




An organization of families headed by parents who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender.

FAMILY CONFERENCE 07

6th Biennial Conference

Saturday, November 10, 9:00 am to 4:30pm
Montclair State University, Student Center

Offering *LGBT families and their friends*:

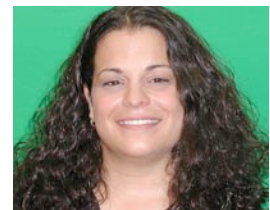
- Broad array of workshops with content ranging from those considering parenting, to general parenting, to school strategies, to legal and financial issues
- Kid & Teen Program produced by 
- Vendor and information tables
- Chance to win a one week cruise from R Family Vacations
- Opportunity to meet and socialize with other LGBT families
- Onsite professional childcare available with pre-registration

CO-SPONSORED BY:



- Women's Center
- Gay & Lesbian Faculty and Staff Association

Special Performances by:



Jessica Kirson
Star of Comedy Central, Last Comic Standing, R Family Vacations & The Tonight Show

We are Rainbow Families!

STRENGTHENING & CELEBRATING our FAMILIES

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

AGENDA

8:45 – 9:15	Registration
9:15 – 10:00	Opening Session
10:15 – 11:15	Workshop 1
11:30 – 12:30	Workshop 2
12:30 – 2:00	Lunch
2:15 – 3:15	Workshop 3
3:30 – 4:30	Family Ice Cream Social

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Rainbow Families consistently receives feedback to provide activities that allow LGBT families an opportunity to mingle and meet one another. This year our closing ceremony provides the opportunity for all family members to meet and celebrate the day with a very special ice cream social. Plus, to get the celebration started, Jessica Kirson, star of *Comedy Central*, *Last Comic Standing*, and *The Tonight Show*, will perform!

KIDS & TEEN PROGRAM BY COLAGE

9:15 – 10:00	Opening Session
10:15 – 11:15	Workshop 1 <i>Kids: What's Your Story?</i> <i>Teens: COLAGE Teen Kickoff</i>
11:30 – 12:30	Workshop 2 <i>Kids: Tools for School</i> <i>Teens: Coming Out Maze</i>
12:30 – 2:00	Lunch
2:15 – 3:15	Workshop 3 <i>Kids: Do Something!</i> <i>Teens: Speak up, Speak OUT!</i>
3:30 – 4:30	Family Ice Cream Social

VENDOR / INFORMATION TABLE

The following vendors and organizations will have booths that you can visit throughout the day:

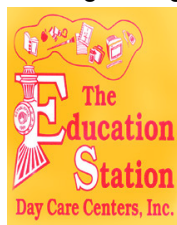
- COLAGE
- IVF NJ
- Morris County NOW
- New Jersey Adoption Resource Clearing House
- R Family Vacations
- Two Lives Publishing

CHILDCARE

On-Site professional childcare is available to attendees who pre-register. Special entertainment, including a screening of "Dotti's Magic Pockets" – the first kids program for children in gay and lesbian households, will be provided. Parents must provide a packed lunch & beverage, a change of clothes, and napping gear. RFNJ will provide snacks and drinks.

Complete registration form and payment must be received no later than November 1. Childcare IS NOT available for children of parents' registering the day of the conference.

Childcare is provided by:



COSTS

Includes: parking, opening session, three workshops, lunch and ice cream social.

Adult pre-registration (deadline 11/1):

RFNJ Member:	\$35 per person
Non-Member:	\$45 per person

Adult on-site registration:

RFNJ Member:	\$40 per person
Non-Member:	\$45 per person

Kid/Teen Program:

RFNJ Member:	\$15 per person
Non-Member:	\$20 per person
Childcare:	\$15 per child



WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP SESSION 1

A) Adoptions: International, Domestic, and through Foster care. – Presented by Douglas Graiver LCSW

This workshop will discuss the process a couple or individual faces as adoption is being considered. This workshop will also offer guidelines for sorting through the emotional considerations inherent to such a life-changing decision as well as the pros and cons of the options available to LGBT individuals and couples.

B) Gay Parents and Teenagers: Making sure your family survives adolescence – Presented by Laura Booker, LCSW

The purpose of this workshop is to provide LGBT parents with tools to help them successfully parent their children through adolescence. This workshop will outline the basic developmental tasks of adolescence, discuss strategies to support healthy development, and will specifically address questions relevant to LGBT-headed families (i.e. parenting a straight teen). The workshop will include case examples of typical problems that emerge in LGBT households with teenagers.

C) Legal Protection for Your Family – Presented by Theresa Lyons, Esq.

This workshop will focus on the current state of legal issues in New Jersey with a special focus on how they impact LGBT families. It will also provide practical advice on what you need to do to legally protect your family.

D) Maintaining Your Personal Space, Self Esteem, and Positive Outlook – Presented by Dr. Catherine Roland

Parents run the risk of losing a bit of their individuality in families. This participatory workshop will emphasize how to maintain a positive sense of self; importance of 'liking yourself' while creating family; and personal self care within the family unit. Through discussion and small group work, we will consider the "couple" and "the family" and how to maintain the closeness necessary between two people, for the health of the family. We will begin a dialogue, and bring the group together with useful strategies networked through the group.

E) Parenting for Social Justice - Presented by DR. Stuart Chen-Hayes, Lance Chen-Hayes, PT, and DR. Ron McLean

As LGBT and LGBT-wannabe parents, guardians, and allies, we face familyism and heterosexism. Our families lack social justice and equity in most parts of the world including the USA. Our narratives (stories) provide important ways to challenge multiple oppressions. Re-storying our lives and encouraging all parents to parent through an equity and social justice lens is the theme of this workshop. Anti-oppression theory and techniques are addressed, including internet and picture book resources for children and adults to parent from early childhood through adolescent development for equity and social justice to challenge 12 oppressions facing our families: Ableism, Ageism, Beautyism, Classism, Familyism, Genderism, Heterosexism, Immigrationism, Linguicism, Racism, Religionism, and Sexism

WORKSOP SESSION 2

F) Assisted Reproductions – Presented by Melissa B. Brisman, ESQ, LLC and Bette Galen, LCSW

This session will review all of the legal and financial considerations that gays and lesbians should address when they decide to have a baby. Some of the topics to be covered include details on how to find a surrogate to have a baby for you and legal issues related to parenting rights, surrogacy, adoption and financing.

G) Include Me! Information and Materials to Create an Inclusive and Non-Heterosexist School Environment for Children with LGBTQ Parents. – Presented by Dori Kavanagh, MSW

Include Me! Is an award winning collection of information and materials created for teachers and school administrators to use in order to create a more inclusive school environment for children with one or more LGBT and/or Q parent. The presentation includes personal examples and interviews with queer spawn describing what it is really like to go to school and not have the family the school expects them to. School applications are examined and critiqued and unique materials are shared to help your school re-define family in your community.

H) Marriage, Civil Unions, and Gay Rights State-by-State, or, Why it's Good to be Gay in New Jersey – Presented by Mary Lou Killian, PhD, LCSW

Hate crimes, second parent adoption, anti-bullying, anti-discrimination, gender expression, marriage...gay rights are decided most often on a state-by-state basis in the US. This makes for a confusing array of protections and loopholes and leaves many of us in gay families feeling as if we need a law degree. This workshop will very briefly review the types of laws being enacted and the status of those protections in New Jersey, with a particular focus on both partner recognition and parenting protections. Time for questions and a review of referrals and options will be included.

I) Manage or be Managed: Responding to the Challenging Behaviors of Preschool Age Children – Presented by Dr. David Celiberti

This workshop will focus on how parents can respond to an array of challenging behaviors in preschool age children. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the underlying intent of the behavior problem and using that information to guide prevention and management strategies. The workshop will also describe some parenting strategies that may actually backfire. Examples will be offered throughout to highlight concepts. Finally, some warning signs that warrant professional attention will also be offered.

WORKSHOPS

J) Understanding Race Privilege and Your Child's Experience of the World: A Focus on Interracial Adoption. Presented by Dr. Paula C. Rodríguez Rust

Many LGBTI families are interracial, often as a result of interracial adoption by racially privileged, i.e., "white" parents. This workshop is about race privilege, including what white parents can do to become aware of the ways in which their race privilege has impacted their own lives, ways in which their child might experience the world differently because of race, and ways to help their child cope with these issues at different ages. Depending on interests of the attendees, the workshop will either focus on exercises to increase awareness of race privilege and practical skills for navigating racial dynamics and differences, or it will be discussion-oriented, facilitated by a professional diversity educator who is a white lesbian mother in a bicultural/bilingual extended family with both adopted and birth children of more than one race. Attendees of all racial/ethnic backgrounds, regardless of family status or composition, are welcome to come give and/or take advice and share experiences.

WORKSHOP SESSION 3

K) Adopting Older Children – Presented by Cheryl Ann Notari, Ph.D.

There are an estimated 130,000 older children, ages 2 years and up, waiting to be adopted in the US today. When you adopt an older child, you give that child a second chance at a family and home. Adopting an older child brings its own special joys and challenges to a family. This seminar is a frank look at those joys and challenges. Special attention will be given to the unique issues of GLBT families adopting older children.

L) Building Your Child's Reading Library – Presented by Michael Ryan, EdD & Robert Stefani M Ed.

This workshop will focus on how to build a child's home reading library, working with teachers to strengthen reading skills and how to identify books that are at your child's reading level

M) Estate Planning – Presented by John Bodner

Financial planning techniques and principles for LGBT families. Key issues will include cash flow planning, insurance issues, beneficiary designations, education and retirement planning as well as other topics

N) Our NJ Communities – Moderated by Gregory Farnham

This workshop will feature a panel of Rainbow Family members from several NJ communities throughout the state to discuss and compare why we live where we live. Topics will include housing, neighborhood acceptance, school systems, local LGBT resources, etc. This is a great workshop for anyone thinking of moving to New Jersey or relocating to another town within the state

O) Telling Your Child Difficult History – Presented by Barbara A. Rall, LCSW

Sharing painful information about a child's history or birth family can be challenging for adoptive parents. This workshop will help you develop the skills to competently tell your children difficult information and help them process it.

P) You Can Have a Baby! – Presented by Thomas J. Kim MD, FACOG

Workshop will discuss how advances in fertility treatment are making it possible for more gay men and lesbians to have a baby.

COLAGE KID & TEEN PROGRAM

WORKSHOP 1

9-12 year olds: What's Your Story?

Opening session will bring our group together and use games and fun for us to share our stories as youth with LGBT parents.

13 – 17 years old: COLAGE Teen Kickoff

We'll get the day started through games, art, team building and fun while exploring the things we share as youth with LGBT parents.

WORKSHOP 2

9-12 year olds: Tools for School

School can be a pain and we don't just mean homework. Through movies and games, we'll talk about all the many things that come up for youth at school and share tactics for dealing with it all.

13 – 17 years old: Coming Out Maze

Whether you have told no one or everyone, there will be a time when you will want to share with friends and peers that you have an LGBT parent. By sharing our experiences and using fun activities, we'll talk about the ins and outs of friends, school and more as youth with LGBT parents..

WORKSHOP 3

9-12 year olds: Do Something!

As the day continues, we are feeling ready to Do Something! These creative expression workshops are a fun way to end our day. Options may include drama, art or creative writing.

13 – 17 years old: Speak up, Speak OUT!

As youth with LGBT parents, we can make change! This workshop will offer skills and opportunities for all youth to become strong leaders in their communities..



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REGISTRATION

RFNJ FAMILY CONFERENCE

Attendee 1# _____ Attendee 2# _____

Email Address: _____ Email Address: _____

COLAGE CONFERENCE

Kid/teen Name: _____ Age: _____

Kid/teen Name: _____ Age: _____

Kid/teen Name: _____ Age: _____

CHILDCARE

of Children needing Childcare _____ Ages: _____

Important: Childcare can only be provided to attendees who pre-register. Childcare IS NOT available for children of parents' registering the day of the conference.

DESCRIPTION	# of attendees	COST	TOTAL
Adult Registration - RFNJ Member		\$35	
Adult Registration - Non Member		\$45	
Kid/Teen Program - RFNJ Member		\$15	
Kid/Teen Program - Non Member		\$20	
Childcare		\$15	
RFNJ Conference Donation		\$15	

TOTAL \$ _____

MAIL YOUR REGISTRATION BY NOVEMBER 1 TO:

Rainbow Families NJ
PO Box 1385
MAPLEWOOD, NJ 07040

OR

To register online and pay by credit card:

www.rainbowfamiliesnj.org/what/conference.html

Your support of this conference is greatly appreciated. Please consider adding to your conference registration with a donation to help defray the conference costs.



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DIRECTIONS & PARKING

DIRECTIONS

Montclair State University is on Valley Rd. and Normal Ave., Upper Montclair, N.J., one mile south of the junction of Route 3 and 46.

Route 46 (East): Approaching Rt.3 intersection stay to the right. Take exit for Valley Road Montclair/Paterson. At stop sign (bottom of exit ramp) make a right turn on to Valley Road heading south. Follow Valley Road directions below.

Route 46 (West): Take exit for Valley Road Montclair/Paterson. Stay to the right. At stop sign, turn right and make immediate left. Follow U-Turn signs to Montclair. Make a right turn on to Valley Road heading south. Follow Valley Road directions below.

Route 3 (West): Just before Route 3 West ends and blends onto Route 46 West, stay to right and take the exit for Valley Road Montclair/Paterson. Stay to the right. At stop sign, turn right and make immediate left. Follow U-Turn signs to Montclair. Make a right turn on to Valley Road heading south. Follow Valley Road directions below.

Valley Road: Travel on Valley Road to first traffic light (1 mile). Make a right turn at light onto Normal Avenue. The main entrance to the campus is the next right turn.

For additional directions, link to <http://www.montclair.edu/welcome/directions.html>

PARKING

WHERE TO PARK: All conference attendees **MUST** park in the **Red Hawk Parking Deck** (garage): From there you can follow signs to the **Student Center**.

PARKING COSTS: Once you pickup your Registration Packet at the Conference, you will receive a parking pass to pay for the Red hawk Deck parking.

HANDICAP PARKING: Anyone needing handicapped parking can park in any of the designated spots throughout campus.

OTHER: The student Center is about a 5-10 minute walk from the Red Hawk Parking Deck, so please plan accordingly. There are also shuttle buses that run throughout campus as an alternative to walking.