



Out & About

News and notes for LGBT-parented families

AUGUST 2015



Conference Registration Now Open



Philadelphia Family Pride will sponsor our 6th Annual Family Matters Conference for LGBTQ parents and prospective parents on **Saturday, October 17, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.** at the main campus of [The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia](#) at 34th and Civic Center Blvd. in Philadelphia. *(Above photo from 2014's conference.)*

[Register now!](#)

This one day event is a great chance to network, share information and get some concrete advice from LGBTQ parents, attorneys and other professionals during workshops and panels.

The theme for 2015 is **"Mind, Body and Soul: Taking care of ourselves and our families."** Workshop sessions range from "Demystifying Meditation and Mindfulness" to "LGBTQ Parents Guide to Choosing Providers for Your Family" to "Intersectionality: Race, Sexuality and Faith" to "LGBTQ Fun Family Vacations and Outings."

New this year will be a **"Treat Yourself" room** where parents can unwind and recharge for a whole hour: get a chair massage, try acupuncture, color or just relax and chat with other parents with similar aged kids.

PFP is thrilled that this year's keynote speaker will be PA Physician General **Dr. Rachel Levine**. Dr. Levine is the highest ranking out transgender woman in Pennsylvania's state government and was honored at this year's Philly Pride as the parade's Grand Marshal. (Pictured right with PFP Director Stephanie Haynes.)

In her role as Physician General, Dr. Levine advises the governor and secretary of the Department of Health on medical and public health-related issues. Previously, she was a professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry at the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, where she also served as chief of the Division of Adolescent Medicine and Eating Disorders



[Click here for the full schedule and workshop information.](#)

There will be onsite child care for kids 0-7. For kids 8 and up, there will be programming with [Camp Highlight](#). More details on their schedule coming soon.

For kids 10-15, there will also be the opportunity to participate in a tour of CHOP's **Ryan Seacrest studio** and take part in "Tweens and Teens Preparing to Act Out" workshop with Theresa Randall, M.Ed. where kids will prepare and record a short "Know This About Me" performance.

[Register now!](#)

The cost is \$20/adult for PFP members and \$30/adult for non-members. Breakfast, lunch, nearby garage parking and child care are all included. Scholarships are available upon request.

Many thanks to the **Conference Planning Committee** for all of their hard work, pictured at the meeting on August 23.



Organizations and businesses wishing to **sponsor this year's conference** can sign up to do so at the Platinum (\$1,000), Gold (\$500), Silver (\$250) or Bronze (\$100) level by [filling out this survey](#). All sponsorships come with a vendor table at the event.

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PFP Summer Picnic, Camping Trip in August

PFP families got together at the [Freedom Playground in Haverford](#) on Saturday, August 22 for this year's **Summer Picnic**. Kids spent 99% of their time running through the playground, while parents visited in the pavilion.

A few families who had attended PFP events as prospective parents brought their babies and kids as new parents!

The weather was perfect and the potluck food was exceptional this year. The group enjoyed everything from pasta salads to fruit to pretzels and Dunkin Donuts muchkins.

Many thanks to all the families who were there and a special "thank you" to [Philly Gay News](#) photographer Scott Drake who attended with his boyfriend Micheal and brought delicious deviled eggs.



Photo by Scott A Drake

The following weekend, August 28-30, four PFP families went **camping** in New Jersey at the Wharton State Forest. While disappointed in the burn ban because of the dry conditions, the group persevered and roasted marshmallows with the help of a propane stove.

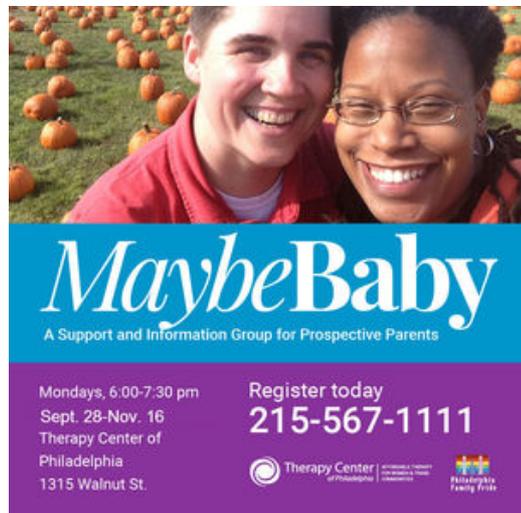


The lake was perfect for the little kids and loved by all as a great place to cool off. A pancake breakfast together on Sunday morning was a great way to say goodbye before packing up.

Thanks to those who attended and to board Vice-Chair Sandra Telep for leading the camping trip again this year.

"Maybe Baby" Group Set for the Fall

[Therapy Center of Philadelphia](#), in partnership with Philadelphia Family Pride, launched a new eight-week information and support group for LGB women and transgender communities considering parenthood this year. The second session will run weekly from September 28 – November 16. A similar group for cisgender gay and bisexual men is in the works for another location.



Maybe Baby offers an 8-week support group experience that will provide information from legal, financial, and medical experts, as well as emotional, social and community support.

Members will come out with a sense of their options, how to navigate the process as a queer or trans* person, and connection with others on a similar journey.

Meetings will take place on Monday evenings from 6-7:30pm at the Therapy Center of Philadelphia office at 1315 Walnut Street. The group will be co-facilitated by Monique Walker, PhD, MFT and Julie Lipson, MA, MT-BC.

Cost for participation for the full eight weeks is \$240/couple (\$120/individual) for Philadelphia Family Pride members or \$320/couple (\$160/individual) for non-PFP members. Those not already PFP members can join for \$25/year [on our web site](#).

Plans for a similar group for men is in the works. Details will be announced soon.

To register or for more information contact the Therapy Center of Philadelphia at 215-567-1111.

Member Milestone

PFP members Wesley Perry and Tom Sherer have been together 19 years and will celebrate their second wedding anniversary on September 3. Congratulations!



If you have a milestone that you would like to share in an upcoming newsletter, please e-mail PFP Director Stephanie Haynes at stephanie@phillyfamilypride.org.



UPCOMING EVENTS

September 2, 19th: Meetups at Smith Playground on the first Wednesday and third Saturday of the month starting at 10am.

September 12: PFP is happy to sponsor the kids area at the [South Philly Sausage Fest](#) from 12-8pm at Broad and W. Passyunk Ave. Come by for some free family fun including a bouncy house and crafts.

September 13: Celebrate [South Jersey Pride](#) at Cooper Park from 12-6pm.



September 20: [Roller skating](#) at the Penn's Landing River Rink starting at 3pm. This event is especially for kids aged 10 and up.

September 28: "Maybe Baby" Prospective Parent support and education group starts up for the fall, meeting Monday nights in Center City from 6-7:30pm. [More info.](#)



October 11: Volunteer to help at the PFP Family Zone during the National Coming Out Day Block Party [OutFest](#) in Center City between 12pm-5pm.

Saturday, October 17: PFP's annual Family Matters Conference at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. [Registration now open.](#)

Keep an eye on our [Facebook](#) page and [Twitter](#) feed for more upcoming events.



In Memoriam

It is with heavy hearts that PFP mourns the passing of member Dr. Staci Perlman on August 12. Staci leaves behind her son and many family and friends whom she loved tremendously.

Staci lived life to the fullest. She enjoyed baking, brewing beer, and spending time with her son. With PFP, she helped organize our annual conference, hosted potlucks at her home in West Philly, and attended other events when she could.

Dr. Staci Perlman was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies with a joint appointment in the Delaware Education Research and Development Center at the University of Delaware and a 2014 Visiting Scholar at the People's Emergency Center (PEC) in Philadelphia.



Her current work focused on homelessness in very early childhood - with an emphasis on understanding how homeless experiences influence early development and the identification of strategies that promote positive developmental outcomes. [Read more about her work here.](#)

Staci passed away after a brief yet brave battle with cancer. Staci's passion for all that she loved will be missed.

A memorial service was held on Sunday, Aug. 16 at Rodeph Shalom, 615 Broad St., Philadelphia.

Another service will be held at the University of Delaware on Friday, September 18 at 4pm. [More info.](#)

Donations to support her son's education can be made out to Matthew Perlman and sent c/o Philly Family Pride, PO Box 31848, Philadelphia, PA 19104.



Suggestions for what else we should include in our newsletter? Want to sponsor our next issue?

Contact Stephanie Haynes, PFP Community Coordinator at stephanie@phillyfamilypride.org.

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