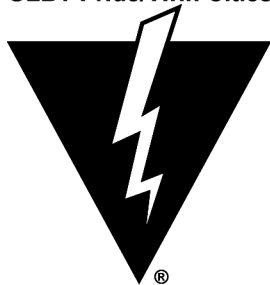


GLBT Pride/Twin Cities



# Pride Release

## Press

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **InterPride Conference Informative, Educational for GLBT Pride/Twin Cities, Presents New Challenges**

MINNEAPOLIS, MN - Inspired by the victories and challenged by the struggles of their peers, over 260 delegates from around the world came away from the 21st annual InterPride Conference in San Francisco, USA better equipped to bring the global message of pride to their own communities. Selecting "Peace Through Pride" as the Worldwide Pride theme for 2003, the conference message was clear.

"Our movement is one based upon respect and bringing diverse communities together in celebration of love. It is a timely reminder, that on an international scale, our community can set an example of peace, cooperation and understanding," said conference Organizer Teddy Witherington. Witherington was elected as male co-president of InterPride at the conference and joins female co-president, Suzanne Girard, from Montreal at the helm. GLBT Pride/Twin Cities own Ryan Durant was elected InterPride Vice President.

With workshops and planning discussions ranging from the mechanics of organizing pride events to understanding the challenges that the growing population of GLBT families face, the conference offered something for pride organizers new and experienced and organizations ranging from small to large.

Members of Pride/Twin Cities delegation attended nearly every workshop available and came away with valuable information, while at the same time contributing to other Pride's education. Aspects covered during the workshops included float-building and how to encourage more colorful and elaborate parade entries, managing sponsors and ensuring that both Pride and the Sponsor's needs are being met, as well as managing volunteers and volunteer recruitment, among many other topics.

Key speakers included elected officials, activists, author Armistead Maupin and Rainbow Flag creator Gilbert Baker. Next year marks the 25th anniversary of the Rainbow Flag, born in San Francisco and which has now become the

flag of GLBT people Worldwide. San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown delivered the keynote speech to an enthusiastic crowd.

Pride organizers from such countries as Croatia and Mexico, told their stories of extreme harassment, persecution and violence but were invigorated by the support and resources provided by the conference and its delegates, inspiring them and ourselves to continue in the quest for human rights for all people. Hearing stories like these helps all pride organizers to center themselves on the tasks at hand, and brings to mind the real reasons for Pride – equality for all peoples and human rights for the GLBT community.

InterPride began in 1981 when lesbian and gay pride organizers met during a leadership conference. Today, more than 18 million people attend events planned by the over 120 InterPride member organizations. The conference is held in a different city each year. GLBT Pride/Twin Cities was one of six pride committees which founded InterPride shortly after meeting at the leadership conference.

The 2003 InterPride conference will take place October 2-5, 2003 in Montreal, Quebec.

GLBT Pride/Twin Cities is currently compiling an InterPride Conference Report to the Community, which will be available in approximately 60 days. When completed, the report will be available as a download on Pride's website, [www.tcpride.org](http://www.tcpride.org).

Celebrating its 31<sup>st</sup> year in 2003, GLBT Pride/Twin Cities, the organizer of the Twin Cities Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transgender (GLBT) Pride Celebration, began in 1972 with a small group of activists meeting for a picnic in Minneapolis' Loring Park and a short march down Nicollet Mall. Over the intervening years, the Twin Cities Pride Celebration has grown to be the largest GLBT Pride in the region and 4<sup>th</sup> largest in the United States, with an estimated 2002 attendance in excess of 280,000 people. GLBT Pride/Twin Cities is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization.

It is the mission of GLBT Pride/Twin Cities to commemorate and celebrate our diverse heritage, to inspire the achievement of equality and challenge discrimination.

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