

Pride Around the World 2004

Compiled by Skeeter Sanders

With Vermont's Pride celebration in Burlington pushed back to July 10 this year, queer Vermonters have more of an opportunity to travel to any Pride celebration around the world that their imagination – and budget – will take them.

Boston Pride Weekend (June 11-13) is sure to draw the biggest crowds in its 32-year history, now that same-gender couples can legally marry in the Bay State – and June is the traditional month of weddings.

This year also marks the 35th anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in New York – without which we wouldn't have anything to celebrate.

Events are listed in alphabetical order by city (Thanks again this year to InterPride). So choose a city, contact your travel agent and start packing!

Albuquerque, NM USA June 11-12
 Allentown, PA USA June 20
 Amarillo, TX USA June 19-26
 Anchorage, AK USA June 19-27
 Arcata, CA USA June 11-13
 Asbury Park, NJ USA June 6
 Atlanta, GA USA June 23-27
 Austin, TX USA June 5-6
 Baltimore, MD USA June 19-20
 Bangor, ME USA June 4-8
 Berlin, Germany June 26
 Birmingham, AL USA June 4-13
 Boise, ID USA June 5-13
 Boston, MA USA June 11-13

Brunswick, Germany July 23-24
 Budapest, Hungary July 1-4
 Calgary, AB Canada June 6-12
 Cape Cod, MA USA July 17
 Cedar Rapids, IA USA June 5
 Chicago, IL USA June 26-27
 Cleveland, OH USA June 19
 Columbus, OH USA June 26-27
 Copenhagen, Denmark August 14-15
 Cork, Ireland July 30-August 2
 Cornwall, ON Canada September 3-5
 Dallas, TX USA June 12
 Denver, CO USA June 27
 Detroit, MI USA June 6
 Duesseldorf, Germany June 5-6
 Durham, NC USA October 2-3
 Eaton, NH USA June 27
 Edmonton, AB Canada June 18-27
 Erie, PA USA June 12
 Fargo-Moorhead, ND USA June 4-6
 Flagstaff, AZ USA June 11-13
 Fort Wayne, IN USA June 18-19
 Fort Worth, TX USA June 5-12
 Gainesville, FL USA October 8-17
 Glasgow, Scotland June 26-July 1
 Guadalajara, Mexico June 16-July 3
 Hamburg, Germany EUROPRIDE June 4-13
 Harrisburg, PA USA July 31
 Hartford, CT USA September 18
 Helsinki, Finland June 28-July 4
 Houston, TX USA June 11-27
 Huntington, Long Island, NY USA June 13
 Indianapolis, IN USA June 12-13
 Jacksonville, FL USA July 31-August 8
 Johannesburg, South Africa September 18-25
 Kansas City, KS USA June 4-6

Lake Havasu City, AZ USA November 12-14
 Lansing, MI USA June 13
 Leeds, England UK July 16-18
 Lindau, Germany July 17
 Lisbon, Portugal June 26-27
 London, ON Canada July 2-17
 London, England UK July 1
 Los Angeles (Studio City), CA October 16-17
 Los Angeles (West Hollywood), CA June 16-18
 Manchester, NH USA June 19
 Manila, Philippines June 26
 Milwaukee, WI USA June 5-6
 Minneapolis, MN USA June 16-27
 Monterey, CA USA July 24
 Montevideo, Uruguay September 24
 Montreal, QC Canada July 26-August 1
 Munich, Germany July 23-25
 Nashville, TN USA June 6
 New Haven, CT USA June 5
 New York, NY USA June 20-27
 Oldenburg, Germany June 18-19
 Omaha, NE USA June 18-24
 Ottawa, ON Canada July 5-11
 Page/Lake Powell, AZ USA September 18-19
 Palm Springs, CA USA November 6-7
 Philadelphia, PA USA June 13
 Portland, ME USA June 13-20
 Portland, OR USA June 19-20
 Porto, Portugal July 3
 Providence, RI USA June 1-19
 Raleigh, NC USA October 2-3
 Reykjavik, Iceland August 6-7
 Rochester, NY USA July 16-18
 Rome, Italy July 1-10
 Saarbrücken, Germany July 24-25
 Sacramento, CA USA June 5

Salt Lake City, UT USA June 11-13
 San Antonio, TX USA June 19
 San Diego, CA USA July 30-August 1
 San Francisco, CA USA June 26-27
 San Jose, CA USA June 12-13
 Santa Barbara, CA USA September 24-26
 Santa Fe, NM USA June 17-26
 Sao Paulo, Brazil June 26
 Saskatoon, SK Canada June 12-19
 Savannah, GA USA September 18-19
 Seattle, WA USA June 26-27
 Springfield, MO USA June 11-13
 St. Louis, MO USA June 26-27
 St. Petersburg, FL USA June 26
 Stockholm, Sweden July 28-August 1
 Sunapee, NH USA June 26
 Syracuse, NY USA June 19
 Tijuana, Mexico June 10-12
 Topeka, KS USA June 14-19
 Toronto, ON Canada June 21-27
 Trenton, NJ USA September 19
 Tucson, AZ USA October 9
 Vienna, Austria June 26
 Washington, DC USA June 6-13
 Wilton Manors/Fort Lauderdale, FL June 20
 Winnipeg, MB Canada June 5-13
 Zürich, Switzerland June 5

AND IN 2005 . . .

Cape Town, South Africa February 19-28
 Sydney, Australia February 27-28
 Fort Lauderdale, FL USA March 12-13 ▼

Skeeter Sanders lives and interacts with news and views on the Internet in Shelburne.

cont'd from p. 8 and Irwin are the biological parents. Jane and I are the custodial parents. Rosie has my last name – a huge signal to the outside world that I am an equal parent. Within our family dynamics, Jane always makes sure that my name is first on the permission slips, emergency contacts, etc., to send a clear signal that I am a participating parent. Over the years, this has become seamless.”

Irwin and his partner John are very involved with the children. “It does mean that we get a lot more free time than a lot of lesbian moms we know,” Jane said. “When I turned 50, Irwin and John took the kids for a week while we went on spring vacation.”

Having another set of parents means that “some things are harder,” Jane admitted. “We had to develop a decision-making

process. There’s a lot of discussion, a lot of emotional work.” But one of the hardest challenges Jane had to face came from within.

“Now, as the biological mother, I am the presumptive parent, the legal parent. That was hard for me to bend my mind around – that I was the privileged one. It hurt. I had to come to grips with it, that I had all the rights and Joan had none. One day I said something about ‘my kids’ and realized, ‘Oh my God! They’re not just *my* kids.’

“It was ideologically important that I make that internal shift – that the kids are OURS. I had to realize that sharing power sometimes means I have to give up power.”

Joan and Jane are going to court, seeking full legal rights in what they term a “third-party” adoption. “It will be quite a struggle,” Jane said. “This has never

been tested. But it has applications for heterosexual people as well.”

She concluded, “When we create gay and lesbian families, we challenge tradition. From love, we created our family. From love we will go forward with this challenge.”

When the Bough Breaks

Breaking up is hard to do – but when gay and lesbian couples wind up in the courtroom disputing custody of adopted children, they face a pile of problems heterosexual couples don’t even have to consider. There have been too many cases where a gay or lesbian co-parent has been deemed a legal stranger to a child by the courts. The legal parent then has an absolute right to deny even the most fleeting contact – despite the fact that the other partner may have spent years raising the child.

Some courts have started

to turn the tide. Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Maryland, and Rhode Island have granted ‘de facto’ parental status, which allows ex-partners to visit the children they have helped to raise. Other rulings cover child support and the obligation to continue health insurance coverage for the children.

Ironically, some states that allow same-sex adoption are the first to deny visitation to ex-partners who have not gone through the formal adoptive process. New York and California have both issued rulings denying visitation to ex-partners.

Experts recommend that if a couple cannot – or chooses not to – have their children formally adopted by the partner who has no legal relationship to them, they should write a formal parenting agreement and abide by its terms. Otherwise, if a split can’t

be handled amicably, arrangements for children are left to the not-so-tender mercies of an inconsistent court system.

In the end, love does conquer all. The very human relationships spanning the biological, emotional, and spiritual ties between people have proven time and again to be more enduring than any accident of genetics. Now the legal system is slowly beginning to recognize this reality, and the courts are catching up with the rest of the parade. ▼

Cynthia Potts is a freelance writer and mom who lives in Plattsburgh. She welcomes feedback and can be reached at ctpotts@juno.com.