



ERIE GAY NEWS

Serving the Regional LGBTQIA+ Community Since 1992



Yellow Brick Roads first “I Celebrate With Pride” event at Bullfrog bar. Photo by Michael Mahler.

Yellow Brick Roads Holds I Celebrate With Pride Event

by Wayne Howard

The Yellow Brick Roads LGBTQ+ Ally Organization, aka “YBR,” held its inaugural “I Celebrate with Pride” event at the Bullfrog Bar, 3864 Peach St, Erie, PA, on November 17, 2023. The event gave individuals from the LGBTQ+ community and their supporters/allies the opportunity to mix and mingle. It was an evening filled with good food, drinks, dancing, and great people. We are already working on plans to organize other adult events across the city, and my son, Jalon Howard, is planning a youth event soon.

If you would like to be notified of future “I Celebrate with Pride” events or if you are interested in helping us plan future events, please go to our website at www.YellowBrickRoads.info and visit our “Join the Fight” webpage and enter your information on the volunteer form on the page. If you want to attend our next event, please fill out the “Join the Mailing List Form” at the bottom of the page. We are excited to meet you. Please get in touch with Wayne Howard for additional information at 814-217-7599.

Journey: Healing Together to Host Raise the Roof on December 21

On Thursday, December 21, from 5:30 – 8 PM, Journey: Healing Together will host Raise the Roof Winter Solstice Celebration at 201 W 11th St, Erie, PA. Raise the Roof is an opportunity for the community to support the safe haven Journey: Healing Together has come to be for many in our community. Healing begins once safety and basic needs are established. Until then, people are focused on finding a safe place for themselves and their family. As we gather to honor those who have sought shelter under Journey: Healing Together’s roof, we recognize the need for this shelter (both figurative and literal) to be restored. This year, we will observe the Winter Solstice through a celebration of community building as we Raise the Roof of healing over our families and community. The community is invited to share restoration messages through works of art, poetry, spoken word, and song, highlighting their own journey of hope. This collective creative energy will also assist Journey: Healing Together complete its campaign to raise a total of \$50,000 to replace our roof. With this much-needed physical shelter covered, Journey: Healing Together can focus on the mission to Unite, Restore, Discover, and Transform.

Erie County HIV Task Force Hosts World AIDS Day Program Dec 1

from Gary Snyder, Erie County Department of Health

On Friday, December 1, 2023, the Erie County HIV Task Force [ECHTF] will present this year’s World AIDS Day program at the H.O. Hirt Auditorium inside the Blasco Library at 160 East Front Street, Erie, PA 16507. Doors will open at 5:30 pm, and the program begins at 6 pm. This year’s focus is on celebrating the lives improved by ‘ART’ in the Erie region. Collaborating together, the “I am a Work of ART” project is bringing together local providers and clients to show the public about treatment and successes in living with HIV. The word ART this year has a dual meaning. As a medical term, ART is an

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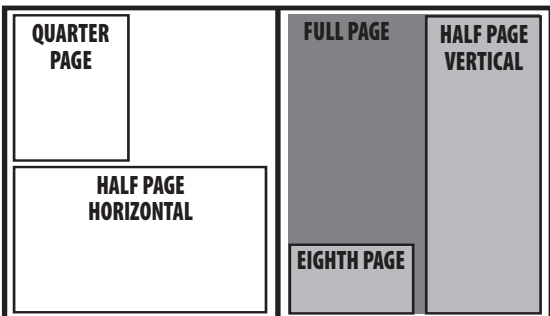
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The *Erie Gay News* is published monthly as a source of news, events, information, and support for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender people (GLBTs), their families, friends, and supporters in the Erie PA area.

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.

If you are restarting events or are moving to hosting events/meetings virtually, or want to change your copies received for distribution, please email info@eriegaynews.com

EGN Rates & Data



AD SIZE	PRICE/ISSUE	DIMENSIONS
EIGHTH	\$50 - \$45 Prepaid	1 5/8" high X 2 7/8" wide
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Camera ready art or manuscript and/or photos, illustrations and logos must be received by the 15th of the month. Photos and Illustrations should be PDF or TIFF and HIRES. All hardcopy ads submitted will be reproduced as close as possible.

THANKS

From Your Friends at Erie Gay News

To Lake Erie Counseling Associates for hosting! Andrea Shaffer, Anna Medina, Audrey, Bob Azul, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Joyce, Kim Conti, Mauve, Nathan Murarik, Oli Tilton, Rex Apps, Robin Marihugh, and Steve Siwiecki for folding; Brett Staskiewicz, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Kim Conti, Nathan Murarik, 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.

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 collaborating 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.

The program will include a memorial segment for those no longer with us due to HIV / AIDS. If you would like a loved one to be recognized, you can submit their name via email to Gary Snyder, the chair of the Erie County HIV Task Force, at gsnyder@eriecountypa.gov. Panels from the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be loaned for display at the event as part of a small portion of the world's largest mobile visual project, which recognized over 100,000 lives ended prematurely by HIV. Red ribbons for awareness will be provided to wear in conjunction with red ribbons with names written upon them, which will be displayed on the library lobby windows for the month

of December.

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. 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, and free condoms locally or mailed to your home. You may also call 814-315-3375 for info on HIV and the task force. Interested in testing for HIV or STIs? Sexual Health Clinic appointments available on Tuesdays 9am-11am and Wednesdays 1pm-3pm at the Erie County Department of Health. For more information call, 814-451-6700.

Erie Votes

by *Emily Manino*

As the diverse voices of Erie County came together at the ballot box, the anticipation surrounding the election results grew. Now, let's delve into

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the outcomes that will shape the future of local governance, reflecting the collective decisions made by the community in this pivotal electoral moment.

Erie City Council's 4-year term featured a Democratic sweep, with Kathleen Kathy Schaaf leading at 31.5%, followed by Ed Brzezinski at 28.7%, and Tyler Titus at 26.4%. Democrat Pete Sala secured victory in the race for Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, District 6, commanding 57.7% of the votes and defeating Republican Eric Mikovch, who garnered 42.3%. The competition was fierce for Erie County Controller, but incumbent Democrat Kyle Foust prevailed with 58.4% of the votes, while Republican Wade Root secured 41.6% of the support.

Erie County Council elections saw incumbent Democrat Terry M. Scutella reclaiming District 1 with 59.3% of the votes, overcoming Republican Cody Foust's 40.7%. In District 3, Democrat Rock Copeland triumphed with 63.3%, surpassing Republican Kim Hunter at 36.7%. District 5 witnessed a tight race, with Democrat Chris Drexel securing 53.0% of the votes, narrowly defeating incumbent Republican Brian Shank, who received 47.0%. In District 7, Re-

publican Ellen Schauerman emerged with 50.2% of the vote, overcoming Democrat incumbent Lorraine Dolan (39.0%) and Independent candidate Rita F. Bishop (10.8%).



Members of Aging With Pride at Like My Thai for their monthly dinner outing on October 26, 2023. Photo by Michael Mahler.

If HIV is on your mind, hope is in your hands.

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WORLD AIDS DAY

I AM A QUILT I AM A QUILT
I AM A QUILT I AM A QUILT
WORK OF ART



**DEC 1
2023**

DOORS OPEN: 5:30pm, PROGRAM STARTS: 6:00pm
PROGRAM LOCATION: H.O. Hirt Auditorium, Blasco Library,
160 East Front Street, Erie PA 16507

Program event includes:

AIDS Memorial Quilt panels on display
Guest Speakers, as well as...

HIV Peer Survivor Story by PA Thrive Partnership
Memorial Names Recognition: Remembrance of those
that have lost their lives due to HIV
"I am a More Than a Quilt" Art Project Display during
post-program reception with refreshments

For details & to submit a loved ones name, send an email to admin@echiv.org.

Get tested for HIV and STIs at the Erie County Department of Health by calling 814-451-6700.

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City of Erie Earns 100 on Human Rights Campaign's 2023 Municipal Equality Index

Erie, PA - November 16, 2023 – Demonstrating a continual commitment to equality, diversity, equity, and inclusion, the City of Erie has earned a score of 100 on the Human Rights Campaign's 2023 Municipal Equality Index (MEI) for the second year in a row. The MEI is a nationwide evaluation of 506 cities that examines how inclusive municipal laws, policies, and services are of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) people who live

and work there.

Mayor Joe Schember said, “Our city’s leaders have worked hard to create an environment where every LGBTQ+ resident, employee, and visitor can thrive. I would especially like to thank our LGBTQ+ Advisory Council members who have worked extremely hard to draft the policies and practices that helped us achieve this score as we all strive to make Erie an inclusive community.”

Cities are rated based on non-discrimination laws, the municipality as an employer, municipal services, law enforcement, and leadership on LGBTQ+ equality.

Since Mayor Schember took office in 2018, the City of Erie has concentrated on implementing non-discrimination policies to eliminate prejudice and make Erie a welcoming and supportive community for all LGBTQ+ people.

To learn more about the City of Erie LGBTQ+ Advisory Council and to see all of the City’s MEI Scorecards, please visit LGBTQ+ Council – Erie, PA.

More information about this year’s Municipal Equality Index scorecard is available at www.hrc.org/MEI.



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Community Spotlight #12: Ashtabula Pride, Inc.

Ashtabula Pride Inc. was founded in July 2023 by Michael S. Riffe (Mona Lotz drag performer) of Ashtabula, OH, and Rebekah Beeman of Conneaut, OH. Before becoming a nonprofit corporation of its own, Ashtabula Pride was formerly known as Pride Ashtabula County, which was Ashtabula County's pride festival under the LGBTQ+ Coalition of Ashtabula County, Inc. Riffe, along with Bill Daywalt, AJ Petro, and John Werner brought the county's first festival in 2021 which welcomed over 3,000 attendees to the festival. Due to the amount of work and planning involved, the Coalition's board decided it would be best to relinquish the festival's ownership and turn it over to Riffe and Beeman to create a new and self-sustainable organization. The two formed a board of directors and an advisory board and began planning the first annual Drag in the New Year, which will be held Dec 31, 2023, at the Conneaut Human Resource Center in Conneaut, OH. The event will include dinner provided by Wade's Pastabilities, raffles, a cash bar, a DJ with Dancing, and a drag show hosted by Mona Lotz. The festival will be held on the 3rd Saturday in June from 11 am-9 pm on Bridge Street in the historic Ashtabula Harbor with vendors, food, and entertainment. To get tickets for New Year's Eve or to become a part of the festival, see the organization's website www.ashtabulapride.org.

Facebook: Ashtabula Pride, Inc.





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On November 18, *Aging With Pride* had their book club meeting about John Rechy's *City of Night* at *Werner Books and Coffee*. Book club is on the third Saturday of each month at 1 PM.

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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 age 18 and older. Membership is free. Members are provided with a safe and relaxing environment to connect and socialize with others with shared life experiences.



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	Arts & Crafts classes
Free access to WIFI network	Laundry facilities
Computer lab	Shower facilities
Bowling field trips	Movie field trips
Group AA and N/A meetings	Bingo
Pool tournaments	Card tournaments

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.

Sneakers Bar Raises Over \$6,000 for Pip-Skey's Foundation for Homeless Animals

On Sunday, October 21st, Sneakers Bar in Jamestown, NY, held the first fundraising event for Pip-Skey's Foundation for Homeless Animals Inc. The organization's mission is to assist small animal rescues in Chautauqua County with their needs for funding and supplies.

Mary Green, Sneakers proprietor since 1986, was thrilled to host the event for Pip-Skeys. "Our community has been rescuing, rehabbing, and re-homing animals in Jamestown for decades. Having this event in a queer space seemed like the perfect opportunity for both the bar and Pip-skeys."

The event featured basket raffles, 50/50s, Star Sirch Productions entertainment, The Taco Hut Food Truck, door prizes, and a signed Josh Allen Jersey up for grabs. In total, the event brought in over \$6,000. Pip-skey's plans on putting that money directly back into the community through donations to local animal rescues in the coming days.

To learn more about Pipskey's, visit them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Pip-skeysFoundation>

For information on upcoming events at Sneakers Bar, check the events calendar of EGN, or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/sneakersjamestown>



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 Erie County Public Library card, because Sexual Wellness PA, LLC would like to recommend one of their favorite trans novels!

Sorrowland, by Rivers Solomon. In Sorrowland, we're immersed in the experiences of Vern, a pregnant woman who flees an abusive marriage and a religious cult, hunted as she flees. As she fights for her freedom, her body begins to undergo strange, unexplainable changes and Vern struggles to protect her new family while metamorphosing into something she doesn't understand. The secrets of the religious compound she fled are slowly revealed, and the violent American that allowed such a compound to exist is exposed. Again, if you love this book, Rivers Solomon has several other novels that are equally as amazing!

Want more book recommendations? Visit sexualwellnesspa.com/book-recommendations to see more of the books Sexual Wellness PA has read and loved that can help move us closer to sexual safety, wellness, and pleasure! Want to discuss what you're reading? Check out Sexual Wellness PA's Intimacy Building Book Club and Queer Happily Ever After Book Club at sexualwellnesspa.com/bookclubs!

Packed and Lively Halloween Events from the Zone Dance Club

The Zone Dance enjoyed a lively Halloween celebration between October 27th, October 28th, and Halloween. The three-night celebration started on a Friday with a Diva's Performance hosted by Misty Michaels Kall, featuring the divas of Erie. Next came Saturday evening, featuring a dress to impress with a costume party contest. Prizes included \$50, \$75, and \$100 to the three best customers registered. Each night saw a significant spike in revenue, with bustling crowds ready to take on the night. Lastly came the second costume content held on Halloween night, featuring a viewing of the new season of The Boulet Brothers Dragula hosted by Miss Erie herself, Shea D'Heaux.

PLEASE RECYCLE US!



Compton's Table Hosts Book Fair with Werner Books

On October 19-21, Compton's Table held a book fair at their studio in collaboration with local bookshop Werner Books. The owners and staff at Werner Books curated a thoughtful selection of titles centering queer voices and experiences, including many books that have been challenged or banned from schools and public libraries. The event also included a special family-friendly story hour featuring local drag artist Alysia Wonderland.

Community members turned out in strong numbers over the three-day event, resulting in a successful sale, the proceeds from which will go toward establishing Compton's Table's own queer-centered lending library. "We know from this past Pride month that access to books by and for queer folks is not guaranteed in schools and libraries," said Compton's Table board secretary Christina Salvia. "This lending library will be our way of ensuring that members of our community have a chance to feel represented in the books they read."

Both Compton's Table and Werner Books

expressed gratitude for the generous community response, marking their first collaboration as a resounding celebration of diversity and free expression. Compton's Table looks to open its lending library in the coming months.



Compton's Table members and Werner Books staff preparing for book fair October 19.

Join Us
FOR A VIRTUAL LISTENING SESSION
 (Using a computer or smart phone)
WEDNESDAY
JAN 24TH @ 5PM
 The session will last about 1 hour.



This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

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 Do you identify as LGBTQ+, a person of color,
 and/or a loved one of someone who uses drugs?
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM you!

Recovery is Community NWP wants to hear your opinions on how drugs & alcohol care can be improved in your community. Participate in this listening session to share your experiences, thoughts, and ideas about using drugs/alcohol, seeking treatment, and recovery.

TO REGISTER:
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Or contact Zack Cathcart
 Phone: 814-835-2965
 Email: cathcartz@upmc.edu



LGBTQIA+ Recovery Support Group Meetings at Safe Harbor

LGBTQIA+ Recovery Support Group is now meeting on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month from 5 to 6 PM at UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Safe Harbor, 1330 W. 26th St. Erie, PA 16508. Their mission is to provide a supportive and empowering space for LGBTQIA+ individuals who are dealing with substance use disorders. They strive to create an inclusive, strengths-based community where participants can find understanding, acceptance, and inspiration to overcome any challenges they may be facing. Through support, education, and resources, they aim to foster personal growth, resilience, and long-term recovery. For more information about the LGBTQIA+ Recovery Support Group, please call 814-451-2246. This project is funded, in part, by the Erie County Opioid Settlement Funds.



Halloween Drag Show at Penn State Behrend

by Rex Apps

Penn State Behrend GASE & LEB hosted the Halloween Drag Show and Costume Contest on Friday, October 27. Debbie Does Drag hosted the festivities, and students were treated to performances by Vivian Vendetta-Sinclair, Monica Lexin, Ryder Slowly, Sassy Sascha, and PSB alum Shea D' Heaux.



Enjoying Halloween Drag Show at Behrend on October 27. More photos by Andrea Shaffer and GASE members are in the online version of this article.

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Members of Aging With Pride at Rocky Horror Picture Show screening at Erie Movie House on October 27, 2023. Photo by Michael Mahler.

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.

Nov 22 (Wed) - Zone Boozegiving (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM - 2 PM. Party with your chosen family. Open Thanksgiving Eve and Thanksgiving 8 PM - 2 AM. No cover. 21 & over with state-issued ID.

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

Nov 23 (Thu) - Full Spectrum Thanksgiving Celebration (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 4 PM. We are happy to announce we are hosting a new annual event! Introducing Full Spectrum Thanksgiving Celebration on Thursday, November 23rd, 2023! (Thanksgiving Day) Enjoy a free Thanksgiving meal, family-friendly, and everyone is welcome! To sponsor this event, contact us at 330.718.1859. or at info@fullspectrumcommunityoutreach.org

Nov 24 (Fri) - Zone Divas Noir (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 10:30 PM. Hosted by Misty Michaels Kall. Performances by the Divas of the Zone. Doors open 8 PM. 21 & over with state-issued ID. \$5 cover

Nov 25 (Sat) - TransFamily of NWPA (Erie) Annual TransGiving (Compton's Table, 3104 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 2 PM - 5 PM. Join us for our annual "TransGiving Feast" potluck meal to show thanks for

our chosen family! Transfamily of NWPA will provide the turkey, stuffing, and drinks. Bring a dish to share, and we hope to see you there!

Nov 25 (Sat) - Boxers Night (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA 16001) Wear your sexiest boxer

Nov 30 (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/>.

Nov 30 (Thu) - Aging with Pride Social (Valerio's, 724 Powell Ave, Erie PA) 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.

Dec 1 (Fri) - World AIDS Day World AIDS Day is held on the 1st December each year and is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV and to commemorate people who have died. World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day, held for the first time in 1988. Browse to <http://www.worldaidsday.org/>.

Dec 1 (Fri) - Full Spectrum World AIDS Day (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 12 PM - 11 PM. Join us for a day of HIV/AIDS related film screenings, speakers and a candlelight vigil. 12:00 pm - 11:00 pm - Speakers and Movie Screenings. 8:00 pm - Candlelight Vigil. *Refreshments available all day!*

Dec 1 (Fri) - 2023 World AIDS Day Program (Blasco Memorial Erie County Public Library, 160 East Front Street, Erie, PA 16507) 5:30 PM. Doors open at 5:30 PM, the program starts at 6 PM. Program events include AIDS Memorial Quilt panels on display, guest speakers as well as HIV Peer Survivor Story by PA Thrive Partnership, Memorial Names Recognition: Remembrance of those that have lost their lives due to HIV, "I am More Than a Quilt" Art project display during post-program reception with refreshments. For details & to submit a loved one's name, send an email to admin@echiv.org

Dec 1 (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/>.

Dec 1 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) meets (Room 33 Speakeasy & Cafe, 1033 State St Erie PA) 6 PM - 8 PM. All Are Welcome!

Dec 1 (Fri) - Star Sirch Karaoke (Sneakers, 100 W Harrison St, Jamestown, NY 14701) 9 PM - 1 AM.

Dec 2 (Sat) - A Very Merry Holiday Jubilee and Family Adoption (The Hall, 80 N 4th St, Allegany, NY 14706) 4 PM - 8 PM. Come and join us for a Very Merry Holiday Jubilee and Family Adoption get together. This year, we are celebrating at The Hall in Allegany, NY at 4:00pm. Please come dressed in your Holiday best. This event is by RSVP only, walk-ins will not be permitted. Please RSVP no later than November 25th by texting 7163788539 with your full name and attendance count. Thank you

Dec 3 (Sun) - Aging With Pride planning meeting (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 1 PM.

Dec 3 (Sun) - Full Spectrum LGBTQIA+ Youth Peer Support & Social Group meets (Full Spectrum 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.

Dec 5 (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 at www.comptonstable.org. For ages 13-18. FREE!

Dec 5 (Tue) - LGBTQIA+ Recovery Support Group (UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Safe Harbor, 1330 W 26th St, Erie, PA) 5 PM - 6 PM. Our mission is to provide a supportive and empowering space for LGBTQIA+ individuals who are dealing with substance use disorders. We strive to create an inclusive, strengths-based community where participants can find understanding, acceptance, and inspiration to overcome any challenges they may be facing. Through support, education, and resources, we aim to foster personal growth, resilience, and long-term recovery. For more information about the LGBTQIA+ Recovery Support Group, please call 814-451-2246.

Dec 6 (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.

Dec 6 (Wed) - Aging with Pride Game Night (Werner Books & Coffee, 3608 Liberty St, Erie, PA 16508) 6 PM. Bring games and/or cards with you or just come to play what others bring.

Dec 6 (Wed) - LGBTQ+ Drum Circle (St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 410 North Main Street, Jamestown, NY 14701) 7 PM - 8:30 PM. Come explore creative drumming, enjoy music in a playful atmosphere, and make connections with other LGBTQ+ members of the community! This group will foster joy and connection to yourself and with others in a safe, supportive environment. Facilitator Karen Hewes Suber (she/her) is a Board Certified Music Therapist (MT-BC) with a passion for community music making and the "Aha!" moments it can bring. Sessions run approx. 1.5 hours. Monthly meetings on the first Wednesday @ 7 pm at St. Luke's in the Undercroft on 4th St. Hosted in cooperation with St. Luke's and MHA. Donations are welcome, and instruments are provided. Bringing your own instrument(s) is also welcomed!

Dec 7 (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>.

Dec 9 (Sat) - TransFamily of NWPA (Meadville) Transgender Support Group meets (Empowerment with Grace, 941 Federal Ct Ste 104, Meadville, PA 16335) 2 PM.

Dec 9 (Sat) - Veronyca's Showgirls Presents Holiday Extravaganza (Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge No. 119, 201 West State Street, Olean, NY 14760) 9 PM. Doors open at 8 PM, showtime is 9 PM. Performers include Willow, Dakota, Will, Velvet, Diva, and Khloe. Special guests Asher, Wayne. Melody Magic DJ, Colors Cafe, 50/50. Entry \$7.00. COLORS members \$5.00. 21+.

Dec 10 (Sun) - Human Rights Day Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December – the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a milestone document that proclaimed the inalienable rights which everyone is inherently entitled to as a human being -- regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Browse to <http://www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday/>.

Dec 11 (Mon) - Deadline for Erie Gay News January 2024 print edition (#338) (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, December 19.
Dec 12 (Tues) - Bears Do Dinner #110 (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.

Dec 12 (Tue) - Intimacy Building Book Club: The Ethical Slut by Janet W. Hardy and Dossie Easton (Erie County Public Library Iroquois Branch, 4212 Iroquois Ave, Erie, PA 16511) 6 PM - 7:30 PM. Want to learn skills to build your intimate relationships? Want to better understand yourself and your body? Want a safe place to discuss your questions, concerns, and experiences in a group of like-minded peers led by a sex therapist*? You're in the right place! Read and discuss books hand-picked by Sexual Wellness PA in a safe, nonjudgmental environment. Book Club meetings are free and open first come, first serve to the first 8-10 pre-registered, interested participants. Come prepared to listen, share, discuss, and ask questions!

Dec 12 (Tue) - PFLAG of Chautauqua meeting (Secret Undisclosed Location, 100 E 2nd St 2nd Floor, Jamestown, NY 14701) 6:30 PM. PFLAG of Chautauqua, a support group for allies, loved ones and the entire Queer community. Please visit our Facebook group, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/594395124695283>, or email PFLAGCHQ@GMAIL.COM or call (814) 313-4495 for details.

Dec 12 (Tue) - Youngstown PFLAG meets (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH 44503) 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM.

Dec 13 (Wed) - Greater Erie Alliance for Equality (GEAE) End of Year Celebration (Room 33 Speak-easy & Cafe, 1033 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM - 9 PM. Please join GEAE to help celebrate you and our community and enjoy complimentary heavy hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, and entertainment by the Stephen Trohoske Trio! Please RSVP today at GEAEINFO@GMAIL.COM! \$5 Donation at the do

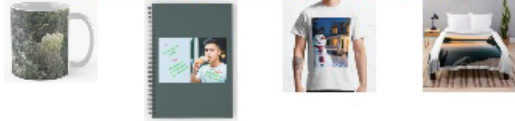
Dec 14 (Thu) - Aging with Pride Holiday Cocktail Party (340 Nevada Drv, Erie, PA 16505) 6 PM. Email bdessy@gmail.com for more information. Please RSVP by December 7 to confirm your attendance!

Dec 15 (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

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Statistics show that members of the LGBTQ+ community are more likely to become victims of sexual assault and violence.

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“Sexual Assault and the LGBTQ Community.” Human Rights Campaign, www.hrc.org/resources/sexual-assault-and-the-lgbt-community. Accessed 9 Oct. 2023.

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Dec 16 (Sat) - Journey: Healing Together - LGBTQ+ Crafternoon (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/>.

Dec 16 (Sat) - Compton's Table Presents Cookies & Queen (Compton's Table, 3104 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 12 PM - 2 PM. Join us as Miss Erie 2023, Shea D. transforms into Mrs. Claus for crafts, cookies, and cocoa. (Her elves even have some special gifts for those who register by 12/09). We are asking for a suggested donation of \$10 (Paypal, Venmo, Cash, or Check)

Dec 16 (Sat) - Aging with Pride Book Club - Naked Lunch by William S Burroughs (Werner Books & Coffee 3608 Liberty St, Erie, PA 16508) 1 PM . Werner Books offers a 20% discount on books purchased for the book club.

Dec 17 (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/>.

Dec 17 (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+.

Dec 17 (Sun) - Aging With Pride planning meeting (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 1 PM.

Dec 19 (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.

Dec 19 (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 at www.comptonstable.org. For ages 13-18. FREE!

Dec 19 (Tue) - LGBTQIA+ Recovery Support Group (UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Safe Harbor, 1330 W 26th St, Erie, PA) 5 PM - 6 PM. For more information about the LGBTQIA+ Recovery Support Group, please call 814-451-2246.

Dec 19 (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.

Dec 21 (Thu) - Journey: Healing Together presents Raise The Roof - Winter Solstice Celebration (Journey: Healing Together, 201 W. 11th Street, Erie, PA 16501) 5:30 PM - 8 PM. You're invited to celebrate the beginning of winter with our fellow community members. There will be an art show, food, art projects, intention setting ceremony and a cozy fire! Free to the public - donations are welcomed! <https://journeyht.org/donate/>

Dec 21 (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

Dec 21 (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.

Dec 21 (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>.

Dec 22 (Fri) - DIVAS: Naughty and Nice (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 10:30 PM. Doors open at 8 PM, showtime at 10:30 PM. 21+ with valid state-issued ID.

Dec 23 (Sat) - It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like ALASKA ...A Christmas Show (Erie Playhouse, 13 West 10th Street, Erie, PA 16501) Justin Andrew Honard is an American drag queen and recording artist from Erie, PA, performing under the stage name Alaska 5000. She is best known as the runner-up on the fifth season of RuPaul's Drag Race and the winner of the second season of RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars

Dec 23 (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.

Dec 25 (Mon) - The Color Purple movie musical premieres in theatres This musical adaptation of Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel (and the popular 1985 Steven Spielberg film) spotlights Celie, a down-trodden young woman whose personal awakening over the course of 40 years forms the arc of this epic story.

Dec 27 (Wed) - LGBTQ+ and Allies Happy Hour - All welcome (Cussewago Creek Distillery, 993 Water St., Meadville, PA 16335) 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM.

Dec 28 (Thu) - Aging with Pride Social Hour (Royal Chopstix Asian Cuisine, 3444 West Lake Rd, Erie PA) 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. 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

Dec 28 (Thu) - Teen Trans support group meets (G.A. Family Services, 210 Gustavus Ave, Jamestown, NY

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14701) 5 PM.

Dec 31 (Sun) - Ashtabula Pride, Inc. - Drag In The New Year (Conneaut Human Resources Center, 327 Mill St, Conneaut, OH 44020) 6 PM - 1 AM. A fun night of Dinner, Dancing, & Drag! Hosted by Mona Lotz and Gingerella, it's a night you don't want to miss. Raffle baskets, 50/50, and the BIG UNVEILING of our HUGE RAFFLE! Only 130 tickets are available. Join us for the biggest fundraising event of the year!

Dec 31 (Sun) - M & J's New Year's Eve Party (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA 16001) Tickets are \$20.00. Food and all the party supplies and champagne included. Pre-sale tickets are \$20.00 at the door will be \$25.00. Doors open at 8:00 pm for this event. We have a limited numbered amount of tickets. Drag Show to end the year of 2023.

Dec 31 (Sun) - New Year's Eve (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. Celebrate the end of 2023 and help us ring in 2024! Complementary buffet AND champagne toast at midnight. \$10 cover. 21+ with valid state-issued id.

Next issue deadline (Dec 11) and release date (Dec 19) are earlier than normal due to the holidays!



Showing Pride In Meadville

Members of NW PA Pride Alliance recently participated Saturday, October 28 in the 56th Annual Meadville Halloween Parade.



Halloqueen at PennWest Edinboro

On Friday, October 27th, Identity, PennWest Edinboro's GSA, hosted their annual Halloween party, Halloqueen. They celebrated the spooky season with food, music, and games. Their costume contest was won by two people, both winning \$15 gift cards and musical chairs, where the prize was also awarded. The event lasted from 6 to 10 pm, with snacks and music.

We are looking forward to next year's Halloqueen event!



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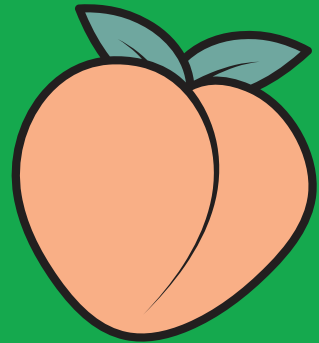
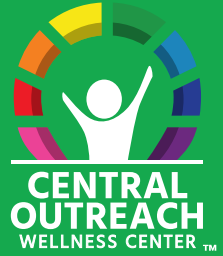


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