



# Out & About

News and notes for LGBT-parented families

OCTOBER 2015



## Our Biggest Conference Yet!

Philadelphia Family Pride was excited to sponsor our 6th Annual Family Matters Conference for LGBTQ parents and prospective parents on Saturday, October 17, 2015 at [The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia](#).

It was our biggest conference yet with over 170 people big and small in attendance from the Philly area, South Jersey and Harrisburg.



Many, many thanks to our host, sponsors, presenters and volunteers that made this event possible.

Did you attend? [We'd love to get your feedback through our online survey](#). If you didn't make it and would like to let us know why and offer suggestions for next year, [fill out this survey](#).

The above photo was in the Philly Gay News (*taken by Scott Drake*) of the following conference participants: PFP Vice-Chair Sandra Telep, CHOP interim COO and senior vice president of Clinical Support Services Chad Hough, PFP Director Stephanie Haynes, PA Physician General and Keynote Speaker Dr. Rachel Levine and 6ABC weatherman and gay dad Adam Joseph.

[Check out the brief clip about the conference that ran that evening on 6ABC.](#)

The theme for this year was "Mind, Body and Soul: Taking care of ourselves and our families."

Dr. Levine's keynote kicked things off with an informative and accessible talk about the benefits of mindfulness and meditation as a parent. (See *photo, right.*)

(Stay tuned for a recording of her speech on Philly Family Pride's upcoming YouTube channel.)



After the keynote and yummy breakfast spread, attendees fanned out to one of four workshops, including a deeper training on meditation, medical and legal considerations of babymaking for prospective parents, a parenting teens and tweens session, and a "Handling the Hard Stuff"

discussion.

We also offered a new "Treat Yourself" room during the morning where people could get a chair massage, try acupuncture (*pictured*) or take some time to chat with other parents.



One meditative activity we also provided was coloring pages for adults, with hand drawn coloring pages by Board Chair Robin Matthews. Check out her designs or order custom-made pages and books at her Etsy site, [Wicked Custom Designs](#).

Meanwhile little ones 7 years old and under played in the kids room with volunteers from CHOP. We had blocks, games, crafts and a music class to keep them busy. (*pictured*)



The kids 8 years old and up made all manner of things from duct tape and paper, got creative with Legos and put together a "get to know me" performance that they shared with the group at the end of the day.

The adults had another morning set of workshop sessions including advice on choosing providers for the LGBTQ family, DIY baby making, tactics for transracial families in responding to biased comments and info on flourishing through fertility and adoption setbacks.

Over lunch, the group enjoyed delicious box lunches, visited vendor and sponsor tables and got to know each other.



Rachelle Lee Smith was also there with a pop-up exhibit of her photography and copies of her book "Speaking Out! Queer Youth in Focus" for sale. (*pictured*)

After lunch, the group attended the final workshops on adoption options, fun family vacations, gender roles and parenting, understanding marriage laws and intersectionality.

The "Ask the Experts" teen panel capped the day as six teenagers with various family arrangements talked about their experiences, relationships with and questions from peers, and gave advice for parents.



Many thanks to these wonderful kids for getting up in front of everyone and sharing their experiences! (*pictured*)

Please remember to [fill out the survey](#) so we have your feedback for this year's conference and

ideas for next year.

Here's the photo we took at the end of the day on stage in the Stokes Auditorium. Thanks again to everyone for their support and participation!



## Seats still available to see "Fun Home"

Join PFP for a special trip to New York to see [FUN HOME](#), the winner of 5 Tony Awards this year, including Best Musical.

The show is running at the Circle in the Square Theatre, located at 235 W. 50th Street (50th and Broadway).

We have sold out of the 44 group tickets we purchased for the performance on **Saturday, November 14 at 2pm**, but there are still tickets available for that show. Ticket prices range from \$75-\$280.



[Get your tickets here](#) and then let PFP Director Stephanie Haynes know you are coming so you can join in the transportation and/or meal planning. Her e-mail address is [stephanie@phillyfamilypride.org](mailto:stephanie@phillyfamilypride.org) or you can reply to this newsletter.

Based on Alison Bechdel's best-selling graphic memoir, FUN HOME features music by Jeanine Tesori, book and lyrics by Lisa Kron, and direction by Sam Gold, all of whom won 2015 Tony Awards for their work on this production.

Listen to Alison on Fresh Air with Terry Gross: "[Lesbian Cartoonist Alison Bechdel Countered Dad's Secrecy by Being Out and Open](#)"

## Visit the Constitution Center with PFP in November

Join PFP families and LGBTQ prospective parents at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia on **Saturday, Nov. 7 at 11am** to visit the museum and the special exhibit [“Speaking Out For Equality: The Constitution, Gay Rights and the Supreme Court.”](#)

Tickets are a discounted \$9.00 for adults 18+, \$7.50 for kids 4-17. Little ones three years old and under get in free.

Included are the 17-minute “Freedom Rising” movie, the interactive “Story of We the People” exhibit and the iconic Signer’s Hall, with 42 life-size, bronze statues of the Founding Fathers and the temporary “Speaking Out for Equality” exhibit.



Reserve your spot now by e-mailing PFP Board member Sandy Gilardi at [sandy@phillyfamilypride.org](mailto:sandy@phillyfamilypride.org) with the number of people attending and ages.

Pay in advance via Paypal to [paypal@phillyfamilypride.org](mailto:paypal@phillyfamilypride.org), noting it’s for the Speaking Out trip or send a check to PFP, PO Box 31848, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

For those interested, the group will have lunch together after visiting the exhibits in the center's cafe.

## Member Milestone

PFP parents Rowan Machalow and Tyler Colvard celebrated the second-parent adoption of 2 year-old Shiloh on October 28.

Congrats!

*If you have a milestone that you would like to share in an upcoming newsletter, please e-mail PFP Director Stephanie Haynes at [stephanie@phillyfamilypride.org](mailto:stephanie@phillyfamilypride.org).*



# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday, November 7:** Join PFP families at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia for a tour of the "Speaking Out for Equality" exhibit and lunch. [More.](#)



**Saturday, November 14:** PFP goes to Broadway to see "Fun Home". Group tickets are sold out, but general sale tickets for this show are still available. See above article for more info.

**Sunday, December 6:** Get together with other PFP families at Penelope's Frozen Yogurt and More in Horsham, PA for a holiday party and chat with board members about your event ideas for next year.

**Sunday, December 13:** PFP goes [ice skating at the RiverRink](#) at Penn's Landing. *(pictured)* Not into skating? There will be a whole Winter Fest set up with a warm lodge, hot chocolate, activities and more.

**Friday, January 1, 2016:** PFP's annual [New Year's Day Potluck Brunch](#) returns to Mishkan Shalom from 11am-2pm. Reply to this e-mail with your entertainment ideas.

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



## Get More Involved with PFP in 2016

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 2016.

Responsibilities include attending nine board meetings a year (locations rotate),



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.

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



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](mailto:stephanie@phillyfamilypride.org).

**SUPPORT PHILADELPHIA FAMILY PRIDE**

Support our work by [joining](#), [renewing your membership](#), making a donation or volunteering.

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



**Philadelphia Family Pride  
2015 Board of Directors**

Robin Matthews, Chair

Sandra Telep, Vice-Chair

Andrea Sanders, Treasurer

Gregory Girdy, Secretary

Bryan Berchok, Education and Advocacy  
Committee Chair

Kelly Durand, Fundraising Committee  
Chair

Tracy Smith, Membership Committee  
Chair

Yoel Solis, Youth Programming  
Committee Chair

Sandy Gilardi, Member-at-large

---

[Click to view this email in a browser](#)

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link: [Unsubscribe](#)

---

Philadelphia Family Pride  
PO Box 31848  
Philadelphia, PA 19104  
US

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

