

2005

*Pride and Joy  
Families Weekend  
Conference*



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# *Welcome to Binghamton and the 2005 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 and transgender (LGBT) people in upstate New York build and strengthen their families. The Project offers 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 groups 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 501(c)(3) organization that provides infertility education, family building resources and genetic counseling.

### **Staff Members**

Claudia E. Stallman, Project Director

Karen J. Armstrong, Project Outreach Educator

Luba Djurdjinovic, Executive Director, *Ferre Institute, Inc.*

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



### **2005 Pride and Joy Families Conference Planning Committee/Advisory Board Members**

Gregory Bain, Peg Johnston, Sean Massey, Dave Ruston, Marian Stern, Dorian Zahka (Binghamton);

Jackie Kelly, Wendy Knafelc, Vince Sgambati, Jack Stevens (Syracuse);

Karen Goulet (Finger Lakes); Todd Plank (Rochester).

### **Additional Conference Sponsors**

Special thanks to our additional Conference sponsors, Family Pride Coalition ([www.familypride.org](http://www.familypride.org)), Empire State Pride Agenda ([www.prideagenda.org](http://www.prideagenda.org)), and media sponsor, Gay Parent Magazine ([www.gayparentmag.com](http://www.gayparentmag.com)).

Graphic Communications by Shanon Kolb

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

2005 *Pride and Joy* Families Weekend Conference  
Binghamton Regency Hotel, 225 Water Street, Binghamton, NY

**CONFERENCE SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE**

**(All activities take place at Conference hotel, unless noted otherwise)**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11**

- 4:00-5:00 pm: Early birds meet and swim (Hotel pool)
- 5:00-8:00 pm: Registration (Lobby outside South Ballroom)
- 5:30-7:30 pm: Welcome Reception and Dinner Buffet (South Ballroom)
- 7:30 pm: Family Entertainment: Robert Rogers Puppet Company (South Ballroom)
- 9:00 pm: After hours at Merlin's Nightclub (201 State Street, Binghamton)

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12**

- 8:30-9:30 am: Registration and Breakfast Buffet (South Ballroom)
- 8:30 am-9:30 pm: Resource Fair (Lobby outside South Ballroom)
- 9 am-noon: Children's programs (Endicott and Johnson Rooms)
- 9:30-10:30 am: Keynote Address, "Building Community," Cade and Ry Russo-Young (South Ballroom)
- 10:45 am-noon: Adult Workshop Session A
  - ◆ "Out" in the World: Advocating for Our Families at School and in Our Communities (Watson Room)
  - ◆ Gay Fatherhood (Link Room)
  - ◆ Maybe Baby: The Top Ten Things LGBT Prospective Parents (and Parents) Need to Know (Kilmer)
  - ◆ Writing Workshop (Conference Room 301)

**Noon-1:00 pm:** Lunch Buffet (South Ballroom)

**1-5:30 pm:** Children's programs (Endicott and Johnson Rooms)

**1:15-2:30 pm:** Adult Workshop Session B

- ◆ How Queer: Diversity within the LGBT Parenting Community (Watson Room)
- ◆ Same Sex Families and New York State Law (Link Room)
- ◆ Adoption 101 (Kilmer Room)

**2:30-2:45 pm:** Mid-afternoon snack (Lobby outside Workshop Breakout Rooms)

**2:45-4:00 pm:** Adult Workshop Session C

- ◆ Talking to Children about Their Families (Watson Room)
- ◆ Transracial/Transcultural Families (Link Room)
- ◆ Building Families through Pregnancy: Donor Insemination, Fertility Challenges (Kilmer Room)

**4:15-5:30 pm:** General session: Teen/Adult Kids Panel (Link Room)

**6:30-7:30 pm:** Dinner Banquet (South Ballroom)

**7:30 pm:** Play-in-a-Day Performance and Family Dance! (South Ballroom)

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13**

**9:00-10:30 am:** Swim at hotel pool, have time on your own, or join local families at welcoming worship services (please visit the Registration Table for a directory of local welcoming congregations)

**11:00 am-1:00 pm:** Brunch at Lost Dog Café, 222 Water Street, Binghamton

**1:00 pm:** Family outings on your own (various locations)

## **Early Birds Meet and Swim**

**Friday, November 11, 4-5:00 pm (Hotel pool)**

## **Registration**

**Friday, November 11, 5-8:00 pm (Lobby outside South Ballroom)**

## **Welcome Reception and Dinner Buffet**

**Friday, November 11, 5:30-7:30 pm (South Ballroom)**

Welcome by local clergy members Rev. Miller Jen Hoffman, Rabbi David Katz, Rev. Andrew Stehlik and Rev. Douglas Taylor.

## **Family Entertainment: Robert Rogers Puppet Company**

**Friday, November 11, 7:30 pm (South Ballroom)**

The Robert Rogers Puppet Company, a premiere touring repertory puppet theater, was established in 1980. Since then it has presented a wide-ranging array of plays throughout the United States and around the world. Specializing in plays for young people, the troupe has created and utilized hundreds of beautifully crafted string, hand and rod puppets for performances in theaters, concert halls, museums, festivals and schools. Visit [www.robertrogerspuppets.com](http://www.robertrogerspuppets.com).

## **After Hours at Merlin's**

**Friday, November 11, 9:00 pm**

Owner Lauren Hering invites adults to an informal after-Conference-hours gathering on Friday night at Merlin's, "Binghamton's Premier Gay Nightclub," 201 State Street.

## **Registration and Breakfast Buffet**

**Saturday, November 12, 8:30-9:30 am (South Ballroom)**

## **Resource Fair**

**Saturday, November 12, 8:30 am-9:30 pm (Lobby outside South Ballroom)**

## **Children's Programs**

**Saturday, November 12, 9:00 am-12 noon, 1:00-5:30 pm (Endicott and Johnson Rooms)**

While adults will be attending different workshops about families, our children will have the exciting opportunity to put on a play, document the day with movie and still cameras, do yoga, make music, have conversations about their families, and attend an anti-bullying workshop. Work on the play, which has a space adventure theme, will weave throughout the day and include set and costume building with artists Judy Salton and MaryRose Griffin, technical, behind-the-scenes work with Gregory Bain, and an acting workshop with actor and Wolftrap teacher Mark Roth. All kids can have their fingerprints on this production somehow, and won't we be proud when we all get to see this "play-in-a-day" effort right after dinner!

## **Keynote Address: *Building Community***

**Saturday, November 12, 9:30-10:30 am (South Ballroom)**

The theme of "Community Building" will be addressed by Cade and Ry Russo-Young, adult daughters of two lesbian mothers whose family has been featured in the New York Times Magazine and the film, *Our House: A very real documentary about kids of gay and lesbian parents*, by Meema Spadola.

## **Adult Workshop Session A**

**Saturday, November 12, 10:45 am-12 noon**

**"Out" in the World: Advocating for Our Families at School and in Our Communities** (Watson Room) with panelists Jackie Kelly, Ari Istar Lev, Jason Hungerford and Jason Seymour; Monique George will facilitate

This workshop will give participants a chance to hear first-hand the experiences of LGBT families advocating for equality and justice in our different communities, such as school districts and local towns and cities. Advocating for our families is essential in order to educate people about how our lives are affected by public policies and laws. Various tools of advocacy will be discussed, from working with school personnel, to lawsuits and legislative advocacy. Panelists will emphasize the small and "doable" conversations that every family should have in order to educate people about our families and our realities, the most successful method for creating allies and winning equality. Facilitated by the Empire State Pride Agenda, this panel workshop will energize and empower participants to take the necessary, concrete steps everyday to advocate for their families.

### **Gay Fatherhood (Link Room)**

with Vince Sgambati

This session will not include an "expert" presentation; all participants are the experts. It will, however, provide gay and transgender fathers with an opportunity to come together and examine how, on a daily basis, we commit a very radical act by transcending a mother/father dichotomy, "mother" traditionally elevated as the nurturing - more essential parent. We will share our success and our challenges. Ultimately, under the guidance of a facilitator, participants will, as author Mary Pipher urges, form community in *The Shelter of Each Other*.

### **Maybe Baby: The Top Ten Things LGBT Prospective Parents (and Parents) Need to Know (Kilmer Room)**

with Karen J. Armstrong

This interactive workshop will provide participants with an opportunity to pick up a few tips that will be useful on their journey through LGBT Parenthood. In lighthearted top ten list form, this session will give a brief overview on topics which include family building options, taking care of your relationships, and how our families are the same and different from other families. Perfect for parents-to-be, but experienced parents will learn something too.

### **Writing Workshop (Conference Room 301)**

with Susan Eisenberg

This workshop will allow participants to use writing to step outside of their everyday roles as parents and to reconnect with some of the parts of themselves that so often get ignored in the non-stop routine of parenting. We will use some simple visualization to help participants access these parts of themselves and to write from this point of contact. The workshop will provide time to write in whatever form feels most comfortable and to share with the group.

## Lunch Buffet

**Saturday, November 12, 12 noon-1 pm (South Ballroom)**

Welcome by New York State Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo. Ari Istar Lev, Board Member of Family Pride Coalition, will show a short film celebrating Family Pride's annual event, Family Week.

## Adult Workshop Session B

**Saturday, November 12, 1:15-2:30 pm**

**How Queer: Diversity within the LGBT Parenting Community (Watson Room)**

with Ari Istar Lev

LGBT families represent diversity across many different communities. Many of our families are not only headed by same-sex parents, but are also interracial or transracial. Some of our families are formed by alternative means of conception, surrogacy and adoption and foster parenting have become increasingly common in the LGBT community. Some of us are step parenting older children, some of us are single parenting multiples, and some of our children have more than two queer parents. Transgender and transsexual parents clearly cross societal boundaries regarding gender and sex, and many same-sex parented families celebrate diverse gender expressions. This is an opportunity for all of us -- minorities within larger minorities -- to discuss our diverse families, and brainstorm strategies for successful queer parenting.

**Same Sex Families and New York State Law (Link Room)**

with Suzanne Reine and Dara Silberstein

The purpose of this workshop will be to review several key components same sex families encounter as they navigate through the laws and court systems of New York State. Topics will include the current status of marital laws as they apply to same sex couples, the legal status of same sex legal custody and support and, laws affecting the dissolution of same sex relationships.

**Adoption 101 (Kilmer Room)**

with Lisa Maynard and Mary Louise Hartenstein

Everything you always wanted to know about adoption (and foster care) but didn't know who to ask. This workshop will cover the how to's of: Educating Yourself; Exploring Your Options; Selecting an Agency; Completing a Homestudy; Identifying a Child for Your Family; Filing legal documents; and finally, Parenting Your Child!

## Mid-afternoon Snack

**Saturday, November 12, 2:30-2:45 pm (Lobby outside Workshop Breakout Rooms)**

## Adult Workshop Session C

**Saturday, November 12, 2:45-4 pm**

**Talking to Children about Their Families (Watson Room)**

with Ari Istar Lev

At a young age, children start to notice that their families are different, but they do not realize that this difference can translate into anger, hostility, oppression, or become the focus of a national debate about whether their parents are "fit" to rear them. We need to engage our children in honest and thoughtful conversations about LGBT families, that assist them in developing pride, but equally important, they need to develop language and skills to combat the judgments they will undoubtedly experience. This workshop will help discuss age-appropriate ways to talk about LGBT families, and become not only advocates for our children, but teach them to become advocates for their families.

## 8

### **Transracial/Transcultural Families (Link Room)**

with Roxanne L. Hill

This workshop will challenge workshop participants to move beyond the political correctness of most cultural sensitivity training to a deeper appreciation for the complexity of family life when members of the queer community establish families. Using a group facilitation format, race, class, gender, as well as sexual orientation will be explored. These dimensions of diversity profoundly inform who constitutes family in our society and the support received, stress, and coping skills necessary when two members of the community come together as family.

### **Building Families through Pregnancy: Donor Insemination, Fertility Challenges (Kilmer Room)**

with Dr. James D. Kondrup

Dr. Kondrup will review the current practices in donor insemination and provide an overview of common clinical situations that can impact the success of the donor insemination process.

## **General Session: Teen/Adult Kids Panel**

**Saturday, November 12, 4:15-5:30 pm (Link Room)**

Everyone is welcome to attend this general session during which teenaged and adult children of LGBT families share their family stories and respond to questions from the audience. The program is modeled on the COLAGE Teen Panel, an event held each year as part of Family Week in Provincetown, MA. COLAGE (Children of Gays and Lesbians Everywhere) is a San Francisco-based, national organization with chapters throughout the country. Their mission is to engage, connect, and empower people to make the world a better place for children of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender parents and families. Dave Ruston, gay dad and clinical social worker, will facilitate the panel.

## **Dinner Banquet**

**Saturday, November 12, 6:30-7:30 pm (South Ballroom)**

## **Play-in-a-Day Performance and Family Dance!**

**Saturday, November 12, 7:30 pm (South Ballroom)**

Thanks to our DJ dads, Ken Ford and David Wilcox.

## **Early Risers Swim or Have Time on Your Own**

**Sunday, November 13, 9-10:30 am**

Swim at hotel pool, have time on your own, or join local families at welcoming worship services (please visit the Registration Table for a directory of local LGBT-welcoming congregations).

## **LGBT Community Brunch at the Lost Dog Cafe**

**Sunday, November 13, 11 am-1:00 pm**

The Binghamton Lost Dog Café/Coffeehouse is located in a landmark building at 222 Water Street, across the street from the Conference hotel. The café serves award-winning "innovative and delicious" food in a comfortable, casual atmosphere. Owner Marie McKenna and her staff have designed a special brunch menu just for us. Prices range from \$ 4.95 (plus tax and tip) for children's meal, and \$6.95-7.95 (plus beverage, tax and tip) for adults. Music will be provided by "Simple Gifts," Barbara Kaufman on recorder and Paul Sweeny on classical guitar. Collages by Artist Ada Stallman will be on display.



## Off-site Family Outings

Sunday, November 13, 1:00 pm

Please take some time on your own, or with other families you've met during the Conference, to explore the Binghamton area.

### Cooperative Gallery 213

213 State Street, Binghamton, NY 13901

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

Member owned and operated, Cooperative Gallery 213 is a source for unique works of art by local artists for reasonable prices. Gallery hours are Fridays 3-6:00 pm, Saturdays 12-3:00 pm, Sundays 12-3:00 pm. Their website also features links to other arts events and institutions in Binghamton.

### Discovery Center of the Southern Tier

60 Morgan Road, Binghamton, NY 13903

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

The Discovery Center's professionally trained staff creates programs and exhibits that encourage children from preschool through elementary school to discover the universe within, around and beyond themselves; compliment traditional educational methods with hands-on experiences; enable parents to actively participate in the education of their children; draw upon the rich local history and the ethnic diversity of our region. Executive Director Pokey Crocker is providing free passes for Conference families to visit the Discovery Center (normally \$5.50/child and \$4.50/adult). Hours are Friday, 10 am- 4 pm, Saturday, 10 am-5 pm, Sunday, noon-5 pm.

**In Our Family: Portraits of All Kinds of Families** is a museum-quality photo-text exhibit designed for audiences of all ages. The exhibit is produced by the Family Diversity Project ([www.familydiv.org](http://www.familydiv.org)) and will be on display at Binghamton University from November 7-21 (please see Conference registration table for exact location on campus). The exhibit includes portraits of twenty families representing adoptive and foster families; divorced and stepfamilies, single parent households, multiracial families, families facing chronic illness and death; families living with mental and physical disabilities; lesbian and gay-parented families; interfaith families, multigenerational households, and immigrant families.

### Nyala Farm Alpacas

104 Rockwell Road, Vestal, NY 13850

Come visit Nyala Farm Alpacas owned and operated by Ann, Andy, Kenny and Helen Merriwether. We have friendly alpacas that can be petted and led around. We have an alpaca obstacle course that visitors are welcome to try with one of our friendly alpacas. We can do spinning demonstrations and some fiber projects for children of all ages. Come meet our Champion herd-sires Superstition and Invasion and our blue-ribbon winners, Princessa, Pistol, Captain Jack Sparrow, Fawn Connery, Magneeto and Patriot. We love to show off our beautiful herd. Located in the town of Vestal, NY, which is just west of the city of Binghamton, NY - just off of Interstate 86/Rte 17 about 15 minutes West of Interstate 81.

### Roberson Museum

30 Front Street, Binghamton, NY 13905

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

Roberson Museum and Science Center features historic buildings, permanent and traveling exhibitions in its numerous galleries, the Link Planetarium, and the Binghamton Visitor's Center. In addition to its Binghamton campus, the institution also encompasses the Kopernik Observatory in Vestal, NY. The Museum is providing two-for-one admission coupons to Conference families. Fees are \$4/seniors and students, \$6/adults, children 4 and under are free. Check hours of operation.

## PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

**Karen J. Armstrong**, Karen Armstrong has been the outreach educator for the Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project for the past two years. She is committed to strengthening LGBT-led families through socialization, support and education. She publishes the Pride and Joy Families newsletter and coordinates activities for Pride and Joy Families groups in upstate New York. Karen lives in Vestal, New York with her partner of 16 years and their three children.

**Gregory L. Bain** (Theatrical Producer/Technical Production Designer) has been active in media technologies, arts administration, theatre production, commercial and theatrical lighting design, sound design and stage management, as well as audio and video recording technologies, since 1971. Along with directing a New York City based production company (GLB Presents), Mr. Bain is currently enrolled in the Graduate School at Binghamton University seeking a Masters Degree in Social Work.

**Susan Eisenberg** is a psychotherapist based in New York City.

**Jan Fiore** first presented workshops at the Broome County Teacher Center on bullying in 2001. She is an educational consultant with Brain Works Naturally Learning Center and offers many different workshops and classes for groups all across the state. She is a licensed instructor/practitioner of educational kinesiology in private practice as well. Jan is also a storyteller and a retired educator with 35 years experience primarily as a middle and high school librarian. She is a mother of 2 grown sons, Josh and Ben, and now grandmother to Madison.

**Rachel Galper** is Elementary Education Coordinator for The Discovery Center of the Southern Tier. She develops and teaches school age programs.

**Monique George**, Lead Organizer, Empire State Pride Agenda, was born and raised in the Bronx by a strong-willed Grandmother. Monique received her BA degree from the State University of New York, College at New Paltz (93) and has been involved knee deep in the struggle ever since. Her work with 1199 SEIU and recently with Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice has strengthened her dedication to equality for all and especially for the LGBT community. Monique lives in Jamaica Estates, Queens, NY with her partner of nearly 4 years. They have two sons Shamel (16) and Marquel (18) as well as a beautiful godson Antonio (1).

**Karen Goulet** is a licensed Kindermusik educator currently working with families in the Geneva area ([www.kindermusikwithkaren.com](http://www.kindermusikwithkaren.com)). She also works with Do-Re-Me & You! selling musical learning toys directly to families ([www.drmy.net/kgoulet](http://www.drmy.net/kgoulet)). When not advocating the developmental benefits of joyful music-making, she's a stay-at-home mom to her and her partner's delightful seven year-old son.

**Mary Louise Hartenstein**, ACSW, Adoption and Counseling Service, Inc., has worked for more than 30 years on behalf of adoptive families and children.

**Roxanne L. Hill, Ph.D.**, is a family therapist, trainer and consultant employed by the Center for Community Alternatives in Syracuse, New York. Roxanne holds a Bachelor of Science in Child Development and Family Relationships from Delaware State University, a Masters of Family Therapy from Southern Connecticut State University and received her doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy from Syracuse University in 2004. She has extensive experience in public education working with a predominantly 'at risk' inner-city population and currently conducts workshops in the Syracuse community for non-profit agencies on topics such as cultural diversity, youth development, African American Youth & Families, and issues concerning historically oppressed populations. Roxanne was a presenter for *In The Family, a magazine for queer people and their loved ones*, during its annual conferences for four consecutive years. She is a current board member of the Central New York Association of Marriage & Family Therapy, and a member of the Onondaga County Community Sexual Trauma Task Force.

**Jason Hungerford, 28**, along with his partner of nearly eight years, **Jason Seymour, 28**, are plaintiffs in the "Ithaca 50" marriage equality lawsuit. Their case was recently heard before the Third Judicial Appellate Court in Albany. Jason Hungerford, originally from the Northern Virginia/Washington, D.C. area, and Jason Seymour, originally from Wisconsin, decided to make central New York their new home and moved to Ithaca in 2002. Jason Hungerford currently works as an independent Internet technology consultant, and has developed a wide variety of web-based applications for many major corporations, as well as small businesses, associations, and community groups. Jason Seymour works as a Systems Engineer at Cornell University. "The Jasons" have been actively involved in various non-profit organizations and both have an intense entrepreneurial spirit, usually centered around technology. Both "Jasons" are on the Board of the Ithaca Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Task Force (ILGBTTF), and Jason Hungerford was elected co-Chair in October. In March, Jason and Jason attended the first Empire State Pride Agenda marriage equality training workshop in New York City, and now serve as Empire State Pride Agenda "Marriage Ambassadors".

**Jackie Kelly, RN, BC, MSN, PNP**, holds a Bachelor of Science in Health Science from Cortland College, and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Binghamton University. She is board certified in pediatrics through ANCC, and has experience in human services, health education, and pediatrics. She earned a Master of Science in Nursing, as well as a Post-Masters Certificate in Nursing Education from Upstate Medical University, Syracuse. She currently works as a school nurse in an urban middle school. She is the lesbian mom of a delightful six year old girl.

**James D. Kondrup, MD**, provides infertility evaluation and treatment to many upstate New York women and their partners. He was trained at the Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse and went on to a residency at a Yale University affiliated hospital in Connecticut. He began his practice in the Binghamton area and in 1992 dedicated his clinical efforts to infertility and specialized surgeries. He is a member of many national organizations including the American Society of Reproductive Medicine and the Accreditation Council on Gynecological Endoscopy. In addition to his clinical practice, Dr. Kondrup is Assistant Clinical Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Upstate Medical College in Syracuse NY.

**Ari Istar Lev, LCSW, CASAC**, is a therapist specializing in working with LGBT families at Choices Counseling and Consulting in Albany, New York ([www.choicesconsulting.com](http://www.choicesconsulting.com)). She is the author of *The Complete Lesbian and Gay Parenting Guide* (Penguin Press, 2004) and *Transgender Emergence: Therapeutic Guidelines for Working with Gender-Variant People and their Families* (Haworth Press, 2004). She is also a Board Member of the Family Pride Coalition and authors two syndicated national columns on LGBT families.

**Lisa D. Maynard** is the founder and director of Adoption Resource Network in Rochester, NY, which has recently merged with Hillside Children's Center. An adoptive parent of two children born in Korea, Lisa has personal and professional experience with a wide range of adoption-related issues. She has worked in adoption since the arrival of her children eighteen years ago.

**Alenna McDonald** began teaching and creating Yoga programs over 25 years ago in her preschool and kindergarten classes in New Orleans, Louisiana. She observed how the style and pace of a Yoga class was able to address the natural interests, needs and rhythms of children by simply inviting them to play and learn. Alenna's Teacher Trainings and certifications have taken her on a wonderful journey to many states and countries, the University of New Orleans, Wassaenaar, the Netherlands, Himalayan Institute, Honesdale, Pa., Integral Yoga Institute, NYC, Life Force Center, Colchester England and the Omega Institute, Reinbeck, NY. Alenna continues to combine her educational background and love of Yoga, creating unique programs designed to meet school, group, individual and special needs populations, bringing the benefits of yoga to children, teachers and parents.

**Suzanne Reine** is the Managing Attorney for Legal Aid Society of Mid New York. She has practiced in the area of Family Law for 15 years in private and nonprofit corporations. Ms. Reine has two incredible, young daughters.

**Mark Roth** is a local professional actor, company member at the Cider Mill Playhouse, certified Wolfrap Teaching Artist, and Teratogen Information Specialist at the Pregnancy Risk Network of the Ferre Institute.

**Cade Russo-Young**, now 25, grew up in Greenwich Village with her sister and lesbian mothers. She has been active in the community for many years. Her work as an HIV Prevention Specialist with youth has taken her from San Francisco to Boston and back to her hometown of New York City. After attending Saint Ann's School in Brooklyn Heights she continued on to Smith College where she designed her own major in Women's Health and became active in various organizations on campus. She was the president of the Smith College Smithereens, the second oldest a capella group on campus. She also helped found Illmatics, a Hip-Hop Collective dedicated to racial and socio-economic education. She is currently writing a book on women's sexuality and the power therein. She is now living with her partner, Cheri, in Manhattan's Union Square

Born in 1981, **Ry Russo-Young** grew up in Greenwich Village with her sister and lesbian mothers. She attended Saint Ann's school in Brooklyn Heights as a child and went on to study Visual Art and Cinema Studies at Oberlin College. One of the early donor inseminated children, Ry has discussed her experience growing up in a gay household throughout her childhood. Over the years, Ry has tried to channel this experience creatively into her films and videos. In 2003, Ry wrote, directed and starred in BABES IN TOYLAND, which has screened at the Torino Film Festival in Italy as well as other festivals in Europe and the United States. Her other short film, MARION (2005) won a "Silver Hugo" award at this year's International Chicago Film Festival. She has recently finished her first feature film, ORPHANS, that she wrote and directed in early 2005. Her films are ripe with a new take on gender, relationships and humanity.

**Dave Ruston** is a gay dad and clinical social worker who works in schools with kids.

**Vince Sgambati** has trained educators and other human service employees to be skilled facilitators at state and local levels. He has also facilitated planning sessions, short term and long term, helping agencies, including school districts, individual schools and other educational, human service or health related programs, to articulate strategic plans including missions, objectives, overarching goals and short term strategies. More relevant to the needs of this conference, Vince has facilitated discussion groups around topics including but not limited to: diversity, collaboration, generating and prioritizing critical issues, literature studies and writing. Vince and his partner Jack, of 30 years, are the parents of a 9 year-old child.

**Dara Silberstein, JD, PhD**, is Executive Director of Women's Studies at Binghamton University. Prior to that she served as Staff Attorney for Broome Legal Assistance Corporation. Her areas of specialization include Women's Legal History; Feminist Jurisprudence; Queer Legal Theory, Constitutional Law (including its history and doctrinal development); The State, Power and the Law (including an examination of the legal doctrines in conceptualizing state authority and the individual rights of citizens within the United States); Labor Relations and the State (including a legal history of unionization and union democracy in the United States).

**Simple Gifts** is Barbara Kaufman on recorder and Paul Sweeny on classical guitar. Barbara directs the music program at the Susquehanna School and teaches in her private recorder studios in Binghamton and Ithaca. Paul teaches a wide variety of guitar styles in his Binghamton studio and teaches guitar and music history at Broome Community College.

**Ada Stallman** is a Binghamton-area artist who works primarily in watercolor and collage. She is a founding member of the Cooperative Gallery 213. Thanks go to Ada for her donation of a painting for our spring raffle, which earned \$150 to support the Conference. (Editor's note: Thanks, Mom!)

### RESOURCE FAIR PARTICIPANTS

Richard James Barber, FC, AXA Advisors  
 Brain Works Naturally, Jan Fiore  
 Empire State Pride Agenda  
 Gay Parent Magazine, Angeline Acain, Publisher  
 Haworth Press  
 Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project  
 Metropolitan Community Church, Rev. Miller Jen Hoffman  
 A New Hope Center  
 Social sciences resource table, Sean G. Massey, PhD  
 Southern Tier AIDS Program  
 Two Lives Publishing, Bobbie Combs

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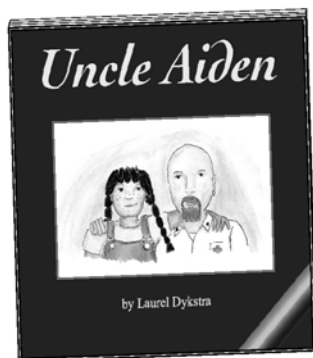
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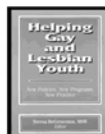
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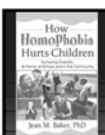


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GPM wishes the organization and its director, Claudia Stallman, continued success.

### About Gay Parent magazine

GPM is a bimonthly, nationally distributed publication offering personal family stories, news, activities, events, and visibility for LGBT parents and their children.

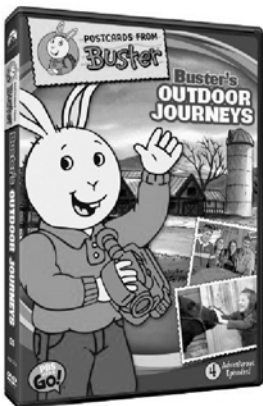
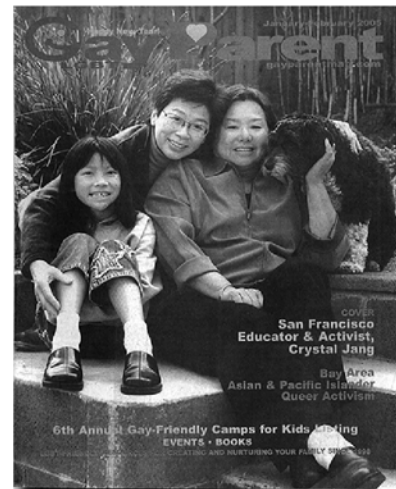
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