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May-June 2022 | Issue #142

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by Aubree Calvin

ASIAN ACTIVIST

GLENN MAGPANTAY & SON MALCOLM

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We look forward to hearing from you.

Michael DiMattina, M.D.
Susan Sarajari, M.D.
Gerard Celia, Ph.D.

The Staff at Dominion Fertility



FEATURES

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Japan Rainbow Camp for LGBTQ Families - Although Japanese LGBTQ families don't share the same freedoms as Americans, there are organizations in Japan working to change that. - page 18

Searching for Barbary Lane - With a nod to Armistead Maupin's novel, Aubree Calvin discusses the importance of bridging the LGBTQ generational divide. - page 21



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Fighting for Asian LGBTQ Rights - Gay Parent Magazine first featured Glenn Magpantay 15 years ago. Now single and raising a teen, Glenn survived cancer and is still working to uphold LGBTQ as well as Asian rights. - page 28

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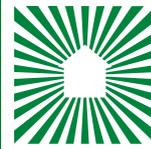
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Cover photo courtesy of Glenn Magpantay. Photos this page, top to bottom, photo courtesy of Cassie Herrera, Pink Dads, Stephanie Ann Stewart, Glenn Magpantay, and Aubree Calvin.



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EMAIL & SOCIAL MEDIA



Family photo share from Cassie Herrera



Family photo share from Sarah Barrett
Photo by Jennifer Mayberry



Family photo share from Sheena Malone



Family photo share from Pink Dads



Family photo share from Shanda Mauldin



Family photo share from Stephanie Ann Stewart

We love to hear from you. Send us your photos and comments by email at gayparentmag@gmail.com or through www.facebook.com/gay.parent.magazine.

CORRECTION

Benchmark School (www.benchmarkschool.org) was listed in an incorrect state in the directory listing in our last issue. The correct location is Pennsylvania.

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♥♥♥ **May is National Foster Care Month** ♥♥♥

Visit www.fostercaremonth.org

Below are LGBTQ friendly foster care and adoption resources for family building and nurturing.

The Barker Adoption Foundation

301-664-9664
barkeradoptionfoundation.org
See ad on page 13

Camp Clio

984-439-2308
campclio.org
See ad on page 18

Child and Family Services of Northwestern Michigan

231-946-8975
cfsnwmi.org
See ad on page 19

Children's Home & Aid

630-824-3630
childrenshomeandaid.org
See ad on page 20

Children's Home Society of Virginia

804-353-0191
chsva.org
See ad on page 19

CONCERN

610-944-0445
concern4kids.org
See ad on page 8

Hephzibah Children's Association

708-649-7184
hephzibahhome.org
See ad on page 15

RaiseAChild

877-417-1440
raiseachild.org
See ad on page 32

Saint Dominic's Family Services

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Spence-Chapin Services to Families and Children

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May is Foster Care Awareness month - it is a reminder to rally behind our youth, promote the importance of becoming a foster parent, and remind youth that they are never alone!

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Gordon May, President/CEO of CONCERN recently mentioned this quote during a weekly Monday Motivation

staff email. "It irritates me to be told how things have always been done. I defy the tyranny of precedent. I cannot afford the luxury of a closed mind." ~ Clara Barton 1821-1912 (Founder of the American Red Cross) Gordon

states, "As legislation changes to become inclusive of same sex marriages, LGBTQ+ rights, it is important that social services and non-profit agencies follow suit. CONCERN has been an agency that welcomes change, leads

with an open mind, and is inclusive of clients and foster parents from all backgrounds"

Approximately 15,000 children are in the foster care



According to youth.gov approximately, 30% of children in foster care identify as LGBTQ+. Not only is there a need for Foster Parents across Pennsylvania, there is also a need for foster parents who identify as LGBTQ+ and/or are welcoming to youth who identify as LGBTQ+.



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system in Pennsylvania. According to youth.gov approximately, 30% of children in foster care identify as LGBTQ+. Not only is there a need for Foster Parents across Pennsylvania, there is also a need for foster parents who identify as LGBTQ+ and/or are welcoming to youth who identify as LGBTQ+.

CONCERN has had same sex foster parents for over 7 years. A previous foster family started the application process to become a foster parent with CONCERN in 2015. Long before this couple met and married, they knew they wanted to become parents. They knew that raising children would not only be personally fulfilling but having the opportunity to change a life and give a child a 'forever family' would be the greatest gift they could give a child. This couple offers so many gifts to share with children. Knowing first-hand what a stable and loving home can mean to a child, as adults, they were determined to emulate their beloved family members. Families from all demographic backgrounds are welcome and accepted at CONCERN. The application process is simple: Visit our website, complete an application, and begin the process today toward welcoming children into your home. Children need loving homes, caring adults, and a non-judgmental environment. Please consider becoming a Foster Parent by visiting www.concern4kids.org. ▼



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23rd Annual LGBTQ-friendly Camps for Kids Listing

If you haven't done it yet, there is still time to make summer plans for your child. Each year we publish a list of LGBTQ friendly camps and summer day programs that advertise in this issue. Also listed are independent schools and after school classes, some offering summer programs. The camps and schools are located in California, Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington.

OVERNIGHT/ DAY CAMPS/ SUMMER PROGRAMS

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www.campclio.org
see ad on page 18



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NEW YORK

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92 St. Y Camp Pride

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Park Slope Day Camp

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see ad on page 9

Westside Neighborhood School

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www.wns-la.org
see ad on page 16

ILLINOIS

Bennett Day School

312-236-6388
www.bennettday.org
see ad on page 18



MARYLAND

Norwood School

301-841-2130
www.norwoodschool.org
see ad on page 26



MASSACHUSETTS

Bard College at Simon's Rock

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www.simons-rock.edu
see ad on page 24

NEW YORK

The Gow School Summer Program

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www.gow.org/summer-programs
see ad on page 23

Mary McDowell Friends School

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www.marymcdowell.org
see ad on page 5

Metropolitan Montessori School

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www.mmsny.org
see ad on page 7

Ross School Summer

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see ad on page 23

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A Victorian Home of Love and Charity in Nebraska

By Gary Hurtubise

Standing tall and proud outside their 1885 Victorian home in Superior, Nebraska, Brian Splater and Austin Karnatz's have a story that is inspirational and uplifting.

Brian was born in Fremont, Nebraska, and raised in Randolph, the middle of seven children, having three brothers and three sisters. He earned an associate in business administration from Northeast Community College in Norfolk, Nebraska, and currently works from home as a regional coordinator for a home health care company.

Austin was born in Belleville, Kansas – just south of the border between that state and Nebraska. He has one brother and one sister. Presently, Austin is working in bookkeeping and accounting and, according to his LinkedIn profile, is majoring in business administration at Central Community College in Hastings, Nebraska, and is graduated last year.

Brian knew he was attracted to guys by the time he was twelve but didn't come out until he was twenty-one. "I did so at my family's favorite steak house in Norfolk, Nebraska," he explains. "I called them all to join me for dinner on a Sunday. When we were all there, I told everyone I was gay."



The family on their front porch. Brian Splater with son, Jaxon, on left, and with his husband, Austin Karnatz, and their daughter, Ellie, on the right.

Brian's mother interrupted, stating that she already knew about her son's sexuality, adding, "we won't be discussing this right now...let's eat." It would take his mom and his siblings a while before they openly accepted his coming out.

"Ever since, though," he asserts, "she has been my biggest supporter and has always been by my side."

Skip forward to May 2014 when Brian

and Austin met on Zoosk – the online dating site. Brian was living in Norfolk at the time; Austin was in Superior. "There was a three-hour drive distance between us and for the first six months of our relationship, we drove back and forth to spend time with one another."

In October of 2015, Brian decided to move down to Superior where the two men started their life together in earnest, and



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where they still reside today.

Once together in Superior, it didn't take long for the couple to take their relationship *mutually* to the next level. "We both proposed to each other," Brian explains simply.

The men chose not to make their engagement into a big show. "We both agreed we loved each other, that we would like to spend our lives together, and build a family together."

Brian and Austin were quietly married in a civil ceremony in Hastings, just north of Superior. Then, in August of 2019 the couple did it all over again, but this time they decided to go big. "We had a huge ceremony, reception and dance, with all of our family, neighbors, co-workers and friends present on our large 1885 Victorian era porch."

It was only after this very public celebration of their commitment to each another that they revealed they'd already been married, explaining that doing so had been for practical reasons: to facilitate the adoption of their two children.

The couple had started talking about kids at the end of 2017, letting their families know that they intended to pursue adoption.

It was only at the start of 2017 that

Nebraska had re-affirmed the right of same-sex couples to foster and adopt in the state, overturning a 1995 Department of Health and Human Services administrative policy that Justice John Wright, the presiding judge in the case, declared was "legally indistinguishable from a sign reading 'Whites Only' on the hiring-office door."

At the beginning of 2018, Brian received some worrying news about his great-niece and great-nephew, a sibling pair who had been in the Nebraska Foster Care System for some time. Up until that point, the brother and sister had been kept



The couple's wedding night standing outside in the rain, August 2019. Photograph by their friend, Millie B Photography. Says Brian, "She captured a remarkable picture standing in the rain and a thunderstorm."

together while shunted from foster home to foster home. Now, however, it was revealed they were to be split up and put into separate homes.

Austin and Brian had intended to build their adoptive family one child at a time but knew that this situation demanded a change

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in plan. “We finally decided adopting two children instead of one was the right thing to do.” It was not only the right thing, but the necessary thing, given that the kids were family. And given that Brian was kin to the sister-brother pair, a kin-placement was the path the couple decided to follow towards adoption.

Seven-year-old Ellie and six-year-old Jaxon moved into Brian and Austin’s home in May of 2018. The couple petitioned the court for adoption in March of the following year.

The adoption process was stressful for the couple. “It was filled with many raw emotions and seemed like a rollercoaster at every corner,” the couple recall, acknowledging, though, that they were “treated fairly well” along the way.

It was tough on the kids too. “Every single time we drove by the courthouse, they would ask when their adoption would finally be over with. Since they had spent years being moved around a lot, I don’t think our daughter Ellie felt secure until the judge said it was official.”



The family’s adoption finalization hearing. From Left, Austin, Ellie, Jaxon, Judge Burns, and Brian.

In early August 2020, eighteen months after the process began, the kids’ adoption was at last finalized. “The day of our finalization, our attorney from Omaha told me we were actually his first same-sex adoption, adding that this was a very important

day for him too.”

Reflecting on their lawyer’s statement, the couple acknowledge that they are something of a rarity in Nebraska, and especially in their city of Superior. “We are one of the very few same-sex dads in this entire area who have adopted. You don’t see our [type of] family on every block in this area.”

Brian and Austin chose to keep their own last names when they married. “Our children were given Austin’s last name, however,” Brian explains. “I wanted our children to have a part of my husband and since I’m from the birth family, the only way I knew I could give our kids a part of my husband was to let them have his last name.”

The couple revealed their decision at their Last Name Reveal Party in the fall of 2020, once the adoption was finalized. In December, the family enjoyed their third Christmas together.

Ellie, now nine and in third grade, is very artistic and heavily involved in youth sports. She also takes piano lessons and is in voice lessons. “She has a beautiful and



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December 2019, the family delivered 200 new toys to Omaha's Children's Hospital and Medical Center.

inspiring voice," her dad states, adding, "she sings independently for our church."

Jaxon turned eight in May and is in second grade. He is into sports and helping with chores inside or outside. "He loves helping me build things," Brian adds proudly, "and he loves remodeling."

Speaking of remodeling – that is a hobby that keeps Brian very busy. In March of 2019, the couple purchased their current home: a 4000-square-foot Victorian house that is one of the highest-profile historical properties in Superior. Located across the street from the city park, the 1885 home was built by a Civil War veteran, features a large fountain in the front walkway, and was the location for the men's huge wedding celebration, where Ellie served as flower girl and Jaxon was the ring bearer.

Brian has spent the last two years restoring their home, which sat uninhabited for five years prior to the couple purchasing it.

When they are not working on restoration projects and research into the history of their home, the couple are involved in Superior's Elks Lodge fraternal order. Austin served as the branch's Exalted Ruler for three years and is currently the Five-Year-Trustee; Brian is currently serving as the Exalted Ruler.

Brian sees their acceptance into the organization as evidence of how most of

their community embraces them and their family. "As with all small communities you will find a few who like to spew their disgust, and ridicule others on social media. These are few and far between."

As members of Superior's Elks Lodge, the couple has been involved in a number of philanthropic programs and initiatives for their community. "I began our Summer Backpack Food Program," Brian explains, "and last year we had over 50 kids receive weekly nutritional meals, snacks and drinks."

Not content to limit themselves to charitable work within the Elks Lodge, the couple came up with their own charity idea in late 2019.

Known as the 'Victorian Capital of Nebraska', the couple's hometown of Superior hosts an annual Victorian house tour. Austin and Brian opened their house during the event, taking the proceeds of ticket sales from tours of their house and donating them to a local non-profit. At their daughter's urging, they also called for people to donate used toys, ending up with over 200 by the end of the drive.

They gave away most of the donated

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toys to the Children's Hospital and Medical Center in Omaha, splitting the rest between their community's Toys for Tots branch, and to Santa – who handed out 60 gifts to local kids from the couple's front porch.

Building on the momentum of this first year, Brian decided to expand his charity work, focusing on various issues facing in-need and at-risk children in the community.

The 2020 Annual Toy Drive was designated for foster children from Hastings, and for the Nebraska Foster and Adoptive Parent Association in Lincoln, the state's capitol. "There are 568 children in the two communities we chose."

"Since our children have lived in several foster homes, they experienced many Christmas's without toys, or with only very few. So, that year's toy drive was very important to both of them."

From the start of the toy drive in mid-September, up until Halloween, the organization received over 1,200 items. "We made those 1200 items into 568 gifts, since some items were of lesser value or smaller; many gifts ended up having more than one item in them," Brian explains. "On the 23rd of November, we delivered those 568 gifts so that every one of those children received at least one present for Christmas."

With the 2019 and 2020 toy drives combined, Brian reports that they have given away over \$7,200 worth of items and reached over one thousand children.

The couple's nonprofit efforts have branched out into two 'clubs' geared towards foster children, or kids in need.

The Colors4Kids Club is a charity that aims to give every enrolled child a package every other month, containing crayons, col-

ored pencils, markers, activity books and coloring books, along with puzzles and educational material. "These items are for them to keep," Brian explains.

The Books4Kids Club is the second club the couple has created. When enrolled, children receive between four and six age-appropriate books for them to read. "When they are finished with these books, they can keep them or donate them back to our nonprofit, and we then ship out another four to six books."

"Especially during the pandemic, this club helps inspire our children to continue reading and gives them something to look forward to. This is important with so many restrictions placed on kids, including no longer having access to a library."

"We were blessed that



Ellie and Jaxson with news reporter, Diamond Nunnally from LOCAL 4 News, KSNBC. Says Brian, "She came to do a story about our 2020 Toy Drive where we delivered 570 toys to Nebraska Foster and Adoptive Parent Association. Every child in foster care in the communities of Hastings and Lincoln received Christmas gifts."

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Covid has not affected our nonprofit,” Brian says, gratefully. “For example, our 2020 toy drive received over 400 more items and raised over \$1,200 more than what we received in 2019.” He goes on to say, “Our non-profit, Ambassadors of Kindness, Inc. not only has provided over \$18,000 worth of new toys to nearly 2,800 foster kids in 25 months but last November (2021) we started our Comfort Bags for Foster Kids. In these four months we’ve provided over 450 Comfort Bags to Foster Kids. Our comfort bags aim to dent the number of trash bags foster kids use when they enter foster care. Plus, they receive a new blankie and new teddy bear to serve as a sense of security. With our Annual Toy Drive and Comfort Bags, the total number of foster kids we have reached in 25 months is approaching over 3,200, totaling more than \$22,000.”



Brian with Ellie on left and Austin and Jaxson on right.

Austin and Brian are LGBTQ+ pioneers in their mid-west, rural, red state of Nebraska, demonstrating that same-sex families can and will participate and contribute to their communities, making significant impacts in the lives of those they choose to help. Learn more about Brian and his charity work at,

facebook.com/AmbassadorsOfKindness/ or follow them on Tik Tok at, https://www.tiktok.com/@life_of_two_dads or https://www.tiktok.com/@_life_of_two_dads ▼

Gary Hurtubise lives in Eastern Ontario with his husband Trevor, their two sons Noah & Meo, and their two yellow labs. Gary attended the Royal Military College of Canada and served in the Royal Canadian Navy before becoming a high school physics teacher, and part time Ghostwriter. Gary finds time to write during those odd moments between life: at 4:30 in the morning, on long road-trips with the kids, while back-country camping, and when he should be doing his share of the chores. Read more articles by Gary in this issue. On page 26 learn about Mia Cooley and the first Black Parent Pride Summit and on page 28 we follow up with New York activist Glenn Magpantay.

Photos courtesy of Brian Splater

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2020 U.S. - Japan Rainbow Camp for LGBTQ Families

By Angeline Acain

Although Japanese LGBTQ families don't share the same freedoms as Americans, there are organizations in Japan working to change that. Niji-ro Diversity and partner groups, Good Aging Yells and Niji-ro Kazoku are working to improve the lives of LGBTQ families in Japan. Established in 2013, Niji-ro Diversity was the first organization in Japan to address workplace issues for LGBTQ people and remains a leader in LGBTQ rights activism. In 2015, Niji-ro Diversity published, *LGBTQ Guide for Workplaces*, and in 2018 they published, *Transgender Workplace Handbook*. The group also provides research, educational training, and consulting, and has worked with universities, government agencies,



Maki Muraki, director and founder of Niji-ro Diversity (left) and Haru Ono, president of Niji-ro Kazoku.



to take place in Osaka in October 2020. As founder of Gay Parent Magazine, Niji-ro Diversity had invited me to attend the camp, along with my wife, Susan, and adult daughter, Jiana, to speak and share our experiences as a LGBTQ headed family. Due to the pandemic, my family could not travel to Japan to attend their event. Since we could not attend the camp, Susan and I contributed a short home recorded video, that was presented to the camp attendees. In the video, Susan and I spoke about our parenting experience. View our video message on Niji-ro Diversity's website here, <https://bit.ly/3M1Jzi3>. The organizers also presented at the event the March-April 2021 issue #135 of

and 160 corporations including Goldman Sachs, Nissan, Panasonic, and Sony.

In October 2021, the group's organizers held an event originally called, 2020 US - Japan Rainbow Camp, targeting LGBTQ families and LGBTQ youth that are interested in raising children. The event was originally scheduled

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Gay Parent Magazine, then published it on the Nijihiro Diversity website translating it to Japanese, view it here, <https://bit.ly/3xuneG4>

Although my family and I were not able to attend, speakers that presented were, Maki Muraki, Haru Ono, and Gon Matsunaka. Both Ono and Matsunaka have same LGBTQ partners and children. All three are alumni of the International Visitor Leadership Program, an organization for social activism supporting LGBTs.



Gon Matsunaka, president of Good Aging Yells (left). Photo above right, Maki (gray jacket) and Haru (orange shirt) speaking to attendees at the Rainbow Camp.

Maki Muraki is the director and founder of Nijihiro Diversity. Muraki has struggled as a lesbian in the corporate work environment. With her skills as a consultant, seminar leader, researcher, and a licensed labor and social securi-

ty attorney, she is a leader in the LGBT rights advocacy in Japan. Muraki has numerous awards including, the Google Impact Challenge Award (2015), Change-Maker Award by Nikkei Woman:

was the director for host organization of the Rainbow Camp and oversaw the events and activities.

Haru Ono is the president of Nijihiro Kazoku (<https://bit.ly/3rpbKjc>), an organization she founded in 2010. Nijihiro Kazoku supports and connects LGBT parents and their children throughout Japan. Ono has two children and a stepchild with her partner. Ono is a leading figure in Japan's activism for LGBT family rights. Nijihiro Kazoku hosts seminars and events to spread awareness about LGBT families in Japan.

Gon Matsunaka is the president of Good Aging Yells, established in 2010, it is one of the oldest organizations supporting LGBT rights in Japan. On the Good Aging Yells website, <https://bit.ly/3jDwfnO>, Matsunaka



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writes, “Good Aging Yells aims to create a place where people with various personalities, regardless of sexuality, age, nationality, or even experience, can feel comfortable and grow older in their own way.” Matsunaka’s work includes Pride House Tokyo, the first large-scale permanent LGBTQ center in Japan, and Out In Japan, a book of LGBTQ people in Japan photographed by Leslie Kee. Since 2018, Matsunaka is also co-parenting a child with a couple, a ciswoman and FTM transgender parent.

Through email, I chatted with Megumi Takai, fundraising coordinator for Nijjiro Diversity. I asked Takai about the Japan Rainbow Camp event.

Angeline Acain: Originally, the camp was to be held in October of 2020 but due to the pandemic the camp was



Photo above left, Maki, Gon, and Haru, presenting at Rainbow Camp. Photo on right of attendees at the Rainbow Camp for LGBTQ Families.



held in October 2021 — did the pandemic affect the number of participants that attended the camp?

Megumi Takai: The camp was originally planned to be held for a weekend in Osaka. But to avoid our participants traveling a long distance during the pandemic, we decided to hold the event in both Osaka and Tokyo on separate weekends.

As a result, we were able to have more participants than we originally planned. The original plan was to have around 30 participants in Osaka, but with two locations we were able to have 30

to 40 participants in each event, around 60 to 70 in total. However, since an overnight event would not be appropriate during the pandemic, we had to schedule the event hours only during the afternoon.

Acain: What feedback did you receive from camp participants?

Takai: The feedback was generally very positive! Participants were LGBTQ+ families and LGBTQ+ youth. Some said that before the event, they did not even know that there were places where they

continued bottom of next page

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Searching for Barbary Lane

By Aubree Calvin

You know how you go to Pride parades, and every segment of the community has their own float or walking group? The lesbian liturgy, the bisexual bicyclers, the intersex ice skaters. I could play with alliteration a little more, but you get the idea. Pride is a great time to celebrate all the aspects of being LGBTQ+. We know there's no one right way to identify and express ourselves. These groups can be essential to help us find some sense of chosen family or at least people that share our interests. I mean don't you want to find another aromantic animator to hang out with? And of course not everyone wants to join an activity oriented group. Maybe we'll naturally gravitate to other queer parents or people our own age, and that's wonderful too. But, if I'm being honest, I do wonder how much these groups are isolating us from each other.

I started thinking about this a while back when the Resource Center, a significant LGBTQ provider of community health and



The author, Aubree Calvin, on right with her wife, Victoria (left) and daughter Corinne (middle) on vacation in Disney World.

education services in my north Texas area, announced they were raising twenty million dollars to build affordable housing for seniors in Dallas. I realized that I don't know any gay or lesbian seniors. I had spent so much time trying to feel comfortable with my own gender identity, and transitioning, getting caught up in the day to day rhythm of my family that I hadn't gotten to know hardly anyone. The few queer friends I had made were in my young Gen X/older Millennial age group. I didn't know anyone outside my generation. I don't

know the struggles of being a low income senior, let alone one who may have spent their lives being rejected by family members or fired from their job, or forced to hide part of themselves because they lived in a time not as accepting as right now.

Research by SAGE, the nationwide advocacy group for LGBTQ elders, over 50% of our seniors are lonely and COVID has only increased that isolation. How are we, a marginalized

Japan Rainbow Camp continued previous page 20

could ask for advice about being a LGBTQ+ family. Therefore, people who participated as families said it was good to have a place where they can talk with other families in similar situations, share their experiences and give each other advice. Families enjoyed interacting with each other. Younger family members said it was a good experience for them to be able to talk with older family members. Children got together and played with each other. Most of the youth participants said the event helped them to find answers to the doubts they were having about having their own families in the future. One youth participant told us that they are relieved to see that while there may be more obstacles being LGBTQ+, LGBTQ+ families are just like other ordinary families.

Acain: Will Rainbow Family Camp be an annual event?

Takai: We still do not know if we will be able to have the rainbow camp again, but we are establishing a LGBTQ+ center in Osaka next year. It will be the first LGBTQ+ center in Western Japan, and the second in Japan beside Pride House Tokyo. We are hoping to continue conducting events targeting LGBTQ+ families at our LGBTQ+ center!

For information on Japan Rainbow Camp visit, <https://nijirodiversity.jp/3655/> ▼

Angeline Acain is the publisher and editor of Gay Parent Magazine.

Photos courtesy of Megumi Takai

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demographic that believes in inclusion and acceptance, letting this happen? And we know that many LGBT seniors fear facing housing discrimination, and there are still states that don't have laws to provide them with the necessary protections. I cannot imagine spending decades being out only to have to go back in the closet just to have a decent place to live. Has Armistead Maupin taught us nothing?

Part of what I like about writing and producing my podcast is that I get to know more about local and regional history. I get to talk to everyday people that have lived such colorful lives. to advance our causes through activism, their work, or just by being themselves. Between *Stonewall* and *Obergefell*, probably the only two significant gay rights events that many high school social studies will mention, is the messiness of lived experiences, both good and bad. There are fun stories about being underage and sneaking into gay bars or drag clubs. There are also tragic stories of friends lost to the AIDS epidemic and government neglect. They share their stories with so much passion, it is infectious. I come away wondering if



The author, Aubree Calvin, (back) with her wife, Victoria (front) and daughter Corinne (middle).

I've had enough adventure in my own life. I'll always enjoy reading about history, but I'm also learning to appreciate the storytellers who are still with us. Much like the Resource Center is trying to do in Dallas, I've come to think that every gayborhood should have a senior center. I mean don't put it next to the gay bar. People do need to sleep after all. But there should be a place for them just as there is for me and my troop of transgender trekkies (I

couldn't resist one more).

I think embracing a sense of inter-generational community can be beneficial to our young queer and gender nonconforming kids. Who better to advocate on their behalf than some of the original activists that spearheaded the gay rights movement of the 70s and 80s. Every argument that is being used by politicians to hold back our kids from being themselves is one we've heard before. Baby Boomers and the Silent Generation wrote the playbook on securing our rights. Why wouldn't we include them in our continuing fight for equality? They can help us do it again, if we reach out to them.

Instead of giving in to the intentionally divisive rhetoric about generational differences, we can be sources of friendship and support for each other. If your family wants to do a community service project, why not partner with a senior group in your area? High school and college queer student groups can raise money for needed senior related social projects, or organize a senior prom. I think the drag time story hours are a great way to raise awareness, but no one reads a children's book like a

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grandma. And if that grandma happens to have her wife with her, who can honestly be against that? These intergenerational connections are more crucial than we probably realize. There's growing evidence that the onslaught of legislative attacks are having negative mental health effects on out teenagers and young kids. Do you know what can have positive mental health effects? Intergenerational acceptance and connection. Let's get some tech savvy teens to create a digital archive of oral history from our seniors.

I've been thinking about what comes next. My wife and I have been talking about some of the mundane aspects of adulthood. Our daughter's college fund. Life insurance policies, savings. We're still at good two or three decades away from any sense of exiting the workforce, but we have been trying to decide where we want to eventually retire. Do we stay in affordable Texas where we have some family roots, but don't feel that emotionally attached to our town, or do we fulfill our higher cost fantasy of finding a small northeastern coastal town with a bookstore on every corner? I don't know where we'll end up, but I know I want it to be someplace where we're embraced no matter our age. It has taken me a long time to finally feel like I belong. I'd hate to lose that due to a tiny thing like age. Separate groups can be great, as long as we remember to come together to make sure no one is left out.

If you're interested in donating to the Resource Center's Senior Housing Campaign you can do so at their website, <https://bit.ly/3KFODbR>

For more information about advocating for LGBT seniors, you can contact SAGE at: www.sageusa.org ▼

Aubree Calvin is a part time writer and full time professor of government at a Texas community college. She writes about race, politics, and LGBTQ issues. She is also the co-host of the podcast, www.southernqueeries.com, which talks to individuals about being LGBTQ in the south. Aubree and her wife, Victoria, homeschool their preteen daughter and live in North Texas. She can be contacted at aubreecalvin@gmail.com and you can read more of her writing at www.aubreecalvin.com.

Photos courtesy of Aubree Calvin



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Doctor Doctor

By Christopher Katis

Recently, I helped our oldest son, Gus, find a new doctor. He's an adult now and can no longer see our family pediatrician – nor would he want to, even if he could. He made a pitch to see a “grown up” doctor a couple of years ago. His only requirements were that the new physician not be the doctor his dads have, and that this new guy be cool. That first condition was easy, but the second seemed a bit subjective.

When it came to choosing pediatricians for our boys, we always have had pretty good luck. All of their regular doctors have been accepting and respectful of our family dynamic. In fact, when I mentioned to our current pediatrician that the office forms listing “mother” and “father” were irrelevant to many families, he raised the subject with his practice partners, and they unanimously agreed to change the forms to “parent / guardian”.

What's really amazing about our good luck with doctors is the fact that we chose all of them the same way most parents probably do: we ran down a list of providers that took our insurance and chose the one that was closest to where we lived.

But LGBTQ+ families shouldn't have to rely just on luck when choosing a doctor who is a great fit for their family. Thankfully, there are growing number of resources to help our families make the right choice.

Ellen Kahn, the Senior Director for Programs and Partnerships at the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) worked with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) to create a list of resources for doctors. It covers a wide range of AAP policy statements on topics from promoting the well-being of kids with gay parents to best practices for office-based care for queer youth. They also offer resources for families, specifically topics about gender identity.

“We have worked closely with the AAP for many years.” Kahn told me, “And both organizations recognized the need to provide the field with guidance and resources to better support trans youth and their families.”

But what steps can parents take to determine which pediatrician is best for their unique child and family?

Well, I had an opportunity also to speak with Dr. Molly O'Shea, M.D., FAAP, about it. She's a pediatrician, consultant and parent coach based in Birmingham, Michigan. So, she knows a thing or two about the topic.

She told me, “Look at the practice website and social channels. How the pediatrician and practice present themselves to the world is how they will support you. If you see no representations of gay families, gender neutral pronouns, or other evidence of public support, that may be a red flag. It doesn't mean that individual providers can't



An early photo of the family. Front to back, the author's children, Niko, Gus, the author Christopher Katis, and Christopher's husband, Kelly Huntington (right).

offer you the very best care but the system they are working in may not be completely supportive of who you are.”

Parents, she suggests, should interview the practice. Tailor your questions to your family's specific needs. Don't be afraid to ask about the provider and staff. Ask if they think the practice is “tolerant, accepting or embracing” of LGBTQ families. Let them decide which adjective best describes the team.

The HRC's Kahn echoed that sentiment. “Call the office to say that you are a two-mom family, or whatever your family structure is. Ask if the practice has a track record of working with families like yours.” She also suggests taking a look at the intake forms to see if they list parent/parent versus mom/dad.

Another option that both Kahn and O'Shea suggest is to turn to other families and seek their advice. Kahn suggests using a local list-serv group like those on Facebook. She also notes that those may not be available in smaller cities or in more rural areas.

“Ask around,” Dr. O'Shea offers. “The other families in your LGBTQ+ community



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will have done some of the legwork already. Get the names of the people and groups they see. Don't just go on their advice though, your family, like all families, has a unique set of needs."

That's true especially of families with transgender kids. And that's why the AAP offers such in-depth information about gender-diverse and transgender kids.

Dr. O'Shea adds, "If families have a transgender child or are transgender themselves, ask about how they have supported other families with this background. If they have not yet had any, ask about what makes them interested and willing to care for your family."

For all of our good luck, we did have one bad experience with a pediatrician; when Gus was in first grade, our regular doctor was out because of an emergency, and we met with one of his colleagues. This older gentleman wasn't the warmest guy but whatever – it was a one-time visit. Then he did it: he asked, "what does mom think?" We politely skirted around the question. He, however, kept coming back to it repeatedly. Finally, my husband Kelly frustratedly barked, "I'm the mom!"

I sought Dr. O'Shea's advice about what LGBTQ+ families should do if you have a bad experience with a provider. "We are all bound to have bad experiences with health care providers, and LGBTQ+ community members more so," she said. "No matter who you are, being treated with respect and dignity and having your needs met in a care setting is the priority. When someone treats you poorly anywhere, sharing that experience with them is an opportunity for growth. If you feel that could be too risky, sharing it with their supervisor or colleague is the next best thing. Each person has to figure out in the moment whether being respectfully blunt is in their wheelhouse. The white coat and the power it can wield is often intimidating but if you can set that aside, think about how you might respond in any other setting and apply it to this one."

My husband I figured that any further explanation of our family dynamic would be lost on that particular substitute doctor. However, it was still bugging us a couple of days later when we went back for our son's follow-up with his regular pediatrician, so we mentioned our earlier experience to him.

He was mortified! Not only did he apologize for what he called his colleague's

complete lack of medical professionalism and basic human empathy, we went so far as to recommend that, short of an actual emergency, under no circumstances should we agree to see that doctor again. He even jotted down a list of the practice's other doctors, ranking them in order of how he thought we'd get along with them.

In the end, that empathetic doctor moved out of state, and we changed pediatricians. We didn't feel the practice was right for our family.

"Listen to your gut," Dr. O'Shea counsels. "You'll know when you have found a good fit."

When we met the boys' new doctor for the first time, he came right out and asked us if we were a same-gender couple. Then added, "That's great! We have all types of families here and are happy to have you." That simple statement made all the difference. We knew we'd made the right decision for our family.

In the end, our son chose a doctor from a list of primary care physicians that

take our insurance. He made the decision based on his gut feeling that he's likely be cool because he's young. I tried in vain to convince him that age doesn't make one cool. I mean, look at his dads; we're not really young but we're super cool.

Hopefully our son's new, adult doctor will be more than just cool. Hopefully, he'll be as caring and attentive as his pediatrician was. At least our son won't have to explain which of his parents is the "mom"!

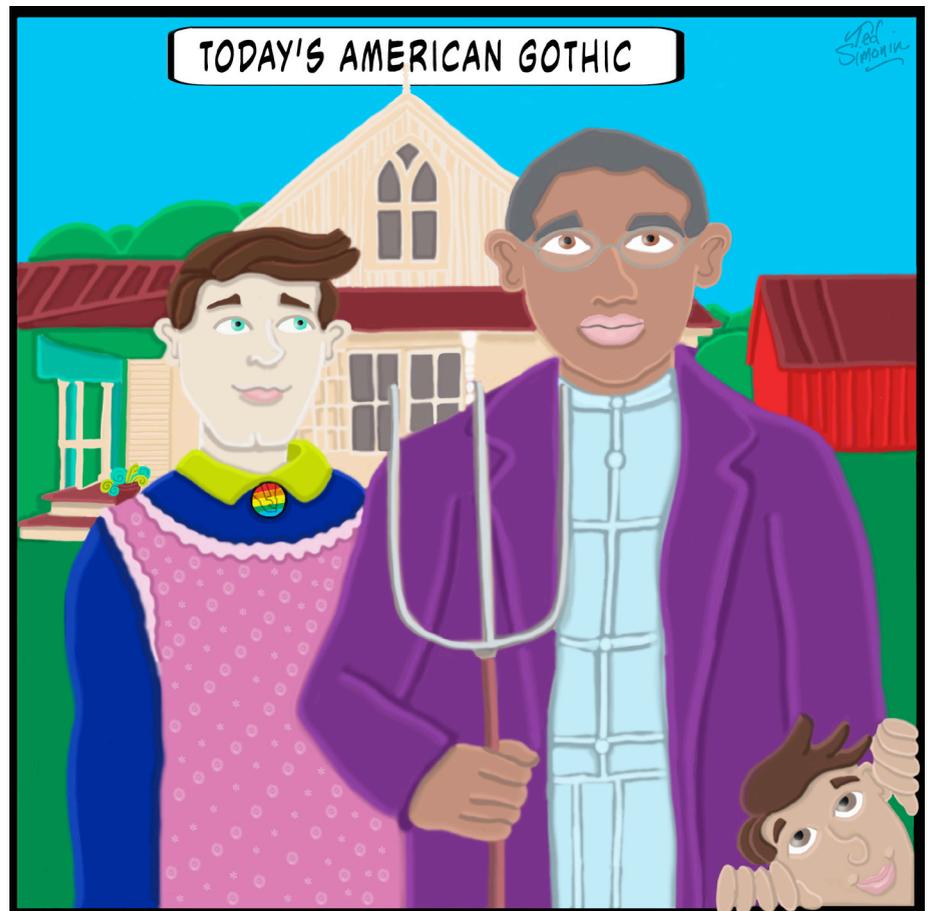
You can see the AAP guidelines at aap.org and contact Dr. O'Shea at www.drmollyoshea.com or @doctormollyoshea on Instagram. ▼

Christopher Katis has spent his career in public relations and corporate communications. Since 2009, he has penned the award-winning column, *Who's Your Daddy* which appears monthly in *QSaltLake*. He lives in Murray, Utah with his husband of almost 35 years, Kelly Huntington, and their two teenage sons, Gus and Niko.

Photo courtesy of Christopher Katis

2Dads1Daniel

by Ted Simonin



For more go to @2Dads1Daniel or www.tedsimonin.com.

Black Parent PRIDE Summit in Atlanta

By Gary Hurtubise

There's an exciting new event coming this summer for the LGBTQ+ community: the Inaugural Black Parent PRIDE Summit, in Atlanta, Georgia.

For the weekend of June 25th-26th, Black LGBTQ+ parents will have the opportunity to convene and connect with like-minded souls, to hear speakers from all over the country, to share their joys and pains, and to exchange experiences, resources, and opportunities with one another.

The brainchild behind this upcoming weekend is Mia Cooley – founder of the Black LGBTQ+ Moms and Parents Facebook group, and of xHood (www.parentxhood.com) – an online resource developed specifically for the Black LGBTQ+ community.

Mia hails from New Orleans, the daughter of two military parents. “The army, specifically,” she says. “We did a lot of relocating.” When the successive moves became too much for little Mia, she was given the opportunity to return to New Orleans and live with her grandmother.

Mia's is a large, blended family. Both her parents are married to other peo-



With her children, Mia Cooley (center) holding Nova, age 4, with Lundyn, age 9, and Phil, age 15.

ple, and, “I have a lot of siblings at this point – somewhere around fourteen.”

As she grew up, she was made responsible to care for the younger children in the family. “Eventually that caregiving evolved into a job as babysitter, and then caring of our elderly and differently-abled communities, while I went to college.”

Mia entered motherhood, as she puts it, “in full sprint.” “I had one child by birth and two by the blending of families in 2017.

“As a recovering perfectionist, I naturally wanted to get it all right. The last thing I wanted was for me to be my kids’ major topic at therapy every week.” So began Mia’s search for a community.

She first plumbed her circle of friends for support. “It’s a weird stage to be in where you’re one of the first people in your friend group to enter this new chapter of having kids.”

As a parent, Mia found the support she needed looked very different to the support her

friends were accustomed to providing.

“Also, in my relationship we were talking about possibly having more kids. As queer/same sex parents, it takes a lot of planning logistically and financially – I was looking for help navigating the process.”

Mia began joining ‘mommy groups’ while on parental leave, hoping to get some of her questions answered and make new friends along the way.

“What I kept finding were spaces where I didn’t feel safe to show up as my authentic self, or spaces where showing up as my authentic self meant I would be defending queer parents and queer youth for hours. It was exhausting, draining, extremely discouraging.”

In parallel to this, Mia kept recalling all the moments during her pregnancy where she felt ostracized as a queer parent – “and not just being ‘othered’ in these Facebook groups, but by healthcare providers as well,” she explains.

“I quickly learned that none of the products, services, and processes meant to support parents to and through babies was built for Black Queer folk (*sic*). They were all failing us. I considered what the world would look like if Black Queer folk could be empowered in the way that white, cis-hetero parents are through all their parenting choices.”

And so, Mia decided to create the community she could not find already out there.

That community was Black LGBTQ+ Moms and Parents – a Facebook group that now has over 3,200 members.

“That space, the value it brings, and the services we provide have evolved and grown since that Mother’s Day of 2019 when I created it – and it is now (the website) xHood.”

The upcoming PRIDE Summit is a natural extension to xHood – a place to come together physically, to share face-to-face what xHood has allowed Black LGBTQ+ parents to do online up until this point.

“Our community members are located broadly across the United States and internationally,” Mia reports. “I wanted to choose a place that was easily accessible through a major airport so that our members who needed to travel in could do so

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without facing enormous costs. I also wanted a location with a strong presence of Black, Queer persons, and families.”

After analyzing her group metrics and using the insights of her public platform to gauge where the strongest community presence was, Mia chose the Atlanta metro area as the natural setting for the inaugural summit.

“We’re going to take over downtown for the last weekend of Pride month,” Mia predicts, adding the event is being hosted at the Switchyards Downtown event venue location.

In addition to the choice of location, Mia used some informative statistics around which to build the Summit topics.

Most notable among the statistics provided in the Summit publicity literature:

-34% of African American same-sex couples are raising children;

-58% of Black same-sex couples are female;

-Black same-sex couples are less likely than their different-sex counterparts to have health insurance coverage for both partners (63% vs. 79%);

-Black female same-sex couples report household median incomes \$20,000 less than Black male same-sex couples (\$51,000 vs. \$72,000);

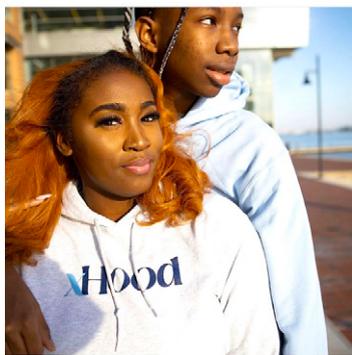
-16% of Black LGBTQ people reported postponing adding children to their family to avoid experiencing discrimination;

-14% of Black LGBTQ people reported that they had to teach their doctor about their sexual orientation to get appropriate care; and

-7% of Black LGBTQ people reported that a doctor refused to see them because of their sexual orientation.

With these numbers in mind, Mia set up the Black Parent PRIDE Summit with four ‘tracks’.

Track 1: Trying to Conceive – Attendees will be able to participate in conversations and workshops that will aid in their journeys through assisted reproduction, including finding affirming medical care, donor relationship options and protections, and where to find Black donors.



Mia with Phil (top photo) and with Lundy (bottom photo).

Track 2: The Business of Being Family – Attendees will have the opportunity to connect with leaders from the industries that make families possible, including insurance providers, financial planners, legal support, and healthcare providers. Attendees will be walked through how to plan, prepare, and safeguard themselves.

Track 3: Single and Solo by Choice Parents – Attendees will learn about navigating dating and romance with children, finding friends and community wherever they are, and about the road towards blending families.

Track 4: Building Your Village Anywhere – Attendees will receive greater insight into finding the right community for their families, the importance of support and mental health, and how to navigate conversations related to privacy, disclosure,

and safety.

Mia adds that people interested in attending should visit the ‘Upcoming Events’ tab of www.parentxhood.com for the most up-to-date agenda details. “Attendees will not have to sign up for specific panels,” she explains, “but they will need to sign up for our small group connections and our ‘coffee date with a doula’ opportunity.”

In addition to the more formal talks taking place during the Summit weekend, there will be some light-hearted events at which to socialize and network.

“What we hear most in the community is the need to make connections in real life,

because parenting can be isolating,” says Mia. “Also, parenting can be exhausting – we wanted to make sure we built in opportunities for parents to just be people first.”

So, to give attendees a break from a full day of talking about kids and conception, Mia has planned offsite activities such as a rooftop party, boozy brunch, DJ, and tarot readings, where people can just “be, relax, and celebrate one another.”

A notable absence from the Summit’s lineup are panels for Black gay dads; when asked about this, Mia is frank and upfront.

“We started as a space to honor mothers and queer/trans parents, and it was important for us to honor our founding community in this inaugural summit and maintain the experience we’ve curated for them over the years.”

“To Black Gay dads, I would say that xHood is growing and we will see you next year.”

Mia adds that her team is actively working on finding the required Black, gay and cisgender male leadership required to incorporate this element into next year’s Summit. “It’s a matter of *when, not if* – because the conversations are happening.”

When pressed about which element of the Summit she is most excited about, Mia replies predictably, “I’m excited for them all!”

“If I had to choose,” she follows up with a smile, “I am probably most excited for not a panel, but our *resource fair*. Getting our community directly connected to the brands who are dedicated to supporting our families is the goal.”

Mia summarizes her hopes for the upcoming Atlanta weekend with this:

“We’re going to bring together one hundred and fifty Black queer parents and soon-to-be parents with over twenty-five speakers, panelists, community and industry leaders. I want everyone to leave with a new friend, a new play date, and updated goals for their journeys as caregivers.

“Our attendees, and community members are going to leave feeling more confident and empowered than ever in their abilities to build healthy families and nurture happy children.

“They’re going to know that they have an entire village behind them that is invested in their success, not just to but *through* babies. We can’t wait to make all of you a part of our family!”

For more information on the Inaugural Black Parent PRIDE Summit, please visit www.parentxhood.com. ▼

Gary Hurtubise lives in Eastern Ontario with his husband Trevor, their two sons Noah & Meo, and their two yellow labs. Gary attended the Royal Military College of Canada and served in the Royal Canadian Navy before becoming a high school physics teacher, and part time Ghostwriter. Gary finds time to write during those odd moments between life: at 4:30 in the morning, on long road-trips with the kids, while back-country camping, and when he should be doing his share of the chores. Read more articles by Gary in this issue. On page 12, is an article on the Splater Karnatz family of Nebraska and on page 28 we follow up with New York activist Glenn Magpantay.

Photos courtesy of Mia Cooley

Glenn Magpantay, Fighting for Asian LGBTQ Rights

By Gary Hurtubise

Glenn D. Magpantay, Esq. – a veteran LGBTQ rights activist, long-time civil rights attorney, and professor of law and Asian American studies – was first featured in *Gay Parent Magazine* with his husband and toddler son back in 2009.

We had a chance to catch up with Glenn this winter and learn how much has changed for him in the intervening thirteen years.

Glenn was born in New York City, to immigrant Filipino parents. “They were part of the first generation of Asian immigrants to come to the United States after the immigration restrictions were lifted in 1965,” he explains. “I grew up in Jamaica, Queens; then we moved to Long Island where I attended high school.”

Glenn knew he was gay at fifteen years old. “I first came out to my friends and siblings; then cousins, aunts and uncles – even to my grandparents, who were surprisingly quite supportive. My Lola said to me, ‘things were different in (the 1940’s), but things change.’”

Like many Asian Americans, though, what Glenn feared most was coming out to his parents.

“They sacrificed greatly by coming to this country to give their children a better life,” he acknowledges. “They left all their friends, their family to come to America. My dad worked two jobs to put me and my siblings through college.

“I wanted to honor their sacrifices. I wanted to respect them and not bring shame to my family because I was gay. But I could not continue to live a lie.”

When Glenn finally came out to his mother, she immediately went into denial. “You can’t be gay,” she insisted. “There were no gays back home.”

To this, Glenn replied, “Mom, there are huge Gay Pride celebrations in



Above left, Glenn Magpantay (left) with son Malcolm. On right, Glenn with Stop Asian Hate rainbow flag.

Hong Kong, Bombay, Tokyo, and Manila.”

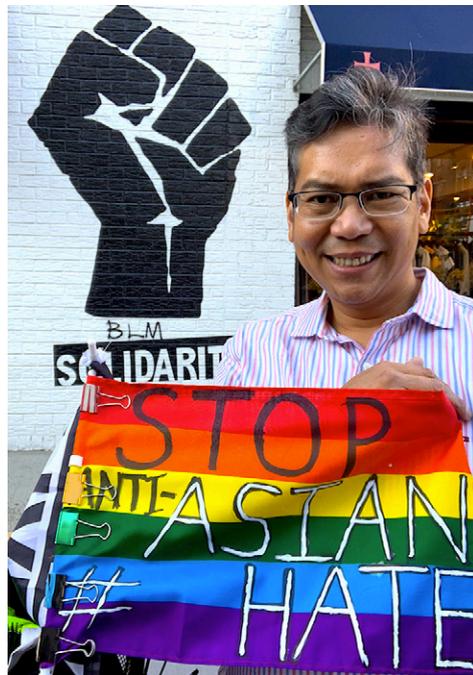
“Yet my mom remembers the Asia she left in 1965, not the Asia of today. The LGBTQ community was in its infancy then. She never witnessed the growth of the LGBTQ community abroad. She was stuck in a time warp.”

“For me, like so many Asian Americans, coming out is not *an event* – ‘I’m queer! I’m here! Get used to it!’ – but a process,” Glenn explains. “In most cases it takes years. We are not dis-owned or cut out, but we suffer in silence.”

It took Glenn’s parents fifteen years to fully accept him being gay. “But today they are my biggest supporters. My mom and dad cheer for me at the LGBTQ dinners. They talk to the other gay kids. They love them and they love me. I know they are proud of me.”

In addition to the struggle of coming out to his family, Glenn had to face the reality of the period in which he found himself: the 1980’s, at the height of the AIDS crisis.

“I was convinced that I was going to catch AIDS and die,” he admits. Being open about his sexuality at that time, though, was not the only challenge Glenn faced. “I was an effeminate gay boy and was badly bullied. I was the only Asian on my block. My



friends said my house smelled ‘foody’ because my grandmother would fry fish. I felt alone. No one was like me. I wanted to commit suicide.”

Fortunately for Glenn, his faith in God kept him from taking that fateful step.

He recalls his priest telling the story of the Sermon on the Mount, specifically ‘The Beatitudes’, highlighting to the congregation that they should not discriminate against people on the basis of race, color, religion, or ‘sexual preference’ (as the priest put it).

“I am wonderfully made,” Glenn exalts, reflecting on this memory, “and the Holy Spirit saved me. Indeed, I believe that the Holy Spirit continues to strengthen me to this day to do this work on behalf of the community.”

Having persevered through that difficult phase, Glenn went on to attend SUNY at Stony Brook, discovering his community in the Gay & Lesbian Alliance. He carried on to study law at New England School of Law in Boston.

“After I graduated, I wanted to give back to that community,” Glenn explains. And so began three decades of doing just that.

“I wanted to fight for the LGBTQ community. I never wanted another

er gay youth to experience the same harms, jeers, and bullying that I had suffered when I was young.”

Glenn felt law was the best way to achieve this. “I wanted to follow in the footsteps of the great Thurgood Marshall (US Supreme Court’s first African American member),” he reveals. “When I was younger, I thought that the law was a good way to make change. We can win our rights through litigation or legislation.”

The list of Glenn’s activism and civil rights work through the years is extensive and impressive. Some of the highlights are detailed below.

Glenn co-founded and served as the Executive Director of the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA, www.nqapia.org) for nearly a decade. At NQAPIA, he cultivated a new generation of diverse LGBTQ leaders; built a vibrant network of LGBT activists of color; and promoted family acceptance of LGBTQ people among Asian Americans.

He was involved with a ‘family acceptance campaign’ featuring Asian parents who love their LGBTQ kids. He spearheaded short multilingual videos as Public Service Announcements and persuaded conservative Asian-language media outlets to air them – reaching 36 million Asian American households.

Glenn partnered with Family Equality Council on a series of workshops on ‘Family Building’ for LGBTQ people of color, who face unique cultural differences with relatives, continuing the family line and name, where he served as a model of how to build a family with cultural humility and racial awareness.

He inspired new legal minds by teaching civil rights law and Asian American studies at Hunter College/CUNY and Columbia University.

Today, Glenn continues his work, as the principal of Magpantay & Associates, a nonprofit consulting and legal services firm. He admits to a certain naivete when he first began his legal work decades ago.

“(Today,) I am more cynical, because the courts have become so conservative and litigation is slow,” he

Right top, Glenn and Malcolm when Glenn was battling cancer in 2013. Right middle, Glenn with his father Rudy and Malcolm in 2013. Right bottom, Glenn, his ex Chris Goeken, and Malcolm on the cover of Gay Parent Magazine- New York 2008-2009.



admits.

“But what has been rewarding and impactful was bridging litigation with story-telling to change hearts and minds. We win our rights both in courts of law and courts of public opinion.”

Glenn goes on to explain, “when I brought cases for marginalized LGBTQ immigrants, I brought their stories to the fore and showed that ‘Immigrants’ rights are gay rights.”

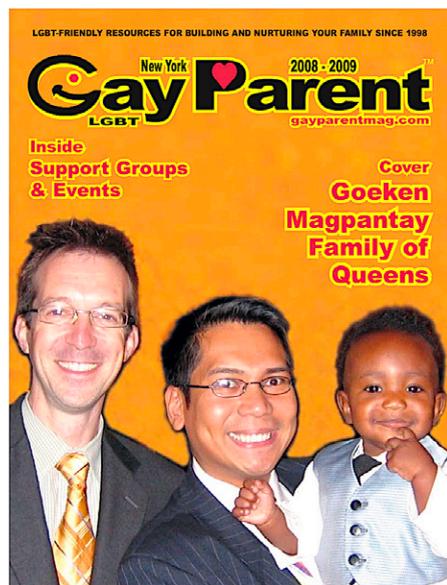
As a lawyer, Glenn’s legal accomplishments have been equally as far-reaching as his activism.

He worked for nearly twenty years as a civil rights attorney at the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF). There, he shepherded the organization’s amicus briefs in support of same-sex marriage and LGBT rights.

“I represented overlooked LGBTQ groups at the U.S. Supreme Court to amplify their stories. I challenged Trump’s anti-Muslim travel ban showing how LGBTQ people are Muslims too (Hawaii v. Trump). Then I linked the anti-Muslim travel ban of 2017, to the anti-HIV travel ban in 1987, to the anti-gay travel ban in 1952, and the anti-Chinese travel ban in 1882.”

Glenn also represented young LGBTQ Korean, Indian and Pacific Islander Dreamers in the lawsuit to stop Trump’s cancellation of DACA.

“If Trump had ended DACA, it would not *just* have been a deportation for these young LGBTQ Dreamers, but



imprisonment or even a death sentence. The world is still a dangerous place to be LGBTQ.”

Through all this work, Glenn still found the time for love, and to start a family.

Glenn met another lawyer who studied law in Massachusetts, Christopher Goeken, with whom he moved to New York, in the late 1990’s. The two men adopted their son, Malcolm, when

he was only four days old. Their story is detailed in the 2008-2009 New York edition of *Gay Parent Magazine*, in a story entitled, "Which Dad's Turn Is It To Diaper?"

The couple subsequently separated, but remain good friends to this day. "We are very much aligned in supporting our son Malcolm," Glenn is happy to report. "As a gay couple, we defined what marriage meant for us before we had the right to marry. We can also define a divorce for ourselves. It is a healthy breakup."

Since then, Glenn has dabbled in online dating, though *Mister Right* has not come along quite yet. "I know I'll find someone special someday."

"...Hey, to all the single readers out there: if any of you are looking for someone who's really nice, cute, thoughtful, well put together, and a lot of fun, look me up! LOL!"

Before his son Malcolm came into his life, Glenn told his parents that he was going to start a family.

"I had begun the adoption process and knew that the child would likely be Black or Latino." Glenn informed his mom and dad of this and asked for their blessing.

"My mom looked to my dad to say something; he said, 'well, you're your own man now and if you want to adopt a child, that's your choice. The child will be welcome in the family, but he really won't be my grandson, he's not my blood.'"

"At the time, I guess that was the best I could hope for," Glenn laments.

After Malcolm was born, the couple brought him home, and invited the grandparents to come and meet their new grandson.

"Malcolm was such a small baby," Glenn recalls. "When my parents arrived, I put him into my dad's arms. At that moment, my dad's heart melted, and he had his 5th grandchild."

"Ever since then, Malcolm has been fully a part of our family."

"In Asian families," Glenn adds, "grandchildren have stations. In our family, Malcolm is grandchild number five. Malcolm is exactly where he is and where he should be. Nothing less, nothing more. It is total and full accep-

ance. But it also means that grandchildren numbers three and four get priority for babysitting. *Oy vey!*"

Community supports for gay parents in 2009 were fewer and farther between than they are today, but Glenn was able to tap into some of them, when he was a new father. "Family Equality Council was the group who helped me the most in starting my own family 15 years ago."

To this day, Glenn attends Family Week in Provincetown every year, "so that my family can be seen and affirmed. It's a special place for LGBTQ parents. There I like to support other parents of kids of color."

Today, Glenn and Christopher's son is fifteen.

"Malcolm is a great kid," Glenn says. "He was diagnosed with ADHD, which is very common among adopted kids, and dyslexia, which is very common in general."

Glenn was surprised and disappointed at the challenges he faced in getting Malcolm educational accommodations. "Neither of his diagnoses are unusual," Glenn points out, "but I had to use all the advocacy skills that I learned from the LGBTQ community so I that could advocate for my own child."

Since the pandemic began, Glenn notes that his family – and families like his – have faced unique challenges.

"Since COVID-19 hit, it's been a tough time for Asian Americans across the country. I am the survivor of a hate crime for being gay from twenty years ago; I am the victim of a hate crime for being Asian from twenty weeks ago."



Above top, Glenn with President Obama. Above bottom, Glenn nuzzles Malcolm at NQAPIA's Catalyst event honoring Asian LGBTQs.

"As a gay family, it's not really homophobia that we experience. Instead, we've experienced gender assumptions and racism."

"My family is transracial – I'm Asian; my son is Black; and my son's other dad is white. People often ask about my son's mom. But my son has two dads. There is an unfair assumption that I am not his parent. Or worse, because I'm a dad, I can't be nurturing or loving."

Glenn recounts a specific incident that occurred at the Brooklyn LGBTQ Pride Festival that he and Malcolm attended.

"I was talking with some friends. Malcolm got away from me and started climbing one of those golf carts used to drive people and materials around.



Above top, Glenn and Malcolm in front of the Iolani Palace, Hawaii. Bottom photo, handsome Malcolm.

An African American woman went up to Malcom and said, ‘Oh no baby, you can’t go up there. Where’s your mommy?’”

“I saw this,” Glenn recalls, “and went running directly towards the woman. She looked around me, asking Malcolm, ‘Where’s your mommy? Where’s your mommy?’ I stepped in and said, ‘I’m right here, happy gay pride,’ snapped my fingers and drew Malcolm away.”

Glenn also reports that he has been witness to the very real and prevalent racial biases that African-Americans experience every day.

“When Malcolm was very young, people at the playground felt he had to be constrained so that he would not injure other children. But no other white child, who was running wild and pushing and shoving other children, was similarly constrained nor told not to injure others. Malcolm was only four years old.”

In closing, Glenn was asked to sum up his life since his last Gay Parent Magazine profile.

“So much has happened (since 2009). My son Malcolm is now a teenager. I battled and beat cancer. My husband and I separated but we are still good friends and very aligned in supporting our son.”

“I transitioned careers from being a civil rights lawyer for racial justice to a nonprofit executive for LGBTQ equality.”

“We’ve faced racism as a gay family,” Glenn continues, “I feared for my family after COVID-19, lockdowns, zoom classes, election tribulations, protests for Black Lives and anti-Asian violence.”

“But like my ancestors, my family was resilient.”

“My next challenge? Paying for college!” ▼

Gary Hurtubise lives in Eastern Ontario with his husband Trevor, their two sons Noah & Meo, and their two yellow labs. Gary attended the Royal Military College of Canada and served in the Royal Canadian Navy before becoming a high school physics teacher, and part time Ghostwriter. Gary finds time to write during those odd moments between life: at 4:30 in the morning, on long road-trips with the kids, while back-country camping, and when he should be doing his share of the chores. Read more articles by Gary in this issue. On page 12, is an article on the Splater Karnatz family of Nebraska and on page 26 learn about Mia Cooley and the first Black Parent Pride Summit.

Photos courtesy of Glenn Magpantay

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