Anchorage LGBT Discrimination Survey

During the battle over Ordinance 64 in 2009, one thing we heard from the opposition again and again was that there was no “proof” that discrimination was a problem that needed to be addressed. So this fall, a group of concerned community members and organizations came together to brainstorm how to compile this kind of information about the LGBT community in Alaska—both so that we can provide policymakers with accurate information, and so that we ourselves more fully understand the needs of our community. Thus, the Alaska LGBT Community Survey Task Force was born.

The Task Force will complete two important surveys over the coming years. Our broader, more long-term project is the “Alaska LGBT Community Survey,” which will provide an extensive profile of the LGBT community all across the state. Over the next six months, however, our focus is the “Anchorage Discrimination Survey,” which will focus exclusively on experiences of bias and discrimination by LGBT people in Anchorage. Please look for the survey in early 2011! We need as many respondents as possible, and all answers will be completely confidential. You can find more information about the survey at alaskacom-munity.org. I will be serving as Project Manager for the survey, so please also feel free to reach out to me by phone at (907) 263-2006 or by email at scarpenter@akclu.org about any questions you may have.

Dates to Remember

Mark your calendars for next year in 2011
Pridefest is June 25, 2011
Pride Prom is April 23, 2011

Click-Pick-Give for Identity, Inc!

GLCCA - Hours
Monday – Friday: 3:00 PM – 9:00 PM - All Ages
First and third Saturday:
12:00 - 3:00 PM - 13-19 Year Olds Only
3:00 – 6:00 PM – All Ages
Other Saturdays: 12:00 – 6:00 PM – All Ages
Sunday: 12:00 – 6:00 PM - All Ages

Youth Drop-in Hours at GLCCA
The first and third Saturdays from noon to 3:00 are now reserved for youth 13-19 years old. Youth are invited to drop-in and share in the company and activities. Bring a friend! With the exception of the youth drop-in program volunteers, who have passed a background check, GLCCA will be closed to all adults during youth drop-in time.
Alaska Pride Conference 2010: Equal was a fantastic event!

To begin with we had over 105 people in attendance- the largest number of attendees in recent years. We offered over 12 workshops, 8 guest speakers, 11 vendors and fantastic food and company! The food was perfectly provided by The Last Frontier Men’s Club. Our DJ Dave rocked out the tunes all day and the 4A’s and AMP offered on the site free rapid HIV testing (the first time this has been done). Our workshop leaders, vendors and guest speakers all deserve a round of applause. AMP also hosted a bowling night- I estimate we had 15 folks in attendance.

A special thanks goes out to The Alaska Pacific University and their diversity club Spectrum. Especially, thanks to Sonja, Felix and Ben for making APU such a wonderful venue.

Finally, a special thank you to all of the hard working individuals who were members of our planning committee- without you Pride Conference would not have taken place.

Watch out for next year! We have applied for a grant from the “Pride Foundation” to bring in youth from the bush and villages. I just know next year will be bigger and better. Stay tuned!

With Pride,
Johnathan Jones,
AK Pride Conference 2010: Equal Chair

It’s almost time to file on line for your 2011 PFD.
PLEASE CONSIDER CHOOSING IDENTITY, INC.
WHEN GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO CLICK-PICK-GIVE!
ICOAA updates and coming up in the next few months.

By Paige Langit

Labor Day weekend - Emperor & Empress 37 Kevin Holtz and Meme Jenkins stepped down after a very successful reign. We had a crazy campaign featuring five candidates (two Emperor candidates and three Empress candidates... the most the community has seen in a number of years), with Cory Crowder and Paige Langit winning the titles of Emperor and Empress 38 of All Alaska.

November 29th through December 12th - ICOAA Cares - We asked the community to help give to those less fortunate during the holiday season. We had barrels at Mad Myrna’s (530 E. 5th Ave) and The Raven Bar (708 E. 4th Ave) where items could be dropped off. New and unwrapped clothing and toys, along with non-perishable food items were dropped off during this time.

Dec 12th @ Mad Myrna’s - Mr. & Miss Gay 2010-11, Tim Minnich and Destiny will be hosting the annual SnowBall. Doors at 5pm, Dinner at 5:30pm (buffet), with entertainment including Storytime with Sister Mary Sunshine. Also live and silent auction items including artwork by Fred Machetanz, a Prada purse, fur piece from David Greens, and many other wonderful items.

1/15/2011 - Emperor Cory’s Amateur Strip Show (Time, and info pending)

1/30/2011 - Drag-Inn Tea Party: A Night in the Orient hosted by Imperial Crown Princess Ashley, and Closet Queen Yu-Trani. @ Mad Myrna’s. Price and Time: TBD. Includes food, and evening of games, entertainment and prizes.

2/14/2011 - Sweethearts Dinner @ Mad Myrna’s - Dinner and Entertainment - Price and Time TBA

**Find us on Facebook for more information on upcoming events, keyword search: Imperial Court of All Alaska

**Find us online at www.imperialcourtalaska.org for more information and how to get involved!

---

A Special Thanksgiving Eve

Thanks to Empress Eve, (Willie Rowley), and helpers! The community enjoyed a Thanksgiving Eve dinner at one of three locations this year! Mad Myr- nas, the Raven and at the YWCA hosted by Identity. Willie added the family friendly location this year, the GLCCA, and we partnered with our neighbors the YWCA because they have the larger facility. The food was wonderful and plentiful, and the company marvelous. We even had Channel 11 News exposure for the event. Thank you Willie!!!!

Good food, good friends, and a good time enjoying a Thanksgiving dinner. Thanks, Willie.
By Johnathan Jones

Earlier this year Identity became a member of InterPride. An international non-profit organization made up of Pride event organizers. www.interpride.org

This year I was honored to attend their yearly Annual General Meeting in Longbeach, CA. As a Co-chair of PrideFest for several of the past PrideFest’s, and Chair of the last two pride Conferences, it was an invaluable experience. Both myself and PrideFest Co-chair (Gail Palmer) have come back from the meeting energized and full of many great new ideas on how to make PrideFest even bigger and better than last year (which by the way was a huge success).

Some of these new ideas include corporate sponsorship, branding, more efficient use of volunteers, better advertising and ways to raise funds from the grassroots level. All of these are essential to a successful PrideFest. Gail and I have agreed to only implement a maximum of three ideas, so that we don’t get overwhelmed trying to do too much, too fast. But we promise to implement all of our ideas as time goes by.

In addition to being fired up and ready to try new things, I was also elected to the Board of Directors of InterPride as a Regional Director for the region Alaska known as Region 2. Region 2 includes Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. Part of my duties include reaching out to other Pride event organizers in our region and also working closely with fellow Pride organizers so we can help and benefit each other.

Attending InterPride was a truly awesome experience and I am so grateful that I was able to attend.

By Gail Palmer

Identity, Inc is now a proud member of InterPride. What is InterPride you ask? That’s a good question. I had the same question earlier this year when my Alaska PrideFest co-chair and I received an email asking us to join. And so my quest for an answer began. (And if you’ll allow me to take you down a chaotic and winding road, I’ll share with you not only the answer, but also my journey which began as an outward search and ended in self-discovery.)

First, the easy answer. According to their website “InterPride exists to promote Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride on an international level, to increase networking and communication among Pride Organizations and to encourage diverse communities to hold and attend Pride events and to act as a source of education.” www.interpride.org

(I am an event planner. I plan events for a living. This is an important fact in my journey though I didn’t know it until the end. I think it best to tell you now.)

Five words in their mission statement caught my attention; increase, communication, among Pride Organizations. Looking back, I’m certain these are not the five words they would want me to highlight. But as an event planner, it seemed only logical to talk to other event planners doing my same job. Whether or not to join InterPride would be an easy decision if the price was right, so I added “Research InterPride Membership Fee” to my event planning task list.

(I wasn’t surprised when I was asked to help plan PrideFest because I’m an event planner. I even remember thinking, as I debated saying yes or no, “what the heck, it’s just one more event, and I’m an event planner.” Please don’t be offended if you already sense the error in my thinking.)

While doing my research I learned more about other words in their mission statement; international, education, encourage communities. And what I learned, while eye opening and sometimes devastating, still did not begin to fully define InterPride for me. Nor did it entirely sink in.

• In 7 countries, homosexuality is punishable by death.
• InterPride will provide you with information to share with your community and alert them to the inequalities of LGBTI people around the world.

Gail, continued on page 5
Board Member Spotlight

Drew Phoenix is one of our new Identity, Inc. Board members. Drew brings years of experience working in the LGBT community and a passion for civil rights. He has been an ordained minister in The United Methodist Church for 21 years.

Two years ago he moved from Baltimore, Maryland, where he was serving a Reconciling (United Methodist word for LGBT inclusive) congregation, St. John’s UMC. While serving St. John’s, he transitioned from female to male, becoming the first United Methodist minister to publicly come out as transgender while serving a local church. In spite of many charges brought against him and attempts to oust him from the denomination, he has kept his credentials as a United Methodist minister.

Drew is a contributor to HRC’s publication, “Gender Identity and Faith Communities”, and has facilitated workshops and been a plenary speaker on that topic across the country. As an Identity Board member, he is working to create an Interfaith Religious Coalition that will provide education and outreach to congregations on sexual orientation and gender identity and serve as a united voice for LGBT rights in Anchorage.

Drew is Managing Director for the ACLU of Alaska Foundation. Among his many responsibilities there, he is working as part of a task force to conduct an Anchorage LGBT discrimination survey. He also serves on the Board of Out North. In his spare time, he is out hiking, skiing and exploring Big, Wild Alaska!

Raffle with a twist, we won! $1,000 donated to Identity from Pride Foundation. Thank you to all who voted for us! 

Please join me and my co-chair, Johnathan Jones, as we begin making plans for 2011. You can write to me at stage_guru@yahoo.com to find out more.
I Can’t Think Straight and The World Unseen: two Lesbian films and Sheetal Sheeth in Anchorage

What was it all about? A Benefit double-feature screening of internationally acclaimed films from Enlightenment Productions--I Can’t Think Straight and The World Unseen. Sheetal Sheth, co-star of both films, joined us at Out North and for a house party reception. Organized by Maureen Suttman to Benefit Lisa Ray’s Audio Book Project and Anchorage’s Gay and Lesbian Community Center. North View co-editor Mary Logomasini spoke with Maureen Suttman about bringing two Lesbian Films “The World Unseen” and “I Can’t Think Straight” and star Sheetal Sheth to Anchorage for screenings at Out North on October 8 and 10th 2010.

Q. Maureen, how did you come up with the idea for bringing the film(s) and one of the star actresses to Anchorage?

Maureen: I’d heard about the films on You tube and starting searching some forums and found out more about them. I was going to send away for the films but I found them at GLCCA because someone had died and they were donated to the Center. I wanted to see them because they were contemporary, award winning films. Two beautiful women, a two woman story, with multiple layers of culture woven through. They were out there and talking about culture in the US when multi-culturalism may be on the demise. The Writer, and Director are a long standing lesbian couple raising two boys. Enlightenment Productions is run by partnered Lesbians, and they produce films with Lesbians and images of diverse cultures. I had not heard anyone talk about the films before, so I decided that I wanted to screen them. I originally wanted to screen them and give the money to Enlightenment Productions. However, the distribution rights may have been an issue and very costly to show them.

Q. How did you go about it?

Maureen: We bought the films on DVD through Enlightenment Productions Los Angeles office. If you do it for charity, using the DVDs, then you can show them. it seemed like it was a good idea and it was easy to arrange with very few emails going went back and forth. There’s a different energy here with the long winters, I thought the DVDs would go over.

Q. How was the turn out to the films?

Maureen: Not as many as I hoped but the feedback was that it was wildly successful. The weather that Sunday was beautiful and it may have affected the turnout.

Q. Why did you show them in order that you did?

Maureen: Mindful of the culture, the first movie was a more traditional story and the second more about the culture, apartheid, Indians living in South Africa at that time.

Q. What would you do different next time?

Maureen: Post on the Identity website and do an event page on Facebook.

Q. How was it to meet Sheetal Sheth?

Maureen: Sheetal said so many people would come up here, they are just not asked. I really didn’t believe she was coming until I saw her at the airport upon arrival. Our first communications started in May. Enlightenment Productions and Sheetal said yes, so I started working on venues. In the meantime, I was talking with a friend, Jim Lasfeld, he said he wanted to do the poster for the films. I was talking with Phyllis Rhodes, of Identity, and she said it was a good idea and “Maureen you are following through on your idea.” Touching base with people all along helped too. I hooked up with the Grzzlist early on and they mentioned various resources. Bent could inbed the trailer in their Blog. I am not a Facebook person, but through Jill, (Grzzlist) they put it on their Facebook.

Straight, continued on page 7
Q. How about the house party hosted by Amy Young and Jean Craciun?

Maureen: Wasn’t that fun? Nobody was working on it with me until 3-4 weeks before.

Q. How did it come about?

Maureen: Jim (poster guy) contacted Jean Craciun and told them about it. I contacted Amy and asked if I could talk to them. Jean and Amy donated their house, La Mex donated the Mexican food. Jean and Amy got Modern Dwellers involved and they donated the chocolate desserts and sipping chocolate. The sipping chocolate was a big hit with Sheetal and her cousin, Rima Parikh. So we impressed “the Hollywoods!”

Q. Were you in awe?

Maureen: Everyone has a hard time meeting actors from movies. When I met Sheetal at the airport, I thought, am I going to recognize her? It wasn’t very crowded, she saw me and walked up and introduced herself. Sheetal was someone who was interested in things, and I was interested in hearing her. It was easy to like them! I had them over to my house for dinner and a fire. They were excited about seeing Alaska. It is always good to connect with people when you travel. It was so much fun, I would like to do more of that in my life.

They were so excited about being in Alaska. Sheetal and her cousin, Rima, grew up on the East Coast and their parents came from India. They are well traveled. I was worried about making it a good time for Rima too. She was so delightful.

We toured various places: Arctic Valley so they could experience tundra, Seward, the Alaska Native Heritage Center, the Eklutna cemetery, Alaska Zoo, and the Wild Life Conservation Center where Sheetal wanted to pet everything. We took a Boat tour out of Seward with Major Marine. Sheetal had an Alaska baptism. As we cut across the Bay the wind was so strong, but she was so determined to get a picture. She went outside on deck and came back dripping wet!

Q. When will you do it again?

Maureen: The ad guy asked if this was the first annual? At the time I hadn’t thought that way. When I had the press doing the review, they asked the same question. Phyllis even asked when are you going to follow up? And Out North was asking will you work with us?

I am so grateful for folks showing up, for Phyllis and her support, the Grrlzlist for spreading the words, and RAW who donated money to the project. I am so happy that people liked it and had a good time. We raised money for both the GLCCA and Lisa Ray’s Audio Book Project, each group received $750.

And Maureen got a great adventure.

For more information about Enlightenment Productions here is their website www.enlightenment-productions.com

Sheetal Sheth posted the trip on her Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=288109&id=109085111762

Email and website comments from Sheetal Sheth: “I went to Alaska last month to be present at a couple benefit screenings they had put together for I CAN’T THINK STRAIGHT and THE WORLD UNSEEN...it ended up being one of the most gratifying and adventurous trips. Thanks to Maureen Suttman for making it all happen!”

A note from Sheetal Sheth (I Can’t Think Straight and World Unseen) reprinted from Grzzlist: “Greetings Alaska!!I want to thank everyone who made the events and/or trip possible. I always felt Alaska would feel like home on a lot of levels and now that I have been there, traversed around, and met some of the dearest hearts out there, I know it. Truly special place and time and I thank Maureen and you for putting it all together and taking the time to come and be a part of it all...your support means a lot, more than my words could ever express. I just hope you can feel me when I say you are truly grandeur and the deepest of souls to match. Have a great holiday season. Much love, Sheetal Sheth”
Mad Myrna’s
530 E. 5th Avenue Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 27MYRNA (276-9762)
www.madmyrnas.com

Holiday Happenings

Holiday Comedy Hypnosis Show
Saturday December 4th 9:00 pm Jay Her $10.00
Gay-La Screening and After Party
Saturday December 8th
Bear Tooth ~ 8:15 pm Mad Myrna’s ~ 10:00 pm

Snow Ball 2010
Sunday December 12th
Doors/Dinner 5:00 pm Show 6:00 pm

Kinky Classes for the Masses & Merry-XXX-Mas
Saturday December 18th
Kinky Classes for the Masses 7:00-9:00 pm Hosted by Sarah
Merry XXX-mas 9:00 pm Hosted by Happy Little Ho Ho Hoe

A Dowager Gospel Christmas Show
Thanks for the Memories
Sunday December 19th 5:00 pm
$5.00 ~ Suggested donation at the door
A Show Benefitting Covenant House and the 38th Reign of the ICOAA
Donations of Packaged and Canned Foods, Unwrapped Toys and Monetary
Contributions Gladly Accepted to Benefit Those In Need This Holiday Season

Christmas Eve Divas Show & PJ Party with Santa
Friday December 24th 9:00 pm

Christmas Day Saturday
Saturday December 25th ~ Open at 8:00 pm

New Year’s Eve Gay-La Show and Party
Friday December 31st Open at 8:00 pm $10.00

Happy Holidays!
IT’S THE PERFECT GIFT

What never goes out of style, is never the wrong size or color, and is rarely duplicated? It’s an Adopt-A-Day. You can designate the date and honor someone special, call attention to something whimsical, show your appreciation, or remain anonymous. Your gift will keep the doors of the Gay and Lesbian Community Center open by helping us pay the rent, utilities, and insurance. You can use the donor form on the back of this NorthView or go to our website for on line giving. Your donation can even be spread out over several months of credit card charges and your information is always secure with us. So why wait? Check out the current Adopt-A-Day section near the back of this NorthView. There are plenty of 2011 dates available and waiting to be adopted. Be the first one on your block to own one.

DATE    | FIRST       | LAST            | HONORING          | REASON
--------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------
10/6/2010 | TLFMC       |                 |                   |       
10/7/2010 | Merle Jean  | Muller          |                   |       
10/8/2010 | Anne Marie  | Moylan          |                   | Happy Birthday 
10/11/2010 | Jo          | Bennett         |                   |       
10/12/2010 | Identity    | Supporters      | Colleen Carroll   | Thank You  
10/13/2010 | Evelyn      | Doggett         |                   |       
10/18/2010 | Jim          | Mohr            |                   |       
10/19/2010 | Identity    | Supporters      | Sage Tremberth    | Thank You  
10/23/2010 | Mark        | Essert          |                   |       
10/25/2010 | Identity    | Supporters      | Katherine Buyanova| Thank You  
10/29/2010 | TLFMC       |                 |                   |       
11/3/2010  | TLFMC       |                 |                   |       
11/4/2010  | Julie Schmidt & Gayle Schuh | Patty Cavanaugh | Happy Birthday |       
11/7/2010  | Bert Mead & Cook | Dakotah Gibson |                   |       
11/10/2010 | Evelyn      | Doggett         |                   |       
11/11/2010 | Bob         | Williams        | Gayle             | Happy Birthday 
11/12/2010 | Anne Marie  | Moylan          |                   | Alaska Philanthropy Day  
11/13/2010 | Identity    | Supporters      | Edie Bailey       | Thank You  
11/16/2010 | Michael     | Wardman         |                   |       
11/17/2010 | Reginald    | Yaple           |                   |       
11/21/2010 | Identity    | Supporters      | Gail Palmer       | Thank You  
11/25/2010 | Kathleen    | Swick           | Lovenia           | In honor of my mother  
11/26/2010 | Susan       | Niman           |                   | For Pam and Phyllis  
11/29/2010 | Identity    | Supporters      | Steve Cook        | Thank You  
12/1/2010  | Identity    | Supporters      | Katie Walsh       | Thank You  
12/6/2010  | Julie Schmidt & Gayle Schuh | Julie       |                   | Happy Birthday  
12/9/2010  | Anne Marie  | Moylan          | Kaitlyn           | Happy Birthday  
12/10/2010 | Bob         | Williams        | Julie             |       
12/11/2010 | Evelyn      | Doggett         |                   |       
12/12/2010 | Identity    | Supporters      | Edie Bailey       | Thank You  
12/15/2010 | TLFMC       |                 |                   |       
12/17/2010 | Reginald    | Yaple           |                   |       
12/18/2010 | Bert        | Mead            | Jes & Gin         |       
12/20/2010 | Gale        | Smoke           |                   | Happy Birthday 
12/20/2010 | Marion      | Richter         |                   |       
12/21/2010 | Drew        | Phoenix         | Ellen Robertson   | Winter Solstice  
12/23/2010 | Identity    | Supporters      | Johnathan Jones   | Thank You  

Remember to Click-Pick-Give for Identity, Inc at PDF filing time!
Board Member News!

Ron Schlittler is the son of Norm and Jane Schlittler. Norm is a Member of the Board of Identity, Inc. He and his wife Jane are involved with PFLAG and are former PFLAG Board members. Their son Ron’s new position is as Program Coordinator in The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns Office of the APA.org (American Psychological Association). Ron will be maintaining the administrative and communications functions of the LGBT Concerns Office and supporting the policy and advisory groups staffed by the Office. He previously worked for ten years at the National Office of (PFLAG) Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays in Washington. Congratulations to Ron Schlittler on his new position!
Thank you to these businesses for their financial support of NorthView.

Rona Florio • Homes Unlimited • 279-8877 • rona@ak.net
Specializing in your happiness...

Great Land Infusion Pharmacy
Quality of Life is Our Goal
- Infusion Service
- Oral Prescription Drugs
- Insurance Billing
- Skilled Nursing
Tudor Med Plaza
2421 E. Tudor, Ste. 107
Anchorage, Alaska 99507
www.greatlandinfusionpharmacy.com
(907) 561-2421

The Dog Park
Premier boarding in a country setting with 3 fenced acres.
862-5474
Gene Gilbert, top dog

MAD MYRNA’S Sells
PULL TABS FOR IDENTITY

Support Identity
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

☐ Please specify # of days you wish to adopt

☐ 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

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  ____________________________________________________________________________________

Identity, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) Alaska corporation. Contributions are deductible to the full extent of the law.

Identity, Inc.
P. O. Box 200070
Anchorage, AK 99520-0070