

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

APRIL 2006

NORTHVIEW



Advertising Rates

Business card	\$30
Quarter page	\$45
Half page	\$75
Full page	\$140
Back cover	\$150
Insert (one page, white paper)	\$150

Advertising Discounts

Three months	5%
Six months	10%
One year	15%

Publication Information

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.

NORTHVIEW
c/o identity
P.O. Box 200070
Anchorage, AK 99520-0070
northview@identityinc.org
www.identityinc.org

COVER VIEW

Cover photo by Nicole Blizzard.

Staff Members and Volunteers

NORTHVIEW continues to seek volunteers to contribute articles, poetry, reviews, photographs, and artwork.

Editor *Nicole Blizzard*
northview@identityinc.org

Layout/design *Tim Weiss*

Advertising *info@identity.org*

Identity Board
Jon Benorden
Nicole Blizzard
Lawrence Camp
Victor Carlson
Michael French
Rev. Johnathan Jones
James Martin
Teresa McPherson
Mary Parker
Phyllis Rhodes
Trevor Storrs
Diana Wolfe

Contributors
Nicole Blizzard
Laura Carpenter
Dee Gould
Susan Halvor
Michael A. Jones
Laura O'Lacy
Gale Smoke
Leslie Kimiko Ward

identity
proudly thanks the

Pride
FOUNDATION®
for its generous support!



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

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Breakup Boots

Prior to coming to Alaska, I had always thought the term “Breakup” was created to describe all of my rather short, and often bizarre, adventures in romance. Then I came here and found out that it also applies to what is considered the end of winter in the Last Frontier. It’s that time after all of the snow has finished for the season and it warms up and proceeds to melt. Ah yes, it’s always so quaint what with all of the slick and slippery ice for two to three weeks until it all turns into mud puddles the size of say, Rhode Island.

During this time my car, Isabella (she’s named after one of my favorite French actresses and can be as temperamental), gets very annoyed with me because I will not take her to the carwash until after all chances for more muddy water auto surfing have dissipated. I mean what’s the use really. During this time of year you can leave the carwash just to be broadsided by a six foot wave from some yahoo doing eighty through a puddle in his piece-of-ca-ca truck with the rusted out tire wells that he’s been driving since God got his job. No, it’s best to wait until you can deprive said yahoo of his maniacal joy.

During all the time I’ve been here I have yet to buy studded tires for the winter or breakup boots. Isabella’s radials do a pretty good job on negotiating most winter streets as long as I don’t drive to Fairbanks. Breakup boots though, I guess that I just cannot see a reason for buying boots just to slog through the melting slush and mud, especially since I try to avoid it altogether. Another reason is that it has always struck me as funny calling them “Breakup Boots”. Sounds like something you buy to wear when you dump your girlfriend or boyfriend.

I can see it now. It’s a wet and slippery spring day, with temperatures in the high 40’s, and you are on your laptop writing your latest droll and oh-so-amusing 800 word slice of Alaskan queer life. Vaguely the sound of the front door opening and closing breaks through your near single-minded obsession with the written word. You absentmindedly say, “Hi Honey, how was your day?” Her slightly stilted reply of “Oh, it was okay” comes drifting back followed shortly thereafter by her question, “Are you busy? Can we talk?”

“Sure sweetie, come back here. I’m just putting the final touches on my column.” You hear her walk in but your face is still bathed in the glow from your \$2000 pride and joy with all of the bells and whistles. When she clears her throat, you swivel your chair around and look up at the face of the woman you love, your soulmate. You say, “You look different today. Did you go to the salon?”

“Uh, no,” she says. “Huh”, you reply and then look

her over from head to toe. And it’s when you get to those well manicured toes that you noticed they are inside a pair of, gasp, BREAKUP BOOTS. “Oh my God, sweetie, why are you wearing those shoes???” you say as the shock sets in. “Tell me that it’s just because they were having a sale at Nordstroms and you thought they went well with your outfit.” She replies in a soft even voice, “Baby, we need to talk.”



As your mind reels from the implications in the tone of her voice, you realize that all those myths that you heard as newcomer to Alaska are true. There’s a reason why they call them “Breakup Boots” and why singer/songwriter Amy Rigby immortalize them in a song. And you also think of that old Nancy Sinatra song about boots walking all over you. You rack your brain for reasons but you come up snake eyes. Why did she have to buy those damnable boots?

“Sweetie, what did I do? Can’t we talk about this?” you say desperately clinging to some small slim hope of salvaging your relationship. “No, I don’t think so,” she says. “You are too in love with your own writing. Did you ever think to use any of your witty prose on me recently? Did you ever think to spare a few adverbs for me? I think not.” And with that she pirouettes rather ungracefully in the breakup boots, I mean they are not made for ballet, and with a toss of her honey-colored mane, she walks out the door. “*So much for urban legends,*” you think before you swivel back to your laptop and start a new column about Alaskan footwear.

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

LAURA O'LACY

“Breakup”. That time of mush and slush, potholes, and hope; hope for the coming warmth of summer. It is a time of looking forward to the possibilities of the coming season but also a time of hazards as the smooth paths become bogs with hidden pits underneath them and the lovely soft mounds of snow reveal themselves to be hidden piles of trash ... or worse.

For those who, on paper at least, are known as “Transpersons” or “Transsexuals” the time of transition is much the same. After a “winter” period where we have hidden ourselves from the world, and often from ourselves, we finally come to realize that living the lie that everyone else would be more comfortable with is killing us and that the only way to survive is to renew ourselves. To have our own “spring.”

And so, we enter what is known as transition. A period where we become who we really are. If we started life out as male we give up that façade and change what no longer fits appropriately. We change our wardrobe, our name, documents and anything else that does not fit as we move towards our in the world that is correct for US. However, this period, like “breakup” gives us some things that are not so enjoyable. We learn that some of our nearest and dearest friends no longer

support us as human beings; we may lose our jobs (or in my case narrow the opportunity for future jobs severely) and in some cases we may even lose our homes. Some of us lose our lives, either by the hands of self-righteous bigots, or after facing the other loses and rejections we sink into despair and take our own lives.

However, just like with breakup, if we hang on long enough we can begin to see signs of spring and then summer in our lives. NEW friends and loves come along. We adjust our lives to that we can find new employment, even if we have to relocate to do so. (Seattle is starting to look better to me all the time!) We gain confidence in ourselves, we perfect our “look” and we adjust our attitude to say, “I am who I am...if you can't deal with it then it is YOUR problem, not mine!” It is just a matter of hanging in there and waiting for the “slop” to dry up, the snow to melt, and the skies to clear. We clear away the garbage that is uncovered both physically and metaphorically and adjust or remove anything unsightly or unpleasant that has been revealed by the season of change. We make our lives, like our dwellings, over to suit us and then go on to enjoy the summer and the joy if makes possible.

Winter, in my humble opinion, is a bitch! Breakup is messy and less then enjoyable, but they are both necessary if one is to reach summer and all the possibilities that it opens us up to. We need to embrace our breakup and summer. We only get one life...as far as I know.. and staying cooped up behind closed doors wishing things were different, instead of MAKING them different, will just waste the little time we are given. To quote *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, “Don't DREAM it! BE it!”

Pull on those boots kids!

Laura E. O'Lacy
usmclass@gci.net

opportunity!

The Gay & Lesbian HelpLine is Looking for New Volunteers!

The HelpLine is an
Information & Referral Line

To volunteer, you transfer the HelpLine
to your number and answer
from 6:00-9:00 pm
One to two nights a month.

**Call the GLCCA at 929-4528 and
leave a message for Phyllis
to find out the Details!**

MARTHA HERRIOTT, Ph.D., ANP
ADULT PSYCHIATRY
279-8024

– NOW ACCEPTING PATIENTS –

Board Certified

Psychotherapy

Licensed in Alaska
and Washington

Forensics

Clinical Excellence
Award: AAPPN

Supervision

Medication Management

DENALI TOWER NORTH • 2550 DENALI STREET • SUITE 1301 • ANCHORAGE, AK 99503

Breakup

A short story

Madison didn't want to break up, but she didn't know how to carry on when it felt like her heart was splitting in two. She didn't know whether to scream or cry or both. She put the phone down in its cradle and stared at the wall. She couldn't believe this was happening.

Sweat gathered at the back of her knees. She stood from the booth's little desk, paid and walked out toward the sun. *It's over. It's over. It's over.* The phrase kept repeating in her head, despite her best attempts to stomp it out.

The newness of Guatemala was becoming routine, but she still enjoyed herself a lot. It was hard work, but she was glad she agreed to volunteer for the international medical organization. She helped local midwives deliver babies and got to do so much more than she ever did in the hospital in Alaska.

She thought about extending her six-month commitment to a year. Since Stephanie wasn't there waiting for her, the urge to return lessened. Stephanie, of course, never was waiting for her, she recognized now. And yet Stephanie said that sleeping with the other woman made her realize how much she really wanted Madison. Excuse me? You shouldn't need an affair to tell you that.

Madison kicked a rock in the dirt road, and a chicken flew away squawking.

Madison didn't need monogamy until she fell for Stephanie, but she always needed truth, and if Stephanie had wanted someone else or to be with someone else while she was gone, then she should have made that clear.

She was mad, sad, angry, confused, upset and sick. The idea of someone else touching and kissing her girlfriend made her want to vomit. She couldn't continue as though nothing had happened.

Guys flirted with Madison all the time here, entranced by her amber hair and American accent, and Latin and Indian beauties blossomed all over in colorful prints and shy smiles. Madison wanted to screw someone in revenge, enjoy herself and throw the night of passion in Stephanie's face, but the truth was she didn't want anyone there. She didn't want anyone but Stephanie. Dammit. Was loyalty more important than the person? She knew other couples that survived affairs. Jealousy gnawed at her neck until she slapped herself, pretending a mosquito had landed on her. Her sunburn stung, and the desire for food shrank.

She needed a nap. She needed to talk to her mom. She went back to the shack with the best long-distance prices. She dialed her sister's number instead.

The machine clicked on. Madison didn't want to leave of message of her crying but that was exactly what she was about to do. She hoped the guy at the counter was heavily into his soccer game on the tiny, fuzzy-screen television.

"Hello?" Lily answered, breathlessly. "Hello?"

"Hi, it's me."

"Madison, is that you? I can't hear you. Hold on, let me adjust Diana."

"She had an affair."

"What's happening there? Are you okay? The connection is worse than normal."

"Stephanie fucked someone else," Madison shouted, and the counter man looked her way.

"Oh, dear."

Madison could hear Baby Di cooing in the background. The infant probably wouldn't remember her when she came back.

"Are you okay?"

Madison was crying softly, the tears sloshing down her face as if sprayed with water.

"I don't know what to do."

"Oh, sweetie, I'm so sorry. Baby Di wants to say hello. Do you want to say hello to your aunt Maddie? Hello Aunt Maddie! Sorry your girlfriend screwed up, but I love you."

Madison chuckled slightly. "Thanks, sis."

"I miss you too. I'm real sorry but, I have to get going. We're late for an appointment, I just came in and heard the phone and thought it might be you. Are you going to be okay? I can cancel it if you need me too."

Talking on the phone for another hour would be just the medicine she needed, but the delay and the rough connection made it frustrating. "Nah, I'll be fine. I just needed to hear your voice."

"Okay. You take care out there, and don't worry about Stephanie. You'll make it work if you need to, but now just enjoy the sun. It's still snowy and icy here."

"Bye, hugs, love you." She set the phone down a little easier this time. The quick stitches her sister sewed on her heart would hold up for now, until she figured out what to do next.



Gabriel

272-9045

Hairstylist
Cosmetologist
Licensed Masseur

1310 East 8th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Difficult Loving, Slow Healing

It's been two years since I left my position as associate pastor at a local church. While I was out to many people during the three years I served, I was not publicly out to the congregation. That changed after my partner and I moved in together, as news spread and coming out was no longer optional. Chaos ensued. As weeks passed, it became clear that it was time for me to leave, for the sake of my own survival and well-being.

Not long after that, a group working for justice for LGBT people in the Lutheran church asked me to write an article about my experience. And I couldn't. I'm still not sure how to describe what happened. At the time, it felt like the story they wanted told was the simple story – Pastor Susan was an excellent pastor and those mean people at her church kicked her out. Only it was never that simple. How would I tell about the many people who fought hard not only so that I could stay but so that all LGBT people would be welcome there? How would I tell about the people who honestly struggled with what seemed to them to be a contradiction – a good pastor who was gay? Or to describe the underlying dynamics among staff and the congregation that we all played a part in, about far more than just my being gay? And, more secretly, I wondered whether somehow this *was* all my fault. When you are constantly told that you are a “problem” to be dealt with or an “issue” that needs to be addressed, it's hard not to feel like you are to blame. And some people blamed me for everything that had possibly gone wrong in the church during the time I'd been there.

Now, two years later, I've recently joined another congregation in my denomination. I am doing ministry as a hospital chaplain. I love where I am now. And in my favorite devotional book, I recently came across the questions “Who do you find difficult to love?” and “How do the challenges to loving draw you closer to God?” (*Sacred Journeys: A Woman's Book of Daily Prayer* by Jan L. Richardson, Upper Room Books, 1996)

The first question was easy to answer –the names of those who hurt me at my former congregation still come quickly to mind, and then there's my denomination. Difficult to love, and yet here I still am. But I had not really thought so much about how those *challenges* to loving might draw me closer to what is Holy. Mostly those challenges seem to pull me away, as my anger rises and sense of injustice returns.

As the months and now years have passed, I still can't say that I've completely forgiven those who hurt me. I still harbor something between minor irritation and anger

when they cross my path. But I hope that I'm growing, hope that I'm a little better able to see all of us as people with different kinds of woundedness, trying to do the best we can under challenging circumstances.



I recently heard a friend preach about one of the challenges to forgiving being the ability to give up our “right to be right.” And as I looked back on my journal entries during those months, I came across my own reflections on the ways that our need to be right and *my* need to be right can do harm. At the time I was angry – wall pounding, pacing and sobbing furious – because of a conversation I'd had with a friend who was concerned for me and also felt isolated from the church, not welcome. I wrote, “I'm so angry with the people who are so convinced they know what God wants that they alienate vulnerable people from their faith community. And then I wonder, God, do I do that too?”

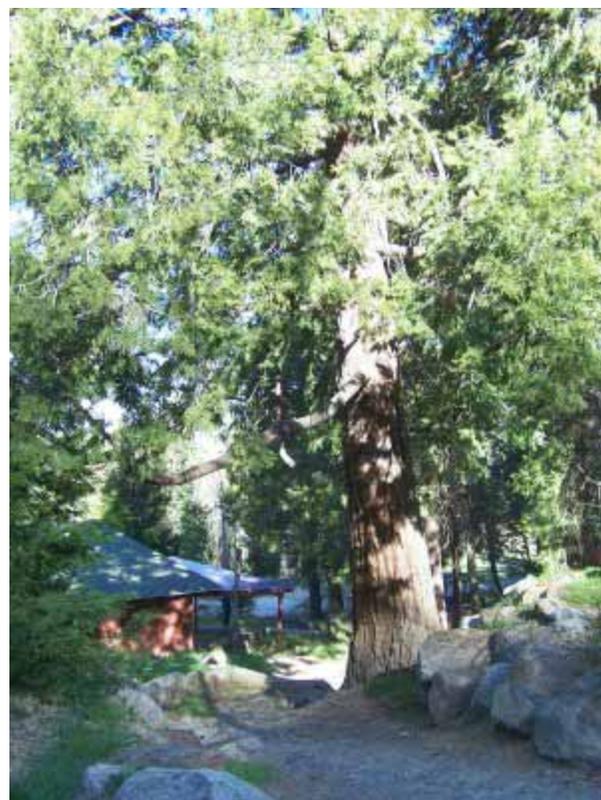
Many of us walk through life deeply wounded by church or religion, and there are times when I wonder why I stay. But I think the hope of forgiveness that comes in participating in a community of grace is one of the reasons I do stay. Not the “you screwed up and if you're lucky, maybe God will forgive you but you'd better not do it again” kind of forgiveness. Forgiveness powerful enough that maybe we'll all be transformed. Maybe those folks who hurt me will undergo their own healing and so will I, so that it won't be so important that I'm right. Forgiveness so strong that maybe our loving, our creativity, and our hope will be stronger than the pain we cause or experience. Forgiveness so deep that broken places become our strengths and we experience renewed wholeness. And so I stay, and struggle, weep and laugh, still healing, still growing.

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

20TH ANNUAL LIVE & LET LIVE LESBIAN 12
STEP ROUND-UP

CAMP CEDAR GLEN ~ JULIAN, CALIFORNIA

The quaint southern California town of Julian was the location of a gathering of 12 Step women (mostly Lesbian) last February. The long running Live & Let Live Round-Up was a great success again this year. The majority of participants were from the greater San Diego area and some came from Las Vegas, Salem, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles and Anchorage. Some sixty women enjoyed workshops, speaker meetings, a drum circle, a Kundilini Yoga session, get-to-know-you games, and new and renewed friendships. The 24-hour hospitality room turned into the gathering zone for many women who played card games, dominoes, Uno and worked on puzzles. Others danced to favorite music, visited, or took a power-nap on the welcoming sofas. I met wonderful women and had a great time at the Round-Up. There was plenty of food, excellent weather, lots of laughter and an abundance of wildlife in and around the camp. I spotted squirrels, birds, a flock of wild turkeys and several deer. Seeing daffodils bloom in February was a special treat for this Alaskan. I plan to attend The Roundup again next year and hope others come from Alaska too. Camp Cedar Glen is a Methodist church camp located just outside of Julian (about 60 miles northeast of San Diego), and it will host the group again in 2007. The Roundup happens the last weekend in February. The cost including meals will be \$110.00. All cabins are non-smoking and heated. Visit www.gmsr.org and click on LLLR for more information. Dee Gould www.dgould.photosite.com



LESLIE KIMIKO WARD

Spring Breakup

Ahh, springtime in Alaska. The sun is shining. Finally. Well, more or less. The birds are singing, or at least cawing near the dumpsters of fast food restaurants. The snow is melting; coating cars in splashes of gritty runoff. Out from underneath of mother nature's icy crust, the city of Anchorage emerges: dead grass, potholes and all. 'Tis the season for higher suicide rates, increased criminal activity, and television sweeps.

But what about the true harbinger of this period of renewal? No, not taxes, or dividend deadlines, or even rock chip repair specials. I'm speaking to the heart of spring revival, the resurrection of age old tradition, the annual, sacred rite for so many in our community: specifically, the day, this spring, when you wake up and realize it's time to ditch your lover.

And thus we are reborn into the season of high lesbian melodrama. Forget *The L Word*. Two-dimensional, incessant ramblings of one Jenny Shecter or quirky Alice will scarcely be heard over the *beep beep beep* din of so many reversing U-hauls

Yes ladies, it is that time again. Spring Breakup. When the nights are no longer cold enough to warrant one more day with your soon-to-be ex. When you find yourself shopping the competition every weekend at Mad Myrna's. When your friends start shuffling girlfriends faster than you can keep track, because in this land of limited resources, one woman's trash must be some woman's treasure.

It starts the moment the sun shines in, like the fluorescent floodlights after last call, and you realize the person you've been locking lips with all winter with is the reason your life should come equipped with a rewind-erase button. In that single glaring flash, infinitely more evident than some bob bobbin' robin, or the gum-tacky sound of studded tires on dry asphalt, spring arrives. The stone is rolled away. You crawl out. Rested. Refreshed. Ravenous.

But if I could trouble you for one minute more, before you go forth and become fruitful I'd like to go on record stating that if, in this year's seasonal voracity, you should find yourself foraging outside my door, by all means, take stock, then pass over.

For one, we've got a cub tucked into our nest, and while her mother and I spent a good portion of those long, cold winter nights in bed, burrowed under tousled piles of cozy blankets, rest assured, we were not hibernating. And I've got the video to prove it.



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



530 E. 5th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 276-9762

MAD MYRNA'S
Alaska's Premier G~A~Y Entertainment Complex

GALE SMOKE: QUEER BOOKS

The book I'm reviewing this month is *Loving Someone Gay* by Don Clark. Wait a minute, you say. Isn't that book awfully old? Perhaps you've even read it. And you may have read it – that is, a previous edition of it. The current one is edition number four (Celestial Arts, 2005). The previous three editions were published in 1977, 1987 and 1997. Given that it has been updated, I thought it would be worth reviewing, even though it's not really a book for me, personally, to read since I've been out of the closet for a long time and most all of the people I love and care about know that I'm gay. But for those who have recently come out – and their friends and family – this may be of considerable assistance and value.

Don Clark, the author – a clinical psychologist for over forty years with a practice in San Francisco – admits that the world for gay people has changed over the last thirty years, with many of the most activist gay people preferring the word or label of queer nowadays. In fact, many people think there are far more gay people today, but this perception stems from the fact that so many more gays are out than in the past. And now when someone does take the plunge and choose to live an openly gay life with integrity, there is a powerful and vibrant gay community in many cities. Indeed, it often gives one a rush – feeling new found freedom – especially since one is joining others who are not as constrained by rigid gender roles.

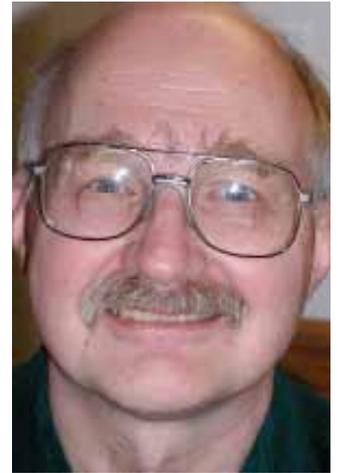
As one would expect, from a clinical psychologist, much emphasis is given to reclaiming feelings and validating emotions for the newly out gay persons. And as they reach out and begin relationships and form their own 'families' clear communication and active listening are stressed. Indeed, eventually, a great feeling of pride in both one's self and community will likely result. In this context, Clark thinks gay people are actually more oriented to 'community' than are straight people.

Part three of the four part book is for the friends and family of this 'new' gay person to read – taking its name from the title of the book "Loving Someone Gay." In fact, Clark thinks that if someone is reading his book, they obviously do love this particular gay person, and he tells them that the 'coming out' or disclosure that the person made should be considered a gift, allowing them to grow. Why? Clark believes that true acceptance of a gay person requires one to learn about what it is to be gay. And in this vein, he has special instructions and recommendations for parents and siblings – and spouses or sons and daughters, if that is the situation – as well as friends, other relatives and neighbors.

The final section of the book is offered to professionals who are expected to meet needs of gay people,

in an effort to assist them in being gay-affirmative. A lot of these pointers relate to cautionary recommendations against thinking of 'conformity' to heterosexual norms as the goal. Many in the helping professions – to truly be of any positive benefit for gay people – need to understand, as much as is possible, the experiences of gays and how they differ from straight people. I must admit, though, this section of the book gives me the most problems.

Although I think that Clark's suggestions are quite detailed, and likely on the mark, for counselors and therapists – something he clearly understands – I regard his guidance to many of the other helping professions as rather superficial. He should probably farm this part of the book out to gay professionals in these occupations – like the clergy and teachers. Nonetheless, I still recommend Clark's latest edition, especially for those who have recently come out, along with their families and friends.



Home is where the heart is
For real estate services with heart, call Rona.



Rona Florio

Homes Unlimited • 279-8877 • rona@ak.net

Specializing in your happiness...

CELEBRATION OF CHANGE

Celebration of Change

7 p.m. April 1, Marston Theatre, Loussac Library

“Foolin’ Around” is the theme for the 22nd annual Celebration of Change, the rockin’ all female-produced-and-performed show featuring drama, music, poetry, dance, crafts and more. Celebration is a fundraiser for Radical Arts for Women (RAW), a lesbian and feminist philanthropic organization that funds Alaska women art projects.

Tickets are \$15 and available at Metro Music and Books and the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage.

For more information, visit

www.celebrationofchange.org.



F ken Freedman Counseling

566-1708

Individuals and Couples
...with special insight into issues for
Gays ▼ Lesbians ▼ Bisexuals ▼
Transgender People ▼ HIV/AIDS

650 W. International Airport Rd., Ste. 204
Anchorage, AK 99518-1121

fken@alaska.net/ fax: 248-2421
URL: www.alaska.net/~fken



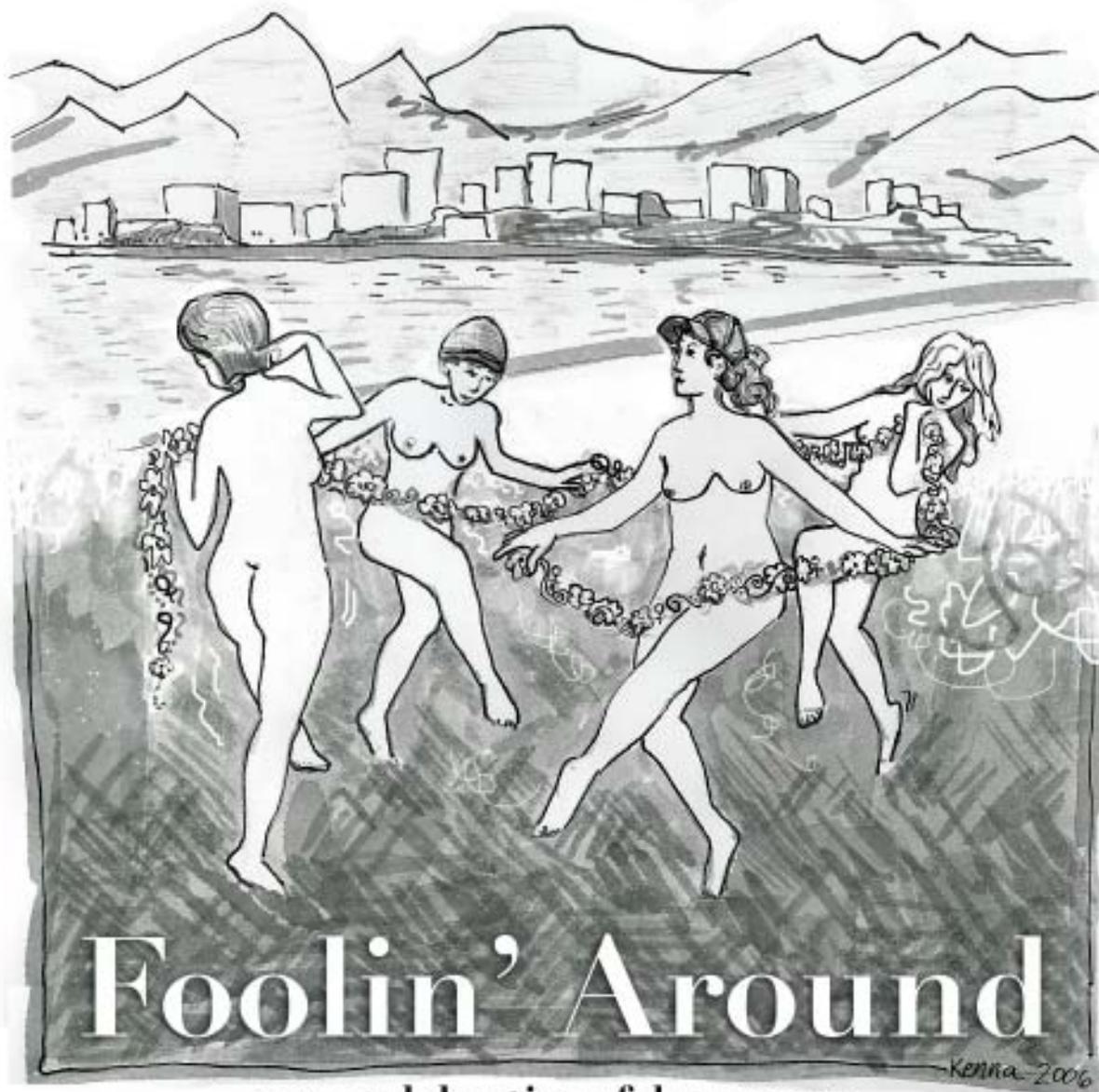
2006 Arctic Heat Weekend winners are: (L-R) James Martin- Mr. Bear Alaska; Roni - Ms. Alaska Leather; John Ehelebe - Alaska Bear Cub; Russ Shea - Mr. Alaska Leather; Steve Cuff - Alaska Leather Boy, and Brian Akey - Mr. Alaska Levi.

Celebration of Change

7 p.m. Saturday, April 1st

Marston Theatre, Loussac Library

\$15 tickets available at Metro & GLCCA



Foolin' Around

www.celebrationofchange.org

Presented by Radical Arts for Women

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Community Profile: Alisa O'Kelly

Although Alisa O'Kelly is a straight married businesswoman in Anchorage, she saw a need in the GLBTA community for a financial services professional sensitive to the needs of our community. With that in mind, she got in contact with SEAGLA and asked that they post this letter on their web site. She has graciously consented to letting Northview to publish this reprint. What follows are her own words.

I'm a financial services professional here in Anchorage with many gay and lesbian clients. Most of them have become my close friends, but one thing they all have in common is their relationship with former advisors. It saddens me to think that this is already 2006, but stereotypes and prejudice are still prevalent in many industries. Financial services is no exception. But more than the sadness, it angers me to know that my clients had to deal with poor service and inadequate advice due to their advisors' antiquated and judgmental attitudes. I saw these attitudes first hand while working with one individual, and another advisor. She is transgender and makes no attempt to hide it (bravo!). The other advisor we were working with shook her hand, but with a look of disgust, and then unconsciously wiped his hand on his slacks after releasing her hand. The entire interview was hurried because he could not wait to get out of the room and away from her. Because of the confrontation I had with this advisor after the meeting, I no longer have a working relationship with him; and I say: good riddance. Needless to say, I was horrified, but this (unacceptable) behavior is similar to the reports I have gotten from my now clients.

I said all that to say this: I want to help. If this is the type of behavior that the gay and lesbian community has to deal with when trying to get professional advice on things that are so critical as their retirement planning, protections, debt reduction strategies, etc, then by all means allow me to don my cape and come to the rescue. If I had to deal with attitudes like that, I would want to do business on the internet, too; the internet can't judge you.

I offer one on one, confidential and complementary analyses to my clients. I am not a "hard sell," by any definition of the phrase. My only objective is to sit with people as people, and walk them through a process that allows them to identify and crystallize their goals. If they choose to take action on their goals, I'm there to help, but if not, I'll still be here when they're ready.

I hope I didn't overstep any professional or personal boundaries. This is something that I am so passionate about, it is difficult to maintain a cool, professional exterior when inside you just want to roll up your sleeves and hug the world.

Sincerely and warmly,

Alisa O'Kelly

Alisa R O'Kelly, Agent

Rookie of the Year, 2004

New York Life Insurance Company

The Company You Keep

701 W 8th Avenue, Suite 900

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

907.257.5286 office ~ 907.257.5209 fax ~ 907.250.6264 cellular

866.222.6978 from outside Anchorage

As a future fundraiser for Identity we would like to offer the gay & lesbian community of Anchorage an opportunity to meet 12 to 19 and maybe even more people in a night thru speed dating.

Speed dating is a fun and efficient way for busy singles to meet each other in one place and it is lots of FUN. You'll meet other dates through a series of face-to-face five minute "pre-dates" in a private area at a local restaurant/bar/cafe. Wow...up to 12 "dates" or more in 1 night! After a frustrating night on the computer searching for a date, how many do you get to meet in a month and how much are you paying mentally, emotionally, and physically for all that frustration????

If speed dating is something you and your friends would like to experience in our community, please respond below with your speed dating choice (gay, lesbian, bisexual, or other) to simone39@hotmail.com. Must be 21.



Alaska Native Aurora Society- “Protect Yourself, Protect Our Culture”

Solitude is representative of varying issues in our diverse population. Solitude is sometimes solace for an individual. Or, it is isolation. In solitude an individual sometimes ponders his own mortality, often with negative allusions. Solitude can insinuate ignorance and lack of knowledge. Solitude could also mean that you are different, set apart, or one against the world. The Alaska Native Aurora Society is a community/support group that does not believe in complicated or pretentious solitude. The Aurora Society is loosely based on the Mpowerment Model project whose motto is: “together creating a community for friendship, for health, for life.” The Aurora Society aims to promote a healthy social and sexual life and to create a safe community for Alaska Native gay, bi-sexual, and transgender men, including Native American men. We are open to all walks of life.

Headquartered in Anchorage, the Alaska Native Aurora Society is a community and support program that reaches out to Native men ages 18 and older to create a healthy Gay Native community. Our motto is “Protect Yourself, Protect Our Culture.” The Project Coordinator is Tim Juliussen. The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium is the implementing agency for the Program. The Aurora Society is primarily an HIV/AIDS prevention program to address the needs of Native gay, bi-sexual, and transgender men with goals to promote safer sex. Our belief is that if an individual has a healthier attitude about sexuality then he can do more to protect himself and reduce the risk of unsafe sex. We seek to have social activities that are apart from a bar setting. There are weekly gatherings, activities, and social events. These include: core group meetings, M group meetings, movie outings, weekly exercise, Traditional Native dance groups, volunteer nights, Native craft nights and potlucks/birthday gatherings. The core group meetings consist of a decision making body of the project where issues and activities are discussed and decided upon. An events calendar is organized and/or modified during these meetings. The M group meetings are solely for men because of sex discussions and HIV/AIDS education. There are 2 other Mpowerment Models for Native men in the United States. One is by Navajo AIDS Network, Inc. in Chinle, Arizona. The other is by UTOPIA Hawaii in Honolulu, Hawaii. If you would like more information on Mpowerment Project go to their website at www.mpowerment.org.

Our membership is voluntary and not limited to Native men or to those who reside in Alaska’s urban centers, but the

Aurora Society embraces those who live in remote rural communities and outside of the state. Women, family members, partners, and friends of gay, bi-sexual, and transgender men are welcome to participate in group and especially in social functions. Rural Native gay, bi-sexual, or transgender men have a definite place to come to, if they so desire.

To join write to: ANMensgroup-subscribe@yahoo.com and explain briefly on why you want to join. You will receive a message confirming your free membership and be able to view the events calendar.

When you are alone you do not get as many chances to be educated, or even worse, you do not know what is out there including the life threatening dangers that could be posed by the choices you make. Life is good when you have people and friends close by that understand you and want the best health for you.

“The choices you make dictate the life that you lead.” – *Renaissance Man*



Submit!

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

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

Thank you,
February 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

- 2nd Gale Smoke for Ground Hog Day
- 10th Colleen Morris for September Marie's Birthday
- 13th Karen Konopacki and Jen Kohout – because everyday matters
- 14th Phyllis Rhodes for the sweethearts of the world
- 15th Jean Meyer for Premier Tax Service and Phyllis' shirt
- 16th Michael French for Michael & Mark's 18th anniversary
- 19th Jim Bruce – likes the 19th!
- 21st Phyllis Rhodes
- 27th Phyllis Rhodes
- 28th Christie Schultz for son John Jr.'s birthday

APRIL EVENTS AT THE GLCCA

Mondays at 7:00, AA Group, Gay, Joyous & Free

Wednesdays, 1st & 3rd of the month 5:30 IMRU2 Youth Group - followed by youth movie including food!

Third Thursday 6:30 pm Financial Planning

Fridays at 7:00-9:00 pm Transgender Support Group

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

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Is there support for long-range planning for the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage?

April 15

The last day to respond to let us know of your support for the Gay and Lesbian Community Center

info@identityinc.org or P.O. Box 200070
Anchorage, AK 99520-0070

Support with GLCCA with your time! Go to the Identity web site and complete a volunteer form. The Center can use as little as three hours of your time per month and more if you can. Even better drop by the Center during our open hours, have a look around and fill out a volunteer form while you are there.

THOMAS M. GORMLEY, ANP
*ADVANCED NURSE PRACTITIONER, PSYCH/MH
THERAPIST CERTIFIED IN EMDR*

PSYCHOTHERAPY AND MEDICATION MANAGEMENT

Mailing Address:	Physical Address:
P.O. Box 243775	4241 "B" St., Ste. 301
Anchorage, AK 99524-3775	Anchorage, AK 99508
FAX: 907-563-6546	PHONE: 907-332-8744

Email: chchko@alaska.net



ANCHORAGE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
3201 TURNAGAIN STREET, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99517-1848

A Welcoming Congregation
Sunday Services: 9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Children's Program at 10:30

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
- "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. 907-263-2050. www.anchoragecore.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. AKCR@yahoo.com

The **Alaska Native Aurora Society** is a social group for Alaska Native/American Indian gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning men, and those who love them. We have weekly gatherings, activities, Alaska Native cultural events and social events every month. We strive to create a healthy gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning Native community in Anchorage. Membership is not limited to those who reside in Alaska's urban centers,

but we welcome those who live in remote rural communities and those who live outside of the state. Our events and activities are drug free, safe and supportive so everyone feels welcomed. You can subscribe to our Yahoo group at ANMensgroup-subscribe@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

OVERVIEW: RESOURCES

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).

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 Myrna'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@pci.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-GLBTprideonthepark@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@pci.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@pci.net

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