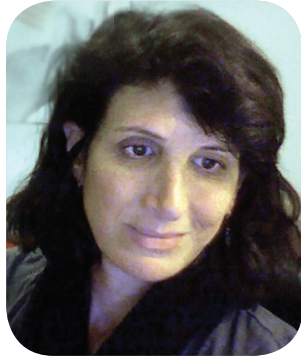


One Parent, One Child ... Three Names

By Gina Morvay

As it's often portrayed in the trans community, transition is a time of self-realization, casting off lifelong shame and secrets, connecting with simple newfound joys and a circuitous journey of self-realization. It can also be a time of isolation, humiliation, personal loss, familial conflict, financial burdens, and having to defend one's very sense of identity and personhood to those you feel should understand but don't.



All hard enough for an adult on their own, but harder still for those trans people who have children in their lives. The idea that one's transition could negatively impact the life of your child or, worse yet, result in a total barrier between parent and child is a fear all too many trans people have to deal with. Before I started actively transitioning at the advanced age of 48, I felt trapped between a rock and a hard place—trying to deal with the intense shame, depression and helplessness I'd had about my lifelong cross-gender identification and fear about how revealing that truth would affect my then almost 8-year old daughter.

The year before I told my daughter about my transition, she had to deal with the break up of her parents' 18-year relationship. While the breakup was mostly amicable and we were co-parenting, my daughter was upset and already destabilized about living in two separate households.

Still reeling from the loss of a long-term relationship, I was beginning to start visible transition and would have the first of many related surgeries. I felt whatever male shell/constructed identity I had developed over the years rapidly breaking up, but with whom would it be replaced? My emotionally precocious, inquisitive child had to know what was happening. How would she react to that "new" person and, on some level, the loss of her father with whom she'd had a very close relationship?

When I first talked with my daughter about my transition, I reminded her of a conversation I overheard her and her BFF having in the car a few months before. Her girlfriend asked her, "Did you ever think you should have been born a boy?" My daughter replied, "No," but her friend said she was jealous of boys getting to play rougher than girls and not getting in trouble. My daughter instantly recalled the discussion. As our conversation about transitioning progressed, she totally understood the idea someone could be born "in the wrong body" and their spirit and identity didn't match how they looked. She was highly curious about the process and, at least, in her head, got it. But, as with so many complex events, the path to understanding and integration isn't linear, and this was just the first slow curve on the roller coaster.

A month later, my daughter saw me for the first time dressed less androgynously than was my regular attire at that time in what society deems female presentation—I wore a skirt. Two genderqueer-identifying friends came over to work on a writing project, yet when my normally social butterfly of a child came out to say hello, she took one look at me then stormed back into her room and slammed the door shut. She stayed in her room until right before her bedtime when one of my friends coaxed her out. My daughter later confided she expected me to look more as if I were wearing a costume (which she loved) not dressed and looking more like a "regular woman." The cold reality of it rained down on a very smart, normally accepting 8-year old. Before I put her to bed that night, I changed back into my androgynous wear, feeling horrible and ashamed about what I'd put my child through but knowing, on some level, this was just the beginning. My daughter, who was closer to me initially after the divorce (I had been her primary caretaker since we adopted her as a toddler), became distant as she connected much more with her other parent, perhaps in a search for stability. It was personally painful to experience, but made total sense.

What further complicated our situation was I had recently switched careers and gone back to SF State to get an Elementary Teaching Credential. For a year after the divorce, I did my student teaching and a large amount of

(continued on page 11)

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Kids Will Be Kids

By Judy Appel, Executive Director

My little girl Talia, age 8, loves pop culture: she grooves to Miley Cyrus and loves hip hop. She has her own sense of style—she doesn't like pink, but loves scarves and puts together some amazing outfits of many layers and bold prints. She is also very athletic, is fiercely competitive, and many of her good friends are boys (in her words, "about a third"). Talia is very girl identified, and it so happens that all of the kids in her class firmly identify with their biologically assigned sex.

Talia and her classmates are not alone in this. In most schools where OFC works with parents, teachers and kids, the gender divide is clear and fairly impenetrable. We see the perpetuation of boys dominating the yard with their sports and girls playing jump rope or imaginary games around the edges. Girls are awash in pink and boys wear baseball caps. Those who don't fit squarely into set gender norms have an easier time in the younger grades and then either conform or stand out for ridicule. This reality disturbs me and leaves me feeling that we have not made much progress. So how do we change this limited notion of gender, so that not only our own kids, but the kids in their schools who might come from families with less exposure to a concept of a gender spectrum can express their gender in a way that is fully comfortable to them?

My kids know a lot of transgender people and seem to accept them fully and without hesitation. I am struck by their openness beyond the binary, particularly given their experiences at school. I think their acceptance is in part because they have known trans people since they were young, and in part because we have done our best to answer questions and tried to acknowledge our kids' own questions honestly, directly and without reflecting back any signals of judgment or shame. We have always acknowledged our kids' own recognition of both the sameness and differences of being transgender. It is just a way of being—like being gay, lesbian or straight.

About two weeks into her drama camp this summer, Talia came home and told us that she heard that one of the girls in her group is "really a boy," or maybe she said that she has boy parts. Talia had no judgment about it and continued to use a female pronoun while talking about her friend, but definitely had some questions. Why? How? Do you think she gets teased? Is she like my friend's mom who is



transgender?

We answered her questions directly, checked in with the child's parents, and then just let it be.

Kids are not alone in grappling with questions around gender and feeling comfortable with those who do not conform to traditional societal norms. I firmly believe that this is at the heart of a lot of homophobia. So when OFC offers professional development to educators at elementary schools, we have started to spend more time discussing gender. We are attempting to equip educators to have a broader idea of gender as a spectrum—biological sex, gender identity, gender expression, and gender perception, and give them the tools to help children express themselves fully and rejoice when their peers do the same. With the help of other organizations including Gender Spectrum (an organization committed to creating a more supportive world for people of all genders), this work is starting to reach more people.

I recently helped put together a panel on transgender inclusion in the Jewish tradition with Rabbi Kahn at Congregation Beth El in Berkeley, where we are members. After the panel, Talia and I were driving one of the panelists, Jamie, to the BART station. Jamie is a lovely young woman who has transitioned within the last five years and was brave enough to share her experience with a large group at the event. In the car, Jamie and I were talking about the evening and telling Talia about it. Jamie was sharing how amazing it was for her to be in a room of people of so many ages and differing levels of exposure to trans people talking openly about the experience of being trans, asking questions, and sharing stories. Talia took it all in, chatted away, shared her perspective, then changed the subject at some point to share with Jamie her favorite Miley Cyrus song and tell her about an upcoming Afro-Haitian dance recital.

When Jamie got out of the car, I waited to hear what Talia had to say about the conversation and about Jamie. Guess what it was? "She's really nice." ☺

Seeking Board Members!

OFC is looking for people to join our Board of Directors. Do you have time, energy and skills to help us continue to build OFC? If you are interested, please contact judy@ourfamily.org.

Welcome New Board Members!

Ali Michael Cannon

Ali Michael Cannon is a writer, organizer, activist, and public speaker. As a recognized leader in the transgender community, he has been invited to speak on various panels and organized numerous conferences and events for the Jewish, LGBT and Queer Jewish communities. His writing has been published in *From the Inside Out: Radical Gender Transformation, FTM and Beyond*. His provocative illumination of Jewish and transgender themes can be seen in the film, *It's A Boy: Journeys from Female to Male* and his essay (co-authored with TJ Michels), "Whose Side Are You On: Transgender at the Western Wall." (*Queer Jews* and republished in *Kulanu: All of Us: A Program and Resource Guide for GLBT Inclusion*). Professionally, Ali worked as a non-profit manager for 20 years. He has spent the past two years as a School District Administrator, managing



state and federal grants that improve the lives of youth without equal access to education. He has a BA and MA in Women Studies. A proud father and husband, he lives in Oakland with his wife, Jessica, an Oakland Public School teacher, and their five-year old son.

Jonathan Pannor

Jonathan Pannor, LCSW, joins the Board of Directors with broad experience in the LGBTQ and adoption communities. Jonathan has a Master's degree from the school of Social Welfare, UC Berkeley, with a specialization in direct services with families, individuals and groups. This includes educational workshops for Our Family Coalition on donor relations. His work includes both a mental health practice and extensive adoption/post-adoption education. Jonathan's mentor was his father, Reuben Pannor, a pioneer in the field of open adoption and co-author of *The Adoption Triangle*. Jonathan also has years of experience in mental health settings helping seniors with a wide range of challenges. He lives in San Rafael and has two sons.

Ann-Marie Yap

Ann-Marie is a nine year veteran of Cisco. Previously, she held the roles of Sr. Manager in IT-Finance and Corporate Systems and with the Internet



Technology Group. Ann-Marie has overseen Business Intelligence, Application Server, Portal technology, and overseeing Cisco's relationship with IBM. She was one of the founders of the Women's Action Network and the GLBT employee organization and continues to mentor and advocate for diversity. Prior to joining Cisco, Ann-Marie held management and engineering positions at BellSouth and Hughes Aircraft.

Ann-Marie lives in Santa Cruz with her partner of twelve years, Amy, and their two children, Anneke (6) and Arie (1). Amy is a stay-at-home mom and student, taking post-baccalaureate science courses in pursuit of med school. Ann-Marie maintains a flexible work schedule so they can share primary parenting responsibilities. Anneke loves to perform and takes ballet, tap/jazz, and hula dance classes. Arie loves to throw balls, run around, and follow his big sister. ☺

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Local LGBTQ Family Camps



Camp It Up!

July 31–August 7
(Stay 3, 4 or 7 nights)
Feather River Camp in Quincy
510-338-0370
www.campitup.org

Camp It Up! is known for one-of-a-kind gay family vacations—children’s programs for kids 12 months to 12 years, teen and adult programs and activities, three square meals cooked by a seasoned staff and individual family lodging among the redwoods. We celebrate all unique families and we welcome you to join us this summer.

Camp Tawonga—Keshet LGBT Family Weekend

Various Dates
Middle Fork of the Tuolumne River, just outside Yosemite National Park
415-543-2267
www.tawonga.org

A Jewish camping experience for gathering together with other LGBT families. We’ll celebrate Shabbat and Havdalah; sing, hike, climb at the ropes course; and have discussion groups. You’ll have time to spend with your children and time to enjoy other adults while our staff cares for your kids. If you are considering parenting or just love being with gay families, you’re also welcome to join us.

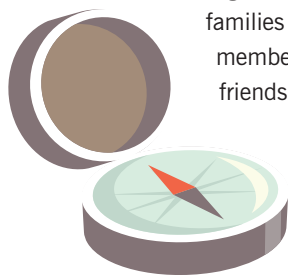
Family Arts Bridge (FAB) Camp

July 9–11
Walker Creek Ranch, Petaluma
510-684-0190
www.ourfamily.org/programs/fab-camp

Family Arts Bridge or FAB Camp (for short) is an arts-based non-profit family camp for all kinds of families representing diverse

backgrounds, including families with LGBTQ members and their friends and allies.

OFC is the proud fiscal sponsor of FAB Camp.



FUSION

July 26–August 6
Redwood Day School
3245 Sheffield Ave.,
Oakland
510-919-5073
www.fusionprogram.org

The two week summer day camp is open to all youth 6.5–12 years old with a particular focus on children with more than one cultural and/or racial community experience. Fusion offers a fun and supportive environment where youth can share, explore, and celebrate the richness and complexity of mixed heritage.



Tilden Park, weekly swimming, fun treasure hunts, pinatas, and carnival games. Themes include: Pirates, Outdoor Cooking, Mad Science, and Fabulous Fun.

Also, two Drama/Performing Arts sessions held for two weeks with a performance for family and friends at the conclusion. Founding Directors

are Stacy Raye and Heather Mitchell, local teachers, and partners in business and life. We welcome all families and teach staff in inclusive language and practices. Programs for children 3–15 years old.

Girls on the Go! Camp

June 14–August 20
One week sessions
Cedar-Rose Park, Berkeley
510-540-6025 and 510-529-9332
www.girlsonthegocamp.com

Explore the San Francisco Bay Area by BART, bus, ferry boat and walking in this field trip camp for girls, ages 9–13. Examples: mini-golfing, bread factory tour, bowling, trips to Zeum, Exploratorium, old time arcades, boating at Lake Merritt. Additional interactive workshops with community role models, mostly women, offered most sessions. Examples: slackline, yoga, capoeira, shrinky dinks, jewelry making, cheese tasting, cooking, plant i.d. Random acts of kindness included each week. Founding Directors are Stacy Raye and Heather Mitchell, local teachers, and partners in business and life. We welcome all families and teach staff in inclusive language and practices.

Monkey Business Camp

June 14–August 31
One and two week sessions
Tilden Park, Berkeley
510-540-6025
www.monkeybusinesscamp.com

Outdoor day camp, emphasizing play based fun with respect toward self, others and the Earth. Daily projects, circle and field games, camp songs, exploration of

PACT Camp

July 26–29
Asilomar Conference Grounds
Pacific Grove
510-243-9460
www.pactadopt.org/events/camp

Pact is planning its 7th camp for Adoptive Families With Children of Color. The theme for camp is “Putting It All Together: Families, Adoption & Race.” We’ve planned an exciting program that includes a rich blend of education, community-building, sharing and recreation. Most of the families who attend camp are transracial (parenting children across racial lines) but we welcome all families, whether your adoption was domestic or international, and whether you have birth kids along with adopted kids.

Spectrum Family Camp

July 10–12
Valley of the Moon, Glenn Ellen Sonoma County
415-457-1115
www.spectrumlgbtcenter.org

Since 1982, Spectrum has offered a unique weekend experience for LGBT parents and their children in a safe and welcoming environment. Come join LGBT families for a fun-filled weekend of activities which include hiking, swimming, arts and crafts, a talent show, field games and more.

From Our Readers

Laurin (age 8), Oakland, wrote this piece for her 3rd grade class. The essay was forwarded to us from her mother. (The piece is verbatim and does not include any changes or edits.)

I think that people should be able to marry who ever they want. For me it's a big deal, because my parents are lesbian. I think that people are afraid of LGBT folks and that's why people voted Yes on Prop 8. Where a lot of people voted yes was the central valley and Southern California. There are other Props like Prop 2, but I have a very strong opinion on Prop 8 and that's why I'm writing about this topic.

Now let's hear a quote from Ruby: she thinks that you should be able to marry however you want and not have to marry a different gender. Now a quote from Clara: she thinks that people should be able to get married to whomever they want. Clara also has two moms just like me.

Last year a girl in Mona's class, named Ruthie, said that the results for the election was 4,888,460 for No, which is 47% and 5,387,939 for Yes, which is 52%. 499479 is the difference.

If you want Prop 8 to stop you can wear a rainbow ribbon. If you are gay or lesbian and are not married legally, you can't visit them in the hospital and you can't get health care either. For a while Prop 8 was legal, but then they changed the law. But you will not go to jail though. When they decided Yes on Prop 8 yes, it was at the time of the elections. People decided in the state of California. I hope that some day people will stand up and say No on Prop 8. People really have strong opinions about Prop 8 like me. People want to be able to have the right to do all the stuff other couples can do.

Justyn, San Francisco, sent this letter in response to the cover article, "Expect the Unexpected," from the 2010 Winter newsletter (Vol. 15, Issue 1).

As a family law attorney, I was happy to see that the author sought out an attorney with whom he and his partner were comfortable with before proceeding down the path to having kids. I was, then, deeply troubled to read that the parties were at the hospital during the birth and surprised to learn that only Mr. Gayle's partner's husband, and not he, would be treated as the "natural," legal parent under the law.

While it was important to the parties to find a "queer, poly-friendly" attorney, it is also essential that they found one who is sufficiently experienced in the relevant field. A competent attorney would have, in the course of drafting a preconception agreement, explained how the law currently treats children born during legally recognized marriages. This should not have been a surprise, and it's reassuring that it's worked out well thus far for Mr. Gayle and his partner. However, they may continue to forfeit opportunities for him to protect his relationship with his kids for lack of an experienced lawyer.

Got Something to Say?

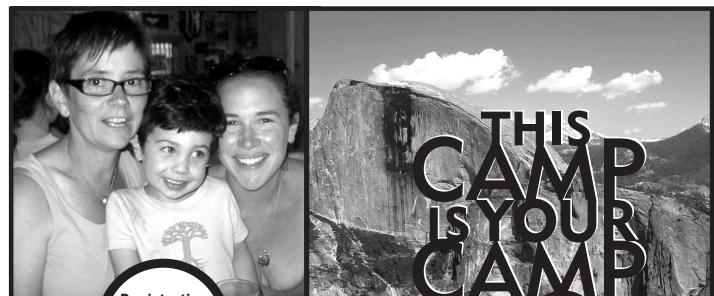
Have you ever wanted to share a comment, questions, disagreement, compliment or affirmation in response to our print newsletter or other current LGBTQ family issue? Email info@ourfamily.org with your thoughts and stories. We hope to hear from you soon.

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- > Located at the doorstep of Yosemite, Tawonga is American Camp Association accredited with a staff to camper ratio of 1:1.5
- > Campers of all ages are welcome! Offerings include childcare, teen programming, specialized workshops, and all the great activities of a summer camp session squeezed into four days.
- > Program runs September 2-5, 2010. Financial assistance available.

CONTACT US TODAY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TAWONGA PROGRAMS, FINANCIAL OPTIONS & COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS IN YOUR AREA.

keshet.tawonga.org | 415.543.2267 | info@tawonga.org

CALENDAR

Understanding the Educational Needs of Our Children

(LGBTQ ADOPTIVE PARENTING WORKSHOPS SERIES)

Tuesday, April 6, 6–8pm

SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market St., San Francisco

The special education system is complex and can be overwhelming. A Disability Rights and Education Defense Fund (DREDF) advocate will go over information and support regarding special education and your child(ren). Hosted in collaboration with Family Builders.



The Adoptees Experience

(LGBTQ ADOPTIVE PARENTING WORKSHOPS SERIES)

Saturday, April 24, 10am–12pm

SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market St., San Francisco

Our ground breaking series of workshops for transracially adoptive families, facilitated by experts in the field, will cover topics like racial/ethnic identity, how to answer questions from outsiders and from your children, exploring white privilege, parenting tips, and much more! Even if you haven't yet attended the series, coming to the last workshop will help you understand what your child may go through as a transracially adopted youth. Hear from experts and transracially adopted adults who have lived the experience to gain tips and a better insight. Facilitated by Lisa Marie Rollins, Founder, Adult Adoptees of the African Diaspora.



Speaking to Your Children About Their Biological Origins

Tuesday, April 27, 6–8pm

The Ella Baker Center, 344 40 St., Oakland

In this discussion we will address the developmentally appropriate language that can help children of all ages integrate knowledge of the donor side of their origins while strengthening their life long bond with their parents. We will also discuss donor siblings and how to negotiate these relationships to best benefit our children and different strategies appropriate for children with known and unknown donor. Facilitated by Alice Ruby (Executive Director, Sperm Bank of California) and Laura Goldberger, MFT.



Family Fun at the Oakland Museum of California

Sunday, May 2, 11am–6pm

The Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland

Join us for a celebration of the Museum of CA's reopening—a 31-hour program for families, night owls and party goers! The family-oriented activities will start on Sunday, May 2, 11am–6pm. There will be on going hands-on art activities including Our Family Coalition's family photo and frame making station. There will also be a myriad of performers including Jodi Lomask's juggling-crystal ball, clubs and dance acts, Jazz by Oakland School of Arts, and the LGBT Marching Band Community.



Navigating Schools as an LGBTQ Adoptive Family Panel

(LGBTQ ADOPTIVE PARENTING WORKSHOPS SERIES)

Tuesday, May 4, 6–8pm

SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market St., San Francisco

How do we handle school projects on family trees, Mother's Day, and Father's Day? This panel of LGBTQ adoptive parents will provide their personal insights and experiences. Hosted in collaboration with Family Builders.



Separating With Heart and Smarts: Alternative Dispute Resolution in LGBTQ Separation and Divorce Part 1

Part One: Saturday, May 8, 1–3pm

Part Two: Saturday, June 5, 10am–12pm

SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market St., San Francisco

Part One of the series will be led primarily by therapists addressing the emotional and psychological strategies for maneuvering this life transition: Keeping your children's best interests at the center of your decision-making; how to talk to kids about divorce/separation; and strategies for co-parenting. Part Two will be led primarily by lawyer-mediators. This workshop reviews the basic legal landscape for LGBTQ people who are separating, whether they are registered domestic partners and/or married, or partnered without formal legal recognition; discuss the particular benefits for LGBTQ families of resolving their separation and post-separation conflicts outside of the courts; and outline the characteristics of and differences between different alternative conflict resolution methods such as direct resolution, mediation and collaborative team practice. Families without children may benefit from, and only attend Part Two if they wish.



LGBTQ Cinco de Mayo Celebration

Saturday, May 8, 3–5pm

SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market St., San Francisco

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with the LGBTQ Latin@ community and community organizations. This fun and family-friendly event will include food, drinks, entertainment, and fun activities including making papel picado, custom buttons, and more! Co-sponsored by COLAGE and the SF LGBT Center.



LGBTQ Family Night at the YMCA

Saturday, May 15, 5–9pm

Berkeley Downtown YMCA, 2001 Allston Way, Berkeley

Come join OFC for our signature event! Hordes of LGBTQ parents and children come and enjoy each other's company and the myriad of activities planned by the YMCA. Family activities include swimming for all ages, arts and crafts, kindergym, juggling demo, sports, and loads of entertainment including activities for older children. \$5 per adult. Children are free. Please visit www.lgbtqfamilynight.eventbrite.com to register, or contact cheryl@ourfamily.org or 510-332-0496.



Please register for our events and groups online at www.ourfamily.org to help us prepare for childcare, accessibility, and language needs. Or contact julia@ourfamily.org or 415-981-1960.

Do you have time to help out?

We can use your skills—in the office, at events, in your school or preschool, or even from your own home. Contact Julia at julia@ourfamily.org or 415-981-1960.

Creating A Family: Choices for LGBTQ Prospective Parents Panel



Wednesday, May 19, 6–8pm

SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market St., San Francisco

Are you thinking about becoming a parent? Come hear from our panel of experts to learn about all the options available to LGBTQ individuals. Panelists will include representatives from foster and private adoption agencies, sperm bank, and a LGBTQ family lawyer.

Youth Conceived Through Donor Insemination Share Their Experiences and COLAGE Presents “The DI Guide”



Saturday, May 22, 10am–12pm

SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market St., San Francisco

Join COLAGE, OFC, and Alice Ruby of The Sperm Bank of California for Part 2 of 2 of the series “How to Talk to Children About Their Bio Origins.” We will celebrate the release of a new publication and a COLAGE youth donor insemination (DI) panel. Jeff Degroot 2009–2010 COLAGE fellow will formally release the first-of-its-kind, groundbreaking “The DI Guide,” a publication that highlights and address the experiences of donor conceived people with LGBTQ parents. DeGroot will discuss the guide and its creation, along with his own experiences as a donor conceived person.

Mamas & Papas LGBTQ Family Brunch



Sunday, May 23, 10:30am–12pm

Holly Park, Bocana & Highland Ave., Bernal Heights, San Francisco

Pack a lunch for your family and join us for our first combined social brunch of the year! Meet LGBTQ parents from both sides of the bay and enjoy the outdoors playing and networking with other families.

JUNE IS LGBTQ PRIDE MONTH!

Visit our website for Pride month updates including Frameline Films and more!

African American Hair Workshop Series



Saturday, June 5, 1–3pm

SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market St., San Francisco

This series was a great success in 2009! Get your questions answered about the care and grooming of African American hair. This workshop will provide parents and caregivers of African American children tips on how to care for your child’s hair. This is the first of a three-part series. The first workshop is for adults only. Please send your hair questions to cheryl@ourfamily.org prior to the workshop. In the second and third workshops in the series, parents and caregivers will see master hair stylists in action with their children. Reservations for Part 2 will be taken after Part 1 has taken place. Space is limited—sign up today.

LGBTQ Adoptive Parenting Workshop



Monday, June 7, 7–9pm

Adoption Connection, 2150 Post St., San Francisco

Considering or pursuing creating your family through adoption? Learn about the adoption path to creating your family and parenting in a gay or lesbian family at a free workshop. Facilitator Charlie Spiegel is an adoption attorney and adoptive parent. Please pre-register by contacting Adoption Connection at 415-359-2462 or MaliaK@jfccs.org. Co-sponsored by Adoption Connection.

LGBTQ Family Law 101



Tuesday, June 8, 6–8pm

Bananas Inc., 5232 Claremont Ave., Oakland

Come and learn about basic laws affecting LGBTQ people and their families. This presentation will cover domestic partnerships, marriage, protecting parental rights, dissolutions, and adoptions. Facilitated by Emily Doscow, Esq.

Mamas & Papas LGBTQ Family Brunch at Pride 2010



Saturday, June 26, 10:30am–12:30pm

South playground at San Francisco Pride, Corner of Larkin and Grove Sts., San Francisco

At our second combined meeting of the year for families with children 0–12 we will be decorating posters for Sunday’s SF Pride Parade. Bring your favorite brunch dish to share. Refreshments, utensils, and poster making supplies will be provided.

San Francisco Pride Parade and Family Garden



Sunday, June 27, 10:15am (Parade), 2–5pm (Family Garden)

March in the San Francisco Pride Parade with OFC and COLAGE! Bring snacks, water, red wagons, and other goodies to keep the kiddies occupied. Watch your email or visit www.ourfamily.org for updates including our location in the parade. You may also call Julia at 415-981-1960 for additional details.

After the Pride Parade, OFC, COLAGE, and the SF LGBT Community Center are especially proud to announce the 7th Annual Family Garden which will be located at the south playground at the corner of Larkin and Grove Streets. Last year the playground was overflowing with families. The Family Garden will feature art activities, face painting and a playground. Parents can meet other LGBTQ parents, rest while the children play and receive information at our booth that will be located in the Family Garden.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

OFC needs 20 volunteer contingent monitors to walk with our contingent and act as safety monitors. Free trainings will take place in the East Bay and in San Francisco. We also need volunteers to staff our Pride booth and the Family Garden. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Julia at 415-981-1960 or julia@ourfamily.org. Let’s make this the best Pride ever!

ONGOING GROUPS

Peninsula Parents

1st or 2nd Saturdays, 11am–2pm

Hobeas Restaurant, Redwood Shores, 1101 Shoreway Road (off Ralston and Hwy 101), Belmont

Sponsored and endorsed by OFC, this event is an informal lunchtime mixer for peninsula parents. The goal is simply to meet other parents and broaden our network of families on the peninsula. Watch your email or visit www.ourfamily.org for date updates.



Castro Dads

Every Tuesday, 6–8pm

Firewood, 4248 18th St., San Francisco

Join gay dads and their children from around the bay area for food, fun, and conversation. Our Family Coalition is a proud new supporter of this emerging group. Be sure to join the Facebook group by searching for “castro dads.”



Mamas & Papas

Expand your circle of LGBTQ parents and explore concerns and tips shared by all parents as well as those of special interest to our families. Help your kids build lasting friendships with other children with LGBTQ families.

East Bay Families With Children 0–5 yrs

1st Wednesdays, April 7, May 5, June 2, 5:30–7:30pm

Habitot Children's Discovery Museum, 2065 Kittredge St., Berkeley

Your kids play in the Habitot Children's Museum and your infants stay with you. Dinner provided for children only. May 5th guest speaker: Stephanie Brill, co-founder and director of Gender Spectrum, co-author of *The Transgender Child*, *The Queer Parent's Primer*, and *The New Essential Guide to Lesbian Conception, Pregnancy, and Birth*. Our annual combined families spring brunch will be on Sunday, May 23. See page 7 for details.



SF Families With Children 0–5yrs

2nd & 4th Saturdays, April 10 & 24, May 8 & 22, June 12, 10–11:30am

SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St., San Francisco

Childcare and kids activities begin at 9:30am, and adult discussion begins at 10am. Topics will be April: Teaching our children healthy behaviors, May: TBA, June: TBA. Please note: June 26 formal meeting will be replaced by our annual Pride Brunch. See page 7 for details. Our annual combined families spring brunch will be on Sunday, May 23. See page 7 for details.



SF Families With Children 5–12yrs

3rd Saturdays, April 17, May 15, June 19, 3:45–5:45pm

SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St., San Francisco

Food will be provided. Formal parent discussion and COLAGE programming for children ages 8–12: 3:45–5:15, dinner 5:15–5:45. Topics will be April: Teaching our children healthy behaviors, May: TBA, June: TBA * Please note that Saturday, June 26, is the Mamas & Papas Pride Potluck Brunch. See description on previous page for details



Transgender Parent Support Group

3rd Saturdays, April 17, May 15, June 19, 10am–12pm

SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St., San Francisco

Are you or your partner a transgender parent or considering parenthood? This group is an opportunity to connect with your peers and get mutual support. Drop-ins are welcome, but ongoing attendance helps to establish group rapport.



Prospective Parent Potluck

3rd Tuesdays, April 20, May 19, June 15, 6:30–8pm

April and June: Ella Baker Center, 344 40th St., Oakland

May: SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market St., San Francisco

Are you a prospective parent? These monthly get-togethers switch between San Francisco and the East Bay. This is a potluck, so remember to bring your favorite dish. OFC will bring resource materials on agencies to help on your road to parenthood. Potluck from 6:30–7pm, discussion from 7–8pm. Please note that the May meeting will be a Prospective Parent Panel. See page 7 for details.



LGBTQ Parents of Color Group

4th Mondays, April 26, May 24, 6:30–8pm

Bananas Inc., 5232 Claremont Ave., Oakland

Join other LGBTQ parents of color in the East Bay for a dialogue about racial and cultural identity, as well as economic and community resources. Dinner will be provided.



April Performances

Frances England & Friends

Saturday, April 17
11 a.m.

Members \$5;
General Child \$10;
General Adult \$12
(includes admission to the Museum)
Buy tickets online.

Kindergarde

Saturday, April 24
11 a.m.

Free Performance



Discovery Camps

Small classes, BIG fun for kids ages 3 – 8! June 14 – August 20
Register online at BayKidsMuseum.org/camps



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EVENTOS Y TALLERES

Comprensión de las necesidades educativas de nuestros niños

(Parte de la serie de adopción transracional)

Martes, 6 de abril, 6–8pm

El Centro de SF LGBT, 1800 Market St., San Francisco

La experiencia de adoptar

(Parte de la serie de adopción transracional)

Sábado, 24 de abril, 10am–12pm

El Centro de SF LGBT, 1800 Market St., San Francisco

Como comunicar con sus hijos sobre sus orígenes biológicos

Martes, 27 de abril, 6–8pm

El Centro de Ella Baker, 344 40th St., Oakland

Diversión con familia en el Museo de California de Oakland

Domingo, 2 de mayo, 11am–6pm

El Museo de Oakland, California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland

Navegando escuelas como una familia adoptiva LGBTQ, una presentación

(Parte de la serie de adopción transracional)

Martes, 4 de mayo, 6–8pm

El Centro de SF LGBT, 1800 Market St., San Francisco

Fiesta LGBTQ de Cinco de Mayo

Sábado, 8 de mayo, 3–5pm

El Centro de SF LGBT, 1800 Market St., San Francisco

La separación con corazón y conocimiento de resoluciones alternativas de disputas en separación y divorcio LGBTQ

Primera Parte: Sábado, 8 de mayo, 1–3pm

Segunda Parte: Sábado, 5 de junio, 10am–12pm

El Centro de SF LGBT, 1800 Market St., San Francisco

Noche de familia LGBTQ en el YMCA

Sábado, 15 de mayo, 5–9pm

Berkeley Downtown YMCA, 2001 Allston Way, Berkeley

Las elecciones y recursos para LGBTQ padres futuros

Miércoles, 19 de mayo, 6–8pm

El Centro de SF LGBT, 1800 Market St., San Francisco

Juventud concebido aunque inseminación donante comparten sus experiencias y COLAGE presenta “La Guía de DI”

Sábado, 22 de mayo, 10am–12pm

El Centro de SF LGBT, 1800 Market St., San Francisco

Almuerzo de Las Mamás y Papás

Domingo, 23 de mayo, 10:30am–12pm

Parque de Holly, Bocana y Highland Ave., San Francisco

Serie de taller para pelo Africano

Sábado, 5 de junio, 1–3pm

El Centro de SF LGBT, 1800 Market St., San Francisco

Serie de taller para los padres LGBTQ adoptivos

Lunes, 7 de junio, 7–9pm

Adoption Connection, 2150 Post St., San Francisco

La ley para las familias LGBTQ

Martes, 8 de junio, 6–8pm

El Centro de Ella Baker, 344 40th St., Oakland

Las Mamás y Papás: Almuerzo de la familia LGBTQ para el año 2010 (Combinada para las familias con hijos de 0 a 12 años)

Sábado, 26 de junio, 10:30am–12:30pm

Patio del sur, Larkin y Grove Sts., San Francisco

San Francisco Orgullo y Jardín de la familia

Domingo, 27 de junio 27, 10:15am (Desfile), 12–5pm (Jardín de la familia)

Desfile localización que se anunciará ocalización que se anunciará. Jardín de la familia: Patio del sur, Larkin y Grove Sts., San Francisco

GRUPOS PROGRESIVOS

Padres de Península

El primer o segundos sábados, 11am–2pm

Hobees Restaurant—Redwood Shores, 1101 Shoreway Rd. (Ralston y Hwy 101), Belmont

“Papas del Castro”

Cada martes, 6–8pm

Firewood, 4248 18th St., San Francisco

Mamás y Papás

Las Mamás y Papás SF: Las familias con niños 0–5 años

Segundos y los cuartos sábados, 10 & 24 de abril, 8 & 22 de mayo, 12 de junio, 10–11:30am

El Centro de SF LGBT, 1800 Market St., San Francisco

Las Mamás y Papás SF: Las familias con niños 5–12 años

Terceros sábados, 17 de abril, 15 de mayo, 19 de junio, 3:45–5:45pm

El Centro de SF LGBT, 1800 Market St., San Francisco

Este de la Bahía: Mamás y Papás: Las familias con niños 0–5 años

El primer miércoles, 1 de abril, 5 de mayo, 2 de junio, 5:30–7:30pm

El museo del descubrimiento para niños: Habitot, 2065 Kittredge St., Berkeley

Padres LGBTQ de color

Los cuartos lunes, 26 de abril, 24 de mayo, 6:30–8pm

Bananas, 5232 Claremont Ave., Oakland

Cena comunitaria para futuros padres

Los martes terceros, 20 de abril, 19 de mayo, 15 de junio, 6:30–8pm

Abril y junio: El Centro de Ella Baker, 344 40th St., Oakland

Mayo: El Centro de SF LGBT, 1800 Market St., San Francisco

Grupo de apoyo para padres transgénero

Los sábados segundos, 17 de abril, 15 de mayo, 19 de junio, 10am–12pm

El Centro de SF LGBT, 1800 Market St., San Francisco

LGBTQ Service Day

In collaboration with the Castro Network, COLAGE, Literacy for Environmental Justice, and SF LGBT Community Center, LGBTQ families, individuals, youth, friends, and gave back through volunteerism, help restore wetlands at Heron's Head Park, learn about environmental stewardship, and enjoyed some fresh air.



Multi-Faith Holiday Party

In collaboration with COLAGE and PFLAG San Francisco, our annual Multi-Faith Holiday Party was a blast that included many fun activities including gingerbread house decorating, fun crafts, a entertaining magician, a potluck spread representing many holiday traditions, and much more.



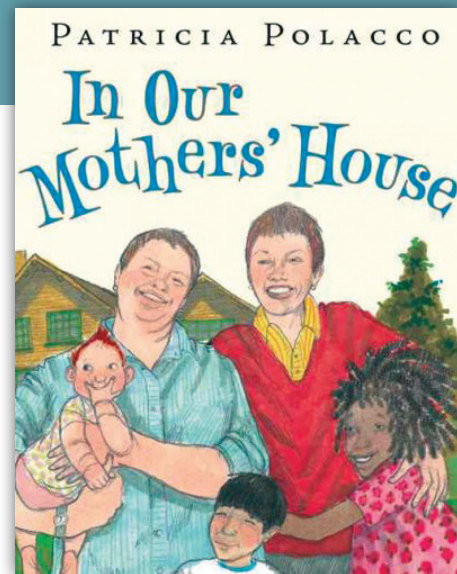
Book Corner

IN OUR MOTHERS' HOUSE

Written & Illustrated by Patricia Polacco • Ages 4–8 • Hardcover
48 pages • Philomel Books • 2009 • ISBN 978-0-399-25076-7 • \$12

Marmee, Meema, and the kids are just like any other family on the block. In their cozy home, they cook dinner together, they laugh together, they dance and play together. But one family doesn't accept them. Maybe because they think they are different: How can a family have two moms and no dad?

But Marmee and Meema's house is full of love. And they teach their children that different doesn't mean wrong. And no matter how many moms or dads they have, they have everything a family is meant to be. Here is a story of a wonderful unique family, living by its own rules, and held together by a very special love.



One Parent, One Child ... Three Names

(continued from page 1)

subbing at my daughter's public elementary school (where the principal knew of my situation). It was a wonderful way to stay connected with my daughter and she gained a lot of status from my being a popular teacher at the school. While I continued to teach using my male name and a very androgynous look, some students and more parents began to ask why I looked different. I told my daughter if she got teased or felt uncomfortable with me teaching there she could say so and I'd teach at other schools. She said she wanted me to stay, which, in retrospect, was a horribly unfair position to place upon a child. As it was, a few months later, news of my transitioning leaked out among the parents and my untenured position was terminated.

At the same time, I was facing my first transition-related facial surgery in Boston. In drips and drabs I explained to my daughter what would happen and how I would be back in two weeks. She was fascinated and had to know every detail, but was also quick to put an end to anything too detailed or that seemed "gross." It was a difficult period of time for me—going further into permanent transition to a scary unknown. I found myself spontaneously crying in front of her despite trying to keep it together. My fear of losing her was intense. The night before I left, I had dinner with my ex and daughter and, as we held hands giving thanks, I started to bawl and couldn't stop. I knew she was scared about what I would look like (as was I), and fearful that she wouldn't recognize me when I returned. When I returned two weeks later, we ran towards one another and hugged till it hurt. She gave me a thorough snarky critique of my face, but at least she knew I hadn't "left."

Over the next year, I lost another non-teaching job and a number of friends who dropped out of our lives as they found out about my transition and either thought I was crazy or were just uncomfortable. My stressors were affecting my parenting. During all these maelstroms, my biggest concern was that I was not being the adult and my daughter was being forced to assume the inappropriate caretaking position of the "gifted child" who becomes a de facto grown-up. This period was topped off by an earth-shaking tantrum she had as I was picking her up from 4th grade aftercare. She ran into the back of my car and screamed with tears running down her face. "You've ruined my life. Why can't I have a normal parent? Why can't I have a father!" It was a painful day and my heart ached with guilt and feeling like a crappy parent but, after talking it out, and getting it off her chest, she felt a lot better. We'd gotten through it and were still connected.

The further I transitioned, the more I wondered who I now was in her life. A single parent, yes. Someone who took her to her rehearsals, soccer, appointments, made dinner, was involved in her impromptu performances, put her to bed... but I wasn't a father. Shortly after starting transition, I felt uncomfortable being called "Daddy" which, in public, created more complications than it solved. We switched to the more ambiguous "Poppy" for about a year. After I was yet further along in transition, she took to calling me by my first name and it's stuck. While she's never had problems with names, pronouns, or my female identity, she remains curiously uncomfortable with the idea of having two moms

(continued on page 15)

Thank You for Your Support!

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OUR FAMILY COALITION'S ANNUAL NIGHT OUT



We had a blast celebrating our Annual Night Out on Thursday, March 25, at One Mark Restaurant in San Francisco. Guests enjoyed culinary delights, entertainment, cocktails courtesy of GREY GOOSE Vodka and special guest emcee Jan Wahl. Honors were awarded to Shannon Price Minter (Legal Director, National Center for Lesbian Rights) and Eva Paterson (President, Equal Justice Society). **Thank you to the following Annual Night Out supporters** (as of March 17):

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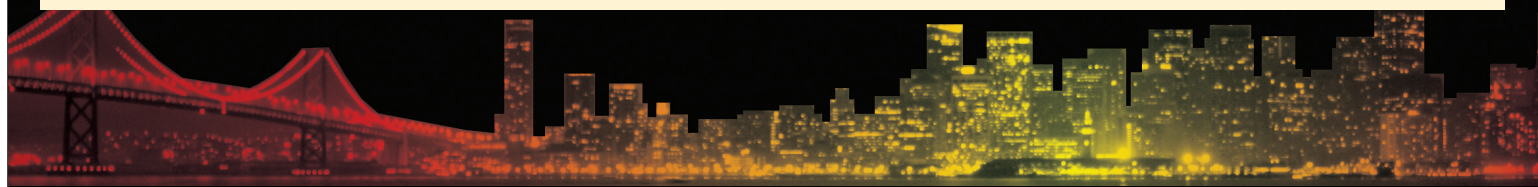
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Bay Area Discovery Museum

LGBTQ families and friends enjoyed a great, sunny day and free admission at the annual LGBTQ Family Day the Bay Area Discovery Museum.



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One Parent, One Child ... Three Names

(continued from page 11)

(even though she's had a numerous friends with same-sex parents). But I do shamefully admit I have moments of deep regret at not having a parental "title" and how, as she's gotten older, she's described me to 6th grade friends as her "Aunt" even though she situationally still refers to me as "Mom" when in public.

At around age 9 or 10, she learned trans people are sometimes in danger of being exposed to violence or harassment. When she would say her goodbyes to me as she weekly went to her mom's house, she would regularly blurt out "I love you—don't die!" We would talk about it, but I couldn't help feeling the fear of losing a parent was a heavy weight for a child to carry. Other issues arose about playground confidentiality of family information. She had some experience with this issue and sharing her adoption history, but especially since many children at her school knew who I was from my teaching days, it became doubly complex. I have encouraged her to tell them only as much as she wants to, and whatever she shares is fine with me. Given the balance between perceived safety/privacy and her not having internalized shame about keeping secrets, I've emphasized the latter.

I continue to have profound respect for my daughter's ability to process and reprocess her experience in a non-traditional yet close family. It reminds me how children deal with events and complex transitions differently at different developmental stages—a concept I learned when preparing for my daughter's adoption. A three-year old who's happy to tell everyone about being adopted could become a 10-year old who acts ashamed to mention it and, as a 14-year old, become profoundly interested in their birth family. Processing doesn't go in a straight line and is often two steps forward, one step back—very much what transitioning literally in front of my daughter has been like. Awkward situations, embarrassments, butting heads, and tantrums (from all involved parties), all happen but seem

to get worked through. Increasingly, it's hard to know what behavior is based on our history and what is normal tween/teen development. We've survived and thrived, while the love has remained. We remain a work in progress. ☺

Resources for Transgender Parents and Children of Transgender Parents

No Dumb Questions (DVD)

www.nodumbquestions.com

This lighthearted and poignant documentary profiles three sisters, ages 6, 9 and 11, struggling to understand why and how their Uncle Bill is becoming a woman. This film offers a fresh perspective on a complex situation.

Jack (DVD)

Jack is already struggling with adolescence, when he realizes his parents are getting a divorce and his dad is gay. Jack learns there is no such thing as a perfect family and his own is more caring, supportive, and stronger than he knew.

Transgender Family Resources

www.colage.org/resources/transgender_family.pdf

This list includes resources, support or advocacy opportunities. Email kidsoftrans@colage.org to connect with Kids of Trans Fellow Monica Canfield-Lenfest.

TransParentcy

www.transparentcy.org

TransParentcy's mission is to support the Transgender Parent, and their advocates (lawyers, mental health professionals, friends, family) by providing information and resources to diffuse and/or dispell the myths about any adverse impact being transgendered/transsexual might have on one's children.



OFC is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the civil rights and well-being of Bay Area lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer families with children and prospective parents through education, advocacy, social networking, and grassroots community organizing.

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- Please do NOT add me to OFC's e-mail list.

OFC is a 501(c)(3) organization, all contributions are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

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