

## Fighting for Equality and Justice for All Families

**Equality and Justice Day May 1, 2007**

More than 1,100 lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender/queer (LGBTQ) people and their allies gathered in Albany on Tuesday, May 1st to network, rally and talk with their elected officials about marriage and family equality, anti-bullying policies in public schools and a proposal to ban discrimination against transgender New Yorkers. These were the triple focuses of this year's Equality and Justice Lobby Day, organized by the Empire State Pride Agenda. News reports on the event were featured in newspapers and on television and radio outlets throughout the state. The Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project staffed our table display with handouts about our programs and informational pieces about LGBT-led families. During the course of the day, we spoke with dozens of people from all over the state about our programs. Our Pride and Joy Families groups were also well-represented at the event, with at least eight of our families traveling from Syracuse, Rochester, the Finger Lakes and Binghamton. Many parents made the choice to bring their children to Albany with them this year. Thanks to all our families who attended! Please visit our website [www.PrideAndJoyFamilies.org](http://www.PrideAndJoyFamilies.org) to view the photos from Equality and Justice Day 2007.

3rd Annual

## Family Pride Picnic

Sunday, June 3, 2007

3:00-5:00pm

Recreation Park

Binghamton

Games, prizes, food and  
fun for all!



**Suggested donation: \$3.00 per adult**

**Kids 12 and under free!**

**We will provide drinks, grilled hamburgers and hot dogs  
as well as grilled vegetarian burgers.**

**RSVP to Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project by  
May 31 to reserve your space!**

**[LesGayFamBldg@aol.com](mailto:LesGayFamBldg@aol.com) or 607.724.4308 ext 21**

**See you there!**

### IN THIS

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### Who Are We?

The Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project is funded by a grant from the New York State Health Department and works to help LGBT people in New York State build and strengthen their families. Our network of Pride and Joy Families groups provides social and educational activities and a sense of community to LGBT parents and their children.

**The Lesbian and Gay Family Building  
Project**

**124 Front Street**

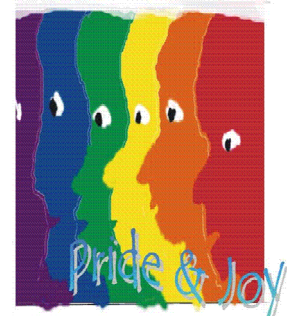
**Binghamton, NY 13905**

**607.724.4308**

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

**Claudia Stallman, Project Director**

**Karen Armstrong, Outreach Educator**



## A little bit of “Gay Pride” History

In June 1969, a group of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people rioted following a police raid on the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in New York City. The late Miss Sylvia Rivera, a transgender rights activist and founding member of both the Gay Liberation Front and the Gay Activist Alliance is credited by many as the first to actually strike back at the police and, in doing so, spark the rebellion.

The Stonewall riots are generally considered to be the beginning of the modern gay movement. For example, activist L. Craig Schoonmaker claims to have coined the term "gay pride" in description of the 1969 Stonewall riots.

Brenda Howard, known as the "Mother of Pride" an early leader of the Gay Liberation Front and Gay Activists Alliance, in the early post-Stonewall era coordinated the first month anniversary rally and then the "Christopher Street Gay Liberation Day March" on June 28, 1970 to commemorate the first year anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion.

First year anniversary marches organized by other groups were also held in San Francisco and Los Angeles in 1970.

Howard also originated the idea for a week-long series of events around what is now known as Pride Day; this became the first of the extended annual LGBT Pride celebrations that are now held around the world.

In New York and Atlanta the annual day of celebration to commemorate the Stonewall Riot came to be called *Gay Liberation Day*; in San Francisco and Los Angeles it was called *Gay Freedom Day*. Both names spread as more and more cities and towns started holding similar celebrations.

In the 1980s there was a major cultural shift in the Stonewall Riot commemorations. The previous loosely organized, bottom-up marches and parades were taken over by more organized and less radical elements of the gay community. The marches began dropping "Liberation" and "Freedom" from their names under pressure from more conservative members of the community, replacing them with the philosophy of "Gay Pride" (in the more liberal city of San Francisco, the name of the gay parade and celebration was not changed from *Gay Freedom Day Parade* to *Gay Pride Day Parade* until 1994). The Greek lambda symbol and the pink triangle which had been revolutionary symbols of the Gay Liberation Movement were tidied up and incorporated into the Gay Pride, or Pride, movement, providing some symbolic continuity with its more radical beginnings.

(adapted from Wikipedia– Gay Pride)



**Save the Date!**  
**Pride and Joy Families**  
**Annual Picnic**  
**Sunday August 26 11am**  
**Dorchester Park**

**A short drive from Binghamton, Syracuse and Ithaca!**

## Our Healthy Families....



### Let the Sun Shine In, but protect your skin...

(adapted from the American Pediatrics Website)

Summer is finally here – time for fun in the sun! But before you head out to the beach, pool, park or any of your favorite outdoor spots, it is important to protect yourself from the sun. Sunlight consists of two types of ultraviolet (UV) radiation: UVA and UVB. UVA rays are constant year-round and penetrate deeper into the skin, whereas UVB rays are more intense in the summer months. Although UVB rays are more intense, both types are equally harmful and can lead to sunburns, premature aging of the skin, and skin cancer.

The sun's UV radiation can harm your skin any day of the year – not only in the summer. Everyday exposure counts – you don't have to be actively sunbathing to get a damaging dose of the sun. According to the Skin Cancer Foundation, you shouldn't rely on the temperature alone as an indication of how damaging the sun is – there are many factors that contribute to the intensity of the sun's rays:

- **Clouds:** Although clouds block a lot of the sun's heat, they only block about 20 percent of the harmful UV radiation. You can still get a sunburn on cloudy day.
- **Latitude:** The closer you are to the equator, the more potent the sun's rays. If you live in southern latitudes – or vacation there – it is very important to be aware of the need for sun protection.
- **Altitude:** Because UV radiation increases four percent to five percent with every 1,000 feet above sea level, it is important for skiers, hikers and those living at high elevations to protect their skin year-round.
- **Reflection:** Water, sand, concrete and snow can bounce back as much as 90 percent of the sun's rays.
- **Photosensitive Reactions:** Many common acne medications and antibiotics can make skin more susceptible to sunburn and sun damage. Other medications may cause skin rashes, redness, and swelling when in direct sunlight.

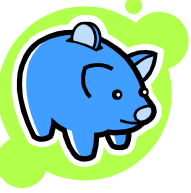
The more sun exposure you get, the better your likelihood of developing wrinkles or even skin cancer. According to Dr. James Spencer, a dermatologist at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York and a spokesman for the American Academy of Dermatology, even a few bad sunburns can increase the risk of developing melanoma – the most harmful form of skin cancer.

Note: The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends using sunscreen on children over six months of age. Ask your pediatrician what she recommends for your younger baby.

For more information about family summer safety, check out the American Pediatrics Website at:

**[www.apa.org](http://www.apa.org)**

**Have a Safe and Happy Summer!**



## Maggie's Money Matters

**My in-laws make comments about the way my partner and I spend our money. How can we stop their unsolicited advice?**

Although it's undeniably annoying, nagging can be a sign of sincere concern. So the next time your in-laws offer you and your partner unasked-for advice, view it as a chance to talk with them about your choices and assure them of your financial stability. If you can help your in-laws gain a better grasp of where you're coming from, they'll have less cause for worry.

If that doesn't work, follow the advice of Elizabeth Warren, author of *All Your Worth: The Ultimate Lifetime Money Plan*, "Be vague about what you have done and even more vague about what you will do."

## Teaching Tolerance

### Helping Our Children Navigate Through a Sea of Differences

by Karen Armstrong



Almost 50 million citizens—nearly one in five—claimed a disability in a 2001-2002 U.S. Census Bureau survey. Yet most of us find the subject of special needs easier to ignore than address. Adult apprehensiveness about the topic only thwarts children's natural curiosity, reinforcing the confusion and fear they may feel when encountering differences they don't understand.

As children with disabilities are increasingly mainstreamed into our children's classrooms and into their lives, we have a perfect opportunity to educate and enlighten.

- Provide experiences that include people with disabilities as individuals, friends and citizens. For example, read books and play with toys that depict children and adults of diverse abilities.
- Talk openly about people you know who are differently-abled in a positive way. Avoid statements that show pity.
- Openly answer your children's questions about people with disabilities.
- Use the appropriate terminology for and purpose of enabling equipment. (e.g. "that metal thing on his leg is a *brace*, it helps him walk.")

Remind children that everyone has the right to tell or not tell their story. Help children balance their curiosity with respect for privacy.

### Must Read:

## Family Guide to Emotional Wellness

Edited by Patrick Fanning and Matthew McKay

Parents often become informal experts on their family's physical health over the years through doctor visits and experience. This book addresses the mental and emotional health of families—subjects that may not always be as easy to recognize or deal with. Written by therapists, doctors, and social workers, it is a practical guide for helping families cope with common issues such as anxiety, eating disorders, blending step families and marital distress. There are step-by-step instructions for relaxation, building self esteem in children, and overcoming addictions. This valuable resource should have a spot on your shelf of parenting books.

# ROCHESTER PRIDE PICNIC

SUNDAY, JULY 15

GENESEE VALLEY PARK

1 PM-7 PM

[WWW.GAYALLIANCE.ORG](http://WWW.GAYALLIANCE.ORG)

(FEE FOR ENTRY)



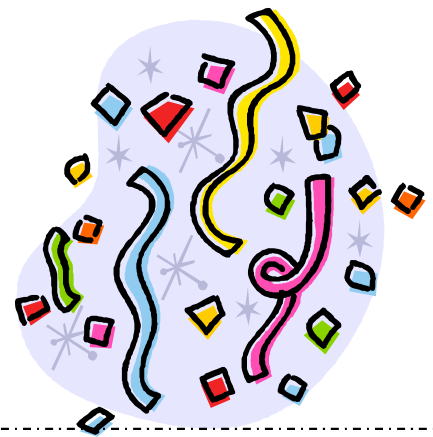
**Kid Friendly Pride and Joy Area**

**in the shade**

**games, prizes, give a ways**

**and lots of Pride and Joy families**

**to socialize with!**



Bored this summer?

[www.kidsturncentral.com](http://www.kidsturncentral.com)

A fun and safe online place for kids to get lots of ideas about what to do with their time.

## Breaking the Silence...

...is the latest edition of Vince's View, Vince Sgambati's on-line column about life with his partner Jack and daughter Mona. This time he's talking about flipping the bird. You won't want to miss it! Check it out at [www.PrideAndJoyFamilies.org](http://www.PrideAndJoyFamilies.org)

Vince Sgambati lives in Syracuse with his partner, Jack, of 30 years; their daughter, Mona; his mother, Millie; their dogs, Dusty and Gertrude; and a guinea pig, Lightning. Vince, Jack and Mona are active Pride and Joy members.



## Is Your Zone a Safe Zone?

The "Safe Zone" sticker, sends an important message to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people, their families and their allies. This message is one of understanding, non-judgment, and knowledge of LGBT persons' needs and concerns. It is symbolic of a willingness and a commitment on the part of the displayer to provide an atmosphere of unqualified acceptance and assistance.

By asking your workplace, day care provider, physician and others to visibly display a safe zone sticker, you are asking them to openly show their support of the LGBT community.

It is vital that you have a discussion about what it means to be a Safe Zone before any stickers are posted.

For information about to make your zone a safe zone or how to talk to others about creating a safe space for LGBT people and their families visit:

[www.safezoneforall.com](http://www.safezoneforall.com)

## Safe Zone

A person displaying this symbol is a trustworthy ally to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.



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

To get your free safe zone stickers, visit the Pride and Joy table at area Pride events this summer or send an email with your name and address to Karen at [Karjarmstrong@aol.com](mailto:Karjarmstrong@aol.com).

*“ Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind. ”*

*-Dr. Seuss*

## Annual CNY Pride Parade and Festival

Saturday June 9, 11am

March in the parade with  
Pride and Joy Families of Syracuse

Special Child Friendly area at the Festival

For other Pride events this June in the Syracuse area,  
visit [www.CNYPride.com](http://www.CNYPride.com)





# The Pride and Joy Buzz

## Finger Lakes

Sue Morgan, of Rochester, suggested and then Karen Goulet, of Geneva, jumped in to help with plans for a regional Pride and Joy picnic in the Finger Lakes area. We'll hold the Fun in the Sun event on Sunday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at Seneca Lake State Park in Geneva, NY. The park is equidistant from Syracuse, Ithaca and Rochester. Please save the date!

## Syracuse

Karen Armstrong and Claudia Stallman visited Syracuse on April 13<sup>th</sup>. We toured the LGBTQ Youth Center @ ACR, with Jackie Kelly and Elizabeth Payne as our guides. The Center is a beautiful facility with great programming. They are in need of adult volunteers. They have plans to launch a group for youth ages 13-22 with LGBT parents. After the tour, Jackie, Karen and Claudia met Kathleen (and Katya and Ana) and Christopher for lunch at Laci's Café to make plans for outreach and activities for the Syracuse Pride and Joy Families group. CNY Pride Committee has allocated \$500 for use in the children's area at this year's Pride Festival. We plan to have the Pride and Joy table display set up and use the Festival as an outreach opportunity.

Pride and Joy families have been organizing and participating in QFamilies Story Hour at the Lavender Inkwell Bookshoppe, 301 Burnet Avenue, at 11 am on the third Saturday of the month. Visit [www.lavenderinkwell.com](http://www.lavenderinkwell.com). Thank you, John and Scott (and Jackie)!

Local pages from the statewide Family Photo Album project were displayed at Laci's Café during the month of April. The opening reception on Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup> was cosponsored by and featured some of our very own Pride and Joy parents. The event attracted about 50 people. The Syracuse City Eagle newspaper did a good job covering the event in their April 5-11 issue: a beautiful photo of Christopher and Jeffrey and Jesse graces the front page.

Sage Upstate, which serves LGBT people as they age, has been offering free childcare at their dances. Thanks, Kim (and Amy)! Visit [www.sageupstate.org](http://www.sageupstate.org).

## Binghamton

Self-Defense and Violence Prevention Workshops for LGBT people and allies were held on Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. Pride and Joy Families was a cosponsor along with Binghamton Pride Coalition. Approximately 12 people attended the parent/child session, with another 12 at the adults/teens session.

The newly formed Vestal High School Gay-Straight Alliance held its second meeting on Tuesday, March 20. Eighteen students and four faculty members attended. Claudia made a presentation describing GSAs, gave examples of activities the group could do, and offered support and encouragement for the group.

Thirteen families (43 people) attended the potluck and family crafts event on March 25 at the home of Dorian and Marian. We welcomed some new folks, including baby Carter. Dorian made a suggestion that we have a family cooking class at an upcoming event and offered to take the lead in planning it.

Also at our March potluck, children ages 9 and up met for their own separate discussion. Tina Barber, from the Southern Tier AIDS Program, led a lively discussion with the kids about HIV/AIDS and the work of the agency. Each child left armed with a greater understanding of the disease and the needs of those who live with it, a red ribbon pin and a pledge form to garner donations for the April STAP AIDS Walk.

Pride and Joy Families Team raised \$268 in the AIDS Walk on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Dr. Charlotte Patterson, Developmental Psychologist from the University of Virginia, was in Binghamton for a very special visit on April 26 and 27. Dr. Patterson is well known for her research into the development of children being raised in lesbian/gay families. Pride and Joy Families sponsored her visit along with Binghamton University. Approximately 45 people attended a community dinner and conversation with Charlotte at Temple Concord on Thursday evening. The next morning, she gave a more scholarly talk at the University on the development of children of lesbian and gay parents from a social science perspective. Approximately 45 people also attended the lecture. Not surprisingly, social scientific studies by and large bear out what we LGBT parents already know: that psychological adjustment is the same for our children as for children parented by different-sex parents.

## Rochester

Thanks to Sue Morgan for taking the lead on planning gatherings in Rochester. And congrats to her and Jenny on their new daughter. On Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, six adults and eight children went sledding at Mertensia Park and then played and snacked together at Meg and Jen's house in Farmington.

The buzz in April on the Pride and Joy listserv was about provider referrals. Folks shared their experiences and made recommendations for attorneys who do second parent adoptions.

On Saturday, May 12, Pride and Joy families met at the Tinker Nature Center for a hike, picnic and playground trip. Five moms and five kids attended.

## Ithaca

An early-March winter get together in Trumansburg did not come to fruition. However, we would love to hear from Ithacans about ideas for future programs. Please contact Karen or Claudia with your thoughts! We are also hopeful that Ithaca-area families will be drawn to attend the Finger Lakes Picnic on July 8<sup>th</sup>.

## Our Spotlight Family.....

### The Morgan-Gaul Family of Rochester

*P&J: Who is in your family?*

Morgan-Gauls: Sue (Mama), Jenny (Mimi), Katy (3 1/2), Elinor (10 weeks), Sienna the dog and Titiana the cat.

*P&J: Describe some of your family's favorite activities.*

Morgan-Gauls: We love to be outside— walking, hiking, picnicking, camping (although we haven't tried that yet with the baby). The mobile among us also love dancing, and Sue and Jenny were avid Lindy Hoppers, pre-baby. All of us love books, from Jane Austen to Clifford.

*P&J: Where did you go on your last family vacation?*

Morgan-Gauls: We visited Minneapolis/ St. Paul for our nephew Joseph's christening.

*P&J: Who in your family is most likely to sleep late?*

Morgan-Gauls: Titiana

*P&J: What was your family's favorite Pride and Joy event?*

Morgan-Gauls: We had lots of fun this March going sledding, then having cookies and playtime at Meg, Jen and Avery's house.

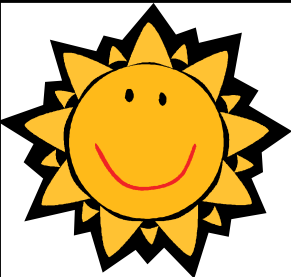
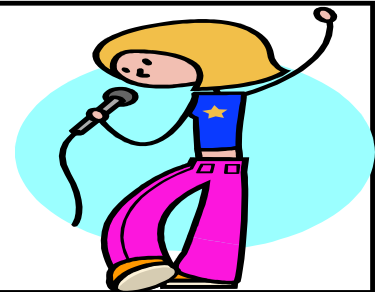
*P&J: Is there anything else you would like us to know about your family?*

Morgan-Gauls: Our favorite dance tune is Mambo Italiano.



**Stop by and meet the Morgan-Gaul family, and other families at this year's Pride and Joy Family Area at the Rochester Pride Picnic on Sunday July 18 Crafts, games and prizes for everyone!**

**Family Karaoke Dance Party  
Sunday June 17 4-6pm  
Merlins  
Bring the kids and have a blast!**



## Family Week in Provincetown!

Pride and Joy Families from all over upstate New York will get together during this national gathering of LGBT led families.

It's not too soon to make your reservations for accommodations at Family Week! Visit [www.familypride.org](http://www.familypride.org)

**\*\*We'll be having our annual potluck party again!\*\***