

shopping/services

"I buy all my stuff at the Peace & Justice Store, where else?" - Lois, DTWOF

Peace & Justice Store
21 Church St., Burlington 863-8326 Open 7 Days

The Jeweler's Bench

Jewelry Repairs
Custom Design
Fine Handcrafted Jewelry

260 North Main Street
Barre, VT 05641

phone: 802-479-1496
vt toll free: 877-557-7236

Patricia Palumbo
Designer ~ Jeweler

email: pat@jewelers-bench.com
web: http://jewelers-bench.com

Quite Simply...

The finest collection of
Furniture, Carpeting & Accessories
in Vermont

Rutland House Ltd.

162 south main street
rutland, vermont 05701
(802)775-2911

11730 - in the heart of
manchester center, vermont
(802)362-2001

from all over vermont: (800)649-2911

phoenix rising

- spirited jewelry & gifts -

Dreams are necessary to life.

- Anaïs Nin

104 main street, one flight up montpelier 802.229.0522

PROGENY

Sharing Pride with Our Kids

by Barbara Dozetos

Pride was terrific. I spent the entire day meeting great people. Many of them were queer parents and their beautiful kids. I collected names and addresses of many who want to connect with others. It was at once an energizing and exhausting day.

The consensus seems to be that we need to concentrate on building localized groups before we attempt anything on a statewide level.

Several people showed interest in a newsletter of some sort and a few of us even put our heads together and came up with a working name for the effort. How does Rainbow Families of Vermont strike you?

Courtney, my nine-year-old, spent the day playing with anyone who stopped at her tarp to join in. There were bubbles — more than a gallon of solution used up — and yard games and I even threw out the "no guns" rule to allow water guns of several sizes. It was just too hot to say no. The kids made new friends and entertained the adults as well as themselves.

I chatted with a couple of the Pride committee members about setting up something more organized for the kids next year. We'll hang on to the toys and bubble blowing equipment and build on that for Pride 1999.

The day was terrific and loads of fun. I want to thank the Pride committee for their efforts. I can't remember when I've had a day that was so much fun and so productive at the same time.

Sunday night I was driving home from the weekend in Burlington, still high from the wonderful experience on Saturday. Courtney and I were searching the air waves for appropriate accompaniment for our imitation of the scene from *To Wong Fu* where the three stars bop to "Brick House" in their convertible. We've yet to inspire a trainfull of businessmen to join us, but I digress.

To Courtney's chagrin, I paused at a news report long enough to hear that yet another senator has spoken out in support of Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott's asinine statements about homosexuality being a sin and something for which we need help. Talk about bursting our bubble. I let out a frustrated yell that led Courtney to ask for an explanation.

How do you explain to a child of nine, whose heart and mind is open, that one of the most powerful men in our government thinks her mother is a sinner and needs treatment because she loves and is committed to another woman? Following my usual policy, I told her just like that. She got very quiet and the urge to sing and party left us both.

Later I asked her about it — how she felt when she heard something like that. "It makes me mad." I'm thrilled to say that there was no hint of shame in her. She knows better.

Then there's Pat Robertson who makes hair-brained comments about horrible natural disasters befalling states that show tolerance for queers. How can anyone think that a loving queer family can damage a child's psyche but not see the danger in subjecting children to the rantings of small minded so-called Christians like these?

The God my daughter knows is much kinder than Mr. Robertson's or Mr. Lott's. Her God exhorts her to love everyone and judge no one. The God we know tells us that love is a

good thing, period.

Here I go again, preaching to the converted. My point here is that we have to shore our children up against the unenlightened. We need't teach them to be afraid of or hostile toward them, just confident.

Many of us are afraid to come out fully lest our children be teased at school. This attitude only teaches the kids to be afraid and to feel that there is something to be ashamed of. Why pass along the fear to the kids?

Studies on the subject have shown that children of queers get teased about their parents' sexuality no more than about other typical kid stuff and they come out of it with no more long term emotional trauma than children of straight parents.

We don't give our children masks to cover their freckles to keep them from being teased; we teach them to love the way they look and who they are and to ignore the taunts of those who pick on them. Why not instill in them the Pride that we felt this weekend? Let's teach our kids about who we are from our point of view before they hear another version from someone who doesn't know what they're talking about.

Give them the support and ammunition they need to cope now and in the future they'll be able to stand up to the Trent Lotts and Pat Robertsons and Jerry Smileys of the world.

Progeny is a monthly column focusing on queer families. If there is a topic you would like to see covered or if you want to be added to the mailing list contact Barbara Dozetos at wordsrus@together.net or through OITM.

The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green

by Eric Orner

Letting his Pride Slide

I dunno, the whole deal begins to make me a little uncomfortable... like, is simply being born a certain way cause for pride? I mean, straight people don't have parades just cuz they were born straight.

NEW LOOK FOR MOON

BUT, THEY DO HAVE PARADES FOR OVERCOMING ADVERSITY, AND THAT'S WHAT PRIDE IS ALL ABOUT - ISN'T IT?

I HATE IT WHEN BUCKY SAYS SOMETHING SMART.

Girlfriend, you've been living in the ghetto too long, you're starting to take all of this for granted... being queer & didn't used to be the cushy gig it is for you currently...

I'M THINKING THIS YEAR THAT I'LL CELEBRATE PRIDE BY HONORING SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO BUSTED THEIR BUTTS SO WE COULD HAVE A BETTER LIFE...

..Like BELLA ABZUG, for PROPOSING THE FIRST GAY RIGHTS LEGISLATION...

HELLO BOYS..

SHRIEK! IT'S BELLA

Love Her!

1970

FIGHT ON RADICAL SISTER!

I GUESS I'M PRETTY PROUD OF ALL THESE SCIENTISTS & RESEARCHERS WHO ARE WORKING ON HIV VACCINES...

...NOT TO MENTION ALL THE GAY GUYS WHO VOLUNTEER FOR THE CLINICAL TRIALS NEEDED TO TEST THOSE VACCINES..

I'M PROUD OF SOME OF THE AUTHORS WHOSE BOOKS I READ THIS YEAR-LIKE NANCY GARDNER'S "ANNIE ON MY MIND," M.F. KERR'S "DELIVER US FROM EVIL"

...and "THE INDELIBLE ALISON BECHDEL"

Wow, you read all those?

..well the last one's mostly a cartoon book..

Oh Pleeze, do we HAVE TO HAVE ONE OF THESE EMBARRASSING FAUX PATERNAL MOMENTS..

...So, HOW'R YOU DOING, NOW, BETTY BLASE, CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE ALL BLOWN OVER? FEELING GOOD ABOUT OURSELVES AGAIN?

yeah... THANKS, CHARL..

MY PLEASURE

www.stonewallinn.com © eric orner 2001