

February 2011



# EGN

Erie Gay News



## Benefit for Presque Isle Gallery owner Feb 26

by Deb Spilko

Laurie Edwards, owner of the Presque Isle Gallery and Coffeehouse (PIG), is presently receiving extensive treatments for cancer.

A benefit for Laurie will be held at the PIG Saturday February 26 from noon until 6PM. There will be live music and a silent auction.

If you have items to donate for the silent auction, or need information on the benefit, you can contact Josh at the PIG. Details are still being worked out, so stay tuned. (Avoid contacting him at lunchtime, though, as it gets pretty busy then).

Josh also says that they will keep the PIG's Facebook page updated (link from our website or search "Presque Isle Gallery") The PIG is at 35 Peninsula Drive, Erie PA. Phone 814-790-5615 Website <http://picoffeehouse.com/>

## 2011 Pride Events planned and scheduled

by Mike Mahler

About 16 people attended the first planning meeting for 2011 Pride events on January 16.. The group was enthusiastic and a lot of groups and individuals were represented.

The group came up with the following list of events, with people signing up to volunteer.

Here are the 2011 events:

Saturday, June 11 - The 19th Annual Erie Gay News Family Pride Picnic will be at the Rotary Pavilion at Presque Isle

Saturday, Aug. 27 - March & Rally in Perry Square.

Additional projects include an LGBT contingent in the Millcreek 4th of July Parade (the 6th year for this taking place), a table at the Blues and Jazz Fest August 6-7 (3rd

*(continued on page 3)*

*Daniel and Season check out Chris's winter headware after the planning meeting for the 2011 pride events. For more details on Pride events see item on this page. More photos online. Photo by Deb Spilko*



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**Editors: Deb Spilko and Mike Mahler**  
**Ad Design: Mike Lipiec**  
**Deadline for next issue: Mon. Feb 14; Folding and distribution is Thu, Feb 24 at Zone Dance Club. Please check night before!**

**ISSN 2159-1792**

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

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

**Classified Ads are available!**  
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AD SIZE	PRICE/ISSUE	DIMENSIONS
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Camera ready art or manuscript and/or photos, illustrations and logos must be received by the 15th of the month.  
 Photos and Illustrations should be PDF or TIFF and HIRES.  
 All hardcopy ads submitted will be reproduced as close as possible.

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



To Zone Dance Club for hosting; Caitlyn Strohmeier, GNPDD, James von Loewe, Janice Hanusik, Jeff, Johauna, Michael Kohler & Raven McClain for folding; Caitlyn Strohmeier, GNPDD, James von Loewe, Jeff, Johauna, Michael Kohler & Raven McClain for distribution; Mike Lipiec for ad layout & etc. If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com.

# Community News

year for this) and *possibly a candidates forum*.

Among the fundraisers being considered for this year's Pride is a T-shirt listing sponsors, as well as a listing of 2011 LGBT events.

The next meeting is Sunday, February 6 at 2 PM at Tim Horton's, 209 E 12th St, Erie PA. All people interested in working for successful Pride events are welcome! This is open to all ages. For more info, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com). Planning for these events is going through the Picnic email list. Sign up for this at <http://lists.eriegaynews.com>.

## Erie Gay News is assigned international library indexing number

by Mike Mahler

Erie Gay News has been assigned an ISSN (2159-1792) by the US ISSN Center at the Library of Congress. The ISSN (International Standard Serial Number) is an eight-digit number which identifies periodical publications as such, including electronic serials. This is a universal way of cataloging serials/periodicals.

In February 2008, Erie Gay News was selected for inclusion in the EBSCO Publishing LGBT Life® with Full Text index. This index is marketed to the library marketplace. All current and past issues are now included. Archive copies of both runs of the print editions are also in the collections at Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives in Toronto, Gerber/Hart Library in Chicago, Homodok-LAA/IHLIA in Amsterdam, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives in Los Angeles, The Pat Parker/Vito Russo Center Library in New York City, and Sexual Minorities Archives in Florence, MA.

**Deadline for next issue is February 14**

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# Community News

## 2010 Lake Erie Gala: Wine, sisters and song (and so much more!)

from Shubi/Erie Sisters

The 2010 Lake Erie Gala was held the week of November 14 at the Avalon Hotel. The event is organized by the Erie Sisters. Events began Wednesday the 17th with registration opening and dinner and game night at Calimari's. Tours began the following day, featuring excursions to Arrowhead Winery, Peak'n Peek Resort for lunch, a tour of the Tom Ridge Environmental Center and a winery in Findlay Lake New York.

A first time out to an such an event can be an ordeal for girls not having ventured out before, so first-timers to the Lake Erie Gala were welcomed each day with a meeting to help answer their questions and to ensure their comfort.

Thursday night saw a Moroccan-themed dinner at the Avalon to coincide with Belly Dancing and instructions from the Fleming School of Dance.

Friday's agenda began with local tours to the Firefighters Historical Museum, where the girls got a

history of firefighting, followed by lunch at Pufferbelly's restaurant in their exquisite firehouse restaurant. The day's events ended with a tour of Fuhrman's Cider Mill and returned to the Avalon to prepare for the events to come in the evening. Friday night's menu consisted of an oriental buffet, and attendees were encouraged to don their prettiest oriental dresses for the event. After dinner, a talent contest was held that featured a magician, dancers and drag performers, with winners being determined by an independent panel of judges from the Erie Gay News and the Zone. Each night, attendees had the option to go to the Zone to round out the night with dancing and socializing.

Saturday began with a transgender day of remembrance ceremony and a costume lunch, and contestants participating were judged by hotel staff. The vendor area was open each day, with offerings from Glamour Boutique, Elite Salon, Veronica's Day Spa, and Executive Clearance electrolysis. A swap and trade was also offered, where girls could leave items of clothing they no longer wanted and trade them for items others had left. Saturday evening began with dinner followed by our annual Glitter Ball and music from the area's only all-transgender band, TransSend.

Sad farewells were in order for Sunday morning at our farewell brunch, leaving the girls once again counting days until the next Lake Erie Gala.

Each Gala brings new friends together, and exposes the transgender community to the tri-state area, promoting acceptance of the LGBT community within Erie and helping transgender to accept themselves. It is a truly wonderful experience, and leaves us all with fond memories that will last a lifetime. The Erie Sisters and Lake Erie Gala would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the residents of Erie for their continued support and open-minded acceptance of us that sets Erie apart from so many other areas of the country. Erie truly is a wonderful place.

For more about the Erie Sisters, browse to <http://eriesisters.ning.com/>. For photos from the 2010 Gala and those of past years, visit [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)

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# Going to Church After the Holidays

By Will Koehler

Member, Community United Church

I was speaking to the pastor of Community United Church this past week when he commented that attendance has been quite low this month. When I asked if this was typical of January/February in general, he indicated that it was, but this year seems particularly sparse. As I thought about this, I wondered about possible reasons for this.

For many of us, November and December is a joyous season, one steeped in rituals and traditions. Many return to the church during Christmas because that is what our families do, it is tradition. We exchange gifts, we celebrate with family, friends and co-workers. We get dressed-up, we wrap our gifts, we decorate our homes. We eat too much, maybe drink too much. Then, we resolve to change. The New Year is ushered in, the glitz and glam is packed away, the traditions, having been observed, are laid to rest for another year. The ribbon and wrap is swept away, and, at least for me, so is a part of my spirit.

Sunday morning rolls around, and I hear the “shoulds” begin to mount in my mind: “you should go to the gym”, “you should clean-up your act”, “you should get back to work”, “you should get up and go to church”. It’s tempting to roll over, pull the pillow over my head and go back to sleep, ignoring the monster “shoulding all over” my mind. But, what I find, on those mornings that I don’t go back to sleep but actually make it to Community United is not a bunch of grumbly, grouchy pew sitters, but rather a group of people who together are able to hold a little bit of the holiday spirit in their hearts all year round. Hope to see you here too!

*The Community United Church is an open and affirming congregation and is a member of United Church of Christ and Church of the Brethren denomination. . At 1011 W 38th St. in Erie. Services are Sunday at 11am. (814) 864-4429. The pastor is Richard A. Moyer and his assistant is Dr. Richard McCarty. Website is [www.uccwebsites.net/commuceriepa.html](http://www.uccwebsites.net/commuceriepa.html)*

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# Calendar

This calendar is also online at [www.eriegaynews.com/news/calendar.php](http://www.eriegaynews.com/news/calendar.php)

**Jan 21-Feb 12 - Buffalo United Artists: "Anita Bryant Died for Your Sins"** It's 1977, and 15 year-old Horace Poore is trying to make sense of the tumultuous events surrounding him -- and the tumultuous events within him.—in this unconventional look at a young man's coming-of-age.[www.buffalobua.org](http://www.buffalobua.org)

**Feb 2 - "The Kids Are All Right" at Mercyhurst College** Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center. 2:15 p.m. & 7:15 p.m. *Brew & View* starts at 6:30p.m. Academy Award for best comedy, about the teenage children of a lesbian couple who seek out their sperm donor birth father.

**Feb 3 (Thu) - Mahoning Valley Stonewall Democrats meets** Mahoning Valley Pride Center, 1523 Poland Ave, Youngstown, OH 44502. 7 PM.

**Feb 4 (Fri) - Nocturnal Asylum** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA 9 PM. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to [www.facebook.com/crazenightclub](http://www.facebook.com/crazenightclub).

**Feb 4 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) meets** (Aoyama Japanese Steakhouse and Lounge, 970 Millcreek Mall, Erie, PA 16565-5002) 6 PM - 8 PM. Back to another favorite. A great space for our event. We had a great turnout in January. Hope to see you in February. Stop by for a drink, some great conversation, and maybe some food after. Looking forward to seeing everyone.G2H2/Erie takes place every month in a new location around town, providing GLBT professionals, and our colleagues and friends, the opportunity to meet, network or just hang out once a month. You can also sign up for the email list at <http://lists.eriegaynews.com>. Venue Phone: (814) 868-7999. Find on Facebook at G2H2/Erie

**Feb 6 (Sun) - Pride Planning Meeting** (Tim Horton's, 209 E 12th St, Erie, PA 16503) 2 PM. We will be planning for the picnic on June 12, a candidates night for the election, and the march/rally on August 27. Come find out how to get involved! All are welcome! (see page 3 for details) Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Venue Phone: (814) 874-3000. Email: [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com). Browse to [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com).

**Feb 6 (Sun) - Craze Karaoke Night** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA 9 PM. Every Sunday with \$2.25 Long Island Ice Teas! \$3 Bud Light Pitcher Night every Sunday in February 9-11 p.m. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to [www.facebook.com/crazenightclub](http://www.facebook.com/crazenightclub).

**Feb 7 (Mon) - Craze Entertainment Series** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA 11:30 PM. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to [www.facebook.com/crazenightclub](http://www.facebook.com/crazenightclub).

**Feb 8 (Tue) - HIV/AIDS Support Group meets** (St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E Grandview Blvd, Erie, PA 16504) 6 PM. HIV/AIDS Support Group for those infected and affected meet the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 6 PM. Contact: Cheryl A Kobel. Phone: (814) 452-6113. Email: [cheryl11027@aol.com](mailto:cheryl11027@aol.com).

**Feb 8 (Tue) - Support group for those dealing with loss** (Hospice of Metropolitan Erie, 202 E 10th St, Erie, PA 16503) 7 PM. Meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7 PM and also the third Thursday of each month at 10 AM. Phone: (814) 456-6689. Email: [hospice@velocity.net](mailto:hospice@velocity.net).

**Feb 9 (Wed) - LBT Women play pool** (Andy's Pub and Crown Billiards, 3866 Peach St, Erie, PA) Wednes-



William K Koehler  
LCWS

Charlene Newport  
LPC

Kathy Czarnecki  
BSW

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# Calendar

day is free pool for all ladies after 6:30 PM. Join us for a few games of billiards and some chat time! Contact: Laurie Finch. Email: LFinch003@neo.rr.com. Browse to <http://womynoferie.wetpaint.com/>.

**Feb 9 (Wed) - Craze Happy Birthday** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA 5 PM. Remember CRAZE is open for Happy Hour every Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to [www.facebook.com/crazenightclub](http://www.facebook.com/crazenightclub).

**Feb 10 (Thu) - LGBT Parent Support Group meets** Community United Church, 1011 W 38th St, Erie. 6 PM - 8 PM. As gay dads and lesbian moms in the Erie area, we have a lot of concerns for our children. Will our kids face prejudice at their school because of us? Will they hesitate to bring friends to our house? Will they think they are the only ones ever to have a gay or lesbian parent? At Family United Counseling, we want to put you in touch with the experts of lesbian and gay parenting... each other! We meet the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month as a group of lesbian and gay parents for support, friendship, and networking.

Child care will be provided, so bring your kids! For more information or to let us know you're coming email us at [FamilyUnitedCounseling@gmail.com](mailto:FamilyUnitedCounseling@gmail.com) or call (814)547-4837. Contact: Will Koehler. Phone: (814) 547-4837. Venue Phone: (814) 864-4429. Email: [familyunitedcounseling@gmail.com](mailto:familyunitedcounseling@gmail.com). Browse to [www.familyunitedcounseling.org](http://www.familyunitedcounseling.org).

**Feb 10 (Thu) - PFLAG Butler meets** (Butler Area Public Library, 218 N. McKean St, Butler, PA 16001) 6 PM - 8:30 PM. Support group for parents, friends and families of lesbians, gays and transgendered people. From 7-8:30 PM, Dr. Catherine Massey, Professor of Psychology, presents "Coming Out - It's a Process." Learn how a GLBT person comes to accept their identity as sexual or gender minority. Regular Planning Meeting at 6 PM Contact: Joe Tomlinson. Venue Phone: (724) 287-1715. Email: [pflagbutler@gmail.com](mailto:pflagbutler@gmail.com). Browse to [www.butlerpflag.weebly.com](http://www.butlerpflag.weebly.com). Browse to venue web site [www.butlerlibrary.info/](http://www.butlerlibrary.info/).

**Feb 11 (Fri) - YLBT Women's 2nd Annual Valentine's Day Single Ladies Night at Molly Brani-**

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# Calendar

**gan's** (Molly Brannigan's Irish Pub, 506 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM. Hey Single Ladies! Are you dreading Valentine's Day? Fear not! The Young Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Women of Erie are hosting a Valentine's Day Ladies Singles Night. Molly Brannigan's has once more offered their upper room for our Single Ladies Night. The cost is a mere \$10. That cost includes appetizers, games, party treats & possible door prizes! All you have to do is buy a drink for yourself... or if you meet someone special, buy a drink for her, too! Hope to see you there! If you have any questions or concerns, email the YLBT at [ylbtwomenoferie@yahoo.com](mailto:ylbtwomenoferie@yahoo.com) or call (814) 464-3204 and ask for Erin. Contact: Erin. Phone: (814) 464-3204. Venue Phone: (814) 453-7800. Email: [ylbtwomenoferie@yahoo.com](mailto:ylbtwomenoferie@yahoo.com). Browse to <http://ylbtwomenoferie.wetpaint.com/>.

**Feb 11 (Fri) - Zone: Va Va Voom! Valentine's Burlesque Show featuring the Diva Dolls!** 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Miss Angelica Red and her sexy & sultry Diva Dolls will tease & tantalize you for our Va Va Voom Valentine's Burlesque Show! Bring your dollar bills and get here early for a sexy night of entertainment and fun! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to [www.thezonedanceclub.com/](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com/).

**Feb 12 (Sat) - Valentine's Day at Craze** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA Bring your Valentine's Sweetie to CRAZE for a drink! Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to [www.facebook.com/crazenightclub](http://www.facebook.com/crazenightclub).

**Feb 12 (Sat) - Bed of Roses Party at Zone Dance Club!** 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Join us on our bed of roses for an exotic evening of foreplay and fun! It's almost Valentines Day. Light some candles, get out the massage oils and lube, put on some romantic

music, and slip into something sexy! What do you wear to bed? Ladies wear - sexy lingerie, silk or sexy pajamas, sexy underwear! Guys wear - sexy and revealing underwear, fun valentine boxers, silk pajamas or bottoms! ...or just wear a sheet if you sleep naked! Sorry, No Nudity! A steamy night of fun in BED at the Zone! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to [www.thezonedanceclub.com/](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com/).

**Feb 13 (Sun) - La bella Gay Valentine's Day for GLBT couples** (La bella, 802 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16502) 5 PM - 8 PM. Dinners 5 - 8. Featuring Live Entertainment. BYOB. Reservations recommended- Phone: (814) 456-2244.

**Feb 14 (Mon) - PFLAG Erie/Crawford County meets** Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Hwy, Erie, PA. 7 PM - 8:30 PM. Support group for parents, friends and families of GLBT people. If you would like to become a member, please see Millie, our secretary/treasurer. Bring a family member, friend, and yourself! Coffee, tea and hot cocoa provided, feel free to bring a treat or refreshment to share. Phone: (814) 456-0901. Email: [pflag.erie.crawford@gmail.com](mailto:pflag.erie.crawford@gmail.com).

**Feb 14 (Mon) - Craze Entertainment Series Valentine's Show (Tentative)** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA 11:30 PM. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to [www.facebook.com/crazenightclub](http://www.facebook.com/crazenightclub).

**Feb 14 (Mon) - Deadline for EGN March 2011 print edition** (1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA 16502-1105) Please have all articles, ads, and submissions in by this date. This issue will be released the evening of February 25. For a complete list of upcoming deadlines and release dates, check the print edition schedule at [\*\*ABC'S OF BUILDING BETTER LIVES\*\*

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# Calendar

gaynews.com/printedition/deadlineschedule.php.

**Feb 15 (Tue) - Spirituality and Sexuality Discussion Group meets** Community United Church, 1011 W 38th St, Erie, PA. 7 PM. Every third Tuesday of the month, the Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty facilitates a discussion group on spirituality and sexuality at Community United Church. Meetings are confidential. Come join the discussion! Contact: Rich McCarty. Phone: (319) 270-5140. Email: richmccarty@msn.com.

**Feb 17 (Thu) - Support group for those dealing with loss** (Hospice of Metropolitan Erie, 202 E 10th St, Erie, PA 16503) 10 AM. Meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7 PM and also the third Thursday of each month at 10 AM. Phone: (814) 456-6689. Email: hospice@velocity.net.

**Feb 20 (Sun) - LBT Women of Erie meets** (Presque Isle Gallery Coffeehouse, 35 Peninsula Drv, Erie, PA 16505) 1 PM. Note date change for Valentine's Weekend! Meets the 2nd Sunday of each month at Presque Isle Gallery Coffeehouse. Sign up for email list at lists.eriegaynews.com/ Contact: Laurie Finch. Venue Phone: (814) 790-5615. Email: LFinch003@neo.rr.com. Browse to womynoferie.wetpaint.com/. Browse to venue web site www.picoffeehouse.com.

**Feb 20 (Sun)- Youngstown Area PFLAG meets** Mahoning Valley Pride Center, 1523 Poland Ave., Youngstown, OH. 3PM. Ph: (330)747-2696. Email: YoungstownPFLAG@aol.com. Web: angelfire.com/oh4/pflagy/.

**Feb 20 (Sun) - FACE: Michelle Michael's Birthday Party!** Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. 11 PM. Come to the Zone and celebrate a VERY special FACE show for our very own Michelle Michaels! Come wish her a Happy Birthday and don't forget your dollar bills! Don't miss a fun-filled night of great entertainment with all of your favorite drag queens, new faces and special guests! Every third Sunday of the month at 11 PM. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com/.

**Feb 20 (Sun) - Craze Karaoke Night** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA 9 PM. Long Island Ice Tea Special and \$3 Pitchers til 11:00 Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to www.facebook.com/crazenightclub.

**Feb 21 (Mon) - Craze Entertainment Series** 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA 11:30 PM. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to www.facebook.com/crazenightclub.



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# Calendar

**Feb 22 (Tue) - HIV/AIDS Support Group meets** St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E Grandview Blvd, Erie. 6 PM. Meet the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 6 PM. Contact: Cheryl A Kobel. Phone: (814) 452-6113. Email: cheryl1027@aol.com.

**Feb 23 (Wed) - Homicide Grief Support Group** (Crime Victim Center of Erie County, 125 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 5 PM - 6:30 PM. The group provides a chance for people to come together, support each other and share their feelings and experiences as they continue to cope with their loss. Group interaction is encouraged between newer members of the group and long-time members as they explore their fears and thoughts about the future. Some educational information is also provided at the meeting such as the stages of grief, how specific relationships with the victim affect the grieving process and other topics of interest. All are welcome. If you have any questions, please call Darlene at (814) 451-7496. Contact: Darlene. Phone: (814) 451-7496. Browse to [www.cvcerie.org](http://www.cvcerie.org).

**Feb 24 (Thu) - Erie Gay News folding/distributing**

**work party** Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie PA. 7 PM. Please check before to verify that we are on schedule. Help us get out the print edition of *Erie Gay News*. We'll be folding and distributing the copies. 21 and over, please. It is also a great way to hang out and chat with folks! Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com).

**Feb 25 (Fri) - LBT Women - Burch Farms Girls Night Out** 9210 Sidehill Rd, North East, PA. 5 PM - 8 PM. This popular Ladies Only event takes place only twice a year and is very popular. Meet us for some wine and snack tasting at 5:30. Lots of stuff for sale including wine, snack food, fruit, baked goods, crafts and more. Join us for a fun night out with the girls! Sign up for email list at <http://lists.eriegaynews.com/> Contact: Laurie Finch. Venue Phone: (814) 725-0747. Email: [LFinch003@neo.rr.com](mailto:LFinch003@neo.rr.com). Browse to <http://womynoferie.wetpaint.com/>. Browse to venue web site [www.burchfarmswineshop.com/](http://www.burchfarmswineshop.com/).

**Feb 26 (Sat) - LBT Women TubING at Peek 'n Peak** 1405 Old Road, Clymer, NY. Meet us at 11 am (till 1PM) at the Peak's tubing center for the third annual LBT Women of Erie, Friends and Family Snow-tubing event!. \$15/hour, \$20/2 hours. Dress for the outside, and even though you are pulled back up the hill each time, you will work up a hunger, so afterwards we will go for some lunch. Join us! Sign up for email list at <http://lists.eriegaynews.com/> Contact: Laurie Finch. Venue Phone: (716) 355-4141. Email: [LFinch003@neo.rr.com](mailto:LFinch003@neo.rr.com). Browse to <http://womynoferie.wetpaint.com/>. Browse to venue web site [www.pknpk.com/](http://www.pknpk.com/).

**Feb 26 - Benefit Fundraiser for Laurie Edwards at the Presque Isle Gallery** 35 Peninsula Drive, Erie PA. Phone 814-790-5615 Website <http://picof-erie.com>

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**RECYCLE US!**

# Calendar

feehouse.com/See item font page of this issue.

**Feb 27 (Sun) - 82nd Academy Awards Party hosted by the YLBT** (Erin's House, Erie, PA) 5 PM. Want to spice up your Oscars Night? Are you great at guessing which movies or people are going to win Academy Awards? Everyone is welcome to join the YLBT Women for our 1st ever Oscars Night! Prizes will be given for the person who guesses the most correct Academy Awards. The event starts at 5pm, a half hour before the 82nd Academy Awards starts, at Erin's house. We will provide a main course; just bring a side dish, appetizer, dessert or a drink to share! Please RSVP to Erin at (814) 464-3204 by February 22nd. Sign up for the email list at <http://lists.eriegaynews.com>. Contact: Erin. Email: [ylbtwomenoferie@yahoo.com](mailto:ylbtwomenoferie@yahoo.com). Browse to <http://ylbtwomenoferie.wetpaint.com/>.

**Feb 11-20 "P.S. Your Cat is Dead"** At Meadville Community Theatre. When unsuccessful playwright Jimmy Zoole finds a gay burglar ransacking his apartment, a series of strange and funny things take place. [www.mctbackstage.com](http://www.mctbackstage.com)

**Mar 4 - "Doubt"** at Erie Playhouse [www.erieplayhouse.org/](http://www.erieplayhouse.org/)

**Mar 5 (Sat) - Mardi Gras Party at the Zone!** 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA.) Girls & Boys Gone Wild! Show us some skin! Get some beads! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to [www.thezonedanceclub.com/](http://www.thezonedanceclub.com/).

## UPCOMING...

**Mar 11 - "A Chorus Line"** at Warner Theatre Erie [www.eriebroadwayseries.com](http://www.eriebroadwayseries.com)

**Apr 4 - "The Color Purple"** The musical, at Warner Theatre Erie <http://eriebroadwayseries.com/>

**Apr 7-10 Drenched Fur 7** [www.drenchedfur.com/](http://www.drenchedfur.com/)

**Apr 28-May 1 - Cleveland Leather Awareness Weekend** [www.clawinfo.org/](http://www.clawinfo.org/)

**May 19-29 - Toronto Inside Out LGBT Film and Video Festival** [www.insideout.ca](http://www.insideout.ca) *Passport now required for travel between countries.*

**Jun 2011 (date TBA) - "Two Spirits"** airs on PBS a documentary that tells the story of a transgender Navajo teen, his struggles, and the role of gender within the tribal beliefs. <http://twospirits.org/>

**July 3-9 Rev V. Gene Robinson** at Chautauqua [www.ciweb.org](http://www.ciweb.org)



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Tuesday 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

HIV Testing Available at Corry Office by Calling: **814-663-3891**

# Identity Theft Awareness

from Crime Victim Center

Every 3.2 seconds someone in the United States becomes a victim of Identity Theft. It is the nation's fastest growing crime. Unfortunately, seniors are easy targets. In 2007, 22% of victims were ages 60 and older. Anyone can be a victim from the very young to the deceased. According to the Social Security Administration, seniors, the critically ill, and the deceased are appealing targets because of their significant assets, their good credit, and federal entitlement checks.

By nature, seniors are more trusting and isolated from family and friends and more gullible to technology-based scams. It has been reported that there have been organized groups of identity thieves operating in nursing homes. Because the elderly are often too ashamed or confused to come forward, it is being called the silent epidemic.

One's identity and personal information can be obtained by a thief as easy as the thief filling out a change of address form in the victim's name; stealing a wallet or purse; obtaining a credit report by posing as an authority figure such as a landlord; searching through

the victim's garbage; phone and computer scams; and looking over the victim's shoulder at an ATM machine or doctor's office. These are only a few of the scams that are occurring everyday. To reduce your risk it is important to get a free credit report every year; keep personal information in a secure place; be cautious when having phone conversations in a public area; shred personal information, do not put it in the garbage; and carry only what you need in your wallet or purse. These are only a few suggestions to follow.

If you are a victim, it is important that you contact the fraud departments of the three major credit bureaus; close all accounts that have been tampered with; file a police report; contact the Federal Trade Commission to file a complaint; and contact the Crime Victim Center. There are a growing number of companies out there today who offer protection for a fee to protect your identity. Be careful to do some research before you turn over your personal information. Ultimately, being educated and aware of your surroundings and the people you associate with will reduce your risk.

Contact the Crime Victim Center at (814) 455-9515, for more information.

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<http://gayellowpages.com>

## On our website

Online now or coming soon: to [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)

### Photos

- January FACE Show
- Meeting for Pride events 2011
- Johnny Weir Book Signing at Erie Book Store

### Videos

- Former President Jimmy Carter addresses whether America is ready for a gay president
- Barney Frank Takes On Those Worried About 'Radical Homosexual Agenda' (COLAGE Family Time - Family Time)
- Buffalo news reporting on the sentencing of the man involved in Mark Pacheco's death

## Win Prizes from Erie Gay News

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

Contest	Starts
<i>The Perils of Praline</i>	February 4
<i>Queer Questions Straight Talk</i>	February 11
<i>Pump It</i> from DJ Blaine and Barona featuring Lane McCray	February 185
<i>Foxe Tail</i>	February 18
<i>Rosie O'Donnell: Female Force</i> Graphic Novel	February 23
<i>Vigil</i> by ZA Maxfield	February 25
<i>Hidden</i> by Tomas Mour-nian from Kensington Books	March 4
<i>Death by Misfortune</i>	March 11

Here are contests which are currently active...

Contest	Ends
<i>Honorable Silence</i>	February 4
<i>David Inside Out</i>	February 11
<i>Marked House of Night</i> Novel	February 16
<i>VSS: Nemesis Rising</i> Graphic Novel	February 18

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

# Photo Gallery

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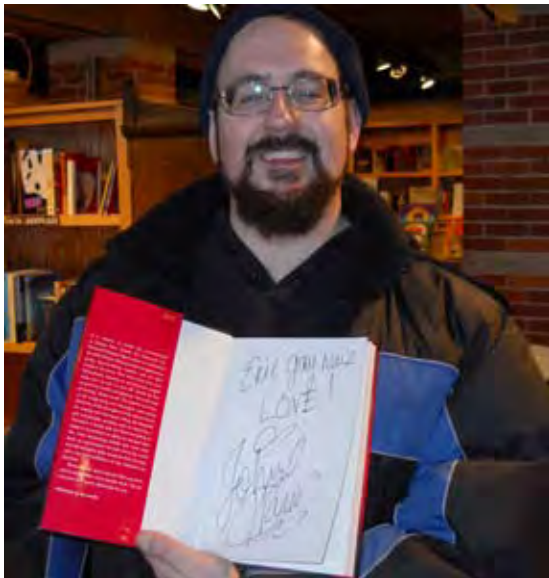
*U.S. figure skating champion Johnny Weir was doing a book signing at the Erie Book Store January 16. Some of the folks at the Pride planning meeting headed over after the meeting for autographs and browsing (see below) . Weir's book—a memoir—is entitled "Welcome to My World." Photos by Deb Spilko*



*Johnny Weir, autographing his book.*



*Erin M ordering some chai at the bookstore's cafe "Cup & Chaucer."*



*Mike holds autographed copy of Weir's book, donated by Erie Book Store for fundraising raffle.*



*Erin M, Larry Sawdy, Jerry McCumber, Mike Mahler and Jeff Hill.*

***More photos on our website!***

# Michael dithers

by Mike Mahler

Hoping that everyone had a great month!

The issue before this came out just before the holidays, and I decided to drop off the **Jamestown NY** copies in person. (I think it's always good to go to less familiar places now and again.) I had a nice visit with **John Daly King**, (who is doing well, recuperating from a mini-stroke), and then I headed off to Jamestown. When I stopped at **Sneakers**, they were having a Christmas Eve Party, which I stayed and enjoyed (there was also a rather cute straight guy there who chatted me up. Perk!) The last stop that I had was the **Lion's Den**, the adult book store in Ripley. I joked later that it was just like the first Christmas, when the Three Wise Men arrived bearing gold, frankincense and poppers. (Hmm, I might not have all the details right there,)

Things have been coming together for **Drenched Fur 7**. I am so glad that Erie's Bear run has been so well-supported over the years. This year, the event will run April 7-10 at the Bel Aire Hotel. Be sure to check it out at [www.drenchedfur.com](http://www.drenchedfur.com)! (And also note the ad on the back page of this issue.)

Over holiday break, I also stopped in at a party that the **Strong Vincent Gay Straight Alliance** had. I hadn't met the faculty advisor in person, and I was pleasantly surprised that the turnout was larger than I expected. It sounds like the administration has not given the group any problems. It is so important when youth work together to network. I believe that **Trigon**, the Behrend group, might be considering a event for networking with area youth, More details soon!

I really felt connected when I went to Strong Vincent, since I only live a few blocks away, and I also graduated from high school there. In an odd bit of synchronicity, there was been discussion by class mates about our 30 year reunion this July. Now I feel like a fossil. ;)

It was pretty exciting when te vote to repeal **Don't Ask, Don't Tell** went through. I think that this also shows why we need to remain involved. Progress doesn't happen unless people make it happen. I think that one big factor is that as time has gone on, more and more LGBT people have become comfortable with being honest and authentic in how they live their lives. In turn, this makes it easier for people outside the community to take us seriously and grasp that we are human beings with the samerights and responsibilities



*John Daly King was feeling well enough to attend the Pride planning meeting at the Plymouth January 16. Yay!*

as everyone else. Small changes by lots of different people add up to big changes later on.

Toward that end, one of the possible projects that we are considering is a **candidate forum**. This may not be a presidential election year, but the city and county legislators that we vote for this year could have a profound impact on our lives. Since those offices cover a smaller geographic area, that also means that our actions are more likely to have an effect.

Speaking of events for 2011, I am incredibly jazzed at how well the **first Pride meeting of the year** went! It really was a very hopeful sign that we had so many people turn out and that so many parts of the community were presented. It was a great start, and I think we need to work hard on including even more parts of the community and getting more folks involved. But we are definitely starting out on the right foot.

We will be having the **picnic** on the second Saturday in June. This is our 19th year! We will also continue with having a GLBT contingent in the **Millcreek 4th of July Parade**, and also a table at the **Erie Blues and Jazz Fest** in August. Also, a coalition of groups and individuals will be bringing the **Pride March and Rally** back this year! We already have Perry Square reserved for August 27. We welcome anyone who wants to work to make this happen, so please join us for the next Pride Planning meeting on Sunday, February 6 at 2 Pm at Tim Horton's, 209 E 12th St, Erie PA. We are also hoping to have T-shirts with a schedule of all events for 2011 and names/lgos for sponsoring groups.

# DRENCHED

# FUR7



April 7-10, 2011

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