



“Dining out for life” in WNY Apr 24

from Evergreen Health Services

Dine Out at a participating restaurant on Tuesday, April 24, 2012 from 11:30am until 11:30pm and the restaurant donates at least 25% of your food bill to Evergreen Health Services (formerly AIDS Community Services of WNY.) This event is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a delicious meal at one of your favorite restaurants while also helping those in our community whose lives are affected by HIV and who rely on Evergreen Health Services.

As of 3/13 these southern tier establishments are participating: Alfie’s; Forte; Home Town Grill; House of Peteillo; Jones 212 Bakery; Labyrinth Press Co; The Town Club-all in Jamestown; Scallion Bistro in Lakewood and Ellicottville Brewing Co-Fredonia, Jamestown, NY 14701

Find “Dining Out for Life 2012” on Facebook for more details and updates. (716) 664.7855 Visit www.diningoutforlife.com/westernnewyork

Equality Forum 2012 held May 3-5 in Philadelphia

by Equality Forum

Equality Forum 2012 be held from May 3 -6 in Philadelphia, with 25 panels, International Equality Dinner, SundayOUT! at The Piazza. six parties, an art exhibit, theater performance, and more. This year’s Featured Nation is Israel. There is no registration fee and all panels are free.

“Equality Forum 2012, our 20th anniversary celebrates the transformation from a groundbreaking conference that focused on an emerging civil rights movement into the annual Equality Forum recognized as the premier annual national and international LGBT summit,” stated Malcolm Lazin, Executive Director.

The International Equality Dinner at the National Museum of American Jewish History honors Annise Parker, Mayor of Houston, with the 17th annual International Role Model Award and NBCUniversal with the 10th annual International Business Leadership Award. Michael Oren, Ambassador of Israel to the



Anj and Shannon of Venango County write the “Two Mountain Mamas” blog.

United States, is Keynote Speaker. MSNBC Anchor Thomas Roberts is Master of Ceremonies. For a complete schedule of events, visit www.equalityforum.com.

“Two Mountain Mamas” blog

Shannon and Anj are a Venango County couple who’ve been blogging on “Two Mountain Mamas” since January. “This is a blog about our life, living in the mountains with our two little boys,” they write. “Everything from the trials of being a same sex couple in a small town, to finding ways to keep our boys entertained, places to go and things do on a budget. The good, the bad, and the ugly for anyone who wants a good laugh, some helpful tips, or is just looking for something fun to read. Welcome, we hope you enjoy our story.” Visit www.angandshannon.blogspot.com and you can “Like” them on Facebook.

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Erie Gay News
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Ad Design: Mike Lipiec
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at Zone Dance Club. Please check night before!

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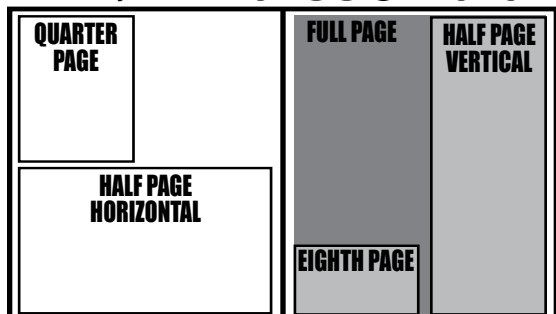
The *Erie Gay News* is published monthly as a source of news, events, information, and support for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender people (GLBTs), their families, friends, and supporters in the Erie PA area.

We welcome and encourage all readers to submit timely news, comments, and opinions of interest to local GLBTs for publication in these pages. Please include your contact information with any piece you submit.

Erie Gay News is now included in the EBSCO *LGBT Life*® with Full Text index and six LGBT archives around the world

Check out our special bonus contest online at eriegaynews.com! Photo galleries, videos , contests, reviews and so much more!

EGN Rates & Data



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.

THANKS

From Your Friends at Erie Gay News

To the Zone for hosting; Erin Moll, Ernie Staaf, Jeff, Jerry McCumber, Johauna, Michael Kohler, Paul Gee, Steve B & Zachary Bauer for folding; Erin Moll, Jeff, Jerry McCumber, Johauna, Michael Kohler, Steve B & Zachary Bauer for distribution; Mike Lipiec for ad layout & etc. If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com.

Michelle Goldberg

Author & Senior Contributing Writer for Newsweek/The Daily Beast
“The Battle Over Women’s Reproductive Rights”

Tuesday, March 27, 2012, 2:00 PM

Frank G. Pogue Student Center,
Multipurpose Room B
at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

Tuesday, March 27, 7:00 PM

at Jefferson Education Center

Made possible

by Charlene M. Tanner & Doris Cipolla,
Women’s Studies Committee,
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania,
NW PA National Organization for Women



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NW PA Pride Alliance, Inc. formed, seeks sponsors for Pride

by Mike Mahler

The newly-formed NW PA Pride Alliance, Inc. is organizing the 20th anniversary Pride Picnic on Saturday, June 16 at the Rotary Pavilion and the Pride March/Rally on August 25 in Perry Square.

Our goal as NWPAPA is to improve visibility and unity in the community.

To raise funds for Pride, we are bringing back Drag Queen Bingo at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA on Saturday, May 19. Glitter, sequins and bingo daubers, together again— as it was intended! More details next issue.

In addition, we will also have a presence at the Millcreek 4th of July Parade, the Edinboro Homecoming Parade and an LGBT info table at the Erie Art Museum Blues and Jazz Festival August 4 & 5.

You can help us to promote unity in the community with financial or gift donations.

To maximize the impact of your contribution and be included on the T-shirt and other promotional materials, please have donations in by Friday, April 27th. Have checks payable to NW PA Pride Alliance, Inc., or include retail value of any non-monetary donations.

Please feel free to contact Michael Mahler at or info@eriegaynews.com 814-456-9833 if you need any additional info. Thank you very much for your consideration

At the \$500 and over level (Violet), additional perks include Listing in middle column of current year Pride event pages & web banner ad in rotation for 9 months at eriegaynews.com. **At the \$250 to 499 (Blue)**, donors get Listing in middle column of current year Pride event pages & web banner ad in rotation for 9 months at eriegaynews.com

At the \$150 to 249 (Green) level, donors get Listing in middle column of current year Pride event pages & web banner ad in rotation for 6 months at eriegaynews.com

At the \$100 to 149 (Yellow) level, donors get Listing in middle column of current year Pride event pages & web banner ad in rotation for 3 months at eriegaynews.com

The \$50 to 99 donor level is Orange and \$25 to 49 is the Red level.

All sponsorship levels include:

Text listing of your organizations' name on the 2012 Pride T-shirts, which will be on display throughout the summer. These were very popular last year. They feature a calendar of major area LGBT related events below the listing of donors. Donors will be grouped by donation level.

Listing grouped by donor level in promotional materials and mailings

Coupon from Erie Gay News for ½ off a display ad, after paying for an ad of equal or larger size. (I.e. 25% off on 2 paid display ads of the same size.)

Listing in the side bar on all pages designated for Pride events at the Erie Gay News web site with designation of donation level. The listing will include your organization's name, as well as an optional link to your web site.

Spring is here and the bears are done hibernating!



Bear Bar Night

Friday, April 20th
Join the guys at The **ZONE**
133 West 18th Street
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Another fun Friday night outing and you might leave a raffle winner!

ACLU-PA Northwest Chapter 2012 Annual Meeting



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For more info: www.aclupa.org/union
Please RSVP by April 8th
northwestchapter@aclupa.org or 877-HBG-ACLU



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Adagio Health Edinboro 118 E. Plum Street, 814-734-7600



Calendar

Mar 16 Apr 7 - "Secrets of the Trade" at Buffalo

United Artists Andy Lipman, a smart, ambitious kid from Long Island dreams of a career on Broadway and hopes that his idol, theater legend Martin Kerner, can give his career a boost. Will Kerner open Andy's door to success, or will their complicated relationship force him to question a life in the theater? buffalobua.org/

Mar 21 (Wed) - Craze Karaoke 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA .Every Wednesday night! Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to www.facebook.com/crazenightclub.

Mar 22 (Thu) - M & J's Lounge Bar Bingo (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA 16001) Contact: Mitchell Hortert. Phone: (724) 602-8447. Email: JoshuaSean2009@AOL.COM. Browse to www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge.

Mar 23 (Fri) - Suzanne Westenhoefer: The Semi-Sweet Tour (Robert W. Rhoades Center/Clarion University-Venango Campus, 1801 W First St, Oil City, PA) 7 PM. \$10 at the door for non-students Browse to <http://suzanne.com/>.

Mar 23 (Fri) - LBT Women Ghostly Slumber Party II at Latonia (The Latonia Ballroom & Event Center, 1 East First St, Oil City, PA) R.S.V.P. to Laurie via e-mail at LFinch003@neo.rr.com. Must be 18 and over please. You don't need to have ever attended an LBT Women of Erie event before as new Beans are always welcome! There is no charge. Just bring your sleeping bag , pillow, PJ's and snacks to share and whatever you want to drink. Note: If you bring alcohol to drink, you must be 21, and you must not drink it until after the tour and the ghost hunt. You will be touring the basements, and up through the upper floors of the Latonia. There are stairs to climb, etc. So, no alcohol till after you have completed both the tour and the ghost hunt!

If you drink before, you will not be allowed to take the tour. No exceptions! We will head to the Latonia right after the Suzanne Westhoefer show earlier that night in Oil City. We will stay the night and wake-up whenever...Please plan on helping to clean up our "mess" in the morning and then we will probably head out for breakfast somewhere in Oil City or Franklin. Cameras and a small flashlight would be a good idea. Dress accordingly...it may be cool in the ballroom/theater. It is not a requirement that you stay for the Slumber Party, just come for the Ghost Tour if you'd like. Or just meet us for Suzannes show only. Your choice! Just remember to RSVP to Laurie at LFinch003@neo.rr.com Contact: Laurie Finch. Venue Phone: (814) 673-8400. Email: LFinch003@neo.rr.com. Browse to <http://womynoferie.wetpaint.com/>.

Mar 24 (Sat) - Author of "I Was Born This Way" at Werner Books. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Werner Books in the Liberty Plaza. Copies of the book are \$9.99. Inspired by Lady Gaga's famous song, "Born This Way," Bateman hopes that his book will help young people who are confused by their sexual orientation to seek understanding and support. One particularly poignant memory in the book is the way Bateman would fantasize a horrible car accident that would leave him more female than male, the way he felt inside. If he was growing up today, with support and counseling, he says he would definitely consider gender reassignment surgery. With more than 3,000 Facebook followers, Bateman plans to donate 10 percent of the profit on every book sold to Lady Gaga's Born This Way Foundation. For more information, visit www.richbatemanbooks.com.

Mar 24 (Sat) - Erie Sisters meets (Unitarian-Univers-



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Calendar

salist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie, PA.) 7 PM. Erie Sisters is a local transgender support group that provides support and encouragement for both MTF and FTM transgender individuals. This month's meeting will feature Nicole Nichols-Milburn, a local cosmetologist, with tips on eye makeup. Dinner out and dancing at the Zone will follow the meeting. Phone: (440) 265-8191. Browse to <http://eriesisters.ning.com/>. Browse to venue web site www.uerie.org.

Mar 26 (Mon) - Craze Night Club Entertainment Series 1607 Raspberry St, Erie 1:30 PM. Phone: (814) 456-3027. www.facebook.com/crazenightclub.

Mar 27 (Tue) - NW PA NOW presents Michelle Goldberg: The Battle Over Women's Reproductive Rights Michelle Goldberg, Author & Senior Contributing Writer for Newsweek/The Daily Beast, will speak at 2:00 PM at Frank G. Pogue Student Center, Multipurpose Room B, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and at 7:00 PM at Jefferson Education Center. Made possible by Charlene M. Tanner & Doris Cipolla, Women's Studies Committee, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, NW PA National Orga-

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Calendar

nization for Women

Mar 29 (Thu) - Drenched Fur 8 Kick-Off Event
(Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 10 PM. Join us for a night of fun with the Bears visiting for Drenched Fur 8! Contact: Gary Snyder. Phone: (814) 446-2327. Venue Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: info@drenchedfur.com. Browse to www.drenchedfur.com. RSVP/Register/Tickets at www.facebook.com/events/158819070905022. Browse to venue web site www.thezonedanceclub.com/.

Mar 29-Apr 1 - Drenched Fur Erie's Bear Run
Online registration at www.drenchedfur.com

Mar 30 (Fri) - Drenched Fur: Musical Entertainer Jeff RockCub (Bel-Aire Hotel and Conference Center, 2800 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 11 PM. \$5 cover at the door. Contact: Gary Snyder. Phone: (814) 446-2327. Venue Phone: (814) 833-1116. Email: info@drenchedfur.com. Browse to www.drenchedfur.com. RSVP/Register/Tickets at www.facebook.com/events/303766176356191/. Browse to venue web site www.belaireclarion.com/.

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Calendar

Mar 31 (Sat) - LBT Women Movie and Games/Hanging With the Beans Night (Kim and Andrea's, Erie, PA) 6 PM. Gathering for movie/games or just hanging with the beans at Kim and Andrea's. RSVP to Kim at kimmytoes@gmail.com by the 3/24 so we know how many to expect and if anyone needs directions. Contact: Kim. Email: kimmytoes@gmail.com. Browse to <http://womynoferie.wetpaint.com/>

Mar 31 (Sat) - Drenched Fur Buffet Dinner and Comedy Game Show (Bel-Aire Hotel and Conference Center, 2800 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 6 PM. \$35 in advance online. Must register at Drenched Fur's web site by March 26! Contact: Gary Snyder. Phone: (814) 446-2327. Venue Phone: (814) 833-1116. Email: info@drenchedfur.com. Browse to www.drenchedfur.com. RSVP/Register/Tickets at www.drenchedfur.com/registration. Browse to venue web site www.belaireclariion.com/.

Mar 31 (Sat) - Drenched Fur: Splash Lagoon Private Event (Splash Lagoon Indoor Waterpark, 8091 Peach St, Erie, PA 16509) 10 PM - 2 AM. \$45

at the door (cash or credit card only) Contact: Gary Snyder. Phone: (814) 446-2327. Venue Phone: (866) 377-5274. Email: info@drenchedfur.com. Browse to www.drenchedfur.com. Browse to venue web site www.splashlagoon.com/.

Apr 1 (Sun) - M & J's Lounge Easter Egg Hunt 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA, For our Members Children Contact: Mitchell Hortert. Phone: (724) 602-8447. Email: JoshuaSean2009@AOL.COM. Browse to www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge.

Apr 6 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) (Fox and Hound English Pub and Grille, 250 Millcreek Plaza, Erie, PA 16565) 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 email list at <http://lists.eriegaynews.com>. Venue Phone: (814) 864-5589.

Apr 6 (Fri) - Annual Easter Drag Show at the Zone (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501)



e-rot-i-ca (ī-rōt'ī-kə) - noun.
Literature intended to arouse.

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Calendar

Join your Friday Night Drag Show Host Angelica Redd as she and all your favorite Zone divas put on our annual Easter Drag Show! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com/.

Apr 7 (Sat) - NW PA Pride Alliance Planning Meeting (Panera's - Yorktown, 2501 W 12th St, Erie, PA5) 3 PM. The NW PA Pride Alliance will be meeting to plan the 20th Pride Picnic on June 16 and the Pride Parade and Rally on August 27 and so much more! All are welcome to help out! Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Venue Phone: (814) 833-9101. Email: info@eriegaynews.com.

Apr 7 (Sat) - Easter Bunny Hop at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Hop on down the Bunny Trail into the Zone for our Easter Party! The Easter Bunny will be handing out Easter Candy and prizes! Guys—hunt for a nice big basket! Ladies: find a cute cuddly chick! Dance on down the Bunny Trail and join your friends for a “hopping” good time! Happy Easter from everyone at the Zone! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com/.

Apr 8 (Sun) - Zone OPEN Easter Sunday! 133 W

18th St, Erie, PA.) Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com/.

Apr 9 (Mon) - PFLAG Erie/Crawford County meets Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Hwy Erie. 7 - 8:30 PM. Support group for parents, friends and families of gay, lesbian and transgendered people. Contact: Mark H. Phone: (814) 456-0901. Email: pflag.erie.crawford@gmail.com.

Apr 9 - APPEAL meeting 7:00pm until 9:00pm. APPEAL will be meeting to plan the 2nd annual Olean Area Pride Picnic and to discuss plans for a Pride Weekend. In addition to putting together an APPEAL trip to send a local delegation to march with the APPEAL banner at Buffalo PRIDE this year.

Apr 14 (Sat) - 2nd Annual “Kick The Winter Bye-Bye Benefit & Show” (Skybar, 108 Fairmount Parkway, Jamestown, NY 1) 7 PM - 2 AM. Come join The Imperial Court of Buffalo, Mr Manny Productions and AIDS Community Services of the Southern Tier to help fight the battle against HIV! 50/50, gift baskets, door prizes and more! \$5 pre-sale tickets \$7 at the door. Both include admission, buffet, top-notch show and a chance to win a gift basket of your choice! Phone: (716) 661-3212.


Apr 15 (Sun) - LBT Women meets (Presque Isle Gallery Coffeehouse, 35 Peninsula Drv, Erie, PA 16505) 12 PM. Note, the meeting is the 3rd Sunday this month because of Easter. Also *we are changing our new meeting time to NOON, instead of 1 PM* from now on. Come and help us plan events! Social group for lesbian, bisexual and transgendered women. Meets the 2nd Sunday of each month at Presque Isle Gallery Coffeehouse. Contact: Laurie Finch. Venue Phone: (814) 790-5615. Email: LFinch003@neo.rr.com. Browse to

We provide access to testing, education, & medical, financial, & supportive **services** to those infected with HIV/AIDS in 13 counties of Northwest PA. HIV Specialty Clinics are held in Erie, Meadville, Clearfield, DuBois, Warren, Clarion, Seneca, Greenville & Farrell, staffed by HIV specialists. Support Groups are also offered.

Northwest PA Rural AIDS Alliance

For more info., contact:
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Suite 213, Erie, PA 16501
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Clarion Office: 15870 Rt. 322
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Calendar

<http://womynoferie.wetpaint.com/>. Browse to venue web site www.picoffeehouse.com.

Apr 15 (Sun) - Deadline for Erie Gay News May 2012 print edition Erie Gay News, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA. Please have all articles, ads, and submissions in by this date. This issue will be released the evening of Apr 24. For complete list of upcoming deadlines and release dates, check print edition schedule at www.eriegaynews.com/printedition/deadlineschedule.php. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to www.eriegaynews.com.

Apr 15 (Sun) - ACLU-PA Northwest Chapter 2012 Annual Meeting: The State Of Our Union (La bella, 802 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16502) 3 PM - 5 PM. Protecting Freedom in the Northwest Region. With Reggie Shuford, Executive Director ACLU of Pennsylvania. FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! For more info: www.aclupa.org/union Please rsvp by April 8th, 2012. Phone: (814) 323-2678. Venue Phone: (814) 456-2244. Email: northwestchapter@aclupa.org.

Browse to www.aclupa.org/union.

Apr 15 (Sun) - Michelle Michaels FACE Show Presents the Book Signing and Comeback of Miss Erie '92-'93 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. 10:30 PM. Don't miss a fun-filled night of great entertainment with all of your favorite drag queens, new drag queens and special guests! This is a show that you don't want to miss! Destiny Divine, Miss Erie '92-'93, published the book *I Was Born This Way*, which is receiving worldwide attention with fans as far away as Germany and Brazil. Be here for a book signing by the author, in addition to Destiny's return to the stage after a 13-year hiatus. The Zone looks forward to seeing those who remember Destiny—and the outrageous creature she always was—make her debut, as well as those who have not yet had the Divine Experience of this entertainer who left her mark among Erie's finest royalty. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com/.

Apr 17 (Tue) - Spirituality and Sexuality Discussion Group meets (Community United Church, 1011 W 38th, Erie, PA) Every 3rd Tues of month (Sept - May),



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Rainbow Pride Gift Shop, Buffalo, NY 716-855-0222

and many others at <http://gayyellowpages.com/2buy.htm>

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Calendar

the Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty facilitates a discussion group on spirituality and sexuality at Community United Church (an open and affirming congregation). This group provides LGBTQA people the confidential opportunity to share questions, stories, and experiences about what it means to be both a sexual and spiritual person. Contact: Rich McCarty. Phone: 1-866-229-1974 (toll free). Email: richmccarty@msn.com.

Apr 19 - Namoli Brennet in Oil City At the The Impromptu Room @ Art on Elm! 228 Elm St, Oil City, PA (Alternative Entrance-Mosaic Cafe, 237 Seneca St) 7 pm

Apr 20 (Fri) - Bear Bar Night at the Zone 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. 10 PM. Come join the Bears and their friends for a night of fun! Contact: Gary Snyder. Phone: (814) 446-2327. Venue Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: info@drenchedfur.com. Browse to www.drenchedfur.com. Rowse to venue web site www.thezonedanceclub.com/.

Apr 20 - Kathy Najimy at "Rights to Realities" Reception, silent and live auctions, and program for

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

Contest	Starts
<i>Nothing This Real</i> by Justin Utley	March 23
<i>Love, Lust and Dancin'</i> CD by Jeff RockCub	March 27
<i>She's Living For This</i> DVD - First Episode	March 30
<i>Splintered Souls</i> by Cynthia Lyn	April 3
David Guetta feat. Nicki Minaj	April 6
Music from 'Beatrix Runs' by Elizaveta	April 10
<i>Film Noir, the Directors</i>	April 13

Here are contests which are currently active...

Contest	Ends
<i>Out of Step</i> by J. Lee Watton	March 23
<i>Don't Let Me Go</i> , the debut novel from J.H. Trumble	March 27
<i>I Don't Know How She Does It</i> DVD	March 30
Madonna feat. Nicki Minaj and M.I.A. "Give Me All Your Luvin"	Apr 3
<i>Global Groove: Dance 5</i> mixed by DJ/Producer Escape	Apr 6
<i>Dirty Girl</i> DVD	Apr 10

You can always see a complete list of contests at our web site! Members of the Erie GLBT News and Events list get first notice of contests. Sign up today!

Calendar

The Women's Law Project at Pierce Studio, Pittsburgh.
www.womenslawproject.org/

Apr 21 (Sat) - Studio 54 Party at Zone Dance Club
133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Everyone is on the VIP list for a night of Glitz, Glitter and Glam! as we open the velvet ropes to the best dance party in town. Come "celebrate the night-life" with your favorite Disco Divas and dazzle us on the dance floor as we play the hottest videos and music in town! Dress to impress, put on the glitz, glitter and glam! Or dress as your favorite Disco Diva, Saturday-night Stud, or one of the Village People. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com/.

Apr 24 (Tue) - Erie Gay News folding/distribution work party (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie PA) 7 PM. Help us get out the print edition of Erie Gay News. 21+, please (alcohol establishment). It is also a great way to hang out with folks! Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to www.eriegaynews.com.

Apr 24 - Dining Out For Life Benefits Evergreen Health Services (formerly AIDS Community Services of WNY) (716) 664-7855. See details front page. Find on Facebook.

Apr 25 - Lily Tomlin in Pittsburgh At Byham Theater. www.byham.theatere.org/

Apr 27 - 29 (Fri - Sun) - Jones Pond Opening Weekend (Jones Pond Campground & RV Park, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY 14709-8729) Welcome Back! BYOB Cocktail Party. Phone: (585) 567-8100. Email: info@jonespond.com. Browse to www.jonespond.com.

Apr 28 (Sat) - Camp Davis Opening Weekend
(Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA 16020-1219) 10 AM. Camp Opens 10 AM. No Dance. Dinner for Seasonals 5 PM. Contact: Jim. Phone: (724) 637-2402. Email: campd@aol.com. Browse to www.campdavicampground.com.

UPCOMING

Aug. 10. K.D. Lang at Chautauqua.- Chautauqua Amphitheatre

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PHOTOS

Mercyhurst QSA Flaming Hearts Dance; Mercyhurst "Worn This Way" Fashion Show; Donor Unknown" Erie screening; Latonia Valentine's Party

VIDEO

Trailer for In the Life: Hidden Histories; Trailer for Bully

Fundraising

Do you know of a church, charity, school, etc...that could use a fundraiser w/50% profit? I welcome the opportunity to discuss in detail how my fundraising program can best be of benefit!! Shakira Nakelle's mission is to give myself & others the opportunity for independent wealth & financial freedom through self-employment by providing quality products & service, while offering philanthropic support to my community on a local, national & international scale. (814) 504-9164; Shakira_Nakelle@yahoo.com www.GiftCardsRaiseFunds.com

Maryland makes marriage equality the law

Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley signed marriage equality bill into law March 1, 2012, and it takes effect in January 2013.

Six state governments—and the District of Columbia) have passed laws offering same-sex marriage and currently offer same-sex marriages: New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Iowa, Vermont, and New Hampshire. The state of Washington also legalized gay marriage in February 2012; its law takes effect in June.

Did you know?

You can read the print version of Erie Gay News online! Click on the PDF of this or any previous issue to read it in its original print format. Our archives go back to late 1992.



Jeff Rock Cub returns for a performance at Drenched Fur 8 (Mar 29-Apr 1). Watch for a contest for his new CD through Erie Gay News!

PA marriage ban defeated (for now)

from Equality PA

March 13, 2012 - Today Equality PA, working in partnership and cooperation with our allies and friends at the ACLU of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Diversity Network, Equality Partners of Western Pennsylvania, NEPA Rainbow Alliance, Keystone Progress, SEIU, The Pittsburgh Lesbian Correspondents, the LGBT Community Center Coalition of Central PA, EQPA's Student Network Across Pennsylvania (SNAP), the Gay and Lesbian Executive Committee (GLEC), Philadelphia Family PRIDE, the Gay and Lesbian Taskforce, the Human Rights Campaign, Delaware Valley Americans United, Working America, Erie Gay News, Philadelphia Gay News and bloggers Sue Kerr, Tom Waters and Lauren Daley...

...succeeded in having House Bill 1434, the mean-spirited and nonsensical constitutional amendment on same-sex marriage, pulled from the agenda for consideration by the House State Government Committee.

HB 1434 was on its way for a vote and we worked tirelessly to make sure that never happened.

This is tough work but it is what we do and Equality PA will not rest until this bill is dead and defeated.

Information at www.equalitypa.org/

“I call on the gentleman from Butler County to withdraw this discriminatory backward legislation. Instead of finding ways to create jobs and promote a healthier, more prosperous Commonwealth, Harrisburg Republicans have started a war on women’s health and now they’re attacking committed LGBT couples and families all over the country.”

Rep. Babette Josephs (D-Phila), addressing Rep. Daryl Metcalfe (R-Butler), who had introduced an anti-marriage equality amendment to the state Constitution.



VOTERS GUIDE



Pennsylvania candidates for US Senate, US Congress (PA-3), Governor and PA State Assembly were asked about their positions on GLBT issues. Their responses appear on the next few pages.

US Senate

Not Responding: **David Christian (R), John Kensingger (R), Sam Rohrer (R), Tom Smith (R), Steve Welch**

Anti-Discrimination

What is your stance on legislation, such as the Employment Non Discrimination Act (ENDA), which would prohibit discrimination against employees on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity for civilian nonreligious employers with over 15 employees?

Bob Casey (D-Incumbent)

I am an original cosponsor of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act in the Senate.

Joseph Vodvarka (D)

Any American who wants to work should be able to do so with out worrying about being discriminated against.

If they are good workers they should be protected.

Marc Scaringi (R)

I oppose ENDA because pursuant to Article 1 Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution the federal government lacks the authority to legislate in the area of employer/employee relations. Accordingly, pursuant to the 10th Amendment to the Constitution, the power to legislate in the area of employer/employee relations is reserved to the states.

Other

What else would you like to let gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) voters, and their families, friends and supporter concerned about GLBT issues know about you?

Bob Casey (D-Incumbent)

While in the Senate I have worked with the LGBT community for equal rights. I have a 100% voting record with the Human Rights Campaign. I

was a cosponsor of and voted for the *Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act* that was signed into law and ensures that any qualified American willing to risk his or her life for our country will be permitted to serve free of discriminatory treatment. To fight bullying in schools, I introduced the *Safe Schools Improvement Act* to require school districts that receive federal funding to adopt codes of conduct that specifically prohibit bullying and harassment based on a student's actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. To crack down on hate crimes, I was an original cosponsor of the *Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act* that was signed into law. This law imposes criminal penalties for causing (or attempting to cause) bodily injury because of the actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability of such person. I have also adopted a policy in my Senate offices barring discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Joseph Vodvarka (D)

I'd like to see us work for a cure for AIDS and cancer. Look at how much we've spent on these wars, what if we spent it on a cure for AIDS and cancer?

US Congress (PA-3)

Not Responding: **Mike Kelly (R-Incumbent)**

Anti-Discrimination

What is your stance on legislation, such as the Employment Non Discrimination Act (ENDA), which would prohibit discrimination against employees on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity for civilian nonreligious employers with over 15 employees?

Missa Eaton (D)

I am in favor of legislation that prohibits discrimination against employees based on any demographic characteristics including sexual orientation and gender identity.





VOTERS GUIDE



Stacey Gray (I)

I fully support all anti-discrimination legislation. I have been actively advocating for ENDA for many years, for Pennsylvania's HB 300 since it was first introduced in 2009 and local nondiscrimination ordinances as well. It is my opinion that like race, color, religious creed, ancestry, age, national origin or handicap, people must be judged strictly upon their capacity to perform the job, to be a responsible tenant or qualified customer, that their private and personal lives must not be permitted to be the basis for discrimination of any type, not in the workplace, not in housing nor in public accommodation.

Ted Malanowski (I)

I believe the ENDA legislation is long overdue to become 'Law-of-the-Land' in the United States. I find it troubling we are having this discussion on GLBL rights in America. In our U.S. Constitution, the preamble starts with these seven words, "We the People of the United States". It doesn't start with "We the People of the United States who are NOT Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or 'Transgender'. We in America, must put our phobias aside and become the United and Inclusionary Nation millions of American Military Personnel (including Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual) have given their lives to protect.

Steve Porter (I)

I favor it. Discrimination is prohibited by the Constitution.

Other

What else would you like to let gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) voters, and their families, friends and supporter concerned about GLBT issues know about you?

Missa Eaton (D)

I am a long-time supporter of equal rights. I have GLBT family, friends, and students. I care about the issues that affect them. At Penn State, I advised the GLBT Student group, studied to become an Ally, helped to bring Judy Shepard to our campus, and

brought the film *Out in the Silence* with a panel discussion with the filmmakers, a GLSEN representative, and Stephen Glassman. I teach gender classes exploring the antecedents and concomitants that create and sustain our experience of gender. Further, my office is a Safe Space on campus.

Stacey Gray (I)

The Constitution as amended contains the word "except" (in all its various forms) a total of 14 times - not one of those prescribes rights for all citizens "except LGBTQ people". I believe in equity, individual freedoms, the strict separation of Church and State and that all law must be firmly rooted in the Constitution. I believe that any regulation that singles out one segment of the population for less than equal treatment is unconstitutional. As your Representative I intend to represent all of the residents of the Third District, to lead for equity and justice for all of us.

Ted Malanowski (I)

I am an Air Force/Army disabled Veteran. I have been speaking out against the injustices in America, including the uneven 'Distribution of Wealth' and 'Social Phobias' for thirty years. I am an outspoken critic of our Worldwide Military Expansionism over the past fifty years, especially our unwarranted Preemptive War with Iraq in 2003. I believe we should be strengthening our Diplomatic presence around the world NOT our Military presence. I'm against any group who imposes their religious or man-made laws that are based on outdated traditional ideological beliefs that are biased and exclusive toward another group.

Steve Porter (I)

Please visit my web site: porter4congress.com

US Congress (PA-5)

Not Responding: Charles Dumas (D), Glenn Thompson (R-Incumbent)



VOTERS GUIDE



PA State Senate District 49

Not Responding: **Buzz Andrezeski (D), Terry Scutella (D), Janet Anderson (R)**

Anti Discrimination

Do you support legislation that would amend the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, the commonwealth's civil rights law, to include "sexual orientation" and "gender identity or expression" as protected classes?

John C Harkins(D)
Yes

Brian Pitzer (D)
Yes!

Sean Wiley (D)
Yes I would generally support such legislation. I am dedicated to the principal that regardless of a person's background, financial status, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity we are all created equally and deserve the same treatment and protections under the law. HB300, as introduced last year, provides the protections needed, and I will support similar legislation when it comes up again.

Hate Crimes

Do you support legislation that would amend the Title 18 Ethnic Intimidations Act to define crimes against individuals based on "actual or perceived ancestry, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender or gender identity" as ethnic intimidation, or hate crimes.

John C Harkins(D)
I would support defining such crimes as hate crimes.

Brian Pitzer (D)
Yes!

Sean Wiley (D)
Yes I would support legislation such as the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act and would further support any anti-bullying legislation that is legal under the Pennsylvania Constitution.

Other

What else would you like to let gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) voters, and their families, friends and supporter concerned about GLBT issues know about you?

John C Harkins(D)
I do my best to appreciate and respect the dignity of every human being, I acknowledge and respect the equal rights of every individual citizen in our community and nation.

Brian Pitzer (D)
I am a strong support of equal rights for everyone, especially equal job and employment rights. I have worked in public higher education for more than 25 years where acceptance of diversity is commonplace and routine. I have worked with many gay and lesbian friends and acquaintances during that time.

Sean Wiley (D)
It is my hope that soon everyone, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, will be able to enjoy the same protections and rights under the law. It is my belief that very soon members of the LGBT community will no longer be treated as second-class citizens. I pledge to you that I will be a staunch advocate for the LGBT community in Harrisburg, as I have been for years here in my home of Erie.





VOTERS GUIDE



PA State Assembly

Anti-Discrimination

Do you support legislation that would amend the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, the commonwealth's civil rights law, to include "sexual orientation" and "gender identity or expression" as protected classes?

Hate Crimes

Do you support HB 745 which would amend the Title 18 Ethnic Intimidations Act to define crimes against individuals based on "actual or perceived ancestry, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender or gender identity" as ethnic intimidation, or hate crimes.

OTHER

What else would you like to let gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) voters, and their families, friends and supporter concerned about GLBT issues know about you?

District 1

Anti Discrimination

Pat Harkins (D-Incumbent)

I was a proud sponsor of HB 300 and was instrumental with Rep. Flo Fabrizio to have a public hearing here in Erie on the legislation.

Hate Crimes

Pat Harkins (D-Incumbent)

I co sponsored and also proudly supported HB 745 which would amend the title 18 "Ethnic Intimidation Act".

Other

Pat Harkins (D-Incumbent)

As I am sure you are aware I am a open minded legislator who looks at all sides of the issues before I make a decision.

District 2

Anti Discrimination

Flo Fabrizio (D-Incumbent)

An unequivocal yes

Hate Crimes

Flo Fabrizio (D-Incumbent)

An unequivocal yes

Other

Flo Fabrizio (D-Incumbent)

I've been a long time active supporter of GLBT rights, and I will continue to advocate for their equality under the law.

District 3

Not Responding: Jason Owen (R), Regina Smith (R)

Anti Discrimination

Ryan Bizzarro (D)

Yes.

Hate Crimes

Ryan Bizzarro (D)

Yes.

Other

Ryan Bizzarro (D)

For more information on Ryan Bizzarro for State Representative, please visit us online at www.PaStateRep.com and "LIKE" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RyanForPA.

District 4

Not Responding: Curt Sonney (R-Incumbent)

District 5

Not Responding: Jason White (D), Greg Lucas (R)

Michael Dithers

Congratulations to Fiona Hensley, on receiving the Inclusive Excellence Leadership Award from Allegheny College! Fiona has done some fantastic youth organizing in our region!

We hope that you find the Voters Guide in this issue helpful when you vote in the Primary Election on April 24. We asked all the candidates the same questions for the races that we covered. Twenty years ago, the League of Gay and Lesbian Voters published a guide that had a response from Linda Bebko-Jones, who was running for PA State Assembly District 1. (The office is now held by Pat Harkins.) Linda Bebko-Jones' opponent in the General Election in the fall of that year, Jerry Knight, did not respond to the spring guide, and then attempted to use Bebko's responses against her. (Homophobic attacks were in vogue that year.) I am glad to say that the tactic didn't work with the electorate, and I was very glad for that. We have not had a similar incident involving a voters guide since then.

As I write this, we are less than 2 weeks out from Drenched Fur 8, Erie's annual Bear Run. The committee has been working hard on making a fun weekend for Bears from near and far. We were sitting and bouncing around some ideas for a theme for the Saturday Night Buffet, when we hit on doing Gilligan's Island. We are having fun with it. Please note that guys who would like to join us for the Private Event at Splash Lagoon Water Park on Saturday, March 31 at 10 PM can either register ahead of time OR show up and pay at the door via cash or credit card.

It has also been very gratifying to see how the Bear Bar Nights at the Zone have been going. The Drenched Fur committee started those in January as an experiment, and we really appreciate how Bears and their friends have supported. We will be having a special event to kick off Drenched Fur on Thursday, March 29, and we are already planning the next Bear Bar Night for April 20! Feel free to join us!

My friend Kathy Czarnecki is getting ready to work on an Erie LGBT Archives Projects. I think that preserving our local history is very important, so I am hoping that folks will help support this. I sent her some contacts who would be useful, and I am sure that other contacts would be very much appreciated. Right now, I have a large number of back issues of Erie Gay News, dating back to the early 90's. It is hoped that other artifacts from our history can be located and

made available.

We will have more info next month about a Community Safe Zone presentation put on by Persad Center and Greater Erie Alliance for Equality. The date for this might be sometime in May. Kudos to Greater Erie Alliance for Equality board member Caitlyn Strohmeyer for working on bringing this to our community!

We have just begun work on formally organizing as NW PA Pride Alliance, Inc. Most of us have been doing Pride events in our area for a while. (This marks the 20 year mark for me. Crap, I am OLD!) We just elected officers. I am President, Season Crannell is Vice President, Erin Moll is Secretary and Mark Hoovler is Treasurer. All of us are committed to working hard, and we also welcome participation from the community. If you want to volunteer in any way, whether the day of the events, or planning, we are glad to have you at whatever level you are comfortable with helping! One of the fundraisers that we are excited about is a Drag Queen Bingo fundraiser on May 19 at the UU. More details next issue.

I was going to go out to the special birthday FACE Show last month after finishing the newsletter. I was basically all set, when I got a call from work about a server that had crashed. The next day at work was pretty stressful, and I was feeling like it was a crappy day. On the same day, one of my oldest and dearest friends was going in for surgery. She has been blind since she was a toddler because of retinoblastoma. They had recently found another tumor and the crappy day at work was also when they were due to remove it. They weren't sure whether they could get it out through her nose or whether they would need to go in through her skull ("which I need like I need a hole in the head!" she quipped - she has a wonderful sense of humor.) So, after getting home from a day at work that was decidedly not fun, it turns out that the surgery went well. I decided that it had been a very good day after all. I think that a lot of our lives is about finding out what brings us joy and what is really important.

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FOR NEXT ISSUE
APRIL 15**

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