

October 2009



EGN

Erie Gay News



Crime Victim Center Benefit concert

Melissa Eimers will be presenting a concert on Sunday, October, 18th, 2009 to raise money for the Crime Victim Center of Erie County. Melissa, playing flute, will be accompanied by Linda Morey, of North East, on piano.

The event will be held from 2:00-3:00 p.m. at South Harborcreek United Methodist Church, 7929 McGill Road, Harborcreek, PA 16421. Admission is free. Refreshments will be served following the concert.

For directions to the church: Call (814) 899-5264 or go to www.southharborcreek.org

Questions about the concert? Contact Melissa Eimers at (814) 572-1571 or mjk.eimers@hotmail.com Questions about the Center? Contact (814) 455-9414 or go to www.cvcerie.org

Young LBT Women update

from Erin

The first YLBT Women of Erie meeting went really well! We met at the Presque Isle Gallery Coffeehouse at 2pm, after the LBT met at 1pm, on Sep. 13th. Amy and I want to thank our four new members who showed at the meeting and hope that you will come to future YLBT events!

Our first big event is the National Equality March in Washington, D.C., on Oct 11th. Please check out our website at <http://ylbtwomenoferie.wetpaint.com> for more information on the march and for future YLBT updates!

Here are the events we have planned so far:

Sep 27 - We will need to know how many people want to go with the YLBT group to the National Equality March by September 27 at the latest Please check the website for further details.

Oct 3 - Animals at Asbury Woods at 11am.

Oct 4 - Payment due and mandatory meeting for people who want to go on the National Equality March. The meeting will be at 2pm at the Presque Isle Gallery Coffeehouse.

Oct 10 - Leave late morning for Washington, D.C. for



At the Ashtabula Family Picnic on August 15. More photos from the picnic online at www.eriegaynews.com

Photo: James von Loewen

the National Equality March.

Oct 11 - Meet in Washington, D.C. at noon for the National Equality March.

Oct 17 - Haunted tour of the Watson-Curtze Mansion, 356 W 6th St, at 11am. \$4 admission. Lunch to follow.

Oct 18 - Next YLBT meeting at the P.I.G. Coffeehouse at 2pm.

Oct 31 - LBT and YLBT Halloween Party at Kim and Andrea's house after 8pm.

Win Dreams of Hope's DVD "That's So Gay!"

from Mike Mabler

Erie Gay News is giving away 3 copies of Dreams of Hope debut DVD, That's So Gay! To enter, just fill

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Erie Gay News
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Editors: Deb Spilko and Mike Mahler
Ad Design: Mike Lipiec
Deadline for next issue: Thu, Oct 15; this will be folded and distributed the night of Tues, Oct 27 at the Mike Kohler's.

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 Michael Kohler for hosting; Anthony S, Bruce Shrou, C. Michael, Deyna, Erin M. M., Gary, James von Loewe, Johauna, John, Laurie Finch, Mike, Richard, Shawn and Vince for folding; Bruce Shrou, Erin M. M., Gary, James von Loewe, Jerry McCumber, Johauna, Laurie Finch and Shawn for distribution; Peter for proofreading; Mike Lipiec for ad layout & etc. If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com.

Classified Ads are available!
See website for more info.



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.

Community News

out the form below between October 2 and October 23. That's So Gay! is an educational DVD where youth explore heterosexism, homophobia, internalized homophobia and gender identity. www.dreamsofhope.org Available October 15.

That's So Gay is for people interested in understanding lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals and the issues they face everyday.

You will be treated to stories told through drama, humor and song, plus see interviews with the youth performers, their parents and director, and an expert on LGBT experiences. It is our hope that this DVD helps move you to action.

Hurry Hill Farm Maple Museum Welcomes Autumn Visitors

from Hurry Hill Maple Museum

Erie County's newest museum welcomes visitors every Sunday beginning September 6, 2009, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. until Christmas (or the snow is too

deep!). Admission is free; donations are welcome.

A visit to this unique museum makes a perfect way to spend a Sunday autumn afternoon in the country. Get a jump on next year's maple sugaring season by seeing the sugaring process in the Tree to Table exhibit. Learn how sugar maples are tapped, sap is gathered, how much sap it takes to make the luscious golden liquid, how it is stored and what products are made from maple syrup.

Watch the sap run and see children take part in the activities throughout the museum. A 30-minute program will be presented at 3:00 p.m. every Sunday. Hurry Hill Maple Farm Museum is located at 11424 Fry Road Edinboro PA

A fascinating exhibit at Hurry Hill Farm Maple Museum is one featuring *Miracles on Maple Hill*, the classic book by Virginia Sorensen that won the Newbery Medal in 1957 for the Most Distinguished Contribution to American Literature for Children. The story is set in and around Edinboro.

(Continued on next page)

Adagio Health Erie 1611 Peach St., Suite 465, 814-453-4718 **Adagio Health Edinboro** 118 E. Plum Street, 814-734-7600

Please call 814-453-4718 for available days and times at our satellite offices listed below:

Booker T. Washington Center
1720 Holland Street, Erie

 adagioHEALTH

Hispanic American Council
554 East 10th Street, Erie

 adagioHEALTH

JFK Center, Inc.
2021 East 20th Street, Erie



www.adagiohealth.org www.adagiohealth.org www.adagiohealth.org www.adagiohealth.org www.adagiohealth.org

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Our Medical Offices participate in Medicare, all Medicaid plans including SelectPlan for Women, and we participate in most commercial insurance plans. For those without insurances, fees for most medical services (excluding prenatal care) are based on income and family size. Most medical services are provided at no cost to those age 17 and under. Breast and cervical cancer screening may also be available at no cost to those who qualify.

Community News

Visitors will learn about the author, see the Newbery Medal, view photos of the Kreitz Farm which was used as a location in the book, see sketches and artifacts from the book. Find out more about the real hermit in Miracles on Maple Hill and the hooks he carved. The book is still used by teachers in many Pennsylvania classrooms.

In addition, there's a DVD produced by museum owner Jan Woods that tells the story of Miracles on Maple Hill. Woods has done much original research in the background of the book, locations used by the author and where they can be found today.

Exhibits were designed by Hurry Hill archivist Theresa Gamble, educator Heather Zimmerman and sugarmaker Jan Woods. Maple sugar antiques are on display, and a variety of maple products can be purchased in the museum.

Many area residents have visited Hurry Hill Farm during the Maple Taste & Tour Weekends held in mid-March for the past six years when syrup is being made during the season of mud and snow. Thousands have

heard and seen Jan Woods make maple syrup in her rustic sugarhouse outside Edinboro.

The Maple Taste & Tour Weekend is scheduled for Saturday, March 20, 2010, 10:00am to 4pm and Sunday, March 21, 2010, 10:00am to 4pm. Check their Web site for details: <http://www.pamaple.org/tour.html>

Visitors can get a head start on the season by visiting Hurry Hill Farm Maple Museum this fall and seeing the real thing next March.

Join us at Hurry Hill Farm Maple Museum... where the sap always runs!

LBT Women upcoming events

from Laurie Finch

Upcoming events (for more details visit us at <http://womynoferie.wetpaint.com>):

Sep 26th - Meet Laurie and Janice at the North East Wine Festival at 6:30 at the gate.

Sep 27- Native American Festival at Wooden Nickle Buffalo Farm in Edinboro. Meet by the Indian Dancers at 3 PM. \$5 admission, \$2 to park. \$3 corn maze if you want to do that. Lots for the kids to do here too, so bring them along!

Oct 10 Oil Creek Railroad ride at 11 am, join Kim and Andrea for a ride on the Oil Creek Railroad. The leaves should be gorgeous by then and it should be a fun day. Go to www.octrr.org for more info. Kim says make reservations soon as they fill up quickly.

Oct 11 LBT meeting at the Presque Isle Gallery and Coffeehouse at 35 Peninsula Drive at 1 PM. Hosted by Barb and Robin.

Oct 17 Fall Festival at Peek n Peak. Meet there at noon.

Oct 21 "Out in the Silence" screening at Hirt Auditorium in Blasco Library. Free.

Oct 27 - Folding for the Erie Gay News 7 pm at Mike Kohler's.

We will end October with a Halloween Party for LBT and YLBT Women as well! Be at Kim and Andrea's home after 8 PM. More details will be announced soon.

So that's it for now. Hope to see you at an event soon.

Check us out online at <http://womynoferie.wetpaint.com/> Links to our new Myspace and Facebook pages are at the that site on the home page.

Information is Power
Stay informed about
health issues concerning
men who have sex with men



Sign up for the Pitt Men's Study
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PFLAG Butler Update

from Joe Tomlinson

It was so plain to the 17 people who attended our second meeting—that Butler County’s GLBTQ community and their straight allies are ready for the support, education, and advocacy that a PFLAG chapter can facilitate.

In our group were parents, friends, and family members of GLBTQ persons. There were lesbians, gay men, bisexual women and men, transgender women as well as a transgender teen. We learned from him how surprisingly supportive Butler Area High School has been of his safety and personal needs. The entire leadership of Slippery Rock University’s ROCKOut was present!

Joined by Mark Hoovler (PFLAG PA State Coordinator) and members of the Erie PFLAG Chapter (Millie, Eric and John), meeting participants learned more about PFLAG’s mission, the national organization’s expectations, and the vast resources that are available to local chapters. Mark initiated a conversation to help us tell our stories of coming out and the stories... In an hour and a half we came to know one another more profoundly and grew in respect for each other’s experiences.

Two Butler County PFLAG Chapters? It’s too soon to say for sure but we all recognized that the need is great for meetings to be accessible to all parts of the county. The conversation about this will certainly continue.

The members and pastor of St. John’s United Church of Christ in Evans City have generously extended the use of their building for PFLAG Butler to consider as a permanent home for our meetings. The decision was overwhelmingly in favor of extending their hospitality to us. It was also an opportunity for them to clarify their church body’s position on sexual minority inclusion.

Ginger Hill Unitarian Universalist Church could not have been any more hospitable, welcoming, or safe. Members of the congregation were there to make sure we all felt at home and in place. They continue their long history of inclusion and ministry with and by diverse populations. Delicious refreshments and happy conversation followed the meeting as people were invited by Pastor Tom to stay and talk following the 9:00 adjournment.

Here’s the link to the PFLAG Butler blog: <http://pflagbutlerpa.blogspot.com/> Questions and feedback

can be sent to PFLAGButler09@hotmail.com.

Next PFLAG Butler Organizing Meeting will be Thursday October 1st 7:00 - 8:30 PM (Note change in time) at Butler Area Public Library, 218 N Mckean St, Butler, PA Conference Room A (Basement Level).

Win Prizes from Erie Gay News

Here are contests that will be premiering this month...

Contest	Starts
Levi Kreis - Where I Belong CD	September 25
Dreams of Hope DVD - That’s So Gay!	October 2
Eating Out 3 DVD	October 6
DJ Seth Cooper’s Splash Days CD	October 9
Frenchie Davis & T.R. - Give Me Tonight CD single	October 16
Lauren Hildebrandt - Not Really a Waitress CD	October 23

Here are contests which are currently active...

Contest	Ends
Candye Kane’s CD - Superhero	September 25
Jason Ricci & New Blood CD - Done With the Devil	October 2
Jason and deMarco’s CD - Safe	October 9
Mika’s CD - The Boy Who Knew Too Much	October 16

GLBT History Month videos online

from Equality Forum

In observance of GLBT History month, Equality Forum will feature 31 icons—one per day.

Each day in October 2009, an Icon is featured with a video, biography, bibliography, downloadable images and other educational resources. The resources for GLBT History Month 2009 Icons will be available in October at www.glbthistorymonth.com. The 93 Icons with resources for



Rachel Maddow is one of the 31 icons profiled

2006, 2007 and 2008 are archived on the site. Visit www.eriegaynews.com every day in October for a new icon. You can also view it from the Eric Gay News video gallery, or the online version of this article.

“Equality Forum launched GLBT History Month in 2006 with 20 organizations having a GLBT History Month link on their Web sites. In 2007, 300 organizations had links. In 2008, over 500 nonprofit organizations, educational institutions and for profit corporations had a GLBT History Month Link, making GLBT History Month the largest collaborative project worldwide for our community,” said Lazin.

Profiled will be Alvin Ailey, Jr. (Choreographer), Rachel Maddow (Commentator), John Amaechi (Pro Basketball Player), Deirdre McCloskey (Economist), Tammy Baldwin (Congresswoman), Paul Monette (Author), John Cage (Composer), Pauli Murray (Attorney), Ruth Ellis (Activist), Joan Nestle (Historian), Rainer Fassbinder (Film Director), Todd Oldham (Designer), Michel Foucault (Philosopher), Suze Orman (Financial Expert), Harry Hay (Activist), Christine Quinn (New York City Council Speaker), Magnus Hirschfeld (Social Scientist), Robert Rauschenberg (Painter), Zora Neale Hurston (Author), Jerome Robbins (Choreographer), Jasper Johns (Painter), Hilary Rosen (Commentator), Cherry Jones (Actress), Yves. St. Laurent (Fashion Designer), Kate Kendell (Attorney), Esera Tuaolo (Pro Football Player), Alfred Kinsey (Sexual Researcher), Urvashi Vaid (Activist), k.d. lang (Singer), Gus Van Sant (Film Director), B. D. Wong (Actor).

Where to watch *Out in the Silence*

Clickable links and additional screenings/airings can be found at <http://wpsu.org/outinthesilence/>

University of Pittsburgh-Titusville—Henne Auditorium

Titusville, PA - October 06, 2009

7:00 PM—Screening of *OUT IN THE SILENCE* followed by a dynamic panel discussion with filmmakers Joe Wilson & Dean Hamer; Steve Glassman, Chair of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission; Tim Dahle, film character and former Titusville High School student; and Jim Fisher, Assoc. Professor of Political Science at Edinboro University and ACLU of Penna. board member. Sponsored by the ACLU of NW PA and the Young Democrats of University of Pittsburgh-Titusville

More Details: www.upt.pitt.edu/site/index.html

Clarion University

Clarion, PA - October 07, 2009

7:00 PM—Screening of *OUT IN THE SILENCE* hosted by Student Allies in the Gemmill Student Complex Multi-Purpose Room More Details: www.clarion.edu/1188/

WQED

October 16, 2009, 10:00 PM

WQED is the Pittsburgh affiliate of PBS. Its viewing area reaches into Venango County. More Details: <http://www.wqed.org/> (WQLN-Erie's PBS affiliate, will air it at another date).

Hirt Auditorium - Blasco Public Library

Erie, PA - October 21, 2009

Sponsored by the ACLU of NW PA, this screening will be followed by an important conversation about getting involved in NW PA's movement for fairness & equality with Jim Fisher (Edinboro Univ. / ACLU), Mike Mahler (Erie Gay News), Nicole Steele (Erie GSA Network), film character Tim Dahle and filmmakers Joe Wilson & Dean Hamer.

Calendar

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

Sep 24 (Thu) - GSA of Mercyhurst Beginning of the School Year Social (Mercyhurst College, 501 E. 38th St., Student Union, Erie, PA 16546-0001) 8:15 PM. The Gay Straight Alliance of Mercyhurst is having a Beginning of the School Year Social. It will be held at the Mercyhurst Student Union. All are welcome! Contact: Dr. Marnie Sullivan. Phone: (814) 824-3759. Email: msullivan@mercyhurst.edu

Sep 25-27 (Fri - Sun) - Jones Pond: Closing Weekend 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY. "Until Next Year" Potluck Phone: (585) 567-8100. Email: info@jonespond.com. Browse to www.jonespond.com.

Sep 26 (Sat) - Camp Davis: Rocky Horror Picture Show 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA. Contact: Jim. Phone: (724) 637-2402. Email: campd@aol.com. Browse to <http://www.campdavisground.com>. 645-2787. www.ubcfa.org

Sep 27 (Sun) - Rainbow Families Erie goes to

12th Annual Run Around Erie (Rotary Pavilion, Presque Isle State Park, Erie, PA) 9 AM. 12th Annual Run Around Erie: 15k & 5k Run, 5k & 1Mile Run/Walk. Register online at www.RunAroundErie.com. All starts/finishes are at Rotary Pavilion. Focus is on LGBT families and their children. We are a new group that is going to plan monthly outings that are family oriented and focus on our kids forming bonds and friendships with families like theirs! Families with mommies and daddies, children of all ages and those who wish to begin the journey into parenthood are welcome. Sign up for the email list <http://lists.eriegaynews.com>. Email: RainbowFamiliesErie@hotmail.com. Browse to <http://rainbowfamilieserie.wetpaint.com/>.

Oct 1 - PFLAG Butler Organizational meeting PFLAG Butler blog: <http://pflagbutlerpa.blogspot.com/> Questions and feedback can be sent to PFLAG-Butler09@hotmail.com.

Oct 1 - 31- Zone Dance Club - Dementia Bros. Circus- Big Top of Terror! (Zone Dance Club,

**It's all
about
SEX**

(and health)

**Keep sex safe
and healthy.
Find resources
in the State of
Pennsylvania.**



I AM HEALTHY SEX.ORG

Calendar

133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) Zone's 11th Annual Haunted Bar! All month long! Lions, and tigers, and Scares!... Oh my! The Dementia Brothers Circus has rolled into town this Halloween and has set up their tent at the Zone! Enjoy a drink with friends as you stroll the Monster Midway, dance the night away under the Big-Top, or have some real carnival food from the Zone's own kitchen! ...but beware the Evil Clowns who are looking for victims to join the Circus Freak Side Show! Surprises! Fun! Entertainment! All month long at the Zone Dance Club!! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

Oct 2 (Fri) - G2H2 - Erie Gay Business Alliance social get together (Rum Runners Cove, 2 State St, Erie PA 16507) 6 PM - 8 PM. Gay Guy/Girl Happy Hour (G2H2) is a monthly get together for GLBT professionals and their colleagues and friends meet for networking. You can also sign up for the Erie Gay Business Alliance email list at <http://lists.eriegaynews.com>. Browse to <http://www.facebook.com/group>.



Accommodations, bars, business and not-for-profit resources Separate WOMEN'S and ETHNIC/MULTICULTURAL sections

USA/CANADA: \$25 by first class mail. All states and providences, national headquarters of organizations, mail order companies, etc.

The whole book is now online in Acrobat Reader format.
www.gayyellowpages.com/online.htm

Also available as a no frills CD in PDF format.

Find us at Gay-Friendly stores like
Body Language, Cleveland, OH 216-251-3330
Rainbow Pride Gift Shop, Buffalo, NY 716-855-0222
and many others at <http://gayyellowpages.com/2buy.htm>

For an application to be listed (no charge), current editions, and prices, mailing labels, etc. please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Renaissance House, PO Box 533-EGN, Village Station, New York, NY 10014 646-213-0263 or email gypages@gmail.com

<http://gayyellowpages.com>

www.gayyellowpages.com php?gid=54742829807.

Oct 3 (Sat) - Camp Davis: Masquerade Weekend 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA. Contact: Jim. Phone: (724) 637-2402. Email: campd@aol.com. Browse to www.campdavicampground.com.

Oct 10 (Sat) - Camp Davis: Closing Weekend - No Dance 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA. Dinner for Seasonals at 5 PM on Oct 10. Oct 11: Camp Closes-4 PM. Phone: (724) 637-2402. Email: campd@aol.com. Browse to www.campdavicampground.com.

Oct 9 (Fri) - Watchfire Alliance meets (Contact for location) 7 PM. Social group in Chautauqua County. Topic is Spirituality and Sexuality. Contact: Bethany. Phone: (716)499-4817. Email: brobson515@msn.com. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/watchfirealliance/>.

Oct 9-11 (Fri-Sun) - Buffalo Bear Trap V Bear event in Buffalo NY. Info www.buffalobears.org

Oct 10 (Sat) - Zone Dance Club: Pink Cotton Candy Carnival 133 W 18th St, Erie. Cotton Candy, Clowns, and Carnival Games! Join us for a night of FUN as we raise money for a great cause - breast cancer prevention! Try your luck at the carnival games, get a sweet treat at the Pink Bake Sale, and take a chance on the fabulous gift baskets donated by friends of the Zone! Last year's event was a huge success! This year's will be even bigger & better! And who doesn't like cotton candy? Think Pink! Wear Pink! If any person or business would like to donate Pink baked goods, gift certificates or a gift basket for this years event, please call Jared at 459-8054 or drop them off at the Zone by Friday, October 9th. Thank You! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

Oct 10-17 - Coming Out Day events in Youngstown. Sponsored by Mahoning Valley Pride Center www.mvpridecenter.org email at prideyoungstown@gmail.com

Oct 11 (Sun) - LBT Women of Erie meets See Community News for events.

Oct 11 (Sun) - Zone Dance Club: Face: Tears of a Clown - Breast Cancer Benefit 133 W 18th St, Erie. Think Pink Breast Cancer Benefit at the Zone! A special edition of Michelle Michael's Sunday Drag series - Face! A special night of entertainment with the performers donating a portion of their tips for Breast Cancer Awareness. This is something that Michelle and her family have been affected by, so bring your dollar

Calendar

bills and show your support! Think Pink! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Oct 12 (Mon) - PFLAG Erie/Crawford County meets Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie, PA. 7 PM - 8:30 PM. Support group for parents, friends and families of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) people. Phone: (814) 454-1392 (John). Email: pflag.erie.crawford@gmail.com.

Oct 12 - National Reading of the Laramie Project: 10 Years Later www.laramieproject.org

Oct 15 (Thu) - Deadline for EGN November 2009 print edition (Erie Gay News, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA 16502-1105) Please have all articles, ads, and submissions in by this date. This issue will be released the evening of Oct 27. For a complete list of upcoming deadlines and release dates, check the print edition schedule here. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to www.eriegaynews.com.

Oct 17 (Sat) - Craze Night Club: Retro Night (Craze Night Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA 16502) Celebrate the oldies but goodies with DJ Joe! We're being back the favorites every month! Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to <http://www.crazeerie.com>

Oct 17 (Sat) - Zone Bear Fair - Zone's Bear Bar Night! 133 W 18th St, Erie.) Lions, and Tigers, and Bears...Oh my! Step right up ! Take a chance! Find yourself a nice cuddly teddy bear at the Zone's Bear Bar Night & Bear Fair! Try a Cotton Candy Martini from the bar, sample some carnival food from the Zone kitchen, and watch the Dancing Bears on the dancefloor at the Dementia Bros. Circus Big *Top* of Terror! Erie's only Haunted Bar! Get into the Zone!... for some Fright and Fun! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com.


Oct 18 (Sun) - Zone Dance Club: Michelle Michaels presents - Face! 133 W 18th St. Sunday Drag Series every 3rd Sunday of the month! Michelle and the girls will be putting on a pre-Halloween show just for you! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Oct 24 (Sat) - Rainbow Families Erie goes to Port Farms (Port Farms, 2055 Stone Quarry Rd, Waterford PA) 12 noon to 4 PM. Judy Dinsmore: Interactive sing-a-long. More at <http://www.portfarm.com>. Focus is on LGBT families and their children. We are a new

group that is going to plan monthly outings that are family oriented and focus on our kids forming bonds and friendships with families like theirs! Families with mommies and daddies, children of all ages and those who wish to begin the journey into parenthood are welcome. Sign up for the email list <http://lists.eriegaynews.com>. Email: RainbowFamiliesErie@hotmail.com. Browse to <http://rainbowfamilieserie.wetpaint.com/>.

Oct 27 (Tue) - Erie Gay News folding/distributing work party (Michael Kohler's, 614 Cherry St, Erie PA) 7 PM. Help us get out the print edition of Erie Gay News. We'll be folding and distributing the copies. All ages welcome! It is also a great way to hang out and chat with folks! Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to www.eriegaynews.com.

Oct 30 (Fri) - Craze Night Club: Halloween Ball Kick-Off 1607 Raspberry St, Erie. Are you ready for the CRAZE Halloween Ball??? Start the party early at



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STD Testing Hours:
Monday 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Wednesday 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Thursday 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Erie Office - Outreach Services
814-451-6700
Corry Office 814-663-3891

Calendar

1607 Raspberry Street! Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to www.crazeerie.com.

Oct 30 (Fri) - Zone Dance Club: Under the BIG TOP Halloween Diva Show! 133 W 18th St, Erie. The Zone and the Dementia Bros. Circus is proud to present....Under the Big Top! Hosted by your ringmaster Angelica Redd, featuring Michelle Michaels, Miss Erie - Mistress Vanitay, the Zone Divas, and special guest Yvette Sapphire! Come one come all to the Biggest Show on Earth! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <http://www.thezonedanceclub.com>.

Oct 31 (Sat) - Zone Dance Club - Big Top of Terror - 3-Ring Halloween Party! 133 W 18th St. "Come one, come all, to the Scariest show on earth! Party the night away under the Big Top with your friends as the Dementia Brothers Circus puts on its final show! Cash Prize for Best Costume! Try a Cotton Candy Martini from the bar or sample some Carnival Food from the Zone kitchen—Prizes, fun, and excitement, all under the Big Top! Lions, and tigers, and Scares. oh my! Get into the Zone!—your bar for fright and fun! Be Safe this Halloween: Don't drink & drive—we have set up a Special Room Rate of only \$49.99 + tax with the Downtown Erie Hotel —located right across the street from the Zone. Just call ahead (814)456-2961 and ask for the "Zone Dance Club Rate" to reserve a room for Erie's biggest Gay Halloween Party! Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Oct 31 (Sat) - Craze's Halloween Ball! Craze Night Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie. It will be a ghoulish great time! Come one, come all! Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to www.crazeerie.com.



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On Stage

Sep 25-Oct 17 - Beautiful Thing presented in Buffalo by Buffalo United Artists. A tender coming of age story set during a hot summer on a South East London housing estate. www.buffalobua.org

Sep 27- Jason and deMarco Gay Christian music duo. 7 pm, Franklin Circle Christian Church, 1688 Fulton Rd, Cleveland OH. (216)781-8232, www.franklincirclechurch.org www.jasonanddemarco.com/

Sep 28 - Margaret Cho in Buffalo at Town Ballroom www.townballroom.com

Oct 1 - Speaker: David Sedaris University of Buffalo, Center for the Arts. 8:00 p.m. (716)645-2787. www.ubcfa.org

Oct 12 - "The Laramie Project: 10 Years Later" in Buffalo at Buffalo United Artists 7 PM www.buffalobua.org (part of the National Reading of the Laramie Project: 10 Years Later www.laramieproject.org)

Oct 16 - Namoli Brennet and Aiden James in Oil City Robert W. Rhoades Center, Clarion University Venango Campus 7PM Visit www.namolibrennet.com

Nov 22- Liza Minelli Holiday Concert University at Buffalo Center for the Arts for a special Holiday Concert to benefit the Ronald McDonald House of Buffalo.(716) 645-2787. www.ubcfa.org

Pittsburgh region merger

by *Laura Kingsbury/Out Publishing*

The recent merger of the **Gaylife Newsletter** and **The Keystone Alliance**—serving Pittsburgh's tri-state region— is bringing thousands of people in the tri-state area not only news and entertainment, but also a venue to raise awareness about issues important to the LGBT community.

Those heading this union have found a way to bring together writers, performers and activists alike to reach out to a segment of the population they feel is far too underrepresented.

Though the online newsletter had already been providing its readers with twice monthly news content for eight years, the fusion with Keystone Alliance stretched its outreach and added new dimensions to its community involvement and readership.

Visit them at www.gaylifenewsletter.com

You can read the full version of this article at www.eriegaynews.com

ACLU mourns passing of Larry Frankel

PHILADELPHIA - It is with great sadness that the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania marks the passing of Larry Frankel, who served as Legislative Director to the organization from 1992 through 2008 and Executive Director from 1996 to 2001. At the time of his death, Larry was the State Legislative Counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union in its Washington Legislative Office.



"There is a tear in the fabric of the ACLU of PA family. We have lost a dear friend, a skilled strategist, and a passionate fighter for civil liberties. And on top of those superlatives, Larry possessed a wit sharper than any saber and could make us all laugh," said Nancy Hopkins, Executive Director of the ACLU of PA.

An incredibly savvy tactician, Larry wore the title of lobbyist proudly. He worked tirelessly, often behind the scenes, to further the cause of civil rights and civil liberties for all Pennsylvanians. He was a passionate champion of a woman's right to choose, LGBT rights, privacy, and the rights of those largely ignored by society, including prisoners and immigrants.

In a field better known for bitter divisiveness, Larry brought together legislators and organizations from across the political spectrum. During his career, he worked in coalition with allies as diverse as prosecutors, defense attorneys, the faith community, business leaders, unions, gun-rights advocates, and immigration activists, among many others. He commanded the respect of all who knew him, even those who vehemently disagreed with the ACLU.

"He was so effective without money, without a PAC, and with only moral persuasion. He had so much integrity and honesty. You could rely on him to tell you the truth, even if it hurt his cause," said PA State Representative Babette Josephs, a longtime friend and colleague.

In addition to his successes in the legislature, Larry devoted considerable time to mentoring the next generation of civil libertarians and always had time to provide advice and moral support to his colleagues.

Despite leaving the ACLU of Pennsylvania in 2008, he continued to stay in close contact with staff, providing invaluable insight.

"I've lost my mentor, but more importantly, justice has lost a friend. Thousands of Pennsylvanians were positively impacted by the work Larry did, and most of them never knew him or even knew his name," said Andy Hoover, current Legislative Director of the ACLU of Pennsylvania, who worked closely with Larry over the past four and a half years.

Larry's many achievements during his years in Harrisburg included advocating for reform to the state's Right to Know Law; defeating efforts to amend the state constitution to ban same sex marriage and other benefits for same sex couples; advocating for changes to the commonwealth's jury selection law to allow a greater pool of people to serve; defeating efforts to disenfranchise thousands of Pennsylvania voters through photo ID requirements and through bans on voting rights for former offenders; and stopping an effort to introduce school vouchers in Pennsylvania in the 1990s. Larry also served on the legislature's advisory committee on geriatric and seriously ill prisoners.

Larry was a native Californian and attended the University of California at Berkeley, where he studied comparative literature. He received his law degree from Boalt Hall at the University of California at Berkeley in 1981. He is survived by his father, two brothers, a sister, his former longtime partner Andy Chirls, and many, many friends.

The family requests that donations be made to: American Civil Liberties Foundation P.O. Box 40008, Philadelphia, PA 19106 or the Fairmount Park Conservancy, 1617 JFK Blvd., Suite 1670, Philadelphia, PA 19103. The Philadelphia Horticultural Society will work with Fairmount Park to create and maintain a garden or grove.

**Coming up...
Erie County Voters Guide
in November issue of EGN**

Ohio House approves anti-discrimination bill

from Human Rights Campaign

COLUMBUS, OH – The Human Rights Campaign, the nation’s largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender civil rights organization, released a statement today on the Ohio House of Representatives voting on Tuesday 56 to 39 to approve the Equal Housing and Employment Act (HB 176), which would outlaw discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in employment, public accommodations, housing, education, and credit practices. The bill now moves to the Ohio Senate for consideration. If passed by the state senate and signed into law, Ohio will become the twenty-second U.S. state to ban workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and the thirteenth to ban such discrimination on the basis of gender identity.

“State Representatives in Ohio have taken historic action to advance the cause of equality for all Ohioans. This bill will make Ohio a freer and fairer place for its lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender residents,” said Human Rights Campaign President

Joe Solmonese. “No one should face discrimination simply because of who they are. We applaud the many legislators who voted today for fairness and equality, House Speaker Armond Budish, our friends at Equality Ohio, and the HRC members in hio who worked hard to secure today’s historic House vote.”

The Human Rights Campaign is proud to have partnered with Equality Ohio and the Ohio Democratic Party in 2008 to elect a fair-minded majority to the Ohio House of Representatives and to have partnered with Equality Ohio this year to help secure today’s vote. HRC invested in key 2008 state legislative elections and worked this year to mobilize its members and supporters in Ohio to support the Equal Housing and Employment Act. These efforts have yielded thousands of contacts from Ohioans to their state representatives in support of the anti-discrimination bill.

“We are exceptionally pleased with today’s strong and historic bipartisan vote,” said Equality Ohio executive director Lynne Bowman. “Today is a great day for all Ohioans who support equality. We thank the Human Rights Campaign and its many Ohio members who helped make today’s vote a reality, and we urge Ohio senators to join their colleagues in the House and bring equal opportunity to all Ohioans.”

Visit Human Rights Campaign at www.hrc.org
Visit Equality Ohio www.equalityohio.org



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How They Voted

Ohio state assemblymembers from this region all voted in favor of anti-discrimination bill HB176. Ohio residents living in their districts are encouraged to thank these legislators for their votes:

Rep Deborah Newcomb (D-Conneaut)

Rep Sandra Stabile Harwood (D-Niles)

Rep Tom Letson (D-Niles)

News Briefs

House introduces repeal of federal marriage ban

WASHINGTON – A bill was introduced in the House of Representatives September 15 that would repeal the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and respect state marriages by providing federal protections for married same-sex couples. DOMA, passed in 1996, authorized discrimination against lawfully married same-sex couples. The bill—the Respect for Marriage Act,—was introduced by Congressman Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), Chair of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Congressman John Conyers (D-MI), Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, and several others.

“DOMA singles out lawfully married same-sex couples for discriminatory treatment under the law, denying families the more than 1,100 federal protections and responsibilities that apply to married opposite-sex couples,” said Michael Macleod-Ball, Acting Director of the ACLU Washington Legislative Office. “The Respect for Marriage Act will do more than repeal DOMA; it will promote protections for same-sex couples who are already married. Congress should move quickly to pass this long overdue bill.”

Before DOMA was enacted, federal law deferred to states’ decisions about who was married and who was not. As a result of a discriminatory federal definition of marriage in DOMA, same-sex couples that are married by their home states are nevertheless denied all of the federal benefits and protections available to all other married couples.

The Respect for Marriage Act also ensures that, once the federal government recognizes the marriage of a same-sex couple, it will continue to recognize that marriage even if the couple moves to another state that would not have allowed the couple to marry in the first place. The Act does not force any state to marry same-sex couples.

~ACLU

Barney Frank: Repealing DOMA now could complicate matters

Barney Frank (D-MA), one of just three openly gay members of the House of Representatives, is against marriage equality. For now, at least.

Frank has been telling members of Congress

to withhold support for the Respect for Marriage Act, introduced by fellow Democrats on Monday.

“I do think [the bill] can complicate things electorally for Members,” Frank said, according to Roll Call on Thursday. “People will interpret this as exporting marriage. That could complicate matters.”

Frank’s approach, Roll Call noted, is similar to Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s (D-CA), who prefers to take small steps toward marriage equality. In the short term, two of those steps would be ensuring partners of federal employees have equal benefits, and reinforcing laws that prohibit workplace discrimination.

The Massachusetts Congressman told The Washington Blade last week that pending lawsuits against DOMA have a better chance of overturning enforced marriage inequality than any single action of Congress, at this point.

~Raw Story

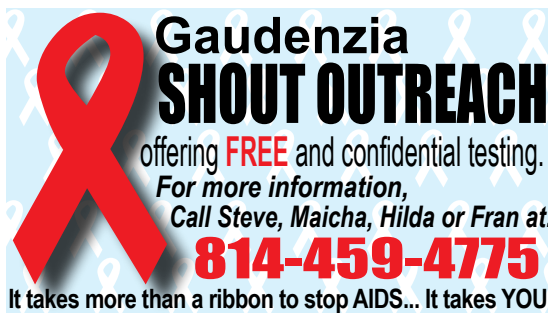
One more anti-gay politician caught in scandal

Mike Duvall resigned Sept. 9 as California State Assemblyman after a microphone caught him bragging about the details of marital affairs with he was allegedly having with two women.

The married Republican from Orange County was regarded as a crusader for “traditional family values.” He has been described as a “hardcore supporter” of the anti-gay Proposition 8 — the California initiative that would rescind the right of same-sex couples to marry.

Other anti-gay “traditional values” Republican

Continued on next page



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News Briefs

Continued from previous page

officeholders recently caught in scandals:

Tennessee State Senator Paul Stanley was forced to resign in July after he was blackmailed over photos and video showing him having sex with a 22-year-old female intern. Last March, Stanley introduced legislation that would have outlawed gay and lesbian couples in Tennessee from being able to adopt children: "When you're married," Stanley said at the time, "there's a commitment there." Stanley also opposed same-sex marriage and family planning services.

The anti-gay career of Nevada Republican Senator John Ensign came to an end in June when his affair with a married staffer was exposed. Ensign strongly supported the anti-gay Federal Marriage Amendment, which would have barred states from recognizing same-sex marriage. back in 2004. In 1998 he insisted that then-president Clinton resign over Clinton's extramarital affair with Monica Lewinsky.

Republican Gov. Mark Sanford of South Carolina, vigorously opposed same-sex civil unions. When he was in Congress, he voted to impeach then-President Clinton over the Lewinsky scandal, declaring Clinton's extramarital behavior to be "reprehensible."

—Various sources



Vertigo organizer Kirsten mugs it up for the camera. Vertigo is Butler's gay bar and is now open Friday through Sunday every week! Check them out online at <http://www.myspace.com/butlervertigo>

Gay scientist, WWII hero Alan Turing receives posthumous apology from UK

September 10 2009— British Prime Minister Gordon Brown has apologized for the British government's "horrifying" treatment a half-century ago of Alan Turing, the mathematical genius who played a key role in defeating Nazi Germany but was later convicted of "gross indecency" for having sex with another man. Over 30,000 people signed a Downing Street petition seeking a posthumous apology to gay computer scientist Alan Turing.

Turing, who made significant contributions in the field of computing and is often considered as the father of modern computer science, was convicted of gross indecency in 1952 for having sexual relationship with a man.

During the World War II, Turing worked at Bletchley Park, Britain's code breaking centre and made significant contributions towards breaking German codes.

The Times magazine named Turing as one of the 100 most important people of the 20th century for his contributions towards the creation of modern computers. "The fact remains that everyone who taps at a keyboard, opening a spreadsheet or a word-processing program, is working on an incarnation of a Turing machine," stated the Times magazine.

Following his conviction Turing was given experimental chemical castration as a treatment. Turing soon committed suicide in 1954, two years after his conviction, and died at the age of 41.

Many believe the humiliation faced by Turing led to his suicide. Brown was recently presented with a petition with 30,000 signatures, demanding an apology from the British government. British gay activist Peter Tatchell said that Turing was one of an estimated 100,000 British gay men-- including playwright Oscar Wilde in 1895 -- convicted under Britain's "gross indecency" law, which was formally repealed in 2003.

"While Turing was dealt with under the law of the time and we can't put the clock back," Brown stated, "his treatment was of course utterly unfair and I am pleased to have the chance to say how deeply sorry I and we all are for what happened to him."

~AOL News and IBTimes

Hurry Up and Wait

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

You've probably heard the old saying, "Lord, give me patience, and give it to me now." That probably describes most of us. We are not used to being patient. Fast food, instant information and quick fixes are a way of life for the vast majority of us Twenty-first Century Americans.

Recently an acquaintance of mine gave me a lecture about patience. I was surprised because it seems to me that he is one of the least patient people I know. We were talking about the fact that so many prominent Protestant denominations have been so slow in declaring their inclusiveness to the point that they can boldly say that lesbian and gay Christians should be included in the full life and leadership of the church, along with other minorities. The acquaintance with whom I was speaking chastised me for my impatience with church councils and governing bodies that have been dragging their feet on this issue for years. "It will all happen in good time," he said, "Eventually the church will come around."

I have to admit that his comment annoyed me. Haven't we waited long enough? Haven't church assemblies, committees and synods been dealing with this subject for decades? Haven't all main-line Protestant churches been asked to study human sexuality in light of the scriptures and come to some conclusion? I don't know of a church that hasn't been caught up in the LGBT controversy in one way or another!

It is true that we've taken the time to think, pray and talk about this controversy that has divided the church. And that, of course, is not at all bad. No one wants to make decisions without adequate information, thoughtful discussion and honest examination of all sides of the issue.

But, at some point, action is called for.

The Rev. Charles Mock, a prominent Erie clergyperson and president of Congregational Action to Lift Lives, recently wrote an article in which he reminded us that continually calling for patience can be the excuse that keeps us from taking a stand!

This is what he wrote:

"In one of Dr. Martin Luther King's letters from the Birmingham jail, he informed a number of his clergy colleagues, hesitant and disturbed about

the speed in which he was calling for racial reform in America, that there was no time to waste. He indicated that 'time' is neutral and could therefore be used for better or for worse. Dr. King made a case for why we couldn't wait any longer; what needed to be done to end race-centered discrimination and segregation needed to be done now."

Those of us who belong to Christian churches must continue to take a stand, push every kind of prejudice aside and call the church to responsibility. Gay people have been ostracized by the church for much too long. *The time to change the church is now!*

The Community United Church is an open and affirming congregation and is a member of United Church of Christ and Church of the Brethren denomination. . It is located at 1011 W38th St. in Erie. Services are Sunday at 11am. (814) 864-4429. The pastor is Richard A. Moyer and his assistant is Dr. Richard McCarty.

the Rural AIDS Alliance

We provide access to testing, education, and medical, financial, and supportive services to those infected with HIV/AIDS in Northwest Pa. With Clinics in Erie, Warren, Clarion, Clearfield, Seneca, Sharon, Greenville and Farrell staffed by HIV specialists. Support Groups are also offered, please contact Sue at the Clarion office for that information.

For more information, contact:

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814-453-5744 or 1-800-400-2437

Clarion Office: 15870 Route 322
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814-764-6066 or 1-800-359-2437

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Screen

Compiled by Deb Spilko

When available, there are clickable links to trailers and movie websites in the online version of this article.

FESTIVALS

Two GLBT film festivals are coming to the region in October. **Rochester's ImageOUT Festival** will be held from Oct 19-18 (Visit www.imageout.org). The **Pittsburgh Lesbian and Gay Film Festival** will run from October 16-25, 2009 (Visit www.pilgff.org)

VIDEO - New and Upcoming

Check online for links to trailers and clips

Beatific Vision (2008) Gay spiritual comedy about getting what you need as opposed to what you think you want. www.beatificvisionthemovie.com *Aristical*

Becoming Men (2000) Tony Award-winning Broadway and film star, Alan Cumming, narrates this sensitive look at the challenges and glories of youthful passion, which includes current information for making safer choices. *Greenwood/Cooper*

The Castro: The Hidden Cities of San Francisco (1997) Essential, this documentary takes on the historical journey of the Eureka Valley neighborhood in San Francisco from its rural roots to the present day Castro, the center of all things gay. *KQED*

The Country Teacher (2009) A lonely, closeted city teacher escapes to the Czech countryside in search of a new life in this tender, poignant drama. *Film Movement*

D.E.B.S. (2004) Spoof on Charlie's Angels-type action entertainment. Official website at www.sonypictures.com/homevideo/debs/ *Sony Home Entertainment*

Love of Siam (2007) D multi-layered family drama, a groundbreaking element of the story is this gay romance between two teenage boys. (Thai with English subtitles) 9/15 *Strand Releasing*

Making Maya (2003) Making Maya tells the intimate story of a high school senior's coming-of-age as she confronts the challenges of love and life after graduation. *Victory Multimedia*

Monster (2003) Based on the life of lesbian serial killer Aileen Wuornos *First Look*

Newcastle (2007) Details Spectacular surfing scenes and gorgeous Australian surfer dudes are featured in this excellent drama about three brothers, one of



Sharon Gless and Maureen Gallagher in Hannah Free, the story of two women who shared 40 years together. It can be seen at the upcoming Rochester and Pittsburgh GLBT film festivals

whom is gay. *Wolfe Releasing*
Steam (2007) Tells the stories of three very different women, whose lives are linked only by the steam room at the local gym. 9/29 *Wolfe Releasing*

Summer Reunion (1999) passionate, softcore story about love - Shot entirely on location in the beautiful Santa Monica mountains. *Greenwood/Cooper*

Ugly Betty: The Complete Third Season (2008-2009) 9/22 *Disney*

Valentino: The Last Emperor (2008) feature-length film on the legendary designer Valentino Garavani in the wake of his exit in 2008 from the company he founded in Rome more than 45 years ago. *Phase 4*

Wanda Sykes: Sick and Tired (2006) Stand-up comedy. *Image*

ONLINE at EGN

Videos on our Video Gallery include Great Nationwide Kiss-In, LBT Women's Pontoon Ride, and Brian T.'s videos from Erie's Pride Weekend.

REMEMBERING PATRICK SWAYZE

Watch Patrick as Vida the drag queen with a big heart in **To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything -Julie Newmar** (1995) and sexy Johnny Castle in **Dirty Dancing** (1987). And his portrayal as Sam Wheat - taken away too soon - takes on new poignance in **Ghost** (1990) .

Kennedy's gay rights advocacy remembered

From Huffington Post

BOSTON — For decades, Edward Kennedy was considered the most powerful voice in the Senate for gay rights as a strong supporter of HIV/AIDS funding, hate crimes legislation and same-sex marriage.

His death struck a blow to gay rights advocates, who say they've lost a key ally.

"Having somebody in the Senate who was never afraid to stand up and say, 'This is the right thing to do' lifted all of our spirits and made all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people know that there was hope," said Chuck Wolfe, president of the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, a political action committee.

Kennedy was an early advocate for AIDS research and treatment, securing federal funding so patients could have easier access to experimental drugs, expanded home care and outpatient mental health care.

In 1996, he was one of only 14 senators who voted against the Defense of Marriage Act, which bars the federal government from recognizing gay unions. He also was a leading supporter of gay marriage in his home state of Massachusetts, which was the first to legalize same-sex marriage in 2004.

He also was a strong supporter of adding sexual orientation and gender identity to federal hate crimes and employment discrimination laws.

"Senator Kennedy has, more than anyone else, been our strongest voice in the United States Senate for the LGBT community," said Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign. "On every piece of legislation — every piece — Senator Kennedy has been the lead."

Solmonese said that whenever he worked with Kennedy on legislation, the senator would constantly keep him apprised of the latest developments.

Stay updated!

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www.eriegaynews.com

Study: GLBT smoking rates higher

from University of North Carolina

Men and women who are gay or lesbian are more likely than their heterosexual counterparts to smoke, according to findings from a review study carried out by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The findings, published in the August issue of the journal, *Tobacco Control*, show that as many as 37 percent of homosexual women and 33 percent of homosexual men smoke. That compares to national smoking rates of 18 percent for women and 24 percent for men in the 2006 National Health Interview Survey.

The authors reviewed findings from 42 studies of the prevalence of tobacco use among sexual minorities in the U.S. published between 1987 and May 2007. The findings suggest smoking is a significant health inequality for sexual minorities.

Recognizing and understanding the increased risk in a particular population can help policymakers, health-care officials and others provide support for people more likely to start smoking or who may want to stop smoking, said Joseph Lee, lead author of the review and a social research specialist with the Tobacco Prevention and Evaluation Program in the UNC School of Medicine.

A number of small or geographically limited studies have suggested that sexual minorities have higher rates of tobacco use than the general population, said Lee, who conducted the review as a master's student in collaboration with Cathy Melvin, Ph.D., at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health and UNC's Sheps Center for Health Services Research, and Gabriel Griffin, a medical student at the Duke University School of Medicine.

"The underlying causes of these disparities are not fully explained by this review," Lee said. "Likely explanations include the success of tobacco industry's targeted marketing to gays and lesbians, as well as time spent in smoky social venues and stress from discrimination."

"Tobacco is likely the number one cause of death among gays and lesbians," Lee said, "but there is

Continued on next page

Smoking

Continued from previous page

hope. Many gay and lesbian organizations are starting to reject addictive funding from the tobacco industry, and the community is organizing itself to address this health inequality through the National LGBT Tobacco Control Network.”

Websites:

National LGBT Tobacco Control Network: www.lgbttobacco.org

Tobacco Control journal: www.tobaccocontrol.bmj.com

Quote-Unquote

“I saw this myself in the late ‘70s in San Francisco, this kind of -- of rhetoric was very frightening and it gave -- it created a climate in which we -- violence took place. I wish that we would all, again, curb our enthusiasm in some of the statements that are made, understanding that -- that some of the people -- the ears it is falling on are not as balanced as the person making the statement might assume.”

House Majority Leader **Nancy Pelosi**, choking up while talking about the angry tenor of health care reform opponents, because it reminds her of the violent debate over gay rights that roiled San Francisco in the 1970s

~~~

“It is thanks to men and women who were totally committed to fighting fascism, people like Alan Turing, that the horrors of the Holocaust and of total war are part of Europe’s history and not Europe’s present.”

**British Prime Minister Gordon Brown**, in a posthumous apology to Alan Turing, gay computer scientist and WWII hero who was harassed into suicide in 1954

~~~

“Despite all the dire warnings (about gay marriage), the sky did not fall down. ... In fact, Massachusetts divorce rates are now down to pre-World-War-II levels: 1940. So, awkwardly, it turns out gay marriage is a defense of marriage act.”

MSNBC host **Rachel Maddow** on her Sept. 3 show commenting on data that found that Massachusetts—which legalized same-sex marriage five years ago—has the lowest divorce rate in the nation, and is continuing to drop.

Ashtabula Picnic a success!

*by Jayson D. Nadolny,
Executive Director AGLBTOA*

The Ashtabula GLBT Outreach Alliance held our first Annual Family Picnic on August 22nd, 2009 at Geneva State Park. What a wonderful time we had! With over 75 in attendance throughout the picnic, we can honestly say that it was a success!

The entire organization wishes to thank everyone that was involved in helping as well as those who attended! A special thanks goes out to our performers for the event (Romeo Chaos, Nikki Stone, Madame Weez, Cynthia Forenza, Collin Disorder, and James Von Loewel) and those who volunteered for setup and tear down!

We also had the honor of having the Youngstown PFLAG group as well as All Families Matter and Pride Youngstown in attendance. It was so wonderful to have the support of the various different organizations throughout the area, showing the unity that is needed to really bring change to our area!

Keep an eye on our new website, <http://www.ashtabulaglbtoa.org>, for updated information on events as well as our GayBula Online Community!

(Please note that there is a photo gallery included in the online version of this article.)

Voters Guide in our next issue, which will be out October 27!

The LEAD Online Calendar of Progressive Events in the Erie region
Keeps up on events related to:

Peace♦Social Justice♦Environment
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Health Care Reform♦Human Rights

A Project of Lake Erie Alliance for Democracy
Visit www.erielead.org and click “Events”

Ashtabula Picnic Photo Gallery

Photos from the first Astabula Family Picnic, held in Geneva State Park, on August 22. More pics at www.eriegaynews.com and at the website of Ashtabula GLBT Outreach Alliance www.ashtabulaglbtoa.org Photos by James von Loewe



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