

We Are Family

Issue Number 6

Date: July, 2009



To learn more

www.wearefamilylv.org

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Tara Newberry

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Sponsors



www.WeAreFamilyLV.org

Learn about:

- ✓ Calendar of Events
- ✓ Community Links
- ✓ Workshop Information
- ✓ Bio's of Members
- ✓ Past and Present Newsletters

If you are interested in sharing your story with We Are Family members, please send your bio to brian@wearefamilylv.org.

If you are interested in submitting columns for the monthly newsletter or have ideas for improving the newsletter email us at brian@wearefamilylv.org

Upcoming July Events

Make it a Meal

Fun, decorative, hands-on (un)cooking class

When: Wed. July 22, 6-7pm

Where: Whole Foods at the District 100 S. Green Valley Pkwy.

Who: All Members

Cost: Free of charge

A Day at the Pool

When: Sun. July 28, 11:00am

Where: Whitney Ranch Activity Pool

Who: All members

Special Thanks to Whole Foods Market!!!

Whole Foods Market reached out to We Are Family to provide an educational and fun opportunity for the kids and an hour for the adults to socialize.

Kids Fun Unlimited presents an interactive, earth-friendly workshop for kids, by kids.

Learn to prepare **fun** and **silly** fruit plates:

- Make towers of pineapple and strawberry guards,
- Blueberry men and banana birds,
- A raspberry clown face and much more!

Discover all the creative ways we make eating fruits so much fun, you'll never want to stop.

Think lettuce is boring? Think again! Learn how we wash and dry a head of lettuce to make **mango tacos** and colorful mixed greens salads that are just delish!

And for the adults...

Homemade pineapple salsa

Brie with marcona almonds

Dates stuffed with blue cheese, Crostini topped with smoked salmon crème fraiche and dill

Olive medley

Fresh Fruit

Whole Foods will highlight 3 or 4 of their top summer wines for you to try along with the food.

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Gayby Boom': Children of gay couples speak out

By John Blake

CNN -- Jesse Levey is a Republican activist who says he believes in family values, small government and his lesbian mothers' right to marry.

Levey is part of the "gayby boom" generation. The 29-year-old management consultant is the son of a lesbian couple who chose to have a child through artificial insemination. He's their only child.

Critics of same-sex marriage say people such as Levey will grow up shunned and sexually confused. Yet he says he's a "well-adjusted heterosexual" whose upbringing proves that love, not gender, makes a family.

"You can imagine what my parents thought when I was 13 and listening to Rush Limbaugh everyday," Levey says. "But my family had strong family values. I was raised in a loving, caring household that let me be a free thinker.

The modern gay rights movement began 40 years ago this weekend during the Stonewall Riots in New York City. While much of the controversy surrounding gay rights today has centered on same-sex marriage, a battle is brewing over another family

issue: Is it bad for children to be raised by gay or lesbian parents? It damages the children, says Dale O'Leary, author of "One Man, One Woman: A Catholics Guide to Defending Marriage." She says that all children have a natural desire for a parent of each gender.

But children of same-sex couples are forced to repress that desire because their parents won't accept it, she says. Their parents won't acknowledge their children's needs because they don't want to admit that they have caused their children to suffer.

"A baby is not a trophy -- the child's welfare has to be considered," she says. "These children are more likely to experiment with same-sex relationships. They're more likely to be confused and hurt."

Do gay parents produce gay kids?

Some children of same-sex couples say their upbringing actually makes them psychologically stronger.

Abigail Garner, author of "Families Like Mine: Children of Gay Parents Tell It Like It is," calls her upbringing a "fabulous gift." She is the daughter of two gay dads and a straight mom.

She says her interviews with other children of gay or lesbian parents showed that those who shared her upbringing tend to be more empathetic and unafraid to take unpopular stands.

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"I'm not surprised when I hear gay parents say their child stood up for the kid who was bullied in class or reached out to the one with a disability," Garner says.

Some of the same children, though, face more difficulties dealing with questions about their sexual orientation. Garner, 37, who identifies as heterosexual, says some repress their sexuality because they don't want to give ammunition to their parents' critics.

"I know story after story of children who started to question their sexuality but stayed quiet about it out of fear that the truth would reflect poorly on their parents," Garner says.

Science has already weighed in on the question of whether same-sex couples tend to raise gay children -- and if there's something wrong if they do.

According to the American Psychological Association, numerous research shows that most kids of same-sex households describe themselves as heterosexual in roughly the same proportion as conventional families. The association also says that homosexuality is not deviant behavior but a normal expression of human sexuality.

The APA also concludes that gay parents are just as capable as straight parents, and that laws barring same-sex couples from adopting have no scientific basis.

Those laws, however, do exist. At least six states have explicit restrictions on **adoptions** by gays and lesbians: Florida, Mississippi, Arkansas, Utah, Nebraska and Michigan, according to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

The laws may have been passed to protect the family, but allowing gay people to marry could actually strengthen the family, says Jesse Levey, the Republican activist who was raised by two lesbians.

"The conservative argument for family values is that we should be in married couples; I agree," Levey says. "If we want to see children raised by married couples, then we should let gay people get married."

Today, Levey sees his parents' choice not as an expression of rebellion, but as a desire for something that's actually a conservative virtue -- a loving family.

"I believe in **family** values, but family is about taking care of your children and respecting one another," he says. "It doesn't matter what your sexual orientation is."

We Are Family's Legal Corner Coming Soon!!!