

February 2012



EGN



Mayor Sinnott signs on to Mayors for Freedom to Marry campaign

from Freedom to Marry

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Freedom to Marry, the campaign to win marriage nationwide, launched Mayors for the Freedom to Marry at a press conference during the U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting in Washington, D.C., on January 20., 2012. Over 80 Republican, Democrat and Independent mayors from cities across the country have pledged to support same-sex couples' freedom to marry. By joining the group, mayors hope to expand public and political support for ending the exclusion of same-sex couples from marriage.

Erie Mayor Joe Sinnott is one of the mayors who have signed on to the pledge.

The broad-based coalition of mayors includes Rahm Emanuel of Chicago and is chaired by mayors Jerry Sanders of San Diego, Thomas Menino of Boston, Michael Bloomberg of New York, Annise Parker of Houston, and U.S. Conference of Mayors President Antonio Villaraigosa of Los Angeles.

Link to details from our site or visit www.freedomtomarry.org [

[Editors' note: To thank the Mayor: The Honorable Joseph Sinnott, 626 State St - room 502, Erie, PA 16501 (814) 870-1201 E-mail: jsinnott@erie.pa.us]

Erie Sisters invite you to their Second Harvest benefit Feb 24

from Erie Sisters

The Erie Sisters Transgender Support Group, in conjunction with Jekyll & Hyde's Gastropub, will hold a charitable event to benefit Erie's Second Harvest Food Bank. On Friday, February 24, members of the Erie Sisters will be waiting on tables at Jekyll and Hyde's from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. All tips collected by the Erie Sisters will be donated to Second Harvest Food Bank. Jekyll and Hyde's Gastropub is located at 8 East 10th Street in Erie PA. For more information, contact Jekyll & Hyde's at (814) 456-0072 or e-mail Melanie at shub1@suite224.net or <http://eriesister.ning.com>

"Donor Unknown" Screening at Mercyhurst Feb 8

from Mercyhurst College Evelyn Lincoln Institute for Ethics & Society

Please join the Mercyhurst Evelyn Lincoln Institute for Ethics & Society in viewing a documentary about JoEllen Marsh—a native of Warren County with two moms—as she goes in search of the sperm donor father she only knows as Donor 150. JoEllen, now a senior at Mercyhurst, managed to track down a half-sister in New York. The *New York Times* picked up the story, and over time 13 more half-siblings and her sperm donor emerged across the U.S. The documentary tracks JoEllen's journey as she finds her biological connections, and gives audiences a unique perspective on a 21st century family.

Donor Unknown will be screened Wednesday Feb. 8 at 2:15 and 7:15 p.m. at the Mercyhurst College Performing Arts Center, 501 East 38th St., Erie, PA.

(continued on page 4)



Jed, Chris and Roger enjoy the first ever Bear Bar Night at the Zone Dance Club on January 13. The next Bear Bar Night will be Friday, February 17. Photo by Mike Mahler

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Check out our special bonus contest online at eriegaynews.com! Photo galleries, videos , contests, reviews and so much more!

EGN Rates & Data

QUARTER PAGE	FULL PAGE	HALF PAGE VERTICAL
HALF PAGE HORIZONTAL	EIGHTH PAGE	

AD SIZE	PRICE/ISSUE	DIMENSIONS
EIGHTH	\$30 - \$27 Prepaid	1 5/8" high X 2 7/8" wide
QUARTER	\$50 - \$45 Prepaid	3 1/2" high X 2 7/8" wide
HALF VERT.	\$90 - \$81 Prepaid	7" high X 2 7/8" wide
HALF HORZ.	\$90 - \$81 Prepaid	3 1/2" high X 6" wide
FULL PAGE	\$160 - \$144 Prepaid	7 1/2" high X 6" wide

Camera ready art or manuscript and/or photos, illustrations and logos must be received by the 15th of the month.

Photos and Illustrations should be PDF or TIFF and HIRES.

All hardcopy ads submitted will be reproduced as close as possible.



Erie Gay News
 1115 West 7th St.
 Erie PA 16502-1105
 Phone: (814) 456-9833
 Fax: (530) 451-9833
info@eriegaynews.com
www.eriegaynews.com

Editors: Deb Spilko and Mike Mahler
Ad Design: Mike Lipiec
Deadline for next issue: Mon, Feb 13;
Folding and distribution is Tue, Feb 21
at Zone Dance Club. Please check night before!

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

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

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

THANKS

From Your Friends at Erie Gay News

To the Zone Dance Club for hosting; Colleen, Crystal Ciallella, Erin Moll, Ernie Staaf, Janice Hanusik, Jeff, Jerry McCumber, Johauna, John, Julie, Laurie Finch and Paul Gee for folding; Erin Moll, Janice Hanusik, Jeff, Jerry McCumber, Johauna, Laurie Finch and Paul Gee 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.

It might be winter but that doesn't mean you have to hibernate!

Bear Bar Night at the **★ ZONE**

133 West 18th Street
Erie, PA



**DRENCHED
FUR 8**

**Splash
LAGOON**
INDOOR WATER PARK RESORT



Friday, February 17th

Join local bears, cubs, admirers & friends to hang out, shoot pool & dance!
You could win a pass to the Splash Lagoon Private Event on Saturday March 31st during Drenched Fur 8!

Contact: Gary Snyder: 814-446-2327 • Venue: 814-452-0125
Email: info@drenchedfur.com • Visit www.drenchedfur.com
Visit the Zone @ www.thezonedanceclub.com

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Community News

Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors and students, \$4 for President's Cardholders and free for Mercyhurst students.

There will be a short Q&A with JoEllen following the afternoon screening, and a roundtable discussion following the evening screening. The discussion will feature JoEllen Marsh, Dr. David Dausey and Dr. Melissa Heerboth.

More information on *Donor Unknown* at www.donorunknown.com

Bear Bar Night Keeps Warm

from Gary Snyder

On the Friday night of this year's first winter storm (January 13, 2012), The Zone Dance Club hosted a Bear Bar Night where dozens of bears, cubs and their friends defied the snow to enjoy fun times with the local community and staff at the bar. The Drenched Fur 8 Committee gave away a Splash Lagoon Private Event Pass for March 31st during this year's run. Congrats to Jared on being the proud recipient! The guys who put

on Drenched Fur are grateful for everyone who came out to join us in bringing together Erie's GLBTQA community—and thanks all the individuals who helped make January's Bear Bar Night a success. Our next Bear Bar Night will be Friday, February 17!

While enjoying the smiles and good times, email addresses were collected to create a notification distribution list about other bear community events in the Erie area. If you weren't able to join us for January's outing, no worries because you can sign up for the email list at www.drenchedfur.com. To find out more about Drenched Fur or about the bear community locally, you can visit www.drenchedfur.com, email info@drenchedfur.com or call 814-446-2327. Look for the ads in this month's issue promoting February's Bear Bar Night and Drenched Fur 8!

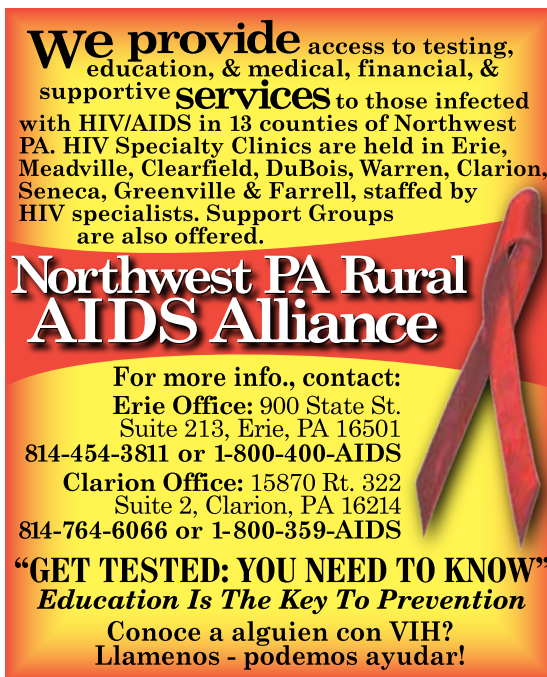
Graphic Intervention: 25 Years of International AIDS Awareness Posters Feb 1-22

from Edinboro University Art Department

Edinboro University's Bruce Gallery will host an opening reception for the art exhibition "Graphic Intervention: 25 Years of International AIDS Awareness Posters 1985-2010" by the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, on Wednesday, February 1, from 5-7 p.m. in Doucette Hall. The reception and exhibition are free and open to the public.

The exhibition was sponsored and created by the Massachusetts College of Art and Design. It draws from an extensive archive of arresting, graphic, intense and fearless international public health announcements. With 153 examples from 44 countries this exhibition presents a comprehensive overview of the diverse visual strategies employed by government agencies, community activists, grassroots organizations, and motivated citizens to educate the local population. The exhibition draws upon James Lapidés' extensive archive of international AIDS awareness posters along with posters generously donated to Massachusetts College of Art and Design and is traveling around the United States, curated by Elizabeth Resnick.

Gallery Hours - Monday-Friday, 12-7pm, Saturday, 12-5pm, Closed Sunday. Information: Bruce Gallery at 814-732-2513 or the Edinboro University Art Department at 814-732-2406. Check out the Graphic Intervention website www.graphicintervention.org



We provide access to testing, education, & medical, financial, & supportive services to those infected with HIV/AIDS in 13 counties of Northwest PA. HIV Specialty Clinics are held in Erie, Meadville, Clearfield, DuBois, Warren, Clarion, Seneca, Greenville & Farrell, staffed by HIV specialists. Support Groups are also offered.

Northwest PA Rural AIDS Alliance

For more info., contact:
Erie Office: 900 State St.
Suite 213, Erie, PA 16501
814-454-3811 or 1-800-400-AIDS
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Community News

Safe Zone LGBT training in Bradford

from Appeal of the Twin Tiers and Southern Tier Pride

There will be Safe Zone LGBT training in Bradford PA on Thursday, February 2, 2012, 6:00pm until 8:00pm Room 200, Seneca Building, 2 Main Street in Downtown Bradford (building on the corners of Main Street and Mechanic Street. The "Square" with the gazebo is in front of the building.)

As the world becomes more diverse and as the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender population in our region grows, it is important to provide education on LGBT issues to make our community more welcoming. This interactive training is offered free of charge. For more information or to register, contact the Division of Continuing Education and Regional Development at contined@pitt.edu or 814-362-5078

IMPORTANT: If you plan to attend please call the Division of Continuing Education and Regional Development at contined@pitt.edu or 814-362-5078 Registration is free.

Family-to-Family Course on Mental Illness

from NAMI

Family-to-Family is a free, 12-week education course for family members and caregivers of loved ones with mental illness, such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. This course increases empowerment, reduces burden in the home, and increases family stability. The Family-to-Family program also provides education about mental illness, understanding of the mental health system, and self-care for the family member. Additionally, the program covers topics on current research, empathy skills, communication techniques, crisis strategies, and guidance on available resources.

The course begins Monday, March 5, 2012 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the VA Behavioral Health Center

For more information about the Family-to-Family program or to register for the class call Jeff Rose, VA Local Recovery Coordinator at (814) 860-2038 Or Jamie Lutz, NAMI of Erie County Program Coordinator at 456-1773.

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FBI definitions of rape catch up to the rest of us

*Martine Barclay Holquist
Crime Victim Center*

For more than 80 years, the FBI has only recognized one scenario as rape: a man forcing intercourse on a woman who is physically resisting him.

This definition that was developed in 1929. What was life like in 1929? Bread cost \$0.10, and an average car cost \$425. The first Academy Awards were held—at a private dinner party. A patent for color television was issued. Penicillin was discovered in this year, but it wouldn't be isolated, tested, and mass produced for another 16 years. Prohibition was in full swing. The stock market crashed, sending the country into the Great Depression. The world was different then, and much has changed.

Yet, for 80 years, the definition of rape remained firmly in the world of flapper dresses and rolled down stockings. Why is this important? The FBI's definition didn't trump the law, which has long recognized how narrow that view is. All it did was define which incidents were counted in their yearly statistic on the Uniform Crime Report.

So why is that important? The first, and what many consider as the best, reason is because the FBI's statistics on rape are used by policymakers and others to allocate funds. Using the old definition, a total of 84,767 rapes were reported nationwide in 2010, according to the FBI's Uniform Crime Report. That's a horrible number, but it's much more heinous considering that the only scenarios counted in that almost 85,000 rapes is a man forcing intercourse on a woman who is physically resisting. This number vastly underreports the truth of

sexual assault. Underreporting means the monies are being distributed based on faulty information, and areas in need are not getting the proper resources.

The second reason it's important is much less measurable but, I would argue, much more important. Having spent 10 years as a rape crisis counselor, I can tell you one of the biggest questions survivors struggle with is, "was it really rape?" They blame themselves for not fighting back—even if they were threatened, physically intimidated, drunk, passed out or just shut down. "Maybe I could have done more," they argue, blaming themselves and not the rapist. "I shouldn't have been drinking. He's so much bigger than I am. I didn't know what to do. He just wouldn't stop. I was crying, saying no. He kept pushing my hands away. I begged him to stop. Finally I gave up and hoped it would be over soon." Does that sound like consensual sex? Of course not. That's rape. I know it, you know it, and now the FBI recognizes it, too.

The redefinition finally recognizes another reality: that people of all genders commit these offenses and are the victims of them. They happen between strangers, spouses, family members and neighbors, in heterosexual and homosexual relationships, regardless of which sex organs they were born with or currently have. The revised FBI definition says that rape is "the penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object," without the consent of the victim. Also constituting rape under the new definition is "oral penetration by a sex organ of another person" without consent. Physical resistance is not required, and it includes instances in which the victim is incapable of giving consent because of age or the influence of drugs or alcohol. The Justice Department said the new definition mirrors the majority of state rape statutes now on the books.

Welcome to 2012, FBI. I'm happy to resurrect bobbed hair, cloche hats, and Coco Chanel's clean lines, but you can keep the narrow, heterocentric, damsel-in-distress 1920's definitions of rape. Thanks all the same. And remember, the Crime Victim Center provides free and confidential counseling to victims of all crime, including sexual abuse. Call us if you need us, 24 hrs a day, at 455-9414.



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DRENCHED FUR8



Thurs., March 29th 10pm:

Bear Bar Night at The ZONE



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both of these events at the beautiful

Fri., March 30th 10pm:

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For more info, visit:
www.drenchedfur.com
or call: 1-814-446-2327

Calendar

This calendar is also online at www.eriegaynews.com/news/calendar.php

Jan 20- Feb 11 - "Avow" at Buffalo United Artists
Tom's and Brian's simple request to their parish priest to witness their vows creates five separate and linked spiritual journeys, each seeking to balance passion and faith. Visit buffalobua.org

Jan 28 (Sat) - Drag Show at M&J's Lounge 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA. Contact: Mitchell Hortert. Phone: (724) 602-8447. Email: JoshuaSean2009@aol.com Browse to www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge.

Jan 29 (Sun) - Cornhole Tournament to benefit Crime Victim Center of Erie County 1PM at the Maennerchor. Teams of 2 are \$50 and that includes food. Cash bar. Cash prizes will be awarded! Call 455-9414 to register. All proceeds to benefit CVC.

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

Jan 31 - "Jeffrey" at Buffalo United Artists One night only, celebrating BUA's 20th anniversary. <http://buffalobua.org/>

buffalobua.org/

Feb 1 - 15 (Wed - Wed) - Fundraiser for the ANNA Pet Shelter at the Zone (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) Buy a heart for a one dollar donation and personalize it to show our furry friends you care! Just ask the bartender for details. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com/.

Feb 1 (Wed) - Craze Karaoke Night 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Karaoke *every Wednesday night* \$2 Spiced Rum Special! Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to www.facebook.com/crazenightclub.

Feb 1 - 22 (Wed - Wed) - Exhibition: Graphic Intervention: 25 Years of International AIDS Awareness Posters (Doucette Hall, Edinboro University, Edinboro, PA 16444) (Opening Reception: Feb 1 from 5 PM - 7 PM.) The reception and exhibition are free and open to the public. The exhibition is free and open to the public. The exhibition was sponsored and created by the Massachusetts College of Art and Design. It draws from an extensive archive of arresting, graphic, intense and fearless international public health announcements. With 153 examples from 44 countries this exhibition presents a comprehensive overview of the diverse visual strategies employed by government agencies, community activists, grassroots organizations, and motivated citizens to educate the local population. The exhibition draws upon James Lapidés' extensive archive of international AIDS awareness posters along with posters generously donated to Massachusetts College of Art and Design and is traveling around the United States, curated by Elizabeth Resnick. Feel free to stop by February 1-22! Gallery Hours: Monday-Friday, 12-7pm, Saturday, 12-5pm, Closed Sunday Phone: (814) 732-2513. Browse to

Feb. 10 & 11, 16-19, 22-26

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Calendar

www.graphicintervention.org/ or www.edinboro.edu/.

Feb 2 (Thu) - LBT Women go to Ladies Night at Claytopia (Claytopia, 2503 W 13th St, Erie, PA 16505) 6 PM - 9 PM. PLEASE RSVP TO Laurie at LFinch003@neo.rr.com if you are coming. Claytopia has been reserved (the back room) for Thursday Feb 2, 2012 from 6 - 9 pm. Thursday is Ladies' Night, which means a discounted studio fee of \$6 plus the price of the piece. And, everyone is welcome to bring snacks and beverages. There's a table in the room to place them. For those of you who haven't been to Claytopia before, you will pick out a bisque piece, paint it and leave it for them to fire. You will go back in about a week to pick up your finished piece. Payment is due for the studio fee and piece the night of the party! Note: studio fee includes use of tools and paints etc. The woman said 20 people fit comfortably in the room, so if you are coming, please let Laurie know! Contact: Laurie Finch. Venue Phone: (814) 836-7722. Email: LFinch003@neo.rr.com. Browse to <http://womynoferie.wetpaint.com/>.

Feb 2 (Thu) - Safe Zone LGBT Training (Seneca Building, 2 Main St, Bradford, PA 16701) 6 PM - 8 PM. As the world becomes more diverse and as the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender population in our region grows, it is important to provide education on LGBT issues to make our community more welcoming. This interactive training is offered free of charge; *registration is required*. For more information or to register, contact the Division of Continuing Education and Regional Development at contined@pitt.edu or 814-362-5078. The Seneca Building is at 2 Main Street. It is the building on the corners of Main Street and Mechanic Street. The "Square" with the gazebo is in



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Calendar

front of the building. Phone: (814) 362-5078. Venue Phone: (814) 362-8822. Email: contined@pitt.edu.

Feb 3 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) (Matthew's Trattoria and Martini Lounge: sip/munch.. chill, 153 E 13th St, Erie, PA 16503) 6 PM - 8 PM. 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) 459-6458. Browse to www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=54742829807. Browse to venue web site www.matthewstrattoria.com. Find on Facebook.

Feb 3 (Fri) - Mercyhurst QSA Flaming Hearts Dance (Mercyhurst College Student Union, 501 E. 38th St., Erie, PA 16546-0001) 8 PM - 11 PM. Come out and support Mercyhurst QSA's Flaming Hearts dance. Bring your friend for a good time and good music. Contact: Dr. Rich McCarty. Phone: (814) 824-3759. Email: rmccarty@mercyhurst.edu.

Saturday, February 11th at 8PM

Valentine's Day Party

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Feb 3 (Fri) - Vortex (Nocturnal Asylum) at Craze 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. 9 PM. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to www.facebook.com/crazenightclub.

Feb 5 (Sun) - Craze Karaoke (1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Join us every Sunday. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to www.facebook.com/crazenightclub.

Feb 6 - "Absolutely Fabulous" special US premiere 10:30 PM on Logo. The second, new "Absolutely Fabulous" special.

Feb 6 - "Smash" premieres on NBC 10PM

Feb 7 (Tue) - Ohio ACLU presentation on LGBT Rights (Kilcawley Center, Youngstown State University, Youngstown, OH) 3:30 PM. Youngstown Area PFLAG, YSUnity and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Youngstown present Ohio ACLU'S Associate Director Gary Daniels of the Ohio . Gary will speak on LGBT rights in the state and nation. FREE and open to all. Contact: Marguerite. Phone: (330) 782-9554. Email: YoungstownPFLAG@aol.com. Browse to www.angelfire.com/oh4/pflag/. Browse to venue web site www.yosu.edu/pstudents/ps_cv/ps_cv.htm.

Feb 8 - "Donor Unknown" screening at Mercyhurst College 2:15 and 7:15 p.m. in the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center (PAC) at Mercyhurst College • 501 East 38th Street • Erie, PA 16546 • (814) 824-2000

Feb 8 (Wed) - "Worn This Way" Fashion Show (Mercyhurst College, 501 E 38th St, Erie, PA) 8 PM - 10:30 PM. The Mercyhurst Fashion Club is featuring a Fashion show benefiting the It Gets Better Project. Through your attendance and donations we hope to raise awareness and prevent bullying and suicide among the gay and lesbian community or anyone in general who is being bullied. Tickets are \$3 for students and \$5 for adults and will be sold by any of the admins as well as in Egan Dining Hall in February. Find on Facebook.

Feb 10 (Fri) - "Queen of Hearts and her Diva's Tarts Valentines Show" at Zone Dance Club 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Join us for a sexy night of fun at the Zone in our Wonderland castle of cards! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com/.

Feb 10 (Fri) - 5th Annual Psycho Spectacular Valentine's Extravaganza "Your Fuk Crazy" in Love: The Queen's Secret (Lucille's, 520 Washington Street, Johnstown, PA 15901) 11 PM. Honoring Allison Wonderland, Miss Gaylife Newsletter 2011-2012 .11 pm Sharp, \$5 Cover. www.gaylifenewsletter.com Join your

Calendar

emcee's John DeBartola and Elizabeth Folta. Starring: Christian Diane, Miss Gaylife 2010 Jade Nite, Miss Tri County Pride 2011-2012, Buffy Hollow, Shannon Delectra. Lady Ashley, Scandal Phone: (814) 539-4448. Email: Lucilles@LucillesJohnstown.com. Browse to www.lucillesjohnstown.com/.

Feb 10-26 "The Color Purple" at Erie Playhouse Passion runs deep in this musical adaptation as it captures the joyful heart of Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel about a woman's triumph over a life of abuse and tragedy. Brimming with beats of rhythm, blues and jazz, the core of the tale is the strength of the black women it depicts in rural Georgia in the first half of the 20th century. This is a musical sung from the heart telling us we all deserve happiness, joy and love. "The Color Purple is the only Broadway or West End musical ever to depict a lesbian relationship between two women of color." ~AfterEllen.com Visit www.erieplayhouse.org

Feb 11 (Sat) - Pride Planning meeting (Panera's - Yorktown, 2501 W 12th St, Erie, PA 16505) 3 PM. Planning the 20th Pride Picnic on June 16 and the Pride Parade and Rally on August 27 and so much more! All are welcome to help out! Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Venue Phone: (814) 833-9101. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to www.eriegaynews.com.

Feb 11 (Sat) - "Queen of Hearts Valentines Ball" at Zone 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Wear red or dress to impress at the Queen of Hearts Ball, come dressed as Drag Queen of Hearts or one of your favorite Wonderland Characters...or..."Off with your Pants!" Wear fun valentine boxers. Join us for a night of fun in our Wonderland castle of cards! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com/.

Feb 11 (Sat) - Valentine's Day Dance at Latonia (The Latonia Ballroom & Event Center, 1 East First Street, Oil City, PA 16301) 8 PM. \$5 donation and BYOB! Contact: Roxanne. Phone: (814) 673-8400. Email: latoniaballroom@gmail.com. Browse to www.facebook.com/pages/The-Latonia-Ballroom-Event-Center/162456970471930.

Feb 12 (Sun) - LBT Women meets (Presque Isle Gallery Coffeehouse, 35 Peninsula Drv, Erie, PA) 1 PM. Meets the 2nd Sunday of each month at Presque Isle Gallery Coffeehouse. Contact: Laurie Finch. Email: LFinch003@neo.rr.com. Browse to <http://>

womynoferie.wetpaint.com/.

Feb 13 (Mon) - PFLAG Erie/Crawford County meets Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Hwy Erie. 7 - 8:30 PM. Support group for parents, friends and families of gay, lesbian and transgendered people. Contact: Mark H. Phone: (814) 456-0901. Email: pflag.erie.crawford@gmail.com. www.thezonedanceclub.com/.

Feb 13 (Mon) - Deadline for Erie Gay News March 2012 print edition Erie Gay News, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA. Please have all articles, ads, and submissions in by this date. This issue will be released the evening of Feb. 21. For complete list of upcoming deadlines and release dates, check print edition schedule at www.eriegaynews.com/printedition/deadlineschedule.php. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to www.eriegaynews.com.

Feb 13 (Mon) - Craze Night Club 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 17 (Fri) - Bear Bar Night at the Zone 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. 10 PM. It might be winter but that doesn't mean you have to hibernate! Join local/tri-state area bears, cubs, admirers and their friends for a fun time hanging out together. Come shake your groove thing on the dance floor, shoot some pool or just hang out and chat with others in attendance. Not only can you meet up with fun people, you could have a chance to win the raffle giveaway that night. Drenched Fur 8 will be giving away a free pass to Splash Lagoon Water Park Private Event on Saturday March 31st during this year's bear run, Mar 29-April 1st. Update your personal calendar so you don't miss out on a great night at The Zone and possibly come home a winner! Contact: Gary Snyder. Phone: (814) 446-2327. Email: info@drenchedfur.com. Browse to www.drenchedfur.com.

Feb 18 (Sat) - LBT Women go to Gannon Lady Basketball Pink Game (Gannon University, Erie, PA) 1 PM. Ladies game at 1 PM, boys at 3 PM...The Gannon Knights will be dressed in Pink and there will be fundraising going on such as t-shirt sales and

Chinese Auctions. I am not sure if there is a fee for the girls' game, but I know if you stay for the boys' game there is always an admission fee. Whatever happens, it is for a good cause, to raise money to fight breast cancer! Hope to see you there! Sign up for email list at <http://lists.eriegaynews.com/> Contact: Laurie Finch. Email: LFinch003@neo.rr.com. Browse to <http://womynoferie.wetpaint.com/>.

Feb 18 (Sat) - Mardi Gras at the Zone! (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) Beads, Boys and Fun! Girls and Guys Gone Wild! Show some skin - get some beads! Sorry, no nudity! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com/.

Feb 19 (Sun) - FACE: Michelle Michael's Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie. 11 PM. Don't miss a fun-filled night of great entertainment with all of your favorite drag queens, new faces and special guests! 3rd Sunday of the month at 11 PM. (814) 452-0125. www.thezonedanceclub.com

Feb 19 (Sun) - Craze Karaoke Night (Craze Night Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA 16502) Bring all your friends! Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to www.facebook.com/crazenightclub.

Feb 21 (Tue) - Spirituality and Sexuality Discussion Group meets (Community United Church, 1011 W 38th, Erie, PA) Every 3rd Tuesday of the month (Sept - May), the Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty facilitates a discussion group on spirituality and sexuality at Community United Church (an open and affirming congregation). This group provides LGBTQA people the confidential opportunity to share questions, stories, and experiences about what it means to be both a sexual and spiritual person. Contact: Rich McCarty. Phone: 1-866-229-1974 (toll free). Email: richmccarty@msn.com.

Feb 21 (Tue) - Erie Gay News folding/distribution work party (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie PA) 7 PM. 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. Browse to www.eriegaynews.com.

Feb 22 (Wed) - Craze Karaoke 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Every Wednesday! Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to www.facebook.com/crazenightclub.

Jan 27-29, Feb 3-4 - "Cats" at Academy Theatre in conjunction with Allegro Dance Arts [**PROUD TO SUPPORT ERIE PRIDE 2012!**

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Calendar

emytheatre.org

Feb 24 (Fri) - Erie Sisters benefit for Second Harvest 11:30am to 2PM. The Erie Sisters Transgender Support Group, in conjunction with Jekyll & Hyde's Gastropub (8 East 10th Street in Erie PA.), will hold a charitable event to benefit the Second Harvest Food Bank, all tips collected by the Erie Sisters will be donated to Second Harvest Food Bank. For more information, contact Jekyll & Hyde's at (814) 456-0072 or e-mail Melanie at shub1@suite224.net or browse to <http://eriester.ning.com>

Feb 26 (Sun) - SafeNet's 6th Annual Chill-E Cook-Off (Brewerie at Union Station, 123 W 14th St, Erie, PA 16501-1717) Erie's original Chili Cook-off. This event is free to all participating restaurants. Sponsored by JET-TV/FOX66 and YourErie.com. Contact: Rick Liebel. Phone: (814) 455-1774. Venue Phone: (814) 454-2200. Email: rliebel@safeneterie.org. Browse to www.safeneterie.org

Feb 27 (Mon) - Craze Night Club Entertainment Series 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. 11:30 PM. Phone:



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Win Prizes from Erie Gay News

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

Contest	Starts
<i>Party Groove: White Party 12</i>	January 27
Pair of tickets to <i>The Color Purple</i> at the Erie Playhouse	January 31
<i>Older Man/ Younger Man: A Love Story</i>	February 3
<i>Your Boyfriend & Other Guys I've Kissed</i> by Totally Tyler	February 10
<i>I Was Born This Way - The Book</i>	February 14
<i>Paul on Homosexuality</i>	February 17
Hey Dude Skin Care Product for Men	February 21
<i>Landfall</i> by Carole Pope	February 24

Here are contests which are currently active...

Contest	Ends
<i>A Hard Day's Night: Music on Film</i> by Ray Morton	January 27
<i>The Truth About Sex</i> by Dr. Gloria Brame	January 31
<i>The Lopez Family Science Fair Day</i>	February 3
<i>The New Dance Mix USA Vol. 2</i> mixed by Louie Devito	February 10
<i>Screen World 62</i> edited by Barry Monush from Hal Leonard Applause Books	February 14

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

Calendar

(814) 456-3027. Browse to www.facebook.com/crazenightclub.

Feb 29 (Wed) - Craze Karaoke Night Club, 1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. Come celebrate Leap Year! Phone: (814) 456-3027. www.facebook.com/crazenightclub.

Mar 2 (Fri) - Vortex at Craze (1607 Raspberry St, Erie, PA. 9 PM. Phone: (814) 456-3027. Browse to www.facebook.com/crazenightclub.

Mar 3 (Sat) - "Absolutely Tango" Benefit for Dreams of Hope (Absolute Ballroom Dance Center, 6617 Hamilton Ave., Pittsburgh, PA) 8 PM - 11 PM. Absolutely Tango is a benefit for Dreams of Hope! Put on your dancing shoes and come OUT for a special night of gourmet appetizers catered by Sausalido of Bloomfield, drinks and dancing. Featuring the music of Aquí Tango and the Dreams of Hope Youth. Tickets are \$50 or VIP for \$100. Purchase online at www.dreamsofhope.org. Phone: (412) 361-2065 Email: info@dreamsofhope.org.

Mar 23 - Suzanne Westenhoefer 7:00 PM Robert W.

Rhoades Center, Clarion University-Venango Campus, Oil City PA.. The Semi-Sweet Tour: Suzanne Westenhoefer's ground-breaking career as the first openly gay comedian ever to appear on television, includes appearances on Letterman, HBO, Bravo, Logo and GSN as well as performances across the US in popular theaters, clubs, and fundraisers. <http://suzanne.com/> \$10 at the door for non-students

Mar 29-Apr 1 - Drenched Fur Erie's Bear Run Online registration will be live at www.drenchedfur.com as of January 1.

Apr 24 - Dining Out For Life, AIDS Community Services, Southern Tier (716) 664-7855. Details coming.

On our website

PHOTOS

Bear Bar Night

VIDEO

Trailer for The Color Purple musical on Broadway
Color Purple trailer



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Michael dithers

by Michael Mahler

Hoping that everyone had a terrific month! I was very glad to hear that Greg Rabb was elected to a 3rd term to Jamestown NY City Council and is again City Council President. Greg spoke at the very first Pride Rally in 1998 after he had run as an openly gay candidate. Whenever someone says that Erie PA couldn't have someone openly gay running for office, I try to point out that it is a bit difficult to believe that Jamestown NY is that many years ahead of us.

I wanted to extend belated condolences to Tim Schroder on the death of his beloved aunt, Katherine Brown this past November. She was a wonderful woman and incredibly warm and kind. She was also delightfully outgoing and upbeat.

It was thrilling to have so many guys turn out to enjoy the first-ever Bear Bar Night. We are looking forward to continuing this, and the next one will be February 17 at 10 PM at the Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie PA. Hope that you can make it, and yes, friends and fanciers of Bears are also most welcome!

Mercyhurst's recent program on Religion and Sexuality was also very informative and stimulating. While I can't say that I exactly saw eye to eye with all of the panelists, I am very glad that I went, and there were some excellent points brought up.

Actually, there are quite a few nifty events coming up at Mercyhurst, including a screening of the documentary *Donor Unknown* about JoEllen Marsh's search for her biological father, and also a fashion show to benefit the It Gets Better project called Worn This Way. Both events are February 8. The Mercyhurst QSA is also having a Flaming Hearts Dance on February 3.

Plans are proceeding for the Pride events for this season, and it is looking pretty exciting! We are lucky that there are so many good people working together to bring our community together. If you would like to be involved, feel free to sign up for the email list for Pride Planning or let me know. This year's Pride Picnic on June 16 will be our 20th, so we are very pumped about that! The Pride Parade and Rally on August 25 is also looking quite good! We already have registration pages for both events posted. The next Pride Planning meeting will be Saturday, February 11 at 3 PM at Panera's Yorktown, 2501 W 12th St, Erie PA.

This year's Drenched Fur are also coming together quite nicely. On March 29 through April 8, we

will be having our 8th installment! Also, every year, Drenched Fur raises money for a different charity. This year, we will be raising funds for Persad Erie. Check it out at www.drenchedfur.com!

Best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery to Diva, the adorable dog belonging to long time EGN folding host Michael Kohler.

How cool it is that our Erie's own Mayor Joe Sinnott signed on to the Mayors for Freedom to Marry? There are 80+ mayors sign on now, but only 3 from Pennsylvania. I saw a blog post by Thomas C Waters asking Pittsburgh's Mayor Luke Ravenstahl to sign on as well. My belief that Erie is a welcoming area feels vindicated.

I have to admit to some side-splitting laughter when I read about notoriously anti-gay Presidential candidate Rick Santorum's latest ploy for money. There is a page on his site calling for donations with the title "Conservatives Unite Moneybomb." Hint: consider the acronym it forms, also that the last word kind of reminds one of a term used in the adult entertainment industry. Does the LGBT community have a mole in the Santorum campaign staff, or are they genuinely that clueless?

I have frequently referred to my mom as a sewing jock. All of the women in my family are fairly talented with sewing, knitting, embroidery and etc. We had a later get together for Christmas because of some scheduling issues. It turns out that Mom had knitted for me a beautiful hat, scarf and mittens from self-striping yarn, so that it has a lovely rainbow pattern. I took a photo with my tablet PC and posted it to Facebook. I feel very lucky to have such good family and friends in my life!

"It is astonishing that gay and lesbian Americans are still treated as second-class citizens," Clooney said. "I am confident that, very soon, the laws of this nation will reflect the basic truth that gay and lesbian people — like all human beings — are born equal in dignity and rights." ~George Clooney

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