



Out & About

News and notes for LGBT-parented families

JUNE 2014



Philly Pride Parade and Festival

PFP celebrated our Pride at the Philly Pride Parade and Festival on Sunday, June 8. The day started with getting the trolley in the parade line in Center City (easier said than done!). PFP Board Chair Robin Matthews and Vice-Chair Sandra Telep led the trolley group as the parade meandered through Center City.

The parade may have been a little slower than past years, but it was for a good reason! There was a big group (legal!) wedding in front of Independence Hall during the parade, presided over by openly gay judges Dan Anders and Anne Butchart.

Big thanks to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for sponsoring this year's trolley! (That's their group in the orange shirts behind PFP!)

When the trolley got near Penn's Landing, many families came into the festival and made their way to the PFP tent. Philly Pride organizers gave us a bigger, better spot for the Family Zone this year, and the Delaware Valley Legacy Fund donated money to help us replenish our baby toys and crafts! It was packed with LGBT parents and kids all day!

For the bigger kids, we had fun making duck tape wallets with the lovely folks from Camp Highlight (a camp for kids with LGBT parents). The gummy bear tape was by far the most popular!

The day was rounded out with a rousing rendition of "YM.C.A." by none other than the Village People. Congrats to Philly Pride organizer Franny Price and the rest of her awesome team. It was one of the biggest Pride events in years in Philly, and PFP was happy to be a part of it!





 <p>mazzoni center LGBT HEALTH & WELL-BEING</p>	<p>OPEN FOR BUSINESS for the whole family!</p> <p>@ 809 Locust St. Primary health care services focusing on the needs of the LGBT community.</p> <p>www.mazzonicenter.org 215-563-0652</p>
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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Family Matters Conference 2014!

Philadelphia Family Pride is excited to announce that this year's Family Matters Conference (our fifth!) will be hosted by [The Philadelphia School](#) on Saturday, November 1st!

The Philadelphia School has been a past sponsor of our conferences and PFP in general, and we're happy to be partnering with them this year. TPS is a coeducational, nonsectarian independent school educating children from preschool through eighth grade. The school is located at 25th and Lombard Streets in Center City.



This year's conference theme is "Technology and the Family" and will cover a wide variety of topics related to how electronics and social media are becoming part of how we connect as an LGBT community and their impact on adults, kids and family units. Watch for a survey asking for your ideas on specific workshop and discussion topics as well as facilitators and speakers.

If you'd like to be a part of this year's planning committee, please e-mail PFP Community Coordinator Stephanie Haynes at stephanie@phillyfamilypride.org.

Member Milestones

♥ Congrats to members Bob Quintana and Bob O'Malley! They were married on June 20th in the Yardlev Borough Hall by Mavor



2017-2018 Family Borough Hall by Mayor
Chris Harding. (Pictured)

♥ Congrats to LGBT family law attorney
Rebecca Levin and her wife Jennifer Allen
on the birth of their first child, Austin Michael
Levin Allen on June 22.

♥ Kirstie Thomas and Cyde Klaris-Thomas
will be celebrating their 8th wedding
anniversary July 8th. They were married in
Canada in 2006. Congrats!

*If you have a milestone you'd like included
in next month's newsletter, please reply to
this message with the details and a photo.
Thanks!*



UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, July 12: Join PFP for one
of our biggest events of the year,
our annual [Summer Picnic](#), again
this year at the Elmwood Park Zoo
in Norristown. Free for members,
\$10/person for non-members.
Thanks to sponsor [Delaware Valley
Legacy Fund](#) for supporting this
event.



Saturday, July 19: Meet at the
home of PFP members Barb and Deb in Bucks County (Richboro) for
a potluck! They have a pool and trampoline and other fun stuff for
the kids. RSVP to potluckbucks@phillyfamilypride.org.

Sunday, July 27: Crafts and treats! Meet up at Penelope's Frozen
Yogurt and More (587 Horsham Rd., Horsham, PA) from 2-4pm.

Saturday, August 30: Get together with other PFP families for an
all-ages [softball game](#) at Burholme Park in the Fox Chase section of
Philadelphia.

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, Nov. 1: 5th Annual Family Matters Conference

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



FROM THE PFP BLOG

"Becoming a Dad" by PFP Board Member David D'Amico

Our adoption journey began in the Spring of 2013. We were working with a private agency and could not have been happier with the services they provide to prospective parents and birth families.

They helped us feel so energized and excited to raise a child. We soaked up every minute of our adoption journey, attending workshops, practicing swaddles and other techniques, and talking with every parent and prospective parent we met along the way. We asked many questions and read everything we could on adoption, including all the horror stories. We were focused and there was no turning back.



We went through the usual background checks and home studies, which turned out to be more bark than bite. We fully expected someone to walk through our house wearing white gloves checking for dirt, but that wasn't the case. Our adoption coordinator was so friendly that our meetings often felt like old friends getting together to catch up. At least our house got a much-needed cleaning!

Compiling our profile book, on the other hand, was quite a daunting task. This was our first opportunity to make an impression on potential birth moms, and as far as we were concerned, a great first impression was everything. Luckily, we had just attended a week-long family reunion and had come home with a ton of great pictures with my large family, including lots of pictures with the kids.

Once our book was finished, which included pictures and autobiographies, we entered the pool of prospective parents. This was where the real challenge began – the agonizing wait. We had no choice but to give up our ability to control the process and put our blind faith in the Universe. As time moved on it was nearly impossible to not think about where we were in our adoption journey.

Had our profile been shown yet?
Had we been passed over by any birth moms?
How was our profile being interpreted?
Did we include the right pictures?

A million things ran through our minds and there was no stopping it. But, we were advised to keep busy, so we did. We went out on date nights, slept in, went on spontaneous adventures around the city and did all the selfish things a new parent can no longer do (or at the very least, can only do very infrequently).

Four months of patient waiting had passed when suddenly, we got "the call." Our adoption coordinator told us that we had been picked! We could not believe it, but deep down I felt that this was truly meant to be and that we were finally going to become dads. During the next two months we built a solid foundation with the woman who picked us. It was truly magical. We instantly clicked with her, and all the pieces seemed to be coming together.

In late March, our son was born as healthy as could be. He has been an absolute miracle in our family. Each day is filled with new learning experiences and

absolute miracle in our family. Each day is filled with new learning experiences and challenges, but we are rising to the occasion and doing the best job that we know we can do.

I used to think I knew what busy looked like -- and then I became a parent. Each day goes by faster than the one before, and the only thing we can do is try to soak up every minute of every day that we get to spend with our beautiful son. It's incredible to experience the love that a child brings into your life. It's truly indescribable but it is real and it grows exponentially. It can make you overcome obstacles and bring you to tears. The night before we took our son home from the hospital, I bawled my eyes out, uncontrollably.

Suddenly, it hit me: I am a dad.



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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