

EGN

Erie Gay News

Calendar

Apr 1—PFLAG-Erie meets Planning Session! We'll be meeting to come up with programs and activities for the next few months. Your ideas and help in making them happen is very much appreciated! 7 PM Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. Info: Gary and David at 898-4210 (email blugnu@velocity.net) or Robin and Nancy at 835-7432 (email npengluv@aol.com).

Apr 2—Passover starts

Apr 2—Classroom: Billie Jean King: Rebel with a Racket (A&E) 7 AM. Includes interviews with Martina Navratilova and Elton John.

Apr 3—Womynspace-Spring Celebration A get-together to celebrate Spring! (We tried this in March and got snowed out - go figure!) We'll try again. Please bring a small token of spring to exchange with someone else: it could be a flower, some seeds, funky sunglasses, bubbles, some small stuffed creature that is a harbinger of spring, or anything else you can think of. The idea is for us to get together & bring spring to each other. (Light refreshments will be provided, however, feel free to bring anything else you'd like to share!) Call Helen at (814) 451-0359 or email aichess@hotmail.com.

Apr 4—Happy Easter

Apr 4—Investigative Reports: Transgender Revolution (A&E) 9 PM, repeats at 1 AM.

Apr 7—"Always Our Children" meets Support group for Catholic parents of gay children. Meets 7-9 PM at Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St. 456-2091 for more info.

Apr 7—Fences (Pittsburgh) At Pittsburgh Public Theatre. April 7th will be 13th annual Pittsburgh Public Theatre's benefit for AIDS Task Force, call (412) 242-2599 for more info on this night. Performances continue April 8th

through May 9th. For more info on subsequent performances, call (412) 321-9800.

Apr 8—BYKOTA meets At Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. Christian Spirituality Group. Contact Julie or Sue at julie.sue@juno.com or 734-3959.

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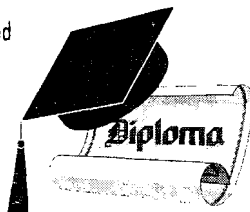
If you would like to reprint original articles or artwork that appeared in *EGN*, please contact us for permission, and please credit *Erie Gay News*. If an article or illustration contains the author's/creator's name, please credit them as well.

Thanks!

Items to send us in April

April 15— Deadline for info related to May and early June events:

Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Graduations, Commitment Ceremonies, Pride Month Celebrations



c/o EGC Coalition, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA 16502-1105
Phone: (814) 456-9833
Fax: (814) 452-1392
Email: egcn@ncinter.net
Web Site: <http://www.eriegaynews.com/>

The *Erie Gay News* is published monthly as a source of information, support and affirmation for lesbians, bisexuals, gay men, transgendered people, their friends, families and allies in the Erie area.

Contributors: Our deadline is the 15th of the month! We welcome and encourage all readers to submit timely news, comments and opinions of interest to the Erie and surrounding area's GLBT community for publication in these pages.

We **STRONGLY** recommend sending SASE for writers' guidelines or at least inquiring of the EGN staff before submitting articles! Please include contact information with any submissions (name, phone, email address, etc.) so we can contact you if we have questions.

We will consider for publication any *nonfiction* article or illustration graphic which broadens our understanding of our lives and each other. We won't publish any material which promotes hatred or discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, race, gender, religion, age, class, physical ability or any other reason. We do not support exploitation of minors.

Views and opinions appearing in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of EGN staff.

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Thanks for the March issue collators!

Thanks to Neal, Jim, Stan King, Greg Knowles, Richard Mentz, Paul Grubbs, Mick Boyle and Brian Skelly for helping us to collate the most recent issue of *EGN*! An extra special thank you to Jim for delivering to Jamestown.

If you would like to volunteer, please give us a call at 456-9833. You needn't feel obligated to become a regular or even to stay from start to finish. *Any help is always appreciated!*

Apr 8—HIV/AIDS and Spirituality Conference at Villa Maria, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. For more information call Erie County Department of Health at 451-6727.

Apr 10—Menspace: Hoe Down Come as your favorite cowboy, if you like. At Rob's. Call Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email egcn@ncinter.net for more info.

Apr 10—Renaissance City Mens's Choir: Spring Concert (Pittsburgh) at Jewish Community Center. For more information call (412) 362-9484 or email RCChoirs@aol.com.

Apr 10—North Coast Men's Chorus Concert (Cleveland) For more information call (440) 473-8919.

Apr 10—Investigative Reports: Transgender Revolution (A&E) 3 PM.

Apr 11—Cleveland Lesbian and Gay Community Center 2nd Annual Marriage Expo (Cleveland) For more information call (216) 522-1999.

Apr 12—Friends from the Heart Meets 6 PM, Well Being Ctr, 710 Beaumont. Info Deb Monohon Cleer 838-0123.

Apr 13—SAFER (HIV/AIDS) meets (Oil City) For more information, call (814) 677-9601 or email clmiller@usachoice.net

Apr 13—HIV/AIDS Support Group meets Call Cheryl Weber at 455-3786 for more info.

Apr 14—Classroom: Truman Capote: The Tiny terror (A&E) 7 AM. Profiles the famous openly gay writer.

Apr 15—2 girls alone at Aromas 7-9:30 PM, 2164 W 8th St. See article in last month's issue or email TwoGirlsAlone@worldnet.att.net.

Apr 15—Classroom: Andy Warhol: A Life at the Edge (A&E) 7 AM. Highlights the gay avant-garde artist.

Apr 16-18—Rainbow Wranglers Weekend Roundup (Cleveland) For more information, call (216) 961-5817.

Apr 16—Biography: Jeffrey Dahmer: The Monster Within (A&E) 8 PM, repeats at midnight.

Apr 17—Susan Westenhoeffer (Pittsburgh) Sponsored by GLCC of Pittsburgh. Reserve early, as she sold out last time! Call them at (412) 422-0114.

Apr 17—Wrecking Ball and Drag (Buffalo) Women's Fashion and Drag Show. 8 PM at Hamlin House on Franklin Street. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. For ticket information, call Margaret Smith at Hallwalls (716) 835-7362. Produced by Margaret Smith, Terence Fregoe, Garland Godhino. Proceeds benefit Buffalo United for Choice. BUC '99 to assist with women's defense and clinic defense during Operation Save America in April.

Apr 17—GLBT Writing Workshop (Jamestown, NY) 11 AM at the Unitarian Church in Jamestown, 1225 Prendergast Ave. For more info, call Dana at (716) 487-0644 or see article in Local News.

Apr 17—10% Network meets: Line Dancing Lessons (Jamestown, NY) 7 PM at the Unitarian Church in Jamestown, 1225 Prendergast Ave. For more info, call John at (716) 484-7285 or email otto@maddbbs.com.

Apr 21—"Always Our Children" meets Support group for Catholic parents of gay children. Meets 7-9 PM at Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St. 456-2091 for more info.

Apr 22—The Importance of Being Earnest opens at Mercyhurst Comedy of manners by gay playwright Oscar Wilde. Runs April 22-30 & May 1-2. All shows are at 8 PM except for Sundays (2:30 PM.) Contact Mercyhurst Theatre Department.

Apr 22—BYKOTA meets At Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. Christian Spirituality Group. Contact Julie or Sue at julie.sue@juno.com or 734-3959.

Apr 23—Interweave formation meeting (Jamestown, NY) 7 PM at the Unitarian Church in Jamestown, 1225 Prendergast Ave. For more info, call Bill at (716) 483-6362 or see article in Local News.

Northwest PA Rural AIDS Alliance

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Northwest Alliance	1001 State, Suite #806
RD #3, Box 75F	Baldwin Bldg.
Clarion PA 16214	Erie PA 16501
nwparaa@penn.com	nwpaids@erie.net

Apr 23—2 girls alone CD Release Party At Glassgrowers Gallery, 701 Holland St. See article in last month's issue or email TwoGirlsAlone@worldnet.att.net.

Apr 23—A Conversation with Director Tony Kushner (Pittsburgh) Live interview to be done by Warhol Museum Director, Tom Sokolowski, Byham Theatre, For More Information Call (412) 242-2500. A portion of the proceeds will go to PATF.

Apr 24—2 girls alone at 1000 French 8-11 PM. For more info, email TwoGirlsAlone@worldnet.att.net.

Apr 27—HIV/AIDS Support Group meets Call Cheryl Weber at 455-3786 for more info.

Apr 30—Happy Birthday to Anne Bretz, Michael Mahler's mom

Apr 30 & May 1—Renaissance City Choirs 2nd Annual Cabaret (Pittsburgh) Featuring In Acchord Acapella group. At East Liberty Presbyterian Church. For more info, call (412) 362-9484 or email RCChoirs@aol.com or PMartin100@aol.com.

May 1—Womynspace: Open Mike Night Bring a poem or poems to read, (yours or a favorite other's) or a comedy skit, and-who knows-maybe we'll even try Karaoke!! (Bring your own LYRICS, and any favorite CD's-BE BRAVE!!!!) For more info, call Helen at (814) 451-0359 or email aichess@hotmail.com.

May 1—Paula Poundstone at Ohio Theater (Cleveland) For tickets, call (800) 766-6048

May 1—Human Rights Campaign Dinner (Cleveland) Renaissance Hotel Grand Ballroom. Keynote speaker: The Honorable Willie Brown, Mayor of San Francisco. Tickets are \$150 per person. After April 1 the price will increase to \$175 per person. For more information call (440) 779-6444.

May 3—Beltane (Spring Equinox) at the UU 7 PM. Pagan holiday celebrated by GLBT-friendly Coven of Brighidshaven at Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie,

7180 New Perry Highway. Wear green, bring a drinking vessel and dish to pass for the potluck following. Info: Sharon at medhbh@velocity.net.

May 5—"Always Our Children" meets Support group for Catholic parents of gay children. Meets 7-9 PM at Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St. 456-2091 for more info.

May 6—PFLAG-Erie meets 7:00 PM Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. Info: Gary and David at 898-4210 (email blugnu@velocity.net) or Robin and Nancy at 835-7432 (email npengluv@aol.com)

May 8—Menspace At Bob's. Call Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email egcn@ncinter.net for more info.

May 8—Renaissance City Women's Choir Golf Outing (Pittsburgh) For more info, call (412) 362-9484 or email RCChoirs@aol.com or PMartin100@aol.com.

May 9—Happy Mother's Day

May 10—Friends from the Heart Meets 6 PM, Well Being Ctr, 710 Beaumont. Info Deb Monohon Cleer 838-0123.

May 11—SAFER (HIV/AIDS) meets (Oil City) For more information, call (814) 677-9601 or email clmiller@usachoice.net

May 11—HIV/AIDS Support Group meets Call Cheryl Weber at 455-3786 for more info.

May 13—BYKOTA meets At Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. Christian Spirituality Group. Contact Julie or Sue at julie.sue@juno.com or 734-3959.

May 15—2 girls alone at Barnes and Noble 7-9 PM. For more info, email TwoGirlsAlone@worldnet.att.net.

May 15—10% Network meets (Jamestown, NY) 7 PM at the Unitarian Church in Jamestown, 1225 Prendergast Ave. For more info, call John at (716) 484-7285 or email otto@maddbbs.com.

May 18—Pennsylvania Primary Election

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May 19—"Always Our Children" meets Support group for Catholic parents of gay children. Meets 7-9 PM at Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St. 456-2091 for more info.

May 24—Memorial Day (US) and Victoria Day (Canada)

May 25—HIV/AIDS Support Group meets Call Cheryl Weber at 455-3786 for more info.

May 27—BYKOTA meets At Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. Christian Spirituality Group. Contact Julie or Sue at julie.sue@juno.com or 734-3959.

Jun 2—"Always Our Children" meets Support group for Catholic parents of gay children. Meets 7-9 PM at Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St. 456-2091 for more info.

Jun 2-6—"Be All" Transgender Conference (Cleveland) International transgender conference, seminars from serious to just fun! at The Radisson Hotel in Cleveland. For more info call 330-923-3413 or <http://www.beall.net>.

Jun 3—PFLAG-Erie meets 7:00 PM Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. Info: Gary and David at 898-4210 (email blugnu@velocity.net) or Robin and Nancy at 835-7432 (email npenglun@aol.com).

June 4—2 girls alone at The Highland's Inn (Bethlehem, NH) Women's B&B. For more info, email TwoGirlsAlone@worldnet.att.net.

Jun 5—Womynspace Activity to be determined. Call Helen 451-0359 or email aichess@hotmail.com.

Jun 6—Gearing up for Summer Party/Picnic (Buffalo) First 1999 outdoor fundraiser/event for Buffalo's gay community. 2 PM to 8 PM at Front Park-Porter Ave. Downtown. Lunch, music, entertainment. Call (716) 882-7471 for more info.

Jun 6—5th Annual AIDS Walk (Pittsburgh) Sponsored by Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force (PATF). Flagstaff Hill (Oakland). For more info, call (412) 242-2500.

Jun 8—HIV/AIDS Support Group meets Call Cheryl Weber at 455-3786 for more info.

Jun 8—SAFER (HIV/AIDS) meets (Oil City) For more information, call (814) 677-9601 or email clmiller@usachoice.net

Jun 12—Annual Pride Erie Picnic Sponsored by Erie Community Pride Organization (ECPO). At Presque Isle State Park. For more info, call Mike Mahler at 456-9833 or email egcn@ncinter.net.

Jun 14—Friends from the Heart Meets 6 PM, Well Being Ctr, 710 Beaumont. Info Deb Monohon Cleer 838-0123.

Jun 16—"Victor/Victoria" benefit (Cleveland) Join the Cleveland Gay and Lesbian Center for a theater production of "Victor/Victoria" at the Cleveland Playhouse with a private meet the cast reception after the performance at the Wyndham Hotel. Performance is at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$95 per person. Please call The Center for tickets 216-522-1999.

Jun 19—Cleveland Frontrunners 1st Annual Pride 5k Run and Walk At Edgewater Park. For registration forms, please call 440-979-0151.

Jun 19—"Peace, Love, Pride" (Cleveland) Pride march and festival. For more info call (216) 371-0214.

Jun 20—Gay Day at Cedar Point (Sandusky OH)

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June 19—2 girls alone at Cup-a-ccino's 18 North Park Row, 9-11:30 PM. For more info, email TwoGirlsAlone@worldnet.att.net.

Weekly meetings

Sundays—Lambda Group (Gay AA) Open discussion. 8 PM at Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. Call Erie Hotline at (814) 453-5656 for more info.

Tuesdays—Identity (Edinboro University) 7 PM in Hendricks Hall room 101. For more info, call (814) 732-2647 or email dburdick@edinboro.edu.

Tuesdays—Mercyhurst Gay-Straight Alliance 8 PM in Zurn Room 213. For more info, call Dr. Watters at (814) 824-2371 or email her at bwatters@mercyhurst.edu or Veronica Ledoux at vledoux@hotmail.com.

Tuesdays—SUNY Fredonia GLBSU 10 PM in Williams Center. Has office in Multicultural Affairs Center, Thomas Hall. Fredonia NY. For more info, call (716) 673-3139 or email GLBSU@hotmail.com.

Wednesdays—Trigon (Penn State Behrend) 5:15 PM in the Multi-Culture Center. For more info, call 898-6030 or email trigonpsu@hotmail.com.

Michael dithers

by Mike Mahler

It has been rather a busy month here. Micheal and I will be celebrating our 6th anniversary of meeting on Good Friday.

It was nice speaking recently at Gannon and Edinboro. I usually can count on being on a couple of speaker panels a year. Actually, I think it's one of the easiest things in the world, since you are just speaking from your own experience. It's not like you have to memorize the political history of Albania. It was really cool that a student actively going to Gannon was on the panel there.

Did anyone else see the incredibly stupid column that Ann Landers had? A married heterosexual couple was kvetching that the husband's brother and partner were having a wedding and had asked their 9 year old daughter to be the flower girl, Ann replied that a gay wedding was certainly no place for children and that it really should be for a small circle of friends. Heavens, the poor tykes might learn that weddings are about celebrating the commitment of two people to each other and not about the relentless display of material possessions and the frenzied acquisition of same.

Micheal and I spent less than \$500 of our own money on our wedding (including the church rental!) We made a point of telling people that they were not obligated to bring a gift. A straight couple who are dear friends of ours performed the ceremony that Micheal and I wrote ourselves. A few people brought their children, which made for a nice feeling of including all aspects of humanity. By the way, Ann overlooks the fact that not all parents are straight.

Wow, does that sound like anything that anyone (even a child) should be threatened by? Or did we set a bad example by not spending a small fortune and extorting guests for gifts?

One more bit of rant: I just about lost it reading Jerry Falwell's bewildering statement about recently out and tres hunky first cousin once removed Brett Beasley. Falwell claimed to be unfamiliar with the man and his "claim to be a homosexual." I don't know about you, but all of these straight folks who try to claim that they're gay when they're not are so tiresome. Hasn't that routine been done to death?

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New Group at Kent State Ashtabula

"LGBU (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Union) has been formed at the Ashtabula Ohio Campus of Kent State University. LGBU is a student organization whose membership is open to the community at large, e.g. high school students, young adults, and anyone (parents, friends, etc) interested in supporting the objectives of LGBU. Its objectives are: To educate our campus and the surrounding community at large about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues; To lobby at all levels of government to further human rights; To provide social programming for our constituency and community members; To create a supportive environment for those in need from the campus to the surrounding communities, regardless of sexual orientation; To create a supportive environment with parents and friends of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community.

The end of this month, seven Ashtabula LGBU members will attend a LGBU three day conference at SUNY-Buffalo. Key note speaker is Dan Renzi, the "gay guy" in *Real World*-a Miami FL show, as well as appearing in the Chicago cast of *Making Porno*, and appearing on the cover of *Genre, ICON*, and being interviewed by *OUT*. Session topics range from sexual abuse in LGBT relationships, thinking gay liberation in the 21st century, coming out/homophobia, AIDS services, gay/bisexual legal rights, to spirituality and sexual orientation.

We would like to invite anyone interested in supporting the objectives of Kent Ashtabula's LGBU to come to our next meeting on Thursday, April 15 at 8:15 PM at Kent State University, Ashtabula room C133. For more info, call 440/992-9139 after 8:30 PM, or 440/964-4231 on Mondays/Wednesdays and ask for Jim Shiffer (if he's not there please leave a message on where/when you can be contacted); other times call 814/763-2022 and leave a message.

Keep us updated on what your group has been up to!

Genders within

Patty Puline, HIV/AIDS Educator from the Erie County Department of Health is in the process of organizing a group known as "Genders Within." She would like the assistance of interested persons and other organizations currently involved with GLBT issues to begin this group. Would daytime meetings be better than evening? What time would be good? Should we meet monthly or bi-monthly? What is a good location? Do we have a meeting place in mind? Two people have suggested meeting at Burger King in the mornings at about 10 AM. How do others feel about this?

The focus of "Genders Within" is to discover self, to promote a good self-concept, to discuss issues surrounding exploration of gender, promote safer sex practices and discover resources in our own community to enhance future quality of life.

Please call Patty at 451-6543 and tell her what your needs are and how to make this a successful group, not just another meeting. This group would be consumer-driven with no agenda set by the facilitator, but set by the group.

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Local news

BYKOTA meeting schedule

Please note that local Christian group Be Ye Kind One To Another (BYKOTA) is now meeting the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. If you are interested and would like more info, Call Susan or Julie at 734-3959.

Bike Ride

by Fred May

Looking for both men & women for a bike ride to Jamestown NY.

Please call Fred L May, (440)599-1460 (also same number for fax). Or write to: 202 W Main Rd, Lot #21, Conneaut OH 44030. Thanks!

Jamestown Interweave chapter

Interweave is a membership organization affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Church dedicated to the spiritual, political, and social well-being of those confronting oppression as lesbians, gay men, bisexual, transgender persons and their heterosexual allies; and facilitates the celebration of the culture and the lives of its members. Areas of interest for the group may include discussions, political developments impacting the gay community, socializing, gay married men, gay parents, video film series, and exploring spiritual issues. The first meeting will be Friday April 23 at 7 PM at the church. For more specific information please call Bill at (716) 483-6362

Writing Workshop

As part of the Welcoming Congregation project at the Unitarian church in Jamestown, Dana Skolfield is forming a writing workshop to encourage and motivate gay men and lesbians to get involved in the creative process of writing. The group will explore all forms of writing: fiction, nonfiction and autobiography, poetry, plays, screen and television writing. The group will explore especially those writing forms upon which the group wishes to concentrate; eventually developing an identifiable group of writers and their published works. The first meeting will be at the Unitarian Church of Jamestown 1255 Prendergast Ave. Saturday April 17 at 11 AM. For more specific information, please call Dana at (716) 487-0644.

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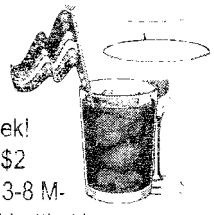
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Women's Festival Schedule for 1999

Many thanks to the Lesbian Connection for publishing this information and to Helen for getting it to us!

This list first appeared in Lesbian Connection, the free nationwide forum of news and ideas for lesbians. For more info or to get on LC's mailing list, lesbians should write LC, c/o Ambitious Amazons, PO Box 811, East Lansing, MI 48826.

Gulf Coast Womyn's Festival Apr 1-4 at Camp Sister Spirit. GCWF, Box 12-LC, Overtt, MS 39464, (601)344-1411 sisterspir@aol.com

CampFest May 26-31 (Memorial Weekend) near Oxford, PA. Campfest, PO Box 559, Franklinville, NJ 08322, (609)694-2037 TTY (301)598-9035 (eves) camfest@aol.com

Spring Fling May 28-31 (Memorial Weekend) at Camp Pleiades in the NC mtns. CP, 390 Garden Lane, Atlantic Beach, FL 32233 (888)324-3110, starcamp@aol.com

Virginia Women's Music Festival June 3-6 INTOUCH, Rt 2 Box 1096, Kent's Store, VA 23084 (804)589-6542

Womongathering June 10-13 in Poyntelle, PA PO Box 559, Franklinville, NJ 08322, (609)694-2037 womongathr@aol.com

National Women's Music Festival June 17-20 in Muncie, IN. WIA, Dept LC, PO Box 1427, Indianapolis, IN 46206 (317)927-9355 wia@indy.net

Golden Threads' Celebration June 25-27 in Provincetown, MA Golden Threads, PO Box 65, Richford, VT 05476-0065 (802)848-7037 GOLDENTRED@aol.com

Drumsong July 2-5 at Camp Pleiades in the NC mtns. CP, 390 Garden Lane, Atlantic Beach, FL 32233 (888)324-3110, starcamp@aol.com

National Conference For Lesbians Of Size July 9-11 in Kingston, NY NOLOSE, 245 Eighth Ave, New York, NY 10011, (201)843-4629, Nolosee@aol.com

Michigan Womyn's Music Festival Aug 10-15 near Hart, Michigan. WWTMC, PO Box 22, Waihalla, MI 49458 (616)757-4766 or (510)652-5441 (winter #)

Northeast Women's Musical Retreat Sept 3-6 (Labor Day Weekend) in Marlborough, CT. NEWMR, PO Box 57, Hartford, CT 06141 (860)293-8026 newmr99@aol.com

Star Fest Sept 3-6 (Labor Day Weekend) at Camp Pleiades in the NC mtns, CP, 390 Garden Lane, Atlantic Beach, FL 32233, (888)324-3110, starcamp@aol.com

Midwest Womyn's Autumnfest Sept 5 Athena Productions, 217 S 2nd St #193, DeKalb, IL 60115 (815)748-5359 mwautumn@aol.com

Sisterspace Weekend We're back! Sept 10- 12 in Darlington, Maryland (75 min from Phila). SisterSpace, 1315 Spruce St, Philadelphia, PA 19107, (215)476-8856 sodvnew@aol.com

Ohio Lesbian Festival Sept 11 near Columbus, Ohio. LBA, PO Box 82086, Columbus, OH 43202, (614)267-3953

Wild Western Women's Weekend Sep 24-26 INTOUCH, Rt 2 Box 1096, Kent's Store, VA 23084 (804)589-6542

Friends Fest Music Festival Oct 1-3. 25 miles west of Austin, TX. Recreation Plantation Campground, 3650 Pursley Rd, Dripping Springs, TX 78620 (512)894-0567, tree01@flash.net

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Discrimination

From Patty Puline, Health Educator

"Quashawn Donovan, an eight-year-old girl with HIV, has filed suit against the Girl Scouts claiming that they discriminated against her. Donovan asserts that the Girl Scouts prevented her from joining at least three New York troops because of her HIV status. The suit was brought by New York City's Legal Action Center, which is asking the New York state Human Rights division to assess damages and compel the Girl Scouts to conduct HIV-awareness training." "Nationline: HIV-Positive Girl Sues Girl Scouts" USA Today (03/11/99) P. 3A; Willing, Richards

Anyone who has ever suffered any form of discrimination and is reading this article can certainly identify with the feelings of this little girl. I teach HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness every day for the Erie County Department of Health-that's my job. But no matter where I go, there will always be a handful of people who do not understand the real dangers of AIDS.

The real dangers of AIDS are:

Fear Fear leads people to do crazy things sometimes. People have an irrational fear of getting the virus from someone who is HIV positive. From the above article, it is quite clear the Girl Scouts have this fear. They need to understand what is meant by the words "casual contact." You cannot get AIDS from shaking hands, hugging, or eating with someone who is HIV positive. They are not alone in their fears of the unknown.

Quite often students in school will ask me if they can get it by sharing a soda pop, or eating off the same spoon, or having this person sneeze on them. HIV is not airborne, it is bloodborne. It needs to get into your bloodstream to replicate

Fear can keep people from being kind, tolerant and generous to those affected by AIDS. It can eradicate bonds shared in families, with neighbors or it can damage the possibility of friendships. In this case, it can even keep you from entering into clubs or organizations.

Fear can often make people act mean in spite of their kind nature. One woman who I consider to be quite educated was actually mean to an HIV positive friend of mine. Later I asked her why she acted that way. "Because

I didn't want him to sit next to me," she said, "I was afraid." Even though we went over her irrational fears, I left feeling she didn't really understand.

Lack of knowledge: Education is the real key to turn fear around. The messages we give to students in school is based on the World AIDS Day slogan for this year: "Be a Force for Change" Ignorance is relative. Students learn to be a force for change in their own circle and sphere of influence. You can be a force for change in your family, on your job, in your life. Knowledge about HIV/AIDS is provided to schools, social service agencies and community organizations free of charge. Specialized curriculum can be designed for any age level or special needs. I agree with the proponent of teaching Girl Scouts about HIV/AIDS. This is one of the ways to break down the walls of ignorance and fear.

Ignorance: Ignorance - I might be ignorant on how to bait a hook, but you might be ignorant about Human Immunodeficiency Virus. Ignorance is relative. It's not who you are, but what you do that puts you at risk for HIV infection. Most of the people who are infected with HIV made choices that affected their life. They chose to share needles, they chose to have unprotected sex, they chose to drink, to do drugs, to cloud their judgment. It doesn't matter who you are, where you live, where you work, how much you make or how much you have. HIV infection comes knocking on everyone's door. You are the gatekeeper, you have a choice to lock or unlock the door. Keep your keys in a safe place.

The new millennium charges us to find a cure for AIDS. We need to start working together toward that cure. In order for us to work together, we first need to conquer outdated fears that prevent us from tapping into each other's resources.

The Girl Scouts need to remember the words of their own promise: "On my honor I will try: to serve God and country, to help people at all times, and to live by the Girl Scout Law."

"To help people at all times" should include Quashawn Donovan.

Remember our deadline is April 15

Q-list

by Mike Miller

Theatre and film

Well it's official. **Whopie Goldberg** has now run the full gamut from A to Z by playing a black lesbian in *The Deep End of the Ocean*, and a white queen at the opening of this year's **Academy Awards** which she hosted.

Gay actor **Rupert Everett** who took on the Bard in this year's Oscar darling *Shakespeare In Love*, will take on one of the Bards' most fabulous roles as Oberon, king of the fairies in the latest film adaptation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He will also be appearing with diva **Madonna** in *The Next Best Thing* directed by Oscar-winning **John Schlesinger** of *Midnight Cowboy* fame.

It had to come sooner or later. Comedy Central's *South Park* is being made into a movie, *South Park, Bigger, Longer & Uncut* and there seems to be a bit of gay influence upon it including musical direction by Oscar and Grammy nominated gay composer **Marc Shaiman** as well as production by **Scott Rudin** who brought us *The Addams Family* and *The First Wives Club*.

Ellen, besides appearing in her mom's book, (read on), has a supporting role in the movie *EdTV* and *Goodbye, Lover*, out at theatres now. Meanwhile, her real-life lover **Anne Heche** has roles in the upcoming movies *Trixie* and *The Third Miracle*.

The Edge of Seventeen, a coming out story set in the '80's has queer shock comic **Lea DeLaria** playing - what else? - a lesbian.

Party of Five's **Scott Wolf** and **Jay Mohr**, whom you might remember from *Jerry Maguire* have a gay on-screen romance in director Doug Liman's *Go!*

Gay director of TV series *NYPD Blue*, **Paris Barclay**, is slated to work with Anthony Edwards' Aviator Films on the silver screen version of **Larry Kramer's** classic AIDS angst era play *The Normal Heart*. Meanwhile **David Drake** is taking to the silver screen with an independent production of his '92 Obie award winning off-Broadway one man show *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me*, all about coming of age in the age of AIDS.

Always check TV & theatre info against your local newspaper listings for play dates & times

TV and video

Speaking of *NYPD Blue*, openly gay actor **Bill Brochtrup** has signed up as a regular as the openly gay office assistant, John Irvin, which might mean the possibility of seeing him in partial nudity, as that seems to be part of all the regulars' contracts.

Dawson's Creek, which airs Wednesdays on WB, continues to win kudos from groups like the **Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation**, for portraying the coming out process of teenage character Jack McPhee (played by **Kerr Smith**) in a sensitive and realistic way. Jack even gets a potential love interest named Colin (played by **Nick Stabile**). Co-star **Joshua Jackson** doesn't play gay in *Dawson's Creek*, but does wake up in the same bed with hunky actor **Eric Mabius** in *Cruel Intentions*, the teenage rich set re-make of *Dangerous Liaisons*, out at the- atres now.

Documentary bad-boy **Michael Moore**, who, among other things, got a gay chorus to sing an anti-hate serenade under **Jesse Helms'** window on his wonderfully infamous, yet short-lived, mid-90's show *TV Nation*, is back to his tricks again with *The Awful Truth* which starts airing on Bravo April 11th. In one of the segments, Moore films a pink RV full of gay travellers dubbed the "Sodomobile" as it makes its merry way through the home towns of fag baiters and bashers **Trent Lott** and **Fred Phelps**. For anyone who might not recognize what crawls on the bottoms of rocks, Trent Lott is the Senate Majority Leader who has publicly compared homosexuality to alcoholism and Reverend Fred Phelps is the leader of Westboro Baptist Church who makes a habit of picketing victims of AIDS and gay hate crimes. His people

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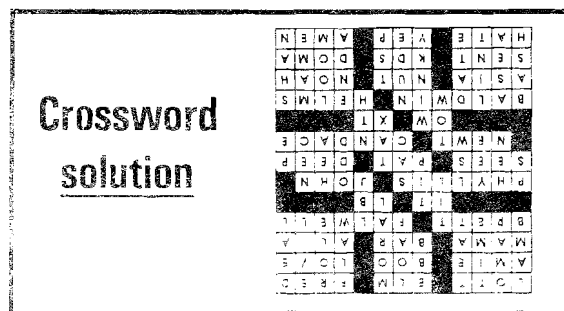
picketed **Matthew Shepard's** funeral, by shouting and waving signs reading "No Fags In Heaven." If you like to rub salt in fresh paper cuts, check out their web page www.GodHatesFags.com, then check out www.GodHatesFredPhelps.com for an antidote. Think of Moore's Sodomobile as a gay Freedom Ride, complete with "Buggery On Board" stickers.

Video stores are a veritable treasure trove of gay-themed stuff right now. All the gay flicks that were released in the fall (including ones mentioned in past Q-lists) are now on the rental and for sale shelves. And all the end of year stuff that got Oscar, Golden Globe, or even Sundance nods should keep popping onto those shelves all the way into Gay Pride Month. Go rent or buy something!

Music

Songstress **Dusty Springfield** died this past March, days before being inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and not long after the announcement that she would receive the Order of the British Empire from the Queen of England. See obit on page 14. In honor of the '60's Diva, Rhino Records has released her classic **Dusty in Memphis** and the R&D label will be releasing **Forever Dusty**, a tribute with covers supplied entirely by female acts. **The Indigo Girls** are already slated to record for the CD due out in early summer. Aside from her diva status, Dusty piqued the interest of many gays in the '70's when she admitted to an interviewer that "I'm as perfectly capable of being swayed by a girl as by a boy."

A retro diva of another stripe, **Debbie Harry** is back with **Chris Stein** and the rest of **Blondie** on a new CD entitled **No Exit** on the Beyond Records label. The comeback CD is just what you might expect from **Blondie** - an unexpected combination of punk-pop-glam-jazz-rap-funk-rock.



Fans of sexy, gay-friendly crooner **Bernadette Peters** can rejoice. She can be heard on **Sondheim, Etc. Bernadette Peters Live at Carnegie Hall** and the original cast recording for **Annie Get Your Gun** both recently released by Angel Records.

Just out

E! anchorman **Steven Kmetko**, well, sort of. Actually, he has been pretty out professionally, and has even let it slip in a nationally televised interview with **Susan Sarandon** when she told him that "Chicks dig men who are... sensitive", and he interjected "But, I'm gay," after which she added, "Oh, well, chicks like that, too." But, like **Nathan Lane** in the previous issue, Kmetko felt compelled by the ground swell of hate that led to the death of Matthew Shepard (and others) to make a public statement of his orientation in an interview in March 30's **Advocate**. The clean-cut, good-looking Kmetko also talked about his blossoming relationship with heartthrob Olympic diver and author **Greg Louganis**, lightheartedly fending off any comparisons to the former Mr. & Mr. Bob & Rod Jackson-Paris.

Whether you ask or not, sometimes blood *will* tell. **Jerry Falwell** need not look to weekday morning kids shows to find someone to gay-bash. It's right in his family tree. Cousin **Brett Beasley** has decided to publicly come out after having had enough of listening to Falwell condemning gay people for "years at his bully pulpit" as he put it in the same issue of **Advocate**. It turns out that the very hunky Beasley has also posed in **Men** magazine. Good for him on both counts. I guess that blows the idea of family resemblances.

Books

While on the subject of the loves of **Greg Louganis**... I thought he was reputed to be interested in bears, not puppies. Using plenty of examples from real-life experiences, Louganis (with Betsy Sikora Siino) gives us a complete resource for raising and loving our best friends in **For the Life of Your Dog: From Adoption & Birth, Through Sickness & Health** (Pocket Books, \$24).

With the coming of spring comes clothing that reveals what are not our best friends - the love handles we may have gained over the winter. In our sometimes all-too-booksist LGBT culture, that means body issues. **Jeanine Cogan, PhD** examines how lesbian body image is

influenced by heterosexual ideas of 'beauty' in **Lesbians, Levis and Lipstick: The Meaning of Beauty in Our Lives** (Haworth Press, 14.95). **Edisol Wayne Dotson** reminds us that men are increasingly falling prey to unrealistic ideas of beauty, too, in **Behold the Man: The Hype and Selling of Male Beauty in Media and Culture** (Haworth Press, \$19.95).

In time for you to read it before giving it as a Mothers' Day gift is **Love, Ellen: A Mother/Daughter Journey** (Rob Weisbach Books, \$24.00) in which **Betty Degeneres** speaks her mind on the coming out of her famous daughter and her own coming out as an activist - as the first straight spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign's Coming Out Project.

On the darker side, when **Andrew Cunanan** gained international attention with the murder of designer **Gianni Versace**, the media painted his actions in very broad strokes as the pointless killing spree of a demented monster. Author **Gary Indiana**, in **Three Month Fever** (Cliff Street Books, \$25) pares away the lurid media-circus claptrappings, to expose a disturbingly normal, boy-next-door Andrew Cunanan, that we can only hope is NOT next door.

Comics

Alison Bechdel continues to show us a dead-on, funny look at lesbian life as she packs up our favorite dykes and moves them into **Split-Level Dykes to Watch Out For** (Firebrand, \$10.95). You can also get an intriguing autobiographical look into the formation of the dyke-toonist as well as some early work and never before published strips in **The Indelible Alison Bechdel** (Firebrand, \$16.95).

Men looking for an equally frank and witty comic can try out **Ralf Konig's Konrad and Paul** (Kitchen Sink Press \$12.95) about a gay couple with some hysterical issues - one's a clean-cut artsy type, the other is, well, a sex-pig. Or you can browse a weekly on-line strip penned by **Terri Bechthold** called **The Adventures of EnnieMoe** at <http://glweb.com/enniemoe/> or find out what other comics are out there by clicking on <http://members.aol.com/GayOLeague/comics.html>.

Politics

Author **Andrew Tobias** of the gay coming of age classic **The Best Little Boy in the World** (Modern Library, \$15.95), and **The Best Little Boy in the World Grows Up**


(Random House, \$23.95) has agreed to become treasurer of the **Democratic Party**, (appointment still pending vote by the Democratic National Convention as of this writing). So I guess he's *really* grown up. Which should hearten us all a bit, that a gay man can crash through the glass ceiling to hold the purse strings of the largest political group in the country. Of course, I'll be more likely to breathe a sigh of relief when the Log Cabin is able to take a leadership role in the Republican GOP instead of dodging censure by its own party.

Health

Of no surprise to anyone that's encountered the rampant sexism and heterosexism of the medical establishment, the **Institute of Medicine** found that researchers and health care providers are simply unaware of the health issues of lesbians and bisexual women. Despite evidence of higher risk of breast and ovarian cancer, and lower access to health care providers, most doctors, even gynecologists, have no training in how to deal specifically with the health concerns of non-heterosexual women. Part of the problem was a difficulty in defining who is or isn't a lesbian or bisexual, and an (apparently correct) perception by most women that their doctors cannot adequately discuss problems specific to their sexual orientations.

Shopping

Guys. Mom forget to give you underwear for Christmas? A company called **Tractor Boy** founded by a gay couple based in southeast Georgia has started marketing their classic men's brief with a rainbow "pride stripe" on the waistband. They also plan to make a boxer and mid-rise so you can keep your business "...somewhere under the rainbow." You can reach them at www.tractorboy.com.



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Across: *Themed clues

- 1 Senate Majority Leader Trent who equated homosexuality with kleptomania and alcoholism*
- 5 Shade tree
- 8 Baptist Reverend Phelps who pickets gay funerals*
- 12 French girl-'friend'?
- 13 Comment from Casper
- 14 What the world needs now
- 15 Don't forget her May 9th
- 16 Tavern or pub
- 17 Inter _____, 'among others' in Latin
- 18 Openly gay cousin of 20 across Beasley*
- 20 Moral Majority leader Jerry*
- 22 '84 Turner hit *What's Love Got to Do with ___*?
- 24 A pound, with shortening
- 25 Anti-gay Eagle Forum founder Schlafly*
- 30 Gay son of 25 across*
- 34 Processes optical stimuli
- 35 Christian Coalition leader Robertson*

- 37 '99 Goldberg as lesbian detective film *The ___ End of the Ocean*
- 39 Family Values preaching former House Speaker Gingrich*
- 41 Gay activist half-sister to 39 across*
- 43 Cry of pain
- 45 A very old computer, (initials)
- 46 Openly lesbian freshman Wisconsin Representative Tammy*
- 51 Fag-bashing (much too) long-time Carolina Senator Jesse*
- 56 Largest continent
- 57 Macadamia or Hazel, for example
- 59 Biblical sailor
- 60 Transmitted
- 61 Belonging to singer lang
- 62 Defense of Marriage Act
- 63 T-shirt slogan ignored by 1, 8, 20, 25, 39 & 51 across, "____ Is NOT a Family Value"
- 64 Quote by Ellen appearing on the cover of *Time* magazine: "____, I'm Gay."
- 65 End of a prayer

Down:

- 1 Young flock member
- 2 Streisand's '68 *Funny Girl* co-star Sharif
- 3 What clocks measure
- 4 Where cow's milk comes out
- 5 Lessening tide
- 6 Bread unit
- 7 Teaching or exhibiting good character or behavior, unlike some members of the organization mentioned in 35 across
- 8 Defect of character or physical abnormality; being gay isn't one
- 9 Actor's part
- 10 Opposite of good, sometimes claimed to be necessary
- 11 Run a card game
- 19 Words at some commitment ceremonies "... ___ death do us part"
- 21 After JFK, but before Nixon
- 23 "To insure pramptness" from your server
- 25 Initials after the end of a letter
- 26 Easter egg source
- 27 Actor Kelvin Han _____, from '86's *A Great Wall*
- 28 Licensed Social Worker
- 29 Ball container?
- 31 Not even
- 32 Babylonian deity
- 33 Nikkei Electronics Corporation
- 36 Must be postmarked by the 15th, or the IRS WILL find you.
- 38 Physical Education, ta Coach
- 40 Pull a wreck
- 42 The ultimate degree
- 44 Tinky _____, a recruiter of preschoolers to the "gay lifestyle", if you believe 20 across
- 46 To violently attack, for example, a gay person
- 47 Adrift
- 48 What lines your pockets when the money runs out
- 49 A tropical fruit, or a romantic appointment, potentially synonymous to a gay man south of the border.
- 50 Unclothed
- 52 Employment Nandiscrimination Act
- 53 Underwear maker, Fruit of the Loom
- 54 '74 Lucille Ball musical flap
- 55 Indo-Chinese language
- 58 Teaspoon, to a cookbook author

Obituary

Dusty Springfield Singer Dusty Springfield lost her battle with breast cancer on March 2. She was 59. A gay and lesbian icon who produced numerous hits in the 60's ("I Only Want to be With You", "Son of a Preacher Man", etc). In recent years she recorded with The Pet Shop Boys ("What Have I Done to Deserve This?"). She never married and though there were reports that Dusty had relationships with women, they remained unconfirmed at the time of her death. Her manager and friend Vicki Wickham called Springfield's cat Nicholas "the love of her life."

Resource directory

Please note that this an abbreviated listing! For a more complete listing, either check <http://www.eriegaynews/areasrc.html> or mail a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) to 1115 W 7th St, Erie PA 16502-1105 or call us at (814) 456-9833.

24 Hour Counseling

- Erie Hotline 453-5656 or (800) 628-0190
 Saint Vincent 452-5151
 Community Integration Crisis Services 456-2014
 Hamot 877-6136
 Victims of Anti-Gay Hate Crimes 1-800-259-1536

Bars

- Nite Spot ▼
 201 Winsor, Jamestown, NY. Open Tues-Sun 7 PM - 2 am.
 Rascals ▼ (716)484-3220
 701 North Main St, Jamestown, NY. Open 3 PM to 2 AM 7 days a week.
 Sneakers ▼ (716)484-8816
 100 Harrison, Jamestown, NY. Open Mon-Sun 2pm-2am.
 The Village ▼ 452-0125
 133 W 18th St, Erie PA. Open Mon-Sun 8 PM - 2 AM.
 The Zone Dance Club ▼ 459-1711
 1711 State St, Erie PA. Open Mon-Sat 8 PM - 2 AM.

Counseling

- Family Service of Jamestown N.Y. (716)488-1971
 Fredonia Office (716)679-3455
 Gay and Lesbian National Hotline (6 PM.- 11 PM. Mon.-Fri).
 1-888-THE-GLNH (1-888-843-4564)
 Lake Erie Counseling Associates 455-4009
 Well Being Center ▼ 838-0123 (Deb Monohon)

Info-Lines

- Chautauqua County NY (North) (716) 679-3560
 Chautauqua County NY (South) (716) 484-8434
 Erie 456-9833

Religious Organizations

- BYKOTA- Be Ye Kind One To Another 734-3959 (Susan Laurie)
 Ecumenical. Open to Christians of all denominations/orientations.
 Temple Anshe Hessed (Reform Congregation) 454-2426
 930 Liberty St, Erie PA.
 Cathedral of St. Paul (Episcopal) 452-3779
 134 W 7th St, Erie PA
 Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie ▼ 864-9300
 7180 New Perry Highway.
 Unitarian Universalist Congreg of Jamestown ▼ ... (716) 488-1902
 1255 Prendergast Ave.
 "Always Our Children" 456-2091
 For the Catholic parents of GLBT children. Supportive, but for parents only.

Social Organizations

- 10% Network ▼ (716)484-7285 (John)
 Chautauqua County, NY.
 Menspace 456-9833 (Michael)
 Monthly social group for Erie area gay/bi men.
 Womynspace Coffeehouse ▼ 451-0359 (Helen)
 Alcohol, smoke-free environment for lesbians. Monthly theme, topic or activity.

Student Organizations/Youth

- Committee in Support of Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual People (CSGLBP,
 Allegheny College, Meadville) ▼ 332-4368 (Nancy)
 Closet Culture (GLBT's 22 or younger, Erie) 899-6528 (Mark)
 Covenant House Teen Hotline 1-800-999-9999
 Identity (Edinboro U.) & email: dburdick@edinboro.edu
 Jamestown Comm. College Grp ▼ (716)665-5220 ext 204
 or 664-9174 (Greg Rabb)
 Mercyhurst College Gay/Straight Alliance ▼ 824-2371 (Dr. Watters)
 National Runaway Switchboard 1-800-621-4000
 SUNY-Fredonia GLBSU (716)673-3139 or (716) 673-3149
 Teen Hotline (412)771-8336
 Trigon (Penn State Behrend) ▼ 898-6030 or (Sue Daley) 898-6164

Support Groups

- Erie Sisters Transgender Support Group (TV/TS/CD)
 write Erie Sisters, 1903 W 8th St, Suite 261, Erie PA 16505
 Lambda Group—Gay AA ▼ 452-2675
 Partners (LesBiGay group, Corry PA) (814) 664-7090 (Luella)
 PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)
 PFLAG-DuBois PA Karen or John Kressley at 371-8962
 PFLAG-Erie Gary & David 898-4210
 Sexual Compulsives Anonymous (SCA) 453-5656 (Erie Hotline)

HIV/AIDS Resources

- AIDS Action Team (AACT) Gannon 871-7233
 AIDS Bereavement Support Group 452-3779 (Sue Kuebler)
 Sponsored by HIV/AIDS Outreach Ministry of the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Paul.
 AIDS Network Information 451-6700
 Friends from the Heart 838-0123 (Deb Monohon)
 HIV/AIDS Outreach Ministry of Cath. of St. Paul (Episcopop) 452-3779
 NW PA Rural AIDS Alliance (Erie Ofc) ▼ 456-8849/(800)400-AIDS
 St. Mark's/Catholic Charities Support Group &
 Cheryl Weber at 455-3786, if no answer 825-1085
 AIDS Community Services (Jamestown, NY) ▼ (716)664-7855
 Crawford Co. AIDS Coalition 337-3241
 HIV+ Support Grps (Meadville PA) 333-5800 (Rosemary Buzzard)

▼ = Erie Gay News available here! & = Handicap accessible



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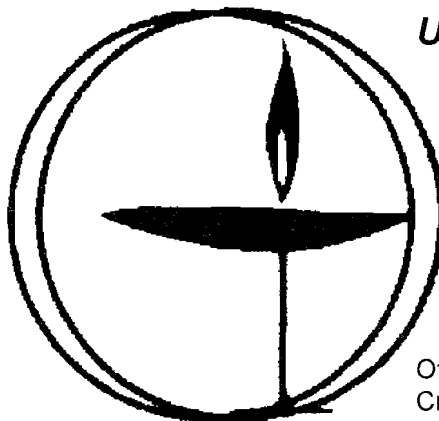
CLINIC HOURS

Monday 12:00 pm – 3:30 pm
Tuesday 9:30 am – 1:00 pm
Thursday 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

Counseling & Testing is also available by
appointment at our Corry office.
Call (814) 663-3891 for appointment

For additional information on HIV testing or
Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) testing,
call the Health Department at (814) 451-6700.

HIV/AIDS Education & Training Program
phone: (814) 451-6727 • fax: (814) 451-6774
email: aidsed@ecdh.org • www.ecdh.org



Unitarian Church of Jamestown
1255 Prendergast Ave.

Invites gays, bisexual, lesbian, families, and friends

To an Open House Celebrating
Alternative Families and Individual Life Styles
Sunday May 2 beginning at 10:30 AM
(Lunch will be provided)

Other dates:
Creative Writing Workshop April 17
Startup Meeting for Interweave April 23