



**Philadelphia
Family Pride**

Out & About

News and notes for LGBT-parented families

NOVEMBER 2013



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Another great Family Matters Conference!

Philadelphia Family Pride held our 4th Annual Family Matters Conference on Saturday, October 19, 2013 at the William Way LGBT Community Center in Philadelphia.

Thanks to everyone who attended, sat at a table, volunteered, spoke up during a discussion, presented, talked to someone new, held someone else's baby, shared food and made the day so warm and wonderful.

If you were able to attend, please [fill out this survey](#) to let us know how we could make it better next year.

Didn't attend? We made a [special survey just for you](#) to tell us why you weren't able to make it and what you would like to see at



**KEEP
CALM
AND
FILL OUT
THE SURVEY**

a future conference. Please take a couple of minutes to [fill it out](#).

Keynote speaker [Cory Silverberg](#) had heads nodding as he kicked off the day with a talk about telling our stories and talking to our kids about how they were made.

Slides of his book "[What Makes A Baby](#)" rounded out his presentation. (Photo, right, courtesy of Scott Drake, Philadelphia Gay News.)



Later in the morning, Cory also participated in the discussion "Talking to Kids About Gender" along with parents Terrence Lubin and Jaie Bosse, and signed copies of his book at the [Giovanni's Room](#) table over lunch.

Prospective parents filled the rooms for "Babymaking in the 21st Century" and "Donor Dos and Don'ts" (pictured) while parents learned about "Telling Your Story to Build Resilience" and "Mindful, Collaborative Parenting."



Both groups benefited from the updates on "Understanding Marriage in Changing Times" and a session on tax laws.

The "Ask the Experts" teen panel was again a highlight as previous panelist Haydn Hornstein-Platt took over as moderator and led a funny, thought-provoking and at times emotional give-and-take with the audience. (Pictured, below.)

Thanks to everyone who bought a raffle ticket for a chance to win the free two-night stay at any [Kimpton Hotel](#). Conference presenter and one of Haydn's moms, Robin Hornstein, was the big winner. Congrats Robin!

Big thanks again to our sponsors, especially platinum sponsor [RMA of Philadelphia](#) and host [William Way Center](#).

Plans are already in the works for the 5th Annual Family Matters Conference in October 2014. Stay tuned for the save the date info.

If you want to help organize next year's event, please contact Stephanie Haynes at stephanie@phillyfamilypride.org.



YOUR AD HERE

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in 2014 - info@phillyfamilypride.org.**

Neighborhood Potlucks, Free Birds Movie

Thanks to the hosts and all those who attended one of the three **neighborhood potlucks** on Saturday, November 2. Look for another round of neighborhood potlucks in the spring.

Here are photos from Center City and Bucks County. The Mt. Airy group was having such a good time, they forgot to stop and take a picture!





The next day, a group of PFP families met for lunch at the Plymouth Meeting Mall and then saw the movie "Free Birds" about turkeys who go back in time to change traditional Thanksgiving dinner. (Part of the group pictured below with PFP Board Chair Marc Berman, middle.)



We take a little break from events for the holidays, but watch for more next year, including our annual New Year's Day Brunch at Mishkan Shalom on January 1, 2014.

Get More Involved with PFP in 2014

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 2014.

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.

Family Pride

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

Member Milestones



Andrew Chirls and Jim Bulizzi became the joyful parents of Annalisa Phoebe Chirls on June 18. Congratulations!



♥ After 21 years together, PFP members Marie Zengel and Maggie Devine got officially married in New Jersey on October 22nd. Congrats!

If you have a milestone you'd like included in an upcoming newsletter, please e-mail Stephanie Haynes at stephanie@phillyfamilypride.org.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, December 10:

Please join us for an evening of wine, treats, and holiday shopping at [Dovetail Artisans](#) (pictured) from 5:30-8:30pm.

The address is 105 E. Glenside Ave in Glenside, PA. They will donate 10-15% of all sales to PFP on that day!

Wednesday, January 1, 2014:

Help us mark our 20th Anniversary and kick off 2014 at our annual New Year's Day Potluck Brunch from 11am-2pm at Mishkan Shalom in the Roxborough section of Philadelphia.



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



PFP Interview with DSR Co-founder Wendy Kramer

Did you know PFP has a blog? We do! [Check it out.](#) This is the latest blog post. If you'd like to contribute, e-mail a writing sample to Community Coordinator [Stephanie Haynes](#). Enjoy!

What is the Donor Sibling Registry?

My son Ryan and I founded the [Donor Sibling Registry](#) (DSR) in 2000 to assist individuals conceived as a result of sperm, egg or embryo donation that are seeking to make mutually desired contact with others with whom they share genetic ties.

The DSR has provided support and connection to families which have been developed via donor conception, advocated for the rights of the donor-conceived, and educated the general public through research, national media interviews and appearances about the issues, challenges and rights of the donor-conceived community.



Why is it important to connect children with their biological half-siblings and egg or sperm donor?

The DSR's core value is honesty, with the conviction that people have the fundamental right to information about their biological origins and identities. The donor conception industry is largely a for-profit enterprise, and after the "product" has been purchased, most doctors, clinics, egg donation agencies and cryobanks do not engage in discussions and activities which acknowledge the humanity and rights of the donor-conceived. It is our mission to bring these concepts to the public arena for discussion.

Parents are sometimes not prepared for their children's curiosity and desire to know more about their genetic background. In order to move out of the secrecy and shame that has for so long shrouded donor conception, the DSR continues to educate parents and the general public on the importance of honoring and supporting their children's natural drive to know more about their identity.

How many connections have been made through your web site?

We now have more than 40,500 donors, parents and donor-conceived people on the site, and have helped more than 10,450 people (in 40 countries) match with their half-siblings and/or their donors!

Do LGBT parents make up a large part of your membership?

Yes! Around one third of Donor Sibling Registry families are LGBT!

Tell us about your new book!

It's called "Finding Our Families: A First-of-Its-Kind Book for Donor-Conceived People and Their Families" and as the subtitle says, is the first comprehensive book for children born



through donor conception and their families.

Finding Our Families provides additional support for the growing DSR community and those just embarking on the journey of forming their families through donor insemination.

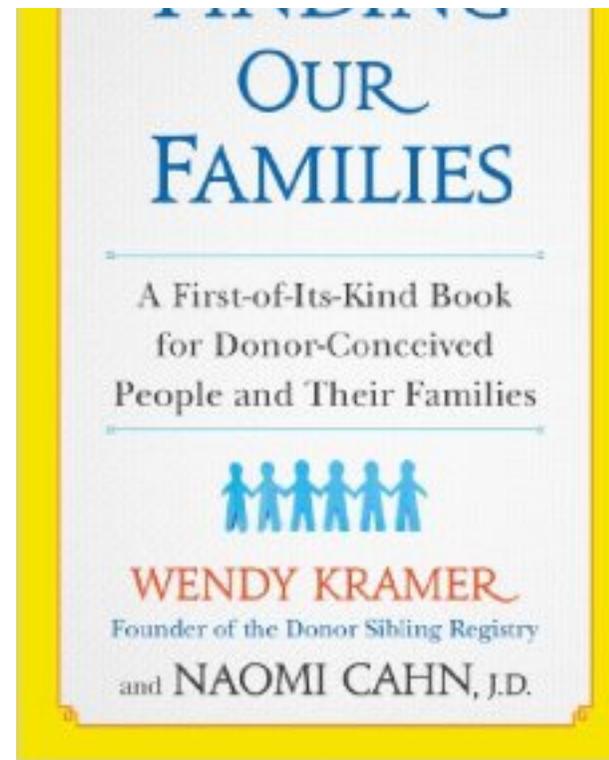
We draw on the extensive research that we've conducted, along with the 13 years of advising and listening to people's stories to address situations families face throughout a donor-conceived child's development, including curiosity about one's genetic origins, the search for a biological parent or half-sibling, and how to forge a healthy self-image.

The book comes out on December 3 and is available for [pre-order now](#).

And there's a new docuseries TV show, too?

Yes! It's called [Generation Cryo](#) and will air on MTV starting on November 25. The show is intense: it deals with a 17 year-old donor-conceived girl with two moms meeting many of her 15 (known) half siblings, and also searching for her donor. Her feelings, those of her half siblings and the parents are raw, emotional, varied, and very enlightening. A must see for all donor families.

For more about the DSR, check out their web site at www.donorsiblingregistry.com.





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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