

JUST FOR US

VOL. 4 NO. 1 APRIL 1991

A NEWSLETTER BY, FOR AND ABOUT KIDS OF GAY AND LESBIAN PARENTS

1991 GLPCI YOUTH CONFERENCE UPDATE

June 14, 15, and 16 will be THE BEST GLPCI Youth Conference ever in the history of the organization. Why? Because this year it is going to be a bit different. Why? We are going to have a box out all weekend for you to ask the confidential questions you have always wanted to ask but were afraid to. All questions will be answered!! We will also have workshops for you to choose from. We will have a special lunch away from the hotel. We will also be having a party we welcome all the youth attending this conference. All of you over age 12 are welcome, but NO PARENTS! The parents will be at their own party having nowhere near as much fun! The workshops we will be having will often be given at the same time as other workshops. This is your chance to choose the workshops that best interest you and those that fit your needs. The workshops that will be presented are:

SAFE SEX and AIDS- presented with the help of Andy Handler
from APLA- Aids Project Los Angeles
HOMOPHOBIA in the NUCLEAR FAMILY- presented with the help
of Vicki Morris from T.R.U.S.T., Dallas

UNDERSTANDING HOMOPHOBIA

OUR OWN SEXUALITY

TELLING/NOT TELLING OUR FRIENDS

MY GAY DAD

MY LESBIAN MOM

RELIGION and HOMOSEXUALITY-presented by Wayne Schwandt

HOW DO I FEEL ABOUT ALL THIS?

GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORY

And of course, we will also be sharing our own stories with each other. Nobody will be forced to say or do anything they are not comfortable with, but the more you participate the more you grow, and the more you help others to grow.

We will also be having elections for new positions available on the steering committee. Please join us in Houston! It will be an exciting experience for us all!

A NOTE FROM ALI

Hi Y'all!! Are ya niddy ta kick up yer boots an' have a grand ol' time in Texas? I sure am! I've been lookin' forward t' this fen a long time now. Bring along yer cowboy boots and cowboy hats, blue jeans, an' don't fergit yer bolo ties. This conference is gonna be a blast and a half!! I really look forward t' seein' y'all there. Keep sendin' those poems, stonies, an' artwork. Y'ne doin' great! See ya there!

- Ali Dubin



A NOTE FROM DONNA

As part of the 1990-91 steering committee, I want to extend an invitation to each and everyone of you to attend the JUST FOR US conference in Houston. This years conference is going to be a great and exciting time for everyone. It has been a lot of work for everyone on the steering committee, but all the work has been for a conference for all of us. This years conference will be like no one has experienced before at previous conferences. (Continued above)

There will be a selection of workshops that you can choose to attend, there will be a lunch out of the hotel as a group, and a group outing to a local fun park. There will be many opportunities to rekindle old friendships as well as develop new ones. It seems it wasn't that long ago since the last conference in Washington D.C., and now the 1991 conference is fast approaching. This year the steering committee is hosting a welcome reception on Thursday for the youth. It is a time for all of us to get to know each other while our parents are also getting acquainted. I am looking forward to seeing each and everyone of you there. It is a great time to meet other children of gay and lesbian parents, share our stonies, get ideas and support as well as have fun with people who understand without asking any questions. Within a few short days you will develop friendships that can last a lifetime. If you have been to a conference before you know how great it can be, and if you have never been to one, all I can say is you are missing a lot. Last year was my very first conference, and I came away with such a sense of family. It is a feeling that everyone should experience. All I can say is do what you can to get to Houston on June 14, 15, & 16. See you then!

- Donna Ippolito

THE ANCHOR

Here are the addresses you can write to for friendship and any needed support. Your letters will be kept strictly confidential; please write to the person in your region as this will help us respond to your letters faster.

*EASTERN TIME ZONE REGION

MOLLY HELLER
214 Oakwood Dr.
Windham, Conn. 06280

HOPE BERRY
142 Portland Ave.
West Redding, Conn. 06896

*CENTRAL TIME ZONE REGION

DONNA IPPOLITO
7710 Hollybrook Ln.
Indianapolis, IN 46227

EMILY GMERER
912 Hamlin St. #2
Evanston, IL 60201

*MOUNTAIN TIME ZONE REGION

MEGHAN WATERMAN
476 Clayton Street
Denver, CO 80206

*PACIFIC TIME ZONE REGION

ALI DUBIN
8830 Noble Ave.
Sepulveda, CA 91343

gFU is a non-profit organization. We can only continue to send you information, stonies, poems, and artwork by your donations. If you or your parents can make a tax-deductible donation of \$10, \$25, \$50, or ANY amount, that would be FANTASTIC!! If you cannot help to support us financially, please continue to send us your poems, stonies, and artwork. Please make checks payable to: gFU/PC/ JUST FOR US. Thank you very much!

" THE SECRET "

At eleven years old, I learned my mother was a lesbian. I felt as though I was the only person in the world with a gay parent, aside from my sister. How could I tell anyone? I carried in my heart this secret, in fear I would be rejected.

My mother's lover moved into our home and our family was filled with so much love. In fear, I was unable to share the joy of my new family with others.

High school came quickly and I began to tell a couple of my close friends that my mother was a lesbian. To my surprise, they still loved me for who I was, and for who my mother was. They were disconcerted with my mother's sexuality. I was finally able to share such a large part of my life with others, which in turn made a stronger relationship.

Releasing my secret felt wonderful. It lessened my great fear of rejection, and I realized a good friend is someone who loves you no matter what.

"JUST FOR US" is a great way to open up and share your secret. If you would like to share your secret, please share your secret with "US"! If you shared your secret, we would still love to hear from you.

I am looking forward to the conference in Dallas, and hope to see you there. It should be another unforgettable experience. -Molly Heller, Connecticut

SO YOU THINK YOU
ARE THE ONLY ONE

Some Support Groups
In Your Area

Listed below are the names of some support groups for children of gay and lesbian parents. For more information about these or other groups in your area, or information about starting your own, contact Hope Benny or Ali Dubin (listed in the Anchor).

Just For Us
Contact: Ali Dubin
8830 Noble Ave.
Sepulveda, CA 91343
Meeting location: Hollywood, CA

Our Parents Aren't Straight
Contact: Donna Ippolito
7710 Hollybrook Ln.
Indianapolis, IN 46227
Meeting location: Indianapolis, IN

Gay Fathers of DC
Contact: Hope Benny
142 Portland Ave.
West Redding, Conn 06896
Meeting location: Washington DC

GLPMW- The Kids Group
Contact: Alex Fagelson
14908 Piney Grove Court
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Meeting location: Gaithersburg, MD

When the first issue of JFU went out, we showed you how many kids were on the mailing list, and we showed you the breakdown of where they all live. I thought you'd be interested in seeing how we have grown. This is now, just a year and a half later!

SUBSCRIPTIONS BY STATE

	<u>1 1/2 yrs ago</u>	<u>NOW</u>
Alabama	0	1
Arizona	0	3
California	20	44
Colorado	1	4
Connecticut	2	4
Washington, D.C.	1	2
Florida	1	7
Georgia	5	5
Illinois	3	11
Indiana	8	11
Iowa	1	1
Kentucky	0	1
Maine	1	3
Maryland	0	14
Massachusetts	14	25
Michigan	2	8
Missouri	0	1
New Hampshire	12	6
New Jersey	0	4
New York	13	29
Ohio	5	20
Oklahoma	0	3
Oregon	0	1
Pennsylvania	0	5
Rhode Island	0	1
Texas	25	33
Utah	0	1
Vermont	0	4
Virginia	2	3
West Virginia	0	1
Wisconsin	7	10
Wyoming	1	1
CANADA	1	3
THE NETHERLANDS	0	1
TOTALS	<u>125</u>	<u>271</u>

WE NEED YOUR HELP

WRITE TO
JUST FOR US

The steering committee of the GLPCI Youth Conference needs your help with the costs of the conference and this newsletter. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation in any amount, please send a check or money order to:
JUST FOR US c/o Ali Dubin
8830 Noble Ave. Sepulveda, CA 91343
Please make checks payable to:
GLPCI/ JUST FOR US

If you would like to tell your story to JUST FOR US write to JUST FOR US c/o Ali Dubin 8830 Noble Ave. Sepulveda, CA 91343. As always, you do not have to include your last name, and your address will be kept confidential. If you would like to send poems, artwork, letters, and related news stories or special interest stories, that would be awesome. Hope to hear from you!

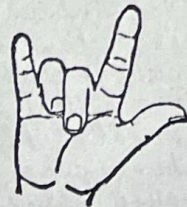
*Looking forward to seeing you in Houston June 14-16! Love,
JUST FOR US*

To Receive JUST FOR US
If you would like to receive JUST FOR US, fill out the form below and mail to: JUST FOR US c/o Ali Dubin, 8830 Noble Ave. Sepulveda, CA 91343

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____



*JUST FOR US
PO Box 50360
Washington, DC 20091 USA*

Address Connection Requested