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NORTH VIEW



In Memoriam - Misty Dawn Espinoza

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COVER VIEW

Misty Dawn Espinoza



Read all about it!

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VIEW FROM THE TOP

Galveston

By December 1993, my life was in transition. I had been living for almost a year as a woman but I was still almost another year away from my gender-reassignment surgery. I had proven myself to my first psychiatrist in Pensacola, Dr. Kilburn, and for my second opinion I had been going every two months to see a psychologist in Galveston, Texas. He was part of a clinic devoted to the transgendered called The Rosenberg Clinic. As part of their requirements, I was to bring to them two people to vouch for fact that I was living and working as a woman, one from the hospital where I worked and one from my personal life.

The Clinic has these twice-a-year gatherings on the first Saturdays of June and December when past and present clients, along with their friends, family, colleagues, significant others or people who are questioning, can get together for a time of discussion, conversation, and fellowship with people who have gone, or are going, through the same things they are. I had decided that this would be a good time to bring my best friend Gina with me to vouch for my personal life. Gina asked if her straight neighbor Micki, a young vivacious redhead with a zest for life who I had met very briefly one time, could tag along and I said "Sure".

The gathering in December also coincided with an annual Christmas tradition in Galveston called "Dickens On The Strand". The historic business district in Galveston was modeled after the historic business district of London called The Strand. In the early 1970's, someone in Galveston had the idea of turning back the clock about 100 years and for one weekend turning the business district, whose glory days as a financial powerhouse had long since become a memory, into a scene straight out of Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol". For several square blocks there are people in period costumes (dressing for the period gets you free admission) and performers such as magicians, jugglers and street corner musicians playing instruments of the period as well as vendors of fish & chips and mulled wine. There's even an official British honor guard who parade through the district with a woman dressed as the Queen. And last but not least, a direct descendant of Mr. Dickens is always there as sort of a Grand Marshall. All in all, it's a blast.

My regular appointment was scheduled for Friday afternoon, so the three of us decided to go to The Strand that morning to walk around and check out the district before the festivities began that evening. Gina and Micki also wanted to indulge their appetite for a Bloody Mary to start the morning off. Not being a fan of straight tomato juice, I passed on that indulgence. After they had their morning dose of veggies, we strolled leisurely along the main street of The

Strand and enjoyed the sights and sounds. Being on an island off the Texas coast, you could smell the salt in the air and hear the caws of many birds such as seagulls, especially prevalent since we were near the harbor. Also, as it turned out, throughout the daylight hours for this special weekend there was a cannon fired



off every hour on the hour. Gina, Micki, and I were strolling along when one such cannon went off. You know what, cannon fire scares the seagulls. It causes them to fly and often their bowels to loosen which might then fall on certain future editors wearing jeans and a black bodysuit. White ca-ca shows off so well against black. It can also provoke one's friends to convulse with laughter so hard that they can no longer stand for about five minutes as well as a few choice profane words about rats with wings.

That afternoon, we went for the appointment. Gina went in and spoke with Dr. Cole for about twenty minutes. When they emerged, Dr. Cole asked if he could speak with Micki as well for a few minutes. This was unexpected, but I said okay. He later told me that he thought speaking with Micki would provide insight as to how well I passed with someone I had only recently gotten to know. Micki told me that when he asked her, "Do you feel that Nicole passes well as a woman out in public?", her reply was "Hell yeah Doc, Nicole is more of a lady than I am." This time, I was the one who got a real chuckle.

Nicole Blizzard still tries to avoid seagulls during all instances when a cannon might be fired. She can be reached at nicole-b92@msn.com or northview@identityinc.org

I would like to personally to extend my condolences to the friends and family of Misty Dawn Espinoza on her recent passing. Though I did not know her as well as some did, she will be missed.

Laura O'Lacy

It was the best of times; it was the worst of times. Well, it was the BEST of times for ME, as I am only 4 days away from leaving for Disneyland as I write this. It is the WORST of time-ing because, well heck, if I am going to write about TRAVEL I should probably be writing about someplace I have just recently returned from and regale you all with tales of what I saw and the experience of being a transwoman being confronted by the agents of TSA in a post-9-11 world. I am sure this last is going to be an "interesting" experience. "Interesting" as in the ancient Turkish curse, "May you live in interesting times!" But, I digress...

The weekend of April 1 and 2 is the Mini celebration of the "unofficial" Disneyland event known as Gay Days. Now the "OFFICIAL" "Unofficial" Day is the first weekend at the end of September/October...but they have so much FUN with the Fall event that they added a "Mini days" event this year. Ok, "Official unofficial"... confusing? Well, ALL the Gay Days events are "Unofficial"...meaning that they are NOT sponsored by Disney. This is how they keep folks like Jerry F, Jerry P, and Fred P off their backs. Their OFFICIAL statement is that ANYONE can come in and make their own "unofficial event" so long as they pay their ticket and behave in a polite manner.

The FIRST "Official" Disneyland event had a crowd of 1250 folks... we all wear red shirts so we can "know" each other. The 2nd year that number grew to 2500. I read on the website that LAST year the number swelled to 25,000 red-shirted GLBT folks!

Now, for me, ANY day at Disneyland is a great day. However, since I am having to travel alone this trip, and even Disneyland loses some of its flavor for me without someone to share it with, the opportunity to go to the park when there will be the possibility of sharing the weekend with 25,000 "Mad Hatters" is one not to be missed. I mean, these are the folks who go to the park and don't just let their inner child run free... they STAMPEDE him/her through the day! We scream on the rides in the "scary parts" (or maybe not so scary... but we "read the script" and know what is expected ... kind of like being at the Rocky Horror Picture Show). It is a lot of fun to watch some of the guys flirt with Captain Hook or trading quips with the Mad Hatter...and THESE are the people who all sing along with the cast in the Enchanted Tiki Room! CAMP and DISNEYLAND seem to fit very comfortably together.

We even got a nice write up in the mainstream press the first year because on the Sunday of our weekend the group went to check out Disney's 2nd park at the Disneyland Resort known

as Disney's California Adventure. This was fortunate for Disney as they had just opened a new section of that park known as "A Bugs Land" and the mainstream turn out for the grand opening was dismal indeed. We not only pumped up the attendance numbers, but we also put on quite a show for the media. Bears and Drag Queens and Dykes, OH MY! A good time was had by all and the press got a decent story and Disney was able to avoid having dried egg on their face as the regular crowds stayed away in DROVES.

This year there are parties planned at some of the resorts hotels... I wonder how many Tinkerbells, Ursulas, and Wicked Queens (no, NOT THOSE Queens!) will show up in costume this year? I won't know, because if given a choice to attend a Drag show and drinking event or spend more time in the park, I will ALWAYS choose the latter.

There are also several other events planned in the park to include: The Group photo in front of Sleeping Beauty's Castle, the "Single Riders Jungle Cruise Voyage" where folks like me can find park playmates to hang out with...or maybe for others it is a chance for finding a potential future "squeeze". And then we have a special meeting place to watch one of the afternoon's showings of the 50th Birthday parade from the front of "It's a Small World".

Here is a chance to be in the "Happiest Place on Earth" safe in the arms of your community. Standing together and having a BALL! YOU will have missed your chance for this year by the time this story goes to press, but there is still a chance to catch the REAL Gay Days at Disneyland this October. Check out <http://www.gayday2.com/html/home.html> for all the info.

Oh! In order to fit in, and stand out at the same time, I had a shirt made at Barb'd Wire in the Northway Mall. It's a red (of course!) T-shirt with "ALASKA" in big white letters on the back and on the front I have Tinkerbell with "When you wish upon a star, Makes no difference WHO you are!" which I think sums things up quite nicely. I just wish they had gotten it right and had the positions of the words reversed...after all, more people read your BACK when you are standing in line then those that read your front. But then, I can do better in October. This is one trip not to be missed!

Laura E. O'Lacy
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LAURA CARPENTER

Travel

Another story in the Madison and Stephanie serial (saga)

“Oh my god!” Madison pounced Stephanie in the arm before Stephanie had a chance to drop her duffelbag, almost knocking Stephanie off balance. “What in the world are you doing here?” Before Stephanie could answer, Madison squeezed Stephanie so hard she felt weak. Madison smelled rust, sun, sweat and a fake apple scent. She wore no makeup, and her freckles had blossomed on her cheeks.

Stephanie grinned. “Cheap tickets. Too much snow in Anchorage. I googled the organization, and a coworker told me how to find you.”

Madison rested her head against Stephanie’s chest as if making sure Stephanie was a living person, and not a ghost. She kissed Stephanie hard, greedily, then pulled back and kissed her gently, getting to know her lips again. Stephanie picked Madison up and swung her around. She didn’t even care about all the people staring.

With her feet back on the ground, Madison looked around. She took Stephanie’s hand and led her inside her small room. She apologized for the mess, waving it off, tossing clothes onto the bed to give Stephanie a chair.

“So, does this mean you’re not mad at me anymore?” Stephanie peeled off a layer and rested her bag against an overflowing dresser.

“No, no, I’m still mad, but we’re going to have a great time anyway. I have so much to show you. How long are you here?”

Stephanie chugged the water Madison handed her before replying she was only there for a week. Stephanie had screwed up when she slept with an old fling, and this trip wouldn’t make up for that, but it could be a good time with a woman she loved.

They spent the next five hours entwined in each other, catching up on all that had happened in the past couple months and carefully avoiding topics that would end the good feelings. It was like their relationship was starting all over again. Only this time, Stephanie had a ticket of when she would leave, and Madison had a piece of paper extending her stay.

Love can exist in the friendly murmurs underneath mosquito nets and fans that never rotate fast enough. And love can change into something we never asked for until we must chose between letting go of an imperfect relationship and holding nothing or redefining what we want.

It was a week of bliss, of long walks, fresh flowers, meals in cafes and margaritas. It was a week of bodies pressed close in comfort and passion and delights in every bend. It was a week that ended without firm resolve on where they stood.

Madison was afraid to say this thing, this crazy and cheesy yet ever so true thing, and so she knew she had to say it. “I can’t stop loving you with my whole heart. I’m still mad, but that’s not enough to stop me from wanting you.” She ran her fingers through her hair, daring herself not to look away.

Stephanie was quiet. “I can’t promise I won’t hurt you again.”

“Then don’t promise that. Love me and let that guide you.”

Stephanie kissed Madison’s forehead. “Okay.”
“Okay.”



Traveling, learning, loving

Traveling with teenagers is either the blessing or the curse of working with youth in a church setting. During my first year as a pastor, I quickly learned I'd be taking the youth group on a servant trip during the summer. They'd always gone to Mexico in the past, but I wanted to do something different.

Seven years earlier, I'd lived in Washington, D.C. as part of the Lutheran Volunteer Corps, working with homeless women recovering from substance abuse in a residential post-treatment program. It's hard for me to even fathom how unprepared I was for that position. What I learned from Sharon, Belinda, Bernadette, Verniece, Janice, Elsie, Eula and the many other women who entered my life, coworkers and residents, far surpassed anything I would learn in school. It certainly made the prospect of working with teenagers much less scary.

And so, with two seminary classmates serving churches just outside of D.C., and longing to revisit a place and people that had taught me so much about survival and courage and hope and laughter, D.C. became our destination.

Six teens, two adult advisors and I made the trip. I was thrilled to be back in an incredibly diverse city, riding the Metro, and introducing this group to a city I loved. True Alaskans, they loved the heat and humidity much less than I did. We visited monuments. We cooked and served lunch at the shelter where I'd worked. We helped host a block party for an urban neighborhood, leading games for little kids. We visited the Holocaust Museum and I found free moments to get away to the zoo and to make a pilgrimage to Lambda Rising, the gay bookstore in Dupont Circle.

More powerful than revisiting old relationships, however, was the growth of new relationships. I wasn't out to the kids, but most of them knew. I almost fell on the floor laughing one night, as they tried (successfully) to convince me to take them to see the movie *The Fast and the Furious*. One young woman hopefully pointed out that there were cute guys in the movie, and then I watched a look flash across her face and others' as it occurred to them that might not be a motivating factor for me. They continued to describe the supposed merits of the movie. "Yeah, and, um, there are women in it too, and, yeah, women race car drivers!"

After having many of my own experiences where traveling blew open my world, making it larger and larger, it was powerful to watch that happen with this group. As we shopped at a local grocery store, one of the kids noticed that we seemed to be the only ones able to buy endless

amounts of soda. Another announced that after being around the women at the shelter where we served food, spending 20 minutes in conversation with a homeless woman and giving her his hat, he was beginning to believe in God again. They



made friends with kids connected to the church where we stayed, and deepened in relationship with each other.

My two years in D.C. humbled me. I learned how much I didn't know. I realized how little I knew about suffering as I listened to women share their stories about losing their children, begging on the streets, prostituting for drugs, countless tales of abuse, and an incredible amount of perseverance, courage and hope, as they fought hard for every inch of recovery and worked to share their strength and hope with their sisters. It rubbed off on me.

Returning to D.C., it was a joy to revisit women I'd known, to see positive things happening. And other women had relapsed or were struggling or had simply disappeared. The neighborhood had gentrified since I left. Miss Rebecca, at 80 years old, still swept the block and cared for the pigeons. What hadn't changed was the ability of this place to break open hearts and grow love.

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June 17 – 25

identity

An Interview with Gavin Ward

Thanks for agreeing to be interviewed. The theme for the May issue is travel and/or memorable trips. I interviewed a traveler to Anchorage, Gavin Ward, the volunteer associate pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church of Anchorage. Gavin is 25 years old, from Sydney, Australia, a talented musician, and a wizard of web-design. He is also undertaking a Masters Degree in Divinity to train to be an MCC Pastor.



Gavin, what made you decide to travel to Alaska to volunteer at MCC Anchorage?

I was asked! My good friend Rev Johnathan Jones said that the church had a need for someone to work with their choir and the music and asked if would I be interested. So I said yes. Then other things like web design came into the picture, as well as doing some preaching. It's a chance for me to help the church here while getting some valuable training for my future career in the church.

Have you had any big surprises in daily life in Alaska? Well, apart from leaving Sydney temperatures of 100oF to arrive in an Alaskan winter, the biggest surprise was seeing a moose in the front yard of a house. I was just amazed. I never realized how big they are.

Is there anything that stands out as being very different from home? Anything the same? Well, there are certainly a lot more trucks up here than at home. And a lot more snow. And sometimes people give me blank stares when I use a phrase unique to Australia. But a lot of the TV is the same, as is the fast food. The people in the church are just as wonderful and welcoming as they are at home. It's been wonderful to come to the church and feel so at home.

What are your main areas of focus at MCC? My two main focuses are the choir and the new website. These take up most of my time. I am also doing some sermons and assisting the pastor when needed.

Can you give us MCC's new web address? Yes it is www.mccanchorage.com

Is there any room for new members in the choir? Definitely! Everyone is welcome to come along and have a go. We have a lot of fun and produce a great sound.

How long have you been playing piano? I started playing piano when I was 5 years old and learnt till I was 15. I learnt the Cello from when I was 8 till I was 18, and I have learnt the Pipe Organ for the last 9 years. I have also been singing in choirs since I was 11.

Why do you belong to and believe in the ministry that MCC offers? I believe and belong to MCC because it is a church where truly everyone is welcome in the love of God. Where everyone is seen as being created in the image of God, not in yours or my image of God. To me it is a church that both preaches and acts out the great commandment. Whosoever believes will be loved and saved, regardless of race, color, background, sexuality, etc.

What made you decide to go into the ministry in the first place? I feel that I have a calling by God to ministry to spread the Good news of God's all inclusive love to all those who struggle and need to hear it.

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LESLIE KIMIKO WARD

Traveling Expenses

As with everything of value, there's a price to be paid for travel. I'm not talking dollar cost, although one could discuss that subject ad nauseum: bankrupt airlines no longer willing to shell out for a three dollar TV dinner, gas prices putting the kibosh on good old fashioned road trips; add in hotel taxes, car rental, restaurant meals and it's no wonder that if you are among the lucky few who can rack up enough paid vacation days to take a trip, not to mention successfully maneuver the frequent flyer blackout dates to find a destination, chances are you'll pay out the nose for the experience.

But this is not the true cost of travel. Money can be made, spent, and made again. The actual price of admission for any traveling experience worth its salt, which by the way is not to be confused with the oft mistaken American pastime of collecting sixteen passport stamps in four and a half days, is this:

You can't go home again.

That's not to say one can't return after a long trip and curl up on the same couch, eat the same breakfast, tune in to the same television program. Of course that's still possible. But any well seasoned traveler will tell you that after a good trip, while the couch is still there, the breakfast the same, the TV show nearly identical, it's you who has changed. For the better? That remains to be seen, but without a doubt the experience of travel, of cultural observation, of checking one's ego with the luggage and cracking wide enough to embrace the foreign without judgment, well, it's life altering.

I say all of this with a modicum of authority. Born into a traveling family, I have done my fair share of childhood touring. I spent three of my middle and high school summers with my family: mom, dad, sister and our dog, Shogun, all piled into a thirty-two foot Holiday Rambler, with a Jeep on the tow hitch, and off we went, for three months at a stretch, to see what we could see. What we saw, eventually, were the forty-eight contiguous states, plus a whole lot of Canada, cutting a swaggering path across the terrain which my mother religiously traced onto our road atlases in pink highlighter. We took other summer trips as well, to England, France, and finally Spain, where my younger sister grew old enough express her mortification at my father's poor command of foreign languages and my dad, in turn, threatened to rent a second car and meet us, three weeks later, at the airline terminal in Madrid. Needless to say, it was the end of an era for the Ward family, and we've yet to brave another trip together.

But where they left off, I picked up solo. Bitten hard

by the travel bug, I spent a good deal of my adult life changing scenery, leaving in my wake the final two states and twelve additional countries. And what I found, particularly following a most difficult and humbling experience running a business in Eastern Europe, is that the further I went, not necessarily in distance, but outside of my own comfort zone, the harder it was to return. Why? Because when I did, it was with the benefit and curse of perspective. I arrived to a place I called home as a visitor. And as many times as this happened, and I saw my home through a traveler's eyes, it begged the question is this where I want/need to be? Invariably, the answer was no, at least not anymore. Had it been, I probably wouldn't have left in first place. And I always left.

That is, until Alaska. And until the conversation of a lifetime with Round the World Rosie, who walked here from Wales and whom I met up with in White Mountain. But it's getting late, and these are tales for another time. Suffice it to say I like it here, and I plan to stick around a while. I'll do what I can to stay out of trouble. Let me know if I'm in your way, but I have to say, from what I've seen, this state sure seems big enough for the both of us.



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GALE SMOKE: QUEER BOOKS

Although I consider myself a liberal, and think the majority of gay people do also, I am fully aware that there are gay conservatives, and I'll use this month's column to review a book about them. Written by Professor of Humanities at Stanford, Paul Robinson, it's entitled: *Queer Wars: The New Gay Right and its Critics* (Univ. of Chicago Press, 2005).

Robinson outlines three components of gay conservatism: (1) a repudiation of the Gay Movement with the Left, (2) a discomfort with gays' association with gender deviance, and (3) a rejection of what is considered sexual license and failure to restrain erotic behavior. However, when the author discusses four gays who he labels conservative, only one of them, Bruce Bawer, really meets all three of the criterion. In his *A Place at the Table* (1993) he clearly thinks the movement has been hijacked by radicals, and is put off by cross-dressing and overt sexual displays. He wants gay people to be what he considers 'normal' and gay marriage is the key political change he would support.

The best known of the four 'conservatives' is Andrew Sullivan and in his *Virtually Normal* (1995) and *Love Undetectable* (1998) he clearly comes out as a political conservative, having a very narrow view of what the agenda should be. Aside from gay marriage, which he strongly supports, he sees the government's role as very limited in protecting gay people. And although Sullivan is 'hyper-masculine' in the way he sees himself, his comments are mixed, at best, about gender deviance. Finally, as far as sexual behavior is concerned, Sullivan is definitely a libertarian, largely because he sees the drug cocktails of the mid-1990s as 'solving' the AIDS crisis.

I really don't consider the last two 'conservatives' Robinson deals with as true conservatives. Politically, Michelangelo Signorile and Gabriel Rotello are of the Left. However, in Signorile's *Life Outside* (1997) and Rotello's *Sexual Ecology* (1997), the two are critics of a lot of promiscuous practices by some gay men and come down strongly for 'safe' sex and more monogamous relationships. So, the two are, I guess, 'sexual conservatives' although I don't feel that their views are dramatically different from a lot of gay people, like me, who've worked with the AIDS epidemic and been involved in help lines and safer sex workshops.

I was pleased to have read all the books of the gay conservatives that Robinson referred to as well as the books of the critics he mentioned. These critics and their books

are: Urvashi Vaid and *Virtual Equality* (1995), Michael Warner and *The Trouble with Normal* (1999) and Richard Goldstein and *The Attack Queers* (2002). These three take on one or more the 'conservatives', supporting such things as a more expansive and aggressive political agenda as well as strong reservation about trying to make LGBT folks as 'normal' as straights.



One final note: Where are the conservative lesbians? According to Robinson, and he may be right, this conservatism has been pretty much restricted to a minority of gay men and probably relates to the fact that they are men. Most lesbians are liberal in their politics and put off by rigid gender roles. However, I do feel that in the area of sexual behavior one will probably find a range of views among lesbians. Am I right? I'd be interested in hearing what my sisters think about this.

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EMILY CRAVER

I got a drunk haircut.

We were in Las Vegas for the Bar & Nightclub Show. I do not drink often, but when I do, I get a little crazy. This year, I decided not to attend all of the classes & seminars. I would only hit the parties and clubs. I was looking for new ideas to break me out of my mid winter funk- I needed innovation and inspiration!

Bartenders in Las Vegas do not cut you off. We were at Studio 54 for the convention's final event- the Promo Only DJ Showcase. Let me just say that 54 is unlike any club I have been to. I love it and go whenever I'm in town. The night started off sober (don't they all?). Long story short- the DJing was SO good, we decided that we had to dance...and of course we needed liquor to lubricate our efforts. My master plan was to slam a few shots and chase them with Red Bull. We'd get a buzz, dance and have a good time. Well, the thing about a good plan is that it only works if you STICK TO IT. In the scuba diving world, we say that if a dive starts off with problems and you don't fix the problem, the dive never improves. It can only get worse. We ordered singles (with the thought of doing *just 3*) but bartender poured us doubles at least, triples maybe. When he ran out of Mandarin vodka and opened a new bottle, he didn't even put a pour spout on the top- he just poured into the tumblers. 3 shots apiece became 6-9, we are not exactly sure. *If only we had stuck to the plan.*

I have never danced to better music in my life! I could not have had more fun. When the dj would mix a hip hop song into Aerosmith or Steve Miller, I would scream to my friend, "No he didn't"...she'd scream back, "Yes he did". People were going insane. I can't even describe the dance floor. There were go go dancers on boxes, artists on trapezes above us, glitter raining down.... It was unbelievable.

Hours later, we were still dancing and I find myself shaking it with Jun, a skinny gay asian boy who had been standing behind us. As we were dancing I asked where he was from and was he with the convention? Actually, he lived there in Vegas, he said, where he was a hairstylist and owned a salon. The room stopped, the lights shone upon us, we were the only two there. She drinks, ya' know? I smiled at my new found friend and said, "Jun, you are going to cut my hair tonight."

I bet we didn't even say 100 words to each other. He put on a dance mix in his car, so we "butt danced" in the seats and grooved to the salon. When we pulled up, the glass front was not impressive and had mixed Japanese and English vinyl lettering on it. I saw on the door 'Haircuts \$12'. I thought to myself, well, that's what you get for being drunk- a bad haircut. I was willing to accept to punishment for my poor judgment. It seemed fair. When we got inside, everything changed. The gay man in me squealed when I looked around! It was so cute and serene! I had caught a CD at the club when they threw them out, so Jun put it in the player for me and we were both thrilled to hear that it was more excellent dance music. The stage was set. After the shampooing, I sat in the chair and took a deep breathe. He asked me what I wanted and all I said was "no bangs". Here we go Fortuna.

One of my greatest pleasures in life is other people's passion. I love people and I love to talk and listen. To hear somebody tell you about their favorite sport or their cat or their car or talk about art, books, Star Trek, Nascar...whatever it is, I love to watch people gleam and transform as they speak about what moves them. People who are good at what they do are amazing to watch. They make it look easy. I love to watch flair bartenders for that reason. It is difficult, but they have fun and make it look easy. I love watching their "flow".

Guess what friends? I was about to witness some flair hairstyling. As Jun prepared, he put hairclips down along his sleeve and scissors in a holster. He grabbed a comb and it was on! The man went all "Edward Scissorhands" on me. He was a flash, actually spinning scissors, combs, clipping, twirling, snipping. He pulled over a rolling chair, sat down, cut, kicked it back out, spun around, twisted my hair, pulled it vertical and snipped at it like a pecking bird. He was a symphony in motion. The man had mad style and flow~ I was speechless. He was so radiant, so serene and "in that place". This was his passion. As I watched him, I thought of all of the people that I know who are so good at what they do. I thought about how many interesting and exciting people I know and how they have changed and shaped me. I am a better person for knowing them. My life is bigger, better, rounder, deeper and more enriching than I ever hoped for. I love life and the people that I share it with.

I was still drunk when Jun dropped me off. We rallied into the morning. I really wanted to get a tattoo (a "tramp stamp" on my lower back), but my friends would not allow it. In the midst of my epiphany, I had decided that I'd get "ILL" in a heart. I Love Living.

So thank you to everybody that I know and continue to meet, who tell their stories and share their passions with me. You set the bar high.

The mind is like a parachute- it only works when it's open. I have once again been reminded of one of my favorite life lessons- that when you leave yourself open to new things, people surprise you. Sometimes they know what you need more than you do.

And by the way...my hair looks great!



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SMART SOJOURNS

I inherited the travel gene from my mother. Dad always teased her about having a suitcase packed at all times. Dee Gould

Living in Alaska makes travel part of my lifestyle. There are times when living in Alaska really feels to me like living on an island (not that I have ever lived on an island). During the long winter months, the only way I travel out of Anchorage is by plane. For most of the twenty-three years I have lived in Alaska, my travel was to see my family in Arizona and California. After both my parents died, I began experiencing 'travel freedom'. I started searching for ways to travel as economically as possible.

Smart Travel: www.alaskaair.com www.americawest.com
www.usairways.com

Mileage is one way I get to go where my heart desires. Another is searching long and hard on the internet for the best day/time to travel at the best price if mileage does not work. Taking other airlines can be cheaper, but they do not always afford the amount of mileage I am trying to build on a more frequently flown airline. I have flown Alaska Airlines almost exclusively for years, but things are changing now with mileage and service, so I am looking to other options such as flying to Seattle on Alaska Airlines and taking Southwest or another airline from there. I am also finding America West (recently merged and now flying under the USAirways moniker) priced significantly less than any other airline flying to and from Alaska. I watch the information coming out on specials and receive e-specials weekly from favorite carriers. I watch for car rental specials so when I do need a rental car I have an advantage in price.

Accommodations: Intervac www.intervac.com

In 1996, I joined an organization called Intervac. Teachers in France created it in 1953. Europeans are avid travelers and this group began exchanging homes during school holidays. England was my first destination using exchange homes. I spent three weeks in exchange homes, lived like a local and did not pay for one night's lodging. The owners of these homes have come to stay in my condominium in Anchorage during the summer. I can honestly say that in ten years and thirteen exchanges I have never had a bad one. It takes trust and a certain type of willingness to share one's space, but if those are in place, this is an incredible way to see places all over the world, and live as a 'local'. Intervac currently has some 10,000 homeowners signed up from all over the world. The exchange possibilities are tremendous, for around \$70.00 a year. That is less than a night in a hotel.

Gay/Lesbian Home Trade Network: www.purplerooft.com
www.gayhometrade.com

With 226 members worldwide, the relatively new Mi Casa Su Casa segment of Purple Roofs Gay/Lesbian Travel offers three years of home advertising for \$60.00. The price is right and staying in gay/lesbian friendly homes is a treat. I hope that this website and organization will grow and offer many more options for home trades around the world. Purple Roofs offers information about Gay and Lesbian hotels, guesthouses, B & B's, Inns, tour opera-

tors, travel agents, real estate agents, Purple Unions Weddings and establishments for sale worldwide. I have only done one home exchange through Mi Casa Su Casa, but it was a good one on the Big Island of Hawaii.

Time and Willingness

Since retiring in 2001, I have been able to do more home exchanges. One of the joys of living in Alaska is to be here in the summer, so I only do exchanges that will afford my travel in the winter months. Since few people are interested in braving the Alaska winter for a visit, I ask for a 'non-simultaneous exchange'. That way, I get to go to warmer climates in the winter and they can come to Alaska in the summer. This has worked for the past four years. Another delight for me is writing about my travels. I love photography and communicating and know how fortunate I am to have the opportunities I am enjoying. I look forward to even more delightful places and people to photograph, write about and enhance my life!

Home exchange locations

Over the past ten years:

London, England
Matlock, Derbyshire England
San Diego, California
La Jolla, California
Chula Vista, California
Seattle, Washington
Tillamook, Oregon
Honolulu, Hawaii

Pahua, Big Island, Hawaii
Mission Beach, California
Places I have credit to visit:
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Brussels
England
Berkeley, California
Yosemite, California
Atlanta, Georgia



Bird of Paradise is found in many warm locations~Mexico, Southern California, Hawaii



A view from an American owned Casita near Rosarita Beach, Mexico



A group of weekend cyclists pose for the camera at Mission Beach, in January

KRISTARA AND MIKE HAASE

WITH LOTS OF LOVE

A TRIBUTE TO MISTY DAWN ESPINOZA

by Kristara, with an introduction and close by Michael A. Haase

It seems the whole world was jolted on March 27 to learn that our beloved Misty Dawn Espinoza had passed away. I had thought of sharing my many warm memories of her and how she has had an impact on my life, but then I received a wonderful e-mail from my good friend Kristara and I realized that her words explain how we all feel better than I



would ever be able to articulate. Understand that Kristara writes of Misty Dawn in the present tense, as in every way that matters she is still very much with us. Kristara's wonderful tribute will be followed with an incomplete list of other wonderful souls we have lost along the way. I apologize in advance for any names not mentioned. Please understand it was not intentional.

Misty, it saddens me dearly to lose a friend. It saddens me to be away during your time of great need. Misty - I respect and honor you. You have paved the way for a lot of people and for that I thank you. Alaska is proud to have you. I celebrate and honor you for your experience, wisdom, and contributions. I respect you for who you are, and what you have accomplished. You helped the community when they needed help. You have helped me when I needed help. You have redefined the term "transsexualism" so it is no longer associated with ugliness or shame. This is part of your life's mission and message. And let me tell you something I've found to be true: when you live life being the very best person you can be, people recognize your gifts and attributes. That is true of you Misty. You have lived your life the best way

you know how. I recognize your unselfish love for this community. Empowering others is also a characteristic that you have. Another is the ability to overcome hardships. Oftentimes people are overwhelmed and crushed by hardship but you never let that stop you. You have told me time and time again to live your life the way you want it to be. You told me many times: "You are Kristara - don't let anyone tell you different." I have carried that legacy with me and will continue to carry and hold it up high. You are a great mentor and a fountain of encouragement and everyone needs that. You have left an incredible legacy to our community and I am proud to be part of that community. You have encouraged me to make life so much better. You have taught me to "Continue the Legacy of the Ultimate Ecstasy" - Misty - thank you and I will miss you. With lots of love, Kristara

IN MEMORIAM

Michael Burnett	JR Lamar
Gary Burt	John Taldor Ledum
Steven Cady	Michael Meeks
Henry Clay	Robert Messer
Peter Despirito	Rick Olsen
Larry DeWeil	Armand Pepe
Misty Dawn Espinoza	Guillermo Enrique Ramirez
Kevin Faber	Clayton "Clay" Stoll
Tom Gladney	Edwin Radford Thompson
Lynne Howard	William "Billy Bonfire"
Calvin Jordan	Trembly
Raymond Jorgenson	Carol Van Dyke
Shane "Shante" Kaeo	Joseph VanderBand
Al Kaneta	Sam Victory

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GRAZE TO RAISE FOR THE GLCCA



May 5, 2006 Walkers start at the Park Strip, travel along
5:30 p.m. the Coastal Trail and through downtown stopping
at different food stations along the way. Walkers end back at the Park Strip for the Grand Finale
"WOW EVENT" with dessert, live entertainment, a beer and wine garden, children's activities and prize drawings.

Each walker must fill out a Charity Walk Registration form and return it to the GLCCA or register on line at www.alaskacharitywalk.org to be part of the team. Additional forms are available at the GLCCA. If you register on line, please call Gayle and Julie to notify us that you are a part of our team. Because we are a non-profit organization 90% of the funds our team raises will be returned to the GLCCA.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Monday, May 1. Pledge sheets and money need to be turned in to the GLCCA no later than 3:30 pm. GLCCA hours are 3-9 weekdays, 12-6 Saturdays and Sundays. Minimum donation is \$30 per adult and \$15 per child; cash, credit card, or checks made out to VISITOR INDUSTRY CHARITY WALK.

LATE REGISTRATION: Friday, May 5. Bring form with you to the event. It will cost you an extra \$10.

Each walker will receive a bib that will entitle them to graze the buffet walk. You can pick up your bib at the GLCCA from 5pm, Tue., May 2 until Thu., May 4, 9pm. OR You can pick up your bib from Gayle and Julie at the Park Strip prior to the graze.

For more information call Gayle or Julie at 622-6704.

RETURN REGISTRATION FORMS AND MONEY TO THE GLCCA.

From: Reverend Johnathan Jones
Metropolitan Community Church of Anchorage
Ph: 258-5266
Email: revjohnathan@gmail.com

RE: HJR 32 and SJR 20

MCC-Anchorage, a church dedicated to inclusive principles of all individuals, regardless of race, age, disability or sexual preferences opposes HRJ 32 and SJR 20. These two bills are intended to overturn the victory the ACLU of Alaska and the 18 brave individuals who won in court last year. Simply put, MCC believes that the Alaska Legislature should respect the independence and wisdom of the Alaska judiciary. MCC, a member congregation of the international denomination- "Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches", believes that Alaska should not take a step backward by enacting these bills. The bill could permanently affect all unmarried individuals in the state by limiting the scope of the state's equal protection clause to married individuals alone.

This is bad business for Alaska and bad for health care in Alaska. Nearly half of the Fortune 500 companies in the United States offer domestic partner benefits. To stay competitive, to encourage skilled employees to come and to stay in Alaska, Alaska should not enact these provisions. The issue is good employees and coverage of health care for their domestic partners. The issue is not about "gay marriage." It is about basic equity and good economics as Alaska heads into new projects, like the gas pipeline and others that will require a skilled workforce.

MCC-Anchorage asks all legislators to oppose the bills. For further information, contact: Rev. Johnathan Jones, Pastor, MCC or Press Contact Edith Bailey on 250-5005.

New Faces Join the Board of Identity

Gayle Schuh-Eagle River, Alaska has been my home since 2003, having lived all previous years in Illinois. My professional career spanned thirty-four years at Eisenhower Junior High where I taught physical education for all but two of those years. During those last years I finished my career as assistant principal. My belief that young people benefit greatly from well structured extra-curricular programs led me to the position of Athletic Director for the eleven member Southeast DuPage Elementary Athletic Association. As head of this conference for over ten years I provided scheduling and structure for more than a dozen sports and tournaments.

After retiring my partner and I moved to Alaska, and can be added to the list of those who came for a short stay but have since made this our home. After volunteering at the GLCCA for two years I began to get a sense of the scope of Identity and the role it plays within the community. I believe that the physical structure of the Center is important as a source of information and a place for social interaction I would like to help sustain Identity's involvement in community projects and be involved in its future.

Julie Schmidt-I am presently retired, after coaching and teaching in Illinois for 34 years, and now have a small travel business. I came to Alaska in 2003 with my partner, Gayle, and we started volunteering at the GLCCA the next year. Since then, we have taken on different roles at the Center, and are part of the GLCCA committee. During my teaching career, I wanted to reach out to teens who were struggling with their identity, but my success was very limited. Now that I'm in a different position in life, and I see more and more young people using the GLCCA and other sources, I would like to be a member of the Identity board to take an active role in the planning and support of the programs it sponsors, especially the GLCCA and youth programs.

Stephen Gingrich: I was born in Florida in 1955. I spent my youth growing up in Florida as well as Kodiak. I attended UAF from 1974-1976 studying Art & History. I later attended UAA/ACC from 1980-1981 studying Art & Computers. In 1974, I started the Gay Student Group at UAF in 1974 and became involved in the Alaska Gay Community in 1978. I served on the boards of the AGCC, AGLCC, and AGLRC (now known as Identity) from 1979-1984 with a year spent as president. I was a delegate to the State Democratic Convention in 1980 & 1982. I have served as a campaign volunteer for Peggy Begich, Mark Begich and

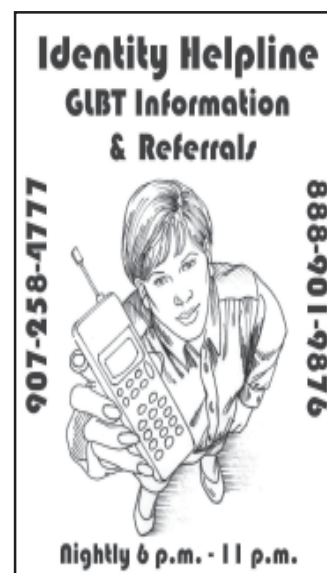
Fran Ulmer. Currently I am involved with GLSEN Anchorage, Pride Week Committee, PLFLAG and the Alaska Civil Liberties Union.

Christie Schultz-Presently I have a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology (BA Psychology). April of 2006 I will have a Master of Science in Counseling Psychology (MSCP). I was a prevention coordinator for the Strengthening Families Program from Sept. 2004-April 2005. The funding was cut for that program, otherwise, I'd still be there.

Other positions I have held include being a Prevention coordinator for Strengthening Families Program where I acted as a personal advocate for youth and families, provided information/referral resources and linked to supportive services, including private and public organizations. I also facilitated children's group ages 8-12.

As a Life Coach 1 (LCI). I Provide direct and indirect support, guidance, companionship and trainings to individuals experiencing psychiatric and/or developmental disabilities.

In addition, I'm currently working with clients that are assessed in accordance with the American Society for Addictive Medicine (ASAM) Patient Placement Criteria 2nd Revised (PPC-2R) and the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders 4th Edition Text Revised (DSM-IV-TR) for III.5 level of care, clinically managed high intensive residential services.



CELEBRATION OF CHANGE

Celebration of Change 2006: Foolin' Around

It must officially be Spring because another Celebration of Change has come and gone.

This year Celebration was held April 1st at the Wilda Marston Theatre in the Loussac Library. If you've never attended Celebration of Change, this annual event features drama, music, poetry, dance and more packed into an all-female production presented by the bad grrlz of Radical Arts for Women.

This year's Celebration was varied and racy, with scantily clad dancers, impressive piano, guitar and vocals, poetry that hit you somewhere in the midsection, then hip-hop rap tunes to make you wanna shake your bootay.

Yes, there were a few technical glitches, but Celebration is a labor of love and a whole lotta work. So a hearty THANK-YOU to the hard-working gals (and the sound guy) who made it happen, and to the great cadre of performers of Celebration 2006. You rock!!!

(Photos by Teresa McPherson)



DEE GOULD - PHOTOS



NICOLE BLIZZARD - VANCOUVER PHOTOS



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

Thank you,

March 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 Steve Kendall
- 2 Bert Mead
- 3 Richard Mason
- 6 Phyllis Rhodes
- 10 Michael Travis for the city-wide GSA meeting
- 10 Liz Davis & Kris Ivarson—Happy Anniversary!
- 13 Hope Wing
- 14 Susan Niman—59 & still kicking!
- 15 Anonymous
- 16 Anchorage PFLAG
- 17 Emily Craver for St. Patty's Day—Party!
- 20 Michelle Moran—Happy Birthday!
- 21 Dan Carter-Incontro—Al & Dan's 37th Anniversary!
- 22 Phyllis Rhodes
- 24 Berta Gardner
- 25 Victor Carlson
- 26 Victor Carlson
- 27 Corbett Mothe
- 27 Teresa McPherson in honor of Misty Dawn
- 28 Phyllis Rhodes
- 29 Betty Smith
- 30 Jackie Buckley
- 31 Berta Gardner
- 31 Denise Trujillo for Denise & Katy's 10 year anniversary

December Adopt-a-Day Sponsors!

Were Listed in the February Edition of the NorthVIEW, Addition to that list:

12 December Chris Pearson adopted the Day; To Honor Michael French & Mark Trick!

Thank You Chris for your Adopt-A-Day & support of the GLCCA.

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

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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

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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 support to individuals living with HIV/AIDS and their families in 91% of the state (all areas except for Fairbanks), and works to eliminate HIV transmission and stigma through prevention and awareness efforts. 1057 W Fireweed, Suite 102, Anchorage, AK (907) 263-2050, statewide helpline: 1-800-478-AIDS, www.alaskan aids.org

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.

PrideFest 2006

June 17-24

www.anchoragepride.com