuber think so little about the T portion of our society?

“People who don’t readily fit into a masculine or feminine nature is assumed to be against God’s will. People typically don’t like what they don’t understand, particularly when expression or behavior challenges their perception of normal.

“Gender expression that crosses societal boundaries is frequently viewed as religious, especially by youth, and a rebellious nature is viewed by many as a personal decision or choice.

“Religion is an important aspect of many people’s daily lives. For many people, transgender persons are not recognized or explained in religious teachings, and therefore their nature is assumed to be against God’s will.

“People who don’t readily fit into a masculine or feminine perception of the world create an uncomfortable sense of disorder for some people. Such lack of clarity is — for some people — threatening, sometimes to their own gender identity.

“Gay men are no more likely to understand transgender people than any other cisgender people. Because historically there was little or no distinction between gay and transgender, many gay men feel uncomfortable that straight people will presume that they are less masculine because they are attracted to other men. Indeed, many LGB people question why they are linked with T people, thus forgetting.

“The film is distributed by New York City-based Kino Lorber EDU, the leading distributor of film to the education market, including universities. Kino Lorber is supporting the 18 city screenings in June (additional screenings are delayed until later in the year) by waiving any licensing fees. As we have raised monies to pay for all of the theater rentals, all ticket proceeds will go to local non-profit organizations providing services to the transgender community.

“What were the greatest challenges during filming, and the greatest reward?

“The challenges were probably no more difficult than many filmmakers experience — coordinating interview schedules, obtaining high-quality materials that augment narration and interview content, and editing to be interesting while being comprehensive in an educational context. The greatest reward has been the amazing people I met, particularly the real heroes transgender people who became visible through participation in the film to their neighbors and work colleagues for the first time because they believed in the importance of helping others understand.”

The cast of “The Madness of Lady Bright”.

Director Kristy Angevine-Funderburk and actors David J. Byrne and Darlando Eanon talked to The Empty Closet about the plays.

“The Madness of Lady Bright,” Darlando Eanon (who plays the central role) said, “is about an aging queen who is losing his mind on the hottest day of the year in a tiny apartment in New York City. Basically there are two aspects to his personality — male and female.” Darlando said, “It’s about the human experiences going through normal things.” In May 1964 that was a very radical thing.

“The gay world of theSixties was one in which bars and bathhouses were the only places where gay, lesbian and bi people could openly interact; transgender was not yet an identity that even trans people themselves recognized, except as ‘transsexual.’ And most interactions in the bars and baths were with the temporary hook-ups rather than meaningful, long term relationships, which most gays believed were impossible for them.

Darlando said, “Some of the references are dated, but the messages are still valid.”

David Byrne commented, “The play is really about loneliness. Lady B is losing his youthful beauty and descends into madness because he’s in a world where he can’t connect with people for normal relationships.”

Also appearing in this play are Kiefer Schank and Catie Falisco.

‘Daddy Viole’ dates to 1967 and stars David Byrne, France McClolkey and Louie Podlaski as apparently improving actors. Kristy said, “It’s an exploration of themes of sexuality. You don’t know if the three characters are gay or straight — but there’s sexual tension between the three. There are also references to the Vietnam war.”

‘Sex Is Between Two People’ stars Kiefer Schank, Catie Falisco and Eric Ryan Swanson and

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Bristol Valley Theatre presents gay-themed “Next Fall” opening June 26
By Susan Jordan

Bristol Valley Theatre, the Finger Lakes’ award-winning live professional theater, will present a gay-themed play, Next Fall, June 26-July 6 as part of its 2014 50th Anniversary Season.

When Luke is injured in a car accident, his partner Adam must negotiate Luke’s family and reconcile the differences in their faiths. Temply and touching, the play exposes the fundamental truth that we love people both because of — and in spite of — their sexual orientation. This award-winning play was dubbed “the funniest heartbreaker in town” by the New York Times.

Next Fall was written by Geoffrey Nauffts and was nominated for the Tony Award for Best Play in 2010. It is sponsored by The Grain.
Harvey Fierstein’s “Casa Valentina” will drag on
By Brandon Van on The Advocate
Boys will go broad on Broadway for a bit longer than expected.

Casa Valentina, Harvey Fierstein’s new play about husbands who identify as heterosexual but congregate in the Catskills to dress and act like housewives, has added two weeks of performances to its limited Broadway engagement.

Directed by our two-time Tony winner Joe Mantello (Take Me Out, Wicked), Casa Valentina opened April 23 at Manhattan Theatre Club’s Samuel J. Friedman Theatre. Originally scheduled to close June 15, the world premiere will now run through June 29.

“Back in 1962, most men went to the Catskill Mountains to escape the summer heat, but others took the two-hour drive to escape something else entirely: being men,” read press notes about the drama, which is inspired by actual events.

Casa Valentina is Fierstein’s first play on Broadway since 1987. Celebrated for his landmark gay drama Torch Song Trilogy and his book for La Cage aux Folles, the three-time Tony winner most recently wrote the books for the hit Broadway musicals Newsies and Kinky Boots. (The later comes to Rochester in May 2015.)

Casa Valentina recently received four Tony nominations, including Best Play. The cast includes Reid Birney, John Cullum, Gabriel Ebert, Lisa Emery, Tom McGowan, Patrick Page, Larry Pine, Nick Westrate, and Mare Winningham. A film adaptation is “under discussion,” Deadline reports.

For tickets and more information visit the play’s website.

Oprah Network postpones Michael Sam documentary series
By Greg Hernandez on gaystarnews.com
Saying it does not want to be a distraction, the Oprah Winfrey Network announced on May 16 that it is postponing its plans to make a documentary series on Michael Sam becoming the first openly gay player in NFL history.

Last month, Sam was drafted by the St. Louis Rams in the final round of the draft. The decision to delay the series came after a meeting between the Rams and OWN.

“After careful consideration and discussion with the St. Louis Rams, The Untold Michael Sam Project has been postponed, allowing Michael the best opportunity to achieve his dream of making the team,” OWN President Erik Logan said in a statement.

Logan added: “OWN is about elevating and empowering people to achieve their best. It’s clear that we, along with the world, recognize the important opportunity that Michael now has in this moment. We will continue to support him in his journey to earn a spot playing for the Rams.”

The series had been announced 14 May, with Winfrey saying the series “promises to spark valuable, important discussion on life in America today. Acceptance and illumination start here.”

Sam had said in a recently-received week that his focus was on making the team but added “if seeing my story helps somebody else accept who they are and to go for their dreams too, that’s great. I am thankful to Oprah for her support and excited to work together.”

The series was to be made for OWN by Pilgrim Studios and Amy Rice.

Justin Vivian Bond celebrates “Happy Tranniversary!”
Justin Vivian Bond, who hails from Hagerstown, Md., will celebrate two decades living in New York City in Happy Tranniversary!

The show, featuring musical direction by Thomas Bartlett, takes place June 20 at (Le) Poisson Rouge in Manhattan’s Greenwich Village.

“Join Ms Justin Vivian Bond and friends in celebration of 20 of the most exuberant years of subversive glamour and performance this city has ever known,” reads an online invitation. “Expect extreme performance, shocking guests and a bit of ‘gentle persuasion’ — whatever that means!”

Travel

Kennett Square, The Mushroom Capital Of The World

By Merle Exit
Pennsylvania’s Brandywine Valley has a central town, Kennett Square, known as the Mushroom Capital of the World. A walk about town brings you to some fabulous boutique stores along State Street.

Kennett Design – with a splash of wine. This art studio is a space for people who wish to learn how to paint. The classes seemed to focus on choosing a piece of art and having an artist give you lessons on how to reproduce it. The “splash of wine” aspect is that it is a byob. They don’t serve wine or have a liquor license. However, you are welcome to bring in your own wine. Where is the best place to buy it? Flickerwood Wine Cellars Tasting Room will be featured in this place different is their “poured over coffee” manual brewing process, involving a funnel system that allows water to drip or pour over coffee slowly to extract more flavor. Kind of a cross between a drip and French press. They offer four of these coffees each day as well as a line of espresso drinks. Philter has partnered with Ceremony Coffee Roasters from Maryland as the provider for the beans. You can get sandwiches and pastries as well. www.ecoboutiqueksq.com

Kathi Lafferty, known as the “mayor of the square,” is the owner of The Mushroom Cap, located a few doors down from Flickerwood and home to “Snack N Shrooms,” a very tasty mushroom snack chip. She dehydrates slices of white mushrooms, while one hand you can push it apart to open, slip on your wrist with the other hand as you can easily place these as a component of our culture, but also as the very basic element of our own sense of identity. While this is perhaps nowhere more evident than in the LGBT community, even here there exist radically different degrees of acceptance and understanding of the ways gender and/or gender identity have touched your life.”

ImageArt says, “The gender spectrum is experienced and played out not just as a component of our culture, but also as the very basic element of our own sense of identity.” While this is perhaps nowhere more evident than in the LGBT community, even here there exist radically different degrees of acceptance and understanding of the ways gender and/or gender identity have touched your life.” Submission deadline is Friday July 11. Submissions must include submission form, payment, artist’s statement and a DVD/DVD of images. For submission forms and more detailed information please visit: www.imagout.org/imageart.php All artists working in any media are welcome to submit.

Mrs. Robinson’s Tea Shop is just around the corner from State Street. Although there was someone giving out tea samples to taste, it is not a place that serves tea. I looked for Rooibos tea to find over 20 varieties. The “in” thing these days is to combine the rooibos with other flavors but not “flavours”. For instance I bought one called Carrot Cake. www.mrsrobinsonstea.com

Eco Boutique at 103 W. State Street is owned by Doug Harris, whose aim is sharing a portion of your purchase with the proper charity, such as with a shoe company called Toms, with a program called “buy a shoe, give a shoe”. If you purchase a product from United By Blue, for every product sold, United By Blue removes one pound of trash from oceans and waterways. The boutique also sells a Bella Ryan line of bracelets that you can easily place on your wrist with the other hand as you can push it apart to open, slip on your wrist and close. www.ecoboutiqueksq.com

Philter Coffee is just a few doors down, at 111 W. State Street. What makes this place different is their “poured over coffee” manual brewing process, involving a funnel system that allows water to drip or pour over coffee slowly to extract more flavor. Kind of a cross between a drip and French press. They offer four of these coffees each day as well as a line of espresso drinks. Philter has partnered with Ceremony Coffee Roasters from Maryland as the provider for the beans. You can get sandwiches and pastries as well.

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The Rochester Women’s Community Chorus proudly presents

On the Show!

Sat June 7 2014
7:30 PM
$10 Adult
$8 Students/Seniors
$5 Children

The Harley School
1981 Clover Street

With Special Guests
The Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus

ROCHESTER’S MOST PRESTIGIOUS GARAGE SALE

ART & TREASURES SALE DAYS
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JUNE 13 & 14, 10 AM–4 PM
SUNDAY, JUNE 15 (BARGAIN DAY), NOON–3 PM

This annual event features the best in gently used antiques, artwork, jewelry, china, porcelain, silver, crystal, fine linens and small furniture items. Sponsored by the Gallery Council to benefit MAG. FREE!

EARLY BIRD NIGHT
THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 6–8 PM / $10 AT THE DOOR
Shop ahead of the crowd at our early bird sale! While you’re here, purchase taps, wine and beer at Max at the Gallery’s Tapas Night (available 5–8 pm).

All sales benefit the Memorial Art Gallery.

The Gallery Council of the Memorial Art Gallery
500 University Ave., Rochester, NY 14607
mag.rochester.edu 585.276.8910

The Rochester Women’s Community Chorus

JUNE 2014 • NUMBER 479 • THE GAY ALLIANCE • THE EMPTY CLOSET

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Intern Darya Nicol to coordinate Roc Pride volunteers for 2014

Welcome Darya Nicol! Darya joins us from the University of Rochester this fall as an eight-week Rocxxy intern.

Her interests are leadership, communications, art, film and the outdoors. She loves music, art, reading, astrology and talking. Darya will be co-ordinating the volunteers for Roc Pride this year.

Welcome Darya Nicol! Darya joins us from the University of Rochester as an eight-week Rocxxy intern. The Rocxy internship is a combined program with the Susan B. Anthony Institute, focusing on feminism and leadership.

Darya will be a junior this fall, and she is majoring in Public Health. She loves music, art, reading, astrology and talking. Darya will be co-ordinating the volunteers for Roc Pride this year.

Volunteer for Roc Pride 2014 and Unmask Your True Colors

What better way to enjoy Roc Pride 2014 than to be a part of it! We are seeking volunteers to help us with the Parade, the Festival and the Picnic on Saturday, July 19 and Sunday, July 20. Come join the fun and get a free ticket into the event that you work and an official Roc Pride tee shirt! If you are already a Gay Alliance volunteer you do not need to register. You will get information on Roc Pride volunteer opportunities automatically.

If you have never registered as a Gay Alliance or Pride volunteer, you can do so at this link: http://www.gayalliance.org/support/volunteer. Pride: We’re Fall Of It!

Riding For Pride! Still time to support a rider! Go to www.GayAlliance.org

There’s still time to donate to a ride! On June 14, 40 riders will bike 50 miles to support the Gay Alliance.

Our goal this year is $25,000! Please consider supporting our amazing riders who support our community! Simply go to: www.gayalliance.org/events/rideforpride and click on the name of a rider to donate on our secure site.

Youth Update: Picnic

By Dawn Balsis

School is almost out for the summer! Wondering what to do with all of that free time? I have the answer: Fabulous Fridays. Every Friday we meet at 707 E. Main St. (Open Arms MCC) from 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Each week is something different, from learning about safe sex practices and healthy relationships, movie nights, game nights, etc. We always have a good time.

On June 14 from 12 p.m.-4 p.m., the Gay Alliance Youth Program will be hosting a picnic at Cobbs Hill Park. The day will be filled with food, games and fun. For more information, please check out our Facebook page (Facebook.com/GayAllianceYouth).

The Gay Alliance Youth Program will also be putting on a youth leadership program on Wednesdays from July 23 to Aug. 6. Youth who participate will be rewarded with a fun field trip on Aug. 13. If you are interested in more information or attending please contact Dawn Balas at dawnb@gayalliance.org.

Youth Gay Alliance Youth Program

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

Gay Alliance Youth

(Ages 13-20)

Fabulous Fridays, 7-9 p.m.

Open Arms MCC

707 E. Main Street

Rochester, NY 14605

Gay Alliance Youth

Gender Identity

Support Group

(Ages 13-20)

Thurdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Gay Alliance Library (1st floor, off Prince St. lobby)

875 E. Main Street

For more information: dawnb@gayalliance.org

The Gay Alliance

875 E. Main St. 6th Floor

(Auditorium Theater)

Rochester, NY 14605

Phone: 585 244-8640

Library & Archives

Hours: Every Monday & Wednesday

6-8:00 p.m.

875 E. Main St., 1st Floor

(Open Arms Lobby)

Phone: 585 244-8640

The Gay Alliance is a non-profit agency, dedicated to cultivating a healthy, inclusive environment where Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) people are safe, thriving, and enjoying equal rights. We are a coalition of individuals and groups working to empower LGBTQ people to affirm their identities and create an atmosphere where the diversity can thrive both collectively and separately. We educate and advocate for civil rights for all and for the eradication of homophobia.

The Gay Alliance, 875 East Main Street, Rochester, New York 14605 • Phone: (585) 244-8640 • Fax: (585) 244-8206

Website: www.gayalliance.org • E-mail: info@gayalliance.org 

Hours: Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm • Board President: David Zona

Board Vice President: Jessica Munro • Executive Director: Scott Fearing • Education Director: Jeanne Gainsburg

Database: Kat Wiggall Youth Intern: Dawn Balas Bookkeepers: Christopher Hennelly Office Administrator: Tristan Wright

The Empty Closet: Editor: Susan Jordan E-mail: susan@gayalliance.org Phone: (585) 244-9030 Graphic Designer: Jim Anderson Fax: (585) 244-8248 Advertising: (585) 244-9030 Ad Sales: Brandon W. Brookes E-mail: brandonb@gayalliance.org
Thank you to everyone who helped make this year’s Big Gay Prom a success!

Volunteers:
- Elizabeth Doyle
- John Altieri
- Tim Haddix
- Sarah Keller
- Pietra Santacroce
- Jessica Moratore
- Katie Sharun
- Anne Wakeman
- Lizzy McPhee
- Mike Pretty
- Bruce Gorman
- CD Baginski
- Amanda Kelley
- Jed Oberholtzer
- David Zona
- Pocho Roque
- Kristan Wright
- Darrell Kilingsworth
- Todd Ranous
- Pam Cornish
- Nick Cornish
- Leslie Dittmar
- Claire Spencer
- tabitha Lauster
- BJ Scanlon
- Kerry Meagher
- Adrienne Chesher

Sponsors & Vendors:
- Cheesy Edibles
- DJ Chuck Argento
- Hedonist Artisan Chocolates
- Madge's Megmans
- Diplomat Banquet Center
- Goodness Cakes Bakery
- Jimmy C's Music Machine
- Trillian Health
- MOCHA
- Chances and Changes
- Safe Sex, Inc.

Thanks to all who helped raise money for the Big Gay Prom:
- Todd Ranous + 140 Alex Bar & Grill
- Peter Mohr + The Bachelor Forum
- Equal Grounds Café

And a very special thanks to all of the FABULOUS youth who attended the Big Gay Prom and made it a wonderful and fun night.

JUNE SAGE CALENDAR

June 3...10:30am Yoga with Tom at MCC church, 11:45am-1:30pm. Meet at Crossroad’s Coffee House (752 South Goodman St., 585-244-6787) for lunch/social gathering with Roza as your hostess.

June 5...10:30am Yoga with Tom at MCC church.

June 10...10:30am Yoga with Tom at MCC church, 11:00am-12:30pm Lunch. 12:30-1:30pm chatting with Reba about “Budget Meals”. (Please feel free to bring a budget meal in and or share a budget meal recipe with Rainbow SAGE.)

June 12... (NO YOGA) 10:30am meet at Friendly’s Breakfast on 2425 West Henrietta Road. Movies 10 after breakfast. RSVP by June 10.

June 15...Happy Father’s Day from Rainbow SAGE.

June 17...10:30am Yoga with Tom at MCC church, 11:45am-1:30pm Lunch at Equal=Grounds, social gathering with Jessie as your hostess. Celebrate May and June birthdays, talk about Pride events and play games. Talk about Pride Poem writing project. (Equal Grounds address is 750 South Ave., at Caroline St., 585-256-2362)

June 19...10:30am Yoga with Tom at MCC church.

June 24...10:30am Yoga with Tom at MCC church, 11:00am-12:30pm Lunch, 12:30-1:30pm, Special Guest presentation at noon to 1pm while you have lunch. Please arrive promptly for guest speaker as we will start on time. Thank you.

June 26...Yoga with Tom at MCC church. Noon-3pm Picnic at Ontario Beach Park. Look for rainbow flag and shelter to left of bathroom. Bring dish to pass; rain plan is MCC church.

Rainbow SAGE is for adults 50 and over. Please note time and change of address for some events. Also there is no euchre in the month of June. Brown bag lunch unless it is stated otherwise. Thank you. Address for regular programming: Open Arms MCC, 707 East Main St., Rochester 14605. All programs are subject to change and it is the members’ responsibility to provide transportation to and from any program. Please LIKE our Rainbow SAGE Facebook page and look for updates, great articles and program changes.

5/5...Two courses on prejudice and bias at SUNY Brockport
5/5...SafeZone training at In Control Peer Education Program
5/8...Shoulders to Stand On film and discussion at the University of Rochester
5/9...Understanding the Challenges: LGBTQ Cultural Competence Training for providers of services to older adults by the Gay Alliance at the Rochester Red Cross
5/21...SafeZone Training at Alternatives for Battered Women
5/28...LGBTQ 101 at Center for Dispute Settlement

Quotes:
“Encouraging, Educational, Personal, Awesome! The presenters really practiced what they preached. A wonderful day of learning – left feeling energized (huge accomplishment for a Friday afternoon)”


“I hate giving such glowing reviews of anything-The Wizard of Oz was too much upbeat (LOL) but seriously, this was practically perfect in every way.”

“I do not usually like workshops, but this one was great. It was all fantastic. Very informative –nice blend of activity and lecture. Engaging, welcoming, inclusive, funny, authentic.”

“The presenters were exceptional.”

The Gay Alliance
Speaking Engagements, May 2014

SAGE members had fun at the Lilac Festival. Photo: Audet Price
Check our monthly and ongoing calendar as well as the community section for more groups meeting or having events. For further information, call the Gay Alliance at 244-8640 or visit www.gayalliance.org. Gay Alliance Youth Group info: pages 30-31.

BISEXUALITY RESOURCES

AMBi Los Angeles; American Institute of Bisexuality; Bay Area Bisexual Network; Bi Cafi; Definition: Milwaukee; IBF USA; Bisexual Organization (BOP); Biese Bitches: Bisexual Network; CamBim! - Columbus, Ohio; Dallas: Fort Worth Bi Net; Detroit BiNet; Health Care for Women Project; Los Angeles Bi Task Force; New York Area Bisexual Network; Robin Ochi’s Site; Seattle: Bitch/Bi/Near Network. The Bi Writers Association; The Bisexual Resource Center (email: brc@biresource.net)

CULTURAL

Rochester Women’s Community Chorus

321 South Main Street, Suite 104, Rochester, NY 14608
(585) 275-2051
Volunteer: Donna Kisler

Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus

www.thergmc.org

DEAF SERVICES

Advocacy Services for Deaf Adults

Volunteer: Julie Kistler, 114 University Ave., Rochester, NY 14605; 585-265-5550

Deaf Access Services of Rochester

Volunteer: June Holley, 1000 Elmgate Dr., Rochester, NY 14618; 585-244-4620

Lilac Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf (LRAD)

Meets second Saturday, 6-9 pm. For location, information: firstdeaf@aol.com

Spectrum LGBT & Straight Alliance RIT/NTD student group. <Spectrumcommunity@rit.edu>

ELDERS

Gay Alliance Rainbow Sage

Many monthly get-togethers, some open at Arms MCC 707 E. Main St. 875-8428; SAGE@rochester.edu

FAMILY

CNC Women’s Center

Integrative Fertility Care. Support meetings, workshops, trainings, counseling. Information: cnc@nyc.scorenet.com

Rochester Gay Moms’ Group


Lesbian & Gay Family Building Project

Provides legal services for families since 1996. For information: 275-5555. Available throughout Upstate NY. The website is dedicated to helping lesbian and gay families realize their goals of building and sustaining healthy families. Claudia Shuman, Project Director, 124 Front St., Rochester. (585) 425-8892 e-mail: LesGayFamBuild@rochester.com; website: www.LGFBP.org

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)

PFLAG’s threadd program: supporting parents and family members in coming out process; educating the community; advocating on behalf of LGBT family members. PFLAGofro@aol.com; 585-244-8640 x27

Adoptive Parent Support Group

Monroe County: 2557 Douglass Avenue, Rocheset, NY 14614. For information, call Sharon, 350-2529

Angel Food Ministry

Box of fresh/food box for $30 in advance. Men only. 1438 Bolivar St. Rochester. All distributions take place, 585 861-4815.

Free testing for HIV/AIDS

Testing is available across New York State. For more information, call: 1-800-541-4435. Other organizations which provide AIDS-related services are as follows:

Tribal Health

See www.tribalhealth.org, www.everybodylives.org

LGBT Health

See www.lgbthealth.org, www.everybodylives.org

HIV/AIDS

Free testing for HIV exposure is available from New York State Department of Health: call Rochester Area Regional Hotline at (385) 423-3081, or 1 (800) 965-5053 for pay phones or calls outside Rochester. Dear of these numbers is 9-1-1. Free testing is also offered by Health Network Services, 581-8230 (TDD). New rapid HIV testing now available in 30-40 minutes. Statewide information can be obtained by calling 1-800-541-4435. Other organizations which provide AIDS-related services are as follows:

Vigilant Health

3146 East Ave., Rochester, NY 14623. For more information: 275-5058

Elisabeth Wende Breast Clinic

511 Westfall Rd., Rochester NY 14692; (585) 274-6978. Comprehensive breast cancer care. All BCCR programs, support services free. "We help breast cancer patients, their families, and friends. Information and support are available in person, by phone, or through our website. For more information about breast health care, visit the American Cancer Society at daughtershealth.org.”

Coalition of Rochester Lesbian Rights

487-3300. Specializing in breast health, diagnostic breast imaging and treatment education.

Breast Cancer Coalition of Rochester

244-8645. Specializing in breast health, diagnostic breast imaging and treatment education.

WOMEN

Lesbians of Color Network (LOCN)

The first statewide network for lesbians of color. (585) 262-5030. Located in Rochester, other locations: American, Pacific Islander, Chicano, Bi-racial & other lesbians of color, launched 2009. Cultivating leadership for or by lesbians of color. Provides new resources for lesbian women of color. www.locn.net

Catholic Charities AIDS Services

A multicultural and bi-lingual staff providing services to a diversity of people with HIV/AIDS. Provides short term emergency assistance with rent/mortgage/payments and limited subsidization of housing. At 1454 E. Ridge Rd., Suite 24, Rochester NY 14812, (585) 339-9800.

Hull House


Guam Community Health Center


LGBT HEALTH

Rochester Regional Health

See www.rochesterregionalhealth.org, www.everybodylives.org

Rochester Lesbian Health

330 4th Street, Rochester, NY 14608. Free confidential HIV testing and counseling. 1-800-541-4435. Other organizations which provide AIDS-related services are as follows:

Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley

585-244-8640 or visit www.gayalliance.org.


**Gay Alliance Library & Archives,** David Bohnet Cyber Center. Every Mon./Wed., 6-8 pm. 785 E. Main St. 244-8640.

**Free syphilis testing** Trillium Health, 239 Monroe Ave., 5-4:45 pm, 222-2221.

**Rochester Historical Bowling Society** 7:15pm, Mondays, Clover Lanes, 2750 Monroe Ave. (Group is full)

**HW Positive Men’s Support Group** Every Monday, 6pm, Trillium Health Center for Positive Living, 259 Monroe Ave.

**Frontrunners/Frontwalkers** Mondays, 6pm. Eastman House parking lot. www.rochesterfrontrunners.org.

**Steps Beyond Stems** Crack Support Group, Mondays, 7-8pm, 289 Monroe Ave.

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**TUESDAYS**

**The Social Grind** 10am-10pm, apr 30 and july 3:30-8pm at Equal Grounds, 750 South Ave. Email: Djihf457@aol.com. Contact Person: Cathie Timian. More info: Open Arms MCC & Community Center. 271-6959.


**Women’s Community Church** Rehearsals each Tuesday, 6:30-9pm, Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St. 234-4441. www.thewcc.org.

**Free HIV Testing** 9am-7pm. Trillium Health, 259 Monroe Ave.

**LORA Knitters Group** 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the Month, 7pm-9pm. Crossroads Coffee House, 752 S. Goodman St. Irishfemmerochester@yahoo.com. Phone: 338-8977.

**COAP** Come Out and Play, Wednesday game nights, 8pm-11pm. Equal Grounds, 750 South Ave. 7pm, wood418197@yahoo.com.

**Rochester Rams General Meeting** 2nd Wednesday each month, Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave. www.rochesterrams.org

**HIV+ Mixed Men’s Group** Wednesday, 7pm-9pm. Trillium Health, 259 Monroe Ave.

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

**Gay Alliance Library & Archives,** David Bohnet Cyber Center. Every Mon./Wed., 6-8pm. First Floor, 785 E. Main St. 244-8640.

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

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**THURSDAYS**

**Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns** 6:30pm, first Thursday, Ralph, 217-7649

**Gay Alliance Youth Gender Identity Support Group** Thursdays, 5:30-6:30, GAGV, 1st floor, off Prince St. lobby, 785 E. Main St. Ages 11-13. Participation: Free.

**Pride at Work** First Thursday, 5:30-3:30, 1354 Buffalo Road, Rochester 14624, 428-0882.

**GLOBAL (Guys & Lesbians of Bausch & Lomb)** Meets every third Thursday in Area 67 conference room at the Optic View Center. Mailbox: 338-9977

**Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus** Downtown United Presbyterian 4th, 112 N. Fitzhugh St. 6-3:30-9pm, 423-0650.

**Free confidential walk-in HIV testing** Every Thursday noon, Trillium Health, 259 Monroe Ave. 442-2223

**Out & Equal Second Thursdays** SocialBusiness networking, 5-7:30pm. Changing venues. E-Mail: Gingerlakes@broadband-equal.org.

**Genesee Valley Gender Variants** 7-9pm, Equal Grounds, 750 South Ave. GV GenderVariants@yahooorgroups.

LORA – Buffalo Women’s Coffee Social


**FRIDAYS**

**Gay Men’s AA meeting** Fridays, 7-30-8:30pm, Closed meeting. Emmanuel Baptist Church, 875 Park Ave.

**Gay Alliance Youth** Fridays, 7-9pm, Open Arms MCC, 707 E. Main, 244-8640

**GLBTI Motorcross Group** Second Fridays, 5-30pm, Various locations. Rochester GLBTIbikers@yahoo.com; 467-6436; brov2000@hotmail.com.


**Saturdays**

**Rochester Rams Bar Night** Third Saturday, 6-9pm, Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave. 271-6930


**Rochester Bank nygriz.** Cross dressers social/support group, 4-6 pm, third Saturdays, at Gay Alliance, 875 E. Main St., fifth floor. https://groups.yahoo.com/group/rochesterbanknygriz/
SUNDAY 1
Dignity Integrity, Episopal Mass/ Holy Service, worship, music, 5 pm at St. Luke’s and St. Simon’s Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. Hotline at 585-234-5092; website at www.di-rochester.org.
TUESDAY 3
Shoulders To Stand On documentay, 8 pm, WXXI.
THURSDAY 5
“Just Gender.” Rochester premiere of film on trans issues, 7 pm, Little Theatre. Producer/director George Zuber will be present. See www.GayAlliance.7TACG.
FRIDAY 6
Syracuse, Women’s social event, 5:30-10 pm, Captain’s Artic, 37 Charlotte St.
SATURDAY 7
Rochester Women’s Community Chorus concert, “Oh With the Show: Songs of Stage and Screen,” 7:30 pm at The Hadley School (3981 Clover St. in Brighton). Tickets can be purchased from chorus members or at door: for adults, $8 for students and seniors, $5 for children; infants are free. RWCC website at http://www.therwcc.org or call (585) 234-4444. Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/RochesterWomenCommuni-
tyChorus
SUNDAY 8
Rev. Steven Price installation as pastor at Greater Mercy Christian Church, 2647 Chili Ave. 3 pm.
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; website at www.di-rochester.org.
THURSDAY 12
Out & Equal Second Thursdays Networking, 5:30-8:30 pm, Constel-
lation Brands, 207 High Point Drive, Building 100, Victor. Open bar, BBQ. Raffle to benefit Gay Alliance.
FRIDAY 13
Empty Closet deadline for July issue. 244-9030; susanaj@gayalliance.org.
SATURDAY 14
Ride for Pride, Syracuse Pride Parade.
Gay Alliance Youth Picnic, noon-4 pm, Gobi’s Hill Park. Facebook.com/ GayAllianceYouth.
SUNDAY 15
Dignity Integrity, Episopal Mass. 5 pm at St. Luke’s and St. Simon’s Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. Hotline at 585-234-5092; website at www.di-rochester.org.
Nacho Wagon, Gay Alliance Speaks
ers Bureau Member, will be speaking at the TEDxFlour City at Kilbourne Hall at the Eastman School of Music. Free to attend, apply at this: http://tedxflour-
city.com/?q=events#flourcity-2014
FRIDAY 20
SATURDAY 21
ic.org.
ROMANS at Empire Haven Nudist Park, Moravia; members discounted entrance fee, noon-5 pm.
SATURDAY 22
Dignity Integrity, Evening Prayer, followed by potluck dinner – “Summer Salads”; 5 pm at St. Luke’s and St. Simon’s Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. Hotline at 585-234-5092; website at www.di-roch-
ester.org.
MONDAY 23
“The New Black.” Screening of film at The Little, 7 pm. Panel and group dis-
TUESDAY 24
“Lying the Knot.” Film by Jim de Seve on third anniversary of NYS mar-
riage equality; 10th anniversary of Massa-
achusetts marriage. Open Arms MCC, 707 E. Main St., 7 pm.
NYC Pride events. Through June 29.
THURSDAY 26
Briol Valley Playhouse opening of “Next Fall”. Runs through July 6. 151 S. Main St. in Naples. Thursday–Sat-
urday at 8 pm and Sunday at 2 (first week); Wednesday at 2, Thursday at 2 and 8, Friday at 7 or 8, Second at Sunday at 2 (second week). Tickets $3 for adults to $12 for children; senior and student group dis-
counts available. For reservations, infor-
mation, call box office at 585 374-6138 or visit www.bvrnaples.org.
Rainbow SAGE picnic. Ontario beach park, Noon-5pm. Look for rain-
bow flag. Bring dish to pass.
FRIDAY 27
Dignity Integrity Garage Sale. Pen-
field, through June 29. Address: times on Craiga-
list.
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**Classifieds**

Classified ads are $5 for the first 30 words; each additional 10 words is another $1. We do not bill for classifieds, so please send or bring ad and payment to: The Empty Closet, 875 E. Main Street, Suite 500, Rochester, New York 14605.

**Paying by check:** checks must be made out to Gay Alliance. The deposit is 10% of the month, for the following month’s issue. We cannot accept ads over the phone. Pay when you place your ad. We will accept only ads accompanied by name and phone number. Nei-
ther will be published, but we must be able to confirm placement.

The Empty Closet is not responsible for financial loss or physical injury that may result from any contact with an advertiser. Advertisers must use their own box number, voice mail, e-mail or personal address/phone number.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Children’s Ministry thrives at Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church for toddlers to twens. Join us for vibrant, inclusive, progressive worship on Sundays at 10:30am. 930 Marshall Rd. off Chili Ave. info@openarmsmcc.org (585) 271-8478

**SERVICES**

Rochester’s Best Man to Man Rubdown. Unwind with this degreed, trusted ladders! Dale’s Pleasure Painting and TV, burglar alarm systems, paddle fans.

Electrical work, telephone jacks, cable accessories, 7 cues, over table light. $250


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Phone: 917-308-7505 • Email: glenn.zermeño@gmail.com

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**Handyman** Simple repairs or full renovations, no job is too large or small. Carpentry, Plumbing, Electrical, Interior & Exterior. 35 years experience. Call Alan S. Bill 585-204-6062 or cell 304- 517-6832.

Martin Ippolito master electrician. Electrical work, telephone jacks, cable TV, burglar alarm systems, paddle fans. 585-206-6337.

Hate to paint or clean gutters? I have tall ladders! Dale’s Pleasure Painting and Gutter Cleaning has very reasonable rates for painting your roof and gutter clean-
ing in spring or fall. 585-576-5042. Email dale.furlong@rochester.rr.com.

**FOR SALE**

Pool table for sale: 8x4’ slate top, all accessories, 7 cues, over table light. $250 or BO. Treadmill, digital $100 or BO. 585.544.2035

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**MONDAY 23**

“The New Black.” Screening of film at The Little, 7 pm. Panel and group dis-
ussion afterwards. WXXI’s Community Cinema series. Free.

**TUESDAY 24**

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The Empty Closet is published by the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley 875 E. Main Street, Suite 500 Rochester, New York 14605 © 2014. All rights reserved.

Editor-in-Chief: Susan Jordan
Staff Reporter: Dixie Overmyer
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Advertising Policy:
The Empty Closet does not print advertisements that contain racist depictions or graphics, nor does it print advertising that states that the person pictured in the ad is for sale, or that you will “get” that particular person if you patronize the establishment advertised. Advertisements that are explicitly racist, sexist, explicit about sex, explicit about homosexuality will be rejected. All advertisements that are not related to the product or service offered by the advertiser will be rejected. All political advertisements must contain information about who placed them and a method of contact. Additionally, The Empty Closet does not print negative or “attack” advertisements, whether they relate to a product or politician and no matter how interest the ad is being printed. A negative advertisement is defined as one that focuses upon a rival product, or in the political area, a rival candidate or party, in order to point out supposed flaws and to persuade the public not to buy (or vote for him or her). The Empty Closet maintains, within legal restraint, reporting standards, political candidates and parties. However, “attack” ads that fail to provide underlying information that the information in the ad is true or not true in any way the objectives and policies of the Gay Alliance or the Empty Closet, including the primary tenet that The Empty Closet’s purpose is to inform the Rochester gay community and to provide an impartial forum for ideas.

Submissions:
For publications, submit news items, ads, photos, letters, stories, poetry, ads, photographs or art by mail or in person to The Empty Closet Office by the 15th of the month, or by e-mail at empcloset@gagv.us. Submissions are available for a fee. 244-9030, susanj@gayalliance.org.

Publication Information:
The Empty Closet is published 11 times a year (December and January combined) by The Empty Closet Press for the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, Inc. Approximately 5000 copies of each issue are distributed during the first week of the month, somewhat equal to spread evenly. The publication of the name of or photograph of any person or organization articles in an indication of the sexual or affectional orientation of that person or the members of that organization. For further information, please write to The Empty Closet, 875 E. Main St., Rochester, NY 14605. Call (585) 244-9030 for free information.

The Empty Closet is the official publication of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, Inc. It serves as a vehicle for the interests of that organization. Its purpose is to inform the Rochester gay community about local and national gay-oriented news and events; to provide a forum for ideas and creative work from the local gay community; to help promote leadership within the community; and to be a part of a national network of lesbian and gay publications and to exchange ideas and seek to educate.

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 (whether correctly or incorrectly) of any article or omission of an ad. The publication of the name or photograph of any person or organization in articles is not an indication of the sexual or affectional orientation of that person or any person or organization in articles is not an indication of the sexual or affectional orientation of that person or any person or organization in articles is not an indication of the sexual or affectional orientation of that person. Additionally, The Empty Closet reserves the right to edit for space and clarity. We will print letters by the same writer in a six-month period is allowed. Non-payment of the advertising agency or attorney, and will be liable for the charges paid by us to an attorney, and will be liable for the charges paid by us to a collection agency or attorney.

Letters to the editor:
The opinion 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. We will print letters at the editor’s discretion and on a space available basis. Only one letter by the same writer in a six-month period is allowed. We will not print advertisements for sale or that will be a forum for ongoing disputes between individuals. We reserve the right to accept, or reject, any material. All anonymous letters that the name and phone number are provided to the Editor, confidentiality will be respected; otherwise names and addresses will be published. Letters are due by the 15th of the month at: The Gay Alliance, 875 E. Main Street, Suite 500, Rochester, NY 14605. The Gay Alliance reserves the right to edit any submission by us to such collection agency or attorney.

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Ad Sales:
Byron Kinsley (brandonb@gayalliance.org), call (585) 244-9030. For Design Services, call Jim Anderson Design, 5000 Main Street, Suite 500, Rochester, NY 14605, call (585) 244-9030 or e-mail design@gayalliance.org.

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