



ERIE GAY NEWS

Serving the Regional LGBTQIA+ Community Since 1992



Drag performers at Warren County Pride's PrideDay the 13th at Struthers Library Theatre on March 13. Photo by Julia Carden

PrideDay the 13th Brings Community, Drag, and Drinks

By Julia Carden

Drag performers took to a small red-carpeted stage in Sally's Encore, entertaining an engaged crowd during Warren County Pride's "PrideDay the 13th" fundraiser at the Struthers Library Theatre on Friday, March 13.

The event featured an auction, drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and live entertainment, with proceeds supporting Warren County Pride Day, which will celebrate its seventh annual event this June. Organizers say the celebration continues to grow each year, drawing larger crowds and increased community support.

"It gets lonely in rural areas. It's important to have friends that you know will accept you, it's important to feel safe and supported," said Sara Culver, President of Warren County Pride. "That sense of community keeps people alive."

Brinn Cee, treasurer of Warren County Pride, said organizers were encouraged to see attendance grow to more than 3,500 people last year, highlighting the need for inclusive community spaces. This year's Pride in the Park celebration is scheduled for June

20 at Betts Park.

Donations from fundraisers like "PrideDay the 13th," the organization's largest annual fundraiser, help cover essential costs such as insurance, security, and other safety measures, ensuring attendees can celebrate in a safe environment.

For more information, visit <https://warrencountypride.wixsite.com/website>. Donations can be made at <https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/4750818>.

Erie Queer Community Food Drive Returns May 9

By Bobbie Fenno

The Erie Queer Community will come together once again to support local families through a community food drive on Saturday, May 9. Central Outreach Wellness Center, located at 3104 State St, Erie, PA, will host the event and invite community members to donate non-perishable food items to help those in need.

All donations will remain local and be distributed by the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania, ensuring that the support stays within our region.

This food drive is more than just a donation event; it reflects the community's ongoing commitment to mutual aid and compassion. Local LGBTQIA+ organizations, businesses, and allies are encouraged to take part and help collect donations for the drive.

Any LGBTQIA+ or ally groups interested in participating or helping with the food drive should contact Michael Mahler at info@eriegaynews.com for more information.

Current participating organizations are: Aging With Pride, Ascend Climbing/Queer Scouts, Bears Do Dinner, Central Outreach Wellness Center (Erie), Compton's Table, Erie Gay News, Family Services of NW PA, Free Mom Hugs of NW PA, G2H2, Journey: Healing Together, LBT Women, The LGBT Fund of The Erie Community Foundation, NW PA Pride

In This Issue...

PrideDay the 13th Brings Community, Drag, and Drinks 1

Erie Queer Community Food Drive Returns May 9 1

PA Thrive Moved to 801 State St 3

2026 Pride on The Bay Vendor Registration 3

Your Voice Matters: The LGBT Fund Community Conversation on Apr 27 .. 4

Presque Isle Rise Up Builds Community Resistance in Erie..... 4

Community Spotlight: Temple Anshe Hesed..... 5

Ashtabula Pride cancelled for 2026..... 6

The Othering Podcast 6

Synjin Sheneman Memorial PRIDE Art Show Call for Submissions 6

Michelle Michaels 50 Is Fabulous Bash at The Zone 7

Calendar 8



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

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

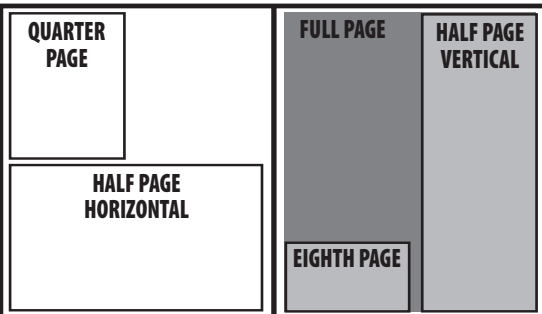
ISSN 2159-1792

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.



EGN Rates & Data



AD SIZE	PRICE/ISSUE	DIMENSIONS
EIGHTH	\$50 - \$45 Prepaid	1 5/8" high X 2 7/8" wide
QUARTER	\$80 - \$72 Prepaid	3 1/2" high X 2 7/8" wide
HALF VERT.	\$150 - \$135 Prepaid	3 1/2" high X 6" wide
HALF HORZ.	\$150 - \$135 Prepaid	7" high X 2 7/8" wide
FULL PAGE	\$250 - \$225 Prepaid	7 1/2" high X 6" wide

Camera ready art or manuscript and/or photos, illustrations and logos must be received by the 15th of the month. Photos and Illustrations should be PDF or TIFF and HIRES. All hardcopy ads submitted will be reproduced as close as possible.

THANKS

From Your Friends at Erie Gay News

To Lake Erie Counseling Associates for hosting! Andrea Shaffer, Bobbie Fenno, David Perry, Jeff Hill, Jenn Huggler, Kim Conti, Kim Perrine, and Rex Apps for folding; Andrea Shaffer, Brett Staskiewicz, David Perry, Jeff Hill, Kim Conti, Kim Perrine, 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.

Alliance, PACA, TransFamily of NW PA, Werner Books & Coffee, Whee! Design, and The Zone.

PA Thrive Moved to 801 State St

PA Thrive has landed in a new space at 801 State Street, 8th Street entrance.

We are located on the second floor (via the gold elevator) and offer full clinic and case management services.

The phone numbers and the same great care and professionals remain the same! The only thing changing is our location.

Please call ahead to schedule your appointments: 814-454-3422.

We will be planning an open house soon, so stay tuned for that information.

2026 Pride on The Bay Vendor Registration

By Bobbie Fenno

Pride on the Bay will take place on Saturday, June 27, from 12 noon to 5 pm at Liberty Park along the beautiful Presque Isle Bay waterfront. The event offers businesses, artists, and community

organizations the chance to connect with thousands of attendees during one of the region's largest LGBTQIA+ events.

For vendors looking to participate, you will notice some significant changes to the vendor sign-up process and event day logistics this year. These changes include staggered registration phases, assigned arrival times, and an updated equipment policy. Registration is open now for Queer Info/Resource vendors, with registration opening soon for Food Vendors. Registration will open on April 15 for Local Queer Vendors and then on May 15 for Other Info/Resources/Vendors. The number of vendors selected to participate will be significantly reduced as well.

Another significant change is that NW PA Pride will NOT be providing tables or chairs this year. Vendors will be provided a 10' x 10' designated space and must bring their own table and chairs. All vendors must be present and participate for the full event duration (Noon - 5:00 pm).

Because driving space is extremely limited, they will no longer be doing a general 10:00 am setup. Each vendor will be emailed a specifically



Offices in Clarion, Erie and Mill Hall

Call: 1 (800) 359-2437

Website: <https://pa-thrive.com>

Email: info@pathrive.com



assigned arrival time prior to the event. All vehicles MUST be removed from the park no later than 11:30 am. The festival runs rain or shine, with teardown beginning at 5 pm.

All vendors are responsible for collecting any applicable sales tax and for maintaining a clean space during the event. Items considered dangerous or disruptive, including weapons and fireworks, are prohibited.

Organizations and businesses interested in participating can find full details and registration information at the NWPAPride Alliance website: <https://www.nwpapride.org/vendors> and <https://www.nwpapride.org/potb-vendor-details>

Your Voice Matters: The LGBT Fund Community Conversation on Apr 27

By Olivia Burgess, ECF

In January, the LGBT Fund of The Erie Community Foundation hosted an inspiring and productive community conversation. Attendees shared valuable feedback and expressed a desire for more frequent opportunities to connect and provide input.

We're excited to announce our next Community Conversation on Monday, April 27 at Cathedral of St. Paul in Erie. During our last session, we shared insights from a successful listening tour, highlighting the priorities that matter most to our community: capacity, sustainability, safety, and connection.

The LGBT Fund of the Erie Community Foundation is the only resource of its kind in the Erie region, leveraging the collective giving of donors to help members of our local LGBTQ+ community build healthy, productive lives today and into the future. The role of the LGBT Fund is to listen, connect, and support collaboration among organizations.

Join us for an informal evening open to anyone connected with a Q+ organization in the Erie area—whether you represent a business, nonprofit, grassroots group, or social organization. This is a chance to share ideas for projects or events, highlight the support your organization is seeking, and connect with others who are doing similar work in our community.

Registration is not required, and everyone is welcome. To learn more, visit https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScAx09JyaYgl3xfMPwW Mnj3lYR2J_FIIQ BqKwjP7BfSp-lAA/viewform.

Presque Isle Rise Up Builds Community Resistance in Erie

Presque Isle Rise Up was founded as an Indivisible group in late 2025 and is dedicated to the restoration and maintenance of health to our US Democracy through actions that promote human rights, democratic participation, civic education, cooperation with other groups, and mutual aid to uplift members of our community. The founders are long-time Erie regional activists Rose, Margarita, V, and Shari (last names omitted, not for fear of coming out, but for fear of the government), who had specific goals that were not fully met by existing local resistance groups. The group wants to increase visibility of issues, collaborate with other groups, provide education to the community, and foster connections in the Erie region. Presque Isle Rise Up supports the well-being and concerns of the LGBTQIA+ community and welcomes Q+ people and allies to join in its work.

PI Rise Up is currently engaged in the following actions: The Visibility Project meets every Thursday from 4:15 pm to 5:00 pm at different sites throughout Erie, displaying signs that highlight important issues. Participants show up, hold a sign, and raise visibility in the community. Also, each week, Presque Isle Rise Up publishes “Five Actions for the Week” on its Facebook and other pages. The Five Actions are for people who are looking for ways to resist or protest government actions, or to show support for the community. These Actions often include calling elected officials, attending suggested events, donating to certain causes, and more. Taking these actions is a great way to become active and involved. Another PI Rise Up project is The Erie Singing Resistance. Modeled after the amazing community response in Minneapolis, this group is intended to raise community support and awareness through song and presence. The Singing Resistance group will meet next on Wednesday, April 8, at 6 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Also, expect to see the Erie Singing Resistance at the No Kings III rally in Perry Square on March 28th, with more meet-ups to be planned!

Participation is wholeheartedly welcomed for the Visibility Project and Erie Singing Resistance. Like any grassroots group, there is always a need for people to participate and volunteer. Check out the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/>

presqueisleriseup/ or email at PIRISEUP@gmail.com. The group intends to sponsor and support additional fun and informative events as the year progresses.

Community Spotlight: Temple Anshe Hessed

By *Bright Israelson*

For over 150 years Temple Anshe Hessed has been Erie’s Reform synagogue – a place where Judaism is celebrated and lived. Temple Anshe Hessed celebrated 150 years of Jewish community on the beautiful shores of Lake Erie in 2025. Our Temple’s name, Anshe Hessed, is Hebrew for “People of Loving-Kindness.” This name perfectly encapsulates the Temple’s acceptance and welcoming of the LGBTQ+ community. Many members of Temple Anshe Hessed are part of the LGBTQ+ community, and the Temple joyfully takes part in Pride celebrations every June. Temple member Kris Haas explains, “When we came to Temple, very early on Rabbi [Morais] told [my wife and I] that we were far from the first lesbian couple...and that was a huge thing for me. Knowing that there were others and that I wouldn’t have to hide the most important person in my life for fear of

being ostracized.”

One of the central tenants of Reform Judaism is that each and every person is created B’tzelem Elohim—in the Divine image (Genesis 1:27). This belief underscores the sacred worth of every person, affirming LGBTQ+ individuals within our synagogues and Jewish community. According to Keshet, a national organization advocating for LGBTQ+ equality in Jewish life, LGBTQ+ inclusion aligns with core Jewish values, such as solidarity with community members and loving your neighbor as yourself. By striving for LGBTQ+ equality and ensuring an open and welcoming community, Temple Anshe Hessed lives out these core values through action.

We are proud to have a diverse congregation, including many members of the LGBTQ+ spectrum of all ages and backgrounds. Additionally, we are excited to be growing our community of 20s and 30s young adults and professionals, many of whom are also LGBTQ+. It is an honor to support and uplift the LGBTQ+ community, both within and outside our congregation. We look forward to celebrating Pride on the Bay in 2026 together!

We are thrilled to be a part of Erie’s LGTBQ+ supporting faith organizations.



It’s our differences that make us great.

Natalie Braddock Ins Agcy Inc
Natalie Braddock, Agent
1338 E 38th St
www.nataliebraddock.com
Bus: 814-825-3186

No matter what you value, I’m here to help protect it with respect and professionalism. **Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®** CALL ME TODAY.



YOUR VOICE MATTERS



Join local organizations, allies, and supporters for a **Community Conversation** to share ideas, explore future projects, and connect with others doing similar work in Erie’s LGBTQ+ community.

Monday, April 27, 2026
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM ET
Cathedral of St. Paul, Erie, PA



Scan to let us know you’re coming.



Curious to learn more? Visit our website at TAHerie.org.

Ashtabula Pride cancelled for 2026

Ashtabula Pride Inc, a volunteer-led nonprofit organization in Northeast Ohio, announced Sunday, February 15, via social media, that there will not be a large festival in 2026.

Several factors contributed to the cancellation, most notably the lack of physical support and financial backing to create a festival of this size and ensure its success.

The 2025 Pride celebration attracted more than 3,000 participants and over 100 vendors, which was spearheaded by seven core individuals. Sadly, some of those individuals have moved or are not able to dedicate as much time to the event this year.

In addition, some major financial sponsors had to withdraw their support for 2026, including those whose support could no longer be tied to DEI-related expenditures due to limitations imposed by the Trump administration.

There will be smaller pop-up events throughout 2026, including the Synjin Sheneman Memorial PRIDE Art show and queer cabarets at local theaters.

Ashtabula Pride Inc will also continue to offer the Bill DayWalt Scholarship, in honor of the work and dedication of a local Ashtabula hero.

While organizers use 2026 as a time to rebuild their foundation, connect with more passionate individuals, and strengthen their community. Their hope is to come back even stronger, making Pride 2027 truly unforgettable.

The Othring Podcast

OthringPodcast.com, March 2026: The Othring Podcast launched in May of 2025 with one goal: to advocate for the disabled and LGBTQIA+ by providing a platform for our guests to share their stories. Mike and Dory, the hosts and married couple, set out to make a difference in marginalized communities by humanizing the people included and showing they are beautiful too. In today's political turmoil, community is needed more than ever. History shows that these marginalized communities are the first to go when the regime takes over.

Available on PEP Radio, AltQ Radio, GaySA Radio, Spotify, Apple Music, IHeart, and wherever you get podcasts, the Othring Podcast releases two one-hour long episodes a week interviewing a vari-

ety of everyday people, actors, musicians, content creators, and celebrities. Some notable guests have included Mychal Threats (Reading Rainbow, 2026), Joseph Kibler (Adaptive, Chicago Med), Taylor Coffman (Silicon Valley, Life in Pieces), Andrew Gurza (Notes From a Queer Cripple book), and Cameron Mitchell (Disposable Humanity).

After years of struggling with Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS), Dory sought her community on social media, searching for people like her succeeding in today's workforce. She had a strong desire to help people, initially seeking the medical field, but realizing it was too much for her at this time in her life. Having a history in internet radio, Mike and Dory decided to try a podcast in hopes of making a difference. With a few Instagram connections, they began asking for guests and, ultimately, launched the Othring Podcast with the inaugural guest – Ali Cameron (paraplegic).

The Othring Podcast is excited to be growing rapidly and speaking to so many amazing people. Their line-up moving forward doesn't stop with the incredible guests and advocacy that reaches over 30 countries. New episodes every Monday and Thursday on your favorite podcast platform or tune in every Saturday and Sunday at 3pm or Tuesday and Wednesday at 5pm EST on PEP Radio, or every Thursday at noon SAST (South Africa) on GaySA Radio.

We can't wait to hear your story!

Synjin Sheneman Memorial PRIDE Art Show Call for Submissions

Ashtabula Pride, Inc. and Darkroom Brewing Co. are proud to announce the third annual Synjin Sheneman Memorial PRIDE Art Show. This art exhibition celebrates pride, love, diversity, and equality.

We invite you to showcase your talent and contribute to a meaningful celebration of LGBTQ+ pride.

Photography, paintings, digital art, drawings, mixed media, and sculpture/3-dimensional art is accepted. Entries must be original work of the entering artist. Artwork must have been created in the last 3 years. Two-dimensional artwork must be framed or wired and ready to hang. The maximum size is 16' x 20". Artists may submit more than one art piece. Each art piece must have its own submission.

This is a family-friendly art show, and we kindly request that all submissions adhere to

appropriate content.

Categories include: Open Adult Art for ages 19 & up, Open Youth Art ages 12-18, and Open Youth Art ages 5-11.

PRIDE AWARD: Best of Show, Best in Photography, and Best in Mixed Media.

Is this show just for PRIDE art?

Celebrating Synjin's enthusiasm for life, the art show accepts submissions on ALL TOPICS in the open categories. Submissions to the PRIDE award should reflect the vibrant spirit of the LGBTQ+ community, love, unity, diversity, and acceptance. All submissions will be judged in the Best of Show category.

All Open categories will award prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. Prizes will be awarded to the first-place winner in the Best of Show and PRIDE categories. Honorable mention ribbons may be awarded in all categories at the judge's discretion.

Submissions will be accepted from April 1 – June 6, 2026, at Darkroom Brewing Co. during open hours of operation. THERE IS NO FEE TO ENTER THE ART SHOW.

Though all possible care is taken, Ashtabula Pride and Darkroom Brewing Co. are not responsible

for damage or theft.

Submission Deadline: Entries will be taken until the show is full, or June 6, 2026. Exhibition Opening: June 10, 2026. Exhibition Duration: June 10 – June 15. Artist Reception June 10, 2026, from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. at Darkroom Brewing Co., 32 N. Broadway, Geneva, OH.

Michelle Michaels 50 Is Fabulous Bash at The Zone

By Michael Mongera

On Friday evening, Feb 21st, a celebration was held for Michelle Michaels' 50th birthday bash. Eric starlets and Former Miss Eries flooded the Zone Dance Club to ring in a momentous birthday.

Performances from Shea D'Heaux, Debbie Does Drag, Misty Michaels Kall, Alysia Wonderland, and Rebecca Mae carried into the night. New performers such as Ann Ziety and Ruby Skies also took the dance floor. The show featured performances from the birthday diva herself, Michelle Michaels.



JKS Finishes Inc The Professionals

Your local interior exterior Painting Contractor

35 Year in Business with 95% Customer Referral

\$3 Million Liability & Workers Comp Insurance

All employees pass background checks. We value your home as it was our own. References available upon request

Call or email today for free no obligation estimates

814-796-6365 admin@jksfinishesinc.com www.jksfinishesinc.com



Nolan's
Pine Avenue
Auto Service, LLC

General Repairs
State Inspections

Specializing in
Heating and Air Conditioning

3626 Pine Ave
Erie PA 16504
814-454-4133



Not Fancy, Just Good! 

Calendar

For latest updates, see 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 or contact 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.

Thursdays- LGBTQIA+ Discussion Group (UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Safe Harbor, 1330 W 26th St, Erie, PA) 1 PM. This is a no-cost group facilitated by an experienced moderator and member of the LGBT+ community. This is also a place to share our struggles, journeys, triumphs, and setbacks and an opportunity to find community and support each other. Mental health and substance use present unique challenges to our community. For questions contact Michelle Wolf at wolfme@upmc.edu or 716-465-8736
Zone Thirsty Thursday (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 8 PM. Quench your thirst. Doors open at 8 PM. No cover: Cash only. 21+ with ID. Please drink responsibly. Browse to <https://thezonedanceclub.com/>.

Fridays - Prism After School Program for LGBTQ+ Program for Ages 13-18 (Third Independent Presbyterian Church, 1315 E Washington St, New Castle, PA 16101) 5 PM - 8 PM. Parents/guardians are invited to tour the facility & mingle with the staff & other parents in our auditorium. Programs include board games, themed arts & crafts, movies, lounge access, and much more! The facility will be closed to the public during this time, except for program participants & parents/guardians.

** All Prism volunteers have appropriate clearances*
Zone Friday Night Flow, 133 W 18th St, 8 PM - 10 PM. Hosted by Ashen Grove. Doors open at 8pm. \$5 cover. 21+ with valid state-issued ID. The Zone is CASH

ONLY! ATM on site.

Zone Saturday Night Dance Party With DJ Joe. Doors open at 8 PM. \$5 cover. Cash only. 21 and over with ID. Please drink responsibly.

Zone Sunday Chill. 8 PM. The Weekend Winddown. 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.

Mar 1 - 31 (Sun - Tue) - Bisexual Health Awareness Month Bisexual Health Awareness Month is dedicated to raising awareness about the startling social, economic and health disparities facing the bi+ community. Browse to <https://bihealthmonth.org/>.

Mar 25 (Wed) - Meadville Queer Happy Hour (Julian's Bar & Grill, 299 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA 16335) 5:30 PM - 9 PM. Everyone welcome!

Mar 26 (Thu) - G.A. Family Services 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 or Lisa Schmid-Miller at (716) 338-8702 or lschmidmiller@lutheran.jamestown.org with any questions.

Mar 26 (Thu) - Aging with Pride Dinner #31 (Donatos Pizza, 1535 W 8th St, Suite A1, Erie, PA 16505) 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. RSVP to Peter at (814) 384-9785 (text or voice).

Mar 27 (Fri) - Full Spectrum LGBTQIA+ Adult Group (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 5:30 PM - 7 PM. Group for adults who identify as LGBTQIA+ in a casual environment where we can discuss current events and get to know each other in this new and improved monthly group! Light refreshments and snacks available. FREE!

Mar 27 (Fri) - Pillion (2025) (Reg Lenna Center For The Arts, 116 East Third St, Jamestown, NY 14701) 7 PM. Doors open at 6 p.m. "A timid man is swept off his feet when an enigmatic, impossibly handsome biker takes him on as his submissive.

Mar 28 (Sat) - TransFamily of NWPA (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!

Mar 28 (Sat) - Pride Prom: An Over the Rainbow Celebration (Wicked Warren's - Jamestown, 119 W



IRONSTONE

MEADERY

2890 Copperleaf Drive,
erie pa, 16509

Looking for a unique, relaxing experience away from the craziness of things, swing in Fridays 4-8 or Saturdays 1-8 and try the ever changing menu of our Old Scandinavian style HANDCRAFTED meads.

You'll find a calm atmosphere, interesting conversation and a place that fully accepts folks as they are.

Scan to find our socials

Friday: 4-8

Saturday: 1-8

www.ironstonemeadery.com



Lake Erie Counseling, Inc.

Providing quality LGBTQ plus affirmative and empowering services since 1994.

Offering caring, confidential counseling to Individuals, Couples and Families

- Depression • Anxiety • Relationship issues
- Family issues • Sexual identity issues
- Gender identity and transition issues

Most insurances accepted Medicare accepted
Sliding fee scale

1932 W 8th St
Erie, PA 16505
814-455-4009

www.lakeeriecounseling.com



COLDWELL BANKER
SELECT REALTORS®



Tom NeCastro

Associate Broker, REALTOR®
Office: (814) 452-2100 x 125
Cell: (814) 881-1186
TomN@eriemoves.com
www.TomNeCastro.com



4664 W. 12th Street
Erie, PA 16505

Each office is independently owned and operated.



ABC's

of Building Better Lives

MEET OUR TEAM

 <small>Mary Lynn Rote</small>	 <small>Rob Giannamore</small>	 <small>Samantha Marcinko</small>	 <small>Sara Allegretto</small>	 <small>Hannah Proper</small>	 <small>Aren Melik-Adamyan</small>	 <small>Jillian Rhoades</small>
 <small>Henry Krol</small>	 <small>Jessica Dahlgren</small>	 <small>Jordan Stevenson</small>	 <small>Sarah Skillman</small>	 <small>Alicia McGill</small>	 <small>Melissa Eimers</small>	 <small>Moebius the ABC's Mascot</small>


COUNSELING SERVICES

Individuals | Couples | Families

CALL US TODAY (814) 825-2930

4320 Dexter Ave • Erie, PA • 16504

For more info, visit www.marylynnrote.com



littledoglodgejill@gmail.com
413-522-2213
Lake City, PA
PA Kennel License #18676

Insured / Bonded

3rd St, Jamestown, NY) 6 PM - 10 PM. Come experience the prom you WISH you had. Formal attire is optional... Fabulous is a must! The event is available to prom goers ages 18+ and food and beverages will be available for sale by Wicked Warren's. Presale tickets are \$20. Tickets at the door will be \$25

Mar 29 (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.

Mar 31 (Tue) - International Transgender Day of Visibility The International TDoV is an annual holiday celebrated around the world. The day is dedicated to celebrating the accomplishments and victories of transgender & gender non-conforming people while raising awareness of the work that is still needed to save trans lives. The holiday was founded in 2009 as a reaction to the lack of LGBT holidays celebrating transgender people's successes. Browse to <http://tdov.org/>.

Mar 31 (Tue) - The Illusion That Causes Confusion: Trans Day of Visibility Drag Showcase (Stonewall Inn PGH, 211 Smithfield St, Pittsburgh, PA 15222) 5 PM. "The Illusion That Causes Confusion" brings together an incredible lineup of artists for a night of performance, celebration, and community. This showcase will uplift trans artistry while raising support for the continued work of Sisters PGH and the Stonewall Inn Pittsburgh. The evening will be hosted by Ciora L. L'Oreal and Jezebel Bebbington D'opulence. Featured performers include: Vivyan Mourningwould, Mercedes L. L'Oreal, Jezebel Diamond ST Klair, Alexis Santee, and Kierra Darshell. Proceeds from the showcase will go directly toward supporting the programs and services of Sisters PGH and the continued development of the Stonewall Inn Pittsburgh. Tickets are available now, and capacity is limited.

Apr 1 (Wed) - Erie Queer Happy Hour (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM - 8 PM. Join the NWP Pride Alliance at Erie's premier LGBTQ+ nightclub, Zone Dance Club, for our monthly social.

Apr 2 (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 be sure that enough supplies are available. Register at <https://comptonstable.org/chatnchill>

Apr 2 (Thu) - Drag Bingo @ Kellar's Comedy Club (21+) (Kellar's Magic & Comedy Club, 1402 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 7 PM - 9 PM. Laugh till your face hurts with this outrageous comedy show! Beer, cocktails, mocktails, and hilarious fun with the Queen of Mean! (21+) ONE NIGHT ONLY! Limited seats! Hurry!

Apr 2 (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>.

Apr 3 (Fri) - Niagara Pride LGBTQ+ Senior Drop-In Program (Niagara Pride, 1522 Main St, Niagara Falls, NY 14305) 9 AM - 1 PM

Apr 3 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) April Happy Hour (Brewerie at Union Station, 123 W 14th St, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM - 8 PM. Happy Hour - All Are Welcome!

Apr 4 (Sat) - LGBT Venango Support Group meets (Franklin Public Library, 421 12th St, Franklin, PA 16323) 11:30 AM. Peer-led support group for LGBTQ+ adults. We meet once a month upstairs at the Franklin Library

Apr 4 (Sat) - All Ages Chat n' Chill (Compton's Table, 3104 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 12 PM - 2 PM.

Apr 6 (Mon) - International Asexuality Day International Asexuality Day is a coordinated worldwide campaign promoting the ace umbrella, including demisexual, grey-asexual and other ace identities.

Apr 6 (Mon) - Monthly Free HIV Testing at Full Spectrum (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 1 PM - 4 PM. Free Condoms, HIV Prevention and support. Tests are confidential and use a small finger prick. Tests are provided by The Warren City Health Department.

Apr 6 (Mon) - Full Spectrum Transgender & Nonconforming Round Table (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 6 PM - 7:30 PM. Trans led group that provides an accepting and inclusive space for transgender, nonconforming, and gender questioning adults, to find support and make connections with others. 18+ only please - Light Snacks and refreshments provided.

Apr 7 (Tue) - Bears Do Dinner #138 (Samurai Kitchen + Sushi, 2767 W 12th St, Erie, PA 16505) 6 PM. Join the Bears for a casual dinner of food and conversation!

Dinner is on your own. Contact: Peter Genco (814) 384-9785

Apr 7 (Tue) - Drag Show Presented by Identity (Franklin G Pogue Student Center, 405 Scotland Road, Edinboro, PA 16444) 8 PM - 10 PM. Featuring Pissi Gabune, Shea D'Heaux, Cherry Falwell, and Wiss Wonda! Free entry! Refreshments provided. Join us for a fun time and bring some cash to tip the queens!

Apr 8 (Wed) - PFLAG of Chautauqua meeting (Secret Undisclosed Location, 100 E 2nd St 2nd Floor, Jamestown, NY 14701) 6 PM. This is a safe, inclusive space where allies and queer community members can come together for support, discussion, and connection. We welcome folks from the surrounding area, as well as the CHQ area. 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 page - direct messaging is welcome: <https://www.facebook.com/pflagchq>. And email us at pflagchq@gmail.com

Apr 9 (Thu) - 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.

Apr 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.

Apr 10 (Fri) - Day of Silence GLSEN's Day of Silence is a student-led national event organized in thousands of schools, bringing awareness to the silencing effects of anti-LGBTQ name-calling, bullying and harassment in schools. Students from middle school to college take a vow of silence in an effort to encourage schools and classmates to address the problem of anti-LGBTQ behavior by illustrating the silencing effect of bullying and harassment on LGBTQ students and those perceived to be LGBTQ.

Apr 10 (Fri) - National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day NYHAAD educates the public about the impact of HIV/AIDS on youth and highlights the work youth do to strengthen the fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic. #NYHAAD Advocates for Youth and its partners direct this observance.



DIGNITY
AND
RESPECT



Allies • Attorneys • Mediators
Collaborative Professionals

A SAFE SPACE
FOR ALL PEOPLE

402 W 6TH STREET
ERIE, PA 16507

CONTACT US:

814-452-4451
assistance@atozlawerie.com

Apr 10 (Fri) - Erie Trans Hangout 6 PM - 10 PM. DM @ErieTransPicnics on Instagram for the address. BYOB (oatd games) (+consoles/games, cards, crafts, etc.) Pizza provided, feel free to bring snacks.

Apr 10 - 25 (Fri - Sat) - Buffalo United Artists presents The Laughing Troll Cafe (Compass Performing Arts Center, 545 Elmwood Ave, Buffalo, NY 14222)

Apr 11 (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.

Apr 12 (Sun) - Bricks & Booze: An Adult LEGO Building Night (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16501) 9 PM. Join our friends from the Northwest Pennsylvania LEGO User Group (NWPALUG) for a casual, creative night here at The Zone. Bring the cool sets you just bought, show off your finds, and just relax with other adult builders. You can bring your own bricks or just come and play with ours! This is a 21+ only night, please bring your ID. No cover charge to build and hang out! The bar is cash only.

Apr 13 (Mon) - Deadline for Erie Gay News May 2026 print edition (#366) (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, April 21. For a complete list of upcoming deadlines and release dates, check the print edition schedule at www.eriegaynews.com/printedition/deadlineschedule.php

Apr 14 (Tue) - New Castle Prism Initiative Book Club: Our Wives Under the Sea (Third Independent Presbyterian Church, 1315 E Washington St, New Castle, PA 16101) 6 PM - 8 PM. Each month, we'll dive into a new novel to read and discuss together. Book Club is done in partnership with the New Castle Public Library. You can access the book through the library.

Apr 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.

Apr 15 (Wed) - New Castle Prism Initiative Craft Night (Third Independent Presbyterian Church, 1315 E Washington St, New Castle, PA 16101) 5 PM - 7 PM. Join us for a relaxed night of crafting and community! Whether you're a seasoned artist or just looking to try something new, all are welcome. Bring your current project, or get inspired by others - this is a space for

connection, community, fun, and inspiration. Event is free to the public!

Apr 16 (Thu) - Aging with Pride Coffee Hour (Werner Books & Coffee, Erie, PA 16508) 1 PM. We will meet in the Cafe at Werner Books for casual conversation. Just a comfortable way to get together and talk about whatever we like! Questions, contact Pete via voice or text at 814.384.9785 Hope to see you there!

Apr 16 (Thu) - Queer Open Mic (Compton's Table, 3104 State St, Erie, PA 16508) 6 PM - 10 PM. Hosted by Alex and Savannah. All Queer performers welcome. Suggested donation of \$5 payable at event or by online donation at comptonstable.org.

Apr 16 (Thu) - Lotz of Tea with Mona 7 PM. With co-host Large Marge. Live streaming on Facebook, YouTube, and TikTok.

Apr 17 (Fri) - Erie VA LGBTQ+ Veterans Coffee Social (Erie VA Medical Center, 135 E 38th St, Erie, PA 16504) 10 AM. The Erie VA Medical Center will have a coffee social for LGBTQ+ veterans in the 2nd floor conference room at 135 E 38th St., Erie, PA 16504. Times are subject to change based on availability. The Coffee Social is meant to bring Erie's local LGBTQ+ Veterans together to connect and foster ongoing relationships of support and friendship. Veterans will learn about VA services available including: Hormone treatment, Substance use/alcohol treatment & tobacco cessation treatment, Treatment and information on prevention of sexually transmitted infections/PrEP, Mental Health, and Fitness (Diet and Exercise). For more information, contact Brittany Miklos at 814-844-5944. This event is open to all LGBTQ+ Veterans in all counties served by the Erie VA. LGBTQ+ Veterans interested in enrolling in VA Healthcare are encouraged to attend.

Apr 17 (Fri) - Game Night (Journey: Healing Together, 201 W. 11th Street, Erie, PA 16501) 5 PM. Part of Journey: Healing Together's Wellness Weekend.

Apr 17 (Fri) - Full Spectrum LGBTQIA+ Young Adult Group (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 5 PM. Sponsored by Natura Behavioral Healthcare! For young adults 18-24 who identify as LGBTQIA+ and questioning. FREE! Doors open at 5pm, light refreshments and snacks available! With Reanna Torres, LPC with Natura Behavioral Health and Katie from Full Spectrum Community Outreach

Apr 17 - 18 (Fri - Sat) - Pittsburgh Pride Choir: 50 Shades of Gay (East Liberty Presbyterian Church, 116 S. Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15406) Kermit isn't the only one singing about the Rainbow Connection these days. Join your Pittsburgh Pride Choir for our

**FREE CONDOMS MAILED
PRIVATELY TO YOUR HOME**



CONDOMS.ECHIV.ORG



MADE
POSSIBLE BY



**Erie County
Department
of Health**

SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC

*Local, private, no cost testing
and treatment options for
HIV, Syphilis, Chlamydia,
and Gonorrhea*

Appointments Available:

- Tuesdays 9a-11a
- Wednesdays 1p-3p

Call 814-451-6700



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Erie County
Department
of Health**



**GET THE FACTS.
TAKE ACTION.**

DON'T WAIT TO FEEL GREAT

Breathe Easier: Allergy & Asthma Awareness

Read our blog to learn more. Call us today at
(814) 455-7222 to schedule your appointment.
communityhealthnet.org

2026 Cabaret Concert, 50 Shades of Gay, where we explore the many different colors of the pride rainbow. You might even hear songs about Pink Ponys or being Golden, to drop a hint or two.

Apr 18 (Sat) - National Transgender HIV Testing Day
National Transgender HIV Testing Day (NTHTD) was first observed on April 18, 2016.

Apr 18 (Sat) - Journey: Healing Together - Crafternoon (Journey: Healing Together, 201 W. 11th Street, Erie, PA 16501) 11 AM - 2 PM. Part of Journey: Healing Together's Wellness Weekend.

Apr 18 (Sat) - Aging with Pride Book Club - Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister by Gregory Maguire (Werner Books & Coffee 3608 Liberty St, Erie, PA 16508) 1 PM . Werner Books offers a 20% discount on books purchased for the book club.

Apr 18 (Sat) - Star Sirch Productions Karaoke (Sneakers, 100 W Harrison St, Jamestown, NY 14701) 9 PM - 1 AM.

Apr 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.

Apr 19 (Sun) - Full Spectrum FREE Food Pantry (Open to Anyone) (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 2 PM - 4 PM. Join Full Spectrum community for our free monthly Food Party. This pantry is open to everyone not just members of the LGBTQIA+ Community. NO RSVP REQUIRED.

Apr 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

Apr 21 (Tue) - Radiant Faith (Cathedral of St Paul, 134 W 7th St, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM. 6:00 P.M. Gather around our table with the support of Compton's Table. This shared meal is more than nourishment-it's a time of fellowship, connection, and belonging. 7:00 P.M. Radiant Faith: A queer-centered gathering of worship, wonder, and welcome. Our gatherings are for spiritual seekers and offer a Christian-rooted encounter with the Divine-one who dwells within us and in the sacred connection we share with one another.

Apr 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

Apr 22 (Wed) - Meadville Queer Happy Hour (Julian's Bar & Grill, 299 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA 16335) 5:30 PM - 9 PM. Everyone welcome!

Apr 24 (Fri) - Full Spectrum LGBTQIA+ Adult Group (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 5:30 PM - 7 PM. Group for adults who identify as LGBTQIA+ in a casual environment where we can discuss current events and get to know each other in this new and improved monthly group! Light refreshments and snacks available. FREE!

Apr 25 (Sat) - TransFamily of NWPA (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!

Apr 25 (Sat) - M & J's Lounge 15th Anniversary (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA 16001) Come and celebrate 15 years! We will have a Drag Show and some surprises. Hard to believe we are celebrating 15 years. All the great people who have come through our doors. What amazing Performers we have had. Come and celebrate with us.

Apr 26 (Sun) - Lesbian Visibility Day

Apr 27 (Mon) - Community Conversation (Cathedral of St Paul, 134 W 7th St, Erie, PA 16501) 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM. See article in this issue.

Apr 29 (Wed) - Full Spectrum LGBTQIA+ Ally Appreciation Day (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 660 W Earle Ave, Youngstown, OH 44511) 5 PM - 7 PM. Join us as we celebrate the incredible allies who stand with and support the LGBTQIA+ community every day! We're excited to honor our amazing LGBTQIA+ allies for your continued support, commitment to inclusion, and dedication to equality. Your advocacy makes a difference! Come enjoy delicious food, refreshing drinks, and great company as we celebrate together. We can't wait to see you there!

Apr 30 (Thu) - G.A. Family Services 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 or Lisa Schmid-Miller at (716) 338-8702 or lschmidmiller@lutheran.jamestown.org with any questions.



Zachary Honess of
 PacelineFinancialLLC.com
 Helping the LGBT+ Community set the
 PACE for ...



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.

*Crime Victim Center of Erie County is available 24/7.
 Services are completely free and confidential.*

125 West 18th Street 814-455-9414 cvcenter.org

- **Asset Transition**
- **Income Readiness**
- **Starting up
& Starting Over**
- **Building Wealth
& Wealth
Management**



Zhoness@Sassetmgmt.com
 814-734-0377
 148 Meadville Street
 Edinboro, PA 16412

Securities are offered through Aurora Securities, Inc. (ASI) Member: FINRA/SIPC. Advisory services offered through Secure Asset Management, LLC. (SAM), a Registered Investment Advisor. Insurance products offered through Secure Investors Group (SIG). ASI, SAM and SIG are all affiliated companies and maintain common ownership. ASI, SAM, SIG and Paceline Financial, LLC are separate and unaffiliated entities

Become a Foster Parent!

FosterNWPAKids.org



Family Services of NWPA



Jen and Katie - Erie, PA

5

YEARS OF ERIE GETTING THE CARE IT DESERVES

Central Outreach Erie is five years strong and still putting your health (and your sex life) first.

**Walk in, get tested, feel seen.
Just show up: 3104 State St, Erie.**



**CENTRAL OUTREACH
WELLNESS CENTER.™**