

April 2005



EGN

Erie Gay News



Memorial tree for Neal

Just wanted to pass along how well we are doing so far with donations for the tree at Frontier Park in Neal's memory. So far \$217 has been collected.

For \$250 we will be able to have a plaque placed at an existing tree in the park and its life time maintenance. We will continue to accept donations through April. If we exceed what we need, the rest will be donated to the local diabetes chapter.

I just have to say it really makes me feel good that there are so many generous people out there.

If you would like to contribute to the memorial, please make out the check to "EGC Coalition", put "Memorial for Neal" on the memo line of the check, and mail it to EGN, 1115 W 7th St, Erie PA 16502. If you have any questions, email Tim at tsgriffin59@hotmail.com or call Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833.

—*from Tim W.*

Cause for Celebration!

The Southern Tier office of AIDS Community Services of Western New York will hold its annual Cause for Celebration fundraiser on Saturday April 16, 2005. The theme is "A Night in the Tropics."

The celebration will be held at The Village Casino, 1 Lakeside Drive, Bemus Point NY. For more information, call (716) 664-7855. Email: southerntier@aidscommunityservices.com, browse to www.aidscommunityservices.com For directions visit www.bemuspointcasino.com

The Guys weekday get togethers

Please note that The Guys will be getting together every 3-4 weeks at 7 PM at Moonsense, 5442 Peach St in Erie. The next get-together is on Wednesday, April 6. This is a coffee shop and is across the street from Millcreek Community Hospital. For more info, call Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833, email info@eriegaynews.com or browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>

Happy Spring!



Community Center Cruise kickoff

Well Guys and Girls. Perfect your tan on the sun-drenched beaches, or nurture your inner nature lover with an unforgettable trip into the rain forest, where you'll encounter more species of animal and plant life in a day than most people see in a lifetime. Here is a chance to escape the winter blues next year. In the next few months you will be hearing about a Trip to the Caribbean on an all Gay and Lesbian cruise. Be looking out for a kick off party of a life time! Further information to follow. Call Jan at Carlson-Wagonlit Travel at (814) 838-7669 or Email Brian at glbterie@aol.com for more info.

—*From Brian*

More community news on page 4!

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Erie Gay News
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 www.eriegaynews.com

Editors: Deb Spilko and Mike Mahler
Ad Design: MAL
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 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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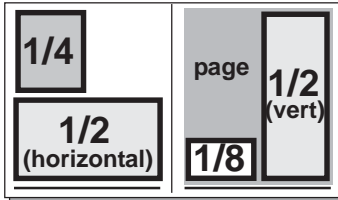
Thank You:

To James von Loewe and Lynne Rhodes for folding the March 2005 issue and Chad n for folding back issues for archives; John & Paula King, James von Loewe, Dave S, and Jerry McCumber for distribution; and Bob & Julie 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.



PFLAG-Erie and Crawford Counties Chapter
 Support, Education, Advocacy
 for GLBT People, their families and friends
 (814) 898-8341
 pflagerie@eriegaynews.com
 PFLAG-TNET marchadenise@hotmail.com
 Transgender Coordinator

EGN Ad Rates



Ad Size	Price/Issue	Dimensions
Eighth	\$30 (\$27 prepaid)	1-5/8" high X 2-7/8" wide
Quarter	\$50 (\$45 prepaid)	3-1/2" high X 2-7/8" wide
Half (horiz)	\$90 (\$81 prepaid)	3-1/2" high X 6" wide
Half (vert)	\$90 (\$81 prepaid)	7" high X 2-7/8" wide
Page	\$160 (\$144 prepaid)	7-1/2" high X 6" wide

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

Saturday, April 2nd

The Drenched Fur Weekend

Trance welcomes all Bears from the Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Cleveland and Erie area to party with us!

The Featured Entertainer for the evening is the outrageous

KerKerKendallKehdall

providing his unique and humorous music styling at 9 PM.

Menspace

Saturday, April 9th

Trance is proud to host Menspace starting at 7:30 PM.

Saturday, April 23rd

The Black and Blue Ball

Wear your Hottest Leather, Latex, Fantasy.
Let Trance work out your "Kinks"!

*No Wire
Coat Hangers!*

Saturday, May 7th

Mommy Dearest Party

We're looking for Joan Crawford Look-a-likes

Coming Soon Karaoke Night at Trance Talent Night.
Do you sing, strip or do drag? Just sign up at the bar.

We have temporarily ended Trivia Night in order to prepare our Patio Bar. Watch for Grand opening.

Don't forget our Martini Bar opens Wed. & Fri. at 4PM. Happy hour special 5PM to 7PM.



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(continued from cover)

Crime Victim Center events

The month of April is a significant month for the Crime Victim Center and the victims it serves. April is **Sexual Assault Awareness Month**, **Child Abuse Prevention Month** and April 10-16 is **National Crime Victims Rights Week**.

With respect to these observances several different events are planned. The Center's **Annual Victims Rights Rally** will be held at 6 PM on Monday April 11 at Gannon University. Several crime victims or their family members often sing, recite poetry or speak on behalf of victims at the event. Elected officials present proclamations and there may be a surprise keynote speaker this year! Center staff will participate in **Take Back the Night** events with Edinboro University on April 12 and Gannon University on April 13. The awards ceremony for the **Child Abuse Prevention Poster Contest** will be held in Judge Domitrovich's courtroom on April 18. This annual contest is a joint venture between the Crime Victim Center, Erie Insurance and Pfeiffer Burleigh first-graders.

And, the Crime Victim Center will be hosting its first-ever **Awards Luncheon** at the Bel Aire on Wednesday April 27 to honor several members of the community who have gone out of their way to *reduce the impact of crime* for crime victims in Erie County.

The Center provided services to 6,141 victims, their family members and witnesses to crimes last year. More than twelve-hundred of the victims were children – victims of sexual or physical violence.

For more information about services or any of these events, call the Center at (814) 455-9414.

—Submitted by the Crime Victim Center

Pride Events meeting

We had a good first meeting for the 2005 Pride events. Our next meeting will be on Sunday, April 10 at 2 PM at Bob's in Erie PA. Contact us to find out more about the location and other details.

We really need some volunteers this year for the 13th Annual Pride Picnic on Saturday, June 25 at the Rotary Pavilion at Presque Isle. The picnic itself lasts from 1 to 6 PM, but we will also need a few folks earlier to help with set up, and a few folks later to help with cleanup. (Probably a half hour in either direction.) We will be serving food from 2 to 5 PM and taking the Family Portrait at 4 PM. Tasks that we need help with include keeping soda stocked; kitchen - servicing and setting out food; cooking; and transporting food from the grill to the serving area. We will also need help with staffing the check in table.

If you can help us with that, please let me know ASAP and send in your name, phone and email. We will have a meeting a few days before the picnic.

You can read more about the Pride Picnic at <http://picnic.eriegaynews.com> (it's also linked at <http://www.eriegaynews.com/pride>).

We are also encouraging folks to preregister online for the Pride Picnic at <http://www.eriegaynews.com/pride/register.php>. You can sign up whenever you like. (We have already had a few folks register.)

We have had someone volunteer to coordinate a Pride Weekend in the fall, but we do not have very many folks to work on that. If you want to help out with that, please get in contact ASAP. If we don't have sufficient staff/organizers, we will skip fall Pride this year.


For more info, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com

—by Mike Mahler

Bethany J. Robson, CSW-R
515 Pine St.
Jamestown, New York 14701
Phone: 716-483-5830
Fax: 716-664-3186

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814-459-4775 HIV is expensive....
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Drenched Fur Weekend Updates

Join the Bears from Buffalo, Cleveland, Erie, & Pittsburgh for good fun at Erie's Premier Indoor Water Park Resort - Splash Lagoon! Saturday, April 2nd from 1 - 5 PM in Erie, PA. Wet `n wild Bear camaraderie for only \$20! Then join the guys from 8 PM `til ? for the Bear Bar Night at Erie's own Trance Dance Club. Kendall will be performing music and comedy at Trance at 9 PM. Stay overnight in downtown Erie for a great price! -Only \$52 / night with up to 4 guests/ room w/Continental Breakfast & Saturday bar/hotel shuttle service! Call the Ramada Inn directly at (814) 456-2961 to book the `Bear' Special! Check out the web page for more info at www.eriegaynews.com/drenchedfur or email us for questions at drenchedfur@hotmail.com. Sign up today! Mail payments to: Drenched Fur PO Box 3753 Erie PA 16508. Confirmation Packets including directions and details will be provided upon receipt of payment. The new extended deadline is that registrations and payments are accepted through Saturday, March 26th. Payments MUST BE RECEIVED by that Saturday of the 26th, NO LATER. Email us for questions at: drenchedfur@hotmail.com

—by Gary Snyder)

Erie Networking Group

The GLBT/friendly business and professionals group is next meeting on Tuesday, April 19 at 7 PM at Trance. At our last meeting, we decided to meet the 3rd Tuesday of each month, and we will be varying the location beginning in May. We also went over a cover letter going out to businesses and organizations. We are currently working on a print version of the Resource Directory, which should be out by the end of the year. For more info, contact Brian at glbterrie@aol.com, Michael at info@eriegaynews.com or (814) 456-9833. You can also sign up for the email list at http://www.eriegaynews.com/mailman/listinfo/networking_eriegaynews.com

Did you volunteer in 2004?

We're taking a head count on GLBT participation in the 2004 presidential campaign.

We will be sending out a mailing to people on the Erie GLBT list and the GLBT Vote list. If you aren't on either of those lists, you can email us at info@eriegaynews.com



fellowship

Monthly social group for gay/bi men.
Usually meets second Saturday of the month.

Sign up for email list at:
<http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>

Next meeting is
Saturday April 9th at 7:30



For more details. E-mail Michael Mahler
at info@eriegaynews.com and/or call 814-456-9833

Erie Gay News print edition
can be viewed online at
www.eriegaynews.com

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Calendar

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

Mar 26 - Easter Bunny Hop! at Zone Dance Club
"Hop on into the New Zone for our 6th Annual Easter Party! The Easter bunny will be handing out Easter eggs and treats! Guys-Hunt for a nice big basket! Ladies- find a cute cuddly chick! Dance on down the Bunny trail! Join your friends for a 'hopping' good time! - Happy Easter from your friends at the Zone!"
133 W 18th St, Erie. (814) 452-0125.
www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Mar 26 - We can't wait for Summer Party! at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie PA "Prizes for the coolest sunglasses and for the guys and gals who have the balls and ovaries to wear their bathing suits out on this night!" Phone: (814) 456-3027.
www.trancedanceclub.com.

Mar 27 - Zone open Easter Sunday 133 W 18th St, Erie PA Spend Easter Sunday with your "Gay Family and Friends" at the New *Zone* Phone: (814) 452-0125.
Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Mar 31 - Erie Gay/Straight Alliance at Aroma's Coffeehouse 7:30 PM 2174 W 8th St, Erie PA Join us for coffee and chat. Email: phobbs101@aol.com. Call Parris at (814) 825-2669. Browse to <http://hrc.meetup.com/101/events/>.

Apr 1 - Vertigo Party (Butler PA) "Vertigo is BYOB we supply everything Cups, Ice, Mix, just bring your booze." Email: vertigov@aol.com. Browse to www.webspawner.com/users/vertigov.

Apr 2 - Drenched Fur Weekend (Erie PA) Details on page 5 and also first page of previous issue..

Apr 2 - Talent Contest at Rascals ((Jamestown NY) 701 N. Main (716)484-3220. 8-week contest, every Saturday night starting April 2. Details at bar. "Any talent is welcomed: singers, dancers, comedy, drag, models, anything else." Cover \$3, but the rest of the contest nights have a cover of \$1. Also on the same night, there will be a show with **Sabrina White, Martika DeVaine and Tiffany Raye**.

Apr 4 - Ohio Residents: Last day to register to vote in OH Primary Election

Apartments for Rent :

Available April 1, 2005 and May 1, 2005

Cozy, one bedroom upper apartments (2)

Located in NW Erie, Gridley Park area at 714 West 5th St.

Close to downtown

Call John at
814/454/8310
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Appt.

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- * *All original Oak woodwork and fireplace*
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- * *Secure Entry system with intercom*
- * *Secure mail system*
- * *Hookups for W & D in basement*
- * *Water, sewer and garbage included*
- * *Snowplowing included*
- * *Carpeted, drapes and blinds included*
- *On EMTA busline*
- *NO PETS*
- *Rent : \$400.00 per month plus Security Deposit*

Calendar

Apr 5 - Support group for those dealing with loss
Hospice of Metropolitan Erie, 202 E 10th St, Erie PA 7 PM. Also meets Thursday, April 21 at 10 AM. Phone: (814) 456-6689. Email: hospice@velocity.net.

Apr 6 - Always Our Children meets Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St, Erie PA. For Catholic parents of GLBT children. Phone: (814) 456-2091.

Apr 6 - 'The Guys' get together at Moonsense (Moonsense, 5442 Peach St, Erie PA) 7 PM. Informal get together to hang out at this local coffee-shop Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Apr 9 - Menspace meets at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie PA 7:30 PM. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Apr 9 - Moulin Rouge a La Zone! Zone Dance Club (Erie PA) 133 W 18th St, Join us for our Annual Spring Show as the "Ladies" of the Zone put on a fabulous show just for you! A little naughty, a little nice, a little saucy, a little spice! Hosted by our own Miss Erie- Angelica Red! Join us for a night of fun as the "Ladies" show us how to paint the town - RED! - Ooo La La! Get into your Zone! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

Apr 11 - PFLAG-Erie-Crawford meets Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA 7 PM - 9 PM. Regular monthly meeting Phone: (814) 898-8341. Email: pflagerie@eriegaynews.com.

Apr 13 - National Day of Silence The Day of Silence, a project of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Edu-

cation Network (GLSEN) in collaboration with the United States Student Association (USSA), is a student-led day of action where those who support making anti-LGBT bias unacceptable in schools take a day-long vow of silence to recognize and protest the discrimination and harassment -- in effect, the silencing -- experienced by LGBT students and their allies. www.dayofsilence.org/

Apr 13 - Concert: Tuba Voce: Tales from the Gay Tuba Songbook Blasco Memorial Library, Hirt Auditorium, 160 E Front St, Erie PA. 7:30 PM. Features Dr. Daniel Burdick, tuba, Donna Amato, piano. Free Admission. Music includes Broadway Songs, Castrato Storm Arias, and Songs from the AIDS Quilt Songbook. This recital is part of the National Day of Silence observance taking place on Wednesday, April 13, 2005.

Apr 15 - Deadline for May 2005 EGN

Apr 16 - Rave Night at Zebra Lounge New (Kensington PA), 910 Constitution Blvd., With D.J. Joanne Lynn. \$2.00 Cover. ID required (724)339-0298.

Tuba Voce:

Tales from the Gay Tuba Songbook

**Dr. Daniel Burdick, tuba
Donna Amato, piano**

Wednesday, April 13, 2005
7:30 p.m. - **Free Admission**
Hirt Auditorium,
Blasco Memorial Library
Erie Bayfront



Music includes Broadway Songs, Castrato Storm Arias, and Songs from the AIDS Quilt Songbook



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Calendar

Apr 16 - Cause for Celebration: A Night In The Tropics Village Casino, 1 Lakeside Drive, Bemus Point NY. Fundraiser for AIDS Community Services of Western NY Phone: (716) 664-7855. Email: southerntier@aidscommunityservices.com. Browse to <http://www.aidscommunityservices.com/Southern%20Tier%20Services.htm>.

Apr 16 & 17- TC's 50th Birthday Extravaganza! at The Zone 133 W 18th St, Erie PA "Its a Two Day Event! Our very own House DJ- "TC" is celebrating a milestone—his 50th birthday and over 28 years as a DJ in Erie's gay clubs! Join us as we celebrate this milestone with music from every decade of his career - and a little birthday cake too! Gay Erie history in the making! -lol- Congratulations! TC - from all your friends and family at the Zone! Happy Birthday!" Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Apr 18 - Pennsylvania residents: Last day to register to vote in Pennsylvania Primary Election

Apr 19 - Erie Networking Group meets Trance Dance Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie PA. 7 PM. GLBT/Friendly businesses and professionals. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: glbterie@aol.com. Browse to http://www.eriegaynews.com/mailman/listinfo/networking_eriegaynews.com.

Apr 22-24 - 14th Annual Rainbow Wranglers Roundup (Cleveland) GLBT Country/Western dance weekend. www.rainbowwranglers.org/

Apr 23 - 10% Network Movie Night (Martin and Don's, Jamestown NY) The movie will be *Touch of Pink*. A gay Canadian living in London has his perfectly crafted life upset when his devoutly Muslim

mother comes to visit. See <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0374277/> for details. Contact: Don. Email: jtown10-owner@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://jamestowntenpercent.tripod.com/>.

Apr 23 - Glow Party at the Zone! Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie PA. "One of your favorite parties is back! Glow sticks and Black-lights- Dance in the dark! - Get ready as we dim the lights low so you can shine! Wear black or white or glow body paints if you dare." Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>

Apr 23- The Black and Blue Ball at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie PA. "Wear your Hottest Leather, Latex, Fantasy. Let Trance work out your 'Kinks!'" Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

Apr 25 - May 1 - National Celebration 2005 (Philadelphia PA) Article on page 11 of this issue.

Apr 29 - Erie Gay/Straight Alliance at Aroma's Coffeehouse 2174 W 8th St, Erie PA "Join us for coffee and chat." Email: phobbs101@aol.com. Call Parris at (814) 825-2669. Browse to <http://hrc.meetup.com/101/events/>.

Apr 29 - May 1 - Cleveland Leather Awareness Weekend (Cleveland), annual weekend of leather-related events, benefits the Leather Archives and Museum, Cleveland Lesbian-Gay Center and other community organizations, host hotel Embassy Suites in downtown Cleveland, featuring silent auction, International Leather Family Dinner, field trips, vendor/education mart, parties and more, (216)252-2148, www.clawinfo.org



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Calendar

May 4 - Always Our Children meets Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St, Erie PA. For Catholic parents of GLBT children. Phone: (814) 456-2091.

May 6 - Vertigo Party (Butler PA) Vertigo is BYOB vertigov@aol.com. www.webspawner.com/users/vertigov.

May 7 - Mommy Dearest Party at Trance Dance Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie PA "No Wire Coat Hangers! We're looking for Joan Crawford Look-alikes." Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: lee@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

May 9 - PFLAG-Erie-Crawford meets Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA 7 PM - 9 PM. Regular monthly meeting Phone: (814) 898-8341. Email: pflagerie@eriegaynews.com.

May 14 - Menspace meets (Sean's, 1304 Anna Court, Erie PA) 7:30 PM. Dry "Please, this is a dry party, but hopefully the night will heat up with similar passions. Oh, and feel to bring your own dish."

Phone at Sean's is (814) 824-4530. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

May 15 - Deadline for June 2005 EGN.

Jun 4 - 100+ Family Garage Sale at Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA 9 AM - 3 PM. The church is located 1/2 mile north off Exit 27 on I-90 and approximately 2 1/2 miles south of the zoo at W 38th & Perry Hwy. Numbers at the door at 8 AM. There will be tools, pools, dishes, toy fishes, shirts, skirts and even sinks and drinks. The list is endless. To donate items call Deb at 459-2332. Contact: Deb. Phone: (814) 459-2332. Email: uerie@juno.com.

Jun 4 - Menspace meets (Marshall and Tom's, 4304 Harding Drv, Erie PA) 7:30 PM. PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE! Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.



Meet Kathleen Hanson, Kathleen is a Case Manager in our Erie office, she has been with the Northwest Alliance for 2 years and has been in the field of social work for 15 years. Kathleen is another of the dedicated people you'll find at the Northwest PA Rural AIDS Alliance

The Northwest Pennsylvania Rural AIDS Alliance

"We provide access to testing, education, and medical, financial, and supportive services to those infected with HIV/AIDS in Northwest Pennsylvania." With Clinics in Erie, Warren, Clarion, Clearfield, Seneca, Sharon, Greenville and Farrell staffed by HIV specialists. Support Groups are also offered, please contact Sue at the Clarion office for that information.

For more information, contact:

Northwest PA Rural AIDS Alliance
1001 State St. Suite 703
Renaissance Centre
Erie, PA 16501

814-4568849 or 1-800-400-2437

Clarion Office:
15870 Route 322 Suite 2
Clarion, PA 16214
**814-764-6066 or
1-800-359-2437**

**"GET TESTED: YOU NEED TO KNOW"
EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO PREVENTION**

Ofrecemos exámenes médicos, además de servicios médicos, educativos, financieros y de apoyo para los que están infectados de VIH o de SIDA dentro del noroeste de Pensilvania. Hay clínicas en Erie, Warren, Clarion, Clearfield, Seneca, Sharon, Greenville y Farrell con personal especializado en el tratamiento de VIH.

Hágase un examen del VIH: Usted necesita saber.

On stage

Selected area events that may be of interest to GLBT audiences

March 31

Paula Poundstone March 31 (note date change) at The Tralf 622 Main St., Buffalo, NY Box office & Info Line: 716-854-3068. *18 & over show.* www.newtralf.com/

April 1

Kate Clinton April 1 at The Tralf, 622 Main St., Buffalo, NY Box Office & Info Line: 716-854-3068 www.newtralf.com *18& over show.*

April 2

Chicks with Guitars at Eclectic Etceteras Saturday April 2 at 8 PM at 118 Erie St, Edinboro PA Phone: (814) 734-2909 www.eclecticetceteras.com

April 3-30

Shear Madness performed April 3 through 30 by Studio Arena Theater at The Tralf, 622 Main St., Buffalo, NY Box office & Info Line: 716-854-3068 www.newtralf.com

April 8-24

PAX by Deborah Levy, April 8-24 at Allen Street Dance Studio 85 Allen Street, Buffalo NY <http://alleyway.com/pandorasbox/> "Four women seek solace and understanding in the aftermath of a great tragedy in this haunting and surprisingly funny play by British playwright Deborah Levy. Directed by former Artistic Director, Ellen Opiela, PAX examines the permanent wounds of war, particularly as it affects women. With its poetry and theatricality, PAX promises to be a stunning evening of theatre."

April 9

Leah Zicari & Jamie Anderson at Erie UU April 9 at 8 pm, Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 7180 Perry Highway, Erie. \$15. Info: (716)326-7480. (also see "This and That," page 19).

April 9

2 Girls Alone at Two Friends Italian Market 25 E 10th St, Erie PA 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM. For more information, or for a pizza coupon to use that night, email twogirlsalone@att.net. Email: twogirlsalone@att.net.

April 9-10

North Coast Men's Chorus: "Broadway Our Way" April 9 and 10. Waetjen Auditorium, Cleveland State University, 2001 Euclid Ave, Cleveland, Ohio. www.ncmchorus.org. (216) 556-0590.

April 9, 15, 16

Vagina Monologues, directed by D.R. Nadon, part of Kent State University-Trumbull Campus' campaign for V-Day to end violence against women and girls, 8 PM on April 9, 15 and 16, Lecture Hall A, Kent Trumbull Campus, 4314 Mahoning Ave NW, Warren, Ohio (330)847-8700.

April 15

Carousel Family Series presents Cathy & Marcy April 15 at 7:00 PM The 1891 Fredonia Opera House, 9-11 Church St., Fredonia, NY (716) 679- 1891 www.fredopera.org Winners of the 2004 Grammy Award for "Best Children's Album," Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer have been entertaining children and family audiences of 20+ years. \$10 Adults/\$8 Seniors, Students, Children. www.cathymarcy.com

April 16

Tret Fure in concert, 8 PM, \$15, Center Art, 1930 Lee Rd, Cleveland Heights, Ohio (216)320-1459, email: createart@centerart.org www.centerart.org

April 26-June 26

Rock Hudson As April 26 to June 26 New Phoenix Theater, Buffalo NY (716)853-1334

May 1

Ani DiFranco performs May 1 at Shea's Performing Arts Center 646-660 Main St., Buffalo NY www.sheas.org/

May 5-15

Chicago May 5 - 15 at Shea's Performing Arts Center 646-660 Main St., Buffalo NY www.sheas.org

May 22

Mary Chapin Carpenter performs May 22 at the Allen Theater in Cleveland Ohio.

May 25

Sarah McLachlan performs May 25 at the Mellon Arena 66 Mario Lemieux Place Pittsburgh, PA www.mellonarena.com/

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.

National Celebration 2005

The National Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the GLBT Civil Rights Movement will be held on Sunday, May 1 at Independence Hall, the site of the first annual and organized gay and lesbian civil rights demonstrations in 1965. These Annual Reminders in New York, D.C. and Philadelphia led to the 1969 Stonewall riot and the first New York Pride Parade.

The 16-hour National Celebration on Independence Mall includes a **Tribute to Gay Pioneers & 40 Heroes; SundayOUT, a major street festival; a National Celebration Concert with Cyndi Lauper and other stars; a Gay Icons Pavilion** at Independence Visitor Center; an **Interfaith Service** at historic Christ Church Philadelphia; **Conversations** with Gay Leaders at the National Constitution Center; celebrity guests; and **three parties**, including one at the Real World Philadelphia House.

The Forty Heroes to be honored were nominated by over 80 national and international GLBT organizations and leaders. Over the last 40 years, these Heroes have helped define the progress we've made since that first demonstration in front of Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell on July 4, 1965.

This will be the 5th national GLBT demonstration. The first was held in 1979 on the National Mall. There were similar and larger demonstrations in 1987, 1993 and 2000. These national demonstrations energized the movement and provided benchmarks for the progress of GLBT liberation.

What makes the 2005 National Celebration different? We take our model from the African-American Civil Rights Movement. Despite a Civil War, African-Americans continued to be treated as second-class

citizens. In the early 1960s, white Americans began seeing images of brave Black leaders like Rosa Parks and Dr. King in Selma and Birmingham, and recognizing the evils of racial oppression.

On August 28, 1963, Bayard Rustin organized the historic Civil Rights Demonstration at the Lincoln Memorial. Rustin was a gay, African-American colleague of Dr. King, and he is one of the 40 Heroes of the 2005 National Celebration. He knew that this was the right place and the right time – a time when America was finally listening. What many white Americans had previously seen as a series of Negro disturbances was understood as a Civil Rights Movement.

The 40th Anniversary Celebration gives us the same opportunity. In 1965, when the Gay Pioneers first publicly and openly demonstrated for homosexual rights, America was stone deaf to their plight. After 40 years of perseverance, America is finally ready to listen.

The National Celebration is at Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell, the iconic site chosen in 1965 by the Gay Pioneers to launch the movement. This is our opportunity to remind America of the lynching of Matthew Shepard and other toxic effects of homophobia. The National Celebration will help define the GLBT Civil Rights Movement for all Americans.

The National Celebration at Independence Hall is our demonstration at the Lincoln Memorial. The reactionary right is trying to push us back into the closet. At the National Celebration, people from coast to coast, from blue and red states and from large cities and rural communities will gather to reaffirm our commitment.

Together, at the National Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the GLBT Civil Rights Movement, we will make history and advance our equality.

Malcolm Lazin
Executive Director
Equality Forum

For more information about the Equality Forum 2005 & National Celebration, visit www.equalityforum.com There is no registration fee and all substantive events including the National Celebration are free.



The Ins and Outs of HIV Counseling and Testing

By Michelle Palmer
Erie County Department of Health

You cannot tell by looking at someone if they have been infected with HIV – the virus that causes AIDS. A person could look and feel physically healthy and still be infected with this virus. They may be infected with the virus and not even be aware of it. So how does one find out? How can a person keep themselves and the ones that they love safe? The answer is an HIV antibody test.

What is an HIV antibody test? This test is what a person is given to determine whether or not they have been infected with HIV. The test looks for antibodies within the body, which are normally produced by the body within 3-6 months. If HIV antibodies are detected, your test will be positive. This means that you have HIV.

If antibodies are not detected, it means one of two things: that you don't have HIV, or that you have HIV, but your body hasn't made enough antibodies to register on the test yet.

HIV tests are conducted in various ways; some samples are taken through drawing a small amount of blood out of the arm and others are taken by way of an oral swab. This can be less invasive and as a result many people prefer this type of test. (www.orasure.com)

Should I get an HIV test? It would be wise for a person to get an HIV test if they are engaging in behaviors that could be considered risky. HIV is transmitted through four specific body fluids; blood, seminal fluid, vaginal fluid and breast milk.

It is important to ask yourself certain questions to determine whether or not you should consider taking a test:

- Have you or your partner(s) ever had vaginal, anal, or oral sex without using a condom or latex barrier?
- Have you or your partner ever shared needles or syringes for injecting drugs, etc.?
- Have you or your partner ever shared needles or inks when having a tattoo administered?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, think about an HIV test.

What happens during testing? It is important to understand the confidentiality policies of the testing sites. In Erie, most counseling and testing centers follow one of two policies.

The first is confidential testing, this means that your name is known, and your test result is put into your medical record. Your test results will be kept private according to current HIPPA regulation.

The second option is anonymous testing. The results are given by using a code name or number, and there is no way to trace the results back to you.

Why is HIV counseling important? Your counselor should provide counseling whether the test results are positive or negative. It is mandatory in the state of PA to provide both counseling and testing for HIV tests. Test results may not be given over the phone or through the mail; they must be given face to face (in person).

In the case of negative results, the counselor will work to educate a person on reducing the risk of HIV infection. In addition, it may be important to discuss retesting if the body has not yet produced enough antibodies for the test to detect.

With positive results, your counselor will be able to answer any questions you may have, and also refer you to services that are provided including health care, income, food and legal services available. In Erie, that would be the Northwest Rural AIDS Alliance or Community Health Net.

Where can I get tested? You can be tested by a doctor, health clinic, or public testing center. The Erie County Department of Health provides free HIV counseling and testing to the public. (www.ecdh.org) Remember that you can help to protect yourself and the ones you love simply by getting and HIV test and being safe. Knowledge is power.

For more information on HIV and educational programming, or prevention efforts, contact Patty Puline at 451-6543 or email her at ppuline@ecdh.org

Michael Dithers

by Michael Mahler

A very busy month here! I am very happy to state that we finally got copies of Erie Gay News from 1992 through the present and PRIDE News from 2000 & 2001 to various GLBT archives across the US (and one in the Amsterdam.) This had sort of been hanging over my head as a task to do, and it meant a lot that our community's history is stored where it can be seen by others. (I tend to be rather a stickler on not having loose ends.)

Earlier this month, I went to a reception for Dr. John Chittick, who runs www.teenids.org, a world wide HIV/AIDS prevention effort. Very worthwhile stuff. I was chatting with Patty Puline from the Erie County Health Department, who said that someone had seen the article about the history of the condom at our web site and asked for more info. The amusing part was where they were from - Ethiopia! Usually when I think of the area we reach, I think of Erie, Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Buffalo. Addis Ababa crosses my mind relatively rarely.

I had an amusing schedule conflict a few weeks ago. We had planned the first meeting for Pride events for Sunday, March 12 at 2 PM. I had also heard from a friend that some local folks were trying to put together a Pagan Pride Day for this fall, that I also wanted to be involved in. You guessed it - they were scheduled for the exact same time. Since I was one of the conveners for the GLBT Pride thing, I went to that, but I hope to be able to be active with the Pagan event as well. Just doing my bit to make Jerry Falwell have a conniption fit. If you're interested, the next GLBT Pride meeting is Sunday April 10, and the next Pagan Pride Day meeting is Wednesday March 30.

I am pretty excited that the Erie Gay/Straight Alliance will be sending out questionnaires to candidates for the May 17 Primary Election here in Pennsylvania. We will have the responses from candidates in the next issue, so be sure to check it out. You are registered to vote, yes??? The deadline to register to vote in PA is April 18. I have also been working on a website for the Lake Erie Alliance for Democracy. Check it out at <http://www.erielead.org>.

The photo on this page requires some explanation. I was celebrating Ostara/Spring Equinox with some friends. It was a very nice group of folks, most

of whom I hadn't met before. Since Ostara is a fertility goddess associated with rabbits, eggs and spring, a friend brought along the silly rabbit ears. The sable-colored rooster in the photo is named Jamal. Paula grabbed me by the hand, and suggested that as a gay man I should get my photo taken with a big black cock (the rooster, that is!) So as some kids were looking for eggs, I stepped into the chicken area. It was cool, but there was a point where the rooster flapped his wings at me, hence the hands in the safely clasped position, although it does rather suggest Mr. Burns from the Simpsons rubbing his hands together: "Ah yes, eggcellent!" Not the most flattering photo and so much for personal dignity. It was a fun day and good folks.

Oh yeah, congratulations to TC for his 50th birthday and 27th year of DJ'ing!



Plotting to steal some eggs from Mr. Rooster, before discovering a problem with the plan.

(Photo: Paula King)

National News Briefs

by Bob

Judge Rules Gay Marriage Ban Unconstitutional

A state Superior Court judge has ruled that California's ban on gay marriage is unconstitutional - a ruling that, if upheld on appeal, would pave the way for California to follow Massachusetts in allowing same-sex marriages.

Judge Richard Kramer compared the gay marriage ban to laws requiring racial segregation in schools, and said there appears to be "no rational purpose" for denying marriage to same-sex couples.

The ruling came as a result of lawsuits filed by the city of San Francisco and a dozen gay couples a year ago after the California Supreme Court halted same-sex marriages started by San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom.

Gay marriage supporters hailed the ruling as historic while conservative leaders expressed outrage at the ruling and vowed to appeal.

Last winter, nearly 4,000 gay couples got married after Newsom instructed the city to issue them licenses, in defiance of state law. The California Supreme Court later declared those marriages void, saying the mayor overstepped his authority. But the court did not address the underlying issue of whether the law against gay marriage violates the California Constitution.

At issue in this particular court ruling was a 1977 law that defined marriage as "a personal relation arising out of a civil contract between a man and a woman," and a voter-approved measure in 2000 that amended the 1977 law to say "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California."

Gay marriage opponents were particularly upset by the judge's decision to nullify the 2000 proposition - approved by 61 percent of voters.

In making his ruling, Judge Kramer cited the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case of *Brown v. Board of Education* - the decision that struck down segregated schools.

"The idea that marriage-like rights without marriage is adequate, smacks of a concept long rejected by the courts - separate but equal," the judge wrote.

Currently, there are two bills before the California Legislature that would put a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage on the November ballot. If passed by the legislature and approved by the voters, such an amendment would put the issue out of the control of lawmakers and the courts.

Mass. Governor "Flip Flops" on Civil Unions

Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney is being accused of "flip flopping" on the issue of civil unions after giving a speech in South Carolina in which he opposed civil unions for same-sex couples.

"Today, same-sex couples are marrying under the law in Massachusetts," the Republican governor was quoted as saying. "Some are actually having children born to them. It's not right on paper. It's not right in fact. Every child has the right to have a mother and a father."

"From day one I've opposed the move for same-sex marriage and its equivalent, civil unions," Romney said.

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National News

The day after Romney's speech, the Log Cabin Republicans (LCR) publicly criticized the governor, saying his speech is backtracking on his 2002 campaign commitment to support civil unions.

"People value politicians who stand on principle," said LCR Massachusetts President Ken Sanchez. "What happened to the Mitt Romney who ran for governor supporting employment nondiscrimination, hate crimes legislation, domestic partnerships and civil union-like benefits for gay couples? We don't need another flip-flopping politician."

LCR further pointed out that Romney's own staff contradicted the governor's comments in South Carolina. According to news reports, the governor's spokesman, Eric Fehrstrom, said the governor supports an amendment that includes legal protections for gay couples.

"Log Cabin agrees with Governor Romney that we need to strengthen American families. However, attacking law-abiding, taxpaying, gay and lesbian families from your own state while visiting another state does nothing to strengthen families, and in fact, weakens families," concluded Sanchez.

Romney is frequently mentioned as a possible Republican presidential candidate in 2008.

Ban on Gay Marriage Headed for Vote in Alabama

The Alabama Legislature has passed a constitutional amendment that defines marriage as a legal union between one woman and one man and will put the measure before state voters in June.

Alabama's actions come just one week after a similar measure passed the South Dakota state legislature. Voters in that state will have their say on the measure next year.

To date, 13 states have passed state constitutional amendments defining marriage as between a man and a woman only.

The Alabama amendment passed the state Senate unanimously with a 30-0 final vote. The Senate had already passed the amendment last month, but some House changes with the definition's final wording necessitated another Senate vote.

Alabama Sen. Hinton Mitchem, a Democrat, has been backing the amendment bill for the past four years. Hinton theorized that news coverage of all the gay weddings in California and in Massachusetts was the push the legislature needed to get the amendment passed.

HRC Names New President

Joe Solmonese has been named the new president of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the nation's largest LGBT political group. He replaces Cheryl Jacques, who left the organization in November.

Solmonese is the chief executive officer of EMILY's List, the nation's largest political action committee, which works to elect pro-choice Democratic women to federal, state and local office.

At EMILY's List, Solmonese managed a staff of 85 people and oversaw a \$40 million budget. At HRC, Solmonese will oversee a staff of 125 people with a \$30 million budget.

"We need to make sure every LGBT American has a safe place to come out and join us in the fight for equality," Solmonese said. "Our equality under the law is evolving as the defining social and political issue of our time."

"As a gay American, I am very honored to serve HRC and the LGBT community and to join the leadership of a movement that is working toward an America that keeps its promise to all its citizens," Solmonese said.

Former HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch praised Solmonese. "Joe will bring so much pas-

(Continued on next page)

"I'm glad that I believe very fervently that Jesus would not be on the side of gay bashers. To think that people say, as they used to say, that AIDS was God's punishment for homosexuality. Abominable. Abominable."

Archbishop Desmond Tutu,
in a Newsweek online December 30, 2004

National News

sion, muscle and strategic thinking to the work of HRC. He is the exact type of experienced and visionary leader HRC needs to move us closer to making HRC's mission a reality."

Gay Author Banned from Addressing High School Students

Backed by a conservative political group, parents have forced officials at the Chesterfield school system near Richmond, VA, to cancel a lecture by a gay fiction writer at a local high school, after an email message from a conservative group convinced some parents that he would not be a suitable guest for high school students.

Greg Herren, primarily known for mystery novels featuring gay heroes, was invited to speak about his work and his career at Manchester High School. But when an anonymous email from the American Family Association was circulated to Manchester High parents and others, school officials quickly resched-

uled Herren's lecture series to after-school hours, then cancelled it entirely.

In a statement released by the Chesterfield school district, a spokesperson said Herren's appearance would be "inappropriate for high school students."

One protesting parent said, "There are plenty of avenues for folks with this particular opinion or position to express their First Amendment rights, but I don't believe a public school is the proper avenue without input from parents."

But Eric Russell, faculty adviser for the high school's gay-straight alliance, said the suggestion that Herren would indoctrinate students in "gay pride activist" issues is ludicrous.

"Greg did not intend to speak about anything inappropriate or controversial. He was going to talk about his experience at writing and being a journalist, things any writer would discuss as a guest speaker," Russell said.

Congress Moves to Repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

Congressman Marty Meehan, D-Mass., has introduced legislation in Congress to repeal the Pentagon's "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

Meehan, the ranking Democrat on the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Terrorism, Conventional Threats and Capabilities, was joined by 55 other Democrats and one Republican as cosponsors of the bill, known as the Military Readiness Enhancement Act.

The move comes on the heels of a report issued by the Government Accounting Office (GAO) that claims the 1993 antigay policy has cost the military nearly \$200 million to train personnel who replaced lesbian, gay or bisexual soldiers removed from the military after their sexual orientation was revealed.

For about the same amount of money, the Pentagon could have purchased a dozen Blackhawk helicopters or 800 sidewinder missiles, it was noted.

According to the GAO study, nearly 800 specialists with critical skills have been fired as a result of "don't ask don't tell," including 322 linguists, 54 of whom specialized in Arabic.

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National News

The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), points out that 10,000 gay and lesbian Americans have been discharged from service since the “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy began.

But Steve Ralls, SLDN’s director of communications, says passing Meehan’s bill will be tough. “We know we have a challenge ahead of us,” he said. “It will be an uphill battle in this session in Congress, but it does have bipartisan support. And we expect more Republicans to come on board in the next few weeks. If it doesn’t get passed in this session, we’ll reintroduce it in the next session.”

Gay Couple’s Image Used in Social Security Battle

The image of an Oregon gay couple kissing is being used in an advertising campaign as part of the battle over Social Security reform.

The ad, produced by the right-wing group USA Next, attempts to discredit the American Association for Retired People (AARP), a seniors’ advocacy group, over its opposition to some elements of President George Bush’s proposal to privatize Social Security.

The ad includes a photo of Richard Raymen and Steven Hansen kissing at their Oregon wedding last year, at a time when officials in Portland were trying to allow same-sex couples to wed. Alongside the photo of Raymen and Hansen is a photo of a soldier, and the caption “The real AARP agenda.” The ad claims AARP is anti-military and favors same-sex marriage.

“They basically stole the photo from the Portland Tribune’s Web site, or it was sold to them,”

Raymen and Hansen said in a public letter posted on several blog Web sites.

The AARP would not comment on the matter, but U.S. District Court Judge Reggie Walton has issued a temporary restraining order that forbids USA Next from using the photograph, the Associated Press reported.

ACLU Goes to Bat for High School Editor

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is calling upon a California school district to reinstate a high school newspaper editor who was fired for publishing an article about three gay students.

ACLU officials say school officials were wrong to remove student Ann Long from her shared post as editor in chief of Troy High School’s newspaper after the publication of an article she wrote that chronicled the decisions of three students — two 18-year-olds and a 15-year-old — to reveal their homosexuality and bisexuality to family and friends. All three spoke to Long knowing their names would be used.

School officials have argued that Long needed parental permission before publishing the students’ stories. However, the ACLU notes that the California state attorney general has maintained that no such permission was needed.

“I got the approval of my journalism adviser, I checked my facts and all the students agreed to tell their stories in this article,” Long said. “I thought this was an important issue, and so did my sources, to discuss in the school newspaper because it promotes tolerance and understanding.”



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New Ohio GLBT rights group forms

Fueled by the passage of Issue 1 last November, grassroots activists, organizational leaders and business representatives from around Ohio are coming together to form a new coalition named Equality Ohio. The group's purpose is to make the Buckeye State a place that treats each citizen equally in its interpretation of the law.

Ohioans from all areas of the state began meeting within days of the passage of the constitutional amendment. To date, there are over 90 coalition partners from diverse areas of the state such as Wooster, Athens, Youngstown, Yellow Springs and Toledo, as well as Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati.

"When Ohio voters approved an amendment banning civil marriage equality, it energized the fair-minded people in the state who understand that access to the state's civil rights should be granted equally to all its citizens," said Lynne Bowman, one of the organizers of the coalition. "Now these Ohioans are coming together to gain momentum from each other and impact a change of direction for the LGBT community."

The coalition is in the forming stages and will be holding a planning session in the coming weeks to define a vision and identify the strategic steps towards implementing the vision across the state.

In preparation for the meeting, the group is looking for input from any person who cares about civil equality. To share your opinion, visit the coalition's website at www.equalityohio.org and take the community survey. The survey will be available between March 11th and April 8th, 2005.

"To really be a statewide effort, we must include people from every part of Ohio," said Eric Campbell, an activist from Toledo, Ohio. "For too long, grassroots activists who care about these issues have felt that they didn't have a way to help guide the fight for equality. This is that opportunity."

The group plans to release further information about its vision, strategies and partners after the planning meeting. To get involved, visit www.equalityohio.org.

PFLAG News

by PFLAG-Erie and Crawford Counties Chapter

We are presently in the early stages, networking, and planning some fund raisers for this summer to help our Chapter with the help of volunteers and local gay businesses. *We are presently seeking names of talented individuals who may be interested in performing a small act: magical, drag, musical, vocal, stand-up, tasteful comedy, dance, or another talent.* We are also seeking ideas of who to contact for donations, regarding area GLBT or GLBT friendly businesses. We have secured a local sponsor to graciously host. Again, we would like to thank all of those who helped in 2004 and continue into 2005. Please send all of your ideas in writing to our new email or regular US Postal address listed below.

A reminder that we are operating on two fronts from now through April, 2005, (Erie and Florida), PFLAG-Erie has a new (temporary) email address. You should discontinue using the adelphia.net email address now, and use the following address, until further notice: pflagerie@eriegaynews.com. Our snail mail address remains the same.

Our next PFLAG support group meeting is, as usual, the second Monday of the month: Monday, April 11th. Feel free to bring a refreshment. The meeting will be at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Hwy. (Rte. 90), Erie, from 7 to 9 P.M. (Take exit 27 off of Rte. 90, and go north about a half mile.) For support, call Maureen (814-898-8341), email us at pflagerie@eriegaynews.com, or write to: P.O. Box 133, Harborcreek, PA 16421.

Helpful numbers

Gay and Lesbian National Hotline 1-888-843-GLNH www.glnh.org/index_.html

Covenant House Neline (youth)
1-800-999-9999

Trevor Helpline for Suicidal Gay Youth
1-800-850 8078

This & That

by Deb Spilko

When **Leah Zicari** opened for Tret Fure's first Erie concert back in 2003, she made a lot of new and enthusiastic fans. Leah really knows how to connect with an audience, and present a show that's sweet and funny. She'll be back for a double bill with **Jamie Anderson**, national recording artist who will be performing in Erie for the first time on April 9 at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, in Erie. Tickets are \$15. Info: (716)326-7480 You can find out more about (and listen to) these two wonderful performers at their websites: *Leah Zicari* www.leahzicari.com *Jamie Anderson* www.jamieanderson.com

Eclectic Etceteras Coffeehouse in Edinboro has revamped their website, which includes an up-to-date calendar on acts performing at that coffeehouse. Also, they now have a mailing list. They have booked numerous acts of interest to the GLBT community, like Rachel Sage, Ellis, and Randi Driscoll. Check them out at www.eclecticetceteras.com

Renee at Eclectic Etceteras sent along this information about **Chicks with Guitars**, who will perform there on Saturday April 2. "Folk, Rock, Soul... however you slice it... there's something here... definitely worth checking out... These 3 NYC Singer/Song-

writer 'Chicks' Nicola, Elisa Korenna & Jeanette Palmar, armed with their acoustic "axes" & sponsored by Hot Cherry Records, are garnering widespread attention and press with a unique sound and super-entertaining live shows! At Eclectic Etceteras, in celebration of this hip cafe's 10th Anniversary. Chicks with Guitars has showcased throughout NYC as well as participating in prestigious events such as the North East Regional Folk Alliance Conference in Monticello, NY and the National Folk Alliance Conference in San Diego, CA. Worth mentioning too is the fact that Nicola who used to be on Broadway, ditched it all to become an Indie Folk-Rocker! Featured recently on NBC, ABC World News & VHL.com, you definitely won't want to miss those pipes and guitar chops."

With the big local Bear Event (Drenched Fur Weekend) coming up in April I thought I'd pass along a couple bear sites on the Net. **Bear Radio Network**, Launched in October 2003, is a webcast that features all "Bear" music all the time. The diverse mix works well, and even if you aren't a Bear, or even if you're not a guy, it's a fun place to listen to. They are at www.bearradio.net **The Resources for Bears** website offers information and links of interest to these furry guys. They are at www.resourcesforbears.com More links at the **Drenched Fur Weekend** site www.eriegaynews.com/drenchedfur

Out & About

The Erie County Democratic Party held an appreciation party for people who volunteered on the Kerry/Edwards campaign in 2004. Shown enjoying themselves at that party are (from left) Mike Mahler, Lynne Rhodes, Jerry McCumber, Marshall Snyder, and Parris Hobbs.

(Photo: Deb Spilko)



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