

February 2007



# EGN

## Erie Gay News



### Cabin Fever weekend

*from Erie Sisters*

The Erie Sisters will be getting together for Cabin Fever weekend February 16 - 18, 2007.

We invite anyone who would like a weekend out after a long winter to celebrate with us as spring returns. Your ideas for Gala activities are always welcome.

We will be meeting at the Avalon Hotel. The rate will be \$78 a night. Reservations must be made through Norm Zimm directly to get this rate.

We will have dinner at the hotel and in the evening we will go to Trance Dance Club.

Erie Sisters can now be reached by phone at (814) 746-5524. Best time to call is Mon, Wed, Fri from 5 PM - 9 PM. Browse to [www.eriesisters.org/news.html](http://www.eriesisters.org/news.html)

### LOGO Comes to Erie

*by Mike Mahler*

Time Warner Cable in Erie just added LOGO, the popular gay channel, to its digital lineup on channel 176. The variety of programming offered on LOGO is excellent and everyone is encouraged to tune in. In fact, why not send an email to Time Warner thanking them for carrying it. The e-mail address for the local affiliate is [twcerie@neo.rr.com](mailto:twcerie@neo.rr.com)

To see what LOGO's programming offers, you can visit [www.logoonline.com/](http://www.logoonline.com/)

### WNY Lesbian Chat Nights

*from Buffalo NY Lesbians*

Chat night is coming back!

We are working on a schedule so everyone can cat during the winter months.

Newbie, this is your calling!

If you want to chat, just copy and paste this URL below into your web browser. Enter your name and chat! (for clickable link visit this article on Erie Gay News website). <http://pub8.bravenet.com/chat/show.php/635701217>

### More than \$2.2 million Awarded to Crime Victims

*from Angela Porfilion, CVC*

The Crime Victim Center of Erie County, Inc. was instrumental in helping 123 crime victims in Erie County obtain nearly \$304,000 from the Pennsylvania Crime Victims Compensation Fund in 2006 - bringing their twenty-year total to more than \$2.2 million.

The Center assesses victims for eligibility, helps them gather the necessary documentation to file a claim, intervenes with service providers and employers, as necessary and has the capability of submitting the claim for them online.

About 60% of the funds received were for hospital bills, 13% for loss of earnings, 10% for doctors and 8% for funeral expenses. The awarded funds also covered dental expenses, ambulance costs, medications, counseling, loss of support and stolen benefits.

*(continued on page 4)*



*Avid gardener James von Loewe, preparing flower seeds he harvested in warmer months.*

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**Editors: Deb Spilko and Mike Mahler**  
**Ad Design: Mike Lipiec**  
**Deadline for next issue: Feb 12 (Monday),**  
**will be out night of Tuesday, Feb 20.**

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.

**Classified Ads are now available for as little as \$10 for 30 words! See page 5 for more info.**

## EGN Erie Gay News Rates & Data

<b>QUARTER PAGE</b>	<b>FULL PAGE</b>	<b>HALF PAGE VERTICAL</b>
<b>HALF PAGE HORIZONTAL</b>	<b>EIGHTH PAGE</b>	

AD SIZE	PRICE/ISSUE	DIMENSIONS
EIGHTH	\$30 - \$27 Prepaid	1 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub> " high X 2 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> " wide
QUARTER	\$50 - \$45 Prepaid	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " high X 2 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> " wide
HALF VERT.	\$90 - \$81 Prepaid	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " high X 6" wide
HALF HORZ.	\$90 - \$81 Prepaid	7" high X 2 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> " wide
FULL PAGE	\$160 - \$144 Prepaid	7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " high X 6" wide

Camera ready art or manuscript and/or photos, illustrations and logos must be received by the 15th of the month.

Photos and Illustrations should be PDF or TIFF and HIRES.

All hardcopy ads submitted will be reproduced as close as possible.

## Thank You:

To the Avalon for hosting, Brian and Larry, Jack Walburn, James von Loewe, Charles, Kirk Taylor and Steve Clark for folding; James von Loewe, Deb Spilko, John & Paula King, Kirk Taylor, Brian How and Brian & Larry for distribution. Bob for proofreading. Mike Lipiec 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.

Saturday, February 10th

# *Valentines Red Party*

*Wear Reddest red for prizes.*

Monday, February 12th

## *College ID Night Red Party*

Wednesday, February 14th

**Karaoke, Long Islands,  
& Valentines Drag!**

That's right, the show starts at 10 starring your Trance Divas, & more with Karaoke all night.

**Friday  
February 23rd  
CD Release  
Night.**

DJ Jason G spinning top hit Dance and R&B releasing a cd of new promotional music every month.

**WEEKLY @ TRANCE!**

**SUNDAYS**

L Word  
@ 10 PM

**MONDAYS**

College ID Nite &  
\$1.50 Bud Lights

**TUESDAYS**

\$1.50 Captains

**WEDNESDAYS**

Karaoke &  
Long Islands

**THURSDAYS**

College ID Nite  
& \$2.25 Labatts

**FRIDAYS**

\$1 Shooters  
& Live DJ  
@ 10 PM

**SATURDAYS**

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# Community News

*(continued from front page)*

The Crime Victims Compensation Fund is supported by fines and penalties paid by people who commit crimes. Victims who do not have insurance and have out-of-pocket expenses related to their crime injuries may be eligible to apply for funds.

In addition to helping victims file for Crime Victims Compensation, the Center provides crisis intervention 24 hours a day, counseling, court accompaniment and prevention/education programs. In 2006, nearly 6,000 victims, their family members and witnesses to crimes received assistance from the Center. Prevention/education programs presented in area schools reached 19,753 students from pre-school to college age.

For more information about any of the programs and services provided by the Crime Victim Center, call (814) 455-9414.

## Erie Pride Picnic Planning meeting on Feb 4

*by Michael Mahler*

The first meeting to plan for the 2007 Pride Erie Picnic will be on Sunday, Feb. 4 at 1 at 1242 W 10th St, Erie PA. The picnic itself will be on Saturday, June 2 from 1 to 6 PM at the Rotary Pavilion. This is 1 week earlier than normal this year.

The picnic committee is looking for an activity coordinator to volunteer to run a few simple games (a sack race, etc?) If you want to help others have fun, please let us know ASAP!

If you would like to be involved, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email

info@eriegaynews.com. You can read more about the Pride Picnic at <http://picnic.eriegaynews.com>.

## Joy Greco leaves County Council

Joy Greco left her seat on Erie County Council in December 2006, to serve as chief of staff in the district office of newly-elected state representative John Hornaman D-3rd District.

Ms. Greco was very supportive of equal rights for GLBT citizens, and voted in favor of inclusion of sexual identity and gender identity in the county's Human Relations Commission ordinance. She could frequently be seen at GLBT Pride events, and spoke at the 1998 Pride rally.

After vacating the seat on County Council, Greco, a lifelong Republican, switched her party affiliation to Democrat. She told the Times-News, "I have considered myself a moderate Republican. I think the party nationally has taken a different direction in recent years, further to the right of where I stand."

Erie County Council appointed Charles Augustine, a Republican and Millcreek pharmacist, to fill the vacant seat, and finish the term, which ends in 2007.

## Cleveland to be site of 2007 NAWBT convention.

2007 Convention of the National Association of Black and White Men Together (NABWMT) will be held in Cleveland August 1 - 4.

This annual convention draws almost 200 members from the United States as well as visitors from around the world. It consists of four days of work-

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# Community News

shops and general meetings on various topics that speak on the mission statement of the organization.

The convention will take place at Cleveland's Wyndham Hotel in Playhouse Square. Convention planners are looking at national LGBT speakers and allies to present keynote addresses and workshops around the theme "Diversity, a Mosaic in Motion". Other convention events include an opening reception with a concert by the North Coast Men's Chorus (Cleveland's Gay Men's Chorus), a bus tour of Cleveland on Lolly the Trolley, an LGBT dinner/dance cruise on the Nautica Queen, its annual "Madam X - No Talent/Talent Show" and a closing awards banquet. The convention will be hosted by the Cleveland chapter of People of All Colors Together.

Info: Visit NABWMT at <http://nabwmt.org> and visit PACT at [www.pactcleveland.com](http://www.pactcleveland.com) 877-233-9479.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE OF EGN  
IS FEBRUARY 12



## CLASSIFIEDS

**ONLY \$10** for 30 Words.

**\$5** for Additional 15 Words.

### HELP WANTED

Looking for part-time cleaning help. I am seeking someone to do general cleaning in my home 1 day a week. Approx. 4 to 6 hours. For consideration please e-mail me at [cpmguy1@aol.com](mailto:cpmguy1@aol.com) with your contact information.

### Volunteer Wanted

**Ad sales**  
EGN seeks motivated volunteers to help with ad sales and customer relations. For more info, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com)

## INEXPENSIVE, EFFECTIVE & FUN

EGN reserves the right to refuse any inappropriate classified.

## Drenched Fur III - Erie's Bear Run Mar 30 -April 1

from Gary Snyder

This year, join all the Bears for the return of some relaxing fun in Erie's premier indoor water park - Splash Lagoon! Or try something different by joining us for the all new Bears Being Wine-ohs Tour where you'll enjoy the afternoon visiting and tasting the wine from a few of our local Lake Erie region wineries! Limited Run Packages available Jan 1 thru Feb 28 are available now for only \$60-80! Fees increase after Mar 1.



This year's headlining entertainer is Bobaloo. Bobaloo hails from Los Angeles, CA and has been lighting up the national gay comedy scene for the past 5 years, playing sold out shows in cities across the US. In 2007, Bobaloo will be popping up at Drenched Fur III along with a few other runs — like IBR, TBRU and Bear Pride! We'll be laughing right along with Bobaloo on Saturday night immediately following our best ever buffet dinner service and right before our Black 'n Blue DJ'd dance - all in the Avalon Hotel! Check out Bobaloo's website at [www.bobaloorox.com](http://www.bobaloorox.com).

Register and pay online at [www.drenchedfur.com](http://www.drenchedfur.com). Don't forget to book your room reservation! We're back this year to stay at The Avalon Hotel and Conference Center in downtown Erie! We've set up a group flat rate of only \$80 per night for single & double bedded rooms with up to a maximum of 4 guests per room! Or get a suite for only \$100 per night!

Call now to get the 'Drenched Fur' rate! (800)-822-5011

For more info about Drenched Fur, browse to <http://www.drenchedfur.com>, email Gary Snyder at [gnsnyder@drenchedfur.com](mailto:gnsnyder@drenchedfur.com) or call (814) 384-0463.

# “I May Be Straight But I’m Not Narrow”

By Rev. Richard A. Moyer

Among the career goals I had when I was a young minister was to some day be elected a delegate to the General Synod of my denomination, the United Church of Christ. My only desire was to be a delegate once in my ministerial career; I would have felt cheated had it never happened. I *was* elected several years ago when General Synod was held in Columbus, OH.

As I sat among the hundreds of convention delegates at Columbus, I noticed that many of them were wearing colorful buttons that read, “I maybe straight, but I’m not narrow.” The buttons were an obvious reference to the “open and affirming” policy of the national United Church of Christ. I quickly became interested in who was wearing these buttons and why.

I engaged several in conversation. One told me that she had an openly gay son and she was wearing the button in support of him. A young woman told me that she had a very close friend who was a lesbian. Even though she herself lived a straight life-style, she was very fond of her friend, and they had a marvelous relationship. A teenager was refreshingly honest with me as he told me that he saw himself as “basically straight” but was still somewhat confused about his sexual identity.

## 2nd Annual Black Church Summit

The National Black Justice Coalition will hold its 2nd Annual Black Church Summit 2007 on March 10 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This is a summit for clergy and faith leaders.

The National Black Justice Coalition is a civil rights organization dedicated to empowering Black same-gender-loving, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people.

Registration is \$50 by January 31 and \$75 as of February 1. For more information contact Sylvia Rhue at [srhue@nbjc.org](mailto:srhue@nbjc.org) or call 202-349-3855 or visit [www.nbjcoalition.org](http://www.nbjcoalition.org)

As those of us who were delegates voted on important theological and policy issues during the week of Synod, it was obvious that there were many different opinions represented among us. Not everyone in the United Church of Christ agrees with all of the General Synod decisions.

Some of the delegates came from very conservative areas of the country. Others represented churches that tended to have very liberal social and theological convictions. Many of those who were present came from churches that were very middle class and very middle-of-the-road when it came to some of the beliefs of the United Church of Christ.

In small groups and designated caucuses, members of our denomination disagreed, opposed one another, and at times, even became frustrated and annoyed, as different view points were expressed.

But then came evening worship. There was no disagreement there. There, we were one in the Spirit, praising God together. There was no narrowness in our worship. We saw the bigger picture as we worshipped an enormous God who created us with our differences.

In worship, we let go of whatever narrow thinking would separate us as we confessed our faith in the One who broadens our minds. Together, in the sacrament of the Eucharist, we received the gift of God’s love. In worship, we were able to embrace one another as we shared God’s unconditional mercy, his extravagant love and his imperishable peace!

Recently I read in a devotional book published by the Episcopal Church that each of us shares 99.9% of the same DNA. It is only in that .1% that we differ.

If we are really all that similar, how can we be narrow in our thinking about one another? We are all created by the same God. We are all created in the image of that same God. And, it is that same God in whom all of us live and move and have our being!

No one has the God-given right to be narrowly judgmental in his/her thinking, even if (or, especially if) one is “straight.”

*Richard Moyer is the pastor at Community United Church located at W 38<sup>th</sup> and Cascade.*

# Calendar

This calendar is also online at [www.eriegaynews.com/calendar.html](http://www.eriegaynews.com/calendar.html)

**Jan 27 - CD Release Party! at Trance Dance Club**  
1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Resident DJ Jason G spinning Top Local hit dance and r&b. Releasing a promotional mix of hot new music every month! Get here early! Quantity is limited. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: [contact@trancedanceclub.com](mailto:contact@trancedanceclub.com). Web: [www.trancedanceclub.com](http://www.trancedanceclub.com).

**Feb 4 - End-Zone Super Bowl Party at the Zone**  
133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Watch the game with us on our *giant* screen TV and cheer your favorite team to victory. The kitchen is open all night with specials on all your favorite munchies and 2 for 1 wings—Wing Madness. The Super Bowl—a night of Food, Friends, Fun, and Football! Get into the End-Zone and score a Touchdown! Doors open at 4 PM. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Web: [www.thezonedanceclub.com](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com).

**Feb 7 - The Guys get together at Hookah Cafe**  
129 W 4th St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Social group for gay/bi men. Contact: Brian. Phone: (814) 825-6203. Email: [eriebrian@gmail.com](mailto:eriebrian@gmail.com).

**Feb 8-11 - Winterstar Symposium: Vision Quest (Sherrodsville OH)** “a village of cozy cottages, in a luxury resort setting with nightly theme parties offering drumming and dance, bardic sing-a-longs, rock-n-roll and more. Evenings feature entertainment and spiritual transformation.” Pagan festival, several presentations on GLBT people and spirituality. (216) 371-1082, [www.winterstarsymposium.com/2007/](http://www.winterstarsymposium.com/2007/)

**Feb 10 - Menspace: '70's Disco Retro Night' at Jeff's** 1146 Brown Ave, Erie, PA. 7:30 PM. “Gentlemen, dig out those platform shoes, tight unbuttoned shirts and flared jeans. The scorching hot disco days

of the 70's will be back to heat up the cold winter night. Saturday February 10 is the day, Jeff and Gary's house is the place. The music will be thumping and the food will be happening with fondue, quiche and spiked punch. Potluck so your special dish is also welcome. No RSVP is needed, just show up for fun, food, drinks and conversation! 1146 Brown Ave., Erie PA. Easy to find the house is between Raspberry and Cranberry on the north side of the street. Hope to see you then!” Monthly social group for gay/bi men. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com). Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

**Feb 10 - Valentines Red Party at Trance** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Wear Reddest red for prizes. Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: [contact@trancedanceclub.com](mailto:contact@trancedanceclub.com). Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

**Feb 10 - Red Hot Leather Party at the Zone** 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Cupid is lighting the flames of passion in the Valentine Zone! Wear *Red* or come in Leather because we are going to *heat* things up! Get out that *Sexy Red* outfit or come in costume!- dress as Horny Devil, Leather Cupid, Flaming Fireman, Drag Queen of Hearts, Diva Dominatrix.... or wear *Sexy Lingerie*, or fun Valentine Boxers... just wear *Red*. Follow the Flames into the Zone for a *Sexy* night of fun! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Web: [www.thezonedanceclub.com](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com).

**Feb 14 - Karaoke, Long Islands, and Valentine Drag! at Trance Dance Club** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. That's right, the show starts at 10 starring your Trance Divas, Current Reigning Rhiannon

*(continued on next page)*



**Bethany Robson**  
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# Calendar

Angelina, Gia Angelina, Jill, Buffy, and more with Karaoke all night. Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: [contact@trancedanceclub.com](mailto:contact@trancedanceclub.com). Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

**Feb 16 - The Big Easy—Michelle Michaels Birthday Show! at Zone** 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Join us on Mardi Gras Weekend as the Ladies of the Zone help us to celebrate Michelle Michael's birthday Zone Style! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

**Feb 16-18 - Erie Sisters Cabin Fever weekend** Erie Sisters can now be reached by phone at (814) 746-5524 Best time to call is Mon, Wed, Fri from 5 PM - 9 PM. On the web at [www.eriesisters.org/news.html](http://www.eriesisters.org/news.html)

**Feb 17 - Mardi Gras Party Zone Style!** 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Follow the Parade from Bourbon St. to the Zone for Erie's Biggest Gay Mardi Gras Party! Join your friends for a night of debauchery and fun as we celebrate Mardi Gras the best we can... Zone Style!! Drink specials, Jell-O shots and shooters, beads, and glowsticks. Girls and Guys get Wild! Show us

some skin, we'll give you some beads! (No Nudity) It's a Big Easy Party at the Zone! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Web: [www.thezonedanceclub.com](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com).

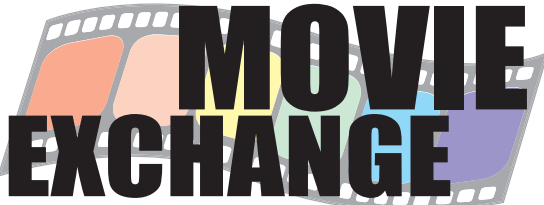
**Feb 17 - Bear Night at Trance** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Bear Night returns to Trance and continues the 3rd Saturday of every month. Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: [contact@trancedanceclub.com](mailto:contact@trancedanceclub.com). Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

**Feb 18 - Mas Nova All Ages Show at Trance** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Mas Nova, Recordbreaker Music, and Trance bring you the first-ever Mas Nova All Ages Show with Phantasm, Letters to the Dead, 4 Under Par, and others to be announced. This time it's a full out rock show completely plugged in. Help save Rock & Roll. Cost: \$3 student advance sale \$5 at door \$1 adult advance sale \$2 at door. Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: [contact@trancedanceclub.com](mailto:contact@trancedanceclub.com). Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>

**Feb 20 - Mardi Gras at Trance** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Join us for a night of celebration with drink specials beads, and more! Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: [contact@trancedanceclub.com](mailto:contact@trancedanceclub.com). Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

**Feb 20 - Erie Gay News folding/distribution work party** Avalon Hotel & Conference Center (Hunt Room), 16 W 10th St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Help us get out the print edition of Erie Gay News. We will be folding and distributing the copies at the Hunt Room in the Avalon. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com). Browse to <http://www.avalonerie.com>.

*(continued on next page)*



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# Calendar

**Feb 23 - CD Release Night at Trance** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. DJ Jason G spinning top hit Dance and R&B releasing a cd of new promotional music every month. Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: [contact@trancedanceclub.com](mailto:contact@trancedanceclub.com). Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

**Feb 28 - The Guys get together at Two Friends Italian Market** 827 State St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Social group for gay/bi men. Contact: Brian. Phone: (814) 825-6203. Email: [eriebrian@gmail.com](mailto:eriebrian@gmail.com).

**Mar 7 - Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force Annual Benefit** A play (*Life X 3*) and three parties. Details in "Community News" or visit [www.patf.org/](http://www.patf.org/)

**Mar 15-25 - Cleveland International Film Festival**, 31st annual event presented includes Ten Percent Cinema of LGBT films, Tower City Cinemas; [www.clevelandfilm.org](http://www.clevelandfilm.org), 216-623-3456.

**Apr 27 - 29 - Cleveland Leather Awareness Week-end**, [www.clawinfo.org](http://www.clawinfo.org), (216) 252-2148.

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**EGN**  
Erie Gay News

**CALENDAR LISTINGS**  
*Are Free!*

All listing entries must be received by the 15th of the month.



Angie Merchant has worked as an HIV Case Manager since 1996 and has been with the Alliance since 1999. She is Spanish speaking and available to our HIV Hispanic community. Angie is one of our dedicated people.

## 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**

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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.**



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## Heading Out of Town?

Visit the Resources section on  
[www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)

You'll find links to resources and places in Buffalo, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Toronto, Chautauqua County, Meadville, Ashtabula, Youngstown/Warren, Butler/Mercer, Erie and USA/Canada!

## On stage

*Selected area cultural events that may be of interest to GLBT audiences.*

**Feb 3 - Pink appearing with Justin Timberlake** in Cleveland, OH at Quicken Loans Arena

**Feb 7 - Kathy Griffin** Byham Theatre in Pittsburgh, PA 412-456-6666 <http://www.kathygriffin.net>

**Feb 8 - Kathy Griffin** Playhouse Square Center in Cleveland, OH <http://www.kathygriffin.net>

**Feb 12 - Kathy Griffin** in Buffalo NY at Sheas. Presented by AIDS Community Services of Western NY. (716) 852-5000. [www.aidscommunityservices.com](http://www.aidscommunityservices.com)

**Feb 18 - Pink w/ Justin Timberlake** at HSBC Arena in Buffalo NY at HSBC Arena

**Feb 19 - Pink with Justin Timberlake in Pittsburgh, PA** at Mellon Arena

**Feb 23 - Mar 17 - "Based on a Totally True Story"** presented by Buffalo United Artists, (Main Street Cabaret), romantic gay comedy by Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa. [www.buffalobua.org](http://www.buffalobua.org)

**Apr 13 - Christina Aguilera** in Cleveland, OH at Wolstein Center at CSU

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**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](http://www.thruway.state.ny.us/weather/index.shtml)  
**ROADS** 1-800-847-8929

**ohio** ROADS AND WEATHER  
[www.buckeyetraffic.org](http://www.buckeyetraffic.org)  
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# Black & Gay

Compiled by Deb Spilko

*An assortment of links of interest to GLBT African-Americans. Note that there are clickable links to these sites at the web version of this article at the Erie Gay News website.*

## Media

### Clik

<http://www.clikmagazine.com/>

### Gay Black Female

<http://www.gbffmedia.com/>

### Herndon Davis

<http://herndonDavis.com/index3.html>

### Sable Magazine

<http://www.sablemagazine.com>

## Blogs

### Pam's House Blend

<http://www.pamshouseblend.com>

### brotherlove.com

<http://www.thebrotherlove.com/>

### rod 2.0:beta

<http://rodonline.typepad.com/>

### Keith Boykin

<http://www.keithboykin.com>

### Here He Goes Again

<http://www.olashorty.blogspot.com/>

### Queer Kid of Color

<http://queerkidofcolor.blogspot.com/>

## Love and sexuality

### Fo' Brothas

<http://www.fobrothas.com/>

### Kuma -

<http://www.kuma2.net>

## National Organizations

### National Black Justice Coalition

<http://www.nbjcoalition.org/>

### National Association of Black and White men Together

<http://nabwmt.org/>

## Spirituality

### Operation Rebirth

<http://www.operationrebirth.com/>

### Rev. Irene Moore - Queer Take

<http://thewitness.org/agw/agw-monroe.html>

## Various

### Blacklight

<http://www.blacklightonline.com/>

### Drumbeat: Nat'l Black SGL/LGBT Listserv

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/usa\\_SGL\\_people\\_of\\_African\\_descent](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/usa_SGL_people_of_African_descent)

### Blacklist

<http://www.udel.edu/nero/lists/blacklist2.html>

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# National News Briefs

by Bob

## Civil Unions Legal in New Jersey

The Governor of New Jersey has signed a new civil unions law giving the state's gay couples all the rights and responsibilities of marriage. New Jersey becomes the third state to institute civil unions and the fifth to offer some version of marriage.

Gov. Jon S. Corzine, a Democrat, signed the civil unions bill which takes effect Feb. 19, making New Jersey, Connecticut and Vermont the three states that allow civil unions for gay couples. Massachusetts allows gay couples to marry, while California has domestic partnerships.

Under the New Jersey law, gay couples are also granted adoption, inheritance, hospital visitation and medical decision-making rights and the right not to testify against a partner in state court.

The Legislature passed the civil unions bill in response to an October state Supreme Court order

that gay couples be granted the same rights as married couples. The court gave lawmakers six months to act but left it to them to decide whether to call the unions "marriage" or something else.

While activists welcome the law, some argue that not calling the relationship "marriage" creates a different, inferior institution. Even though the state law provides gays with the benefits of married couples, they won't be entitled to the same federal benefits because of the 1996 federal law that defines marriage as being between a man and a woman. For example, surviving partners won't be able to collect deceased partners' Social Security benefits.

The gay rights group Garden State Equality has promised to push lawmakers to change the terminology to "marriage." Others are considering lawsuits to force full recognition of gay marriage. The bill creates a commission that will regularly review the law and recommend possible changes.

## Gay Marriage Goes to Calif. High Court

The issue of same-sex marriage in California will finally be settled in court. The state's Supreme Court has unanimously agreed to decide whether the state's ban on same-sex marriage violates a constitutional ban on discrimination. A ruling is not likely until late next year.

The Supreme Court will be reviewing an October decision by the 1st District Court of Appeal, which ruled that California marriage laws do not discriminate because gay and lesbian couples already have most of the rights of married couples through the state's domestic partnership law.

In 2004, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom allowed gay and lesbian couples to wed at City Hall, but the courts halted the wedding spree and voided 4,037 marriage licenses, ruling that the mayor did not have authority to make marriage law. As a result, several same-sex couples and the city of San Francisco sued the state, and the case has been winding through the state's trial and appellate courts.

San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera said the city was "extremely gratified" by the court's deci-

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# National News Briefs

sion. "It's perhaps the major civil rights issue of our time," he said.

## Alaska Forced to Offer Benefits

The Alaska Supreme Court has ordered that state's government to provide benefits to same-sex partners of state employees as of Jan. 1.

The court ruling will end a seven-year battle by the American Civil Liberties Union and nine couples who sued the state over the benefits issue.

"We believe we have no more judicial options," Republican Gov. Sarah Palin said, shortly before she signed a bill calling for voters to decide in April whether the Legislature should consider proposing a constitutional amendment to prohibit the benefits.

The high court ruled in October 2005 that denying the benefits violated the state's guarantee of equal protection for all Alaskans. The state's constitution prohibits same-sex couples from marrying.

## A Setback in Massachusetts?

Massachusetts legislators have taken the first step in banning same-sex marriage by voting to advance a constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union between a man and a woman.

The amendment still needs to be approved by at least 50 legislators in another vote in the 2007-2008 session. If that happens, the measure would be placed on the November 2008 ballot as a popular referendum. If it passed, the amendment would not do away with the more than 8,000 same-sex marriages that have taken place since they became legal in May 2004, but would prevent future same-sex marriages.

The legislator's vote came swiftly on the last day of the 2006-2007 legislative session, taking place without any prior debate. Proponents of the amendment needed just 50 of the legislature's 200 lawmakers to support the proposal, and the final vote was 61 in favor, 132 opposed.

The vote was considered a victory for outgoing Governor Mitt Romney, a conservative Republican who is using his opposition to same-sex marriage as a rallying point for his run for the presidency in 2008.

Incoming governor, Democrat Deval L. Patrick, is a same-sex marriage supporter, and had urged the legislature to defeat the amendment.

Patrick, the state's first African-American governor, said in a statement that he objected to using the constitutional amendment process "to give a minority fewer freedoms than the majority."

## Change "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," General Says

The Army general who was Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff when the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays was adopted says he no longer opposes allowing them to serve openly.

Retired General John Shalikashvili served four years as the nation's top military officer. At that time, he argued that allowing homosexuals to serve openly in the military would hurt troop morale and recruit-

*(continued on next page)*

**Hi Biff,** Did you hear that the every 3rd Wednesday, The Guys are gonna start meeting at different places? I think it's gonna be swell! Just give Brian a call at 814-825-6203 or E-mail at

eriebrian@gmail.com  
for tri-weekly  
meeting info!



# National News

(continued from previous page)

ment and undermine the cohesion of combat units. He said he changed his mind after meeting with gay servicemen.

Writing in an opinion piece in *The New York Times*, the general said, "These conversations showed me just how much the military has changed, and that gays and lesbians can be accepted by their peers."

His opinion could carry weight at a time when advocates of lifting the restriction on gay service members argue that the military, under the strain of fighting wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, can not afford to exclude any qualified volunteers.

It remains to be seen however, whether the new Congress has any enthusiasm for pursuing the issue. While many Democrats have denounced the policy as discriminatory, many Republicans have supported it. Sen. John McCain of Arizona, a likely Republican presidential candidate in 2008, recently called the military policy "very effective."

Rep. Marty Meehan, a Massachusetts Democrat, praised Shalikashvili and said he would try this year to revive legislation forcing the military to eliminate the policy.

"There is no place in this country for discrimination, be it on the basis of race, creed or sexual orientation, and there is certainly no place for institutional discrimination codified in federal statute," Meehan said in a statement.

C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, called the general's article "enormously significant." Osburn said it reflects a growing trend of military leaders supporting repeal of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

## Gay Policeman to Train Afghan Forces

The U.S. State Department has asked a gay police officer from Missoula, MT, to help train Afghanistan's national police force, according to the Associated Press (AP).

Scott Oak, the Missoula Police Department's gay liaison officer, is taking a one-year leave from his job to take on the task.

"I could be training police on everything from human rights to building searches," Oak told AP. "Ideally, I think that by going over there and helping out as a civilian instructor, it will make for a smoother transition and allow America to pull out of there more quickly."

The State Department apparently became aware of Oak after he came out in the news media and took the job as Missoula's first police liaison to the gay and lesbian community.

"I want to go experience another culture without breaking my commitment to public service," he told AP, adding that he hopes his experience as a police liaison officer will help "enlighten them about cultural diversity."

Oak said his biggest concern is leaving his partner and the teenage foster son they are raising together.

"The longest we've been apart is 12 months," Oak said. "They'll both receive a lot of support through the foster program and from our families, but it's still going to be difficult on us."

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## Regularly meeting

**Always Our Children** Feb 7, Mar 7, Apr 4, Catholic Charities, 329 W. 10th St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. For Catholic parents of GLBT children. First time attendees should call facilitator before attending meeting. Phone: (814) 456-2091.

**Deadline for print edition of Erie Gay News** Feb 12, Mar 12, Apr 15, EGN, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA. Contact: Michael Mahler. (814) 456-9833. info@eriegaynews.com.

**Lake Erie Alliance for Democracy (LEAD)** Feb 5, Mar 5, Apr 2, 218 E 11th St, Erie, PA. 7 - 8:30 PM. Contact: Chris Mitchell. Phone: (814) 899-8920. Email: president@erielead.org. Browse to www.erielead.org

**PFLAG Erie/Crawford County** Feb 12, Mar 12, Apr 8, Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie, PA. 7 - 8:30 PM. Contact: Mark H pflagerie@eriegaynews.com. Phone: John at (814) 454-1392.

**Support group for those dealing with loss** Feb 13 at 7 PM, Feb 15 at 10 AM, Mar 13 at 7 PM, Mar 15 at 10 AM, Apr 10 at 7 PM, Apr 19 at 10 AM, Hospice of Metropolitan Erie, 202 E 10th St, Erie, PA. Ph: (814) 456-6689. Email: hospice@velocity.net.

**The Guys** Feb 7, Feb 28, Mar 21, Apr 11, Various locations, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Informal get together for gay/bi men at local establishments. Contact: Brian. Phone: (814) 825-6203. Email: eriebrian@gmail.com.

*Stay updated!*

Subscribe to the Erie GLBT Mailing List  
Visit [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)

## Helpful numbers

**Gay and Lesbian National Hotline** 1-888-843-GLNH [www.glnh.org/index\\_.html](http://www.glnh.org/index_.html)

**Covenant House Nineline (youth)**  
1-800-999-9999

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

**Erie Hotline** (814) 453-5656

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