



# ERIE GAY NEWS

Serving the Regional LGBTQIA+ Community Since 1992



*Performers at GASE Behrend Drag Show on Nov 1.  
Photo by Michael Mahler*

## GASE Behrend Drag Show on November 1

The Gender and Sexuality Equality Club at Penn State Behrend hosted the “Halloween Drag Show” on November 1st, drawing a crowd of around 120 attendees. The show was hosted by the comedic Debbie the Drag Queen and featured a lineup of talented performers: Monica Mod, Vivian Vendetta-Sinclair, V-Master Chad, and Maya Bizness. The event also featured a costume contest, with winners dressing up as Howl from Howl’s Moving Castle and Misa Amane from Death Note. They won prize baskets from Purrista Cat Café and Werner Books. GASE would love to thank the performers, DJ, Purrista Cat Café, Werner Books, the Lion Entertainment Board, Erie Gay News, and everyone who came out to support the show!

## Join the Erie County Democratic Queer Caucus!

Mark your calendars! The Erie County Democratic Queer Caucus is meeting on Monday, December 9th, from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. We’re kicking off plans for the 2025 local elections and need your ideas, energy, and voices to make a difference. Whether you’re a seasoned advocate or just stepping into activism, there’s a place for you here.

Don’t miss this chance to connect with passionate, like-minded folks working for change. Let’s build momentum together!

For more info, email us at [eriequeercaucus@gmail.com](mailto:eriequeercaucus@gmail.com). We can’t wait to see you there!

## Saving Our LGBTQIA+ History In NWPA

Many LGBTQIA+ people live in Erie and Northwestern Pennsylvania. We have our friends, our families, and our social groups. We also experience many of the same problems social isolation, physical and mental health issues, poverty, and housing. But we do lack one very important thing in our community—a record of our lives and our community over time, a community-based archive that brings us all together to celebrate our similarities and our differences and to ensure that our stories, our culture is not forgotten or overlooked in the history of Erie and Northwestern Pennsylvania. There are LGBTQIA+ Archives throughout the United States and here in Pennsylvania including Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Harrisburg.

There is a small LGBTQIA+ collection of materials that already exists in the area. Materials in various formats were donated by multiple individuals and are now held or will soon be held at the John M. Lilley Library at Penn State Behrend. Led by the group Aging with Pride, work is getting underway to develop a fully functional LGBTQIA+ Community Archive in collaboration with Penn State.

Community Archives are growing in number across the United States and are often born from the interests of marginalized groups that wish to preserve their history. Erie has a long history of LGBTQIA+ culture and it has been represented by many separate groups over the years. Some of these are groups of interested individuals aligning around a single purpose, some are more formally organized non-profit organizations, and others may have some governmental connection. Although many LGBTQIA+ organizations exist and serve diverse needs, there is often no communication and coordination among the groups. There is even less history being gathered. There has been no particular group or coordinated groups that

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**Erie Gay News**

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

We welcome and encourage all readers to submit timely news, comments, and opinions of interest to local GLBTs for publication in these pages. Please include your contact information with any piece you submit.

**If you are restarting events or are moving to hosting events/meetings virtually, or want to change your copies received for distribution, please email [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com)**

## Rates & Data

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# THANKS

From Your Friends at Erie Gay News

To Lake Erie Counseling Associates for hosting! Andrea Shaffer, Brooke Korb, Deb, Jeff Hill, Jenna Wassel, Johauna, Kim Conti, Laurie Finch, Maggie Watts, Mason Bracken, Oli Tilton, and Rex Apps for folding; Andrea Shaffer, Brett Staskiewicz, Brooke Korb, Jeff Hill, Jenna Wassel, Johauna, Kim Conti, and Rex Apps for distribution; Whee! 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).

have addressed the archival issues of LGBTQA+ culture in Erie.

It is time for the LGBTQA+ organizations to come together to create that robust archive now and for the future.

Some archival materials are already being cataloged and prepared for the new archive. Plans are underway to do the following:

In early 2025, distribute a letter and survey to as many LGBTQA+ organizations as can be identified. That survey will ask about on-going involvement, types of documentation, and an archive management plan. Interested individuals may also participate, particularly if they have collections of LGBTQA+ materials for inclusion in the archive.

Based upon the results of the survey, convene a meeting of interested parties with staff at Penn State Behrend to develop next steps and to begin the process of adding materials to the new archive.

The creation of the LGBTQA+ Community Archive will be an on-going process over a number of years, but the result will be an archive that represents our LGBTQA+ culture and that will be open and available to the public for study and research. For more information, contact Blane Dessy at [bdessy@gmail.com](mailto:bdessy@gmail.com)



## Erie Gay News on Bluesky and Other Social Media Platforms

Erie Gay News is on several social media platforms. In addition to our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ErieGayNews> and our Facebook discussion group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/8425024033>, we have a new handle (@ErieGayNews.com) on Bluesky at <https://bsky.app/profile/eriegaynews.com>. You can also find us on Instagram (handle is ErieGayNews) at <https://www.instagram.com/ErieGayNews/>, Threads (handle is also ErieGayNews) at <https://www.threads.net/@eriegaynews>. Additionally, Erie Gay News has a profile on Tumblr at <https://eriegaynews.tumblr.com/> and on Mastodon at <https://mastodon.social/@ErieGayNews>. Please follow and like our profile wherever you find it! Our main website is <https://www.eriegaynews.com>.

## Compton's Table Chat & Chill

This month marks the return of one of Compton's Table's signature programs, Chat & Chill, a twice-monthly, loosely structured gathering featuring themed activities and conversations. Adults 18 and older meet the first Thursday evening of every



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month; youth aged 13-17 meet the second Thursday evening of every month. For more information or to register to attend next month's Chat & Chill, visit [www.comptonstable.org](http://www.comptonstable.org).

## **Pip-Skey's 2nd Annual Barks and Booze Fundraiser**

Jamestown, NY – On October 13, the 2nd Annual Barks and Booze Fundraiser took place at Sneakers Bar, marking a remarkable year of fundraising for Pip-Skey's Foundation for Homeless Animals, Inc. The event exceeded all expectations, featuring over 50 raffle baskets, two exciting 50/50 drawings, and a \$1,000 cash prize drawing! The turnout was fantastic, with increased participation and funds raised compared to last year.

Returning to Sneakers Bar, where they made their debut in 2023, Pip-Skey's Foundation found a welcoming venue in Mary Green's establishment. As the longest-running LGBTQ bar in Jamestown, Sneakers has been a community staple for over 30 years. Mary, an enthusiastic animal advocate, has facilitated the spaying and neutering of over 70 cats and has opened her doors to numerous rescue animals. Her commitment to helping local pets makes Sneakers the perfect host for Pip-Skey's basket raffle. Green was thrilled to have the event once again hosted at Sneakers "Our community is known for our love of animals, and being able to provide a place to have this event is a great reward for our staff and patrons"

The atmosphere inside Sneakers was electric, with bartenders busy serving guests from start to finish. Star Sirch Productions emceed the event, entertaining the crowd with music and lively updates on the raffle baskets. The Landmark Restaurant ensured attendees were well-fed, offering a delicious menu that included quesadillas and Italian sausage—something for everyone!

Pip-Skey's President, Conklin, spoke passionately about the organization's mission to support underprivileged animals. Over the past year, Pip-Skey's has spayed and neutered more than 90 dogs and cats, investing over \$11,300 in these essential services. Additionally, the foundation has donated over \$7,300 to small local rescues and shelters, spent \$750 on pet food for those in need, and collected supplies to assist North Carolina following Hurricane Helene.

"Our work is made possible by our dedicated volunteers and an incredible board that always strives

to create something magical," said Conklin.

Stay tuned for more exciting fundraising events from Pip-Skey's Foundation as they continue their mission to support animals in need!

## **Bringing Us Together: Weekly Statewide LGBTQ Zoom Meeting**

In order to provide a forum for support and discussion for Queer leaders and community members across Pennsylvania, William Way Center in Philadelphia has begun a weekly Zoom meeting on Mondays at 5 PM. Folks can stop in, share how they are doing, and connect with others. This can be a great way to collaborate and also find emotional support. During the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a similar Zoom check in, and many found this to be a great source of comfort. To find out Zoom meeting details, contact William Way Executive Director Chris Bartlett at [cbartlett@waygay.org](mailto:cbartlett@waygay.org)

## **Compton's Table Post-Election Gathering**

On November 6th, as the nation absorbed the results of an election marked by over \$20 million spent on anti-trans ads, Compton's Table opened its doors to the local queer community. The gathering provided a space for understanding, processing, and coming together during a time when many are feeling the weight of fear and uncertainty.

The election results have had a profound impact on LGBTQ+ individuals across the country. Queer hotlines have reported a staggering 700% increase in calls since November 6th, reflecting the urgent need for support. In response, Compton's Table sought to create a safe environment where people could share their thoughts, find solace, and remind one another that no one has to navigate these challenges alone.

"We know how difficult this moment is," said Dr. Tyler Titus, Board Chair of Compton's Table. "Our community has faced unimaginable trauma and harm, but we also know that our strength lies in coming together. We are here to listen, to hold space, and to remind you that you are not alone."

The gathering underscored the importance of community during times of crisis and the resilience that can arise from standing united.

For those who may feel overwhelmed, please reach out for support:

\* The Trevor Project: 1-866-488-7386 or text



“START” to 678-678

\* Trans Lifeline: 1-877-565-8860

\* LGBT National Hotline: 1-888-843-4564

## Joye Dado Becomes Credentialed as HIV Specialist

Erie, Pa -- Joye Dado, a medical professional with Central Outreach Wellness Center has received her credential as an HIV Specialist, which is professionally designated by the letters “AAHIVS,” from the American Academy of HIV Medicine (AAHIVM). Joye’s credential as an HIV Specialist is renewed every three years, and is valid beginning January 1, 2025, expiring on December 31, 2027.

AAHIVM HIV Specialists are experienced medical professionals who pass a rigorous, psychometrically sound exam on all aspects of HIV medical care. In addition to successful completion of the exam, requirements for becoming a credentialed HIV Specialist include:

Maintain a current and valid MD, DO, PA, NP or Pharmacist license

Provide direct involvement or leadership in HIV care and treatment, over the 36 months preced-

ing the date of application, through service in one of the following realms: Pharmaceutical Industry

Academia

Government

Other non-clinical environments without direct patient care activity

Complete a minimum of 45 credits or activity hours of HIV and/or HCV-related continuing education within the 36 months preceding the date of application. Complete a minimum of 45 credits or activity hours of HIV and/or HCV-related continuing education within the 36 months preceding the date of application.

Joye’s AAHIVS credential demonstrates to her colleagues and employers that she voluntarily supports standards of excellence in HIV care by going through the credentialing process,” said Dan Ebeling, director of AAHIVM’s credentialing program.

The Academy’s HIV-focused professional certifications are the first and only credentials offered domestically and internationally to physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and pharmacists specializing in advanced level HIV care. The HIV Specialist (AAHIVS) credential is available

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to practicing frontline clinical providers, while the HIV Expert (AAHIVE) designation can be earned by non-practicing clinicians. The HIV Pharmacist (AAHIVP) certification is available to eligible HIV-specialized pharmacists.

For more information on AAHIVM's credentialing program, visit [www.aahivm.org](http://www.aahivm.org) or contact the AAHIVM Credentialing Department at 202-659-0699.

## Who Wants To Be A Drag Star Kicks Off With A Bang

Who Wants To Be A Drag Star, Cherry Falwell's all-new drag competition show, kicked off the season with Round One on Saturday, November 16th. The sold out event was hosted by Meadville Council on the Arts in the theater above the Market House in downtown Meadville and featured a pop up bar by Cussewago Creek Distillery. Four newcomers to drag (Veronica Ville, Emerald Rose, Velvet Viper, and Hydroxyzine) were given five minutes of open stage time to impress the judges and the audience. "I encouraged the contestants to show us what makes them unique. They could lip sync, juggle, sing live, do stand up comedy, anything they wanted as long as it was entertaining," said Falwell. Additionally, contestants were given a surprise on-stage challenge where they had to construct a garment or accessories using five random household items in front of the audience and then model their drag on a dime.

After several minutes of deliberation, head judge Travis Smith and guest judges Shea D'Heaux and Snarebear determined the top two performers of the evening. Veronica Ville and Hydroxyzine went head to head in a lip sync battle and Veronica Ville was declared the winner of the first round, securing her spot in the spring finale. The top two were also offered performance spots in the upcoming Slay, Belles holiday drag show at Cussewago Creek Distillery on December 14th. Performances from Cherry Falwell, Shea D'Heaux, and Snarebear rounded out the evening.

"I'm really happy with how well the show was received. These are really uncertain and scary times and Meadville really showed up for us. We saw a lot of new faces in the crowd. And I'm happy to say that we're just getting started," said Falwell.

Three of the five contestant slots for the second round are filled. Do you think you have what it takes

to be the next drag star? Email [dragstarmeadville@gmail.com](mailto:dragstarmeadville@gmail.com) to sign up. The competition is open to queens, kings, and drag performers of any gender 18 years of age or older.

If you'd rather be in the audience than on stage, tickets are on sale now for Round Two, scheduled for January 11th at Meadville Council on the Arts.

## Peace, Love and Warmth in Perry Square

About 35 to 40 people attended the Peace, Love and Warmth event at Perry Square on November 16. The event was organized by Char Newport Michalek. "I named the event Peace, Love and Warmth, because everything we do has to be from a place of peace and love," said Michalak. "Sometimes it might be necessary to mobilize and do what we need to do. Peace and love doesn't make us doormats."

Building community is the first step of any movement. I wanted to first of all develop a foundation of like-minded people who are willing to do something. I asked people to bring something warm to donate to Community Shelter Services because we need to begin making an impact in multiple ways.

Char says she hopes to have get-togethers on a consistent basis. "Each time I would like to have people pick a different charity for us to donate to," she said. People attending this event donated warm clothing items to Community Shelter Services. Char says she became complacent after the 2020 election, but after the 2024 election, she felt the need to do something. She took the contact information from the attendees so they could stay in touch. "I intend to meet with leaders in the various affected communities so that we can be part of the solution, said Char. "Building community is the first step of any movement. Any population or community that needs our help, needs our voices, needs us to mobilize - I want to be able to be there for them."

"And I very much needed hugs and support and to know that other people are thinking the same way I am. We can't be complacent this time."





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## **City of Erie Earns 100 on HRC's 2024 Municipal Equality Index**

Erie, PA – November 21, 2024 – Demonstrating a continual commitment to equality, diversity, equity, and inclusion, the City of Erie has earned a perfect score of 100 on the Human Rights Campaign's 2024 Municipal Equality Index (MEI) for the third 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, "The City of Erie is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion which are key drivers of economic growth, serving to attract residents, visitors, and businesses who place a high value on inclusivity. We are focused on what matters: building community, growing the economy, and taking care of each other. Diversity is one of Erie's greatest strengths. When everyone feels supported, welcomed, and valued for their unique skills, perspectives, and talents, this empowers people to thrive and contribute to our sense of community. Our policies and practices continue to help us achieve this perfect score, and this is one of the ways in which we strive to make Erie an inclusive place to live, work, play, and raise a family. I am grateful to the LGBTQ+ Advisory Council, who helped us reach this milestone, for their guidance and dedication."

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 Mayor's LGBTQ+ Advisory Council and the Municipal Equality Index, please visit LGBTQ+ Council – Erie, PA.

For more information about the Municipal Equality Index, please visit [www.hrc.org/MEI](http://www.hrc.org/MEI).

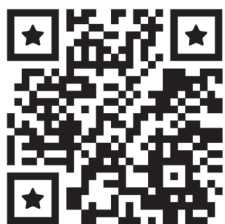
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## The Red Zone


The "Red Zone" is a critical and often overlooked period on college campuses, referring to the first six to eight weeks of the academic year when students, particularly freshmen, are at the highest risk for sexual assault. This period is marked by a convergence of factors that make new students especially vulnerable, including their unfamiliarity with campus resources, a desire to fit in, and increased social activity, often involving alcohol.

During the Red Zone, incoming students are navigating new social environments and building relationships, which can sometimes lead to situations where boundaries are crossed. The pressures of adapting to college life can also make students less likely to recognize or avoid risky situations.

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## OddCity's 2nd Annual Rainbow Fest Planned for April 5, 2025

OddCity Entertainment is excited to announce the upcoming second annual Rainbow Fest, scheduled for April 5th, 2025, and we invite your support to help make this event a success! Rainbow Fest is Erie's premier day festival celebrating LGBTQIA+ talent, featuring a diverse lineup of queer bands, vendors, drag performers, and artists. Last year's event achieved remarkable results, raising \$1,000 for Compton's Table, a local organization dedicated to supporting Erie's queer community, and welcoming over 150 attendees. This success demonstrates the vibrancy and resilience of our underground DIY music scene, characterized by acceptance and love. Rainbow Fest is seeking sponsorships, volunteers, performers and vendors that represent Erie and surrounding areas queer community for 2025. For more information on how to apply to be a part of Rainbow Fest, visit [www.oddcityentertainment.org](http://www.oddcityentertainment.org) or OddCity Entertainment's Facebook page.

## Pony Express Offers Many Services

Pony Express, located at 1903 West 8th Street, is an independently owned and operated packing, shipping, printing, and business services center. Owners Dave and Terry Grab purchased the business in 2001. Dave worked alongside the previous owner for several months before the purchase, so they were ready to go on day 1. The professional staff is ready to assist you with all your shipping needs and provide a variety of other services. Harley (pictured) can often be found on the countertop waiting to greet customers.

Pony Express is a contracted postal unit for the USPS that provides all the same services as the post office at the same prices. In addition, they are an authorized shipping center for UPS and FedEx. Prepaid packages for any of these shippers and DHL can also be dropped off here. If you need help packing items, their experienced, professional staff can expertly pack almost anything, including artwork, bicycles, and furniture! As the shipper of record for these items, they can also help you with a claim if your item is damaged during shipping. If you would rather pack it yourself, they offer various shipping supplies.

In addition to packing and shipping, Pony Express offers other products and services. You can fax, make copies, or scan documents for electronic

storage. Other services include notary services, passport photos, money orders, utility bill payments, and document shredding. Purchase Pennsylvania Lottery tickets, greeting cards, toys, activity cards, and household decorations while you're there. They also partner with Causco Stamps for rubber stamps and marking devices.

Visit Pony Express, where the friendly staff will be waiting to help you. They are open Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM and Saturdays from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM.

## TransFamily of NW PA TDOR Vigil

TransFamily of NWPA hosted a vigil for Transgender Day of Remembrance at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie on November 20th, 2024. This was a community event in which we commemorated the lives of transgender people whom we have lost over the past year. There was time, both before and after the vigil, in which people helped support each other during this day.

Transgender Day of Remembrance was created in 1999 to honor the memory of transgender people who were taken by violence.



*On October 26, 2024, NW PA Pride Alliance marched in Meadville's Halloween Parade. Meadville's Halloween Parade is the largest nighttime parade in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The contingent was well-received, and NW PA Pride Alliance members proudly carried their banner and threw glowsticks to the crowd. Photo by Michael Mahler*

# Become a Foster Parent!

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Family Services of NWPA



Jen and Katie - Erie, PA

# 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 Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, 1603 W 32 St. Erie PA 16508. For more information, visit [www.aaeriepa.org](http://www.aaeriepa.org) or contact [jmwilliams3603@aol.com](mailto:jmwilliams3603@aol.com) or (814) (814) 844-2600.*

*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.*

*Ends Dec 25 - Zone Wednesday Trivia Night, 133 W 18th St, Think you're a trivia whiz? Prove it! Play night on your phone! New hosts! New challenges! Doors open at 8 PM. Happy hour 8-10 PM. \$1 off bottled beers. \$2 well drinks. No cover. 21 & over with ID..*

*Zone Thursday Night Flow with Stimcity, 133 W 18th St, Doors open at 8 PM. Happy hour 8-10 PM. \$1 off bottled beers. \$2 well drinks. No cover. 21 & over with ID.*

**Nov 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.

**Nov 27 - 28 (Wed - Thu) - Boozegiving** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. !Party with your chosen family! Open Thanksgiving Eve and Thanksgiving from 8 PM to 2 AM. 21 & over with ID. No cover charge

**Nov 28 (Thu) - Queer Youth support group meets** (James Prendergast Library Association, 509 Cherry St, Jamestown, NY 14701) 5 PM. For ages 12-21. Please contact Kaden Mason at (716) 720-8712 or [kmason@lutheran-jamestown.org](mailto:kmason@lutheran-jamestown.org) or Lisa Schmid-Miller at (716) 338-8702 or [lschmidmiller@lutheran.jamestown.org](mailto:lschmidmiller@lutheran.jamestown.org) with any questions.

**Nov 30 (Sat) - Jane Lynch: A Swingin' Little Christmas** (Struthers Library Theatre, 302 W 3rd Ave, Warren, PA 16365) 8 PM. Doors: 7:00PM / Show: 8:00PM. TICKETS: \$90 / \$75 / \$60. Jane Lynch: A Swingin' Little Christmas will be at Struthers Library Theatre on Saturday, November 30th, at 8PM. Presented by Northwest Bank. Classic holiday tunes come to life as Jane Lynch, Kate Flannery, Tim Davis, and the Tony Guerrero Quintet take the stage in "A Swingin' Little Christmas." This hilarious and heartwarming holiday

extravaganza promises to be a delightful blend of comedy and music, ensuring a 'swingin' good time. The group has brought their joyful banter to audiences across the country, with their holiday album "A Swingin' Little Christmas" hitting Billboard's Top 10 Adult Contemporary chart. Hollywood Digest calls it "captivating," the comedy "spectacular" and the vibe "absolutely precious."

**Dec 1 (Sun) - 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 (Sun) - Aging with Pride planning meeting** (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 1 PM. Planning meetings are open to anyone interested in helping to plan activities for Aging with Pride.

**Dec 1 (Sun) - Full Spectrum LGBTQIA+ Youth Peer Support & Social Group** meets (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 4 PM - 6 PM. Ages 14-17, under 14 with signed parental consent form.

**Dec 2 (Mon) - Erie County HIV Task Force World AIDS Day Event** (Blasco Memorial Erie County Public Library, 160 East Front Street, Erie, PA 16507) 5 PM. Doors open at 5:00 PM. Program starts at 5:30 PM. Program event includes: AIDS Memorial Quilt panels on display, guest speakers, as well as HIV Pere Survivor story by PA Thrive Partnership, Memorial names recognition: remember those that have lost their lives due to HIV, "Let's Talk about HIV" interactive visual exhibit during post program reception with refreshments. For details and to submit a loved one's name, send an email to [admin@echiv.org](mailto:admin@echiv.org). Made possible by PA Thrive partnership, Erie County HIV task force, and Erie County Department of Health.

**Dec 4 (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 5 (Thu) - 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 814-451-2247.

**Dec 5 (Thu) - Compton's Table Chat & Chill Group** (Compton's Table, 3104 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 6 PM - 8 PM. Looking to boost your social skills, make new connections or just hang out in a chill, judgment-free zone? Chat N Chill is the place to be! We're all about creating a relaxed, sober space where you can be yourself, whether you're introverted or outgoing. It's a safe haven for the Queer community, where everyone's welcome and respect is the vibe. Join us to build confidence, learn new social cues, or some enjoy good conversation with great people. Chill vibes, real connections, all in a space that celebrates you. 18+ groups are every first Thursday of each month from 6-8 pm. Each month will have a different theme to keep the conversation going. Registration required to be sure that enough supplies are available. Register at <https://comptonstable.org/chatnchill>

**Dec 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.

**Dec 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>.

**Dec 7 (Sat) - LGBT Venango Support Group for Adults Meets** (Franklin Public Library, 421 12th St, Franklin, PA 16323) 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM. We will be meeting in the library's small private room upstairs. It's ADA-accessible via elevator. Please wear a face mask for the safety of the immunocompromised and disabled members in our community. Masks will be available at group if you forget yours!

**Dec 7 (Sat) - Renaissance City Choir - A Very Ruby Holiday** (East Liberty Presbyterian Church, 116 S. Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15406) 7 PM.

**Dec 9 (Mon) - Bears Do Dinner #122** (The Boardroom Dining & Spirits, 4353 W Ridge Rd, Erie, PA 16506) 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 9 (Mon) - Erie Dems Queer Caucus meets** 7 PM. We're kicking off plans for the 2025 local elections and need your ideas, energy, and voices to make a difference. Whether you're a seasoned advocate or just stepping into activism, there's a place for you here. Don't miss this chance to connect with passionate,

like-minded folks working for change. Lets build momentum together! For more info, email us at [eriequeer-caucus@gmail.com](mailto:eriequeer-caucus@gmail.com). We can't wait to see you there!

**Dec 9 (Mon) - Deadline for Erie Gay News January 2025 print edition (#350)** (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 17.

**Dec 10 (Tue) - 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 12 (Thu) - ASCEND Erie Queer Scouts Climbing Club** (ASCEND Erie, 426 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM - 8 PM. Queer Scouts is an LGBTQ+ climbing club with the goal of creating connection and a safer and more inclusive community. Just look for the Queer Scout mascot, the tiny rainbow unicorn! Bring your authentic self and enjoy an evening of climbing and fun! We'll climb some walls and get to know each other. Club meetups are open to allies as well! Enjoy a discounted day pass when you attend a club meetup, and look out for our FREE QFTW Affinity Sessions every other month. No climbing experience is necessary, and your climbing shoes and chalk rental are free the first time you visit ASCEND. Check out the full club's schedule at [AscendClimbing.com/programs/community/community-schedule](http://AscendClimbing.com/programs/community/community-schedule)



*The Erie Sisters and Brothers hosted another successful Lake Erie Gala at the Sheridan Bayfront Hotel from November 13th through the 17th, 2024. Read full article online! Photo by Michael Mahler*



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**Dec 12 (Thu) - Greater Erie Alliance for Equality (GEAE) End Of Year Celebration** (Room 33 Speakeasy & Cafe, 1033 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM - 9 PM

**Dec 14 (Sat) - Erie Sisters & Brothers Transgender Group Bimonthly Meeting** (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Highway, Erie, PA 16508) 5 PM - 9 PM. Changing rooms will be available if needed.

**Dec 14 (Sat) - Slay, Belles** (Cussewago Creek Distillery, 993 Water St, Meadville, PA 16335) Hosted by Cherry Falwell. Featuring performances by Pissi Gabune, Veronica Ville, Hydroxyine, and SnareBear! Doors open 9:15 PM. Showtime 10 PM. 21+, \$5 cover.

**Dec 15 (Sun) - A Brunch of Drag: Picante** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) Get ready for a fiesta of feathers and flavor at The Zone! Join host Alysian Wonderland and DJ Tony G for our next \*\*A Brunch of Drag: Picante\*\* event. Savor the sizzling performances of Alejandra J-Love, Sirena Fox, and Miss Erie 2024, Katrina Twerk Island. Tickets: \$20 (Includes show and food. Drinks are NOT included.) Mimosas and our signature Bloody Marys will be flowing! Doors open: 11am, Showtime: Noon. The Zone is CASH ONLY so make sure to grab some before heading in! (We do have an ATM on site in case you forget) Sponsored by Snowbelt Enterprises and Central Outreach Wellness. Get Your Tickets Now! Non-Smoking Event - 21+ with valid state-issued ID

**Dec 15 (Sun) - Aging with Pride planning meeting** (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 1932 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505) 1 PM. Planning meetings are open to anyone interested in helping to plan activities for Aging with Pride.

**Dec 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. Free to all LGBTQIA+ ages 18 and older. Entrance to the center is the red ramp on the side of the building off of the parking lot. Please do not use the front door!

**Dec 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. Join via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/Zoom-ECHTF>

**Dec 17 (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. Volunteers are very much welcome and needed!

**Dec 18 (Wed) – LGBTQ+ and Allies Happy Hour – All welcome** (Julian's Bar & Grill, 299 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA 16335) 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM.

**Dec 19 (Thu) - Aging with Pride Holiday Dinner** (Blane & Randy's, Erie PA) 6 PM. For more details, contact Blane at [bdessy@gmail.com](mailto:bdessy@gmail.com).

**Dec 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>.

**Dec 19 (Thu) - 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 814-451-2247.

**Dec 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](mailto:info@comptonstable.org)

**Dec 20 (Fri) - Zone Divas - Sugarplum Fairies** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 10:30 PM. Hosted by Misty Michaels Kall. With performances by Erie's Favorite Drag Queens. Doors open at 8 PM. 21 & over with ID. \$5 cover.

**Dec 21 (Sat) - Aging with Pride Book Club - Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II** by Liza Mundy (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 24 - 25 (Tue - Wed) - Zone Open for Christmas Eve and Christmas Night** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. Our gift to you!

**Dec 26 (Thu) - Queer Youth support group meets** (James Prendergast Library Association, 509 Cherry St, Jamestown, NY 14701) 5 PM. For ages 12-21. Please contact Kaden Mason at (716) 720-8712 or [kmason@lutheran-jamestown.org](mailto:kmason@lutheran-jamestown.org) or Lisa Schmid-Miller at (716) 338-8702 or [lschmidmiller@lutheran-jamestown.org](mailto:lschmidmiller@lutheran-jamestown.org) with any questions.

**Dec 28 (Sat) - (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 31 (Tue) - M & J's Lounge Annual New Year's**



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**Eve Party** (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA 16001) \$20.00 includes cover charge and food. Tickets are limited and pre-paid for this event.

**Dec 31 (Tue) - Zone New Years Eve** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. Complimentary buffet. Champagne toast at midnight. Dancing with DJ Joe and MC Buffy. 21 & over with ID. \$10 cover.



*NW PA Pride Alliance held its monthly Meadville Happy Hour at Julian's Bar and Grill on October 23, 2024. The December Meadville Happy Hour will be one week earlier than usual on December 18 because of the holidays. NW PA Pride Alliance is skipping Erie Happy Hour at Oasis Pub and Tiki Bar for January because of the holidays.*

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