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★ **READER SURVEY AND
FAMILY WEEK 2001
REGISTRATION INSIDE!** ★

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A PUBLICATION OF COLAGE (CHILDREN OF LESBIANS AND GAYS EVERYWHERE)

COLAGE JUST FOR US

SPECIAL ADOPTION ISSUE

SPRING 2001

FOR PEOPLE WITH LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PARENTS

ROSA'S STORY

Rosa Gallucio's parents, Jon and Michael Gallucio, tell the story of their family's struggles and triumphs in their new book, 'An American Family'. Just for Us is pleased to present a daughter's perspective on this unique family, created through adoption, in this interview with Rosa herself.



Rosa, top left, and her family

A little background: Rosa is 18. She lives in Paterson, New Jersey with her dad Jon; father Michael; 5-year-old brother Adam; four-year-old sister Madison; and her new baby daughter Maryanna, who was born in November, 2000. Rosa will be graduating soon from Ridgewood High School and attending college, where she plans to study to be a bilingual special education teacher. Rosa was officially adopted by Jon and Michael last year, four days before her 18th birthday.

JFU: Why did you want to be adopted by the Gallucio family so close to turning 18?

Rosa: I wanted to have the papers that said, "You are part of the Gallucio family," that no one can ever take that away. I was able to choose the adoption, I spoke for myself. Nobody made the decision for me.

JFU: You were eight months pregnant with Maryanna at that time. How did your pregnancy affect your relationship with your new parents?

Rosa: We started talking about the adoption more seriously. They were very upset! They were concerned about my future. Giving birth really, really changed our relationship. It has made us grow closer and become more of a family. My parents got to experience Maryanna's delivery.

I've never been closer to them than when my child was born.

JFU: How did you and the Gallucios find each other?

Rosa: When my sister, Madison, went to live with them, Jon and Michael got information about her whole family, including me. I was living in a group home. When I heard, "your little sister is in a foster home," I was afraid for her safety. And when I heard that she was with gay people - "Oh no, she can't be with two f****s!" I thought. I was homophobic back then. My aunt was a lesbian and she used to beat on me. So I was terrified. But I wanted to meet them, anything to see my little sister.

They came to meet me and I fell in love with them instantly. I invited them to come back for a barbeque in a few weeks. We started visiting back and forth. A week before my 16th birthday, we were talking, and I told them I wanted to be part of the family. The next weekend I was over,

continued on page 4

CONGRATULATIONS 2000 LEE DUBIN SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!

COLAGE and Family Pride Coalition sponsor the Lee Dubin Scholarship to award outstanding students and leaders, and to help needy families afford college. We are proud to announce the 2000 winners. Read more to learn about this year's inspiring, bright students who strive to go above and beyond already full course loads.

Kim Anderson, 22, Western Washington University Fairhaven College
Self described as a "never-ending college student who is majoring in Social Change and Communications", Kim devotes her time and career to creating change. Currently Kim is working both as her university's LGBT Alliance Coordinator as well as holding the post of Coordinator of the Sexual Awareness Center. Kim also works with Dyke Action, a local activist group. One of her proudest achievements is that of bringing together the community to discuss, think, and learn more about multiple identities and oppression within underrepresented groups. She did this by organizing a panel of queer religious people to discuss the perspectives of the community after a viewing of "Tongues Untied" by Marlon Riggs. As a transgender person, Kim credits her father for enabling her to think more about her expression of gender. Her upbringing, she feels, has been absolutely invaluable in allowing her to find herself while simultaneously helping others.



Kate Hennessey-Fiske, 21, Brown University
Graduating in less than a year, Kate will soon be hunting for a job in a public high school. For the past five summers, Kate has worked full time as an assistant teacher at the Jowonio School, where she was once a student. Through her experiences

continued on page 8

INSIDE SPECIAL FEATURES

SpeakOut! 3
Spawn Talk 5
Make Change Happen 6
Fun Pages Page 9
New Chapters Page 11



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Reader,

Welcome to Spring, and to the Spring issue of *Just For Us*. This issue contains

some special features, including a reader survey and a focus on issues of adoption and our families. I encourage you to take a few moments out of your hectic schedule to fill out the survey. At COLAGE we strive to serve our members and participants to the best of our abilities at all times. In order for us to make *Just For Us* as good as it can be, we would like to find out who is reading it and what your favorite/less favorite parts are. So please take a moment to give us some feedback. Thank you for contributing to the improvement of COLAGE!

Adoption is ever-more popular among lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (lgbt) people who are becoming parents. While it is impossible to get numbers about how many adoptions take place every year, let alone how many of those are by lgbt people, who still almost always have to remain in the closet in order to secure their adoption, at COLAGE we are seeing more and more kids participating in our programs who have been adopted. The oldest of these (and of course there are exceptions to this) average 13 years old, the

majority seem to be under five. Each of these children and his/her family has a truly unique story and experience. Children come from and join families of all colors, national origins, religious backgrounds, genders, economic statuses, geographic regions, and more.

COLAGE is an organization that is led by our constituents. As COLAGERS who are from adoptive families come of age we are bringing their perspectives and leadership to our work. In fact, we recently welcomed a new youth member to our Board of Directors who was adopted by two moms. Because the majority of our constituents in adoptive families are so young, we are striving to understand their experiences of their family lives and accurately represent their voices.

Today we see adoption by gays and lesbians under attack in many states. COLAGE has worked actively in Utah, Mississippi, and Arkansas opposing anti-gay adoption legislation. While we lost in Utah and Mississippi, we have held on to Arkansas thanks to key lobbying efforts by an Arkansas-based COLAGE volunteer and Board member. I am very concerned about this trend, which ultimately deprive services to kids of loving and nurturing homes which they desperately need.

While we fight these urgent external battles, it can be easy to lose sight of the important work we

must do internally. As a community that includes many trans-racial and trans-national adoptive families we must work together at societal, community, and individual levels to address not only the homophobia that young people face, but also the racism. It is critical our community manifest the same expertise and sensitivity about racism in schools and society that we are developing about homophobia. It is imperative we develop an lgbt family community that is as proactive and adept in handling matters of race as it is with sexual orientation issues.

At COLAGE we are exploring the multi-layered nature of the experiences of our participants growing up with one or more lgbt parent as well as cross-racially or in a majority white community. We would like to hear from young people and from families about your experiences. We want to serve you as well as we can in our role as supporters of COLAGERS and as advocates for social change. Please write or call me about your experiences, thoughts, or to get involved. I hope you enjoy this issue of *Just For Us*, and I hope you and your family have fabulous Spring.

Respectfully Yours,

Felicia Park-Rogers, Executive Director

ADOPTION RESOURCES

IN ADDITION TO COLAGE, CHECK OUT THESE OTHER RESOURCES:

LAMBDA LEGAL DEFENSE

Offers legal advice to and advocates for LGBT parents. Has resources, research and referrals for adoption issues, including a list of state laws.

120 Wall St., New York, NY 10005-3904
Tel: 212-809-0055
Website: www.lambdalegal.org

NATIONAL CENTER FOR LESBIAN RIGHTS (NCLR)

Legal advocates for the LBT community.

870 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94102
Tel: 415-392-6257
Website: www.nclrights.org

THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION (ACLU)

Lesbian and Gay Rights Project
125 Broad St., New York, NY 10004
Tel: 212-549-2500
Website: www.aclu.org

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN: FAMILY NET

Has information on state laws and gives guidelines for the process of adoption.

919 18th Street N.W., Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20006
E-mail: familynet@hrc.org
Website: www.hrc.org/familynet

FAMILIES LIKE OURS

"Devoted to the Needs and Support of Adoptive Alternative Families"

Support and advocacy group for alternative families who have adopted or want to adopt children.

Website: www.familieslikeours.org

FAMILY PRIDE COALITION

An organization devoted to helping LGBT, including adoptive parents.

Website: www.familypride.org



COLAGE

(Children Of Lesbians And Gays Everywhere) is a nonprofit organization providing support, education, and advocacy for people of all ages of LGBT parents.

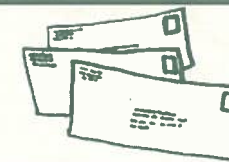
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LETTERS TO COLAGE



Dear COLAGE,

What if you are an adult child of a parent that made the choice to marry and have children and then leave for a homosexual relationship? Where is the support for adult children of these parents who do not embrace the lifestyle and did not choose it to be a part of their heritage? As an adult child of a gay parent this has caused nothing but hurt and shame for the innocent children and now the future generation being born into this family. Thank you for reading and please let me know is every child really happy about this? I have spent 32 years trying to keep the fact of my parents choice away from my friends and children.

Thanks,

Adult of gay parent

Dear Friend,

No, not every child is happy about

having gay parents. However, it is important to understand that even though your parent did not come out until they were married and with children (like my father) it took a lot of guts for them to own up to their true identity. Your parent HAS chosen to embrace their heritage, rather than living a lie. They should receive credit for this, especially since they have opened their doors to the ones they love. I understand how much hurt that the family can go through, but it is important to remember that there is no blame, shame, innocence, or guilt involved in sexuality. Take a look at what is making you uncomfortable. Talk with your parents about it. It would be a lot easier to not hide to truth, but accept and love your parent for who they are than hide from the truth.

Sincerely,

Katje Hempel, Intern

SPEAK OUT!

Each month, *SpeakOUT!* asks COLAGERS about a different aspect of their lives and shares some of those responses with our readers.

As people with LGBT parents, we have unique perspectives on the way LGBT people and their families are depicted in the media. This month, we asked COLAGERS to share their opinions on music, movies and TV featuring LGBT characters or relating to life with LGBT parents. Here are some of your thoughts:

Kate, 18, WA, on the 1996 movie *The Birdcage*: I think the biggest issue I had was the fact that the son tried to make his parents conform, which hit me a little too close to home. At the time the son in that movie was the only other kid with GLBT parents I had ever seen. Which made me feel even more insecure about my parents. Now that I look back on the movie maybe it was good that they addressed the issue of a kid with GLBT parents, but at the time I was absolutely disgusted and as a result I still resent that movie.

Alicia, 16, VA, on the new movie *Snatch*: I didn't particularly like the movie, but it did have a gay couple at its center. I thought that was great because they don't make a big deal about their coupledness, and it shows that Tommy and Turkish are just like their straight comrades. Not that that is a good thing considering almost everyone in this movie gets shot or arrested in the end.

Anna, 23, CA, on *What Makes a Family* (Lifetime Television's original movie): I thought this one was well-done. I really admire Lifetime's

commitment to lesbian and gay issues. I especially enjoyed the documentary that Lifetime aired after the movie ended. It was called "*All Kinds of Families*" and featured a family headed by two lesbian moms and a gay dad and also interviewed the lesbian mom and daughter that inspired the movie. I really encourage everyone to see it if they have cable.

Two views of Normal, Ohio - Fox Television's recently canceled TV series:

I would have to say that there were parts of it that I didn't like and parts that I related to. There was this one scene where the son went off on John Goodman basically telling him that he didn't want to be around his father because he was gay. At one point in time when I was in middle school I had a big problem with my mother. I am now ashamed to say this, but I was ashamed of her. I didn't like all of the gay bashing that went on though. It sincerely bothered me at times ~ Lexi, 19, VA

I watched *Normal, Ohio* and I found it very delightful. It's nice to have a show on the air that deals with gay families. I'm hoping this show will explore the bad and the good and educate as well as entertain the audience. I have high hopes that the writers will do us justice. ~ Sarah, 18, CA

We hope that you find these words of experience from other COLAGERS interesting and relevant to your lives. To contribute to *SpeakOUT*, contact Rosanne Johnson in the COLAGE office (e-mail: JFU@colage.org).

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

What COLAGers around the world are doing to make the world a better place by doing what they do best - being themselves!

Breauna Dickson, 12, of San Francisco, traveled to Washington DC, accompanied by her dads, Gregg and David, to help present a special White House screening of the educational video "That's a Family" (see the Fall 2000 issue of Just For Us for a review). More than 100 national children's, family, education and civil rights organizations were in the House to watch and discuss the video. After the screening, several groups, including the Girl Scouts of America, the National Education Association, and the National PTA, laid out their plans to use the video in their upcoming programs promoting tolerance, respect and family diversity.

While in Washington, Breauna and her family met well-known -- and openly gay -- Congressman Barney Frank, and took a tour of the White House. (Let's hope that our families continue to be at least as "welcome" in the White House now that George W. has moved in!) Congratulations, Breauna, for being a terrific spokesperson for our families in a film that is sure to get kids, teachers and parents all across America talking about who and what makes a family!

So what are you doing? Just for Us wants to hear about it! Write, call or e-mail us about your adventures. Big or small, personal or political, all of us have something special to contribute! ■



Breauna, center, with friends Marina and Christina

Rosa's Story continued from page 1

and I opened a bedroom door and the whole bedroom had been re-done - my bedroom. It was something we all wanted, but it was a year from that point still until I came to live with them fulltime.

JFU: What about Jon and Michael's being gay?

Rosa: I just accepted it. I met them and I saw that they were good people, and that was it, after that I was 100% comfortable.

JFU: How do your friends and people at your school react to your family?

Rosa: No one at my school will say the word f***** around me, they know I'll be, "Excuse me, do you like people to call you n***** ?!" I've never had anyone make fun of my parents. Everyone loves my parents! None of my friends have had a problem with it either. I only had one boyfriend that had a problem that my parents were gay. And I left him right away. It bothered me that anyone could be so rude. I said a few words to him.

Some kids in my school have come up to me and told me, "Because of your parents, I went to my parents and told them that I was gay."

JFU: Was that strange?

Rosa: Mm-hmm, a little. I'm happy that it helps them. Everyone knows me at my school.

JFU: If you could change one thing about your family, what would you change?

Rosa: I wouldn't change anything. Honestly, we might go through our times, but I wouldn't switch my parents with anyone. If someone said, 'I'll trade you, I'll give you straight parents,' I don't care, I love my parents. Even though they can be strict sometimes. For example, they won't let me go to clubs until I'm 21. Before I was pregnant, I used to have a problem with that.

I never thought I'd be living with a family. But things happen for a reason, that's my little saying. Getting a new family was very important to me. Moving in changed my life completely around.

JFU: In what way?

Rosa: My goals are different. And I completely changed - the way I dress, the way I speak to people, the way I approach people. I was always rude, always in trouble.

When I moved in I saw that everyone in this family had things going for them. Whether it was Dad

finding better medication for Adam to control his ADHD, or teaching Madison to walk, or Father working hard at work, to make us all happy - everyone was making their lives better, going forward in their life. I was so sick of giving my parents headaches, sick of getting in trouble. I thought, "My life doesn't have to suck anymore, I don't have to be depressed all the time." I said, "I need to change." It makes life easier. It took over a year though, still to this day there's times.

JFU: What's the very best thing about your family?

Rosa: We're always there for each other, kids and adults. We're all so different from one another, but that difference makes it great. We just have fun together.

I just know that my family's great. I can remember the things I put them through, they must've wanted to kill me! But I guess that's what love does. My dad has a saying, "Love Makes a Family". I think I finally understand what that means.

JFU thanks Rosa for sharing her story with us! *An American Family* (St. Martin's Press, 2001) is available at bookstores everywhere. ■

SPAWN TALK by Abigail Garner

"THAT'S SO STRAIGHT!" - HETEROPHOBIA IN OUR FAMILIES



A COLAGE friend of mine was feeling sad about breaking up with her boyfriend. She turned to her moms for support. With only the best intentions, her parents tried to be supportive by reassuring her that the problems in her relationship had nothing to do with her. Her mothers said that MEN were the problem. Their daughter interrupted them to say that male-bashing was anything but helpful. "I'm straight," she reminded them, "and someday, I will love one of 'those people.'"

Her parents were acting on their "heterophobia." I first heard this word last summer at Family Week in Provincetown when a panel of teen COLAGers were asked what they don't like about growing up in gay culture. A couple of the teens said they didn't like dealing with heterophobic attitudes - especially from their parents.

Even though the word was new to me, I understood what it meant. Heterophobia is exactly what it sounds like: fear and suspicion of heterosexuals, as well as a belief that being heterosexual is less desirable than being LGBT.

I have my share of internalized heterophobia. Growing up with a gay dad, I absorbed the idea that heterosexual society was this huge, overwhelming, collective enemy that was a threat to the safety of my family. My "coming out" as heterosexual involved a mourning process. My sexual orientation meant that by default, I would automatically be associated with "those people" -- straight people. It felt like I was being forced to become a traitor.

My internalized heterophobia developed from very subtle messages. For other families, the messages can be much more blatant. For example, last year there was a study released from England about gay dads. Some of the findings suggested that gay men seem to have fewer limitations of traditional parenting roles based on gender, and are therefore more emotionally accessible than straight dads.

In casual conversations with gay and lesbian parents, I found that some of them interpreted the research in extreme ways in order to affirm their own experiences. I was in several conversations with LGBT parents who said smug comments like, "It only proves what we knew all along! Gay dads are better than straight dads."

BETTER than straight dads? It made me wonder about what kind of impact this conclusion would have on their sons who overheard their parents' comments. Sons who might one day be straight dads.

If heterophobic attitudes within our families and our communities are not taken seriously, we are not moving toward a future of equality. We're only justifying the transfer of prejudice from one group to another. I am pleased to see so many children being raised in families where LGBT pride can be openly celebrated. I hope more families will make sure their pride includes acceptance and celebration of EVERYONE, including daughters and sons who turn out to be straight.

Abigail Garner, 28, lives in Minneapolis. She is the creator of a website for LGBT families: www.familieslikemine.com. ■

THE ADVENTURES OF SEBASTIAN COLE

film review

By Michael Bishop

The Adventures of Sebastian Cole, 1998. USA. 112 minutes. Rated 'R'. Written and Directed by Todd Williams. Starring Adrian Grenier and Clark Gregg. Available on home video.

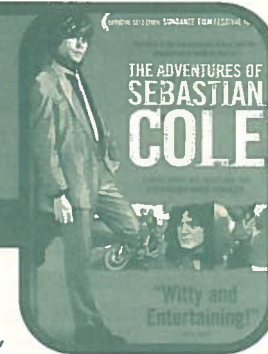
The Adventures of Sebastian Cole is an unusual movie. Sebastian Cole is a talented high school student living in the suburbs on the outside of New York trying to find who he is and his path in life. His parents have split and his step-father seems very strict. Add to that, high school seems to be a drag as does everything in the area. Life is not made any easier by his family on his mother's side who is humorously snobbish. The film opens up with Sebastian in a pasture with blood in his hair and down the front of his shirt. The mother of the family that owns the farm he is bleeding in takes him in and asks him questions about how he got there. As he recalls, we are taken into his life in the past year. The whole rest of the movie is spent recounting everything that has happened up to this moment in the field.

One of the issues in the family that the movie tackles gracefully is the great change that occurs in Sebastian's household when his stepfather, Hank, comes out to the immediate family that he has wanted to become a woman for quite some time and is preparing to make that transition. This is quite a change for Sebastian and the rest of the family. Sebastian's mother decides to separate from Hank (now Henrietta) and move back to England. Sebastian initially decides to go with her, but after spending some time there, decides what he really wants is to go back to Buffalo to be with his Dad and his high school.

Through this movie, we are treated to a scenario we can explore in which a parent has decided to change genders. As we grow through the movie, we start to see how Henrietta is really the only person who is solid in Sebastian's life and that she is really the only one Sebastian can count on. Henrietta is neither apologetic nor a pushover, she politely refuses advances from sweet older men, because she is still married to Sebastian's mother and respects the commitment she made. Henrietta is firm and caring of Sebastian and it isn't until the end of the movie that Sebastian really sees how much Henrietta has to offer and what she has given him.

The Adventures of Sebastian Cole successfully tackles the difficulties of going to high school where one can be misunderstood, not fully knowing oneself, and handling the relationships between family members in times of change. The film itself is beautiful. The talented cast, intelligent writing, and unusual subject matter make this one of the must-see films for COLAGers.

Michael Bishop, 27, is the son of a gay dad. He lives and works in San Francisco, CA and enjoys reading comic books and hiking. ■



MAKE CHANGE HAPPEN

The State of Adoption Laws Near You

For LGBT adults, the decision to adopt children is often complicated by legal barriers. Last year alone, 12 different states proposed anti-LGBT adoption legislation or regulations. These proposed laws try to prevent LGBT adults from adopting children by claiming that a parent's sexual orientation poses a threat to children. A lot of anti-LGBT adoption laws try to prevent legal same-sex marriage in order to promote the heterosexual family structure. Many COLAGERS have been adopted and many of us have or hope for an adopted sibling. Also, many COLAGERS would benefit from being adopted by their non-biological parent for legal security. There has been progress towards equality for our families, including court decisions favoring adoption by LGBT adults.

Several states have passed regulations or legislation restricting lesbians and gays from adopting based on their sexual orientation; these include Florida, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Utah. Regarding the ban in Mississippi, Senator Ron Farris (R) said, "Morally, we did the right thing. A homosexual relationship implies the exercise of illegal activities, and no child should be permitted to enter that type of setting" (Alternative Family March 2001: 15).

Even in the 'liberal' state of California, there are only three counties that routinely allow second parent adoption by gays and lesbians. Currently there is pending anti-LGBT legislation in Arkansas, Indiana and Maine. It is likely that we will see a similar measure proposed for the jurisdiction of Washington, DC.

We have witnessed victories for LGBT adoption, too. In 1997, following a class action suit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union, New Jersey passed a policy that allows gay and lesbian couples to adopt jointly. The ACLU has now brought suit against the state of Florida to overturn their ban on lesbian and gay adoption. The ban in New Hampshire was overturned in 2000. The Child Welfare League of America, The North American Council on Adoptable Children and other important child welfare organizations have supported the movement to secure equal adopting rights for LGBT adults.

By the time this article is distributed, the status of laws and court decisions will most likely have shifted. There may be adoption legislation proposed in your state. Keep on top of what's going on in your state by connecting with your statewide LGBT organization (you can find it through the National Gay and Lesbian

Task Force: www.nglhf.org). They will be able to give current information on pending legislation. In order to fight the negative trend around adoption in alternative families, it is important to remember that court decisions vary from county to county, from judge to judge. Courts in 21 states have approved second-parent adoptions by gays and lesbians.

It's vital that we work together to keep anti-alternative family legislation off the books. Felicia Park-Rogers, the Director of COLAGE, informs us that laws prohibiting gays and lesbians from adopting are a popular type of legislation now and that "it's really important that it is fought back in states that it comes up in" because protests send a message to other states that this anti-family trend is not acceptable. Unfortunately, the negative trend of banning adoption for gays and lesbians is bound to get worse in the next four years. It is crucial for us to come out in protest to anti-LGBT adoption propositions.

Katie Watson, 25, is a media consultant for health education non-profits in the Bay Area. She is originally from Minneapolis and has a lesbian mother who runs a feminist bookstore in the Minnesota North Woods. ■



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Five Ways to SPEAK OUT About Adoption

1 LETTER TO YOUR EDITOR A terrific way to educate the community about important issues is by writing a Letter to the Editor. In your letter, be sure to introduce yourself and tell readers who may not know out LGBT families about your life. An example might look like: "I am a sixth grader at Billington Middle School, like ceramics the most and am on the soccer team. I have a gay dad and it is very important to me that LGBT alternative families have the same rights as heterosexual couples."

2 INSPIRE YOUR ALLIES If you are a member of an organization, like the Girl Scouts, ask them to take a stand and advocate for the rights of LGBT adults to adopt.

Ask your teachers or doctor to make a public statement against discrimination against our families.

3 LETTER TO YOUR REPRESENTATIVE If there is a law pending in your state, write a letter to your representative or testify. Write your representative and express your feelings about the importance of protecting equal rights for LGBT families. You can get your legislator's and governor's contact information on your state's home page or by calling your state capitol. A sample letter might look like this: "I strongly encourage you to fight for equal rights for Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender families. I am writing today about legislation that determines the rights of gays and lesbians to adopt children. It is important for the state to allow both single and partnered LGBT adults to adopt and to permit second-parent adoption. I have a lesbian mom and know that a person's sexual orientation is irrelevant to their parenting skills. Please

protect families like mine and honor equality." Include in your letter your family situation, your age, your full name and address at the end of your letter. In your letter mention that your parents (or you) are registered voters and talk about how the issue will affect you. Urge your representative or governor to publicly support or oppose the measure being voted on.

4 NETNEWS Subscribe to and check out COLAGE NetNews, where you can find information about current events and legislation concerning these matters. You can sign up for COLAGE NetNews on our homepage: www.colage.org

5 BE OUT This is the #1 prevention tool against homophobia and bad legislation, because people who know other people who are out about being gay or being part of a LGBT family are less likely to vote against us. ■

FAMILY WEEK 2001 Sponsored by COLAGE and Family Pride Coalition

2nd Annual Saugatuck, MI
Family Week July 14-20th, 2001

6th Provincetown, MA
Family Week August 4-10th, 2001

We can't do our critical work without your support. Please help now!
COLAGE is a national and international organization run by and for daughters and sons of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender parents. We do support, advocacy, and education.

Our gift levels are:

- 15 Student/ Low Income
- 35 Household Membership
- 50 Family Membership
(includes a membership with the Family Pride Coalition)
- 75 Fairy Godmother
- 100 Community Hero
- Other _____
- Monthly pledge of _____ \$

checks payable to COLAGE
We accept Visa Mastercard Am Express
Signature: _____
Expiration Date: _____
Card number: _____

All funds must be in American dollars

Additional Names to be included in membership:

Ages of children: _____

Donors address: _____

Name: _____

Street: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Country: _____

Place
Stamp
Here



COLAGE
3543 18th St, #1
San Francisco, CA 94110

www.colage.org

Website: www.shorelinerealtors.com

Tel. 619.296.0199 Email: program@familypride.org
Website: www.familypride.org

& Activities
Bonfire, Sand Castle Building
& Dance, Bagel Brunch,
Fests, and more.
Workshop Topics
Schools, Activism, Media
to others about having
School and friends, Shar-
g involved with COLAGE.
sues, Raising our
er families.

own, MA
Cape Cod, a 70 mile
MA. The town is bor-
line and scrub oak forests,
tional Seashore in
30 miles of beach.
ng LGBT vacation spot to
run out of things to do:
and art galleries, are all
adventures include: whale
walks to Long Point or in
ate ship, The Whydah!

Accommodation Tips
Provincetown Visitor's Bureau,
Accommodations & Camping Info
Website: www.provincetown.com
Provincetown Inn, Special rates
for Family Week participants.
Tel. 508-487-9500
Email: reservations@ptowninn.com
Website: www.ptowninn.com
Provincetown Sales & Rentals,
Condos & apartments.
Tel. 800-PTOWN99

Form on reverse!
& details contact:
(And Gays Everywhere)
info@colage.org

MAKE CHANGE HAPPEN

The State of Adoption Laws Near You

For LGBT adults, the decision to adopt children is not without legal barriers. Last year, several states proposed anti-LGBT regulations. These regulations prevent LGBT adults from claiming that a parent poses a threat to child adoption laws try to prevent marriage in order to protect family structure. Many adopted and many of adopted sibling. Also, benefit from being a biological parent for it has been progress towards families, including co-adoption by LGBT adults.

Several states have legislation restricting adopting based on these include Florida, and Utah. Regarding Senator Ron Farris (R) the right thing. A hom implies the exercise of il child should be permitte setting" (Alternative F

Task Force: www.nglftf.org). They will be able to give current information on pending legislation. In order to fight the negative

We can't do our critical work without your support. Please help now!

COLAGE is a national and international organization run by and for daughters and sons of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender parents. We do support, advocacy, and education.

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Ages of children: _____

Donors address: _____

Name: _____

Street: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Country: _____

checks payable to COLAGE

We accept Visa Mastercard Am Express

Signature: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Card number: _____

Place Stamp Here



COLAGE
3543 18th St, #1
San Francisco, CA 94110

www.colage.org

1 LETTER T
terrific way to ed
important issues i
Editor. In your le
yourself and tell
out LGBT families
might look like:
Billington Middle
most and am on the
dad and it is very i
alternative families
heterosexual couple

2 INSPIRE YOU
member of an organi
ask them to take a s
rights of LGBT adults

Ask your teachers of
statement against discrimination against
our families.

second-parent adoption. I have a lesbian mom
and know that a person's sexual orientation is
irrelevant to their parenting skills. Please

because people who know other people who
are out about being gay or being part of a LGBT
family are less likely to vote against us. ■

FAMILY WEEK 2001

Sponsored by COLAGE and Family Pride Coalition

2nd Annual Saugatuck, MI
Family Week July 14-20th, 2001

6th Provincetown, MA
Family Week August 4-10th, 2001

What is Family Week?

Family Week is a special gathering for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) parents and youth & adults of all ages with LGBT parents. Individuals and families join us from all over the US, some people have come from as far as Sweden & China. It's a fabulous opportunity to meet & hang out, workshop & discuss with hundreds of other folks with similar families!

Events, Workshops, & Activities

Beach BBQ, Whalewatching, Teen Bonfire, Sand Castle Building Contest, Provincetown Family Dinner & Dance, Bagel Brunch, Hikes, Movies, Crafts, and Special Guests, and more.

Sample Discussion & Workshop Topics

For Teens: Spirituality/Religion, Schools, Activism, Media Work, Multiracial Issues, Coming out to others about having LGBT parents.
For 9-12 year-olds: Dealing with school and friends, Sharing stories about our families, Getting involved with COLAGE.
For Parents: Advocacy for family issues, Raising our children, Building community with other families.



About Saugatuck, MI

Home to our 2nd Annual Family Week, Saugatuck, MI, nestled among towering sand dunes, is bordered by the winding Kalamazoo River on its way to Lake Michigan. **Things to do:** This quaint, small-town has a long history of being a popular LGBT resort and features scenic beauty and a unique collection of shops, restaurants and art galleries. Fun activities for the whole family are abundant: climb Mt. Baldhead sand dune, tour the S.S. Keewatin steamship, hike through Saugatuck Dunes State Park and the Allegan State Forest, choose from over 30 art galleries to explore, or enjoy a leisurely boat ride by hopping aboard North America's only hand-cranked chain ferry for a trip across the river!

About Provincetown, MA

Provincetown is located at the very tip of Cape Cod, a 70 mile peninsula off the south coast of Boston, MA. The town is bordered by vast stretches of open dunes, pine and scrub oak forests, beaches and the open sea. Within the National Seashore in Provincetown there are, in fact, more than 30 miles of beach. **Things to do:** P-Town has been a charming LGBT vacation spot to many families for years. You will never run out of things to do: museums, historic sites, shops, theaters, and art galleries, are all easily within walking distance. Outdoor adventures include: whale and bird watching, hiking & kids' nature walks to Long Point or in Pilgrim Heights, and check out the the pirate ship, The Whydah!



Accommodation Tips

Provincetown Visitor's Bureau, Accommodations & Camping Info Website. www.provincetown.com
Provincetown Inn, Special rates for Family Week participants. Tel. 508-487-9500
Email: reservations@ptowninn.com Website. www.ptowninn.com
Provincetown Sales & Rentals, Condos & apartments. Tel. 800-PTOWN99

Accommodation Tips

Saugatuck/Douglas Convention and Visitor's Bureau Accommodations & Camping Info
Tel. 616.857.1701 Website. www.saugatuck.com
Campit Campground
LGBTcampground, welcomes Family Week participants. Tel. 877-CAMPIT-1 Website. www.campitcampground.com
Shoreline Realtors
Rental cottages, condos and houses.
Tel. 800-373-1237 Email. sales@shorelinerealtors.com Website. www.shorelinerealtors.com

oTo Register: Fill out the form on reverse!
oFor questions, updates, & details contact:
COLAGE (Children Of Lesbians And Gays Everywhere)
Tel. 415.861.KIDS Email.colage@colage.org
Website. www.colage.org
Family Pride Coalition
Tel. 619.296.0199 Email. program@familypride.org
Website. www.familypride.org

FAMILY WEEK 2001 REGISTRATION FORM

ADULT NAME #1: _____
 Please indicate if you are: A parent An adult child of a LGBT parent
 Other & explain: _____

ADULT NAME #2: _____
 Please indicate if you are: A parent An adult child of a LGBT parent
 Other & explain: _____

ADDRESS _____
 CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

EMAIL _____
 Child(ren): _____
 Name: First, Last _____ DAY PHONE _____ EVENING PHONE _____

	Age	Date of birth	Grade	Will attend? Yes/No

First Family Week? Yes No How did you hear about Family Week?
 Please indicate if you are: a COLAGE Member a Family Pride Coalition Member Not sure
 I want to volunteer during Family Week (ex: info table, youth activities): Yes No I want to join the Host Committee: Yes No
 For participants of COLAGE activities: with medical needs (i.e. medicine, allergies) please describe & attach an extra piece of paper if necessary: _____
 If you have accessibility needs, please contact us and we will do our best to accomodate.

Registration & Activity Fees:
 Your registration fee includes: workshops; activities; and a program packed full with schedules, maps, things to do around town, resources, and much more! You will also have opportunities to participate in activities such as dinners, whale watches, and concerts which will require additional fees. Participants 13 years old and up are encouraged to join us for a fun all day activity to kick off Family Week for \$15 per person, the fee will be collected on the day of the activity. No registrations or dinner reservations will be accepted after 3pm PT for: P-Town: on Aug. 1, 2001 or for: Saugatuck: on July 11, 2001. On-site registration will be available. You must be registered to attend Family Week activities, workshops, & dinners.

Provincetown, MA August 4-10th, 2001:
 \$50 Mandatory Registration
Optional Dinners For Provincetown ONLY:
 \$28 Thanksgiving Dinner (per adult):
 \$12 Thanksgiving Dinner (per 4-12 y.o. & vegetarian):
 \$17 Italian Dinner & Dance (per adult):
 \$12 Italian Dinner & Dance (per 4-12 y.o. & vegetarian):
Saugatuck, MI July 14-20th, 2001:
 \$40 Mandatory Registration

Figuring out the math...
 # of people _____ x \$28 = \$ _____
 # of people _____ x \$12 = \$ _____
 # of people _____ x \$17 = \$ _____
 # of people _____ x \$12 = \$ _____

Indicate how many veggie meals:
 Vegetarian _____
 Vegetarian _____

COLAGE and Family Pride Coalition are very proud to sponsor Family Week and it is important to us to keep the registration and activity fees as low as possible. However, the actual cost per family is about \$100, due to the expenses to coordinate and run the event. We encourage Family Week participants to make an additional contribution to help cover the costs.
 \$ _____ My contribution to Family Week 2001

Total Enclosed \$ _____
Payment Method:
 Check, money order, or cashiers check enclosed, made payable to Family Pride Coalition Visa Mastercard *no debit cards please

CARD NUMBER _____ EXP DATE _____ SIGNATURE OF CARDHOLDER _____ NAME ON CARD _____

Cancellation Policy:
 No refunds. This token registration fee is used to defray our mailing, catering, and space rental costs. If you are unable to attend and wish to donate your registration to the scholarship fund, please notify us.
SEND TO: (Make yourself a copy!) Family Pride Coalition PO Box 34337 San Diego, CA 92163 or Fax: 619-296-0699

Dear Friend,
 What do you think about *Just For Us*? COLAGE values your opinion, and that's why we need your feedback about what you think about our newsletter. It's time for a spring cleaning of *Just For Us*, help us make changes to better reflect what you want. **SPEAK OUT, AND TELL US WHAT YOU LIKE, DISLIKE, AND WANT TO SEE MORE OF!** Fill the survey below out soon and you will be entered in a raffle to win a COLAGE T-Shirt!

It's as easy as ①-②-③! Print out this form, fill it out, and send it to COLAGE.
 Fax: 415-255-8345 or Send to: COLAGE 3543 18th St. #1 San Francisco, CA 94110

Just For Us Reader Survey
 *Please circle where applicable. Feel free to attach another piece of paper for additional comments.

1. Who in your household reads the newsletter?
 Parent(s) Children under 14 Teens 14+up Other: _____

2. What do you read in it? Everything Articles that looking interesting Other: _____

How much does this describe the way you feel about the newsletter? Answer below:

3. It allows me to see how other people with families similar to mine live. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Very Little Very Much

4. It makes me feel like I am less alone. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Very Little Very Much

5. It suggests ways that I can get involved in fighting for the rights of LGBT families. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Very Little Very Much

6. It keeps me up to date with COLAGE events, activities, programs, and groups. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Very Little Very Much

How helpful, fun, or interesting do you think the following sections are? Answer below:

7. Personal Stories 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Very Little Very Much

8. Photos 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Very Little Very Much

9. The comic, Adventures With Alex 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Very Little Very Much

10. Fun Pages/Kids Pages 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Very Little Very Much

11. Reviews of books & videos 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Very Little Very Much

12. Second Generation 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Very Little Very Much

13. Speak Out/Question of the Month 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Very Little Very Much

***CONTINUED ON REVERSE** →

15. If you were the newsletter director, what would you change about the newsletter?

16. What do you like about the newsletter? Please explain.

17. What do you dislike about the newsletter? Please explain.

18. Do you want to continue to receive *Just For Us*? Yes No

19. If the newsletter were only available to members would you pay the \$35 annual COLAGE membership fee? Yes No

Optional Questions:

1. Name: _____

2. Address: _____

3. City: _____

4. State: _____

5. Phone: _____

6. Age: _____

7. Grade: _____

8. Ethnicity: _____

9. Parent's Ethnicity: _____

10. About your parent(s): Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender

Other: _____

11. Are you a parent? Yes No

12. Do you have your own email address? Yes No

Want COLAGE email news? Tell us your email address: _____

13. Do you have access to the internet? Yes No

***Thank you for participating, your feedback is very important to us.**

Please send the survey to COLAGE:

Send to: COLAGE 3543 18th St. #1 San Francisco, CA 94110

OR Fax: 415-255-8345

2nd Generation

A SPECIAL SECTION FOR QUEER AND QUESTIONING KIDS OF LGBT PARENTS

MY SECOND COMING

BY JESSI HEMPEL

DATELINE DAN

A Brief History of Second Generation by Dan Cherubin

I came out to my parents in a car on the way home from college. It seemed safe - everyone was wearing a seatbelt. My mother cried all the way home. My father was silent. Later that night, he told me he used to think he was gay. When I asked him how he figured out he wasn't, he shrugged, I just met your mother and I knew I wanted to marry her. Back then, I didn't guess that he would also come out of the closet three years later.

By the time Dad told me he was gay, my family had been turned upside down. My parents stopped going to our family church. They separated and divorced, selling the house in which I'd grown up. They each moved to new towns where they made new friends and started new lives. Both were initially depressed, and they often depended on my sisters and I for support. We had to 'grow up' overnight - to take care of ourselves and be there to support our parents.



Jessi Hempel, right with her sister Katje

My dad's coming out process has been long and sometimes painful. It took me several difficult years to accept and appreciate the fact that I was gay, a process my dad was just beginning. In my culturally queer world, I became the adult - comfortable and secure in my community - and dad was the adolescent - discovering himself for the first time. It was exciting, and emotionally exhausting. For holidays I received rainbow stickers, rainbow cards, and even rainbow wind chimes. I joked about his 'rainbow phase' with my friends, but in truth, I had a hard time. I always thought of 'being gay' as something that was mine. When my parents didn't accept me initially, I sought refuge in the queer community. Now my dad was turning to the same organizations that had offered me community when he was absent from my life. And if one more well-meaning friend asked me about whether I thought it was genetic, I'd clock them! My queerness was my own, and as far as I was concerned, it had nothing to do with Dad.

As a child, I didn't get along with my dad. He was often gone, and I didn't think he listened to me. When he came out, he was still the same person in many ways. Also, I was angry at him for disrupting our family and for how much my mother hurt. He changed all the rules of our relationship without asking me. As a result of work with his therapist, he was ready to work at being close to his children, including me. But I wasn't ready, yet, and I had trouble trusting him.

Also, the way my dad understood his sexual orientation shifted over time, and it sometimes felt violating to my identity. As part of his coming out process, he thought at first that being gay represented something unhealthy about him. What did that mean about me? Now he is comfortable being gay, and his gay friends are the 'healthiest' friends he's ever had - but this has taken a long time.

For a couple of years I remained resentful that he pushed me to be close emotionally. I didn't share my life with him at all. But over time, I've learned to trust him again. We have finally started to build a strong and honest relationship, though it often feels complicated. Though we both enjoy a good Judy Garland film, our relationship is not built on our queer identities. We are friends more and more because we both write poetry, enjoy similar books, can't stand

continued on p8

Let me start off with the facts: I am the queer child of a queer parent. And I started a group called Second Generation almost 10 years ago.

Was I the first of my kind? I doubt it. Did I know anyone else in my situation? I knew other kids of lesbians, but they were all straight. Did people understand the things I went through with society at large, within the LGBT community, with my parents? Nope. So, you can say I started SG out of my own needs.

But I also did it because of what I knew was a larger need, beyond my troubles and my thoughts. I knew I couldn't possibly be the only one. And I didn't want others to go through what I did. Let's just say it wasn't easy growing up with this "double extra" facet of life.

So, I did what any young, eager, ticked off activist did. I plastered NYC with flyers. And Second Generation was born!

We got off to a bang up start. 5 people at the first meeting, more showing up as the months went by. We marched in our first Pride Parade, I started putting out a newsletter, we got interviewed all over the world! Woo-hoo!

But for all those milestones, we had lots of obstacles. Our original description was "LGBT Children of LGBT Parents." (My SG business cards still say that). And let me give you all word of advice: Putting the word children near the word LGBT (or combinations thereof) can cause a whole lot of problems. We got kicked off AOL. I got some nasty and scary phone calls. And we ended up on a NAMBLA contact list!

And the biggest slap in the face was from LGBT groups. No one wanted to be labeled a pederast, pervert or "converter of youth." So no one wanted to have ANYTHING to do with SG! Never mind the youngest member of SG at that point was 23, we still had that horrible combination of words. It changed quickly to "LGBTs who have LGBT parents."

Even through all this



continued on p8

President Bush, and love to travel. These are the things that bring us together – and they don't come from being gay.

Coming out is hard. When a parent discovers she or he is queer, the entire family must go through a coming out process. So in some ways, I feel like I've had to come out twice – once for myself and once for my family. That's what it means for me to call myself second generation.

Jessi, 25, is a freelance writer and social activist in the Bay Area. ■

trouble, SG never gave up. Because in spite of any hardships, we knew we were not alone. More and more people showed up. We teamed up with COLAGE. Younger folks joined that gang. We also qualified our title to "queer and questioning kids" so as not to exclude anyone who felt they had to "officially" decide. This brought back the "kids" issue in our title, but with the crowd we got now, we'll handle it!

And now SG and COLAGE are firmly bound together, working hard to make sure no one feels alone in their situation.

Every time someone comes up to me and says, "I'm so glad you're out there!" well, that's all I need to hear to know it was worth it. Sometimes histories have happy endings.

Dan Cherubin is a gay guy with 3 moms and a wrestling cat. He has been described as "the coolest librarian in NYC," "a gay parent's worst nightmare," and "a tattooed SG icon." ■

CHAPTER UPDATE

COLAGE of Western Mass is a new chapter that is growing steadily. We are participating in a regional conference with Valuable Families where we'll be doing a teen panel. Additionally, Western Mass COLAGERS are conducting a workshop for children of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender families.

Members are also assisting the director of the

StraightSpouse Network in her workshop for children who have one straight parent and one gay parent. We are also very excited to all hopefully attend the COLAGE and Family Pride Coalition Family Week in P-Town this summer. In May, the group will be marching in Boston's Gay & Straight Youth Pride March. We are looking forward to a very productive and fun first year!

Sincerely,
Heather Estan, Chapter Coordinator

Scholarship continued from page 1

Kate has realized that teaching is a profoundly political act, and it is from this that she has dealt with her own fears at recognizing and taking responsibility for its convictions. Ultimately she aspires to be an honest and perceptive teacher who is committed to promoting communication and always looking for potentially transformative moments in the classroom. Kate firmly believes her parents (lesbian mom, bisexual dad) have modeled a kind of awareness, compassion, strength, and honesty that have contributed greatly to her goals and achievements. Being a child of gay parents continues to be an essential part of her identity and she looks forward to connecting with more kids from families like hers.



Jahlia Nikita Osha, 19, Pitzer College

Born in Hawaii and raised in Sonoma, CA by her moms Victoria and Jean, Jahlia has learned that often happiness must come from within. She is grateful for the strength that her upbringing has allowed her, and plans on living life with a positive outlook, accepting of herself and others for who they are and the lives they are living. About to start her Sophomore year at Pitzer College Jahlia's current major is "undeclared" but says she plans on "pursuing a socially conscious career that makes her happy". Involved in her college's Art Collective, Habitat for Humanity, as well as starting up a group for students and professors called Fighting all Forms of Social Disease, she feels social change happens, in little every day interactions. On a lighter note Jahlia said if had to choose, she'd much rather have a

lesbian mom than a "normal straight mom".

Margalo Willard, 21, Macalester College

For the first time ever, this summer Margalo marched side by side with her moms at Madison Pride holding a sign displaying "I'm proud of my lesbian mom". Growing up in a small town outside of Madison did not foster a sense of pride in her family. Closeted as a family, in her senior year she wrote an anonymous article for the student newspaper about her family. Entering college she decided she was tired of hiding her family and introduced to her new friends both her lesbian moms, no longer afraid to reveal her pride. Two years later Margalo finds herself involved in Queer Union, her campus GLBT group, as well as volunteering time at a hospice care facility for AIDS patients. Majoring in Women Studies with a minor in Gender Studies, Margalo looks forward to opportunities to teach tolerance, acceptance, and understanding. She hopes in the future, if she decides to be a mother, she will not have to make the sacrifices her mothers had to make for her. ■



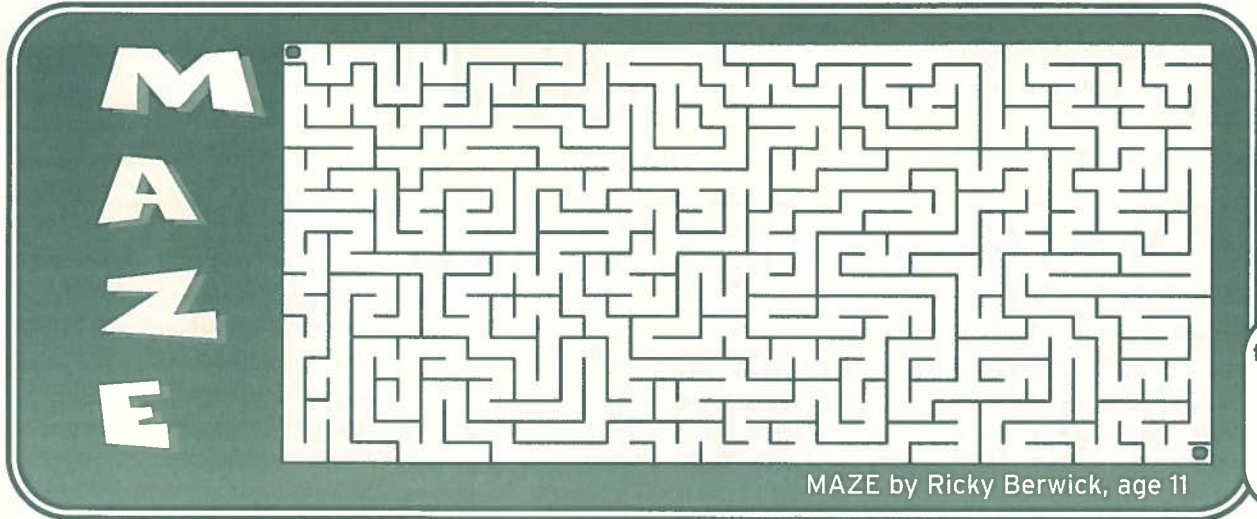
SPRING 2001

COLAGE KIDS CLUB

FUN PAGES

Special All-Out Section For Younger Members

for kids with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender parents



for the solution to the MAZE, turn the page

MAZE by Ricky Berwick, age 11

SUMMER CAMPS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

KIDS SLEEPOVER CAMPS

Camp Ten Trees

Washington
August 19-25 age 8-13
August 26 - September 1
Age 13-17
206-568-6638
camptentrees@hotmail.com
www.camptentrees.org

Mountain Meadow Summer Camp

Southern NJ
August 5-18, 9-12 y.o.
and Teen Camp 13-17 y.o.
215-772-1107
mountainmeadow@yahoo.com
www.mountainmeadow.org

Camp Lavender Hill

Camp Ross Rellos,
Grass Valley, CA
July 14th - 21st
7-13 y.o.
707-544-8150
cvanstone@webtv.net
www.stanford.edu/~trigon/clh/

Camp Out

N. Central, MA
July 23-28
9-14 y.o.
617-68-7739
www.farmschool.org
emmyhowe@aol.com

Michigan Women's Music Festival

Hart, MI
August 8-13
Gaia Girls' Camp 5 y.o. and up
Brother Son Boys' Camp
5-10 y.o.,
Sprouts Toddlers' Camp
0-4 y.o.
231-757-4766
www.michfest.com

FAMILY CAMPS

Blueberry Cove Camp

Tenants Harbor, ME
(winter) 617 876-2897
(Summer) 207-3726353
BBCove@aol.com

Camp Pleiades

North Carolina
July 28 - Aug 4
888-324-3110
Starcamp@aol.com
www.starcamp.com

Camp Common Ground

South Hero, VT
2 one-week sessions:
August 13-19 & 20-26
800-430-2667 M-TH 10-2pm
ccg@vermontinc.com
www.vermontinc.com/ccg

Camp It Up!

Oakland Feather River Camp,
Quincy, CA
August 19-26th
510-763-0615
redross1214@aol.com

Campout

YWCA of Greater Portland
503-294-7474 503 294-7475
Email: miriam.callaghan@
ywca.fabrik.com

Rainbow Family Camp

St. Germain, WI
Aug. 12-18
715-479-3826
mb@ucci.org
www.ucci.org

Rainbow Families Camp

Pilgrim Point Camp,
Alexandria, MN
July 21-23
Irene Greene
612-874-6442
irenegreene@earthlink.com

Spectrum Family Camp

Valley of the Moon Camp
Glen Ellen, CA
July 14-16
415-457-1115
spectrumLG@aol.com
www.spectrummarin.org

Camp Tawonga

Keshet Camp
Sept 6-9th
415- 543-2267
www.tawonga.org
tawonga@aol.com

WANT A PEN PAL?

If you would like a new friend sign-up for COLAGE Connections!

- **Sign-up** on our website: www.colage.org or send us the following info: First Name, Last Name, Age, Address, City, State, Zip Code, Country, Email Address, Male or Female?, Is HIV/AIDS an issue in your life? yes or no
- **Part 1:** What would you like your pen pal to know about you? Include hobbies, likes or dislikes, what is your family like, etc. Please be as specific as possible.
- **Part 2:** What kind of person would you like as a pen pal. Be as specific as possible (i.e. age preference, male or female, geographical location, family situation.)

Email: penpal@colage.org

SEND US ART!

See your creations in the Fun Pages!

CREATE WHAT?

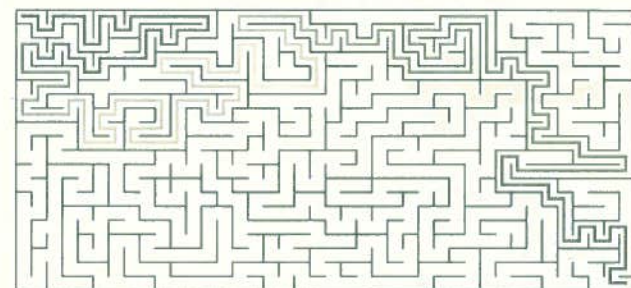
Draw, paint, write (under 200 words) a short story, poem, or play, make a maze, word search, or paper dolls...let your imagination run wild and send your us your creation! Please attach the title of your artwork plus your: First Name, Last Name, Age, Address, City, State, Zip Code, Country, Email Address

INSTRUCTIONS:

We need Fun Pages ideas. What do you want in the fun pages? Do you have suggestions or ideas? COLAGE wants to hear from you!

Send Pen Pal info, artwork, and Fun Pages ideas to:
**COLAGE, 3543 18th St. #1
San Francisco, CA 94110
or email: funpages@colage.org**

MAZE solution



COLAGE NOTES

WELCOME NEW CHAPTER COORDINATORS!

Over the past year, more than twenty people ages 13 and up have become new volunteer chapter coordinators. We warmly welcome and would like to acknowledge all of them for joining in the fight for equality for all our families. Every chapter coordinator makes a huge impact locally for children of all ages with LGBT parents. Thanks to our committed volunteers, we are looking forward to even more local community organizing than ever before.

NEW COORDINATORS:

Steve Soloman, Toronto, Canada
Emily Gold & Trish, Los Angeles, CA
Heather Berberet, San Diego, CA
Daniel Lessem & Melanie Joy Cohn, Miami, FL
Ricky Ashburn, Orlando, FL
Tina Fakhrid-Deen, Chicago, IL
Aime Degrenier & Heather King,
Northampton, MA
Heather Estan, Western Mass, MA
Ashley Harness, Minneapolis, MN
Leta Swanson, Ozarks, MO
Lisa Belletete & Sarah Cannon, NH
Karen & Marilyn Conlon-Riser, NJ
Claire Knight, NYC, NY
Kim Ortiz & Kristi Maldonado Houston, TX
Kate Fortmueller & Lisa Tessendorf, Seattle, WA
Loree Cook-Daniels, Milwaukee, WI

THANK YOU MICHAEL BISHOP



Michael, Right, with friend and COLAGE intern Katje

With great sadness and appreciation we acknowledge Michael Bishop's resignation as a COLAGE volunteer. Three years ago, Michael came to COLAGE shortly after his father came out to him. Like many of us, he quickly became overcome with feelings of connectedness to an entire organization full of other people with similar families. Ever since, he has selflessly dedicated his time, energy, and skills to managing our online programs, including: the national/international Kids of Gays 14 years old and up email discussion list, the on-line interview, and the on-line interactive story. In addition, he provided ongoing technical support to the COLAGE headquarters

office in San Francisco, CA.

COLAGE will miss working with Michael and will especially miss his caring nature and intuitive ability to respond to and support the needs of other COLAGErs like himself. We support his decision to move on in order to share his dedication to volunteerism and his interpersonal and technical skills with other organizations who are making change in the world. Our thankfulness for his commitment is tremendous and we wish him the best of luck in everything to follow.

Look for the new on-line volunteer announcement in the summer 2001 of Just For Us!

GOODBYE, KORINNE WATSON

Every year, COLAGE participates in an internship program with the San Francisco State University School of Social Work.

This year, Korinne Watson came to us with great enthusiasm to work in the COLAGE office part-time. She became the San Francisco middle school group co-facilitator and coordinator with longtime COLAGE volunteer

Sam Gottlieb. Korinne brought to group facilitation her ability to relate well with youth and tremendous creativity. She will be graduating and ending her COLAGE internship in May, 2001. Her willingness to help share the work in the office and her dedication to the participants in the middle school group will be greatly missed.

COLAGE MEDIA APPEARANCES

We truly are everywhere! COLAGErs have been telling their stories and educating millions. Some of the places you may have seen us recently include:

20/20 HBO Cosmo Girl
Teen People Twist Magazine
Salon.com YM Magazine Lifetime
Minneapolis Star Tribune
Japanese Public Television
Alternative Family Magazine



COLAGE Board of Directors on their Spring Retreat

CALLING ALL LOUDMOUTHS!

Even if you're not a loudmouth but just want to educate society by sharing your story with print, radio, and TV, please apply to be on the COLAGE media list. We are looking for people from all kinds of families (adoption, donor insemination, gay dads, etc.), all parts of the US and the world, all ages (including teens), and all racial and religious backgrounds. We'll do some very basic media training with you -- the only requirement is that you and your family are able and willing to talk about your family publicly.

If you're interested, contact Felicia Park-Rogers, Director, via email at director@colage.org (put "media contact list" in the subject line) or by calling her at 415.861.5437, x101.

COLAGE LAUNCHES STRATEGIC PLAN & ANTI-RACISM/ DIVERSITY PLAN

The COLAGE Board of Directors convened for their spring retreat in Half Moon Bay, CA on March 23-25, 2001. The retreat provided a great opportunity for reflection and planning. During the meeting the board launched a strategic planning process by inviting consultants who addressed anti-racism/diversity issues and organizational development. To learn more about the board, check out the COLAGE website, and if you are interested in getting involved with the board or strategic planning process please contact COLAGE.

The board welcomes four new board members: Loree Cook-Daniels, Milwaukee, WI; Christian Harris, Little Rock, AR; David Jenkins-Cain, Ypsilanti, MI; and Cynthia Thompson, Oakland.