

## Erie VA holds LGBT Veteran care discussion panel



Janice Barclay (left), prosthetics supervisor, Stephanie Hohos-Mahoney (center), speech pathologist, and Kimberly Hackbarth (right), LGBT Veteran care coordinator and public affairs specialist, all with the Erie VA Medical Center, speak to Veterans during an LGBT Care and Services Veteran Discussion Panel November 21, at the Erie VAMC. Veterans in attendance learned about services provided to LGBT Veterans and gave feedback about their care. (VA Photo)

The Erie VA Medical Center held an LGBT Care and Services Veteran Discussion Panel November 21. The discussion panel, hosted by the facility's Veteran Experience Officers, featured an introduction to Erie VAMC's new LGBT Veteran Care Coordinator, presentations on services available from the prosthetics department and speech rehabilitation, and a guided discussion forum on care.

LGBT Veteran Care Coordinators support the implementation of policies related to LGBT Veteran health, handle any issues faced by LGBT Veterans about their care and provide education and guidance to VA medical center staff about LGBT Veteran health care. LGBT Veterans can reach the Erie VAMC LGBT VCC, Kimberly Hackbarth, at 814-844-2570 or [Kimberly.hackbarth@va.gov](mailto:Kimberly.hackbarth@va.gov).

## Report on Mayor's LGBTQ+ Advisory Council Meeting

by Mike Mahler

The Mayor's Advisory LGBTQ+ Advisory Council held their second meeting on Friday, November 16. Michael Mahler and Tyler Titus recapped important points from the first meeting of the Governor's Commission on LGBTQ Affairs, held on November 2 in Harrisburg. Leah Manino reviewed highlights from the LGBT Health Needs Assessment Stakeholder Meeting that Greater Erie Alliance for Equality had presented earlier in the fall. This was the results of a statewide survey by the PA Department of Health of LGBTQ+ individuals that is conducted online every three years.

Local upcoming events were also discussed,

and Erie City Mayor Schember was asked about speaking at the World AIDS Day observance organized by Erie County HIV Task Force. Erie City Hall also flew a World AIDS Day flag on December 1.

Also discussed was the upcoming E3 LGBTQ Youth Summit, to be held at Strong Vincent Middle School April 12-13, 2019.

The proposed ordinance for the City of Erie to ban "conversion therapy" was discussed. National Center for Lesbian Rights will be contacted about adaptations that can be made from a proposed ordinance from Bethlehem PA.

The Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index for Erie was raised to 50 out of a possible 100 from last year's score of 39, and it is believed that there may still be points that Erie should

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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](http://www.aaeriepa.org).



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

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

**Erie Gay News is now included in**  
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To Lake Erie Counseling Associates for hosting! Andrea, Kim, Kim Hackbarth, and Rex Apps for folding; Andrea, Jerry McCumber, Kim, Kim Hackbarth, 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](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com).

# Community News

be getting and there are also points that could be easily added to raise our rating.

The City of Erie will also be participating in The People's Supper, a national program that aims to repair the breach in our interpersonal relationships across political, ideological, and identity differences, leading to more civil discourse. The City of Erie has planned a series of dinners for the first half of 2019, and some members of the LGBTQ Advisory Council will be serving as facilitators at upcoming dinners, after receiving training. Other demographic groups are also going to be involved.

## GEAE Scholarship applications

*from Greater Erie Alliance for Equality*

GEAE Scholarship application is now available. If you are a LGBTQA senior who wishes to apply or you know of someone who would like some extra financial assistance, link to the requirements and timetable from this article at the EGN website or Facebook at Greater Erie Alliance for Equality (GEAE). For additional information or questions, please contact Leah at [geaeinfo@gmail.com](mailto:geaeinfo@gmail.com)

## GEAE intern positions

*from Greater Erie Alliance for Equality*

GEAE is looking to fill two intern positions for the spring and summer. Interested students in Marketing/Communications, Event Planning, or Social Work should send an email of inquiry to [geaeinfo@gmail.com](mailto:geaeinfo@gmail.com).

## Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil

*from TransFamily of NW PA*

On Tuesday, November 20, TransFamily of NWPA held a candlelight vigil for Transgender Day of Remembrance on the steps of the Erie County Courthouse, 140 W 6th St, Erie PA. Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) commemorates the lives of people lost to hate crimes against trans and gender-diverse people. Attendees took turns reading the names of the 28 people who had been murdered in the U.S. alone during the past year. According to the Trans Murder monitoring Project, there were 369 cases of reported killings of trans and gender-

diverse people between 1st of October 2017 and 30th of September 2018. About 25 people attended the event, including Erie City Mayor Joe Schember and Erie City School Board member Tyler Titus. The week kicked off with the County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper proclaiming 11/12 -11/19 Transgender Awareness Week. There was coverage by local news station JET24/FOX66. After the vigil, the Crime Victim Center of Erie County held a reception for attendees to connect and discuss their feelings in a safe space. TDOR has been observed since 1999, and this was the sixth local observance for Erie.

## 5th Annual Transgiving

*from TransFamily of NW PA*

On Saturday, November 24, TransFamily of NW PA held their fifth Annual Transgiving potluck dinner at Crime Victim Center of Erie, 125 W 18th St, Erie PA. About 50 people attended and enjoyed delicious food and great times together.

*(Continued on next page)*



### ABC's of BUILDING BETTER LIVES

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# Community News

## World AIDS Day event recap

On Monday, December 3, Erie County HIV Task Force presented a World AIDS Day observance at Blasco Public Library, 160 E Front St, Erie PA. Speakers included Erie City Mayor Joe Schember, Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper, NW PA Rural AIDS Alliance staff member Sonny Concepcion, Community Health Net Ryan White program director Emily Crofoot, and Jim, a local man living with HIV for 36 years. Local coverage was by WICU/WSEE. There were also panels from the AIDS quilt on display at the library, including panels for two Erie County residents.

Erie County Health Department's Laura Beckes emceed the program and talked about Erie County HIV Task Force's initiative for the past year, including the new billboard campaign and new web site, as well as the condom distribution program. Mayor Schember thanked everyone working to fight HIV and end discrimination in Erie. County Executive Dahlkemper gave statistics and insight into how the County was leading the fight against

HIV. NW PA Rural AIDS Alliance staff member Sonny Concepcion shared the history of the AIDS Quilt. Community Health Net's Emily Crofoot provided valuable information about pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and how it can help prevent HIV infection when taken daily and used with other protective measures. Finally, Jim shared his experiences as someone remaining healthy while living with HIV for the past 36 years.

The Erie County HIV Task Force can be found online at [echiv.org](http://echiv.org) and also on their Facebook page.

## Lake Erie Gala recap

*from Lisa Ann of Erie Sisters and Brothers*

The Lake Erie Gala 2018 by the Erie Sisters and Brothers is in the books as a success. There was fun by all. The event was held November 14-18 at the Bel Aire Clarion, 2800 W 8th St, Erie PA.

Registration started on Wednesday and kicked off with a pool party, pizza, lots of wine, and a water balloon toss.

Thursday was a bus tour to local museums, which seemed to be enjoyed by all. The evening was topped off with a wonderful meal at the hotel, an illusionist, and DJ music for dancing.

Friday morning started off with a well-needed shopping time. All went in their own directions. In the afternoon, students from a local beauty school came to the Bel-Aire Clarion and gave wonderful makeovers. Friday evening started off in a blast with dinner out at the Station Dinner Theater, and then back to late evening at Maxi's at the Bel Aire.

Saturday morning was relaxing for some, shopping for others. The pool and hot tub was found to be a popular spot. Vendors set up at the hotel, so plenty of shopping at the hotel was available. There was Amy Vodkahauss, a new makeover artist, plus our Scarlet who been coming for years and brought many big smiles.

Saturday evening was the Glitter Ball, something everyone waited for and was fun for all.

We had few who retired from planning board, but many who stepped up that has already started planning the 2019 gala. It is exciting hearing their ideas.

More info at [eriesisters.ning.com](http://eriesisters.ning.com)



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# Calendar

Detailed calendar listings in our online calendar

[www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)

**Dec 21 (Fri) - "Welcome to Marwen" (2018) nationwide release** Inspired by the 2010 documentary Marwencol. #WelcomeToMarwen FB: Welcome to Marwen

**Dec 21 (Fri) - "Marvel's Runaways" Season 2 (Hulu)** FB: Marvel's Runaways

**Dec 25 (Tue) - "On the Basis of Sex" (2018) nationwide release** Biopic about Ruth Bader Ginsburg, her struggles for equal rights and what she had to overcome in order to become a U.S. Supreme Court Justice.

**Dec 29 (Sat) - Drag Show** (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) BYOB membership required, purchase from bartender. FB: M&J's Lounge

**Dec 29 (Sat) - Pre New Years Eve Bash** (Sneakers, 100 W Harrison St, Jamestown, NY) 9 PM - 1 AM. "Celebrate 2019! Karaoke/ DJ with Star Sirch Production" (716) 484-8816. FB: Sneakers Bar

**Dec 31 (Mon) - New Years Eve Party** (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) Tickets \$15.00. Includes food and drinks, noisemakers etc. BYOB. FB: M&J's Lounge

**Jan 1 (Tue) - "I Am Jazz" Season 5** 10 p.m., (TLC)

**Jan 1 (Tue) - "Comedians of the World"** (Netflix) 47 comedians from 13 regions around the world. Comics of LGBTQ interest include: *UK:* Mae Martin, *Australia:* Joel Creasey, *New Zealand:* Urzila Carlson, *Canada:* DeAnne Smith

**Jan 5 (Sat) - "Bohemian Rhapsody"** (Reg Lenna Center For The Arts 116 East 3rd Street, Jamestown, NY) 7:00pm \$5 [reglenna.com](http://reglenna.com)

**Jan 6 (Sun) - Exclusive Screening - On the Basis**

**of Sex** (Cinemark Tinseltown 17, 1910 Rotunda Dr, Erie, PA 16509) 2 PM.

**Jan 8 (Tue) - "Ellen's Game of Games Holiday Spectacular"** NBC 8pm

**Jan 9 (Wed) - Bears Do Dinner #67** (McGarry's Oakwood Cafe, 1624 W 38th St, Erie, PA) 6:30 PM. "Join the Bears for a casual dinner of food and conversation! Dinner on your own."

**Jan 9 (Wed) - "Boy Erased"** (Reg Lenna Center For The Arts 116 East 3rd St. Jamestown, NY) 7:00pm \$5

**Jan 11 (Fri) - "Friends from College"** new season (Netflix)

**Jan 11 (Fri) - LBT Women of Erie goes to Erie Art Museum - Hands-On: Stieglitz Photographs (Part I)** (Erie Art Museum, 20 E 5th, Erie, PA) 6 PM. \$10 members, \$15 plus cost of admission." Space limited, to register 814-459-5477 Contact: Kim (814) 490-3994. [ErieBeans@aol.com](mailto:ErieBeans@aol.com). FB: LBT WOMEN of ERIE

**Jan 12 (Sat) - "2 Dope Queens"** HBO On Demand FB 2 Dope Queens



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# Calendar

**Jan 14 (Mon) – Deadline for Erie Gay News February 2019 print edition** (Erie Gay News, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA) [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com).

**Jan 16 (Wed) - “Schitt’s Creek” new season** (Netflix)  
FB: Schitt’s Creek

**Jan 17 (Thu) - Rufus Wainwright in concert** (Byham Theater, Pittsburgh) [rufuswainwright.com](http://rufuswainwright.com)

**Jan 19 (Sat) - LBT Women of Erie goes to Gannon’s Women’s Basketball Pink Zone Game** (Gannon Hammermill Center, 620 Peach St, Erie, PA) 1 PM. Event free but you can buy food and Chinese auction tickets to benefit breast cancer charity Linked by Pink. (814) 490-3994. [ErieBeans@aol.com](mailto:ErieBeans@aol.com). [linkedbypink.org](http://linkedbypink.org)

**Jan 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.” FB: The Zone

**Jan 22 (Tue) – Erie Gay News folding/distribution work party** (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 301 W 10th, Erie, PA) 7PM. All ages! Contact: Mike (814) 456-9833. Venue (814) 455-4009. [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com)

**Jan 23 (Wed) - “Colette” | Film Grain: Dinner and Movie** Bourbon Barrel, 1213 State Erie PA. Dinner 6PM, Movie 7PM. FB Bourbon Barrel Erie.

**Jan 25 (Fri) - “Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt” season Premiere** (Netflix)

**Jan 26 (Sat) - LBT Women of Erie goes to Mercyhurst Women’s Ice Hockey Game** (Mercyhurst University Ice Arena, 501 E 38th St, Erie, PA) 2 PM. Tickets \$10 at front desk in lobby 90 min. before puck drop. Cash only. (814) 490-3994. [ErieBeans@aol.com](mailto:ErieBeans@aol.com).

**Jan 27 (Sun) - “Rent” Live** (Fox) Live broadcast of Jonathan Larson’s Tony- and Pulitzer-winning musical

**Jan 30 (Wed) - “Can You Ever Forgive Me?”** (Reg Lenna Center For The Arts 116 East 3rd Street, Jamestown, NY) 7:00pm \$5 [reglenna.com](http://reglenna.com)

## UPCOMING & ONGOING

**Mar 15 (Fri) - Indigo Girls** (Asbury Hall Buffalo NY) [babevillebuffalo.com](http://babevillebuffalo.com)

**Apr 12-13 (Fri-Sat) - E3 Youth LGBTQA Summit** FB: E3 Youth Lgbtqa Summit

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# Social & support groups

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## **ADDICTION & RECOVERY**

**AA Meeting Live & Let Live** LGBTQA-friendly AA meeting every Sun. 7PM, at Community United Church, 1011 W. 38th St., Erie, PA. [www.aaeriepa.org](http://www.aaeriepa.org).

## **AGING**

**Jan 13 (Sun) – Over 40? So What?** meets (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 301 W 10th St, Erie, PA) 4 – 6 PM. (814) 455-4009. [daleallgeier@outlook.com](mailto:daleallgeier@outlook.com).

## **GENERAL**

**Jan 8 (Tue) – Youngstown PFLAG** meets (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH ) 6:30 PM. [www.youngstownpflag.org](http://www.youngstownpflag.org).

## **SOCIAL**

**Jan 13 (Sun) – LBT Women of Erie** meets (Brew Ha Ha at the Colony, 2612 W 8th St, Erie, PA) 12 PM. Contact: Kim (814) 490-3994. [ErieBeans@aol.com](mailto:ErieBeans@aol.com). FB: LBT Women of Erie

**Jan 15 (Tue) - Crawford Area LGBT+** meets (Meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 PM at Unitarian Church of Meadville, 346 Chestnut St, Meadville PA. Contact: Randy Herbert-Weed. (814) 724-6736. [crawfordarealgbt@gmail.com](mailto:crawfordarealgbt@gmail.com).

**LBT Women of Erie Various events and venues.:** Contact: Kim Conti. (814) 490-3994. [ErieBeans@aol.com](mailto:ErieBeans@aol.com). FB: LBT Women of Erie

## **SPIRITUALITY**

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie** 7180 Perry Hwy Erie PA [uuerie.org](http://uuerie.org) Welcoming congregation.

## **STUDENT & YOUTH**

**Gender and Sexuality Club (GASE).** LGBTQA group at Penn State Behrend. Info: (814) 898-7162. [mos5744@psu.edu](mailto:mos5744@psu.edu).

**Jan 5 & 19 (Sat) – Prism LGBTQ youth group** meets 1st & 3rd Sat at the Downtown YMCA teen center, 31 W 10th St, Erie PA. from 2-4. Socializing and peer support. for teens 12-20 Rose Surma (814) 490-1971 [Rose.surma@gmail.com](mailto:Rose.surma@gmail.com) FB: TransFamily of NWPA

**Jan 15 (Tue) – Full Spectrum LGBT Teen Support & P.E.A.R.S Teen Drop-In Center** (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH) 6-8PM. FB: Full Spectrum Community Outreach

## **SUPPORT**

**Jan 27 (Sun) – Full Spectrum Sexuality Support** (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH) 3-5PM.

**Jan 27 (Sun) – Parents Who Are LGBTQIA+ Support Group** meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH) 6 PM – 8 PM.

## **TRANS**

**Dec 22 (Sat) - Erie Sisters & Brothers Transgender Group** social (Bel-Aire Hotel and Conference Center, 2800 W 8th St, Erie, PA) 6 PM. Contact: Lisa Ann. (814) 833-1116. [eriesisters.ning.com](http://eriesisters.ning.com)

**Jan 12 (Sat) – TransFamily of Meadville Transgender Support Group** (CHAPS Building, 1st floor, 944 Liberty St., Meadville, PA) 2-5 PM. Contact: Linda Thomas. [imhzwoman4586@msn.com](mailto:imhzwoman4586@msn.com). (814) 232-1778 FB: Transfamily of NWPA.

**Jan 13 (Sun) – Full Spectrum Transgender Support Group** meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Road, Youngstown, OH) 6 PM – 8 PM. Also meets Jul 22 from 3-5PM.

**Jan 14 (Mon) – TransFamily of Warren Transgender Support Group** meets (Jefferson DeFrees Family Center – Hawke Room, 207 Second Ave., Warren, PA) 6- 8 PM. Contact: Kingsley Reese (814) 688-5574. [kreeseamon@gmail.com](mailto:kreeseamon@gmail.com). FB: Transfamily of NWPA.

**Jan 19 (Sun) – Parents and Partners of Gender Variant Individuals Support Group** meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH) 6 PM

**Jan 26 (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](mailto:Caitlynxpress@gmail.com). FB: Transfamily of NWPA

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