



Calendar

Please note that this calendar is also online at www.eriegaynews.com/calendar.html

Apr 21 - Last Day to Register to vote in PA Primary

Apr 22 - TV: *All My Children* ABC makes television history with the first daytime television same-sex kiss, as lesbian character Bianca Montgomery (Eden Riegel), gets close to her new friend, Lena (Olga Sosnovska).

April 23 - Kimberly Blaker presents "Fundamentally Aware: Bringing Religious Extremism to America's Forefront" Author of *The Fundamentals of Extremism* will give presentation on the effects of Christian fundamentalism on children, women, African-Americans, gays and lesbians, politics, and American society. Unitarian Universalist Church, 7180 Perry Hwy (PA Rt. 97), Erie at 7:30 PM. This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments and Book Signing after the talk. www.thewall-onchurchandstate.com

Apr 26 - Rainbow Cinema (Erie PA) Starts at 7 PM. See article on page 12.

Apr 26 - Disco Party (The Village, 133 W 18th St, Erie PA) For info, call (814) 452-0125 or check www.thevillageerie.com.

Apr 26 - Cameron & Special Guest at Rascals (Jamestown, NY) Strip show. 701 N. Main St (716) 484-3220.

Apr 26 - Ellen DeGeneres at Benedum Center (Pittsburgh)

Apr 30 - Movie: "8 Women" (Mercyhurst College, D'Angelo Music Center, Erie PA) 8 PM at Mercyhurst College D'Angelo Music Center. Satire/comedy/musical/murder mystery about 8 women trapped in a house with a dead body. Admission is \$4, \$3 for students and seniors. Info (814) 824-3000.

May 3 - Dance Escape - Smoke-Free, Gay/Gay Friendly Event. (Perry-Hi Way Hose Co. 8270 Peach Street Erie, PA) 8 PM - 1 AM. BYOB and BYOSnacks. (Ice available.) Admission at door (no-pre-pay) \$6.00. Must be 21 or older. 50/50 drawing at midnight. Song requests always welcome! Smoke free. For more information call Cheryl at (814) 835-9090 or email at danceescape@earthlink.net or browse to <http://home.earthlink.net/~danceescape>. Bring your ticket from the Erie Illusion Women's Football Game that night and get into the dance for \$4!! (CLS Endeavors Inc.)

May 3 - Sabrina & Co. with the American Dream at Rascals (Jamestown, NY) Drag show, \$3 cover. 701 N. Main St (716) 484-3220.

May 3 - Hispanic-American Council Health Fair (Erie) 554 E. 10th St., 11 AM to 3 PM. Music, entertainment for kids food, speaker. Among the Council's many services are HIV/AIDS education, counseling and testing. Info: Maria Cortes 455-0212 ext. 307



Robin Green and Barbara Brennan smiling at their Ceremony of Union. See page 8.

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Erie Gay News
 1115 West 7th St.
 Erie PA 16502-1105

(814) 456-9833

info@eriegaynews.com
www.eriegaynews.com

Deadline: the 15th of each month.

The *Erie Gay News* is published monthly as a source of news, events, information and support for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered people (GLBT's), their families, friends & supporters in the Erie and Northwest Pennsylvania Area.

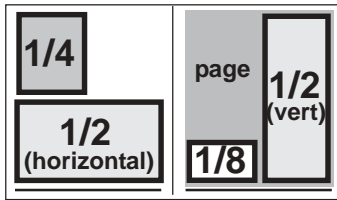
We welcome and encourage all readers to submit timely news, comments and opinions of interest to local GLBT's for publication in these pages. We will consider for publication any nonfiction article, blurb or illustration graphic which upholds this spirit. Please include your contact information with any piece that you submit.

We will not publish any material which promotes hatred or discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identification, race, religion, age, class, physical ability or any other reason. We do not support the exploitation of minors.

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Page	\$160 (\$144 prepaid)	7-1/2" high X 6" wide

call 456-9833 or email info@eriegaynews.com
 Deadline for ads is the 15th



On the Cover...
Robin and Barbara's
wedding portrait by Dixie

May 7 - "Always Our Children" meets. Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St., Erie PA Support group for Catholic parents of gay children (814) 456-2091.

May 9 - Womynspace: Movie Night at Tanya's (Meadville) 814-724-2613.

May 10 - Miss Village Pageant at The Village (Erie) "Drama. Tears. Sequins. Evening Gowns... Presentation Theme: 'Proud to be an American.' Join us for this annual rite of passage!" 133 W. 18th Street. (814) 452-0125 or check www.thevillageerie.com.

May 10 - Menspace meets (Bob's, Erie PA) Gay/bi men's social group. Contact Michael at info@eriegaynews.com or (814) 456-9833 or browse <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

May 10 - Martika, Tiffany & Sabrina Show at Rascals (Jamestown, NY) Drag show \$3 cover. 701 N. Main St (716) 484-3220.

May 11??? - Jazz Brunch (The Village, 133 W 18th St, Erie PA) For info, call (814) 452-0125. Date unsure as we went to press. Check to confirm!

May 12 - PFLAG Erie/Crawford County Meets: Speaker Dr. Anne McDonald (Erie PA) Licensed psychiatrist Dr. Anne McDonald will speak on GLBT issues/concerns. Unitarian Universalist Congregation,

7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA. Details: See "Regularly Meeting Groups" section.

May 15 - Deadline for June Erie Gay News print edition

May 15-25 -13th Annual Toronto Inside Out Film and Video Festival takes place in Toronto May 15-25. With 290 GLBT films and videos, email inside@insideout.on.ca web www.insideout.on.ca/ phone (416) 977-6847.

May 17 - 10% Network meets: Game Night (18 Lakeview Ave., Jamestown NY) Contact Don or Martin at (716) 484-9659 or donjaye@hotmail.com for details/questions or visit <http://jamestowntenpercent.tripod.com>

May 18 - "PA Civil Rights Initiative" Educational Forum PFLAG Erie/Crawford County Meets (Erie PA) Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA. Details: See PFLAG article on page 10.

May 18 - Ecumenical Service: Witness Our Welcome (Erie PA) "You are invited to attend the worship service of Third Sunday WOW (Witness Our Welcome) - an informal, confidential, ecumenical welcoming worship group that offers Christian community

Oral HIV testing now available

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HIV COUNSELING & TESTING

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Tuesday 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

STD TESTING

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Erie County Health Department

Monday 9:00 am - 11:00 am
Wednesday 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm
Thursday 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Appointments can be made at the following locations:

Erie County Health Department
Erie Office, Outreach Services
(814) 451-6727

Erie County Health Department
Corry Office - (814) 663-3891

Hispanic American Council
(814) 455-0212

Multi-Cultural Health Evaluation
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All services are free and confidential.
Specially trained outreach workers are available for in home appointments. (HIV testing only)

and affirming fellowship for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and their supporters. A pot luck dinner will follow the service. Please bring a dish to share. Please bring a friend and help spread the word about the services. Third Sunday of odd months always at 5 PM with communion, and always followed by a pot luck. The services are some of the most awesome and Spirit-filled those who attend have ever experienced." Questions: Robin Cuneo, cuneo@cecomet.net, Rev. Lyta Seddig, rseddig@allegheny.edu

May 20 - Pennsylvania Primary Election

May 26 - Memorial Day Picnic (Pittsburgh) 11 AM to 6:30 PM North Park Lodge, rain or shine. "Pittsburgh's *only* Picnic of the Year. Real picnic with traditional picnic food, non-stop music, midway madness, game booths." Real picnic food, games, Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the gate. Available at the Zone and Pittsburgh bars. (See ad back page)

May 31 - Far East Party at The Village (Erie) 133 W 18th St, info call (814) 452-0125.

May 31 - Garage Sale for Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie 7180 New Perry Highway. "We have everything!" Important fundraiser for the church. 9:30 AM to 3 PM at the church, located at 7180 New

Perry Highway, Erie. Numbers will be given out. To donate items call Deb at 459-2332.

Jun 4 - "Always Our Children" meets Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St., Erie PA. Support group for Catholic parents of gay children (814) 456-2091.

June 7 - Womynspace: Six Flags Details from Tanya 814-724-2613 or Darla 814-337-8749.

Jun 8 - Pride Buffalo Info (716) 879-0999 info@pridebuffalo.org www.pridebuffalo.org

Jun 9 - PFLAG Erie/Crawford County Meets (Erie PA) Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA. Details: See "Regularly Meeting Groups" section.

June 10 - TV: Last Comic Standing featuring gay comic ANT. Check listings for time. NBC.

June 13 & 14 - Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus "Songs of Freedom" (Buffalo NY) Friday performance at Unitarian Universalist Church on Ferry & Elmwood, Saturday performance at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 724 Delaware both start 8 PM. Info & tickets www.buffalogaismenschorus.com

Jun 14 - Pride Erie Picnic Presque Isle State Park, Beach 11. For more info see article page 15 or visit www.eriegaynews.com or email info@eriegaynews.com

Jun 15 - Unofficial Gay Day at Cedar Point (Sandusky OH) See Entertainment Notes, page 17.

Jun 15 - Deadline for July Erie Gay News print edition

Jun 21 - 10% Network meets: Pokerman Nite (Jamestown NY) Unitarian Church, 1255 Prendergast, Jamestown NY. Contact Don or Martin at (716) 484-9659 or donjaye@hotmail.com for details/questions or visit http://jamestowntenpercent.tripod.com

Jun 21 - Pittsburgh Pride Fest Info JimF@glccpgh.org or www.glccpgh.org

Jun 21 - Cleveland Pride Parade and Festival Info www.clevelandpride.org (216) 371-0214

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Jun 21 & 22 - Concert: Bustin' Out All Over Cleveland OH) Concert performed Saturday at 8 PM and Sunday at 3 PM at Cleveland State University's Wajeten Auditorium, Music and Communications Bldg, 2001 Euclid Ave at E 21st St, Cleveland OH. Info/tickets www.tickets.com or by calling (800) 766-6048.

Jun 27 - National HIV Testing Day

Jun 29 - Pride Toronto For more info: www.pridetoronto.com

July 26 - Pittsburgh Cruise Details in Pittsburgh papers and next month's EGN.

Jul 24 to 27 - Dancin' in the Streets (Cleveland OH) Benefits AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland, www.aidstaskforce.org.

Calendar Listings are FREE!

*To list your event in these pages,
please submit it no later than
15th of the month*

Thank You:

To Paul Grubbs, Jeff M, Neal, Larry, Brian, Dave Amy, Suzanne Pessa, Jerry McCumber, Gayle, Gary Snyder for collating and Dave S, for distributing last issue. Thanks! Thanks also to Gary Yuhas for proofing.

If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com for date/time.

Regularly Meeting Groups

Be Ye Kind One To Another (BYKOTA) Nondenominational Christian group for GLBT people. Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month from 7 to 9 PM at the Unitarian-Universalist Church in Meadville, 346 Chestnut St. (on Diamond Park, corner of Chestnut & S. Main.) Info: Lyta Seddig at rseddig@allegheny.edu

Erie Sisters Club (ESC) (CD/TV/TS/TG) 4th Saturday of the month at accepting establishments. Changing facilities available. For more info write to 1903 W 8th St. Ste 162, Erie PA 16505-4936, browse www.eriesisters.org or email eriesisters@eriesisters.org.
GLBT AA Group Currently on hiatus. For more info, contact Bernie at (814) 459-7262 (home) or (814) 452-3935 (work) or bredright@velocity.net.

HIV/AIDS Support Group Meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 7 to 8:30 at St. Mark's. Call Cheryl Weber at the St. Martin Center at (814) 452-6113 ext 20 for more info.

HIV Counseling and Testing (Free) Erie County Department of Health, 606 W 2nd St., Erie PA. Mondays 12 to 3:30 PM, Thursdays 9:30 AM to 1 PM. For more info, call ECDH at (814) 451-6727. Other times can be arranged.

Identity/EUP Edinboro University GLBT and allies groups. Meets Mondays at 8 PM in Butterfield Hall, room 213. Also has open movie night most Fridays at 8 PM. Contact Alana Atchinson at (814) 732-2019 or aatchinson@edinboro.edu or Gerry Hoffman at (814) 732-2813 or ghoffman@edinboro.edu for more info or www.angelfire.com/pa5/identityeup/.

Mercyhurst Rainbow Club Meets in room 205 of Old Main the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 8 PM. Student/faculty group open to non-Mercyhurst folks as well. For more info, call Jason at (814) 572-5590, or email freakyhippoboy@aol.com.

(continued n next page)

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Local Theater

Accomplice Director's Circle will present this comic thriller from May 2 through early June. By Rupert Holmes, starring Patrick Hiller, Karen Shelinski, Carolin Lynn and David McNeill and is directed by Michael Weiss. All performances at 8:00 PM with two Sunday Matinees at 2 PM. Directors Circle's new location is at 14 W. 10th. Check out www.DirectorsCircleTheatre.com for dates Call 814 451-0036 for reservations and other information.

Evita SUNY Fredonia Department of Theatre and Dance "Evita" Opening Night: Friday, April 25 8 PM. Marvel Theatre "A mesmerizing landmark by musical theatre masters Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, Evita traces the ambitious Eva Duarte's rise from the gutter to a position of inestimable power as Juan Peron's mistress. Evita is a portrait of charisma and ambition housed in a piece of arresting theatricality...compelling score, complete with Latin, pop and jazz influences performed live." *Evita* Friday, April 25 and Saturday, April 26 at 8 PM. Sunday, April 27 at 2 PM. Thursday, May 1 through Saturday, May 3 at 8 PM. All shows in Marvel Theatre Directed by Paul Mockovak. Musical direction by Dr. Paula Holcolmb. To reserve seats go to Call (716) 673-3501 to reserve seats today!

The Laramie Project will be performed at Gannon's Schuster Theater, 620 Sassafras Street, Erie. April 25 - 27 and May 1 - 3. Thursday through Saturday performance are at 7:30PM and the Sun performance is at 3:00 PM. There will also be a special community talk-back following the Sunday April 27th performance of the Laramie Project. It will be a pretty casually structured talk-back to discuss the issues surrounding the play. Inspired by the events and people surrounding the murder of Matthew Shepherd, written by Moises Kaufman, directed by Paula Barrett and Mary Carol Gensheimer. Details in the April issue of *EGN* or check *Erie Times-News*' "Showcase." For tickets call the Schuster Theater box office at 871-7494

Regularly meeting groups

(continued from previous page)

PFLAG Erie/Crawford County Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) support group meets 2nd Monday each month, 7-9 PM at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Hwy (Rte 97), Erie PA. Also Straight Spouse Network focus group meets ad hoc (call for location/time for this meeting.) Call Maureen (814)-898-8341, email pflagerie@adelphia.net or write to PFLAG-Erie, PO Box 133, Harborcreek PA 16421.

Pride & Respect for Youth in Sexual Minority (PRYSM) (Western NY) Provides a safe, comfortable meeting place for 14-20 year-old lesbian, gay, bi, transgender, questioning youth, and their straight allies. Southern Chautauqua County group meets 1st & 3rd Tuesday. Northern Chautauqua County group meets 3rd Mon. (716)485-8628. cwhite2@alltel.net. www.gaychautauqua.org/youth.htm

Trigon (Penn State University - Behrend, Multi-Cultural Center Suite, Erie PA) 12:15 PM on Thursdays. GLBT/Allies group at Behrend. Contact Abbey Atkinson/Trigon at trigonpsu@hotmail.com or at (814) 898-7162 for details.



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Ceremony of Union



Robin L. Green and Barbara A. Brennan

Robin L. Green and Barbara A. Brennan celebrated a Ceremony of Union on March 28, 2003. The ceremony took place at 7 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie. Rev. Nathan Detering performed the ceremony.

Heather Green and Salena Walter served as "Best Women." About 90 people gathered for the ceremony. Robin's son Jeremy Green attended, and Robin's sister Janice Logue and husband Rocky travelled from Virginia. Barbara's mother Alice Brennan attended. The Gregos provided flower arrangements, decorations, and hospitality. Dixie Morrow provided professional photography services. Jill and Dan Johnson-Likens provided invaluable help with music and printing invitations and programs.

The reception was held at the church. Music was provided by 2 Girls Alone.

The honeymoon was spent at a bed & breakfast in Harrisville, PA.

The couple plans to announce their union in the Erie Times-News.

We will be happy to list your Ceremony of Union or other important life events. Please email or call so that we can discuss specifics.

PFLAG News

PFLAG Springs into Motion

by Maureen Koseff

PFLAG-Erie/Crawford County

PFLAG is working to gain the support of the public and especially of PFLAG friends for various legislative proposals that we expect to come to a vote in the Pennsylvania legislature during 2003. Stay tuned for details. The first thing we are doing is sponsoring an educational forum on Sunday, May 18th, from 2 to 4 PM at the Unitarian Church on Route 97 in Erie. The Northwest PA Chapter of the National Organization for Women is joining PFLAG-Erie in sponsoring this forum. We are having a guest speaker from Philadelphia, Ms. Rita Adessa, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Lesbian and Gay Task Force, speak about one of the proposals to protect GLBT people's civil rights. She will speak about the PA Civil Rights Initiative. Please come, learn what is going on, and enjoy some refreshments. The public is invited to attend.

Meeting Notes: PFLAG is also having a guest speaker at our regular PFLAG monthly meeting, Monday, May 12, from 7 to 9 PM, at the Unitarian Church on route 97 in Erie. Dr. Ann McDonald, M.D., a psychotherapist, will discuss, "Mental Health Issues in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Communities." Now is your chance to learn about this subject and ask questions. Refreshments will be served. Don't miss this opportunity.

On Sunday, May 18th, from 2 to 4 PM, PFLAG is holding a special educational forum at the Unitarian Church on Route 97. See paragraph above for details. Please come!

PFLAG's meetings for straight spouses of GLBT people are being held on an ad hoc basis. Please call (814)-898-8341, Maureen, for the time and place of our next meeting. If you are a questioning spouse, please give us a call.

Coming next month in EGN:
Special Pride Event issue
be sure to pick us up!.

Question: Coming Out Anecdote

The question for this month that went out to the email list was "Funniest or most memorable coming out story/anecdote? (This can either have happened to you or to someone else. Serious entries are welcome as well!)" Here's what our readers had to say.

My earliest coming out anecdote (that was humorous), was from my Grandmother (who by the way, lived to be 103). I came home one afternoon back in the 70's, (when such things were not yet really being discussed) I was 17 at the time, and my Grandmother was coming down the stairs with a copy of Rita Mae Brown's *Rubyfruit Jungle* in her hands, confiscated from my room. (It wasn't a classic then) Asking if she had read it! (Stupid question) her comment was "I only hope you are not doing everything that is in this book." She went on from that point to read everything RMB ever wrote. [Rox]

A friend of mine was raised only by his mother, she had mental problems and because of her hate for men she made it seem like men who liked women were 'demon infested' so my friend who is heterosexual spent most of his adolescence denying his orientation. He dated a few men because that's what was expected of him. His coming out of the closet was saying that he was straight. One day he met a girl that was so special he just had to be honest with his mother. He brought her over to the house and in front of his mother just gave her a big kiss and said "I have no demons, only love". His mother didn't know what to do so she did nothing. And finally at the age of 19 he was able to be who he really was. He says that because of how he was raised, he can relate to gay and bi people more so than straight people can cause he knows what its like to have to hide what you really are. For his privacy I am not including his name but there is a wonderful man out there who is always voting for your issues and is probably a friend of some of yours. [Someone who knows]

Sign up for the Erie Gay News email list
at www.eriegaynews.com or email
info@eriegaynews.com

Though I was already out to my supportive and loving family, I still hadn't spoken about my partner with my niece and nephew, about 7 and 9 at the time. My very cool brother and sister-in-law said I could tell the kids when and how I wanted. Turns out I didn't have to tell them "formally" at all. My nephew was over petting the cats on my big bed, when he turned to me and said, "Aunt Christine, why do they call this a king-size bed when two queens sleep here?!" [Christine]



PFLAG-Erie and Crawford Counties Chapter

Support, Education, Advocacy
for GLBT People, their families and friends

(814) 898-8341

pflagerie@adelphia.net

[PFLAG-TNET marchadenise@hotmail.com](mailto:PFLAG-TNET.marchadenise@hotmail.com)

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Your Health Focus...

From Mental Illness to Mental Health

by Christine D. Hudak, MD

In my experience as a family doctor (as well as in scientific studies), mental illness is as common as high blood pressure as a reason for an office visit. There has been lots of debate and some data looking at whether or not LGTB folks have a higher incidence of depression, suicide, anxiety or substance abuse as compared to the general population. While this information is clearly important, the bottom line is that as human beings, we are ALL at risk.

This risk is quite substantial. Roughly 25% of women and 12% of men will experience a major depressive episode in their lives. Per year, approximately 19 million Americans will suffer from anxiety disorders. The burden of untreated mental health problems is enormous in terms of individual emotional costs, damage to relationships, lost work productivity and increased disability. It's time for mental illnesses to "come out of the closet" as legitimate and treatable medical conditions.

What are the special concerns related to LGBT people and mental illness? Well, we are at slightly higher risk for some problems compared to the general population. From survey data, gay men have a higher rate of depression and panic attacks. Lesbians have about an equal amount of depression and anxiety problems comparatively. Gays and lesbians have a higher amount of alcoholism and other addictive disorders. Transgendered people have a higher amount of depression and anxiety, which drops to a very low

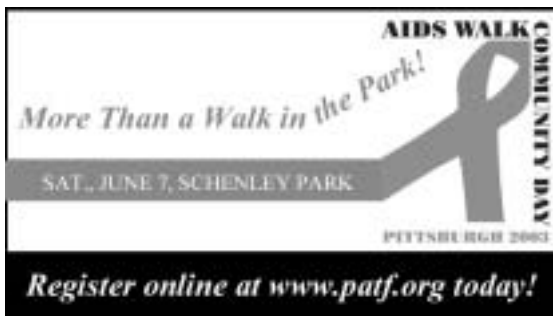
level after transitioning. (Duh – we could have told you that!) LGTB youth have been shown to have about an equal rate of serious suicide attempts and completed suicides as their straight counterparts. However, there are a lot more suicidal thoughts and "less serious" suicide attempts (whatever that means...) in LGTB youth indicating the high level of distress that many of them do feel.

Too bad there is still such a stigma about mental illness. People are embarrassed to get help for it, thinking they are just weak and they need to get stronger on their own. Sadly, only 25% of those with mental illness ever seek treatment at all – a figure that is tragic. There are other issues that keep people from getting the help they need, of course, including suboptimal insurance coverage. In addition, some people just don't realize what's going on inside of them. I can't tell you how many patients have come in with reports of feeling tired, who really were struggling with depression. It's up to the medical community to continue to educate and advocate about this important subject.

We have good reason to have hope, despite all this. Get the word out – there are safe, nonaddictive, effective treatments for mental illnesses. Counseling or psychotherapy is incredibly effective and can often empower the individual with insight and behavioral change. Modern medications work wonders for depression and anxiety, without just sedating people like the old medications did. Most of these medicines work by targeting and fixing the brain biology that causes these problems in the first place. So, mental illness is medical illness – it's just that simple.

If you are interested in more information, a good source is the National Institute of Mental Health home page (www.nimh.nih.gov). Be aware: mental illnesses can often be improved with treatment – people just don't have to suffer like that. Wishing you health and happiness...Christine

Christine D. Hudak, MD is a family physician in Erie. She attended the Ohio State University College of Medicine, and currently works at Hamot, teaching in the Family Medicine residency. She is interested in health issues and education for the LGTB community. Comments about the column can be directed to: Christine.Hudak@hamot.org.



Community announcements

Directors Circle reopens

The Directors Circle Theatre will open in its brand new space on May 2nd! The Theatre is now located at 14 East 10th Street in downtown Erie in the site of the former Damore's Restaurant/ Scoreboard Lounge. Its first production is the comic thriller "Accomplice" by Rupert Holmes, starring Patrick Hiller, Karen Shelinski, Carolin Lynn and David McNeill and is directed by Michael Weiss. It runs through early June. Check out www.DirectorsCircleTheatre.com for dates. All performances at 8 PM with 2 Sunday Matinees at 2 PM Call 814 451-0036 for reservations and other information. "Accomplice!" A bit of Comedy, a bit of sex, a bit of Gay Sex, and a bit of Murder!

Help for servicemembers

Military personnel who have questions or concerns related to the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy can receive free, confidential legal counseling by contacting the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network at (202) 328-FAIR or by emailing legal@sldn.org.

Crime Victim support Groups

by Angela Porfilio

Crime Victim Center has two groups starting in May. One is Circle of Support - an eight-week psycho-educational group for adult women who were sexually abused as children. An informational meeting will be held May 5 at 5:30 PM at 125 West 18th Street. Call Marge or Lynn at 455-9414. The other is a newly forming support group for men and women who were sexually abused as children. The meetings will be held every other Wednesday from 6-7 PM beginning May 7. Please call Trisha or Becky at 455-9414 for more information or to register for the group. Remember, all services are confidential and free of charge.

Educators group forming

from Keith and Peter

Hello! A number of people have discussed the possibility of forming a professional group for area educators who are gay, lesbian, or bisexual. There was a small group many years ago, and it is time we consider forming a new group with new dynamics! Such a group would provide a forum for teachers, guidance counselors, professors, librarians, and administrators to get together in a nonthreatening environment. Right now there are many possibilities including topical discussions, pot-lucks, meeting with other groups like PFLAG, an evening out, a picnic....

If you are an educator, and are interested in getting together with other gay, lesbian, and bisexual educators, please contact us at gleducator@hotmail.com. The email is maintained by a middle school teacher. As we know, it is not always easy to be gay in the field of education, and utmost discretion will be used. Cheers, hope to hear from you!

Northwest Pennsylvania Rural AIDS Alliance

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Community announcements

Lambda car club

Interested in antique and classic automobiles? How about interesting men *in* antique and classic automobiles? If so, you might want to consider joining the Lambda Car Club International.

Founded in 1992, the Lambda Car Club is designed to promote the enjoyment of and interest in antique and classic motor vehicles among gays and lesbians. It is also designed to promote social fellowship among gays and lesbians interested in such vehicles.

The Lambda Car Club is a not-for-profit organization with more than 1,200 members, primarily in the United States and Canada. The club is divided into regional chapters and each chapter sponsors activities and car shows throughout the year. In addition, an International Invitational car show is held annually in a different part of the country, attracting hundreds of members and vehicles from far and wide.

The Erie area is part of the Finger Lakes Region that serves all of western New York. Members hold a variety of activities including a car show at the annual Rochester Gay Pride Picnic and participation in the Rochester Gay Pride Parade.

Anyone interested in obtaining more information about the club may log onto their website at www.lambdacarclub.com or contact Bob at nwpa505@hotmail.com.

UU Garage sale

Donations appreciated

The **Unitarian Universalist Garage Sale** will take place on May 31.

This is a really important fundraiser for the church, so if you'd like to donate or help out, it would be appreciated.

One thing they really need is tables; if you can loan them one for the week, they'll mark it and get it back to you.

Items they would like for the sale are good clean clothes, toys, holiday items, clean housewares, records, furniture, tools, books (except encyclopedias and condensed). Items can be dropped off or picked up. You can drop off donated items to the church 9 AM to noon May 26-29 or any evening that week 6 - 9 PM (except Friday May 30). If you have questions or would like to have items picked up, call Deb at 459-2332.

The Unitarian Universalist Garage Sale will be held Saturday May 31 from 9:30 AM to 3 PM at the church, located at 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie. Numbers will be given out.

New cinema club

from Peter

The Rainbow Cinema Club is a group for gay men interested in cinema. The group began in January and has been quite successful! We get together at someone's home, usually the 4th Saturday, to view a film with a gay male theme, strong central gay male characters, and/or themes of interest to gay males. The purpose is to view films and enjoy them! These will not be porno films. Questions or comments can be directed to Peter at paguy@gmx.net or cell (814) 392-9088. Suggestions and/or hosts for screening for May 2003 and beyond are most welcome.

April Screening - 7 PM - Double Feature

Saturday, April 26, 2003

7 PM - *Killer Condom* (1996) *Kondom des Grauens* - In German with English subtitles <http://us.imdb.com/Title?0116791>

Intermission

9 PM - *Speedway Junky* (1999) - (includes Jonathon Taylor Thomas from *Home Improvement* as a male hustler...) <http://us.imdb.com/Title?0155197>

Letters

Praise for Aunt Killer

Kudos, Applause, Standing Ovation for Aunt Killer and her review (April 2003 issue). Was pleased that she recognized the plight of Lesbians in this community. After being asked to a woman's "office" (restroom) for a makeout session at a local dance I am happy to agree with the author that it is not the least bit attractive or attracting. So I was pleased that Aunt Killer identified this as a BIG NO !! NO!! After giving up on being single and trying to date woman here, I have decided to give the old computer dating scene a try.

Michelle

HIV/AIDS

Should you have an HIV Test?

A Special Interview with Nurse Fran

Editor's Note: Fran Reinsel, R.N. is a public health nurse at the Erie County Dept of Health. She has been employed in the HIV/AIDS division since 1994, and has been a nurse for more than thirty years. Her expertise in counseling and testing is revealed in this interview for Erie Gay News. Fran is part of the S.T.O.P. (Street Outreach Prevention) team, and as such, counsels and tests people for HIV infection.

by Patty Puline
Erie County Dept. of Health

Patty: Fran, why should Erie Gay News readers think about testing for HIV, Hepatitis C or any other Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD)?

Fran: People who are having same-sex relations need to think about being tested for HIV, STD and Hepatitis C. One of the hardest things for people to do is to share personal information with health care providers because:

1. Patients are never sure if or how the information will be accepted.
2. Patients may shut down due to personal feelings.
3. The health provider may not ask certain questions that need to be addressed due to personal bias, or indifference to the patient.

It is hard for patients to share very personal information and to talk about intimate details of their lives. Conversely, it can be difficult for some doctors and nurses to get comfortable talking with, and listening to patients describe sexual health issues.

Patty: How do you convince someone to be tested if they are afraid?

Fran: When providers talk to patients, they often say: *"What has happened to you in your past will affect you today and in the future."* Talking to a client about risks and helping them to get through the test can be very intimidating for both the patient and the provider. When talking about HIV, Hepatitis C, or STD, some of the risk factors would be hard for a patient to acknowledge, especially to a new health provider.

Patty: What are some questions asked during counseling sessions?

Fran: The provider might ask, "Have you ever shared needles? Are you sharing needles now? , With whom and how often? Have you had unprotected sex; oral, anal, or vaginal? Do you have sex when you are drunk or high? Have you every had a Sexually Transmitted Disease?"

The patient is thinking, "If I tell the doctor, especially about needle use, would I be reported to the authorities? If I have to sit in front of a physician, and talk about same-sex issues, will they be turned off, shut down and not see me as a person?"

Patty: So, often the fear is based on real concerns.

Fran: Yes, it is the fear of what has actually gone on before, during and after the sexual health issues counseling session between patient and physician. The apprehension of what will happen following an HIV, Hepatitis or STD exam. How will other people, friends and family react if they find out? Will the patient's family or friends leave them if the patient receives positive test results?

The provider takes in the whole perception of disease, disease process, and the risk factors. Physicians need to encourage the patient to think about risk, and risk reduction, because the patient may not consider some activities as risky.

A provider should be sensitive to the needs of all lifestyles and all people. And conversely, patients need to encourage physicians to be accepting. Their offices should be GLBT friendly, with information specific to GLBT needs.

Patty: What qualities should patients look for in a service provider?

Fran: Testing for HIV or getting counseled is important if you've been sexually active, and the Erie County Dept of Health has qualified staff to provide those services. They are at-risk experts, good at sexual health history taking, experienced at risk reduction counseling, can demonstrate how to use a condom, and interact with the patient in a non-judgmental manner.

Patients need to feel comfortable and safe with a health provider, and understand that the provider will bring them no harm. The Erie County Dept of

Health offers a safe setting to all people who enter for testing. To schedule an appointment with the STD Clinic, or the HIV Clinic, call the Erie County Dept of Health at 451-6700. Clinic information is also available through the Erie County Dept of Health website: www.ecdh.org

Patty: What about confidentiality, Nurse Fran? Will the results be shared with anyone?

Fran: No, the results are shared only with the patient, whether they are negative or positive. The good thing about being tested at the health department is that medications are dispensed during clinic. Your insurance will not be billed, and your information is kept confidential. There are certain acts (ACT148 for HIV), which ensure confidentiality for record keeping. And of course, we are now following the latest HIPA standards.

Patty: What if I do not want to come to clinic, but still want to be tested?

Fran: If you are sensitive to any of these issues, access a private counseling session at the Erie County Dept of Health. Call the S.T.O.P. (Street Outreach Prevention) nurse at 451-6716 to schedule a private, confidential appointment.

Thank you for your time, and please call me at 451-6543 for further information on anything included in this article. Patty Puline, Health Educator, Erie County Dept of Health puline@ecdh.org

NY Gender bill

from Empire State Pride Agenda

Albany, New York, April 14, 2003 - New York State Senator Thomas Duane (D-Manhattan) and Assemblymember Richard Gottfried (D-Manhattan) held a press conference to introduce the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA), a bill banning discrimination against transgender people across New York State.

While there has been a variation of today's bill introduced in the Senate in recent years (a bill sponsored by Senator Duane that banned discrimination based upon both sexual orientation and gender identity and expression), today's GENDA announcement is the first time a bill banning discrimination against transgender people has ever been introduced in the Assembly.

Michael Dithers

By Mike Mahler

Well, it's been an interesting month. I feel resolved about facing the challenge of keeping the Erie County HRC around. It was very heartening to read a letter to the editor in the paper a few weeks ago from someone who also supported it, and wondered whether it might be a Religious Right stealth move sort of thing. I think that people in Erie are much more accepting than some of us give them credit for.

Pride Picnic seems going well for June 14. Again, we will need volunteers to pass out business cards before hand, and a few volunteers just before/the day of the event. Contact me if you want to be involved.

You know, things are quite frequently not what you figure they might be. My ex recently came up from DC to get some of his stuff, and I sort of wondered whether it would be awkward or contentious, but it was actually fine. In a weird way, it was like passing a test in that I felt like I had gotten over the relationship and moved on, and the way that it went confirmed that. Cordial, but quite fine with it being over and done.

However, I did have 2 rather annoying incidents when out dancing. As I had been out on the dance floor for more than 5 minutes, my shirt was off and tucked in my belt. I felt a sharp tug and saw that my shirt had been stolen. Hmm, suspicious looking straight couple seemed like they might have snatched it, but not enough evidence, so I ended up glaring at them. Then a young straight woman seemed intent on dirty dancing with all of the guys on the floor. Hey, no problems with straight people. (There are even a few in my family, I'm told!) No problems with those gay guys who enjoy dancing with women for fun in that way. But one would think that no eye contact plus posture freezes when making contact plus move out of proximity pretty much signals "not interested!" A female friend mentioned that she was hit on rather aggressively by 2 different women when out on a date.

I really tend to get offended by men who regard women as the enemy, or gay folks who view any presence of straight folks in a predominantly gay space as being an invasion. However, I realized after the fact that it didn't make a difference whether they had been gay or straight or male or female. Rude is rude, although it can be very hot and thrilling when someone you might be interested in is direct. (Hell, I LOVE a man who knows what he wants.)

Schenker threatens to de-fund HRC

by Mike Mahler

Erie County Executive Rick Schenker has said that he plans to remove the Erie County Human Relations Commission (HRC) from the budget for 2004.

The Erie County Human Relations Commission investigates allegations of discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations. It is a nine-member volunteer organization that handles about 100 claims per year, with a budget of \$50,000. Most of the claims involve discrimination in employment.

In February 2002, Erie County Council voted 6-1 to include sexual orientation and gender identity as a protected category in the HRC ordinance. Although Schenker had previously vowed not to sign the revised ordinance, he did in fact sign it in March 2002.

Schenker maintains that discrimination cases can be handled by the state Human Relations Commission. Opponents of that measure raise several objections. One of the objections is that taking cases out of town will be costly for area businesses. The time and cost involved with travel would also be prohibitive for low-income persons. There is also the issue of time—the Erie County HRC typically resolves cases in about three to five months as opposed to about three years for the state level. It has been noted that local commissions are also more efficient and better-equipped to handle cases in their own communities, and the state counts on them to do so. The concern specific to GLBT persons is that Federal and Pennsylvania anti-discrimination laws do not currently include sexual orientation or gender identity.

Schenker has claimed that the decision to cut the HRC was a budget balancing measure to avoid “duplication of services.” However, according to an account in the Erie Times-News, Schenker brought up the de-funding when commission members met with him to discuss changes to the antidiscrimination ordinance that would allow the county to receive \$100,000 to \$125,000 in federal aid to focus on housing discrimination. Schenker reportedly told the commission members he was not interested in expanding the commission with the additional money.

There are currently only two paid staff members for the HRC. Chief Compliance Office Rev. Willie Damper tendered his resignation effective May 9 at the April 21 HRC meeting, possibly to take another

position with the County in the Prison Pre-Release system.

County Council member Joy Greco has said that she does not support ending funding for HRC. “The executive branch can run their departments as they see fit,” she recently told the Erie Times-News. “But I don’t see how you can put a dollar figure on human dignity.”

Concerned citizens and groups have begun to take action to keep the Erie County Human Relations Commission from being defunded. Although the budget process should not be active until September, it is very important to write/call the County Executive and County Council members to alert them of public support for keeping the HRC in Erie County.

All mail can be sent to Erie County Courthouse, 140 W 6th St, Erie PA 16501. Email addresses for all representatives are at www.eriecountygov.org

County Executive

Rick Schenker (R) (814) 451-6302
rschenker@eriecountygov.org

County Council

Joy Greco (R) Western Parts of Millcreek Township

Joe F. Giles (D) Erie’s East and West Bayfront areas

Fiore Leone (D) Southwest Erie and parts of Millcreek

Mark A. DiVecchio (D) Southeast Erie and parts of Millcreek

James B. Terrill (R) McKean and Wesleyville Boroughs, Franklin, Greene, Harborcreek, Lawrence Park, McKean and Summit townships

David E. Mitchell (R) The boroughs of Corry, Elgin, Mill Village, Union City, Waterford, Wattsburg and Parts of Northeast and Union City and the townships of Amity, Concord, Greenfield, LeBoeuf, Northeast, Union Venango and parts of Waterford and Wayne townships

Carol J. Loll (R) The boroughs of Albion, Cranesville, Edinboro, Fairview, Girard, Lake City, Platea and the Townships of Conneaut, Elk Creek, Fairview, Girard, Springfield and Washington

Information for this article is largely based on reports from the Erie Times-News.

Ohio GLBT bills

The following is from an email from Matthew Cataline, a gay activist in Youngstown, Ohio. The Ohio GLBT advocacy group Ohioans for Growth and Equality (OGE) has partnered with the national GLBT rights group Human Rights Campaign. For background, updates, and action suggestions about these bills, visit the Human Rights Campaign website www.hrc.org/stateaction/ohio/index.asp

According to the Gay Peoples Chronicle, there have been two bills introduced that we should watch.

Anti-Gay Marriage

The first is **Senate Bill 65**. This is essentially the same Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) bill that was introduced by Rep. Seitz last year and passed the House. It was introduced by Sen. Lynn Wachtmann, and cosponsored by Sens. Jim Jordan, John Carey, Larry Mumper, Ron Amstutz, and Jay Hottinger (Assistant President Pro Tempore), all Republicans. As of this writing, it hasn't been assigned to committee.

GLBT civil rights bill

The other bill is **House Bill 147**. It was introduced by Rep. Dale Miller, and cosponsored by Reps. Dixie Allen, Peter Ujvagi, Catherine Barrett, Barbara Sykes, Joyce Beatty, Michael Skindell, Chris Redfern, and Dan Stewart, all Democrats. This bill seeks to add sexual orientation and gender identity to the state civil rights laws (It only says sexual orientation in the bill, but includes transgendered persons in the definition of the term). It has been assigned to the State Government committee. The committee is chaired by Rep. Jim Carmichael (R), with Steve Reinhard (R) as vice-chair. The other Republican members are Stephen Buhner (Assistant Majority Floor Leader), Gary Cates (Speaker Pro Tempore), Patricia Clancy (Majority Floor Leader), Larry Flowers, Jim Hughes, Jon Peterson (Assistant Majority Whip), and James Trakas (Majority Whip). The Democrats are Ranking Member Annie Key, and members John Bocchieri (New Middleton, Assistant Minority Whip), Dan Stewart (Co-sponsor), Dean DePiero (Parma), and Sylvester Patton (Youngstown). No hearings have been scheduled for it yet. Looking at the membership of the committee, this looks like it will be a tough sell. Sen. Dan Brady has promised a similar bill will be introduced in the Senate, but it has not yet been presented.

National & PA News Briefs

New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson (D) has signed into law bills that add extra penalties for hate crimes and outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Richardson had promised to sign the measures, which gay rights advocates have sought for years.

Expect a June or July ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court on a case that seeks to overturn the 1973 Texas Homosexual Conduct law. The case was brought by two Houston men who were arrested by police for having consensual sex in the privacy of their own home. There are 12 US states that have similar sodomy laws and the Lambda Legal Defense Fund is calling the Texas case "the most important gay rights case in a generation."

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court will decide whether a man whose ex-wife is living with another woman can stop paying alimony to her. The justices recently heard arguments in the case of a couple who divorced in 1998. The ex-husband has argued that he is no longer required to pay his ex-wife alimony because they agreed that the payments would stop after two years if she were to "co-habitate."

The Pulaski County (Arkansas) School District and Jacksonville Junior High School has acknowledged the American Civil Liberties Union's claim that the school violated a student's constitutional rights when it sent a student to the principal's office and forced him to read from the Bible after he came out to a friend at school. School officials admitted that forcing the 14-year-old boy to read from the Bible was wrong, but they maintained that the student was sent to the principal's office for talking in class and not for coming out.

Check the Out-of-Town page at

www.eriegaynews.com

Click on Resources,

then go to the Links category.

Visitors info, venue details,

tickets, sight-seeing, more!

Entertainment Notes

by Deb Spilko

On stage

Recording artist **Greg Ropp** kicked off his "Resurrection" tour April 5 at Eclectic Etcetera's Coffeehouse in Edinboro.

From now until the end of summer, Ropp will be playing at many "unplugged" venues in Erie County including coffeehouses, clubs, churches, etc.

"I have been writing tons of new stuff, learning new tunes, remastering old tapes for future CD releases, and most importantly have found the joy and magic of doing so again," he said. "It has been literally years since I have felt the excitement and fun of creating and performing my music.

"Perhaps the current world situation has something to do with it, perhaps now I feel like I have something to say again. I dunno... whatever it is though, I want *you* to be a part of it!"

Greg Ropp has a website at www.angelfire.com/pa/5emptychambers/ That website is being updated, should offer appearance dates, CDs, etc.

Elsewhere... **Joan Armatrading** will be at the Three Rivers Arts Festival in Pittsburgh June 6 www.artsfestival.net... **Sophie B. Hawkins** will appear at the Cleveland Pride Festival on June 21 ... "**Queer as Folk - The Babylon Tour**" will be in Toronto June 7 at Kool Haus (formerly Warehouse) www.thegovernment.com

The transgender glam rock musical **Hedwig and the Angry Inch** will be performed at two area theaters: Pittsburgh's City Theater May 1 - June 8 www.citytheatrecompany.org and Youngstown's Oakland Center for the Arts June 5-21. <http://www.oaklandcenter.com/>

Events

Unofficial Gay Day at Cedar Point is on June 15... it's easy to remember it from one year to the next, because they schedule it, as they say, "Always on Father's Day." One of the original organizers for that event told me the reason they chose that date. "We wanted to schedule it on a day when the park normally experienced low attendance," he said. "We learned that on Father's Day, attendance was very low. That's because they found that, typically, the family would ask Dad

what he wanted to do on his special day, and the dads would say 'Anything but go to an amusement park!'" And *that* is how a tradition began. Many on the religious right have never bothered to find out why Father's Day was chosen, preferring to see it as an anti-family in-your-face gesture, and that just makes them see red (oh, which reminds me, people participating in Gay Day traditionally wear something red at the Park). Anyway, what Gay Day participants do to actually observe Father's Day is as varied as anywhere else in society, but I can tell you at Cedar Point on June 15 there will be plenty of gay dads with their kids and plenty of straight dads with their gay kids.

Other Gay Day events in the area: the organizers of **Gay Day at Six Flags (Aurora, OH)** tell me they are planning an event but no details yet. As for **Paramount Canada's Wonderland...** according to the Gay Day site "Now always scheduled the last Saturday in August. There really isn't an organization that sponsors it these days, just an underground calling to the Canadians." The biggest Gay Day event, of course is at **Disneyworld** in Orlando. This year it's June 7,

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but will there will be lots of events before and after that. To see what's up (and also to check other Gay Days around North America) visit their website at www.gayday.com

Festivals

Great news for area fans of women's music festivals... This year, the **National Women's Music Festival** will be held June 5-8 in Kent Ohio. The event has been held in Indiana for the past 20 years, but due to circumstances, they had to find another location. They were lucky to be able to procure Kent State University in Kent, Ohio, which is a liberal campus near Akron Ohio. The NWMF is probably the most physically comfortable of all the major women's festivals... it is held on campus, so accommodations and environment are not rustic, like most festivals. NWMF will include a wide variety of music (rock, jazz, folk, choral, new age, eclectic and more)... also there will be comedians (Marga Gomez and Georgia Ragsdale, so far), workshops (at present they include sexuality, drumming and spirituality), drag king performance night, and golf outing. They are recommending that if you want to register for on-site housing you do so

before May 1. For more information visit their website at www.wiaonline.org.

By the way, one of the best listings for North American **lesbian/women's festivals** is at www.offourbacks.org

Camps and Inns

GLBT campers will be happy to know area camps are open now. **Camp Davis** in Boyers PA (near Grove City) welcomes adult GLBT campers--that is, men and women 21 and up. Their website is at www.campdavis.com 724-637-2402 email: CampD@aol.com **Jones Pond** in Angelica NY welcomes gay and bi males 21 and over. Their website is at www.jonespond.com Phone: 585-567-8100 email: info@jonespond.com. Both camps offer special theme weekends and events, dancing, bonfires, swimming pools, indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, trails, seclusion, hot showers, sinks, flush toilets, hookups and cabin/trailer rental, camp stores, and various amenities. Jones Pond additionally has a guest house, pond for fishing and motorless boating, and meditation center. Visit the camp websites to get a look at the camps, look over their schedules, and get more details.

Unfortunately, **Kimbilio Retreat and B&B**, which provided a nice space for women in Ohio, apparently closed last year.

On the web

Of the many blogs, or weblogs, that have come out of the conflict with Iraq, the most intriguing has been maintained by a 29-year-old gay Iraqi architect living in Baghdad who calls himself "**Salam Pax**." The blog records his personal thoughts and vivid observations on everyday life in Baghdad as well as the events leading up to and during the early days of the war—all written in fluent, well-crafted English. The site has had so many hits worldwide that Blogger and Google provided him with a mirror URL. Unfortunately, his entries stopped on March 24; one hopes this only means that's because Internet service in Iraq has been down. The Salam Pax website is called "**Where is Raed**," and can be found at <http://dearraed.blogspot.com>

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Rainbow Pride Gift Shop, Buffalo 716-855-0222
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<http://gayellowpages.com>

Resource Directory

This is an abbreviated listing! For a complete listing, either go to www.eriegaynews.com/resources.html or call us at (814) 456-9833. All phone numbers are (814) unless otherwise noted.

Accommodations

- Camp Davis (724) 637-2402
 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers PA
 Jones Pond Campground (716) 567-8100
 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica NY
 Partridge Sheldon Mansion Bed and Breakfast (716) 484-9659
 70 Prospect St., Jamestown NY

Bars

- Rascals (716) 484-3220
 701 N Main St., Jamestown NY, 3 PM to 2 AM 7 days a week
 Sneakers (716) 484-8816
 Village Supper Club 452-0125
 133 W 18th St., Erie PA. Open 8 PM to 2 AM Mon-Sun
 Zone Dance Club 459-1711
 1711 State St., Erie PA. Open Mon-Sat.

Coffeeshouses & Restaurants

- Aroma's Coffeeshouse 456-5282
 2174 W 8th St., Erie PA
 Matthew's Trattoria 459-6458
 153 E 13th St., Erie PA
 Papa Joe's Pepperoni Cafe 455-1292
 402 W 8th St., Erie PA
 papermoon 455-7766
 1325 State St., Erie PA

Counseling

- Community Integration Crisis Services 456-2014
 1330 W 26th St., Erie PA toll free # (800) 300-9558
 David J Johnson, PHD 838-9408
 Lake Erie Counseling Associates 455-4009
 Vivian Tamburello 877-7065
 Well Being Center 838-0123

Groups

For regularly meeting groups, see the Calendar

Health

- Community Health Net 454-4530
 1202 State St, Erie PA
 Erie County Dept of Health 451-6700
 606 W 2nd St., Erie PA
 Healing Touch Therapeutic Massage 452-2812
 410 Cranberry St., Ste 130, Erie PA
 NW PA Rural AIDS Alliance 456-8849
 1001 State St., Ste 806, Erie PA

HIV/AIDS Counseling and Testing

- Community Health Net 454-4530
 1202 State St, Erie PA (No appointment necessary)
 Erie County Dept of Health 451-6700

606 W 2nd St., Erie PA. Mon: 12 noon to 3:30 PM, Tue 9:30 AM to 1 PM. Other times by appt.
 Minority Health Education and Delivery System (MHEDS). 453-6229
 2928 Peach St., Erie PA. Open to all races/ethnicities. Call for appt.

Infolines

- Erie Gay News 456-9833
www.eriegaynews.com
 Erie Gay Teens www.eriegayteens.com
 Gay Chautauqua (877)235-4188
www.gaychautauqua.org

Professional Services

- Patty Ambrose (Lawyer) 452-3069
 John Cooper (Lawyer) 455-3626
 Linda Foll-Johnson, Realtor 864-3200 ext 325
 Tom NeCastro, Realtor 452-2100 ext 125
 Levine Law Office 454-3819

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- Jim Moski/J.D. Byrider Auto Sales 868-0700
 Lake Erie Antique Gallery 836-7555
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Email _____

Phone and email are optional

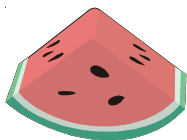
Send \$20 Check to:
EGC Coalition
 1115 W 7th St.
 Erie PA 16502

EGN will be mailed
 discreetly in a plain
 envelope every month
 for 1 full year.

All information held in confidence.

MEMORIAL DAY

PICNIC 2003



Monday May 26

11 AM to 6:30 PM

North Park Lodge, Rain or Shine



Pittsburgh's ONLY Picnic of the Year
Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the gate.
Available at the Zone and Pittsburgh bars

Sponsored by the Steel City Softball League (SCSL) and PTG. (Pittsburgh Tavern Guild)
Proceeds Benefit SCSP and Borrelli AIDS Fund

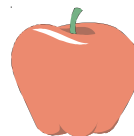
Real Picnic with traditional picnic food

Non Stop Music

Midway Madness

Game Booths operated

by non-profit groups in Pittsburgh



Individuals wishing to sell their arts & crafts can acquire space for \$100 fee
benefiting Gay & Lesbian Community Center
Email contact memorialdaypicnic2003@comcast.net