



EMPIRE STATE PRIDE AGENDA

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Buffalo Brunch 2006 Celebrating our Community for 10 Years! Sunday, April 2 at Noontime

What: Buffalo Brunch 2006
Empire State Pride Agenda Foundation

Where: Hyatt Regency Buffalo
Grand Ballroom

When: Sunday, April 2, 2006
12:00 Noon

The annual Buffalo Brunch benefiting the Empire State Pride Agenda Foundation will take place at 12:00 noon on Sunday, April 2, 2006 in the Grand Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Buffalo. Over five hundred people are expected to attend this important event, now in its tenth year of celebrating Buffalo's LGBT community and its friends.

This year, the Buffalo Brunch will present its community service awards to two local organizations and one individual. **CEPA Gallery** and the **Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo** will be honored for their dedication to diversity and impressive history of inclusion and **Danny Winter aka Vicky Vogue** will be honored for his pioneering work and contributions to the community. The Pride Agenda's Executive Director, **Alan Van Capelle**, will speak following the presentation of the community service awards.

Event Co-Chairs are **Jeff Platt** and **Jim Rolls**. Tickets are \$50; sponsorships are also available and will provide further support for the Pride Agenda's work in Buffalo and across the state. Tickets and sponsorships can be purchased at www.prideagenda.org.

Press passes are available at the discretion of the Buffalo Brunch Steering Committee.

For more information, please contact Lynn Tranchell at 716-698-9782 or Lynn.Tranchell@clearahead.com

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The Empire State Pride Agenda Foundation is the non-partisan 501(c)(3) research, education and advocacy arm of the Empire State Pride Agenda. The Foundation advances its goals by educating public officials and policymakers; building coalitions and mobilizing allies; and, educating the LGBT community in urban, suburban and rural communities across New York State. The Foundation supports and administers the New York State LGBT Health and Human Services Network, made of up 52 community-based LGBT organizations across the state. The Foundation is also the co-facilitator of the Dignity for All Students Coalition and contributes to education and advocacy around the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act Coalition. Over the past three years, the Foundation has been building ground-breaking new grassroots organizing campaigns -- Pride in the Pulpit, Pride in My Union and Pride in My Workplace -- that are mobilizing allies across the state to support LGBT issues.

Biographical Information on Honorees and Speakers

CEPA GALLERY, founded in 1974 by regional artists, the Center for Exploratory and Perceptual Art (CEPA) is a not-for-profit arts center dedicated to the creation and presentation of contemporary photo-related art. The Gallery supports, encourages, and funds the projects of both established and emergent visual artists, and is committed to supporting artists from groups that have been traditionally underrepresented in cultural spaces. CEPA is Western New York's premier visual arts center, the only regional organization dedicated to the photo-related arts, and one of the nation's most supportive and accessible visual arts centers. Throughout its 30 year history, CEPA has prioritized diversity, creating an open forum for the presentation and discussion of alternative ideas and perspectives. The organization has maintained a long and proud history of supporting the GLBT community, providing numerous opportunities for artists to create and exhibit new work in a highly accessible urban site. More than 90 GLBT artists have exhibited at CEPA. In 2004, CEPA mounted *Deviant Bodies*, the first major exhibition in Western New York to explore the margins of contemporary gay male culture and to celebrate alternative queer voices. *Deviant Bodies* was organized and curated by Lawrence Brose, Executive Director and Curator of CEPA Gallery, who is an internationally celebrated Queer Filmmaker. *Deviant Bodies* was voted "Best Art Exhibit" in the Readers' Choice Poll by Artvoice. A companion exhibit focusing on the margins of contemporary lesbian and transgender culture will be presented in September 2006. CEPA's dedication to diversity and long history of inclusion has earned it numerous regional and national awards including the 2001 New York State Governor's Arts Award, the Andy Warhol Foundation Initiative Award, and the 2004 National Conference for Community and Justice Award.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BUFFALO values diversity and inclusivity. Unitarian Universalists affirm the inherent dignity and worth of all persons and this affirmation clearly extends to those whose sexual orientation is gay, lesbian or bisexual. Unitarian Universalism is one of the few denominations in North America that will ordain gay and lesbian clergy. In the early 70's, the Church passed a resolution supporting equality for Gays and Lesbian. Since 1972, the church's sexuality education for youth has affirmed the sexual well being of Gay and Lesbian as well as Straight youth. On December 2, 1990, Interweave (a group that affirms and promotes the living and celebrating of the affectional and sexual truths of lesbians, gays, bisexual and all persons) was organized and in November 1991 the Board approved Interweave as an official church organization. Today, bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender members are active at all levels of the church and enrich the community. The church is also the home of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus.

DANNY WINTER is a pioneer of the Buffalo Gay Rights Movement. Danny was the first member of the Buffalo chapter of The Mattachine Society and its first and only lifetime member. Danny was a bartender for dances held at the first Buffalo Gay Center, and was a member of the first local HIV organization. He has worked as: associate editor and contributor for The Fifth Freedom, contributor to Q News and ABOUT Magazine, editor of VOICES Magazine. Danny has volunteered for multiple organizations such as Aids Family Services, Benedict House, Aids Alliance, and the Pride Center. He was president of WNY Gay Community Network, founder and first president of Pride Buffalo, founder and co-chair of Rainbow Elders of Niagara Frontier. As Vicky Vogue, Danny has been president of the Imperial Court of Buffalo, reigned as Empress VI and XI, and is a founder and producer of Vicky Vogue Vaudeville. Most recently, Danny organized a town meeting about men arrested in area parks for alleged sex activity. He is now the head of a task force including police & media to continue discussions about the arrests. Check out VickyVogue.com for the continued activities of the unstoppable Danny Winter.

ALAN VAN CAPELLE became the Executive Director of Empire State Pride Agenda and Empire State Pride Agenda Foundation in April 2003. He has continued the organization's track record of winning legislative and political victories for New York State's LGBT community and has initiated new grassroots organizing campaigns such as Pride in the Pulpit, Pride in My Workplace and Pride in My Union that are aimed at accomplishing the Pride Agenda's objective of winning full equality and justice for LGBT New Yorkers and their families. Prior to joining the Pride Agenda, Van Capelle worked for nearly ten years for the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), where he is credited with turning around a declining political operation at Local 32BJ turning it into one of the most active and successful organizations in the labor movement.