

DECEMBER 2015



PFP Parents see "Fun Home" in New York

Philly Family Pride was very excited to coordinate a trip for PFP parents, prospective parents and friends to see the Tony-award winning ["Fun Home"](#) in New York on Saturday, November 14th.

Forty people made up the PFP group - from parent couples to friends to teens and gay grandparents! Not so easy to round everyone up for one group picture, but at right is a photo we took after the show.



Board member Tracy Smith bought the poster autographed by the cast after the show to benefit [Broadway Cares](#).

Here are some of the comments from those who saw the show with us:

"Fun Home" exceeded our already high expectations. The actors were fantastic ... Gabriella Pizzolo as young Alison was brilliant! The songs were both funny and emotional; Denise and I could really relate to Alison and her feelings about growing up gay and coming out. Circle in the Square Theatre is the best venue for this show...not a bad seat in the house! Stephanie, thanks for putting this together! We had a great day! - Sandy

As the parent of teenagers I found the experience to be rich in talking points. Bus vs. Car trip = opportunity to live a greener option. The crass commercialism of Times Square juxtaposed with the magic and dazzle of it. A theater full of people open to a play about the real life implications of fear and hate and love and family. I'm so glad my 15 year-old daughter and I shared this experience. - Suzanne



After the show, some of the group got together for drinks and snacks at a nearby restaurant to discuss the show and compare notes on favorite songs. Thanks to the [Cielo at the Mayfair](#) for taking our group without a reservation.



Others waited outside the theater at the "stage door" to meet and chat with the actors, get autographs and photos.

Pictured below is PFP member Mia Levesque (right) with out actress Beth Malone who plays adult Alison Bechdel in the show.

It was a great trip and made many want to see more shows together, so watch for more opportunities to get discounted tickets and travel to New York (or stay here in Philly) to see musicals or plays in the future.



If you have a suggestion for a show we should see, please reply to this newsletter or e-mail Stephanie Haynes at stephanie@phillyfamilypride.org.

Thanks again to everyone who attended for making the day such a smooth and enjoyable one.

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The advertisement features a green background. At the top, a list of services is presented in a light green font, separated by heart symbols. Below this is a logo consisting of a stylized tree with its roots forming a city skyline. The words "emerge" and "wellness" are written in a light green font, with "emerge" positioned to the left of the tree and "wellness" to the right. To the right of the logo, a short paragraph describes the business as LGBT-owned and operated, specializing in personal growth. At the bottom, the website URL and phone number are listed on the left, and the address is listed on the right.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

PFP Holiday Party

PFP parents and kids got together at Penelope's Frozen Yogurt and More in Horsham, PA for a holiday party featuring a hot chocolate bar, cookie decorating station, Legos and karaoke.

Kids decorated snowperson cookies with piles and piles of frosting and different sugared treats and then played with Legos. Parents chatted about ideas for future PFP get-togethers.

Board member Andrea Sanders and her son took turns on the karaoke machine belting out "Let it Go" from *Frozen* and "Uptown Funk" complete with dance moves.

If you'd like to host a party at Penelope's with a *Frozen* or Lego theme (and support PFP parents and owners Tracy Smith and Erika Miller), call 215-420-7110. [More information on their web site.](#)



New Year's Day Potluck Brunch

Join PFP at our annual **New Year's Day Potluck Brunch on Friday, January 1, 2016 from 11am-2pm** at Mishkan Shalom in Philadelphia's Roxborough neighborhood.

The address is 4101 Freeland Ave. There are two **free parking** lots - one on either side of the building as well as free street parking.



This year we're having a **PAJAMA PARTY!** Kids, and adults if you'd like, should wear their pajamas. (Use your judgement for appropriateness.)

Food theme for this year is **BREAKFAST FOOD**. Please bring a vegetarian dish that serves 6-8 to share. No meat please to respect the synagogue's wishes. Suggestions include cheesy egg casserole, waffles, bagels and shmear, donuts, hash browns, muffins, etc.

PFP will provide paper products, beverages and a sundae bar (at 1:30pm).

Our **SERVICE** request this year is for families to donate new or gently used baby carriers (Bjorns, Ergos, Mei Teis, Becos, etc.) that we'll send to [Carry the Future](#) to benefit Syrian refugees. No slings, pouches or wraps accepted at this time.

ENTERTAINMENT will include story time, craft tables (by age), Legos and Duplos, our annual hula hoop contest and karaoke with Dr. Thunder!



COST for the event is free for PFP members and \$10/family for non-members. You can pay your 2016 membership dues at the door. (Reminder that dues are \$40/year for families, \$25/year for prospective parents.) Cash, check or credit card will be accepted.

We will also hold a **SILENT AUCTION** to raise money for PFP for 2016 during the event, including a kids table. Donated items include a two-night stay at any Kimpton Hotel, Disney World Pass, Alex and Ani gift card and more.

Finally we'll hold **ELECTIONS** to vote in our board members for 2016. Look forward to seeing you there!

Time to Renew for 2016!

Philadelphia Family Pride is a 501(c)(3) non-profit membership organization. Most of our funding comes from member dues, paid annually on the calendar year.

If you are a current member, have let your membership lapse or would like to become a new member, please consider doing so now for 2016.

Suggested dues are \$40 for a family or \$25 for prospective parents. [Click here to join or renew.](#)



Members get in free to some PFP events and discounted tickets to events such as Arden Theater shows, Adventure Aquarium, Great Wolf Lodge and more.

Dues also give us the resources we need to plan our annual conference, put together programming for parents and kids throughout the year and educate prospective parents through the Maybe Baby group.

Thank you for your support!

Member Milestones

Happiest of first birthdays to these two little PFPers!



Happy Birthday to Akal and parents
Rik and Anna-Sara Fire!

Happy Birthday to Chloe and parents
Matthew and Chris Helm.

Congratulations to PFP board member Greg Girdy (center) and family who were honored as adoptive family of the month at a 76ers basketball game on November 7th.



Congrats on the finalized adoption of Noah by PFP members David D'Amico and Brad Kushner on November 20.



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

Sunday, December 13: PFP goes [Winterfest at the RiverRink](#) at Penn's Landing. *(pictured)* There's ice skating, a warm lodge, hot chocolate, arcade games and more.



Friday, January 1, 2016: PFP's annual [New Year's Day Potluck Brunch](#) returns to Mishkan Shalom from 11am-2pm. See above article for details.

Saturday, January 9, 2016: The PFP infant/toddler group will be getting together at [The Play Cafe](#) in Bryn Mawr from 10am-12pm.

Saturday, January 23, 2016: Join PFP on our annual trip to the Adventure Aquarium on the Camden, NJ waterfront. Visit the hippos, rays, sharks and a new temporary exhibit of the tiny [Little Blue Penguins](#)! Ticket discounts and details coming soon.



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



Holiday Meltdown Help

by Patty Wipfler, Hand in Hand Parenting

Your child will have big feelings when a special holiday or birthday comes up. It's one of the phenomena you can set your clock by. But it may help to know that every other family deals with the same phenomenon you do.

Children are built to have big feelings on big occasions.



Why? When any holiday or birthday rolls toward a family, they get less relaxed

time with us. They have more expectations of “good behavior” at homes they’re not familiar with, and among people they may not know well.

Children’s hopes soar in anticipation of a special occasion. When hopes are high, both children and adults can feel disappointments much more acutely.

A third factor is the principle that the greater the number of loving family and friends gathered in one place, the higher children’s feelings rise. Eventually, they hit the wall. They can’t go another moment without exploding in feelings.

It happens in every family, every holiday, because it must. Their systems must eject the bad feelings, but when they’re done releasing, they can be reasonable, thoughtful, and flexible again.

It helps to be prepared.

Just as you are in the habit of preparing yourself for the quirks in your relatives’ behavior, you can prepare to handle your child’s meltdown. When you see that things are getting tense, you can move toward the tension, instead of away from it. You set yourself up for disappointment every time you think, “Maybe this time, he’ll calm down all by himself.”

Move toward a tense child to play with him for five or ten minutes before leaving for Grandma’s, eliciting as much laughter as you can (without tickling) so he feels more connected to you.

Or gently but firmly set a limit if his behavior has already gone off track. After you set the limit, stay with him and gently assist him to release the upset through crying or tantrums. Hold the limit and love the child.

[Continue reading on the Hand in Hand Parenting web site.](#)



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

**Philadelphia Family Pride
2015 Board of Directors**

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

Robin Matthews, Chair

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