



# EGN

## Erie Gay News



### COVID-19 Vaccines at Central Outreach on April 6

*from Central Outreach Wellness Center - Erie*

On April 6, Central Outreach Wellness Center, 3104 State St, Erie PA, will offer COVID-19 vaccines for the LGBT community from Noon until 5 p.m.

If you have insurance, please send a picture of your insurance card to [info@centraloutreach.com](mailto:info@centraloutreach.com) after you register for your appointment. This is required if you have insurance. You do not need insurance to receive a COVID-19 vaccine on April 6 at Central Outreach Erie. No insurance? No problem!

Register for your Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine here: <https://bit.ly/COWBCovidShotApr>

### Zone Hour Changes as of Apr 4

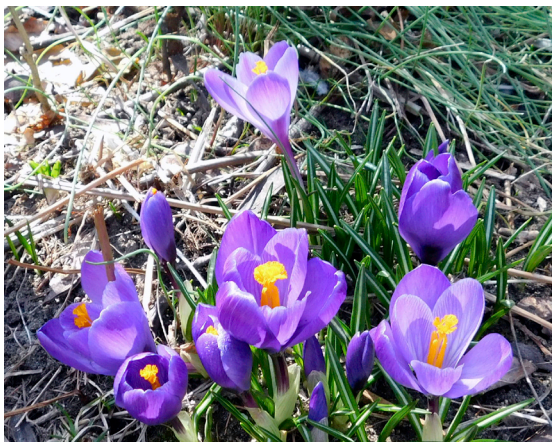
*from The Zone Dance Club*

Beginning Sunday, April 4, The Zone Dance Club will be changing their hours back to 8 PM-2 AM, except Fridays, which will be 7 PM-2 AM during Drag Race viewing parties. There will be no more food restrictions. All other safety measures remain in place (distancing, masks, no dancing, etc.) The light is at the end of the tunnel! Just hold on a little bit longer, and we'll be back full-force! (And our first party is going to be \*MASSIVE\*!)

### April 27 HIV Testing Event in Perry Square

*from NW PA Pride Alliance*

On Tuesday, April 27th, from 5-8 pm, there will be a Mobile HIV Testing event at Perry Square using Northwest Alliances' new HIV mobile testing van. NWPA Pride Alliance, Greater Erie Alliance for Equality, Erie Gay News, and The Northwest Alliance, together with Dickey's BBQ Pit, The City of Erie, and The Zone Dance Club, will be hosting a total of 4 testing events this year. Free HIV testing will be available to anyone 14 years of age and older using a rapid 2-minute test. Those who got tested were given a \$5 Country Fair gift card and a coupon for a free sandwich at Dickies BBQ. If you are unable to



*Welcome spring! Purple crocus flowers bloom again.  
Photo by Michael Mahler*

attend the event and would like to set up a time to get tested, please contact Emily Crofoot at [Ecrofoot@clarion.edu](mailto:Ecrofoot@clarion.edu) or (814) 454-3811.

### LBT Women of Erie Zooming Along

Although LBT Women of Erie still cannot meet in person. We are holding our monthly meetings via Zoom every second Sunday of the month at noon. Our monthly Zoom meetings are a chance to see familiar faces, and if you have never been to a meeting, we would love to meet you. You can check out our Facebook page or email me at [Eriebeans@yahoo.com](mailto:Eriebeans@yahoo.com). The link for the meeting will be posted a few days before the meeting on our Facebook page, the EGN Facebook page, and the EGN website. Next meeting will be April 11.

### Queer Youth Events on 4th Thurs - Virtual Connect Chat & Chill

*from Compton's Table*

On the fourth Thursday of each month, from 6:00-7:30 pm, Compton's Table, Greater Erie Alliance for Equality (GEAE) and Journey to a Trauma-Informed Life will be hosting a virtual connect for

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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.



<b>QUARTER PAGE</b>	<b>FULL PAGE</b>	<b>HALF PAGE VERTICAL</b>
<b>HALF PAGE HORIZONTAL</b>	<b>EIGHTH PAGE</b>	

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
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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.  
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Erie Gay News is now included in  
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To Lake Erie Counseling Associates for hosting! Andrea Shaffer, Johauna, Kim Conti, Michael Mongera, and Rex Apps for folding; Johauna, Kim Conti, Michael Mongera, 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.

queer youth. Come join us for a night of community, laughter, and chill. No real agenda, just a safe, virtual space. The next two Teen Chat and Chill events will be on March 25 and April 22. Preregistration is required to ensure a safe, affirming environment.

Youth will need a smart device that can log on to Zoom. If technology is a barrier, we can assist the youth in navigating safe access. Youth need to register on [www.ComptonsTable.org](http://www.ComptonsTable.org) or by texting 814-580-8185. Additionally, if queer youth are in need of assistance, we have a text help line at (814)-315-3111

## Pride Shirt Advance Sales Due Apr 2

*from NW PA Pride Alliance*

NWPA Pride Alliance is happy to announce the return of Pride Shirt, Tanktop, and new this year Hoodies. Whee! Design won the shirt design contest. This year we have a pre-order program that will be the only way to guarantee you can get the items you would like. Local pick-up will be arranged in May 2021, and shipping is available to anywhere in the United States. Hoodies will only be available via pre-order. All items are available in sizes Small up to 3XL. Please visit [NWPAPride.org](http://NWPAPride.org) for more information and to order yours before April 2nd.

## Journey to a Trauma-Informed Life News and Events

“Welcome to Journey, how can we help you?”

This is what you’ll hear when you contact us. Edward Randazzo, our office manager, has a voice that instantly sets a stressed caller at ease. Suddenly, you realize you’ve found a safe haven from your life’s storm. If you’re looking for a counselor who sees you for who you really are, or a guide through some troubled times, you can find someone who will walk with you here at Journey to a Trauma Informed Life. We have ten therapists prepared to help you heal, cope, transition, and transform. We can meet with you in person at one of our 3 private, personable locations, or over telehealth – whichever feels safer for you. We offer individual, couples, family and group counseling for all ages. We accept many insurances or offer an income-based sliding scale fee for service. Visit [www.atraumainformedlife.com](http://www.atraumainformedlife.com) or call (833)487-5769 to get connected.

Journey also offers webinars and training. April is National Child Abuse Awareness Month. In observance, we are offering two free expert panel



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discussions for parents with questions about how to talk to their kids who have been through tough times. Visit our website for more details or to register for one of our free seminars: April 10th for parents with children 1-12 years old or April 20th for parents with teens (13-18).

April 23rd is the GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network) Day of Silence – observing the silencing effect of anti-LGBTQ+ bullying. On Thursday evening, April 22nd from 6-7 pm, Journey has partnered with the Greater Erie Alliance for Equality to bring you Q&A session for parents of kids who are bullied in school. Sign up for this free webinar at [greatereriealliance.com](http://greatereriealliance.com).

Visit Journey to a Trauma Informed Life's webpage or give us a call to take the next step into a life of freedom.

## Protest and Pride: the LGBTQ+ Community in Chautauqua County opens March 31

*from Fenton History Center*

Fenton History Center is proud to announce the 2021 feature exhibit Protest and Pride: The LGBTQ+ Community in Chautauqua County. Learn about the history of the LGBTQIA+ community in Chautauqua County and hear stories from community members about their experiences in Jamestown and Chautauqua County. The exhibit opens March 31st and runs through October at 67 Washington St, Jamestown, NY.

Stories and artifacts have been contributed in an effort to build an archive of LGBTQIA+ related information and materials at the Fenton History Center to document both the current experience and the history of the community for future generations. If

you would like to contribute to our growing archive, please contact us.

The exhibit has been built in coordination with the Jamestown Pride Committee, the Mental Health Association of Chautauqua County, Prevention Works, and the National Comedy Center.

Thanks go to the Humanities New York and the New York State Council on the Arts, and the Greater Hudson Heritage Network for their support in making this project possible. #creativityincubator

Details about exhibit opening events are forthcoming.

Visit us Monday through Saturday 10-4. Admission is \$10 for adults. Members and Children 17 & under free!

## GEAE Call for Entries for Juried LGBTQ Art Exhibit Due April 30

*From Greater Erie Alliance for Equality*

Greater Alliance for Equality will be presenting an LGBTQ juried art exhibit from June 1-30 at Blasco Library Art Gallery, 160 E. Front St., Erie, PA, and they are issuing a call for entries with a deadline of April 30, 2021, at 11:59 PM. LGBTQ artists, 18

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years of age or older, from the Northwest PA region are eligible. All art mediums will be considered (for example: painting, drawing, distills, inks, pencil, sculpture, encaustic, photography, mixed-media, digital art. You will be notified of drop-off dates if your work is accepted.

The exhibit is curated by the Greater Erie Alliance for Quality (GEAE), a nonprofit LGBTQ organization whose mission is to “strengthen our voice and improve the quality of life in Northwestern Pennsylvania.”

Each image should be labeled as LastName\_FirstName\_Title\_Medium\_Size.jpeg (example: Mane\_J-Title\_Acrylic\_20x30.jpg.) You may submit up to a total of five artworks. Each image file should be a.jpg, no longer than 1250 pixels on the longest side, at 72 dpi, and less than two MB.

In the text of your email, include your name and phone number, title and price of each work, and an artist statement about your work. Attach the files to your email and send the email to [GEAEartshow@gmail.com](mailto:GEAEartshow@gmail.com). Please email Mike Tkach at [GEAEartshow@gmail.com](mailto:GEAEartshow@gmail.com) with any questions.

This art exhibit is made possible by a grant from Erie Arts and Culture.

## May 13 Cybersecurity Workshop

On Thursday, May 13, at 7 PM, the PA Department of Banking and Securities will be presenting a virtual workshop - Cybersecurity – Keeping Yourself Safe Online. To register for the event and get the Zoom link, fill out the form at <http://bit.ly/cyberworkshopreg>.

Whatever your age, understanding how to keep your information safe and secure online is vitally important for everyone. This presentation covers key topics like using secure websites, creating strong passwords, being aware of what you put on social media, and even tips for shopping online safely.

Organizations including Erie Gay News, Greater Erie Alliance for Equality, Lake Erie Counseling, LBT Women of Erie, Northwest Alliance, NW PA Pride Alliance, Pennsylvania Equality Project, Safe Harbor, SafeNet, and TransFamily of NW PA are partnering to promote this important educational opportunity. This is a similar collaborative effort as the Zoom presentation on the 2020 Pennsylvania



# Become a Foster Parent Today!

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## Family Services of NWPA

LGBTQ Health Needs Assessment results. If your organization wants to partner, contact Michael Mahler at [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com) or (814) 456-9833

## Erie County Councilpersons Carl Anderson and Kim Clear Push for Equality Act Passage

On March 2, 2021 Erie County Council unanimously passed Resolution Number 8, sponsored by Councilman Carl Anderson and co-sponsored by Councilwoman Kim Clear, which urges Congress to pass the Equality Act. The Resolution was moved to adoption by Councilwoman Ellen Schauerman, seconded by Councilman Andre Horton, and passed 7-0.

The County has long championed personal freedom, tolerance, acceptance and equality under the law. Erie County was one of the first Counties in the State to include "sexual orientation" in its anti-discrimination Ordinance law passed by Erie County Council in 2001. Just three years ago the County also added "criminal history" and "gender identity" as protected classes in its Human Relations Commission local ordinance.

Erie County has now joined thousands of communities in demanding equal protection for the LGBTQIA+ community. The Equality Act, already passed by the U.S. House of Representatives, will soon come before the United States Senate.

Carl Anderson III, Council Chairman: "Our action speaks to the vigor and importance of this vital part of the Erie Community finally receiving equal protection under the law. All of us have spoken to constituents who have personally suffered intolerance or have family members who have been negatively impacted by people and institutions that seem to harbor animus towards them for no other reason but their sexual orientation or gender identity."

Kim Clear Vice Chairwomen: "This is such an important piece of legislation. As a teacher, I have seen so many kids that are suffering from the effects of intolerance. It is heartbreaking".

County Council has sent Resolution 8 to United States Senators Casey and Toomey; urging their support for the Equity Act or H.R. 5. The Act would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation, and for other purposes in public accommodations and federal policy.



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County Council Members Andre' R. Horton, Scott Rastetter, Ellen Schauerma, Brian Shank and Mary Rennie, joined Anderson and Clear in supporting the action.

## Pennsylvania Department of Aging Recognizes Older LGBTQ Population

by Michael Mongera

A new directive has taken effect for Older Adult LGBTQ people. As of March 1st, the Pennsylvania Department of Aging (PDA) recognizes Older Adult LGBTQ people as "Greatest Social Need". A more thorough explanation was provided by PA Department of Aging Secretary Robert Torres:

"The purpose of this Aging program Directive is to recognize and designate LGBTQ older adults as a population of "greatest social need" as defined in the Older Americans Act, in addition to those populations already included in the Act, and to provide guidance on responsive service delivery for LGBTQ older adults."

The term "greatest social need" means that a "need caused by non-economic factors, which include

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physical and mental disabilities; language barriers; and cultural, social, or geographical isolation, including isolation caused by racial or ethnic status, that restricts the ability of an individual to perform normal daily tasks, or threatens the capacity of an individual to live independently.” as defined by the U.S. Health and Human Services for the Administration for Community Living. Federal funds allocated under the act where enabled from the OAA, to make “specific programmatic requirements of State Units on Aging.

Given the history of inequality for LGBTQ people in history, older LGBTQ people have been subjected to rejection from family and discrimination and prejudice from society. This has left an older LGBTQ generation less likely to seek such services and programs to aid them. Taken from the directive from Secretary Torres;

“The national organization SAGE (Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders) notes that older LGBTQ individuals are twice as likely to be single, twice as likely to live alone, and four times less likely to have children than heterosexual older adults. A U.S. health survey of older adults reported that 59% of older LGBTQ adults feel that they lack companionship, 53% feel isolated from others, and 53% feel left

out (Fredriksen-Goldsen et al., 2011).”

The numbers are more susceptible to rise. Nationwide estimates from The National Resource Center on LGBT Aging rise from 1 million adults age 65 and older who are LGBTQ to rise to 3 million. Some LGBT older people still fear coming out of the closet. Others fear growing older and more vulnerable, which causes many to go back into the closet. Either scenario makes it more difficult for LGBT older people to access the aging services and supports that they need.

The PDA has recognized these challenges. They will work with the Area Agencies on Aging to work towards these directives listed by Secretary Torres;

- Ensure culturally affirming service to LGBTQ older adults by providing staff with LGBTQ cultural competency training and ongoing education
- Conduct effective targeted outreach to LGBTQ older individuals to promote aging services
- Evaluate the needs of the LGBTQ older adult population within each PSA
- Collect sexual orientation and gender identity data as determined by the Department when data collection tools become available or utilize existing data from reliable sources
- Provide written and web-based resources specific to and for the support of LGBTQ older adults
- Engage older members of the LGBTQ community to solicit input and feedback on programs and services

This directive was driven by a commitment the PDA made in their 4-year federally-required State Plan on Aging, which became live on 10/1/20.





Their commitments to LGBTQ older adults in the State Plan, in part, were guided by the work of the Aging Subgroup of the PA Commission for LGBTQ Affairs. Their state plan contains six actions specific to the LGBTQ community. The plan, however, is not inclusive of all the work the department is doing to promote culturally sensitive and affirming services for LGBTQ seniors.

## **In search of photographer for Lake Erie Gala 2021**

*from Erie Sisters*

Do you have any experience in taking professional or semi-professional photos? Erie Sisters is in search of a photographer for this year's Lake Erie Gala to be held November 17 through the 21st. If this is something you would be interested in please email a short resume and a selection of photos done by you to [info@LakeErieGala.com](mailto:info@LakeErieGala.com). A member of the Gala Board will contact you back.

## **Survey for Pennsylvania teachers - LGBTQ+ history resources workshop**

The PA LGBT History Network is currently exploring the idea of offering a training workshop for social studies and history teachers in Pennsylvania on the topic of teaching LGBTQ+ history.

This workshop will include presenters highlighting the LGBTQ+ history resources that are available in Pennsylvania archives and other institutions, showcasing sample lesson plans and course curricula, and leading a discussion about preparing similar lesson plans and curricula. The workshop will be offered virtually over Zoom and we plan to offer it free of charge.

If you are a teacher and think you might be interested in this training, please complete an online survey form at the link below. If you know a teacher, please help us spread the word. The survey will take about 5 minutes and will remain active through April 2nd.

The PA LGBT History Network is a group of more than 100 individuals and representatives of institutions and organizations, with the mission to engage people in discovering Pennsylvania's LGBTQ+ history, historic sites, history projects, artifacts and archival collections, and to facilitate collaboration between the organizations, institutions and individuals that provide stewardship of this heritage.

Link: <http://bit.ly/LGBTHistoryTeacherSurvey>

## **Pennsylvania LGBTQ COVID-19 Vaccine Survey**

*from Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center*

Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center, in partnership with LGBT centers and LGBT health clinics across Pennsylvania, is collecting data for a statewide Pennsylvania LGBTQ COVID-19 vaccine survey. It is important to know what our community is thinking about the COVID-19 vaccine! LGBTQ+ Pennsylvanians aged 18 years and older are invited to participate. Visit <https://bit.ly/vaccinesurveyPA>

The survey is approved by the IRB at Bryn Mawr College, and all responses are confidential. This is the first statewide LGBTQ COVID-19 vaccine survey in the country and is modeled after a regional survey in Boulder, Colorado.

## **2020 PA LGBTQ Health Needs Assessment on Feb 25**

On February 25, about 35 people total attended two virtual sessions on overview of the 2020 Pennsylvania LGBTQ Health Needs Assessment focused on Erie. Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center in Allentown provided essential and helpful insights into the health needs of the LGBTQ community. To see an overview of this year and past years, browse to [livehealthpa.com/lgbt](http://livehealthpa.com/lgbt).

This project was funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Co-sponsors for this event were ABCs of Building Better Lives, Central Outreach Wellness Center – Erie, Community Health Net, Drenched Fur, Erie City Mayor's LGBTQIA+ Advisory Council, Erie County Department of Health, Erie County Human Relations Commission, Erie Dems LGBTQIA+ Caucus, Erie Gay News, Erie Sisters, Gaudenzia Erie, Greater Erie Alliance for Equality, Greenfield Internal Medicine, Lake Erie Counseling, LBT Women of Erie, Life Balance Counseling and Wellness, Northwest PA Rural AIDS Alliance, NW PA Pride Alliance, NW PA Tobacco Control, Pennsylvania Equality Project, Rebecca Mae's Drag Brunch, Safe Harbor, Safe Journey, SafeNet, Thrive Therapy Space, TransFamily of NW PA, UPMC Hamot, and Zone Dance Club.

## **PA Commission on LGBTQ Affairs Meeting on Feb 20**

The Pennsylvania Commission on LGBTQ Affairs held their quarterly meeting on February 20, 2021, via Zoom. The report on the December 9, 2020, statewide LGBTQ town hall will define the issues to work on by the commission. About 120 people attended the virtual town hall, and we were delighted with the scope and perspectives shared by all of the speakers. The State Archives are currently transcribing the town hall, and the report will be issued to all State Assembly members and administration members.

Executive Director Rafial Alvarez Febo thanked The Health committee for their many achievements during the COVID-19 pandemic. Pennsylvania was the first state to collect sexual orientation and gender identity info on COVID-19 infections. Only Rhode Island and Illinois currently collect SOGI data for COVID-19 infections.

There are currently six committees for the Commission – Aging; Arts, Culture and Events; Health; Housing; Legislation and Policy; and Youth and Education. All committees currently have non-commissioners in addition to commission members, and participation is welcomed!

The Aging committee reported that they are currently working with the Pennsylvania Department on Aging (PDA) for a section on the PDA's website dedicated to managing HIV as a chronic disease, similar to PDA pages on managing diabetes. The 2021-2024 State Plan on Aging explicitly addresses concerns of the LGBTQ and HIV+ communities. It is now important to verify that regional area agencies on aging (AAA) will adequately implement the state plan and support LGBTQ cultural competency. AAAs have consumer boards, and the committee will be working to make sure that LGBTQ community members are on these boards. The PDA's state plan is the first to mention HIV. The committee is also working on having the LGBTQ community acknowledged as one of the populations of greatest need. The committee meets via Zoom the first Wednesday of each month at 6 PM. On June 9, members of the Aging group will attend the virtual meeting of the Pennsylvania Association of Area Agencies on Aging to talk about the committee's goals.

The Health committee has been focused on COVID-19. In addition to working for SOGI data to

be collecting in infection contact tracing, they also successfully advocated for including people living with HIV in phase 1A of COVID-19 vaccinations. The state's COVID-19 app includes LGBTQ data and is available on Google and Apple. There have been several regional presentations of data and trends from the 2020 Pennsylvania LGBTQ Health Needs Assessment. The committee is exploring a potential roundtable about accessing the COVID-19 vaccine, and they are also looking into access to telehealthcare. Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center is launching an LGBT vaccine hesitancy survey shortly. The Health committee meets every other Tuesday at 10 AM.

The Legislation and Policy committee's initial focus was passing anti-discrimination statewide. This is still the top priority, but the committee's focus has expanded to other issues. They also strengthen ties with the bipartisan and bicameral Equality Caucus to fight to advance and fight against harmful legislation. The committee will also evaluate and react to how the upcoming state budget will affect the LGBTQ community. At the federal level, the committee is working on efforts to help support the passage of the Equality Act, particularly getting the support of Senator Pat Toomey. Commissioner Henry Sias presented a resolution currently being explored by the PA Bar Association on ending the gay/trans panic defense and how usage of that defense negatively affects the lives of LGBTQ people. The Legislation and Policy committee usually meetings Thursdays at 4 PM but may shift their meeting time.

The Housing committee strives to address the increased housing needs prompted by the current pandemic. They serve to advocate and partner with landlords, overcome barriers, and find innovative ways to find funding for equitable housing. The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC) can consider LGTQ discrimination in housing as a complaint when the issue is a form of sex discrimination or sex stereotyping. The committee is also working on a Ban the Box campaign, which will prevent employers and housing providers from asking about criminal record when not directly relevant. Asking this question makes it harder to access housing, and sex work convictions create a barrier, thus keeping people trapped in homelessness and poverty. The committee is also reaching out to housing and developer partners for LGBTQ cultural competency and to incentivize rental owners to get training to be

safe and affirming.

The Youth and Education committee expanded from their original focus of education to include advocating for LGBTQ youth in dependent care. They are also working on getting the Pennsylvania Department of Education to collect SOGI data and include nonbinary markers. In the midst of the COIF-19 pandemic, they have been working on getting age extensions for foster youth services. They meet monthly as determined by a Doodle poll.

The next quarterly meeting of the PA Commission on LGBTQ Affairs will be on May 21.

## Something Just Isn't Right (There's an app for that.)

*from SafeNet*

Have you noticed changes in a friend's behavior that you can't explain and they won't talk about? There are many possible explanations: family conflicts, workplace stress or discrimination, financial worries, love life frustrations. There's another explanation you might not think of or deliberately want to avoid—partner abuse. All you know is something just isn't right.

Here are some observable behavior changes

that could signal partner abuse:

- A once confident person acts insecure.
- They blame themselves for anything that goes wrong.
- They never talk about their relationship.
- Their partner checks on them constantly.
- Their mood changes after receiving a call/text from their partner.
- If you express concerns, they dismiss them.
- They seem to be pulling away from family and friends.
- They don't appear 'allowed' to make their own decisions.
- Their explanations for cuts, bruises, or other injuries don't add up.

RUSafe is a free app that provides questions to determine if someone is in an abusive relationship. It also provides information about how a friend can help. The app works across the U.S. by showing the closest domestic violence agencies and hotline numbers just by entering a zip code. (Victims of abuse should only download the app if it is safe to do so. If they delete the app, they should also clear the history.) Help a friend today by downloading RUSafe.

While RUSafe is helpful, it is primarily a pathway to other safety steps. To learn more about



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*Ryan White Services*

helping a friend, call SafeNet's hotline at 454-8161.  
All services are free and confidential.

## HealthHIV's Pozitively Aging Survey

As people with HIV (PWH) age, many are seeing complications from having HIV for such a long time, as well as experiencing challenges in coordinating their HIV and overall health care. These concerns need to be prioritized-and quickly!

HealthHIV's Pozitively Aging program seeks to improve care coordination for those aging with HIV. As part of this program, we conduct an annual survey on the state of aging with HIV. We are asking PWH who are age 50 and older OR who have had HIV for at least 15 years to provide input on their shared life and health care experiences.

The survey results are completely anonymous, and will be used to better inform the development of education materials, in addition to enhancing communication and quality of care between service providers and PWH.

Thank you for adding your input on these important topics and helping us determine the state of aging with HIV.

Please complete the survey at <http://bit.ly/hivagingsurvey> by March 31st to share your thoughts, as well as share this link with others who may want to participate as well!

## Lupe (2019 Film) – Movie Review

*by Michael Mongera*

"Lupe" offers a unique look into a Cuban immigrant/kickboxer coming to terms with her gender identity amidst a frantic look for his missing sister. Rafael Abarran stars as Rafael, a masculine-presenting Cuban woman who has moved to New York to search for his missing sister, Lana. Along the way, she finds room to explore her burgeoning gender identity as a woman. Not only is she confronted with the fear of how those closest will react to her revelation, but looking for her sister, who has disappeared into the sex work industry.

The film's inclusion of transgender representation is its greatest value. A passionate yet torn woman battles rejection and from the person, she loves the most. Yet, she is strident in giving herself the love she has recently lost. However, the search for her sister is disappointingly anti-climactic. For a character to show such drive for the person they love, the reaction is unexpected for her, and not in a fulfilling way.



Spiritually, this film is a testament to discovering oneself and giving that part of love that may have been lost. But, It is hard to ignore how one of its main plot points finds a lukewarm ending. If you want a resilient story of the beginnings of gender transition, this is a worthwhile film to watch.

## Dr. Rachel Levine Advances to Full Senate Vote as Assistant Secretary of Health

ALLENTOWN, PA - March 17, 2021 - In response to the 13-9 bipartisan vote by the United States Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) to advance Dr. Rachel Levine's nomination as Assistant Secretary of Health to the full Senate, the following statement is attributable to Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center executive director Adrian Shanker:

"The bipartisan vote in the Senate HELP committee is a clear indicator that the full Senate should swiftly vote to confirm Dr. Levine to the position of Assistant Secretary of Health. Dr. Levine is impeccably qualified and ready to get to work for the public health of the American people."



*Complete Out: The National Cancer Survey today to ensure that we all get the treatment we deserve. <https://bit.ly/outcancersurvey> #outsurvey*

# Calendar

For latest updates, see [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)

**Mar 27 (Sat) - TransFamily of NWPA (Erie) Transgender Support Group meets (Zoom)** 2 PM. Currently meeting via Zoom. Please message via Facebook page for meeting info.

**Mar 27 (Sat) - "Power, Love & Presence: The Joys of Getting Older"** Workshop (Zoom) 4 PM - 6 PM. Each workshop in the series will have unique content. To keep it easy and fun to participate, each workshop is limited to a maximum of 20 men. Each workshop will run for 2 hours with a short break midway. [www.lifebeyondtherapy.com/](http://www.lifebeyondtherapy.com/).

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

**Apr 10 (Sat) - National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day** NYHAAD educates the public about the impact of HIV/AIDS on youth and highlights the work youth do to strengthen the fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic. #NYHAAD Advocates for Youth and its partners direct this observance. Browse to <http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/>.

**Apr 10 (Sat) - Free Expert Panel Discussion for Caregivers of Young Children** (Google Meet) 10 AM - 11:30 AM. April is Child Abuse Awareness Month. Parents and caregivers of young children have an opportunity to ask their questions of 4 different "experts" in working with children. Hear answers to questions like: Is it okay to talk about 'what happened' with my child? Does my child need counseling if they saw domestic violence? Could being sexually abused make my child gay or transgender? Register at [www.atraumainformedlife.com](http://www.atraumainformedlife.com) Phone: (833) 487-5769. Email: [ERandazzo@4urjrnny.com](mailto:ERandazzo@4urjrnny.com). Browse to <https://www.atraumainformedlife.com/>.

**Apr 11 (Sun) - LBT Women of Erie meets (Zoom)** 12 PM - 12:30 PM. Meeting ID: 733 6894 3066. Passcode: 2NgZqW. <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73368943066?pwd=VS9rSUlrK3Y2Y0JodVpQZEpzaXVBQT09> Contact: Kim Conti. Phone: (814) 490-3994. Email: [ErieBeans@yahoo.com](mailto:ErieBeans@yahoo.com). Browse to <https://www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE>.

**Apr 12 (Mon) - Deadline for Erie Gay News May 2020 print edition (#306)** (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 on the evening of Tuesday, April 20. For a complete list of upcoming deadlines and release dates, check the print edition schedule at [www.eriegaynews.com/print-edition/deadlineschedule.php](http://www.eriegaynews.com/print-edition/deadlineschedule.php) Contact: Michael Mahler.

# THE PLUG

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Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com). Browse to <https://www.eriegaynews.com>.

**Apr 12 (Mon) - Erie County Democratic Party LGBTQIA+ Caucus meets (Zoom)** 7 PM. General meeting on Zoom. Contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or [mmahler@eriedems.com](mailto:mmahler@eriedems.com).

**Apr 13 (Tue) - Youngstown PFLAG meets virtually (Zoom)** 7 PM - 8:30 PM. Youngstown Area PFLAG's support group meeting will gather virtually. Any person who would like to join us can request the zoom link from [youngstownareapflag.org](http://youngstownareapflag.org) Contact: Toni Schildcrout. Email: [youngstownareapflag@gmail.com](mailto:youngstownareapflag@gmail.com). Browse to <http://www.youngstownpflag.org/>.

**Apr 18 (Sun) - National Transgender HIV Testing Day** National Transgender HIV Testing Day (NTHTD) was first observed on April 18, 2016. Browse to <http://transhealth.ucsf.edu/>.

**Apr 19 (Mon) - Camp Davis Public Opening** (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA 16020-1219) 9 AM. Phone: (724) 637-2402. Email: [info@campdavispa.com](mailto:info@campdavispa.com). Browse to <http://campdavispa.com/>.

**Apr 20 (Tue) - Erie County HIV Task Force meets via Zoom** 1 PM - 2:30 PM. Zoom Meeting ID: 927 9128 9996. Passcode: 940728

**Apr 20 (Tue) - Free Expert Panel Discussion for Caregivers of Young Children** (Google Meet) 6 PM - 7:30 PM. In observance of Child Abuse Awareness Month, Journey to a Trauma Informed Life is offering a free Q&A Panel Discussion for caregivers of middle and high schoolers. Ask your questions about teens who are struggling with life's difficulties. Register at [www.atraumainformedlife.com](http://www.atraumainformedlife.com) Phone: (833) 487-5769. Email: [ERandazzo@4urjny.com](mailto:ERandazzo@4urjny.com). Browse to <https://www.atraumainformedlife.com/>.

**Apr 20 (Tue) - Erie Gay News folding/distribution work party** (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 301 W 10th St, Erie, PA 16502) 7 PM. Limited number of volunteers welcome. You must wear a mask and practice social distancing.

**Apr 22 (Thu) - Free Webinar for Parents of Kids Being Bullied Because They Are LGBTQ+** (Google Meet) 2 PM - 3 PM. In observance of GLSEN's Day of Silence (raising awareness of anti-LGBTQ+ bullying), Greater Erie Alliance for Equality and Journey to a Trauma Informed Life are offering a free webinar for parents with kids dealing with anti-LGBTQ+ bullying. Register at [www.greatereriealliance.com](http://www.greatereriealliance.com) Phone: (833) 487-5769. Email: [ERandazzo@4urjny.com](mailto:ERandazzo@4urjny.com). Browse to <https://www.atraumainformedlife.com/>.

**Apr 23 (Fri) - Day of Silence** GLSEN's Day of Silence is a student-led national event organized in thousands of schools, bringing awareness to the silencing effects

of anti-LGBTQ name-calling, bullying and harassment in schools. Students from middle school to college take a vow of silence in an effort to encourage schools and classmates to address the problem of anti-LGBTQ behavior by illustrating the silencing effect of bullying and harassment on LGBTQ students and those perceived to be LGBTQ. Browse to <http://www.glsen.org/dayofsilence>.

**Apr 24 (Sat) - Polar Plunge** (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA 16020-1219) Be the first to take a dip in the pool. Come' on be brave!! No worries mate - it'll un-shrivel. Music by DJ Lethal666. Phone: (724) 637-2402. Email: [info@campdavispa.com](mailto:info@campdavispa.com). Browse to <http://campdavispa.com/>.

**Apr 24 (Sat) - TransFamily of NWPA (Erie) Transgender Support Group meets (Zoom)** 2 PM. Currently meeting via Zoom. Please message via Facebook page for meeting info.

**Apr 26 (Mon) - Lesbian Visibility Day** Created in 2008, this day showcases women-loving-women, providing a platform for lesbian role models to speak out on the issues facing female-identified sexual minorities. This day, alongside other queer celebration days, is still an integral part of moving forwards to create an intersectional society where all are treated equally and fairly.



Accommodations, bars, business and not-for-profit resources Separate WOMEN'S and ETHNIC/MULTICULTURAL sections

USA/CANADA: \$25 by first class mail. All states and providences, national headquarters of organizations, mail order companies, etc.

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For an application to be listed (no charge), current editions, and prices, mailing labels, etc. please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Renaissance House, PO Box 533-EGN, Village Station, New York, NY 10014 646-213-0263 or email [gypages@gmail.com](mailto:gypages@gmail.com)

<http://gayyellowpages.com>



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