The Power of PRIDE!

The theme of Anchorage PrideFest 2007 was “Pride & Joy!” For ten colorful days in June, Alaska’s GLBTA community honored this theme with events and activities that celebrated who and what we are: proud, joyful people living our truth with no apologies.

At the invitation of the PrideFest Steering Committee, Empress XXXII Kristara returned to Alaska to serve as Parade Grand Marshal. Riding in a horse-drawn carriage and wearing a smart white beaded silk dress, Kristara was exquisite as ever. Marching regally ahead of the carriage, Empress XX Reyna wore a white evening gown, headdress, and shimmering cape. With grace and poise, these lovely Empresses led our Parade down Sixth Avenue past family, friends, fans, allies, and more than a few delighted tourists!

The Parade was cleverly emceed by the irrepressible Daphne DoAll La Choy. Daphne was dazzling in her smart pink suit with matching hat, feather boa, and pumps as she entertained the crowd with her wit and charm on the mic.

Kristara graciously agreed to emcee Drag Queen Bingo, the Mr/Miss/Ms Gay Anchorage Pageant, and Pride on the Park Strip. Her wit, humor, and racy quips turned more than few Adam & Steve faces hot pink!

Pride on the Park Strip pulsed with five full hours of non-stop live entertainment that included dance, drag, numerous vocalists, and two bands. The light, intermittent drizzle that fell didn’t dampen the spirits of the talented entertainers or the festival-goers, who stayed through the final act.

As we packed up, a young girl asked if she could have one of the PrideFest 2007 banners on each end of the Park Strip. She said this was her first time to attend, and she wanted a souvenir. We said sure, take a banner, but leave the poles that support the banner so we can use them again next year. We asked her age, and she said she was 14.

Later, as we left the Park Strip, there were the two poles she left on the ground. She could have taken the banner without asking, but she asked. And when she did, her youthful face beamed with the pride and joy of attending her first PrideFest. And that’s the power of PRIDE.
A Tip ‘o the Hat...

Huge thanks to The Imperial Court of All Alaska for a generous grant that made PrideFest possible. You’re always there when we need you, and we love you for it!

Warm thanks to our Anchorage PrideFest 2007 sponsors and partners who helped us provide a quality Pride celebration:

- Mad Myrna’s
- The Raven
- Kodiak Bar & Grill
- New Northwest Broadcasting
- American Civil Liberties Union
- MCC Anchorage
- PFLAG Anchorage
- Adam & Steve
- Four A’s

Kudos to the kind folks who hosted or volunteered at the many events and activities during Anchorage PrideFest 2007. You made PrideFest fun and exciting!

Thanks to all the entertainers who dazzled us with an afternoon of quality live entertainment at Pride on the Park Strip. And to the vendors who served our community with your products and services, you rock!

Lastly, Identity, Inc. thanks the PrideFest 2007 Steering Committee for their work over the past six months. PrideFest is a huge labor of love, and they gave selflessly to make it happen, so give them a hug when you see them next. They deserve it!

PRIDE LOST AND FOUND

Did you leave anything behind on the Park Strip June 23rd? If so, you can claim your lost item(s) at the Gay & Lesbian Community Center (336 E. 5th Ave) from 3-9 p.m. weekdays, and noon-6 p.m. weekends. Questions? Phone 929-4528.

Alaska Pride Conference
Saturday, October 20, 2007
Alaska Pacific University

Alaska Pride Conference is a full day of inspiring speakers, workshops, friends, food and fellowship.

Want to help coordinate this exciting event? Contact Rev. Johnathan Jones at revjohnathan@gmail.com or 250-8302.
DONOR SPOTLIGHT

GLCCA Adopt-a-Day Sponsors

The following cool people supported the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage through the Adopt-a-Day program during the second quarter of 2007!

- Victor Carlson
- Quinn Cassidy
- Lynne Sangster
- Evelyn Doggett
- Patricia Bruce
- Mikel Haase
- Mike Travis
- Dale Ketcherside
- PFLAG-Juneau
- Norm & Jane Schlitter
- Bert Mead & Steve Cook
- Roger Crandy & Kirt Beck
- Michelle Wozniak & Candy Lister
- Tess Bensussen & Carol Rose Gackowski

If you’d like to celebrate a special day, why not adopt that day at the Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage?! Go to www.identityinc.org for more info, or drop by the GLCCA at the address below.

NORTHVIEW is a quarterly publication of Identity, Inc., a nonprofit 501(c)(3) Alaska corporation concerned with issues of sexual and gender identity.

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Office Address:
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☐ Alaska Pride Conference (October)  ☐ Helpline  ☐ Youth programs
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