



MEDIA KIT

Dear Advertiser,

Place your ad in front of thousands of gay couples and individuals that are interested in building families and caring for children. Publishing since 1998, *Gay Parent Magazine* serves the needs of a niche in contemporary American culture, eager for information that pertains to their unique family situation. Terry Boggis, former Director of New York City's Center Kids, says, "For every gay and lesbian couple who are already parents, there are ten who want to know how they can become parents." For mainstream businesses, an ad in *Gay Parent Magazine* will provide a "seal of approval" with brand loyal consumers who prefer to patronize LGBTQ-friendly businesses.

In addition to *Gay Parent Magazine* we also publish *Gay Parent Magazine-New York* – an annual published each May. *Gay Parent Magazine-New York's* editorial focuses on the New York tristate area whereas *Gay Parent Magazine's* editorial is nationwide.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, for over 20 years *Gay Parent Magazine* print was distributed nationwide through LGBTQ community centers, bookstores, libraries, and offices. *Gay Parent Magazine* and *Gay Parent Magazine-New York* are now published as digital issues and circulate through our website and social media. Website advertisements can be placed at any time, reservation not required.

Gay Parent Magazine is an important publication for LGBTQ parents and prospective parents to find LGBTQ-friendly services, businesses, and resources for family building and nurturing. Contact us preferably by email at gayparentmag@gmail.com and an advertising representative can assist you to discuss promoting your message to our audience of LGBTQ parents and LGBTQs wanting to become parents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angeline Acain". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

Angeline Acain
Publisher & Editor



ISSUE DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENT RATES (US DOLLARS)

Gay Parent Magazine is published bi-monthly, on the first day of the first month of the issue. Digital issues are circulated through our website and social media. Commit to two years and take an additional 10% discount. All rates are NET. Rates as of 10/11/24

Issue	Space reservation deadline	Material deadline	Themes (subject to change)
January-February	November 21	December 10	Camps & Summer Programs
March-April	January 21	February 10	Assisted Reproduction/Camps & Summer Programs
May-June	March 21	April 10	Foster Care Month/Pride Month
July-August	May 21	June 10	Travel & Recreation/Summer Reading
September-October	July 21	August 10	Schools/Colleges/Preschools/Afterschool
November-December	September 21	October 10	Adoption/Schools/Colleges/Preschools/Afterschool

Size	Dimensions	1 issue (US \$)	*2 issues (bulk rate)	*3 issues (bulk rate)	*4 issues (bulk rate)	*5 issues (bulk rate)	*6 issues (bulk rate)
Full Page (non bleed only)	7-1/4"w x 9-5/8"h	\$1589	\$3093	\$4495	\$5805	\$7016	\$8130
One-half page	7-1/4"w x 4-5/8"h	\$751	\$1464	\$2137	\$2768	\$3364	\$3914
One-third page	4-3/4"w x 4-5/8"h	\$533	\$1039	\$1518	\$1972	\$2397	\$2797
One-quarter page	3-1/2"w x 4-5/8"h	\$424	\$828	\$1211	\$1576	\$1918	\$2241
One-sixth page	2-1/4"w x 4-5/8"h	\$313	\$615	\$900	\$1174	\$1436	\$1678
One-eighth page	7-1/4"w x 1-1/8"h	\$247	\$485	\$715	\$934	\$1144	\$1346
One-twelfth page	2-1/4"w x 2-1/4"h	\$205	\$402	\$595	\$779	\$959	\$1128

*To receive the multiple insertion discount, all insertions must be paid in full in advance. Multiple issue advertisers who wish to pay per issue will be charged the one issue rate per insertion.



Gay Parent Magazine - New York is published annually. The editorial focus is on the tristate area of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

Publication date: May 1, **Material deadline:** April 10 (space reservation required)

Digital issues are circulated through our website and social media and circulated for one year. All rates are NET. Rates as of 10/11/24.

Size	Cost (US \$)
(see Gay Parent Magazine above for dimensions)	
Full Page	\$992
One-half page	\$502
One-third page	\$360
One-quarter page	\$324
One-sixth page	\$296
One-eighth page	\$235
One-twelfth page	\$200

Commit to two years and take an additional 10% discount.

WEB SITE ADVERTISEMENT RATES (US DOLLARS)

Size	Dimensions/Description			
Side Banner Ad	494 pixels wide x 496 pixels high (6.86"w x 6.89"h) • Appears on ALL web site pages,	\$465 - 2 months	\$663 - 3 months	\$816 - 4 months
Premium Banner Ad	2000 pixels wide x 873 pixels high (27.77"w x 12.125"h) • Rotates near top of Home page	\$316 - Two months or \$597 - 4 months		
Banner Ad	744 pixels wide x 148 pixels high (10.33"w x 2.05"h) • Placed on Resources page.	2 months \$146	6 months \$390	1 year \$692
Blog Banner Ad	744 pixels wide x 148 pixels high (10.33"w x 2.05"h) • Placed at top of blog.	\$86	\$240	\$439
Text Ad+logo	200 word description, logo, contact info, and link. • Placed on More Resources and Family Resources pages.	\$90	\$223	\$348
Text Link+logo	Name, URL, and logo with a direct link to your web site • Placed on More Resources and Family Resources pages.	\$63	\$141	\$276
Sponsored Content	Up to 700 word article submission with one image. • Placed on own page. • Link to article from Home and Explore GPM pages. • One initial Facebook posting.	\$198 - 2 months	\$286 - 3 months	\$334 - 4 months

Add your logo to your complimentary online listing - \$20

Social Media Postings

\$191 - three postings, \$245 - four postings

Post your ad on our Facebook page and Twitter. Email a graphic measuring 15" wide by 18.75" high, JPG file.

Advertising Material and Payments

- Issue Display ads should be a PDF or JPG file, saved as RGB, less than 1 megabyte in size and have no crop marks. Images should have 200-300 dpi resolution. Advertisers are responsible for sending their ads by our deadline. Web site Banner ads should be submitted as PNG, JPG, or GIF files.
- Gay Parent Magazine is not responsible for spelling and grammatical errors and design judgements on ads that are submitted by advertisers. Please proofread your ad.
- We can build your ad for an additional \$75 (you must provide verbiage and images).
- Prepayment is required on all ad insertions in order to reserve your space. Make check payable to Gay Parent Magazine and mail to GPM, PO Box 750852, Forest Hills, NY 11375. Or pay by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover or PayPal.
- No refunds, all ad space sales are final. Credit will be given.
- Advertiser will be charged \$30 for each returned check.
- Advertiser assumes all responsibility and liability for claims arising from their ads.
- Rates subject to change without notice.
- Questions? Contact Angeline Acain at 718-380-1780 or gayparentmag@gmail.com.

"The only feedback I have is all positive...having an ad in your publication is important to us!"

- Marcia Roesch, Director of Admissions, Bank Street School for Children

"The ad looks great and I think your publication is wonderful."

- Fran M., The Center for Reproductive Medicine and Fertility



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Digital issue & Online Combo Ad Packages

Reach both issue and online markets with our issue and banner ad combo packages. Choose:
Banner ad, Premium Banner, Blog Banner ad or Side Banner ad.
To receive, mention the discount when ordering.

1/4 pg package: \$35 discount

Issue ad space, minimum one issue insertion + banner ad space, 2 months

1/3 pg package: \$45 discount

Issue ad space, minimum one issue insertion + banner ad space, 2 months

1/2 pg package: \$55 discount

Issue ad space, minimum one issue insertion + banner ad space, 2 months

Full pg package: \$65 discount

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Contact us for pricing, ordering, or any questions
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Gay Parent Magazine reader profile

- 45% of our readers are gay men, 50% are lesbians, and 5% are bisexual women (mostly) and men or transgendered.
- 54% are between the ages of 30-39, 24% are between 40-49, and 22% are between 21-29.
- 93% are college graduates and 36% have post graduate degrees.
- 73% are couples. 82% have been together 2 or more years, and 50% have been together 5 or more years. 25% are singles (36% are women and 64% are men).
- 60% own their homes.
- 86% vacation 1 to 3 times per year, and 20% vacation 4 or more times per year.
- 65% of our readers say they buy books often, 50% buy music often, 31% buy computer products often, and 32% buy clothes often.
- 92% prefer to buy products and services from a LGBTQ-friendly business.
- 17% of our readers say a friend or associate gave them their copy of Gay Parent Magazine.
- 46% found Gay Parent Magazine online either through a link, while browsing for information on gay parenting and many found gayparentmag.com by searching Google.com.

Lesbian and gay men readers who wish to be parents:

- 42% of our readers have no children and are planning to become parents (46% are women and 51% are men).
- 82% of our female readers are considering donor insemination, 58% are also considering adoption, and 12% are also considering foster care in order to have their first child.
- 97% of our male readers are considering adoption, 47% are also considering surrogate parenting, and 28% are also considering foster care in order to have their first child.

Lesbian and gay men readers who are parents:

- 58% of our readers are parents with at least one child, and 50% of parents have 2 or more children (58% of our parent readers are mothers and 42% are fathers).
- 46% of mother readers used donor insemination to create their families.
- 8% of our reader's were pregnant or their child was an infant, 36% are 1 to 4 years old, 32% are elementary school age, 14% are middle school age, 12% are high school age, and 14% are over the age of 18.
- 73% of our parent readers buy books often for their children; 71% buy clothes often, 56% buy toys often, 50% buy videos often, and 39% buy music often for their children.
- 57% use day care, 57% use a nanny or baby sitter, 31% use children's camps, 23% use a private school, and 20% use playgroups.

Lesbian and gay men readers who are parents and want to have more children:

- 44% of our parent readers want to have more children (56% of mothers and 27% of fathers).
- 88% of mothers wanting more children are considering using donor insemination, 38% are also considering using adoption, and 13% are also considering foster care.
- 91% of fathers wanting more children are considering adoption, 45% are also considering surrogate parenting, and 45% are also considering foster care.

Based on 169 responses to our reader survey.

*Based on 73% of readers having a partner and 17% receiving their copy through an associate..



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Reader Responses

WOW. That is all I can say. I know that I would be a good father, and I thought that would never happen because of my gayness. Thank you for this magazine. You have given me hope. I graduate with my Masters in 2 years, and I will try to start my family soon after.

Robert Dempsey, New York City

Thank you so much for your help. I am only 20, and a part time student/full time activist, but I intend to have a child some day when I meet Mr. Right and have a house, and a good job, and so forth. Anyway, I'm just so tired of so many (even gay and lesbian) people assuming that because I'm gay I'm not having kids. The thought of not having kids never occurred to me as a natural consequence of living my life honestly. And I know of many others in our local Springfield community who will be happy to know your mag exists.

Thanks so much,

Trint Williams, PR Guy

Gay and Lesbian Center of the Ozarks, Missouri

Hi. It was a pleasure to run across your on-line magazine about and for gays and lesbian families. In a time when there seems little exposure on this kind of lifestyle within the gay community, I was happy to see that the future generations - our children - are finally being acknowledged as part of gay culture.

I hope to one day read a print copy of your magazine, and hope that it will also be available to the mainstream community. Any literature that the gay and lesbian community produces, ultimately informs and educates the heterosexual communities about who gay and lesbian people are. Gay-positive imagery is not only a much-needed resource in our own community, but the society-at-large.

Your publication is worthwhile, and is important to the young people who have already come, and the young people who will come out in the future, and any other gay individual who is unaware of the possibilities for his or her future. Finally, another segment of the gay population is being acknowledged and exposed through your publication. Thank you for this.

After all, it is important that we do all we can to represent ALL people in our community. It's time to dissolve the gay stereotype that is self-perpetuated in the glbt communities, a stereotype that is not only personally hurtful, unfair, inaccurate and self destructive. Thank you for your commitment!

Ken Smith, Vancouver, BC, Canada

I just wanted to send a quick e-mail and congratulate you on the web site. My partner, Peter, and I raise two little boys, 6 and 4 years old, with their mother and her same-sex parent. It's important to have resources such as yours.

David Kuefler, Vancouver, B.C.

What a wonderful find! While attending an out of town meeting to get ideas for the Gay Pride Parade and Diversity Festival I'm organizing in a local city where I work, I came across a copy of your magazine!

Living in a rural upstate NY community...who would have thought such a magazine existed...let alone another interracial lesbian couple with children!

My partner and I of 5 years have 6 children, 7, 9 (only girl), 12, 12, 13, and 14, which keeps us busier than we usually want to be. We've been called the "Brady Bunch of the nineties" by our friends and have even considered writing a book about our lives, and our family. But time is always in great demand. Keep up the much needed good work!

Sheila DeFazio, New York

You awesome people. I became a single gay parent eleven years ago when I adopted my son from the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services. I lucked out in getting to be Dad to the greatest Son a Father could wish for. Junior has now grown into a fine twenty one year old young man (Still living at home!!!) We survived the teen years, for which we each deserve a medal. We had a lot of support from family, colleagues, PTA, school officials and the community overall however it sure would have been nice to have had Gay Parent magazine.

Richard W. Lewis, Sr.

It is great to read other family making stories. We are the proud fathers of two adopted sons. Here in California we have been able to adopt jointly. Ethan just turned three and Victor is eleven months. I look forward to more great stories.

Michael Hunter-Bernstein, California

Your magazine is great! I just received the first issue of your magazine. It is both well written and down to earth. Gay Parent is a big hit!

Cheryl Deaner, Executive Director

All Our Families Coalition, California

Hi! Here I am in the backwoods, Bible-thumping Midwest, St. Louis--the nation's gut, and thinking I'm all alone. I have finally found your magazine and feel like I'm home. I wanted you to know that it was so inspiring to me to read the article by Angeline on Terry Boggis. I have decided to start a support group here in St. Louis for gay parents and parent wanna-be's. We are called Family Tree ...We have had just 2 meetings and are already at 10 families...I am looking forward to sharing your magazine with the group at our next meeting. I've picked up copies for everyone! Thanks for filling such an important need. You're making a difference!

Julie Lynch, Missouri

RECENTLY YOU SENT US SOME MAGS! THANK YOU! We have a g/l/b parent group and a group for their kids. They all love the mag. Yea!! Keep up the good work.

Sheila Bewsee

Program Coordinator

Compass, Inc., Florida

Hi. I'm sending a check for back issues numbers five through twelve. I'm so glad I found your magazine on the web!

Michael Elyanow, Illinois

I'm a gay man who adopted a newborn last year. I enjoy every minute with my child. I'm glad to have found gayparentmag.com. It is a great web site.

Scott

I belong to the Metropolitan Community Church in the Valley, North Hollywood, California. We have a place within our church where we offer gay-friendly resource materials and I would like to include yours. Personally, discovering Gay Parent magazine was really great, I have six kids and I feel pretty isolated sometimes.

Judith Longman

We enjoy your magazine very much.

Ivy Belardo, New York

Read more on our web site, www.gayparentmag.com/letters

Gay Parent Magazine Receives 2015 PridelIndex.com Esteem Award

On July 4, 2015, Gay Parent Magazine (GPM) was honored to receive an award for Outstanding Magazine at the 9th Annual PridelIndex.com Esteem Awards.

PridelIndex.com is an online resource for news for the African American LGBT and gay-friendly companies. It houses profiles of gay authors, businesses, events, parties, conferences, fundraisers, support groups, and other online resources.

Since 2007, PridelIndex.com's Esteem Awards has honored local and national organizations and individuals for their continued efforts in supporting the African-American and LGBT communities in the areas of entertainment, media, civil rights, business and art.

"From the beginning, publishing stories featuring racially diverse LGBT parents and families has always been an editorial priority. For our work in this area, the staff of Gay Parent Magazine is proud and honored to be recognized as an Outstanding Magazine at the PridelIndex.com's 2015 Esteem Awards," says Angeline Acain, GPM publisher and editor.



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JAPAN & GAY PARENT MAGAZINE



Same sex couple and their children: The American Gayby boom
by Mariko Sugiyama and featuring *Gay Parent Magazine*.

The first book in Japan on the subject of LGBT parenting was recently published. Compiled and written by Asahi Shimbun reporter Mariko Sugiyama, the book is titled “Same sex couples and their children: The American Gayby boom”. The book features 20 families that were formed through foster care and adoption or artificial insemination. Also featured is information on changes

in public opinion since the rise of the “gayby boom”, the current state of same sex parenting in Japan, and the future of unconventional families. *Gay Parent Magazine* and its publisher/editor, Angeline Acain are featured in the book.

For the third year, the group, LGBT Youth Japan, met with *Gay Parent Magazine*. The group is a Tokyo based organization educating Japanese youth about the LGBT support systems employed by other countries. Their goal is to help guide Japan towards becoming a society whose members embrace diversity and “can accept and love each other for who they really are inside.” The group was in New York City on a 10-day study tour meeting with a variety of LGBT organizations and businesses and included *Gay Parent Magazine* in their itinerary.



Meeting with LGBT Youth Japan and Gay Parent Magazine.

For more photos visit
<http://blog.gayparentmag.com>

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A

ngeline Acain is an entrepreneur, but like a growing number of lesbians, she and her partner, Susan, are also parents. Her role as parent led Acain to her role as founder and publisher of *Gay Parent Magazine* (*GPM*).

Acain isn't just preaching to lesbian and gay parents with *GPM*. "I've been a parent for 15 years now," she says. "Susan and I adopted our daughter Jiana when she was just under 2 years old and last summer she celebrated her Sweet 16. Jiana had her first relationship with a boy when she entered high school. Coincidentally, he also was the child of lesbian parents. Her decision to start *GPM* stemmed from a realization of a lack of access to information on gay parenting both in print and on the Internet," Acain explains, noting that during the late '90s "the only children's book depicting gay parents was *Heather Has Two Mommies*."

The market for books for kids with lesbian and gay parents started to grow along with legalization of adoption and marriage equality, but Acain saw another gap that needed to be filled for lesbian and gay parents.

"My partner Susan and I had just become parents and I was looking for others like us. Through the grapevine, we learned of other gay parents and some of our gay friends were also becoming parents," Acain recalls, "But there was

Gay on the Page

A GAY PARENTING STORY
BY VICTORIA A. BROWNORTH

no organized support group or activities for gay parents in Hawaii—the state we were living in at the time—and certainly not the large numbers of LGBT parents you see today."

Acain decided that had to change. "My mission with the magazine was to connect gay parents with one another and have them feel supported and empowered. I also wanted to provide a model resource for younger people in the LGBT community to show that they too could become parents."

When Acain and her family moved to New York City, she began publishing *GPM* in the fall of 1998. The response was as exciting as it was immediate. Acain realized that she had been right—lesbian and gay parents were hungry for a publication that would address them specifically. Acain recalls, "Within two hours of launching *GPM*'s website, I received emails from parents across the U.S. and Canada." People were thrilled to have found *GPM*'s site. Acain says, "I received an email from a woman in the Midwest who felt very alone." The woman was so inspired by *GPM*, she decided to start her own support group for lesbian and gay parents.

Acain is quick to note that, "Raising children is not everyone's cup of tea as it entails a heck of a lot of patience, loads of money and cleaning up your child's bodily messes." But the readership of *GPM* either has children or hopes to have

them, and, like that woman in the Midwest, needs support for that choice.

"For those who want to parent," Acain says, "*GPM* offers heartwarming family stories as well as resources." Those resources range from queer-friendly IVF companies and adoption agencies to private schools and summer camps for kids of queer parents.

Some of the issues *GPM* addresses have to do with becoming parents—through adoption, surrogacy and alternative insemination. Acain acknowledges the "how" of becoming a queer parent isn't an easy decision or road.

"The experience of building a family as a lesbian or gay person is not as sexy as a straight couple having intercourse," she admits. "For the gay community it certainly does take a village to raise a child. With adoption, although the legal situation is improving, gay couples still have difficulty adopting in some areas of the country. On top of that, the cost of conceiving or privately adopting is expensive."

Once the child arrives, however, Acain says new struggles begin. "A parent has to be out in order to advocate 100 percent for their child. And when we come out, we have to be ready to face any adversity. Prior to each school Jiana attended we always met with the school's teachers and principals to gauge their response when we let them know Jiana has two mommies. We had to make sure the school was accepting of our family structure. Not only do parents deal with coming out, but their child does, too. It is not uncommon during the awkward adolescence stage for children of gay parents to feel uncomfortable telling peers their parents are gay."

For Acain and her partner Susan, a psychotherapist, parenting was an experience they both wanted. Together for eight years prior to their decision to adopt, they were among the last generation of lesbian couples to adopt from China, which has since limited adoptions to straight couples. "Susan and I have experienced most stages of raising a child, infancy through adolescence. Jiana is now asking about getting her driver's permit. Living in New York City with its excellent public transportation," Acain says wryly, "we hope to postpone this as long as possible as our daughter getting behind the wheel of a car is still a little unimaginable."

As for what Acain would like to see happen in the future, making parenting more accessible to a wider range of lesbians is her immediate answer. "I'd like to see the cost of conceiving and private adoptions go down. And of course being a part of the LGBT community I would like to see gay parents accepted in more areas of the country and the world."

Meanwhile, *GPM* is there to help and support lesbian parents until that acceptance kicks in.

gayparentmag.com •

The April 2013 issue of *Curve* featured *GPM* publisher Angeline Acain. *Curve* is a magazine for lesbians.

Gay Parent
LGBTQ MAGAZINE

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The Guide To Gay Parenting

Gay couples raising kids find a magazine they can identify with.

By JEFF FEINMAN

"The hardest part of raising a 9-year-old daughter in a gay partnership, Angeline Acain says, is being open to the public all the time.

Gay parents don't have the luxury of living under the status quo radar straight parents do; there are school functions, play dates, parent-teacher meetings. Living in a constant spotlight as a gay parent is often a challenge.

With that in mind, Acain started *Gay Parent Magazine* out of her Forest Hills home.

"At the time there wasn't much out there as far as resources," says Acain, who now lives in Rego Park. "I thought it was a good way of connecting gay parents who may feel they're isolated. The goal of the magazine is to help them feel connected."

Acain and her partner, Susan, adopted their daughter in 1997 while they were living in Hawaii. Susan, originally a resident of Forest Hills, wanted to give up the Honolulu sun and move back to New York. When the family moved back to Queens in 1998, Acain set up the magazine. Within two hours of its publication, she received an overwhelming positive response from people on the Internet.

Street Visibility

The magazine's content consists of articles submitted by freelance writers and the many articles that Acain writes herself. She says she enjoys running the magazine because of the opportunities for learning about people in similar situations to hers. She focuses much of her energy on interviewing gay parents who are active in churches and religious affiliations, as well as other authors on the subject.

"I had an interview with Dan Savage, who is a columnist for 'Accepted Life,'" she says. "Personally, that was a very exciting thing to do."

Gay Parent Magazine is a nationally distributed publication, with a readership of nearly 10,000. The magazine is printed every two months. According to Acain, half of that readership number is based in New York. She says that more and more gay parent couples have been contacting her from around Queens.

"People sometimes see me as a help

center," Acain says. "I have gotten parents who have said their child was rejected from school because they were a gay couple." In order to deal with such hardships, Acain encourages gay parents to read greatly on the subject and take advantage of the growing number of resources that are available.

Straightforwardness Over Silence

One way Acain has avoided facing such discrimination from public institutions in her own life is immediately revealing the fact that she is a gay parent. Most of her friends are straight couples that have children her daughter's age. She says they accept her because she approached them openly about her sexuality. Her daughter attends public schools and summer camp at Hillcrest Jewish Center. There, Acain again avoided confusion and secrecy by approaching the principal and the camp's director from the start.

"As a gay parent, it is very important to be very secure with being out," Acain says. "Once you have a kid, you have to be out and active. It takes a lot of energy to effectively raise a child. Gay parents must be ready for whatever response they receive."

One of her main worries as her daughter grows up is the questions that her daughter may face from other kids once she reaches middle school, a phase of childhood that is notorious for being awkward and sometimes outright vicious for any kid. "She's already 9, so kids ask her about her parents sometimes. She usually replies by saying 'because that's the way I wanted it,' an answer that she came up with herself."

Acain says the gay community within Queens is a positive one, but needs to be more united. The two community centers in the borough should be conjoined into one entity, she says, so that gays in Queens can feel more solidarity amongst one another.

"Queens can definitely use a few more venues. It seems to be coming together, but it hasn't yet. In Manhattan, there are a lot more resources for gays and gay couples. Queens has a ways to go, but it's definitely increasing."

To learn more about the magazine go to www.gayparentmag.org.



Deborah, Everett and Barbra Ann Perina.

The following is an excerpt from a *Gay Parent Magazine* interview by Angeline Acain with Barbra Ann Perina, a transgender woman, and her wife, Deborah Matut-Perina, who are raising their son, Everett, in Bellerose.

Deborah: I joined the PTA and Irish Catholic neighborhood, there were no people of color. But over the years there's been a dramatic change. This is still a blue-collar neighborhood but they are people of all racial backgrounds. It was wonderful to watch the diversity of the neighborhood change and there has not been terrible resistance.

Barbra: An anonymous vehement hate letter was left in Deborah's PTA mailbox at school. But they made a mistake because they didn't know who they were dealing with. I made one call to the first deputy commissioner's office at the police department and that afternoon the entire hate crimes task force took over PS 18. They fingerprinted the teachers, interviewed the parents, the principal was very upset because the task force literally took over the school. They took the letter to forensics and dusted it for prints. They narrowed down the suspects but the suspect family ended up leaving the neighborhood because they realized they were going to get nailed. They never admitted but it was obvious.

Deborah: It was obvious because what was written in the letter were the same things that were actually said to our son, word for word. Because the way we are, Everett can't understand how kids can hate.

Barbra: Clearly, there are still some areas in Queens that have that Archie Bunker mentality and that's unfortunate. When we first moved here this was a very blue-collar white

were no people of color. But over the years there's been a dramatic change. This is still a blue-collar neighborhood but they are people of all racial backgrounds. It was wonderful to watch the diversity of the neighborhood change and there has not been terrible resistance.

Deborah: We go to nearby Alley Pond Park where they let you run your dogs up until 9 p.m. Everett loves animals.

Barbra: People shouldn't be afraid to be themselves and be fearful of what other people think. People should be true to themselves because they will be fine. I'm truly blessed. If it wasn't for the support of Deborah and my friends, I wouldn't be here today - I would be dead. I am an example of what people of trans experience can be if they have that support and choose to be true to themselves. We are a very healthy family, very stable and comfy.

Deborah: People need to realize that everyone is basically the same with all the same feelings. You'll be surprised at how people will react when you are honest and open.

If you are open and honest, it does make for a better place to live because our kids can grow up and be honest, open, caring and loving and hopefully the hate will go away. It's tough but it's something you've got to strive to do.

www.queenstribune.com • Sept. 29-Oct. 5, 2005 Tribune Page 25

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MAINS I KEANI AS PARENTS

Gay fathers and lesbian mothers say they are finding greater acceptance these days

By Debbe Geiger

As a lesbian, Angeline Acain of Rego Park says she never gave much thought to getting married or having children. But her partner, Susan Eisenberg, felt strongly about becoming a mother, and six years ago, they adopted a girl from China. Jianna, now 7, calls each of them Mom.

In that time, Acain says, "No one has been openly rude to us."

Thanks in part to gay celebrity mothers, such as Rosie O'Donnell and rock star Melissa Etheridge, and the increasing presence of gay people on prime-time TV and in advertising, the reality of gay parenthood has gained acceptance all over the country, gay parents and experts say.

"Twenty years ago there were pockets," says Virginia Casper, a developmental psychologist in the graduate school at the Bank Street College of Education in Manhattan. "In the last 15 years, it has become more commonplace."

Most of the 256 gay- and lesbian-headed families in a study last year by two psychologists at Dowling College in Oakdale reported that they are thriving.

They said their primary problems are the same as any other parent's, but they can face additional difficulties in a straight world, such as negative experiences with a physician or school-teacher.

Their children also may be affected. "There have been kids in pre-school who asked why she has two mothers," says Acain, who started Gay Parent magazine five years ago to help families such as hers connect with each other. Being gay parents can be "somewhat isolating," she adds. "Queens is not a place where gay families settle down."

Actually, research shows "gay and lesbian parents are in virtually every state and in all neighborhoods, whether urban, suburban or rural," says Suzanne M. Johnson, the Dowling professor who conducted the study with her partner, Elizabeth

O'Connor. They also wrote "The Gay Baby Boom: The Psychology of Gay Parenthood" (New York University Press, \$19).

The 2000 U.S. Census put the number of same-sex households at more than 600,000, about equally split between gay and lesbian couples — but that figure could be underestimated by as much as 62 percent, says the Human Rights Campaign, a gay advocacy group based in Washington, D.C. Johnson believes at least 6 million children are being raised by gay or lesbian parents. "For any number of people who are 'out,' there are probably [equal numbers of] parents who are in the closet."

One example is "Margaret," who doesn't want her name used in this story because her 10-year-old daughter doesn't know for sure that she's gay. In fact, Margaret, a single mother who lives in Nassau County, says she hasn't told co-workers or anyone in her community.

"It's unspoken, mostly for my daughter's benefit," Margaret says. "I don't want her to know because I don't want her to feel obligated to defend me when the kids start making anti-gay remarks. On the school bus they say 'gay this and gay that.' If she feels the need to stand-up for our friends, which she does, that's a lot easier for a 10-year-old to deal with than for her to say, 'Well, my mom is gay.'"

Most gay parents take a more open approach with their children, says Dorsey Green, a psychologist in Seattle who co-wrote "The Lesbian Parenting Book: A Guide to Creating Families and Raising Children" (Seal Press, \$18.95). "Most of the lesbian parents and gay fathers I know are talking to their kids about this from the get-go."

David Strah and his partner, Barry Miguel, have been telling their adopted son, Zev, 5, and daughter, Summer, 2, how they came to be a family since the children were born.

"My son has heard the story of how two men, David and Barry, were happy and in love and had a nice house and two dogs, but that one thing was missing," Strah says. "They really wanted a baby." Now, whenever Zev has a play date, "we always make a point to talk about whatever the family configuration is. It's just normal



Susan Eisenberg, left, and her life partner Angeline Acain, right, with their daughter Jianna, 7, in their Rego Park home

Newsday Photo / Ken Newchik

See PINK on B23

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A mag just for us

By *Ethan Jacobs*

Published: Thursday, July 21, 2005

Angeline Acain founded *Gay Parent* magazine in 1998, launching the Web site in September and the first print issue two months later, and in the lightning-fast age of the Internet the response was immediate. It became clear that LGBT families were desperate for resources.



"Within two hours of launching the magazine's web site I received enthusiastic email from across the USA and Canada from parents thanking me for creating *Gay Parent* magazine," said Acain. "The e-mailers described their family structures and how isolated they and their children felt living in their part of the world."

Since its launch Acain has published *Gay Parent* continuously every two months out of her home office in New York. Distributed primarily through LGBT community centers, the 16-page mag features stories about LGBT families, as well as information about events and resources for those families. Most of the families profile in the magazine are ordinary same-sex couples and their children, but she has also featured some high profile LGBT parents, including Cambridge's own state Sen. Jarrett Barrios; Susie Bright (for a piece on how to talk to your child about "the birds and the bees,") and sex advice columnist Dan Savage after the release of his 1999 book *The Kid*, which chronicled his journey to parenthood.

When she launched the magazine, Acain said many of the reader responses were from parents asking how to come out to their children, although that seems to be less of an issue now. Hot topics among parents since the magazine was launched include adoption and reproductive technology.



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inch thick! Wow!

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http://www.gayparenting.com

What a beautiful concept this is—a magazine just for gay people who are, or want to be, parents! Well it's only a 16-page zine really, but it lists support and gay family groups all over the country, plus has lots of helpful articles. Hey, sign us up!



check it out
BY KATHLEEN HILDENBRAND
AND NYONDO NADI

SURF THIS Those other family values are on the rise, as "Gayby Boomers" are having and raising children in record numbers. If you've ever wondered how other lesbians have survived adoption procedures, custody battles, or decisions about where to send a gay-raised kid to camp, check out *Gay Parent Magazine's* Web site (www.gayparentmag.com). The magazine combines news coverage, lists of resources, and even an expansive "Chalkboard" section where readers post their experiences (and, of course, photos of their little darlings).



Today's ReaderLine Question

"What do you think about the Honolulu Police Department requiring officers to wear body armor?"

Call 525-5430 with your name, age, occupation, neighborhood and comments. Selected responses will be published Wednesday.

Private Schools Come Out In Gay Parent's Education Issue

This past June, controversy was raised when several television broadcast stations refused to air *It's Elementary*, a documentary by Debra Chaonoff, a lesbian mother, and Helen Cohen about the importance of including gay themes in the elementary curriculum. In the wake of the controversy, *Gay Parent Magazine*, has published its first annual education issue of schools for children, which is currently on stands.



At the school season begins, many traditional parenting magazines will publish a special education issue featuring many advertisements for schools along with editorial descriptions. Now, *Gay Parent* has published the nation's first education issue featuring over a dozen private schools for children which are "coming-out" by openly welcoming children of gays parents by advertising. Naturally, most if not all of the schools are progressive, and Massachusetts' Cambridge Friends School and New York's Manhattan Country School were featured in *It's Elementary*. However, many progressive schools that were approached to appear in this pioneer issue adamantly refused to even consider the possibility. The majority of the participating schools are located in New York City; two are in Massachusetts (Cambridge and Northampton), another is in Philadelphia, and the only school located on the West Coast is in Seattle. (*Gay Parent's* education issue in 2000 plans to include more schools located on the West Coast and other regions of the U.S.)

Included in *Gay Parent's* education issue are short editorial descriptions of the schools citing some gay-friendly attributes: 40% of Seattle's Pike Market Child Care and Preschool's teaching staff are gay; Elizabeth Irwin, founder of New York City's Little Red School House/Elizabeth Irwin High School was a lesbian; and the two Massachusetts schools openly indicate in their promotional literature that they don't discriminate in terms of sexual orientation. Some schools have just taken their first step in openly welcoming the gay community by appearing in this special issue. "Not all Montessori schools were open to the idea," says Angeline Acain, publisher of *Gay Parent*. "However, when I approached New York City's Morningside Montessori School, director, Susan Gemberling expressed excitement about *Gay Parent's* education issue and wanted to know how she could change her curriculum to make it gay-friendly."

Schools featured in *Gay Parent's* "First Annual Education Issue" include:

- Pike Market Child Care & Preschool (Seattle)
- Geneva Street Friends School (Philadelphia)
- Cambridge Friends School (Massachusetts)
- Montessori School of Northampton (Massachusetts)
- St. Luke's School (NYC)
- Village Community School (NYC)
- Metropolitan Community Church of New York Sunday School (NYC)

OHANA • PARENTING

Isle mom reports huge response to magazine for gay parents

By Yasmin Acain
Associated Staff Writer

Angeline Acain grew up in Hawaii — loves Hawaii — but New York City is where she launched her *Gay Parent* magazine. That doesn't mean she has forgotten her ohana in the Islands.

Since starting the publication last year, Acain said, she has received two hate e-mails and one hate letter. Otherwise, the response has been tremendous.

Recent issues of the fledgling on-line and print maga-

zine — produced from Acain's home in Forest Hills — have featured some of the Islands' more outspoken gay and lesbian parents.

The September/October edition features Ku'umea-aleha Gomes, director of the Kua'ana Student Services at the University of Hawaii-Manoa for the recruitment and retention of Hawaiians.

"I think the magazine really treats gay and lesbian parents with dignity and sensitivity," said Gomes, who has an adult son from her first marriage and is

raising 2-year-old Keikilani, the granddaughter of her partner, Kake.

Other local gay and lesbian parents profiled since *Gay Parent* started last year are singer-songwriter Kim Char Meredith, Gaye Chan, an associate professor of art at UH-Manoa; and Robert Bidwell, a Kapiolani Medical Center pediatrician who led a 1992 task force that prepared a report on Hawaii's gay and lesbian youth for the Legislature.

Gomes, a supporter of same-sex marriage in

Hawaii, was active in the Protect Our Constitution campaign, which opposed the 1998 general election ballot issue that allowed the Legislature to define marriage in the state constitution as being between a man and a woman.

Even though the campaign failed, Gomes said it showed her and others that they had more support than they believed.

"It was very heartening to know that at least one out of three of our neighbors supported us," she said.

Acain, 40, a lesbian of Filipino ancestry, and her New York-born partner, Susan Eisenberg, have a 3-year-old adopted daughter. They have been living off and on in New York since the early 1980s.

"I miss the laid-back atmosphere of Hawaii, but there's more support for gay and lesbian parents here," she said.

After going through the adoption process and seeing other gays and lesbians coping with how to bear and raise children, she saw a

niche in the magazine industry.

Aside from running profiles that reveal the problems gay parents face, the magazine talks about such issues as artificial insemination, adoption, and how to protect children from being ostracized for not being part of a traditional family.

Acain sends print copies of *Gay Parent* to gay and lesbian centers and bookstores across the nation. The magazine's on-line address is www.gayparentmag.com.



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NEWSDAY QUEENS PROFILE

Angeline Acain



Newsday Photo / Julia Gaiuso

ROLE

Publisher of *Gay Parent*, a magazine focusing on the issues of gay and lesbian parenting; a grand marshal of the eighth annual Queens Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade and Festival in Jackson Heights coming up Sunday.

BIOGRAPHY

41; born and reared in Honolulu, one of five children of Filipino parents, moved to New York City and graduated from the School of Visual Arts in 1986. Lives with partner, Susan Eisenberg, and an adopted 4-year daughter, Jianna.

RESIDENCE

Apartment in Rego Park.

IMPACT

"I started *Gay Parent* at the end of 1998 and I've just launched *Ripe*, a magazine for the older gay community, the first issue was in May. Through both publications I hope to educate people who aren't familiar with gay and lesbian parents that we exist and that we're part of the community, especially in Queens. And for those gay and lesbian parents out there, we are there to help them. We distribute nationwide and over the Web at www.gayparentmag.com."

CURRENT FOCUS

"The Queens Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade on Sunday . . . starts at 12:30 p.m. from 89th Street and goes down 37th Avenue to 75th Street. I was chosen as a grand marshal along with Barbara Ann Perina."

GOAL

"To break down stereotypes and misconceptions regarding gay people. What *Gay Parent* does is broaden the definition of family . . . We're not raising our children to be gay and lesbian; the reality is that we are a minority. Our parents were straight and the majority of our kids will be straight."

— Sheila McKenna



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