

October 2007



# EGN



## Erie Gay News

### GLBT films at Great Lakes Film Fest

The 2007 Great Lakes Film Festival (September 27-30) will feature a selection of GLBT films on Friday September 28 from 4:30 PM until 7 PM.

Descriptions and details on page 10. For more about the Festival visit [www.greatlakesfilmfest.com](http://www.greatlakesfilmfest.com)

### Erie Sisters Meeting/ Halloween Party on Oct. 27

*from Erie Sisters*

The Erie Sisters' October Meeting and Halloween Party will be held on Oct. 27. Get your costume and dancing shoes ready and join the fun with the members of this crossdresser/transgender support group.

There will be a catered dinner followed by dancing and revelry at The Trance Night Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie PA. There will be a small meeting fee (to be announced at [www.eriesisters.org](http://www.eriesisters.org)) to cover the cost of the meal.

The festivities begin promptly at 7 PM. For more information contact Bethany Myers, 814-746-5524 or email [bethany@eriesisters.org](mailto:bethany@eriesisters.org) or [eriesisters@eriesisters.org](mailto:eriesisters@eriesisters.org).

### Week Night Get Togethers for Gay/ Bi Men

*by Michael Mahler*

It has been a while since there was a weeknight get together for gay/bi men, so let's start anew. The first get together will be Wednesday, Oct. 17 at 7 PM at Papa Joe's Pepperoni Cafe, 402 W 8th St, Erie PA. For more info, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com)

### Equal Measure Exhibit in Buffalo

The Arts Council of Buffalo is presently exhibiting "Equal Measure: Portraits of Love." Featuring the photography of Lynn Siradas. Equal Measure is a rotating collection of black and white prints with narratives that explore the love, commitment, and resourcefulness of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered families, and



*Joe Wilson, director of We Belong (the documentary about a gay Oil City teen) will discuss his film when it is shown at the 2007 Great Lakes Film Festival on Friday September 28.*

*PHOTO: James von Loewe*

the effects of inequality on their lives. You will see from this exhibit the joy and commitment shared by each family. From their stories you will come to know what marriage equality would afford these families.

The exhibit runs through November.

The Arts Council in Buffalo and Erie County Gallery is at 700 Main St., Buffalo NY. Phone: (718) 856-7520. Web: [www.artscouncilbuffalo.org](http://www.artscouncilbuffalo.org)

### Chautauqua County's Growing Community

*by Beth Robson*

Watchfire Alliance is a small and growing group whose members bring a wide variety of contributions and interests. It is a social, networking, community-building and social-action organization for men and women of Chautauqua County and the surrounding area.

The group started last year with a "town meeting" in which organizers gathered the experiences and interests of a balanced group of about 25 women and men. Some expressed interest in just socializing, while others

*(continued on page 4)*

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See web site for more info.**

## EGN Rates & Data

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|----------------------|-------------|--------------------|
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| HALF PAGE HORIZONTAL | EIGHTH PAGE |                    |

| 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                              |
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| 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.



**Erie Gay News**  
1115 West 7th St.  
Erie PA 16502-1105  
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www.eriegaynews.com

**Editors: Deb Spilko and Mike Mahler**  
**Ad Design: Mike Lipiec**  
**Deadline for next issue: Oct 15 (Monday),  
will be out night of Tuesday, Oct 23.**

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.

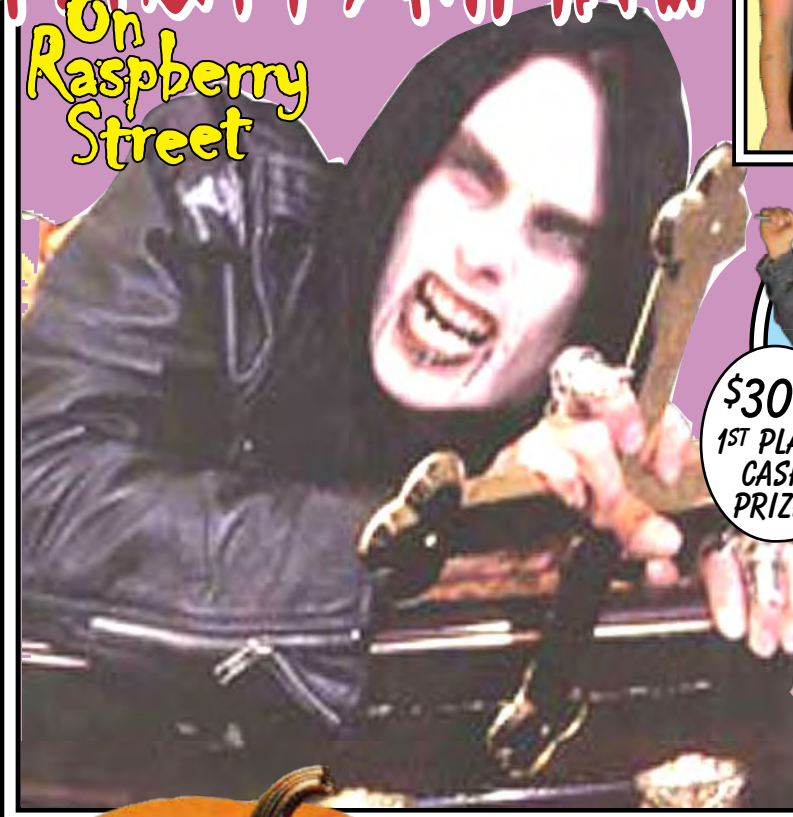
## Thank You:

To the Avalon for hosting, James von Loewe, Jack Walburn, Michelle Williams, Ruth Sprague and Wally Gator for folding; James von Loewe, Deb Spilko, Jerry McCumber, Jack Walburn, Paula, Dylan and Ruth Sprague 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.

October 27th

# Trance's NIGHTMARE

On Raspberry Street



HALLOWEEN COSTUME & DANCE PARTY!

3 CASH PRIZES!



\$300 1ST PLACE CASH PRIZE!



Happy Hour specials 7 nights a week from 9PM til 11PM. Karaoke Sundays and Wednesdays, College Night Mondays and DJ Rob & Jason G in the house every Fri and Sat!

Proud to support everyone in our region, we are **ERIE'S ALTERNATIVE NIGHTSPOT!**  
1607 Raspberry Street • Erie, PA 16502

Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027  
www.trancenightclub.com Email: contact@trancenightclub.com  
Trance is now open 7 nights a week 9PM-2AM

# Community News

(continued from front page)

were interested in socializing plus building community in a variety of ways.

To some, building community means inviting more people to meetings, creating connections and social networking that strengthens personal relationships and enriches lives. To others, building community also means some sort of “giving back,” such as reaching out to the aging queer community, youth and people with disabilities.

Watchfire Alliance has established monthly meetings, attended mainly by women, which are a combination of planning and socializing and sometimes celebration, especially at holiday time.

The group had its second annual picnic in August at Long Point State Park. In addition, members have obtained training and contacts to develop a youth mentoring program. They also want to engage more men and re-create the balance the group had at the beginning.

Watchfire Alliance meets the second Friday of each month in alternating locations, between the north area of the county and the south to maximize accessibility. The group is loosely organized without officers, but does have a yahoo group that keeps members informed and connected. Anyone who is interested can email [watchfirealliance@yahoo.com](mailto:watchfirealliance@yahoo.com) to be a part of the group.

The next meeting will be Friday, Oct. 12 at 7 PM at the Unitarian Church at 1255 Prendergast in Jamestown. Anyone who is not sure but would like more information is invited to call Bethany Robson at (716)499-4817.

## Local hearings on PA Non-

**UPSTAIRS FLAT FOR RENT**

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Call Cynthia @ 814-455-8922 Sorry, No Kids or Pets

## Discrimination Bill

Steve Glassman, the openly gay chair of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, will be in Erie once again on Oct. 5 to testify at hearings on the Non-Discrimination Bill HB 1400 being held by the State Government Committee. The hearings are being held from 1-4 PM at the Raymond Blasco MD Memorial Library, 160 East Front Street, and everyone is urged to attend.



*Steve Glassman*

Although sexual orientation and gender identity are covered for employment, public accommodations and housing in Erie County and other municipalities in Pennsylvania, roughly 80% of state residents live in areas that are unprotected. It is extremely important that people attend the hearing to show their support for this important legislation.

In the Erie area, co-sponsors of the House bill (H.B. 1400) include state Reps. Florindo Fabrizio (D-1st District), Patrick Harkins (D-2nd), John Hornaman (D-3rd) and Curt Sonney (R-4th). Rep. Fabrizio serves on the committee that is having the hearings -- the House State Government Committee. Two other members of the House State Government Committee are from the region, Reps. Kathy Rapp (R-65th) and Fred McIlhattan (R-63rd) are not currently co-sponsors of the bill.

As of now, none of the region's state senators are currently cosponsors of the Senate version of the legislation (S.B. 761). However, two senators from this area are on the committee that will handle their chamber's version of the bill -- the Senate Judiciary Committee: Sens. Jane Earll (R-49th) and Mary Jo White (R-21st).

Visit <http://www.equalitypa.org> to send an e-mail to your state legislator in support of this important legislation.

## “Good People Gather” Speaker

# Community News

## Series

from Cathy Pedler

A series of events dealing with important societal issues will take place at Mercyhurst College in Erie Oct. 12, 13 and 14, as the college hosts the Good People Gather, Charlene M. Tanner Speaker Series.

The three-day conference will feature activities such as lectures, scenic hikes and reflection workshops on a variety of topics dealing with social justice and the global environmental crisis. All of the program are free and open to the public.

Featured speakers will be political activist Winona LaDuke at 7 PM Oct. 12, in the Mercyhurst Little Theatre, author and environmental activist Derrick Jensen at 7 PM Oct. 13, also in the Little Theatre, and physicist Dr. Vandana Shiva at 1 PM Oct. 14 in the Performing Arts Center, followed by a 3 PM Panel Discussion that will also include Derrick Jensen.

This event is being made possible by a gift from Doris Cipolla, in loving memory of partner, Charlene M. Tanner. Because of Doris' and Charlene's interests in social justice, peace and the environment, it is hoped that this program will inspire others to help create a healing environment for the world.

For more information about this program, call (814) 824-2578, email [cathy.pedler@gmail.com](mailto:cathy.pedler@gmail.com) or visit the web site <http://www.squidoo.com/GoodPeopleGather/>

## Two New Tools for Crime Victims

Deadline for next issue is OCTOBER 15



**Jeremy**  
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[jeremymassage@aol.com](mailto:jeremymassage@aol.com)  
Lic. NCBTMB/ACE

by Angela Porfilio, Crime Victim Center

Victims of crimes in Pennsylvania have two new tools to help them.

One is the ability to file a claim for Crime Victims' Compensation over the Internet. Victims that have out-of-pocket medical expenses, lost wages or other personal expenses as a result of a crime may be eligible. To find out more and to file a claim, go to [www.pccd.state.pa.us](http://www.pccd.state.pa.us) and click on DAVE in the left hand corner.

The other new tool is called PA SAVIN – an automated information and notification system for crime victims whose offenders are incarcerated in the Erie County Prison. Victims and other community members may register to be notified when someone is released from the prison by calling 866-972-7284 (toll free) or going online at [www.pacrimevictims.state.pa.us](http://www.pacrimevictims.state.pa.us) and following the instructions.

The Crime Victim Center continues to stand ready to supply information or assist with either of these new tools. Call (814) 455-9515.



# ACLU

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION  
of PENNSYLVANIA

## Northwest Chapter

New Intake Phone Number:

**877-PGH-ACLU (744-2258)**

[www.aclupa.org](http://www.aclupa.org)



# Allies Play Key Role in Supporting Legislation

by Jake Kaskey, Equality Advocates PA

With the recent introduction of statewide non-discrimination legislation in the Pennsylvania House and Senate, LGBT and allied activists throughout the Commonwealth have been mobilized around one central issue: providing equality for our community in housing, employment and public accommodations.



Jake Kaskey

This legislation has garnered more support this year than in previous sessions, and has a record number of co-sponsors in both the House and Senate, 76 and 22, respectively. Activists from Reading, Wilkes Barre, Canadensis, Pittsburgh, Scranton and countless other areas have engaged their law-makers through written letters supporting this legislation, and many others have called and visited their representatives in Harrisburg.

The LGBT community in Erie has worked tirelessly to educate local legislators on the issue to gain their support for this critical bill.

LGBT people cannot do this alone however. Allies are critical to achieving equality. More often than not, the most powerful and effective advocates for LGBT-friendly legislation comes from allies- parents, friends and neighbors. Allies have a unique viewpoint, and the impact they have with legislators across the state is further augmented with clarity of purpose and concern for members of the LGBT community. Their participation is vital in this struggle.

It is crucial to continue to engage non-LGBT friends in order to be successful, and there are countless ways to do this. Getting allies to sign letters in support of the legislation, setting up meetings with your friends and neighbors with your local law-maker, and simply educating non-LGBT people about this bill are all fantastic ways to engage others outside the LGBT community in the process.

For talking points and more information on this legislation, HB 1400 and SB 761, or for more ideas on how to become involved, please contact Jake Kaskey at (215) 731- 1447 ext. 14 or visit the Equality Advocates PA website at <http://equalitypa.org>.

# Letters

## Employee Non Discrimination Act

ENDA IS good news, but not the way some people think. Even a weak ENDA will be immediately useful in larger companies, and filter down to smaller ones. Its loopholes exempting christian totalitarians can be challenged in court

The biggest obstacle to workplace equality, of course, is that this country is a feeding ground for the superrich. They own the businesses that discriminate and the politicians who'll decide ENDA's scope and enforcement parameters. They all but mint their own money not paying benefits, paying lower wages, pitting workers against one another, etc.

ENDA is going to come from the Congress of the rich so it has every chance of being a success story like the DEA's attempts to stop the use of drugs, the FBI triumphant elimination of crime, corruption and terrorism, or the FDA's sterling protection of our health. And we don't have to worry about mine and bridge inspections, Veterans Administration doctors or Louisiana levee maintenance. ENDA's successes will be as great as the stunning victories of the US Civil Rights Commissions, which stamped out racism and misogyny for good, or maybe not. And there's Iraq which got overwhelming support in Congress. And how about those folks over at CDC and their fast track victory over AIDs? Simply dazzling. Congress has given us so much to be thankful for. Yea, etc.

The good news is that ENDA is a tool we can use to organize. Its flaws will allow us to mount joint campaigns with unions, immigrants, African Americans, women, etc., and others who get the short end of the stick at work. We'll have to fight to make ENDA work for us. Those efforts, not Congressional compromise and cowardice, will make it a worthwhile law.

**Bill Perdue**  
**RainbowRED Organization**  
**Las Vegas, NV**

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

# Calendar

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

**Sep 27-30 - Great Lakes Film Festival** [www.great-lakesfilmfest.com](http://www.great-lakesfilmfest.com)

**Oct 1 - 31 - Coven of Darkness: Zone's Annual Haunted Bar!** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) Double, double toil and trouble, Fire burn and cauldron bubble, Eye of newt and toe of frog, Wool of bat and tongue of dog, a Witches spell of Halloween be, Get into the Zone- and you will see! Join us all month long as we cast a spell of Fright & Fun on you! Try one of our Magic Potions at the bar or follow the trail through the Black Forest to the dance floor-but beware of the Coven of Darkness! Witches, Warlocks and Wizards conjuring up potions of Love, Lust & Black Magic sending their creatures of the night after you! Find your own Magic at our Black Magic Party on the 13th, and when you have gathered all your powers- Join us for the Sorcerer's Ball Halloween Party on the 27th! Get on your broom, wave your Magic wand, and fly into the Zone for Bewitching month of Fun! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

**Oct 9 - Debut of "A Shot at Love"** MTV's new bisexual serialized reality dating show, with 16 lesbians and 16 straight men vying for the attentions of Myspace phenom Tila Tequila. 10 PM.

**Oct 10 - Exposure: Erie Art Museum Fundraiser at Trance** Trance Night Club and Oasis Patio/Martini Bar, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. 5:30 PM - 9:30 PM. All proceeds going to Erie Art Museum. Featuring the works of local artists including Don Joint and Evan Everheart. Acoustic performances to include

Mas Nova. Art auction. Hors d'oeuvres courtesy of Bertrands. Tickets \$20. Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: [contact@trancenightclub.com](mailto:contact@trancenightclub.com). Browse to [www.trancenightclub.com](http://www.trancenightclub.com).

**Oct 12 - Watchfire Alliance meets** (Unitarian Church of Jamestown, 1255 Prendergast Ave, Jamestown, NY) 7 PM. GLBT social, networking, community-building and social-action organization for men and women of Chautauqua County and the surrounding area. (See article in this month's "Community News"). Contact: Bethany Robson. Phone: (716)499-4817. Email: [watchfirealliance@yahoo.com](mailto:watchfirealliance@yahoo.com).

**Oct 13 - 80's Retro Night Returns To Trance** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA) Join us for an exciting night of retro flashback dance hits with today's hits. DJ Rob spinning your favorites! Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: [contact@trancenightclub.com](mailto:contact@trancenightclub.com). Browse to <http://www.trancenightclub.com>.

**Oct 13 (Sat) - Black Magic Black Party at the Zone** 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) Join the Coven of Dark-

*(continued on page 8)*

## 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!

147502



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Domestic Violence Safety Network

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We can help!

814-454-8161 HOTLINE  
[www.safeneterie.org](http://www.safeneterie.org)



**Dominic M. Sciamanda, D.O.**

Board Certified Family Medicine/OMM  
Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine/OMM  
Licensed Osteopathic Acupuncturist

Ridgeway Medical Center  
5050 West Ridge Road, Erie, PA 16506  
Office: (814) 833-8800  
Fax: (814) 833-2079  
Emergency: (814) 864-4031

# Calendar

ness for a night of Black Magic! Wear black—black leather, black lace, black denim, black underwear! Try a few magic potions from the bar or cast a spell of lust on someone as we hypnotize you on the dance floor. Get into the Zone for a night of fright and fun in the dark! Phone: (814) 452-0125. [www.thezonedanceclub.com](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com).

**Oct 17 - Social get together for Gay/Bi Men** At Papa Joe's Pepperoni Cafe, 402 W 8th St, Erie, PA) 7 PM. We are starting up an informal social night for gay/bi men. All are welcome! Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com). Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

**Oct 20 - Menspace meets (Jim and Greg's)** 20996 Kightlinger Rd, Venango, PA. 6 PM. Social group for gay/bi men. Bring a dish to pass, if you'd like. Halloween party - costume required! Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com). Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

**Oct 20 - Shari Gross performs at Billie's** Billie's is at the Avalon Hotel & Conference Center, 16 W

10th St, Erie, PA) 9 PM - 1 AM. Phone: (814) 459-2220. Email: [info@avalonerie.com](mailto:info@avalonerie.com). Browse to [www.avalonerie.com](http://www.avalonerie.com).

**Oct 19-28 -22nd Annual Pittsburgh International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival (PILGFF)** [www.pilgff.org](http://www.pilgff.org)

**Oct 26 - Bewitched 2- Return of the Magical Divas at the Zone** Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. The Ladies of the Zone return for a magical night of fun as they cast their spells on you! Get on your broom and get here early so you don't miss a moment of the Diva's spectacular Halloween Show! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to [www.thezonedanceclub.com](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com).

**Oct 27 - Trance's 'Nightmare On Raspberry Street'** Trance Night Club and Oasis Patio/Martini Bar, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Halloween costume and dance party. 3 cash prizes! \$300 1st Place cash prize! Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: [contact@trancenightclub.com](mailto:contact@trancenightclub.com). Browse to [www.trancenightclub.com](http://www.trancenightclub.com).

**Oct 27 - The Sorcerer's Ball Halloween Party at Zone** 133 W 18th St, Erie. Double, double toil and trouble, fire burn and cauldron bubble—grab your broom and come in costume as the witches, warlocks, and wizards welcome you into their Coven of Darkness at the Zone! Cast your best spells of lust & love at Erie's Biggest Halloween Party. Try a few magic potions at the bar or hypnotize yourself on the dance floor. Conjure up some cash with prizes for best costume. Glowsticks, give-aways, and fun. Grab your friends and get into the Coven of Darkness- the Zone's annual Haunted Bar! Don't be afraid—Get into the Zone for Erie's Biggest Gay Halloween Party! Ph: (814) 452-0125. Browse to [www.thezonedanceclub.com](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com).

**Oct 31 - Zone Halloween Party** 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Join us in costume for one last night of fun as the Coven of Darkness -Haunted Bar comes to an end! Drink specials & 2 for 1 wings! Happy Halloween from your friends at the Zone! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to [www.thezonedanceclub.com](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com).

**Nov 20 - Transgender Day of Remembrance** Set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. [www.gender.org/remember/day/](http://www.gender.org/remember/day/)

**the Rural AIDS Alliance**

**Pa. NORTHWEST**

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, 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:**

**Erie Office:** Booker T Washington Ctr  
1720 Holland St, PA 16503  
814-453-5744 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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# Great Lakes Film Fest GLBT lineup

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*The Great Lakes Film Festival will feature Gay-Lesbian films from 4:30 to 7 PM on Friday September 28 at Roadhouse Theatre, 145 West 11th Street, Erie, PA. Here are some brief descriptions of the films that will be shown. For more information, or to see clips visit [www.greatlakesfilmfest.com](http://www.greatlakesfilmfest.com)*

## **DEMETER: Surrender**

Set in a broken future world, this short allows the audience a peek into the life of Demeter as she confronts people from her past life, including Nalos - her one-time mentor, and Daphene - the equally brilliant woman who shares a personal past connection with Demeter. When Demeter learns of Daphene's betrayal, all bets are off as to how she will react to something that affects her on so personal a level. Director: Mike Madigan. Website: [www.myspace.com/demeterfilm](http://www.myspace.com/demeterfilm)

## **Queerspiracy!**

Can attending a gay pride parade turn your child gay? NewsCorridor's Dan Stewart investigates. Director: Greg Emmerth Website: [www.resolveproductions.com/queerspiracy](http://www.resolveproductions.com/queerspiracy)

## **Lucky Man**

During the Red Scare of the 1950's, Fred Wade, a hard drinking, violence-prone detective, discovers the latest in a series of society girls to mysteriously overdose on heroin. His case takes him through the underworld of rigged boxing matches and gritty burlesque houses. When Wade pins the murder on a wealthy tycoon, he becomes involved in a dangerous cat-and-mouse-chase that may expose his secret life of illicit affairs with men. Director: Dan Faltz

## **We Belong**

*We Belong* is a documentary about an Oil City teen who has the courage to stand up to bigotry and intolerance in his school – and the determination to tell his story to the world.

When C.J. is gay bashed in the school locker room, then arrested for disorderly conduct because he protests to an administrator about the harassment he has experienced, he decides to fight back by making a video documentary. His project leads him to other rural youth who have suffered anti-gay harassment, and shames the school district into developing an anti-bullying and diversity training program.

*We Belong* demonstrates that young people have the power to change their communities and the world, and that helping youth to tell their stories, in their own

way and on camera, is enlightening, empowering, and effective.

The director, Joe Wilson, will discuss his film at the festival.

## **Split**

Maddie Ann Carlson is a woman for whom nothing has ever gone right. A product of a broken home, a broken marriage and a stint of false lesbianism has left her on the streets and finally back at the Western Asylum. In charge of her care is Dr. Malloy, a man who is secretly in love with the beautiful and charming Maddie. As she fights to get better she is challenged with her inability to control her multiple personalities which make their presence known throughout the film. Director: Del Weston Website: [http://www.myspace.com/split\\_movie](http://www.myspace.com/split_movie)

## **Java Buzz**

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**Eclectic Etceteras** 118 Erie St., Edinboro, PA [www.myspace.com/eecoffeehouse](http://www.myspace.com/eecoffeehouse)

Sep 28 Rasta Mike 5-7 PM

Sep 29 Eden Light 1-3 PM

Oct 12 Seth and Friends 6-8 PM

Oct 13 Sweet Wednesday 1-3 PM

Oct 19 Luke Brawner Brawner 5-7 PM

Oct 20 Rasta Mike 1-3 PM followed by Heartbreak Club 3-5 PM

Oct 26 Tom Link 5-7 PM

Oct 27 Rashnee 1-3 PM

Nov 10 Jerry Gaff followed by acoustic show by Dustin Miller, Walter Sapsai Jr. and Belsapador 1-3 PM

**Intermezzo Coffeehouse** 12 Park Place, Fredonia, NY (716)672.6070 Fredonia NY [www.intermezzocoffeehouse.com](http://www.intermezzocoffeehouse.com)

Oct 5 - Friday Live Music Series featuring David Allen Coster, guitarist. Noon to 1:30 PM. Music to dine by. Free of charge. Reservations not necessary, but highly recommended.

Oct 14 - Meet the New Artist & Art Gallery Reception Noon to 2 PM. Photographs of Chautauqua County Regional Youth Ballet The Nutcracker by Rod Stilger. Free of charge.

# On Stage

**Sep 28-30 - "The Book of Liz"** in Fredonia NY at SUNY Fredonia, Rockefeller Arts Center, Bartlett Theatre. Theatre performance of new comedy written by Amy and David Sedaris. [www.fredonia.edu](http://www.fredonia.edu)

**Oct 3 - David Sedaris** at University of Buffalo, Buffalo NY. [www.ubcfa.org](http://www.ubcfa.org)

**October 5-27 Terrence McNally's "Some Men"** presented by Buffalo United Artists at the Alleyway Theatre in Buffalo, Fri & Sat 8 PM. About relationships between gay men and about gay life going back through the years. The play opens with guests arriving at a wedding, and the occasion prompts the men in attendance to reflect upon their lives. 18 and over. (716) 886-9239. [www.buffalobua.org](http://www.buffalobua.org)

**Oct 19-28 - "Rocky Horror Show" in Fredonia NY** at SUNY-Fredonia, Rockefeller Arts Center, Marvel Theatre, MS #1 [www.fredonia.edu](http://www.fredonia.edu)

**Oct 24- Tori Amos in concert** Buffalo, NY Shea's Perf. Arts Ctr. [www.sheas.org](http://www.sheas.org)

**Oct 30 - Tori Amos in Concert** Pittsburgh, PA Benedum Center [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org) [www.toriamos.com/](http://www.toriamos.com/)

**Nov 1 - Tori Amos Cleveland**, OH State Theatre At Playhouse Sq. Ctr. [www.toriamos.com/](http://www.toriamos.com/)

**Nov 25 Tegan & Sara Cleveland, OH** House Of Blues [www.hob.com](http://www.hob.com) [www.teganandsara.com/](http://www.teganandsara.com/)

**Mar 15 - k.d. lang in concert** at University of Buffalo, Buffalo NY. [www.ubcfa.org](http://www.ubcfa.org)

## Namoli Brennet returns to Oil City for CD release show

Tucson-based singer/songwriter Namoli Brennet will be performing at Kate's Lounge in the Arlington Hotel in Oil City on Saturday, Sept. 29, at 8 PM, as part of her East Coast CD release tour. The title track of Brennet's new CD, "Singer Shine Your Light," was written while Brennet was in Oil City earlier in the year.

Brennet has toured the country many times over, making stops at the San Diego Indie Music Fest, DC Pride, The Bitter End in New York, Boston's Club Passim and hundreds of coffee shops, clubs, festivals, colleges and house concerts. Along the way she's had the privilege of sharing the stage with Melissa Ferrick, Jill Sobule, Michelle Shocked and spoken-word artist Alix Olson. She's a 3-time Outmusic award nominee who's been featured in Performing Songwriter Magazine, The Advocate and the Chicago Free Press. Her music has received airplay in Houston, LA, Philadelphia, NYC, San Francisco, Portland, New Haven, Chicago, as well as in Australia and France.

Opening for Brennet is the local group "Thimble", comprised of Jerome Wincek, Latrobe Barnitz, Carie Forden and David Perry. There is a \$5 cover, which includes free appetizers and beverage specials.

For more information on Namoli Brennet visit [www.namolibrennet.com](http://www.namolibrennet.com)



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for our list of locations

# Michael dithers

by Michael Mahler

I am pretty excited that Joe Wilson's film, *We Belong: The Movie*, will be part of the GLBT screening at the Great Lakes Film Festival on Friday, September 29. The film is about GLBT youth who have overcome harassment in high school. One of the subjects in the film is Tim Dahle, whom some of you remember from speaking at the 2004 Pride March/Rally. Joe Wilson and his partner, Dean Hamer, were at the recent Pride March/Rally and were filming for a new documentary.

There was a very nice kid who recently called for advice about starting a GLBT support group at Gannon. I offered some suggestions on networking, and shared some of the history that I was aware of. Even if he doesn't get an officially recognized group, I hope that he can set up something informal. Every little bit that we do helps.

Amusingly enough, when I blogged about it, my brother in law read it and was going to suggest networking with a group at the University of Buffalo. When he googled "University of Buffalo" and GLBT, the first

link that came up was at [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com). So, he figured we were good.

Speaking of getting groups going, we are also working on getting a monthly week night social group for gay/bi men going again. There hasn't been anything for a few months, and I have gotten calls from guys who would like to go out and hang out. So, please consider yourself invited to join us for the first get together on Wednesday, October 17 at 7 PM at Papa Joe's Pepperoni Cafe, 402 W 8th St, Erie PA. I am thinking that we can work out schedule and location by consensus. For more info, contact me at (814) 456-9833 or email [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com).

I think it's very important to have social events that are well-publicized and open to everyone. Some folks do have a comfortable circle of friends, and that's great. However, some folks may not have found their niche yet, or might just want to expand the folks that they know.

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Thursday 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

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**Corry Office 814-663-3891**

# Out & About

Harry Miller (top) and Janice and Laurie (below) at the August 28 *Take a Stand Rally and Concert to End the War*.



## NY State Supreme Court upholds state workers' marriage rights

*from Empire Pride Agenda*

The State Supreme Court in Albany County has dismissed a case that challenged the New York State Comptroller's 2004 decision to treat out-of-state marriages of same-sex couples the same as any other legal marriage in terms of benefits afforded to state employees through the New York State Retirement System.

In conjunction with announcing the court's decision, Comptroller DiNapoli also announced that the retirement system would be recognizing all legal out-of-state marriages of same-sex couples and not just those from Canada. The original decision addressed only Canadian marriages and not those from jurisdictions like Massachusetts, Spain, South Africa, Belgium and The Netherlands.

For more information visit Empire Pride Agenda [www.prideagenda.org](http://www.prideagenda.org)

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# The Reverend and the Rally

By Rev Richard A. Moyer, Pastor  
Community United Church

When I was asked to speak at the Erie Gay Pride Rally, I wasn't sure I wanted to. For one thing, I have never been to the rally and really didn't know what to expect. I further reasoned that I wouldn't know what to say. A minister at a gay pride rally might seem a little like a fish out of water.

But I have to admit that I was more concerned about what some of the more conservative members of my congregation might think. "Who needs more controversy in the church?" I asked myself. And certainly there would be those who would object to my being so visible at what they would consider a "controversial" event.

I asked two trusted members of my congregation what they thought about their pastor participating in the rally. I knew that both of them would be honest with me. I was also certain that they had no agenda of their own that would prejudice their opinion one way or the other. If I were looking for a completely objective evaluation, they would be the ones to ask.

The first trusted parishioner said little. She seemed almost disinterested. This obviously was not a hot topic for her. Her casual reply was in the form of the question, "What would Jesus do?" That wasn't much help. I knew what Jesus would do. Jesus was always making controversial statements at controversial places. Jesus was forever being accused of hanging around with the wrong crowd. If people thought that the gay rally was the "wrong crowd," why would they not expect

me to be there as a follower of Jesus?

The second member of my congregation, instead of asking me what Jesus would do, asked me what I wanted to do. That, for her, was the important question. But that wasn't much help to me because I wasn't sure what I wanted to do.

After I was told that I was only to speak 2 or 3 minutes, and that there would be a number of other speakers, I began to feel more comfortable with the idea. Certainly I could speak on behalf of my denomination, the United Church of Christ, which, decades ago, was the first major Protestant church to ordain an openly gay minister. No one could argue with that approach-it is a true and simple fact!

With all that in mind, I made the decision to speak.

On the day of the rally, I was more that a little nervous. I had not yet met any of the rally officials, so I introduced myself to the first person I saw who looked important. He was exceptionally pleasant and well-mannered. He introduced me to the individuals I need to talk to before speaking and I immediately felt at home.

I stayed to watch some of the remaining performance.

Since it was a hot afternoon, I took off my suit coat and loosened my tie. I stood under a tree so that I was out of the sun's glare.

As I was standing there, a young woman who was working at the one of the booths, came over to me and said, "Can I get you some water; you look warm and thirsty."

I assured her that I was fine and because of a pending appointment I had to leave soon anyway.

Before I had spoken at the Pride Rally, she had never seen me before. And yet she was so concerned about my well-being. Her concern was clearly genuine and sincere. I was impressed by her thoughtfulness.

As she spoke those kind words to me, I knew for certain that I wasn't in the "wrong" crowd at all.

What I heard from her were words that Jesus spoke 2,000 years ago as they are recorded in the tenth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew: "Whoever gives even a cup of water...none of these will lose their rewards."

## Upcoming events!

**Oct 5-7 - Emmaus Retreat**, eighth annual gathering of gay Catholics, their families and friends, \$145 includes private single room and five meals, Jesuit Retreat House, 5629 State Road, Cleveland; [www.jrh-cleveland.org](http://www.jrh-cleveland.org), 440-223-6832.

**Affirmation Conference**, meeting of the world's Oct 5-7 largest organization for LGBT Mormons, Hyatt Regency Hotel on Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.; [www.affirmation.org/conference](http://www.affirmation.org/conference).

## Noted Theologian to Speak at Wayside Presbyterian

A noted theologian will be in Erie Oct. 20 and 21 to present a series of lectures based on his new book, *Jesus, the Bible and Homosexuality: Explode the Myths, Heal the Church*.

Dr. Jack Rogers, Professor of Theology Emeritus at San Francisco Theological Seminary, will be speaking at the Wayside Presbyterian Church, 1208 Asbury Road, Erie, PA. Dr. Rogers, who was Moderator of the 213th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), is the author of numerous books on biblical interpretation and the confessions of the church.



*Dr. Jack Rogers*

In his powerful new book, Dr. Rogers makes a Biblical case for equal rights for people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. *Jesus, the Bible and Homosexuality* describes Dr. Rogers's change of mind and heart on the issue; charts the church's history of using biblical passages to oppress marginalized groups; argues for a Christ-centered reading of Scripture; debunks often-repeated stereotypes about gays and lesbians; and concludes with ideas for how the church can heal itself and move forward again.

**Schedule for Saturday, October 20:** 8:30 AM Registration and Continental Breakfast; 9 AM lecture: "How My Mind Changed and How the Church Changes Its Mind"; 10:15 AM Small Group Discussions; 10:45 AM Break; 11 AM lecture: "How Should We Read the Bible?"; 12:15 PM Small Group Discussions; 12:45 PM Lunch; 1:30 PM lecture: "Getting the Facts Right and Resolving the Conflict"; 2:45 PM Small Group Discussions; 3:15 PM Conclude for the day.

**Schedule for Sunday, October 21:** 8:30 and 11 AM Worship Services, Rev. Dr. Jack Rogers will preach at both services -- Sermon: "God Knows the Human Heart" Text: Leviticus 20:22-26 and Acts 15:1-21; 9:30 AM Adult Education Hour in Fellowship Hall: "What You Always Wanted to Ask," Rev. Dr. Jack Rogers.

The cost for Saturday's program is as follows: \$25 for the day, \$10 a lecture, \$6 for lunch. For more information about Dr. Jack Rogers, visit his web site at <http://www.drjackrogers.com>.

Wayside Presbyterian Church is a member of the Presbyterian Church, USA, and welcomes children, youth and adults to a place of inclusive Christian worship, education and service. The congregation encourages diversity of opinion, lifestyle and theology among its members, creating a dynamic place for Christian nurture. The church seeks to be a community where everyone feels comfortable exploring their faith journey.

Wayside is located north of 12th Street on the west side of Asbury Road. Turn toward the lake at the intersection of Asbury and 12th, which is at the northwest corner of the Erie International Airport.

Three of Dr. Rogers' books will be on sale at the convocation and in advance of the event. They are offered at a 20% discount from the list price. The prices listed below include the discount. He will be available for book signings throughout the weekend. *Jesus, The Bible, and Homosexuality: Explode the Myths, Heal the Church* (\$14); *Claiming the Center: Churches and Conflicting World Views* (\$20); *Confessions of a Conservative Evangelical* (\$16). The lectures on Saturday and Sunday will be recorded, as will the worship service, and CD's can be ordered for purchase.

"It seems to me that the church and every person within the church is faced with a choice: to witness to an ancient Near Eastern cultural bias of male gender superiority, or to witness to Jesus Christ and his redemptive life and ministry. The best methods of biblical interpretation, from the Reformation on down through today, urge us to reject narrow historical and cultural bias and instead to follow Jesus' example. The purpose of the Bible is not to forever weld us to an ancient culture. The purpose of the Bible is to tell us the story of Jesus' life, death and resurrection."

Dr. Jack Rogers, from his book, *Jesus, The Bible, and Homosexuality: Explode the Myths, Heal the Church*

# National News Briefs

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by Bob

## New National Project Aimed at Youth Suicide Prevention

A new online campaign has been launched by The Trevor Project (Trevor), the non-profit organization that operates the nation's only around-the-clock suicide prevention helpline for gay and questioning youth.

The new campaign, called "Don't Erase Your Queer Future," is designed to expand and broaden the resources available to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth who are vulnerable to emotional distress and suicide. The overall goal of the campaign is to prevent suicide by promoting a culture that honors gay and lesbian achievement while encouraging queer youth to seek support when needed.

A new website (<http://www.donteraseyourqueerfuture.org>) is the focal point of the campaign, and was launched to coincide with National Suicide Prevention Week, which was Sept. 9-15.

This new campaign uses quotations from, and portraits of, prominent gay men and lesbians from the past (such as Oscar Wilde and Susan B. Anthony) and asks viewers to ponder the impact if these gifted individuals had committed suicide. The campaign also includes information about the personal and often largely unknown struggles these individuals overcame during their lifetimes.

"We are excited to launch this new campaign, a major component of our strategy to significantly increase the awareness of gay teenage suicide and the lifesaving services that Trevor provides to combat this crisis," said Charles Robbins, executive director of The Trevor Project.

"It is still largely unknown that suicide is one of the top three killers of 15 to 24 year-olds and, tragically, that gay teenagers are four times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers," Robbins said. "Moreover, for every completed suicide by young people, it is estimated that 100 to 200 attempts are made. It is our sincere hope that this new campaign and website, in conjunction with our free and confidential helpline and the other resources we provide, will enable Trevor to reach and save even more young lives."

The campaign, which is funded by donations,

will also include banner advertisements placed on prominent social networking sites.

## California Passes Gay Marriage Bill

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is expected to veto a new law passed by the California legislature that would permit gay and lesbian couples to marry. The governor vetoed a nearly identical bill two years ago.

Twenty-two senators, all Democrats, voted for the bill while all 15 Republicans in the Senate opposed it. The bill had previously been approved by the state Assembly.

The bill was introduced by Assemblyman Mark Leno, D-San Francisco, who also introduced the 2005 legislation. It would amend a section of the Family Code to define marriage as a civil contract between two persons instead of a civil contract between a man and a woman.

When the Governor vetoed similar legislation in 2005, he said that he supports the notion of equal rights, but would not overturn the will of voters who overwhelmingly approved Proposition 22 in 2000, the initiative that limits marriage to a man and woman.

## Harvey Milk Biopic Lands Big Stars

Actors Sean Penn and Matt Damon have agreed to play openly gay '70s politician Harvey Milk and Milk's killer, Dan White, respectively, in director Gus Van Sant's proposed biopic.

According to *The Hollywood Reporter*, the as-yet-untitled feature may begin production in San Francisco as early as December. But the uncertain start date may affect Damon's participation.

This is the latest chapter in a long-running race to film the biopic of Milk.

Producers Craig Zadan and Neil Meron (*Hairspray*) have been trying to make a screen version of Randy Shilts' 1982 bio "The Mayor of Castro Street" for more than 15 years.

Damon would play White, who shot openly gay San Francisco city supervisor Milk and Mayor George Moscone in 1978. After serving five years of a seven-year sentence, White committed suicide in 1985.

*(continued on next page)*



# National News Briefs

*(continued from previous page)*

## HIV Rate Up Among Young Gay Men in New York

New York City health officials have reported that infection rates for the virus that causes AIDS increased by 33 percent in the past six years among gay men under age 30.

According to a report released by the city's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, new diagnoses of HIV among gay men under 30 rose from 374 in 2001 to 499 in 2006. Gay males aged 13 to 19 also saw an increase in HIV rates: from 41 new cases six years ago to 87 in 2006.

The report noted that the majority of new cases were among black and Latino gay men. Specifically, more than 90 percent of young gay men under age 20 diagnosed with HIV were from either ethnic group, the report said.

Although the report did not offer explanations for why rates among young gay men and teens have increased, Dr. Donna Futterman, director of the adolescent AIDS program at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore, said that minority teens may feel they have to hide their sexual orientation.

"The pressure of covering up means you put yourself in riskier situations than if you could go on a date and ask out who you like," Futterman said.

Thomas Frieden, New York City's Health Commissioner, urged young men to reduce the number of partners they have and to protect themselves and their partners by always using condoms. He noted that this generation of young men is growing up without having seen their friends die of AIDS, which may be giving them a false "impression that HIV is not such a terrible infection."

## PA Woman Sues for Unemployment Benefits

A Pennsylvania woman has filed suit in Commonwealth Court after being denied unemployment benefits after moving to Florida with her partner of eight years. Under a doctrine called "follow the spouse," a husband or wife obliged to quit his or her job by a family move qualifies for unemployment benefits in Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

But the Unemployment Compensation Board of Review refused to approve a claim filed by Joan Procito, a financial manager from Drexel Hill, after she moved to Florida with her partner and stepson.

*The Philadelphia Inquirer* reported that during arguments held recently in Commonwealth Court, the Board of Review's attorney, Gerard M. Mackarevich told the judges "it would be madness" for the board to treat same-sex couples the same as spouses."

"How can the Unemployment Compensation Board of Review pick and choose between people to decide whether they are sufficiently intermingled to qualify as legally married?" asked Mackarevich.

Five years ago, a similar challenge in New York resulted in changes to that state's regulations.

The New York Department of Labor changed its policy in 2004, recognizing that unmarried couples in committed relationships have "good cause" for surrendering a job when their partner must relocate.

## PROGRESSIVE CALENDAR!

Visit the Erie LEAD calendar at [www.erielead.org](http://www.erielead.org) for local events dealing with issues like peace, social justice, the environment, health reform, civil liberties, diversity, gender, human rights, and wildlife.

*Check out the LEAD Calendar for events in the Erie area, like:*

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# Pride Rally was a Big Success

by *Erie Gay Pride, Inc.*

Erie's LGBT community showed its pride Saturday, Aug. 25, as nearly 200 individuals participated in this year's Erie Gay Pride March/Rally.

About 100 people got the event rolling by marching down State Street from The Zone Dance Club to Perry Square where the rally was held. Several of the city's most talented Drag Queens got to ride in style in a limousine generously donated by a local funeral home. There was also a Pride float using a truck and trailer donated by another very generous supporter.

Steve Glassman, chairman of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, was the featured speaker at this year's Rally. Other speakers were Rev. Rick Moyer of Community United Church, Rev. Steve Aschmann of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, Tammy Johnson from SafeNet and Tara Reynolds from the Women's Law Project in Pittsburgh.

The Master of Ceremonies for the Pride Rally was Buddy Dobson, "The Glowsofcerer," who also entertained. Entertainment was also provided by singer David Shaffer, as well as Miss Erie 2002 Michele Michaels, Miss Puerto Rico Kathern Glamour, Mistress Vanety and T.J. Knight.

A variety of vendors and information booths from numerous community organizations were set up around Perry Square as well.

This year's Pride March/Rally was organized by Erie Gay Pride, Inc., Erie County's newly incorporated LGBT organization.



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# Pride Rally and March

Photos taken at the Erie Pride Parade and Rally, August 25. First row: Allie, Dr. Dean Hamer (noted geneticist and life partner of filmmaker Joe Wilson), Cindy. Second row: Grant Morgan, Buddy Dobson the Glowsorcerer, Richard McVay from the Erie Iraq Campaign. Third row: Marching up State Street, Gretchen and Kristofer. More photos online at [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)  
Photos by James von Loeve.



*Double, double, toil & trouble,  
fire burn & cauldron bubble...*



# *The Coven of Darkness!*

**Zone's Haunted Bar!**

*October 1- 31!  
All Month Long!*

## *The Sorcerer's Ball Halloween Party!*

**October 27**

Cash Prizes! - Give-Aways!

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**October 1st- 31st**

### *The Coven of Darkness. Erie's only Haunted Bar!*

*Beware of Witches, Warlocks, & Wizards,  
in the Zone- All Month Long!*

**Saturday October 13**

### *Black Magic* ★★ **Black Party!** ★ *Wear Black!* ★

**Friday October 26**

### *Bewitched 2 Return of the Magical Divas!*

*They're going to cast a spell on you!*

**Saturday October 27**

### *The Sorcerer's Ball* Erie's Biggest Gay *Halloween Party!* Cash PRIZE for Best Costume!

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[www.thezonedanceclub.com](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com)