



### Zone food drive at December Michelle Michaels FACE

*from the Zone*

December 18 is “Angels and Divas” — the Zone Diva Christmas Show. Erie’s own drag queens are doing something special this year....taking Barbie dolls and making them their own....turning them into different drag performers. During the show, we will sell/ auction them off and use the money to buy toys for the “Toys for Tots.” Also, you can bring in toys to the Zone—starting the first week in December—if you would like or buy one of the drag-Barbies.

### Concert benefits Unitarian Universalist Cong of Erie.

Prodigy classical guitarist Richard Stadler and folk singer song writer mother Marty Stadler holding an event like no other this December 13th 7pm at Unitarian Universalists Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie, PA. This concert celebrates the duo’s return to stage, and the premier of new songs and dances.

The event includes Classical and Folk music by the duo, a premier dance performance by the guitarist, and audience participatory events like, sing, laugh, and dance a longs. Reception catered by Like My Thai?.

Tickets \$18 available at the door or in advance for \$16 by emailing stadler.richard@gmail.com

Part of the proceeds will benefit the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie.



*Zone Halloween Party: Top row: Black Widow (Meghann), Beast (Michael), Hulk (Shawn); bottom row: Silver Surfer (Nick), Deadpool (Season) and Falcon (Jerry) Photo by James von Loeve.*

### Erie Gay Pride Offers Program On Coping with Holiday Stress

*from Erie Gay Pride*

It is well known that the holidays, while full of parties, presents and people for some, include some of the highest incidents of suicide, depression and anxiety for others.

Members of the GLBT community may have additional reasons to be anxious or depressed around the holidays. Whether it is coming out to family for the first time, wanting to avoid that homophobic uncle at a holiday gathering, introducing a partner to family for the first time, or just having no where to go while the whole world seems to be at a party, the holidays can be extremely difficult for some to handle.

On Thursday, Dec. 10, Erie Gay Pride, Inc. will host a workshop entitled “Don We Now Our Gay Apparel?” dealing with strategies to help individuals handle the Holiday blues. The program will begin at 7 p.m. at Community United Church, 1011 W. 38th St., Erie.

Two Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Will Koe-

*(continued on page 3)*

### Correction

*from Michael Mahler*

On the cover of last month’s issue and in an article, we referred to Ted Smith and his parter, Marc. Please note that Marc’s last name is Holland. EGN regrets the error.



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**Editors: Deb Spilko and Mike Mahler**  
**Ad Design: Mike Lipiec**  
**Deadline for next issue: Mon. Dec 14; this will be folded and distributed the night of Tues, Dec. 22 at 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 (GLBT's), 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 GLBT's 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, Bruce ShROUT, Bryan, C. Michael, Christina Colon, Don, Erin M. M., James von Loewe, Janice Hanusik, Johauna, Julie, Kim, Laurie Finch, Mike and Oat for folding; Bruce B, Bruce ShROUT, C. Michael, David . Erin M. M. . James von Loewe, Janice Hanusik, Jerry McCumber, Johauna, Julie and Laurie Finch 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 page 15 for more info.**



<b>QUARTER PAGE</b>	<b>FULL PAGE</b>	<b>HALF PAGE VERTICAL</b>
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AD SIZE	PRICE/ISSUE	DIMENSIONS
EIGHTH	\$30 - \$27 Prepaid	1 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub> " high X 2 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> " wide
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HALF HORZ.	\$90 - \$81 Prepaid	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " high X 6" wide
FULL PAGE	\$160 - \$144 Prepaid	7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " high X 6" wide

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

# Community News

hler and Liz Stroup will discuss common pitfalls, signs that the holidays may be getting the best of you, and how to plan for those difficult circumstances.

This program is open to all interested individuals at no charge, and is presented as a public service by Erie Gay Pride, Inc. Visit their website at [www.eriegaypride.org](http://www.eriegaypride.org).

*Editors' note:* Will Koehler and Liz Stroup are forming Family United Counseling—a faith-based counseling service—at Community United Church. For more, see Rev. Moyer's article on page 15.

## Transitions

Condolences to the family of **Mary Lou (Healy) Clifton Panos**, who passed away on November 17, 2009. With her late husband Nick Panos, she owned several businesses, including Lizzie Bordon's and The Village.

## LBT Women's new logo



"We just wanted something that everybody felt comfortable wearing," said Lauri Finch LBT Women coordinator. "Some of us had been calling ourselves 'the beans' [as in lez-bean]. There are also groups in other cities that use the term 'Beans.' The group came up with a basic design and gave it to Mike Lipiec, who built on it and gave us the finished design." Mike is graphic designer for *Erie Gay News*. To order a T-shirt with the "Beans" logo on it, contact Laurie at (814) 452-6645

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# New York updates

## NY State Senate Leadership Commits to Marriage Vote in 2009

*from Pride Agenda Action Center*

November 11—For the first time ever we received a commitment from the Senate Majority to vote on the marriage equality bill in the next six weeks:

“An agreement was reached to bring the marriage equality legislation for a vote before the end of the year and we will commit the full spectrum of our energies to making marriage equality a reality in the state of New York,” said Austin Shafraan, spokesman for the Senate Majority Conference.

Thank you to all activists who traveled to Albany yesterday and put pressure on Senators by standing outside the Senate chamber and talking about their families. Also, for all of you who have called and written your State Senator—keep it up. Your advocacy is working.

During the next weeks we will continue our work with Democrats and Republicans to make sure that we have the votes to pass this bill when it comes to the floor. We'll need you with us every step of the way.

## NY Court Upholds Recognition of legal marriages performed elsewhere

*The Advocate.com*

The New York state court of appeals on Nov 19 upheld the recognition of same-sex marriages performed in other jurisdictions where they are legal, although the narrow ruling applies only to the specific cases under consideration and leaves open the door to future challenges.

## Gov Paterson interviewed by The Advocate on GLBT rights

In the current issue of *The Advocate*, Kelly Eleveld interviews New York Governor David Paterson about his championing of GLBT rights. Link to it online from our website. Also at *Advocate.com* is a 5:50minute video interview with the Governor, regarding marriage equality. Link to it from our website

## NOM poses threat to NY marriage equality

*from Pride Agenda Action Center*

This week, after pouring unprecedented amounts of money into Maine to take away equality for our families, the National Organization for Marriage (NOM) sent out an alert to its supporters saying it is now shifting its focus back to New York and New Jersey to stop our efforts to legalize marriage for same-sex couples.

Please help us keep fighting to win marriage equality for our families as we work to get a vote tomorrow in the State Senate by making a gift to support the Pride Agenda!

([http://eqfed.org/ct/\\_pAVUA71iSSh/](http://eqfed.org/ct/_pAVUA71iSSh/)) From phone banking tens of thousands of New Yorkers -- to running television ads earlier this year -- to lobbying State Senators -- there has been an enormous amount of work that has been necessary to get us to this critical moment. Despite all the ups and down this year, we have never stopped working -- throughout the summer and now into the fall.

NOM, the group outside New York State responsible for the anti-gay Prop 8 ad “Gathering Storm,” also spent huge sums of money here in New York getting people to phone their State Senators. Now they're back once again working to demean our relationships and deny our families the protections the state provides all other families to keep them strong.

Together we can win marriage equality here in the Empire State.

With your support, we will win.



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# Voting on Equal Rights Is A National Disgrace

by Wayne Besen, *Truth Wins Out*, 11 November 2009

In the November 4 column, I pointed out that the GLBT movement might be the first where a majority gets to vote on the rights of a minority. If the basic freedoms of women, immigrants and African Americans were subject to the whims of voters, there is no doubt that this nation would be decades behind. Yet, we continue to blindly accept that these degrading and un-American referendums are tolerable, when they are not.

Ironically, ballot initiatives were once helpful in gaining visibility. The 1977 anti-gay vote in Miami, led by beauty queen Anita Bryant, put our issues on the national radar. Even though we lost, we were given a rare forum to introduce ourselves to the American people.

In 1978, California voters defeated the Briggs Initiative, which would have banned gay schoolteachers, showing that victory was attainable. But whether it is a loss in Miami and a win in California in 1977-78, or a defeat in Maine and the victory on domestic partnerships in Washington State last week, success or failure is beside the point. All Americans are losers by virtue of participating in a disgraceful process that is an affront to human dignity.

Unfortunately, we have never had the luxury to stop, take a deep breath and consider if these grotesque referendums are the best use of our time and limited resources.

With a record of 0-31 in marriage initiatives, now may be a good opportunity to review our complicity in a process that doles out or strips away basic rights by majority vote.

We must first recognize that a virtual campaign-industrial-complex has been built and financed around these fights. There is an army of field staff, media consultants, signature gatherers, advertising experts and fundraisers who work (and in some cases thrive) on these ballot initiatives.


In California, both sides spent as much as \$73 million. Even in the small media market of Maine, both sides spent a combined \$9 million dollars for campaign staff and advertisements. The financial burden for these wars repeatedly falls on the same besieged philanthropists and everyday people who care enough to open their wallets. The four key questions we must ask ourselves before we continue down this road:

- 1) Are referendums the best use of our human resources?
- 2) Are they the best use of our finite capital?
- 3) Are these votes legitimizing the un-American concept of mob rule?
- 4) Are these quixotic and narrowly focused battles the best way to educate and create lasting progress?

Perhaps, these campaigns are unavoidable and we must soldier on and slog through the muddy terrain of lies and fear-based thirty-second ads. I won't pretend to know the answer, but there is no doubt that our traditional tactics must be looked at with fresh eyes and vigorously debated.

There has been much disagreement as to whether our ads in these campaigns are too "soft". I think this misses the larger point that campaigns are not conducive to education. "Vote No on Prop 8" may be a good campaign slogan, but it is hardly a compelling message for changing hearts and minds.

*(continued on next page)*



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# National Disgrace

*(continued from previous page)*

Campaigns by their very nature go for the short term fix, when we may be in need of more enduring strategies. Repeatedly investing in such hand-to-hand combat has potentially precluded deeper discussion with the American people, so they fully understand how our families are harmed, the damage caused by discrimination and the inequality we face, from taxation to immigration law.

It is also clear that our opponents are trying to bleed us to death financially.

We can never outspend the combined forces of the Mormon, Catholic and Evangelical churches, which can afford referendums in every burg in the nation. To put the monetary imbalance in perspective, the annual budget for the largest GLBT organization is only \$30 million. Meanwhile, in 2007 the Archdiocese of Los Angeles paid a \$660 million settlement to 508 victims of sexual abuse by clergy. (A mere \$250 million after pedophile insurance reduced costs)

Instead of investing millions on referendums, what if we used the money to send our field experts into communities to educate, without asking people to take sides on a divisive measure? What if we built powerful outreach programs geared towards minority communities? How about training talk radio hosts and buying airtime in small, conservative media markets like Lewiston, Maine or Bakersfield, California?

By turning away from such votes, we strengthen our position by increasing our moral authority. At the very least, it forces our foes out of campaign mode and into an ongoing, intelligent discussion, where it is more difficult to twist the truth and manipulate emotions.

Winning in California and Maine would have been exhilarating. But, would you have felt less dirty and exploited by the referendum process in victory?

I didn't think so.

*Truth Wins Out is a non-profit organization that defends the GLBT community against anti-gay misinformation campaigns, counters the so-called "ex-gay" industry and educates America about gay life. Visit them at [www.truthwinsout.org](http://www.truthwinsout.org)*

**DEADLINE  
for next issue is  
December 14**

# Pennsylvania

## Hate Crime Protections for GLBT Pennsylvanians pass House Judiciary Committee

*from Equality Pennsylvania*

Harrisburg, PA- PA Rep. Josh Shapiro (D-153), would reinstate hate crime protections originally passed in 2002 for LGBT people, but that were later struck down by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in 2008.

"Thousands of LGBT Pennsylvanians thank those elected officials that today stood up against violence motivated by hate," said Jake Kaskey, Policy and Programs Director of Equality Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania's leading lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) advocacy organization.

According to statistics compiled by Equality Pennsylvania, from 2006 to 2007 hate violence against LGBT people across Pennsylvania increased by 28 percent, and one report by the Federal Bureau of Investigation estimates hate crimes targeted at LGBT Americans are under-reported by more than 30 percent. Since 2001, more than 420 people have called the legal hotline to report incidents of hate-incited violence, from every corner of the state.

"Today's bipartisan vote was a significant step forward for Pennsylvania to ensure that hate violence perpetrated against our people and communities is not tolerated," said Representative Josh Shapiro, prime sponsor of House Bill 745.

Equality Pennsylvania led member organizations of the Value All Families Coalition in engaging their elected Representatives and advocating for today's vote. Over 50 organizations from across the Commonwealth support hate crime protections for LGBT people, and together this coalition worked tirelessly to see this bill passed. Thousands of letters and e-mails were sent to members of the Judiciary Committee in support of protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Pennsylvanians from all across the Commonwealth.

*Visit Equality Pennsylvania at [www.equalitypa.org](http://www.equalitypa.org) and [www.facebook.com/equalitypa](http://www.facebook.com/equalitypa)*



# Calendar

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

**Nov 25 (Wed) - Craze Night Club: Thanksgiving Eve** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie. Come on out and join the gang as we celebrate Thanksgiving Eve CRAZE style! \$2.00 Captains, shooters, music and other surprises! (No karaoke tonight.) Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to [www.crazeerie.com](http://www.crazeerie.com).

**Nov 25 (Wed) - Family Reunion at the Zone** 133 W 18th St, Erie. 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! Happy Hour 9 PM -11 PM. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to [www.thezonedanceclub.com](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com).

**Nov 25 (Wed) - The Link: W.O.W. Wednesdays: Thanksgiving Eve with Miss Anna Steezia** The Link Bar, 91 Wendel Road, Herminie, PA 15637. Shows every Wednesday at 10:30 PM and midnight. Party hostess is Miss Jezebel d'Opulence, Miss Gaylife 2009. No cover charge. \$2.25 drafts, \$3.25 Captain

Morgan products, \$1 off all Bomb Calls. Phone: (724) 446-7717. Browse to <http://www.thelinkbar.com/>

**Nov 26 (Thu) - Vertigo Community Dinner**, 564 W Cunningham St, Butler, PA. Noon to 4 PM. We are going to give back to the community with a family style Thanksgiving dinner. We are inviting local businesses to give donations to help with this. There will be flyers with the info at Vertigo. Any help with distribution is very much appreciated. We are also offering delivery to the elderly and handicapped. I will have a sign up sheet at Vertigo if you would like to volunteer your time for a few hours during the day. Email: [vertigov@aol.com](mailto:vertigov@aol.com). Browse to <http://vertigobutler.weebly.com/index.html>.

**Nov 26 (Thu) - Craze Night Club : Thanksgiving** (Craze Night Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA 16502) HAPPY TURKEY DAY! CRAZE Open! Call your friends and come on out for a drink or two or ten after you stuff yourself! Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to <http://www.crazeerie.com>.

**Nov 26 (Thu) - Thanksgiving Day at the Zone** 133

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

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**Hispanic American Council**  
554 East 10th Street, Erie



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



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# Calendar

W 18th St, Erie. 8 PM. 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](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com).

**Nov 26 (Thu) - Thanksgiving Potluck at the UU** (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie, PA 16508) 2 PM. Put on by Hospitality Committee of the church. Phone: (814) 864-9300. Email: [uuerie@juno.com](mailto:uuerie@juno.com). Browse to <http://www.uuerie.org>.

**Nov 28 (Sat) - Craze Night Club : Oldies Night** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie. Get your platform shoes out and round out the holiday with your favorite oldies at CRAZE! Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to [www.crazeerie.com](http://www.crazeerie.com)

**Nov 30 (Mon) - Pride Youngstown presents the Post Thanksgiving Left Overs Drag Show** (Lemon Grove Cafe, 122 W Federal Plaza, Youngstown, OH 44503) 12 AM. Our first benefit for next year's Pride Fest. \$2 at the door at midnight. Phone: (330) 744-7683. Email: [prideyoungstown@gmail.com](mailto:prideyoungstown@gmail.com). Browse

to <http://prideyoungstown.com/>.

**Dec 1 (Tue) - World AIDS Day** [www.worldaidsday.org](http://www.worldaidsday.org)

**Dec 1 (Tue) - Craze Night Club : World AIDS Day Celebration** (Craze Night Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA 16502) World AIDS Day Awareness National theme: Universal Access & Human Rights. P.U.S.H. 90. With Connie, Buffy Lynn Hayes, Lazi Summers, Jill Saint James, Marc Swift & Boyd Partridge. Music by special guest DJ BlackCat & DJ Jason G, Mix Master Dex, DJ Dart. Donations \$2 with ID, 18 years \$5 to party. Doors open at 8 PM, show at 11 PM. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to [www.crazeerie.com](http://www.crazeerie.com).

**Dec 3 (Thu) - Craze Night Club: Nocturnal Asylum Party** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie. All welcome!!! [www.myspace.com/nocturnalasylum](http://www.myspace.com/nocturnalasylum) Phone: (814) 456-3027. [www.crazeerie.com](http://www.crazeerie.com).

**Dec 3 (Thu) - World AIDS Day Presentation** (Community United Church, 1011 W 38th St, Erie, PA. 7 PM - 9 PM. A presentation on behalf of World AIDS Day will be given by Community Health Net. The public is invited. Contact: Rev. Rick A Moyer. Phone: (814) 864-4429. Email: [communityunitedchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:communityunitedchurch@yahoo.com). Browse to [www.uccwebsites.net/communityeripa.html](http://www.uccwebsites.net/communityeripa.html).

**Dec 4 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour)** At Molly Brannigan's Irish Pub & Restaurant, 506 State St, Erie. 6 PM - 8 PM. G2H2/Erie takes place every month in a new location around town, providing GLBT professionals, and our colleagues and friends, the opportunity to meet, network or just hang out once a month. You can also sign up for the Erie Gay Business Alliance email list at <http://lists.eriegaynews.com>. Browse to [www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=54742829807](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=54742829807).

**Dec 8 (Tue) - Craze starts winter hours** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. CRAZE starts winter hours - Closed Tuesdays until Spring.. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to [www.crazeerie.com](http://www.crazeerie.com).

**Dec 10 (Thu) - Don We Now Our Gay Apparel?** At Community United Church, 1011 W 38th St, Erie. 7 PM. A free workshop dealing with strategies to help individuals handle the Holiday blues, sponsored by Erie Gay Pride, Inc. Everyone invited. Browse to [www.eriegaypride.org](http://www.eriegaypride.org).

**Dec 10 (Thu) - PFLAG Butler meets** St. John's United Church of Christ, 501 E Main St, Evans City,



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<http://gayyellowpages.com>



# Calendar

PA 16033. 7 PM - 8:30 PM. Support group for parents, friends and family of lesbians and gays. Contact: Joe Tomlinson. Phone: (724) 538-8124. Email: pflagbutler09@hotmail.com. Browse to <http://pflagbutler.weebly.com>.

**Dec 11 (Fri) - Watchfire Alliance Holiday Gathering** (Contact for location) 7 PM. Social group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) people in Chautauqua County. Contact: Bethany Robson. Phone: (716)499-4817. Email: brobson515@msn.com. Browse to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/watchfirealliance/>.

**Dec 11 (Fri) - Zone Dance Club: Global Groove Tour** 133 W 18th St, Erie. There will be great music from the hit Global Groove: Dance 2 CD. There will be free gift bags with a \$50 Travelocity coupon, a CD download coupon (100 available), a free Interactive Male trial membership, and literature from JustCircuit.com. Centaur Music introduced the groundbreaking Global Groove CD series to the world in 2000, offer-

ing a fresh and exciting new promise to dance music lovers in the gay community. With the addition of the Global Groove Tour in 2004, Centaur raised the bar and created the most extensive club tour promotion for the most recognized gay consumer brand in music. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to [www.thezonedanceclub.com](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com).

**Dec 12 (Sat) - Northwest PA-COLAGE Bowling Party** Rolling Meadow Lanes, 3304 Zuck Rd., Erie, PA. NOTE DATE CHANGE!!! 2 PM to meet and sign-in. Our lanes are reserved from 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM. Cost is \$7 per person and includes shoes/balls and all-you-can-bowl. If anyone is interested in joining our chapter and/or would like to volunteer at activities, please plan to meet us there. We would like to meet once a month and hope that as word gets out, we will have many participants! Parents are welcome to volunteer and attend activities and meetings. New copies of Just For Us will be available at the event. Info/RSVP: Christine at [nwpa@colage.org](mailto:nwpa@colage.org). Phone:

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# Calendar

(814) 398-0148. Browse to [www.colage.org](http://www.colage.org)

## **Dec 13 (Sun) - LBT Women of Erie meets at P.I.G.**

1PM, Young LBT Women meet at 2PM. Please remember we are collecting food for the Second Harvest Food Bank until our Sunday, December 13th LBT meeting at the P.I.G. Bring non perishable food donations to any event. We will get them all turned in to Second Harvest Food bank for you. (814) 452-6645

## **Dec 13 (Sun) - Concert (Fundraiser) with Richard & Marty Stadler, classical and folk music duo**

At Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie. 7 PM. Prodigy classical guitarist Richard Stadler and folk singer song writer mother Marty Stadler holding an event like no other. This concert celebrates the duo's return to stage, and the premier of new songs and dances. The event includes Classical and Folk music by the duo, a premier dance performance by the guitarist, and audience participatory events like, sing, laugh, and dance a longs. Reception catered by Like My Thai?. Tickets are available pre concert by emailing Richard at [stadler.richard@gmail.com](mailto:stadler.richard@gmail.com) for \$16 and at the door for

\$18. Contact: Richard. Phone: (814) 864-9300. Email: [stadler.richard@gmail.com](mailto:stadler.richard@gmail.com). Browse to [www.uuerie.org](http://www.uuerie.org). Partial proceeds benefit Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie.

**Dec 13 (Sun) - PFLAG Sunday** (Ginger Hill Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 174 S Main St, Slippery Rock, PA 16057) 11 AM. Supporting Parents, Friends and Families of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) Phone: (724) 738-0777. Email: [GingerHillUUC@yahoo.com](mailto:GingerHillUUC@yahoo.com). Browse to <http://www.gingerhilluuc.org> or [www.pflagbutler.weebly.com](http://www.pflagbutler.weebly.com)

**Dec 14 (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](mailto:pflag.erie.crawford@gmail.com).

**Dec 14 (Mon) - Craze Show Night** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie. 18 & over. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to <http://www.crazeerie.com>.

**Dec 14 (Mon) - Deadline for EGN January 2010 print edition** (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 Dec 22. For a complete list of upcoming deadlines and release dates, check the print edition schedule at [www.eriegaynews.com/printedition/deadlineschedule.php](http://www.eriegaynews.com/printedition/deadlineschedule.php). Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com). Browse to [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com).

**Dec 17 (Thu) - Pride Youngstown Fab-U-Lous Xmas Show** (Lemon Grove Cafe, 122 W Federal Plaza, Youngstown, OH 44503) Our second annual raffle for a holiday basket of cheer has begun. The cost is \$1 per ticket. The winning ticket will be pulled at 8 PM during our Pride Youngstown Fab-u-lous Xmas show. This benefits the 2nd Annual Pride Youngstown event, to be held June 5, 2010. Phone: (330) 744-7683. Email: [prideyoungstown@gmail.com](mailto:prideyoungstown@gmail.com). Browse to <http://www.prideyoungstown.com>.

**Dec 18 (Fri) - Zone Dance Club: Angels and 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

**NY**  
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# Calendar

here early—tables fill up fast! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to [www.thezonedanceclub.com](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com).

**Dec 19 (Sat) - LBT Women Sleigh Ride** Details Laurie Finch. Phone: (814) 452-6645. . Browse to <http://womynoferie.wetpaint.com/>.

**Dec 19 (Sat) - Zone Dance Club: Santa's Naughty or Nice Underwear and Pajama Party** 133 W 18th St. 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 come be a Ho Ho Ho! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to [www.thezonedanceclub.com](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com).

**Dec 20 (Sun) - Zone Dance Club: Face: Toys for Tots Benefit** 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. 10:30 PM. Drag series every 3rd Sunday of the month. Erie's own drag queens are doing something special this year. They will be taking Barbie dolls and making them their own, turning them into different drag performers. During the show, we will sell/auction them off and use the money to buy toys for the "Toys for Tots" cause. You can bring in toys to the Zone starting the first week in December, if you like, or buy one of the performers' Barbies. (Toys should be new, and *not* gift-wrapped). Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to [www.thezonedanceclub.com](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com).

**Dec 21 (Mon) - Craze College Night Holiday Show** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie. Join us for a festive night of fun!!! Show starts at 11:30 pm. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to [www.crazeerie.com](http://www.crazeerie.com).

**Dec 22 (Tue) - Erie Gay News folding/distributing work party at Mike Kohler's, 614 Cherry St, Erie.** 7 PM. Help us get out the print edition of *Erie Gay News*. We'll be folding and distributing the copies. All ages are 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](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com). Browse to [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com).

**Dec 24 (Thu) - Craze Closed for Christmas Eve** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!! Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to [www.crazeerie.com](http://www.crazeerie.com).

**Dec 25 (Fri) - Craze open for Christmas Night** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie. We are open Christmas Night!

Come on out and enjoy the holiday with all your friends at CRAZE! Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to [www.crazeerie.com](http://www.crazeerie.com).

**Dec 26 (Sat) - Retro Night at Craze** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie. RETRO Night at CRAZE...you got to love the 80's!!!!!! Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to [www.crazeerie.com](http://www.crazeerie.com).

**Dec 31 (Thu) - New Year's Eve at Craze** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Ring in the New Year with food, friends and good times at CRAZE! Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to <http://www.crazeerie.com>.

**Dec 31 (Thu) - Zone's New Years Eve Blast!** 133 W 18th St. Join us for Erie's biggest gay New Year's Eve Blast! Champagne toast, buffet, party favors, countdown on the video dance floor! We'll be popping corks at midnight - to toast in the new year, new friends, and new fun for 2010 at the ZONE! Thank you and Happy New Year from your friends at the ZONE! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to [www.thezonedanceclub.com](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com).

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# On Stage

Selected events of possible GLBT interest

**Dec 4 - Billy Joel and Elton John in Buffalo** at HSBC Arena

**Dec 4 (Fri) - From Renaissance City Choirs: Lea DeLaria and Maggie Cassella “You Better Watch Out” show at the Pittsburgh Eagle** 1740 Eckert St, Pittsburgh, PA at 8 PM. The latest collaboration between the loud mouth American dyke of comedy and her even louder mouthed Canadian counterpart. LBT Women of Erie is planning on going to this. Contact Laurie at LFinch003@neo.rr.com b Phone: (412) 766-7222. RCC: www.rccpittsburgh.org Maggie: http://maggiecassella.com Lea: www.delariadammit.com

**Dec 11-13-Buffalo Gay Men’s Chorus: “Joyful and Triumphant”** Visit www.buffalogaymenschorus.com for details and locations.

**Dec 12-13 - North Coast Men’s Chorus “Snow Biz”** Details/locations www.ncmchorus.org

**Dec 19 - Renaissance City Choirs: The 25th Anniversary Holiday Concert** (with guest performance by the Edgewood Symphony) at the Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland.

# Review

**Title: Balloons**

**Artist: Jeffrey Altermott (www.jeffreyaltermott.com)**

*Review by: Eric Linster*

It’s hard for me to write an objective review of *Balloons*, the fifth release from Chicago-based singer/songwriter Jeffrey Altermott. My thoughts and feelings about the album and the performer get tied up with my thoughts and feelings about my smart, funny, slightly goofy friend Jeff. However, as I write I am reminded of the first time I saw Jeff, when I knew only the performer, and my feelings about his music then are only reinforced by his latest release. Jeff sings from his heart, and that continues to be evident on this album. What we hear of Jeff’s heart on *Balloons* is its full range of feeling: from the struggle of fear versus freedom in the title track; a celebration of our spiritual selves in “Brothers Beautiful”; the quirky love song “Kickstand”; and the tongue-in-cheek jab at our cultural obsession with “reality” television “Dismal Voyeurs.” For me, one of the most poignant tracks on the album is “Everyday is a Reason,” a song that speaks to the triumphs and tragedies that the GLBT community has been through over the last year by celebrating the everyday joys of our relationships while defiantly proclaiming that our lives, our loves, our families are real regardless of what others may try to claim through legislation. *Balloons* also showcases the range of Jeff’s talent; smooth, heartfelt vocals backed by his band in musical styles from folk-rock to a little bit of dinner club jazz.

*Ed. Note: Please note that there will be an online contest to win Balloons at the Erie Gay News web site. The contest premieres December 1,*



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



# Bear In Mind

By Gary Snyder, aka GarBear73

Transitions, also known as change, are a constant in life and the GLBTQA community is no different. As my birthday has been approaching, there's a lot of reflecting going on these days; looking back at my past and conjuring up possible futures. Recently, I verbally debated with a dear friend the origins of the Bear Community and found myself taking stock in what I know of my personal history.

As I write I know that a very good friend of mine's father has just passed away. This friend of mine is a fellow member of the bear community and we have been here for him during his family's experience with transition. It's this bond that we share between each other that reminds me of how I have chosen the label 'bear' because I am proud of who I am.

I am authentic to myself, my sexuality and my level of masculinity. I choose the label 'bear' because I have a large family of men that have come into (and through) my life that also are authentic to themselves. Yes, I have my blood family, but I am not personally close to them. I don't share things with them I know they will not/cannot understand. My bear brethren on the other hand, they understand better. I know that whether I am struggling, excelling or just plain walking my path of life, they are there for me. Just as we are there for my dear friend in his time of need.

I know that some people don't get 'bears.' What I've found in the 9 years, is that in the greater world humanity, the GLBTQA community struggles harshly at times with being authentic. How does one know how to be oneself if we develop in a world that provides a negative environment? I came out in 1992 and spent 8 years struggling to find who I was within that GLBTQA

community. So many influences fought to 'develop' me into what is acceptable.

I experimented, dabbled, submerged myself into different ideals. And in the end, I have learned that I just need to be myself and love all that there is of me. I choose to be unique and not cloned. I choose to be an individual that blends into the crowd at times and stands out at others. I choose to be a 'bear' because it represents me and because equality along with universal acceptance, are in very small supply.

There's been talk lately about if the 'bear' community will dissolve into nothing as gay rights become the reality of equal rights. I don't know if utopia will be achieved with masculine men becoming just being faces in the crowd. But, I live in this time of transition. I live in this time of change. I live for today, whatever it may bring. I choose pleasure over pain, happiness over sadness and acceptance over tolerance. Until the GLBTQA community and the world at large evolves to such levels, I choose the bear community today because it is a comforting family of choice.

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# PASSHE LGBTQIA Consortium Holds Fall Meeting

by *Dan Burdick*

During an historic weekend, all fourteen universities of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education [PASSHE] met at the Atherton Hotel in State College, PA from October 30-31, 2009 for the inaugural meeting of the PASSHE LGBTQIA Consortium. The Consortium was formed in response to the varying levels of equity and service available to the LGBTQIA students, staff, faculty, and administrators on the different campuses. Each university has three members on the Consortium; two faculty/staff members and one student member. The co-chairs of the Consortium are Dr. Daniel Burdick of Edinboro University and Dr. Rita Drapkin of Indiana University of Pennsylvania. The Consortium was recognized by Chancellor John C. Cavanaugh on October 1, 2009. It serves as a formal standing sub-committee of the PASSHE Social Equity Council that reports directly to Chancellor Cavanaugh. The LGBTQIA representative on the Social Equity Council is Dr. Deryl Johnson of Kutztown University.

During the Fall Meeting, the Consortium worked on a number of beginning business items such as developing a mission statement and forming an Executive Committee. Workshops on Safe Zones and LGBTQIA Resource Centers were held with guest panelist, Allison Subasic who heads Penn State's LGBTQA Student Resource Center. The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Sue Rankin of the Pennsylvania State University. She is a

nationally-known expert on LGBTQIA Campus Climate Surveys and shared the results of the most current research during the Friday night banquet.

At the banquet, the first PASSHE LGBTQIA Recognition Award was presented to Barbara Taliaferro, Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion, of Kutztown University. She has been a consistent voice for diversity and inclusion at Kutztown for 21 years and was the first and only person to hold such a position at Kutztown University. During her tenure at the university, she saw the expansion of the creation of the office of disability services, the creation of the Multicultural Center and the PASSHE's first GLBTA Resource Center. Ms. Taliaferro was instrumental in the first inclusive statement involving GLBT issues in the PASSHE Diversity statements. She has long been known for several "BT" phrases, such as, "If you're serious about diversity, then you need to fund it!" As a powerful, well-spoken, African-American woman at a traditionally rural Pennsylvania university, BT as every calls her, has championed all of diversity, not just those constituencies with which she has personal experience. For Ms. Taliaferro, equality for all is not just a slogan. It is a calling, it is a responsibility, and it brings out the best in each of us. The PASSHE LGBTQIA Consortium was proud to honor Ms. Taliaferro at its historic inaugural Fall Meeting!

For more information about the PASSHE LGBTQIA Consortium, please contact Dr. Daniel Burdick at (814) 732-2647 or [dburdick@edinboro.edu](mailto:dburdick@edinboro.edu).



*From left to right: Sheleta Webb (California University of Pennsylvania), Dan Burdick (Edinboro University), Sue Rankin (Penn State), Barbara Taliaferro (Kutztown University), Hazel Spears (Cheyney University), Allison Subasic (Penn State), and Rita Drapkin (Indiana University of Pennsylvania)*

# Open for Business

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

My grandfather was an amateur philosopher of sorts. With pithy sayings and humorous stories he had the ability to give wise advice. Many times, in my life, I have relied upon his wisdom to get me through.

Sometimes though, I have been skeptical about some of his old sayings, believing them to be more fiction than fact. One example was his belief that "sometimes unexpected blessings seem to just fall out of the sky." I've never been one to be that optimistic about life. My belief is that good things come to those who work hard and plan ahead; but, every once in a while, I'm reminded that my grandfather may have had a point. Good surprises do happen!

Recently a great opportunity for our church did seem to appear out of nowhere. Will Koehler, a member of our congregation who is also active with LGBT issues in Erie, came to me with a proposal to set up a counseling center in our church building. He, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) who has had extensive experience in child, adolescent and family therapy, would have an office at our church. Along with the partner in his practice, Liz Stroup, also an LCSW with vast experience, a counseling service would be provided to address counseling issues from a Christian faith perspective.

Our church council enthusiastically endorsed the proposal, and now we are pleased to announce that Family United Counseling will be located in our church building at 1011 W 38th Street, Erie.

Family United Counseling offers confidential counseling in depression, anxiety, sexual abuse, GLB issues, as well as other individual and family concerns. They also offer therapeutic workshops, retreats and seminars. Will and Liz can be reached at 547-4837 or by calling the church office at 864-4429. Appointments can be made Monday thru Friday from 9:00am to 8:00pm and on Saturday from 9:00am to 1:00pm.

I am excited about endorsing this counseling center, and I encourage your consideration of their services if the need arises.

*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 11 am. (814) 864-4429. The pastor is Richard A. Moyer and his assistant is Dr. Richard McCarty. Web site is <http://www.uccwebsites.net/commuceriepa.html>*

## COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH

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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.

## VIDEO

Check online for links to trailers and clips

**Be Mine** (2009) A sweet and engaging story of budding first love that finds a path even in the face of undying shyness. Available 12/29 (also note we're giving away the DVD see contest facing page.. *Ariztical*

**Bruno** (2009) *Universal*

**Call Me Troy** (2007) Documents Rev Perry's life and the founding of Metropolitan Community Churches. [www.revtroyperry.org](http://www.revtroyperry.org) *Frameline*.

**Can't Think Straight** (2007) + **World Unseen** (2008) [www.icantthinkstraight-themovie.com](http://www.icantthinkstraight-themovie.com) Just another British, Indian, Muslim, Arab, Christian, lesbian Romantic comedy Second movie is a love story set in 1950's South Africa, when Apartheid was becoing established. Visit [www.theworldunseenmovie.com/](http://www.theworldunseenmovie.com/)



*Julianne Moore is Charley, a longtime friend trying to console George (Colin Firth) as he struggles to find meaning in life after the death of his partner in A Single Man.*

[www.theworldunseenmovie.com/video.html](http://www.theworldunseenmovie.com/video.html)  
*101 Distribution.*

**Eddie Izzard: Live from the Wembley** (2009) Stand-up from the transgender British comedian. *Vivendi*

**Every Little Step: The Journey of "A Chorus Line"** (2008) The making of "A Chorus Line" *Sony Pictures Classics*

**Fatherhood Dreams** (2009) Documentary invites people into the day-to-day lives of gay dads Scott, Steve, Randy and Drew, who are fathers through adoption, co-parenting, and surrogacy. [www.fatherhooddreams.com](http://www.fatherhooddreams.com) *Passion River*

**Ghosted** (2009) After the death of her lover, Sophie retreats to Taipei, but when she meets Mei-Li, a haunting mystery begins to unravel. Available 12/08 *First Run*

**Law of Desire** (1987) Pedro Almodóvar's (possibly autobiographical) tale features Antonio Banderas as a darkly handsome obsessed fan of a gay filmmaker who attempts to win the filmmaker's heart by any means possible. Subtitles. *TLA*

**Lucky Bastard** (2009) A story that rings true to anyone who's ever fallen for the wrong guy for all the right reasons. *Breaking Glas Pictures*

**Watch Out** (2009) Based on the novel by Joseph Suggia. "If John Waters had made AMERICAN PSYCHO instead of SERIAL MOM, he might've

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# Screen

created something like this deeply twisted, jet-black comedy.” - Seattle Lesbian & Gay Film Festival *Breaking Glass Pictures*

## IN THEATRES

In **A Single Man**, it is 1962, and middle-aged professor George Falconer (Colin Firth), is trying to cope with the loss of his partner, Jim (Matthew Goode) at a time when gay couples could not mourn openly. It is based on Christopher Isherwood novel of the same name. A Single Man will be out in limited release December 11 and wide release next January. <http://asingleman-movie.com>

## TV

If you haven't already, check out the smart and funny talk shows by Wanda Sykes and Joy Behar. The out and loud **Wanda Sykes Show** debuted November 7, airing on Fox Saturdays at 11PM, in the spot vacated by MAD TV. [www.fox.com/wanda](http://www.fox.com/wanda) In late September, **Joy Behar** from the View debuted her self-titled TV show HLN every night at 9PM. She's already had some great guests like Lily Tomlin, Bette Midler, Ian McClelland, Kathy Griffin, Visit [joybehar.blogs.cnn.com](http://joybehar.blogs.cnn.com)

## New galleries on our website

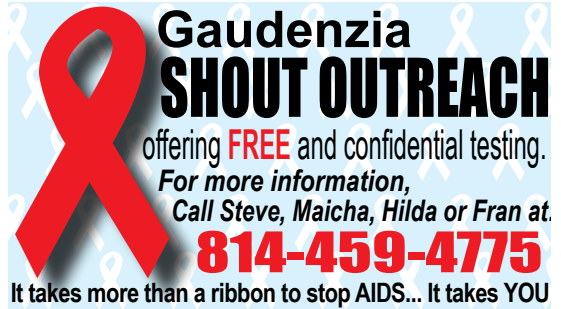
Online now or coming soon: to [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)

### Videos

- Arkansas 10-year-old refuses to stand for Pledge till "Liberty and Justice for all" means same-sex couples can marry.

### Photos

- Pink Cotton Candy breast cancer awareness fundraiser at the Zone Dance Club on Oct 10.
- Vertigo PFLAG Mixer on Nov 15.
- LBT Women Horse Drawn Mystery Tour on Oct 23 and Halloween Party on October 31.
- Erie Gay News folding party on Oct 27
- Zone Halloween Party
- Mercyhurst GSA social on 9/24



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## Win Prizes from Erie Gay News

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

Contest	Starts
Global Groove: Dance 2 CD Download	November 27
Matt Alber CD - Hide Nothing	December 1
Be Mine DVD	December 4
Balloons CD by Jeffrey Altergott	December 11
White Party 10 CD Download	December 18

Here are contests which are currently active...

Contest	Ends
Sugarland Holiday CD - Green and Gold	November 27
Hunter-Valentine DVD - We're Here to Recruit You	December 4
Hunter-Valentine DVD - We're Here to Recruit You	December 11

Please note that you can always see a complete list of contests at our web site! Members of the Erie GLBT News and Events list and also the Erie Gay News Facebook group get first notice of contests. Sign up today!



# Zone Halloween Photo Gallery

*More photos at our online photo gallery. Photos taken by James von Loeve*





# National Headlines

Link to these articles from our website at [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)

**Oct 28 - President Obama signs federal hate crimes legislation**

**Oct 29 - Obama administration: States that allow gay marriage can't force the federal government to provide benefits to those couples**

**Nov 4 - Kalamazoo votes for fair employment**

**Nov 4 - Marriage equality loses in Maine election**

**Nov 4 - North Carolina gets third openly gay mayor**

**Nov 10 - AMA —largest doctors' group—joins efforts to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Also Declared that marriage inequality contributes to health disparities**

**Nov 11 - Mormon Church supports anti-discrimination legislation in Salt Lake City**

**Nov 19 - Maine election ethics commission to investigate role of National Organization for Marriage (NOM) in that state's anti-marriage equality vote**

**Nov 20 - Senate puts off promised hearing on 'don't ask don't tell'**

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

Peace ♦ Social Justice ♦ Environment ♦ Diversity ♦ Civil Liberties ♦ Animal Welfare Health Care Reform ♦ Human Rights

A Project of Lake Erie Alliance for Democracy Visit [www.erielead.org](http://www.erielead.org) and click "Events"



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