

EGN

Erie Gay News

PA activists meet in Pittsburgh

On Saturday, January 30, 2016, activists representing LGBTQ organizations from across Pennsylvania met at Project Silk in Pittsburgh to begin a dialog about working together.

Story on page 10.

Photo: Vanessa Davis



Pride and Dramashop Unite for Joint Fundraiser

from NW PA Pride Alliance

Put an end to your ordinary day and sip your way to a masterpiece!

NW PA Pride Alliance, Inc. and Dramashop team up to present a joint fundraiser, Painting With Pride.

The event, hosted by instructor Angela Howell, will be held on Wednesday March 9, 2016 at 7:00pm (doors open at 6:30 PM) at Dramashop (Renaissance Center – 1001 State St – Second Floor). This event is “bring your own drinks and snacks” (a limited selection of non-alcoholic drinks will be available for purchase). Tickets are \$45 (plus service charge), which includes all painting supplies, are available at the online version of this article and *must* be purchased prior to 12:01am on March 8th. This event will help both organizations to continue their missions: NW PA Pride will continue to increase visibility of the LGBTQIAP community and Dramashop will continue to provide entertaining and provocative theatrical experiences to chal-

lenge, educate and engage the Erie community.

Any questions or concerns can be addressed to agressley@nwpapride.org.

Erie Sisters & Brothers Cabin Fever Weekend

from Penny Ann Parker

Erie Sisters and Brothers is having Cabin Fever Weekend this month! Time: February 26-28, 2016. February 25, 2016 is an optional evening for those who want to get there early!

Cabin Fever Weekend will be held February 26th through the 28th at the Avalon Hotel in Erie. The event will feature election of officers, and coincides with the annual Bar Stool Open in Erie. For more info on the Bar Stool Open, visit www.mecaerie.org

Many other local events are happening that weekend as well. Including the Great Lakes Shipwreck Exposition at the Tom Ridge Center, Special exhibits at the Erie Art Museum, sporting events including the Erie Otters hockey and Erie Bayhawks basketball,

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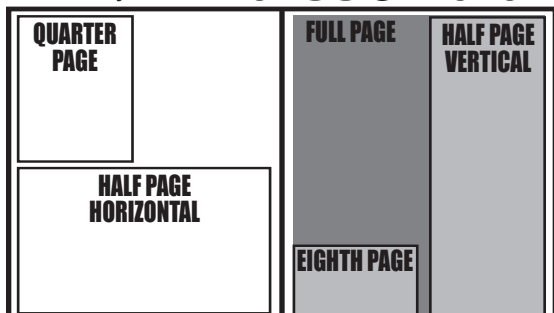
Editor: Mike Mahler
Assistant Editor and Layout: Deb Spilko
Ad Design: Mike Lipiec
Deadline for next issue: Mar 14; Folding and distribution is Tue, March 22 at Griffin Room at Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel.

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.

EGN Rates & Data



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 & Six LGBT Archives **WORLDWIDE!**

THANKS

From Your Friends at Erie Gay News

To Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel for hosting! Ahmed, Andrea, Bill, Blake Rave, Deryk, Jeff Hill, Johauna, John, Kim, and Rex Apps for folding; Andrea, Bill, Blake Rave, Deryk, Jeff Hill, Jerry McCumber, Johauna, John, Kim, and Rex Apps 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

and several others. For reservations at the Avalon, call (814) 459-2220

There is no advance registration for Cabin Fever Weekend. Several girls will be arriving early on Thursday the 25th and we plan on meeting in the Avalon bar at 6PM then going out to dinner around 7PM, after that we will probably head up to Doc Holidays for Karaoke. Some girls will go to the Zone for dancing and fun!

It's a fun weekend where you can do what you please and enjoy dining, dancing, singing, local salons, and Erie events listed above!

We meet in the Avalon bar and make plans from there, so come out and join us for a fun weekend. Hope to see you there!

GEAE Otters Night Feb 27

from GEAE

Join GEAE for an evening of hockey, good food, and time with friends at Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St, Erie, PA. Buffet and cash bar is open at 6:30 PM. Game begins at 7:00 PM. Tickets are \$40 and include a seat in the heated club area and the buffet. The menu includes garden salad, ranch & balsamic vinaigrette, fried chicken, homestyle mac 'n cheese, smothered green beans, biscuits and dessert. (866) 229-1974. GEAEinfo@gmail.com. greatereriealliance.com

Candidate Forum and Voters Guide in next issue

from Erie Gay News

Erie Gay News is proud to continue informing our readers about where candidates stand on issues affecting the LGBTQ community. In the next issue, cover dated for April 2016 (# 245) to be released the night of Tuesday, March 22, we will be including our Voters Guide. We will be sending questionnaires to candidates for US Senate, US Congress, PA State Senate and PA State Assembly for districts that include Erie County.

In addition, on Thursday, March 24 at 6:30 PM, Erie Gay News and Mental Health Association of NW PA (MHA) will be presenting a candidate forum. Light refreshments will be provided and admission is free! This will be a moderated forum, and there will also be time for questions from the audience.

Pennsylvania's primary election is on Tuesday, April 26, and the deadline to register to vote or update your registration is Monday, March 28.

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Community News

Gov Cuomo's executive action against youth conversion therapy

from Empire Pride Agenda

ALBANY— New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced on Feb. 6, 2016 his executive actions to protect New York's LGBT youth from the discredited and harmful practice known as conversion therapy.

At the Governor's direction, the New York State Department of Financial Services is issuing regulations barring insurers from providing coverage for conversion therapy given to an individual under the age of 18. Additionally, the New York State Department of Health is prohibiting coverage of conversion therapy under the State's Medicaid program and the New York State Office of Mental Health is issuing regulations prohibiting facilities under its jurisdiction from providing conversion therapy treatment to minors.

Cleveland's Gay People's Chronicle ceases publication, now up for sale

Info from Chuck Colbert, Press Pass Q

Gay People's Chronicle (GPC), based in Cleveland, Ohio, has ceased publication. Its last issue was volume 31, issue 13, dated December 25, 2015.

GPC was founded by Charles Callender in 1985. The free regional publication served the Cleveland area, as well as the surrounding region.

The Gay People's Chronicle is now up for sale. For information, call Dave Ebbert at 216-769-4528.

For more on this story go presspassq.blogspot.com/

First transgender White House Liaison appointed

Info from National Center for Transgender Equality

WASHINGTON, DC—February 16, 2016 Jaan Williams has been appointed to the position of White House Liaison at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In this role, Williams will recruit, support and develop appointees for HHS in partnership with the White House Office of Presidential Personnel. NCTE commends HHS Secretary Sylvia Burwell for appointing Williams to this position as the first out transgender person to serve as a White House Liaison for any government agency.



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Calendar

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

Live & Let Live is an LGBTQA-friendly AA meeting that meets every Sunday, at 7PM, at Community United Church, 1011 West 38th Street, Erie, PA 16508. For more information, visit www.aaeriepa.org.

Feb 19 - Mar 12 BUA: "Load More Guys" Buffalo United Artists Buffalo NY www.buffalobua.org

Feb 24 (Wed) - The Table meets (The Table, 3176 W. 41st Street, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Exploring the ancient spiritual practice of lectio divina. patrixjodi@gmail.com. www.thetableerie.com/.

Feb 25 - Mar 5 - The Laramie Project/The Laramie Project Ten Years Later (Bartlett Theatre of the Rockefeller Arts Center, SUNY Fredonia, Fredonia NY.) Ticket Office 716-673-3501 www.fredonia.edu/tickets.

Feb 25 - Out & About Youngstown (L'uva Bella, 6597 Center Road, Lowellville, OH) "Get out & meet like-minded people & make new friends & relationships in the LGBT community. too!" www.meetup.com/Out-About-Youngstown-LGBT-Social-Group/

Feb 26-29 - Erie Sisters and Brothers Cabin Fever Weekend Reservations at the Avalon, (814) 459-2220 Info: (440) 265-8191. shub1@suite224.net. eriesisters.ning.com/.

Feb 27 (Sat) - TransFamily of Erie Support Group meets (Mental Health Assoc. of NW PA, 1101 Peach St, Erie, PA) 2 - 5 PM. Safe space for all who fit somewhere in the gender spectrum, or who are questioning. Contact: Caitlyn (814) 823-1969. caitlynxpress@gmail.com.

www.facebook.com/TransfamilyOfErie.

Feb 27 (Sat) - GEAE Otters Night 2016 (Erie Insurance Arena, 809 French St, Erie, PA) 6:30 PM. "Join us for an evening of hockey, good food, and time with friends." Buffet and cash bar is open at 6:30 PM. Game begins at 7:00 PM. Tickets \$40, include a seat in heated club area and buffet. (866) 229-1974. GEAEinfo@gmail.com. greatereriealliance.com/.

Feb 27 (Sat) - Erie Sisters & Brothers Transgender Support Group meets (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Highway, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Erie Sisters & Brothers Transgender Support Group provides support and encouragement for both MTF and FTM transgender individuals. (440) 265-8191. shub1@suite224.net. eriesisters.ning.com/.

Feb 27 (Sat) - Naughty or Nice Treasure Hunt (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge.

Mar 1 (Tue) - LBT Women go to Sound Healing with Singing Bowls (Whole Foods Co-op, 1341 West 26th St, Erie, PA) 7 PM. "Nancy Bowden is a gifted in-

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tuitive sound healer. You're guaranteed a grounding and clearing experience that will leave you feeling renewed. "Free & open to the public. No reservation necessary. Contact: Kim Conti. (814) 314-9512. ErieBeans@aol.com. www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE.

Mar 2 (Wed) - LBT Women go to "Sicario" (2015) screening (Erie Art Museum, 411 State St, Erie, PA) \$5 admission. 6:00 p.m. Doors Open / 7:00 p.m. movie. Contact: Kim Conti. (814) 314-9512. ErieBeans@aol.com. <https://www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE>.

Mar 2 - "The Danish Girl" at the Reg (Reg Lenna Center For The Arts, 116 East 3rd Street, Jamestown, NY) 7pm "The remarkable love story inspired by the lives of artists Lili Elbe and Gerda Wegener as they navigate Lili's groundbreaking journey as a transgender pioneer."

Mar 2 (Wed) - Judy Shepard: "The Legacy of Matthew Shepard" (King Concert Hall in the Rockefeller Arts Center on the SUNY Fredonia Fredonia NY.) 7PM. Part of The Laramie Project events at SUNY Fredonia. The event is open seating and free to the public, but ticketed. Tickets are free at the Campus box office or at the event, and there is a nominal charge for phone or online ticket orders Fredonia Ticket Office: 716-673-3501 www.fredonia.edu/tickets

Mar 4 (Fri) - G2H2/ERIE (Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St, Erie, PA) 6 PM - 8 PM.

Feb 5 (Fri) - Beer Pong (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) BYOB, membership required, purchase from bartender.

Mar 4 (Fri) - Blindfolded Banana Feast (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) BYOB, membership required, purchase from bartender. (724) 602-

Happy Hour with G2H2/ERIE



G2H2 (Gay Guy/Girl Happy Hour) takes place the first Friday of each month from 6 to 8 PM. For this winter (and including the next time, Fri, March 4), the group has been meeting at The Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St. Shown here are Kevin, Karl (the organizer of the event) and Jerry, as well as Katie and Leah. Photos by Mike Mahler

Calendar

8447. JoshuaSean2009@aol.com. www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge.

Mar 4-13 - "Lights! Glamour! Blockbuster Talent!"
East Liberty Presbyterian Church, 116 S. Highland, Pittsburgh Renaissance City Choir's annual cabaret. "Enjoy songs from Award-winning films on this musical journey through cinema history!" Tickets: rccpittsburgh.com or call 1-800-838-3006

Mar 5 (Sat) - Roll the Ball on Your Body (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) BYOB, membership required, purchase from bartender. www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge.

Mar 6 (Sun) - LBT Women go to ROOM screening (Taylor Little Theatre at Mercyhurst University, 501 E 38th St, Erie, PA) 2 PM. \$6. Contact: Kim Conti. (814) 314-9512. Venue (814) 824-2000. ErieBeans@aol.com. www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE.

Mar 6 (Sun) - TransFamily Youth meets (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 301 W 10th St, Erie, PA) 2 -5 PM. "We provide a safe space for all youth who fit somewhere in the gender spectrum, or who are

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Calendar

questioning, to share their experiences and to obtain support from others who have had similar experiences. We welcome anyone 21 and younger who identifies as gender-variant.” Contact: Char Newport. cmn0626@gmail.com. www.facebook.com/TransfamilyOfErie.

Mar 6 (Sun) - PFLAG Butler meets (Covenant Presbyterian Church, 230 E Jefferson St, Butler PA, PA) 5 PM - 8 PM. president@pflagbutler.com. www.pflagbutler.com/.

Mar 8 (Tue) - Youngstown PFLAG meets (St. John’s Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH) 6:30 PM. Support groups are open to public, light refreshments available. Contact: Marguerite youngstown-pflag@aol.com. www.youngstownpflag.org/.

Mar 9 (Wed) - Painting With Pride (Dramashop, 1001 State Street 2nd Floor, Erie, PA) 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM. Advance tickets only. \$45. A fundraiser for NW PA Pride Alliance and Dramashop. “Come with friends and spend an evening learning to create an amazing painting with benefiting two local non-profits.” (814) 314-9075. president@nwpapride.org. www.nwpapride.org. tickets https://www.eventbrite

Mar 9 - “A Great Fish-Net: Metaphor and Memory in Zora Neale Hurston’s Their Eyes Were Watching God” (1891 Fredonia Opera House, 9 Church, Fredonia NY) Presented as part of The Big Read .fredopera.org

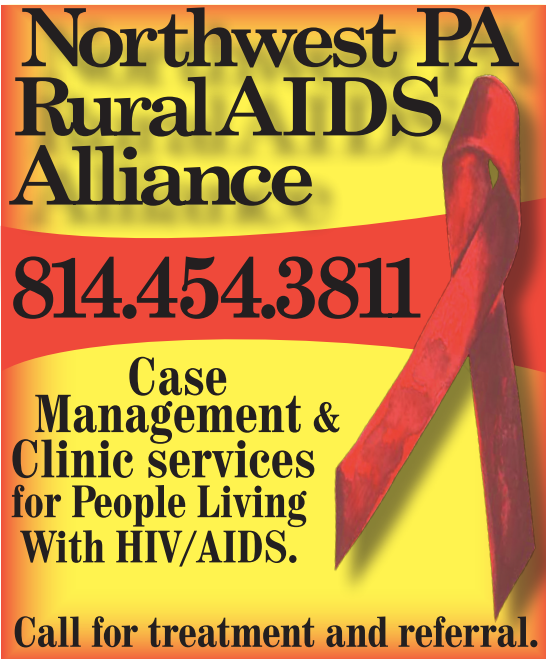
Mar 10 (Thu) - Bears Do Dinner (Colony Pub & Grille, 2670 W 8th, Erie, PA) 6:30 PM. “Join the Bears for a casual night of food and fun! Dinner is on your own.” Contact: Gary Snyder. (814) 446-2327. info@drenchedfur.com. www.drenchedfur.com.

Mar 12 (Sat) - Erie LGBT Rainbow Alliance meets (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 301 W 10th St, Erie, PA) 1 - 3 PM. A support group that provides a safe, confidential space for LGBT community members to come together and share stories, struggles and resources about the LGBT experience especially those involving the medical and legal system. The group is co-facilitated by Chelsea Nicole and Dale Allgeier, LCSW. (814) 455-4009. ErieLGBTRainbowAlliance@gmail.com.

Mar 12 (Sat) - TransFamily of Meadville meets (Counseling Center, 898 Park Ave., 2nd fl., Meadville, PA) 2 - 5 PM. “We provide a safe space for all who fit somewhere in the gender spectrum, or who are questioning, to share their experiences and to obtain support from others who have had similar experiences. We welcome anyone who identifies as gender-variant, their family, friends, and allies of the community. We also support the community through advocacy efforts and education to the larger cisgender community.” Contact: Richelle Kohler. richellekohler@hotmail.com. www.facebook.com/TransfamilyOfErie.

Mar 13 (Sun) - LBT Women meets (Brew Ha Ha at the Colony, 2612 W 8th St, Erie, PA) Meets 2nd Sunday of the month at noon at Brew Ha Ha. Contact: Kim (814) 314-9512. ErieBeans@aol.com. www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE.

Mar 13 (Sun) - Aging With Pride (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 301 W 10th St, Erie, PA) 4 PM - 6 PM. Group offering a safe, comfortable space for the older LGBT individual to seek support, friendship, social opportunities and discussion of issues of importance such as medical/health needs, housing, legal/ financial concerns, discrimination, disabilities and social isolation. Meets second Saturday of the month at Lake Erie Counseling. (814) 455-4009. daleallgeier@outlook.com. www.lakeeriecounseling.com/



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Mar 14 (Mon) - Deadline for Erie Gay News April 2016 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 Tuesday, March 22. 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.

Mar 15 (Tue) - PFLAG Meadville meets (Stone United Methodist Church, 956 S Main St, Meadville, PA) 7 PM. Contact: Randy Herbert-Weed. (814) 724-6736. meadvillepflag@gmail.com. www.facebook.com/groups/PFLAGMeadville/.

Mar 18 (Fri) - M&J's Lounge 5 year anniversary (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.

Mar 19 (Sat) - LBT Women go to 13th Annual Taste & Tour Weekend (Hurry Hill Farm Maple Museum, 11424 Fry Rd, Edinboro, PA) 10 AM. Put on by Northwest PA Maple Association. "We will meet at Hurry Hill in Edinboro at 9:45 a.m." www.pamaple.org for information on all participating maple locations. Contact: Kim Conti. (814) 314-9512. ErieBeans@aol.com. www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE.

Mar 19 (Sat) - Wanda Sykes State Theater, Cleveland OH

Mar 20 (Sun) - Whispering Lake Grove: Eostre (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy, Erie, PA) 5 PM. "During this celebration we will be honoring the Germanic Gods Eostre, Frowe, and Fro Ing, as well as celebrating the return of Spring-time warmth." Doors open 5:pm, ritual begins 6pm, potluck dinner follows." Contact: Rev. Christopher Temple. (814) 720-1560. grollwynn72@hotmail.com. www.whisperinglakegrove.org.

Mar 20 (Sun) - Michelle Michaels presents FACE Drag Show! (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 11 PM. Don't miss a fun-filled night of great entertainment with all of your favorite drag queens, new drag queens and special guests the third Sunday of the month www.facebook.com/TheZoneDanceClub.

Mar 22 (Tue) - Erie Gay News folding/distribution work party (Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel, 55 West Bay Road, Erie, PA) 7 PM. All ages welcome! Contact:

Mike (814) 456-9833. info@eriegaynews.com. www.eriegaynews.com.

Mar 22 (Tue) - Elton John Covelli Centre, Youngstown OH www.eltonjohn.com

Mar 24 (Thu) - Candidate Forum (Mental Health Association of Northwestern Pennsylvania, 1101 Peach St, Erie, PA 16501) Presented by *Erie Gay News* and MHA. Light refreshments will be provided and admission is free! This will be a moderated forum, and there will also be time for questions from the audience. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Venue Phone: (814) 452-4462 ext 101. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://www.eriegaynews.com>. Browse to venue web site <http://www.mhanp.org/>.

Mar 25 (Fri) - Melissa Ferrick w/ Mo Kenney At The 9th Ward, Buffalo NY www.babevillebuffalo.com

Mar 26 (Sat) - LBT Women - Erie Zoo visit and Zoo Animal Art Show (Erie Zoo, 423 W 38th St, Erie, PA) 10 AM - 4 PM. "View and purchase works of art made by local Erie Zoo animals. Meet at zoo at 9:45." Contact: Kim Conti. (814) 314-9512. ErieBeans@aol.com. www.eriegaynews.com.



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Apr 2 (Sat) - Dreams of Hope: "Absolute Disco" (PPG Wintergarden, 1 Ppg Place, Pittsburgh, PA) Fundraiser and auction to benefit Dreams of Hope. www.dreamsofhope.org.

Apr 11 (Mon) - David Sedaris at the Warner Theatre 811 State St., Erie PA, 7:30PM. (814) 453-7117 eriewarnertheatre.com

Apr 22 - (Fri) Panic! at the Disco at Penn State Behrend Public tickets, which cost \$35, will be available starting March 22.

LGBTQ Pennsylvania Steering Committee Meeting

by Michael Mabler

On Saturday, January 30, 2016, groups from across the state met at Project Silk in Pittsburgh for the inaugural LGBTQ PA Steering Committee. The event was convened by Jason Goodman of PA Youth Congress and moderated by Shaashawn Dial-Snowden of LGBT Center of Central Pennsylvania (Harrisburg) and Voycetress Media.

Topics of discussion and brainstorming including working corroboratively and effectively, building trust, supporting youth and seniors, racial justice, socioeconomic justice, transgender community, and improving communication between both LGBTQ groups across the state and also within regions between groups and with the greater communities for regions.

Groups represented included NW PA Pride Alliance, Greater Erie Alliance for Equality, *Erie Gay News*, TransFamily of Erie, Pennsylvania Equality Project, Project Silk (Pittsburgh), Roots Pride (Pittsburgh), Cafe con Leche (Pittsburgh), Alder Health Services (Harrisburg), TransCentral PA (Harrisburg), Central PA Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (Harrisburg), Judah Fellowship Church (Pittsburgh), LGBTea Dances (Phoenixville), THRIVE of Southwest PA, Divine Light LGBTQ Wellness Center (Philadelphia), Northeastern Pennsylvania Rainbow Alliance (Wilkes-Barre), and Keystone Catholics.

The meeting also included a review of the history of the LGBTQ movement in Pennsylvania.

To the best of the organizers' awareness, this was the first statewide meeting of LGBTQ groups in 40 years, and it was the consensus of attendees that the meeting was very productive and informative.

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Online Contests

Here are new contests for this month...

Contest	Begins
<i>Super Bowl Smut - A Collection of Erotic Football Stories</i>	February 26
<i>Visit From a Stranger</i> by Kevin Winters	March 1
<i>Juliet Takes a Breath</i>	March 4
<i>QueerBashing</i> by Tim Morrison	March 8
<i>Sayonara</i> remix EP from Rebecca and Fiona	March 11
<i>DADDY</i> by Gerald McCullough	April 5
<i>The Rocky Horror Picture Show FAQ: Everything Left to Know About the Campy Cult Classic</i>	April 19
<i>MASH FAQ: Everything Left to Know About the Best Care Anywhere</i>	April 26

Here are contests which are currently active...

Contest	Ends
<i>Grief Matters</i>	February 26
<i>Naz & Maalik; Pulse II</i>	March 1
<i>Hugo Duchamp Investigates: Un Homme Qui Attend</i>	March 4
<i>Portrait of a Serial Monogamist</i>	March 8
<i>How To Win at Checkers (Every Time)</i>	March 11
<i>And Then There Were Three: 67 Letters to Sasha</i>	March 15

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!



Wedding Photos by: Eric Smyklo

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