



Out & About

News and notes for LGBT-parented families



Family Matters Conference A Great Success!

Philadelphia Family Pride held our **3rd Annual Family Matters Conference** for LGBTQ parents and prospective parents on **Saturday, October 20, 2012** in the Castle on the campus of **Arcadia University**. Over 150 people attended the event - our largest one yet!



This year we also invited **educators** to join us for part of the day to learn how to make their schools and classrooms more welcoming for our families.

"As a lesbian mom with college-age children, there were plenty of 'ah-ha' moments for me. As an educator, I feel that I have gained many more tools to use to advocate for my LGBTQ students and families," commented attendee Denise Blum.

"I thought it was wonderful. Everyone was so friendly, welcoming and really helped us think through some complicated subjects. I felt like it was incredibly well organized. Thank you so much for the hard work!" added a prospective parent.

(If you attended and haven't yet filled out our online survey, please do so at this link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/familymattersfollowup>)

Workshops this year were organized under **three themes**: Welcoming Schools, Growing Your Family and Knowing Your Rights.

Favorites included the "Dos and Don'ts of Donor Selection and Insemination," "Parents and Teachers: A Partnership for Success" and "Can't They All Just Get Along: Helping Your Child Navigate Conflict."



In addition to the workshops, **Dr. Graciela Slesaranksy-Poe** was the keynote speaker and very popular presenter (pictured, right). Some of the comments about her talk included "fantastic! What an inspirational educator!" to "I wish we had another hour to hear from her!"

We also held another panel of adult and **teenage children of LGBTQ parents** to answer our questions and talk about their school experiences.

The students talked about everything from how and when they confront classmates who say "**that's so gay**" to how they talk about adoption to their peers. While there were some serious moments, there were some funny ones as well. One student related attending a GSA meeting at her school, "...the teacher asked me to bring my dads. I said 'no, they're not for show and tell. Plus they're really old.'"



Finally, this conference wouldn't have been possible without the generous donation of space from **Arcadia University** and the support of the School of Education and the Graduate Program in Counseling Psychology.

We'd also like to thank the PFP members who volunteered their time, Community Coordinator Stephanie Haynes for her tireless work, and the following sponsors for their generous donations in support of this event.

GOLD

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For more photos from the conference, please see the end of this newsletter. If you'd like to be involved in planning next year's conference, please e-mail Stephanie Haynes at stephanie@phillyfamilypride.org.





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Busy Fall for PFP

It's been a busy fall for PFP! In addition to the conference, we braved the weather at **OutFEST** in the gayborhood on October 7 with another bouncy castle and crafts. Our new PFP onesies were popular with the shoppers, and we signed up more parents and prospective parents for our e-mail list. PFP members Tracy, Mia and Phine Levesque were awarded the new [OutPROUD family award](#).

The following weekend, PFP supported the **Elements Conference** for LGBTQ Womyn of Color at the William Way Center with a vending table and workshop led by board members Deidre Ashton and Sandra Telep and supported by members Shenu and Katie Lawrence-Gupta. (pictured)



Also at William Way was the **Zoo on Wheels** event on September 22 where families made animal masks and met some animals from the Philadelphia Zoo, including a goose, a rainbow boa, an armadillo and more. Look for more events at William Way in the coming months.

About 20 **dads and kids** gathered at the beautiful country home of John and Bryan in Perkasio, Bucks County. The kids enjoyed playing outside while the grownups enjoyed conversation, really good food, and specialty cupcakes baked by John. Special thanks to the families from Center City and New Jersey for making the drive west. If you'd like to host the next Dads potluck, please [e-mail Marc](#).



Finally, we got our **Fall Hikes** in just before Hurricane Sandy on the morning of October 27 at the Wissahickon and John Heinz Wildlife Refuge. The fall foliage was in full display, and we found both dead and alive turtles at the wildlife refuge, along with great blue herons and swallows. Watch for more hikes in the spring.



Board Nominations Now Being Accepted

Do you want to help make our great organization even better? We're looking for folks with ideas and enthusiasm to join our friendly, talented board for 2013.

Responsibilities include attending nine board meetings a year, participating in planning discussions, and attending major events. Find out how giving a little bit of time makes a big difference for LGBTQ parents and our kids.

For more information on various board positions, or to submit your name, please contact PFP Board Chair [Marc Berman](#) by December 1.

Member Milestones

♥ Jim Muldoon and Ray Johnson welcomed a baby girl - Elizabeth Charlotte Johnson Muldoon - to the world on August 2nd, weighing 5lbs, 3oz. Congratulations!



♥ Su Moser and Mary Baker are officially Georgia Baker's parents! Georgia was born October 25, 2011 and joined their family three days later. Her adoption became final in July. Georgia's big sister Melissa is so happy and proud!



♥ Nicole and Ginny Perrine-Wilson were thrilled to adopt daughter Macy on September 28th. They are yet another PFP prospective parent couple who have transitioned to be a parent couple.



♥ Tami Gerber, Wanda Kraybill and big brother Henry Lawrence welcomed baby sister Esme Rose on October 13.

Do you have a milestone you'd like included in an upcoming newsletter? Please e-mail Community Coordinator Stephanie Haynes at stephanie@phillyfamilypride.org.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, November 11: For the older kids, a King of Prussia Mall Scavenger Hunt! Meet at 2:00pm. No purchases necessary. [More info.](#)



Saturday, November 17: PFP members Jim and Ray (see their milestone, above) would like to invite over other PFP parents and their infants and toddlers for a seasonal get-together on Saturday, November 17 at 1pm. [More info.](#)

Saturday, November 17: Back by popular demand, a grown-ups night out dinner. Meet at 7pm at Earth - Bread + Brewery in Mt. Airy at 7pm. Cost is \$20/person. This is a great chance for prospective parents and current parents to mix and mingle. [More info.](#)



Thursday, November 29: Meet up at NEST in Center City with other PFP parents and their infants and toddlers at 3pm at this free event. [More info.](#)

Tuesday, January 1, 2013: Ring in the New Year with PFP at our annual New Year's Day Brunch. [More info.](#)

Saturday, April 20, 2013: 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. [More info.](#)

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



**Photos from the 3rd Annual PFP Family Matters Conference
October 20, 2012**

October 10, 2011
Arcadia Univeristy, Glenside, PA



Thanks to photographers Rich Marino, Staci Perlman and Stephanie Haynes.



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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