The Empty Closet

LOCAL, STATE, NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWS, INTERVIEWS,
OPINION, ENTERTAINMENT, COLUMNISTS, EVENT CALENDARS, COMICS, & HEALTH RESOURCES
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AT EMPTY CLOSET NEWS • FOLLOW US AT WWW.TWITTER.COM/EMPTYCLOSETNEWS

NUMBER 491 | A PUBLICATION OF THE GAY ALLIANCE | JULY 2015

Gay Alliance announces move, new resource center

As part of national Pride Month, the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley announced plans to relocate its headquarters to 100 College Ave. in the Neighborhood of the Arts. The organization has signed a lease for the new 6,000-square-foot location, which will include business offices and an expanded resource center.

It will be known as the Gay Alliance Offices and LGBTQ Resource Center.

"Our new space will allow us to be much more accessible and visible to the community, so that we can more easily welcome the LGBTQ individuals and allies into our offices and provide them with services, education and support they rely on," said Scott Fearing, Gay Alliance Executive Director.

The Gay Alliance library and archives, a large classroom, a private meeting room, an art gallery/program space, and The David Bonett Cyber Center that provides free computer stations and Internet access for visitors will all be part of the LGBTQ Resource Center.

David Zona, President of the Gay Alliance Board of Directors, is excited about the move: "This is an important step for the Gay Alliance. As Champions of LGBTQ Life and Culture, we are committed to the well being of our community and region. This new space positions us to carry out our mission more easily and effectively.

"Yet this effort is not just about packing boxes and moving down the street," Zona added. "We need the community's financial support to help us complete the renovations and update our infrastructure technology so that we can provide LGBTQ individuals and allies with the best possible experience, every time that we interact with them."

Among the items that the Gay Alliance needs are a new telephone system, new office cubicles, and upgraded Internet connections. Additional volunteers will be needed to operate the Resource Center.

While the opening date is still unknown due to scheduling the necessary renovations, Fearing anticipates welcoming LGBTQ individuals and allies to the office on College Avenue later this summer. ■

May the Pride be with you

By Susan Jordan

Come to the queer side of the Force with Sci Fi Pride on July 17-19. Events will include the Pride Parade and Festival on Saturday, July 18 and the Picnic (free admission this year) on Sunday, July 19, at Genesee Valley Park.

The Roc Pride Run takes place before the Picnic on July 19 at Genesee Valley Park and is a 5 K run and Fun Run (www.gayalliance.org/Pride).

Sassy in the South Wedge returns on July 16 from 6-8 p.m., to help kick off Rochester Pride with an exciting new location at Star Alley, 662 South Ave. Events include a live performance by Amanda Lee Peers (who was on The Voice), BRAWL (Broads Regional Arm Wrestling League), a scavenger hunt through the

Wedge, Third Thursday bands Roc City Ramblers and Crawdaddies and lots more fun.

The Flag ceremony starts at

(**Pride** *continues page 3)*

BE OUT • BE PROUD
COMMUNITY
BE A MEMBER

Victory!

SCOTUS says marriage equality is constitutional

The Supreme Court has ruled that the 14th Amendment to the Constitution requires states to issue marriage licenses to same sex couples, and that states must recognize same sex marriages performed in other states.

The ruling reverses the negative decision by the Sixth Circuit Court. Four Justices dissented, with Justice Kennedy as the deciding vote.

The opinion says, "It is now clear that the challenged laws burden the liberty of same-sex couples, and it must be further acknowledged that they abridge central precepts of equality . . . Especially against a long history of disapproval of their relationships, this denial to same-sex couples of the right to marry works a grave and continuing harm. The imposition of this disability on gays and lesbians serves to disrespect and subordinate them. And the Equal Protection Clause, like the Due Process Clause, prohibits this unjustified infringement of the fundamental right to marry."

Eric Citron commented, "The opinion appears to echo Windsor in its dual rationales: Marriage is a fundamental right in which homosexual couples must share, and it would also be a violation of equal protection to extend that right only to heterosexual couples."

From the concluding paragraph of the majority opinion: "No union is more profound than marriage, for it embodies the highest ideals of love, fidelity, devotion, sacrifice, and family. ... [The challengers] ask for equal dignity in the eyes of the law. The Constitution grants them that right."

Full decision at: www.supremecourt.gov

REACTIONS:

"We can't let this moment distract from the very real violence that LGBTQ people, especially LGBTQ people of color and black people, are facing," said Angela Peoples, co-director of GetEQUAL. "As people gather in Charleston right now to mourn the lives of those murdered by a white supremacist gunman, we know the struggle for liberation is an urgent one -- for LGBTQ people, black people and people of color, people living below the poverty line, and anyone experiencing violence and discrimination. The work of the movement is far from over."

Evan Wolfson, president of Freedom to Marry, released the following statement:

"Today's ruling is a transformative triumph decades in the making, a momentous victory for freedom, equality, inclusion, and above all, love. For anyone who ever doubted that we could bend the arc of the moral universe toward justice, today the United States again took a giant step toward the more perfect union we the people aspire to. Today the Liberty Bell rings alongside wedding bells across an ocean of joy.

"With the ruling in Obergefell v. Hodges, the justices affirmed what a super-majority of Americans had come to understand: the freedom to marry is a precious, fundamental right that belongs to all, and that same-sex couples and our families share the same dreams and needs as any others.

"Today's win is the culmination of a decades-long campaign that successfully made the case in the court of public opinion, enabling victories in the courts of law.

"Freedom to Marry calls on state officials to swiftly and faithfully implement the Constitution's command in the remaining 13 states with marriage discrimination, so that all Americans can marry the person they love and build and protect their families, without delay, throughout the land.

"While the work towards equality for all Americans is far from over, the Freedom to Marry campaign has been transformative in Americans' under-

(**Victory!** *continues page 3)*

Scenemaker, page 10

Inside

Editorials 2
Interview: Lundeen & Williams 7
Making the Scene 10
Health: Trans Physician General. 16
LGBTQ Living: The Lebmans..... 17
Shoulders To Stand On 21
Columnists 22
Community 25
Entertainment: Headliners..... 27
Gay Alliance: Meet the Board.. 30
Calendar 34
Classifieds 34
Comics 34, 35

The Gay Alliance is publisher of *The Empty Closet,* New York State's oldest LGBTQ newspaper.

Perspectives

Gay Alliance Board of Trustees

David Zona, President,
W. Bruce Gorman, Secretary, **Jason Barnecut,**
Paul Birkby, Kim Braithwaite, Emily Jones, Jeff Lambert,
Shira May, Colleen Raimond, William Schaefer

The Empty Closet Editor
SUSAN JORDAN

Pride = Self-Respect

After centuries of homophobic hate meant to destroy our self-esteem and our very lives, LGBTQ people have learned to feel pride in being who we are, instead of shame, and now mainstream society is learning that we are human beings.

And it's important to note that, as human beings, gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, trans, gender variant and intersex people are capable of all the good imaginable, and all the bad – just like cisgendered heterosexuals.

One sure sign of prejudice is when one individual's bad behavior is seen as representing ALL members of that particular group. Members of our culture's dominant group – white heterosexual upper class males – are always seen as individuals, and when a member of that group commits a crime, no one says, "See – all white heterosexual upper class males are criminals." In fact, crimes by the privileged are often ignored or excused.

It's complicated. Human beings of all varieties are capable of both saintly and criminal behavior. In fact some criminals in history have ended as saints, and some religious people have ended as criminals. This is not a race, class, gender or sexual orientation thing – it's a human thing. We each get to choose whether we will treat others in a kind and generous way, or a cruel and selfish way.

It's true that what we have experienced in our lives affects who we become. We can see evidence that desperate poverty, injustice and abuse are not necessarily good for the character – and neither, it seems, are extreme wealth and privilege.

LGBTQ people have been told for centuries that we are all innately evil, and should kill ourselves, or be put to death. How many over the centuries have believed that and allowed internalized homophobia to destroy them? Probably millions – we'll never know.

Sadly, too many young LGBTQ people today are still committing suicide and too many of us – especially trans women of color – are still being murdered by those who feel they have the right to decide who should live and who should die.

This month at Pride, we'll party and have fun but we won't just be boozin' and cruisin'. We will be marching for self-respect, justice and equal rights. We will be marching to honor those who suffered and struggled before us. That's quite a change from hiding in the shadows, full of self-hate and suicidal thoughts, as conservative extremists still demand. It has taken over 40 years of political organizing to get to this point, and our struggle isn't over yet.

Nonetheless, in July 2015 we can be proud of how far we have come, as a movement, in rejecting the lies of hatred and bigotry, whether preached at us from the pulpit or screamed at us in school halls.

We can be proud of our families and marriages, which have finally received the respect and recognition thay have always deserved.

As individuals, it's up to each of us to create our own personal reasons to feel proud – that we have survived and succeeded, that we respect ourselves and each other, that we are compassionate to those around us.

Happy Pride! ■

Gay Alliance Executive Director
SCOTT FEARING

The Gay Alliance is moving!

As we told you on the front page of the paper, the Gay Alliance is moving!

While this is a very exciting opportunity for us as an agency, we feel that the move is also beneficial for all of the LGBTQ communities of Rochester.

The new location will allow the Alliance to continue to lead the LGBTQ communities into Rochester's evolving future. The new location will also mean that we are better positioned to help address the difficult issues that Rochester faces, because Rochester's issues are our issues.

Racism, poverty, sexism are very real concerns for the LGBTQ communities, just as they are for all of Rochester. Transphobia, homophobia, biphobia and other forms of anti-LGBTQ oppression that hurt us, also hurt all of Rochester.

Our new location will provide us with the space that we need to provide our direct services, while allowing us the visibility necessary to participate in the systems change work that we need to be part of.

Our new offices and the new LGBTQ Resource Center are located only half a block from Village Gate in the Neighborhood of the Arts. The space will provide us with a much-needed classroom, new programming space and increased public access to our library and cyber resources.

Last year when we began to consider a move, adding an LGBTQ Resource Center was of particular importance for the board and staff because we wanted a space that community members could easily visit and have full access to the wide variety of resources that we offer.

Over the years we have found that our offices are often a stop for LGBTQ people considering coming to school or taking a job in the Rochester area. We also have people come to our offices who are visiting the many special attractions in the area. The new space will be much easier for them to find and we will be better able to serve them.

So the question remains, when will be the new space be open? I wish I could provide a definitive answer. The date is dependent on how long it takes us to complete the necessary build-out and improvements to the space, I anticipate a grand opening in late August and hope you will join us. In the meantime, please consider providing a tax deductible gift to help us prepare our new location.

The Gay Alliance has been an important part of Rochester life for over 40 years, and we look forward to this move and all the possibilities that it opens for us. I look forward to meeting you in our new offices and LGBTQ Resource Center. ■

THANK YOU

THE GAY ALLIANCE APPRECIATES THE CONTINUING PARTNERSHIP OF BUSINESSES WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY WHO SUPPORT OUR MISSION AND VISION.

GOLD

Bachelor Forum
City of Rochester
SWS Charitable Foundation, Inc
Trillium Health

SILVER

Constellation Brands
Empire Merchants
Lake Beverage
Nixon Peabody, LLP
Southern Wine & Spirits
Victory Alliance
Waddell & Reed

BRONZE

140 Alex Bar & Grill
Advantage Federal Credit Union
Anderson Windows
Avenue Pub
Bank of America, Merrill Lynch
CSEA
Empire North
Excellus
First Niagara
Fred L. Emerson Foundation
Harter, Secrest & Emery LLP
HCR Home Care
Hedonist Chocolates
Jim Beam
John's Tex Mex
Joseph & Irene Skalny Charitable Trust
Logical Operations
New York Life
NYC Gay & Lesbian Anti Violence Project
NYSUT
Pride at Work
Prudential
Rochester Area Community Foundation
Rochester Broadway Theatre League
Rochester Institute of Technology
Three Olives
Waldron Rise Foundation
Wegman's School of Pharmacy
Woods, Oviatt, & Gilman, LLP

CHAMPION

Bohnett Foundation
Brighton Dental
Canandaigua National Bank
Centerlink
Jimmy C. Entertainment Group
Marshall St. Bar & Grill
Out & Equal
Park Ave Merchants Association
RIT Student Association
RIT Women & Gender Studies Department
Rochester Kink Society
Rochester Labor Council AFL-CIO
Rochester Rams MC
Third Presbyterian Church

07/15

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Gay Alliance Membership Levels:

❑ $30-99 **Advocate** ❑ $100 **Champion**

❑ $1,000-4,999 **Triangle Club** ❑ $5,000+ **Stonewall**

❑ Check enclosed in the amount of _____ (check #_____)

Please charge my credit card in the amount of _____

To: ❑ American Express, ❑ Discover, ❑ MasterCard, ❑ Visa

Credit card # _____Exp. Date: _____

❑ I would be proud to have my donation publicly acknowledged.

Benefits: Subscription to *The Empty Closet* mailed to home or work, plus privileges at each level. Phone: 585 244-8640 or mail to: **Gay Alliance, 875 E. Main St., Suite 500, Rochester, NY 14605.** Home delivery of *The Empty Closet* is free with your annual membership.

PAGE ONE

(**Victory!** *from page 1)*
standing of who gay people are.

"The movement will continue to harness the power of the marriage conversation and win in the work ahead – including passage of a federal civil rights bill, securing state and local protections against discrimination, tending to the needs of our youth and our seniors, and ensuring that the lived experience of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people is fulfilling, good, inclusive, and equal throughout the land. But the work of this Freedom to Marry campaign is now accomplished. Over the next several months, we will collaborate with key movement colleagues to smartly and strategically wind down its work and document lessons learned, and then close its doors, having achieved its goal of winning marriage nationwide and helping loving and committed couples cross the threshold to marriage and full inclusion in society, with equal justice under law."

Empire State Pride Agenda's Executive Director Nathan M. Schaefer stated, "The Supreme Court today affirms what so many of us have long known in our hearts and practiced in our lives: love makes a family. From today forward, the full legal rights and recognition enshrined in the institution of marriage are available all across America to every family forged in the love between consenting adults, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender.

"Today's landmark decision will leave its stamp in the history books for generations to come. This victory is the result of decades of hard work from activists, religious leaders, labor groups, and countless others who refused to allow the bigotry of the past to define the shape of the future. For 25 years, the Pride Agenda has trained, educated, and fought alongside these champions for LGBTQ equality. In 2011, our movement made marriage equality a reality in the Empire State, bringing America one New York-sized leap closer to the nationwide freedom to marry we celebrate today.

"But just as our fight did not begin with marriage, nor does it end here. Our fight does not end until every individual embodying the magnificent gender and sexual diversity possible in the human spirit is free from discrimination, free from oppression, and free from injustice.

"Today, millions of LGBTQ Americans can celebrate. Tomorrow we fight so they all can."

Gay Alliance Executive Director Scott Fearing said, "Today is an historic day for LGBTQ Americans: the Supreme Court has honored our rights to form legally recognized families regardless of where we live. This decision will go down in history as one of the most important moments in the LGBTQ movement, celebrated by families across the nation. We are absolutely thrilled that marriage equality is now the norm across the United States." ■

(**Pride** *from page 1)*
5:30 p.m. on July 17 at Martin Luther King Jr. Park at Manhattan Square, as Rainbow Riders bring the Pride Colors through the Neighborhood of the Arts, Park Ave., the South Wedge, and Corn Hill. The ceremony will include their arrival, display of the 30'x50' Rainbow Flag from the space frame, PPE color guard performance, reading of official proclamations, sashing of the Pride Parade Grand Marshal, and presentation of the Shoulders to Stand On Lifetime Achievement Award to Sue Cowell. The history exhibit will be available in the pavilion and at 9:15 there will be a screening of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show".

The July 18 Parade, featuring a Sci Fi theme, will line up at noon and depart at 1 p.m., at the corner of Argyle St. and Park Ave. and will march down Park Ave. and pass through Goodman St. all the way to Alexander St. Making a left turn down Alexander, the Parade will begin a new route and turn right onto Monroe Ave. The parade will end on Chestnut St. right in front of MLK Jr. Park at Manhattan Square. Awards will be presented to the best marching units.

The Festival opens on the MLK Park site at 1:30 p.m., with music and activities for all ages. Headliners for the show include Mrs. Kasha Davis, singer Dianne Davidson (a former Rochesterian), Luke Cazwell, Futur Pointe Dance, Rochester Gay Men's Chorus, Rochester Women's Community Chorus and a special guest artist from Tilt. Samantha Vega and DeeDee Dubois are the hostesses, and DJs are Hector and Mighty Mic.

The Picnic is Sunday, July 19, and there are many exciting events that day, starting at 8:30 a.m. with the Roc Pride 5 K Run and Fun Run, at Genesee Valley Park. The Interfaith Service is at 11 a.m., and the Picnic runs from 1-7 p.m., featuring DJ Blake in the Roundhouse and local bands on the City Stage.

Other Pride-related events are coming up too, such as the Pride Golf Tournament, 10 a.m. on July 12 at Victor Hills Golf Club. The tournament is sponsored by 140 Alex and costs $85/person. That includes the tournament, lunch, and dinner and a show at 140 Alex. Proceeds will benefit the Gay Alliance. For registration call 734-9860.

On July 14 there will be a screening of the critically acclaimed film "Pride", sponsored by SAGE Rochester and Third Presbyterian Church. It will take place at 6 p.m., with refreshments and discussion to follow the screening. It is free and open to the public, and the location is Third Presbyterian Church, 4 Meigs St. For information call 271-6513.

The Trans open mic, "The Good, the Bad and the Funny," will take place July 16 at Equal Grounds, 750 South Ave. from 7-9 p.m.

Black Sheep Theatre will present a play, "Sordid Lives" by Del Shores, opening on July 16 at 7:30 p.m. at Village Gate. See page 28 for all performance dates and times.

The Gay Alliance invites Rochester to join in celebrating what Spock's Vulcan tradition called "Infinite diversity in infinite combinations". ■

NewsFronts

LOCAL AND STATE

Kelly Baumgartner of the East Coast Two Spirit Society.

East Coast Two Spirit Society to march in Pride Parade 2015

By Kelly Baumgartner

This year, The East Coast Two Spirit Society (EC2SS) will be marching in the Rochester Pride Parade for the first time.

After a great time celebrating LGBT Pride in Philadelphia and New York City, members of the EC2SS are excited to be joining us here in Rochester. Those of us at EC2SS would like to invite any Two Spirit Native American/American Indian/First Nations People and their allies to join us in the parade, as we celebrate our pride in, and fight for the recognition of, our traditional roles among our Native Nations.

If you would like further information about joining us in the Pride Parade, or about EC2SS in general, contact me at kkbkelly@outlook.com, subject: ROC Pride Parade or EC2SS info.

"The GOOD, the BAD, and the FUNNY" returns to Equal=Grounds

By Shauna O'Toole

The Good, the Bad, and the Funny is an Open Mic event for anyone who identifies as being Transgender or Gender Variant.

This is an opportunity for us to stand and share our stories. For some, this is a chance to share what is new. For others, it is a chance to share with the world the person they truly are.

Think back to the first time you stood up and owned your identity, regardless of what it is. It can be a powerful and liberating experience that will echo within you throughout your life. Now, imagine sharing your story with an audience of friends, family, and others on this same journey.

Hearing the stories of others lets us know that we are not the only ones to have trials and tribulations and can encourage. Listening to others share how they found acceptance can inspire.

Plus, let's be honest, sometimes life is just funny!

Come join us at Equal Grounds Coffee House on July 16, 7-9 p.m., for The Good, the Bad, and the Funny! That's 750 South Ave, Rochester.

All are welcome! Parents, siblings, and children of Transgender/Gender Variant people are encouraged to come!

Sign ups to speak will be first come, first serve.

PRIDE in Leadership launches program at United Way

The inaugural session of the United Way of Rochester's PRIDE in Leadership Development Program, co-developed by the Gay Alliance and Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield, took place on May 1.

"The LGBTQ Pride class is a wonderful addition to Leadership Development Programs hosted for many years by the United Way," said Scott Fearing, Executive Director of the Gay Alliance. "This new session joins the existing Leadership Programs offered for Latino, African American, and Asian community members, and helps to ensure the commitment to Diversity that outgoing CEO Peter Carpino brought to the United Way of Rochester."

The intent and design of the program is to broaden participation from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Questioning (LGBTQ) community in the important leadership roles in not for profits within the Greater Rochester area. There were 15 participants in the inaugural class, representing a mix of community identities.

Recruitment for the next session will begin in the fall. The United Way says, "We would like to extend our gratitude to the Iberdrola USA Foundation, this year's premier sponsor, for all of its Leadership Development Programs."

Bereavement Support Group starts July 1

The LGBT Bereavement Support Group will meet the first and third Wednesdays of the month at the David H. Klein Center for Compassion and Healing, 3111 Winton Rd. S, from 5:30-7 p.m.

The group is facilitated by Margaret Mathews and Shirley Edwards. For information call 585-475-8800.

OSHA publishes guidelines on trans workers' bathroom access

OSHA has introduced a new guide on restroom use that will help transgender workers. The introduction to the document reads:

"The Department of Labor's (DOL) Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires that all employers under its jurisdiction provide employees with sanitary and available toilet facilities, so that employees will not suffer the adverse health effects that can result if toilets are not available when employees need them. This publication provides guidance to employers on best practices regarding restroom access for transgender workers. OSHA's goal is to assure that employers provide a safe and healthy working environment for all employees."

See the full document at Link: http://www.dol.gov/asp/policy-development/TransgenderBathroomAccessBestPractices.pdf

Gay Alliance Education Coordinator Rowan Collins commented, "It's great to see the federal government advocating for safe and available facilities for all employees, as well as modeling respect for -- and affirmation of -- all gender identities. Hopefully this will help to steer our society towards additional inclusive measures and expand the scope of conversation surrounding transgender issues.

"There are many, many other challenges the transgender community faces and it is good to see some understanding and action coming from the top."

NY State Fair will have first Pride day Aug. 28

By Dawn Ennis on The Advocate

It's billed as the Great New York State Fair, but this year it will also be the Gayest.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced that the annual event, held in Syracuse, N.Y., is getting its first-ever pride day.

(**State Fair** *continues page 6)*

In memory of Gary Sweet

By Evelyn Bailey

Gary Sweet and the Pub were institutions on the Avenue. Always inclusive and welcoming, Gary was a gay pioneer. There at the beginning when Rochester was not so gay friendly, Gary persevered and became a "shoulder" of support, care, and compassion for everyone he met.

The Avenue Pub celebrated its 40th Anniversary the weekend of June 12–14. Fun, laughter, joy and pride filled Gary's heart as he saw his new and long time friends and customers enjoy themselves.

Many are saddened by Gary's death. Look for a more complete remembrance in the August issue of the Empty Closet. Gary will not be forgotten. His smile, positive attitude, and words of wisdom will live on. The Avenue Pub will continue to be welcoming and inclusive. But – the Avenue will never be the same!

NewsFronts

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

Two million march for Pride in Sao Paulo

By Sylvia Tan on gaystarnews.coma
Photo: Twitter (@CABEYOHETERO)

It's said to be the largest demonstration in support of gays and lesbians in the world with an estimated crowd of two million as floats and marchers in bright costumes thronged through Sao Paulo's thoroughfare Paulista Avenue.

The slogan of the 19th LGBT parade is "I was born this way, I grew up so I will always be like this: respect me."

Since the parade was first held in 1997, the LGBT community has made significant gains in a mostly socially conservative Roman Catholic country of 202 million.

Although same-sex marriage became legal in Brazil in May 2013, widespread discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identify still exists.

LGBTI rights groups report that the country sees homophobic or transphobic attacks on almost a daily basis with 326 homicides of homosexuals, bisexuals and transsexuals last year.

While President Dilma Rousseff has promised to support moves to criminalize anti-gay attacks, she says her government faces opposition from evangelical Christian and right wing politicians, some of whose supporters organized a counterparade.

- See more at: http://www.gaystarnews.com/article/sao-paulo-celebrates-one-worlds-biggest-gay-pride-events080615#sthash.j505LGwf.dpuf

Act II: Ireland moves on trans rights, employment discrimination

By Stefanie Gerdis on gaystarnews.com

Irish trans people will be given the freedom to choose for themselves when they can legally change their gender under a new bill.

The updates to the Gender Recognition Bill will allow trans people to change their gender without having to submit medical evidence; instead, the application process will be based on self-declaration by way of statutory declaration.

The decision came just weeks after Ireland voted overwhelmingly for same-sex marriage equality in a referendum.

Ireland's deputy Prime Minister, or Tánaiste, and Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton, T.D. announced the changes on 3 June.

"I have listened carefully to the views of individual citizens, representative groups and public representatives. It is essential that this important legislation is in line with international best practice," she said when speaking after the Cabinet meeting.

"That is why we are moving to a self-declaration model for people aged 18 and over. This approach will have no impact on the treatment pathway which is completely separate from the civil registration process."

The Transgender Equality Network Ireland (TENI) applauded the government on the "hugely significant" move.

"Ireland has now taken its place as an international leader in this human rights area," said TENI Chief Executive Broden Giambrone.

"The Government has shown great vision and conviction in ensuring the rights of trans people. This legislation will significantly improve the lived realities of trans people in Ireland."

In light of the landslide win in last month's referendum on marriage equality, the bill will also no longer contain the "forced divorce" clause which required people wanting to transition to decide between their families and legal recognition.

Applicants aged 16 and 17 will still require a court process, involving medical statements, before they can apply for a gender recognition certificate.

- See more at: http://www.gaystarnews.com/article/now-ireland-creating-some-best-trans-identity-laws-world040615#sthash.Dxo1qygq.dpuf

New law to protect LGBT school, hospital employees

By Thom Senzee on The Advocate

An amendment is being drafted to Ireland's Employment Equality Act, now the law across the republic, to protect current and future LGBT employees of hospitals and schools in Ireland.

The draft will be sent to the two-chamber Irish legislature, the "Oireachtas," consisting of the Dáil and the Seanad, which still has to ratify the recently-passed referendum allowing same-sex marriage, according to the Irish Times.

Tánaiste Joan Burton said legislation would be brought before the Seanad and Dáil as early as possible, with the aim of getting it passed before the summer recess.

"That would mean that we would be in a position to have same-sex marriage celebrations, civil ceremonies by, probably, September," she told reporters.

Minister of State for Equality Aodhán Ó Ríordáin promised his offices are "working hard" to ensure the measure is enacted before the new school year begins in September. However, so-called religious exemptions, which detractors say amount to a right to discriminate against gender and sexual minorities, will remain.

According to the Irish Times, a number of attendees at a recent Irish National Teachers' Organization stepped out of a photo with pro-equality Irish President Michael D Higgins, "...because they were worried at being identified as gay teachers. They fear it would impact on their employment prospects or felt it might go against them in their workplace."

The equality minister was circumspect about the incident.

"So while we rightly celebrate marriage equality, there is still some uncertainty and a certain chill factor with gay and lesbian people, especially in schools," Ó Ríordáin told the Irish Times.

Workers in other professions have had legal protections from discrimination since the 1990s.

Pentagon won't discriminate against LGB service members; no change on transgender service ban

On June 8 at the LGBT Pride month observance for the Department of Defense (DoD) at the Pentagon, Secretary Ashton Carter announced that the Department of Defense has "completed the process for updating its military equal opportunity policy to include sexual orientation, ensuring that the department, like the rest of the federal government, treats sexual orientation-based discrimination the same way it treats discrimination based on race, religion, color, sex, age, and national origin."

The American Military Partner Association (AMPA), the nation's largest organization of LGBT military families, praised the long awaited news and urged Secretary Carter to also take action for the estimated 15,500 transgender service members who are still unable to serve openly and honestly due to outdated regulations.

"This long overdue and critical change to the military equality opportunity program will help ensure that LGB service members are treated fairly with the dignity and respect they deserve," said AMPA President Ashley Broadway-Mack. "But it's incredibly important to note that we absolutely cannot leave our transgender service members behind. We again urge Secretary Carter to also order a full and comprehensive review to update the outdated regulations that prevent transgender service members from serving openly and honestly. It's just as important to our LGBT military families that these same non-discrimination protections be extended to our transgender service members."

AMPA has long advocated for these important changes to be made. Most people assume that with the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell (DADT) in September 2011, the LGBT community achieved full equality in the military. The repeal only applied to LGB service members, and it meant that they could serve openly without fear of being discharged. It did not, however, mean they were provided access to the military equal opportunity program in order to address harassment or discrimination. The repeal failed to include binding non-discrimination protections for gay, lesbian, and bisexual service members in the military equal opportunity programs. The repeal of DADT also did not change the outdated regulations that continue to prevent transgender service members from serving openly and honestly.

Bullied Calif. bi teenager commits suicide

A bisexual teen has taken his own life after enduring years of bullying at school.

Adam Kizer, 16, a high school sophomore in Sonoma Valley, California, died May 30 after tying fishing line around his neck. He spent four days on life support.

Adam's father, William Kizer, says he's considering legal action. William Kizer told The Advocate he reported the bullying to school officials, who claim they weren't aware of it.

The Press Democrat reports:

The elder Kizer said his son had been a target of bullying since elementary school in Wyoming, where other kids once bound him and poured gasoline on him. The abuse continued in Sonoma after the family moved there in 2011, with students at Sonoma Valley High picking on the slightly built teen with shaggy hair, encouraging him to take his own life, the father said.

He had attempted suicide before and suffered from depression and post-traumatic stress, his father said.

"It's the worst pain you can ever imagine," the father said.

Adam Kizer, who came out as bisexual six months ago, enjoyed kickboxing and played bass in a heavy metal band. He was also an active member of the school's GSA. About 200 people attended a vigil for Adam the night after his death.

GLAAD has more on the problem of bullying and suicide among bisexual youth:

In April, a bisexual teenage girl from Iowa named Alyssa Morgan passed away from suicide, as well. Like Adam, Alyssa's family were supportive of her identity, but she suffered with depression and self-harm in the face of longstanding bullying for being perceived as "different" because she was bisexual. Like Adam's father, Alyssa's mother Nicole struggled to get her daughter's school to take the harassment seriously.

Bullying and suicidality are life-threatening issues plaguing students across the country, and disproportionately impact LGBT youth—especially bisexual members of the community. Bisexual people confront higher rates of anxiety, depression, substance abuse, suicidality and other mood disorders compared to straight, lesbian, and gay peers. Recent studies show that 8 out of 10 of all LGBT students experience in-school harassment, and that school staff does nothing about over 60% of reported anti-LGBT bullying cases. These anti-LGBT and biphobic issues are systemic and cultural, and are costing children their lives.

GLSEN articles discuss experiences of gender non-conforming students

GLSEN Research has recommended two new articles that address the experiences of gender-nonconforming students in school.

GLSEN's Jason Garvey and Susan Rankin wrote an article about the experiences of gender-nonconforming LGBTQ college students. Implications and resources for educators are discussed.

Jason C. Garvey & Susan R. Rankin (2015) Making the grade? Classroom climate for LGBTQ students across gender conformity. Journal of Student Affairs Research and Practice, 52(2), 190-203.

The second article, by Hélène Frohard-Dourlent, explores how educators interpret their experiences working with transgender and gender-nonconforming students. It includes a discussion of the role of educators within the larger institutional structure. In May she shared similar research on GLSEN's panel about school practices related to transgender youth at the American Education Research Association Annual Meeting.

Frohard-Dourlent, H. (2015). 'I don't care what's under your clothes': The discursive positioning of educators working with trans and gender-nonconforming students. Sex Education, (ahead-of-print), 1-14.

GLSEN says, "The newsletter will be taking a break for the summer, but data collection for The 2015 National School Climate Survey continues! Please spread the word about the 2015 NSCS to your networks! For more information about supporting GLSEN's data collection efforts over the summer, follow @GLSENResearch on Twitter."

What Laverne Cox had to say about Caitlyn Jenner

By Joe Morgan on gaystarnews.com

Laverne Cox has written an incredible blog post about the coming out of Caitlyn Jenner.

The Orange Is The New Black actress has spoken about how she is "moved by all the love and support" the Keeping Up With The Kardashians star is receiving.

The type of praise, especially about how beautiful Jenner looks, caught Cox's eye. And in the piece, she talks about the privilege that both she and Jenner share and how not every trans person in the world has the access to achieve how they want to look. The blog post follows:

On May 29, 2014, the issue of Time magazine which proclaimed the "Transgender Tipping Point" was revealed with me on the cover. June 1, 2015 a year and three days later, Caitlyn Jenner's Vanity Fair cover was revealed proclaiming #CallMeCaitlyn. I am so moved by all the love and support Caitlyn is receiving.

It feels like a new day, indeed, when a trans person can present her authentic self to the world for the first time and be celebrated for it so universally. Many have commented on how gorgeous Caitlyn looks in her photos, how she is "slaying for the Gods."

I must echo these comments in the vernacular, "Yasss Gawd! Werk Caitlyn! Get it!" But this has made me reflect critically on my own desires to "work a photo shoot," to serve up various forms of glamour, power, sexiness, body affirming, racially empowering images of the various sides of my black, trans womanhood.

I love working a photo shoot and creating inspiring images for my fans, for the world and above all for myself. But I also hope that it is my talent, my intelligence, my heart and spirit that most captivate, inspire, move and encourage folks to think more critically about the world around them. Yes, Caitlyn looks amazing and is beautiful but what I think is most

beautiful about her is her heart and soul, the ways she has allowed the world into her vulnerabilities.

The love and devotion she has for her family and that they have for her. Her courage to move past denial into her truth so publicly. These things are beyond beautiful to me.

A year ago when my Time magazine cover came out I saw posts from many trans folks saying that I am "drop dead gorgeous" and that that doesn't represent most trans people. (It was news to me that I am drop dead gorgeous but I'll certainly take it). But what I think they meant is that in certain lighting, at certain angles I am able to embody certain cis-normative beauty standards.

Now, there are many trans folks who because of genetics and/or lack of material access will never be able to embody these standards. More importantly, many trans folks don't want to embody them and we shouldn't have to in order to be seen as ourselves and respected as ourselves.

It is important to note that these standards are also informed by race, class and ability, among other intersections. I have always been aware that I can never represent all trans people. No one or two or three trans people can. This is why we need diverse media representations of trans folks to multiply trans narratives in the media and depict our beautiful diversities.

I started #TransIsBeautiful as a way to celebrate all those things that make trans folks uniquely trans, those things that don't necessarily align with cis-normative beauty standards. For me it is necessary every day to celebrate every aspect of myself, especially those things about myself that don't align with other people's ideas about what is beautiful.

#TransIsBeautiful is about, whether you're trans or not, celebrating all those things that make us uniquely ourselves. Most trans folks don't have the privileges Caitlyn and I have now have. It is those trans folks we must continue to lift up, get them access to healthcare, jobs, housing, safe streets, safe schools and homes for our young people. We must lift up the stories of those most at risk, statistically trans people of color who are poor and working class.

I have hoped over the past few years that the incredible love I have received from the public can translate to the lives of all trans folks. Trans folks of all races, gender expressions, ability, sexual orientations, classes, immigration status, employment status, transition status, genital status etc. I hope, as I know Caitlyn does, that the love she is receiving can translate into changing hearts and minds about who all trans people are as well as shifting public policies to fully support the lives and well being of all of us. The struggle continues…

- See more at: http://www.gaystarnews.com/article/read-what-laverne-cox-has-say-about-caitlyn-jenner-and-trans-beauty020615#sthash.JAakqmVg.dpuf

National LGBT 50th Anniversary Celebration is July 2-5 in Philly

Organizers of the National LGBT 50th Anniversary Celebration, from July 2 to 5, have announced four days of events to honor 50 years of LGBT activism and progress. The National LGBT 50th Anniversary Celebration will be the first national event after the upcoming Supreme Court ruling on marriage equality.

The July 4 ceremony at Philadelphia's historic Independence Hall will feature Wanda Sykes, Edie Windsor, Jim Obergefell, Judy Shepard, Bishop Gene Robinson, LGBT leaders and entertainers.

The four-day celebration will include concert, parties, panels, a street festival, wreath-laying at the Gay Pioneers historical marker, a national interfaith service, fireworks, LGBT history exhibits and VIP events.

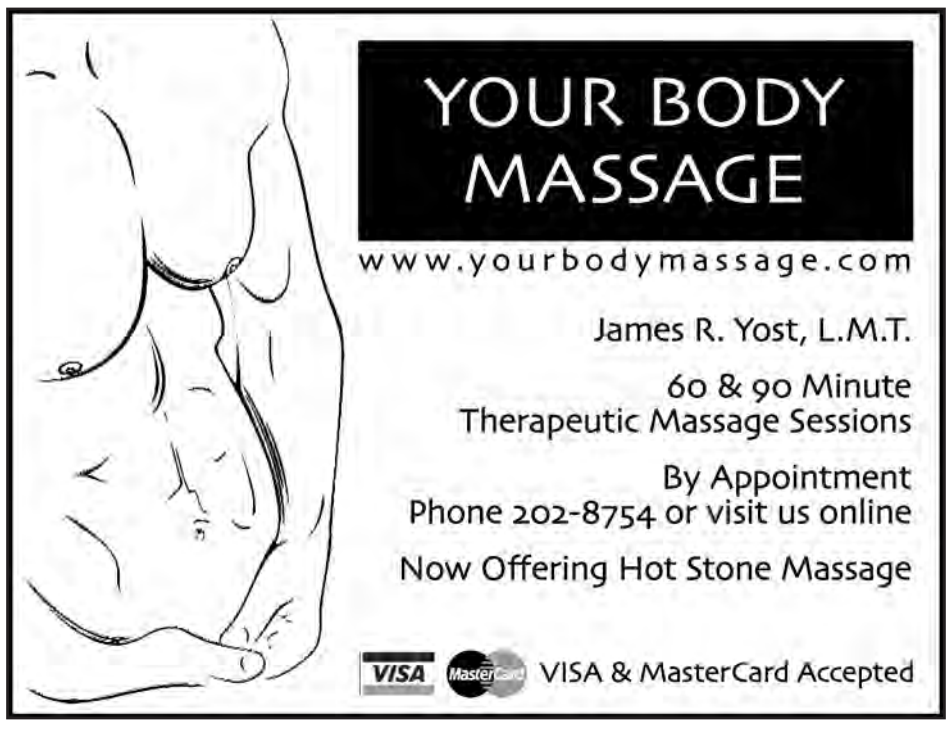
Said Malcolm Lazin, chair of the National LGBT 50th Anniversary Celebration, "The Annual Reminders at Independence Hall each July 4th from 1965 to 1969 were a landmark and transformative turning point for the LGBT civil rights movement. It is inspiring to hold the National LGBT 50th Anniversary Ceremony at the internationally iconic location selected by the Gay Pioneers."

For more information about specific events go to lgbt50th.org

LGBT groups react to Michigan, N. Carolina "religious freedom" laws

LGBT groups have come out strongly against new laws in Michigan and North Carolina that promote anti-LGBT discrimination under the guise of "religious freedom."

(**Michigan** *continues page 6)*



Elaine Elkins, M.S.
Psychotherapist
244-4837
Individual & Relationship Counseling
Anxiety & Depression
Loneliness & Separation
Conflict Resolution
Communication Skills
Sexual Abuse Recovery
Drug & Alcohol Abuse
Grief & Loss

LOCAL AND STATE

(**State Fair** *continued from page 3)*

In addition to the usual 12-day celebration of homestyle food, entertainment, and fun, one day is being set aside to honor New York's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities.

This will formalize what has been an informal gathering at the fair, the New York Daily News reports.

Pride Day at the Fair will be August 28. It will begin with the raising of the rainbow flag at the main gate of the fairgrounds and end with a concert by Melissa Etheridge, who tells The Advocate she's excited to be bringing her fans new songs on a new label at a time when equality matters more than ever.

Other attractions at the fair will be concerts by Everclear, Eric Church, Rick Springfield, Buckcherry, and Cole Swindle.

Williamson car dealer runs transphobic ad

Car dealer James Provenzano of Williamson in the second week of June began airing an ad that compares the speed at which he sells cars to "Bruce Jenner running in heels".

When a caller complained to the store they were treated rudely and hung up on. Store manager George Vickers later stated to that caller that the company would continue to air the ad for the next 30 days, despite the pain it may cause or the customers who may decide not to do business with them.

Entercom quickly stopped airing the ad.

The dealership's review section on their Facebook site is filled with comments shaming them: https://www.facebook.com/JamesCarsNY).

The company can also be reached at 1-800-246-2000.

Emily Henninger, president of the Trans Alliance of Greater Rochester, told The Empty Closet, "I on behalf of the Trans Alliance of Greater Rochester would like to extend my thanks to Entercom for dropping a culturally insensitive and crude commercial that used the identity of a transgender individual in a harmful and inappropriate manner. Although the commercial was intended as humorous, it reflected a deplorable disrespect of a real person's identity, as well as dehumanizing and making light of the plight of transgender women everywhere. I'm proud of Entercom for taking prompt action in removing it, and I understand that they were unaware of the offensive content before it aired.

"I hope that James Provenzano learns from this, and that he and his company use this opportunity to reflect on their mistake and get back to selling cars, rather than contributing to the oppression of parts of their own community."

SAGE to hear talk on Lifetime bereavement support group

Adrienne Daniels, LMSW (Manager of Bereavement Services) from Lifetime Care will speak at a Tuesday Brown Bag lunch at a SAGE meeting, on July 21 at 1 p.m.

All are welcome.

She will give a talk on Lifetime Care's LGBT Bereavement Support Group. The location for the discussion will be the Open Arms MCC Community Room, 707 E. Main St.

Out & Equal presents "From Closet to Corner Office" on July 16

Out & Equal Finger Lakes will host a panel discussion, "From Closet to Corner Office," on July 16 at Nixon Peabody, 1300 Clinton Square.

Networking will take place at 5:30 p.m., and the program will run from 6-7:30.

Panelists include Jason Barnecut-Kearns, VP Finance, Xerox; Daniel Meyers, president Al Sigl Community of Agencies; Jason Robert Ballard, founder FTM International Transculture Magazine; Kevin Walker, COO Iberdrola Inc. (RG&E) and Judy Cranston, Interim CEO, WNY Girl Scouts.

Information is available at outandequalfingerlakes.com. ■

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

(**Michigan** *from page 5)*

In Michigan, Gov. Rick Snyder signed three bills into law allowing adoption agencies to use their religious beliefs to refuse to work with same-sex couples. In North Carolina, meanwhile, the state House voted June 10 to override Gov. Pat McCrory's veto of a bill allowing public officials to opt out of marrying same-sex couples for "sincerely held religious" objections.

Lambda Legal, called these measures "in some ways worse than what happened in Indiana because Michigan and North Carolina will be using tax dollars to support such discrimination. Good public policy helps people — it shouldn't hurt them."

Via press release:

"Today was a discouraging day for equality and justice. Michigan today enacted a law that allows state-funded adoption and foster care agencies to turn people away on religious grounds, and North Carolina enacted a law allowing government magistrates to refuse to perform civil marriage ceremonies for couples whose union they object to on religious grounds. For anyone with delusions that the work for LGBT rights is close to being done, think again. These laws will be used to deny loving homes to Michigan children in need and to subject same-sex couples to the indignity of being turned away by government-funded agencies in Michigan and by government officials in North Carolina. That that discrimination is based on religion is no excuse. Discrimination inspired by religious views is still discrimination."

HRC also condemned the legislation in both states.

"It is tremendously disappointing that the legislature chose to override Governor McCrory's veto of this misguided and mean-spirited legislation," said Marty Rouse, National Field Director for the Human Rights Campaign in a statement on the North Carolina bill. "Allowing public officials the ability to opt-out of the job they are paid by the public to do is completely contrary to the purpose of public service and should have no place in North Carolina law."

"Governor Rick Snyder has proven today that he has utter disdain for the welfare of children in Michigan and that he cares only about empowering backwards discrimination," said HRC President Chad Griffin in a statement reacting to the three anti-LGBT adoption bills. "This legislation keeps children in need out of the loving homes they deserve, and it sets this great state back decades."

The ACLU has also spoken out and is preparing a legal challenge against the Michigan proposals.

LGBT groups react to murders at Emmanuel AME Church

On June 17, a young white man walked into the historic Emmanuel AME church in Charleston, South Carolina and murdered nine African-American parishioners including the pastor, state senator Clementa Pinckney. Witnesses heard the killer make racially motivated statements before he opened fire.

Pride at Work Executive Director, Jerame Davis, responded with grief and disgust:

"The horrendous crime that took the lives of nine African-Americans at the Emmanuel AME church in Charleston, South Carolina yesterday is heart wrenching. In moments like these, words often fail, but we must speak out when senseless, racist violence takes innocent lives. Our thoughts go out to the victims and their families.

"There is no justice that will bring back these nine people nor salve the grief of the surviving family members. The racist motivation of this murderer is another stark reminder that we must speak up and out to declare that #BlackLivesMatter. We will not rest until every corner of our country has heard that message and takes it to heart.

"It is disgusting and deplorable that some are painting this act of hatred as anything other than racially motivated. The Emmanuel AME church is a symbol of black liberation and the killer was explicit about his motivation - even going so far as to tell a survivor he spared her so she could tell others what happened. Those who try to paint this as anti-Christian violence are deplorably engaging in whitewashing the truth of the matter to perpetuate a false narrative.

"The violence, the racism, and the denial all must end. We are better than this."

Several other LGBT groups issued statements on June 18.

From Lambda Legal Executive Director Kevin Cathcart:

"We join the nation in mourning the tragic murder of nine African-American parishioners in Charleston. Crimes like this, especially when they occur as this one did in a place of worship and in a historically African-American church, have scarred our nation and are a tragic reminder of how much work remains. Senseless violence motivated by hate has no place in a just society and every one of us has an obligation to stand up, speak out and work to end such violence. We offer our condolences to the families and loved ones of those who were killed and, more than that, we offer our promise to continue fighting for equality and justice."

From Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin:

"Today we are once again tragically reminded of the serious and widespread problem we face as a nation with violent, hate-motivated crimes – a problem which we as a nation must commit to addressing. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims, their families, and the communities impacted by this horrific and senseless tragedy in Charleston seemingly targeted because of their race. As this heinous crime reverberates across the entire country, we stand united with allies and friends nationwide to end the cycle of violence motivated by hatred."

From National Center for Lesbian Rights Executive Director Kate Kendell:

"There are moments when a headline is too much to comprehend. This is such a moment. The nightmare shooting and murder in Charleston of nine black African American parishioners in a hate fueled racially motivated attack leaves us bereft and sick. There are really no words. We grieve for the families and for our country. We know our nation cannot go on like this and yet, here we are. Will enough ever be enough? Until we are willing to address race and entrenched racism in this country, the headlines will continue."

From Jeff Ayers, executive director of South Carolina Equality:

"This morning, many of us woke up to the horrific news about the senseless massacre of nine innocent men and women during a prayer service inside one of Charleston's oldest and historic black churches, Emmanuel AME Church. This unthinkable tragedy reminds us of all the ways that we are united as one South Carolina family. The police have one suspect that is still at large and we hope that he

(**Emmanuel** *continues page 11)*

ACETOCOUNSELING
John M. Aceto, MS, LMHC
Therapist
- LGBTQ concerns for youths and adults
- Treatment of depression, anxiety, grief and loss
- Individual and Couples counseling
585-481-7466 acetocounseling@gmail.com

Interview

John Williams and Chuck Lundeen

By Susan Jordan

John Williams and Chuck Lundeen have established a scholarship for LGBTQ students at Nazareth College.

The Williams-Lundeen Scholarship for LGBTQ Students will begin next fall.

John Williams said, "The idea was presented to us by Nazareth College staff this past winter. They have diversity scholarships but had none for LGBTQ students. We had donated to the Arts Center and had a personal friendship with a member of the development staff, who suggested they contact us."

Chuck Lundeen added, "I was on the faculty at one time as an adjunct English professor."

This scholarship, like the one established at the Rochester Area Community Foundation in Sue Cowell's name, is much needed, since college tuition costs have risen so high that most youth have to graduate deep in debt, or are not able to get a college degree at all.

Chuck noted, "When I think how low (tuition) was when I went to state school, it's shocking. It was then $1000 a quarter!"

John said, "This is listed among the scholarships that new Nazareth students are being made aware of this year. Applicants need to self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer in order to qualify. Nazareth will determine how to select among several applicants."

"Each student will be able to keep the scholarship for their entire college career, as long as they maintain good academic standing," Chuck said.

"This will just assist them, not pay for their entire tuition," John added.

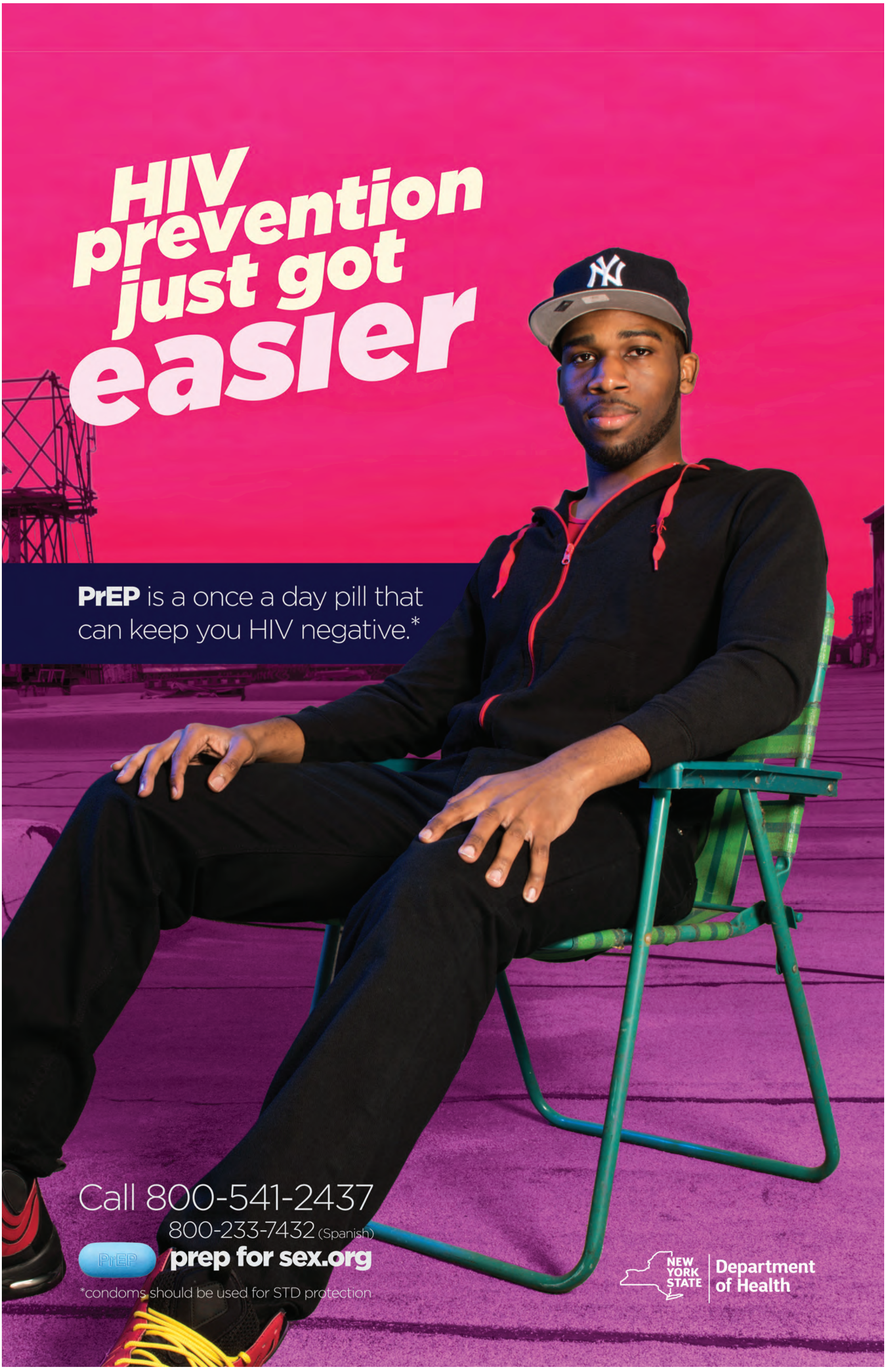
The two decided to donate to Nazareth because of the school's commitment to diversity and, as Chuck said, "We like their connection with Rochester and that they are interested in being part of the community."

John said, "We are the inaugural founders, but anyone can donate if they wish to. They should contact Sydney E. Bell at sbell9@naz.edu for information."

He concluded, "It's an endowed scholarship which will continue after we're gone. We're excited about being part of legacy giving, so these things will last beyond our lifetimes. As we think about our own philanthropy, that's one of our themes – leaving a legacy."

Chuck Lundeen and John Williams. Photo: Susan Jordan

Nazareth President Daan Braveman told The Empty Closet, "The Williams-Lundeen Scholarship embodies Nazareth -- an open and accepting community for students from all backgrounds. Respect and dignity for everyone are essential values of the College." ■


HIV prevention just got easier
PrEP is a once a day pill that can keep you HIV negative.*
Call 800-541-2437
800-233-7432 (Spanish)
PrEP
prep for sex.org
*condoms should be used for STD protection
NEW YORK STATE
Department of Health

"At Schoen Place Auto we are not just a business, we are a team of dedicated people with a desire to take very good care of you and your car." –Jerry Elman, owner

SCHOEN PLACE AUTO

An honest, caring approach to auto repair

319 East Chestnut Street
East Rochester, NY 14445
585.381.1970
www.schoenplaceauto.com

Our customers come from all walks of life. They include women, men, LGBT, students, young adults, couples, singles, families, single parents, and seniors. Additionally, Domestic, European or Asian, old or new, your car can be as individual as you are and if you choose to place it in our care, we will never let you down.

Beyond our commitment to perform quality repairs, we make every effort to eliminate the stress, hassle, and inconvenience that is caused by your car problems. Everyone has enough stress in their daily lives.

Car Repair where HONESTY and SERVICE are MORE than just words!

Please call today to schedule an appointment – 585-381-1970

AskPatty Certified Female Friendly

Rochester Area Business Ethics Foundation — ETHIE Awards Recipient

BBB A+ Accredited Business

Customer Service Trust Care Likability Give Friendly Help

Full Moon Vista Bike & Sport

10 ANNIVERSARY 2005 2015

Rochester's Premier Bicycle Shop
Celebrating our 10th Anniversary!

Full Moon Vista Bike & Sport
661 South Avenue
585.546.4030
www.fullmoonvista.com

First of Its Kind

Chuck Lundeen and John Williams have supported Nazareth throughout their 28-year relationship, from attending Arts Center performances to, in Lundeen's case, serving as an instructor. When the prospect arose to give back by creating a scholarship at a place that has given them so much, they were honored.

The Williams-Lundeen Scholarship is Nazareth's first for a student who self-identifies as part of the LGBTQ community.

"It is exciting to live in an era where inaugurating this scholarship is both possible and prudent," Williams and Lundeen say. "We are happy to know this will have a positive impact on the life of a student at Nazareth—a college very close to us for so many reasons. It is wonderful to be able to help an LGBTQ student explore the incredible experience Nazareth has to offer."

Offered beginning in fall 2015, the scholarship embodies Nazareth well—an open and accepting environment for students from all backgrounds.

For more information on endowing your own Nazareth scholarship, visit **go.naz.edu/scholarships** or contact Gift Officer **Sydney Bell** at sbell9@naz.edu or at 585-389-2179.

NAZARETH COLLEGE

Making the Scene

WHITE PARTY: Trillium Health hosted its White Party fundraiser at the Century Club on June 13. Photos: Lorraine Woerner-McGowan

MISS & MR. GAY PRIDE: Alicia Michaels and Alex Russ were chosen as Miss and Mr. Gay Pride 2015 on June 13 at Tilt. Photo: Jill Frier

SPAGHETTI WESTERN: The Trans Alliance of Greater Rochester (TAGR) held its first dinner dance on June 5. Photos: Jill Frier

Introducing a new Empty Closet feature

Scenemaker of the Month

Mrs. Kasha Davis, headlining at Pride 2015

Favorite color?

Mac Matte lipstick "Cosmo." It's for a mature gal like me and goes with EVERYTHING.

Hobbies?

Shopping, boxed wine, shopping, learning the ways of social media, shopping and shopping.

Film/film director?

My favorite film would have to be "Meet Me in St. Louis". My favorite film director would be Mr. Steven Levins for my Youtube channel!

Internet site?

A fan page called "Tina Turner online", X-tube and www.mrskashadavis.com

Halloween outfit?

You wear a rubber chicken around your neck, an extention cord and a blue shirt. CHICKEN CORDON BLU!

Your dream vacation:

Anywhere alone with Mr. Davis aka Steven Levins my husbando! Also a paid vacation is also quite luxurious.

Music you're listening to now:

Pride songs in prep for Syracuse and Rochester Pride. I also love all my singers and standards and COLDPLAY.

Death Row meal:

Gin and Boom chika Pop Popcorn sea salt and two slices of turkey.

Book or author that influenced you:

I love to read the pamphlets in the lobby of hotels but I digest. I think you should always be reading something. Currently I am reading two books that I really like: MINDFULNESS: Be mindful Live in the moment by Gill Hasson and LOVE Is letting go of fear by Gerald G. Jampolsky, MD.

Educating yourself through reading takes you to a place that only you can go to. It's all your interpretation, in your own mind and soul and gives you tools to live.

Ultimate nightmare:

Snakes…. anything snakes. I HATE SNAKES.

Best pick up line you've heard:

I love your blouse.

What super power would you choose?

Flying…I might pee the whole time because I hate heights but IT DEPENDS….LOL ….heck it's worth it to be able to mill around the skies on your own. Plus I wouldn't have to be on cattle call with Southwest.

Your worst habit?

My mom used to get "addicted" to a snack that she just HAD TO HAVE….I have realized this is something that is passed on…sometimes pretzels, sometimes BOOM CHIKA POP, sometimes cheese and crackers…. but TV snacks get me every night!

TV show you're addicted to?

Golden Girls…can't go to sleep without my fabulous ladies. I am definitely either Bea or Sophia depending on the day ….who are you?

Signature dance move:

HOT SAND HOT SAND HOT SAND. Aggy and Lake named it when they first saw me dancing at Muthers. Easy to imagine someone walking on hot sand and prancing along.

You're a huge fan of ___?

Tina Turner….Duh. Lake jokes that when Aggy and I get together for BIG WIGS it's TINA, CHER, TINA, CHER, TINA, CHER AND FINALE. I have listened to Tina Turner every day of my life since 1983. No lie.

Phrase you over-use?

THERE'S ALWAYS TIME FOR A COCKTAIL

My One Woman show is at Laurie Beechman Theatre NYC, July 9 and JCC Aug. 1. Single available on I-tunes and amazon. Ching….

Proudest achievement?

My relationship with my husband and step daughters.

If you could have dinner with anyone living or dead, who would it be?

My mom. I miss her so much even though she is always with me. We would laugh and gossip and I could hear her say…. "My honey I love you to the moon and back". She would then tell me I don't clean enough or "who has a black area rug" and then I'd have to send her back.

Motto:

SUCK IT UP BUTTERCUP.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

(**Emmanuel** *continued from page 6)*
will be found and brought to justice for this heinous crime. I want to express, on behalf of SC Equality, how heartbroken we are. Even as we learn how this happened and who is responsible, we may never understand what leads someone to terrorize their fellow human beings like this. Such violence, such evil, is senseless. It's beyond reason.

"But while we will never know fully what causes someone to take the life of another, we do know what makes life worth living. The people that were lost last night in that sanctuary loved and were loved. They were mothers and fathers, husbands and wives, sisters and brothers, sons and daughters, friends and neighbors. They had hopes for the future and hopes that were not yet fulfilled. I had the opportunity to meet Senator Pinckney many times at the State House and it was obvious that he was called to serve God as a pastor and his community as an elected official. He was a champion for the less fortunate and our thoughts and prayers go out to his family, members of his church and to the families of the other eight victims in last night's tragedy."

And from Equality Florida Executive Director Nadine Smith:

"Equality Florida stands today in mourning and in outrage at the murders of nine people inside their historic African-American church on Wednesday evening. It is a hate crime that has shocked the nation and claimed the lives of six women and three men, including State Senator Clementa Pinckney. Our hearts go out to their families, friends and the entire community reeling from this brutal act of terror.

"It's impossible to make sense of such a 'hateful and deranged' crime, as Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr. put it. But

we must note the connection between the deed and the hateful ideas that are said to have motivated it.

"The alleged gunman sat through an hour of Bible study before opening fire. And when he ignored the pleas of his intended victims and reloaded his gun, he said, according to a witness, 'I have to do it. You rape our women and you're taking over our country. And you have to go.'

"It is not enough to condemn the actions of a lone gunman; we must also confront the rancid, racist ideology at the heart of this crime. Not everyone who holds his apparent beliefs commits these horrific acts but we must challenge those views that nourish the kind of moral depravity that led to this slaughter."

-Towleroad.com

COMMENT: Immediately the Right started blaming this act of conservative domestic terrorism, incited by rightwing racist hate rhetoric, on "liberals," "abortion," "gay marriage," etc. Unbelievable.

Federal judge strikes down Guam marriage ban on June 5

Marriage equality arrived in Guam on June 8 after a federal judge struck down the U.S. territory's ban on same-sex marriage on June 5, the Pacific Daily News reports:

In her ruling, Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood said the laws denying marriage rights to same-sex couples were unconstitutional, citing a previous decision by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, which has jurisdiction over Guam.

The ruling came after about an hour and a half of arguments over whether Tydingco-Gatewood was obligated to act immediately in striking down local law.

Following her ruling, the courtroom erupted into applause for Loretta M. Pangelinan and Kathleen M. Aguero (pictured), the couple who filed the case.

Gov. Eddie Calvo, who previously resisted calls to legalize same-sex marriage, said he will follow the ruling.

In related news, Senator B.J. Cruz, the openly gay Vice Speaker of the Guam Legislature, recently announced his introduction of a bill to ban anti-LGBT discrimination in the workplace.

–JoeMyGod.com

Circuit party leaves Fire Island Pines after owner's Cruz donation

Edge Media reports:

The drama in Fire Island Pines now officially spans two continents. The Ascension Party, a staple of the circuit scene for nine years, is packing up and leaving Fire Island Pines and traveling to Mykonos this August, citing the recent boycott against OUTpost Fire Island Pines properties as the impetus for the move.

The announcement marks the second time the Ascension Party has changed dates and venues for its 2015 edition. Prior to the move to Mykonos, Ascension's producers announced that the party, long held in the middle of August, would be moved to Labor Day weekend. The move angered fans of the party, many of whom arranged for their house share weekends to coincide with the original date.

Although there was immediate speculation surrounding the motivation behind the move to Mykonos, suspicions were put to rest when Ascension's producer, Eric Von Kuersteiner announced his reasons for moving the party via post on the closed Facebook group "Free" Fire Island Pines. In the post, Von Kuersteiner cites the recent boycott of the OUTpost Fire Island Pines properties that arose when one of its partners, Ian Reisner, co-hosted an ersatz fund raising party for anti-gay GOP hopeful Ted Cruz at his Manhattan home in June.

"I thought that the Boycott would have convinced Ian (Reisner) to do the right thing and sell (he's had offers since I withdrew mine) unfortunately however he has not," Von Kuersteiner wrote, previously citing the economic boom the Ascension Party gives to the Fire Island Pines commercial district each year.

Reisner has apologized for the donation but also attacked those who were offended by his donation to an anti-gay extremist and called for a boycott.

NOM wants GOP candidates to sign homophobic hate pledge

By James Withers on gaystarnews.com

The National Organization for Marriage wants Republicans running for the White House to know what needs to be done to gain its support.

The anti-gay marriage group issued a 5 point pledge to the GOP presidential candidates.

The document mirrors what NOM expected from the party in 2012.

The first point is to support a constitutional amendment "protect[ing] marriage as the union of one man and one woman."

The second is aimed at the Supreme Court. Any decisions the nine-justices passed supporting marriage equality need to be fought and overturned. This includes nominating judges 'who are committed to restraint and applying the original meaning of the Constitution.'

Any executive orders from President Barack Obama that "have the effect of undermining marriage" must be overturned. This includes blocking "the promotion of a redefined version of marriage in public schools and other government entities."

There is also a call for the support of the First Amendment Defense Act. This bill, supported by Senator Mike Lee, protects people, organizations, and businesses which define marriage as the union between a man and a woman.

Lastly, NOM wants the Department of Justice to investigate harassment opposite-sex marriage supporters have endured.

As of 20 June, no candidate has signed the pledge. However, NOM President Brian Brown wants them to know there will be consequences if the group is ignored.

"We are [only] going to support he candidates that stand up and sign the pledge," Brown said to CNN, according to Think Progress.

- See more at: http://www.gaystarnews.com/article/nom-issues-anti-gay-marriage-pledge-gop-presidential-candidates200615#sthash.sq4qN3Gh.dpuf

At least eight trans women have been killed in 2015, NCAVP says

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) has learned of the homicide of Mercedes Williamson, a transgender woman found dead in George County, Mississippi on Saturday, May 30.

Williamson was a resident of Theodore, Alabama. According to media reports Williamson was stabbed to death and her body buried in a wooded field by Josh Brandon Vallum, who reportedly told his father about committing the homicide a day later. Initial media reports had misgendered Williamson. Local police have arrested Vallum, but no motive has been released and hate crime charges have not

(**Transgender** *continues page 12)*

HUTHER-DOYLE

HELPING YOU PUT THE PIECES BACK TOGETHER

NOW OFFERING
SPECIALIZED CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY
AND HEALTHCARE TREATMENT TO THE
GAY LESBIAN BISEXUAL TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

SAFE AND CARING ENVIRONMENT

EXCLUSIVE LGBT TREATMENT GROUP

SENSITIVE TO LGBT ISSUES

LGBT EXPERIENCED CLINICIAN

585-325-5100

HUTHER DOYLE
where addiction recovery changes lives

Administrative Offices
360 East Ave.
Rochester NY 14604

Huther Hall
801-803 West Ave.
Rochester NY 14611

Huther Health Clinic
360 East Ave.
Rochester NY 14604

WWW.HUTHERDOYLE.COM

Genesee Valley Visiting Vet, PLLC

Veterinary care in the comfort of your home.
Routine & emergency services • Cats, dogs & exotics

Lauren Wisser D.V.M.
(585) 519-4140

www.visitingvet.biz
visitingvet@hotmail.com

Serving Livingston County & Surrounding Areas

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

(**Transgender** *continued from page 11)*

been filed.

This is the eighth* homicide of a transgender woman that NCAVP has responded to in 2015, including: Papi Edwards, a black transgender woman, was shot to death at the Fern Valley Motel on January 9, 2015. An alleged suspect, Henry Richard Gleaves, has been arrested and charged with her murder.

Lamia Beard, a black transgender woman, was found shot to death on January 17th in Norfolk, Virginia.

Ty Underwood, a black transgender woman, was found shot to death early on January 26, after a woman called 911 to say a car had hit a telephone pole and that her children had heard gunshots. Her loved ones are speaking out, saying that they believe this was a hate crime.

Yazmin Vash Payne, a black transgender woman, was discovered fatally stabbed to death on Saturday, January 31 at the scene of a house fire in the Van Nuys district of Los Angeles. Payne's boyfriend, Ezekiel Dear, has been arrested and booked for suspicion of murder in connection with her death.

Taja Gabrielle de Jesus, a Latina transgender woman, was discovered stabbed to death on a stairwell in San Francisco's Bayview District on Sunday, February 1..

Penny Proud, a black transgender woman, was found fatally shot on February 10 at the cross section of Ursulines Avenue and North Claiborne Avenue in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Kristina Gomez Reinwald, a Latina transgender woman, was found unresponsive in her home on February 15, 2015 and her death is being investigated as a homicide.

*There are three other homicides of transgender or gender non-conforming individuals in 2015 in which a clear motive has not been established or a bias-motive is not apparent, an individual with the last name Golec, London Chanel, and Maya Hall. NCAVP will continue to monitor these incidents and provide updates as they become available.

NCAVP has responded to 17 LGBTQ homicides so far in 2015.

"At least eight transgender and gender non-conforming people have lost their lives to violence already in 2015, and this tragedy is compounded by police and media consistently misgendering and misnaming victims," said Osman Ahmed, NCAVP Research and Education Coordinator at the New York City Anti Violence Project. "We all must take immediate action to end this epidemic by supporting the leadership of transgender women, public awareness and respect campaigns, speaking out against this violence, and protecting transgender people from fatal violence, harassment, and discrimination."

Leader of hate group that influenced Charleston shooter donated to Cruz, other GOP candidates

From Towleroad.com:

Earlier this month, we told you how the mayor of conservative Longview, Texas, issued a proclamation declaring June LGBT Pride month.

Among the many Longview residents who criticized Mayor Andy Mack over the proclamation was Earl Holt III, who wrote in a letter to the editor of the local newspaper:

"With his recent proclamation declaring June our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Month (news story, Tuesday), Mayor Mack has demonstrated that he is unable to say "no" to well-organized leftist interest groups demanding favors or privileges.

Many naïve businessmen enter the political arena clueless about the political environment to which they aspire. Since avoiding controversy seems to be an almost universal concern among them — so bad publicity won't translate into lowered profits — businessmen are extremely vulnerable to manipulation by the left and its endless public relations firms within the Corrupt Leftist Media."

As it turns out, Holt is the president of the Council of Conservative Citizens, a white supremacist hate group that heavily influenced Dylann Roof, the 21-year-old who's accused of shooting nine African-Americans in an apparent hate crime at a Charleston, South Carolina church. In a manifesto posted on his website, Roof said he first learned about "brutal black-on-white murders" on the Council of Conservative Citizens' website in the wake of the Trayvon Martin case.

Holt, meanwhile, has made political contributions to numerous Republican politicians and causes across the country, including current GOP presidential candidates Ted Cruz, Rand Paul and Rick Santorum, as well as the likes of Reps. Michele Bachmann and Louie Gohmert.

The New York Times reports:

Mr. Cruz, a Texas senator, said Sunday night that he would be returning about $8,500 in donations that he had received from the Texas donor, Earl Holt III, who lists himself as president of the Council of Conservative Citizens. …

Mr. Paul's campaign said Monday that it planned to send $2,250 received from Mr. Holt to a victims' fund set up in the wake of the shooting. …

The group is regarded by the Southern Poverty Law Center, a leading authority on hate crimes, as a white supremacist extremist organization that opposes "race mixing" as a religious affront and that vilifies blacks as an inferior race.

Russian gay activist jailed, fined for LGBTI rights protest

By Joe Morgan on gaystarnews.com Facebook

A gay activist in Russia was fined for holding a LGBTI rights protest on 22 June.

Nikolai Alekseev, who has just been sent to prison for 10 days, will now be fined by the court 20,000 rubles ($370) for the organization of a brief protest outside the mayor's office in Moscow.

On 30 May, Alekseev rode a quad bike with two others while carrying a rainbow flag and orange smoke flare down the main Tverskaya Street.

Around 30 homophobic thugs hurled eggs and threw rocks and bottles at them, but the activists were undeterred.

He was found to have broken the law on public demonstration, organizing an unsanctioned public event and for disobedience of police orders.

This is believed to be the first time anyone has been jailed for attempting to hold a Pride in Russia. Other attempts

have only resulted in arrests and fines.

Alekseev has now appealed the arrest at the Presidium of Moscow City Court and also appealed the fine.

"But I don't have any hope or trust for the Russian courts," he told Gay Star News.

"That is why the bans of the Pride events as well as the arrests and the fine will all be appealed in one case to the European Court of Human Rights.

"The situation in terms of human rights in general and LGBT rights in particular in Russia is worsening.

"It was the first time in 10 years since I organized the Pride in Moscow that someone was sent to prison for taking part.

'It is a new way to pressure the activists and to dissuade them from going on the streets. Huge fines, arrests, firing from work.

"I don't expect the situation will get any better in the nearest future but the Council of Europe and the European Court should put more pressure on the Russian Government in respect to the situation of LGBT people in Russia and the breaches of their rights."

- See more at: http://www.gaystarnews.com/article/russian-gay-activist-fined-thousands-attempting-hold-pride-moscow230615#sthash.rj8rLYc0.dpuf ■

out&EQUAL NY Finger Lakes PRESENTS

from CLOSET to CORNER OFFICE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2015

NIXON PEABODY 1300 Clinton Square Rochester, NY 14604

Panelists

Jason Barnecut-Kearns VP Finance, Xerox
Daniel Meyers President, Al Sigl Community of Agencies
Jason Robert Ballard Founder, FTM: International Transculture Magazine
Kevin Walker COO, Iberdrola Inc. (RG&E)
Judy Cranston Interim CEO, Girl Scouts of WNY

Networking begins at **5:30PM**
Program from **6:00-7:30PM**

Wegmans **Proud Sponsor**

for reservations, visit **outandequalfingerlakes.com** (limited to 1st 100)

Rochester Kink Society

www.rochesterkinksociety.com

Email us at: rks@rochesterkinksociety.com

Rochester Kink Society (RKS) is a social organization dedicated to providing a safe environment for alternative lifestyle and kink-oriented individuals to network, teach, learn, share, practice and discuss BDSM and related kink.

Come meet RKS at the PRIDE Festival

Check out our website for details

RKS Monthly Munch on the 3rd Sunday – 2:30pm – 4:30pm
Jay's Diner (separate room to the left)
2612 West Henrietta Road, Rochester, NY

* *

Check out our website for Our Calendar of Events
and for the locations of
Our Monthly Social, Our TNG Munch, and Our Kink Classic Social

---

Martha M. Howden, LCSW, CASAC

Anxiety • Depression
Alcohol • Stress • Grief
Relationship • Family Plan
Rectification Work
Holotropic Breathwork
• Specializing in work with individuals and families in the Coming Out process

Martha M. Howden, LCSW, CASAC
945 E. Henrietta Road, Suite A6
Rochester, New York 14623
Phone: 585 272-1760
Fax: 585 272-8986
Most Insurances Accepted

Randy G. Raetz, DDS

General Dentistry for the entire community
including bleaching and cosmetics

WE ARE NOW IN OUR NEW OFFICE!!!!!

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

2257 South Clinton Avenue
Westfall Park Medical Center
Rochester, NY 14618

(585)473-1550

New Patients Welcome
Evening & Saturday appts. available

Check us out on the web at www.drrandydds.com
Call for an appointment today!!

UN report reveals state of global LGBT rights

By Tris Reid-Smith on gaystarnews.com
Photo by Amnesty International.

The most important report into the state of global LGBTI rights ever produced was released by the United Nations Human Rights Council the first week in June.

We've put it into 77 simple facts to create a fingertip guide to what's really happening. Each one speaks about the lives of hundreds, thousands and even millions of real people like us spread across every continent on earth

The bad

Around the world LGBTI people are subject to "street" violence and are targets of organized abuse by religious extremists, paramilitary groups and extreme nationalists.

Families and neighbors are also abusers – with youths, lesbians and trans women at particular risk. Some LGBTIs are murdered by the people they know best, in so-called "honor" killings.

Anti-gay and anti-trans violence is often particularly brutal even by the standards of other hate crimes. The report highlights knife attacks, anal rape, genital mutilation, stoning and dismemberment.

Attackers frequently go unpunished. Police fail to act, "lose" documents, dismiss attacks as "minor" and mess up their investigations because of stereotyping and prejudice.

Victims don't come forward because they fear blackmail, being exposed or reprisals.

Reporting and recording of anti-LGBT crime is so poor it masks the scale of the problem.

"Grotesque homicides" of LGBT people have been noted in every region of the world. The UN's expert on "extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions' has said attackers act with impunity and at times the "complicity of investigative authorities".

There are patterns of killings that are not being stopped. These include the murders of transsexual women in Uruguay and of black lesbians in South Africa.

In an assault in Chile, a gay man was beaten and killed by neo-Nazis. They burned him with cigarettes and carved swastikas into his body.

Brazil is one of a few countries where the government bothers to publish an annual report on LGBTI violence. It recorded 310 homophobic and transphobic murders in 2012.

A lack of official figures means NGOs are a key source of information on LGBTI killings. The Trans Murder Monitoring project recorded data from 62 countries from 2008 to 2014. They found the equivalent of a killing every two days.

Terror groups may target LGBTIs. The report highlights the way the Islamic State executes alleged homosexual men by pushing them off towers.

Attacks on LGBTIs are being turned into "entertainment". Gay men have been kidnapped, beaten and humiliated, with film clips of their abuse shared on social media – particularly famous cases come from Russia.

So-called "corrective rape" to turn lesbians straight is also alluded to in the report. This is known to happen in South Africa and elsewhere.

"In the Syrian Arab Republic, there have been reports of rape and torture of men assumed to be gay perpetrated by security agents and by non-State armed groups."

Human rights defenders working for LGBTIs are subject to violence, threats and verbal denigration.

In the US, government figures show hate crimes against people on the basis of sexual orientation are exceeded only by the number of racist hate crimes.

A quarter of European LGBT people have been attacked or threatened with violence in the past five years, an extensive study by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights in 2013 indicated.

Three quarters of LGBT people in the UK who have been the victim of a hate crime in the last three years didn't report it to the police, according to a 2012 study by Stonewall.

The Vatican is making things worse, says the UN's Committee on the Rights of the Child. The Holy See's comments contribute to hate and violence against LGBT teenagers and kids raised by gay and lesbian couples.

In particular the Vatican is criticized for "the negative impact of hate speech on LGBT and intersex adults and children in Switzerland".

Politicians use LGBTI people as pawns in their games. They stir up hatred and violence and harass individuals, particularly during elections. Belarus, the Gambia and Honduras are particularly highlighted.

State officials are torturing, degrading and cruelly treating LGBT prisoners.

The report highlights in particular the way 44 members of an LGBT organization in Zimbabwe were arrested, beaten and abused by police.

Sixteen gay and trans people in immigration facilities in the US were allegedly put in solitary confinement, tortured and ill-treated. The cruelty included sexual assault.

A woman was reportedly arrested in Bangladesh for being lesbian, and beaten and raped by police.

In Egypt, four people arrested faced sexual assault by other inmates while in detention because of their LGBTI status.

The UN's expert on violence against women says lesbians are sometimes placed in cells with men if they refuse the sexual advances of prison staff.

Female prisoners whom guards think look "masculine" are harassed, physically abused and put through "forced feminization".

Transgender prisoners face particularly cruelty. "In Guatemala, a transgender woman was allegedly raped more than 80 times while in detention."

Some countries conduct "anal probe" tests to "prove" men have had gay sex. These are meaningless and are a kind of torture.

Other pointless and dangerous "medical" procedures used against LGBTI people include "conversion therapy" or "gay cures", sterilization, forced gender reassignment and unnecessary medical intervention on intersex children.

LGBTI discrimination is often worse when other factors are involved – like gender, race, age, religion, poverty or armed conflict.

People are deprived of basic rights such as access to employment, healthcare, education and housing. Poverty, homelessness and "food insecurity" rates are thought to be higher among LGBTIs.

The World Bank says homophobia damages economic growth and development.

At least 76 countries criminalize gay sex – despite this being against international law. Some use life in prison, lashings and the death penalty.

Consensual homosexual acts can get you executed in Iran, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen, and in parts of Nigeria and Somalia. The death penalty is planned in Brunei.

Cross-dressing or "imitating the opposite sex" is also criminalized.

The words used in these laws are vague. They use terms like "crimes against the order of nature", "immorality", "debauchery", "indecent acts" or "grave scandal".

The existence of these laws makes police corruption, family violence and mob justice worse.

"Anti-propaganda" laws have been introduced in several countries to stop people speaking in public about sexual orientation. They claim this is to protect children. UN officials particularly highlight Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, the Republic of Moldova, Russia, Uganda and Ukraine.

George at his LGBT stall in Nairobi, Kenya.

Some LGBT people are denied health services. Others are put off from asking for them. Many don't have health services that meet their needs.

In Caribbean countries with laws that criminalize homosexuality, almost one in four men who have sex with men is HIV positive. In Caribbean countries with no such laws, the figure is one in 15.

"Conversion therapies" to "cure" homosexual attraction are "unethical, unscientific and ineffective and, in some instances, tantamount to torture".

In Ecuador, the UN is concerned about "rehabilitation clinics" where lesbians and transgender youths have been forcibly detained with the collusion of family members and subjected to torture, including sexual abuse.

Intersex children – kids born without typical sex characteristics – are being given unnecessary surgery to make them fully male or female. This can cause severe, long-term, irreversible, physical and psychological suffering. The UN's Committee on the Rights of the Child and Committee Against Torture wants them banned.

Trans people find it difficult to access proper health care. Gender reassignment therapy, even when they can get it, is often too expensive for them.

Other people are forced into gender reassignment surgery when they don't want it.

Gay, bi or gender non-conforming kids experience hate, harassment and sometimes violent abuse both in and outside school. This can mean they skip classes, drop out of school and can be left isolated, depressed and suicidal.

In Europe 80 percent of school children heard or saw negativity towards LGBT schoolmates, according to the EU. In Thailand, half of LGBT students had been bullied in the past month and 30 percent had been physically abused.

Most national laws do not protect employees from discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity at work. Some people are fired just because they are gay, bi or trans. Workplace benefits aren't fairly applied and bullying at work is common.

LGBT people can face discrimination by public and private landlords. Individuals and couples are evicted or hounded out of their homes by neighbors.

LGBT teens and young adults are thrown out of home by parents and end up on the street. In the US, 40 percent of homeless kids identify as LGBTI.

LGBT culture, expression, protest and advocacy are censored and banned.

Police have raided LGBT group offices, arrested and harassed staff and volunteers, and confiscated materials. Some organizations have been targets of vandalism, burglary and arson. Police seldom bother to investigate promptly.

State agents and others, including far-right "skinhead" groups, target LGBTI Prides and participants face violence and harassment. Prides and similar events are sometimes banned for "moral" or "safety" reasons, even though countries have a duty to provide freedom of assembly.

LGBT asylum seekers – some of them fleeing for their lives – are given "invasive physical screenings and examinations and denied entry on discriminatory grounds".

Refugees and migrants are sometimes subjected to violence and discrimination in detention facilities. When resettled they may be housed in places that expose them to more danger.

When asylum seekers are wrongly sent back, they can face violence, discrimination, criminalization and the death penalty.

Countries should protect LGBT individuals in their families. But some lesbian, gay, bi, trans and intersex people have been "physically assaulted, raped, excluded from family homes, disinherited, prevented from going to school, sent to psychiatric institutions, forced to marry, forced to give up custody of their children, punished for activist work and subjected to attacks on personal reputation".

Lesbians, bi women and trans people are particularly at risk within families because they are already discriminated against as women.

There is no requirement under international law to offer gay marriage. But the UN's Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights wants countries to give same-sex couples legal recognition.

Children's bodies in the UN particularly want kids in same-sex families to be legally recognized and protected.

The vast majority of trans people still can't get their true gender legally recognized. This exposes them to "multiple rights challenges".

Some countries break international human rights standards by the demands they put on trans people before they recognize their gender. This includes insisting they are not married, have been sterilized, have undergone gender reassignment surgery or other medical procedures.

The good

Some governments have worked to reduce violence and discrimination against LGBTIs. Since the UN's last report on LGBTI human rights in 2011: 14 nation states have adopted or strengthened anti-discrimination and hate crime laws for LGBTs.

Two countries have introduced legal protections for intersex people.

Three nations have scrapped laws that made gay sex illegal.

12 governments have introduced marriage or civil unions for same-sex couples nationally.

10 countries have made it easier for trans people to get their gender identity legally recognized.

Police, judges, prison guards, doctors, nurses and teachers have been given LGBT training in "dozens" of countries.

Many have launched programs against bullying in schools and created shelters for LGBTI youths.

Popular TV programs have integrated LGBT characters in a positive way. Celebrities have come out as gay or trans, raising awareness.

Everywhere on earth, LGBTI human rights defenders are "more vocal and visible". Some have managed to win their right to protest through the courts.

The answer

The UN says LGBTI issues are "one of the great, neglected human rights challenges of our time".

Every layer of government and society, from the UN all the way down to local village leaders, are responsible for fixing the problem.

- See more at: http://www.gaystarnews.com/article/state-global-lgbti-rights-2015030615#sthash.tODBRioW.dpuf

Opinion

One Year Sick & Then Not: On the Social Construction of Homosexuality as "Disease"

By Warren J. Blumenfeld

June was LGBTIQ Pride Month. I share with you a piece of our history in which I had the honor of participating. WJB

We had been jointly planning our tactics over the past month. I and my compatriots of the Gay Liberation Front and Gay May Day collective, friends from the Mattachine Society, and members of the newly formed Gay Activists Alliance were to gather on this bright morning during the first week of May in 1971, and carpool up Connecticut Avenue in northwest Washington, DC to the Shoreham Hotel. Also uniting with us were people from out-of-town who joined us as part of "Gay May Day" as we attempted to shut down the federal government for what we considered as an illegal and immoral invasion into Vietnam.

We parked about a block away since we didn't want hotel security and attendees at the annual American Psychiatric Association conference to notice a rather large group of activists sporting T-shirts and placards announcing "Gay Is Good," "Psychiatry Is the Enemy," and "Gay Revolution." Half the men decked themselves in stunning drag wearing elegant wigs and shimmering lamé dresses, glittering fairy dust wafting their painted faces.

A year before, activists demonstrated outside the APA conference held in San Francisco. As a result, conference organizers conceded to permit a panel to lead a discussion workshop at this year's annual conference in DC under the title "Lifestyles of Nonpatient Homosexuals." The panelists included Dr. Franklin Kameny, Director of Mattachine DC; Barbara Gittings, Director of the Philadelphia office of Daughters of Bilitis; and Jack Baker, first "out" U.S. student body president at the University of Minnesota.

In their capacity as official conference panelists, they were granted inside access to all proceedings, including admission to the annual Convocation of Fellows, in which all attendees were to hear U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark deliver the keynote address in the hotel's over-the-top Regency Ballroom. Earlier in the week, some of us checked out the hotel's layout. The day before, a comrade placed a wedge in a doorway coming from the Rock Creek Park woods into the hotel, where we gained access.

All along, the panelists were to serve as our Trojan Horses. After the Convocation was called to order, and half-way through Clark's address, our insiders opened the doors and in we poured, chanting, waving, shouting. On stage, we witnessed a stunned Attorney General surrounded by similarly stunned and also upset APA officials, and seated in the front rows we noticed elderly men who wore gold medals around their necks. When they saw us, they stood and began beating us with their medals while shouting "Get out of here. We don't want any more people like you here!" Others yelled: "You're sick, you're sick you faggots, you drag queens!" Other psychiatrists stood up from their seats and attempted to push us physically from the hall. I was able to escape their grasp, and I sat locking arms with a contingent on the floor just beneath the stage.

I then saw Franklin Kameny rush the stage and grab the microphone, his booming voice cracking through the pandemonium even after the technician cut the power. "Psychiatry is the enemy incarnate," he yelled, the anger seemingly oozing from his pores. "You may take this as a declaration of war against you!"

And this was, indeed, our intent: to declare war on the psychiatric profession for the atrocities, the colonization, the "professional" malpractice it had perpetrated over the preceding century in the name of "science," the biological and psychological pathologizing of sexual and gender transgressive people. From the so-called "Eugenics Movement" of the mid-nineteenth century though the twentieth century CE and beyond, medical and psychological professions have often proposed and addressed, in starkly medical terms, the alleged "deficiencies" and "mental diseases" of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people.

> I am very proud of the actions we took during those difficult and also exciting times. We contributed our small piece to the large jigsaw puzzle of queer history....

In the past century, some members of the scientific community viewed people attracted to their own sex, those attracted to both males and females, and trans people as constituting distinct biological or "racial" types — those who could be distinguished from "normal" people through anatomical markers. In addition, rather than considering homosexuality, bisexuality, and gender non-conformity merely as emotional, gender, and sexual differences along a broad spectrum of human potential, some sectors of the medical and psychological communities force pathologizing language onto people with same-sex and both-sex attractions, and those who cross traditional constructions of gender identities and expression. This has resulted in members of the medical professions committing lesbians, gay males, bisexuals, and those who transgress so-called "normative" gender identities and expressions (often against their will) to hospitals, mental institutions, jails and penitentiaries, force pre-frontal lobotomies, electroshock, castration, and sterilization. We have been made to endure "aversion therapy," "reparative therapy," "Christian counseling," and genetic counseling.

The first Diagnostic & Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-I) (the APA-sponsored and endorsed handbook of mental disorders) published in 1952 listed homosexuality, for example, as a form of sociopathology. The "updated" 1968 DSM-II described homosexuality as an "Ego-Dystonic Disorder," a mental illness in a similar category with schizophrenia and manic depressive disorder.

The physician Irving Bieber co-authored a study in 1962, "Homosexuality: A Psychoanalytic Study of Male Homosexuals" sponsored by the New York Society of Psychoanalysts, in which he concluded that homosexuality constituted a psychopathology that could be cured or prevented with psychoanalysis. Bieber later was quoted in 1973 saying: "A homosexual is a person whose heterosexual function is crippled, like the legs of a polio victim" (Bieber's 1973 quote from New York Times, August 28, 1991). In addition, the psychiatrist Charles Socarides, founder of the National Association for Research & Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH), argued that homosexuality is an illness, a neurosis, possibly caused by an over-attachment to the mother, which he too argued could be treated. Bieber and Socrarides became the "authoritative" and often-referenced researchers in the area of causation and "treatment" of homosexuality.

The year following our storming the Shoreham Hotel's Regency Ballroom, APA held its next annual conference in Dallas, Texas. No activist propped open a side entrance, and no multi-group contingent burst into the assemblage, for something seemed to have changed within the organization over the intervening year. Barbara Gittings and Franklin Kameny again presented their views and facilitated a workshop discussion, this time joined by "Dr. H. Anonymous" (a.k.a. psychiatrist Dr. John E. Fryer) wearing a costume mask to hide his identity who discussed his experiences as a gay psychiatrist and member of the APA.

By 1973, the American Psychiatric Association had finally changed its designation of homosexuality, now asserting that it does not constitute a disorder: "[H]omosexuality per se implies no impairment in judgment, stability, reliability, or general social or vocational capabilities." Two years later, in 1975, the American Psychological Association followed suit and urged mental health professionals "to take the lead in removing the stigma of mental illness that has long been associated with homosexual orientations." The American Psychiatric Association recently announced that in its DSM-V, the diagnosis of "gender identity disorder," which the manual has imposed upon transgender people since it published DSM-III in 1980, will undergo what the APA subcommittee deciding on the change considers as a more neutral designation, "gender dysphoria," which they see as descriptive rather than diagnostic and pathologizing.

In the case of LGBT people, the scientific community has consistently deployed the "medical model" to investigate and pathologize the "other." In so doing, heteronormativity and cissupremacy (oppression and colonization against trans people), therefore, become perceived as unremarkable or "normal," unquestioned hegemonic norms against which all others are judged. Heterosexual and cisgender norms justify and explain away the otherwise unacceptable persecution and oppression of non-conforming sexual and gender identity groups, while evading issues of domination, privilege, subordination, and marginalization. This "medicalization" of homosexuality, bisexuality, and gender non-conformity only serves to strengthen oppression and heterosexual and cisgender privilege through its relative invisibility. Given this invisibility, issues of oppression and privilege are neither analyzed nor scrutinized, neither interrogated nor confronted by members of the dominant group.

I am very proud of the actions we took during those difficult and also exciting times. We contributed our small piece to the large jigsaw puzzle of queer history, a piece that when interlocked with all the other pieces, as we comrades interlocked arms to prevent the outraged psychiatrists from evicting us from the Regency Ballroom, have exposed the biases and, most importantly, the foundational power dynamics in the social constructions of "abnormality," "disease," "mental illness," "hysteria," "disability," "immaturity," for us and for so many other marginalized groups, including women, people who are differently abled, young people, and elders.

Following our successful and historic zap on the APA psychiatrists that day in May, we exalted comrades returned to the GLF commune at 1620 S Street in northwest DC, and we sang in unified and joyous harmony "When the Gays Go Marchin' In." And in fact, we did!

Dr. Warren J. Blumenfeld is author of Warren's Words: Smart Commentary on Social Justice (Purple Press), co-editor of Investigating Christian Privilege and Religious Oppression in the United States (Sense Publications), co-editor of Readings for Diversity and Social Justice (Routledge), and editor of Homophobia: How We All Pay the Price (Beacon Press).

Permission granted to forward, print, or publish this commentary: warrenblumenfeld@gmail.com ■

Health

Dr. Rachel Levine

Pa. senate confirms trans woman as Physician General

By Dawn Ennis on The Advocate

History was made in Pennsylvania last month, as the state senate voted to confirm Dr. Rachel Levine as the Physician General.

The vote, which was unanimous, makes Levine the first transgender person appointed to a Governor's cabinet in Pennsylvania.

Recognized nationally and statewide for what officials described as "her excellence in the fields of pediatrics and psychology," Dr. Levine also served on the board of Equality PA and has been a advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights.

"I am very proud to have served on the board of Equality PA with Dr. Levine. She is an excellent physician and we look forward to her tenure as the Physician General of Pennsylvania," said Jessica Rothchild, President of Equality PA's Board, according to WTAE-TV.

House Rep. Dan Frankel, a Democrat who co-chairs the Legislature's LGBT equality caucus, called Levine's confirmation a first for Pennsylvania.

"I'm thankful that the Senate has confirmed the leadership in the Departments of Health, Revenue and Corrections," said Governor Tom Wolf, in a statement. "Physician General Rachel Levine, Secretary Eileen McNulty and Secretary John Wetzel are all stellar public servants who are ready to lead in their respective departments."

Wolf named Levine Acting Physician General in January, just days before his own swearing-in, and announced she would have a seat in his cabinet.

Speaking to Pennsylvania newspaper The Patriot-News in January about how "meaningful" her nomination is, Levine explained that being transgender has given her a unique perspective that aids public health.

"I think [being trans] has helped me in terms of the LGBT community in terms of understanding what all the issues are," she said. "And I think I've been able to serve as a mentor and role model to LGBT individuals at the medical center as well as in the community."

Wolf's administration calls Levine an expert in pediatrics and psychiatry and says she helped start a division at Penn State Hershey Medical Center for the care of teens with complex medical and psychosocial problems.

Take the LGBT Health survey on social media

The Empire State Pride Agenda, through Strength In Numbers Consulting Group, Inc., is conducting a social media survey on LGBT health, both for all community members and service providers.

Strength in Numbers says, "Make your voice heard with a specific message about how the survey can affect funding and programmatic decisions for your organization. The survey is available in Spanish, so feel free to post in Spanish as well.

"Please post www.lgbtsurvey.org to your facebook page. If you have time to add a personal message about why YOUR facebook followers in particular need to make their voices heard, please add your own message."

Five health supplements proven to help with HIV

Probiotics

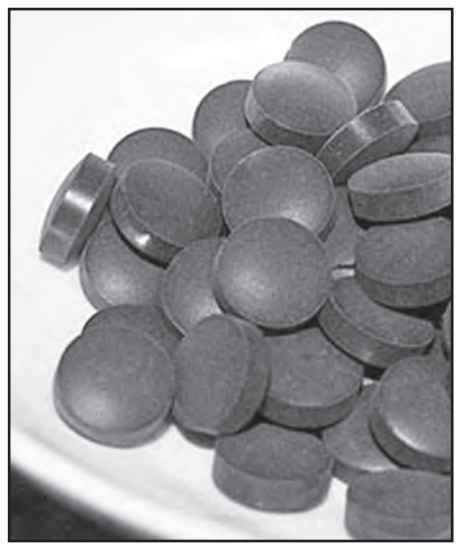
Three of the top four side effects of HIV meds are gastrointestinal, such as chronic diarrhea. That's because the gut is a major spot for HIV replication, which then diminishes immune cells. But probiotics — essentially live bacteria and yeasts — do more for a good gut than anything else, reducing inflammation and improving CD4-cell counts.

Algae

A study in Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes found that blue-green algae (also known as spirulina) inhibited HIV replication.

Multivitamins

One study found that multivitamins reduced HIV-positive women's risk of death by 30 percent.


Spirulina tablets

Zinc

A deficiency in zinc occurs in over half of HIV-positive adults, and studies indicate that zinc delays immunological failure and decreases a nasty side effect, diarrhea.

Vitamin D

Up to 75 percent of the general population is deficient in vitamin D. For people with HIV, vitamin D reduces the risk of osteoporosis, produces proteins that help fight bacteria, reduces inflammation, improves muscle strength, and improves blood sugar control, reducing the risk of diabetes, according to numerous studies.

-The Advocate ■

H&B Howe & Bassett
Professional Plumbers Since 1885
271-4040

THE BACHELOR FORUM
ROCHESTER'S OLDEST, NEWEST GAY BAR
COME OUT FOR THE BIGGEST, GAYEST HAPPY HOUR
3 FOR 2 HAPPY HOUR 7 DAYS A WEEK.
SCAN THIS CODE FOR UPDATES AND A SCHEDULE OF EVENTS.
670 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14607 • 585-271-6930

LGBTQ Living

Carl and Robert Lebman at Huther Doyle. Photo: Susan Jordan

Robert and Carl Lebman

By Susan Jordan

Robert and Carl Lebman have been together for 38 years and will celebrate that anniversary in August. They met in the old Jim's Bar on Aug. 19, 1977.

Carl was a hairdresser at Contour Salon in Irondequoit and Robert has been CEO of Huther Doyle for 26 years. This fall he will retire and the two will move to their retirement home in Panama City, where they have already established a circle of friends and unofficial family.

The couple is selling their house in Fairport, and Robert will retire at the end of September, joining Carl in Panama in November. They plan frequent visits to Rochester but will be living in an area of Panama City which they say resembles NYC's Chelsea; their home is near the street where the Panama City Pride Parade takes place.

Carl retired as a hairdresser 11 years ago, after his identical twin brother died of AIDS. He had lived with Robert and Carl during the last months of his life.

They were legally married in 2012, but had a commitment ceremony in 1980 (when Carl Lonobile took Lebman as his legal name, with his parents' blessing) and re-committed for their 25th anniversary. In August 2012 they had a legal religious ceremony, performed by a rabbi friend who lives in Long Island and came to Rochester to marry them.

At that ceremony, Carl said, "My dad and Robert's younger sister walked me down the aisle." Robert added, "And Carl's mom and my older sister walked me down the aisle!" Their nephews and other relatives were also in the wedding party, and their ringbearer was none other than Chico Bruno Lebman – Carl's Chihuahua.

They would like to thank their friends and family for their love and support.

They haven't exactly mastered Spanish yet, but they say, "People in Panama are really nice and all speak English," giving them little chance to practice their Spanish.

Robert and Carl have unofficially adopted two young Panamanian gay men and put them through college. One is now a schoolteacher and the other works for a Dutch company and is a supervisor at age 22. Their younger son was the first in his family to get a high school or college diploma. They sent roses on Carl's birthday, danced joyfully on Skype at the wedding ceremony, and blew up a photo of Carl and Robert to make a poster as a gift on their anniversary as well.

Robert and Carl have also put two other young men through college.

Why choose Panama as their retirement home? Robert said, "We researched good places to retire, and every source said 'Panama'. So we visited and really liked it, and started meeting people."

Huther Doyle offers substance abuse and healthcare treatment, except for HIV; HD has developed an LGBT treatment track at Trillium Health, with the help of former Trillium employee Erik Libey.

Thirteen percent of the staff are members of the LGBTQ community. Huther Doyle has many Hispanic clients and offers a specialty program in Spanish – "Esperanza Latina". Robert said, "Regularly we get young trans people who come here for all their health issues."

He added, "I spent the last 40 years doing this work." He will continue to work as a consultant after retirement.

The two have witnessed many advances in LGBT rights over the past 40 years. Robert notes, "Young people should be involved in the community. As more and more people come out, heterosexual people realize they know gays and it changes their minds."

Carl said, "I volunteered with AIDS Rochester." Robert added, "And we did years of volunteering for Dining for Dollars (the fundraising event hosted by Helping People with AIDS). We took the profits and had a fund for people living with HIV/AIDS which got things for them that you couldn't get other funding for, but that improved their quality of life, and we turned the fund over to AIDS Rochester in the '90s."

Carl and Robert with Chico.

When asked about his advice for couples seeking a successful marriage, Robert said, "Be patient."

Carl interjected, "Especially when you live with someone like me!"

Robert added, "And be honest always – no secrets! And be supportive. Sometimes your other half says 'I'd like to…' and you should always be supportive! Right from the beginning we were committed, and expected it to last. Be prepared for the hard days, and work together."

About the upcoming Supreme Court ruling, Carl said, "I hope the court will say yes."

Robert said, "My hope is it won't be a 5-4 decision. But in any case, my advice would be 'make it work'… You shouldn't enter marriage just because it's legal. Do it because you're committed to making it work. It's not about one night stands, it's about a lifetime."

Carl summed up, "I'm proud to call him my best friend – he's given me a wonderful life!" Robert said, "It's not a one-way street."

Carl had the last word: "Unconditional love!" ■

Different, Together.

We are intentionally **different**, caring for your health **together.**

For over 30 years we've provided primary care services to our patients. And now it's time we cared for you.

Trillium HEALTH

Care designed with *you* in mind

(585) 545-7200 | 259 Monroe Ave at Monroe Square | www.trilliumhealth.org

Take Pride In Your Home With...

WE NOW
DESIGN & INSTALL
KITCHENS

ROCHESTER BATH
REMODELING
Design & Installation

B.C.B. MEMBER REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL
BBB Start With Trust
Angie's list 2015 SUPER SERVICE AWARD
NAHB Certified Aging-in Place Specialist

www.rochesterbath.com

Visit Our Showroom at 350 W. Commercial St. East Rochester (585) 381-1320

LIFE HAS PRIDE

Strong leaders make strong communities. Excellus BlueCross BlueShield is grateful for all the leaders who joined us for the 2015 PRIDE in Leadership Development Program. This program empowers individuals to advocate for LGBTQ equality in the local community.

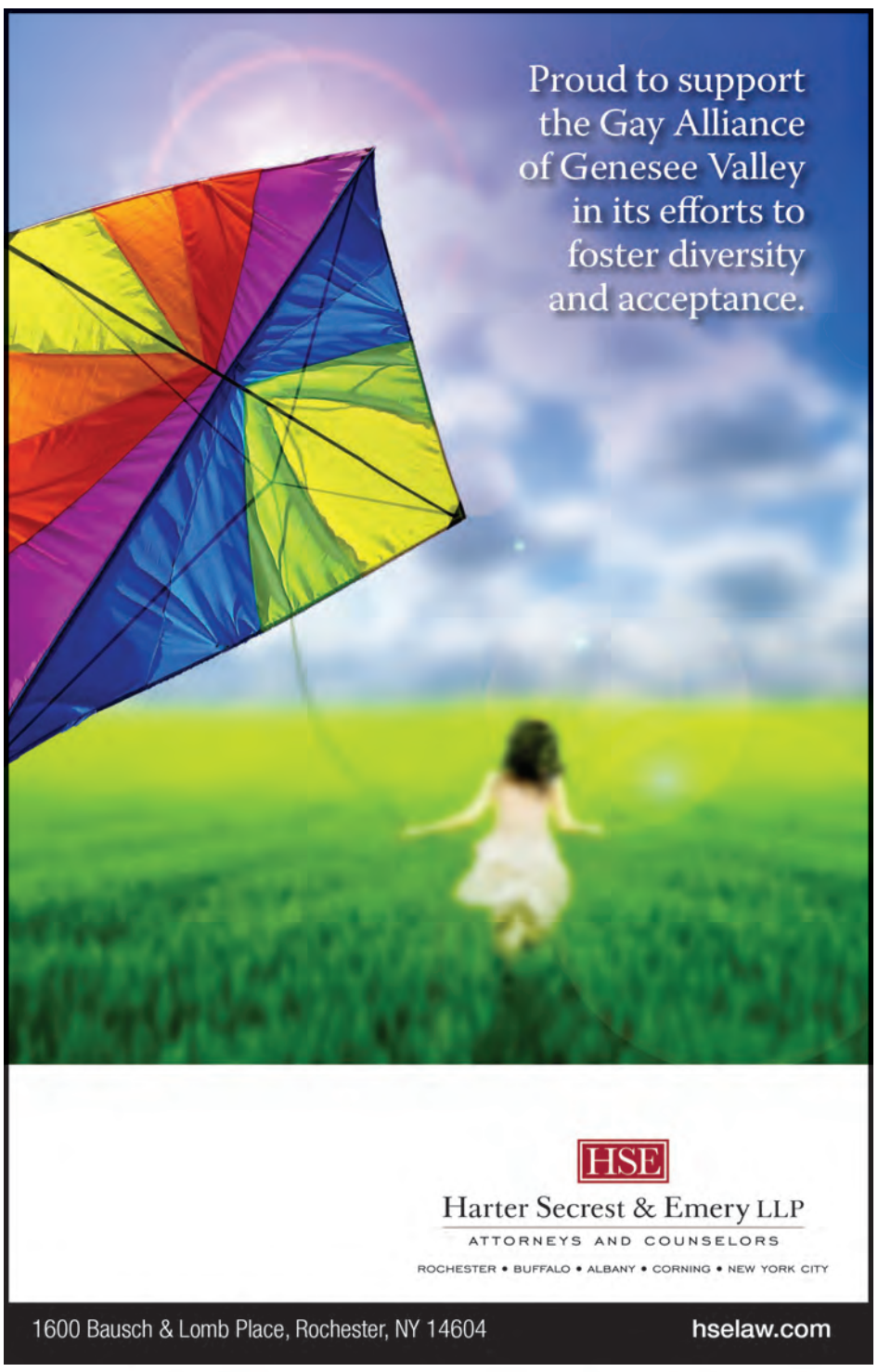
Special thanks to United Way, for their vision, and the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, for creating this program with us.

Excellus

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN FOUNDATION 2015 BEST PLACES TO WORK for LGBT Equality 100% CORPORATE EQUALITY INDEX

National strength. Local focus. Individual care.SM

Man's best friend,
meet
Business' best friend.
PrintRoc
by Pinnacle Printers, Inc.
620 South Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620
(585) 461-2556 www.printRoc.com


Proud to support
the Gay Alliance
of Genesee Valley
in its efforts to
foster diversity
and acceptance.
HSE
Harter Secrest & Emery LLP
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS
ROCHESTER • BUFFALO • ALBANY • CORNING • NEW YORK CITY
1600 Bausch & Lomb Place, Rochester, NY 14604
hselaw.com

Think you
can't afford
PrEP?
Think again.
PrEP is a preventive
medication that helps reduce
the risk of becoming infected with HIV.
Don't let cost get in the way of your health. The Pharmacy at Trillium Health
will ensure every effort is made so you can afford to protect yourself.
Assistance may be available to those who qualify.
Let's talk about it. Contact us, today.
Trillium
HEALTH
Healthcare, socialized:
www.trilliumhealth.org
Facebook.com/TrilliumHealth
Find us downtown:
259 Monroe Avenue at Monroe Square
(585) 545-7200

OUR NAME HAS CHANGED.
WE HAVEN'T.

Pleasant St. Apothecary

SAME LOCATION: **259 MONROE AVENUE**
at the corner of Union and Monroe, near the Inner Loop

SAME PHONE: **(585) 241-9000**
www.pharmacy.trilliumhealth.org

THE PHARMACY AT Trillium HEALTH

An extraordinary event requires an extraordinary setting.

Hold your LGBT wedding, reception, rehearsal or other special event at Rochester's landmark art museum.

MAG
MEMORIAL ART GALLERY
UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

500 UNIVERSITY AVE.
ROCHESTER NY 14607
585.276.8950
MAG.ROCHESTER.EDU

Find us at **theknot.com**!

Photos from left: Virginia LaRocca | Bonilla Photo Art | Brandon Vick Photography

BERGEN
WATER GARDENS
AND NURSERY

- PONDS AND POND SUPPLIES
- HARDY AND TROPICAL LILIES
- LOTUS
- CONIFERS
- MARGINAL PLANTS
- CARNIVOROUS PLANTS
- GOLDFISH AND KOI

7443 BUFFALO RD.
CHURCHVILLE NY
14428
585-293-2860

tapas 177 lounge
TAPAS
177 Lounge

tapas177.com

177 Saint Paul St. Rochester, New York 585-262-2090

Shoulders to Stand On

A Community's Response To AIDS – The Beginning Years Before 1986 in Rochester

In the beginning of the AIDS crisis, it is important to remember that even though the medical profession was aware of Kaposi's Sarcoma, which normally only affected elderly men of Mediterranean or Jewish heritage and young adult African men and Pneumacistis which occurred in patients with severely compromised immune systems, these diseases were now being seen in young healthy gay men.

According to an article, "How AIDS Changed America," written by David Jefferson, "Gay Cancer," as it was referred to at the time, wasn't a story the press wanted to cover -- especially since it required a discussion of gay sex.

While the media had a field day with Legionnaire's disease, toxic shock syndrome and the Tylenol scare, few outlets paid much attention to the new syndrome, even after scores of people had died. The New York Times ran fewer than a dozen stories about the new killer in 1981 and 1982, almost all of them buried inside the paper. (Newsweek, for that matter, didn't run its first cover story on what "may be the public-health threat of the century" until April 1983.)

The Wall Street Journal first reported on the disease only after it had spread to heterosexuals: NEW, OFTEN-FATAL ILLNESS IN HOMOSEXUALS TURNS UP IN WOMEN, HETEROSEXUAL MALES, read the February 1982 headline.

Even the gay press missed the story at first: afraid of alarming the community and inflaming antigay forces, editors at the New York Native slapped the headline DISEASE RUMORS LARGELY UNFOUNDED atop the very first press report about the syndrome, which ran May 18, 1981. There were a few notable exceptions, particularly the work of the late Randy Shilts, an openly gay journalist who convinced his editors at the San Francisco Chronicle to let him cover AIDS as a full-time beat: that reporting led to the landmark 1987 book "And the Band Played On."

In December of 1982 The Monroe County Health Department reported a Caribbean immigrant to Rochester became the first AIDS victim to die.

In January of 1983, the Gay Rights National Lobby succeeded in getting Congress to appropriate $2 million for AIDS research nationally. In the fiscally and socially conservative climate of Reagan's America, politicians were loath to fund research into a new pathogen that was killing mostly gay men and intravenous drug users.

Dr. Michael Gottlieb said "In the first years of AIDS, I imagine we felt like the folks on the rooftops during Katrina, waiting for help."

President Ronald Reagan didn't discuss AIDS in a public forum until a press conference four years into the epidemic, by which time more than 12,000 Americans had already died. (He didn't publicly utter the term "AIDS" until 1987.) Following reports that nine hemophiliacs had developed AIDS, The National Hemophilia Foundation on January 17 issued a statement calling on manufacturers of blood products used by hemophiliacs to refuse blood donations by gay men. In March 1983 the American Red Cross informed groups at high risk of carrying AIDS that they should not donate blood. Also in March 1983, the first AIDS Prevention Guidelnes by Public Health Service, and the New England Journal of Medicine reports that AIDS may be sexually transmitted.

What may have been the first AIDS benefit in Rochester -- a wine and cheese party -- was held on May 1 at Friar's Inn. A $5 donation was requested, entertainment was provided by Just Around the Comer, and several physicians who were involved in AIDS research at Strong Memorial Hospital were present to answer questions and provide information. The goal was to raise $2000. The other gay bars followed suit and began a serious effort to raise money for AIDS patients and the Clinic at Strong.

In the early '80s the national response to the emergence of AIDS ranged from indifference to hostility. People with the disease were routinely evicted from their homes, fired from jobs and denied health insurance. Gays were demonized. Through the crucible of AIDS, America was forced to face its fears and prejudices. In Rochester, Sue Cowell, Nurse Practitioner at University Health Services at U of R, was unwilling to accept this response to AIDS and succumb to the fear.

In an interview Sue gave to Steve Picchi for The Empty Closet in May 1983, Sue said, "My proposal is that a committee be formed called AIDS/Rochester that would be a committee of the Board of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, and that it would consist of health professionals and lay people in the community who are interested in addressing different areas around the issue of AIDS. I see several needs: there's a need for education — education of people, but also of the health professionals; the need for fundraising — to go out and do the education and to support research (which is another whole area). Education, fundraising, research and also political action. You are not going to get the funds for the education or the research without the political action. You've got to have people with strong points in those areas. You need health professionals to handle the educational part. You need the grassroots people to do the fundraising — like the people at the (Bachelor) Forum (Memorial Day Weekend Fundraiser for AIDS), and you need everybody to grease the wheels of the political machine. You need the cooperation of everybody for the research, because with the research you need the involvement of the gay community. The researchers can't do it without our help, and you need people acting as liaisons for people who are gay health professionals coming out of the closet and getting off their rear-ends and getting involved in this whole thing, because this is really scary. People can deny all they want, but it is going to be a really big challenge in the eighties to come up with an answer. To me it's very obvious that this is not going to be a disease that we're going to figure out next year. It's going to take a lot of work. It's something that we're going to have to live with."

In that same month, the Health and Human Services Asst. Secretary Edward N. Brandt said investigation of AIDS has become number one priority of US Public Health Services. In May, doctors at the Institute Pasteur in France reported that they had isolated a new virus, which they suggested might be the cause of AIDS. A sample of the virus was sent to the CDC. Later the virus was named lymphadenopathy-associated virus or LAV, patents were applied for, and a sample of LAV was sent to the National Cancer Institute.

Sue Cowell was right! We have been living with AIDS for almost 25 years. Over the next several years, Sue's proposal for this community's response to AIDS came to life and the Rochester LGBT community stepped up to the plate and did what needed to be done.

Next month STSO will look closely at the formation of AIDS Rochester, which began with a small group of concerned Rochestarians meeting on Sue's front porch on Wilmer Street.

On May 2, 2015, STSO presented the STSO Triangle Award to Sue Cowell for her for 38 years of political, economic, and social activism in support of the Rochester LGBTQ Community.

At Pride 2015 Sue will receive the Life Time Achievement Award. Shoulders To Stand On is grateful for and proud of the "shoulders of this Giant"! ■

History Corner

July, 1975 -- Rochester gay activists visit the Big Apple (by THE SHADOW). Sheridan Square on that Sunday morning, June 29, was an indescribable riot of color and sound. Blazing banners, buttons, costumes ranging from lavender lambda T-shirts and jeans to an occasional display of glitter-spangled drag, all counterpointed against the babble of voices, kazoos and whistles, merged into a panorama of humanity at its most joyously alive as thousands of gay women and men awaited the signal to begin the Sixth Annual Christopher Street-Liberation Day March.

Gay Brotherhood of Rochester President Bob Crystal circulates about selling NYSCGO T-shirts as Bruce Jewell takes interviews on his cassette for Green Thursdays. Meanwhile the rest of us assemble the giant Day-Glo green Rochester banner created for the occasion by Kevin Scahill. At last, a few minutes after noon, a great shout goes up as the head of the parade, led by members of New York City's Gay Activists Alliance, begins to move down Christopher Street a few blocks, a turn, and we are heading down the Avenue of the Americas, bound for downtown New York City and Central Park fifty blocks away.… For the first time I see what we are working and fighting for, and how beautiful it really is.

To read the entire article go to: http://www.library.rochester.edu/rbscp/Empty-Closet

On that page click on: Browse the Empty Closet issues, go to 1975 – July pg. 9 ■

HIGHLAND
CONTRACTORS
ROOFS SIDING WINDOWS PAINTING
Highland Contractors is a local business located off of Meigs Street that is big on quality, always returns phones calls, offers fair and competitive pricing, is fully insured and is a member of the Better Business Bureau.
Please call us for your free estimate on the following:
New Roofs-Roof Repairs • Siding
Painting (Interior and Exterior)
Windows
Check out our website
www.highlandcontractors.net
585.507.3658
phil@highlandcontractors.net
GAF ELK Certified Weather Stopper Roofing Contractor
LEAD-SAFE EPA CERTIFIED FIRM
CERTIFIED Weather Stopper 3-Part Roof Protection System
BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

Christina Smith
Licensed Massage Therapist
Redeem this coupon for 20% off your next massage
585.464.8957

Columnists

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

Growing Up
JUST WORDS

By Eric Bellmann

When we met several years ago I found the young man charming. We stayed in touch and now see one another often. Our friendship is distinguished by a span of generations to say nothing of dissimilar sexual orientation. It is also marked by rich conversation.

I was astonished to learn, in the very beginning, that he was an atheist. Odd, I thought, for someone so young to have evolved beyond his Christian upbringing. He was 22 but clearly a man who could think for himself. I was astonished because, finally now after years of spiritual considerations, I also regard myself as an atheist. It helped us bond, as they say. However I found his political views appalling: Libertarian. I am the last and perhaps the saddest of left wing Liberals.

At his suggestion I watched videos of his preferred Libertarian, the former Governor of New Mexico. The man made good points. When I told my friend Sally in New York about my young friend I even got her to watch the videos. Some positions were enlightened, made sense. Others did not.

Lately he and I have spent more time together. He told me off-handedly that he had told his best friend and his brother-in-law about me "from the git-go".

And I thought. Then I asked, "and how did you describe me to them?" Before he could answer, I told him that when I spoke with Sally I only said he was a man who was both an Atheist and a Libertarian. He did not answer my question. I imagined the answer. It was Old and Queer. Maybe even Rich. Oh probably not queer, maybe gay. He is decent enough not to malign.

I, on the other hand, did not say "young", "straight", "red-haired" or "athletic", all of which are true.

That's what I am, "old, gay, rich". I am more than that, of course. I am neurotic, wise, increasingly kinder and funny. Those are merely the highlights.

Of course he likes me. Rather a lot, actually. He means no disrespect. But what he did, how he spoke of me, how people are, happens anyway. It troubles me. I don't know how to deal with it. There's no point in beating up on my friend.

I'd like him to meet my friends. Sally, of course, who is also old and rich but straight and Mike who is not old, not rich and very conservative. For a while I thought I would like to meet his friends and family and now I am not so sure about that. I know how I have been presented and the sad fact of our age disparity is that his people will, quite likely, have suspicions about my intentions. Predator comes to mind. I mean if they thought I was a barrel of laughs, I might be up for it.

My discovery does not impact on our time together; we still have lunch and talk and express high regard, even affection for one another. I am, nonetheless, mildly ill at ease when people see us together. That's my baggage. And I hate it. But that discomfort only happens in restaurants. Or maybe when we walk down the street together.

One time in the beginning, we went for coffee and he reminds me now that I said let's guess what the servers think our relationship is. I had some vanity then. Did I want them to think he was my boytoy? I would have settled for Dad. Grandpa is what I got served.

Heartache and a latte.

I live inside this body. I only look out. I don't know what he sees or what anyone sees. I suppose they see white hair and wrinkles and posture that isn't what it once was. Doesn't every older person believe that there is a snappy 30-something living inside their aging flesh? You can tell a four-year-old that you are seventeen and they will not doubt you for a minute. At my age with the looks that remain I can shave off ten years and no one would question me. When dealing with service or repair people over the phone I jack my age up five years hoping to snag some sympathy.

It's a tricky, unfair world we live in. I thought once that ageism was the worst thing about gay culture. Truth is it's pervasive. Elaine Stritch said she hated the word "elderly" but didn't mind "older". Everyone is older than someone else.

My gripe is slightly more specific. I hate being labeled by the obvious and not celebrated for hard won virtues, for not being celebrated for the remarkable complex person I've become, for being reduced to the obvious: old and gay. Fuck kids.

Email: EricLBellmann@gmail.com

Cleaning My Closet
ILCLITERACY

By Meredith Elizabeth Reiniger

This is a test. Sit down. Take out a sheet of paper and your pencil. Draw a clitoris.

Now get off the proverbial floor, fan yourself, and admit that your doodle is a little short of reality.

I have no memory of being introduced to my clitoris. I have no memory of seeking or finding my clitoris. During any tutoring from my family of origin, fun and pleasure were not associated with my be-sure-you-scrub-Down-There body parts. ('Scrub' did not imply any inherent dirtiness . . . scrubbing was just my Dutch mother's cleaning method. And boiling things. Most, not all.)

I must admit that I spent years being quite unfamiliar with the human body I inhabited. I dressed it and fed it, but details of its parts and possibilities were missing. Of course I had no knowledge about intercourse because Ozzie and Harriett slept in twin beds.

One day it happened: The Talk. With a visual aid. At some embarrassing time, my brave father made a simple line drawing to illustrate a penis (THAT? That was a mind-numbing shock). There was some sort of image showing its destination, which would cause pregnancy, which was a bad (mean voice: very terrible) thing to do until after college graduation. I guess he used the word 'vagina' . . . a word my mother might have used to name the blood chute from which 'the curse' would gush, but she said absolutely nothing during my Reproduction Introduction. Nary a word about a clitoris was uttered. Ever. (After my mother's death, I discovered a note my father had written to her, calling her Tiger. So I am fairly sure they both knew that word and that place.)

I do recall that sex education in high school was an uninformative film strip about the mechanics, but nothing about sensations or emotions or clitorises. Basically, it was a Kotex advertisement. Afterwards, Percy walked around our science lab, sidled up to us girls, ran his finger down our backs and waist, feeling for telltale straps, then announced to his gawking peers which girls were wearing (at last) a bra and which were 'on the rag.' (My mother admitted that she, desperately poor in 1926, did in fact use, wash, and reuse rags for sanitariness during menstruation. Oh dear me yuck.)

Once upon a Roman time, early explorers of human bodies declared that a MAN'S BODY was the ideal. Subsequently and clearly and without a doubt, those early explorers, enshrouded by their Maleness Ideal, asserted that a woman's body was flawed . . . between her legs, tucked in there, someplace, was a failed teeny-weeny penis. Regrettably, throughout centuries and eons and lifetimes, the Reign of the Penis has pulled off lies and deceptions. And, as a consequence, we, actually almost of all us, would not recognize a drawing of a clitoris.

Such a time, (circa 20th century), I met up with my very own clitoris. (I didn't know its anatomical name, but, in any case, it came when I called.) For many years I had considered a . . . , my clitoris to be that mythological 'button.' I have recently learned that, for a long time, even GoogleGod called it a 'nub.'

Recently and most fortunately my web-wandering friend (of 53 years) forwarded an article to me: "The Overdue, Under-Told Story of the Clitoris" (Carina Kolodny and Amber Genuske, 5/2015; a Huffington Post Special Project). Without this connection, I might have remained ilclitorate.

On the back of your test paper, list a brief history of the clitoris. Enlarge that information into a paragraph to explain how and why the clitoris was "discredited, dismissed and deleted" and who and how the actual structure of the clitoris was discovered.

What's in a name? 1486: engorged clitoris was christened 'devil's teat.' (It was proof of witch-ness.) 1545: shameful member. 1906: sexist Freud's verdict . . . clitoris orgasm was infantile and immature; the sensitivity of the clitoris needed to be handed over to the vagina.

Fact Finding. 1559: clitoris found to have erectile issue. 1671: Midwife Jane Sharp notes that the clitoris ". . . makes a wife lustful and take delight in copulation." 1672: Dutch anatomist writes first comprehensive clitoris report. 1844: German anatomist draws first detailed illustration. 1858: Gray's Anatomy, the revered medical bible, included detailed and accurate illustrations of the female body, identifying the exterior clitoris part, drawn by Henry Vandyke Carter. 1924: Princess Marie Bonaparte initiates the measuring of distance from clitoris to vagina. (fyi: It varies. Closeness helps to included clitoral stimulation with vaginal penetration.)

Faking it. 1947: editor of Gray's Anatomy, Charles Mayo Goss redacted the illustration of female anatomy . . . no clitoris. Multiple choice test: Mr. Whatwere-you-thinking Goss a.) erased, b.) deleted, c.) omitted, d.) edited out, e.) got rid of . . the clitoris. Male Goss chose f.) to eradicate, g.) to expunge. . . the clitoris from anatomical drawings. Gentleman clitoris-less Goss did willfully or casually (either will suffice) falsify information.

The 21st century: Now, at long last, Cliteracy is here. Cliteracy, an underground, grassroots awareness movement, was created by artist Sophia Wallace. (Cliteracy, like any literacy, is knowledge of or competence in a subject or area of activity.) She uses collaborative multimedia presentations to draw attention to the actual form of a womyn's not-a-tiny-nub clitoris (the only human organ designed solely for sexual pleasure).

Queer conceptual artist Wallace has stenciled clitorises on city buildings, imprinted golden clitorises on mobile, omnipresent t-shirt body-billboards. Her ClitRodeo includes a playground-sized, golden clitoris . . . and wimmin from the audience are invited to jump-on, to experience jilling-off, and to crowd-celebrate self-pleasuring.

This is not a frivolous campaign. Cliteracy is about Anatomy Accuracy (the clitoris is a complex organ, not a doorbell). Cliteracy is about Orgasm Honesty (the clitoris has 8000 sensory nerves; btw: penis 3000, not that this is a contest, merely a fact). Cliteracy is about Pleasure Parity ('Thrusting,' perpetuated by Hollywood, easily arouses males. It's a singing and dancing clitoris that stimulates females).

Of course, even verbalizing the word 'clitoris' can arouse giggles, malicious remarks, and sexist responses. And threats of violence. Sophia Wallace was mindful of consequences she would face. Sadly but not surprisingly, her life and her art have been threatened.

Truth tellers. 1953: Mr. Kinsey's Report, apparently unaware of Midwife Sharp's observation 247 years before, verifies that the clitoris is the center of female pleasure. 1998: Helen O'Connell, Australian urologist, through dissection reveals the external and yes-there-is internal parts of the (not-nub size) clitoris. 2009: pioneering surgeon Pierre Folds created the first 3D ultrasound of the clitoris, then invented surgery techniques to reverse the devastating effects of genital mutilation suffered by countless victims. (Cliteracy is not a frivolous campaign.)

2015: Artist Wallace is determined to honor her intense need to break the silence: "Democracy without Clitoracy? Phallusy." She guides us toward education: "A clitoris is not a button, it's an iceberg." Her work captures our attention: "In 1969, we put a man on the moon. In 1982, we invented the internet. In 1998, we discovered the full anatomy of the clitoris."

You have just read the word 'clitoris' 44 times. Now practice your Cliteracy. Say 'clitoris' out LOUD. 44 times Outside, 44 times. Inside, 44 times.

Take your clitoris to lunch. Start your conversation with: "speaking of c-l-i-t-o-r-i-s, do you prefer to say 'cli-tor-is' or 'clit-or-is'?"

MeredithReiniger@gmail.com

Faith Matters
THE TRANSPARENCY OF A "INCOG-NEGRO"

By Rev. Irene Monroe

In trying to make sense of Rachel Dolezal, the self-identified "black" woman with two white parents, and the thought-provoking queries now raised about transracialism and transethnicity, Boston Globe cartoonist Dan Wasserman provided me with an answer:

"How does a confused Caucasian woman come to define the national conversation on race? White Lies Matter!"

According to Dolezal, her "transracial dysphoria" (a black woman trapped in

a spray-tanned white blue-eyed blonde's body) began around the tender age of 5.

"I was drawing self-portraits with the brown crayon instead of the peach crayon and the black curly hair. That was how I was portraying myself," Dolezal told Matt Lauer, the host of NBC's "The Today Show."

And in speaking to Savannah Guthrie in an interview for NBC's "Nightly News," Dolezal stated, "Nothing about being white describes who I am."

But to the contrary, EVERYTHING Dolezal has done to create her fictive black life narrative speaks resoundingly so, such as the following:

Doing Black face as performance by darkening her skin, appropriating fashions and hairstyles associated with black women, taking on black vernacular and affectations, claiming black on an application for the Spokane police commission, pretending to be black running the Spokane chapter of the NAACP, renouncing her white privilege by appropriating a black victim status with bogus claims of hate crimes, and choosing when to come out as black.

In 2002 Dolezal sued her alma matter, Howard University, one of the oldest historically black colleges in the country, for discriminating against her for being white. In 2007, according to Dolezal's mother, she began coming out and identifying with the black community.

In avoiding the public's questions how she masterfully duped Spokane's African American community while heading its NAACP chapter being "incog-Negro" Dolezal deflected attention away from herself by exploiting the troubling construction of race as her answer.

"While challenging the construct of race is at the core of evolving human consciousness, we can NOT afford to lose sight of the [broader social issues] that affect millions, often with a life or death outcome," wrote Dolezal, 37. "This is not about me. It's about justice."

People of color "passing" as white is part of America's troubling race legacy. It was done to advance a person's lot in life for better jobs, housing, and education, and to remove one's self from the day-to-day dehumanizing discrimination confronted as "other."

In Jim Crow America it was a common practice for many white-skinned Caucasian-looking people of color to transgress our country's policed racial borders by "passing." Phillip Roth's novel "The Human Stain" brilliantly depicts an African American classics professor at an elite New England college passing as Jewish. Many have speculated that Roth, albeit he denies it, fashioned his protagonist on the life of Anatole Broyard, the late editor and columnist for the New York Times book review. Broyard died in 1990 in Cambridge, not telling his children he was passing as a white man.

Dolezal's white-to-black "passing" is unfamilar to most merely because those racial boundaries are not policed as strictly as "black-to-white." Moreover, most people -- black or white -- cannot fathomed why a racially privileged person would want to pass as a member of a marginalized group. But Clarence King, a prominent scientist in the late 19th century, was one of many untold whites who did. Martha Sandweiss's book "Passing Strange" depicts the double life of King. Married to a black woman in Harlem when anti-miscegenation laws prohibited such unions, King was known among blacks as James Todd, a Pullman porter, and among his white colleagues as Clarence King, a brilliant geologist.

Dolezal's white-to-black "passing" is the complication of both white guilt and white rage in an era of Affirmative Action.

With many whites still believing that Affirmative Action bereft them of jobs, college placements, and scholarships they have fought back suing on the grounds of "reverse discrimination." Dolezal's law suit against Howard was that she was denied a teaching post and scholarship aid because of her gender, pregnancy, family responsibilities and race.

It's not uncommon now for whites to claim their ethnic card of "otherness."

African American feminist cultural critic bell hooks sums this ploy among whites as this: "Why waste time being at the bottom of a lengthy hierarchy of white women when you can be fast tracked to the top of the hierarchy of black women."

Senator Elizabeth Warren used the ethnic card in her race against Scott Brown for the senate seat in 2012 when she announced she was 1/32nd Cherokee. Did Warren think it would give her more of an advantage with minority votes?

How and when Warren used her purported Native American status raised questions, especially since Warren attested she didn't use it to advance her career.

But, according to the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) desk book, a directory of law professors, Warren listed herself as a minority for nearly a decade from 1986 through 1995 — the same year she left the Republican party to join the Democratic party, and also the same year she was hired at Harvard.

In 1998, the year that Harvard Law School finally tenured its first African American female, Lani Guiner, the Harvard Crimson wrote that "Although the conventional wisdom among students and faculty is that the Law School faculty includes no minority women... Elizabeth Warren is Native American."

While many of us will now ponder what being transracial means in light of Dolezal's coming out as one, it should not be compared to Caitlyn Jenner's coming out as transexual. A transgender identity is not rooted in deception; it's not an active choice; and it's not pursued for financial or political gains. A transgender person is someone from birth being assigned a gender inconsistent with his or her inner experiences of gender.

Moreover, I've always understood the term "trans racial" referring to adoptions, where children, like the four African American children Dolezal was reared with as her siblings, are of a different race and ethnicity of their adopted parents.

Dolezal does not have to be "incog-Negro" to deconstruct and to challenge white privilege. But by being so her white privilege goes unchecked.

A Few Bricks Short

COME ON DOWN!

By David Hull

Since I've been able to retire, I'm an experiencing a whole new world. Trust me; retirement really is the best club you can join! With retirement, every day is like Saturday – not that Saturdays have ever been the same since they stopped making new episodes of Josie & the Pussycats – but still, it's good.

For me, retirement is not all about goofing off either – oh no! Every morning, I go to the gym; ride that bicycle, walk that tread mill, lift those free weights – OK, they're only 7.5 pound free weights, but I make it look dramatic! And don't forget my most important activity -- sexually harassing hunky, young, muscular men who work at the gym.

"Hey, is it hot in here or is it just you?"

"Wow, if I told you that you had a nice body, would you hold it against me?"

"You know, if I could re-arrange the alphabet, I'd put 'U' and 'I' together!"

"Excuse me, but your biceps look so delicious, I'd like to spread marshmallow fluff on them and lick it off … and I don't even like marshmallow fluff!"

I made that last one up myself.

Unfortunately, those hunky, muscular, young men report my inappropriate behavior, but not to the front office – they do something even worse – they tell my husband on me. Then, as punishment, Bernie makes me work out next to him so he can supervise my behavior. Great – more quality time with my husband! Now that is severe retribution.

To make matters even worse, when I'm working out next to Bernie, I have to watch what he wants on TV. And he has discovered something shocking – information probably only known to retirees who have their days free to do the television research. I was astonished to find The Price is Right, Let's Make a Deal and Family Feud are still on TV. Just like when I was a kid! It's true! They've changed a little over the years, but I still recognized them.

Bob Barker has retired and Drew Carey is the host of The Price is Right. And now they have this hunky male model who displays the showcases and his biceps are so delicious, that I'd like to spread marshmallow fluff… well, never mind, you get the idea. They're still giving away cars and tropical vacations and the contestants still "come on down" while screaming and jumping and waving their arms. Honestly, those contestants on The Price is Right work out harder than I do at the gym!

On Let's Make a Deal Wayne Brady has replaced Monty Hall, but the show is exactly the same. Contestants come in bizarre costumes and try to win automobiles, kitchen appliances, and patio furniture and sometimes they get a llama as a booby prize.

Family Feud has Steve Harvey instead of Richard Dawson, but those families, and I honestly do not know where they find these people, still clap and cheer: "Good answer! Good answer!" before the host says: "Survey says …" I have to wonder why the folks responding to the survey never say: "Turn off the damn game shows and get a life, you loser!" I guess that answers the question of why I never get surveyed for game shows!

And I will admit, for a few moments, seeing those old game shows that had changed so little over the years did make me feel a bit younger, at least until the commercial. That's when some old guy came on the TV and advertised for reverse mortgages for people over 65 – and I suddenly realized the old guy was Fonzie! It was Henry Winkler of Happy Days fame talking about reverse mortgages! This isn't the Fonz that I remember. This guy was gray and wrinkled and he looked like – oh, dear God, Fonzie looks like me! How did this happen?

SAGE Rochester presents
YOGA for Seniors with Tom Somerville

Every Tuesday and Thursday 10:30 - 11:30am
$5. All are welcome
Open Arms Community Center
707 East Main Street
Info: 585 244-8640

sage ROCHESTER Services & Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Elders

PFLAG MEETS 3RD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

Meetings are at Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church 707 E. Main Street, Rochester, New York 14605 from 1 to 3pm. Questions? **Call:** 585-993-3297 or
Email: RochesterPFLAG@gmail.com
Join us!

So the work-out lesson I learned is, if I don't want to watch annoying game shows and be continually and harshly reminded of my mortality by an old, gray-haired version of Fonzie, then stop sexually harassing the hunky, young, muscular men at the gym. Good thing I never learn any lessons!

Here's the new line I'm going to use tomorrow – Did you sit in sugar, because you have one sweet butt! Don't tell my husband, OK!

Contact David at davidhull59@aol.com

Transmissions
GENDER IDENTITY VS. GENDER ROLE

By Laine DeLaney

I'd like to share a positive story with you here.

"Gender is a social construct."

I hear this phrase parroted in a lot of places, both by trans people and people who would deny us our rights. I think that there is a level of nuance that should be explored and clarified in this statement.

A gender role is an arbitrary established set of social norms and expectations that a person assigned a particular gender is expected to conform to. It is linked to gender performance (how well someone dresses and behaves within the bounds of their assigned role), which is an indication of how a person will be treated by those around them. Most of the stereotypes that people throw around about men or women represent qualifying features of the gender role in question – it goes from "pink vs. blue" to "dolls vs. cars" and continues into adulthood with "science vs. arts", "logical vs. emotional", and "self-determined vs. relationship-determined."

A gender identity is how you identify gender-wise and it can be entirely independent of the arbitrary gender roles that folks are assigned. Examples of a person's gender identity not matching their gender role are too numerous to mention here, but everyone, whether cisgender or transgender, has areas where they do not match up. We are taught at an early age to mock and deride those whose qualities do not match our expectations of their assigned gender role. Most of us hide or guard these things or create barriers of defensive humor around them so that our gender identities don't come into question.

This is especially significant for transgender people. There is a leeway (however narrow and policed) available for cisgender people in regards to their role and accompanying expression that is not available for trans people. Heaven forbid a trans woman likes cars and enjoys working on them or a trans man likes wearing eyeliner; once a trans person embraces their identity an often all-too-rigid set of expectations regarding their behavior will be forced on them. What are considered amusing quirks to be indulged for cisgender people become boundaries not to be crossed for transgender folks, lest their gender identity and commitment to it be called into question (as it is by nearly everyone we interact with for the majority of our lives).

Which leads me to the reason that I think that the generalization of "Gender is a social construct," is dangerous to our well-being and cause. It's an attitude that leads to the often-held misunderstanding that trans women are men who like things that our society labels feminine (and vice-versa with trans men), and who transition so that they can be allowed socially to express themselves the way they want to.

In fact, they're people assigned the wrong gender at birth who have been consistently policed about it all their lives and simply want to express their true identity. It's not the clothes or makeup that make the woman, and it's not the swagger or moustache that make the man, it's our own internal compass of gender. Most cisgender people never need to look at that compass, but for us it swings in a direction that runs contrary to popular opinion regarding it and we have to fight daily to be allowed to follow it.

The idea that our genders (male, female, and others) are purely social constructs is as dangerous as the idea that they are purely biological constructs. Both ideas can be, and are, used to defy and invalidate the experience of trans people and our innate awareness of our identities. We've started working to help people understand the difference between sexual orientation and gender identity, and I believe the next logical step is to start educating people on the difference between gender roles (how everyone thinks you should behave based on your gender) and gender identities (who you know yourself to be).

With this understanding firmly in place we can work as a society to release the tight grip that gender roles have on us, while still being able to embrace and express our gender identities as we see fit.

Being Well
COUNSELING 101

By John Aceto, LMHC

I'm going to take a guess and say that, for many, the idea of entering therapy is daunting. There are unknowns to be sure, and I've heard some people say that it's a sign of weakness or personal failure. My philosophy on this is that seeking therapy does not mean you are weak or failed; it means that you have the strength to move forward towards healing.

I do think the unknowns are a barrier for some, who may question how therapy works, what's expected of them and if it actually helps. And these are good questions, and should be asked. So let's attempt to answer them.

But before I go further, I use therapy and counseling interchangeably, since they pretty much mean the same thing. Though I generally use "counseling" to denote short-term care and "therapy" for long-term.

How does therapy work? It starts with the therapeutic relationship that is forged between consumer and counselor. This relationship is built on mutual trust, respect, and most importantly, confidentiality, and is the foundation for exploration and insight to occur. Once this alliance is forged, the consumer can feel free to explore and examine those life issues that have become problematic. Anything from relationship troubles to low self worth. I truly believe that this relationship is what drives therapy.

What's expected of the consumer? Enter the process with an open mind and be prepared to examine issues that may be uncomfortable emotionally. And also be prepared to work.

Generally, most therapeutic approaches have the counselor as a guide, to steer the process, offer feedback and validate the consumer's thoughts and feelings. The consumer needs to remain open to feedback and the possibilities of change. All of us are capable of getting stuck on certain thoughts or feelings; counseling helps to identify these events so that the consumer can learn new coping skills to move forward.

Does therapy work? Of course. When the aforementioned elements are present and both parties are genuinely engaged in the process, the therapeutic experience can be a powerful tool for self-exploration, problem solving and skill building.

The one caveat: If you seek counseling and are not comfortable with the therapist chosen, for whatever reason, be honest and let the therapist know this. Again, the therapeutic alliance is a crucial part of the process. If you're not feeling it, it's your obligation to voice this and move on. We won't be offended, promise!

Happy Pride All and Be Well!

If you have questions about counseling please contact me at AcetoCounseling@gmail.com

What's Bothering Brandon?
BTW, SPEAK YOU POLARI?

By Brandon W. Brooks

Having been born in the late 1980s, I am often lumped into the disdainful generation known as the Millennials. This generation is known for its political and social apathy, its willful abandon and purposeful lack of respect for tradition, and perhaps most of all its pathological addiction to social media.

I very much resent being associated with these pejorative attributes by virtue of my age bracket, and find that I conduct myself in ways to combat any perceived or actual linkage between myself and Millennials' values (or rather, lack of values).

One of my biggest gripes with this generation is its decisive and persistent improper use of grammar, spelling, punctuation and really language in general. This may be more to do with how our educational system has changed over the past two and a half decades, and has placed more importance and focus on online, electronic forms of text. Handwriting (which should never be referred to as "cursive" or "script") is rarely taught in grade schools any longer, as most schools simply teach children how to print only.

Electronic typing has now replaced any need for knowing how to spell correctly – this is corrected and performed by the computer itself. I have even met adults in their mid to late twenties who are entirely unable to address an envelope as it should be addressed. Additionally, our reliance on abbreviations over actual words and phrases troubles me, especially when the abbreviation is in reality longer than the original word or phrase.

Our language has changed and evolved over the past 250 years quite rapidly, and at an exponential rate. The evolution of language is, of course, necessary for our continued survival. The changing of language over time is also necessary so that we can name, identify, articulate and understand our ever-changing environment and the situations that take place in it. Language, and even its painful adaptations through time, allows us to form groups and identities that would be difficult if not impossible to form otherwise.

All language performs some sort of a function for us, and I personally find it fascinating how language can promote or discourage in-groups and out-groups.

Enter Polari.

Polari is part of a branch of slang used by circus performers, actors and actresses, criminals, sailors, and later the gay community that has its origins in mid to late 19th century Britain. Also arising from social need, Polari functioned as a means to help other members of these in-groups (gays, sailors, performers, prostitutes, criminals etc.) identify each other safely, and with minimal self-exposure. Remember children, being openly gay was illegal in times past. Only one who was or is a part of this group would understand the words used, the grammar, the spelling and the intonation of Polari. In fact, Polari itself is a type of "cant" slang. Cant slang is a category of slang, jargon, or argot dialect that is used in a way to deliberately deceive, misdirect or exclude those who are not part of the in-group or community.

When researching Polari, I found that many of the words that are a part of the Polari argot have now become mainstream and legitimized in contemporary, straight society. Indeed, words like "butch", "camp", "to troll" and "rough trade" that we now hear so often all hail from Polari. They have been incorporated and used even by the straight majority; they are no longer words privy to those only in the Polari in-group. What would have been seen as a breach of the Polari lexicon is now seen as progress and inclusion. In fact modernity dictates that purposefully not integrating terms and labels from the LGBT community is a violation of Political Correctness – we want to be seen and heard and understood.

I venture to guess that the need for Polari as a safe in-group identifier has, thankfully, diminished due to the continued efforts of LGBT individuals to seek equality in all aspects of life, including language. The Stonewall Uprising, the burning of the UpStairs Lounge, the idea of "coming out" and ultimately what we know today as the Gay Civil Rights Movement have all been factors in the demise of Polari's necessity. This confirms and conforms to researchers' speculative assessments that Polari officially "died" in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

In today's society, where LGBT-oriented terms and labels are increasingly present, we may not have the need for Polari, or at least, the need for Polari in its original context and function. Nowadays it is a rare occurrence indeed where one must ascertain the sexuality of someone in extreme secrecy in order to avoid social, legal, religious, or political reprimand (at least in most parts of the United States).

Instead of resenting and being bothered by the corruptions that occur through the evolution of language, I suppose it would do more good to be thankful for why language is evolving in the first place. The terms and labels we as LGBT individuals use and have used in identifying ourselves have been embraced and incorporated into mainstream society – the society that once demonized and alienated all of us. And although part of our heritage has been lost in this transition from out-group to mainstream, I think our gains are much more hefty.

Questions, comments or critique? Feel free to e-mail the author at:
brandonbrooks@mail.adelphi.edu ■

FROM OUR COMMUNITY, FOR OUR COMMUNITY
DENNIS J. FOLEY, PH. D.
LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST
CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PSYCHIATRY
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER
247 PARK AVENUE
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14607
585.244.0613 EXT. 5
AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION:
• INDIVIDUAL AND COUPLES THERAPY
• MULTICULTURAL/DIVERSITY CONSULTATIONS
• LGBTQI CONCERNS
• HIV/AIDS AND CHRONIC ILLNESS
• TRAUMA AND RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE
• GRIEF AND BEREAVEMENT
• RECOVERY ISSUES
• DEPRESSION/ANXIETY/SELF-CONCEPT

Community

Find the friends, fun, and common interests you're looking for through the various groups listed here.

DIGNITY-INTEGRITY

Since March, 1975, Dignity-Integrity Rochester has been welcoming all who come through our doors, worshiping every week at 5 p.m. 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 July 2015.

1st Sunday: Episcopal Mass, quiet

2nd Sunday: Roman Catholic Liturgy of the Word, with music

3rd Sunday: Episcopal Mass/Healing Service, with music

4th Sunday: Roman Catholic Prayers to start the week, followed by pot luck

The theme for the July Potluck is "Belly Up to the Salad Bar". Bring your favorite summer salad so that you'll have lots of choices. No opportunity to cook or shop? Don't worry, there is always enough to share. In fact, tradition has it that when we aren't cooking up a Potluck supper on the fourth Sunday, we're gathering for fellowship around a tasty coffee hour and going out to a local restaurant for dinner each Sunday. Join us anytime!

DON'T MISS THIS EVENT… AUGUST 15, 2015! The FABULOUS 40th REUNION PICNIC is going to be great and you won't want to miss it! It will be fantastic to get together with as many former members of DI as possible. Send us your current contact information via our email, info@di-rochester.org, or write to us directly at 17 S. Fitzhugh Street, 14614 so we can be sure to send you an invitation!

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

EMPIRE BEARS

July. Summer. Heat. Pool. Camping. Well, that's what the BEARS are doing, how about you?

Go to the movies to get cool. Dinner with friends every Wednesday night at 6. July 1 at Don Patron's on W Hen, July 8 at India House on Clinton, July 15 is Carrabba's on W Hen, July 22 at the Winfield Grill, July 29 at Jeremiah's Tavern on Buffalo Rd. Join us, get on our email list.

Check on Facebook for updates. WOOF!

OPEN ARMS MCC

Open Arms MCC is Beyond Open and Affirming…Beyond Welcoming. We are a church for ALL.

Our 10:30 Sunday morning service is a celebration that blends traditional and contemporary worship styles. Brae Adams, our lay pastoral leader, delivers an inspirational message that connects the scriptures with everyday life. Children are invited to participate in our Children's Moment and the Nursery School will be open for children 5 years old and younger. Following the service, all are welcome to have coffee, snacks and conversation in the Community Center.

Our Adult Sunday School is taking a well-deserved summer vacation and will resume in September.

We now have our small community garden. This is a "salad garden" (lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, radishes, etc.), planted in buckets and one raised bed.

Plans are underway for Open Arms' participation in the Pride Parade, and at the Pride picnic. We will again be providing lunch for all the Gay Alliance volunteers.

Our Social Justice Team continues to support Dwayne's House, which provides clothing and monetary assistance to homeless LGBTQ youth in Jamaica. We also help fund the work of our pastor emeritus, Jim Mulcahy, who ministers to our LGBTQ siblings in Eastern Europe. We also collect the change from our pockets during our services for the DUO fund (Do Unto Others). We use this fund to assist people in our neighborhood with urgent housing, medical, food or transportation needs.

We are trying to keep a supply of non-perishable items in stock. We occasionally have neighbors stop in looking for emergency supplies. For example, a meal or some personal care items. If you are out shopping and can pick up one or two items it would be greatly appreciated. Some ideas for contributions are toiletries, including toothpaste, soap, paper towels, toilet paper, tampons, sanitary pads, and baby wipes. Non-perishable food items that require little preparation including pasta meals, canned meat/tuna, vegetables, and beans. Pop-top cans are also appreciated as many homeless persons do not have access to can openers. Dry food items such as cereal, pasta and mixes. Pet food is also appreciated. We also have some clothing available -- socks, shoes, sneakers and shirts.

We host numerous community groups in our Community Center: AFTY (Adult Families with Trans Youth) meets the first Tuesday of each month from 5:30-6:30 p.m.; SAGE Rochester (ages 50+) gets together with Tom Somerville for yoga, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursday mornings (except for the second Thursday of each month, when SAGE Rochester members go to Denny's for breakfast). Also on Tuesdays SAGE Rochester holds their weekly meetings starting at 11:30 a.m. and each week has a different theme or event.

PFLAG (Parents, Friends and Family of Lesbians, Gays, Trans, and Questioning) meets on the third Sunday of each month at 1 p.m. Our facilities are available for rental by any community groups needing a safe and flexible meeting space.

Open Arms MCC is committed to Building Bridges and Changing Lives. You are welcome, regardless of your sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, or religious beliefs. We are located at 707 East Main St., across from the Delta Sonic. There is plenty of free parking in front and to the side of our building. For updated information on coming events and to view our facilities, check our website: openarmsmcc.org. Our lay pastoral leader, Brae Adams, has office hours on Mondays, from 12-2 p.m. You can also reach us by phone at (585) 271-8478.

ROCHESTER GAY BOOK CLUB

The Rochester Gay Book Club has been meeting since March 2015 and focuses on books that have a gay theme, gay authors, or focus on gay current events.

The Rochester Gay Book Club is the brainchild of Dr. Jeff Fowler. Jeff volunteers as the GAGV librarian, and has a wonderful grasp of current and historical gay fiction and works of non-fiction as well. At the monthly third Tuesday 6:30 p.m. meetings in one member's home, the group talks informally about the book selected for the month.

Conversations are lively and fun as members share their reactions to the book, and listen to each other's personal connections to the literature. At the end of each meeting, the group selects the new book for the next month's meeting. Meetings are open to people interested in reading and talking about gay-themed literature. Contact Dan McCarthy dan_mcc39@hotmail.com or (585) 242-0822 for more information about time and location of meetings.

The following books have been selected for discussion:

Mr. Loverman by Bernardine Evaristo. Akashic Books 2014

Our group chose Mr. Loverman because the book touches on many different gay topics in a much-varied multicultural background. Transplanted as a youth to London from the Caribbean, the 74-year-old main character, Barrington "Barry" Walker, is "still spruced up and sharp-suited with a rather manly swagger." Barry is also self-centered with an old-school machismo, far from an ideal gay icon. Readers view his coming-out journey with mixed emotions. Bernadine Evaristo's strength as a writer is her ability to draw the reader into a culturally diverse London with a musical flow and precision of language that blends to make the life and coming out tale of a flawed main character very real and believable. Though married to a religious and introspective woman for over fifty years, Barry has been having a same-sex love relationship with another Antiguan London-transplant since they were teenagers. And the plot thickens as Barry Walker considers divorce and begins to "come out" in modern London with the assistance of his grown daughter.

Making History by Stephen Fry. SoHo Press, 1996

Can an unusual premise sustain a reader through a re-telling of Nazi Germany history when one intervention changes the course of events as we know it? Stephen Fry writes of a young Cambridge doctoral student writing about Hitler's upbringing as the basis of his dissertation. The story unfolds as a Cambridge professor develops an unusual interest in the dissertation, though he is a physicist with a strong personal interest in Nazism and the Holocaust. The story grows more bizarre as the physicist's time machine transplants the young doctoral student back into Hitler's childhood, and sets in motion a wrinkle in time that changes the course of human history. Or does it? The gay connection is woven into this story line, and adds an interesting different dimension to this unusually compelling gay science fiction tale.

The Naked Civil Servant by Quentin Crisp, Jonathan Cape, 1968

Coming out in the pre-WWII world would have been difficult enough in conservative British Society, but wearing make-up, coloring his hair bright red, and wearing flowing garb made Quentin Crisp an even more unusual sight in his day. Quentin Crisp's wry humor and thoughtful reflections allowed him to weather the storm of public distaste and outright disapproval of his lifestyle. This witty biography lets the reader be aware that Crisp was not certain that he wanted to be in the spotlight or a spokesperson for a whole movement, but that he was thrust into that role in order to survive on his own terms. "As soon as I stepped out of my mother's womb ... I realized that I had made a mistake." Quentin Crisp provides a comedic view of his life and the challenges he faced. *The Naked Civil Servant* portrays a man before his time, paving the way for greater acceptance of LBGTQQIA lifestyles. The reader becomes aware of the great resilience of Crisp's human spirit as he copes with almost daily challenges and tries to live authentically on his own terms.

With a verve and panache not usually associated with gay life in the early twentieth century, Quentin Crisp became a provocative and flamboyant symbol of modern homosexual humanity. It is said that well-behaved women rarely make history, and here is an example of one not-so-well-behaved gay man's journey to live life fully and with dignity. Crisp's honesty and humor make this an easy read, and provide an unusual perspective for anyone's coming out process.

The Last of the Wine by Mary Renault. Vintage Books, 1956

This is Mary Renault's first novel, and she provides a rare glimpse of homosexuality in Ancient Greece. The story centers on a youth growing up in ancient Athens, and his coming out story in a society that broadly accepted sexual relationships among men as a rite of passage. Alexias, a handsome and athletic youth, tells the story about his relationship with his twenty-something male lover in Athens in 430 BC. Mary Renault allows his story to evolve naturally, woven against an ancient backdrop of historically accurate information.

Through this intensely personal narrative set in a tumultuous historical period, Mary Renault shares a gay coming out story like none other. Though it is not necessary to have a background knowledge of ancient Greece, one encounters familiar philosophers like Socrates and Plato, as well as a general smattering of ancient military figures and the wars they fought.

Winning Marriage by Marc Soloman is the next book on the Book Club's agenda in honor of the Supreme Court decision on same sex marriage. Come join us and help select books for future group discussion.

ROMANS

ROMANS had its May meeting at a member's home in a comfortably furnished basement and the food served had a Mexican theme that included a deliciously blended light blue colored margarita.

Our June 2015 meeting had three other activities to entertain our members: (1) private photo sessions to capture our naked images, (2) preview of a huge collection of goodies that was set aside for an upcoming garage sale and (3) relaxing soak in a cozy hot tub. Our July meeting will be held in a member's secluded backyard where outdoor nudity is OK and skinny dipping in the pool is possible.

One Saturday in June ROMANS members also gathered together at a local clothing optional campground for a picnic by the swimming pool. It was a summer outdoor activity organized especially for those members who cannot go to the late summer nude camp in the Pocono mountains.

ROMANS is a friendly group of gay and bi male nudists who enjoy nude camaraderie and friendship. For information on the club and the latest listing of our activities, please check out our website at http://www.wnyromans.com. We have a message line 585-281-4964 and you can also ask questions by sending us an E-mail at wnyromans@yahoo.com or a note via regular mail at PO Box 92293, Rochester, NY 14692. ■

The riskiest financial move is doing nothing.

Your wealth plan should keep up with the changing circumstances of your life, as well as with the cycles in the financial markets. A new career, a new grandchild, a new business, a significant shift in your portfolio—any of these events could necessitate a fresh look at your strategy.

The Sartini Group at Morgan Stanley can work with you to develop a plan and then help you manage your investments and assets through life's changes. Call today to arrange an appointment. We'll work together to plan for what may come.

The Sartini Group at Morgan Stanley

John F. Sartini
Senior Vice President
Wealth Advisor
585-987-6083

John A. Sartini, CFP®
Portfolio Management Director
Senior Vice President
Financial Advisor
585-987-6053

28 E. Main Street
12th Floor
Rochester, NY 14614
john.sartini.sr@morganstanley.com
john.sartini.jr@morganstanley.com
www.morgastanleyfa.com/thesartinigroup

Morgan Stanley

Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards Inc. owns the certification marks CFP®, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ and federally registered CFP (with flame design) in the US.

© 2015 Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC. Member SIPC CRC588400 (12/12) CS 7338862 MAR014 04/13

Feldman HEATING&COOLING
(585) 288-2050

QUALITY INSTALLATION & SERVICE

TRANE
It's Hard To Stop A Trane

PRE-SEASON FURNACE CLEAN & CHECK

$10.00 OFF
ANY CLEAN & CHECK
With this coupon, one coupon per customer.
Feldman Heating & Cooling • 288-2050

• HUMIDIFIERS • AIR CLEANERS
• WATER HEATERS • FURNACES • AIR CONDITIONERS
• BOILERS • STEAM • DUCT CLEANING • FIREPLACES

24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE
1776 E. MAIN ST. ROCHESTER
288-2050
www.feldmanhtg.com
FOR OVER 95 YEARS, THE FELDMAN FAMILY HAS BEEN PROVIDING QUALITY, ENERGY SAVING HEATING AND COOLING

SHIFT HAPPENS!

RIDE FOR PRIDE 6
GAY ALLIANCE BIKE RIDE FUNDRAISER
$30,000 RAISED!!!

Thank you to our Ride For Pride Bikers:
Paul Allen, Garrett Argenna, Adrian Bartholomeo, Paul Bernstein, Benoit Biteau, AJ Blythe, John Braun, Yovi Bruno, Alice Carver-Kubik, Adrianne Chesser, Tatiana Clader, Rowan Collins, Tom Crawford, Nick Dennie, Jose Doty, Les Eisenberg, Scott Fearing, Brad Flower, Ed Freedman, Bob Freeman, Laurie Freeman, David Frier, Jill Frier, Becca Gainsburg, Jeanne Gainsburg, Nancy Gardetto, Aaron Gorelick, Lisa Gustavson, Dustin Hilton, Theo MacGowan, Brian Managan, Karen Managan, Jo Meleca-Voigt, Christie Nesbit, Alex Nies, Anastasia Polashenski, Maya Polashenski, Pam Polashenski, Ronald Pratt, Craig Ronald, Kyle Ronald, Steve Sanow, Steve Santacroce, Michael Shuter, Emily Smith, Sarah Studwell, Craig Sutherland, Marc Taranto, Alyssa Torpy, Jonathan Wetherbee, Lorraine Woerner, Owen Zacharias, Sara Zacharias, and David Zona for taking the time to fundraise, train and ride! Thank you also to our friends who fundraised for us, but did not ride: Kathy Ehrlich-Scheffer, Bruce Ingersoll, Kellie Ronald, Manuel Pena, Megan Sutherland! You all rock!!!

Thank you to our amazing Ride For Pride support staff and crew
Home base/Party Central: Kellie and Craig Ronald
Sag Hags: Tallis Polashenksi, Joe Yokajty and Ben-the-Friend
Breakfast Rest Stop: Sue Delp and Walter Polashenski
Lunch Dude: Bruce Ingersoll
Party Food: Kellie and Craig Ronald and Todd Gordon
Party Central Assistants: Alan Metelsky, Deb Hartman, John Burns and Tina Burns
Cheerleaders/End Line Pics: Jamie Allen and Manuel Pena
Interpreting: Tristan Wright
Road Painters: Ed Freedman, Owen Zacharias and Maya Polashenski
Ride Photographer: Manuel Pena, Owen Zacharias, Joe Yokajty, Jill Frier, Jamie Allen
Massage and Bodywork: Mike Kelly and Matthew Schirmer
Graphic Design: Sam Nicolosi

Thank you to our official Ride For Pride sponsors
Freewheelers Bicycle Shop
Amiel's Original Submarines
Guerrilla Tees
MiKelly Massage and Bodywork
Mark Groaning Studio
The Bachelor Forum
Rochester Kink Society
Long Acre Farms
Marshal Street Bar and Grill
ImageOUT
Tryon Bike
Ronald Pratt Acupuncture
Chiropractic Associates of Rochester

Thank you to over 800 people and businesses who supported our riders through donations and use of space, including:
Kellie & Craig Ronald, Pam & Walter Polashenski, Scott Fearing & Todd Gordon, Jeanne Gainsburg & Ed Freedman, Bruce Ingersoll, Century Liquor and Wines, Trader Joe's, Park Ave Bikes, Wegmans, Mellow Madness Tattoo Parlor, Full Moon Vista Bike and Sport, Young Sommer Winery, Apple Country Spirits

Special thanks to our "first page" top ten fundraisers
Pam Polashenski, Marc Taranto, Jeanne Gainsburg, Scott Fearing, Aaron Gorelick, Lorraine Woerner, Jill Frier, Dustin Hilton, David Frier and Ed Freedman!

*** It's not too late to donate! Rider's pages will stay active until September 2015 at www.gayalliance.org/ride-for-pride**

Arts & Entertainment

Kasha, Cazwell and many more headline Rochester Pride Festival 2015

The Pride Festival opens at Martin Luther King Jr. Park at Manhattan Square just before the Sci Fi Pride Parade arrives, at 1:30 p.m.

Headliners for the show include International Celebrity Housewife Mrs. Kasha Davis (fresh from RuPauls Drag Race and her show "There's Always Time for A Cocktail," in NYC), singer Dianne Davidson (a former Rochesterian), Luke Cazwell (famous for his Ice Cream Truck video), Futur Pointe Dance, Rochester Gay Men's Chorus, Rochester Women's Community Chorus and a special guest artist from Tilt. Samantha Vega and DeeDee Dubois are the hostesses, and DJs are Hector and Mighty Mic. Make it so!

Luke Cazwell

Mrs. Kasha Davis

The PPE troupe

Samantha Vega and DeeDee DuBois

Futur Pointe dance

The Rochester Women's Community Chorus. Photo: Susan Baruch

Dianne Davidson

Black Sheep Theatre presents "Sordid Lives"

Black Sheep Theatre presents "Sordid Lives" by Del Shores, directed by Charlie Cooper & Kristy K. Angevine-Funderburk.

The play will run July 16, 17, 18, 24, 25 at 7:30 p.m. and July 26 at 2 p.m., at Village Gate.

The author of "Daddy's Dyin' (Who's Got the Will?)" brings a gay-themed comedy that was nominated for over thirty awards during its long run in Los Angeles. When Peggy, a good Christian woman, hits her head on the sink and bleeds to death after tripping over her lover's wooden legs in a motel room, chaos erupts in Winters, Texas. As three generations of the Hickey family gather for her funeral, we learn the hilarious, sad, trashy truth about their sordid lives.

Kristy Angevine-Funderburk said, "Black Sheep Theatre is thrilled to join in Rochester's Pride celebrations for a second year by producing Del Shores award winning play 'Sordid Lives'. The play originally premiered in Los Angeles in 1996 and won 14 Drama-Logue Awards. 'Sordid Lives' is a dark comedy that includes elements from the Shores' life and family in Texas after the death of the family matriarch. The show was adapted into a movie in 2000, and also a television series on the Logo channel in 2008."

Black Sheep Theatre is located in the Village Gate, D313. Tickets are $16 in advance and $20 day of show. Contact the ticket line or email: (585) 861-4816 or tickets@blacksheeptheatre.org.

See the film "Pride" for free on July 14

A screening of the critically-acclaimed film "Pride" will take place at 6 p.m. on July 14, at Third Presbyterian Church, 4 Meigs St.

Based on a true story, the film depicts a group of lesbian and gay activists who raised money to help families affected by the British miners' strike in 1984, at the outset of what would become the Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners campaign.

The National Union of Mineworkers was reluctant to accept the group's support due to the union's public relations' worries about being openly associated with a gay group, so the activists instead decided to take their donations directly to Onllwyn, a small mining village in Wales, resulting in an alliance between the two communities. The alliance was unlike any seen before but was successful!

While the film focuses primarily on LGSM, a smaller plot thread is also devoted to the women-only splinter group Lesbians Against Pit Closures.

The film screening is free, with refreshments and discussion to follow. It is sponsored by SAGE Rochester and Third Presbyterian Church. For information call 271-6513.

From "Dylan"

New short film "Dylan" explores trans man's journey of self-identity

After being celebrated at the St. Louis Film Festival, Queer Film Festival, Boston LGBT Film Festival and Melbourne Queer Festival, Emmy Award-winning director Elizabeth Rohrbaugh releases her latest work, "Dylan," a poignant short film about a transgender man's journey.

The film became available for free streaming online starting in June, in honor of LGBT Pride Month. Based on an interview with childhood friend Dylan Winn Garner, the film tells Dylan's story (as performed by transgender actor Becca Blackwell), about his exploration of the transgender community, his family's approval of his identity, and ultimately his physical and emotional transformation.

Rohrbaugh began the process of making this film nearly 10 years ago when she wrote the script as part of a theater writing workshop taught by Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen, who were best known for creating "The Exonerated". Tasked to interview someone with an interesting story, Rohrbaugh chose newly transitioned Dylan, whom she had known since childhood as Emily. This year, Rohrbaugh turned his story into a script and completed the film.

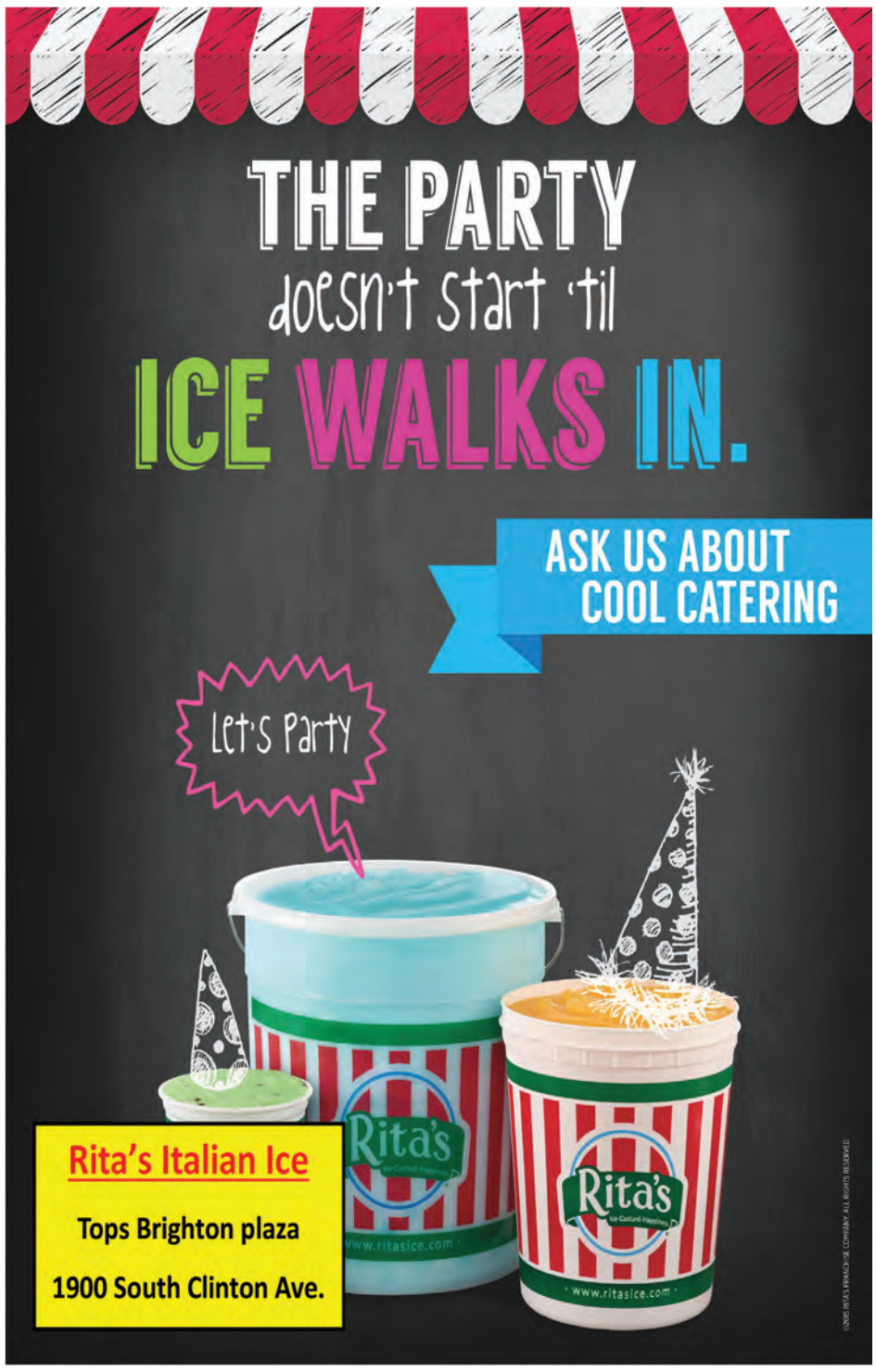
Filmed at dawn in the New York City subway system and at Coney Island, this compelling nine-minute short uses powerful dialogue and symbolism to portray the process of self discovery. The result sees Dylan finding freedom and solace in self-love and acceptance.

Casting "Dylan" was a challenge. Rohrbaugh's first instinct was to use a male actor, but was soon introduced to Becca Blackwell, an incredible performer out of NYC. Rourbaugh was sure she made the right choice when discussing the role with Blackwell, she was told, "If there was one thing a man could never understand, it was what it was like to want to be a man."

Rohrbaugh describes her thoughts on the film and what she hopes it will accomplish within the transgender community:

"I hope that this film will ring true and feel real for many people, both in the community and not. This is a true story developed into a performance piece, but is all real and from a very formative time in a person's life. This is how this person came to his identity and hopefully can help inspire others to embrace their own journey of self-identity. While this process is a challenge, this story has a happy ending and I hope to show that despite the struggles that come with transition, the evolution and end result are beautiful and truthful. I hope that it can show transgender people (particularly youth) who may be struggling that they are not alone in this process and that what is waiting for them on the other side is worth it."

"Dylan" is available to stream for free on the film's website as well as Vimeo. On July 12, "Dylan" will be screened at Outfest in Los Angeles. ■



24 HOUR
EMERGENCY SERVICE

Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning

Phone: 585-342-9251

www.plumbingplusny.com

Sewer & Drain Cleanings

Backflow device testing

Hot water heaters

Plumbing repairs
(ie: toilets, faucets, sinks)

Sump pumps

Heating repair

Installation of
Heating systems
Air conditioning systems

Air Conditioning repairs

New construction

Residential and
Commercial experts

Family owned and operated
with over 30 years experience.
Licensed Master Plumber

$15 off
coupon for
any service

Wischmeyers
Plumbing Plus
Reliable Quality Service
24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE COUNTYWIDE
Residential • Commercial • Service • Installation
BBB

Open and Affirming Congregations of The United Church of Christ

Jesus didn't reject people, neither do we!

Fairport ♦ Perinton ♦ Pittsford ♦ Victor
Mountain Rise United Church of Christ
2 Mountain Rise, Fairport, NY 14450
office@mtriseucc.org
www.mtriseucc.org

Webster ♦ Penfield ♦ Ontario
United Church of Christ, Congregational
570 Klem Road Webster, NY 14580
office@uccwebster.org
www.uccwebster.org

Henrietta
Henrietta United Church of Christ
1400 Lehigh Station Rd, Henrietta, NY 14467
Office@ Henriettaucc.org
www.henriettaucc.org

Irondequoit
Irondequoit United Church of Christ
644 Titus Ave, Rochester, NY 14617
office@irondequoitucc.org
www.irondequoitucc.org

Bloomfield ♦ Mendon ♦ Honeoye Falls
West Bloomfield United Church of Christ
9035 Routes 5 & 20, W Bloomfield, NY 14585
revkeyes@rochester.rr.com
www.wbccucc.org

Lakeville ♦ Avon ♦ Livonia ♦ Geneseo
Lakeville United Church of Christ
5687 Big Tree Road, Lakeville, NY 14480
office@lakevilleucc.com
www.lakevilleucc.com

Chili ♦ Gates ♦ Greece
Community Christian Church
2647 Chili Ave., Chili, NY 14624
CCCopentoall@aol.com
www.CCCopentoall.com

Honeoye
Honeoye United Church of Christ
8758 Main Street, Honeoye, NY 14471
ucchone@frontiernet.net
www.ucchoneoye.org

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey — you are welcome here.

GAY ALLIANCE NEWS FOR JULY 2015

The Polashenski/Delp family

Volunteers of the Month: The Polashenski/Delp family of Ride for Pride

On June 20 we held the sixth annual Ride for Pride, and this month we'd like to honor one of the families that make this special event possible by awarding them Volunteer Family of the Month. It is our great pleasure to announce the Polashenski/Delp family as Volunteers of the Month for July 2015.

The Polashenski family home has been an official rest and food stop for Ride for Pride throughout all six years, and their contributions to the Ride have been indispensable.

The Polashenski family has five members: Pam and Walter Polashenski, their daughters Maya, Ana and Tallis, and Pam's mother, Sue Delp. Pam is the co-founder of Ride for Pride, and has ridden in each Ride since its beginning. Cumulatively, Pam has raised over $10,000 for the agency. She has also volunteered at Rochester Pride since 2008, as well as participating in the "Who's Who Panel" for our Speakers Bureau.

Walter has contributed to the ride by preparing and serving his delicious home-cooked food to all of our hungry riders, assisted by his daughter Tallis. Ana has supported the ride for four years, once as a rest stop assistant, one year as a rider, and two as the "sag wagon" driver, and her sister Maya has been a cyclist and fundraiser for four of the past six Rides for Pride. Pam and Walter's youngest daughter, Tallis, has supported Ride for Pride for all six years, spending four of those years supporting her father in the kitchen, and two of those years driving the "sag wagon" to assist struggling riders.

The Polashenski family comes from Albany, Syracuse, and Rochester: Pam grew up in Albany and came to Rochester in 1987 to attend UR, while Walter came to Rochester to attend UR in 1985. Both Pam and Walter are physicians at Rochester General Hospital.

Pam is a fan of cycling, working out and volleyball, and Walter enjoys gardening, reading, and cooking. Their daughter Maya is a student at NYU where she's majoring in nutrition and premed studies and her sister Anastasia is studying Music Education and saxophone at Nazareth College. Their youngest daughter, Tallis, is a recent graduate of Palmyra Macedon High School where she was salutatorian, and will be attending UR in the fall majoring in Digital Media Studies. Sue Delp, Pam's mother, is retired but remains active volunteering with the Red Cross and her church, in addition to her contributions to Ride for Pride and the Gay Alliance.

The Polashenski family has contributed so much to the Gay Alliance over the years, and we are truly grateful to them for their hospitality, energy, and support. They are all passionate straight allies who embody the way allies can be involved in working to eliminate the discrimination and inequality faced by LGBTQ people today.

Jeanne Gainsburg, Ride for Pride Coordinator, says, "I can't imagine running this fundraiser without the support of the Polashenski/Delp family. They have been so incredibly generous with their time and money. Three generations of family members fully supporting the mission and goals of the Gay Alliance is true awesomeness!" ■

Meet the Board: David Zona, Board Chair

I am a Rochester native via the suburbs of Chili and later Greece. After a stint in elementary Catholic education, I finished my primary schooling at Spencerport High School and then moved into the City during my college years. Though my family still hails from the suburbs, I am now a City boy (and will always be at heart).

I've lived in the Park Avenue and Southwedge Neighborhoods and currently reside in the Neighborhood of the Arts. Each locale has its own unique flavor, and I've greatly enjoyed the experiences I've had living in each of them. I also had a short stint in NYC after my undergrad years. I do have a fond appreciation for the hustle and bustle of NYC, but I am a true Rochestarian through and through. In addition to the many (underappreciated, I feel) things that our city offers, we are also only a hop, skip and jump away from some wonderful things such as the Finger Lakes (wineries!), Niagara Falls (Maid of the Mist!), and Toronto (dancing!) among many others. I am proud to call Rochester home.

I have been with MVP Health Care (formerly Preferred Care) for 11 years now. MVP offers health insurance products not only to the local Rochester area, but also across most of New York State and Vermont (free plug for MVP!). I have held numerous titles in my time at MVP from Data Analyst to Project Manager to my current role as Director of Quality Improvement.

I joined the GAGV Board in December of 2011, and this is my first time at a board table. It has been quite a learning experience for sure, but I have been honored to serve the LGBTQA communities and look forward to the work that lies ahead. As a gay man, there are a host of personal reasons that drove my interests to get involved with the GAGV. Most noteworthy, my experiences as a young adolescent fueled by fear of being out and transparent in my sexuality made involvement with the GAGV particularly poignant to me. I did not have the opportunity to experience those critical years in the same manner as would a heterosexual individual and I want to see the world as a place where that does not happen anymore. I'm proud to see the exponential progress that has been made over the last 20 years since my high school days, but we have much more to do. I'm exceptionally proud to be a part of this through my Board service.

I was humbled to receive the confidence of my Board peers and community in stepping up to take on the critical role of Board President. It is absolutely

David Zona

a demanding role, especially when you have a full time day job, but my Board colleagues and the staff of the Alliance have always been exceptionally supportive – not to mention the support that I have received from the community! Through the challenges I've experienced as Board Chair, I have grown tremendously both personally and professionally. I am proud to lead such an instrumental advocate for the LGBTQA community.

I want to see continued progress, both legislatively and socially, for LGBTQ citizens, and to ensure that the Gay Alliance continues to remain relevant in supporting these communities. It is the Board's job, in partnership with the staff, to ensure that the GAGV is honoring its commitments to the communities that we serve. Our goals should always align with the interests of our community stakeholders.

People should volunteer for the Board out of passion and heart. If you're simply looking to build your professional resume, it's not going to be a fulfilling experience for you and your lack of personal conviction will show in the quality of your contributions supporting the goals and objectives of the Gay Alliance. Also, a misconception that I'd like to dispel – there is no orientation requirement to join the Board. In fact, it's extremely important that the Board have a makeup that represents its many diverse constituent groups – lesbian, gay, straight, queer, transgender, male, female, black, white, American Indian, Asian… the list goes on and on (and please do not be offended if I happened to not mention your identity!).

If you're interested in Board service, feel free to contact me directly at davidz@gayalliance.org, or contact any member of the Board or staff.

140 Alex presents
The Pride Golf Tournament

SAVE DATE

Victor Hills Golf Club
Sunday July 12, 2015, 10am start

$85/person • $340/foursome
Registration includes lunch, dinner and show

Register at 140 Alex or contact Mike 585-734-9860
Proceeds will benefit the Gay Alliance - Roc Pride

GAY ALLIANCE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

Hours: Every Monday & Wednesday: 6-8 pm • 875 E. Main St. (1st floor off Prince St. lobby) • Rochester 14605 • 585 244-8640 • GayAlliance.org

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

The Gay Alliance, 875 East Main Street, Rochester, New York 14605 • Phone: (585) 244-8640 **Fax:** (585) 244-8246
Website: www.gayalliance.org **E-mail:** Info@gayalliance.org **Hours:** Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm • **Board President:** David Zona
Executive Director: Scott Fearing **Education Director:** Jeanne Gainsburg **Education Coordinator:** Rowan Collins
Database: Kat Wiggall **Bookkeeper:** Christopher Hennelly **Office Administrator:** Tristan Wright
The Empty Closet: **Editor:** Susan Jordan **E-mail:** susanj@gayalliance.org **Phone:** (585) 244-9030 **Designer:** Jim Anderson
Fax: (585) 244-8246 **Advertising:** (585) 244-9030; jennieb@gayalliance.org; chrisd@gayalliance.org

Gay Alliance

YOUTH

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

Fabulous Fridays: 7-9pm. (Ages 13-20)

Gender Identity Support Group:
Tuesdays: 5:30-6:30pm. (Ages 13-18)
More info: youth@gayalliance.org

The Gay Alliance
875 E. Main Street, (5th Floor)
Auditorium Center, Rochester, NY 14605
585-244-8640 • www.gayalliance.org

Where We've Been in May 2015

- Out at Work Panel at University of Rochester
- Best Practices for LGBTQ Hiring and Inclusion Panel at University of Rochester
- LGBT 101 and Best Practices for Workplace Inclusion at University of Rochester
- Creating Inclusive Schools at Wilson High School
- Creating Trans Inclusive Workplaces at Society of Human Resources
- Management/Diversity Advisory Council
- LGBTQ 101 at Calkins Road Middle School
- SafeZone Train-the-Trainer Certification Program at Skyline College in California
- Health and Wellness Fair at School Without Walls
- LGBTQ 101 at Marcus Whitman High School
- Respectfully Communicating with LGBTQ Clients at Wegmans School of Pharmacy
- Shoulder To Stand On Film and Discussion at Arnett Branch Library
- Shoulder To Stand On Film and Discussion at Macedon Public Library
- Creating Inclusive Schools at Pavilion Central Schools
- SafeZone Train-the-Trainer Certification Program at Pierce College in California
- Who's Who Panel at West Irondequoit High School
- Creating Inclusive Schools at Brighton Central School District School Nurses
- Health and Wellness Fair at RATFA (Rochester Area Task Force on AIDS)

Quotes from May post-training evaluations:

"It was a transformative experience for me. Really opened my eyes to LGBT information. I learned so much! The presenter was inspirational and did one of the best trainings I have been to. Make it longer!"

"Excellent! Fantastic! Enjoyable! I had the best time and wish for more! All students and teachers should go!"

"Both presenters showed knowledge, empathy and an eagerness to learn from us. This presentation was a well-oiled machine. Material, timing, personalities, PERFECT! I would ABSOLUTELY recommend this to friends and co-workers!"

"We had about 200 of our high school students and staff attend the Who's Who Panel. I have never seen a group of our students so invested and engaged in a presentation like this before. The presenters did a fantastic job!

SAGE JULY CALENDAR

RPD Officer McKinney shares personal safety tips with SAGE on June 9. Photo: Jim Zaccaria

Thursday July 2
10:30-11:30am Yoga with Tom.
NO PROGRAM AFTER YOGA

Tuesday July 7
10:30-11:30am Yoga with Tom
11:30-1pm Pride Potluck with Birthday Celebration to Follow. So bring a dish to share.
1-3pm "FRUIT AND YOU." Food Demo. Hosts: Anne and Jessie

Thursday July 9
NO YOGA. 10:30-12pm Breakfast at Dennys, 911 Jefferson Road. Please RSVP by 6/9 to 585-287-2958. Your host Audet

Tuesday July 14
10:30-11:30am Yoga with Tom
12 noon Brighton Park family and friends picnic. Meet at Brighton Park (777 Westfall Road). Bring a dish to pass. Sign up at OAMCC with the number of people and dish you are bringing to the picnic. Sage will supply the meat. Bring your lawn chair and sunscreen and any fun outdoor activity you would love to share. Your hosts Anne and Jessie.

Thursday July 16
10:30-11:30am Yoga with Tom
11:30-12:30pm Brown Bag & Beverage,
12:30-3pm Movie day at the center, **Still Alice**, Drama film 1hr., 41m. Your hosts Gerry & Audet
7pm Sage Coffee Social, Equal Grounds 750 South Ave. Host David.

Tuesday July 21
10:30-11:30am Yoga with Tom
11:30-1pm Brown bag and beverage
1pm LGBT Bereavement Group Presentation by Life Time Care. presenter Adrienne Daniels. Your hosts Anne and Jessie

Thursday July 23
10:30-11:30am Yoga with Tom
11:30am NO Sage program

Tuesday July 28
10:30-11:30am Yoga with Tom
1pm Tour of South Wedge with lunch at one of the Wedge's fines sub joints, HARRY G'S. We will visit Little Bleu Cheese, Hedonist and some surprise shops while walking the Wedge. Get out and walk the Wedge this summer day. Family and friends welcome. Hosts: Anne and Jessie

Thursday July 30
10:30-11:30am Yoga with Tom
11:30am NO Sage program

Friday July 31
5pm Backyard fish dinner – we will get seafood from Davies Seafoods. For info please call to RSVP and get location 585-287-2958 by 7/27/15.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday July 17, 18, 19.
Come out and enjoy the Pride events. Check this issue and GAGV website for details.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday August 8 will be our Corning Glass trip.
August 30 4-8pm SUMMER SAGE ROCHESTER BBQ BASH. DANCING AND BONFIRE. $5 PER PERSON. Please contact Jessica Gibson if interested in volunteering for picnic duties. Please contact by email. jessielee73402@yahoo.com subject volunteer for sage picnic. More details to come.

SAGE Rochester, for LBGTQ people 50 and over, meets at Open Arms Community Center at 707 East Main St., Rochester New York 14605. Yoga is from 10:30 to 11:30am $5/person. Tuesday & Thursday unless specified in calendar. All programs are subject to change and Sage members are responsible for setting up there own transportation and meal to and from any program. All programs are open to the community and public – all are welcome.

Please become a Sage member today and/or update membership info by calling the Gay Alliance at 585-244-8640.

Resources

Check our monthly and ongoing calendar as well as the community section for more groups and events. For further information, call the Gay Alliance at 244-8640 or visit: www.gayalliance.org. More SAGE and Gay Alliance Youth Group info: pages 30-31.

BISEXUALITY RESOURCES

AMBI Los Angeles; American Institute of Bisexuality (Journal of Bisexuality); Bay Area Bisexual Network; ; BiNet USA; Bisexual Organizing Project (BOP); Biversity Boston; Boston Bisexual Women's Network; ComBIne - Columbus, Ohio; Fenway Health's Bi Health Program; Los Angeles Bi Task Force; New York Area Bisexual Network; Robyn Ochs's site; The Bi Writers Association; The Bisexual Resource Center (email brc@biresource.net)

CULTURAL

Rochester Women's Community Chorus
234-4441. (See Ongoing calendar).

Rochester Gay Men's Chorus
www.thergmc.org

Open Arms Community Center
Available for parties, events, meetings. 707 E. Main St. Parking. Accepting and welcoming of all. 271-8478.

DEAF SERVICES

Deaf Rainbow Network of Rochester
See Facebook.

Spectrum LGBTIQ & Straight Alliance
RIT/NTID student group. <SpectrumComment@groups.facebook.com

ELDERS

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

FAMILY

Open Arms Community Center
Open Arms Community Center available for parties, events and meetings; 707 East Main St. Plenty of parking. We are inclusive, actively accepting, welcoming of all people. 271-8478 openarmsmcc.org

CNY Fertility Center
Integrative Fertility Care. Support meetings, webinars, workshops. Information: cbriel@cnyfertility.com; www.cnyhealingarts.com

Rochester Gay Moms' Group
Support group for lesbian mommies and wannabe mommies in Rochester and surrounding areas. Subscribe: RochesterGayMoms-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Catholic Charities Community Services
1099 Jay Street, Building J (585) 339-9800, www.ccsrochester.org . Offers: Families in Transition services for HIV positive parents with small children, short term/long term housing assistance, employment services, supportive case management, health education and behavioral health education and peer navigation for substance abuse linkages.

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. Claudia Stallman, Project Director, 124 Front St., Binghamton, NY 13905; 607-724-4308; e-mail: LesGayFamBldg@aol.com. Web: www.PrideAndJoyFamilies.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. rochesterepflag@gmail.com; 585-993-3297.

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.

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. Deaf or hearing impaired people should call (585) 423-8021 (TDD.) Available from NY Dept. of Health: HIV and STD resource testing site. Rapid testing in only 10 minutes. STD testing provided by Bullshead Clinic, 855 W. Main St., Rochester. Contact: Narissa @ Rochester hotline.

Volunteer Legal Services Project
(585) 232-3051; www.vlsprochester.org. 1 West Main St., Suite 500 Rochester, NY 14614. Free legal services for low-income HIV positive clients. No criminal cases. Appointments are scheduled at area medical provider locations or by calling 295-5708.

Trillium Health
Trillium Health 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, and many more. Satellite offices in Geneva and Bath. Trillium Health is also a leader in providing services and education to members of the LGBT community. Contact Information: Website: www.trilliumhealthny.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. 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
Referrals to physicians and service agencies. (585) 244-8640; 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). 585-756-2329; 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. 9am-5pm; Tues., Thurs., 9am-7pm; Sat. 10am-2pm. www.ThresholdCenter.org

Center for Health and Behavioral Training of Monroe County
853 W. 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.

The MOCHA Center of Rochester
Our mission is to improve health and wellness in communities of color. Youth drop-in center, HIV testing, peer education, support groups, computer lab, referral services and more. 189 N. Water St. (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. Hours: M-W 8:30-5:30; R: 8:30-11 am; F 7:30-2:30.

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 Allegany, Livingston, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne or Yates Counties, call 1 800 962-5063.

Action Front Center
(Action for a Better Community.) Provides HIV, STD, viral hepatitis prevention counseling, risk reduction counseling. Tailored programs available to incarcerated, ex-offender individuals. Services for people living with HIV; case management, peer support groups, United Colors support group for MSM of color, educational groups, peer educator training and leadership development, multicultural, bilingual staff. 33 Chestnut St., 2nd floor, Rochester 14604. Office hours M-F 8:30 am-5 pm. 585-262-4330.

Anthony L. Jordan Health Center, Prevention and Primary Care.
HIV walk-in testing Tues. & Fri.; Hep C walk-inn treating Weds. & Fri; Meet clinician by appointment. 82 Holland St., Rochester 14605. 585-423-2879; fax 585-423-2876. www,jordanhealth.org

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.

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
1 W. Main St., Suites 200 & 300. 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.

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) 368-3506, 89 Genesee St., Bishop Kearney Bldg., 3rd floor. Full range of services, regardless of ability to pay. Caring, confidential and convenient.

Geneva Community Health
601 W. Washington St., Geneva. Provides HIV testing, HIV specialty and primary care for residents of Ontario and surrounding counties. M, W, R, F 8am-8pm. 315-781-8448.

LGBT HEALTH

Trillium Health
See www.trilliumhealthny.org, www.everybodysgood.com

LGBT Healthy Living: Veterans
Canandaigua VA, second and fourth Tuesdays, 10-11am, Building One, 2nd floor, room 245. Matt Cokely 585-393-7115; Wanda Martinez 585-393-8265 or 585-205-3360.

HCR Home Care
We provide a full multidisciplinary team consisting of nursing, social work, physical, occupational, and speech therapies as well as home health aides who have completed the eight-hour cultural competency program provided by the Gay Alliance. For more information, contact us at 585-272-1930 or visit us online at HCRhealth.com.

Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley
See www.gayalliance.org Resource Directory under "Health" for Gay Alliance referrals to physicians and service agencies.

CNY Youth Group Bi-Polar Support.
Second Monday of every month. 315-428-9366.

TRANSGENDER

Trans Alliance of Greater Rochester (TAGR)
Support/educational group for gender variant people and allies. Last Saturday, 3-5:30pm, Open Arms MCC, 707 E. Main St.

Adult Families of Trans Youth (AFTY)
First Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30pm, Open Arms MCC, 707 E. Main St.

Families and Friends of Trans Adults (F2TA)
Support group for non-transgender people who are struggling with the transition of a transgender friend or loved one. Meets on second and fourth Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 pm, at Equal=Grounds, 750 South Ave. 244-8640; www.gayalliance.org; info@gayalliance.org.

Trans Lifeline
Hotline for transgender people experiencing crisis. Staffed by transgender people for transgender people. Trans Lifeline volunteers are ready to respond to whatever support needs callers might have. The Trans Lifeline number is (877) 565-8860. Additional info is available at www.translifeline.org.

Empire Justice Center
Julia A. Sáenz, Esq. Hanna S. Cohn Equal Justice Fellow, Empire Justice Center, LGBT Rights Project, Telesca Center for Justice, 1 West Main Street, Suite 200, Rochester, NY 14614. (585) 295-5721 Fax (585) 454-2518, jsaenz@empirejustice.org, www.empirejustice.org.

Volunteer Legal Services Project
(585) 232-3051; www.vlsprochester.org.1 West Main St. Suite 500, Rochester, NY 14614. Free legal services for low-income clients seeking a name change. Other legal services for low-income clients include family law issues, bankruptcy, unemployment insurance hearings, wills and advance directive documents for clients with serious illnesses.

Gay Alliance Youth Gender Identity Support Group
Tuesdays 5:30-6:30 Gay Alliance office, 5th floor. 875 E. Main St., Ages 13-18. 244-8640

Genesee Valley Gender Variants
Thurs. 7-9pm, Equal Grounds, 750 South Ave. GVGenderVariants@yahoogroups.com

Guys' Night Out
Trans* group, 1pm second Saturdays at Equal=Grounds, 750 South Ave. Transmen and those identifying with trans-masculine experience (including questioning individuals) welcome. Conversations range from topics regarding family life, personal experiences with regard to medically/socially transitioning and how life is going in general. Contact Adrian at abartholomeo@gmail.com.

WOMEN

L.O.R.A Late Bloomers Group
Address: Rochester, NY; E-mail info@loragroup.org Website: www.loragroup.org; L.O.R.A Late Bloomers Group is a support group offered through L.O.R.A. (Lesbians of Rochester & Allies). It is a coming out group for women of all ages and backgrounds! The group meets once a month in a safe private location! Come share your story and listen to others share. We will have a variety of topics to discuss about coming out and special guest speakers from time to time. Group Facilitator: Cathie Timian email: ctimian@loragroup.org or call 585.313.3037

Highland Hospital Breast Imaging Center
500 Red Creek Drive, Rochester 14623; 585-487-3341. 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; email: info@bccr.org. Breast Cancer Coalition provides support services that include programs designed to help those coping with a recent breast cancer diagnosis and those coping with an advanced breast cancer diagnosis, such as the Advanced Breast Cancer Support Group to support women living with metastatic breast cancer. Information about breast cancer, lending library, a monthly educational program. All BCCR programs, support services free.

Center for Community Health
(585) 224-3050. Comprehensive breast cancer screening services for uninsured and underinsured women.

Elizabeth Wende Breast Clinic
170 Sawgrass Drive. 442-8432. Mammograms.

Self Help for Women with Breast or Ovarian Cancer (SHARE)
Breast: 866-891-2392; Ovarian: 866-537-4273.

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

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. 6:30-9:30pm.

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. All services are confidential. Accept most insurances; including Medicaid. You may qualify for low- to no-cost family planning services. When you make your appointment, ask about our sliding scale fees. No one turned away for lack of ability to pay.

Women's Shelter
YWCA, 175 N. Clinton Ave. 546-5820.

YOUTH

Gay Alliance Youth Group
Fridays, 7-9 pm. Gay Alliance office, 5th floor, 875 E. Main St. 244-8640; Ages 13-20. www.gayalliance.org

Gay Alliance Youth Gender Identity Support Group
Tuesdays 5:30-6:30 Gay Alliance office, 5th floor. 875 E. Main St., Ages 13-20. 244-8640

Trevor Project
The Trevor Project offers 24/7 Lifeline with trained counselors, 1-866-488-7386; Trevor Chat, instant messaging; TrevorSpace online where youth can talk to each other, and Trevor Text, now in development, with text trained counselors for support and crisis intervention.

CNY Youth Group Bi-Polar Support.
Second Monday of every month. 315-428-9366.

Ongoing Calendar

DAILY

Free confidential walk-in HIV testing
M/W 9am-5pm, T/Th 9am-7pm, F 9am-12:30pm
Trillium Health 259 Monroe Ave. 585-545-7200

David Bohnett Cyber Center
Gay Alliance 5th floor lounge, Mon.-Thurs. 11am-3pm, Fri. 11am-1pm, 875 E. Main St. 244-8640; www.gayalliance.org

MONDAYS

L.O.R.A. Coffee Social
Weekly on Monday Nights, 7 pm. Equal=Grounds, 750 South Ave. Rochester. Family, Friends & Allies Welcome! Contact Person: Cathie Timian. More info: www.loragroup.org. Events: https://www.facebook.com/groups/L.O.R.A.14464/. Email: info@loragroup.org

Rochester Historical Bowling Society
7pm. Clover Lanes

Gay Alliance Library & Archives,
Every Mon./Wed. 6-8pm. David Bohnett Cyber Center, 5:30-7:30pm, First floor, 875 E. Main St. 244-8640

Born That Way
Formerly 3rd Presbyterian LGBT Support Group. First, 3rd Mondays, 7:30-9:30pm, 34 Meigs St. Carol, 482-3832 or Kaara, 654-7516.

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

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

TUESDAYS

The Social Grind
10am-12noon and again 7:30-9pm at Equal Grounds, 750 South Ave. Email: DHutch457@aol.com for information

Adult Families of Trans Youth (AFTY)
First Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30, Open Arms MCC Community Center, 707 E. Main St.

Families and Friends of TransAdults (F2TA)
Support group for non-transgender people who are struggling with the transition of a transgender friend or loved one. Meets on second and fourth Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 pm, at Equal=Grounds, 750 South Ave. 244-8640; www.gayalliance.org; info@gayalliance.org

LGBT Healthy Living
Veterans support. Second, fourth Tuesdays, 10-11am Canandaigua VA, bldg. 9, room 8, Library conference room. 585 463-2731, 585 205-3360.

Testing Tuesdays at Trillium Health
FREE HIV Testing for everyone, STI/STD testing FREE for women and MSM. Trillium Health, 259 Monroe Ave, 5-8 pm. 585-545-7200

Women's Community Chorus
Rehearsals each Tuesday, 6:30-9pm, Downtown United Pres. Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh Street. 234-4441, www.therwcc.org

Gay Alliance Trans* Youth Support Group
5:30-6:30 pm, GAGV office, 5th floor, 875 E. Main St. Ages 13-20. 244-8640. Gay Alliance

SAGE Rochester
50+ Tuesdays and Thursdays, usually 10:30am at venues including Open Arms Community Center, 707 E. Main St. 244-8640. (See page 31)

WEDNESDAYS

Identity Group
The Identity Group is for LGBT identified individuals who have a developmental disability diagnosis. The group meets Wednesdays 3-4 pm at ARC Health Services (2060 Brighton-Henrietta Townline Rd. 14623). The goal of the group is to provide a safe space to discuss identity issues, share personal experiences and increase self-esteem. The group is facilitated by Delaina Fico. LMSW. For more information, please contact Delaina Fico at dfico@arcmonroe.org or 585-271-0661 ext. 1552.

LORA Knitting Group
1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month, Equal Grounds Coffee House, 750 South Ave., Rochester. 6 – 8pm. Contact Person: Kerry Cater. Email: dressyfemme@aol.com

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, woody14619@yahoo.com.

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

Positive Warriors
Wednesdays, 11:30am-12:30pm. Trillium Health, 259 Monroe Ave.

Positive Divas
Wednesdays, 11:30am-12:30pm. Trillium Health, 259 Monroe Ave.

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

Gay Alliance Library & Archives,
Every Mon./Wed. 6-8pm. David Bohnett Cyber Center, 5:30-7:30pm, First floor, 875 E. Main St. 244-8640

Empire Bears
Every Wednesday. 6pm dinner at various venues. www.empirebears.com

THURSDAYS

Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns
6:30pm, first Thursday. Ralph, 271-7649

Pride at Work & AFL CIO
First Thursdays, 5:30pm. 1354 Buffalo Road, Rochester 14624, 426-0862.

GLOB&L (Gays & 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

Out & Equal Second Thursdays
Social/business networking, 5:30-7:30pm. Changing venues. E-mail: fingerlakes@outandequal.org

Genesee Valley Gender Variants
7-9pm, Equal=Grounds, 750 South Ave. GV
GenderVariants@yahoogroups.com

SAGE Rochester
50+ Tuesdays and Thursdays, usually 10:30am at venues including Open Arms Community Center, 707 E. Main St. 244-8640. (See page 31)

FRIDAYS

Gay Men's AA meeting
Fridays, 7:30-8:30pm, Closed meeting. Emmanuel Baptist Church, 815 Park Ave.

Gay Alliance Youth
Fridays, 7-9pm, Gay Alliance, 5th floor, 875 E. Main St., 244-8640; Ages 13-20. youth@gayalliance.org

GLBTQI Motorcycle Group
Second Fridays, 5:30pm, Various locations. RochesterGLBTIQbikers@yahoo.com; 467-6456; bmdaniels@frontiernet.net.

LORA GaYmes Night
Meets 4th Friday of the Month, 7-10pm, Equal Grounds Coffee House, 750 South Ave. Rochester. Contact Person: Christine O'Reilly. Email: irishfemmerochester@yahoo.com. Phone: 585.943.1320. More Info: www.loragroup.org. Events: https://www.facebook.com/groups/L.O.R.A.14464/

Monthly LBTQ Womyns Bingo Night
Third Fridays, 7 pm, at Empire Bingo. Contact: Christine, IrishFemmeRochester@yahoo.com; 585-943-1320 text/talk.

SATURDAYS

Rochester Rams Bar Night
Third Saturdays, 8pm-2am, Bachelor Forum, 670 University Ave. 271-6930

Sapphic Singles – Professional Women's Group
http://www.meetup.com/Sapphic-Singles-Rochester/. Contact: Patty: Email: pattyrdn11@gmail.com. Phone: 585.223.6743. 3rd Saturday of each month. Monthly Dinner Socials for single professional women at various locations in and around Rochester NY area! Join us!

Trans Alliance of Greater Rochester
Support/educational group for gender-variant people, allies. Last Saturdays, 3-5:30pm, Open Arms MCC, 707 E. Main St.

Frontrunners/Frontwalkers
9am, George Eastman House parking lot.www.rochesterfrontrunners.org.

Guys Night Out
GNO, social group for transmen, now meets on the second Saturday of the month, @ 1pm @ Equal Grounds, 750 South Ave.

Saturday Night Special Gay AA
7pm, Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Rd., S. Men and women. Open meeting.

Sophia's Supper Club
First, third Saturdays, 25 Bernie Lane, 6:30 pm.

Men's Cooking Group
Third, fourth Saturdays. 585-355-7664; mcgofrochester@aol.com.

SUNDAYS

PFLAG (Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians And Gays)
585 993-3297; rochesterpflag@gmail.com.

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
707 E. Main St. Rochester, Services at: 10:30 am and 5:30 pm. 271-8478.

Gay Men's Alcoholics Anonymous
St. Luke's/St. Simon Cyrene Church,
17 S. Fitzhugh St. 8pm, 232-6720, Weekly.
Closed meeting ■

ROCHESTER AA/NA MEETINGS

Every week there are four regularly scheduled GLBTI AA and two inclusive 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. ■

Simply Perfect Weddings
Wedding Officiants & Ceremony Cordination
Marriage Proposal Planning
585-415-1817 www.rochesterperfectweddings.com

ON GARD
The **Gay Alliance on**-line **Resource Directory**
The online community tool – providing local, state and national resources... twenty-four, seven! **www.gayalliance.org**

APROPOS
Financial Planning
kconhead@aproposfp.com
www.aproposfp.com
Phone: (585) 533-1950
Kay Conheady, CFP®
Fee-only
Objective advice for the LGBT community from one of your own!

SPIRITUS CHRISTI CHURCH
A CATHOLIC COMMUNITY WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME
121 N. Fitzhugh Street • Rochester, New York 14614 • Phone: 325-1180
Liturgies: Thursday: 7:00pm, Saturday: 5:00pm
Sunday: 7:30am
9:30am *(at Hochstein, 50 Plymouth Avenue)*

July

WEDNESDAY 1

LGBT Bereavement Support Group. First meeting. Then third Wednesdays, David H. Klein Center for Compassion and Healing, 3111 Winton Rd. S, 5:30-7 pm. Facilitated by Margaret Mathews and Shirley Edwards. For information call 585-475-8800.

THURSDAY 2

National LGBT 50th Anniversary Celebration. Through July 5 in Philadelphia, commemorating the first gay rights demonstrations from 1965 to 1969. Events include National Politics Panel, "Gay Pioneers" screening, Wanda Sykes, Edie Windsor, Jim Obergefell, Judy Shepard, Bishop Gene Robinson, many other LGBT leaders and entertainers, fireworks, daily parties, history exhibits, concerts, wreath-laying at Gay Pioneers historical marker, July 4 one hour Anniversary Ceremony on stage in front of historic Independence Hall. Most programs are free. Information at www.lgbt50th.org.

SUNDAY 5

Dignity Integrity. Episcopal Mass, quiet. 5 pm at St. Luke's and St. Simon's Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St.

THURSDAY 9

Mrs. Kasha Davis' one-woman show "There's Always Time for A Cocktail" at Laurie Beechman Theatre, NYC. See www.mrskashadavis.com

SUNDAY 12

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

Pride Golf Tournament. 10 am, Victor Hills Golf Club. Sponsored by 140 Alex, proceeds to benefit Gay Alliance. $85/person incudes tournament, lunch, dinner and show at 140 Alex. 734-9860.

TUESDAY 14

Screening of "Pride". 6 pm, Third Presbyterian Church, 4 Meigs St. Free. Refreshments, discussion. Sponsored by SAGE Rochester, Third Presbyterian. 271-6513.

WEDNESDAY 15

Empty Closet deadline for August issue. 244-9030; susanj@gayalliance.org.

Out & Equal presents "From Closet to Corner Office." Networking 5:30 pm, program 6-7:30 at Nixon Peabody, 1300 Clinton Square. Panelists include Jason Barnecut-Kearns, VP Finance, Xerox; Daniel Meyers, president Al Sigl Community of Agencies; Jason Robert Ballard, founder FTM International Transculture Magazine; Kevin Walker, COO Iberdrola Inc. (RG&E); Judy Cranston, Interim CEO, WNY Girl Scouts. Information at outandequalfingerlakes.com.

THURSDAY 16

The Good, The Bad and The Funny. Trans open mic, 7-9 pm, Equal=Grounds, 750 South Ave.

Opening night of "Sordid Lives" by Del Shores. Produced by Black Sheep Theater at Village Gate, 7:30 pm. Performances also July 17, 18, 24, 25 at 7:30, July 26 at 2 pm.

Sassy in the South Wedge. 6-8 pm. Star Alley, 662 South Ave. Kicking off Pride 2015. Featuring Amanda Lee Peers, BRAWL arm wrestling, scavenger hunt, Third Thursday bands Roc City Ramblers and Crawdaddies, much more.

FRIDAY 17

Flag ceremony for Pride 2015. 5:30 pm, Martin Luther King Jr. Park at Manhattan Square. Rainbow Riders bringing Pride colors, PPE color guard display, official proclamations, sashing of Grand Marshal, history exhibit in pavilion, Lifetime Achievement award to Sue Cowell. 9:15 pm: screening of "Rocky Horror Picture Show."

SATURDAY 18

Pride Parade and Festival. Sci Fi Pride: May the Pride Be with You. Line up noon at Argyle and Park Ave. Departing 1 pm down Park Ave. to Alexander, then right on Monroe, ending at Chestnut St. in front of MLK Jr. Park. Awards for best marching units. Festival begins 1:30 with activities for all ages, performances featuring RuPaul Drag Race star Mrs. Kasha Davis, emcees Samantha Vega and DeeDee DuBois, singer Dianne Davidson, Luke Cazwell of Ice Cream Truck video fame, Futur Pointe Dance, Rochester Gay Men's Chorus, Rochester Women's Community Chorus, special guest from Tilt, DJs Hector and Mighty Mic.

SUNDAY 19

Pride Picnic at Genesee Valley Park. Free. 8:30 am: Roc Pride 5 K Run, Fun Run. 11 am: Interfaith Service. 1 pm: Picnic with vendors, DJ Blake in the Roundhouse, local bands on City Stage.

Dignity Integrity. Episcopal Mass/Healing Service, with music. 5 pm at St. Luke's and St. Simon's Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St.

TUESDAY 21

SAGE brownbag lunch with speaker. Adrienne Daniels of Lifetime Care speaking on bereavement. 1 pm, Open Arms MCC, 707 E. Main St.

SUNDAY 26

Dignity Integrity. Roman Catholic Prayers to start the week, followed by pot luck, "Belly Up to the Salad Bar". 5 pm at St. Luke's and St. Simon's Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. ■

Joe Russo, Psy.D., CGP
Licensed Psychologist
Certified Group Psychotherapist
25 Canterbury Road, Suite 313
Rochester, New York 14607
Phone: (585) 506-6096
E-mail: joerussopsyd@gmail.com
Rocket to Change
▼ Addiction ▼ Depression ▼ Trauma
▼ Anxiety ▼ Grief/Loss ▼ Relationships
▼ Weekly Bi/Gay Men's Therapy Group

Russow Consulting
TARA RUSSOW, Ph.D.
CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST
120 Allens Creek Road
Rochester, NY 14618
(585) 442-4447
www.RussowConsulting.com

Classified Ads

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

Paying by check: checks must be made out to Gay Alliance. The deadline is the 15th of the month, for the following month's issue. We cannot accept ads over the phone. Pay when you place your ad. We will accept only ads accompanied by name and phone number. Neither will 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 phone number. No personal home addresses or names allowed. Classified ads are not published on *The Empty Closet* page of our website. However, each issue of the paper is reproduced online in its entirety.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children's Ministry thriving at Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church for toddlers to 'tweens. Join us for vibrant, inclusive, progressive worship on Sundays at 10:30 am, 707 E. Main St. info@openarmsmcc.org; (585) 271-8478.

Rochester Gay Men's Chorus - did you (or a friend) ever sing with the Chorus? RGMC is launching an Alumni Organization! Are you interested in helping keep the RGMC vibrant for the next 33 years? Help us keep "Empowering Social Change through Choral Excellence". Please email Past President John Owen - jowen1@rochester.rr.com or call at (585) 402 0112.

SERVICES

Rochester's Best Man to Man Rubdown. Unwind with this degreed, employed, fit, friendly, healthy, Italian GWM. Middle aged, 5'8", 165 lbs., 32" waist, nonsmoker, d & d free, HIV negative. My 10-plus years experience guarantees your relaxation and satisfaction. Hotel visit, in call in my home or out call in your residence. Reasonable rates. Discretion appreciated and practiced. Don't delay, call me today at 585-773-2410 (cell) or 585-235-6688 (home).

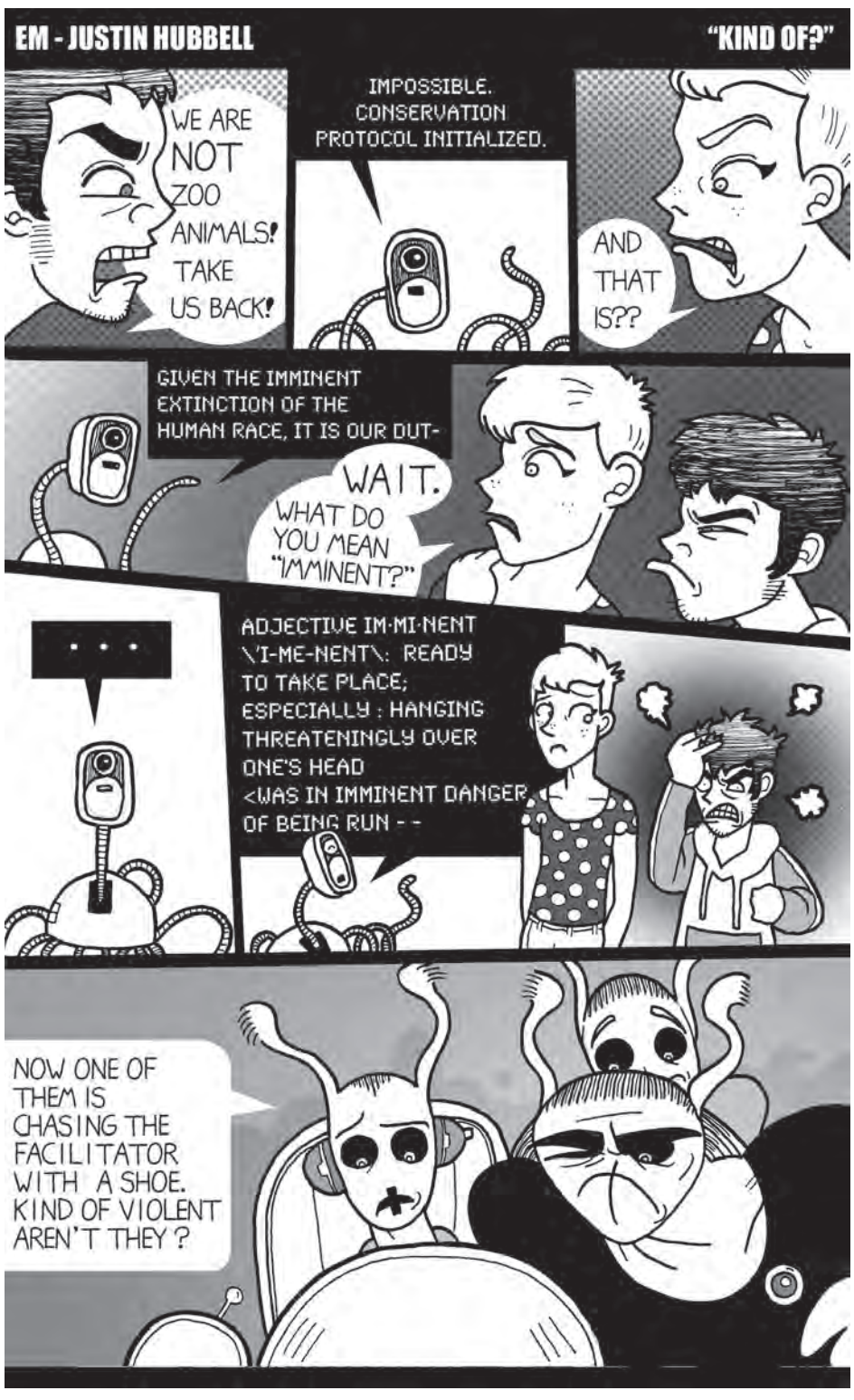
Handyman: Simple repairs or full renovations, no job is too large or small. Carpentry, Plumbing, Electrical, Interior & Exterior. 35 years experience. Call Alan & Bill 585-204-0632 or cell 304-517-6832.

Martin Ippolito master electrician. Electrical work, telephone jacks, cable TV, burglar alarm systems, paddle fans. 585-266-6337.

Wedding Space and clergy services available. Celebrate your special day at Open Arms Metropolitan Community Church, 707 E. Main St. info@openarmsmcc.org (585) 271-8478.

FOR RENT

Three room apartment on Park Ave. Newly redecorated. No pets, no Section 8 or any government-assisted renters will be considered. Rent is $595 per month. Available for immediate occupancy. Call (585) 266-1281.



The Empty Closet is published
by the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley
875 E. Main Street, Suite 500
Rochester, New York 14605
© 2015, All rights reserved.

Editor-in-Chief: Susan Jordan
Staff Reporter: Ove Overmyer
Graphic Design: Jim Anderson
Ad Sales: Jennie Bowker (jennieb@gayalliance.org)
Chris DelConte (chrisd@gayalliance.org)

Advertising policy:
The Empty Closet does not print advertisements that contain nude drawings or photographs, nor does it print advertising that states that the person pictured in the ad is for sale, or that you will "get" that particular person if you patronize the establishment advertised. Advertisements that are explicitly racist, sexist, ageist, ableist or homophobic will be refused; advertisements from organizations that are sexist, racist, ageist, ableist or anti-gay will also be refused. All political advertisements must contain information about who placed them and a method of contact. Additionally, *The Empty Closet* does not print negative or "attack" advertisements, whether they relate to a product or politics and no matter in whose interest the ad is being produced. A negative advertisement is defined as one that focuses upon a rival product, or in the political area, a rival election candidate or party, in order to point out supposed flaws and to persuade the public not to buy it (or vote for him or her). *The Empty Closet* maintains, within legal boundaries, neutrality regarding products, political candidates and parties. However, "attack" ads that fail to provide undisputable evidence that the information in the ad is true do not further in any way the objectives and policies of the Gay Alliance or *The Empty Closet*, including the primary tenet that *The Empty Closet*'s purpose is to inform the Rochester gay community and to provide an impartial forum for ideas.

Submissions:
For 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. 244-9030, susanj@gayalliance.org

Publication Information:
The Empty Closet is published 11 times a year (December and January combined) by *The Empty Closet* Press for the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, Inc. Approximately 5000 copies of each issue are distributed during the first week of the month, 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.

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.

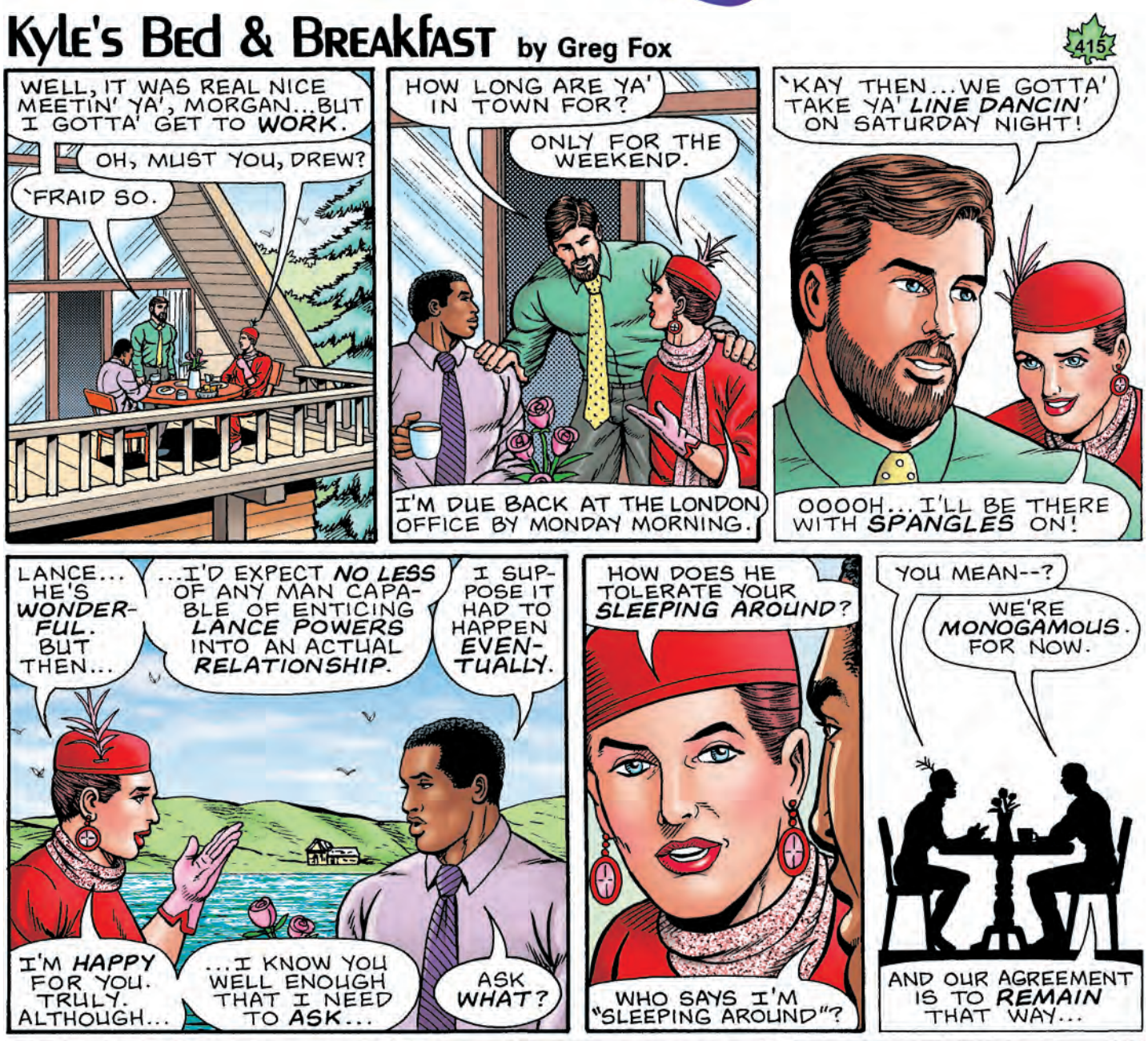
Part of our purpose is to maintain a middle position with respect to the entire community. We must be careful to present all viewpoints in a way that takes into consideration the views of all – women, men, people of color, young and old, and those from various walks of life.

The opinions of columnists, editorial writers and other contributing writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the collective attitude of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley or *The Empty Closet*. *The Empty Closet* shall not be liable for any loss or expense that results from the publication (whether correctly or incorrectly) or omission of an ad. In the event of non-payment, your account may be assigned to a collection agency or an attorney, and will be liable for the charges paid by us to such collection agency or attorney.

Letters to the editor:
The opinions of columnists, editorial writers and other contributing writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the collective attitude of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley or *The Empty Closet*. We will print letters at the editor's discretion and on a space available basis. Only one letter by the same writer in a six-month period is allowed. We will not print personal attacks on individuals, nor will we be a forum for ongoing disputes between individuals. We reserve the right to edit for space and clarity. We will print anonymous letters if the name and phone number are provided to the Editor; confidentiality will be respected. Submissions are due by the 15th of the month at: *The Empty Closet*, 875 E. Main Street, Suite 500, Rochester, NY 14605; e-mail: emptycloset@gagv.us. The online edition of EC is available at www.gayalliance.org.

Bed & Breakfast

Kyle's Bed & Breakfast by Greg Fox



Website - www.kylecomics.com ***E-Mail*** - gregfox727@gmail.com ***Facebook*** - www.facebook.com/kylecomics

MAY THE
PRIDE
BE WITH
YOU!
ROCHESTER PRIDE
GAYALLIANCE.ORG
Rochester NY
Sci-Fi Pride
July 17-19
2015