

October 2008



EGN

Erie Gay News



GLBT block at Great Lakes Film Festival

by Mike Mahler

The Great Lakes Film Fest will have a block of GLBT films again this year. The festival will be at Theatre 145 (site of the former Roadhouse Theatre), 145 W 11th St, Erie PA on September 25-28. More details are at www.greatlakesfilmfest.com.

The GLBT Block begins on Sunday, September 28 at 4:30 PM and runs until 5:45 PM.

GLBT line up: Harmony Love Matches for Life Inc (13 mins 19 secs), Mars (7 mins 22 secs), Two Men Kissing (7 mins 60 secs), Geometry (14 mins), Dolls (9 mins 20 secs), Rembrandt Toothpaste "All You Need is Love" (30 secs), and The Heart of the Matter (21 mins 10 secs)

Author Marc Adams in Jamestown Oct 19

by Bethany Robson

On Sunday, October 19, 2008, at 10:30 AM Marc Adams will be the featured speaker at the Unitarian Church of Jamestown, 1255 Prendergast Ave., Jamestown NY.

Adams is the author of nine books, including his autobiography, *The Preacher's Son*. It is his story of growing up gay the son of a fundamentalist Baptist minister, his time as an ex-gay, his life as a student and employee of Jerry Falwell's Liberty University and his coming out and his journey to becoming a Unitarian Universalist.

(lost)Found (2005) is a follow-up to *The Preacher's Son*. It continues his story after coming out to his family. It reflects ten years of his life being out in a corporate workplace, building a family of choice, dealing with the baggage from his fundamentalist upbringing and the patient, unwavering love of his grandmother. It is truly an homage to the real love that only real family can exhibit.

For the past ten years Marc Adams has traversed the United States sharing his story and journey as



Vertigo organizer Kirsten working the door at the first Vertigo Party of the year September 19. More photos from the party on page 15. Photo by Mike Mahler

well as raising awareness for HeartStrong, Inc., a non profit social justice organization he founded to provide support for GLBT students persecuted in religious educational institutions in 1996.

Since 1997, Adams has traversed the United States speaking to nearly 100 UU congregations, major universities, political organizations, GLBT community centers, pride festivals, religious organizations and others. Marc Adams' presentation is important, yet filled with humor and interaction.

Titles of books Marc has written: *It's Not About You* (coming Fall 2008); *Do's & Don'ts of Dealing with the Religious Right* (2007 Revised Edition); *LoveLife* (2006); *(lost)Found* (2006); *Two Worlds* (2002); *Do's & Don'ts of Dealing with the Religious Right* (1998); *These Days* (1999); *Still Water* (1998); *Light* (1997); and *The*

More Community News inside!

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See web site for more info.

EGN Rates & Data

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| AD SIZE | PRICE/ISSUE | DIMENSIONS |
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| EIGHTH | \$30 - \$27 Prepaid | 1 5/8" high X 2 7/8" wide |
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| 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.

Editors: Deb Spilko and Mike Mahler
Ad Design: Mike Lipiec
Deadline for next issue: Monday, October 13; this will be distributed the night of Tuesday, October 21.

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

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

We will not publish any material that 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 do not necessarily represent those of the EGN staff.



To Mike Kohler for hosting, Bart, Bruce Shrout, Bryan, Chris, Dan, James von Loewe, Jeff, Jerry McCumber, Johauna, Mike and Tonya for folding; Brian Lonyo, Bruce Shrout, Deb Spilko, Dylan, Jeff, Jerry McCumber, Johauna, Mike, Paula and Tonya for distribution, 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)

Preacher's Son (1996)

Marc Adams' website is at www.meetmarcadams.com HeartStrong website: www.heartstrong.org Unitarian Church of Jamestown: <http://home.alltel.net/uucj/>

For more information contact Dolores at (716)484-8289.

Wood Spirit Gathering

by Raven McClain

McPherson Fields will be presenting Wood Spirit Gathering on Saturday, October 4. This is located at 1591 Jackson Center-Polk Rd, Stoneboro PA 16153. It's an outdoor gathering of all wood spirits, faeries, gnomes, satyrs and Medieval-friendly humans. Musical guest is Glitter Pussy. Please bring musical instruments for playing. The event is for people 21 and over. It is clothing-optional and BYOB. There will be classes in nature walk and plant identification at 1 PM and 4 PM. There will also be classes in Shia-tsu massage. Special guests include Menspace and Pittsburgh WANG (We Are Naked Guys) from 5 PM to 9 PM.

Silent auction and 50/50 raffle. Costumes are encouraged! Leather, Latex, Fur, Toys, all welcome.

The cost is \$10 for all day or \$5 after 5 PM.

Directions:

From Youngstown, Ohio: Take Route 80 East to Interstate 79 North to Exit 121 Mercer/Franklin. Go East (Right Hand Turn) on route 62. **Route 62 will turn into Route 965. Stay on Route 965 going towards Franklin. Drive approximately 10 miles. McPherson Fields will be the first house on the left hand side. Look for Flags. 1591 Jackson Center Polk Road

From Erie, PA: Take Interstate 79 South to Exit 121 Mercer/Franklin. Go East (Left Hand Turn) on route 62. Follow remaining directions above from **

From Clarion, PA: Take Interstate 80 West to Interstate 79 North to Exit 121 Mercer/Franklin. Go East (Right Hand Turn) on Route 62. Follow remaining directions from above**

From Pittsburgh, PA: Take Interstate 279 North to Interstate 79 North to exit 121 Mercer/Franklin. Go East (Right Hand Turn) on Route 62. Follow the remaining directions from above**

(continued on next page)



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Community News

(continued from previous page)

For more info or to RSVP to Wood Spirit Gathering, contact Raven McClain at (814) 432-8038 or Robyn Ross at (814) 437-0722. Leave message, name, day called, time called and best time to return call.

Latonia haunted?

by Deb Spilko

Members of the Oil Region Paranormal Investigation Team (ORPIT) have investigated the Latonia Theatre after one of the owners reported that on one occasion she observed an apparition that seemed to dart from one end of the ballroom and went through a doorway on the other end.

ORPIT's report on the two Latonia investigations, plus video and EVP (Electronic Voice Phenomena) recording are at www.orpit.org/id35.html

ORPIT is based in Venango County. Three of ORPIT's five investigators are police officers.

For more information on ORPIT visit www.orpit.org

2008 Pgh Film Festival Oct 17-26

by Pittsburgh International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival.

This year the Pittsburgh Lesbian and Gay Film Society (PLGFS) will present the 23rd Annual Pittsburgh International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival.

The festival is an annual celebration of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered writers, directors, actors and their work. Each year in October, hundreds of movie-goers from Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, and the surrounding areas are treated to ten days of high quality entertainment, including feature films, shorts, and videos from the hottest national and international LGBT filmmakers of our time. In addition to offering the latest in big and small screen entertainment, PLGFS sponsors social events throughout the October film festival at some of Pittsburgh's most popular gay and gay-friendly nightspots. There is plenty of time to get involved with the annual Pittsburgh International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival.

For more information visit www.pilgff.org email: info@plgfs.org



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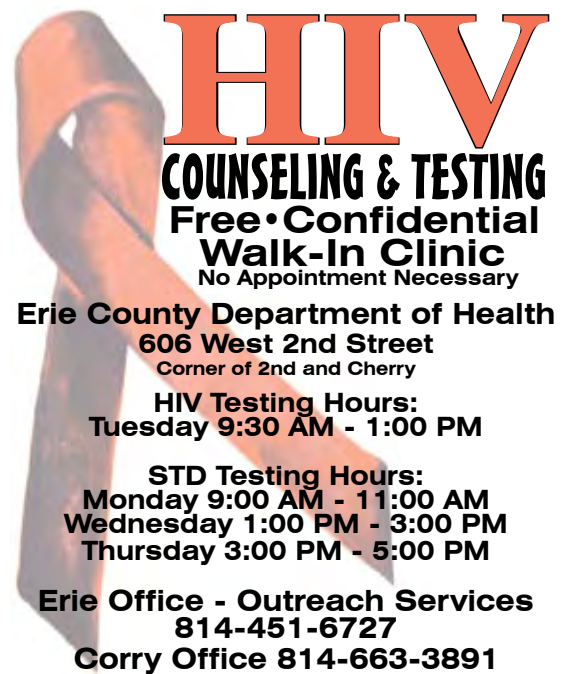
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Kol Nidre
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Letters

Cindy Purvis on PA hate crimes law

In Pennsylvania, if an individual is targeted to be the victim of a crime because they are a different race or religion, it is considered a hate crime. However, individuals who are gay and lesbian, those with physical and mental disabilities and women who are victims of bias-motivated crimes are not protected. In 2002, Gov. Schweiker signed into law a bill which made crimes motivated by the above qualifiers "hate crimes" and provided further protection to these communities.

Recently, that law was struck down, not because of its content but rather for the means by which it was passed, snuck through in a gutted agricultural bill. The state Supreme Court held that legislators failed to follow Article III of the state constitution, prohibiting the complete overhaul of a bill in the course of its passage. The court essentially said that they accept the concept of hate crimes legislation, but it must be proposed in an independent bill, not tied to criminal vandalism of farms and trampling of hayfields.

When I am your next state senator, I will follow proper procedures to bring the issue to the floor for a vote. Every Pennsylvanian has the right to be protected from bias motivated crimes.

My support of this legislation in no way intends to infringe on the freedom of thought and speech guaranteed to individuals by the constitution of the United States. We do not seek to criminalize people's speech, rather we wish to hold people accountable for crimes committed with a motive of prejudice. This bill would not prevent individuals from protesting or speaking their mind, but would help protect gays and lesbians, those with disabilities and women from those who wish to cause them physical harm merely because of who they are.

In 2002, Erie passed its own employment non-discrimination act which protected individuals from being fired, evicted or denied loans based solely on their sexual orientation and gender. This law has been successful in Erie County, but across Pennsylvania only 14 counties and municipalities have such laws on the books. This piecemeal system is insufficient to protect the rights of Pennsylvanians, as the state agency which investigates these claims must first investigate whether the incident occurred in an area covered by the legisla-

tion or not. I will support legislation that guarantees that individuals cannot be discriminated against on the basis of sexual orientation and gender when seeking employment, housing and credit.

I will not support writing discrimination into the Constitution of the State of Pennsylvania and will oppose any legislation or other attempt to blame minority groups for our problems as a means of diverting the eyes of the electorate from our real issues and culprits. This type of divisiveness serves no one but those who benefit from keeping us separated.

It is with this in mind that I ask for your vote this November 4th.

Cindy Purvis

Cindy Purvis is the Democratic candidate for Pennsylvania Senate in the 49th District, encompassing the majority of Erie County. To find out more about Cindy Purvis or how you can support her visit <http://www.cindypurvis.com>

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Calendar

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

Sep 25 (Thu) - EGBA Monthly Business Meeting. Matthew's Trattoria, 153 E 13th St, Erie PA. 7 PM. Sponsored by Eric Gay Business Alliance. Speaker is Doris Cipolla bout marriage equality. Email: egba-owner@eriegaynews.com. Website: <http://www.eriegaynews.com/egba>.

Sep 26-28 (Fri-Sun) - Closing Weekend at Jones Pond 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY. See you next year! Thanks for a great summer! Phone: (585) 567-8100. Email: info@jonespond.com. www.jonespond.com.

Sep 27 (Sat) - Harvest Festival at Camp Davis (Boyers PA) 311 Redbrush Road, Boyers, PA 16020 campd@aol.com (724) 637-2402 www.campdavis-campground.com.

Sep 27 (Sat) - DJJ-ROC Beach PARTY 2008 (Metropolitan Dance Club, 144 W 13th St, Erie, PA) 9 PM - 2

AM. Browse to <http://www.djj-roc.com/>.

Oct 6 (Mon) - PA & OHIO: Last Day to Register to vote in November election

Oct 10 (Fri) - NEW YORK: Last Day to register to vote in November election

Oct 10 (Fri) - Watchfire Alliance monthly meeting (Unitarian Church of Jamestown, 1255 Prendergast Ave, Jamestown, NY) 7 PM. Contact: Jon. Phone: (302)388-8027. Email: watchfirealliance@yahoo-groups.com. Browse to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/watchfirealliance>

Oct 1 (Wed) - Nov 1 (Sat) - Zone Dance Club: Wedding from Hell! 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. You are invited to attend the Wedding from Hell of Gaylord "Bones" Boneapart to Vampira "Lizzy" Bloodmore in unholy matrimony. Your wedding planner Jared will be getting the bar ready for the month-long celebration! Monsters, witches, devils, clowns. We've invited guests from all the 10 previous Zone Haunted Houses to attend! So much to do before the wedding! Bachelor/Bachelorette Party on Oct. 18th. Till Death Do Us Part - Stag & Drag Show & Party on Oct. 24th. Shop for a costume for the wedding! Grab your friends for a month of monsters & merriment as we join "Lizzy & Bones" and get ready for the Wedding from Hell Halloween Party! Saturday, Nov.1 - Erie's Biggest Gay Halloween Party! Be our guest at the Wedding from Hell! And get into the Zone!... for Eternity! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Oct 11 (Sat) - Craze Night Club: Pajama Party 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Come out in your hottest and sexiest night clothes. Wear your PJ's and get in for \$1. Contact: Duane. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to

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

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Calendar

<http://www.crazeerie.com>.

Oct 17 (Fri) - Latino AIDS Awareness Day At Hispanic American Council of Erie, 554 E 10th St, Erie, PA. 10 AM - 1 PM. Learn about HIV/AIDS. Questions/answer session with HIV+ person. Free HIV test & flu shots. For more information, contact Angie Merchant at Northwest Alliance 1-800-359-2437 ext 117 or Eddie Ocasio - Concilio Hispano-Americano (814) 455-0212. Refreshments served. En Espanol: Dia Para Concientizar a los Latinos Acera Del VIH. Pregunte acerca del VIH a una persona que vive con el virus. Gratis prueba de VIH contra el Flu. Phone: (814) 455-0212. Email: hivhace@velocity.net.

Oct 17 (Fri) - Vertigo Dance Party (Sanbeano's Pizzeria, 395 W Wayne St, Butler, PA) 9 PM. Monthly dance party for GLBT/friendly folks the 3rd Friday of every month. Phone: (724) 285-1644. Email: vertigov@aol.com. Browse to <http://www.myspace.com/butlervertigo>.

Oct 18 (Sat) - Zone Dance Club: Wedding from Hell - Bachelor/Bachelorette Party! (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) Join us for a night of sexy fun as we transform the Zone into the naughty Pussy Cat Club and celebrate the impending nuptials of "Lizzy & Bones," our monster bride & groom! Girls & Guys Gone Wild! Ladies, wear sexy lingerie & stripper costumes! Guys, wear fun Halloween boxers & sexy underwear! Bring your friends! Play a few bridal shower games, try some sexy pole dancing, & tip back a Blow Job Shot! It's a night to PARTY! And remember, what happens at the Zone, stays at the Zone! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

Oct 19 (Sun) - Author Marc Adams speaks 10:30

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Calendar

AM. Featured speaker at the Unitarian Church of Jamestown, 1255 Prendergast Ave., Jamestown NY. (see front page for details).

Oct 23 (Thu) - Erie Gay Business Alliance meets (Scotty's Jazz and Cigars, 301 German St, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Regular monthly business meeting. Phone: (814) 340-1346. Email: egba-owner@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://www.eriegaynews.com/egba>.

Oct 24 (Fri) - Zone Dance Club: Wedding from Hell! 'Till Death Do Us Part' Stag & Drag Show! at Zone 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. The Haunting Divas of the Zone have been preparing the Vampire Bride for this, her last night before the Wedding from Hell! Halloween Drag Show & Party! Come early for the show and stay late for the party! Always a Bridesmaid, never a Bride? Wear those ugly bridesmaid dresses & outdated wedding gowns! A rehearsal for the big Wedding from Hell Halloween Party on Nov 1! Happy Halloween from the Zone! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com

Oct 25 (Sat) - Craze Night Club: Night of Fright

(Craze Night Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA) 9 PM. Halloween Costume Contest Extravaganza. Join your friends for a night of ghoulish fun, drink specials, and generous prizes! 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place cash prizes! Enter the contest for a chance to win \$200 for 1st place! Doors open at 9 PM. Contact: Duane. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to <http://www.crazeerie.com>.

Oct 25 (Sat) - Mahoning Pride Center Annual Halloween Party (Youngstown OH) www.mvpridecenter.org 1523 Poland Avenue, Youngstown, OH 44502 mahoningvalleypridecenter@yahoo.com

Oct 26 (Sun) - EGBA Candidate Forum (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Organized by Erie Gay Business Alliance. Candidates will be speaking about issues relevant to our community. Email: egba-owner@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://www.eriegaynews.com/egba>.

Oct 27 (Mon) - Craze Night Club: College Night Karaoke and Halloween Costume Party 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Join us tonight and sing some Karaoke with your friends! Then it's time to take part in our costume contest for your chance to win one of three cash prizes! \$75 for 1st place! Must be at least 18 to enter our facility and under 21 to participate in the contest. \$5 cover for patrons 18-20 years of age. Contact: Duane. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to www.crazeerie.com.

Oct 30 (Thu) - "Yossi & Jagger" (Israel, 2002) (Meadville) Showing at Allegheny College, 212 Carnegie Hall, 7:30. This view of the Israeli army shows two male soldiers who have to hide their love for one another. Israel's universal conscription also calls up women, and the presentation here will provide fuel for discussion. If students are interested, we can

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Calendar

also screen *The Bubble* (Israel and Palestine, 2006, 90 mins), which portrays a gay Palestinian and Israeli struggling to find a common ground. Part of the Middle East Film Series Updated info: vika.gardner@allegheny.edu

Oct 31 (Fri) - Craze Night Club Halloween Fetish Goth Dance Party (Craze Night Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA) 9 PM. Featuring DJ Swerve. Live performances by Disgraced with special guest VIA. \$2 terror teas, \$1.75 domestics happy hour. Costumes encouraged. Contact: Duane. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to <http://www.crazeerie.com>.

Nov 1 (Sat) - Night of the Living La Las (The Latonia, 1 East 1st St, Oil City, PA) 8 PM. Presented by Oil City Gay/Straight Alliance. Costume ball. BYOB. Dancing, prizes, fun for all souls. 18 and older. \$5 cover. Phone: (814) 677-1260. Email: thelatonian@verizon.net.

Nov 1 (Sat) - Zone Dance Club: Wedding from Hell Halloween Party (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) You are cordially invited to attend the monster Wedding from Hell of Gaylord "Bones" Bonepart to Vampira Elisabeth "Lizzy" Bloodmoore in unholy matrimony at the Zone Dance Club! Ceremony at Midnight! Bring your friends and come in costume because everyone is invited to this Monster Bash! Glowsticks, wedding favors, dancing & fun at Erie's Biggest Gay Halloween Party! Prizes for Best Costume! Be our guest at the Wedding from Hell! - and get into the Zone!... for Eternity! For our guests that don't want to drink & drive, we have worked out a special room rate at the hotel right across the street from the Zone, Downtown Erie Hotel, 1-800-832-9101. Ask for the special "Zone Dance Club Rate" for November 1! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>

Voter Registration Deadline is Oct 6

Voter Registration office in PA and OH must *receive* your form by Monday October 6.

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Moving the ball forward in the PA House of Rep.

By Jake Kaskey, *Equality Advocates Pennsylvania*

As the summer months come to a close and the temperature begins to fall, our focus has again moved squarely onto the state legislature and the few remaining days law-makers will be in session for the rest of this year. Needless to say, legislators just might be preoccupied with their own re-election over the next two months, but we as an LGBT community have something entirely different to think about.

House Bill 1400 was introduced just over one year ago, and would amend the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act to include protections against discrimination based on your sexual orientation or gender identity and expression in employment, housing, and public accommodations. Since then, a record number of co-sponsors have signed-on to support the legislation and Public Hearings were held across the state specifically to discuss this bill. The Value All Families Coalition, Women's Law Project, ACLU, members of the clergy, PFLAG parents, Philadelphia Bar Association, and many others all testified in support of this important

bill, and thousands of letters and phone calls from you and other allies poured into legislative offices asking lawmakers to take a stand against discrimination.

Momentum clearly has built around passing this important and landmark legislation in the Commonwealth, and with an election looming, the amount of time left to pass this bill in the House this session is quickly dwindling.

You've read it here, you've seen the e-mails, and you've been asked this before—but *now is truly the time to call and visit your legislators about this issue before it's too late*. We are pushing and hoping for a vote on this important bill this session, but will only be successful if *all of us*—gay, straight, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer—forcefully show our support for the legislation.

Leading to this point we've had great success garnering support and gaining momentum around this issue because all types of people, from all different organizations, from all different backgrounds, *all* came together to further the cause of LGBT equality. Only together can we make this aggressive push to see this legislation finally passed out of the Statehouse.

Sometimes the process is slower than we'd like, and sometimes it gets tiring to send another e-mail and make another phone call into your law-maker's office, but together we can really make an impact and move the ball forward in the Pennsylvania Statehouse for LGBT equality.

For your legislator's contact information, to send an e-mail, or for talking points on House Bill 1400, just visit our website at <http://equalitypa.org> or e-mail Jake at jkaskey@equalitypa.org with questions.



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<http://gayellowpages.com>

A red AIDS ribbon logo is positioned on the left side of the advertisement. The background is light blue with faint white AIDS ribbons scattered throughout.

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True Values

By Rev. Richard A. Moyer
Pastor, Community United Church

When I was growing up in Eastern Pennsylvania the phrase “traditional family values” was well known. In that area of the country it was pretty much assumed that those who held these so-called traditional family values were conservative and Republican. We were! We also attended a very conservative Christian church.

When I was very young, Eisenhower was president. I remember very little about him except that our family spoke about him in an almost reverential way. We were told that the world was secure and families were safe with Ike in the White House. And our family did seem very close and secure. In our conservative house, traditional family values were touted as the very glue that kept society together.

But when I was a teenager those conservative family values that seemed so important to my father earlier, suddenly seemed to lose their appeal. He left my mother and took off with a woman at the office where he worked.

I was determined not to let my father’s apparent hypocrisy ruin my steadfast loyalty to conservative politics and religion. I remained a loyal Republican and attended a very conservative church-related college. And, for a long time I was happy with both.

Then came Watergate. One of the most conservative presidents in American history was caught in deception and he was involved in illegal activity. He was hardly a good role model for young Americans.

It was also around that time that I notice a certain inconsistency among conservative, “Bible-believing” evangelical Christians. Biblical interpretation for far too many of my conservative evangelical friends began by bringing their own preconceived notions to the study of the Bible.

They knew what they believed. Usually conservative Christians have great convictions, and that’s to be admired. The problem that I began to notice was that those who held such strong preconceived convictions often read into the Bible what they want it to say!

It seemed to me that the better and more honest way to study the Bible was to begin asking, “What does the Bible say, not what do I *want* it to say?”

So, as time went on, I exchanged my old conser-

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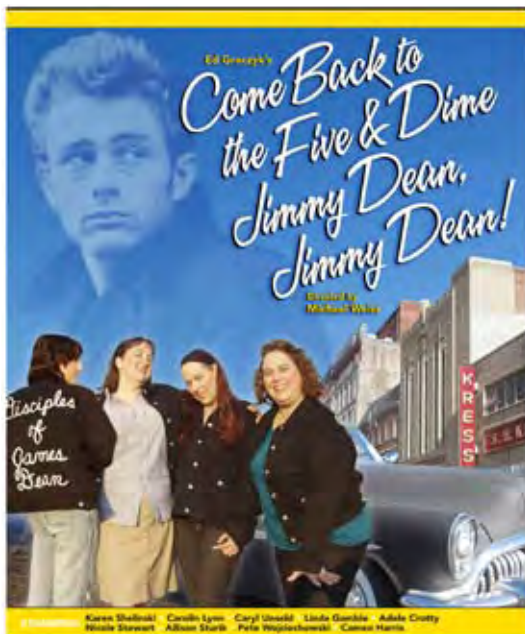
True Values

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vative politics and religion for what I considered to be a more thoughtful approach to both.

The problem that I have with many (although, certainly not all) conservative Christians today is that they see so much of life as rigidly black and white, and they tend to demonize those who do not agree with them. They far too often choose law over love. They decide first what they are going to believe, and then they take their own agenda with them as they study the Bible. They speak to the Bible rather than letting the Bible speak to them!

The Christian faith, above all, is about God's forgiveness and grace. The expectation of our faith is that we are "to do good unto all people." The requirement of our faith is that we are to "do justice and walk humbly." The goal of our faith is that we are to "love the Lord our God, and our neighbor as ourselves." Those are the true values by which we should live.



SEPTEMBER 18 - OCTOBER 4
THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS AT 8PM
RESERVATIONS: 451-1153

Deacons Circle Theatre - 1001 State Street - Second Floor of the Renaissance Center

On Stage

Sep 25-28 - Great Lakes Film Fest at Theatre 145, 145 W 11th St, Erie PA. www.greatlakesfilmfest.com

Oct 3 & 4 - "Menopause The Musical" in Erie at the Warner Theatre at www.erieevents.com

Oct 3 - Michael Feinstein - Center for the Arts University of Buffalo, www.ubcfa.org

Oct 3-25 "Doubt, A Parable" by Buffalo United Artists. In this brilliant and powerful drama, Sister Aloysius, a Bronx school principal, takes matters into her own hands when she suspects the young Father Flynn of improper relations with one of the male students. Winner of the 2005 Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award. www.buffalobua.org

Oct 5 - The Village People in Niagara Falls at The Seneca Niagara Events Center All ages welcome, but under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. www.senecaniagaracasino.com

Oct 9 - 12 - Eerie Horror Film Festival (Warner Theatre, 811 State St, Erie, PA) Contact: Greg Ropp. Phone: (814) 873-2483. Email: info@eeriehorrorfest.com. Browse to <http://www.eeriehorrorfilmfestival.com>.

Oct 15 - Melissa Ferrick in Pittsburgh at Rex Theatre www.rextheatre.com

Nov 16 - Johnny Mathis in Cleveland at Cleveland Playhouse . www.playhousesquare.org

Nov 14 - Margaret Cho in Lakewood OH at Lakewood Civic Auditorium. Special guest Liam Sullivan.

Nov 18 - Madonna Sticky & Sweet Tour is sold out on both dates in Toronto, are available for the November 18 concert in Detroit available August 23.

Nov 29 - Ani DiFranco in Buffalo at Asbury Hall at Babeville, 341 Delaware Ave Buffalo, NY www.righteousbabe.com



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

Obama talks, McCain balks

By Mark Segal, Gay History Project

In this election season, the Gay History Project attempted to bring you the views of both the Democratic and Republican candidates for president — just as we attempted to bring you the views of the top two candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination for the spring primary. The format for both candidates was to be the same: the same questions, with no follow-up questions and the same time limit. And since April, we have repeatedly reached out to Republican Sen. John McCain's press representative Jill Hazelbaker by phone, letter and e-mail.

Once it became clear that McCain would not participate, Sen. Barack Obama's campaign put no conditions on the interview. Obama spoke to Mark Segal by phone Aug. 16; an audio version of the interview will be posted at www.epgn.com. In his first interview with gay press since he officially took the Democratic nomination, here's what Obama had to say.

MARK SEGAL: *You are the most LGBT-friendly candidate running for president in history. Are you concerned that John McCain and the Republicans might use this as a divisive issue as they did in 2004?*

BARACK OBAMA: No. I think they can try but I don't think it will work for a couple of reasons. Number one, I think that the American peoples' attitudes with respect to LGBT issues are continuing to evolve. I think people are becoming more and more aware of the need to treat all people equally regardless of sexual orientation. There are some people who disagree with that, but frankly those folks — many of them — probably have already made their minds up about this election earlier.

MS: *You've talked about your many gay friends. Would you and Michelle be comfortable attending their commitment ceremony?*

BO: We would. But I'll be honest with you that, these days, I can't go anywhere.

MS: *The current President Bush has used signing orders to change military rules and regulations. If White House counsel advised you that you could end "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" by attaching a signing order to a military appropriations bill, would you?*

BO: I would not do it that way. The reason is because I want to make sure that when we revert "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," it's gone through a process and we've built a consensus or at least a clarity of that,

of what my expectations are, so that it works. My first obligation as the president is to make sure that I keep the American people safe and that our military is functioning effectively. Although I have consistently said I would repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," I believe that the way to do it is make sure that we are working through a process, getting the Joint Chiefs of Staff clear in terms of what our priorities are going to be. That's how we were able to integrate the armed services to get women more actively involved in the armed services. At some point, you got to make a decision that that's the right thing to do, but you always want to make sure that you are doing it in a way that maintains our core mission in our military.

MS: *Many lawyers contend that the Defense of Marriage Act passed by Congress is unconstitutional. It takes away over 1,100 rights, including IRS joint filings. If a suit is filed in federal court, would you expect or instruct your attorney general to join in that suit with an amicus brief questioning its legality?*

BO: I would want to review carefully any lawsuit

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Candidate interview

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that was filed. This is probably my carryover from being a constitutional lawyer. Here's where I can tell you [what] my principle is: DOMA was an unnecessary encroachment by the federal government in an area traditionally reserved for the state. I think that it was primarily sent as a message to score political points instead of work through these difficult issues. I recognize why it was done. I'm sympathetic to the political pressures involved, but I think that we need to bring it to a close and my preference would be to work through a legislative solution. I would also point out that if it's going before this court, I'm not sure what chances it would have to be overturned. I think we're going to have to take a different approach, but I am absolutely committed to the concept it is not necessary.

MS: In last year's [Gay] History Project, Elaine Noble, who was one of the first elected [gay] officials in the country, referring to her discussions with Harvey Milk, said "I think we both knew that one of us was going to die." Milk, of course, was killed. As the first African-American president, have you and Michelle discussed this?

BO: We don't spend time worrying about security issues. We have Secret Service protection, which is the best in the world. Obviously we take precautions and listen to them, but what I spend the day thinking about is how do I get my message out that we need to change this country to make it more just and more fair, to make sure the economy is growing on behalf of middle-class Americans, make sure kids can go to college and bringing this war in Iraq to an end. That's what I spend my time thinking about.

MS: In the wake of the torture murder of Matthew Shepard [in 1998], Sen. McCain voted against adding sexual orientation to the definition of hate crimes and says he'll vote against it again. Isn't this inconsistent for a man who knows torture?

BO: You'll have to ask Sen. McCain that. Here's what I can say. There is no doubt that hate crimes based on sexual orientation are all too prevalent. It is something that we have to hit back hard against and identify these vicious crimes for what they are: hate crimes. This is something that I believe in and will continue to believe in when I am president.

MS: President Reagan, President Bush and President Clinton, when meeting world leaders, have raised human-rights questions. Amnesty International has documented countries that imprison, torture and kill gay men, some of which are very close U.S. allies. Would you be willing to raise that question when

meeting with those leaders?

BO: I think that the treatment of gays, lesbians and transgender persons is part of this broader human-rights discussion. I think it is not acceptable that we would in any way carve out exceptions for our broader human-rights advocacy to exclude violations of human rights based on sexual orientation. I think that has to be part and parcel of any conversations we have about human rights.

Mark Segal is publisher of the Philadelphia Gay News. He can be reached at mark@epgn.com.

October is GLBT History Month!

Beginning October 1, Equality Forum will honor 31 outstanding GLBT Icons with GLBT History Month 2008.

"From Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon on October 1st to Michelangelo on October 31st, the 31 Icons for 2008 combined, with the 62 Icons for GLBT History Month 2006 and 2007, are impressive," stated Malcolm Lazin, Executive Director, Equality Forum. "For a community deprived of its history, GLBT History Month teaches our heritage, provides role models, builds community, and makes the civil rights statement of our extraordinary national and international contributions."

Each day in October 2008, an Icon is featured with a video, biography, bibliography and other resources. The resources for GLBT History Month 2008 Icons will be available in October at www.glbtHistoryMonth.com. Resources for 2006 and 2007 Icons are archived on the site.

GLBT History Month Icon videos will be broadcast on LOGO and here! and streamed on major gay portals. The videos are offered without charge to educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, for profit companies and the public. More than 300 educational institutions, organizations and companies hosted GLBT History Month 2007 on their Web sites.

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

Vertigo in Butler Photo Gallery

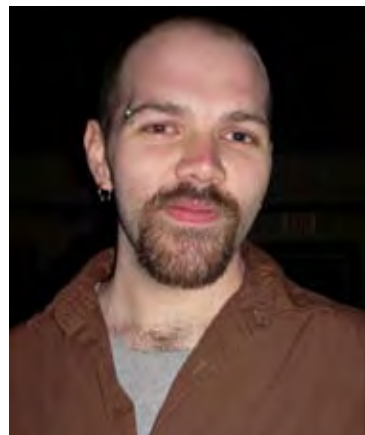


Here are a few of the people attending the first Vertigo Party of the year, held September 19 in Butler PA.

Photos by Mike Mahler.

Vertigo's MySpace page is at <http://www.myspace.com/butlervertigo>.

Vertigo is held the 3rd Friday of every month at SanBeano's Pizzeria, 375 W Wayne St, Butler PA, starting at 9 PM.



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The Hell continues... All month long!

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 Guys Wear- Underwear!
 -Bridal Shower Games
 -Pole Dancing
 -Prizes

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 to
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 at the
Zone Dance Club
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 for the

**Till Death
 Do Us part...
 Stag & Drag Show!**
Friday
October 24

**Wedding from Hell
 Halloween Party!**
Saturday
November 1
 Ceremony at Midnight!
Prize! - for Best Costume!



www.thezonedanceclub.com