



Out & About

News and notes for LGBT-parented families

PFP Holds Prospective Parent Panels

As part of our education mission, **Philadelphia Family Pride** holds panels a few times a year for prospective LGBT parents on the topics of adoption and assisted reproduction.

On Saturday, April 28, PFP Board Member Deidre Ashton moderated a panel as part of [Philadelphia Black Gay Pride](#) entitled **Creating and Nurturing a Family**. Panelists included PFP parents Toni Randolph and Robyn Crawford, attorney [Angela Giampolo](#), parent Lia Jones and Dr. Abraham Munabi from [Reproductive Science Institute](#).



About a dozen attendees learned about everything from how to use a known sperm donor at home to the legal and emotional challenges of adopting across state lines.

A week later, as part of this year's [Equality Forum](#), PFP held two workshops for prospective parents moderated by PFP Vice Chair Wendy Forbes. The first, **Adoption Options**, included moving personal stories by PFP parents Bob Quintana, Beckie Schatschneider and Chris Helm (pictured, center) and legal advice from PFP member, attorney and adoptive dad [David Berman](#).



Also joining the group was Becky Fawcett from [HelpUsAdopt.org](#). She drove down from New York to talk to the group about her organization that provides grants to qualified couples and individuals up to \$15,000 towards their adoption expenses. They actively seek LGBT prospective parents. To apply for a grant, download and fill out the application here: <http://helpusadopt.org/application.html>.

Following the adoption panel, we held our annual session on assisted reproduction: **Babymaking in the 21st Century**. This panel covered the medical and legal topics relating to known and anonymous donor insemination as well as traditional and gestational surrogacy.



Panelists included Dr. Jackie Gutmann from [RMA of Philadelphia](#), attorney Ben Jerner from [Jerner & Palmer, P.C.](#) and TJ Henderson from [Surrogate Services International](#) as well as PFP parents Wendy Forbes and Tracy Levesque who shared their stories.

After the two panels, participants and panelists walked around the corner to Philly's LGBT Community Center, the [William Way Center](#), for a **free happy hour** hosted by PFP with chips and salsa, margaritas and beer donated by [Philadelphia Brewing Company](#). This was a



by [Philadelphia Evening Company](#). This was a great opportunity for conversations to continue and current parents to share stories with prospective parents.



Look for more educational sessions for parents and prospective parents at our **Family Matters Conference** on October 20 at Arcadia University.



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SundayOUT Family Zone

On Sunday, May 6, PFP and cosponsor [Darling's Diner](#) hosted the free Family Zone at Equality Forum's SundayOUT at the Piazza.



In addition to our regular crafts, Duplos and sidewalk chalk, we also had expert face painting by PFP member Cyde Klaristenfeld along with Alicia, and the VERY popular moon bounce castle.

Though we were away from the main action, it was nice to have a quieter, less crowded space for families.

Many thanks to Darling's Diner for pitching in for the face painters and moon bounce, and for providing food, a tent, tables and chairs for the Family Zone.

Darling's Diner is located at 1033 N. 2nd Street in Philadelphia and is open 24 hours.

Great Wolf Lodge Trip and Spring Hike

Philadelphia Family Pride families once again traveled up to the Poconos for a great weekend of fun at **Great Wolf Lodge**. About 20 families made the trip (and enjoyed the great group discount) the weekend of April 21-22 and had lots of time in the indoor water park.



Saturday night, PFPers packed the pizza place across the street for an informal dinner. It was great to have a chance to chat after a fun-filled day on the water slides.

Please let us know if you have any ideas for other trip locations for next year.

In addition to indoor fun, we had some outdoor fun at our **Spring Hike** on April 29 in the beautiful Wissahickon Gorge near Valley Green Inn. About 30 people joined in, with kids ranging from infants to teenagers, on a day that was full of sunshine and not too hot.



The bigger kids tackled the more challenging trails while others stuck with the smooth, flat, stroller-friendly path next to the creek. We'll have our next hike in the fall. but don't forget there's the

like in the rain, but don't forget to bring your umbrella!
Camping with Pride trip in July if you can't wait that long.



Member Milestones

♥ Robin and Alli Brennan proudly welcomed their first daughter, Olive Grace Brennan at 8:41pm on April 24th, 2012. She weighed 8lbs, 11 oz and measured 20 and 1/2 inches long. Congratulations!



If you have a family milestone that you'd like included in an upcoming PFP newsletter, please e-mail stephanie@phillyfamilypride.org.



Giving Back: Yoga on the Steps

Philadelphia Family Pride will have a team again this year at [Living Beyond Breast Cancer's](#) annual fundraiser Yoga on the Steps on the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art on Sunday morning, May 20.



As a national education and support organization, LBBC's goal is to improve the quality of life of those with breast cancer and help people take an active role in their ongoing recovery or management of the disease, regardless of educational background, social support or financial means.

To join PFP's team, visit our [team's web site](#). Can't make it Sunday morning? Don't do yoga? [Contribute to our team goal](#). Thank you.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, May 19: March in the [New Hope Pride Parade](#) and/or have [Dinner Out at Marra's](#) in South Philly with other PFP parents.



Sunday, May 20: [Yoga on the Steps](#) fundraiser for Living Beyond Breast

Philadelphia for Living Beyond Breast Cancer.



Saturday, May 26: We had so much fun in April at [Smith Playground](#), we're going back in May! Join other PFP families in the tot lot at 10am. Bring a lunch and blanket for a picnic out front at noon. Appropriate for kids 10 and under.

May 31-June 2: [Philadelphia Trans Health Conference](#) E-mail Stephanie Haynes at stephanie@phillyfamilypride.org to volunteer to sit at the PFP table during PTHC.

Sunday, June 10: [Philly Pride Parade and Festival](#) Ride the trolley with PFP again this year in the Philly Pride Parade on June 10. Meet us at 11:30am at 12th and Locust.



Saturday, June 16: Join PFP at the [William Way Center](#) for a Family Play Day of fun from 10am - 1pm upstairs in the ballroom.

Thursday, June 21: Like baseball? Come see the [Camden Riversharks](#) take on the Long Island Ducks in the beautiful Campbell's Field just across the Ben Franklin Bridge on their LGBT Pride Night. Tickets only \$11/person.

Saturday, July 14: Save the date for our [Annual Summer Picnic](#), this year at the Elmwood Park Zoo.

July 20-22: [Camping with Pride](#) heads to Mauch Chunk Lake Park near Jim Thorpe, PA.

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



Celebrating Mother's Day (or if you prefer, Mothers' Day)

How do PFP families celebrate Mother's Day? Here are some of the answers we got in an informal survey of PFP members. Stay tuned next month for a similar round-up of Father's Day celebrations.

One of our sons started calling it "Happy St Mothers Day" this year...and it stuck. This is a banner the boys made (pictured, below). We get double presents from each kid - their schools never asked, just had them make doubles or two different things. The kids really want to make us breakfast by themselves, so we prep a fruit salad and muffins with them the night before and set up the coffeemaker. The kids get up and set the table and invite us to breakfast when it's all ready.



For Mother's Day, my son sent me Zach Wahl's new book "[My Two Moms: Lessons of Love, Strength and What Makes a Family](#)" and this cartoon.



"I have two mommies. I know where the apostrophe goes."

Our family likes to spend time outside together, so every Mother's Day, we go out as a family to the Wissahickon, the Wildlife Refuge at Tinnicum or Morris Arboretum and spend the day outside together.

"I had a lovely Mother's Day. I got to sleep in, Leo and jb brought me breakfast in bed (chocolate pancakes and a smoothie), family nap, walk around the neighborhood, iced latte, and a phenomenal chicken, spinach, goat cheese salad for dinner. I think jb felt it should have been more exciting/extravagant - but it's EXACTLY what I was hoping for. Sleep, good food and time with my family..."

Read the rest of PEP Board Member Sandra Tolon's post in her West Philly Mama

- Read the rest of PFP Board member Sandra Telep's post in her West Philly Mama blog, "[My Mother's Day Wasn't That Special.](#)"

For more, read PFP Community Coordinator Stephanie Haynes' post on Examiner.com from 2009 - "[How Lesbian Moms Celebrate Mother's Day.](#)"



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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