

May 2012



EGN



LGBT Community Safe Zone Training

from GEAE

Greater Erie Alliance for Equality (GEAE) is sponsoring an “LGBT Community Safe Zone Training,” on May 30, 2012, at 21 la rue dix, 21 W 10th St, Erie PA from 6:30 - 8:30 PM. The training will feature Special Agent Denise Holtz (FBI), Ted Hoover of the Persad Center Pittsburgh, and Joe Aguglia, the executive director of the Erie County Human Relations Committee. The event is free and open to the public.

PFLAG Erie coordinator needed

from PFLAG Erie

PFLAG Erie & Crawford is seeking immediate help in chapter leadership and monthly meeting facilitation. Training and guidance is available through PFLAG National and our regional rep, Carole.

Current PFLAG President, Mark, has been relocated to Alabama. In the interim, Millie—Mark’s mother and former chapter secretary/reasurer—will be there for a couple months to help with meetings.

Meetings are second Monday of the month at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, from

7:00pm-8:30. We have 15 active households and between seven and ten regular attendees.

If you are interested in possibly filling this position, please contact Mark at: pflag.erie.crawford@gmail.com. or Carole Reeder, PFLAG. North Atlantic Regional Coordinator at breeder@gmail.com.

Thank You!

Drag Queen Bingo on May 19

from NW PA Pride Alliance

NW PA Pride Alliance, Inc. will present Drag Queen Bingo Saturday, May 19 at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA. The event is a fundraiser for Pride. Doors open at 6 PM and Bingo starts at 6:30. Admission is \$20 and there will be yummy baked goods. Please help support 2012 Pride events while having fun with friends old and new. This fundraiser will help us bring you the 20th Annual Pride Picnic on June 16 and the Parade and Rally on August 25—Sequins, glitter and Bingo daubers, together again, as it was meant to be! For more info, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email mmahler@nwpapride.org or browse to www.nwpapride.org

(continued on page 4)

LBT Women pose with comedian Suzanne Westenboefer after her show at Clarion University Venango Campus. Suzanne is an alum of Clarion University. She is the blonde with black top between Laurie Finch and Peggy.



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Erie Gay News
 1115 West 7th St.
 Erie PA 16502-1105
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 info@eriegaynews.com
 www.eriegaynews.com

Editors: Deb Spilko and Mike Mahler
Ad Design: Mike Lipiec
**Deadline for next issue: May 14; Fold-
 ing and distribution is Tue, May 22 at
 Mike Kohler's. 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, 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.

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



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



To Michael Kohler for hosting; Andrea, Erin Moll, Janice Hanusik, Jerry McCumber, Johauna, Laurie Finch, Michael Kohler, & Zachary Bauer for folding; Andrea, Erin Moll, Janice Hanusik, Jerry McCumber, Johauna, Laurie Finch, Michael Kohler, & Zachary Bauer 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.

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Community News

PFLAG - Ohio State Conference

from PFLAG Youngstown

The annual state conference of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians , Gays and Transgender persons (PFLAG) was held on Saturday, April 14 in Lima, Ohio. The event was attended by president of Youngstown area PFLAG Marguerite Felice and past PFLAG youth Board member, current Ohio State sophomore and recipient of the OSU "Scarlet and Gay" alumni scholarship Javonne Lafontaine.

PFLAG leaders and members from throughout the state of Ohio were in attendance.

Sessions included African-American story circles, bullying prevention, grantwriting and faith in our families.

Our local chapter holds monthly support and education meetings the first Tuesday of the month, 6:30 pm, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave., Youngstown, next to the Main Library. For further information, call Help Hotline @ 330-747-2696 or "211" and you will be connected to a PFLAG member.

Melissa Etheridge performs at Pittsburgh Pride's Street Event

from Delta Foundation of Pittsburgh

The Delta Foundation of Pittsburgh is pleased to announce that Melissa Etheridge will be the featured entertainer at its "Pride in the Street" event, on Saturday, June 9.

Etheridge will perform a 90-minute show with a full band on the outdoor stage at Liberty Avenue in downtown Pittsburgh between 9th and 10th streets. Last year's event drew a record 4,500 attendees with headliner Patti LaBelle.

Tickets are \$32 in advance and \$45 at the gate and can be purchased online at www.pittsburghpride.org/tickets or by calling 1-888-71-TICKETS. \$2 from every ticket sold will be donated to the Harvey Milk Foundation. To attend the event, you must be 18 or older.

The Delta Foundation of Pittsburgh is dedicated to improving the quality of life for and visibility of the LGBT community. Visit www.pittsburghpride.org

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NW PA Pride Alliance, Inc.

presents

Drag Queen

Bingo!

**Saturday
May 19**

Doors open at 5 PM,
Bingo starts at 6:30.

**Unitarian-Universalist
Congregation of Erie**

7180 New Perry Highway • Erie, PA

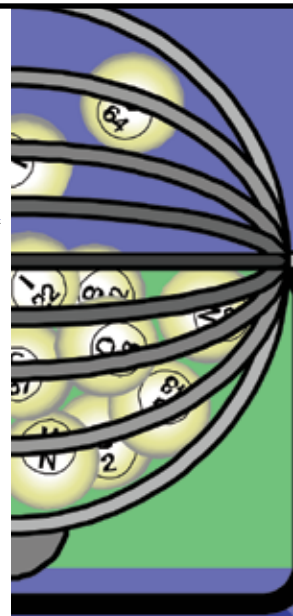
**Admission
\$20**

**Yummy
Baked Goods!**

Please help support 2012 Pride events while having fun with friends old and new! This fund raiser will help us bring you the 20th Annual Pride Picnic on June 16 and the Parade and Rally on August 25!

**Sequins, Glitter, and Bingo Daubers!
Together again, as it was meant to be!**

For more info, contact
Michael Mahler at 814-456-9833
or e-mail mmahler@nwpride.org
or browse to <http://www.nwpride.org>



Community News

First how-to guide for supporting LGBT refugees is now available

from The Organization for Refuge, Asylum & Migration

As increasing numbers of LGBT refugees flee to the United States, ORAM (the Organization for Refuge, Asylum & Migration) has released the first ever guide for welcoming people fleeing persecution in their home countries. The 48-page publication is called *Rainbow Bridges: A Community Guide to Rebuilding the Lives of LGBTI Refugees and Asylum Seekers*

"There are immediate ways those of us in the U.S. can support members of our LGBT community facing persecution overseas," said Neil Grungras, Executive Director of ORAM. "Uniting in support of queer asylum seekers and refugees is a powerful way of building community and reversing homophobia."

ORAM estimates the US receives about 2,000 refugees a year who are fleeing persecution based on their sexual orientation or gender identity, representing 6% of all refugees in America. Unlike other refugees, those who are LGBT or intersex often undergo the integration process alone, facing exclusion from the religious and immigrant communities that form the safety net for most newly arrived refugees and asylees. Rainbow Bridges will help U.S. LGBT, faith-based, and welcoming communities support these refugees as they build new lives in the United States.

"LGBT refugees need a different reception for our differences and culture," said Buchi Miles-Tuck, a gay asylee from Nigeria who fled two days before he was going to be killed.. "If I were not gay, I would have easily been accepted into the African-American community and offered the services I needed; instead I faced further discrimination and restricted resources. If you have support from the LGBT community, you can get off the plane and experience how to be free in your own skin."

To download the *Rainbow Bridges* PDF, visit www.oraminternational.org and click on "Publications"

The Organization for Refuge, Asylum & Migration (ORAM) is the only organization focused exclusively on helping vulnerable LGBTI refugees worldwide find safety and rebuild their lives in welcoming communities. Learn more at www.oraminternational.org.

Obituary



Karen DeCarolis, age 62, passed away at UPMC Hamot on Monday, March 26, 2012.

She was preceded in death by her partner, Diedra "Dee" Hoyt on October 5, 2010.

We know that Karen is truly happy to be back together with her beloved Dee, whom she

had missed so much.

Karen was a kind and caring soul who touched the lives of many. Memorials may be made to the ANNA Shelter 1555 E. 10th Street, Erie, PA 16511 or the Emmaus Soup Kitchen, 218 East 11th Street, Erie, PA 16503.

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www.ECDH.org

Calendar

Apr 25-28 Lily Tomlin performs live

Apr 25- Byham Theatre Pittsburgh

Apr 27 Struthers Library Theatre, 302 West 3rd Avenue, Warren, PA) 8 PM

Apr 28 – University of Buffalo Center for the Arts

Apr 26 - CLAW Weekend Cleveland clawinfo.org/

Apr 27 - 29 (Fri - Sun) - Jones Pond Opening Weekend (Jones Pond Campground & RV Park, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY 14709-) Welcome Back! BYOB Cocktail Party. Ph: (585) 567-8100. Email: info@jonespond.com. Browse to www.jonespond.com.

Apr 28 (Sat) - Camp Davis Opening Weekend

(Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA 16020-1219) 10 AM. Camp Opens 10 AM. No Dance. Dinner for Seasonals 5 PM. Contact: Jim. Phone: (724) 637-2402. Email: campd@aol.com. Browse to www.campdavicampground.com.

Apr 28 (Sat) - LBT Women Local Small Business Shopping Tour

(Erie, PA) 1 PM. Meet us for some shopping and possibly dinner afterwards. E-mail kimmytoes@gmail.com if you would like to come

along. This way we will know who to meet so we can all get together and shop. We were thinking of hitting some of the consignment shops near the West Erie Plaza, Lighthouse Jewelers, and some of the specialty gift shops in and near the Colony Plaza. When we are done with those, we are going to head to the new Fresh Grocer in town, Frankie and May. www.frankieandmay.com/ Contact: Kim. Email: kimmytoes@gmail.com. Browse to <http://womynoferie.wetpaint.com/>.

Apr 28 (Sat) - Erie Sisters meets (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie, PA.) 7 PM. Erie Sisters is a local transgender support group that provides support and encouragement for both MTF and FTM transgender individuals. This month's meeting will feature Nicole Nichols-Milburn, a local cosmetologist, with tips on eye makeup. Dinner out and dancing at the Zone will follow the meeting. Phone: (440) 265-8191. Browse to <http://eriesisters.ning.com/>. Browse to venue web site www.uuerie.org.

May 2 (Wed) - LBT Women go to Erie Illusion Woman's Football Meet and Greet! (Brewerie at

e-rot-i-ca (ī-rōt'ī-kə) - noun.
Literature intended to arouse.

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Calendar

Union Station, 123 W 14th St, Erie, PA 16501-1717) Social group for lesbian, bisexual and transgendered women Time and cost to be announced here soon! Fundraiser for the team. They have Chinese auctions, 50/50 raffle and the Brewery has good food and great beer! Contact: Laurie Finch. Email: LFinch003@neo.rr.com. Browse to <http://womynoferie.wetpaint.com/>.

May 4 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) (Pufferbelly Restaurant, 414 French St, Erie, PA 16507) 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.

May 4 - 6 (Fri - Sun) - Jones Pond Cinco de Mayo Weekend 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY. Margarita Madness, Mexican Potluck. Phone: (585) 567-8100. Email: info@jonespond.com. Browse to www.jonespond.com.

May 5 (Sat) - Camp Davis Long Johns / Flannels Weekend 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA. Contact:

Jim. Phone: (724) 637-2402. Email: campd@aol.com. Browse to www.campdaviscampground.com.

May 9 (Wed) - Drag Show to Benefit Leukemia & Lymphoma Society at the Zone (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. Doors open at 8 PM, show starts at 9 PM. Chinese auction, raffles, bake sale. Donations at the door. Featuring top notch queen. MC of the night 'Alaska' from Pittsburgh PA as seen on RuPaul's Drag Race. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: TheZoneDanceClub@aol.com. Browse to www.thezonedanceclub.com/.

May 11 (Fri) - LBT Women go to Seawolves Baseball game! (Jerry Uht Park, 110 E 10th St, Erie, PA) 7:05 PM. Social group for lesbian, bisexual and transgendered women. Meet Kim and Andrea, Laurie and Jan at the UHT park to take in a ball game. We have seats in section 114, row G. buy seats near there and come for a good time! Contact: Laurie Finch. Venue Phone: (814) 456-1300. Email: LFinch003@neo.rr.com. Browse to <http://womynoferie.wetpaint.com/>.

May 11 - 13 (Fri - Sun) - Jones Pond Flashback Weekend 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY. Retro Game Show & Dance. Phone: (585) 567-8100. Email: info@jonespond.com. Browse to www.jonespond.com.

May 12 (Sat) - ACLU NWPA Chapter meets (Erie, PA) Contact for meeting details. Email: northwestchapter@aclupa.org. Browse to www.aclupa.org/chapters/northwestpa/.

May 12 (Sat) - Camp Davis Dance to the 70's Weekend (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA 16020-1219) Contact: Jim. Phone: (724) 637-2402. Email: campd@aol.com. Browse to www.campdavis-



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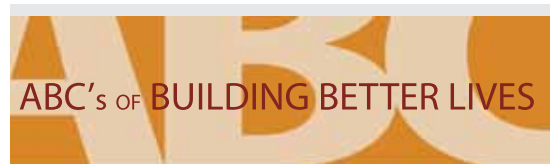
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Calendar

campground.com.

May 12 (Sat) - NW PA Pride Alliance Planning Meeting (Panera's - Yorktown, 2501 W 12th St, Erie, PA5) 3 PM. The NW PA Pride Alliance will be meeting to plan 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.

May 14 (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. Phone: (814) 456-0901. Email: pflag.erie.crawford@gmail.com.

May 14 (Sun) - Deadline for Erie Gay News June 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 May 22. For complete list of upcoming deadlines and release dates, check print edition schedule at www.eriegaynews.com.

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The advertisement for Camp Davis Campground features a photograph of a shirtless young man with short brown hair, looking slightly to the right. The background is a lush green forest. Overlaid on the right side of the image is a green rectangular box containing the following text and logo:

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311 Redbrush Road
Boyers, PA 16020
724-637-2402
CampD@aol.com
www.CampDavisCampground.com
See Website for Complete Schedule

Calendar

eriegaynews.com/printedition/deadlineschedule.php.
Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833.
Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to www.
eriegaynews.com.

May 15 (Tue) - Spirituality and Sexuality Discussion Group meets (Community United Church, 1011 W 38th, Erie, PA) Every 3rd Tues of 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.

May 15 - Namol Brennet in Oil City At the The Impromptu Room @ Art on Elm! 228 Elm St, Oil City, PA (t) 7 pm

May 18 (Fri) - Bear Bar Night at the Zone 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA. 10 PM. Come join the Bears and their friends for a night of fun! Contact: Gary Snyder.

Phone: (814) 446-2327. Venue Phone: (814) 452-0125.
Email: info@drenchedfur.com. Browse to www.
drenchedfur.com. Browse to venue web site www.
thezonedanceclub.com/.

May 18 - 20 (Fri - Sun) - Jones Pond Cowboy Weekend 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY Boots, Buckles & Bandanas. Line Dance and 2 Step Workshop. Saturday Night Barn Dance. Phone: (585) 567-8100. Email: info@jonespond.com. Browse to www.jonespond.com.

May 19 (Sat) - Camp Davis Camouflage Weekend 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA. Contact: Jim. Phone: (724) 637-2402. Email: campd@aol.com. Browse to www.campdavicampground.com.

May 19 (Sat) - LBT Women go to Edinboro Arts and Music Fest (Goodell Gardens and Homestead, 221 Waterford Street, Edinboro, PA 16412) 11 AM. Come and Hang With the Beans at Goodell Gardens. Music, Food, Arts and crafts to check out! www.edinboroartandmusic.com/ Contact: Laurie Finch. Venue Phone: (814) 734-6699. Email: LFinch003@neo.rr.com. Browse to http://womynoferie.wetpaint.com/. Browse to venue web site www.goodellgardens.org.

May 19 (Sat) - Drag Queen Bingo by NW PA Pride Alliance, Inc. (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie, PA 16508) 7 PM. On Saturday, May 19 at NW PA Pride Alliance, Inc. will present Drag Queen Bingo! Doors open at 5 PM and Bingo starts at 6:30. Admission is \$20 and there will be yummy baked goods for sale! Please help support 2012 Pride events while having fun with friends old and new! This fundraiser will help us bring

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

Clarion Office: 15870 Rt. 322
Suite 2, Clarion, PA 16214

814-764-6066 or 1-800-359-AIDS

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Calendar

you the 20th Annual Pride Picnic on June 16 and the Parade and Rally on August 25! Sequins, glitter and Bingo daubers! Together again, as it was meant to be! Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Venue Phone: (814) 864-9300. Email: mmahler@nwpapride.org. Browse to www.nwpapride.org.

May 20 (Sun) - LBT Women meets (Presque Isle Gallery Coffeehouse, 35 Peninsula Drv, Erie, PA 16505) 12 PM. Note, the meeting is the 3rd Sunday this month because of Mother's Day. Also *we are changing our new meeting time to NOON, instead of 1 PM* from now on. Come and help us plan events! Social group for lesbian, bisexual and transgendered women. Meets the 2nd Sunday of each month at Presque Isle Gallery Coffeehouse. Contact: Laurie Finch. Venue Phone: (814) 790-5615. Email: LFinch003@neo.rr.com. Browse to <http://womynoferie.wetpaint.com/>. Browse to venue web site www.picoffeehouse.com.

May 22 (Tue) - Erie Gay News folding/distribution work party (Mike Kohler's, 614 Cherry St, Erie PA) 7 PM. Help us get out the print edition of Erie Gay News. All ages welcome. It is also a great way to hang out with folks! Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to www.eriegaynews.com.

May 25 - 28 (Fri - Mon) - Jones Pond Memorial Day Weekend 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY. Military Maneuvers.....Jones Pond Boot Camp! Saturday-Military Uniform Party. Sunday-Tighty-Whitie Party. Monday-11:00am Memorial Service. Phone: (585) 567-8100. Email: info@jonespond.com. Browse to www.jonespond.com.

May 25-27 - VA Women's Music Festival Music, dancing, bonfires, and a Memorial Day celebration.



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This ad is made possible by a Federal Grant
under the Ryan White Care Act of 1990.

Calendar

www.campoutva.com Click on "Music Festival"

May 26 (Sat) - LBT Women go to Troika Russian Festival (Church of the Nativity Community Center, 109 German St, Erie, PA) 12 PM. Homemade Russian food, Russian dancing and music, Vodka Ice Bar, Russian Tea room. Meet in the large food tent. Contact: Laurie Finch. Email: LFinch003@neo.rr.com. Browse to <http://womynoferie.wetpaint.com/>.

May 26 (Sat) - Camp Davis Holiday Weekend 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA . Dance Saturday and Sunday Night Contact: Jim. Phone: (724) 637-2402. Email: campd@aol.com. Browse to www.campdavis-campground.com.

May 26 (Sat) - "Starz Retro Show" With Erie's Icon Michelle Michaels at Skybar 108 Fairmount Parkway, Jamestown, NY) 11 PM. Turn back time at the Starz Retro Show with your hosts Liza Summers and Anita Waistline. Featuring the legendary Michelle Michaels of Erie PA and Melody Michaels of Buffalo NY. With Jill Jameson, Serenity Chambers, live singers Matthew Kayden and Jaala the official Starz DJ from

Felony Entertainment LLC. The biggest hits from the late 70's to early 90's and a costume contest with great prizes! Come wearing your favorite retro outfit for a chance to win a complete Retro CD box set, alcohol and more! Shows at 11pm and 1am. \$5 cover! Phone: (716) 661-3212.

May 30 (Wed) - LGBT Community Safe Zone Training (21 la rue dix, 21 W 10th St, Erie, PA 16507) 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM. Greater Erie Alliance for Equality (GEAE) is sponsoring an "LGBT Community Safe Zone Training." The training will feature Special Agent Denise Holtz (FBI), Ted Hoover of the Persad Center Pittsburgh, and Joe Aguglia, the executive director of the Erie County Human Relations Committee. The event is free and open to the public. Phone: (866) 229-1974. Venue Phone: (814) 868-3463. Email: GEAEinfo@gmail.com.

May 31 (Thu) - LBT Women go to Erie Rib Cook Off (Perry Square, W 6th and State Streets, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM. Meet at the Gazebo at 6PM. We will eat, and check out the crafts and music and other stuff! Contact: Laurie Finch. Email: LFinch003@neo.rr.com. Browse to <http://womynoferie.wetpaint.com/>

June 2-3 - Buffalo: Allentown Festival, Dyke March Pride March & Festival www.pridecenterwny.org
Jun 9 - Melissa Etheridge at Pittsburgh Pride .

UPCOMING

Aug. 10. K.D. Lang at Chautauqua.- Chautauqua Amphitheatre

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On our website

PHOTOS

- FACE Show
- Bear Night at the Zone
- LBT Women - At Suzanne Westenhoefer performance, and at Ghost Tour of Latonia

PRINT

- NW PA Pride Alliance, Inc. formed, seeks sponsors for Pride
- GLAAD and Miss Universe organization announce inclusion of transgender women in their competitions

VIDEO

- AllOut.org Remixes UN Sec. General Ban Ki-Moons Historic Speech on LGBT Discrimination Worldwide



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Win Prizes from Erie Gay News

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

Contest	Starts
<i>Unafraid</i> by Michael Griffo	April 27
<i>Rocky Horror Picture Show: Music on Film</i>	May 1
<i>Jitters</i> DVD	May 4
Morgan Page - <i>In the Air</i> Prize Pack	May 8
Ruck's Deluxe <i>Roof</i> album set by Joey Ruckus (signed)	May 11
<i>Dressing Marilyn</i> by Andrew Hansford	May 18
<i>Purple Rain: Music on Film</i>	May 22
<i>American Translation</i> DVD	May 25

Here are contests which are currently active...

Contest	Ends
David Guetta feat. Nicki Minaj	April 27
Music from 'Beatrix Runs' by Elizaveta	May 1
<i>Film Noir, the Directors</i>	May 4
<i>Annoying Ghost Kid</i> , Autographed by Robert Wilson	May 11
<i>Love at the Bottom of the Sea</i> by The Magnetic Fields	May 15

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!

Catholic GLBT ministry condemns Vatican repression of nuns' group

Following is a statement of Francis DeBernardo, Executive Director, New Ways Ministry, (a ministry for GLBT Catholics) on the Vatican's condemnation of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious. The nuns' group has rejected the proclamation (from a press release April 18, 2012):

For all of our 35-year history, New Ways Ministry has been strongly supported by Catholic women religious in the United States. This support, manifested by so many generous and courageous acts, has, indeed, been the backbone of our bridge-building ministry for lesbian/gay Catholics and the wider church community.

So, it was with great dismay that we learned that the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) today released a document on the recent "Doctrinal Assessment of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious," (LCWR) in which the Congregation announced the appointment of an Archbishop Delegate to oversee LCWR's activities. We are even more deeply saddened that support of New Ways Ministry by women's religious communities and by LCWR leaders was singled out as one of the reasons that a doctrinal assessment was undertaken. From the document:

"Policies of Corporate Dissent. The Cardinal [William Levada, CDF Prefect] spoke of this issue in reference to letters the CDF received from "Leadership Teams" of various Congregations, among them LCWR officers, protesting the Holy See's actions regarding the question of women's ordination and of a correct pastoral approach to ministry to homosexual persons, e.g. letters about New Ways Ministry's conferences.

The terms of the letters suggest that these sisters collectively take a position not in agreement with the Church's teaching on human sexuality. It is a serious matter when these Leadership Teams are not providing effective leadership and example to their communities, but place themselves outside the Church's teaching.

In 2007, many leadership teams of women's religious communities wrote to the CDF to express their concern about the CDF's directive to the Archbishop of St. Paul, Minnesota, to deny permission to our organization to celebrate the Eucharist at our national conference in that archdiocese. As far as we are aware, the content of these letters questioned the Vatican's denial of the Eucharist without addressing the other issues of pastoral care of lesbian and gay people or Catholic teaching on human sexuality.

The CDF's criticism of receiving letters seems intended to silence discussion of important issues in the church. Why are Vatican leaders afraid to hear what women religious think on topics such as homosexuality that is being so widely discussed in all other quarters of society? The Catholic faith is a living faith that requires dialogue and discussion, not only to thrive, but also to be a viable witness of God's love in the world.

If the leadership of the Catholic Church is unwilling to listen to the idea of the leaders of some of its most dedicated members, then our Church will never be able to grow or to respond in a Gospel way to the needs of our world. The CDF's repressive action towards LCWR further erodes Catholicism's ability to be a vital force in the world

New Ways Ministry, in gratitude for all we have received from women's religious communities, pledges our prayerful support to LCWR and all its members during this period of trial. We know that our God, who has graced these women with gifts of justice, fortitude, and wisdom, will guide and sustain them at this critical time.

New Ways Ministry a gay-positive ministry of advocacy and justice for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Catholics, and reconciliation within the larger Christian and civil communities. Visit <http://newwaysministry.org/>

**Please
RECYCLE
US!**



Michael Dithers

Best wishes to former PFLAG Erie and Crawford County President and NW PA Pride Alliance, Inc Treasurer Mark Hoovler, who was promoted to a new position in Alabama. Many thanks for all that he has done. Jayne May will be helping out with PFLAG and Ernie Staaf is the new Treasurer for NW PA Pride Alliance. Big thanks to those who are stepping up to keep things going!

I was sorry to hear that Matthew's Trattoria closed as of the end of March. Wishing Matthew and Cindy a happy retirement. There were quite a few wonderful events there over the years, so we will always have the memories.

Drenched Fur was an absolute blast! It was great seeing so many Bears from near and far come together for a great time. We have already had quite a few registrations for next year. We are also continuing to have Bear Bar Nights once a month at the Zone, so hope that you can join us for the next one on Friday, May 18!

Speaking of the Zone, if you can, please come to the Drag Show there on May 9 to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Not only is this a fundraiser for a very worthy cause, but Sharon Needles (one of the final 3 queens on RuPaul's Drag Race) and her partner



In a somewhat candid/campy moment.



Some friends at a recent Bear Bar Night. Join us at the next on May 18 at the Zone! Photo by Michael Mahler

“Alaska” will be there. there will be a Chinese auction, raffles and a bake sale. Niftiness!

NW PA Pride Alliance, Inc. is looking forward to a great season of Pride events with everyone's help. Our first event of the season is Drag Queen Bingo at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA on Saturday, May 19! Doors open at 5 PM, and we will start bingo at 6:30 PM. We are also fortunate to have some very talented folks who will be baking some

sumptuous treats! You can feel good knowing that you are helping to support the 20th Annual Pride Picnic on June 16, and the Pride Parade and Rally on August 25, as well as other events. And yes, we will have T-shirts for Pride again this year, possibly even for sale at Drag Queen Bingo!

I am very happy as my 16 or so year old cat Puck came back after being missing for 3-4 weeks!

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