



Coalition des familles homoparentales

NEWSLETTER - VOLUME X- No. 1 – September 2008

Happy Birthday!!

By Mona Greenbaum

LGBT Family Coalition Executive Director

A decade ago: August 1998. A very exciting time for me and my partner Nicole. I am about to give birth to our first son Léo. After being together for 9 years we are more than ready to become parents.

Another baby is about to be born as well: the Lesbian Mothers Association. We had decided to start the group because we felt so alone when we were planning our family. None of our gay or lesbian friends were at all interested in having kids.

And now we have already met two lesbian couples like us who would become good friends over the years. One of them has a 6-month old daughter (amazing – we are in total admiration!). And the other would soon conceive their first child in our bed!

So many stories. So much has happened for our families since then. Here's some of it in a very condensed and edited form to remember and celebrate:

March 1998: We meet a family lawyer. To our astonishment we find out that no one in Quebec has ever asked for a lesbian or gay non-biological parent to be legally recognized. We start a legal saga which will span 5-years and involve 4 lawyers, 3 courts, 3 expert witnesses and the government of Quebec.

August 21, 1998: Léo our first son is born.

October 1998: First LMA meeting. Forty women in our living room. None of them know each other. We look around in wonder. Since then, I'm proud to say, there has never been a month without an LMA activity planned. We begin to receive many requests for media interviews. We hope this is a passing phase.

January 1999: We don't have access to fertility clinics so we set up a "sperm bank" in our home. Lesbians ringing our doorbell at 6 a.m. and leaving with a thermos filled with liquid nitrogen and a small vile of white gold!

May 1999: Our first publication: "The Alternative Family Guide". In the years to come we will give away thousands of copies of this guide.

April 12, 1999: Our case is presented in Quebec Superior Court. Our lawyer has advised us to ask for a delegation of parental authority.

June 1999: The National Assembly adopts Bill 32 giving gay and lesbian couples the same rights as common law heterosexual couples.

August 1, 1999: The LMA's first pride parade. We march under a beautiful homemade tie-dyed banner. Gay dads join us.

October 25, 1999: We lose in court.

October 1999: Members meet at the Drugstore Bar for the LMA's first political action committee meeting. Our four priorities are: parental rights; access to parenthood (fertility clinics and adoption); same-sex marriage; and homophobia in the schools.

January 24, 2000: Simon, our second son, is born.

April 2000: The federal government adopts Bill C-23 giving same-sex couples certain rights and responsibilities.

September 23, 2000 The *Table de concertation des lesbiennes et gais du Québec* (TCLGQ) organizes a conference entitled *Nos communautés en marche, réflexion sur l'avenir des communautés lesbienne et gaie*. We begin to realize that the LGBT community is divided over whether or not to advocate for the recognition of families with gay and lesbian parents.

September 2000: Our appeal for legal rights and responsibilities for Nicole is heard and is rejected one month later.

December 2000: We begin collaboration with the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), which will result in a number of interesting conferences relating to gay, and lesbian mental health issues including a conference on homophobia in the schools and 3 conferences on gays and lesbians from ethnocultural minorities.

January 2001: The LMA joins the *Coalition québécoise pour la reconnaissance des conjoints et conjointes de même sexe* which will coordinate the battle in Quebec for lesbian and gay couple and family rights in 2002, as well as for same-sex marriage later on.

March 1 and 2, 2001: The CMHA presents Quebec's first conference on gay and lesbian parenting entitled *Parentalité gaie et lesbienne: famille en marge?* The LMA is on the organising committee and presents a number of workshops.

April 2001: In Quebec Family Court we request that Nicole adopt our two sons.

June 2001: The LMA is elected to the TCLGQ and oversees, for the first time, a dossier on family issues.

June 2001: At the annual general assembly of the Quebec Women's Federation the LMA presents the reality of gay and lesbian families and delegates vote unanimously to support our cause.

November 2001: We meet with Justice Minister Paul Begin to discuss a potential civil union. He is surprised that we are angry that the bill includes absolutely nothing for LGBT families. He promises us a public consultation.

November 26, 2001: The LMA presents a brief in the House of Commons regarding access to fertility clinics in the context of the Assisted Human Reproduction (AHR) Act. As a result, the Bill will contain a clause prohibiting clinics to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation or marital status. In this month we also begin to sensitize clinics in Quebec about families with same-sex parents. Our first target is Procrea, the biggest clinic in the province with branches in Montreal and Quebec City.

November 2001: Michael Hendricks and René Leboeuf begin their court battle for the right to marry. We produce four affidavits in support of their cause.

February 6 and 7, 2002: The first of two parliamentary commissions in the National Assembly looking at the question of civil union and parental rights. LMA Members present 11 briefs. Politicians learn about the birds and bees of lesbian and gay-headed families.

June 2002: *The law instituting the civil union and new rules of filiation* passes unanimously in the National Assembly. Six of our families sit in the balconies of the National Assembly elated as we watch it all happen.

July 28, 2002: My mother dies at the age of 60. That evening at the Gala Arc-en-ciel the Association is awarded a prize for political action.

September 2002: The LMA publishes its Civil Union Guide with a grant from the Ministry of Justice. Thousands of copies are distributed.

January 2003: The LMA presents a brief in the House of Commons regarding same-sex marriage. Some of the deputies treat us rudely.

March 2004 : Same-sex marriage is legalized in Quebec.

May 2004: We join the organizing committee for the international LGBT rights conference « The Right to Be Different. » This conference will take place in the context of the Montreal OutGames. Over 2000 people from 100 countries will attend on **July 26-29th 2006**.

June 2004: Mona and Nicole are legally married. Léo and Simon are our ring-bearers.

July 2004: We join a working group of ministry representatives and LGBT community organizers that will eventually work under the Quebec Human Rights Commission to produce a report for the Ministry of Justice entitled *De l'Égalité juridique à l'égalité sociale: vers une stratégie nationale de lutte contre l'homophobie*. The report, launched in **March 2007**, is a survey of the needs and demands of the LGBT community in Quebec.

May 2005: The LMA publishes *Respect and Self-Esteem: Talking about sexual orientation and gender identity with our kids*.

May 2005: We are amongst the founders of the Coalition Multimundo – a coalition of LGBT groups from diverse ethnocultural communities.

July 2005: Marriage between same-sex spouses is legalized in Canada

Fall 2005: With a bit of help from the LMA a few gay dads found the Papa-Daddy Group. By Christmas Papa-Daddy and the LMA organize their first joint activity. Within months we have also organized a mixed sub-group on adoption and fostering.

October 2006: *Ulysse et Alice*, the first children's book in Quebec to portray a child born into a family with same-sex parents is published. The book is the result of a competition launched within the LMA to find an author.

February 2007: Members of the Papa-Daddy Group and of the LMA form the *Coalition des familles homoparentales* (CFH) to fight together for the legal and social recognition of our families. The two groups officially merge in **June 2008**.

June 2007: We begin a collaboration with the *Commission scolaire de Montréal* which eventually results in the distribution of *Ulysse et Alice*, the accompanying teachers' guide and poster to 200 primary schools in Montreal.

March 2008 : The Coalition publishes *Adoption and Fostering of Children in Quebec : A Guide for Gays and Lesbians* in collaboration with the *Association des centres jeunesse du Québec*.

March 2008: After many years we finally receive recurrent funding from the Quebec government to pay for a coordinator's salary.

June 2008: We receive confirmation of funding from the Ministry of Education (MELS) for a project to sensitize professionals working in schools and social services to the reality of families with LGBT parents.

August 2008: 10 year anniversary!

Message from Gary

By Gary Sutherland

Co-President of the LGBT Family Coalition

When Mona asked me write a few words looking forward to the Coalition's future, I turned first to her article on LMA's past ten years. I read about these ten years of history, much of which I had missed, with respect and an occasional tear. So much progress in such a short time. So many individuals and families who fought for their rights... and this fight has allowed Antonio and I to adopt Raphaël. As a couple. Proudly and without hiding who we are.

I want to say thanks to all of those courageous individuals.

Quite often I've thought that I arrived in this movement at a time when pretty much everything has been done. The legal battles for our rights as parents and spouses have been fought and won. Sure, we have to continually monitor things to make sure that we don't lose any of those rights... So can't we just sit back, relax, and get on with the already complicated task of just raising our kids?

And then, as I smugly think that our acceptance is a given, something happens that reminds me that society's attitudes aren't yet as progressive as our legislation might be. Someone asks us to take down our small rainbow flag in a park after a couple of park employees laughed at our families. A group of ten-year olds walk by me on the street and one pushes the other, calling him a "tapette".

These are things we all deal with every day... but then I wonder what effect this kind of incident will have on Raphaël in a couple of years... and how I will explain these attitudes to him. I wonder what I can do now to make things just a little better in the future and to increase society's acceptance of our family.

That's why I joined the Coalition. There's so much awareness to be brought into the school system, social services, medical services, and so on. We all do a bit every day whenever we make an appointment for our child and have to explain that he or she has two moms or two dads... or when we educate in the park playground... or when we strike out to change social services by showing them what good families we can be...

We have more than 850 member families in the Coalition. Let's join together and do our part to start some of the social change that we need so much – for the benefit of all of our kids.

Interested in writing for our newsletter? Send your articles at any time to info@familleshomoparentales.org or by post to CFH, 2401 Coursol, Montreal, Quebec, H3J 1C8

News Briefs: June - August 2008

Canadian News

May 12 365Gay.com (Toronto, Ontario) The first national study of LGBT students in Canada has produced shocking results in a country that prides itself on diversity. The survey of students from grades 8 through 12 was undertaken by Egale, Canada's national LGBT rights organization. It found that more than two-thirds of LGBT students feel unsafe in their schools. A quarter of the LGBT students said they had been victims of physical threats because of their sexuality. More than half said they had been verbally harassed. Almost half have had malicious rumors spread about them on the internet or through text messages.

The survey found that harassment of LGBT students occurred at a rate almost twice that of heterosexual students.

Harassment is also affecting learning the survey found. More than a third of the LGBT students said they had skipped classes because of safety concerns.

The survey was launched in December of last year, although some Roman Catholic schools refused to participate.

The survey was distributed in schools across the country - in large cities, small town, rural areas, and in schools on reserves and armed forces bases. The Egale survey results were similar to those found in the US in a similar questionnaire by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network.

GAY MARRIAGE - A TIME LINE

(Skip over this section if you've had enough on marriage)

June 3 (Athens) The **Greek** government moves to annul the marriages of two same-sex couples after the weddings were performed by the mayor of the island of Tilos.

June 4 (San Francisco) The **California** Supreme Court refuses to stay its decision legalizing same-sex marriage in the state, clearing the final hurdle for gay couples to wed beginning June 17, when state officials say counties must start issuing new gender-neutral marriage licenses.

An initiative to ban gay marriage has qualified however for the November 4th 2008 ballot. Its passage would overrule the court's decision by amending the state constitution to limit marriage to a man and a woman. Backers of the fall initiative now hope to add California to the list of 26 states that have approved constitutional amendments banning same-sex marriage. It is unclear whether marriages performed before the fall election would be nullified if the amendment passes.

California has an estimated 108,734 same-sex households, according to 2006 U.S. Census figures.

June 11 (Oslo) The gallery at the **Norwegian** Parliament erupts in applause and cheers with the passage of legislation allowing same-sex couples to marry. The law also recognizes both partners in a marriage as equal parents and gives lesbian couples the same access to "medically assisted reproduction" as opposite-sex couples. Under the law the Church of Norway would be allowed to bless same-sex marriages. Passage of the law makes Norway the sixth country in the world to approve same-sex marriages.

July 31(Boston) Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick signs legislation allowing out-of-state same-sex couples to marry in Massachusetts. The bill, repeals a 1913 law that said marriage licenses could not be issued to couples whose weddings would not be recognized in their home states.

August 11(Amsterdam, Netherlands) The government of the **Antilles** appeals a court ruling that it must recognize same-sex marriage. The Antilles was once a Dutch colony, but is now an autonomous republic within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Dutch law requires the kingdom's three parts - the Netherlands, Aruba and the Dutch Antilles - to recognize each other's legal documents, including marriage certificates.

The Antilles government's appeal to The Hague is unlikely to succeed, legal observers say, pointing to the failure of a similar case in 2005 that had been brought by the government of Aruba.

International News

Pride reports:

June 29 365 Gay.com (New Delhi, India) Men wore sparkling saris, women wore rainbow boas and hundreds of people chanted for gay rights in three Indian cities in the largest display of gay pride in the deeply conservative country where homosexual acts are illegal. Gay rights supporters took to the streets of Calcutta, Bangalore and New Delhi to call for an end to discrimination and push for acceptance in a society where intolerance is widespread.

The marches came days before the Delhi High Court heard arguments on overturning a law against homosexual sex that dates to the British colonial era. The law, which forbids sexual acts "against the order of nature," carries punishment of up to 10 years in prison. Newspaper editorials have called for revisions to the law, and prominent writers and activists have signed petitions expressing their support.

The protests in all three cities were peaceful, though the number of police and journalists likely matched that of the marchers.

July 3 IPS (Sofia, Bulgaria) The first-time march took place in the capital Sofia under the motto 'Me and My Family.' Between 150 and 200 people participated in the Bulgarian march.

This year, the Sofia municipality proved exceptionally open to the idea of a pride event. "The mayor of Sofia was put under severe political, religious and societal pressure to cancel the pride," said Aksinia Gencheva, executive director of BGO Gemini, the main organisation fighting for the rights of sexual minorities in Bulgaria, and an organiser of the march.

Participants in the parade called for a peaceful event, and proposed an inclusive message. One banner read: 'Be careful who you hate -- it might be someone you love'. But this call did not get through to the bunch of extremists gathered to attack the marchers. Eighty-eight people were arrested for throwing rocks, firecrackers and Molotov cocktails at the participants. The violence happened in spite of considerable police presence, whose numbers almost equalled those of the participants in the parade.

"Bulgaria now has one of the most progressive and extensive anti-discrimination legislations in Europe," said Gencheva, "but the problem is not the legislation, it is the lack of political will or state pressure to implement this legislation."

July 6 VOA News (Budapest, Hungary) Dozens of protesters in Budapest have clashed with police escorting a march by gays and lesbians through the center of Hungary's capital city. Police said at least seven people were injured including a journalist and two police officers and a total of 45 people were taken into custody.

Hundreds of people demonstrated for gay rights during the day despite threats from far right groups. Gays, lesbians and their supporters tried to dance and wave to spectators standing behind iron fences. Soon, troubles began as protesters, some shouting anti-semitic slogans, attacked marchers with eggs, bottles and rocks. In addition, gasoline bombs were thrown at police, some from balconies, setting fire to a police van. Among those attacked were a liberal parliamentarian Gabor Horn, a police car carrying former undersecretary Gabor Szetey, the first openly gay Hungarian politician, and a Hungarian member of the European Parliament Katalin Levai. Observers called it the worst violence during the dozen years the Gay Pride Parade has taken place in Budapest.

Gay rights watchers suggest that the clashes seem part of a wider problem in Europe. A human rights watchdog of the European Union, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, said that a third of EU states are still failing to ensure equal rights for gays and lesbians in areas of employment, housing, social aid and access to services.

July 30 365gay.com (Stockholm, Sweden) Homophobic attacks that left two gay men fighting for their lives, two others seriously beaten, and three churches vandalized have shocked this city known for its liberal attitude toward homosexuality. All three attacks marred the start of EuroPride, which was held this year in the Swedish capital and which attracted thousands of LGBT tourists from across Europe.

As EuroPride was getting underway, two gay men in their late 20s were stabbed and robbed. Police said the men had just shared a kiss when they were accosted by two men yelling gay slurs. They were robbed of their cell phones. When one of the men resisted, he was stabbed in the stomach. The other was stabbed when he tried to fend off the attackers.

Later on two other gay men were beaten by three men who used gay slurs and denounced EuroPride. Neither of the victims was seriously injured. On the same day, three Lutheran churches in

Stockholm were vandalized. Authorities said the churches had flyers pasted over the facades of the buildings denouncing EuroPride and containing Biblical condemnations of homosexuality. The flyers also criticized female pastors and loud music. The Swedish Lutheran Church, the largest denomination in the country, is gay welcoming and has a booth at EuroPride.

Other International News:

July 2 *The Advocate* **(New York)** Lambda Legal has filed a discrimination complaint with the New York State attorney general on behalf of a gay couple who were barred from posting their profile at an online adoption service. Rosario Gennaro and Alexander Gardner of New York City claim the Arizona-based Adoption Profiles LLC and Adoption Media LLC violate New York State antidiscrimination laws. The companies' website, ParentProfiles.com, allows only opposite-sex couples to register.

It is not the first time a gay couple has lodged a complaint against the service. Last year it settled out of court a lawsuit brought by a San Jose, California couple, Michael and Rich Butler, who alleged the companies violated California antidiscrimination law. The companies argued that because they are based in Arizona and do business on the Internet, they did not have to comply with California law. A federal court judge in San Francisco rejected the argument and ruled that the lawsuit could proceed.

July 23 *Human Rights Watch* **(New York)** The decision by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) granting consultative status to two groups that work on sexual orientation and gender identity is a victory in the ongoing struggle for inclusion at the UN, a coalition of six human rights organizations said today. The two groups approved on July 21 and 22, 2008 are COC Netherlands and the State Federation of Lesbians, Gays, Transexuals and Bisexuals of Spain (FELGTB), national organizations representing lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people in the Netherlands and Spain.

Consultative status is a key means for civil society to access the UN system. It allows non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to deliver oral and written reports at UN meetings, and to organize events on UN premises. With it, these groups can share their information and analysis of the abuses and discrimination LGBT people confront around the world.

August 6 *365 Gay.com* - Barack Obama assured the LGBT community that he supported their right to adopt, in a statement he sent to the LGBT organization the Family Equality Council. Jennifer Crisler, executive director of Family Equality Council, had asked both **American** presidential candidates to outline their plan to "recognize, respect, protect and celebrate all of the loving families [they] seek to represent" after John McCain had declared in an interview that he was not in favor of LGBT adoption. The McCain camp has not issued a response to her request.

Obama said, "But we also have to do more to support and strengthen LGBT families. Because equality in relationship, family, and adoption rights is not some abstract principle; it's about whether millions of LGBT Americans can finally live lives marked by dignity and freedom. That's why we have to repeal laws like the Defense of Marriage Act. That's why we have to eliminate discrimination against LGBT families. And that's why we have to extend equal treatment in our family and adoption laws."

News from the LGBT Family Coalition

UPCOMING MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER 2008:

◆ **TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 16TH at 7:30 p.m.**

ADOPTION AND FOSTERING DISCUSSION GROUP : ISSUES IN TRANSRACIAL ADOPTION VIDEO, DISCUSSION AND POPCORN

Showing of the video *Struggle for Identity*: Adoptees discuss their experiences growing up in transracial adoptive families. They delve into complex issues such as confronting stereotypes and racism, fitting in with their culture of origin, learning to define themselves in terms of race and culture, transracialization, and creating multicultural families. The compelling voices of experience are touching and often brutally honest in their observations. Widely considered in the United States as the definitive video on the subject, *Struggle for Identity* has been incorporated into training and recruitment programs across the world. Note : video in English only.

Location: UQAM 320 Ste Catherine East (Métro Berri), Room DS-2901

◆ **SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20TH at 11 a.m.**

PICNIC-BBQ at MOUNT ROYAL

The LGBT Family Coalition, would like to invite all LGBT family members with or without children, as well as all our allies and friends, to a **Community Picnic and Barbecue on Mount Royal**. Join us to relax and exchange with family and friends, at one of Montreal's beautiful landmarks. There will be food, music, sports and games. This activity will take place on **Saturday September 20th from 11 a.m – 3 p.m.** We will meet at the Chalet at Lac des Castors (Beaver Lake).

If you can, please bring some food, music, games and/or a picnic blanket to share with others.

Directions to Beaver Lake: Orange Line metro to Mont Royal and 11 bus west.

For more information please call Mona at: 514-846-1543

OCTOBER 2008:

◆ **SATURDAY OCTOBER 4TH AT 11 a.m.**

APPLE PICKING AT MONT ST-GREGOIRE (FOR FATHERS, FUTURE FATHERS AND KIDS)

See flier for more information or call Alain at 514-768-6585

◆ **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15TH at 7:30 p.m.**

PART 1: PARENTING COURSE: LEGAL QUESTIONS (FOR WOMEN)

What are our rights and responsibilities as lesbian parents in Quebec? What are the rights of known and unknown donors? Do we need to write a donor contract if we are inseminating at home? What does the contract have to say? Does getting married give our children extra legal protection? Do I have to hide my sexual orientation to adopt? Who's name goes onto our child's birth certificate? An open discussion to explore the legal (and social) aspects of our various choices.

See attached flier for details on this series for future parents and parents with young children

◆ **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23 at 7:30 p.m.**

PART 1: PARENTING COURSE: HOW TO FORM YOUR FAMILY (FOR MEN)

Regular adoption, international adoption, adoption through the mixed bank, surrogacy, co-parenting... there are a few options out there. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each? What questions should you be asking yourself? Do we need to be married? Does getting married give our children extra legal protection? Do we have to hide my sexual orientation to adopt? Whose name goes onto our child's birth certificate? Come and hear the testimonials of various parents having chosen different options to form their families, followed by an open discussion.

See attached flier for details on this series for future parents and parents with young children

◆ **SUNDAY OCTOBER 28th from 2-5 p.m.**

HALLOWEEN PARTY : REPTILES (FOR ALL FAMILIES AND FRIENDS)

Kids and Adults: What to wear: A Halloween costume! The theme is REPTILES and CREEPY CREATURES!

Activities: *Reptizoo* will be presenting a variety of reptiles for kids and adults to meet and touch at 3 p.m. Don't miss the 10 foot Burmese python, "Star" the 80 pound turtle, the alligator and a variety of snakes, lizards, spiders, etc. There will also be Halloween crafts, pumpkin decorating, snacks and a big gym to run around in, play basketball or hang out at the toddler's corner. If you can, please bring a snack to share (remember: no peanut products because of allergies).

Location: Centre Greene, 1090 Greene Ave (Metro Atwater, Greene Avenue is a few blocks west of Atwater. The centre is south of Dorchester (René Levesque)

NOVEMBER 2008:

◆ **NOVEMBER (DATE TO BE CONFIRMED)**

ADOPTION AND FOSTERING DISCUSSION GROUP : BIOLOGICAL PARENT SEARCH

There's no doubt about it. As adoptive parents one of our worries is that one day our son or daughter will say that he/she wants to meet his/her biological mother or father. How does it work? Mme Immacula Dieudonné who has worked at the Centre de jeunesse de Montréal for more than 20 years in the service de retrouvailles will tell us about her experiences of children seeking biological parents and vice versa.

◆ **THURSDAY NOVEMBER 13TH at 7:30 p.m..**

PART 2: PARENTING COURSE: DIFFERENT FAMILY TYPES (FOR WOMEN)

Lesbian-mother families come in all shapes and sizes. Come and meet up with mothers from all different kinds of families (adoptive, pregnant through a fertility clinic, pregnant with known donor, both women carried a child, etc.). An open session where you can ask questions directly to those who are living the reality.

See attached flier for details on this series for future parents and parents with young children

◆ **THURSDAY NOVEMBER 27 at 7:30 p.m.**

PART 2: PARENTING COURSE: SURVIVING THE ARRIVAL OF YOUR YOUNG CHILD (FOR MEN)

First night in your home, feeding crying, diapers and bottles...How to deal with rashes and establish a routine. A discussion to break the isolation for new parents and soon-to-be parents.

See attached flier for details on this series for future parents and parents with young children

BULLETIN BOARD:

- ◆ Nous recherchons **un 5 1/2 (ou +) au rez-de-chaussé**, accès à la cour, quartier paisible, idéalement' dans un de ces quartiers: centre-sud de l'arrondissement Ville-Marie et l'arrondissement Plateau-Mont-Royal. **SVP contactez Melodie Paquette et Sylvie Roy au melodiepaq@hotmail.com**
- ◆ **Le Centre des femmes de Rivière-des-Prairies ! 514-648-1030** - Nous sommes ouvertes aux lesbiennes ! Si vous avez besoin de plus d'informations vous pouvez consulter notre site web : www.cdfrdp.qc.ca ainsi que le site de notre regroupement : www.rcentres.qc.ca/propos.html
- ◆ **L'association des lesbiennes aux femin'elles**: L'Association lesbienne vous invite à ses soirées le premier et le troisieme mardis du mois, de 19h à 21h30 au CLSC situé au 411 Hotel Dieu à **Chicoutimi**. Ces rencontres ont comme but de briser l'isolement et s'adressent aux femmes lesbiennes qui désiraient socialiser en compagnie d'autres femmes lesbiennes, afin de permettre un échange positif. Au plaisir de vous rencontrez! Informations: **418-550-2259**.
- ◆ **L'Écho des femmes de la Petite Patrie** est un centre de femmes qui offre des rencontres pour lesbiennes. Ces rencontres ont lieu les lundis soirs aux deux semaines de 19h00 à 21h30, et sont animées par une personne ressource. Ces rencontres, qui se veulent un lieu d'échange, de ressourcement et d'information, s'intéressent aux réalités et aux conditions de vie des lesbiennes. Les rencontres sont en français. Un service de halte-garderie est disponible avec réservation faite une semaine à l'avance. Le centre est situé au **6032 St-Hubert (métro Beaubien)**. Téléphone (514)277-7445, télécopieur (514)277-1689

ADOPTIONS AND BIRTHS

- ◆ **Antonio Ortega et Gary Sutherland** sont fiers d'annoncer la finalisation de l'adoption de Raphaël en date du **29 janvier 2008**. **Raphaël**, qui aura trois ans en novembre, a fêté la décision comme un grand garçon : il est allé embrasser madame la juge sur les deux joues!
- ◆ **Pia Chavez** is very happy to announce the birth of **Tristan Andrés Chavez**. He was born on **May 18th, 2008** at 6:04 a.m. after a marvellous delivery. Tristan is a really Zen baby who sends out good vibes to all around him.
- ◆ Maman **Amélie Poisson**, Mommy **Cindy Moy**, ainsi qu'**Alexandra**, désirent souhaiter la bienvenue à bébé **Guillaume** et bébé **Gabrielle**. Ils sont nés le **20 mai** dernier à 33 semaines de grossesse. Guillaume pesait 4 lbs et 7 onces et Gabrielle 2 lbs et 15 onces. Ils vont bien, mais ont du rester quelques semaines à l'hôpital.
- ◆ **Hélène Genest, Selena Liss** and big brother **Benjamin** are pleased to announce the birth of **Mathilda Kathleen Genest Liss**. Mathilda was born on **June 5 2008**, weighing 9lbs. She's a good natured, roly-poly baby and we're all thrilled to have the chance to get to know her and to welcome her to the family.
- ◆ **Message from Johanne Cadorette**: Hello! Our precious little baby arrived Friday **June 6** at 3:41 am. His name is **Daniel Shane Aquila Cadorette-Gibson**. He weighed 6lbs, 11 ounces at birth and was born at the LaSalle Hospital with the help of our amazing doula, Rivka Cymbalist. He is perfect! The birth was awesome, quite literally and **Sarah** was absolutely amazing. Both are doing really well. **Jonah's** first words about his brother were "he's so soft!
- ◆ Message from **Rachel Rose and Isabelle Fieschi**: He's here!!! **Thomas Jericho Max Fieschi-Rose** came into the world on Sunday **June 15** at 10:05 a.m. weighing 8 pounds 12 ounces. Isabelle had a night of hard

labour, but she did have the birth she wished for. Everything went beautifully and we are all delighted. The Max in Thomas' name was chosen by **Ben and Gaby**. They are very proud big siblings.

♦ Message from **Juniper Glass and Silvie Brouillette**: Le **25 juin dernier**, sur un futon de la rue Boyer est né **Joah Brouillette-Glass**, fils de Juniper et Silvie. Les mères sont fatiguées et comblées d'amour. The little one is bright-eyed, strong and full of smiles. The family survived a challenging and medical first few weeks and are now enjoying the gentler pace of home life.

MISCELLANEOUS

♦ **Traductrices, redactrices, etc**: We are looking for volunteers to help translate this newsletter from English to French. Any contribution (even 1-2 pages a month) would be appreciated. If you are available and willing, **please contact us at: info@aml-lma.org**

♦ **Batshaw Youth and Family Centres** is encouraging English speaking and bilingual lesbian couples, and singles, to consider becoming **foster parents**. There are babies, pre-schoolers and older children who are waiting for a foster home. For some the plan will be to help them return to their families. For other children, the plan will be to work toward **adoption**. What a remarkable feeling it is to know you have made a difference in the life of a child by providing a stable, safe and loving environment. For more information, please call, **Rena Rubin, Foster Care Recruiter, at 932-7161, local 416, or send an e-mail to rena_rubin@ssss.gouv.qc.ca**.

♦ The **Open Book Library's** collection includes over 5500 books written by glbt authors or by authors who write about our communities. Some of these books are for children and adolescents. We are very proud that approximately half of our collection is in French. Much more information as well as online consultation of the book collection is available at our Web site www.ccglm.org/en-b. We are located at **2075 Plessis (CCGLM)** in the Village. Come visit us! Open Wednesdays and Fridays from 1-8 p.m. (514) 528-8424.

The bulletin board is a free forum for members to communicate amongst each other. If you want to post an announcement in the next issue please send it to us at any time to info@aml-lma.org or by post to AML, 2401 Coursol, Montreal, Quebec, H3J 1C8. If you have something to advertise, sell, rent or buy...anything where money must change hands, you can place an ad in the newsletter. Ads cost 20 cents per word.
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♦ **THERE IS NO FREEDOM WITHOUT FINANCIAL FREEDOM - LA LIBERTÉ PERSONNELLE PASSE PAR LA LIBERTÉ FINANCIÈRE.** Financial services for individuals and small businesses: budgeting, debt management, investments, future planning, personal taxes, wealth enhancement strategies. 20% of all subsequent fees will be donated to the LMA. **J. Freed**, (514) 489-8633, www.jfreed.ca

♦ **HARMONIE, CROISSANCE, PROSPÉRITÉ.** Produits et services financiers pour les familles en pleines croissances. Hypothèques, Régimes d'épargnes études, Gestion du risque, Protection du patrimoine, Protection du vivant. 20% des honoraires seront versées à l'AML . Sylvie Grenon, Spécialiste en planification générale, communiquez par courriel : sylvie.grenon@londonlife.com ou par téléphone au 514-433-2884

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