

March 2010



# EGN

## Erie Gay News



## GLBT Legislation and Legislative Advocacy meet-up at Craze

by *Mike Mahler*

On Thursday, February 18, about 30 people attended a GLBT legislation and legislative advocacy meeting at Craze Night Club. Presenters included Jesse Salazar, who heads Senator Bob Casey's statewide LGBT and Latino affairs, Gary van Horn and Thomas C. Waters from Delta Foundation in Pittsburgh, Mary Styn the aide from Senator Arlen Specter's Erie office and Kyle Hannon from Senator Casey's Erie office.

Jesse, Mary and Kyle addressed federal issues/legislation. Gary and Thomas addressed issues related to Pennsylvania.

Jesse discussed the passage last year of the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes law, the first federal legislation to address the rights of LGBT people. The next piece of federal legislation expected to come up is repealing Don't Ask, Don't Tell. It is unclear when the Employment Non Discrimination Act (ENDA) might come up for a floor vote. Dave Martin stated that ENDA is the legislation that would affect the greatest

number of LGBT people. Jesse noted that we judge the success of our efforts as activists by the opportunities they create for the next generation.

Gary van Horn discussed the work that Delta Foundation is doing, and talked about the Western PA Advocacy Alliance (WPA3). Thomas Waters discussed the need to defeat Senate Bill 707 (SB 707) in the PA State Senate. Currently, this bill is in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The Delta Foundation is hiring a full-time field organizer to work specifically on LGBT issue advocacy, and will be available to provide training, mentorship, and support to groups across the 23 counties that make up Western Pennsylvania. Delta is also willing to provide support to anyone who wants assistance in meeting with their representative or senator. If you want someone with more experience with the specific legislation to go with you to a meeting, we can provide that assistance.

*(continued on page 3)*

*At the legislative meeting: Kyle Hannon (aide at Senator Casey's Erie office), Jesse Salazar (who heads Senator Casey's statewide LGBT and Latino Affairs), Mary Styn (aide to Senator Specter's Erie office), Gary van Horn (Delta Foundation), Thomas C Waters (Delta Foundation).*

*Photo by James von Loewe. More photos from the event on EGN website.*



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**Editors: Deb Spilko and Mike Mahler**  
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**Deadline for next issue: Mon. Mar 15; Folding and distribution is Thurs, Mar 25 at The Zone. Please check night before!**

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 Dance Club for hosting; Alex Bolla, Andrea, Bart, Ben Jurio, Erin M. M., Gary, Gerald Price (Gerry), James von Loewe, Jeff, Johauna, Keith, Kim, Marie & Michael Kohler for folding; Alex Bolla, Andrea, Bart, Erin M. M., James von Loewe, Janice Hanusik, Jeff, Jerry McCumber, Johauna, Keith, Kim, Laurie Finch & Michael Kohler 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.

**Even more content at  
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**Classified Ads are available!  
 See page 11 for more info.**



QUARTER PAGE	FULL PAGE	HALF PAGE VERTICAL
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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

Gary discussed Pennsylvania House Bill 745 (HB 745), which would add sexual orientation and gender identity/expression to the state's hate crimes laws, and also House Bill 300, which would amend the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission to cover sexual orientation and gender identity/expression. Pennsylvania had previously passed legislation similar to HB 745 in 2002, but it was removed by a PA Supreme Court decision because of a technicality in the way it had been passed.

All of the speakers expressed the need for people concerned about LGBT equality to engage with their legislators, especially by writing personal letters and calling their local offices, and by meeting with their house representatives and senators. For example, Jesse noted that when the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Law was being considered by Congress, anti-gay activists made over 1,000 calls to Congressmembers from Pennsylvania but they only received 50 telephone calls in favor of it. Meeting face to face with legislators is best, but even

making a phone call that takes under five minutes can have a *huge* impact.

**NOTE: Information about these three bills as well as instructions for doing issue advocacy can be found at [www.thomascwaters.com](http://www.thomascwaters.com)**

## Bears invite you to join them for Entertainment and Splash Lagoon

by Gary Snyder

Want to listen to some live music that's not necessarily the Top 40 Pop/Dance Chart hits? Ever thought it would be great to enjoy a private event evening at Splash Lagoon? Well, here is your chance! The bears of Drenched Fur 6 invite you to join them the last weekend of March this month for fun and good times. On Friday, March 26th, 2010, Drenched Fur 6 and Craze Dance Club will be hosting the premier musical event of Bearapalooza. Bearapalooza is a grouping of entertainers from the bear community that perform across

*(Continued on next page)*

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# Community News

the country at various venues/events. For Drenched Fur 6 this year, Bearapalooza will consist of musicians Freddy Freeman, Elijah Black, Kendall and RockCub along with comedian William Brown as emcee. The event kicks off with a cocktail hour at 7 PM, followed by the musical performances from 8 PM until 10:30 PM and the cover charge at the door is just \$10. The following night, on Saturday, March 27th, Drenched Fur 6 will be once again hosting an exclusive event at the Splash Lagoon Indoor Water Park Resort. The event is from 10 PM until 2 AM and the cost will be \$40. If community members wish to participate in the private event at Splash Lagoon, please visit the DF6 website at [www.drenchedfur.com](http://www.drenchedfur.com) and click on Registration. (Advance signup and payment is required).

The Splash Lagoon Event is sponsored by Drenched Fur 6 and is part of Erie's Bear Run Weekend. Approximately 200 visitors are expected from around the USA. The full listing of events for the weekend can be found at the Drenched Fur website and include a bar crawl, a winery tour, casino visits, charity

auction, vendor mall, and more! Commemorative DF6 beach towels are also available to order via our website. There is a 21 and over age limit because of the presence of alcohol on the premises.


If you have questions, please contact the DF6 Run Coordinator, Gary at [gnsnyder@drenchedfur.com](mailto:gnsnyder@drenchedfur.com) or leave a message at 814 446 2327.

We look forward to you joining us here in Erie for "The Best Little Run For Fun!"

## Youth group in Jamestown

*from GLYS of Western NY*

A Peer Support Group for GLBT youth & their allies ages 14-19 is co-sponsored by GA Family Services of Jamestown and Gay and Lesbian Youth Services of Western New York. Meeting sare held in the cafetorium at the GA Learning Center, at 200 Gustavus Avenue in Jamestown NY, 5:30 - 7:30 PM. Upcoming meetings are March 10, and April 28. For more info contact Deb at G.A. (716) 969-1873 or (716) 665-2116. or browse to [www.glyswny.org](http://www.glyswny.org)



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# Community News

## Spirituality and Sexuality Discussion Group March 16

by Rich McCarty

Sexual ethics has long been dominated by narrow views that have excluded LGBT people, and have made straight non-married people to feel guilty for being active sexual beings. On March 16, we will discuss qualities of holy relationships and relationship boundaries that free us and encourage us to live and do well, as people who are both spiritual and sexual. We will explore how a concern for sexual morality and relationship integrity does not amount to moral or religious authoritarianism. Rather, we will ask what our experience teaches us about ethics, faith, and life at the intersection of spirituality and sexuality. We will explore how the “face” of God meets us in our sexual partners and beloveds. 7-8:30 PM at Community United Church 1011 W 38th St, Erie, PA. Community United Church is an open and affirming Christian congregation. All are welcome who wish to engage in honest, confidential, and safe conversation. Come join the discussion! Contact: Rich McCarty. Phone: (319) 270-5140. Venue Phone: (814) 864-4429. Email: richmccarty@msn.com. Browse to venue web site [www.uccwebsites.net/commuceriepa.html](http://www.uccwebsites.net/commuceriepa.html).

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# Hate Crimes on the Rise in Schools and Communities

## Part II – Steps to Curb the Violence

by *Crime Victim Center of Erie County, Inc.*

“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” We all face choices that can have a positive or negative effect on the community or people around us. Even if the choice is silence or inaction it can have an impact. It is up to all of us to work towards ending hate crimes and violence. It is evident that if the number of hate crimes occurring in our schools everyday is to be decreased then attitudes and the school climate must change.

Here are some steps that can lead to a positive change of attitude in schools:

- All staff and volunteers should be trained on effective bullying prevention methods and interventions.
- Make sure the school has an anti-bullying policy that clarifies that teasing and exclusion based on sexual orientation is not acceptable.
- Make sure school policies have included sexual orientation and gender identity when referencing harassment and discrimination.
- Provide education to combat myths and stereotypes that address race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, etc.
- Create an anti-prejudice campaign that would encourage students to think about the words they use.
- Age-appropriate instruction on sexual orientation should be addressed in all health and sexuality curriculum.
- Encourage students and staff to speak up when jokes and slurs are made in their presence.
- Discussion groups should be held regularly on harassment and discrimination of youth.
- Develop support groups.
- Schools and the surrounding community must create safe, non-biased and supportive environments.

If you or someone you know has been a victim of a hate crime or any other crime, call the Center at (814) 455-9414.

# Don't sign, don't join . . . before you look at this (Part 1)

By Deb Spilko

With news that Don't Ask, Don't Tell may be lifted or at least watered down, some GLBT people are considering enlisting in the military.

If you are one of those people, I would stongly suggest that you don't rely solely on military recruiters and their recruiting materials.

Here are some sources that can help you to gain a more balanced understanding of what it means to enlist in today's military. You can link to them from the Erie Gay News website or by looking up their titles with the keyword **AFSC** (or call the American Friends' Service Committee National Youth & Militarism Program 215-241-7176).

## Do You Know Enough to Enlist?

This flyer will help you to get clear about some things in your own mind, like: Will enlistment help me achieve my goals? Am I trying to escape my own problems? Am I willing to give up control? Am I willing to kill... and be killed? Do I have other options?

And they offer this advice: If you talk with a recruiter, don't rely only on the recruiter to give you the information you need to make an informed decision. Take along a relative or friend. There is also advice on what to do if you do decide to enlist.

## Before You Enlist!

This is a video (14:32 min.) that offers straight talk from veterans and their family members and a former recruiter, telling what is missing from the sales pitches presented by recruiters and the military's marketing efforts. The American Friends Service Committee, Veterans For Peace (VFP), Iraq Veterans Against the War, Gold Star Families for Peace, Military Families Speak Out, the Coalition for Peace Action and other groups worked with the producers to develop the program and are helping to distribute it. Link to it from Erie Gay News. More info at [BeforeYouEnlist.org](http://BeforeYouEnlist.org)



*Thomas Power, US Army Iraq War veteran, talks about trying to apply military training to civilian job skills in the video Before You Enlist!*

## Questions for Military Recruiters (backed with Answers Military Recruiters Should Give You)

The postcard-sized handout offers questions and answers on concerns like: Will I be deployed to the Middle East? How long is my enlistment commitment? Can the Armed Forces make me stay longer than I have contracted for? Am I guaranteed the ability to go to college if I want to? Will I receive any compensation if I am permanently disabled by war?

## Already signed up?

If you are having problems or are having second thoughts about enlisting, call the GI Rights Hotline at 877-447-4487 or visit [www.girightshotline.org](http://www.girightshotline.org) The call and the service are free and confidential. This is a nongovernment organization.

*The Erie Peace Initiative Initiative distributes the two print items locally. If you would like to make these items available in your school, office or business, contact EPI at [eriepeaceinitiative@yahoo.com](mailto:eriepeaceinitiative@yahoo.com) or visit [www.eriepeaceinitiative.org](http://www.eriepeaceinitiative.org)*

# Faith, Hope and Love

By Rev. Richard A. Moyer

Pastor, Community United Church

There's a book in my library entitled "Great Church Fights." It was written in the late 1970's by a pastor who had witnessed many disagreements and misunderstanding in his own church. The stories he relates are humorous, pathetic and down right ridiculous.

I've often thought that I could write a similar book. I would include the church deacon who, early in my ministry, disagreed with me over a matter that was so trivial most people would not even consider it worthy of discussion. But that wasn't true of my deacon friend. He attacked me at a congregational meeting with words I would be embarrassed to repeat.

Then there were the two women who got into an argument over which one of them was going to play the piano for a special event. The shouting match began in the church sanctuary and continued out on the front lawn. It was a summer evening, and the neighbors were sitting on their porches in ear shot of the angry women.

And then there was the time when a church member was so angry because she wasn't getting her own way, that she stomped her feet and waved her arms like a child, whose favorite toy had been taken away! It was a humorous sight to behold, but it was a tragic reminder that selfish ambition is as present in the church as it is in other places in society.

All these incidents raced through my mind a few Sundays ago when the lector was reading from I Corinthians 13 during morning worship. She repeated the words of the Apostle Paul, "Faith, hope, love, the greatest of these is love."

Hearing those words made me impatient with the church which so often preaches love yet doesn't always seem to get around to practicing it. I did my best to convince myself that I shouldn't be too hard on the church. We are, after all, fallible humans who make mistake and who, often enough, put our own self-interests ahead of that which is best for the church.

But I became frustrated again, a few days later, when I was listening to a sermon that was given by a television preacher who is one of the better ones. He was preaching about the importance of being inclusive in the church. He reminded his listeners that Jesus welcomed everyone. He named many kinds of people who should be welcome to participate in the full life and ministry of the church. His list was long.

He is to be commended for his attempt to open the church doors wider than would normally be the case in most churches. But he did not include LGBT people on his list! He stopped short of being entirely inclusive. It was as if he were saying that God's love can go just so far and then it comes to a halt.

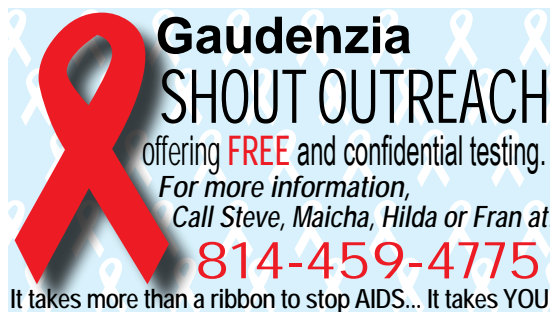
I felt the pain more than the anger. The Gospels tell us that we are to love our neighbor as ourselves. The church usually interprets that to mean that we can love our neighbor as long as our neighbor isn't gay. I confess my frustration with churches that go so far with their love but fail to go all the way.

The book in my library called "Great Church Fights" tells us that the church has been slow to embrace the teachings of St. Paul; that love is greater than faith and hope. As a friend of mine once said, "The church always moves slowly. Some day the gay/lesbian issue will be adequately resolved and the church will be truly inclusive."

He may be right. But why should we have to wait? Why should we tolerate a church that moves so slowly? Why should we allow the truth of the Gospel to go unheeded?

Now is the time for the Church of Jesus Christ to not only say it but to act upon it: "Faith, hope, love – the greatest of these is love!"

*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 11am. (814) 864-4429. The pastor is Richard A. Moyer and his assistant is Dr. Richard McCarty. Website is [www.uccwebsites.net/com-muceriepa.html](http://www.uccwebsites.net/com-muceriepa.html)*



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# Calendar

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

**Mar 5 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour)**  
Pufferbelly Restaurant, 414 French St, Erie, PA 16507.  
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>. Venue Phone: (814) 464-8989. Find G2H2/Erie on Facebook.

**Mar 7 (Sun) - 2010 Picnic Planning Committee meets** At Presque Isle Gallery Coffeehouse, 35 Peninsula Drv, Erie. 2 PM - 4 PM. The 18th Annual Erie Gay News Family Pride Picnic will be Saturday, June 12, 2010 at the Rotary Pavilion. Volunteers needed to make this picnic the best one yet! Sign up for the list at <http://lists.eriegaynews.com> and see more about the picnic at <http://picnic.eriegaynews.com> Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Venue Phone: (814) 790-5615. Email: [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com). Browse to <http://picnic.eriegaynews.com>. Browse to venue web site [www.picoffeehouse.com](http://www.picoffeehouse.com).

**Mar 7 (Sun) - Pride Youngstown** (Utopia Nite Club, 876 E Midlothian Blvd, Youngstown, OH 44502) Come dressed as your favorite Oscar winner. Red carpet smack talk is welcome, \$3 cover. (330) 518-4718. Venue Phone: (330) 781-9000. Email: [Prideyoungstown@prideyoungstown.org](mailto:Prideyoungstown@prideyoungstown.org). Browse to [www.prideyoungstown.com/](http://www.prideyoungstown.com/).

**Mar 8 (Mon) - PFLAG Erie/Crawford County meets** Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Hwy, 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).

**Mar 10 - Youth Support group meets in Jamestown NY** A Peer Support Group for GLBT youth & their allies ages 14~19 is co-sponsored by GA Family Services of Jamestown and GLYS. Meetings to be held in the cafetorium at the GA Learning Center, at 200 Gustavus Avenue in Jamestown NY, 5:30 ~ 7:30 p.m. Upcoming meetings are March 10, and April 28. Info: Deb at G.A. (716)969.1873 [www.glyswny.org](http://www.glyswny.org)

**Mar 13 (Sat) - LBT Women go to the Presque Isle Downs & Casino** 8199 Perry Highway, Erie, PA. We are meeting at the Casino in Erie at 3:30 for a little wagering and optional dinner afterwards if you like. We can partake of the Buffet there or pick from many eating locales. Contact: Laurie Finch. Phone: (814) 452-6645. <http://womynoferie.wetpaint.com/>.

**Mar 13 (Sat) - O'Zone Dance Party!** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) Feeling Lucky? Join your friends for some 4-leaf fun at our St.Patrick's Party. Wear green, have some green beer or dance an Irish jig! Catch the leprechaun and he might give you his pot of gold! Get into your Zone—the Gay rainbow ends here! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to [www.thezonedanceclub.com](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com).

**Mar 14 (Sun) - LBT Women of Erie meets at Presque Isle Gallery Coffeehouse** 1PM, Young LBT Women meet at 2PM. (814) 452-6645

**Mar 15 (Mon) - Deadline for EGN April 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 Mar 25. For a

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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).

**Mar 16 (Tue) - Spirituality and Sexuality Discussion Group meets** Community United Church, 1011 W 38th St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Every third Tuesday of the month, the Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty facilitates a discussion group on spirituality and sexuality at Community United Church. Community United Church is an open and affirming Christian congregation. The discussion group grounds conversation in relevant issues such as what Christian scripture and ethics have to say about human sexuality, but also provides individuals opportunities to share questions, stories, and experiences with respect to what it means to identify as a person who is both spiritual and sexual. Meetings are confidential. Come join the discussion! Contact: Rich McCarty. Phone: (319) 270-5140. Venue Phone: (814) 864-4429. Email: [richmccarty@msn.com](mailto:richmccarty@msn.com). Browse to venue web site [www.uccwebsites.net/commuceriepa.html](http://www.uccwebsites.net/commuceriepa.html).

**Mar 17 (Wed) - St. Patrick's Day at Craze Night Club** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Happy St. Patrick's Day! Everyone's Irish today! Join us for the *fun*, music and the green beer! Remember the Martini Bar opens at 5:00 every Wednesday for Happy Hour! Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to [www.crazeerie.com](http://www.crazeerie.com).

**Mar 17 (Wed) - St. Patrick's Day Party at the Zone!** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to [www.thezonedanceclub.com](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com).

**Mar 21 (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](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com).

**Mar 25 (Thu) - Kinsey Sicks at Penn State Behrend, Erie Hall** 8 PM.

**Mar 25 (Thu) - Erie Gay News folding/distributing work party at the Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie PA.** 7 PM. Please contact the night before to verify that we are on schedule! 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](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com).

**Mar 26-28 - Drenched Fur 6** - Erie's own Bear weekend. Info: Gary Snyder (814) 446-2327 [gnsnyder@drenchedfur.com](mailto:gnsnyder@drenchedfur.com) [www.drenchedfur.com](http://www.drenchedfur.com)

**Mar 26 (Fri) - Craze Night Club welcomes Drenched Fur: Bearapalooza!** Musical and comic entertainment, see page 4 for details. 1607 Raspberry St. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to [www.crazeerie.com](http://www.crazeerie.com). [www.drenchedfur.com](http://www.drenchedfur.com)

**Mar 26 (Fri) - Under-Bear Party! Zone's Bear Bar Night!** Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St. The Zone

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# Calendar

welcomes all the guys from Drenched Fur to a night of dancing and fun at our Under-Bear Party just for you! Show off your Under-Bear! Wear fun boxers and underwear and lets see some *fur*! Prize for Sexiest Under-Bear! Grab a bite to eat from the Zone Kitchen, try a Zone Twister Cocktail & join your friends on the Video Dance floor as fellow bear DJ TC plays your requests! Prizes, dancing! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to [www.thezonedanceclub.com](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com). [www.drenchedfur.com](http://www.drenchedfur.com)

**Mar 27 - Drenched Fur 6 at Splash Lagoon** Community members welcome, see p. 4 this issue for details. [www.drenchedfur.com](http://www.drenchedfur.com)

**Mar 28-Tegan and Sara in Cleveland** at Lakewood Civic Cleveland, OH <http://teganandsara.com>

**Mar 28 - LBT Women Game Day Afternoon** Details TBA. Phone: (814) 452-6645. <http://womynoferie.wetpaint.com/>.

**Apr 11 - Tom Goss & Jeremiah Clark** at the Presque Isle Gallery Coffeehouse 35 Peninsula Drive. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM <http://picoffeehouse.com>

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**For more information, contact:**

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Erie, PA 16501  
814-454-3811 or 1-800-400-2437

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

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## Out in the Silence in Westfield



Lynn Johnson and panel member Greg Rabb at the Westfield NY showing of *Out in the Silence*.

During the discussion period after the film, Lynn thanked Greg for providing a safe space for GLBT students 18 years ago when she was a student at Jamestown Community College.

The screening was held at Patterson Library in Westfield New York, and attended by about 65 people.

Photo by Deb Spilko. More photos can be seen on the Erie Gay News website.

William J. Koehler, LCSW Elizabeth Stroup, LCSW

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A photograph of a smiling family consisting of a woman, a young girl, and a young boy, with a dog in the foreground.

## Win Prizes from Erie Gay News

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

Contest	Starts
Person of Interest DVD	February 26
A Private Midnight by Scott Fried, signed by the author	March 5
Crossing Twice	March 12
Allison Moorer - Crows CD	March 19

Here are contests which are currently active...

Contest	Ends
Ellen DeGeneres comic book	February 26
Praxis DVD	March 5
Hunx and His Punx - Gay Singles	March 12
Big Muscle Remixed CD Download	March 16

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!

Mark your calendars for the  
**18th Annual EGN Family Picnic!**  
**Saturday, June 12**  
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<http://picnic.eriegaynews.com>.

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<http://gayyellowpages.com>

# On Stage

Selected events of possible GLBT interest

**Frb 19- Mar 13 - Beebo Brinker - "The Beebo Brinker Chronicles"** At Buffalo United Artists Based on the books "I am Woman", "Women in the Shadows", and "Journey to a Woman" by Ann Bannon [www.buffalobua.org](http://www.buffalobua.org)

**Mar 4-6 -Angels in America by Tony Kushner** Subtitled *A Gay Fantasia on National Themes*, this Tony-winning play is set in New York City in the mid-1980s. Directed by Dan Crozier. Playshop Theatre, Allegheny College, Meadville PA at 8:00pm, March 7 (Sun) at 2:30 pm Vukovich Center for Communication Arts Phone: (814) 332-3414 <http://sites.allegheny.edu/playshop/>

**DEADLINE for next issue is  
February 15**

# Additional Updates

by Michael Mabler

As we are going to press, we just got word that KINSEY SICKS will be at Penn State Behrend on March 25 at 8 PM in Eric Hall.

Barney Frank says that ENDA is likely to be voted out of committee and go to the House floor for a successful vote in March. He is less sure that the needed 60 votes in the Senate are there and urges GLBT voters to lobby both House and Senate members. So, please call the local offices of Senators Bob Casey and Arlen Specter and Representative Dahlkemper - who have all said that they would vote for ENDA on the floor - and urge them to use their leadership skills to build support for ENDA among their colleagues.

# On our website

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

## New Audio gallery!

- Gay soldier invited back to National Guard
- Links to two audios from the archive of Kim Young's Weekend All Things Erie: An interview with Out in the Silence filmmakers Joe Wilson and Dean Hamer, and an interview that profiles one of the organizers of the Rainbow Connection Weekend, Pat Collins.

## Videos

- Gay Youth and Churches
- US condemns Uganda's proposed death penalty for homosexuals

## Photos

- Mercyhurst Heart Beatz Rave
- GLBT Legislative Advocacy meeting
- Out in the Silence screening at Westfield library

## Also, web site bonus features!

- Amazon Trail, column by lesbian author and novelist Lee Lynch
- Gay Travel, from GayTravel.com
- Health and Fitness from Ron Blake
- Life Beyond Therapy by Michael Kimmel
- RuPaul's Drag Race episode recaps by Bebe Zaharia Benet
- Other news!

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# Equality Forum

*from Equality Forum*

PHILADELPHIA—This year's Equality Forum will feature over 45 programs, parties and special events.

"Equality Forum 2010 with Africa as the international focus will be our best-ever annual forum," stated Malcolm Lazin, Executive Director, Equality Forum. The weeklong national and international summit will be held from Monday, April 26 to Sunday, May 2 in Philadelphia. There is no registration fee and all substantive panels are free.

"SundayOUT! at The Piazza will take a GLBT festival to a new plateau," stated Lazin. "With The Piazza's professional stage and jumbotron, SundayOUT! will have seven hours of diverse and exciting entertainment featuring the best of our community." The Piazza is a cutting edge urban entertainment location created in the classic design of an Italian piazza. The Piazza in trendy Northern Liberties has restaurants, bars, cafés and unique retail with free parking and easy access by car and public transportation.

Special Events Highlights:

- International Equality Dinner at the National Constitution Center
- Brian Sanders Dance Tribute at the Merriam Theater
- 11th Annual Gay and Lesbian Art Exhibit featuring photographers Richard Renaldi and Marc Yankus, in collaboration with The University of the Arts

Program Highlights with national and international leaders:

- Obama GLBT Appointees Panel
- Conversation with Governor Ed Rendell
- National Sports Panel
- National Legal Panel

Two Documentary Films:

- Preacher's Sons, including Q & A with filmmaker C. Roebuck Reed
- OUT in the SILENCE, including Q & A with filmmakers Joe Wilson and Dean Hamer

Nine Parties including:

- 11th Annual Girl Fever
- Three SundayOUT! parties at The Piazza

For a complete schedule of events, visit [www.equalityforum.com](http://www.equalityforum.com).

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# Screen

by Deb Spilko

## THEATRES

“In 1975,” starts the trailer to *The Runaways*, “rock was a man’s world. Until...”

*The Runaways* is the story of the musicians Joan Jett, Cherie Currie, Lita Ford, and Sandy West and their groundbreaking all-female rock group, which lasted from 1975-79. They came together in Los Angeles when they were still in their mid-teens.

The film is loosely based on the memoir *Neon Angel*, by band member Cherie Currie, and largely focuses on Currie and Jett.

Joan Jett was an executive producer of the film, and worked closely with Kristen in her portrayal of the teenage Joan.

Jett kept on blazing trails after she left the Runaways, forming her own label after 23 Record companies turned her down, becoming the first woman in rock to start her own label. And the rest is rock history. The music video for “Bad Reputation” is humorous retelling of that success story.

The Runaways is released in theatres March 19 and is rated R. Visit *The Runaways* at <http://therunaways.com/> Joan Jett at [www.joanjett.com/](http://www.joanjett.com/) and Cherie Currie at [www.cheriercurrie.com/](http://www.cheriercurrie.com/)

## VIDEOS

**Baby Formula** (2010) Feisty comedy about two lesbians in love becoming pregnant at the same time (with sperm created from one another’s stem cells) and embark on a wild adventure. 3/19 *Wolfe Video*

**Ciao** (2007) After his best friend Mark dies, Jeff decides to meet Andrea, an Italian man who Mark has been Internet dating. The two strangers quickly bond and develop a meaningful friendship that changes their lives forever. 3/23 *E1 Entertainment*

**Little Ashes** (2008) 1922. As Madrid wavers on the edge of social change, artist Salvador Dali is drawn into the decadent lifestyle of Federico Garcia Lorca and Luis Buñuel. But as the three explore the art world together, a forbidden attraction develops. Starring Robert Pattinson, Javier Beltran, Matthew McNulty. [www.littleashes-themovie.com/](http://www.littleashes-themovie.com/) *E1 Entertainment*



*Dakota Fanning and Kristen Stewart play band members Cherie Currie and Joan Jett in the biopic *The Runaways*, in theatres March 19.*

## Out in the Silence screenings

More info at [www.npsu.org/outinthesilence](http://www.npsu.org/outinthesilence)

**Mar 30 - Slippery Rock, PA** 6:00 PM - ATS Auditorium - details TBA.

**Apr 1 Kittanning Public Library** Kittanning, PA - 7:00 PM—Screening followed by community dialogue—280 N. Jefferson Street, Kittanning, PA—Phone: 724-543-1383

**Apr 9 - Penn State University-Behrend** Erie, PA 7:00 PM - Screening in Smith Chapel will be the capstone event for the 3rd Annual Penn State Behrend Conference on Gender—This year’s theme is “Gender In The World.” More Details: <http://behrend.psu.edu/>

# Michael Dithers

by Michael Mahler

Wow! What a busy month! Kudos to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie for bringing emma's revolution in for a terrific concert. There was a great turnout and folks had a good time. I am deeply grateful for all that the church has done over the years. It was also wonderful catching up with friends there.

I ended up having a subsequent lesbian-themed Saturday the week following when I went to the YLBT Women Single Ladies Night. (Okay, so yes, I am single, even though I am not young and not a lady.) It was a really fun and friendly evening. Kudos to Erin for putting it together.

The night before, I had gone to the Mercyhurst Heart Beatz Rave. They are a wonderful group of kids, and their advisors were obviously proud that the students had put on a great event. While I was there, a young woman said hello and mentioned previously emailing me at newsletter asking for resources, as she had been going through some difficult time. I had found some folks that had been good about helping out, so I am very glad that she found support and friends with the help of some terrific folks.

Huge thanks to Craze Night Club for opening their doors to host the GLBT Legislation and Legislative Advocacy meeting, and to our presenters and also the folks who came. There are quite a few important pieces of legislation coming up and we really need everyone's help. It was shocking to hear how few people had made calls in support of the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Law that was passed last year. It really doesn't take much to make a difference if we all pitch in. When I have called legislators about a bill, I can usually have it over in only about a minute! I am going to work on being better about calling others to make those all-important calls and visits.

Deb and I were very impressed with the turnout for the Out in the Silence screening in Westfield NY the night after the legislative advocacy meeting. For a village of about 4,200 people to bring in 65 people is absolutely awesome. Kudos again to Rev. Steve Ashmann and the others for helping this to happen!

It is exciting to see Drenched Fur coming together for the 6th annual weekend. Even if you aren't a bear, hoping that you come see the wonderful entertainers that will be performing that Friday. I consider myself privileged to be working with a great committee.

Recently, I was talking with my friends Season and Chris about a special activity that Season is helping to set up at this year's picnic. One of the primary reasons that I feel so strongly about doing the picnic is that one of the things that builds stronger community is to get folks who might not interact with each other that much to have something that encourages maybe stepping just a bit out of our accustomed pathways. So, even though, I am not a lesbian, I like hanging out with the LBT Women and I had a blast at the concert at the UU. Even though I am not young, I had a good time at the Mercyhurst rave. (Oh heck, I graduated from there before probably any of the students were born. Sigh.)

Not only does that apply to other sectors within the GLBT community, it also applies to going outside. Tammie, one of the folks at the legislative advocacy meeting, brought up a great point that if we expect other people to support our causes and our community, that we need to do the same. Amen!

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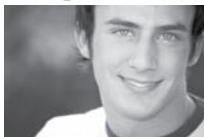
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