

### **GEAE New Board & Officers**

from Greater Erie Alliance for Equality

The Greater Eric Alliance for Equality, Inc. (GEAE) is proud to announce new members and officers of our Board of Directors in 2015. In December, 2014, GEAE welcomed Caitlyn Strohmeyer, Tyler J. Titus, and Margo Wolfe to serve on the Board of Directors, each for a two year term. In January, Will Koehler will begin serving as President, Leah Manino as Vice President, and Tyler J. Titus as Secretary of the Board. Brandon Whitten will continue to serve as Treasurer through 2015. Finally, our President from 2011 – 2014, Rich McCarty, will be assuming the position of Chair of the Advisory Council.

On January 17th, The Board of Directors and Advisory Council will be meeting to cast our 1 year, 3 year, and 5 year vision and goals. We welcome your feedback and suggestions leading up to this annual retreat. Please contact us at: phone: (866) 229-1974 (toll free), email: geaeinfo@gmail.com, mail: GEAE, P.O. Box 1741, Erie, PA 16512, Facebook: Greater Erie Alliance for Equality (GEAE), or visit us at www. greatereriealliance.com.

We look forward to working along with you to support the region's LGBT community and its straight allies through educational programs, social events, and opportunities for service in 2015 and beyond!

## 4th Annual PA Youth Action Conference

### from Pennsylvania Student Equality Coalition

The fourth annual Youth Action Conference, Pennsylvania's largest LGBTQ youth conference, will be held at Indiana University of Pennsylvania in Indiana, PA from February 26th to March 1st. The 2015 YAC is dedicated to "Cultivating New Possibilities for Rural LGBTQ Youth." This conference will focus on pressing issues facing young rural Pennsylvanians, and toward the empowerment of a generation of rural LGBTQ youth leaders in our state.

Students and young advocates are invited from all

areas of the commonwealth for this landmark meeting. We highly encourage LGBTQ student groups from high school and university communities to join us. Our keynote speaker is Mike Fleck, who became the first openly gay legislator in Pennsylvania in December 2012. Nationally renowned gender and sexuality therapist Dr. Michele Angello will lead an all-conference session.

There will be over 20 conference sessions on youth-led activism, building LGBTQ affirming schools and communities, and other issues directly impacting

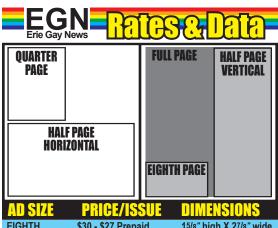


**Rev. Steve Aschmann** of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, speaking at this year's celebration of the marriage equality ruling in Perry Square. Rev. Steve is retiring from the UUCE, where he has served since 2005. His last Sunday at the UUCE will be Jan. 18. Steve has been an ardent and loving supporter of the Erie area's LGBTQ community, and we are posting on our website a gallery of his participation in various local events over the past decade. Visit www.eriegaynews.com

Photo by Deb Spilko

## In This Issue...





LIGHT	woo werricpula	1.40 mgn X L.10 mac
QUARTER	\$50 - \$45 Prepaid	31/2" high X 27/8" wide
HALF VERT.	\$90 - \$81 Prepaid	7" high X 27/8" wide
HALF HORZ.	\$90 - \$81 Prepaid	31/2" high X 6" wide
FULL PAGE	\$160 - \$144 Prepaid	71/2" 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-1105 (814) 456-9833 Fax: (530) 451-9833 info@eriegaynews.com www.eriegaynews.com

**Editor: Mike Mahler** 

Assistant Editor and Layout: Deb Spilko Ad Design: Mike Lipiec Deadline for next issue: January 12; Folding and distribution is Tue, January 20 at Griffin Room at Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel.

### 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.



From Your Friends at Erie Gay New

To Mental Health Association of Northwestern Pennsylvania for hosting! Christina Hoover, Ginger Maurana, Johauna, Julie, Kim, Melanie Shubitowski, and Peggy for folding; Christina Hoover, Jerry McCumber, Johauna, Julie, Kim, and Melanie Shubitowski 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**

### rural youth.

Panelists for the opening and closing plenaries will include: Joanne Carroll, President of TransCentralPA; Joe Burns, Cofounder of the Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus; and Dr. Karen Whitney, President of Clarion University of Pennsylvania and Board Member of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania.

Regular registration to attend the conference, which includes five meals and overnight accommodations with IUP students, will be \$35.00 per person.

Please visit www.youthactionconference.com for more information and to register for the 2015 YAC.

The YAC Planning Committee would be glad to answer any of your questions about the conference by at info@pennsec.org.

### Focusing with Art Making for **Emotional Self Healing Jan 25**

from Expressive Therapies Center

When we experience trauma, grief, stress, or other emotions, those feeling are stored in our physical bodies, often causing headaches, tiredness, and body aches. Focusing is a gentle vet powerful skill for tapping into your body's wisdom to make positive changes in your life. Focusing is a way of listening to your body with compassion, without assumptions or judgment. In this Jan 25 workshop, we will learn more about focusing, practice listening to ourselves and creating visual art and/or writing as a way to further explore what we are hearing. \$30 per person, 3-5PM. Contact: Dr. Penny Orr, ATR-BC, ATCS (Expressive Therapies Center, 103 West Normal Street, Edinboro, PA 16412). (814) 873-3092. penny@expressivetherapiescenter. com. www.expressivetherapiescenter.com

## **MAYOR JASON WHITE** Available for wedding ceremonies Marriage license required



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# **Community News**

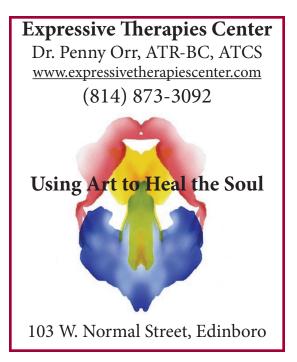
### Theology on Tap

from Jodi

Theology on Tap is an opportunity to discuss spiritual matters and your relationship with/to the Divine. It is a laid back discussion as we gather around a table at a local bar, drink in hand, to share our experiences, ask our questions and explore our faiths. And yes, that is plural! While the majority of those meeting have some sort of Christian background, we are welcome people of all faiths (or no faith) to come and participate in the discussion. We are not associated with any place of worship, and we are not out to convert anyone. We simply want to learn from each other and deepen our own respective faiths.

The next Theology on Tap will be Wednesday, January 14 7 p.m. at the Plymouth Tavern, 1109 State, Erie PA. (probably in Garden Room or back bar. If you are new, you may want to call first to know where to look.)

For more information, call 814-724-9775.



**1** in 6 people with HIV don't know they have it.

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

## 2014 Gala glitters

### from Melanie Shubitowski – Erie Sisters President and Gala Director

The 2014 Gala took place Nov 19-23 at the Avalon Hotel in Erie. The event is sponsored by Erie Sisters.

This year's event began with dinner and bowling night on Wednesday.

The 2014 Gala celebrated the beginnings of the Lake Erie Gala on Thursday with a tour to Cambridge Springs, highlighting this year's theme, "A Return To Riverside". The Riverside Inn was the original site of what would become the annual Lake Erie Gala. The bus trip also included tours of Campbell Pottery and Sprague Brewery, with dinner and entertainment at the historic Riverside Inn.

Friday's events included a bus tour to Quincy Cellars and Sensory Wineries in Ripley, New York. At the conclusion of our winery visits, the bus returned to Erie for lunch at the Colony Pub and Grill, followed with time for shopping at the stores at the Colony Plaza. After dinner Friday evening, we were treated to the comedy duo, Dueling Pianos, historically a favorite among long-time Gala participants. Friday's entertainment continued through the night at Benjamin's Pub in the Avalon for a Disco dance.

Saturday saw a fashion show put on by volunteers of the Gala, followed by time for shopping with the many vendors that set up at the Avalon for the event. Saturday evening capped the event with our annual Glitter Ball, with music by DJ Brad Kepler and lighting by Erie Sisters Secretary, Jennifer Lucas, who supplied the lighting for the event. Jennifer, herself, could not however be present, as she was being honored for the second consecutive year with providing the light show at the upcoming Thanksgiving day football game in Detroit between the Detroit Lions and the Chicago Bears. She was in Detroit, making preparations for that show.

Sunday morning was the time for tearful good-

byes as we said farewell to dear friends over the morning brunch.

While we had anticipated record setting attendance this year, our hopes were thwarted somewhat by the unusual weather that had hit the Buffalo area with as much as seven feet of snow. Many of our friends from the Buffalo area were unable to attend, as were a number of people intending to come down from Canada, only to find the border closed with the heavy snowfall. Despite these setbacks, the Lake Erie Gala still experienced a better than average attendance for the event, with many proclaiming it to be the best ever. Also making a big contribution was our first time event photographer, Destinee Davis, who took photos during the entire event and made them available for purchase on CDs. Destinee took the place of our long time photographer, Glenda Berkshire, who could not attend due to business commitments. All in all, the 2014 Lake Erie Gala was again a huge success, and we look forward to Gala 2015, which will take place November 4-8, next year.



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### Detailed calendar listings in our online calendar www.eriegaynews.com

Dec 26 (Fri) - Christmas Ball (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) BYOB, membership required, purchase from bartender. (724) 602-8447. JoshuaSean2009@Aol.com. www.facebook.com/ MandJsLounge.

Dec 27 (Sat) - TransFamily of Erie Support Group meets (Mental Health Assoc. of NW PA, 1101 Peach St, Erie, PA) 2-5 PM. Support group dedicated to providing safe, supportive space for transgender, gender non-conforming, gender-questioning, and intersex people and their loved ones in Erie Co. and the surrounding region. Judgment-free environment. Refreshments provided. Attendants are encouraged to bring something to share with the group, but this is not required. Contact: Caitlyn Strohmeyer. (814) 823-1969. caitlyn\_xpress@verizon.net. www.facebook.

Northwest PA RuralAIDS Alliance 814.454.3811 Case Management & Clinic services for People Living With HIV/AIDS.

Call for treatment and referral.

com/TransfamilyOfErie.

**Dec 27 (Sat) - Erie Sisters meets** (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Erie Sisters is a local transgender support group that provides support and encouragement for both MTF and FTM transgender individuals. The group meets for discussion the fourth Saturday of each month, followed by dinner at a local restaurant and dancing at The Zone Dance Club. (440) 265-8191. shub1@suite224.net. eriesisters.ning.com/

Dec 27 (Sat) - Drag Show & Joshua's Birthday. (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) BYOB, membership required, purchase from bartender. : (724) 602-8447. JoshuaSean2009@aol.com. www.facebook. com/MandJsLounge.

**Dec 31 (Wed) - Community Board Game Night,** Community United Church 1011 West 38th Street, Erie PA (814) 864-4429 10:30 pm, \$5 donation.

Dec 31 (Wed) - New Year's Eve Gala: Nine in Concert 13 W 10th Erie Playhouse Erie PA www. erieplayhouse.org

Dec 31 (Wed) - Let It Go New Year's Eve Party (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) (814) 452-0125. TheZoneDanceClub@aol.com. www.thezonedanceclub.com/.

- **Dec 31 (Wed) New Years Eve Party (**M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) BYOB membership required, purchase from bartender. (724) 602-8447. JoshuaSean2009@aol.com. www.facebook. com/MandJsLounge.
- Jan 4 (Sun) PFLAG Butler meets (Covenant Presbyterian Church, 230 E Jefferson St, Butler PA, PA) Contact: Joshua Crawford. (724) 290-9674 president@ pflagbutler.com. www.pflagbutler.com/.
- Jan 9 (Fri) Bear Bar Night (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 11 PM. Join the Bears for a night of fun and friends! Contact: Gary Snyder. (814) 446-2327 info@drenchedfur.com. www.drenchedfur.com. www.thezonedanceclub.com/.

Jan 11 (Sun) - Annual LBT WOMEN OF ERIE

### PARTIED TOO MUCH?

ERIE YELLOW CAB (814) 455-4441 JAMESTOWN CAB (716) 484-9994 ACCOMMODATIONS www.hotels.com/

Holiday dinner (Calamari's Squid Row, 1317 State St, Erie, PA) 2 PM - 5 PM. We will hold our monthly meeting at the dinner. Please r.s.v.p to Barb and Robin 455-3127 or at eriebeans@aol.com by December 15. We will be having a \$10 gift exchange. If you want to participate bring a gift and you will in turn receive a gift. ErieBeans@aol.com. https://www.facebook. com/LBTWOMENOFERIE.

Jan 12 (Mon) - PFLAG Erie/Crawford County meets (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy, Erie PA) 7 PM. Support group for parents, friends and families of gay, lesbian and transgendered people. Also meets 4th Tuesday of the month at 7 PM at Stone United Methodist Church, 956 S. Main St. Meadville, PA. Contact: Alex Sphon. (814) 367-3311. pflag.erie.crawford@gmail.com. www.facebook.com/pages/PFLAG-Erie-Crawford-Counties/1.

Jan 12 (Mon) - Deadline for Erie Gay News Februaary 2015 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 Jan 20. For a complete list of upcoming deadlines and release dates, check the print edition schedule at www.eriegaynews.com/printedition/deadlineschedule.php. Contact: Michael Mahler. (814) 456-9833. info@eriegaynews.com. www.eriegaynews.com. Jan 13 (Tue) - Youngstown PFLAG meets (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH)



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- 6:30 PM. Support groups are open to the public, starts at 6:30pm. Light refreshments will be available. Contact: Marguerite Felice. oungstownpflag@aol.com. www.youngstownpflag.org/.
- Jan 14 (Wed) J-Pride LGBT Social Group meets (Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County, 31 Water Street Suite 7, Jamestown, NY) 6 PM. Drive into the big parking lot at the Gateway Center and drive to back of the building to the smaller rear parking lot. You'll see a bright light over door 14. Enter there. Contact: Steven Michael Cobb. (716) 661-9044.
- Jan 14 (Wed) Bears Do Dinner (Victor's at Bel-Aire Hotel and Conference Center, 2800 W 8th St, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Join the Bears for a night of food and fun. Dinner is on your own. Contact: Gary Snyder. : (814) 446-2327. info@drenchedfur.com. www.drenchedfur. com.
- Jan 14 Theology on Tap 7 PM Plymouth Tavern, 1109 State, Erie 814-724-9775.
- Jan 18 (Sun) FACE Drag Show (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 11 PM. All of your favorite

drag queens, new drag queens and special guests the 3d Sun. of the month. (814) 452-0125. TheZone-DanceClub@aol.com. www.thezonedanceclub.com/. Jan 20 (Tue) - Spirituality and Sexuality Discussion Group meets (Community United Church, 1011 W 38th St, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Facilitated by the Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty 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. 1-866-229-1974 (toll free). richmccarty@msn.com.

- Jan 20 (Tue) Erie Gay News folding/distribution work party (Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel, Griffin Room, 55 West Bay Drv, Erie, PA) 7 PM. NOTE NEW LOCATION! Help us get out the print edition of Erie Gay News. We'll be folding and distributing the copies. All ages welcome! It is also a great way to hang out and chat with folks! info@eriegaynews.com. www.eriegaynews.com.
- Jan 20 (Tue) Prayer Vigil to End Hatred (Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel, 512 Peach St, Erie, PA)



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7:30 PM. This is a Gannon tradition and is organized by L.I.F.E. www.gannon.edu/About-Gannon/Mary-Seat-of-Wisdom-Chapel.

Jan 24 (Sat) - TransFamily of Erie Support Group meets (Mental Health Assoc. of NW PA, 1101 Peach St, Erie, PA) 2-5 PM. Support group dedicated to providing safe, supportive space for transgender, gender non-conforming, gender-questioning, and intersex people and their loved ones in Erie Co. and



the surrounding region. Judgment-free environment. Refreshments provided. Attendants are encouraged to bring something to share with the group, but this is not required. Contact: Caitlyn Strohmeyer. (814) 823-1969. caitlyn\_xpress@verizon.net. www.facebook. com/TransfamilyOfErie.

**Jan 24 (Sat) - Erie Sisters meets** (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Erie Sisters is a local transgender support



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# LGBTQ QUESTIONS? WE HAVE ANSWERS

### PERSAD CENTER'S COMMUNITY SAFE ZONE PROGRAM



Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated.

PERSAD CENTER's Community Safe Zone program works to eliminate bullying, hate crimes and discrimination aimed at LGBTQ people in western PA. Community Safe Zone partners with law enforcement, schools, social service agencies, churches, community groups and other organizations to create safe communities. If you, or someone you know, have been the victim of a bias-related incident, PERSAD can assist you in getting the help you need.

### 1-888-873-7723 ext. 359 • persadcenter.org

group that provides support and encouragement for both MTF and FTM transgender individuals. The group meets for discussion the fourth Saturday of each month, followed by dinner at a local restaurant and dancing at The Zone Dance Club. (440) 265-8191. shub1@suite224.net. eriesisters.ning.com/

Jan 25 (Sun) - Focusing with Art Making for Emotional Self Healing (Expressive Therapies Center,

### **NEW FOLDING LOCATION FOR** EGN

Beginning with the next issue of EGN, we'll be folding at the Griffin Room at the Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel, 55 West Bay Drv, Erie PA. The next issue comes out the night of Tuesday, Jan, 20, 2015, and we'll fold at 7 PM, as usual. As always, volunteers are very much appreciated, and this is also a great way to become active in the community and meet people. Info: Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 (cell is 814-746-9281) or info@eriegaynews.com. 103 West Normal Street, Edinboro, PA 16412) 3 - 5 PM. Contact: Dr. Penny Orr, ATR-BC, ATCS .: (814) 873-3092. penny@expressivetherapiescenter.com.

- Jan 27 (Tue) Butler LGBTQ Interfaith Network meets (Covenant Presbyterian Church, 230 E Jefferson St, Butler PA, PA) 1 PM. (724) 287-7731. www. facebook.com/ButlerLgbtqInterfaithNetwork.
- Jan 27 (Tue) PFLAG Meeting in Meadville (Stone United Methodist Church, 956 S Main St, Meadville, PA) 7 PM. The meeting is co-sponsored by Stone United Methodist Church and Unitarian Universalist Church of Meadville. Info: (814) 724-6736 or sroncola@allegheny.edu (Stone UMC) or (814) 724-4023 (UU Meadville.) (814) 724-6736. www.facebook.com/ pages/PFLAG-Erie-Crawford-Counties/1.
- Jan 28 (Wed) J-Pride LGBT Social Group meets (Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County, 31 Water Street Suite 7, Jamestown, NY) 6 PM. Drive into the big parking lot at the Gateway Center and drive to back of the building to the smaller rear parking lot. You'll see a bright light over door 14. Enter there.



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Contact: Steven Michael Cobb. (716) 661-9044.

Feb 5 (Thu) - "Lance Loves Michael: The Lance Bass Wedding" 90-minute special on E! 8pm.

Feb 6-15 - "Avenue Q" Academy Theater, 275 Chestnut, Meadville PA www.theacademytheatre.org

Feb 15 (Sun) - Deadline for Wedding Officiants survey Authorized wedding officiants in the regionwho perform services for same-sex couples, we want to list you! info@eriegaynews.com

Feb 20-Mar 14 - Terrance McNally's "Mothers and Sons" at Buffalo United Artists Buffalo NY. www. buffalobua.org

Feb 20 (Fri) - RuPaul's Drag Race Condragulations Tour 9 pm, Connor Palace Theater, 1615 Euclid Ave, Cleveland, OH. rupaulbots.com.

Feb 24 (Tue) - RuPaul's Drag Race: Battle of the Seasons Byham Theatre Pittsburgh PA rupaulbots. com

**Apr 18 (Sat) - Pride Prom Buffalo 2015** Details TBA www.glyswny.org/.

## MAILING LISTS

Because of a web crash in October, all mailing lists through the EGN website were lost. If you had previously been on one of the email lists that we maintain, you will need to sign up again at http:// lists.eriegaynews.com.



## **Online Contests**

Here are new contests for this month...

Begins		
December 26		
December 30		
January 2		
January 6		
January 9		
January 13		
January 16		
January 20		
January 23		
January 27		
February 3		
February 13		

### Here are contests which are currently active..

Contest	Ends
Blackmail, My Love	December 26
Isabel Rose - <i>Trouble In</i> Paradise	Dec 30
MisterWives Reflections	January 2
The Dark Place DVD; An- nie Prize Pack	January 6
KURIOS-Cabinet Of Cu- riosities	Janaury 9
PRIDE DVD	January 13

More contests at eriegaynews.com!

Sign up for the Erie GLBT News and Events list at our web site, and you will get first notice on new contests PLUS news and upcoming events!



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Hiring Part time and Full time Consultants. Please contact Diane Worley/Laura Hyde 814-671-6459/814-282-5516 or www.dianeworley.energy526.com

# The 2015 Pennsylvania Youth Action Conference

"Cultivating New Possibilities for Rural LGBTQ Youth"

> Indiana University of Pennsylvania February 26 - March 1, 2015 www.youthactionconference.com

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