

January 2010

EGN Celebrating Erie Gay News 17 Years of Serving the GLBT Community!

Erie Catholic Diocese donated \$1,000 to fight marriage equality in Maine

by Deb Spilko

The National Catholic Reporter notes that the Erie Catholic Diocese was one of 50 Catholic dioceses in the country that contributed to the campaign to strike down Maine's law extending civil marriage rights to same-sex couples. In the Nov. 3 referendum, voters rejected marriage equality 53 percent to 47 percent.

Bishop Malone of the Portland Maine diocese had called on bishops from dioceses around the country to contribute to fight marriage equality. Bishops contributed a total of \$550,000 to the campaign.

The Erie Times-News contacted Erie Bishop Donald Trautman, who replied in an e-mail. "Bishops have the responsibility to teach, to shepherd and to sanctify, and as any top administrator, I do have access to resources that can be used as I see fit," Trautman said.

"We believe marriage was created by God as a sacrament between one man and one woman," he said. "The church in America exists in a democracy. We have not only the right, but also the responsibility to be active citizens, to participate in our democracy and to make our views known to the legislators who represent us."

Through Bishop Malone, the Portland Maine diocese contributed \$286,000, even though it has been experiencing dire financial difficulties for the past several years. The bishop made the decision to donate \$180,000 of the Portland diocese's money, and then took up a second collection.

Boston Skeptics blogger Maggie wrote in September, "The Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland Maine is gambling that you won't bother to express outrage at this tax-exempt religious body dabbling in politics — despite this being something they are explicitly barred from doing. . . Changing, influencing or creating laws are political actions. And IRS code 501(c)(3) governing tax exempt organizations expressly



Kaye Cofini takes food donations to the Second Harvest Food Bank.

forbids this.

"If the church wants access to our government, there's a price. If not, then their best move would be to return that money to their parishioners or donate it to a wholly unrelated charity. This is our government, not the Pope's."

Vertigo Thanksgiving dinner update

from Kirsten

Vertigo's Thanksgiving Community Dinner was great. We opened our doors and fed over 40 people and we had 20 plus volunteers. Thanks to everyone who helped out or donated. The pictures are up so check them out at www.myspace.com/butlervertigo

LBT women collect food for Second Harvest

by Mike Mahler

There was 46 pounds of donations collected for the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwestern Pennsylvania in the name of the Erie LGBT Community from the terrific food drive at the Presque Isle

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Editors: Deb Spilko and Mike Mahler
Ad Design: Mike Lipiec
Deadline for next issue: Fri. Jan 15; this will be folded and distributed the night of Thurs, Jan 28 at the Zone.

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 the Zone for hosting; Andrea, Bruce Shrou, C. Michael, Dawn B, Eric Linster, James von Loewe, Janice Hanusik, Jim, Johauna, Kelly Kidd, Kim and Laurie Finch for folding; Bruce Shrou, Erin M. M., James von Loewe, Janice Hanusik, Jerry McCumber 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 11 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

Gallery Coffeehouse that was organized by the LBT Women of Erie.

PFLAG Butler update

from Joe Tomlinson

Butler PFLAG has only to submit our Articles of Incorporation to the State along and then we're ready to take our place with the other 500 chapters of PFLAG throughout the United States. The cost of incorporation (\$125) has been generously donated by the Gosselin Family. As soon as our bank account is opened we can send in our paperwork.

There are many things we can be about as a chapter of PFLAG. Already we have a list of topics members would like to address. Join up with others who can develop the meetings to provide education, support and advocacy for our members and the larger community. Email butlerpflag09@hotmail.com to see how you can help.

Browse to www.butlerpflag.weebly.com

Safenet Chil-E Cook-Off

from SafeNet

Attention all Restaurant Owners: Reservations are now being taken for the 4th Annual Chil-E-Cook-Off, which will be held on February 21, 2010. Location this year will be at The Brewerie at Union Station. Come out and compete for the title "Best Chili in the Region." For more information, Call Rick at SafeNet 814 455 1774. This event is sponsored by Northwest Savings Bank, JET TV/Fox 66, and Cabot Cheese. Benefits SafeNet Domestic Violence Safety Network

NAMI's Family Support Group

from NAMI

The Erie office of the National Association on Mental Illness will start having Family Support Group sessions starting on January 4 at 6 PM at the agency's office at 1611 Peach Street, Suite 105. The sessions will be held free to the public. Please call (814) 456-1773 to register for the sessions, which will run about eight

(Continued on next page)

**It's all
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(and health)

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



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Community News

weeks. The group sessions are open to any caregivers, family members or friends of people with mental illness. It is a great way to learn more about mental illness and develop friendships that can last a life-time. A retired teacher and former graduate from the program will be leading the sessions.

Lesbians of color social networking site

from Nicole

My name is Nicole and I live in New York. I have just created the first social networking site for lesbians of color--www.oursistacircle.com. You can check up to date news as it relates to gays and lesbians around the world, post pics and videos, chat with and meet other women, blog and post announcements about upcoming parties, political rallies, engagements, performances or just find a new friend . I hope you will sign up and make this a success for lesbians of color worldwide.

IRS Grants Erie Gay Pride Tax Exempt Status

from Erie Gay Pride

Erie Gay Pride, Inc., Erie's official GLBT community organization, has been granted federal tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). In granting the organization's request for tax-exempt status, the IRS recognized Erie Gay Pride's mission of providing educational programs and services to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community in the Erie region. As an official 501 (c) 3 organization, donations made to Erie Gay Pride, Inc. are tax deductible on federal income tax returns. The status was officially granted effective Sept. 11, 2009.

Erie Gay Pride, Inc., which sponsors Erie's official Pride Parade and Rally in the summer, is also offering a series of educational programs which are listed on the group's web site, www.eriegaypride.org.

Point scholarships for GLBT students

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 9 /PRNewswire-US-Newswire/ -- Point Foundation (Point), the nation's largest scholarship-granting organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students of merit, announces the opening of its 2010 application season starting December 11, 2009. Students who will be enrolled in undergraduate or graduate programs for the 2010-11 school year are eligible to apply for the prestigious, multi-year scholarships. The application deadline for this year's scholarships is February 12, 2010.

"Last year, we received a record-breaking number of applications for our prestigious and highly competitive scholarships - over 2,400 applications," said Executive Director & CEO Jorge Valencia. "And given the current economic environment, which is making it increasing more difficult to secure funding for a higher education, we expect to get an even greater number of applications this year." noted Executive Director & CEO Jorge Valencia.

For more information, visit: www.pointfoundation.org



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Thursday 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

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814-451-6700
Corry Office 814-663-3891

Positive news for positives!

“It’s about time!” said Patty Puline, HIV/AIDS educator from Erie, Pa, who has fought the fight for the past ten years. Yes, the stigma associated with HIV entry ban into the United States, denying entry to HIV positive people for years, has now been finally lifted. “We realize that this is just one step, but a very important step. It shouts to the world that the United States realizes that this law was antiquated, and should have been repealed years ago.”

The fact that this ban has been lifted allows the United States to become eligible to host the next International AIDS Conference. Patty Puline and Dr. Reza Nassiri have both been at the forefront in the education campaign to bring HIV/AIDS education to students in Erie, PA. For more than ten years, along with health educators such as Michele Curtze and Melissa Montero, they struggled to teach this to more than 38 schools in our area. Sadly, the federal administration saw fit to cut educational funding to agencies, health departments, and private groups who used to teach about HIV to high school and college age students in American schools. Despite the fact that 50% of all new HIV infection occurs among ages 15-24, they moved from primary to secondary prevention.

Primary prevention is when I talk to groups of people who are NOT infected, and explain the history, biology, and mechanics of transmission to prevent those people from becoming infected. The funding for that type of education was precious, and went a long way in reducing the amount of new HIV infection in the US.

Secondary prevention is when I work with people who are already HIV positive, or have a diagnosis of AIDS, and enlist their support to be allies in the process

of preventing the spread of HIV through their own contacts and prior or previous partners. This was the birth of the DEBI interventions, Diffused Effective Behavioral Interventions. In other words, tried and true, scientific based and evidence based programs. Having been trained in the DEBI interventions, I will be the first to say that they are good when you have support of the community.

But I think we still need to have primary prevention as well. This is just simple logic.

It is encouraging with this lifting of the ban on positives, to hope that HIV education funding, primary prevention, may be reinstated soon. We can only hope.

Yours in the fight,
Patty Puline, HIV/AIDS Educator
Member, Centers for Disease Control HIV/
STD Educator Trainer Network Member, US Department of Justice, HIV Consultant Member, Senior Adviser, Teen AIDS Peer Corps, Harvard University
International AIDS Conference Abstract/Presenter
2002-2004-2006-2008

Statement by Secretary Kathleen G. Sebelius on the Repeal of the HIV Entry Ban

November 2—Today, we will publish a rule in the Federal Register announcing that the United States will drop HIV from the list of diseases barring visitors from entering this country, effective Jan. 4, 2010.

Though the United States has been a leader worldwide when it comes to ending the stigma of HIV/AIDS, we’ve been one of only 12 countries who, by their policies, still enable the myth that HIV/AIDS is a threat. Lifting the HIV “entry ban” represents the same blow against stigma that Ryan White himself fought for from the time he was 13 years old and contracted HIV/AIDS.

It’s appropriate that the nation is taking the final step to lift the entry ban as President Obama signs the fourth reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act. The ability to travel freely and have access to affordable health care should be available to everyone. This change has been a long time coming, and I am pleased it is happening now.



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NY State Senate rejects marriage equality

Pride Agenda Executive Director Executive Director Alan Van Capelle reacting to marriage equality suffering a 24-38 loss in the NY state senate.

December 2, 2009—While we are disappointed by today's vote, we are pleased that the issue of marriage equality at last was debated in the New York State Senate. We had long called for a public debate on this matter so we could determine who was truly on our side.

It is a step forward for our democratic process in New York that a debate and vote have now occurred. Now we know where we stand, and where we need to concentrate our efforts in the future.

We are incredibly thankful to those who have stood with us and will continue to stand with us as our community presses forward to win marriage equality. In this regard:

We thank Governor Paterson for his unstinting support;

We thank each of the Senators who pushed for a vote and stood with us when it was time to be

counted;

We also thank the members of the New York State Assembly—led by Speaker Sheldon Silver and Assemblymember Daniel O'Donnell—who have three times now voted for marriage equality by increasingly bipartisan majorities; and

We thank our many allies in the labor, faith and the business communities for their support and willingness to speak out.

To the tens of thousands of LGBT New Yorkers who have worked hard for equality, and to those who may for the very first time have become politically involved due to this fight, our message is as follows:

Our fight continues. Marriage equality is coming to New York. Time clearly is on our side and you can be sure that we will never stop working until we win.

To those Senators who do not yet see our families as deserving the same protections as other families in New York, our message is simple:

We are more committed than ever to this fight. We will redouble our efforts in your district to ensure that our voice is heard. We know our cause is just. We know that a growing majority of New Yorkers believes in the same values of fairness and equality that we do. If you cannot support us, we will find candidates for public office who do, and we will work through the democratic system to affect needed change.

Visit www.prideagenda.org

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DEADLINE
for next issue is
January 15



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Lightshine

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

Last night, I drove home in the first significant snow storm of the season. The wind was blowing across the country roads and the visibility was almost zero. It would have been a laborious drive on a dreary evening had it not been for the houses aglow with Christmas lights. The colored lights reflected off the newly fallen snow.

Candles in windows created the feeling of warmth. A lighted start on a chimney reminded me of the Gospel account of a shining star over Bethlehem.

Christmas is about light.

Here in Erie, as winter settles in, the skies turn gray and dark clouds hover over the lake. It is a sure and certain indication that out winters can be long and dismal. Those of us who have lived here for many years have learned to adjust to the onslaught of winter at the lake. We know how to dress in layers and curl up by the fireplace with a book reserved just for the day when the weather will keep us inside. And we appreciate the Christmas-decorated houses that bring warmth and color to the beginning of winter-sorry to see them come down as the days of winter drag on until the first hint of spring.

It is no accident that Christmas is about light.

The Christian church has utilized the symbol of light for centuries.

On each Sunday of the four Sundays of Advent, a candle is lit in anticipation of the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service when the entire sanctuary is filled with candles. Lighted Christmas trees, originally used as a Christian symbol of everlasting light, adorn homes, churches, department stores, town squares, and city parks. Electronic decorations line the main streets of most American cities and towns, displaying colorful ornaments.

With so much light around us, you'd think we'd get the message that Christmas is all about faith, hope, and love. Yet, even at Christmas, there is hatred, violence, prejudice, discrimination, and injustice - often evident among those who claim to understand the real meaning of Christmas!

According to Christian tradition, the first Christmas brought light into the world. The child who was born was called "prince of peace".

It was said of him that "he was a light to lighten

the people." He was called "the light of the world" by those who followed him.

I am well aware that not everyone who reads this article is a Christian; and it is certain that even among Christians, there are different interpretations of this yearly event. But most everyone is affected by Christmas in some way, even if it is just the nuisance of the traffic jams at the mall.

I do think, though, that the world would be a better place if we could capture again the true meaning of Christmas: "that light shines in the darkness." Perhaps all the Christmas lights that make the beginning of winter so bright and beautiful should challenge us to let *our* light shine with faith, hope and love, remembering that even one candle can light up an entire room.

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 W 38th 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

**Christmas Eve
Candle Light Service at 8 PM**

**West 38th & Cascade
Services Sunday at 11 AM
United Church of Christ
Church of the Brethren
All are Welcome!**



Calendar

This calendar is also online at www.eriegaynews.com/news/calendar.php

Dec 24 (Thu) - Craze Closed for Christmas Eve
1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!!!!
Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to 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.

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.

Dec 31 (Thu) - Boogie on the Bay (Bayfront Convention Center, 1 Sassafras Pier, Erie, PA 16507) 9 PM - 2 AM. New Year's Eve Party benefits the Humane Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania. \$40 per ticket includes live music by Redline, hor d'oeuvres, three

drink tickets per person and champagne toast. \$189 hotel room package includes two event tickets plus a room at the Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel. Free parking at the convention center. Redline: high energy dance music to the golden age of swing. Happy New Year! Tickets available at the Tullio Arena Box office or by calling (814) 452-4857, Phone: (814) 452-4857. Browse to www.bayfrontconventioncenter.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) - Vertigo Huge New Year's Eve Party (Vertigo, 564 W Cunningham St, Butler, PA 16001) Tickets are \$10 presale, \$13 at the door. Included: hats, noise makers, balloon drop, midnight buffet. We are providing rides home for anyone that needs one. \$10 per destination. So if you're all going to one house, it will only cost \$10. Butler area only. Get your New Year's Eve tickets now at Vertigo Email: vertigov@aol.com. Browse to <http://vertigobutler.weebly.com/>

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
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 **adagioHEALTH**

Hispanic American Council
554 East 10th Street, Erie

 **adagioHEALTH**

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



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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.

Calendar

index.html.

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.

Jan 7 (Thu) - PFLAG Butler meets (Butler Area Public Library, 218 N Mckean St, Butler, PA 16001) 7 PM - 8:30 PM. Support group for parents, friends and family of lesbians and gays. Contact: Joe Tomlinson. Email: pflagbutler09@hotmail.com. Browse to <http://www.butlerpflag.weebly.com>.

Jan 7 (Thu) - Craze Night Club: Nocturnal Asylum Party (Craze Night Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA 16502) All are welcome! No cover charge. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to <http://www.myspace.com/nocturnalasylum>.

Jan 8 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) Contact for location! 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/group.php?gid=54742829807>.

Jan 9 (Sat) - Craze Night Club: Duane's Birthday 1607 Raspberry St. It comes every year! Duane's another year younger! Make sure you stop at CRAZE

and wish him HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to www.crazeerie.com.

Jan 10 (Sun) - LBT Women of Erie meets at P.I.G. 1PM, Young LBT Women meet at 2PM. (814) 452-6645

Jan 11 (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.

Jan 15 (Fri) - Deadline for EGN February 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 Jan 28. For a complete list of upcoming deadlines and release dates, check the print edition schedule at www.eriegaynews.com/printedition/deadlineschedule.php. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@

Family United Counseling

1011 West 38th Street
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Calendar

eriegaynews.com. Browse to www.eriegaynews.com.
Jan 17 (Sun) - Zone Dance Club: Face: 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. 10:30 PM. Drag series every 3rd Sunday of the month. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Jan 23 (Sat) - Oldies Night at Craze 1607 Raspberry St. CRAZE is still your hot spot for Oldies Night! Phone: (814) 456-3027. Web: www.crazeerie.com.

Jan 28 (Thu) - Erie Gay News folding/distributing work party at the Zone, 133 W 18th St, Erie PA. 7 PM. Help us get out the print edition of *Erie Gay News*. We'll be folding and distributing the copies. 21 and over, please. It is also a great way to hang out and chat with folks! Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com.

Jan 31 (Sun) - Dreams of Hope Concert: First Comes Love (August Wilson Center, 980 Liberty Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15222) 4 PM. Phone: (412) 361-2065. Email: info@dreamsofhope.org. Browse to <http://www.dreamsofhope.org/>.

National Headlines

Link to these articles from our website at www.eriegaynews.com
 Nov 20 - **Senate puts off promised hearing on 'don't ask don't tell'**

Nov 23 - **FBI announces 11 percent increase in hate crimes based on sexual orientation in 2008**

Nov 30 - **California man starts satiric movement to ban divorce** "Since California has decided to protect traditional marriage, I think it would be hypocritical of us not to sacrifice some of our own rights to protect traditional marriage even more," the 38-year-old married father of two said.

Dec 9 - **NJ Senate bill deferred**

Dec 13 - **Houston selects first openly gay mayor Anisse Parker**

Dec 15 - **Washington DC legalizes same-sex marriage**

Good news in Ohio

Equality Ohio posted this announcement about encouraging decisions by legislators in three Ohio communities, all on Nov. 30 2009:

Last night, Cleveland City Council voted 21 - 0 to protect against discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations based on gender identity and expression. Akron voted 10 - 2 to do the same based on both sexual orientation and gender identity and Summit County voted 11 - 1 to pass a countywide ordinance protecting against discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Thanks to all the advocates and coalitions who have worked long and hard to see these much needed protections finally included in municipal law!

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Erie Gay News - January 2010

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Letters

Regarding our former Northwestern PA PFLAG Representative, Maureen Koseff.

PFLAG Erie & Crawford Counties and myself, PA State Coordinator, share the following information/Communication, attached, from Jamie, PFLAG National.

“We truly extend a warm thank you to Maureen for her many years of service to local PFLAG, as our former Chapter President, and recent, former, Northwestern PA PFLAG Representative.”

Reminder to direct those people and loved ones in need of PFLAG LGBT Support, School-GSAs, Education, and/or Advocacy: Family & Friends/School & Co-workers, etc & a Focus on Straight for Equality for LGBT Allies: Your Local PFLAG Chapter meets 7:00pm-8:30pm every 2nd Monday at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Highway, Erie, PA. Local Contact: (814) 454-1392 (John) Email: pflag.erie.crawford@gmail.com Visit PFLAG National's Website@ www.pflag.org

Thank you,

Sincerely,
Mark Hoover

President, PFLAG Erie & Crawford Counties
PFLAG PA State Coordinator

Designated Drivers Save Lives

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\$5 for Additional 15 Words.

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House for Rent

House for rent in a safe area of Meadville near Interstate 79. We have handled older clientele for years. I am 81 and can help older couples. Security is available. Deal with situations that need Meals on Wheels and close to the Meadville Medical Center. House is furnished with 3 bedrooms, cable television. We can assist them in shopping and take them to the Meadville Senior Center. Phone (814) 337-8827.

Holiday Care Cab

Erie Yellow Cab and Hamot Medical Center, in partnership with television stations WICU 12 and WSEE 35 and the CW Network, are pleased to announce that we are offering Holiday Care Cab services this year.

From December 24, 2009 thru December 31, 2009 (inclusive), if you have had too much to drink, and are at a licensed drinking establishment, you may receive a free cab ride to your home.

The hours of operation of the Holiday Cab are from 8:00 PM til 3:00 AM. The service area is from the lakeshore to Interstate 90, between Millfair Road on the west and Troupe Road on the east.

If you need to be taken home, call 461-TAXI (461-8294) and tell the operator that you are calling for a holiday cab. The operator will take all of the necessary information.

Hamot Medical Center, The CW, WICU TV 12, WSEE TV 35 and Erie Yellow Cab want you to have a safe and happy holiday season. Please don't drink and drive, and don't let others drink and drive

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



**Sign up for the Pitt Men's Study
Health Alerts
email list service at
www.stophiv.com/pms**

ACLU Rallies to Fill 25% Budget Gap

from the American Civil Liberties Union

For a number of years, the ACLU has received extraordinary support from an anonymous donor, including over \$20 million in 2009 alone. He has informed us that, due to market conditions, he will not be able to lend us that support in 2010. This loss of funding will have a particularly hard impact on ACLU programs targeted at the most vulnerable in our society.

In one fell swoop, we stand to lose nearly 25% of the whole organization's budget -- unless you and others step in to help.

David Gelbaum, the largest individual donor in ACLU history -- someone who chose to give anonymously for years -- decided to reveal the reasons for his support to the ACLU so that we can fully describe this situation to our supporters. In Mr. Gelbaum's own words, he's made this decision so that the ACLU, "will not be constrained by donor confidentiality, may fully explain how these programs were created and financed, and may ask others to step forward to help sustain

them in the future."

In response to this crisis, we are engaged in belt-tightening at every level of our organization. We've already seen remarkable acts of generosity from donors large and small all across the country.

But protecting the ACLU's most essential work will require an extraordinary outpouring of support.

You can help by being part of our Acting Together campaign. If we can get 100,000 friends like you to donate to the ACLU by December 31, we'll be well on our way to keeping essential work on track.

Your personal participation is critical because the ACLU and our far-reaching work are part of the very fabric of America. The ACLU and supporters like you have stood as a bulwark for freedom in America for the past 90 years--fighting for justice and against extremism at every turn.

We act together because -- when it comes to defending freedom -- it is really up to each and every one of us. And, in the face of the daunting financial challenge of losing millions of dollars of committed support, it's up to us to stand together again.

All of us at the ACLU are confident we have the vision, the commitment and the supporters to get us through this crisis. Thank you for your extraordinary commitment to the vitally important mission of the ACLU.

To make a donation or to learn more about the ACLU, visit www.aclu.org

New galleries

Online now or coming soon: to www.eriegaynews.com

Videos

- Rachel Maddow smacks down ex-gay charlatan Richard Cohen and accuses him of having blood on his hands with regard to the proposed death penalty for gays in Uganda

Photos

- LBT Women Holiday Party
- Edinboro showing of *For the Bible Tells Me So*



the Rural AIDS Alliance

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

For more information, contact:

Erie Office: Booker T Washington Ctr
1720 Holland St, PA 16503
814-453-5744 or 1-800-400-2437

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

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

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

End of Love (2009) abandons the usual themes of identity and coming out which are often characteristic of gay Asian cinema and presents a mature, involving and quite entertaining look at what it's like to be young and gay in modern-day Hong Kong. 1/05 *Breaking Glass Pictures*

Glee Volume 1 (2009) Available 12/29 *Fox*

His Highness Hollywood (2009) Bestselling author Ian Halperin poses as a gay member of the "Israeli Royal Family" seeking to get his big break in Hollywood, exposing the dark side of Tinseltown and the hypocrisy of the Church of Scientology as he hobnobs with A-list celebrities. Conversations with Brad Pitt, Bill Paxton, Leonardo DiCaprio, Jay Leno, and Sigourney Weaver reveal the high-price of stardom in a town where fame is fleeting, and The Church of Scientology generously offers to cure the aspiring actor of his homosexuality--for a handsome fee, of course. www.hishighnesshollywood.com *Passion river*

Kathy Griffin: She'll Cut a Bitch (2009) 1/12 *Shout! Factory*

Redwoods (2009) "Certainly one of the most romantic gay films ever, Redwoods tells the story of a man in a stagnant relationship who meets and falls in love with a writer passing through his small Northern California town." ~Scott Cranin <http://www.youtube.com/user/TheRedwoodsMovie> *TLA Releasing*

Taking Woodstock (2009) www.elliottiber.com/Universal

Tru Loved (2008) Sixteen-year-old Tru is uprooted by her lesbian moms from her comfortable gay-friendly home in San Francisco and moved to a conservative, suburban community in Southern California. Tru's only friend is a closeted football player, and even that friendship is jeopardized when she starts the school's first Gay-Straight Alliance. <http://www.truloved.com/> 1/12 *Here!, E1 Entertainment*



D-List Diva and comic Kathy Griffin has a new stand-up DVD out and will play a lesbian activist in an episode of Law and Order SVU, scheduled to air Feb. 10.

GAMES

The **Lesbian Gamers** website a network of sites that bring you regular lesbian gaming news, articles, forums and reviews with a lesbian slant. Other female gamers might find stuff of interest as well, as reviewers also deal with how issues like how females are portrayed in given game. Visit www.lesbiangamers.com

Dragon Age: Origins features options for characters Zevran the assassin and Leliana to choose same-sex lovemaking. From GayGamer.net "Kudos to BioWare for adding a bit of a gay storyline to their game and for dealing with gay romance as evenhandedly as they do the heterosexual options."

Link from our website to video clips and GLBT discussions about Dragon Age: Origins.

Win Prizes from Erie Gay News

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

Contest	Starts
POPular 4 CD Download	December 25
Sundance Prize Pack with Spectacle Season 1 DVD and U2 vinyl	January 1
Joel Evans single - Storm	January 8
Kaylah Marin's On The Floor Remix CD and Loving Life CD	January 15
Lost Fingers - Lost in the 80's CD	January 22

Here are contests which are currently active...

Contest	Ends
Be Mine DVD	December 25
Autographed copy of ZINK featuring Erika Jayne	December 25
Balloons CD by Jeffrey Altermott	January 1
White Party 10 CD Download	January 8

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!

Happy New Year!



Visit us online for more New Year celebrations

Bruuuuce!

“Like many of you who live in New Jersey, I've been following the progress of the marriage-equality legislation currently being considered in Trenton. I've long believed in and have always spoken out for the rights of same sex couples and fully agree with Governor Corzine when he writes that, ‘The marriage-equality issue should be recognized for what it truly is -- a civil rights issue that must be approved to assure that every citizen is treated equally under the law.’ I couldn't agree more with that statement and urge those who support equal treatment for our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters to let their voices be heard now.”

~Bruce Springsteen
commenting on New Jersey marriage equality legislation. The state legislature has tabled the bill for now.

Marriage Equality wins in DC despite Church threats

from *The New Civil Rights Movement*

December 15, 2009—Same-sex marriage won in Washington, D.C. today. Hardly a surprise, and yet, as home to the federal government, the irony is palpable. Two weeks ago, the bill won in an 11 – 2 vote also. This, the required second vote, will send the measure to District Mayor Adrian Fenty, who has said he will sign it. Congress has thirty days to review the measure, titled, “The Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Equality Amendment Act of 2009,” but is unlikely to do so. Given its current focus on healthcare reform and the war in Afghanistan, it would be all but inconceivable that a Democratic Congress would step away from the nation’s issues to wade into this debate.

The marriage equality bill win is the culmination of a year-long battle, including a recent ultimatum by the Catholic Archdiocese of Washington, which threatened to stop charitable services should the bill pass.

One Washington Post columnist put it this way:

“By trying to play political hardball with the District, no matter how carefully they word their objection to the bill, officials at the Archdiocese of Washington and Catholic Charities are telling our city’s most vulnerable people — homeless families, sick children, low-income mothers — that they are willing to throw them on the table as a bargaining chip.

“What the Church is doing is an uncharitable and cruel maneuver.” (Petula Dvorak, November 13, 2009)

Regardless of the Church’s future moves toward –or against–the needy, the bill has passed and will become law.

Last night, hundreds rallied (photos) in a final effort to ensure the bill’s passage.

The nation’s capitol is poised to be the sixth part of the country to offer marriage equality to its citizens. Massachusetts, Connecticut, Iowa, and Vermont all offer marriage to same-sex couples. New Hampshire will join that list on January 1, 2010. Additionally, New York recognizes same-sex marriage but does not allow it to be performed.

Link to this article and related items from our website www.eriegaynews.com

HOLIDAY CARE CAB 461-8294

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

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



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USA/CANADA: \$25 by first class mail. All states and providences,
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The whole book is now online in Acrobat Reader format.
www.gayellowpages.com/online.htm

Also available as a no frills CD in PDF format.

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10014 646-213-0263 or email gypages@gmail.com

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