



# Out & About

News and notes for LGBT-parented families

SEPTEMBER 2015



## Kids' Conference Registration Deadline Friday

Philadelphia Family Pride will sponsor our 6th Annual Family Matters Conference for LGBTQ parents and prospective parents on **Saturday, October 17, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.** at the main campus of [The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia](#) at 34th and Civic Center Blvd. in Philadelphia. *(Atrium, pictured right)*



[Register](#) by this Friday, October 2nd **if you'd like your kids (0-15) to be included in the child care and programming.** We have some great activities and volunteers lined up to entertain and engage them.

The theme for 2015 is "**Mind, Body and Soul: Taking care of ourselves and our families.**" This year's keynote speaker will be PA Physician General **Dr. Rachel Levine**. Dr. Levine is the highest ranking out transgender woman in Pennsylvania's state government and was honored at this year's Philly Pride as the parade's Grand Marshal. *(Pictured, below)*

[Check out the day's schedule and workshop offerings here.](#)

The cost is \$20/adult for PFP members and \$30/adult for non-members. Breakfast, lunch, nearby garage parking and child care are all included. Scholarships are available upon request.

Organizations and businesses wishing to **sponsor this year's conference** can sign up to do so at the Platinum (\$1,000), Gold (\$500), Silver (\$250) or Bronze (\$100) level by [filling out this survey](#), also by this Friday, October 2. All sponsorships come with a vendor table at the event.



Thank you to the sponsors who have thus far supported the event, listed below. They make this conference possible!

**PREMIER**

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# The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia®

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**PFP Active in September**

Philly Family Pride had an active September! Families met at the always-popular **Smith Playground** on Wednesday, September 2 and Saturday, September 19 for a couple of hours of swings, slides and climbing.

PFPP was also the sponsor of the Family Zone at the **1st Annual South Philly Sausage Fest** on Saturday, September 12.

Kids of all ages had fun coloring, making duct tape wallets, hula hooping and creating with Play Doh (when they weren't jumping in the bounce house). *(Pictured)*



Finally, after the teen survey results were in, we listened and organized a **roller skating party** at the RiverRink at Penn's Landing on Sunday, September 20.

Check out our October events below.

## Financial Planning Session in November

Join PFP members and the LGBTQ community at large at a **financial planning session at the William Way Center** on Saturday, November 21 from 2-4pm.

Information will include general financial and tax planning for LGBTQ families as well as quantifying the economic impact of marriage for LGBTQ community members.

The presentation will be made by Rosalind W. Sutch, CPA, MT of Drucker & Scaccetti, P.C., Certified Public Accountants/Business Advisors. *(Pictured)*



Light refreshments will be served.

RSVP to PFP Director Stephanie Haynes at [stephanie@phillyfamilypride.org](mailto:stephanie@phillyfamilypride.org). Please indicate if you would like child care during the session and the number and age of your children. We will let you know if we can accommodate you. Thanks!

## Member Milestones

Congratulations to PFP members Joshua Mayne and Rob Patton who were married on September 20 in Philadelphia in front of family and friends.



PFP members David D'Amico and Brad Kushner celebrated their 10th anniversary on September 28. The couple celebrated by checking off a bucket list item: hiking Half Dome in Yosemite National Park. Happy Anniversary!

Happy 18th Birthday to Alex Stevers-Radtke and congrats to dads Bill Stevers and Thom Radtke on this milestone! Alex will be one of the teenagers on the "Ask the Experts" panel at this year's PFP conference.



*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

**Sunday, October 4:** Meet up with other PFP families in front of Valley Green Inn in the Wissahickon Gorge for a [Fall Hike](#). This walk is appropriate for all ages.



**Wednesday, October 7:** This is our monthly meetup from 10am-12pm at the [Smith Playground](#). Meet in the playhouse in case of rain. (No Saturday meetup this month since it's our conference date!)

**Saturday, October 10:** Have you been to the construction theme park [Diggerland](#) in New Jersey? It's awesome! Join PFP there with discounted tickets.

**Sunday, October 11:** Stop by the family zone at the annual [OutFEST](#) in Center City between 12pm-5pm. Find us at Spruce and Camac Streets. We'll have a bounce house, crafts and free face painting from 2-4pm.

**Saturday, October 17:** PFP's annual Family Matters Conference at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. [Registration now open.](#)



**Sunday, October 25:** [Fall crafts and treats](#) with PFP at Penelope's Frozen Yogurt & More in Horsham, PA. Paint pumpkins and more.

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



## **Book Review: *Which One of You is the Mother?* by Joel A. Nichols**

Sean Michael O'Donnell's *Which One of You is the Mother?* is a quick and quick-witted series of vignettes about being an adoptive gay male parent.

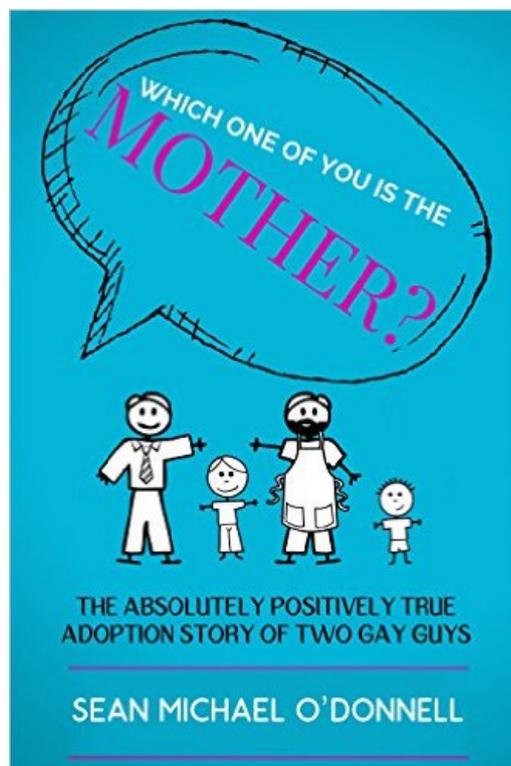
The brief stories are sometimes a little too heavy on jokes, but O'Donnell tells an emotionally compelling and touching story of what it means to adopt children who aren't infants. These vivid sketches of the ways some kids cope with family instability will tug at your heart.

In addition, for anyone contemplating adoption or parenting, these stories will convince you immediately.

O'Donnell's book has some practical advice for how his family talks about mothers and navigates awkward questions from strangers and friends alike, for example, and lightly describes how incongruous gay male life and parenting can seem.

I found his examination of how people sometimes treat gay male couples as saints of personal interest, but the anecdote left me wanting more.

In this way, the book is truly thin, and only gestures at the most interesting questions while



being as funny as it can be. It seems like a book gay parents on an adoption path could give our gay friends to help explain and frame the process in an easy tone.



*Joel A. Nichols lives in West Philadelphia, and is a librarian at the Free Library of Philadelphia.*



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).

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