



# ERIE GAY NEWS

Serving the Regional LGBTQIA+ Community Since 1992



*Morticia Monroe and Cherry Falwell at Miss Great Lakes Comedy Queen on November 30.*

## Miss Great Lakes Comedy Queen Pageant on Nov 30

Snowmageddon couldn't stop these comedy queens! The Miss Great Lakes Comedy Queen pageant, a preliminary to National Miss Comedy Queen, was held in Buffalo on November 30th. Contestants were judged in several categories including comedic talent, a sports themed presentation, and outrageous evening gown. The queens were also tasked with showcasing their improv skills to sell a mystery product in the 60 second spokeswoman category.

Morticia Monroe of Rochester, NY and Cherry Falwell of Meadville, PA were declared the winner and first alternate respectively. Both queens will represent Miss Great Lakes Comedy Queen at the national pageant held in Orlando, FL at the end of March.

## LGBT Venango Support Group forming

A peer-led support group for LGBTQ+ adults is now meeting on the first Saturday of each month upstairs in a private room at the Franklin Library, 421

12th St, Franklin, PA, 16423. The meeting is ADA-accessible via elevator. Please wear a face mask for the safety of the immunocompromised and disabled members of our community. Masks will be available at the group if you forget yours! To find out more about the group, browse <https://lgbtvenango.com/> or check them out on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61567949807569> or Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/lgbtvenango/>

## National Coming Out Day: Erie Family Photo on Oct 11, 2025

Picture it: Erie, PA 1995. The City of Erie was preparing to celebrate its Bicentennial. The newly energized LGBTQ+ community took a group photo on the steps of the Erie County Courthouse in October of that year to go in the Bicentennial Time Capsule that now is in Bicentennial Tower at Dobbins Landing at the foot of State Street. The October 1995 photo was the very first Family Photo the local community had taken as a community open to the public. The tradition of taking a group photo has continued at the Pride Picnic and other events. 2025 will mark the 30th anniversary of this historic event, and Erie Gay News is organizing another Family Photo on October 11, 2025 (National Coming Out Day) on the steps of the Erie County Courthouse between 11 AM and 1 PM. All groups and LGBTQ+ and supportive individuals are invited to participate. We want to show how the strength and diversity of the community have grown over the past three decades. We need YOU to make this happen.

We have already arranged for a professional photographer to take portraits. In addition to the family photo at noon on that day, they will also take pictures of groups and organizations. Plans are still being finalized, but Erie Gay News is requesting groups and businesses that want a picture with their members/staff to register beforehand so that we can be sure that everyone is appropriately recognized.

In addition, we plan on publishing the issue

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# ERIE GAY NEWS

Serving the Regional LGBTQIA+ Community Since 1992

**Erie Gay News**  
**1115 West 7th St.**  
**Erie PA 16502-1105**  
**(814) 456-9833**  
**Fax: (440) 551-5985**  
**info@eriegaynews.com**  
**www.eriegaynews.com**

**Editor/Layout: Mike Mahler**

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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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Camera ready art or manuscript and/or photos, illustrations and logos must be received by the 15th of the month.  
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# THANKS

From Your Friends at Erie Gay News

To Lake Erie Counseling Associates for hosting! Andrea Shaffer, Audrey, Deb, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Kim Conti, Laurie Finch, Maggie Watts, Rex Apps, and Serenity for folding; Andrea Shaffer, Audrey, Brett Staskiewicz, Jeff Hill, Johauna, Kim Conti, Rex Apps, and Serenity 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).

of Erie Gay News with the photos in color (a first). We will shortly announce sponsorship opportunities to help Erie Gay News cover the cost of the photographer and the extra cost of printing in color for that issue.

Erie Gay News welcomes everyone to celebrate this milestone for our region's LGBTQ+ community!

## NW PA Pride Alliance wraps up a busy 2024

While 2024 proved to come with its own set of challenges, the NW PA Pride Alliance is happy to continue its work to improve the visibility of the Queer/LGBTQIA+ community in Northwestern Pennsylvania.

Most notably known for planning and hosting the Erie Pride Fest and Parade, many may be surprised to learn the Pride Alliance works throughout the year looking to enhance visibility, foster unity, and promote acceptance through roughly forty events and programs, creating an inclusive space for all in Northwest Pennsylvania.

The NW Pride Alliance works to foster more opportunities for visibility for the queer community.

To that effort, they have partnered with Erie's sports teams for nights out with the Erie Seawolves and the Otters. This year, board members also participated in the PennWest Edinboro Homecoming Parade and the Meadville Halloween Parade.

Monthly, the NW PA Pride Alliance hosted Queer and Ally Happy Hours in Erie and Meadville. Erie's Happy Hour are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Oasis Bar and Grill. The Meadville Happy Hours are on the fourth Wednesday of the month at Julian's Bar and Grill.

2024 also saw the Pride Alliance host their Pride Prom at the Ambassador Banquet and Conference Center. The board once again provided a fun atmosphere for those who may not have been able to attend their own prom, or to attend with the person he would have preferred to attend with.

For 31 years, the NW PA Pride Alliance has hosted the annual Pride Picnic at the Rotary Pavilion on Presque Isle. This provides an opportunity for the community to come together and celebrate with their chosen family with good food, basket raffles and a family picture.

Many people may not realize that the NW PA



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Pride Alliance hosts not just one Pride celebration, but actually two, one in Meadville and the other in Erie. Meadville's celebration took place the last Saturday in July and is held in Diamond Park.

This year for Erie Pride, the NW PA Pride Alliance decided to move from Perry's Square to Frontier Park on the last Saturday in June. Unfortunately, a tornado watch forced the cancellation of Erie's Pride on the Bay. Thankfully, the weather was much improved for Sunday for Erie's annual Pride Parade on State Street as a number of units marched from 11th Street to Perry's Square.

The NW PA Pride Alliance will be gearing up for 2025 here shortly, and the best way to stay in the know is to follow them on Facebook and Instagram and check in at [NWPAPride.org](http://NWPAPride.org).

## **TransFamily of NW PA Hosts Annual TransGiving Potluck**

TransFamily of NW PA hosted their annual TransGiving Potluck at Compton's Table, 3401 State St, on Saturday, November 23. TransFamily provided a welcoming space for members of the trans community and their supporters to come together to enjoy a meal and socialize in a friendly way. The organizers mentioned how happy they were to see not only returning friends but new faces as well. The potluck was delectable, and everyone had a wonderful time.

TransFamily has support group meetings at Compton's Table on the fourth Saturday of each month at 2 PM and a support group in Meadville at Empowerment with Grace on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM.

## **On stage this spring**

**Mar 8 - Paula Poundstone** Asbury Hall at Babeville, Buffalo NY 8pm <https://paulapoundstone.com/tour/>  
**April 4 - Broadway Star Nick Adams** 1891 Fredonia Opera House, Fredonia NY <https://fredopera.org/events/nick-adams/>

**April 5 - OddCity's 2nd Annual Rainbow Fest** Planned for April 5, 2025 Basement Transmissions 145 W 11th Erie PA <https://www.facebook.com/rainbowfestoferie>

**April 10 - "Patti LuPone: A Life in Notes,"** 7:30 pm Mercyhurst University Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center Erie PA <https://miac.mercyhurst.edu/events/patti-lupone-life-notes>

**April 21 - Melissa Etheridge w/ Josh Stone Packard**

Music Hall Warren Ohio <https://melissaetheridge.com/events/>

**May 4 - Wanda Sykes: Please & Thank You Tour** 7pm Kleinhans Music Hall Buffalo NY <https://kleinhansbuffalo.org/event/wanda-sykes/>

## **Erie Gay News 32nd Anniversary and 350th issue**

Erie Gay News is very proud that this print edition marks our 350th issue and our 32nd anniversary! Our first issue came out in December of 1992 as a side project of Bridges, the Pride organization in Erie during the early 1990's. Part of the impetus for a monthly print publication was promoting cooperation for the then-upcoming April 1993 March on Washington.

Today, We distribute Erie Gay News to over 100 locations in the NW PA, W NY, and eastern OH region. Print copies are sent each month to legislators, candidates for public office, and also LGBTQIA+ archives across the USA (including ONE Archives in Los Angeles, Gerber Hart in Chicago, Stonewall Archives in Florida, Pat Parker Vitto Russo Library in New York City, and Sexual Minority Archives in Massachusetts. Additionally, we send copies each year to two international LGBTQIA+ archives: IHLIA in Amsterdam and ArQuives in Toronto.

Keeping our region's community informed and connected brings us joy! We are grateful for the advertisers and volunteers that make our work possible!

Erie Gay News is one of only three LGBTQIA+-focused publications in Pennsylvania. The other two are Philadelphia Gay News and QBurgh, published online in Pittsburgh.

Your continued support in helping us get timely news/events, supporting our advertisers (and also advertising), and helping us find new locations to distribute enables us to continue serving our community!

Thanks for all that you have given over the years!

## **Winter Group Therapy Returns to Journey To A Trauma Informed Life**

Are YOU ready to slow down, reflect, and connect this winter? Winter is the perfect time to turn inward, nurture your well-being, and set intentions for the year ahead. This season, Journey To A Trauma Informed Life invites you to join us at 201 W 11th St, Erie, PA, for group therapy sessions designed to inspire creativity and self-discovery in a supportive



environment. Registration closes on December 29, 2024. Sessions start on January 13, 2025. All groups are in person. Sessions are FREE for UPMC for You members. Ask Journey to a Trauma Informed Life about other insurance.

What's Coming This Winter:

**Art Therapy:** Guided by Eric Reiche, LPC, ATR, this hands-on group uses creative expression to help you process emotions, explore your inner world, and find clarity.

**Journey Through the Shadows:** Guided by Dr. Will Koehler, this group focuses on shadow work, helping you embrace all parts of yourself and uncover hidden strengths.

Why Join?

Our group therapy sessions offer:

- \* A safe, inclusive space to connect with others.
- \* Tools for self-reflection and personal growth.
- \* A chance to explore and express your emotions through creativity and shadow work.

## SafeNet and the LGBTQ+ Community

As the holiday season draws near, we find ourselves reflecting on themes of love, family, and togetherness. While this time can be a joyous celebration for many who gather with friends and loved ones, it can also shine a light on painful realities for those who may feel unsafe or unsupported. One significant issue affecting our LGBTQ+ community, often overlooked, is domestic violence.

Domestic violence is commonly associated with heterosexual relationships, but the truth is that it impacts individuals across the spectrum of gender identity and sexual orientation. Research indicates that LGBTQ+ individuals experience domestic violence at rates equal to or even higher than their heterosexual counterparts. This violence can take many forms, including emotional manipulation, financial control, threats to "out" a partner, physical aggression, and sexual violence.

The challenges are compounded for many in the LGBTQ+ community, who may face unique barriers when seeking help. These barriers include a lack of

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LGBTQ+-inclusive services, fear of discrimination, and pervasive social stigma.

At SafeNet, we are committed to supporting all individuals, regardless of age, gender, or sexual orientation. We offer a range of services tailored to our community's needs, including medical outreach, counseling, support groups, legal assistance, and emergency shelter. Our dedicated staff is available 24/7 to provide the support you may need. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, please reach out to our hotline at 814-454-8161. You are not alone, and help is always available.

## **Lake Erie Gala 25th Anniversary**

The Erie Sisters and Brothers hosted another successful Lake Erie Gala at the Sheridan Bayfront Hotel from November 13th through the 17th, 2024. This year, we celebrated our 25th annual Lake Erie Gala with 90 beautiful ladies, their spouses, significant other/supporters! The Lake Erie Gala attracts crossdressers, transgender persons, and their loved ones from across North America and beyond our borders.

Our theme this year was a 'Red Carpet Affair,' so all our participants donned their best Glitz, Glam, and High Fashion. The fun-filled week started with a Welcome to the Gala and a Bang party. Where they enjoyed a Setting Sailer Buffet and Soup station, the potato soup was especially a huge hit as the staff couldn't keep the serving pot filled.

Thursday morning, 30 gals hopped on the bus for a guided morning tour of the Historic Warner Theater, followed by a delicious lunch at Luminary Distillery and Eatery, where they also toured the behind-the-scenes. That evening, we all sat down to a fine-plated dinner. DJ Brittany spun the tunes for our dancing pleasure for the rest of the night.

This year, we started a fun new activity called a "Bingo Scavenger Hunt". We enlisted several brick-and-mortar shops such as Romolo Chocolates, Pressed Coffee House, Buona Cucina Oils and More, The Sassy Peacock, Lollie & Co., The Colony Pub and Grille, Relish Jewelry Retailer, Great Lakes Popcorn Co., Pop Luck Gourmet Popcorn and all our Gala vendors Beth McKinley from Allied Financial Group, Bobbie Czerwinski a Mary Kay Beauty Consultant, Jodie Turri with Touchstone Crystal by Swarovski, Antonio and Diane with Award Solutions, Lisa Tomlinson and Dr. Sarah Carter from iAesthetic and Author Jane B. Lee. Jane. The idea was to visit

all the enlisted vendors, who received a charm to be placed on the bracelet provided. It turned out to be a big hit as 3 participants completed the full board and had a beautiful bracelet to take home and won a special prize.

The ladies boarded the 2 buses for a trip to the Erie Station Dinner Theatre on Friday. There, they dined and laughed hysterically at the performance of the Canterbury Feast. If you have never visited this venue before, you missed out on one hell of a show. An extra fun fact: in between the acts, the Actors and Actresses serve the dinner courses.

Saturday night was our big event with our Red-Carpet Affair-themed dinner. The hysterical entertainment was provided by Paul and Ryan from WNY'S Hi-Octane Dueling Pianos. Our ladies totally nailed the catwalk as they entered our ballroom on the red carpet lined with red velvet ropes. Diane Crow, Portraits by Diane Crow, once again knocked it out of the park with her beautiful pictures of the girls entering under the silver balloon arch and the paparazzi station was hopping with ladies waiting to have their pics independently taken by their friends. I need to give a special shout out to Liz Millsbaugh for once again making the over-the-top amazing cake for us.

## **PA LGBTQ Advocates Release Landmark Statewide Legislative Agenda**

HARRISBURG, Pa. - PA's only Pennsylvania-based statewide LGBTQ advocacy organization in Harrisburg released its second comprehensive LGBTQ legislative agenda. The LGBTQ Legislative Agenda from the Pennsylvania Youth Congress (PYC) provides a robust narrative on 21 specific priority areas for the General Assembly to advance LGBTQ equality, equity, and inclusion across the commonwealth. In total, 45 individual bills are recommended for introduction this coming session in both the House and Senate. PYC's first legislative agenda was released in December 2019.

Over 750,000 LGBTQ Pennsylvanians live across every community in our commonwealth. Many face serious, compounding inequities and disparities that result in devastating outcomes. Preventing and addressing violence and discrimination are among the highest priorities in the legislative agenda. The first nondiscrimination bill for sexual orientation was introduced in 1976, and bills for both gender

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identity and sexual orientation have been introduced every session since 2003. Though explicitly LGBTQ-inclusive local nondiscrimination protections now cover 38% of Pennsylvania's population, a majority do not have them. While nondiscrimination protections would provide a major impact in improving and saving the lives of LGBTQ Pennsylvanians, numerous other policies are critically needed. The legislative agenda details other key issues that deal with hate crimes and a conversion therapy ban for minors, but also issues that do not often get large-scale public attention, like instituting protocols for transgender individuals in state prisons and county jails, prohibiting nonconsensual surgeries on intersex children, and reforming vital document processes like death certificates.

Preston Heldibridle, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Youth Congress, said, "The time is now for the General Assembly to come together to advance legislation helping everyone in our communities thrive with equal protection under the law. We recognize that with a divided government, legislation explicitly impacting LGBTQ Pennsylvanians has a tough road ahead. Yet, we must persist in moving forward conversations with legislators about the devastating results of the General Assembly's inaction on the lives of LGBTQ Pennsylvanians. Providing this education is critical to helping shift more lawmakers and members of the public to truly understand the urgency of enacting responsible public policy impacting LGBTQ people. We refuse to let those who wish for LGBTQ Pennsylvanians to be extinguished from public life dominate the headlines in Harrisburg. While they introduce cruel bills meant to rile up folks on the fringe, we will be more coordinated than ever before in promoting sensible reforms for



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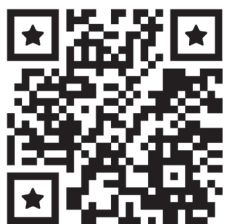
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our economy, safety, education, and health.”

The report additionally includes details on four state budget priorities and two points on visibility related to resolutions and LGBTQ inclusion on the state Capitol grounds. Following the narrative sections, there is a full checklist of the bills PYC recommends the introduction and passage of. Of the 90 total bills highlighted for introduction, only 53 were introduced in the previous 2023-2024 legislative session. PYC encourages returning lawmakers to reintroduce legislation they have championed before, and for new General Assembly members to come forward to work with advocates in ensuring the additional 37 bills are filed in the new session.

The Pennsylvania LGBTQ Legislative Agenda is available on PYC’s website here: <https://payouthcongress.org/legislativeagenda/>

In the 2023-2024 legislative session, 71 bills and nine resolutions were introduced that would have had a positive impact on LGBTQ Pennsylvanians, and 14 bills were introduced that would have harmed LGBTQ Pennsylvanians. Of those LGBTQ-related bills introduced last session, six positive bills and two resolutions were passed by the state House, and two anti-LGBTQ bills were passed by the state Senate. For the 11th consecutive legislative session, no substantive LGBTQ legislation was enacted into law by the General Assembly. Two years ago, HB 2125 was signed into law on as Act 73 of 2022, which removed ‘homosexuality’ from the crimes code. While removing any negative law is vital, it is not the same as establishing affirmative protections for LGBTQ Pennsylvanians.

PYC will continue to feature an LGBTQ legislative tracker on its website this session here: <https://payouthcongress.org/legislationtracker/>

The Pennsylvania LGBTQ Legislative Agenda is being shared with members of the General Assembly and Governor’s office.

The new agenda was informed by issues raised at the nine State of LGBTQ+ Pennsylvania Town Halls hosted by PYC in October and November 2024, and through recent meetings of the Pennsylvania Coalition of LGBTQ Organizations, a network of over 50 LGBTQ community organizations facilitated by PYC.

PYC will soon announce the distribution of new local government LGBTQ policy guides for county commissioners, municipal government officials, and school boards to advance LGBTQ inclusion.

## Online Contests

Here are new contests for this month...

Contest	Begins
<i>Amazing Dog Stories</i>	December 20
<i>The Old Man and the Queer</i>	December 24
<i>Magic University - Complete Series</i>	December 27
<i>F.L.Y.</i>	December 31
<i>The Legend of Meneka</i>	January 21

Here are contests which are currently active...

Contest	Ends
<i>Jingle Balls - A Christmas Anthology</i>	December 24
<i>CuirDoRican: Between Queer and Latine</i>	December 27
<i>Winter In The City</i>	December 31
<i>Dyke the Halls</i>	January 4
<i>A Christmas Carl</i>	January 7

More contests at [eriegaynews.com](http://eriegaynews.com)!



*Bears Do Dinner held its December meet-up for dinner at The Boardroom Dining & Spirits, 4353 W Ridge Rd, Erie, PA. The next Bears Do Dinner will be on January 8 at Saigon Nights, 2430 W 8th St, Erie, PA. Photo by Michael Mahler*



## 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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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.*

*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.*

**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 21 (Sat) - 5th Annual Full Spectrum Holiday Hangout** (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 4 PM - 7 PM. Free and family-friendly! Pizza & soda pop, holiday cookies, hot chocolate, holiday music, crafts, ugly sweater contest.

**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. Come join us for our monthly support meeting at Compton's Table in the Central Outreach Building. Enter through the rear entrance. Light snacks and refreshments provided. Join us for a community in a comfy, no pressure environment! All are welcome!

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

**Jan 2 (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.



**Jan 2 (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>

**Jan 2 (Thu) - Lotz of Tea with Mona** 7 PM. The talk show about love, healing, and acceptance! Hosted by Mona Lotz with therapist "Marjorie". Live streaming on Facebook, YouTube, and TikTok. . Browse to <https://www.facebook.com/LotzofTea>.

**Jan 3 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) meets** (Room 33, 1033 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM - 8 PM. All Are welcome.

**Jan 4 (Sat) - LGBT Venango Support Group meets** (Franklin Public Library, 421 12th St, Franklin, PA 16323) 10:30 AM. Peer-led support group for LGBTQ+ adults. We meet once a month upstairs at the Franklin Library.

**Jan 5 (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.

**Jan 5 (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.

**Jan 8 (Wed) - Bears Do Dinner #123 (Saigon Nights, 2430 W 8th St, Erie, PA 16505)** 6 PM. Join the Bears for a casual dinner of food and conversation! Dinner is on your own. Contact: Peter. Phone: (814) 384-9785.

**Jan 8 (Wed) - Compton's Table Stitch and B\*tch** (Compton's Table, 3104 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 6 PM - 8 PM. 18+. This group meets bi-weekly on Wednesdays. Bring your knitting needles, crochet projects, yarn, or whatever you're working on at the moment, and come hang out with us. This event is bring your own materials, and we encourage you to bring anything extra you may have to share with the group!

**Jan 9 (Thu) - ASCEND Erie Queer Scouts Climbing Club** (ASCEND Erie, 426 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM - 8 PM. Queer Scouts is a LGBTQ+ climbing club, with the goal of creating connection and a safer and more inclusive outdoors community. Just look for the Queer Scout mascot, the tiny rainbow unicorn! Please check in at the front desk upon arrival. Not an ASCEND member? Enjoy a discounted \$15 Club Day Pass while attending these meetups.

**Jan 9 (Thu) - Compton's Table Chat & Chill Group (13-17)** (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. 13-17 groups are every second 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>

**Jan 11 (Sat) - Who Wants To Be A Drag Star Round 2** (Meadville Council on the Arts, 910 Market St, Meadville, PA 16335, ) Hosted by Cherry Falwell. Featuring judges Travis Smith, Debbie Does Drag, and Alysia Wonderland. Doors: 7pm, Showtime 8pm, 18+, Tickets available online. For more info, email [dragstarmeadville@gmail.com](mailto:dragstarmeadville@gmail.com)

**Jan 12 (Sun) - Full Spectrum Gender Nonconforming Social & Peer Support meets** (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 4 PM - 6 PM. Free to all LGTQIA+ ages 18 & older

**Jan 13 (Mon) - Deadline for Erie Gay News February 2025 print edition (#351)** (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, January 21.

**Jan 14 (Tue) - PFLAG of Chautauqua meeting** (Secret Undisclosed Location, 100 E 2nd St 2nd Floor, Jamestown, NY 14701) 6:30 PM. This is a safe, inclusive space where queer community members and allies can come together for support, discussion, and connection. Whether you've attended before or are joining us for the first time, we'd love to have you with us. Let's continue building our community, sharing our stories, and supporting one another. Please visit our Facebook group,

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or email [PFLAGCHQ@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PFLAGCHQ@GMAIL.COM) or call (814)  
313-4495 for details.

**Jan 14 (Tue) - TransFamily of NWPA (Meadville) Transgender Support Group meets** (Empowerment with Grace, 941 Federal Ct Ste 104, Meadville, PA 16335) 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM. Join us for our monthly Crawford Support Group meeting! Please use the side entrance of the building on 296 Chestnut. It will have signage as Empowerment with Grace but this may not show up on your GPS.

**Jan 14 (Tue) - Youngstown PFLAG meets** (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH 44503) 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM. If you're GLBT, a parent of someone who is, or an ally and you're looking for emotional support, we encourage you to attend Youngstown PFLAG's monthly support group. You will be surrounded by understanding peers from the valley who will be able to listen and help. Support groups are open to the public, and it starts at 6:30pm. Light refreshments will be available.

**Jan 15 (Wed) - Sexual Wellness PA's Intimacy Building Book Club (Zoom)** 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 donation-based and open first come, first serve to the first 8-10 pre-registered, interested participants. Come prepared to listen, share, discuss, and ask questions!

**Jan 16 (Thu) - Full Spectrum Youth/Teen Social & Peer Support meets** (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 5 PM - 7 PM. Free to all LGBTQIA+ youth 16-17, under 16 with signed parental consent form.

**Jan 16 (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.

**Jan 16 (Thu) - Queer Open Mic** (Compton's Table, 3104 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 6 PM - 10 PM. Hosted by Gwen Elaine. All Queer performers welcome. Suggested donation of \$5 payable at event or by online donation at [comptonstable.org](http://comptonstable.org). Register at <https://comptonstable.org/open-mic-registration>

**Jan 16 (Thu) - Lotz of Tea with Mona** 7 PM. The talk show about love, healing, and acceptance! Hosted by Mona Lotz with therapist "Marjorie". Live streaming

on Facebook, YouTube, and TikTok. . Browse to <https://www.facebook.com/LotzofTea>.

**Jan 18 (Sat) - Aging with Pride Book Club - Barrel Fever by David Sedaris** (Werner Books & Coffee 3608 Liberty St, Erie, PA 16508) 1 PM. Werner Books offers a 20% discount on books purchased for the book club.

**Jan 19 (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.

**Jan 19 (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!

**Jan 21 (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>

**Jan 21 (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!

**Jan 22 (Wed) - Meadville Monthly LGBTQIA+ & Allies Happy Hour** (Julian's Bar & Grill, 299 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA 16335) 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM.

**Jan 22 (Wed) - Compton's Table Stitch and B\*tch** (Compton's Table, 3104 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 6 PM - 8 PM. 18+. This group meets bi-weekly on Wednesdays. Bring your knitting needles, crochet projects, yarn, or whatever you're working on at the moment, and come hang out with us. This event is bring your own materials, and we encourage you to bring anything extra you may have to share with the group!

**Jan 23 (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.

**Jan 25 (Sat) - (Erie) Transgender Support Group meets** (Compton's Table, 3104 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 2 PM - 5 PM. Come join us for our monthly support



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meeting at Compton's Table in the Central Outreach Building. Enter through the rear entrance. Light snacks and refreshments provided. Join us for a community in a comfy, no pressure environment! All are welcome!

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

**Jan 28 (Tue) - Aging with Pride Dinner** (El Amigo Mexican Grill, 333 State St, Erie, PA 17607) 6 PM - 8 PM. Aging with Pride, an organization of senior LGBT+ members and allies, is meeting for dinner. Everyone is on their own for the meal.

**Jan 30 (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.

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