



Out & About

News and notes for LGBT-parented families

SEPTEMBER 2013



Registration Now Open for 4th Annual Family Matters Conference!

Registration is now open for **PFP's 4th Annual Family Matters Conference** for LGBTQ parents and prospective parents. [Click here to register.](#)

The conference will take place on Saturday, October 19, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the [William Way Center](#) located in Center City Philadelphia at 1315 Spruce Street.

This one day event for LGBTQ parents and prospective parents is a great chance to network, share information and get some concrete advice from LGBTQ parents, attorneys and other professionals during workshops and panels on everything from growing your family, to knowing your rights to telling your stories.

This year's keynote speaker is [Cory Silverberg](#), the author of the popular book for kids [What Makes a Baby](#). Raised by a librarian and sex therapist, Cory grew up to be a certified sexuality educator and writer. His talk is titled "All in the Telling: Making Space for Stories We Can't Even Imagine."

The staff of [Camp Highlight](#), an overnight camp for kids of LGBTQ parents, will be running the on-site child care for ages 3-11. Younger and older kids are welcome to accompany their parents to the conference.

Sessions for prospective parents include: *Babymaking in the 21st Century*, *Donor Dos and Don'ts for LGBT People Using Assisted Reproduction* and *Adoption Options*.

For parents, we have *Talking to Your Kids About Gender*, *Coming Out Again*, and *Again and Again*, and *Mindful, Collaborative Parenting*, among others. (Prospective parents are also welcome at these sessions.)

To keep track of the shifting laws regarding same-sex relationships, we'll have two sessions - one focused on marriage equality laws, lawsuits and legislation and another on understanding the new tax laws.

We will also reprise the popular "Ask the Experts!" panel of teenagers with LGBT



expert panel of teenagers that ask parents to answer your questions. (If you have or know a teenager who would be good for this, please e-mail Marc Berman at marc@phillyfamilypride.org.) Pictured is the panel from the 2012 conference.



[Read more about the schedule of the day, workshops and presenter bios.](#)

Register now! Cost is \$25/person for PFP members and \$35/person for non-members and includes breakfast, lunch and child care. Students and kids are free. Scholarships are available.

If you have questions, would like to volunteer or sponsor, please e-mail Community Coordinator [Stephanie Haynes](#) or give her a call at 215-888-0722.

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A Few Spots Left for Camping with Pride

This year's PFP **Camping with Pride** trip will take place the weekend of September 20-22, 2013 at nearby [Fort Washington State Park](#) in Montgomery County. (Pictured is the group from last year's camping trip to Mauch Chunk Lake.)

Fort Washington State Park consists of 493 acres in eastern Montgomery County. The park lies between the towns of Fort Washington and Flourtown along the Bethlehem Pike. It is about two miles from PA Turnpike Exit 339.



We will be camping Friday and Saturday nights at Group Tent Camping Area C. Both "modern"



at group tent camping area or 2007. Modern pit toilets and flush toilets are within walking distance. Water spigots, picnic tables and fire rings are located at each site. The sites are also within walking distance to a playground, volleyball court, open field, biking and hiking trails and the creek.

Families should bring all their own supplies – tent, sleeping bags, food, etc. While pets are allowed in the park, they are not allowed in the group tent area.



Activities will include crafts for the kids, a potluck dinner on Saturday evening and a trip to the handicap accessible Hawk Watch Observation Deck (pictured) where all 16 species of raptors that migrate on the East Coast can be seen. Be sure to bring your binoculars!

Cost for the weekend is **FREE for PFP members** and \$20/family for non-members. Those interested in hanging out on Saturday but not camping are also encouraged to RSVP for meetup instructions.

Reserve your spot by emailing Sandra Telep at sandra@phillyfamilypride.org.

Smith Playground, Singles and More!

On July 27th, PFP families met up at the ever-popular [Smith Playground](#) in Fairmount Park. The wooden slide was a big hit, as well as the train in the tot lot. After the playground was conquered, the group sat out on the front lawn for some lunch and conversation. Look for more events at this landmark kids' place!



That evening, single PFP parents met at [Earth Bread + Brewery](#) in Mt. Airy for dinner and conversation. We have another singles event in the works, so stay tuned!

A few PFP families who ventured up to Provincetown, MA for Family Week met at the Berman's rental on Sunday afternoon August 4th for ice cream and to plan out their week of activities. Family Week is an annual event sponsored by the [Family Equality Council](#).



On September 7, five PFP couples met for dinner at [Cedar Point Bar & Kitchen](#) in Fishtown for a delicious meal and conversation (pictured). It was a good mix of prospective and current parents, new faces and those who have been in PFP a while. Thanks to restaurant owners (and lesbian moms) Shannon and Liz for hosting us!

Member Milestones

Scroll down to the end of the newsletter for several PFP marriage announcements.

♥ Jim Muldoon and Ray Johnson celebrated their 10th anniversary on August 19th. Happy Anniversary!



♥ PFP Community Coordinator Stephanie Haynes and her partner Vicky Kresge (pictured) celebrate their "19/17 anniversary" on September 14: 19 years since they got together and 17 years since their commitment ceremony. Happy Anniversaries!



♥ Deidre Ashton, a PFP board member, has been appointed as the new Executive Director of the Center for Family, Community and Justice in Princeton, NJ as of October 1. Congrats Deidre!

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, September 20: This year's [Camping with Pride](#) trip will be September 20-22 at a group camp site at Fort Washington State Park. RSVP to sandra@phillyfamilypride.org. Non-campers may meet up with the group on Saturday, September 21.

Sunday, September 29: PFP will take a tour of the [Mutter Museum](#) starting at 1pm. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids for PFP members; regular museum admission of \$15/\$10 for non-members. Recommended for ages 6 and up.



Saturday, October 5: Meet up in front of the Valley Green Inn in the Wissahickon section of Philadelphia's Fairmount Park for a [Fall Hike](#) for all ages!

Sunday, October 13: PFP will once again be hosting the Family Zone at [OutFEST](#) in the Gayborhood. Look for us (and the bouncy castle!) at the intersection of Spruce and Camac. This is a free event! If you can volunteer an hour at the PFP table, [e-mail Stephanie](#).

Saturday, October 19: Register now for [PFP's 4th Annual Family Matters Conference](#), taking place this year at the William Way Center in Center City Philadelphia.

Save the date: Neighborhood Potlucks will take place again this fall the weekend of November 2 in neighborhoods in and around Philly.

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



PFP Marriage Announcements

♥ Sophie Forge and Leigh Braden were one of the couples issued a marriage license in Montgomery County, PA in July. On July 29, the couple got married and submitted their license in Plymouth Meeting.

They then held a small ceremony at their home on August 3 officiated by the Rev. Bill Golder from Arch Street Presbyterian Church.

Sophie and Leigh are one of the 32 couples in the class action lawsuit to challenge the state to recognize these licenses. Fingers crossed for the upcoming rulings on marriage equality in PA!



♥ Marla McCulloch and Jennifer Santisi "got legal" in Provincetown, Mass. on August 9th during Family Week when they renewed their vows from their 2004 wedding, this time with state recognition. Val Biderberg officiated.

Marla reported that, "[Our kids] Michaela, Hayden and Dylan made it through the whole thing without throwing sand. It was lovely." Congratulations!



♥ PFP board member Bryan Berchok and his partner John Ferraro showed their support for Montgomery County's Register of Wills Bruce Hanes on August 14th when they applied for a marriage license (pictured).

♥ Rodney and Ken Finalle-Newton officially married in Manhattan on August 23rd. Ring bearers were their sons Jesse and Lucas. Congratulations!



♥ Nicole and Ginny Perrine-Wilson were the 100th couple to pick up a marriage license in Montgomery County and were wed by Lansdowne Mayor Jayne Young on September 5. They will celebrate with family and friends at a larger ceremony on October 5. Congratulations!

Next month we'll feature photos of PFP families on summer vacation. Have a photo you'd like included? Send it to info@phillyfamilypride.org along with a short description of the location. Thanks!



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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