


Erie Gay Community Newsletter

February, 1993

 = New Group/Event this issue

Upcoming Special Events

Important Note: Please call and/or write before these events to confirm; mistakes can occur and circumstances can change at the last moment.

Feb 2-7—A Chorus Line: The Broadway Tour Palace Theatre, 1519 Euclid Avenue (in Palace Square), Cleveland ☎(216)771-4444


Feb 7—Organizational Meeting of Erie March on Washington Committee You are welcomed and strongly encouraged to attend and take part in preparing for this historic event. Held on Sunday at 2:00 pm at the AIDS Council in Erie ☎(814)454-2713 or (814)456-9833.

Washington DC
APRIL 25, 1993



DON'T MISS THIS ONE!

Feb 13—First Annual AIDS Benefit at the Silver Slipper Richard Savelli, owner of the Silver Slipper, 1317 State Street in Erie, cordially invites you to its First Annual Aids benefit to be held on Saturday, February 13, 1993. Tickets are \$3.00 at the door and showtime is 11 pm. Seating is limited, so come early. Your MC's for the night are Jackée Regina, Miss Downtown Erie '92-'93 (aka John Morton) and Bobbi B, Miss Erie '92-'93 (aka Bob Burford). For more information, please write to the Silver Slipper.

Feb 13—In Concert-Holly Near and the Washington Sisters  Held at Slippery Rock Univ. 8:00 Miller Auditorium. Part of National Girls'

and Women Sports Symposium. Also appearing will be the Washington Sisters, two African-American lesbian recording artists who do blues, jazz, swing, pop, folk and calypso. A party will follow the concert. ☎(412)738-2027 to reserve tickets.

Feb 12—A Heart Day's Night Art auction to benefit AIDS organizations. Artworks inspired by valentines. Night will include entertainment, party, catered appetizers, and a chance to meet other party-goers. \$25 advance/\$30 at door. Price includes bid number, and all of the above. At Cleveland Center for Contemporary Art. ☎(216)421-8671

Feb 13—18th Annual Womyn's Variety Show Great Hall at the Civic, 3130 Mayfield Road at Lee, Cleveland Heights. Women only please. ☎Oven Productions (216)321-7799

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Feb 14-21—National Condom Week

See article this issue!

Feb 20—Bridges Forum/Potluck

Held at Unitarian-Universalist Church in Erie. Potluck at 6:00 pm, forum at 7:00. An evening of discussion and socializing among people in various lesbian/gay organizations & others. Open to all who want to build a strong lesbian/gay community. ☎(814) 456-9833 or (814) 455-0549

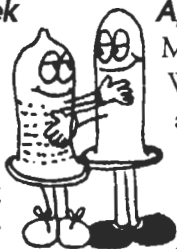
Feb 20—Lesbian Moms Group Pizza & Singalong - Held at 5:30 pm at the office of Lucinda Marsh. Kids will be making pizza and moms will lead kids in a sing-along. ✍Lucinda Marsh, 214 Walnut Street, Waterford, PA 16441. ☎(814) 796-3535.

Feb 20—Cause for Celebration Main Place Mall in Buffalo, NY from 10pm to 2am. \$10 donation at the door. Desserts, music, dancing & fun! for AIDS Community Services. ☎(716) 847-2441 for more info.

Mar 7—Sermon by Metropolitan Community Church of LA Senior Pastor Nancy Wilson At Ford Chapel at Allegheny College in Meadville. Brought to you by CSGLBP.

Mar 13—Rock-n-Roll Remembered Concert ♪by North Coast Men's Chorus at Lakewood High School Try Out Theater in Cleveland, OH. ✍North Coast Men's Chorus, PO Box 15181, Cleveland, OH 44115.

Mar 20—Lambda Foundation Annual Ball-Held at Vista Hotel in Pgh. Cost is \$40 for Dinner & Ball, or \$15 for Ball alone. Lambda Foundation profits are used to fund lesbian/gay organizations in PA, OH, WV. Tickets can be ordered by phone ☎(412) 521-5444 or at Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15224-1627.



Apr 25—March on Washington Don't Miss This One!!! First meeting of Erie March on Washington Committee is on Sunday, February 7 at 2:00pm at the AIDS Council. Chartered buses being arranged. See the ad in this issue. ☎Sally at (814) 454-2713 or ✍Erie March on Washington Committee, PO Box 3063, Erie, PA 16508-3063.

Jun 12 (Tentative date)—2nd Annual Pride Picnic Sponsored by Bridges. Site to be determined. Open to all our friends. ☎ Jacquelyn at (814) 455-0549 or Michael at (814) 456-9833 for more info or write to Bridges.

Groups & Organizations

AIDS Council of Erie

Location: 554 East 10th Street; Erie, PA 16503-1314. ((814) 455-5492. ♿ *Hours:* 8:30 to 4:30 Mon.-Fri. *Activities:* Living with HIV Group: 1st Wed of month, 6 pm. Coffeehouse/Social every other Fri. Pot-Luck Supper (open) last Wed. of month. Also Buddy program, Memorial service, Bereavement group. Call for more info.

Bridges

A coalition of organizations which seeks to use networking and communication skills to build a better community. ✍Bridges, PO Box 3063, Erie, PA 16508-3063. (814) 455-0549 or (814) 456-9833. *Next Meeting:* Sun, Jan. 17 at 1:00 pm (potluck at noon)

Committee in Support of Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual People

A support group for Allegheny College students/faculty. ✍CSGLBP, Box 17, Allegheny College, Meadville, PA, 16335. ☎Jill at 332-4368. *Upcoming Activities:* In March, bringing in alumna Nancy Wilson, Senior Pastor of Metropolitan Community

Church of LA. Sermon on Sunday, March 7 at Ford Chapel at Allegheny.

Edinboro Gay Organization (EGO)

Student group, primarily social. *Meetings:* Tuesdays from 8-10 pm in Hendricks Hall, Room G13 (♿), will resume in mid-late Jan. 📞 Jessica at (814) 732-2574.

Erie Sisters

Peer support group for TV/TS/CD ✍ Erie Sisters, 2115 West 8th Street, Suite 261, Erie, PA 16505

Friends Alike

Peer support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual & cross-gendered people in Oil City. ✍ PO Box 904, Oil City, PA 16301-0904. 📞 Chris at (814) 676-0836.

Gay and Lesbian Alliance - the Other 10% (GALA 10)

Support group for gay men and lesbians and friends and family. Open to public. *Meetings:* 3rd Tuesday of month at 8:00 pm, call for site. Next meetings are February 16, March 16 & April 20. Feb 16 to feature videos. ✍ Mercy Institute, 501 East 38th Street, Erie, PA 16546. Attn: Sr Marlene Lehmkuhl 📞 Sr Marlene at (814) 824-2572.

Gay and Lesbian Drug & Alcohol Abuse Support Group

Meetings: Thursdays at 7:00 pm at Jamestown Community College (in Chautauqua room at the Library). 📞 (716) 664-5556 or (716) 483-0749

Integrity

An Episcopalian-based spiritual and support group that welcomes people of all faiths. *Meetings:* 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month (7:00pm) at St. Paul's Cathedral, 133 West 6th Street. ✍ Integrity-NWPA, PO Box 1782, Erie, PA, 16507-1782. 📞 (814) 455-0549.

Schedule: Feb. 6—Day of Reflection (9:00 am-3:00 pm); Feb. 14—Lenten Spirituality Discussion; Feb.

21—Human Sexuality Dialogue (5:00-8:00 pm); Feb. 28—Evening Prayer & Discussion on Inclusive Language; Mar. 14—Eucharist & discussion; Mar. 21—Human Sexuality Dialogue; Mar. 28—Evening Prayer/Pot-luck & continuation of discussion on Inclusive Language.

Upcoming Activities: Participating in a Dialogue on Human Sexuality sponsored by the Episcopalian church as part of its attempt to come to an understanding of all of its various issues. Meets at 5:30 pm of the 3rd Sunday of each month at St. Paul's Cathedral. Need not be Episcopalian or a member of Integrity to attend. 📞 774-0903 for more info on this. ♿

League of Gay and Lesbian Voters (LGLV)

Non partisan voters group. Publishes Voters' Guide for primary and general election, voter registration/education, lobbying. *Meetings:* 1st Sunday of the month at 5:00 pm at AIDS Council, 554 East 10th Street in Erie. Next are January 3, February 7 & March 7. 📞 Michael at (814) 456-9833. ✍ LGLV-Erie, PO Box 3063, Erie, PA 16508-3063. ♿

Lesbian Moms Support Group

Support group for lesbian moms, co-partners and women interested in parenting. ✍ Lucinda Marsh, 214 Walnut Street, Waterford, PA 16441. 📞 (814) 796-3535.

Life's Blood

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings for Gays and Lesbians. *Meetings:* Sundays at 8:00 pm at the AIDS Council, 554 East 10th Street in Erie. ♿

March on Washington Committee

Coordinating bus trip for MOW (April 25, 1993) Please be part of this important & exciting event! *First Meeting:* Sunday, February 7 at 2:00 pm at the Erie

AIDS Council, 554 East 10th Street. ☎ Sally at (814) 454-2713. ☎

Men's Coffeehouse

The Men's Coffeehouse is an alcohol & smoke-free environment with a particular theme, topic or activity for each month. They get together on the 2nd Friday of each month at 7:00 pm. Hope to see you on February 12 (game night; bring snacks), March 12 & April 9. ☎ (814) 455-9049 for more info. ☎

Trigon (Gamma Beta Lambda)

Support group for Behrend students, faculty, alumni. ✂ College Mailroom, Box 1054, Behrend College, Station Road, Erie, PA 16563. ☎ (814) 453-6232

Womynspace Coffeehouse

The Womyn's Coffeehouse is an alcohol & smoke-free environment for lesbians, with a particular theme, topic or activity for each month. They get together on the 1st Saturday of each month at 7:30 pm. Hope to see you on February 6 (game night), March 6 (talent show; call Jo at 455-1511 if you want to perform or show your art) & April 3. ☎ Sally at (814) 454-2713.

Bars

Ashtabula, OH

Leeward Lounge, 1022 Bridge Street

Erie, PA

Lizzie Bordon's Part II, 3412 West 12th St.
Silver Slipper Lounge, 1317 State Street

Jamestown, NY

Nite Spot, 201 Windsor Street
Sneakers, 100 Harrison

College Scholarship Available

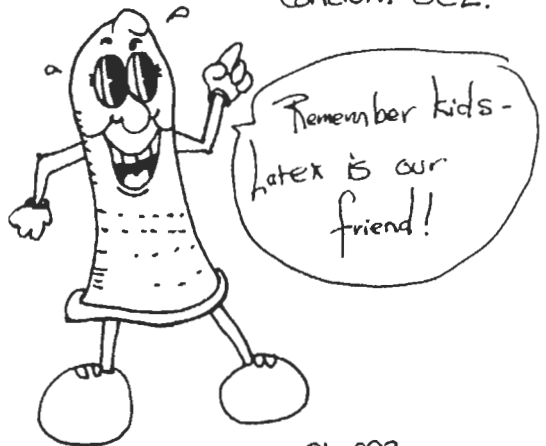
The Lambda Foundation is offering a scholarship of \$3000 per year to gay or lesbian college students. Applications can be obtained for next year's scholarship by calling the Foundation at (412) 521-5444. Also see the notice in this issue about the Lambda Foundation's Annual Ball on March 20.

Subscriptions & Ad Rates

Wanna be sure to always get the latest and greatest in Erie's lesbigay community news every month? Have we got a deal for you! For just \$15 per year, we will mail you the quarterly expanded edition of *EGCN*, as well as the regular edition of the newsletter in the months that the supplement is not published. That's \$1.25 per month! How can you pass this up? Send your check for \$15, payable to *EGC Coalition*, to *EGCN*, PO Box 3063, Erie, PA 16508-3063. Call (814) 456-9833 for more info. The newsletter arrives discreetly in a security envelope with just our PO Box as the return address. We won't put your name on any other mailing list without your explicit consent.

Businesses and Sponsors! Show your support and reach Erie's lesbigay community directly! Advertising space is now available in the quarterly supplement for just \$20 for an eighth page ad, \$35 for a quarter page ad, and \$65 for a half page ad. Write the address above or call (814) 456-9833 for further details!

Charlie
Conclom Sez:



PK1993
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Some Ideas on How to Observe National Condom Week

- ▼ Make a pledge to respect yourself and always have safer sex.
- ▼ Educate yourself on how to use a condom correctly. (There's more to it than pulling it on like a sock!) Correct use greatly increases your protection.
- ▼ Pass out safer sex literature at your organization and among your friends. The AIDS Council of Erie has all kinds of brochures and info. Stop down and pick some up.
- ▼ Don't send Willie out to play without his rain-coat.

Festivals for Lesbians

Here are the festival dates we have so far.

GULF COAST WOMEN'S FESTIVAL April 7-11. GCWF, 1806 Curcur Drive, Gulfport MS 39507 (601)896-3196.

CAMPFEST May 27-31. In southwest PA. Campfest, RR Box 185, Franklinville NJ 08322 (609)694-2037.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL June 3-6. NWMF, PO box 1427, Indianapolis IN 46206 (317)636-7382.

MICHIGAN WOMYN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL August 10-15. WWTMC, Box 22, Walhalla MI 49458 (616)757-4766.

SISTERSPACE POCONO WEEKEND Sept. 10-12. In the PA Poconos. Sisterspace, 351 South 47th Street B-101, Philadelphia PA 19143 (215)476-2424.

For mobility - and hearing-impaired women: These festivals are pretty conscientious about accessibility and signing. Contact them for details.

Talent Sought

There are a couple of AIDS benefits being planned in Erie. Both are looking for talent and folks to help organize, set up, and prepare food.

There will be a variety show to benefit the AIDS Council of Erie at the Roadhouse Theatre, tentatively scheduled for April. The benefit's organizer, Mark Yeast, is looking for people who can dance, sing, play music, do stupid human tricks...whatever! Also, artists are encouraged to exhibit their works. All ages are welcome. Call Mark at 452-2098 before March 15.

Another benefit, "A Cabaret Evening" is looking for vocalists and instrumentalists. Performances will all be musical, and song selections should have themes related to love or compassion. Selections should be from the musical theatre, contemporary pop, or classical. The date is not set yet. Contact David at 455-9597.



Like What You See?

Please consider sending a contribution to help support the Tri-state area's own monthly gay and lesbian newsletter!

Contributions may be sent to: EGC Coalition, PO Box 3063, Erie, PA 16508-3063.

Requests for anonymity will be respected.

News Update

The Pennsylvania Association of Realtors has amended its code of ethics to oppose discrimination in housing based on sexual orientation. The amended code favors legislation that would include "sexual orientation" in any state fair housing legislation. The PAR is one of the state's largest lobbying groups, and has the largest political action committee in the state.

The amended code hasn't yet had an effect on gay and lesbian legal rights in housing, but the 40,000 members of PAR must now abide by the new guidelines or face losing their association affiliation.



Please Come to the Erie Gay Community Potluck & Forum at the Unitarian / Universalist Church on Saturday, February 20th at 6:00 pm. Everyone wanting to build a local lesbigay community is enthusiastically welcomed. See you there!

europaean style coffee house

Cappuccino
Espresso
Cafe latte
Cafe
Mocha
Iced coffees

cheesecake
pastries
scones
music
poetry
reading

18 North Park Row
Monday-Wed 7:30am-11pm.

Erie, Pa. PH 456-6642
Thursday-Sat: 7:30am-12pm.

Clinton's Pro-Gay Inauguration

Events before and at President Clinton's inauguration showed the new president's open support for gay and lesbian rights.

- ▼ Former Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer, a lesbian who was discharged from the army after 26 years of distinguished service, received an invitation to the inaugural ball from Clinton.
- ▼ The Lesbian and Gay Bands of America marched in the inaugural parade. It was the first time an openly gay and lesbian group ever marched in an inaugural parade. President Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore each greeted the group by holding up three fingers in the sign language salute that means, "I love you."
- ▼ African-American poet Maya Angelou read her original poem "On the Pulse of Morning" immediately after President Clinton's inaugural address. The poem of hope, peace, and unity included a celebration of the the many diverse peoples of the planet, like "The Irish, the Rabbi, the Priest, the Sheikh, the Gay, the Straight, the Preacher..."

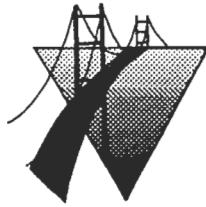
Subscription Form

Name _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

The cost of your subscription includes the 4 quarterly supplements and the 8 single page sized months mailed discreetly to you in a security envelope for 1 year. Please send this with your check for \$15 made payable to "EGC Coalition" to EGCN, PO Box 3063, Erie, PA 16508-3063. Please remember to support our advertisers!



Statement of Purpose

The purpose of *Erie Gay Community Newsletter* is to serve as a voice for lesbians, bisexuals, gay men and our friends & families in the Erie area. We wish this newsletter to be a source of information, support and affirmation. We also see *EGCN* as a vehicle for celebration of the goodness and diversity of the lesbian, gay and bisexual communities. *EGCN* is a cooperative effort between lesbigay groups and individuals to help our community develop and thrive.

South Shore Counseling Group

55 East Main Street
North East, PA 16428
(814) 725-8504

Professional, gay-affirmative counseling is available. A licensed, clinical social worker is now accepting clients for individual, couple and family therapy to help deal with a variety of problems. Fees for counseling are based in a sliding fee scale. Confidentiality is assured.

Editorial Policy

We will consider for publication any material which broadens our understanding of our lifestyles and each other. Views and opinions appearing in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the staff nor those of the component groups.

We will not publish any material which promotes hatred or discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, race, gender, religion, age, class, physical ability or any other reason. We do not support exploitation of minors.

All materials submitted must be signed so we can contact the authors should we need to consider

editorial revisions. However, within the pages of the newsletter, articles may appear anonymously, upon request, and strict confidentiality will be observed. If you wish to have your full name published, you must send a written and signed note that gives us permission to do so. This publication will not "out" anyone.

We welcome and encourage all readers to submit news for publication and to share your comments, criticisms, and positive feelings with us.

Materials should be sent to: *EGCN*; PO Box 3063; Erie, PA 16508-3063. Call (814) 456-9833 for more information.

Gay Youth & AIDS

by Deb Spilko

A second wave of AIDS cases is coming, and its victims will be in the younger generation.

Although the rate of new HIV infections in the general gay male population is going down, it is rising among gay males between the ages of 13 and 29. One survey found that the highest incidence of new HIV infections among gay men was in the 17-25 age bracket.

According to an article in the January 11 issue of *Newsweek*, younger gay males are returning to high risk behaviors that were popular in the days before the AIDS epidemic: large numbers of these young men are having anal intercourse without condoms and are having sex with many partners.

There are a lot of reasons for this distressing development. These include:

- ▼ Dangerous misinformation. According to the *Newsweek* article, there is a popular belief among young gay men that AIDS is a disease of the older generation, and that the danger has passed. Also, many young men believe that one needn't use a condom if the penis is pulled out before ejaculation.
- ▼ Self-hatred or lack of self-esteem. People who don't like themselves don't take good care of themselves, and a lot of gay kids don't like themselves. They fear being rejected by sexual partners if they insist on safer sex. Or they figure that if nobody else cares if they live or die, they don't care either.



- ▼ Lack of social skills and good communication practices. Young gay males don't do well at communicating with their partners, and many don't know how to negotiate safer sex. These men tend to be somewhat behind their straight peers in developing these skills, because they lack the dating and social experience that heterosexual kids normally get.
- ▼ Fatalistic resignation. Some young men believe that they are going to become infected regardless of what they do, and have resigned themselves to the idea that they will inevitably die of AIDS.
- ▼ Indestructibility. Some teens just don't believe bad things can happen to them.

It's clear that AIDS educators need to develop approaches that deal specifically with these issues in a way that really hits home with younger people. Younger gay and bisexual men need to be brought into the process of developing these approaches, and encouraged to take leadership in educating their age peers.

Gay males aren't the only younger people at risk. A 1992 congressional report warned that "HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, is spreading unchecked among the nation's adolescents", and called the government's slow reaction to the problem "a national disgrace." Hopefully, the Clinton Administration will be a better ally in dealing with AIDS than the Bush and Reagan administrations were.

The AIDS holocaust was well underway before we understood how to stop it or slow its spread. Nowadays we know what to do. Let's do it now before AIDS claims another generation.

If you are interested in forming a group that focuses on educating young people about AIDS and safer sex, call Greg at 833-3258 or Deb at 453-2785.