



Out & About

News and notes for LGBT-parented families



Happy New Year from Philly Family Pride!

Philadelphia Family Pride held our **Annual New Year's Day Brunch** for LGBTQ parents and prospective parents and our kids on **Tuesday, January 1, 2013** at Mishkan Shalom in the Roxborough neighborhood of Philadelphia. Over 125 people joined in to ring in 2013!

Emily Bate from [All Around This World](#) played music and brought instruments for the little kids, big kids created with Legos, Deb painted faces, including this cool line face one of the PFP kids (pictured).



Families outdid themselves this year on the potluck portion of the party. There was quiche of every kind, chili, pasta salad and more. Amy Hanson won the "one pot meal" contest for her Mexican Lasagna!

After lunch, Issy won the hula hoop contest after a loooong, double hoop finale among four girls. Kids and adults alike coalated care packages to donate to [Face to Face in Germantown](#), and the ice cream sundae bar was (not surprisingly) a huge success.



We'd also like to thank these **sponsors** who donated items to our **Silent Auction** to help us raise over \$1,500 for PFP's work in 2013. Thanks to Andrew Altman, Shira Neuberger and Kelly Durand for putting the auction together.

[Garden State Discovery Museum](#) - [The Law Office of David C. Berman](#) - [Hornstein, Platt, and Associates](#) - [Modern Eye](#)

[Adventure Aquarium](#) - [Arden Theatre](#) - [Cabot Creamery Cooperative](#) - [The Dovetail Artisans](#) - Rachel Gazda, Lactation Consultant - [The Gold Standard Cafe](#) - Morris Klein, Artist - [My Family! Products](#) - [NEST](#) - Once Upon A Cookie - [Philadelphia Phillies](#) - [Trolley Car Diner & Cafe](#) - [Two Lives Publishing](#) - [Yoga on the Ridge](#)

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One of the auction items was a new, donated light-up football. The kids had fun bidding on it, and then a lot of fun playing with it!

Thanks again to Mishkan for hosting us, Stephanie Haynes for organizing yet another fabulous event, and everyone who attended one of our biggest parties of the year.



A big sorry to those families with littler ones who left early for naptime and missed the group photo. We'll hold it earlier next year!





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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Friendly reminder to renew your membership!

Thanks to all those families who have renewed your PFP membership for 2013.

For those of you who have yet to renew, please **renew your membership** for 2013 today. Watch for a reminder email or pay through our PayPal button (marked DONATE) on the bottom of our web site's [home page](#).



If you're not a member and would like to join for the first time, visit our web site's [membership page](#) for instructions and membership rates.

Our member's donations make our organization possible. In return, you have access to discounted and free events, and support our educational work in the LGBT community. Thank you!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, January 26: Join PFP members at the [Adventure Aquarium](#) for hippos, sharks, turtles and more! Get your discounted tickets now.



Saturday, February 9: Infants and toddlers (and their LGBT parents!) will be meeting at 10am at the [Smith Playhouse](#) in Fairmount Park.

Saturday, February 16: [Ice skating](#) is back again this year! Enjoy discounted tickets at the Penn's Landing River Rink and free skating lessons for kids and adults!

Saturday, February 23: Join the Dads and Pops at PFP Chair Marc Berman's home in Montgomery County for another [Dads' Potluck](#). Prospective parents also welcome.

Saturday, April 20: Travel up to the Poconos for a fun weekend at [Great Wolf Lodge](#). We've arranged a great discount for members, so don't delay booking your room.

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



Letter from Board Chair Marc Berman

As I begin my final year as PFP chair, it feels natural to reminisce. Thirteen years ago, my partner David and I set out to become parents. Resources seemed limited, and we did not know anyone in the LGBT community who was a parent. We felt alone, but determined to grow our family.

Through a fortunate circumstance, a local Rabbi put us in touch with two dads who had joined his congregation. We phoned our new contact, who happened to be PFP members, and were amazed to learn there was an organization filled with families and prospective parents just like us. It seemed too good to be true.



Just a few weeks later, we nervously attended our first event, the annual Halloween party, where we spoke to lots of friendly parents who shared their knowledge with us, and put us on the path to parenthood!

Jumping ahead to present day, the landscape has changed dramatically. LGBT headed families are seemingly everywhere. We're visible in the neighborhood, at school, at work, and even on television. Our acceptance in the mainstream feels great, and has undoubtedly made our lives easier compared to those who came before us.

As the community has evolved, so has Philadelphia Family Pride. Our membership continues to thrive, and enjoy a wide variety of events including the New Year's Day Brunch, Summer Picnic at the Zoo, Great Wolf Lodge, Camping with Pride, and Infant/Toddler Meetups, just to name a few.

Our dynamic web site and monthly newsletter are great resources for families and allies alike. Our annual Family Matters Conference serves parents and prospective parents, and supports children with our specific outreach to educators to help them make schools more inclusive.

And our talented board members, who generously volunteer their time, continue to work hard to make a difference for LGBT parents and our kids.

All of this cannot happen without your support. To those who have already renewed your membership for 2013, thank you. If you have not renewed, look for an email reminder from us in the coming days.

Even in this time of greater acceptance and visibility, there is no substitute for PFP. Our organization's strength not only provides a special community for your family, it ensures that prospective parents and new parents who need our knowledge and encouragement will have it.

On behalf of the entire board, best wishes to your family and we look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event!

Marc Berman
PFP Board Chair
marc@phillyfamilypride.org



New Board Member Profile: Bryan Berchok

PFP member Bryan Berchok (pictured, right) joined the PFP board of directors for 2013 as member-at-large.

Bryan lives with his partner of 19 years, John Ferraro, and their 8 year-old son Shawn in Perkasie, PA (between Doylestown and Quakertown in Bucks County).

Bryan is a Social Worker at an Employment Assistance Program (EAP), John works as a pharmacist in Center City, and Shawn loves karate and whatever sport is in season!

They first learned about PFP through a friend and attended their first event, a Dad's Gathering, after Shawn's adoption.



"We like PFP because it offers Shawn exposure to families that look like ours. It is also enjoyable for John and I to meet parents with similar interests and concerns," Bryan said.

As a member of the board, he hopes to help bring in more LGBT-parented families into the group over the coming year.

Next month: Profile of new board member Kelly Durand.



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.

SUPPORT PHILADELPHIA FAMILY PRIDE
Support our work by [joining](#), [renewing your membership](#), making a donation or volunteering.

Send a check to our address or give through the [Paypal link](#) on our web site. Thanks so much!



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