



# ERIE GAY NEWS

Serving the Regional LGBTQIA+ Community Since 1992



*Pictured: LGBT Funds Board Members Bill Gonda, Chuck Scalise (Chair), and Mandy Fauble (Grants Chair), present the annual grant by the LGBT Funds of the Erie Community Foundation to this year's recipient, Compton's table, represented by Dr. Tyler Titus, Founder and Chair of the organization, and board members.*

## Erie's Queer Community partnering for annual winter collection

Local Queer community organizations will once again be working to make this winter a little warmer for those served by Community Shelter Services. Donations can be dropped off at Journey to a Trauma Informed Life, 201 W 11th St., from 10 am - 2 pm on Saturday, February 10. You can find a complete list of participating organizations and items the shelter is most in need on [nwpa.pride.org](http://nwpa.pride.org). This info will be posted on the NWPAPride Alliance Facebook and Instagram pages.

## Annual Grant Awarded to Compton's Table

After a record number of applications and on the recommendation of its Grants Committee, the LGBT Funds Advisory Board selected Compton's Table as this year's recipient of the Funds' annual grant.

The funds will support Compton's Table's True North program, a pilot program to provide queer youth with an eight-week independent living program tailored to their unique needs. The curriculum has been designed to provide support, a sense of community, and the resources necessary for participating youth to make a successful transition to independent adulthood. Thanks to the support of the LGBT Funds, True North will be free for participants.

This pilot program is currently accepting participants between the ages of 16 and 21. Those interested should use the link at <https://comptonstable.org/truenorth>

## NWPA Pride Alliance 2024 Events

Officially incorporated in 2012, NWPAPride Alliance is the driving force behind Pride Events in Erie and Crawford Counties, uniting and celebrating the Queer Community since 1992. Our mission is to enhance visibility, foster unity, and promote acceptance through diverse events and programs to create an inclusive space for all in Northwestern Pennsylvania.

For many years, Perry Square has served as the home of Erie PrideFest. After much consideration, NWPAPride Alliance has decided a new venue would better serve the growing safety needs of the largest one-day festival in the city.

On Saturday, June 29, NWPAPride Alliance would like to welcome you for the next evolution in Erie Pride at the Liberty Park & The Highmark Amphitheater for Pride on the Bay 2024!

With the venue change, NWPAPride Alliance hopes to add many new and exciting enhancements to our celebration. More information, including event times, vendor registration, and volunteer opportunities, will be coming shortly, so be sure to like and follow NWPAPride Alliance on Instagram and Facebook to stay in the know.

Since there will be a change in venue for Pride on the Bay 2024, the Pride Parade, which usually preceded Erie's Pride Fest, will be moved to Sunday, June 30. Individuals who are participating with a

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**Editor/Layout: Mike Mahler**

**Deadline for next issue: Mon, Feb 13**  
**Folding and distribution is Tue, Feb 21 at Lake Erie Counseling, 1932 W 8th.**

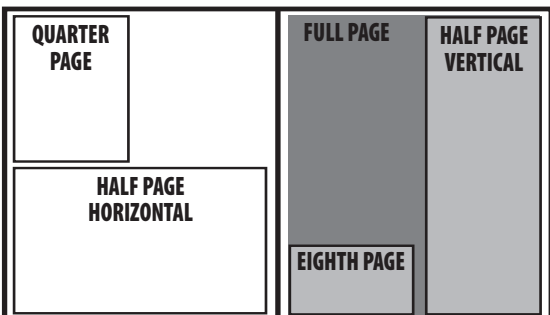
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The *Erie Gay News* is published monthly as a source of news, events, information, and support for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender people (GLBTs), their families, friends, and supporters in the Erie PA area.

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](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com)**

## EGN Rates & Data



AD SIZE	PRICE/ISSUE	DIMENSIONS
EIGHTH	\$50 - \$45 Prepaid	1 5/8" 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.

## THANKS

From Your Friends at Erie Gay News

To Lake Erie Counseling Associates for hosting! Andrea Shaffer, Audrey, David, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Kem, Kim Conti, Kolton Mehlalko, Rex Apps, and Steve Siwiecki for folding; Brett Staskiewicz, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Kem, Kim Conti, Kolton Mehlalko, 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](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com).

registered unit will march down State Street from Eleventh Street to Perry Square. Those not part of a registered unit or unable to walk the entire route are asked to cheer on those participating by lining State Street for the parade. Registration will open in early spring.

On Saturday, July 27, NWPA Pride Alliance will return to Meadville for the third annual Meadville Pride and Street Fair. Opening ceremonies will take place at Diamond Park with speakers and drag performances. Following a march around the diamond, participants can enjoy the Street Fair's local crafters and information tables.

Returning this year will also be the Pride Prom, held on Saturday, May 25, at the Ambassador Banquet and Conference Center. 2023 was this event's inaugural year, and NWPA Pride Alliance is happy to host its return this year. Tickets go on sale February 1 on [nwpa-pride.org](http://nwpa-pride.org).

August 10 will be the thirty-first annual Pride Picnic at the Rotary Pavilion on Presque Isle to round out the summer season. Gather with your friends and your chosen family for good food, info tables, and the ever-popular gift basket raffle.

More events will be announced later, including Pride Day at Waldameer and Pride Nights with both the Erie Seawolves and Erie Otters.

NWPA Pride Alliance strives to keep Pride and all our events accessible to those in our community. If you want to help, please consider donating at [nwpa-pride.org](http://nwpa-pride.org).



*Erie Gay News editorial board members Kim Conti, Andrea Shaffer, Gary Snyder, Rex Apps and Michael Mahler at Topsy Bean on December 23.*

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## Erie Sisters and Brothers 2024 Events

The Erie Sisters and Brothers of Erie, PA, an LGBTQIA+ friendly group mainly consisting of Transgender and CrossDressers, are looking forward to another very exciting year ahead.

The following events are already in the works and are developing daily.

Cabin Fever February 23rd - 25th. This loosely structured event, where participants can stay together at a local host hotel, is currently being developed and will consist of going out as a group to local restaurants and other local night events. (At each participant's cost and transportation). Please email [Info@lakeeriegala.com](mailto:Info@lakeeriegala.com) for more information.

The Annual Victorian Princess Dinner Cruise will coincide with the Erie Pride Festival in June 2024.

The 25th Anniversary of the Annual Lake Erie Gala November 13th - 17th. This structured event offers many safe and affirming options for our Gala attendees to express their authentic selves freely.

May your year 2024 be better than 2023!

## NWPA Pride Alliance welcomes new Board Members

Erie, PA, December 26, 2023 - NWPA Pride Alliance is happy to announce the addition of 1 new member to its Board of Directors, Anna Schmitt. NWPA Pride would also like to welcome Stephen Bagnoni and Mulnah Dovat to our Advisory Board.

NWPA Pride is already planning the traditional Pride Events for 2024. Please follow NWPA Pride on social media and [NWPApride.org](http://NWPApride.org) for more information and bios for all new board members.

## Looking for a good book?!

Are you 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!

Docile, by K. M. Szpara. In this sci-fi parable about love, sex, money, and abuses of power, we explore a world in which the wealthy and powerful can purchase their fellow humans to serve them as "Dociles," basically human zombies whose zombification is accomplished by taking of "Dociline," a

medication advertised to the masses as a harmless way to make what is basically modern-day slavery painless. When our hero, Elisha, accepts a term as a Docile in a desperate attempt to pay his family's debt, he challenges the entire system by refusing to take Dociline while he is under contract to serve the ultra-rich family behind Dociline and the entire corrupt system of power. Will he survive his servitude without losing his sanity? Can an impoverished man who came from nothing bring down the system that runs the entire culture? Find out!

Want more book recommendations? Visit [sexualwellnesspa.com/book-recommendations](http://sexualwellnesspa.com/book-recommendations) to see more books Sexual Wellness PA has read and loved that can help move us closer to sexual safety, wellness, and pleasure!

## 7th Annual Full Spectrum Winter Gala on February 24th

Full Spectrum Community Outreach is the Mahoning Valley's LGBTQIA+ Center. We are hosting our 7th Annual Winter GALA, formerly our Annual Holiday, on Saturday, February 24th, 2024 from 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm at DiVieste's Banquet Center in Warren, Ohio.

This event is a semi-formal event with members of the community and local businesses to come together and celebrate the work that Full Spectrum does for the Mahoning Valley each year. This is also a Fundraiser for the organization, but it is also a fun



*Members of Aging With Pride at Royal Chopstix on December 27, 2023. The group goes out the last Thursday at each month at a different location. Photo by Michael Mahler.*



night to enjoy a delicious meal, open bar, live entertainment from the well-known Denise Russell, raffles, and more. Tickets are on sale on our website for \$85 per person or \$575 per 8-person table.

We encourage businesses to sponsor the event as well.

Purchase your tickets at <https://fullspectrum-community.ticketspice.com/7th-annual-winter-gala>

## NWPA Pride Alliance Announces 2024 Officers

Erie, PA, January 11, 2023-- NWPA Pride Alliance is happy to announce the re-election of our 2023 Officers for the 2024 term. Alex Sphon will enter his 9th term as President and 11th term as an officer, Season Crannell will serve her 13th term as Vice-President, Michael Mahler will service his 9th term as Treasurer and 13th term as an officer, and Rex Apps will service his 4th term as Secretary.

NWPA Pride looks forward to another Pride Season after its most successful year yet. We look forward to Announcing all our 2024 events soon. We have some tremendous changes coming, but this year will be our largest. We look forward to Pride Night

with the Erie Otters and Erie Seawolves and a Second Annual Pride Prom this Spring. This summer, we will look forward to a completely reimagined Erie Pride Fest and Pride Parade along with Meadville Pride before wrapping up our summer with Erie's longest-running Pride event, and the Pride Picnic in August. We will announce dates and vendor registration soon. For more information, please check [NWPAPride.org](http://NWPAPride.org) and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

## Ashtabula Pride on Bridge Street, Ashtabula Harbor on June 15

On June 15, 2024, Ashtabula Pride, Inc. will bring you Pride Festival from 11 AM to 9 PM on Bridge Street in Ashtabula, OH. The event features food, artisans, and more. There will be shops and restaurants participating. Entertainment will be provided by Lotz Productions, with local bands and singers

## Aging With Pride Merchandise

Aging With Pride is now offering a variety of Aging With Pride items. Our newest selling partner, Steve's Stuff on Redbubble, offers a wide range of

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# MHA CONSUMER RECOVERY CENTER

The Mental Health Association of Northwestern PA operates a daily drop-in center for adults aged 18 and older. We provide a safe and relaxing environment for members to connect and socialize with others with shared experiences. The mission of the Consumer Center staff is to create a safe, supportive, recovery-oriented environment dedicated to preserving dignity, respect, advocacy, and empowerment while being flexible to personal growth.

Membership to the Consumer Recovery Center is free. Activities are provided to members free of charge. To become a member, one must have a valid Photo ID and have verification of receiving Mental Health services currently or in the past. Members are also able to spend quiet time in our Spirit of Peace Room or sleeping areas. Some of the activities/services provided include:

- \* Free hot lunch
- \* Access to free WIFI network
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- \* Shower facilities
- \* TV & movies
- \* Meeting rooms
- \* AA & NA meetings
- \* Weekly bingo games
- \* Bowling field trips
- \* Movie field trips
- \* Clothing distribution
- \* Hygiene supplies distribution
- \* Arts & crafts activities



## Hours of Operation

<b>Monday:</b>	<b>9:00 AM—3:45 PM</b>
<b>Tuesday:</b>	<b>9:00 AM—3:45 PM</b>
<b>Wednesday:</b>	<b>10:00 AM—3:45 PM</b>
<b>Thursday:</b>	<b>9:00 AM—3:45 PM</b>
<b>Friday:</b>	<b>9:00 AM—3:45 PM</b>
<b>Saturday:</b>	<b>Closed</b>
<b>Sunday:</b>	<b>Closed</b>

items, including hats, coffee mugs, cell phone cases, notebooks, pet mats, throw pillows, throw blankets, and more. These items can be found at [redbubble.com/shop/ap/155059478](http://redbubble.com/shop/ap/155059478). We also continue to offer t-shirts, hoodies, and tank tops through Whee! Studios at [wheepride.shop/collections/aging-with-pride](http://wheepride.shop/collections/aging-with-pride). Proceeds from these sales are used to support Aging With Pride activities. Visit [AgingWithPrideErie.org](http://AgingWithPrideErie.org) for a calendar of events and links to our selling partners. Show your support of Aging With Pride by purchasing some of these items!

## Celebrate Hockey Is For Everyone with the Erie Otters!

NWPA Pride has partnered once again with the Erie Otters to host Pride Night with the Otters. The game will be Saturday, March 16, as the Erie Otters host the Saginaw Spirit. Special packages for the game include a ticket and commemorative shirt will only be available through our dedicated link. Like and follow us on Instagram and Facebook to see when the link for tickets goes live.

## Yellow Brick Roads Karaoke Night

Yellow Brick Roads [YBR] visited the Biz-zaro's Ringside Restaurant, 3202 Sterrettania Road, Erie, PA, on Saturday, January 20, to enjoy some delicious food and Karaoke. A group of brave souls navigated through the snow and cold weather to attend the event. The Karaoke and dancing were the highlight of the evening.

YBR group members provided some stellar performances, usually accompanied by some creative interpretive dancing by Jill Brugger (smile). There is nothing like sharing good food, dancing, and laughter with some great people. I strained my neck from all of the laughter.

A big thank you to Mike Mahler for taking some event photos. If you are interested in attending our next event, please go to [www.myYBR.org](http://www.myYBR.org) to add your name to our mailing list.

Big News: YBR has a link that you can share with people in your life that you would like to be closer to you: <http://www.apoem4you.com>

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*NW PA Pride Alliance Meadville Happy Hour at Cussewago Creek Distillery on December 27.*



*Members of Yellow Brick Roads at Bizzarro's Ringside Restaurant for Karaoke on January 20.*



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# Calendar

For latest updates, see [www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)

*Live & Let Live is an LGBTQA-friendly AA meeting that meets every Sunday, at 7PM, at Community United Church, 1011 West 38th Street, Erie, PA 16508. For more information, visit [www.aaeriepa.org](http://www.aaeriepa.org) or contact [cmn0626@gmail.com](mailto:cmn0626@gmail.com). or (814) 504-1507.*

*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.*

*(Starts Feb 7) Zone Wednesday Night, 133 W 18th St, Hosted by Rebecca Mae. Doors open at 8 pm. Play right on your phone! Fabulous prizes! Trivia begins at 9:30 pm. Happy hour 8 PM-10 PM. \$1 off bottled beer. \$2 well drinks. No cover. 21+ with valid state-issued 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.*

*(Starts Feb 2) Zone #NoFilterFridays, 133 W 18th St, Brace yourself, hunty! These queens are #unfiltered! Hosted by the one and only Rebecca Mae. Featuring Erie's top drag superstars as well as amazing out of town guests. Doors open at 8 pm. \$5 cover. 21+ with valid state-issued ID.*

**Jan 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.

**Jan 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.

**Jan 25 (Thu) - Aging with Pride Social** (Enrique's Southeast Mexican Taqueria & Tortilleria, 1801 Liberty St, 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.

**Jan 25 (Thu) - Teen Trans support group meets** (G.A. Family Services, 210 Gustavus Ave, Jamestown, NY 14701) 5 PM.

**Jan 27 (Sat) - Holocaust Remembrance Day** Day to remember all of the victims of the Nazi era. Browse to <https://www.yadvashem.org/27th/index.asp>.

**Jan 27 (Sat) - TransFamily of NWP (Erie) 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.

**Jan 27 (Sat) - M & J's Lounge Drag Show** (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA 16001)

**Feb 15 (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](mailto:info@comptonstable.org)

**Feb 1 (Thu) - Lotz of Tea with Mona - THE REVIVAL OF JAMIE** 7 PM. A man who was in a severe car accident and died twice in the transport chopper tells of his story of death and beyond. With co-host Large Marge. Live streaming on Facebook, YouTube, and TikTok. Browse to <https://www.facebook.com/LotzofTea>.

**Feb 2 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) meets** (Room 33 Speakeasy & Cafe, 1033 State St Erie PA) 6 PM - 8 PM. All Are Welcome!

**Feb 3 (Sat) - Erie Trans Picnics Trans Book Club - Valerie Solonas' SCUM Manifesto** (Compton's Table, 3104 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 5 PM. We will be reading Valerie Solonas' SCUM for our next book club. We encourage readers to approach the text with care, generosity, and an open mind (as if there is any other way to approach Solonas' work.)

**Feb 4 (Sun) - Aging With Pride planning meeting** (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 1 PM.

**Feb 4 (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.

**Feb 6 (Tue) - LGBTQIA+ Recovery Support Group**

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(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.

**Feb 7 (Wed) - National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day** February 7 is National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD), a national HIV testing and treatment community mobilization initiative targeted at Blacks in the United States and the Diaspora. NBHAAD was founded in 1999 as a national response to the growing HIV and AIDS epidemic in African American communities. #NBHAAD Browse to <https://nationalblackaidsday.org/>.

**Feb 7 (Wed) - Aging with Pride Game Night** (Werner Books & Coffee, 3608 Liberty St, Erie, PA 16508) 5-8 PM. Bring games and/or cards with you or just come to play what others bring.

**Feb 7 (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.

**Feb 7 (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!

**Feb 9 (Fri) - Aging with Pride Movie Nigfht - Desert Hearts** (Erie Movie House, 3424 W Lake Rd, Erie, PA 16505) 7 PM - 10 PM. Doors open at 7 PM, and show time is 7:30 PM. Free admission. We will be watching the 1986 lesbian classic, Desert Hearts. The seating

capacity is 35.

**Feb 10 (Sat) - Annual Warm Clothing/Winter Collection** (Journey To a Trauma Informed Life, 201 W 11th St, Erie PA) 10 AM - 2 PM. Area Queer organizations are partnering to collect cold weather items needed by Community Shelter Services. See [nwpapride.org](http://nwpapride.org) for items most needed and participating organizations.

**Feb 10 (Sat) - TransFamily of NWPA (Meadville) Transgender Support Group meets** (Empowerment with Grace, 941 Federal Ct Ste 104, Meadville, PA 16335) 2 PM.

**Feb 10 (Sat) - Veronyca's Showgirls: Justin's House Party cuz Mama's Away** (Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge No. 119, 201 West State Street, Olean, NY 14760) 9 PM. \$7 door/\$5 COLORS Member. With Will, Landen, Damian, Khloe, and many more! 50/50! Great drinks! Great entertainment!

**Feb 11 (Sun) - Super Sportsball Sunday** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) Doors open at 6 PM, kickoff at 6:30 PM. Free pizza from Donato's while supplies last. Half time show is Usher. No cover - 21+ with valid state-issued ID.

**Feb 12 (Mon) - Deadline for Erie Gay News March 2024 print edition (#340)** (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, February 20.

**Feb 12 (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](mailto:mmahler@eriedems.com) for Zoom meeting info.

**Feb 13 (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](mailto:PFLAGCHQ@GMAIL.COM) or call (814) 313-4495 for details.

**Feb 13 (Tue) - Youngstown PFLAG meets** (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH 44503) 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM.

**Feb 13 (Tue) - Mardi Gras & Game Night** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. Kick off the week with a Mardi Gras twist. Masks, beads, and games - we're bringing the essence of New Orleans right here! Let loose, enjoy some friendly competition, and maybe even find a mysterious stranger to share a dance with.



**Feb 14 (Wed) - Valentine's Day & Trivia** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. Kick off the week with a Mardi Gras twist. Masks, beads, and games - we're bringing the essence of New Orleans right here! Let loose, enjoy some friendly competition, and maybe even find a mysterious stranger to share a dance with.

**Feb 15 (Thu) - Lotz of Tea with Mona - MOTIVATE YOUR LIFE!** 7 PM. Instagram sensation and motivational speaker Bruce Brackett, BWB, speaks about addiction and surviving. With co-host Large Marge. Live streaming on Facebook, YouTube, and TikTok. Browse to <https://www.facebook.com/LotzofTea>.

**Feb 15 (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](mailto:info@comptonstable.org)

**Feb 16 (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/>.

**Feb 16 (Fri) - Pissi Gabune's The Nightcap** (Edinboro Hotel Bar, 100 Meadville St, Edinboro, PA 16412) 9:30 PM. Featuring Pissi Gabune, Rocky Switch, and Snarebear. Doors open at 8:00 pm. Show at 9:30 pm. No cover. 21+ with valid ID.

**Feb 16 (Fri) - DIVAS: Scarlet & Shadow** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) Doors open at 8 PM. Show at 10:30 PM. Hsted by the fabulous Misty Michaels Kall! Performances by the Divas of the Zone, \$5 Cover Friday / 21+ with ID.

**Feb 17 (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+,



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January

### National Stalking Awareness Month

Stalking victims from the LGBTQ+ community encounter distinct challenges, setting their experiences apart from those of their heterosexual counterparts. When assisting LGBTQ+ stalking victims, safety planning takes on a specialized approach. This involves considerations such as including hormones, HIV prevention, and necessary medications in a personalized "to go bag."

Adding another layer to the complexity, some LGBTQ+ victims find it challenging to disengage from current or former intimate partners due to limited dating experiences within the LGBTQ+ community. This underscores the need for tailored support and understanding of the unique aspects shaping the experiences of LGBTQ+ stalking victims.

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/>.

**Feb 17 (Sat) - Show Some Love 3 Warren County Pride** (Crary Art Gallery, 511 Market St, Warren, PA 16365) 8 PM. Look sharp and enjoy an evening of entertainment, food, and wine while showing your financial support for Pride 2024! A silent auction of items and other opportunities to underwrite our pride event will be available. Suggested donation of \$25.

**Feb 17 (Sat) - Aging with Pride Book Club - The Color Purple by Aince Walker** (Werner Books & Coffee 3608 Liberty St, Erie, PA 16508) 1 PM. Werner Books offers a 20% discount on books purchased for the book club.

**Feb 18 (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/>.

**Feb 18 (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+.

**Feb 18 (Sun) - Aging With Pride planning meeting** (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 1 PM.

**Feb 19 - 24 (Mon - Sat) - Aromantic Spectrum Awareness Week** (Aromantic Spectrum Awareness Week) An aromantic is someone who doesn't experience romantic attraction. Arospec is the shorthand name for people who identify anywhere on the aromantic spectrum, including aromantics. Aro Awareness Week is for anyone on the aromantic spectrum, regardless of where they lie there or sexual orientation. Browse to <https://twitter.com/aroweek>.

**Feb 19 (Mon) - Bears Do Dinner #112** (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.

**Feb 20 (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.

**Feb 20 (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.

**Feb 22 (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.

**Feb 23 (Fri) - International STAND UP to Bullying Day** International STAND UP to Bullying Day is a special event in which participants sign and wear a pink "pledge shirt" to take a visible, public stance against bullying. Browse to <https://www.facebook.com/pg/standupday/>.

**Feb 24 (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.

**Feb 24 (Sat) - COLORS: Families Got Talent** (Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge No. 119, 201 West State Street, Olean, NY 14760) 4 PM - 7 PM. Entrance into the venue is a new toy or new household item in the following amounts: Single - \$5, Couple - \$8, Family - \$12. Contact: Dann. Email: [DannDH.colors@gmail.com](mailto:DannDH.colors@gmail.com).

**Feb 24 (Sat) - 7th Annual Full Spectrum Winter Gala** (DiVieste's Banquet Centre, 754 N River Rd NW, Warren, OH 44483) 6 PM - 10 PM. Full dinner, raffle baskets, open bar, door prizes and more! Hosted by Denise Russell. \$85 per person or \$575 for 8 person table. Tickets must be purchased by February 17, 2024

**Feb 28 (Wed) - LGBTQ+ and Allies Happy Hour - All welcome** (Cussewago Creek Distillery, 42243 Water St., Meadville, PA 16335) 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM.

**Feb 29 (Thu) - Aging with Pride Social Hour** (The Breweries at Union Station, 123 W 14th St, 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](http://AgingWithPrideErie.org), or email [Dale Allgeier at DaleAllgeier@outlook.com](mailto:DaleAllgeier@outlook.com).

**Feb 29 (Thu) - Teen Trans support group meets** (G.A. Family Services, 210 Gustavus Ave, Jamestown, NY 14701) 5 PM.

## Journey: Healing Together Raise The Roof

On December 21, 2023, Journey: Healing Together celebrated the beginning of winter with Raise The Roof - Winter Solstice Celebration at Journey to a Trauma Informed Life, 201 W 11th St, Erie, PA. The event included an art show, food, art projects, an intention setting ceremony, and a cozy fire!



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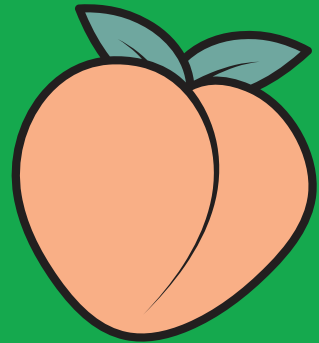
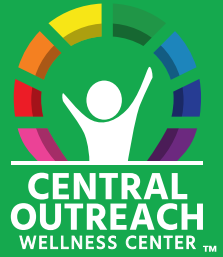
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