Support Our Community! P.6 for details inside

Terence Kisseck
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COLAGE is a publication of COLAGE (CHILDREN OF LESBIANS AND GAYS EVERYWHERE)

FUSE ON PRIDE
FOR PEOPLE WITH LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND/OR TRANSGENDER PARENTS

PRIDE IS STANDING UP FOR YOURSELF
by Maureen Weiser

During my first semester at Gonzaga University, a Jesuit school in Washington state, I enrolled in a political science class. The second day, my professor had the class write a paper discussing our unique historical past and the contributions it has made to developing our individuality as well as our political views. I wrote about my history, beginning when I was three months old and was adopted from Brazil. My mother, a Catholic lesbian, and her Buddhist partner taught me to understand and accept the diversity of humanity.

They were married in Canada, and I grew up in the small conservative town of Canby, Oregon. I included my experiences in third grade hearing my friends call objects "gay." I remember telling them that the word was inappropriate, but I did not give them the reasons why I was uncomfortable with the language. In college, I tried by asking how my parents' changed their peers' views on homosexuality. Like many young children raised in lesbian homes, I wasn't always entirely comfortable with my mother's sexuality. I remember trying to understand it myself, before I was ready to tell my friends about it. Before the following class, my professor asked me to put my paper aside to the rest of the class. His mission, he stated, was not only to start a debate, but also to show a present-day example of a liberal lifestyle in a predominantly conservative class. Professor

Herald communicated that Shelby, an avid Republican in my class, was prepared to go first, and that I was to follow her. Shelby spoke of her hatred towards homosexuality and her love of family values. When she finished, Professor Herald motioned for her to sit next to me, and I stood before my peers, 60% of them right-wing Republicans and the others a mix of democrats and liberals, and read my paper.

When I finished, Professor Herald asked Shelby to look me in the eye and tell me why my parents were the wrong. She refused for fear of hurting my feelings. I told her that I respected her thoughts, but I could not make sense of why she disliked my parents since she had never met them. After that, more debates ensued. More than half of the students sided with Shelby, telling me that the marriage between my parents was anathema to the marriage between a man and a dog. This initially continued on page 3

COLAGE is thrilled to announce our partnership with Family Pride on ACT OUT: The National LGBT Family Conference. This fall, hundreds of youth and adults with LGBT parents, and LGBT parents will come together in Dallas for a weekend of education, empowerment, and celebration.

COLAGE will offer two exciting tracks of programming during act OUT. COLAGE crew will be a series of activities and workshops for youth ages 9-13 with one or more lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender parent that will use art, games, discussions, movies, and lots of fun to allow youth to share their experiences and family backgrounds while meeting new friends. The COLAGE Leadership Track will be a full track of workshops for young adults and adults with LGBT parents focusing on how we can use our voices and our actions to make a difference, educate communities, schools, politicians and the media about people with LGBT parents, and strengthen our skills as activists and leaders.

COLAGERS of all ages are welcome and encouraged to attend Act OUT! If you have ever thought about getting involved in the COLAGE community or wished you could meet others with LGBT parent, this event is the must-attend opportunity of the year.

OCT. 27-29, 2006 FAIRMONT HOTEL DALLAS, TEXAS Register today to ensure your family will have a space at one of the most transformative family gatherings Family Pride and COLAGE will host this year. Hundreds of other LGBT-headed families will be attending, and space is limited, so register today! Other highlights include a huge Halloween-themed Family Dance, Ice Cream Socials, and exciting keynote events. COLAGE is also pleased to announce the FIRST-EVER COLAGE Chapter Leadership Institute on Friday, October 27th before the start of Act OUT. Arrive in Dallas on Thursday night so you do not miss the first ever national gathering of COLAGE Chapter Leaders.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2006
1:00-9:00 PM For more information get in touch with Meredith Fenelon, COLAGE Program Director at meredith@colage.org.

INTERNATIONAL COLAGE GROUPS
COLAGE is seeking new members for its International Council. Our group consists of COLAGE chapters from around the world, and represents the LGBT community of all Nations.

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER SPECIAL FEATURES
What is Pride p. 3
Support Our Community pp. 4-5
Fun Fair p. 6

Inside Special Features
Dear Friends,

June is always an exciting time for COLAGE. The regular San Francisco pride parade, which attracts upwards of half a million people, is just one of several celebrations in the area. COLAGE oversees youth and family space during the Trayvon March, where children with trans parents can connect and play with each other. We march in the Dyke March, fitting our COLAGE banner behind the Dykes on Bikes, carrying signs proclaiming our love for our many moms. On Pride day itself, we help create the Family Garden, a fun space for families to gather, and a youth-friendly alternative to the often adult-themed activities that occur throughout the day. By the time Pride is over, we have thoroughly exhausted our staff and volunteers, many of whom joke that they hope to never see another rainbow, or hear another Village People song, ever again (or at least not until next year’s Pride). I am always excited to hear about the creative and exciting ways that COLAGE members and groups celebrate Pride in their home communities from Boston to Minneapolis, from Tampa Bay to Washington DC.

With all of the activity and excitement of Pride month, it’s important to take a moment to reflect on what Pride is, and why it is important. Pride is, and we explore the value of pride for children, youth, and adults with one or more lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender parents. It was originally a mobilization, organized to commemorate the Stonewall riots, a multi-organizational uprisal of trans folks, cross-dressers, gays, lesbians, and “queers” of all kinds. (You can read more about the history of Stonewall and Pride on the next page).

Today, no matter how fun and carefree Pride may seem, we are never more than a few dance steps away from the political and personal struggles that some come with living in a deeply homophobic culture. It’s exciting to come together as a community, because usually all signs of our existence are erased or ignored. It’s fun to dress up, put on drag, and bring out the feather boas and rainbow pins because usually expressing these aspects of our personality makes us vulnerable to hostility and harassment. It’s deeply meaningful to attend Pride as a family, because usually we are made to hide our relationships and the love we have for one another.

As you celebrate Pride, reflect on what you personally have been proud about for yourself and your family this year. Rejoice that despite threats from the religious right, not a single anti-gay family piece of legislation passed during the most recent legislative session. Revel in the fact that children, youth and adults with LGBT parents continue to make strides against homophobia in schools, conferences, courthouses and communities when we courageously and proudly speak the truth of our own experiences.

Of course, not everyone goes to Pride, either because they don’t want to, don’t feel the need to, or in a lot of cases, because they can’t. Although there are people with LGBT parents in every state and over 95% of U.S. counties, unfortunately not the same cannot be said for Pride celebrations. Many COLAGE members and supporters live in areas where there is no Pride celebration to speak of — but that doesn’t mean we can’t take advantage of this month to create a sense of pride within ourselves. We can be proud of ourselves, and proud of the families we come from even if we are far away from other people with LGBT parents. We can reject shame, pride ourselves on our skills as leaders and activists, and celebrate the right to the different. We can reflect on what makes our family strong, and how we can continue to build trust, support, and healthy relationships with each other. We can visualize the world as a place where all people and their families are welcomed, respected, and celebrated. We can invite our closest friends and allies to come together for a private celebration of Pride, and bask in the support of our community, no matter how big or small that community is.

The theme for this year’s edition of Just For Us each bring their own perspective on Pride. Some are recalling particular experiences at Pride events, while others are simply reflecting on qualities and experiences they’ve had that make them feel proud of themselves or their families. We hope that you will leave this issue with a sense of self-worth, dignity, and connection. When we love ourselves, it is harder for someone else to make us or our families feel less-than. COLAGE is committed to ensuring that children, youth, and adults with LGBT parents feel this kind of self-love all the time, not just in June. We thank you for your support and look forward to the day when every month is Pride month.

Dee Liuzzo, LA Whitney Moses, CO Hope Steinman, Ithaca, NY Janice Williams, NY
FROM TEARS TO ELATION AT PRIDE

By Tasha Jackson

As I stood in the rare San Francisco rain at the PRIDE parade, one float of families passed and I noticed my boyfriend, put his hand on my lower small part of my back. More and more families passed. I suddenly stopped and waving—somingthing hit me. Parents, stroller, smiling children;Gays and women, holding posters with titles like “Dykes and Tykes”. These gays parents are out of the clearest, their children are proud of having gay parents, and people, who are celebrating for the first time what kind of a world is this?

Then it suddenly hit me, my boyfriend is putting his hand on my back to comfort me. This could be my family marching! (However, I can not see my moms in pink bows destive pelvic thrusts to crowds of people.)

A sudden jolt of painful memories rit me. I hid my teary eyes and thought about my painful past. How living with a closeted mom during puberty was very hard. People looked at me different, during a time when all I wanted to do was belong. While I was trying to understand my own changing body and new sexual urges — other children were verbally and physically bullying over my sexual identity because of my mom. It was difficult having to hear the whispers behind my back and realize that other girls really never wanted to get very close to me; in fear of being them associated as gay. However, the worst part about the situation was that I could not speak to anyone including my family because my mom was closeted from everyone. I had to grow up pretending the whispers were never loud enough for me to hear and that nobody knew of my mom's sexuality.

Yet, today at PRIDE I realized how much society has changed for the better. Overall, I think our world has become much more accepting and open. Granted my view is skewed, due to living in San Francisco, one of the most accepting cities in the world. Yet, I truly feel the world has changed. I see changes in the media, schools, and an overall social acceptance. Today, I saw something I never even dreamt of seeing: openly gay parents accepted by their children and society. These children from the PRIDE parade will go home and talk about their experience with their friends and have PRIDE in their parents’-this brings tears to my eyes.

My brief moment of a painful reflection turned to such happiness. I now feel such elation, excitement, and happiness for the future and for the present. Also, I only believe things will change for the better with laws and further acceptance worldwide. In addition, today forced me to personalize PRIDE and not just to observe it like a spectator but truly embrace the meaning of PRIDE is about everyone, everyday.

Tasha Jackson is on adult COLAGE and play therapist specializing in issues facing LGBTQ individuals and families.

DATELINE DAN

By Dan Cherubin

This time of year begins the celebration of “Pride”. I could list a lot of the things I’m proud about both as a gay man and a Second Generation gay, but that sounds like a lot of my other columns. What I do want to address are things that others do in their life which make me proud.

I’m proud of my workplace for not giving a damn about having a gay partner. For a Dutch company, the Netherlands is a pretty LGBT positive place that even has legalized same-sex marriage. As such, my company doesn’t make a deal about my being gay. This sounds almost trivial, especially in New York City, but I can honestly say I’ve never worked in a place where there hasn’t been some nervousness when asking about my life. (As if I would say, “Oh, my partner and I had great sex this weekend!”) When I am with my partner nobody puts on that gay wear, and we simply feel free to act like any loving couple. We can always be in public together without me hiding who I am. I am out and proud of being gay, just like I can be out and proud of being Jewish.

I’m proud of my synagogue for knowing who I am. I belong to the Reform movement of Judaism which has been accepted of LGBT congregants for decades. I am not saying that every member of every congregation is thoroughly enlightened, but the Union for Reform Judaism (www.urj.org) actually run a documented platform supporting LGBT rights. I’m a regular attendee of my local synagogue, although my partner is not.

Still, I’ve used to seeing him there and often get our names mixed up. I could be insulted but I’m actually happy they don’t get flustered by the gay thing. Too often in the past, I was put in the “bachelor” section of membership. Now, they make an attempt to include us as a couple in all their events, even if they get confused. It’s a long way from the starting line.

I’m proud of younger SG folks for forgetting I’m an adult. I’m actually far too self-absorbed to notice if they do notice me, but I’m proud they won’t continue with more topics. This was hard going when SG was started. I’m glad I can look around and see all this work growing the movement and gathering more people. I am always pleased that 15 years after SG started, there would be a flood of members.

I’m proud of myself for starting it, but I’m also proud of myself for staying. It’s nice to see all these SG folks and know what it is today. Bless you all.

I’m proud of the New York Rangers for making the playoffs. It certainly took them long enough!

Happy Pride to everyone!

Dan Cherubin is a gay man with multiple hats. He lives in New York City where he is a co-founder of his synagogue’s first Pride march.

SPAWN TALK

By Abigail Garret

Look for Me at Pride

For most of the year, we sort of forget our daughters of GLBT parents - especially the adult children of GLBT parents - are impossible to pick out of a crowd. And often when we are in queer space, our identities get误区化 by the people who should be the most conscious of our existence. When I present at various activities for GLBT families, it is not uncommon for parents to ask if my partner is with me or ask how many children I have.

When a woman in a Provincial town asked me how my kids were enjoying Family Week, I replied, "Actually, I’m not a mom. I’m a daughter. I’m a grown-up daughter." "Oh," her eyes grew wide, "Way grown up!" That’s right. Way grown up. While parents handle the day-to-day logistics of raising kids — like changing diapers and Chaseing away bad dreams — it’s easy for them to avoid thinking about the fact that someday their children will grow up.

Pride is a time for me to have fun and relax with other “children” of all ages. I feel a mix of joy and relief when we get together. For a rare moment we don’t have to defend our personal or political definitions of “family” or “community.” We are among friends who get it.

But first, we have to find each other. COLAGEs were all around me when I was growing up - I just didn’t know it. In the years since I launched my website, many of my high school classmates have contacted me and said they also have LGBT parents. One was in my science class. Two were on my soccer team. One former classmate who has a lesbian mom told me she heard rumors about my family when we were teenagers, but she didn’t know how to start a conversation with me. In her email message she explained, “Going up to someone you don’t know that well and just saying ‘Hi, I have a gay parent, too’ just wasn’t a normal thing to do.”

Reconnecting with classmates who have GLBT parents always makes me wonder how many more of us are out there. It’s not like we walk around every day carrying signs that say things like, “This is what a child of gay parents looks like.” But Pride and other events are opportunities to do exactly that.

I realize there are COLAGEs who decide to not come to Pride at all. Some have closeted parents who prefer to remain that way. Some have yet to accept their parents’ sexuality. Some are totally out of the closet, but are now dealing with their own activist burn-out. Still, too many COLAGEs do not even know a running network exists to minimize the isolation that can make all of us think we are alone. If you go to Pride this year, bring a sign or a Tshirt that will get the conversation for someone else to say “Hi, I have a gay parent, too.”

Abigail Garrett, 34, is the author of Families Like Me. Her blog, “Dann’s Straight” is online at www.AbigailGarrett.net.

PRIDE IS EMBRACING DIVERSITY

By Jeffrey DeGroot

My whole life I have been brought up as an only child by my biological mother and her partner. This is an experience that has given me personality traits that most makes my age often lack, such as knowing and understanding, and being able to express those feelings. I have benefited from being in a family that has always taught me to discuss and deal with my feelings rather than suppress them and that has shown me how important it is to value differences in all areas of life.

I have always prided myself on keeping an open mind when it comes to new and different situations and people to whom I am exposed. One example of this is spending time with my good friend who is being comforted around her. She knows that I will not ridicule her for those with whom she chooses to have relationships. Another example is my friends who are gay. When I go to her house she speaks Cantonese with her parents. This does not make me feel uneasy — instead, I feel lucky to have a friend who is different from me and can open me eyes to a new culture.

Over the past two years I have invested myself in a number of different exploits to further the cause of gay rights on the political level. My senior year in high school I took part in the Kriegen Youth in Government Program. This is a chance for high school students from around Oregon to take part in a mock legislative process where students write bills and work to get them passed. This bill I wrote proposed to make gay marriage legal in Oregon. I was fortunate enough to advance my bill to the Youth Governor, and it was the second bill I worked for.

I have also worked extensively for political candidates who support gay rights. In the spring of 2004 I worked as an organizer on the Dan Kelly Campaign for President Campaign. One of the main reasons I got involved in this campaign was the fact that Representative Kuchinich was the only major candidate to support gay marriage. Due to my involvement in the campaign I was able to work as a liaison to represent Mr. Kuchinich at the Democratic National Convention.

There is no doubt that I am person today because of the experience of having two women as my parents. It has given me an understanding of people’s feelings. I also feel very lucky. Being raised in its unique family has shown me how wonderful diversity is and why it should be embraced. I am very proud of my parents and their courage. Jeffrey DeGroot is a senior at Central, OR and is the son of two lesbian moms. He is currently a sophomore at Whitman College in Walla Walla. He will be in this July.

Get connected! COLAGE e-mail discussion groups - online at www.colage.org/programs/online
THANK YOU!
On behalf of the children, youth and families whose lives have been touched by your contributions, COLAGE thanks all our members, donors, fundraisers and supporters. We couldn’t do it without you!

Donors and funders listed below made gifts between March 1, 2006, and May 15, 2006.

Individuals & Families

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* These members contribute monthly.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. Please contact me at 415-861-5437 ext. 105 or jcar@colage.org if we’ve listed you incorrectly.

We look forward to acknowledging all the funds we receive in our next issue of Just For Us. To make a donation in support of COLAGE’s ongoing work for equality and justice, please use the enclosed envelope or donate on-line at www.colage.org/support

FUNDRAISING EXTRAS
Special Thanks to Everyone who Has Helped COLAGE Strong
Special Thanks to everyone who has already joined the Support Our Community Campaign. As of Memorial Day, the Campaign has already raised $300,000! To get involved, see p. B

Special thanks to everyone who attended our recent house party in Arizona. More than $3,500 was raised to benefit COLAGE and PFLAG Phoenix. The evening featured remarks by COLAGE Program Coordinator, Ember Cook, who lived in Phoenix with her gay dad before moving to San Francisco, and a special viewing of COLAGE’s youth-produced documentary, In My Shoes.

EXTRA SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR NEW MONTHLY DONORS:
Felicia Park & Rogers and Rachel Timoner
Paola & Loma Rodriguez-Rust
Elizabeth Adams
Katherine Towle
Terry George

To become a monthly donor to COLAGE, use the enclosed envelope or log on to www.colage.org/support

REGISTER!
Click on Collage Registration and fill in all required information to start raising money for COLAGE! COLAGE members or supporters who want to become a campaigner should click on Join as an Individual.

DONATE!
You can donate to the campaign without registering! When you click on General Donation, your donation goes towards the overall $100,000 goal but is not credited to any particular campaigner. When you click on Donate to Campaign, you can choose a team or campaigner to get credit for your donation.

SPREAD THE WORD!
Once you’re registered, you will be directed towards your Headquarters (HQ) where you can customize a personal web-page, send emails to your friends and family members, and track your progress towards your fundraising goal. You can always come back to your page by returning to www.colage.kinera.org/strength and clicking on Main Login under My HQ. If you are having any trouble using the website, please call the COLAGE office so that the staff can assist you: 415-861-5437 or email support@colage.org

www.colage.org | colage@colage.org | 415-861-KIDS (5437)
PRIDE PHOTO ALBUM
Each year in June, COLAGE joins adults, children, youth, and families around the country in celebration of Pride! With balloons, music, dancing, and love, we show our commitment to ourselves, each other, and the community.

Your Pride Parade
Who will march in your parade? What costumes will they wear? Will your family march in the parade? Use this space to draw the perfect parade for you to celebrate pride.

SPEAK OUT
What makes you proud about your family? What is one way that you show this pride?
I am proud of my family because I can talk to them about anything and they are very cool parents. When I meet a new friend the first thing about my family I tell them is that I have two moms, no dad and a donor—and if they don’t think that’s cool they’ll have to deal with it because it can’t change. I show my pride for my parents because I am not scared to take them out into public or about what people might say behind their backs.
Kassandra La Glusia-Riedeman, Age: 9, Santa Clarita, California
I’m proud of my family because we’re out. It must have taken my parents a lot of bravery to come out into a world like ours.
I try to be out about this sort of thing at school. I want to show people that it’s not something horribly wrong. I want to be active in fighting for rights. I want people to know that I couldn’t care less that my gay dad and straight mom are still married, that my dad is gay. He shouldn’t have had to hide it in the first place!
Kassandra Burgdorf, Age 12, Omaha, NE
My family has taught me about awareness, understanding, and unconditional love. Last year I proudly marched in the Christmas parade with the PFLAG float. I realized how far our little community is coming by even having a float in the parade!
Cody Newton, Age 17, Bend, OR

www.colage.org | colage@colage.org | 415-861-KIDS
Many people wonder why COLAGE chapters are started, and they can be started for many reasons. COLAGE Connecticut was started because I needed to find a place where kids like me didn’t feel alone. After going to my first Family Week in Provincetown, Massachusetts, I realized that there were many other kids like me, and I wanted to keep that feeling of community alive in Connecticut when I went home.

COLAGE Connecticut has been around for two and a half years. We have gone through many changes in membership ship, but we have a core group of about 10-12 kids who try to keep our club involved. There are over 40 kids between the ages of 15 and 17 years on the membership list, so it makes for a very diverse group.

We decided in its inception that this was going to be a group that was going to tackle the issues of our community through enjoyable activities. We formed the chapter so we could have kids like us do things with, and talk about our families and troubles we have encountered at school and other places.

Our first meeting was a potluck picnic that was held at our house in Windsor Locks of Hartford. The weather did not want to cooperate with the picnic activities we had planned, but luckily we were able to have fun in our game room, and got to meet everyone from around the state. Since our first get together we have had other fun events like bowling, more bowling, and other potluck activities. The toughest part back then was, and still is, getting the word out about our group and getting the families to commit to coming. At first I thought of many ways to get the word out about us. Some of the ways that we used were putting up fliers at coffee houses, the LGBT Center in Hartford, sending electronic copies of the flier to schools, and to corporate LGBT groups. Our most creative, and somewhat successful, of getting some members was by looking for cars with Family or HRC stickers on them, and putting a flier under their windshield wiper. It was interesting to hear how many responses we received from that approach.

Some obstacles that I have encountered, which I am sure many have, is just trying to get the flier into the hands of the school kids. I am now in middle school, and the red tape that you have to go through just for the guidance counselors to hand out the flier to interested students is never ending. It always seems like just when you are about to get the approval to be able to give this to the guidance counselors, someone stops the process. But we are trying to work through this.

One big success was the showing of COLAGE’s new documentary. In My Streets, at the high school’s GSA in town. They were very receptive, and kept my kids and I there for over an hour asking questions. They said that they would like us to come again some time.

Though we have had very limited response, our next COLAGE event is to march in the Northampton Massachusetts Pride parade. It is the 25th anniversary of pride up here, and the pride committee would really like to see us represented. We are planning a poster/banner-making afternoon the Sunday before, and that should be a lot of fun. We are also very lucky that some family members who attend college in Western Massachusetts will be able to march with us in the parade.

Also, later that month we are having a hiking/picnic for the group. The weather around here has been so nice, and to get out with everyone and have some fun hiking will be a great way for all of us to connect with each other before Family Week this summer.

Becca Lazarus, age 16, is the founder and facilitator of COLAGE Connecticut, along with her twin brother and Cole Girotto, our sports and American Girl doll, and has attended Family Week in Provincetown for the past three years.

THE FAMILY WE ALL BELONG TO by Monica Canfield-Lefsetz

I remember before my dad came out - I must have been in high school - sitting at a sidewalk café in Burlington, Vermont, when I witnessed my first Pride parade. At the time, I felt a strange joy seeing all the people out and proud in the streets. It never occurred to me that one day I would be in the parade myself.

My experiences with COLAGE have really taught me about Pride. Before my first Family Week, I had come to accept and admire my father as a transwoman. A sweet lesbian roommate had the most positive reaction to my story. She actually thought it was cool that my dad was trans. It wasn’t until I made my first journey to Provincetown that I felt just how cool being a COLAGE can be. Let’s face it, Plow is a very special place, a town where LGBT pride is a part of daily life. Working with other adults and youth with LGBT parents at Family Week gave me a community - a family - that I never knew I had. With so many youth in the Boston area, I was determined to bring that connection back home with us to the Boston chapter.

Last June, a small group of us marched in the Boston Pride Parade. I felt that sense of joy I had felt years before, only this time it was a part of the march. We held our COLAGE banner proudly and waved at the smiling kids’ faces in the crowd. Many people cheered as we marched past, recognizing what COLAGE has done for our community. When I say our community, I really mean it now and thank goodness I found COLAGE to realize the family we all belong to.

COLAGE Boston will be marching again on June 10 and would love to have you join us. For more information email boston@colageconnect.org. To join our mailing list, email greaterboston@colage-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Monica has served as the organizer of the Greater Boston COLAGE chapter. She is 25 years old and has one straight man, transgender dad, and younger sister. Monica will return as staff of Family Week in Provincetown this year for the fourth summer.

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COMMERCIAL HEADQUARTERS THIS FALL!

COLAGE engages, connects and empowers people to make the world a better place for children of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender (LGBT) parents and families.

THE FELICIA PARK-ROGERS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The COLAGE Internship Program is named for our visionary former director Felicia Park-Rogers who started a summer internship program during her leadership of COLAGE. We honor her commitment to people with LGBT parents, creativity, energy and years of leadership through internships that promote development of young leadership, and participants who hands-on look at the non-profit field, teach interns about LGBT families issues, and promise to be a lot of fun.

COLAGE is the only national organization serving people with LGBT parents, therefore presenting a unique perspective on LGBT issues, and providing a once in a lifetime opportunity for interns. This is a hands-on job; you won’t just be filling, you’ll get to use your creativity and initiative. We are looking for team players who are motivated to learn, share, play, and work hard in support of COLAGE’s mission. Interns will assist the staff on current or new projects, with both local and national events, and with office management.

Preferred qualifications:
• Computer literate (especially on PCs), knowledge of Office 2000, FileMaker Pro, HTML, and desktop publishing programs a plus.
• Experience and comfort with email and phone-based organizing and networking.
• Experience and comfort working with youth and family office management.

• People with LGBT parent/s
• Requirements
  Interns receive a modest stipend (DOE $1500-2500) for a ten-week, full time or 20 week part-time internship including some evenings and weekends.
  Must be 18 or over if not from the Bay Area, 15 or over from the Bay Area.
  Must be LGBT-friendly
  COLAGE is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer
• People of color, people with disabilities, and people with LGBT parents especially encouraged to apply.
• How to Apply for Fall Internships
  Deadline: Friday, August 4th or 5th.
  Postmark by August 4th or 5th.

Please email, mail or fax us the following information:
1. Your resume;
2. A cover letter sharing your interest in working for COLAGE and qualifications;
3. Contact information for two people who will serve as references. COLAGE can attest to your experience and skills.

Select applicants will be invited to participate in an interview during August. Internships will begin in September or October in accordance with the COLAGE’s needs and intern’s availability.

COLAGE also has spring and summer work-study internships; if you are interested contact us for more information.

Need more info? Want to apply?
COLAGE
1550 Bryant Street, Ste. 830
San Francisco, CA 94103
phone: 415-661-5437
fax: 415-255-8345
www.colage.org

UPDATES TO YOUR RECORDS!
COLAGE HAS A NEW HOME

On May 5th COLAGE spent its last day in The Women’s Building, a historic San Francisco building famous for the beautiful murals covering the entire four stories. The COLAGE office spent nearly 11 years in The Women’s Building, sharing the space with numerous community organizations in the heart of San Francisco’s Mission District. Leaving The Women’s Building was a sad occasion, but the time had come. COLAGE’s growing staff could no longer fit in our tiny space. Luckily, we were able to find office space in the Hamon’s Building, a mere ten blocks from our old office, and a five minute walk to the old neighborhood. As this issue of JUFU goes to print, the boxes are still piled high, but we are confident we will soon be settled in completely. In the meantime, planning continues for Family Week, the presence of a new youth-written play, and a long summer of making friends and making change.

We will keep our old mailbox at the Women’s Building for several months, so if you’ve sent us mail recently, don’t worry! In the meantime, your address books, rolodexes, and databases — just add a new post-it to your wall. As of May 8, 2006, COLAGE’s new address is:
1550 Bryant Street Suite 830
San Francisco, CA 94103

Our phone number (415-661-5437), web address (www.colage.org) and email address (colage@colage.org) will all remain the same. Drop us a note at our new space, and if you’re ever in San Francisco feel free to drop by for a visit!