The Winter Spirit
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Publication Information

The North View is a monthly publication of Identity, Inc., a non-profit 501 c (3) Alaska corporation concerned with issues of sexual identity. The North View is published as a community service and the views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the directors, officers or members of Identity, Inc.

We welcome articles and letters from individuals and organizations. Whenever possible submit electronic files (via e-mail) in PC (recent versions of Word, please) or text format. All contributions must be signed, but names will be withheld or pseudonyms used upon request. The North View reserves the right to edit as necessary and to decline any article submitted. The North View does not accept editorial copy or advertising that is sexist, racist, discriminatory or sexually explicit.

All articles must be received by the 10th of the month for inclusion in the North View dated the following month. Remember to give us information timely to the following month. (i.e. by March 10, we'll need April information)

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VIEW from the top

Just when we were saying we needed a real winter, we got one! Winter is a big part of our lives here in Alaska, and for many it is a time for reflection. In this issue several of our contributors share their own winter-time reflections, and Geoffrey Stewart reviews a book that takes a unique look at one man’s search for the giving spirit. Jim Mohr adds to the theme of giving with a way we can give to our loved ones while at the same time give something back to our community. Winter is also, especially here in the far north, a time to make a getaway and Ron Swartz shares with us his latest trip abroad.

I would like to draw special attention to two of the items in this issue. Lanae R. Austin joins us again offering her services as a lawyer and invites any reader with a legal question to solicit her advice on the matter. I have also included a press release from the Human Rights Campaign’s website concerning last summer’s murder of Ketchikan resident David Blare and the State of Alaska’s record on hate-crime awareness and legislation. I encourage all of you to visit their website (www.hrc.org) and find out what more can be done to add sexual orientation to current and proposed hate-crime legislation.

A very special welcome to Laura Goss who joins Identity, Inc. as Community Development Specialist. She introduces herself on page 16 with a thoughtful entry and invitation to others to get involved. On page 15 you will find a notice regarding Anchorage’s first Gay and Lesbian Community Center. Look for more information about this historical event in future issues of the NorthView.

Also in this issue you will find Teresa McPherson’s thoughts on her recent wedding, another provocative article by brand-new Identity board member Pete Grogson, as well as a response to his last article by Michael Haase.

Finally, all of us with Identity and the NorthView would like to wish all of you a peaceful Holiday Season and a productive New Year.

Brian A. Ridder
Editor

Submit!

The NorthView is seeking artists to submit drawings and original cover art, as well as submissions of illustrations and comic strips. Writers are asked to submit original fiction, non-fiction, or poetry.

Please submit electronically to:
thecnorthview@hotmail.com

Or via mail to:
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northVIEW

Needs You!
If you are considering volunteering with your community, please keep us in mind. The following positions are needed here at NV:

Advertising Manager
Reporters
Photographers
Administrative Assistants

If interested, please contact:
thecnorthview@hotmail.com
During this holiday season, if you were planning to do any shopping on-line, there is a great new way to give that doesn't involve any extra money above the amount you are already spending on your purchases. Please go to www.igive.com and follow these steps to help support Identity and all of its projects such as the Living Out Loud Youth Retreat, the Gay and Lesbian Helpline, the Gay and Lesbian Community Center (an announcement for the opening date will be coming soon), PrideFest, Pride Conference and more:

1. On the home page type your e-mail address in the box labeled "Join for free with your e-mail address;"

2. Click "Join Now" box.

3. The "Find a cause to support" page now appears. There is a search engine on the page that you can use to find a cause in their database you want to support. Type in "Identity, Inc." and indicate that the state of Alaska as the state to look in (there is a pull down menu asking for what state/province to search).

4. Click "search".

5. The "Search Results" page comes up and SURPRISE! Identity is already listed! The site gives the name and address of Identity. Click on Identity.

6. The member information page comes up. It asks for your name, zip code and a password you want to use. There is a selection for tax options. You can choose to have your donations used for tax deductions or not have them used. There is also a box that you can check to have your name revealed to the organization that you chose.

8. Fill in information and hit "submit".

9. A page comes up saying congratulations, you are now supporting Identity, Inc. and you can then go to the online mall.

Please consider this way of giving to Identity, Inc., so we can continue to provide the above listed services.

There are many different stores you can shop in such as Old Navy, Pacific Sun, J. Crew, JC Penny, GAP, Patagonia, Barnes and Noble, plus many more stores in the area of health, education, electronics, jewelry, toys and games and so much more. If you want to shop at a site, you will probably find it at igive.com so consider shopping through their website, buy what you want and have some of your money come back to your local community.

Peace and Love,

Jim Mohr
Identity, Inc. Board Co-chair
Hildegard’s Song  
by Diana Wolfe

For the air is alive in the verdure and the flowers; the waters flow as if they lived; the sun too lives in its light; and when the moon wanes it is rekindled by the light of the sun
Hildegard of Bingen, 1098-1179

Winter is coming, not yet snow, but cold seeps into our bones
sharp ideas penetrate
our minds.

We seek viriditas words
in the surrounding darkness
find language germinating
within the field of light on our desks.

Joined by the common bond of
writing, each sits alone but
a cloud of witnesses looks
over our shoulders in blessing.

Soon words flow and fit the
page. All are "showered with greening
refreshment, the vitality to bear fruit."
We sit awed by what has come.

Light brightens in concentric circles as
words go out. Thoughts found in
solitude mature in process and
hard work to touch others’ lives.

Aurora Borealis  
by Ruth Mitchell

I am out behind the store where I work, having a
cigarette break before my night shift change over. It is one
of the clearest, most beautiful nights so far this winter. The
aurora borealis is playing around the sky. If you have ever
seen the borealis then you can visualize the awesome beauty,
but for those who have not, let me describe it to you.

Close your eyes, see a night dark and clear, and
watch the cotton candy streaks of color waft across your vi-
sion. Soft as a feather, swaying to an unheard rhythm, green
and pink, with some little tails of yellow and blue hugging
the edges and it looks so delicate that if you exhaled you
might blow it away. So you stand there holding your breath
believing in a greater power that instills a feeling of peace
in your heart. This is the aurora borealis.

Not that I believe in a higher power anymore.
I am a 37-year-old mother of 5, married for almost
20 years to a man who wants his own business so badly that
we both maintain 2 jobs. It is very clear to me that our
marriage is a façade. We barely like each other these days.
Not that we have ever been close to understanding or loving
each other. It was a marriage of convenience right from the
start. He was lonely—I wanted away from the convent and
also needed to fit into the traditional mold of pleasing one’s
parents by marrying. A typical Midwest type of union.

Burr, it is getting even colder, probably down to
zero degrees by now. The snow is piled high against the
building and my break is almost over. Throwing away my
cigarette I head back into the warmer climes of the store.
After putting my coat away I go to the counter to help with
the selling of liquor to all the people who are on their way to
or from somewhere on this crisp Alaskan evening. Soon I
will be off work heading for home myself.

I get this chill up my back, and knowing with a 6th
sense that something is different, I slowly look up from what
continued on next page...
Before Sunrise

by Jen Kohout

The thermometer perched to the left of our front door says that it's 10 degrees outside but I'm skeptical. The inside of the window is coated with frost and I can see my breath. I sit on the cedar bench beneath a row of coat pegs and quickly tie my running shoes. My head is still groggy from a deep sleep too soon interrupted but I have no desire to linger in an arctic entry that feels like the inside of a meat locker. When my shoes are tied, I take a deep breath, Yank open the frozen door and step out into the early morning darkness.

My body is stiff so I start slowly, moving with the fluidity of the Tinman after a hard rain. I plod along the icy streets of the sleeping neighborhood until I reach Chester Creek trail, Anchorage's primary east-west artery for non-motorized travel. By Alaskan scenic standards, the trail is nondescript; a five mile ribbon of pavement accompanied by a stream no wider than three Mallards. To me, however, the trail is a holy place. It offers a respite from all that disconnects me from myself—from the work hours I spend staring at a computer monitor to the mundane distractions, like unsolicited catalogues, that drain my time and energy. The trail connects me to the mountain tops that just last after from my Wonderbread suburban life but can touch only on weekends and holidays.

At the end of a short access path, I turn right and head towards the east. Above an adjacent baseball field, I can make out the faint outline of Knoya, Tikishla, and Wolverine peaks. The first mile of my route is illuminated with large ovals of yellow light from the lamps along the trail. Passing in and out of each oval, I am preceded then abandoned by my shadow. If I was more awake, I'd consider how the appearance of each new shadow might symbolize a regeneration of self over the course of one’s life. Instead, I wonder whether my cheeks are showing signs of frostbite. When the light poles end, I continue on into the dark. My eyes adjust within seconds. This particular morning, the lights of Anchorage bounce off a low layer of clouds and bathe the trail in a soft gray glow. On clear, moonless mornings, I can barely see my feet and must rely on balance and memory to negotiate the blackness. Today, the diffuse light exposes the divots and other obstacles in my path. My body relaxes and my stride lengthens.

I notice the angular lines left by skate skis and am reminded of a recent outing with my friend Katie. Inspired by clear, blue skies, we skied from the Hillside, along the multi-use trails of Campbell Tract, to the Chester Creek trail. At one point, we passed a woman pushing a large stand-up sled that looked like a kitchen chair and operated like a scooter. "Looks like fun," I shouted to Katie, who was ahead of me. Katie, still skiing, launched into a story. I tried to stay as close as her metal-tipped poles would allow but the sound of our skis on the hard packed trail drowned out all but a few words "...friend Lisa...concussion...sled tangled...".
I was torn between wanting to hear the details and not wanting to stop skiing. For me, the joy is in the motion, the companionship in carpooling to the trail head.

On winter mornings, I rarely see other people. I prefer not to. It disturbs the illusion of wilderness. That sense of being alone in the world allows me to experience self-independent of the complicated relationships that influence who I think I am. There are no societal or parental expectations waiting for me in the woods; no need to impress or succeed. The only rule is that I dress warmly enough to stave off hypothermia and that I get myself home in time for work.

But an illusion is only that and sometimes I benefit from the truth, which is that I am not alone. On occasion, I run along the trail thinking about breakfast or snowshoes or the meaning of life when I realize with a start that if I reach out to my left or right, I would touch a towering gray-haired, hooved mammal gnawing on a cottonwood limb. At those moments, my pulse races and my body tenses with anticipation. Apparently, I am not the only one startled out of their trailside reflections as I discovered one morning when I rounded the corner and was met by a man clutching his dog’s collar and shouting at me at the top of his lungs. He’d mistaken me for a moose. The experience of encountering (or impersonating) a moose invariably draws my attention to the present. Safely past the disinterested ungulate, I realize that the thoughts that seemed so important minutes before, are not. Feeling the motion of my legs as I push up a short incline, the weight of my ice-covered eyelashes, the crisp air on my cheeks, I am reminded what it means to be alive. And at that moment I know that it really doesn’t matter what the thermometer says or even that the sun won’t rise for three more hours.

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**Mad Myrna’s**

*Wednesdays-Sundays*

**DJ Music**

**Sundays**

70’s/80’s Music

Myrn’s “Green Plate” Special Pool Tournament

**Wednesdays**

Karaoke

**Thursdays**

Country Dance Lessons

Country Dancing

Karaoke

**Fridays**

Mad Myrna’s Drag Divas

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**Winter is Beautiful in Alaska**

*(pure fiction) by Chuck Hart*

Wake up to a newly hushed world. Grab the morning paper and notice the scrubbed and polished air hanging over the soft, blue-white quilt of fresh snow. Everything is clean.

A soft gray ceiling hangs above snow-laden trees. Only faith tells us the sun has come again. Grateful weary eyes nourished by the gentle light and blue shadows are refreshed.

When breakfast dishes are done, warm clothing, coats, hats, mittens, boots, and scarves are gathered and layered on. Our sled is found.

Boots crunching in the new snow bring memories of other sledding days. Our eyes flash back and forth in wonder, awe, and love as we were lobbing a shuttlecock over a net. Paul and I are silently pointing out the many beautiful sights this morning stroll brings.

From the path through the woods to the hill, we see an opening in the clouds, which lets a thin ray of a muted sunlight strike the small clearing ahead. Chickadees sing. A small white rabbit hops slowly into the clearing. Scattered flakes of snow begin to trickle from the sky forming a sundog in this chapel of the moment. God is everywhere, but right now, right here. He is especially real to us.

Sublime meditation restores our souls, our faith, and our energy. Peace has entered in and dominates our emotions. Stress has been vanquished for now. All muscle groups have been loosened and move freely in the strides to the sledding hill.

POW! Paul has nailed the back of my neck with a chunk of crusty snow from a spruce branch. I fall over laughing and protesting. Our sled slips back down the trail. I find the perfect chunk for retaliation but miss because I can’t stop giggling long enough to lob it. Paul tackles me and rubs my face in the snow. This is my chance! I roll him over and give him his own snowy facial. Two grown men acting like schoolboys, life IS grand! After the laughter, we hug, kiss and retrieve the sled.

At the top of the hill we get on the sled and push off. Slow starting, we push, and rock to keep going. Suddenly the hill drops steeply and we rocket over hundreds of bumps and turns. Gradually the hill tapers out to level ground. What a rush! On our next run we miss a turn or two, but with the laughter, and no injuries, have just as much fun. Our contest devolves into a game of “who can run us off course first?” We pull the sled to the top again, and again, until our legs and cheeks are stiff and sore.

A couple of hours later we are having hot chocolate, cuddled on the couch, feeling warm, and grateful for the love we share.

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**Gay, and a dad?**

You are not alone. Gay dads social/support group forming soon. Family activities, moral support, fun, and more.

More info: alaskagaydads@hotmail.com

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A Winter's Day

by Diana Wolfe

Outside, the temperatures are dropping below zero. Brilliant white snow reflects the sun as the morning fog dissipates. Inside, I am toasty warm with a cup of English Breakfast tea on the table beside my chair. Winter is a time of reflection. For me it is a time to slow down and meditate on my life and how I am achieving the goals I have set for myself; and then put what I find into words on a page.

Through the living room window of my partner's home, I can see the tall cottonwood dominating the scene. Between the tracery of branches, the snow covered muskog pushes up against the black trees at the base of the mountains. Snow covers the larger branches of the cottonwood and the smaller ones are whimsically drawn in their lines haphazardly. Quiet seeps through to the room. A good day to curl up in an old comfortable chair and read a good book or write in my journal.

In ancient times, winter was a time to gather around the fire and pass on the legends and myths of the tribe to the younger generations. These legends and myths tried to make sense of the natural world. Slowly, these tales began to be codified into a religion and demi-gods were born. At least three of the major religions of the world use the winter months to celebrate their holiest holidays: the Jewish Hanukkah, Islam's Ramadan, and Christianity's Christmas. For others, celebrations of the Solstice and the return of the Light and the Yule-time become times of festivity. Oak has been the traditional Yule log, but Spruce makes a beautiful log with its white bark peeling to show the darker part underneath. A few years ago my daughter's family made a Yule-log with a hole for a candle and festooned with garlands. Every year I light the candle and have my own private ritual on Solstice.

Living in Alaska and suffering clinical depression, SAD (seasonal affective disorder), and other mental illnesses, I look forward to the coming back of the light. It is amazing how a few seconds of lighter light can change my attitude. It comes from the promise of more light that makes the difference.

I am a solitary person by nature; probably I would make a good recluse or hermit. I find that I need to force myself out of my home and participate in the activities of others. That is one reason I have chosen to volunteer with Identity, Inc. Meeting and making new friends makes the winter months speed by. Although I call myself an eclectic spiritual person, I have chosen to join with the people at the Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church. This gives me a place to gather with others to celebrate the passing of the seasons and join in the celebration of ritual.

The end of this day finds me once again back in my own place; a small room in downtown Anchorage. I turn on some music, fix a cup of herbal tea, and sit down to reflect on my day. I pick up a book by Hildegard of Bingen, an eleventh century Abbess who models for me what I desire in my own life - reading, writing, activity, civil rights. A vi-

in the BOOKSTORE

by Geoffrey Stewart

***Warning, in honor of the holidays, I have let my terribly sentimental nature go un-checked! You have been warned***

Well, as most of you already know, this month's issue of the Northview is themed around Spirituality. Now I am a Wiccan, have been for almost 9 years now. This time of year my spiritual focus is bent on shifting from the honor and reverence for my ancestors and the beloved dead of Samhain (Halloween) to honoring and celebrating my living loved ones and the changing cycle of the seasons at Yule (winter solstice).

Like a lot of people who have converted to a faith in their adult life, I find myself sometimes feeling a little out of place this time of year as the commercialism of Christmas wars with the Christian meanings of the holiday.

We are also seeing more awareness of the other religious and spiritual celebrations that occur near the Winter Solstice, Chanukah, Kwanzaa, Ramadan, and a number of other celebrations. Along with this increased multiculturalism there is, it seems, more than a little confusion about what this time of year means to us as a people.

Growing up my family was not particularly religious, but Christmas was a time for coming together as a family and to try and do something special for others. Which is why when I saw

How To Be Santa Claus
By Nick Kelsh
ISBN# 158479089x

I was quite delighted. This tongue-slightly-in-cheek how to manual with about 60 photo-filled pages is the perfect stocking stuffer for the good hearted, fun loving, holiday maniac in your life. This valuable tome starts with a photo of our author in his boxers, holding a Santa hat, and with the following words:

"I'm not proud of this Photograph, but it's where I begin. I have no choice. It's all I have. It's all you have. I am missing some hair. I'm on my second marriage. I have no
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upper-body strength and one day doctors will replace my right knee. My son is well aware that his father is less than perfect. But last Christmas Eve, I was Santa Clause – and it made a difference."

From this beginning the books starts to tell you point by point about how to be Santa Claus, not necessarily how to dress up as Santa, although that is covered. This sweet and sentimental book encourages it's readers to find time in their busy holiday season to try and spread Love, Joy, and the Spirit of Giving into the lives of others. Whether you make one child happy with a much hoped for present, or whether you give a whimsical gift to one dear adult friend that reminds them of their playful youth.

Not that this will be easy going, as Mr. Kelsh caution, "People will scoff at you. It will bother you less if you know why. They are scared. Dressing in a red suit and espousing a radical philosophy— unlimited giving—is simply going to strike some people as dangerous."

When I picked this book up at the store I figured it was a cute little spoof of how to books. What it ended up being, though, was a meditation and manual on giving for the sake of spreading joy. I found it heartwarming and inspiring, and perhaps will have to follow the advice within in order to be Santa Clause for someone this year – or perhaps next...

Whatever your holiday, I hope that the Yuletide season brings joy and laughter to you and yours.

Brightest Blessings,
Geoffrey/Pax

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### Classic Cooking with Al Kaneta

**Pork & Mushrooms Supreme**

- 6 each pork cutlets or chops
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 2 tablespoons thyme
- 3/4 pint sour cream (about 1 1/2 cups)
- 1 can French fried onion rings
- 1/4 cup white wine (optional)
- 1 can mushroom bits & pieces (optional)

Pound cutlets or chops flat. Brown pork in a little oil in frying pan. Place in deep casserole. Mix half of the can of onion rings into one can of mushroom soup and sour cream. Spread over all the meat in casserole dish, then sprinkle thyme over all. Add onion rings over top to finish. Place in 350 degree oven uncovered and bake for 45 minutes. Increase heat after 30 minutes. Serve hot.

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### MCC Benefit Concert

There will be a Christmas concert and auction at Mad Myrna's on Sunday, December 16 from 4-7pm to benefit the Lamb of God MCC.

This will be an all-family event. Admission is $5 for adults and $2 for children. Please attend to show your support for MCC!

In addition to the show, food and gift items will be auctioned off. Identity has been asked to help supply auction items. Please consider donating baked goods, crafts, holiday baskets or any other gifts. The items should be delivered to Chris Pearson at Stonewall'd by Saturday, December 15. All proceeds from this event will go to the Lamb of God MCC.

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It's all Allan's fault. My gay penpal in Somerset England asked me last spring if I would come visit him. He caught me in a "Why not?" frame of mind, and soon after writing a check to my gay travel agent I had tickets in my hands! But summer time is when it's great to be in Alaska, so our plans were for an early autumn trip to the U.K. When the time came, I decided I wasn't going to let some radical Muslim 'fundamentalists' stop me. Heck, the flight east over half the globe were nearly half empty!

After the terrorism on NYC and the Pentagon, I had expected tighter security measures at the airports. There were more uniformed police, and the contract security people at check-in took longer with their metal-detectors, but otherwise things were the same. By the time I left for home, the U.S. and Britain had started bombing Afghanistan, so things got a little more secure. In London I wasn't allowed to bring anything but "essentials" on board with me for the 13 hours in the air. It seemed strange that they confiscated people's nail clippers and scissors, but were selling large glass bottles of duty-free liquor at the airport! Anyone who's ever seen a street fight (or its results) knows how menacing a broken bottle can be. I think drunkenness is a major contributor to air rage, too. Get rid of the airport booze stores...

Great Britain weather was in the 60-65 degree range... chilly to the locals, quite warm for me! Unlike Anchorage, the rainstorms that passed over the country could be torrential. So activity stopped and people on the streets took cover in doorways, until the rain stopped a few minutes later! Luckily much of my time overseas consisted of sunny days and cool nights. Even was treated to the soothing sound of an all-night rain a couple times, so we left the windows in the London hotel room open slightly.

Anyway, my penfriend Allan met me at Gatwick Airport in south London when I arrived in late September. We got along well. He had picked the Blair Victoria Hotel for the first 3 days of my vacation, within a few minutes walk to the Tube subway station at Victoria. I was amazed at how small a functional bathroom ("W.C") can be! Old London hotels and boarding houses eventually installed indoor plumbing, and the wash closet was a modular unit about 5 feet square... just enough room in the shower to turn around without bumping into the toilet on the other side of the curtain. The hotels

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included a typical English breakfast, consisting of 2 eggs, cold pork & beans, a hunk of ham ("bacon"), white toast, cereal, orange juice, and coffee.

Before leaving London for some days in the west countryside, we spent an evening in Soho. Allan & I went to the Dominion Theatre to see an energetic performance of "Notre-Dame de Paris", which had some great music and plenty of athletic nearly naked young men and women. We also checked out a gay dance club called Manto, which has 3 floors and lots of subdued neon lights inside. Interesting. In an on-line guide to gay clubs, it's described as "gastream/ loud and full on".

We used National Rail to get to Yeovil, where Allan works as a nurse at the regional hospital. It's a small city, with old buildings and new pedestrian malls. His housing is provided, and is in an old dormitory. So Allan shares a suite with 3 other National Health Service nurses... one English, one Indian, and one from the Philippines. From Yeovil we took day trips to some great old Roman-built cities. The first was Bath, with an ancient abbey, bathhouses, and a Royal Park. I was really impressed by the beauty of city, an impression assisted by a perfect autumn day and another open-top bus tour with narration about its history.

While in London we used an open-top double-decker bus tour to help me get my bearings for the size and lay-out of the city. Then we walked, checking out the Trafalgar Square area, Southwark, Hyde Park & South Kensington, River Thames, Covent Garden, Picaddilly & Oxford Circus areas, Leiceste Square, Whitehall, Westminster, and The City. I haven't walked so much in a long time! We got aerial views of the city from the British Airways "Eye"- a Ferris wheel-looking thing on the banks of the Thames with about 20 pods that hold about ten people each.

I have a fascination for the architecture of the Westminster Abbey (13th century), Houses of Parliament (16th century) and all the palaces. We even did a little shopping in the HUGE and ornate Harrod's department store. It has 7 or 8 floors, 300 departments, and 4000 employees! Allan and I reached the gothic Tower Bridge as a rain shower was ending, and saw a rainbow to the east. What a welcome for a couple gay boys! We paid for a guided tour of the drawbridge, which was completed in 1894, and stuck around for the 2:00 opening of the bridge & watched a tall mast boat pass by.

For about $13 we got a train ride in to Sherborne, another ancient city with an abbey (15th century), Almshouse of St. John the Baptist (built 1438), and sod roofed houses of tudor style. We even walked on the grounds & ruins of an early 12th century castle built by Bishop Roger of Salisbury, which was later acquired by Sir Walter Raleigh in 1592. It was badly damaged in the 17th century during their Civil War. It was awesome standing next to rock walls built by men nearly a thousand years ago!

We also spent a day in the coastal community of Weymouth, and the university city of Cambridge before heading back to London. I was surprised to find a large American Cemetery in the outskirts of Cambridge- a tribute to the thousands of U.S. servicemen who lost their lives during World War II. The Americans used the Fens area to launch aircraft strikes against Nazis in other parts of Europe. I don't know of anyone who was killed in WWII, but it was still a very touching place.

October 5th started another weekend in "Europe's largest city" of 7 million people. This time we stayed at a gay-owned hotel called the Philbeach, in a 19th century building continued on next page ...
... continued from previous page in the Earl’s Court Kensington district. I would recommend the place to Family travelers... a nice French cuisine restaurant (not open on Sundays), basement bar, and comfortable sitting room with television and coin-operated PC for checking e-mail (and the weather back in Alaska!). The Underground was only a block away, so we did a lot more exploring of London. By chance while walking in Piccadilly Circus one night, I saw a picture of hunky Brendan Fraser on a marquee. He was playing Brick in a production of “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof”, and Ned Beatty was Big Daddy. The play was to start in 25 minutes, so we walked up and bought 2 tickets! It was well done, in the old Lyric Theatre on Shaftesbury Avenue. In the first scene of the first (of 3) acts, Brendan comes out onto stage wearing only a bath towel! Soon he’d tossed the towel aside and completed the act in white boxer shorts. He’s getting a little soft in the middle, but is still a gorgeous man.

A Day at the Beach  Photo courtesy of Ron Swartz

Before I knew it, it was time to have airport security pawing through my carry-on bag. I expected Anchorage to be white with snow by early October, but things were still brown and cold. And everybody was driving on the right side of the roads! Ah, Anchorage, “only minutes from Alaska”...

The Thames River  Photo courtesy of Ron Swartz

First, I would like to thank the NorthView staff for inviting me to host an interactive column. Like most of us, I have been meaning to volunteer, help out with different events and do my part on the GLBTA front. I feel like this will be an excellent avenue to begin contributing more to our community.

I have recently started my own law firm, creatively entitled the Law Office of Lanae R. Austin. Here is a brief bio: I graduated from Texas A&M University in 1989 with a major in Russian and Spanish; joined the U.S. Army and served as an Arabic linguist for the National Security Agency from 1989-1993; graduated Cum Laude from University of Baltimore School of Law in 1997. While in law school, I clerked for Baltimore County Circuit Court for 2 years and after graduation I clerked for the Anchorage District Court 1997-1998. In October 1998, I joined the law firm of Lynda A. Limon, where I practiced for 3 years - concentrating solely on issues involving family law, domestic partnerships, domestic violence and wills.

In September 2001, I left the law firm of Lynda A. Limon to embark upon a solo adventure: my own office. My main areas of concentration continue to be family law (i.e. divorce, custody, child support, visitation). I also draft prenuptial agreements, domestic partnership agreements and wills. I handle domestic violence cases, adoptions and offer advice on small estate planning. One of my goals is to orient myself toward the needs of the GLBTA community. I’m establishing this legal corner as a format for NorthView readers to submit legal questions within the above-listed fields of law.

As I get the questions, I will put forth my best effort in answering the questions completely. Victoria said since I am an attorney, I “just simply must have a disclaimer,” so here it is: Please keep in mind that the answers that I publish will not constitute an attorney-client relationship in any way between myself and anyone submitting questions. The goal here is to give general legal advice and, at the same time, serve the GLBTA community. After publication of questions, if anyone is interested in more specific answers, or has an issue that is more personal in nature, feel free to call my office and schedule an appointment. My web site is currently under construction but you may contact me via e-mail at lanae@alaskanattorney.com. Thanks and tune in next issue.

Lanae R. Austin: Innovative lawyer, practicing aggressive strategies when necessary, always reasonable and in touch with you, the client.
To Hell With Proposition Two!

My sister once told me if she ever remarried, she'd fly somewhere exotic and take her vows in a faraway place. I said I'd rather throw a big party and invite everyone I cared about to celebrate with us. My partner Danny and I did just that November 3rd at O'Malley's on the Green.

Danny proposed to me on Christmas Day of 2000. He took me to the place where we were first introduced and asked if I'd marry him. I said yes. Then I proposed to him—after all, this is a partnership first and foremost. (He also said yes.)

We'd talked about marriage several times before that day. We know other trans couples who elect not to marry because their GLB friends do not have the privilege. This is a very individual decision. We decided we wanted a legal marriage, but we wanted a ceremony that honored the many gay and lesbian friends who have been our support system in recent years.

So we went on-line to research ceremony and vow options. Then we sat down and created our own individual service which would be a combination marriage and commitment ceremony. It was important to us to recognize our friends who don't have the legal right to marry their partner of choice. So we spent months fashioning just the right words to express how we felt about entering into a lawful marriage in the presence of friends who cannot legally do so.

On our wedding day, as Kate Nilsson so eloquently delivered our words for us, our hearts were full of emotion. It was a humbling experience to know we were being married in a roomful of devoted gay and lesbian friends still waiting for the legal right which we were about to exercise.

Many of you have been in committed relationships with life partners far longer than Danny and I. You are the ones we learn from. You are our role models. And we felt your strength as we stood and took our vows amid a sea of beautiful smiling faces.

On November 3rd two queers got married. In a state which defines marriage as a union between one man and one woman, two queers got married. In a city where our mayor ordered a diversity exhibit banned from the library, two queers got married. In a city where that same mayor received a standing ovation at the largest church in town, two queers got married as a huge room of smiling gay and lesbian faces witnessed the marriage.

At that moment, the Legislature, the mayor, the local Baptist preacher didn't matter. What mattered is that our community is stronger because of their actions. What mattered is that two queers got married as our gay and lesbian friends and even a few straight family members and co-workers cheered and celebrated with us. O'Malley's rocked with gay pride as we filled the dance floor and celebrated with passion! Even the servers smiled hugely and stepped lightly, as though their feet itched to hit the dance floor with us.

continued on next page...
A few days later, I received an email from my son who attended the wedding and who danced and celebrated and showed his support for me and my partner and our community. My son wrote: "You have found yourself a tight bunch of good folks who support each other and genuinely care for you. We should all be so lucky."

Several of you gave us priceless memories that evening. Your words made us proud we're a part of this incredible community. And just when we couldn't feel more grateful for your love and your support, we received yet another priceless gift when Linda Steiner came up to us at the Unity in our Community celebration one week later and said: "The State may think of you as husband and wife, but we still think of you as Family."

It doesn't get any better than that.
Amen, Sister! ☢

---

**Statewide AIDS Helpline**

**1-800-478-AIDS**

- HIV Testing -
  - Wednesdays 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM
  - 4A's offices 1057 W. Fireweed, Suite 102
  - 1st Friday of the month at The Raven, 7:30-9:30 PM
  - 3rd Friday of the month at Mad Myrna's, 10:00PM-12AM

Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association

**907-263-2050**

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**Point of View**

I just finished reading Pete Gregson's column in NorthView for November titled, *Sex In Anchorage*. Pete talks about cruising for sex in Anchorage, and how frustrating that can be.

Let me begin by saying that I have zero problem with folks cruising or people having anonymous sex. After all, to come out, in my opinion, is to wash away the taboos that the "normal" society tries to place on us. In that respect, I am in total agreement with Pete.

But where he loses me is how he describes people not involved in cruising. This paragraph, in particular, made me a little upset:

"What is worse is that gay men accept this. You see, there is a high level of sexphobia among gay men in Anchorage. Many of my brothers are very ashamed of the fact that they like and want to have sex. Frequent or anonymous sex with multiple partners is just not acceptable to society and to the purists in the gay movement. The public looks down on homosexuality mostly because of gay male sexual activity. Gay male sex has led to AIDS, charges of moral degeneracy, and the public specter of gay men involved in perverted acts with multiple partners. Who doesn't know that old stereotype of the gay male."

I would offer a different conclusion: I don't believe that most gay men are critical of those who cruise for sex. I certainly am not. My partner and I are in a monogamous relationship because that is what we as a couple are about. We enjoy focusing our lives on the other person.

If another person (and we have many friends who do) wants to be involved with multiple partners or cruise for sex, then we have nothing against that and make no moral judgment one way or another.

A few months ago, we met a guy here in Anchorage who was from New York City that we thought was pretty cool. We chatted at Mad Myrna's for about an hour, then at his request we exchanged e-mail addresses. About a week later, we got an e-mail saying how sorry he was that he hadn't suggested a three way. Bam, just out of the blue like that. Again, it's not a moral judgment, but I can't understand why you can't have a conversation with someone that you might have something in common with. (My partner lived ten years in NYC, and the discussion was about life there) without it being assumed you are after sex. And if your not after sex, you're a prude.

So no, I don't think people who aren't out cruising are making a moral judgment about people who are. It just isn't what they are about.

Michael Haase
Anchorage
SEX in Anchorage

by Pete Gregson

Two months ago, a funny thing happened on the way to the printer. My first "Sex in Anchorage" column actually got bumped because it was deemed inappropriate for the "Youth" issue. There were those who thought that my column's advocating cruising was not a proper exercise of expression in an issue devoted to youth.

What is it about sex and youth? Do we really think High School students (heck, even some Junior High students for that matter) aren't having sex? Or as GLBT persons are we so afraid of the labels given to us by fundamentalists that we fear addressing the sexual needs and the sexual experiences of our teens?

Who in Anchorage doesn't honestly believe that youth are not having sex? So, when we refuse to discuss sexual issues with them, and we do everything in our power to keep the topics of youth and sex separated, whose agenda are we actually serving? It doesn't seem to fit into the agenda of a healthy GLBT community. I'm sure it doesn't serve the agenda of GLBT youth.

I know some GLBT teens. Some are in High School. Some are in college. Most are willing to be pretty frank about sex. They often feel that they have to be. After all, it is pretty hard for them to come out and then be denied the same sexual freedoms that everyone else has. It is with whom they choose to have sex that sets them apart from straight people, that actually makes them, and us, gay.

If we are not educating our GLBT teens about sex, then who is? Who is telling them that feeling shame over their sexual practices is normal? Who is telling them about safe sex, healthy sexual choices, STDs, and relationships? Who is helping them to get over the guilt and the shame they feel about... well, sex.

By "protecting" our GLBT youth from sexual topics, we are buying into the same tired straight mentality that continues to keep the majority of GLBT persons oppressed by heterosexism. In our sex phobic, Puritan-descended society, teenagers should be taught abstinence only. They should be taught that any sex outside of a committed relationship is wrong. They need to understand that society can only accept certain forms of sexual expression and that anything that deviates from the narrow "norm" is just not okay.

If we feel we have to treat GLBT youth with the same repressed manner that straight youth are treated then we have done our community and our youth a disservice.

We are asking our GLBT teens to stand up and declare to the world the most basic declaration about their sexual lives. We want them to tell the world one of the most intimate facts of what they do in the bedroom. Shouldn't there be room then for us to positively mentor them on what sex means in this wacky GLBT world of ours? God, I wish some nice gay man would have set me down at 16 and told me all the nuances of having sex in a gay world. Maybe then I would not have wasted so much time trying to blindly figure it out on my own. Who knew at 16 about cruising? Who knew that anonymous sex carried its own rewards and its own risks? Who knew about gay bars, and various sexual positions, and how to make a GLBT relationship work?

We are scared. As a GLBT community, we are so scared of how the straight world will perceive us that we feel that we must keep our youth in ignorance. We feel that we cannot even allow our own adult brothers and sisters the freedom to express themselves sexually except for what falls into the small box of societal norms. We feel we must emasculate our community sexually in order to gain acceptance in the heterosexist world. We feel we must take the worst labels that are put upon us by the nuttiest people and destroy the sexual health of GLBT persons everywhere just to prove that Jerry and Jerry and Pat and Lou and Fred are wrong.

What message does this send to our youth? Be proud of who you are, just practice the don't ask, don't tell rule when it comes to sex. Be proud of being gay or lesbian or bisexual or transgendered, just don't let the heterosexist world know that you have sexual desires and practices that might not fit into a monogamous, plain vanilla, long-term relationship. Shouldn't we instead be teaching them how to lose the baggage of the heterosexist world? Shouldn't we be showing them that they have no reason to feel guilt and shame over any of their sexual acts as long as they are consensual and legal? Can we show our GLBT youth a better way?

I think probably not. At least not for a while. You see, we don't give ourselves permission to be free from guilt and shame. We don't give ourselves permission to cruise, or to have anonymous sex, or to use sex toys, or to watch porn, or to try S-and-M. We are not free of the rules imposed by a heterosexist world led by Dick Armey and Jesse Helms, so how can we model healthy sexual behaviors and attitudes for our youth and for one another?

There will come a day when GLBT writers can talk about youth and sex in the same issue of a magazine without being censored. There will come a day when our gay community embraces healthy sexuality and positive sexual experiences rather than trying to please people who will never accept us as GLBT persons much less accept any of our sexual practices. There will come a day when we stop trying so hard to fit into the heterosexist world. Hopefully, that day will be sooner than we think.

Pete Gregson is the former Editor of the NorthView and currently works for the Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association.

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Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage

The Home of Our Community

After many months, much deliberation, and viewing many possible sites, the Advisory Board of the Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage (GLCCA), sponsored by Identity, Inc., has signed a lease and the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered, and Ally (GLTBA) community has a new Community Center! It is a great space with many possibilities, conveniently located on Northern Lights Blvd. West of Lake Otis Pkwy between The Burger Cache & Don Jose's, and near bus lines.

We need your help NOW to get the center ready to open – painting, cleaning, minor repairs, installing a sink, putting up shelves, moving furniture and supplies, decorating, and probably in some ways we cannot think of now. If you are willing to volunteer, please contact Identity's Community Development Specialist, Laura Goss at 344-2474, email us or speak with any Identity or GLCCA Board member.

Be on the lookout for our GRAND OPENING which will occur in early 2002! We hope to see you there as a patron of the new Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage.

Thank you for your support!
Giving Back to My Community

by Laura Goss

In my opinion, time is our most valuable resource. When approached to donate to a cause or support an organization or event, I am most often asked for a monetary donation. Often, I am unable to give the sum of money being asked of me. But what I do give is my time to causes I deem worthy. This is how I give back to my community - I give of myself.

This personal practice began when I was a "poor college student" in the mid 80's. If I could not afford to see the new musical in town, I would volunteer to usher so I could see the show for free. When the time came for my first presidential election, I volunteered for the candidate of my choice. If I were interested in a particular organization or activity, I looked for a volunteer opportunity. Throughout my life, this has continued. Because there are a few causes close to my heart, I volunteer with more than one organization.

My first act of volunteering in the Anchorage GLBTA community was as a Gay & Lesbian Helpline Volunteer. When I came out 6 years ago, I did not know anyone in Alaska. So I looked in the phone book under "Gay" and found the Helpline. At that time, the Helpline was only staffed a few days a week, and I remember distinctly the agonizing wait of 3 days to be able to speak to another GLBT person. I was so grateful for that link to our GLBT community, and a few months later, I went through the Helpline training to become a phone volunteer. I continued volunteering in that capacity for almost 5 years. I have also volunteered with Alaska Women's Speak, the Celebration of Change, Klondyke Contact, The Pride Conference, Unity in Our Community, and most recently as Co-Chair on the Advisory Board of the Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage (GLCCA).

When I give of myself and my time, I get more out of the experience of giving. I get the personal reward of knowing I did a job well, I helped a person in a time of need, or I directly aided in the success of an event or campaign. I enjoy the personal contact with organizations, clients, and other volunteers. And I am not alone.

Volunteering among adults has increased significantly over the past decade. Based on the most recent surveys from the Independent Sector, in 1999 almost 56% of the American public, volunteered, the highest level of volunteering ever recorded. Volunteers gave an average of 3.5 hours per week. For 41% of volunteers, serving is a sporadic, one-time activity; while an almost equal number (39%) volunteer at a scheduled time, be it weekly, biweekly, or monthly. This volunteer workforce represented the equivalent of over 9 million full-time employees.

Wondering how to get started? Think about the causes, issues, and/or events important to you and consider the skills you have to offer. Consider volunteering as a group with some friends or co-workers. If there is something you would like to learn, seek a volunteer opportunity involving training in an unfamiliar skill. Many non-profits are very willing to train reliable volunteers. And there are dozens of ways you can volunteer here in your own GLBTA community!

Our tendency is to think of those in need especially during the Holidays, but volunteering is welcome and necessary all year. The need for compassion doesn't stop with the end of a tragedy or the warmer weather of spring. We all need to be aware that making our communities, our nations, and our world a better place is a 365-day-a-year responsibility. There is always something we could be doing to help!

For more information on volunteering for any of the many projects sponsored by Identity, please contact me at home 344-2474 or laurag@alaska.net. As the new employee of Identity, one of my duties will be coordinating and tracking all volunteers. Once we open the GLCCA, I will be operating out of there. I look forward to working with you!

*DYKEDISCONIGHT!*  
Saturday January 19th - Pioneer Schoolhouse - 7:30pm - 10:30pm - suggested cover charge $3-5 if you can.

Yes, the next 3rd Saturday of the month women's dance has a 70's Disco theme (And yes, those of you willing may dress to fit the era! Bring out your bell bottoms, fringed vests, and love beads!). We had such a great turnout for the women's 60's Motown dance in November, we decided to move up the timeline to the 70's. Teresa Templeton & Laura Goss will be your hosts for this very groovy event. Come and dance your winter blues away and Do The Hustle, Shake Your Groove Thing, put on your Boogie Shoes, and be a Dancin' Queen!

Don't miss this one!

Identity
Helpline
GLBT information & referrals
907-258-4777
1-888-901-9876
16
4th Friday Potluck
Fourth Friday Potluck & Coffeehouse
An Evening of Fun & Friendship

There is a time for entertainment (poetry, song, etc.), for event info and announcements, we feature a club each month and eat great food. Bring a dish to share.

Doors open at 6:30 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (AUUF) 3210 Turnagain Street. Call the GLBT HelpLine at 258-4777 if you would like to perform, help, need directions or just want more general info on this event.

Identity Helpline
GLBT Information & Referrals
907-258-4777
1-888-901-9876

Beginning November 1, 2001, RAW will accept writings by Alaskan LBT women for an anthology to be published in the spring. The project will include original poetry, artwork, short stories and essays.

Poetry should not exceed 300 words and prose should not exceed 800 words. This will ensure a variety of voices from our community.

Writings should be submitted electronically in MS Word format to RAW@adn.net. Use basic word processing format, no bold or special characters. If you don't have access to email, we'll accept items on disk or typewritten copy by mail.

RAW reserves the right to reject content that is sexist, discriminatory, or in questionable taste as determined by the board.

Artwork: submit a xerox copy no larger than 8 1/2 x 11 via regular mail. Art should be sketches or line drawings suitable for B&W publication. We'll contact you for originals or you may email scanned artwork in JPEG format. All original artwork will be returned.

You may submit more than one item for consideration. Firm deadline for all submissions is January 1, 2002.

The anthology will be released at the April 2002 Celebration of Change. We also plan a book release party for our writers and artists upon publication.

We hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to have your writings and artwork published in a quality anthology that reflects the depth and diversity of our Alaska LBT women's community. We look forward to hearing from you.

RAW (Radical Arts for Women) is a woman's organization which supports and promotes artistic events and projects by, for and about Lesbians and Feminists.

RAW
P.O. Box 24436
Anchorage, AK 99524
907-566-3783
RAW@adn.net

Gratitude
n: 1 the state of being grateful; 2 a feeling of thankfulness and appreciation

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APPARENT ANTI-GAY HATE CRIME IN ALASKA

HRC Urges State to Amend Hate Crimes Law to Include Sexual Orientation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  Friday, August 10, 2001

WASHINGTON — The Human Rights Campaign today urged the Alaska Governor’s Commission on Tolerance to support amending the state’s hate crimes law to include sexual orientation, in response to the murder of David Blare, an openly gay Alaska Native. His body was found in Ketchikan, a town in the southeastern part of the state.

David Blare, 35, also known as Steve Perry, was found dead by the Ketchikan Police Department on July 26. Terry L. Simpson Jr., 19, and Joshua A. Anderson, 20, have been arrested and charged with second-degree murder, manslaughter, first-degree robbery and second-degree theft. They are being held on $50,000 bail.

"My only consolation is that I know David is with the Lord, no longer in pain, and safe from harm and hate," said Paul Zellmer, Blare’s friend and former partner. "In the 11 years I have lived in Ketchikan, I have seen and been the recipient of many threats and actions against myself and others. It is time to stop denying that anti-gay hate exists here in Alaska." Blair was an Alaska Native from the Organized Village of Saxman.

Police arrested Simpson and Anderson in response to a tip called into Ketchikan Crime Stoppers, according to news reports. The caller said he overheard the two men bragging that they were planning to "beat up and rob [Blare] because he is a fag," said Ketchikan District Attorney Stephen West. If Blare's murder is an anti-gay hate crime, the district attorney's office can do no more than it is doing now because the state's hate crimes law does not include sexual orientation, West noted.

The Governor’s Commission on Tolerance was formed May 1 after Anchorage police released a videotape of white youths shooting Alaska Natives with paint balls. Its report to Gov. Tony Knowles is due November 30. The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is also holding hearings later this month to take testimony on discrimination against Alaska Natives. The Alaska Federation of Natives requested the inquiry after the paint-ball attack. Last year, Knowles introduced a hate crimes measure including sexual orientation, but the Legislature has yet to act on it.

"Violence and discrimination against Alaska Natives, gays and lesbians and other minority groups are a reality here," said Dan Carter, HRC's state coordinator, who also testified before the Commission. "It is my hope that the Commission's work will change hearts and minds in the Legislature."

Reported hate crimes based on sexual orientation nationwide are at an all-time high, according to FBI hate crimes statistics. In 1999, there was a 4.5 percent increase in reported hate crimes against gays and lesbians, according to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program — making them the third highest category reported. The increase is particularly disturbing because serious crime overall continues to decrease nationwide. Hate crimes based on sexual orientation have more than tripled since the FBI began collecting statistics in 1991.

Unfortunately, FBI statistics offer a glimpse of the number of anti-gay attacks that occur each year. It is widely recognized that hate crimes based on sexual orientation often go unreported due to fear and stigmatization. Additionally, federal reporting of hate crimes to the FBI by state and local jurisdictions is voluntary and many jurisdictions do not participate in the reporting each year.

Since 1991, Alaska stands out as having one of the nation's poorest records on reporting hate crimes. The state has failed to participate in the reporting process in three of the last nine years — 1991, 1992 and 1998. In the other years, only one law enforcement agency, out of a possible 43, has participated. Anchorage reported the following number of hate crimes incidents: 24 in 1993, 9 in 1994, 8 in 1995, 9 in 1996, 10 in 1997 and 5 in 1999, the latest year for which statistics are available. It was one of only seven states that reported 10 or fewer incidents for 1999, according to the Anti-Defamation League's analysis of reporting for that year.

"Our hearts go out to David Blare's family and friends," said Seth Kilbourn, HRC's national field director. "David's murder and other incidents reported to the Governor's Commission clearly show that hate-based violence is a huge problem in Alaska. It is time for the state to take action to protect all Alaskans, including its gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender citizens."

To Become More Involved:  www.hrc.org
Alaskans for Civil Rights (ACR)
A locally organized and operated statewide political organization dedicated to obtaining full civil rights for lesbians, gay, bisexual, transgender, polyamorous, and intersex people in all aspects of personal and public life. (907)566-ACRI AlaskansforCivilRights@yahoo.com.

Alaskan Aids Assistance Association (Four A's)
Mission is to be a key collaborator within the state of Alaska in the provision of supportive services to persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families and in the elimination of HIV infection and its stigma. They have many services that cater specifically to women. 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste 102 263-2050. Statewide: 1-800-478-AIDS.

Alaska Gay/Lesbian Association (UAF student organization) - c/o Student Activities Box 4/Wood Center/University of Alaska, Fairbanks 99775. (907) 474-1136 fbagla@uaf.edu, Web site http://www.uaf.edu/agla.

Alcoholics Anonymous; Gay, Joyous, & Free
Open AA meeting Mondays and Thursdays 7pm - 8pm @ Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3201 Turnagain St.

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
3201 Turnagain St. GLBT-friendly liberal religious church, where people of all beliefs are welcome. Information line: 248-0715. See Anchorage Daily News Saturday religion page for Sunday forum and service speakers and topics.

Anchorage Young Gay Men’s Association (YGMA)
A social group for men in their twenties and thirties, activities will include monthly receptions, chat groups, social events, outdoor activities, and community events that spur conversation and awareness on issues relating to the GLBT community. www.geocities.com/anarchegaygma. To be put on their email list, email anchorageygma@yahoo.com or call 275-5900.

Arctic Bears - First Friday of every month. Fairbanks 479-8680

Anchorage Women’s Political Caucus
Open to all women, meets 7pm at Elmer’s Restaurant, New Seward and Fireweed, on the first Wednesday of each month.

Aquarian Foundation
Services Wednesday 8pm and Sunday 11am, 8500 LaViento Drive, Anchorage. 349-995

Breakeven Productions;
Has been bringing up lesbian performers from around the country since 1987. For more information about upcoming events or Breakeven productions, call 277-5630 or akpups@alaska.net.

Breast and Cervical Health Check - is a cancer screening service offered by the Alaska Department of Health & Social Services, Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. Funding for this program is provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Free breast and cervical cancer screening is available to women ages 18 -64, who have no insurance or whose insurance does not cover these services. Anchorage 269-8069, statewide toll-free number is 1-800-410-6266.

Celebration of Change
A performance of women artists for women. If you would like to perform or volunteer, please call 566-3783 or celebrationofchange@email.com for more information.

Committee for Equality
Box 34202, Juneau, AK 99803 or e-mail bsara@gei.net.

Alaska GLBT News

Alaska GLBT News is an e-mail broadcasting system providing information about Gay & Lesbian activities throughout Alaska. We distribute messages concerning upcoming events, news, your business, rental opportunities, personal items for sale or sought, special announcements, etc. For more information about receiving notices and/or sending your message, please contact:

AlaskaGLBTNews@yahoo.com
clubs, groups, organizations

Fairbanks Gay Youth Group
Leave message on voice mail for more info: 457-3524.

The Family (UAA Student Club)
The Family hosts discussion groups, potlucks, and various other social, political, and awareness activities. You DO NOT have to be a UAA student to attend and many do attend UAA are non-traditional students. 360-0340 or 830-4497.

Frontrunners/Walkers
Meets May thru Oct. at Westchester Lagoon. All levels of runners/walkers/bladers and dogs welcome! Tues. at 6:30pm and Sat. at 10am. Call Peter: 337-3682, Email: anchoragefrontrunners@hotmail.com or http://www.frontrunners.org/clubs/anchorage.

Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage
An Advisory Board is working diligently to open a GLBTA Community Center here in Anchorage. There are spots on this board for 1 representative from every GLBTA group or organization in the Anchorage area. If you would like to represent a group you are a member of, if you would like to volunteer at the GLCCA, host a fundraiser, or donate money and/or items for the GLCCA, please contact Diana at 338-3909 or email glccanch@yahoo.com.

Gay and Lesbian HelpLine
Sponsored by Identity, Inc., this information and referral line is answered daily from 6:00pm to 11:00pm The HelpLine is staffed by volunteers and provides information and referrals to businesses, professionals and service providers that are supportive of the goals and objectives of Identity, Inc. If you would like to be a part of this service or if you need information, please call 258-4777 or toll free (in Alaska, outside Anchorage) 1-888-901-9876.

GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network)
Anchorage: Membership is confidential. We welcome educators and non-educator allies who are interested in the problems of GLBT youth in our public schools. For meeting times or more information call Fred, 562-7161 or fhillman@alaska.net. Fairbanks: for more information contact Lisa Slayton or Jeff Walters c/o GLSEN Fairbanks P.O. Box 85315 Fairbanks, AK 99708 (907) 457-2787.

Identity, Inc.
Founded to improve self and community awareness, understanding, and acceptance of the expression of individual sexual identities, in order to promote positive attitudes and healthy ways of living for all people within the State of Alaska. Identity sponsors a statewide Helpline, the NorthView, Pride on the Parkstrip, NCOD and other events. Potluck social is held on the 4th Friday of each month at the AUUF, 3201 Turnagain. Doors open at 6:30pm, dinner at 7pm, and program at 7:30pm. Call 258-4777 for more information, or visit the Identity web page at www.alaska.net/identity.

Imperial Court of All Alaska (ICOAA)
A social group that contributes to our community by being active in many causes. P.O. Box 104032 Anchorage, Alaska 99510-4032. Contact: Joanie - cleenco@alaska.net or 230-7049.

IMR2
Anchorage gay youth group for ages 12-18. 566-4678 (IMRU). Wednesdays 5:30-7:00 pm at 845 K street on the Park Strip (Mendel & Associates Office).

F ken Freedman Counseling
566-1708

Individuals and Couples...with special insight into issues for Gays ▼ Lesbians ▼ Bisexuals ▼ Transgender People ▼ HIV/AIDS

650 W. International Airport Rd., Ste. 204 Anchorage, AK 99518-1121
fken@alaska.net/ fax: 248-2421 URL: www.alaska.net/~fken
Interior AIDS Association (IAA) Fairbanks
Offers medical and dental program assistance, “buddies” (volunteers who help HIV & People Living With AIDS), meal delivery food supplement program, a lending library and counseling support. If you are interested in volunteering or need assistance, please call the IAA at 452-4222.

Lamb of God Metropolitan Community Church (MCC)
A predominantly gay/lesbian/bi/trans Christian Church. Sunday services at 2:00pm at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311 Pembroke (just east of 24th Ave. & Boniface Pkwy) 258-5266 or email LOGMCC@alo.com.

The Last Frontier Men's Club
Social club for the Levi/leather/bear community. Meets the 2nd Sunday of each month for a brief business meeting & potluck social at 5pm in the upstairs area of Mad Myrna's (530 E, 5th Avenue) and at 9pm on the 1st Friday of each month for our First Friday Fetish Night social at The Raven. In addition, we hold monthly movie and dinner nights along with several campouts throughout the summer which are open to the entire community. Check website for an updated list of events at www.tlfmc.com/calendar.htm. P.O. Box 202054 Anchorage, Alaska 99520-2054, (907) 337-6593. web: www.tlfmc.com e-mail: info@tlfmc.com.

Mt McKinley (Non-Ascent) Club
A social group open to anyone gay, lesbian, or ally.

Northern Exposure Bowling League
Bowlers of all genders meet Sunday afternoon at 4:00pm, Park Lanes, Anchorage. Please call to confirm time and venue. 561-8744 milt@alaska.net.

OLOC (Old Lesbians Organizing for Change) & Travel 50 Two groups for women over 50. rosebethvelno@hotmail.com or 868-2662.

OPAL - A social organization open to all Lesbians. OPAL sponsors different events throughout the year and occasional potlucks. Anne at 345-3818 or opal@gci.net.

Out North Contemporary Art House
Cutting edge art, theatre, film, educational programs and more. 1325 Primrose Anchorage AK 99508, Call voice mail: 279-8099 Box office: 279-8200, fax: 279-8100, or write: email@outnorth.org Online Calendar www.outnorth.org.

PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays) of Anchorage - holds its monthly meeting at 7:00pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship AUUF, 3201 Turnagain Street. Call 566-1813 for a recorded message.

PrideFest Planning Committee.
This committee plans the annual Gay Pride festivities. Meetings start in November. Members are hoping for representation from as many local groups as possible. We are planning on attracting more corporate funding, having a parade, a larger vendor display, bringing up more entertainment, and planning more Pride Week activities. For more information call Jim at 332-0362 or email prideonthepark@yahoo.com.

RAW (Radical Arts for Women)
A non-profit group which support and promotes women in the arts. Grant funding available for artistic endeavors. 566-3783.

Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous (SLAA)
12-step program meeting, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Call 566-1133 for meeting times and places.

Shanti of Juneau
Offers support services to persons with HIV/AIDS and their loved ones, as well as offering comprehensive AIDS prevention and educational information. Offices: 222 Seward, Suite 200; Mail P.O. Box 22655, Juneau, Alaska 99802-2655. 465-5665, 1-800-478-AIDS (2437).

Southeast Alaska Gay & Lesbian Alliance (SEAGLA)
A non-profit volunteer organization that provides a support network for lesbian and gay people in Southeast Alaska. Publishes monthly newsletter Perspective P.O. Box 21542, Juneau, AK 99802-1452. Phone 586-GAYS.

S.T.O.P. AIDS PROJECT
Center for Drug Problems Provides education and outreach specific to injection drug users and their sexual partners regarding HIV/AIDS prevention. Free anonymous HIV testing is provided on a walk-in basis, Mondays and Wednesdays from 1-4pm. Anchorage. 278-5019.

Support Group, Soldotna
A group of people with HIV or AIDS or families or friends. Call Jan at 262-2589.

Two-Stepping
All ages & genders welcome. Smoke and alcohol free two-stepping held once a month from 7:30pm to 11:00pm at the Pioneer Schoolhouse at 3rd & Eagle. Contact Katie for more info at 278-9174.
clubs, groups, organizations

Women's Music Fest
Happens the weekend of July 4th. Contact Dena Ivy at denabug@gei.net, (907)456-2471 or (907)322-7950 or PO Box 80164 Fairbanks, Alaska 99708.

Women's Ultimate Frisbee
Gathers Sunday mornings 10:30 am on the west end of the parkstrip. Interested frisbeeheaders should contact Jen or Karen at 278-5179 for more info, or e-mail Jenkout@aol.com.

publications

Alaska Women Speak - A publication by Alaskan women on topics for Alaskan women. They can be reached at 696-0924.

The Anchorage Press - This is an alternative weekly paper that is not focused on the GLBT community but is friendly. They have a large personals section and can be contacted at 561-7737.

The Klondyke Kontakt (The KK)
This is a every-other-monthly newsletter by and for the lesbian community in Anchorage and dykes in the Bush. For more information e-mail at kk@gei.net.

The Perspective
A newsletter published for the Southeast Alaskan. News, events, and all can be found in this publication. For more information contact SEAGLA at P.O. Box 21542, Juneau, Alaska 99802-1452 or phone 586-GAYS.

The Pink Ink - A newsletter published in Fairbanks for the Fairbanks GLBT community. For more information contact Interior Newsletter c/o IAA, P.O. Box 71248, Fairbanks, AK 99707 (907)452-4222 or e-mail pinkink@alaska.com.

The NorthView - The monthly newsletter that Identity Inc. publishes and distributes to its membership. Contains local articles, and editorials. Writers, editors, graphic artists, cartoonists, people with opinions (who can write them down) folders and mailers are all needed to make this publication happen each month. Articles and ads can be sent to P.O. Box 200070, Anchorage, Alaska 99520 for more information call (907)258-4777 in Anchorage or 1-888-901-9876 within Alaska.

e-mail lists

FairbanksPride
http://www.egroups.com/subscribe/fairbankspride
A mailing list for information concerning Fairbanks & Interior Alaska’s GLBT community, emphasizing in announcements, politics, information, etc..

AnchoragePride
http://www.egroups.com/subscribe/anchoragepride
A mailing list for information concerning Anchorage & Southcentral Alaska’s GLBT community. Primarily event announcements.

Alaska Gay Discussion
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/alaskagaydiscussion
This is an opportunity to discuss gay issues relevant to Alaska, and provides a calendar of events. Participation available via website and/or e-mail. For more info contact Michael Haase at haase.m@msn.com

Alaska GLBT News
alaskaglbtnews@yahoo.com. A state-wide e-mail notification service distributing news and information about upcoming events of interest to the Alaska GLBT community. To receive these notices or to submit an item for distribution, contact alaskaglbtnews@yahoo.com.

National and political GLBT news
Landmark case decisions and other newsworthy announcements from national organizations. To be placed on this list send an e-mail to bsara@gei.net.

Girlz List
This is a list for the lesbians/bi women’s community, it has information on upcoming events, activities, socials, and other interesting items geared solely for the girls. You can get on this list by e-mailing aktrangster@hotmail.com
LEGEND
(A) = ANCHORAGE
(F) = FAIRBANKS
(J) = JUNEAU

MONDAYS
(A) Gay, Joyous & Free, 7pm, AA Meeting, AUUF, 3201 Turnagain Street
(A) Lesbian Social Group, reviews films & books, 1st, 3rd & 5th. Inquire 868-2662

TUESDAYS
(A) Righteous Babes Radio Show, 7pm, KRUA-FM 88.1
(A) SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous) 8pm, 566-1133
(A) PFLAG, 3rd Tuesday, 7-9 pm, AUUF
(A) Frontrunners/Walkers: Meets at Westchester Lagoon May through October, 6:30 pm 337-3683 or anchoragefronrunners@hotmail.com
(F) GLSEN, 5 pm, FEA on S. Cushman, every 3rd Tuesday

WEDNESDAYS
(A) Free HIV test at 4 A's, 2-4 pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln. Ste.102 Lori 263-2050
(J) Social at Summit Lounge, after work.
(J) “Women’s Prerogative,” KTOO-FM, Wednesdays, 9-10 pm.
(F) Dames on the Dial, KSUA-FM 91.5, 10 pm – Midnight.
(A) GLSEN, second Wednesday, 7pm, John Thomas Building 3rd & Cordova
(A) IMRU2: every other Wednesday. 5:30 - 7 PM 845 K Street, for more info leave message: 907-566-IMRU

THURSDAYS
(A) SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous), 5:30 pm, Unitarian Church, 566-1133.
(A) Friends and Family Support Group, 6:30 pm, call 4As, 263-2050.
(A) Gay, Joyous & Free, 7pm, AA Meeting, AUUF, 3201 Turnagain.

FRIDAYS
(A) Lunch, 4As, noon-1 pm, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln, Ste. 102. Lori 263-2050. Everyone invited--HIV+, volunteers and friends.
(A) Midnight Suns Gay AA Meeting, 7:30 pm-9 pm, 3020 Minnesota (Z-Plaza) & Benson.

FRIDAYS
(A) Identity Fourth Friday Potluck, 6:30 pm, AUUF.
(A) First Friday Fetish at the Raven, 9:00 pm (A)
Over 40 Social Group, 2nd & 4th Fri. 7-9pm 868-2662
(F) Free anonymous HIV testing, 3:30-5:30 pm, IAA offices. 710 3rd Avenue.
(F) Outlooks, KSUA-FM 91.5, 5:30 pm – 7 pm.
(F) Socializing and Dancing at Club G, mixed crowd, 9 pm - 3:30 am, 150 Farmer’s Loop.
(F) Arctic Bears meet first Friday, call 479-8680
(J) Juneau Pride Chorus, 5:30-7:30 pm, Resurrection Lutheran Church, Marsha at 789-6167 for info.

SATURDAYS
(A) Identity Workshop Series
2nd Saturday of the month, December through May. More info: 907-258-4777
(A) SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous), 12 noon, Unitarian Church, 566-1133.
(A) Frontrunners/Walkers: Meets at Westchester Lagoon May through October, 10:00 am, 337-3683 or anchoragefronrunners@hotmail.com
(J) PFLAG First Saturday of each month, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm in the Mendenhall Library conference room.
(F) Socializing and Dancing at Club G, mixed crowd, 9 pm – 3:30 am, 150 Farmer’s Loop.
(A) Woman’s Sing-A-Long, third Saturday, 6:00 PM, 1351 Early View Drive. Contact: wendy.g.parsons@worldnet.att.net

SUNDAYS
(A) Metropolitan Community Church Services, 2pm Sunday at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311 Pembroke
(A) White Lotus Center for Shin Buddhism, 11 am Sunday 1047 L. Street, 258-1851
(F) PFLAG, third Sunday, 4-5:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall, 4448 Pike’s Landing Road
(A) Parents Support Group (Metropolitan Community Church), second Sunday, 2-4 PM at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311 Pembroke, (907) 727-0808
(A) Northern Exposure bowling league, Park Lanes, 4:00 pm 561-8744 for more information
December 1, Saturday
Speaker/Candle Light Vigil
Wilda Marston Theater - Loussac Library
4:00 - 5:30 PM
info: www.akaididay.org

December 2, Sunday
“Remembering the Names”
Fairview Recreation Center
info: www.akaididay.org
MCC Service
2:00 PM
Immanuel Presbyterian Church
2311 Pembroke
(every Sunday)
info: www.geocities.com/logmcc

White Lotus Center for Shin Buddhism
Services at 11:00 AM
1047 L Street
(907) 258-1851
(every Sunday)

Northern Exposure: The Gay Bowling League
Park Lanes at 4:00 PM
Steve Sacchetti, ssach@alaska.net
(every Sunday)

December 4, Tuesday
Last Frontier Women’s Club
1st Tuesday of each month
The Raven 7:00 PM

December 5, Wednesday
HIV Testing
2:30 - 4:30 PM
4A’s offices, 1057 Fireweed, Suite 102
(907) 263-2050
(every Wednesday)

Karaoke
8:30 PM
Mad Myrna’s
(every Wednesday and Thursday)

IMRU Youth Group
Group for GLBT youth, ages 13-18
5:30 - 7:00 PM
845 K Street, (907) 566-IMRU
(every Wednesday)

December 7, Thursday
Country Dancing
Mad Myrna’s
7:00 - 8:00 PM
(every Thursday)

December 9, Sunday
Parent’s Support Group (MCC)
2:00 - 4:00 PM
Immanuel Presbyterian Church
2311 Pembroke (907) 727-0808
TLFMC
Club meeting and potluck
2nd Sunday of each month
Mad Myrna’s 6:00 PM

December 15, Saturday
Woman’s Sing-A-Long
1351 Early View Drive, 6:00 PM
wpjusterson@icloud.com

December 16, Sunday
MCC Benefit Concert
Benefit Concert for Lamb of God MCC
All-family event including show, and food and gift auction.
Admission: $5 for adults, $2 for children

December 18, Tuesday
Identity, Inc. Board Meeting
Everyone Welcome!
6:30 PM
3201 Turnagain Street

December 24, Monday
MCC Christmas Eve Service
Immanuel Presbyterian Church
2311 Pembroke 9:00 PM

December 28, Friday
Identity’s 4th Friday Potluck
Fourth Friday Potluck and Coffeehouse
An evening of fun and friendship
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (AUUF)
3201 Turnagain Street
(907) 258-4777
"Quality of Life is our Goal"

725 Northway Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508
(800) 262-8055    279-8055    (Fax) 279-8054

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QUESTIONS WELCOME.