

Erie Gay News

Lake Erie Gala Nov 12-17

from TransEvents

The Lake Erie Gala, sponsored by the Lake Erie Group (also known as the Erie Sisters), will be held November 12-17 in Erie.

The event includes a wide variety of activities like shopping, dining, theater, miniature golf, dancing, entertainment, tours, and more.

For information, visit www.eriesisters.org and www.transeventsusa.org/erie/

Womynspace gets together

from Jenn

Womynspace will be getting together again, providing social get-togethers for lesbians/bi women. See calendar for current date and gathering place. Contact: Jenn. Phone: (814) 673-5836. Browse to http://womynspace.eriegaynews.com.

Hoovler Named PFLAG State Coordinator

by PFLAG Erie and Crawford Counties chapter

During the recent national PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Persons) conference held Oct. 11-14 in McLean, VA, Mark Hoovler was appointed PFLAG's Pennsylvania State Coordinator. Hoovler is president of the PFLAG Erie and Crawford Counties chapter.

In this volunteer position, Hoovler will work directly with Carole Reeder, North Atlantic Regional Director (NY, NJ, PA) and Jamie Curtis, Senior Field and Policy Coordinator, Northeast Region, to assist in the PA Chapters' retention, revitalization, growth and support of PFLAG's mission.

Papermoon closes

Papermoon Restaurant at 1325 State Street has closed its doors.

Co-owner Don McCain told the Erie Times-News that he needed to take a break from all the time and energy required to keep the restaurant going. "It is



From left to right: Tim Dahle, Kathy Springer and her son CJ, all of whom were featured in the film We Belong. This photo was taken at a reception following the film's showing at the Great Lakes Film Festival.

Photo by James von Loewe

overwhelming," McCain said. "We did that for seven years, and we're tired."

McCain owns the restaurant with Edward Lee, who was the restaurant's head chef.

The owners of Papermoon were very supportive of various community causes—including GLBT efforts—frequently holding charity benefits at the restaurant and making generous contributions.

Jewelry Show & Sale to benefit CVC

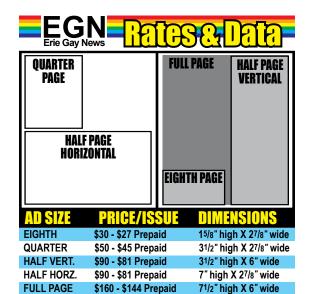
The Crime Victim Center will be the site of an art/jewelry show and sale from 4:30-6:30 PM Thursday, Nov. 8. Local glass artists **Edie Fisher** and **Steve Wernecke** from GlassWear, etc. will be back this year with their beautiful and unusual glass pieces.

Some of the items that can be seen and purchased include: dichroic necklaces, earrings, bracelets, rings, watches, kiln-formed glass vases, candle shelters, clocks, mirrors, lamps and key rings. Edie's and Steve's

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Classified Ads are now available for as little as \$10 for 30 words!
See page 7 for more info.



Camera ready art or manuscript and/or photos, illustrations and logos must be received by the 15th of the month. Photos and Illustrations should be PDF or TIFF and HIRES. All hardcopy ads submitted will be reproduced as close as possible.



Erie Gay News

Erie Gay News 1115 West 7th St. Erie PA 16502-1105 Phone: (814) 456-9833 Fax: (270)423-6217 info@eriegaynews.com www.eriegaynews.com

Editors: Deb Spilko and Mike Mahler

Ad Design: Mike Lipiec

Deadline for next issue: Nov 12 (Monday), will be out night of Tuesday, Nov 20.

The *Erie Gay News* is published monthly as a source of news, events, information and support for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered people (GLB'I's), their families, friends & supporters in the Erie and NW PA 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 don't necessarily represent those of the EGN staff.



To the Avalon for hosting, James von Loewe, Rob G, Dennis Rodland and Richard McVay for folding; James von Loewe, Deb Spilko, Paula and Dylan for distribution, Bob for proofreading, Mike Lipiec for ad layout & etc. If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com.



Community News

(continued from front page)

work can be previewed on their web site at www.glasswearetc.com.

GlassWear, etc. will be donating 20% of the sales that evening to the Center. For more information, call (814) 455-9414.

Men's Greet 'n Chat

by Michael Mahler

The new men's monthly social week night group is off to a great start! We will next be getting together on Tuesday, November 27 at 7 PM at Dominick's, 123 E 12th St, Erie PA. Hope that you can join us! For more info, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email info@eriegavnews.com



Roxanne and Linda get ready for the first Venango Digital Film Association Film Festival, which will be held Friday, Nov. 2 at the Barrow-Civic Theatre in Franklin and Nov. 3 at the Latonia Theater in Oil City. Organizers put out a call for films that relate to the history, culture and society of the area west of Harrisburg. as well as those produced by people who reside in the area. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Latonia, Barrow-Civic, the Franklin and Venango Area chambers of commerce, Oil City Art Gallery and Venango Campus.

Photo by Deb Spilko

Letters

Thanks from Pittsburgh

Mike & Deb,

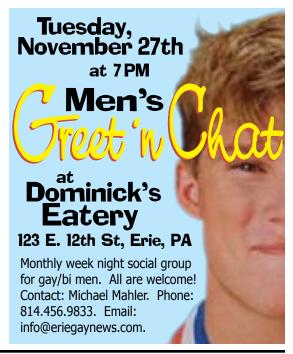
This little fairy in Pittsburgh salutes you both for all you have done for the lgbt community in Erie. I marvel at your dedication over so many years and hope people up there appreciate you both. You are major assets to your community and you deserve a big pat on the back and a gigantic thank you!

> Take care Jim Fischerkeller

Editors' note: Thanks to Jim Fischerkeller for his kind words of encouragement. Jim Fischerkeller is a longtime gay activist in Pittsburgh.

Stay updated! Subscribe to the Erie GLBT Mailing List

Visit www.eriegaynews.com



Life Outside Erie

by Jake Kaskey

After the amazingly successful House State Government Hearings on House Bill 1400 in Erie, you might be asking what else is left to do? Just about every Erie State Representative is on board as a co-sponsor, we've held hearings, and the community has come out in large numbers in support of this important bill.

So the work is done, right? If you look at northwestern Pennsylvania outside Erie County, very few House members are currently supporting the nondiscrimination bill. Throughout Warren, Venango, Mercer, Forest, Clarion, and Crawford counties, we have very little support. Although there are many members of the LGBT and allied community living in these counties, their representatives have yet to hear from them about the importance of this bill.

We all have friends who live outside the city. Take a moment to call them, ask them to write their legislator, or give them a call. Without members of our community stepping up and letting their representatives know there are people in their districts who support this important bill, we will never have their support.

To find out who your legislator is, and what their contact information is, please visit http://www. equalitypa.org.

For more information on the hearing on this legislation that was held in Erie, see page 16/

Heading Out of Town?

Visit the Resources section www.eriegaynews.com

Intermezzo Coffeehouse 12 Park Place, Fredonia, NY ~716-672-6070





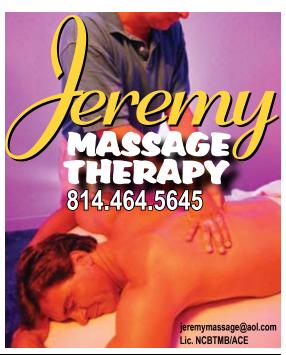




Where coffee & the arts unite!

Soups, Salads & Sandwiches ~ Homemade Desserts Specialty Coffee & Espresso Drinks ~ Live Music ~ Regional Art





Calendar

This calendar is also online at www.eriegaynews.com/calendar.html

Oct 19-28 -22nd Annual Pittsburgh International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival (PILGFF) www. pilgff.org

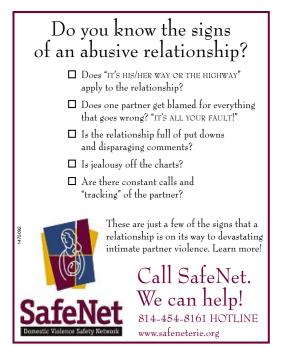
Oct 26 - Bewitched 2- Return of the Magical Divas at the Zone Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. The Ladies of the Zone return for a magical night of fun as they cast their spells on you! Get on your broom and get here early so you don't miss a moment of the Diva's spectacular Halloween Show! Phone: (814) 452-0125. www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Oct 27 - The Milk Bar: An All Out Halloween Costume Bash at Roadhouse Roadhouse Theatre for Contemporary Art, 145 W 11th St, Erie, PA) 8 PM. With Matty B. & The Dirty Pickles and Trashed. Featuring the film A Clockwork Orange/ \$2 beer, \$2 shots: (814) 873-5069. Email: questions@greatlakes-filmfest.com. Web: www.greatlakesfilmfest.com/

Oct 27 - Trance's 'Nightmare On Raspberry Street'

Trance Night Club and Oasis Patio/Martini Bar, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Halloween costume and dance party. 3 cash prizes! \$300 1st Place cash prize! Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: contact@trancenightclub.com. Browse to www.trancenightclub.com.

Oct 27 - The Sorcerer's Ball Halloween Party at Zone 133 W 18th St, Erie. Double, double toil and trouble, fire burn and cauldron bubble—grab your broom and come in costume as the witches, warlocks, and wizards welcome you into their Coven of Darkness at the Zone! Cast your best spells of lust & love at Erie's Biggest Halloween Party. Try a few magic potions at the bar or hypnotize yourself on the dance floor. Conjure up some cash with prizes for best costume. Glowsticks, give-aways, and fun. Grab your friends and get into the Coven of Darkness- the Zone's annual Haunted Bar! Don't be afraid—Get into the Zone for Erie's Biggest Gay Halloween Party! Ph: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com.





Calendar

Oct 31 - Zone Halloween Party 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Join us in costume for one last night of fun as the Coven of Darkness -Haunted Bar comes to an end! Drink specials & 2 for 1 wings! Happy Halloween from your friends at the Zone! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Nov 3 - HOT and Wild Entertainment (Trance Night Club and Oasis Patio/Martini Bar, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA) 9 PM. Fall back for daylight saving and join Male stripper Reno and Sean Michaels with host Jamie Lynn for another night of HOT and WILD entertainment! \$1 Shooters, drink specials and Happy hour from 9 til 11 PM. Sound and lighting by DJ Jason G. Doors open @ 9 PM. Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: contact@trancenightclub.com. Browse to http://www.trancenightclub.com.

Nov 8 - Womynspace get together for dinner (Chovy's Italian Casual, 18228 Conneaut Lake Rd, Meadville, PA) 6:30 PM. Social get together for lesbians/bi women. You can RSVP to Jenn before the event or ask for Jenn/Womynspace when you arrive

at Chovy's. Contact: Jenn. Phone: (814) 673-5836. Browse to http://womynspace.eriegaynews.com.

Nov 10 - The Original GLOW Party! (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) The Original GLOW Party is back at the Zone! Join us for a night of dancing in the dark! Glow-sticks, Black-lights, Body-paints! Wear Black or White or cover youself with Glow body-paint! Get into the Zone! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to http://www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Nov 15 - Rocky Horror Picture Show (Roadhouse Theatre for Contemporary Art, 145 W 11th St, Erie, PA) 8 PM. Film presentation with audience interaction. We will have popcorn girls and dancers and there will be approximately 30 drag queens in attendance. One night only! Phone: (814) 873-5069. Email: questions@greatlakesfilmfest.com. Browse to http://www.greatlakesfilmfest.com/.

Nov 17 - HOT and Wild Entertainment (Trance Night Club and Oasis Patio/Martini Bar, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA) 9 PM. Host Jamie Lynn and new

(continued on page 8)



ONLY \$10 for 30 Words.

\$5 for Additional 15 Words.

INEXPENSIVE, EFFECTIVE & FUN

EGN reserves the right to refuse any inappropriate classified.

Fab-Fun items for sale

Kitschy-cool vintage & retro Christmas & other fab-fun items for sale at the All Seasons Marketplace (old Ames bldg.) Millcreek Mall, Nov. 24 & 25. Please look for my flea booth in the back of the bldg. My booth will be overflowing with msde.!



Erie County Department of Health
606 West 2nd Street
Corner of 2nd and Cherry

HI<mark>V Testing</mark> Hours: Tuesday <mark>9:30 AM</mark> - 1:00 PM

STD Testing Hours: Monday 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Wednesday 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Thursday 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Erie Office - Outreach Services 814-451-6727 Corry Office 814-663-3891

Calendar

Male entertainers return to Trance for another night of HOT and WILD entertainment. \$1 Shooters, drink specials and Happy hour from 9 til 11 PM. Sound and lighting by DJ Jason G. Doors open @ 9 PM. Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: contact@trancenightclub.com. Browse to http://www.trancenightclub.com.

Nov 20 - Transgender Day of Remembrance Set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. www.gender.org/remember/day/

Nov 21 - Pre Thanksgiving Karaoke and Long Islands! (Trance Night Club and Oasis Patio/Martini Bar, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA) Join your friends, family, and DJ Zach for an amazing night out at Erie's alternative karaoke nightspot! It's time to get your vocal on! Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: contact@trancenightclub.com. Browse to http://www.trancenightclub.com.

Nov 21 - Family Reunion at the Zone! (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) Everyone is coming home for the Thanksgiving Holiday! Catch up with old friends and family for a Wednesday night of dancing and fun at the Zone! Kitchen is open from 8 PM to 2 AM with 2-for-1 Wing Madness! Happy Hour 9 PM -11 PM. Dance to your favorite videos all night long! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to http://www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Nov 22 - Thanksgiving Day at the Zone! (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 8 PM. We open at 8 PM. Join us for an after-dinner drink and dance off all those extra calories! Happy Thanksgiving from the Zone! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to http://www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Nov 23 - Disco Party at Trance (Trance Night Club and Oasis Patio/Martini Bar, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA) 9 PM. Flashback to all your favorite disco hits. Special performance by Buddy Dobson "Glow sorcerer." Disco

Lemonade, drink specials, and free Glowsticks! Happy hour 9 PM til 11 PM. Sound and lighting by DJ Lori. Martini bar opens early at 4 PM! (Rear Entrance) Contact: Tim. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Email: contact@trancenightclub.com. Browse to http://www.trancenightclub.com.

Nov 24 - Brokeback Bunkhouse Party!- Boots and Boxers Night! (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) Yee Haw! Back by popular demand! We want to see what real cowboys wear under their Wranglers! Guys-- wear cowboy shirts, boxers, long-johns, leather chaps, and boots. Ladies-- get out your daisy-dukes and bandanas for some boot-scootin' fun! Don't worry you can leave yer' wranglers on if yer' a mite bit shy! Grab your cowboy hat, round up the posse', and get into the Zone Saloon for a night of two-steppin' and FUN! Save a Horse... Ride a Cowboy! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to http://www.thezonedanceclub.com.

Nov 27 - Men's Greet 'n Chat (Dominick's, 123 E 12th St, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Monthly week night social group for gay/bi men. All are welcome! Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to http://menspace.eriegaynews.com.

Dec 7 - Denise Russell Holiday Show at the Zone! (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) Your Favorite funny lady is back for a great Holiday Show! Get here early!... tables fill up fast! Holiday humor, songs and FUN! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to http://www.thezonedanceclub.com.





Java Buzz

Eclectic Etceteras

118 Erie St., Edinboro, P.A nnn.myspace.com/eecoffeehouse October 26 from 5-7 PM Tom Link

October 27 from 1-3 PM Rashnee

November 2 from 5-7 PM Frank Marzano

November 3 from 1-3 PM Orion's Eye

November 9 from 5-7 PM Jacob Ramirez

November 10 from 1-3 PM Jerry Gaff followed by Acoustic show from 3-5 PM by Dustin Miller, Walter Sapsai Jr. and Belsapador

November 30 from 5-7 PM The Grainy Throat

Intermezzo Coffeehouse

12 Park Place, Fredonia, NY (716)672.6070 Fredonia NY www.intermezzocoffeehouse.com

Intermezzo Coffeehouse is proud to periodically showcase the talent of area musicians. There is no cover charge. Watch flyers posted in the coffeehouse and local media for announcement of scheduled musicians. Guitarist **David Allen Coester** will perform on Friday, November 2 from noon to 1:30 PM. To hear samples of his music, visit www.meantone.com/index.html Through a special partnership with the Chautauqua Regional Youth Ballet (CRYB), where Monika is artistic director, we currently are exhibiting photographs of CRYB's production of The Nutcracker taken over the past several years by Jamestown photographer **Rob Sigler.** The photography exhibit runs through Dec. 31.

World AIDS Day Events

December 1 is World AIDS Day.

If you are holding an event for World AIDS Day, please get that information to us by November 12. If you haven't finalized details, you can still send us the basic information about the event (time, location, etc.)

On Stage

Selected performances of possible interest to GLBT audiences.

Oct 30 - Tori Amos in Concert Pittsburgh, PA Benedum Center www.pgharts.org www.toriamos.com/

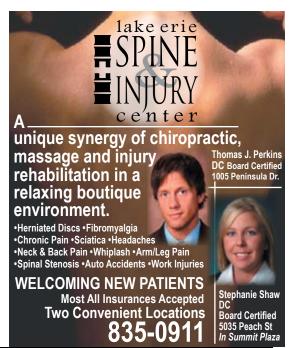
Nov 1 - Tori Amos Cleveland, OH State Theatre At Playhouse Sq. Ctr. www.toriamos.com/

Nov 15 - Rocky Horror Picture Show at Roadhouse Roadhouse Theatre for Contemporary Art, 145 W 11th St, Erie, PA. 8 PM. Film presentation with audience interaction. (814) 873-5069. Email: questions@greatlakesfilmfest.com. www.greatlakesfilmfest.com/.

Nov 25 - Tegan & Sara Cleveland, OH House Of Blues www.hob.com www.teganandsara.com/

Dec 8 - Renaissance City Choirs 2007 Holiday Concert 2007 at East Liberty Presbyterian Church (ELCP), Pittsburgh www.rccpittsburgh.org

Mar 15 - k.d. lang in concert at University of Buffalo, Buffalo NY. www.ubcfa.org



National News Briefs

by Bob

Pelosi to Push Transgender-Inclusive Bill

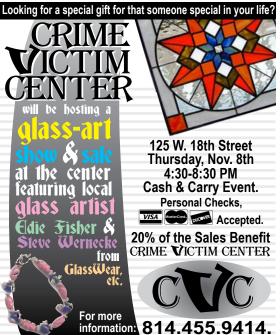
House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has agreed to push for a transgender-inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act once there are enough votes to pass it.

Although another version of the act that protects only sexual orientation will be marked up by committee and moved to a vote soon, Pelosi has promised to hold a floor vote on a fully inclusive ENDA as soon as the political support is there.

Pelosi announced this move after meeting with representatives from the Human Rights Campaign, which has led lobbying efforts on Capitol Hill for a trans-inclusive bill.

"Speaker Pelosi's promise to put a fully-inclusive ENDA to a vote continues to underline HRC's passionate advocacy on behalf of the entire GLBT community," HRC president Joe Solmonese said.

"Our strategy throughout has been to stay at the table and fight for the ultimate goal that we all share. Today, that strategy has proven to be successful. With



this commitment, the inclusive ENDA bill will continue to receive legislative action as it moves through the committee hearing process during the time HRC, and other coalition organizations, continue to advocate directly with members to support this critical inclusive workplace protection bill," Solmonese said.

Gay GOP Target Romney in TV ad

The Log Cabin Republicans have launched an ad campaign targeting GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney, hoping to undercut his support among social conservatives by highlighting his past statements in support of abortion rights.

Romney, a former Massachusetts governor, is vigorously courting social conservatives in key primary states, trying to erase doubts about his previous moderate stands. But in a 30-second television ad that will air in Iowa and on national cable, the Log Cabin Republicans use clips from a debate during Romney's unsuccessful 1994 campaign for U.S. Senate from Massachusetts to portray him as an enemy of religious conservatives.

"For years he's fought conservatives and religious extremists," an announcer declares. On the screen, Romney is shown in the midst of a debate with Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, whom he was running against in 1994.

"I believe that abortion should be safe and legal in this country," Romney says. "I believe that since Roe v. Wade has been the law for 20 years that we should sustain and support it."

Romney claims to have changed his view on abortion after a November 2004 meeting with a Harvard stem cell researcher. He said he became convinced he could not publicly support abortion rights while being personally opposed to abortion.

"As Governor Romney has repeatedly made clear, like many other Republicans including Ronald Reagan, he wasn't always pro-life," Romney spokesman Kevin Madden said. "Governor Romney has said he was wrong and hopes he never stops learning from his mistakes or trying to do what's right."

Madden accused the Log Cabin Republicans of favoring Republican Rudy Giuliani, the former mayor of New York who has supported abortion rights and some gay rights. Leading religious conservatives have

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National News Briefs

voiced their opposition to Giuliani's candidacy.

Log Cabin President Patrick Sammon said his group is not endorsing any GOP Presidential candidate, though he has said in the past that Giuliani is "a very strong leader with an inclusive record."

Harris Poll Says Majority of Straights Support Equality

According to a new Harris Poll, more than half of straight Americans back equal treatment for gay people.

The news agency AFP reported that seven out of 10 people polled said that in the face of verbal attacks, they have spoken out for LGBT people.

The online Harris Poll surveyed nearly 2,200 adults in late September. It was released to coincide with the launch of the Straight for Equality program by PFLAG (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays).

One-third of poll respondents said they would not speak out in order to avoid confrontation. One in five cited religious or moral grounds for not speaking out in defense of gays, but an equal number gave the same reason for doing so.

PFLAG's Straight for Equality campaign "is reaching out to straight people who don't have an immediate relative who is gay or lesbian to start speaking up" for the rights of LGBT people, PFLAG spokeswoman Jean-Marie Navetta said.

Dear Abby' Supports Gay Marriage

After years of casual references to "sexual orientation" and "respect," Dear Abby has said flatly that she supports same-sex marriage.

"I believe if two people want to commit to each other, God bless 'em," the syndicated advice columnist told The Associated Press. "That is the highest form of commitment, for heaven's sake."

What Jeanne Phillips, aka Abigail Van Buren, finds offensive and misguided are homophobic jokes, phrases like "That's so gay," and parents who reject or try to reform their children when they come out of the closet.

Her views are the reason she was recently honored by Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), a national advocacy group that provides support for gay people and their families. The original "Abby," Phillips' 89-year-old mother, Pauline, helped put PFLAG on the map in 1984 when she first referred a distraught parent to the organization.

"I'm trying to tell kids if they are gay, it's OK to be gay. I've tried to tell families if they have a gay family member to accept them and love them as they always have," Phillips said.

PFLAG director Jody Huckaby said "Abby" is the perfect choice for the first "Straight for Equality" award, part of the group's new campaign to engage more heterosexuals as allies.

"She is such a mainstream voice," Huckaby said. "If Dear Abby is talking about it, it gives other people permission to talk about it."

"If gay Americans are not allowed to get married and have all the benefits that American citizens are entitled to by the Bill of Rights, they should get one hell of a tax break. That is my opinion," said Phillips.

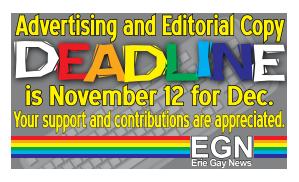
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All listing entries must be received by the 15th of the month.



Accomodations, bars, business and not-for-profit resources Separate WOMEN'S and ETHNIC/MULTICULTURAL sections

USA/CANADA: \$25 by first class mail. All states and providences, national headquarters of organizations, mail order companies, etc.

The whole book is now online in Acrobat Reader format. www.gayellowpages.com/online.htm Also available as a no frills CD in PDF format.

Find us at Gay-Friendly stores like Body Launguage, Cleveland, OH 216-251-3330 Rainbow Pride Gift Shop, Buffalo, NY 716-855-0222 and many others at http://gayellowpages.com/2buy.htm

For an application to be listed (no charge), current editions, and prices, mailing lables, etc. please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Renaissance House, PO Box 533-EGN, Village Station, New York, NY 10014 646-213-0263 or email gypages@gmail.com

http://gayellowpages.com

National News

(continued from previous page)

Atlantis Buys RSVP Vacations

Atlantis Events, Inc., known for its worldwide gay cruises and vacations, will acquire RSVP Vacations, the originator of the gay and lesbian cruise concept.

"We're thrilled to bring Atlantis and RSVP together into the same family for the first time," said Rich Campbell, CEO of Atlantis. "The two companies are stronger together than they are apart, and taken together, demonstrate the strength and vitality of the gay travel market."

The company purchased RSVP from PlantOut, Inc., and plans to grow and build RSVP while maintaining it as a separate and distinct brand from Atlantis.

"We are extremely pleased that RSVP will become part of the Atlantis family," said Karen Magee, chief executive officer of PlanetOut Inc. "Preserving RSVP's distinct brand will enable Atlantis to expand the audience it serves by taking advantage of RSVP's unique positioning within the LGBT community."

PlanetOut Inc. owns The Advocate, Gay.com, PlanetOut.com and several other brands.

Atlantis charters entire cruise ships and all-inclusive resorts for the exclusive use of its gay and lesbian guests. In 2007, Atlantis has hosted approximately 20,000 guests on 11 different events. Established in 1985, RSVP Vacations was the originator of the gay and lesbian cruise concept.

"This move is a great step forward for guests of both RSVP and Atlantis, who will now benefit from the largest and most diverse collection of all-gay vacations in the world," Campbell said. Charlie Rounds, an original employee and former co-owner of RSVP Vacations, will be appointed president of RSVP.

Helpful numbers

Gay and Lesbian National Hotline 1-888-843-GLNH www.glnh.org/index_.html Covenant House Nineline (youth) 1-800-999-9999

Trevor Helpline for Suicidal Gay Youth $1-800-850\ 8078$

Erie Hotline (814) 453-5656

The Error of Arrogance

By Rev Richard A. Moyer, Pastor Community United Church

Recently I have been participating in a bible study from the New Testament book of James. For me it has been a fascinating study because James is my favorite New Testament Epistle.

In the Protestant tradition, it is believed that James, the bishop of Jerusalem, was the brother of Jesus. The Roman Catholic tradition, because of the belief in the Perpetual Virginity of Mary, considers James the cousin of Jesus. Whatever their relationship, Jesus and James were very close.

It should no surprise then that James' writings place much emphasis on humility, just as Jesus did. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says that the meek shall inherit the earth. James, as well, writes warnings to the rich and powerful who think that they are better than poorer and less powerful people. Both Jesus and James have little patience with those who are arrogant and proud. James even goes so far as to say that God has "chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith."

The concern of the New Testament writers about arrogance and wealth is that injustice is the usual result. The rich oppress the poor; the arrogant have no regard for the weak.

The authors of the New Testament came to their conclusion about the dangers of power and arrogance because they were the students of Hebrew Scripture. It was the Hebrew prophets, such as Micah, who asked the question: "What does the Lord require of us?" Micah answers, "Do justice, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God." He also chides those who do not care for the unfortunate and destitute, particularly the widows and the orphans.

With all the clear and direct warnings about the love of money as the root of evil in both the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament, one can only marvel again that clergy can so easily fall in the trap of the selfish use of funds that have been entrusted to their care.

Some years ago, we were horrified by the scandal of Jim and Tammy Faye, only to be just as startled by Jimmy Swaggert, crying in front of the TV cameras because of his inability to practice what he preached. All the while Jerry Falwell was preaching a gospel in

such an arrogant and self-serving way that many of us could hardly stand to listen to him.

Now we have the accusations that Oral Roberts' son and daughter-in-law are involved in bizarre and extraordinary improprieties. The allegations that Lindsay Roberts spent more than \$39,000 at one Chico's clothing store in less than a year and sent early morning text messages to underage males, are troubling to say the least!

One does not only wonder when it will end, but how it even began. How did we get so far away from the true message of the Gospel?

Of course, anyone reading this article knows where I am going. These are the same preachers who have made a career out of gay-bashing and elevating homosexuality to the level of the "most grievous sin imaginable." They did all this while they were neglecting to pull the weeds from their own garden.

I long for the day when we, as Christians, can get back on message and not only preach, but live, those words that Mary decreed after the angel told her that she would give birth to Jesus: "He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty" (Luke 1:46ff).

New GLBT network for all spiritual beliefs

MyOutSpirit.com is a new online community that lets you find Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender-affirming spiritual resources and meet other spiritual LGBT people.

The community welcomes people of all spiritual beliefs.

"Come Out Spiritually" by Creating Your Personal Profile -- you can share photos, journals and spiritual inspirations with your friends! Then you can post your MyOutSpirit profile on your own website, blog or online profiles!

Visit http://myoutspirit.com/

Video: Damage to straight spouses in "Ex-Gay" marriages

From Truth Wins Out

On the occasion of National Coming Out Day, Truth Wins Out released a video called "Ex-Gay = Ex-Wife." The video features the stories of four courageous women whose families fell apart after their closeted husbands came out. This video highlights the harm of ex-gay programs from that of the spouse who gets left behind when the promised "cure" does not endure.

"Ex-gay programs love to show the wedding photos, but they never show you the divorce papers that result from such ill-conceived marriages," said Truth Wins Out's Executive Director, Wayne Besen. "These programs hold marriage up as the Holy Grail to heterosexuality, but the truth is, these marriages wholly fail, leaving shattered lives and broken families."

Bonnie Kaye, an author and director of the organization www.GayHusbands.com has dedicated her life to counseling women after the demise of her own marriage. She blames anti-gay activists, such as Alan Chambers of Exodus International and James Dobson of Focus on the Family, for creating such miserable and doomed marriages.

"Alan Chambers and James Dobson are destroying the lives of families, not helping them...It's not a choice, people are who they are. Learn to love them and learn to embrace them and help them love themselves so they don't have to go and get married to be somebody they're not," said Kaye.

In the video, Nancy Davis shares how her former father-in law, a psychologist, recommended that his son meet a woman, get married and lead a straight life. "I feel like I was used, I was like an innocent lamb led to slaughter," Davis said.

The pain of such marriages can linger, long after the divorce is final.

"Many of us are severely damaged...the spouses and children end up being the collateral damage," said Carol Silverman of the Straight Spouse Network, who was divorced after being married for nearly three decades.

Ignoring the failure and destruction all around them, ex-gay groups arrogantly and selfishly continue to use such families as pawns in their divisive culture war. "These organizations that try to convince people that they can be cured need to be stopped," asserted Tracy Rosenberg, who divorced her husband after almost 20 years. "This video is a powerful reality check and a warning for those who would marry thinking that it will help them go from gay to straight," said Besen.

"We are now looking to tell the stories of husbands whose marriages ended when their ex-gay wives came out as lesbians."

Truth Wins OUT is a non-profit organization that counters right wing propaganda, exposes the "exgay" myth and educates America about gay life. For more information, visit www.TruthWinsOut.org

Recurring events

Always Our Children, Catholic Charities, 329 W. 10th St, Erie, PA. Nov 7, Dec 5. 7 PM. For Catholic parents of GLBT children. First time attendees should call facilitator before attending meeting. Phone: (814) 456-2091.

Deadline for print edition of Erie Gay News. Nov 12, Dec 10. EGN, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA. Contact: Michael Mahler. (814) 456-9833. info@eriegaynews.com.

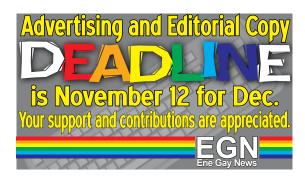
Folding/distributing work party for print edition of Erie Gay News. Nov 20, Dec 18. Avalon Hotel & Conference Center (Hunt Room), 16 W 10th St, Erie, PA. Contact: Michael Mahler. (814) 456-9833. info@eriegaynews.com.

Lake Erie Alliance for Democracy (LEAD.) Nov 5, Dec 3. Chris Mitchell. Phone: (814) 899-8920. Email: president@erielead.org. Browse to www.erielead.org

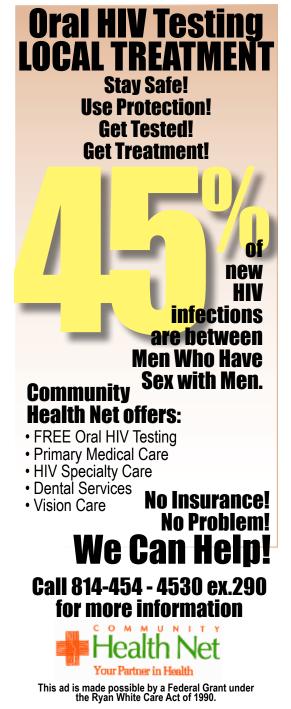
PFLAG Erie/Crawford County. Nov 12, Dec 10. Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie, PA. 7 - 8:30 PM. Contact: Mark Hoovler pflagerie@eriegaynews. com. Phone: John at (814) 454-1392.

Support group for those dealing with loss Nov 13 at 7 PM, Nov 13 at 10 AM, Dec 11 at 7 PM, Dec 20 at 10 AM, Hospice of Metropolitan Erie, 202 E 10th St, Erie, PA. Ph: (814) 456-6689. Email: hospice@velocity.net.









Hearing in Erie about PA HB 1400

By Mike Mahler

Public hearings were held in Erie Oct. 5, on PA House Bill 1400 that would amend the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act to prohibit discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. The public hearing was conducted by the House State Government Committee chaired by Representative Babette Josephs (D-Philadelphia).

Several Pennsylvania State Representatives came to Erie to learn more about PA House Bill 1400. Although there are 14 municipalities in Pennsylvania (including Erie County, since 2002) that include these legal protections, there is no state or federal law which offers similar protections. The companion bill to HB 1400 in the PA Senate is SB 761.

Chairperson Josephs is a long-time ally of the GLBT community and the first state representative to advocate for the passage of laws to protect the rights of LGBT people in Pennsylvania. Attending the meeting were Rep. Josephs, Rep Flo Fabrizio (D-Erie), Rep. Pat Harkins (D-Erie), Rep Thomas Blackwell (D-Philadelphia) and Rep. Jaret Gibbons (D-Ellwood City). Additionally, Rep. John Hornman (D-Erie) sent Joy Greco, one of his staff members, to observe the proceedings. Erie County Councilmember Joe Giles was also in the audience.

Most of the speakers and audience members were supportive of the legislation. About 35-40 people attended the hearing.

Stephen Glassman, chairman of the PA Human Relations Commission and the highest ranking openly gay official in the Commonwealth, was the first person to speak. If the proposed legislation passes, his commission would be charged with investigating violations.

Glassman noted that the PHRC receives many calls about discrimination against GLBT people that they cannot investigate because they do not yet have the statutory authority to do so. He described the commission's duties and responsibilities, its jurisdiction and history of support for various protected classes prior to federal legislation in employment, housing and public accommodations. He further discussed the compelling need to add protections on the basis of "sexual orientation and gender identity or expression" in order to make Pennsylvania competitive with 20 other states which already have non-discrimination



House State Government Committee, at the Erie hearing on October 5, taking testimony about adding sexual orientation and gender identity to the state human relations law.

legislation in place. All 11 PHRC Commissioners, six Republicans and five Democrats, have unanimously passed a resolution in support of HB 1400. Glassman commented that Pennsylvania's Hate Crimes law has already been amended in 2002 to add both of these protected classes to the state's Ethnic Intimidation and Institutional Vandalism Act.

Speaking next was a Venango County mother, **Kathy Springer, whose son CJ** had faced harassment in school, a case which is currently in litigation. Kathy spoke passionately about the ordeal her son had faced in school because he is gay. CJ was one of the students profiled in the recent documentary "We Belong: The Movie" by Joe Wilson which recently aired at the Erie Film Festival. The representatives were visibly moved by the testimony.

Reid McFarlane, a retired minister who is on the advisory board for the Erie County Human Relations Commission and who was one of the key people helping to pass the GLBT inclusive ordinance in 2002, addressed issues dealing with religion, since many of the objections to this sort of legislation came from religious sources.

Michael Mahler of Erie Gay News, pointed out that since passage of the GLBT inclusive Erie County ordinance in 2002, calls asking for help with discrimination issues had to be checked for the geographic location, since most areas outside of Erie County are not covered. Mahler spoke of being called by a friend who was witnessing blatant harassment of

(continued on page 18)

Photos from the hearing



Stephen Glassman, Chairman of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission.



Rep. Flo Fabrizio (D-1st), moved by the account of the harassment CJ has faced.



Kathy Springer (right) gives testimony on behalf of her 16-year-old son, CJ.



Tara Reynolds helping Reid McFarlane get set up to give testimony.



Mike Mahler, giving testimony about cases of discrimination that he is familiar with.



Retired schoolteacher Doris Cipolla, telling of the pain of a lifetime in the closet.



Filmmaker Joe Wilson, filmed the hearing for a documentary.



Diane Gramley from the American Family Association, opposing protections.



Dave Martin from the American Civil Liberties Union.

Hearing

a transsexual co-worker. The friend spoke one on one with someone from her Human Resources department after being informed by Mahler that Erie County covered this type of discrimination. He noted that a workplace that is hostile affects more than just the people being targeted.

Doris Cipolla, a public school teacher for her entire career, spoke movingly about having to remain closeted for 35 years with her partner. Cipolla also reported harassment by her neighbors and having to install a security system at significant personal cost to her and her partner which is another aspect of discrimination.

Diane Gramley of the American Family Association's Pennsylvania chapter was the only speaker to oppose the adoption of HB 1400. Rep. Blackwell expressed doubts that all of her claims were factual, and he also said that he saw the issue as being more about defending human rights than about "promoting a lifestyle."

At one point, Gramley claimed there had never been a study suggesting there was a genetic/biological determinant for sexual orientation. However, one of the first studies on the linkage between DNA markers on the X chromosome and male sexual orientation was done by Dean Hamer, who published his in the journal Science study entitled 1993. Hamer is the partner of "We Belong" filmmaker Joe Wilson and was in the hearing room filming Gramley for a documentary at the time that she made that statement.

Maureen Koseff, NWPA representative for Parents, Friends and Families of Gays (PFLAG), talked about her experiences as the mother of a gay son and the discrimination her son had encountered in the workplace.

Dave Martin of Venango County, spoke next about his family's long history of fighting for civil rights, and about townspeople sending in letters and emails calling for his employer to fire him as an openly gay man. Martin also said that because of living in a rural area, he frequently receives hostile calls and emails.

Concluding the hearing was **Susan Woodland**, president of the NWPA chapter of the National Organization for Women. Woodland pointed out that previous moves to include race and gender in civil rights laws had been met with many of the same dire claims that the current proposed legislation has encountered based upon similar stereotypes and cultural biases.

People and businesses who support HB 1400 should write to their representatives urging them to vote in favor of this legislation. Readers can go to www. equalitypa.org to identify their elected officials and to obtain their contact information.

Jake Kaskey's article on page 5 tells Pennsylvanians what they can do to make sure these protections become law. Please check it out!



Most of those who attended the hearing were supportive of protections.



Maureen Koseff, NW PA PFLAG Rep.



Susan Woodland from the NWPA National Organization for Women.

Michael dithers

by Michael Mahler

What a busy month it has been! Shortly after last month's issue came out, I went to the GLBT screening at the Great Lakes Film Festival. It was a slightly small turnout, since it was during a Friday afternoon. Joe Wilson's documentary, *We Belong: The Movie*, went over very well. The other short films were interesting as well. Joe Wilson and his partner, Dean Hamer, were there filming for an expanded documentary about the GLBT community in this region. They also had a very nice reception afterwards at Radicchio's for Tim and CJ, the subjects of the documentary, as well as CJ's family. The food and company were superb. Many thanks to everyone who made that a success, and Harry Miller and his staff for doing such a great job!

You can watch We Belong online at www.webelongthemovie.com/

I happen to be on the board of the Great Lakes Film Festival, and I suggested we might get a bigger turnout next year for the GLBT screening if it was in the evening or on a weekend. I also said that I thought that Joe Wilson's film was a major draw, because of his ties to the area. Steve, the organizer of the event, thought that sounded about correct.

The week after that the local hearing for Pennsylvania House Bill 1400 (that is the bill to make sexual orientation and gender identity/expression a protected category *statewide*. More on that hearing on page 16.) I was glad that we had speakers who covered so many aspects. Kathy spoke about her the terrible harassment



Tara Reynolds, from Equality for All Families, poses with friend at the GLENDA picnic held at the Coon & Fox Club in Franklin.

Photo by Mike Mahler her son CJ has experienced. Her account really moved a lot of people. Almost all of the attendees and speakers supported the bill. The exception was Diane "Whack Job" Gramley, head of the PA Chapter of the American Family Association. I think that she usually helps us out when she speaks because of how off-base she is. Joe and Dean filmed an interview with her after the hearing and Steve Glassman, who is the epitome of diplomacy and calm, quiet reasoning, engaged her in discourse. Myself, I don't think I would have had the patience.

Since I had such a great time at the GLENDA Bowling Party a few months ago, I decided to attend the dance that they had at the Coon & Fox Club. Brian from Erie Gay Pride and Tara Reynolds from Pittsburgh went as well. Tara was amused by the animal head trophies on the wall, (see photo). We all had a grand time.

At one point, the DJ was playing the Time Warp from the Rocky Horror Picture Show, and one of the women noticed that I was practically bouncing in my seat. "Oh for heaven's sake, get out on the dance floor already!", she said. So I did. There were a few people dancing, but it ended up being just myself and another guy who had come with his boyfriend. The guy was a very good dancer, and I was sort of following along and feeling vaguely self-conscious. The people watching us were cheering us on, so it felt like a definite Hollywood musical moment.

GLENDA has some events coming up in the next few months, and I would highly recommend checking them out! I think all of us who came from outside the area had a terrific time!

I am also happy that the Men's Greet 'n Chat seems to be off to a good start. I hope that you can join us for our next monthly get together on Tuesday, November 27 at 7 PM at Dominick's Eatery, 123 E 12th St! I feel also very glad that Womynspace seems to be starting up again as well. Wishing both groups much luck!

Pretty nifty about JK Rowling making it clear that Dumbledore from Harry Potter is gay. I also admired her spirit in stating that the folks who already disapproved of her books just had another reason to be angry. What I think is great is that she revealed that a character that her readers already knew, loved and respected was also gay. And it was really cool that the revelation was greeted so positively by the people attending the reading.

