

# The Empty Closet

Section A

New York  
State's Oldest  
LGBT Publication

NUMBER 452

A PUBLICATION OF THE GAY ALLIANCE OF THE GENESEE VALLEY

DEC-JAN 2012

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Pam Barres

## Transgender panel will discuss GENDA issues on Jan. 12

By Susan Jordan

Activist Pamela Barres has been fighting for passage of the New York State transgender civil rights bill for many years and she and the Gay Alliance Inquery program have organized a panel discussion for Jan. 12 to educate both the LGB community and the T community about why we should lobby for GENDA – and how to do it.

Pam Barres said, “The GLBT community was very excited about the passage of marriage equality. While I don’t think it’s necessary to have the same level of excitement around GENDA (because I don’t think it’s as controversial as marriage – 78 percent of New Yorkers back GENDA, according to a 2008 poll), we *do* need the support of the gay, lesbian and bisexual components of the community.

“In some cases,” Barres continued, “LGB people say, ‘I wish I knew more about that community,’ so I am putting together a panel to discuss trans life and issues and the need for basic civil rights protections for trans New Yorkers.”

(Trans continues page 8)



Out & Equal's national conference took place in Dallas. Photo: Jim Wilkins (More photos A 18)

## Rochester's history stands out

By Susan Jordan and Jim Wilkins

Out & Equal, the national LGBT workplace organization, held their national convention in Dallas, Texas in October. Several members of the Rochester community took part, including

Emily Jones and Ralph Carter of Finger Lakes Out & Equal, Evelyn Bailey of Shoulders to Stand On, Michael Gamilla of ImageOut and Kevin Indovino of WXXI.

Emily Jones, chair of the Finger Lakes Out & Equal chap-

ter board and co-chair of the national Out & Equal Regional Affiliates, said, “Evelyn Bailey presented a workshop along with co-presenters, Ralph Carter, myself and Desma Holcomb, Pride Agenda, on ‘The Yellow (Out & Equal continues page 3)

## Pride Agenda hosts transgender celebration of life

By Susan Jordan

November 20 is the Transgender Day of Remembrance, when the LGBT community comes together to honor those transgender and gender variant people lost to hate violence. This year the Empire State Pride Agenda’s Alden Bashaw hosted an informational meeting on trans issues on Nov. 15. Around

20 people attended the event, held at the Auditorium Center.

One of the speakers, trans activist Pamela Barres, noted, “While it’s a pleasure to be here this evening, I must admit I am becoming tired of coming to these events. The reason is that I don’t like the Transgender Day of Remembrance. It’s not that I don’t think we should be honoring our dead, but I think all... hate crimes are equally horrific... It doesn’t make any difference whether it’s a trans or

gay or lesbian or bisexual person who feels they have no way out, no way to stop the harassment... We need to stop the hate.”

Barres went on to discuss the need for GENDA, the NYS bill which would give basic civil rights protections to trans citizens, and the need for support for GENDA passage from the L, G and B parts of the community. She reminded everyone, “The fight for LGBT equality is not over.”

(ESPA continues page 7)



## Make a difference: ROC the Day on Dec. 8 for GAGV

How much good can be done on one day? We will find out when ROC the Day, an epic one-day giving event, takes place on Dec. 8.

On this day, every community member will be able to easily make an online gift of any size to any local not-for-profit organizations to help advance their work.

ROC the Day is the first of its kind in the Greater Rochester area and, in fact, in all of New York State.

The Gay Alliance is among the 501(c)3 not-for-profits which will benefit from this 24 hours of unprecedented giving. For information on GAGV donations, go to <http://www.roc-the-day.org>

(ROC continues page 8)

## Commentary: GOP overreach defines election

By Ove Overmyer

November’s elections around the country were brought to you by the word “overreach,” specifically by extreme conservatives who were testing the limits and boundaries of good government. Monroe County is no exception.

Given an opportunity in 2010 to build a long-term majority, Republicans in all levels of government instead pursued extreme and partisan measures and got trounced at the polls. By early morning the day after the election, right wing ideologues reaped angry voter rebellions from Maine to Iowa to Arizona.

Here in Rochester, N.Y., Democrats won two out of three county-wide races, despite the local GOP spending millions of dollars to push their anti-worker and anti-equality agendas.

The big story locally remains voter turnout. Of 423,833 registered voters in Monroe County,

(GOP continues page 8)

The Gay Alliance announces a \$25,000 challenge grant! See Sue Cowell's editorial... A2

## Save the date: Red Ball is Feb. 11

The Gay Alliance’s Red Ball 2012, “Glitter and Glam,” is a celebration of community, love, and friendship.

The date is Saturday, Feb. 11 2012, from 7-11 p.m., in the Cathedral Hall in the Auditorium Theatre Center, 875 East Main St.

Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door and are online at [www.GayAlliance.org](http://www.GayAlliance.org) and also at Equal=Grounds and OutLandish.

Free parking is available in the lot on College St. (between Goodman and Prince).

Singles, couples, families, friends and allies of all ages are welcome. Wear red to win prizes; enjoy music, beer and wine cash bar, a gift basket raffle and more. ■

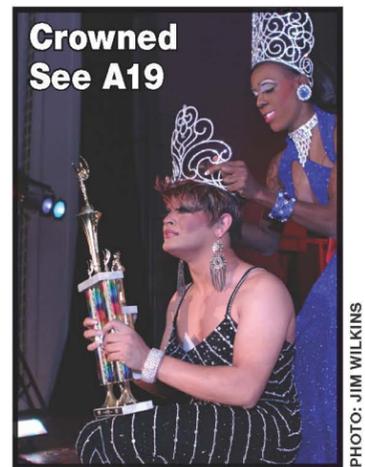


PHOTO: JIM WILKINS

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# GAY ALLIANCE OF THE GENESEE VALLEY Perspectives

FROM THE  
**Empty Closet Editor**  
SUSAN JORDAN



## Not funny

Conservative ideology has become a joke:

"Big government should stay out of Americans' lives! It should stay in women's uterus and gay people's bedrooms where it belongs!"

And to paraphrase Barbra Streisand, "Corporations who need corporations are the luckiest corporations in the world."

Rightwing extremists love to accuse "the left" of being "fascists." Lately they've been calling gay activists "homofascists." That's pretty ridiculous when you find out that in REALITY (as opposed to conservative LIES) the original fascists, Mussolini and Hitler, were rightwing extremists who loved guns and totalitarian rule by the wealthiest; hated gays, feminists and people of color, and sent union organizers to death camps.

Hitler and the Nazi Party were funded by wealthy German industrialists who wanted a rightwing working-class movement to counter communism and socialism. Sound familiar? Exploiting German anti-Semitism won Hitler votes in 1933. Racism, sexism and homophobia do the job today.

Today's conservative extremists are the true heirs of fascism.

But it's a word with horrible connotations, so they use it to bash their own victims – workers, the poor, non-whites, non-Christians, women and gays – the traditional targets of fascist hate. It's

similar to their despicable practice of calling black people "racist" for opposing white racism.

The GOP debates have been full of laughs: cheers for blaming the economic crisis on the unemployed; cheers for the death penalty; cheers for letting people without insurance die; boos for active duty gay soldiers.

Equally "funny" were the screams of "class warfare" when President Obama said that the wealthiest should pay their fair share in taxes. When the rich are bashing the middle class and the poor, no problem. When the middle class and the poor resist, that's "class warfare."

Conservative extremists want to "privatize" Medicaid for profit. They want to slash Social Security, although it's unconnected to the deficit. They want to cut all federal programs helping people who have worked all their lives and paid into the system, but don't have much money, because those folks are "chiselers" -- unlike Tea Party politicians whining about how the poor are getting "handouts," as they grab pork barrel billions for their own districts from the federal trough (See Oct. 30 *Newsweek*).

Conservatives, especially the professional bigots who have politicized Christianity, also whine about how endangered they are by "violent homofascists" who do terrible things like criticizing them -- and even tossing glitter at them. As if gay people aren't beaten, murdered or tormented to the point of suicide daily by the storm troopers of the Right -- people who have been radicalized by conservative propaganda and see queers as legitimate targets for violence. If only the gay bashers would stick to tossing glitter!

Rightwing leaders disavow responsibility for the violence of their followers. Funny how conservatives love to talk about "taking personal responsibility"... apparently that just applies to the usual suspects.

Funny, but not in a good way. ■

FROM THE  
**Gay Alliance Executive Director**  
SUE COWELL



## Your support will help bring happy endings

Will your story have a happy ending?

Hopefully members of the Rochester LGBT community will not experience hate crimes, although that is always a possibility. It is more likely, however, that you will experience health issues that stem from the stress of living with the everyday stigma of being gay, lesbian, bi or transgender.

In New York State, 40 percent of LGBT people say there are not enough medical and mental health service providers who are competent to meet their needs. And although same sex couples can now marry legally, we still do not have the benefits of federal recognition and protections. This inequality makes it impossible to create a strong financial base for our families and for ourselves.

The Gay Alliance's work is not done, and today your support is more important than ever. The first generation of LGBT youth to live their lives outside the closet is growing up now. What will it take to make sure they have happy endings?

The Gay Alliance is a 501-C tax exempt organization. All donations are tax-exempt to the fullest extent of the law. Our programs help our youth, our elders, and everyone affected in any way by hate and discrimination, as well as educating the wider community about our lives and issues through education and outreach presentations, the Speakers Bureau, *The Empty Closet* and Pride 2012. The GAGV works to support the health and well being of the LGBT community -- but we can't do it without you.

Right now there is a major opportunity to help, as a very special group of Gay Alliance major contributors has pledged to match every gift, dollar for dollar up to \$25,000. These will DOUBLE the impact of your gift! Please go to [www.gayalliance.org](http://www.gayalliance.org) and see for yourself! This is a wonderful opportunity for the Gay Alliance to have the opportunity to raise additional funds.

I am grateful the Gay Alliance has a group of committed and dedicated donors who so generously support the Gay Alliance. A special thank you this holiday season to: John Altieri, Board President, Evelyn Bailey, Board Member and Chair of Shoulders to Stand On Committee, Jason Barnecut, Board Finance Chair, and partner William Kearns III, Christopher Barry, donor, Ralph Carter, Board Member, Pat Collins and Judith Lawrence, donors, Pat Criticos, donor, Emily Jones, Chair of the Development Committee, Bruce Gorman, Board Secretary, Cynthia Woolbright, donor, and the International Gay Bowling Group who donated \$5,000 to the Gay Alliance youth program.

Please be part of this historic opportunity! ■

**CORRECTION:** In the September *Empty Closet* article about the Canandaigua VA Center LGBT employee group, Wanda Martinez was wrongly identified as an RN. She is a Nursing Assistant. The VA Center did not win a Canandaigua VAMC LGBTSA Award.



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**Staff Reporters:** Ove Overmyer, Laur McSpadden  
**Graphic Design:** Jim Anderson  
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**Submissions:**  
For publication, submit news items, ads, photos, letters, stories, poetry, ads, photographs or art by mail or in person to *The Empty Closet* office by the 15th of the month. Design services for non-camera ready ads are available for a fee. ([www.emptycloset@gagv.us](mailto:www.emptycloset@gagv.us))

**Publication Information:**  
*The Empty Closet* is published 11 times a year (December and January combined) by *The Empty Closet Press* for the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, Inc. Approximately 5000 copies of each issue are distributed during the first week of the month, some by mail in a plain sealed envelope. 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 the members of that organization. For further information, please write to *The Empty Closet*, 875 E. Main St., Rochester NY, 14605, call (585) 244-9030 or e-mail [emptycloset@gagv.us](mailto:emptycloset@gagv.us).

*The Empty Closet* is the official publication of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, Inc., as stated in the bylaws of that organization. Its purpose is to inform the Rochester gay community about local and national gay-related 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 that exchange ideas and seek to educate.

Part of our purpose is to maintain a middle position with respect to the entire community. We must be careful to present all viewpoints in a way that takes into consideration the views of all -- women, men, people of color, young and old, and those from various walks of life.

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**\$25,000 Matching Challenge!** See Sue's editorial above for details.

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to Many people



## FROM PAGE ONE

**(Out & Equal from page 1)**

Brick Road to Marriage Equality. Why has the greater Rochester area been a leader in civil rights, religious freedom and equality for all people? Why did Rochester play a pivotal role in the vote for Marriage Equality? In examining the unique history of early pioneers, education, religious tolerance and philanthropy, a compelling story unfolds. Yet the answer to the question 'Why Rochester' still remains a mystery. The presentation will be given in Rochester in spring 2012."

The event brought in companies like Dell, HP, American Airlines and Pfizer and showed the support of over 100 well-known companies. Over 2,600 executives, human resources and diversity professionals, employee resource groups and LGBT people and allies gathered Oct. 25-28, to share their best practices and ideas for creating workplaces where all people are safe, accepted, and valued, inclusive of all sexual orientations, gender identities, characteristics and expressions.

Out & Equal's Founding Executive Director Selisse Berry applauded attendees and supporters. Kathy Martinez, Assistant Secretary for Disability Employment Policy, blended humor with her important message: "I'm a walking affirmative action checklist -- I'm a woman, Latina, lesbian and blind!" she said.

Sander van't Noordende, Group Chief Executive, Accenture, shared his experience of coming out at work, offering the audience some great advice: find a mentor to connect with, take a risk at least once a week, but go at your own pace.

At the Wednesday plenary event, Golden State Warriors President Rick Welts and actress/activist Meredith Baxter discussed their very public coming out stories.

"Before the story came out in the *New York Times* on the front page, I had no idea what to be prepared for. I certainly was not prepared for the absolutely overwhelmingly positive response I got," said Welts.

Baxter shared her story of coming out on the Today Show. "When my partner and I left the NBC studio that morning, I felt free, unburdened, and so calm. I had faced the devil and I had survived quite nicely," she said.

Thursday afternoon's plenary session featured Out & Equal Founding Executive Director Selisse Berry, who talked about the importance of coming home to yourself. Mike Ullman, Chairman and CEO, JCPenney, and Liz Sweeney, Senior Vice President of JCPenney, discussed inclusion and social engagement. "People work for people, not for companies," said Ullman. "Our diversity is our strength."

Donna Brazile, renowned political strategist and commentator and Vice Chair of Voter Registration and Participation, Democratic National Committee, rounded out the plenary.

"Things have changed, but we're not done changing yet," said Brazile. "Those of us that seek a future of full equality for all can never become comfortable. We cannot become weary because **(Out & Equal continues page 7)**

## NewsFronts

## LOCAL AND STATE

**Killer of Elmira gay bar owner guilty of 2nd degree murder**

Clinton "Billy" Lewis, beloved local activist and owner of the Elmira, N.Y. gay bar Club Chill, was slain in his own home last May by 21-year-old Louis M. Duffy after the two had consensual sex.

On Nov. 17, Duffy was found guilty of murder.

The jury convicted Duffy, 21, of Horseheads, of second-degree murder and two counts of second-degree criminal possession of a weapon after about two and a half hours of deliberation in Chemung Co. Court, despite a "gay panic" defense.

The *Corning Leader* summarizes the trial:

In his testimony, Duffy said a molestation "flashback," coupled with his first homosexual experience, caused him to shoot Lewis after the pair had sex. Duffy said he was abused by his adoptive grandfather when he was in the second and third grades. Duffy said he went to stay with Lewis the morning of the killing because Lewis had offered him a construction job the following day at a lakehouse. He said he had no intention of having sex with Lewis, but when Lewis started kissing him, "I let it go on," Duffy said.

Duffy testified that he's still unsure of his sexuality -- he's still attracted to women but has homosexual "tendencies." He said he began having thoughts of sex with men in 11th grade, but he never experimented before his encounter with Lewis.

"I didn't want it to happen with him," Duffy testified. "I didn't want to try it with him."

After the experience, Duffy said he felt uncomfortable and ashamed, and when Lewis said the sex was going to continue and allegedly grabbed Duffy by the throat and shoulder, Duffy grabbed a gun and fired.

With a confession and substantial physical evidence linking Duffy to the crime, Thweatt attacked Duffy's credibility and believability. Thweatt pointed out a jailhouse letter Duffy wrote to a woman in which he said he'd lie in court to get out of jail sooner. Also, he told the woman not to believe the "gay stuff" that would come out at the trial.

Duffy faces a maximum sentence of 25 years to life in prison.

**Health: Kidney and Liver Transplantation in People with HIV**

By Christopher Taylor Barry, MD, PhD, FACS; Associate Professor, University of Rochester Department of Surgery, Division of Solid Organ Transplant and Hepatobiliary Surgery

Transplanting people with HIV infection for end stage organ disease was, not too long ago, considered inappropriate because of the unknown long term outcomes and the fear that administering antirejec-

tion drugs to patients with a preexisting immunosuppressive viral infection would lead to unacceptable complications and deaths.

Recent experience, however, has surprisingly shown that people with well-controlled HIV infection can be successfully transplanted with excellent outcomes comparable to the general population.

The reasons for this success are threefold. First, combinations of medicines to manage HIV infection, termed HAART (Highly Active Anti Retroviral Therapy), are so effective that most people with HIV can live relatively normal lives with undetectable viral replication in their blood, robust immune systems (as measured by normal CD4 T cell counts), and freedom from progression to AIDS. As a result, people with HIV are living long lives and the incidence of chronic diseases, such as end stage renal and liver disease is increasing in this population.

Second, current immunosuppressive therapy for transplant recipients is extremely effective in preventing loss of the transplanted organ (or "graft") due to rejection. Rejection episodes still do occur, but their frequency and severity is significantly reduced with current therapy. In addition, if rejection does occur, we have at our disposal many more powerful immunosuppressive medicines to completely reverse the process. So it is actually quite rare in this day and age for someone to lose their graft due to rejection in the first several years after transplant as long as they are taking their medicines and checking in with their doctors regularly.

Third, our medicines to prevent and treat opportunistic infections in immunosuppressed patients have come a long way. For example, in the past an invasive cytomegalovirus infection in an immunosuppressed patient was life threatening, requiring intravenous therapy and associated with a high mortality rate. Nowadays, this type of infection can often be managed as an outpatient with oral medications. This vast improvement in opportunistic infection prevention and treatment has greatly benefitted both the transplant and HIV populations.

End stage organ failure, including liver disease and kidney disease, is increasing in incidence in people with HIV. Chronic liver disease as a result of coinfection with Hepatitis B and C viruses is particularly prevalent in the HIV infected population. Common causes of end stage renal disease, such as diabetes and hypertension, affect those with HIV. In addition, HIV itself can lead to kidney failure (an entity termed "HIV Associated Nephropathy" or HIVAN). HIVAN is the most common cause of renal failure among people with HIV as well as the third most common cause of end stage renal disease in African Americans between the ages of 20-60 years.

Back before HAART was



**BIGOTS' THREAT: Billboard erected by anti-gay National Organization for Marriage (NOM), which prefers not to identify itself or its donors, on Route 104 in Irondequoit, threatens NYS Senator Jim Alesi with payback for his "yes" vote on marriage equality. Photo: Bess Watts**

available, the experience with transplanting people with HIV was dismal. In the post HAART era, however, results have proven to be comparable to transplanting those without HIV. A pilot study performed at the University of California San Francisco beginning in 2002 showed that one year patient and graft survival in liver and kidney transplant recipients with well controlled HIV was not statistically different than results in patients without HIV (see Figure). "Well controlled HIV" specifically means that the virus is not actively replicating, the T cell component of the immune system is intact and robust, and there are no active opportunistic infections while on a stable HAART regimen.

The promising results of the UCSF study led to a larger multicenter study and the results of this study will soon be published in the medical literature. Preliminary communications by the investigators confirm similar overall results with the pilot study. So it appears that kidney and liver transplantation in people with HIV is not any more problematic than transplantation in the general population.

There are some challenges with this endeavor, however. First, acute rejection episodes are higher in kidney transplant recipients with HIV. Rates were reported as high as 70 percent in the UCSF study and 40 percent in the larger multicenter trial, compared to expected rates of 15-20 percent in the general population. Fortunately, these rejection episodes were most often reversible with stronger immunosuppressive therapies. The reason for these observed increased rejection rates is unclear, but may be a result of lower overall antirejection drug levels due to interaction with certain HAART drugs. It is quite surprising that patients with a supposedly immunosuppressive viral infection are able to mount such strong immune responses to the transplanted organ.

A second problem, alluded to above, is that of drug-drug interactions. Specifically, the "calcineurin inhibitor" antirejection drugs tacrolimus and cyclosporine are significantly affected by the "protease inhibitor" HAART drugs such as Kaletra. When these two classes of medicines are used together, the dose of calcineurin inhibitor needs to be drastically reduced and the dosage frequency greatly curtailed in order to achieve proper blood levels. Such interactions may

result in overall lower antirejection blood levels and contribute to the higher rejection rates observed in HIVpositive kidney transplant recipients. Fortunately, newer HAART medicines are now available, specifically the "integrase inhibitor" class of drugs, that do not have such profound interactions with the immunosuppressive drugs.

Finally, coinfection with Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) and HIV results in poorer outcomes, particularly in the liver transplant population. This is largely due to the fact that we currently do not have very good treatment for HCV infection. Current therapies, namely interferon and ribavirin, are only about 40 percent effective in controlling or eradicating HCV. Furthermore, these medicines are poorly tolerated in patients with impaired liver function, limiting their use in the postoperative setting. Furthermore, and quite unfortunately, interferon treatment can predispose to rejection episodes, further limiting its effective use in the transplant population. Two new anti-HCV medicines, both of the protease inhibitor class, will be commercially available very soon (i.e., less than six months) and preliminary data show promise for efficacy in the general transplant and HIV transplant populations.

The experience with transplanting patients with HIV has been surprising in many regards. Perhaps most interesting is that administering antirejection drugs aimed at T cells does not result in reactivation of HIV. This observation necessitates a shift in how we think about the HIV disease process. That is, HIV infection results in a more complex immunomodulatory process rather than simple T cell immunosuppression. Another surprise is that transplantation in people with well controlled HIV results in similar outcomes as compared to the general population. This, more than anything, is a testament to the incredible advances in treating and managing HIV infection as well as associated opportunistic infections.

Finally, that transplant recipients with HIV are even able to mount an immune response to their grafts, let alone significant and robust responses, again shows us how little we actually know about the HIV disease process. This experience is indeed proving to be fascinating to transplant surgeons and physicians, infectious disease experts, and basic science **(Transplant continues page 16)**

# NewsFronts

## NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

### FBI releases hate crimes data for 2010

On Nov. 14 the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) released its Hate Crime Statistics report for 2010. The data reported by the Bureau's law enforcement partners remained consistent with 2009 statistics, Pam Spaulding posted on pam-houseblend.com.

By the numbers: The hate crimes report is fairly reflective of the country — agencies that participated in the Uniform Crime Reporting Hate Crime Statistics Program effort in 2010 represented more than 285 million people, or 92.3 percent of the nation's population, and their jurisdictions covered 49 states and the District of Columbia. Of the 14,977 agencies that submitted data, 1,949 reported that hate crime incidents had occurred in their jurisdictions.

Law enforcement reported 8,208 victims of hate crimes — a "victim" can be an individual, a business, an institution, or society as a whole. Of the 6,628 hate crime incidents reported for 2010, nearly all (6,624) involved a single bias—47.3 percent of the single-bias incidents were motivated by race; 20 percent by religion; 19.3 by sexual orientation; 12.8 percent by an ethnicity/national origin bias; and 0.6 by physical or mental disability.

As a result of the 2009 Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crime Prevention Act, the FBI is implementing changes to collect additional data for crimes motivated by a bias against a particular gender or gender identity, as well as for hate crimes committed by or directed against juveniles.

A reported 4,824 offenses were crimes against persons — intimidation accounted for 46.2 percent of these offenses; simple assault for 34.8 percent; and aggravated assault for 18.4 percent.

Of the 6,008 known offenders, 58.6 were white and 18.4 percent were black.

As noted, there is still no data on anti-transgender bias crimes in the report, but gender and gender identity are slated to be tracked due to the Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

By bias motivation: An analysis of data for victims of single-bias hate crime incidents showed that: 48.2 percent were victims of an offender's bias against a race; 18.9 percent were victims of an offender's bias against a religion; 18.6 percent were victims of an offender's bias against a particular sexual orientation; 13.7 percent were victims of an offender's bias against an ethnicity/national origin; 0.6 percent were victims of an offender's bias against a disability.

Racial bias: Among the single-bias hate crime incidents in 2010, there were 3,949 victims of racially motivated hate crime. A closer examination of these victim data showed that 70.0 percent were victims of an offender's anti-black bias; 17.7 percent were victims of an anti-white bias; 5.1 percent were victims of an anti-Asian/Pacific Islander bias; 1.2 percent were victims of an anti-American Indian/Alaskan Native bias; 6.0 percent were victims of a bias against a group of individuals in which more than one race was represented (anti-multiple races, group).

Religious bias: Of the 1,552 victims of an anti-religion hate crime: 67.0 percent were victims of an offender's anti-Jewish bias; 12.7 percent were victims of an anti-Islamic bias; 4.2 percent were victims of an anti-Catholic bias; 3.0 percent were victims of an anti-Protestant bias; 0.5 percent were victims of an anti-Atheist/Agnostic bias; 9.1 percent were victims of a bias against other religions (anti-other religion); 3.5 percent were victims of a bias against groups of individuals of varying religions (anti-multiple religions, group).

Sexual-orientation bias: Of the 1,528 victims targeted due to an offender's sexual-orientation bias: 57.3 percent were victims of an offender's anti-male homosexual bias; 27.5 percent were victims of an anti-homosexual bias; 11.8 percent were victims of an anti-female homosexual bias; 1.4 percent were victims of an anti-heterosexual bias; 1.9 percent were victims of an anti-bisexual bias.

Ethnicity/national origin bias: Hate crimes motivated by the offender's bias toward a particular ethnicity/national origin were directed at 1,122 victims. Of these victims: 66.6 percent were targeted because of an anti-Hispanic bias; 33.4 percent were victimized because of a bias against other ethnicities/national origins.

### Field guide urges better, more inclusive hospital care for LGBT patients

On Nov. 8, The Joint Commission released a new field guide on LGBT patient-centered care.

The guide, titled "Advancing Effective Communication, Cultural Competence, and Patient- and Family-Centered Care for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Community," urges U.S. hospitals to create a more welcoming, safe, and inclusive environment for LGBT patients and their families.

The Joint Commission is the nation's largest accrediting organization for healthcare facilities, responsible for accrediting

and certifying more than 19,000 healthcare organizations and programs in the United States. The field guide is available for download at [www.jointcommission.org/lgbt](http://www.jointcommission.org/lgbt).

"We applaud The Joint Commission's work to advance LGBT healthcare equality through its accreditation standards and now this new field guide on LGBT patient-centered care," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "Too often members of the LGBT community face discrimination while accessing healthcare or avoid seeking healthcare altogether. Every hospital in the U.S. should take advantage of the resources available in this guide and ensure that LGBT patients and families get the care they deserve."

The field guide points healthcare facilities to the HRC's Healthcare Equality Index (HEI) as a resource on best practices in LGBT patient-centered care. The annual HEI surveys and rates respondents on their policies and practices related to LGBT patients and families. Facilities throughout the nation look to the HEI for up-to-date assistance in providing equitable, inclusive care to LGBT patients and families. Completing the HEI can also help hospitals comply with The Joint Commission standards addressing non-discrimination, and new Centers for Medicare & Medicaid regulations on visitation.

The HEI 2012 survey is now open and available for completion. Healthcare administrators can obtain information on how to participate in the HEI 2012 survey at [www.hrc.org/hei](http://www.hrc.org/hei).

### DOMA update: Judiciary Committee OKs repeal

On Nov. 10, the Senate Judiciary Committee voted to repeal the 1996 so-called Defense of Marriage Act, advancing the Respect for Marriage Act (S. 598) in the U.S. Senate. It is not expected to reach the floor of the GOP-dominated House.

"Today's vote represents real progress toward a repudiation of the radically unfair, misnamed Defense of Marriage Act," said Evan Wolfson, founder and president of Freedom to Marry. "We are one step closer to eliminating DOMA's gay exception, which unfairly withholds the federal protections and responsibilities of marriage from loving and committed same-sex couples who are legally married."

The committee held its first-ever hearing on the bill in July, when witnesses harmed by the discriminatory law and experts including Wolfson testified on the hardship DOMA inflicts on same-sex couples and their families.

Wolfson pointed to the July testimony of Ron Wallen, who just weeks after losing his husband and partner of 58 years had to put the family home up for sale because he was denied Social Security survivor benefits. "It is time for Congress to restore the tradition of having the federal

government respect marriages lawfully celebrated by the states, and not wait for the courts to clean up the mess Congress created," Wolfson said.

Freedom to Marry's bipartisan lobby team has made the case for the Respect for Marriage Act to lawmakers on both sides of the aisle, and has partnered with state equality organizations and others to organize constituents to weigh in with lawmakers in their districts. As a result, since its introduction, the number of sponsors has grown from 19 to 31 in the Senate and 109 to 133 in the House, including a solid majority of Democrats in both branches and the first Republican in the House.

"The historic growth in support among lawmakers for repealing DOMA mirrors the growth in public support for the freedom to marry to what is now a solid majority nationwide," said Wolfson. "With businesses and labor unions, Democrats and Republicans, child-welfare advocates and libertarians all decrying the unfairness of DOMA, every day adds to the accelerating momentum for overturning federal marriage discrimination."

DOMA was approved in 1996 when gay couples could not yet marry anywhere in the world and deprives same-sex couples of federal recognition of their marriages, denying them important federal protections such as access to health coverage, Social Security survivor benefits, tax fairness, and recognition of family ties for immigration purposes. DOMA is being challenged in several court cases around the country, and has been held unconstitutional in federal district courts on both sides of the country.

#### Courage Campaign statement

"For the first time in history, the Senate Judiciary Committee voted to make gays and lesbians whole people," said Rick Jacobs, the chair and founder of the Courage Campaign, an online, grassroots political organization with more than 750,000 members around the country. "This truly historic vote today should never have been necessary because this absurd law should never have been on the books. Thanks to Sen. Dianne Feinstein, we have a bill that can move to the Senate floor where fair-minded people who believe in a nation united, not divided, can end federal discrimination against gay and lesbian couples legally married in six states and the District of Columbia. Sadly, the Republicans think this is a partisan issue, but then some thought the same about the other great civil rights issues of this nation. Eventually, America is just."

The eight Republicans on the Committee voted against the bill. The legislation will now go to the full Senate for consideration.

Although gay couples in six states and the District of Columbia have the right to marry, same-sex couples are still barred from over 1,100 federal rights and privileges afforded to straight married couples. It's also becoming clear that Americans are progressing with the times. A Gallup poll earlier this year found that 53 percent of Americans support marriage equality,

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and a Greenberg Quinlan Rosner poll found 51 percent of Americans support repealing DOMA.

#### National Gay and Lesbian Task Force statement

Rea Carey, executive director, said, "This vote marks an important step toward recognizing our common humanity, and moves us closer to ending a grave injustice against thousands of loving, committed couples who simply want to provide and care for each other as other married couples are allowed to do. It is shocking and an outrage that, in modern-day America, legally married same-sex couples are being singled out and selectively denied fundamental rights by their own federal government. The Respect for Marriage Act respects and protects the rights of these couples to live free of this government-sponsored discrimination. We thank the Senate Judiciary Committee for passing this bill today, and urge the full Senate to follow suit. DOMA has only served to hurt families, and it is long past time to wipe it from the books once and for all."

#### NYS Bar Association statement

New York State Bar Association President Vincent E. Doyle III said, "Our nation today moved a step closer to ending discrimination against lesbian and gay Americans. We applaud the Senate Judiciary Committee for voting to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).

"Its repeal continues to be a top priority of the New York State Bar Association.

"Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick J. Leahy of Vermont should be commended for advancing DOMA's repeal. We also recognize U. S. Senators Charles E. Schumer and Kirsten E. Gillibrand, co-sponsors of the repeal bill, for their strong advocacy on behalf of their fellow New Yorkers."

DOMA, enacted in 1996, prohibits the federal government from recognizing the marriages of same-sex couples who legally wed in New York. As a result, they are denied an array of federal benefits and protections granted to other married couples. For example, they cannot file joint income tax returns, transfer an estate to a spouse without tax consequences or receive spousal Social Security benefits.

DOMA also permits other states to disregard same-sex marriages legally conducted in New York, five other states and the District of Columbia.

#### NYS Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman statement

"Today's historic vote in the Senate Judiciary Committee represents a major step forward in the fight for full equality. Our office is challenging the federal Defense of Marriage Act in court over its clear violation of the principle of equal justice under law as enshrined in the U.S. Constitution, and its interference with New York's efforts to ensure marriage equality for its citizens. We will fight every day to defend the fundamental guarantee of equal protection under law for all New Yorkers."

#### ACLU statement

Earlier this year, the Obama administration announced it would not defend DOMA in any legal challenge, including a lawsuit brought on behalf of Edith "Edie" Windsor, who was forced to pay \$363,000 tax on the estate of her late spouse, Thea Spyer. Windsor would not have had to pay the tax if she had been married to a man.

"Today's vote is an important step forward for the over 80,000 married same-sex couples across the country," said Ian Thompson, ACLU legislative representative. "These couples have made the commitment at the heart of marriage, and exchanged vows under state law. For the federal government to exclude them from all federal protections for their marriage is unjust, unnecessary and unconstitutional. It's time for Congress to join the president and the Department of Justice in rejecting this discriminatory law."

"I shared my life with my beloved late spouse in sickness and in health for 44 years, like any other devoted, married couple," Windsor explained. "In the midst of coping with Thea's death, it is hard to describe how painful it was for my own government to treat me as though we were mere strangers and not spouses. Losing a spouse is obviously a terrible thing for anyone to experience -- Congress should pass this bill to prevent others from having to go through what I had to deal with."

#### 70 major corporations back DOMA repeal

Waymon Hudson wrote on The Huffington Post on Nov. 9, "In a major and somewhat unusual move, over 70 major businesses and organizations filed a legal brief stating their opposition to the anti-gay 'Defense of Marriage Act' (DOMA), which bans federal recognition of same-sex marriages. Some of the major corporations signed on to the brief include Microsoft, Starbucks, Google, Nike, Levi Strauss...."

"The brief lays out why DOMA needs to be repealed because it puts a major burden on businesses and employees. According to *The Advocate*: Their brief points out that the Republican leadership in the House of Representatives is defending DOMA in court on the notion that it imposes 'a uniform rule' on whose marriage is recognized. 'The perspective of the American employer who must implement DOMA is very different,' the companies state. 'Employers are obliged to treat one employee spouse differently from another, when each is married, and each marriage is equally lawful.'

"The companies say DOMA 'forces' them 'to investigate the gender of the spouses of our lawfully married employees and then to single out those employees with a same-sex spouse.' For example, HIPAA laws usually consider marriage a 'qualifying event' that automatically enrolls a spouse in an employee's health insurance. Companies now spend time and money weeding out any gay employees who get married.

"If companies don't want to discrimi-

nate, because it hurts their recruiting efforts or they're just opposed to it in principle, then DOMA causes a bunch of 'workarounds' that come with wasteful administrative costs of their own."

Among the 70 companies are Nixon Peabody LLP and Xerox, both supporters of the Gay Alliance, as well as the LGBT workplace organization Out & Equal.

#### Many election results bring LGBT victories

Des Moines, Iowa: Democrat Liz Mathis defeated Republican Cindy Golding in a key political election to represent Iowa's 18th District, ensuring continued Democratic control of the state Senate. This victory enables Senate Majority Leader Michael Gronstal to continue in his leadership position, heading off efforts to move a discriminatory anti-marriage constitutional amendment to the ballot.

Freedom to Marry's founder and president Evan Wolfson said, "Today's election of Liz Mathis is a tremendous victory for the state of Iowa. The voters rebuffed the anti-gay attacks that sought to make undoing the freedom to marry a critical factor in the race, and instead elected a candidate who supports the freedom to marry for all Iowa families. One Iowa worked hard to make sure that marriage remains secure in Iowa and to elect a legislator who will focus on the real challenges confronting the state. Freedom to Marry looks forward to working with One Iowa to continue telling the stories of families strengthened by marriage in Iowa, and growing support for fairness and respect for all."

The Human Rights Campaign also hailed Liz Mathis' victory over Cindy Golding in the Iowa SD 18 special election. HRC endorsed Liz Mathis, a pro-equality candidate, after Governor Terry Branstad, a Republican, appointed Democratic state Senator Swati Dandekar to the Iowa Utilities Board, jeopardizing the Democratic majority in the state Senate.

HRC contributed to Liz Mathis' victory by placing five full-time field organizers in the 18th Senate District during the final weeks of the campaign. These organizers performed campaign duties for the state Democratic Party in addition to mobilizing HRC members and supporters to volunteer and vote in the special election.

"The marriage issue is settled, voters clearly care about issues directly affecting their everyday lives," said HRC President Joe Solmonese. "Today's election serves as a message that it's time to get on with the people's business."

Earlier this year the Iowa House passed a bill to place on the ballot a constitutional amendment abolishing marriage equality. The Democratic-controlled Senate blocked the bill from coming up in the state Senate, keeping marriage equality safe in the Hawkeye state.

#### Openly gay man is Va. state senator

In other election news, Virginia state Representative Adam Ebbin will become

Virginia's first openly-gay state Senator after winning his bid for the Commonwealth's 30th Senate District despite homophobic attacks from the right.

#### Mississippi "Personhood Amendment" fails

In one of the country's most highly watched contests, voters in Mississippi have rejected Initiative 26, which sought to amend the state Constitution to establish legal "personhood" at the moment of fertilization. If it had passed, Initiative 26 would have become the nation's most restrictive law against abortion and birth control.

"This is a victory for Mississippi and for all those who value women's lives and the right of people to make very personal -- even life-saving -- decisions about their own bodies free of unwarranted government intrusion," said Rea Carey of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "Initiative 26 would only have served to hurt women and their families, not help. As a staunch supporter of reproductive freedom, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force stands in solidarity with the women of Mississippi and our organizational partners fighting to protect women's rights and lives."

#### Victory for voters' rights in Maine, union rights in Ohio

Mainers voted to overturn a new Republican law that restricted voters' rights by ending same-day registration in the state. For nearly four decades, eligible Mainers have been able to register and vote on Election Day, but in June the GOP-controlled state Legislature voted to overturn the law. Then, a coalition of progressive organizations launched a People's Veto campaign to restore same-day voter registration, gathering the required petition signatures in a record-breaking four weeks.

In Ohio, meanwhile, supporters of workers' rights scored a big victory with the repeal of a Republican-backed law limiting collective bargaining rights for public employees. Ohioans overwhelmingly voted to repeal the law.

#### Michigan town keeps non-discrimination

Residents of Traverse City, Mich., have voted to retain the city's nondiscrimination ordinance, which includes explicit protections for LGBT people. According to local media reports, the city voted to keep the ordinance by a nearly 2-to-1 margin.

#### In other races

New Jersey: Bruce Harris is the first openly gay African American Republican mayor, in Chatham Borough, N.J.

North Carolina: LaWana Mayfield is the first openly lesbian city council member for Charlotte.

Ohio: Chris Seelbach is the first openly gay city council member for Cincinnati.

Indiana: Zach Adamson is the first openly gay city council member for Indianapolis.

Montana: Caitlin Copple is elected as an openly lesbian city council member for (Election continues page 16)



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# Interview

## Gerry Szymanski, GAGV Library & Archives

By Susan Jordan

Gerry Szymanski is a professional librarian who works at the Sibley Library of the Eastman School. He is also a photographer, filmmaker, animator, classical music DJ and much more. However, it was for his years of dedicated volunteer work with the Library and Archives that the Gay Alliance honored Gerry at the volunteer appreciation party on Sept. 27.

The Library, located next to the Yuth Center, currently has 5,000 titles, 300 videos and over 1,000 periodicals, including very early and rare magazines like "One" and "The Ladder." The Archive, housed in a basement storage room, was recently re-organized by volunteers, and is connected to the Shoulders to Stand On history project. Computers with Internet access are available during library hours as part of the David Bohnett Cyber Center.

Empty Closet: When and how did you get involved with the Library and Archives – and did you have a "Eureka" moment when you first saw the collection?

Gerry Szymanski: It was 2003 or 2004 when Todd Plank, then Program Director at the Gay Alliance, invited Ove Overmyer and me to the old community center on Elton St. The main room was going to be painted and volunteers wanted to take the book shelves down, so Todd thought it would be a good idea if Ove and I, as professional librarians, took a look at the collection.

I realized it was a treasure trove. We found later that there were some very rare things. We decided we needed to start paying attention to it. We started organizing it and realized we needed to work on it once a week. So we set Wednesday nights as hours when the library would be open.

We moved the collection from the big open room, where people had unrestricted access and took what they wanted, sometimes without returning the items, to a room with a door, which meant that we could control access for the first time.

The collection dates to 1971 or thereabouts, but includes materials that are much older. This was the first time that the collection had been cared for in a professional way. We started receiving donations of books, and we expanded the library to three rooms at Elton St. Then when that building was sold to ArtWalk, we moved it all over here (to the Auditorium Center).

It was a huge task to move it all! We started doing some true organizing of the collection, and with Internet access, we started researching other libraries to see who keeps gay materials and we discovered some libraries said they had them,

but investigating further, they didn't really have them on the shelves!

EC: Installing the new bookcases that we will be able to buy with funding from Xerox means that volunteers will be able to replace the Dewey decimal system numbers with Library of Congress numbers, which will enable us to get a standardized online catalogue. Why is it important to get a standardized online catalogue that can be browsed on WorldCat?

GS: WorldCat has over one billion bibliographic records. If you search for anything, WorldCat will tell you what libraries have those materials all over the world, starting with the collections closest to you. Having your collection seen on WorldCat is a way for other libraries and patrons everywhere to know if you have a particular book, videotape or periodical. It's a shared source of information – once a bibliographic reference is online, others can note that they have it too.

EC: So people can find materials in our collection without even knowing that the Gay Alliance exists.

GS: Yes.

EC: In the past you have had open houses with book sales and readings by local authors. Any plans coming up in 2012?

GS: We'd like to have an open house in the spring, once the new shelves are up and everything is organized. It will probably be in April. Look for information in the March EC!

EC: What do you feel are the most valuable – in the sense of important and useful – contents of the collection?

GS: I think the fact that we have a book or DVD that's going to help someone deal with coming out, or with a relationship issue, or exploring trans issues – that is the most valuable thing. It can be a different item for each individual, based on their own needs.

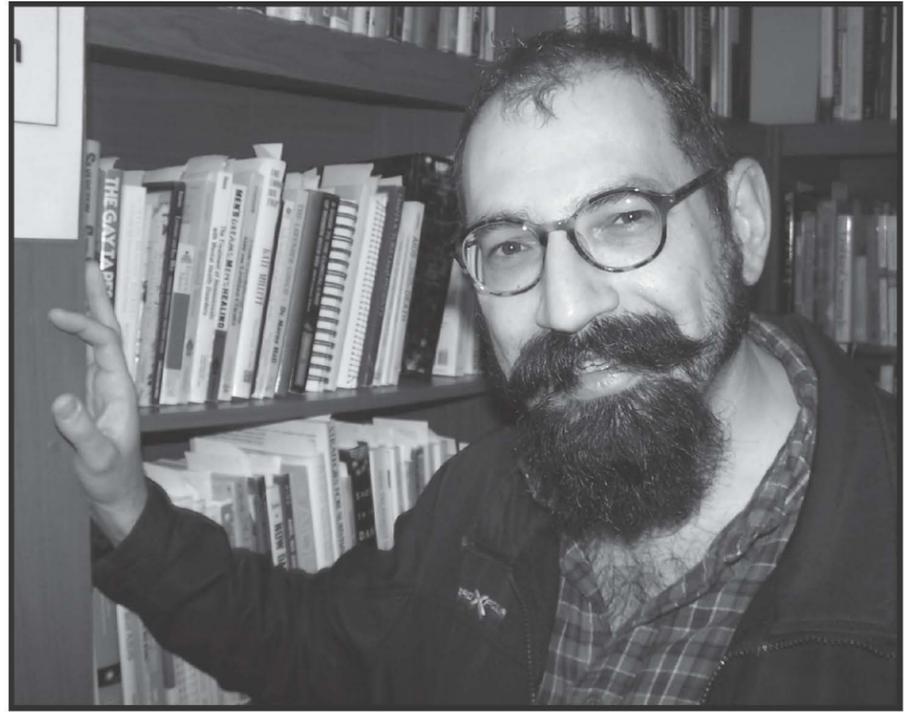
For some things, the most recent publications are best – like medical or legal issues. But we've found a lot of things are universal, and older items that show how things were, and how viewpoints and laws and medical research have changed over the years, can be equally useful.

It's sort of the cultural history of our tribe.

EC: What would you like people in our local community to know about the library and the archives?

GS: I'd want to make sure that everyone is aware of our existence and hours and all that, but also that there are people here who are knowledgeable about the collection and how it can be used both for education and entertainment – like recommending a book to take to the beach.

Almost everything circulates. Almost everyone brings back their materials. We do keep track of that – it's great to have



Gerry Szymanski. Photo: Susan Jordan

a way to keep track of it. And everyone brings the materials back – we don't have to have fines. If something is overdue, all we have to do is call; we get people's phone numbers when they check things out and they bring the items in right away.

It's all volunteers taking care of the collection and helping to move it forward.

EC: Which brings up the question, what kind of tasks do the volunteers do, do they have to have professional experience, and how do they contact us to get involved?

GS: We do have some professional cataloguers, and they work on adding items to LibraryThing (online site). But volunteers don't have to have any library experience. We always need volunteers for processing gifts, adding magazines to the collection, re-housing the old Empty Closets downstairs in the archives, and organizing archival materials.

It's a huge group effort.

People interested in volunteering should contact Jeannie Gainsburg at jeannie@gayalliance.org or 244-8640 ext 14.

EC: Anything you'd like to add?

GS: Just the fact that we've really tried to integrate the Library and Archive into the community. We have a presence in *The Empty Closet*, we have sponsored ImageOut films for the past five years, we were in the Pride Parade, Festival and Picnic. We've had our open houses and sales. We're really trying to reach out to the community and make sure they know we're here.

*Gay Alliance Library hours are Sunday, 3-5 p.m. and Monday and Wednesday, 6-8 p.m. The Library is located on the first floor of the Auditorium Center, 875 E. Main St., next door to the Youth Center. Two computers with Internet access are available as part of the David Bohnett Cyber Center. ■*

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**(Out & Equal from page 3)**

civil rights cannot become the domain of those who seek to turn back the proverbial clock and deny those rights to people just because of their sexual orientation.”

The Thursday evening gala dinner was hosted by Kate Clinton. The dinner opened with music by the 120-person Turtle Creek Chorale of Dallas. Broadway star Wilson Cruz spoke about working as an out gay actor for 19 years, and bisexual comic Margaret Cho energized the audience with her humor. “Everyone should have rights. And by rights, I mean bi rights,” Cho said.

Dallas, with its many shops and gay clubs, was warm and welcoming.

**(ESPA from page 1)**

Kaelyn Rich of the NYCLU had just come from the Planned Parenthood luncheon where she had heard Gloria Steinem speak. Steinem’s point that all justice and equality issues are interconnected reminded Rich of the words of another leader – Leslie Feinberg, author of *Transgender Warriors* and many other books. Rich asked, “What connects us?” and emphasized, “We need clear protection for trans and gender variant people.”

Alden Bashaw gave full information on many trans issues including the status of GENDA and the FBI statistics on hate crimes, which show that the people at most risk of all are trans people of color. He suggested that gay men, bisexuals and lesbians “think about how we look at gender structures... There is a lot of fluidity to gender expression.”

Bashaw spoke about the TRANscribe Project, a collection by ESPA and the NYCLU of personal stories online told in the words of trans, gender non-conforming, intersex and allied New Yorkers. The personal stories challenge stereotypes, reveal the discrimination faced by gender variant people and highlight their successes. For more information, and to

share your story, go to [www.prideagenda.org/story](http://www.prideagenda.org/story) or contact Christopher Argyros, ESPA Transgender Rights Organizer, at [cargyros@prideagenda.org](mailto:cargyros@prideagenda.org) or by calling 518-649-8140.

Kelly Clark, Gay Alliance Community Safety Director, said, “The basic reality transgender people face is that being at the intersection of race, class, poverty and gender identity is very dangerous.” Transgender people who are low income or people of color are at greatest risk of extreme hate violence. She described an online site, TransRespect vs. Transphobia, which includes a Google Earth map of transgender murders around the world. “Looking at the map, you get a visceral reaction,” she said. She noted that some countries are shown as having no murders, but that is because in those countries such crimes are not considered important enough to be recorded.

Clark also spoke about the work the Gay Alliance does on trans rights. She herself always mentions transgender issues and information at her presentations, such as a recent workshop at the Public Defender’s office, at which she raised awareness that if trans people call police when they are in danger, they themselves often end up being treated as criminals.

Clark said that in schools queer youth are bullied because of “gender boxes” – if kids don’t fit in their “proper” boxes they are targeted. Stereotypes about gender affect all LGBT people.

Clark ended by calling for a moment of silence “to reflect on the violence and remember those who have passed on... anyone who has the courage to lead an authentic life... should be celebrated as a model for all of us.”

Finally, GAGV Speakers Bureau member Patrick Pitoni gave part of his personal story. “In my teen years, I was female,” he said, “and I identified as gay.” He was often harassed and bullied. Patrick did not transition until much later in life. He said, “There are so many voices out there that are gone.” ■



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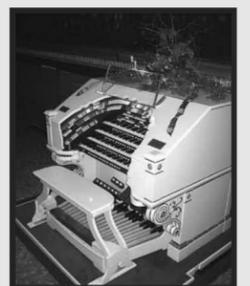
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**(Trans from page 1)**

The event will take place from 7-9 p.m. at the Gay Alliance Youth Center.

Barres said that, although the 2008 poll showed strong support for GENDA, and it might have passed in June 2009 if not for the upheaval in Albany at that time, conservative opponents of gay rights have since demonized civil right protections for trans New Yorkers as “the bathroom bill” and GENDA is not expected to be allowed on the floor of the Republican-dominated Senate for a vote anytime soon.

“The 2008 poll is a long time ago,” Barres said, “and what happened at that point is that opponents started telling all kinds of lies about what would happen if GENDA passed. Over 100 municipalities across the country have non-discrimination laws that include trans people, and the terrible things our opponents predicted have not come to pass. There’s no reason why they would in NYS.”

She continued, “We need to keep educating the entire community about the necessity of non-discrimination legislation based on gender expression and identity. Gay men, lesbians and bisexuals need to realize that this affects not only transgender people, but also gays, lesbians, bisexuals and even straight people – anyone whose personal expression is ‘too masculine’ or ‘too feminine’ based on the stereotype associated with their birth sex – or the sex assigned to them at birth.”

The focus of the panel discussion is to

get information about the diverse transgender community across to gays, lesbians and bisexuals -- and to give both them and trans people the tools to lobby successfully for the basic civil rights protections included in GENDA, such as the right to be hired for a job, to buy a home, to rent an apartment, and so on – all the rights the New York LGB community won with SONDA.

“We’re all in this together,” Barres says. “A lot of trans people were involved in the fight for marriage equality. Now we need support from our gay, lesbian and bi brothers and sisters. Also, trans people need to know how to stand up for our own rights. If we’re invisible because of our fear of discrimination, we can’t get a law passed to protect us from that discrimination.”

“The Republican Senate is afraid of the issue,” Barres continued. “The only thing that will motivate them to move GENDA forward is if they see a lot of people who are interested in moving this bill. That’s why we need the energy of many diverse people calling and writing their senators, as happened with marriage equality.”

Barres hopes that the panel will provide information to Gs, Ls and Bs on transgender life and issues, and to everyone on the most effective ways to lobby and to talk to non-gays. She says, “We need to educate people that GENDA is not about bathrooms – it’s about PEOPLE. We need to learn not to even bring

up that word – but if others do, we need to know how to respond!” ■

**(ROC from page 1)**

day.org/Agency/GayAlliance.

Find more information and register at www.ROCtheDay.org. This site shows a moving countdown and more about the details of the day and provides sign-up for registration and donation email reminders.

ROC the Day is powered by United Way of Greater Rochester with sponsorship support from ESL Federal Credit Union. Additional ROC the Day community partners include Ad Council of Rochester, Association of Fundraising Professionals, Genesee Valley Chapter, City of Rochester, Council of Agency Executives, County of Monroe, The Farash Foundation, Greater Rochester Health Foundation, The Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester, RocCity Coalition and Rochester Area Community Foundation.

Every hour throughout ROC the Day, one ROCstar donor will be chosen to receive an additional \$500 added to their gift for the charities of their choice. ■

**(GOP from page 1)**

a paltry 32.5 percent bothered to cast their ballots. In the city, just 25 percent of its 92,000 registered voters went to the polls.

Although Democratic challenger Sandy Frankel did not unseat the divisive Maggie Brooks for Monroe County Executive, ADA Sandra Doorley won the District Attorney’s race by trouncing Brooks’ protégé Bill Taylor by a 16 percent margin. Also, in the only other countywide race for Monroe County Court Judge, ADA Doug Randall soundly defeated Greece Town Justice Gino Nitti.

Still, there’s no disputing that suburban Monroe County voters ignored the

scandals and supported the local GOP. Republicans held onto the county executive’s office, took two seats away from the Democratic caucus in the County Legislature and won most town and village races. The Republican caucus in the County Legislature now holds an 18-11 majority.

There were two local gay city council candidates on the ballot this year and they did not fare well. Republicans Rich Tyson and Andreas Rau attempted to unseat two very popular incumbents, Elaine Spaul and Carla Palumbo. Both Spaul and Palumbo are staunch supporters of the gay community. Moreover, Rochester is a city where a Republican hasn’t held office since 1988 (almost as long as most county towns and villages have had Republican administrations – although some, like Perinton, have had Republican control for over 90 years).

**Around the nation**

For the middleclass, the most important election result was in Ohio, where voters overwhelmingly defeated Gov. John Kasich’s bill to strip public employee unions of essential bargaining rights. A year ago, no one would have predicted that standing up for the interests of government workers would galvanize and mobilize voters on this scale. Anti-labor conservatives have brought class politics back to life, a major threat to a GOP that has long depended on the ballots of white working-class voters and offered them nothing in return.

In Maine, voters exercised what that state calls a “people’s veto” to undo a Republican-passed law that would have ended same-day voter registration, which served Maine well for almost four decades. GOP-lead legislatures are trying to manipulate future elections by making it harder for young and minority voters to cast ballots, and by trying to break the political power of unions. The votes in Maine and Ohio rebuked this strategy.

In Mississippi, perhaps the most conservative state in the union, voters beat

**(GOP continues on page 16)**

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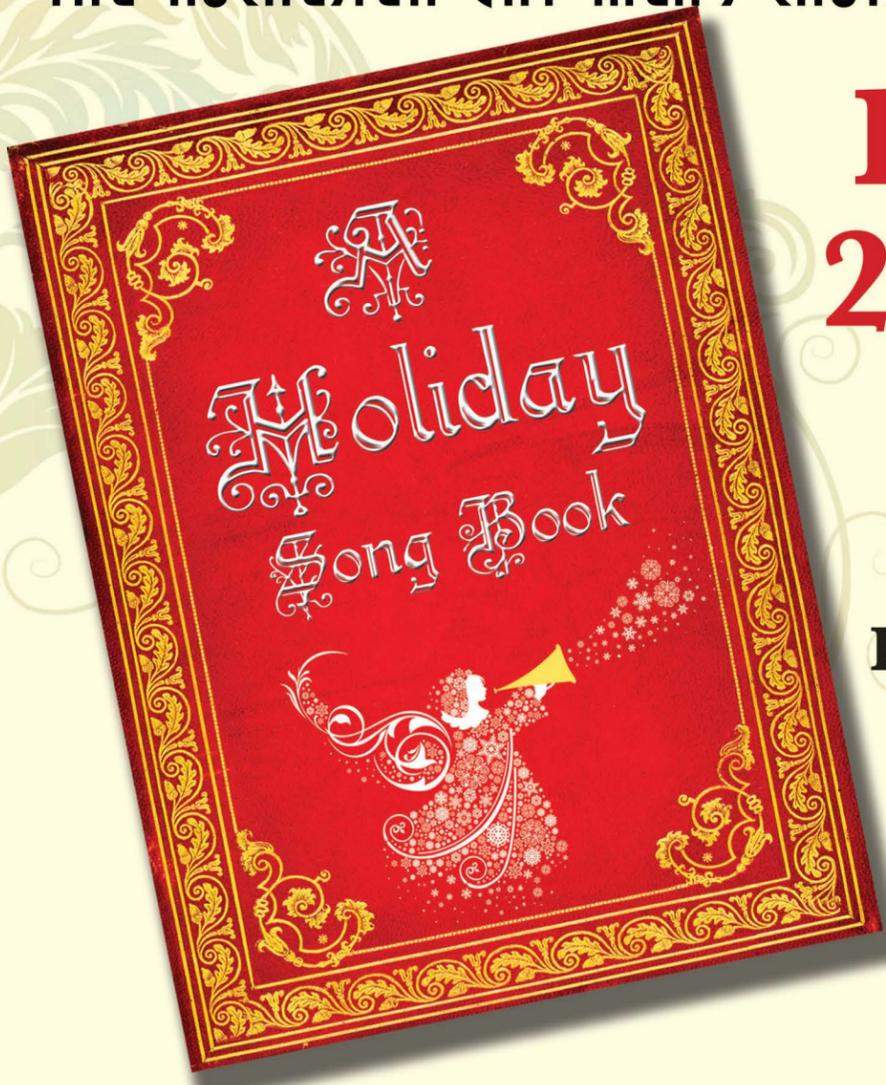


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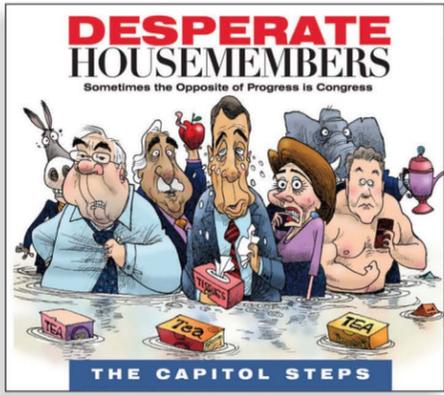
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instrumental band with only their five voices. From Elvis's 1956 remake of the R&B classic "Hound Dog" to '70s disco tunes such as "Stayin' Alive" by the Bee Gees or '80s dance-pop/R&B hits like Michael Jackson's "Billie Jean," you simply have to hear it to believe it. A fun-filled evening with multigenerational appeal.

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**ARE YOU AS QUEER AS A \$3 BILL?**



**Update: From our Kick Off at ImageOut on October 10 As of 11/11/11 Total Donations From \$3 Bill Campaign = \$964**

Today *Shoulders To Stand On* announces a \$10,000 Matching Donation. Mr. Anthony Mascioli will match all monies that are donated to *Shoulders To Stand On* between December 2, 2011 and January 15, 2012 that total \$10,000. A Rochester success story, Tony was born in Rochester, left Rochester and in 1974 opened the Wall Street Sauna in New York City with two other partners. Tony now splits his time between Rochester and Ft. Lauderdale.

**Shoulders To Stand On is at a critical point in its fundraising efforts. WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

**THE GOAL:**

Have every LGBT person or straight ally in the Rochester region contribute at least \$3 to help us raise \$120,000. **BE A PART OF THE BIG PICTURE:** help us complete our documentary in time for the 20th Anniversary ImageOut Film Festival in 2012.

Make a donation online: <http://www.gayalliance.org/shoulders-support.html>  
 Mail your contribution: \$3 Bill Campaign, *Shoulders to Stand On*,  
 Gay Alliance, 875 E. Main St. Rochester, New York 14605

Tony is one of the Rochester "shoulders" that Kevin Indovino and Evelyn Bailey are doing pretaping interviews with for the 90 minute documentary entitled "*Shoulders To Stand On: A History of the Gay Community in Rochester, New York*" to be completed for the 20th Anniversary of the ImageOut Film Festival in 2012. The groundwork has been laid for the research necessary to accurately and thoroughly document our history through the digitization of *The Empty Closet*. To be inclusive of all members of the community, the Gay Alliance has received two New York State Archives Grants to establish a Funding Aid to assist in locating and identifying many of the 260 LGBT records of various individuals, groups, organizations and agencies. Of these 260 we have updated contact information for 154. The Empty Closet and the LGBT records from these individuals, groups, organizations and agencies are primary source material. These materials document the history of the LGBT community in Rochester, NY. From these materials, and the oral histories being tape recorded and archived, the Gay Alliance is pursuing preserving the LGBT history of our community with urgency and diligence.

Always looking to the future, and the future needs of our community, what is the next step after the documentary is completed? With the documentary, *Shoulders To Stand On* will prepare an educational kit for the 90-minute documentary to be used and incorporated into local history courses in grades K-12, in college local history programs, in teacher training diversity programs, and in corporate diversity programs – a kind of Gay History 101. This piece is equally important as the documentary itself.

As Kevin and Evelyn talk to our "elders" in the community, it is clear that the gay experience of the '50's, '60's, '70's and '80's here in Rochester was vastly different from today. The documentary will explore these differences, and will try to paint a clear picture of those times for past and future generations to gain an appreciation of the struggles the community went through to create the gay friendly environment Rochester enjoys today. Do not misunderstand – Rochester is not perfect. Many of our young people experience bullying on a daily basis and they do not feel safe. Our seniors are concerned about being accepted for whom they are, and many feel compelled to return to the closet due to a myriad of financial and health care issues. That being said, Rochester has come a long way in a very short period of time because of the efforts of Rochester businesses, churches, political leaders, gay organizations and YOU. There is still much to do to secure freedom from homophobia for our young people, our aging population and our transgender community. Our past experiences and current experiences individually and personally are not that different. Documenting and preserving our history provides a road map to future successes in improving the quality of life for all Rochesterians.

SO ... What can YOU do? How can YOU Help?

First and foremost be yourself – lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender! THEN, with the energy generated by that freedom, CONTRIBUTE and GET INVOLVED!

**CONTRIBUTE**

Financially *Support Shoulders to Stand On* - Donate on line at: <http://www.gayalliance.org/shoulders-support.html>

Mail your contribution: \$3 Bill Campaign  
*Shoulders to Stand On*  
 Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley  
 875 E. Main St., Suite 500  
 Rochester, New York 14605

Start emptying your closets – bring your gay memorabilia, scrap books, other written documents, books and magazines to the Gay Alliance.

**GET INVOLVED** Go to [www.ShouldersToStandOn.org](http://www.ShouldersToStandOn.org) to volunteer.

This community project belongs to all of us. All of our "shoulders" are needed to accomplish our immediate goal of raising \$120,000 to complete our 90-minute documentary in time for the 20th Anniversary ImageOut Film Festival in 2012. With Tony's financial support to match donations that total \$10,000 *Shoulders To Stand On* fundraising efforts have the promise of success. *Shoulders To Stand On* is proud to be a program of the Gay Alliance, and proud of the many "shoulders" already involved in supporting this project. Be a part of this historic documentary: **CONTRIBUTE – GET INVOLVED!!!**

# Shoulders to Stand On

## 40 years of *The Empty Closet* are digitized!

The official launch was Tuesday, Nov. 15 – the University of Rochester has uploaded, indexed and completed the necessary links – Empty Closet newspapers from January, 1971 through April, 2010 will be accessible through U. of R. server for online search engines to access!

In April 2010, the Gay Alliance, in partnership with the University of Rochester's Rare Books and Manuscript department, moved forward on digitizing *The Empty Closet* for research purposes and to preserve this primary source for Rochester LGBT history. Richard Peek, Director of the Rare Books and Manuscript Department offered to have the University pay for the microfilming. *Shoulders To Stand On* raised the remainder of the funds for digitization.

This project began in 2007 with Michael Robertson writing a grant for the microfilming and digitization of *The Empty Closet*. The grant was submitted to the Rochester Area Community Foundation, but was not approved. For the next four years many more grants were written to no avail.

Finally in February of 2010, Richard Peek, Director of the Rare Books and

Manuscript Department at the University of Rochester offered to have the University fund the microfilming. *Shoulders To Stand On* raised the funds to digitize. The goal of making *The Empty Closet* past issues available for research and reading by the people all over the world which began four years ago is now a reality.

A very special thanks goes to Melissa Mead, Director, Digital Projects Research Center at University of Rochester for her persistent steady progress in making this happen. Special thanks also to Richard Peek and those who contributed financially to the digitization of the EC: John Dash, Michael Robertson, Jay Baker, Tim Mains, Toni Mascioli, Ron Pawalczak, Bill Kelly/Rick Easterly, Jeff Markarian, Mary McCrank and Mark Siwiec.

This is an accomplishment which gives the Rochester LGBT community a reason to be PROUD. *The Empty Closet* is primary source material for the history of our community. *The Empty Closet* provides the most complete and thorough record of the gay liberation movement in Rochester. Placing the past 40 years of Empty Closet issues on-line is a major step in securing our place in the history of Rochester, Upstate New York, the State of New York and the Nation. Enjoy reading and researching YOUR history. ■

## History Corner



### December/January

Merry Christmas!

From the *U of R Campus Times* 1970:

Friday, Dec: 4, 1970. Page 3 article. "UR Gay Liberation Front to Analyze Institutions". Listed events include: rap session (12/12), doctor on venereal disease in upstate New York (1/9/1971), psychologist on psychology of homosexuality (1/23), group discussion of gay literature (2/6), panel of clergymen on sexuality and human rights (2/26), a study of homosexuality in segregated institutions (3/6).

Notices: GAY LIBERATION FRONT: Special panel discussion with leaders of New York City and Philadelphia gay liberation groups. Dec. 5, upper Todd, 7:30.

Friday, Dec: 11, 1970: Events. Saturday, December 12. UR Gay Liberation Front to present Mark Ruben of New York Gay Activists' Alliance in a general discussion of liberation tactics in Rochester, upper Todd, 7:30.

Happy New Year!

From January 1971 First Edition of *The Empty Closet*:

Calendar: Continuing Events: Sundays—the Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier meets alternate Sundays in Buffalo at the Unitarian Church on West Ferry. U.H. Women's liberation meets Sundays at 7:30 in Anthony Lounge.

Wednesdays—The Cornell Gay Liberation Front meets Wednesday nights in Ithaca in Anabel Taylor Hall on the Cornell campus.

Saturdays—Rochester Gay Liberation Front meetings weekly, 7:30 pm in Todd Hall, second floor, on the University of Rochester river campus.

Dec. 5 : Gay Liberation Now—talk on the Movement by members of the New York City and the Philadelphia Gay Liberation Fronts.

Dec. 12: Rap Session -- Whither gay liberation in Rochester; in the world? What can we do? What must we do?

Jan. 9: Venereal Disease -- a doctor talks on the problem in upstate New York, and some solutions.

Jan. 23: Psychology Of Homosexuality -- a psychologist attempts to bridge the communications gap between the clinic and the real world.



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# Your Wedding Resource Center



The Riverside Convention Center.

## A Grand Affair: The Rochester Riverside Convention Center

By Eve Elzenga

I'm very excited. One of the wedding couples utilizing my services in 2012 has decided to have their wedding and reception at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center (RRCC).

This has been a favorite venue of mine since I danced in the Riverside Court the night the place officially opened in 1985. The scale is grand but the atmosphere is intimate. Those soaring ceilings and dramatic views make you both excited and proud to be in downtown Rochester. And while the space can accommodate the largest events in the Region, there are rooms and areas that can host smaller parties with the same dramatic impact. There is even an outdoor component – terraces overlooking the River and Downtown vistas. It feels so urban. It's a perfect site for a summer wedding or cocktail reception.

The Convention center is impeccably maintained – imagine what it must be like to keep that place clean? -- and the staff is just fabulous. Many members of the management and food service team have been in their jobs for decades now. They are dedicated, loyal and talented people who work with clients and strive to deliver first-rate productions. They do not disappoint. They even have an award winning pastry chief who can

create any wedding cake that you can imagine.

And the Center has a secret operative: Jessie Lucas, Creative Director of Riverside Productions, an arm of the RRCC. Created in 1996, this company offers full service event planning in the areas of theme and décor. From stage sets, to lighting, floral design to table linens, this is a one-stop-shop of excitement, beauty and innovation. Jessie also designs for client parties at any venue in New York and out of state too.

The sales and catering director, David Carpenter, and his excellent staff define service at its best. David has been at the RRCC since 1992 and oversees booking and planning for gatherings from 20 to 5000 people. While he belongs to a number of food, hotel and tourism organizations, his coolest title is Maitre de Table Hotelier, conferred on him by the International Society of Gastronomes founded in 1248! This man knows his business.

My clients are being married in Riverside Court, between those two huge marble pillars salvaged years ago from the Security Trust Bank. The Genesee River and big-sky views will frame them and delight their guests on an April afternoon. The cocktail reception will happen in an adjacent window-lit corridor with more river views. But with just 75 guests, the dinner reception -- beginning at dusk -- moves into a newly refurbished banquet room off the main lobby. The feeling there

will be personal, intimate and very big city.

*Eve Elzenga is a freelance writer and owns NYGayWedding-Consultant.com.*

## Ask the New York Gay Wedding Consultant

By Eve Elzenga

Planning a wedding?

Whether you have been together for 35 years or three, planning a wedding is a big deal. And it's a lot of work and expense -- even if you elope.

That's why my first piece of advice to any couple is to know who you are dealing with in terms of vendors, venues and the political and business practices of those individuals and companies. You want to work with people who respect and understand you and who are truly happy for you.

Legalizing gay marriage in New York has opened new opportunities to non-gay and non-gay friendly vendors in the State. While they may not like or approve of us, suddenly they love our money. Many are disappointed already. They thought the gay community would leap on marriage without giving it the deep and serious consideration it requires. They were wrong. We are a smart and savvy community. That extends to whom we choose to do business with.

Ask any wedding vendor you meet with -- at a venue, an officiant, a photographer, musician, caterer, florist, etc. -- if their company/business is gay owned, gay friendly and has gay staff. Ask for references from other gay couples who have used their services. Hire talented, creative people within our community whenever you can. We have always supported each other.

Yikes! I never thought I would plan a wedding. What do I do now?

Marriage is a big step. The wedding is the celebration. Once you decide that marriage is the right decision for you, enjoy the process of planning this event. Give yourself time to develop a plan that is right for you as a couple. If casual and relaxed works for you, go for it. Just remember that casual doesn't mean sloppy and unplanned. For a fun, stress-free day, you

still need organization so the food makes it to the reception site. If fancy and formal is more your style, engage professionals who can make that happen seamlessly for you.

Whatever your wishes, plan a realistic budget, vow to stick to it and go from there. Get a notebook with pockets and pages and begin making notes about what you like, what you want and what you can afford on your budget. Begin gathering ideas and photos of party/wedding images you see in magazines that fit your style. And consider meeting with a wedding consultant to help you focus on your plan. This is an inexpensive investment and it will save you money in the long run.

Remember to have fun.

I want to save money. Where can I cut back?

Not on photography. When the final toast is made, the cake is down to crumbs and the last dance is over, you only have one thing left to remember the day: photos. In these days of tight budgets and point-and-shoot cameras, the temptation is to forego professional photos. Don't do it. While your best friend or uncle is well-intentioned, they don't have the skill, experience and professional photo equipment to capture your day. Photos you have taken by a professional are an investment in your family history, a record of your personal joy and they make great gifts for the first holiday season too. They also save friendships and prevent family disputes when their photos don't turn out the way you thought they would.

*Please send your wedding planning questions to the NY Gay Wedding Consultant. They'll be answered in the next issue of the Empty Closet.*

## The Perfect Gay Wedding Song

Searching for a 21st century song? "There's a Small Hotel" seems like the perfect gay wedding anthem. Richard Rodgers could never have imagined it when he composed the song in 1936. The lyrics, written by Lorenz Hart, were originally for the musical "Billy Rose's Jumbo". Instead, it was used in *On Your Toes*, starring Ray Bolger and Doris Carson. Revived

by Frank Sinatra-Nelson Riddle for Pal Joey in 1957, it has new meaning today. Here are the lyrics:

### There's A Small Hotel

I'd like to get away, Junior  
Somewhere alone with you  
It could be oh, so gay, Junior  
You need a laugh or two

A certain place I know, Frankie  
Where funny people can have  
fun

That's where the two will go,  
Darling

Before you can count up  
One, two, three. For ...

There's a small hotel  
With a wishing well  
I wish that we were there  
together

There's a bridal suite  
One room bright and neat  
Complete for us to share together

Looking through the window  
You can see a distant steeple  
Not a sign of people -- who  
wants people?

When the steeple bell says,  
"Good night, sleep well,"  
We'll thank the small hotel together

We'll creep into our little shell  
And we will thank the small hotel  
together

## Who says technology isn't romantic? Wedding inspiration is a click away

By Eve Elzenga

Use the Internet for ideas and practical help in planning your wedding. It's a great tool to get you started, find resources, explore wedding venues and cultural customs, blog, post photos, share advice and have fun.

Here are a few sites to check out:

SoYoureEnGayged.com, a blog site that shares funny and touching stories of wedding planning, exclusively in the gay community. The stories are witty, irreverent and true-to-life. If you've got the time, you can recount your own experiences or you can just be a voyeur and learn from the mistakes of others.

RealSimple.com has a great wedding checklist. It's practical-



Eve Elzenga

NY Gay Wedding  
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cal, sound, thoughtful, free, and really useful.

Jewish-Wedding-Planner.com is a how-to of information including marriage traditions, instruction on the components necessary for the ceremony, the order of the processional and recessional and lots more interesting and needed information.

PaperlessPost.com lets you design your own custom invitations, select envelope colors and fabulous paper liners and then send them via email.

TheKnot.com, that bastion of all things wedding, now has a gay wedding section. OK, The Knot is suburban and hetro but it has lots of info, vendors and it's all trendy things.

StyleMePretty.com is a visual feast of ideas for locations, table settings, florals, decorations, favors and anything else that can make a wedding personal and interesting.

## A Finger Lakes find: Glenora Wine Cellars

By Eve Elzenga

We are so lucky to live in Upstate NY. We have the beautiful Finger Lakes and all that lovely award-winning wine flowing from the rolling hills. What a place to hold a romantic wedding -- and Glenora Wine Cellars is the quintessential Finger Lakes destination.

Sited on a rise that offers panoramic vistas of vineyards, Seneca Lake and majestic sky, Glenora has everything a couple could hope for: a rustic yet sophisticated Inn made of stone, wood and iron; a second floor outdoor terrace with striking views of the vineyards below and the lake beyond; a "great room" complete with fireplace and a bar; outstanding cuisine and expansive, world-class wine; 30 well-appointed guest rooms; dedicated, knowledgeable and engaging staff and loads of picture taking possibilities.

Begun in 1977, Glenora was the first winery to open on Seneca Lake. The owners were visionaries and it paid off.

Over the decades, the Cellars has expanded to meet demand for its Wine Spectator award-winning products and for its divine location. People travel from around the world to tour, taste and dine. The wine production and inn staff even put out an informative and charming weekly newspaper detailing wine production, weather conditions, grape growth rates, special events and congratulations to wedding couples.

I have attended a half-dozen weddings at Glenora and each has been unforgettable. From picture-perfect bright-blue skies to stormy, rainy days, nature's drama never disappoints at this location. The covered terrace is a beautiful but protected venue for a ceremony. Then it doubles as a reception space and dance floor. The Great Room, actually the Inn's restaurant Veraisons, is the reception area. It includes a dance floor and an intimate, freestanding, enclosed bar. But it's the staff that ultimately impress. They love what they do and do it with finesse. These are people who want to celebrate you.

If you are looking for a wedding destination close to home that feels like a world away, visit Glenora soon. For more, go to [www.Glenora.com](http://www.Glenora.com)

## Those small hotels of Rochester

Smaller, independent and boutique hotels are the perfect venue for intimate weddings of close family and friends. Not only can these hotels provide ceremony and reception space, they offer overnight accommodations for everyone from tipsy guests to your grandmother. And they can provide a breakfast or brunch the next morning. In the Rochester area we're lucky to have three great properties, each offering distinct amenities.

**Woodcliff Hotel and Spa.** Perched high on a hill in Fairport, Woodcliff offers fabulous views of the City of Rochester and the surrounding region. A lovely outdoor ceremony location is nestled in a colorful gar-



The Strathallan.



The Marriott.

den punctuated with dramatic boulders. Adjacent to this is a contemporary pool/patio area and a copper-roofed gazebo. The patio is perfect for cocktail receptions and the gazebo makes a great background for photos. Inside there is a gracious reception area off the lobby. The ballroom can accommodate up to 200 people for a seated reception. In the warm weather months an outdoor tent can hold 275 guests.

Woodcliff boasts an in-house pastry chef who has won many culinary competitions and can create a custom cake to match our theme. Wine selection and service is excellent and the food is inventive. And there is a full-service spa. You don't need to

leave this property to have all your wedding needs met. This is a gay-friendly property and many of the staff members belong to our community. Woodcliff-hotelspa.com.



Woodcliff.

**Strathallan Hotel.** In the heart of the East Avenue corridor, the once formal Strathallan has transformed itself into an urban boutique hotel in the last several years. Its informal atmosphere features casual furniture, contemporary colors, modern art and a great small restaurant. The main event space can hold 200 people for a sit down reception. The staff are welcoming, helpful and attentive to the needs of gay brides and grooms. Step outside and you have the beautiful and historic backdrops that line East Avenue – churches, homes, private clubs – for you and your wedding party to use for memory-making photos. This hotel has been accommodating the gay community since the 1980s, when lesbians used to convene on the rooftop at Hattie's Bar on Friday nights. The Strathallan has been a sponsor of Gay Pride since 2008.

**Rochester Marriott.** Walk inside the doors and you will be amazed by the sophistication and elegance of this hotel. The lobby, complete with fireplace, is beautifully appointed with marble floors, large windows, attractive furniture and artwork. It makes a great backdrop for photos. Through a set of French doors off the lobby is a lovely patio, great for warm weather drinks and pictures. The beautiful ballroom, featuring deep moldings and soft tones, can accommodate both ceremonies and dinner receptions for 250 guests.

An added bonus is a separate contemporary bar/lounge with handsome furnishings and an urban vibe. This area is available to bridal couples for cocktail hour. The event managers at this hotel are warm, welcoming and very gay-friendly and members of this hotel's upper management are part of our community. ■



Above and below: At Glenora Wine Cellars.



visitRochester



Dear Future Brides & Brides and Grooms & Grooms,

On behalf of VisitRochester's staff and our 400 plus members in the Hospitality and Tourism community let me congratulate you in advance on your monumental accomplishment and choice to partake in your long overdue right to marry!

Whether you are having your ceremony, reception and/or honeymoon here in Rochester and the Finger Lakes area, please know you, your family and friends will be warmly welcomed. You'll be supported every step of the way as you plan the celebration of your dreams. There are many traditional and unique venues for any and all types of gatherings here. Should you need lodging, event space, services, parties, dinners, brunches and the like in our region, you have many professionals that are eager to help.

I encourage you to explore our web site [www.VisitRochester.com](http://www.VisitRochester.com) and be in touch should I and/or my associates be able to assist you in any way. We are here to help you realize all you hoped your special day would be.

Until then, Happy Holidays and enjoy your journey to becoming Wife & Wife or Husband & Husband!

Hospitably Yours,

Michael J. Hardy,  
Director of Convention and Visitor Services,  
Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley Board Member  
and Past Rochester Pride Co Chair 2009, '10 and '11



P.S. Enjoy Rochester, for a weekend or a lifetime!

## LOCAL AND STATE

(Transplants continued from page 3)  
virologists alike.

Future directions for transplantation in people with HIV include increasing our experience with integrase inhibitors to minimize drug-drug interactions, beginning to study anti-HCV protease inhibitors in the HCV/HIV coinfecting population, continuing long term follow up of HIV-positive transplant recipients, and using the HIV-positive transplant experience to increase our knowledge of the basic molecular virology and pathophysiology of HIV infection. Here at URMC, we are actively assembling a team of surgeons, transplant nephrologists and hepatologists, HIV infectious disease experts, and pharmacists to begin offering kidney transplantation to people with HIV and possibly liver transplantation to HCV-negative people with HIV.

Dr. Barry can be contacted at [chris\\_barry@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:chris_barry@urmc.rochester.edu). ■

## NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

(NewsFronts from page 5)

Missoula.

Arizona: Daniel Hernandez, openly gay hero in the Gabrielle Giffords shooting, is elected to Tucson school board.

Massachusetts: Alex Morse, 22, is the youngest openly gay mayor (Holyoke).

Minnesota: Mary Doran is elected to St. Paul school board.

Connecticut: Openly gay Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra is re-elected. ■

(GOP continued from page 8)

back a referendum to declare a fertilized human egg a person by a margin of roughly 3-to-2. Here was another example of excessive overreach by the right-to-life

movement, which tried to get voters to endorse a measure that could have outlawed popular forms of birth control.

And in Iowa, Democrats held their state Senate majority by winning a special election that had been engineered by Republican Gov. Terry Branstad. A Republican victory over Democrat Liz Mathis would have opened the way for Branstad to push through a cut in corporate income taxes.

Mathis' defeat could also have allowed conservatives to amend the Iowa Constitution to ban same-sex marriage. Mathis prevailed with 56 percent, despite robo-calls from an obscure group instructing voters to ask Mathis which gay sex acts she endorsed. Who says the GOP has put the culture war behind them?

The election results underscored a momentum behind the power of labor unions and populist politics, the danger to conservatives of social-issue extremism and the fact that 2010 was no mandate for right-wing policies. The Tea Party is now officially over.

The 2011 elections also mean that if Republicans don't back away from an agenda that makes middle-class, middle-of-the-road Americans deeply uncomfortable -- and in some cases angry -- they will no doubt feel the wrath of an angry populace come 2012.

Openly gay and lesbian candidates endorsed by the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund won election to municipal, judicial and state legislative offices from coast to coast on election night. At least 53 of the group's 75 endorsees were victorious, with two races still undecided.

Candidates from Indianapolis, Cincinnati and Charlotte, N.C., made history of sorts, becoming the first openly gay or lesbian candidates to win city council seats in their respective districts. In Virginia, Adam Ebbin became the first openly gay person elected to the State Senate, and in New Jersey, Tim Eustace became the first non-incumbent openly gay candidate to win a seat in the State Assembly.

Of the 75 candidates endorsed by the Victory Fund in 2011, 46 were non-incumbents, 22 were women and 15 were people of color.

"The election of gay and lesbian candidates in places where they have never won before is a major step forward, and we could not be happier about these victories," said Chuck Wolfe, president and CEO of the Victory Fund. "All of the openly LGBT candidates who stepped up to run for office this year are true leaders who deserve our profound thanks."

The Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund works to elect LGBT leaders to public office.

#### 8 of 9 gay mayoral candidates win

Eight of nine openly gay candidates for mayor won on Election Day. In the most high profile race, Annise Parker, the incumbent Mayor of Houston secured 50 percent of the vote in a field of six candidates. None of her five opponents had anywhere near the funding or organization that Parker did.

However, going into the race, Parker had plenty of reasons to worry. In mid-October, a local television news poll found that voters were split on her effectiveness. Fifty percent rated her job performance in her first two-year term as either "Fair" or "Poor," while 47 percent rated it "Good" or "Excellent."

In an interview with a local news station (KHOU-TV), Parker attributed her poll split to people's anxiety around the economy.

"We have the worst economy here in Houston that we've had in decades and we have the worst economy that we've had nationally since the Great Depression," Parker told media sources. "I understand completely why people are anxious, unhappy. It is what it is."

KHOU noted the bulk of the low job performance scores came from Houston's unemployed and that mayors in other big cities around the country were polling similarly.

#### Attack ads still common

Right-wing groups that opposed Parker in 2009 tried again this year to portray her as a radical lesbian activist, but were unsuccessful in their attempt. They created several YouTube videos, some featuring her kissing her partner in public and slamming her identity in direct mail and televised ads.

Parker was not the only candidate who received harsh treatment this election cycle. A gay Republican running for Virginia Senate faced an unusual attack ad shortly before voters head to the polls on Election Day. He won anyway.

"Attacking openly gay candidates based on their sexual orientation is a time-worn strategy used by extremists," said Victory Fund spokesperson Denis Dison, "but it's becoming less and less acceptable, so now you see cowards doing it under fake names and fake organizations." ■

For more coverage of national election results, see page A 5 (Newsfronts) ■

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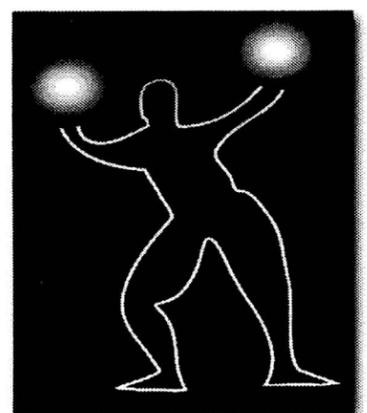


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# Making the Scene



**PRIDE AGENDA FALL DINNER:** L-R: Andrew London, Jennifer Newman, Mark Siwiec, NYS Sen. Jim Alesi, Pam Barres and Sue Cowell at the ESPA dinner in Manhattan in October.



**OCCUPY ROCHESTER I:** Pride at Work member and Empty Closet staff reporter Ove Overmyer in Washington Square Park in downtown Rochester, the site of Occupy Rochester. On Nov. 2, hundreds of citizens marched from the park to City Hall to protest the arrest of more than 50 Occupiers. Several days later, with the help of the NYCLU, City officials and Occupy Rochester agreed that Occupiers can remain in the park 24/7 with certain restrictions. Photo: Anne Tischer



**TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE:** The Pride Agenda and NYCLU hosted a rally on Nov. 15 in honor of the Transgender Day of Remembrance (Nov. 20) at the Auditorium Center (see page A 1). The speakers were, above L-R: Kelly Clark, Pam Barres, Pat Pitoni, KaeLyn Rich, Alden Bashaw. Photos: Karen Wilkins



Kelly Clark, GAGV Community Safety Director.



Alden Bashaw, Empire State Pride Agenda WNY organizer.



Pat Pitoni, Speakers Bureau volunteer.



KaeLyn Rich, NYCLU.



**OUT & EQUAL CONFERENCE:** Actress Meredith Baxter speaks about her coming out experience at the Out & Equal conference in Dallas, Oct. 25-28 (see page A 1). Photos: Jim Wilkins



Second from right: Kristof Jackson, GAGV intern, with friends.



Emily Jones at the podium.



Kevin Indovino of WXXI.



Emily Jones, Ralph Carter and Evelyn Bailey sign in at the Out & Equal conference.

# My Own Private Rochester



Sam loves the cold beer at the Bachelor Forum. Photo: Susan Jordan

## Sam Brett

By Susan Jordan

Sam Brett may be better known to many in the community as the glamorous Samantha Vega, who celebrated her fifth anniversary as Miss Gay Rochester at this year's pageant. When he is not performing at Tilt, Sam is a board member of AIDS-Care, a volunteer for the GAGV Youth Group, and a Hot Shot volleyball player.

Born in Caracas, Venezuela, the super-bright Sam won a national scholarship to MIT at age 15. Sam says, "My mom is a teacher, so I've been reading all my life. My dad is an electrical engineer. I've always loved science and am a science geek." He adds, "I have a t-shirt with the molecular structure of caffeine on the front and the molecular structure of alcohol on the back!"

Sam disliked MIT and transferred to RIT in 1994 to study bio technology. He loved RIT, but went back to Boston to get his graduate degree at the University of Massachusetts. Returning to R-town, he became Doug Rice's assistant on ArtWalk. "That was my connection to the non-profit world," he says.

These days Sam does drag for a living, having gone from genetic engineering to lip-synching. He says, "There's a very clear separation between Samantha Vega and



Sam on kitchen duty at AIDS-Care.

me – but considering that's my source of income, it does take a prominent place in my life."

Sam enjoys reading Magical Realism novels, like *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. He loves Broadway shows and music in general. "I think that for drag you need musicality and music has been a big part of my life. Now I perform at Tilt. I used to perform

at Muthers when Carlos was alive (Carlos Cruz, a.k.a. Naiomy Kane). We were very close, and he was more like my mother than my boss."

Sam took part in the memorial tribute drag show at 140 Alex after Carlos' death, and really tore the place apart. "The first time I ever saw Carlos perform," he says, "was when he won Miss Gay Rochester. At the show at 140 Alex, I replicated that original performance of his."

Sam volunteers for AIDS-Care and has been on the board of directors for three years. "I started volunteering for AIDS Rochester, as it then was, in 2000," he says. "I started in the kitchen at ARI and still do that at AIDS-Care, making sandwiches and salads and serving the hot meals supplied to us by Foodlink and the Red Cross. I'm fluent in Spanish and also sign ASL, so I use those skills for HIV testing. The people at AIDS-Care are like my family.



Sam/Samantha

"I also volunteer for the Gay Alliance Youth Group. I did the Big Gay Prom and was in food services for that too!"

Sam plays volleyball three days a week at Hot Shots. "Every day I go to the gym at Downtown Fitness Club. I did the Body Transformation Challenge and lost 25 lbs. in eight weeks. But more important than the weight loss is that exercise makes me feel good, and I've learned how to take care of my body."

Sam, who is single, shares an especially beautiful Victorian house in the Park Avenue area with several housemates. He says he is grateful that his housemates "put up with my glitter and drag queen mess."

Sam says, "When I go out, I have to go to places within walking distance because I don't have a car. I like Jines and Mark's Texas Hots. I love the Forum and go there after volleyball. I love the Forum because they have the coldest beer in town! Also it's a very casual, unassuming place – you can dress up or be in various stages of undress, but everyone is comfortable."

Sam sums up, "I've dedicated a third of my life to volunteering and would absolutely recommend it. It makes you feel good to help others." ■

# Miss Gay Rochester



MISS GAY ROCHESTER 2012: Fy Colby-Valentino is crowned Miss Gay Rochester by 2011 winner V'ta Valentino and pageant organizer Wayne Esposito (Liza) at the Harro East on Nov. 13. Photos: Jim Wilkins



MC Aggy Dune.



Keke Velasquez Lord.



Olympia.



Aneal Pleasures.



OCCUPY ROCHESTER II: Anne Tischer portrays the 1%. Photo: Bess Watts

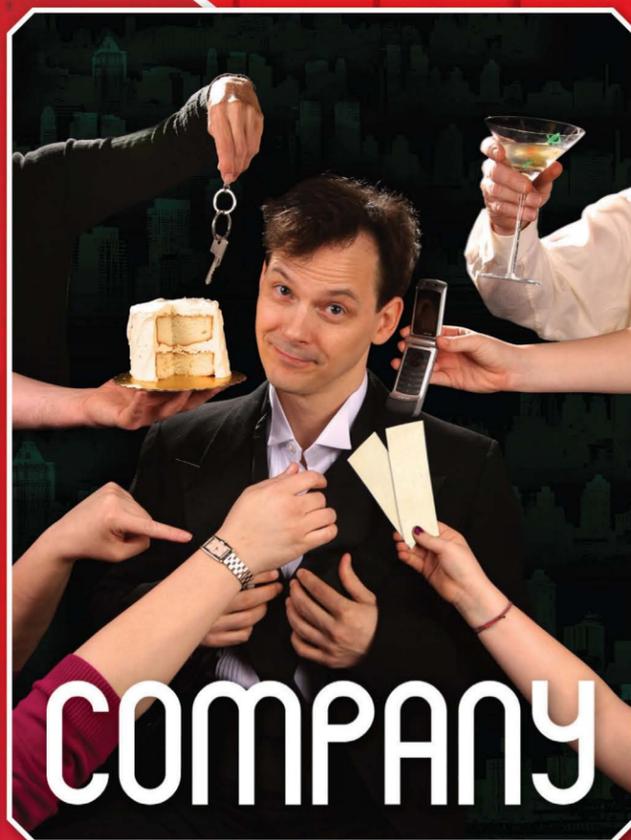
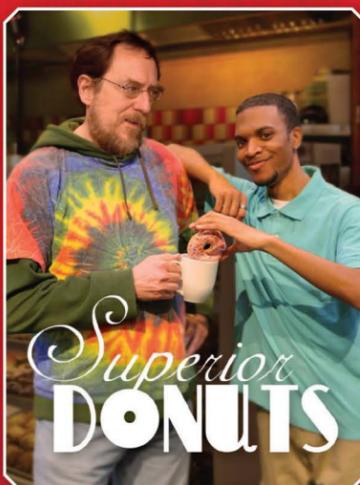
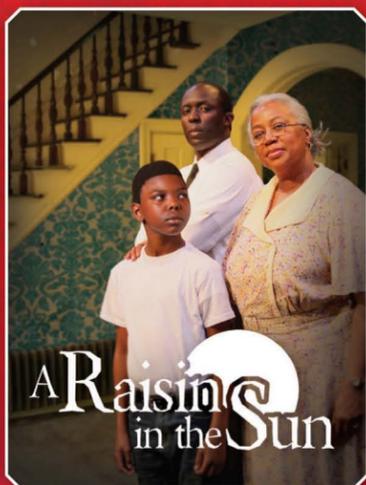


V'ta Valentino.

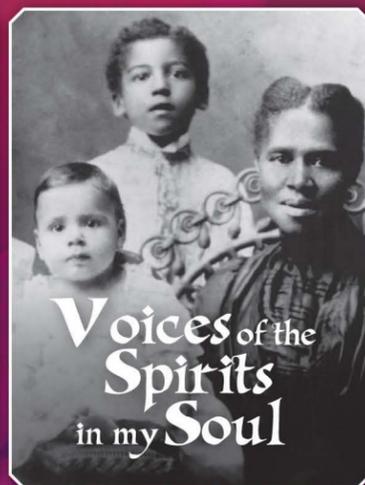
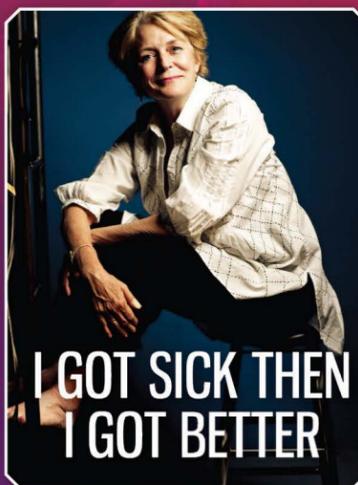
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Phyl Contestable as Reverend Mother.

## Join Schramm, Contestable and Mighty Wurlitzer for holiday Follies

Christmas musical favorites and “devilishly irreverent” comedy will take the stage at this year’s Christmas Follies show, sponsored by the Rochester Theater Organ Society (RTOS) on Sunday, Dec. 18 at 2:30 p.m. at the Auditorium Center, 885 East Main St.

Organist Tim Schramm will perform popular holiday tunes on the RTOS’ Mighty Wurlitzer pipe organ. He will be joined by special co-host Phyl Contestable as the Reverend Mother, along with guest performers Tim Burdick, Mark Daniels, Courtney Johnson, Alan Jones, Kelly Petro, Cecile Saine, Emmett Tross, Amy Walts and Luke Wilson.

The Christmas Follies Show is free to RTOS members and costs \$15 for non-members. Tickets are available online at [www.rtosonline.org](http://www.rtosonline.org), and they will be available at the door the day of the show.

### About Tim Schramm

The theater organ became Tim Schramm’s passion at the age of 10, when he was introduced to the Mighty Wurlitzer organ at the Auditorium Center. Since then, he has played at church services, weddings and funerals locally, as well as at organ dedications and theatre-organ concerts in the U.S., England and Canada. Currently

(Follies continues page 4)

## The perfect gift: The Dead Celebrity Cookbook

Jim Ver Steeg and Kasha Davis from Gay Sunday Brunch recently interviewed Frank DeCaro, radio talk show host and former film critic for The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, about his new work, “The Dead Celebrity Cookbook.”

If you haven’t heard the fun and entertaining podcasts recorded live at Equal Grounds Coffee House, be sure to check them out at [www.GaySunday-Brunch.com](http://www.GaySunday-Brunch.com).

“The Dead Celebrity Cookbook” is a perfect gift this holiday season. For more information visit [www.deadcelebrity-cookbook.com](http://www.deadcelebrity-cookbook.com).

Jim: Frank, thank you so much for joining us.

Frank: I’m so happy to be here. I love brunch and I haven’t had it yet, so I’m very happy to be here.



Frank deCaro.

Jim: Well I hope we’re not keeping you from your pitcher of mimosas.

Frank: No, no. I would never drink before coming on with you. I want to drink during the show, not before.

Kasha: Of course, I’m drinking right now. It wouldn’t be Sunday brunch without Kasha being a little sloshed.

Frank: You go, Kasha.

Jim: I want to jump right in. The big reason we want to talk to you is you just released a book of what I thought was a fabulous idea on your website: “The Dead Celebrity Cookbook: A Resurrection of Recipes from Over 145 Stars of Stage and Screen.” How did you do it? How did it all come together?

(Cookbook continues page 3)



Kelly Teal Goyette

## Behind the scenes at Shrek: Kelly Teal Goyette is Mama Ogre & Bear, dragon

By Susan Jordan

It’s not easy being green. Not to mention quickly becoming a bear or the voice of a dragon. Kelly Teal Goyette plays the roles of Mama Ogre, Mama Bear and Dragon in *Shrek*, at the Auditorium Theatre from Jan. 31 to Feb. 5.

Tickets are available through Ticketmaster.com, at 800-745-3000 and at the Auditorium Theatre box office ([www.rbt.org](http://www.rbt.org)).

Kelly says she is delighted to be in *Shrek!* National tours she has been part of include *Grease* (Miss Lynch), *Annie* (Mrs. Pugh, Miss Hannigan u/s). Regional: *The Pajama Game* (Mabel), *Beauty and the Beast* (The Wardrobe), *The Full Monty* (Vicki Nichols).

Kelly answered some ques-

tions from the EC about her career, *Shrek* and life on the road.

Empty Closet: Can you tell us a little about yourself – hometown, early life, interests, and why you chose show business as a career?

Kelly Teal Goyette: Sure! Well, I was born and raised in the surrounding area of Burlington, VT. It’s an amazing Indie/Hippie college town overlooking Lake Champlain and N.Y.’s Adirondack Mountains. Most of my early life was spent in the woods, building forts and tree houses, flying kites, hiking and bike riding. I loved playing sports (softball, soccer, basketball). My family and I lead a pretty typical New England life.

Growing up I never really thought about *being* a perform-



er. It was really just something I liked to do. All my friends were doing the after school shows, so that’s what I did. I remember seeing “The Little Mermaid” in theaters, getting the soundtrack and calling the neighbor kids

(Shrek continues page 3)



## Chorus concerts salute the holiday season with song

The Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus presents their annual Holiday Concert, “Holiday Songbook,” at 8 p.m. at the Hochstein Performance Hall, 50 Plymouth Ave. on Friday, Dec. 2 and Saturday, Dec. 3. Tickets are available at Parkleigh, Outlandish, The Creator’s Hands and Equal=Grounds.

The Rochester Women’s Community Chorus winter holiday concert, “Music in My Mother’s House,” will take place on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 7:30, at St. Anne’s Church, 1600 Mt. Hope Ave. The evening will include a silent auction. Tickets are 10/ adults; \$8/students, seniors; \$5 children and are available from RWCC members, at Parkleigh Pharmacy and Equal=Grounds and at the door. ■



AIDS Quilt panels will be on display Dec. 1-7.



## AIDS Quilt panels are at Equal Grounds

First Friday, Dec. 2, 2011

On Friday, Dec. 2, Equal=Grounds welcomes “The AIDS Memorial Quilt.”

John White and Harry Bronson, owners of Equal=Grounds, have brought in AIDS Memorial Quilt panels for one week each year for the past five years. This is the only time each year that panels of The AIDS Memorial Quilt are to be seen in Rochester. The panels will hang beginning Dec. 1, World AIDS Day and will remain up until Wednesday, Dec. 7.

The Gallery will also be showing posters courtesy of Rochester Victory Alliance at The University of Rochester.

Second Friday, Dec. 9, 2011

Opening Reception for Christopher Bill’s show “Dark Shadows” is Friday, Dec. 9, 7 to 9 p.m. at the Gallery @ Equal=Grounds.

When Christopher Bill made his recent move to Rochester from New York City, he brought with him a desire to show his work. His canvases are large and strikingly colorful and draw you into his world with its depth and perspective, which he calls “hyper-realism.”

Christopher takes his original image as a starting point and begins to paint, layer after layer drawing you into his world more deeply. ■



The Harley School cast of “The Laramie Project” meets with Judy Shepard (center rear). Maria Scipione is back row, right.

## Harley School cast of Laramie Project meets Judy Shepard, Matthew’s mom

By Susan Jordan

Students at the Harley School performed *The Laramie Project* in November, directed by Maria Scipione. The students were also able to travel to Buffalo and meet Matthew Shepard’s mother, Judy. They shared some of their feelings and thoughts with the EC on the after-

(Harley continues page 4)



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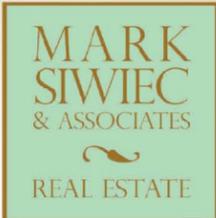
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*(Shrek continued from page 1)*

to come help me act it out. I, of course, would play Ariel.

I didn't realize that I *lived* for theater and performing until high school. I had a lead in our production of *Working* my junior year and our school receptionist took me aside and told me my life was about to change. Her daughter, coincidentally, is actress Kate Weatherhead ("Legally Blonde," "Spelling Bee"). She was right!

Our High School was also blessed with an outstanding Theater Arts teacher, Robin Fawcett. She literally made me believe I could do this for the rest of my life. I remember Robin organized a Theater trip to NYC one year. A long weekend filled with shows, talk backs and sight seeing. This was my first time seeing a Broadway show! I remember seeing "Rent" and sitting on the edge of my seat. Head to toe covered in chills and sobbing. The story and the VOICES! That was the Musical Theater I wanted and needed to do... I wanted to sing soulfully into the rafters and move people like I had been moved.

When we had our talk back I asked the question, "What happens if theater is all I think about? What if this is all I wanna do?" I started weeping. "Well," they said, "then that's what you do." That was IT! So I went to College in Vermont for Theater Arts and a minor in Calculus (the backup for the parents) but shortly after my first semester dropped out and set my eyes on NYC. I was accepted into a two-year program at AMDA NY a year later and never looked back.

EC: Do you think of yourself as an actress first and foremost, or a singer, or a dancer, or are you all three equally?

KTG: Oh gosh, ha, not so much a dancer. I can definitely move... but I was the girl who quit ballet when she was young because she was missing "Pee-Wee's Playhouse" on TV. I'm a singer/actress. I don't like just saying singer because I think you have *got* to be an actress as well. Yes the audience wants to hear a nice voice but if you aren't giving them any emotion/intention then people aren't buying it. That's what makes a great Musical Theater performer and if you're a great dancer, well, then I'm jealous... but I'm working on it!

EC: You play three roles in *Shrek*. Do you have a lot of quick changes to make and how do you cope with three roles?

KTG: I have a few major changes. I open the show as Mama Ogre. I have on Mama Ogre costume, green makeup, a green prosthetic nose, big ogre hands and a huge wig. After my song I run, and I mean RUN off stage where I have about five people helping me out of costume/wig/makeup and change into Mama Bear! It's wild and one of my favorite parts of the show. I have about two minutes to make the change and we all just make it every time.

I'm sure my dressers would think I was nuts but it's so exciting. There's a whole other show going on backstage! The three different roles are a challenge and a vocal

challenge at that. I'm the voice of a puppet... a 300 lb. Dragon puppet! I sing off stage and have to convey her feelings through my voice. Luckily our Dragon Puppeteers are pros and make her come alive. *But* it's also challenging in a fantastic sort of way! It's making me vocally stronger and more prepared for the next adventure.

EC: Who are your favorite performers – those who have inspired you most?

KTG: Some of my all time favorite performers have got to be Bette Midler, Bernadette Peters, Jennifer Holliday and Raul Esparza, but lately the performers that have inspired me the most have been the ones I know personally. Caissie Levy, Rebecca Jones, Shannon Durig, Tracy McDowell... they're all people I've had the pleasure of going to school and/or performing with who've made it to B'way. Seeing success happen for my friends makes my dream seem so tangible. It's exciting!

EC: What has been most difficult about pursuing a career in the theatre, and what brings you most joy and satisfaction?

KTG: The wait has been the most difficult thing. I'm a character actress who is right for the 30-year+ parts *but* was never seriously considered because I was too young. I've been waiting over 10 years and am *finally* getting to play these roles! It was so difficult to not give up for that long. Work was sparse and my patience grew thin. But I've found my stride and am now working consistently (knock on wood) and *that* brings me incredible joy. I had the confidence to stick it out and it's all paying off. It's a satisfying validation. Thank God I get paid to do what I love!

EC: What should Rochester audiences know about this production of *Shrek*?

KTG: We are the Ultimate *Shrek*. Meaning we are the version of *Shrek* that the directors and creatives have been trying to find since day one. The things that didn't work in previews, on Broadway and on tour have been tweaked and we are the final product. Things have been taken and things have been added but it's all with a purpose!

We are also an all ages show! There are still parts in this show that have me laughing every night... it never gets old. If you've seen the animated film you won't be let down.

EC: Do you enjoy life on the road, or is touring very difficult? How do you unwind after a show?

KTG: Touring isn't for everybody but I love it. I've been on the road since 2008. It's the very best way to see the world/country. I've been to every state but Hawaii and six Canadian Provinces. Getting to see the entire U.S. has been one of the biggest joys and accomplishments thus far. Living out of a suitcase can get a bit annoying but it's all worth it! As for unwinding after the show... a restaurant/bar with ambiance, food and Blue Moon on tap is IT!

EC: What is your ultimate career fan-

tasy (or aspiration)?

KTG: Broadway! A solid and steady career. I'd love to do commercials, voice over work, record an album, guest star on "Law and Order SVU". I want to get my hands on everything and keep working.

EC: Anything you'd like to add?

KTG: YES! Big shout out to my lovely friend Bekka Burton who lives here in Rochester! Make that change! ■

*(Cookbook continued from page 1)*

Frank: I just want to tell you, I made a thing! It's so fun to have a book out again. I thought it would be good to wait 12 years between books. (chuckles) With this one I had been collecting recipes, old cookbooks, out-of-print cookbooks, fliers, things that were handed out in supermarkets, things that if you bought a microwave came inside of it... anything I could get my hands on, magazine articles, newspaper articles, that had celebrity recipes in them.

I just was always fascinated with this because I would watch talk shows when I was growing up and there were so many of them in those days, and they were always star-oriented and would always have a cooking segment. I always thought it was fun to watch celebrities cook, because some of them weren't that great at it. Some of them were not so hot. And either way it was a lot of fun. I always liked those segments best, and it turns out I'm not alone. Those were always the most popular segments, according to my research.

So I decided it would be really fun to do a dead celebrity cookbook. When I was in college, I went to Northwestern, we had a party, I guess it was sophomore or junior year, and everyone had to come as a dead celebrity.

The only thing missing was dead celebrity recipes. I thought it would be fun to hark back to that great party and also to share these recipes. Mostly because I like these performers so much and I was worried that people would forget who these people were.

Jim: Kasha and I were talking about that. It's not just a fun, kitschy little thing, it's a fun and nostalgic way to look back at these folks who came into our living rooms and who we knew as kids. Until you said that, I had kind of forgotten about those shows like Dinah Shore. They always did a cooking segment.

Frank: Oh yeah, Mike Douglas especially. Mike Douglas and Dinah Shore were the two that I always think of doing cooking segments. Dinah was quite a cook herself. Before she was just a lesbian weekend in Palm Springs, she was a person who actually had a talk show and a recording career and was an accomplished cook and had cookbooks out. I thought she needed to be remembered, because you go to the Dinah and most of the young girls don't know she was a person or did anything — or wasn't a lesbian. They don't care about that.

Jim: They just want to go golfing.

Frank: So to speak, I guess. There are

no balls there. Well, dimpled ones, but that's about it. But for the book, I can say I love the performers and I like their recipes.

Kasha: Do you have a favorite recipe?

Frank: I like Liberace's Sticky Buns the best.

Kasha: Who doesn't?

Frank: It's true. And you know he had to be in on the joke.

Jim: I have to tell you, my favorite is probably Dean Martin's Burgers and Bourbon.

Frank: Yeah, because it's basically take some hamburger meat, put it in a pan with some salt, pour yourself some bourbon. You know what? That's kinda cool. I asked his daughter Dina Martin about it. Not to be confused with the wonderful drag queen Dina Martina, and she said his favorite was bourbon, not whiskey — just J&B. He said it stood for "just booze."

Jim: So how long have you been collecting these recipes?

Frank: Oh, it's been decades. First it was flea markets, then eBay and now both. I'm always on the lookout. I'll tell you, in putting the book together, the kind of experience that put me over the moon. Last Christmas I was working on the book and I got a card. It was really thick. Obviously someone had stuck something in it. It was from my friend Greg in Detroit. Greg is an antique dealer.

So I open the card and he said, "I think you're going to like these. I heard you're doing a cookbook. Have fun. Merry Christmas." So I open them up and what's inside, but Yvonne De Carlo's Exotic Chicken Ecstasy. I was in ecstasy when I opened the envelope, because I had never seen an Yvonne De Carlo recipe, and she's my favorite TV personality of all. Lily Munster is my favorite, favorite, favorite.

Jim: And of course it has to be "exotic" and "ecstasy" with Yvonne, right?

Frank: I know! Doesn't it sound like something you'd eat on Fire Island? Doesn't it sound lovely? But, I mean, that was a real thrill. But it was a pamphlet they'd given out in some supermarket, and there was the lacquer-haired, Follies-era Yvonne De Carlo with her Exotic Chicken Ecstasy recipe.

Kasha: Not only can we have dead celebrity parties, but you can just count on celebrities continuing to die, which means you're going to have more recipes. I think you should have a part two.

Frank: I hope it's a success. But I hope it's not so much of a success that people start killing themselves to be in it. I wouldn't want people to end it all, just to end up with a place in my book. I definitely want to do another one. So far I have about 125 recipes ready to go for the second volume.

Jim: Well I know I regretted that Zsa Zsa hasn't qualified yet.

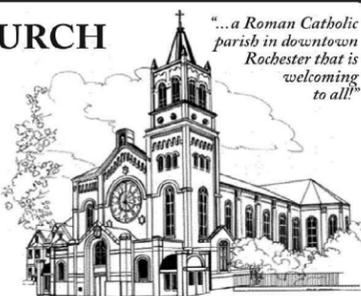
Frank: Well her sister is. Eva is in there. And you don't wish death on anybody. It's just bad karma and I'd never do that. But I kept looking, thinking, you know, that Golden Girls chapter is look-

*(Cookbook continues page 4)*

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**(Cookbook continued from page 3)**

ing real incomplete without Betty. But I didn't wish it on her. I hope she lives to be 1,000.

Kasha: Now tonight Mr. Davis and I are going to make something from the book. What would you suggest as our first recipe to make?

Frank: I like Ann Miller's Fettuccini Alfredo. That was easy and good and lovely. I'm actually going to have Paul Lynd's beef stew for lunch. I froze a batch, so I'm going to thaw it. Right now it's a brick.

Jim: With some of these recipes, can you tell how the world has changed? Do they harken back to the ways we used to eat?

Frank: Oh yeah. Like Paul Lynd's beef stew. This is the test batch. I haven't done the doctored up batch yet. It's "open a can of this, open a can of that" you know like a can of peas, a can of corn, all that. And you throw it all in, then you leave for five or six hours and you come back and it's done. I think a fresh carrot would be nice. Maybe an onion that grew in the earth would be good. I think you can update (the recipes) and I've suggested ways to that.

Some of the recipes are absolutely wonderful, and some are a little... Well, we made Isabelle Sanford's Weezey's Boston Chicken. My husband called it "vomit chicken." I said, "Can we call it Chicken a la Barf?" We didn't know what to call it. But some of them are wonderful. I thought Brian Keith's recipe was just delicious. Edith Head's Chicken Casa Ladera is just delicious.

Kasha: We were just giggling with Lucille Ball's "Chinese-y" Thing.

Frank: Oh, yes. I just couldn't call it what she called it. I mention it in the book. In the acceptable patois of the day, I just couldn't call it what she called it.

Jim: OK, I can put it together. I know what you mean.

Frank: Yes. So I thought I would change it. She said it was "a Chinese-y thing we called..." (fill in the blank.)

Jim: That was wise. And the irony is palpable with Karen Carpenter's Chewy Pie.

Frank: I know. I couldn't help it. And I put that joke in there about if Mama Cass had given Karen Carpenter that ham sandwich, they'd both be alive. I couldn't help but repeat that joke in there, but I felt bad about that. But I was so happy to find it!

There are a number of people in that chapter, like Karen Carpenter and Dusty Springfield, that I think you can use them as a litmus test as to whether you can like someone. If someone says, "I don't like Dusty Springfield," or "I don't like The Carpenters," just stop being friends with them. You don't need them in your life. Anyone that awful ... and ABBA is the same, but they're all alive. But there are certain acts where you just have to draw the line and say, if you don't like this, you just don't get it and I don't need you around.

Jim: I used to say that to a lot of younger gay guys. If you don't know who Dusty Springfield is, it's time to take away your (gay) card.

Frank: It's true! That's like not liking joy. It's like not liking emotion. You know, it's funny you mention that.

Some of the impetus for writing this book came out of meeting younger people who really didn't know who any of these people were. I'm trying not to be too mad about it, but it would make me furious, because in an era where you can call up visuals and songs and performances by anyone, with a couple of key strokes, nothing gets learned and nothing gets committed to memory.

It kind of makes me crazy that you can mention Dusty Springfield and people are like, "I don't know what that is." Anyone who says, "Well I wasn't born when she was performing..." Well, I wasn't born when Mae West was performing either, but I know who she is — and I can quote her. You don't have to have been alive when these people were doing their thing to realize they're the people who contemporaries are standing on their shoulders.

So it makes me happy that Lady Gaga

name checks Liberace in "Dance in the Dark." People need to do that. Maybe there will be one kid who says, "Who the hell is Liberace?" and then go find out and be totally turned on by him.

Jim: And Paul Lynd. He was one of my favorites growing up. So this is a really fun and unique way to expose kids to the folks who have come before. I hope it works at least as a stepping-stone.

Frank: Yeah, these little baby queens need to know that something happened before Katy Perry. If I can know who Katy Perry is, AND know who Peggy Lee is, you can do the same. Everyone should take a stab at keeping current.

Jim: I don't know if you know this, but Mrs. Kasha Davis has her own cooking videos.

Frank: No...

Kasha: I do. Check me out on the double-u, double-u, double-u. I do little cooking segments where I do Kasha's Balls and Kasha's Creamy Surprise. So I'm thinking I might have to do some videos of your dead celebrity recipes. I can do (in character) Katherine Hepburn's Brownies.

Frank: They're good! Oh God, they're good. I like to say, if yours are no great shakes, try Katherine's. They're wonderful. They're the best brownies you'd ever want to make.

Jim: That's fantastic. And for folks who want to know more, they can check out the website, deadcelebritycookbook.com. The book is also available at Barnes & Noble, Amazon...

Frank: And get this: Walmart.com.

To listen to the rest of Frank DeCaro's Gay Sunday Brunch interview, go to [GaySundayBrunch.com](http://GaySundayBrunch.com). **More GIFTS & FOOD on page 7.** ■

**(Follies continued from page 1)**

artist in residence and director of music ministries at Wesley United Methodist Church, he also serves as vice president and program chair of the Rochester Theater Organ Society.

**About RTOS**

Founded in 1964, the Rochester Theater Organ Society is dedicated to preserving theater-pipe organs for the enjoyment of Rochester and Upstate New York residents. A non-profit educational institution, the RTOS maintains two Wurlitzer organs at the Auditorium Center and at the Rochester Museum & Science Center's Eisenhart Auditorium. ■

**(Harley continued from page 1)**

noon before their sold-out opening performance.

The students in the cast were Lindsey, Annie, Alissa, Kennedy, Dan, Meghan, Sarah, Helana, Megan, Ray, Luisa, Melissa, Alyssa, Amelia, Matt and Bjarne.

Most had never heard about Matthew Shepard's lonely and violent death 10 years earlier, before they read the play -- although one student had been told about it by a parent. No one was sure what kind of reaction to expect from other students. Lindsey said, "Some kids we thought would react one way reacted completely differently."

Annie commented, "It seemed like it would be a hard play to do, but it's got a good message." Alyssa said, "I thought it was really great and we're trying to get a GSA established. The play will help with some of the reactions around here." Ray said that the religious convictions of some about homosexuality being evil made the play "risky."

Maria Scipione said that the student cast had received a good reaction from other students when the play was performed in assemblies. She said that she had been very worried about parents' reactions, but has received only positive responses.

When the youth met Judy Shepard, they attended a talk she gave and then were able to spend some time speaking with her. Lindsey said, "Seeing his moth-

**(Harley continues page 6)**



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# Columnists

The opinions of columnists, editorial writers and other contributing writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the collective attitude of the Gay Alliance of the Genessee Valley or *The Empty Closet*.

## Growing Up

A FRESH START



By Eric Bellmann

Thich Nhat Hahn, the Buddhist teacher who has written more than 100 books, was once approached by a man in an agitated state who started to complain about one of Tay's books. Tay, that is how he is affectionately referred to by his students, responded to the man by saying, "I am not the man who wrote that book." I love that story and this is why.

Every cell in the body is eventually replaced. Hair changes color or disappears. Height and weight change. Our skin sags and wrinkles. At 83, Tay certainly bears no physical resemblance to the man he was twenty, thirty, or forty years earlier. Physically, and more importantly psychologically, we change. We are not the person we once were. This is something worthwhile to think about.

The quote was a wake up call for me. I am a creature of western culture. I take my years of therapy seriously. I have excavated and explored my past. I have rued and regretted much. I have been anchored to my history almost like the proverbial dog with tin cans tied to his tail. I thought it a sign of denial to dismiss the past. The anecdote about Tay allowed me to reconsider my point of view, always a good thing.

Tay's matter-of-fact comment offers me insight and possibly relief, a new way of regarding myself. I am no longer the kid who cried when I got lost in the park at age seven and could not find my mommy. I am not the young man who sashayed into a gay bar at 40 thinking I was queen of the world. I am not the drunk I once was, nor the teen-age shoplifter, nor even merely the valiant survivor I had grown to understand and cherish.

Tay's comment is an encouragement to live in the present, not the past and not the future.

Among other things, it suggests a pathway to compassion for ourselves and forgiveness for others.

Which leads me to the brouhaha involving Tom Otterness's proposed sculpture that is intended for an outdoor installation at the Memorial Art Gallery.

I spend a lot of time in New York City and one of the nearly daily delights is the 14th Street westside subway station. It is filled with dozens of whimsical bronze sculptures.

All by Tom Otterness. One can not climb down the stairs to the L train without breaking into a grin at the funny creatures crawling on the floor, perched along the walls, hiding in corners. There is also a wonderful playground within a vast complex of new high rise construction at the far end of west 42nd Street. A huge slide and jungle gym, again by Tom Otterness. It is a delightful addition to the New York public landscape.

When I learned that Rochester might have a significant sculpture by Tom Otterness, I was stunned with delight. So little the last few years seems to be going right here. The fiasco of the fast ferry, the loss of Midtown Plaza, the historically significant first indoor plaza in the United States. I could go on. You probably know of things you once enjoyed that have vanished or projects that came to naught. Let's say nothing of the disgrace that has befallen the Art at the County airport, Art that was paid for by tax payers, you and me. No one even knows where the

Wendell Castle clock is stored. A well placed Republican city employee, when I asked him about the clock, replied, "Oh, you mean that phallic thing that upset folks?" Well, yes, that is the thing I meant. Who decided it was objectionable?

I had been out of town, but when I returned the protest about the Otterness sculpture had become a full blown attack. An artist I know bragged that he had been part of a picket line. Another friend wrote he hoped a dog would bite Otterness in the balls. Too much for me. I worship at the altar of Daniel Tosh, so I quipped, "You know not all dogs are cute. Maybe it was an ugly one." That did not get a laugh. A lot of my humor fails.

Bad jokes aside, I am depressed and concerned. Who doesn't deserve a second chance, or a third one? Would you like to be held accountable for every mis-step, every transgression? Not I. Otterness is not the same person he was thirty years ago. Are you?

To be honest I've harbored longings for revenge, usually connected to perceived affronts to my less than sturdy ego. Ranting once, not so long ago, I was told I could hire someone at the Public Market who for a remarkably reasonable fee would break the leg of a man who had wronged me. When I've indulged those feelings, speculated about actions I could take, all I've ended up with is a headache. At some point, being angry is just too wearing. And I usually conclude that what was is pissing me off connects to an unresolved hurt from the past. There I go again with my western psychology!

I don't know how this gets resolved. Someone did tell me that if the animal had been a cat, I would not be so ready with my forgiveness, so eager to preach at my fellow men.

True enough.

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## Cleaning My Closet

BODY PARTS



By Meredith

Elizabeth Reiniger

When I had a young body, I probably discussed its legs in need of a shave, its cleavage in need of amending, its head in need of adornment. Now

my fleshy machine provokes talk about mushy muscles and locked ligaments.

With no BLTs for me. How I wish it were a mere culinary exclusion. Sadly it is a virtual Do Nothing order from Lindsey, my physical therapist. Following that strict rule was the only way I could prevent Bending, Lifting, and Twisting. Eventually and forever I will have to pay attention to every move. Apparently I must think ahead of time. Very tricky.

At first, my PT ordered "no gardening, no painting for Habitat." Told me to do a few stretches and some ab strengthening exercises twice a day. OK. Did those. And then I spent an hour throwing a ball to Nevada and picking it up when "good dog" dropped it at my feet. Spent an afternoon trimming high branches. In my ignorance of anatomy, I believed that I was safe because I had held neither shovel nor paint brush.

But instantly the increased pain followed by scaled back exercises helped me understand what my back could not do. The limitations were amazingly numerous... no daily chores, no laundry, dishes, cooking, making the bed, feeding the pets, emptying the litter boxes. All require

risky BLTs.

Handicapped? Other people, sure, but not me. I pride myself on my flexibility, strength, and endurance. But it seems that falling up the stairs three times and twice falling down on the ice, all in one year, aggravated the hell out of my back. Add to that the you-have-an-old-body Arthritis and I have a super pissed-off sciatic nerve.

New experiences. Sometimes my back doesn't want to trudge through stores. The first time I used an electric shopping cart, I was humbled. No matter how hard I tried to apply driving rules to that circus go-cart, I turned into an idiotic clown lurching forward and backward. With my head at other shoppers' belt level, I became child-like in height and ability.

When I could finally walk and use a big girl shopping cart, I expected independence. Had forgotten the Lift Nothing part. Realized I needed help. From strangers. Asking wasn't easy. I spotted an unrushed, pleasant looking shopper. I worried that I needed to explain, to use words because there were no clues, no cast or crutches, to identify my problem. But I only managed to say "Could you lift that French vanilla ice cream into my basket?" With not a moment's hesitation, she said "Sure." It brought tears to my eyes.

Holy cow. Big changes. Exercises. With balls and straps. I prefer activities that happen to involve movement, like planting daffodils and walking through the woods. But now I have a Bad Back and recovery requires ME to do real exercises for the rest of my life.

Old age started when I began to wonder how many other events would be altered by wayward body parts. So too my friends. One struggles with a stubborn sphincter muscle. Another sleeps with acid reflux, not an amorous romantic. Another needs to replace an offending organ. One battled brain invasions.

Body part vs. Emmy. Cozy in my living room, she disclosed all the complications associated with her several illnesses... food restrictions, blood monitoring, cramps in her legs, hands, groin. Her abdomen filled with fluid and pain.

I listened, shocked by all the ramifications of her dysfunctional body parts. The most urgent issue is her need for a kidney transplant. She must get on several waiting lists. Plan for the day: her phone rings and she hurries to a hospital, hopefully in Rochester, perhaps in Ohio. Plan for eight months of 24/7 care. Mostly, she has to ask for help.

"Well," she concluded, shifting a blanket, "I apologize. I'm sorry I spent all this time talking about myself, about my problems." For heaven's sakes, I assured her, I just spent an hour blabbering on and on about my puppy. It's good for you to share your reality, your fear. No, no, you need to talk, I need to listen. It's a gift we give each other.

Sometimes words don't work. Being present is the only gift to offer. Monday morning, October 24th, I watched the doctor push a needle into Claudia's temples and into the back of her skull. The sites for four screws. As she fought to endure the pain without moving, I could only hold her tightly curled toes.

Once the frame was screwed into her head, she had to wait six hours while her surgery team designed the radiation quantity and target. As she slept off and on, I just sat near her bed where she could see me and know she was not alone. She went home that afternoon, still brave. Two brain tumors gone, one more to go.

A week later, on Halloween, she was again wheeled into surgery. She took her humor with her. "I am," she announced, "having a Monster-ectomy." This time two brilliant surgeons, using a saw, some knives, and nine and a half hours of skillful work, removed the tumor wrapped around her acoustic nerve.

Meanwhile, I had a very long wait of 570 minutes. Yes, I was calmed each time the surgery nurse called the waiting room to give me an update. Yes, seeing both surgeons smiling and hearing their report gave me some peace. But still

I had another two hours before I could see Claudia with my own eyes. Finally I was escorted to the Post-anesthesia area. I stood at her bed side and held her hand. We both needed that contact.

"Listen," she ordered me, "I have to stay in this basement all night because they have no beds. I want you to call the CEO of the hospital and complain about their customer service. I had brain surgery and I deserve a room." Yes! Project Manager Claudia was still in that body.

Then her nurse asked, "Claudia, can you raise your knees toward the ceiling?" Her speech soft and slow, Claudia replied, "Do you mean levitate them or bend them up?" Yes, oh yes, her altered body part had not stolen her humor.

I stayed by her side until the night nurse came on duty. Claudia's very scared, I told her.

Maybe that's the crux of our confrontation with our old body parts. We are frightened. So we will have to do some exercises. We must practice asking for help. Practice laughing.

MeredithElizabethReiniger@frontier-net.net

## Conundrums

THE 2011 COUNTY EXECUTIVE RACE: BRAVO SANDY FRANKEL



By Ove Overmyer

This past election may not have carried with it all of the drama and excitement that we can expect from a 2012 presidential match up. However, there is plenty of

reason for Rochester and Monroe County residents to appreciate and applaud with respect to our candidates who stepped up and ran for public office.

Elected officials decide everything from whether to pave a road in your neighborhood to where you can pick your child up for school. They decide how many police officers we need to protect us and what our local community hospitals should do to care for us and remain viable.

They decide when we need new fire trucks and whether our libraries should extend their hours of operation. They make decisions about how your city handles retail centers and industry within its borders and how to care for public spaces such as parks.

They decide how to protect our communities from natural disasters and set the rules on how this area should grow. They also decide whether or not you deserve to be treated as a first-class citizen or not.

And in times like these, they make difficult decisions about what's most important when there isn't enough money to do it all. Those priority decisions will always make someone unhappy, so in many ways, their jobs are thankless -- no matter what actually gets done.

One person who accepted this challenge was Brighton Town Supervisor Sandy Frankel. Despite being outspent 6 to 1, Sandy had the winning message in her attempt to unseat incumbent Maggie Brooks. Sandy Frankel has dedicated over 20 years to public service in our community and we have a better standard of living because of her skill, desire and strength as a leader.

Our County Executive Maggie Brooks has failed on issues of integrity, taxes and jobs. Local Development Corporations like Upstate Telecommunications Corp. have wasted millions of taxpayer dollars. Cronyism and nepotism, suspected bid-rigging and political paybacks smack of corruption during this administration's rule. Brooks also has tried, illegally, to take money from children in our school districts. Court-required repayment has been extremely expensive too.

Frankel pointed out that past performance is the best predictor of future performance, but none of that helped

(Columnists continued from page 5) determine the outcome of this election. Our problem here in Monroe County is not under performing executives and bureaucrats-- it's voter apathy, and an unengaged electorate if you will, that puts people like Maggie Brooks in office. Our county government was hired by a motivated minority of voters.

Let's be clear -- in Monroe County, we do not have a true representative government. In fact, the GOP did not run candidates in most city races to suppress the vote. Voter suppression tactics is what politicians employ when they can't win real democratic races. Unfortunately, for the majority of citizens in our area the GOP has a stranglehold on the electorate.

Under Brooks' reign, we have endured a net loss of more than 22,000 jobs, according to state Labor Department statistics. County tax levies have risen seven times in seven years. She even cut day care and lead poisoning prevention funding, which hurts children, families and taxpayers. Her hand-picked salaried protégés have all received hefty pay raises over the years, while thousands of Monroe County workers have gone without a contract since 2008.

Brooks wasted tens of thousands of tax dollars to frivolously appeal the Martinez v. County of Monroe decision, an Appellate Court ruling that states municipalities must recognize out of state marriages for County workers who are in a same-sex relationships.

And we are still waiting to hear developments from the NYS Attorney General's subpoena and final details to the State Comptroller's audit. Truth has no agenda. When it's all said and done, history will be the final judge of the Maggie Brooks legacy. And as far as we can tell, history will not be kind to Maggie Brooks.

If anything, people should be focused on praising Sandy Frankel and her team for the hard work and dedication she has shown throughout this campaign and her career. Sandy Frankel is arguably the best LGBT ally this community has ever seen — and will ever see. Frankel only wanted to restore integrity, trust, inclusiveness and transparency to our local government and didn't have the resources to get her message out to the voters. When you look back on the past several months, Frankel is the true local hero of this election cycle.

We thank you, Sandy Frankel, for your vision, leadership and good sense of humor. By mounting this county executive campaign, you have given a voice to those who would have ordinarily remained silent due to retaliation or punishment. You have given hope to citizens who otherwise would have just accepted the status quo. You have already made such a difference in the lives of so many LGBT and working families that it is almost impossible to measure. Words fall short, so we will just say thanks again. And, we also say, bravo, Sandy Frankel, well done.

## Inspirational

STOP FAKING THE FUNK!



By Rev. Dr. Sharon Jacobson

Don Miguel Ruiz recently posted on his website, "Love and accept yourself just the way you are. You are what you are; you don't need to

pretend to be something else. When you pretend to be what you are not, you are going to fail."

Some of us have been faking the funk for so long, we no longer realize we are still in character. It is as though in many respects the world has tamed us, domesticated us, and taught us how to conform to the ways of the world. We do so many things without even thinking about them, just because that is how we have been taught to do them.

We work at becoming a part of the whole because we all want to be accepted. We learn how to conform to the ways of our family, our community, our city, our

country and our world. Over time, we learn how to conform to the rules of society, the dominant beliefs in our country and the laws. We learn how to celebrate holidays, how to behave in school, how to behave at social events. We learn how to conform to the ways of the world.

It is a challenge to stop going through life conforming to the norm and to begin living the life we were born to fulfill. It is time for us to rediscover ourselves and gain an understanding of who we were created to be. It is time for us to reconnect with the authentic self. It is time for us to stop just going through life, but to go through life with passion, excitement, and confidence. It is time for us to get in touch with the authentic self and learn how to stay authentic.

We cannot unlock our spiritual potential; we cannot make ourselves fully available to the Infinite as long as there is a gap between who we are and what we do. If we are faking the funk, if we are acting as if we are auditioning for a part in society's play, then we have turned down the opportunity to play ourselves in the Infinite's production. It is time for us to stop participating in the casting calls of the world. We have already been cast to play ourselves in the Infinite's production; there is no need for us to attend the casting calls for the world.

We have all been in a place where we were focused on pleasing others. We have all learned how to play by other people's rules in an effort to get our needs met. However, as we seek to grow spiritually, as we seek to unlock our own potential, we might find we no longer want to chase other people's dreams, and live by other people's rules. We may find we seek to be true to the dreams the Infinite Presence has placed in our heart. We may find that what is more important than societal approval is inner peace. We might find that it is more important that the way we are living feels right than looks right.

When we are living as our authentic self, when we are living our authentic lives, we find ourselves greeting each day with enthusiasm and sleeping peacefully at night. There is a peace because who we are is the same as what we are doing. That does not mean others will agree with your choices. They might want to cast you in a different role or have your character behave in a different way. However, the words of the Infinite Presence remind us we are not to conform to the ways of the world, but be transformed by the renewing of our minds. The renewing of our minds comes because we consciously make decisions about our life. We no longer conform to what others are telling us to do.

It is hard to trust people when they lie to us. When we are not leading an authentic life, we are lying to ourselves. We are choosing not to be honest with ourselves, or others, about who we are or what we need to be fulfilled. We cannot create lives for ourselves as long as we are allowing others to cast us in roles and make choices for us, and conforming to the ways of the world.

Digging through the layers of our lives is not always easy. It means we must spend time with ourselves. It means we have to stop making excuses and find the courage to examine and embrace all aspects of ourselves. It means we must reexamine what we have agreed to in our lives based on what others have said and begin living based on what we know to be true about ourselves. It is time to stop faking the funk and live in the fullness of who we were created to be. ■

(Harley continued from page 4)

er made it clear that it was real and it's an actual problem. Harley is one of the only schools where people can handle this play. I went to a high school where people couldn't handle it." Alissa said the play "brings to home to people that it's people's actual words" — not speeches invented by a playwright.

Lindsey said, "Judy Shepard's speech made most of us cry." Shepard's com-

ments "You are who you are and you love who you are," and "Good will come out of evil" were the phrases that brought people to tears.

Alyssa commented, "What sticks in my head is the line from the play where one character says, 'The truth is coming out' — that's true because it's bringing awareness. We want students to learn it still does happen in real life."

Dan noted, "Before the play I thought there was no homophobia at Harley — but now I've heard remarks that I'm more aware of."

Alyssa said, "As I walk down the halls I've been called 'butch', 'fag' etc. People don't want to confront it or deal with it."

Helana said, "Realizing that it happened in Wyoming and still happens all over the world can open people's eyes."

Ray said, "I am happy that the gay marriage law has passed, but what if one person isn't open to the issues?" Lindsey responded, "After seeing this play, they will be!"

The students felt that one strength of the play is that it isn't "preachy." Ray commented, "This play isn't talking about hating gays. It's describing one incident and by describing that we can see why it's bad."

Alissa said, "I've gone to a Catholic school my whole life until I came to Harley and I never had a problem with gay people. But even our textbooks said being gay is wrong. It was so nice to come here and have a school where we can have this play and talk about it."

More comments: "Kids need to know it's OK to be who you are."

"Judy Shepard was the first person I've heard say that it's OK to be gay."

"I wish it hadn't been an issue at all — it shouldn't be an issue."

When asked which scene in the play is most powerful to them and seems to sum everything up, many students responded, "The Angels Scene." "I started crying," one said.

Dan said, "As the actor who plays Dennis Shepard, when he walks up and sees the picture (of his son) — it makes it all real."

Speaking about the depiction of killer Aaron McKinney, Annie said, "The theme of the play is, what in society makes you do that?" Dan: "If they weren't taught to hate, what would they become?"

Maria Scipione interjected, "It's like the song from 'South Pacific' — 'you have to be taught to hate and fear.'" She added, "One of the things that I think is powerful is that the play doesn't turn the killers into monsters, but shows them as humans. There's a little monster in each of us that we have to deal with."

All of the students had heard about 14-year-old Buffalo student Jamey Rode-meyer's suicide.

Alyssa said, "I think the lack of support for younger children is absolutely ridiculous. They are not too young — would you rather have controversy or another dead child?"

"It's not just gay-bashing — comments do damage too. What they did to Matthew was violence, but when people say 'fag,' that's the seed of violence. If you can make a hateful comment, what would stop you from doing something violent?" ■

## Entertainment News

### Disenchanted: Bitches of the Kingdom fractures the fairytales

Do the Disenchanted live happily ever after? Well not exactly.

Snow White has clearly grown tired of dishpan hands, tiny little men and singing to bluebirds. Sleeping Beauty is in dire need of an intravenous caffeine drip. Belle seems to be a bit -- let's just say distracted -- wouldn't you be if you talked to

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**Disenchanted bitches.**

inanimate objects and cleaned up after a Beast? Mulan has gender and orientation questions concerning her burly appearance and Cinderella is in desperate need of a snack and a valium.

The NYC creators of the show, Dennis Giacino and Fiely Matias, have been in town directing the Rochester cast in preparation for this production.

The cast includes New York City's Toni Carrington as the brassy leader, Snow White; Cassie Hohn (of NYC's 'Bathing in Bette') as Sleeping Beauty; Benton Sheely as the OCD Cinderella; Jessica Swersey as The Little Mermaid; comedienne Kate Kilpatrick as the authentically German princess Rapunzel and Jenna Lee Barber (former Rochesterian) as the insane Belle.

Giving the cast a local flavor are Roc-City talents Kara Minute, Mulan; Nakiya Peterkin as the Frog Princess; and radio/television artist/comedy queen LeeAnn Orasin as the Secondary Princess. New York City musician Kevin Lawson serves as Music Director for the production.

*Disenchanted: Bitches of the Kingdom* opened in November and runs into January. To order tickets, contact the Downstairs Cabaret Theatre at (585) 325-4370 and visit [www.downstairscabaret.com](http://www.downstairscabaret.com). ■

## Gift ideas: Merle's top four suggestions

*By Merle Exit*

Here are my top four gift ideas for the holidays. Don't forget to give yourself a gift for all that you have done.

**Fairytale Brownies.** By far the best brownies you will ever sink your teeth into! These brownies are made using Callebaut Belgian chocolate with a more fudge than cake consistency. The brownies come in various sizes and flavors, including chocolate, chocolate chip, caramel, cream cheese, espresso nib, raspberry swirl and more. If you like chewy, you can get their new line of cookies in six flavors. Chocoholic? How about small brownies enrobed in the Belgian chocolate? [www.brownies.com](http://www.brownies.com)

**Cameron's Stovetop Smoker.** Made of stainless steel, 11"x 15" x 3.5", smokes and cooks food at the same time, using wood chips. Can be expanded to cook a turkey if you cover it with aluminum foil. You can buy a supply of wood chips of various "flavors". Sells for about \$55. An alternative to the smoker or buying chips is Emeril's Smoker Bags. Use in your own oven or in the smoker. [www.Cameroncookware.com](http://www.Cameroncookware.com)

**Paperjamz.** This is so cool. For the person who hates pressing your fingers on the guitar strings or has no knowledge of music. You can get a guitar, amp with microphone and a set of drums for about \$110. It turns you into a rock star complete with recorded music and cords. Amp can give you harmony. Plug in your own music and look like you are playing along or setting up your own karaoke. [www.wowwee.com](http://www.wowwee.com)

**Kit-Cat Clock.** You remember those cat clocks where the tail and big eyes move back and forth? They're back. Various colors and styles. Male, female. Accessorize with a football helmet. Powered by 2 "C" batteries. [www.kit-cat.com](http://www.kit-cat.com) ■

## Try a vegetarian holiday feast this year...

*By Laur McSpadden*

The holidays can be a difficult time to be a vegetarian. Very few American vegetarians come from families that are, likewise, vegetarian, and many of the traditional holiday meals tend to be heavy on meat.

At this time of celebrations of community, faith, the changing of the seasons and goodwill to all men (and women and transpeople), those who live a meatless life can often feel left out when sitting around the dinner table.

Oh, sure, many families make efforts, but let's be honest... no one, and I mean no one, actually wants to eat a Tofurky. Nor are most people left satisfied after a meal of mashed potatoes without gravy and an iceberg lettuce salad.

But there is good news: it is actually quite easy to make a completely satisfying, delicious holiday meal without the use of meat. I have compiled some of my favorite vegetarian recipes that together make a lovely holiday meal: any of these recipes also function as a welcome and complementary addition to a full holiday meal, for those families who do the holidays potluck-style.

All of the recipes except for the almond cake can be made for vegans, using the substitutions listed.

Whether you are a vegetarian, you have friends and family members who are vegetarian, or you just want to offer a few new options at your table, the following recipes are some of my lifetime favorites. Enjoy!

**Vegetarian Mushroom Gravy**  
 ¾ c butter or vegan margarine, divided  
 2 cups mushrooms (portabella are strongly recommended!), finely chopped  
 1 large Vidalia onion, finely chopped  
 ½ c flour  
 5 cups hot vegetable broth  
 ¼ c soy sauce  
 2 t each chopped fresh sage, thyme and marjoram (or 1 t each dried, but fresh herbs taste much better!)  
 salt and pepper to taste

Melt ½ c of the butter or vegan margarine in a medium heavy-bottomed pan over medium-high heat. Add the onions and sauté until they are fully translucent. Add the mushrooms and sauté until the liquid released from the mushrooms has evaporated.

In a large heavy-bottomed pan, melt the remaining butter or margarine over medium heat. Add the flour and stir until the roux is golden-brown and fragrant.

Gradually whisk in the vegetable broth and the soy sauce. Stir in the onions and the mushrooms. Bring to a low boil, stirring constantly.

Reduce heat to low or medium-low. Add the herbs, salt, and pepper. Continue to cook, stirring frequently, for approximately 10 more minutes, until the gravy thickens.

**Skin-On Mashed Potatoes**  
 5 lb. Yukon Gold potatoes, washed and cut into ½" cubes

1 ½ cup heavy cream (or Silk brand original creamer)

10 oz. unsalted butter, cut into pieces (or vegan Earth Balance spread)

2 ½ t salt, or to taste

¾ t freshly ground black pepper

Place the potatoes in a large pot and cover with cold (preferably filtered) water that is at least 1" over the potatoes. Cover and bring to a boil over high heat. Once boiling, remove the cover, lower the heat to medium, and cook until the potatoes fall apart easily when pressed between a fork and the edge of the pot (usually 15-20 minutes). Drain into a colander, being very careful to avoid the steam and hot water so as to not burn yourself!

Place the potatoes and the remaining ingredients back in the pot. Blend together using an electric hand mixer at medium-high speed. Taste and adjust for seasoning.

**Copper Penny Salad**  
 2 lb. carrots, washed and sliced about ¼" thick



**Laur's Unbelievably Delicious Almond Cake.** Photo: Laur McSpadden

2 T olive oil  
 1 onion, sliced thinly  
 1 bell pepper (red, yellow, or green), in thin slices  
 1 can condensed tomato soup  
 1 c brown sugar  
 ½ c rice vinegar  
 ½ c corn oil  
 1 t Dijon mustard  
 1 t anchovy-free Worcestershire sauce, optional

1 t salt  
 Cook carrots in salted water until crisp-tender (or to your preferred level of doneness) in a large saucepan. Drain and return to the pan.

Heat the olive oil in a saute pan over medium-high heat. Sauté the onions until they are translucent.

Add the onion and the bell pepper to the carrots.

Mix together the remaining ingredients. Pour the mixture over the carrots, onions and pepper and allow to marinate in your refrigerator for 24 hours. Serve cold, at room temperature, or heated.

**Winter Casserole**  
 2 sweet potatoes, washed and chopped in ½" cubes

4 T olive oil, divided (plus more for greasing pan)

1 c walnuts, chopped

1 lb. sliced shiitake mushrooms

1 vidalia onion, chopped

6-8 cloves garlic, finely chopped

1 t salt

3 c cooked wild rice blend (I suggest Lundberg brand, available at your friendly neighborhood Wegmans)

1 bunch kale, washed well and chopped

2 T fresh thyme, washed and chopped

8 oz. sour cream (or vegan substitute)

2 eggs or ½ c silken tofu

½ c grated parmesan cheese, divided (for vegans, substitute mozzarella-style almond milk cheese)

½ t freshly-ground pepper

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Rub a 9"-by-13" baking dish or casserole dish with olive oil.

Toss the chopped sweet potatoes in 2 T of the olive oil. Place on a cookie sheet and bake until they are cooked thoroughly, 20-35 minutes.

Place the chopped walnuts in an ungreased sauté pan. Sauté over medium heat until lightly toasted and fragrant. Set aside.

In a large pot over medium heat, sauté the mushrooms in the remaining 2 T of olive oil until the liquid released from the mushrooms has evaporated and the mushrooms are lightly browned. Add the onions and cook until they are translucent. Add the garlic and cook for another minute or two. Then add the cooked rice, sweet potatoes, and the kale to the pot and mix to combine.

In a medium-sized bowl, whisk together the eggs and sour cream (or the silken tofu and the vegan sour cream substitute).

Combine the rice mixture and the egg

mixture in a large bowl. Stir well and put into the prepared baking dish or casserole dish. Top with ¼ c of the parmesan (or almond cheese), the walnuts, and the pepper.

Cover with foil and bake for 30 minutes. Remove the foil and bake for another 20-30 minutes. When you take it out of the oven, immediately sprinkle the top with the thyme and the remaining parmesan (or almond cheese).

**Unbelievably Delicious Almond Cake**

1 c sour cream, at room temperature

1 t baking soda

2 c sifted all-purpose flour (measured after sifting)

½ t salt

4 eggs, separated

2 sticks butter, softened (more for buttering pan)

1 ½ c sugar

7-oz almond paste, cut into small pieces (yes, this takes some time, but do take the effort to make the pieces small in the interest of the cake's texture)

1 t almond extract

Confectioners' sugar (for dusting over the cake)

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Generously butter the sides and bottom of a 9" springform or a bundt pan.

Mix together the sour cream and baking soda in a small bowl.

Sift together the flour and salt into a separate bowl.

Beat the egg whites in a medium bowl with an electric mixer on high until they hold stiff peaks.

In a large bowl, cream together the butter and sugar at medium speed until fluffy, about 5 minutes. Add the almond paste a little at a time and beat for 8 minutes after the final addition. Yes, this is easier if you have a standing mixer ... if you have one, feel free to forego the upper-body workout of mixing together a thick paste for 15-20 minutes.

Beat the egg yolks into the butter mixture one at a time, and mix until incorporated: do not worry if it looks curdled. Blend in the almond extract and sour cream mixture. Reduce mixer speed to low and gradually add the flour mixture: mix just until blended.

Mix half of the egg whites into the batter. Then, gently fold in the remaining egg whites.

Pour the batter into the prepared pan and spread evenly.

Bake for approximately one hour. The cake is done when it has shrunk from the sides of the pan and you can touch the top and it returns to its shape. Remove from the oven and place on a cooling rack to cool in the pan.

If using a bundt pan, allow to cool in the pan for 10-20 minutes. Gently loosen the cake from the insides of the pan before inverting onto a plate. If using a springform pan, remove the sides of the springform pan when ready to serve. Dust with confectioners' sugar. ■

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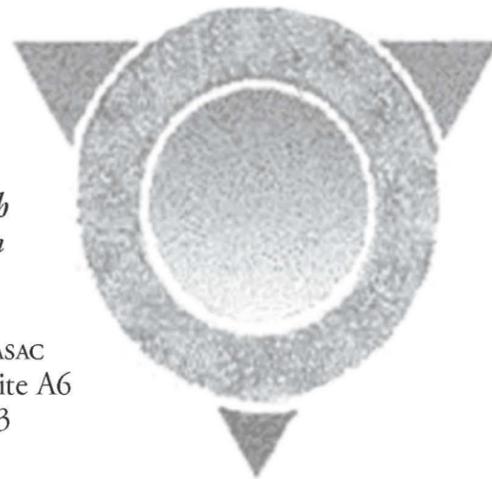
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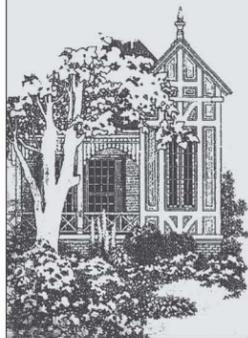
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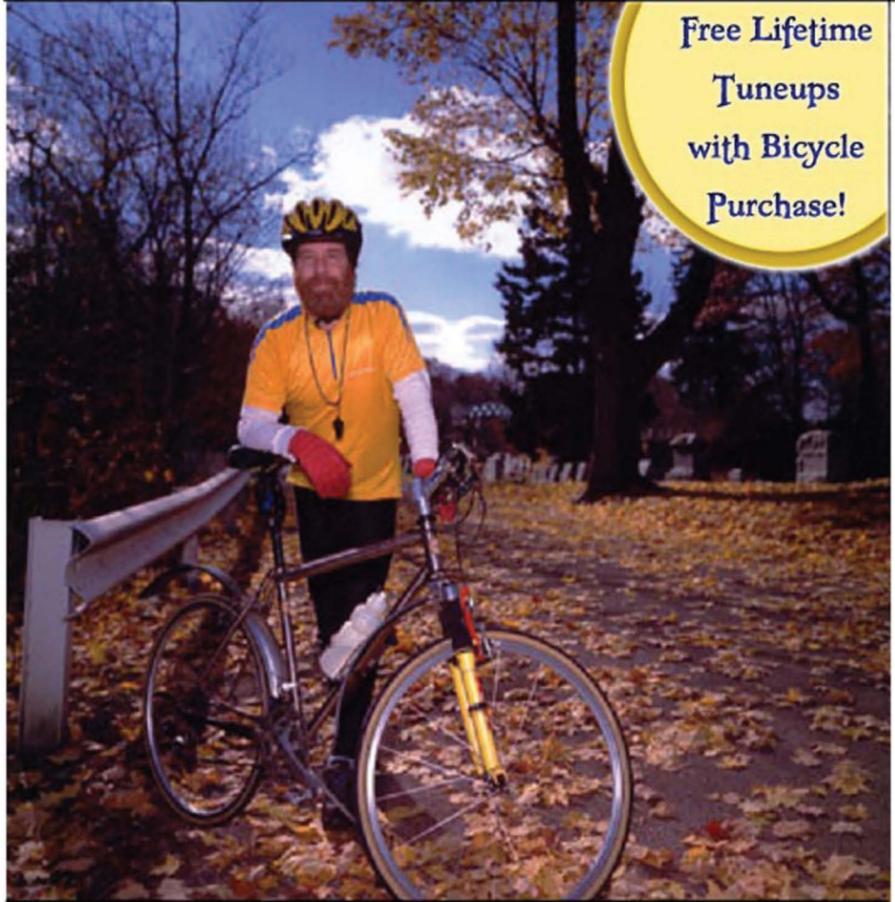
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SAVE THE DATE! FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2012

# AT LAST...

THE LGBT WEDDING  
EVENT & CELEBRATION



THE STRATHALLAN

6 – 9 P.M., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2012

*You are invited to spend a casual evening at  
Greater Rochester's premiere LGBT wedding event from 6 – 9 p.m.,  
Friday, February 3, at the Strathallan Hotel.*



*Discover renowned treasures and hidden gems that will add to your  
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# Gay Alliance News



## Join the busy elves of the Speakers Bureau team

From the desk of Jeanne Gainsburg, Gay Alliance Outreach Coordinator:

Happy holidays, my friends! My fellow staff members and Gay Alliance Speakers Bureau members have been as busy as elves these past few months. Never before have we had so many requests come in for presentations!

People want to know more about LGBT inclusion in their workplaces, teachers want to stop bullying in their schools, doctors want to provide appropriate and respectful medical services, students want to be allies... It's wonderful and it makes my little elf heart glow with pride! But we cannot do it alone. We need people to tell their stories and share in conversations around LGBT and ally issues.

Have you been thinking about how you can make a difference in the new year? Consider becoming a Gay Alliance Speakers Bureau member! We will provide all the training that you need. Our next training will take place in March.

If you would like to be a member of the Gay Alliance Speakers Bureau, please go to this link and register: <http://www.gayalliance.org/speak-out.html>. If you would like more information about becoming a speaker, please contact me at [jeanneg@gayalliance.org](mailto:jeanneg@gayalliance.org) or 585-244-8640 ext. 14.

This holiday season do something wonderful for your elf! Join the Gay Alliance Speakers Bureau team! All elves welcome, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or ability to make toys. ■

## BETTER HEALTH BETTER YOU

### Health Education Workshops for Mature LGBT Adults 50+

**Saturday, December 10, 2011  
10-12noon**

Stress Reduction and Management, just in time for the holidays

**Saturday, January 14, 2012  
10-12noon**

Care Giver Support Services, something we may all need, now or in the future

These events are a potluck so feel free to bring your favorite goodies or healthy treats to pass.

Hosted by Everybody's Good AIDS Care, Monroe Square Bldg. 259 Monroe Avenue, Rochester Parking in rear, enter through rear doors.

**Free and open to the public.**



**SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2012**  
**THE GAY ALLIANCE PRESENTS:**  
**NORTH EAST REGIONAL PRIDES (NERP) CONFERENCE IS COMING TO TOWN!**  
**COMMUNITY DINNER, SHOW AND DANCE FEATURING WELL-KNOWN, POPULAR, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ENTERTAINERS**  
**6-11PM AT THE RADISSON ROCHESTER RIVERSIDE**  
**GO TO: WWW.GAYALLIANCE.ORG**  
**FOR UPDATES AND ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY \$45 FOR DINNER, SHOW AND DANCE AND \$20 FOR SHOW AND DANCE ONLY**  
**SILENT AUCTION, DOOR PRIZES AND A CASH BAR**  
**PROCEEDS GO TO THE GAY ALLIANCE FOR ROCHESTER PRIDE 2012 (JULY 6-15)**

# SpeakOUT

SpeakOUT training is a great experience for someone new to LGBT issues or someone who has lived or worked with the issues for years. Think of it as professional development for your life, a training-of-trainers that is open to everyone. The class is appropriate for all ages, all identities and will prepare participants to successfully advocate for and address the challenges to full LGBT inclusion.

**Next class:**

**Fri., March 2, 6 to 9pm & Sat., March 3, 8:30am to 5pm**

Class held in the Gay Alliance Youth Center, 875 E. Main Street 14605

**Facilitators:**

Jeanne Gainsburg, Gay Alliance OutReach Coordinator and Scott Fearing, Gay Alliance Program Director, draw upon their 25 plus years of LGBT training and education experience to facilitate the class. A dynamic mix of interactive exercises and lecture make for a fast-paced, intense and valuable learning experience.

**Fee: \$35**

Lunch included on Saturday.

Scholarships available. (Please call or e-mail requests)

Space is limited to 30 participants.

For questions: 585-244-8640 or [SpeakOUT@gayalliance.org](mailto:SpeakOUT@gayalliance.org)

**The Red Ball**  
**Saturday**  
**February**  
**Eleventh**  
**Seven to eleven**  
**Cathedral Hall**  
**Be mine.**

## SAVE THE DATES: Rochester Pride 2012 July 6-15

**PRIDE COMMITTEE:**

- Carrie Vernon** – Chair
- Michael Hardy** – Past Chair & Marketing
- Jeff Markarian & Zayne Austin** – Picnic Co-Chairs
- Bill Schaefer** – Parade Co-Chair
- Joe Murphy** – Festival Co-Chair
- Alysa Stryker** – Sassy in the Southwedge
- Peter Mohr/Bachelor Forum** – Sponsorship & Events
- Lyjha Wilton & Louis Mistrette/Boulder Coffee** – Festival
- Phil Rawleigh** – Events

There is time to get involved or express your opinion! Please e-mail Carrie Vernon at: [carriev@gayalliance.org](mailto:carriev@gayalliance.org)

## DO YOU NEED INTERNET ACCESS?

The Gay Alliance Library has two computers with internet access available during library hours:

**Sunday: 3-5pm • Monday & Wednesday: 6-8pm**

Computers are part of our David Bohnett Cyber Center



## Gay Alliance Youth

### The Gay Alliance offers Youth Services for Rochester area LGBTQ and allied youth ages 13-25

Check out what's happening at: [www.gayalliance.org](http://www.gayalliance.org) or contact [JessC@gagv.us](mailto:JessC@gagv.us)

**Monday and Wednesday:**  
Drop-in: 2-6pm

**Sunday Support groups:**  
Ages 13-23: 2-4pm  
Ages 18-25: 4:30-6pm  
**ON HIATUS FOR SUMMER**

**Special Interest:**  
Transgender Youth, Arts/Crafts, Movies, Writing

**Special Events:**  
Youth Dances, Day of Silence, Big Gay Prom, Pool Table, LGBTQ Youth Library, and Internet Access

Fun, friendly, safe adults are needed to volunteer their time and talents, providing positive role models, maybe sharing a talent or skill. Contact Jeanne Gainsburg, Outreach Coordinator for an application: [jeanneg@gagv.us](mailto:jeanneg@gagv.us) or 585-244-8640, ext. 14.

## Many things



The Empty Closet • Youth Program • InQueery • SafeZone • CampusOUT  
 Rochester Pride Education Program & Speakers Bureau • Rainbow SAGE  
 Community Safety Program & Anti-Violence Project • Library & Archives  
 Shoulders to Stand On • Gay Alliance Resource Directory

The Gay Alliance plays a central role in advocating for the fair and equal treatment of all people, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. [www.GayAlliance.org](http://www.GayAlliance.org)



to Many people

## Program Notes

### LGBT Inclusive AARP Driver Safety Class

The Gay Alliance SAGE Program will host a session of the AARP Driver Safety Course specifically for members of the LGBT and allied communities. This New York State approved training is a total of six hours long, is open to drivers of all ages and will run from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 14. The class will be held in conjunction with SUNY Empire State College, in classroom 106 at 1475 Winton Rd. N., Rochester 14609.

The class is open to any NY licensed driver. Most insurance companies do provide a discount to drivers who complete this course. You can expect to learn current rules of the road, defensive driving techniques, and how to operate your vehicle more safely in today's increasingly challenging driving environment.

"The AARP Driver Safety Course I attended was excellent," said community member JoAnne Metzler, who attended the last course that SAGE hosted in August. "I was so impressed with how Scott kept control of the class, introduced the required material and still let everyone have energetic discussions of the skill and techniques presented. I learned a great deal and I'm actively using some of the ideas and recommendations I learned in the course."

"All classroom conversations will be fully LGBT inclusive," stresses course instructor Scott Fearing, who is also the Gay Alliance Program Director and a certified AARP Safe Driving Instructor. The classroom course costs \$17 for AARP members and \$19 for non-members and per-registration is required with registration closing on Jan. 2, 2012.

"A number of the other people in my class mentioned that they had taken this course before with different instructors," added Metzler. "They mentioned how valuable and enjoyable it was to be in an LGBT inclusive class with a community member as the instructor!"

To register, please visit <http://www.gayalliance.org/programs/inquiry/98-aarp.html> or contact the Gay Alliance at 585-244-8640 ext. 20. For more information contact [ScottF@gayalliance.org](mailto:ScottF@gayalliance.org). Registration will close on Monday, Jan. 2.

### SpeakOut program

The SpeakOut trainings for Jan. 20-21 are full. To sign up for the March 2-3 classes, please go to our website for information and registration, at <http://www.gayalliance.org/speakout.html>.

### Out for Justice

The Gay Alliance is proud to bring back the Out for Justice Legal Education series in 2012. Planning for the series is well underway and will include new "must know" topics for LGBT New Yorkers.

The series kicks off in January with local certified public accountant Jean Thibodeau, who will cover what newly married LGBT couples need to know about filing taxes this tax season. Other new topics to be covered include understanding employee partner benefit rules, fair housing rights, and government rules and laws effecting the transgender community. Out for Justice Professional Network members will continue to provide valuable information on estate planning, health care proxies, employment discrimination and child custody issues.

Perhaps most exciting this year is the addition of the Out for Justice LGBT Legal Expo. This daylong event on March 24 will connect community members to lawyers and other legal support agencies like NYCLU to better understand issues important to LGBT people. A number of legal service agencies will also provide free legal services throughout the day to qualified attendees.

For more information on any Out for Justice workshops, or to register to table at the LGBT Legal Expo, please contact Kelly Clark at 585-244-8640 or [kellyc@gayalliance.org](mailto:kellyc@gayalliance.org).

### Rainbow SAGE update

Wow, it is December. Happy Holidays! The hustle and bustle has begun for SAGE. What do we have going on for December and January?

Our Euchre Club will be playing on Sunday, Dec. 4, and in the New Year, Sunday, Jan. 8. Time to meet and play is 3 p.m. and RSVP is suggested by calling Ginny at 585-473-4765. Have you never played euchre but always wanted to learn how? Just let Ginny know when you call and she will be happy to show you how. The location is South Wedge Planning Committee Building, 224 Mt Hope Ave.

Ruby Sneakers, our healthy fun exercise program, continues for December and January. Come take a walk on Broadway: Ruby Sneakers will be dancing to the hits of Broadway. Join us for an exciting time where you can sit or stand your way to the stage. This class will incorporate elements of tap and jazz dance into your fitness routine to keep you smiling and your hands all jazzed up! The class will be every Wednesday at 5:45 p.m. at Callan-Harris Physical Therapy, 1328 University Ave. between Culver Rd. and Blossom Rd., next to Rochester City Ballet. Look for the CHPT sign out front. Parking is on the right of the building and there is a handicap entrance.

Better Health... Better You! This series continues in December on Saturday, Dec. 10. The time is 10 a.m. and the location is AIDSCare at Monroe Square, 259 Monroe Ave., on the first floor. The gate will open for you and parking is in the back. Come in and follow the signs. On Dec. 10 our subject will be Stress Reduction and Management, just in time for the holidays and Saturday, Jan. 14 will focus on Care Giver Support Services, which is something we all need, now or in the future. These events are a potluck, so feel free to bring your favorite goodies or healthy treats to pass.

Our SAGE Potluck in December is one for the holidays. Come be with friends, listen to great holiday music and share great food and desserts on Sunday, Dec. 18 at 4 p.m. All are invited. We will be having our yearly ham dinner. Please sign up with Nan Fry at [nanfry@rochester.rr.com](mailto:nanfry@rochester.rr.com) to bring specific holiday dinner food, or just bring a dish to pass. The location for our potluck is First Universalist Church, 150 South Clinton, plenty of free parking on the side streets.

We will have more information on our January 2012 potluck and our men's and women's groups in our SAGE newsletter. If you would like to receive our newsletter, send us your name, email and or address to [rainbowsage@gayalliance.org](mailto:rainbowsage@gayalliance.org). The purpose of SAGE is to provide a safe and nurturing space for LGBT older adults in our community to build relationships, talk about their experiences, gain emotional support and overcome isolation. We wish you a safe and happy holiday season! ■



**Legal Answers for LGBT People and Families**

### 2012 workshop series

Join us each month for legal education that could save you money & heartache!

**6:30-8pm, Wednesday, January 11, 2012**  
**Death by Taxes?**

What? Up to FOUR tax returns for newly married LGBT New Yorkers? Really? Join us as local CPA Jean Thibodeau reviews the tax maze for married and unmarried LGBT couples just in time for tax season.

**Next Up: Fair Housing & The LGBT Community**  
**6:30-8pm, February 9, 2012**

Gay Alliance Youth Community Center  
Auditorium Theater, 875 E. Main St, first floor, Rochester, New York 14605  
Info: 585-244-8640 • Free and Open to the Public



**The Gay Alliance**

**On-line Resource Directory**

(GARD) The on-line community tool providing local, statewide and national resources, 24/7 at [www.GayAlliance.org](http://www.GayAlliance.org).

## Speaking Engagements/Tabling for November

- 11/1 SafeZone Training at SJFC
- 11/3 LGBT Issues in Social Work at Greater Roc Collaboration MSW Program
- 11/3 SafeZone Training (AVP) at SJFC
- 11/4 LGBT History and Archives at the Gay Alliance
- 11/7 Sex and Chocolate Health Fair at University of Rochester
- 11/8 LGBT 101 at SJFC
- 11/8 LGBT 101 at SUNY Brockport
- 11/9 LGBT Community Safety and AVP Issues at SUNY Brockport
- 11/9 LGBT Youth Issues at IBERO/PRYD
- 11/10 LGBT 101 at Nazareth College
- 11/10 Transgender Issues in Social Work at Nazareth College
- 11/14 LGBT 101 at SJFC
- 11/14 LGBT 101 at SUNY Brockport
- 11/15 LGBT 101at MCC-Damon City Campus
- 11/15 Transgender Issues at Gay Alliance
- 11/16 LGBT 101 at SJFC
- 11/16 Transgender Panel at Nazareth College
- 11/17 Transgender Issues in Healthcare at Anthony Jordan Health Center
- 11/17 SafeZone Training at Nazareth College
- 11/17 Transgender Health and Safety at SUNY Geneseo
- 11/18 LGBT Counseling Issues at SUNY Brockport

**The Gay Alliance** 875 E. Main St., Suite 500 Rochester, NY 14605 • **Hours** Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm • **Phone** (585) 244-8640 • **Fax** (585) 244-8246 • **Web** [www.gayalliance.org](http://www.gayalliance.org)  
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**Empty Closet Editor** Susan Jordan • **Design** Jim Anderson • **Community Safety** Kelly Clark • **Youth Services Coordinator** Jessica Cohen  
**Outreach Coordinator** Jeanne Gainsburg

**Youth Group** Youth Center, 1st floor - Ages 13-23 Sundays 2-4pm; Ages 18-25 Sundays 4:30-6pm • <http://youth.gayalliance.org> for after school schedule and special events.

**The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley** is a non-profit agency, dedicated to cultivating a healthy, inclusive environment where lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-gender (LGBT) people are safe, thriving and enjoying equal rights. We are a coalition of individuals and groups working to empower LGBT people, to affirm their identities, and to create an atmosphere where the diversity of our community can thrive both collectively and separately. We educate and advocate for civil rights for all and for the eradication of homophobia.

# Resources

## HIV/AIDS

### Free testing for HIV exposure

is available from New York State Department of Health: call Rochester Area Regional Hotline at (585) 423-8081, or 1-800-962-5063 for pay phones or calls outside Rochester. Deaf or hearing impaired people should call (585)423-8120 (TDD.) New Rapid HIV Testing now available — test results in 30-40 minutes! Statewide information can be obtained by calling 1-800-541-AIDS. Other organizations which provide AIDS-related services are as follows:

### AIDS Care

AIDS Care is the leading provider of HIV/AIDS services in Rochester and the Finger Lakes. On-site services include: HIV testing and limited STD screenings, Primary and HIV Specialty Medical Care, Pharmacy, Behavioral Wellness, Case Management, Prevention and Education, Clinical Trials, Dental Screenings, Hepatitis C/HIV Co-Infection Clinic, General Support Groups, Positive Divas Women's Support Group, Positively Alive Support Group, AC Men's Support Group, Treatment Education Group, Meals on Wheels Congregate Program, Latino Support Group, AIDS Care satellite offices in Geneva and Bath, as well as many ad hoc groups. AIDS Care is also a leader in providing services and education to members of the LGBT community. Contact Information: Website: [www.acRochester.org](http://www.acRochester.org). Main Office: 259 Monroe Ave., Rochester, NY 14607; Main Phone: 585-545-7200 - Health Services After Hours: 585-258-3363; Case Management After Hours (Lifeline): 585-275-5151; Fax: 585-244-6456. Finger Lakes Office: 605 W. Washington St., Geneva, NY 14456, 315-781-6303. Southern Tier Office: 122 Liberty St. P O Box 624, Bath, NY 14810 607-776-9166. The Health Outreach Project: 416 Central Ave., Rochester, NY 14605; 585-454-5556.

### Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley

provides referrals to physicians and service agencies. (585) 244-8640; [www.gayalliance.org](http://www.gayalliance.org).

### Victory Alliance

University of Rochester Medical Center. One of several research sites worldwide that comprise the HIV Vaccine Trials Network. Rochester site conducts research vaccine studies sponsored by National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the attempt to discover a vaccine that may one day prevent HIV infection or AIDS. Imagine a world without AIDS, learn how you can help create it. 585-756-2329; [www.vaccineunit.org](http://www.vaccineunit.org).

### Threshold

At The Community Place, 145 Parsells Ave., third floor, 585-454-7530. Provides confidential HIV, STD testing and General Health Care, ages 12-25. Sliding fee scale, no one denied, most insurances accepted. Mon., Wed., Fri. 9a.m.-5p.m.; Tues., Thurs., 9a.m.-7p.m.; Sat. 10a.m.-2p.m. [www.Threshold-Center.org](http://www.Threshold-Center.org)

### Center for Health and Behavioral Training of Monroe County

853 Main St., Rochester 14611. Collaboration of Monroe County Health Department and U.R. Provides year-round training in prevention and management of STDs, HIV, TB and related issues, such as domestic violence and case management. (585)753-5382 v/tty.

### Planned Parenthood of the Rochester/Syracuse Region

114 University Ave., Rochester, NY 14605; Toll-free Helpline: 1-866-600-6886. Offers confidential HIV testing and information. When you make your appointment, be sure to ask about our sliding scale fees. No one is turned away for lack of ability to pay.

### Rochester Area Task Force on AIDS

A collection of agencies providing a multiplicity of resources and services to the upstate New York community. Their offices are located through the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency, which also provides medical literature and newspaper clippings, as well as demographic and statistical data for use in developing health care services. (585) 461-3520.

### MOCHA Center of Rochester

Our mission is to improve health and wellness in communities of color through intervention and service, with emphasis on LGBTQ programming. Youth drop-in center, HIV testing, peer education,

support groups, computer lab, referral services and more. Stop by 107 Liberty Pole Way (corner of Pleasant) or call (585)420-1400.

### Monroe County Health Department

at 855 W. Main St., offers testing and counseling for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. (585)753-5481.

### Strong Memorial Hospital

provides a complete range of HIV medical care, including access to experimental treatment protocols, and HIV testing. Also provides individual and group psychotherapy. Training of health care professionals also available. Infectious Disease Clinic, (585) 275-0526. Department of Psychiatry, (585) 275-3379. AIDS Training Project, (585) 275-5693.

### Planned Parenthood of Rochester and Genesee Valley

offers testing and information (585) 546 2595.

### Rural HIV testing

anonymous and confidential, in Allegheny, Livingston, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne or Yates Counties, call 1-800-962-5063.

### Action Front Center

(Action for a Better Community.) Provides HIV prevention education and case management services. Training and technical assistance to service providers. Resource library open to public. All services free and confidential. Multicultural and bilingual staff. Jearald Noble, program manager. 33 Chestnut St., second floor. Hours 8:30-5 pm, Monday-Friday. 262-4330; fax 262-4572. Free anonymous HIV testing on walk-in basis, Tuesdays, Wednesdays 1-4 pm, provided through NYSDOH. Thursdays 1-4 pm at Aeon Baptist Church, 175 Genesee St.

### Anthony L. Jordan Health Center Prevention & Primary Care Program

Provides Medical Case Management, Mental Health, Primary Care, HIV Counseling and Testing using the Orasure Rapid Test, Education presentations, and access to other Jordan services. Prevention & Primary Care is a walk-in program; no appointments necessary. Office hours: Mon.-Fri., 8:30am-5 pm; extended hours on Monday until 8 pm. (585) 423-2879; fax (585) 423-2876. Website: [www.jordanhealth.org](http://www.jordanhealth.org). For more information, call Program Director Patrick M. Trevor, (585) 423-2879.

### CDC National STD and AIDS Hotline

1-800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636) 24 hours a day. TTY service: 1-888-232-6348. E-mail address: [cdcinfo@cdc.gov](mailto:cdcinfo@cdc.gov).

### Fair Housing Enforcement Project of Monroe County

585-325-2500; 1-800-669-9777. Deals with housing discrimination on basis of race, orientation, HIV status, etc.

### Public Interest Law Office of Rochester

80 St. Paul St., Suite 701. Free legal services to HIV positive persons, families. Spanish bilingual advocates available. All civil cases except divorce; no criminal cases. Ask to speak to someone in PILOR. 454-4060.

### Evergreen Health Services, Buffalo

Primary care, HIV and family care, HIV testing and counseling. (716) 847-0328

### Westside Health Services

Brown Square Health Center, 175 Lyell Ave. (254-6480); Woodward health Center, 480 Genesee St. (436-3040). HIV/AIDS services, support, more.

### McCree McCuller Wellness Center at Unity Health's Connection Clinic

(585) 368-3200. 89 Genesee St., Bishop Kearney Bldg., 3rd floor. Full range of services, regardless of ability to pay. Caring, confidential and convenient.

### Catholic Charities AIDS Services

A multicultural and bi-lingual staff providing services to a diversity of people infected and affected with HIV. Intensive home-based case management for all ages; a clinical crisis manager; a child/adolescent case worker; transitional case management for children and family members going through bereavement; recreational and support groups for children and teens, and camping experiences including Camp SOAR. We coordinate HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS) short term emergency assistance with rent/mortgage/utility payments and limited subsidized housing. 1945 E. Ridge Rd., Suite 24, Rochester NY 14622. (585) 339-9800.

### Huther Doyle

360 East Ave., Rochester 14604. Offers drug, alcohol prevention, education, treatment. Risk

Reduction Plus Team offers services to HIV positive and those at risk through substance use. Programs include outreach, transitional case management, free confidential testing (Oral-Quick Rapid Testing). NYS Dep't. of Health offers free on-site confidential and anonymous testing. (585)325-5100, M-F 8 am-9 pm, [www.huther-doyle.com](http://www.huther-doyle.com).

### Geneva Community Health

601 W. Washington St., Geneva. Provides HIV testing, HIV specialty and primary care for residents of Ontario and surrounding counties. Mon.-Thurs. 9 am-5 pm; Fridays 9 am-noon. 315-781-8448.

## DEAF SERVICES

### Advocacy Services for Abused Deaf Victims

Mailing address: c/o ASADV, P.O. Box 20023, Rochester, NY 14602. 24 HOUR HOTLINE: ASADVhope@gmail.com; VP: 866-936-8976; TTY/FAX: 585-232-2854.

### Lilac Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf (LRAD)

Meets second Saturdays, 6-9 pm. For location, information: [rcoaster@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rcoaster@rochester.rr.com)

### Spectrum

LGBTQI and Straight Alliance, RIT/NTID. On Facebook

## TRANSGENDER

### Rochester Trans Group

Social/educational group for gender variant people and friends. Last Saturday, 3-5 pm, GAGV Youth Center, first floor, 875 E. Main St. 244-8640.

## FAMILY

### CNY Fertility Center

Integrative Fertility Care. Support meetings, webinars, workshops. Information: [cbriel@cnyfertility.com](mailto:cbriel@cnyfertility.com); [www.cnyhealingarts.com](http://www.cnyhealingarts.com)

### Rochester Gay Moms' Group

Support group for lesbian mommies and wannabe mommies in Rochester and surrounding areas. Subscribe: [RochesterGayMoms-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:RochesterGayMoms-subscribe@yahoo.com).

### Lesbian & Gay Family Building Project

Headquartered in Binghamton and with a presence throughout Upstate NY, the Project is dedicated to helping LGBTQ people achieve their goals of building and sustaining healthy families. We do this by providing support, advocacy, information, and access to community and sensitive healthcare and other services. Our network of Pride and Joy Families offers social and educational opportunities to LGBTQ parents, their children and prospective parents. Claudia Stallman, Project Director, 124 Front St., Binghamton, NY 13905; 607-724-4308; e-mail: [LesGayFamBldg@aol.com](mailto:LesGayFamBldg@aol.com). Web: [www.PrideAndJoyFamilies.org](http://www.PrideAndJoyFamilies.org).

### Families Joined by Love

Books and resources for LGBT families. [www.familiesjoinedbylove.org](http://www.familiesjoinedbylove.org).

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

PFLAG's threefold mission: supporting parents and family members in coming out process; educating the community; advocating on behalf of LGBT family members. Regular meetings: Third Sunday of the month, Open Arms MCC, 740 Marshall Rd. 14624. 1-3 pm. [PFLAG@gagv.us](mailto:PFLAG@gagv.us); 585-244-8640 x27.

### Adoptive Parent Support Group

Monthly potluck lunches. For information, location, call Shari, 350-2529.

### Angel Food Ministry

Box of fresh/frozen food for \$30 in advance. Menu changes monthly. For information and distribution sites, call 585-861-4815.

## LGBT HEALTH

For a list of LGBT-friendly and competent health and human service providers in the Rochester and Finger Lakes area, visit the resource directory page(s) at [www.everybodysgood.com](http://www.everybodysgood.com). These pages are compiled and managed by AIDS Care. If you are a provider, or know of one, who would like to be included, contact them through the website or contact Erik Libey directly at (585) 210-4192.

### Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley

See [www.gayalliance.org](http://www.gayalliance.org) Resource Directory under "Health" for GAGV referrals to physicians and service agencies.

## WOMEN

### HEALTH:

**Highland Hospital Breast Imaging Center**  
500 Red Creek Drive, Rochester 14623; 585-487-3300. Specializing in breast health, diagnostic breast imaging and treatment and mammography outreach and education.

### Breast Cancer Coalition of Rochester

840 University Ave.; 585-473-8177; [www.bccr.org](http://www.bccr.org); email: [info@bccr.org](mailto:info@bccr.org). Breast Cancer Coalition provides support services that include Brown Bag Fridays: an informal discussion group that meets weekly from 12:00-1:30; Breast Cancer 101 and 201: programs designed to help those coping with a recent breast cancer diagnosis and those coping with an advanced breast cancer diagnosis; Sister Sak: a program that addresses the issues facing young women with breast cancer; and the Advanced Breast Cancer Support Group to support women living with metastatic breast cancer. The Breast Cancer Coalition also provides information about breast cancer, a lending library, and a monthly educational program. All BCCR programs and support services are free.

### Monroe County Women's Health Partnership

111 Westfall Rd., Rochester NY 14692; (585)274-6978. Comprehensive breast cancer screening services for uninsured and underinsured women.

### Elizabeth Wende Breast Clinic

170 Sawgrass Drive. 442-8432. Dr. Wende Logan-Young and an all-woman staff provide mammograms.

### SHARE: Self Help for Women with Breast or Ovarian Cancer

NYS Hotline: 1-866-53SHARE or 1-866-537-4273.

### Alternatives for Battered Women

232-7353; TTY 232-1741. Shelter (women only), counseling. Lesbians, gay men welcome.

### GAGV Anti Violence Project

585-244-8640 ext 17. For women and men.

### Victim Resource Center of Wayne County

Newark N.Y. Hotline 800-456-1172; office (315)331-1171; fax (315)331-1189.

### Mary Magdalene House

Women's outreach center for HIV positive women and women at risk. 291 Lyell Ave. Open Mon-Fri. 6:30-9:30 pm 458-5728.

### Planned Parenthood of the Rochester/Syracuse Region

114 University Ave., Rochester, NY 14605; Toll-free Helpline: 1-866-600-6886. Planned Parenthood has led the way in providing high quality, affordable reproductive health care since 1916. Our experienced and compassionate medical staff will listen to your concerns and answer your questions in a warm, welcoming atmosphere. All our services are confidential. We accept most insurances; including Medicaid. You may even qualify for low- to no-cost family planning services. When you make your appointment, be sure to ask about our sliding scale fees. No one is turned away for lack of ability to pay.

## POLITICAL:

### National Organization for Women (Greater Rochester NOW)

PO Box 93196; (585)234-7019. E-mail: [info@rochesternow.org](mailto:info@rochesternow.org) Web page: <http://www.rochesternow.org>.

## CULTURAL:

### Rochester Women's Community Chorus

234-4441. (See Ongoing calendar).

## GENERAL:

### Women's Resource Center

YWCA, 175 N. Clinton Ave. 546-7740.

## SOCIAL:

### Color Outside the Line Crew

Contact Jackie Williams, 482-4945.

### Butch Femme Connection:

288-7208; [DressyFemme@aol.com](mailto:DressyFemme@aol.com)

Check our monthly and ongoing Calendars and the Gay Groups section for more groups and events. For more information, call the GAGV at 244-8640 or see [www.gayalliance.org](http://www.gayalliance.org). And send us your information! ■

# Groups

Find the friends and fun you need in your neighborhood of the LGBT community.

## COMEOUTDANCIN'

Sunday, Dec. 4: ComeoutDancin' theme is "Fronnectionality."

Using frame, connection and musicality, Rebekah Polvino and Gary Valerio will demonstrate how and when to communicate with your partner. This info is applicable to all styles of social dance.

Sunday, Dec. 18: ComeoutDancin' - "Fronnectionality." Rebekah Polvino and Gary Valerio will again demonstrate how and when to communicate with your partner using frame, connection, and musicality. This info is applicable to ALL styles of social dance.

All dances take place at The Friends Meetinghouse, 84 Scio St. (entrance on Charlotte St. across from the East End Garage), between 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. Admission is \$5. or more info contact [comeoutdancin@gayalliance.org](mailto:comeoutdancin@gayalliance.org) or call 585-244-8640.

## DIGNITY-INTEGRITY

Dignity Integrity hosts the fifth annual Christmas Hymn Sing on Tuesday, Dec. 27 at St. Luke & St. Simon's Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. at 7 p.m. (see details below).

There will be NO SERVICE ON SUNDAY, DEC. 25. Merry Christmas to all!

D-I Rochester meets weekly at St. Luke's and St. Simon's Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St., at the corner of Broad St. We have the following services and activities for the month of December 2011 and January, 2012.

First Sunday: Episcopal Mass in the Church, with music; second Sunday: Roman Catholic Liturgy of the Word, with music; third Sunday: Episcopal Mass in the Chapel, no music this week; fourth Sunday: Evening Prayer, followed by a Potluck Supper (no service on Dec. 25); fifth Sunday: special event in January (check the website for details).

January Pot Luck Theme: "Frozen Food". This should be a fun challenge. Can you eat the food frozen? Did you get it from the frozen food aisle in the market? Did you freeze it for "later" and are just now sharing it? Can the leftovers be frozen? Use your imagination and bring your favorite frozen food. I can't wait to see what will be on our table. You're welcome to join us! No time to cook? Don't worry; there is always plenty to share.

News from the Pews: The biggest news this month is that we are holding the 5th Annual Christmas Hymn Sing on Tuesday, Dec. 27. Tim Schramm will once again lead us on piano and organ. His accompaniments are joyful, uplifting and simply fantastic. Mark your calendars and join us as we get one more chance to sing our favorite hymns of the season.

Remember to check our website ([www.di-rochester.org](http://www.di-rochester.org)) for further details. You can also contact us by email ([info@di-rochester.org](mailto:info@di-rochester.org)) or by calling the D-I Hotline, (585) 234-5092.

## EMPIRE BEARS

Winter's here, and as usual, the BEARS are staying inside, eating, playing games, and keeping warm with a furry friend.

We can be found at The Wintonaire every Wednesday for supper at 6 p.m. We host a potluck for members and friends every second Saturday at 6:30 at the GAGV Youth Center. We'll be at the RGMC concert at the Hochstein on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 2 and 3. On Sunday the 4th, we'll be at Golden Ponds watching Kasha and Aggie.

You can see us around town at concerts, shows, movies, dinners; wherever there's fun to be had. Members of the

Empire Bears hang out at the Forum, often on first and third Saturdays. We are no longer sponsoring the Bearnight at the Forum on first Saturdays, but support the Forum and the new guys sponsoring the event. Good luck to them.

Thanks to the Forum and all our friends for years of support. It has allowed us to donate to many local gay charities for years, just recently the Image Out Film Festival and the RGMC. Have a great winter. WOOF!

## EQUALITY ROCHESTER

Newly legal same-sex weddings are happening in a deluge, but after they get turned down for workplace spousal benefits like Flexible Spending the newly-weds can tell you... "married" does not mean "equal" yet.

There is much work remaining for full LGBT equality. Equality Rochester will be targeting several LGBT initiatives in 2012. Of great importance is to protect the local politicians like Assemblyman Harry Bronson and Senator James Alesi who are at re-election risk owing to their supportive vote for marriage equality. We will work with Marriage Equality New York in this effort. Additionally the passage of transgender protections in the form of GENDA and ENDA must proceed.

Please join us as we launch into work for the next stage of LGBT civil rights: Second Mondays at Equal Grounds Coffee House 7 p.m. Contact Anne, 426-0862; [anne.tischer1@gmail.com](mailto:anne.tischer1@gmail.com)

## GUYS' NIGHT OUT

Guys' Night Out is a local transguys group that meets at 1 p.m. on the third Saturday of the month at Equal=Grounds, 750 South Ave.

Transmen and those identifying with transmasculine experience (including questioning individuals) are welcome.

Contact: 585-244-8640 ext. 14; E-mail: [tguysnightout@gmail.com](mailto:tguysnightout@gmail.com).

## JUST US GUYS

Our Holiday Pot Luck Dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 6 at the AIDSCare basement break room. Gathering time is 6 p.m., with dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Something new this year for the group is to join with the Rochester Rams in collecting toys for their Annual Community Toy Drive, which benefits the Roosevelt Children's Center in Newark. Those attending should bring a new unwrapped children's toy. Guests and visitors are welcome to attend this event.

The first month of the New Year gathering is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 10. Our recent guest speaker, Brian Quinn, has offered to make a return appearance to discuss the importance of exercise. Based on his last presentation, Brian who is a local exercise/health trainer, will have many helpful tips for the group.

Just Us Guys extends our holiday wishes to all and our best for a healthy, happy 2012 New Year. For more information about the group and the December and January meetings, contact Ron at 223-2629 or email [rmatter1@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rmatter1@rochester.rr.com)

## OUT & EQUAL

Join us for our monthly Second Thursdays Networking Event, December 8, 5:30-7 p.m., at Geva Theatre, 75 Woodbury Blvd. Networking with hors d'oeuvres in the Geva Cafe. Come for the networking. Stay for the show!

On Christmas Eve, Scrooge is visited by a series of ghosts who remind him who he was and predict what he might yet become. He learns the true meaning of the season and that it's never too late to make a new start. The famous tale of redemption for the most despised man in London will awaken your heart and rekindle your spirit in the critically acclaimed new adaptation.

After the networking event, join Out

and Equal for a 7 p.m. performance of "A Christmas Carol." Specially discounted tickets just \$38.75 for floor level or \$31.50 balcony. This discount is available only through Colleen Brown and NOT through the Box Office. Contact Colleen at 585-232-1366 ext 3057 or email to [cbrown@gevatheatre.org](mailto:cbrown@gevatheatre.org).

## PRIDE AT WORK AFL-CIO

Pride at Work has seen a steady increase in Labor's embrace of LGBT issues. The overt and active support for NY Marriage by the Rochester unions was gratifying and indicates the level to which Pride at Work has been integrated into the labor family here.

Recognition of that accomplishment has resulted in local PAW president Bess Watts being appointed to the National Pride at Work Board. Her first report on Rochester's "best practices" garnered a standing ovation.

Recent PAW initiatives have been the support of the Occupy movement and other progressive actions that support the interests of the LGBT and Labor communities.

On the fun side, the Annual Pride at Work Awards Dinner is being planned for March 15. Expect some laughs. Membership in PAW is open to anyone regardless of union status or employment status, so please join us. Meetings are first Thursdays, 5:30 p.m., 167 Flanders St. off Thurston Rd. Contact Bess Watts [besswhat@gmail.com](mailto:besswhat@gmail.com); (585) 770-4714.

## ROCHESTER GAY MEN'S CHORUS

The Rochester Gay Men's Chorus announces the first rehearsal of our spring cycle. Our next auditions will be held on Jan. 5, 2012 for our second concert "Lassos and Chaps and Spurs, Oh My!"

Voice placements for new members are held on the day of the first rehearsal of each new concert season from 6:30-6:45 p.m. All rehearsals take place at the Downtown United Presbyterian Church at 121 N. Fitzhugh St. in downtown Rochester on the second floor. We hope to see you there!

## ROCHESTER RAMS M.C.

Season's Greetings from the Rochester Rams. We wish you all the happiest and merriest of holidays along with the safest and most prosperous New Year ever.

IT GETS BETTER!

As 2011 draws to an end the Rams and all of us in the greater leather community would like to add our voices to the chorus that is telling GLBT people everywhere, and especially our youth, that it really does get better. Always be proud of who you are and don't ever let anyone tell you otherwise.

We are happy to report that our Annual Toy Drive was a great success. The pool table area of the Forum was again overflowing with an unbelievable array of goodies. The toys and the cash collected will again be taken to the Roosevelt Children's Center in Newark to brighten the holidays for "our kids". This event just gets better every year. Our heartfelt thanks go to Peter and the staff at the Forum, to Outlandish for supplying a collection box there, to *The Empty Closet* for donating ad space and to all of you in the community who so generously contributed toys or cash.

Be sure to join us for our December and January barnights at the Forum. December's barnight is Saturday the 24th and January 2012's date is the 21st. Due to popular demand, we are continuing "themed" barnights. December's theme will be "Long Johns". We will supply bags for your outer clothing at the coat check so we encourage everyone to dress appropriately. January will be "Blue Collar Night" so use your imagination and suit up in your best workman's gear.

The Rochester Rams M.C. is Western New York's foremost gay motorcycle & leather club as well as being one of the

oldest clubs of its type in the country. All who are interested in the leather club scene are invited to check us out. Our general meeting is open to the public and we meet the Wednesday before bar night at 7:30 p.m. each month. Meetings are held in our clubhouse at our home bar, the Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave. Our next general meeting will be on Wednesday, Dec. 21. In January 2011 we will meet on Wednesday, the 18th. For more info, please visit our website: [www.rochesterrams.com](http://www.rochesterrams.com).

## ROCHESTER WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CHORUS

The Rochester Women's Community Chorus will be presenting its annual winter holiday concert, "Music in My Mother's House", on Saturday, Dec. 10.

This show will consist of old favorites from the holiday season, as well as some more contemporary tributes to this festive time of year. Hear a rendition of the "Russian Dance" from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite that will make you laugh out loud. Sing along with "Ding, Dong, Merrily on High" and "Tzena, Tzena". Also on the program will be the song "Breaths," originally recorded by the prolific and groundbreaking a cappella group Sweet Honey in the Rock. There will be something for everyone!

The concert will be held at our new venue, St. Anne's Church, which is located at 1600 Mt. Hope Ave., Rochester 14620. The show begins at 7:30 with a silent auction preceding the performance. This family-friendly event is accessible for the physically challenged and is sign language interpreted.

Ticket prices are: \$10/adults, \$8/students and seniors, \$5 children. Tickets are available from RWCC members, or at our ticket outlets: Parkleigh Pharmacy and Equal=Grounds Coffee House and at the door night of the concert.

For more information, please visit our website:

<http://www.therwcc.org> or call 585-234-4441.

The Rochester Women's Community Chorus is a member of: The Greater Rochester Choral Consortium, The Arts Council of Rochester, Sister Singers Network and GALA (Gay and Lesbian Association of Chorus.) RWCC is a 501 3-C organization.

## RAINBOW SAGE WOMEN PEERS

Talking Topics supportively — community • dating • days nights weekends holidays of our lives • health and fitness • intimacy • isolation • match dance • relationship dance • self and society...

Topics raised for discussion among equals are as limitless as the numbers and complexity of lesbian women participating in our monthly Rainbow SAGE Women's Peer Group. We call ourselves a non-clinical, non-therapeutic, nonjudgmental technically non-"support group" support group. Join us, won't you. Except for December's change to the third Monday (the 19th), we meet final Mondays.

RAINBOW SAGE WOMEN PEERS: Equals engaging in Non-clinical discussion/sharing about whatever affects our lives last Monday (monthly): 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., GAGV Library first Floor (Auditorium Theatre), 875 East Main St. Contact [ebrophy@frontiernet.net](mailto:ebrophy@frontiernet.net).

## ROCHESTER TRANS GROUP

Please join Rochester Trans Group for our December meeting, where guest speaker Jim Costich will show a documentary film and speak about intersex identities.

The meeting will be on Saturday, Dec. 31 from 3-5:30 p.m. in the Gay Alliance Youth Center (875 E. Main Street, First Floor). Ring in the New Year with your friends at RTG! Contact Jeanne at the Gay Alliance if you have questions

(585-244-8640 ext. 14 or jeanneg@gay-alliance.org).

**From JoAnne Metzler:**

Wow! We had our second Saturday meeting Oct. 29 and it was even more successful than the September meeting, which was pretty impressive. Although we didn't have a video to focus our attention on as we did in September, we did have Scott Fearing, program director for the Gay Alliance, and Maur Delaney, organizer of Genesee Valley Gender Variant Group, as co-facilitators who led a discussion sort of titled "Answering the Tough Questions."

We first broke up into groups of two for individual discussions about what kinds of difficult questions each of us get about being trans. We then got together as a group and discussed what came up in the individual sessions. Scott talked about the various situations that we could find ourselves faced with, and the fact that – whether we want to or not – we are educators to the rest of the world trying to make it be more knowledgeable and inclusive of the entire LGBT spectrum.

What he recommended was, first, listen carefully – most questions are about the myths and stereotypes of LGBT people. Second, you don't want to alienate your audience, so don't use sarcasm or be defensive (do, however, if appropriate, use humor). Third, know your own issues and "buttons" that some questions may bring up. Also you do have the option of politely declining to answer a question if you feel it's too personal.

Some of the techniques suggested were, facts (explain the facts to offset myths and stereotypes); personalize – do use personal examples to illustrate and back up those facts; opinion – when you don't know the facts or just don't have the personal experience, you can say something like, "That's a great question and personally I think..." Although this one should be used with care since it's more editorial and not really educational.

We had quite a diverse group; the 17 people in attendance represented almost the whole gender spectrum and, almost more importantly, allies! People who just come to find out more and to support their trans friends.

Our next meeting is Dec. 31, when Jim Costich will discuss intersex issues, a sometimes not really well understood part of the wide range of gender identities. We will start the New Year on Saturday, Jan. 28, with sharing and talking about the stories we all have about being

trans – so far. We start at 3 p.m. with socializing and catching up, then we have an educational presentation with discussion and more socializing until about 5-5:30 p.m.

We meet in the Gay Alliance Youth Center, located in the Auditorium Center, 875 E. Main St., on the first floor. Parking is available in back of the building off Prince St. and College Ave. Note: If there is an event going on and a guard at the booth, just say you're here for the Gay Alliance and they have instructions to let you in without the parking fee.

One of the most difficult things we can do is realize that we can't do it on our own. A quote from Lisa Goodman of the Mental Health Association states it perfectly: "You do it for yourself, but you don't do it by yourself." It's natural to be afraid to need and want help, and have to ask for that help. Every single person who has come to their first meeting has said the exact same thing: "I have been thinking about coming and I kept putting it off..."

These feelings of fear about going to any kind of group for the first time are the same for every group, whether it's for depression, substance abuse, or being trans. So acknowledge the fear, feel the fear, and do it anyway. Come to a meeting.

We hope to see you at one or both of the upcoming meetings! And as always friends and families are encouraged and welcome to join us. P.S. And a big thank you to Kayla, who brought huge, delicious and chocolatey good Rice Krispie Treats!

**WOMYN'S DRUM CIRCLE - ROCHESTER**

The WDCR meets twice a month on the second Tuesday and the fourth Friday. Here is December and January's Schedule Change for the Holidays:

**DECEMBER 2011**

Tuesday Dec. 13, 7 p.m., at Psychic's Thyme – 439 Monroe Ave., Rochester.

Friday Dec. 16: 7 p.m. at Rogue's Hangout – 807 Hamlin Center Rd. Hamlin NY. Phone: 585-313-3037.

**JANUARY 2012**

Tuesday Jan. 10: 7 p.m. at Psychic's Thyme – 439 Monroe Ave. Rochester.

Friday Jan. 27: 7 p.m. at Rogue's Hangout – 807 Hamlin Center Rd. Hamlin NY. Phone: 585.313.3037

For more information: [www.womyns-drumcircle.org](http://www.womyns-drumcircle.org). ■

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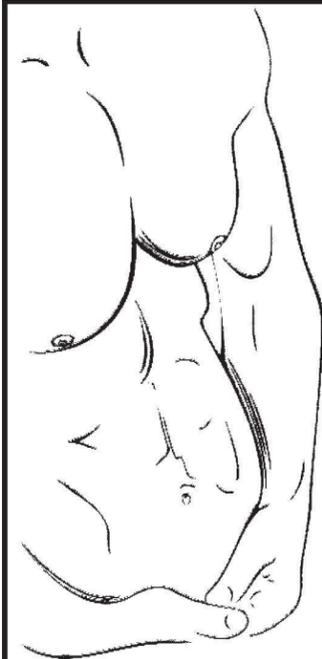
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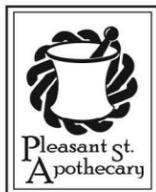
**Dr. Hayden Goltz**

**Spectrum Internal Medicine**  
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Webster, New York 14580  
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# Ongoing Calendar

## MONDAY

### Rainbow SAGE Women's Group

Last Mondays, 11 am-12:30 pm, GAGV Library, first floor next to Youth Center, 875 E. Main St. ebrophy@frontiernet.net (Meeting Dec. 19 this month only)

### Occupy Rochester

M-F, 4-6 pm, at the Liberty Pole.

### Born That Way

Formerly Third Presbyterian LGBT Support Group. First, third Mondays, 7:30-9:30pm, 34 Meigs St. Carol, 482-3832 or Kaara, 654-7516.

### Lilac Squares

#### Gay Square Dance Group

Mondays, 7pm, 140 Alex Bar. To reserve space: 467-6456; bdaniels@frontiernet.net.

### Free syphilis testing

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

### Rochester Historical Bowling Society

7:15pm, Mondays. Clover Lanes, 2750 Monroe Ave. (Group is full.)

### HIV Positive Men's Support group

Every Monday, 5pm, AIDS Care Center for Positive Living, 259 Monroe Ave.

### Gay Alliance Youth Drop-In Hours

Mondays, Wednesdays, 2-6pm, Gay Alliance Youth Center, 875 E. Main St. Prince St. entrance, first floor. 244-8640, x 13.

### Frontrunners/Frontwalkers

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

### Steps Beyond Stems

#### Crack Support Group

Mondays, 7-8pm, 289 Monroe Ave.

### Gay Alliance Library & Archives,

#### David Bohnett Cyber Center

Every Monday: 6-8pm. First floor, 875 E. Main St. 244-8640.

### Equality Rochester

Second Mondays, 7-8:30 pm, Equal=Grounds. 426-0862; annetischer1@gmail.com

## TUESDAY

### Just Us Guys

Gay men of all ages. Second Tuesdays, 6:30pm, AIDS Care, 259 Monroe Ave. 223-2629

### Charlie's Group

Second Tuesdays. Monthly peer-facilitated support group for married men who have sex with men. Confidential, free. For time, place: email charlie@gayalliance.org.

### CampusOut Coffee Night

First Tuesdays, 7-10pm, Equal=Grounds, 750 South Ave.

### MOCHA Youth Drop-In

Tues.-Fri., 1-9pm, MOCHA Center, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 420-1400; 244-8640

### MOCHA Hepatitis Clinic

Free Hepatitis A & B vaccinations, third Tuesdays, 5:30-7pm, 107 Liberty Pole Way, 420-1400

### Women's Community Chorus

Rehearsals each Tuesday, 6:30-9pm, Downtown United Pres. Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh Street. 234-4441, www.therwcc.org

### Free HIV Testing

Every Tuesday, 9am-7pm. AIDS Care, 259 Monroe Ave.

## WEDNESDAY

### Country Line Dancing/Two Stepping

Every Wednesday, 140 Alex, 7pm. Lessons followed by dancing until 10pm, Beginners to advanced.

### U.R. Pride Network

7:30pm, Gamble Room in Rush Rhees Library. urpride@gmail.com

### Rainbow SAGE Ruby Slippers

Wednesdays, 5:45 pm, Callan-Harris Physical Therapy, 1328 Universty Ave.

### Gay Alliance Board of Directors

Meets Third Wednesdays, 6pm, 875 E. Main St. 244-8640

### New Freedom New Happiness

AA Gay meeting, 7pm, Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Rd. Men and women. Open.

### Support Group for Parents who have lost Children

First, 3rd Wednesdays, 11am-12:30pm, Third Presbyterian Church, 4 Meigs St. Genesee Region Home Care. Free. 325-1880

### COAP

Come Out and Play. Wednesday game nights. 8-11 pm. Equal=Grounds, 750 South Ave. 7pm, paulkaseman@gmail.com.

### Rochester Rams General Meeting

2nd Wednesdays, 7:30pm, Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave. www.rochesterrams.com

### Brothers Keeper

Support group for men over 30. Third Wednesdays, 5:30-7:30pm, MOCHA Center, 107 Liberty Pole Way. 420-1400

### HIV+ Mixed Men's Group

Wednesdays, 11:30 am-12:30 pm. AIDS Care, 259 Monroe Ave.

### Gay Alliance Youth Drop-In Hours

Mondays, Wednesdays, 3-7pm, Gay Alliance Youth Center, 875 E. Main St. Prince St. entrance, first floor. 244-8640 x 13.

### Frontrunners/Frontwalkers

6pm, Eastman House parking lot. www.rochesterfrontrunners.org.

### Gay Alliance Library & Archives,

#### David Bohnett Cyber Center

Every Wednesday. 6-8pm. First floor, 875 E. Main St. 244-8640.

## THURSDAY

### Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns

6:30pm, first Thursday. Ralph, 271-7649

### Queer Radical Reading Group

First and third Thursdays, 7pm, Equal=Grounds, 750 South Ave.

### Pride at Work

First Thursdays, 5:30pm. 167 Flanders St. off Thurston Rd. 426-0862.

### Trans Action Group (TAG)

Information: Peter Vaillancourt, sk8forether@gmail; list serve at transactiongroup@googlegroups.com

### GLOB&L (Gays and Lesbians of Bausch & Lomb).

Meets every third Thursday in Area 67 conference room at the Optic Center. Voice mail: 338-8977

### Rochester Gay Men's Chorus

Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St. 6:30-9pm, 423-0650

### Free confidential walk-in HIV testing

Every Thursday night, 5-8pm, AIDS Care, 259 Monroe Ave. 442-2220

### MOCHA/Gay Alliance Youth Trans Group

First Thursdays, 5-7pm, Gay Alliance Youth Center, 875 E. Main St., 1st floor (Prince St. entrance). 244-8640 ext 13.

### Second Thursdays

Social and business networking, 5:30-7:30pm. Changing venues. E-mail fingerlakes@outandequal.org

## FRIDAY

### Gay Men's AA meeting

Fridays, 7:30-8:30pm, Closed meeting. Emmanuel Baptist Church, 815 Park Ave.

### GLBTQI Motorcycle Group

Second Fridays, 5:30pm, Various locations. RochesterGLBTQIbikers@yahoo.com; 467-6456; bmdaniels@frontiernet.net.

## SATURDAY

### Rochester Rams Bar Night

Third Saturdays, 8pm-2am, Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave. 271-6930

### Rochester Trans Group

Social/educational group for gender-variant people, friends. Last Saturdays, 3-5 pm, GAGV Youth Center, first floor, 875 E. Main St.

### Frontrunners/Frontwalkers

9am, George Eastman House parking lot. www.rochesterfrontrunners.org.

### Empire Bears Potluck

2nd Saturdays, Gay Alliance Youth Center, 875 E. Main, first floor, Prince St. entrance. 6:30pm greet; 7pm dinner. Bring dish to pass. www.empirebears.org.

### Cross Dresser Support Group

First Saturdays, 6-9pm, call for location: 251-2132; RCDNET@hotmail.com

### Guys Night Out

Third Saturdays. Social group for transguys. 1pm, Equal=Grounds, 750 South Ave. tguysnightout@gmail.com.

### Saturday Night Special Gay AA

7pm, Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Rd. S. Men and women. Open meeting.

### Lilac Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf (LRAD)

2nd Saturdays, 6-9pm. rcoaster@rochester.rr.com

### Sophia's Supper Club

First and third Saturdays. http://www.inspiritual.biz/online-spiritual-evolution-gro/

## SUNDAY

### Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)

Third Sundays, 1-3 pm. Open Arms MCC, 740 Marshall Rd. 244-8640 ext 27; PFLAG@gayalliance.org.

### Gay Alliance Library & Archives,

#### David Bohnett Cyber Center

Every Sunday. 6-8pm. First floor, 875 E. Main St. 244-8640.

### Come Out Dancin'

First, Third Sundays. 3-5pm, Friends Meetinghouse, 84 Scio St., entry on Charlotte St. \$5.

### Rochester General Assembly

Sundays, Flying Squirrel Community Center, 285 Clarissa St.

### Unity Fellowship Church

Sundays, 1:30 pm, Lutheran Church of Peace, 125 Caroline St., 14620. 520-6188.

### Dignity-Integrity

1st Sunday: 5pm Episcopal Eucharist with music; 2nd Sunday: 5pm Roman Catholic Liturgy of the Word with music; 3rd Sunday: 5pm Episcopal Eucharist (quiet); 4th Sunday: 5pm Prayers to start the week, followed by potluck supper.

### Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church

740 Marshall Rd., Chili, 10:30am, 271-8478

### Gay Men's Alcoholics Anonymous

St. Luke's/St. Simon Cyrene Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. 8:30pm, 232-6720, Weekly. Closed meeting

### Rainbow SAGE

First Sundays: Euchre Club, 3-6pm. Third Sundays, Potluck at First Universalist Church, 150 S. Clinton Ave., 4pm.

### Men's Cooking Group

Third or fourth Sundays, 355-7664.

### Civil Rights Front

Every Tuesday, 5pm, Equal=Grounds, 750 South Ave. http://www.civilrightsfront.wordpress.com ■

## Rochester AA / NA Meetings

Every week there are four regularly scheduled GLBTI AA and two NA meetings in Rochester.

### Tuesdays

#### Narcotics Anonymous

6-7:30pm. AIDS and Recovery 1124 Culver Road (Covenant United Methodist Church) This is an NA meeting that is open to all addicts who have a desire to stop using. Although it is not specifically a gay-oriented meeting, it is welcoming to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, as well as to anyone who is affected by HIV and AIDS.

### Wednesdays

#### New Freedom/New Happiness Group

7pm. First Unitarian Church, 220 S. Winton Rd. Bus riders: Take the last #18 University bus to 12 Corners. Use the stop just past the top of the hill at Hillside Ave. and before Highland Ave. Or take the #1 Park Ave. to the corner of East and Winton, then walk five minutes south (uphill) on Winton. This is an open discussion meeting. All issues – as they relate to our alcoholism/addiction and recovery – are fair game.

### Fridays

#### Gay Men's

7:30pm. Immanuel Baptist Church, 815 Park Ave.

- Closed meeting, restricted to alcoholics and addicts
- Men's meeting
- Handicapped accessible

This is a round-robin discussion meeting. If you are shy about meeting people or speaking up in a group, you will find this meeting particularly warm and inviting because everyone gets their turn to speak (or pass). As a result, this meeting often runs long, so plan on more than the usual hour.

### Saturdays

#### Saturday Night Special

7pm. First Unitarian Church, 220 S. Winton Rd. Bus riders: The #18 University Ave. bus does not go by the church on weekend evenings. Take the #1 Park Ave. bus to the corner of East and Winton, then walk five minutes south (uphill) on Winton.

- Open meeting, all are welcome, "straight-friendly"
  - Mixed men and women
  - Handicapped accessible, take elevator to basement
- Meeting begins with a speaker, followed by open discussion.

### Sundays

#### Step in the Right Direction

7:30-9pm. 1275 Spencerport Road (Trinity Alliance Church) This is an NA meeting that is open to all addicts who have a desire to stop using. Although it is not specifically a gay-oriented meeting, it is welcoming to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Each week features a reading from NA literature, followed by discussion.

### Rochester Gay Men

8pm. St. Luke/St. Simon's Episcopal Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh Street. Bus riders use the Fitzhugh Street stop on Main Street at the County Office Building and walk south one block.

- Closed meeting, restricted to alcoholics and addicts
- Men's meeting
- NOT handicapped accessible

Meeting begins with a speaker, followed by open discussion.

# Dec-Jan 2012

## THURSDAY 1

**World AIDS Day**  
**AIDS Memorial Quilt panels** go on display at Equal=Grounds until Dec. 7. Opening reception First Friday, Dec. 2.  
**World AIDS Day benefit concert.** 7 pm, Hochstein School of Music, 50 Plymouth Ave. \$10 (\$5 students).

## FRIDAY 2

**Rochester Gay Men's Chorus Holiday Concert.** "Holiday Songbook." 8 pm, Hochstein Performance Hall, 50 Plymouth Ave. Also Saturday, Dec. 3. Tickets at Parkleigh, Outlandish, The Creator's Hands, Equal=Grounds.

## SATURDAY 3

**GALAXE 20th Annual Shop & Wrap,** 9 am-noon, AIDSCare, 259 Monroe Ave. 20th year providing 200 holiday gift packages to benefit clients of AIDSCare. To register, visit [www.galaxe.org](http://www.galaxe.org).

## SUNDAY 4

**Dignity Integrity.** Episcopal Mass in the Church, with music. 5 pm, St. Luke's / St. Simon's Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St.  
**Comeoutdancin'** at Friends Meeting-house, 84 Scio St. 3 pm-5 pm. Admission \$5. [comeoutdancin@gayalliance.org](mailto:comeoutdancin@gayalliance.org) or call 585-244-8640.

**Rainbow SAGE euchre.** 3 pm, South Wedge Planning Committee Building, 224 Mt Hope Ave. RSVP: Ginny at 585-473-4765.

## TUESDAY 6

**Just Us Guys holiday potluck.** AIDSCare basement break room, 259 Monroe Ave. Gathering 6 pm, dinner at 6:30 pm.

## THURSDAY 8

**Out & Equal Second Thursdays Networking Event.** 5:30-7 pm. Hors d'oeuvres at Geva Café, followed by "A Christmas Carol." Discount tickets available: Colleen at 585-232-1366 ext 3057 or email [cbrown@gevatheatre.org](mailto:cbrown@gevatheatre.org).

## FRIDAY 9

**Second Friday at Equal=Grounds.** Reception for Christopher Bill's "Dark Shadows," 7-9 pm, The Gallery @ Equal=Grounds.

## SATURDAY 10

**Rainbow SAGE Better Health... Better You.** Topic: stress reduction and management. 10 am, AIDSCare, Monroe Square, 259 Monroe Ave. on first floor.

**Rochester Women's Community Chorus winter holiday concert,** "Music in My Mother's House". 7:30. Silent auction. 10/adults; \$8/students, seniors; \$5 children. Tickets: RWCC members, Parkleigh Pharmacy, Equal=Grounds at door.

## SUNDAY 11

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

**Womyn's Drum Circle.** 7 pm at Psychic's Thyme, 439 Monroe Ave., Rochester. For more information: [www.womynsdrumcircle.org](http://www.womynsdrumcircle.org).

## FRIDAY 16

**Womyn's Drum Circle.** 7 pm at Rogue's Hangout - 807 Hamlin Center Rd. Hamlin NY. Phone: 585-313-3037.

**Rocky Horror Benefit for GAGV Youth Center.** 8-11 pm; doors open 7 pm. Youth Center, 875 E. Main St. first floor. \$5 suggested donation.

## SUNDAY 18

**Rainbow SAGE potluck.** 4 pm. All are invited to yearly ham dinner. Sign up with Nan Fry at [nanfry@rochester.rr.com](mailto:nanfry@rochester.rr.com) to bring specific food. First Universalist Church, 150 South Clinton.

**Dignity Integrity.** Episcopal Mass in the Chapel, no music. 5 pm, St. Luke's / St. Simon's Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St.

**Rochester Theatre Organ Society Holiday Follies.** With Phyl Contestable as Reverend Mother. 2:30 pm, Auditorium Theatre, 885 E. Main St. Free to RTOS members, \$15 for non-members. Tickets online at [www.rtosonline.org](http://www.rtosonline.org).

**Comeoutdancin'** at Friends Meeting-house, 84 Scio St. 3 pm-5 pm. Admission \$5. [comeoutdancin@gayalliance.org](mailto:comeoutdancin@gayalliance.org) or call 585-244-8640.

## MONDAY 19

**Rainbow SAGE Women Peers.** 11 am-12:30 pm, GAGV Library first Floor

(Auditorium Theatre), 875 East Main St. Contact [ebrophy@frontiernet.net](mailto:ebrophy@frontiernet.net).

## WEDNESDAY 21

Winter solstice  
**SATURDAY 24**

**Rochester Rams Bar Night.** "Long Johns." Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave.

## SUNDAY 25

**Christmas Day**  
**Dignity Integrity.** Evening Prayer, followed by a Potluck Supper (no service on Dec. 25). 5 pm, St. Luke's and St. Simon's Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. [www.di-rochester.org](http://www.di-rochester.org)

## TUESDAY 27

**Dignity Integrity Fifth Annual Christmas Hymn Sing.** 5 pm, St. Luke's / St. Simon's Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. [www.di-rochester.org](http://www.di-rochester.org)

## SATURDAY 31

**Rochester Trans Group.** Jim Costich shows film on intersex identities. 3-5:30 pm, GAGV Youth Center (875 E. Main St., First Floor). Info: Jeanne Gainsburg, 585-244-8640 ext. 14; [jeanneg@gayalliance.org](mailto:jeanneg@gayalliance.org).

## JANUARY 2012

### MONDAY 2

**Registration deadline for AARP Driver Safety Course.** <http://www.gayalliance.org/programs/Inqueery/98-aarpiq.html> or call 244-8640 x 20.

### THURSDAY 5

**Rochester Gay Men's Chorus first rehearsal of season;** voice placement 6:30-6:45 pm. Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 Fitzhugh St.

### SUNDAY 8

**Rainbow SAGE euchre.** 3 pm, South Wedge Planning Committee Building, 224 Mt Hope Ave. RSVP: Ginny at 585-473-4765.

### TUESDAY 10

**Womyn's Drum Circle.** 7 pm at Psychic's Thyme, 439 Monroe Ave.

Rochester. For more information: [www.womynsdrumcircle.org](http://www.womynsdrumcircle.org).

**Just Us Guys.** Brian Quinn on exercise. 6 pm, AIDSCare, 259 Monroe Ave.

## WEDNESDAY 11

**Out for Justice workshop.** "Death by Taxes." 6:30-8 pm, GAGV Youth Center, 875 E. Main. Free. 244-8640 x 19.

## THURSDAY 12

**Transgender panel.** Moderator: Pamela Barres. 7-9 pm, GAGV Youth Center, 875 E. Main St., first floor. An INQUEERY program of GAGV.

**Out & Equal Second Thursdays Networking Event.** 5:30-7:30 pm, Strathallan Hotel, 550 East Ave. [www.ocNYfingerlakes.groupsites.com](http://www.ocNYfingerlakes.groupsites.com)

## SATURDAY 14

**AARP Driver Safety Course.** 9 am-3:30 pm, SUNY Empire State College, in classroom 106 at 1475 Winton Rd. <http://www.gayalliance.org/programs/inqueery/98-aarpiq.html> or contact the Gay Alliance at 585-244-8640 ext.20. \$17 for AARP members and \$19 for non-members. [ScottF@gayalliance.org](mailto:ScottF@gayalliance.org); 244-8640. Registration closes Jan. 2.

**Rainbow SAGE Better Health... Better You.** Topic: Care Giver Support Services. 10 am, AIDSCare, Monroe Square, 259 Monroe Ave., first floor.

## MONDAY 16

**Empty Closet deadline for February issue.** 244-9030; [susanj@gayalliance.org](mailto:susanj@gayalliance.org).

## SATURDAY 21

**Rochester Rams Bar Night.** "Blue Collar Night". Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave.

## FRIDAY 27

**Womyn's Drum Circle.** 7 pm at Rogue's Hangout - 807 Hamlin Center Rd. Hamlin NY. Phone: 585-313-3037.

## SATURDAY 28

Rochester Trans Group. 3-5:30 pm, GAGV Youth Center. ■

# 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, NY 14605. Paying by check: checks must be made out to Gay Alliance or GAGV. The deadline is the 15th of the month, for the following month's issue. We cannot accept ads over the phone. Pay when you place your ad. We will accept only ads accompanied by name and phone number. Neither will be published, but we must be able to confirm placement. *The Empty Closet* is not responsible for financial loss or physical injury that may result from any contact with an advertiser. Advertisers must use their own box number, voice mail, e-mail or personal address/phone number.

## PERSONALS

**Starlight, starbright, where the heck is Mr. Right?** Athletic, fit, 50s, nonsmoking, passionate, single GWM. Clean shaven, hazel eyes, tan. Degreed, employed, fun. Write: P.O. Box 24127, Rochester, NY 14624.

**Progressivist Lesbian Women Senior(s)** interested Thursday RPO concerts, Fall/Winter Erie Canal walks, and or civil-talking politics news/current affairs, please call C at 585-732-7149.

**GWM,** middle aged, into exercise videos, weightlifting, sunbathing, with V-shaped torso, wishes to meet others, Seneca Falls, Waterloo, Geneva, Canandaigua. Write to Jim Knapp, 1749 Powderly Rd., Waterloo NY 13165.

## SERVICES

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 out there is  
 frightful... 🎵

but staying  
 healthy is so  
 delightful! 🎵



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 259 Monroe Avenue Rochester NY 585.545.7200  
 Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!



Have a happy and  
 safer holiday season  
 from everyone at

[everybodysgood.com](http://everybodysgood.com)

**AIDS CARE**  
 The Center for Positive Living