

December 2008



EGN

Erie Gay News



About 80 people from the Erie area braved the cold and rain to be part of the Proposition 8 protest. More photos and videos online at www.eriegaynews.com

Photo by Deb Spilko

Erie joins national day of protest against Proposition 8

by Michael Mahler

On Saturday, November 15 about 80 people stood at the Erie County Courthouse to protest Proposition 8.

The Erie event was part of a coordinated nationwide protest against the California ballot measure that would remove marriage rights for same-sex couples. Protests took place on the same day in over 300 cities, with an estimated 100,000 people taking part.

Speaking at the rally were Tiffany, a proud lesbian mother who spoke about her eight-month-old son; Doris Cipolla, a retired schoolteacher whose 35-year relationship with Charlene Tanner was not acknowledged to anyone until Charlene passed away; Laurie Finch who spoke about her wife Janice Hanusik; Greg Rabb, openly-gay president of Jamestown NY City Council; Mike and Colleen, a gay man and straight woman who are best friends and roommates; and Linda Henderson, who spoke of some of the

harassment and rumor-mongering she and her partner Roxanne experienced after buying the Latonia Theatre in Oil City PA. Emceeding the event was Rev. Steve Aschmann of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie.

WSEE, WJET and WICU all covered the event. Local videographer Jeremy of Misinformed Productions videotaped the whole event. Links to the videos are available at the online version of this article, as are photos of the event, taken by Deb Spilko.

The initial organizers of the event were Rev. Steve Aschmann and myself. Members of the GLBT-Vote list helped to shape the local event through online discussion.

Thanks to Mike, Erin, John, Colleen, Jillian, Misty, Laurie, Janice, Bruce, Tony, Tiffany, Richard, Bill, Mitchell, Jeremy, Tim Dahle, Alina (who is only 13 and made many of the signs at the rally) and Deb.

The nationwide protest was organized in only a week's time largely via the Internet. In Erie, people were

(continued on page 3)

In This Issue...

Calendar	4
On Stage	6
Celebrations	6
Contest	7
Civil rights organization takes on Prop 8 ...	8
Photos from Erie Proposition 8 rally	9
God-talk	10
Update for LBT Women	11
Michael's Ditherings.....	12
Java Buzz.....	13
Screen.....	14
Halloween Photo Gallery.....	15

Inviting people to celebrate the New Year with you?

Let us know about it by Dec 15 and we'll list it in EGN's New Year celebrations feature!

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See page 18 for more info.

EGN Rates & Data

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AD SIZE	PRICE/ISSUE	DIMENSIONS
EIGHTH	\$30 - \$27 Prepaid	1 5/8" high X 2 7/8" wide
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Camera ready art or manuscript and/or photos, illustrations and logos must be received by the 15th of the month.

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Erie Gay News
1115 West 7th St.
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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: Monday, December 15; this will be distributed the night of Tuesday, December 23.

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, Andrea, Art, Bart, Bruce ShROUT, Bryan, Charles, Don, Doug Mauri, James von Loewe, Janice Hanusik, Jeff, Jerry McCumber, Kim, Laurie Finch, Mike Kohler, and Oat for folding; Andrea, Bruce ShROUT, Charles, Deb Spilko, James von Loewe, Janice Hanusik, Jeff, Jerry McCumber, Johauna, John, Kim, 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.

Community News

notified of the event through email lists like Erie GLBT, GLBT Voters discussion list, and Womynspace.

To read more about this phenomenal national nationwide effort, visit www.jointheimpact.com and <http://jointheimpact.wetpaint.com>

EGBA Candidate forum

from Erie Gay Business Alliance

On Sunday, October 26, the Erie Gay Business Alliance held a candidate forum for US Presidential, US Congressional PA-3, PA State Senate District 49 and PA State House for districts that are in Erie County. We had about 60 people or so attend. In terms of candidates for Federal office, we had Jamie Citron, who is the Deputy LGBT Outreach coordinator for the Obama/Biden campaign, all three candidates for US Congress PA-3 - Kathy Dahlkemper (D), a representative for Phil English (R-Incumbent) and Steve Porter (I). For Pennsylvania state candidates, we had Cindy Purvis (D) for PA State Senate District 49, Jason Owen (R) for PA State House District 3, and Rick Mitchell (D) for PA State House District 4. All of the PA state candidates who attended are the non-incumbents.

It went fairly well. Local ABC news affiliate WJET TV 24 was there and ran a story on the 11 PM news broadcast, which is linked from the online version of this article.

Thanks to Zone Dance Club for hosting (and Tommy for opening the bar for us), Janice, Laurie, Lisa, Gene and Richard for set up/clean up, Joe the VJ for sound, Josh for help with introductions, Deb for taking photos, and Brian for publicity,

Vertigo moves to new location

from Kirsten

The new location for Vertigo parties (3rd Friday of each month at 9 PM) is the Lyndora Hotel, in their upstairs banquet room. It's perfect! It's big, and has lots of seating, couches, and tables. There will be a bar, so no more BYOB. Admission will be lower as well, just \$5. We even have a private entrance that is separate from the regular downstairs bar. Please use the stairs from the downstairs bar door. The address for the Lyndora Hotel is 1 Main St. Lyndora, PA 16045.

For more information: Call: (724) 285-1644. Email: vertigov@aol.com Visit them online at MySpace at www.myspace.com/butlervertigo

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Calendar

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

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 26 (Wed) - "Rosie Live" On NBC at 8 p.m. Rosie O'Donnell's new show will include Kathy Griffin, Liza Minelli, Clay Aiken, Harry Connick Jr., Alanis Morissette, Jane Krakowski, Ne-Yo, Rachael Ray, Alec Baldwin, Gloria Estefan and more.

Nov 27-30 (Thu-Sun) - Mr Leatherman Toronto Competition Toronto, ON, Canada (416) 890-2323, (416) 303-1057 www.mrlt.com

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

Dec 7 (Sun) - LBT Women of Erie meets (Presque Isle Gallery Coffeehouse, 35 Peninsula Drv, Erie, PA) 2 PM. Social group for lesbian, bisexual and transgendered women. Please bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the Second Harvest Food Bank of NW PA if you are able. The donations will be coupled with those gathered by the Erie Gay News. Sign up for email list at <http://lists.eriegaynews.com/> Email: womynspace-owner@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://womynoferie.wetpaint.com/>. (Clickable links at www.eriegaynews.com)

Dec 12 (Fri) - Watchfire Alliance Holiday Gathering for Chautauqua County (Unitarian Church of Jamestown, 1255 Prendergast Ave, Jamestown, NY) 7 PM. Social/support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) people. Phone: (716)499-4817. Email: brobson515@msn.com.

Dec 13 (Sat) - Latonia: 'Tis the Season to be Jolly' (Oil City PA) Don your Gay apparel and join us in celebration of the truest meaning of Christmas – Peace on Earth – Good will toward all! An Oil City Gay/Straight Alliance social at the Latonia in Oil City at 8pm. BYOB \$5. Jill from Pittsburgh will DJ along with a live performance surprise or two.

Dec 13 (Sat) - Zone Dance Club: Santa's Naughty or Nice Underwear and Pajama Party 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA Show Santa how naughty or nice you have been this year by wearing fun Christmas boxers, hot underwear, sexy lingerie, or warm fuzzy PJ's! Santa will be handing out gifts to those that participate and coal to those who don't. Show off your big package and

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Calendar

come be a Ho Ho Ho! Happy Holidays from everyone at the Zone! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com

Dec 19 (Fri) - Zone Dance Club: Divas in a Winter Wonderland 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Stand in line because the divas of the Zone are about to give you a holiday kiss under the mistletoe! Join us for a sexy night of holiday entertainment, but get here early—tables fill up fast! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Dec 19 (Fri) - Vertigo Dance Party (Lyndora Hotel, 1 Main St, Lyndora PA 16045) 9 PM. NOTE NEW LOCATION!!! Monthly dance party for GLBT/friendly folks the 3rd Friday of every month. \$5 cover charge. Phone: (724) 285-1644. Email: vertigov@aol.com. Browse to www.myspace.com/butlervertigo.com

Dec 20 (Sat) - Zone Dance Club: White Christmas Party 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. The snowflakes are falling and it's a Winter Wonderland Christmas at the Zone. Wear white and dress in layers, because we're going to heat things up! Join your friends for a night of dancing and holiday fun. Happy Holidays from everyone at the Zone! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com

Dec 23 (Tue) - Erie Gay News folding/distributing work party (Jeff's, 1146 Brown Ave, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Help us get out the print edition of Erie Gay News. We will be folding and distributing the copies. All ages are welcome! It is also a great way to hang out and chat with folks! Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://www.eriegaynews.com>.



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Dec. 13th

8PM

\$5

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On Stage

Selected events that may be of interest to GLBT audiences

Nov 29 - Ari Gold in Pittsburgh At The Eagle 1740 Eckert St. www.pitteagle.com <http://arigold.com/>

Dec 12-14 - Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus "Hope for the Holidays" Times and locations at www.buffalogaymenschorus.com

Dec 13-14 - North Coast Men's Chorus "An Evening in December" www.ncmchorus.org, 216-556-0590.

Dec 20 - Shari Gross at Latino's Restaurant 1313 Parade St., Erie PA. 7-9PM Parking is on Parade, or in the alley behind the restaurant, or across Parade where marked.

Nov 21-Dec 13 - Paul Rudnick's "New Century" Buffalo United Artists. www.buffalobua.org.

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

Feb 5, 2009 - Lily Tomlin in Cleveland at Playhouse Square Palace Theater. www.playhousesquare.com

Feb 7, 2009 - Lily Tomlin in Pittsburgh at Benedum Center www.lilytomlin.com www.pgharts.org



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Celebrations



Chris Dye (middle) and Season Cranell (right) at their wedding.

Season Crannell and Chris Dye were married on October 4, 2008.

The couple was married at Shade's Beach in Harbor Creek, PA.

Leslie Sadley officiated at the ceremony.

Chris and Season have been very helpful with the Pride Picnic over the years.

Best wishes to the happy couple!

Deadline for next issue is December 15



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Road conditions

City of Erie, call 452-2000 extension 7669.
Pennsylvania interstate road conditions call 1-888-783-6783.

New York State road conditions 1-800-847-8929.

Ohio call 1-888-264-7623

CLASSIFIEDS

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Civil rights organization takes on Prop 8

Working with a California law firm, the Southern Poverty Law Center - a national civil rights organization - has filed an amicus curiae brief calling for the state's Supreme Court to maintain the right to same-sex marriage.

The Court earlier this year ruled that gays had a fundamental right to marry, but this month California voters approved a ballot initiative that denies that right.

The SPLC's brief, filed on Nov. 17, argues that the California Supreme Court should exercise its original jurisdiction in the case, rather than waiting years for the matter to work itself through the court system. The brief also asked the Court to issue a stay order, preserving the status quo — full recognition and continued availability of same-sex marriages — until the Court can address the validity of a ballot initiative that denies a fundamental right to an entire class of individuals.

On Nov. 19, the Court granted the request to exercise original jurisdiction over three petitions filed

challenging the validity of Proposition 8. The Court set an expedited briefing schedule, with all filings to be completed by January 21, 2009. The Court also denied multiple requests to stay enforcement of Proposition 8 pending its determination on the validity of the ballot initiative.

The SPLC's brief opens with a quote from a 1943 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Board of Education v. Barnette*: "One's right to life, liberty, and property, to free speech, a free press, freedom of worship and assembly and other fundamental rights may not be submitted to vote; they depend on the outcome of no elections."

The SPLC argues that the California electorate's passage of Proposition 8 is antithetical to well-established notions of equal protection and right of privacy.

"The proper resolution of these issues constitutes one of the most significant legal issues before this Court since California's inception," the brief states. "Given that thousands of California's citizens are currently in legal limbo — unsure of the status of their marriages which were lawfully performed at the time — time is of the essence. These citizens cannot wait for four years for a final determination of the status of their marriages as these issues wind themselves through lower courts."

Attorneys with the Irvine, Calif., firm of Manning & Marder authored the SPLC's brief.

The Southern Poverty Law Center was founded in 1971 as a small civil rights law firm. Today, SPLC is internationally known for its tolerance education programs, its legal victories against white supremacists and its tracking of hate groups. The SPLC legal department fights all forms of discrimination and works to protect society's most vulnerable members, handling innovative cases that few lawyers are willing to take. Over three decades, it has achieved significant legal victories, including landmark Supreme Court decisions and crushing jury verdicts against hate groups. Visit www.splcenter.org



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Photos from Erie Proposition 8 rally

Photos from the November 15 rally against Proposition 8 at the Erie County Courthouse. More photos plus video at www.eriegaynews.com Photos by Deb Spilko



God-talk

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

Now that the presidential election is over, I've read articles written by a number of news commentators that have evaluated the presidential race. Many of them try to explain where the Republican Party went wrong.

One Republican advisor gave detailed advice to this own party as to how they could do better in future elections. He thinks that the Republican Party has lost touch with "ordinary" people despite its valiant attempt to make "Joe the plumber" the representative of what we sometimes call the "man on the street."

Of course, it is true! Politicians, if they are going to win must run campaigns built on a platform that is attractive and relevant to the priorities of the majority.

Candidates from both parties tried hard to do just that when it came to an expression of their religious convictions. Candidates from both political parties talked about God. In fact, I heard a political pundit say,

during the campaign, that if the candidates do not talk about God they are "dead in the water." It seems that the majority of the American people want to hear their politicians express religious convictions and belief.

An article run by the Associated Press, just a few days after the election was titled, "Palin Blames Bush Policies for Republicans' Defeat." In the article Sarah Palin is quoted as saying on a FOX News program, "I'm like, OK, God, if there is an open door for me somewhere, this is what I always pray. I'm like, don't let me miss the open door."

As far as I'm concerned it is great for political candidates to talk so directly about their faith. And, I am not in any way suggesting that Palin is insincere. But I am always skeptical enough about God-talk to wonder about the sincerity of politicians who use God's name, and whether or not it is simply an attempt to appeal to a certain segment of voters, especially those whom we have come to call the "Religious Right."

Recently I read an article written by a retired Lutheran bishop, the Rev. David R. Strobel, about this very subject. I think it is worth sharing a portion of what he wrote with you:

"Would that everyone, politicians, partisans, and voters who claim to stand squarely in the Judeo-Christian tradition, remember the Second Commandment of the tradition before they claim God and God's name for their party, candidate or platform: *You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.* Would that they-and we-also remember that the word God has been used blasphemously before in history to justify slavery, racism, genocide, slaughter, war, conquest, oppression, torture and inquisition."

All the God-talk in the world doesn't mean anything if it is not stated sincerely and in accordance with true and honest biblical interpretation.

God-talk can win votes, but it is up to the voter to decide whether or not the political candidate is sincere and not just using God (and God's name) to gain the favor of the electorate. The Scripture challenges us to "test the spirits, to see if they come from God. (1 John 4:1)

Let us never fail to remember that some of the worst and the most dishonorable dictators, rulers, potentates and presidents have used the name of God in their speeches and their campaigns. And some of them have taken the name of God in vain!

COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH

Christmas Eve
Candle Light Service at 8 PM

West 38th & Cascade
Services Sunday at 11 AM
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Update for LBT Women

by Laurie Finch

LBT Women of Erie met November 2 at the Presque Isle Gallery Coffeehouse located at 35 Peninsula Drive (814-790-5615). We found it a warm and welcoming environment, and were made to feel at home by the owner. My partner Janice was not able to make it due to a bad sinus infection, however, we still had a record ten women show up, including myself. We decided at that time to have the meetings there at 2 pm the first Sunday of every month. Reminders will be sent out 3 days ahead of time as we have been doing for all our events. The coffee was great and they also have many other drink selections. They have a small sandwich menu, soups and quite a few yummy desserts. The art gallery there is already "in full bloom" and there are a great many varieties of art to check out, and even purchase if you so desire.

For the meeting on December 7, please bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the Second Harvest Food Bank of NW PA if you are able. The donations will be coupled with those gathered by the Erie Gay News.

At the meeting we decided to once again try to attend the Erie Gay News folding party. Also during November we went to see Wall-E at the Millcreek 6 Theatre. Robin suggested a group outing to Claytopia to try our hand at making some type of pottery, and she will be doing the research on that. Other suggestions were "Little Dinner Parties" where someone signs up to host, and everyone signs up to bring a dish such as an appetizer, bread, salad, main course, dessert, wine, what have you.

I brought up the fact that anyone is welcome and encouraged to throw an impromptu event, as long as they send the information to me at least three days ahead so we can get the word out. As always, if you are planning the event, make sure that you are there, and on time. Also give someone who may not know you, a way to find you when they get there. For example, I'll be there at 9 pm and I'll be in a pink ball cap.

Below are links to the Erie Gay News e-mail list sign-up page. Please go there and sign up for the Womanspace list if you are not already a member of that list. That is where events will be announced and reminders sent. We reach a larger base of women on that list then we would on our own Wet Paint Web page. Here is the link to the Womanspace list sign up page:

<http://lists.eriegaynews.com>

Below, you will find the link to the LBT Women of Erie Wetpaint web page. There is a lot to browse on these pages, and if you want to keep up on our events, click on the "Discussion Forum" tab at the top of the page. Then find the "thread" entitled "LBT Women of Erie Upcoming Events" Click on that and you can see what's going on event wise. There are a lot of other interesting threads there to peruse or feel free to post your own thoughts on to any thread that you'd like. Below is the link to our Wet Paint web page:

<http://womynoferie.wetpaint.com/>

Here is my e-mail address if you'd like to e-mail me directly: LFinch003@neo.rr.com

Also these links are clickable at the online version of this article

So, in closing I'd like to say that it was nice to see some "old" friends, and make some new friends as well. Hope also to see you all again soon!

Thanks,
Laurie



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

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

Michael's Ditherings

by Mike Mahler

What a busy month it has been! The turnout was very good for the recent candidate forum that the Erie Gay Business Alliance held. It was great that we had candidates from across the political spectrum, and also that people turned out to become more informed voters. Please note that there is video coverage of the event linked from eriegaynews.com.

Kudos to the Latonia Theatre and the Oil City Gay/Straight Alliance for putting on a truly delightful Halloween dance! I had a religious obligation earlier that evening just over the border in NY state and then dashed down to Oil City afterwards. Bring greeted by such a wonderful and friendly group of people made the evening very much worthwhile. I took some photos, which are posted online at the Erie Gay News web site. The Latonia will be having a Holiday Social on December 13. Very highly recommended as something to check out.

Like many folks in the LGBTQ community, I was happy with how some of the races went on election night, but not so happy with the nasty ballot initiatives

that took away rights from our community. I was really floored by how well people came together for the Proposition 8 protest rallies, both locally and nationwide. (And a hat tip to our friends in Toronto, who held a rally in support of their less fortunate American cousins.) Mike, a young guy on the GLBT Vote email list, emailed me a week before the date to ask me if anyone locally was doing something. I sent something off to the list, and Rev. Steve Aschmann took up the ball and helped organize. Mike brought some of his friends to a meeting that was called only 2 days later and there were some other people there who were ready to roll up their sleeves and get to work. Everyone pitched in to make the event a success,

Considering we only had a few days to put this together, I am very pleased at how well the community came together. All 3 local news affiliates carried the story. Jeremy of Misinformed Productions took video. Deb took photos. All of these are linked online from the Erie Gay News web site. Tim Dahle told a straight family he knew, and Alina, a 13 year old girl, made some wonderful colorful signs.

The Advocate, the national GLBT news magazine, included photos from the rally here on their web site. The Oakland Museum of California asked organizers across the country for items from local rallies for their collection. So, we are sending the signs that Alina made and some of the armbands that Erin and the others made on to the museum. Very cool that Erie gets to be recognized as part of a national effort at creating change and making history!

We are planning on continuing participating with Join the Impact in their efforts to achieve full equality for GLBT people. Check out the GLBT Vote email list for more info about this.

Congratulations to the Erie Sisters on the 10th anniversary of their Lake Erie Gala! The Erie Sisters have been very helpful and supportive, particularly with the Pride Picnic. They needed escorts for the fashion show at the Gala, so a few of us volunteered. It was very nice, and they also really knew how to kick up their heels at the dance after the fashion show. We should have photos in the newsletter next month.

Glad news that Vertigo in Butler has a new space for their dances the 3rd Friday of every month. I had a wonderful evening with some friendly folks. Again, another great thing to support and enjoy!



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Java Buzz

Presque Isle Gallery Coffeehouse

from Laurie Finch

The LBT Women of Erie met recently at the Presque Isle Gallery Coffeehouse 35 Peninsula Drive, Erie PA. (814) 790-5615. This is in the old Joe Root's Restaurant building. We found it a warm and welcoming environment, and were made to feel at home by the owner, Laurie Edwards. There was a nice nook with two large comfy sofas and it was a cozy place to chat and hold our meeting. Besides the sofa seating, there are booths, tables and the counter as well.

There is really quite a nice menu selection. Drinks run from various coffees, espresso drinks, cappuccino, and lattes, to teas, including Chai Tea, juices and smoothies. The selection of yummy looking pastries include muffins, brownies, cookies and bagels and more. They have a varied sandwich menu with wraps and paninis including many vegetarian selections. Salads are offered, as well as homemade soups. Also, there is a kids' menu available.

The coffeehouse is open Monday - Friday from 6:30 AM until 7:30 PM and Saturday and Sunday from 7 AM to 7 PM. Laurie did inform me that they would stay open later to accommodate groups outings if requested. For instance, they have a book club that meets there regularly, and they stay open until 9 PM for them. The coffeehouse also recently hosted an artist's jewelry show with live music and were open past closing that night as well.

The art gallery there is already "in full bloom" and there are a great many varieties of art to check out, and purchase if you so desire. Paintings of all types, drawings, photography, sculptures, handmade bags and purses, and jewelry of all sorts. Among my favorites were the turtle sculptures made from sand, beach rocks and beach glass which was used to form different patterns on each turtles back. Each different from the next...and each even had an actual name. All art is being sold on consignment by local artists.

Oh, and lest I forget, free Wi-Fi connection is available for those of you who like to surf the web on your laptop while you enjoy a great cup of Java!

As I write this article, I can honestly say that I can't wait till our next meeting (the first Sunday of December) to go back and visit The Presque Isle Gallery and Coffeehouse...so I probably won't. I can taste that Latte now. Extra whipped cream please!



Members of Edinboro University's Identity: (from left to right) Mike, Nick, Veronica, Nina. They joined others who gathered at both locations of Papa Joe's after the Erie Rally protesting Proposition 8 on November 15. This and other photos can be viewed at www.eriegaynews.com

Photo by Deb Spilko

Changes at Brother Bean

from Gwen Kahler

It's a bit of a story, but Bruce and I have made the decision to change our lives and the way we live. We plan to move to West Virginia and slow down a bit and enjoy the view from our own mountain. Good friends and family are coming with us to build their homes on the mountain too and in time we intend to start a monthly music fest there, complete with tent sites and little wooden cabins. We have a buyer for our building and they expect to take possession by the first of December. It appears highly likely that Brother Bean will be purchased by a local organization and relocated in the area...and maybe even hire me for awhile to help them get started! That would be so cool if I get to be part of restarting the bean!

Don't mourn the Bean! I expect the new owners to love it as much as I do and you will enjoy it just as much as always. They intend to continue shows and game nights, and to have the same decor and space that we've had here in this building. Life is good, memories are sweet, and our years here have been awesome! We have been blessed indeed to get to know all of our customers and friends over the years. And besides, you can always journey to the West Virginia mountains to find us!

To keep up with the changes at Brother Bean visit <http://www.myspace.com/brotherbeancoffeehouse>

Screen

IN THEATRES

Milk (2008)

Biopic about legendary San Francisco gay activist and openly gay politician Harvey Milk.

Directed by Gus Van Sant. Starring: Sean Penn, James Franco, Josh Brolin, Emile Hirsch, Diego Luna, Victor Garber, Denis O'Hare, Stephen Spinella, Eric Stoltz

From *GLAAD*:

Not only was sexual orientation not a concern for those involved, concerns over salary due to the films' relatively limited budget were also kept to a minimum. According to producer Dan Jinks, "Many of the people on this project are working for a lot less than they normally do... This movie really is a labor of love." Josh Brolin echoed this in an interview with MTV: "It wasn't a question about money... I read it, and I said, 'I'll do it; I have to do it.'"

Before shooting even completed, critics were already naming Milk and its lead actor as award nominee contenders.

Consumer alert about the movie "Milk" and Cinemark Theatres

Audiences might want to be aware of the fact that there is a boycott against viewing this movie at Cinemark Theatres, because the company's CEO donated \$9,999 to support the anti-gay Proposition 8. Not



Sean Penn as Harvey Milk

all opponents of Prop 8 believe this is a useful tactic. If you want more information about the boycott, you can visit www.nomilkforcinemark.com In the tri-state area, the only Cinemark Theaters are Tinseltown and Millcreek 6.

NEW DVDs

Boys in the Band (1969) Classic comedy-drama now on DVD. Groundbreaking and depressing. *Paramount.*

Boystown (2007) "Quirky Spanish black comedy with heart and a wicked sense of humor!" --EDGE Ft. Lauderdale *TLA Releasing*

Brothers and Sisters the Complete Second Season *Buena Vista Home Entertainment*

Butch Jamie (2007) Call it a lesbian take on "Tootsie." *Wolfe Video.*

Dog Tags (2008) Abandoned by his father and raised by a single mother, Nate Merritt joins the Marines to support his soon-to-be fiancée. While on leave in Palm Springs, he meets a seemingly free spirited young gay man, who leads him on a path of better understanding; of himself and the surprising identity of the father he never knew. *TLA Releasing.*

Finn's Girl (2007) *Wolfe Video*

Itty Bitty Titty Committee (2007) High School grad and all-American gal, Hannah finds her purpose and herself after she connects with the radical feminists. www.power-up.net/ibtc.htm *Wolfe Video.*

A Love to Keep (2008) Epic love story set in Spain during Franco's fascist regime. *Picture This*

L Word: The Complete Fifth Season *Showtime Ent.*

Shelter Me (2007) A beautiful and wealthy lesbian couple take a Moroccan teenager into their home in this gripping narrative dealing with issues of race, class and homophobia. Italian with English subtitles. *Wolfe Video*


Jason Stuart: Making it to the Middle (2008) Gay stand-up comedy. *Wolfe.*

She Likes Girls 3 (2008) Eight lesbian short films, available Dec. 2. *Wolfe Video*

Ugly Betty: The Complete Second Season *Buena Vista*

Will & Grace: Season 8 (2005)(4-Disc Series) *Lions Gate*

Wrangler: Anatomy of an Icon Documentary about the 1970s gay porn superstar. *TLA Releasing*



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Halloween Photo Gallery



Halloween Costume Party Prequel at Craze



Viva Las Vegas at the Zone.



George W. doin' time at the Zone

Photos from local Halloween events. Lots more! online. For photos from the Latonia and the Zone visit [www:eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com) For photos from Craze visit www.crazeerie.com



Lighting up at the Zone



Keeping you in line at Latonia



College Costume Night at Craze



Having a grape time at the Latonia

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