2013 CELEBRATING DIVERSITY MARCH

Saturday, June 15th 11:00 a.m.

In every annual event there is a moment when the presenting group asks the big question. “How can we make this better?” Identity as the presenter wanted to make the part about being in the parade something really special. More people than ever signed up to be part of the parade last year, but many reactions were similar—not enough people came out to watch it. So we had a growth spurt and a lack of viewership at the same time. That felt like a good opportunity to make a change.

So we went back to the beginning. There are moments in LGBT history that we should treasure. Honoring Stonewall was why parades began to pop up all over the country— as a remembrance that marked its significance to the LGBT community. We also talked about how much the One Anchorage Campaign the year before had affected us here in Alaska. What it meant to us, how it felt like our own historical movement, how might we be able to pay homage to the campaign that brought more people to the forefront of this community than ever before?

That’s when we decided to call it a Pride March, with music and dancing and groups gathering to rally and

Pride, continued on page 2

GLCCA - Hours

Monday – Friday: 3:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Saturday: 12:00 – 6:00 PM

Sunday: 12:00 – 6:00 PM
Pride, continued from page 1

walk, signs held high denoting their kinship to the LGBTQA community. Side by side, arm in arm, in contingents, circles, formations, whatever, as long as we hit the streets en masse. We changed the start simply to have a good vibe, start outside a business that knows us well, and supports us, staying downtown in an area where we could pump up the volume, dance and continue the experience like they do in Brazil during Carnivale, or in New Orleans at Mardi Gras time. It’s all about the people. It’s truly an homage to all our living, working and playing in Anchorage! Please join us and make this the biggest Pride March 2013!

The March will begin at Snow City Cafe and progress to the parkstrip.


2013 Pride Conference

It may seem like “4 years away”, as one UAA student noted, but the annual Alaska Pride Conference team has already begun planning. We are proud to announce that this year’s annual Alaska Pride Conference and Youth Summit will be held October 11th through to the 13th at the Alaska University of Anchorage.

Pride Conference planners have already met with several folks from UAA, including The Family who have given their 100 percent support. We are pleased to be coming back to UAA after several years of absence.

As always we are looking into several ways to make this year’s Conference even better than last year’s. For example, we are investigating ways of how we can provide video feed to folks who will be unable to come to Anchorage. If you are interested in receiving video feed or to help with this new project please email Johnathan Jones at Johnathan@alaskapride.org

Finally, as you can tell, we have begun the process of planning for this year’s conference. We are looking for folks who are interested in being on this year’s planning team (including a co-chair). You don’t need any special skills, just a willing spirit and the desire to have fun. To volunteer or to find out how you can help please email Johnathan Jones at Johnathan@alaskapride.org

LGBTQA Youth: Future State of Mind

When Identity first invited me to Anchorage to work with the LGBTQA youth across our State, I never quite imagined the impact it would have on many facets amongst the community, including myself. I knew that I was in new territory, and while this was just a minor factor, I found out quickly that it was time for change. Change for our young, bright, and empowered LGBTQA minds.

I come across young people every day who tell me that things would have been just a little bit better, or different for them, if they had direction, a mentor, or someone they could at least “come out” to. This is invaluable information to hear coming from the young minds of our future leaders. I have never been more grateful to see such growth in the eyes of said youth.

Identity has given these voices the capacity to make this State wondrous for them and all to follow. Identity has given insight to all generations, on behalf of these intelligent minds, to make change.

In the last four months Identity’s young leaders have created and planned a Youth Pride Prom, themed “Tim Burton”, which will take place on April 20th, 2013 at OutNorth. They have begun a LGBTQ Youth Panel that started simply by speaking at a PFLAG Chapter meeting, which has led to requests from many youth-serving agencies. These voices are often unheard, and now are beginning to be called upon.

The youth have created numerous plans for June’s 2013 PrideFest including a Pride display at Teen Underground in the Loussac Library the entire month of June, a youth art display, of all mediums, the entire month of June at Kaladi Brothers at
TitleWave, an open mic night, hosted by Brave New Alaskan Voices, and a Karaoke teen night in collaboration with TEEN P.O.W.E.R

Identity and AYDC (Anchorage Youth Development Coalition) have been working very closely with the LGBTQA Internship, where our young folks will become the catalysts for change among our community through focus groups and presentations to organizations across Anchorage. This six chosen candidates have already brought such bright eyes, and open hearts to the heartfelt change THEY wish to see in their community and schools. Identity is so proud to be a key player in this exceptional, and life-changing, experience.

The success of our youth is usually put in the hands of those who have lived long and prosperous lives in our community. I see a large fusion beginning between all LGBTQA generations. This fusion is beautiful. This fusion will change lives in our State. We will continue to prosper and bring light to the young minds of our community.

Grayson Mitchell
Identity’s Youth Engagement Specialist

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**WELCOME OUR NEW YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE**

My name is Margaret Clark. I’m a sophomore at West, I’m on the debate team, and I play piano. I’ve also been the co-President of West’s GSA, and the youth representative for the Board of Identity since the beginning of this year. My experience with Identity, thus far, has been great. Being surrounded by intelligent, dedicated people who are working together toward something is amazing in and of itself; it’s made more so by the fact that we are genuinely helping people, and the community, to be better and safer.

I am also one of the de facto leaders of the Pride Prom Planning Committee. As collaborations go, it’s one of the better and more effective ones that I’ve been involved in, which is especially remarkable considering that the group is completely youth run and directed. Everyone there is committed to making Pride Prom the best event that it can be, and realizing our collective vision for it. These kids are really creative and smart, and working with them is in many ways the best thing I’ve been so directly involved in.

West GSA, to coincide with Day of Silence, is starting an anti-bullying campaign. I believe that a respectful community starts at home, and then goes into the schoolyard; we can’t do anything about what goes on at home, but we can help to make school a better place for all involved and hope that it carries over. We’re hoping to get the poster part of this campaign into some of the other schools, as well.
Doug Jensen said, “I didn’t ask to be a senior citizen (I was drafted)”. Since many of us in the GLBT community have also been “drafted”, Identity is reaching out to our aging population. Identity board members, Monique Karaganis and Julie Schmidt, will start coordinating activities and programs of special interest to the seniors in our community, with the first monthly event to be held in March or April. Possible events will be films, presentations or speakers on various subjects such as support and services, wills, as well as other subjects. Watch for emails announcing these events. If you are not on the Identity email list and would like to be, please contact Identity at: info@identityinc.org. We encourage suggestions and comments.

AARP is an important resource and support for our aging community and has a GLBT division that can be found online at aarp.org/pride. This website contains interesting articles and information specifically for our aging community. One of the highlights of this site includes enrolling your partner (or spouse) for free. You can also combine your memberships if both of you are already members by calling AARP at 1-888-687-2277.

You may or may not be following the court case of Schmidt v. Alaska, regarding the senior real estate tax exemption for Anchorage residents over 65 years of age. A year ago the court ordered the state and municipality to treat same sex couples the same as married couples which means that if you own a home with your partner, the first person to reach age 65 is entitled to a $150,000 tax exemption on your real estate taxes. This also applies if you own your home by yourself. The state has appealed this decision to the Alaska Supreme Court, but they have not handed down their decision yet, so as of this publication, the exemption still stands. If you have any questions about your eligibility or how to apply for this exemption, please call Tom Stenson at the Alaska Civil Liberties Union. He can be reached at 258-0044 or at: tstenson@akclu.org.

This request was sent to us by Amanda Ross, Univ. of Akron:

Are you 60 or older and do you identify as gay, lesbian or bisexual (or meet your primary intimacy needs with same sex relationships)?

If so, then you are invited to participate in a study of sexual minority identity in individuals who are 60 and older. The main purpose of the project is to study sexual minority individuals’ strengths in order to help researchers and clinicians better understand and assist them.

The study consists of online questions. Participation in the study is voluntary and no identifying information will be collected. In recognition of your participation, a donation will be made to LGBT organizations upon completion of the study.

To participate, please go to: www.surveymonkey.com/s/rossagingstudy

Anchors Aweigh My Gay

The USS Anchorage will be docking at the Port of Anchorage on April 25 and a Commissioning Ceremony will take place May 4. One of the officers onboard is Lt. Gary Ross, a very out, very proud husband. Gary and his civilian partner were the first military couple married after the repeal of Don’t Ask Don’t Tell, and they have contacted Identity to connect with the GLBT Community. An event to meet Gary and Dan and hear about their lives pre and post DADT will be planned. When I spoke to Captain Quin he was very supportive of their outreach and wants everyone in Anchorage to feel welcome to tour the ship and participate in all the activities that have been planned by the city of Anchorage. Stay tuned for further details.
**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 online 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? There are plenty of 2012 dates available and waiting to be adopted. Be the first one on your block to own one.

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Did you know . . . ?

Mad Myrna’s and The Raven support all Identity programs with the sale of pull-tab Proceeds. So, Purchase, Pick and Peel

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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(907) 258-4777 (Anchorage); 1-888-901-9876 (Statewide)

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http://www.identityinc.org/northview/northview.shtml

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Thank you to these businesses for their financial support of NorthView.

*Boundless! Follow your heart! Go for your joy*

To all my friends and clients in the Gay and Lesbian Community, I am proud to know you and I am happy to support this important event. Thank you for entrusting me with the buying and selling of your home. I appreciate the opportunity to serve you.

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