



ERIE GAY NEWS

Serving the Regional LGBTQIA+ Community Since 1992



Pictured: OddCity Entertainment organizers of RainbowFest 2024 with Rianna Czech on April 13. Photo by Michael Mahler

RainbowFest 2024 On April 13

from OddCity Entertainment

RainbowFest 2024, held on April 13 at Base-ment Transmissions, 145 W 11th St, Erie, PA, by OddCity Entertainment, was a heartwarming day of unity, talent, and pure love, bringing together our local queer community in a celebration of our vibrant diversity. Our theme, centered around spotlighting the incredible talent within our area, was beautifully echoed in the inspiring speeches by our guest speakers: Susannah Faulkner, David Moore, Gabe Genua, and Rianna Czech. Their words set the stage for an unforgettable lineup of 15 bands and solo musicians, each pouring their souls into the music they shared. The festival came alive with the fierce energy of six captivating drag performance artists, each a beacon of creativity and self-expression. And then there was the live art by Gavin Doss, the son of one of our organizers, Athena Rose—his creations added a personal touch that filled the air with creativity and warmth. Beyond the music and performances, our community rallied together to make a difference, raising an incredible \$1,000 for Comptons Table and

four large bags of gender affirming clothing and accessories! As we said our farewells, our hearts were full. Each attendee left feeling not just accepted but truly seen and embraced. RainbowFest 2024 wasn't just an event—it was a celebration of who we are, a testament to our strength, creativity, and the power of love that binds us all together.

ASCEND Erie Queer Scouts Climbing Club

ASCEND Erie has started a Queer Scouts climbing club at the gym, located at 426 State Street, Erie, PA. The club meets every second and fourth Tuesday from 6-8 p.m.

Queer Scouts is an LGBTQ+ climbing club with the goal of creating connection and a safer and more inclusive community. Just look for the Queer Scout mascot, the tiny rainbow unicorn! Bring your authentic self and enjoy an evening of climbing and fun! We'll climb some walls and get to know each other. Club meetups are open to allies as well! Enjoy a discounted day pass when you attend a club meetup, and look out for our FREE QFTW Affinity Sessions every other month. No climbing experience is necessary, and your climbing shoes and chalk rental are free the first time you visit ASCEND. Check out the full club's schedule at AscendClimbing.com/programs/community/community-schedule

Meadville Transfamily of NW PA Meetings Move To 2nd Tuesdays

The Meadville meetings for TransFamily of NW PA will now be the second Tuesday of the month from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at Empowerment With Grace, 296 Chestnut Street, Meadville, PA. Please use the side entrance. The Erie meetings will continue on the fourth Saturday of the month from 2 to 5 PM at Compton's Table in Central Outreach, 3104 State St, Erie, PA.

In This Issue...

RainbowFest 2024 On April 13..... 1
 ASCEND Erie Queer Scouts Climbing Club.. 1
 Meadville Transfamily of NW PA Meetings ... 1
 Rising Mpxox Cases: Get Vaccinated 3
 Gear up for Pride! 3
 Jamestown Pride 2024 4
 Sat May 18 HIV/AIDS Awareness Walk 4
 Many helping hands make for light work at
 Pride On The Bay 6
 Location Change For Ashtabula Pride on June
 15 6
 Erie's Pride Prom will soon be here! 6
 Queer Spaces Survey..... 6
 Compton's Table Name Change Clinic..... 6
 Housing Survey 202410
 GEARE Afternoon For Equality on June 2.....10
 March Meadville Happy Hour10
 Trans Day of Visibility in Perry Square 8
 Aging With Pride Dinner at Habibi 9
 Online Contests11
 Calendar12



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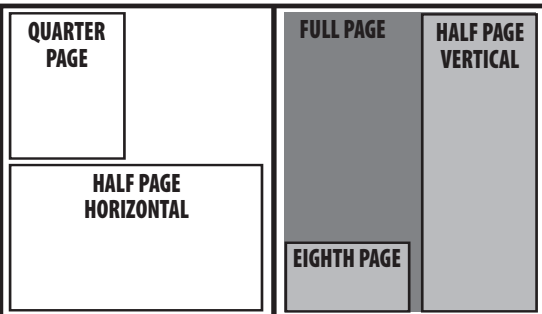
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The *Erie Gay News* is published monthly as a source of news, events, information, and support for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender people (GLBTs), their families, friends, and supporters in the Erie PA area.

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.

If you are restarting events or are moving to hosting events/meetings virtually, or want to change your copies received for distribution, please email info@eriegaynews.com

EGN Rates & Data



AD SIZE	PRICE/ISSUE	DIMENSIONS
EIGHTH	\$50 - \$45 Prepaid	15/8" high X 2 7/8" wide
QUARTER	\$80 - \$72 Prepaid	3 1/2" high X 2 7/8" wide
HALF VERT.	\$150 - \$135 Prepaid	3 1/2" high X 6" wide
HALF HORZ.	\$150 - \$135 Prepaid	7" high X 2 7/8" wide
FULL PAGE	\$250 - \$225 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 Lake Erie Counseling Associates for hosting! Andrea Shaffer, Deb, Jeff Hill, Kim Conti, Laurie Finch, Michael Mancinelli, Rex Apps, and Steve Siwiecki for folding; Brett Staskiewicz, Jeff Hill, Kim Conti, Michael Mancinelli, Rex Apps, and Steve Siwiecki for distribution; Whee! Design for logo. If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com.

Rising Mpox Cases: Get Vaccinated

Erie County Department of Health

In the summer of 2022, men who have sex with men in Europe, the United Kingdom, and the United States saw an outbreak of a communicable disease that beforehand was seen mostly due to travel from Central or West Africa. Mpox, previously known as Monkeypox, is part of a family of viruses that cause disease in both humans and many types of animals. Smallpox is an example of a pox virus that no longer exists in nature. Mpox, on the other hand, surged in 2022. The ongoing outbreak worldwide has the US leading with the most cases at 34% and the highest death count at 33% globally. As of early April 2024, the US has seen approximately 700 confirmed cases compared to 315 cases at the same time one year prior. These cases and deaths are specific to the type of Mpox that spread in 2022.

Currently, the Democratic Republic of Congo [DRC] is seeing the largest outbreak of mpox ever recorded. Since Jan 1, 2023, the DRC has reported over 12,500 cases and over 575 deaths, far surpassing the US. Due to ease of travel, exposure can be higher than ever before. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends routine JYNNEOS vaccination of two doses for people 18 years and older at risk for Mpox. This includes men who have sex with men, as well as transgender or non-binary persons who have in the past six months had one or more new sexually transmitted diseases, more than one partner, sex in association with a large public event, sex in exchange for money or other items, and individuals diagnosed with HIV. In addition, people with these experiences are also recommended to get both doses of the JYNNEOS vaccine.

The Erie County Department of Health [ECDH] provides both doses of JYNNEOS to the public during our weekly Sexual Health Clinic. For more information about mpox and private, confidential vaccination at no cost, call us at the Erie County Department of Health at 814-451-6700.

Gear up for Pride!

With the new Pride on the Bay collection, NW PA Pride Alliance is ready to help you gear up for this year's Pride season. For the first time, all the colors of the Progress Pride Flag will be featured.

Pre-orders for shirts, Unisex size small through 3XL, are available now at NWPAPride.org. They will

MPX CASES ARE RISING

see article for details

GET VACCINATED FOR FREE

Two doses provide the best overall protection

1st dose 

4 weeks later
2nd dose 

Max protection 
2 weeks later

Call for info 451-6700



Erie County Department of Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

be delivered in mid-May. Tank tops and sweatshirts will be available soon. In-person sales for these items will also occur at Pride on the Bay on Saturday, June 29, at Liberty Park.

NW PA Pride Alliance is happy to partner and have these products designed and produced by Wheel Design, a locally owned queer business.

Jamestown Pride 2024

Pride will kick off Saturday, June 1, at 10 am with a flag-raising in Downtown Jamestown. The event will include coffee and doughnuts, speakers, and voter registration as part of the “Vote with PRIDE campaign.” You can get your Jamestown PRIDE tee shirt or decal at the flag-raising to be ready for pride month.

The 2024 Jamestown Pride Festival is Saturday, June 8, in downtown Jamestown in cooperation with the Jamestown Public Market.

- 10 am-2 pm: Jamestown Pride at Public Market (Main Street & Wintergarden Plaza; Market on 3rd)

Pride-themed vendors and community organization tents – Performances and activities at the Wintergarden Plaza – Rainbow Walk Celebration, and young people’s activities

- 2-4 pm: Thee Suburbia Drag Performance. Performers include Shuga Cain from season 11 of Rue Paul’s Drag Race, Thee Suburbia, and Ella Fartzgerald. @ Wintergarden Plaza (meet-and-greet plans underway – Stay Tuned!)
- 8-10 pm: Jamestown Pride Presents Pop-A-Pastie Ladies Burlesque Show @ Sneakers 100 Harrison Street, Jamestown, NY (must be 21+, \$5 cover)
- 10 pm – Midnight: DJ @ Sneakers (must be 21+)

All non-profit/community organizations and local businesses/vendors are invited to apply to participate. Planners are especially looking for food trucks and food vendors to sell from 10 am to 4 pm.

Local artists and craftspeople from the queer community and the greater Jamestown community are welcome, as well as community-based organizations interested in reaching out to the queer and larger community.

Vendor applications can be made at Facebook.com/JamestownPride or <https://bit.ly/JPrideVendor>. For more information, email info@jamestownpride.com.

com. Applications are accepted through the end of April.

Those interested in volunteering to help at the events can also email info@jamestownpride.com.

This year’s Presenting Sponsor is Evergreen Health. Any business, individual or non-profit is welcome to sponsor Jamestown Pride. To learn more, reach out to info@jamestownpride.com to set up a conversation.

The second Community Meeting is Thursday, May 9, 6:30 pm, again at the Mental Health Association.

Learn more at JamestownPride.org and Jamestown Pride’s Facebook page [Facebook.com/JamestownPride](https://www.facebook.com/JamestownPride)

Sat May 18 HIV/AIDS Awareness Walk

Erie County HIV Task Force

The Erie County HIV Task Force invites everyone to participate in the 7th Annual HIV / AIDS Awareness Walk on Saturday, May 18th. We will meet at the stage in East Perry Square, 575 State Street, Erie, PA, at 11 AM. Step off is at 11:30 AM. We will walk around North and South Park Row circling Perry Square and everyone is encouraged to wear red to help raise HIV awareness. PA Thrive Partnership is providing on-site HIV testing. All ages are welcome and the event is child and pet friendly. (Please be prepared to clean up after your own pets.) People participating as organizations are welcome to represent their group/organization. If you don’t wish to walk the entire route, you are welcome to join us at any point along the sidewalk around Perry Square.

The ECHTF is a collaboration of local organizations and individuals dedicated to educating, supporting, and advocating for people living with HIV/AIDS along with preventing the spread of HIV. For more information, please visit echiv.org for additional information including the county map of testing locations, clinic services. Free condoms can be mailed to you, place an order online at condoms.echiv.org, or visit our Erie County HIV & STI testing map for locations to test/treat plus free condoms at echiv.org/map or call 814-451-6786 for information. To learn more about the HIV/AIDS Awareness Walk activities or submit questions/comments, contact us at 814-315-3375 or admin@echiv.org.

7th Annual Erie County HIV / AIDS Awareness Walk

Saturday May 18th, 11a @ Perry Square, 11:30a stepoff

PA Thrive Partnership providing on-site testing



Made possible by the



& the



Erie County Department of Health



Meet at the stage on the West Side of Perry Square

Sponsored by:

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Erie County Department of Health

PA THRIVE PARTNERSHIP

SafeNet

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Find testing, treatment & hope at PA-Thrive.com.



PA THRIVE PARTNERSHIP

PA THRIVE PARTNERSHIP

Offices in Clarion, Erie and Mill Hall

Call: 1 (800) 359-2437

Website: <https://pa-thrive.com>

Email: info@pathrive.com



Mobile HIV Testing Available

Many helping hands make for light work at Pride On The Bay

NW PA Pride Alliance is looking for extra hands to help with Pride on the Bay this year at Liberty Park on Saturday, June 29.

For more information, contact Bobbie Fenno at bfenno@nwpride.org or sign up at the volunteer section on NWPApride.org.

Location Change For Ashtabula Pride on June 15

The 4th Annual Ashtabula Pride 2024 is happening June 15 from 11 am - 9 pm at Walnut Beach in Ashtabula, Ohio. LOTZ Productions will provide entertainment, local bands, and singers. Food, artisans, family fun events, vendors, and more will be there. Ashtabula Pride changed the location due to the repavement of Bridge Street this summer.

They are raffling off an all-inclusive cruise for two to Alaska, Hawaii, or Mexico for \$25 a ticket. The link is on their homepage at ashtabulapride.org

Organizers are still looking for volunteers. They can apply on the website ashtabulapride.org under the sign-up tab. Hosted by Ashtabula Pride, Inc. Michael Riffe, and others. More info is at <https://www.facebook.com/ashtabulapride> and <https://www.ashtabulapride.org/>

Erie's Pride Prom will soon be here!

Looking for a special night out with someone special, or maybe for you and a group of your friends? NW PA Pride Alliance is hosting the annual Adult Pride Prom on Saturday, May 25, at the Ambassador Banquet & Conference Center Garden Atrium and Terrace.

The Prom is open to anyone 18 years and older. Appetizers and a cash bar [21+] will be provided. Come for a good time and dance the night away with music provided by DJ Dave Rapp.

Tickets are available at NWPApride.org.

Queer Spaces Survey

Compton's Table is looking to update our well-used resource, the Safe Space list. We are sending out an anonymous survey where community members can detail workplaces, social spaces, and housing spaces where they have had positive or negative experiences. Several people in the community come to Compton's seeking resources, and we want to

have the most up to date information for them. The list of safe spaces will be posted on the Compton's Table website and updated regularly. Find the list and check out all Compton's Table offers at www.comptonstable.org. Take the survey at <https://www.qrfy.com/kJbYiOvgYP>

Compton's Table Name Change Clinic on 4/13

On April 13, Compton's Table hosted the first ever "Hello My Name Is" Name Change Clinic. There were over 30 people in attendance to receive information regarding how to legally change their name in Erie County. Attorney Seth Trott of Quinn Law Firm gave a presentation detailing the entire process, and he volunteered his time to represent 10 participants in obtaining their legal name change. At the name change clinic, Compton's board members aided in completing all the necessary paperwork for 10 participants to get started on their name change. Compton's Table eagerly looks forward to planning another event like this in the future, as this one was a major success and had a lot of community interest.



Atty Seth Trott of Quinn Law Firm presenting at name change clinic at Compton's Table, 3104 State Street, Erie, PA on April 13. Contributed photo.



CERTIFIED PEER SPECIALIST PROGRAM AT MHA

*"Peers helping peers,
one at a time."*



A Certified Peer Specialist is a person who self-identifies and uses or has used mental health and/or co-occurring services and is passionate about helping peers on the journey to recovery. Certified Peer Specialists provide services in the community where peers live, work and volunteer, working one-on-one or in groups with their peers to ensure that each peer's individual recovery goals are developed and pursued. They assist the peer to envision an increasingly meaningful life; make informed, independent choices, set goals, and facilitate community integration.

- Any Erie County resident over the age of 18 interested in getting help on the journey to recovery is eligible for Certified Peer Specialist services.
- Candidates must be diagnosed with, or currently receiving treatment for, a serious or persistent mental illness that interferes with, or limits role performance in life, work, education or social situations.
- Program enrollment requires a written recommendation from a licensed psychologist, physician, nurse practitioner or physician's assistant.

If you are interested in obtaining Peer Support Services, please contact the Peer Support Program at MHA for more information about this referral.

Phone: (814) 452-4462 X133

Trans Day of Visibility in Perry Square

TransFamily of NW PA celebrated Trans Day of Visibility on Saturday, April 6, in Perry Square. The event included speakers and a walk around Perry Square. Trans Day of Visibility has been on March 31 since 2009. The local observance was postponed from March 31 due to Easter being the same day this year. Photos are by Kim and Andrea.





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communityhealthnet.org



Aging With Pride Dinner at Habibi
On Thursday, March 28, 2024, Aging With Pride held its annual monthly dinner at Habibi Mediterranean Cuisine, 127 W 14th St, Erie, PA. Aging With Pride dinners are on the last Thursday of each month at 6 PM at area restaurants. Aging With Pride hosts a book club the third Saturday of the month at Werner Books, planning meetings twice a month, and other social events.



Housing Survey 2024

The Pennsylvania Equality Project is conducting year 2 of a five-year study on housing affordability and sustainability. The survey runs from April 1 until May 31. It is open to all LGBTQ+ people who reside year-round in Pennsylvania or are students attending a post-secondary school in PA and reside either on or off campus. All personal identifying information shared on the survey will remain confidential. Results from the survey will be available in mid-July and shared through our website at <https://paequality.com/survey/>. The housing survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete.

According to last year's survey, 55% of all LGBTQ+ Pennsylvanians rent their residence, and only 27% own their homes. Additionally, 16% of all respondents indicated that they or someone with whom they resided had been the victim of housing discrimination. David Moore, PA Equality Project President, said he is looking forward to comparing last year's results to this year's to determine if any trends can be measured.

GEAE Afternoon For Equality on June 2

Greater Erie Alliance for Equality (GEAE)'s Afternoon for Equality is a significant source of funding that helps empower GEAE to support the region's LGBTQ+ community and its allies through educational programs, social events, and service opportunities. These programs and events strengthen our voice, improve the quality of life in northwestern Pennsylvania, and propel us toward our mission to create a safe and welcoming community for all regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. This year's Afternoon for Equality is Sunday, June 2 from 5-9 PM at the Hagen History Center, 356 W 6th St. The event features an open bar, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and music by the Stephen Trohoske Trio.

We continue to live in challenging and difficult times, and it is GEAE's mission to provide LGBTQ+ competency training and educational outreach to help ensure all members of the community are treated as equals. Support of GEAE allows training to occur across many sectors, allowing employers, employees, and individuals to understand the importance of and navigate through the vast challenges the LGBTQ+ community still faces, even after all the progress that has been made in recent years. Many people in the

Erie area continue to meet health, safety, and education challenges. And these challenges will continue to grow as we may see substantial past victories in the court systems resurface for overruling.

Without you, our supporters, our work would not be possible. That is why we are asking for you to sponsor Afternoon for Equality. In these challenging and unprecedented times, we all must work together to build a better now and future. GEAE is working diligently to provide you a return on the investment you made in us by promoting sponsors in various places.

Please choose one of our sponsorship levels pertaining to the meanings behind the original rainbow flag designed by Gilbert Baker. You can make your ticket purchase and donation to support GEAE's programs by completing and mailing the included form, or through our website at www.GreaterErieAlliance.com. Your partnership will help us continue our work now and into the future when the LGBTQ+ community needs even more support.

March Meadville Happy Hour

On March 27, NW PA Pride Alliance held its monthly Meadville Happy Hour at Julian's Bar & Grill, 299 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA. Meadville Happy Hours are the fourth Wednesday of each month. The April 24 Meadville Happy Hour will be at Julian's Bar & Grill, due to Cussewago Creek Distillery being unavailable that night.

NW PA Pride Alliance also has an Erie Happy Hour the first Wednesday of Each month at Oasis Pub & Tiki Bar, 3122 W Lake Rd, Erie PA



Meadville Happy Hour on March 27 at Julian's Bar and Grill. Photo by Michael Mahler.

Many performers and vendors at RainbowFest 2024 at Basement Trabsmissions. See story on front page. Photos by Michael Mahler.



Online Contests

Here are new contests for this month...

Contest	Begins
<i>Pride Power: The Young Person's Guide to LG-BTQ+</i>	April 26
<i>Mysterious Ways Digital Download</i>	April 30
<i>Photography – A Queer History</i>	May 3
<i>My Child is Trans, Now What?: A Joy-Centered Approach to Support</i>	May 7
<i>To Be Loved: A Story of Truth, Trauma, and Transformation</i>	May 10
<i>Queer Villains of Myth and Legend</i>	May 14
<i>Together in a Broken World</i>	May 17
<i>Looking For Love In All The Haunted Places</i>	May 21
<i>The Bump</i>	May 24

Here are contests which are currently active...

Contest	Ends
<i>Pride: A Seek-and-Find Celebration</i>	May 7
<i>Out Of Left Field</i>	May 10
<i>The Advocate Educator's Handbook: Creating Schools Where Trans and Non-Binary Students Thrive</i>	May 10
<i>Altered Perceptions digital download</i>	May 14

More contests at eriegaynews.com! Be sure to subscribe to our email list and follow us on Facebook and Instagram to see the latest news and also chances to win free prizes!

Calendar

For latest updates, see www.eriegaynews.com

Live & Let Live is an LGBTQA-friendly AA meeting that meets every Sunday, at 7PM, at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, 1603 W 32 St. Erie PA 16508. For more information, visit www.aaeriepa.org or contact jmwilliams3603@aol.com or (814) (814) 844-2600.

Zone Monday Night Karaoke with DJ Nitro at The Zone, 133 W 18th St, 9 PM-midnight. No cover. 21+ with valid state-issued ID.

Zone Tuesday Game Night, 133 W 18th St, Doors open at 8 PM. Bring your own game or use ours. (Must submit an ID for us to hold while game is in use.) Happy hour 8-10 PM. \$1 off bottled beers. \$2 well drinks. No cover. 21 & over with ID.

Zone Trivia Wednesday Night, 133 W 18th St, Hosted by Rebecca Mae. Doors open at 8 pm. Play right on your phone! Fabulous prizes! Trivia begins at 9:30 pm. Happy hour 8 PM-10 PM. \$1 off bottled beer. \$2 well drinks. No cover. 21+ with valid state-issued ID.

Zone Flow Together Thursdays - ENDS MAY 2! 133 W 18th St, Erie PA. Doors open at 8pm. No cover. 21+ with valid state-issued ID. .

Zone Fierce Fridays 2.0 - STARTS MAY 3! 133 W 18th St, Erie PA. Hosted by Rebecca Mae, with special guests every week. Doors open at 8pm, showtime 10:30 pm. \$5 cover. 21+ with valid state-issued ID.

Apr 19 - May 5 (Fri - Sun) - Decision Heights (PACA, 1505 State St, Erie, PA 16501) From the winner of the 2013 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival comes this story about friendship and the complex though essential role of women in wartime. Virginia Hascall has left her home and fiancé to become a Women Airforce Service Pilot, doing her part to help defeat the Axis powers in World War II. Through triumph and tragedy, Virginia and her sisters in flight suits learn as much about themselves as they do about airplanes. As the war rages over there, the women form a sisterhood that cannot be broken, and Virginia must make a decision that will change her life forever. With a cast of nine vibrant female characters, Decision Height offers a look into an under-recognized subset of American heroes.

Apr 24 (Wed) - LGBTQ+ and Allies Happy Hour – All welcome (Julian's Bar & Grill, 299 Chestnut St., Meadville, PA 16335) 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM.

Apr 25 (Thu) - Mild to Wild Discussion Group (Men-

tal Health Association in Chautauqua County, 31 Water Street Suite 7, Jamestown, NY 14701) 6 PM - 7:30 PM. Mild to Wild is a discussion group about sex and substance use designed for gay and bisexual men and folks of trans experience.

Apr 25 (Thu) - Aging with Pride Social Hour (Calamari's Squid Row, 1317 State Street, Erie PA) 6 PM.

Apr 25 (Thu) - Teen Trans support group meets (G.A. Family Services, 210 Gustavus Ave, Jamestown, NY 14701) 5 PM.

Apr 26 (Fri) - Lesbian Visibility Day Created in 2008, this day showcases women-loving-women, providing a platform for lesbian role models to speak out on the issues facing female-identified sexual minorities. This day, alongside other queer celebration days, is still an integral part of moving forwards to create an intersectional society where all are treated equally and fairly.

Apr 26 (Fri) - Yellow Brick Roads: I Celebrate with Pride Bullfrogs Adult Meet Up (Bullfrog Bar, 3866 Peach St, Erie, PA 16509) 5 PM. We invite you to join us for an evening of laughter, relaxation, and fun among friends. We are an informal meet-up of LGBTQ+ individuals and their parents, family, and friends. Our past meetups have included enjoying local bands and participating in local karaoke events. We are open to ideas for future fun. Our goal is to create fun, safe, comfortable public spaces for our LGBTQ+ loved ones to celebrate life with friends and family. We also seek to make information available to assist parents, family, and friends with a better understanding of the journey that they are on with their LGBTQ+ children, siblings, and friends. Contact: Jill. Phone: (814) 860-6208.

Apr 26 - May 19 (Fri - Sun) - Charlie's Aunt (All An Act Theatre, 652 W 17th St, Erie, PA 16502) All An Act Theater continues its 20th Anniversary Season with the hilarious farce "Charlie's Aunt". Written by Brandon Thomas and adapted to the stage by Martin Holt, the play is set at Oxford College in London and features Charlie and Jack. They arrange a luncheon with the love of their lives to meet Charlie's long-lost wealthy aunt. When she fails to arrive, they draft their feckless "actor" friend Fancourt into dressing up as Charlie's aunt. When the real aunt arrives, classic comedy and chaos ensue. Production dates are April 26 - May 8th. Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 and Sundays at 3:00. There will be no show on April 28th. For more information, call 814-450-8553, 814-449-6554, or visit allanact.net.

Apr 27 (Erie) Transgender Support Group meets (Compton's Table, 3104 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 2 PM - 5 PM. Meetings are hosted at Compton's Table, 3401 State St, Erie PA. All current CDC, state, and

local guidelines for meeting indoors will be observed. Meetings are always confidential and completely free.
Apr 27 (Sat) - Aging with Pride Book Club - The Ocean aT The End Of The lane by Neil Gaiman (Werner Books & Coffee 3608 Liberty St, Erie, PA 16508) 1 PM . Werner Books offers a 20% discount on books purchased for the book club.

Apr 27 (Sat) - Colors Unity Annual Spring Dinner (St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 109 S Barry St, Olean, NY 14760) 4 PM - 7 PM. Members: free. Non-Members: \$5 single/\$8 couple/\$12 family. RSVP with attendance count and dish to pass.

Apr 27 (Sat) - Erie Trans Picnics Makeup Class (Compton's Table, 3104 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 6 PM. We are hosting a community-led makeup class for all genders and ages. Already really good at makeup? Come share your skills! Just starting out? Come learn some fun tricks with some fellow trans people! Need help picking out makeup before the event? DM us! We're here to help you.

May 1 (Tue) - LGBTQIA+ Recovery Support Group (UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Safe Harbor, 1330 W 26th St, Erie, PA) 5 PM - 6 PM. Our mission is to provide a supportive and empowering space for LGBTQIA+ individuals who are dealing with substance use disorders. We strive to create an inclusive, strengths-based community where participants can find understanding, acceptance, and inspiration to overcome any challenges they may be facing. Through support, education, and resources, we aim to foster personal growth, resilience, and long-term recovery. For more information about the LGBTQIA+ Recovery Support Group, please call 814-451-2246.

May 1 (Wed) - Erie's Queer Happy Hour (Oasis Pub, 3122 W Lake Rd, Erie, PA 16505) 6 PM - 9 PM. This event will be held in the backroom at Oasis. This event is open to everyone. However, those under 18 years of age will need a guardian to attend. In accordance with State law, only those 21+ can have alcoholic beverages.

May 1 (Wed) - LGBTQ+ Drum Circle (St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 410 North Main Street, Jamestown, NY 14701) 7 PM - 8:30 PM.

May 2 (Thu) - Lotz of Tea with Mona 7 PM. With co-host Large Marge. Live streaming on Facebook, YouTube, and TikTok. Browse to <https://www.facebook.com/LotzofTea>.

May 3 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) meets (El Amigo Mexican Grill, 333 State St, Erie, PA) 6 PM - 8 PM. All Are Welcome!

May 3 (Fri) - I F*cked You In My Spaceship by Louis Emmitt-Stern (Compass Performing Arts Center, 545 Elmwood Ave, Buffalo, NY 14222) By Buffalo United

ABC's

of Building Better Lives

Mary Lynn Rote, LPC, CADC
Rob Giannamore, LPC • Charen Pasky, LCSW
Jillian Rhoades, LCSW • Ashley Gleason, LPC
Alen Melik-Adamyany, LCSW
Samantha Marcinko, LPC • Mark Gardner, LPC
Sara Allegretto, LPC • Marcia Anderson, LPC

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Artists. Two couples each invite a stranger into their homes in the hope of sparking new life. Instead, they find themselves threatened by invasion.

May 4 (Sat) - Erie Trans Picnics: Zoo Day (Erie Zoo, 423 W 38th St, Erie, PA 16508) 2 PM - 5 PM. Join us at the Erie Zoo for a relaxing afternoon with the animals. All ages and genders welcome. Meet at 2 in the courtyard just after the front gates.

May 5 (Sun) - International Family Equality Day (IFED) Celebrates the Diversity of Families globally. The Council of Europe recognises the IFED as an important tool to combat homophobia and transphobia and to promote a tolerant and cohesive society. Browse to <http://internationalfamilyequalityday.org/>.

May 5 (Sun) - Aging With Pride planning meeting (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 1 PM.

May 5 (Sun) - Full Spectrum LGBTQIA+ Youth Peer Support & Social Group meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 4 PM - 5 PM. Ages 14-17, under 14 with signed parental consent form. Phone: (234) 254-8924.

May 8 (Wed) - Aging with Pride Game Night (Werner Books & Coffee, 3608 Liberty St, Erie, PA 16508) 5-8

PM. Bring games and/or cards with you or just come to play what others bring.

May 11 (Sat) - ASCEND Erie Affinity Session for QFTW (ASCEND Erie, 426 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM - 8 PM. Join ASCEND as we celebrate our diverse communities with Affinity Sessions - climbing sessions dedicated to individuals who haven't always had equal access to or treatment within the sport. It's a space dedicated to intentional inclusivity, not exclusivity, and we invite you to participate and be a part of these efforts. Sessions are the second Saturday of the month and alternate between BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) in even-numbered months and QFTW (Queer, Femme, Trans, Women) in odd-numbered months. Please register for session at <https://www.ascendclimbing.com/programs/community/community-schedule> or by contacting the front desk. These FREE climbing sessions are intended only for those in our community who identify with these affinity groups. Rental gear included.

May 13 (Mon) - Deadline for Erie Gay News June 2024 print edition (#343) (Erie Gay News, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA 16502-1105) Please have all articles, ads, and submissions in by this date. This issue will be released on the evening of Tuesday, May 21.

May 13 (Mon) - Erie County Democratic Party LGBTQIA+ Caucus meets via Zoom (Zoom) 7 PM. General meeting on Zoom. Voting members must be a registered Democrat living in Erie County. Straight/cisgender allies welcome! Contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or mmahler@eriedems.com for Zoom meeting info.

May 14 (Tue) - ASCEND Erie Queer Scouts Climbing Club (ASCEND Erie, 426 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM - 8 PM. Queer Scouts is an LGBTQ+ climbing club with the goal of creating connection and a safer and more inclusive community. Just look for the Queer Scout mascot, the tiny rainbow unicorn! Bring your authentic self and enjoy an evening of climbing and fun! We'll climb some walls and get to know each other. Club meetups are open to allies as well! Enjoy a discounted day pass when you attend a club meetup, and look out for our FREE QFTW Affinity Sessions every other month. No climbing experience is necessary, and your climbing shoes and chalk rental are free the first time you visit ASCEND. Check out the full club's schedule at [AscendClimbing.com/programs/community/community-schedule](https://www.ascendclimbing.com/programs/community/community-schedule)

May 14 (Tue) - TransFamily of NWPA (Meadville) Transgender Support Group meets (Empowerment with Grace, 941 Federal Ct Ste 104, Meadville, PA 16335) 6:30 PM. For GPS use: the address is 296 Chestnut Street - it's the old post office building. Our

entrance is on the side of the building, off of Federal court (which is the smaller side street.) We are basically across the street from Julian's.

May 14 (Tue) - PFLAG of Chautauqua meeting (Secret Undisclosed Location, 100 E 2nd St 2nd Floor, Jamestown, NY 14701) 6:30 PM. PFLAG of Chautauqua, a support group for allies, loved ones and the entire Queer community. Please visit our Facebook group, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/594395124695283>, or email PFLAGCHQ@GMAIL.COM or call (814) 313-4495 for details.

May 14 (Tue) - Youngstown PFLAG meets (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH 44503) 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM.

May 16 (Thu) - National Honor Our LGBT Elders Day National Honor Our LGBT Elders Day was established to draw awareness to and appreciation of the lifetime of contributions made by LGBT older adults. The gains made in recent years toward LGBT equality sit squarely on the backs of those whose struggles and victories, extraordinary courage and everyday authenticity pioneered the path toward freedom. National Honor Our LGBT Elders Day works to unite the LGBTQ community and its allies to celebrate and thank those individuals who fought on behalf of us all. #LGBTEldersDay Browse to <https://www.lgbtelthersday.org/>.

May 16 (Thu) - Queer Open Mic (Compton's Table, 3104 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 6 PM - 10 PM. Come hang out at our monthly open mics hosted by the awesome, talented, and slaying Gwen Elaine! FREE! BYOB (wrist bands provided for anyone with alcohol). if you want to register as a performer, email info@comptonstable.org

May 16 (Thu) - Lotz of Tea with Mona 7 PM. With co-host Large Marge. Live streaming on Facebook, YouTube, and TikTok.

May 17 (Fri) - International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia & Biphobia First celebrated in 2005, the main purpose of the May 17 mobilizations is to raise awareness of violence, discrimination, and repression of LGBT communities worldwide. Browse to <https://dayagainsthomophobia.org/>.

May 17 (Fri) - Journey: Healing Together - LGBTQ+ Affirmative Game Night (Journey: Healing Together, 201 W. 11th Street, Erie, PA 16501) 5 PM. Gather around 5pm for a couple of hours to geek out with fellow gamers. Ages 18+ choose from a variety of board, card, dice, games. As the group grows, smaller groups can split off and play different games. There are plenty of quiet spaces available to regroup for those of us who can get over stimulated sometimes. Hosted by

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APRIL
is



Child Abuse Prevention & Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Crime Victim Center will be hosting several community events throughout April, beginning with Turn the Courthouse Blue on the 2nd at the Erie County Courthouse. Pinwheels for Prevention with Mayor Schember and the children from Early Connections will take place in front of the stage at Perry Square on the 16th.

Stay tuned to our Facebook to get up-to-date information about other events happening in April.

Crime Victim Center of Erie County

125 West 18th Street

814 455 9414

CVCErie.org

Eric Reiche, Milo Orr, and Leo Ferko, there are opportunities to meet up with friends new and familiar. We are definitely an LGBTQ+ affirming space! Allies and Accomplices welcome! \$5 suggested donation.

May 18 (Sat) - 7th Annual HIV / AIDS Awareness Walk (Perry Square, 6th and State Streets, Erie, PA 16507) 11 AM. The Erie County HIV Task Force invites everyone to participate in the 7th Annual HIV / AIDS Awareness Walk. We will meet at the stage in East Perry Square, 575 State Street, Erie, PA, at 11 AM. Step off is at 11:30 AM. We will walk around North and South Park Row circling Perry Square and everyone is encouraged to wear red to help raise HIV awareness. PA Thrive Partnership is providing on-site HIV testing. All ages are welcome and the event is child and pet friendly. (Please be prepared to clean up after your own pets.) People participating as organizations are welcome to represent their group/organization. If you don't wish to walk the entire route, you are welcome to join us at any point along the sidewalk around Perry Square

May 18 (Sat) - Journey: Healing Together - LGBTQ+ Crafternoon (Journey: Healing Together, 201 W. 11th Street, Erie, PA 16501) 11 AM - 2 PM. CottageCore and Curious Crafter's alike are welcome! Journey: Healing Together hosts a casual time of crafting and conversation. Crafting is a great anxiety reducer and being around great people while you're creating is even better! We are a Queer-Affirming space so LGBTQ+, Allies and Accomplices are welcome! \$5 suggested donation per person or \$10 max per family (Children welcome, although we do not provide any childcare or facilitation). Phone: (814) 867-5309. Browse to <https://journeyht.org/>.

May 18 (Sat) - HIV Vaccine Awareness Day This day is a chance to thank the volunteers, community members, health professionals, and scientists working together to find a safe and effective preventive HIV vaccine. It is also a time to educate communities about the importance of preventive HIV vaccine research. National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) leads this observance. #HVAD Browse to <https://www.niaid.nih.gov/>.

May 18 (Sat) - WNY Pride 5K Fun Run/Walk and LGBTQ+ Health and Wellness Fair (Niagara County Community College, 3111 Saunders Settlement Rd, Sanborn, NY 14132) 9 AM - 2 PM. We are merging our WNY LGBTQ+ Health and Wellness Fair into the WNY Pride 5K to create an event focused on LGBTQ+ health and well-being. This is fun run/walk, so you can run, strut, or sashay your way across the finish line! Featured Drag Performer at the WNY Pride 5K is Buffalo's own and legendary ... Freddie Hercury!

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May 18 (Sat) - Aging with Pride Book Club - The Sweetness of Water by Nathan Harris (Werner Books & Coffee 3608 Liberty St, Erie, PA 16508) 1 PM . Werner Books offers a 20% discount on books purchased for the book club.

May 19 (Sun) - Agender Pride Day To be agender means to not identify as any particular gender. Agender is also called genderblank , genderfree, genderless, gendervoid, non-gendered, ungendered, or null gender. The agender identity falls under the nonbinary umbrella and (sometimes) the transgender umbrella.

May 19 (Sun) - National Asian & Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day A national campaign to end silence and shame about HIV/AIDS in Asian and Pacific Islander communities. #APIMay19 Browse to <http://www.banyantreeproject.org/>.

May 19 (Sun) - Aging With Pride planning meeting (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 1 PM.

May 19 (Sun) - Journey: Healing Together - Gentle Yoga with Serene Bear Yoga (Journey: Healing Together, 201 W. 11th Street, Erie, PA 16501) 5 PM.

May 19 (Sun) - Full Spectrum LGBTQIA+ Adult Peer Support Group meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 4 PM - 6 PM. Ages 18+.

May 20 (Mon) - Bears Do Dinner #115 (Location TBA) 6 PM. Join the Bears for a casual dinner of food and conversation! Dinner is on your own. Contact: Peter. Phone: (814) 384-9785.

May 21 (Tue) - Erie County HIV Task Force meets (Hybrid) (Erie County Department of Health (ECDH), 606 W 2nd St, Erie, PA 16507) 1 PM. The Erie County HIV Task Force is a collaboration of local organizations and individuals dedicated to educating, supporting, and advocating for people living with HIV/AIDS and preventing the spread of infection.

May 21 (Tue) - Erie Gay News folding/distribution work party (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 7 PM. Help us get out the print edition of Erie Gay News. Volunteers are very much welcome and needed!

May 21 (Tue) - LGBTQIA+ Recovery Support Group (UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Safe Harbor, 1330 W 26th St, Erie, PA) 5 PM - 6 PM. For more information about the LGBTQIA+ Recovery Support Group, please call 814-451-2246.

May 22 (Wed) - Harvey Milk Day Celebrated to honor Harvey Milk, assassinated politician, on his birthday, it is celebrated officially in California, Milk's home state. Browse to <http://milkfoundation.org/>.

May 22 (Wed) - LGBTQ+ and Allies Happy Hour

- All welcome (Julian's Bar & Grill, 299 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA 16335) 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM.

May 23 (Thu) - Mild to Wild Discussion Group (Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County, 31 Water Street Suite 7, Jamestown, NY 14701) 6 PM - 7:30 PM. Mild to Wild is a discussion group about sex and substance use designed for gay and bisexual men and folks of trans experience. Meets in person at MHA and also on Zoom.

May 24 (Fri) - Pansexual and Panromantic Awareness and Visibility Day This is a day to celebrate the pansexual and panromantic community and educate others on the community. Browse to <https://thepancommunity.tumblr.com/faq>.

May 25 (Sat) - Pride Prom 2024 (Ambassador Banquet & Conference Center, 7794 Peach Street, Erie, PA 16509) 7 PM - 11 PM. Tickets are \$30. (\$25 If purchased prior to 4/1/24) This event is open to anyone 18 years of age and older. Appetizers and cash bar (21+ only) will be available. Music will be provided by DJ Dave Rapp. For the safety of those in attendance, security has been hired.

May 26 (Sun) - Pittsburgh Pride Bigger Gayer Picnic (Allegheny Commons Park West, 810 Arch St, Pittsburgh, PA 15212) 1 PM - 7 PM. MUST BE 18+ TO ATTEND / 21+ TO DRINK. MUST HAVE PROPER ID TO ATTEND. NO OUTSIDE LIQUOR OR BEER IS PERMITTED AT THIS EVENT/. Join us for an exceptional Memorial Day weekend at our Inaugural Event, the BIGGER GAYER PICNIQ. We guarantee an unforgettable experience as your admission provides access to a delightful picnic buffet showcasing an array of options, including vegan options. As well as a phenomenal drag extravaganza at 4 pm. Quench your thirst at our bars, offering a selection of your favorite cocktails, beers, and seltzers. Complimentary soft drinks and water will also be readily available. Please bear in mind to consume responsibly and ensure a safe journey home - never drink and drive. Let's come together to make this Memorial Day weekend truly special!

May 28 (Tue) - ASCEND Erie Queer Scouts Climbing Club (ASCEND Erie, 426 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM - 8 PM. Queer Scouts is an LGBTQ+ climbing club with the goal of creating connection and a safer and more inclusive community. Just look for the Queer Scout mascot, the tiny rainbow unicorn!

May 30 (Thu) - Aging with Pride Social (Underdog BBQ, 2714 W 8th St, Erie PA) 6 PM - 8 PM. Aging with Pride, an organization of senior LGBT+ members and allies, is hosting a social. This organization develops and sponsors social/recreational and educational events to promote healthy leisure activities, community and

an active, enjoyable lifestyle.

May 30 (Thu) - Teen Trans support group meets (G.A. Family Services, 210 Gustavus Ave, Jamestown, NY 14701) 5 PM.

Jun 1 - 30 (Sat - Sun) - LGBT Pride Month June is celebrated as Pride in honor of the Stonewall Riots, though Pride events occur all year round. It also marks the month that same-sex marriage was legalized in the United States.

Jun 2 (Sun) - Aging with Pride planning meeting (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 1 PM - 3 PM. Planning meetings are open to anyone interested in helping to plan activities for Aging with Pride.

Jun 2 (Sun) - Full Spectrum LGBTQIA+ Youth Peer Support & Social Group meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 4 PM - 6 PM. Ages 14-17, under 14 with signed parental consent form.

Jun 4 (Tue) - LGBTQIA+ Recovery Support Group (UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Safe Harbor, 1330 W 26th St, Erie, PA) 5 PM - 6 PM. For more information about the LGBTQIA+ Recovery Support Group, please call 814-451-2246.

Jun 5 (Wed) - HIV Long-Term Survivors Day This day celebrates and honors long-term survivors of the epidemic and raises awareness of their needs, issues and journeys.

Jun 5 (Wed) - Erie's Queer Happy Hour (Oasis Pub, 3122 W Lake Rd, Erie, PA 16505) 6 PM - 9 PM. Those under 18 years of age will need a guardian to attend. In accordance with State law, only those 21+ can have alcoholic beverages.

Jun 6 (Thu) - Lotz of Tea with Mona 7 PM. With co-host Large Marge. Live streaming on Facebook, YouTube, and TikTok.

Jun 8 (Sat) - Erie Sisters & Brothers Transgender Group Bimonthly Meeting (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Highway, Erie, PA 16508) 5 PM - 9 PM. Changing rooms will be available if needed.

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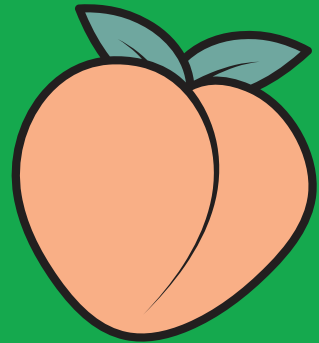
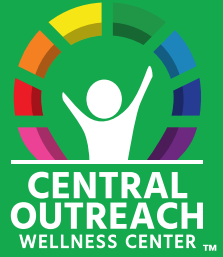
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