

Spring 2010

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1. UP FOR DISCUSSION - PART TWO: SQUARE PEG, ROUND HOLE? THURS. MARCH 11

Part Two of the LGBTQ Parenting Network's Up For Discussion Queer Parenting Forum Series explores the relationship between queer and trans families and the family law system.

What are our legal rights and responsibilities in relation to birth registration, adoption, marriage, medical decisions, child support and the definition of "parent?" What are the implications of these rights and responsibilities for queer and trans parents and families? The forum will feature legal, academic and community speakers and is a space for all to contribute to a discussion about how current legal definitions do or do not fit with the diversity of LGBTQ family structures.

We want to hear your voice! Join the discussion.

Thursday, March 11

6:30 - 9:00 pm

Sherbourne Health Centre

333 Sherbourne St.

For more information: parentingnetwork@sherbourne.on.ca or go to:

www.lgbtqparentingconnection.ca/programs.

Food and beverages will be provided.

Pre-registration is required for childcare. Contact: mtamaki@sherbourne.on.ca

2. QUEER PARENTING PROGRAMS AT THE 519 - UPCOMING CALENDAR

The Queer Family Mixer!

Saturday March 6, 10:30 am-1:30 pm

Come join us for our monthly LGBTQ family mixer - toys, play spaces, LGBTQ children's books, music circle and snacks!

1st Saturday of each month

Daddy, Papa & Me!

Saturday, March 13, 10:30 am - 1:30 pm

A monthly queer-positive gathering for fathers & their children (age 0 to 6). Meet other daddies and their families from far and wide and find: support, snacks, music, toys, discussions & gay/bi/queer parenting resources.

2nd Saturday of each month.

Mum's The World!

Saturday, March 27, 10:30 am to 1:30 pm

A monthly queer-positive gathering for all lesbian, bi, trans, queer mothers/caregivers and their children 0-6 years.

4th Saturday of each month

3. RAINBOW HEALTH ONTARIO 2010 CONFERENCE: MARCH 24 - 26

Rainbow Health Ontario 2010 Conference

March 24 ? 26, 2010

Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre Hotel

525 Bay Street, Toronto

A forum for health and social service providers, community members, researchers and policy makers to share knowledge, experience and ideas that address the health and wellness needs of LGBT people. Research presentations, panel discussions, workshop sessions, round table discussions and poster presentations scheduled over the two and a half days for participants to contribute and learn.

For more information, including how to register, go to:

www.rainbowhealthontario.ca/conference

Be sure to check out the following LGBTQ parenting-related presentations:

Friday, March 26th, 11:00 am

"Celebrating LGBTQ Families" with representatives from Camp Ten Oaks

Friday, March 26th, 3:30 pm

Closing Plenary - "Looking Forward" with Rachel Epstein, Morgan Holmes (Wilfred Laurier Univeristy) & Dr. Lance McCready

And...right after the conference join the LGBTQ Parenting Network and the Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies at the Toronto Women's Bookstore for a lively discussion of.....

4. WHO'S YOUR DADDY IN THE CLASSROOM? FRIDAY, MARCH 26

Who's Your Daddy? and Other Writings on Queer Parenting (ed. Rachel Epstein) ..explores the subject of queer parenting in all its breadth and complexity...a valuable and thought-provoking resource. - Quill & Quire

The LGBTQ Parenting Network (Sherbourne Health Centre) and the Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity invite you to a lively discussion about using Who's Your Daddy?as a teaching tool.

* Readings by Gitanjali Lena, Elizabeth Ruth, christina starr, Syrus Marcus Ware

* Discussion with Jasjit Sangha and others

* Wine and nibbles

* Schmooze fest

Friday, March 26

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Toronto Women's Bookstore

73 Harbord St. (west of Spadina, north of College)

For more info: parentingnetwork@sherbourne.on.ca

5. I ♥ MY LGBTQ FAMILY: Cards for celebrating the parents, caregivers, and other important people in the lives of kids in LGBTQ families.

LGBTQ families come in many shapes and sizes. Some have more than one mom or dad, some have none, some have several. The LGBTQ Parenting Network is pleased to announce the launch of its latest project, "I ♥ My LGBTQ Family" cards - created to celebrate all the amazing people that contribute to the lives of kids in LGBTQ families. Illustrated by local artists, including Maurice Vellekoop and Suzy Malik, "I ♥ My LGBTQ Family " cards can be given out to the special people in your life on any day designed to celebrate families.

Save the Date!

I ♥ My LGBTQ Family cards will be launched on May 1st, 2010 with a heart-filled cabaret

at the Gladstone Hotel (just in time for Mother's Day and Father's Day). In collaboration with Toronto's Small Print, producers of fabulous literary events for tots and teens, the "I ♥ My LGBTQ Family" launch will include a morning writing workshop for teens with LGBTQ parents and an afternoon launch featuring music, readings, and crafts for tots!

6. TWO NEW STUDIES ON LESBIAN / BISEXUAL / QUEER PARENTING

1. Are you a lesbian, bisexual or queer co-parent/non-biological parent who is currently partnered with a pregnant woman? Are you 16 years of age or older, and currently living in the Greater Toronto Area? If so, we want to hear from you!

The goal of this study is to learn more about lesbian, bisexual and queer co-parents/non-biological parents experiences of mental health and wellness during their partners' pregnancy. The results of this study will be used to develop new resources to promote mental health and wellness for lesbian, bisexual and queer co-parents and their families. This research is a collaboration between the LGBTQ Parenting Network of the Sherbourne Health Centre, and the Centre for Addiction & Mental Health. Your participation would involve participating in a one-on-one interview with a member of the study team. All the information you provide will be kept strictly confidential.

For more information please contact us:

Tel: 1-866-371-MOMS (6667) or (416) 260-4138

Email: kira_abelsohn@camh.net

2. Are you a lesbian, bisexual or queer woman who is currently pregnant, 16 years of age or older, and living in Ontario? If so, we want to hear from you!

We are conducting a study in order to compare different recruitment strategies for learning about postpartum depression (PPD) in lesbian, bisexual, and queer women and/or women who report same-sex partners in the past 5 years. The results of this study will be used to develop a larger study looking at the prevalence of PPD in this population, and the impact of experiences of discrimination on lesbian, bisexual and queer women's mental health in the postpartum period. The research is collaboration between the LGBTQ Parenting Network of the Sherbourne Health Centre and the Centre for Addiction & Mental Health.

Your participation would involve completing a set of questionnaires over the phone during pregnancy and at 4-6 weeks postpartum, asking about your social relationships and social networks, as well as your mental health and well being. All the information you provide will be kept strictly confidential.

For more information please contact us:

Tel: 1-866-371-MOMS (6667) or (416) 260-4138

Email: kira_abelsohn@camh.net

It's that time again.....

7. LGBTQ BIRTH / ADOPTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

for Pride & Joy, the LGBTQ Parenting Network Newsletter.

If you have had a child join your family and would like to announce their arrival in Pride & Joy, please send an electronic photo and wording for an announcement to parentingnetwork@sherbourne.on.ca

The newsletter will be out for Toronto Pride, 2010. Deadline: June 1, 2010

8. IWD PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION FORUM & RECEPTION: MON. MARCH 8

Redefining Mother: The Impact of Reproductive Technologies and the Assisted Human Reproduction Act

on Women and Family Law

March 8, 2010

The Law Society of Upper Canada, Toronto

Panel from 4 - 6 pm, Reception to follow from 6 - 8 pm.

The Law Society of Upper Canada, the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic, the Feminist Legal Analysis Section of the Ontario Bar Association, the Women's Law Association of Ontario, and the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund are pleased to present a panel discussion and reception to celebrate International Women's Day. Assisted Human Reproductive (AHR) technologies continue to raise difficult social, ethical and legal questions. Who can receive AHR services? Are AHR services paid by the state medically necessary/ What are the legal rights of donors and non-biological parents? After years of debate, Canada has enacted a governancy regime for these technologies - the 2004 Assisted Human Reproduction Act (AHRA). A panel of experts will discuss the impact of the AHRA on women and their children and the challenges that the use of new reproductive technologies pose on the traditional notion of family, family status and the development of family law in Ontario.

Discussion Moderator: Audrey M. Johnson, Executive Director, Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF)

Panel Members: Sherry Dale, Infertility Counsellor; Dr. Marjorie E. Dixon, MD, FRCS(C), FACOG Fertility Specialist; Rachel Epstein; Coordinator, LGBTQ Parenting Network, Sherbourne Health Centre; Kelly Jordan, Barrister and Solicitor

All welcome to attend - admission is free.

A cocktail reception will be held after the panel discussion at 6:00 p.m. to celebrate International Women's Day.

RSVP by March 5, 2010 by calling 416 947 3413 or 1 800 668 7380, ext. 3413, or email: rticzon@lsuc.on.ca

9. THE CENTER FOR ADOPTION SUPPORT AND EDUCATION EXPANDS W.I.S.E. UP! FACILITATION TO CANADA: SAT. MARCH 6

C.A.S.E. is a private, non-profit adoption family support centre. It was created in May 1998 to provide post-adoption counselling and educational services to families, educators, child welfare staff, and mental health providers in the U.S.

The mission was simple: Create a safe place for children to express their feelings about being adopted and prepare them for the inevitable classmate's questions, neighbour's remark and insensitive school assignment. Most adopted children are asked questions about being adopted; yet few are equipped to respond assertively. For some, the questions start at age 3: "Why don't you look like your mom?" For others, it might not begin until they start school: "Where is your real mom?", "Why did she give you away?" W.I.S.E. UP! TEACHES CHILDREN THAT THEY HAVE THE POWER TO CHOOSE IF, WHEN AND HOW TO SHARE PERSONAL INFORMATION.

Approved Adoption Practitioner Angela Harvey and Adoption Educator and adoptive parent Ann Loree, travelled to C.A.S.E. in Maryland, USA, December, 2009 and are now fully certified to offer this training throughout Canada.

Workshops are structured so that adoptive parents and children are trained at the same time, but in their own individual groups. Each family receives a copy of the W.I.S.E. UP! Powerbook (worth \$20) which has sold over 20,000 copies worldwide. Each session is

two hours in length. This program is suitable for children in grades 1 through 6. Session fee is \$100 per family including GST (a family includes up to two parents and two children), and includes one W.I.S.E. UP! Powerbook valued at \$20.

Upcoming Workshop:

Saturday March 6th, 10am - 12pm

Burlington Central Library

2331 New Street, Burlington

For children in grades 1-3 and their parent(s)

For more information or to register, call 519 658 6466 or email

angela.harvey@sympatico.ca

10. SMALL PRINT TORONTO - UPCOMING EVENTS

THE TOT STUDIO: FANTASTIC JOURNEYS DAY

A March Break Art Adventure With Laurel Croza, Matt James, & Patricia Storms
Is anywhere on earth more exotic than the places we imagine? To celebrate March Break, the 2-to-8 set can take a fantastic creative journey with some of our country's leading children's artists. In I Know Here (Groundwood Books), Matt James' stunning visual art compliments Laurel Croza's poignant tale about a young girl whose family moves from the forests of northeastern Saskatchewan to a strange new place called 'Toronto'. Croza and James will guide the group in a dynamic craft and mapping activity. Noted illustrator and author Patricia Storms will perform a play with her husband based on her delightful new book, The Pirate And The Penguin (Owl Kids), featuring full body costumes and everything! Storms will then lead a group drawing exercise based on her characters' remarkable adventures

Gladstone Hotel Ballroom, 1214 Queen St West

Wed, March 17; 10AM (Doors 9:30AM)

\$8 Adults / Kids \$5 / Non-Walkers Free

Advance Tickets go on sale at our online kiosk on March 1.

THE PIECE BY PIECE STORYTELLING MASH-UP

To celebrate the release of celebrated author and editor Teressa Toten's collection, Piece by Piece: Stories About Fitting Into Canada (Penguin Group Canada), we're staging a Storytelling Mash-Up. A writing contest for high school students will be organized ahead of time, asking them to contribute their own 500 word, 'Piece By Piece' stories. Rather than having each contest winner get up and read her/his entry, one after another, we're havin' a throwdown! Winners will be divided into groups. Each group will work with such award-winning contributors to the anthology as Linda Granfield, Mahtab Narsimhan, Richard Poplak and Rui Umezawa. They will devise a way to combine their five winning stories into a single presentation. And then they will perform it! Also on the bill is a sound clash featuring teenage DJs from different communities across the city. Noted author Joseph Kertes will host the event.

*For information on the Call For Submissions for "pieces" by youth - to be featured at the event - go to www.smallprinttoronto.org *

Gladstone Hotel, 1214 Queen St West

Sun March 28; 2-4pm (Doors 1:30pm) FREE