

EGN

Erie Gay News

Calendar

Sep 1—"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.

Sep 2—PFLAG Erie meets See more info in Local News, page 9. 7 PM at the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. For more info, contact Mary or Robin at (814) 868-8969 or email Mary at mumnbo@juno.com.

Sep 2—"In The Life" airs (PBS WQED TV 13 Pittsburgh PA) 11 PM. See the article on page 11.

Sep 2—LGBU at Kent meets (Ashtabula) At Kent State-Ashtabula 8 PM, room C-133. Teens, young adults, students, adults. Everyone welcome. For info, contact Jim at (814) 763-2022 or shifferj@toolcity.net, Lisa at (440) 992-9139 (after 8:30 PM) or lisann_27@hotmail.com or email jnk_nj@hotmail.com.

Sep 3-6—Jones Pond Campground: Labor Day Weekend (Angelica NY) "400 Block Hat & Cock-Tail Party, Pool Closing." For more info, call (716) 567-8100, email info@jonespond.com or browse www.jonespond.com.

Sep 5—Annual Black Ball (Buffalo) Free admission 18+. Club E Buffalo, 393 Ellicott, Buffalo NY. (716) 856-5846. Browse <http://www.nypride.com>.

Sep 6—"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.

Sep 6—Happy Labor Day

Sep 6—Dancin' in the Streets (Akron, OH) \$5 benefits Violet's Cupboard, DJ Dan of Babylon and DJ Doug of the Interbelt. 1 PM to 11 PM on Canal St behind Interbelt Night Club (70 N Howard St) in Akron. Call Jeff (330) 253-5700 or Jackie (330) 375-2159 for more info.

Sep 6—Labor Day Picnic (Pittsburgh) Fund-raiser by Delta Foundation benefiting area GLBT groups. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the date. Available at The Zone, 1711 State St, Erie PA and at all Pittsburgh gay bars.

Sep 9—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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This Month's Cover:

Park Bench

by Michael A. Miller



If you want to reprint...

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 September



Sept 15— Deadline for info related to October and early November events:

National Coming Out Day, National Gay History Month, National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Halloween, Election Day.

c/o EGC Coalition, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA 16502-1105
Phone: (814) 456-9833
Fax: (814) 452-1392
Email: info@eriegaynews.com
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 August issue collators!

Thanks to Richard Mentz, Tina Phillips, Suzanne Pessa, Brian Skelly, Dave Amy, Neal, Jerry McCumber, Stan King, Paul Grubbs, Mick Boyle and Paul for helping us to collate the most recent issue of *EGN*!

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!*

Sep 10-12--Jones Pond Campground: Country Western Weekend (Angelica NY) 'Scavenger Hunt, Hayride.' For more info, call (716) 567-8100, email info@jonespond.com or browse www.jonespond.com.

Sep 10-12--Ohio Leather Fest (Cleveland) Workshops and demonstrations on consensual sadomasochism, parties, vendors. Cleveland <http://www.ohioleatherfest.com>, email info@ohioleatherfest.com or call (440) 835-6946.

Sep 11--Womynspace-CANCELLED! "The group is on hiatus until further notice. If you are interested, call Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email info@eriegaynews.com for more info (note new email address!)"

Sep 11--Happy Rosh Hashanah

Sep 11--11th Annual Ohio Lesbian Festival Over 60 booths, workshops, sports and food. Also includes performance by Erie duo, 2 Girls Alone. 11 AM to 11 PM. \$24 in advance. \$30 gate. Send check with SASE to LBA Festival, Box 82086, Columbus OH 43202, call (614) 267-3953, or (614) 294-6034 or email jlbirkhoff@juno.com. See article in last month's issue.

Sep 11--Menspace For info and location, call Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email info@eriegaynews.com for more info (note new email address!)

Sep 12--21st Annual NOCI We are Family Picnic Benefit for Northern Ohio Coalition's funding of gay and AIDS programs. 10 AM to 6 PM. Call (216) 781-6624 for more info.

Sep 12--Miss Gay Big and Beautiful New York (Buffalo) Club E Buffalo, 393 Ellicott, Buffalo NY. (716) 856-5846. Browse <http://www.nypride.com>.

Sep 13--Friends from the Heart Meets 6 PM, Well Being Ctr, 710 Beaumont. Info Deb Monohon Cleer 838-0123.

Sep 14--HIV/AIDS Support Group meets Call Cheryl Weber at 455-3786 for more info.

Sep 16--LGBU at Kent meets (Ashtabula) At Kent State-Ashtabula 8 PM, room C-133. Teens, young adults, students, adults. Everyone welcome. For info, contact Jim at (814) 763-2022 or shifferj@toolcity.net, Lisa at (440) 992-9139 (after 8:30 PM) or lisann_27@hotmail.com or email jnk_nj@hotmail.com.

Sep 18--10% Network meets: Cottage fun (Jamestown, NY) Jim and Greg will be hosting a fun time at their cottage in the woods near Springville. Bring food and games. If you are interested in going, call Greg for time, information and directions to the cottage. Call Greg at (716) 664-4764.

Sep 18--Beach Party at The Zone 10 PM. Prizes, etc. 1711 State St, Erie PA. For more info, call (814) 459-1711.

Sep 19--AIDS Walk (Cleveland) 5K route begins and ends at Edgewater Park. 9 AM registration, 11 AM step-off. For more info, call The Center at (216) 522-1999 or email thecenter@earthlink.net.

Sep 19--New York Circuit Party (Buffalo) Club E Buffalo, 393 Ellicott, Buffalo NY. (716) 856-5846. Browse <http://www.nypride.com>.

Sep 19--The Shared Heart photo/text exhibit (Cleveland) Featuring exquisite portraits of GLBT young people. Opening reception will take place at Lake Effect restaurant, 4202 Detroit Ave. Come out to meet the photographer, see the powerful photos, and meet other students from gay/straight alliances. For more info, call The Center at (216) 522-1999 or email thecenter@earthlink.net.

Sep 20--ECPC meets "Community-wide planning for HIV/AIDS prevention in Erie County. Meets at Serenity Hall, 414 W 5th St. Refreshments served from 5:30 PM to 6 PM. Meeting from 6 to 7:30 PM. For more info, call Sonny Concepcion at the Hispanic American Council at (814) 455-0212 or hayso@erie.net or Sandra Quigley at the NW PA Rural AIDS Alliance at (814) 456-8849."

THE ZONE DANCE CLUB

New Hours
Mon-Fri 4 PM - 2 AM SAT 8 PM - 2 AM

Happy Hour 5-7 Mon-Fri!

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Mon-Thurs 4 PM-Midnight
Fri 4-10 PM Sat 8-10 PM

GET INTO THE ZONE!
1711 STATE STREET, ERIE, PA 459-1711

Sep 20—Mabon 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 black, bring a drinking vessel and dish to pass for the potluck following. Info: Sharon at medhbh@velocity.net.

Sep 20—Yom Kippur

Sep 23—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.

Sep 23—2 girls alone at Aromas 2174 W 8th St. 7-9 PM. For more info, email TwoGirlsAlone@worldnet.att.net

Sep 24-26—Jones Pond Campground: Horror in the Woods (Angelica NY) "600 Block Halloween Party." For more info, call (716) 567-8100, email info@jonespond.com or browse www.jonespond.com.

Sep 26—"In The Life" airs (PBS WQLN TV 54 Erie PA) 11 PM. See the article on page 11.

Sep 26—Octoberfest and Contest (Buffalo) Club E Buffalo, 595 Ellicott, Buffalo NY. (716) 856-5846. Browse <http://www.nypride.com>.

Sep 26—AIDS Walk '99 (Buffalo) At Delaware Park Casino. For more info, call AIDS Community Services at (716) 847-2022 or email acsedu@aol.com.

Sep 28—HIV/AIDS Support Group meets Call Cheryl Weber at 455-3786 for more info.

Oct 1-3—Jones Pond Campground: Camp closing (Angelica NY) "Saturday Pot Luck Dinner" For more info, call (716) 567-8100, email info@jonespond.com or browse www.jonespond.com.

Oct 2—Womynspace-CANCELLED! "The group is on hiatus until further notice. If you are interested, call Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email info@eriegaynews.com for more info (note new email address!)"

Oct 3—AIDS Walk Akron Walk and 5K run. 3 PM (330) 375-2000.

Oct 6—"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.

Oct 7—LGBU at Kent meets (Ashtabula) At Kent State-Ashtabula 8 PM, room C-133. Teens, young adults, students, adults. Everyone welcome. For info, contact Jim at (814) 763-2022 or shifferj@toolcity.net, Lisa at (440) 992-9139 (after 8:30 PM) or lisann_27@hotmail.com or email jnk_nj@hotmail.com.

Oct 7—PFLAG Erie meets We'll be getting together at 7 PM at the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. For more info, contact Nancy (814) 835-7432 or npengluv@aol.com.

Oct 8—Quantin Crisp (Cleveland) Reluctant gay poster child will share stories with his dark, scathing wit. At Cleveland Public Theatre, 6415 Detroit Ave. Cleveland OH. For more info, call the theatre at (216) 631-6727.

Oct 8—"Queer Shorts"/Out in Akron Film festival (Free.) At Highland Theatre, 826 West Market St, Akron, OH. Part of Out in Akron 1999 GLBT Queer Cultural Festival. For more info, email outinakron@aol.com or browse <http://www.rainbow-akron.com/oia>, or call Sandra Kurt at (330) 869-0065.

Oct 9—2nd Erie GLBT Pride Rally (Perry Square) For more info, contact Helen Streett at aichess@hotmail.com or Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com. See article page 6.

Oct 9—"An Evening with Harvey Fierstein: This is not going to be pretty"/Out in Akron Cash bar at 7 PM, performance at 8 PM. Tickets are \$20. Include all service charges and can be purchased through Box Office Tickets at (800) 494-TIXS. TDD number is (877) TDD-TIXS. At Highland Theatre, 826 West Market St, Akron, OH. Part of Out in Akron 1999 GLBT Queer Cultural Festival. For more info, email outinakron@aol.com or browse <http://www.rainbow-akron.com/oia>, or call Sandra Kurt at (330) 869-0065.

Oct 9—Menspace-MOVED TO OCT 30! Moved to accommodate Pride Rally. For info and location, call Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email info@eriegaynews.com (note new email address!) for more info.

Oct 10—15th Annual Pittsburgh Boat Ride Sponsored by Pittsburgh Tavern Guild. Boarding begins at 4:30 PM, leaves 5 PM and returns at 9 PM. Tickets are available at

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		Week*
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The Zone, 1711 State St, Erie PA and at all Pittsburgh area gay bars.

Oct 10—Chastity Bono/Coming Out Panel/Out in Akron Bono will speak, followed by a panel discussion, "It's OK. Mom knows: Taking the Next Step in Coming Out" A book signing by Chastity Bono for her book "Family Outing" will follow in the lobby (Free). At Highland Theatre, 826 West Market St, Akron, OH. Part of Out in Akron 1999 GLBT Queer Cultural Festival. For more info, email outinakron@aol.com or browse <http://www.rainbow-akron.com/oa>, or call Sandra Kurt at (330) 869-0065.

Oct 12—National Coming Out Day

Oct 11—Friends from the Heart Meets 6 PM, Well Being Ctr, 710 Beaumont. Info Deb Monohon Cleer 838-0123.

Oct 12—Columbus Day

Oct 12—HIV/AIDS Support Group meets Call Cheryl Weber at 455-3786 for more info.

Oct 13—Gods and Monsters (Mercyhurst College) 8 PM at Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center. General admission is \$3. Openly gay Oscar-nominated Sir Ian McKellen plays openly gay director James Whale.

Oct 14—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.

Oct 15—10% Network meets: Birthday bash for Don at Martin and Don's house (Jamestown, NY) This will be a big birthday for Don, so join us to celebrate at Martin and Don's home at 70 Prospect St. For more information and the time, call Martin or Don at (716) 484-9659.

Oct 18—ECPC meets "Community-wide planning for HIV/AIDS prevention in Erie County. Meets at Serenity Hall, 414 W 5th St. Refreshments served from 5:30 PM to 6 PM. Meeting from 6 to 7:30 PM. For more info, call Sonny Concepcion at the Hispanic American Council at (814) 455-0212 or hayso@erie.net or Sandra Quigley at the NW PA Rural AIDS Alliance at (814) 456-8849."

Oct 21—LGBU at Kent meets (Ashtabula) At Kent State-Ashtabula 8 PM, room C-133. Teens, young adults, students, adults. Everyone welcome. For info, contact Jim at (814) 763-2022 or shifferj@toolcity.net, Lisa at (440) 992-9139 (after 8:30 PM) or lisann_27@hotmail.com or email jnk_nj@hotmail.com.

Oct 21-28—14th Annual Pittsburgh International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival For more information, call (412) 232-3277 or browse <http://www.pilgff.org>

Oct 26—HIV/AIDS Support Group meets Call Cheryl Weber at 455-3786 for more info.

Oct 28—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.

Oct 30—Menspace-Halloween Party at Jeff Hill's Moved to accommodate Pride Rally. For info and location, call Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email info@eriegaynews.com (note new email address!) for more info.

Nov 1—Samhain 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 black, bring a drinking vessel and dish to pass for the potluck following. Info: Sharon at medhbb@velocity.net.

Nov 2—Election Day

Nov 3—"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.



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Pride Rally update

by Helen Streett

The Second Annual Erie Pride Rally will be held at Perry Square in Erie, PA on Sat Oct 9th, 1999 from noon to 5:30 pm. (Alternate space in case of inclement weather will be the Roadhouse Theatre, 145 W 11th St. in Erie, which we would have to vacate by 5:00 pm.)

Updated list of speakers and entertainers is as follows:

Speakers committed to us at this writing: Terry Kime, minister, UU Congregation of Erie; Bob Cogan, Erie Chapter ACLU; Robin Green, director, Erie Chapter PFLAG; speaker (name unconfirmed), Erie Sisters (transgender group in Erie area); speaker (name unconfirmed), Citizens Against Racism in Erie (CARE)

Uncommitted speakers: We may also have one or two local legislators speaking

Confirmed entertainers: HAG Theatre from Buffalo, NY - one-act play; Greg Ropp - musician - Edinboro, PA; Bobbi B. et al - drag show; 2 Girls Alone - musicians - Erie, PA

We also expect a variety of info tables, gift and refreshment vendors.

Budget: Due to the unexpected cancellation of the bingo fund-raiser, we have cancelled our out-of-town speakers. A number of activities still require funding, such as film, supplies for signs (\$50 or so) and the permit for use of Perry Square (\$125).

Income: The proposed bingo nite fundraiser fell through due to unexpected hall-rental expenses. Other income: two individuals have offered donations, and our first 50/50 drawing, which was drawn on June 12 at the pride picnic, brought in \$75.

Mark M. has offered to organize a 5K run/walk/bike as a fund-raiser as well. We don't have any details yet, but will pass on info as we get it. We have a commitment from Greg K. for use of a PA system, including mics, mic stands, amp & speakers. We will have to get a podium. I will ask for the podium from the UU again.

Remember: Deadline for submissions to October's EGN is September 15!

Nov 4—LGBT at Kent meets (Ashtabula) At Kent State-Ashtabula 8 PM, room C-133. Teens, young adults, students, adults. Everyone welcome. For info, contact Jim at (814) 763-2022 or shifferj@toolecity.net. Lisa at (440) 992-9139 (after 8:30 PM) or lisann_27@hotmail.com or email jnk_nj@hotmail.com.

Sep 18—Coco Vega at The Village Drag performer. 133 W 18th St, Erie PA. For more info, call (814) 452-0125.

Nov 8—Friends from the Heart Meets 6 PM, Well Being Ctr, 710 Beaumont. Info Deb Monohon Cleer 838-0123.

Nov 9—HIV/AIDS Support Group meets Call Cheryl Weber at 455-3786 for more info.

Nov 11—BYKOTA meets At Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. Christian Spirituality Group. Contact Julie or Sue at julie_sue@uua.com or 734-3959.

Nov 13—Monopart For info and location, call Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email mahler@eriegaynews.com for more info.

Nov 18-21—Erie Lakeside Gala Transgender event put on by Erie Sisters Club. For more info, browse <http://www.geocities.com/Wellesley/1614/elg99.html>, email erisistersclub@eriegaynews.com or write to 1903 W 8th St, Suite 101, Erie, PA 16512-1009

Lake Erie Counseling Associates
301 West Tenth Street, Erie

**Gay-Affirming Individual,
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Ken Wiler, LSW Debra Brown, LSW

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455-4009

The proposed DJ has also cancelled. We have a backup performer who may be available to replace the DJ. If not, we will attempt to get longer or multiple sets from the current performers. In any case, **DON'T DESPAIR!** The Pride Rally will go on, and we **DO** have a very exciting lineup of performers and speakers, with a bit less coordination involved, since we no longer need to coordinate the transportation and housing for out-of-town speakers.

Mike Miller has volunteered to work with others to make signs. We are **LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD SIGN MAKERS** to help Mike. No experience or previous "talent" necessary, but a little bit of potentially messy (don't worry - not *too* messy) fun encouraged. Probably sometime near the end of September, maybe on a Saturday/Sunday afternoon/evening...please call the Mikes at 456-9833 to volunteer, or email info@eriegaynews.com or aichess@hotmail.com to volunteer! Since I (Helen) am moving out of town, my local phone number will be disconnected by the time you read this, but my email will remain active, and I am still actively involved in coordinating the rally!

Amy M. and Mike Mahler have made contacts to various organizations to set up info booths. Amy has agreed to send follow-up e-mails/postcards in September. Rick B. is contacting book and/or gift vendors. Another task still not being tackled is for someone to contact snack/drink vendors, requesting donations from local stores, etc. Since no-one has stepped forward to do this, our choice is either to have no refreshments or to purchase wholesale drinks/snacks and sell them at the rally. Any other suggestions are welcome! We had a number of people request drinks at the rally last year-so if you think you're going to be thirsty, how about volunteering to approach one or two local grocery stores for a donation of bottled water and/or pop/soda/etc??? It's a matter of a few phone calls, and a willingness to pick up the stuff!

We will of course, have the family portrait as usual. The actual agenda has not been set, however, we plan to basically begin with a welcome, have 1 or 2 speakers, then a performer, 2 speakers, performer, etc. The portrait will probably be taken somewhere around the middle of the event (2:30 pm or so).

Thanks to everyone who has helped so far, and anyone who's riding the fence thinking about helping, but just haven't taken the leap, can I nudge you to go for it?

Helen Streett leaving Erie

Dear Friends,

A new and exciting change happened in my life recently. I got hired to work on Lesbian Connection, the free-to-lesbians publication out of Lansing, Mich. I started working here mid-July. I am working 4 days a week in Michigan, coming to Erie for weekends to pack, etc., and will move to Lansing with my sweet partner, Georgia, on the weekend of Aug 20. We are very excited about the job, the move, and the Lansing area, which has a great lesbian and gay community. However, we are going to deeply miss our friends in the Erie community. I will especially miss being a part of Womynspace, which was, for me, the key support system for my own coming out several years ago.

In addition, I plan to continue my activities organizing the Erie Pride Rally in October. I very much want to see this through, and will appreciate the continued support of the community. You have all been wonderfully supportive, and have had lots of good ideas. I'm looking forward to the rally, and will be here in Erie for it the weekend of Oct 9th. I'm going to miss the gay community in Erie, especially because I think it's so exciting to be part of a network in a town that is starting to peek out of the closet. My recent contacts with new people in the gay community have been especially encouraging, as I see the community in Erie continue to grow.

Thanks to everyone for many good years here. Please stay in touch, as my email address will be the same.

- Helen Streett



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HIV/AIDS news

HIV-Talking with your child

Patry Putine, Health Educator HIV/AIDS Education & Training
Erie County Department of Health

Parents are always asking questions about how to talk to their children about HIV and AIDS. Here are some brief tips on how to approach the subject:

1. Talking is important. To teach our children how to prevent HIV we must understand the facts and be able to talk with them about values, sex and drugs.
2. Discussing sex with children lets them know that sex is a healthy, important part of life. This early, positive information can help lessen fears and ignorance.
 - a. Tell children about HIV and AIDS
 - a. Start with the basics.
 - b. Answer questions when they come up – don't put them off.
 - Listen carefully.
 - Don't be afraid to say that you feel embarrassed.
 - Give the amount of information appropriate for the child's age.
 - Use specific and correct terms.
 - Watch for ways to start a conversation (TV shows, movies, etc).
 - Don't stop with one conversation – bring it up from time to time.

Testing at Erie County Health Dept	
Mondays	12 noon to 3:30 PM
Tuesdays and Thursdays	9:30 AM to 1 PM
Other sites	
Corry Health Dept	683-3891
Minority Health Delivery System (MHEDS)	453-6229
Hispanic American Council	455-0212
SHOUT Outreach/ Serenity Hall	459-4775
Most sites can accommodate different times if you ask. SHOUT Outreach can also arrange different locations.	

4. Get ready to talk – be sure you know what HIV is, how it is spread and how it can be prevented. Understanding HIV and AIDS can help you think about your own feelings and fears. This will help you to be clear about the facts when talking to your child.

As the new school year approaches, teachers and parents may want specialized programs. Call me to arrange a special program tailored to your specific needs. Check out the Erie County Department of Health web-site @www.ecdh.org.

ECPC meetings

The Erie Community Planning Committee (ECPC), which works on preventing HIV/AIDS in Erie County, is now meeting the third Monday of the month from 6 to 7:30 PM at Serenity Hall, 414 W 5th St (enter by the east side door.) Refreshments are served from 5:30 to 6 PM. They will be working on publishing a calendar of World AIDS Day events and putting on an event of their own. For more information, contact Sonny Concepcion at the Hispanic American Council at (814) 455-0212 or hayso@erie.net or Sandra Quigley at the NW PA Rural AIDS Alliance at (814) 456-8849.

Counseling and testing news

HIV Counseling and Testing is available free of charge through your Erie County Department of Health on a walk-in basis. For your comfort and to accommodate specific needs, other sites are available:

HIV counseling and testing is also offered on an outreach basis. Please call 451-6727 for information. If you choose not to have the standardized blood test done, an oral antibody test known as *ORASURE* is now available for HIV testing. A small pad is placed between your cheek and gum for two minutes, the test measures the amount of interstitial fluid found in that area.

More than 34 million people are now infected with HIV/AIDS in the world today. Most of them live in countries where testing is not an option. *Exercise your right to know.* If you have reason to suspect you might have been exposed to HIV, find out today for your own peace of mind. Get tested!

Local news

New email address for EGN

Please note that from now on, all email for Erie Gay News, Menspace, etc. should go to info@eriegaynews.com rather than the old egcn@ncinter.net. Although the North Coast address will be checked for a while, we figure that it will be eventually phased out. Please adjust your address books.

Please also note that we have added a new visual version of the calendar to our web site. The visual version features recurring weekly events that make the text version of the calendar too bulky. Browse on over to <http://www.eriegaynews.com/Viscal/Viscal.htm> and let us know what you think!

Greg Valiga attempts to save life of drowning brothers

Greg Valiga and his partner, Christopher Sargent, were featured in local TV coverage and on the front page of the July 22nd Erie papers. Greg dived into Mill Creek in an attempt to save the lives of Lydell and Nigel Anderson (ages 15 & 13). The two brothers unfortunately both later died. Christopher was ready to assist, but unfortunately does not know how to swim. Our condolences to the family and kudos to Greg for attempting to save their lives. Greg is the former coordinator for LGLV-Erie and organizer for the GLBT Float in the 1995 Erie Bicentennial Parade that was vandalized and later rebuilt. Christopher is the former coordinator of North Coast Rainbow Families.

Meeting changes

"Always Our Children" a peer support group for the Catholic parents of GLBT children has changed to meeting the first Wednesday of every month from 7 to 9 PM. The meetings are held at Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St. For more information, call (814) 456-2091. They are moving from 2 meetings a month to just 1.

SAFER, the HIV/AIDS group in Venango County, is no longer meeting.

Also, Womynspace is currently not meeting until further notice. Contact this newsletter for more info.

PFLAG of Erie will be attempting to rejuvenate and energize at its September 2nd meeting. We'd like to have as many parents as possible attend so please encourage any formerly reluctant parents OR parents who are already good advocates to come to the next meeting at the UU Church at 7 PM. Email Mary Scott (mumnbo@juno.com) or call Robin or Mary at 868-8969 for further info.

Greg Rabb campaign update

This is from Greg Rabb, who is running on the Democratic ticket for City Council in Jamestown NY

I just received word that the International Aerospace Workers and Machinists - District 65 - is endorsing my candidacy for Jamestown City Council Man At Large. This is my first union endorsement this year. We are expecting more. Last time I didn't get any. This time they approached me. Even though there are six candidates for Jamestown city council at large (3 Democrats and 3 Republicans for 3 spots) I am the only one to be endorsed by IAM District 65.

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Also, Chautauqua County Executive Mark Thomas and my county legislator, Jane Fagerstrom, are endorsing me and their statements will be featured prominently on my campaign literature when I start going door to door later this week. I didn't have these endorsements last time.

So far my volunteers and I have mailed out 500 hand written thank you notes to people in Jamestown who signed my petition to get on the ballot. I have also received the endorsement of the UAW which gives me a 3rd party line on the ballot-the Working Families Party.

Rascals anniversary

from Rascals management and staff

Rascals will be celebrating their second anniversary the week of September 20th thru the 26th. Many interesting things and special nites are being planned including a Dollar Nite (\$1.00 well drinks and canned beer), male strippers - Male Heat on Friday the 24th, and a show on Sunday the 26th featuring Tracy, Angel, and Kyrsten, with special guests. The management and staff of Rascals, would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have patronized us in the past two years and look forward to serving you all in the near future, please plan on joining us during our anniversary celebration.

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All information held in confidence.

Pittsburgh Boat Cruise

from Pittsburgh Tavern Guild

On Sunday, October 10, the Pittsburgh Tavern Guild is proud to present the 15th Anniversary Boat Cruise. The boarding time is 1 hour earlier than in the past (4:30 PM) and the cruise will last for 1/2 hour more (leaves at 5 PM, returns at 9 PM.) Tickets are \$20 in advance at the Zone, 1711 State Street and all Pittsburgh local bars, and \$25 (if available) at the boat. Please note that seating is limited to 600.

Name change and expansion for PA Gay Rodeo Association

from PGRA - now PONYGRA

The Pennsylvania Gay Rodeo Association's President Ron Dupin is proud to announce that PGRA is in the process of doing a major revamp of the organization and it started with the expansion of its member states which now include Ohio and New York. This change took place at the International Gay Rodeo Association's (IGRA) 14th Annual Convention held in Long Beach, CA last month.

Along with the approval of the new states the convention floor was overwhelmingly in favor of the new name...P.O.N.Y. "The name change was important because now people from the states of Ohio and New York will feel more like members. We are trying to include everyone in the tri-state area with this new name and direction that we are moving in," said President Ron Dupin.

The convention was also attended by David F, P.O.N.Y. Trustee who resides in Cleveland, OH. David hopes that this new name and image will help to include all the C&W fans throughout the state of Ohio. David will be distributing information to members of his local dance group the "Rainbow Wranglers" during the month of August along with passing out info at the Chicago Rodeo on August 28-29. Members from Pennsylvania will be taking a road trip to Columbus, OH on October 9-10 for the "Columbus Stompers" Columbus Day Dance Event. For more info, Contact: Vince 412-681-8180; Ron 412-370-1548, Fax 681-0747, or Email PONYGRA@aol.com.

In The Life

In the Life airs in Erie Sunday, September 26, 11:00 pm on WQLN channel 54; Pittsburgh — Thursday, September 2, 11:00 pm on WQED channel 13; Cleveland and Buffalo — both TBA. For a complete list of airdates browse www.inthelifetv.org.

For its August/September '99 episode entitled "Lights! Camera! Activism! IV", *In the Life* takes its fourth annual look at films that highlight and explore the gay and lesbian experience. From documentaries to experimental works, and from industry features to independent films, gay men and lesbians are producing works about gay life that are vastly different in scope and style. Each diverse project provides insight about same-sex love that is unprecedented in contrast to just a decade ago. Here's just a glimpse of some of the stories covered in this episode of *In The Life*.

"Bringing it to the Masses" looks at three film distribution companies — Strand Releasing, Jour De Fete, and First Run Features — which have built reputations as companies that distribute films by and for gay men and lesbians. With a special focus on Strand, which recently had a retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art in New York for their tenth anniversary, this segment highlights how important these companies have been in bringing gay images to the big screen.

"Is it a Gay Thing or Just Baltimore?" travels to Baltimore to discover the source of the wonderfully off-beat inspiration of film director John Waters. Waters, the openly-gay director of such camp classics as *Pink Flamingos* and *Hairspray*, talks about how his gay sensibility has been a common thread throughout his films.

In the Eastern European country of Hungary there is a budding gay and lesbian movement, and one sign of its growth is an expanding annual gay and lesbian film festival. Part reportage and part travelogue, "Hungary Comes Out" explores how a film festival that puts gay and lesbian images on the big screen helps shape and inspire an emerging gay community in Budapest.

"Battle for the Box" gauges the heated debate over *It's Elementary*, a documentary about the discussing of gay issues in school classrooms that aired this summer on public television. After an overview of the controversy that has dogged the documentary for over three years,

this story looks at the challenge "It's Elementary" presented to local stations, and the effort to keep the program off public television.

"Get Bruce!" Who do Billy Crystal, Bette Midler, and Whoopi Goldberg call the funniest man in Hollywood? Bruce Vilanch, a gay guy people may only know from the *New Hollywood Squares*. Bruce Vilanch is one of the most sought-after comedy writers in Hollywood today. This *In the Life* story previews the soon-to-be-released film *Get Bruce!* which eavesdrops on Vilanch's work with the stars.

In the Life is produced by In the Life Media, a not-for-profit, member-supported organization, and is presented by Thirteen/WNET in New York. It is distributed by American Public Television. A bimonthly newsmagazine series, *In the Life* chronicles the history and contemporary experience of the lesbian and gay community, and airs on over 120 public television stations nationwide. A complete list of airdates and more information can be found at www.inthelifetv.org.

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Q-list

by Mike Miller

Theatre and film

First a correction: The number for **Directors Circle**, which is where *The Boys in the Band* will be playing through mid-September, should be (814) 451-0036. It was incorrect in last month's issue.

A couple of gay icons will be in the area around National Coming Out Day. "*An evening with Harvey Fierstein*" will take place in **Akron's Highland Theater** Saturday October 9th at 8:00 PM (just late enough to catch after the Pride Rally here in Erie) with tickets available for \$20 at 1-800-494-TIXS. And "*An Evening with Quentin Crisp*" will take place at the **Cleveland Public Theatre** October 7th-10th with reservations available at 216-631-2727.

What? You say you missed Oscar-nominated openly gay actor **Sir Ian McKellen** playing openly gay director **James Whale** in *Gods and Monsters* when it was at the theaters? Well, you can catch it at **Mercyhurst College's**

Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center on Wednesday, October 13 at 8 PM. General admission is \$3.

Lily Tomlin, fresh out of the movie theaters with her, um, quite believable performance as a lesbian character in *Tea with Mussolini*, is once again ready to take to live theater. *Lily Tomlin Live*, will begin touring late September in medium sized cities around the country and will be directed by **Jane Wagner**, who teamed up with Tomlin to make *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe* a Tony Award winning success. Cross your fingers and hope that the show makes a stop in Pittsburgh, Buffalo or Cleveland on it's way to Broadway, if it's anywhere near as successful as Tomlin's last stage effort.

According to the buzz, another Tony award winning actress, **Natasha Richardson** (*Cabaret*), is in negotiations to begin shooting an on-screen lesbian romance with Oscar nominee **Rachel Griffiths** (*Hilary and Jackie*) in *Never Better*, a Brit comedy about the infighting between two hair salons scripted by **Simon Beaufoy** who brought us *The Full Monty*.

Fans of **Ally Sheedy** who have enjoyed her lesbian turns in films like *High Art* and *Chantilly Lace* might be in for an interesting change - of sex. She is taking over the role of Hedwig in the Off-Broadway rock opera *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* about a sex change gone horribly, campily, wrong. New Line pictures is thinking about picking up film rights to the twisted musical and, if Sheedy does well in the stage version, she might be an automatic choice for the film.

If you thought **Jeremy Northam** was ideal in *An Ideal Husband* and that **William H. Macy** was mysteriously affecting in *Fargo* and *Mystery Men*, then look for Macy to have an on-screen gay crush on the good looking Northam in *Happy, Texas*. Northam who played such a suave *bon vivant* in *Ideal Husband* shifts gears to play one of a pair of slightly less well appointed escaped cons who hide out as gay beauty pageant directors in a small Texas town. The film is due out in general release to theaters in October.

Out in limited release at major cities and due to play in early October at Cleveland's Cedar-Lee Theatre (216-321-8232 or www.cedarlee.com) is *Better than Chocolate*, about a 19 year old law school dropout working at a lesbian bookstore who attempts to ignite romance with the girl of her dreams. This is all while deal-

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ing with coming out to her mom who shows up on her doorstep freshly divorced and wanting a place to stay. The film has lots of funny yet realistic closet crashing situations for people of all orientations. The two lovers have a steamy sex scene while practically under the mom's nose. The mom learns the joys of sex toys which she can't quite keep hidden under her bed. The straight brother indulges in an affair with a bisexual clerk in the book stacks. And a transgendered singer belts out a label-breaking solo entitled "I'm Not a Fucking Drag Queen." Critics are raving about this film which promises to really be better than chocolate - and I like chocolate a lot.

30+ GLBT's might find interest in *When Love Comes*, also out in limited release, directed by New Zealand filmmaker **Garth Maxwell** who brought us *Xena: Warrior Princess* and *Hercules*. *When Love Comes* gives us a look at an aging disco queen and her long time gay friend as they wax nostalgic and bemoan relationship problems. In an ironic turn, the disco queen ends up being revered by the dykey friends of the very young stud puppy that seems to be causing all of the gay pal's relationship problems.

TV and video

The GLBT-produced news magazine *In the Life* airs in Erie Sunday, September 26, 11:00 pm on **WQLN** channel 54. Be sure to catch it. See the article on page 11.

Want to see some fun gay *Action*? That's the name of the new **Fox** comedy, on Thursdays at 9:30, about a hateful movie producer (**Jay Mohr**) that features a not-so-closeted gay character and lots of trashy, fun potshots at the movie biz. On the less trashy side *Oh Grow Up* is a new **ABC** sitcom, on Wednesdays at 9:30, that features 3 roommates, one of whom is newly out and has to "learn how to be gay." On **NBC**, continue to watch *Will and Grace*, on Tuesdays at 9:30 - (apparently 9:30 is the time that network programmers have decided that gay people most enjoy having a laugh) - as it rolls in kudos from the gay press and hopefully allows Will to have a real full-fledged romance/kiss/relationship without going down the tubes the way *Ellen* did.

In the hour-long teen set is the **WB** comedy-drama *Popular*, on Thursdays at 8:00, which focuses on the friendship of a popular cheerleader and her misfit girlfriend (small 'G') and promises to feature a character with feelings towards the same sex. Perhaps that could turn into a capital 'G'. According to Executive Producer **Kevin**

Williamson, look for *Dawson's Creek*, also on **WB**. Wednesdays at 8:00, to continue to explore the coming out process of **Kerr Smith's** character Jack.

Speaking of wunderkind Williamson, he has a new series for twenty-somethings on **ABC** called *Wasteland*, Thursdays at 9:00, with a character who explores the *not* coming out process as a closeted gay soap actor.

Watch for *Anatomy of a Hate Crime*, a made-for-television movie about the **Matthew Shepard** murder to air soon on **MTV**, of all places. Actually, the fact that it is on MTV and that it's produced by **Lawrence Bender** (*Pulp Fiction*) may actually work to make this a more realistic, or at least less sappy telling of the Shepard tragedy than your average TV-movie-of-the-week. Besides, maybe it'll be more likely to strike a chord with teens and twenty-somethings - to stop similar tragedies in the future.

On the video shelves, you can dive into *The Deep End of the Ocean* which features **Whoopi Goldberg** as a lesbian detective. Also look for *Cruel Intentions*, the teen heartthrob remake of *Dangerous Liaisons* which has been updated (surprisingly well) to include a gay intrigue among its many subplots. And this year's Oscar darling *Shakespeare in Love* featuring **Gwyneth Paltrow** playing drag king in order to kiss the handsome **Joseph Fiennes**.

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Music

Ms'shell AdegeOcello, the out bassist/singer/songwriter who won a GLAAD award for her single "Lustrious Faggot" in 1995 and has been a staple at **Lilith Fair** performances, is back out with a new CD entitled **Strife** (Maverick Records). Ironically, this album is less about bitter social observations and tricky rhythms; it's more about personal emotions and well-polished grooves. Hopefully, you can look for her to tour with it soon.

Fans eagerly awaiting **Melissa Etheridge's Breakdown** (Island) should see it hit shelves in October and should reportedly *not* expect her edge to have been softened by parenthood, but expanded to include a wider range of instruments and emotions.

Do you remember in the movie **In and Out** when the friends bet for whether or not **Kevin Klein's** character was gay, depended on his naming **Barbra Streisand's** eighth album? Thought so. Well, her latest album is **A Love Like Ours** (Columbia) and promises to be an adult contemporary diva worshipper's paradise, all **South Park** jibes aside.

Recently out bisexual songsmith **Moby** is set to play **Cleveland's Odeon Concert Club** September 1st, while fellow bisexual **Ani DiFranco** is set to play **Kleinhaus Mu-**

sic Hall in Buffalo October 29th. GLBT allies **Cyndi Lauper** and **Cher** can be seen at **Buffalo's Marine Midland Arena** on September 4th, in case any diva-hound failed to see **Chastity's** mom on her live August **HBO** special. The response of gay audiences to **Believe** has been so strong, friends of ours who went to a recent **Cher** concert reportedly overheard the comment, "I've never seen so many gay people," to which they could only agree.

If you've been enjoying the retro revival that has brought songs like **Soft Cell's** quirky '80's hit "Tainted Love" back onto dance floors and radio airplay lists, then give a listen to former **Soft Cell** vocalist **Marc Almond's** latest album **Open All Night** (Ladyslipper). It features a duet with the lead singer of another quirky '80's fave, **Siouxsie & the Banshees**.

Online

Please note that we are now using **info@eriegaynews.com** for email and there is now a visual version of the calendar on our web site (**www.eriegaynews.com**).

Infamous homophobe **Fred Phelps** (of the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas) is probably still having fits causing him to speak in tongues *not* inspired by divine spirit. The not-so-right Reverend, who regularly shows up with petty bands of protesters carrying signs and shouting hateful epithets at the funerals of people who have died of AIDS or anti-gay violence, has had a web site called **www.godhatesfags.com** on which to spew his unique brand of nastiness for quite a while. Recently, a gay positive website, **www.godlovesfags.com**, was able to legitimately and legally obtain the godhatesfags domain name and redirect it to their own. Since being reported on **CNN Interactive**, the site has had quite a lot of traffic allowing thousands of potential fag-baiters to see another, more positive side of the story. Apparently Phelps' followers have complained that they should have the godhatesfags domain returned to them out of the goodness of the new owners' hearts because it would be the only "right thing" to do. We love being able to tell you to log on to **www.godhatesfags.com** to feel uplifted instead of shit upon, and would love to get it through the thick skulls of Phelps and his few followers that allowing them to spread their hateful message is never the "right thing" to do - whether it's on a web address or on a picket sign at the funeral of someone who has died because of the very prejudice which they try to spread.

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RD #3, Box 75F	Baldwin Bldg.
Clarion PA 16214	Erie PA 16501
nwparaat@penn.com	nwpaids@erie.net

Resource directory

Please note that this an abbreviated listing! For a more complete listing, either check <http://www.eriegaynews/arearesc.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 4 PM - 2 AM.

Counseling

Virginia Ayres, PHD 835-3829
 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 Hesed (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

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Social Organizations

10% Network ▼ (716)484-7285 (John)
 Chautauqua County, NY.
Menspace 456-9833 (Michael)
 Monthly social group for Erie area gay/bi men.

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)
LGBU/Kent (Ashtabula) (814) 763-2022 (Jim Shiffer)
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) ▼ trigonpsu@hotmail.com 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
Gay AA 459-7262 (Bernie)
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 Mary or Robin 868-8962
Sexual Compulsives Anonymous (SCA) 453-5656 (Erie Hotline)

HIV/AIDS Resources

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
 HIV testing at Health Dept Mon Noon-3:30, Tue & Thur 9:30 AM to 1 PM. Evening hours by appt. only 451-6727.
Friends from the Heart 838-0123 (Deb Monohon)
HIV/AIDS Outreach Ministry of Cath. of St. Paul (Episcopal) 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

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

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