



Calendar

*Please note that this calendar is also online at
www.eriegaynews.com/calendar.html*

Nov 20-23 - 4th Annual Lake Erie Gala (Transgender Event) (Erie PA) "The Erie Sisters Transgender Support Group proudly present the 4th Annual Lake Erie Gala from November 21-23, 2002." For more info, browse to www.eriesisters.org/GALA1.html or email eriesisters@eriesisters.org.

Nov 23 - 15th Annual Lambda Foundation Ball "Puttin' on the Ritz" (Grand Hall at the Priory, 614 Pressley St., Pittsburgh PA) The 15th Annual Lambda Ball "Puttin' on the Ritz" will be held Saturday, November 23 2002 from 7 PM to midnight. The Lambda Foundation is a charitable/non profit organization that raises and manages funds for the GLBT community. This year's Lambda Ball will be held at Pittsburgh's Grand Hall at the Priory, located at 614 Pressley Street on the North Side of Pittsburgh. For more info, browse to www.lambdapgh.com/lambda_ball.htm, call (412) 521-5444 or email lambdapgh@mail.com.

Nov 29 - Drag Performance: Denise Russell (The Zone, 1711 State St., Erie PA) For more info, call (814) 459-1711 or browse to www.zonedanceclub.com.

Nov 30 - 2nd Annual Masquer-AIDS Benefit Ball (The Village, 133 W 18th, Erie PA) "This is the big one. We'll have lists of discounts available for hotel rooms, tuxes and flowers, maybe even limo rates this year! Drag out your ball gowns (no pun intended) and those cummerbunds and join for an elegant evening that will benefit local AIDS related charities. Let see if we can top last year!" For more info, call (814) 452-0125 or browse to www.thevillageerie.com.

Dec 1 - World AIDS Day See article on page 15.

Dec 4 - "Always Our Children" meets (Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St., Erie PA) Support group for Catholic parents of gay children (814) 456-2091.

Dec 7 - Menspace meets (Tom & Marshall's new home, Erie PA) Gay/bi men's social group. Contact Michael at info@eriegaynews.com or (814) 456-9833.

Dec 8 - Jazz Brunch (The Village, 133 W 18th, Erie PA) "We'll be cooking up some wonderful stuff especially for our loyal brunch fans!" For more info, call (814) 452-0125 or browse to www.thevillageerie.com.



In This Issue...

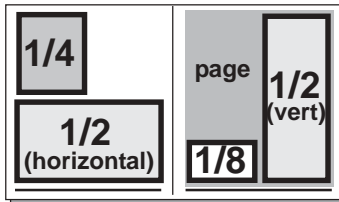
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On the Cover...

"Wiping Off the Family Car"
sketch by: Mike Miller



EGN Ad Rates



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Page	\$160 (\$144 prepaid)	7-1/2" high X 6" wide

call 456-9833 or email info@eriegaynews.com
 Deadline for ads is the 15th



Erie Gay News
 1115 West 7th St.
 Erie PA 16502-1105

(814) 456-9833

info@eriegaynews.com
www.eriegaynews.com

Deadline: the 15th of each month.

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

We welcome and encourage all readers to submit timely news, comments and opinions of interest to local GLBT's for publication in these pages. We will consider for publication any nonfiction article, blurb or illustration graphic which upholds this spirit. Please include your contact information with any piece that you submit.

We will not publish any material which promotes hatred or discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identification, race, religion, age, class, physical ability or any other reason. We do not support the exploitation of minors.

Views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the EGN staff.

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Thank You:

To all of those who have already helped to bring Erie Gay News back up and running for the local GLBT community by sending in submissions, group and event information, advertising, new subscriptions, and help with proofing and collating.

Thanks.

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Dec 9 - PFLAG Erie/Crawford County Meets (UU Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA) See Regularly Meeting Groups section at end of Calendar for details.

Dec 10 - Straight Spouse Network of PFLAG (Call for location) PFLAG has a national and now also a local group called Straight Spouse Network for people whose spouses come out as GLBT. See Regularly Meeting Groups section for PFLAG contact info. Also see PFLAG News article on page 8.

Dec 13 - Trigon Off campus meeting (open to all student/youth) (Call for location) 6 PM. Meeting is open to non-Behrend students/youth and will be held off campus. Contact Abbey Atkinson/Trigon at (814) 898-7162 or trigonpsu@hotmail.com for details.

Dec 14 - Menspace Holiday Party (Grant's, Butler PA) Gay/bi men's social group. Contact Michael Mahler at info@eriegaynews.com or (814) 456-9833.

Dec 14 - 10% Network meets: Christmas Party (John Schillner's, 201 Lakeview Dr, Jamestown NY) Bring a dish to pass and donation for pizza. Contact Don or Martin at (716) 484-9659 or donjaye@hotmail.com for details or with questions, or browse to <http://jamestowntenpercent.tripod.com>.

Dec 15 - Deadline for January print edition of Erie Gay News! Be sure to have articles, calendar entries, ads, etc in by this date. Contact Michael Mahler at info@eriegaynews.com or (814) 456-9833.

Dec 20 - Peppermint Ball (The Zone, 1711 State St., Erie PA) "Santa's helpers and the ladies of the Zone put on a spectacular holiday show just for you!" For more info, call (814) 459-1711 or browse to www.zonedanceclub.com.

Dec 21 & 22 - Concert: "We Wish You the Merriest" (Cleveland OH) Part of North Coast Men's Chorus (NMC) 15th Anniversary. Concert performed Saturday at 8 PM and Sunday at 3 PM at Cleveland State University's Waetjen Auditorium, Music and Communications Bldg, 2001 Euclid Ave at E 21st St., Cleveland OH. "Join the chorus for their annual holiday concerts, bringing you mirth and merriment in a way that only NCMC can." Tickets available at www.tickets.com or by calling (800) 766-6048. Single ticket price: \$15 in advance / \$20 at the door.

Dec 21 - Naughty or Nice Underwear and Pajama Party (The Zone, 1711 State St., Erie PA) "Santa wants to know how you behaved this year! Wear "Naughty" Christmas underwear or "Nice" warm sleepwear! Gifts

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to all who *participate*! ...coal to those who don't! Fun for *all*! Merry Christmas from the Zone!" For more info, call (814) 459-1711 or browse the Zone's web site at www.zonedanceclub.com.

Dec 21 - Annual Christmas Show and Party (The Village, 133 W 18th, Erie PA) For more info, call (814) 452-0125 or browse to www.thevillageerie.com.

Dec 31 - New Year's Eve Dance Escape (Perry Hi Way Hose Co, 8170 Peach St., Erie PA) Perry Hi-Way Hose Company, 8270 Peach Street, 8 PM - 1 AM. \$8.00 admission at the door (no ticket sale). Some veggie trays and cheese & cracker trays included in price. BYOB (no bar available, ice is available.) Must be 21 years of age. Music provided by DJ Jill (bring your favorite CD). Contact danceescape@lycos.com. See article page 13.

Dec 31 - New Year's Eve Gay-La! (The Village, 133 W 18th, Erie PA) For more info, call (814) 452-0125 or browse to www.thevillageerie.com.

Dec 31 - New Year's Eve Blast! (The Zone, 1711 State St., Erie PA) "We saved the best for last! Join your friends as we ring in the New Year! Champagne toast and Midnight buffet! Get ready for more fun in

2003! Happy New Year to all!" For more info, call (814) 459-1711 or browse to www.zonedanceclub.com.

Jan 11 - 10% Network meets: Porn Swap (Rob & Jonathan's on Lakeview Dr, Jamestown NY) Bring a dish to pass. Contact Don or Martin at (716) 484-9659 or donjaye@hotmail.com for details/questions or browse <http://jamestowntenpercent.tripod.com>.

Jan 13 - PFLAG Erie/Crawford County Meets (UU Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA) See Regularly Meeting Groups section for details.

Jan 14 - Straight Spouse Network of PFLAG (Call for location) See Regularly Meeting Groups section for PFLAG contact info.

Jan 19 - Ecumenical Service: Witness Our Welcome (Erie PA) You are invited to attend the worship service of Third Sunday WOW (Witness Our Welcome) - an informal, confidential, ecumenical welcoming worship group that offers Christian community and affirming fellowship for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and their supporters. A pot luck dinner will follow the service. Please bring a dish to share. Please bring a friend and help spread the word about the services. Third Sunday of July, and September always at 5 PM with communion, and always followed by a pot luck. The services are some of the most awesome and Spirit-filled those who attend have ever experienced. Questions: Robin Cuneo, cuneo@cecomet.net, Rev. Lyta Seddig, rseddig@allegheny.edu

Regularly Meeting Groups

Be Ye Kind One To Another (BYKOTA) Non-denominational Christian group for GLBT people. Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month from 7 to 9 PM at the Unitarian-Universalist Church in Meadville, 346 Chestnut St. (on Diamond Park, corner of Chestnut and South Main St.), Meadville PA. Contact Lyta Seddig at rseddig@allegheny.edu for details.

Erie Sisters Club (ESC) (CD/TV/TS/TG) 4th Saturday of the month at accepting establishments. Changing facilities available. For more info write to 1903 W 8th St. Ste 162, Erie PA 16505-4936, browse www.eriesisters.org or email eriesisters@eriesisters.org.

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and we'll print it in our pages.*

GLBT AA Group Currently on hiatus. For more info, contact Bernie at (814) 459-7262 (home) or (814) 452-3935 (work) or bredright@velocity.net.

HIV/AIDS Support Group Meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 7 to 8:30 at St. Mark's. Call Cheryl Weber at the St. Martin Center at (814) 452-6113 ext 20 for more info.

HIV Counseling and Testing (Free) Erie County Department of Health, 606 W 2nd St., Erie PA. Mondays 12 to 3:30 PM, Thursdays 9:30 AM to 1 PM. For more info, call ECDH at (814) 451-6727. Other times can be arranged.

Identity/EUP Edinboro University GLBT and allies groups. Meets Thursdays at 8 PM in Butterfield Hall, room 213. Also has open movie night every Friday at 8 PM. Contact Alana Atchinson at (814) 732-2019 or aatchinson@edinboro.edu or Gerry Hoffman at (814) 732-2813 or ghoffman@edinboro.edu for more info or browse to www.angelfire.com/pa5/identityeup/.

Mercyhurst Rainbow Club Meets in room 205 of Old Main the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 8 PM. Student/faculty group open to non-Mercyhurst folks as well. For more info, call Jason at (814) 572-5590, or email freakyhippoboy@aol.com.

PFLAG Erie/Crawford County PFLAG-ERIE/CRAWFORD COUNTY: Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) support group meets second Monday each month, 7 - 9 PM at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Hwy (Rte 97), Erie PA. Also has Straight Spouse Network focus group that meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month (call for location for this meeting.) Call Maureen (814)-898-8341, email pflagerie@adelphia.net or write to PFLAG-Erie, PO Box 133, Harborcreek PA 16421-0133 for details.

Pride & Respect for Youth in Sexual Minority (PRYSM) (Western NY) PRYSM provides a safe and comfortable meeting place for 14-20 year-old lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning youth, and their straight allies. Southern Chautauqua County group meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month. The Northern Chautauqua County group meets on the third Monday of each month. For more info, phone (716) 485-8628. Web: www.gaychautauqua.org/youth.htm or email: cwhite2@alltel.net.

Trigon (Penn State University - Behrend, Multi-Cultural Center Suite, Erie PA) 12:15 PM on Thursdays. GLBT/Allies group at Behrend. Contact Abbey Atkinson/Trigon at trigonpsu@hotmail.com or at (814) 898-7162 for details.

Working together;

Organizing activities;

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Delivering messages of compassion and hope;

Aggressively promoting awareness and education;

Implementing prevention programs;

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Strengthening the effort to stop the spread;

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Funding provided by the PA Department of Health, Northwest PA Rural AIDS Alliance and the Erie County Government.

World AIDS Day December 1

2002

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Erie County Department
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Phone: (814) 451-6727
Email: aidsed@ecdh.org

A listing of World AIDS Day
activities for Erie is available on
the internet at www.ecdh.org

PFLAG News

from PFLAG-Erie/Crawford County

National Convention

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) held its national convention, "Family Voices for Equality," in Columbus, Ohio, on September 27 - 29th, 2002. PFLAG's new Executive Director, David Tseng, gave the welcoming address. He is the first openly gay person to head PFLAG. Three members of PFLAG's Erie and Crawford Counties Chapter, Marcha Vecchio, Jason Miller and Maureen Koseff, attended. The conference was invigorating, and left us with a commitment to work harder to support GLBT people and end discrimination against them, especially our GLBT youth. Each day was filled with very professionally-run, inspiring and practical workshops, dealing with such topics as GLBT youth, PFLAG's safe schools program, how to organize a PFLAG chapter, transgender issues, leadership skills development, etc. Networking is always an important feature of conferencing. Jason plans to use what he learned from the conference to establish a gay-straight alliance at his school, the University of Pittsburgh in Titusville. Maureen will implement what she learned to improve management and effectiveness of her chapter and initiate work on a safe schools program in Erie. Marcha has already begun to make use of her contacts and information to increase her effectiveness as our chapter's Transgender Coordinator-Director (TCORD), as well as serve regional needs. She is also spearheading our chapter's involvement in development of PFLAG's Pennsylvania State Council. (More info in later issues. Start saving your money, the next national conference will be in Salt Lake City, Utah, October 22-24, 2004, at the Little America Hotel.)

Contacting PFLAG:

PFLAG-Erie and Crawford Counties,
P.O. Box 133
Harborcreek, PA 16421-0133
(814)-898-8341, ask for Maureen
pflagerie@adelphia.net

PFLAG Erie and Crawford Counties Chapter is proud to announce that **Marcha Denise Vecchio** was named **Regional Transgender Network Director** for PFLAG's North-Atlantic Region, which encompasses New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. Her new position was announced at the conference by Mary Boenke, national Director of PFLAG's Transgender Network. Marcha well deserves this recognition, and is already working with Tony Pumo, PFLAG's Mid-Atlantic Regional Director. Marcha will oversee all the chapters in her region as their coordinator for transgender issues.

Membership

We are making you an offer you shouldn't refuse!!!! **Join PFLAG as a new member and get a \$5 discount on your subscription to *Erie Gay News*.** This offer is good through December, 2002. To join, send your name, address, telephone number, email address, along with a total of \$35 (\$20 for single person membership and \$15 for discounted newsletter subscription), or \$40 (\$25 for 2-person household membership and \$15 for discounted newsletter subscription). Make your check payable to PFLAG/Erie. Send it to: PFLAG-Erie and Crawford Counties, P.O. Box 133, Harborcreek, PA 16421-0133.

Meetings

We meet the second Monday of each month, 7 - 9 PM at the Universalist Unitarian Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy. (Route 97, just north of exit 27 off route 90). This is an informal support group meeting. Our next meeting will be Monday, December 9.

We have discontinued our monthly meetings in Meadville because of poor attendance. We plan to have "ad hoc" meetings for Crawford County. Our November meeting will be at the Titusville campus of U. of Pitt. Please call for information (814-898-8341).

New additional support group! PFLAG National has a Straight Spouse Network. This is for straight partners of those going through the coming out process. PFLAG-Erie and Crawford Counties has started a local support group for this particular group. We held our first support group meeting for straight spouses of GLBT people on October 15. The next meeting will be December 10th. Call for directions.

Michael Dithers: Yup, We're Back

by Michael Mahler

So, some of you may be wondering, "why the heck are they doing this again?" It is a fair amount of work putting out a monthly print edition newsletter. However, there is a certain response, a permanence that comes from paper held in your hand that just isn't the same as a website. We will still maintain the website and email list as well. (Actually, the different ways of presenting information tend to complement each other quite nicely.)

The importance of a physical, tactile newsletter was driven home a while ago when I got a call from someone that we had contacted for advertising/distributing. When she was looking over the letter we sent, a gay youth happened to notice it, and remarked that there wasn't anything for gay youth locally. One of the reasons that we did this before, and are doing it again, is to help people find resources, friends and community.

For those of you who may not have been around, we published a print edition from January of 1993 through December of 1999, a total of 7 years. Deb Spilko, who is again writing/editing for this publication, was involved for all but the last year of the previous run. Mike Miller, who has terrific layout, artistic and writing skills, was involved for all but the first year. I had been doing a monthly newsletter for a medieval/renaissance group for about 5 1/2 years immediately before the first run of Erie Gay News. At one point, I realized that I had spent roughly 1/3 of my life doing a monthly newsletter. Ouch! But I'm much better now, and am really looking forward to this project.

It will take a lot of work and time, but I have to admit that when Mike had laid out the promotional issue of *Erie Gay News* that we had at the September Pride Rally, I felt a slight flush of "I missed you!" when we had the copies on the table. Silly, but true. It's going to be a bit of a challenge to integrate what worked when we did this before with what will work/needs to happen now. We are hoping for everyone's support.

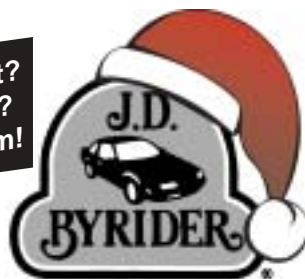
**Have a Happy, Peaceful
& Safe Holiday Season!**

It was also really amusing how many people expressed anticipation about helping out at the collating/folding work parties. In a maybe-not-so odd way, I really felt that people were able to connect with each other, and have a good time while doing something genuinely useful. If you'd like to get involved, give us a call at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com.

Just recently, I went to the first meeting of the Straight Spouse Network that PFLAG is forming as an additional support group. Great big huggies to Maureen Koseff for her tireless efforts to help our community! It went pretty well, and I think that the group is off to a great start. I talked with my mom just before the meeting. Some of you may be aware that my late father was bisexual. My mom shared that dealing with a non-straight spouse is indeed rather different than dealing with other family/friend relationships. If you know of anyone in this situation that would benefit, please contact Maureen at (814) 898-8341 or email pflagerie@adelphia.net.

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Hate Crime Bill

On November 12, 2002 PA House Bill 1493, the inclusive amendment to the state's Hate Crimes law, was voted out of the Pennsylvania House of Representative's Judiciary Committee by a 16-5 vote. The bill extends the state's law to include sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, mental and physical disability, and ancestry.

The House Majority Leader, Rep. John Perzel, has stated that the bill will go to the floor for a vote in November, before the end of session. The bill is likely to be voted on the week of November 18-22.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please call your Pennsylvania Representative and ask them to vote for House Bill 1493 unamended. When you call your legislator, you don't need to say anything other than asking them to vote for the bill. They will sometimes ask you for your address. That is just to verify that the caller is in the district that the legislator represents. They don't call you back.

To find your legislator, either browse to www.house.state.pa.us or call 717-787-2372.

The bill has already passed the Senate and Governor Schweiker has said he will sign the bill if it passes the House. You can help make this a reality by contacting your representative ASAP.

This is a very quick and easy thing that you can do to help. If the bill doesn't pass in the short "lame-duck" session, then the entire process will need to start over. If enough of us work quickly together, we can succeed!

NY State Gay Rights Vote

Information from Empire State Pride Agenda

Currently, it is perfectly legal in New York State to be fired from your job, evicted from your apartment, refused service in a restaurant, or denied a home loan simply because you are gay or perceived to be gay. The Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act (SONDA) would remedy this by amending the already-existing state human rights laws to include sexual orientation. The law already protects against discrimination on the basis of race, religion, sex, and marital status for employment, housing, public accommodations, education, and credit.

On October 22nd, 2002, State Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno released a statement to the media saying that the Senate will be returning to session in December and "will bring the Sexual Orientation Non Discrimination Act to the floor for a vote." While the State Assembly has passed the bill by ever expanding margins for close to a decade, this marks the first time that the State Senate has scheduled a vote on SONDA.

While there are enough senators on record in support of the bill, enemies of equality will undoubtedly organize a vociferous campaign to try to change their minds. Our supporters need to be solidified, and those on the fence need to be convinced to vote to outlaw discrimination against lesbian and gay New Yorkers.

Now is the time to tell your New York State Senator to support SONDA. For information on who to contact, for more information on SONDA, or to receive updates, visit the website of the Empire State Pride Agenda www.prideagenda.org.



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Pennsylvania Elections

By Deb Spilko

The following is not a comprehensive treatment of the elections—and it does involve some value judgments—but it also provides some information on races of most interest to our Pennsylvania readers. More detailed information can be found through the information sources listed at the end of this article.

Governor

"Every Pennsylvania citizen is equal under the law. I will be governor for every Pennsylvanian"—Ed Rendell.

GLBT activists celebrated the victory of Democratic candidate **Ed Rendell** in the race for governor of Pennsylvania. Rendell has a proven track record—dating back to the 1970s—as an advocate for GLBT rights. In 1982, while serving as Philadelphia District Attorney, he testified at City Council when they considered legislation banning sexual orientation discrimination in housing and employment, and publicly congratulated City Council when they passed the legislation. As mayor of Philadelphia, he signed three laws granting equal benefits to domestic partners of city employees; in 1992 he signed an executive order prohibiting the city from doing business with Colorado after that state amended its constitution to prohibit GLBT rights legislation. He has promised that as governor he will work to create hate crimes legislation that includes sexual orientation, and has also stated his commitment to extend domestic partner benefits to all state workers. And he has been very open with his support for the GLBT community, participating in rallies, festivals and other events. At Central Pennsylvania's 2001 Fall Achievement Event, he stated,

"My biggest role would be to go to events and help this community get recognition. They work, pay taxes, vote, are involved in their communities, don't commit much crime. They are great citizens and we need to recognize that."

Rendell's Republican opponent and closest contender in the race, **Mike Fisher**, posed a contrast. Although he has repeatedly changed his position on hate crimes legislation, in other areas his feelings were quite clear. He has opposed same-sex or domestic partner legislation, and as Attorney General failed to take any effective action in the violent antigay harassment campaign against the Casa Nova bar in Somerset County.

3rd Congressional District

Probably the most interesting race took place between Green Party candidate **AnnDrea Benson** and Republican incumbent **Phil English**. Benson had been a longtime supporter and advocate for GLBT rights—the only candidate who spoke at the 2002 Erie Pride Parade, and she had played an important part in



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PFLAG-TNET marchadenise@hotmail.com

North Atlantic Transgender Coordinator

the creation and passage of the revised Human Relations Commission ordinance that included sexual orientation as a protected category. The Human Rights Campaign—a national GLBT rights organization — rated English 33% (out of a possible 100) in their legislator Scorecard.

From the beginning, English had dismissed Benson as a “fringe candidate,” but his campaign revealed a fair level of concern about Benson, who was his only opponent. He repeatedly refused to debate Benson, offering a variety of questionable reasons. Toward the end of the campaign, his campaign sent out a fundraising letter that called Benson “dangerous,” and made inflammatory allegations steeped in rightwing rhetoric. The final tally for the election was English 116,712 (77.8%), Benson 33,313 (22.2%). Benson set a record for the highest percentage reached by a congressional candidate running in the Green Party. As with so many races, the disparity in funds put English at an advantage: English raised close to a million dollars, and spent \$592,009 (62% of his money was from PACs) while Benson, who refused to take PAC money, raised a little more than \$14,000 and spent \$7,037.

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PA House

Linda Bebko Jones won another term as Representative to the 1st District, easily defeating Republican challenger **Bill Stephany**. From the beginning of her tenure, Jones has been a strong supporter of and advocate for GLBT rights, cosponsoring legislation targeting hate crimes as well as legislation prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation. She supports the state Supreme Court's decision to allow second-parent adoptions, and was endorsed by NOW.

In District 3, Republican incumbent **Karl Boyes** defeated Democratic challenger **Donna Snyder**. Snyder had declared to the League of Gay and Lesbian Voters, “I am a strong supporter of gay and lesbian rights,” noted that she had worked with gay and lesbian foster parents who were planning to adopt, and supports the state Supreme Court's decision to allow second-parent adoptions. Karl Boyes had cosponsored hate crimes legislation, but also voted to ban recognition of same-sex marriage and voted to bar state-related universities from providing health benefits to domestic partners.

In District 6, Republican **Teresa Forcier** defeated Democratic candidate **Jean Jones** in one of the most intense ad campaigns in the state. Forcier's television ads proclaimed her rightwing views, identified her as “Conservative - Teresa Forcier,” attacked her opponent as a “Liberal” and belittled her endorsement by NOW. Although NOW's candidate scorecard shows that Forcier is opposed to NOW's stands on their other issues (family planning, welfare, vouchers and affirmative action), it lists Forcier's position on GLBT rights as unknown. The League of Gay and Lesbian Voters found that she cosponsored legislation to prohibit same-sex marriage and voted to prohibit state-related universities from providing health benefits to domestic partners of their employees. The *LGLV Voters' Guide* also asserts that Forcier has “strong ties to rightwing radical militia groups known to be racist and anti-lesbigay.”

Sources:

Philadelphia Gay News www.epgn.com/
SPARC, www.sparc-pa.org
League of Gay and Lesbian Voters (PA) www.lglv.org/
Pennsylvania NOW www.panow.org/
Project Vote Smart www.vote-smart.org/
Human Rights Campaign www.hrc.org/
Green Party www.greens.org/elections/

Entertainment Notes

by Deb Spilko

Dance Escape

Cheryl Sealy wanted to provide a smoke-free alternative for GLBT people, so she created Dance Escape. I haven't had the chance to make it to either of the dances she held this year, but people who have gone said it was a really good time. "Everyone seemed to have a blast at both dances," said one woman. "It's such a nice alternative."

"More women than men attend," said Cheryl, "but I definitely want everyone to feel welcome."

The Dance Escape New Year's Eve Dance will be held at Perry Hi-Way Hose Company, 8270 Peach Street (that's just a little south of I-90) and will run from 8 PM to 1 AM. Admission will be \$8.00 and there will be no advance sales of tickets. Music is provided by a DJ and it's BYOB. Some vegetable trays and cheese and crackers will be provided; guests are invited to bring snacks or refreshments if they like. Smoking is permitted outside the building.

Cheryl originally became involved in organizing dances as fundraising events for breast cancer awareness. She decided she enjoyed creating a smoke-free dance environment and is now conducting them as a side business, although there is a 50-50 drawing, with half of the 50-50 going to a charity (the first two 50-50 proceeds went to animal welfare organizations; for New Year's Eve the winner will get to decide which charity will get the other half, provided it is a legitimate charity).

If you're one of those people who'd like to go out but can't stand the smoke, why not try Dance Escape?

Future Dance Escape events will be publicized in EGN and on the Dance Escape website. For more info: danceescape@lycos.com or 814-835-9090. Web: <http://danceescape.tripod.com>

Internet Stuff

EGN is published in print as well as at www.eriegaynews.com. If you want to be able to just click on an address you see here, go to the same article on the website. Also, people who don't have Internet access at home can go to most public libraries now and get set up with free email and Internet access.

Holiday videos

Looking for some holiday-themed DVDs or videos? Here are some selections from years gone by:

What's Cooking? (2000) Intelligent comedy about four diverse families (Jewish, Latino, African-American, and Asian-American) celebrating Thanksgiving. In the Jewish family, the lesbian daughter (Kyra Sedgwick) has brought her "roommate" (Julianna Margulies) home. Lainie Kazan and Maury Chaykin play her parents, with Estelle Harris playing the hilariously tactless aunt.

Home for the Holidays (1995) Directed by Jodie Foster, this comedy watches as Holly Hunter's character comes home to her family for Thanksgiving. Robert Downey, Jr. plays her bratty gay brother; and a star-studded cast puts the fun in dysfunctional.

24 Nights (1999) Okay...it sounds completely silly...Jonathan (Kevin Isola) wants Santa to bring him true love for Christmas. But if you're a fan of romantic comedy, you'll probably enjoy this.



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Holiday Heart (2000) This is mainly included as a holiday movie because it is heartwarming...the story of a churchgoing middle-aged drag queen whose lover has passed away and who tries to make a family with a recovering crack addict and her sweet daughter.

The Judy Garland Show Volume 3: The Christmas Show (1963) Fans of this gay icon will enjoy this, from her television show. Guests include her children Liza Minnelli, Lorna Luft and Joey Luft plus Jack Jones, Mel Torme and Tracy Everitt.

Dance Thread

There's an interesting thread on the MapQuest site for Erie. People were asked, "What's the best dance club near you?" Among the people participating in the thread, the Village and the Zone were mentioned matter-of-factly along with places like the Metro, Rook and other straight spots. One person, for example, offered "i enjoyed rockin in the zone the village and kings rook are cool" Some of those sort of responses were from GLBT people, but others were straight. I only saw one foamy-mouthed homophobe out of almost 200 responses. If you'd like to click on this site, browse to <http://mapquest.digitalcity.com/eriepa/danceclubs/?page=board>.

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New Year's Ease

For a lot of people, New Year's Eve can be an uncomfortable experience... if you aren't into going to a bar or party, you can also end up feeling bummed if you don't do anything. If you are still undecided about what you'll do on New Year's Eve, here are a few possibilities:

The bars and clubs, of course, will be pulling out all the stops. If you'd like to go out to a bar, but don't like the crowds, consider stopping by and leaving earlier. Nobody said you had to be there till midnight. (Check their ads and websites for what they have planned that evening!) Also, there is the Dance Escape mentioned earlier in this column.

If you want to go out but aren't interested in a dance atmosphere, there are restaurants, and perhaps coffeehouses. At this writing, Matthew's Trattoria and papermoon are still taking reservations. I'm not sure what the coffeehouses are doing... if the idea appeals to you, ask your favorite java joint if they'll be open on New Year's Eve.

Have a romantic evening at home with your sweetie. Candlelight supper, romantic video, back rubs... hmmm, warm or hot, this might be the most fun you can have.

Have a few friends over for a mellow evening. Snacks, a couple of friendly games, good conversation, background music and a midnight toast...

You say you're okay sitting and watching the tube but you don't want to bring in another New Year watching Dick Clark's ball drop for the 400th year in a row? Then check out queery.com, which offers day-by-day TV listings of GLBT interest.

Want some ideas for videos? Check tlavideo.com or RainbowQuery.com for really extensive listings of videos of GLBT interest.

Attend a service or gathering of an inclusive/welcoming congregation. Most of them have web sites, you can check the newspaper, or call them to find out if they will be offering a spiritual observance for the New Year.

Reflect on the past year and work on your plans and goals for the New Year.

Clean house. Boy, doesn't that sound sad? And yet in many cultures cleaning house is a New Year custom. Look at it this way—you begin the New Year having accomplished something constructive.

If you are working through alcohol issues, New Year's Eve can be a really rough time. If you don't

want to be around the stuff, you can put on your own alcohol-free gathering, or head to Buffalo or Pittsburgh for their big First Night celebrations.

If you think you'd like to go out of town, consider that Buffalo and Toronto have neighborhoods with a lot of places of GLBT interest, all close together in one spot. Many people in Erie are familiar with Toronto's gay neighborhood (Church Street)... less well-known is that in Buffalo the area around Allen St. and Elmwood Avenue has lots of stuff close together. (Note to people new to the area or younger drivers...watch the weather reports closely if you're considering winter travel through western New York. I think it was last New Year's Eve they actually closed I-90 at the state line due to snow).

Write letters to people you've lost contact with.

Curl up with a good book, go to sleep at your normal time, and treat it like any other day.

If you have other ideas, or if you'd like to get something together for the New Year, or if you're having an event that we missed, you can post it on the *Erie Gay News* website message board at www.eriegaynews.com/bboard.

And with that, I wish you a happy holiday season, and remember, designated drivers save lives.

What's Romantic?

Okay, we are already thinking ahead to our Valentine's issue. We'd like our readers to write in and tell us what's romantic for them. It could be something someone did for you, or something just in your heart. Favorite love story, song or movie? You get the idea. We'd like to hear from single GLBT people and couples, as well as straight allies. Send your description of "What's Romantic to you" in less than 100 words by January 15th to info@eriegaynews.com.

Thanks!

World AIDS Day

by Patty Puline of the Erie County Dept. of Health

There are a number of local World AIDS Day events that are open to all who would like to participate. All addresses given are in Erie, PA and all phone numbers are 814. From November 26 through December 3, there will be a Red Ribbon Tree and AIDS Book Display at the Blasco Memorial Library (on the Bayfront Highway, by Holland St.). This is being organized by Erie County Dept. of Health. For more info, call Patty Puline at 451-6543. From November 27 through December 3, the "Tree of Hope" will be on display at the Millcreek Mall (Sears Concourse). This is being organized by the Hispanic American Council. Contact Sonny Concepcion at 455-0212 for more info.

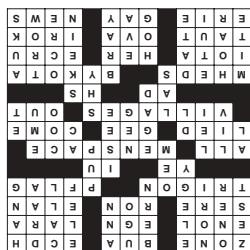
The annual December 1 World AIDS Day Healing Service will be at the Cathedral of St. Paul's, Episcopal, 134 W 7th St. The service on Sunday, December 1 will be at 5 PM, followed by the traditional Kelvin's Dinner. AIDS Quilt panels will be on display from late November until around December 7, and will also be on display at many of the events in this article. For more info, contact Sue Kuebler at 452-3779.

There will also be a World AIDS Day Observance Service on Saturday, November 30 at 6 PM at the Foundation of Salvation Church at 21st and Holland Streets.

On Wednesday, December 4, there will be a World AIDS Day program at the Columbus Apartments at W 16th and Chestnut St. from 2 PM to 4 PM. On Thursday Dec 5 there will be a program "Identifying AIDS and What not to do!" at the JFK Center of Buffalo Road from 5-7 PM. On Friday, December 6, there will be a Light Service - Spirit of Peace at 1:30 PM at the Mental Health Association at W 11th and Peach St. Finally on Saturday, December 7, there will be a "Special Observance in Memory of Julia" from 3:00 - 5:00 PM at the Marsha Hall Learning Center at 1841 East 18th St. For info on any of these latter 4 events, call Steve Simmelkjaer at 451-7875.

All events are open to the public. Contact the Erie County Dept. of Health at 451-6727 for more information. We invite you to attend!

Crossword Solution:



HIV still kills
Condoms still save lives

2002 in Review

by Michael Mahler

2002 Was in many ways an amazing year that saw some unique events and developments of great interest and importance to the local GLBT community. Let's review!

Human Relations Commission Ordinance

This actually began in late 2000. The Erie County Human Relations Commission (ECHRC) had handled all discrimination claims in the areas of employment, housing and public accommodations. Due to some problems with the wording, the ordinance needed to be rewritten. ECHRC Advisory Board member Reid McFarlane and his wife, AnnDrea Benson, contacted several local groups, including PFLAG, about the proposed ordinance and efforts to include sexual orientation/gender identity. Councilmember Mark DiVecchio was an early supporter, but other council members seemed undecided or opposed at first. Throughout the

entire process, many different segments of the community at large (religious, labor, straight, GLBT, etc.) worked hard to get the law passed as worded. In Fall 2001, it looked as if the HRC Commissioners would be pressured into dropping the sexual orientation clause until County Councilmember Joe Giles spoke at a meeting on September 10, 2001 and urged the HRC commissioners to let County Council decide. Republican Rick Schenker defeated incumbent Judy Lynch for County Executive in November 2001 and indicated that he would veto the bill if the sexual orientation clause remained. At a County Council meeting attended by around 100 people on January 8, Councilmember Joy Greco announced that after much research and thought, she had decided that she would vote for the full HRC, including the sexual orientation clause. Councilmember Fiore Leone also announced his support at the meeting. On February 26, 2002 County Council members passed the full HRC ordinance by 6-1. The lone no vote, David Mitchell, asked Schenker not to veto the bill, but sign it into law. Rick Schenker signed the bill into law on March 8.

Pride Picnic

About 225 people, attended the 10th annual Pride Erie Picnic on June 8 at Presque Isle Beach 11. This was the largest picnic yet. Photos from the picnic are at the Erie Gay News website.

2nd Parent Adoption Win

In another victory, on August 21 the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that the unmarried partner of a legal parent could adopt the partner's children. One of the 2 couples in the case were local dads Jeff and Joey. Jeff was seeking a "2nd parent adoption" for the children the couple had been raising since infancy. Jeff and Joey have been together for 20 years. This was noted in national media. Currently, no families have as yet gotten a hearing to test the new ruling. We will bring you coverage as this develops.

Pride Rally

A first for this year was an organized large scale multiple event Pride Weekend September 6-8. The primary organizing groups were Trigon and PFLAG. The events included parties at the Village and Zone on Friday and Saturday. About 100 people participated

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that Saturday in the March for Equality from the Village down Peach St. to a Pride Rally in Perry Square, where about 200-300 people gathered. Sunday featured a Dykes vs Drag Queens softball game (won by the Drag Queens) enjoyed by at least 60 people, and a PFLAG Jazz Brunch fund-raiser at the Village that had around 195 people. The local mainstream coverage was quite positive. Kudos to the many people, particularly Abbey Atkinson and Maureen Koseff, who made this such a success!

Scott Park Arrests

In September, local media covered arrests of men in Scott Park for indecency/open lewdness. Millcreek Police sent letters to vehicles that had been spotted in the area informing them of efforts to enforce the law. Condoms and paper towels had been left littering the park. GLBT community reaction varied in that some supported efforts to contain this illegal behavior and some believed that in some cases men were being entrapped. One local man hired a lawyer and had the charges dropped/reduced.

New/Revitalized Groups

New/revitalized groups in 2002 included the Mercyhurst Gay Straight Alliance (GSA), and an informally organized GSA at McDowell High School, which is believed to be the first local group at that educational level. The Erie/Crawford County Chapter of PFLAG added a Straight Spouse Network in October that is meeting monthly. There were also a few combined Menspace / 10% Network social events.

Bar Cooperation

A welcome trend was increased cooperation between the owners/managers of Erie's 2 local gay bars, the Zone and the Village. Also there was a thread on a local message board about area dance clubs and many people, including many straights, praised both establishments as fun places to dance and hang out. It was heartening to see straight people commenting how unfortunate it would be to let homophobia prevent people from enjoying a predominantly gay space.

Politics

Several local GLBT folks were involved with AnnDrea Benson's Green Party campaign for US Congress against Republican incumbent Phil English. Benson made a very good showing for a candidate who turned down PAC money, but did not prevail.


Democratic candidate for Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell reached out strongly to the GLBT community, and had even hired what was probably the first paid campaign liaison to the GLBT community. The Philadelphian, Mike Marsico, organized a few voter registration tables in Erie. Both the Democrat Party and Green Party of Erie County both did outreach to the GLBT community. Erie County Democratic Party Chair Ron DiNicola had a session at party headquarters to specifically reach out to the community. The Greens also welcomed GLBT members and actively encouraged participation.


EGN Resumes Publication

After an almost 3 year hiatus, *Erie Gay News* is now resuming publication on a monthly basis. After *Erie Gay News* ceased in December 1999, there was a separate publication called *PRIDE News* put out by Heather and Gary that ran from early 2000 through fall 2001. The decision to begin publishing again was announced at the September Pride Rally. The original staff (Mike A Miller, Michael Mahler and Deb Spilko) are working on both the print publication and will also continue the web site and email list.

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EGN Crossword

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56					57				58			
59					60				61			

“Local Resources”

by Mike Miller

*Themed clues, solution page 14

Across

1. Erie gay owned & operated Dance Club*
5. Buffalo United Artists, for short*
8. Erie County Department of Health, for short*
12. Chemical suffix
13. This publication, for short*
14. ____-Flynn Boyle
15. Parched
16. The gay Reagan
17. Flair, zest, gusto
18. Behrend GLBT student group*
20. Parents, Friends and Families of Lesbians and Gays*
21. *God Rest ____ Merry Gentlemen*
22. Vitamin measure
23. Freddie Mercury wanted it in a 1989 Queen hit.
26. Erie area gay men's social group*
32. Fibbed
34. Golly!
35. Condom contents?
37. Belonging to Erie gay Supper Club*
40. Pittsburgh based gay newspaper*

41. Commercial
42. Between Elem. and Univ.
44. Minority Health Education Delivery System*
48. Gay spirituality group, Be Ye Kind One To Another, for short*
52. Speck
53. That girl
55. Off-white
56. Tight, as a rope
57. Fallopian tube travelers?
58. Feather palm
- 59, 60 & 61. The last word(s) in local GLBT info?*

Down

1. Vim, vigor, vitality
2. Unique individual
3. Seaweed used in Japanese sushi rolls
4. Recitation at an AIDS memorial?
5. Swiss capital city
6. *La Cage Aux Folles* actor Tognazzi
7. ____ Landers
8. Hebrew letter
9. Use a cell phone
10. Distance measure, to Muammar Quadafy
11. Suspend, as from the neck
19. Original Equipment Manufacturer, to a techie
20. Juvenile Jack Russell?
22. What the blind man said to his deaf wife
23. 70's gay porn icon Parker
24. Actress Ullmann
25. Garland of flowers
27. By Jove!
28. Results of HIV test, hopefully
29. Household current
30. Sound in a pigeon roost
31. Flightless bird
33. 550, to Caesar, or Volvo owner
36. Spielberg's alien, for short
38. Vegas or Palmas
39. Bashful
43. Twisted coil of yarn
44. Ear parasite
45. Old, gray-haired, or white with frost
46. Needle case, to crossword addicts
47. Palm fruit, or social engagement
48. Sound like an ass
49. Dirty yellow oxide color, (var.)
50. Think, suppose, believe, or a type of boat or bridge
51. Aquatic birds
53. Harley, to a biker
54. Gabor of *Green Acres* fame

Resource Directory

Please note that is an abbreviated listing! For a more complete listing, either browse to www.eriegaynews.com/resources.html or mail a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) to 1115 W 7th St., Erie PA, or call us at (814) 456-9833. All phone numbers are (814) unless otherwise noted.

Accommodations

Blue Heron Inn B&B	(716) 769-7852
PO Box 588, Findley Lake NY	
Camp Davis	(724) 637-2402
311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers PA	
Jones Pond Campground	(716) 567-8100
9835 Old State Rd, Angelica NY	
Partridge Sheldon Mansion Bed and Breakfast	(716) 484-9659
70 Prospect St., Jamestown NY	

Bars

Rascals	(716) 484-3220
701 N Main St., Jamestown NY, 3 PM to 2 AM 7 days a week	
Sneakers	(716) 484-8816
Village Supper Club	452-0125
133 W 18th St., Erie PA. Open 8 PM to 2 AM Mon-Sun	
Zone Dance Club	459-1711
1711 State St., Erie PA. Open Mon-Sat.	

Coffeehouses & Restaurants

Aroma's Coffeehouse	456-5282
2174 W 8th St., Erie PA	
Matthew's Trattoria	459-6458
153 E 13th St., Erie PA	
Papa Joe's Pepperoni Cafe	455-1292
402 W 8th St., Erie PA	
papermoon	455-7766
1325 State St., Erie PA	

Counseling

Virginia Ayres, PHD	835-3829
Community Integration Crisis Services	456-2014
1330 W 26th St., Erie PA toll free # (800) 300-9558	
David J Johnson PHD	838-9408
Lake Erie Counseling Associates	455-4009
Vivian Tamburello	877-7065
Well Being Center	838-0123

Groups

For regularly meeting groups, see the Calendar

Health

Erie County Dept of Health	451-6700
606 W 2nd St., Erie PA	
Healing Touch Therapeutic Massage	452-2812
410 Cranberry St., Ste 130, Erie PA	
NW PA Rural AIDS Alliance	456-8849
1001 State St., Ste 806, Erie PA	

HIV/AIDS Counseling and Testing

Erie County Dept of Health	451-6700
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606 W 2nd St., Erie PA. Mon: 12 noon to 3:30 PM, Tue 9:30 AM to 1 PM. Other times by appt.
 Minority Health Education and Delivery System (MHEDS) . 453-6229
 2928 Peach St., Erie PA. Open to all races/ethnicities. Call for appt.

Infolines

Erie Gay News	456-9833
www.eriegaynews.com	
Erie Gay Teens	www.eriegayteens.com
Erie Hotline	453-5656
Gay Chautauqua	(877)235-4188
www.gaychautauqua.org	

Professional Services

John Cooper (Lawyer)	455-3626
Linda Foll-Johnson, Realtor	864-3200 ext 325
Tom NeCastro, Realtor	452-2100 ext 125
Levine Law Office	454-3819

Retail

Jim Moski/J.D. Byrider Auto Sales	868-0700
Lake Erie Antique Gallery	836-7555
9 Village West, 3330 W 26th St., Erie PA	
Laresse Floral Design	461-0904
2602 Myrtle St., Erie PA	
Walker House Antiques	459-0880
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December - Join us in our Winter Wonderland!

November - Give Thanks!

Dec. 20 - Peppermint Ball Christmas Show!

Nov. 28 - Open Thanksgiving!

Dec. 21 - Santa's Naughty or Nice

Underwear & Pajama Party!

Nov. 29 - Denise Russell

Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve Blast!

We saved the best for last!

Nov. 30 - Harvest of Giving Party!

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The ZONE Dance Club

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www.zonedanceclub.com

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Calendar of Events

**OPEN THANKSGIVING
SAT, NOV. 30th**

2nd Annual Masquer-AIDS Ball

SUN, DEC. 8th

Winter Jazz Brunch at noon

SAT, DEC. 21st

"Santa Claus is Coming"

Christmas Show and Drag-travaganza

Open Christmas Eve & Day!

TUES, DEC. 31st

New Year's Eve Gay-la!



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Michelle Michaels
and
Miss Village
Onya Marks

