



ERIE GAY NEWS

Serving the Regional LGBTQIA+ Community Since 1992



Journey to a Trauma Informed Life co-owners Will Koehler and Angelica Spraggins.

Journey Celebrates New Owner - Angelica Spraggins

This 3-year old diverse mental health organization celebrated its newest milestone on January 1, 2023 when Angelica Spraggins, MA LPC CRC obtained an equity stake in the business and joined Dr. Koehler as a partner. Spraggins, a graduate of PennWest Edinboro, joined the workforce at Journey to a Trauma Informed Life in February 2022. Speaking of this personal and professional accomplishment, Spraggins said, “My self assigned goal in Erie, since making it my home in 2015, has been to build a safer, more inclusive space to support those communities that need it most. As a clinician, Journey has allowed me to bring this goal to fruition. Now as a co-owner I have the opportunity to renew my commitment to this community.” Journey to a Trauma Informed Life is located at 201 W 11th St, Erie PA.

Spraggins and Dr. Koehler are eager to build upon their existing professional relationship. In regards to having Spraggins join Journey to a Trauma Informed Life as a partner Dr. Koehler said, “An-

gelica is a valued compliment to Journey’s ownership. She brings skills and perspective which only enhance our ability to serve the community. I am overjoyed to have a co-owner again, particularly one who excels where in areas where I am not as strong. I look forward to leveling-up with her on Journey’s ownership team.”

Aging With Pride to reorganize

Aging With Pride, the discussion/social group for LGBTQ+ folks age 55 and older, will have a reorganizing meeting at 1:00pm Sunday, February 26th at Lake Erie Counseling Inc. 1932 West 8th Street, Erie, PA.

The group stopped meeting in 2020 due to Covid, and there has been renewed interest in bringing the group back. The organizational meeting will look at what we did in the past and what worked, what continues to be the social needs for the 55+ LGBT+ community and how to best move forward with an active and fun Aging With Pride group.

Please join us for Aging With Pride, Sunday, February 26th at 1:00pm and bring your ideas!

NW PA Pride Alliance Launches Erie Happy Hour March 1

NWPA Pride is proud to launch a new monthly Queer Happy Hour in Erie, PA. We will hold a Happy Hour at Oasis Pub at 3122 W Lake Rd this month. This event will be held in the backroom at Oasis. For more information, please visit NWPAPride.org. Meadville Happy Hour will continue on the fourth Wednesday of each month, and Erie Happy Hour will be on the first Wednesday of each month.

Debbie Does Nationals Fundraiser

The current reigning Miss Erie, Debbie, is set to compete in the National Miss Comedy Queen pageant. This March, the pageant will feature 20 other drag artists competing for the title in Orlando, Florida. To help support her trip, a fundraising benefit will be held at The Zone, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA.

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Serving the Regional LGBTQIA+ Community Since 1992

Erie Gay News

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

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

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

EGN Rates & Data

QUARTER PAGE	FULL PAGE	HALF PAGE VERTICAL
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AD SIZE	PRICE/ISSUE	DIMENSIONS
EIGHTH	\$50 - \$45 Prepaid	15/8" high X 2 7/8" wide
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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! Audrey, Elisabeth Cadelle, Emma Galbraith, Hannah Khamis, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Khang Nguyen, Kim Conti, Kolton Mehlalko, N Khamis, Raven Jane Cammarata, Rex Apps, Robin Marhugh, Sarah, and Steve Siwiecki for folding; Brett Staskiewicz, Emma Galbraith, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Kim Conti, Rex Apps, Sarah, and Steve Siwiecki for distribution; Whee! Design for logo. If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com.

The event will be hosted by Debbie's drag mother, Vivian Vendetta Sinclair, on Friday, February 24th.

There will be eleven drag entertainers from the tri-state area ranging from Cleveland to Rochester, along with fellow Erie queens Pissi Gabune, Tammy Joe Hammertoe, and Priscilla Godzilla.

The event will begin right after the regular screening of the latest episodes of Drag Race, around 9 pm, and continue until around midnight. A Jello shot sale will be in effect until supplies last, and all proceeds will go to Debbie. Doors open at 8 pm with a \$5 cover.

PA Equality Project Announces Upcoming Events

The Pennsylvania Equality Project is launching the Crawford County Chess Club beginning Saturday, March 11 at the Meadville Public Library, 848 North Main Street, from 12 Noon to 3 PM. Whether you are a novice, an expert, or somewhere in between, all players are welcome. Some chess sets will be provided, but please feel free to bring your own. Although donations to the organization are always

welcome, the Chess Club does not have dues, nor does it charge for admission to its events.

On March 31 and April 1, the Pennsylvania Equality Project will be hosting Meadville FreeShop 2023, Spring Edition at the Meadville Public Library in the Community Room. On March 31, between 10 AM and 4 PM, we are asking people to donate their unneeded, but gently used clothing, blankets, non-perishable food items, games, toys, and items for young children. Tax donation receipts are available upon request.

On April 1, between 10 AM and 4 PM, anyone who needs these items is welcome to browse the selection and take whatever they would like at no charge. Anyone who misses bringing in donations on March 31, may bring them to the Community Room at the library on April 1. This event has no admission fee, and we have no per person limits on what people may take with them.

Anyone with questions about either of these events should email dmoore@paequality.com or call (814) 337-9732 for details.



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Warren County Pride Is June 17

The fourth annual Warren County Pride is slated for Saturday, June 17th, 2023. Warren County Pride will run from 11 AM - 4 PM at the grassy & green Betts' Park in Warren County, PA. Shuttle parking will be available. Music by DJ Sabine of Erie and hosted by Warren County Pride, Inc. Spend the weekend in beautiful Warren County and check out all of our rainbow flags!

For more information, to vend, or set up a booth, email warrencountypride@gmail.com

LGBT+ Community Gives Back Boots and Coat Drive

When a fire broke out at Erie's St. Patrick's Haven, other local shelters were asked to help take on more to help bridge the gap in meeting the needs of those in our community. One of those shelters is Community Shelter Services, located at 655 W 16th St in Erie. They are currently low on supplies, including bedding, paper products, and coffee.

Local LGBTQIA+ organizations were able to make a dent in some of the shelter's needs with a boots and coat drive held Saturday, January 28, at Journey to a Trauma-Informed Life. When the drive was completed, one truck and a SUV were packed full of coats and boots. This collection was made possible through the generous partnership of Journey to a Trauma-Informed Life, Transfamily of NW PA, Erie Gay News, Greater Erie Alliance for Equality (GEAE), Whee Design!, The Zone Dance Club, Community United Church, and NW PA Pride Alliance.

Stay tuned for other Give Back events coming as the year progresses.



Winter Coats and Boots Drive at Journey to a Trauma Informed Life. Photo by Michael Mahler

2022 PA LGBTQ Health Needs Assessment report

The 2022 Pennsylvania LGBTQ Health Needs Assessment finds that depression is still the most frequently prioritized community health issue, as it has been since the assessment was first administered in 2015.

Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center, along with a coalition of other LGBTQ+ organizations, Public Health Management Corporation, and the Pennsylvania Department of Health administered the statewide assessment in early 2022. Thousands of LGBTQ+ Pennsylvanians shared their experiences and opinions on a range of health topics.

More than one-third of LGBTQ+ Pennsylvanians (38.1%) reported feeling isolated in the previous year, and 21.3% reported rarely or never receiving the social and emotional support they needed. Increased mental health challenges contribute to LGBTQ+ Pennsylvanians' increased likelihood of engaging in unhealthy ways to cope, such as tobacco use, binge drinking, and substance use. These challenges are heightened for LGBTQ+ people living at the intersections of multiple marginalized identities.

Mental health providers must unite with LGBTQ+ community centers to establish an accessible, affordable network of affirming mental health supports. In doing so, they need to prioritize the needs of transgender, non-binary, and BIPOC community members, who are more likely to experience barriers to care.

More than half of community members surveyed reported having considered suicide at some point in their lifetime. Collaborating to connect this community to culturally competent mental health services will save lives.

Read the full 2022 PA LGBTQ Health Needs Assessment report, as well as prior years' reports, at https://www.bradburysullivancenter.org/health_needs_assessment.

News on HIV Vaccine Trials

from Erie County HIV Task Force

Last month we touched on why there hasn't been a vaccine for HIV yet. But work is being done to develop and test potential ways to combat the spread of HIV. A proof of concept found in a recent study could be the first step toward a potential vaccine. This vaccine, named eOD-GT8, is being devel-

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This program is supported by a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Health

oped between Scripps Research Institute, the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, the US Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases, and others. Moderna is involved with the next stage of the trial due to their mRNA vaccine technology [used in SARS-CoV-2]. With a HIV exposure, this vaccine could kick off a flood of immune cells carrying antibodies to neutralize the virus by blocking a specific part of the HIV envelope protein necessary for entering CD4 cells.

And while we have this potential vaccine, in January '23 the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, announced that the independent scheduled Phase 3 Mosaico study results determined results were not effective in preventing HIV infection. Due to this, the study was discontinued. They did not have any safety issues for this vaccine regimen to report. The Mosaico Study began in 2019 and ended in October 2022, included 3,900 participants. The study included representative groups and populations vulnerable to HIV, at over 50 trial sites in Argentina, Brazil, Italy, Mexico, Peru, Poland, Puerto Rico, Spain and the United States. It's unfortunate that the trial data did not show the desired achieve-

ment. However, this is why trials are constantly being developed and administered to achieve advances, be they big or small in the fight against HIV.

Watch for more information about PrEP for HIV and other vaccine study/trial detail articles as they become available. To submit questions/comments, contact the Erie County HIV Task Force at 814-315-3375 or admin@echiv.org.

NWPA Pride to Host Erie's First Queer Adult Prom

NWPA Pride Alliance is proud to host Erie's first-ever Queer Adult Prom on Saturday, May 6 at the Ambassador Banquet and Conference Center Garden Atrium and Terrace. The Prom will begin at 7 PM and conclude at 10 pm. This event is open to anyone 18 years of age and older. Appetizers and cash bar (21+ only) will be available. Music will be provided by DJ Dave Rapp. For the safety of those in attendance, security has been hired.

Tickets are limited. For tickets, please visit NWPApride.org



Bears Do Dinner celebrated their 100th outing on February 16, 2023, at Bob's Steakhouse, 1101 Peninsula Drive. Around 15 came out for another month of friendship and food. The next Bears Do Dinner will be on March 16. Find out more at the Facebook group The group started in July 2013. Read more about the group in the Community Spotlight article in last month's issue.

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PA Equality Project Welcomes Ghanian Nurse Educator

The Pennsylvania Equality Project is proud to welcome Osuman Yahaya Musah, a nurse educator from Ghana to our facility in Meadville. His work for the LGBTQ+ community in his hometown of Cape Coast where he provides outreach to the LGBTQ+ community about HIV prevention, safe-sex practices, and reproductive health. Due to a sharp increase in discriminatory actions against the LGBTQ+ community, the US Embassy in Accra expedited his Visa application, allowing Osuman to travel to the United States and arrive faster than had been originally planned.

The Ghanian Parliament is on the verge of passing a law that will ban LGBTQ+ advocacy and activism, making it punishable by 5 to 10 years in prison coupled with conversion or “ex-gay” therapy during incarceration. The Board of Directors agreed that allowing Osuman to remain in Ghana would lead to his eventual arrest and imprisonment. David Moore, President of the Pennsylvania Equality Project, said, “By bringing Osuman to Pennsylvania, we hope to share his message about discrimination and the impact that the new law will have on the Ghanian HIV+ and the broader LGBTQ+ community.”

If LGBTQ+ and other organizations are interested in inviting Osuman for speaking engagements, they are asked to email dmoore@paequality.com or call (814) 930-7052.

NWPA Pride Alliance Announces 2023 Officers

Erie, PA, - January 7, 2022-- NWPA Price Alliance is happy to announce the re-election of our 2022 Officers for the 2023 term. Alex Sphon will enter his 8th term as President and 10th term as an

officer; Season Crannell will serve her 12th term as Vice-President; Michael Mahler will serve his 8th term as Treasurer and 12th term as an Officer, and Rex Apps will serve his 3rd term as Secretary.

NWPA Pride looks forward to another Pride Season after its most successful year yet. Erie Pride Fest and Parade will be held on Saturday, June 24th, and the Pride Picnic will be held on Saturday, August 12th. Meadville Pride and other pride events will be announced shortly. Please check NWPApride.org and follow us on Facebook and Instagram for more information.

Keystone Equality Launches as PA's Statewide LGBTQ Political Organization

HARRISBURG, Pa. - January 26, 2023 - LGBTQ community leaders from throughout Pennsylvania are proud to announce the formation of Keystone Equality today. Recognizing the urgent need for statewide LGBTQ political mobilization, the nonpartisan organization was incorporated in November 2022, met in December to adopt its bylaws, and elected its



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Meadville FreeShop 2023
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April 1: People in need may take donated items for free.
Both days: 10 AM - 4 PM



Meadville Public Library & PA Equality Project

officers in January 2023.

Keystone Equality will endorse candidates for public office, mobilize LGBTQ voters, and become a leading voice in statewide political action for LGBTQ inclusion. The organization is preparing to apply for 501(c)(4) status.

The changing dynamics in Harrisburg provide historic opportunities to move LGBTQ civil rights legislation. To successfully advance LGBTQ inclusion in public policy, Keystone Equality will work to ensure LGBTQ community supporters are elected, that LGBTQ voters participate in every election, and that public officials recognize the political power of LGBTQ Pennsylvanians. Pennsylvania is home to over 500,000 LGBTQ people.

Appreciative of the strong allyship of currently-serving state legislators, Keystone Equality features on their website supporting Senators and Representatives who back full LGBTQ equality and the leadership of Pennsylvania-based LGBTQ advocacy in the Keystone State. More information on Keystone Equality, including its mission and vision statements, are on its website at keystoneequality.org.

Keystone Equality Board Co-Chair Bre Reynolds, who is the President and Founder of the Clinton County LGBTQ+ Network, said, “The formation of Keystone Equality by dedicated activists and leaders from across our commonwealth is a landmark step forward for LGBTQ Pennsylvanians. Mobilizing LGBTQ voters and backing political candidates who are our true allies provides us a solid foundation to successfully help enact urgently-needed civil rights protections.”

State Senator Sharif Street, who is also Chair of the Pennsylvania Democratic Party, said, “Equal protection under the law for all Pennsylvanians is the bare minimum government should provide. I’m proud to have Keystone Equality by our side in the fight for civil rights for our LGBTQ community. We have work to do.”

State Representative Ismail Smith-Wade-El said, “As Lancaster County’s first Black legislator, first LGBTQ+ legislator, it thrills me to see organizations building political power that are with, by, and for queer Pennsylvanians. Every person in the Commonwealth deserves a good job, a safe home, affordable healthcare, and the right to determine what their families look like. In this generation, we are going to see a lot of “first” LGBTQ+ legislators

from their region, city or community. I look forward to working with Keystone Equality to ensure that none of them are the last.”

LGBTQ leaders in Pennsylvania stand firmly united in making sure that LGBTQ political action in Pennsylvania must be by LGBTQ Pennsylvanians, for LGBTQ Pennsylvanians. The Board of Directors reflects the diversity of LGBTQ communities and is comprised of individuals from urban, suburban, and rural areas. While not representing other organizations they participate in by being members of the Keystone Equality Board, their backgrounds include being current and former leaders of major regional LGBTQ groups, trans-led support organizations, and elected officials, including Stroudsburg Mayor Mike Moreno, Hatboro Borough Councilmember Alex Myers, and Gettysburg Borough Councilmember Chad-Alan Carr. Per its bylaws, all members of the Board undergo a thorough background check.

Keystone Equality does not aim to displace established groups, but rather to fill in the existing gaps in political advocacy work in Pennsylvania. The organization looks to partner with other groups to achieve their shared goals of helping enact laws to safeguard vulnerable LGBTQ Pennsylvanians and make our state better for all citizens.

The Board of Directors is as follows:

Co-Chairs: Bre Reynolds (Lock Haven) and Naiymah Sanchez (Philadelphia)

Vice-Chair: Dena Stanley (Pittsburgh)

Secretary: Michael Moreno (Stroudsburg)

Treasurer: Alex Sphon (Eric)

Alex Myers (Hatboro)

Anthony Bullett (Huntingdon)

Chad-Alan Carr (Gettysburg)

Corinne Goodwin (Allentown)

Doug Hearn (Warren)

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Moira Kaleida (Pittsburgh)

Morgan Selkirk (Abington)

Preston Heldibridle (Harrisburg)

Ryan Matthews (Upper Darby)

Stephen Elcock (Scottsdale)

Wendy Cheesman (Lancaster)

Keystone Equality will announce ways Pennsylvanians can get involved soon. As a political nonprofit organization, supporters can visit keystoneequality.org to learn how to donate.

The Keystone Equality Board of Directors

welcomes outreach from LGBTQ community members and supporters and can be contacted at board@keystoneequality.org.

Keystone Equality is the leading political organization advancing LGBTQ equality in Pennsylvania. Through voter mobilization, electoral advocacy, and political organizing, Keystone Equality centers LGBTQ Pennsylvanians in the fight for equality, equity, and inclusion on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. We are Pennsylvanians, for Pennsylvanians.

keystoneequality.org



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Community Spotlight: TransFamily of NW PA

TransFamily of NW PA was founded in 2012 by Caitlyn Strohmeier as a support group for transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals in Erie and the surrounding area. Group meetings are held every fourth Saturday at the Crime Victim Center, 125 W 18th St Erie, PA, from 2 - 5 pm.

Throughout the year, TransFamily hosts additional events putting a spotlight on transgender struggles throughout the world. On Friday, March 31, at 6 pm, they will gather in Perry's Square in Erie for Transgender Day of Visibility. This is a time dedicated to celebrating the accomplishments of transgender and gender-nonconforming people while raising awareness of the work that still needs to be done to achieve transgender justice.

On November 20, Transgender Day of Remembrance is held to honor the memory of transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence. Begun back in 1999 by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998. The vigil commemorates all the transgender people lost to violence since Rita Hester's death.

In addition to these events, TransFamily of NW

PA has two local traditions. The first is the annual Trans picnic. This year the picnic will be held on Saturday, August 19, on Presque Isle. They will also have their annual Thanksgiving meal on Saturday, November 25, at the Crime Victim Center.

If you want to help volunteer or join the TransFamily of NW PA board, email them at TransFamilynwpabod@gmail.com. For more information on their events or to learn more, you can visit their website at <https://TransFamilynwpa.org/> or follow them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TransFamilyOfNWPA>.



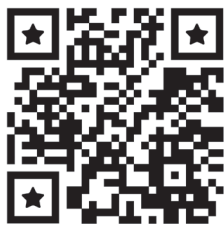
Community Spotlight is a new monthly series in which Erie Gay News features a group in our community. Next month: LBT Women!



5th Annual TransFamily's Picnic on August 20, 2022 at Glenwood Park picnic area.


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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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Warren County Pride Show Some Love Fundraiser

Warren's Crary Art Gallery came alive with pride on February 11. With about 50 people in attendance, Warren County Pride hosted its second Show Some Love Gala Fundraiser. Live music by Corry's Kelly Way and A silent auction featuring handcrafted items, fine art pieces, and local business gift certificates brought in approximately \$2,500 in donations which will help fund the 2023 Pride in the Park Festival slated for June 17, 2023, at Betts Park. That event has grown steadily since 2020 and has greater financial needs such as security, parking shuttle, and rentals of additional dumpsters and portable toilets due to its growth.



Warren County Pride "Show Some Love" Fundraiser on February 11 at Crary Art Gallery. Photo by Michael Mahler

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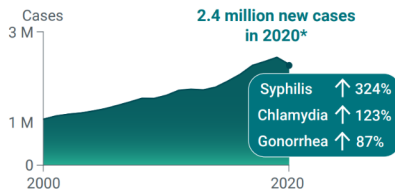
STIs also increase the chance of transmitting HIV to others.



6%



of sexually acquired HIV infections are attributed to chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis.



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*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

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.aeriepa.org or contact 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 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 7:30 pm. Show starts at 8 pm. No cover before 8 pm - \$5 cover after 8 pm. 21+ with valid state-issued ID.

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 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 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 LBGTQ 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. 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 - Maintaining 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 or by calling our office at 814.459.8000. Visit 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 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 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 NWPA (Erie) Transgender Support Group meets (Crime Victim Center of Erie County, 125 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 2

PM - 5 PM.

Feb 25 (Sat) - Colors Unity - Under the Rainbow Family Drag Show (Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge No. 119, 201 West State Street, Olean, NY 14760) 3 PM. Come and join us for a fun-filled family event with performers from Veronyca's Showgirls! Everyone can come and join the performers on stage, dance with them, and get photos with their favorite performer! Children can attend and perform! \$5 per family. Email: colors.14760@gmail.com. Browse to <https://www.facebook.com/COLORSinOlean14760>.

Feb 26 (Sun) - Aging With Pride reorganizational meeting (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 1 PM. The discussion/social group for LGBTQ+ folks age 55 and older, will have a reorganizing meeting. The group stopped meeting in 2020 due to Covid, and there has been renewed interest in bringing the group back. The organizational meeting will look at what we did in the past and what worked, what continues to be the social needs for the 55+ LGBTQ+ community and how to best move forward with an active and fun Aging With Pride group. Contact: Dale Allgeier. Phone: (814) 455-4009. Venue Phone: (814) 455-4009. Email: daleallgeier@outlook.com. Browse to <http://www.lakeeriecounseling.com/>.

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+.

Feb 22 (Wed) - LGBTQ+ and Allies Happy Hour - All welcome (Julian's Bar & Grill, 299 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA 16335) 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM.

Mar 1 - 31 (Wed - Fri) - Bisexual Health Awareness Month Bisexual Health Awareness Month is dedicated to raising awareness about the startling social, economic and health disparities facing the bi+ community. Browse to <https://bihealthmonth.org/>.

Mar 1 (Wed) - Zero Discrimination Day Zero Discrimination Day is an annual day celebrated by the UN and other international organisations. The day aims to promote equality before the law and in practice throughout all of the member countries of the UN. Browse to http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/campaigns/zero_discrimination.

Mar 1 (Wed) - NW PA Pride Alliance Erie Happy Hour (Oasis Pub, 3122 W Lake Rd, Erie, PA 16505) 6 PM - 9 PM. Join us for our new monthly happy hour! Everyone welcome! Phone: (814) 314-9075. Venue Phone: (814) 833-1212. Email: president@nwppride.org. Browse to <http://www.nwppride.org>. Browse to venue web site <https://oasispuberie.com/>.

Mar 3 (Fri) - Miniature Motifs II Art Exhibition Gallery Opening (Hatch Hollow, 245 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA 16335) 5 PM - 8 PM. Everything is 8" or smaller! Email: hello@hatchhollow.com. Browse to <https://www.hatchhollow.com/>.

Mar 3 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) meets (Sullivan's Erie Pub, 301 French St, Erie, PA 16507) 6 PM - 8 PM. Happy Hour - All Are Welcome!

Mar 5 (Sun) - March Drag Brunch (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 12 PM. Erie's Queer Bar is bringing back BRUNCH! Hosted by Alysín Wonderland and DJ Tony G, this will be a brunch as only The Zone can do! Once again, this event is SMOKE FREE! Featuring performances by: Alysín Wonderland, Rebecca Mae, Danielle Attme (from Pittsburgh), AND MORE! Doors open at 11am. Showtime 12pm. Food will be served before the show begins. Tickets are \$31.20 (\$30.00 + \$1.20 service fee). Included in ticket price is the show and the buffet. DRINKS ARE NOT INCLUDED. Full bar service as well as some brunch



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staples (mimosas, bloody marys ...) will be available. Zone is CASH ONLY! We do have an ATM on site. THERE WILL BE NO ASSIGNED SEATING FOR THIS EVENT! SEATS ARE ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE BASIS! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: info@thezonedanceclub.com. Browse to <https://thezonedanceclub.com/>. RSVP/Register/Tickets at <https://the-zone-dance-club.square.site/product/march-brunch-tickets/40>.

Mar 7 (Tue) - Q&A Session for Transitioning Families Group (Facebook Live) 5:30 PM. With an increase in visibility for transgender, non-binary, and gender queer people in social media, sports, entertainment, and news, many families are feeling confused and overwhelmed. This info session hosted by Eric Reiche, and Dr. Will Koehler is for therapists, counselors, educators, community supports, parents, loved ones, and advocates to learn about this new therapy group starting in our community. Co-sponsored by Journey to a Trauma Informed Life and Transfamily of NWPA.

Mar 9 (Thu) - Compton's Table: Empowering LG-BTQ+ Youth (Erie Center for Arts & Technology, 650 East Ave. Suite 120, Erie, PA 16503) Featuring Tyler Titus, Ph.D. Free lecture hosted by the Jefferson Educational Society. Please register in advance by visiting our

website at www.JESErie.org/events or by calling our office at 814.459.8000 Phone: (814) 459-8000. Venue Phone: (814) 651-0901. Browse to <https://www.jeserie.org/>. Browse to venue web site <https://eriecat.org/>.

Mar 10 (Fri) - National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Every year on March 10 - and throughout the month of March - local, state, federal, and national organizations come together to show support for women and girls impacted by HIV and AIDS. National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NWGHAAD) sheds light on the impact of HIV and AIDS on women and girls. #NWGHAAD Browse to <https://www.womenshealth.gov/nwghaad/>.

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

Mar 13 (Mon) - Deadline for Erie Gay News April 2023 print edition (#329) (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, March 21

Mar 13 (Mon) - Erie County Democratic Party LGBTQIA+ Caucus meets via Zoom (Zoom) 7 PM. General meeting on Zoom. Voting members must be a registered Democrat living in Erie County. Straight/



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cisgender allies welcome! Contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or mmahler@eriedems.com for Zoom meeting info.

Mar 13 (Mon) - "That's Personal...": An Invisible Topic - The Stigma of Mental Health Today (Jefferson Educational Society, 3207 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 7 PM. Featuring Annette Franklin, Ph.D. Free lecture. Please register in advance by visiting our website at www.JESErie.org/events or by calling our office at 814.459.8000. Phone: (814) 459-8000. Browse to <https://www.jeserie.org/>.

Mar 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.

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

Mar 16 (Thu) - Bears Do Dinner #101 (Location TBA) 6 PM. Join the Bears for a casual dinner of food and conversation! Dinner is on your own. Contact: Peter. Phone: (814) 384-9785.

Mar 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.

Mar 17 - Apr 8 (Fri - Sat) - Buffalo United Artists: Mediocre Heterosexual Sex (Compass Performing Arts Center, 545 Elmwood Ave, Buffalo, NY 14222) A vexed exploration of gender, sex, power, and kink. Four hours after her girlfriend dumps her, Erin switches her Tinder setting to dudes because she hates herself. She quickly meets Aaron, who is straight, conveniently nearby, and only too happy to indulge her masochistic fantasies. To translate this deeply ambivalent first hetero experience, Erin seeks the advice of the only straight people she knows, Violet and Jeremy, a couple in a Dominant/submissive relationship. Phone: (716) 886-9239. Venue Phone: (716) 697-0837. Email: buffalobua@gmail.com. Browse to <https://buffalounitedartists.org/>. Browse to venue web site <https://compassperformingartscenter.com>.

Mar 17 - 19 (Fri - Sun) - O'Zone Weekend 2023 (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) Drag, dancing, green beer, and giveaways. Doors open at 8 PM. \$5 cover Friday and Saturday. No cover Sunday.

21 and over with ID Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: info@thezonedanceclub.com. Browse to <https://thezonedanceclub.com/>.

Mar 17 (Fri) - M & J's Lounge 12th Anniversary (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA 16001) 9 PM. Drag Show and lots of games. \$6.00 cover charge. Phone: (724) 602-8447. Email: JoshuaSean2009@AOL.COM. Browse to <http://www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge>.

Mar 17 (Fri) - St. Patrick's Day Party at Sneakers (Sneakers, 100 W Harrison St, Jamestown, NY 14701) 9 PM - 1 AM. Featuring Derby's DJ. Great music, green beer, good fun! Phone: (716) 484-8816. Browse to <https://www.facebook.com/sneakersjamestown/>.

Mar 19 (Sun) - FACE Drag Show - The Roast of Misty Michaels Kall (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 10 PM. Close out O'Zone Weekend as we open the library and read this Queen for filth! Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: info@thezonedanceclub.com. Browse to <https://thezonedanceclub.com/>.

Mar 20 (Mon) - National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day was first observed in 2007. This day is observed on the first day of Spring each year. #NNHAAD Browse to <https://www.hiv.gov/events/awareness-days/native>.

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

Mar 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.

Mar 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. Browse to <http://gafamilyservices.org/>.

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Mar 23 (Thu) - Erie Insurance African American Affinity Network (Erie Center for Arts & Technology, 650 East Ave. Suite 120, Erie, PA 16503) 7 PM. Featuring Lyn Twillie-Darby, B.A. and Regina Gaston, PMP. Free lecture hosted by the Jefferson Educational Society. Please register in advance by visiting our website at www.JESErie.org/events or by calling our office at 814.459.8000. Phone: (814) 459-8000. Venue Phone:

(814) 651-0901. Browse to <https://www.jeserie.org/>.
Browse to venue web site <https://eriecat.org/>.

Mar 25 (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.

Mar 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.

Mar 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+.

Mar 31 (Fri) - International Transgender Day of Visibility The International TDoV is an annual holiday celebrated around the world. The day is dedicated to celebrating the accomplishments and victories of transgender & gender non-conforming people while raising awareness of the work that is still needed to save trans lives. The holiday was founded in 2009 as a reaction to the lack of LGBT holidays celebrating transgender people's successes. Browse to <http://tdov.org/>.

Mar 31 - Apr 1 (Fri - Sat) - Meadville FreeShop 2023 Spring Edition (Meadville Public Library, 848 N Main St, Meadville, PA 16335) 10 AM - 4 PM. Organized by Pennsylvania Equality Project. March 31 is Day of Gathering and April 1 is FreeShop Day Venue Phone: (814) 336-1773. Email: info@paequality.com. Browse to <https://paequality.com>. Browse to venue web site <https://meadvillelibrary.org/>.

Mar 31 (Fri) - Transgender Day of Visibility Walk Around Perry Square (Perry Square, 6th and State Streets, Erie, PA 16507) 6 PM. Join TransFamily of NW PA for Transgender Day of Visibility for a walk in the heart of Erie around Perry Square. TransFamily will provide coffee and water. Contact: Raven Jane Cammarata. Email: raven.cammarata@gmail.com. Browse to <https://transfamilynwpa.org/>.

Mar 31 (Fri) - Erie Trans Picnics: Trans Day of Visibility Celebration (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. Erie Trans Picnics will be meeting at the Zone Dance Club to celebrate trans lives, joy, community, and visibility. Doors will open at 8:00pm. \$5 cover. Venue Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <https://www.instagram.com/erietranspicnics/>. Browse to venue web site <https://thezonedanceclub.com/>.

Online Contests

Here are new contests for this month...

Contest	Begins
<i>What We Know</i> DVD	February 24
<i>Last Call In The Dog House</i> DVD	February 28
<i>All Our Fears</i> DVD	March 28
<i>The Fitful Sleep of Immigrants</i>	April 18

Here are contests which are currently active...

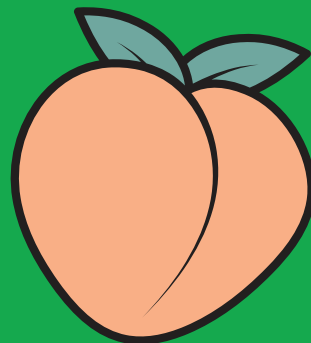
Contest	Ends
<i>Unsafe Words: Queering Consent in the #MeToo Era</i>	March 3
<i>Beyond Worship - Meditations on Queer Worship, Liturgy, & Theology</i>	March 10
<i>Nana's Boys</i> DVD	March 10

More contests at eriegaynews.com! Sign up for the Erie GLBT News and Events email list at our web site, and you will get first notice on new contests PLUS news and upcoming events! Over 1,000 people have won a prize!



Enjoying NW PA Pride's Meadville Happy Hour at Julian's Bar & Grill on January 25. Photo by Michael Mahler

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