



Out & About

News and notes for LGBT-parented families

MARCH 2014



Making Connections at Neighborhood Potlucks

Philadelphia Family Pride held four neighborhood potlucks the weekend of March 15-16 in and around Philadelphia.

Tiffany Palmer and Lee Carpenter hosted the group in Mt. Airy (pictured, below). They had such a great time that the group is already planning another get-together at a local playground in April at the Jenks School playground

Other folks made connections at Paula and Jen's in Ardmore, at Sarah and Jaie's in West Philly and Bob and Bob's in Yardley. The Ardmore group also has another meetup in the works at the Narberth Playground.

Look for another set of neighborhood potlucks in the fall. If you'd like to host one (then or sooner!), please e-mail Community Coordinator Stephanie Haynes at stephanie@phillyfamilypride.org.





PhillyGayLawyer.com
Angela D. Giampolo, Esq.

Specializing in
LGBT Estate Planning, Domestic &
International Adoptions, Family
Law, & Business Law.

O: 215.645.2415
E: angela@giampololaw.com



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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Great Wolf Lodge Trip

Join Philly Family Pride again this year at the [Great Wolf Lodge in the Poconos](#) on Friday, May 9 at a steeply discounted rate of \$209/night.

The price includes admission to the water park all day Friday and Saturday.

We have opened this up to friends and family as well as PFP members, so please help us spread the word.



To reserve your room, visit the GWL [web site](#), choose check-in May 9, check-out May 10 and use code 1405PHIL.

The deadline to reserve your room at this great rate is April 7, so act now!

Monthly Lego Club Underway

The PFP monthly Lego club got underway at the [William Way LGBT Community Center](#) on Saturday, March 1.

The group will be meeting monthly the first Saturday of each month from 12-2pm.

Socialize with other families and build with friends new and old. PFP provides the Legos, William Way provides the space, and YOU provide the creativity!



The William Way Center is located in Center City at 1315 Spruce Street.

April 5th, our next meeting, is also International Table Top Day, so we'll have a few board games in the mix as well. Feel free to bring your favorites to share!

In case you missed it, read PFP Board Chair Robin Matthews' blog post "[Lego My Lego](#)" about the event on our web site.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, April 5: Monthly [Lego club](#) at William Way, 12-2pm. This month it's also International Table Top Day, so we'll have a few board games in the mix.



Saturday, April 12: Meet up with other PFP families at the [Smith Playground](#) at 10am. This event is appropriate for kids ages 0-12. In case of rain, we'll be in the playhouse with the 5 and under crowd.

Bring food and a picnic blanket for lunch on the front lawn after the kids are finished playing.

Monday, April 14: [Tour the State Capitol with Rep. Brian Sims](#) in Harrisburg at noon on Monday during Spring Break.



[RSVP](#) to find out more details and reserve your spot. Because of limited space, this is a PFP members only event.

Saturday, April 19: Get outside on a [spring hike](#) through the Wissahickon. Appropriate for all ages. Meet in front of Valley Green Inn at 10:30am.

Saturday, April 26: Meet up with other families at the [Jenks School Playground](#) in Chestnut Hill from 11am-1pm.

Saturday, May 3: PFP will host a program as part of this year's [Equality Forum](#) on "Adoption Options" for LGBT parents and prospective parents.

Sunday, May 4: Volunteer to help staff PFP's table at [SundayOUT](#).

Friday, May 9: Great Wolf Lodge Trip in the Poconos. [More info.](#)



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



Meet New Board Member Lou GrowMiller

Welcome new PFP board member and board Secretary Lou GrowMiller to PFP. Lou and his husband Michael GrowMiller are the proud dads to 3 year-old Ella (short for Gabriella).

That's Lou on the left with his family after their wedding ceremony and a recent trip to Disney World.



Lou is a Licensed Social Worker at [Turning Points for Children](#) in Philadelphia where he is the Program Director of the Family Finding program. This program locates and engages family members of children and youth who are involved with the Department of Human Services (DHS). He has worked with Turning Points for Children for 5 years.

Lou earned his Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Lock Haven University and his Master's Degree in Social Work from Widener University. Michael is the IT Director of Planned Parenthood of Southeastern PA. He has been with Planned Parenthood for 14 years.

Michael and Lou had a commitment ceremony in April of 2007 at the Valley Green Inn in Wissihickon Park and were legally married in New Jersey this past December.

Gabriella likes to make her daddies laugh and (at the moment) anything and everything related to the Disney movie "Frozen."

Michael and Lou become certified foster parents in December of 2010. Their daughter arrived at their house on April 8, 2011 when she was a month old and has been with them ever since. She officially became a GrowMiller in June of 2013.

Their favorite PFP event is the Summer Picnic at the Elmwood Park Zoo. "The playground at the zoo is great for toddlers and it's safe place for families like ours," Lou added.

"We joined PFP so that we could provide our daughter the opportunity to meet other families like hers. I wanted to become a part of the PFP board to get more involved and help plan events for other parents like us," Lou added.



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



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PO Box 31848
Philadelphia, PA 19104

www.phillyfamilypride.org
info@phillyfamilypride.org

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