



PRIDE AND JOY  
SYRACUSE

# Pride and Joy Families

Helping LGBTQ people in Upstate New York achieve their goals of building and sustaining healthy families for 10 years.

Volume 5 Issue 4

Fall 2010



Hello Pride and Joy Families,

If you are like many of us, Fall is the time for putting away swimsuits and the lazy days of summer and getting ready for winter coats and busy school days. My family tries hard to enjoy the lovely Fall foliage as we whiz past it on our way to football practice and volleyball games. Families are so busy these days that it is hard to add one more thing to the already overfilled list of birthday parties, sports games and dance recitals.

I try to remind myself often that my family is unique among the ocean of families that join me at most of these activities. As an LGBT-led family, it's important to spend time with other families like ours. I know we grow and learn through sharing experiences, struggles and stories with other LGBT led families. There are some great Pride and Joy events coming up this Fall—I hope you're able to make time for some of them!



Best wishes this Fall,  
Karen Armstrong

## Who Are We?

The Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project is funded by a grant from the New York State Health Department and is dedicated to helping Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer people in New York State achieve their goals of building and sustaining healthy families. Our network of Pride and Joy Families provides social and educational activities and a sense of community to LGBTQ parents and their children.

**The Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project**  
124 Front Street  
Binghamton, NY 13905  
607.724.4308

[www.PrideAndJoyFamilies.org](http://www.PrideAndJoyFamilies.org)  
[www.LGBTHealthInitiative.org](http://www.LGBTHealthInitiative.org)  
[www.LGBTServicesDirectory.com](http://www.LGBTServicesDirectory.com)

## Our Staff:

Claudia Stallman, Project Director

Karen Armstrong, Health Educator  
Heather Hauer, Outreach Educator

# New Legislation is Good for LGBT Families

## **Gov. Paterson Signs Gay-Inclusive Adoption Bill**

On Tuesday, September 21, Governor Paterson signed an adoption bill that mends Section 110 of the domestic relations law to allow gay couples to jointly adopt a child, regardless of their marital status. In addition, by replacing current references in the law to husband and wife with the gender neutral term "married couple", this proposal also clarifies that all married couples may adopt a child together. We applaud the passage of this bill, which ensures children receive lifelong support, including insurance and benefits, from both of their parents.

## **Dignity for All Students Act Passes**

Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and Assembly Member Daniel J. O'Donnell announced the Assembly today passed with overwhelming support the Dignity for All Students Act, a measure aimed at ensuring public school communities provide students with a learning environment free of discrimination. Provisions of the legislation prohibit harassment and discrimination based on race, color, weight, national origin, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex.

"All students have a right to a safe and supportive school environment, so they can concentrate on their academic and personal growth. The Dignity for All Students Act attempts to stop the bullying and menacing that are so common in our schools," said Silver (D-Manhattan). "From incidents of school yard fights being posted on the internet, to tragedies such as the massacre at Columbine High School, harassment at schools has gone beyond teasing in hallways, and we must do all we can to stem this trend."

A 2008 report by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network found that 65 percent of teens reported having been verbally or physically harassed due to their appearance, gender, ethnicity, disability or religion.

"Too many students are bullied based on real or perceived differences with their classmates. Every student deserves an environment free of harassment and discrimination - an environment that allows every child to reach his or her full potential," said O'Donnell (D-Manhattan), who sponsored the bill. "For too long, our education system has been blind to the plight of these students. I am proud that the Assembly remains willing to address this important issue, and that the Dignity for All Students Act continues to win support."

The bill ([A.3661B/S. 1987A](#)) directs school districts to develop procedures which create discrimination and harassment free schools, as well as guidelines for training personnel to respond to discrimination and harassment. The Commissioner of Education will also be required to provide advice, model policies and direct services, where possible, to help school districts establish policies to prevent discrimination and harassment. Incidents on school grounds or at school functions must be reported to the State Education Department annually.

## Pride and Joy Families is Partner in Film Festival

Pride and Joy families will be a community partner in the **ImageOut** Rochester Lesbian and Gay Film Festival this year. **ImageOut** presents LGBT arts and cultural experiences showcasing films, other creative works and artists to promote awareness, foster dialogue and build community.

**Pride and Joy Families** will be partnering in the screening of *Wild About Harry*. Filmed on-location in Provincetown, director Gwen Wynne draws upon her own experiences growing up on Cape Cod in the early '70s to craft a deeply touching and very personal film. *Wild About Harry* examines the courage it takes to live against the norm at a time when the country as a whole was redefining its identity and facing its own loss of innocence.

The film will be shown on Sunday, October 10 at 4:15 at the Dryden Theatre in Rochester. For film time and location and a full list of the ImageOut 2010 films, visit [www.ImageOut.org](http://www.ImageOut.org)

## Showing Gay Teenagers a Happy Future

By TARA PARKER-POPE

A new online video channel is reaching out to teenagers who are bullied at school for being gay. The message: life really does get better after high school. The YouTube channel, called the "**It Gets Better Project**" was created by the Seattle advice columnist and activist Dan Savage. Mr. Savage says he was moved by the suicide of Billy Lucas, a Greensburg, Ind., high school student who was the target of slurs and bullying. The channel promises to be a collection of videos from adults in the gay community who share their own stories of surviving school bullying and moving on to build successful careers. Find out more by searching for "**It Gets Better Project**" at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com).



# PRIDE AND JOY SYRACUSE

## Fall Events 2010



**Apple Picking!**  
Saturday, September 18

Beak & Skiff Apple Farms  
2701 Route 80  
Lafayette NY, 13084  
Phone (315) 677-5105  
[www.beakandskiff.com](http://www.beakandskiff.com)

Meet at the Wagon pick up at  
11:00 am.

**Pumpkin Fun!**

Saturday, October 16

Tim's Pumpkin Patch  
2901 Rose Hill Road  
(315) 673-9209

Meet by the Grain Bin  
play area at 11:00 am.

**Thanksgiving Feast!**

Saturday, November 20

at the home of  
Ann and Mary

Bring a dish to pass  
More details will  
follow.



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For more information or to RSVP to any of these events, contact Heather Hauer  
at [hauerross@stny.rr.com](mailto:hauerross@stny.rr.com) or call 607.724.4308 option 3

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# Pride and Joy Binghamton Fall Events 2010

**Pride and Joy Playgroup** (for LGBTQ families and their allies) will meet at various venues around the Triple Cities!  
Email Outreach/Education Consultant Heather Hauer at [hauerross@stny.rr.com](mailto:hauerross@stny.rr.com) for further information!

**Apple Picking**-Sunday, September 19, 1pm  
Gather with Pride and Joy Families of Binghamton to pick apples at Apple Hills on Brooks Road in Binghamton. Meet at the apple picking parking lot.

**Pumpkin Farm** -Sunday, October 10, 1pm  
Join Pride and Joy Families for a day of fall fun at Iron Kettle Pumpkin Farm! Route 96 Candor, NY. Meet at the entrance to the farm, in the parking lot.

**Annual Thanksgiving Feast**  
Saturday, November 20, 3-6pm Join Pride and Joy Families at the home of Dorian and Marian for this tradition! Our hosts will provide the turkey and drinks, please bring a dish to pass.

For more information or to RSVP to any of these events, contact Heather Hauer at [hauerross@stny.rr.com](mailto:hauerross@stny.rr.com) or call 607.724.4308 option 3

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