

January 1993 - May 2008



# EGN

CELEBRATING  
OUR  
**150**  
th  
ISSUE!

## Equality Forum 2008

by Equality Forum

**34 Parties, 14 Programs and 15 Special Events — World's Largest Annual GLBT Civil Rights Forum in Philly**

The 16th annual Equality Forum to be held from Monday, April 28 to Sunday, May 4 in Philadelphia, will feature 63 programs including 34 panels, 14 parties and 15 special events. The largest annual national and international GLBT civil rights forum has no registration fee and all substantive programs are free.

“In collaboration with 61 regional and international organizations, Equality Forum 2008 reflects our past and present and aspirations for equality,” said Malcolm Lazin, Executive Director of Equality Forum. Gays and Lesbians in the Muslim World is the international focus.

Equality Forum 2008 includes the International Equality Dinner at the National Constitution Center. New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson will receive the 13th annual International Role Model Award. Pennsylvania Governor Edward Rendell is the Honorary Dinner Chair.

Other special events include the Ninth Annual Art Exhibit all week at The University of the Arts, a retrospective of the works of internationally acclaimed photographer Duane Michals; the musical Hairspray at the Academy of Music; Conversation with Judy Shepard at the National Constitution Center; a BB“Q” party in Philly’s gayborhood; and SundayOUT!, the largest annual GLBT street festival in trendy Old City.

All 63 programs can be found at [www.equalityforum.com/2008](http://www.equalityforum.com/2008).

Equality Forum is a national and international GLBT civil rights organization with an educational focus. Equality Forum coordinates GLBT History Month, produces documentary films, undertakes high impact initiatives and presents annually the largest national and international GLBT civil rights forum. [www.equalityforum.com](http://www.equalityforum.com)



*Bears at Splash Lagoon at Erie’s popular Drenched Fur event. More photos coming next month.*

*Photo: Robert*

## Drenched Fur 4 Is a Splashing Success

by Gary

The first weekend of April was the fourth year of Erie’s premier bear run event, Drenched Fur. This year was host to a record 230 attendees, almost double last year’s run! Participants enjoyed a great weekend of activities from parties, visits to regional wineries, trips to gambling at Presque Isle Downs and Casino and also a private event at Splash Lagoon on Friday night. This year, we raised over \$1,000 for the Shriners Hospital here in Erie. The money donated will be provided for the children at Shriners to create their very own Build-A-Bear animal from the company’s website. Then, staff members from the hospital will visit the Millcreek Mall store to have the stuffed animal made as requested.

Estimates are that we expect to provide comforting stuffed animals for nearly 30 children over the coming months at the hospital! It goes without saying that many thank yous go out to all the volunteers, businesses and organizations that helped provide charity

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

The *Erie Gay News* is published monthly as a source of news, events, information and support for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered people (GLBT's), their families, friends & supporters in the Erie PA area.

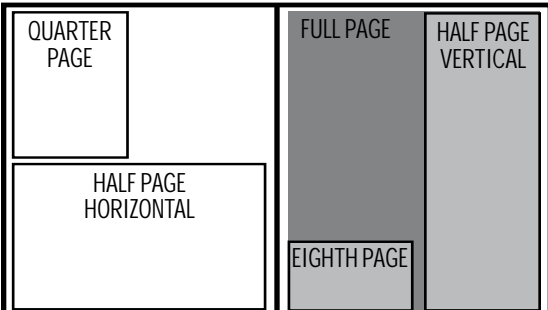
We welcome and encourage all readers to submit timely news, comments and opinions of interest to local GLBT's for publication in these pages. We will consider for publication any nonfiction article, blurb or illustration graphic which upholds this spirit. Please include your contact information with any piece that you submit.

We will not publish any material which promotes hatred or discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identification, race, religion, age, class, physical ability or any other reason. We do not support the exploitation of minors.

Views and opinions expressed in this publication don't necessarily represent those of the EGN staff.

**Classified Ads are now available for as little as \$10 for 30 words!**  
**See page 9 for more info.**

# EGN Rates & Data



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	7" high X 2 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> " wide
HALF HORZ.	\$90 - \$81 Prepaid	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " high X 6" wide
FULL PAGE	\$160 - \$144 Prepaid	7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " high X 6" wide

Camera ready art or manuscript and/or photos, illustrations and logos must be received by the 15th of the month. Photos and illustrations should be PDF or TIFF and HIRES. All hardcopy ads submitted will be reproduced as close as possible.

# THANKS

From Your Friends at Erie Gay News

To the Zone for hosting, Bruce Shrou, Charles, Jeff, Johauna, James von Loewe, Gary, Tom Gifford & Jack Walburn for folding; Bruce Shrou, Johauna, James von Loewe, Deb Spilko, Jerry McCumber, Jack Walburn, Tom Gifford, Paula and Dylan 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.

# Community News

auction donations, prizes for raffle giveaways and various services during the weekend. Last but not least the dedication of the DF4 Committee proved worthwhile this year. Thank you to Chris, Jack, Michael, Nick and Peter for all their hard work. And don't forget to mark your calendars now because Drenched Fur 5 will be held April 3rd-5th next year in 2009!

## Update on women's get-together at Zodiac

by Barbara

The Illusion - Erie's Women's Full Contact Football Team - has an away game on April 26! Good luck, ladies, but they will all miss the gathering at the Zodiac Dinor on that day! So, let's do it again, for The Illusion! Watch the website for the EGN for the date and time. It will be around May 1!

Here is the schedule of home games for The Illusion, played at the Mercyhurst campus on East 38th Street in Erie: May 31, June 7, 14 and 21. Come out and support the team!

Meanwhile, all other women should come to the Zodiac Dinor, 2516 State St., Erie, from 2 to 5 PM, April 26. For questions, call (814) 392-4861 or email womynspace at: womynspace-owner@eriegaynews.com

## Buffalo Brunch May 4

The annual Buffalo Brunch continues its proud tradition of support for a positive Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) community in Buffalo and Western New York at 12 noon on Sunday, May 4th at the Buffalo Convention Center. Over 500 people are expected to attend this important event, celebrating Buffalo's LGBT community and its friends for 12 years.

This year, the Buffalo Brunch will present its community service awards to two local organizations and one individual. The Honorable Sam Hoyt will be honored for his support of the LGBT community. Pilgrim-St. Luke's United Church of Christ will be honored for their dedication to diversity and impressive history of inclusion, the Imperial Court of Buffalo will be honored for their community fundraising.

Matt Foreman, the out going executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, will be

the Honorary Chair. Event Co-Chairs are Jeff Platt and Jim Rolls. Tickets are \$50; sponsorships are also available and will support projects, organizations, causes and people that positively impact the LGBT community in Buffalo and Western New York. Tickets and sponsorships can be purchased by calling Jeff Platt at 716-829-8156 or visiting [www.buffalobrunch.org](http://www.buffalobrunch.org)

For more information, please contact Lynn Tranchell at 716-698-9782 or [Lynn.Tranchell@BuffaloBrunch.org](mailto:Lynn.Tranchell@BuffaloBrunch.org)

## Unitarian Garage Sale

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie (7180 New Perry Highway, Rte. 97) will be holding their Annual 100+ Family Garage Sale on Friday, June 6 from 9-1 PM, and Saturday, June 7 from 9-1 PM.

Erie Unitarians are having their wonderful, fun, Annual Yard Sale on Friday, June 6th, and Saturday, June 7th, from 9 AM to 1 PM each day.

*(continued on page 4)*

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

- Does "IT'S HIS/HER WAY OR THE HIGHWAY" apply to the relationship?
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[www.safeneterie.org](http://www.safeneterie.org)

# Community News

*(continued from page 3)*

## Lambda Foundation celebrates anniversary with Joan Rivers *by Lambda Foundation*

In Celebration of The Lambda Foundation's 25th Anniversary, comedienne Joan Rivers will perform at the Byham Theater in Pittsburgh Saturday, June 21, at 8 pm.

Also performing on June 21 by special request are Pittsburgh's own Renaissance City Choirs. For tickets and information, call 412-456-6666. Tickets also available at the Box Office at Theater Square or online at [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org).

The Lambda Foundation fosters LGBT educational, social, cultural, health and artistic projects and programs in the Greater Pittsburgh area through grants and scholarships to organizations and individuals. Over the past 25 years, The Lambda Foundation has provided nearly \$1 million in support of a wide variety of organizations and individuals, and continues to grow and support LGBT initiatives in the local Pittsburgh area.

## Plans Underway for Erie Pride Rally *by Erie Gay Pride, Inc.*

Plans are well underway for this year's Erie Gay Pride March/Rally to be held Sunday, June 29. Volunteers are working hard to plan a bigger and better march and provide more entertainment at the rally in Perry Square.

As in past years, the event will get started with a march down State Street from The Zone Dance Club to Perry Square where the rally was held. Formation will begin at 12 noon with the march step-off planned for 1 PM. The rally itself should begin about 2 PM.

The next march/rally planning meeting will be held Sunday, April 27, at 2:30 PM at the Zone Dance Club, 133 W. 18th St., Erie. Those interested in volunteering are welcome to attend the meeting or log on to [www.eriegaypride.org](http://www.eriegaypride.org).

Erie Gay Pride, Inc. and the Erie Gay News are working hard to organize an outstanding 2008 Erie Pride Weekend. The annual Erie Pride Picnic at Presque Isle State Park's Rotary Pavilion is set for 1-6 PM Saturday, June 28. Saturday evening, local bars the Zone Dance Club and Craze Night Club will be extending the Pride celebration in preparation for Sunday's march and rally. Everyone is urged to participate and show their Pride!

## Millcreek 4th of July Parade *by Michael Mahler*

This year, we will again have a GLBT contingent marching with the politically progressive folks at Millcreek's 4th of July Parade. We will be assembling near 12th and Marshall on Friday, July 4 around 10 AM. Look for either the Erie Peace Initiative or the Erie Gay News banner. For some of us, this will be the 3rd year for doing this, and the response has been very positive. We would like to increase the turn out for this year. Supporting events like the picnic or the march/rally is important, but it is equally important to participate in the greater community.

And it's fun! For the previous 2 years, we have had lots of smiles and waves from the crowd. We were announced at the reviewing stand, just like all of the other contingents.

For more information, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833.

**the Rural AIDS Alliance**

**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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# “Marriage Protection Amendment” Moves Forward in PA Senate

by **Stacey Sobel**  
**Executive Director, Equality Advocates Pennsylvania**

After holding hearing on Senate Bill 1250, the “Marriage Protection Amendment,” the Senate Judiciary Committee voted this bill out of committee with a 10-4 vote. The “Marriage Protection Amendment” would amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to define marriage as solely between one man and one woman and prohibit civil unions and potentially more.

Erie County’s two State Senators, Mary Jo White and Jane Earll, played a critical role in the Judiciary Committee hearing and votes. In the Committee meeting, both Senators pressed the committee to hold additional hearings in order to better understand the possible impacts of the legislation. Senator Earll was one of the four Senators to vote “no” on the bill.

The Judiciary Committee then held a hearing on the legislation on April 10 in Pittsburgh. Opponents to

the bill wore “Value All Families” stickers and clearly outnumbered those people supporting SB 1250. Doris Cipolla of Erie was one of the hearing highlights. She gave moving testimony about the difficulties of living a closeted life and how the state’s laws make the lives of same-sex couples so difficult.

The bill will most likely be referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee next and the Appropriations Committee will reportedly be holding a hearing in Harrisburg on SB 1250 in the future. All bills are sent to Appropriations before the full Senate votes.

## Some Things You Can Do to Help:

- Please call Sen. Earll and thank her for voting against putting discrimination into the state constitution – her office number is (814) 453-2515.
- Please call Sen. White and thank her for her efforts to learn more about the legislation and ask her to vote against putting discrimination into the state constitution – her office number is (814) 432-4345.
- Come to Harrisburg on May 5! Join the Rally for All Families at 1 pm in the Capitol Rotunda and meet with legislators throughout the day. We need as many people as possible to fill the Capitol and tell our state legislators that our families deserve to be protected too.

For more information on the rally and SB 1250, visit Equality Advocates Pennsylvania’s website at [www.equalitypa.org](http://www.equalitypa.org) or contact me at [ssobel@equalitypa.org](mailto:ssobel@equalitypa.org) or 215-731-1447 ext. 11.

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# Calendar

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

**Apr 24-27 (Thu-Sun) - Cleveland Leather Awareness Weekend** Wyndham Hotel, 1260 Euclid, Cleveland, (216)252-2148, [www.clawinfo.org](http://www.clawinfo.org).

**Apr 25 (Fri) - Broadway Divas** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) The divas of the Zone will be performing your favorite songs from stage and screen! Get here early for best seats! Get into the Zone! Let us entertain you! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

**Apr 25 - 27 (Fri- Sun) - Opening Weekend** (Jones Pond Campground & RV Park, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) Welcome Home potluck. Phone: (585) 567-8100. Email: [info@jonespond.com](mailto:info@jonespond.com). Browse to <http://www.jonespond.com>.

**Apr 26 (Sat) - Hollywood Black & White Party!** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) Lights! Cameras! Action! Walk the red carpet into the Zone for our Hollywood Black & White Party! Wear black & white or come dressed as your favorite silver screen

## Information is Power

Stay informed about health issues concerning men who have sex with men. Sign up for the Pitt Men's Study Health Alerts email list service.



It's free and confidential and you can unsubscribe at any time. For more information, go to [www.stopHIV.com/pms](http://www.stopHIV.com/pms)

legend of yesteryear! Mae West, Charlie Chaplin, Marilyn Monroe, Elvis, John Wayne! Try out the casting couch on the dance floor and be a Hollywood hunk or silver screen starlet! Get into the Zone and be a star! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

**Apr 29 (Tue) - Men's Greet 'n Chat** (Nuzzi's Place, 2330 E 38th St, Erie PA 16510) 7 PM. Monthly week night social group 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>.

**Apr 29 (Tue) - Erie BROADWAY Series presents "Hairspray"** at Warner Theatre 7:30pm Call (814) 452-4857 or (814) 456-7070. Purchase at the Erie Civic Center box office, Ticketmaster outlets or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

**May 3 (Sat) - Zone's Spring Break FIESTA!** at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Yo Quero Zone! Girls & Guys Gone Wild! - Sexy Spring Break FIESTA at the Zone! 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! Vamos en el Zone! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

**May 5 (Mon) - Tegan and Sara** in Pittsburgh at Palace Theatre [www.thepalacetheatre.org/](http://www.thepalacetheatre.org/)

**May 5 (Mon) - Cinco De Mayo Party at the Zone!** at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

**May 17 (Sat) - EROTICA - Levis, Leather, Fetish Party!** at 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)*

# Calendar

thezonedanceclub.com.

**May 23 - 25 (Fri - Sun) - Military Maneuvers! - Memorial Day Weekend!** (Jones Pond Campground & RV Park, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) Attention Soldier! - Welcome to Boot Camp! - Camp Jones Pond wants you to "serve your fellow man" at our fun-filled Military get-away! Pitch your tent, relax by the heated pool, and rest up for a weeked of FUN! Saturday night is our Basic Training Party- wear Military Uniforms, Camo Boxers, and don't forget to polish those boots! Sunday night is the Black-Out Glowstick Party - wear your white military issue skivies and glow in the dark! At Ease Soldier! - You're in for some FUN! Phone: (585) 567-8100. Email: info@jonespond.com. Browse to <http://www.jonespond.com>.

**Jun 7 (Sat) - 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. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

**Jun 22 (Sun) - Second Annual SafeNet Poker Run to End Domestic Violence** (SafeNet Center, 1702 French St, Erie, PA) 10 AM - 6 PM. Registration until NOON @ SafeNet Center 1702 French st. Last card draw by 4 PM at: JR's on the Bay Music by: Geek Army from 2-6 PM. \$15.00 per person / \$25.00 per couple Includes: Run, food, music, beverages and prize giveaways For more information, go to [www.safeneterie.org](http://www.safeneterie.org) or call Rick Liebel @ 814-455-1774 ext. 234 Contact: Rick Liebel. Phone: (814) 454-8161 (24hr). Email: rliebel@safeneterie.org. Browse to <http://www.safeneterie.org>.

**Jun 28 (Sat) 16th Annual Erie Pride Picnic** (Rotary Pavilion, Presque Isle State Park, Erie PA) 1 - 6 PM. Community potluck. Sponsored by Erie Gay News. More details at <http://picnic.eriegaynews.com>. For more info, contact Michael Mahler at info@eriegaynews.com or (814) 456-9833.

**Jun 29 (Sun) Erie Pride March/Rally** (Perry Square, Erie PA) Sponsored by Erie Gay Pride, Inc. More details at <http://www.eriegaypride.org>. For more info, email [eriegaypride@gmail.com](mailto:eriegaypride@gmail.com) or call toll-free (866) 229-1974.

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

# Java Buzz

## Introducing Awakened Cafe!

722 West 8th Street, Erie, PA. (814) 452-CAFE email: AwakenedCafe@gmail.com web: www.AwakenedCafe.com

The Awakened Cafe is a new art gallery / coffee shop / performance space, from co-owners Jeremy Jeziorski and James "Diamond J" Starrett. "We specialize in Fair Trade organic coffees & teas, with an eclectic lunch and dinner menu, along with food for the mind and soul: art, live music, comedy and film. Check our website for sample videos and music."

Located near West 8th and Liberty in Erie, the Awakened Cafe will be having its grand opening with full menu in late April. But you can stop in now to take in the featured artwork and photography. Presently on display are art works by Angeliqum Buman, Kirsten Bole, Lipstick Originals Photography, Landon, and Jeremy Jeziorski. Every Thursday at 8 PM is Comedy Night, hosted by Jo Hyatt (who used to manage Moonsense.)

What's on the menu? A selection of sandwiches, snacks, soups, salads, and beverages. And in keeping with their commitment to social responsibility, they serve Higher Ground Fair Trade, certified organic coffees.

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 11AM - 1AM. The hours and menu will be expanding over the next few weeks.

### Upcoming Events:

May 8th, 8 PM: Rochester, NY's own Steve Piper takes the stage. Ken Hardley from Jamestown, NY opens. \$3 or larger donation for the artists.

May 9th, 8-10 PM: Fredonia, NY-based Erie Sax Quar-

tet weaves classical inspiration for the Cafe. \$3 or larger donation for the artists.

May 13 8PM: Chicago-based jam band Hudson makes a stop on their tour. Bobbhisattva opens. \$5 or larger donation for the talent.

May 18th, 1 PM: Soka Gakkai International (SGI-USA) Erie Historic North Group Buddhist meeting. Chanting, discussion, textual study. Open to the public.

May, TBA, 7-10 PM: Come on Out Erie.

May, TBA, 8 PM - Film Night and indie screenings!

## Brother Bean

*Brother Bean Global Coffeehouse is at 2803 State Route 257, Seneca, PA. Phone: (814) 677-0232 www.myspace.com/brotherbeancoffeehouse*

Upcoming shows:

May 3 - Jeff Wiley 7 PM

May 8 - Hello Tokyo 7 PM

May 10 - Lonesome No More 7 PM

May 17 - Greg Koons 7 PM

May 24 - The Illalogical Spoon 7 PM

## Intermezzo

*12 Park Place, Fredonia, NY (716)672-6070 www.intermezzocoffeehouse.com*

May 2 - Guitarist David Allen Coester Noon to 1:30 PM

May 31 - Medium Rev. Mary Ockuly (Reservations Only) 11:30-3:30 PM

Jun 3 - Bach Lunch (Reservations Only) 12:30-1:30 PM

## Eclectic Etceteras

*118 Erie St., Edinboro, PA (814)734-2909 www.myspace.com/eecoffeehouse*

Apr 25 - Big Wish Benefit 5PM Tom Link 6 PM Andrew Berlin 7 PM Letters to the Dead 8 PM Title Me Wrong 9 PM Randi Driscoll

Friday, April 25 Adam Chamberlain from 5-7 PM

Saturday, April 26 Title Me Wrong 1-3 PM

May 2 from 5-7 PM and May 3 from 1-3 PM Greg Adkins

May 15-17 - Edinboro Art and Music Festival www.edinboroartandmusic.com

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# Pride Picnic News

by Mike Mabler  
Picnic Co-ordinator

## What's new and what's needed!

Plans are shaping up for the 16th annual Pride Picnic on Saturday, June 28 from 1-6 PM at the Rotary Pavilion at Presque Isle State Park. The next planning meeting will be Monday, May 12 at 7 PM at Panera's in Yorktown Center, 2501 W. 12th St.

### Interested in performing at our talent show?

Please contact the coordinator, Robbie, at [talentshow@eriegaynews.com](mailto:talentshow@eriegaynews.com) by May 12. You should include your contact info, details about the act you would like to do, approximate duration and any requirements. The list of performers should be published in the June issue of Erie Gay News.

**The picnic menu is expanding this year!** In addition to hot dogs and Sloppy Joes, there will also be chicken and potatoes. The picnic is still a potluck meal as well, so those attending are invited to bring yummy food to share with everyone!

**Volunteers are needed throughout the weekend.** We encourage you to sign up for Pride Weekend at <http://www.eriegaynews.com/pride/register.php>.

The Pride Picnic is Saturday, June 28, and the Pride March/Rally is the following day, Sunday, June 29. We also will be marching as a community in the Millcreek Fourth of July Parade on the following Friday, July 4! Let's support all 3 events!

For more info, contact Mike at (814) 456-9833 or [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com) for general questions about the picnic.



**EGN**  
Erie Gay News



**CALENDAR LISTINGS**  
*Are Free!*

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

## Erie Sisters sponsoring kids' sand castle contest

This year, the Erie Sisters are sponsoring a sandcastle building contest at the Erie Pride Picnic for children 3-12 years of age.

The rules are simple:

1. Each child must provide own tools (buckets, shovels, etc.).
2. Each child will be allowed the help of two people. These may be adults or older siblings (over the age of 12). The help from more than two people may result in disqualification.

### Prizes:

Gift cards from local store chains will be awarded to children only. In the event that there are a large number of people participating, children will be divided into age groups (3-5, 6-8, 9-12), and more than one prize may be awarded per age group.

### Judges:

To be chosen by the Erie Sisters.

When registering online, please state the number and ages of children expected to participate.



**NEW NEW NEW NEW**  
**EGN**  
Erie Gay News  
*Communicate Your Stuff!*

## CLASSIFIEDS

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### Room Mate Wanted

To share large downtown home on Erie's west side with 2 gay male roommates and a small dog. Rent includes private bedroom, utilities, cable & phone. No pets. Call 459-8054.

# 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 7-8 - Buffalo Pride** [www.pride-buffalo.org](http://www.pride-buffalo.org)

**Jun 20-29 - Pride Toronto** [www.pridetoronto.com](http://www.pridetoronto.com)

**Jun 21 Cleveland Pride** [www.clevelandpride.org](http://www.clevelandpride.org)

**Jun 16-22 - Pittsburgh Pridefest** [www.glccpgh.org/PrideFest/PrideFest.htm](http://www.glccpgh.org/PrideFest/PrideFest.htm)

**Jun 14 - Hamilton Pride** [www.hamiltonpride.com](http://www.hamiltonpride.com)

**Jun 28 - ERIE PRIDE PICNIC** Rotary Pavilion, Presque Isle State Park, Erie, PA. Browse to <http://picnic.eriegaynews.com>

**Jun 29 - Erie Gay Pride March/Rally** March down State Street to Perry Square, [www.eriegaypride.org](http://www.eriegaypride.org)

**Jul 19 - Rochester Streets of Pride** [www.streetsofpride.com](http://www.streetsofpride.com)

**Jul 21-29 Detroit Black Gay Pride ("Hotter Than July")** [www.hotterthanjuly.com](http://www.hotterthanjuly.com)

**Jul 26-27 Pittsburgh Gay Black Pride** [www.pittsburghgayblackpride.com](http://www.pittsburghgayblackpride.com) (412) 537-7472 [pghblackpride@hotmail.com](http://pghblackpride@hotmail.com)

[pride@hotmail.com](mailto:pride@hotmail.com)

**Jul 26- Central PA Pride Fest** [www.harrisburgpride.org](http://www.harrisburgpride.org)

**Jul 30-Aug 5 - Cleveland Black Gay and Proud** [www.bgpcleveland.com](http://www.bgpcleveland.com)

**Aug 7-10 - Toronto Black Gay Pride** [www.toronto-blackpride.com](http://www.toronto-blackpride.com)

## Retreats & Resorts

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

**Easton Mountain Retreat Center.** Near Albany NY. 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** [www.provincetowntourismoffice.org/](http://www.provincetowntourismoffice.org/) and [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** Delaware. <http://rehoboth.gaycities.com/>

## 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.campdaviccampground.com](http://www.campdaviccampground.com)

**Campit** Saugatuck MI. <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)

**Freedom Valley** New London Ohio. This is a new campground, and they had been having some problems with hostility from the community. No updated information on that at this point. [www.freedomvalleycampground.com](http://www.freedomvalleycampground.com)

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

**Clickable Links at EGN website**  
[www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)



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<http://gayyellowpages.com>

# Summer Places & Events

## Sports and Outdoors

**Jun 13-15 GIFT Weekend** [www.clevelandgift.org/](http://www.clevelandgift.org/)  
**Ongoing: Gay Outdoors** [www.gayoutdoors.org](http://www.gayoutdoors.org)  
**GaySports** [www.gaysports.com/](http://www.gaysports.com/)

## Women's Festivals

*Here are some women's festivals within or close to the northeastern United States. There will be no WimFest this year. More festivals can be found at [www.offourbacks.org/Festivals.htm](http://www.offourbacks.org/Festivals.htm)*

**May 23-26 Virginia Women's Music Festival** [www.campoutva.com/](http://www.campoutva.com/)

**Jun 12-15 Womongathering** Festival of Women's spirituality (near Carbondale PA) [www.womongathering.com/](http://www.womongathering.com/)

**Jul 19-20 - National Women's Music Festival** (Illinois) [www.wiaonline.org/](http://www.wiaonline.org/)

**Jul 3-6 July 4 Kickback** [www.campoutva.com/](http://www.campoutva.com/)

**Aug 5-10 - Michigan Womyns Festival** (W. Michigan) [www.michfest.com/](http://www.michfest.com/)

**Aug 22-24 - Twin Oaks Women's Gathering** (Louisa VA) <http://twinoaks.org/community/women/index.html>

**Aug 29 - Sep 1 - Wild Western Women's Weekend** (Virginia) [www.campoutva.com/](http://www.campoutva.com/)

**Sep 5 - 7 Sisterspace Weekend** (Darlington MD) [www.sisterspace.org/](http://www.sisterspace.org/)

**Sep 13 - Ohio Lesbian Festival** (near Kirkersville OH) from 11 AM - 11 PM [www.ohiolba.org/](http://www.ohiolba.org/)

## Miscellaneous

**Apr 28 - May 4 - Equality Forum** in Philadelphia Big variety of events: Panels, parties, festivals, art, films, religious activities, food (dinner, dining out, brunch).

barbeque), theater, Blue Ball Weekend, and Mass and Couples Blessing. Visit [www.equalityforum.com](http://www.equalityforum.com)

**May 25 - SPIKE Memorial Day Picnic.** Pittsburgh GLBT Community Memorial Day weekend picnic, now called SPIKE. <http://pittsburghpridespace.com/prideWeek/spike.aspx>

**Jun 5-8 - One Mighty Weekend In Orlando.** [www.onemightyweekend.com](http://www.onemightyweekend.com)

**Jun 13-22 - Toronto Queer West Fest** Our main point is to show that there is a real and strong alternative to traditional Pride Festivals. <http://gaywest.905host.net/>

**Jun 14 - GIFT Cruise Aboard the Goodtime III.** [www.clevelandgift.org](http://www.clevelandgift.org)

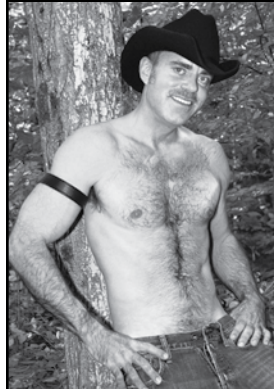
**Jun 14-15 - Allentown Art Festival** Arts and historic preservation event held in Buffalo's gay neighborhood. [www.allentownartfestival.com](http://www.allentownartfestival.com)

**Jun 15 - Gay Day at Cedar Point** Details at [www.outinthepark.com/](http://www.outinthepark.com/)

**Jun 19-22 Annual Golden Threads Celebration for Older Lesbians** Provincetown [www.provincetown.net](http://www.provincetown.net)

*(continued on page 12)*

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## Summer places and events

(continued from page 11)

com <http://home.earthlink.net/~goldengurl/>  
**Date TBA Pittsburgh Boat Cruise.** Usually around the July 4 weekend.

### Kids & Families

*Many 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) • Family Week 2008 Provincetown, MA / July 26 - Aug. 2 and • Pride in the Hamptons East Hamptons, NY / August 23

**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

For information on what you will need for crossing the border, visit [www.canada.travel](http://www.canada.travel)



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## On Stage

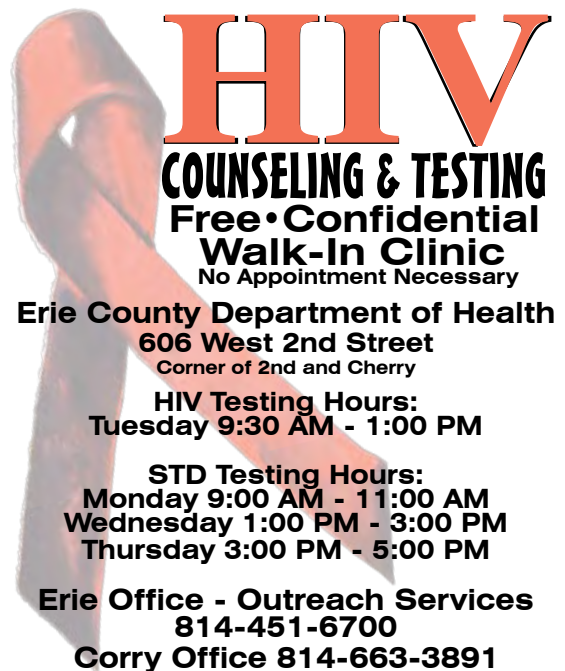
**"Facing East " by Carol Lynn Pearson**

**Playing at Buffalo United Artists through May 3.**

*Facing East* is the story of Ruth and Alex McCormick, an upstanding Mormon couple reeling from the suicide of their gay son. Stuck between their faith and their new reality, they encounter their son's partner, Marcus, for the first time at their son's funeral. *Facing East* had its world premiere in November 2006 in Salt Lake City. The play was produced in New York and San Francisco in 2007

Carol Lynn Pearson has been a professional author, speaker and performer for many years. Her newest book is *No More Goodbyes: Circling the Wagons Around Our Gay Loved Ones*. Although centered on Mormon characters, *Facing East* is accessible to anyone of any faith, anyone with a family, anyone who has felt the pain of loss, anyone with hope for change.

Playing April 11 - May 3, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 PM at Main Street Cabaret 672 Main Street in the Alleyway Theatre Complex in Buffalo NY. (716) 886-9239 [www.buffalobua.org](http://www.buffalobua.org)



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# National News Briefs

by Bob

## Hundreds Picket Westboro Baptist Church

The tables were turned on members of the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, KS, recently when around 400 people targeted the church for a protest of their own.

The Westboro church, led by controversial pastor Fred Phelps, is known for picketing the funerals of American troops, claiming they died because of U.S. tolerance of homosexuality.

Organizers said the protest drew marchers touting messages of compassion and tolerance for gays and lesbians. Gay, straight, bisexual and transgender demonstrators hugged, danced and cheered as passers-by honked their support for the protest. Organizer Chris Love of Leavenworth, KS, said he got the idea for his "Million Flag March," as he dubbed it, after Westboro members picketed the memorial service for actor Heath Ledger because of his role in "Brokeback Mountain."

"It's about time we did something like this again," said Hope Prescott of Topeka, who waved a rainbow banner. "We feel somewhat responsible for Westboro Baptist Church. It's about time we show our support for gays rights and all rights."

## Transgender Protection Law Passes in Kansas City

In a landmark move, the Kansas City, MO, city council has voted to extend antidiscrimination laws to protect expressions of gender identity. Council member Beth Gottstein, the primary sponsor of the law, said that while she expected some resistance, it was time to pass the measure.

"If our city code doesn't protect everyone, it protects no one," she said in a statement released by the Human Rights Campaign. "I am proud that we have taken this action to make clear that no one in Kansas City should have to face discrimination."

Mayor Mark Funkhouser issued a statement saying he would sign the measure into law because sexual identity should be covered just as race, religion, gender and sexual orientation are currently in the city.

"Perhaps it was an oversight that gender identity

was not included in the original legislation. If so, it was a mistake that we must now right," he stated in The Kansas City Star. "The rights protected by these laws ought to be extended to all people."

Kansas City joins more than 90 municipalities, 12 states, and Washington, D.C., in providing such protection.

## Anti-Domestic Partner Benefits Bill Killed

A bill to prohibit state agencies and schools in Kentucky from providing health insurance for the domestic partners of employees has been killed in committee in the state House of Representatives.

According to The [Louisville] Courier-Journal, the house Health and Welfare Committee voted 9-6 to reject the bill after it had passed the state Senate.

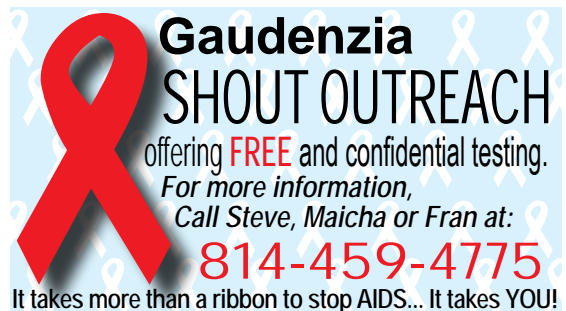
State Rep. David Watkins, a committee member, called the legislation divisive and accused the Senate of ignoring more prominent health problems such as smoking, obesity and adequate mental health services.

"I am tired of the same petty issues coming before us when we've got major issues to address," he said.

The bill's sponsor, Sen. Vernie McGaha, said he would introduce the legislation again next year. He said he was concerned about the erosion of the sanctity of marriage by the provision of domestic-partner benefits.

Openly gay Sen. Ernesto Scorsone expressed pleasure with the outcome of the bill's fate. "I think

*(continued on next page)*



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# National News Briefs

most Kentuckians believe if you are able to pay for the insurance, you ought to be able to buy it," Scorsone told The Courier-Journal. "I really do think it's a great victory for fairness."

## Study Says LGB Teens More Likely to Abuse Drugs

A new study by the University of Pittsburgh shows that gay, lesbian and bisexual teens are 190 percent more likely to abuse illegal substances than heterosexual youths.

"Homophobia, discrimination and victimization are largely what are responsible for these substance use disparities in young gay people," said study leader Michael P. Marshal, assistant professor of psychiatry at the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic of UPMC. "History shows that when marginalized groups are oppressed and do not have equal opportunities and equal rights, they suffer. Our results show that gay youth are clearly no exception."

The results come from an examination of 18 previous studies between 1994 and 2006, which tested the associations between drug use and sexual orientation in teens. The substances in the study included cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine and injection drugs.

"It is important to remember that the vast majority of gay youth are happy and healthy, despite the stressors of living in a violent, homophobic society," Marshal said. "More than anything, gay youth need love, support and acceptance from their family members and friends. It also is imperative that health care providers offer a safe, confidential environment to discuss health care needs with gay teens."

**"Why is it that, as a culture, we are more comfortable seeing two men holding guns than holding hands?"**

**~Ernest Gaines**

The study's full results are published in the current issue of *Addiction*.

## Mormon Church Officials Agree to Meet with Gay Group

Following decades of silence, officials of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have agreed to meet with a gay Mormon support group that has been trying to establish an understanding between the faith's leaders and its gay members.

Leaders of the gay support group, Affirmation, have been invited to meet with Fred M. Riley, commissioner of Family Services for the Mormon church and Harold C. Brown, the agency's past commissioner.

"We're pleased the church is opening up the possibility for dialogue," said Dave Melson, Affirmation's assistant executive director. "Affirmation has tried five or six times over the past 31 years to meet with church leaders. This is their second response."

Affirmation has repeatedly invited church leaders to meet or attend the group's annual conference, but the only response was a letter last year declining the conference invitation, Melson said.

In February, just three days after 80-year-old Thomas S. Monson was named president of the 13 million-member church, Affirmation petitioned the new leader to meet and begin an unprecedented conversation about gays in the church.

According to The Associate Press, Riley's letter to Affirmation says he and Brown were asked by President Monson to meet with Affirmation on his behalf.

"We believe that it is always important to have the opportunity to be given better understanding of your points of view so that the church can appropriately understand your organization and how best to be helpful," Riley wrote. The meeting is scheduled for August.

Affirmation officials hope the meeting will address issues like the historical treatment of gays by the church, including recommendations for aversion therapies to "cure" homosexuality; recommendations for more effective counseling methods; ways to avoid family break-ups; and a change in the Honor Code at church-owned Brigham Young University that can result in expulsion for sexually active gay students. The same standard applies to straight students.

Affirmation has about 2,000 gay, lesbian and transgender members worldwide.

# Knowing Wright from Wrong

Rev. Richard A. Moyer

Pastor Community United Church

When I first heard that the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, Barack Obama's pastor, was making controversial statements, I wasn't surprised. I have heard him preach many times. In his addresses and sermons to conferences and synods, he has never been reluctant to take on the most controversial issues of the day.

The media had a field day as they exposed Rev. Wright's disapproval of the fact that the promises and expectations of the American dream hadn't reached the section of south Chicago where his parishioners live. His sermons, addressed to poor Blacks, many of whom were confined to big city slums, pointed out the injustices and prejudices that so often affect them.

From the short portion of the one sermon that we heard, it did seem like his ranting and raving against the United States was inexcusable. On the other hand, his words were taken out of context, and few of us ever heard his sermon in its entirety.

It is simply unfair to take one sentence out of a full length homily and assume we know the point that Wright was trying to make. Also, it was unfair and ridiculous for the media to assume that Barack Obama agrees with everything his pastor says from the pulpit.

As I listened to news commentators and political pundits go on and on about the so-called "Wright Scandal", I concluded that it was simply another one of the many circus-like media events that are so common during presidential years.

But I became more concerned about Jeremiah Wright's statements after I heard a radio interview that originated at a political event in Philadelphia. Asked whom he was going to vote for for president, the young man being interviewed responded that he was for Hillary. When asked why, he replied that he was a gay man who was offended by homophobic remarks made in a sermon by the Rev. Jeremiah Wright.

I was shocked to hear that, recalling all the times that I had heard Wright speak, never giving any indication that he was anti-gay.

A few weeks after the interview with the gay man from Philadelphia, I did hear that portion of a Wright speech that did sound homophobic.

Now let me be clear to indicate that I don't know that Wright's remarks did actually fall into the category

of homophobic. I only heard one sentence that was taken from a long speech. Perhaps, in its context, I would have had a whole different understanding of what he was saying. And, more importantly, I certainly am not willing to hold anything against Obama that was said by his pastor. I do not believe that Obama is homophobic.

But suppose Wright did mean what it really did sound like he was saying. Here is a man who spent a lifetime railing against injustice, prejudice and discrimination. He has built a church on the foundation that in God's eye all people are created in God's image. Therefore, we should all be treated in fair and humane ways. If there's anyone who should be able to empathize with gay/lesbian people who have been discriminated against, chastised and ridiculed, it is certainly he!

I can only hope, and even pray, that those words I heard Jeremiah Wright say that sounded homophobic were taken out of context and unfairly perceived by me as being anti-gay because I didn't have the advantage of hearing his entire speech.

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