

EGN Celebrating Our 25th Year

Erie Gay News of Serving the GLBT Community!

Erie Gay News 25th Anniversary

from Michael Mahler

This issue of *Erie Gay News* marks our 25th anniversary. The first issue came out in late December of 1992 and was funded by dances held by Bridges, an organization that put on Pride picnics in the early 90's. The purpose of the original issue was to help promote the 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation, held the weekend of April 25, 1993.

Currently, there are only three LGBT-focused print publications in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: *Erie Gay News*, *The Central Voice* (Harrisburg area) and *Philadelphia Gay News*. *Gay Peoples Chronicle* from Cleveland ceased publication at the end of 2015 after 30 years, and Pittsburgh has not had a print publication since *Equal* ceased after their November 2014 issue. Buffalo has *Loop Magazine*, and Rochester NY has *Empty Closet*.

Erie Gay News is very grateful to the advertisers, contributors, and volunteers who have made it possible for us to inform our region over the years. We are proud to also chronicle the regional LGBT community's history. PDFs of back issues are at www.eriegaynews.com for the entire history of our publication, and we also maintain a page at our web site for our region's LGBT history going back to the 1960's.

Thank you for your support in this continuing journey!

Transgender Day of Remembrance Candlelight Vigil

by TransFamily of NW PA

On Sunday, November 19, 2017, TransFamily of NW PA held a Transgender Day of Remembrance Candlelight Vigil on the steps of the Erie County Courthouse, 140 W 6th St, Erie PA. The event was attended by transgender people, as well as their families, friends and supporters. Local TV covered the event. This was the fifth year that there had been a local observance of Transgender Day of Remembrance.



AIDS QUILT PANELS Members of Erie County HIV Task Force and friends by AIDS Quilt panel display at Erie County Blasco Memorial Public Library

World AIDS Day Program at Erie County Public Library

from Erie County HIV Task Force

On Friday, December 1, 2017, Erie County HIV Task Force had a presentation for World AIDS Day at the Erie County Blasco Memorial Public Library, 160 E Front St, Erie PA. The event included a display of AIDS quilt panels and HIV display cases created by a LECOM intern. Speakers included Erie County Department of Health CHES/Disease Investigation Specialist Laura Beckes, Erie County Department of Health Director Melissa C Lyon, Sonny Concepcion of NW PA Rural AIDS Alliance, and Miriam Pastor, a woman living with HIV. There was local media coverage by both TV news crews. There was also a group portrait taken of Erie County HIV Task Force members and supporters. The event was well-attended and well received.

FB: Erie County HIV Task Force

(Continued on page 3)

In This Issue...

Erie Gay News 25th Anniversary	1
Transgender Day of Remembrance Candle- light Vigil	1
World AIDS Day Program at Erie County Blasco Memorial Public Library	1
2017 Lake Erie Gala Recap	3
Crawford Area LGBT+ Thanksgiving	4
Transgiving 2017	4
GEAE Thanks For 2017	5
NW PA Pride 2018 Pride Logo Design Contest - Win \$100!	5
Standing Up for Pennsylvania's LGBT Older Adults	6
Social & support groups	9
Online Contests	10
Michael Dithers	11

Photo Galleries on Our Website for 2017!



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

AD SIZE	PRICE/ISSUE	DIMENSIONS
EIGHTH	\$40 - \$36 Prepaid	1 5/8" high X 2 7/8" wide
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Camera ready art or manuscript and/or photos, illustrations and logos must be received by the 15th of the month.

Photos and Illustrations should be PDF or TIFF and HIRES.

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



Erie Gay News

Erie Gay News
1115 West 7th St.
Erie PA 16502-1105
(814) 456-9833
Fax: (440) 551-5985
info@eriegaynews.com
www.eriegaynews.com

Editor: Mike Mahler

Assistant Editor and Layout: Deb Spilko

Ad Design: Mike Lipiec

**Deadline for next issue: Jan 15; Fold-
ing and distribution is Tue, Jan 23 at
Lake Erie Counseling, 301 W 10th.**

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.

**Erie Gay News is now included in
The EBSCO *LGBT Life*®
with Full Text Index &
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WORLDWIDE!**



To Lake Erie Counseling Associates for hosting! Alex, Andrea, Audrey, Johauna, Kim, Kyle Hannon, and Rex Apps for folding; Alex, Audrey, Jerry McCumber, Johauna, 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

2017 Lake Erie Gala Recap

from Melanie Shubitowski/Erie Sisters and Brothers

The 2017 Lake Erie Gala was held at the Clarion Hotel, 2800 W 8th St, Erie PA. The annual event, sponsored by the Lake Erie Group and Erie Sisters and Brothers (ES&B), began Wed. November 15th with the opening of registration, a pool and pizza party at the hotel, and optional bowling at Eastway Lanes.

The event had a nautical theme, and Thursday's bus tour to the Fairport Harbor Lighthouse and Museum included a narrated video presentation on the journey of Great Lakes iron ore shipping, given by ES&B president, Melanie Shubitowski. Melanie's late father was a captain for US Steel, and she had grown up spending as much as half of her summers aboard US Steel ore boats, and shared some of the knowledge she acquired. The Fairport Harbor Museum held a great deal of artifacts from the shipping industry, including the light from the lighthouse, a wealth of pictures, the lighthouse, and the pilot house from the Cleveland Cliffs ore boat, the Frontenac. Following the tour, the group had a fabulous (and large) lunch at the Old Firehouse Winery in Geneva on-the-Lake, Ohio before returning to the hotel. After dinner, we were treated to entertainment by Dueling Pianos, a favorite of Gala attendees, followed by dancing and music.

Friday's bus tour began at Yahn Planetarium at Penn State Behrend, where we were given a presentation of how Lewis and Clark used celestial navigation to plot their trek to the Pacific Coast and back. Lunch on the tour was at Freeport Restaurant, then on to Brix 21, a charming winery with a signature pink elephant out front to greet guests, or perhaps warn them of the hazards of too much indulgence. After arrival at the hotel, the dinner was a Hawaiian Luau, with a juggler providing the night's entertainment.

Saturday began with free time for shopping, a special lunch for spouses and SO's, and the evening saw our traditional "Glitter Ball", and we had a group of Canadian shoppers that were in town joining us that evening. Vendors were also in attendance at the event. Sunday morning was a breakfast and tearful good byes to dear friends as the Lake Erie Gala concluded. All in all, it was a wonderful time, and another successful Gala.

Photo gallery at www.eriegaynews.com



Attendees at Lake Erie Gala's traditional Saturday evening Glitter Ball. The Gala is hosted by Erie Sisters and Brothers. Photo gallery at www.eriegaynews.com

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Community News



CRAWFORD AREA LGBT+ THANKSGIVING The Crawford Area LGBT+ group held a Thanksgiving potluck with members and supporters on Nov 14 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Meadville. Photo by Mike Mahler, gallery on our website.



TRANSGIVING 2017 A couple dozen attendees enjoyed a Thanksgiving dinner hosted by TransFamily of NWPA. The dinner was held November 18 at MHA of NWPA. Photo by Mike Mahler, gallery on our website.

**Social and support groups
are on page 9**

Community News

GEAE Thanks For 2017

from Greater Erie Alliance for Equality

Greater Erie Alliance for Equality would like to thank all of our sponsors, advocates, allies, and friends for another successful year. We were able to continue our commitment to the LGBTQ community by providing educational opportunities and services, begin new programs, and forge partnerships throughout Erie city and county.

Our 2017 annual report is posted on our website (www.greatereriealliance.com) and we encourage everyone to keep in touch by signing up for our regular newsletter and connecting with us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. 2018 brings exciting possibilities and we hope that you will join us in those endeavors. May the new year bring you peace and joy.

NW PA Pride 2018 Pride Logo Design Contest - Win \$100!

from NW PA Pride Alliance

NW PA Pride Alliance will be accepting design entries through March 1 for the 2018 Pride logo.

The theme for 2018 Pride is "Remember the Past, Create the Future." We hope that your design will include the official Pride theme.

There is no limit to the number of entries per person that can be submitted, nor is there an age limit. The design we select will receive a free shirt and a \$100 Visa gift card.

Please visit www.nwpride.org for information on how designs are to be submitted. Please email your entry to president@nwpride.org on or before March 1, 2018. Questions may also be sent to the same email address.



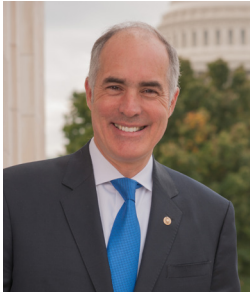
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KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

Standing Up for Pennsylvania's LGBT Older Adults

by U.S. Senator Bob Casey (D-PA), Ranking Member of the Special Committee on Aging



In 2015, our country celebrated the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in favor of marriage equality. I hoped this landmark case would serve as a turning point from which LGBT Americans would have equal rights under the law. Unfortunately, the Trump administration is taking us backwards.

As Ranking Member of the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging, I am particularly concerned about older LGBT Americans. There are at least 1.5 million gay and bisexual individuals ages 65 and older in the U.S. and that number is expected to double by 2030.

Faced with prejudicial social stigma, this population experiences unique challenges including high poverty rates, difficulty accessing health care, and isolation.

When this administration attempted to undermine the rights of LGBT elders, I took action. In June, after I urged the administration to continue collecting data on older LGBT adults, it restored a question on sexual orientation to a key federal survey. I also called on the administration to ensure that programs serving homeless youth will continue focusing on the needs of LGBT youth, and pressed them to move forward with a rule to ensure same-sex spouses are afforded equal rights in long-term care facilities. Most recently, I cosponsored the LGBT Elder Americans Act of 2017, which would decrease isolation among LGBT elders and improve their access to services.

Our work to secure equality for LGBT Americans is not done. That's why I will continue fighting to ensure that the administration recognizes and supports the rights of LGBT Americans.

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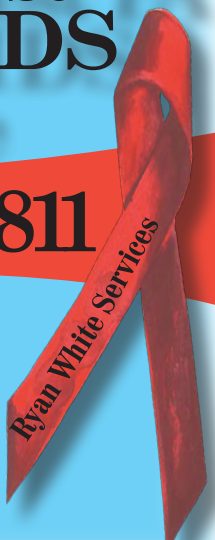
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Calendar

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

Dec 30 (Sat) - M & J's Lounge Drag Show and Pre New Year's Party (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) Cover \$5. Champagne at 12:00 am, noise makers & hats, free hotdogs & sauerkraut. (724) 602-8447 JoshuaSean2009@aol.com. FB: M&J's Lounge

Jan 1 (Mon) - Independent Lens: "The Untold Tales of Armistead Maupin" PBS The colorful story of writer Armistead Maupin, whose "Tales of the City" series inspired millions to claim their own truth. Check your local listings. www.pbs.org/independentlens

Jan 2 (Tue) - Premiere of Ellen Degeneres' "Game of Games" NBC 8pm

Jan 10 (Wed) - "Wonder Woman" (2017) (Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 5 PM. Rated PG-13 Dinner & a Movie series at the Bourbon Barrel, hosted by Film Society of NW PA "When a pilot crashes and tells of conflict in the outside world, Diana, an Amazonian warrior in training, leaves home to fight a war, discovering her full powers and true destiny." Doors at 5 pm, dinner 6pm, movie 7pm. Non-Members \$12/pp. filmsocietynwpa.org/

Jan 11 (Thu) - Bears Do Dinner #55 (Voodoo Brewing Co- Erie location), 101 Boston Store Place, Erie, PA) 6:30 PM. Join the Bears for a casual dinner of food and conversation! Dinner is on your own. Contact: Gary (814) 446-2327. info@drenchedfur.com. www.drenchedfur.com

Jan 14 (Sun) - LBT Women of Erie meets (Brew Ha Ha at the Colony 2612 W 8th St, Erie, PA) 12 PM. Contact: Kim (814) 314-9512. ErieBeans@aol.com. www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE.

Jan 15 (Mon) - Deadline for Erie Gay News February 2018 print edition

Jan 17 (Wed) - "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story" FX 10pm About the tragic 1997 murder of designer Gianni Versace, based on the book *Vulgar Favors* by Maureen Orth.

Jan 19 (Fri) - "Lorraine Hansberry: Sighted Eyes/Feeling Heart" PBS, check local listings. Documentary about gifted playwright and creator of "A Raisin in the Sun." The documentary "provides a rich consideration of Hansberry as a writer, lesbian, feminist

and proponent of Civil Rights activism www.pbs.org
Jan 21 (Sun) - Michelle Michaels presents FACE Drag Show - Christmas Edition (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 11 PM. "All of your favorite drag queens, new drag queens and special guests." TheZoneDanceClub@aol.com. FB: The Zone

Jan 23 (Tue) - Erie Gay News folding/distribution work party (Lake Erie Counseling, 301 W 10th St, Erie, PA 7 PM. Contact: Mike (814) 456-9833. info@eriegaynews.com. www.eriegaynews.com.

Jan 23-Mar 4 (Tue) - "Rough Trade: Clay Bodies and Queer Visions" Allegheny College, Meadville PA Opening Reception, Jan. 23, 7:00 - 9:00PM, Curated by Wesley Harvey, Darren Lee Miller, and Ian F. Thomas. Artists invited have created new works for this show to explore traditional craft, non-normative identity, power play, and risky assignments through ceramic sculpture and functional ware. Artists are Mark Burns, Jeremy Brooks, Wesley Harvey, Ryan Wilson Kelly, Kathy King, Matt Nolen, Anne Drew Potter, Anthony Sonnenberg, Caitlin Rose Sweet, HM Thompson and Triesch Volker. See "Events" at allegheny.edu



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Calendar

Jan 27 (Sat) - Holocaust Remembrance Day Day to remember all of the victims of the Nazi era.

Jan 27 (Sat) - Imperial Masquerade ICP Ball (Troop I~Hamlin House, 432 Franklin St., Buffalo, NY) "Open bar, hors d' oeuvres, variety of performance art throughout evening" 7-11pm \$35 per person imperialcourtofbuffalo.com

Feb 1 (Thu) - "David Hockney at the Royal Academy of Art" (1891 Fredonia Opera House, Fredonia NY) Widely considered Britain's most popular artist, David Hockney is a global sensation with exhibitions in London, New York, Paris and beyond, attracting millions of visitors worldwide. fredopera.org

Mar 1 (Thu) - "A Chorus Line" Warner Theatre, 811 State, Erie PA Part of the Erie Broadway Series. eriewarnertheatre.com

Mar 23 (Fri) - "BGMCM's Spring Soiree" Shea's Performing Arts Center, 646 Main Street, Buffalo, NY buffalogaymenschorus.com

Mar 27 (Tue) - "Roseanne" series revival premiere (ABC) 8 PM - 9 PM. With original cast, nine episodes. #Roseanne Browse to <http://abc.go.com/>.



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Social & support groups

Addiction & Recovery

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

Aging

Jan 14 (Sun) - Over 40? So What? meets (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 301 W 10th St, Erie, PA) 4 - 6 PM. Formerly Aging With Pride. (814) 455-4009. dalecallgeier@outlook.com.

General

Jan 9 (Tue) - Youngstown PFLAG meets (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH) 6:30 PM. Contact: Marguerite youngstownareapflag@gmail.com. www.youngstownpflag.org.

Jan 11 (Thu) - PFLAG Butler meets (Butler Area Public Library, 218 N McKean St, Butler, PA) 5 PM - 7 PM. www.pflagbutler.com

Jan 16 (Tue) - Crawford Area LGBT+ meets (Unitarian Universalist Church of Meadville, 346 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA) 7 PM. Contact: Randy Herbert-Weed. (814) 724-6736. crawfordarealgbt@gmail.com. FB: Crawford LGBT+ Public Page

Social

Jan 5 (Fri) - G2H2 meets (Location TBA) 6-8PM. Professional networking in Erie, various venues. FB: G2H2/Erie

Jan 11 (Thu) - Bears Do Dinner #55 (Voodoo Brewing Co (Erie), 101 Boston Store Place, Erie, PA 16501) 6:30 PM. Join the Bears for a casual dinner of food and conversation! Dinner is on your own. Contact: Gary Snyder. Phone: (814) 446-2327. Email: info@drenchedfur.com.

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Student & Youth

Jan 11 (Thu) - Full Spectrum LGBT Teen Support Group (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH) 6 PM - 8 PM. Open to teens ages 14-18. Confidential, safe space, free. Light refreshments. (330) 333-1658. info@fullspectrumcommuni-

tyoutreach.org. www.fullspectrumcommunityoutreach.org/.

Trans

Dec 23 (Sat) - TransFamily of NWPA (Erie) Transgender Support Group meets (Crime Victim Center of Erie County, 125 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 2 - 5 PM. Contact: Caitlyn (814) 823-1969. Caitlynxpress@gmail.com. FB: Transfamily of NWPA

Dec 23 (Sat) - TransFamily of Titusville Transgender Support Group meets (YWCA Activities Building, 212 N. Franklin St, Titusville, PA) 3 - 6 PM. Contact: Caitlyn Strohmeier. (814) 823-1969. caitlynxpress@gmail.com. FB: Transfamily of NWPA

Dec 23 (Sat) - Erie Sisters & Brothers Transgender Support Group meets (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Discussion followed by restaurant dinner and dancing at The Zone (440) 265-8191. eriesisters.ning.com

Jan 8 (Mon) - TransFamily of Warren Transgender Support Group meets (Jefferson DeFrees Family Center - Hawke Room, 207 2nd Ave, Warren, PA) 6 - 8 PM. Contact: Kingsley Reese (814) 688-5574. kreeseamon@gmail.com. FB: Transfamily of NWPA.

Jan 13 (Sat) - TransFamily of Meadville Transgender Support Group (CHAPS Building, first floor, 944 Liberty St., Meadville, PA) 2-5 PM. Contact: Linda Thomas. imhzwoman4586@msn.com. (814) 232-1778 FB: Transfamily of NWPA.

Jan 14 (Sun) - Full Spectrum Transgender Support Group meets (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH) 6 PM - 8 PM.

Jan 27 (Sat) - TransFamily of NWPA (Erie) Transgender Support Group meets (Crime Victim Center of Erie County, 125 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 2 - 5 PM. Contact: Caitlyn (814) 823-1969. Caitlynxpress@gmail.com. FB: Transfamily of NWPA

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



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<http://gayellowpages.com>

Online Contests

Here are new contests for this month...

Contest	Begins
<i>Love Is Love</i> from Trey Pearson	December 22
<i>You Must Remember This</i>	December 26
<i>Rent FAQ: All That's Left to Know About Broadway's Blaze of Glory</i>	December 29
<i>Best Gay Erotica of the Year, Volume 3</i>	January 2
Digital download of <i>NEW</i> remixes from Daya	January 5
<i>Man Eater</i> e-book	January 9
<i>Jesus Meets the Gay Man</i> DVD	January 12
<i>Kimberly: The People I Used To Know</i> from K. Michelle	January 16

Here are contests which are currently active...

Contest	Ends
<i>The Thrill Of It All</i> from Sam Smith; <i>The Shape of Water</i> Prize Pack	December 22
<i>Hidden Kisses</i> DVD	December 26
<i>All Male, All Nude</i> Documentary DVD	December 29
Halsey - <i>Bad at Love</i>	January 2
<i>You Make It Feel Like Christmas</i> from Gwen Stefani; <i>The Greatest Showman</i> prize pack	January 5
<i>Red Pill Blues</i> by Maroon 5	January 9

Sign up for the Erie GLBT News and Events list, either at our web site or from the link on our Facebook page to get first notice!

See our web site for the
year in review and local
LGBT history!

Michael Dithers

by Michael Mahler

I wasn't quite sure when we started 25 years ago that we would be able to keep a local publication going for this long.

The funny part is that I had been involved with the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA), a medieval-renaissance group and had done the local chapter (Shire of Stormsport) and also the regional (Principality of Aethelmearc) newsletters and was stepping down from that. Finally, I would know what it was to not have a monthly deadline, as I started doing the local chapter newsletter in April or so of 1987. But I ended up going right from the 2 SCA newsletters to helping out with *Erie Gay Community Newsletter* (as we were known then.)

There was an organization at that time called Bridges that had put on a few community dances and had raised some money. Some students at Edinboro were putting a bus trip to the historic 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation, which was going to be the last weekend in April, 1993.

Bridges wanted to help coordinate efforts to get people to go to the March, and there was a fair number of new groups popping up and some inter-group cooperation, so having a newsletter to keep everyone informed seemed useful.

My co-editor Deb and I, along with some other folks, took up the task. The first issue came out in late December, 1992. We had a PO Box that was 2 doors down from where I worked, and I remember that I miscalculated postage on the first issue, and seemingly all the copies that were mailed came back postage due, so I had to feverishly grab some stamps and started sticking them on the envelopes to go back out again.

It was very tight finances in the first few months, so we ended up applying for a grant from the Lambda Foundation in Pittsburgh. Before we got word on the grant application was successful, we heard that Lambda Foundation was having a charity ball, so Jacquelyn (who was the original convener of Bridges) and I thought it would be useful to put in an appearance. Neither of us were fashion mavens and we figured that it was no big deal. When we got down, we discovered that people were pretty much dressed up. We thought about going in and telling people that we were just the staff at the hotel, until we realized that the staff was better dressed. However, we went in and sat at a table with some very

nice lesbians, as well as a drag queen and his boyfriend, and the evening went well. PS: We got the grant later, so I think that after all of this time, they definitely got their money's worth on the original investment!

It is interesting to see how things have changed over the years and certain things that have stayed the same.

We published an online version fairly early on. I seem to recall that we used a CompuServe account for a while, followed by AOL. It was the 90's, kids. I looked, and we first registered the *ErieGayNews.com* domain on April 2, 1998, almost 20 years ago!

I recall worrying that something could happen to the old print editions that I had, so I spent one holiday vacation scanning in all of the back issues as separate PDFs, which are now on our web site. We also send copies of the print edition to LGBT archives in Massachusetts, New York City, Toronto, Chicago, Los Angeles and Amsterdam.

We started compiling area LGBT history for the Erie Bicentennial Time Capsule, as an issue of *Erie Gay News* was placed in there in 1995. (If you happen to be free in 2095, stop by Dobbins Landing when they open the capsule!) We have also worked on maintaining history on the web site.

One of the tougher challenges we had was when there was a database crash on our web site in October, 2014, which wiped out the the history. It took quite a while to rebuild, but it is back on our web site, and we now back up regularly to an additional service.

Lots of people have helped over the years - either by advertising, volunteering or just being supportive. We have had some folding volunteers who have been with us for many years, and some who just started coming. We have some wonderful steadfast advertisers, without whom we would not exist. One of the first major advertisers was Cup-a-Ccino's. Sometimes in the past, area individuals and groups have raised money for us, which has helped us keep going.

I am hoping and planning that we will be doing this for many years to come. I think that it is very important that people know what's going on the community that they live in, and we are proud to help people and groups find each other and also resources.

Thanks to everyone who has made the past 25 years possible and thanks for your continued support in helping us achieve our mission!

LGBTQIA Domestic Violence... End the Silence.

Domestic Violence affects every age, race,
religion, and sexual orientation.



Does your partner. . .

Threaten suicide?
Humiliate you or make fun of you?
Deny or minimize your feelings?

Emotional
= Abuse

SafeNet

Domestic Violence Safety Network

SafeNet 454-8161 SafeNet, Inc.  www.safeneterie.org