



Oil City Gay-Straight Alliance Costume Ball Nov 1

from End Bigotry in Venango County

The Oil City Gay-Straight Alliance is sponsoring a costume ball--“Night of the Living La La’s” on November 1 at the Latonia, 1 East First Street, Oil City, PA. The event starts at 8 PM.

The cost is just \$5. It’s a BYOB event. Anyone *not* in costume may be subject to harassment by the Latonia Ghosts.

This event, publicized as a gay-straight alliance event, says that this is a welcoming event for the GLBT community. If you are straight and welcoming—come have a good time.

The emerging alliance and its meaning? You’ll have to come to discover that. And the name of the event? You’ll have to come to discover that as well.

Something very different is happening in Oil City. The days of negativity and stereotyping are gone—gone! If you are ready to have fun, to create good things, and bring an attitude of true community-building, you belong here!

Info Phone: (814) 677-1260. Email: thelatonia@verizon.net. Visit <http://endbigotryinvenangocounty.blogspot.com>

UU Erie Auction Nov 1

from the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie

There will be a Antique, Art and Gift Auction Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie on Saturday, November 1, 6 PM - 9 PM. Just in time for your holiday shopping! The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie presents this event that is open to the public. Beautiful art, fine antiques, and great gifts. There will be live music and refreshments. For a description of the art and antiques, visit www.uuerie.org after October 26th. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Kids’ Cafe (located at the Trinity Center on 18th and Walnut Streets.) Phone: (814) 864-9300. Email: uuerie@juno.com. Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie is at 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie, PA) 6 PM - 9 PM. (0.5 miles north of I-90, Exit 97.)



Tira and Tom at last year’s Halloween fun at the Zone. Look inside this issue for lots of upcoming Halloween events, and check out the next issue for lots of pics!

Photo by James von Loeve

Jewelry Show & Sale to Benefit Crime Victim Center

from Crime Victim Center

Crime Victim Center will be the site of an art/ jewelry show and sale from 4:30-6:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 6. Local glass artists Edie Fisher and Steve Wernecke from GlassWear, etc. will be back this year with their beautiful and unusual glass pieces. Some of the items that can be seen and purchased include: dichroic necklaces, earrings, bracelets, rings, watches, kiln-formed glass vases, candle shelters, clocks, mirrors, lamps and key rings. You can preview Edie’s and Steve’s work on their web site at www.glasswearetc.com.

GlassWear, etc. will be donating 20% of the sales that evening to the Center. For more information, call (814) 455-9414.

More Community News page 4

In This Issue...

Calendar.....	5
On Stage	9
Theater.....	9
One-Issue Voters	10
Pennsylvania Rights.....	12
Voters Guide	13
Contests	19
Voters Info Outside NWPAs	19



Check Out Our Website at: www.eriegaynews.com
for our list of locations

Classified Ads are available!
See page 18 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.



Erie Gay News
1115 West 7th St.
Erie PA 16502-1105
Phone: (814) 456-9833
Fax: (270)423-6217
info@eriegaynews.com
www.eriegaynews.com

Editors: Deb Spilko and Mike Mahler
Ad Design: Mike Lipiec
Deadline for next issue: Saturday, November 15; this will be distributed the night of Tuesday, November 25.

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 Zone Dance Club for hosting and Joe Toleben for providing water, Anthony S, Bruce ShROUT, James von Loewe, Janice H, Jeff, Jerry McCumber, Johauna, and Laurie Finch for folding; Anthony S, Bruce ShROUT, Deb Spilko, James von Loewe, Janice H, Jeff, Jerry McCumber, Johauna, John, Laurie Finch, and Paula 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.

ERIE GAY BUSINESS ALLIANCE



proudly presents

A Candidate Forum

on Sunday, October 26 at 7PM
at the Zone Dance Club
133 W 18th Street • Erie PA

Please come to hear
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Be sure that you have the
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Community News

(continued from front page)

Ethiopian AIDS Education Circus in Jamestown Oct 23

On October 23rd, at 7:30 PM Members of One Love AIDS/HIV Awareness Theater of Awassa, Ethiopia will give a performance presentation in Jamestown

Eight years ago Meshu Tamrat and Tesfay Tekalu were performing gymnastics for their own survival in the dusty streets of Awassa Ethiopia. Now they lead one of the most famous youth programs in Ethiopia – The Awassa Youth Campus. They have brought their One Love AIDS/HIV Awareness Theater to hundreds of thousands of people in the markets of Ethiopia, worked for the UN in Sudanese refugee camps and in October will come Jamestown on as part of a USA fund-raising tour.

Arts Council and Reg Lenna Civic Center Director, David Schein has a personal connection with these young artists. In 2002 he went to Ethiopia to work with Tesfay and Meshu and other street children to found the Awassa AIDS Education Circus. Since then, he has returned five times to work with the Circus and has watched it grow from a rag-tag troupe to internationally renowned theater and youth campus.

The Reg Lenna Civic Center invites the public to a performance presentation by these young ETHIOPIAN artists who have made a huge difference in their own lives and in their own country.

The presentation, a benefit for One Love AIDS/HIV Awareness Theater will be at the Reg Lenna Studio Theater, 116 E. Third Street at 7:30 PM on October 23rd, 2008. Admission: Students \$4, Adults \$10, Group rates available. Space is limited, reservations recommended at (716) 484-7070, the Reg Lenna Box Office or at reglenna.com.

For information about the Awassa Youth Campus or One Love AIDS/HIV Awareness Theater or to interview the artists, contact David Schein at (716) 664-2465 ext 6 or at david@artscouncil.com

Calendar

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

Oct 24 (Fri) - Wedding from Hell! 'Till Death Do Us Part' Stag & Drag Show! at Zone Dance Club 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) - 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. 9 PM to 2 AM. Host Buffy Lynne Hayes and sound/lighting by DJ Jason G. \$50 First Place Cash prize. Must be under 21 to participate in contest. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to <http://www.myspace.com/crazecollegenight>.

Oct 30 (Thu) - "Yossi & Jagger" (Israel, 2002) (Meadville) Showing at Allegheny College, 212 Car-

negie 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. Part of the Middle East Film Series Updated info: vika.gardner@allegheny.edu

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

Oct 31 - "Rocky Horror" at 145 Theatre 145 W 11th, Erie PA 7:30 PM All ages. One night only. Featuring the original movie. Along with a simultaneous live theatrical presentation. You don't want to miss it. Popcorn girls, dancers and drag queens "The Biggest 21+ Free Halloween After Party in the City" 10 PM (814)873-5069 More at www.thetheatre145.com

Nov 1 (Sat) - Unitarian Art, Antique and Gift Auction (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie,

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The Latonia
Oil City PA
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8 pm \$5.00
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Calendar

7180 New Perry Highway, Erie, PA) 6 PM - 9 PM. Just in time for your holiday shopping! The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie presents this event that is open to the public. It is located at 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA. (0.5 miles north of I-90, Exit 97.) A portion of the proceeds will go to the Kids' Cafe (located at the Trinity Center on 18th and Walnut Streets.) Beautiful art, fine antiques, and great gifts. There will be live music and refreshments. For a description of the art and antiques, visit www.uuerie.org after October 26th. Phone: (814) 864-9300. Email: uuerie@juno.com. Browse to www.uuerie.org.

Nov 1 (Sat) - Night of the Living La Las at The Latonia, 1 East First 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: thelatonia@verizon.net.

Nov 1 (Sat) - Craze Night Club: Night of Fright 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. 9 PM to 2 AM. Costume Horror Show and contest hosted by special guest Jamie Lynne. \$100 First Place Cash prize. Phone: (814) 456-

3027. Browse to <http://www.crazeerie.com>.

Nov 1 (Sat) - Zone Dance Club: Wedding from Hell Halloween Party 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA.ou are cordially invited to attend the monster Wedding from Hell of Gaylord "Bones" Bonepart to Vampiria 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 and 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 www.thezonedanceclub.com

Nov 2 (Sun) - Womynspace meets at Presque Isle Gallery Coffeehouse, 35 Peninsula Drv, Erie, PA. 2 PM. Social group for lesbian, bisexual and transgendered women. For this month, we are going to try the new coffeehouse, Presque Isle Gallery Coffeehouse, 35 Peninsula Drive Erie, Pennsylvania - 814-790-5615. This is on Presque Isle, just before Sara's Restaurant on the right. It is in the old Joe Root's building. It's nice if we can take a walk afterwards. Email: womynspace-owner@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://womynoferie.wetpaint.com/>.

Nov 15 (Sat) - Cowboy Rodeo Party at Craze Night Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. 9 PM - 2 AM. 'Cowboy Rodeo Party' returns to Craze for another crazy night of cowboy western fun. Prizes for hottest Cowboys and Gals! Line-dance to your



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Calendar

favorite Country music video hits mixed with today's hits all night! Contact: Duane. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to <http://www.crazeerie.com>.

Nov 4 (Tue) - General Election 7 AM - 8 PM. Please remember to vote! Check out the voters guide in this issue!

Nov 15 (Sat) - Deadline for EGN December 2008 print edition. Please have all articles, ads, and submissions in by this date. For a complete list of upcoming deadlines and release dates, check the print edition schedule at <http://www.eriegaynews.com/printedition/deadlineschedule.php>. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com.

Nov 20 (Thu) - Erie Sisters Performance at Craze Night Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. 9 PM - 2 AM. Craze welcomes the Sisters of Erie for a night of great performances by local entertainers. Enjoy Quarter Drafts every Thursday until midnight. Contact: Duane. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to <http://www.crazeerie.com>

Nov 21 (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 www.myspace.com/butlervertigo.

Nov 21-22 (Fri - Sat) - Zone Dance Club: Think Pink - Breast Cancer Weekend (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) Show your support and come join us at the Zone Dance Club for a weekend of awareness & fun as we help raise money for a great cause! Friday - the Zone Divas and a few special guests will host the Pretty in Pink Benefit Show! Bring your dollar bills and tip them well! Saturday is the Zone's



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Calendar

Pretty in Pink Party! Wear pink and black and join us for a night of dancing and fun! We will also be having a Pink Chinese Auction and Pink Bake Sale with items donated by the local community! Help raise money and awareness for a great cause! Think Pink! Get into the Zone! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Nov 21 (Fri) - Zone Dance Club: Pretty in Pink Benefit Show (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) Join us for a special Think Pink breast cancer event as the Zone Divas and a few special guests put on a benefit show to help raise money and awareness for a great cause! Bring your dollar bills and tip them well, because all money raised will be donated to the fight against breast cancer. Also check out the Pink Chinese Auction and Pink Bake Sale with items donated by the local community for this great cause! Help raise money and awareness for a great cause! Think Pink! Get into the Zone! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

Nov 22 (Sat) - Zone Dance Club: Pretty in Pink Party (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA)

Our Think Pink Breast Cancer Weekend continues.. Get out the glitz & glam as we help raise money for the fight against breast cancer. Wear black & pink and join us for a night of dancing & fun and help support a great cause! Pink Chinese Auction, Pink Bake Sale, Pink Glowsticks, Pink Cosmo Martinis - dancing & fun! Help raise money & awareness for a great cause! Think Pink! Get into the Zone! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

Nov 25 (Tue) - Erie Gay News folding/distributing work party 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Help us get out the print edition of Erie Gay News. We will be folding and distributing the copies. It is also a great way to hang out and chat with folks! Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

Nov 26 (Wed) - Pre-Thanksgiving Karaoke at Craze Night Club 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. 9 PM - 2 AM. Join your friends at Craze for Pre-Thanksgiving Karaoke and \$2 Captains. New books! Great song selections! Contact: Duane. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to www.crazeerie.com.

Nov 26 (Wed) - Zone Dance Club: Family Reunion 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Everyone is coming home for the Thanksgiving Holiday! Catch up with old friends and family for a Wednesday night of dancing and fun at the Zone! Dance to your favorite videos all night long! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Nov 27-30 Mr Leatherman Toronto Competition Toronto, ON, Canada (416) 890-2323, (416) 303-1057 www.mrlt.com Border-crossing ID required.

Nov 27 (Thu) - Thanksgiving Day at the Zone Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. 8 PM - 2 AM. We open at 8 PM. Join us for an after-dinner drink and dance off all those extra calories. Happy Thanksgiving from the Zone! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Nov 28 (Fri) - Black Friday Karaoke at Craze (Craze Night Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA) 9 PM - 2 AM. The shopping is all done...but the fun has JUST begun! Join your friends every Friday for Karaoke at Craze Night Club Contact: Duane. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to <http://www.crazeerie.com>.

Dec 1 (Mon) - World AIDS Day



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Thursday 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Erie Office - Outreach Services
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Corry Office 814-663-3891

On Stage

Selected events that may be of interest to GLBT audiences

Oct 23 - Ethiopian AIDS Education Circus 7:30 PM See article front page. At the Reg Lenna Studio Theater, 116 E. Third Street, Jamestown NY (716) 484-7070, the Reg Lenna Box Office or at reglenna.com Info: David Schein at (716) 664-2465 ext 6 or at david@artscouncil.com

Oct 24 "The Queen of Bingo" 8 PM. Fredonia Opera House in Fredonia NY. Details on this page. Reservations and details: Box office: 716-679-1891 Website: www.fredopera.org

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. Web: www.margaretcho.com/

Nov 14-Dec 6 - Paul Rudnick's "New Century" presented by Buffalo United Artists. Four short plays feature everyone from a concerned Long Island mother of at least three gay children to an accomplished Midwestern craftswoman to Mr. Charles, a flamboyant resident of Palm Beach. Reservations: (716) 886-9239 Browse to www.buffalobua.org

Oct 31 - Amy Ray in Cleveland at Beachland Ballroom & Tavern www.beachlandballroom.com

Oct 31 - "Rocky Horror" at 145 Theatre See item in this month's calendar and www.thetheatre145.com

Nov 1 - Amy Ray in Pittsburgh at Mr. Small's Theatre www.mrsmalls.com

Nov 2 - Amy Ray in Buffalo at The Tralf Music Hall www.tralfmusicall.com

Jan 25, 2009 - "Hairspray" in Erie at the Warner Theatre 7 PM www.erieevents.com (814) 452-4857 or (814) 456-7070.

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Theater

"Queen of Bingo"

At 1891 Fredonia Opera House
Friday, October 24 at 8 PM

In the tradition of the hilarious Harvey Korman and Tim Conway sketches from the old Carol Burnett Show, "The Queen of Bingo" tells the tale of Sis and Babe, two sisters on the other side of 50 who want to add a little fun and excitement to their lives ... but where to find it?? Bingo!!

"The Queen of Bingo" explores the worlds of Bingo, family ties, diet crazes, widowhood, hot flashes and winning! The audience joins in the fun during the "Middle Bird Special"—a real Bingo game in which some lucky audience member wins a *free* 10 lb. frozen turkey!

Theatergoers young and old will howl with laughter as two zany guys, playing two crazy gals, light up the stage in this raucous comedy hit!

Reservations and details: Box office: 716-679-1891 Website: www.fredopera.org Reserved Seating \$22 (\$20 Seniors, \$18 Opera House Members)

~from 1891 Fredonia Opera House

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One-Issue Voters

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

I have a friend who is a one-issue voter. I have the greatest respect for him, and he and I have been friends for years. He is intelligent and well-read. But when it comes to voting, he has only thought in mind. He's going to vote for the candidate who is against abortion.

Even though I'm pro-choice and I believe a woman should have the right to make her own decision without government interference, I still respect my friend's opinion.

The problem I have is that he doesn't seem to take anything else into consideration. Important issues in the presidential race such as the war, the economy, and the environment all take a back seat to the candidates' view on abortion. It seems to him that nothing else matters. He even has a bumper-sticker on his car that say, "I Vote Pro-Life."

Recently church politics was in the news when the Diocese of Pittsburgh of the Episcopal Church

voted to separate itself from the national church. The clergy vote was 121 to 33 in favor of leaving the denomination.

Why would an entire diocese of a major church vote to disassociate itself from the church with which they have been affiliated for hundreds of years? What could possibly be so terrible that this one Diocese would cause dissention and encourage disunity throughout the entire Episcopal Church?

The answer, as I see it, is that those who voted to leave the national church were "one-issue" voters.

The issue that alarms them is homosexuality. They are fearful that the Episcopal Church is making a bold attempt to be a church where all people can come to worship and hold leadership regardless of their sexual orientation. Those in the church that have caused this schism evidently believe that gay/lesbian people should be excluded from the full life and fellowship of the church.

This division occurred even after the Most Rev. Katherine Jefferts Schori, presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church in America said, "There is room in this church for all who desire to be member of it."

I'm not an Episcopal priest and probably have little right, and certainly no authority, to state my views about a sister denomination. But it does disturb me that for all the beauty of its liturgy, and for all the fine and gracious people who pride themselves on being members of the historic Episcopal Church, a whole Diocese decides to leave their roots based solely on a one-issue vote!



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Rainbow Pride Gift Shop, Buffalo, NY 716-855-0222
and many others at <http://gayellowpages.com/2buy.htm>

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EGN
Erie Gay News

Pennsylvania Rights

Though much left to accomplish, LGBT people make great strides in PA

By Jake Kaskey and Andy Hoover

As the election nears and as many people's thoughts and efforts begin to be geared toward November 4, we feel it is critically important to look back at the state of LGBT issues in Pennsylvania and the historic progress the LGBT community has made in Harrisburg this legislative session.

In early 2007, a record number of bipartisan co-sponsors came together to introduce House Bill 1400 and Senate Bill 761, legislation to amend the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act to prohibit discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations based upon one's sexual orientation or gender identity and expression. Representative Dan Frankel (D-Pittsburgh) and Representative Chris Ross (R-Chester County) as well as Senator Patrick Browne (R-Allentown) worked tirelessly to promote these bills to fellow legislators and enlist support across the aisle, and from every corner of the state. Local activists and organizations, such as Erie PFLAG, called and met with their officials, and as a result brought unprecedented visibility to this issue.

While the bill stalled in the Senate Judiciary Committee, State Government Committee Chairwoman Babette Josephs (D-Philadelphia) committed unprecedented resources to educating her committee on the need for this legislation. Public hearings were held in Erie, Pittsburgh, and Philadelphia in the fall of 2007, which brought together people of all backgrounds to testify in support of this legislation, including representatives from the Philadelphia Bar Association, Womens Law Project, ACLU, Equality Advocates, the clergy, and countless others. These hearings marked the very first time LGBT non-discrimination legislation was discussed in this setting, and brought tremendous momentum, as well as the spotlight, to an issue vitally important to LGBT people.

As momentum grew to move non-discrimination legislation forward in the House, opponents introduced Senate Bill 1250, an amendment to the Pennsylvania constitution that would have defined marriage as solely between one man and one woman, as well as prohibit civil unions. Thousands of people, both LGBT and heterosexual, from every part of the state jumped into action, and let their legislators know there is no place

in our constitution for discrimination. As the Senate Judiciary Committee held hearings on the ill-conceived bill, hundreds of people from the LGBT community traveled to Harrisburg to rally on the steps of the Capitol Rotunda, and in one loud voice sent a strong and clear message to our elected officials- do not harm our families. With House Leadership vocally pushing back against the bill, it was withdrawn from consideration in the Senate. Together, as one community, we again stopped this discriminatory action dead in its tracks, and protected same-sex and unmarried heterosexual relationships across the state.

Over the course of the past two years, thousands of people have become involved in unprecedented ways- attending advocacy trainings, e-mailing and calling their legislators, rallying in the capitol, and sitting down with their elected officials. Organizations committed to equality for the LGBT community came together through the Value All Families Coalition and Faith Coalition for Pennsylvania Families, and worked with legislators to promote fairness for LGBT people.

Obviously, as this session ends and another lies just months ahead, there is much work to do. This summer the Pennsylvania Supreme Court struck down hate crime protections for LGBT people, and we must continue to push hard to pass protections against discrimination in the workplace and in housing; but as one community, with committed and hard-working members of the legislature, we have laid a strong foundation and built momentum to make tremendous strides in the coming year. A new legislative session brings incredible potential to improve the lives of LGBT people across this state, and together, as one community, we will move forward toward full equality.

Jake Kaskey is Education and Outreach Coordinator of Equality Advocates Pennsylvania. Andy Hoover is Legislative Director of American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania



☆☆☆ VOTERS GUIDE ☆☆☆

Candidates for US Congress (PA - 3rd District) PA State Senate and PA State Representative were asked about their positions on GLBT issues. Their responses appear on the next few pages.

US CONGRESS - 3rd District

Not Responding: **Phil English (R-Incumbent)**

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

What is your stance on legislation, such as the Employment Non Discrimination Act (ENDA), which would protect citizens on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression in housing, public accommodations and employment?

Kathleen Dahlkemper (D)

I fully support HR 3685 ENDA and would have voted for it were I in Congress at the time. I do not believe there should be any limitations placed on this Bill and that full protection for all Americans is a right and should not be limited in any way.

Steve Porter (I)

I favor the legislation.

HATE CRIMES

Kathleen Dahlkemper (D)

I absolutely support the Matthew Shepherd Act. Hate crimes based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression cannot be tolerated any more than a hate crime based on race, religion or disability cannot be tolerated.

Steve Porter (I)

Yes.

MILITARY SERVICE

Would you support legislation, such as the Military Readiness Enhancement Act that would allow openly gay, lesbian bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) people to serve in the military?

Kathleen Dahlkemper (D)

Clearly Don't Ask Don't Tell is a failed policy and one that denigrates our soldiers and keeps them second class citizens. I believe that any individual who is willing to serve his/her country should be able to do so without fear of harassment or retribution. I would support the Military Readiness Enhancement Act (HR1246).

Steve Porter (I)

Yes

OTHER

What else would you like to let people know about you?

Kathy Dahlkemper (D)

You did not ask about Civil Unions so let me just state for the record that I support Civil Unions and Domestic Partner benefits.

On a personal note, I am running for Congress because we have had enough of the so-called family values of the Republican right, enough of the failed fiscal policies of the Republican Party and because of the lack of visionary leadership for this region and country.

I am a small businesswoman, civic and community leader and mother of five. I am not a career politician but a concerned citizen who is determined to lead our nation in a new direction. I believe the depth and breadth of my background in areas such as health care, environmental leadership and as a business owner

US CONGRESS

gives me the experience necessary to make a difference in our region and the nation. I will work tirelessly to create an environment that encourages investment and job growth, that takes care of our children, the elderly, the poorest among us and the working poor. I will strive to leave our world safer and stronger, cleaner and brighter than we currently find it.

I am determined to make a difference:

- o For the millions of children and workers without health insurance
- o For our region, by leading the way to new jobs through the development of new technologies
- o For our troops, by bringing them home quickly and safely
- o For our world, by facing the issues of climate change
- o For our children, whose education must prepare them to succeed locally and globally
- o For those without a voice, the poor, the disadvantaged, and all the various minority populations

Please visit my website at www.kathydahlkemperforcongress.com or contact me at info@kathydahlkemperforcongress.com with any questions. Thank you for this opportunity to share my views.

Steve Porter (I)

The Constitution prohibits the violation of civil rights for any “arbitrary” reason such as age, sex, gender, creed, religion, physical condition or sexual orientation. It is about time this nation comes into compliance with its Constitution and does not allow the prejudices of people to erode the civil liberties we all are guaranteed.

Campaign websites of the Congressional Candidates

Kathy Dahlkemper (D)

kathydahlkemperforcongress.com

Steven Porter (I) www.porter4congress.com

Phil English (R) www.peopleforenglish.org

PA STATE SENATE - 49 Dist.

These are the questions that were asked of candidates for State Senate in 49th District:

Not responding **Jane Earll (R - Incumbent)**

Anti-Discrimination

What is your stance on legislation, such as SB 761, which would protect citizens on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression in housing, public accommodations and employment?

Cindy Purvis (D)

I will support anti-discrimination legislation.

Hate Crimes

Pennsylvania's Ethnic Crimes Intimidation Act had included sexual orientation and gender identity for several years now. It was removed due to a procedural issue in court. Do you support reinstating protections in the state's hate crimes law that would cover sexual orientation and gender identity?

Cindy Purvis (D)

I support passage of Ethic Crimes Intimidation which includes sexual orientation and gender identity.

Same sex couples

Do you support any recognition of rights for same-sex couples? Would you oppose SB 1250, which would amend Pennsylvania's constitution to ban equal marriage rights, civil unions and possibly threaten other forms of protection.

Cindy Purvis (D)

I support rights for same-sex couples. I oppose SB 1250.

Jane Earll (R-Incumbent) *[Although not responding to the EGN questionnaire, the following is a statement from Senator Earll when she voted against SB 1250 coming out the Judiciary Committee:*

"I think it's a very dangerous precedent to be amending the constitution of Pennsylvania based on court decisions in other states. I don't think we should be doing it based on potential threats, ghosts in corners, when there's no evidence there's any litigation now or being championed, or in the past, in Pennsylvania."]

Other

What else would you like to let people know about you?

Cindy Purvis (D)

I oppose any legislation or other attempt to blame minorities 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to give my viewpoint on your issues.

Websites for state candidates

To read more about the candidates, visit these websites

State Senate

Jane Earll (R) www.senatorearll.com/

Cindy Purvis (D) www.cindypurvis.com

PA House of Representatives

District 1

Pat Harkins (D) www.pahouse.com/harkins/

District 2

Flo Fabrizio (D) www.pahouse.com/fabrizio/

District 3

John Hornaman (D) <http://hornaman.homestead.com/>

Jason Owen (R) <http://votejasonowen.com/>

District 4

Rick Mitchell (D) www.mitchellforpa.com/

Curt Sonney (R) <http://repsonney.com/>

District 5

John Alward (D) <http://www.votealward.com/>

John Evans (R) www.evans4house.com

PA HOUSE

Anti-Discrimination

What is your stance on legislation, such as HB 1400, which would protect citizens on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression in housing, public accommodations and employment?

Hate Crimes

Pennsylvania's Ethnic Crimes Intimidation Act had included sexual orientation and gender identity for several years now. It was removed due to a procedural issue in court. Do you support reinstating protections in the state's hate crimes law that would cover sexual orientation and gender identity?

Same sex couples

Do you support any recognition of rights for same-sex couples? Would you oppose legislation similar to SB 1250, which would amend Pennsylvania's constitution to ban equal marriage rights, civil unions and possibly threaten other forms of protection.

Other

What else would you like to let people know about you?

District 1

Anti Discrimination

Pat Harkins (D-Incumbent)

I am a co-sponsor of HB 1400, and I was instrumental in having the hearing late last fall at the Blasco Library regarding this issue.

Hate Crimes

Pat Harkins (D-Incumbent)

Yes

Same Sex Couples

Pat Harkins (D-Incumbent)

I would have to know all of the particulars of the legislation that would come before me before I would support it. I believe what consenting adults choose to do in the privacy of their residence is their right, with no involvement from the government.

PA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Other

Pat Harkins (D-Incumbent)

I am an open-minded legislator, and I try to see all sides of an issue before making a decision.

District 2

Anti Discrimination

Flo Fabrizio (D-Incumbent)

As the Erie County Clerk I worked extensively and cooperatively with all stakeholders to effectuate anti discrimination language for the Erie County Human Relations Commission. Through the efforts of many persons who were desirous and committed to protect all citizens regardless of their sexual orientation, the Erie County Council adopted, and the Erie County Executive signed an ordinance which amended The Erie County Human Relations Charter by incorporating language prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation

I am a cosponsor of HB 1400, and I will work diligently for its passage.

Hate Crimes

Flo Fabrizio (D-Incumbent)

I would support the adoption of similar legislation.

Same Sex Couples

Flo Fabrizio (D-Incumbent)

I support the recognition of rights for same-sex couples or civil unions. I would oppose any constitutional amendment that would ban civil unions or provides language that specifies that marriage can be only between a man and a woman. The constitution should be empowering and it should not be a document that impedes, threatens or violates human and/or civil rights.

PA Voters questions

For questions about where to vote and how to vote, if you are registered, etc. visit <http://votespa.com>

District 3

Anti Discrimination

John Hornaman (D-Incumbent)

As a co-sponsor to HB 1400, I believe there should be no discrimination in housing or employment based on any factor of one's existence. I also believe that neither party in negotiations for housing or employment should seek to make sexual orientation an issue in those negotiations.

Jason Owen (R)

As a lawyer, I am trained to fight discrimination and I am proud of my proven record on 1st Amendment issues. As a Representative I will continue to fight for everyone's rights in the Pennsylvania House. I would support HB 1400 and vote to protect citizens on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression in housing, public accommodations and employment.

Hate Crimes

John Hornaman (D-Incumbent)

I disagree with the concept of "hate crimes" entirely. If you have been beaten or murdered, you are no more beaten because you were hated for your race or sexual orientation.

Jason Owen (R)

I was proud to see my former boss, Gov. Mark Schweiker, sign into law the language amending the Pennsylvania Ethnic Crimes Intimidation Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity. Given that Pennsylvania has a hate crimes law, it should include sexual orientation and gender identity.

The underlying problem with the way the legislature has done business is that it is without the transparency and openness that is demanded by Pennsylvania's Constitution and residents. We must change Harrisburg and reform the shoddy process that conceals information from the public- which is precisely what caused the Court to strike down this language from the Ethnic Crimes Intimidation Act.

PA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Same Sex Couples

John Hornaman (D-Incumbent)

I believe that a marriage exists between one man and one woman. I would not oppose SB 1250.

Jason Owen (R)

There are more urgent issues for our Commonwealth to be working on other than codifying discrimination such as SB 1250. We must prioritize investing in our future by investing in our youth; providing real government reform that results in real government change; and finally fulfilling the broken promise of property tax elimination for all Pennsylvanians.

It is my belief that marriage is a sacred institution that should only be defined by one's religious views. That is why I feel the state should not define, nor even provide civil marriages. When the state cannot provide equal benefits to all of its residents, then it should not provide any. I would support the recognition of rights for same-sex couples, as well as opposite-sex couples, however they are defined so long as they are equal.

Ultimately, it is paramount to provide a stable family unit for our children. We must protect our children when the unexpected occurs, those benefits must be universal for all Pennsylvania families- no child should be disadvantaged by the Commonwealth.

Other

Jason Owen (R)

Millcreek attorney Jason Owen is an up-and-coming young professional in Erie County. Early this year, he established his law practice in Millcreek Township under the name Jason Owen, Esq. He currently represents Erie County clients, their businesses and organizations.

Prior to his swearing-in, Jason was privileged to work at his alma mater, Capital University Law School, as a seasonal recruiter. There he represented the law school to prospective students across the country.

In law school, Jason worked for Pennsylvania Attorney General Tom Corbett at the Bureau of Consumer Protection in Erie, PA. There he assisted various consumers in the region with unfair and deceptive trade practices. Also, he developed an informational presentation to warn consumers about predatory lending. Finally, he worked to protect consumers by researching and drafting various memos, briefs, and complaints

used by the Bureau of Consumer Protection.

At Capital, Jason succeeded as both a student and a leader. During graduation, Jason received the Dean's Award for his leadership and contributions to the law school. Jason's commitments include working as a research assistant to former Federal Elections Commission Chairman, Prof. Brad Smith; researching and implementing a Loan Repayment Assistance Program for government and public service attorneys; and co-authoring an Election Law article in the Stanford Law & Policy Review. Prof. Smith & Atty. Owen argue that the new McCain-Feingold campaign law restricts constitutional protections guaranteed by the First Amendment.

Jason has more than three years of Pennsylvania state government experience. He served both Governors Tom Ridge and Mark Schweiker in the Governor's Office. In this capacity he carefully coordinated logistics with the press and Pennsylvania State Police to ensure success for the Governors' events on their ambitious schedules. During the summer of 2002, Jason worked side-by-side with Gov. Schweiker, personally assisting him during the 80-hour Quecreek Mine Rescue in Somerset, PA.

Prior to working directly with the Governors, Jason worked in Harrisburg as a Legislative Assistant at the Pennsylvania Department of Education. There he became familiar with the legislative process and how to implement successful reforms to improve the education system across the Commonwealth.

Attorney Owen completed his undergraduate coursework in Political Science at Allegheny College. There he began his political career interning for Gov. Ridge and District Attorney Brad Foulk. He also was a dedicated member of the Allegheny Student Government for each of his four years. Prior to Allegheny, Jason graduated from Cathedral Preparatory School as editor-in-chief of the school newspaper and president of the debate club. His education originally began at St. Peter's Cathedral Center.

Jason Owen is the 30-year-old son of Jane Daddio Owen and deceased Cpl. Robert Owen of the Erie Police Department. He is a member of the Young Erie Professionals, the Pennsylvania and Erie County Bar Associations, the Flagship Niagara League, Elks Lodge No. 67 and attends Mass at Our Lady of Peace Church

PA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

District 4

Not Responding: **Curt Sonney (R-Incumbent)**

Anti Discrimination

Rick Mitchell (D)

I am in favor of equal treatment for all people, and agree in principle with the provisions of HB 1400.

Hate Crimes

Rick Mitchell (D)

I would support common sense hate crimes legislation.

Same Sex Couples

Rick Mitchell (D)

I would support civil unions. Same sex couples should have the same property rights under the law as anyone else. Estate laws that punish people not given equal standing under that law are unfair. Individual churches will do what they choose, but I would oppose legislation such as SB 1250.

Other

Rick Mitchell (D)

If elected, my first act will be to add my name to House Bill 1660, which proposes single-payer health care for all Pennsylvanians. This means that whenever you are sick you can walk into your doctor's office or any hospital and have all the care you need, for as long as you need it, with the calm assurance that all the bills will be paid.

Pennsylvania should become a leader in producing alternative energy. To this end, more resources should be devoted to developing this area. This will have multiple benefits to the environment, to the economy, and to the consumer.

Education is very important. Whatever can be done on the State level to repeal "No Child Left Behind" and restore balance to the educational process, should be done. Strong public education is vital to the future success of our society.

While I can't say unequivocally that I'd vote against all new taxes, I am opposed to new taxes that simply get added to the General Fund.

District 5

John Alward (D) [*John Alward did not respond, but his website contains responses to Project Vote Smart's "political courage test." In that test, Alward indicated he: Does not believe same-sex couples should be allowed to marry. Does not support Pennsylvania recognizing civil unions. Does not support Pennsylvania providing state-level spousal rights to same-sex couples.*]

John Evans (R-Incumbent)

Rep. Evans did not respond to the questionnaire, but emailed the following message: "Please convey to your members that I am against any form of discrimination and my voting record over the past eight years does reflect that. Please don't hesitate to check my web site at www.evans4house.cop for details."

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HELP WANTED - THERAPIST

Persad Center, a local non-profit counseling center for the LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities, is expanding services and has several positions available for mental health or substance abuse therapists to work in outpatient and intensive outpatient setting. Masters Degree in Social Work or Counseling field required. EOE. Resumes to Leslie Fleisher, 5150 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15224 or lfeisher@pgharts.org

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Penn Action is hiring people for our non-partisan GOTV (Get Out The Vote) campaign. We have positions open for phone banking and door-to-door canvassing, both of which pay \$9.00 per hour. Give our GOTV director, Bobby Zacharias, a call @ (814) 340-1294 if you are interested!

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Contests

Win 1 of 5 copies of the new Lucinda Williams CD, *Little Honey*

Erie Gay News is giving away 5 copies of the new Lucinda Williams CD, *Little Honey*. Enter between October 13 and November 3!

Lucinda Williams has always been adept at painting landscapes of the soul, illuminating the spirit's shadowy nooks and shimmering crannies -- but she's never captured the sun breaking through the clouds as purely as on her new Lost Highway release, *Little Honey*

The album features a duet with Elvis Costello "Jailhouse Tears" Other guest vocalists include Matthew Sweet, Susanna Hoffs, Jim Lauderdale, Tim Easton and Charlie Louvin.

Enter online at <http://www.eriegaynews.com>. Check out Lucinda Williams website at <http://www.lucindawilliams.com/lucinda/php/index.php>.

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! Entries must be received between November 7 and November 28.

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>.

EGN
Erie Gay News
CALENDAR LISTINGS
Are Free!

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

Voters Info Outside NWP

Clickable links at www.eriegaynews.com

NATIONAL

Human Rights Campaign Largest nationwide GLBT civil rights organization. www.hrc.org

OHIO VOTERS

Equality Ohio has a list of endorsements at <http://www.eopac.org/>

Gay People's Chronicle publishes endorsements made by GLBT organizations. Gay People's Chronicle website is www.gaypeopleschronicle.com

NEW YORK VOTERS

Empire Pride Agenda has a list of endorsements at www.prideagenda.org (Click on "Campaigns and Elections")

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814-453-5744 or 1-800-400-2437
Clarion Office: 15870 Route 322
Suite 2 Clarion, PA 16214
814-764-6066 or 1-800-359-2437
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