



EGN

Erie Gay News



Drag Dinner on March 7

from Rebecca Mae

The Andromeda Agency, an event production company in Erie, is teaming up with Rebecca Mae (2019 Miss Erie & Erie Drag Brunch mogul) to bring you the first Rebecca Mae's Drag Dinner at Resolution Night Club, 28 North Park Row, Erie PA on March 7th at 7 PM.

Rebecca Mae has quickly gained notoriety for her numerous sold out Drag Brunches at Bourbon Barrel featuring many RuPaul's Drag Race contestants. The cast for drag dinner features Pittsburgh Queen Agnes Senga, along with Erie-based Drag Queens Debbie (Michael Hipwell), Lovin Heart (Alex Sphon), & Alysín Wonderland (Kevin Yohn).

The dinner will be catered by acclaimed pop-up restaurant PROOF; the project of Chef Joe Festa (Noosa North East), Eli Kerr, Loni Collins, Sam Bucklin, & Caleb Futscher.

You must be at least 21 to attend. Tickets are \$25 for general admission, and \$30 for VIP.

GEAE's Queer Youth Art Exhibit

from Greater Erie Alliance for Equality (GEAE)

GEAE is proud to present the first Queer Youth Art Exhibit! Any identifying LGBTQ+ youth 12-21 may submit to this first-of-its-kind exhibit at the Erie Art Gallery, 24 W 8th St, Erie PA. The theme is "I Am"

All mediums accepted. Hanging art must be hanger ready. There is no submission fee and artists can submit up to 3 pieces. Judges will choose pieces based on adherence to theme, composition, and style.

Drop off at Erie Art Gallery, Friday and Saturday March 6 and 7 from noon until 4:30 pm. Notification of accepted submissions will be emailed to artists by March 9th.

Show will open Friday, March 13 with an opening reception at 7 pm and run through April 3rd.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/236652494018014/>



Students from Mercyhurst and Edinboro University proudly display jazz hands at Mercyhurst's Annual Flaming Hearts Dance on February 13, 2020. Photo by Michael Mahler

Erie County Council Passes Conversion Therapy Ban Resolution

by Michael Mahler

On February 5, 2020, Erie County Council unanimously passed a resolution opposing the use of conversion therapy for minors. Erie County Council encouraged other local municipalities to pass enforceable bans on conversion therapy. Erie City Council had passed a ban on June 5, 2019 that included fines for violations.

Tables at Pride Fest on June 27

from NW PA Pride Alliance

NW PA Pride Alliance invites you to participate as a table at this year's Pride Fest! The event will be held on Saturday, June 27 from 1 to 3:30 PM in Perry Square at W. 6th and State, Erie PA.

Set-up will begin at 11AM. All tables are expected to remain set up until the end of the festival. We will be using BOTH sides of Perry Square again this year. Registration is open now for everyone!

The cost to participate is \$15 per table and *must be paid in full by Monday, June 1*. The cost includes one 8-foot table and two chairs. Checks should be

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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.

EGN Rates & Data

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
QUARTER	\$65 - \$58.50 Prepaid	3 1/2" high X 2 7/8" wide
HALF VERT.	\$120 - \$108 Prepaid	3 1/2" high X 6" wide
HALF HORZ.	\$120 - \$108 Prepaid	7" high X 2 7/8" wide
FULL PAGE	\$200 - \$180 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

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/Layout: Mike Mahler

Deadline for next issue: Mar 15

Folding and distribution is Tue, Mar 25 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 &
Six LGBT Archives
WORLDWIDE!



To Lake Erie Counseling Associates for hosting! Andrea Shaffer, Annie Rosenthal, Bobbie Fenno, George Silkworth, Kim Conti, Michelle Rivero, Molly Rose, Phoebe Shalloway, and Rex Apps for folding; Annie Rosenthal, Kim Conti, Melina Harden, Michelle Rivero, Phoebe Shalloway, 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

made payable to: NW PA Pride Alliance and mailed to PO Box 11448, Erie PA 16514. The festival will be held outdoors and will take place rain or shine. You may bring a canopy up to 10 x 10 for shade. Electricity is unavailable to tables for this event. Please note that the total number of tables is limited, so be sure to register early to insure your spot!

We are simplifying this year, so the terms for your table will be specified in the emailed invoice. Payment will indicate acceptance of the terms, so there will NOT be an additional form to sign. To get an invoice email for Pride Fest, please email tables@nwpapride.org. Please provide the following information when emailing:

1. Your Name and contact info
2. Business/Organization Name

Registration Now Open for E3 Summit May 8 & 9

from Greater Erie Alliance for Equality (GEAE)

Registration for youth and adults is open for the May 8 and 9th E3 Summit. Vendors may also apply to table the event. Schedule, performers, and speakers to be announced soon. Notice venue change: due to construction at Collegiate Academy, East Middle School, 1001 Atkins St, Erie PA will host the event.

<http://greatereriealliance.com/2019/12/08/e3-summit-2020/>

Nominations for Transgender Advocacy Award Due March 13

The Pennsylvania Department of Health is proud to announce the call for nominations for the 1st Annual Keira Kristine DeSantis Award for Transgender Advocacy in Pennsylvania. **Nominations should be submitted to Jamie Magee at jamagee@phmc.org by March 13th, 2020.** The award will be presented at the 2020 PA LGBTQIA Health Conference being held at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie June 2 & 3, 2020.

In honor of the tireless efforts of Keira to illustrate the societal barrier experienced by trans communities and advocate for advancements in the social and human rights of the trans community, the KEIRA KRISTINE DESANTIS AWARD was created. This award is meant to recognize others like Keira who

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Community News

do whatever it takes, without question, to make the path easier for those who follow a similar journey.

Requirements for Nomination

Nominees must identify as transgender/nonbinary. Nominees must reside and work in Pennsylvania. Nominations may be submitted either by people who recognize the impact of the work done by the nominee, or by the nominee themselves.

The nominee must demonstrate a history of advocacy work to improve the services available to transgender people in historically underserved areas, where services are not readily available or served with cultural competence.

Advocacy work must demonstrably show real, lasting, and significant change in the nominee's geographic area of residence.

All nominations should include the following: Name; Organization (if applicable); Address, phone, e-mail address; A description of the advocacy work performed by the nominee to advocate for the rights of trans communities, including the lasting impact of the work (500 words or less).

PA Dept of Aging Survey and LGBTQ Seniors

from Aging Workgroup of the PA Commission on LGBTQ Affairs

As a requirement of the Older Americans Act, each state is required to develop a State Plan on Aging every four years. The State Plan essentially works as a strategic plan for the state's Department of Aging. It outlines priorities for services provided through the Department, including caregiver support programs, employment support, health and wellness programming, legal assistance, meal programs, transportation, protective services, the ombudsman program, and more.

Pennsylvania's current State Plan was adopted in 2016 and expires September 30, 2020. While the current State Plan does discuss the growing diversity of Pennsylvania's older adult population, it makes no explicit mention of LGBT populations. It is essential that the next State Plan better address the unique

needs of LGBT older adults and include strategies for improving outreach to LGBT communities, collecting data on sexual orientation and gender identity, and training the provider network in LGBT cultural competence.

The Pennsylvania Department of Aging is in the process of developing its State Plan on Aging for 2020-2024. The State Plan acts as a blueprint for how the Department of Aging will meet its federally mandated responsibilities, respond to emergent issues, and lead the way in providing the best possible service, support and opportunities for a growing, diverse older population.

The Aging Workgroup of the Pennsylvania Commission on LGBTQ Affairs is soliciting feedback on how the next State Plan can better meet the growing needs of LGBTQ older Pennsylvanians. LGBTQ community members and service providers who work with older adults are all invited to take this survey. The data collected through this survey is anonymous. It will be used to support the Aging Workgroup's advocacy toward full inclusion of LGBTQ people and older adults living with HIV into Pennsylvania's 2020-2024 State Plan on Aging.

The survey can be accessed at www.bit.ly/StatePlanPA.



Michelle Michaels' birthday Face drag show at the Zone, on February 16, 2020. Photo by Michael Mahler

**Deadline for Next EGN issue
Mar 15**

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This project was funded through a grant
from the Pa. Department of Health

Community News

Another Country March 20-Apr 5 at All An Act

from All An Act Theater

All An Act Theater, 652 W 17th St, Erie PA will present the gay-themed drama *Another Country* March 20 through April 5. *Another Country* is loosely based on the life of the real-life spy Guy Burgess. Set in an English public school in the early 1930's, where future leaders are being prepared for their roles in the ruling class. Guy is coming to terms with his sexuality and Tommy is a committed Marxist. Order tickets online at www.allanact.net or call 814-450-8553 or 814-449-6554

Mayor's LGBTQIA+ Advisory Council Meeting on Feb 6

by Michael Mahler

On February 6, 2020, the Erie City Mayor's LGBTQIA+ Advisory Council held their quarterly meeting. The council is currently working on a mis-

sion/vision statement. President Tyler Titus discussed updates from the PA Commission on LGBTQ+ Affairs.

Also discussed were Census 2020 efforts. Census Day is 4/1, and Erie County has created videos to encourage participation, including a video targeting the LGBTQIA+ community with Vice President Michael Mahler. It is very important that everyone fill out the 9 question survey as each missed response typically cost \$2,100 per person per year in lost federal funding, and census data also determines representation in Congress and legislative districts for a decade.

There were updates from the various advisory council action teams.

Health care action team is working on the statewide LGBTQ+ Health Conference being held in Erie June 2&3.

Aging action team has developed long term goals and is working the statewide action team. There will also be a listening tour by the PA Dept of Aging



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Community News

in the next few months. We need to turn out LGBTQ+ participation for the survey and listening tour.

Youth action team has also come up with a mission statement and is working on safe spaces for Queer youth. They will need involvement of local organization to help with rental costs.

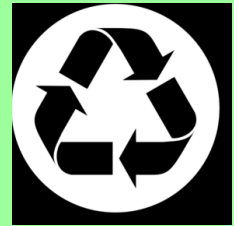
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion action team is discussing merging this action team with the larger Mayor's group on diversity.

Marketing action team has developed a mission statement to help increase overall visibility and awareness of the Erie LGBTQIA+ community. They can also provide help to support LGBTQIA+ programs and initiatives with logo/web design assistance.

Education & Policy action team is working on helping community agencies to be LGBTQ+ culturally competent, also working to be more inclusive of POC and outreach.

The next advisory council meeting will be May 7.

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Calendar

Detailed calendar listings in our online calendar

www.eriegaynews.com

Feb 28 (Fri) - RuPaul's Drag Race Season 12 Kick Off Watch Party (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. Doors open at 7:30 PM, show at 8 PM. Local party hosted by Rebecca Mae. \$2 cover every Friday (814) 452-0125. <https://www.facebook.com/TheZoneDanceClub>.

Feb 28 (Fri) - Mr. or Miss M&J's Pageant (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA 16001) (724) 602-8447. JoshuaSean2009@AOL.COM. <http://www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge>

Mar 4 (Wed) - LGBTQ Community Club meets (Kingsville Public Library - Simak, 6006 Academy St, Kingsville, OH 44048) 6:30 PM. Be a part of the club! Meet new friends, help plan upcoming projects, be a part of something awesome! The goal of the Community Club is to gather members of the community together in a safe, friendly, and nonjudgmental environment to collaborate on projects that will benefit the community we live in. All are welcome! Contact: Bill Daywalt.

(440) 749-3900. Vbdaywalt@icloud.com. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/176893776756950/>.

Mar 6 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) meets (Plymouth Tavern, 1109 State Street, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM - 8 PM.

Mar 7 (Sat) - Rebecca Mae's Drag Dinner (Resolution Night Club, 28 North Park Row, Erie, PA 16501) 7 PM. \$25 general admission, \$30 VIP. The cast for drag dinner features Pittsburgh Queen Agnes Senga, along with Erie-based Drag Queens Debbie (Michael Hipwell), Lovin Heart (Alex Sphon), & Alysia Wonderland (Kevin Yohn). The dinner will be catered by acclaimed pop-up restaurant PROOF; (814) 384-1582. <https://www.facebook.com/rebeccamaesdragbrunch/>.

Mar 10 (Tue) - Bears Do Dinner #81 (Sticks & Bricks Wood Fired Pizza, 1301 E Grandview Blvd, Erie, PA 16504) 6:30 PM. Join the Bears for a casual dinner of food and conversation! Dinner is on your own. Contact: Peter. (814) 384-9785. eriepeter@gmail.com. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BearsDoDinnerEriePA/>.

Mar 14 (Sat) - LBT Women of Erie goes to Maple Taste and Tour (Hurry Hill Farm Maple Museum,

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Calendar

11424 Fry Rd, Edinboro, PA 16412) 9:45 AM. Meet at Hurry Hill, and then travel to other sugarhouses in the area. Free admission. Go to PAMaple.org for more information. Contact: Kim Conti. (814) 490-3994. ErieBeans@yahoo.com. <https://www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE>.

Mar 15 (Sun) - Deadline for Erie Gay News April 2020 print edition (#291) (Erie Gay News, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA 16502-1105) Please have all articles, ads, and submissions in by this date. This issue will be released the evening of Tuesday, March 24.

Mar 15 (Sun) - Jekyll N. Hyde March Madness Drag Show (Kandy's Adult Playground, 13782 Route 19, Waterford, PA 16441) 6 PM - 8 PM. Doors open at 5pm. Show starts at 6pm- 8pm. \$10 door charge. Host- Jekyll N. Hyde Cast: Desiree Storm, Venus Doom, Jewel Alexander, Cookie Monroe, and special guest Virena Peppers. (814) 796-6969. <http://www.gokandys.com/>.

Mar 15 (Sun) - Michelle Michaels presents FACE Drag Show (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 9 PM. Don't miss a fun-filled night of great entertainment with all of your favorite drag queens, new drag queens and special guests. (814) 452-0125. <https://www.facebook.com/TheZoneDanceClub>.

Mar 20 - Apr 5 (Fri - Sun) - All An Act Theatre: Another Country (All An Act Theatre, 652 W 17th St, Erie, PA 16502) Gay-themed drama loosely based on the life of the real-life spy Guy Burgess. (814) 450-8553. director@allanact.net. <http://www.allanact.net/>.

Mar 21-22 (Sat & Sun) - North Coast Men's Chorus: Our Great Big Broadway Show (Allen Theatre at Playhouse Square, 1407 Euclid Ave, Cleveland, OH 44115) Sat - 8PM, Sun - 3 PM. Face it. We LOVE show tunes and no one does them better! Join us for this concert as we bring as many Broadway songs as

we can to the stage of the Allen Theatre in Playhouse Square. (216) 556-0590. <http://www.ncmchorus.org/>.

Mar 22 (Sun) - Whispering Lake Grove Eostre (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Highway, Erie, PA 16508) 6 PM. Celebration of Spring Equinox. Contact: Rev. Christopher Temple. (814) 720-1560. senior.druid@wlg-adf.org. <http://www.wlg-adf.org/>.

Mar 24 (Tue) - Erie Gay News folding/distribution work party (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 301 W 10th St, Erie, PA 16502) 7 PM. 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! Contact: Michael Mahler. (814) 456-9833.

Mar 28 (Sat) - LBT Women of Erie goes to Empty Bowls Benefit (Second Harvest Food Bank of NW PA, 1507 Grimm Dr, Erie, PA 16501) 12 PM - 3 PM. Empty Bowls to benefit Second Harvest Food Bank. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Limited quantity of tickets. Tickets available at nwpafoodbank.org Contact: Kim Conti. (814) 490-3994. ErieBeans@

ABC's of BUILDING BETTER LIVES

Mary Lynn Rote, LPC, CADC | Sarah McGill, LPC
Charen Pasky, LCSW | Jillian Rhoades, LCSW
Rhonda Ramirez, LPC | Rob Giannamore, LPC
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Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated.

Calendar

yahoo.com. <https://www.facebook.com/LBTWOM-ENOFERIE>.

Awareness Days

Feb 28 (Fri) - International STAND UP to Bullying Day . <https://www.facebook.com/pg/standupday/>.

Mar 1 (Sun) - Zero Discrimination Day http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/campaigns/zero_discrimination.

Mar 10 (Tue) - National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NWGHAAD) sheds light on the impact of HIV and AIDS on women and girls. #NWGHAAD <https://www.womenshealth.gov/nwghaad/>.

Mar 20 (Fri) - National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day #NNHAAD <https://www.hiv.gov/events/awareness-days/native>.

Mar 31 (Tue) - International Transgender Day of Visibility <http://tdov.org/>.

Social & Support Groups

ADDICTION & RECOVERY

AA Meeting Live & Let Live LGBTQA-friendly AA meeting every Sun. 7PM, at Community United Church, 1011 W. 38th St., Erie, PA. aaeriepa.org.

MISC.

Mar 8 (Sun) - Full Spectrum Sexuality Support (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH) 3-5PM.

Mar 8 (Sun) - Aging With Pride meets (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 301 W 10th St, Erie, PA 16502) 4 PM. Contact: Dale Allgeier. (814) 455-4009. daleallgeier@outlook.com.

Mar 9 (Mon) - Erie County Democratic Party LGBTQIA+ Caucus meets (Erie County Democratic Party HQ, 1305 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 7 PM. General meeting. Straight/cisgender allies welcome! Contact: Michael Mahler. (814) 456-9833. mmahler@eriedems.com. <https://www.facebook.com/ErieDemsLGBTQIA/>.

Mar 10 (Tue) - Youngstown PFLAG meets (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH) 6:30 PM. youngstownpflag.org.

Mar 10 (Tue) - Full Spectrum Know Your Status Drop In Service (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Road, Youngstown, OH) 4 - 6 P . Free and confidential HIV testing. Free support, free information, free condoms.

Mar 17 (Tue) - Erie County HIV Task Force meets

(Erie County Department of Health (ECDH), 606 W 2nd St, Erie, PA 16507) 1 PM. The Erie County HIV Task Force is a collaboration of local organizations and individuals dedicated to educating, supporting, and advocating for people living with HIV/AIDS and preventing the spread of infection. Contact: Joy Henry. (814) 451-6786. jhenry@eriecountypa.gov. <https://echiv.org/>.

SOCIAL

LGBT+ Erie County PA FB: LGBT+ Erie County, PA **Southern Tier Queer Peers** 31 Water St., Suite 7, Door 14, Jamestown NY "A wellness group for the LGBTQ+ community Tues. 5:30-7:30PM. " Sheridan.smith@mhachautauqua.org 716-490-4438

Mar 8 (Sun) - LBT Women of Erie meets (Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr #1, Erie, PA 16505) 12 PM. Contact: Kim Conti. (814) 490-3994. Venue (814) 835-1384. ErieBeans@yahoo.com. <https://www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE>.

SPIRITUALITY

Community United Church 1011 West 38th St. Erie, PA

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie 7180 Perry Hwy Erie PA uerie.org Welcoming congregation.

Mar 10 (Tue) - Butler LGBTQ Interfaith Network meets (Covenant Presbyterian Church, 230 E Jefferson St, Butler PA, PA 16001) 1 PM. butlerinterfaith@zoominternet.net. <https://www.facebook.com/ButlerLgbtqInterfaithNetwork/>.

STUDENT & YOUTH

SAGA (Sexuality and Gender Alliance) LGBTQIA Support Group (Ashtabula County District Library, 4335 Park Ave, Ashtabula OH) Every Tuesday, 4-5 PM. shannan.farmer@cccOhio.com

Mar 3 & 17 (Tue) - LGBT+ Teen Support (Full Spectrum, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH) 6 PM. FB: Full Spectrum Community Outreach **SUPPORT**

Mar 19 (Thu) - Erie Regional GSA meets (Blasco Memorial Erie County Public Library, 160 East Front Street, Erie, PA 16507) 8 PM.

TRANS

Transgender Support Group of Jamestown NY Thursdays, 6 to 8 PM. Contact for location and details. Text or call: Bethany (716) 499-4817, Hayley (814) 888-7525, Terry (716) 490-7596. FB: Transgender Support of Jamestown NY for events.

Mar 8 (Sun) - Full Spectrum Gender Support Group

Calendar


meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Road, Youngstown, OH) 6 PM – 8 PM.

Mar 15 (Sun) – Parents and Partners of Gender Variant Individuals Support Group meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH) 6 PM

Mar 22 (Sun) – Full Spectrum Gender Support Group meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Road, Youngstown, OH) 3 PM – 5 PM.

Mar 28 (Sat) Transgender Support Group meets (Crime Victim Center of Erie County, 125 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 2 – 5 PM. Contact: Annie Rosenthal. FB: Transfamily of NWP

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for more photo galleries!



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