



EGN



Erie Gay News

Erie Gay Business Alliance formed

from Erie Gay Business Alliance

On April 3, about 20 people attended the first meeting of the Erie Gay Business Alliance at Breeze Steakhouse and Grille. Plans were quickly made for a candidates night about two weeks after that. The group also chose a name and a review of area gay business guides took place.

The candidates night took place on Sunday, April 20, at Craze Dance Club with about 50 people attending. All four Democratic candidates for Pennsylvania's third Congressional district attended and spoke. Independent candidate Steve Porter emailed that he had a previous commitment, and Republican incumbent Phil English neither attended nor responded to the invitation.

Representatives from the Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama and Ron Paul presidential campaigns spoke. Videos recorded by Spotlight TV are posted at YouTube and are linked from the online version of this article at the Erie Gay News site. The organizers wish to thank the owners and staff of Craze, John Cooper for his donations, Keith Drzal for moderating the event and lining up candidate attendance and Michael Mahler for contacting all the campaigns.

A candidates night is also being planned for the general election in the fall, to be held at the Zone Dance Club.

The Erie Gay Business Alliance will hold its next meeting Thursday, June 5 at 7 PM at the Zodiac Dinor, 2610 State St, Erie. Future activities will be discussed and there will also be a report about a meeting between Erie Gay Business Alliance members and Plexus, a similar group in Cleveland. Plexus considers itself "The Chamber of Commerce for the LGBT community and its allies", provides access to networking events for its members and publishes a LGBT Visitors Guide. It is also affiliated with the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce.

The group from Erie will be attending a networking event and will meet with Plexus leaders at that time. They will report back to the Erie Gay Business



Womynspace get-together at Zodiac Dinor. Read more about Womynspace on page 15

Alliance membership at its June 5 meeting. More information about Plexus can be found at its website: www.thinkplexus.org

For more info, contact the organizers at egb-owner@eriegaynews.com or sign up at <http://networking.eriegaynews.com>. Those who are already part of the group are asked to contact professionals and business people who might be interested and bring them to the June 5 meeting.

Come on OUT! It's Open Mic Night

by Erie Gay Pride

Come on OUT!, a monthly GLBT social networking group, will be sponsoring an "Open Mic" night at the new Awakened Café, 722 West 8th Street, Erie, Wednesday, May 28, at 7:30 p.m.

The Awakened Cafe is a new establishment that is a coffee house, gallery and performance space all in one. The Come on OUT! event will highlight some local talent with an open mic format! Want to tell a story, sing a song, tell some jokes or just kick back and enjoy

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Erie Gay News
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Editors: Deb Spilko and Mike Mahler
Ad Design: Mike Lipiec
Deadline for next issue: Jun 15 (Sunday),
will be out night of Tuesday, Jun 24.

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 14 for more info.

EGN Rates & Data

QUARTER PAGE	FULL PAGE	HALF PAGE VERTICAL
HALF PAGE HORIZONTAL	EIGHTH PAGE	

AD SIZE	PRICE/ISSUE	DIMENSIONS
EIGHTH	\$30 - \$27 Prepaid	1 5/8" high X 2 7/8" wide
QUARTER	\$50 - \$45 Prepaid	3 1/2" high X 2 7/8" wide
HALF VERT.	\$90 - \$81 Prepaid	7" high X 2 7/8" wide
HALF HORZ.	\$90 - \$81 Prepaid	3 1/2" high X 6" wide
FULL PAGE	\$160 - \$144 Prepaid	7 1/2" 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, Jerry McCumber, James von Loewe, Gary and Jeff for folding; Bruce Shrou, Johauna, James von Loewe, Deb Spilko, Jerry McCumber, Charles, 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

what others have to offer? Regular menu items will be available for purchase. If you would like to share you talent, please contact Peter at eriepeter@gmail.com.

For more information, call Brian at 1-888-749-7073 (toll free) or log on to: <http://come-onouterie.googlepages.com>.

Come on OUT! is presented in cooperation with Erie Gay Pride, Inc., Erie's GLBT community organization: www.eriegaypride.org.

Annual Resource update

by Michael Mahler

The Erie Gay News is conducting its annual resource directory update. This update is used for the online resource directory at <http://www.eriegaynews.com/resources.php> and also for referrals via the Erie Hotline. All entries should be returned by June 15. You may also submit a request to add or update a resource entry at <http://www.eriegaynews.com/resaddreq.php>.

Also, any organization that would like to have an

information table at the Pride Picnic on Saturday June 28, please respond by June 15 as well.

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

Latonia brings more great events to Oil Region

by Linda and Rox

Friday nights in May and June, the Latonia is having an entertainment series. Each evening begins at 7:30 with Great Things Happening in the Oil Region. This is a community fundraising series and many groups are benefitting by selling tickets. As you may know, the Latonia is lesbian-owned and your support is appreciated!! Visit www.thelatoniamusic.com or www.myspace.com/thelatoniamusic to learn more about the entertainment in this series.

Meanwhile, we would like to plan a regular GLBT "Friends and Family" night each month. What would you like to see us do? We held two dances with a DJ

(continued on page 4)

Memorial Day
through May 26th
Summer Patio Kickoff! **DAY**
Weekend

Every Monday at 10PM is **College Night**

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crazeerie.com • OPEN 7 Days per week at 9PM

After Pride Picnic Celebration!
Saturday June 28th

Community News

(continued from page 3)

which were well-attended. We could continue that, or try something new. Contact us for details on the next event.

Venango County now has a gay-friendly venue! We suffered some backlash when we held our first concert with Namoli Brennett. But, this community is much larger than we first thought. So, come out and join us.

The Latonia is located at 1 East First Street, Oil City, Pennsylvania 16301 Phone: 814-677-1260 Email: thelatonia@verizon.net

Erie Celebrates Pride Weekend June 28-29

Erie's gay, lesbian bisexual and transgender (GLBT) community will come together the weekend of June 28-29 to celebrate Pride 2008 with a picnic, march/rally, and social opportunities.

Festivities get underway Saturday, June 28, with the Pride Erie Picnic at Rotary Pavilion, Beach 7 at Presque Isle State Park. The Pride Picnic runs from

1-6 p.m. with food being served from 2-4 p.m. The Pride March will step off from The Zone Dance Club at 1 p.m. Sunday, June 29, with the Pride Rally beginning in Perry Square at 2 p.m.

The picnic will offer hot dogs, Sloppy Joes, chicken, potatoes and beverages. Those attending are asked to bring a dish to share. Paper plates and plastic silverware will be available. Alcohol is prohibited by state law, as are vendor sales. The annual "family portrait" will be taken at 4 p.m. Donations to support the picnic will be gratefully accepted. People may register in advance and/or volunteer online at: <http://www.eriegaynews.com/pride/register.php>. Individuals who would like to volunteer may also contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email info@eriegaynews.com.

Participants are also asked to bring a non-perishable item for the Second Harvest Food Bank of NW PA. Friends, family and children are welcome to attend. There will be games, a sand castle building contest for children 3-12, as well as a talent show.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of Erie's first Gay Pride March/Rally held in 1998. Individuals participating in this year's Erie Pride March should gather at The Zone, 133 W. 18th St., at 12 noon on Sunday, June 28. The marchers will head down State Street to Erie's Perry Square where the rally will be held.

A variety of vendors, informational exhibits, speakers and musical entertainment will be featured at the rally, which is sponsored by Erie Gay Pride, Inc. Food and legal beverages will be available at Coconut Joe's on North Park Row, directly across from Perry Square. Coconut Joe's will be open from 1-5 p.m. to

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Community News

help everyone celebrate Erie Pride '08.

Headlining this year's Pride rally will be noted magician Eric Brouman from Cleveland and the Pittsburgh rock band "Retrofitter" (see separate article).

Information about the Pride March/Rally is available at www.eriegaypride.org, by email at eriegaypride@gmail.com, or by calling 866-229-1974 (toll free). You may also volunteer online at: www.eriegaynews.com/pride/register.php.

What would Pride Weekend be without the Saturday night festivities at Erie's alternative night spots? Both The Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St and Craze Night Club, 1607 Raspberry St. Both clubs will be offering Pride celebrations to help everyone get into the festive, Pride mood. Check out their web sites for more information about specific Pride plans.

Magician Eric Brouman to Headline Erie Gay Pride Rally

by Erie Gay Pride

Magician Eric Brouman, OUT Magazine's "sexiest entertainer of 2006," will headline this year's Erie Gay Pride Rally on Sunday, June 29. Brouman will bring his brand of comedy magic to Perry Square where the rally will be held.

Brouman has performed around the world, working with such notables as Jerry Seinfeld, Gloria Estefan and Barry Manilow. He has appeared on the Rosie O'Donnell Show, has performed on Atlantis cruises and at Disney World, and has entertained for major corporations such as Ford Motor Company, Microsoft, IBM and Sony Music. The Hollywood Reporter called Brouman "brilliant, hilarious an absolute knock out." PRIDE Toronto named Brouman "Performer of the Year for 2006."

Also performing as part of the Erie Gay Pride Rally this year will be the Pittsburgh rock band Retrofitter. These musicians, who have ties to Erie, will perform at Coconut Joe's on North Park Row, directly across from the Perry Square gazebo where the rally will take place.

Rally activities will get underway around 1 PM with the entertainment and speakers beginning approximately 2 PM.

Millcreek 4th of July Parade

by Michael Mahler

This year, there will again be a GLBT contingent the Millcreek's 4th of July Parade. The group 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 folks, this will be the third year for participating in the parade, and the response has been very positive. It would be great 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 two years, the group has received lots of smiles and waves from the crowd and was announced at the reviewing stand, just like all of the other contingents.

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

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie

7180 New Perry Highway

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2.1/2 miles south of Erie Zoo, on Route 505

Annual 125+ Family Garage Sale

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Donations can be dropped off Sunday,
June 1st, thru Thursday, June 5th.

Calendar

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

May 22 (Thu) - Monthly Dinner Party at Zodiac Dinor (Zodiac Dinor, 2516 State St, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Tickets are \$10. Ticket includes food buffet, dessert, beverages. For more info or tickets, call the dinor at (814) 455-3543. Proud to support the greater Erie community. Organizations should contact the dinor about fundraisers. Phone: (814) 455-3543.

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 weekend 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>.

May 23 (Fri) - 26 (Mon) - Memorial Day Weekend Summer/Patio Kickoff! (Craze Night Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA) Contact: Duane. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to <http://www.crazeerie.com>.

May 24 (Sat) - Womynspace/Taboo Game (Craze Night Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA) 2 PM - 5 PM. Huge game of Taboo on the patio for Womynspace (Lesbian, bisexual and trans women's group.) Contact: Barb. Phone: (814) 392-4861. Email: womynspace-owner@eriegaynews.com. Browse to www.crazeerie.com.

May 27 (Tue) - Men's Greet 'n Chat (Perkin's Family Restaurant, 2714 West Lake Rd, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Social group for gay/bi men. All are welcome! Hope to see you there! Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

May 28 (Wed) - Open Mic Night (Awakened Cafe, 722 W 8th St, Erie, PA) 7:30 PM. Sponsored by Come on OUT!, Erie's GLBT monthly social group. If you would like to share your talent, contact Peter at eriepeter@gmail.com. Come on OUT! is presented in cooperation with Erie Gay Pride, Inc. (www.eriegaypride.org). Contact: Brian. Phone: (888) 749-7073. Email: eriepeter@gmail.com. Browse to <http://comeonouterie.googlepages.com>.

Jun 5 (Thu) - Erie Gay Business Alliance meets (Zodiac Dinor, 2516 State St, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Planning for future activities, including candidates forum for the fall general election. Contact: Keith. Email: egba-owner@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://networking.eriegaynews.com>.

Jun 5 (Thu) - Ladies' Night (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 8 PM - 2 AM. Get together for Womynspace. With bartender Ernie. Contact: Barb. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: womynspace-owner@

Do you know the signs of an abusive relationship?

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

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



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814-454-8161 HOTLINE
www.safenerie.org

Go to www.eriegaynews.com and click on Register for Pride in the right sidebar on any page! Looking forward to seeing you!

Calendar

eriegaynews.com. Visit www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Jun 6-7 Annual Unitarian 100+ Family Garage Sale. Friday, June 6 from 9 AM -1 PM, and Saturday, June 7 from 9 AM - 1 PM. The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Rte. 97, Erie PA.

Jun 6 (Fri) - Miss Erie Pageant 2008 (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) Join us for a "Dreamy" night as we crown the new Miss Erie! An Elegant Evening of Entertainment! Applications and rules available at the bar or on our website! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Jun 7 (Sat) - HEAVEN - Spring White Party! at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. A night of Fantasy and Fun! One of our biggest events of the season! Wear White! - White denim, White lace, White underwear, White toga! - just wear anything White! Grab your Angel wings and come dance on Cloud 9! Get into the Zone!- your stairway to Heaven! Phone: (814) 452-0125. www.thezonedanceclub.com.

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 per person /\$25 per couple Includes: Run, food, music, beverages and prize giveaways For more information, go to 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 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 28 (Sat) - After Pride Picnic Celebration (Craze Night Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA) Contact: Duane. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to www.crazeerie.com

Jun 28 (Sat) - Rainbow PRIDE Underwear Party! (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) SMILE!- Show your PRIDE! Join us for a night of fun as we celebrate Erie Gay Pride! Rainbow jello shots, glowsticks, and give-aways! Show off your SMILE!-
(continued on next page)

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

Calendar

Wear FUN Joe Boxer underwear & your Zone or Gay PRIDE t-shirts in rainbow colors! Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, & Purple... The Gay Rainbow starts at the Zone and ends at Perry Square! Join us Sunday at Noon in the Zone parking lot for the start of the Erie Gay PRIDE March! SMILE!- Show your PRIDE! Thank you for making us your #1 Gay party destination! (814) 452-0125. www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Jun 29 (Sun) - Step-off for the Erie PRIDE March! (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 12 PM - 1 PM. The Gay Rainbow starts at the Zone and ends at Perry Square! Join us pre-march for a light lunch as we assemble to march down State Street to Perry Square!- Wear your Zone or PRIDE t-shirts, bring a banner or sign, and the Zone will supply Rainbow flags and balloons to show off your Gay PRIDE! (814) 452-0125. www.thezonedanceclub.com.

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

Jul 5 (Sat) - Uncle Sam's Indepen-Dance Daze! (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) We're looking for a few good men and women to celebrate the good ol' USA at the Zone's U.S.O. Independence Day Party. Wear red, white, or blue ... or military uniform from the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marines. Polish those boots and join us for some off-duty fun! Dress as Uncle Sam, Lady Liberty, or wear FUN patriotic boxers. Parade on in and dance under the fireworks on the dance-floor as we light up the night! American Pride!- Gay fun! Don't be AWOL! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Visit: www.thezonedanceclub.com

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On Stage

May 24 - Namoli Brennet in Oil City at Oil Region Indie Festival. www.namolibrennet.com
www.myspace.com/oilregionindie

Jun 4 - True Colors Tour 2008 in Toronto at Molson Amphitheatre. Line-up: Cyndi Lauper, The B-52s, Rosie O'Donnell, Indigo Girls, The Cliks, with Host Carson Kressley. www.truecolorstour.com

Jun 14 - Shari Gross at Latino's Restaurant & Bar 1313 Parade St, Erie, PA. 7 PM - 9 PM. Jazz/blues singer. Reservations suggested: 452-1966.

Jun 20-22 Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus: "Connections Concerts" Times and locations at www.buffalogaymenschorus.com

Jun 21 - Joan Rivers In Celebration of The Lambda Foundation's 25th Anniversary at the Byham Theater, Pittsburgh. Also appearing: Renaissance City Chorus. 8PM For tickets and information, call 412-456-6666. www.lambda-pgh.org/

Jun 21-22 - North Coast Men's Chorus "Tunes from Tales (Music for Mouse)" The Chorus is joined on-stage by author **Armistead Maupin** blends readings from his books with music. www.ncmchorus.org

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Java Buzz

Intermezzo

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

On exhibit until mid-June is Tom Malinoski's "In Wandering Rumi's Field," inspired by 13th century scholar, mystic and poet Jelaluddin Rumi.

Upcoming:

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

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

Jun 6 - David Coester, guitarist 12-1:30PM

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 24 - The Illallogical Spoon 7 PM

May 31 Title Me Wring/Canopy View 7PM

Jun 7 - Brad Yoder (Acoustic, indie, folk, rock) 7PM

Jun 14 2008 - Bruce Squared Band (folk, blues, folk rock) 7PM

Jun 21 2008 - Jerome Wincek & Old Hats 7PM

Awakened Cafe

722 West 8th Street, Erie, PA. (814) 452-CAFE email: AwakenedCafe@gmail.com web: www.AwakenedCafe.com. Comedy Night every Thu at 8pm - no cover (donations for talent encouraged) ; open mic in addition to our featured talent. Films on weekends beginning around June 1st - check our website for info. May and June will be GRAND OPENING events.

May 24 - Jake Johns \$3 donation or larger. Gabriel Poland opens.

May 28 - Come On Out Erie 7:30PM, monthly variety show. For details see article on front page.

May 30 - Gene Stovall Trio 8PM \$5 or more donation. Pittsburgh-based trio, opener TBA.

Jun 4 - Travelogue Evening (share stories and experiences) 7PM

Jun 6 - Gabriel Poland 8PM \$3.00 donation or more.

Jun 28 2008 - Veteran Status 7PM

WWW - AwakenedCafe.com

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722 W 8th St - Erie, PA
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Rotary Pavilion
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Waterworks
Cabins

Saturday, June 28, 2008

At Presque Isle 1PM to 6PM
Food Served From 2PM to 5PM
Family Portrait at 4PM

Volunteers Needed!!

We need volunteers for one hour shifts in the kitchen, at the registration table, and at the photo table.

These are great ways to meet people, make friends and have fun. Please contact Mike Mahler about volunteering. You can also sign up to volunteer when you pre-register online for the Pride Picnic.

For more information call:
814-456-9833

email info@eriegaynews
visit <http://picnic.eriegaynews.com>



State law prohibits alcohol at the Park.

Erie's 10th Annual Pride March & Rally, Sunday, June 29

Marchers will gather at The Zone, 133 W. 18th St., at 12 noon, and step off at 1 PM for the march down State Street to Perry Square.

Activities in Perry Square will begin approximately 1 p.m. with a wide variety of vendors and displays. Entertainment and speakers from 2-4 PM.

Featuring
Magician

Eric

Brouman
ericbrouman.com

Eric will bring his unique brand of humor, magic and entertainment to Erie Pride '08. Eric has performed on the Rosie O'Donnell Show, Atlantis Cruises, Disney World and with such entertainers as Jerry Seinfeld,

Gloria Estefan and Barry Manilow.

He has done corporate performances for Microsoft, Ford Motor Company, Sony Music, IBM, and many others.

**Also
Appearing**

The Pittsburgh
rock group
School of Athens

**Food and legal beverages
will be available from
1-5 PM at Coconut Joe's
on North Park Row**

Register online at

<http://www.eriegaynews.com/pride/register.php>

**You can also register for
the Pride Picnic on June 28.**

Show Your Pride!

**THE
MARCH
& RALLY**

SPONSORED BY:

Erie Gay

PRIDE

www.eriegaypride.com



The Bible Says...

Rev. Richard A. Moyer

Pastor Community United Church

In my first few years as a minister, I often used the phrase, "The Bible says..." when I preached. I suppose I subconsciously borrowed it from Billy Graham, who used to say that all the time. My theology was very conservative in those days, so it made sense to me—the Bible says it; I believe it!

One Sunday, after worship, a parishioner met me at the door and challenged me with a question: "Do you worship God or do you worship the Bible?" I was offended by his question. Of course I worshipped God. To worship a book would be like idol worship. I replied by saying that I worshipped only God.

"Oh," he said, "the way you talk I thought maybe the Bible is more important to you than God."

His words made me stop and think. Could it be possible that I would make the mistake of putting so much emphasis on a book of ancient truths that I would miss the Word of God?

A short time after that encounter, I attended a

meeting that featured a well-known traveling evangelist who came to town to preach his version of the Scriptures. I knew I wasn't going to agree with everything he said, so I went as much out of curiosity as anything else.

I was also interested in going to hear him because he was called, "The Walking Bible."

As I listened to him preach, I was certain that he was living up to his claim to be able to quote the Bible, giving chapter and verse, entirely from memory. He was phenomenal. As he spoke he quoted one lengthy verse of Scripture after another after another without so much as a note in front of him.

What I also noted was that he wasn't giving the context of the verse he was quoting. Neither was he giving any of the historical contexts of theological background. The entire sermon was just one Bible verse after another, all of them jumbled together without any valid or meaningful interpretation.

I wondered if he was worshipping the Bible more than he was listening for the voice of the Spirit. And, I determined that I would try to be careful not to make the same mistake.

There's a place in the Bible where Jesus says to his disciples, "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear (grasp) them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you in all truth." (John 16:12). Any intelligent Bible student must grapple with what that means.

What it means to me is that the "Spirit of truth" mentioned in John 16, is still speaking today. We still have more to learn, more to hear, and more information of receive. We do not worship the Bible. We worship the Spirit of the true and living God!

When it comes to dealing with the issue of homosexuality the church has often been anxious to go right to the Bible to try to interpret passages written by the Apostle Paul and to explain why Jesus is silent on the subject.

I wonder if we would be better off trying to grasp what the Spirit has to say to us today, in this time, as God still speaks to us concerning some of the issues that cause so much controversy in the church!



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California Ruling

from National Center for Lesbian Rights

(San Francisco, CA, May 15, 2008)—The California Supreme Court ruled that the state can no longer exclude same-sex couples from civil marriage.

In a 4-3 decision, drafted by Chief Justice Ronald George, the court ruled: “In light of the fundamental nature of the substantive rights embodied in the right to marry — and their central importance to an individual’s opportunity to live a happy, meaningful, and satisfying life as a full member of society — the California Constitution properly must be interpreted to guarantee this basic civil right to all individuals and couples, without regard to their sexual orientation.”

The National Center for Lesbian Rights argued the case on behalf of 14 same-sex couples and two organizations, Equality California and Our Family Coalition.

The court ruled that lesbian and gay couples are entitled to the same fundamental right to marry as heterosexual couples as protected by the California constitution. The decision explicitly strikes down Proposition 22, a voter-passed initiative that passed in 2000 that sought to limit marriage to only between a man and woman. Under California rules of procedure, the decision can not go into effect for at least 30 days.

Currently, lesbian and gay couples may legally marry in Massachusetts, Canada, Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium, and South Africa.

In anticipation of today’s ruling, right-wing organizations are attempting to amend the California Constitution to openly discriminate against lesbian and gay couples. Groups funded by out-of-state organizations have submitted signatures to place an initiative on the November ballot that would ask voters to alter the constitution by denying gay and lesbian couples the freedom to marry, which the court upheld today. The California secretary of state has not yet determined if the discriminatory initiative has qualified for the November ballot.

In an interview on April 11, Gov. Schwarzenegger stated that an initiative to amend the California Constitution to ban gay and lesbian couples from marriage was “a waste of time,” adding “I will always be there to fight against that. It will never happen.”

For more detailed information on the decision, visit the National Center for Lesbian Rights website at www.nclrights.org

PA marriage amendment stalled

*by Stacey Sobel, Executive Director
Equality Advocates Pennsylvania*

On May 6, the Pennsylvania Senate, by a voice vote, “Tabled” or stalled Senate Bill 1250. The legislation would have banned marriages for same-sex couples, civil unions and possibly more for all unmarried couples. The legislation may become active again if the state House of Representatives wants to move the legislation forward.

The prime sponsor of the legislation, Sen. Michael Brubaker (R-Lancaster), stated that he was proposing the legislation be tabled because the Speaker of the House, Dennis O’Brien (R-Philadelphia), was assigning the legislation to the House State Government Committee if it passed the Senate. The House State Government Committee is chaired by Rep. Babette Josephs (D-Philadelphia), a strong supporter of the LGBT community, who is opposed to the legislation. Rep. Josephs has stated that she would not move the legislation out of committee.

It is important for everyone to understand that the bill is STALLED, not DEAD. Sen. Brubaker said that if the House indicates that the bill will go to another committee or that it is interested in voting on the bill, the Senate will bring it to the floor for a vote.

Everyone needs to call or email their state Representative now and tell him/her to oppose SB1250. Visit Equality Advocates’ website at www.equalitypa.org to find the contact information or to email your representative (click on the “state” tab above your federal legislators’ pictures to get your state legislators’ information).

Calls and emails also had an impact on the Senate. Many Senators were losing their enthusiasm for the legislation due to strong constituent opposition. Erie County’s two State Senators, Mary Jo White and Jane Earll, played critical roles in showing how the legislation could possibly harm thousands of Pennsylvanians. Please deliver the same message to your state Representative.

A constitutional amendment must pass both chambers of the legislature with the same language in two consecutive two year legislative sessions before it can go to the voters. The amendment must also pass


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PA Amendment

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at least 90 days prior to a statewide election in each session. This means that the proposed legislation must be passed by the middle of August to be validly passed for the current legislative session. The Governor cannot veto a constitutional amendment.

Contact me at ssobel@equalitypa.org or 215-731-1447 ext. 11 to find out how to become more involved.



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10014 646-213-0263 or email gypages@gmail.com

<http://gayellowpages.com>

Read Erie woman's testimony about the ban

On April 10, 2008, retired Erie schoolteacher Doris Cipolla testified against before the PA Senate Judiciary Committee at the Allegheny Courthouse in Pittsburgh PA. She was testifying regarding Pennsylvania Senate Bill 1250, which is the so-called Marriage Protection Amendment, intended to ban marriage between people of the same sex. You can read her complete testimony at the Erie Gay News website at www.eriegaynews.com Also at the EGN website you can read Doris' article Marriage Protection Amendment threatens Constitution



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Womynspace Updates & News

by Barb

What we've done

We had a wonderful time at the April 26 Women's Gathering at the Zodiac! Ten in all attended, we all made nine new friends, and we have already made many plans for future social events, resources, and the beginnings of the organization of the Erie LBT Womens' Community!

On May 1 we met at the Zodiac Dinor for free coffee and dessert with The Illusion Womens' Football Team . About 25 attended – we had a blast! Thanks to Mike, who owns the Zodiac!

Upcoming events:

Illusion away games every Saturday in May – Carpools to attend away games available through the Womynspace email list. Game schedule - Home games begin May 31 at Mercyhurst. Games are at 7 PM. Directions available through Womynspace . Season tickets on sale soon! Buy and save on the 4 home games!

May 22 - Come and join us for Dinner at The Zodiac at 6:30 PM. \$10 buys appetizers, full-course dinner and beverages! You liked the Zodiac's desserts, try their dinners!

May 24– A Huge Game of Taboo 2 PM to 5 PM at The Craze Patio Bar

May 31- 7 PM - at Mercyhurst College, Tullio Field E. 38th St., Erie – The Illusion Womens' Full-Contact Football Home Game – Watch the game and support our local team! Included on season ticket.

June 28 - Womens' Table at the '08 Pride Picnic – Resources, Activity Lists, Social Gatherings

A Future Website of our own – The LBT Womens of Erie website – a place to post info, find support, educational information, health topics, professional referrals, and...what would YOU like to see there? Cost is \$100 per year.

Community Work – we want to contribute something positive to the Erie area community. By doing some fund-raising, volunteer work, as a group.

Form a fitness group –Having a gym buddy, or a buddy to take a power walk with is a great source of motivation! A group power walk at Presque Isle or some other location – to be announced.

Support System – By networking, with communication through Womynspace we can lend a listening ear to one of us while she is going through a difficult



First Womynspace get-together at the Zodiac, April 26.

time. Talk to some one who you know will accept you for who you are, and can identify with you.

A Nature walk at Asbury Park – Carpools available. Walks by Laurie & Alex!

Carpools to other cities' Prides and Illusion away games.

Group trip to: Splash Lagoon, Waldameer, Waterworld - maybe a picnic there?

Zoo Day – Group outing – Janice & Laurie will provide member entry prices

Rent Canoes in the lagoons of Presque Isle, attend a Sea Wolves game, River Rats game, go bowling, play putt-putt, golf, see a womens' softball game, gather on the patio at The Craze, take a cruise on the Victorian Princess... Enjoy Life with Friends!!!

Congratulations to The Illusion for winning their 1st game of the season – 15 to 0!!!

Our own logo – to use on our website, etc. Shelly is working on it – submit your ideas!

Professional referrals that will be available on our website now include: GLBT Mental Health – by Martha, Drug & Alcohol Abuse – by Renee, Physical Therapy – by Laura.

Our own MySpace – Being created even now by Renee.

The Erie Babes Softball Team – Medium pitch league of Wattsburg – For women over 25, play for
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Womynspace

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fun! Mary is getting us a contact to join the league. And we already have a sponsor, The Zodiac! Maybe we can get those T-shirts!

The 2nd Sunday of every month, starting June 8th – Gather at the Zodiac 2 to 5 for games, brunch, specials.

Pictionary game night – maybe at the Patio Bar at Craze?

A Craft Day – led by Tracy – to be announced, in the winter season (we can think about that later!) but good to look forward to.

We have our very own bus driver, Sue! Bus rentals could be for Illusion away games, out of town Pride events, concerts, etc.

Ladies' Night at The Zone – Thursday, June 5th, 8 PM – 2 AM Bartender – Ernie

And of course, led by Alisa, it's Lesbian Kite Flying at The Erie Pride Picnic '08 – Rotary Pavillion, Presque Isle – See the EGN website to register for the Pride! So get yourself a kite, and go!!!

Check Erie Gay News for events, too.

Contact info Contact: Barb. Phone: (814) 392-4861. Email: womynspace-owner@eriegaynews.com

LBT Womens' Nature Walk May 31

By Laurie, Janice & Alex

For our nature walk, we chose the GreenWay Trail directly across from Asbury Woods. It starts by the picnic pavilion, which is just north of Asbury Barn and Park on Asbury Rd. and just south of West 38th St. It was nice, and even though it had rained a lot on Saturday, we had little trouble navigating around any mud. The trail is about 5 feet wide most of the way (a little over three miles). It took us 2 hours. Some dirt, some forest floor, some boardwalk and some grass. It goes through woods and meadows, up and down hills, and crosses Walnut Creek (on a bridge). There are two or three observation decks and several resting benches along the way. There is a shorter boardwalk trail across the road that goes around the area of the actual Nature Center Building; Janice said that if others felt they did not want to attempt the longer hike up and down hills that she could do one of two things: Those folks could walk the boardwalk paths around the Nature Center then go inside, to enjoy the exhibits, gift shop, etc. Or they could walk the trail, but double back at the halfway point, before the hill. That is an option we could decide on the day of the hike, depending on who shows up. The picnic pavilions give the option of bringing a lunch to enjoy afterwards.

We have set the date for the walk as Saturday, May 31 at 1 PM (Rain date the following day, Sunday, June 1st at 1 PM)

If you need a ride or want to give a ride - post to womynspace@eriegaynews.com!!!

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:

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National News Briefs

by Bob

PA House Kills Marriage Amendment, for Now

Democrats in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives have stopped an effort by the state Senate to amend the state constitution to ban same-sex marriage.

Republican State Sen. Michael Brubaker, the main sponsor of the Senate bill, asked the Republican-majority in the Senate to table the bill indefinitely because the Democratic-controlled House said that if passed, the Senate bill would be referred to the House State Government Committee. That committee is chaired by Rep. Babette Josephs, a strong opponent of the proposed constitutional ban on same-sex marriage.

Brubaker said he is not abandoning the bill, but is not sure when he will push for it again. The proposed constitutional amendment passed both the Senate appropriations and judiciary committees, but was tabled before it came up for a final vote in the full Senate.

At a recent rally, Josephs called Brubaker's bill "discriminatory, disgraceful, morally wrong and unnecessary." Brubaker defended his bill by saying it would enforce the long-held tradition of heterosexual marriage.

"I have a healthy respect for the homosexual community," the Pittsburgh Post Gazette quoted him as saying. "I have a healthy respect for heterosexuals. I have a deep respect for the institution of marriage. I am standing for marriage. I am not standing against any individual sector of our society."

To amend the Pennsylvania constitution, the same bill must be approved in two different legislative sessions and then by a statewide referendum.

Australia Revamps Laws that Discrimination Against Gays

The government of Australia is taking steps to remove discrimination against gay couples from a raft of federal laws, but is stopping short of allowing same-sex marriages.

According to Australia's Attorney General, Robert McClelland, the proposed changes would result in gay couples in long-term relationships being treated

the same as married couples on issues such as taxation, pensions and welfare payments. But McClelland said that marriage would not be among the laws changed.

"The government believes that marriage is between a man and a woman," he said.

The changes impact about 100 different laws and will begin being introduced in Parliament next month. The process is expected to be completed by mid-2009, McClelland said.

Some examples of the changes include that children being reared by gay couples would be considered dependents of both adults for tax and unemployment benefits, and same-sex couples would be treated as a family unit for pension purposes.

Gay rights advocates welcomed the changes, but said the government should go further and recognize gay marriages.

"Gay and lesbian Australians will not be fully equal until we are allowed the right to marry the partner of our choice," Rodney Croome of the Australian Coalition for Equality group told the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

The proposed changes will bring the federal government more closely in line with state and territory governments, which have already passed laws recognizing same-sex couples in their jurisdictions.

Michigan Court Rules Against Health Benefits for Gay Partners

The same-sex marriage ban approved by Michigan voters in 2004 prevents governments and universities in the state from providing health insurance to the partners of gay workers, the state Supreme Court has ruled.

The 5-2 decision affects up to 20 universities, community colleges, school districts and governments in Michigan with policies covering at least 375 gay couples.

Gay rights advocates blasted the ruling but expressed confidence that public-sector employers have successfully rewritten or will revise their benefit plans so same-sex partners can keep getting health care.

The Michigan constitutional amendment approved in November 2004, says the union between a man and woman is the only agreement recognized as a

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National News Briefs

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marriage “or similar union for any purpose.”

The Supreme Court ruled that while marriages and domestic partnerships aren’t identical, they are similar because they’re the only relationships in Michigan defined in terms of gender and lack of a close blood connection.

Voters “hardly could have made their intentions clearer,” Justice Stephen Markman wrote, citing the law’s “for any purpose” language.

Dissenting Justices Marilyn Kelly and Michael Cavanagh countered that statements made by backers of the measure before the election suggest they only intended to prohibit gay marriage, not take away employment benefits. The dissent also noted that gay partners who qualify for health care aren’t given other benefits of marriage, such as equal rights to property.

The ruling is believed to be one of the first from a state high court interpreting the scope of gay marriage bans.

At least 27 states have passed constitutional bans, mostly since 2004 in response to gay marriages being performed in Massachusetts. At least 18 of those

states, including Michigan, have broader amendments that also prohibit the recognition of civil unions or same-sex partnerships.

California Students Rally for Safer Schools

About three dozen students rallied at the California state capital in Sacramento for new protections for LGBT students in hope of preventing further tragedies like the shooting death of gay Oxnard teen Lawrence King.

In addition to rallying, the students met with legislators to urge the passage of a measure informally known as “Larry’s Law,” which would require teachers to make a report to their principal any time they observe a student being harassed. The students also met with representatives of the California School Boards Association and the state Department of Education to ask that school districts develop guidelines to assure enforcement of laws prohibiting discrimination against LGBT students.

“LGBT students at California schools are not safe,” said Rick Griswold, a Fresno-area high school senior who appeared at the rally.

“The law is on the books,” Carolyn Laub, executive director of California’s Gay-Straight Alliance Network, said. “But there’s a really big gap between the law and the reality.” It is particularly crucial, Laub said, to protect students whose gender expression does not match their biological gender.

King, 15, a student at E.O. Green Junior High in Oxnard, was not only openly gay but sometimes wore makeup and high heels to school, and he was a frequent target of bullying. He had also professed to have a crush on fellow student Brandon McNerney, 14. McNerney is now accused of fatally shooting King on Feb. 12 in a computer lab at their school.

Three gay members of the state legislature appeared at the rally, along with West Sacramento Mayor Christopher Cabaldon, who recently came out as gay and is running for an Assembly seat this year.

“I gave up 20 years of my life pretending to be something that I wasn’t. I wish that as a young gay kid I would have had the courage each of you is showing,” Cabaldon told the students.

Body Language \$50 Gift Certificate Giveaway

Body Language is giving away a \$50 gift certificate which can be used either at their web site or at their store in Cleveland. To enter, just fill out the form at www.eriegaynews.com! Entries must be received between May. 30 and Jun. 20.

Body Language sells a wide variety of erotica and pride items. Body Language is the premier store in Ohio for GLBT folks. Owner Paul Zeitzew says that even heterosexuals shop there, because some of their items are not found in any stores in the state.

Drenched Fur 4

Photos from the Drenched Fur 4 Weekend held in Erie April 4-6, 2008. For more photos and details on the weekend visit www.drenchedfur.com Photos by Robert.



JUNE 6

DREAMS

Miss Erie
2008

★ **ZONE**
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Spring

WHITE

Party

JUNE 7

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JUNE 28

SMILE! - Show your PRIDE!

Join us Saturday at the Zone after the Erie PRIDE Picnic at the Peninsula!

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PRIDE
Underwear Party!

Show your SMILE! - Wear FUN Joe Boxer Underwear!

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JUNE 29

*Join us Sunday at NOON as the PRIDE march steps off
from the ZONE parking lot- heading to Perry Square!*

The Zone Dance Club 133 West 18th St. Erie, PA www.thezonedanceclub.com

