It’s Pride Week!

It is time to be happy and celebrate ourselves and each other! Saturday June 13th kicks off nine days filled with LGBT events organized and sponsored our community. Come on out and join us! This year Pride on the Park Strip will be held west (toward the ocean) of our usual place. It will be on the park strip between the rose garden and P Street. Just look for all the beautiful people, good music, and colorful flags.

Pride Schedule

**Saturday June 13**

7:00 pm  Celebration of Change - Wilda Marston Theatre
Tickets $15 at GLCCA and Metro

11:00 am  Gay Memorial Service - Anchorage Memorial Park Cemetery (6th & Fairbanks St. Enter off Fairbanks)

**Sunday June 14**

4:00 pm  Kickoff BBQ at The Raven (708 E 4th Ave), free, 21 & over

**Monday June 15**

5:30 pm  Film: “Outrage” at Bear Tooth Theatre (1230 West 27th. Off of Spenard) 5:30 and 7:45 pm

**Tuesday June 16**

TBA  Check www.anchoragepride.com

**Wednesday June 17**

7:00 pm  Films: “James Baldwin’s Poetry” and “Gertrude Stein’s Poetry” Out North (Debarr & Bragaw) - Free

**Thursday June 18**

7:00 pm  Adam & Steve present Drag Queen Bingo at Snow City Cafe. $15 at the door/$10 in advance

9:00 pm  Male Mud Wrestling - Anyone can compete - $5 cover - Kodiak Bar (225 E 5th Ave)

President Obama’s Call to Action

“NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2009 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month. I call upon the people of the United States to turn back discrimination and prejudice everywhere it exists.”

ICOAA Seeks Festival Volunteers

The Imperial Court of All Alaska is seeking volunteers to help at the festival Saturday June 20th. Can you come at 8:00 am to help set up the booths, tables, and get things ready? Are you able to volunteer an hour or two to help run events? Do you want to get dunked in the dunk tank? Can you help with take down and clean up? If you can help, please give Paula a call at 250-1062.
10:00 pm  Film: “Poltergay” at Bear Tooth Theatre (1230 West 27th. Off of Spenard)

Friday June 19

9:00 pm  Mr/Ms/Miss Gay Anchorage Pageant and Judging - $3 cover - Mad Myrna’s (530 E. 5th Avenue)

9:00 pm  Female Mud Wrestling - Anyone can compete - $5 cover - Kodiak Bar (225 E 5th Ave)

10:30 pm  Midnight Soapscum at Out North - For more info contact Out North at www.outnorth.org

Saturday June 20

11:00 am  Parade! Celebrating Diversity Parade through downtown Anchorage - See newsletter map

12 - 6 pm  Festival! Pride on the Park Strip Festival – far west end of park strip, west of rose the garden - free admission, bring $ for food, vendors, Kid Carnival, and more

6:00 pm  Dance and Concert on the park strip immediately following the festival

6:00 pm  Movie at the Museum: “Coffee Date” Comedy 91 min.

9:00 pm  10th Annual Allie’s Slave for a Date Auction - Cover $5 - Kodiak Bar (225 E 5th Ave)

Sunday June 21

2:00 pm  Pride Week Reception: Celebrating Marriage – Bernie’s Bungalow (626 D St) 2:00 PM to 2:00 am

2:00 pm  MCC Anchorage (2222 E Tudor Rd - at St Mary’s Episcopal Church) Pride Weekend Worship

6:00 pm  Movie at the Museum: “Coffee Date” Comedy 91 min.

2009 Pride Parade Marshalls

Congratulations to M.E. Rider and Jill Ramsey who have been selected as the Honorary Parade Marshalls for this year’s 2009 Pride Parade. While M.E. and Jill contribute much to both the LGBT community and the community at large, they are probably each currently best known as the women who put out the Grrlzlist every week keeping us informed and involved. Thank you M.E. Rider and Jill Ramsey for all you do.
What's on Stage?

Pride on the Park Strip Entertainment

Come and share in a great line up of talented performers. Among the variety of shows for you to enjoy will be Anchorage’s very own Underground Dance Company featuring synchronized hip hop-styled dance and several bands including Talyne Corlyn’s Knik River Rocks rhythm & blues and the amazingly talented Stray Dogma. Also get ready to check out Alaska’s own ViVoom Brr-Lesque show, a light-hearted and funny act which features multiple dancers. Between acts we will have DJ Dirty Dan playing that sexy house music to keep the vibe going. All this and more is happening Saturday, June 20th, noon to 6pm on the park strip and it is free! Can you beat that? See you there!

Dance Your Pride!

This year we have a first for Gay Pride. Immediately following Pride on the Park Strip we will continue the festival with an outdoor dance and music celebration with multiple headlining artists brought up by A Dose of Know-How in association with Permafrost Productions. Confirmed artists so far include DJ Fame - NYC, Sirius Black - United Kingdom, DJ Mad Mike, Pranxter, and Dirty Dan. So, after our traditional Pride on the Park Strip festival, stick around and celebrate some more! Dance your pride!

The Parade begins at 11:00 am. Those participating in the parade need to be at the staging area at 8th and D Street at 10:00 am. Please bring out all your friends to line the parade route and cheer on the marchers! Let’s make a pride statement by our presence. See the map for the parade route.

The Festival location is on the park strip between the rose garden and “P” Street. This is further west than our traditional spot. The arrival to the park strip of those marching in this year’s Celebrating Diversity Parade will kick off the entertainment.

The Stage will feature live entertainment throughout the day. The high energy entertainment lineup will include musicians, dancers, drag performers, slam poets, and more. When the festival ends at 6:00 pm, the dance and concert begins. There will be several bands there on the park strip to keep the celebration going.

The Festival Marketplace will include many local vendors, including GLBT service organizations, local restaurants and food vendors, arts and crafts vendors, Pride merchandise, and more. We always encourage you to support these vendors who support the Alaska GLBT community in so many ways. All vendors are requested to check-in no later than 10:00 am to locate their space and set up. Please observe the Handicap and No Parking signs.

The Festival is FREE but there will be a lot you may wish to purchase. Also, donations to Identity, Inc. are always needed and appreciated to help us meet the ever-rising costs of producing a quality Gay Pride Festival and to help Identity, a GLBT non-profit service organization, continue to serve our community.

Equality Works!

At the time NorthView went to print, the Anchorage Assembly had not yet held the hearings nor voted on the anti discrimination ordinance. No matter how the vote goes, we value you! We are proud of you! Please consider letting your local politicians know whether or not you are pleased with what they had to say and how they voted. Remember President Obama’s call to action to turn back discrimination and prejudice everywhere it exists.

Thank You Sponsors!

A great big gay pride thank you to the financial sponsors of PrideFest 2009! Thank you to the Imperial Court of All Alaska, d’zine alaska, Mad Myrna’s, Kodiak, Great Land Infusion Pharmacy, Pride Foundation, The Raven, and ACLU. Thank you from the bottom of our twinkly toes for your support of PrideFest and the GLBT community. We are grateful to you all.
**Summer Picnic BBQ**

**Who:** New and old GLCCA/Identity volunteers and PFLAG members and friends  
**What:** Our annual picnic – a party!  
**Where:** Valley of the Moon Park - West 17th Avenue & E Street, Anchorage  
**When:** Thursday, July 16th, set up at 5pm, eating begins at 6pm, cleaned up by 9pm  
**Why:** To have fun, eat, and socialize, of course!  
**We Bring:** Drinks, meat, veggie patties, and buns to BBQ  
**You Bring:** A dessert and/or side dish to share  

Look for us under the giant rainbow!

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**Pride Fest Kiddy Drop**

**Childcare**

During the Pride on the Park Strip festival, childcare for a fee will be available for the toddler and elementary school age set. Teen-agers will be doing the child care under the supervision of adults. So, if your kids want a break from you, or they do not care for the act on the main stage, take advantage of the Pride Kiddy Drop so kids and parents alike can have a great time at the festival.

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**Pride Kid Carnival**

Thanks to the Imperial Court of All Alaska (ICOAA) this year Pride on the Park Strip will have a carnival for kids! There will be a musician singing kid’s songs, clown, magician, and juggler. There will be face painting, a dunking booth and much more. Tickets can be purchased at the ticket booth at the entrance to the kid’s section - a dollar per ticket with quantity discounts. Offered for sale will be balloons, candy apples, and other things to delight the young set. ICOAA is also sponsoring a raffle with kids’ bikes as the prizes. Bring the kids and see ya there!

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**Coming up**

Imperial Court college scholarship applications are due 7/31/09.  
Coronation XXXVII is 9/3/09.  
Identity’s Pride Conference October, 2009.  
See you there!

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**Pride Fest Youth**

**Teens 13-18 years**

Help design and build a float on June 18th and 19th and then join in the parade on the 20th! If you want to join in this fun project, you are wanted and welcome. Thursday and Friday (June 18 and 19) we will meet and work from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at Arts Services North parking lot. This is on Karluk between 3rd and 4th Streets. Then, Saturday (June 20) we will join the Pride Fest Parade downtown ending up on the park strip for the Pride on the Park Strip festival. Food, materials, and float construction assistance will be provided. You are welcome even if you cannot attend all three days. Let your parents know that there will be adult supervision. You can get more information at www.anchoragepride.com.
Spotlight on . . . Edie Bailey

Allies and Foster parents Extraordinaire

The following is an interview with Edie Bailey. Edie and her husband, Vincent, epitomize what it means to be a GLBT ally and great foster parents. I was lucky enough to be able to chat with Edie during her shift at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage (GLCCA).

Editor: I know you have had around 40 foster children many of whom were GLBT. Will you tell me some of the stories?

Edie: Vincent and I began foster parenting in 1987. We saw an ad in the newspaper saying therapeutic foster homes were needed and decided to apply. We fostered troubled adolescents. When I went to pick up our very first foster child, Sam (names have been changed), he interviewed me to see if he wanted to come home with us or not. Sam identified as gay and wanted to know if we would allow him to cross dress if he came to live with us. I told him that he could dress however he chose to dress within our home but, when we went out together, I did not want him looking like a hag. He decided to come home with me.

Editor: So, did you go out with Sam while he was cross dressed?

Edie: Yes. Sam and I went out together when he was cross dressed and Sam, Vincent, and I all went out together, as well.

Editor: I am sure being out with a cross dressed teen was a new experience for you and Vincent. How did Vincent handle it?

Edie: Vincent handled it very well. I am sure he had some adjusting to do, but he is the kind of man who does his adjusting privately and others looking on do not have a clue that he is still adjusting to a situation. In fact, Vincent was the main caretaker of our foster children. For much of this time he was a stay at home dad while I chose to work outside the home. Though, Vincent did not get to stay at home much with all the running of children back and forth to appointments and such. Vincent and I recognized that each child had his or her own unique individual identity and we were careful not to confuse our identities with those of the children.

Editor: What situations did you encounter that were unique to fostering GLBT children?

Edie: We began fostering Sam in 1987 just as AIDS was making itself known. Sam was a troubled child who acted out by being promiscuous with older men. We took every opportunity and tapped every resource to teach Sam about protecting his health and the potential consequences of his behavior. At that time, there was not a lot known about HIV, so we made sure all Sam’s dishes were washed in the dishwasher to sterilize them. We also instructed our own daughter to give Sam the rest of her drink, if he wanted to share with her. Now that so much more is known about HIV and its transmission, we would not be nearly as cautious as we were in those early days. Also new for us was the issue of friends and sleep-overs. With our straight children, it was much easier to know how much supervision to offer and to simply say no to opposite sex sleep-overs.

Editor: What did you do?

Edie: We sought guidance from social workers, counselors, and Children’s Services. We came to the conclusion that all we could do was offer guidance and supervision and know that whether a child is straight or gay, we do not know and cannot control everything they do.

Editor: What other GLBT foster children did you have?

Edie: There is kind of a funny story with one foster son who let it be known he had something to say at continued on page 10
Volunteers

A Warm Welcome to Our New Volunteers!

What a delightful batch of new volunteers we have this time around. Welcome to you all. Welcome, welcome, welcome!

If you would like to volunteer at the community center or volunteer to help with one of Identity’s other programs, please let us know. Talk to someone at the Identity, Inc. table at Pride on the Park Strip or pick up an application form at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage (GLCCA) at 336 East 5th Avenue, Anchorage.

My name is Amada. I’m new to Alaska having moved here from Florida. Currently, I am a student at UAA pursuing a degree in Social Work.

I love getting involved in the LGBT community and strive to become an activist for human rights.

Dj comes to Alaska from the Great Lake State of Michigan in conjunction with his job, working with the Federal Government. He brings with him vast amounts of past experience within the Business Management Field. Dj has volunteered for many different organizations at many different levels, such as United Way, Walk America, The Historical Society, Co-Chair of The Center of Hawaii from 2004-2006, as well as many other organizations. One of Dj’s proudest achievements has been with the Social Fraternity, Delta Lambda Phi, as a Founding Father & Treasurer of a University organization. Dj looks forward to serving the Anchorage community and, using his past experience, to further strengthen Identity. He’ll see you at the center!

Hello to all my friends and all of you, my future friends. My name is Calvin Woodland. I am a local businessman. Douglas, my partner of 25 years, and I have lived and worked in this community since 1980. I will be here at the Center to serve you as soon as I am on the schedule. I am grateful to the hard working folks at Identity and GLCCA for the opportunity to get more involved in our community and to offer my knowledge and skills to our family of friends. More importantly, I am excited to learn from you and share in the experience of nurturing our community here in amazing Anchorage!

Jessaca Lee is back in Anchorage for the summer from the Women’s Studies Program at Portland State University. She is excited to connect with members of the community.

Hey, everybody, I’m Katie. I am a lifelong Alaskan. I recently graduated from UAA with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology with an emphasis in family and life cycles. My career goal is to work for the advancement of human and civil rights’ issues, especially for women and the LGBT community. I think volunteering with GLCCA will be a great way to network and get more involved with these issues. I’m really looking forward to it. ☺
Volunteers

I’m Jeremy and I have lived here for about ten years now. Alaska has been a great place and I am very happy to assist where needed and be a part of the LGBT community in Anchorage. I love the outdoors and now have a reason to love the indoors as well with service to the center and outreach functions. I am looking forward to saying “hello” to you upon your visit to the center.

My name is Katherine and I moved here in August from Chicago. I moved right after graduating from college looking for an adventure, and it has been, so far. I am really excited to get more involved with the community and meet some new friends.

My name is Heather Tomlin. I am a 28 year old spit fire who loves to make others laugh. I love to make people smile for no reason at all and my motto is: For if I haven’t made someone smile, then I haven’t done my job. I am originally from Oregon where I lived until I made the move to Alaska a year ago. My sole reason for moving was to be with my future wife. She has helped me to transform into the woman I am today. I have been learning about my new home and community this past year. I want to be active within our “family” community and to add what I can to build up and enhance the lives of others.

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One of the top groups I recommend is The National Center for Transgender Equality - http://nctequality.org/. They have a great deal of information and also take a lot of action on issues that effect transpeople. Another resource is The International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) - www.ifge.org. They do a lot of work for the T community and produce TAP-ESTRY MAGAZINE, one of the most informative magazines for T-folk and the professionals who work with us. You can read an issue online and order it there as well. They also have several conferences around the country with training, demos, and parties. The Transgender Help Line is 877-427-3230.

What would you like someone new on this path to know?

It’s a tough path but easier when you are younger. Be prepared for setbacks, disappointments, rejections by family and friends. Hold your head high and keep your sense of humor sharp.

I tell anyone who is considering surgical change of anatomy that, if there is any way to accommodate your need to express your gender such as cross dressing, taking a vacation to live “en femme” for a long period, or just dressing on the weekends, then do it! One should only start on this path if they have no other recourse in order to stay sane and alive. There is a lot to gain by correcting your gender and living as your authentic self. There is also a world of hurt and loss headed your way when you do so. Some of us begin the journey and then decide to reverse it all in hopes of regaining our lost loves.

Search yourself and ask: “Can I live without this?” If you can’t, go forward with the full knowledge that you may have to go it alone. For a time, I lost the love of my life and I nearly killed myself over the grief. Suicide is a STUPID choice! The situation will resolve as you want it, or it won’t, and you will find or create a new situation, a new job, a new love.

Just know that it NEVER goes as easy as it does in the fiction stories. It can be hell at times, but if you really need this then it may be the only thing to do and life will improve. I will never be “pretty” and occasionally I don’t pass in public. But I am now living as ME, and that is enough, though sometimes I have to remind myself of it.
**Adopt-A-Day**

A gigantic thank you and a hug and a kiss on each cheek to all of you wonderful people who are supporting our LGBT community and community center by adopting one or more days. Won’t you adopt a day? You get to adopt and do not have to take us home, feed us, or change our diapers. To adopt a day, go to www.identityinc.org; call 929-4528; or go by the community center at 336 East 5th Avenue.

**Adopt-A-Day Olympics**

The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage (GLCCA) is open because of the generous and community spirited financial help from people just like you who pay the rent and operating expenses of GLCCA for one or more days – also know as adopting a day. We want to recognize the following super adopt-a-day champions for all the days they have adopted in this upcoming quarter.

The Gold Medal goes to Anonymous.

The Silver Medal goes to Ted Ryberg and Bob Williams.

The Bronze Medal goes to Bert Mead and Steven Cook.

Imagine our National Anthem playing here and all of us saluting you for a job well done! Thank you very much for supporting GLCCA and helping to keep it open and running for the GLBTA community.

**What Is Adopt-A-Day?**

Adopt-A-Day is a way for you to shine! It costs money to keep the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage (GLCCA) open. While every single staff member is a volunteer we still need to pay for rent, utilities, Internet, and other expenses. To adopt-a-day means that you donate $50.00, the approximate cost of keeping GLCCA open for one day. GLCCA puts up a sign in the community center to dedicate that day to you or to whomever or whatever you may wish to honor or recognize. Not only do you get to give the great gift of helping to keep GLCCA open for the GLBTA community, but it is all tax deductible for you as well! You can become the proud new parent of an adopted day or two, give a gift to the GLBT community, and get a tax deduction, too! It is a win-win-win situation! What could be better?

**Adopted Days**

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The Trans Among Us

This is the third installment in the “The Trans Among Us” series. This series is a compilation of answers graciously provided by male to female and female to male transgender folk.

Are there famous transgender people? Are there transgender role models?

Sure, there are famous folk. Chevalier D’ Eon was a French diplomat, spy, and soldier under King Louis XV who lived forty-nine years as man and thirty four years as a woman. Of course, in those times there was no surgery for transpeople. James Berry was British Army Physician and Inspector General. Murray Hall was a Tammany Hall politician. Charles Durkee Parkhurst was a California Stagecoach Driver. Jack Bee Garland was a soldier in the Spanish American War. Billy Tipton was a Jazz trumpeter. Joan of Arc was murdered because she didn’t conform to how women were supposed to be - she wore men’s clothing and men’s armor. She was a prisoner of England for over a year and the French didn’t ransom her back because she was an embarrassment. She was murdered then just as non gender conforming individuals get murdered in this day and age. Dennis Rodman cross dresses.


Are there movies you would recommend to trans people or those wanting to learn more about the trans experience?

One of the BEST movies I can recommend is the HBO film NORMAL starring Jessica Lange and Tom Wilkinson. This movie, almost to the letter, reflects my actual life. One of the EARLIEST and possibly best portrayals of a transsexual is in THE WORLD ACCORDING TO GARP. John Lithgow did a fabulous job of realistically playing the character without trying to camp it up or play the character as a joke. TRANSAMERICA had a few good moments in it but it also had some elements that made me cringe thinking of how the OTHER society (the ones voting on our rights) would see us. The tranny meeting scene, while kind of accurate, was not good PR for us, IMHO. BOYS DON’T CRY doesn’t reflect my side of the issue, but it speaks out for us. Sadly, when we saw this movie, there were four couples in the nearly deserted theater with us and during the rape and murder scenes they laughed and cheered!!! TO WONG FU, THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, JULIE NEUMAR was a mixed bag. It was supposed to be about Drag Queens, but I saw in Patrick Swayze’s character a pre-op TS. John Leguizamo was a VERY convincing queen, although I might have also accepted her as a transgender (she male or “sissie”) as she seemed to live the life full-time. The only one I saw as a regular Drag Queen was Wesley Snipes. I use these labels not based upon who was pretty or passed well but on behaviors and personalities they generated.


Are there groups online or in person for the trans community? How does one make contact?

Locally, there is a support group for transgender veterans at the VA. The TransAlaska Social Group (TASG) is a local group that meets weekly at GLCCA and at each other’s homes and restaurants. There are several national groups such as the International Foundation for Gender Education, The National Center for Transgender Rights, The Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, Transgender American Veterans Association (TAVA), and Gender Public Advocacy Coalition. There are also smaller groups all over the US.

Yes, there are a lot of Yahoo groups. Just search “Transgender.” There is TransPlanet, FTM Surgery and FTM Surgery Support, and many more. I own Transgendered In Alaska group. There are also groups for Trans’ partners online.

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the next meeting with Children’s Services and other service providers. At the meeting he made his big announcement that he was gay. The funny part is that I was the only person sitting around that table who was not gay! Needless to say, if he had been expecting a shocked or negative reaction, he did not get it. Tom was a boy who used vile anti GLBT language. In our home, we stop anyone who attempts to disparage others based upon things like ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion and so forth. We explained to Tom that such language is not permitted in our home but he still had difficulty with it. A funny story is that at one point, Tom accused Vincent of being gay. He said he thought Vincent was gay because his bicycle was pink and he held out his baby finger when drinking tea. Finally, I asked Tom if he said negative things about gay people because he was afraid he might be gay. Tom confided that he was afraid he was gay and he did not want to be. He was afraid his biological family would reject him if he were gay. That opened the dialogue and I hope we were able to give him a different viewpoint about his worth whether he was gay or straight. Jim was another boy who came out telling Vincent and I that he thought he might be gay. We were able to reassure him that it was perfectly acceptable if he was gay and perfectly acceptable if he was straight. He explored his sexual orientation for several months and came to the conclusion that he was, in fact, not gay. He grew up, happily married, and had a family.

**Editor:** Did you have any lesbian foster children?

**Edie:** Yes. Sara came out while she was with us. She seemed to be looking to shock when she announced she was lesbian and she was somewhat promiscuous with men, so I was not sure if she was lesbian or not. I accepted how she chose to self identity and over time I came to believe that she was truly lesbian.

**Editor:** What advice would you give to parent of LGBT children?

**Edie:** Keep an open mind and listen to what your children have to say. Do not react negatively effectively shutting the door in their faces as that may be the only time they will try to talk to you about it.

**Editor:** I know that you attended MCC and donated many hours of labor and love, and finances there. What lead you to a “gay” church?

**Edie:** When I first joined MCC the pastor was a straight woman named Karen Lipinski. I was drawn toward working for the social justice the church represented. There is this poem. It is like my motto. Do you know it? When they came for……

**Editor:** Do you mean……

When the Nazis came for the communists,
I remained silent;
I was not a communist.

When they locked up the social democrats,
I remained silent;
I was not a social democrat.

When they came for the trade unionists,
I did not speak out;
I was not a trade unionist.

When they came for the Jews,
I did not speak out;
I was not a Jew.

When they came for me, there was no one left to speak out.

( *Martin Niemöller* 1892-1984)

**Edie:** Yes, that’s the one! I did not want to remain silent and do nothing. Later, I was glad to have a place where our foster kids could go worship if they chose and be accepted.

**Editor:** So, what happened to these kids?

**Edie:** Sam learned to be an excellent drag queen. Along the way, he learned that balloons filled with lotion made great breasts. He stays in touch and I am sorry to say he is now HIV positive. One boy, who came out to me after he was an adult, still calls me every day. Some have gone on to college and wonderful careers. Some I see about town. I told each of my foster children that I will always accept their calls but, I will leave it up to them to call me, as I do not want them to have any divided loyalties between Vincent and I and any biological family.

**Editor:** What impact has all this had on your own biological family?

**Edie:** Well, my daughter and I have each made a point of letting my grandson know, in an age appropriate way, that he may turn out to be straight and he may turn out to be gay and either one is perfectly wonderful to us.
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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