



Gov Wolf appoints transgender woman as PA Physician General

from The Wolf Transition

Governor-elect Tom Wolf has named Dr. Rachel Levine as state Physician General. In her role as physician general, Dr. Levine will advise the governor and secretary of the Department of Health on medical and public health-related issues.

Dr. Levine is an expert in pediatrics and psychiatry. While at Penn State Hershey Medical Center, Dr. Levine led the initiation of a Division of Adolescent Medicine for the care of complex teens with medical and psychological problems. She also started the Penn State Hershey Eating Disorders Program, which offers multidisciplinary treatment for children, adolescents, and adults with eating disorders such as anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa.

Wedding officiant directory

from Erie Gay News

Authorized wedding officiants in the region who perform services for same-sex couples, we want to list you in our officiant directory! If you wish to be listed, please contact us not later than Feb 15. Info and responses: info@eriegaynews.com Phone: (814)456-9833

“Justice for All” workshop at Allegheny Feb 27

On Friday Feb. 27, Dr. Pamela Lightsey of Boston University will be at Allegheny College for a day long (9am -3 pm) workshop entitled “Justice for All”. Sponsored by our United Methodist Reconciling Ministries Network, the Commission on the Status and Role of Women, the WPA Anti-Racism team and the Board of Church and Society. Dr. Pamela Lightsey will guide our work with a United Methodist theological frame based on the doctrine of creation and the Biblical affirmation of inclusivity. She will root the conversation in her recent experiences on the ground in Ferguson, Missouri and how that relates to questions



Kim Conti raises her eyebrows at a naughty elf's gifts during the LBT Women Holiday Party January 11 at Calamari's. More photos on our website.

Photo by Andrea Shaffer

around inclusion of and advocacy for people of color and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in Western Pennsylvania congregations and communities.

Ammon Ripple, Faith Organizer for Equality Pennsylvania, will offer a ‘Love Your LGBT Neighbor’ workshop on how to have effective and respectful conversations, which make a difference for LGBT inclusion and equality. Conversations, stories, and relationships link us together as we live into God’s justice. Knowing how to do them well shifts us from silence or confusion to a ministry of mutual understanding and affirmation regardless of differences.

Questions: Faith Geer at fgeer@stpaulsumc.com Registration: <https://wmt.suran.com/main/preview/3770>

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Editor: Mike Mahler
Assistant Editor and Layout: Deb Spilko
Ad Design: Mike Lipiec
Deadline for next issue: February 15; Folding and distribution is Tue, February 24 at Griffin Room at Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel.

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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.

PRINT EDITIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE
www.eriegaynews.com
 Click on the PDFs for this & previous issues of EGN from 1992.
 Also, check out our Photo Galleries, Videos, Contests, Reviews & much more!

EGN Erie Gay News Rates & Data

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.

Erie Gay News is now included in **The EBSCO *LGBT Life***® with Full Text Index & Six LGBT Archives **WORLDWIDE!**

THANKS

From Your Friends at Erie Gay News

To Mental Health Association of Northwestern Pennsylvania for hosting! Aaron B, Jaidyn Marklow, Johauna, Julie, Kim, Matthew Robison, Melanie Shubitowski, and Rex Apps for folding; Jaidyn Marklow, Johauna, Julie, Kim, Matthew Robison, and Melanie Shubitowski 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.

Community News

NW PA Pride New Board & Officers

from NW PA Pride

NW PA Pride Alliance is delighted to welcome our 2015 board members. Our newest board members are Kathy Czarnecki-Smith, Finu J Lukose, and Michael Mooney. They join continuing board members Diana Ames, Season Crannell, Chris Dye, Kelly Kidd, Michael Mahler, Melanie Shubitowski, Alex Sphon, and Daniel Thomas. Officers are Michael Mahler (President), Season Crannell (Vice President), Finu Lukose (Secretary) and Alex Sphon.

NW PA Pride Alliance is also getting our advisory panel under way. Alliance advisory panel members are non-voting volunteers who enhance our service to the community by assisting with board activities and community events.

If you'd like to learn more about or are interested in becoming an advisory panel member, please contact us at president@nwpride.org.

Theology on Tap and The Table

from Jodi

Two ongoing spirituality events:

Theology on Tap. Next on Feb. 11, 7 PM at Ale House, 1033 State St., Erie. Though most of us have some form of Christian theology, people of all faiths are welcome to join us to discuss whatever theological questions are on your minds as we relax around a table with beverages of choice. We are not seeking to convert anyone or convince everyone to agree on the same "answer." We are simply providing the opportunity to question, wonder, explore and learn from each other's experiences, beliefs and perspectives!

The Table Worship Gatherings: Sundays, 5:30 PM, 3176 W. 41st St., Erie. The Table is a group of people committed to attempting to follow God in the way of Jesus (or the Way of Love) outside the confines of the politics and restricting traditions of organized religion. We gather each Sunday evening for a traditional

(continued on page 4)

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Community News

worship liturgy conducted in a very non-traditional way. Worship includes multi-sensory stations, Scripture, prayer, Communion and a discussion (rather than a traditional sermon) in which all are invited to participate and co-create their own worship experience. After worship, all are invited to enjoy a simple meal together. Donations to help cover the cost of the meal are appreciated but not necessary.

For more information about The Table or Theology on Tap, like our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/thetableerie> or call us at 814-724-9775

Erie included in Advocate list of Queerest Cities in America

from the Advocate

National magazine The Advocate included Erie PA in a list of the Queerest Cities in America, and mentioned not only ErieGayNews.com, but also the recent Lake Erie Gala by the Erie Sisters, The Zone Dance Club and Lone Shark Seafood.

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All our differences make a difference at the Erie Maennerchor Club!

By: Ray Maholtz, Trustee, Erie Maennerchor Club Board Member

The Erie Maennerchor Club is one of Erie's oldest and most prestigious social clubs in Erie County. Located in the heart of downtown Erie. Founded in 1871 as a German singing and social club with a rich history of tradition and a reputation for great food, entertainment and fellowship, it has just now become one of the more progressive clubs as well.

With the changes in the marriage laws allowing same sex couples to wed, there also came a change to the Erie Maennerchor Club's Auxiliary bylaws. Now same sex couples are permitted to join as a "complete couple". When one partner joins the club as a full member his or her spouse can join its auxiliary under "domestic partner". They will enjoy almost all of the benefits of the club (excluding executive officer voting rights). I am proud to say that my partner was the first said member under the new bylaws change to join our Auxiliary. This is a huge step for any social club in the Erie area.

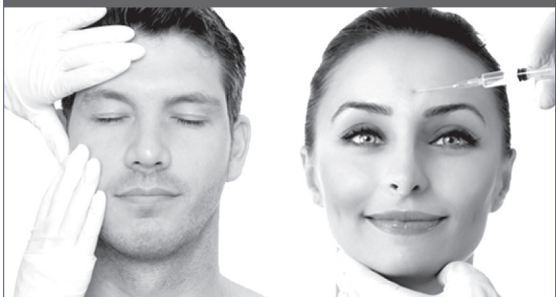
The club understands the diversity of our community and has embraced all of our differences. Now "truly everyone" can be recognized and afforded the same rights and privileges. The club hosts many events throughout the year and has supported the arts and culture of the Erie community, with donations and the hosting of many public sponsored events.

The Erie Maennerchor Club's mission is to provide a convenient, enjoyable social outlet to its members, in a safe, friendly and relaxing atmosphere. The club's president, board and staff, has extended their hands and asks all professionals in our community to consider being a part of the Erie Maennerchor Club as well.

You can find out more about joining the club and its history by going to www.eriemaennerchor.com.

**DEADLINE for next issue is
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Calendar

Detailed calendar listings in our online calendar
www.eriegaynews.com

Jan 23 (Fri) - Women's Night (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) BYOB, membership required, purchase from bartender. (724) 602-8447. JoshuaSean2009@aol.com. www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge.

Jan 24 (Sat) - TransFamily of Erie Support Group meets (Mental Health Assoc. of NW PA, 1101 Peach St, Erie, PA) 2-5 PM. Support group dedicated to providing safe, supportive space for transgender, gender non-conforming, gender-questioning, and intersex people and their loved ones in Erie Co. and the surrounding region. Judgment-free environment. Refreshments provided. Attendants are encouraged to bring something to share with the group, but this is not required. Contact: Caitlyn Strohmeyer. (814) 823-1969. caitlyn_xpress@verizon.net. www.facebook.com/TransfamilyOfErie.

www.facebook.com/TransfamilyOfErie.

Jan 24 (Sat) - Erie Sisters meets (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Erie Sisters is a local transgender support group that provides support and encouragement for both MTF and FTM transgender individuals. The group meets for discussion the fourth Saturday of each month, followed by dinner at a local restaurant and dancing at The Zone Dance Club. (440) 265-8191. shub1@suite224.net. eriesisters.ning.com/

Jan 24 (Sat) - Guesstures Game Night (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) BYOB, membership required, purchase from bartender. (724) 602-8447. www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge.

Jan 25 (Sun) - LBT Women go to 17th Annual SOUPER BOWL (Zem Zem Shrine Club, 2525 W 38th St, Erie, PA) 11 AM - 3 PM. \$12 at the door. Contact: Kim Conti. (814) 314-9512. ErieBeans@aol.com. <https://www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE>.

Jan 25 (Sun) - Focusing with Art Making for Emotional Self Healing (Expressive Therapies Center, 103 West Normal Street, Edinboro, PA 16412) 3 - 5 PM. Contact: Dr. Penny Orr, ATR-BC, ATCS . : (814) 873-3092. penny@expressivetherapiescenter.com.

Jan 27 (Tue) - Butler LGBTQ Interfaith Network meets (Covenant Presbyterian Church, 230 E Jefferson St, Butler PA, PA) 1 PM. (724) 287-7731. www.facebook.com/ButlerLgbtqInterfaithNetwork.

Jan 27 (Tue) - PFLAG Meeting in Meadville (Stone United Methodist Church, 956 S Main St, Meadville, PA) 7 PM. The meeting is co-sponsored by Stone United Methodist Church and Unitarian Universalist Church of Meadville. Info: (814) 724-6736 or sroncola@allegheny.edu (Stone UMC) or (814) 724-4023



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(UU Meadville.) (814) 724-6736. www.facebook.com/pages/PFLAG-Erie-Crawford-Counties/1.

Jan 28 (Wed) - J-Pride - LGBT Social Group meets (Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County, 31 Water Street Suite 7, Jamestown, NY) 6 PM. Drive into the big parking lot at the Gateway Center and drive to back of the building to the smaller rear parking lot. You'll see a bright light over door 14. Enter there. Contact: Steven Michael Cobb. (716) 661-9044.

Jan 30 (Fri) - Boots & Jeans Night (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) BYOB, membership required, purchase from bartender. (724) 602-8447. JoshuaSean2009@aol.com. www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge.

Jan 31 (Sat) - LBT Women go to Gannon Pink Zone Game (Gannon Hammermill Center, 620 Peach St, Erie, PA) 1 PM. Women's basketball game. Free! Contact: Kim Conti. (814) 314-9512. ErieBeans@aol.com. <https://www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE>.

Jan 31 (Sat) - Drag Show (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) BYOB, membership required, purchase

Marriage Equality Cases Headed to US Supreme Court

As we were headed to press, it was announced that the Supreme Court will be hearing cases about marriage equality from four states from the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals, with hearings expected in April, and a decision expected in late June that could settle the issue at a national level.

More info as this develops, and expect a Decision Day Rally when the final ruling is announced.

Check out special bonus content online at eriegaynews.com.

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1-888-873-7723 ext. 359 • persadcenter.org

Calendar

from bartender. (724) 602-8447. JoshuaSean2009@aol.com. www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge.

Feb 1 (Sun) - Whispering Lake Grove Imbolc Ritual (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Highway, Erie, PA) Doors open at 5PM ritual starts 6PM, potluck to follow ritual. The Being of the Occasion is Brigid. Contact: Rev. Christopher Temple. (814) 720-1560. grollwynn72@hotmail.com. www.whisperinglakegrove.org.

Feb 1 (Sun) - PFLAG Butler meets (Covenant Presbyterian Church, 230 E Jefferson St, Butler PA, PA) Contact: Joshua Crawford. (724) 290-9674 president@pflagbutler.com. www.pflagbutler.com/.

Feb 4 - Ani DiFranco w/ Anais Mitchell at Babeville, Buffalo NY. www.babevillebuffalo.com

Feb 5 (Thu) - "Lance Loves Michael: The Lance Bass Wedding" 90-minute special on E! 8pm.

Feb 6 (Fri) - Bear Bar Night (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 11 PM. Join the Bears for a night of fun and friends! Contact: Gary Snyder. (814) 446-2327 info@drenchedfur.com. www.drenchedfur.com.

www.thezonedanceclub.com/.

Feb 6 (Fri) - G2H2 (Details TBA)

Feb 6-15 - "Avenue Q" Academy Theater, 275 Chestnut, Meadville PA www.theacademytheatre.org

Feb 8 (Sun) - LBT Women meets (Brew Ha Ha at the Colony, 2612 W 8th St, Erie, PA) After the meeting we go to the Winter fest at Frontier park. (free). Contact: Kim Conti. (814) 314-9512. ErieBeans@aol.com. https://www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE.

Feb 9 (Mon) - PFLAG Erie/Crawford County meets (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy, Erie PA) 7 PM. Support group for parents, friends and families of gay, lesbian and transgendered people. Also meets 4th Tues. of the month at 7 PM at Stone United Methodist Church, 956 S. Main St. Meadville, PA. Contact: Alex Sphon. (814) 367-3311. pflag.erie.crawford@gmail.com. www.facebook.com/pages/PFLAG-Erie-Crawford-Counties/1.

Feb 10 (Tue) - Youngstown PFLAG meets (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH) 6:30 PM. Support groups are open to the public,

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Calendar

starts at 6:30pm. Light refreshments will be available. Contact: Marguerite Felice. youngstownpflag@aol.com. www.youngstownpflag.org

Feb 11 (Wed) - Bears Do Dinner (Twins Restaurant and Catering, 4353 West Ridge Rd, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Join Bears for a casual dinner of food and fun! Dinner is on your own. Contact: Gary Snyder. (814) 446-2327. info@drenchedfur.com. www.drenchedfur.com.

Feb 11 (Wed) - LBT Women go to Film at the Erie Art Museum (Erie Art Museum, 411 State St, Erie, PA) Doors open 6PM, film at 7PM, admission \$5. "The Disappearance of Eleanor Rigby: Him and Her." Contact: Kim Conti. (814) 314-9512. ErieBeans@aol.com. <https://www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE>.

Feb 11 (Wed) - J-Pride - LGBT Social Group meets (Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County, 31 Water Street Suite 7, Jamestown, NY) 6 PM. Drive into the big parking lot at the Gateway Center and drive to back of the building to the smaller rear parking lot. You'll see a bright light over door 14. Enter there. Contact: Steven Michael Cobb. (716) 661-9044.

Feb 11 - Theology on Tap 7 PM Ale House, 1033 State St, Erie 814-724-9775.

Feb 13 (Fri) - Red Hot Divas Show (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th Erie, PA) (814) 452-0125. TheZoneDanceClub@aol.com. www.thezonedanceclub.com/.

Feb 14 (Sat) - LBT Women go to Mercyhurst Women's Hockey (Mercyhurst University Ice Rink, 501 E 38th St, Erie, PA) 2 PM. Meet at 1:30 PM inside doors at ice rink. Admissions is \$5. Contact: Kim Conti. (814) 314-9512. ErieBeans@aol.com. www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE.

Feb 14 (Sat) - Red Hot Valentines Day Party (Zone

Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) (814) 452-0125. TheZoneDanceClub@aol.com. www.thezonedanceclub.com/.

Feb 14 (Sat) - Veronyca's Showgirls A - Valentine's Extraordinaire Show (Speed Trap Restaurant, 543 Spittler Lane, Limestone, NY) 10 PM. \$6 Cover. venue web site www.speedtraprestaurant.com.

Feb 15 (Sun) - ABBA the Concert Tribute (Byham Theater, 101 Sixth Street, Pittsburgh, PA) www.trustarts.org/visit/facilities/byham.

Feb 15 (Sun) - Deadline for Wedding Officiants survey Authorized wedding officiants in the region-who perform services for same-sex couples, we want to list you! info@eriegaynews.com

Feb 15 (Sun) - Deadline for Erie Gay News March 2015 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 Feb 24. For a complete list of upcoming deadlines and release dates, check the print edition schedule at www.eriegaynews.com/printedition/deadlineschedule.



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Calendar

php. Contact: Michael Mahler. (814) 456-9833. info@eriegaynews.com. www.eriegaynews.com.

Feb 15 (Sun) - FACE Drag Show (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 11 PM. All of your favorite drag queens, new drag queens and special guests the 3d Sun. of the month. (814) 452-0125. TheZoneDanceClub@aol.com. www.thezonedanceclub.com/.

Feb 17 (Tue) - Spirituality and Sexuality Discussion Group meets (Community United Church, 1011 W 38th St, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Facilitated by the Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty 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. 1-866-229-1974 (toll free). richmccarty@msn.com.

Feb 18 (Wed) - LBT Women go to Film at the Erie Art Museum (Erie Art Museum, 411 State St, Erie, PA) 6 PM. Doors open at 6 PM, Film at 7 PM. Admission is \$5.

Feb 19-21 - "Desire, Desire, Desire" and "For Whom The Southern Belle Tolls" PACA, 1505

State, Erie. Two one-act Tennessee Williams parodies by Christopher Durang, as part of Gannon's Annual Fringe Festival at PACA. paca1505.ning.com

Feb 20-Mar 14 - Terrance McNally's "Mothers and Sons" at Buffalo United Artists Buffalo NY. www.buffalobua.org

Feb 20 (Fri) - RuPaul's Drag Race Condragulations Tour 9 pm, Connor Palace Theater, 1615 Euclid Ave, Cleveland, OH. rupaulbots.com.

Feb 24 (Tue) - RuPaul's Drag Race: Battle of the Seasons Byham Theatre Pittsburgh PA rupaulbots.com

Feb 24 (Tue) - Butler LGBTQ Interfaith Network meets (Covenant Presbyterian Church, 230 E Jefferson St, Butler PA, PA) 1 PM. Affirming the spirituality of all LGBTQ people, their friends and allies. www.facebook.com/ButlerLgbtqInterfaithNetwork.

Feb 24 (Tue) - Erie Gay News folding/distribution work party (Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel, Griffin Room, 55 West Bay Dr Erie, PA) 7 PM. NOTE NEW LOCATION! 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! info@eriegaynews.com. www.eriegaynews.com.

Feb 24 (Tue) - PFLAG Meeting in Meadville (Stone United Methodist Church, 956 S Main St, Meadville, PA) 7 PM. The meeting is co-sponsored by Stone United Methodist Church and Unitarian Universalist Church of Meadville. Contact: Sarah Roncolata. (814) 724-6736. sroncola@allegheny.edu. www.facebook.com/pages/PFLAG-Erie-Crawford-Counties/1.

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<http://gayellowpages.com>

**PLEASE
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Calendar

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Feb 28 (Sat) - TransFamily of Erie Support Group meets (Mental Health Assoc. of NW PA, 1101 Peach St, Erie, PA) 2-5 PM. Support group dedicated to providing safe, supportive space for transgender, gender non-conforming, gender-questioning, and intersex people and their loved ones in Erie Co. and the surrounding region. Judgment-free environment. Refreshments provided. Attendants are encouraged to bring something to share with the group, but this is not required. Contact: Caitlyn Strohmeier. (814) 823-1969. caitlyn_xpress@verizon.net. www.facebook.com/TransfamilyOfErie.

Feb 28 (Sat) - Erie Sisters meets (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Erie Sisters is a local transgender support group that provides support and encouragement for both MTF and FTM transgender individuals. The group meets for discussion the fourth Saturday of each month, followed by dinner at a local restaurant and dancing at The Zone Dance Club. (440) 265-8191. shub1@suite224.net. erisisters.ning.com/

Mar 27-Apr 19 - "See Alice Run" All An Act Theatre Productions www.allanact.net

Apr 9-12 - DF11 Drenched Fur www.drenchedfur.com

Jun 6 - 2015 Pride Picnic Rotary Pavilion Presque Isle, Erie PA,

Jun 12 - Diversity Prom 7-11PM Asbury Hall, Buffalo NY \$10 for LGBT youth & allies 14-20 years www.glyswyny.org

Online Contests

Here are new contests for this month...

Contest	Begins
<i>McCoy, You're Going Straight to Hell</i> eBook	January 23
GAYTANKS Tanktop	January 27
Boys DVD	February 3
<i>Lavender Review</i>	February 13
<i>Creature Comfort</i>	February 17

Here are contests which are currently active..

Contest	Ends
Joseph Eid - <i>Human</i>	January 23
<i>Happy End</i> DVD	January 27
<i>Men of the Manor; Ella Henderson - Chapter One</i>	January 30
<i>Silent Youth</i> DVD; <i>Two Mothers</i> DVD	February 3
<i>Best Gay Erotica 2015</i> PDF	February 6
<i>Dancing in the Red Snow</i>	February 10

More contests at eriegaynews.com/

Sign up for the Erie GLBT News and Events list at our web site, and you will get first notice on new contests PLUS news and upcoming events!

MISSING EMAILS FROM EGN MAILING LISTS?

Because of a web crash in October, all mailing lists through the EGN website were lost. If you had previously been on one of the email lists that we maintain, you will need to sign up again at <http://lists.eriegaynews.com>.

Affected lists: **Erie GLBT News/Events, GLBT Vote/Activism, LBT Women of Erie, Monthly Reminders, NW PA Pride Volunteers, PFLAG Erie & Crawford Counties, PFLAG Meadville, Press Release**



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