

# PFLAG BUFFALO/NIAGARA



## **Parents, Families, Friends, And Allies United with LGBTQ+ People**



**There is no Sharing Meeting in December.**

***Currently, Sharing Meetings are held virtually on the third Sunday of most months. Please contact us if you need help using Zoom. You do not need an account to join.***

**PLFAG Buffalo/Niagara**

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**Helpline-883-0384    [info@pflagbuffalo.org](mailto:info@pflagbuffalo.org)**

**[www.pflagbuffalo.org](http://www.pflagbuffalo.org)    [www.facebook.com/pflag.niagara](http://www.facebook.com/pflag.niagara)**

**We meet because we have learned someone very close to us has come out as LGBTQ+. We try to help one another deal with this information in a positive manner. Although we do not always agree, we try to be understanding. We offer help to those who seek it, but do not force ourselves on others. We strive to maintain anonymity while sharing on a level that is comfortable for us.**

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## ***LGBTQ-INCLUSIVE HOLIDAY BOOKS FOR KIDS***

**Dana Rudolph (*Mombian*)**



**Looking for LGBTQ-inclusive, holiday-themed books for kids? There may not be as many as we'd like, but there might be more than you think!**

**Click title links to visit my Database of LGBTQ Family Books and More and read longer reviews. *If link does not automatically direct you to information, please use Control-Click on the title.***

### **Christmas Books**

[\*Joy to the World! Christmas Around the Globe\*](#), by Kate DePalma, illustrated by Sophie Fatus (Barefoot Books), shows families around the world celebrating Christmas in different ways but with a similar spirit. After an image of Mary and Joseph on their way to Bethlehem, we meet modern families from Columbia, India, the Philippines, Canada, Mexico, Egypt, Ethiopia, Australia, Italy, Serbia, Argentina, Iceland, and Lebanon.

Each family has its own foods and activities, but all radiate joy and love. The Canadian family has two dads. Several pages at the end explain each country's traditions in more detail.

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[\*The Christmas Truck\*](#), by J. B. Blankenship, illustrated by Cassandre Bolan, shows a child (whose gender is never specified and whose wavy hair could be seen as any gender), prepare for Christmas with their papa and dad, and help find and deliver a gift to the child of a family that is not able to afford gifts.

The bouncy rhymes, bright illustrations, and depiction of extended family are lovely, as is the message about giving.

[\*Santa's Husband\*](#), by Daniel Kibblesmith, illustrated by A. P. Quach (Harper Design), reimagines the jolly old elf as Black and married to his White husband, who helps him prepare reindeer, elves, and more for Christmas.

[\*Rachel's Christmas Boat\*](#), by Sophie Labelle (Flamingo Rampant), stars a child who cleverly solves the problem of changing the name on a parent's Christmas gift after the parent comes out as transgender.

[\*Over the River & Through the Wood: A Holiday Adventure\*](#), by Linda Ashman, illustrated by Kim Smith (Sterling), takes the concept of the classic song and gives it a new spin, showing us an extended, multiracial family, including two dads and their child, overcoming obstacles as they gather for an unspecified winter holiday. their way to meet at Grandma's for the (unspecified) holidays. It's a fun romp showing the diversity that may be found even within one family.

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[\*Elves on the Fifth Floor\*](#), by Francesca Cavallo, illustrated by Verena Wugeditsch (Undercats), is an early chapter book about a two-mom family who have just moved to the beautiful but dull city of R. One day, a letter arrives from Santa Claus, asking for their help in wrapping presents for the city's children. But can they do so in time? Why do the family's children then disappear? And will this unfriendly community learn to be nice to each other again?

The adventurous holiday mystery will likely delight young readers, though a few parts of the narration are clunky.

Parents should be aware, too, that the family moved to R from a faraway country where the children "would have been sent to an orphanage, and their moms to jail" simply for being a family like theirs, which might scare some young readers.

That aside, this is a fun family caper that ends with the requisite dose of holiday cheer.

For middle-grade readers, [\*The Lottery's More or Less\*](#), by Emma Donoghue, illustrated by Caroline Hadilaksono (Arthur A. Levine Books), continues the whimsical series about two same-sex couples (one male, one female) jointly raising their seven children.

Their nine-year-old middle child, Sumac, feels responsible for organizing their varied winter celebrations (the parents are of Jamaican, Mohawk, Scottish, and Indian ancestry; neighbors include a Muslim and a Jewish family), but an ice storm brings complications for the family and community. One of Sumac's brothers is gender creative.

[\*A Very Strangeworlds Christmas\*](#), by L. D. Lapinski (Orion), is a digital-only novella set in the world of Lapinski's excellent Strangeworlds Travel Agency middle grade trilogy.

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Twelve-year-old Flick Hudson loves traveling the multiverse via magical suitcases with Jonathan Mercator, overseer of the Strangeworlds Society.

Even so, she wasn't expecting something quite so magical to happen on Christmas Eve.... Fans of the series will enjoy this bonus story; those new to it would be better advised to read the trilogy first, however, as there are significant spoilers here.

Jonathan is trans and Flick has a crush on another girl, although neither of their queer identities is a focal point in any of the books. Those in the know, however, will delight in these two queer characters simply having another adventure where their identities aren't a Big Deal. In a perfect world, that's how it should be.

## **Hanukkah Books**



LGBTQ-inclusive Hanukkah books are unfortunately far fewer. [\*Light the Menorah: A Hanukkah Handbook\*](#), by Jacqueline Jules, illustrated by Kristina Swarner (Kar-Ben), offers a holiday assortment of history, rituals, activities, songs, and recipes.

On one page, we see two women, wearing yarmulkes, as one lights a menorah and the other holds a baby.

Another page shows two men at a table playing dreidel with a child. While the characters' relationships are not specified, it's easy to see them as couples.

Families may also want to seek out the books of Lesléa Newman, author of the classic [\*Heather Has Two Mommies\*](#), who has written several books on the Jewish holidays. Notable are *The Eight Nights of Chanukah* (Abrams), and *Here Is the World: A Year of Jewish Holidays* (Abrams).

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Both are delightful stories by this queer, Jewish creator. Neither has clearly queer characters, which may be disappointing to those seeking them, but most of the characters aren't gendered, leaving at least some room for readers' imaginations.

There are no Kwanzaa-themed kids' books with queer characters, unfortunately, to the best of my knowledge.

Clearly, even though the number of LGBTQ-inclusive kids' books has skyrocketed in the past few years, there are plenty of gaps that need to be filled. That's a holiday gift we can all wish for.



Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of [Mombian](#), a GLAAD Media Award-winning blog and resource directory, with a searchable [database](#) of 1000+ LGBTQ family books, music, and more.

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*PFLAG Buffalo/Niagara recently discovered Mombian.com and asked Dana Rudolph, for permission to share this article. We thank Dana for this permission and for her Mombian website and Facebook page. We encourage all readers to visit these resources.*

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## **HOLIDAY EVENTS**

***Please consider supporting and enjoying these holiday activities. The Gay Men's Chorus events are always exceptional, and Niagara Pride, a PFLAG Buffalo/Niagara collaborator, consistently offers fun and festive community activities.***

**ALL WRAPPED UP!**

**BGMC**

**BGMC'S HOLIDAY CONCERT**

Saturday, December 3 at 7:30pm  
Lafayette Presbyterian Church  
805 Elmwood Avenue • Buffalo, NY 14222

Sunday, December 4 at 3:00pm  
Orchard Park United Methodist Church  
3000 North Buffalo Street • Orchard Park, NY 14127

SO FRISKY! SEE AT THE DOOR  
SCAN THE QR CODE TO PURCHASE  
TICKETS AND KEEP UP WITH BGMC  
YOU'VE THOUGHT OF US FOR HOLIDAYS!

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## Holiday LGBTQ+ Meet Up!!!

**Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022  
12pm to 2pm**

**at Lock City Books  
(8 Market St., Lockport, NY)**

- \* Free Hot Chocolate Bar**
- \* Make Holiday Crafts**
- \* Free Photo Op with Santa!**



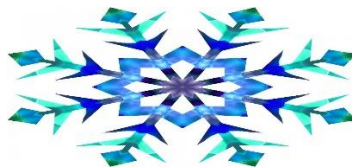
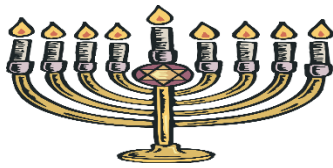


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**We thank you for being our PFLAG Buffalo/Niagara family and wish all readers a loving, happy, and healthy December and New Year!**

**May each day and any holiday celebrated find you and your family well!**



## **PFLAG BUFFALO/NIAGARA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**PFLAG Buffalo/Niagara is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.**