Pride Conference • Pride Conference • Pride Conference • Pride Conference

Who: You, young and old
What: Pride Conference weekend
Where: APU, Atwood Center
When: Friday-Sunday, Oct 9-11
Why: To learn and make connections

See details and schedule inside...

Work Place Giving

It is time for United Way’s work place giving, a program that benefits nonprofits through donations you choose to make through paycheck deductions. Please consider Identity when you designate which organization(s) will receive your donation(s).

Kodiak sells pull-tabs to benefit Identity

Pride Conference
QueerWorld Connect
With Johnathan Jones

Pride Conference is a statewide gathering of queer folk and allies with workshops, Keynote speaker, and a chance to socialize. The theme this year is QueerWorld Connect. When committee members brainstormed topics, we noticed that connection was the common thread, with unity as the ultimate goal. Connection within communities has to happen for unity to exist. This year the conference is a little different. We are broadening the scope and having a three day event focusing on education, entertainment, and connection – connection with ourselves, with each other, and with community.

It begins on Friday evening (Oct 9th) with a social event, a no host dinner and entertainment at Organic Oasis. We are hoping people will dress in something rainbow-ish so everyone can recognize and get to know new people. Saturday, the actual conference day, begins at Atwood Center with social time and a breakfast buffet by the Last Frontier Men’s Club. There will be a variety of workshops, lunch provided by Last Frontier Men’s Club, and entertainment. This will be followed by a plenary session on topics of interest to queer people. Saturday evening we will continue the fun bowling and making a late night visit continued on page 2
Pride Conference Schedule

QueerWorld Connect Pride Conference

Details and Schedule

Friday Night – Oct. 9th – Dinner, Socializing, Entertainment

7:00 No host dinner and socializing at Organic Oasis with musical entertainment by EverReady. Please RSVP to revjohnathan@gmail.com

Cost: Purchase of your own food and/or drink

Saturday – Oct. 10th – Conference at APU, Atwood Center

8:30 Breakfast (Included)
9:30 Welcome/Opening Remarks
10:00 Choice of workshops
11:15 Choice of workshops
12:30 Lunch (included)
1:15 Hypnosis Presentation
2:00 Plenary Session: Panel on “Issues of Relevance to Queer Alaskans
3:00 Closing remarks/evaluation

Cost: At the door: Adults $25, Students $15.
Pre-registration: Adults $20, Students $10.
Scholarships available:
Contact refjohnathan@gmail.com

Saturday Night – Oct. 10th - Socializing

7:00 Bowling--details available at conference
10:00 Late night drop in at GLCCA

Sunday – Oct. 11th – Breakfast Program

10:00 Brunch and panel: Crossing the Generations

Cost: Adults $10, Seniors and Students $7.50
Pre-registration required at GLCCA

A van will be available to transport those who need it from event to event.

continued from page 1

to the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage (GLCCA). Sunday morning will be a brunch program at YWCA and a panel discussion: Crossing the Generations. Special effort went into making this an all ages friendly event so feel free to bring kids to the conference or any conference function. To make the most of the conference, be prepared to step outside of your comfort zone, especially in terms of meeting people. We hope the workshops will make people think twice about what it is they think. Come with the absolute expectation to have fun.

We do not want anyone to miss the conference because of lack of funds. If needed, contact revjohnathan@gmail.com for scholarship information.

Johnathan, Pride Conference chairperson, is a wanna be life-long Alaskan. Having grown up in Australia, he now calls Alaska home. Johnathan is passionate about working with non-profit groups and forging working relationships with all members of our communities. He is really excited about the upcoming “QueerWorld” Pride Conference and hopes you all make it.

Bowling

Northern Exposure, the premier gay and lesbian league of Alaska, has begun their 2009/2010 bowling season and invite you to come and cheer them along. For more information email: ssach@gci.net or phone 258-5317 and ask for Steve.
Good-Bye Mike Travis

Editor: You have been such a cornerstone of both the GLBT and educational community here in Alaska for so long. Is it really true you are moving away? Tell me about it, please.

Mike: Yes, it’s true. My partner, Dave Cronlund, and I are leaving the middle of September via the ALCAN Highway. We are going to La Conner, Washington. It is a beautiful little town that grows tulips, daffodils and vegetables. We will be living with and caring for Dave’s mother.

Editor: You have had your fingers in a lot of pies over the years and I know you have been involved with Identity for a very long time. Would you mind summarizing some of your activities?

Mike: I started out in Juneau in the late 1970’s working for the State Department of Education. I traveled back and forth a lot so was able to be involved in many things here in Anchorage. In 1985 I joined Identity, Inc’s Board of Directors and in 1986 I helped form the South East Alaska Gay and Lesbian Alliance (SEAGLA) and served on that board.

Editor: Were you in the closet during those early years?

Mike: Yes, but I was outed in 1986 when the then executive director of Identity included my name in a report, One in 10, without my permission. My supervisor at work tried to get me fired but the Department’s EEO officer stepped in and helped me to keep my job. I became the conduit for many school district office people seeking information about AIDS and GLBT resources, all on the hush hush. Speaking of the report, One in Ten, during the hearings this summer on the anti-discrimination measure, do you remember how some of the Assembly members kept saying that they needed to see data of actual discrimination before they would pass the anti-discrimination measure? And later, the new mayor said the same thing? Well, in 1986 I worked with Identity to compile and publish a 70 page report of just such data. The report is called One in 10 – A profile of Alaska’s Lesbian and Gay Community. The documentation they are asking for has been in existence for over twenty years.

Editor: Wow. Looking at the report, I see that it was even funded, in part, by a grant from the Municipality of Anchorage, Department of Health and Human Services. They have had the data all along. Editor’s note: The report is available for review at GLCCA.

So, when did you come out on your own?

Mike: I came out totally when I was 55 years old. I sang, and still do, “I’m out, I’m out, Thanks God, I’m out!” I worked for the South East Regional Resource Center then and got partner benefits in 2006.

Editor: When I think of you, I think of GLSEN. Can you tell me about your work with GLSEN?

Mike: GLSEN Alaska is a Gay Lesbian Straight Educational Network chapter that was established in Anchorage in 1996. I have been a board member for the last 8 years. GLSEN Alaska supports Gay Straight Alliances (GSAs) in junior and senior high schools. There are now GSAs in Anchorage (9), Juneau (2), Fairbanks (2), and Mat-Su (2). My granddaughter is now in the GSA at Juneau Douglas High School.

continued on page 4
Transitions

Chloe Nicole Smith

We lost a member of our community this summer. Chloe Nicole Caldwell was only 21 years old and she took her own life. You may have seen her sitting in GLCCA with her blond braids and pink laptop computer or coming and going with the Transgendered Alaskans’ Social Group (TASG). She was kind, friendly, and gracious. She was shy but always quick to respond to overtures of friendship.

Chloe had a rough start in life and, like most transgender people, faced significant family, social, and governmental difficulties as well as painful rejection and discrimination. She knew at a young age that she was transgender and, when she eventually ended up with her grandparents, her grandmother was her first ally and gave her occasional opportunities to dress and express herself as the young woman she knew herself to be. When Chloe’s grandmother and ally passed away, she moved to Alaska to go to the university. She wanted to be a journalist.

Chloe was a Hannah Montana fan and trekkie who loved anime and comic books, especially Wonder Woman and Supergirl. She chose her last name “Caldwell” from “Castle Caldwell” her favorite Dungeons and Dragons module.

Her name was Chloe Nicole Caldwell. She was a young woman who will be greatly missed. And, she would know the proper Vulcan response to such a situation would be “I grieve with thee.”

Choose to Live

Local T folk care about you and are holding out their hands to you. They can be reached by calling:

Anja (M2F) 907 -223-8860
Dan (F2M) 907-727-0322
Cameron (F2M) 907-306-2369
Laura (M2F) 907-229-2148

Suicide is not the answer. Need help now? Call 911.

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Editor: That is a lot, but I know you have done more. What else?

Mike: In the early 2000’s I began working with Identity’s youth program Living Out Loud along with Victoria Shaver, Ken Friedman, Fred Hillman, and others. We did weekend retreats for students focused upon developing youth leadership. I have also been part of Identity’s Advocacy Team since 2006.

Editor: You are amazing. How did you like working with Out North?

Mike: I have been involved with Out North since the late 1980’s and was on their board from 1994 to 1998. In the late 1980’s I produced for Out North a production called Niagara Falls. It was the first gay production in Juneau. In 2004, I produced the Vagina Monologues for Out North. I jokingly said someone should produce the penis monologues. Mim Chapman suggested, on the other hand, that we needed to have dialogues between vaginas and penises. Thus was born a home-grown play, The Vagina Penis Dialogues, written by Mim and performed by many well-known people in the GLBT Anchorage community.

Editor: Did you have a role in this new play? What part did you play?

Mike: Yes, I was a pubic hair in a kind of Greek chorus. We would interject questions and tell short stories gathered by Mim at her many parties.

Editor: Do you have other theater experience?

Mike: I was in a production called “Happy Birthday Juneau”, a celebration of the Juneau centennial in 1980. I was the calif in Kismet in 1986. It was a Juneau Lyric Opera production. I also have sung in the Russian-American Colony Singers for three years.

I was on the steering committee of an Out North community project, funded by the Ford Foundation, called “Understanding Neighbors.” The project continued on page 5.
Transitions

continued from page 4

worked to develop civic dialogue on the question of the role of same sex marriages in our society and we explored this topic through talking circles that utilized performance art pieces to stimulate discussion.

Editor: It is interesting you choose to work with talking circles. Do you have a Native connection?

Mike: I was adopted into the Tlingit nation in October 1994. My Tlingit name is Wats’dul. I’m a Raven and a member of the Copper River People clan of Yakutat. I am from the Owl House.

Editor: So, will you and Dave be coming back to Alaska to visit?

Mike: Oh yes, we will be back. We both have children and grandchildren here and I would like to revive The Vagina Penis Dialogues and help to have it seen throughout Alaska.

Editor: Do you have any last words before you leave?

Mike: I want to thank everyone for their contributions to the LGBT community of Anchorage and Alaska. Change happens only when we make it happen. We must be out and proud in everything we do. Working together we make change, so I’m sure we will have a vibrant, inclusive Anchorage soon. I look forward to the day I can hold my partner’s hand on the streets of Anchorage! Have fun while working toward a better future. I will be away from Alaska, but Alaska will always be part of me!

GLBTQA Youth

“Let Our Flowers Bloom” was the float built as an Identity Youth Initiative project by Youth for Equality. The kids marched in the Pride Fest and July 4th parades. Youth interested in connecting with other GLBTQA youth may contact Anne Marie at amoylan@gci.net.

GLCCA Open House

The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage (GLCCA) hosted QLBTQA youth from UAA’s The Family and APU’s Spectrum GLBT groups for an open house, tour, pizza, and meet and greet Saturday afternoon 9/26/09. Later in the evening another open house was held at GLCCA to cel-

ebrate Diversity Month. The center was packed to the rafters with visitors enjoying each others company, fine food and great entertainment.
Thank you Assembly Members

Thank you to Assembly members Sheila Selkregg, Mike Gutierrez, Matt Claman, Jennifer Johnston, Patrick Flynn, Harriet Drummond, and Elvi Gray-Jackson who voted in favor of the GLBT equal rights legislation this summer. These and other politicians have supported the GLBT community by such actions as marching in the Pride parade, attending and speaking at Pride Fest, casting their votes in favor of the equality measure, attending and speaking at the True Diversity Dinner, advocating among their peers for equality and more. Please consider supporting them as they do their work and when election times rolls around.

A Reign Begins

Presenting their royal highnesses Emperor Kevin Holzt and Empress Meme of the XXXVII reign of the Imperial Court of All Alaska. We curtsy sweetly and pledge our loyalty!

Pull Tabs
at
Kodiak Bar and Grill
225 East 5th Avenue, Anchorage

To benefit
Identity Inc.
336 East 5th Avenue, Anchorage

If you want to eat, drink, dance, meet the love of your life, and help Identity, consider spending your riches at Kodiak Bar and Grill. You might get lucky.
The True Diversity Dinner
Stef Gringich

The True Diversity Dinner could not have gone better. Elvie Gray-Jackson, Sheila Selkregg, Pat Flynn, Mike Gutierrez, Harriet Drummond, Ethan Berkowitz, Eric Croft, Les Gar, and Bob Poe were there. Mark Begich and Vic Fischer came by later.

Identity received the Non-profit Award at the True Diversity Dinner. Identity was represented by Scott Turner, Gayle Schuh, Julie Schmidt, Shelly Wozniak, and Tiffany McClain. Shelly did the sound for the event.

Tiffany McClain received the Outreach Award. Vic Fischer and Jane Angvik were honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award. Julia O’Malley won the Print Media Award and Mel Green and her blog Henkima were recognized with the Blog Award. Ciri received the Business Award.
Welcome to Our New Volunteers

We are very happy to welcome aboard our new volunteers Johnathan Jones, Machera McCoy, Mark Essert, Michelle McElroy and Tommy Harri. Please come on by GLCCA and introduce yourself.

Johnathan Jones
Rev Johnathan is a non-denominational chaplain and spiritual director. Johnathan’s favorite place in the world is Alaska and he is excited to be volunteering at the GLCCA. Johnathan also sits on the Board of Directors of Identity Inc.

Tommy Harri
Tommy is new to Identity and GLCCA and we look forward to working with him.

Michelle McElroy – no photo
My name is Michelle and I have lived in Anchorage for 10+ yrs. I am a massage therapist and work for a chiropractor. I am looking forward to becoming more involved in the LGBT community and meeting some new friends.

Join us?

If you would like to join the Identity team and volunteer at GLCCA or for another Identity program, visit our website at www.identityinc.org and download an application. You may also call or come by GLCCA for more information. We are located at: 335 East 6th Avenue - Phone 929-4528.
These local businesses have joined Equality Works in stating: “The Anchorage business community strongly supports AQ 64. An open and diverse workplace fosters strong customer relations and a vibrant, expanding economy. Businesses have to recruit and retain the best and the brightest personnel. For us to succeed, Anchorage must protect everyone’s right to equal opportunity in employment, education, housing, financing, and public accommodations. We are pleased with the Assembly’s action and support including sexual orientation and gender identity in equal rights laws.”

Arctic Wire & Rope Supply
Cabin Fever
Circular
CIRI
Classic Woman/Portfolio
Copper Whale Inn
Credit Union One
Finite Technologies
Ginger
Middleway Café
Modern Dwellers
Quilted Raven
Snow City Café
Spenard Roadhouse
Sacks Café and Restaurant
Glenn Johnson, Chief Financial Officer & Executive Director of Finance, Alaska Airlines
Mike Jens, owner, Hawk Consultants

These major Anchorage employers understand that LGBT inclusive non-discrimination policies help recruit and retain a more diverse, talented and productive work force. They have in place non discrimination policies to protect their LGBT employees.

**Oil - Extraction**
BP America Inc.
Chevron
Shell Oil Co.

**Healthcare - Insurance**
Aetna Inc.
Allstate Corp.
Metlife Inc.
State Farm Insurance Group

**Travel**
Alaska Airlines
American Airlines
Continental Airlines
Hilton Hotels
Marriott Hotels
Starwood Hotels & Resorts
US Airways
Wyndham Hotels

**Banking - Finance**
Bank of America
Citigroup
J.P. Morgan
Chase
Merrill Lynch & Co.
Wells Fargo

**Retail - Sales**
3M Co.
Abercrombie & Fitch
Barnes & Noble Booksellers
Best Buy
Borders Bookstore
Carrs-Safeway/Safeway
Costco
CVS Pharmacy
Gap
Hallmark Cards & Gifts
J.C. Penney Co.
Men’s Wearhouse Inc.
Nordstrom
Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI)
Sears
Staples
Target
Toys “R” Us
Walgreens

**Food - Dining**
Chili’s Grill and Bar
Starbucks
T.G.I. Friday’s

**Other**
AIITEI Corp.
Lockheed Martin Corp.
Sprint Nextel Corp.

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Support those who support us!
Pride Through the Eyes of Our Best Friends

For a copy of your dog’s photo, e-mail Yaaruln@gmail.com and put “Pride Puppy” in the subject line.
Pride Through the Eyes of Our Best Friends
Adopt-A-Day

If you are interested in helping our community center by adopting a day (i.e. pay the operating expenses for a day - $50), please, please, oh please call GLCCA at 929-4528 and tell them you want to Adopt-A-Day!

Adopt-A-Day Olympics

Each and every one of you who have adopted a day for $50 has provided the funds necessary to operate the center for a day. That makes all of you champions to Identity and we thank you very much. We do have some super Olympic champions who we want to recognize for all the days they have adopted in the upcoming quarter.

Picture them standing on the Olympic medal platforms and us approaching with medals and bunches of flowers.

The Gold Medal goes to Anonymous.

The Silver Medal goes to Bert Mead and Steven Cook.

The Bronze Medal is a three way tie going to Anne Marie Moylan, Evelyn Doggett, and Shelly Wozniak.

Will everyone please stand for the National Anthem…

Adoption Registry

Congratulations on your adoption and thank you oh so very much.

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Please Adopt

To adopt-a-day, call GLCCA.
To adopt a puppy, call Animal Control.
To adopt a baby . . . you’re on your own.
The Trans Among Us

This final installment in our yearlong series spotlighting the trans among us is an interview with Laura, a transgender woman.

**Editor:** I have been hearing some amazing statistics about the murder and suicide rates of transgender people.

**Laura:** One in 12 trans folk are murdered compared to the national murder rate of 1 in 18,182 people. Fifty percent of trans youth attempt suicide before their 20th birthday. The national suicide rate is 3 in 100,000 people but for transgender people it is 31,000 per 100,000.

**Editor:** Those are shocking numbers. What is the source of those statistics?

**Laura:** They can be seen on Isabelle St-Pierre’s YouTube video “Transgender Day of Remembrance” at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DX7j8ZUtHks&feature=related and I can give you a printed list of the research sources to make available to others if they are interested.

**Editor:** Why do you think the suicide rate is so high?

**Laura:** Everything we need for our treatment comes down to money, lots and lots of money. However, 60% of us are unemployed and most of the rest are underemployed, barely making enough to cover basic needs, let alone to pay for the processes we need for treatment. It can feel like a hopeless situation. We face ridicule both as we are and when we try to go through the treatment process. We face the loss of friends and family, rejection by employers, and comments on the street. We face extra challenges when finding a romantic partner. We face increased stress in all areas of life and those stress levels go even higher when we face something like the equal rights ordinance because all the rejection is publicly shoved into our faces.

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**Editor:** What experiences have you had with the GLB community?

**Laura:** It is mixed but improving. During the previous attempt to get an equality measure passed, a gay person was heard to say that transgender people are a fringe group and the problem of straight people. However, during this most recent attempt to get the equality measure passed, a GLB community leader was heard to say “We are going for the whole group this time” referring to the fact transgender people have been left out of equality measures in the past.

**Editor:** I was watching the movie Southern Comfort and was surprised at the degree of discrimination they talked about receiving in their medical care. Do you have any experience with medical discrimination?

**Laura:** There is a dual standard of treatment. A lot of physicians refuse to treat trans folk especially for hormones. I have heard them justify their actions with “God does not make mistakes.” In the 1990’s I was in the emergency room at Regional Hospital and receiving what seemed like good medical care except that every so often this physician would walk by and tell everyone “That woman you have in there is a guy!” In 2002 my friend Jamie Bouchard, a pre-op transgender woman, went to the VA emergency room for seizures. When the physician saw her breasts, he said “Oh, you are one of those. The only way I am going to believe you are having seizures is if you have one right in front of me.” She did not get the treatment she needed and died not long after that incident from complications of a seizure. I wrote her obituary. Medical treatment in general is getting better continued page 14
and the VA is improving as well. Elmendorf AFB is the best. They treat me with total respect and courtesy.

**Editor:** As we finish up this yearlong series, is there anything I have failed to include that you would like others to know?

**Laura:** I wish people would take the time to find out about transgender people, who we are, how we came into being. I wish others would accept us as productive honorable human beings. I wish employers would hire us. The GLBT community already has listings where GLBT owned businesses can advertise so that GLBT customers can support them. I would love to see an employment registry so GLBT employers can find us and support the GLBT community by hiring us! I would love to see it work both ways.

The movie Normal would give the viewer an excellent idea about what my life is like as, except for me having a slightly more reasonable father, the movie mirrors my life. A good book to read is The Riddle of Gender: Science, Activism, and Transgender Rights by Deborah Rudacille. In it she asks something meaningful to me that I’d like to share with you. She asks “What will it take to make you reach your best potential?”

---

**The Naked Ptarmigan Needs You!**

Nicole Blizzard

Are you in the closet.....about your writing? Do you read something in a magazine, newspaper or book and think: “I could write better than that hack”? Well now, you too can have a chance to come out of the closet and write for Alaska’s premier literary magazine for the GLBTA community. The Naked Ptarmigan is looking for a few good men and women who would like to write for our publication. We are accepting writers of fiction, non-fiction and poetry whether they are gay, straight or transgendered. Contact Nicole Blizzard at ptarmigan-wing@hotmail.com to inquire about how you too can be published. Become one of Alaska’s fabulous literati and join The Naked Ptarmigan as they boldly go where others fear to tread.

The Fine Print: While we wish we could pay you, we must admit the only currency you will receive is our undying devotion and the potential for lots of groupies. Pseudonyms can be used so as to avoid the paparazzi following your every footstep.

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**Kodiak Bar & Grill Sells Pull Tabs To Benefit Identity**

Identity, Inc. won $1,000 from Pride Foundation’s Raffle with a Twist. Thank you all for voting for Identity and thank you to Pride Foundation for holding the Raffle!

**A Thousand dollars!**

Identity, Inc. won $1,000 from Pride Foundation’s Raffle with a Twist. Thank you all for voting for Identity and thank you to Pride Foundation for holding the Raffle!
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Thank you to these businesses for their financial support of NorthView.

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Identity Donor and Pledge Form

Adopt-A-Day or choose your donor level and become a member of Identity today. Memberships expire in one year.

_____ Adopt-A-Day Donor, $50 per adopted day

☐ Red Donor: $30
☐ Orange Donor: $100 or $10 per month for 12 months
☐ Yellow Donor: $250 or $25 per month for 12 months
☐ RAINBOW LIFETIME MEMBER! $5,000 or $500 per month for 12 months

☐ Green Donor: $500 or $50 per month for 12 months
☐ Blue Donor: $1,000 or $100 per month for 12 months
☐ Purple Donor: $2,500 or $250 per month for 12 months

_____ Please specify # of days you wish to adopt

NAME  _______________________________________________________________________________
MAILING ADDRESS  ___________________________________________________________________
CITY/STATE/ZIP  ______________________________________________________________________
Telephone/e-mail (optional)  ___________________________________________________________

Please check one:  ☐ New membership   ☐ Annual membership renewal   ☐ Donation

I want to show my support for the GLBTA community by volunteering for:

☐ Anchorage PrideFest (June)  ☐ GLCCA  ☐ Fundraising
☐ Alaska Pride Conference (October)  ☐ Helpline  ☐ Youth programs

☐ I DO NOT wish to receive Identity’s newsletter or other mailings to keep me informed of community events.
☐ I DO NOT wish public recognition of my donation.

Please make check payable to Identity or charge this donation to:  ☐ VISA   ☐ MasterCard   ☐ AMEX   ☐ Discover

NAME (as it appears on card)  ______________________________________________________________________
CARD NUMBER ______________________________________________________  Exp date  __________________
SIGNATURE  ____________________________________________________________________________________

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