



### New blog fights bigotry in Venango Co. and Oil Region

A new blog called End Bigotry in Venango County seeks to expose discrimination in northwestern Pennsylvania's Oil Region.

The blog owner states that the "purpose of this blog site is to expose and challenge bigotry and discrimination in Venango County in order to make the beautiful communities of northwestern Pennsylvania a welcoming place for all."

The blog was begun in May, and already has become very active. You can check out the blog at <http://endbigotryinvenangocounty.blogspot.com/> (clickable link in the online version of this article at [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com))

### Pittsburgh Passes Partner Registry

*by 365Gay.com Newscenter Staff*

Pittsburgh City Council passed legislation Tuesday establishing a partner registry for people living together in committed relationships.

The measure passed on a 7-1 vote.

It will be open to both unmarried opposite-sex and same-sex couples. they are registered.

The certificate could serve as proof of a relationship for couples applying for domestic partner benefits at private companies which offer them.

(To read the complete article click on the link at the online version of this article).

### Stonewall remembered at UUCE

On Sunday, June 22, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie presented Stonewall: The cradle of gay activism. Life experience speakers included Doris Cipolla and John Daly King. Performing artists included "Ricardo and Jessie" and Devin Redinger. Rev. Steve Aschmann presided over the service.

The event was sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, Erie Gay Pride, PFLAG, four29media, Erie Gay News, Womynspace and Erie Gay Business Alliance.



*Devin Redinger performing at "Stonewall: The Cradle of Gay Activism," the June 22 service at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, See article below. More photos at the gallery on the EGN website. Photo: Mike Mahler*

### Come on OUT! to a SeaWolves Game

*from Come on OUT!*

GE Transportation's GLBTA in cooperation with Erie Gay Pride, Inc., extends an invitation to Come on OUT! to Jerry Uht Park for a picnic and an Erie SeaWolves game.

The event will take place Wednesday, July 23, at the Troyer Farms Picnic Garden at Jerry Uht Park. There will be an all-you-can-eat buffet including Smith's hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken sandwiches, baked beans, macaroni salad and potato salad. There will also be unlimited soft drinks, water and popcorn. Reserved seat tickets for the baseball game are included. The picnic begins at 6:05 PM with the game beginning at 7:05 PM.

There is no charge for this event, which is being underwritten by GE Transportation's GLBTA, but

*More Community News inside!*

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**Editors:** Deb Spilko and Mike Mahler  
**Ad Design:** Mike Lipiec  
**Deadline for next issue: Jul 14 (Monday), will be out night of Tuesday, Jun 24.**

**Classified Ads are now available for as little as \$10 for 30 words! See page 3 for more info.**

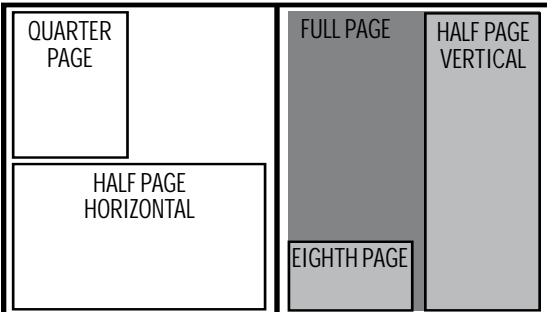
The *Erie Gay News* is published monthly as a source of news, events, information and support for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered people (GLBT's), their families, friends & supporters in the Erie PA area.

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.

## 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
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FULL PAGE	\$160 - \$144 Prepaid	7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " high X 6" wide

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

## THANKS

From Your Friends at Erie Gay News

To the Zone for hosting, Brian, Bruce Shrou, Charles, David Shaffer, Jeff, Johauna, James von Loewe, Kirk Taylor, Lynne Rhodes and Michelle for folding; Charles, Bruce Shrou, Kirk Taylor, Johauna, Michelle, 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

*(continued from front page)*

advance reservations are required. To make a reservation, go to [www.eriegaypride.org](http://www.eriegaypride.org) and complete the reservation form. Reservations can not be made at the ball park or on the night of the event.

Come on OUT! is a monthly GLBT social networking group. For more information, call Brian at 1-888-749-7073 (toll free) or log on to: <http://comeonouterie.googlepages.com>.

## Ganowungo Gathering: Annual Great Lakes Faeries XXII

*by Blue Jay*

It's time once again for the Ganowungo gathering! Ganowungo is a camping weekend for gay men held on July 18-20 at a 30-acre private wildlife sanctuary in the Chautauqua Gorge. Please bring faerie energy, camping equipment, water and vegetarian food to share. Bears do pass through the sanctuary, so all food must be locked in cars or cabin.

Directions: In western New York State, find Route 430. This is also Mayville-Sherman Road. Follow it to an "S" curve. Lyons Road is on the right coming from Mayville, on the left coming from Sherman. Turn onto Lyons Road and go about one mile toward the dead-end. At Cochran's Garage, Lyons Road swerves to the right. Park on the right when you notice the culvert to cross the ditch on the left. Walk 300 paces down the trail into the woods to the cabin. If lost, ask for Stratton's (formerly Beckman's) camp on the dead-end of Lyons Road, Summerdale side.

For information, call Blue Jay at 716-326-2350 (after June 28).

## Mr. & Miss Sky winners

*by Buddy Dobson*

The Sky Bar in Jamestown NY held its second Annual Mr. and Miss Sky pageant on June 7.

- Congratulations to the winners:
- Mr. Sky 2008-2009 Mr. Manny
- Miss Sky 2008-2009 Miss Martika Devaine
- Miss Buffy Lynn Hayes 1st place Crown Alternate,
- Miss Vanese Shantea 2nd place

Congratulations also to Mother Sabrina White of Jamestown, for another wonderful pageant. It was a lot of fun—looking forward to next year's 2009-2010 pageant.

**NEW NEW NEW NEW**  
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Erie Gay News

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## COUNSELING JOBS

Persad Center, a counseling center devoted to the GLBT and HIV/AIDS communities, currently has full and part time positions open in its mental health, youth and HIV programs. Candidates must have a Masters degree in counseling and competence with the target population. LCSW preferred. Resume to 5150 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15224 or to [lfeisher@persadcenter.org](mailto:lfeisher@persadcenter.org), EOE.

## MELISSA ETHERIDGE TICKET

For Sunday July 13 concert in Canandaigua, NY NY. \$125 or best offer. (front section, reserved seating). Nobody to go with? Some of the women from Womynspace are going up together and you are welcome to join us! Barb (814) 392-4861. [barbaradarlene@yahoo.com](mailto:barbaradarlene@yahoo.com)

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# Equality Advocates PA launches transgender initiative

by Han Meadway

This summer, Equality Advocates Pennsylvania is launching the TRANslation Project, a statewide initiative to further collaborate with transgender organizations and activists and LGBT organizations and activists that focus on communities of color. The project is being funded for the summer by the Equality Federation, the national alliance of state-based LGBT advocacy organizations.

Equality Advocates Pennsylvania, formerly the Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights, provides direct legal services to the LGBT community and advocates for fully-inclusive legislation in the state. The group works with transgender organizations and activists across the state and approximately 17% of the organization's hot-line callers self-identify as transgender. Approximately 40% of the callers also self-identify as people of color. This project aims to reach out to more of both the trans-community and LGBT communities of color across Pennsylvania and integrate new activists into existing advocacy efforts.

Equality Advocates has been at the forefront of advocating for HB 1400 and SB 761, both of which would provide protections from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression in employment, housing and public accommodations. As part of the TRANslation Project, Equality Advocates will be collecting individual's stories and experiences of discrimination based on their gender identity in order to prove to local legislators that LGBT rights need to be inclusive of the entire LGBT community, and that gender identity and presentation must be included in the proposed house and senate bills. If you or someone you know would be interested in sharing their story, please contact Han Meadway at (215) 731-1447 ext. 14 or at [outreach@equalitypa.org](mailto:outreach@equalitypa.org).

The TRANslation Project will continue and increase the strong communication between organizations and activists working on transgender advocacy and Equality Advocates Pennsylvania, so that the organization can continue to provide support, empowerment and inclusion at this critical time.

## NY State headlines

*Following are headlines of press releases from Empire Pride Agenda. To read more visit [www.prideagenda.org](http://www.prideagenda.org) and click on "Press and Publications."*

May 28, 2008 - Governor Paterson directs State agencies to recognize out-of-state marriages of same-sex couples

June 03, 2008 - New York State Assembly Passes Bill Banning Transgender Discrimination

June 11, 2008 - Working Families Party Passes Resolution Supporting Marriage Equality

June 11, 2008 - Working Families Party Passes Resolution Supporting Marriage Equality

June 19, 2008 - 335 Clergy and Lay Leaders from Across New York State Call on NYS Legislature to Pass Marriage Bill

June 19, 2008 - Pride Agenda Corrects the Record on LGBTQ Juvenile Justice Policy

## 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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[www.safeneterie.org](http://www.safeneterie.org)

# Obituary

## Randal "Randy" Forrester

Dec. 13, 1947 - April 23, 2008

Randal "Randy" Forrester, a leading gay rights activist in Pittsburgh, died April 23 of cancer. He was 60.

In 1969 he founded the now-defunct Western Pennsylvania Mattachine, believed to be the region's first gay rights organization. In 1972, Forrester co-founded the Persad Center - a counseling center for sexual minorities -- with James Huggins, his life partner of 37 years.. He retired as the center's executive director in 2001, and in 2006 the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania, honored him as the "Civil Libertarian of the Year" in 2006. He was also named one of the city's 100 most influential residents of the 20th century by Pittsburgh Magazine.

A celebration of Randy Forrester's life was held May 4 at The Priory on the North Side.

At the celebration, Dr. Tony Silvestre of the Pitt Men's Study, — the AIDS research project that Mr. Forrester helped to launch -- said that Mr. Forrester's pioneering work for gay rights was courageous, occurring as it did at a time it was very risky to do so.

"He stepped out loudly and never quieted down for his whole career," said Silvestre. "I think it took incredible courage, incredible determination and great compassion. I have no doubt he has had a profound, positive effect on thousands of people if not tens of thousands of people. He was a true hero."

*To read the Pittsburgh-Post Gazette obituary of Randall Forrester, visit the online version of this article.*

## Helpful numbers

**Gay and Lesbian National Hotline**  
1-888-843-GLNH

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

**Persad Center** (412) 441-9786

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

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

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

# Calendar

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

**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](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com) or (814) 456-9833.

**Jun 28 (Sat) - The After PRIDE Summer Beach Party** (Craze Night Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA) Wear your beach attire. Contact: Duane. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to [www.crazeerie.com](http://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!- 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.eriegaypride.org). For more info, email [eriegaypride@gmail.com](mailto:eriegaypride@gmail.com) or call toll-free (866) 229-1974.

**Jul 4 (Fri) - 7 (Mon) - Jones Pond - Red, White, & Bois!- July 4th Weekend** 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) Welcome to Jones Pond Campground for a Star-Spangled Independence Day Weekend! Come pitch your tent, relax by the heated pool, and rest up for a weekend of *fun*! Friday Night is Bingo in the Barn and our July 4th U.S.O. Party- Wear military uniforms and fun patriotic or military issue boxers. Saturday Afternoon is the Star-Spangled 300 Block Picnic & Jones Pond Idol Contest—Come be a Star! Saturday Night is our Red, White, & Bois *Underwear Party*—wear red, white & blue or fun patriotic Boxers & Sexy Underwear. Sunday relax by the pool and enjoy a lazy day. Sunday night is our Last Blast Dance of the weekend. Make your reservations *now* because this is one of our busiest weekends! Phone: (585) 567-8100. Email: [info@jonespond.com](mailto:info@jonespond.com). [www.jonespond.com](http://www.jonespond.com).

**Jul 4 (Fri) - The Red, Wet and Blue Party** (Craze Night Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA) Wet T-Shirt and Boxer Contest! Contact: Duane. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to <http://www.crazeerie.com>.

**Jul 4 (Fri) - July 4th- Friday Night Fire-Works!** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) Come dance under the fire-works on the dance-floor as we light up the night! Red, White, & Blue Glow-sticks to light up the night! Wear Red, White, & Blue or FUN Patriotic Boxers or T-shirts! American Pride!- Gay FUN! Get into the Zone! Phone: (814) 452-0125.

**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

**Pa.**

**"GET TESTED: YOU NEED TO KNOW"  
EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO PREVENTION**

# Calendar

Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

**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!- Don't be AWOL - Get into the Zone! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Visit: [www.thezonedanceclub.com](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com)

**Jul 6 (Sun) - Soak - Summer Boat Cruise (Pittsburgh)** 5:15 PM - 9:00 PM Gateway Clipper Fleet Station Square . [www.pittsburghpridespace.com/](http://www.pittsburghpridespace.com/)

**Jul 9 (Wed) - Erie Gay Business Alliance Happy Hour and Social** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 6 PM - 8 PM. Social get together for GLBT business people and professionals. Contact: Keith. Phone: (814) 340-1346. Email: [egba-owner@eriegaynews.com](mailto:egba-owner@eriegaynews.com). Browse to <http://networking.eriegaynews.com>.

**Jul 11 (Fri) - 13 (Sun) - Jones Pond - Levis & Leather Weekend** 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY. Join us for our first of 2 leather weekends this summer! Friday night is Bingo in the Barn, Group Bonfire, and dancing till 1am. On Saturday relax by the pool with your slave or walk your dog around the 100 acres of hiking trails all around Jones Pond. Saturday night is our Black & Blue Ball—wear your best Levis & leather gear for a night of dancing & fun! Sunday relax by the pool and enjoy a lazy day. Phone: (585) 567-8100. Email: [info@jonespond.com](mailto:info@jonespond.com). Browse to <http://www.jonespond.com>.

**Jul 12 (Sat) - Womynspace Taboo Game Craze Night Club**, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. 2 PM - 5 PM. Rescheduled date for Taboo game. Please come and enjoy! Contact: Barb. Phone: (814) 392-4861. Email: [womynspace-owner@eriegaynews.com](mailto:womynspace-owner@eriegaynews.com). Browse to <http://womynoferie.wetpaint.com>.

**Jul 12 (Sat) - Rodeo Cowboy Party** (Craze Night Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA) Get your Cowboy hats and boots out! Contact: Duane. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to <http://www.crazeerie.com>

**Jul 13 (Sun) - Womynspace get-together** (Zodiac Dinor, 2516 State St, Erie, PA) 2 PM - 5 PM. Regular

get together the second Sunday of every month for lesbian, bisexual and trans women. Games, brunch and specials. Contact: Barb. Phone: (814) 392-4861. Email: [womynspace-owner@eriegaynews.com](mailto:womynspace-owner@eriegaynews.com). Browse to <http://womynoferie.wetpaint.com>.

**Jul 13 - Womynspace travels to Melissa Etheridge concert** in Canandaigua NY. Specifics of travel haven't been worked out at this writing. For updates, check their website or contact Barb at (814) 392-4861 or [womynspace-owner@eriegaynews.com](mailto:womynspace-owner@eriegaynews.com). Website: <http://womynoferie.wetpaint.com>.

**Jul 17 (Thu) - Erie Gay Business Alliance meeting** (Raphael's Tavern, 363 W 8th St, Erie PA) 7 PM. Networking group for GLBT business people and professionals. Contact: Keith. Phone: (814) 340-1346. Email: [egba-owner@eriegaynews.com](mailto:egba-owner@eriegaynews.com). Browse to <http://networking.eriegaynews.com>.

**Jul 18 (Fri) - 20 (Sun) - Jones Pond: Sin City!- Las Vegas Weekend!** 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY. Viva Las Vegas Baby! Get *lucky* this weekend at the

*(continued on next page)*

## COME PITCH YOUR TENT AT THE POND.



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# Calendar

600 Block Sin City Casino Night and have fun at the Pimp & Ho Cocktail Party. It's a WIN- WIN weekend for everyone Come pitch your tent, relax by the heated pool, and rest up for a weekend of fun! Friday Night is our Big Money Bingo and the Strip Poker Dance, Saturday night at 7pm is the 600 Block Sin City Casino Night. Explore Sin City—a “campy” version of old Las Vegas with its strip clubs, porn shops, tattoo parlors, gin joints, diners, and dives. You could win over \$2000 in cash and prizes! And remember—what happens at Jones Pond, stays at Jones Pond! Enjoy a close getaway weekend at Jones Pond campground in nearby Angelica, NY- just 2 hours from Erie! Phone: (585) 567-8100. Email: [info@jonespond.com](mailto:info@jonespond.com). Browse to [www.jonespond.com](http://www.jonespond.com).

**July 23 (Wed) - A Night at the SeaWolves** (Jerry Uht Park) Picnic at 6:05 PM followed by the ball game at 7:05 PM, sponsored by GE Transportation's GLBTA and Come on OUT!, Erie's GLBT monthly social group presented in cooperation with Erie Gay Pride, Inc. Evening includes buffet picnic dinner and

reserved seat tickets for the SeaWolves game. There is no charge but advance reservations are required at [www.eriegaypride.org](http://www.eriegaypride.org). For information call Brian 1-888-749-7073 or <http://comeonouterie.googlepages.com>.

**Jul 25 (Fri) - 27 (Sun) - Jones Pond Bears in the Woods Weekend!** (Jones Pond Campground & RV Park, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) Bear Weekend of the Summer as Bears and Bear groups from the tri-state area gather for a weekend of Fur & FUN! Come pitch your tent, relax by the heated pool, and rest up for a weekend of FUN! Relax and enjoy a close getaway weekend at Jones Pond - ( all-male, clothing optional, 21 and over ONLY ) - campground in nearby Angelica, NY- just 2 hours from Erie! Phone: (585) 567-8100. Email: [info@jonespond.com](mailto:info@jonespond.com). Browse to <http://www.jonespond.com>.

**Jul 26 (Sat) - Zone: Island Heat! Tropical Beach Party!** 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) Aloha! Calling all Island boys and Native girls to come join us for some *hot* steamy fun and *cool* island drinks! Show off your summer tan! Wear your tight board shorts, grab your tini bikini, and show off your sexy beach bod! Grab a frozen daiquiri, slip into your grass skirt, and come get lei'd! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

**Jul 26 (Sat) - Summer White Party** (Craze Night Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA) Wear your favorite white party gear! Get your Cowboy hats and boots out! Contact: Duane. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to <http://www.crazeerie.com>


**Jul 24-27 (Thu-Sun) - Pittsburgh Black Pride** [www.pittsburghgayblackpride.com/](http://www.pittsburghgayblackpride.com/) (412) 537-7472 [pgh-blackpride@hotmail.com](mailto:pgh-blackpride@hotmail.com)

**Jul 31-Aug. 3 (Thu-Sun) - Black, Gay and Proud Celebration (Cleveland)** Events held throughout Cleveland. [www.bgpcleveland.com](http://www.bgpcleveland.com), [www.myspace.com/bgpcleveland](http://www.myspace.com/bgpcleveland).

**Aug 10 (Sun) - Imperial Court Boat Ride (Buffalo)** 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm At Marina. Boarding at 6:30 sharp Set sails at 7:00 PM Sharp - don't be left standing at the dock! Tickets available soon [www.imperialcourtofbuffalo.com/](http://www.imperialcourtofbuffalo.com/)

**Aug 24 (Sun) - Dancin' in the Streets(Cleveland)** Benefits AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland, 1 pm, Clifton Blvd. between West 116th and West 117th, Cleveland. (216)621-0766, [www.aidstaskforce.org](http://www.aidstaskforce.org).

**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)



# Java Buzz

## Intermezzo

12 Park Place, Fredonia, NY (716)672-6070 [www.intermezzocoffeehouse.com](http://www.intermezzocoffeehouse.com)

Jul 19 - Victorian Circle and Social (medium Barbara Sanson; reservations required) 3:30 - 5:15 p.m. and 5:30 - 7:15 p.m. Part of with the Victorian Dazzle Festival ([www.festivalsfredonia.com](http://www.festivalsfredonia.com))

Aug 1 - Guitarist David Allen Coester 12-1:30PM

## Zodiac Dinor

The Zodiac Dinor has a monthly dinner party. Tickets are \$10 and include food buffet, dessert, and beverages. Each Dinner Party starts at 7 PM. To find out the date visit the website or call the Zodiac at <http://zodiacdinorerie.googlepages.com> or more information, call the Zodiac at 814-455-3543. The Zodiac Dinor is located at 2516 State St, Erie, PA.

## Awakened Cafe

722 West 8th Street, Erie, PA. (814) 452-CAFE email: [AwakenedCafe@gmail.com](mailto:AwakenedCafe@gmail.com) web: Check the website [www.AwakenedCafe.com](http://www.AwakenedCafe.com) for the most current schedule of upcoming events in June and July.



*John Daly King sharing experiences from his own life at "Stonewall: Cradle of Gay Activism." See article on front page. Photo by Mike Mahler.*

## Eclectic Etceteras

118 Erie St., Edinboro PA (814)734-29090 [www.myspace.com/eecoffeehouse](http://www.myspace.com/eecoffeehouse)

Jul 12 The Jox 1-3PM

July 17 - Special event: Poetry Night 6-7:30PM

## Brother Bean

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

Upcoming:

Jun 28 - Veteran Status 7PM


Jul 5 Nate Custer 7PM

Jul 12 King Cool 7PM

Jul 17 Book Discussion Group 7PM

Jul 19 Cellar Dwellers (improv comedy team from Pittsburgh) 7PM

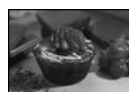
Jul 26 Fleets & Signal Home 7PM



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## On Stage

**July 6-Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus: "International Concert"** Three groups; BGMC from the United States, Schola Cantorosa from Germany and Forte from Canada on Sunday, July 6th at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo at 695 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209 716-885-2136. The concert begins at 4 pm and is only \$10. All three of the choruses will be heading to Miami in July for the GALA Festival where another 150 GLBT choruses from around the world will sing. <http://www.buffalogaymenschorus.com/> UU website 695 Elmwood Avenue • Buffalo, NY 14209 • 716-885-2136

**Jul 13 - Melissa Etheridge in Canandigua NY** Constellation Brands Performing Arts Center [www.cmacevents.com/](http://www.cmacevents.com/)

## SmartNails.com online giveaway contest

SmartNails.com is giving away a free nail care kit, valued over \$60 if purchased separately. To enter, just fill out the form at [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)! Entries must be received between Jun. 27 and Jul. 18.

The kit includes a micron crystal file, 3 micron crystal pads, a moisturizing oil pen, concentrated nutrient cream and a leatherette carry pouch. See the full details at <http://www.smartnails.com/prdinfo.html>.

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# Separation of Church and State

*Rev. Richard A. Moyer  
Pastor Community United Church*

This year's presidential election has brought out the worst in Christian clergy. It has also brought out the worst in the candidates.

First, we had the Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Wright's controversial statements to deal with. I wrote about that in a previous column. Since then, Barak Obama has announced that he has left Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago. He made that decision after absolutely ridiculous remarks were made at Trinity Church by a Catholic priest, the Rev. Michael Pfleger.

If you watched Pfleger on television, you were as amazed as I that any spectacle like that could take place in the name of Christianity! As he strutted across the front of the church, he mocked Hillary Clinton, because, he said, she felt "entitled" to the presidential nomination. He mimicked her as saying, "there's a black man stealing my show." The whole episode was an embarrassment, devastating to Christianity. His actions were absolutely inexcusable! Soon after Pfleger's appearance at Trinity became known, Obama announced that he was going to quit his church.

Well, if Obama is going to quit every time he gets embroiled in a controversy, he's not going to make a very good president. Leaving his church showed inexcusable weakness on his part.

But just in case you think I'm critical of only Obama, I'm just as disgusted with John McCain and his association with controversial clergy. McCain just couldn't wait to get the support of a big-name-religious-right fundamentalist so that he could show the Republican Party that he has support from conservative Christians; a group McCain thinks he needs to win the election.

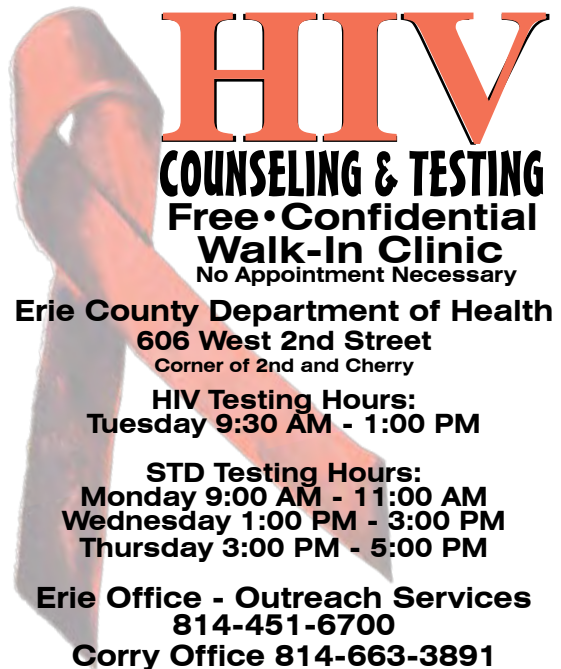
McCain sought the endorsement of a radical minister of an independent church that he himself built. His name is John Hagee. He's the one who said that the Roman Catholic Church is the "great whore" and it is "a false cult system." Good going McCain! Now you've alienated the Catholics you need to get elected! The one minister McCain chooses turns out to be the worst possible! What was he thinking? Where

were his advisors? Didn't they know what they were getting into?

Hagee, as you will imagine, also has a lot to say about homosexuals who, as he sees it, will receive the wrath of God. It is the gays, he imagines, who have caused America's moral decay.

Now McCain is backing away from Hagee, just like Obama did from the clergy who endorsed him. It's a sign of weakness on McCain's part because he was only using Hagee, since it is evident that he knew very little about him except that he would throw a few votes his way. It's the old old story that many politicians will do anything for a vote. The only problem is that sometimes it backfires on them!

I think it's time for the clergy to be seen and not heard for the rest of this presidential election. I also think it's time for both of the candidates to get serious about their so-called religious convictions and start acting like leaders instead of wimps.



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# Michael Dithers

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by Mike Mahler

I hope that everybody has had a great month. As I write this, we are getting ready for Pride next weekend. Things are looking pretty good for the 16th Annual Pride Picnic on Saturday, June 28 from 1 to 6 PM at the Rotary Pavilion at Presque Isle. We have some extremely capable people helping out with the event, for which I am unbelievably grateful. (I tend to turn into a neurotic blur for a few weeks before the picnic every year. It's not pretty.)

We encourage folks to register online, if possible, for all Pride events at <http://www.eriegaynews.com/pride/register.php>. This helps us get volunteers and also lets us properly plan the event.

Starting this year, the Yellow Bike Rental at Presque Isle will have **non-motorized wheelchairs to loan for free**, making Presque Isle even more accessible! For those planning on attending the Pride Picnic June 28, note that Yellow Bike Rental is located in the Waterworks area, just like the picnic. Call 814-835-8900.

**For more information on accessibility in the Pride Picnic area**, visit <http://picnic.eriegaynews.com>. We obviously believe very strongly in making the picnic accessible for as many people as possible.

Nifty news! It looks like we will be having **video online of this year's Pride Weekend**. Erie Gay News is planning on partnering with Gay Live TV to film this year. **If you don't want to be filmed**, just be sure to get a dot when you check in, which means "no photos or video, please." For those that are okay with this, it's a great way to help build visibility for the community. You can check out Gay Life TV at <http://www.gaylifetv.net>.

Speaking of visibility, we will again be taking **face photos** to display at <http://www.eriegaynews.com>. You can have a new or updated face photo taken for no charge at both the picnic or the rally. We also updated the look of the face photo area that displays on the left side of every page at the Erie Gay News site. We now display **5 randomly chosen face photos** in a rainbow colored block to highlight the beautiful diversity that is our community.

**The March/Rally** is the day after the picnic, on Sunday, June 29. The day begins with assembling at the Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, at noon. The March

steps off at 1 PM to head down State Street, and the Rally will be in Perry Square at 2 PM.

**This is the 10th anniversary of the Rally.**

The original rally was organized by Erie Community Pride Organization (ECPO) in 1998 after we first met in January of that year to discuss projects. At that point, we had never had an event in the downtown area, and the Rally was the first choice for a project. Just before the Rally, I was hearing intermittent reports from people who had been at the planning meetings who sounded like they might bail on attending. I was nervously worried that I was going to be standing in Perry Square with 15 or so folks, all of them looking to walk away. (Have I mentioned that I get really, really neurotic before events? It's NOT attractive.) I was thinking that if folks bailed, I was going to drop out of everything forever. We ended up having about 300 people show up, which was terrific!

Helen was the principal organizer for the following year. (This was still when the rally was run by the Erie Community Pride Organization.) She had to move to Michigan about 6 weeks before the event. I was worried about how it might turn out, but Helen made it back and did an absolutely super job.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the unbelievably fabulous job that Abbey Atkinson, formerly of Trigon, did for 2001-2003. She and the folks from Trigon put on a spectacular multiple day weekend for both 2002 and 2003.

We thought that we wouldn't do a march/rally in 2004, but I was approached by some folks in late July, and we put something together inside of 2 months. This was the year that I was also helping out with the Kerry campaign and performing in a production of Dracula. I was definitely overscheduled that year.

Dan Burdick took up the torch in 2005 and then Erie Gay Pride, Inc took over in 2006.

In addition to the Pride Weekend events, I am also hoping that we get a good turnout for marching in the **Millcreek 4th of July Parade** the following Friday. We will be marching with the Peace and Justice contingent, and the event steps off at 10 AM from 12th and Marshall. This is the 3rd year that we have marched in the Parade, which draws many people. Folks have been great and it is an uplifting and fun experience!

# National News Briefs

by Bob

## Gay couples in California high court ruling

Gay and lesbian couples in California began exchanging wedding vows June 17 thanks to the recent California Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriage, and the court's refusal to stay that ruling.

Conservative religious and legal groups had asked the justices to stop its May 15 order requiring state and local officials to sanction same-sex unions from becoming effective until voters have the chance to consider the issue in November.

But California voters will have the final say in the same-sex marriage issue. An initiative to ban gay marriage has qualified for the Nov. 4 ballot. Its passage would overrule the court's decision by amending the state constitution to limit marriage to a man and a woman.

Ronald Prentice, executive director of the coalition sponsoring the November measure, predicted that the court ruling would motivate gay marriage opponents to vote for the ban.

"Certainly it was our hope that one or more members of the majority decision would recognize that they had overstepped their bounds, and would allow the November vote to speak on behalf of the state's citizens," Prentice said. "We are obviously disappointed by their continued arrogance to overrule the will of the people."

Backers of the fall initiative now hope to add California to the list of 26 states that have approved constitutional amendments banning same-sex marriage. It is unclear whether marriages performed before the fall election would be nullified if the amendment passes. Some legal scholars have said the Supreme Court might get called on again to settle that question.

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## Baldwin, Frank Launch Gay-Rights Caucus

The U.S. House of Representatives' two openly gay members, Wisconsin Democrat Tammy Baldwin and Massachusetts Democrat Barney Frank have formed a new House caucus focusing on gay rights.

The group, called the LGBT Equality Caucus, has received the support of 50 other members of the House, most of them from California, New York and the Northeast.

Baldwin and Frank formed the caucus to advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans and to inform other lawmakers about issues important to those communities.

"Corporate America and the American people are far ahead of where Congress is right now," Baldwin said. She also sees the caucus as a way for lawmakers to begin "building for the future" once a new administration is in place after the November election.

All of the caucus members are Democrats except Reps. Chris Shays of Connecticut and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida.

The idea for the caucus came about after Democrats took control of Congress and California Rep. Nancy Pelosi, who supports gay rights, became House speaker, Frank said. Before that, those who supported gay rights had focused most of their efforts on fighting proposals to diminish rights for gays and lesbians, Frank said. Now, he said, he and Baldwin are working together to act on Pelosi's commitment to helping gay people live and work free of discrimination.

## Norway Approves Marriage Equality

Norway has become the latest country to allow same-sex couples to wed in civil marriages, thanks to a law passed by Norway's parliament.

The new law, which passed 84-41, requires that the terminology in marriage documents be gender-neutral.

A 1993 Norwegian law gave gay and lesbian couples the right to enter into civil unions similar to marriage, but they could not be wed in church, nor could they adopt. The new law allows adoption by same-sex couples and permits lesbians to receive assistance with artificial insemination.

Norway becomes the sixth country to allow

# National News Briefs

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same-sex marriage, joining Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands, South Africa and Canada in legislating full marriage equality.

## NY Gay Marriage Rule Being Challenged

A Christian legal organization has filed a suit to stop New York from recognizing same-sex marriages legally performed in other states.

The Alliance Defense Fund filed its lawsuit in a court in the Bronx and several Republican state senators who also oppose the marriage recognition are named as party to the suit.

Although gay marriage is unconstitutional in New York, Democratic Gov. David Paterson has told state agencies that New York must recognize same-sex marriages performed in Massachusetts, Canada and other places where they are legal. Paterson's directive was prompted by the California Supreme Court's ruling in favor of same-sex marriages.

The Arizona-based Alliance Defense Fund has intervened elsewhere in gay marriage and religious freedom cases including those involving abortion and what it calls "traditional family values."

## Architect of "Don't Ask" Calls for Second Look

The 1993 "don't ask, don't tell" law prohibiting gay men and lesbians from serving openly in the military should be reviewed by the government, says former U.S. Sen. Sam Nunn, one of the primary lawmakers involved in the law's passage.

"I think [when] 15 years go by on any personnel policy, it's appropriate to take another look at it -- see how it's working, ask the hard questions, hear from the military. Start with a Pentagon study," said Nunn, a Georgia Democrat, who would not state whether he supports ending the policy.

"I'm not advocating anything, except I'm saying the policy was the right policy for the right time, and times change. It's appropriate to take another look," Nunn told reporters.

Though some LGBT activists and strategists see Nunn's statements as significant, many also say he did

not go far enough.

"If you look at what he said, he didn't really say anything," said Aubrey Sarvis, executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, which lobbies for repeal of the "don't ask" policy. "He never called for Congress to change the federal statute. He didn't say he favored repealing 'don't ask, don't tell.' Not many people have an opportunity to right a wrong 15 years later. I find it, all in all, to be very disappointing."

Sarvis told The Advocate that Nunn may have made the comments in an effort to position himself for a high-level post in a Barack Obama administration.

"You can't avoid the speculation that it's an attempt to become now aligned with Sen. Obama's position on 'don't ask, don't tell.' If former Sen. Nunn has any ambition of entertaining the possibility being in an Obama administration, he knows he has to move away from his former position."

Sen. Obama has clearly stated his support for repealing the policy.

## Couple Awarded \$2.8 Million in Harassment Case

A New Jersey jury has awarded a gay couple \$2.84 million in damages after they claimed volunteer firefighters threatened and harassed them for complaining about a wild party at 1 a.m. in the firehouse's parking lot.

Peter de Vries and Timothy Carter said the town of Secaucus, NJ, failed to protect the couple's civil rights or investigate the firefighters' alleged harassment of the couple after Carter complained about noise at a wild party in April of 2004.

The couple lived next door to the firehouse and after making the complaint, was continuously harassed and called homophobic slurs by the firefighters. Eventually, the couple was forced to move.

The jury in the case awarded them \$433,000 for economic damages and a cumulative \$2.4 million in emotional damages.

Daniel Bever, who represented the city in the civil case, said that the town should not be held accountable for the firefighters' actions because it did not sanction the party. He also argued that the town could not be held liable for the conduct of off-duty volunteers.

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July 4th

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Saturday, July 26th

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