

December 2004



EGN



Erie Gay News

Editorial: Election Results

by Michael Mahler, Co-Editor

There is no doubt that the recent election results were very depressing for our community. Many of us feel that George W Bush is very actively opposed to equality for the GLBT community. It was also appalling that all 11 states with anti-gay marriage amendments on the ballot passed them, by varying margins. Many pundits are claiming that the election went the way that it did because of the gay marriage issue. However, although this did play a role, it has also historically been the case that no wartime president has been voted out of office.

There are some perspectives/issues that I don't believe I have seen addressed yet. In the period just before the election, Bush made statements suggesting that he supported civil unions/domestic partnerships. I don't necessarily think that he is sincere in his statements, but it does show that the other side has realized the midpoint keeps shifting towards equality for GLBT people, and that it is politically advantageous to not appear too overtly bigoted. If being completely homophobic hadn't been seen as a potential liability, Bush wouldn't have said this.

Indeed, there were some bright spots: across the nation many openly GLBT candidates were elected. Dallas now has a lesbian Latina sheriff. Cincinnati repealed an antigay ordinance. Most significantly, in my opinion, all of the Massachusetts legislators that supported equal marriage rights were reelected, and a few who had opposed it were not reelected. I believe that this is why the Religious Right is being so zealous in opposing equality. It is easy to fear the unknown and assume that it means the end of civilization. When the truth is experienced, it is harder to question the lies that are being told about our community.

It is also significant how the issue was worded. Notice that the Right is phrasing this as "defending" traditional marriage and "marriage is for one man and one woman. This similar to how folks in the 50's would

make empty claims about not being racist, but somehow managing to support segregation or "traditional" race relations.

I was very much insulted when Bush made statements suggested that we all need to work together. After pushing strategies fomenting hatred and discrimination, I feel no urge to pretend that everything is now okay. Our rights were attacked, and I will NEVER accept Bush as my president.

Do I feel sorry for having done volunteer work? No way! We carried Pennsylvania, and **many** GLBT folks made that happen. Although I felt disheartened by the election, I'd have felt worse if I'd done nothing. This is a long process, and we must be patient. So, let's keep being involved. We will eventually win. History is on our side.

Out & About



Salena Walter, Robin Green, Barb Brennan at November 19 Tret Fure concert at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie.

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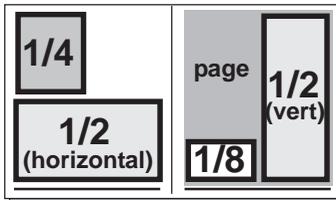
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On the cover:

Salena, Robin & Barb.
Photo by Mike Mahler



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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 NW PA 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 don't necessarily represent those of the EGN staff.

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Thank You:

To Dave Amy, Brian Bohrer, David, Jacob Ruefthaler, James von Loewe, Lynne Rhodes, Stevie Mull, Tanya Pfister, Wendi Watkins, and Norm Zymm for folding; John King, Paula King, James von Loewe, and Jerry McCumber for distribution; and Julie Warren & Bob for proofreading. MAL for ad layout & etc Thanks! If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com for date/time.

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Calendar

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

Nov 27 - Mr. Village Contest at The Village (133 W 18th St, Erie PA) A chance for guys to strut their stuff! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: village@velocity.net.

Nov 28 - Video Exchange & Potluck Dinner at Rascals (Jamestown NY) 701 N. Main St., (716) 484-3220.

Dec 1 - Always Our Children meets Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St, Erie PA. For Catholic parents of GLBT children Phone: (814) 456-2091.

Dec 1 - World AIDS Day See updated listing of Erie County observances on page 14. Browse to www.worldaidsday.org/

Dec 3 - Buffalo Gay Men's Choir (Buffalo) Art Gallery Series Concert 8 PM at Albright-Knox Art Gallery 1285 Elmwood Ave (716) 883-1277 Tickets@BuffaloGayMensChorus.com

Dec 3 - Vertigo Party (Butler PA) BYOB. Email: VertigoV@aol.com. Browse to www.webspawner.com/users/vertigov/index.html.

Dec 12 - Jazz Brunch at The Village 133 W 18th St, Erie PA 12 PM. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: village@velocity.net.

Dec 12 - Menspace meets At Gordon, Bill & Doug's, 117 Water St, Edinboro PA. 6:30 PM. "PLEASE NOTE! This is on a SUNDAY, rather than the usual Saturday, and the start time is 6:30 PM. We also ask that you bring a nonperishable donation for the Second Harvest Food Bank of NW PA." Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Dec 12 - HUGS East Potluck and Useless Gift Exchange (Mentor OH) "Bring a dish to share and a

'white elephant.' 12:30 PM, RSVP by December 6. For location e-mail whitvaik@hotmail.com, include *HUGS East* in the subject line.

Dec 13 - PFLAG Meeting (Erie PA) 7 PM - 9 PM. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. Regular monthly meeting Contact: Maureen Koseff. Phone: (814) 898-8341. Email: pflagerie@adelphia.net.

Dec 14 - Support group for those dealing with loss Hospice of Metropolitan Erie, 202 E 10th St, Erie PA. 7 PM. Our Support groups meet for anyone who has suffered a loss. We meet on the second Tuesday at 7 PM and the third Thursday at 10 AM. The meeting dates for the month of December are as follows: Tuesday, December 14, 2004 at 7 PM, Thursday, December 16, 2004 at 10 AM. These meetings are free of charge and no RSVP is required. The meetings are held at Hospice of Metropolitan Erie, Inc. 202 East 10th Street Erie, PA. 16503 Please call Lisa at 456-6689 if you should have any questions. Con-

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tact: Lisa J McCloud. Phone: (814) 456-6689. Email: hospice@velocity.net

Dec 15 - Deadline for January 2005 edition of Erie Gay News (EGN, 1115 W 7th St, Erie PA)

Dec 16 - Support group for those dealing with loss
Hospice of Metropolitan Erie, 202 E 10th St, Erie PA 10 AM. Free, RSVP required. Please call Lisa at 456-6689 if you should have any questions. Contact: Lisa J McCloud. Phone: (814) 456-6689. Email: hospice@velocity.net.

Dec 17 - 2 Girls Alone at Two Friends Italian Market 25 E 10th St, Erie. 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM. Phone: (814) 461-9666. Email: twogirlsalone@att.net.

Dec 18 - Spicy Holiday Show at The Village (133 W 18th St, Erie PA) Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: village@velocity.net.

Dec 18 - Santa's Naughty or Nice Underwear and Pajama Party at the Zone 1711 State St, Erie PA. "Santa Claus is coming to the Zone! Show Santa how Naughty or Nice you have been this year by wearing fun Christmas boxers/underwear, Sexy lingerie, or warm fuzzy PJ's! Santa will be handing out gifts to those that participate and coal to those who don't! Show us how bad you have Been! - Merry Christmas from the staff at the Zone!" Phone: (814) 459-1711.

Dec 18 - Christmas Drag Snow at Rascals (Jamestown NY) 701 N. Main St., (716)484-3220.

Dec 18 - Erie Sisters meets (Erie PA) Transgender/crossdresser support group. Contact for location of meeting by email, phone or write to LEG, PO Box 1131, Erie PA 16512-0131 Phone: (724) 368-3793. Email: eriesisters@eriesisters.org. Browse to www.eriesisters.org.

Dec 18 & 19 -North Coast Men's Chorus Presents "Stocking Stuffers" (Cleveland) Waetjen Hall at CSU (216) 556-0590.

Dec 20 - 10% Network meets: Holiday Party (John Schillner's, Jamestown NY) (716) 484-1661. Email: jtown10-admin@eriegaynews.com. http://jamestowntenpercent.tripod.com/.

Dec 24-25 - Christmas at Trance 1607 Raspberry St, Erie PA. "Have you been naughty or nice? Santa is coming to Trance! You are cordially invited to spend Christmas with your friends and Santa at Trance!" (814) 456-2037. Email lee@trancedanceclub.com. www.trancedanceclub.com.

Dec 31 - Zone New Year's Eve Blast 1711 State St, Erie PA. Celebrate the New Year with your friends at our last big BLAST of the year!... and you know we know how to throw a party! We'll be popping corks at midnight - to toast in the new year, new friends, and new fun for 2005 at the ZONE! - Thank you and Happy New Year from your friends at the ZONE! Phone: (814) 459-1711.

Dec 31 - Snow Ball at Trance 1607 Raspberry St, Erie PA. Come to our First Annual New Year's Eve Party! White attire please. Free champagne, hors d'oeuvres. Entertainment featuring the First Lady of the Palm Beaches Melissa St. John Phone: (814) 456-

The January issue of EGN will include a listing of things to do on New Year's Eve. Listings will include parties and entertainment events, restaurants and coffeehouses that are open that evening, religious services, and so on. Please have your listing to us by December 15.

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2037. Email lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to www.trancedanceclub.com.

Jan 1 - New Year's Day Tea Dance at Trance 1607 Raspberry St, Erie PA. "College Bowl Games all day! Live DJ at 4 PM. And of course there will be munchies!" Ph: (814) 456-2037. Email lee@trancedanceclub.com. www.trancedanceclub.com.

Jan 5 - Always Our Children meets Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St, Erie PA For Catholic parents of GLBT children Phone: (814) 456-2091.

Jan 7 - Vertigo Party (Butler PA) BYOB vertigov@aol.com. www.webspawner.com/users/vertigov.

Jan 8 - Menspace at Dave Amy's 3123 Raspberry St, Erie PA 7:30 PM. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Jan 9 - Jazz Brunch at Village Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie PA 12 PM. Opens at noon, begin serving at 1 PM. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email:

village@velocity.net. Browse to www.thevillageerie.com.

Jan 10 - PFLAG-Erie/Crawford Co. meets Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA 7 PM - 9 PM. Regular monthly meeting Contact: Maureen. Phone: (814) 898-8341. Email: pflagerie@adelphia.net

(continued on next page)



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For more information, contact:

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Renaissance Centre
Erie, PA 16501

814-4568849 or 1-800-400-2437

Clarion Office:
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Calendar

Jan 15 - Deadline for February 2005 edition of Erie Gay News (Erie Gay News, 1115 W 7th St, Erie PA)
Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833.
Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to www.eriegaynews.com.

Feb 2 - Always Our Children meets Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St, Erie PA For Catholic parents of GLBT children Phone: (814) 456-2091.

Feb 4 - Vertigo Party (Butler PA) Vertigo is BYOB vertigov@aol.com. www.webspawner.com/users/vertigov.

Feb 12 - Menspace Potluck Dinner - 'Roaring Red' (Jeff Hill's & Gary Snyder's) 7:30 PM. 'Okay you Drugstore Cowboys and Molls, it's time to roll down your stockings and rouge your knees to the sights and sounds of the Roaring '20s. That's right, it's Flapper Girls, Bathtub Gin, lots of Hooch, and good times at the Speakeasy of Jeff and Gary's. Grab a dish along with something to eat or drink and swing on over to 1146 Brown Ave in Erie for the best of times. Prohibition may be long gone but the good music and swill of the era still bring out fun for all. Not sure what to wear for the occasion? Check out Chicago, Ragtime, the Great Gatsby and other movies for ideas. Not only is the 1920s a decadent and fun decade, it was a time of letting loose. *And* don't forget that Valentine's Day is just around the corner, so of course Red is the primary color choice. Any questions, feel free to contact Gary at gar_bear73@hotmail.com - Lookin' forward to Whoopee!' Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.



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On stage

Selected area events that may be of interest to GLBT audiences

Sophie Tucker: Last of the Red Hot Mamas at Musical Fare in Buffalo November 4 - December 5. A rollicking tale about the 1920s vaudevillian singer and comic (and major influence on Bette Midler's style) that is both warm and heartfelt and outrageously flirtatious and bawdy. A WNY premiere. (716) 839-8540 www.musicalfare.com

Southern Baptist Sissies Buffalo United Artists, 672 Main St, Buffalo NY November 12 – December 4. “Mark, Benny, T.J. and Andrew were raised in the Calvary Baptist Church where hate is preached in the name of the Lord. Mark wants to change the world, but does not know how. T.J. wants to let go of who he is and become the man his church wants him to be. Benny embraces himself with the same fervor the congregation reserves for God. Andrew lives a troubled existence, trying to rectify his identity with the church’s teachings. Through sermons, hymns, childhood memories, and the experiences of two tragically funny alcoholics, the young men explore the challenges and questions that pervade their lives.” (716) 886-9239 www.buffalobua.org.

The Eight: Reindeer Monologues and The UnXmas Story at Directors Circle Theatre, 1001 State St, Erie PA. “Back by popular demand! The Eight: Reindeer Monologues by Jeff Goode. Also featuring a new bonus play! The UnXmas Story, also by Jeff Goode. A special limited run encore performance. Cast: Christine Volk, Mike Mahler, Jason Fried, Aaron & Michelle Pacy, Alison Riefstahl, Jeff & Kelly Rodland, Joe Thornton. Runs Fridays and Saturdays-December 3, 4, 10, 11, 17 and 18 at 8 PM. Directors

Circle Theater - Renaissance Center at 10th & State Street. Take elevator to 2nd floor—follow hallways till it ends. For reservations, call 451-1153. \$10 adults / \$7 seniors and students.

The SantaLand Diaries December 16, 17, 18 at Bunbury Theatre Co. 210 Cherry St., Jamestown NY (716) 483-3566. bunburycompany@yahoo.com By David Sedaris. Tickets are available at the Reg Lenna Box Office at (716) 484-7070.

Making Gay History at Buffalo United Artists/ Main Street Cabaret, 672 Main St, Buffalo NY) By Eric Marcus, adapted for the stage by Matthew Crehan Higgins. January 21 – February 12, 2005. “In 1950, Americans were almost unanimous in their discomfort with the country’s homosexual citizens. While most gay and lesbian people were hiding, small groups of courageous individuals began to take a stand, and set to motion a civil rights movement that would forward the goals and lives of their people. From clandestine meetings in basements, bar room raids, and AIDS through protests, legislative gains, and the construction of a major center in Washington, DC more than fifty ordinary people who achieved extraordinary things told their stories to bestselling author Eric Marcus. Get in touch with your past with this world premiere event.” Phone: (716) 886-9239 Email: info@buffalobua.org. www.buffalobua.org.

Rent at University of Buffalo Center for Performing Arts, Feb. 22 and 23. (716) 645-ARTS www.ubcfa.org

Websites and email lists for area performers:

Greg Ropp www.gregropp.com

Jocelyn Porter Project

www.jocelynporterproject.com

Leah Zicari www.leahzicari.com

Two Girls Alone <http://twogirlsalone.iuma.com>

email list: twogirlsalone@att.net.



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National News Briefs

by Bob

Voters Send a Clear Message on Gay Marriage

Voters in 11 states, including neighboring Ohio, overwhelmingly approved state constitutional amendments to ban same-sex marriage. In Mississippi, 86% of the voters approved the amendment, while the margin of victory in North Dakota, Georgia and Kentucky was 3-1 in favor.

While all of the state amendments banned same-sex marriage, several amendments went even further, banning civil unions as well. Ohio's amendment is the most far-reaching, banning legal recognition of most types of unions and benefits, impacting both gay and straight couples. Even though the Ohio amendment was opposed by several state political leaders, including the Ohio Attorney General, the measure passed easily.

Earlier this year, constitutional amendments were also approved by voters in Missouri and Louisiana. However, the Louisiana courts have ruled that state's amendment unconstitutional because it addressed more than one issue, in violation of state law. That same argument is now being used to challenge the Georgia amendment. The Georgia amendment also deals with more than one issue, contrary to Georgia state law.

Legal challenges are expected to be launched in other states as well.

Nine of the 11 states where the same-sex marriage amendments appeared on the ballot were states carried by George W. Bush in the election, giving rise to speculation that voter backlash against gay marriage won the election for President Bush. The argument is particularly strong for Ohio where the President won by only about 130,000 votes. Exit polls in Ohio showed that voters viewed "moral values" as one of the top issues in the election, and those voters ranking "moral values" a high priority, overwhelmingly voted for the President.

Meanwhile, the President seems intent on "thanking" these voters by continuing to push his so-called moral agenda. In a recent interview on Fox News Sunday, Karl Rove, Bush's chief strategist and political advisor, said the Bush administration would

continue to seek a Constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage to make sure "activist judges don't redefine marriage."

Democrats Debate Gay Marriage Impact on Election

As the dust settles over a 2004 election that saw Republicans hold on to the White House and make gains in both houses of Congress, Democrats are assessing their losses and in some cases, assessing blame.

Some in the party are pointing at least one finger at San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom who in February, opened the doors of City Hall to gay couples seeking to get married. Newsom's highly visible action, combined with the Massachusetts Supreme Court ruling in favor of same-sex marriage, may have lit a fire under right-wing conservatives.

"I believe it did energize a very conservative vote," said Democratic Sen. Diane Feinstein of California. "I think it gave them a position to rally around. I'm not casting a value judgment, I'm just saying I do believe that's what happened." Feinstein, a former San Francisco Mayor who is a Newsom supporter, went on to say the "whole issue has been too much, too fast, too soon. And people aren't ready for it."

Rep. Barney Frank of Massachusetts, one of only three openly gay members of Congress, was less diplomatic in his criticism of Newsom. Frank opposed the San Francisco weddings from the start and urged Newsom at that time to follow Massachusetts' lead and let the California courts decide the marriage issue. After the election, Frank said Newsom helped



December 1st is World AIDS Day

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For more information, call 412-242-2500 or visit www.patf.org

 Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force
Where Every Life Matters

National News Briefs

galvanize Bush's conservative supporters and played into people's fears of same-sex marriage.

"The thing that agitated people were the mass weddings. It was a mistake in San Francisco compounded by people in Oregon, New Mexico and New York. What it did was provoke a lot of fears," Frank said.

Of course, not everyone agrees with Feinstein and Frank. Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, said those criticizing Newsom are just looking for scapegoats.

"Shame on Senator Feinstein and other Democratic leaders for latching to the most facile and shallow of explanations for the (election) results," Kendell said. "What Mayor Newsom did really accelerated the conversation and the movement, and I will never accept an analysis that says a leader who stands for equality and fairness and who has the courage of his convictions is doing the wrong thing."

For his part, Newsom offered no apologies. "If you think something is right, you have a moral obligation to act."

Cincinnati Vote Offers One Bright Spot

While Ohio voters were approving a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage, Cincinnati residents overwhelmingly repealed an amendment to the City Charter which barred the city from offering any protections to gays and lesbians.

The repealed amendment reads, "The city of Cincinnati and its various Boards and Commissions may not enact, adopt, enforce or administer any ordinance, regulation, rule or policy which provides that homosexual, lesbian, or bisexual orientation, status, conduct or relationship constitutes, entitles or otherwise provides a person with a basis to have a claim of minority or protected status, quota preference or other preferential treatment."

The repeal effort had supporters that stretched from the public to private sector. A majority of Cincinnati city council members supported the repeal, as did Mayor Charlie Luken. Corporations including Procter & Gamble and Federated Department Stores also backed the repeal.

Texas Forces Textbook Change

After giving into pressure from the Texas Board of Education, two publishing companies has changed the definition of marriage in new health textbooks to read a "lifelong union" between a man and woman.

The decision, which involves Holt, Rinehart and Winston and Glencoe/McGraw-Hill, is an example of Texas exerting its clout as the nation's second-largest buyer of textbooks. Officials say the decision could affect hundreds of thousands of books in Texas alone.

Board of Education member Terri Leo, a Republican who led the effort to change the textbooks, said she was pleased with the publishers' moves. She charged that the original wording in the proposed new books for the state's middle schools and high schools ran counter to Texas law because the books used terms like "married partners" instead of "husband and wife."

"Marriage has been defined in Texas, so it should also be defined in our health textbooks that we view marriage as between a man and a woman," Leo said.

Holt, Rinehart and Winston agreed to include a definition of marriage as a "lifelong union between a husband and a wife." The definition, which was added to middle school textbooks, already was in Holt's high school editions, Holt spokesman Rick Blake said.

Glencoe/McGraw-Hill, changed phrases such as "when two people marry" and "partners" to "when a man and a woman marry" and "husbands and wives."

Blake said the publisher does not plan to add this definition of marriage in books that will be sold outside Texas. A spokeswoman for Glencoe/McGraw-Hill did not immediately respond to questions.

Board member Mary Helen Berlanga, a Democrat, criticized the Board's actions saying, "We're not supposed to make changes at somebody's whim. It's a political agenda, and we're not here to follow a political agenda."

For links to commentary on the elections and the GLBT community, visit the Erie Gay News website at www.eriegaynews.com

PFLAG News

by PFLAG-Erie and Crawford Counties Chapter

PFLAG Activities

We are grateful that we are getting a number of new people inquiring about how PFLAG can help them, and some of these new people are attending our regularly-scheduled meetings. We tried to have election of officers at our November PFLAG meeting, but were unable to do so, because there were not enough PFLAG members present to vote, even though the number of people in attendance was fairly good. We hope more PFLAG members attend our December meeting, which will be Monday, December 13th, from 7 to 9 PM, at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. We ask that any PFLAG members who read this article try to attend our December meeting, to join in the camaraderie and vote for chapter officers.

Current PFLAG members and other contacts who may be potential members will soon receive letters offering the opportunity to renew or become a new member of PFLAG. Membership costs \$25 per

year, which is used to support the PFLAG mission. As you can imagine, that mission became more difficult after the November 2nd election.

PFLAG has a unique role because it is an organization that represents both the GLBT community and the straight community, which enhances its effectiveness in influencing public opinion. We hope to counteract the tremendous harm being done by religious ideologues who are using their political clout to influence public opinion through the perpetuation of myths and false stereotypes about GLBT people. Our Erie PFLAG chapter has educated large numbers of people by speaking in schools and public organizations, and has plans to continue to do so. We have offered public witness at public gatherings to counter the anti-gay message. We have spoken to public officials and forwarded information about anti-gay legislation in order to lobby our state and national representatives concerning GLBT issues. PFLAG national has done these types of things on a national scale and has had some success in stemming the influence of anti-gay initiatives.

We need you as members, to help us continue in our mission.

The December 13th meeting is also the last meeting our current chapter president, Maureen, will attend, before going to Florida for the winter. In her absence, we will rely locally on the help of our PFLAG officers and members and friends, and long-distance, on the help of the Internet, in order to continue our mission and serve current and new friends.

Before you travel.
Check out these websites
or Call these Numbers
for weather and travel information.

all locations: **erie county**
WEATHER UNDERGROUND 452-2000
www.wunderground.com ext. 7669 (snow)

pennsylvania ROADS AND WEATHER
<http://65.246.225.166/site/site.nsf/mainpage>
ROADS 1-888-783-6783

new york ROADS AND WEATHER
www.thruway.state.ny.us/weather/index.shtml
ROADS 1-800-847-8929

ohio ROADS AND WEATHER
www.buckeyetraffic.org
ROADS 1-888-264-7623

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EGN
Erie Gay News



Meeting Notes

Our PFLAG support group meetings are held the second Monday of each month at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, from 7 to 9 PM.

The next meeting is December 13th. (Take exit 27 off of Rte. 90, and go North about a half mile.)

In addition to this regularly-scheduled meeting, PFLAG will hold ad hoc meetings, as needed. For example, in November, we held a meeting for parents whose children just recently “came out”, and a meeting for people whose spouses have recently “come out”. For details about these ad hoc meetings, please call Maureen (898-8341), or email us at pflagerie@adelphia.net.

What Do You Say?

This month, the question that went out to the list was: "With the winter weather coming, share some memories from the past summer!"

My best memory of summer was going to Decade in New Orleans. That was the best time and got to meet and perform with some great talent. **[Rhianon Angelina]**

I would have to say my trip to Denver in May. I had a awesome time enjoying the Rockies, seeing Denver, meeting people and making some new friends. As some of you know I went back in Sept. and hope to back next March. Working in my yard and seeing all the flowers and plants bloom making for a pretty yard this past summer. Also finishing the summer off with all small picnic with some of my friends and enjoying good food and conversation. **[Dave Amy]**

I liked being able to walk to campus in short sleeves. **[Chris Strayer]**

My best memories of the summer were attending so many Pride celebrations and events in eastern and central Pennsylvania. It was so encouraging to have tapped into the energy, excitement, and diversity of our community. **[Scott Conlan]**

One of my favorite memories of the last summer was the vacation my partner and I took to Tennessee. We stayed in the most awesome, secluded cabin and it was absolutely spectacular. The women who own the cabin thought of every last little detail to make

our 1st vacation away together one to cherish for a lifetime.

The other event that happened to be special for me and my partner was our attendance at the annual Erie Gay Pride Picnic. That was the first picnic we had been to and it was a great day to just be "us". Thanks again for all the hard work that goes into putting that together!

Looking forward to many memorable winter days as well. **[Dina]**

This past summer, I was involved in the Lake Erie Regiment Jr. Drum & Bugle Corp. We traveled many places this summer. My favorite stop was Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. We had a free day that we were able to stop at the Oklahoma City Bombing Site and museum. It was a beautiful sunny day in the mid 80's. The memorial that was built was absolutely phenomenal. The museum was sad seeing all the pictures and hearing testimonials. I will never forget that experience. Oh! And I can't forget the night that we had to sleep on the bus in a WalMart parking lot and "show-ering" in WalMart bathrooms the next morning. Ahh!! Fun Times **[Eric Rogers]**

I can remember when I was a little kid going to Linesville High School and I called in to the local country station and i said i was a trucker who wouldn't get home to see my kids on x-mas day. I was full of crap n kidding around but they bought into it, let me choose a song (to help with my suffering) "the grinch"they even added sad music behind my call n played it on air! Seriously, this is a true story this was maybe in 1998 or 1999. These days I'm the General Manager of WFSE 88.9 FM The Edge in Edinboro University! So my interest in radio stayed all these years.

[Tim Chizmar]

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World AIDS Day events in Erie

Updated listing

December 1, 2004

Observance Schedule

Hosted or cosponsored by:

Erie County Department of Health

Patty Puline, EGN Contributing Editor (814) 451-6543

2004 Theme: "Women, Girls and HIV/AIDS"

November 27

7 PM Gaudenzia Crossroads Shout Program, Booker T. Washington Center 1720 Holland Street Annual World AIDS Day Talent Competition/ Dance "A Night out with SHOUT" AIDS Memorial Quilt Display *Open to public.*

November 30

6 PM Greater Calvary Full Gospel Baptist Church, 2624 German St WAD Observance Service/Quilt Display/Speaker *Open to public.*

December 1

Erie County Employees Reminder of World AIDS Day - Red Ribbons

6 PM Identity – Edinboro University Candlelight Ceremony World AIDS Day Contact: Michael Lecker identityeup@hotmail.com

6 PM Ebenezer Church 1701 Chestnut Street Erie, PA World AIDS Day Observance Service/Quilt Display Contact: Sonny Concepcion – 455-0212 *Open to Public*

6 PM Cathedral of St. Paul, Episcopal 134 West 7th Street Contact: Sue Kuebler World AIDS Day Healing Service, Kelvin's Dinner, Quilt Display *Open to Public*

Erie's Promise Red Flag Project 24 High Schools – World AIDS Day Projects Contact: Patty Puline 451-6543

9 – 11 AM Hispanic American Council 554 East 10th Street AIDS Memorial Quilt Display *Open to Public*

December 1-2

4:00 PM Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine World AIDS Day Service Khaz Ghadiri – School of Pharmacy AIDS Memorial Quilt Display – Dr. Oruski

December 1 – 5

Daily (9) Barbershops / Salons Tree of Hope / Red Ribbons

December 2

6:00 PM Gannon University *Dan Renzi Real World - Miami HIV/AIDS Speaker*

December 3

1:30 PM Mental Health Association 1101 Peach Street Ecumenical Service for World AIDS Day *Open to public*

December 4

2:00 PM Marsha Hall Learning Center 1841 East 18th Street Contact: Steve Simmelkjaer – 451-7875 *"Remembering the Spirit of Julia, Emory and Don Paul"* And other Recovering Addicts *"Spiritual Healing"* Quilt Display, Tree of Hope

December 8

7:00 PM Gannon University *"Elegies for Angels, Punks and Raging Queens"*

These programs are brought to you on behalf of the Erie County Department of Health and County Executive Rick Schenker

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WALK-IN CLINICS

MONDAY

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TUESDAY

9:30 am - 1:00 pm

MONDAY

9:00 am - 11:00 am

WEDNESDAY

1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

THURSDAY

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

HIV & STD CLINIC **451-6700**

Appointments can be made at the following locations:

Erie County Health Department

Erie Office
Outreach Services
814.451.6732

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).

PA-GALA Endorsements with results

PRESIDENT

John Kerry – D LOST National
John Kerry – D WON Pennsylvania

US SENATE

Joe Hoeffel – D LOST

PA ATTORNEY GENERAL

Jim Eisenhower – D LOST

PA TREASURER

Bob Casey – D WON

PA AUDITOR GENERAL

Jack Wagner – D WON

US CONGRESS

5 WON / 6 LOST

1 - Bob Brady - D WON
2 - Chaka Fattah - D WON
3 - Steven Porter - D LOST
7 - Paul Scoles - D LOST
8 -Virginia Schrader - D LOST
9 - Paul I. Politis - D LOST
11 - Paul Kanjorski - D WON
13 - Allyson Schwartz - D WON
14 - Mike Doyle - D WON
15 - Joe Driscoll - D LOST
16 - Lois Herr - D LOST

PA SENATE

11 WON / 6 LOST

1 - Vincent Fumo - D WON
3 - Shirley Kitchen - D WON
5 - Mike Stack - D WON
7 - Vincent Hughes - D WON
9 - Thomas Bosak - D LOST
11 - Michael O'Pake - D WON
15 - Eric J. Epstein - D LOST
17 - Connie Williams - D WON
19 - Robert Thompson - R WON
21 - Kevan Yenerall - D LOST
33 - Don Richards - D LOST
35 - John Wozniak - D WON
39 - Allen Kukovich - D LOST
43 - Jay Costa - D WON
45 - Sean Logan - D WON
47 - Gerald LaValle - D WON
49 - Tony Logue - D LOST

PA HOUSE

79 WON / 13 LOST

1 - Linda Bebko-Jones - D WON
3 - Matthew Good - R WON
4 - Tom Scrimenti - D LOST
5 - John Evans - R WON
7 - Michael Gruitza - D WON
14 - Michael Veon - D WON
19 - Jake Wheatley - D WON
20 - Don Walko - D WON
21 - Frank Pistella - D WON
22 - Michael Diven - D WON
23 - Dan Frankel - D WON
24 - Joseph Preston - D WON
27 - Thomas Petrone - D WON
29 - Bernie O'Neil - R WON
31 - David Steil - R WON
33 - Frank Dermody - D WON
34 - Paul Costa - D WON
35 - Marc Gergley - D WON
36 - Harry Readshaw - D WON
39 - David Ledansky - D WON
45 - Nick Kotick - D WON
49 - Peter Daley - D WON
50 - William Deweese - D WON
56 - James Casorio - D WON
58 - Ted Harhai - D WON
61 - Doug Ross - D LOST
70 - Matthew Gordon - D LOST
74 - Camille George - D WON
75 - Dan Surra - D WON
87 - Marilyn Zilli - D LOST
88 - Margaret Stuski - D LOST
94 - Stanley Saylor - R WON
95 - Stephen Stetler - D WON
96 - Michael Sturla - D WON
103 - Ronald Buxton - D WON
107 - Robert Belfanti - D WON
112 - Fred Belardi - D WON
114 - Jim Wansacz - D WON
115 - Edward Staback - D WON
116 - Todd Eachus - D WON
117 - Nate Sorber - D LOST
118 - Thomas Tigue - D WON
119 - John Yudichak - D WON
120 - Phyllis Mundy - D WON
122 - Keith McCall - D WON

123 - Neal Goodman - D WON
126 - Dante Santoni - D WON
127 - Thomas Caltagirone - D WON
131 - Patrick Browne - R WON
132 - Jennifer Mann - D WON
133 - T.J. Rooney - D WON
135 - Steve Samuelson - D WON
136 - Robert Freeman - D WON
141 - Anthony Melio - D WON
143 - Chuck McIlhinney - R WON
148 - Melissa Weber - R LOST
149 - Daylin Leach - D WON
150 - Rebecca Wall - D LOST
151 - Eugene McGill - R WON
152 - Susan Cornell - R WON
153 - Josh Shapiro - D WON
154 - Lawrence Curry - D WON
156 - Barbara Smith - D LOST
157- Carole A. Rubley - R WON
158 - Chris Ross - R WON
159 - Thaddeus Kirkland - D WON
160 - Mike McGann - D LOST
162 - Catherine Celley - D LOST
165 - Dustin Gettel - D LOST
166 - Greg Vitali - D WON
172 - Tim Kearney - D LOST
173 - Michael McGeehan - D WON
174 - Alan Butkovitz - D WON
175 - Marie Lederer - D WON
178 - Scott Petri - R WON
181 - W. Curtis Thomas - D WON
182 - Babette Josephs - D WON
184 - William Keller - D WON
185 - Robert Donatucci - D WON
186 - Harold James - D WON
188 - James Roebuck - D WON
191 - Ronald Waters - D WON
192 - Louise Bishop - D WON
193 - Steven Nickol - R WON
194 - Kathy Manderino - D WON
195 - Frank Oliver - D WON
197 - Jewel Williams - D WON
198 - Rosita Youngblood - D WON
200 - LeAnna Washington - D WON
201 - John Myers - D WON
202 - Mark Cohen - D WON
203 - Dwight Evans - D WON

Spirituality & Religion

Statement on Election Results 2004

from the Reverend Dr. Troy D. Perry
Metropolitan Community Churches

NOTE: The Reverend Dr. Troy D. Perry performed the first-ever public same-sex wedding ceremony in the U.S. in 1969, and in 1970 filed the first-ever lawsuit in the U.S. seeking legal recognition of same-gender marriages. He was married under Canadian law to his partner of 20 years, Phillip Ray DeBeck, in July 2003.

Like millions of Americans, I am deeply disappointed that 11 U.S. states approved ballot measures to limit the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons to equal protection under the marriage laws.

In the midst of today's disappointment, we take hope. The hard work of human rights has always been that of many steps forward, and some steps backward. The outcome of these ballot measures is a setback, but only a temporary setback, in the forward march of justice and equality for all people.

These votes are powerful reminders that it is always wrong to put human rights and equality to a public vote. Equality under the law, by its very essence, must be afforded to all people, including LGBT people, and must never be based on public popularity.

History is a powerful teacher, and gives us hope. Had African-Americans in the U.S. had to wait for a public vote, their wait for equality under the law would have been even longer. Thank God for the court system in the United States. Just as the courts righted injustices against our African-American brothers and sisters, we, too, take hope that the courts will ultimately rule that America must live out the promise of its founding documents, of liberty and justice for all.

We salute the many LGBT people in those 11 states who, along with our family and friends, turned out to vote no on these laws and who boldly supported equality under the law. Thanks to so many in our community for being willing, yet again, to talk about our families and our lives. This public conversation changes public attitudes and will change laws.

Already today groups across the U.S. are mobilizing to challenge the constitutionality of these ballot measures in the courts. I strongly support these efforts, and encourage all people of goodwill to support these challenges with your prayers, commitment and finances.

The Reverend Dr. Troy D. Perry is founder and moderator of Metropolitan Community Churches. Metropolitan Community Churches is the largest and oldest church group with a primary, affirming ministry to gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender persons. MCC congregations are located in 23 countries, and more than 225,000 persons attend MCC services and programs each year. MCC Communications Department, 8704 Santa Monica Boulevard, Second Floor, West Hollywood, CA 90069. info@MCCchurch.org www.mccchurch.org/

More Election information and commentary

For links to commentary on the elections, visit the Erie Gay News website at www.eriegaynews.com

For information on the elections in the state of New York, visit and Outcome at www.outcomebuffalo.com and Empire State Pride Agenda at www.prideagenda.org

For information on the elections in Ohio, visit Ohioans for Growth & Equality at www.ohioansforgrowth.org/ and Gay People's Chronicle at www.gaypeopleschronicle.com/



PFLAG-Erie and Crawford Counties Chapter

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

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pflagerie@adelphia.net

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

Transgender Coordinator

Surviving Anti-Gay Politics

New Report Outlines Ways Gay Community Can Stay Healthy During Antigay Campaigns

by The Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies

Amherst, MA—Gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender people and their heterosexual allies can take concrete steps to resist feelings of isolation, stress, and sadness in the face of antigay campaigns, according to a new publication by the Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies. Communities in eleven states enacted divisive antigay referenda in this month's election. In the course of these campaigns to limit the rights of gay people, well-publicized stereotypes and hostility became dominant themes that challenged the psychological well-being of GLBT people.

"I've heard many stories about fear, sadness, and a sense of loss from people all over the country," noted Dr. Glenda Russell, author of the report. "Putting the civil rights of one group to a vote takes an enormous psychological toll on members of that group, as well as on communities and on families."

After Michigan voters amended the state constitution to ban same-sex marriages, Greg Varnum saw this impact firsthand at Eastern Michigan University.

He described the aftermath of the vote: "In my role as student coordinator of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Resource Center, I have seen people dealing with surprise, anger, and sadness, with a sense of powerlessness and a desire to want to know what to do next."

The report, entitled *Surviving and Thriving in the Midst of Anti-Gay Politics*, presents three primary strategies: analysis, action, and allies. GLBT people should analyze the homophobia present in the campaign, take action to resist antigay efforts, and draw on the support of heterosexual allies. Russell noted that heterosexual allies play a particularly important role in reducing feelings of isolation in addition to the value of their political support.

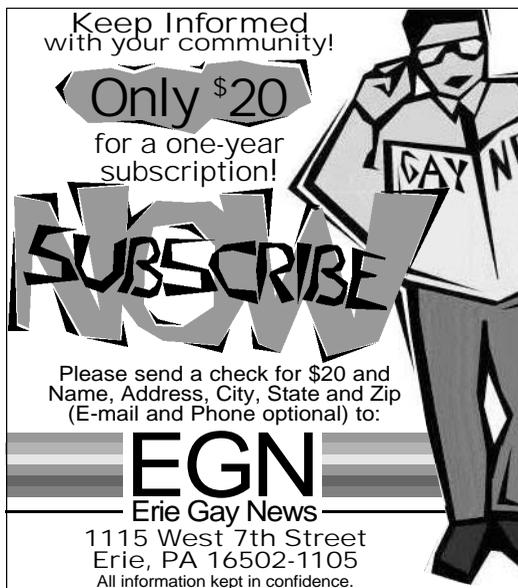
"The research on how people get through the tough political times shows that these strategies work," according to author Glenda Russell, a psychologist and IGLSS senior research associate. "Although you can't shut out the negative messages about gay people that blanket a community during a campaign, we can respond to them in constructive ways."

The new report outlines strategies for individuals and for organizations. Community organizations of all kinds can provide important outlets for individuals to work through their feelings productively.

"Since the federal marriage debate is likely to pick up again," predicted Lee Badgett, IGLSS research director, "this new report should be essential reading for activists everywhere."

Dr. Russell also leads workshops on strategies for surviving antigay politics. Last weekend she led participants at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Creating Change conference in a discussion of these strategies.

The Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies is a non-profit, independent think tank based in Amherst, Massachusetts. IGLSS provides policy-oriented research on issues of importance to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities. All IGLSS publications are available at www.igloss.org. Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies P.O. Box 2603 Amherst, MA 01004 (413)577-0145 www.igloss.org



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This & That

by Deb Spilko

The Tralf in Buffalo is under new management, with a new venue. Some of the comedy acts that are scheduled for 2005 are **Suzanne Westenhoefer** on January 22, **Paula Poundstone** on March 17, **Kate Clinton** on April 1. They'll also be bringing in musician/political activist **Holly Near** on May 14. The Tralf is located at 622 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Buffalo, NY 14202. Browse to www.newtralf.com

Michael Feinstein will be at the Stambaugh Auditorium in Youngstown Ohio December 3. For tickets and info call (330) 747-5175.

We will once again be running a listing of events and places of interest for **New Year's Eve**. Because people observe the day in different ways, we want to feature a variety of choices, and encourage you to let us know if your business or group belongs on there. Last year's listings included parties, theater presentations, restaurants and coffeehouses that were open till 8 PM or later, and a religious service.

Fans of once-a-month **Jazz Brunch** at The Village should know they have an email list that send out a reminder a couple days before the Brunch. The list will be maintained by none other than Mike Mahler the communications queen... just contact him through this publication.

The following aren't breaking news, but I wanted to pass them along.. **Outlet Radio Network** is a 24/7 GLBT webcast that provides a news, information and entertainment. They offer two audio streams for all popular players: Circuit Candy features music from the gay circuit scene, while The Green Lounge is easy-listening. Their gay newswire is very good. Visit them at www.outletradio.com UK-based **Gaydar Radio** broadcasts a variety of musical programming from club DJ Rich B's "X-Static" to the soothing sounds of "Oasis," as well as news and entertainment. In the US you can listen to them at www.gaydarradio.com

PlanetOut and its partner Gay.com offer all kinds of really detailed and helpful safer sex advice in their **Safety Zone** feature. They go way beyond the usual list of do's and don'ts, and deal at length with all kinds of issues (like: first times, the safety of oral sex, and using the Reality condom). The feature also deals with other STDs. Visit them at www.planetout.com and www.gay.com

Michael dithers

by Michael Mahler

Rather a busy month here. I went to the Tret Fure concert and had a pretty good time. I was one of 2 guys there. The women were all very nice. At one point, I looked over to see a young couple snuggling, which felt oddly comforting. I recognized one of the women from a coffee shop where we distribute the newsletter, which I guess confirmed the "just friendly or a member of the family?" thing.

My 17 1/2 year old cat, Annabelle Esmeralda, passed on recently. She was in many ways the last link to my early adulthood. Her health had been failing, and I knew that it was quite soon. When I headed up to bed, I cleaned her up and put towels over her to keep her warm. As I expected, she passed on in the middle of the night.

I recently had jury duty, the first time for me. When I got to the courthouse, the jury waiting room was pretty much filled, but I did manage to find a seat next to a matronly woman. I then noticed that she was wearing a large silver pentagram around her neck. "Blessed be!", I greeted her. "What did you say?", she asked. Yup, she was also Pagan, and worn it, thinking it might get her out of jury duty. But just like a lot of people who have sometimes very unrealistic fears about being out, she found that there were more folks around like her and supportive of her than she thought.

I am rather excited to be in The Eight: Reindeer Monologues at Directors Circle Theatre. One fellow cast member suggested wearing leather, so I am going in that direction. And really, who better to wear a leather harness than a gay reindeer?



Tret Fure and yours truly.

DECEMBER 18TH

The Village

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