

## At Home in Community

By Zoe Polk

“Daddy! Daddy! I don’t like that boy!”

“Why?”

“Because he’s brown.”

In the seconds that I watched the little girl pointing at my son, most devastating was the huge grin that he had on his face, blissfully unaware of the ugliness being spewed at him. In that moment, in fear, in rage, and in horror, I “leaned in,” wrapped my arms around him, and showered my beautiful brown baby with kisses and giggles. Then I carried him away to another part of the playground.

Not long after, I came home and cried. And Googled. And cried harder when it hit me: there’s no place my family can move where we’d be safe from racism. No place where my barely one-year-old son will not have to be reminded of the



casual ways his humanity will be discarded. No place where he won’t have to bear a heaviness that most people, including that little girl and her father, will never have to answer for.

That incident painfully stands out as my wife and I struggle with San Francisco’s imperfections. While we both acknowledge that, post the 2016 election, our hometowns in rural

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## Two Kids, Eight Marriages, and Twenty Years of Change

By Ora Prochovnick

After eight years on Our Family Coalition’s Board of Directors, I’m stepping down. The occasion has inspired me to reflect on the work of this amazing organization, and how it has paralleled other transitions in my life and in our community.

When my partner Rena gave birth to our daughter Tsipora in 1990, I had already spent years shepherding “second parent” adoption cases for queer parents. The process entailed a rigorous social worker home visit, followed by an appeal to a judge to override the perfunctory denial that the Department of Social Services (or DSS) would issue, based on the argument that without the binding status of marriage, families of same-sex couples were inherently “unstable.”

When it was my turn, I thought I would just go through the hoops to complete the adoption. But as we stood in front of the judge and received government acknowledgment of my



parenting relationship with my child, I was moved far more deeply than I’d expected. I realized in that moment that in all the years prior, I had never experienced any official validation of my family. I never knew I had been missing that until I got a taste of it.

I also could not help noting that I now had a legally recognized connection with my child that I was not allowed to have with my life partner, her other mother.

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### DIRECTOR'S NOTE

## LGBTQ Advocacy Across the Lifespan

by Renata Moreira, Executive Director

**L**ike many of you, I have been inspired by the young folks who are organizing and fighting hard to change laws and communities across the nation. I flashback to my teen-self marching in protest against government corruption in Brazil with hundreds of my high school peers while our parents attempted to guide us and, at times, discouraged our political engagement due to their very real fears that we may be harmed while protesting, organizing sit-ins, walk-outs against a corrupt regime. Our parents attempted to guide us and, at times, discourage our political engagement, for fear that we might be harmed while protesting, organizing sit-ins, and leading walk-outs against a corrupt regime. As young activists, we shared an underlying feeling of betrayal by the generation before us. It seemed as if they had left us to clean up the injustices of their time. Now in my 40s, I find myself re-energized by the grit and courage of our young organizers. At the same time I feel even more deeply appreciative of the lessons, resilience, and creativity of the generations of LGBTQ+ activists that came before us.

Many of our elders survived violent eras of imprisonment and death, simply because of who they were or who they loved. And yet they fought back for their (and therefore our) ability to live authentically. The narrative told about us was that we were flawed creations; we were fed myths, populated with abominations and criminals. It took resilience, collective strength, and persistent organizing to counter this deeply destructive narrative in public—as well as to resist internalizing those same messages in private.

There were no stories told about LGBTQ+ people being good parents, or about LGBTQ families being as loving or stable as opposite sex families, or about LGBTQ+ immigrants and LGBTQ+ people of color being central to the broader movement for LGBTQ+ liberation. Our elders found the courage to stand up to overwhelmingly rigid societal constructs and embrace our “otherness,” to continue to work to transform ignorance into allyship, and to combat the discrimination that is still perpetrated against our diverse communities.

In the spirit of honoring LGBTQ+ advocacy across the lifespan, I am thrilled to share that Our Family Coalition is poised for a new era of growth. We are launching multi-generational initiatives to bring together our elders

**Our elders found the courage to stand up to overwhelmingly rigid societal constructs and embrace our “otherness,” to continue to work to transform ignorance into allyship, and to combat the discrimination that is still perpetrated against our diverse communities.**

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## LGBTQ-FRIENDLY SUMMER CAMPS

### FAMILY CAMPS

#### Crissy Field Center

June 1-3, 2018

[bitly.com/cfc-queerfamily](http://bitly.com/cfc-queerfamily)

Crissy Field Center facilitates outdoor environmental day camps that provide children with meaningful experiences in the Golden Gate National Parks and beyond. This event is overnight camping in the Presidio, Friday to Sunday. All camping gear is provided.

#### PACT Camp

July 3–8, 2018

Tahoe City, CA

[www.pactadopt.org/events/](http://www.pactadopt.org/events/)

#### Putting It All Together: Adoption, Race & Family: A Gathering for Adoptive Families With Children of Color

A week-long summer retreat where adopted children of color and their families share their experiences while learning from experts and each other.

#### Camp It Up!

July 28–August 5, 2018

Quincy, CA

[www.campitup.org](http://www.campitup.org)

Camp It Up! is an experience, a feeling of belonging, of connecting—a powerful expression of how life can and should be for all of us. It's where each of us is safe to be just who we are, where kids can run free and be held by an entire community.

#### Camp Tawonga—Keshet LGBT Family Weekend

August 23–26, 2018

Yosemite National Park

[www.tawonga.org](http://www.tawonga.org)

This innovative program draws participants from all over the country. The first of its kind in the Jewish

camping world, we offer a truly incredible community. Renowned educators from across the country will lead specialized workshops.

### DAY CAMPS

#### Gaia Girls Passages

July 24-29; August 3-12

[gaiagirlspassages.org/summer-camps/backcountry-immersions-for-teens/](http://gaiagirlspassages.org/summer-camps/backcountry-immersions-for-teens/)

Gaia Girls Passages is offering trips for adventurous female-identified and gender nonconforming teens (grades 7-12) from July 24-29 in Santa Cruz and August 3-12 in the Marble Mountain Wilderness! Trips are immersive experiences that bring youth into deeper connection with themselves, each other, and the magic of being a human on Earth.

#### Girls on the Go! Camp

June 11–August 24, 2018

[www.girlsonthegocamp.com](http://www.girlsonthegocamp.com)

Girls explore, engage, and connect with one another and the beautiful Bay Area. Special guests share their talents in interactive playshops, with a special focus for each week. Girls enjoy summer days filled with spontaneous and planned adventures.

#### Monkey Business Camp

June 11–August 24, 2018

[www.monkeybusinesscamp.com](http://www.monkeybusinesscamp.com)

Monkey Business Camp was founded by two lesbians to nurture the creativity and individuality of each child in a loving and magical environment. Programs achieve a balance between structure and spontaneity, to provide for the varied needs and interests of campers, and to build a powerful, peaceful, fun-loving community.

#### Brave Trails

July 15–21, July 23–August 5, 2018

San Bernardino National Forest

[www.bravetrails.org](http://www.bravetrails.org)

A residential summer camp for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, asexual, and allied youth, ages 12–20. Campers focus on developing their personal leadership skills while enjoying activities, workshops, and fun programming. From roasting marshmallows and drag shows to horseback riding and social justice workshops, there are plenty of activities to choose from!

#### Bay Area Rainbow Camp

June 20–July 1, 2018

El Cerrito

[www.rainbowdaycamp.org](http://www.rainbowdaycamp.org)

Bay Area Rainbow Camp is a play-based camp for gender-creative kids to reinforce positive, gender fluid identities in a community of peers. Psychotherapists who are gender specialists will be available after drop off and before pickup to answer questions and facilitate the parent support discussion group.

#### R Family Vacations

July 19–22, 2018

<http://www.rfamilyvacations.com>

It's LGBT Family Day at Walt Disney World! We will host an unofficial gathering at the happiest place on earth. Join tons of other LGBT families as we explore the park in addition to special events and activities for children and adults just for our group. Many guests will be coming from Olivia & R Family's Club Med Sandpiper Resort, but everyone is welcome!

# CALENDAR

<b>SAT</b> <b>Apr 7</b> <b>10am–12pm</b>	<b><i>Parent-Child Interactive Yoga Playgroup Ages 3-5 with Caregiver(s)</i></b> <b>DESTINY ARTS, 970 GRACE AVE., OAKLAND</b> Families come together in a playful, active, and nurturing environment of imagination and curiosity. This playgroup blends age appropriate yoga poses, creative movement, songs, fun breathing exercises, mindfulness games, and conscious caregiving tools to grow connection together! Discussion, reflection, toys, picture books, and music are used to introduce various healthy lifestyle habits for use beyond our group time.	<b>EB</b>
<b>SAT</b> <b>Apr 14 &amp; 28</b> <b>3–4:30pm</b>	<b><i>Tyke Tunes for Tiny Folks Who Like to Move</i></b> <b>DESTINY ARTS, 970 GRACE AVE., OAKLAND</b> Do you know a little person who just loves to Bang! Shake! & Shout!? Is your family passionate about using music and movement as a way to further social justice endeavors? Then get in the circle!! Sessions will be led by Monica Hastings-Smith of Boomshake and will involve open play/mingling time, singing, dancing, storytelling, games & drumming activities.	<b>EB</b>
<b>MON</b> <b>Apr 16</b> <b>6–8pm</b>	<b><i>Puff, Pass, and Parenting</i></b> <b>BANANAS, 5232 CLAREMONT AVE., OAKLAND</b> This year California saw the legalization of cannabis. Many parents have asked, how does this impact us as parents? What will happen if my child uses it? Is it addictive? How do I communicate with my child about cannabis if they're using it or if I'm using it? Does it affect my child when I smoke cannabis around them? Together with Maria Lara, an MFT, OFC will be providing a safe space for parents and caregivers to openly discuss their concerns, learn and share their thoughts about the issue. Join us for this insightful workshop on parenting and cannabis!	<b>EB</b>
<b>SAT</b> <b>Apr 28</b> <b>10am–12pm</b>	<b><i>Talking To Kids About Race... and Gender! The Middle School Years</i></b> <b>SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY, 100 LARKIN ST., SAN FRANCISCO</b> Part 4 in this popular series welcomes parents, guardians and educators to hear the latest and greatest on: intersections of race and gender in tweens, inclusive puberty education, and FAIR Education: LGBTQ history in schools. Learn tricks and tools to talk about these often challenging topics with adolescents and review the latest in children's literature, lesson plans, films and media used in schools today.	<b>SF</b>
<b>SUN</b> <b>May 6 &amp; 20</b> <b>SAT</b> <b>May 12</b> <b>10am–12pm</b>	<b><i>Family Meditation Class</i></b> <b>EAST BAY MEDITATION CENTER, 285 17TH ST., OAKLAND</b> Join us for an interactive family sangha session! Mindful exercises and activities with your little ones in this fun and relaxing class at the East Bay Meditation Center.	<b>EB</b>
<b>MON</b> <b>May 7</b> <b>6–8pm</b>	<b><i>Talking to Your Kids About Their Donor Origins</i></b> <b>BANANAS, 5232 CLAREMONT AVE., OAKLAND</b> Learn developmentally appropriate language to help children of all ages, whether conceived by donor egg, sperm or embryo, integrate knowledge of the donor side of their origins while strengthening their life-long bond with their parents. Facilitated by Alice Ruby of The Sperm Bank of California and Laura Goldberger, MFT.	<b>EB</b>
<b>THU</b> <b>May 24</b> <b>6–8pm</b>	<b><i>Parenting from Masculine of Center</i></b> <b>BANANAS, 5232 CLAREMONT AVE., OAKLAND</b> Are you a butch, MoC, gender-neutral, mahu, LHC, and/or masculine-presenting person raising a family? In a discussion facilitated by Polly Pagenhart, OFC's Communications & Policy Director (and a longtime, proud Baba), explore answers to questions like: How have you built your family? How do you navigate your biological connection (or lack thereof) with your kids? Does your gender inform your parenthood? How do your kids see you? All genders and parental status welcome!	<b>EB</b>

**Free childcare and food are provided at all events, with advance registration.  
For further information and event registration, visit [www.ourfamily.org](http://www.ourfamily.org).**

THU  
May 31  
6–8pm

### ***Egg Meets Sperm Mixer***

ERIC QUEZADA CENTER FOR CULTURE & POLITICS, 518 VALENCIA ST., SAN FRANCISCO

Are you ready to start a family? Looking for egg or sperm, or a co-parent? At this fun mixer, LGBTQ people interested in finding or being a known donor or co-parent can meet one another and talk about expanding family. Facilitated icebreakers, refreshments and wine will be provided. Open to folks of all genders.

SAT  
June 16  
TBD

### ***San Mateo Pride***

SAN MATEO CENTRAL PARK, 50 E 5TH AVE., SAN MATEO

Join us for fun, crafty activities! We'll be situated as close to the jumpy house as possible. There will also be healthy snacks for you and your little ones. See you there!

## **SF PRIDE 2018**

June  
TBA

### ***Frameline Family Matinee***

ROXIE THEATER, 3117 16TH ST., SAN FRANCISCO

Wondering which Frameline film to bring your child to? May we suggest our annual Family Film Matinee, co-hosted by the Frameline Film Festival. Super secret film title to be announced in June!

June  
TBA

### ***Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project***

BRAVA THEATER, 2781 24TH ST., SAN FRANCISCO

Join Our Family Coalition in support of Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project. Through film, queer women and transgender people of color authentically represent their visions, voices and life stories.

FRI  
June 22  
12–2pm

### ***Trans Family Taco Picnic***

HELEN DILLER PLAYGROUND, MISSION DOLORES PARK, SAN FRANCISCO

Join trans, gender nonconforming and non-binary parents and their families for a fun picnic at Dolores Park before Trans March festivities begin. Bring a blanket and your favorite beverage, and OFC will provide tasty chicken and vegetarian tacos. Find us by the playground!

FRI  
June 22  
2–5pm

### ***Trans March***

HELEN DILLER PLAYGROUND, MISSION DOLORES PARK, SAN FRANCISCO

Be part of one of the largest trans events in the country! Join other trans families—including trans parents/caregivers and their families, and gender-expansive kids and their families—at the family zone and march.

SAT  
June 23  
11am–1pm

### ***Dyke March Potluck Brunch***

HELEN DILLER PLAYGROUND, MISSION DOLORES PARK, SAN FRANCISCO

Kick off your Dyke March day (or begin and end it!) with a potluck brunch for the whole family at the entrance of Dolores Park's fantastic playground.

SUN  
June 24  
parade:  
9–11am  
garden:  
11am–4pm

### ***SF LGBTQ+ Pride Parade***

LOWER MARKET ST. AREA, STEP-OFF BLOCK TBA, SAN FRANCISCO

March in the LGBTQ Family Contingent at the SF Pride Parade! Our precise gathering time and block are TBA; watch our website for details mid-June.

### ***SF Pride Family Garden***

CIVIC CENTER PLAZA PLAYGROUND, LARKIN & GROVE STS, SAN FRANCISCO

Join in fun art activities, face painting and more at the Family Garden, open 11am–4pm.

## SUPPORT GROUPS

WED  
Apr 11  
May 2  
June 6  
5:30–7:30pm

### Rainbow Family Night

HABITOT CHILDREN'S MUSEUM, 2065 KITTREDGE ST., BERKELEY

LGBTQ parents are invited to join our facilitated support group to connect, share experiences, swap tips, and discuss issues relevant to our families, while kids have a great time playing at Habitot. Note: Rainbow Family Night (RFN) in April will be postponed to the 2nd Wednesday of the month, April 11. RFN for the following months (May onwards) will be as usual—1st Wednesdays of the month.

EB

THU  
April 12  
May 3  
June 7  
6–8pm

### Support for Parents of Tweens & Teens

OUR FAMILY COALITION, 1385 MISSION ST., SUITE 340, SAN FRANCISCO

Do you have a teen or a tween? OFC facilitates this monthly group for LGBTQ parents and guardians to talk, connect, decompress, and navigate together the experiences of raising kids 10-17 years old. Dinner and child care provided with advance registration. Join us!

SF

SAT  
Apr 14  
May 19  
12–2pm

### Trans & GNC Parent Support Group

OUR FAMILY COALITION, 1385 MISSION ST., SUITE 340, SAN FRANCISCO

Trans and gender-nonconforming parents, prospective parents, and co-parents connect and share what's on their minds. From the workplace to trans activism, transition to temper tantrums, discuss whatever you'd like to in a safe space with friendly, supportive people. Lunch and child care provided with advance registration. Newcomers welcome!

SF

TUE  
Apr 24  
May 22  
6–8pm

### LGBTQ+ Family Night for Solo & Partnered Parents

CHILDREN'S DAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 333 DOLORES ST., SAN FRANCISCO

Enjoy a meal with your kids and other LGBTQ families, then join one of two parent groups—for solo parents or for co-parents/caregivers—for facilitated discussions about family and child-rearing issues. Dinner and childcare provided with advance registration.

SF

THU  
Apr 26  
6:30–8:30pm

### LGBTQ Parent Support Group

BANANAS, 5232 CLAREMONT AVE., OAKLAND

This is an on-going support group that meets every other month for parents from the LGBTQ community looking for the right ECE—Early Care and Education arrangement. Join us for support and how to create inclusive environments in our child care settings. Facilitated by ECE professionals Shawn Bryant and Rainbow Markell, both from the LGBTQ communities.

EB

## Talking With Kids About Race

“We had an amazing afternoon of discussion and learning about how to create environments for kids that nurture racial justice. We practiced concrete and developmentally supportive conversation starters, engaged in read-alouds, games, while learning from each other and our kids!

The day was facilitated by Abundant Beginnings, a community education and empowerment initiative that is re-imagining how communities can grow learners who think critically, live responsibly, and create meaningful change.

At the end of the day we were able to talk about all our different identities with pride and love and a focus on creating more just communities.

JAN

27

## Talking With Kids About Race Nurturing Justice

A Workshop for Parents, Caregivers, and  
Educators of Children 2-10 years old

Facilitated by: ABUNDANT BEGINNINGS



## PLAYGROUPS

### TUESDAYS

Apr 3, 10, 17, 24  
May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29  
June 5, 12  
10–11:30am

### LGBTQ Parent-Child Interactive Playgroup (0–5 years)

DESTINY ARTS, 970 GRACE AVE., OAKLAND

Interactive play and circle time for infants, toddlers, and their grown ups, including fun activities like music, movement, and storytelling. Healthy snacks provided!

EB

### FRIDAYS

Apr 6, 13, 20, 27  
May 4, 11, 18, 25  
June 1, 8  
9–10:15am

### Toddle with Me: Music & Movement Class (18 months–5 years)

COMMUNITY WELL, 78 OCEAN AVE., SAN FRANCISCO

Offered weekly, our music and movement classes promote your child's overall development. Using creative physical expression, these classes encourage gross and fine motor skill development, coordination and balance, as well as early literacy, pre-math, and social-emotional skills.

SF

### FRIDAYS

Apr 6, 13, 20, 27  
May 4, 11  
10:45am–12pm

### Baby & Me: Infant Class (0–18 months)

COMMUNITY WELL, 78 OCEAN AVE., SAN FRANCISCO

Want more quality time with your little one? OFC will be hosting a 12-week infant class for LGBTQ parents and caregivers. This parent-child interactive helps support child bonding, health, and increases your know-how about your infant's cognitive, physical, and language development!

SF

## LGBTQ Advocacy Across the Lifespan

(continued from page 2)

and youth in storytelling projects. And we're launching a thrilling new **Emeritus Board** that will harvest the brain trust of OFC's more than twenty years of change-making and community support.

Our Emeritus Board, comprising former board members whose wisdom and vision have been critical to our advocacy over these past 20 years, will be launched at Night Out on May 11, 2018. These are people who have worked tirelessly on the Board of Directors and in the community since Our Family Coalition's inception, and they have gotten us to where we are today. These beloved champions are committed to providing our current board members valued

*These are people who have worked tirelessly on the Board of Directors and in the community since Our Family Coalition's inception, and they have gotten us to where we are today.*

expertise, and to continue to open doors for and with LGBTQ+ families who are transforming our communities. As we mentor a new wave of Board leaders who will fuel our growth, I'm also thrilled to know we'll be learning from our youth: from young parents and fierce children about what matters to them now. So that together we can continue to cultivate LGBTQ+ family advocacy across the lifespan. Please join us in welcoming the founding members of our Emeritus Board at Night Out on May 11. ☺

OUR FAMILY COALITION'S  
ANNUAL **NIGHT OUT**  
FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2018  
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**Sponsorship opportunities still  
available via [jenny@ourfamily.org](mailto:jenny@ourfamily.org).**

**Early bird tickets are on sale  
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#### TOUR DATES

Pre-Primary/Primary  
January 9 & 31  
9:30am-11:30am  
Oakland Campus

Kindergarten/Elementary  
January 16  
9:30am-11:30am  
Starts Oakland Campus

[www.therenaissanceschool.org](http://www.therenaissanceschool.org)

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Oakland Campus: 3650 Dimond Ave. / Piedmont Campus: 5201 Park Blvd.

## Two Kids, Eight Marriages...

(continued from page 1)

Our second child Shayna was born three and a half years after Tsipora in 1994, and by then the legal landscape was beginning to change. As I did the legal paperwork to adopt her, I had the pleasure of receiving one of the very first DSS reports to actually *recommend* the adoption. Around this time, I became active in the two organizations, Our Family and All Our Families Coalition, which would later merge in 2002 to become Our Family Coalition.

Over the years, the lengthy, costly, invasive process of “second parent” adoption was replaced with access to the quicker and easier “stepparent adoption” procedure—primarily because California began to recognize same-sex relationships: first via registered domestic partnerships (RDPs), and eventually through legal marriage. Now, if a child is born to a couple during a legal marriage or RDP, we non-birth parents can (and still should!) use a much simpler “confirmatory adoption” process.

Relationship recognition has undergone similar sea changes. Over the course of our 35 years together, like many LGBTQ folks of our era, Rena and I became quite adept at getting married. As an old hippie who does not even believe in marriage, it is amazing how much it became my hobby to do it repeatedly.

We had a very private blood pact in 1983, when we first got together. Then there was the private exchange of cheap rings we bought at Pride. In 1990, the ship’s captain on an Olivia cruise “married” us. We registered as domestic partners with the City and County of San Francisco when that became possible in 1991. In 1996 we had what I consider our *real* marriage—we stood under the chuppah and declared our commitment in front of friends, family, and community. We registered as domestic partners with the State of California three years after that, when it became available in 1999. When we married at City Hall in 2004—a marriage voided later that year by the California Supreme Court—we felt as if we, along with our entire city, were participating in a revolutionary act of collective civil disobedience. Finally, in 2008, in that open window between the May California Supreme Court decision and the November passage of Prop 8 nullifying it, we had our next and final legal marriage, the one that seems to have stuck.

Our Family Coalition has been there throughout this whole progression, behind the scenes and out front, providing support and making change. We first became involved with OFC for the support: we wanted to find other parents with whom we could talk about our issues, in a place where our kids could socialize without having to constantly explain themselves, where they could see themselves and their families mirrored, and have fun.

When that was no longer something that we or our kids needed, we remained involved because of OFC’s public policy and advocacy work. I admire the work Our Family Coalition has done to increase visibility and strive for justice and full equality for all LGBTQ families—particularly its work on inclusive schools, immigration reform, and healthcare reform. I’ve seen consequential changes in LGBTQ families’ legal rights over the years, and this happened only because of the work of all of us in the community being out as who we are, and because of the work of OFC and similar organizations. In the media and in political forums, they’ve improved public perception of and policy for LGBTQ families.



Looking back over this amazingly short period of time, we’ve seen incredible advances in the civil and human rights of LGBTQ people and their families. They’ve come through litigation, legislation, policy, and public education. And OFC has played a significant role in this process. But though we’ve come far, there is still so much farther to go.

We need to fight the inevitable backlash now that we have achieved marriage equality. We have to confront the daily trauma and challenges that are our conditions under the current presidential administration. Moreover, we have our ongoing work to strive toward true equity.

In another 20 years, I look forward to reminiscing about new successes, in the struggles we engage today. I look forward to our having achieved employment and housing protections for LGBTQ folks nationwide, and to our having secured just immigration reform. I look forward to the end of transphobia, and an end to homelessness, particularly as it affects LGBTQ youth. Given how far we’ve come in the past 20 years, I’d like to think that anything is possible. ↻



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## THE SPERM BANK OF CALIFORNIA

*Providing ethical family building options to our diverse community*

## At Home in Community...

(continued from page 1)

Vermont and Virginia are not safe for our family, our adopted city does not have many affirming spaces for us. It is not uncommon for my son and me to be the only Black people on Muni. Our pre-school visits entail pointed questions about how, as a predominantly white environment, the school actively addresses institutional racism. Local online mommy groups seem to exist to celebrate whiteness, to celebrate the freedom to don a pink pussy hat once a year, the freedom to dress children as police officers, and freedom from worry about whether a doctor's implicit bias could be fatal for their family.

But San Francisco is also the city that caused 13-year-old Maya Angelou to become "dauntless and free," as she wrote in her autobiography *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. This

was the city emblazoned on Colin Kaepernick's jersey as he called the nation's attention to racial injustice. And it's the city where audacious leaders Alicia Garza, Lara Kiswani, James Baldwin, Angela Chan, Renata Moreira and Aria Sa'id, have triumphed.

And San Francisco is a city in which Our Family Coalition proudly holds space for queer, multi-racial families. My wife and I regularly attend the Queer Family Playgroup and find ourselves reflected in books, facilitators, discussions, and other families in attendance. The OFC team has also supported my wife's goal to create community in the outdoors with queer multiracial families.

And in January, my family attended "Talking to your Kids About Race" at the San Francisco Public Library, where I revisited the racism my son experienced on the playground. While I've thought daily about that encounter, and specifically about what I should have done differently, it wasn't until I spoke about it with the parents of color breakout group at this event that I received advice that resonated.

As long as San Francisco is home for my family, I will be intentional and unapologetic about the experiences I create for my son. And as long as San Francisco is our home, we will benefit from the courageous advocacy and leadership of Our Family Coalition. ☺

### LGBTQ Foster Adoption Mini Conference

DEC  
10

Thank you to all our partners and to all of you who came out for our Foster Adoption Mini Conference! It was a great day in community—with panel discussions, resource, information sharing and the screening of "The F Word" docuseries!



### Save the Date Habitot Pride Day

HABITOT CHILDREN'S MUSEUM  
2065 KITTREDGE ST., BERKELEY

Sunday, July 15, 2018  
10am-1pm

PRIDE doesn't end in June! Join other LGBTQ families with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers for a wonderful time of family bonding, community building, and fun at Habitot Children's Museum. Explore the fire truck, get messy in the art studio, splash around in the water play area, and more. Hope to see you there!



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OUR FAMILY COALITION'S  
ANNUAL **NIGHT OUT**  
FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2018  
@ THE INTERCONTINENTAL SAN FRANCISCO

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Tickets and sponsorships still available at [ourfamily.org/give-back/nightout](http://ourfamily.org/give-back/nightout)  
Early bird ticket sales end on April 15! Don't miss out. This event will sell out.

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Launching Our Family Coalition's **Emeritus Board** - please see page 2 for details  
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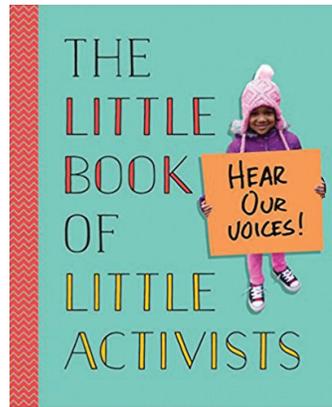
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# BOOK CORNER

## **The Little Book of Little Activists**

by **Penguin Young Readers**

You're never too young to care about your community or to stand up for your beliefs. That's the empowering message of this book, which is all about how real kids exercise their first amendment rights. *The Little Book of Little Activists* is a child's very first introduction to political activism, presented at a level they can understand and relate to.



## **Sometimes the Spoon Runs Away with Another Spoon Coloring Book**

by **Jacinta Bunnell**

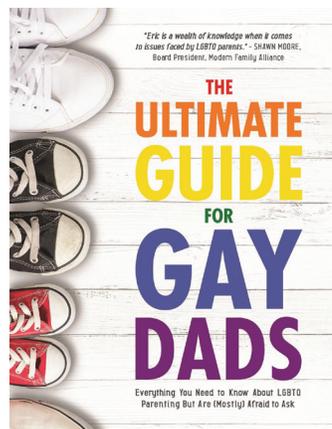
Re-creating nursery rhymes and fairy tales, this radical activity book takes anecdotes from the lives of real kids and mixes them with classic tales to create true-to-life characters, situations, and resolutions. Featuring massive beasts who enjoy dainty, pretty jewelry and princesses who build rocket ships, this fun-for-all-ages coloring book celebrates those who do not fit into disempowering gender categorizations, from sensitive boys to tough girls.



## **The Ultimate Guide for Gay Dads: Everything You Need to Know About LGBTQ Parenting But Are (Mostly) Afraid to Ask**

by **Eric Rosswood**

*The Ultimate Guide For Gay Dads* is jam packed with parenting tips and advice to help you build confidence and become the awesome gay dad you were meant to be! Unlike other parenting books that have whole chapters focusing on things specifically related to mothers (such as how to get the perfect latch when breastfeeding), this parenting book replaces those sections with things relevant to gay dads. It covers topics like how to find LGBT friendly pediatricians, how to find LGBT friendly schools, how to childproof your home with style, how to answer awkward and prying questions about your family from strangers, examples for what two-dad families can do on Mother's Day, and much more. The book also includes parenting tips and advice from pediatricians, school educators, lawyers, and other same-sex parents.



Our Family Coalition advances equity for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) families with children through support, education, and advocacy.

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