

May 2007



# EGN

Erie Gay News



**ERIE PRIDE  
PICNIC  
2007**  
See Inside  
for Details!

## Bowl with GLENDA in Meadville

Join GLENDA Northwest at the Plaza Lanes in Meadville for a "cosmic ball" fundraiser, Saturday May 19 from 6-9 PM. Tickets are \$10 per person. Ticket price includes: all you can bowl, shoe rental, cosmic light and sound show and VID bowling. Dance and bowl to the top music videos at Plaza Lanes with their 12 foot TV. Come out and support a great organization! Plaza Lanes is at 18799 Smock Highway, Meadville PA.

For tickets or more info contact Jimi Winger (814)676-1270, David Perry (814) 677-2073 or e-mail [dlewisperry@verizon.net](mailto:dlewisperry@verizon.net)

## GLBT Community Activist Meeting

On Sunday, May 20, a GLBT Community Activist Meeting will be held at the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA 16508. All people interested in being part of a community conversation about challenges, successes and needs for Erie's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals. On hand will be PA Human Relations Commission chair Steve Glassman, the states highest ranking openly gay appointed official. Pennsylvania is currently considering amending its state laws to include sexual orientation and gender identity in employment, housing and public accommodations. We also want to focus on local needs.

For more info, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com). If you will be coming, an RSVP is requested, but not necessary.

## PA HRC meets in Erie in May

The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission will meet in Erie Monday May 21 at the Avalon Hotel, 16 W 10th St, Erie PA. The meeting will be open to the public from 1 to 3 PM.

Visit [www.phrc.state.pa.us/](http://www.phrc.state.pa.us/)

## Pride Picnic update

by Michael Mahler

The 15th Annual Erie Pride Picnic is fast approaching! This year, the Pride Picnic is Saturday, June 2. This is the FIRST Saturday in June, rather than the 2nd. The picnic will be from 1 to 6 PM at the Rotary Pavilion at Presque Isle State Park. We will take the annual Family Portrait at 4 PM. Full information about this year's picnic and a link to the registration page are at <http://picnic.eriegaynews.com>

We strongly encourage you to preregister for the event, and to sign up for a one hour volunteer shift. We need help with the registration area, the kitchen area and the face photo table. A fair amount of effort

*(continued on page 4)*



*Allegheny College professor Courtney Bailey and nationally-acclaimed performance artist Tim Miller at the LGBT Colloquium at Allegheny College March 30 and 31. More photos from this event on page 15.*

*PHOTO: James von Loewe*

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**Erie Gay News**  
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**Editors: Deb Spilko and Mike Mahler**  
**Ad Design: Mike Lipiec**  
**Deadline for next issue: May 14 (Monday),**  
**will be out night of Tuesday, May 22.**

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.

## Thank You:

To the Avalon for hosting, Jack Walburn, James von Loewe, Tom, Charles and Gary Snyder for folding; James von Loewe, Deb Spilko, Jerry McCumber, John & Paula King, Gary Snyder, Brian How and Jack for distribution. Bob for proofreading. Mike Lipiec for ad layout & etc. If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com.

**Classified Ads are now available for as little as \$10 for 30 words!**  
**See page 4 for more info.**

## EGN 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.

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# Community News

*(continued from front page)*

goes into the event, and if everyone helps out a little bit, it makes it easier for everyone to enjoy the day.

This year, we will be having hot dogs and Sloppy Joes (aka "Man on Manwiches"). We will have water and soft drinks. Alcohol is not permitted in the park under state law. People violating this will be asked to leave. Table settings are provided. Please bring a dish to pass. In years past, we have usually had too many bags of chips, so please consider bringing something else.

Donations are very much appreciated. This helps us keep the event going. Please consider even a small donation when you check in at the registration table on arrival.

In addition to the annual Family Portrait, we will also have a face photo table. If you like, you can have a new or updated face photo taken and a brief bio and/or link to your web page (MySpace, LiveJournal, blog, etc) on our Friends and Supporters page. We currently have almost 300 people listed on the Friends and Supporters page with 169 face photos.

Organizations can have information tables at the event. If your group would like to have a table, please let us know by Saturday, May 26. There is no charge for tables, but we need to have an accurate count. Please also note that selling items is controlled by the Presque Isle Park Office. Their phone is 814-833-7424. Generally speaking, there hasn't been vending in the past. Again, this is controlled by the Park Office.

In addition to the usual volleyball, we will have some new games this year: Fruit Salad, Scavenger Hunt and GLBT Trivia!

## Papa Joe's West now has free wi-fi!

Papa Joe's Pepperoni Cafe now has free wi-fi at its westside location. 3826 West 26th Street (at Powell Avenue). Their phone is (814) 835-3360.

Deadline for the next issue is

**May 14**

# ERIE PRIDE PICNIC 2007



**Saturday, June 2, 2007**  
**At Presque Isle 1PM to 6PM**  
**Food Served From 2PM to 5PM**  
**Family Portrait at 4PM**

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## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!**



We need volunteers for one hour shifts in the kitchen, at the registration table, and at the photo table. These are great ways to meet people, make friends and have fun. Please contact Mike Mahler about volunteering. You can also sign up to volunteer when you pre-register online for the Pride Picnic.

For more information call:  
**814-456-9833**



email [info@eriegaynews](mailto:info@eriegaynews)  
visit <http://picnic.eriegaynews.com>

State law prohibits alcohol at the Park.



# Calendar

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

**Apr 25 - Film: "Tying the Knot"** Allegheny College, Carnegie 212, Meadville, PA. 7 PM. Film on equal marriage rights presented by NW PA chapter of NOW. Contact: Susan Woodland. Email: [nwpanow@surferie.net](mailto:nwpanow@surferie.net). Browse to <http://www.edinboro.com/nwpanow>

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

**Apr 28 - Trance 80's Party at Trance Dance Club** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Trance is going Totally 80s! Cut loose to your favorite hits from the 80's and today. See what you remember from the totally tubular decade in our 80's trivia and theme song quiz, and win some, like, awesome prizes. Guest celebrity appearances! Like, totally! Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: [contact@trancedanceclub.com](mailto:contact@trancedanceclub.com). Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

**Apr 30-May 6 - Equality Forum: The Global GLBT Event (Philadelphia)** Parties, discussion panels, en-

tertainment, workshops, speakers, films, exhibits and more. <http://www.equalityforum.com>

**May 2 - The Guys get together at Trance Dance Club** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Social group for gay/bi men. Contact: four29 Media customer service. Phone: (888) 749-7073. Email: [four29media@gmail.com](mailto:four29media@gmail.com).

**May 4-6 - Roundup 2007 (Cleveland)** A fabulous Country/Western weekend featuring beginner and intermediate dance lessons, plenty of cowboys and cowgirls, and a chance to meet new friends. Hosted by Rainbow Wranglers, Cleveland's Country/Western dance group for the GLBT community. As always, this benefit event for the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland. Don't miss this opportunity to help a good cause while having a great time! Visit: [www.rainbowwranglers.org](http://www.rainbowwranglers.org)

**May 5 - Ugly Betty's Cinco de Mayo Party at Zone Dance Club** 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Get into your Latin groove as we play a little hot salsa, drink a few cold coronas, and fiesta the night away. Try a margarita or strawberry daiquiri from our frozen drink machine.

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**Erie Office - Outreach Services**  
814-451-6727

**Corry Office 814-663-3891**

# Calendar

Be Ugly! Celebrate Diversity! Ugly Betty Look-a-like Contest. Vamos en el Zone! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

**May 5 - Cinco de Mayo at Trance Dance Club** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. It's a fiesta baby! Celebrate friendship and freedom at our Cinco De Mayo party. All events start at 9 PM with so much sizzle that we'll knock your sombrero off! Come for the spicy salsa music, learn some Latin grooves, and enjoy festive give-aways, prizes and treats. *Viva! el Cinco de Mayo* Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: [contact@trancedanceclub.com](mailto:contact@trancedanceclub.com). Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

**May 12 - Menspace (Bob's, Erie, PA)** 7:30 PM. Social group for gay/bi men. Bring a dish to pass, if you like. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com). Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

**May 17-27 - Inside Out International Lesbian & Gay Film and Video Festival (Toronto)** <http://www.insideout.on.ca>

*Correct border-crossing ID is now required for all visits into Canada.*

**May 19 - GLENDA Northwest Bowling Fundraiser** Plaza Lanes, 18799 Smock Highway, Meadville, PA. 6 - 9 PM. Tickets are \$10. Details on front page. Contact: David Perry or Jimi Winger. Phone: (814) 677-2073. Email: [dlewisperry@verizon.net](mailto:dlewisperry@verizon.net).

**May 19 - Erotical! Levis, Leather, Fetish Party** Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. A steamy night of Erotic Fantasies! Let your inhibitions run wild and come dance in our Dungeon! Wear Levis, leather, military, uniforms, underwear, fetish gear, or come in fantasy costume! Dress as Leather Daddy, Slave Boy, Construction Worker, Western Cowboy, Diva Dominatrix, Naughty Nurse, Sexy Stripper, Porn Star — or show off your skin art and piercings! Not sure what to wear? Just wear black! (*Sorry— No Nudity!*) The Zone's version of Fantasy Fest! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

*(continued on next page)*

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# Calendar

**May 23 - The Guys get together at Trance Dance Club** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Social group for gay/bi men. Contact: four29 Media customer service. Phone: (888) 749-7073. Email: four29media@gmail.com.

**May 25 - Memorial Day Kickoff at Trance** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. 4 PM. It's our Memorial Day Kickoff. Join us outside on our newly renovated Patio for live acoustic performances, food, drinks and lots of outdoor fun! Tired of being inside? Come on outside to our Oasis patio, indulge the sun, breathe the fresh outdoor air! The party starts at 4 PM! Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: contact@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

**May 27 - 2nd Annual All Ages Tranceapalooza at Trance Dance Club** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. This time we're starting early with a Memorial Day cookout on the patio, with acoustic stylings of Andy Berlin and Letters To The Dead. Then we'll move

inside with 4 Under Par, Crimson Raid, Moving in Stereo, Pipeyard and Mas Nova. We hope to make this the biggest event of the year at Trance to kickoff your summer! We hope to see all of you there! Help save Rock N Roll! Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: contact@trancedanceclub.com. Browse to <http://www.trancedanceclub.com>.

**May 27 - Pittsburgh Memorial Day Festival** South Park Fairgrounds, 1900 Brownsville Road, South Park 15219. 11:00 AM. Live entertainment, club dancing, bar wars, food and beverages. Presale \$20, Gate \$25. (21 and over, ID required). Ask at The Zone if they will be doing a bus to the event. See ad page 3, or visit [www.MemorialDayFestival.com](http://www.MemorialDayFestival.com)

**Jun 1 - Miss Erie Pageant 2007 "The Glamorous Life" at Zone Dance Club** 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Join us as we crown the new Miss Erie! An Elegant Evening of Entertainment! Applications and rules available at the bar! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

**Jun 2 - 15th Annual Pride Erie Picnic** Rotary Pavilion, Presque Isle State Park, Erie, PA. 1 PM - 6 PM. Annual family style picnic. We provide soft drinks, burgers and hot dogs. Bring a dish to pass. Games, family portrait and fun! Contact: Michael. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://picnic.eriegaynews.com>.

**Jun 2 - Heaven - White Party at Zone Dance Club** 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. A night of Fantasy and Fun! One of our *biggest* events of the season! Wear White! - White denim, White lace, White underwear, White toga! -just wear anything White! Grab your Angel wings and come dance on cloud 9! Get into the Zone!-your stairway to Heaven! Phone: (814) 452-0125. [www.thezonedanceclub.com](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com).

**Jun 13 - The Guys get together at Hookah Cafe** 129 W 14th St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Social group for gay/bi men. Contact: four29 Media customer service. Phone: (888) 749-7073. Email: four29media@gmail.com.

**Jun 15-16 - UU Erie Garage Sale** Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie will be having a two-day garage sale. They are at 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA 16508. Their web site is [www.uuerie.org](http://www.uuerie.org)



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## Northwest Chapter

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# On stage

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

**May 18-Jun 23** - "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" at Roadhouse Theatre [www.roadhousetheatre.org/](http://www.roadhousetheatre.org/)

**Jun 14-24** - **Pittsburgh Pride Theater Festival** The "Pittsburgh Pride Theater Festival" is a showcase of plays by local playwrights on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender theme. (412) 288-0358.

**Jun 15-16** - **Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus: "The Colors of Our Lives"** 6/15th UU Church of Buffalo, 695 Elmwood, 6/16 First Presbyterian Church 1 Symphony Circle. [www.buffalogaymenschorus.com/](http://www.buffalogaymenschorus.com/)

**Jun 16 and 17** - **North Coast Men's Chorus "A Time for Us,"** Pride concert [www.ncmchorus.org](http://www.ncmchorus.org)

**Jun 19** - **"The True Colors Tour"** in Toronto at the Molson Amphitheatre. Hosted by Margaret Cho, Cyndi Lauper, Deborah Harry, Erasure, The Dresden Dolls, The Gossip, The Misshapes. Part of 15-city tour to raise awareness of GLBT issues. Tour website: <http://www.truecolorstour.com/>

**Jul 7** - **Rachael Sage at Eclectic Etceteras** 118 Erie St. Edinboro PA 1 PM. (814) 734-2909.



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**EGN**  
Erie Gay News

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

# Oral HIV Testing LOCAL TREATMENT

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This ad is made possible by a Federal Grant under the Ryan White Care Act of 1990.

# National News Briefs

by Bob

## Cleveland's MetroHealth Opens Pride Clinic

Cleveland's MetroHealth hospital system has opened a new clinic to serve the needs of the city's gay community. The Pride Clinic, located at the McCafferty Health Center on Lorain Road, is the first of its kind in Ohio.

The Pride Clinic functions every Wednesday between 4:30 and 8 PM. Primary care physicians at the Pride Clinic will address all the same needs any patient will have, but will also cater to the unique needs of the gay community, who can then be referred to the wide network of MetroHealth physicians.

"If you were to watch us working, you wouldn't think we were different than anyone else," said Dr. Doug Van Aucken. "It'd be completely invisible to anyone else. But when the doors close, people are going to talk about themselves, their families, their lives, and hopefully, they'll see a difference, because we'll be listening."

The MetroHealth Pride Clinic is one of about 12 of its kind across the country. It will take referrals from other health care providers, government and community agencies and local school districts.

## Jewish Seminary will Admit Gay Students

The Jewish Theological Seminary, the major seminary of Conservative Judaism, has announced it will start accepting openly gay and lesbian students. The move follows a vote by scholars who interpret Jewish law for the movement and after extensive discussion with seminary students and faculty.

"The larger issue has been how we can remain true to our tradition in general and to halakah (Jewish law) in particular while staying fully responsive to and immersed in our society and culture," said Arnold Eisen, the incoming chancellor of the seminary.

The Conservative branch takes a middle ground in American Judaism, adhering to tradition while allowing some change for modern circumstances. The larger and more liberal Reform Jewish movement, as well as the smaller Reconstructionist wing, allow gays to become rabbis. The Orthodox branch bars gays and women from ordination.

In December, the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards voted to allow the seminaries to decide on their own whether to admit openly gay students. Their decision also allowed synagogues to reject gay and lesbian clergy if the congregations believe that same-sex relationships violate Scripture.

## Amaechi to be Grand Marshal of Pride Festival

John Amaechi, the former NBA player who recently came out publicly, will be the Grand Marshal for a gay pride festival in Los Angeles this summer.

The former Orlando Magic player who is now retired from basketball, is the author of "Man in the Middle," a new book which chronicles his life as a gay man.

"We are inspired by Amaechi's courage and convictions. Despite personal risk, he opened himself

### Do you know the signs of an abusive relationship?

- Does "IT'S HIS/HER WAY OR THE HIGHWAY" apply to the relationship?
- Does one partner get blamed for everything that goes wrong? "IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!"
- Is the relationship full of put downs and disparaging comments?
- Is jealousy off the charts?
- Are there constant calls and "tracking" of the partner?

These are just a few of the signs that a relationship is on its way to devastating intimate partner violence. Learn more!



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814-454-8161 HOTLINE  
www.safeneterie.org

# National News Briefs

up to the world and showed his authentic self," said Rodney Scott, president of Christopher Street West, an organization that advocates for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. Scott said Amaechi was selected because he showed courage and conviction despite personal risk.

The Los Angeles LGBT Pride Celebration, which will be held June 8-10, includes a parade down Santa Monica Boulevard.

"I am honored to be the grand marshal at this year's Pride Celebration celebrating equality for each of us," Amaechi said.

## Soulforce Targets Bob Jones University

The Soulforce Equality Riders have taken their message of freedom for the LGBT community to the gates of Bob Jones University, one of the most conservative religious schools in the country.

The Soulforce group, comprised primarily of young LGBT adults, is currently touring the United States, stopping at religious colleges and universities to engage in dialogue about LGBT issues with students and faculty. The Soulforce Equality Riders' mission statement says: "The purpose of Soulforce is freedom for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people from religious and political oppression through the practice of relentless non-violent resistance."

Even though Bob Jones University officials told the Soulforce members to stay away from the school, about 25 members stood just outside the university's main entrance, quietly holding hands. Three members were arrested by local police when they tried to enter the campus.

The Greenville, SC, university said the Soulforce members would not be allowed to enter the campus because their goal is to "disrupt education." In a written statement, Bob Jones President Dr. Stephen Jones said that scriptural teaching on homosexuality is consistent in the Old and New Testaments. "The track record and stated goals of this group demonstrate that their objective is not to conduct two-way dialogue, but to pressure us to compromise our biblical stand and change our policies."

University students voluntarily sign statements that they will conform with the school's policy,

which prohibits any sexual activity outside of the scripture's boundaries. This includes sex outside of marriage and homosexuality.

## Same-Sex Ceremonies Allowed at Disney Parks

The Walt Disney Company is now making its Fairy Tale Wedding package at Disney theme parks and aboard its cruise ships available to same sex couples.

The wedding packages, which start at \$4,000 and can go as high as \$45,000, include a ceremony at Disney's marriage pavilions, Disney characters in formal wear, horse-drawn carriages, cruises and many other features. As many as 2,000 couples purchase the packages every year and bookings are usually done as much as a year in advance.

Until recently, Disney required a valid marriage certificate from the couple's state of residence. However, after inquiries from gay couples, the com-

*(continued on next page)*

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Mr. Chad Hershey, President  
Mr. Scott Palermo, Director of Operations

# National News

*(continued from previous page)*

pany decided to make the Fairy Tale Wedding package available to homosexual couples as well.

"We believe this change is consistent with Disney's longstanding policy of welcoming all guests in an inclusive environment. We want everyone who celebrates their special occasions with us to feel welcome and respected," said a spokesperson for the theme park company. The spokesperson went on to note that the change was a simple one because Disney already rents its banquet halls and conference rooms to gay couples.

"It's a slight change. Now, wedding ceremonies, celebrations, commitment ceremonies and vow renewals are offered at the Walt Disney pavilions. Previously, commitment ceremonies were offered at other venues," the spokesperson said.

The Disney company has come under fire from religious groups and conservatives for its no-discrimination policies towards gays. Disney's corporate structure offers health benefits to unmarried gay partners of employees and it has allowed gay celebrations and parades on its premises.

The annual Gay Day at Walt Disney World in Orlando so enraged the Southern Baptist Convention, that the church boycotted Disney from 1997 to 2005. But the company has received strong support from equality proponents.

"When an iconic company like the Walt Disney Company recognizes the value of treating all customers fairly, gay or straight, it reaps the benefits," said Joe Solmonese, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign.



Check Out Our Website at: [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)  
for our list of locations

## Annual resource update for Erie Gay News site

Please note! Shortly after this issue comes out, we will be contacting all of the local resources listed at <http://www.eriegaynews.com/resources.php> to make sure that the information we have is accurate and up to date. If you are a currently listed resource, or would like to be, you need to have your updated info in by Friday, May 18. You can also submit info for a new or updated resource entry by going to the Resources page (<http://www.eriegaynews.com/resources.php>) and clicking on Add or Update Resources in the left side bar.

Questions? Contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com). Erie Gay News is committed to having accurate and up to date info about our local community. Your help is much appreciated!

A vertical banner for the Rural AIDS Alliance Northwest Pa. The banner has a red background. On the left, the words "the", "NORTHWEST", and "Pa." are written vertically in yellow and white. The main text "Rural AIDS Alliance" is in large, bold, blue and white letters. Below this, there is a red ribbon icon and a heart icon. The text "We provide access to testing, education, and medical, financial, and supportive services to those infected with HIV/AIDS in Northwest Pa. With Clinics in Erie, Warren, Clarion, Clearfield, Seneca, DuBois, Greenville and Farrell staffed by HIV specialists. Support Groups are also offered- please contact Sue at the Clarion office for that information." is in white. Below that, "For more information, contact:" is in white, followed by contact information for the Erie and Clarion offices. At the bottom, the slogan "'GET TESTED: YOU NEED TO KNOW' EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO PREVENTION" is written in white.

## Breaking Through Locked Doors

By Rev. Richard A. Moyer

I was always the smallest kid in the class. That meant that I was an easy target for the class bullies. I still remember one of those obnoxious class mates of mine who was always joking about my short stature and seemed to thrive on reminding me of it. I soon discovered that I was not his only target. He attacked almost everyone in our 7<sup>th</sup> grade class.

I remember the day he chased me home from school. He was at my heels all the way to the front door of our house. I slammed the door and turned the key. I was safe in the vestibule and he was locked out on the front porch. I remember screaming to my mother, "John's going to kill me!" My mother showed little sympathy. "I am not going to fight your battles for you," she answered. "You go and make peace with him." That was tough love that my mother made me swallow that day.

But in the long run she did the right thing. Even as an immature 7<sup>th</sup> grader, I had to solve my own problems; even when I was scared to death.

The disciples of Jesus were literally scared to death. They were following a man whom they worshipped and adored as the Messiah. Now, he had been hung on a cross and died a slow and painful death. What they knew was that his body was claimed by Joseph of Aramathia who laid Jesus' body in a garden tomb. They had heard of a resurrection but they still weren't sure. How could they be?

Everything that happened after the crucifixion was beyond human imagination or understanding. They were together, the Gospel tells us in John, chapter 20, fearful that they would be next. Death is never attractive to anyone and death on a cross would be unimaginable. So they did what normal people do in the face of fear; they locked the door!

But then Jesus came looking for them. He came looking for them as he comes looking for each one of us. One of the early Puritan preachers had a somewhat crude way of saying it. He called God "The Hound of Heaven"; like a hound dog on a mission of mercy, trying to find a lost person. God specializes in finding lost souls. And isn't that just what *Jesus* did?

The disciples, together in despair, quickly learn that Jesus walks in to relieve them of all fear.

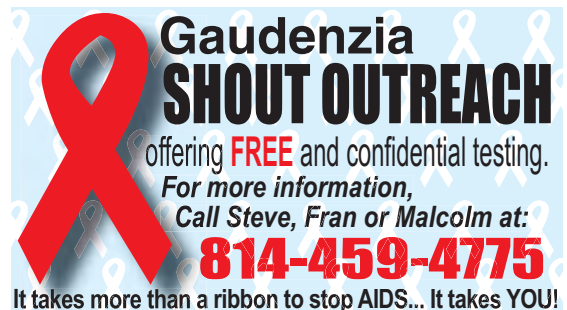
How often do we fear other people; whether they are of a different race, religion, age, sex or sexual orientation? We fear they may harm us in some way. It may not be physical harm we fear as much as it is they will hurt our ego, cause us embarrassment, make us feel shame or small or inadequate. That is a very real fear! Apostle Paul said "If God be for us, who can be against us?" Jesus said, "Do not fear those who can harm the body; life is about soul."

There are of course many other fears. Sometimes we even fear ourselves; when we are unsure of ourselves or we lack self-confidence. Jesus breaks through our locked doors that prevent us from being *free*. He breaks through those locked doors that paralyze us with fear! The Spirit of God walks into our hearts; into the depth of our souls and into our lives like Jesus walked through the locked door and into the place where the disciples were hiding with fear.

The disciples learned they had to fight the battle of fear themselves but also with the help of God. If we fear we have no faith, if we have faith, we have nothing to fear. God comes to us and can break through our locked doors. He can help us overcome our doubts and fears and can keep challenging us to

live above and beyond our fears and keep empowering us with his life-giving Spirit.

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



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## LGBT Civil Rights Bill Introduced in State Senate

from PA-GALA

State Senator Pat Browne, a Republican representing the 16th District based in the Lehigh Valley, has introduced the LGBT Civil Rights Bill. The Bill, SB 761, seeks to amend the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in employment, housing and public accommodations.

Twenty other Senators joined Senator Browne by co-sponsoring the legislation.

In total the bill has 3 Republican sponsors and 18 Democratic sponsors.

"The Pennsylvania Gay And Lesbian Alliance has made passage of an LGBT Civil Rights Bill our legislative priority for 2007 and 2008," stated Steve Black, Political Director of the Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance (PA-GALA).

"PA-GALA looks forward to working closely with Senator Browne and his staff, as well as, Stacey Sobel from Equality Advocates Pennsylvania; Larry Frankel from the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania; and, Stephen Glassman Chairman of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission to pass this legislation" added Black.

Currently 13 municipalities in Pennsylvania prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in employment, housing and public accommodations - including the Counties of Philadelphia and Erie, the Cities of Allentown, Easton, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Pittsburgh, Scranton and York; the Boroughs of Lansdowne, New Hope & West Chester. State College prohibits discrimination in housing only.

"A statewide law is needed to protect all LGBT Pennsylvanians from discrimination," stated Black.

Visit [www.pa-gala.org](http://www.pa-gala.org) to determine your state senate district!

### Complete list of State Senators co-sponsoring the LGBT Civil Rights Bill (SB 761):

Pat Browne - R - 16th District, Prime Sponsor  
 Charles McIlhinney - R - 10th District  
 Edwin "Ted" Erickson - R - 26th District  
 Vincent Fumo - D - 1st District  
 Tina Tartaglione - D - 2nd District  
 Shirley Kitchen - D - 3rd District  
 Leanna Washington - D - 4th District  
 Mike Stack - D - 5th District  
 Vincent Hughes - D - 7th District  
 Anthony Williams - D - 8th District  
 Michael O'Pake - D - 11th District  
 Connie Williams - D - 17th District  
 Lisa Boscola - D - 18th District  
 Andrew Dinniman - D - 19th District  
 Robert Mellow - D - 22nd District  
 John Wozniak - D - 35th District  
 Jim Ferlo - D - 38th District  
 Wayne Fontana - D - 42nd District  
 Jay Costa - D - 43rd District  
 Barry Stout - D - 46th District  
 Gerald LaValle - D - 47th District

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# Out & About

*Photos from the LGBT Colloquium at Allegheny College, held March 30 and 31, 2007.*

*At top, Beth Robson conducting workshop with Kate (not seen) on Activism in the LGBT Community. 2nd row: Amy Weiseman, Dan Burdick, Amelia Carr. 3rd row: Stephany Atlas, Jamie Hess, John Golden, Joe Tolomei. Photos also online at [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)*

*The event was organized by the Allegheny Pride Alliance. More information at: <http://webpub.allegheny.edu/group/pridealliance/>*



Photos by James von Loewe.

# Summer Places & Events

*Compiled by Deb Spilko*

## Pride Celebrations

*For information on other Pride celebrations around the country, visit [www.interpride.org/](http://www.interpride.org/)*

**Jun 2 - ERIE PRIDE PICNIC** Rotary Pavilion, Presque Isle State Park, Erie, PA. Browse to <http://picnic.eriegaynews.com>

**Jun 3 - Buffalo Pride** [www.pride-buffalo.org](http://www.pride-buffalo.org)

**Jun 15-24 - Pride Toronto** [www.pridetoronto.com](http://www.pridetoronto.com)

**Jun 16 Cleveland Pride** [www.clevelandpride.org](http://www.clevelandpride.org)

**Jun 16 - Pittsburgh Pridefest** [www.glccpgh.org/PrideFest/PrideFest.htm](http://www.glccpgh.org/PrideFest/PrideFest.htm)

**Jun 16 - Hamilton Pride** (Hamilton Ontario) [www.hamiltonpride.com](http://www.hamiltonpride.com)

**Jul 14-15 - Rochester Pride (Rochester NY)**  
[Tim\\_Rhoades@usa.xerox.com](mailto:Tim_Rhoades@usa.xerox.com)

**July 25-29 Detroit Black Gay Pride ("Hotter Than July")** [www.hotterthanjuly.com](http://www.hotterthanjuly.com)

**July 27-29 - Pittsburgh Gay Black Pride**  
[www.pittsburghgayblackpride.com](http://www.pittsburghgayblackpride.com) (412) 537-7472  
[pghblackpride@hotmail.com](mailto:pghblackpride@hotmail.com)

**July 28 - Harrisburg Pride (Harrisburg PA)**  
[www.harrisburgpride.org](http://www.harrisburgpride.org)

**July 31-Aug 6 - Cleveland Black Gay and Proud**  
[www.blackgayandproud-cleveland.com](http://www.blackgayandproud-cleveland.com)

**Aug 3-6 - Toronto Black Gay Pride**  
[www.torontoblackpride.com](http://www.torontoblackpride.com)

**Aug 25-26 - Erie Gay Pride** Details TBA.

## Retreats & Resorts

**Dunes Resort Sautgatuck MI** "The Midwest's Largest Gay & Lesbian Resort." [www.dunesresort.com](http://www.dunesresort.com)

**Easton Mountain Retreat Center.** Interfaith spiritual community of men who love men, offering wide variety of programs ranging from evening events to intensive workshops. [www.eastonmountain.com](http://www.eastonmountain.com)

**Provincetown, MA** Provincetown Gay & Lesbian Guide [www.ptown.org](http://www.ptown.org)

**Rainbow Mountain Resort** "The gay, lesbian & transgender resort, restaurant, and nightclub, located in the Pocono Mountains. [www.rainbowmountain.com](http://www.rainbowmountain.com)

**Rehoboth Beach DE** [www.gaymart.com/5persorg/6city/udrehobo.html](http://www.gaymart.com/5persorg/6city/udrehobo.html)

## Women's festivals

*Here are some women's festivals within or close to the northeastern United States. More festivals can be found at [www.offourbacks.org/Festivals.htm](http://www.offourbacks.org/Festivals.htm)*

**May 25-28, 2006 Virginia Women's Music Festival**  
[www.campoutva.com](http://www.campoutva.com)

**June 7-10 Womongathering Festival of Women's spirituality** (northeastern Pennsylvania) [womongathering.com](http://womongathering.com)

**June 29 - July 1 Sistah Summerfest 2007** (Carmel, NY) "A Music-Spirit Festival for Womyn-of-Color from All Nations." [www.sistahsummerfest.com](http://www.sistahsummerfest.com)

**July 5-8 - National Women's Music Festival** (Illinois) [www.wiaonline.org](http://www.wiaonline.org)

**July 6-8 - July 4th Kickback** [www.campoutva.com](http://www.campoutva.com)

**Aug 7-12 - Michigan Womyns festival**  
[www.michfest.com](http://www.michfest.com)

**August 24-26 - Twin Oaks Women's Gathering** (Virginia) <http://twinoaks.org/community/women/index.html>

**Aug 31-Sept 3 - Wild Western Women's Weekend** (Virginia) [www.campoutva.com](http://www.campoutva.com)

**Sept 7-9 - Sisterspace weekend** (Maryland) [www.sisterspace.org](http://www.sisterspace.org)



*Erie Pride Picnic takes place June 2 at Presque Isle.*

### Heading Out of Town?

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



# Summer Places & Events

## Campgrounds

*Some campgrounds in our region. If you have any questions at all about their target clientele, make certain to call ahead. For more camping info, visit <http://gaycampers.com> and [www.campgayusa.com](http://www.campgayusa.com)*

**Camp Davis** Boyers, PA (724) 637-2402. Men and women. [www.campdaviscampground.com](http://www.campdaviscampground.com)

**Campit** Saugatuck MI. Men and women. <http://campitresort.com>

**CampOut** For women. Near Richmond VA. [www.campoutva.com](http://www.campoutva.com)

**Cedars Campground.** Near Hamilton, Ontario Canada. [www.cedarscampground.com](http://www.cedarscampground.com)

**Circle JJ Ranch** Scio, OH [www.circlejjranch.com](http://www.circlejjranch.com)

**Jones Pond Campground & RV Park** Angelica, NY. [www.jonespond.com](http://www.jonespond.com)

**Rainbow Ridge** Close to Toronto. [www.geocities.com/rainbowridgeresort](http://www.geocities.com/rainbowridgeresort)

**Roseland Guest House and Campground** West Virginia [www.rcvideo.com/roseland](http://www.rcvideo.com/roseland). Men.

**The Point Tent & Trailer Resort** Turkey Point, Ontario, Canada [www.get-tothepoint.com](http://www.get-tothepoint.com)

## Miscellaneous

**May 27 - Pittsburgh Memorial Day Festival** (see ad page 3).

**June 1-3 - One Mighty Weekend** In Orlando. [www.onemightyweekend.com](http://www.onemightyweekend.com)

**June 9 - GIFT Cruise** Aboard the Goodtime III. [www.clevelandgift.org](http://www.clevelandgift.org)

**June 9-10 - Allentown Art Festival** Arts and historic preservation event held in Buffalo's gay neighborhood. [www.allentownartfestival.com](http://www.allentownartfestival.com)

**June 17 - Gay Day at Cedar Point** Wear read or rainbow T-shirt.

**Date TBA - Pittsburgh Boat Cruise.** Usually around the July 4 weekend.

**Aug 2 Nautica Queen Boat Cruise** In conjunction with Black Gay and Proud event..Cleveland, OH [www.blackgayandproud-cleveland.com](http://www.blackgayandproud-cleveland.com)

**Ongoing: Gay Outdoors** [www.gayoutdoors.org](http://www.gayoutdoors.org)

*Find clickable links at the online version of this article at [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)*

## Kids & Families

*Most of the destinations listed in this article have space or events for kids and families, but below are some places and events specifically for them.*

**COLAGE** [www.colage.org](http://www.colage.org)

**Family Pride Coalition** [www.familypride.org](http://www.familypride.org)

**Mountain Meadow Camp** (S. New Jersey) [www.mountainmeadow.org](http://www.mountainmeadow.org)

**R Family Vacations** [www.rfamilyvacations.com](http://www.rfamilyvacations.com)

## Canadian Travel

At this point, only requirements for travel by air to the United States have changed. Americans can continue to use documents such as their birth certificates and government-issued photo identification (e.g., driver's license) to cross the Canada-U.S. border by land and sea. More information at [www.canada.travel](http://www.canada.travel)



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# Drenched Fur III - Third time's a charm

by Gary Snyder

Who knew that Drenched Fur would make it this far? Looking back on the previous two years and the work we put into making this run and its legacy, it reminds us of the old ad slogan "You've come a long way baby." From the humble beginning where we wished for maybe 20 guys who would like to get together, to this year's record breaking registrant numbers (120+), it just keeps getting better each year.

Drenched Fur weekend kicked off with a social meet 'n greet function at the host facility for the majority of the run, The Avalon Hotel and Conference Center, after which folks enjoyed the provided shuttle service to bar crawl between Trance Dance Club and The Zone Dance Club.

Run attendees remarked their pleasure at the warm reception they received at both stops and many thanks are given in appreciation for their participation and assistance with the run. After the bar crawl, folks enjoyed the first of two late night after hours parties at the hotel and then found themselves blurry eyed on Saturday morning at the included continental breakfast.

As a part of the namesake for the run, the majority of attendees (80+) went to Splash Lagoon where they relished all the water park slides, food and fun provided. This year also included the use of a private room where folks could escape the water park and enjoy a relaxed lunch/lounging atmosphere.

One area where the bear run weekend was modified this year was the addition of an alternate day trip option to head to the Northeast, PA and Western, NY border areas for a winery tour. In fact more than one winery destination was provided along with a lunch stop. This optional activity addition received high marks for enjoyment from those who attended and will be looked into repeating for next year.

Saturday continued on with folks settling in for a night of camaraderie and good times during the

evening and night back at the host hotel. Kicking things off was a relaxing cocktail hour followed by a very filling buffet dinner service in the Niagara Ballroom. As folks relaxed from dinner, this year's entertainment was provided by LA Comedian Bobaloo which proved fun and enjoyable. Then it was time to get things moving and grooving with the dance hit sounds provided by guest artist DJ BearCub.

In wrapping up the weekend, Sunday morning included a buffet breakfast service along with a silent auction for charity.

In preparing for this year's run, the committee made the decision to support a new opportunity to recognize the contributions of a past attendee to Drenched Fur. On October 24, 2006, the local bear community in the Great Lakes Region lost a shining star within its ranks. Samuel 'Sammy' Schwartz had passed unexpectedly. Sammy was known for having given to others in his charm, fun personality as well as his work at a vocational school, the Buckeye Career Center. Sammy had been their Culinary Arts Instructor for several years.

The committee contacted Sammy's partner, Elijah Black - DFII's entertainer, to ask for his approval to create a memorial scholarship fund for the students at the Buckeye Career Center who were choosing to pursue the occupational field of culinary arts. Elijah was very moved and agreed that this is a great way to remember Sammy and for a legacy to carry on in his name. The Silent Auction was a success and raised over \$700 for the memorial scholarship fund.

This year's third installment of Drenched Fur proved to be the best yet and it goes without saying that the businesses, organizations and individuals who assisted, helped make it a success.

I would like to especially thank my committee that worked under me for their contributions. Jack, Peter, Michael, Chris and Nick were invaluable and pivotal in the well deserved thanks and positive feedback we have received from the attendees. Thanks guys for all you have done and I look forward to your assistance with Drenched Fur IV next year, to be held on April 4, 5 & 6 in 2008. We'll see you then!

For more run information, feel free to visit our website at [www.drenchedfur.com](http://www.drenchedfur.com).

*Stay updated!*

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

# Out & About

*Photos from the third Drenched Fur weekend, held in Erie March 30-April 1. More photos online at [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)  
Photos by Robb and Mike Mahler.*



Fiesta!  
with Ugly Betty!

Cinco  
de Mayo  
Party!

May 5

Hot  
Salsa!

Margaritas!

Prizes!

UGLY  
BETTY  
Look-A-Like Contest  
Be Ugly!

celebrate!

# ★ ZONE

DANCE CLUB ★ ERIE, PA

Saturday

May 5

Ugly Betty's  
Cinco de Mayo  
Party!  
Fiesta the Night Away!  
Try a Frozen Margarita or Daiquiri!

★ Saturday

May 19

## ★ ★ ★ EROTICA ★

Levis Leather  
Fetish Party!

★ May 19 ★

celebrate Your sexuality!  
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- wear BLACK!

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Come Dance  
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The Zone's version  
of Fantasy  
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EROTICA  
Levis - Leather - Fetish  
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Fantasy Fest! - Celebrate Your Sexuality!

Friday

June 1

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2007  
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Applications available at the Bar!

Saturday

June 2

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