



April 2023 – Issue 329

ERIE GAY NEWS

Serving the Regional LGBTQIA+ Community Since 1992



Aging with Pride is excited to launch meetings and a new book club. See more at AgingWithPrideErie.org

Aging With Pride Meetings

Aging with Pride, an organization of senior LGBT+ members and allies, develops and sponsors social/recreational and educational events to promote healthy leisure activities, community, and an active, enjoyable lifestyle. The group was organized in 2017 by Dale Allgeier of Lake Erie Counseling in response to an identified need in the Erie Area for support to older LGBT+ individuals, providing support, friendship, social opportunities, and discussion of issues of importance such as medical/health needs, housing/legal/financial concerns, discrimination, disabilities, and social isolation. The group stopped meeting due to COVID and is now back.

The group is currently planning various activities, including an informal get together, a book club, and participation in several LGBTQIA+ activities in the area. They are also planning a Needs Assessment survey to assist in future planning based on the needs of the older members of the LGBTQIA+ community. Anyone interested in helping with activity planning

is welcome to attend planning meetings held at Lake Erie Counseling, 1932 West 8th Street, Erie. (Use the 1934 entrance.) The next meetings are scheduled for 1:00 PM on Sundays, March 26, April 16, and April 30. They generally last about 2 hours with coffee and light refreshments provided.

The Aging with Pride Book Club will hold its first meeting on Saturday, May 20, from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM at Werner Books, 3514 Liberty Street in the Liberty Plaza. The first book is *Eighty-Sixed* by David B. Feinberg. In the book, set in 1980, B. J. Rosenthal's only mission is to find himself a boyfriend and avoid setbacks like bad haircuts, bad sex, and Jewish guilt. In post-AIDS 1986, B.J.'s world has changed dramatically -- his friends and lovers are getting sick, everyone is at risk, and B.J. is panicking. "If Woody Allen were gay and wrote novels, he'd produce something like David Feinberg's *Eighty-Sixed*." -- David Streitfeld, The Washington Post Book World. In addition to discussing the book, the group will discuss what materials they would like to read in the

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Rates & Data

QUARTER PAGE	FULL PAGE	HALF PAGE VERTICAL
HALF PAGE HORIZONTAL	EIGHTH PAGE	

AD SIZE	PRICE/ISSUE	DIMENSIONS
EIGHTH	\$50 - \$45 Prepaid	1 5/8" high X 2 7/8" wide
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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 HIRS.

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ERIE GAY NEWS

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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



From Your Friends at Erie Gay News

To Lake Erie Counseling Associates for hosting! Elisabeth Cadelle, Emma Galbraith, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Kim Conti, Koltan Mehlalko, Melia, Oli Tilton, Raven Jane Cammarata, Rex Apps, Richard Guy, Sarah, and Steve Siwiecki for folding; Brett Staskiewicz, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Kim Conti, Melia, Rex Apps, and Steve Siwiecki for distribution; Wheel Design for logo. If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com.

future. Anyone thinking of attending is asked to email Steve Siwiecki at awpebookclub@gmail.com so we can get a rough count. Werner Books offers a 20% discount on books for book clubs and should have them available by mid-April.

For more information about Aging with Pride, visit their website at agingwithprideerie.org or email Dale Allgeier at daleallgeier@outlook.com.

Penn State Behrend GASE Drag Show Returns April 14

After a hiatus due to the pandemic, Penn State Behrend's LGBTQIA+ student group, GASE, is excited to bring back their drag show on April 14 following their week of programming. See the performances in McGarvey Commons in the Reed Union Building from 7 to 9 PM. The theme of this year's drag show is floral/spring and will feature Lola LeCroix and four other performers. GASE will be serving mocktails during the show.

Come Join the HIV Task Force

from Erie County HIV Task Force

If you're interested in learning more about the HIV prevention and treatment options in Erie County, or would like to volunteer with various outreach efforts, even help with planning HIV/AIDS events locally, consider joining the Erie County HIV Task Force [ECHTF]. The ECHTF is a collaboration of local organizations and individuals dedicated to educating, supporting, and advocating for people living with HIV/AIDS and preventing the spread of infection in Erie County, Pennsylvania. We are not the first group to pursue these efforts, but the current version of previous groups that have existed in Erie County over the past 30 plus years. The ECHTF was formed in 2014 by the Erie County Health Department and has been bringing together Erie County volunteers to increase the awareness of HIV, its treatment, and prevention for our residents. To learn more about our activities or submit questions/comments, contact us at 814-315-3375 or admin@echiv.org.



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2023 Pride Fest and Parade Registration

from NW PA Pride Alliance

NW PA Pride Alliance invites you to participate as a taNW PA Pride Alliance will host Pridefest this year on June 24. We will gather at The Zone Dance, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA, from 11-12 and step off to march to Perry Square at 12.

Once at Perry Square, we will have info tables, vendors, and performances by local drag and other performers.

This event is family-friendly and open to all ages at no cost.

If you are interested in having a table or being a group looking to register for the parade, please visit NWPAPride.org/pride-registration. There is no charge to be a parade unit; a table is \$15 and includes an 8' long table and two chairs. You may bring your own up to 10' by 10' canopy/tent. Tables are limited, so please secure your table before the June 1 deadline.

Pridefest will start around 1 pm once the parade has finished and end at 5 pm.

Tables are expected to be in checked-in and set up no later than 12:30.

Individuals looking to march in the Pride Parade are not required to register.



G2H2 celebrated St. Patrick's Day a little early with their monthly get-together at Sullivan's Pub, 301 French St., Erie, PA, on Friday, March 3. The next event will be Friday, April 7, at Room 33 Speakeasy Café. Photo by Michael Mahler

Ashtabula County Pride is happening again!

For the third year in a row, the LGBTQ+ Coalition of Ashtabula County will hold a Pride event on June 3rd at the county fairgrounds in Jefferson, OH. The family-friendly event will be held from 11:00-5:00 that day, rain or shine. There will be a variety of food trucks, vendors, a bookmobile, community organizations, and various performances for kids and adults throughout the day. Admission is free. The Ashtabula county fairgrounds are located at 127 N Elm St, Jefferson, OH.

Journey to a Trauma Informed Life Sign-Ups

In addition to events listed in the Erie Gay News calendar, Journey to a Trauma Informed Life, 201 W 11th St, Erie PA, is currently taking sign ups for LGBTQ+ Affirming:

- Trauma Sensitive Yoga Class
- Individual Reiki Sessions
- Art Therapy Group - ages 12-15, 16-18, and 19+v
- Journey Through the Shadows Group - ages 19+
- Families in Transition Group - all Q+ Families

PENNCREST School Board Director Jeff Brooks Not Running For Re-Election

PENNCREST school board director Jeff Brooks has decided not to run for re-election. The insults, accusations and debased behavior from those who oppose his positions apparently took their toll. Brooks made clear, however, that he is not going away.

"seeing the posts out there implying I'm a groomer and people misrepresenting policy, lying about child porn... I'm out," he wrote on his Facebook page Jeff Brooks for PENNCREST...

"And, with [school board president] Mr.DeFrancesco going so low as to look up my recently deceased parents wills for dirt, his minions hashtagging groomer... I can't just keep trying to go high. These people make me sick. "

"I feel more free to do my duty to shine light on

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the bigotry, homophobia, private emails, and hatred spewed by the majority of the current board and trying to get them to focus on schools, education and community vs pumping up their self worth at the cost of education and tax payers.”

Voters who want to support and elect qualified quality candidates should visit Better PENNCREST at betterpenncrest.org

Werner Books Will Host Aging With Pride Book Club

By Steve Simwiecki

Looking for a warm and friendly place for new and used books? Try Werner Books, 3514 Liberty Street, Erie, PA 16508, in the Liberty Plaza.

I talked with Kyle Churman, who, along with his wife, Lauren Shoemaker, purchased Werner Books in March of 2022. They wanted to create a community space in Erie where anyone could come in and feel comfortable. They have added three book clubs to the already existing Wednesday Morning Book Club, which meets at Warner Books, offering a discount to members on the chosen books. Added


were the Canalside Book Club, which meets at the Hagan History Center, the Books, and Beers Book Club, which meets at Erie Ale Works, and the Three Tulips Yarn Company Books Club, which meets at Werner Books. A fifth book club, the Aging with Pride Book Club, will begin meeting in May at Werner Books. For more information on these book clubs and other events, visit their website at www.wernerbooks.com.

Other recent and upcoming events include book signings by local authors, a bus trip to visit used bookstores in Cleveland, kids' events, and poetry readings. They also hold school book fairs that provide affordable books to kids. Unlike nationally sponsored book fairs that generally provide only new books, they provide used books to children for only \$2 each. Kyle tells me the story of one child who paid for his book with 200 pennies he had saved up. They also collected books to be donated to the Erie Public Schools.

Kyle and Lauren recognize the importance of supporting locally owned businesses. They have partnered with many other local companies, including Wicks and Wax Studio, Glass Growers Gallery, North Edge Craft Coffee, Andora's Bubble Tea Shop, and



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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Lake Erie Variety. They are planning to move into a larger space in the Liberty Plaza so they can add a coffee shop to allow room for people to come in, relax, and read.

Visit Werner Books for new and used books, join a book club, attend other events, visit the friendly staff, or take the Werner Books Challenge with prizes at 5, 10, and 20 books read in 2023. Their hours are Monday to Friday: 10:00 – 5:30, Saturday: 10:00 – 4:00, and Sunday: 11:00 – 4:00.

Safe Zone in Oil City

The Safe Zone is a LGBTQ+ group that meets on the 4th Friday of the month from 11am to noon. It's a place to come together to celebrate diversity, create support, share experience & resources and help educate one another. We meet at The Pointe in Oil City. The address is 259 Seneca Street Oil City Pa 16301. This is for adults 18 years or older.

Michigans legislature passed comprehensive lgbtq+ non-discrimination protections.

LGBTQ+ Michiganders won permanent protections for sexual orientation and gender identity in the state's civil rights act, forbidding housing and public accommodations discrimination.

Democrats took full control of the Michigan legislature and governor's office this year, allowing them a strong chance of passing the bill. Governor Whitmer has promised to sign the bill.

In the 2022 midterm elections, mobilization efforts of the HateWon'tWin coalition helped to re-elect Governor Whitmer and elect a majority that supports equality. The coalition was made up of Equality Michigan, Human Rights Campaign, ACLU, community organizations and other organizations across the state.

CPAC features anti-trans extremism in annual gathering

Far right speakers at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) spent a lot of time mocking, attacking, and lying about transgender and non-binary persons. CPAC is a gathering of rightwing extremists and Republicans. This year's turnout was much lower than previous years.

Some of the hateful commentary: Political commentator Michael Knowles stated that "transgen-

derism must be eradicated from public life entirely" Mike Pence claimed that a school in Iowa (no name given, of course) can give a student a gender transition plan without notifying the parents. Marjorie Taylor Greene announced she's planning putting forward a bill called the Protect Children's Innocence Act that criminalizes "anything to do with gender-affirming care" for minors. Former President Trump bragged that "We banned transgender insanity from our military" Former Trump adviser Sebastian Gorka claimed children were being "mutilated" and sacrificed "on the altar of their transgender insanity."

CPAC was founded in 1974 as a gathering of conservative political activists. In recent years it has trended more towards rightwing extremism and MAGA.

Also:

In January, a male Republican strategist sued CPAC organizer Matt Schlapp for sexual battery in a groping incident that took place last fall.

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Tennessee has recently passed anti-LGBTQ bans

Transgender Youth - Ban on gender-affirming care for transgender care for youth. The law also requires those under 18 now receiving gender-affirming care to detransition. Tennessee became the first U.S. state to pass a law restricting drag performances.

TN also passed a law restricting drag shows. Often referred to as the “anti-drag bill” criminalizes “adult cabaret entertainment” from being performed in public spaces, or if children are present.

Also, in the works, the Tennessee state House of Representatives voted to pass a bill that could allow county officials to deny same-sex or interracial couples marriage licenses. The bill states that “A person shall not be required to solemnize a marriage if the person has an objection to solemnizing the marriage based on the person’s conscience or religious beliefs.”

“These are the stirrings of fascism. This is a dangerous road to walk down.” said Tennessee State Sen. Heidi Campbell

Also:

The Human Rights Campaign paid for a full-page ad featuring a recently-unearthed 1977 photo of Tennessee’s anti-gay governor Bill Lee posing in drag for his yearbook. HRC said the goal of the photo was to expose the “hypocrisy of the drag ban”

Tennessee’s Republican lieutenant governor Randy McNally was exposed for his apparent appreciation of male model Franklyn MClur’s racy photos--and other LGBTQ+ people--on Facebook and Instagram.

~~~~~  
Info from ACLU Tennessee, Tennessee Holler, Human Rights Campaign, Michigan Equality, Anti-Defamation League, ACLU

## Compton’s Table Sweet Re-Lease Fundraising Event on Feb 19

On February 19th, Compton’s Table hosted their Sweet Re-Lease fundraising event. The organization opened their doors to showcase the new space located next to Central Outreach. All funds raised went directly back into the programming and services offered at Compton’s Table for queer youth between 21-24 yrs old. The primary sponsors for the event were Moxi Hair Salon, Central Outreach, and Voodoo Brewery. Attendees enjoyed a performance by Optimistic Apocalypse as they supported the mission of Compton’s Table. Founder and Board Chair, Dr. Tyler Titus (they/them), said, “We are incredibly grateful for the support we have received from the community. We could not do the work we do without those who contribute to Compton’s so that we can create a safe, affirming space for our youth and young adults.” Learn more at [www.comptonstable.org](http://www.comptonstable.org)



*Enjoying some time together at Compton’s Table Sweet Re-Lease Party on February 19. Photos by Michael Mahler*



## NAMI Peer-to-Peer Mental Health Support Group at Gannon on Tuesdays

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) hosts a peer-to-peer mental health support group at Gannon University that meets at 5 PM on Tuesdays in Palumbo 2205. The group's focus alternates between LGBT Q plus and commuter-focused, but all are welcome! For more information, don't hesitate to get in touch with [ellswort010@gannon.edu](mailto:ellswort010@gannon.edu).



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## Crime Victim Center of Erie County



National Child Abuse Prevention Month and Sexual Assault Awareness Month fall in April. The month is dedicated to spreading awareness and taking steps towards the prevention of child abuse and sexual assault. Abuse takes many forms and can affect everyone involved. We take pride in providing cost-free services to victims of child abuse and sexual assault.

Join us in spreading awareness at Turn the Courthouse Blue and Pinwheels for Prevention at Perry Square. See website for details.



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## Community Spotlight #4: LBT Women of Erie

LBT Women of Erie is a social and support group for lesbian, bisexual, and transgender women. It was started in hopes of being a safe place for the LBT community to get together, make new friends and socialize in a safe environment.

Our group has been together in its current form since October 2008.

Currently known as the LBT Women of Erie, it was originally organized as Womynspace for many years. Around October 2008, Laurie Finch and Janice Hanusik took over organizing monthly meetings and activities. In December 2008, the group was renamed the LBT Women of Erie, given a new logo and the nickname "The Beans." "The Beans" is a play on the words "Lez –Beans."

In 2014, with Jan and Laurie moving to Florida, Kim Conti and Andrea Shaffer took over organizing the group.

Over the years, the LBT Women of Erie have attended local festivals, sporting events, participated in the EGN folding parties, gone tubing, and snowshoeing, had game and movie nights, wine tasting, Presque Isle clean up, and much more. We also have a table at the Erie PrideFest and the annual picnic on Presque Isle.



*LBT Women organizers Andrea and Kim on a recent trip to Disney World*

If anyone would like to volunteer to help carry the banner in the Pride parade or help at the table, please get in touch with Kim.

Kim and Andrea have hosted a summer picnic for several years, hoping to continue that tradition again this summer. Stay tuned for more information on the LBT Women of Erie Facebook page. The date should be posted early this summer.

Currently, the LBT Women of Erie do not have a designated meeting location, but we will be looking to pick one by the fall. Until then, we will plan a few outside locations to meet. One idea being at Presque Isle for a pontoon boat ride.

The LBT Women of Erie are open to suggestions and ideas for events that would be good for getting together and making new friends.

Please like and follow our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/lbtwomenoferie](http://www.facebook.com/lbtwomenoferie). Here you can stay updated on all our activities and message us with your ideas. You can also email [eriebeans@yahoo.com](mailto:eriebeans@yahoo.com) or text/voicemail Kim at 814-490-3994.



*Community Spotlight is a new monthly series in which Erie Gay News features a group in our community. Next month: GASE at Penn State Behrend!*

## Study: Children of same-sex parents see outcomes as good or better than heterosexual couples

Children of same-sex couples fare as well as children of heterosexual couples. In some cases they may fare better. That was the finding of research published in the current issue of BMJ Global Health by researchers from the US and China. It was based on analysis from 34 studies from countries where

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same-sex marriage is legal.

The researchers concluded: "Most of the family outcomes are similar between sexual minority and heterosexual families, and sexual minority families have even better outcomes in some domains. Relevant social risk factors of poor family outcomes included stigma and discrimination, poor social support and marital status, etc. The next step is to integrate multiple aspects of support and multilevel interventions to reduce the adverse effects on family outcomes with a long-term goal of influencing policy and law making for better services to individuals, families, communities and schools."

This research can be found online: "Family outcome disparities between sexual minority and heterosexual families: a systematic review and meta-analysis" 1 february 2023 Online at gh.bmj.com



*NW PA Pride Alliance hosted its first monthly Erie Queer Happy Hour at Oasis Pub Wednesday, March 1st. More info for future events is on NWPAPride.org.*

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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.*

*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.*

**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 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.

**Mar 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 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/>.

**Mar 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.

**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](http://www.JESErie.org/events) or by calling our office at 814.459.8000.

**Mar 24-26 (Fri-Sun) - Renaissance City Choir 2023 Cabaret: Flying Free** (East Liberty Presbyterian Church, 116 S. Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15406) Fri & Sat 7:30 PM, Sun 2 PM. Join Renaissance City Choir at East Liberty Presbyterian Church for our annual Cabaret production-Flying Free, a joyful menagerie of solo, ensemble, and full chorus renditions of your favorite bird-themed tunes by the Beatles, Bette Midler, Dolly Parton, Prince, Elton John, and many more!

**Mar 25 (Sat) - WNY LGBTQ+ Health & Wellness Fair 2023** (Niagara County Community College, 3111 Saunders Settlement Rd, Sanborn, NY 14132) 9 AM - 12 PM. Niagara Pride will once again be holding its WNY LGBTQ+ Health & Wellness Fair. This fair is designed to bring awareness to the LGBTQ+ community about WNY providers who offer various health and wellness services (physical, mental health, recovery, legal, housing, etc.) LGBTQ+ affirming care and programs as well as information impacting the overall health and wellness of the LGBTQ+ community.

**Mar 25 (Sat) - Journey: Healing Together - Queer Crafternoon** (Journey To A Trauma Informed Life, 201 W 11th St, Erie, PA 16505) 11 AM - 2 PM. Phone: (814) 867-5309.

**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) - Aging With Pride planning meeting (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 1 PM.** Planning meetings are open to anyone interested in helping to plan activities for Aging with Pride. Meetings generally run about 2 hours with coffee and light refreshments provided. Use the entrance at 1934 W 8th. Contact: Dale Allgeier. Phone: (814) 455-4009. Email: [daleallgeier@outlook.com](mailto:daleallgeier@outlook.com). Browse to <https://agingwithprideerie.org/>.

**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](mailto:info@paequality.com). Browse to <https://paequality.com>. Browse to venue web site

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<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](mailto:raven.cammarata@gmail.com). Browse to <https://transfamilynwpa.org/>.

**Mar 31 (Fri) - Out & About LGBTQ Group Going to Adult Easter Egg Hunt** (The Winery at Spring Hill, 6062 South Ridge Road West, Geneva, OH 44041) 7:30 PM. Join us for our next LGBTQ event as we venture to Geneva Ohio to The Winery at Springhill to enjoy their Annual Adult Easter Egg Hunt. The wine is sweet and delicious and the hunt is super fun. There are over 1000 eggs hid across the grounds for us to find. Prizes in the eggs include: candy, gift cards, home accessories, hotel packages, wine tasting gift cards, etc. Tickets are \$35 and include the cost of admission and one glass of wine too. It's pre-pay on Venmo to kenny0325. It's a great winery near the beautiful lake & resort town. It's an even better way to relax & start the weekend & the Easter season. Get hopping! Tickets are limited. Sign up soon!

**Mar 31 (Fri) - Erie Trans Picnics: Trans Day of Visibility Celebration** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. Help us celebrate our Trans family! Basket raffle – benefits Compton's Table. Dancing. Doors open 8 PM. \$5 cover. 21 and over with ID Venue Phone: (814) 452-0125. Browse to <https://www.instagram.com/erietranspicnics/>. Browse to venue web site <https://thezonedanceclub.com/>.

**Apr 1 (Sat) - Drag Queen Bingo** (Italian Civic Club, 869 Water St, Meadville, PA 16335) Come dressed in your best 80s attire for this night of fun! \$30 includes your admission and your bingo cards. We are only selling 300 tickets, so get your tickets as soon as possible. Come early to decorate your table for our table decorating contest. Also to our from our small menu. Cash bar available, no outside alcohol is permitted. Doors open at 5pm, Bingo will start at 630. Phone: (814) 337-5422. Browse to <http://www.italiancivicclub.org/>. RSVP/Register/Tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/drag-queen-bingo-tickets-559128808317>.

**Apr 1 (Sat) - Lips Poppin Productions Presents a Drag Queen Revue** (El Morro Latin Cuisine, 845 E 2nd St, Jamestown, NY 14701) Live DJ, dancing, and Puerto Rican cuisine. 21+ only, dress to impress. \$10. Doors open 8:00 PM. Showtimes: 9:30 PM 11:00 PM, 12:30 AM. Featuring Katrina Twerk. Special guest October Seline. Also featuring Mia Fierce Twerk Splash.



Hostess Exxxotica Splash. .

**Apr 5 (Wed) - Erie's Queer Happy Hour** (U Pick 6 Public House, 4575 W Ridge Rd, Erie, PA 16506) 6 PM - 9 PM. NWPAPA Pride is proud to launch a new monthly Queer Happy Hour in Erie PA. This event is open to everyone. However, those under 18 years of age will need a guardian to attend. Under State law, only those 21+ can have alcoholic beverages. Contact: Alex Sphon. Phone: (814) 314-9075. Venue Phone: (814) 520-8495. Email: [president@nwppride.org](mailto:president@nwppride.org). Browse to <http://www.nwppride.org>. RSVP/Register/Tickets at <https://www.facebook.com/events/542757134625404>. Browse to venue web site <http://www.upick6.com/>.

**Apr 6 (Thu) - International Asexuality Day** International Asexuality Day is a coordinated worldwide campaign promoting the ace umbrella, including demisexual, grey-asexual and other ace identities. Browse to <https://internationalasexualityday.org/en/>.

**Apr 7 (Fri) - Journey: Healing Together - LGBTQ+ Game Night** (Journey To A Trauma Informed Life, 201 W 11th St, Erie, PA 16505) 5 PM - 7:30 PM. Phone: (814) 867-5309. Venue Phone: (833) 487-5769. Browse to <https://journeyht.org/>. Browse to venue web site <https://www.atraumainformedlife.com/>.

**Apr 7 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) meets** (Room 33 Speakeasy, 1033 State St, Erie PA 16501) 6 PM - 8 PM. Happy Hour - All Are Welcome!

**Apr 10 (Mon) - 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 (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/cisgender allies welcome! Contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or [mmahler@eriedems.com](mailto:mmahler@eriedems.com) for Zoom meeting info.

**Apr 11 (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.

**Apr 11 (Tue) - Youngstown PFLAG meets** (St. John's

Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH 44503) 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM.

**Apr 13 (Thu) - Media Made For Us, By Us: Diverse Communication Outlets in Erie** (Erie Center for Arts & Technology, 650 East Ave. Suite 120, Erie, PA 16503) 7 PM. Featuring panelists Sonya Byes and Michael Kenton Mahler, B.S. FREE panel discussion hosted by the Jefferson Educational Society. Please register in advance by visiting our website at [www.JESErie.org](http://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/>.

**Apr 14 (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 14 (Fri) - The Return of Penn State Behrend's**



**Drag Show** (Penn State Behrend - McGarvey Commons, 5103 Station Rd, Erie, PA 16563) 7 PM - 9 PM. The theme of this year's drag show is floral/spring and will feature Lola LeCroix and four other performers. GASE will be serving mocktails during the show.

**Apr 14 - 16 (Fri - Sun) - Zone Glow Weekend** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. Wear your neons and whites and GLOW! Friday-Black lights, glow sticks and more! Saturday-More dancing, more party more GLOW! Sunday-Battle of the Aries Drag Extravaganza! Team DJ Tony G Versus Team Debbie. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: info@thezonedanceclub.com. Browse to <https://thezonedanceclub.com/>.

**Apr 15 (Sat) - Deadline for Erie Gay News April 2023 print edition (#330)** (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 25.

**Apr 16 (Sun) - Aging With Pride planning meeting (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 1 PM.** Planning meetings are open to anyone interested in helping to plan activities for Aging with Pride. Meetings generally run about 2 hours with coffee and light refreshments provided. Use the entrance at 1934 W 8th. Contact: Dale Allgeier. Phone: (814) 455-4009. Email: daleallgeier@outlook.com. Browse to <https://agingwithprideerie.org/>.

**Apr 16 (Sun) - Journey: Healing Together - Little Free Lending Library Launch & Book Swap** (Journey To A Trauma Informed Life, 201 W 11th St, Erie, PA 16505) 2 PM - 4:30 PM. Phone: (814) 867-5309. Venue Phone: (833) 487-5769. Browse to <https://journeyht.org/>. Browse to venue web site <https://www.atraumainformedlife.com/>.

**Apr 16 (Sun) - FACE GLOW Battle of the Aries** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) The knockdown Drag out battle of the year! 10 PM show time. Team DJ Tony G Versus Team Debbie. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: info@thezonedanceclub.com. Browse to <https://thezonedanceclub.com/>.

**Apr 17 (Mon) - Bears Do Dinner #102** (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.

**Apr 18 (Tue) - 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 18 (Tue) - Erie County HIV Task Force meets** (Hybrid) (Erie County Department of Health (ECDH), 606 W 2nd St, Erie, PA 16507) 1 PM.

**Apr 19 (Wed) - What is Afrocentrism? - A Look at World History through a Different Lens** (PennWest Edinboro - Alexander Recital Hall, 110 Kiltie Rd, Edinboro, PA 16444) 6 PM. Featuring JES Scholar-in-Residence Parris Baker, Ph.D. FREE lecture hosted by the Jefferson Educational Society. Please register in advance by visiting our website at [www.JESErie.org/](http://www.JESErie.org/) events or by calling our office at 814.459.8000. Phone: (814) 459-8000. Venue Phone: (814) 732-2000. Browse to <https://www.jeserie.org/>. Browse to venue web site <http://www.edinboro.edu/>.

**Apr 20 (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.

**Apr 22 (Sat) - Camp Davis Opening Weekend** (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA 16020-1219) Camp Davis is open to all. Welcome Home Princess! Phone: (724) 637-2402. Browse to <http://campdavispa.com/>.

**Apr 22 (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.

**Apr 23 (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.

**Apr 23 (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+.

**Apr 25 (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.

**Apr 26 (Wed) - 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.

**Apr 26 (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.

**Apr 27 (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/>.

**Apr 27 (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.

**Apr 27 (Thu) - Environmental Justice: Exploring Urban Agriculture and Green Cities** (Erie Center for Arts & Technology, 650 East Ave. Suite 120, Erie, PA 16503) 7 PM. Featuring JES Satellite Program Coordinator Raven Clark, B.A. 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.

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**Apr 29 (Sat) - Trailer Trash Weekend** (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA 16020-1219) Phone: (724) 637-2402. Browse to <http://campdavispa.com/>.

**Apr 29 (Sat) - The Invasion: Bears, Cubs, Pets, Leather & Furrries** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) Hosted by Dom Bear & Grumpy Puppy. Guest DJ Gyzmo. Tube shots, sexy chest contest at midnight. Closing out GLOW. Doors open 8 PM. \$10 cover. 21 and over with ID. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: [info@thezonedanceclub.com](mailto:info@thezonedanceclub.com). Browse to <https://thezonedanceclub.com/>.

**Apr 30 (Sun) - Aging With Pride planning meeting** (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 1 PM. Planning meetings are open to anyone interested in helping to plan activities for Aging with Pride. Meetings generally run about 2 hours with coffee and light refreshments provided. Use the entrance at 1934 W 8th. Contact: Dale Allgeier. Phone: (814) 455-4009. Email: [daleallgeier@outlook.com](mailto:daleallgeier@outlook.com). Browse to <https://agingwithprideerie.org/>.

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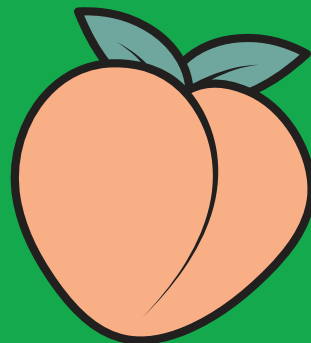
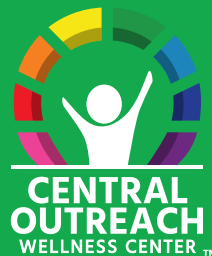
## JES Spring Programming is HERE!

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