



February 2023 – Issue 327

# ERIE GAY NEWS

Serving the Regional LGBTQIA+ Community Since 1992



*Enjoying Ugly Holiday Sweater theme at NW PA Pride Alliance's Meadville Happy Hour at Cussewago Creek Distillery on December 28, 2022. Photo by Michael Mahler.*

## LGBT+ Community Gives back Boots and Coat Drive

The LGBTQIA+ community once again comes together to collect boots and coats for Community Shelter Services of Erie PA. New or gently used boots in all sizes will be accepted as well as new and gently used coat on Saturday, January 28 from noon to 3 PM at Journey to a Trauma Informed Life, 201 W 11th St, Erie PA.

If you are unable to drop off your items during the designated time, you can drop off your donation at the office of Natalie Braddock State Farm Insurance Agent during normal business hours. The office is located at 1338 East 38th St, Erie, PA 16504.

Any questions please contact Alex Sphon at [President@nwpaupride.org](mailto:President@nwpaupride.org)

The event is sponsored by NW PA Pride Alliance, partnering with Journey to a Trauma Informed Life, Erie Gay News, TransFamily of NW PA,

Community United Church, Greater Erie Alliance for Equality, Whee! Studios, and Zone Dance Club.

## Annual February Cabin Fever Weekend 2023

Erie Sisters and Brothers will hold their Annual February Cabin Fever Weekend at the Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel on Friday, February 24th through Sunday, February 26th, 2023

This deal includes \$139 per room night, three drink vouchers per room reserved, per day and complimentary parking per room, per day.

Currently, those rooms are being reserved for \$290/night and \$14/day parking (Drinks vouchers not included). So that is a savings of \$195/night!

Please email [info@lakeeriegala.com](mailto:info@lakeeriegala.com) for the group specific reservation link. Hope to see you there!

## Game Night at Journey to a Trauma-Informed Life

Finding queer spaces to socialize, hang out, make friends, and play games can be difficult. As adults, it is hard to make friends outside of work, especially within your community. Journey to a Trauma-Informed Life is happy to host a monthly game night. There is a \$10 suggested donation for a night of food, friends, fun, and gaming. Game Night will be offered on the first Friday of every month and hosted by art therapist Eric Reiche. To register go to our website ([atraumainformedlife.com](http://atraumainformedlife.com)). Our next event will be February 3rd from 5:00 to 7:00 PM, friends and games welcome.

For more information on upcoming social engagements and groups follow us on social media at:

IG: [Journey2atraumainformedlife](https://www.instagram.com/Journey2atraumainformedlife)

## NWPA Pride announces Erie Pride Dates

NWPA Pride will once again hold Erie's Pride fest and parade on the final Saturday in June 6/24/23 at Perry Square. The Pride Picnic will be held on

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# ERIE GAY NEWS

Serving the Regional LGBTQIA+ Community Since 1992

**Erie Gay News**  
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**Folding and distribution is Tue, Feb 21 at**  
**Lake Erie Counseling, 1932 W 8th.**

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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.

**If you are restarting events or are moving to hosting events/meetings virtually, or want to change your copies received for distribution, please email [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com)**

## Rates & Data

<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	\$50 - \$45 Prepaid	1 5/8" high X 2 7/8" wide
QUARTER	\$80 - \$72 Prepaid	3 1/2" high X 2 7/8" wide
HALF VERT.	\$150 - \$135 Prepaid	3 1/2" high X 6" wide
HALF HORZ.	\$150 - \$135 Prepaid	7" high X 2 7/8" wide
FULL PAGE	\$250 - \$225 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.

## THANKS

From Your Friends at Erie Gay News

To Lake Erie Counseling Associates for hosting! Andrea Shaffer, Audrey, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Kim Conti, Rex Apps, and Steve Siwiecki for folding; Audrey, Brett Staskiewicz, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Kim Conti, Rex Apps, and Steve Siwiecki 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).

8/12/23 at the Rotary Pavilion at Presque Isle State Park.

Additional events will be announced soon. For more updates, please follow our social media and our new website [NWPAPride.org](http://NWPAPride.org).

## City of Erie Earns Perfect 100 Score on 2022 HRC Municipality Equality Index (MEI)

The City of Erie is proud to announce a perfect score of 100 on the Human Rights Campaign's (HRC) 2022 Municipality Equality Index (MEI). The MEI examines and rates more than 500 municipalities on how inclusive their laws, policies, and services are of LGBTQ+ residents, employees, and visitors.

In May 2018, after the City received a preliminary MEI score of 34/100, Mayor Joe Schember created his LGBTQ+ Advisory Council and tasked the group of LGBTQ+ leaders with achieving a perfect score of 100. The Advisory Council and City of Erie staff used the MEI as a starting point to guide our efforts to celebrate our diversity. The team set to work on identifying critical areas in which we could make

progress on ensuring that our LGBTQ+ residents feel safe, welcome, valued, and included.

Starting in 2018 and with each passing year, the City's score increased as we passed a conversion therapy ban, appointed a police liaison and a mayoral liaison, adopted a non-discrimination in city employment policy, added transgender-inclusive health care benefits, adopted a city contractor non-discrimination policy, drafted a youth bullying prevention policy for the Police Athletic League and all youth summer recreation programs, ensured appropriate FBI hate crime reporting, and demonstrated City leadership's public position and policy efforts on LGBTQ+ equality.

The City expresses its sincere appreciation and thanks to the volunteer Advisory Council members for their hard work and leadership throughout this process. The City remains committed to increasing diversity across all city departments as well as through appointments to authorities, boards, and commissions. Anyone who is interested in serving in a volunteer capacity on an authority, board, or commission can apply at Authorities, Boards, and Commissions - City Of Erie ([citygrows.com](http://citygrows.com)).

We will continue to work together to ensure



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that our LGBTQ+ friends, family, neighbors, and colleagues are safe, welcomed, valued, and respected.

To view the full MEI scorecard, please visit the LGBTQ+ Advisory Council page on The City of Erie website at LGBTQ+ Council – Erie, PA.

## Transitioning Families Info Session

Journey to a Trauma-Informed Life will be hosting an info session for professionals and agencies that service gender-expansive communities to promote an art therapy group for this audience. This group is a structured curriculum developed by a master's level counselor and art therapist geared toward lessening the traumatic impact of a transitioning family member upon the individual and their system.

A transitioning family is a family where a member or members identifies as gender-expansive and is in the process of coming out or transitioning. This group format utilizes art as a process tool in exploring intersectional identities as a family system. Allowing an affirmative space to receive psychoeducation and explore family roles and intersectionality through creative processing. The purpose of the curriculum is to educate, support, and empower individuals through this stage in their life. Facilitated by a licensed professional, utilizing Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, the grief model, person-centered, family therapy, and solution-focused frameworks.

Establishing a safe space to provide psychoeducation through intersectional therapy to process familial stressors. This group is intended to lessen traumatic and maladaptive symptoms on the gender-expansive individual while meeting the family system's needs through support and empowerment. Lack of resources, support, and education increase the rate of poor outcomes such as homelessness, addiction, abuse, maladaptive health issues, and suicide. It is our hope this will be a fit for populations within Erie and Northwest PA. Join us on February 7th from 5:30 to 7:00 on our Facebook Live. [www.facebook.com/4urjrny](https://www.facebook.com/4urjrny)

## Community Spotlight: Bears Do Dinner

Bears Do Dinner is a local social group in Erie, PA, that started almost ten years ago, in July 2013. Each month, a restaurant is selected and announced in our Facebook Group "Bears Do Dinner - Erie, PA." <https://www.facebook.com/>

groups/1475863226069226. Individuals are on their own to join us for dinner. Everyone can enjoy the company of other bears and their friends, as well as the cuisine of that month's restaurant!

Several years before Bears Do Dinner started, Drenched Fur made its debut in Erie. Before Drenched Fur, an annual event for the Bear Community, there had not been any ongoing activities that catered to the Bear community. Other cities, like Pittsburgh, Buffalo, and Cleveland, had regular Bear activities such as annual events and bar nights. Erie attempted to follow suit with Bear Bar Nights but did not have as much success as other cities.

I suggested that we try something different, like a group that goes out to dinner every month, and Bears Do Dinner was created. One of my friends, Gary Snyder, was instrumental in helping the group get up and running. He has also maintained a database of all the dates, restaurant locations, and the number of people participating each month.

While we have had great experiences wherever we have had dinner, some locations became favorites, and we have been to more than once, such as Pineapple Eddie's, Golden Wok, Casablanca Grill, Brewerie, Syd's Place, Erie Brewing, and others! On February 16, 2023 at 6 PM, we will celebrate our 100th month of Bears Do Dinner. The location will be announced later in January, and it will be memorable!

Peter Genco, Bears Do Dinner Coordinator  
814.384.9785 (text/voice)

## HIV Vaccine Challenges

*from Erie County HIV Task Force*

It's been over four decades since HIV was reported in the US. Since then, many have asked 'Why isn't there a cure or a vaccine for HIV?' While there are vaccine trials underway [more on that next month], understanding the difficulty of discovering one is important to the future of Ending the HIV Epidemic. Among the viruses our bodies fight off, HIV is unique due to its ability to avoid creating an immune system response to end or contain infection. Most viruses produce an immune response which clears the body of the infection, sometimes without medication needed. Think of how with a cold or the flu, we experience symptoms of our immune system fighting the virus and eliminating it; such as a fever, body aches, etc. While it has been documented that very few people in the world have managed to do this to HIV and not using antiretrovirals, most individuals



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living with HIV require life-long medication therapy.

HIV is sneaky and master of disguises while covering its surface proteins in a coating of sugar molecules which prevent our immune system from having antibodies locate and attach to the virus. Plus, HIV itself reproduces rapidly with genetic variables creating challenges to nail it down while the virus also takes over the body's immune cell response by turning T-cells into breeding cells. Today's antiretroviral meds suppress HIV to undetectable levels. While this has been huge for improving the lives of patients, HIV itself is a retrovirus; hiding deep inside our DNA making it invisible to the immune system. This is why we stress the importance of not only being in-care, but consistently taking medication to prevent HIV from reproducing at high numbers and overtaking the body again. And like all treated conditions, we also have the additional challenge in avoiding drug resistance.

Ultimately, the key to a future HIV vaccine is about finding a way to prevent the virus from taking hold upon entering the body. Stopping HIV in its tracks before hijacking T-cells would significantly reduce new infections. To achieve this, current re-

search continues to chip away at determine the most effective wide-ranging method of the blocking HIV from replicating. Next month we'll cover some of the current HIV vaccine trials underway and what their potential holds. For more information or to submit questions, contact the Erie County HIV Task Force at 814-315-3375 or [admin@echiv.org](mailto:admin@echiv.org).

## **The Penncrest school board passes restrictions on reading and athletics**

On January 12, the PENNCREST school board passed a ban that addresses transgender participation in sports and added "sexualized content" restrictions to a library policy that had been approved last year.

### **Athletes**

By a 7-1 vote, the board approved a language change that included the phrase "biological (at birth)" to the district's interscholastic athletic policy that would, in effect, prevent athletes assigned male at birth from playing in girls' sports but would allow athletes assigned female at birth to play in boys sports. Board president Luigi DeFrancesco said he believes the change protects female athletes from being at a "competitive disadvantage" and "to prevent discrimination against females."

The measure passed 7-1. Theresa Croll opposed the change, board member Jeff Brooks was absent.

### **Library Ban**

In a 5-3 vote, the board passed a controversial revision in the school district's library policy. The board had previously passed a library policy in July 2022.

Board members Theresa Croll, Tim Brown, and Jennifer Davis opposed the change, expressing concerns about the possibility of being sued. Board member Jeff Brooks, who was absent, said that the policy is "basically a copy and paste from a policy Central Bucks School District adopted, and they are already being sued for it by the ACLU. The only reason I can think of us adopting a policy word for word we know is already in court is some sort of clout chasing by board members wanting attention."

Board member David Valesky scoffed at the opponents' concerns about possible legal action. "If we go to court over it, so be it," he said, "because at the end of the day we're standing up for what's right and for what God has said is right and true." The library materials issue started with Valesky, who in

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2021 criticized a school library display of LGBTQ books, calling it “totally evil”

Valesky chairs the policy committee, which proposed the changes that were passed on Thursday. It was the policy board that proposed the revision, even though the board passed a library policy in July of 2022. Because of Valesky’s statements and actions, some are suspicious of reassurances that the vague “sexualized content” rule would target LGBTQ materials. Board members did not seem to be able to agree on what is “sexualized content” or even what is “legal for a minor to possess.”

## **Coming Out of the Dark - A Celebration of Light**

Journey: Healing Together thanks those who could join us in celebrating the Winter Solstice on 12/21/22. Coming Out of the Dark honored the many who have healed and demonstrated post-traumatic growth throughout the year. Together we welcomed in the light of a new season of healing and growth.

Paige Bosnyak helped attendants create pinecone fire starters to illuminate the night with hopes for the upcoming year. Slips of paper filled with new intentions were placed inside pinecones, sealed with wax, and thrown into the fire, releasing hope into the cool air to be nourished by the longer days ahead. Eric Reiche helped each participant dedicate a luminaria to a loved one who represents growth in the darkness of mental health stigma. Brigitte Sullivan held space through free Reiki sessions for anyone seeking a moment of peace. Community members submitted works of art representing their own journey through the darkness.

At 4:47, we gathered around the fire, inviting people to share in spoken word and lifting voices in chants and songs led by Margo Wolfe. Messages of overcoming judgment, prejudice, and assault amplified triumph and resilience rising up throughout our community. One guest stated, “I was a little nervous at the beginning, but afterward felt incredibly at ease. Journey has an atmosphere of kindness and acceptance that can be difficult to find in daily life.” Will Koehler, Journey: Healing Together Executive Director shared, “Each room was filled with people celebrating in unique ways - one room had children laughing and creating snowflakes and walking by another you heard music of awakened joy. Journey: Healing Together exists to serve our community in

these ways. Our hope is to illuminate and nourish our collective healing energy throughout the year. We are overjoyed to have shared this time with you and look forward to celebrating the Summer Solstice on June 21st!”

## **Have you considered supporting Pride in 2023?**

The NW PA Pride Alliance has been fostering equality, respect, and diversity through our events in the Erie region for over ten years. We are grateful for all our supporters who have helped to make this mission a reality.

We produce the Erie Pridefest, added the Meadville Pride and Street Fair for 2022, and our annual Pride Picnic celebrated at the Rotary Pavilion on Presque Isle. The Pride Alliance also hosts monthly happy hours in Meadville and soon here in Erie. We also support other local organizations as we shine a light and bring awareness to many LGBTQIA issues throughout our region.

The NW PA Pride Alliance is grateful to those who have supported us in the past and would kindly ask that you consider supporting us as we move

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forward. If you want to become part of this great mission, please go to our website [www.nwparide.org](http://www.nwparide.org). You will see we have new levels for supporting Pride in our local community.

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## HUMAN TRAFFICKING

National Human Trafficking Prevention Month begins in January. It is a perfect opportunity to talk about the dangers of trafficking among the LGBTQ+ community. The LGBTQ+ community makes up 40% of the homeless youth population. This 40% can be linked directly to the 26% of LGBTQ+ adolescents that are rejected from their families. Young homeless individuals are the most likely to partake in survival-sex, which often leads to sex trafficking, making it of utmost importance to educate members of the LGBTQ+ community on the dangers of trafficking. A lack of seeking legal assistance among the community is apparent, and could be contributed to a study that shows 57% of transgender people claim to be uncomfortable asking law enforcement for help. This fear of invalidation is what leads to LGBTQ+ community members feeling trapped in their trafficking situations. With just this small amount of information, it is easy to see why it is important to understand the prevalence and dangers of trafficking in our community.

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Erie Gay News is now included in  
**The EBSCO LGBT Life®**  
with Full Text Index &  
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## La bella's is closed permanently

La bella's restaurant, 802 W 18th St, Erie, PA, has closed permanently. Erie Gay News wishes owner Harry Miller all the best in whatever is next. Harry Miller has been a supportive community member for many years. A previous restaurant of his, la bella bistro near 4th and Cherry, hosted special Valentine's Day dinners for same-sex couples in the '90s. Harry was also one of the founders of the first LGBTQIA+ student groups in NW PA in the '70s, then called the Edinboro Homophile League at Edinboro College, and now known as Identity at PennWest Edinboro.

## Pride Night at the Otters

NW PA Pride Alliance would like to thank our friends Erie Otters Hockey Club for partnering to host the 3rd annual Erie Otters Pride Night on January 14, 2023!

The night included Pride Secretary Rex Apps doing the honorary puck drop, Pride President Alex Sphon joining the radio broadcast on AM1400 during the second intermission, and a special edition Otters Pride Hat.

We look forward to next year's Pride Night!

**MINIATURE MOTIFS II**

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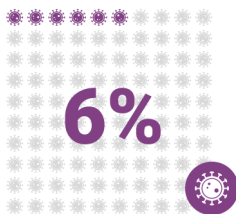
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[www.cdc.gov/std](http://www.cdc.gov/std)



\*Note: 2020 data reflect the effect of COVID-19 on STD surveillance trends.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/std/statistics/2020/syndemic-infographic-may-2022.pdf>



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# Calendar

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

*Live & Let Live is an LGBTQA-friendly AA meeting that meets every Sunday, at 7PM, at Community United Church, 1011 West 38th Street, Erie, PA 16508. For more information, visit [www.aaeriepa.org](http://www.aaeriepa.org) or contact [cmn0626@gmail.com](mailto:cmn0626@gmail.com). or (814) 504-1507.*

*Compton's Table Chat and Chill Social Hour for Youth every Monday from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. Register with [info@comptonstable.org](mailto:info@comptonstable.org) for location.*

*Zone Monday Night Karaoke with DJ Nitro at The Zone, 133 W 18th St, 9 PM-midnight.. No cover. 21+ with valid state-issued ID.*

*Wednesdays at The Zone, 133 W 18th St, Trivia with Rebecca Mae. Join host Rebecca Mae for our next go at Trivia! Stick around after trivia for a performance by Rebecca Mae! Doors open at 8pm. Trivia begins at 9pm. No cover. 21+ with valid state-issued ID.*

*Fridays at The Zone, RuPaul's Drag Race Season 15 Viewing Party 8 PM. Hosted by Rebecca Mae with special guests each week. Doors open at 7:30pm. Show starts at 8 pm. No cover before 8 pm - \$5 cover after 8 pm. 21+ with valid state-issued ID.*

**Jan 25 (Wed) – LGBTQ+ and Allies Happy Hour – All welcome** (Julian's Bar & Grill, 299 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA 16335) 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM.

**Jan 26 (Thu) – Teen Trans support group meets** (G.A. Family Services, 210 Gustavus Ave, Jamestown, NY 14701) 5 PM. Contact: Kaden Mason. (716) 708-6161. <http://gafamilyservices.org/>.

**Jan 26 (Thu) - Mild to Wild Discussion Group** (Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County, 31 Water Street Suite 7, Jamestown, NY 14701) 6 PM - 7:30 PM. Mild to Wild is a discussion group about sex and substance use designed for gay and bisexual men and folks of trans experience. Meets in person at MHA and also on Zoom. (716) 661-9044.

**Jan 27 (Fri) - Holocaust Remembrance Day** Day to remember all of the victims of the Nazi era. Browse to <https://www.yadvashem.org/27th/index.asp>.

**Jan 28 (Sat) - TransFamily of NWPA (Erie) Transgender Support Group meets** (Crime Victim Center of Erie County, 125 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 2 PM - 5 PM. Meetings are hosted at the Crime Victim Center of Erie County (125 W. 18th St., Erie, PA). All current CDC, state, and local guidelines for meeting indoors will be observed. Meetings are always confidential and

completely free.

**Feb 3 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) meets** (Calamari's Squid Row, 1317 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM - 8 PM. Happy Hour - All Are Welcome!

**Feb 3 - 19 (Fri - Sun) - Cabaret** (Academy Theatre, 275 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA 16335) Phone: (814) 337-8211.

**Feb 6 (Mon) - "History and Healing: Spotlight on African American Heroes", featuring A Shared Heritage** (Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Road, Erie, PA 16505) 6 PM. FREE lecture hosted by the Jefferson Educational Society. Please register in advance by visiting our website at [www.JESErie.org/events](http://www.JESErie.org/events) or by calling our office at 814.459.8000. Visit [www.JESErie.org/satellite-programming](http://www.JESErie.org/satellite-programming) for more information on JES Satellite Programming.

**Feb 7 (Tue) - National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day** February 7 is National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD), a national HIV testing and treatment community mobilization initiative targeted at Blacks in the United States and the Diaspora. NBHAAD was founded in 1999 as a national response to the growing HIV and AIDS epidemic in African American communities. #NBHAAD Browse to <https://nationalblackaidsday.org/>.

**Feb 8 (Wed) - "America250PA: The 250th Anniversary of the United States and Pennsylvania's leading Role in the National Effort"** (Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 7 PM. Featuring Cassandra Coleman, B.A. FREE lecture. Please register in advance by visiting our website at [www.JESErie.org/events](http://www.JESErie.org/events) or by calling our office at 814.459.8000.

**Feb 9 (Thu) - "Mapping Domestic Violence in Erie", featuring Christopher Magno, Ph.D.** (Erie Center for Arts & Technology, 650 East Ave. Suite 120, Erie, PA 16503) 7 PM. FREE lecture hosted by the Jefferson Educational Society. Please register in advance by visiting our website at [www.JESErie.org/events](http://www.JESErie.org/events) or by calling our office at 814.459.8000. Visit [www.JESErie.org/satellite-programming](http://www.JESErie.org/satellite-programming) for more information on JES Satellite Programming.

**Feb 10 (Fri) - "The State of Erie County's Economy explained by Erie Leading Index (ELI)"** featuring Kenneth Louie, Ph.D. (Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 12 PM. FREE lunch-time lecture. Please register in advance by visiting our website at [www.JESErie.org/events](http://www.JESErie.org/events) or by calling our office at 814.459.8000.

**Feb 10 - 12 (Fri - Sun) - Hearts Weekend** (Zone Dance



Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) Whether you celebrate Valentine's Day or Singles Awareness Day, join your friends for the annual red and black party! Doors open at 8pm. \$5 cover (Friday & Saturday). No Cover (Sunday only). 21+ with valid state-issued ID.

**Feb 10 (Fri) - Diva Heart Show** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 10 PM. Join host Misty Michaels Kall and her Divas for the first Diva show of 2023! Doors open at 8pm. Showtime 10pm. \$5 cover. 21+ with valid state-issued ID.

**Feb 11 (Sat) - Second Annual Gala Fundraiser - Show Some Love II Warren County Pride** (Crary Art Gallery, 511 Market St, Warren, PA 16365) 7 PM. Live music, silent auction, refreshments. Suggested donation \$25 / person \$40 / couple. Text 714.366.9509 to RSVP

**Feb 12 (Sun) - LBT Women of Erie meets (Zoom)** 12 PM - 12:30 PM. Meeting ID: 770 9886 1291. Passcode: F4fwNr.

**Feb 12 (Sun) - Sweet Re-Lease** (Compton's Table, 304 State St, Erie, PA 16502) 6 PM - 8 PM. We signed a new lease and we believe that is reason to celebrate. Our new location is going to allow us to expand our services and make an even bigger impact in our community. We ask that you join us for an evening of live music, champagne, local brews, and hors d'oeuvres while supporting Compton's Table & preview of our new location.

**Feb 13 (Mon) - Deadline for Erie Gay News March 2023 print edition (#328)** (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, February 21

**Feb 13 (Mon) - Erie County Democratic Party LG-BTQIA+ Caucus meets via Zoom (Zoom)** 7 PM. General meeting on Zoom. Voting members must be a registered Democrat living in Erie County. Straight/cisgender allies welcome! Contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or mmahler@eriedems.com for Zoom meeting info.

**Feb 14 (Tue) - LGBTQ+ Coalition of Ashtabula County Community Meeting** (Ashtabula County District Library, 4335 Park Ave, Ashtabula, OH 44004) 6 PM. Join us for our monthly meetings: a safe place for discussion, understanding, and community. Learn about the current activities of the Coalition and how you can participate. Connect with others in the LGBTQ+ Community in Ashtabula County. All are welcome who come in the spirit of inclusivity, diversity, equality, and nonjudgement.

**Feb 14 (Tue) - Youngstown PFLAG meets** (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH 44503) 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM.

**Feb 16 (Thu) - PFLAG Westfield NY meets** (Patterson Library, 40 S Portage St, Westfield, NY 14787) 6:30 PM. Support group for parents, friends and family of LGBTQ+ people.

**Feb 17 (Fri) - "Bridging Erie County's Urban and Rural Divide - Infrastructure, Resources, and Services"** (Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 12 PM. Featuring representatives from the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy 2022 cohort. FREE lunchtime lecture. Please register in advance by visiting our website at [www.JESErie.org/events](http://www.JESErie.org/events) or by calling our office at 814.459.8000.

**Feb 19 - 25 (Sun - Sat) - Aromantic Spectrum Awareness Week** An aromantic is someone who doesn't experience romantic attraction. Arospec is the shorthand name for people who identify anywhere on the aromantic spectrum, including aromantics. Aro Awareness Week is for anyone on the aromantic spectrum, regardless of where they lie there or sexual orientation

**Feb 19 (Sun) - FACE with Misty Michaels Kall** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 10:30 PM. Misty and the house cast assemble with their favorite love/hate songs (because queens can't do anything on time so they get the weekend after the party). Doors open at 8pm. Showtime 10:30pm. No Cover. 21+ with

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**Feb 21 (Tue) - Erie County HIV Task Force meets** (Hybrid) (Erie County Department of Health (ECDH), 606 W 2nd St, Erie, PA 16507) 1 PM.

**Feb 21 (Tue) - “Erie County Community College: Our Community, Your College!” featuring Christopher Gray, Ph.D.** (Corry Higher Education Council, 221 N. Center St., Corry, PA 16407) 6 PM. FREE lecture hosted by the Jefferson Educational Society. Pre-registration is necessary for entry, please register in advance by visiting our website at [www.JESErie.org/events](http://www.JESErie.org/events) or by calling our office at 814.459.8000. Visit [www.JESErie.org/satellite-programming](http://www.JESErie.org/satellite-programming) for more information on JES Satellite Programming.

**Feb 21 (Tue) - Erie Gay News folding/distribution work party** (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 7 PM. Help us get out the print edition of Erie Gay News.

**Feb 21 (Tue) - Mardi Gras** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. Come out and celebrate Fat Tuesday Zone style! Doors open at 8pm. No cover. 21+ with valid state-issued ID.

**Feb 22 (Wed) - “The History of Newspapers and Newsmakers in Erie (and PA)”, featuring Pat Cuneo, B.A. & Kevin Cuneo, B.A.** (Jefferson Educational

Society, 3207 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 7 PM. FREE lecture. Please register in advance by visiting our website at [www.JESErie.org/events](http://www.JESErie.org/events) or by calling our office at 814.459.8000.

**Feb 22 (Wed) - NW PA Pride Alliance LGBTQIA and Allies Happy Hour** (Cussewago Creek Distillery, 993 Water St, Meadville, PA 16335) 5:30 PM - 9 PM. ALL are WELCOME. This is a time to network and socialize with the LGBTQ community and allies in the Meadville area. An RSVP would be appreciated by not necessary. All are welcome so please share and spread the word! Don't forget to bring your business cards for exchange.

**Feb 23 (Thu) - Teen Trans support group meets** (G.A. Family Services, 210 Gustavus Ave, Jamestown, NY 14701) 5 PM. Contact: Kaden Mason. Phone: (716) 708-6161. Email: [kmason@lutheran-jamestown.org](mailto:kmason@lutheran-jamestown.org). Browse to <http://gafamilyservices.org/>.

**Feb 23 (Thu) - Mild to Wild Discussion Group** (Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County, 31 Water Street Suite 7, Jamestown, NY 14701) 6 PM - 7:30 PM. Mild to Wild is a discussion group about sex and substance use designed for gay and bisexual men and folks of trans experience. Meets in person at MHA and also on Zoom. Phone: (716) 661-9044.

**Feb 23 (Thu) - “From Trash to Treasure - Maintain-**



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ing **Erie African American History**”, featuring **JES Scholar-in-Residence, Johnny Johnson** (Erie Center for Arts & Technology, 650 East Ave. Suite 120, Erie, PA 16503) 7 PM. . Please register in advance by visiting our website at [www.JESErie.org/events](http://www.JESErie.org/events) or by calling our office at 814.459.8000. Visit [www.JESErie.org/satellite-programming](http://www.JESErie.org/satellite-programming) for more information on JES Satellite Programming.

**Feb 24 (Fri) - International STAND UP to Bullying Day** International STAND UP to Bullying Day is a special event in which participants sign and wear a pink “pledge shirt” to take a visible, public stance against bullying. Browse to <https://www.facebook.com/pg/standupday/>.

**Feb 24 (Fri) - “Neighborhood Revitalization in Erie’s West Bayfront: OWB (Our West Bayfront)”**, featuring **Anna Frantz, M.C.P.** (Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 12 PM. Please register in advance by visiting our website at [www.JESErie.org/events](http://www.JESErie.org/events) or by calling our office at 814.459.8000.

**Feb 24 - 26 (Fri - Sun) - Erie Sisters & Brothers Annual February Cabin Fever Weekend** (Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel, 55 West Bay Road, Erie, PA 16507) 6 PM. This deal includes \$139 per room night, three drink vouchers per room reserved, per day and complimentary parking per room, per day. Please email [info@lakeeriegala.com](mailto:info@lakeeriegala.com) for the group specific reservation link.

**Feb 24 (Fri) - Debbie Does Nationals Benefit Drag Show** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 10 PM - 12 AM. Hosted by Vivian Vendetta Sinclair. Twelve queens helping to send Debbie Does Drag, Miss Erie 2022, to Nationals. Doors open 8 PM. \$5 cover. 21 & over with ID

**Feb 25 (Sat) - TransFamily of NWP (Erie) Transgender Support Group meets** (Crime Victim Center of Erie County, 125 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 2 PM - 5 PM.

**Feb 26 (Sun) - Full Spectrum LGBTQIA+ Youth Peer Support & Social Group meets** (The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Youngstown, 1105 Elm Street, Youngstown, OH 44505) 3 PM - 5 PM. Ages 14-17, under 14 with signed parental consent form. Phone: (234) 254-8924.

**Feb 26 (Sun) - Full Spectrum LGBTQIA+ Adult Peer Support Group meets** (The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Youngstown, 1105 Elm Street, Youngstown, OH 44505) 6 PM - 8 PM. Ages 18+.

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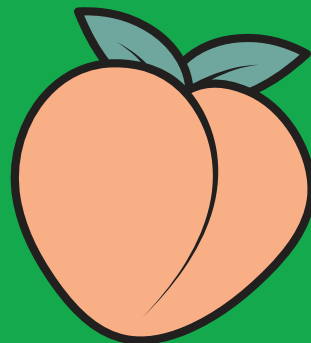
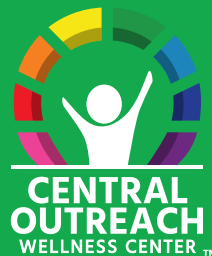
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