

1996

## Creating a Lesbian Family

Laurie A. Friedman CNM, MSN

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**Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Symposium**  
**Thursday, April 10, 1:30 pm**

**Panel Presentation: CREATING A LESBIAN FAMILY**

**Presenter: Laurie A. Friedman, CNM, MSN**  
Assistant Professor, College of Nursing  
Graduate Program in Midwifery  
White Hall  
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Lesbians considering parenting face many obstacles regarding access to infertility services, donor selection and alternative insemination. Once achieving pregnancy, decision include choice of provider, access to prenatal care and place of birth. Images of lesbians birthing and alternative families are absent from virtually all childbirth and parenting education, literature and media. Issues of inclusiveness and visibility of the non-biological mother are often paramount as the couple/family negotiates their way through an often unprepared and insensitive system. After birth, second parent adoption, legal considerations defining and protecting "family" relationships and negotiating through the homophobia of the educational system and world at large are added to the everyday joys and struggles of parenthood.

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**Fax Cover Sheet**

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