



We Are Family

Issue Number 8

Date: September, 2009

Maybe-Baby Conference Saturday, September 26 2:30 – 5:30pm at the Center

If you are a parent or want to be a parent, join us this Saturday!

We will have opportunities to share our parenthood stories and learn more about how to become a parent in Southern Nevada. We have some excellent guest speakers who will be providing advice and sharing success stories and the challenges associated with starting a family.

The Guest Speakers are:

Andre Wade
Clark County Family Services

Sharon Feeney
Adoption Exchange

Dr. Jeffrey Fisch
Sher Institute

Dr. Eva Littman
Red Rock Fertility

Dr. Rachel McConnell
Nevada Fertility CARES

Theresa Erickson
Conceptual Options in California

Erika Bowers
Growing Generations

Aaron Bastuba
Sperm Bank Inc.

Upcoming October Events

October 3, 2009

National Coming Out Day

Join the community at The LGBT Center for NCOB. We Are Family will be there to talk about our group. This will be a great chance for you to learn about who we are and what we do.

October 13, 2009

Meet & Greet

Regularly scheduled Meet and Greets are designed to give parents and soon-to-be parents an opportunity to make friends and learn from each other. We encourage all old and new members to attend. This month we will be talking about our Legal Symposium, Youth Program and upcoming holiday events.

October 17, 2009

Living Library

A Living Book is a person, that has chosen to be a public representative of a certain group. An example of how people can be, if only minds were open long enough to find out, who and what they really are. But before anything else, they are courageous people that stand by their convictions and are willing to discuss their values with others. Organizers have prepared more than 20 books to take part in the session and the event runs all afternoon, leaving ample time to check out the different literature available. *Come "check out" our members Adele & Tara, Brian & Brian, and Rod & Kendall. Rod and Kendall's book is called "The Journey of Raising and Autistic Son". They will be there from 11am to 2pm. This will be a great way*

To learn more

www.wearefamilylv.org

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Member Support

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To Volunteer

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Board Members

Tara Newberry
Brian Eagan

Sponsors



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to learn more about the members in your group on a personal level. This event is located on the south patio of the Rainbow Library on Buffalo Drive.

October 16, 2009

Haunted Harvest Festival

We will meet at 6:30pm. Please purchase your tickets before meeting the group! We will do the 8pm Family Flashlight Hike if tickets are available and the hayride if time allows. You don't have to do all three events and may choose to only walk around the Harvest Festival! If you'd like, you may arrive early for the festival and meet the group at 6:30.

October 23, 2009

Legal Symposium

The legal symposium is an educational event which allows gay and lesbian couples an opportunity to interact with legal professionals who can provide guidance on legal protection for parents and their children. More information will be sent out before the event via our newsletters. We will also send out an Evite to all of our members.

www.WeAreFamilyLV.org

Learn about:

- ✓ Calendar of Events
- ✓ Community Links
- ✓ Workshop Information
- ✓ Bio's of Members

DOMA Repeal Bill Announced

On September 15, Lambda Legal Executive Director Kevin Cathcart and married Iowa plaintiffs Jen and Dawn BarbouRoske [called for the passage of a new bill](#) introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives that would repeal the so-called "Defense of Marriage Act" (DOMA). "We applaud the bill's sponsors for their leadership and call on all fair-minded congressional members to support this bill," says Cathcart.

The Respect for Marriage Act (RMA) — introduced by Representative Jerrold Nadler, together with Representatives Tammy Baldwin and Jared Polis, and 88 other Members of Congress — would return the country to the longstanding earlier rule that states decide who can marry and that the federal government respects all married couples without discrimination.

At a Capitol Hill press conference announcing the bill's introduction, Cathcart stood with the BarbouRoske family, plaintiffs in our Iowa Supreme Court marriage victory of earlier this year. The couple, together for nearly 20 years when they were married this summer, spoke about why federal respect of their marriage is important to them. "When Dawn and I do our federal tax return next year, our own government will tell us to lie and say we're not married," says Jen BarbouRoske. "But we are, and the government that takes the same taxes and Social Security deductions from our paychecks as from everyone else's,

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should give us the same legal rights, too."

Lambda Legal's Marriage Project Director, Jennifer C. Pizer, worked closely for months with Congressman Nadler's staff and colleagues from our sister LGBT organizations to craft the bill, and [has authored a fact sheet](#) to explain more about the bill and what it means for same-sex couples all over the country. From the fact sheet:

Any important bill requires lots of public education and organizing of support before Congress will pass it on to the President's desk. Support for the Respect for Marriage Act will grow, and eventually will snowball, as we all take responsibility for explaining to people in our lives why this federal discrimination must end.

"Passage of this law in 1996 was a gratuitous slap in the face," Cathcart says. "Now, it is all the more harmful because there are thousands of married same-sex couples in this country who endure irrational, sometimes devastating discrimination at the hands of their own government. These couples have shouldered full legal responsibility for each other, they pay full federal taxes just like everyone else, and they should receive the same respect, important benefits and protections as everyone else."