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FALL FAMILY GUIDE

GUEST OPINION

Georgia Victory Shows Progress— And Why LGBTQ+ Parents Must Still Protect Their Rights



Photo via Pexels.

By Joyce Kauffman

In a sea of bad news, there was a tiny glimmer of good news on September 24, 2025, when the Georgia Court of Appeals in *Bolton v. Bolton* reversed the trial court's refusal to

recognize Tiffany, a non-biological mother, as the parent of a child born to her wife through artificial insemination. The biological mother, Jennifer, had asserted that the presumption

see **GEORGIA VICTORY**, page 6

LGBTQ+ FAMILY RESOURCES DIRECTORY

A guide for LGBTQ+ families and those planning to start families

NATIONAL ADVOCACY & SUPPORT

Family Equality Council Nationwide advocacy for LGBTQ+ families Phone: (617) 502-8700 Website: familyequality.org Services: Adoption, surrogacy, fertility guidance, legal resources

COLAGE (Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere) Support for children with LGBTQ+ parents Website: colage.org

Men Having Babies Resources for

see **RESOURCES**, page 5

LGBTQ+ families don't always feel safe. Here's where they can find support.

This story was originally published
by *The 19th*.

by Orion Rummier
LGBTQ+ Reporter, The 19th

The 19th explains the legal rights around child care, fertility treatment and other protections along with resources for queer parents and their families.

Many LGBTQ+ parents don't feel safe in the United States, according to a new survey.

see **SAFETY** page 10



Photo via Adobe Firefly.



Persistence and Risk Taking Lessons from an Earlier Generation of Lesbian Moms

by Dana Rudolph | drudolph@mombian.com
contributing writer



Meg Gaines and Margaret Mooney with their children. Courtesy photo.

A new anthology of essays by lesbian mothers who raised children in the 1980s, 90s, and early 2000s not only sheds light on the past, but also offers wisdom for today. For LGBTQ+ History Month, I spoke with the volume's editor, Margaret Mooney.

In "Radical Family: Trailblazing Lesbian Moms Tell Their Stories" (Wisconsin Historical Society Press), Mooney and the other contributors write of forming and sustaining their families at a time of fewer rights for

see **RADICAL FAMILY**, page 15

BPD Seeks Public Help Identifying Suspects in Mattapan Assault

Boston Police are asking for the public's help identifying eight men wanted in connection with a violent attack on a gay couple in Mattapan

last month.

The incident occurred around 7:45 p.m. on Saturday, September 13, when two men walking together

on River Street near Edgewater Drive were taunted and then attacked. One victim was struck in the back of the head with a baseball bat.

Detectives assigned to the Boston Police Department's Civil Rights

see **CRIME**, page 13

SEE PAGE 13
FOR SUSPECT
PHOTOS

FALL FAMILY GUIDE



"Fairyland"

A True Queer Family Story of the 70s and 80s Comes to the Big Screen

by Dana Rudolph | drudolph@mombian.com
contributing writer

"Fairyland," Alysia Abbott's 2014 memoir about growing up with a single gay dad in San Francisco during the bohemian 1970s and the AIDS crisis of the 1980s, is coming to theaters as a feature film with a stellar cast.

Fairyland premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2023 and will have its theatrical release on October 10, 2025, after being picked up for distribution by Lionsgate and WILLA. Based on Abbott's father's journals and her own recollections, the story gives us the gift of insight into a little-documented time in queer family history and a little-seen perspective on the AIDS crisis. It's also a wonderful, nuanced look at the relationship between a father and daughter.

When she was three, Alysia's mother died in a car accident. Alysia could have gone to live with her aunt, but her father Steve insisted he wanted to raise her. A year later, in 1974, he moved with her from Atlanta to San Francisco, hoping for a fresh start. This was the San Francisco of the burgeoning gay rights movement (as it was then known), Harvey Milk, food co-ops, and a nascent gay literary scene, which Steve Abbott

helped grow as a poet, editor, and organizer.

He struggled, however, to support his daughter both financially and emotionally. Some of his struggles were personal, but as Alysia notes in the book, "It wasn't easy being a single gay father in the 1970s.... There were no models. For better and for worse, my father was making up the rules as he went along."

When Alysia went to college in New York, she relished the chance to, as the book says, "discover and create" herself, away from the tensions of living with a gay writer in recovery. But her father's AIDS diagnosis both challenged their relationship anew and brought them closer, as she worried about losing him, the one constant presence in her life.

The film brings the Abbotts' story back to life through actors Emilia Jones as Alysia, Scoot McNairy as Steve, Cody Fern as Steve's boyfriend Eddie Body, Maria Bakalova as roommate Paulette, Nessa Dougherty as young Alysia, Adam Lambert as Steve's boyfriend Charlie, and Geena Davis as Alysia's grandmother Munca. Andrew Durham wrote the screenplay and directed, while Sofia Coppola



Cody Fern, Scoot McNairy and Nessa Dougherty appear in *Fairyland* by Andrew William Durham, an official selection of the Premieres program at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival. Photo by Kalman Muller, courtesy of Sundance Institute.

produced.

Alysia, who is straight, nevertheless writes, "This queer history is my queer history. This queer history is our queer history." Queers, and our children, should be thankful she has shared it with us—and that such a spectacular team is

bringing it to our screens.

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of *Mombian* (mombian.com), a two-time GLAAD Media Award-winning blog for LGBTQ+ parents plus a searchable database of 1,800+ LGBTQ+ family books.

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Virtual Curriculum Night: November 20, 7:00–8:15 PM



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Facts that Matter

88%
of faculty
have an
advanced
degree

5:1
Student to
faculty ratio

35%
of students
identify as
persons of
color

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www.meridianacademy.org



30 minutes is the
length of the
presentation
a Junior gives
to the public
in culmination
of their yearlong research project on
a topic of their choice

3 How many times
each year all of
the students share
their learning with
the public

25%
of students
identify as
LGBTQ+

97%
of students
receive merit aid
to a 4-year college or university upon
graduation

\$92,000
Average 4-year merit aid a
student receives to the college
they choose to attend

13 The average
size of a
Meridian
Humanities or
MST class

21 Unique
Meridian
acronyms (for
example,
SLAB², which
stands for both
"School Life and Beyond" and
"Student Led Activity Block")

99%
of Meridian graduates get into one of
their top 3 college choices

254
attendees
at our 20th anniversary
celebration



FALL FAMILY GUIDE



3 New Queer-Inclusive Middle Grade Novels of Growth and Change

by Dana Rudolph | drudolph@mombian.com
contributing writer

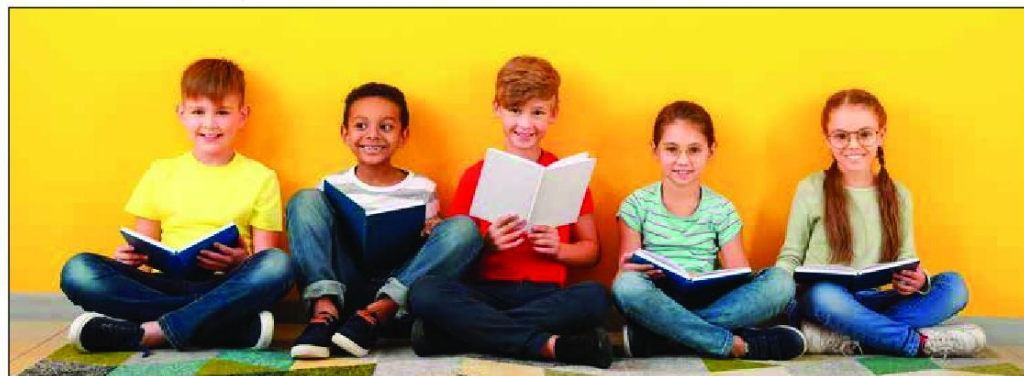


Photo via Adobe.

These three recent queer-inclusive middle grade novels variously explore personal growth, friendship, crushes, gender, and more. Share them with the young people you know (and read them yourself to marvel at the great stories being told today).

"Pasta Girls," by Stonewall Award Honor author Taylor Tracy (Quill Tree), is a modern-day reimagining of Romeo and Juliet with queer, neurodiverse leads (and a chance for a different ending). Tracy gives us a fresh take on the story beats, however, with lively original characters and loving descriptions of New York Italian-American family life and food. The book also offers nuanced and affirming insights into Ro and Jules' neurodiverse identities (Ro has ADHD; Jules is autistic), along with gentle but clear examples of what supporting a neurodiverse child should (and shouldn't) look like. It's an absolutely delightful read and highly recommended. One word of warning: It will make you hungry.

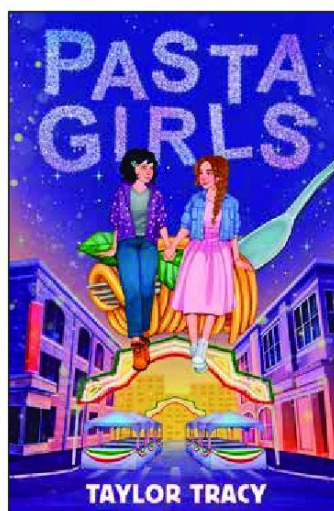
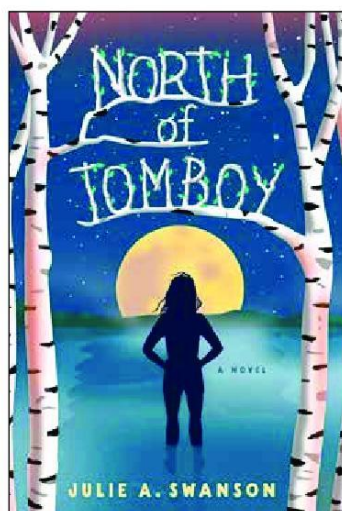
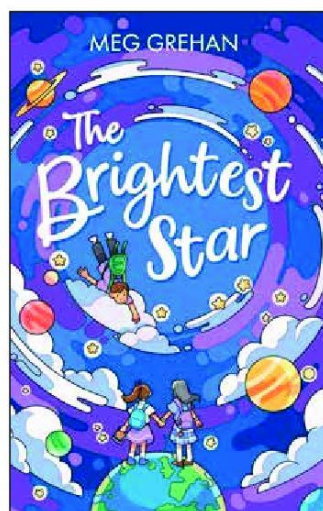
"The Brightest Star," by Meg Grehan (Little Island), is the novel-in-verse sequel to her The

Deepest Breath. Thirteen-year-old protagonist Stevie still gets anxious, but is learning to trust herself and is mostly excited about starting secondary school (junior high), along with her friend Andrew and her crush Chloe. Stevie is thrilled that Chloe seems to reciprocate her feelings and also wants to join the school's Rainbow Club for LGBTQ+ students and allies. Andrew, however, is reluctant to join as an ally, and seems not even to want to hang around with Stevie and Chloe anymore. Is there still a place for him as the two of them grow closer? And who is he, really? Grehan carefully and compassionately shows us the shifting sands of tween friendships and "like likes" and the importance of giving each other—and ourselves—patience and space. The book underscores the value of queer community and safe spaces both for queer youth and, importantly, for those who are still figuring themselves out.

"North of Tomboy," by Julie A. Swanson (Spark Press), is set in 1970s rural Michigan, where 9-year-old Jess Jezowski opines, "They might have named me Jessica, but I was sup-

posed to be a boy. I'm way more boy than girl." Jess's mother has very traditional views about gender roles, however; her father is prone to sudden rage; and her Catholic upbringing has her overly focused on avoiding sin. Jess finds comfort in taking a doll that was intended to be a girl, cutting its hair, and renaming it Mickey. Mickey becomes Jess's alter ego, and she speaks through him to let her true voice, brash and bold, be heard. But can she figure out how to do so on her own? The book shows us the harm of everyday sexism and microaggressions against girls and women and one child's creative path to expressing her real self. Although it seems from the opening and various other passages that Jess might be trans, that remains an open question; she could also be read as a gender creative girl. I have the feeling that many readers of various identities may find the story resonant.

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a two-time GLAAD Media Award-winning blog for LGBTQ+ parents plus a searchable database of 1,800+ LGBTQ+ family books.



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FALL FAMILY GUIDE

Resources

Continued from page 1

gay men pursuing fatherhood Website: menhavingbabies.org Services: Surrogacy guidance, financial assistance

Human Rights Campaign Website: hrc.org/resources/parenting Services: Comprehensive adoption guides

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

National Center for LGBTQ Rights (NCLR) Phone: (415) 392-6257 Website: ncl-rights.org Services: Family law, parental rights

Lambda Legal Phone: (212) 809-8585 Website: lambdalegal.org Services: Legal advocacy, know-your-rights resources

GLAD (GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders) Phone: (617) 426-1350 Website: glad.org

FERTILITY & MEDICAL

Fenway Health (Boston) Website: fenway-health.org Services: Alternative insemination

program, LGBTQ+ family support, fertility education, support groups

Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology (SART) Website: sart.org Services: Locate LGBTQ+-friendly fertility clinics

RESOLVE: National Infertility Association Phone: (703) 556-7172 Website: resolve.org Services: LGBTQ+-specific fertility resources

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Baby Quest Foundation Website: babyquestfoundation.org Services: Fertility treatment grants

Men Having Babies Scholarship Program Website: menhavingbabies.org/scholarships Services: Surrogacy expense assistance

LOCAL SUPPORT

PFLAG Phone: (202) 467-8180 Website: pflag.org Services: Local chapters, family support groups

Rainbow Families Search online for "[your city] rainbow families" Services: Local LGBTQ+ parent groups

Note: Legal protections and adoption laws vary by state. Contact local LGBTQ+ centers and legal organizations for state-specific guidance. Many major cities have additional local resources not listed here.

For the most current contact information and services, visit organization websites or call their main numbers. This directory is updated periodically but organizations may change their offerings.



Photo via Pexels.





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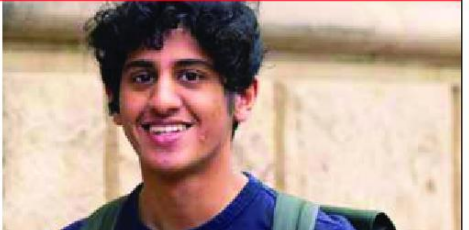
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or to register to attend,
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Saturday, November 8, 2025 - 9:00 am - 11:00 am

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AIDS
MEMORIAL QUILT

NAMES PROJECT

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(Adult children are also most welcome.)

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if you know a volunteer, please let them know about the reunion.

TO ATTEND

Email names and contact info to: names.project.reunion2025@gmail.com

or RSVP on Facebook by scanning the QR code to the right or go to:
www.facebook.com/events/774754131823426

WE CAN'T WAIT TO CELEBRATE THE COMMUNITY WE BUILT TOGETHER!

FALL FAMILY GUIDE

Georgia Victory

Continued from page 1

of legitimacy for children born in wedlock was inapplicable to couples in a same-sex marriage. Jennifer argued that Tiffany was not a parent because she had not adopted the child. Fortunately, for the child and for Tiffany, the Court of Appeals, citing *Obergefell v. Hodges*, affirmed that "when the United States Supreme Court held that same sex couples had the constitutional right to marry, all the benefits that attached to marriage flowed in." And this includes the presumption of parentage to a non-biological mother of a child born into the marriage. "Under Georgia law and the particular facts of this case, Tiffany is [the child's] parent, entitled to be treated as any other parent when the trial court makes its child custody determination."

This is terrific news for LGBTQ+ families in Georgia and ensures that non-biological parents will be treated fairly in the Georgia courts. And yet, something more is required because, sadly, this is not the case in all states. In *Williams v. Vaughn* (Oklahoma), currently on appeal, the Court found that a non-biological mother who was married to the biological mother when the

child was born was *not* a parent because she had not adopted the child. Shockingly, the Court determined that the biological mother and the sperm donor were the legal parents, despite the existence of a Donor Agreement stating that the donor did not intend to be a parent. And in *Gatsby v. Gatsby* (Idaho), a non-biological mother who was on the child's birth certificate, was denied parentage because she had not complied with certain technical requirements of Idaho's Artificial Insemination Act (the use of a physician and state registration of consent) nor had she executed a Voluntary Acknowledgment of "Paternity" (only available to heterosexual couples in Idaho).

The marital presumption is the legal presumption that the spouse of a person who gives birth is the parent of a child born into the marriage. In many states, this is a rebuttable presumption that can be challenged on the basis of biology. No biological connection to the child, no parentage. Fortunately, here in Massachusetts, a birth certificate is sufficient proof of parentage and non-biological parents will be treated equally in our courts.

The reality, however, is that most of us travel outside of Massachusetts at some point, for vacations or to visit with family; some of us may relocate. If you are divorcing in a hostile jurisdiction or a biological parent is hospitalized, the non-biological parent's rights may be in jeopardy if they do not have a judgment of parentage or an adoption decree. This is why it is so important for LGBTQ+ families here and everywhere to ensure their parentage is legally established. Fortunately, Massachusetts provides several avenues for establishing legal parentage: both married and unmarried same-sex couples can complete a Voluntary Acknowledgment of Parentage (only fourteen states allow same-sex couples to sign a Voluntary Acknowledgment); coparent and multiple-parent adoptions are available; and judgments of parentage can now be obtained as a result of the passage of the Massachusetts Parentage Act.

It's heartening that our community continues to move forward, to marry, to have children, and to assert our humanity, despite what is happening politically all around us. Let's celebrate the Bolton decision out of Georgia, but let's not forget that we must protect our relationships to our children in every way we can to ensure that our children are never faced with the loss of a parent because we failed to do so.

Joyce Kauffman ©2025

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School	City/Town	Ages (Grades)	Open House(s)	Website
Meridian Academy	Boston	11–18y (5–12)	9/11, 6–8 p.m. and 10/14, 6–8 p.m.	meridianacademy.org
Atrium School	Watertown	4–14y (PK–8)	9/25, 7–8:00 p.m. (virtual), 10/19, 10 a.m.–1:00 p.m.	atrium.org
The Rivers School	Weston	11–18y (6–12)	9/28, 12–2:00 p.m. (US), 3–5:00 p.m. (MS); 11/20, 6–8 p.m.	rivers.org
Boston University Academy	Boston	13–18y (9–12)	9/28, 12:30–2:30 p.m. and 12/2, 6:30–8:30 p.m.	buacademy.org
Riverbend School	S. Natick	18 mo–14y (tod–8)	10/4, (toddler–preK) 11 a.m.–12:00 p.m. and 12/11, (k–8th) 6:30–8:30 p.m.	riverbendschool.org
The Roxbury Latin School	West Roxbury	12–18y (boys 7–12)	10/4, 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. and 11/2, 12–4 p.m.	roxburylatin.org
Commonwealth School	Boston	14–18y (9–12)	10/6, 6:30–8:30 p.m. and 11/16, 2:30–4:30 p.m. (both virtual)	commschool.org
The Learning Project	Boston	5–12y (K–6)	10/9, 11/13, 12/11 and 1/8 8:30–10:30 a.m. 11/1 9–11:00 a.m.	learningproject.org
St. Sebastian's School	Needham	12–18y (boys 7–12)	10/9, 5:30 p.m. and 11/18, 5:30 p.m.	stsebs.org
Thacher Montessori School	Milton	18 mo–14y (tod–8)	10/9, 6–7 p.m. (virtual) and 12/10, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. at Thatcher (RSVP)	thacherschool.org
The Woodward School	Quincy	10–18y (girls 6–12)	10/9, 6–8:00 p.m. and 12/6, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	woodwardschool.org
The Winsor School	Boston	10–18y (girls 5–12)	10/15, (LS) 6:30 p.m., (US) 7:30 p.m. (both virtual)	winsor.edu
Beaver Country Day School	Chestnut Hill	11–18y (6–12)	10/16 and 11/6, 6:30–8:30 p.m.	bcdschool.org
The Fessenden School	West Newton	4–15y (boys PK–9)	10/16, 8:30–10:30 a.m. and 11/20, 8:30–10:30 a.m.	fessenden.org
Pingree School	S. Hamilton	14–18y (9–12)	10/18, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.	pingree.org
Boston Trinity Academy	Boston	10–18y (6–12)	10/18, 12–2 p.m. and 11/18, 6–8 p.m.	bostontrinity.org
Noble and Greenough School	Dedham	11–18y (7–12)	10/18, 8:30–11:30 a.m. (MS) and 10/25, 8:30–11:30 a.m. (US)	nobles.edu
Concord Academy	Concord	13–19y (9–12)	10/18, 9 a.m.	concordacademy.org
Dexter Southfield	Brookline	4–18y (PK–12)	10/18, 9 a.m.–12 p.m. (PreK–5) and 11/15, 9 a.m.–12 p.m. (grades 6–12)	dextersouthfield.org
Thayer Academy	Braintree	10–18y (5–12)	10/18, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. (US) and 8:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m. (MS)	thayer.org
Montrose School	Medfield	11–18y (girls 6–12)	10/19, 1–3:30 p.m. and 11/12, 6–8:30 p.m.	montroseschool.org
Brimmer and May School	Chestnut Hill	4–18y (PK–12)	10/19, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.	brimmer.org
Belmont Day School	Belmont	4–14y (PK–8)	10/19, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. (in person) and 11/15, 9–10:30 a.m. (virtual)	belmontday.org
Park Street School	Boston	2–12y (tod–6)	10/20, 6–8:00 p.m. and 11/5, 9–11:00 a.m.	parkstreetschool.org
Dedham Country Day School	Dedham	4–14y (PK–8)	10/24 and 11/6, 8:30–10:30 a.m.	dedhamcountryday.org
Meadowbrook School	Weston	4–14y (Jr K–8)	10/24, 2:00 p.m. (LS), 10/28, 9:30 a.m. (MS)	meadowbrook-ma.org
Falmouth Academy	Falmouth	12–18y (7–12)	10/25 and 1/24, 9:30–11:30 a.m.	falmouthacademy.org
German International School	Boston	3–18y (PS–12)	10/25 and 11/22, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. (Preschool - Grade 3)	gisbos.org
Fayerweather Street School	Cambridge	3–14y (PK–8)	10/25, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.	fayerweather.org
The Cambridge School of Weston	Weston	14–19y (9–12)	10/25, 9 a.m.–12 p.m.	csw.org
Waring School	Beverly	11–18y (6–12)	10/25, 9–11:30 a.m. and 11/11, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.	waringschool.org
The Chestnut Hill School	Chestnut Hill	3–12y (PS–6)	10/26, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.	tchs.org
Ursuline Academy	Dedham	12–18y (girls 7–12)	10/26, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. and 12/4, 6–8 p.m.	ursulineacademy.net
The Newman School	Boston	12–19y (7–12)	10/26, 9–11:30 a.m. (MS) and 12:30–3:00 p.m. (US)	newmanboston.org
Kingsley Montessori School	Boston	2–12y (tod–6)	10/30 and 11/19, 8:30 a.m.	kingsley.org
Dana Hall School	Wellesley	10–18y (girls 5–12)	11/1, 1–3:30 p.m. and 1/8, 5:30–7:00 p.m.	danahall.org
Tenacre Country Day School	Wellesley	4–12y (PK–6)	11/1, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. and 11/20, 7–8:15 p.m.	tenacredds.org
International School of Boston	Cambridge	2–18y (PS–12)	11/1, 10–12 p.m. (all school in person) & 11/13, 1–2 p.m. (virtual)	isbos.org
Milton Academy LS and MS	Milton	5–14y (K–8)	11/1, 2–4 p.m. (LS and MS)	milton.edu
Fay School	Southborough	5–15y (K–9)	11/2, 1–3 p.m.	fayschool.org
Newton Country Day School	Newton	10–18y (girls 5–12)	11/2, 1–3:00 p.m.	newtoncountryday.org
Shady Hill School	Cambridge	4–14y (PK–8)	11/2, 1–3:00 p.m. (all school) and 11/20 5:30–7:00 p.m. (MS)	shs.org
The Park School	Brookline	4–14y (PK–8)	11/2, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.	parkschool.org
Lesley Ellis School	Arlington	2–9–14y (PS–8)	11/2, 2–4 p.m. (all school) and 11/18, 7–8 p.m. (MS)	lesleyellis.org
Jackson Walnut Park School	Newton	18 mo–12y (tod–6)	11/6, 9–11:30 a.m. and 12/9, 6:30–8:00 p.m.	jwpschools.org
The Fenn School	Concord	9–15y (boys 4–9)	11/16, 10 a.m.	fenn.org
The Rashi School	Dedham	4–14y (PK–8)	2/4, 6 p.m.	rashi.org

Visit school websites for details.

The schools listed above do not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, national origin, disabilities, sexual orientation, gender identity, or family composition in their admissions, financial aid, or educational policies.

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR BIKTARVY®

This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY® and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

(bik-TAR-vee)**MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BIKTARVY**

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- ▶ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** Your healthcare provider will test you for HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking BIKTARVY. Do not stop taking BIKTARVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months, and may give you HBV medicine.

ABOUT BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults and children who weigh at least 55 pounds. It can either be used in people who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements.

BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS. HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS.

Do NOT take BIKTARVY if you also take a medicine that contains:

- ▶ dofetilide
- ▶ rifampin
- ▶ any other medicines to treat HIV-1

BEFORE TAKING BIKTARVY

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- ▶ Have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- ▶ Have any other health problems.
- ▶ Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Talk to your healthcare provider about the risks of breastfeeding during treatment with BIKTARVY.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- ▶ Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, antacids, laxatives, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- ▶ BIKTARVY and other medicines may affect each other. Ask your healthcare provider and pharmacist about medicines that interact with BIKTARVY, and ask if it is safe to take BIKTARVY with all your other medicines.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- ▶ Those in the “Most Important Information About BIKTARVY” section.
- ▶ **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that may have been hidden in your body. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. If you develop new or worse kidney problems, they may tell you to stop taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- ▶ **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- ▶ **The most common side effects of BIKTARVY** in clinical studies were diarrhea (6%), nausea (6%), and headache (5%).

These are not all the possible side effects of BIKTARVY. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking BIKTARVY.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with BIKTARVY.

HOW TO TAKE BIKTARVY

Take BIKTARVY 1 time each day with or without food.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- ▶ This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- ▶ Go to BIKTARVY.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5.
- ▶ If you need help paying for your medicine, visit BIKTARVY.com for program information.



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Source: IQVIA LAAD, July 2018 through July 2024.*



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Hugo

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to learn more**

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is just a
number*

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Hugo is still undetectable with BIKTARVY. *Undetectable* means the virus in his blood is so low that it can't be measured in a lab test.

BIKTARVY is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in certain adults.
BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.

Ask your healthcare provider if BIKTARVY is right for you.

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FALL FAMILY GUIDE

Safety

Continued from page 1

A third of LGBTQ+ parents in the U.S. recently surveyed by the market research company Kantar, in partnership with DIVA Charitable Trust and The Curve Foundation, don't feel like they have the same legal rights as other families. Although 63 percent of those parents are legally married, the many benefits of a legal union still don't outweigh the hurdles that LGBTQ+ parents face when raising a family.

When asked if they have the same parental rights and legal recognition as cisgender, heterosexual couples, 33 percent of LGBTQ+ parents said no. Twelve percent said they are not open about their gender identity to anyone in their kids' school community, while 8 percent said the same about their sexual orientation. And one in four LGBTQ+ parents said they have experienced obstacles to career progression due to their sexual orientation.

This analysis of LGBTQ+ women and non-binary people comes from anonymous online surveys of more than 2,500 parents and families across India, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States in January and February 2025.

These findings provide a crucial snapshot of the experiences of LGBTQ+ parents in the United States at a time when they are living in fear of how their rights could be curtailed by a second Trump administration. Before President Trump was sworn-in, some LGBTQ+ parents rushed to adopt their children to retain parental rights to their nonbiological kids. Some parents of transgender youth with the means to do so left the country shortly after Trump won. And in just a few months, Trump has signed executive orders that send a strong signal about the administration's narrow view of family as one that excludes LGBTQ+ couples, and its view that trans and nonbinary people don't exist.

According to a 2024 report from the Williams Institute at UCLA, 2.57 million LGBTQ+ adults in the United States are parenting children. What are the laws that protect them? And what resources are available for LGBTQ+ parents? The 19th dug into available research to explain.

Where can LGBTQ+ families find support?

For families of trans youth looking for logistical and financial help as they navigate finding gender-affirming care for their children, the Campaign for Southern Equality has resources available. The advocacy group for LGBTQ+ people in the South is providing patient navigation services and emergency grants to families struggling to access gender-affirming care. As much of the country bans such care for trans youth, families in the South have relied on this project to fund travel across state lines in search of medical care.

Additionally, Keshet and the Hebrew Free Loan Society are offering interest-free loans of up to \$10,000 to support relocation costs for individuals and families who are moving to another state because of anti-LGBTQ+ laws in their current state. Applicants do not have to be Jew-

ish and can be moving from any state in the U.S. to another state — but not out of the country.

Online "know your rights" information hubs from nonprofits like Family Equality can be helpful for LGBTQ+ parents with questions about their legal rights for specific issues, like how their children can be treated in school — just ensure that those hubs have been updated recently. The National LGBTQ+ Bar Association and the National Center for Lesbian Rights also run a family law attorney directory for people seeking specialized legal help.

For parents looking for local community support, LGBTQ+ family advocacy group PFLAG National has chapters throughout the country. Although not catered to families, state-level LGBTQ+ organizations can also be found through the Equality Federation. And resources for those managing infertility stress and pregnancy after infertility can be found through Resolve: The National Infertility Association, which is LGBTQ+-friendly.

Can I take leave from work to care for my partner? What if we are not married or in a legally recognized relationship?

LGBTQ+ couples who are legally married (or in a common law marriage) have the same right to take extended unpaid leave from work to care for their sick spouse or child, or to bond with their newborn child, as heterosexual couples do under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. This applies whether or not your child is adopted or fostered. Eligibility requirements depend on details about someone's employer, not their relationship.

However, LGBTQ+ couples who are not married need to check their state laws. In twelve states and Washington, D.C., workers can take leave to care for their partner, even if the couple is not in a legally recognized relationship — and in many of those states, that leave is actually paid.

Is fertility treatment care LGBTQ+-inclusive and covered by private insurance in my state? What about Medicaid?

Yes — if you live in California, Colorado, Illinois, New York, Maine, New Jersey or Washington, D.C., according to the Movement Advancement Project. In nine other states, private insurers are required to cover fertility treatment care, but those laws are not explicitly inclusive of LGBTQ+ people. Three states that provide some form of private insurer coverage for fertility treatment — Hawaii, Texas and Arkansas — include policy language that may exclude LGBTQ+ couples.

Only a handful of states and Washington, D.C. require Medicaid to cover at least some fertility treatment care, although available treatment differs across those states and coverage is limited in several cases to cancer patients.

What are my rights when it comes to adoption and foster care?

In 2016, the last state ban against LGBTQ+ couples adopting children was ruled unconstitutional by a federal judge. Queer married couples can adopt in all 50 states through stepparent adoption. There are different kinds of adoption:

FALL FAMILY GUIDE

stepparent adoption for someone who is married to a child's legal parent, or a co-parent or second-parent adoption, which does not require the couple to be married. The latter is only available in 21 states and Washington, D.C. There is also confirmatory adoption, a more streamlined process, in nine states.

Couples who want to foster have a more difficult road ahead: fourteen states permit state-licensed child welfare agencies to refuse to place children in homes with LGBTQ+ parents, if doing so conflicts with that agency's religious beliefs. Those states include Arizona, Texas, Virginia, Michigan, South Carolina and Utah. Several other states don't have laws on the books that explicitly protect LGBTQ+ couples from discrimination in foster care based on their identity, which leaves the door open for them to be turned away.

Is my parent-child relationship legally recognized if we conceived with assisted reproduction, including the use of a donor?

Yes, although in most states — 32, to be exact — this recognition depends on marriage status. This means that if a woman has a child with her wife through donor insemination, both women are the legal parents, including the non-gestational, non-genetic mother.

According to the Movement Advancement Project, 18 states and Washington, D.C. recognize an intended parent as a legal parent, regardless of marital status, if both parties consent

to the conception of a child born using assisted reproduction.

LGBTQ+ couples should take further action to ensure legal recognition of their parent-child relationship whether they are married or not, said Polly Crozier, director of family advocacy at GLAD Law, which has more resources for navigating parentage security. Couples can sign a voluntary acknowledgement of parentage or get a court order of parentage.

Which states protect my child from discrimination at school based on their LGBTQ+ identity?

Nineteen states, plus Washington D.C., prohibit discrimination in schools based on sexual orientation and gender identity, per the Movement Advancement Project, while 17 states have created specific guidance to support transgender and nonbinary students. These laws are meant to protect students from being unfairly denied access to facilities, sports teams, or clubs on the basis of their LGBTQ+ identity. However, New Hampshire and Virginia, which have these nondiscrimination laws in place, have also banned trans youth from playing in sports consistent with their gender identity.

Often, in states like Virginia that pass school sports bans, enforcement varies across the state and some school districts refuse to implement such bans.

Correction: This article has been updated to clarify that queer married couples can adopt in all 50 states.



Photo via Pexels.

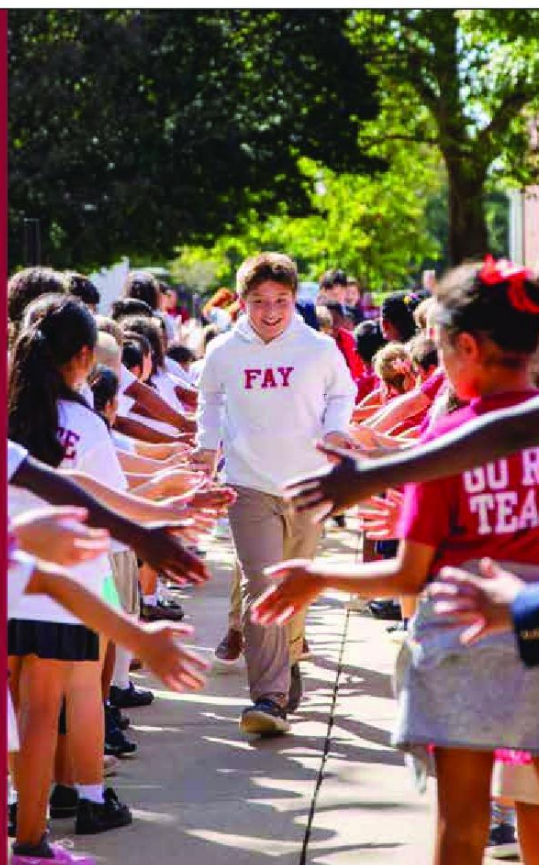
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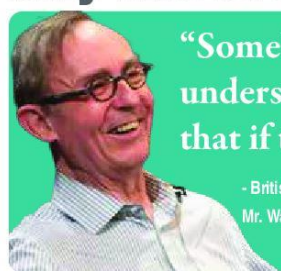
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billy masters



“Somebody once told me, ‘What you don’t understand about royal families is that they think that if they do it with a footman, it doesn’t count.’”

— British journalist A. N. Wilson discussing the alleged bisexuality of Edward VIII, otherwise known as Mr. Wallis Simpson. Wallis, of course, is the subject of a just-wrapped biopic starring Dame Joan Collins.

Photo by Roger Green, via Wikimedia Commons.

I don’t know if any of you have heard of the NBC Comedy Vault. If you open your digital cable and go past all the music, Latin and sports channels, you will find this network that shows “classic NBC comedies” somewhere in the one thousands. I’m expecting “Seinfeld”, “Friends”, “Mad About You”. The only show they have is “Will & Grace”—and it’s on 24/7! This includes the original series AND reboot. Do you know how long it takes to get through all those episodes? 4.65 days. Since I only saw the reboot episodes once, they were new to me. And what I discovered was that many of them were really funny. And some of them are unwatchable. Towards the end, I watched an endless string of “very special episodes”. Why can’t we just have a fun sitcom without a message from dead Rosario, Grace being fingered by her father’s former partner, or the revelation of Will’s coming-out letter? Fear not—the NBC Comedy Vault is adding some other “classic” shows. In coming months, we can enjoy the likes of “Coach”, “Major Dad”, and “Charles in Charge”. No chance of a message in any of those.

By the by, didya know that **John Barrowman** was almost cast as Will Truman? When he was brought to the network, the brass had one note—nobody would believe this guy was gay. P.S. He is gay!

There was no such trepidation when it came to **Sean Hayes** being cast as Jack. The past few months, he’s been knocking ‘em dead in London’s Barbican Theatre as Oscar Levant in his hit play, “Goodnight, Oscar”. Since the show closed last week, he’s sharing photos of famous folk visiting him backstage. People like **David Letterman**, **Eddie Redmayne**, **Antonio Banderas**, **Victor Garber**, and even **Sir Ian McKellen** and **Dame Judi Dench**—forever quashing rumors that they are the same person. But, wait, there was one photo that made me take pause. So familiar, and yet I couldn’t place it. Then it hit me—it was **Elliot Page**. I looked at the caption and realized how wrong I was. It was **Ellen DeGeneres**, with a dark pixie ‘do.

Meanwhile in Milan, **Elliot Page** made some news when he showed up on the red carpet at Milan Fashion Week with actress **Julia Shiplett**. Reportedly, this is the first public “partner” for Page since his 2021 divorce from choreographer **Emma Portner**. Both Elliot and Julia were wearing Gucci for the event.

On Broadway, another classic series attempted a reunion. The cast of “Dawson’s Creek” was set to come together on the stage of the Richard Rodgers Theatre for a reading of the pilot. This was slated to be a benefit for F Cancer, **James Van Der Beek**’s pet charity since his colorectal cancer diagnosis. Then he made this announcement: “This is the evening I’d been looking forward to MOST since my angel **Michelle Williams** said she was putting it together way back in January. So you can imagine how gutted I was when two stomach viruses conspired to knock me out of commission and keep me grounded at the worst possible moment. Despite every effort...I won’t get to be there. I won’t get to stand on that stage and thank every soul in the theater for showing up for me, and against cancer, when I needed it most.” It wasn’t all bad news—**Lin-Manuel Miranda** filled in. “But I DO have an understudy. A ridiculously overqualified replacement who would have been #1 on my wishlist (had I ever dreamed he’d be available). Someone my kids would definitely consider an upgrade over me.” The Beek did show up via a pre-recorded video. You can see that video, along with some clips from the event, on BillyMasters.com.

This seems to be one of those columns knee-deep in nostalgia. It was just announced that a reboot of “Baywatch” was greenlit by FOX for next season. Some details still need to be worked out—including where the show will be situated. While the original SoCal locale is the front-runner, Australia is offering lots of perks. Stay tuned.

In 1996, “Baywatch” breakout star **Pamela Anderson** made a splash in the film “Barb Wire”. This is a favorite of mine, but somehow Pam missed it. Earlier this year, her sons with **Tommy Lee**, **Brandon** and

Dylan, asked her to watch it with them. “So I did and I was like, ‘Oh my God.’ It was stuck in French with English subtitles. I said, ‘That’s a good way to watch it.’ I could see it, but I couldn’t really hear me.” It must have made an impact on her sons because they’ve launched a production company and are developing a series based on “Barb Wire”. And, you know, if you can get grandmama to make a cameo and flash the puppies, all the better!

Last week was a big one for “Charmed” star, **Alyssa Milano**—she had her implants removed. She made the announcement online, ending with, “Today, I’m my authentic self. Today, I’m free.” Next thing you know, she’ll be running around without makeup and doing “The Second to Last Showgirl”!

Fun fact—I met **Matt Dallas** (star of “Kyle XY”) at **Kathy Griffin**’s house where he was working as a cater waiter (link on BillyMasters.com). It’s been a long time since that holiday party in 2006, and Matt is feeling a bit less XY and more XL. On July 19th, he hired **Dermot Duffy**, a very hot personal trainer, “not so much just to lose the extra weight, but to feel strong, clear headed, ok and maybe a little sexy.” Two months later, he showed off the fruits of his labor...if not the loom. Dermot said, “Now only 8 weeks in, Matt’s in unreal shape. Stronger. Leaner. More consistent than he’s been in years.” You check out the results on our website.

David Geffen is antsy to be a single man again, and he’s willing to pay his husband, former “model” **David Armstrong** (aka Donovan Michaels) up to \$50,000 a month in spousal support. But he wants support to only last for 12 months, AND should be retroactive to their breakup, which was back in February. Note we’re talking about David Geffen, who is worth \$9.1 BILLION! Not that I think the spouse is entitled to even a fraction of that amount. But \$50K is pocket change to Geffen. The billionaire claims that his estranged hubby is living rent-free in a \$15K a month apartment, and is in possession of over \$5 million in art and jewelry he received as gifts. So?

Another hot man is the subject of our “Ask Billy” question this week. Brad in Dallas writes, “What do you know about **Carl Cashman**? He’s a City Councilor in Liverpool and is beyond hot—kinda like **Aaron Schock**.”

Well, talk about a name from the past—what ever happened to Mr. Schock? I guess we’ll tackle that in a future column. As to Mr. Cashman, I must confess I never heard of him. But, I’m always happy to look into a hot man. And, yes, the comparison to Schock is apt. Cashman got into politics at 24 and is now 33 years old and the leader of the Liberal Democrats for the Liverpool City Council. Some scurrilous rag referred to him as “Britain’s sexiest politician”. He possesses quite an enviable physique, and has not an inch of shyness in showing most of it off. He’s also one of those people who enjoys working out shirtless at public beaches—something I enjoy...as a spectator. Regarding his sexual preferences, he’s decidedly heterosexual—although I’m not sure who decides such things. He’s also a strong LGBT+ ally and supports all sorts of gay Pride and trans advocacy events. He’s outspoken and seems to have straddled the line of being a serious politician and being cheeky, as the Brits would say. Should you wish to check out some of his cheekiness, check out BillyMasters.com.

When we’re featuring a hot Brit straddling anything, we’ve definitely come to the end of yet another column. At least I have someone to check out when I’m next in London. Until then, you can keep up with the hottest content from around the world on www.BillyMasters.com—the site that ain’t stuck in a vault! If you have a question for me, send it along to me at Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before I watch a very special episode of “Charles in Charge” where Scott Baio fingers Willie Ames—talk about your Must See TV! Until next time, remember, one man’s filth is another man’s bible.



Sean Hayes & Ellen DeGeneres

Photo via Ellen DeGeneres, Facebook



Michelle Williams

Photo by Gage Skidmore, via Wikimedia Commons



Alyssa Milano

Photo via Alyssa Milano, Facebook

Crime

Continued from page 1

Unit have released photos of the suspects and are actively investigating the circumstances of the assault.

Anyone with information about the individuals pictured or the incident is strongly urged to contact the Civil Rights Unit at (617) 343-4527.

Anonymous Tips Welcome

Community members can provide information anonymously through:

- CrimeStoppers Tip Line: 1-800-494-TIPS
- Text: "TIP" to CRIME (27463)
- Online: Boston Police Crime Stoppers website

Photos and videos related to the investigation can also be submitted anonymously via CrimeStoppers. The Boston Police Department strictly protects the identities of those who assist in investigations.

This attack highlights ongoing concerns about anti-LGBTQ+ violence in our community. If you have any information that could help identify these suspects, please come forward.

Information provided by BPD

Photos courtesy of BPD.



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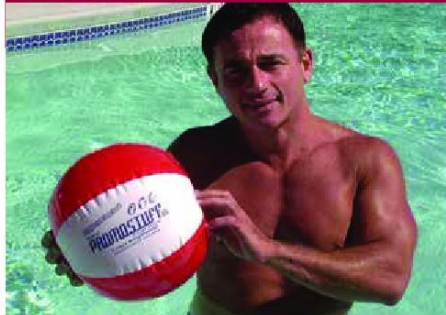
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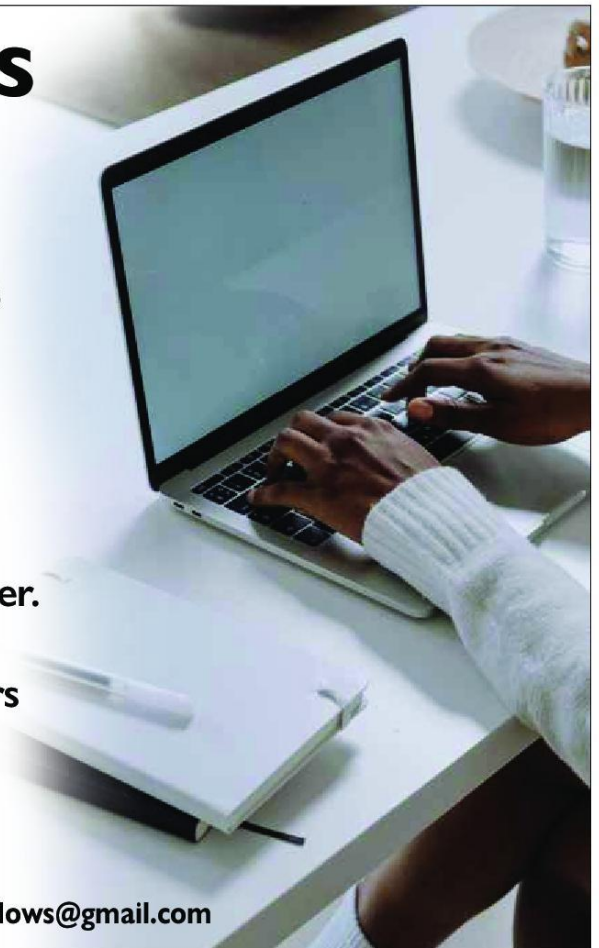
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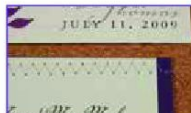
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FALL FAMILY GUIDE

Radical Family

Continued from page 1

and less awareness of queer families. All of the women lived in Madison, Wisconsin, a relatively progressive town in a more conservative state, but their stories reflect part of the larger "gayby boom" across the country. (Newsweek printed the first known use of the term in a 1990.)

Mooney herself had long known she wanted to be a parent. "Before I turned 30," she said, "I decided I would only date women who wanted children." While there weren't that many lesbians at the time who did, she noted, "it was a priority for my life." Luckily, her now-spouse, Meg Gaines, shared that desire.

They decided to use a known donor, Mooney said, because Gaines felt strongly that she wanted their child to have a dad. Two of Gaines' friends, a two-man couple, agreed to donate sperm, and Gaines gave birth to a son, Reed. While only one of the men is the genetic dad, both are "adjunct parents," Mooney said. "They don't do any parenting," she explained. "We wrote up a contract with them. No rights, no responsibilities. But [the kids] still call them their dads. It just doesn't mean the same as in a heterosexual family." The men are still an important part of their lives; when I spoke with Mooney, she was in Italy celebrating Gaines' birthday with their two now-grown kids and the two men.

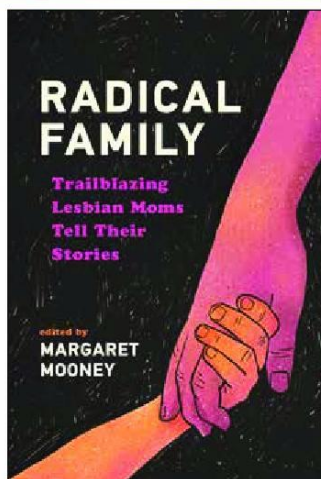
When Gaines and Mooney wanted another child, with Mooney carrying, they again wanted a known donor. The brother of a friend offered this time, resulting in their daughter Grace, and he and his wife remained in the family's life as well.

The book was sparked by a 2020 dinnertime conversation with another two-mom couple. All of their kids were then grown, and the parents were sharing tales. "We should capture these stories," Mooney thought—and decided to make it happen. "Madison, Wisconsin, is a tight-knit community," she explained. She knew or knew of the lesbians who had been starting their families during the same era as she and Gaines. "We invited everybody over and invited them to participate," she said.

The contributors formed their families in a variety of ways, through assisted insemination with known and unknown donors, via international adoption, and with former husbands. They faced obstacles that included restrictions on assisted reproduction and adoption for queer couples, lack of legal parentage for non-gestational parents, bans on marriage equality, financial challenges, homophobia directed towards them and their children, and AIDS and its impact on many of their gay men friends (some of whom were their donors). Sometimes the contributors were navigating divorce, break-ups, or homophobic relatives.

"The women that are maybe a decade older than us actually had a harder time," Mooney told me. "When I read their stories, I think, 'We are standing on the shoulders of giants.'"

She and Gaines felt accepted in Madison, however, with "really supportive other families in the schools." Once, she said, "somebody



Courtesy photo.

wrote something [negative] in chalk on our sidewalk, and of course I was scared for our kids, but only once." Then Wisconsin passed a constitutional amendment in 2006 defining marriage as between one man and one woman. "That felt like a punch to the gut, like Madison wasn't safe anymore," she said. In 2014, however, the amendment was overturned and marriage equality legalized.

Today, she says, "attitudes have changed. Nobody's very surprised at all. They see us as a couple. They don't think, 'Oh, you're two sisters.' We used to get that a lot." She gives much credit to marriage equality, which "just changed everything."

Mooney has advice, too, for today's queer parents and prospective parents. "Do what you really see as your life path, even if you might have obstacles," she said. "That's what all of us did. We had obstacles, whether it was finding a sperm donor or getting someone to let you adopt your child. And we all persisted. I would tell anyone who wanted to have kids that they should try to make it happen."

The essays in the book also show that "almost everyone took risks and they paid off," she asserted. For example, single mom Gail Hirn was initially hesitant to introduce her daughter Erin to her donor, Jeff, and tell her of their relationship. Jeff was dying from complications from AIDS and Hirn didn't know how his death would affect the girl. Finally, she explained their relationship and Erin met both Jeff and his mother. Although Jeff did die shortly thereafter, "Erin got a grandmother" and "his mom got a granddaughter. That's just so fabulous," Mooney said.

In Mooney's own family, she noted, "We took some risk having known fathers. And it paid off tenfold.... We have wonderful children and they have nice adults in their lives."

She therefore advises today's generation, "Follow your heart and be willing to take risks. I know everyone in the book is glad that they took the risks they took."

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of *Mombian* (mombian.com), a two-time GLAAD Media Award-winning blog for LGBTQ+ parents plus a searchable database of 1,800+ LGBTQ+ family books.

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