

Animal-riffic Summer Picnic!

On Saturday, July 14th, PFP held our annual summer picnic - this year at the beautiful Elmwood Park Zoo in Norristown.

Though most of us started our drive to the park in dark clouds and downpours, the day turned out to be nice and cool, with not a drop of rain.

Over 60 people attended, bringing delicious food to share from Dee's chicken salad to Sally's zucchini dish. There was veggie chili, hoagie trays, noodle salad, pasta salad and fruit to round out the offerings.

PFP Board Secretary Robin Matthews (pictured, left, with her partner and son) painted kids' faces - dogs, cats, lions - staying with the animal theme for the day. See more of Robin's handiwork below.

After lunch, families strolled the zoo, checked out the animals -- macaws, eagles, bison and big cats were some of the favorites -- and romped in the playground.

Thanks to [Elmwood Park Zoo](#) and sponsor [Honest Tea](#). The half tea/half lemonade was a hit with the parents, and the Super Fruit Punch was a hit with the kids!

[Send us your suggestions](#) for a summer picnic location in Philadelphia for next summer!





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Beautiful Weather for Camping with Pride

PFP's annual Camping with Pride trip was this past weekend, July 20-22 at Mauch Chunk Lake Park near Jim Thorpe, PA. After a rainy check-in on Friday, the weather cleared and was clear and cool.

Campers enjoyed the beach and lake, playing volleyball, exploring in the woods and the group potluck Saturday night.

Special thanks to PFP member Tom Radtke for organizing this year's trip.

If you have a suggestion for a location for next year's Camping with Pride, please e-mail it to camping@phillyfamilypride.org.



Family Matters Conference Planning Underway

The 3rd annual PFP Family Matters Conference Planning Committee met in West Philly on Sunday, July 9 at Manakeesh Bakery to discuss workshop themes, keynote speakers and more.



The conference will take place on **Saturday**,

October 20 from 9am - 4pm in the Castle on the campus of Arcadia University in Glenside, PA. Save the date!

Our request for workshops and vendor registration will be out soon, so start thinking about what sessions you'd like to propose or suggest for LGBT parents and prospective parents.



If you are interested in helping with the conference either in advance or the day of, please contact Community Coordinator Stephanie Haynes at stephanie@phillyfamilypride.org.

Member Milestones

♥ PFP Board Member and Education Chair Sandra Telep, partner jb Burgan and big brother Leo welcomed baby sister Zoe Aurora on June 22. She was 22" long, weighed 10lbs, 4 oz, and was born in just under two hours. Congratulations! (You can get another look at her in the planning meeting photo above.)



♥ Another PFP Board Member celebrated a recent milestone as well. Deidre Ashton and partner Scarlett Bellamy celebrated their 5th wedding anniversary on June 23. Happy Anniversary!

♥ Long time PFP members George Slack and Seth Welles celebrated their 34th anniversary of being together on July 14 and will celebrate the 8th anniversary of their Massachusetts wedding on August 14. They are pictured here with their 14 1/2 year-old son Jeremiah. Happy Anniversary!



If you have a milestone you'd like included in our newsletter, please e-mail Stephanie Haynes at stephanie@phillyfamilypride.org with the details and an accompanying photo.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, July 29: Meet up with other PFP families in Provincetown, MA for Family Week between 1:30-2:30pm for [Snack Time!](#)



Saturday, August 18: Infants, toddlers and their parents will get together at the new [Sister Cities](#)

together at the new [Green Glass Park](#) (pictured) at 18th and the Ben Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia between 10am-noon.



Saturday, September 22: [Philadelphia Zoo on Wheels](#) will be visiting this very special Family Fun Day at William Way Center from 11am- 1pm.

Saturday, September 29: Join Dads and Pops for a special afternoon [Dads' Potluck](#) in Perkasié, PA.

Saturday, October 20: [PFP Family Matters Conference](#) at Arcadia University in Glenside.

Saturday, October 27: [Fall Hikes](#) - get out in nature and see the fall foliage at one of two hikes this fall.

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



New Member Family Profile **Help us welcome Josh, Travis and Miles to Philadelphia!**

New PFP members Josh Freker, Travis Foster and their 4 1/2 year-old son Miles moved to West Philadelphia in July after living in small-town Ohio for three years.

"Buggies were more common than trolleys," Josh said. "It was time for us to be in a more diverse, vibrant setting, especially for our kid."

"West Philly is feeling really good," added Travis, who is starting a new job as an assistant professor of American Literature at Villanova. Josh has been a stay-at-home parent for the past three years, after working in communications and public policy for LGBT and domestic violence organizations.



Their son Miles loves trains, testing their new neighborhood's bumpy sidewalks on his bike and ... trains! "He's effervescent, strong-willed and totally sweet," the proud dads added. They adopted Miles as an infant via open adoption when they lived in Madison, Wisconsin.

When trying to decide whether to relocate to Philadelphia, they found PFP online and got very excited. "It struck us as a very active, large group. In Ohio, we were the only gay dads we knew within miles, so we were especially eager to be around other queer families," Josh said.

Their first PFP event was the recent picnic at the Elmwood Park Zoo. Travis said.

When their first event was the recent picnic at the Elmwood Park 2007, Travis said, "We'd only been in town for two weeks but wanted to check it out. It was welcoming, relaxed, and everyone seemed very warm to each other." Since they also wanted to fit a camping trip in this summer, they signed up for Camping with Pride, too!

The family is looking forward to the next neighborhood potluck as a way to meet other families in West Philly. "The conference looks interesting, too, and is on our calendar," added Josh.

Please help us welcome Josh, Travis and Miles to Philadelphia at an upcoming event.

If you'd like your family to be profiled in an upcoming newsletter, e-mail Stephanie Haynes at stephanie@phillyfamilypride.org.



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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