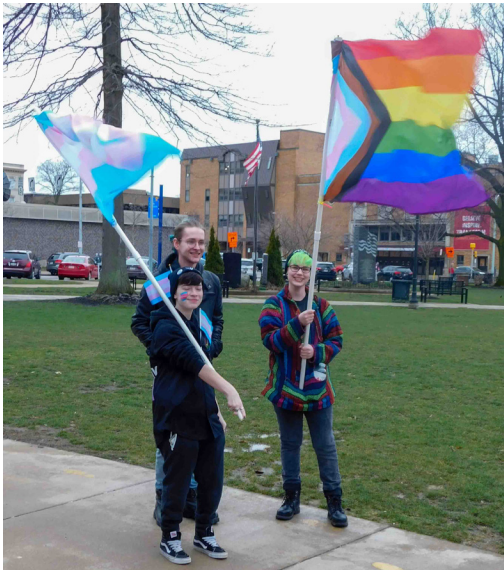




ERIE GAY NEWS

Serving the Regional LGBTQIA+ Community Since 1992



Celebrating at Trans Day of Visibility in Perry Square on March 31. Photo by Michael Mahler.

Trans Day of Visibility Walk Around Perry Square on March 31

On March 31, 2023, TransFamily of NW PA held its second annual Trans Day of Visibility Walk Around Perry Square. Local media covered the event, and elected officials and candidates attended. Organizers discussed the importance of trans people being visible in the face of increased legislative attacks on their dignity.

Erie Queer Community Food Drive for Second Harvest Food Bank

In the area serviced by the Second Harvest Food Bank: 1 in 8 people and 1 in 5 children face hunger.

Adding to this, a significant change was enacted

on March 1 for SNAP benefits across the country and Pennsylvania. Those eligible for SNAP (Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program) will no longer receive the additional monthly payments they have been getting since 2020. Now, recipients will only get one payment a month.

SNAP benefits were expanded during the COVID-19 pandemic, giving the people on the program an additional monthly payment. Those extra payments, known as SNAP Emergency Allotments, have expired. The US Congress voted to end them in December. Currently, there are 1.9 million people in Pennsylvania who receive SNAP benefits. About 60% of SNAP households are families with children, and more than half include older Pennsylvanians, to adults with disabilities, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services.

The Erie Queer Community hopes to help those with food insecurity on Saturday, May 13, as they collect food and donations at Central Outreach Erie, 3104 State St. Individuals will be able to drive up, and volunteers will be on hand to help unload their donations. Pasta and sauce, as well as canned goods are encouraged, and any nonperishable or dry good would be accepted too.

Partnering for the event will be Central Outreach Erie, Greater Erie Alliance for Equality (GEAE), Erie Gay News, Journey to a Trauma Informed Life, Community United Church, Transfamily of NW PA, Wheel! Studios, Aging with Pride, Compton's Table, NW PA Pride Alliance, and the Zone Dance Club.

HIV/AIDS Awareness Walk - May 15

from Erie County HIV Task Force

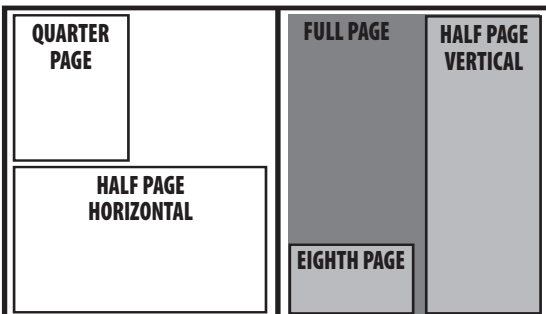
The Erie County HIV Task Force invites everyone to participate in the 6th Annual HIV / AIDS Awareness Walk on Monday, May 15. We will meet at the stage in West Perry Square, 575 State Street, Erie PA at 5 PM. We will walk around North and South Park Row circling Perry Square and everyone

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Rates & Data



AD SIZE	PRICE/ISSUE	DIMENSIONS
EIGHTH	\$50 - \$45 Prepaid	15/8" 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.



ERIE GAY NEWS

Serving the Regional LGBTQIA+ Community Since 1992

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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



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.

is encouraged to wear red to help raise HIV awareness. PA Thrive Partnership is providing on-site HIV testing. All ages are welcome and the event is child and pet friendly. (Please be prepared to clean up after your own pets.) People participating as organizations are welcome to represent their group/organization. If you don't wish to walk the entire route, you are welcome to join us at any point along the sidewalk around Perry Square.

The ECHTF is a collaboration of local organizations and individuals dedicated to educating, supporting, and advocating for people living with HIV/AIDS along with preventing the spread of HIV. In 2021, significant increases have been reported in HIV / AIDS and STI cases overall. Communicable diseases including HIV/STIs are preventable with education and access to medications, prophylactics, and services. Today medications and programs are available to not only prevent HIV transmission, but allow individuals to live full productive lives. For more information, please visit echiv.org for additional information including the county map of

testing locations, clinic services. Free condoms can be mailed to you, place an order online at condoms.echiv.org, or visit our Erie County HIV & STI testing map for locations to test/treat plus free condoms at echiv.org/map or call 814-451-6786 for information. To learn more about the HIV/AIDS Awareness Walk activities or submit questions/comments, contact us at 814-315-3375 or admin@echiv.org.

Welcoming Geauga Co. church firebombed for hosting drag queen story hour

Federal prosecutors charged Aimenn D. Penny, 20, after he firebombed a Geauga County church that was scheduled to hold a drag queen story hour.

On March 25, Penny attempted to burn down the Community Church of Chesterland in Chesterland Ohio, using Molotov cocktails. Nobody was in the church at the time. Chesterland is 20 miles east of Cleveland.


Penny admitted that he wanted to burn down the church to "protect" the children from drag queens.

6th Annual Erie County HIV/AIDS Awareness Walk

Monday May 15th, 5pm @ Perry Square


PA Thrive Partnership providing on-site testing

Made possible by the






**Erie County
HIV Task Force**

& the





**ERIE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH**

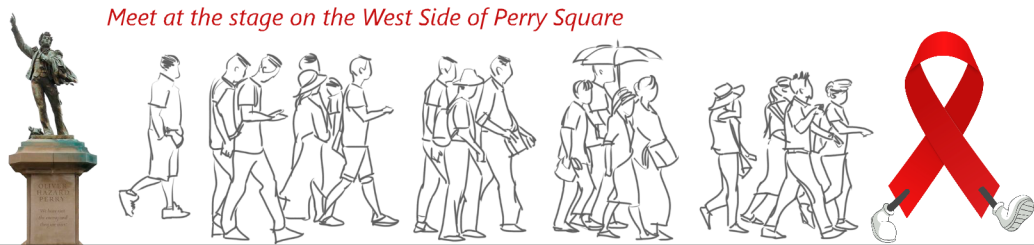
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Meet at the stage on the West Side of Perry Square



Proud Boys called for a protest at the church's scheduled April 1 Drag Queen Story Hour. The church went ahead with the event but used heavy security. Ten minutes before the show was to go on, the Proud Boys posted that it was an April Fool's Prank. The heavy security and dangerous weather may have played a role in their saying it was just a prank.

About 100 people showed up to the Drag Queen Story Hour, and the event went on peacefully without incident.

If convicted, Penny faces a mandatory minimum of five years and a maximum of 20 years in prison for the explosive materials charge and up to 10 years in prison for the destructive device charge.

You can find the following additional coverage online:

Drag Queen Story Hour goes on despite neo-Nazi's attempt to burn church down *The Guardian* April 3, 2023

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/apr/03/drag-queen-story-hour-chesterland-community-church>

SWAT Police, Bomb-Sniffing Dogs, and Extremists: A Drag Queen Story Hour in America *Vice News* April 4, 2023 (in-depth report and video)

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/7kx9ed/drag-queens-chesterland-church-extremists>

"How Extremists Use Irony to Spread Hate" *NPR* April 26, 2021 How rightwing extremists use "Just joking!" to avoid consequences. <https://www.npr.org/2021/04/26/990274685/how-extremists-weaponize-irony-to-spread-hate>

NW PA Pride and Wheel! Studios helping to show your PRIDE!

We are getting close to the start of another Pride season in NW PA and the NW PA Pride Alliance has once again partnered with Wheel! Studios for the 2023 Pride apparel that can be purchased today at NWPAPride.org, or at the Erie and Meadville Pride Fests. Available this year will be shirts in both pink and black, along with tank tops and hoodies in black.

In addition, the 'Queer' shirt is also up for sale. This is the first in a series of queer definition shirts offered in partnership with Wheel! Studios which are available to order only at wheepride.shop. While you are there, check out all of the other great apparel featuring whichever Pride flag you fly!

Warren County Pride Display at Warren County Visitor's Bureau 2023 Event Fair

Warren County Visitor's Bureau invited board members from Warren County Pride to create a display for show and to present at the Warren County Visitor Bureau's 2023 Event Fair on April 12, 2023, at the Warren County Visitor's Bureau on Rt 6 in Warren! Warren County Visitor's Bureau included the fourth annual Warren County Pride Day and dozens of other featured area events. Thank you, WCVB!

Penn State Behrend GASE Drag Show April 14

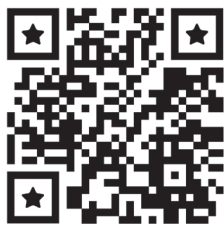
Returning after a three-year hiatus due to COVID, Penn State Behrend's Gender and Sexuality Equality Club (GASE) presented the 14th Annual Drag Show on April 14. Pittsburgh performer and Behrend alumnus host Lola LeCroix performed with Anna Steezia, Calipso, Kat De Lac, and Shari Turner. Behrend health organizations tabling at the event included the counseling center, health, and wellness center, and off-campus health organizations Adagio Health and Central Outreach Wellness Center. Local print and tv media covered the event, and a photo of the event made the front page of the *Erie Times-News*. The audience enthusiastically enjoyed the performances, and GASE looks forward to continuing the event.



At the 14th Annual Behrend Drag on April 14. Photo by Michael Mahler

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Artifacts on Tenth Has Memories of the Past For Your Home

By Steve Siwiecki

Looking for memories of the past to enhance your home? Try Artifacts on Tenth, 301 West 10th Street, Erie, PA 16502.

I talked with Dale Allgeier. Dale and his business partner, Mary Gamble, opened their business in December 2017 at 419 State Street under the name 419 Artifacts. That location was purchased by the Erie Downtown Development Corporation, and with the coming of COVID they temporarily put their inventory in storage. In March of 2022, after some renovating, they reopened at their new location on West 10th Street under the modified name Artifacts on Tenth.

Artifacts on Tenth has been involved with the LGBTQIA+ community right from the start. In 2019 they sponsored the first Drag Queen Story Hour in Erie, featuring Alysia Wonderland. In June of 2019 they created a history display for Pride Fest. They are currently planning something for this year's Pride Fest around the theme love is love, and will continue to host and sponsor events for the community.



Owner Dale Allgeier at Artifacts on Tenth. Photo by Steve Siwiecki.

They carry a wide variety of Victorian, Mid Century, Modern, Art Deco, and 80's and 90's items. Items that are beautiful, weird, fun, funky, and interesting. Stop in to explore the recent past and talk with the friendly staff, or bring in items you might want to sell for review (best to do this on Fridays). Hours are Friday and Saturday from noon to 4:00 PM.

TransFamily of NW PA Adds Meadville Meetings

TransFamily of NW PA has added Meadville meetings on the second Saturday of the month at 2 PM at Empowerment with Grace, 941 Federal Ct Ste 104, Meadville, PA 16335. Empowerment with Grace is in the old post office building across the street from Julian's Bar & Grill. The entrance is on the side of the building. TransFamily continues to hold Erie meetings on the 4th Saturday of the month at 2 PM at Crime Victim Center, 125 W 18th St, Erie, PA. Please note that TransFamily will skip the Meadville and Erie meetings for June because of Pride. Email the group at transfamilynwpabod@gmail.com or on their Facebook page at <https://transfamilynwpa.org/>

A purple graphic with a white phoenix logo on the left. The phoenix has its wings spread, and the word "JOURNEY" is written in a stylized font above the words "Healing Together" in a script font. To the right of the logo, the text "Uniting Restoring Discovering Transforming" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. Below this, the text "Uniting communities in collective healing in the heart of downtown Erie." is written in a bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the address "201 W. 11th Street Erie, Pa 16501" and the phone number "(814) 636-0821" are listed, followed by the website "JourneyHT.org".

**Uniting
Restoring
Discovering
Transforming**

**Uniting communities in
collective healing in the
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201 W. 11th Street
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Voters Guide at EGN Website

To read the full voters guide, visit eriegaynews.com

Because of the large number of candidates in this year's primary, the Erie County Voter's Guide is posted on the EGN website.

Here is a quick look at the questions they were asked, the races that are included, and who responded.

Candidates for Erie County Council and Erie City Council were asked about their positions on GLBT issues. Their responses appear in the online version of this article.

These were the questions asked for all races:

How would you assure that Erie implements and enforces contractor nondiscrimination policies?

To what extent have you participated in LG-BTQIA+ Cultural Competency Training? What types of training would you recommend for 1.) staff & 2.) council members?

What strategies would you use to include and engage LGBTQIA+ organizations and community members in developing policy and legislation?

Share a time/moment when you influenced or were positively influenced by LGBTQIA+ community?

Erie County Council District 1

Responded (responses posted online): Terry Scutella (D-Inc), Cody Foust (R)

Not Responding: Lou Aliota (R)

Anti Discrimination

Erie County Council District 3

Responded (responses posted online): Mary Rennie (D-Inc), Kimberly Hunter (R)

Erie County Council District 5

Not Responding: Chris Drexel (D), Brian Shank (R-Inc)

Erie County Council District 7

Not Responding: Ellen Schauerma (R-Inc)

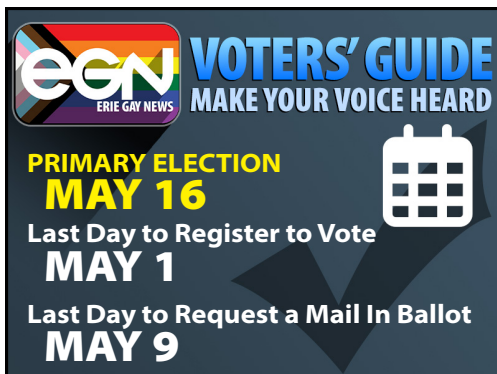
Erie City Council

Responded (responses posted online): Rock Copeland (D), Cory Diloroto (D), Susannah Faulkner (D-Inc), Michael Keys (D-Inc), Elspeth Katrine Koehle (D), Rob Mahrt (D), Armand Rocco, Jr (D), Kathleen Schaaf (D), Tyler Titus (D)

Not Responding: Ed Brzezinski (D-Inc)

May 1 (Mon) - Last Day to Register to Vote in Pennsylvania Primary Election Pennsylvania Primary Election is Tuesday, May 16. You must be registered for the party that you will be voting for by May 1! Browse to <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Register-to-Vote/Pages/How-to-Register-to-Vote.aspx>.

May 9 (Tue) - Last Day to Request a Mail-In Ballot for Pennsylvania Primary Election Pennsylvania Primary Election is Tuesday, May 16. You must already be registered to vote to apply for an absentee or mail-in ballot. Browse to <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Mail-and-Absentee-Ballot.aspx>.



The graphic features the EGN logo (Erie Gay News) in a rainbow circle. To its right, the text 'VOTERS' GUIDE' is in large blue letters, with 'MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD' in smaller white letters below it. Further down, 'PRIMARY ELECTION MAY 16' is written in yellow and white. Below that, 'Last Day to Register to Vote MAY 1' is in white. At the bottom, 'Last Day to Request a Mail In Ballot MAY 9' is in white. A white calendar icon is positioned to the right of the registration date.



The graphic has a decorative border of American flags at the top. The text 'Read full voters guide at eriegaynews.com' is centered in a large, bold, black font.

Is Mpox Sexually Transmitted?

Erie County Department of Health

Last summer, men who have sex with men in Europe, the United Kingdom, and the United States saw an outbreak of a communicable disease that beforehand was seen mostly due to travel from Central or West Africa. Mpox, previously known as Monkeypox, is part of a family of viruses that cause disease in both humans and many types of animals. Smallpox is an example of a poxvirus that no longer exists in nature. Mpox on the other hand surged in 2022. Over 98% of new confirmed cases have been in locations that have not historically reported mpox before the current outbreak that began last year. The U.S. made up 34.9% of all confirmed cases globally, as Pennsylvania had the 7th highest number of cases at 2.85% of the total national mpox infections. Living in a global society that is very mobile means the spread of communicable diseases can happen quicker and more often than ever before.

Mpox can spread to anyone through close, personal, often skin-to-skin contact, including: direct contact with mpox rash and scabs from a person with mpox, as well as contact with their saliva, upper re-

spiratory secretions (snot, mucus), and areas around the anus, rectum, or vagina. This direct contact can happen during intimate contact, including: oral, anal, or vaginal sex, or touching the genitals (penis, testicles, labia, and vagina) or anus of a person with mpox, hugging, massage, and kissing, and/or prolonged face-to-face contact. The risk is considered low for getting mpox by touching objects, fabrics, and surfaces that have been used by someone with mpox and not disinfected, such as clothing, bedding, towels, fetish gear, or sex toys. A person with mpox can spread it to others from the time symptoms start until the rash has fully healed and a fresh layer of skin has formed. As of February 2023, new data show that some people can spread mpox to others from one to four days before their own symptoms appear.

In the ongoing mpox outbreak, the virus is spreading primarily through sexual contact; however, infections have occurred through other exposures, including non-sexual contact with infectious lesions and from contaminated instruments in clinic settings. Current data suggest that about 40% of people diagnosed with mpox in the United States also had HIV (human immunodeficiency virus). The US Centers for



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Disease Control and Prevention doesn't know if having HIV increases the likelihood of getting sick with mpox if exposed to the virus. However, people that are severely immunocompromised (like advanced HIV) are at increased risk of severe mpox, or even death, if they become infected. While mpox to prior to this current global outbreak was not considered a STI [sexually transmitted infection], public health has recognized that sexual activity can be a key method of infection between persons.

At this time, data suggest that men who have



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Sara Allegretto, LPC • Marcia Anderson, LPC

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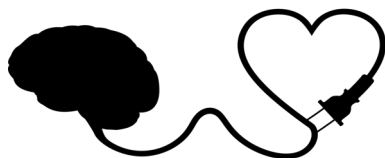
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May

Mental Health Awareness Month



Raising awareness on the importance of mental health and how to take care of one's mental health is crucial, especially in the LGBTQ+ community. LGBTQ+ teens are SIX times more likely to experience symptoms of depression than non-LGBTQ+ identifying teens. LGBTQ+ teens are also two times more likely to feel suicidal and four times as likely to attempt suicide compared to heterosexual youth. [1]

Mental illness is often intertwined with previous traumatic events, including adverse childhood experiences (i.e. physical, sexual, or emotional abuse). Processing trauma in a healthy way can help prevent mental illness. [2]

Crime Victim Center offers cost free counseling to victims of all crimes, including child abuse.

1. LGBTQ+ Communities and Mental Health | Mental Health America (mhanational.org)
2. Mental illness and violence: Debunking myths, addressing realities (apa.org)

sex with men make up the majority of cases in the current mpox outbreak. However, anyone, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, who has been in close, personal contact with someone who has mpox is at risk. There are recommended prevention steps and including vaccination if you are exposed to mpox or have a higher risk of being exposed. Vaccination can help protect yourself and your loved ones. There are four steps we can take to protect ourselves from getting mpox are: 1) avoid close, skin-to-skin contact with people who have a rash [which may appear as pimples, blisters, or scabs], 2) avoid contact with objects and materials that a person with mpox has used, 3) wash your hands often with soap and water; especially before touching your face and after using the bathroom, 4) get vaccinated – JYNNEOS is a 2-dose vaccine developed to protect against mpox and smallpox infections. People need to get both doses of the vaccine for the best protection against mpox. The second dose should be given 4 weeks after the first dose. Mpox vaccines are free, but providers may bill a program or plan to cover the mpox vaccine administration fee (like your private insurance or Medicare/Medicaid). To schedule an appointment for the JYNNEOS vaccine approved for prevention of smallpox and mpox, please call Central Outreach Wellness Center Erie [814-619-4009] or the Erie County Department of Health [814-451-6777].

Community Spotlight #5: Penn State Behrend GASE (The Gender and Sexuality Equality Club)

Trigon, as it was originally called, was founded around 1992 by Dan Ester, a student at Behrend. In 2017, the name was changed to GASE (The Gender and Sexuality Equality Club). The mission remained the same to provide a safe space for exploration and expression of one's gender and sexuality without judgment and to foster a healthy environment on campus for all people of all genders and sexualities.

Penn State as a college celebrates Pride month during April, as students are not present on campuses in June. GASE's new initiative this year was to celebrate Pride with a full week of events on campus. Part of the week of events was the return after the COVID hiatus of the drag show hosted by Lola LeCroix. While this was the tenth year of Behrend hosting the show, GASE looks to have it continue as an annual event in April.

Looking to the future, GASE has been trying to become more and more involved both within the Erie community and on campus at Behrend. We have worked to connect with the queer-focused clubs at surrounding colleges (SAGA - Mercyhurst, Identity-PennWest Edinboro, and Queer Collective - Gannon), looking forward to planning collaborative efforts within the next academic year. GASE has also begun focusing on more community-based events, such as helping fold the Erie Gay Newsletter and holding a clothing drive to benefit Compton's Closet. The main goal for the upcoming year is to continue community-based efforts, as well as hold more frequent events on campus. GASE also plans to partner with the Multicultural Council and the culture clubs at Behrend.

GASE is primarily an organization for Penn State Behrend students, and they are welcome to join in the general meetings to find ways of getting involved and getting to know the other members. To find out more, follow them on Instagram @behrendgase. (<http://www.instagram.com/behrendgase/?hl=en>)



Penn State Behrend Gender and Sexuality Equality Club (GASE) members.



Community Spotlight is a monthly series in which Erie Gay News features a group in our community. Next month: NW PA Pride Alliance!



MENTAL HEALTH
ASSOCIATION
of Northwestern Pennsylvania

www.mhanp.org

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MHA Mission Statement: The Mental Health Association provides support and advocacy to those in recovery – to be themselves and to feel accepted and connected with others with shared experiences.

The Consumer Recovery Center of the MHA of Northwestern PA is a drop-in center for adults aged 18 and older. Membership is free. Members are provided with a safe and relaxing environment to connect and socialize with others.



Hours of Operation

Monday: 9 AM – 3:45 PM
Tuesday: 9 AM – 3:45 PM
Wednesday: 10 AM – 3:45 PM
Thursday: 9 AM – 3:45 PM
Friday: 9 AM – 3:45 PM

Activities/services provided include but are not limited to:

Free daily lunch

Free access to WIFI network

Computer lab

Bowling field trips

Arts & Crafts classes

Laundry facilities

Shower facilities

Movie field trips

How to become a member:

Complete a short intake with a Recovery Center staff member. Individuals must provide a Photo ID and proof of current or past mental health treatment.

Erie Sisters and Brothers Annual Cabin Fever Weekend

Erie Sisters and Brothers hosted the annual Cabin Fever on February 24-26, 2023, at the Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel and the host hotel's Bayfront Grille in Erie, PA. Another excellent turnout made this event very successful. Unlike the Lake Erie Gala, which is held annually in November, this event is just a time for members of the LGBTQ+ community to gather and socialize. A few took this opportunity to explore the local Erie area.

Some of the welcoming and affirming places attendees visited included the Smugglers Wharf (3 State St, Erie, PA 16507) - where the fish dinners and laughter were abundant, Room 33 Speakeasy (1033 State St, Erie, PA 16501) - their food and cocktails (especially the Chocolate Kiss) were outstanding, and the Millcreek Mall (5800 Peach St, Erie, PA 16565), which was a fun place to shop at several of the brick and mortars.



Erie Sisters and Brothers at annual Cabin Fever Weekend. Some faces in this picture are scrubbed out to protect their anonymity.

B. Proud at Jamestown Pride Fest

St. Luke's Church and the Episcopal Dioceses of Western New York and Northwestern Pennsylvania, in collaboration with The Chautauqua County Mental Health Association, are pleased to announce B. Proud as the Opening Speaker for Jamestown Pride Fest (JPF). Her slide lecture will occur at St. Luke's Undercroft, North Main and 4th Streets, Jamestown, New York, on Friday, June 9, at 6:30 pm.

B. Proud is an American activist and award-winning photographer, filmmaker, and storyteller who will present her powerful vision of love and light for the LGBTQ+ community. Her stories are legendary. President Obama invited B. Proud to the White House for an LGBTQ+ celebration, and Edith S. (Edie) Windsor (chief plaintiff in United States v. Windsor) wrote the forward for B. Proud's First Comes Love book. A career highlight includes photographing Lady Gaga and President Obama on the same day!

St. Luke's welcomes LGBTQ+ families, friends, and allies of all ages. One goal is collaborating with youth, their families, friends, and support groups, especially reaching out to individuals discovering their identities and seeking support, empowerment, and services.

Her lecture will review First Comes Love, her first exhibition and book of photographs and stories of LGBTQ+ couples in long-term relationships. B. Proud's audiences will witness excellence and transcendence within families, friends, and colleagues. The book received two publishing gold medals. Her short film, A Circle of Diamonds, told Edie Windsor's story worldwide in 16 film festivals.

Visit <https://www.firstcomeslove.org/> for the complete story and images.

B. Proud's second exhibition and book in progress expands the First Comes Love story. Transcending Love offers a glimpse into the lives of transgender and

gender-nonconforming couples and families across the USA," said B. Proud. Please visit the project website at www.transcendinglove.org to view the portraits and read the stories.

B. Proud will also participate in JPF as part of the Jamestown Public Market on Saturday, June 10, from 10 am to 2 pm. St. Luke's and JPF welcome friends, family, allies, and staff from social service organizations. A good turnout by the local LGBTQ+ community and social justice organizations would

Jamestown PRIDE 2023

Chautauqua County, NY



We Are Here!

June 2nd 5:00pm Rally Flag Raising

June 9th 6:30pm B.Proud Lecture

**June 10th 10am to 4pm PRIDE Fest+Farmers
Market+Fun**

June 10th 9pm Burlesque & Dancing

June 11th 10am PRIDE Service

All in Downtown Jamestown

Details at <http://jamestownpride.org/>

help achieve the goal of JPF to connect, inspire, empower, serve, and enrich lives.

The Episcopal Church affirms the dignity and equality of all human beings and welcomes all people without any exceptions of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, orientation, age, or any other factor.

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LGBT Community Survey - Let your voice be heard and enter a drawing to win \$100!

Please share your experience and opinions by participating in the 17th Annual LGBTQ Community Survey.

For over a decade, this survey has provided free data to help non-profits, universities, and organizations better understand and serve the LGBTQ community. The report will be published on the CMI info website for free download on approximately August 15. Previous surveys have had over 45,000 participants from 150 countries! The survey should take 12 to 15 minutes to complete.

Erie Gay News is proud to help keep our community informed and to participate in this survey to make our community even more visible and understood.

Everyone who completes the survey by May 31, 2023, may enter into a drawing to win one of twenty US \$100 cash or gift certificate prizes or donate your prize to an LGBTQ charity of your choice.

To take the survey, please use the following link: <https://survey.cmi.info/se/359D342B145277F202?CMID=23156>



**Grab a coffee,
take the survey,
make a difference.**

**Take the 17th Annual
LGBTQ Community Survey***

LGBTQsurvey.com

LGBTQ research helps non-profits, universities
and businesses better understand and
serve our community.

Download survey results free of charge
at [cmi.info](https://survey.cmi.info).

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Erie Gay News is now included in
The EBSCO LGBT Life®
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Six LGBT Archives
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Online Contests

Here are new contests for this month...

Contest	Begins
<i>Queer Heroes of Myth and Legend</i>	May 2
<i>How We Won the War for LGBTQ Equality: And How Our Enemies Could Take It All Away</i>	May 9
<i>Sweetheart DVD</i>	May 16

Here are contests which are currently active...

Contest	Ends
<i>The Fitful Sleep of Immigrants</i>	May 9
<i>365 Gays of the Year</i>	May 16

More contests at eriegaynews.com!



NW PA Pride Alliance hosted its second monthly Erie Queer Happy Hour at U Pick 6 Public House on Wednesday, April 5.

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Website: <https://pa-thrive.com>

Email: info@pathrive.com



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.aaeriepa.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.

Apr 21 - May 7 (Fri - Sun) - SPOOKS by Richard Boler (PACA, 1505 State St, Erie, PA 16501) It's 1986, and mad dogs are terrorizing Erie's eastside. The Skowronski sisters have gathered for a blessing of the family home, but... A ghostly presence disrupts the ceremony and demands an airing of the family's "horrible secret". The sisters' dilemma: Just exactly whose horrible secret is it? Browse to <https://www.paca1505.org/>. RSVP/Register/Tickets at <https://paca1505.ticketspice.com/spooks>.

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. 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 - 29 (Thu - Sat) - McDowell HS Drama Club presents The Prom (McDowell Intermediate High School, 3320 Caughey Rd, Erie, PA 16510) Four eccentric Broadway stars are in desperate need of a new stage. So when they hear that trouble is brewing around a small-town prom, they know that it's time to put a spotlight on the issue...and themselves. The town's parents want to keep the high school dance on the straight and narrow-but when one student just wants to bring her girlfriend to prom, the entire town has a date with destiny. On a mission to transform lives, Broadway's brassiest join forces with a courageous girl and the town's citizens and the result is love that brings them all together. Winner of the Drama Desk Award for Best Musical, THE PROM expertly captures all the humor and heart of a classic musical comedy with a message that resonates with audiences now more than ever.

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 or by calling our office at 814.459.8000.

Apr 29 (Sat) - Journey: Healing Together - Queer Crafternoon (Journey To A Trauma Informed Life, 201 W 11th St, Erie, PA 16505) 11 AM - 2 PM.

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.

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.

Browse to <https://agingwithprideerie.org/>.

May 1 (Mon) - What is White Supremacy & Christian White Nationalism? - Perspective from a Unitarian Universalist Minister (Lincoln Community Center Library, 1255 Manchester Road, Erie, PA 16505) 6 PM. Featuring Rev. Charles Brock, M.Litt. 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.

May 3 (Wed) - Erie's Queer Happy Hour (Oasis Pub, 3122 W Lake Rd, Erie, PA 16505) 6 PM. This event will be held in the backroom at Oasis. This event is open to everyone however those under 18 years of age will need a guardian to attend. In accordance with State law only those 21+ are able to have alcoholic beverages.

May 4 (Thu) - Jamestown Pride Community Planning Meeting (Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County, 31 Water Street Suite 7, Jamestown, NY 14701) 5 PM - 6:30 PM. Jamestown PRIDE will be hosting a community planning meeting for Jamestown Pride. Planning, volunteer sign-ups, lite refreshments, connection. MHA 31 Water Street, Door 14, Rear Parking lot. All are welcome.

May 5 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour)

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meets (Perry's Tavern, 22 North Park Row, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM - 8 PM. Happy Hour - All Are Welcome!

May 5 - 7 (Fri - Sun) - Opening Weekend (Jones Pond Campground & RV Park, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY 14709-8729) Kicking off season 33 at the Pond! Phone: (585) 567-8100. Email: info@jonespond.com. Browse to <http://www.jonespond.com>. RSVP/Register/Tickets at <https://www.jonespond.com/events/opening-weekend>.

May 6 (Sat) - King & Queen Consort Weekend (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA 16020-1219) Weekend sponsored by Jess & Michael. Phone: (724) 637-2402. Browse to <http://campdavispa.com/>.

May 6 (Sat) - 2nd Annual Tree Hugger Trail Run (Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St, Edinboro, PA 16412) 10 AM - 2 PM. Goodell Gardens & Homestead is excited to announce the 2nd Annual Tree Hugger Trail Run! Runners and walkers will enjoy a new-and-improved 5K course that will include both existing and new trails! This professionally-timed race will be approximately 5k in distance. Final distance/route will be confirmed once trail conditions are assessed in the Spring. A second kids race approximately 0.5 miles in length will take place as well.

May 6 (Sat) - LBT Women of Erie goes to Penn State Behrend Softball (Penn State Behrend, 5103 Station Rd, Erie, PA 16563) 12 PM. Contact: Kim Conti. Phone: (814) 490-3994. Email: ErieBeans@yahoo.com. Browse to <https://www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE>.

May 6 (Sat) - Pride Prom 2023 (Ambassador Banquet & Conference Center, 7794 Peach Street, Erie, PA 16509) 7 PM - 10 PM. NWPA Pride Alliance is proud to host Erie's first-ever Queer Adult Prom. This event is open to anyone 18 years of age and older. Appetizers and a 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. Phone: (814) 314-9075. Venue Phone: (814) 866-9999.

May 6 (Sat) - Pride Prom (Unofficial) After Party (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. Come dressed to impress following the queer adult prom! Doors open at 8pm. \$5 cover. 21+ with valid state-issued ID.

May 6 (Sat) - M & J's Lounge Drag Show (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA 16001) 9:30 PM. Doors open at 9:30 PM

May 7 (Sun) - International Family Equality Day (IFED) Celebrates the Diversity of Families globally. The Council of Europe recognises the IFED as an important tool to combat homophobia and transphobia and to promote a tolerant and cohesive society. Browse

to <http://internationalfamilyequalityday.org/>.

May 7 (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.

May 8 (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.

May 9 (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.

May 9 (Tue) - Youngstown PFLAG meets (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH 44503) 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM.

May 11 (Thu) - "Just Talk About It" Advance Care Planning Forum Supporting the LGBTQIA+ Community (UPMC Health Plan Neighborhood Center, 6401 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA) 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 4 to 6 p.m. Virtual options for both sessions. A panel discussion will include experts from faith-based, legal, clinical, psycho-social, and community perspectives. A panel discussion will include experts from faith-based, legal, clinical, psycho-social, and community perspectives.

May 11 (Thu) - You are More than a 'Break in Case of Emergency': Knowing the Value of Your Voice When Making Change in Your Community (Erie Center for Arts & Technology, 650 East Ave. Suite 120, Erie, PA 16503) 7 PM. Featuring Distinguished Visiting Speaker Precious McKesson. 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.

May 13 (Sat) - Erie's Queer Community Food Drive benefiting Second Harvest Food Bank (Central Outreach Wellness Center (Erie), 3104 State Street, Erie, PA 16508) 11 AM - 2 PM. Erie's Queer Community will come together again this year to host a Food Drive.

Pasta, sauce and canned goods are the encouraged categories. However, any non-perishable food item or dry good will be accepted. All donations will be given to the Second Harvest Food Bank and will directly benefit those in need in NWPA.

May 20 (Sat) - Aging with Pride Book Club - Eighty-Sixed by David B. Feinberg (Werner Books, 3514 Liberty St, Erie, PA 16508) 1 PM - 2 PM. At the first meeting, the members will discuss the types of books they would like to read in addition to discussing the first book. Werner Books offers a 20% discount on books purchased for the book club.

May 12 - 14 (Fri - Sun) - Onesie Weekend (Jones Pond Campground & RV Park, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY 14709-8729) Onesie Weekend is back. Be sure to bring a onesie or two as we'll be wearing them to all Jones Pond events this weekend. Wear your onesies to the dances, events and even to the cafe as you enjoy your weekend meals.

May 13 (Sat) - Classic Rock Weekend (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA 16020-1219) Weekend sponsored by Jess & Michael.

May 13 (Sat) - TransFamily of NWPA (Meadville) Transgender Support Group meets (Empowerment with Grace, 941 Federal Ct Ste 104, Meadville, PA 16335) 2



PM. Long awaited, come join us at our monthly support meeting in Crawford County! Feel free to bring drinks and snacks if you'd like. The entrance is on the side of the building Contact: Raven Jane Cammarata. Email: transfamilynwpabod@gmail.com.

May 13 (Sat) - Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus - Stronger Than Silence (1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center, 9 Church Street, Fredonia, NY 14063) 7:30 PM. Presented in Partnership with the Pride Alliance of SUNY Fredonia.

May 15 (Mon) - Deadline for Erie Gay News June 2023 print edition (#331) (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, May 23.

May 16 (Tue) - National Honor Our LGBT Elders Day National Honor Our LGBT Elders Day was established to draw awareness to and appreciation of the lifetime of contributions made by LGBT older adults. The gains made in recent years toward LGBT equality sit squarely on the backs of those whose struggles and victories, extraordinary courage and everyday authenticity pioneered the path toward freedom. National Honor Our LGBT Elders Day works to unite the LGBTQ community and its allies to celebrate and thank those individuals who fought on behalf of us all.

May 16 (Tue) - Erie County HIV Task Force meets (Hybrid) (Erie County Department of Health (ECDH), 606 W 2nd St, Erie, PA 16507) 1 PM. The Erie County HIV Task Force is a collaboration of local organizations and individuals dedicated to educating, supporting, and advocating for people living with HIV/AIDS and preventing the spread of infection.

May 16 (Tue) - Bears Do Dinner #103 (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.

May 17 (Wed) - International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia & Biphobia First celebrated in 2005, the main purpose of the May 17 mobilizations is to raise awareness of violence, discrimination, and repression of LGBT communities worldwide. Browse to <https://dayagainsthomophobia.org/>.

May 18 (Thu) - HIV Vaccine Awareness Day This day is a chance to thank the volunteers, community members, health professionals, and scientists working together to find a safe and effective preventive HIV vaccine. It is also a time to educate communities about the importance of preventive HIV vaccine research.

May 18 (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.

May 19 (Fri) - Agender Pride Day To be agender means to not identify as any particular gender. Agender is also called genderblank, genderfree, genderless, gendervoid, non-gendered, ungendered, or null gender. The agender identity falls under the nonbinary umbrella and (sometimes) the transgender umbrella.

May 19 - 21 (Fri - Sun) - Homecoming Weekend (Jones Pond Campground & RV Park, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY 14709-8729) It's our Jones Pond Homecoming Weekend. We welcome you back with our tailgate party, homecoming dance and more. Welcome back to Season 33 at the Pond. .

May 19 (Fri) - National Asian & Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day A national campaign to end silence and shame about HIV/AIDS in Asian and Pacific Islander communities. #APIMay19

May 20 (Sat) - The Bent Carrot Weekend (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA 16020-1219)

May 20 (Sat) - WNY Pride 5K - Fun Run/Walk (Niagara County Community College, 3111 Saunders Settlement Rd, Sanborn, NY 14132) 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM. Join us for the glorious return of the WNY Pride 5k...where you can run, walk, strut, or sashay across the finish line!

May 20 (Sat) - LBT Women of Erie goes to Edinboro Art and Music Festival (Goodell Gardens & Homestead, 221 Waterford St, Edinboro, PA 16412) 12 PM. Over the course of the three day festival, there will be live music around town, children's activities and workshops, dancing, art shows, music workshops, local artisan vending, jam sessions, yoga, pilates and much more!

May 21 (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.

May 21 (Sun) - FACE Drag Show (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 10 PM. Join Misty Michaels Kall for a fun show filled with the house cast and special guests! Doors open at 8pm. No cover. 21+ with valid state-issued ID.

May 22 (Mon) - Harvey Milk Day Celebrated to honor Harvey Milk, assassinated politician, on his birthday, it is celebrated officially in California, Milk's home state. Browse to <http://milkfoundation.org/>.

May 23 (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.

May 24 (Wed) - Pansexual and Panromantic Aware-

ness and Visibility Day This is a day to celebrate the pansexual and panromantic community and educate others on the community. Browse to <https://thepancommunity.tumblr.com/faq>.

May 24 (Wed) – LGBTQ+ and Allies Happy Hour – All welcome (Julian's Bar & Grill, 299 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA 16335) 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM.

May 25 (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/>.

May 25 (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.

May 26 - 29 (Fri - Mon) - Memorial Day Weekend (Jones Pond Campground & RV Park, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY 14709-8729) It's our first long weekend of the season so come celebrate the unofficial start of summer with us at the Pond.

May 27 (Sat) - LBT Women of Erie goes to Troika

Festival (Church of the Nativity, 251 East Front Street, Erie, PA 16507) 12 PM. Annual Russian festival.

May 27 (Sat) - Memorial Day Weekend (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA 16020-1219) Potluck 4 PM in Rec Hall. Bring your favorite picnic side to join in the fun. Clothes must be worn during all group food events!

May 27 - 28 (Sat - Sun) - Pigs, Puppies & Leather Weekend (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA 16020-1219)

May 27 (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. Includes T-shirt design contest for Erie Pride Fest next month! transfamilynwpabod@gmail.com

May 28 (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.

May 28 (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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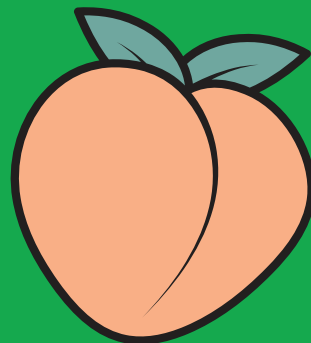


David Brooks

Tickets are on sale now! We invite you to please join us in celebrating 15 years of **Jefferson Educational Society** excellence at our **15th Anniversary Gala**. The event will begin at **6 p.m., Saturday, June 10**, and will be held at the **Bayfront Convention Center**, at 1 Sassafra Pier. The keynote speaker for the evening is one of America's most prominent political commentators, **David Brooks**. This milestone event includes an **open bar, dinner, music, and dancing** and will give us a chance to reflect on all we have accomplished together over the past 15 years.

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