



February 2025 – Issue 351

# ERIE GAY NEWS

Serving the Regional LGBTQIA+ Community Since 1992



*On Thursday, December 19, 2024, Blane and Randy hosted Aging With Pride's holiday dinner at their Millcreek home. Harry Miller provided the catering and attendees brought desserts. The food was delectable, and everyone had a wonderful time.*

## Boots and Coats Drive on Feb 8 at Journey To A Trauma Informed Life

The Erie Queer Community once again comes together to collect boots and coats for Community Shelter Services of Erie PA. New or gently used boots, coats, and warm clothing in all sizes will be accepted. Ground coffee will also be accepted. The event will be held on Saturday, February 8th, from 10 am to 2 pm at Journey to a Trauma Informed Life at 201 W 11th St Erie, Pa.

Partnering organizations are listed below:

Aging with Pride (Erie)  
Ascend Climbing/Queer Scouts  
Bears Do Dinner  
Central Outreach Wellness Center (Erie)  
Compton's Table  
Erie Gay News  
Erie Trans Picnics  
Free Mom Hugs  
Journey: Healing Together  
LBT Women of Erie  
NW PA Pride Alliance  
PA Thrive Partnership  
Wabtec's Pride ERG

Whee! Studios  
Yellow Brick Roads  
Zone Dance Club

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Mahler at [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com)

## Compton's True North Program Looking for Applicants

Compton's Table provides a host of programs aimed to help the queer community in Erie County thrive. True North: Empowering Queer Youth for Independence is one of the programs offered to help young people integrate successfully into adulthood.

Created and facilitated by the Compton's Table Board, True North aims to provide young queer people with the foundational skills to enter and succeed in adulthood. The program is divided into 4 two hour-long sessions that run over a 4 week period.

The first week focuses on building community while integrating lessons on social skill development, team building, and reflection. The second week focuses on financial concerns, like how to handle money, banking, taxes, writing, and sticking to a budget, along with information about finding queer-friendly housing, paying bills, roommate etiquette, and apartment basics.

Week three centers on self-care and hygiene. Facilitators discuss mental health and physical hygiene, how to keep living spaces clean, and who to reach out to if additional help is needed. The fourth and final session centers on "Adulthood 101"-- information like maintaining a healthy diet and forming positive relationships with others. All of these sessions and information are offered free of charge to members of the Erie County queer community.

If this program sounds like something you or someone you know might be interested in, please register at [www.ComptonsTable.org](http://www.ComptonsTable.org) to join the next cohort.

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# ERIE GAY NEWS

Serving the Regional LGBTQIA+ Community Since 1992

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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

<b>QUARTER PAGE</b>	<b>FULL PAGE</b>	<b>HALF PAGE VERTICAL</b>
<b>HALF PAGE HORIZONTAL</b>	<b>EIGHTH PAGE</b>	

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, Barb Brennan, Bobbie Fenno, Chris McComas, Deb, Jeff Hill, Kim Conti, Laurie Finch, Rex Apps, Robin Green, Serenity, and Steve Siwiecki for folding; Andrea Shaffer, Brett Staskiewicz, Chris McComas, Jeff Hill, Kim Conti, 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).

## National Coming Out Day: Erie Family Photo Sponsorship Opportunities

2025 marks the 30th anniversary of Erie's first Family Photo, and Erie Gay News (EGN) is inviting you to be part of history. On National Coming Out Day, October 11, 2025, the LGBTQ+ community and allies will gather on the steps of the Erie County Courthouse from 11 AM to 1 PM to celebrate decades of strength, diversity, and progress. Central to this celebration is the annual Family Photo at noon – a powerful visual testament to our community's resilience and unity.

To commemorate this milestone year, EGN has arranged for a professional photographer to capture not just the iconic group photo but also portraits of organizations and groups that wish to highlight their involvement. For the first time in its history, EGN plans to publish a special edition featuring these photos in full color – a vibrant tribute to the community that has made Erie's LGBTQ+ movement so remarkable.

However, bringing this vision to life requires

your support. EGN is seeking sponsorships to cover the costs of the photographer and the extra expenses associated with printing a color edition. Sponsorship is also a unique opportunity for businesses, organizations, and individuals to showcase their commitment to the LGBTQ+ community while gaining visibility in a historic publication.

### Sponsorship Levels

- **Friends (\$10-\$99):** Your contribution will assist us in creating this celebratory color issue.
- **Family (\$100-\$499):** Your name will appear on the banner (small-size print).
- **Community (\$500-\$999):** Your name will appear on the banner (medium-size print) and you'll get a free half-page ad in the color issue.
- **Society (\$1,000+):** Prominent placement on the banner (large-size print) and you'll get a full-page ad in the color issue.

The vinyl banner will be held during the Family Photos. With sufficient sponsorship support, we'll expand by adding more banners.

To become a sponsor or for more details,



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please contact Michael Mahler directly at [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com) or (814) 456-9833. Together, let's celebrate this incredible milestone!

## **The Laramie Project at McDowell Little Theatre Jan 30-Feb 1**

*From the director:* Come out to the McDowell Little Theatre, 3320 Cuaghey Rd, Erie, PA, this January 30 through February 1, 2025, to experience our production of THE LARAMIE PROJECT.

February marks the 25th anniversary of the show's premiere, which opened just over a year after the murder of Matthew Shepard in October 1998. The play's words are all verbatim transcript interviews with residents of Laramie, Wyoming (and related individuals) after Matthew was attacked, tied to a fence, and left to die. The case swept the country and led to anti-hate-crime legislation in 2009.

Our cast of student actors have not only been rehearsing the show, but they have been researching the "moment work" utilized in writing the play (from the Tectonic Theater Project); learning about the case itself; and journaling about their experiences. On January 15, Mr. Dennis Shepard (Matthew's father) Zoomed in with our cast for a Q&A as we further prepared for the show. He was generous with his time, advocacy, and support.

Some theatre entertains, some theatre inspires, some theatre pushes the boundaries of art, and some theatre engages with contemporary discussions. The students are wrestling with big ideas and working to genuinely portray real people.

I invite you to not only support our young actors but to challenge yourself with a challenging piece of art.

All shows are at 7:00 p.m. (Thursday, 1/30/25; Friday, 1/31/25; and Saturday, 2/1/25). Admission is \$15: seats are general admission rather than specific reserved seats.

Tickets: [bit.ly/McDCPATix](https://bit.ly/McDCPATix)

This production contains mature content and some adult language. The play is not recommended for young audiences.

## **NWPA Pride's Queer Happy Hour is Back and Ready to Party!**

Get ready to raise your glasses (or mocktails!) because NWPA Pride's Queer Happy Hour is back and better than ever! We're thrilled to announce that

our monthly gathering will be kicking the year off at Erie's only queer bar and dance club, the Zone Dance Club (133 W 18th St), starting Wednesday, February 5th at 6pm. The Zone is pulling out all the stops for us, opening early and going non-smoking for the entire event!

But wait, there's more! We're taking this party on the road, rotating to different hot spots throughout the year. After the Zone, we'll be hopping over to Room 33 Speakeasy in downtown Erie, then hitting up the Ugly Tuna Tavern near the entrance to Presque Isle, and finally landing at Lavery Brewing Company on West 12th Street. Then it's back to the Zone just in time for Pride Month! Mark your calendars for the first Wednesday of every month at 6pm (except for Lavery Brewing, where we'll be partying on Tuesday). And don't forget our Meadville Happy Hour, still going strong at Julian's on the 4th Wednesday of each month.

With more locations and more chances to connect, we're bringing the LGBTQIA+ community and our allies together like never before. So come on down, mingle, make new friends, and let's paint the town rainbow! See you there!

## **Erie Sisters and Brothers 2025 Events**

The Erie Sisters and Brothers Transgender Support Group looks forward to another exhilarating year. The following events are already in the works and are developing daily.

February 21st - 23rd, 2025: Our Annual Cabin Fever will again coincide with the Wine on the Lake. We have a room block at the Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel. Hotel reservations are open and can be made at <https://book.passkey.com/event/50939036/owner/65777/home>. Bonus fact: The Wine on the Lake will be held at the Erie Convention Center, attached to the hotel via the Sky Bridge. So, there's no going outside in the weather to attend this event. Please note that the Cabin Fever host hotel reservation link will be closing on February 1.

The Annual Victorian Princess Dinner Cruise will coincide with Erie Pride on The Bay on June 28, 2025. More details to follow.

November 12 - 16, 2025: Our Annual Lake Erie Gala will be held at the Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel. The theme this year will be old Western style.

Additionally, Erie Sisters hosts a bimonthly



meeting on the second Saturday of even-numbered months from 05:00 pm - 09:00 pm at The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy Erie, PA 16509. Dates for this are February 8, April 12, June 14, August 9, October 11, and December 13

## **LGBT Fund of Erie Community Foundation Grant to Compton's Table**

The LGBT Fund of The Erie Community Foundation has awarded a \$7,500 grant to Compton's Table, supporting the organization's transformative True North and Chat n Chill programs. The initiatives, designed to create an affirming environment for LGBTQ+ youth in northwestern Pennsylvania, align with the LGBT Fund's vision for a united, vibrant, and thriving community for LGBTQ+ individuals in the Erie region.

True North provides young queer individuals with life skills training in such areas as budgeting, securing housing, self-care, and career development.

The program of individual empowerment addresses the significant risks faced by LGBTQ+ youth, including high rates of suicide. The Trevor Project reports that more than 40% of LGBTQ youth seriously considered suicide in the past year, underscoring the urgency of supportive interventions like True North.

Chat n Chill complements True North by offering a consistent, judgment-free social environment where participants can apply their new skills and form meaningful connections. Research shows that a sense of belonging significantly reduces suicide risk among queer youth, making these safe spaces not only affirming but potentially life-saving.

The LGBT Fund's mission is to fund and partner in community-led initiatives that advance the local LGBTQ+ population. By supporting programs like True North and Chat n Chill, the Fund contributes to work that addresses this population's unique needs and experiences.

The LGBT Fund welcomes any organization interested in applying for its 2025 grant to contact The Erie Community Foundation for further details. The grants, application of which opens in the fall, support initiatives addressing LGBTQ+ needs in areas such

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as safe schools, youth homelessness, mental health, housing, workplace equality, and more. For more information, visit [erielgbtfunds.org](http://erielgbtfunds.org).

## **Have you considered supporting Pride in 2025?**

The NW PA Pride Alliance has been fostering equality, respect, and diversity through our events in the Erie region since 2011. We are grateful for all our supporters who have helped to make this mission a reality.

We produce the Erie Pride On The Bay, Meadville Pride, and our annual Pride Picnic celebrated at the Rotary Pavilion on Presque Isle. The Pride Alliance also hosts monthly happy hours in Meadville and here in Erie. We also support other local organizations as we shine a light and bring awareness to many Queer issues throughout our region.

The NW PA Pride Alliance is grateful to those who have supported us in the past and would kindly ask that you consider supporting us as we move forward. If you want to become part of this great mission, please go to our website [www.nwpapride.org](http://www.nwpapride.org). You will see we have several levels for supporting Pride in our local community.

If you wish to remain anonymous, please state when you are making donations; otherwise, your name will be included on our website and other promotional material.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

## **Full Spectrum's 8th Annual Winter GALA**

Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center invites you to their 8th Annual Winter GALA on Saturday, February 8th, 2025, from 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm at DiVieste's Banquet Center in Warren, Ohio. Full Spectrum Community Outreach is the Mahoning Valley's LGBTQIA+ Center, located at 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, Ohio.

This is a semi-formal event with members of the community and local businesses coming together and celebrating the work that Full Spectrum does for the Mahoning Valley each year. This is also a fundraiser for our organization, but all together is a fun night to enjoy a delicious meal, raffles, an open bar, live entertainment from the well-known Denise Russell, and special guests: Starrlet O'Hara, Farrah Fawn, and Valerie Valentino and more.

## **David Moore Stepping Down as President of Pennsylvania Equality Project**

As of January 20, 2025, David Moore is stepping down as President of Pennsylvania Equality Project, and his wife, Jennifer Rahal-Moore, is stepping down as Co-Vice President. The letter sent by Moore to the board about stepping down appears below.

Dear Fellow Board Members:

I am writing to inform you that as of 12:00 AM on January 20, 2025, I am resigning from the position as President of Pennsylvania Equality Project. My wife, Jennifer Rahal-Moore, is simultaneously resigning from her position as a Co-Vice President. Neither of us make this decision lightly.

In June 2011, I realized that if New Yorkers could have marriage rights for same-sex couples, that Pennsylvanians deserve the same rights. I started Marriage Equality for Pennsylvania. We marched in the streets of Erie, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and other communities across Pennsylvania. We marched across the entrance to the Capitol in Harrisburg alongside PA State Representative Brian Sims and Pennsylvania Youth Congress Founder, Jason Landau-Goodman.

By August 2014, our name was changed to Pennsylvania Equality Project to continue our efforts to secure other rights such as non-discrimination, allowing transgender youth to use restroom and locker room facilities matching their gender identity, an end to the gay & trans panic defense in court, and an end to conversion therapy for minors.

I am proud of what we have accomplished, and I encourage the remaining Board members to work together. Jennifer and I will remain on the Board of Directors in a non-officer capacity. As of now, I will be stepping down entirely from the Board of Directors in 2027 and joining the Legacy group. As for PEP Radio, I intend to remain in place as General Manager. I will also continue to do the FreeShop event in Meadville with the Board of Directors' approval. I will also serve in an advisory capacity for the Executive Officers and will gladly hand over all documents from the organization's archives.

It is remarkably difficult to finish this work to which I have dedicated 40 years of my life. However, the time has come to allow the younger generation to assume leadership.



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## NWPA Pride Alliance welcomes new Board Members

NWPA Pride Alliance is happy to announce the addition of three new members to its Board of Directors: Mason Bracken, Josh Slayton, and Chris Wrobel. They join returning board members Season Crannell (President), Patrick Hiller (Vice President), Andrew Caswell (Secretary), Michael Mahler (Treasurer), Moe Ferrara, Tony Gressley, Michael Mooney, Brett Staskiewicz, Michael “Debbie” Hipwell, and Anna Schmidt, as well as advisory board members Chris Temple, Gary Snyder, Cassie Ellsworth, Travis Smith, Misha Krastins, Mulnah Dovat, and Stephen Bagnoni.

NWPA Pride is already planning the traditional Pride Events for 2025. Please follow NWPA Pride on social media and [NWPApride.org](http://NWPApride.org) for more information and bios for all new board members.

## Anita Bryant, 70's Anti-Gay Activist, Has Died

Anita Bryant, who became the face of anti-gay activism in the 1970s, died December 16 at the age of 84.

Bryant was once a household name, first as a popular singer and as the ad spokesperson for the Florida Citrus. And then, in 1977, she became America's most well-known homophobe, demonizing gay people and fighting against their rights.

She became involved with anti-gay activism in 1977 when she became leader of the Save Our Children coalition and successfully fought against an anti-discrimination ordinance in Dade County, Florida, that included sexual orientation. During the campaign, she made remarks like, “Homosexuals cannot biologically reproduce children; therefore, they must recruit our children.” Her efforts succeeded in repealing the anti-discrimination ordinance.

She would go on to lead and participate in other anti-gay campaigns around the country.

Bryant's remarks and activities galvanized and empowered the gay community. One notable effort was the successful 1977-1980 boycott of Florida Citrus products, where gay bars across North America stopped using orange juice. It was a simple but powerful way to send the message.

In May 1980, Bryant divorced her husband of almost 20 years, citing emotional abuse and suicidal thoughts. Also in 1980, the Florida Citrus Commission stopped using Bryant as a spokesperson.

Also, her activism seems to have caused lost gigs and sponsorships. Some Christian fundamentalists rejected her after the divorce, costing her bookings at their venues and events.

## Scott Zatkiewicz/Taylor Morgan Remembered

Erie Gay News extends our condolences and sympathies to the family, friends, and loved ones of Scott Zatkiewicz, AKA Taylor Morgan (Miss Erie 2005), who passed on Friday, January 3, 2025, surrounded by his family. Scott had brought joy and boundless optimism to everyone and will be very dearly missed. Scott/Taylor performed at many events, including charity benefits, such as Breast Cancer Awareness Weekend at Zone Dance Club. Thank you for your kindness and artistry!



*Scott Zatkiewicz performing as Taylor Morgan at the Miss Erie Pageant on August 16, 2024. Photo by Michael Mahler.*





NW PA Pride Alliance held its Meadville Happy Hour on December 14, 2024, at Julian's Bar & Grill, 299 Chestnut Street. Meadville Happy Hours will continue to be held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at Julian's. Erie Queer Happy Hour is returning and will now be rotating through four different establishments. The next Erie Queer Happy Hour will be on Wednesday, February 5, from 6 to 8 PM at Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St. We look forward to a revitalized Erie Queer Happy Hour!



On December 21, 2024, the editorial board of Erie Gay News had a holiday dinner at Samurai Kitchen + Sushi, 2767 W 12th St, Erie, PA. Having a meal together was lovely, and we celebrated Rex's birthday. Thanks to everyone who supports us!

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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 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. Please drink responsibly.*

*Zone Tuesday Game Night, 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, 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.*

*Zone Friday Night Dance Party, 133 W 18th St, 7 PM. With DJ Joe & MC Buffy. Kick off the weekend! Doors open at 7 PM. \$5 cover after 8 PM. Cash only. 21 and over with ID.*

*RuPaul's Drag Race Season 17 Viewing Party, 133 W 18th St, 8 PM. Hosted by Debbie Does Drag. Doors open at 7 PM. \$5cover after 8 PM. Cash only. 21 and over with ID.*

*Zone Saturday Night Dance Party, 8 PM. Dance, drink, fun, food. With DJ Joe & MC Buffy. Doors open at 8 PM. \$5 cover. Cash only. 21 and over with ID.*

*Zone Sunday Funday, 8 PM. Reset, unwind, recharge, relax. Doors open at 8 PM. No cover. Cash only. Happy hour 8 PM - 10 PM. \$1 off bottled beer, \$2 well drinks. 21 and over with ID.*

**Jan 22 (Wed) – Meadville Queer Happy Hour** (Julian's Bar & Grill, 299 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA 16335) 5:30 PM – 9 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 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 25 (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 27 (Mon) - Holocaust Remembrance Day** Day to remember all of the victims of the Nazi era. <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 29 (Wed) - Venango PRIDE in the Park Planning Meeting** (237 Seneca Street, Oil City, PA) 5:30 PM. Exciting news! Venango PRIDE in the Park 2025 is officially in the works! Last year's event was an incredible success, and we can't wait to come together again to celebrate love, acceptance, and community. Want to be part of the planning fun? Join us for our first meeting. Let's make 2025 even more amazing - see you there!

**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.

**Jan 30 - Feb 1 (Thu - Sat) - The Laramie Project** (McDowell Little Theatre, 3320 Caughey Rd, Erie, PA 16510) 7 PM. Admission is \$15: seats are general admission rather than specific reserved seats.

**Jan 31 (Fri) - Coffee Social for LGBTQ+ Veterans** (Panera Bread - Peach St, 4014 Peach St., Erie, PA

16509) 10 AM. The Coffee Social is meant to bring Erie's local LGBTQ+ Veterans together to connect and foster ongoing relationships of support and friendship. The group will start off with facilitation by Erie VA staff, Brittany and Alisha, with the goal to be an independently run community Veteran group for like-minded individuals. Please call Brittany Miklos at 814-844-5944 or Alisha Mackey at 814-860-2174 for more information. This event is open to all LGBTQ+ Veterans in all counties served by the Erie VA. Your support will help make this an ongoing event for LGBTQ+ Veterans to meet and connect.

**Feb 1 (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.

**Feb 2 (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.

**Feb 2 (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.

**Feb 4 (Tue) - Bears Do Dinner #124 (Colony Pub & Grille, 2670 W 8th, 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.

**Feb 5 (Wed) - Erie Queer Happy Hour** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM. The Zone is pulling out all the stops for NW PA Pride Alliance, opening early and going non-smoking for the entire event! Everyone welcome!

**Feb 6 (Thu) - Compton's Table Chat & Chill Group** (18+) (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



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be sure that enough supplies are available. Register at <https://comptonstable.org/chatnchill>

**Feb 6 (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.

**Feb 6 (Thu) - Lotz of Tea with Mona** 7 PM. With co-host Large Marge. Live streaming on Facebook, YouTube, and TikTok. <https://www.facebook.com/LotzofTea>.

**Feb 7 (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.

**Feb 7 (Fri) - 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 <https://national-blackaidsday.org/>.

**Feb 8 (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.

**Feb 8 (Sat) - ASCEND Erie Affinity Session for QFTW** (ASCEND Erie, 426 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM - 8 PM. Join ASCEND as we celebrate our diverse communities with Affinity Sessions - climbing sessions dedicated to individuals who haven't always had equal access to or treatment within the sport. It's a space dedicated to intentional inclusivity, not exclusivity, and we invite you to participate and be a part of these efforts. Sessions are the second Saturday of the month and alternate between BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) in odd-numbered months and QFTW (Queer, Femme, Trans, Women) in even-numbered months. Please register for session at <https://www.ascendclimbing.com/programs/community/community-schedule> or by contacting the front desk These FREE climbing sessions are intended only for those in our community

who identify with these affinity groups. Rental gear included.

**Feb 8 (Sat) - 8th Annual Full Spectrum Winter GALA** (DiVieste's Banquet Centre, 754 N River Rd NW, Warren, OH 44483) 6 PM - 10 PM. Hosted by Denise Russell. Performers include Farrah Fawn, Starlett O'Hara, and Valerie Valentino.

**Feb 8 (Sat) - The Valentine Dance at Basement Transmissions** (Basement Transmissions, 145 W 11th St, Erie, PA 16501) OddCity's second annual Valentine's Dance! Formal attire encouraged. Danceable Mixed Genre Live Music! Aerial Dancers, Games, Unique Photobooths, Corsages, and Flow Performers. Music By DJ Lone Sav, TayJer, James Myles, Do Not Call List, Fastfall, Velvet Waves, Logan B & Dirty Leaf. Sponsored by Johns Wildwood Pizzeria, A Floral Affair, Shadow Knight Curiosities, Morbid Merchandise, Erie Ale Works Johns Wildwood Pizza, and Soulful Wraps. MORE TBA!

**Feb 8 (Sat) - BAD ROMANCE - a Lady Gaga Valentine's Day Party** (Cussewago Creek Distillery, 993 Water St, Meadville, PA 16335) 10 PM. Hosted by Cherry Falwell. Featuring performances from Alysia Wonderland, Snarebear (Joe Snarey), and the cast of Who Wants to be a Drag Star. \$5 cover. 21 and over.

**Feb 9 (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

**Feb 11 (Tue) - PFLAG of Chautauqua meeting** (Secret Undisclosed Location, 100 E 2nd St 2nd Floor, Jamestown, NY 14701) 6:30 PM. Join us to celebrate a Queer Valentine's Day, whether you're singles and those in and those relationships Please visit our Facebook group, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/594395124695283> or check out <https://pflag.org/chapter/chautauqua>, or email [PFLAGCHQ@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PFLAGCHQ@GMAIL.COM) or call (716) 499-4817 for details.

**Feb 11 (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.

**Feb 11 (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





## 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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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.

**Feb 12 (Wed) - Aging with Pride Game Night** (Werner Books & Coffee, 3608 Liberty St, Erie, PA 16508) 5 PM - 8 PM. Bring games and/or cards with you, or just come to play what others bring

**Feb 12 (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!

**Feb 13 (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.

**Feb 15 (Sat) - Deadline for Erie Gay News March 2025 print edition (#352)** (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 25.

**Feb 15 (Sat) - Pride on Ice at Downtown Erie Community Skating Rink** (Perry Square, 6th and State Streets, Erie, PA 16507) 12 PM - 8 PM. Join us for a Pride celebration at the Downtown Community Skating Rink all day. Music, dancing, performances, and more!

**Feb 15 (Sat) - Aging with Pride Book Club - Don't Cry For Me by Daniel Black** (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 16 - 22 (Sun - 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. <https://twitter.com/aroweb>.

**Feb 16 (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.

**Feb 16 (Sun) - Full Spectrum Transgender Roundtable Discussion** (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM. Open to all transgender and gender nonconforming ages 18 and older.

**Feb 16 (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!

**Feb 18 (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>

**Feb 19 (Wed) - Sexual Wellness PA's Queer Happily Ever After Book Club** (Zoom) 6 PM - 7:30 PM. Love getting swept up in romance novels, rom coms, and erotica? Want to see yourself and your community represented in the books you read? Want to dish about sex, romance, and relationships 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! Register at <https://www.sexualwellnesspa.com/bookclubfiction>

**Feb 20 (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.

**Feb 20 (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.

**Feb 20 (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@](mailto:info@)

comptonstable.org

**Feb 20 (Thu) - Lotz of Tea with Mona** 7 PM. With co-host Large Marge. Live streaming on Facebook, YouTube, and TikTok. <https://www.facebook.com/LotzofTea>.

**Feb 21 - 23 (Fri - Sun) - Erie Sisters & Brothers Transgender Group Annual Cabin Fever** (Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel, 55 West Bay Road, Erie, PA 16507) Our Annual Cabin Fever will once again coincide with the Wine on the Lake. We have a room block at the Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel.

**Feb 21 (Fri) - DIVAS: Sparkling Diamonds** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 10:30 PM. Hosted by Misty Michaels Kall. Featuring Michelle Michaels, Vivian Vendetta-Sinclair, Katrina Twerk-Island (Miss Erie 2024), and Shea D'Heaux. Doors open at 8 PM, and showtime at 10:30 PM. \$5 cover. Cash only. 21+ with ID. Please drink responsibly.

**Feb 22 (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!

**Feb 25 (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!

**Feb 26 (Wed) - Meadville Queer Happy Hour** (Julian's Bar & Grill, 299 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA 16335) 5:30 PM - 9 PM.

**Feb 27 (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.

**Feb 27 (Thu) - Aging with Pride Dinner** (Habibi Mediterranean Cuisine, 127 W 14th St, Erie, PA 16565) 6 PM. Aging with Pride, an organization of senior LGBT+ members and allies, is meeting for dinner. Everyone is on their own for the meal.

**Feb 28 (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. <https://www.facebook.com/pg/standupday/>



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*Bears Do Dinner held its January meet-up for dinner at Saigon Nights, 2430 W 8th St, Erie, PA. The next Bears Do Dinner will be on February 4 at Colony Pub & Grille 2670 W 8th St, Erie, PA. Photo by Michael Mahler*

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