



## Out & About

*News and notes for LGBT-parented families*

### Tell us what you think!

The PFP board of directors is always working to improve the experience of our members and supporters. Your insight and recommendations are critical components of PFP's **planning for 2012** and beyond. Will you work with us on this important new look at our operations, programs and strategies?



**Please take our brief survey.** We encourage you to be honest and creative. This is an important tool we will be using in our planning. Also, toward the end of the survey, you can indicate your desire to be more involved in whatever way works best for you. We hope you do.

Two participants will be randomly selected to win a **\$25 gift card**. Thank you for your time and input. **Please take our brief survey now.**

### Happy New Year from Philly Family Pride!

On **Sunday, January 1, 2012**, PFP families gathered at Mishkan Shalom in the Roxborough section of Philadelphia to ring in 2012.

The potluck food this year featured a **mac and cheese contest** - with eight contestants. People really outdid themselves with multiple toppings, various cheeses and even one with sweet potatoes. The winners were board members **Robin Matthews** and **Bill Stevers**. (Their secret? More than one kind of cheese, including gruyere.)



Other yummy food included a few versions of the luck-inducing Hoppin' John (with black eyed peas), salads, greens and pizza! Thanks everyone for sharing food! Look for more food contests at future events.

Kids got their faces painted (and "tattoos" on their arms) by the fabulous **Deb Comeau**. Contact Face Painting by the "Crazy Art Teacher" at [crazyarTeacher@yahoo.com](mailto:crazyarTeacher@yahoo.com).

Deb had a great system, so each kid got lots of time in the chair with amazing results - Princess Fiona from Shrek to rainbow Spiderman to a bathtub complete with bubbles and rubber ducky.



While folks weren't getting their faces painted or tasting mac and cheese, kids played bingo, built intricate Lego machines, hula hooped and made cards and collated breakfast bags for the group [Aid for Friends](#).

We also held our annual **Silent Auction**, which raised nearly \$1,000 this year. Thanks to these local organizations that donated items:

A Full Plate Cafe - Abby Ruder, Marriage and Family Therapist - Arden Theatre - The Law Offices of David C. Berman - Cut Hair Salon - The Dovetail Artisans - Families Like Yours and Mine - Garden State Discovery Museum - Giovanni's Room - Jerner & Palmer, P.C. Services - Modern Eye Optical Shop - My Family (LGBT themed books) - Once Upon a Cookie - Patrick Snook, professional photographer - Philadelphia Community Acupuncture - Philadelphia Flyers - Philadelphia Phillies - Rossi Hair Studio - Sesame Place - Trolley Car Diner - Two Lives Publishing - Yoga on the Ridge

Finally, the board elections were held, and two new board members at-large were elected: **Deidre Ashton** and **Bob Quintana**.

See below for a profile of Bob and his family. (See the [September 2010](#) issue of this newsletter for a profile of Deidre and her partner when they were prospective parent members - before their four month-old son was born.)



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## Letter from PFP Board Chair Marc Berman

The start of a new year is not only an opportunity to look forward, but also a time for reflection.

Over the last two years, our organization's profile, programming, and membership have increased significantly. This new energy is the result of the board's focus on our core mission: building community and raising awareness of LGBT parents and our kids.

For our families, there have been over 40 opportunities each year to connect with a family just like yours, over 40 opportunities for your children to feel the quiet comfort that can only come from knowing there are many others just like them, and over 40 opportunities to be visible and show others what LGBT-headed families look like. For this, I am truly grateful.



I'd also like to take this opportunity to recognize my fellow Board Members (pictured), Wendy Forbes, Aimee Schulz-Plarr, Robin Fradkin-Matthews, Andrew Altman, Marla McCulloch, Bill Stevers, Bob Quintana, and Deidre Ashton. Each of you devotes several hours each month to plan events and develop ideas to strengthen our organization. Many thanks to departing board members Tom Buckley and Joe Ippolito.

If PFP were a car, then Stephanie Haynes, our Community Coordinator, would be the fuel. Stephanie keeps members informed with regular emails and creates the monthly newsletter you are reading right now.

Over the last two years, our team has enhanced PFP's presence at community events. **Philly Pride** in June 2011, for example, featured the first-ever PFP Trolley, where our kids got to toss candy to the cheering crowd.

We launched our own day-long program for LGBT parents and prospective parents that drew over 100 people. Stay tuned for details on



the **2012 Family Matters Conference**.



And the newly created **Neighborhood Potlucks** gave families a relaxed and friendly opportunity to meet families who live nearby. We hope you will join us for the next round of potlucks this March.

To you, our members, thank you for supporting the organization in record numbers. In 2011, PFP finished the year with close to 160 paid member families. This year, the board will continue to plan a wide variety of events at no cost or deeply discounted for PFP members. Also look for PFP to partner with other area organizations as we strive to create a membership that truly reflects the rich diversity of the LGBT community.

I warmly invite each of you to join us at an upcoming event, particularly if you are new to the group or haven't participated lately. On behalf of the entire Board, I wish you the very best for 2012.

## Member Milestones

♥ Erin Schmitt and Dane Menkin welcomed Georgia Irene Menkin-Schmitt (pictured) on January 2, 2012. She was 21" long and weighed 8lbs, 11oz. Big sister Mari is thrilled. Congrats!



♥ Joy Collins, Julie Markovitz and big sister Dori Markovitz (13) welcomed a new addition: Vivien Sofiya Collins born November 28, 2011. Congratulations!

♥ Chris Helms and Matthew Daniels' son Lucas celebrated his first birthday on January 11. Happy Birthday Lucas!

♥ Nick Martinez DeFina, son of Marcia and Sarah Martinez-Helfman and a senior at Friends Central School, will be attending the University of Pennsylvania in the fall, class of 2016. As a senior at FCS, Nick was selected as a National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP) Scholar. Nick, who plans to major in English in college, is poetry editor of the School's literary magazine, co-president of Amnesty International Club, and a delegate for Model UN. He also runs cross country for FCS and plays first violin in the Upper School orchestra. Congrats to Nick and his proud moms!



*If you have a family milestone that you'd like included in an upcoming PFP newsletter, please e-mail [stephanie@phillyfamilypride.org](mailto:stephanie@phillyfamilypride.org).*



# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday, January 21:** Meet up with other PFP families at the [Adventure Aquarium](#) in Camden, NJ. There's a special PFP member price of \$12/adult, \$10/child. Kids under 2 are free.



**Sunday, January 29:** Dads, Pops and prospective dads get together for the first [Dads Potluck](#) of 2012 in Yardley.

**Saturday, February 4:** Get a free [ice skating lesson](#) at the River Rink at Penn's Landing and discounted skating tickets with your PFP membership.

**Saturday, February 11:** Join PFP at the [William Way Center](#) for a Family Day from 9am - noon. This is a FREE event.

**Saturday, February 25:** Meet up in Chinatown for [Dim Sum](#) at New Harmony. [RSVP](#) to hold your spots.

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



### New Board Member Profile: Bob Quintana

Welcome new PFP board member **Bob Quintana** (pictured on the left). Bob and his partner, Bob O' Malley, Jr., are the proud dads to two year-old Jake and live in Yardley, PA.

Bob Quintana is a Director of Search and Media at Rosetta Marketing Group in Princeton, and Bob O' Malley, Jr. is an IT Manager with NRG Energy, also in Princeton.

Jake likes pizza, Elmo, music, The Fresh Beat Band, and most of all, his pint-sized Dirt Devil vacuum cleaner, which seemingly goes everywhere he does.

Bob and Bob have been together for nearly 12 years. Jake became a part of their family via open adoption on February 2, 2010, when he was one day old.



"We joined PFP so that we could meet other LGBT families in the area and enjoy outings and other activities with them. As a multicultural family, it's extremely important to us that Jake is exposed to many different cultures and family units that not only reflect his own, but ones with varying nuances and dynamics as well," Bob Q. said.

Their favorite PFP events are Philadelphia Pride in June and the OUTFest block party in the Philadelphia Gayborhood in October.

"I wanted to become a part of the PFP board to give back to a community that has been extraordinarily supportive of our family from day one," Bob Q. added.



*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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*Bill Stevers,  
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*Deidre Ashton, Member-at-large*

*Bob Quintana, Member-at-large*

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