

Pride and Joy Families

Dedicated to helping LGBTQ people in upstate NY achieve their goals of building and sustaining healthy families.

FALL 2009

A Note from the Project Director

The 2009 Pride and Joy Families Weekend Conference, held in April in Utica, attracted more than 250 adults and children of all ages. The event was a resounding success in terms of achieving our goals of creating a sense of community and helping families find the support and information they need. The program and the hotel facility received high marks from attendees. Plans are beginning to take shape now for another conference in the Spring of 2011.

As a way to multiply our impact as an organization and help strengthen other LGBT service providers, we are making an effort to work collaboratively around the state. In Ithaca, we will co-sponsor an LGBTQ Parents Education and Networking Series with Planned Parenthood this Fall (see poster

inside). In Albany, we will co-present a family event in November with the Capital District Gay and Lesbian Community Center and Lambda Family Circle (see inside for details). We have also strengthened our ties with the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley (GAGV) to re-launch programs for Rochester-area families, beginning with a

start a COLAGE chapter" telephone conference call with Meredith Fenton, staff person from COLAGE's headquarters in San Francisco (details inside). Please contact me if you'd like to participate. Also, as always, let us know if you have any ideas or event suggestions. We would love to hear from you!

Claudia E. Stallman



meet and greet (see inside).

A number of parents and kids around the state have expressed interest in establishing a COLAGE chapter in their town. To support their efforts, the Family Building Project will host a "how to



Our Staff:

Claudia Stallman,
Project Director

Karen Armstrong,
Health Educator

Heather Hauer,
Outreach Consultant

Jeffrey Sterling,
Outreach Consultant

Karen Goulet,
Outreach Consultant

The Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project is funded by a grant from the New York State Health Department and works to help Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people in New York State build and sustain healthy families.

Our network of Pride and Joy Families provides social and educational activities and a sense of community to LGBT parents and their children.

We offer educational programs, resources and information to LGBT parents and prospective parents in upstate New York.

Contact Us!

Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project

124 Front Street

Binghamton, NY 13905

607.724.4308

www.PrideAndJoyFamilies.org

www.lgbthealthinitiative.org

www.lgbtservicesdirectory.com



“I would love to go to an LGBT friendly doctor, but I don’t know where to find one.”

Our Healthy Families

After watching President Obama’s speech last month about U.S. healthcare reform, I started to think more about how LGBT people fit in to the healthcare problem. It’s estimated that LGBT people lag behind on seven of the ten targets set by the U.S. government to improve health nationally, called Healthy People 2010.

Thanks to recent work funded by the New York State Department of Health interviewing 60 experts in health and human services and surveying 3,500 LGBT New Yorkers about their health and human service needs, many disparities have been found between the experiences of LGBT people and those of non-LGBT people. Empire State Pride Agenda has published these findings in a report entitled “LGBT Health

and Human Service Needs in New York State.”

A serious finding in LGBT health services was in culturally competent care. Even when LGBT people have access to health care--and many do not--it may not serve their needs. As one lesbian participant said, “I would love to go to an LGBT-friendly doctor, but I don’t know where to find one. . . It seems to be a very common problem.”

40% of LGBT people say there are not enough health professionals who are adequately trained and competent to deliver health care to LGBT people. 27% fear that if medical personnel found out that they are LGBT that they would be treated differently. This can result in people not giving their doctor the information he or she

needs to provide effective care, or in LGBT people avoiding medical care at all.

Finally, violence against LGBT people continues to be a significant problem. Thirteen percent of LGBT people said that they had been physically or sexually assaulted because they were LGBT and only about a quarter of those who had been hit, punched or kicked in a homophobic assault had reported it to the police.

There is a lack of data about LGBT people and policymakers are still less willing to ingrate LGBT people into their data gathering efforts. This lack of data leaves our community invisible and policymakers unable to propose good solutions to create a healthy community for all.

Visit www.prideagenda.org to read the whole report.

Working with colleague and member organizations, the National Coalition for LGBT Health has developed Guiding Principles for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender inclusion in healthcare reform.

To download the principles, visit: www.lgbthealth.net

FALL 2009

LGBTQ* Parents

networking and education series

The Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project and Planned Parenthood's Out for Health: LGBT Health and Wellness Program cordially invite you to join us for a special series of events for LGBTQ parents, families and aspiring parents!

LGBTQ Family Building!

Thinking about starting or adding to your family?

Not quite sure how to start navigating the sea of information and options? We're here to help! This special program offers resources, information and networking for aspiring parents!

Thursday, November 19
7:00–8:30pm
111 E Seneca Street, Ithaca

Fun Family Activity!

A special opportunity for families to gather and create a unique family crest to treasure for years to come!

Sunday, December 6
2:00 –4:00pm
St. Paul's United Methodist Church
402 N Aurora Street,
Ithaca

📧 E-Mail: lgbt@ppsfl.org
☎ Phone: (607) 216-0021, ext. 134
www.lgbthealthinitiative.com
www.outforhealth.org
www.PrideAndJoyFamilies.org

All programs are free;
We ask that you RSVP!
Space is limited,
Register early.
Light refreshments served.



*Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender/Queer

Maggie's Money Matters



"It's also a good time to have a heart to heart about what you would do if something happened to one of you."

Dear Maggie,

My partner and I are always fighting about money.

She's more of a spender, but I worry about the future and want to save money for the kid's college and retirement.

What can we do?

-Bickering about Bucks

Dear Bickering,

In honor of your next anniversary, how about starting out with a money date? Instead of just focusing on your day-to-day finances while you're hovered over the checkbook — and ready to pounce on each other — this is a great opportunity to step back, have a nice night out together and discuss the big-picture financial issues.

Before the date, you each make a list of your financial goals, then compare them over dinner. This is a chance to look beyond your daily finances and think big. Would you like to

start a business? Go back to school? Build a dream home? Take time off to travel?

The next step is to set priorities. What are you willing to give up to reach those goals? This is where you find out whether you and your spouse really do agree. Focus on the long-term and short-term. It's important not to sacrifice all of your short-term goals for long-term goals. But you also don't want to keep putting off the long-term goals like paying for retirement.

When you both have different approaches toward money, which sounds like the case with you and your partner, it's important to keep a positive tone to the discussion. If you are in credit-card debt and one of your goals is to get out, avoid blaming your partner for that. You have to

start where you are now and work as a team.

That's one reason why it's good to do this at a nice restaurant, where you're relaxed and in a good mood and unlikely to argue in public.

It's also a good time to have a heart-to-heart talk about what you would do if something were to happen to one of you. Make sure your wills, insurance, beneficiary designations and other legal documents are up to date, and review your budget and investments to make sure they're on track to help you reach the goals you discussed.

This might not sound like a romantic way to celebrate your anniversary, but you'll be surprised at how much you can accomplish when you work together. What's more romantic than that?

-Maggie



From Left: Jack, Mona and Vince

at www.PrideAndJoyFamilies.org

Vince lives in Syracuse, NY with his partner of thirty-four years, their thirteen-year-old daughter, Vince's ninety-eight-year-old mother, a guinea pig and two dogs.

Vince's View also appears nationally in LGBT magazines and zines: *In a Family Way*. Vince's writing appears in the anthology *Queer and Catholic* (Routledge, 2008) and will appear in the *Journal of GLBT Family Studies*.

Vince has recently completed a contemporary fiction manuscript about cross-generational conflicts and loyalties among Italian-American men as fathers, sons, friends and lovers.

Check out "Mazel Tov" at www.PrideAndJoyFamilies.org.

P&J Spotlight Family



P&J: Who is in your family?

Clair-Goulet: Mommy Karen, Mommy Danielle, Max, and Avery share our house with two dogs, Buster and Ruby, and a white mouse, Nilla. Max is 11 and in the 6th grade at The Harley School in Rochester. Avery is 3 and just started her first year in the Polar Bear preschool room at Geneva General Child Care Center. In addition to being a terrific parent to Max and Avery, Danielle is a physician at Finger Lakes Medical Associates. Since moving to Geneva from the Washington DC area in 2003, Karen has primarily been a stay at home mom but has also, at one time or another, operated her own Kindermusik studio, worked at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, and pursued part-time graduate work in Public Administration.

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

Clair-Goulet: Since moving to the Finger Lakes, we have really begun to value our summers and enjoy our proximity to Seneca Lake. During the summer, we love to picnic with friends and savor the beautiful sun-

From left: Karen, Max, Danielle and Avery set on the lake. Max and Danielle especially enjoy sailing and Avery and Karen can often be found at the sandbox at the sailing club. When the leaves begin to fall, we look forward to snowboarding (Max) and skiing (Karen may even try downhill this year). Our *very favorite* thing to do together is travel and we try to take several family vacations each year, whether it's a long weekend in Toronto, a trip to Disney World, Family Week in Provincetown, or wherever the wind takes us.

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

Clair-Goulet: The last place we travelled was to the Washington, DC area over Labor Day weekend to visit family. Although we enjoyed the National Zoo and Six Flags, the best part of the trip was a surprise visit from Uncle Matt, who lives in Los Angeles.

Our last true vacation, though, was to Ireland this past August. It was our first trip abroad as a family and we loved it! We stayed in a cottage in a fishing village near the Aran Islands and Cliffs of Moher and explored the region. Max even got to surf the East side of the Atlantic! An unexpected highlight of the trip was the Fota Wildlife Park, a pseudo-zoo with open animal habitats

without any obvious barriers (except for those housing the cheetahs, of course). We are definitely looking forward to our next international trip!

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

Clair-Goulet: We are all up pretty early (as are most families with a toddler), but Max is growing up way too fast lately, and quickly adopting some teen sleep patterns, so he would be the most likely to sleep late. ☺

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

Clair-Goulet: This is a hard one... living in Geneva puts us just about in the middle of Rochester, Syracuse, and Ithaca. Unfortunately, it also places us just out of reach of a do-able drive, so we haven't made it to many P&J events.

I would say that our favorite event was the conference in Binghamton – Max enjoyed meeting so many children from so many different family traditions (the dance and the alpaca outing the next day were top-rated). Karen enjoyed the workshops and meeting so many fantastic people, too. The best part is going to things like the P&J Potluck during Family Week in P-town and seeing so many familiar faces. We also enjoyed the picnic at Seneca Lake State Park, particularly since it was right here in Geneva and drew folks from the local Finger Lakes area, Rochester, Syracuse, Ithaca, and beyond!

Karen is excited to host a Meet and Greet at the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley on November 14, from 4-6pm.

Bring your family, your friends, and your ideas! The landscape for our families is constantly changing (as are our families - these kids keep growing and changing!) and we want to ensure that we are providing opportunities that meet your needs and desires. Can't make it? Want to stay in the loop? Want to share a resource?

Please drop Karen an email at kgoulet@prideandjoyfamilies.org or give a call to 607.724.4308, option 3.

**EMPIRE STATE
PRIDE AGENDA**



Download
Pride in Our Union: A Labor Movement Handbook
And learn about the legal rights of LGBT workers and building solidarity with
LGBT New Yorkers.

www.prideagenda.org



The Family Equality Council is committed to bringing you information, guides and statistics in easy-to-follow formats.

We think it is so important to build advocacy into our daily lives and to do so in a doable, step-by-step way. Download information about ways to be out in your community, how to talk to your kids, what to say to your elected officials, and more.

www.familyequality.org

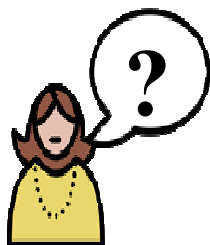


Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network

- Download guides for students and gay-straight alliances/gsa
- Find a kit to help you create a Safe Space in your school
- Discover ways to combat bullying in your school.

Find all this and more at www.glsen.org

**Don't know what to say?
We can help.**



**We have resources and information about
LGBT-led families that you can give to your doctor, your
teacher, your family, your neighbors and
even your friends.**

www.PrideAndJoyFamilies.org

THE CAPITAL DISTRICT GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER, LAMBDA
FAMILY CIRCLE, AND
THE LESBIAN AND GAY FAMILY BUILDING PROJECT
PRESENT:

Please Join us!

LGBTQ* Fall Family Event

Sunday,

November 8th

2-4pm

The Capital District
Gay and Lesbian
Community Center
332 Hudson Ave.
Albany, NY



Legal Issues:
Protecting our
LGBTQ
Relationships
and Families

“This program is intended
for parents, parents-to-be
and all LGBTQ adults who
want to get their legal
houses in order!”

-Anne Reynolds Copps,
Attorney

Families with children
of all ages welcome.
Registration is
required.

\$5.00 per family.

Contact Curran Saile at
518.462.6138 or
csaile@cdglcc.org

Attorney Anne Reynolds Copps will discuss legal protections for LGBTQ families, including such family law issues as second parent adoptions, co-adoptions, marriages and divorce; and estate planning issues such as wills, powers of attorney, health care proxies and designation for remains.

Fun, supervised activities will be provided for children in grades 3 and up. A playroom will be available for parents and their younger children.

*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer

Upcoming Events of Interest to LGBTQ Individuals and Families in Upstate New York

For more information, contact Heather Hauer, Outreach and Education Consultant, at 607.724.4308 or Hauer@PrideAndJoyFamilies.org, if direct contact information is not provided.

Events of Special Interest to LGBTQ Parents, Aspiring Parents and their Families:

November 5-8, Nationwide COLAGE Speakout Camp, **Woodstock, GA**. Kids 15 and older are invited to spend a weekend learning and socializing with other kids with LGBTQ parents. For more information visit www.colage.org/programs/speakoutcamp.

Saturday, November 7, 5 pm. **Utica** LGBTQ & Allies Roast Beef Potluck, 412 Rutger Street. Families with children are welcome! RSVP required by the Thursday before 315. 734.1653. Dinner will be followed by a craft activity for families, "This is My Family." Main course provided and families bring dishes to pass: casseroles, vegetables, desserts, beverages. Call Jeff Sterling for more information: 315. 734.1653.

Sunday, November 8, 2-4 pm. **Albany** Fall Family Educational Event: Legal Issues---Protecting our LGBTQ Relationships and Families. Attorney Anne Reynolds Copps will present and respond to questions. Families with children of all ages are welcome: supervised activities provided for children in grades 3 and higher; playroom available for parents and their younger children. Fee \$5.00/family (no one turned away). Light refreshments. Advance registration required for families with children. Contact Curran Saile at csaile@cdglcc.org or 518.462.6138. At Capital District Gay and Lesbian Community Center (CDGLCC), 332 Hudson Avenue. Co-presented by CDGLCC, Lambda Family Circle and Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project.

Thursday, November 12, 7-8:30 pm. **Statewide** How to Start a COLAGE Chapter: A special training opportunity for those who seek to support children with LGBTQ parents. Telephone conference call led by Meredith Fenton, COLAGE Program Director. Interested parents, other adults and young adults with LGBTQ parents are invited to attend. Call is free and will be recorded for those who cannot attend. Registration deadline is November 9. Contact Claudia Stallman at lesgayfamldg@aol.com or 607.724.4308. Sponsored by the Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project.

Saturday, November 14. **Albany** Lambda Family Circle, the GLBT families group, has tentatively scheduled a Lazer Tag meet-up. For more information, contact info@lambdafamilycircle.org, or call Brian at 518.432.1247 or Allyson at 518.439.0690.

Saturday, November 14, 3-6 pm. **Binghamton** Dorian and Marian are graciously hosting the Pride and Joy Families Thanksgiving Feast at their home again this year. They will provide the turkey and drinks, please bring a dish to share (if your last name starts with A-K, please bring a side dish, if your last name starts with L-Z, please bring a dessert). Please RSVP to hauerross@stny.rr.com by November 7th.

Thursday, November 19, 7-8:30 pm. **Ithaca** LGBTQ Parents Networking and Education Series (1st in series): LGBTQ Family Building for Aspiring Parents, 111 E. Seneca Street, Ithaca. Co-presented by Planned Parenthood of the Southern Finger Lakes and the Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project. Free event. Reservations required. Contact lgbt@ppsfl.org or 607.216.0021, ext. 136.

Saturday, November 14, 4-6 pm. **Rochester** Pride and Joy Families meet and greet. Enjoy light refreshments and a chance to gather informally with other LGBTQ-led families with children of all ages. Hosted by Karen Goulet, new Outreach and Education Consultant for the Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project. Meet at the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, 875 E. Main Street. Aspiring parents also cordially invited! Contact kgoulet@prideandjoyfamilies.org or call 607.724.4308.

Sunday, December 6, 2-4 pm, **Ithaca** LGBTQ Parents Networking and Education Series (2nd in series): A Family Fun Activity. Bring your family to create a family crest to treasure for years to come, St. Paul's Church, Ithaca. Co-presented by Planned Parenthood of the Southern Finger Lakes and the Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project. Free event. Reservations required. Contact lgbt@ppsfl.org or 607.216.0021, ext. 136.

Other Events of Interest:

Sunday, October 25, 1 pm. **North Country** Prism will host a hike to Lamson Falls led by Charlie. Meet at the park in Canton across from the UU Church and the group will carpool to the trailhead. The hike is less than a mile and the falls are quite spectacular. Please RSVP to Charlie at cshene@twcny.rr.org.

Sunday, October 25, 5 pm. **Utica** Men's Potluck is headed to Saltsman's Hotel in the Hamlet of Ephratah, NY. Dinners are always less than \$25 and are memorable. We have limited room in the van and are caravanning from 412 Rutger Street leaving around 3:30PM for those wanting to follow. Reservations must be in by Thursday Oct 13th in the evening (315.734.1653). Directions and history: www.saltsmans.com.

Tuesday, October 27, 7 pm. **Rockland County Area** Rainbow Boys, book reading and signing, New City Library, Teen Room 220 N. Main Street, New City, NY 10956.

Saturday, October 31, 9 pm. **North Country** Halloween Party, sponsored by Prism at the Cabaret Room at the Best Western Parkway Inn, 1515 Vincent Massey Drive. Admission is \$10.00 at the door, which will open at 9:00 pm and includes a late night buffet. For more info go to www.prismny.org.

Friday, November 6, 9 am – 12 noon. **Ithaca** "Safe School, Safe Community: How to Help Children Meet the Challenge of Bullying and Trauma," at The Holiday Inn, Downtown Ithaca. Cost \$30.00, including breakfast and conference materials. Contact Josephine, Mental Health Association, Tompkins County (607) 273-9250. Seating is limited. Please RSVP by October 23.

Friday, November 6, 9-11 am. **Kingston** 4th Annual Pre-Conference Institute for Educators, Administrators and Service Professionals, "Just Like Any Other Youth: Understanding and Working With LGBTQ Youth." Holiday Inn, Kingston, NY. Sponsored by Hudson Valley LGBTQ Community Center Inc., 845.331.5300, Visit www.lgbtqcenter.org.

Saturday, November 7, 9 am-4:30 pm. **Kingston** Come OUT & Find OUT Fourth Annual Educational Conference, Holiday Inn, Kingston, NY. Sponsored by Hudson Valley LGBTQ Community Center Inc., 845.331.5300, Visit www.lgbtqcenter.org.

Monday November 9, 6-8 pm. **Rochester** Hillside Adoption Services Information Meeting, 100 Metro Park, Rochester 14623. Free. Call Cecelia to register at 585.350.2501.

Saturday, November 14, 8 am-4 pm. **Rochester** Annual Adoption Conference by Hillside's Adoption Resource Network at Bay Trail Middle School, Penfield. All day conference with national speakers regarding adoption. Call Cecelia .585.350.2501 for a registration brochure. Or go to www.Hillside.com

Friday, November 20, 9:30 am-4 pm. **Binghamton** The Mental Health Association of the Southern Tier's Annual Cultural and Linguistic Competence Workshop. Topics include youth culture, including internet culture, bullies, depression and more. To be held at Decker Room, Broome County Public Library. Open to mental health providers, consumers, their family members, and the public. Contact Doris Chenung 607.771.8888.

Friday, November 20. **National** Transgender Day of Remembrance. A day to mourn, remember and educate communities about ending violence based on gender identity/expression.

Friday, December 4, 6-9pm, **Binghamton** World AIDS Day Event, Atrium of Binghamton University's Downtown Center. As part of the First Friday Art Walk, join us for an evening of African music, art and caring. Handcrafted African jewelry show and sale to benefit Jifahamu Kenya Foundation, an organization that provides resources and support to women and children affected by HIV/AIDS in Kenya. Contact Southern Tier AIDS Program, 607.798.1706 or www.stapinc.org.

Monday December 7, 6-8 pm. **Rochester** Hillside Adoption Services Information Meeting, 100 Metro Park, Rochester 14623. Free. Call Cecelia to register at 585.350.2501.

www.PrideAndJoyFamilies.org