Advertising Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business card</td>
<td>$30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarter page</td>
<td>$45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half page</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full page</td>
<td>$140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back cover (one page, white paper)</td>
<td>$150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Advertising Discounts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Discount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three months</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six months</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One year</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Publication Information

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

NorthVIEW welcomes articles, photographs and letters from individuals and organizations. Email your submissions to northview@identityinc.org. Deadline is the 10th of each month for inclusion in the next issue. We reserve the right to edit as necessary and to decline any submission. NorthVIEW does not accept editorial copy or advertising that is sexist, racist, discriminatory or sexually explicit.

NorthVIEW
C/o Identity
P.O. Box 200070
Anchorage, AK 99520-0070
northview@identityinc.org
www.identityinc.org

Cover View

Photo by Barbara Weiss

Read all about it!

Please help support the establishments that help support our community.

The Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association
1057 W. Fireweed Lane, Suite 102, 263-2050
Borders Books & Music
1100 E. Dimond Blvd., 344-4099
The Gay & Lesbian Community Center
2110 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Suite 103, 929-GLBT

The Raven
708 E. 4th Ave., 276-9672
Mad Myrna’s
530 E. 5th Ave., 276-9762
Metro Music & Book Store
530 E. Benson Blvd., 258-8774

Thomas M. Gormley, ANP
Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Psych/MH Therapist Certified in EMDR
Psychotherapy and Medication Management
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 243775
Anchorage, AK 99524-3775
Physical Address:
2825 Rose St., Ste. 103
Anchorage, AK 99508
FAX: 907-563-6546
PHONE: 907-332-8744
Email: chchko@alaska.net

NorthVIEW continues to seek volunteers to contribute articles, poetry, reviews, photographs, and artwork.

Editor
Teresa McPherson
northview@identityinc.org

Layout/design
Tim Weiss

Copy editor
Liz Fullerton

Executive Director
Diana Wolfe
dwoife@identityinc.org

Identity Board
Mary Bess
Victor Carlson
Michael French
Bud Harry
Rev. Johnathan Jones
Teresa McPherson
Mary Parker
Phylis Rhodes
Trevor Storrs
Scott Turner
Tim Weiss

Contributors
Cam Bonham
Dee Gould
Chuck Hart
Imperial Court of All Alaska
Rev. Guy Johnson
Phylis Rhodes
Lynne Sangster
Sylvia Short
Gale Smoke
Diana Wolfe

Here’s where you can find the NorthVIEW.
Relationships: The Key for Identity

February is the month of romance, flowers, and candy...ahhh, dark chocolate for me please, and make the flowers lavender roses — not red ones! And romance? Well, I have a very beautiful woman who makes my heart race even after twelve years!

But what is really important? Relationships! Not just the romantic special someone, but all the people that are in our concentric circles. That could be the people with whom we work, even if sometimes they get on our nerves. It could be the neighbor next door or down the hall, the one who bought soup when we were sick. The postal clerk or the cashier we always see at Carrs, or even the barristas at the local coffee shop (for me that’s either Barnes & Noble or Kaladi Brothers on Tudor and Muldoon).

Then there are our special friends, the ones we gather with to play a game or have over for dinner or call on when we’re feeling down and need a pick-me-up. And don’t forget our families. No matter what we feel about them now, they produced us and if it weren’t for them we wouldn’t be here, for better or worse. Even though my parents and sister have never accepted my being a lesbian, they have accepted my partner as part of the family. For a retired Southern Baptist preacher, that shows tremendous love. My parents are in ill health now, especially my mother, and I struggle with coming to terms with potential loss and all that cannot be said.

Relationships are the staff of life. To paraphrase an old cliché, no one is an island. I have been reading about quantum physics and what they are discovering now. We are all interconnected in a very deep way. The same DNA is in each of us. Our genes may give us different colored eyes or skin, but the same building blocks are there. We have a million millions of cells. That’s not a typo, it is fact. And we have an infinite number of electrons, and they are so sensitive that when one is affected, it affects every other one. We are all connected not only to each other, no matter where we are in this world, but we are connected to every other thing in our world, and beyond.

For example, just remember how affected we all were by Matthew Shepard’s violent death. That shook us all to our depths. The ripples are still being felt all these years later. One of the most meaningful moments for me last year was to see the play held at Cyrano’s. But also, remember how proud we were when Ellen came “out” on television. Each affected us in different ways, but we felt it very deeply.

At times it seems we are a lone voice crying in the wilderness. But we are not alone. Out there are others who are just like us. A conservative estimate is that in the Anchorage area there are around 15-19,000 adult GLBT folk. By virtue of a shared sexuality, we are interconnected. Identity and our many partner organizations provide the programs that help our GLBTA community thrive.

In this issue is an announcement of the upcoming Identity Board elections in April. There’s a questionnaire for those who are interested in becoming a part of Identity’s mission, goals, and values. If you, or someone you know, is interested, please respond by February 18th so we can put you on the slate.

Continued from page 3...
February is also a birthday month. The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage (GLCCA), home for lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgenders and our allies, turns three. Did you know that we began in 1977 as a community center that lasted until 1986? We have come back to our roots in this community. Please come and share with us the fun and celebration, as well as an auction/silent auction, which goes to help the GLCCA.

This year I would like to see us tap into those relationships we have with other GLBTA individuals in our concentric circles and help them see the validity, commitment, perseverance, and strength that Identity has shown for twenty-seven years. We are excited about the possibilities in the future. We would like to invite others to join us in reaching out into our community and beyond.

Whether as an Identity member, a Board member, adopting a day at the GLCCA, volunteering, or as a donor, become a part of the GLBTA community here. Remember, if it happens to one of us, it happens to all of us, and we need our interrelatedness to become visible.

Diana Sue Wolfe, Executive Director, Identity

---

**SYLVIA SHORT**

**The Holidays**

It's a rather strange phenomenon, but the days surrounding the winter solstice, which include the Christmas holiday, give vent to both ends of the emotional spectrum.

There's a wonderful warmth surrounding the "White Christmas" celebration, with loving families, bounteous gifts, and appetizing foods, countered by the worrisome spectre of the starving, the homeless, the family-less, and the spike in suicides. Religion factors in both poles, and much generosity comes into play. But life has its surprises and ups and downs, the seasons notwithstanding.

These holidays have usually been on the warm side for me. While my family has dwindled markedly, I have found the genuine warmth and solace of friends helps to fill the cracks. And this holiday season was no different.

As had almost become a custom, Christmas was scheduled to be with my wonderful friends, Connie and Jane (not their true names). My deceased husband and I had spent many happy holidays with them on their beautiful 20 rural acres in Northern California, enjoying their spacious home, delightful pets, and gracious hospitality. This year, however, Connie phoned me with a plaintive request: “Come early, Jane has just suffered a stroke!” Unfortunately, I was in the throes of some kind of throat ailment at the time, so it wasn’t until December 14 that I was able to go.

Jane was in a rest home, coming along nicely. She could walk with some assistance, and while she had lost some weight, her appetite was improving. She was ready for release, with care, so on the 18th, we packed her securely into the car and drove the 30 miles to their lovely home. Jane was apparently very happy to be there, with a decorated Christmas tree, blazing fire, and the equally happy-to-see her pets. We spent a nice afternoon and evening and had a delicious meal.

It was about 2 a.m. when Connie awakened me that Jane was in trouble. She had had another severe stroke. We kept her warm and in bed, and summoned the assistance of the local paramedics, who came within 15 minutes of our call. Jane had to be evacuated by helicopter, which came very quickly, and she was transported to the hospital.

Thence ensued six days of visiting the hospital and seeing Jane slip deeper into the abyss of her illness. Finally, early Christmas Eve, Connie was called to the hospital. Jane was dying. She died that morning.

I was grateful to be with Connie, who had lived with Jane over forty years. They were a beautiful couple, fun, kind, and generous. I had known them almost as long, and my grief was there, too. Their neighbors were considerate and loving, had us over for the Christmas meal, and did all they could to brighten life for Connie.

These two beautiful women, secure in their love for each other, brought much joy to this world. Jane will be missed, and all our hearts go out to Connie. And Christmas will never again be quite the same.

*Sylvia Short is a long-time champion of GLBT issues and causes. She helped found the Alaska AIDS Assistance Association (Four A’s) and the Alaska chapters of PFLAG and GLSEN.*
ICOAA Spotlight
News from the Imperial Court of All Alaska

- The Ducal Court held the annual Ascension Ball Jan. 15 at Mad Myrna’s.
- Denali Emperor XXXII Jacob Lawrence traveled to Houston, TX, in late January to attend their XXI Coronation. Look for exciting photos in March NorthVIEW!
- The ICOAA is currently working on a design for a float in the annual Fur Rondy Parade. If you’d like to help build the float, the Court is looking for volunteers. Contact ICP Mary Bess at icoaa@icoaa.org.
- And mark your calendars for the Court’s annual Sweetheart Night Out at Mad Myrna’s Feb. 12. This elegant event features fine dining by candlelight and an impressive menu (steak & prawns!). Tickets available in advance at Myrna’s for $50/couple. Proceeds benefit the S.T.A.R. (Standing Together Against Rape) program.
- The Imperial Court of All Alaska presented a love offering to one our own in the community, former Imperial Crown Princess Tim Turner, who suffered a heart attack in early January, but is doing better now.

A New Year’s Eve Wedding!

His Imperial Majesty Black Diamond Denali Emperor XXXII Jacob Lawrence III officiated at the commitment ceremony of Gene Rachinsky and Kurt Hillyer on New Year’s Eve at the Soft Spot at Mad Myrna’s. About 50 friends and family members gathered to witness the ceremony, and soon there wasn’t a dry eye in the room. When the two kissed, the room vibrated with love and applause for the couple.

Kurt and Gene would like to thank Kurt’s family for their love and support and their friends who came to witness this special event.

Tim Turner Assistance Fund Created

Former Imperial Crown Princess Tim “Gina Naughty” Turner suffered a heart attack in early January and was rushed to Providence Alaska Medical Center for emergency surgery to remove an arterial blockage.

This is a major financial setback for Tim, so an account was opened Jan. 10 for anyone wishing to help. You can donate at any branch of Denali Alaskan Federal Credit Union. The account is listed as the Tim Turner Donation Account and the account number is 76470.

Watch the AlaskaGayDiscussion and AnchoragePride e-mail lists for more details about an upcoming fundraiser for Tim.

(Editor’s Note: Identity sends our warmest wishes to Tim for a speedy recovery.)
Normal Nana

My daughter tells me I will never be a normal Nana to her children.

She startled me back to reality by informing me that even though we are a family, we will never be normal. Audrey and Gabe welcomed me into their lives with open arms. They are delighted that I want to be with my rambunctious grandsons and watch them grow into who they are meant to be. It seems that in the world we live in now and the world my grandchildren are going to grow up in, nothing is normal.

Yes, I did say that nothing is normal any longer in our world. Families are no longer defined by the same guidelines they were in the “Ozzie and Harriet” days of television or in the textbook Jane, Dick and Spot. Today normal for most of us is to know several families with adopted or foster children. All of us know many families with a single parent in the home.

It pleases me to no end to be gaining relationship with my daughter and her family. I am active in the community at large in other ways now that the political campaigns are behind us. I continue to remain active in Immanuel Church, a church that welcomes and affirms all. I enjoy hanging out at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage, where I make friends while listening to great music and working on the computer or having a party or meeting.

All of the children in my life have never cared whether or not I was lesbian or not. If I’m with a curious teen, then I will answer questions with discretion but honesty. With the small children in my life, it has not been necessary to come out. I just hug them and cradle them. I believe the people who have the most difficulty accepting us GLBT folk is those of us who are GLBT.

Lynne Sangster is lesbian and writes for the NorthVIEW on a regular basis. She has a long-term relationship with her dog, Bear, for the remainder of his life. Bear is a 3-year-old lab/husky mix.
DAD'S CORNER: CHUCK HART

Mental Health Update & Sisterly Advice

Recently I spent a month in a slow spiral down into a deep depression. It was not entirely caused by, yet certainly not helped by, a draconian corporate decision to reduce hours after a successful sales campaign at work.

At one point I was planning my own funeral. My daughter taught me to download music and I went at it with a vengeance (I shudder to think of my upcoming GCI bill). I downloaded every sad song from my past, then I started with funeral music: “When the Saints Go Marching In,” “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands,” and several others. It was therapeutic in a way and I began to feel a little better.

I then went after happy music and even found a few Japanese tunes from high school and an old Miguel Rios song I had searched for over 20 years for. I listen with headphones and my daughter’s admonishment to not sing along. In all this, the house has slipped into disaster status. Today I cleaned the birdcages. I’m starting with the little projects first.

I went to work last week still more than a little worried about my hours. I was shelving DVDs after a warm (not heated) discussion with a manager. I put one on the shelf and heard, “You’re fired.” Quickly I whipped around to see who spoke, but no one was there. I thought perhaps God was talking to me, but ruled out Him firing me, and thought this must be a hallucination. I shook my head and put another DVD on the shelf and heard, “You’re fired” again. Risking whiplash, I spun around and still saw on one. I thought I need to change my medications again. I AM hearing things.

Then I looked at the shelf and saw a DVD set I had not seen before, “The Apprentice.” When you disturb its cover, Donald Trump says, “You’re fired.” I burst out laughing and then felt all the weight lift. Everything I was taking so seriously meant nothing. I have felt better ever since.

On another front, my sister Sue has a friend from her church in Homer. Her friend, Jane, received a letter from a man she has known for almost 20 years. The man, Bill, struggled for a long time about coming out to Jane because of his Christian beliefs. In this letter, he told her how much their friendship meant to him, but he needed to be honest with Jane and her husband. Bill left the ball in Jane’s court, saying he would wait for her reply, whatever it might be. Upset, Jane went to her pastor (whose own brother was gay and died from AIDS) for advice. She felt trapped by her beliefs and Bill’s confession. For over four months, Jane struggled with her emotions and the possible loss of a very close friend as she composed a letter back to Bill, tearfully admitting that she can’t accept his “lifestyle choice.”

Sue recently moved to Anchorage and has attended services with me at the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC). She proudly shared with Jane an article about the new pastor at MCC. Jane was amazed to learn about the church itself and that it had been in Anchorage for over 30 years.

During their conversation, Jane revealed her struggles over Bill’s letter. Jane knew of Sue’s gay daughter, but didn’t know Sue had a gay brother (me). Jane wanted to know why Bill chose to be gay.

Sue told Jane that Bill had not made any choices except to be honest with her. She asked why would someone choose to be part of a minority that it is not only legal to discriminate against, but in many instances discrimination against that minority is required by law? Why would someone choose to be part of a minority that gets kicked out of jobs, homes, churches, schools, families, and friendships? Why would someone choose to be part of a minority that gets beaten up or killed?

Sue explained as best she could about the many gay and lesbian friends, family, and acquaintances she had come to know, about how much she learned from their personal confessions about their internal and external struggles. Sue told Jane people need to open their minds and hearts and understand that being gay is natural and cannot be “unchosen.”

Sue explained that had tried to fit into straight society for over 30 years, but had only fooled those who wanted to be fooled. She also explained that I am now happier than ever being who I am. Sue told Jane that if she truly cared about Bill’s friendship, she needed to talk more with him, to really listen to him with an open mind and heart.

Jane is now writing back to the newly out Bill. I hope it is a message of love.

Chuck Hart is a single father of three and a long-time contributor to NORTHVIEW.
R is for Relationship

Relationship is a tricky little noun. There are several definitions in the dictionary: a connection by blood or marriage, kinship, a romantic or sexual involvement, the condition or fact of being related.

My parents’ relationship with each other and myself when I was growing up was not a role model for healthy family relationships. Physical and emotional abuse, alcoholism, little or no real communication and, of course, secrets. Is it any wonder that when I was thrust on the world, I didn’t know how to have a relationship, not that it stopped me from trying.

Two marriages and the end of my first lesbian relationship left me depressed and hospitalized for my first suicide attempt. Though I liked people, I held most of them at arm’s length. The people I related to and got along with the best tended to be people who were different: freaks, weirdos, society’s outcasts for various reasons, people like myself.

Before the end of my relationship with my former partner Cindy, I had already decided that something wasn’t working with us and had begun going to counseling. We even tried couples counseling and while that failed, I continued to go on my own.

One of the major problems in all my marriages and all my relationships has been an inability to communicate what is going on with me. I still see a counselor and I usually have to work it out there or with someone else I trust before I can share it with Barbara. Not what I would recommend in a relationship. But I grew up in a household of secrets, the old elephant in the living room that everybody knows is there but doesn’t talk about. Secrets were a matter of survival in our household. Though my sister and I knew many of the secrets, we were in agreement with my mother that it was better my father not know, to keep peace in the house.

Even after 12 years, I still find it difficult sometimes to share what’s in my head with my partner Barbara. While she doesn’t always understand why, at least she knows it has nothing to do with her and everything to do with how I was raised. From the very first time we met, before I really knew who she was, I knew Barbara was the person I wanted to spend the rest of my life with (though she needed some convincing).

We’re not the perfect couple but what makes our relationship work are several very important things. First and foremost, nobody leaves. Though there isn’t a piece of paper tying us together, that isn’t an excuse to call it quits. We have fights and we don’t always like each other, but we always love each other and are willing to work it out.

Second thing, hitting is not okay. It’s not spoken much, but don’t kid yourself, there is domestic violence in our community.

Third thing is respect and trust. We have some mutual friends, but because of Barbara’s work schedule, I have friends that I hang out with on my own and I try at least once a month to shove Barbara out the door to spend time with hers. As Barbara says, jealousy is a mental illness. We have separate interests. She’s allergic to my cat, so we have separate bedrooms. I go to MCC on Sundays, but I value Barbara’s spirituality and, while I will never be a pagan, I have recently participated in drumming circles.

What works for us probably wouldn’t work for others. We were pretty set in our ways when we got together and we value our independence. While it’s hard to teach an old dog new tricks, we try not to let that become an excuse to ignore the elephant in the living room.

Cam has been an active part of the community for many years. He and life partner Barbara Soule helped produce the Women’s Coffeehouse and Pride on the Parkstrip for many years. A previous board member of Identity, Cam was also the Helpline coordinator for four years.

Disabled now, he still volunteers at the community center twice a week. In his off time, when he’s not surfing the Internet, he likes to curl up in bed with his cat and a good mystery book.

Cam Bonham

NorthVIEW
“E” MEETING AND GREETING
Lesbian Online Friendships Blossom, Bloom, and Boom

I had been E communicating with different women in different parts of the Lower 48 for months. It had been fun, interesting and a great way to exchange information, web sites, good wishes and some lightweight support as we each went through whatever life was tossing us.

“I’ve looked at your picture and you are not someone I am interested in knowing. Good luck, have a good life.” I read the email with little passion. Ok, I said to myself, here’s someone who has qualifications clearly in mind for how they want another human being to look, and I don’t have them!

A year before, I’d received an even more scathing email from a woman who said, “I AM LOOKING FOR A BUTCH. YOU ARE NOT A BUTCH. DON’T EVER CONTACT ME AGAIN. YOU HAVE WASTED MY TIME.”

That was the first and worst email response I’d ever received from my little baby-step dabbling in meeting women on the Internet. I had emailed and chatted on the phone with that woman for a few months and was horrified she could be so prejudiced, judgmental, cruel and narrow. The idea of totally rejecting someone’s friendship because they identified as butch or femme or bi is just not part of my mindset.

My stomach fell when I first read the email. It took me several days to compose a non-hurtful response that didn’t just say “screw you,” but finally I realized I had just been well initiated into a negative aspect of the world of online lesbian dating. I replied to this butch-needling woman that I was new to online dating and didn’t realize I was crossing boundaries, and I would not waste any more of her time or mine.

By the time I got the woman’s negative response stating that my photo had been less than adequate, my response was less negative. I did wonder if I was simply too old, too white, too heavy, too smiling, too sober, used too much lipstick or what? And what is it in the human psyche that allows people to reach through the electronic airways and smack another person for simply trying to reach out to get to know them?

I was naive when it came to this type of interaction, but still I reached out, looking for friendships with like-minded women who might want to travel, exchange information, maybe a joke now and then, or simply a “Thanks, I don’t have time for a continued e-friendship right now.” But sheesh, “I saw your picture and you are not my type” and “You have wasted my time” are real nastygrams.

In 2004 I decided to spend time in Las Vegas with a friend during the winter months. In preparation for the trip, I joined lesbian personals online and sent out inquiries to women in the area who were in my age group. I carefully worded a friendly, informative email stating I would be in the southwest for about three months and was looking for new friendships, for someone who would like to hang out, go to movies, go out to dinner and explore the area. I got numerous replies and communicated with them over a few months before the trip.

When I got to Las Vegas I began meeting each one and drawing all of us together. We ended up with a fun group of six women who hung out together, swam, ate, had slumber parties, did housesitting, and even traveled. I am in contact with four of the women; one has come to Alaska to visit, and I hope to see two of them when I travel this year. It was positive, friendly and gave all of us new friendships.

I retired in 2001 and came out, at the same time. Coming out at age fifty-five gave me permission in my mind to quit wasting time on the edges of the Lesbian community. In the past three years I have searched the Internet, as well as visited Maui, Seattle, Portland, San Diego, Phoenix, Las Vegas, Palm Springs, Los Angeles and Ashland seeking a fun friend/partner/companion to take to my heart. I also went to New Zealand, Vancouver and Victoria BC in search of that special friendship.

I met some wonderful women, some of whom will be long-term friends. I met some cranky women, too. I met some who are also seeking women-loving-women to have in our lives. As I look back, I wouldn’t trade any of the experiences.

When I returned home in May of 2004, I settled back into my life in Anchorage. I started volunteering again at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage. I also joined with another single friend to start a series of monthly dinners for lesbians to get together and enjoy one another’s company.

At the very first dinner in June I met a woman who lives in south Anchorage. We began seeing one another and have at this writing spent a marvelous eight months together.

I looked all over the world and journeyed through the complexities of the cyber-world, but little did I know that the person I was looking for was right in my hometown!

Dee Gould is a happily retired educator, writer, photographer and poet who loves travel, adventure, and meeting people.
Anchorage Center for Spiritual Practices: a Spiritual Community for All

The Anchorage Center for Spiritual Practices, a Religious Science community, has been serving the GLBTA community for well over 26 years and is proud to be an affirming spiritual community that welcomes people from all walks of life.

The most often asked question is, “So what exactly is Science of Mind? Is that Scientology?” The answer is no. Science of Mind is a philosophy, a faith, and a way of life. Those who practice Science of Mind seek to embrace and understand the principles upon which this spiritual philosophy is based, to develop faith in these principles through active engagement with them, and to embody, express and apply them in daily living.

Science of Mind affirms the Absolute Reality of God, the unity and sacredness of all life, the divinity of individual being, the inherent wholeness and worth of each person, and right of each to the good of life. We believe in the incarnation of the Spirit in us, and that all people are incarnations of the One Spirit... Science of Mind/Religious Science believes in the eternal Goodness, the eternal Loving-kindness, and the eternal Givingness of Life to all.

People who walk the path of Science of Mind report a deeper understanding of their divine nature, enhanced life conditions, greater joy and more satisfaction in living. Science of Mind is not a spiritual teaching that supports the status quo. It is a life-altering philosophy that promotes change, transformation and healing as the ongoing revelation of the truth of wholeness. It is focused in bringing the “new heaven” of higher consciousness into a “new earth” manifestation.

The Anchorage Center for Spiritual Practices has established itself in the Anchorage GLBTA community as an organization that supports equality of being, worth, opportunity, and expression among all people. Moreover, we have called each other and ourselves to living outwardly that which we hold as true in our hearts. To deny human rights to some people – in particular, the right to legal marriage – while these rights are guaranteed to others, is inconsistent with our teaching.

We believe the Science of Mind Philosophy can transform the hearts and minds of humanity and contribute significantly bringing love, harmony, peace and abundance to all people everywhere, without consideration of race, color, gender, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, age, or physical condition.

This is addressed in our Global Heart Vision that speaks of a world that works for everyone, and a world that works for everyone includes a world that works for the gay and lesbian people of the world.

We believe the goal of all life to be complete emancipation from discord of every kind, and that this goal is sure to be attained by all. Science of Mind seeks to support people in that emancipation by awakening them to their spiritual nature and the creative power of thought.

To find out more about Science of Mind you can visit our web site at www.religiousscience.org or call the Center at 907.522.0940. The Anchorage Center For Spiritual Practices is located at 929 East 81st Avenue, Suite 105, on the corner of 81st and Old Seward Hwy two blocks north of Dimond. Our Sunday Celebration of life begins at 10:30 am with meditation and music, followed by the weekly lesson.
Happy Third Birthday to the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage!

Saturday, February 12, 2005
2110 East Northern Lights Blvd.
Silent Auction: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Join us for a Fun-Filled Afternoon

Live Auction at 2:30
Refreshments
(The GLCCA is located between Don Jose's Restaurant and Burger Cache, close to Lake Otis. Call 929-4528 for more information.)

Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage

Many of you have been concerned that the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage is difficult to locate for anyone coming to the GLCCA for the first time. So we've been working to get a sign installed on the building that would be clearly visible from Northern Lights Blvd. We had to work with the building owners on an approved design, get a permit from the Municipality, and secure the funds when costs were higher than originally anticipated.

And now the good news: thanks to a generous donation by The Last Frontier Men's Club and also several individual donors, we have the funds and the sign is set for installation in early February, just in time for the GLCCA's third birthday bash on February 12th!

Identity is deeply grateful to the following for their generous donations for this project:

The Last Frontier Men's Club
Randall Burns
Tom Rachal
Phyllis Rhodes
Jeff Ridder
Katie Hickey & Mari Jamieson

February 2005
Families Like Mine

As I begin to teach my Soc. 387 class again – Gay and Lesbian Lifestyles – I recall some of the cherished sessions we had from last year’s class.

One of them was the night when gay parenting was the topic, and I had as guests a lesbian couple who’d been parents to six children. What was even more special that night was that two of these six children came along with the couple. This gave the children in an LGBT family a voice, which is exactly what Families Like Mine (HarperCollins, 2004) by Abigail Garner does. (I mentioned this book, briefly, back in November, but it deserves a review of its own.)

The author is a child of one of the LGBT families herself, since the age of five, when her parents divorced and her dad began living with his male partner. Since custody was shared, Garner became well acquainted with the unique difficulties and perspectives that such children have. And her book is based on interviews and panel discussions with fifty such children who grew up in LGBT families.

Garner covers the whole gamut of family issues that such children experience – too exhaustive for this review – but here are just a few of them.

First, many children of LGBT families feel a need to protect their families, knowing how ‘homo-hostile’ (Garner’s phrase) some people are. So they may gloss over any real families problems, such as abuse or drug use, so their parents’ sexual orientation doesn’t become the issue. Also, some gay parents do not fathom the particular pressures that their children face in such areas as school, such as whether to ‘come out’ as children of gay parents or how cope with anti-gay prejudice of their classmates. In addition, some children have the trauma of dealing with a gay parent who has HIV/AIDS, and feel they must be closeted about it. And when the gay parent dies, oftentimes many from the gay community offer sympathy to the surviving partner, but forget about the children’s grief.

One thing many gay parents may be insensitive about is the pressure a lot of their children feel to be straight. Indeed, some sense that their gay parents will be very disappointed if they are gay, especially since that would play into the warnings of the Religious Right. But what if they are gay? They need support in being true to themselves, something that gays should understand completely.

Another thing is that since these children grew up in an LGBT family, they have likely been exposed to Queer Culture. So, many of them are ‘culturally queer and erotically straight.’ And since they have been shaped by Queer Culture, they won’t want to have to suddenly give it up. However, many of them experience hostility as adults who are seen as ‘intruders’ in the queer scene.

Finally, Garner has told a lot of gay folks who had straight parents – and most all of them did – that they had ‘heterosexual privilege.’ What she means is that since their straight parents’ marriage was considered legitimate, they didn’t face many of the awkward moments, especially in searching for ways to explain their family to others, as do children in LGBT families.

As I read Garner’s book, I felt embarrassed that many of these issues had not occurred to me, and I was glad these very precious kids – like Garner is and was – were finally getting their voice.

Garne Smoke teaches Sociology 387: Gay and Lesbian Lifestyles at UAA. You can reach him at glsmoke@alaska.net.
IDENTITY BOARD ELECTIONS

Identity is Looking for Quality People to Serve on Our Board of Directors.
Could that be You?

There are six elected positions open for committed, caring persons.

Who should consider being on the Board?

- Anyone who wants to help create a strong LGBTQA community;
- All who are committed to bringing about social change in our community;
- Everyone who desires to give back to the community;
- People wanting to share their skills and knowledge with others.

IDENTITY BOARD NOMINATION FORM

Please submit the following information and answer the questions. The first five numbers will be placed on the Identity website (with just your name, no other information will be released) so people who are going to vote, can know you better. A 150 word synopsis, which we ask you to submit with the other information, will be included in the April NORTHVIEW newsmagazine. To be included on Identity's website and NORTHVIEW, it must be returned by February 18, 2005.

Name ___________________________ Phone ___________________________

Mailing Address __________________________________________________

Zip Code ___________________________ Email __________________________

1. Please provide a brief biographical sketch.

2. Please state your reasons for wanting to serve on the Identity Board:

3. What would you like to see Identity accomplish during your term?

4. Other volunteer service and experience you may have:

5. What skills and expertise do you bring to the Board?

6. Personal time available for board responsibilities.

7. Please provide three references whom our nominating committee may contact.

Please send this information to Identity, Inc, Attn: Nominating Committee,
PO Box 200070, Anchorage, AK 99520, or by email to info@identityinc.org.

For more information, call (907) 929-4528, or email info@identityinc.org

Check out our website for details about Identity and our programs: www.identityinc.org.

Please do not nominate someone else unless you have that person's permission and it would be helpful if they submit answers to the above to be mailed or emailed to us.

February 2005
Thank you,
December Adopt-a-Day Sponsors!

1st  Brian Chen & Tim Pearson
2nd  Melba Cooke & Mad Myrna’s Fetish Ball
3rd  Teresa McPherson for Full Circle
4th  Danny Templeton for my wife
5th  Don and Andrew
6th  Full Circle rock & blues band & fans
7th  Full Circle rock & blues band & fans
8th  Tess Bensussen & Carol Rose Gackowski for
8th anniversary of adoption
9th  Full Circle rock & blues band & fans
10th Full Circle rock & blues band & fans
11th Happy Birthday to Teresa McPherson
16th Brenda B ersrud in memory of Christine
Carter
17th Jill Cubbedge & Georgia Holton
19th James Bruce
20th Gale Smoke — Happy Birthday!
20th Happy Birthday to Marion Richter
21st Susan Klein — Happy Birthday!
23rd Victoria Shaver & Melba Cooke Anniversary
25th Shotgun Susie
26th Metropolitan Community Church of
Anchorage
27th Mary Parker for Erin Barker’s birthday
31st Sue Salas-Peterson in memory of Richard
Gabriel Salas

You too can adopt a day at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage for only $50. What a
great way to honor a friend’s birthday or anniversary.
Help us keep your center’s doors open in 2005!
Identity Programs

Winter & Spring Living Out Loud Youth Program
October Pride Conference
Daily Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage (GLCCA), Ste. 103, 2110 East Northern Lights Boulevard, Anchorage. 907-929-4528
Nightly Hotline for GLBT information and referrals (6 PM to 11 PM): 907-258-4777 or 888-901-9676
Monthly NorthVIEW news magazine

Anchorage Events

Mon AA Gay, Joyous, and Free, 7 PM, GLCCA
Tues PFLAG, 7 PM, third Thursday (except November & December), Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311 Penbrooke St., 566-1813
SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous), 8 PM, 566-1133
Line dance lessons/dancing, 7-9 PM, Mad Myrna’s
Wed IMRU2, 5:30 - 7 PM, first and third Wednesdays, GLCCA, 566-IMRU, leave message for more information
GLSEN, 7 PM, second Wednesday, GLCCA
“Karaoke Night” hosted by “K” Entertainment, 8:30 PM, Mad Myrna’s
Thu SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous), 5:30 PM, Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 566-1133
Friends and Family Support Group, 6:30 PM, 283-2050
Country Dance Night, lessons 7-8 PM, open dancing 8-10 PM, Mad Myrna’s
“Karaoke Night” hosted by “K” Entertainment; 10 PM; Mad Myrna’s
Fri Lunch, everyone invited (HIV+, volunteers, and friends), Noon - 1 PM, Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (4As), Ste. 102, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln., 263-2050.
“Friday Night Divas Show,” 9 PM, Mad Myrna’s
Sat SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous), Noon, Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 566-1133
Sun Buddhist Morning Service, 11 AM, While Lotus Center for Shin Buddhism, 123 E. 11th Avenue, 258-1851
Center for Spiritual Practices & Education Worship Service, 11 AM, 8050 Old Seward Highway, 522-0940 (Rev. Guy Johnson)
Metropolitan Community Church Service, 2 PM, Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311 Penbrooke St.
Northern Exposure Bowling League, 4 PM, Park Lanes, 4350 Ames Ave., 561-8744
Sunday Dinner, 5 - 8 PM, Mad Myrna’s, 276-9762 (Jim)

Fairbanks Events

Tue PFLAG, 5:30 PM, third Tuesday, 604 Barnette Street, Room 101, 907-455-PFLAG.
Fri Free anonymous HIV testing, 3:30 - 5:30 PM, Interior AIDS Association, 710 Third Ave.
“Outlooks,” 5:30 - 7 PM, KSUA-FM 91.5
Socializing and dancing, 9 PM - 3:30 AM, Club G (mix crowd), 150 Farmer’s Loop
Arctic Bears, first Friday, 907-479-8830
Sat Socializing and dancing, 9 PM - 3:30 AM, Club G (mix crowd), 150 Farmer’s Loop
Sun Homophonic Radio, 3-5 PM, KSUA-FM 91.5

Juneau Events

Wed Social gathering after work, Summit Lounge
“Women’s Prerogative,” 9 - 10 PM, KTOO-FM
Fri Juneau Pride Chorus, 5:30 - 7:30 PM, Resurrection Lutheran Church, 907-789-6167 (Marsha)
Sat PFLAG, 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM, first Saturday, Mendenhall Library Conference Room

PLEASE HELP KEEP THIS SECTION CURRENT!
SEND NEW AND UPDATED LISTINGS TO NORTHVIEW@IDENTITYINC.ORG

February 2005
OVERVIEW: RESOURCES

PLEASE HELP KEEP THIS SECTION CURRENT!
SEND NEW/UPDATED LISTINGS TO NORTHVIEW@IDENTITYINC.ORG

ORGANIZATIONS

Adam and Steve, a social group for young gay, bi, and questioning men. Weekly activities and fun community events. Also offers the monthly M-group, a fun workshop on sex and dating. Run by a Core Group (meets every first and third Tuesday at Four A's at 7 PM) who plan all activities. Come meet new young queer men in a safe and supportive environment. 907-263-2081. www.adamandsteve.org

Alaska AIDS Assistance Association (Four A's), provides supportive services to persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families and in the elimination of HIV infection and its stigma. Many services cater specifically to women. 1057 W. Fireweed Ln., Ste 102, Anchorage. 907-263-2050 (Anchorage), 800-478-AIDS (statewide).

Alaska Civil Liberties Union, a membership-based non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to preserving and defending the guarantees of individual liberty found in the Alaska Constitution and the U.S. Bill of Rights through litigation, education and legislative advocacy. We are the Alaska state affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). P.O. Box 201844, Anchorage, AK 99520-1844. Phone: (907) 276-2258, Fax: (907) 258-4028. Email: akclu@alaska.net.

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-ACR1. AlaskansforCivilRights@yahoo.com

Alcoholics Anonymous: Gay, Joyous, & Free. A.A. group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered individuals, and their allies. Open non-smoking meeting Mondays 7 PM to 8 PM at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage (GLCCA).

Anchorage Women’s Political Caucus. Open to all women. 7 pm, first Wednesday. Elmer’s Restaurant: New Seward and Fireweed.

Arctic Bears. First Friday. Fairbanks. 907-479-8680.

Aquarian Foundation services. 8 PM Wednesdays, 11 AM Sundays. 8500 LaViento Drive, Anchorage. 907-349-9955.

Breast and Cervical Health Check, a cancer screening service offered by the Alaska Department of Health & Social Services, Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. 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. Call the YWCA of Anchorage for eligibility guidelines, enrollment, and group presentation opportunities: 907-444-9620 (Anchorage), 1-800-410-6266 (statewide).

Celebration of Change, a performance of women artists for women. celebrationofchange@email.com

Committee for Equality. Box 34202, Juneau, AK 99803. bsara@gsi.net

Fairbanks Gay Youth Group. 907-457-3524 (leave message for more information).

The Family (a UAA Student Club), hosts discussion groups, potlucks, and various other social, political, and awareness activities. You DO NOT have to be a UAA student to attend. Many do attend UUA are non-traditional students. www.uaa.alaska.edu/council/theyfamily

Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage (GLCCA). The Home of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered Individuals and Our Allies. The GLCCA is a safe space to meet, hang out, hold or attend a meeting, or use the resource library or computers. Staffed by trained volunteers 7 days a week. 3 - 9 PM Mondays through Fridays, 12 - 6 PM Saturdays and Sundays. 2100 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Ste 103 (between the Burger Cache & Don Jose’s). 907-929-GLCT: glcca@identityinc.org

Gay & Lesbian HelpLine, an information and referral line sponsored by Identity, Inc. The HelpLine is staffed by volunteers and provides information and referrals to businesses, professionals, and service providers supportive of the goals and objectives of Identity, Inc. 6 - 11 PM daily. If you need information or would like to be a part of this service, please call 907-258-4777 (Anchorage), 888-901-9876 (statewide).

The Gay Club (a UAF student organization), e/o Student Activities Box 4, Wood Center, University of Alaska, Fairbanks 99775. 907-474-6507. faflag@uaf.edu, www.uaf.edu/agglan

GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network). Membership is confidential. We welcome educators and non-educator allies who are interested in the problems of GLBT youth in our public schools. Anchorage 907-562-7761 (Fred Hillman at alaska@glse.com), Fairbanks Lisa Slayton or Jeff Walters e/o GLSEN, PO Box 85315, Fairbanks, AK 99708. 907-457-2787.

Identity, Inc., a nonprofit Alaska corporation concerned with issues of sexual and gender identity. Identity envisions a world where all are free to express and be proud of their sexual and gender identities. The mission is to build the infrastructure for a strong GLBT community in Alaska. Programs include the Gay & Lesbian HelpLine, NorthVIEW, PrideFest, Living Our Loud Youth Conference/Seminars, and the Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage. PO. Box 200070, Anchorage, AK 99520-0070, 907-929-GLCT. www.identityinc.org

Imperial Court of All Alaska (ICOAA), sponsors the Memorial Day weekend Alaska picnic, the Fur Rondy parade float for the GLBT community, PrideFest Festival on the Parkstrip, Labor Day weekend Coronation, and numerous other events. PO Box 104052, Anchorage, AK 99510-4052. www.icoaa.org

IMRUZ, the social group for GLBT youth, ages 13 to 18. We eat, chat, watch videos, plan events, and do lots of laughing. Join us and tell your friends. 5:30 PM, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at GLCCA. 907-566-IMRUZ(4678) to leave message.

Interior AIDS Association (IAA) Fairbanks offers medical and dental program assistance, "budgies" (volunteers who help HIV & People Living With AIDS), meal delivery & food supplement program, lending library, and counseling support. 907-452-4222 (for assistance or volunteering information).
OVERVIEW: RESOURCES

The Last Frontier Men's Club, a social club for the Levi/feather/bear community. Brief business meeting & potluck social at 6 PM second Sundays at Mad Myrna’s, 530 E. 5th Avenue. “Dinner Night Out” and several campsouts are open to all throughout the summer. Check the website for information and list of community events. TLFMC, P.O. Box 202054, Anchorage, AK 99502-2054. 907-338-3862. info@tlfmc.com www.tlfmc.com

Metropolitan Community Church of Anchorage (MCC), a predominately gay/lesbian/bi/transgendered Christian church where ALL are welcome to worship a loving and compassionate God. 2 PM Sundays. Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311 Pembroke St. (East of 24th Ave. & Boniface Pkwy.). See website for location map and calendar of current events. 907-258-5266. mccanchorage@yahoo.com www.geocities.com/mccanchorage

OLOC (Old Lesbians Organizing for Change) & Travel 50 Two groups for women over 50. 907-868-2662. rosebethlevno@hotmail.com

OPAL, a social organization open to all Lesbians. OPAL sponsors different events throughout the year and occasional potlucks. 907-345-3818 (Anne) opal@gei.net

Out North. Cutting edge art, theatre, film, educational programs, and more. See online calendar. 3800 DeBarr Rd., Anchorage, AK 99508. 907-279-3800. volunteer@outnorth.org www.outnorth.org

PFLAG of Anchorage (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays). Meetings: 7 PM third Thursdays except November & December. Immanuel Presbyterian Church: 2311 Pembroke St. 907-566-1813 (voicemail).

PFLAG of Fairbanks, promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered persons and their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. 907-45-PFLAG (for meetings and events).

PFLAG of Sitka (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays) Meetings: 7 PM second and fourth Sundays. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall: 408 Marine, Sitka. P.O. Box 6515, Sitka, AK. 907-747-3674. sitkapflag@yahoo.com

Pridefest Steering Committee of Identity plans and presents the annual Anchorage Gay Pride Week events in June. Meetings start in Sept. The committee invites and welcomes corporate and individual sponsors, parade entries, entertainers, volunteers, and more. 907-929-GLBT prideonethepark@yahoo.com


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. 222 Seward, Ste 200. P.O. Box 22655, Juneau, AK 99802-2655. 907-463-5665, 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. 907-586-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 offered on a walk-in basis. 1-4 PM Mondays and Wednesdays. 907-278-5019 (Anchorage).

Support Group (Soldotna), a group of people with HIV, AIDS, families and friends. 907-262-2589 (Jan).

Women's Ultimate Frisbee. 10:30 AM Sundays. West end of Delaney Parkstrip. 907-278-5179 (Jen or Karen). Jenkout@aol.com

E-MAIL LISTS

Alaska Gay Discussion, providing an opportunity to discuss gay issues relevant to Alaska and a calendar of events. Participation available via website and/or e-mail. For more info contact Michael Haase at michaelh2001@gei.net or michaelh2001@palm.net. http://groups.yahoo.com/group/alaskagaydiscussion

Alaska GLBT News, a weekly 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: alaskagltnews@yahoo.com

AnchoragePride, a mailing list for information concerning Anchorage & Southcentral Alaska’s GLBT community. http://groups.yahoo.com/subscribe/anchoragepride

FairbanksPride, a mailing list for information concerning Fairbanks & Interior Alaska’s GLBT community. http://groups.yahoo.com/subscri be/fairbankspride

Grizz List, a mailing list for the Women’s Community. Event announcements, inquiries, issue discussion, and relevant topics of concern for women. Delivered every Thursday. Grizzlist@gei.net

National and Political GLBT News. Landmark case decisions and other newsworthy announcements from national organizations. To join, send an email to: bsara@gei.net

PUBLICATIONS

Alaska Women Speak, a publication by/for Alaskan women. 907-689-7922.

The Anchorage Press, an alternative weekly paper that is not focused on the GLBT community but is friendly. There is a large personals section. 907-561-7737.

The Perspective, a newsletter published for the Southeast Alaskan. SEAGLA, P.O. Box 21542, Juneau, AK 99802-1452. 907-586-GAYS.

The Pink Ink, a newsletter published in Fairbanks for the Fairbanks GLBT community. Interior Newsletter, c/o PFLAG Fairbanks, P.O. Box 82290, Fairbanks, AK 99708. 907-45P-FLAG.
"Quality of Life is our Goal"

725 Northway Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508

(800) 262-8055      279-8055      (Fax) 279-8054

Karen Marcey
Registered Pharmacist

Danita Fischbach
Registered Pharmacist

+ Home Infusion Services
+ Oral Prescription Drugs
+ Insurance Billing

+ Free Delivery
+ One-on-one counseling
  in a confidential
  environment

A quiet, confidential, knowledgeable environment to get prescription medications and information. Information available on HIV/AIDS medications, clinical trials, parallel tract drug protocols, indigent-patient assistance programs and insurance billing.

QUESTIONS WELCOME.