



# Pride and Joy Families

A Publication of the Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project  
124 Front St Binghamton NY 13905  
607.724.4308 [www.PrideAndJoyFamilies.org](http://www.PrideAndJoyFamilies.org)

Volume 4 Issue 1  
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## NYS "Pride" for Kids Too!

Gay Pride is not just for grown-ups anymore. In fact, pride events all over New York state boast a large variety of activities for children.

Utica's first-ever Pride Parade and Festival will feature a magician as well as a variety of animals and kid's activities.

In Syracuse, you can join Pride and Joy Families of Syracuse as they serve as the grand marshals of the parade before heading to the Pride and Joy tent for fun-filled kids activities.

Binghamton will host *Pride Palooza*, a day of music, food, resources and more and *The Family Pride Picnic*, for food, rainbow giveaways, and the free carousel runs all day.

The Rochester Pride Picnic is always fun for kids with a doggie drag show, magic, storytelling, face painting, an inflatable bounce house and much more.

So, don't stay away from great "pride" activities anymore. Join the fun and bring the *whole* family!

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2nd Annual

## Pride Palooza

...a day of music, food, speakers, community  
resources and more...

Saturday June 10, 2006

Parlor City Commons, Binghamton

# **The Gay Parenting Show**

**gayparenting.thepodcastnetwork.com**



An inspirational and informative podcast for LGBT parents. Every episode features news you can use and an interview with an expert in the field of LGBT parenting.

www.gaygardener.com  
plants, flowers, planting schedules, tips for success, poetry, personal garden stories and more!

## **www.PrideAndJoyFamilies.org**



for:

- Directory of Services
- Calendar of Events
- Articles of Interest
- Vince's View
- LGBT Parenting Links
- Updates

## **People of Blessing Service**

an ecumenical celebration  
of LGBTQ People

**Monday June 12, 2006**

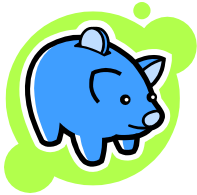
Tabernacle United Methodist Church

Binghamton, NY

83 Main St, 7:00pm

Sponsored by: the Interfaith Coalition on Sexual Identity

## Maggie's Money Matters



Dear Maggie,

With gas prices at an all time high, it's going to put a real financial strain on us to go on vacation this year. Do

you have any tips for a cost effective trip for two moms and three boys?

Stuck at Home

Dear Stuck,

Though it's tough to keep from

spending during your getaway, here are some ideas for how to get the most from your vacation dollars.

- Take snacks with you to avoid the high prices at parks and metropolitan areas.
- Call ahead to see if attractions offer free days or evening rates. Some amusement parks offer half day rates or coupons.
- Don't forget about free recreation such as city parks and

trails such as city parks, playgrounds, hiking and biking trails and factory tours. Call the Chamber of Commerce to see what they offer.

- Give kids a set amount that they can spend on extras, like scuba diving or souvenirs and stick to it.
- Remember: The best souvenirs are the memories from your trip. Invest in film developing and make a scrapbook that your family will look at for years to come.

## Gay-Friendly Laws Impact US Foster Care System

May 2006 —Human Rights Campaign

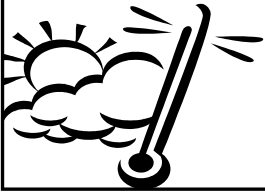
Over 100,000 American children who cannot live safely with their biological families wait in temporary foster care for a permanent adoptive family. Federal policies over the last decade have attempted to encourage adoption of these children, yet some states are enacting legislation to restrict the pool of prospective adoptive parents on the basis of sexual orientation. A recent report by doctoral students Sarah Kaye, and Katherine Kivalanka from the University of Maryland's Department of Family Studies finds that state-level anti-gay adoption policies may not support Federal adoption priorities. In a national investigation, states with anti-gay adoption policies had 82% of foster children still waiting for adoption at year end, compared to 72% in states with gay-friendly policies. A foster child's chance of being successfully adopted from a state with gay-friendly adoption policies was twice that of a child being adopted from a state with anti-gay policies. This and other reports about the impact of policy on children and families can be viewed on the Maryland Family Impact Policy Seminar website:

<http://www.hhp.umd.edu/FMST/fis/mdresources.html>

Proponents of anti-gay adoption laws and policies often cite moral arguments or claim that these policies are in the best interests of children. However, social science has consistently demonstrated that children raised by lesbian and gay parents do not experience any developmental or psycho-social deficits as compared to children raised by heterosexual parents. In fact, there may be some unique, positive outcomes for children as a result of growing up with lesbian and gay parents, such as being tolerant, open-minded, and accepting of differences in others. The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Psychological Association, the Child Welfare League of America, the North American Council on Adoptable Children and other important child welfare organizations have all issued statements affirming that lesbian and gay parents are just as likely to raise happy, well-adjusted children as heterosexual parents. Lesbians and gay men are also more willing than heterosexuals to adopt children, particularly hard-to-place children, including those with serious physical, emotional, and behavioral problems.

(Continued on page 4)

## Healthy Families



## Stay Healthy in the Heat

It may seem hard to believe, but even upstate New York gets hot enough during the summer months to pose some health risks. Children and the elderly are at the greatest risk of heat exhaustion. Some signs of heat exhaustion are nausea, vomiting, dizziness, paleness, cramps or an increased body temperature. By following a few simple steps, you can ensure that your family will have a really "cool" summer—even in the heat!

### SOME SIMPLE WAYS TO PREVENT HEAT STRESS:

- Reduce strenuous physical activity as much as possible. Take frequent rest breaks (Stay in the shade during the hottest part of the day, 10 AM - 4 PM).
- **Drink plenty of water and offer water to the children frequently.** Children can be dehydrated even before they ask for water. Pets need plenty of water too.
- Wear loose-fitting, lightweight clothing. Use sunscreen. Wear a wide brimmed hat and sunglasses to help block the sun.
- Pull the drapes or shades to keep the "cool" air in. If you are using fans to move the air around be sure they are out of reach of children.
- If you are around water **remind the children about safe water play rules.** *Nothing takes the place of close supervision.*
- Review the signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Your first-aid manual will help in determining what action to take. **Be prepared to call for medical advice or immediate help if necessary.**

## Pride and Joy Family Dance a Success

Approximately 90 LGBT parents and their children of all ages attended an Ithaca-area outreach event: a Family Dance on Sunday, April 9th at Common Ground, in Ithaca. Families danced and played to the sounds of DJ Tracy's tunes and enjoyed a picnic lunch spread provided by bar owner Doug Miller.

Rainbow leis, bracelets and Rosie O'Donnell cruise posters and Pride and Joy t-shirts were given as prizes and giveaways and made a colorful and fun background for our party.

There were many familiar faces from Binghamton and Syracuse and some new families from the Ithaca area. This event was successful in reaching out to LGBT parents in the Ithaca area —Welcome to Pride and Joy Ithaca!

## Gay-Friendly Laws Impact US Foster Care System (cont.)

Currently eleven states--California, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont--and the District of Columbia currently have "gay-friendly" adoption laws, statutes, and/or high-court decisions which guarantee gay and lesbian individuals the opportunity to be considered as prospective adoptive parents. Five states--Florida, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, and Utah--have "anti-gay" adoption laws or policies that prohibit or restrict adoption by gay and lesbian individuals or couples.

Human Rights Campaign Website: [www.HRC.org](http://www.HRC.org)

Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project  
Binghamton Pride Coalition  
PFLAG Binghamton  
Broome LGBTQ Youth Coalition present:

2nd Annual

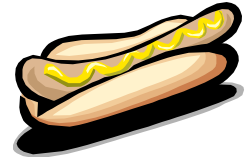
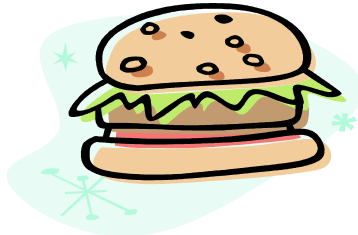
# Family Pride Picnic

Sunday June 11, 2006

3:00-5:00pm

Recreation Park

Binghamton



Please bring your family and a dish to pass. We will provide drinks, grilled hamburgers and hot dogs as well as grilled vegetarian choices.

Please RSVP to let us know you will be there! 607.724.4308

## Rochester Pride Picnic

July 9, 2006

Fun for Kids of All Ages!

[www.gagv.org](http://www.gagv.org)



### Vince's View

at [www.PrideAndJoyFamilies.org](http://www.PrideAndJoyFamilies.org)

Vince Sgambati, a former teacher and continuing writer has been hard at work his candid, sometimes humorous column about what it's like for two gay men to raise a daughter .

His blog-form column "Vince's View" includes articles, Sometimes Ya Just Need a Good Cry and Caring for Rodents and other Religious experiences. In his latest, Mother's Day Dads, Sgambati speaks of the way his family celebrates the holiday, some of the unique challenges they face as a family without a mother and the close bond he shares with his daughter. Take a moment to read Vince's View—you will walk away smiling.

Vince's View can be found at [www.PrideandJoyFamilies.org](http://www.PrideandJoyFamilies.org)



Pride and Joy Families Annual

# Family Picnic



Sunday, August 27

11am until ?

Dorchester Park, Whitney Point

The Pride and Joy Picnic will be in the **North Picnic Shelter** where hot coals will be provided. Please bring a side dish to share, swim suits, towels, sports equipment, and place settings for your family.



Please RSVP to the Pride and Joy listserv or to Karen at [Karjarmstrong@aol.com](mailto:Karjarmstrong@aol.com) or to 607.724.4308.

Dorchester Park is one of the Broome County Parks and is located at 5469 NY Route 26, Whitney Point, New York.

There is no fee to picnic and swim at this park, however will we be collecting a small fee to cover the cost of shelter rental and charcoal.



## Upcoming Events

**Sunday, June 4**– Syracuse Family Pride Picnic. Save the date. Details TBA.

**June 2- June 11** – CNY Pride Week '06. Special Pride events scheduled every day.  
[www.CNYPride.com](http://www.CNYPride.com) for a schedule.

**Tuesday June 6 - Presentation on Foster Parenting.** Regina Depperman from the Onondaga County "Give Your Life a Smile" Foster Parenting Program will present information on becoming a foster parent. 6:30pm Mundy Library, 1204 South Geddes Street, Syracuse. 315-435-3797. Admission is free.

**Saturday, June 10** – Syracuse Pride Parade and Festival. Everson Museum Park. Greatly expanded kids' area. Visit [www.CNYPride.com](http://www.CNYPride.com).

**Saturday, June 10** – Pride Palooza. A day of music, food, speakers, resources and more. Parlor City Commons 12:00-5:00pm.

**Sunday, June 11** – Binghamton Family Pride Picnic., Recreation Park, Binghamton. 3:00-5:00pm. Bring your family and a dish to share. RSVP to 607.724.4308

**Monday, June 12**- People of Blessing Service: An Ecumenical Celebration of LGBTQ People, 7:00pm  
Tabernacle United Methodist Church 83 Main St, Binghamton.

**Sunday, July 9, 1-7 pm** – Rochester Pride Picnic at Genesee Park. Special kid/family-friendly activities. Fee for entry. Visit [www.gayalliance.org](http://www.gayalliance.org).

**Sunday, July 23**, Ithaca LGBT Community Picnic

**Saturday, July 29-Saturday, August 5** -Family Week, Provincetown, MA. Vince and Jack promise to host another potluck gathering for Pride and Joy Families. We will again march as a group in the parade. Visit [www.familypride.org](http://www.familypride.org).

**Sunday, August 27, 11 am** – Pride and Joy Annual Picnic, Dorchester Park, Whitney Point, NY (a short drive from both Binghamton and Syracuse). Swimming, playing, bring a dish to pass, grills available.

## Equality and Justice Day 2006

Monday May 8th was an exciting and inspiring day in Albany! Nearly 600 people attended this annual day of advocacy for LGBT civil rights at the New York State Convention Center in Albany. The event was masterfully organized by the Empire State Pride Agenda and featured hundreds of individual constituent meetings with state legislators, prominent speakers such as the Attorney General, Assembly Speaker, Senate Minority Leader, and Senate Majority Leader (this was apparently the first time Joe Bruno had ever addressed a gay crowd), plus two openly-gay members of the State Assembly, Deborah Glick and Danny O'Donnell (yes, that's Rosie's brother). As usual Carmen Vasquez, Deputy Director of Pride Agenda, spoke eloquently about our purpose.

The event was both a celebration of our successes and a call to lawmakers to support the LGBT community in a variety of ways: first, by adopting policies that provide full family and marriage equality to LGBT people; second, by passing legislation to make schools and the juvenile justice system safe for LGBT youth; and third, by adopting a Gender Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA), since SONDA, the statewide non-discrimination law, does not cover gender expression and transgender people.

The Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project was a cosponsor again this year. We exhibited at the event and spoke to dozens of activists and allies from around the state about our work. In addition, our families were well represented on the slide show of images that ran on the big screen throughout the day.

Pride and Joy Families member Orla, pictured here with Linda, visited her state legislators, along with her mom Jackie. She gave each one her school picture and an autobiographical statement that said, "There are lots of different kinds of families. My name is Orla. I am seven years old. I live in Syracuse with my Mom, and I see my Ma-too on some weekends. My Matoo is my other mom. The best part of being in my family is being loved. My favorite tradition is having M&M pancakes on birthdays." Congratulations and thank you Orla, for spending your day in Albany speaking out for all of our families! We know that your presence made a difference.



Please consider bringing your family to join Orla's next year at Equality and Justice Day 2007!



**CNY PRIDE '06**  
**Parade and Festival**  
**June 10**  
**Join Parade Grand Marshals**  
**Pride and Joy Families!**