



ERIE GAY NEWS

Serving the Regional LGBTQIA+ Community Since 1992



Caitlyn enjoying the potluck at the TransFamily Picnic. Photo by Michael Mahler.

TransFamily of NWPAA Holds Summer Picnic

by Emily Manino

One of the summer's best traditions took place on August 19th, with TransFamily of NWPAA holding its annual picnic on August 19th at Presque Isle State Park. The organization celebrated eleven years of supporting trans joy and family bonds. It brought together people from the transgender and gender-diverse community for an afternoon of fun, community, and even kayaking! TransFamily of NWPAA continues to demonstrate acceptance of people for who they are and promotes how our differences make us special. The best part was the shared potluck meal and sweets for everyone in the hope they continue to form a deeper understanding of one another.

TransFamily of NWPAA has many events throughout the year, in addition to their monthly support groups in Erie and Meadville. In a few weeks, TransFamily will bring people together again for Transgender Day of Remembrance 2023. Transgender Day of Remembrance 2023, observed on November 20th, will honor lives lost to transphobia. It is a time for us to remember, mourn, and stand

together, affirming our commitment to a world where transgender individuals can live free from violence and discrimination.

For more information, check out TransFamily of NWPAA on Facebook or at www.transfamilyofnwpaa.org

LGBTQ+ Elders and Affirming Community

On September 20, approximately 70 people attended a workshop on the topic of "LGBTQ+ Elders and Affirming Community: A Film and Conversation for Erie's Future." The program was held at the Tom Ridge Environment Center and was sponsored by the LGBT Funds of the Erie Community Foundation, UPMC Western Behavioral Health, UPMC Health Plan, Mercyhurst University, Stairways Behavioral Health, Greater Erie Community Action Committee (GECAC), and Saint Mary's Home of Erie.

There were three learning objectives: Define at least three DEI issues facing older LGBTQ+ individuals, Identify three resources to promote safe and successful aging for the LGBTQ+ community, and to Describe at least two paths for advocacy to promote an inclusive and affirming community for LGBTQ+ elders.

After viewing the film Gen Silent about aging and being gay, participants heard from a panel that provided locally focused remarks and answered questions from the audience. Moderated by Chuck Scalise, Chair of the LGBT Funds of the Erie Community Foundation, the panel included Sheila Ardery, a native of Erie who now resides in Boston and has had a very successful career in Housing issues, Dianne Cunningham, President/Owner of Home Instead in Erie, Allen Bonace, President & CEO of Saint Mary's Home of Erie, and Ray Maholtz, Deputy Director of the Erie County Area Agency on Aging.

This is the second of a planned series of educational programs planned by the LGBT Funds of the Erie Community Foundation.

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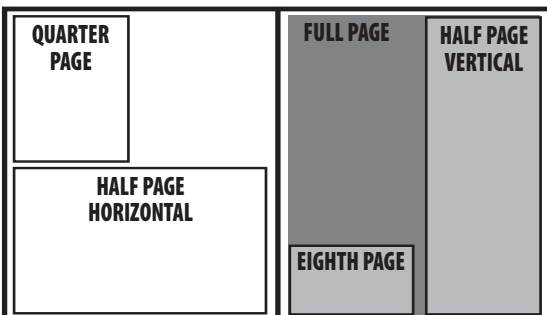
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The *Erie Gay News* is published monthly as a source of news, events, information, and support for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender people (GLBTs), their families, friends, and supporters in the Erie PA area.

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.

EGN Rates & Data



AD SIZE	PRICE/ISSUE	DIMENSIONS
EIGHTH	\$50 - \$45 Prepaid	15/8" 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 HIRES. All hardcopy ads submitted will be reproduced as close as possible.

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

THANKS

From Your Friends at Erie Gay News

To Lake Erie Counseling Associates for hosting! Andrea Shaffer, Emily Manino, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Kim Conti, Mulnah Kronis, Rex Apps, Steve Siwiecki, and Vivian for folding; Brett Staskiewicz, Emily Manino, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Kim Conti, Rex Apps, and Steve Siwiecki for distribution; Whee! Design for logo. If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com.

Erie Queer Community Comes Together to Host Banned Book Drive

National Banned Book Week is October 1 – 7, 2023. This year the NWPQ Queer Community is coming together to get Queer books into our community. We will collect books at Journey to a Trauma Informed Life on Tuesday, October 3rd, from 6 pm to 8 pm. Additional books can be dropped off at Journey before October 3rd. NWPQ Pride will also collect books at the Meadville Happy Hour on 9/27/23.

All books donated will be distributed using the Little Free Library system in both Erie and Crawford Counties following the collection. If you cannot donate at the event, we suggest placing a new or gently used book in a little free library.

This event is in partnership with the following groups:

NWPQ Pride Alliance, Erie Gay News, Aging with Pride, PA Equality Project Transfamily of NWPQ, Journey to a Trauma informed Life, Journey Healing Together, Greater Erie Alliance for Equality, For more information, visit NWPQPride.org

Erie County Mobilizes Against Censorship

by *Emily Manino*

After the removal of the “Read with Pride” display from the Blasco Memorial Erie County Public Library, the local community sprang into action. Libraries play a critical role in promoting social justice and human rights by advocating for equality and fair treatment. The “Read In” brought many people to the library in peaceful protest. Then, our community moved to speak out at Erie County Council meetings as a call to action for council members while reminding them representation in our libraries matters. In response to the summer’s censorship incidents, Council member Andre Horton introduced a resolution to prevent future removals of materials based on LGBTQIA+ content. On Tuesday, August 29th, a diverse group of community members packed the council meeting, passionately supporting Horton’s resolution. One memorable moment came when a young scout, part of the LGBTQIA+ community, eloquently expressed the importance of access to diverse books. This heartfelt plea, along with others,



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prompted the Erie County Council to unanimously pass the resolution, marking a significant step toward greater inclusion and diversity in Erie's public libraries. May our libraries always serve as safe havens for LGBTQIA+ individuals.

Pink Party Benefit Weekend on the Horizon

by Michael Mongera

The great Pink Party is almost back! Don't miss out on the opportunity to attend Michelle Michael's annual Pink Party benefit weekend. This event will take place on the evenings of October 6th – the 8th. Basket auctions and a bake sale will be included. A drag show with no cover will be featured on Sunday evening at 9:30.

The proceeds of this annual celebration will benefit Linked By Pink, a non-profit organization that increases awareness for breast cancer. This group consists of individual breast cancer survivors to help with financial and emotional support for local families affected.

LBT Women Picnic - A Great Time

by Kim Conti

On September 9th, 21 people gathered at Kim and Andrea's home for the annual LBT Women of Erie picnic. The atmosphere was filled with laughter and chatter as everyone enjoyed great food and played competitive rounds of cornhole. Although there was a little rain, it didn't stop us from having a good time as we continued the party indoors and shared exciting conversations. We want to thank everyone for contributing to the event and making it a success. As we said our goodbyes, everyone was already looking forward to next year's picnic and making plans. If you're interested in joining our women's group and attending future events, please feel free to contact us on Facebook.



Ace Week Oct 22-28

by Marshall John Blount

Grab your cake and Asexual Pride flag because Ace Week 2023 is from October 22nd to the 28th. Ace Week is about celebrating community, history, and the diversity within the Ace community worldwide. Education about Asexuality is also vital for the Week, so listen to the many activists, artists, and anyone in our community with something to say.

15th Annual Diversity Service at Community United Church Oct 29

from Rev. Dr. Richard W. McCarty, Senior Pastor

The staff and congregation of Community United Church, 1011 W 38th St, Erie PA, warmly invite you to join us on Sunday, October 29, at 11:00 AM as we celebrate our fifteenth year as a nationally certified Open and Affirming faith community in the United Church of Christ. As an Open and Affirming Christian congregation, we boldly accept and affirm LGBTQ+ people and relationships. We proudly march in our city's Pride parade, and we also offer regular educational opportunities on LGBTQ+ inclusion. We are a faith community that grounds our understanding of God in unconditional love-and although we do not claim to be perfect, we do seek to embody that love through radical welcome, helping those in need, honoring boundaries, worship, study, small groups, and standing for restorative justice. Please join us as we celebrate our fifteenth year of Open and Affirming certification.

Board Members sought for NW PA Pride Alliance, Inc

from NW PA Pride Alliance Board of Directors

NWPA Pride Alliance is looking for applicants to fill positions with our board of directors. NWPA Pride Alliance is seeking to diversify its membership to best address the needs of the LGBT community, persons of all sexual orientations, gender identifications, marital status, ethnic backgrounds and educational experiences are welcome to apply. All positions are unpaid, volunteer positions. We are looking for people who want to become more involved with the LGBT community, working with our members to extend outreach to the community as a whole.

Board members organize events within the community, represent the LGBT community at local events, and work with local businesses and organi-

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zations to raise awareness of LGBT issues. Board members meet the first Saturday of each month at 11:15 AM and additionally as needed in preparation for specific events.

Advisory panel members are to provide guidance for the board of directors in specific matters upon request. Meetings will be as needed and may be irregular. Specific areas of expertise being sought are accounting, legal counselor, community education, publicity, medical backgrounds and nonprofit administration. The board of directors will seek advice from the advisory panel on issues as they arise.

If you are interested, please send a resume that outlines your experience and qualifications by Monday, November 20, 2023, to president@nwpapride.org. All resumes will be considered, please note if you wish to apply for membership to the board of directors or advisory panel. You can only hold one of these positions, but you may apply for more than one. Applicants for the Board of directors will be contacted for a mandatory interview with the board to be scheduled after the resume is received.

Intersex: Representing the I in LGBTQIA+

by *Emily Manino*

For the past 27 years the United States marks Intersex Awareness Day by promoting respect and dignity for intersex people. This year on October 26th, Intersex Awareness Day will continue to raise awareness about the challenges intersex individuals face. InterAct, an organization advocating for the rights of children born with intersex traits, states roughly 1.7% of people are born intersex, some intersex traits are noticed at birth, and most surgeries to change intersex traits happen in infancy. May Intersex Awareness Day educate the public, medical professionals, and policymakers about the importance of respecting intersex people's bodily autonomy and human rights. Most importantly, may Intersex Awareness Day bring support and solidarity to the intersex community by letting them know they are not alone, and their experiences are valid.

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12/01/23 World AIDS Day “I am a Work of ART”

Erie County Department of Health

Mark your calendar for December 1st to join the Erie County HIV Task Force (ECHTF) for the 2023 World AIDS Day event. This year recognizes the 35th Anniversary of the annual memorial. In addition to remembering those no longer with us, the ECHTF is asking the community to join us with this year’s theme “I am a Work of ART” which bringing together local providers and clients in providing the public with ways to learn about treatment and successes in living with HIV. The word ART this year has a dual meaning. As a medical term, ART is an acronym for Anti-Retroviral Therapy – a combo of meds taken to make HIV undetectable which creates no risk of transmission to others. ART also represents creativity and imagination through various forms of expression. The ECHTF is working in collaboration with the Erie County Department of Health, Community Health Net, PA Thrive Partnership, and Journey to a Trauma Informed Life to bring ART to this year’s

World AIDS Day event. To learn more about the event, watch for more details in the November and December issues of Erie Gay News as well as send an email to admin@echiv.org for more info. Do you know your HIV status? Consider getting tested for free at the Erie County Department of Health. We help get you started on routine testing, and provide information on PrEP for HIV [prevention medicine] and give you FREE condoms with lube. All this is available during our weekly Sexual Health Clinics on Tuesdays 9am-11am and Wednesdays 1pm-3pm. For



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Community Spotlight #10: Identity/Edinboro

Edinboro Identity was founded over 40 years ago as a safe haven for LGBT+ students and their allies. Though it has undergone several name changes, Identity stands proud as one of the oldest clubs on Edinboro's campus. Today, our primary mission has not changed since the club's founding and has expanded to cover LGBT+ history and create a relaxing environment for our members to be who they are. While our education meetings are crucial, we also enjoy the meetings where we watch movies, play games, and generally bond while doing a fun activity. We have a yearly Halloween party, aptly dubbed 'Halloqueen,' for students to dress how they want without societal judgment and gender norms. This past spring, we collaborated with the GASE club of Penn State Behrend and Mercyhurst's SAGA club for a clothing drive, the efforts of which were donated to Compton's Table in Erie. The officers of Identity are considering putting on a drag show open to everyone in the spring as a fun way to bring flair to campus. While Identity is a club reserved for Edinboro students, we are always open to guest speakers who want to present their knowledge to our members. The best way to get in contact with us is through our Instagram, which is @identityboro. There, we post about LGBT+ recognition days and a great way to see what Identity is doing during the school year.



Identity/Edinboro members at their last meeting of the 2022 school year.



Community Spotlight is a monthly series in which Erie Gay News features a group in our community. Next month: Erie Sisters and Brothers!



Identity officers at HalloQueen Party 2022

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Voters Guide next month

Please note that the next issue of Erie Gay News, which will come out the night of Tuesday, October 24, will feature our Voters Guide. It is very important that the Queer community shows up to vote in every election, and the November 7 municipal election is no exception. We will have responses from our LGBTQIA+ candidate questionnaire that we hope enables you to make an informed choice when you go to the polls. Polls are open from 7 AM to 8 PM on Tuesday, November 7. The last day to register to vote in the upcoming election is October 23, and the deadline to apply for an absentee or mail-in-ballot is October 31.

Sign Up NOW for Fall Lobby Day!

The Fairness Act would prohibit discrimination against LGBTQ+ people in housing, education, and access to public accommodations. Now is the time to enact clear, statewide non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ+ Pennsylvanians, and we urge the General Assembly to pass legislation without delay.

We need your help to get over the finish line!

ADVOCATE with us in Harrisburg on October 24th for The Fairness Act!

Sign up online at <https://www.mobilize.us/hrcpa/event/577410/>

LGBTQ+ people deserve to live and love as themselves in every inch of our commonwealth. That's why we have partnered with the ACLU of PA, the Trevor Project, the PA Youth Congress, and other equality-driven organizations. Together, we are hosting a Lobby Day on October 24th in our state capitol to urge all State Senators to hold a vote on the Fairness Act. We need everyone in PA - including YOU - to join us in telling your senator that NOW is the time to pass better, inclusive non-discrimination laws.

Looking for a good book?!

Interested in reading novels written by trans or gender non-conforming authors, or with trans or gender non-conforming characters? Get out your library card because Sexual Wellness PA, LLC would like to recommend one of their favorite trans novels!

The Story of Silence by Alex Myers. Based on a French legend, this book takes place in a magical, medieval fairy tale world full of secrets, royalty, and dragons! When a girl child is born to a royal family that prohibits women from inheriting, she is spirited away to be hidden and raised as a boy in an attempt to preserve the family land and legacy. This book is the story of that child, Silence, and their journey of discovery to follow their dreams of becoming a knight while also pursuing love and trying to understand who they truly are. If you like this book, Alex Myers has a second book, Revolutionary, ALSO available at the ECPL, a historical fiction that takes place during the American Revolution and also features a brave hero who refuses to be limited by gender roles.

Want more book recommendations? Visit sexualwellnesspa.com/book-recommendations/ to see more books Sexual Wellness PA has read and loved that can help move us closer to sexual safety,

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Lake Erie Gala Nov 15-19

The annual Lake Erie Gala which will be held November 15th - 19th, 2023 at the Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel in beautiful Erie, Pennsylvania. The gala is organized by Erie Sisters and Brothers.

The Gala has its origins at the historic Riverside Inn in Cambridge Springs PA. Unfortunately, on May 2, 2017, a kitchen fire broke out and engulfed the 132 year-old building in flames.

Now in its 24nd year, the Lake Erie Gala attracts crossdressers, transgender persons and their loved ones from across North America and beyond our borders. Don your poodle skirts or leather pants because this year's theme is a 50's Sock Hop. DJ Brittany will be spinning the tunes for your dancing pleasure Thursday and Friday night. Thursday morning hop on the bus for a guided morning tour of Presque Isle Lighthouse and grounds (<https://www.presqueislelighthouse.org>) followed by a delicious lunch and wine tasting at Arundel Winery located in North East PA (<https://arundelcellars.com>). Friday morning, hop on the bus for a Tour and take home project at The Erie Art Museum followed by a lunch and beer tasting at John Russell Brewing Co. Brew and Restaurant. Friday night not only can you dance the night away but you also have the option to hop on the bus and visit Kellar's Magic and Comedy Club for a thrilling magic show with Blake Vogt. Saturday night is our 50's Sock Hop Gala Dinner with entertainment by Matty and Pickles. Each day is full of wonderful, social events and outings including a Welcome to the Gala party, fine dining events, a spouse/significant other lunch outing. This year we are welcoming Diane Crow for not only to have one-on-one professional photo shoot opportunities but also some pop-up photos during the outings. We are also welcoming new and returning vendors this year.

The Gala management team will be offering one scholarship for those otherwise unable to attend this year, as well as our regular raffle to support our scholarship program. For more information about our scholarship program, please contact us at info@LakeErieGala.com

Aging With Pride in No-Hate Photo

On July 22, six members of the Erie Aging With Pride organization traveled to Cleveland to participate in the latest round of photos for the national No-Hate campaign. The No-Hate campaign began in response to Proposal 8 in California but has grown to stand against discrimination of all kinds. There are currently more than 56,000 portraits in the No-Hate gallery and it continues to grow as photographers travel the country.



A New Miss Erie Is Crowned!

by *Michael Mongera*

We have a winner! This past August, Former Miss Erie, Debbie, handed down the crown to her successor. The 2023 iteration of the drag pageant brought six contenders to the stage. This year, Debbie, Katrina Island Twerk, Cherry Falwell, Snarebear, Shea D'Heaux and Alysyn Wonderland were featured. All showcased their unique drag style to an energetic and supportive packed audience. Notable runways included Katrina's elaborate caution tape dress with





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working sirens. She left the crowd gagging as she dragged around two body bags as her accessories. Shea D Heaux showcased a The Wiz-inspired traffic cone scarecrow. Cherry Fallwell re-worked deconstructed rugs for a dress.

To close out the night was the talent portion of the evening. Shea D’Heaux’s talent performance was meant with raucous applause. Shea performed a number hot off the heels of Barbenheimer summer as she drove a miniature Barbie car onto the stage. After a Barbie Meets Ken performance, a Barbie body double stepped out of the accompanying large pink box, leaving the crowd wild. Thus, brought is to the crowing portion of the evening. After a rousing clap for Shea to win, she was selected as 2023’s Miss Erie. Congratulations to all participating contestants that made this year an eye-catching spectacle. Until next year, now is the reign of Heaux.



Contestants Cherry Falwell (L) and SnareBear (R)



Contestants Alysion Wonderland (L) and Katrina Island Twerk (R)



Debbie stepping down as Miss Erie



Misty Michaels Kall with contestants.

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.

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.

Zone Tuesday Game Night, 133 W 18th St, Doors open at 8 PM. Bring your own game or use ours. (Must submit an ID for us to hold while game is in use.) Happy hour 8-10 PM. \$1 off bottled beers. \$2 well drinks. No cover. 21 & over with ID..

Zone Flow Together Thursdays, 133 W 18th St, Erie PA. Ever wanted to try your hand at ribbon dancing or poi? Join Ash, Buddy, and Snarebear for a night of flow toys! Doors open at 8pm. No cover. 21+ with valid state-issued ID.

Zone Fierce Fridays 133 W 18th St, Erie PA. Every Friday night, join us at the Zone Dance Club for an unforgettable evening of fabulousness, hosted by the one and only Rebecca Mae. Get ready to be dazzled as Rebecca takes the stage alongside special guests, featuring both our talented house cast and regional drag superstars. Doors open at 8pm. \$5 cover. 21+ with valid state-issued ID.

Sept 22 - Oct 8 (Fri - Sun) - O'Connell & Company presents the Tony Award Winning Musical, LA CAGE AUX FOLLES (O'Connell & Company, 4110 Bailey Ave, Amherst, NY 14226) 7:30 PM. Book by Harvey Fierstein, Music and Lyrics by Jerry Herman, Based on the play by Jean Poiret This production stars Daniel Lendzian as Albin and Gregory Gjurich as Georges. Also starring Joey Bucheger as Jacob, Mary Coppola Gjurich as Jacqueline, Anna Fernandez as Anne, Michael J. Galante as Edouard Dindon, Mary Kate O'Connell as Marie Dindon, David Wysocki as Jean-Michel, with Lizzie Arnold, Corey Bieber, John Kreuzer, Kelleigh Murray, Matt Rittler, Michael Wells and featuring Kris Bartolomeo, Vinnie Canale, David P. Eve, Vinny Murphy, Daniel Pieffer, and Aimee Walker as The Cagelles

Sept 27 (Wed) - National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day In 2008 the National Association of People with AIDS launched this observance day to

recognize the disproportionate impact of the epidemic on gay men. #NGMHAAD Browse to <https://www.hiv.gov/events/awareness-days/gay-mens>.

Sept 27 (Wed) – LGBTQ+ and Allies Happy Hour – All welcome (Julian's Bar & Grill, 299 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA 16335) 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM.

Sept 28 (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/>.

Sept 28 (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.

Sept 28 (Thu) - Aging with Pride Social (Erie Brewing Co. West Side, 4102 West Lake Rd, Erie, PA 16505) 6 PM - 8 PM. Aging with Pride, an organization of senior LGBT+ members and allies, is hosting a social. This organization develops and sponsors social/recreational and educational events to promote healthy leisure activities, community and an active, enjoyable lifestyle. They are sponsoring this social hour (OK, social two hours) to interact with members of the community and to get a sense of the types of activities that are of interest to senior LGBT+ individuals.

Sept 29 - Oct 14 (Fri - Sat) - All An Act Theatre Presents: The Cat and The Canary (All An Act Theatre, 652 W 17th St, Erie, PA 16502) The family of Ambrose West attends a reading of his will at midnight; just 20 years after his death. His will designates that Annabelle West is his sole heir if there is no indication that she suffers from insanity. Should she be unsound of mind, a second will is to be opened naming a different heir. The family tries to unbalance Annabelle with tales of lunatics, murders, and death strikes. All of the heirs are suspected, but not until the last minute is the extraordinary mystery solved. Fridays & Saturdays 7:30 PM. Sundays at 3 PM. Doors open 30 minutes to showtime.

Oct 1 - 31 (Sun - Tue) - LGBT History Month First celebrated in 1994 in October. It was declared a national History month by President Barack Obama in 2009. The month was created with the intent to encourage openness and education about LGBT history and rights.

Oct 1 (Sun) - Full Spectrum LGBTQIA+ Youth Peer Support & Social Group meets (Full Spec-

trum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 4 PM - 5 PM. Ages 14-17, under 14 with signed parental consent form. Phone: (234) 254-8924.

Oct 3 (Tue) - Banned Book Drive (Journey To A Trauma Informed Life, 201 W 11th St, Erie, PA 16505) 6 PM - 8 PM. National Banned Book Week is October 1 - 7, 2023. This year the NWPQ Queer Community is coming together to get Queer books into our community. We will collect books at Journey to a Trauma Informed Life on Tuesday, October 3rd, from 6 pm to 8 pm. Additional books can be dropped off at Journey before October 3rd. NWPQ Pride will also collect books at the Meadville Happy Hour on 9/27/23. All books donated will be distributed using the Little Free Library system in both Erie and Crawford Counties following the collection. If you cannot donate at the event, we suggest placing a new or gently used book in a little free library. This event is in partnership with the following groups: NWPQ Pride Alliance, Erie Gay News, Aging with Pride, PA Equality Project Transfamily of NWPQ, Journey to a Trauma Informed Life, Journey Healing Together, Greater Erie Alliance for Equality, For more information, visit NWPQPride.org

Oct 4 (Wed) - Erie's Queer Happy Hour (Oasis Pub, 3122 W Lake Rd, Erie, PA 16505) 6 PM - 9 PM. 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.

Oct 5 (Thu) - Lotz of Tea with Mona 7 PM. With co-host Large Marge. Live streaming on Facebook, YouTube, and TikTok. Browse to <https://www.facebook.com/LotzofTea>.

Oct 6 (Fri) - Journey: Healing Together - LGBTQ+ Affirmative Game Night (Journey: Healing Together, 201 W. 11th Street, Erie, PA 16501) 5 PM. Gather around 5pm for a couple of hours to geek out with fellow gamers. Ages 18+ choose from a variety of board, card, dice, games. As the group grows, smaller groups can split off and play different games. There are plenty of quiet spaces available to regroup for those of us who can get over stimulated sometimes. Hosted by Eric Reiche, Milo Orr, and Leo Ferko, there are opportunities to meet up with friends new and familiar. We are definitely an LGBTQ+ affirming space! Allies and Accomplices welcome! \$5 suggested donation. Phone: (814) 867-5309. Browse to <https://journeyht.org/>.

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

Oct 6 - 8 (Fri - Sun) - Michelle Michael Pink Party

Benefit Weekend (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) Proceeds benefit Linked by Pink. Basket auction, bake sale, and more all weekend! Doors open at 8 PM. \$5 cover Friday, \$10 cover Saturday. Drag show 9:30 PM Sunday - no cover! 21 and over with

Oct 7 (Sat) - Leather and Lace (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. Bears, cubs, furies, & pets take over Erie PA. Presented by Bear Pack Entertainment and The Zone. Hosted by Dom Bear. Awards show at midnight: cutest pet, best dressed pet, best dressed furry, most obedient pet, most playful pet, most lovable puppy/pet, best of the best, lifetime achievement award. Music by Cleveland's own DANO-GEE. Part of our big Pink Weekend. Doors open 8 PM. \$10 cover. 21 & over with ID

Oct 8 (Sun) - Aging With Pride planning meeting (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 1 PM.

Oct 9 (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 for Zoom meeting info.

Oct 10 (Tue) - Compton's Table Chat and Chill Social Hour for Youth (Compton's Table, 3104 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 5 PM - 7 PM. Register for location with info@comptonstable.org. For ages 13-18. FREE!

Oct 10 (Tue) - Dining Out For Life WNY (Jamestown, NY 14701) Make plans to dine out or order take out October 10, 2023 at participating restaurants for breakfast, lunch, dinner — or all the above! Invite everyone you know to do the same. Spread the word via email and on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, EVERYWHERE! Donate to Evergreen Health's HIV supportive services and be entered to win a prize! Phone: (716) 664-7855. Email: hello@evergreenhs.org. Browse to <http://www.evergreenhs.org/>. RSVP/Register/Tickets at <https://www.diningoutforlife.com/city/wny/>.

Oct 10 (Tue) - Youngstown PFLAG meets (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH 44503) 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM.

Oct 11 (Wed) - National Coming Out Day Every year on National Coming Out Day, we celebrate coming out as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ) or as an ally. First celebrated in 1988. Browse to <http://www.hrc.org/resources/national-coming-out-day>.

Oct 14 (Sat) - TransFamily of NWPQ (Meadville) Transgender Support Group meets (Empowerment with Grace, 941 Federal Ct Ste 104, Meadville, PA

16335) 2 PM.

Oct 13 (Fri) - Pissi's Super Spooky Takeover (Edinboro Hotel Bar, 100 Meadville St, Edinboro, PA 16412) 9:30 PM. Hosted by Pissi Gabune. Featuring local queen Snarebear and special guest Rocky Switch. Doors open at 8 PM. 21+ with valid ID. Free admission

Oct 15 (Sun) - National Latinx AIDS Awareness Day The Latino Commission on AIDS (LCOA), the Hispanic Federation and other organizations organize this day to build capacity for non-profit organizations and health departments to reach Latino/Hispanic communities, promote HIV testing, and provide HIV prevention information and access to care. #NLAAD Browse to <http://www.nlaad.org/>.

Oct 23 (Sun) - Deadline for Erie Gay News November 2023 print edition (#335) (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, October 24.

Oct 15 (Sun) - Full Spectrum Bowling For A Cause (Westside Bowl, 2617 Mahoning Ave, Youngstown, OH 44509) 12 PM - 4 PM. Join us for a night of Bowling for a Cause! At Westside Bowl proceeds support Full Spectrum. \$20 entry. 50/50 raffle. Family friendly. Food & drink purchased separately.

Oct 15 (Sun) - Journey: Healing Together - Banned Book Club (Journey: Healing Together, 201 W. 11th Street, Erie, PA 16501) 2 PM - 4 PM. Phone: (814) 867-5309. Browse to <https://journeyht.org/>.

Oct 15 (Sun) - Full Spectrum LGBTQIA+ Adult Peer Support Group meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 4 PM - 6 PM. Ages 18+.

Oct 16 (Mon) - Bears Do Dinner #108 (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.

Oct 17 (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.

Oct 18 (Wed) - International Pronouns Day International Pronouns Day seeks to make respecting, sharing, and educating about personal pronouns commonplace. Referring to people by the pronouns they determine for themselves is basic to human dignity. Being referred to by the wrong pronouns particularly affects transgender and gender nonconforming people. Together, we can transform society to celebrate people's multiple, inter-

secting identities. Browse to <https://pronounsday.org/>.

Oct 18 (Wed) - Active Shooter Response & Stop The Bleed Training (Blasco Memorial Erie County Public Library, 160 East Front Street, Erie, PA 16507) 6 PM - 8 PM. MUST REGISTER BY FRIDAY, OCT.

13th - CALL 814-823-5205. Active Shooter Event can happen anytime & anywhere. Learn what to expect in an active shooter event & how to react. Bleeding is the #1 cause of preventable death after injury. Participants will learn 3 quick actions, in order to save a life. Training sponsored by Northwest Pennsylvania Medical Reserve Corps & Erie County Department of Health

Oct 19 (Thu) - Lotz of Tea with Mona 7 PM. With co-host Large Marge. Live streaming on Facebook, YouTube, and TikTok. Browse to <https://www.facebook.com/LotzofTea>.

Oct 19 (Thu) - Queer Open Mic (Compton's Table, 3104 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 6 PM - 10 PM. Come hang out at our monthly open mics hosted by the awesome, talented, and slaying Gwen Elaine! FREE! BYOB (wrist bands provided for anyone with alcohol). if you want to register as a performer, email info@comptonstable.org

Oct 19 (Thu) - PFLAG Westfield NY meets (Patterson Library, 40 S Portage St, Westfield, NY 14787) 6:30



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PM. Support group for parents, friends and family of LGBTQ+ people.

Oct 21 (Sat) - Journey: Healing Together - LGBTQ+ Crafters (Journey: Healing Together, 201 W. 11th Street, Erie, PA 16501) 11 AM - 2 PM. CottageCore and Curious Crafter's alike are welcome! Journey: Healing Together hosts a casual time of crafting and conversation. Crafting is a great anxiety reducer and being around great people while you're creating is even better! We are a Queer-Affirming space so LGBTQ+, Allies and Accomplices are welcome! \$5 suggested donation per person or \$10 max per family (Children welcome, although we do not provide any childcare or facilitation). Phone: (814) 867-5309. Browse to <https://journeyht.org/>.

Oct 21 (Sat) - Aging with Pride Book Club - A Density of Souls by Christopher Rice (Werner Books & Coffee 3608 Liberty St, Erie, PA 16508) 1 PM. Werner Books offers a 20% discount on books purchased for the book club.

Oct 21 (Sat) - Halloween Costume Extraordinaire (Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge No. 119, 201 West State Street, Olean, NY 14760) 4 PM - 8 PM. Come on out for an amazing time with friends, family, and tons of fun! This event is BYOB and Dish to Pass! Members: FREE, NonMembers: \$3 Single/\$5 Couple/\$8

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Family. Please RSVP and state your attendance count and dish to pass!

Oct 22 - 28 (Sun - Sat) - Ace Week Ace Week, formerly Asexual Awareness Week, is an international campaign that seeks to educate about asexual, aromantic, demisexual, and grey-asexual experiences and to create materials that are accessible to our community and our allies around the world. Browse to <https://www.aceweek.org/>.

Oct 22 (Sun) - Zone Haunted Brunch (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 12 PM. Brunch is BACK! Alysia Wonderland and DJ Tony G bring our brunches back with a special HAUNTED edition! Featuring Miss Erie 2023 Shea D'Heaux, Rebecca Mae, and special guest Bact Eerie! Doors open at 11 AM, showtime at 12 PM. Tickets are \$25 (plus service fees) and includes the show and brunch buffet!

Oct 22 (Sun) - Aging with Pride planning meeting (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 1 PM - 3 PM. Planning meetings are open to anyone interested in helping to plan activities for Aging with Pride. Meetings generally run for about 2 hours with coffee and light refreshments provided

Oct 23 (Mon) - Last Day to Register to Vote in Pennsylvania General Election Pennsylvania General Election is Tuesday, November 7 You must already be registered to vote to apply for an absentee or mail-in ballot. Browse to <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Register-to-Vote/Pages/How-to-Register-to-Vote.aspx>.

Oct 24 (Tue) - Compton's Table Chat and Chill Social Hour for Youth (Compton's Table, 3104 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 5 PM - 7 PM. Register for location with info@comptonstable.org. For ages 13-18. FREE!

Oct 24 (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.

Oct 25 (Wed) - NW PA Pride Alliance LGBTQIA and Allies Happy Hour (Cussewago Creek Distillery, 42243 Water St, Meadville, PA 16335)

Oct 26 (Thu) - Intersex Awareness Day Intersex Awareness Day on October 26 marks the first public demonstration by intersex people in North America. Morgan Holmes and Max Beck of Intersex Society of North America (ISNA) were joined by allies from Transsexual Menace and other organizations. It took place on October 26, 1996 in Boston, Massachusetts outside a conference of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Browse to <https://intersexday.org/en/intersex-awareness-day/>.

Oct 26 (Thu) - Aging with Pride Social Hour (Like My Thai?, 827 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM - 8 PM.

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The "Red-Zone"

September marks back to school for college students. The beginning of the school year is called the "Red-Zone", referring to the increased number of sexual assaults that occur during this period. Studies have shown that more sexual assaults and rapes occur during September and October at universities than the next four months combined.

"College is meant to be an enriching experience which builds your confidence, but it can be scary too! Treat yourself with kindness and respect, and ensure that you treat others the same. And make sure to always believe, listen to, and support survivors if they disclose to you!"

"What is the Red Zone?" PAVE, 30 Oct. 2020, www.shatteringthesilence.org/blog/what-is-the-red-zone.

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Aging with Pride, an organization of senior LGBT+ members and allies, is hosting a social. This organization develops and sponsors social/recreational and educational events to promote healthy leisure activities, community and an active, enjoyable lifestyle. They are sponsoring this social hour (OK, social two hours) to interact with members of the community and to get a sense of the types of activities that are of interest to senior LGBT+ individuals. For more information about Aging with Pride, visit their website at AgingWithPrideErie.org, or email Dale Allgeier at DaleAllgeier@outlook.com. Phone: (814) 455-4009. Venue Phone: (814) 504-6281

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

Oct 26 (Thu) - Teen Trans support group meets (G.A. Family Services, 210 Gustavus Ave, Jamestown, NY 14701) 5 PM.

Oct 27 (Fri) - Aging with Pride Movie Night - Rocky Horror (Erie Movie House, 3424 W Lake Rd, Erie PA 16505) 7-10 PM. Free Admission. Costumes Optional – BYOB.

Oct 27 (Fri) - M & J's Lounge Annual Halloween Party (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA 16001) 9 PM. Prizes and a Hell of a spooky night. Doors open at 9:00 pm. Phone: (724) 602-8447. Email: JoshuaSean2009@AOL.COM. Browse to <http://www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge>.

Oct 28 (Sat) - TransFamily of NWPA (Erie) Transgender Support Group meets (Compton's Table, 3104 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 2 PM - 5 PM. Meetings are hosted at Compton's Table, 3401 State St, Erie PA. All current CDC, state, and local guidelines for meeting indoors will be observed. Meetings are always confidential and completely free.

Oct 29 (Sun) - 15th Annual Diversity Worship Service (Community United Church, 1011 W 38th St, Erie, PA 16508-2540) 11 AM. Please join us as we celebrate our 15th Annual Diversity Service, recognizing our national Open and Affirming status as a Christian congregation. Here, LGBTQ people are warmly welcome!

Oct 29 (Sun) - Full Spectrum Halloween Drag Story Time (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 12 PM - 2 PM. Join us for a new series of Drag Story-Time events. Starting with a Halloween Themed one. Event is free and open to the public as well as family friendly! Host-

ed by Starrlet O'Hara and other local Drag Performers. Costumes are encouraged but not required/ Free candy and refreshments. Security will be onsite at all times

Oct 29 (Sun) - Fundraising event for Pip-Skey's Foundation for Homeless Animals (Sneakers, 100 W Harrison St, Jamestown, NY 14701) 2 PM - 6 PM. Music, raffles, and a chance to win a signed Josh Allen jersey!

Oct 31 (Tue) - Last Day to Request a Mail-In Ballot for Pennsylvania General Election Pennsylvania General Election is Tuesday, November 7 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>.

Nov 1 (Wed) - Erie's Queer Happy Hour (Oasis Pub, 3122 W Lake Rd, Erie, PA 16505) 6 PM - 9 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+ can have alcoholic beverages.

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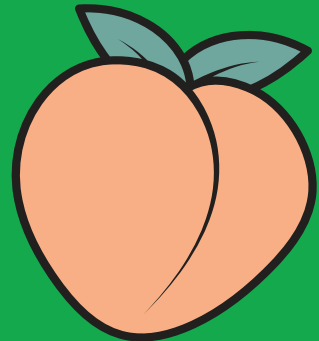


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