



April 24th - 26th, 2009, Utica, NY

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## **Welcome to Utica and the 2009 Pride and Joy Families Weekend Conference!**

I am extremely proud of the program we have put together for this year's Conference, and very happy to have all of you here with us to enjoy it. There are many people to thank for the way things have come together, including our staff, advisory board members, and many generous individuals and families from all over the state. Thanks are also due to our fabulous Conference co-presenters Family Equality Council and COLAGE, whose staff members bring enormous strengths in the areas of LGBTQ family programming and leadership at the national level.

As many of you know, this is the third LGBTQ families' conference being presented by the Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project. Headquartered in Binghamton, NY, and founded in April 2000, we work with and on behalf of families headed by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer parents. Happy 9<sup>th</sup> birthday to us! Like our previous conferences, held in Ithaca in 2001 and Binghamton in 2005, families are gathering from all over upstate New York and beyond to come together in Utica.

We hope you will take full advantage of this exciting weekend of meeting, sharing, learning and socializing with old friends and new. The Conference Program Book gives full details on the 15 workshops for adults on parenting and family building, our distinguished speakers and presenters, childcare and COLAGE programming for the 70 or so children in attendance, special family activities and entertainment, and the Resource/Vendor Fair. We hope you will agree that we've struck a good balance between social and educational programs, and sessions for adults and kids together and apart.

Please do give us your feedback throughout the weekend and let us know how we can help make your Conference experience better. Have a great weekend!

Yours sincerely,



Claudia E. Stallman  
Project Director  
Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project

# **Welcome to Utica and the 2009 Pride and Joy Families Weekend Conference**

## **Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project**

The Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project is dedicated to helping lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ) people in upstate New York build and strengthen their families. The Project offers provider trainings, educational programs, information and referral services, the *Directory of Family Building Services for LGBT People*, and support groups for LGBT parents and prospective parents. Our network of Pride and Joy Families provides social and educational activities and a sense of community to LGBT parents and their children. The Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project was started in 2000 with a grant from New York State to the Ferre Institute, Inc. Ferre is a 501c3 organization that provides infertility education, family building resources and genetic counseling.

## **Staff and Consultants**

Claudia E. Stallman, Project Director

Karen J. Armstrong, Health Educator

Loren Couch, Program Development Associate, Conference Coordinator

Heather Hauer, Outreach Consultant

Jeffrey Sterling, Outreach Consultant

Luba Djurdjinovic, Executive Director, Ferre Institute, Inc.

Dr. Murray Nusbaum, Medical Director, Ferre Institute, Inc.

## **2009 Pride and Joy Families Advisory Board Members**

Brian Frank, Albany; Karen Goulet, Geneva; Peg Johnston, Binghamton; Jackie Kelly, Syracuse; Arlene (Ari) Istar Lev, Albany; Sean Massey, Binghamton; Suzanne Morgan, Rochester; Mark Pedersen, Ithaca; Todd Plank, Rochester; David Ruston, Binghamton; Vince Sgambati, Syracuse; Marian Stern, Binghamton.

### **Conference Co-Presenters**

Family Equality Council ([www.familyequality.org](http://www.familyequality.org)) is a national organization that works to ensure equality for LGBT families by building community, changing hearts and minds, and advancing social justice for all families. They are headquartered in Boston, MA and have a Midwest office in Minnesota.

COLAGE ([www.COLAGE.org](http://www.COLAGE.org)) is a national movement of children, youth and adults with one or more LGBTQ parents. COLAGE builds community and works for social justice through youth empowerment, leadership development, education and advocacy. COLAGE is headquartered in San Francisco, CA but offers chapters, events and programs throughout the United States.

### **Conference Media Sponsor**

Gay Parent Magazine ([www.gayparentmag.com](http://www.gayparentmag.com)) is the oldest, free, nationally distributed publication dedicated to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender parenting. Gay Parent Magazine is published bi-monthly and distributed across the USA mainly through gay community centers and bookstores. Gay Parent Magazine's focus is to support and empower LGBT parents and to support LGBT people wishing to become first time parents.

Web and Graphic Communications by Shanon Nasoni  
Project and Database Management, Adrienne Carpenter

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## 2009 Pride and Joy Families Weekend Conference

Radisson Hotel-Utica Centre, Utica, NY

Friday, April 24-Sunday, April 26, 2009

### CONFERENCE SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

#### Friday, April 24

- 4:00-6:00 pm** Early birds meet and swim (Hotel pool)  
**5:00-9:00 pm** Registration (Main level)  
**6:00-9:00 pm** Welcome Reception and Dinner Buffet (Grand Ballroom)  
-dinner available until 8:00 pm  
**9:00-10:00 pm** Poolside video and swim

#### Saturday, April 25

- 7:00-11:00 am** Breakfast buffet (Garden Grille Café)  
**8:30 am-12 noon** Registration (Main level)  
**8:30 am-9:30 pm** Vendor/Resource Fair (Foyer)  
**9:00 am-noon** Childcare for ages 6 mos.-8 years (Mohawk, Seneca Rooms)  
COLAGE programs for grades 3-12 (Adirondack, Alleghany Rooms)  
**9:30-10:30 am** Keynote Address and Special Guest Speaker (Grand Ballroom)  
**10:45 am-noon** Adult workshop Session A
- Parenting Gender-Variant Children (Board Room)
  - Legal and Policy Protections for LGBT Families (Assembly A)
  - Healthy Families: Who's in Your Family and Why Does it Matter? (Assembly B)
  - Raising Healthy Transracially Adopted Children (Assembly C)
  - Myths and Facts About LGBT Headed Families (Conference Center)
- 12 noon-1 pm** Lunch (Garden Grille Café)  
**1:00-4:00 pm** Childcare for ages 6 mos.-8 years (Mohawk, Seneca Rooms)  
COLAGE programs for grades 3-12 (Adirondack, Alleghany Rooms)  
**1:15-2:30 pm** Adult Workshop Session B
- OUTSpoken Families Speakers Bureau Training, Part I of II (Board Room)
  - Talking to Your Children About Being in an LGBT Family (Assembly A)
  - Tips on Talking With Your Tween or Teen About Sex (Assembly B)
  - Considering Parenthood (Assembly C)
  - Boys Will Be Boys and Girls Just Love Pink: How Our Families "Do" Gender (Conference Center)



**Saturday, April 25 continued...**

- 2:45-4:00 pm**            Adult Workshop Session C
- OUTSpoken Families Speakers Bureau Training, Part II of II (Board Room)
  - Schools: How to Talk to Schools, Teachers, Administrators (Assembly A)
  - Being an Ally to Your COLAGer (Assembly B)
  - Are We Men or Moms, and Who Cares? Panel of gay dads. (Assembly C)
  - Working with public and private agencies to foster and adopt children (Conference Center)
- 4:00-4:30 pm**            Snack (Parents join children in childcare rooms)
- 4:30-5:30 pm**            Childcare for ages 6 mos. to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade (Mohawk and Seneca Rooms)  
General session: Teen Panel for adults and children grades 3 and up (Grand Ballroom)
- 6:00-7:30 pm**            Dinner (Grand Ballroom)
- 7:00-8:45 pm**            Family Concert: Erin Lee and Marci (Grand Ballroom)
- 7:30-8:30 pm**            Movie and Swim option for grades 6-12 (Hotel pool)
- 8:45-11:00 pm**          Family Dance! With DJ (Grand Ballroom)

**Sunday, April 26**

- 7:00-11 am**            Breakfast buffet (Garden Grille Café)
- 9:30-11:30 am**        Activities for Adults and Children Together
- Gender-Neutral Folk Dance, for adults and children ages 7 and up (Assembly A)
  - Superheroes: crafts and games for kids and their grown-ups on the theme of “Strength in Families” for children ages 3-7 and their parents (Mohawk Room)
  - Family Crest Craft Activity for middle and high school children and their parents (Adirondack Room)
  - Swim (Hotel pool)
- 12 noon**                Check-out time at Radisson Hotel/Lunch on your own

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*Dr. Betsy P. Aigen*

Dr. Betsy Aigen, who founded **The Surrogate Mother Program**, hugs her daughters, Jennifer and Samantha, who were both born by surrogate mothers.



If you want to learn more about our program, please contact us at:

**Dr. Betsy Aigen**  
**Program Director**  
**220 West 93rd Street**  
**NY, NY 10025**  
**Suite 1A**  
**(212) 496-1070**  
**or our Toll Free #**  
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## **2009 Pride and Joy Families Weekend Conference**

Radisson Hotel-Utica Centre, Utica, NY

Friday, April 24-Sunday, April 26, 2009

### **SPECIAL PROGRAMS DURING THE WEEKEND THAT ARE NOT TO BE MISSED**

#### **Family Portraits/Photography**

Cheryl A. Moore, of C.A. Moore Photography, Albany, will offer families the opportunity to have their portraits taken while at the Conference. Learn more and sign up for an appointment with Cheryl at the Conference registration table. Cheryl is also donating her professional services to document the Conference. A slideshow of the images will be shown at the concert and family dance on Saturday evening.

Thank you, Cheryl!

#### **OUTSpoken Families**

This special speakers' bureau training opportunity will be provided by staff from Family Equality Council on Saturday, April 25. OUTSpoken trains parents and allies to speak about LGBT family equality to their co-workers, school officials, faith leaders, legislators and the media in their own communities not only with passion, but with authority and credible, indisputable information. Participants make a commitment to speak about the need for full family equality in their community; this could be to their extended family over Thanksgiving dinner, their faith community on the weekend, on a "play date," or at a town hall meeting.

#### **COLAGE Teen Panel**

The COLAGE Teen Panel will take place on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 to 5:30 pm in the Grand Ballroom. It is a unique opportunity to hear the voices of youth with LGBTQ parents. Representing diverse backgrounds and experiences, the COLAGE panelist will address a range of issues based on YOUR questions. This is a rare opportunity to hear what it's really like to have LGBTQ parents today! Intended for adults and children grades 3 and up.

*continued*

## **SPECIAL PROGRAMS DURING THE WEEKEND THAT ARE NOT TO BE MISSED**

*continued...*

### **Family Concert**

Erin Lee and Marci will perform after dinner on Saturday, April 25, beginning at 7:00 pm in Grand Ballroom. The duo writes and sings songs both funny and thoughtful that reflect a child's everyday life. They have recorded two CDs, *Someone's Gotta Wanna Play* and *Snowdance*. The women are also both educators and will do two workshops for young children during the Conference. Erin Lee and Marci's performances have been well-received on Rosie's R-Family Vacations Cruises. The New York Times has called the duo "fun and hip." "Sweet harmonies and silly stories that preschoolers go bananas for." --Time Out New York Kids. "Erin Lee & Marci know how to get an auditorium of kids rockin'." --Mombian Magazine.

### **Resource/Vendor Fair**

Make sure to stop by the Foyer on the main level of the hotel on Saturday (8:30 am until 9:30 pm) and check out our Resource/Vendor Fair participants!

### **Activities for Adults and Children Together**

By popular demand of our 2005 Conference attendees, Sunday's program will be devoted to activities for the grown-ups and kids to do together. Choices include folk dancing, a craft and game activity on the theme of "strength in families" for children ages 3-7 and their adults, a "family crest" craft project for middle and high school kids and their adults, or swimming in the hotel pool.



Out Loud Chorus, Inc., the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered and Straight People's chorus of Central New York is now in its 14<sup>th</sup> year. Everyone 18 years and older is welcome to join, no audition required. Call 607-280-0374 for rehearsal times and places or to schedule the chorus for a performance. To learn more, please visit [www.outloudchorus.org](http://www.outloudchorus.org).

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## **2009 Pride and Joy Families Weekend Conference**

Radisson Hotel-Utica Centre, Utica, NY  
Friday, April 24-Sunday, April 26, 2009

### **DETAILED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS**

#### **Early Birds Meet and Swim**

Friday, April 24, 4:00-6:00 pm (Hotel pool)

#### **Registration**

Friday, April 24, 5:00-9:00 pm (Main level)

#### **Welcome Reception and Dinner Buffet**

Friday, April 24, 6:00-9:00 pm (Grand Ballroom)

Please join us at this meet and greet opportunity. Dinner will be available until 8:00 pm only.

#### **Poolside Movie and Swim**

Friday, April 24, 9:00-10:00 pm

#### **Breakfast Buffet**

Saturday, April 25, 7:00-11:00 am (Garden Grille Café)

#### **Registration**

Saturday, April 25, 8:30 am-12 noon (Main level)

#### **Vendor/Resource Fair**

Saturday, April 25, 8:30 am-9:30 pm (Foyer)

#### **Children and Youth Programs**

Saturday, April 25, 9:00 am-12 noon, 1:00-4:00, 4:30-5:00 pm. Childcare and separate youth programs will be provided on Saturday only.

Childcare is provided for children ages 6 mos. to grade 2: Play time, music, arts, under the supervision of professional day care providers (Mohawk, Seneca Rooms).

COLAGE will offer fun community building, youth empowerment and leadership development programming for youth in two grade-based groups, each led by an outstanding team of adults who share the experience of having one or more LGBTQ parents: Camp COLAGE for grades 3-5 (Adirondack Room); and COLAGE Crew for grades 6-12 (Alleghany Room).



## DETAILED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

### **Keynote Address and Special Guest Speaker**

**Saturday, April 25, 9:30-10:30 am (Grand Ballroom)**

**Welcome by Hon. Michael A. Arcuri, US Representative, New York's 24<sup>th</sup> District.**

The Keynote Address "LGBTQ Families: Still Moving Forward," will be given by Jennifer Chrisler, Executive Director, Family Equality Council. Jennifer is a seasoned advocate for LGBTQ rights. Family Equality Council, formerly Family Pride Coalition, is dedicated to working at the national level for equality for families headed by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer parents. It connects LGBTQ families nationwide to assist parents in dealing with discrimination so they may better support and advocate for their children at all phases of life. Jennifer earned her BA degree in Elementary Education from Smith College in 1992. She was honored for her work in the LGBT community in 2002 by the Massachusetts Freedom to Marry Coalition and in 2001 by the Human Rights Campaign. In May, Jennifer was named 2008 Fellow by the prestigious Rockwood Leadership Program. She and her spouse, Cheryl Jacques, reside in Newton, MA with their twin sons.

Dr. Charlotte Patterson, our Special Guest Speaker, is a Professor of Psychology at the University of Virginia. Dr. Patterson will share with us some of her work regarding child development in lesbian- and gay-parented families. In addition to her work with children and families, she has authored a child development textbook and co-edited three books on the psychology of sexual orientation. Patterson is a Fellow of the Association for Psychological Science (APS) as well as of the American Psychological Association (APA), and a past-President of the Society for Psychological Research on Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Issues (APA, Division 44). She has won a number of awards, including APA Division 44's award for Distinguished Scientific Contributions, and APA Division 43's Carolyn Attneave Diversity Award, for contributions that advance understanding and integration of diversity into Family Psychology. She lives in Charlottesville, Virginia with her partner and three children.

### **Adult workshop Session A**

**Saturday, April 25, 10:45 am-noon**

#### **Parenting Gender-Variant Children (Board Room)**

**with Arlene (Ari) Istar Lev, LCSW, CASAC**

Raising children with atypical gender expressions raises complex issues for parents, issues that parents are rarely prepared for and where experts are difficult to find. Although gender-variance has always

## DETAILED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

### *continued*

existed, young people today are less likely to suppress these experiences, and are turning to parents, educators and professionals to help them live authentic lives. Torn between models of “reparative therapy” on one hand, and young sex reassignments on the other, parents struggle with how to help and support our children’s developing gender identities. Too often parents do this alone, battling schools, in-laws, religious organizations, and sometimes one another, while they cope with understanding their child’s needs, and helping carve out a healthy social world for their children. Children dealing with gender issues come from all kinds of families; and all parents have questions about “why” their children are the way they are, and how to best help them develop into healthy adults. Parents need support and to learn that their children can live successful and fulfilling lives. This workshop is an opportunity for parents in upstate New York to come together and explore various options for their children, and learn from one another how to best support children’s healthy development.

### **Legal and Policy Protections for LGBT Families (Assembly A)**

**with Anne Reynolds Copps, JD and Matthew Faiella, JD**

Attorneys Matt Faiella and Anne Reynolds Copps will discuss legal protections for LGBT families. This will include such family law issues as second parent adoptions, marriages and divorce. It will also include estate planning issues such as wills, powers of attorney, health care proxies and designation for remains. The panelists will also address name changes and other issues as asked by the audience.

### **Who’s in Your Family and Why Does it Matter? Promoting an Awareness of Family Health History and Future Health in LGBT Families (Assembly B)**

**with Lindsey A. Morse, MS, CGC and Karen Armstrong**

LGBT families share history, traditions, values and common medical backgrounds. Genetic Counselor Lindsey A. Morse, MS, CGC will give an overview of genetics and explain how health, family history, health beliefs, and genetic background are all important parts of our future health outcomes. Karen Armstrong will discuss health issues that are specific to the LGBT population and lead participants in activities involving family health history collection and how to record your information in a variety of creative ways.

## **DETAILED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS**

### **I Am What I Say I Am! Raising Healthy Transracially Adopted Children in a (Not-Yet) Post Racial World (Assembly C)**

**with Mark Gianino, MSW, PhD**

The Inauguration of Barack Obama offered us an exciting example of a public figure whose multicultural identity encompasses his African and White descent, his time as a child spent in Indonesia, and his self definition as an African-American. As compelling as the idea of a “post racial” America is, it is likely that transracially adopted children will encounter racism in their lives. This is an issue of great concern for many of our GLBT-headed families that are transracial families as well. Like all parents, we want to raise happy, healthy and productive children. As transracially adoptive parents we also wish to shield our children from the negative effects of racism and heterosexism. To foster a healthy and secure identity in our children, we need to prepare them for the prejudices they may face in society. This workshop offers participants an opportunity to discuss ways we can talk to our children about the challenges they will face while at the same time instilling a sense of pride in themselves and their multicultural families. We will discuss specific age appropriate language and activities that introduce the topics of ethnicity, race and sexual orientation to our children as they develop. In addition, various models of racial identity development will be presented and compared and contrasted with what we see in our children. There will be ample time for participants to share ideas, experiences, and resources to help our children achieve positive and healthy identities.

### **Myths and Facts About LGBT Headed Families (Conference Center)**

**with Sean Massey, PhD, Facilitator, Charlotte Patterson, PhD and Abbie Goldberg, PhD**

The three panelists will present their research and insights on LGBT headed families. Dr. Goldberg will present an overview of how family building for lesbian and gay people has changed in the past several decades, the ways in which lesbian and gay family building experience is unique/different from heterosexual-headed families, and will offer facts countering the myths about lesbian and gay family building. Dr. Patterson will discuss the results of a study focused on memories of childhood among adults who grew up with lesbian and gay parents. Dr. Massey will discuss a project that looks at how heterosexism influences the judgments others make about our parenting and the ways our anticipation of these judgments may influence our parenting decisions. A discussion will follow these presentations.

### **Lunch Buffet**

**Saturday, April 25, 12 noon-1 pm (Garden Grille Café)**

## DETAILED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

### **Adult Workshop Session B**

**Saturday, April 25, 1:15-2:30 pm**

#### **OUTSpoken Families Speakers Bureau Training, Part I of II (Board Room)**

**with Nicole Bourgoin and Ember Cook, Family Equality Council**

When people know us, they are with us. But how do they get to know us? If we learned anything from the November 2008 elections, it's that it's no longer enough just to be "out." Our friends, family members, co-workers, school officials, faith leaders, fellow soccer moms and others need to know what it *means* to be an LGBT family. They need to hear our stories, so they can know us and join us in educating others.

Participants in this special training will learn how to create allies by speaking about LGBT family equality in their communities. The context for this participant-centered session will be two important bills impacting LGBT family equality that the New York Legislature will entertain in 2009 – an anti-bullying measure that would make schools safer for children of LGBT parents and a marriage equality bill. Participants will walk away ready to advance these bills specifically and LGBT equality generally simply by sharing their stories and empowering allies at play dates, parent-teacher association meetings, soccer games or any of other activities families engage in every day.

#### **Talking to Your Children About Being in an LGBT Family (Assembly A)**

**with Jennifer Chrisler, Family Equality Council**

Like all children, our children wonder where they come from. As they grow older, they will receive messages about family structures from peer discussions, children's books, the media, school personnel and others. Participants in this session will learn how to give their children age-appropriate information about their lives and their families to support parents in responding to their children's questions (spoken and unspoken) as they come to understand who they are in the context of their family and who their family is in the context of their community. Particular attention will be paid to responding to negative images and messages encountered in schools and in the media in relation to LGBT political efforts.

#### **Tips on Talking With Your Tween or Teen About Sex (Assembly B)**

**with Jessica Meyer, Planned Parenthood Mohawk Hudson**

Join educators from Planned Parenthood Mohawk Hudson to discover healthy ways to have those tough conversations with your pre-teens and teenagers. We all know that we should sit down and talk about sex and sexuality with our teens in today's society before they learn myths from untrustworthy sources. Sometimes that can be a real challenge! By the end of this session you will feel more prepared to talk with your teen about those often hard to handle topics.

## DETAILED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

### **Considering Parenthood (Assembly C)**

**with Abbie Goldberg, PhD, Clark University, Facilitator, Terry Boggis, CenterKids, and a panel of LGBTQ parents**

Gather with other LGBTQ individuals and couples who are in the planning or just “thinking about it” stages of parenthood. Learn about the different family building options, such as adoption, foster care, pregnancy/donor insemination, and surrogacy, and listen to first hand accounts from parents who’ve used them; find resources, share concerns, expectations, hopes and questions about the process of transitioning to parenthood.

### **Boys Will Be Boys and Girls Just Love Pink: How Our Families “Do” Gender (Conference Center)**

**with Arlene (Ari) Istar Lev, LCSW, CASAC**

How do children develop their gender identities, and how do we as LGBTQ parents impact our children’s gender development? Contemporary research on gay families assures us that children growing up in LGBTQ homes tend to be heterosexual and gender-normative, despite traditional psychological theories that assumed children needed to have parents of both sexes in order to learn “proper” gender roles. Feminism taught us, however, that biology was not destiny and that there are no proper gender roles for men and women; yet many of our children gravitated to traditional toys and behaviors making us shake our collective heads and conclude that gender behaviors may indeed be hard-wired. Certainly, gender non-conforming and transgender people experience their gender expression as part of who they are. Some very gender-queer parents are raising very gender-normative kids; and some of us have children that are quite gender non-conforming. Some of us are rearing “second generation” kids – gay kids with gay parents, and many of us are rearing children who are “erotically straight, but culturally queer.” In this workshop we will explore the making of gender identities, how our children (young and teens) “do” gender, and how does our gender impact their development.

### **Adult Workshop Session C**

**Saturday, April 25, 2:45-4:00 pm**

### **OUTSpoken Families Speakers Bureau Training, Part II of II (Board Room)**

### **Schools: How to Talk to Schools, Teachers, Administrators (Assembly A)**

**with Jennifer Chrisler, Family Equality Council and a panel of LGBTQ parents**

All parents want their children to have a positive school experience. LGBT parents usually have particular concerns about their child’s school: Will our family be welcomed and affirmed? Will my child feel safe and not be teased about our family? Will my child feel included in curriculum, not invisible?

*continued to next page*

## DETAILED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

*continued*

Regardless of whether your family is paving the way as the first LGBT family your school has known or whether there is a strong presence of LGBT families, there is likely more work to be done to help your school along its journey of becoming fully inclusive of LGBT families. Participants will learn how to talk to teachers, administrators and other school personnel about creating learning environments in which their families feel safe, respected, and included.

### **Being an Ally to Your COLAGEr (Assembly B)**

**with COLAGE Staff**

Children with one or more LGBTQ parents (aka, “Queerspaw”) need allies who actively support and advocate for their needs. Queerspaw allies can be parents, teachers and members of the community. In this session, we’ll talk about the unique challenges and blessings of being a kid with LGBTQ parents and how parents and the larger LGBTQ community can better understand and address their needs. We will also talk specifically about how to start and maintain a COLAGE chapter.

### **Are We Men or Moms, and Who Cares? Panel of gay dads (Assembly C)**

**with Vince Sgambati, Facilitator, Mark Gianino, Sean Massey and Jeffrey Tamburo**

If we are going to nurture our children, let’s also nurture one another. This session will begin with a panel of queer dads sharing parenting experiences, and then open up for questions and discussion. We will examine how, on a daily basis, we commit a very radical act by transcending a mother/father dichotomy, “mother” traditionally elevated as the nurturing and more essential parent. We’ll share our successes and our challenges and make a few new friends along the way.

### **Child Welfare Agencies and Our Families: Working with Public and Private Agencies to Foster and Adopt Children (Conference Center)**

**with Fred Elia, Facilitator; Terry Boggis, CenterKids; Ilona Frederick, Children Awaiting Parents; Veronica Black, Children Awaiting Parents; and Carol VanValkenburgh, University at Albany, SUNY.**

The New York State Child Welfare System is more open than ever to LGBT families and singles who wish to establish and/or expand their families. Both public and private agencies offer training and support to those willing to consider fostering/adopting. We have assembled a team of experts to explain the trainings and process to become a foster or adoptive parent. Attendees will learn about the opportunities to help children and their families, along with the rewards and challenges involved. Bring your questions and your imaginations. We will provide the reality check!

## DETAILED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

### **Mid-afternoon Snack**

Saturday, April 25, 4:00-4:30 pm (Parents join children in childcare rooms)

Parents join children in the childcare room (Mohawk and Seneca). Others may enjoy their snack in the Resource/Vendor Fair area (Foyer).

### **Childcare**

Saturday, April 25, 4:30-5:30 pm

Kids ages 6 mos. to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade (Mohawk and Seneca Rooms)

### **General session: COLAGE Teen Panel**

Saturday, April 25, 4:30-5:30 pm (Grand Ballroom)

The COLAGE Teen Panel is a unique opportunity to hear the voices of youth with LGBTQ parents. Representing diverse backgrounds and experiences, the COLAGE panelist will address a range of issues based on YOUR questions. This is a rare opportunity to hear what its' really like to have LGBTQ parents today! Intended for adults and children grades 3 and up.

### **Dinner Buffet**

Saturday, April 25, 6:00-7:30 pm (Grand Ballroom)

### **Family Concert: Erin Lee and Marci**

Saturday, April 25, 7:00-8:45 pm (Grand Ballroom)

Erin Lee and Marci write and sing songs both funny and thoughtful that reflect a child's everyday life. They have recorded two CDs, *Someone's Gotta Wanna Play* and *Snowdance*. The women are also both educators and will do two workshops for young children during the Conference. Erin Lee and Marci's performances have been well-received on Rosie's R-Family Vacations Cruises.

### **Movie and Swim Option**

Saturday, April 25, 7:30-8:30 pm (Hotel pool)

Lifeguard will be present for grades 6-12

### **Family Dance! With DJ**

Saturday, April 25, 8:45-11:00 pm (Grand Ballroom)

Special Guest DJ: "Ellie J and Her Mom"

### **Breakfast Buffet**

Sunday, April 26, 7:00-11 am (Garden Grille Café)

## DETAILED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

### Activities for Adults and Children Together

Sunday, April 26, 9:30-11:30 am

By popular demand of our 2005 Conference attendees, Sunday's program will be devoted to activities for the grown-ups and the kids to do together. Childcare and separate youth programming will not be provided on Sunday.

- Gender-Neutral Folk Dance (Assembly A)

Under the gentle guidance of Dance Master Allan Troxler, we will be striding, jigging, waltzing, marching, sashaying and skipping. In circles and lines, in 2s, 3s and altogether, and in various languages. Allan, who hails from North Carolina, and his late partner Carl Wittman were pioneers in the gender-neutral folk dance movement (no "Gents and Ladies"). No experience required: this session is suitable for all abilities and aimed primarily at adults and children ages 7 and up.

- Activity for Children Ages 3-7 and Their Adults (Mohawk Room)

Ember Cook of Family Equality Council will lead families in crafts and games for adults and kids together on the theme of "Strength in Families." We'll make superhero capes, play games, have fun and learn something about our families together.

- Activity for Middle and High School Children and Their Adults (Adirondack Room)

During this session, led by Alison Beach, MSW, middle and high schoolers and their adults will be working together to create "family crests". Steeped in the history of our civilization, family crests have been used in all ages and corners of the world by tribes, nations, chieftains, royalty, and families to communicate a group's defining values. Creating family crests offer modern families a sense of belonging. Using mixed-media art, adults and children in a family unit will work together to create a unique visual concept defining their family. Through the process, values will be discussed, family histories shared, and diversity celebrated. Each family will be given an opportunity to share their family crest with the group upon completion.

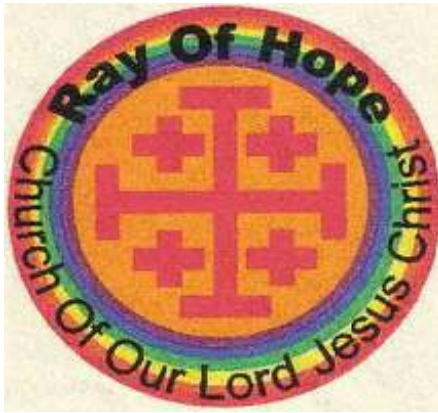
- Swim (Hotel pool)

### Check-out time at Radisson Hotel/Lunch on your own

Sunday, April 26, 12 noon

Have a safe trip home, everyone!





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...celebrate all sacraments, including weekly Holy Communion, bringing together the best of the Protestant, Charismatic, and Catholic Traditions. We celebrate marriage of same-sex and opposite-sex couples. We teach the Bible as the only Word of God and, can prove with absolute certainty, that God does not condemn persons of the many varied orientations, gender, or gender expressions that we openly celebrate in God's name.

### **WEEKLY SERVICES**

**Syracuse** Worship: Sunday 6:00pm @ May Memorial Universalist Society, 3800 E. Genesee St, Dewitt, NY  
**Elmira** Worship: Sunday 10:30am, Bible Study: Wed 7:15pm @ the Ray of Hope Church Parsonage 380 West First Street, Elmira, NY

**Ithaca/Cortland** Bible Study/Discussion Group: Mondays @ 7:15pm. Please call 607-280-0374 for location.

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For more information, please visit our website, [www.rayofhopechurch.com](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com), or call 607-734-3478. For matters requiring confidentiality, feel free to contact our pastor, Rev. Br. Shawn F. Benedict, O.S.B. @ 607-280-0374.



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## 2009 Pride and Joy Families Weekend Conference

Radisson Hotel-Utica Centre, Utica, NY

Friday, April 24-Sunday, April 26, 2009

### PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES



**Karen Armstrong**, formerly Outreach Educator and now Health Educator for the Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project, helps provide information, support and a sense of community to LGBT people all around New York State. At the 2005 conference, she presented, "Maybe Baby: The Top Ten Things LGBT Prospective Parents (and Parents) Need to Know. More recently, she was instrumental in the implementation of the LGBT Healthy Families Initiative, which provides health information and programming relevant to these families. She is currently working with the Genetic Alliance on the *Community Centered Family Health History Project*, which gives information to the LGBT community about the importance of collecting and recording their family health histories. Karen lives in Vestal, New York, with her partner Barbara, and their three children.



**Alison Beach** is a licensed clinical social worker with over 16 years professional experience in both clinical and administrative human service practices in the District of Columbia, California, and New York State. She has worked with youth and adults coping with issues related to sexual orientation; HIV/AIDS prevention and diagnosis; teen pregnancy and parenting; disaster and crisis; grief and bereavement due to either chronic disease or sudden loss; and suicide prevention and postvention. Alison is currently the Project Coordinator of the Cortland LGBT Resource Center, a nonprofit NYS grant-funded program in Cortland County. She has worked in numerous agencies in the area of LGBT programming, including Whitman-Walker Clinic. Being the child of a gay parent, Alison has fostered a commitment to advocacy and service to LGBT communities early in her life. She resides with her wife and daughter in the Ithaca area.



**Veronica Black** is the Community Outreach Specialist for Children Awaiting Parents in Rochester, NY. She has over ten years experience in child welfare and works collaboratively with agencies, faith communities, and the media to develop recruitment efforts, programs, and to raise awareness of the need for forever families. As a foster parent, a mentor, and an adoptive parent of children with special needs, Veronica has a strong personal interest in the advocacy of youth in the foster care system.

**Terry Boggis** was one of the founding members of Center Kids in 1988 (the year her son was born), the LGBT families program of the New York City LGBT Community Center. She worked as a member of the award-winning program's volunteer steering committee until 1994, when she was hired as a paid staff program administrator thanks to a grant from the Ben and Jerry's Foundation. Terry has been the full-time director of Center Kids, Center Families, which is the largest regional LGBT families program in the country, since January 1997. She is also currently serving as the Center's Interim Director of Public Policy.



**Nicole Bourgoin** graduated from Tufts University with a BA in Psychology and Drama. Since then she has held several different positions in non-profit administration. Most recently, Nicole worked as a grants manager in a community health center, securing funds to provide health care access for low-income and uninsured families. Nicole joined Family Equality Council as a Program Associate in 2008, and has worked on multiple initiatives including designing and facilitating OUTSpoken trainings from Massachusetts to Alabama. Nicole is committed to working toward social justice for all oppressed communities, but is especially passionate about LGBT and disability advocacy.



**Jennifer Chrisler**, Executive Director, Family Equality Council, is a seasoned advocate for LGBT rights. Family Equality Council, formerly Family Pride Coalition, is dedicated to working at the national level for equality for families headed by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer parents. It connects LGBTQ families nationwide to assist parents in dealing with discrimination so they may better support and advocate for their children at all phases of life. Jennifer earned her BA degree in Elementary Education from Smith College in 1992. She was honored for her work in the LGBT community in 2002 by the Massachusetts Freedom to Marry Coalition and in 2001 by the Human Rights Campaign. In May, Jennifer was named 2008 Fellow by the prestigious Rockwood Leadership Program. She and her spouse, Cheryl Jacques, reside in Newton, MA with their twin sons.



**Ember Cook** was 10 when her father came out as gay and only a couple years later he took her sister and her to their first Family Pride Weekend. What started then was a lifelong commitment to LGBT family organizing. With her education in theater, Ember moved to San Francisco where she worked for three years organizing youth and families for COLAGE. After taking some time to work for a children's theater and the Equality for All Campaign (the campaign working to secure marriage equality in California), Ember is thrilled to return to the wonderful world of LGBT family organizing with Family Equality Council. Ember is committed to creating fun, accessible programming for children that affirms the amazingness that is our community.



**Anne Reynolds Coppis** is a 1981 graduate of Albany Law School. She was admitted to the Bar in 1982. She was a partner at Martin, Shudt, Wallace, DiLorenzo & Coppis until 1995 when she opened her office as a sole practitioner, concentrating on adoptions and real property. She is a frequent lecturer for the Bar Association on real property and adoption issues and ethics. She is a past-president of the Rensselaer County Bar Association and Capital District Women's Bar Association.

She is currently a Member of the Real Property Law Section Executive Committee, serving as vice chair. She served for six years on the Committee on Professional Responsibility for the Appellate Division Third Department which reviews disciplinary matters for attorneys. She is a member of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys. She received the Distinguished Member Award from the Capital District Women's Bar Association and the Nancy Burton – Straight but Not Narrow Award from the Capital District Gay and Lesbian Community Council. In January 2003 she received the Attorney Professionalism Award from the New York State Bar Association. She also received the New York State Bar Association Pro Bono Award for the Third Department in 2003. In 2007, she received the Barry Gold Firm Leadership Award in pro bono from the Legal Project.

**Fred Elia** is a Child Welfare Consultant and Trainer as well as a rural residential real estate developer and owner/ manager of Hearthstone Homes. As a Senior Education Specialist at the Nelson A. Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, Research Foundation of the State University of New York at Albany, Professional Development Program, he developed and delivered specialized educational programming related to services for abused/neglected children directed at professionals in the public and private sectors across occupational and disciplinary boundaries. As a MAPP/Child Welfare Training Specialist for Center for Development of Human Services, Research Foundation of the State University of New York at Buffalo State College, he delivered training sessions and provides technical assistance on MAPP (Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting.) Fred is also Founder, The Foster Care Garden; President, National Association of Former Foster Children; and Board Member, Association of Foster Parent Trainers of New York State.



**Erin Lee and Marci** write and sing songs both funny and thoughtful that reflect a child's everyday life. They have recorded two CDs, *Someone's Gotta Wanna Play* and *Snowdance*. The women are also both educators and will do two workshops for young children during the Conference. Erin Lee and Marci's performances have been well-received on Rosie's R-Family Vacations Cruises. The New York Times has called the duo "fun and hip." "Sweet harmonies and silly stories that preschoolers go bananas for." --Time Out New York Kids. "Erin Lee & Marci know how to get an auditorium of kids rockin'." --Mombian Magazine. Visit their website: [www.gottaplay.org](http://www.gottaplay.org).

**Matt Faiella, JD**, joined the NYCLU as a staff attorney in 2007. He focuses his work on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) issues, as well as police surveillance and other civil liberties and constitutional issues. Prior to joining the NYCLU's staff, Faiella worked for two years as a staff attorney at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit in Atlanta. During law school, Faiella led a student group devoted to advocating for the rights of LGBT people, and received the Freeman Award for Civil-Human Rights. Faiella earned a B.A. from Boston University in 2002 and a J.D. from Cornell Law School in 2005.



**Ilona Frederick** is the Photolisting Specialist for Children Awaiting Parents in Rochester, NY. She intensively recruits forever families for youth across the country and works diligently to advocate for both parents and children. A blogger on the subject, Ilona is a strong proponent for LBGT families and the issues they face, as well as for youth that identify as LBGT.



**Mark Gianino, PhD**, is a clinician, professor and father with interests in treatment of trauma and mood disorders; emphasis on practice with gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered populations; research with gay and lesbian headed families; and transracial adoption. He is Clinical Assistant Professor of Clinical Practice at Boston University. His consulting and professional activities are: National Association of Social Workers: Co-chair, Committee of GLBT Concerns, 1983-1985; Co-Chair, Ethics Education Committee, 1995-1997; Nominating Committee, 2002-2004; Board member, Association for the Advancement of Social Work with Groups (AASWG), 2008-present; Member of Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).



**Abbie E. Goldberg, PhD**, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. She received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and completed a clinical psychology internship at Yale Medical School. Her research has examined the transition to parenthood in diverse families, including lesbian-parent families and adoptive-parent families. In particular, her work has focused on how families' relationships and identities change across the transition to parenthood, and how gender and sexual orientation figure into individuals' adjustment and experience of parenthood. In addition, she has also studied the experiences of adults raised by lesbian, gay, and bisexual parents. She has received funding from the American Psychological Association, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the Williams Institute, and the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues.

**Bethany Lockhart** is the National Program Coordinator of COLAGE. She wishes she knew about COLAGE growing up as her mom came out as a lesbian when Bethany was 11. Prior to coming to the San Francisco Bay Area, she spent 10 years in sunny San Diego where she graduated from the University of California San Diego with degrees in Theatre, Dance, and Ethnic Studies. After college, Bethany continued her work in non-profit organizations with missions focusing on the performing arts and empowering youth through arts and/or education.



**Arlene (Ari) Istar Lev, LCSW, CASAC**, is a social worker, family therapist, educator, and writer. She is the founder of Choices Counseling and Consulting ([www.choicesconsulting.com](http://www.choicesconsulting.com)) in Albany, NY, providing family therapy for LGBT people and is on the adjunct faculties of S.U.N.Y. Albany, School of Social Welfare and Empire College. She is the author of *The Complete Lesbian and Gay Parenting Guide* and *Transgender Emergence*, winner of the American Psychological Association (Division 44) Distinguished Book Award, 2006. Arlene

is the Founder of *Rainbow Access Initiative*, a training program on LGBT issues for therapists and medical professionals in the Capital Region and the Clinical Supervisor for *Center Support: Counseling Services*, a collaborative program between the *Capital District Gay and Lesbian Community Council* and *SUNY Albany, School of Social Welfare*. Arlene serves on the editorial Boards of *The Journal of GLBT Family Studies*, *The Journal of Lesbian Studies*, and *The Journal of Transgenderism*. She also serves on the Advisory Board of the *Sexual Orientation and Gender Institute*, Center in Halsted, Chicago Illinois, developing on-line LGBT graduate studies programs. She can be reached at 518.463.9152, or [info@choicesconsulting.com](mailto:info@choicesconsulting.com).



**Sean G. Massey, PhD**, is Assistant Professor of Human Development in the College of Community and Public Affairs at Binghamton University, SUNY. His research interests and publications focus on the measurement of sexual prejudice, the experiences of LGBTQ parents, queer theory in the social sciences, heterosexuals' positive beliefs about gay men and lesbians, the formation of self and identity in the context of social stigma, and sense of safety and community among LGBTQ people. He is currently working with colleagues on a forthcoming book documenting the experiences of LGBTQ youth and their educational contexts. Dr. Massey also represents the 5<sup>th</sup> City Council District in Binghamton, NY and is the proud parent of a 6-year-old boy named Alfie.





**Jessica Meyer** is a Sexual Health Educator at Planned Parenthood Mohawk Hudson. She is a certified health educator, having earned her degree through SUNY Cortland. Jessica's role as a Planned Parenthood educator is to present programs on all sexual health issues to communities and schools within the Mohawk Valley. She is the co-advisor for the What's Up? Peer Education group, comprised of Utica teens. She has also gained a great deal of experience working with children of all ages as a dance instructor. Through her work at Planned Parenthood, Jessica strives to improve the sexual well being of all people of all ages.



**Cheryl A. Moore**, of C.A. Moore Photography, Albany, will be present with her family at the Conference and will donate her professional services to document the event. She will also offer families the opportunity to have their portraits taken at the Conference. "I am very pleased to participate in this way. In my area, it is difficult sometimes to link my business with my fellow 'lesgay' families clientele. So I am excited about this great opportunity to work with such a broad group of families from all over! I know everyone will be thrilled with the results, and I'm proud to provide a token of this extra validation of our families." For more information, contact Cheryl at 518-482-8757 or visit her website: [www.camoorephoto.com](http://www.camoorephoto.com).



**Lindsey A. Morse, MS, CGC** is a board certified genetic counselor at the Community Genetics Program of the Ferre Institute based in Binghamton, NY. Her primary role is to counsel pediatric, prenatal and adult patients to help them understand their personal risk for a genetic condition, or of having a child with a genetic condition or birth defect. She also serves as a consultant with the NYS Pregnancy Risk Network Teratogen Information Service and lectures on a variety of genetic issues to community organizations including high school, university, and medical students, physicians, and community health programs. Lindsey is a member of the National Society of Genetic Counselors, the American College of Medical Genetics and the Genetic Alliance.



**Charlotte J. Patterson, PhD**, is a Professor of Psychology at the University of Virginia, where much of her work has focused on child development in lesbian- and gay-parented families. In addition to her work with children and families, she has authored a child development textbook and co-edited three books on the psychology of sexual orientation. Patterson is a Fellow of the Association for Psychological Science (APS) as well as of the American Psychological Association (APA), and a past-President of the Society for Psychological Research on Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Issues (APA, Division 44). She has won a number of awards, including APA Division 44's award for Distinguished Scientific Contributions, and APA Division 43's Carolyn Attneave Diversity Award, for contributions that advance understanding and integration of diversity into Family Psychology. She lives in Charlottesville, Virginia with her partner and three children.



**Vince Sgambati**, a former teacher and staff developer of thirty years, writes a column about queer parenting called Vince’s View at [www.prideandjoyfamilies.org](http://www.prideandjoyfamilies.org). His parenting articles also appear in LGBT magazines and zines: *In A Family Way*, a column shared with friend and author Ari Istar Lev. His writing appears in the anthology *Queer and Catholic* (Routledge) and will also appear in the forthcoming anthology *Donors and Dads: True Stories of Gay Men and Fatherhood*. Vince has recently written a novel about cross-generational conflicts and loyalties among Italian American men as fathers, sons, friends and lovers. He lives in Syracuse with his partner of thirty-three years and their twelve-year-old daughter.



Depending on what day it is, **Allan Troxler** teaches dance, makes art, writes, plays violin, tends a garden and looks after old folks. He lives in North Carolina, where for years he and his friends have fine-tuned dancing that includes everyone – no “Gents and Ladies.” Allan and his late partner Carl Wittman were pioneers in the gender-neutral folk dance movement. On Sunday morning, under Allan’s instruction, we will be striding, jigging, waltzing, marching, sashaying and skipping. In circles and lines; in 2s, 3s and altogether. In various languages. No experience

required: this session is suitable for all abilities and aimed primarily at adults and children ages 7 and up.

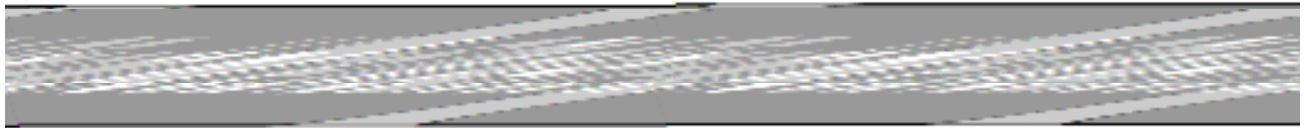
**Carol Van Valkenburgh, MS**, is Sr. Education Specialist, Child Welfare Training Unit, Professional Development Program, [Rockefeller](#) College, University at Albany.

## Dawn White LCSW-R

### Clinical Social Worker

265 Main Street  
 Binghamton, NY 13905  
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 607-770-8141-Answering Service  
 SettleFrMore@aol.com

- ◆ Offering experienced counseling services to LGBT community members including questioning, couples, transgendered and transsexual individuals, as well as adoptive parents.
- ◆ Daytime, evening, and Saturday appointments available.
- ◆ Accepting most health insurance as well as self-pay clients.



COLAGE is a national movement of children, youth and adults with one or more lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer parents. We build community and work toward social justice through youth empowerment, leadership development, education and advocacy. COLAGE provides a dynamic variety of programs around the country including:

- Just For Us- COLAGE's outstanding publication
- Speak OUT- Leadership and advocacy network and activism trainings for youth and adults
- Online communities for children, youth and adults
- Local and Regional chapters
- Award-winning website
- Voices Raised- A POC Led Project of COLAGE
- Youth and family programming at national and regional events
- Trainings and Panels
- Resources for youth, adults and families
- Pen Pal Program
- Education and visibility tools for schools and communities including *In My Shoes: Stories of Youth with LGBT Parents* and the *Respect for All Families* Poster Series.
- National expertise for research, media and more on children, youth, and adults with LGBTQ Parents
- Internship & Scholarship Programs
- And much more!

**JOIN US!** COLAGE relies on the membership of people like you to ensure that we can continue to build our movement. Your participation and support are what make COLAGE a vibrant community of children, youth, adults, parents, and allies who care about kids with LGBTQ parents, work for social justice, and envision a better world for all people and families.



[www.colage.org](http://www.colage.org)  
415-861-KIDS  
[colage@colage.org](mailto:colage@colage.org)

a teratogen information service

# NYS

## Pregnancy Risk Network

A **free** telephone service that provides information about the possible effects of medications, maternal illness, drugs and other exposures on the developing embryo/fetus. PRN serves pregnant women, those planning pregnancy, their families, and healthcare providers. We are an LGBT-welcoming service!

### Breastfeeding


NYS Pregnancy Risk Network also provides information about the safety of medications during breastfeeding.

### PRN Online

You can access NYS Pregnancy Risk Network through the internet and submit your question online. Go to **[www.pregnancyrisknetwork.org](http://www.pregnancyrisknetwork.org)** to submit your question on our electronic form.

### Confidential

All communications and caller information are kept strictly confidential. Information is provided with respect and concern for every caller's unique situation.

 **teratogen**, pronounced *te-rat-uh-jen*, is an environmental agent or maternal condition that may have a harmful effect on a developing embryo or fetus.

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

**1-800-724-2454**





*"Welcome to the 2009 Pride and Joy Families Weekend Conference! We're so excited to sponsor this important event. Community is key to our families' health and happiness. That's why Family Equality Council is also excited to bring you Family Week 2009 in Provincetown, MA, August 1-8."*



*Family Week is the largest national gathering of LGBT families and their friends in the United States. Limited capacity children's programming is filling up fast through online registration. Find out more about Family Week 2009 and reserve your family's spot today!*

<http://www.familyequality.org/familyweek>



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- ◆ Coordinate your arrangement including medical and psychological screening
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- ◆ Complete Co-Parent or Step Parent Adoptions and Pre-Birth Orders



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Web: [www.reproductivelawyer.com](http://www.reproductivelawyer.com)

*\* Member of the New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania Bar*

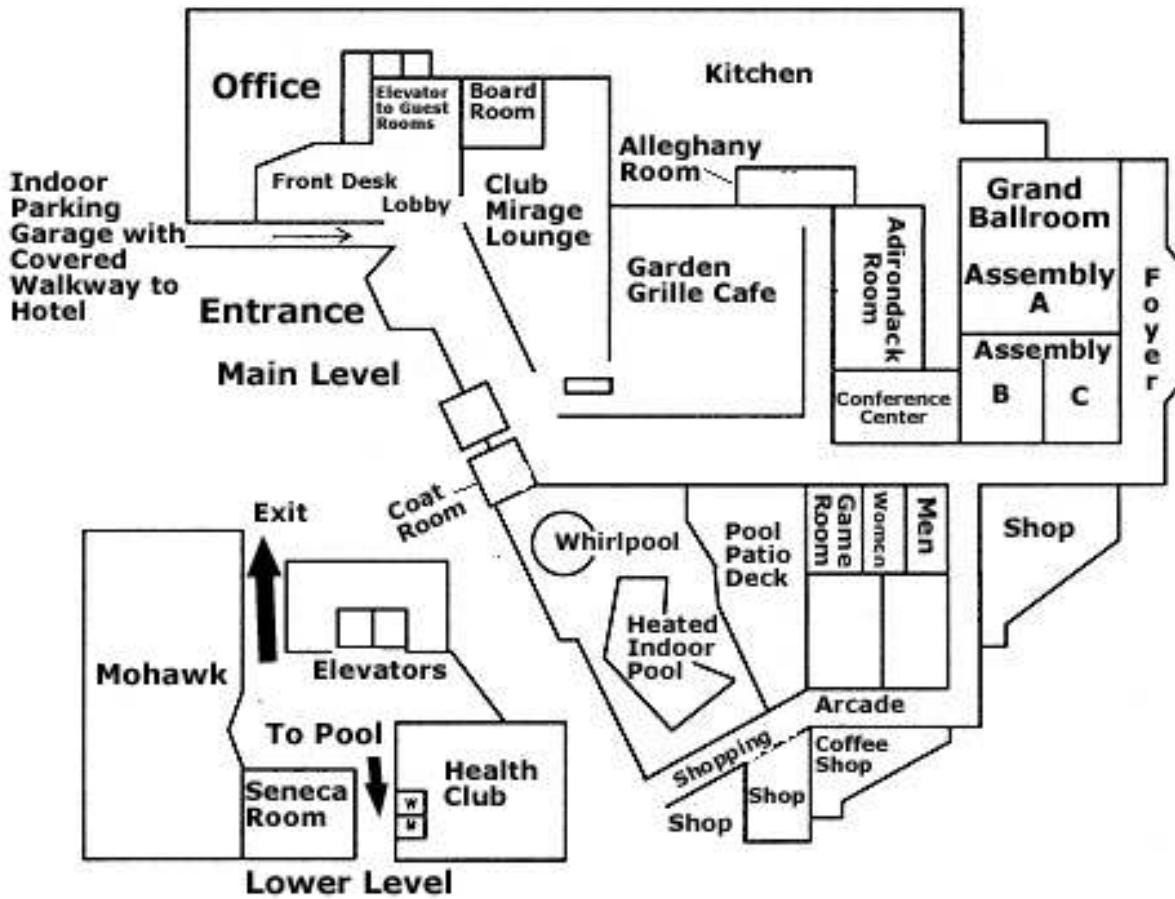
## **Resource/Vendor Fair Participants**

Adoption Resource Network at Hillside Children's Center  
Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth  
Capital District Gay and Lesbian Community Council  
Capital Region Adoption and Foster Care Consortium  
Cayuga Home for Children  
Children Awaiting Parents  
Children's Home of Jefferson County  
COLAGE  
Cortland LGBT Resource Center  
Family Equality Council  
Lavender Inkwell Bookshoppe, Inc.  
New Life Adoption Agency  
New York Civil Liberties Union  
Out Loud Chorus  
Pride and Joy Families  
Ray of Hope Church  
St. James Mission  
Stained Glass by Caren  
The House of Good Shepherd  
Utica LGBTQ Youth Safety Project at AIDS Community Resources  
VisitRochester

## **Thanks to our Conference Advertisers and Supporters!**

Beth Garry and Family  
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Ken Ford and David Wilcox  
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Trudy Pantalia and Family  
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# Hotel Map



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## Healthy Families Initiative

*...creating a community of healthy families...*

**Promoting an Awareness of Family Health History  
and Future Health in LGBT Families**

LGBT families are created in many unique ways. Our identified families share history, traditions and values and common medical backgrounds. This website was created to help LGBT families understand how health, family history, health beliefs, healthy living and genetic background are an important part of future health.

**Visit: [www.lgbthealthinitiative.org](http://www.lgbthealthinitiative.org)**

# Directory of Family Building Services for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People

S  
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Travel & Camps

Childcare & Schools

Financial Advisors

Sperm  
Banks

Medical Providers

Adoption

Faith Communities

Community Resources

Realtors



Attorneys &  
Mediators

Therapists &  
Counselors

Genetic  
Counselors

Visit [www.LGBTServicesDirectory.com](http://www.LGBTServicesDirectory.com) for over 300  
LGBT-friendly providers and services

-Search by category, location or keyword

-Continually expanding

The Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project, a program of the Ferre Institute, Inc., is pleased to provide its Directory of Family Building Services for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) People. The Directory is designed to assist LGBT people in upstate New York find health and human service providers that will help them build and strengthen their families.



PRIDE WEEKEND • July 17-19, 2009  
 ImageOUT Film Festival • October 9-19, 2009

*We're Family,  
 Family Friendly!*

I ♥ NY



GEVA THEATRE



THE PRIDE PARADE



RIVER CRUISING

Home of  
 The GAGV,  
[www.gayalliance.org](http://www.gayalliance.org)



THE PRIDE FLAG  
 RAISING AT CITY HALL

*Spectacular  
 Reasons to Make*

# Rochester

*the Base of  
 Your Visit!*



Choosing a base for your vacation or getaway is really important. By staying in the Rochester area, you have "must-see" family attractions, nationally famous sites and some wonderful surprises for grown-ups—all within a few minutes! Plus, you'll be all set to enjoy great day trips to the Finger Lakes region, Niagara Falls and the historic Erie Canal. Visit our LGBT Calendar of Events at [www.gayalliance.org](http://www.gayalliance.org) for current events and happenings that will appeal to your family all year round.



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 & SCIENCE CENTER



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The logo for New York State Genetic Counselors features the text "New York State" in a dark, serif font above "Genetic Counselors" in a larger, orange, serif font. A large, semi-transparent "NYS" watermark is visible in the background. The logo is set against a brown background with green horizontal bars at the top and bottom.

# New York State Genetic Counselors

## Who We Help

Who might benefit from genetic counseling?...

- ◆ Individuals with concerns about their personal or family history of a particular disease or condition, such as cancer or heart disease.
- ◆ Couples who have experienced infertility, multiple miscarriages, a stillbirth, or an early infant death.
- ◆ Families with a relative who is diagnosed with developmental delay, autism, learning disability, or mental retardation.
- ◆ Pregnant women whose ultrasound, screening, or other prenatal testing suggests an increased risk of complications or birth defects.

## What We Do

Genetic Counselors will...

- ◆ Review medical information about the specific condition in your family.
- ◆ Explain the way heredity contributes to the condition and risk for recurrence in other family members.
- ◆ Review testing options.
- ◆ Assist in decisions based on your perception of the issues and risks, your goals, and your ethical and religious beliefs.

**Visit: [www.NYSGeneticCounselors.org](http://www.NYSGeneticCounselors.org)**

**Email us for more information: [info@nysgeneticcounselors.org](mailto:info@nysgeneticcounselors.org)**



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Gay, Bisexual  
& Transgender  
Resource Center**

29 Central Avenue, Cortland, NY 13045 607.756.8970

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

join us on facebook at "**Cortland LGBT Center**"

## **2009 Pride and Joy Families Weekend Conference**

Radisson Hotel-Utica Centre, Utica, NY  
Friday, April 24-Sunday, April 26, 2009

### **ONEIDA COUNTY/MOHAWK VALLEY ATTRACTIONS**

- 1) Adirondack Scenic Railroad: Visit beautiful historic Union Station  
Union Station  
Utica, NY 13501  
315 724-0700
  
- 2) Children's Museum: Next to Union Station, hands-on exhibits and programs for kids  
311 Main St  
Utica, NY 13501  
315 724-6129
  
- 3) Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute: First rate art museum and school of art.  
310 Genesee St  
Utica, NY 13502  
315 797-0000
  
- 4) Saranac Brewery Tour (FX Matt): Makers of Utica Club, Saranac, and specialty sodas  
Corner of Court and Varick Streets  
Utica, NY 13502  
315 624-2434
  
- 5) Utica Zoo: Open year-round, excellent mid-sized zoo.  
99 Steele Hill Rd  
Utica, NY 13501  
315 738-0472
  
- 6) Erie Canal Village: Go back in time to the early 1800's in a canal town.  
5789 Rome-New London Rd  
Rome, NY 13440  
315 337-3999

7) Fort Stanwix National Monument: The fort, under siege, made way to the Battle of Oriskany, the bloodiest in the American Revolution. The Battlefield is nearby in the town of Oriskany. Baron Von Steuben's memorial is to the north near Remsen. General Herkimer's home is a federal park, near the Thruway exit in Little Falls.

112 E. Park Street,  
Rome, NY 13440,  
315 338-7730

8) Oneida Community's Mansion House: The longest lasting Utopian Society.

170 Kenwood Ave  
Oneida, NY 13421  
315 363-0745

9) Turning Stone Casino: An Oneida Indian Casino

5218 Patrick Rd  
Verona, NY 13478  
315 361-7711

10) Sylvan Beach Amusement Park: On the East-shore of Oneida Lake.

315762-5212

11) Old Forge, gateway to the Adirondacks, 45 minutes north from Utica.

Take route 28, many shops. Old Forge Hardware, a must visit.

## **Eateries in & around Utica:**

- 1) Joey's Restaurant (Italian)  
Corner of Mohawk and Lansing Streets  
Utica, NY 13501  
315 732-9160
- 2) Grimaldi's (Italian)  
Bleecker St  
Utica, NY 13501  
315 732-7011
- 3) Ventura's (\$\$ Italian)  
Kossuth & Albany Streets  
Utica, NY 13501
- 4) Chesterfield's (Italian)  
1713 Bleecker St  
Utica, NY 13501  
315 732-9356
- 5) Geisha II (Japanese)  
Bank Pl.  
Utica, NY 13501  
315 735-4907
- 6) Minar (East Indian)  
609 French Rd  
New Hartford, NY 13413  
315 797-9918
- 7) Rio Grande Tex Mex  
3913 Oneida St  
Washington Mills, NY 13479  
315 737-1010
- 8) Symeon's (Greek)  
Commercial Dr  
Yorkville, NY  
315 736-4074
- 9) The Acropolis (Greek)  
621 James St  
Utica, NY 13501  
315 793-1015
- 10) Pho Mekong House of Noodles (Vietnamese)  
601 John St  
Utica, NY 13501  
315 797-7171
- 11) Thornberry's (American)  
King St  
Utica, NY 13501  
315 735-1409