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ALASKA'S GLBTA NEWSMAGAZINE
PUBLISHED BY **identity**

JANUARY 2006

NORTHVIEW



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NORTHVIEW is a monthly publication of identity, a non-profit 501c(3) Alaska corporation concerned with issues of sexual and gender identity. *NORTHVIEW* is published as a community service. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the directors, officers, or members of Identity, Inc.

NORTHVIEW welcomes articles, photographs and letters from individuals and organizations. Email your submissions to northview@identityinc.org. Deadline is the 10th of each month for inclusion in the next issue. We reserve the right to edit as necessary and to decline any submission. *NORTHVIEW* does not accept editorial copy or advertising that is sexist, racist, discriminatory or sexually explicit.

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COVER VIEW

Cover art by Kenna Bates.

In our December issue, we forgot to include the name of the artist who drew the comic "Don We Now Our Gay Apparel." The talent behind the comic was local artist Kenna Bates. We apologize for the oversight.



Read all about it!

Here's where you can find the NorthVIEW.

Please help support the establishments that help support our community.

The Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association

1057 W. Fireweed Lane, Suite 102, 263-2050

Borders Books and Music

1100 E Dimond Blvd, 344-4099

The Gay and Lesbian Community Center

2110 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Suite 103, 929-GLBT

Mad Myrna's

530 E. 5th Ave.

The Raven

708 E. 4th Ave.

MCC of Anchorage

2pm Sundays

Changes And Resolutions

It is the start of a new year and many of us make resolutions to be a better person, go on a diet, exercise more, find true love or make any number of other potentially life-altering decisions. Most people rarely follow through with these lofty goals and aspirations for one reason or another. For some, the amount of personal sacrifice to attain these resolutions proves too difficult. And since we do not other share these resolutions with anyone, we just feel as though we have only let ourselves down or if we did share them with a friend or family member, they will usually overlook our little foibles because they know that they themselves have done something similar in their own past. I know that I have and if we are honest with ourselves, we know that we have also said own our mea culpa's at some point. After all, we are only human.

Like many in our community, I knew that there was something different about me at any early age. I was just five years old. Now, I am within a year of turning, gulp,*fifty*. I know, I know, it hard to believe that this witty, attractive and sophisticated member of the Anchorage journalistic literati could really be that old, but I am, at least chronically that is. Mentally, I'm about twenty-eight, give or take a year or two. So, I guess it is only natural at this time of year to take stock of one's life at this point. Having your birthday in the same month that we go into a new year can double the thought and all I can say is, what a long strange trip it has been.

Although I recently celebrated eleven years since my gender reassignment, that part of my life was just the culmination of one part of my journey that had actually started almost two years earlier in January of 1992 not long before I turned thirty-five. It can be torturous feeling that your inner life does not mesh at all with how you are living life outwardly. Each year for almost two decades after I found out that what I was feeling had a name, I had been resolving that *this was the year that I was going to do it. This year will be different.* And in the end, I would end up doing nothing and being miserable.

For the longest time, I rationalized it. I told myself that I could not make these changes based on the system in place at that time in the books that I had read furtively in the stacks at the UWF library. All the literature that I could find at the time said that therapists for people who were male-to-female, would not consider them for recommendation if they said that they felt like they were lesbians. I felt that my current life at that time was based on a series of carefully constructed lies, and I did not want to start a new life based on yet another series of lies. So I just read everything I could

and watched any television programming dealing with the subject.

Then in January 1992, I caught a promo for an early afternoon CNN program that use to air called "Live With Dr. Sonya", who was a psychologist. The program was to feature a live chat with famed British model Tula, who



had come out a few years earlier as being transgendered. Since I had read her fascinating autobiography a few months earlier, I was eager to watch, even though she was straight. Also on the program was a psychologist from Galveston named Dr. Collier Cole. At one point, Dr. Sonya discussed how it used to be that most male-to-females said that they wanted to find a man to share their life with after surgery but she had been reading that more MTF's were coming out as lesbians and would he discuss this phenomenon. At that moment, I felt like time stood still. The air felt almost charged with electricity as I sat there breathless for what he said next. *"Well, it used to be that only one in ten identified as lesbian. Now, it's more like fifty-fifty."*

You usually remember the life-defining moments when things suddenly and completely change. I remember thinking to myself, *"Oh, my god. I could really do this. I really could... There are therapists out there who would listen. I don't have an excuse to wait any longer."* I could feel the smile on my face as I went and got out the phone book and started looking through the listings for my first psychologist.

So in this time of new beginnings, changes and resolutions, remember the old saying "To thine own self be true...". Do not hide in a closet no matter how cozy you might have made it. It's your life. Live it.

Nicole blizzard still has not figured out how to act her age. She can be reached at Nicole-B92@msn.com or at northview@identityinc.org

identity

Gay & Lesbian
Community Center
of Anchorage
www.identityinc.org

IMPERIAL COURT OF ALL ALASKA

IMPERIAL COURT OF THE EMPIRE OF ALL ALASKA

1971 TO PRESENT

The Imperial Court of the Empire of all Alaska has been in existence as an Anchorage nonprofit organization for over 33 years. Three Queen Reigns preceded the first community election of Emperor and Empress I, Craig and Margaret.

The Imperial Court of All Alaska, ICOAA, is the oldest gay community organization in Anchorage. Hundreds of thousands of dollars, perhaps more than a million, have been raised by the Imperial Court of all Alaska since its inception through participation at fundraising events, benefits, titleholder Balls and functions. Some years ago SalmonElla, with help from others including John Erickson obtained a gaming license

for the Imperial Court of all Alaska from the State of Alaska and the sale of “rippies” began, which greatly helped fund raising. In addition to scholarships, these dollars are immediatly turned back to gay, lesbian or community wide

nonprofit groups for their use. In recent years the annual Anchorage Pride Parade has been the recipient of significant financial support from the ICOAA.

The Imperial Court of all Alaska has statewide jurisdiction. Two Ducal Courts hold functions and Balls while serving their own communities. There is a Duchy of Fairbanks and a Duchy of Anchorage. There was a Duchy of Juneau but it has disbanded. Each year the Emperor and/or

Empress travel to Fairbanks to officiate the elections of a new Duke and Duchess. There are several Fairbanks events, culminating in a Ducal Ball, at which time a Grand Duke and a Grand Duchess are elected. The results of the vote for Duke and Duchess are announced that evening. They also hold a vote for Emperor and Empress, but that ballot is kept secret until Anchorage votes



From left, Perpetual Imperial Grandmother Rita Sims, reigning Emperor XXXIII Jerry, Gina Naughty and reigning Empress XXXIII SalmonElla. Photo from the ICOAA website.

on a later date.

Every reigning Emperor and Empress invests individual titleholders for their year. The higher the title given, the more those chosen will be expected to serve and work for the achievements of the Empire and Reign. Similiar to the Emperor and Empress, the Imperial Crown Prince and Princess are elected by the entire community. Their election is during the middle of the Monarch reign so they assist four Imperial monarchs. The ICP titles are considered leadership proving grounds for those wishing to aspire to the office of Emperor and Empress. However, not all Emperors or Empresses have been ICPs.

From The ICOAA website at <http://www.icoaa.com>

THE IMPERIAL COURT OF THE EMPIRE OF ALL ALASKA (ICOAA)

generously provides financial support for *NORTHVIEW*



ARCTIC HEAT - JAMES MARTIN

Arctic Heat Weekend will be held the weekend of January 27-28-29 in Anchorage, Alaska. The weekend event is sponsored annually by The Last Frontier Men's Club. The main focus of the weekend will be the contest on Saturday night to select the new titleholders for Mr. Bear Alaska, Mr. Alaska Leather, Mr. Alaska Levi, and Bear Cub Alaska. A new title has been announced for 2006, and it is the title of Leather Boy Alaska.

The weekend will begin on Friday, January 27th with the Meet and Greet at 8pm at The Ravens. Introductions of contestants and the judges will highlight the evening. Events continue on Saturday, January 28th with a buffet breakfast at the Country Kitchen on Fifth Avenue at 11:30 am. Cost of the buffet will be 10.95, and you are invited to join the men of Alaska.

Saturday afternoon will host the Contest Rehearsal and Interview portion for the contestants. These portion of the weekend are closed to committee members and contestants only.

The Arctic Heat Weekend will be held on Saturday night, January 28th at Mad Myrna's. The doors will open at 7:00 pm, with the contest starting at 8:00 pm.

The cost of the ticket for the evening will be \$15.00, and will include a nice spread of finger foods, and some great entertainment for the evening. Currently entertaining will be Misti Dawn, Tae & Allie, Scott Turner, and a special

number by the current titleholders. The titles of Mr. Bear Alaska and Mr. Alaska Leather will be selected by a panel of judges, while the titles of Mr. Alaska Levi, Bear Cub Alaska, and Leather Boy Alaska will be decided by popular votes of the audience. Tickets for the evening can be purchased at the door, or in advance at MM's Coat Check or any TLFMC member.

On Sunday January 29th, there will be a Celebration Brunch at Mad Myrna in honor of the new titleholders. It will begin at noon, and the ticket cost is \$10.00 person. Again, tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance.

Giving up their titles will be the 2005 winners: Mr. Alaska Leather – Mark Plimpton; Mr. Bear Alaska – Doug "Horse" Viet; Mr. Alaska Levi – Brady Hollified, and Bear Cub Alaska – CJ Willoya.

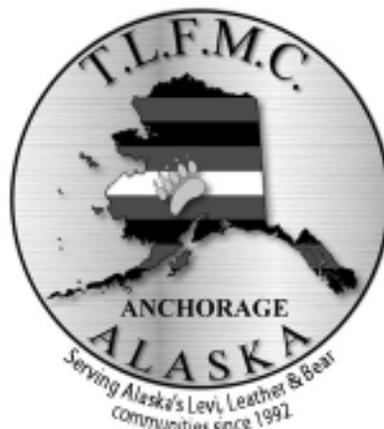
The Club is currently seeking entries for the 2006 titles, and application can be obtained at Mad Myrna's, Raven, club Members, or on line at TLFMC.com. Deadline for all entries is Saturday, January 21st, and the entry fee is \$20.00.

TLFMC has obtained a special block of hotel rooms for the weekend at the Day's Inn on Fifth Avenue. By just asking for the Arctic Heat rate, you can get a room for 52.00 per night for the entire weekend.

So, come join us for all the events for Arctic Heat Weekend – 2006

*Have a little fun this year.
You've thought about it in years past,
this year just do it. Run for a TLFMC title.
Contestants wanted for:*

Mr. Bear Alaska Mr. Alaska Leather
Mr. Alaska Levi Alaska Bear Cub
Alaska Leather Boy



**Jan 27-29 ARCTIC
HEAT weekend**

www.tlfmtc.com

New Year's Eve, 1996
Wall Street Nightclub, Columbus OH

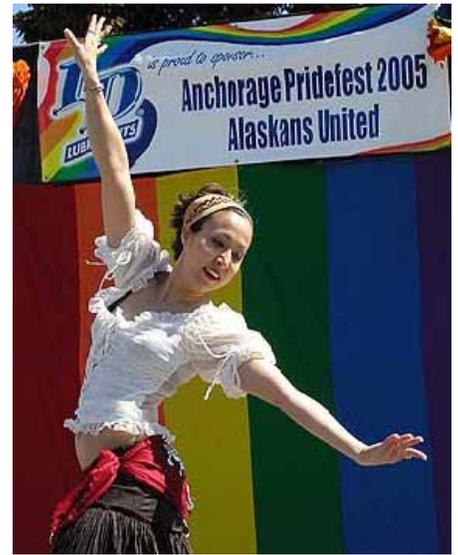
I'm standing upstairs in a local gay bar, the balcony's cool iron railing resting in both palms. Below me, a teeming mass of drunken revelers begin their final countdown, each jockeying for position nearer to, or further from, next year's first lover. And so it goes, *Three. . . Two. . . One. . . Happy New Year!* You all know the drill: kiss the one you love, the love you covet, the ex you miss.

But this year I'm caught alone; sandwiched between the knotted cage of the *Alley-Oop* basketball toss and four disheveled bar tables, I stare out over a sea of craning heads, on the verge of one of those "eyes brimming" kind of cries that look so fucking gorgeous on the Audrey Hepburns of this world. It is a moment destined for a doe eyed gamine, softly focused with plenty of Vaseline shimmer. I am not that girl, but the sweetness of this particular melancholy strikes me so vividly that I indulge and pretend that this time it will be a pretty cry. I turn a blotchy face to the crowd below and imagine my tears dripping tiny splashes into a stranger's martini glass.

"Hey darlin'," comes whiskey-tenor voice behind me. A hand, warm and strong, reaches to cover mine. I look up in time to see a formidable woman whose name is not really Trucker Lee, just as world goes blurry and what was supposed to be a stoic trickle of tears flash floods into gurgling, choking sobs. I'm immediately sorry for everything. Missed birthdays, late assignments, forgotten *I love yous*, lapsed friendships, held grudges, negative assumptions, misspoken words, a full year's worth of transgressions explode in my chest and I am drowning. Through ugly hiccups I stutter to Lee that I'm sorry about

our date this summer, I'm sorry there was only one, and I that didn't try harder, or call back sooner, and I don't know what I was thinking but the rest of it gets muffled as she wraps me up in her arms and presses my face to her chest. She smells like cedar, musk, and smoke. Campfire smoke. I can't move, she's got me swaddled in the folds of her sweatshirt, her breath rising even and deep. "Shhhh, darlin' . . .there's no need. . .no need"

She holds me there while strains of *Auld Lang Syne* rise up from the background; tightly, she holds me, and we wait; then I agree.



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“Coming Out and Making Sense- new youth group”

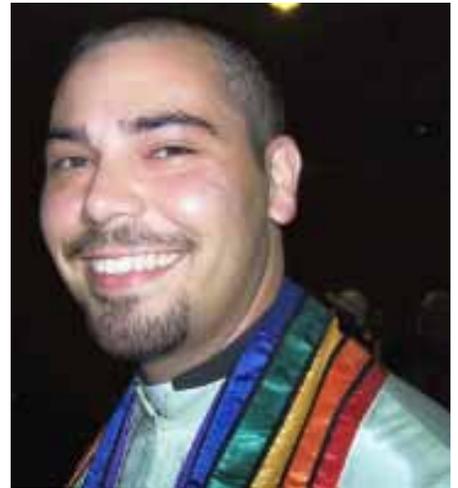
A new youth group will begin on Tuesday January 17th. The youth group titled- “Coming Out and Making Sense” is specifically designed for youth ages 18 to 25 who are just coming out or thinking about coming out.

The youth group will be a six-week course, meeting weekly on Tuesday nights to discuss issues of sex, coming out, drugs, making friends and understanding our sexualities. The youth group is open to both males and females.

The group will start at 6pm on Tuesday Jan 17th and will go for 2 hours. The group will be held at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center (Cnr Northern Lights and Lake Otis). Food and soda will be provided. No cost involved.

Johnathan Jones, the group facilitator said, “This is a real opportunity for queer youth to meet with one another, discuss relevant issues, and grow. For a long time Anchorage has lacked such an opportunity for queer or questioning youth.” The youth group is co-sponsored by Identity Inc. and Metropolitan Community Church of Anchorage. There is no cost to attend and is open to everyone.

For more information please call, Johnathan Jones at 907-258-5266



DAD’S CORNER RESOLUTIONS FOR 2006 - CHUCK HART

Every year I email my resolutions to a friend who lives in Costa Rica. Writing up the list for him helps me focus on what I want out of the coming year. I never go back to a list to see I accomplished everything, because I know that I haven’t. If I did everything I planned - the Nobel people would be looking me up.

I haven’t had much time to work on this list as my son has been in the hospital for the last two weeks, but is getting out tomorrow. (I have visited him everyday including Thanksgiving.) So here’s my rough draft of a list:

1.) I plan to do more walking every week. I need the exercise to get back into shape. I also need to set a good example for my children about healthy life choices.

2.) I plan to stick to my new diabetic diet. I need to stay healthy for me and for my children. The shock of the diagnosis is wearing off now is the time for action. I don’t want to roll over and play dead, or soon I very well might be.

3.) I plan to take steps, even small ones, to begin socializing more. This may be my toughest resolution. I can come up with a thousand things that need doing at home while neglecting my need to interact with other adults on a frequent basis.

4.) I plan to do what I can to defeat any anti-glbtc amendments that make it to a ballot!

I will volunteer. I will raise funds. We may not know victory, but it won’t be from lack of effort or good faith. I want to be a thorn in the side of those who would think for even one moment of denying us fair and equal treatment.

5.) I will go back to school.

This time I will finish the degree I started in 1978. I enjoy study and a degree will open many doors for me in challenging, and rewarding careers. School will help my writing skills — a plus for us all.

6.) I will spend more time with my children; even if by telephone. With a second one leaving her mother’s nest this summer, keeping the bonds strong will me ever more important. My relationships with my three children are healthy and sound. By increasing the time spent with each one a little bit, I hope to keep things that way.

7.) I will write more in 2006; working on my novel. I may never be published, but then again maybe I will. I won’t know without trying. Besides, I enjoy writing.

I have other minor resolutions for 2006 that I won’t list here. I wish all of you a very Happy New Year in 2006! May you have health, happiness, good friends, good times, sufficient wealth, snow, and other good weather.



ONE WOMAN'S REINVENTION

There is life after a career ends!

For too long I succumbed to the cultural belief that what you DO is who you ARE. I do not know when I began to separate myself from "I'm a teacher," but the metamorphosis certainly got a kick-start when I retired. After teaching for thirty-one years, I knew I had to reinvent myself. I was burned out on classroom control patrol, and swore I would never teach again unless I could teach the willing.

The big question: How could I go about reinventing myself? First, I rested and took care of financial matters. I dealt with my parents' deaths and put things in order. I took several trips including a marvelous Olivia Cruise from Vancouver to Seward, and I highly recommend this for any lesbian who is so inclined. I stayed close to my support system, and I volunteered at two centers where I felt comfortable and appreciated. Some of the things I did in my first year of retirement also included writing, talking to supportive people, taking action on small things, consulting a life coach and a financial advisor, organizing my home, meditating and praying and taking good care of my health.

The second year I decided to step back into the world of work. Armed with new clothes and a jazzed up resume, I went to see what was out there. Questions I pondered included:

- **WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?**
- **WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO DO?**
- **HOW MUCH DO YOU WANT TO WORK?**
- **WHAT ARE YOUR NEEDS?**

I attended The Alaska State Employment Job Club where I met employment counselors, club participants and presenters. I got my nerve up, went to a temporary job agency and took their tests. Now please understand that I hate tests. Despite the fact that for years I made up, administered and scored tests, I am close to being test phobic. My weak math skills and the possible embarrassment of doing horribly on the test almost stopped me. I felt vulnerable and afraid. Despite all the trepidation, I showed up at the agency and they offered a temporary job before I left the office. I had passed the tests!

The jobs from the temporary agency, networking at Job Club, volunteer positions and participation in other organizations kept me working for the next two years. I found old skills coming in handy, and I eagerly learned new ones. I thoroughly enjoyed every job. Just to try my wings, I worked as a project assistant, transcriber, travel coordinator, receptionist, and even cooked and cleaned at a remote lodge. I did not realize how much change had happened with me until close friends began to comment on how I was reinventing myself. That segued to the idea of creating PowerPoint presentations on redefining and reinventing oneself. That in turn led to making a PowerPoint on how to do home exchanges. I am currently giving presentations to social and service groups around Anchorage on these topics.

In late 2005, I found a career path that fulfills my list of desires in the work world. I attended classes on organizing, joined the National Association of Professional Organizers (NAPO), got a business name and cards, and began reading books for personal organizers. I started my own small business and named it ORGANIZE IN SYNC. As a personal organizer, I help people downsize, move, get rid of unneeded items and clear their space. I take items to agencies and consignment shops, and pick up tax donation receipts in my clients' name. Books, clothing, you name it; I can find someone who wants or needs it. It has been particularly rewarding to get clothing to some of the sixty families living in Anchorage fleeing the ravages of hurricane Katrina.

ORGANIZE IN SYNC will allow me to be a snowbird again this winter, when my partner and I travel to California, Arizona and Oregon on home exchanges. I will start the business back up when we return in April.

I have used willingness, honesty, good health, positive attitude, communicating, networking and a sense of humor to grow, change, spread my wings and fly. It is exciting to have a full life after one career has ended!



GALE SMOKE: QUEER BOOKS

In the course I teach at UAA on the LGBT community, the group that has been the hardest to find information on has been the 'B' or bisexuals. And I still have failed to find a decent video about bi folks. However, finally, at long last, I think I've found a comprehensive and well-written book on the bisexual people. It is entitled *Bi America* (Harrington Park Press, 2005) and it is written by William E. Burleson. The author is an HIV educator in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area and has been active in the Bi community for years.

In fact, Burleson's own story is interesting. He came out to himself as bisexual in 1977 at the age of seventeen. But with whom could he share it? Gay folks, like me, talk about how gay people were invisible for years, but this was even more so the case for bi people. Because of that it wasn't until 1993 the author was able to attend his first conference on bisexuality.

For his book, Burleson draws largely on three sources – (1) the Bi History Project (which he was instrumental in creating) which collects bisexuals' personal stories, (2) an online support group, and (3) a survey of bisexuals that was done online.

So, how many bisexuals are there? The author struggles to answer this, and, of course, it depends on whether you're talking about

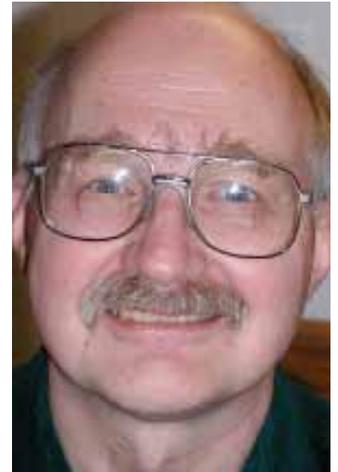
those folks with bisexual attraction, people who have accepted a bisexual identity, or active members of the bisexual community. (Of course, the numbers get smaller as you work your way through the three groups.) If one says about four percent of the country is bisexual, they are probably not too far off, and two percent would likely be the minimum estimate.

A few of the wide ranging topics Burleson covers is the relationship of bisexuals to straight people as well as to the LGBT community. The latter was of more interest to me, because I've always noted the hostility of many gay men and lesbians to bisexuals. The good news is that Burleson thinks the situation may be improving.

One of my favorite sections dealt with the thirteen myths about bisexuals, such as bisexuals are easy, bisexuals are disease-carriers, bisexuals can't be feminists, and so forth. Burleson addresses each of them.

There are both norms and great diversity within the bisexual community. Burleson truly thinks that most bisexuals who are committed to the community can be described as liberals, feminists, and accepting of a queer identity. On the other hand, they do have varied styles of handling relationships. Some, like the author, are serial monogamists. But many also live a non monogamist life. But even here there are different approaches – cheating, cruising, an open marriage, swinging and polyamory.

I am extremely thankful that this book was finally written, and I highly recommend it.



opportunity!
**The Gay & Lesbian
HelpLine
is Looking for
New Volunteers!**

The HelpLine is an
Information & Referral Line

To volunteer, you transfer the HelpLine
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leave a message for Phyllis
to find out the Details!**



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GLCCA EVENTS

GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS MOVIES! MOVIES! MOVIES!

Rand Thornsley has donated his collection of movies from the Capri Theatre to the Gay & Lesbian Community Center. Lots of new gay and lesbian movies Art and Foreign Flicks, too.

Come for a visit and borrow some of these classics.

Thanks, Allison and ACLU

While we are celebrating the Alaska Supreme Court's unanimous decision providing domestic partner benefits for public employees, let us not forget to acknowledge the efforts of Identity member Allison Mendel for the work she put into our community being able to claim this victory. Her efforts and the efforts of the ACLU are greatly appreciated! Congratulations, too, to plaintiff Identity members Dan and Al Carter-Incontro and Tess Bensussen and Carol Rose Gackowski.

JANUARY 2006 WORKSHOPS AT THE GLCCA

LEGACY OF LOVE WORKSHOP

JAN 5, 2006, Estate Planning Workshop @ the GLCCA @ 6:30 PM

Which direction would you turn tomorrow.....

If you lost your loved one today?

Find out why thousands of families have seen the wisdom of taking care of End of Life issues now, rather than leaving it to others. Get answers to many questions such as:

How will my family answer the 75+ questions the funeral director will ask?

What does Social Security/VA Benefits/Life Insurance cover?

What is Inflation Proofing?

Please join us to find out how you can protect yourself & your loved ones

& take control of your life.

THOMAS M. GORMLEY, ANP

*ADVANCED NURSE PRACTITIONER, PSYCH/MH
THERAPIST CERTIFIED IN EMDR*

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ANCHORAGE FINANCIAL PLANNER OFFERS SERIES AT GLCCA

by Dee Gould

Corbin Sawyer of Merrill Lynch, has been facilitating informative sessions at the GLCCA for the past several months. The topics covers specific areas of interest to the gay/lesbian/bi/trans community. Corbin says, "Our goal for the workshops is to educate the community about some issues facing domestic partnerships, particularly as it pertains to financial decisions and



planning". In October, his guest was Charles Gunther, an Anchorage family law attorney. Corbin says he focused on, "partnership documents such as cohabitation agreements, and ways to protect and benefit partnerships in writing". In November, Corbin invited local probate lawyer Ame Willis Ivanof to discuss will and power of attorney. Corbin says, In January I will try and bring in a CPA or tax-adviser to speak about specific tax issues". These sessions are free and include refreshments. Join us for the next session on Thursday, January 19th at 6:30pm. Please RSVP to Corbin Sawyer at 3601 C Street Anchorage, Alaska 99503-5996. His office number is 907-564-6777. You can also email him at corbin_sawyer@ml.com

Gabriel

272-9045

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Resolutions and Change

Madison wasn't the only one preparing for a drastic change. Her friend Chandra was almost, but not quite, ready to admit she liked Rachel. And since Madison was packing her bags and getting ready to leave for six months (which was practically forever; Chandra knew lots of folks that left for a visit during January and didn't return), Chandra felt pretty comfortable nearly declaring her affection.

"She said the funniest thing the other day," Chandra explained, for the second time that afternoon, while Madison put clothes in various piles around the suitcase.

Chandra and Madison were close buddies who saw each other every couple of months. The only person Chandra saw with any frequency was Rachel. Chandra tried her best not to talk about Rachel. She tried to talk about the weather, her job or Madison's life, but eventually the conversation would light on the brunette that stole Chandra's heart without Chandra's permission. Rachel was living with someone else when Chandra met her. Not only living with someone but living with her partner of 15 years. Rachel was quiet, petite and taken, but Chandra was smitten. Chandra made any excuse she could not to appear if Rachel would be present, but somehow they kept connecting at various functions. Rachel, it turned out, had been unhappy for the last seven years of her relationship and was finding a way to break from the only love she had known.

As Madison prepared for her journey, Chandra and Rachel were now both single, but neither was ready to admit anything beyond friendship. Romance was still too raw for Rachel; Chandra would rather be in denial than admit defeat.

"No, really, we're just friends," Chandra protested as Madison removed a pair of jeans from the pile. "I'm not really needing anything more right now, you know? I think you're gonna want that tank top."

"You think? I burn pretty easy."

"Oh, yeah, take it, but only one sweater... If anything, I have a little crush. Who wouldn't have a crush on Rachel? She's absolutely adorable. You even thought she was hot when you met her, right?"

Madison nodded. She had been nodding to the dialogue for about a year. She weighed "Love" by Toni Morrison in one hand and "The Lovely Bones" by Alice Sebold in the other, trying to decide which book to take. Part of her wanted to grab Chandra and shout, "What do you want? What do you want from this relationship? From this life? Can you honestly tell me that being just friends is satisfying?" But those questions wouldn't shock Chandra into a place she hadn't been before. Plus, Chandra did seem happy. Who was Madison to decide another's way of

happiness?

Stephanie was Madison's first real love. And now Madison was stuffing panties into a corner of a suitcase and debating if her favorite sunscreen was worth carrying along.

"And I think we'll try that new sushi place on Thursday," Chandra was saying, twirling one of Madison's discarded

T-shirts. "Where do you want to go before you leave? Any last-minute Alaska cravings? Want to see a show at the Fly By Night or are they closed?"

"I think they're closed until spring. Maybe we can go sledding," Madison said, putting her suntan lotion next to her rain jacket.

After Chandra left, Madison called Stephanie. "Look," she said, biting her lip, "I know we decided to see what happens and to be open to experiences, but I don't want to break up. I want to try and make this work. I know six months is a long time, but people are getting deployed to war and making it work and that's war. I'm just helping midwives. I love you, Stephanie, and I'm not letting you go without a fight."

The other end of the phone was silent. Tears welled up in Madison, and her lip trembled. Had she said too much? What if Stephanie wanted not to generally see other people but had one person in particular in mind?

"I don't want to break up either, baby. I want to be with you. I always want to be with you."

"What are we going to do?"

"We're going to make it work, that's all there is to it. We're going to make it work. Now are you done packing because there is a hockey rink calling my name. They hot mopped the lake today and I think we need to get out there."

"I'll be right over. Then we can go for sushi later if you want."

"That'd be nice, baby. See you soon."

"Bye." Madison grabbed her scarf and gloves and danced her way out the door.



identity

**Gay & Lesbian
Community Center
of Anchorage**

<http://www.identityinc.org>

The GLCCA is a safe place to meet, hang out, hold or attend group meetings, or use the resource library and computers.

907-929-4528



**2110 East Northern Lights Blvd
Suite 103
Anchorage, AK**
(between Burger Cache and Don Jose's)

Hours of Operation
Monday - Friday 3pm - 9pm
Saturday - Sunday Noon - 6pm
glcca@identityinc.org



The *NORTHVIEW* is YOUR community magazine! It is a forum for dialogue on any subject related to Alaska's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, and allied community.

It is also a forum for personal expression and welcomes original fiction, non-fiction, poetry, drawings, comics, art, and photographs.

Submissions are due on the 10th for possible inclusion in the next issue, but are accepted at any time.

Photos should be in JPEG format, and at least 300 dpi.

Submissions can be sent digitally to
northview@identityinc.org
or by mail
P.O. Box 200070
Anchorage, AK 99520-0070

identity
Gay & Lesbian
Community Center
of Anchorage
www.identityinc.org

Alaska GLBT News

Alaska GLBT News is a weekly e-mail broadcasting system providing information about Gay & Lesbian activities throughout Alaska.

We distribute messages concerning upcoming events, news, your business, rental opportunities, personal items for sale or sought, special announcements, etc.

For more information about receiving notices and/or sending your message, please contact

AlaskaGLBTNews@yahoo.com

Chilly Scenes of Winter - A Photo Essay



Adopt-A-Day!
Adopt-A-Day!
Adopt-A-Day!

Thank you,

November Adopt-a-Day Sponsors!

Less than all days are adopted each month, but the rent at the GLCCA goes on. If you would like to adopt some special day but can't come up with \$50.00 at one time, give Phyllis a call for some suggestions on adopting your special day or days. 929-4528

- 1 Doran Vaughan & Steven Jacquier
- 2 Jane Schlittler
- 6 Melba Cooke & Myrna's Fetish Ball
- 7 Christie Schultz for Dr. Ellen Cole Day!
- 7 Mari Jamieson's Birthday!
- 8 Bob & Ted's 37th Happy Anniversary!
- 10 Hosanna Lahaie-Lee for her daughter's birthday
- 10 Trevor Storrs' Birthday!
- 10 Suzie Burton — Celebrate Life!
- 11 Julie Schmidt & Gayle Schuh for Gayle's birthday
- 16 Jean Meyer & Premier Tax for Phyllis' shirt
- 19 Jim Bruce
- 21 Victoria Shaver for her Dad's birthday
- 22 Tim Pearson & Brian Chen for Gilda's Adoption Day
- 23 Leola Adams thanking the GLCCA
- 24 Brian Chen & Tim Pearson —Happy Thanksgiving!
- 25 Brian Chen & Tim Pearson supporting the GLCCA
- 26 Teresa McPherson in honor of Jim Mohr
- 27 Teresa McPherson in honor of Frank Tano
- 29 Allison Mendel for Marge Kaiser's birthday!

Your GLCCA staff volunteers appreciate the financial support given to the Community Center—it takes the entire team to have a safe place for our community. Since there is now a sign on our building, more visitors are finding their way to our Center. It is especially nice to see more young people coming in (or is that "coming out"?).

Adopt-A-Day!
Adopt-A-Day!
Adopt-A-Day!

identity

Gay & Lesbian
Community Center
of Anchorage
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A Welcoming Congregation
Sunday Services: 9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Children's Program at 10:30

EVENTVIEW

Identity Programs

- Winter & Spring Living Out Loud Youth Program
- June PrideFest (6/17-25/06)
- October Pride Conference (10/22/05)
- Daily Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage (GLCCA). Ste. 103, 2110 East Northern Lights Boulevard, Anchorage. 907-929-4528
- Nightly Helpline for GLBT information and referrals (6 PM to 11 PM). 907-258-4777 or 888-901-9876
- Monthly *NORTHVIEW* newsmagazine

Fairbanks Events

- Tue PFLAG, 5:30 PM, third Tuesday, 604 Barnette Street, Room101, 907-45P-FLAG.
- Fri Free anonymous HIV testing, 3:30 - 5:30 PM, Interior AIDS Association, 710 Third Ave.
- "Outlooks," 5:30 - 7 PM, KSUA-FM 91.5
- Socializing and dancing, 9 PM - 3:30 AM, Club G (mix crowd), 150 Farmer's Loop
- Arctic Bears, first Friday, 907-479-8680
- Sat Socializing and dancing, 9 PM - 3:30 AM, Club G (mix crowd), 150 Farmer's Loop
- Sun Homophonic Radio, 3-5 PM, KSUA-FM 91.5

Juneau Events

- Wed Social gathering after work, Summit Lounge
- "Women's Prerogative," 9 - 10 PM, KTOO-FM
- Fri Juneau Pride Chorus, 5:30 - 7:30 PM, Resurrection Lutheran Church, 907-789-6167 (Marsha)
- Sat PFLAG, 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM, first Saturday, Mendenhall Library Conference Room

Anchorage Events

- Mon AA Gay, Joyous, and Free, 7 PM, GLCCA
- Tues PFLAG, 7 PM, third Thursday (except November & December), Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311 Pembroke St., 566-1813
- SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous), 8 PM, 566-1133
- Line dance lessons/dancing, 7-9 PM, Mad Myrna's
- Wed IMRU2, 5:30 - 7 PM, first and third Wednesdays, GLCCA, 566-IMRU, leave message for more information
- GLSEN, 7 PM, second Wednesday, GLCCA
- "Karaoke Night" hosted by "K" Entertainment, 8:30 PM, Mad Myrna's
- Thu SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous), 5:30 PM, Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 566-1133
- Friends and Family Support Group, 6:30 PM, 263-2050
- "Karaoke Night" hosted by "K" Entertainment, 10 PM; Mad Myrna's
- Fri Lunch, everyone invited (HIV+, volunteers, and friends), Noon - 1 PM, Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (4A's), Ste. 102, 1057 W. Fireweed Ln., 263-2050.
- "Friday Night Divas Show," 9 PM, Mad Myrna's
- Sat SLAA (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous), Noon, Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 566-1133
- Sun Buddhist Morning Service, 11 AM, White Lotus Center for Shin Buddhism, 4105 Turnagain Blvd., Suite G2, 334-9984
- Center for Spiritual Practices & Education Worship Service, 11 AM, 8050 Old Seward Highway, 522-0940 (Rev. Guy Johnson)
- Metropolitan Community Church Service, 2 PM, Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311 Pembroke St.
- Northern Exposure Bowling League, 4 PM, Park Lanes, 4350 Ames Ave., 561-8744
- Sunday Dinner, 5 - 8 PM, Mad Myrna's, 276-9762 (Jim)

PLEASE HELP KEEP THIS SECTION CURRENT!
SEND NEW AND UPDATED LISTINGS TO
NORTHVIEW@IDENTITYINC.ORG

OVERVIEW: RESOURCES

**PLEASE HELP KEEP
THIS SECTION CURRENT!**

**SEND NEW/UPDATED LISTINGS TO
NORTHVIEW@IDENTITYINC.ORG**

ORGANIZATIONS

Adam and Steve, a social group for young gay, bi, and questioning men. Weekly activities and fun community events. Also offers the monthly M-group, a fun workshop on sex and dating. Run by a Core Group (meets every first and third Tuesday at Four A's at 7 PM) who plan all activities. Come meet new young queer men in a safe and supportive environment. 907-263-2081. www.adamandsteve.org

Alaska AIDS Assistance Association (Four A's), provides supportive services to persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families and in the elimination of HIV infection and its stigma. Many services cater specifically to women. 1057 W. Fireweed Ln., Ste 102, Anchorage. 907-263-2050 (Anchorage), 800-478-AIDS (statewide).

Alaska Civil Liberties Union, a membership-based non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to preserving and defending the guarantees of individual liberty found in the Alaska Constitution and the U.S. Bill of Rights through litigation, education and legislative advocacy. We are the Alaska state affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). P.O. Box 201844, Anchorage, AK 99520-1844. Phone: (907) 276-2258, Fax: (907) 258-0288, Email: akclu@akclu.org.

Alaskans for Civil Rights (ACR), a locally organized and operated statewide political organization dedicated to obtaining full civil rights for lesbians, gay, bisexual, transgender, polyamorous, and intersexual people in all aspects of personal and public life. 907-566-ACR1. AlaskansforCivilRights@yahoo.com

Alcoholics Anonymous: Gay, Joyous, & Free. AA group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered individuals, and their allies. Open non-smoking meeting Mondays 7 PM to 8 PM at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage (GLCCA).

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. GLBT-friendly liberal religious church, where people of all beliefs are welcome. 3201 Turnagain St., Anchorage. 907-248-0715.

Anchorage Women's Political Caucus. Open to all women. 7pm, first Wednesday. Elmer's Restaurant: New Seward and Fireweed.

Arctic Bears. First Friday. Fairbanks. 907-479-8680.

Aquarian Foundation services. 8 PM Wednesdays, 11 AM Sundays. 8500 LaViento Drive, Anchorage. 907-349-9955.

Breast and Cervical Health Check, a cancer screening service offered by the Alaska Department of Health & Social Services, Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. Free breast and cervical cancer screening is available to women ages 18 - 64 who have no insurance or whose insurance does not cover these services. Call the YWCA of Anchorage for eligibility guidelines, enrollment, and group presentation opportunities: 907-644-9620 (Anchorage), 1-800-410-6266 (statewide).

Celebration of Change, a performance of women artists for women. celebrationofchange@email.com

Committee for Equality. Box 34202, Juneau, AK 99803. bsara@gci.net

Fairbanks Gay Youth Group. 907-457-3524 (leave message for more information).

The Family (a UAA Student Club), hosts discussion groups, potlucks, and various other social, political, and awareness activities. You DO NOT have to be a UAA student to attend. Many that do attend UAA are non-traditional students. www.uaa.alaska.edu/clubcouncil/thefamily

Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage (GLCCA). The Home of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered Individuals and Our Allies. The GLCCA is a safe space to meet, hang out, hold or attend a meeting, or use the resource library or computers. Staffed by trained volunteers 7 days a week. 3 - 9 PM Mondays through Fridays, 12 - 6 PM Saturdays and Sundays. 2110 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Ste 103 (between the Burger Cache & Don Jose's). 907-929-GLBT. glcca@identityinc.org

Gay & Lesbian HelpLine, an information and referral line sponsored by Identity, Inc. The HelpLine is staffed by volunteers and provides information and referrals to businesses, professionals, and service providers supportive

of the goals and objectives of Identity, Inc. 6 - 11 PM daily. If you need information or would like to be a part of this service, please call 907-258-4777 (Anchorage), 888-901-9876 (statewide).

The Gay Club (a UAF student organization). c/o Student Activities Box 4, Wood Center, University of Alaska, Fairbanks 99775. 907-474-6507. fbagla@uaf.edu, www.uaf.edu/agla

GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network). Membership is confidential. We welcome educators and non-educator allies who are interested in the problems of GLBT youth in our public schools. Anchorage 907-562-7161 (Fred) fhillman@alaska.net; Fairbanks Lisa Slayton or Jeff Walters c/o GLSEN, PO Box 85315, Fairbanks, AK 99708. 907-457-2787.

Identity, Inc., a nonprofit Alaska corporation concerned with issues of sexual and gender identity. Identity envisions a world where all are free to express and be proud of their sexual and gender identities. The mission is to build the infrastructure for a strong GLBTA community in Alaska. Programs include the Gay and Lesbian HelpLine, NorthVIEW, PrideFest, Living Out Loud Youth Conference/Seminars, and the Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage. P.O. Box 200070, Anchorage, AK 99520-0070. 907-929-GLBT. www.identityinc.org

Imperial Court of All Alaska (ICOAA), sponsors the Memorial Day weekend Eklutna picnic, the Fur Rondy parade float for the GLBT community, PrideFest Festival on the Parkstrip, Labor Day weekend Coronation, and numerous other events. PO Box 104032, Anchorage, AK 99510-4032. www.icoaa.com

IMRU2, the social group for GLBT youth, ages 13 to 18. We eat, chat, watch videos, plan events, and do lots of laughing. Join us and tell your friends. 5:30 PM, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at GLCCA. 907-566-IMRU(4678) to leave message.

Interior AIDS Association (IAA) Fairbanks offers medical and dental program assistance, "buddies" (volunteers who help HIV & People Living With AIDS), meal delivery & food supplement program, lending library, and counseling support. 907-452-4222 (for assistance or volunteering information).

OVERVIEW: RESOURCES

The Last Frontier Men's Club, a social club for the Levi/leather/bear community. Brief business meeting & potluck social at 6 PM second Sundays at Mad Myra's, 530 E. 5th Avenue. "Dinner Night Out" and several campouts are open to all throughout the summer. Check the website for information and list of community events. TLFMC, P.O. Box 202054, Anchorage, AK 99502-2054. 907-338-3862. info@tlfmc.com www.tlfmc.com

Metropolitan Community Church of Anchorage (MCC), a predominately gay/lesbian/bi/transgendered Christian church where ALL are welcome to worship a loving and compassionate God. 2 PM Sundays. Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 2311 Pembroke St. (East of 24th Ave. & Boniface Pkwy.). See website for location map and calendar of current events. 907-258-5266. mccanchorage@yahoo.com www.geocities.com/mccanchorage

OLOC (Old Lesbians Organizing for Change) & Travel 50
Two groups for women over 50. 907-868-2662. rosebethlevno@hotmail.com

OPAL, a social organization open to all Lesbians. OPAL sponsors different events throughout the year and occasional potlucks. 907-345-3818 (Anne) opal@gci.net

Out North. Cutting edge art, theatre, film, educational programs, and more. See online calendar. 3800 DeBarr Rd., Anchorage, AK 99508. 907-279-3800. volunteer@outnorth.org www.outnorth.org

PFLAG of Anchorage (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays). Meetings: 7 PM third Thursdays except November & December. Immanuel Presbyterian Church: 2311 Pembroke St. 907-566-1813 (voicemail). **Straight spouses** seeking support call 907-566-1813 (voicemail).

PFLAG of Fairbanks, promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered persons and their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. 907-45-PFLAG (for meetings and events).

PFLAG of Sitka (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays) Meetings: 7 PM second and fourth Sundays. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall: 408 Marine, Sitka. P.O. Box 6515, Sitka, AK. 907-747-3674. sitkapflag@yahoo.com

PrideFest Steering Committee of Identity plans

and presents the annual Anchorage Gay Pride Week events in June. Meetings start in Sept. The committee invites and welcomes corporate and individual sponsors, parade entries, entertainers, volunteers, and more. 907-929-GLBT prideonthepark@yahoo.com

Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous (SLAA): a 12-Step program. Meetings on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. 907-566-1133 (for meeting times and places).

Shanti of Juneau, offers support services to persons with HIV/AIDS and their loved ones, as well as offering comprehensive AIDS prevention and educational information. 222 Seward, Ste 200. P.O. Box 22655, Juneau, AK 99802-2655. 907-463-5665, 800-478-AIDS (2437).

Southeast Alaska Gay & Lesbian Alliance (SEAGLA), a non-profit volunteer organization that provides a support network for lesbian and gay people in Southeast Alaska. Publishes monthly newsletter *Perspective*. P.O. Box 21542, Juneau, AK 99802. 907-586-GAYS.

S.T.O.P. AIDS PROJECT. Center for Drug Problems provides education and outreach specific to injection drug users and their sexual partners regarding HIV/AIDS prevention. Free anonymous HIV testing is provided on a walk-in basis. 1 - 4 PM Mondays and Wednesdays. 907-278-5019 (Anchorage).

Support Group (Soldotna), a group of people with HIV, AIDS, families and friends. 907-262-2589 (Jan).

Women's Ultimate Frisbee. 10:30 AM Sundays. West end of Delaney Parkstrip. 907-278-5179 (Jen or Karen). Jenkout@aol.com

E-MAIL LISTS

Alaska Gay Discussion, providing an opportunity to discuss gay issues relevant to Alaska and a calendar of events. Participation available via website and/or e-mail. For more info contact Michael Haase at michaelh2001@gci.net or michaelh2001@palm.net. http://groups.yahoo.com/group/alaskagaydiscussion

Alaska GLBT News, a weekly state-wide e-mail notification service distributing news and information about upcoming events of interest to the Alaska GLBT community. To receive these notices or to submit an item for distribution: alaskaglbnews@yahoo.com

AnchoragePride, a mailing list for information

concerning Anchorage & Southcentral Alaska's GLBT community. http://groups.yahoo.com/subscribe/anchoragepride

FairbanksPride, a mailing list for information concerning Fairbanks & Interior Alaska's GLBT community. http://groups.yahoo.com/subscribe/fairbankspride

Grrlz List, a mailing list for the Women's Community. Event announcements, inquiries, issue discussion, and relevant topics of concern for women. Delivered every Thursday. GrrlzList@gci.net

National and Political GLBT News. Landmark case decisions and other newsworthy announcements from national organizations. To join, send an e-mail to: bsara@gci.net

PUBLICATIONS

Alaska Women Speak, a publication by/for Alaskan women. 907-689-7922.

The Anchorage Press, an alternative weekly paper that is not focused on the GLBT community but is friendly. There is a large personals section. 907-561-7737.

The Perspective, a newsletter published for the Southeast Alaskan. SEAGLA, P.O. Box 21542, Juneau, AK 99802-1452. 907-586-GAYS.

The Pink Ink, a newsletter published in Fairbanks for the Fairbanks GLBT community. Interior Newsletter, c/o PFLAG Fairbanks, P.O. Box 82290, Fairbanks, AK 99708. 907-45P-FLAG.

Identity Helpline
GLBT Information
& Referrals



907-258-4777 **888-901-9876**

nightly 6 p.m. - 11 p.m.

January 2006