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.

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. Through partnerships, Gay Parent Magazine print was distributed at the following events:
- Windy City Black LGBT Pride Esteem Awards, Illinois
- Milwaukee Pride Fest, Wisconsin
- New Hope Celebrates, Pennsylvania
- Center Families at New Paltz Pride, New York
- PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) Conference for the Gulf States, Florida
- Rainbow Families of New Jersey LGBT Family Conference
- Pride Night at the Children’s Museum of Manhattan, New York City
- Gay Day Family event, Orlando, Florida
- Capital Pride, Washington DC
- The Original GLBT Expo, New York City
- Family Pride Council Annual Fundraiser, New York City
- Family Pride of the South Carnival, Georgia
- Pride and Joy Families Conference, New York
- Omaha Gay Pride Kidz Korner, Nebraska
- Pop Luck Club Annual Gay & Lesbian Parenting Resource Day, California

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. Gay Parent Magazine and Gay Parent Magazine-New York are now published as digital issues and circulated through our website, email list, and social media. Website advertisements can be placed at any time, reservation not required. Ask us about our digital issue and online advertising combo and available back cover full page ad spaces.

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 by email at gayparentmag@gmail.com or phone 718-380-1780 in New York during business hours. An advertising representative will contact you after you’ve received this information to discuss the possibility of promoting your message to our audience of LGBTQ parents and LGBTQs wanting to become parents.

Sincerely,

Angeline Acain
Publisher & Editor
**DIGITAL ISSUE 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, e-blast, and social media. Commit to two years and take an additional 10% discount. All rates are NET. (Rates as of 1/22/21)

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* Two, three, four, five, and six issue rates cannot be paid per issue. 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.

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

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

Digital issues are circulated through our website, e-blast, and social media. Additionally Gay Parent Magazine - New York ads are posted on Facebook and Twitter. All rates are NET. Rates as of 1/22/21.

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Commit to two years and take an additional 10% discount.
### WEB SITE/INTERNET ADVERTISEMENT RATES (US DOLLARS)

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<td>• Appears on ALL web site pages, positioned under the left navigation bar.</td>
<td>608 - 3 months</td>
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<td>748 - 4 months</td>
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<td>$75</td>
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<td>Premium Banner Ad</td>
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<td>304 - Two months</td>
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<td>• Rotates at top of Home page, only 5 spots available.</td>
<td>or 574 - 4 months</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• First come first served basis, payment insures time slot.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Placed on Resources page.</td>
<td>6 months</td>
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<td>1 year</td>
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<td>Blog Banner Ad</td>
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<td>Text Link</td>
<td>Name and URL with a direct link to your web site.</td>
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<td>Sponsored</td>
<td>Up to 700 word article submission with one image and link.</td>
<td>190 - 2 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>Content</td>
<td>• Placed on own page.</td>
<td>275 - 3 months</td>
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<td>• Link to article from Home and Explore GPM pages.</td>
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<td>• One initial Facebook posting.</td>
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**Social Media Postings**

$175 - three postings, $225 - four postings

Post your ad on our Facebook page and Twitter. Email a graphic measuring 15" wide by 18.75" high, 72 dpi resolution, JPG file.

**Unclassified Advertisements**

$25 minimum for 50 words or less (50¢ per word). Logo added - $20. Ads are published in Gay Parent Magazine digital issue only, for web site see Text Ads. Place your ad in more than one issue, one issue is distributed for two months. Submit typed ad along with payment.

**Advertising Material and Payment Requirements**

- Digital issue ads should be a PDF, TIF or JPG file. Images should have 200-300 dpi high resolution. Web site Banner ads should be submitted as JPG or GIF files with 72 dpi resolution.
- 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.
- 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, New York, New York

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

- Fran M., The Center for Reproductive Medicine and Fertility
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
Issue ad space, minimum one issue insertion + banner ad space, 2 months
FREE Sponsored Content article with your full page ad order

Contact us for pricing, ordering, or any questions
Email Vivian Schepis at viv.gayparentmag@gmail.com
or Angeline Acain at gayparentmag@gmail.com
or call 718-380-1780
Reserve your space today
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 gay-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..
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 gbt 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 Deener, 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, wwwgayparentmag.com/letters
Gay Parent Magazine Receives 2015 PrideIndex.com Esteem Award

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

PrideIndex.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, PrideIndex.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 PrideIndex.com’s 2015 Esteem Awards,” says Angeline Acain, GPM publisher and editor.
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.

For more photos visit http://blog.gayparentmag.com
A Leader in LGBTQ Parenting Resources since 1998

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

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 nannies. 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 LGBTQ community I would like to see gay parents accepted in more areas of the country and the world.”

Meanwhile, GPM offers helpful support for lesbian parents until that acceptance kicks in.
Hi guys!

Out musician Patty Schemel and her family are on the cover of Gay Parent magazine. You can grab a copy over at gayparentmag.com.

Today in Lesbian TV: The Ellen DeGeneres Show, Make Room For Multiplies (TLC 2 p.m.), The Talk (CBS 2 p.m.), *RuPaul's Drag U (Logo 3 p.m.), *Friends (CBS 4:30 p.m.), Curb Appeal: The Block (HGTV 5:30 p.m.), *RuPaul’s Drag U (Logo 8 p.m.), Kissing Jessica Stein (HBO Comedy Central 6:20 p.m.), Margaret Cho: Beautiful (Logo 7 p.m.), Missionaries of Hate (Current 7 p.m.), The Rachel Maddow Show (MSNBC 9 p.m., midnight, 4 a.m.), Grey's Anatomy (ABC 9 p.m.), *Degrassi (TeenNick 9:30 p.m.) and Archer (FX 10:30 p.m.) (Thanks Ron!)
Surrogate is not a legal parent, judge rules

Queer parenting / Same-sex Saskatchewan couple will appear on birth certificate

Danny Gietwright / National / Tuesday, September 13, 2011

The name of a surrogate who carried a baby for a Saskatchewan same-sex couple will be removed from the child's birth certificate after a judge ruled she is not the biological mother.

Queen's Bench Justice Jacelyn Ann Ryan-Frosli said the woman, referred to as Mary, was only a surrogate because she carried ova donated from another anonymous woman and sperm from one of the fathers.

The child, called Sarah, was born in August 2009. Ryan-Frosli's judgment means Sarah's two fathers, identified only as John and Bill, will be listed on the birth certificate as father and other parent.

Ryan-Frosli found that although the Vital Statistics Act defines "mother" as the woman who delivered a baby, this no longer means she is also a parent.

"In this case, I am satisfied on a balance of probabilities that Mary, the gestational carrier, is not Sarah's biological mother," she wrote. "Naming her as Sarah's mother on the registration of live birth raises a presumption that she is also Sarah's biological mother."

Mary was in favour of the decision to keep her name off the birth certificate.

Angeline Acon, publisher of Gay Parent magazine, thinks the decision is a positive advancement for queer parents.

"I think what's trying to be accomplished is that the fathers want to be the sole parents," she says. "I think that's what we in the gay community are trying to work towards, having parents recognized. The woman who is a surrogate, that was not her intention, to become a parent."

In 2002 an Ontario judge ruled similarly, finding that a gestational carrier could not be called the "mother."

In another landmark case, a 2007 Ontario Court of Appeal ruled that a child could have three parents. The court found that the long-term same-sex partner of a five-year-old Ontario boy's biological mother was also legally a parent.
The hardest part of raising a 9-year-old daughter in a gay partnership, Angelina Acaín 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, Acaín started Gay Parent Magazine out of her Forest Hills home.

“At the time there wasn’t much out there as far as resources,” says Acaín, 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.”

Acaín 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, Acaín 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 Acaín writes herself. She says she enjoys running the magazine because of the opportunities for learning about people in similar situations to hers. She, too, has found 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 Acaín, half of that readership number is based in New York. She says that more and more gay parent couples have been contacting her from the region.

“People sometimes see me as a help center,” Acaín 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, Acaín encourages gay parents to read the magazine on the subject and take advantage of the growing number of resources that are available.

Straightforwardness

Over Silence

One way Acaín 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, Acaín again avoided confusion and secrecy by approaching the principal and the camp’s director from the start.

“Gay parents, it is very important to be very secure with being out,” Acaín 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 might 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 says came up with herself.

Acaín 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 consolidated into one entity, she says, so that gays in Queens can feel more solidarity amongst one another.

“The idea of community in the borough should be consolidated 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 isn’t yet. In Manhattan, there’s a lot more resources for gay 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.

The following is an excerpt from a Gay Parent Magazine interview by Angelina Acaín with Barbara Ann Perina, a transgender woman, and her wife, Deborah Matutin-Perina, who are raising their son, Everett, in Bellerose.

Deborah: I joined the PTA and people would see that we were a loving family who cared about our son and our home. But once I received a hate letter.

Barbara: An anonymous rhyming 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 forensic and it was 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.

Barbara: 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 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.

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

Barbara: 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. It wasn’t for the support of Deborah and my friends, I wouldn’t be here today. I would die. 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 happy.

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 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 have to get to solve.
Gay fathers and lesbian mothers say they are finding greater acceptance these days

By Debbie 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, Anna, now 7, calls each of them "Mom.

In this 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 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 Bowling College in Oakland reported that they are thriving. They said their primary problems are the same as any other parents', but they can face additional difficulties in a straight world, such as negative experiences with a physician or schoolteacher.

Their children may also be affected. "There have been kids in preschool 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 bowling professor who conducted the study with her partner, Elizabeth.

O'Connell, he also wrote "The Gay Baby Boom: The Psychology of Gay Parenthood" (New York University Press, $19.95). The 2000 U.S. Census put the number of same-sex households at more than 600,000, about evenly 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 "Margarita," who doesn't want her name used in this story because she is a 10-year-old girl. 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 will tell her daughter "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 her 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 Dana Green, a psychologist in Seattle who co-wrote "The Lesbian Parenting Book: A Guide to Creating Families and Raising Children" (Seal Press, $19.95). "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, 3, 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 pet date, "I always make a point to talk about whatever the family configuration is. It's just normal."

Fern Kupfer

Fern Kupfer is a freelance writer.
A mag just for us
By Ethan Jacobs
Published: Thursday, July 28, 2005

Angolina 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-maillers 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 profiled 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.
OHANA • PARENTING

Isle mom reports huge response to magazine for gay parents

By Yasuaki Aorui
Assistant Staff Writer

Angelina Aonui grew up in Hawaii — born in Hawaii — but New York City is where she launched her Gay Parent magazine. That doesn’t mean she has forgotten her home in the Islands.

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

Recent issues of the magazine, which is produced from Aonui’s home in Forest Hills, have featured some of the Islands’ most outspoken gay and lesbian parents.

The September/October edition features Ku’uwa’a Geiss, director of the Ku’uwa’a Student Services at the University of Hawai’i-Manoa for the recruitment and retention of Hawaiians.

I think the magazine really touches gay and lesbian parents with dignity and authenticity,” said Geiss, who has an adult son from her first marriage and is raising two-year-old Nakoa, the grandson of her partner, Kana.

Local gay and lesbian parents polled since Gay Parent started last year are singer-songwriter Kim Ota, photographer Benjamin Chen, an associate professor of art at UH-Manoa, and Robert Bishoff, a psychologist with the Hawaii Medical Center pediatrics who led a 2002 task force that prepared a report on Hawaii’s gay and lesbian youth for the state.

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

“I was very humbling to know that not just one but three of our neighbors supported us,” she said.

Aonui, on a mission to increase awareness about gay and lesbian parents, has been successful in New York since the early 1980s.

“I miss the feedback from the magazines,” Aonui said. “I miss the more support for gay and lesbian parents here.”

After going through the adoption process and seeing other gay and lesbian couples coparenting, she said, she had not been part of a true family.

Aonui sends print copies of Gay Parent to gay and lesbian parents across the nation. The magazine is available in many gay and lesbian bookstores.
Angeline Acain

ROLE
Publisher of Gay Parent, a magazine focusing on the issues of gay and lesbian parenting; a grand marshal of the 20th 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-old 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 these 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 Barbra Ann Portina.”

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.”

— Shirl McKenna