



Calendar

This calendar is also online at www.eriegaynews.com/calendar.html

Aug 23 - Fundraising Party: Karen Morton's 2003-2004 Ladies Professional Racquetball Association (LPRA) tour at Two Friends Italian Market 10th & French from 7 to 10 PM. Food, music by 2 Girls Alone, silent auction, raffles, beer and wine all provided for admission ticket (\$10 in advance, \$15 at the door.) Tickets available from Two Friends and Nautilus Fitness and Racquet Clubs. For more information see last issue or email sgaia@att.net.

Aug 23 - Womynspace: Canoeing Excursion (Warren PA) Allegheny Outfitters, 2101 PA Ave East, Warren PA 9 AM. "I can make reservations for canoes and/or kayaks. Need to know how many people and if they prefer canoe or kayak. We can canoe from Allegheny Outfitters (east end of Warren off Route 6 just past refinery, right across Glade Bridge heading north) to Buckaloons (Allegheny National Forest Campground). Note, if people hit Route 59 east intersection with Route 6, they went to far on Route 6, and missed the Glade Bridge. Allegheny Outfitters has a nice web site <http://www.alleghenyoutfitters.com/index.html> if anyone is interested in checking out their

excursions. The trip from their office to Buckaloons would be about \$30 per canoe, and based on our experience would take about 5 hours if people don't paddle much, less if they like to paddle along. People can travel home or stay at the campground if they are interested." Reservations for the campground can be made at www.reserveusa.com or by calling (877) 444-6777. Browse to www.alleghenyoutfitters.com.

Aug 23 - Melissa Etheridge in Concert (Cleveland OH) 8 PM Scene Pavilion (formerly Nautica Pavilion), 2014 Sycamore, Cleveland, tickets available through Ticketmaster, (216) 241-5555, (330) 945-9400, www.ticketmaster.com, www.hob.com/scenepavilion.

Aug 23 - Performance: The Laura Persutti Combo and Friends at Scotty's Jazz Bar, 301 German St, Erie PA. 10 PM-12 Midnight.

Aug 24 - 25th Annual "We are Family" NOCI Picnic (Parma OH) 11 AM-8 PM. Benefits GLBT and HIV/AIDS organizations. New this year—open to all ages. (16 and under must be accompanied by parent or guardian). Outdoor dancing, entertainment, fashion shows, games for the kids. German-American

(Continued on page 3)



Marchers at last year's Pride weekend. See details on this years' events on page 7

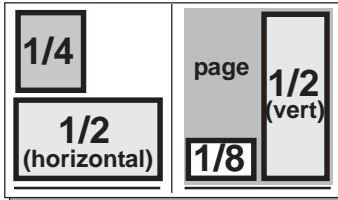
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On the Cover...

**Photos from the 2002 Pride Weekend
by Mike A Miller**

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Deadline for ads is the 15th



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www.eriegaynews.com

Editors: Deb Spilko and Mike Mahler

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.

Views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the EGN staff.

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Thank You:

To Jerry McCumber, James von Loewe and Deb Spilko for folding and Dave S for distributing last issue. Thanks! Thanks also to Bob for proofing.

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

Cultural Club, 7863 York Rd, Parma OH Browse to www.noci-online.org.

Aug 28 - Benefit Concert for the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force (Pittsburgh) At Sanctuary, in Pittsburgh's Strip District. Doors open at 8 PM. Cost: \$10. Info commdir@city-net.com (412) 242-2500 ext. 123.

Aug 28 - Sep 1- Asians & Friends International Friendship Weekend (Pittsburgh PA) IFW is a yearly convention bringing chapters of Asians & Friends, as well as anyone else interested, from all over the globe together to meet, socialize, and share their insights on their gay and Asian heritage. The weekend consists primarily of gay men, but it is open to everyone. Weekend features workshops, panel discussions, tours, dinner/dance boat cruise, Mr. and Miss IFW Pageant, plays and receptions. Info: Paul Alarcon at (412) 521-5451 or email afpgh@hotmail.com or www.afpgh.org.

Aug 30 - Performance: The Laura Persutti Combo and Friends at Two Friends Italian Market 25 E 10th St, Erie PA. 6 PM-8 PM. 461-9966.

Sep 3 - "Always Our Children" meets Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St., Erie PA. Support group for Catholic parents of gay children (814) 456-2091.

Sep 6 - Laura Presutti at Aromas 7-9 PM 2174 W. 8th. 456-5282.

Sep 8 - PFLAG Erie/Crawford County Meets (Erie PA) Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA. Details: See "Regularly Meeting Groups" section.

Sep 11 - Laura Presutti at Penn State Behrend 5 PM - 6:30 PM

Sep 12 - 14 - Erie Pride Weekend (Erie PA) See details and schedule page 7.

Sep 12 - PFLAG Bingo Fundraiser (Erie) Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA 6-9:30 PM. Part of Erie Pride Weekend, September 12-14. Fundraiser for PFLAG at Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA. For more info, contact Maureen Koseff at (814) 898-8341 or pflagerie@adelphia.net.

Sep 13 - Ohio Lesbian Festival (Kirkersville OH) The one-day affair has music, workshops, games, merchants, and lots of activities and entertainment. Check their website at www.ohiolba.org

Sep 13 - State Conference on the Transgendered (Pittsburgh PA) The Pittsburgh Transsexual Support

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Dear Members of the Erie GLBT Community,

As a professional financial advisor, I am well aware of the legal and social realities that affect the GLBT community, and how they can affect you from a financial standpoint. That's why I am proud to be a part of the Erie Gay News, and proud to support the GLBT community here in the Erie Area!

With this in mind I would like to offer as a service to the community a complimentary financial consultation with no strings attached. So whether you are single or in a relationship, whether you have a lot of money or a little, Call me today to set up your complimentary financial consultation.

As an added show of support to the GLBT Community, for everyone who meets with me in August or September I will donate \$25 in your name to your favorite GLBT Charity.

Thanks for helping me help the community,
Wally Billingham 814-454-5856 ext.228

Group (PTSG) announces the first-ever State Conference on the Transgendered on 1 PM September 13, 2003 at the Gemini Theater in Pittsburgh. Free to public. Also mariatv77@hotmail.com or (412) 661-7030.

Sep 13 - Laura Presutti at Papa Joe's W. 8th & Chestnut 8-10 PM

Sep 14 - Post-Game (Pride event) Jazz Brunch at The Village - 133 W. 18th St, Erie (814) 452-0125. Live performance by Laura Presutti 3-4 PM (light jazz guitar and vocals).

Sep 18 - Performance: 2 Girls Alone (Aromas Coffeehouse, 2174 W 8th St, Erie PA) 7 PM - 9 PM. Email: twogirlsalone@att.net.

Sep 20 - 10% Network meets: Cookout at Michael's (TBA, Jamestown NY) 7:30 PM. Bring a dish to pass. Location to be announced. Contact: Don. Phone: (716) 484-1661. Email: donjaye@hotmail.com. Browse to <http://jamestowntenpercent.tripod.com/>

Sep 20 - Dance Escape (Erie PA) Gay/Gay-Friendly Event, Perry Hi-Way Hose Company, 8270 Peach Street, 8 PM - 1 AM. Bring your own beverages and snacks (ice available). Must be 21 or older. Smoke Free. \$6.00 admission (no ticket sales) . Phone: (814) 835-

9090. Email: danceescape@earthlink.net. Browse to www.home.earthlink.net/~danceescape/.

Sep 21 - Dr. John Carey Memorial AIDS Walk (Cleveland) Info: mdiamond40@aol.com

Sep 22 - PA State Human Relations Commission meeting in Erie (Erie PA) 11 AM - 4 PM. Public Meeting begins at 11:00 am and ends at 1:00 PM. Discussion of the future funding and effectiveness of the ERIE COUNTY Human Relations Commission is on the agenda. Public comment is welcome. Contact: Steve Glassman. Email: saglassman2003@yahoo.com. See details page 9.

Sep 25 - The Second Chance Prom (Pittsburgh) Sanctuary - Strip District, 1620 Penn Ave, Pittsburgh at 8 PM. "If your prom was a disaster, here's your second chance to do it right at this fantastic event! Prom dress is encouraged, dates are not required!" E vent will raise money to directly benefit the clients of the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force. Contact: Gina Focareta. Info: commdir@city-net.com or www.patf.org.

Sep 27 - Performance: Laura Presutti at Papa Joe's West 8th & Chestnut, 8 PM - 10 PM.

Oct 1 - "Always Our Children" meets Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St., Erie PA. Support group for Catholic parents of gay children (814) 456-2091.

Oct 5 - Solidarity Sunday The GLBT Catholic organization Dignity/USA initiated Solidarity Sunday in 1995 as a faith-based way of making their opposition to anti-gay violence visible. Always held the week before National Coming Out Day. Browse to www.dignityusa.org

Oct 6 - Last Day to Register to Vote for November 4 Election

Oct 10-12 - Load the Boat XIII (Cleveland OH) "It's our annual weekend of square dancing in Cleveland, sponsored by the Cleveland City Country Dancers. This year the theme is Poseidon Adventure... like

Fall Craft Extravaganza!

September 20th

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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the movie. There will be square dancing at Mainstream through Advanced and Challenge levels, a potluck dinner on Friday evening, and an optional Sunday brunch cruise on Lake Erie, aboard the Nautica Queen (a boat). The NQ cruise is \$28 for people not participating in the other activities, and there are still tickets available. For those who do not square dance, the weekend is \$20." At Ceska Sin Sokol Hall, 4314 Clark Ave Contact: Browse to www.iagsdc.org

Oct 11 - National Coming Out Day <http://www.hrc.org/ncop> If you or your organization/business are planning an event or events please let us know by the September 15 deadline!

Oct 12 - Jazz Brunch at The Village Supper Club (Erie PA) 133 W 18th St. Noon till whenever. Phone: (814) 452-0125.

Oct 12 - Three Rivers Cruise (Pittsburgh) Station Square, 1 Station Square, 4:30 PM - 9 PM. Boarding time 4:30 PM to 5. Leaves at 5 PM, docks at 8:30 PM. Party till 9 PM. Tickets \$20 in advance. Available at the Zone, 1711 State St, Erie and all Pittsburgh Bars. \$25 (if available!) at the boat. Contact: Zone. Phone: (814) 459-1711. Browse to www.gatewayclipper.com.

Oct 13 - PFLAG Meeting (Erie PA) Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry High-

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Erie County Health Department

**606 West Second Street
(Corner of West 2nd & Clay Street)**

Monday 12 noon - 3:30 pm
Tuesday 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

STD TESTING

WALK IN CLINIC

No Appointment Necessary

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
Delivery System (MHEDS)
(814) 453-6229 or (814) 453-4728

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

way 7 PM - 9 PM. Regular meeting. Contact: Maureen Koseff. Phone: (814) 898-8341. Email: pflagerie@adelphia.net.

Oct 16-18 - Paula Poundstone at Jr's Last Laugh (Erie PA) 1402 State Info: 461-0911.

Oct 18 - 10% Network meets: Potluck Dinner (Jamestown NY) Unitarian Church of Jamestown, 1255 Prendergast Ave, Jamestown NY. 7:30 PM. Bring a dish to pass. Contact: Don. Phone: (716) 484-1661. Email: donjaye@hotmail.com. Browse to <http://jamestowntenpercent.tripod.com>

Red Hot Halloween

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& Pittsburgh International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival*



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Area Theater

Listing area theater productions of interest to GLBT theater-going audiences.

Shakespeare's R&J Presented by Buffalo United Artists in their new home at The Andrews Theatre (Main Street Cabaret), 625 Main St, Buffalo NY September 5-27. Adapted by Joe Calarco. Four male students in a repressive Catholic prep school, tired of going through the usual drill of conjugating Latin and other tedious school routines, decide to vary their much-governed lives. After school, one breaks out a copy of William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*—forbidden reading because of its amorous nature—and they all take turns reading the play aloud. The Bard's words and the story itself are thrilling to the young men and they become swept away, enmeshed in the emotion so much that they break school rules in order to continue their readings. The rigidity of their lives begins to parallel the lives of the characters in the play: roles in the family, roles in society and the roles played by men and women soon seem to make all the sense in the world, and then, suddenly they seem to make no sense at all. Although they had been taking turns playing all the parts, two eventually emerge playing Romeo and Juliet exclusively, bringing a whole new dimension to the proceedings. Perceptions and understanding are turned upside down as the fun of play-acting turns serious, the words and meanings begin to hit home, and universal truths emerge. Directed by Kelli Bocock-Natale. Cast: Chris Kelly, Eric Rawski, Mathew Hurley and Tim Finnegan. When: September 5 - 27 (Fridays and Saturdays only). Ticket prices: general admission \$20 / BUA members \$16 / students \$10. Phone: (716) 886-9239 (Tickets & info). Browse to www.buffalobua.org.

Because of space restrictions, we had to omit the "Regularly meeting groups" from this month's issue. If you wish to consult that listing, please visit us online at www.eriegaynews.com

Erie GLBT Pride Weekend

By Abbey L. Atkinson

Friday, September 12

PFLAG Bingo

All ages are welcome to this fabulous event featuring Drag Queen callers, attendants, and great prizes. Cover charge includes game cards and meal. Unitarian Universalist Church, 7180 New Perry Highway. 6-9:30PM

Pride Kick-Off Party

Begin the weekend at The Village Supper Club's kickoff party. Expect to be delighted and entertained by a late night show hosted by House Diva, Rhiannon Angelina! 133 West 18th Street. 9PM (21+)

Saturday, September 13

Equality March

We're Here! We're Queer! We're Fabulous!

Meet at The Village Supper Club at 1PM and join us through the streets of downtown to demand equality! Inspirational words from: League of Gay and Lesbian Voters.

GLBT Pride Rally

Bouncy Boxing, Buddha's Body Art, Live DJ, great food, information booths, carnival games, Dunk Tank featuring Erie City Councilman Jim Thompson, Miss Village 2003 and Miss Great Lakes World 2003, Drag Kings, Chinese auction, Pride novelty sales, book signing by Ted Randler, author of *The Guessing Game* and Palari Publishing representative available for questions, etc., and featured speakers: Linda Bebeko-Jones, Steve Glassman of SPARC, and David Greer—HIV/AIDS advisory council to the Bush administration. (And who knows what other surprises are in store!?) Perry Square, 2PM.

Rocky Horror Picture Show

Identity from Edinboro University invite all ages to this outrageous cult classic event! Two showings at The Blasco Memorial Library. 7PM and 9PM. Goody bags provided please do not bring your own. Half of the proceeds go to AIDS charity

Rainbow Pride Underwear Party

Go wild at this party at The Zone Dance Club 1711 State Street! Wear your rainbow underwear, favorite gay pride T-shirt, Zone T-shirt, or smiley boxers. Starting 8PM. (21+)

Sunday, September 14

Family Day

At Haggerty Field, slightly east of Pittsburgh Ave. on 32nd Street, will be the home of Dyke vs. Drag Queen Softball once again. Can the Queens hold their title? Let's see... Bring the kids to the crafting corner/kids games in the picnic area of the park. 11AM.

Tailgater's Brunch

Following the game, The Village Supper Club will serve up a yummy menu, morning papers, delightful jazz sounds, and those ever famous mimosas! 1PM (21+) From 3-4 PM Laura Presutti will perform, with smooth jazz guitar and vocals.

Charity Brunch

Proceeds go to AIDS charities from this brunch at Papermoon. 11AM

For more info visit www.eriepride.com



PFLAG News

by Maureen Koseff
PFLAG-Erie/Crawford County

Please come, show your support for PFLAG's work, attend our OUtRageous BINGO party fundraiser. Friday night of PRIDE WEEKEND (Sept. 12th), from 6 to 9:30 PM at the Unitarian church on Route 97, just north of exit 27 off of I- 90. Enjoy: BINGO with cash prizes; "INSTANT" tickets, door prizes, drag queen contest, door prizes and refreshments. You will have plenty of time afterwards to go out on the town!!

PFLAG will speak to the Student Health Services staff at Edinboro University on August 21st. We hope this will help Edinboro University staff to serve GLBT students better.

There has been a lot in the press recently about the Millcreek School Board's decision in May to add sexual orientation and gender identity to the Millcreek School District's Harassment Policy, because the "American Family Association" (AFA) is fighting that decision. With the change in the harassment policy,

Millcreek school district regulations bar harassment based on sexual orientation or gender identity. As a result of an Erie Times-News article about the establishment of McDowell High School's Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) last year, and the fact that the GSA members proposed the changes to the harassment policy, PFLAG has gotten calls from the press and a radio station about it. The Associated Press printed an article on July 29th, stating that the AFA opposes the decision and asked that "safe zone" stickers be taken down from the doors of McDowell teachers and staff. School district representatives said the stickers had been removed at the end of the school year. The stickers are not an essential part of PFLAG's "From Our House to the School House" program; they were just reminders of support for GLBT students, so they would feel safe when they came in to discuss problems with the school staff. The policy is crucial. As far as we know, the Millcreek school board and administration support the new harassment policy and have no plans to change it. It is a good idea, however, if you write a note to Millcreek school district administration offices and the school board and express your support.

MEETING NOTES: Our September support group meeting is Monday, Sept. 8th, 7-9 PM. Please contact Maureen (phone: 898-8341; email: pflagerie@adelphia.net) if you have questions, or if you want to attend our "Straight Spouse Support Group" meetings.

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.

Northwest Pennsylvania Rural AIDS Alliance

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814-764-6066 or 800-359-AIDS
(2437)*

*In Erie contact us at:
1001 State St. Suite 806
Renaissance Centre
Erie, PA 16501
814-456-8849 or 800-400-AIDS*



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Sign up at www.eriegaynews.com
or email info@eriegaynews.com

Email list is **confidential**, and not sold to or shared with anyone.

Updates: Human Relations Commission

by Mike Mahler

State HRC meets here Sept 22

The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission will meet in Erie on September 22.

Discussion of the future funding and effectiveness of the ERIE COUNTY Human Relations Commission is on the agenda. Public comment is welcome. The public meeting begins at 11 AM and continues until 1 PM. At that time they will adjourn for lunch. There will then be a Public Town Meeting at 1:30 PM at the Avalon Hotel (10th & State) meeting room to discuss any local issues of concern to Erie citizens including, of course, the fate of the Erie County Human Relations Commission. This part of the meeting will continue until about 2:30 PM at which time they will move into a Training Institute which is also open to the public and which will continue until 4 PM. The commission is finalizing the topic of the Training Institute at this writing. A finalized schedule will be sent to anyone on the Erie County HRC supporters email list (see item in next column) and will also be posted on the Erie Gay News website.

This will also be a good chance for local people to demonstrate their support for antidiscrimination efforts at all levels. So, please attend if you possibly can.

It is very important that we get a broad coalition of groups to attend. Defunding the HRC would affect *everyone* in Erie County. Therefore, we are working with groups representing racial and ethnic groups, religious groups, labor, etc. Please encourage not only GLBT people and allies to be involved in this, but other constituencies as well.

For more information about the PA HRC meeting (or the PA HRC in general) contact Steve Glassman at saglassman2003@yahoo.com.

Calendar Listings are FREE!

**To list your event in this publication
please submit it no later than
15th of the month**

HRC supporters email list

Although we will be making announcements about major developments concerning Erie County HRC to the Erie GLBT email list, we have also set up a separate email list for Erie County HRC supporters. This list is only for updates on the situation with the Erie County Human Relations Commission. To get on that list, just email Mike Mahler at info@eriegaynews.com. You can also join from a link at the www.eriegaynews.com home page.

July 22 Erie County Council mtg

Erie County Human Relations Commission (HRC) Chairman Bill McCarthy made a presentation to Erie County Council on July 22. McCarthy stated that he felt it went well. As it turned out, County Council did not allow comments from the general public on that particular night as they had a rather cumbersome agenda and the HRC was not up for a vote. A representative from PFLAG had a letter, copies of which were given to County Council members.

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National & PA News Briefs

by Bob

HIV Diagnoses Increases

HIV diagnoses among men who have sex with men (MSM) increased by 7.1 percent in 2002, according to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC, which released its report at the 2003 National HIV Prevention Conference in Atlanta, stated that HIV diagnoses among gay and bisexual men have increased by 17.7 percent since 1999, when the rate of MSM diagnoses for the virus was at its lowest. At the same time, HIV diagnoses among other high-risk groups have remained stable since 2001, according to the CDC data.

GOP Continues Push for Marriage Amendment

The Republican Policy Committee has urged the US Senate to adopt a Constitutional amendment preventing gay and lesbian couples from marrying in the United States. In a 12-page paper titled "The Threat to Marriage from the Courts," the Policy Committee warns that if gay marriage is not dealt with quickly, pending and future court cases could rule that bans against gay marriage are unconstitutional. Such court cases are pending in several states. The paper, written by Sen. Jon Kyl (R-AZ), goes on to say that "These lawsuits will continue until Congress and the states adopt a Constitutional amendment to protect traditional marriage."

Gay Bishop Welcomed Home

After being confirmed as the first openly gay Episcopalian bishop, The Rev. Gene Robinson has returned to his home church in New Hampshire to the hugs and handshakes of hundreds of parishioners. After a sometimes-stormy debate, the Episcopal General Convention confirmed Robinson as bishop of the Diocese of New Hampshire. The group also gave its affirmation to same-sex blessing ceremonies. The Episcopal Church, with 2.3 million members, is the U.S. branch of the 77 million-member Anglican Com-

munion. Conservatives within the Anglican Communion are threatening to separate from the church.

Lawyers Back Gay Adoption

At its annual convention, the American Bar Association (ABA) passed a resolution in support of joint and second-parent adoptions. The nation's largest legal group is already on record in support of the right of single gays and lesbians to adopt, but this new resolution endorses "the establishment of legal parent-child relationships through joint adoptions, and second-parent adoptions by unmarried persons who are functioning as a child's parents, when such adoptions are in the best interests of the child."

Gay State Employees Benefit from New Contracts

In their newly ratified contract with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, members of the Pennsylvania Social Services Union - Service Employees International Union, Local 668 included new language allowing employees to use their sick leave for same-sex domestic partners. This includes bereavement leave, sick family leave, extended sick family leave, and family care leave. This is major victory for state employees and the first of its kind in any state-negotiated labor contract in Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, the largest state labor union - AFSCME - did not bargain this into their contract. In addition, Governor Ed Rendell has extended employment discrimination protection to include "gender identity and expression" for state employees. State employees have long had "sexual orientation" discrimination protection but the addition of gender identity is a major step forward.

*Erie Pride Weekend, September 12-14!
See article page 7 or www.eriepride.com*



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Latino Men, HIV and Secrets

“See No Evil, Hear No Evil, Speak No Evil”

by Patty Puline
Erie County Department of Health

“Ojos que no ven, corazon que no siente” is an expression commonly used in the Latin culture. This reflects the belief that sometimes it is better not to talk about painful things so that you do not upset people who are close to you. Drug use and HIV status are some of the subjects people do not want to speak about. This is one of the reasons that the voices of HIV+ Latino male drug users have remained silent during the epidemic.”

*Dr. Lydia Santiago,
Dallabrida & Associates, 2002*

Hispanic American Council of Erie, HACE, provides a special HIV initiative project, Proyecto Latino. The goal is to prevent HIV infection by providing outreach and education to the Latino community.

Patty Puline, HIV/AIDS health educator for the Erie County Dept of Health sat down with HACE Proyecto Latino staff, Sonny Concepcion and Melissa Montero for this interview and asked them some relevant questions. Following is that interview.

Patty: “What barriers do you find prevent you from reaching Gay Latino men?”

Sonny: Stigma and discrimination from the culture that exists toward the *machismo* is an embedded and reinforced belief that says if you're a man, being gay is not acceptable among our culture. Gay and Lesbians in the Latino community is a taboo subject. It is not talked about within family settings, and when it is talked about, it is taking place behind closed doors.

Patty: What issues do you find that Latino men face?

Melissa: Latino men face issues like HIV, and GLBT, and are usually talked about with someone else who is going through the same thoughts, feelings, or relationships. Our goal is to reach Latino men and women and to promote HIV testing. We will travel to do HIV testing on site, in private homes, or through appointments at our agency.



At this year's Pride Picnic: From left to right: Patty Puline and Steve Simmelkjaer from the Erie County Department of Health and Sonny Concepcion from Hispanic American Council of Erie, (person behind them was not identified).

Sonny. Proyecto Latino acts as an advocate for gays to come forward and be facilitators for anything they need. It cuts across the old code of silence, to embrace a cultural acceptance for Latino GLBT within their own community. For instance, to start a group to support Latino LGBT, it is important to have a Latino lead that group. To penetrate these barriers, we need help from the community.

Melissa: By this article, this is reaching out to the community.

Sonny. We want to be accepted in GLBT activities. So we are providing HIV prevention activities during Pride Weekend. We will be conducting outreach at the Village, attending Gay Pride events, and extending our hand to Latino LGBT to offer our services through Proyecto Latino.

Author's Note: HIV and gay issues are sometimes kept as secrets among the Latino community. For many reasons, Latino men have not been accepted when revealing this information about themselves. They may think that “ojos que no ven corazon que no

(continued next page)

Latino *(continued from previous page)*

siente, is better than telling the truth, or fear that the truth may harm family members or friends. Proyecto Latino could bridge the gap between HIV positives, Latinos, and GLBT, and bring a new understanding to the Latino community by encouraging people to speak out and seek HIV testing. Contact the Hispanic American Council of Erie for further information, or to schedule HIV counseling and testing services.

Gay Latinos can contact Sonny Concepcion Sr. or Melissa Montero at:

Proyecto Latino
Hispanic American Council of Erie
554 East 10th Street
Erie, PA 16503
(814) 455-0212 Fax: 453-2363
Email: hivtob@velocity.net

History of Hispanic American Council

The Hispanic American Council of Erie was incorporated as a nonprofit agency on April 25, 1975 with the mission of promoting the socioeconomic progress and well-being of Erie's Hispanic community. Since that time, our mission has grown to serve many of the limited English-speaking populations found in our diverse community. Implementing that mission means to bridge the gaps of understanding and act as a facilitator to create conditions that allow growth and advancement. We attempt to accomplish this in two ways:

- * By being a resource to individuals and to agencies, institutions, and organizations which serve the community
- * By creating opportunities and supporting efforts for self-empowerment and self-sufficiency.

Extending services to a variety of age, ethnic, language, and racial groups aids the Council in reaching one of its higher goals: greater assimilation for Hispanics and goodwill uniting all members of the Erie community.

From Hispanic American Council of Erie

Film Festival

The Great Lakes Film Festival will be held September 11-14 at the Avalon Hotel and Roadhouse Theater in downtown Erie.

The first festival showcased over 65 films from all over the world, with 18 World Premieres and 2 North American Premieres. The event will include celebrities, parties, film screenings, award ceremonies, industry professionals, and much more. You can get more details and updates about the Festival at www.greatlakesfilmfest.com

Among the offerings this year is a film called *The Experiment: Gay and Straight*. It chronicles the lives of ten Chicago-area strangers of varied ages, backgrounds, ethnicities and prejudices during a week-long period in which they live together. Five are gay, and five are straight; they agree to leave behind their jobs and their families, and to cut themselves off entirely from the outside world as they work toward one intended goal: to help bridge the gap and forge a better understanding between America's gay and straight communities.

Greg Ropp, who is serving a second year as judge and volunteer for the festival said, "I believe that the Great Lakes Film Festival is a great opportunity for people within our community to be exposed to movies that would otherwise go unnoticed or unseen. The Fest features everything from feature films to experimental features running only a few minutes in length. While I have not yet been presented with a final list of entries, I do know that there is a least one major film and probably several others that will deal specifically with GLBT and women's issues. *A Union in Wait*, about two lesbians and their quest for marriage, won Best Documentary Short at last year's show. This is a Festival for everyone, from every walk of life, and I hope members of our community will attend this year's festival. I look forward to seeing all of you there!"

Great Lakes Film Festival
September 11-14 2003
Avalon Hotel and Roadhouse Theatre

Spirituality and Religion

Gay Catholics reject Vatican document on same-sex marriage

DignityUSA, the organization of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Catholics and their supporters, is strongly denouncing Vatican instructions to Catholic politicians and the public on opposing legal protections for same-sex couples. The document is entitled "Considerations Regarding Proposals to Give Legal Recognition to Unions Between Homosexual Persons."

"It is an absolute perversion of the Catholic social justice tradition," said Marianne Duddy, Dignity USA's Executive Director. "It starts from the premise that all people are not created equal, and that laws should reinforce that inequality."

Duddy added, "The Vatican has poured out increasingly harsh rhetoric against equal civil protections for committed gay and lesbian couples and our families in recent years. This new document is intended to intimidate public officials across the globe into doing what the Vatican has not been able to do on its own — stem the growing tide for justice. It is a tremendous shame that the leaders of our Church are becoming the vocal proponents for intolerance and continuing discrimination."

Duddy went on to say, "Lay Catholics and politicians will resent the Vatican's unwarranted intrusion into our civil lives. It demonstrates a profound disregard for the basic principles of democracy and respect for individuals."

Finally, Duddy noted the growing support for legal recognition of same-sex relationships among American Catholics. "Most Catholics understand that ensuring that same-sex partners have the right to visit each other in the hospital, make health care decisions for an incapacitated partner, and decide where their beloved will be buried is a matter of basic fairness. This document widens the gulf between the people of our Church and its leadership and runs counter to the Gospel values our faith teaches."

Dignity USA is at www.dignityusa.org

Solidarity Sunday

Solidarity Sunday is a faith-based antiviolence initiative. Dignity/USA initiated Solidarity Sunday in 1995 as a way of making our opposition to anti-gay violence visible. The next Solidarity Sunday will be on October 5, 2003. For more details visit the Dignity USA website at www.dignityusa.org

JFK on religion and holding political office

President John F. Kennedy was the only Catholic to have served as President of the United States. In a speech he made during his 1960 presidential campaign, he addressed concerns about religion and those who hold political office. In light of the Vatican's recent instructions to Catholic politicians about same-sex marriage, Kennedy's statements are relevant even today. Some of those comments are excerpted below. More information and audio about that speech are available at www.glaad.org

"I believe in an America where the separation of church and state is absolute — where no Catholic prelate would tell the President (should he be Catholic) how to act, and no Protestant minister would tell his parishioners for whom to vote..."

"I believe in an America that is officially neither Catholic, Protestant nor Jewish — where no public official either requests or accepts instructions on public policy from the Pope, the National Council of Churches or any other ecclesiastical source — where no religious body seeks to impose its will directly or indirectly upon the general populace or the public acts of its officials..."

"I believe in a President whose religious views are his own private affair, neither imposed by him upon the nation or imposed by nation upon him as a condition to holding that office."

John F. Kennedy, in an address to the Greater Houston Ministerial Association
September 12, 1960

Spirituality and Religion

Episcopal Convention reaction

by *Jeremy Person*

The Episcopal General Convention was fraught with protests and counter protests on Sunday August 2. A man by the name of Phelps was protesting the consideration of The Rev. Cannon V. Gene Robinson. As one of the youth in the "Count Me Faithful" program at the General Convention, I had plenty of leisure time to look around the city of Minneapolis and see many different opinions on the appointment of the Bishop, whom has been officially selected as the Bishop of New Hampshire.

I really can't say that I am surprised he was elected. Despite the large amounts of literature saying that such an appointment was an abomination and such, almost every testimony against Gene's appointment at the hearing began with something along the lines of "I'm sorry, this hurts to say, we love you, but..."

However, I am glad that the Episcopal Church decided to permit Gene to become Bishop. I believe this will open the Church to homosexuality, and hopefully rule favorably for any more decisions that the church has to make on any issue of this type.

Jeremy Person is a student at McDowell High School and is a member of the McDowell Gay-Straight Alliance. He attended the 2003 General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Minneapolis.

For more about Episcopal & GLBT issues

To read more about the General Convention, and GLBT issues and the Episcopal Church, you can visit the website of Integrity at www.integrityusa.org

Integrity is a nonprofit organization of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Episcopalians and their straight friends.

Community announcements

Gay Chautauqua updating its website

Tom from AIDS Community Services of Western NY is working on updating the web site www.gaychautauqua.org. Therefore, if you have any services, organizations, etc...that you would like updated, or listed on the website (as long as it is relevant to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, questioning, straight-ally population...quite a mouthful, I know!) please let them know. Send email to tomplace@aidscommunityservices.com or call (716) 664-7855 ext 226.

Hepatitis Support group

Vision of Hope is a new support group for people living with hepatitis. It meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Hamot Medical Center room g-4 ground level. The next meeting is September 9, 2003. You can email them at visionofhope4u@aol.com.

Sing-A-Long Wizard of Oz: Benefit for Persad Center

Sing-A-Long Wizard of Oz is coming to Pittsburgh! The Pittsburgh Premiere will benefit Persad Center, which has promoted the well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people for over 30 years.

The Persad benefit showing will happen Thursday, September 25, at 7 PM in the Byham Theater. *Sing-A-Long Wizard of Oz* is a night of splashy theatre and film fully restored for the big screen. A spirited master of ceremonies leads the crowd through comical interactive audience participation. Plus, a "Perform-A-Long Fun Pack" is provided free with every ticket, and creativity is rewarded during the on-stage costume contest! Tickets: \$25 for adults, \$12.50 for ages 12 and under. Order tickets TODAY at www.pgharts.org or call (412) 456-6666 and mention the benefit for Persad! Information from Michelle Wion, Development Associate, Persad Center, 5150 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15224 Phone: (412) 441.9786

Michael Dithers

by Michael Mahler

Well, it's been an interesting summer, at least. An unwelcome "old friend" recently surfaced. About 6 years ago, a phone scam artist was calling local resources and folks, claiming to have been beaten up or tossed out by his brother due to having AIDS. He called around to a number of resources and was able to rip off one person. Recently, I had a call from one of the bars that they had just gotten a phone call from me, purportedly calling from Los Angeles and that I had just been mugged and needed money to get home. "Oy. Here we go again!" and I explained the previous encounter and that I was safe at home. The same person called both bars, Maureen from PFLAG, and a few other resources. One targeted person explained that she knew it wasn't me as not only was the voice different, but I had never spoken that slowly in my life! I am not aware that anyone got ripped off this time around, but I would suggest that as a general rule that if anyone gets something that sounds suspicious, please feel free to call someone to check it out. If the voice sounds unfamiliar or the circumstances a tad odd, you are helping to keep our community strong by checking it out.

Erie Pride Weekend looks to be shaping up quite nicely. Kudos to Abbey, Maureen and all of the many people who are working together to put on this nifty event! Hope to see all of you for the various events on September 12-14! As noted elsewhere, more details here in this issue on page 7.

So, I was flipping channels and came across the Fab 5 from *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* being interviewed by Patrick Buchanan. A definite "Boy, I don't remember taking LSD, but that would tend to explain things, wouldn't it?" Many of you doubtless remember that Pat has been a rather outspoken opponent of equal rights for gay people. Then I read that the Fab 5 were scheduled to do a make-over for Pat Buchanan. That has got to be hell for all parties. It has been an interesting cultural phenomenon.

One of the other gay themed series on Bravo TV, *Boy Meets Boy*, has also been interesting. For those of you who haven't seen this, a gay guy and his straight female friend are picking from an initial group of 15 men, an undetermined number of whom are actually straight guys. (Sort of a reverse on the usual closet set up.) I have been occasionally surprised by who has

been gay (one guy that I thought was almost certainly a closet straight turned out to be gay) and who is not. Again, being gay is just one aspect of who we are that can be expressed in many ways.

There has been some press about recent polls showing more straight folks expressing reservations about equal rights for gay people. I think that this is roughly analogous to some calls I have taken from individuals just as they come out and report some initial stress and drama with family members and friends. We have seen some unprecedented progress in a short time period, and folks may be reacting to what seems like huge change. I think that we will be fine - there is just a period that folks go through when they think that they are facing new materials. We should not be complacent, but I believe that the so called "backlash" is a temporary reaction to new developments. Eventually, everyone tends to learn that the people that they knew before are still ultimately the same. Similar sentiments were expressed when women were allowed to vote, or when interracial marriage was finally universally allowed.

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Downtown Erie

CD Review

by Joanne Lynne Benjamin

When I was asked by Erie Gay News, if I would like to do the CD reviews of GLBT artists, I was surprised and excited all at the same time, than it hit me which artist should I do first. As I looked through the GLBT music library, two artists came to mind

Performer, composer, and multi-instrumentalist **Robert Urban** was born and raised in Fairfield County, CT. He currently resides and performs in New York. Robert Urban began performing in rock bands, stage plays & musical theater as a young adolescent... and never stopped. He has worked with many other musical live acts including Jamie Anderson, Scott Free, Jon Gilbert Leavitt, Indigo Etheridge, Yolanda, and many more.

His latest CD **Rock Widow** was nominated pride cd/album of 2003 and the track "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" was voted pride song of the year by The Stonewall Society.

Don't be fooled however; Robert Urban isn't afraid to call a spade a spade with his activist songs like the anti-war track "Waiting For Rome to Fall."

Robert Urban's *Rock Widow* has tracks from jazz tones to classic rock riffs and more, which any rocker could love. In other words *Rock Widow* rocks!!!

For more information about Robert Urban, visit www.roberturban.com or feel free to email themusenc@aol.com.

My next GLBT artist is a hard rocking transsexual Winkte, (pronounced win-tay), a musician from Maryland, **Georgie Jessup**.

Georgie Jessup first appeared on the scene in 1983 with the R&B band Georgie Jessup and the Jewels. Later she formed Winkte & Crazy Sacred Dogs. The Dogs, as they were fondly called, opened for Native American activist, poet, actor, and songwriter, John Trudell at the Baltimore showcase club, Max's on Broadway. "Post Op Freeway", from their "Winkte & Crazy Sacred Dogs" album, was selected for the Women N Rock compilation.

Inspired by a chance meeting with the Lakota holy man Frank Fools Crow and a life long interest in the plight and struggle of all indigenous people, ten songs were selected to form the concept album American Holocaust. The recording addresses the genocide that was aimed at Native Americans.

Georgie Jessup sings in *Until I Dance* a little about the Lakota Winkte Tradition that most native people have forgotten or don't want to talk about in today's society. Yes sexual diversity and gender expression did exist and was sometimes even respected in other cultures.

In the song "Good Day To Die," she sings about the genocide that was practiced by Sherman, Sheridan, and the rest of the U.S. Government. By killing off the indigenous food, clothing, and shelter, (the buffalo), it forced the remaining free people on to reservations.

Georgie Jessup is very outspoken in her music, but she wants to teach us a history lesson to make sure we don't forget ...

For more information about Georgie Jessup visit <http://georgiejessup.com> or feel free to email her at beautifulthunder@hotmail.com

Both of these artists can be heard on our Internet radio station: WKJCE GLBT RADIO www.live365.com/stations/wkjce

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212-674-0120 Fax: 212-420-1126
Email: gayellowpages@earthlink.net

<http://gayellowpages.com>

Entertainment Notes

by Deb Spilko

On stage

Margaret Cho Revolution Tour will be back in the area, with an appearance at the University at Buffalo November 14 and at University Park (Penn State) October 20. Info and tickets www.margaretcho.com . . . **Melissa Ferrick** will perform November 8 at Pittsburgh's Club Cafe, and November 10 at The Crowbar in State College, PA . . . **Ani DiFranco** appears at Kleinhans Music Hall in Buffalo November 25 . . . **Harry Connick Jr** will perform at Pittsburgh's Benedum Center December 9 and December 12 at Cleveland's Playhouse Square Center. . . . Youngstown Symphony presents **Dionne Warwick** December 6.

On TV

VH1 premieres **Totally Gay** on August 18. It explores how popular culture has changed over the past decade in relation to the GLBT population. The program will explore the performers like Madonna, Christina Aguilera, and Justin Timberlake, and T.a.t.u. Among the numerous people interviewed will be Peter Paige (*Queer as Folk*); Bruce Steele (Editor-in-Chief of The Advocate); Billy Bean (out baseball player); Chad Allen (*Our House, Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman*) Eden Riegel - Bianca on *All My Children*, Candace Bushnell (*Sex & the City*); Gina Gershon; Amber Benson (*Buffy The Vampire Slayer*); John Waters; Melissa Etheridge; Mariel Hemingway; Sandra Bernhard, and many more. Other viewing times this month are August 23 (12 PM) August 27 (11:30 AM and 8 PM). Info: www.vh1.com

The latest grousing about gays taking over TV is a bit silly. Granted, some progress is being made with GLBT characters and subjects in programming, but you often have to look to find it. Even when they are included, they tend to not be lead characters or the main focus of a story.

NBC's new straight boinkfest sitcom **Coupling** will feature an Asian-American bisexual character (Lindsay Price). A reviewer at AfterEllen.com cautions "If the American version of *Coupling* is faithful to the British version, however, Jane's bisexuality will primarily serve as fodder for jokes and a platform for sexually-charged conversations that let the sitcom show how 'edgy' it is." (9:30 PM Thursdays).

The premise of the new CBS sitcom **Two and a Half Men** is that a carefree bachelor (Charlie Sheen) has his life disrupted when his brother (Jon Cryer) and 10-year-old nephew move in with him. The reason for the move: Jon Cryer's character was left by his lesbian wife (Marin Hinkle). It's not clear yet how much the wife's character will be developed. Premieres 9/22.

Stations that have signed on to air **The Ellen DeGeneres Show** can be viewed at Ellen's official website <http://ellen.warnerbros.com>

Theater

Theaters are releasing the schedules for the 2003-2004 season. This month's "Entertainment notes" lists some of the bigger shows of the season, all musical productions—to give readers time to make reservations or to consider getting a season ticket: The Erie Broadway Series and Erie County Convention Center Authority are presenting five popular musicals this season, including **Saturday Night Fever** (Feb-

(continued next page)



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Entertainment notes

(continued from previous page)

ruary 23), **The Sound of Music** (April 29), and **Fame** (May 20). Info and tickets: www.erieevents.com or (814) 452-4857. . . Fans of musicals will want to check out 2003/2004 **Composer/Lyricist Series** at the **Erie Playhouse** www.erieplayhouse.org. Presentations include **Rock Down Broadway** (with selections from productions like *Rent*, *Mamma Mia!* and *Tommy*), and **Here's to the Men** (February 2004).

Out of town theater: You can catch the live theater production of **Chicago** October 21-26 at Cleveland's Playhouse Square Theater . . . Beloved and sometimes-controversial **Dame Edna** (Barry Humphries) presents **A Night With Dame Edna** October 7-12 at Pittsburgh's Heinz Hall and (for those who prefer to travel in the bitter cold) at Cleveland's

Playhouse Square February 17-29, 2004 . . . Also in Cleveland look for **Rent** to come to the Palace Theater January 6-11 2004. . . The Youngstown Symphony presents **Three Broadway Divas!** February 14, 2004 and **Cats** (Broadway Series) April 26-27, 2004 Info: www.youngstownsymphony.com. . . Buffalo's Shea's Performing Arts Center has a formidable line-up of musicals, including **Mamma Mia!** June 8-13, 2004.

Other area theatrical productions of interest will be listed here over the course of the season as they come up.

Fall Preview

Interested to see how GLBT characters and subjects in the new fall TV season? Here are some places to check out:

The Advocate special Fall Preview issue (dated Sept. 16) will be on the stands Sept. 2. Previews not only television shows of GLBT interest but also films, theater, music and arts.

Advocate.com The Advocate online.

AfterEllen.com
www.afterellen.com

GLAAD
www.glaad.org

And for weekly listings:

Washington Blade Online "On the air"
<http://washblade.com> Good basic listing. Get there by going to their Entertainment section.

Queery.com
www.queery.com Very extensive listings.

Outcome
www.outcomebuffalo.com TV listings of GLBT interest —including PBS— for Western NY.



PFLAG-Erie and Crawford Counties Chapter

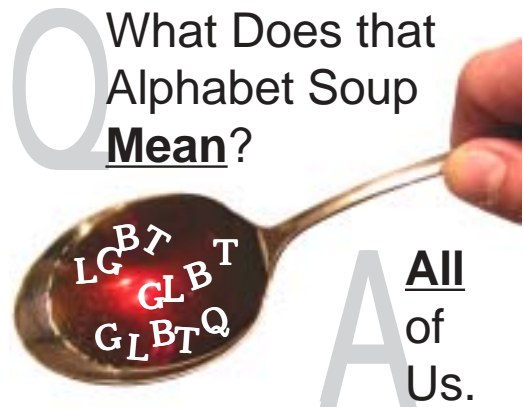
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[PFLAG-TNET marchadenise@hotmail.com](mailto:PFLAG-TNET.marchadenise@hotmail.com)

North Atlantic Transgender Coordinator



Because we want to be inclusive and it's just too hard to say "Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning" and so forth all the time, we will use "GLBT", "LGBT" or "GLBTQ" instead.

Resources 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

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.

Coffeehouses & Restaurants

Aroma's Coffeehouse 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

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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