



Out & About

News and notes for LGBT-parented families

OCTOBER 2014



5th Annual Family Matters Conference Nov. 1

Philadelphia Family Pride will sponsor our **5th Annual Family Matters Conference** for LGBTQ parents and prospective parents on **Saturday, November 1, 2014** from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at [The Philadelphia School](#) located in Center City Philadelphia at 2501 Lombard Street. **Register now!** **Walk-ins welcome!**



The theme for 2014 is "**Our Families and the Future**" and will cover a wide variety of topics related to how electronics and social media are becoming part of how we connect as an LGBTQ community and their impact on adults, kids and family units. We'll also work in time for the group to give their ideas on the future of PFP, what needs there still are in the community and how we can meet them.

The **keynote speaker** will be Mary Anders, former Montgomery County Detective for the DA's office. Her talk is entitled "Cyber-bullying & Sexting: Prevention, Education & Tips for Parents." This topic and the technology theme are great for those with kids already online and texting their friends, but also good for those of us with smaller kids to get ahead of the curve.

[Click here for the full schedule and workshop information.](#)

[Register now!](#) The **cost** is \$20/adult for PFP members and \$30/adult for non-members. ([Join or renew now!](#) It's only \$20 for the rest of 2014.) Lunch and child care are included. Scholarships are available.

This year's generous sponsors:

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See you on Saturday!

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, November 2
at 1:00pm * Pre K-12

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PFP Trip to Diggerland USA November 9th

Join Philly Family Pride's LGBTQ parents and prospective parents as we check out the new construction themed adventure park [DIGGERLAND](#) in West Berlin, New Jersey on Sunday, November 9 at 11am.

Cost for PFP members is a steeply discounted



\$10/person or (still discounted!) \$20/person for non-members. Everyone over 36" is required to purchase an admission ticket. Non-participating guests over 65 years in age are free.



RSVP to Stephanie Haynes at stephanie@phillyfamilypride.org with the number in your group. Please pay in advance to hold your tickets via Paypal (paypal@phillyfamilypride.org) or by mailing a check to PO Box 31848, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

Diggerland USA is appropriate for children **who are at least 36 inches tall**. Children under this height are free to enter the park, however they will be limited to the attractions they may participate in. Certain rides do have height restrictions, which you can find on their ride restrictions page, however there are special attractions in the park for even the youngest of children, like the Dig-A-Round and Kid Zone.

Diggerland is located directly behind **Sahara Sam's Oasis** off Cooper Road at 100 Pinedge Drive West Berlin, NJ 08091. Diggerland USA is approximately 30 minutes from Philadelphia.

[More FAQ on their web site.](#)

Get More Involved with PFP in 2015

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, hard-working board for 2015.

Responsibilities include attending nine board meetings a year, participating in planning discussions and attending major events. Find out how giving a few hours a month makes a big difference for LGBTQ prospective parents, parents and our kids.



We especially encourage prospective parents, single parents, trans parents and people of color to apply. Kids are welcome at board meetings, too!

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



LGBT Adoption Cafe November 13 in Mt. Airy

Learn about adoption, talk with agency social workers and hear a panel of adoptive parents from the LGBT community (including some PFP parents!) at an **LGBT Adoption Café** on Thursday, November 13 at the Commodore Barry Club, 6815 Emlen Street in the Mount



Commodore Barry Club, 6025 Linden Avenue and the Frank
Airy section of Philadelphia.

This free event is sponsored by the [National Adoption Center](#).

There will be a light dinner and time for all of your questions. For information, contact Sheina Martinez at smartinez@adopt.org or 267-443-1872 (or speak to her at the PFP conference!). This event is supported by the Wells Fargo Foundation.



Member Milestones

♥ PFP board member and treasurer Bryan Berchok married his partner of 20 years John Ferraro on Saturday, October 25. Congratulations to the happy family! We love the rainbow cake!



♥ Congratulations to PFP members Amy Hanson and Valerie Moyer who welcomed their son Ryan Casey to their family on October 22nd. Ryan joins four year old Audrey, who is thrilled to be a big sister. Valerie and Amy started attending PFP events as prospective parents!



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, November 1: Our 5th Annual [Family Matters Conference](#) will take place from 9am-2pm at The Philadelphia School.

Sunday, November 9: Check out the new Diggerland USA construction-themed amusement park in New Jersey. Steeply discounted tickets for PFP members. [More info.](#)



Saturday, November 15: Go to the movies with PFP and see Disney's new movie "Big Hero 6". Specific time and date to be announced.

Saturday, November 22: Outdoor ice skating comes to Center City with the opening of the new Dilworth Park. Join PFP [ice skating](#) at this brand new, high-tech rink!



Sunday, December 7: PFP is throwing a [holiday party](#) in Horsham, PA at Penelope's Frozen Yogurt & More from 2-4pm. Free frozen yogurt for PFP members, crafts and fun!

Saturday, December 15: Join PFP at the Philadelphia Freedom Band's "[Starrv. Starrv Night](#)" concert at Arch Street United Methodist

Church at 7pm.

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



PFP Member Adam Hackel - PGN Profile

Military man on making music and making a family by Suzi Nash

How many of us would be willing to sacrifice our lives for an organization that didn't want us? Lt. Col. Adam W. Hackel was willing to take that challenge, knowing that someday things would change and he'd be in a position to act as a leader and role model.



Life has thrown a number of challenges his way, which the military man has taken in stride — starting with the loss of his parents at a young age, to the realization that he was gay and embarking on a career where being LGBT was against policy.

Despite having to hide a portion of his identity, Lt. Col. Hackel racked up quite a military career. In his 20 years of service, he has spanned a full complement of key staff and command responsibilities. Upon commission into the U.S. Army Reserve Chemical Corps, he was first assigned as a Platoon Leader for a Dual Purpose (Smoke/DECON) Chemical Company, which he eventually went on to command.

In 1998, he served in multiple staff lead roles for the 4/98th (CM) TASS Battalion and completed his four-year tour as the acting battalion commander. Following that assignment, he was selected to command the Logistics Support Company for the 98th Training Division.

In 2003, Hackel was cross-leveled to deploy with the 222nd Broadcast Operations Detachment to create the American Forces Network Iraq. During his tour, he served as the Deputy Commander AFN-Iraq, Chief of Command Information CJTF-7 and PAO TF 6/26 in Fallujah.

Upon his return to the States, Hackel served in an array of public-affairs posts, was promoted to lieutenant colonel in 2012 and selected to command the 361st Public Affairs Operation Center at Fort Totten, N.Y. In May, he was appointed as the chief human-resource and personnel officer for the 78th Training Division at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

He received two Meritorious Service Medals and was honored by the U.S. Army Chemical Corps with the Honorable Order of the Dragon.

But lest you think Lt. Col. Hackel is all buttoned-up and regimented, his day job is something quite different. Dr. Adam W. Hackel Ed.D. (by day) is the director of instrumental music at Montgomery Middle School in Skillman, N.J.

Hackel holds a bachelor's of fine arts in conducting and orchestration from Tulane University, a master's in educational administration from Kean University and a doctorate in educational leadership from Rowan University. He has also graduated from the Defense Information School and is a branch-qualified Chemical Officer and Master Resiliency Trainer.

Oh, and did I mention that Hackel is married to his husband of 14 years, William Young, and that they have a daughter, Emma Hope?

[Click to read the full family portrait on the Philly Gay News' web site.](#)



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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