



PFLAG Cape Cod, Brewster

Parents, Families, Friends of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transgenders

Apr. - Jun. 2011

NEWSLETTER

Brewster, MA

Tennessee is Stepping Backward

[Excerpted from advocate.com]

Tennessee's new "Equal Access to Intrastate Commerce" bill is one of the most far-reaching pieces of antigay legislation passed in the 21st century.

The new law, signed by Governor Bill Haslam (R) reversed a Nashville ordinance requiring that businesses the city contracts with function as equal opportunity employers who don't discriminate against LGBT people. The state law not only voids that ordinance — it makes it impossible for Tennessee cities and counties to enact any antidiscrimination ordinances in the future. Since Tennessee offers NO protections for LGBT people, and the Republican-controlled legislature makes it highly unlikely that such protections would pass, Tennessee's GLBT citizens can be drummed out of work and kicked out of their apartments with little to no recourse.

The legislation provides that no local government can impose on any business or person, other than a local government's own employees, any personnel practice, definition or provision relating to discrimination or discriminatory practices that deviates from the requirements of state law. It also makes null and void any nonconforming requirements imposed prior to the legislation's effective date.

NY Marriage Equality

Gov. Andrew Cuomo said the proposal to legalize gay marriage in New York may not reach the state Senate for a debate and vote before the end of the legislative session June 20. "We want to pass a bill," Cuomo said. "We don't want to bring up a bill in the Senate that would fail."

Opponents, emboldened by financial support from a national group and NY Archbishop Timothy Dolan, are continuing their fight to defend traditional marriage in New York.

Six more votes are needed in the state Senate to pass marriage equality; the Assembly is expected to pass an equality bill easily.

Eight senators say they are undecided: James Alesi, R-Perinton, Monroe Co.; Stephen Saland, R-Poughkeepsie; Greg Ball, R-Carmel, Putnam Co.; Kemp Hannon, R-Nassau Co.; Roy McDonald, R-Saratoga; Joseph Addabbo & Shirley Huntley D-Queens; and Carl Kruger D-Brooklyn. CAN YOU HELP?



Pride Comes in All Ages

Acknowledging its numerous gay members, the AARP has launched a new microsite addressing issues specific to older LGBT people.

Scholarship Award Night at PFLAG

Please join us at our regular PFLAG June 20 meeting to meet, hear their stories, and congratulate this year's scholarship winners. Lily Olin from Nauset High School and Sammi Scovil from Falmouth will each receive \$2000 after they complete their first semester of college.

Both young women have been an inspiration at their schools and beyond. Our award is based on a student's active participation with their GSA's and their work for diversity, especially LGBT diversity.

More Catholics Are Reaching Out

A new booklet is available from one of the Catholic Welcoming websites, www.NewWaysMinistry.org.

Marriage Equality: A Positive Catholic Approach is available both online and in hardcopy. It is a 41-page book in question and answer format written to dispel the myth that Catholic lay people follow the bishop's public opposition to same-gender marriage.

The website also lists gay-friendly Catholic parishes and colleges, articles about bullying, and Catholic-related news.

New Ways Ministry is a member of *Equally Blessed*, a coalition of faithful Catholics who support full equality for LGBT people in both the Church and civil society.

JUNE IS GAY PRIDE MONTH!

NEWS FROM ALL AROUND

AUSTRALIA: An ad campaign to promote safe sex has been removed from bus shelters following complaints from an antigay Christian group. The ads, posted in Brisbane, featured a gay couple embracing and holding an unopened condom packet.

CHICAGO: The History Museum opened its "Out in Chicago" exhibit which will run through March 26, 2012. Cross-dressers, lesbian softballers, leather culture, pioneering activists, and crusading lawyers will be among the diverse aspects of the exhibit.

DELAWARE: Both the House and Senate have approved a civil unions bill that will provide same-sex couples who enter into such civil unions the same rights, protections and obligations now granted in Delaware to married couples. The Governor said he will sign the bill into law, which will go into effect January 1, 2012.

IOWA: A former Iowa state senator is launching "Iowa Republicans for Freedom," aimed especially at conservatives who support marriage equality. Iowa has had marriage equality since the state supreme court ruled in favor of it in 2009, but there is a movement to strip gay Iowans of marriage rights.

MONTANA: A bill to remove an unenforceable sodomy law brought out a wave of homophobia from members of the state's house judiciary committee and was defeated.

PORTLAND: OREGON: On Sunday, May 29, nearly 4000 people joined hands in solidarity across the Hawthorne Bridge in Portland. A week prior, two gay men were followed as they walked hand-in-hand across that bridge and were beaten simply because they were holding hands. Residents from all over Portland showed up on Sunday to walk

across the bridge and join hands together, while the Beatles song "I Want to Hold Your Hand" was played.

SOUTH AFRICA: South Africa's ambassador to Uganda, a country criticized for threatening the rights of gays, was found guilty of hate speech for an anti-gay column he wrote before his appointment. He must apologize and pay the approximate \$14,000 fine. Same-sex marriage is legal in South Africa, but homophobia is rampant.

TURKEY: A former referee is seeking compensation from the Turkey Football Federation for allegedly outing him and dismissing him for being gay.

WHITE HOUSE: President Obama said in his speech declaring June as LGBT PRIDE Month, "No one should be harmed because of who they are or who they love."

Trans Prom Queen at Florida High School

[Excerpted from Steve Rothaus, *Miami Herald*]

"They called my name and I was in total shock," said Andrew, a 17-year-old who was born male but has publicly presented herself as female for the last two years.

With her long wavy brown hair, Andrew wore a royal blue dress and got a fresh manicure for the dance. Andrew, also known as Andii, plans to someday change her name to Andrea. She wanted to run for prom queen in order to show other transgender teens "it gets better."

Last year, school officials suggested Andrew not dress as a female in class and to "tone it down," she said. "This year we got a new principal and she's very supportive of me. She said 'Stay in the running. Don't back down for anything.'"

Before the big night, Andrew's father, Oscar Viveros, bought her a gown, shoes and makeup. "I've always loved him unconditionally," said Oscar Viveros, who still uses male pronouns when talking about Andrew. "I've told my other kids, they have to support him. He thinks he's a girl in a man's body. In school, he hears this and that, but



I've made sure in our house he's free to act and do whatever makes him comfortable." Viveros said he and his wife view Andrew as a straight female.

"He doesn't consider himself gay. He likes men. I understand that. He's just in the wrong body," said Viveros, who recalls a young Andrew wanting to try on Cinderella's dress at Disney World. "I'd tell him, 'You're a boy,'" Viveros said. "He'd try it on anyway. He was happy."

Life as a transgender teen is a challenge, Andrew says. Some McFatter students have taunted her, "but they know not to mess with me," she said. "I've filed bullying reports over and over again with people. I've had many incidents. People would call me 'faggot.' People would write on my locker, repeatedly. Andrew plans to attend Broward College and get a degree in culinary arts management.

Oscar Viveros has advice for other parents with GLBT children: "Let them grow to be whatever they want to be, as long as they're good."

“A Family’s ‘Coming out’ Workshop” is a Success!

Last year PFLAG of Cape Cod decided to make a major effort to reach out to members of the community who may be struggling to understand, accept, and support their LGBT loved ones. We knew they were out there, but not many were coming to PFLAG meetings. By organizing workshops with insightful, knowledgeable speakers and an experienced therapist to lead a discussion, and by holding the workshops in three different locations across the Cape, we hoped to attract people who wanted to learn, share and take steps to better support their loved ones. A generous grant from the GALE Fund of the Cape Cod Foundation made these workshops possible.

The result was a total of 56 people (excluding PFLAG board members and presenters) attending the workshops in March and early April. Much to our surprise and pleasure, almost half of the attendees came not to obtain support, but to lend support to those in need and/or to learn about PFLAG.

We had presentations by the parent of an LGBTQ child, one or two LGBTQ youth, a local high school GSA advisor, and Scott Fitzmaurice, the Executive Director of CIGSYA. The second hour of the workshop

was devoted to sharing situations and feelings, guided by a therapist. The workshops wrapped up with a brief presentation about PFLAG.

We hope participants learned something new and felt good about participating. The PFLAG Board certainly learned something from participants! We learned that while there is still a desire among family members for support, information, and camaraderie, there are an equal number of people who see PFLAG as an avenue to help others. As a result, we hope to do more to engage members in education and advocacy efforts.

Several attendees at the workshops indicated an interest in monthly PFLAG meetings if they were located closer to home. We are therefore offering a second meeting place in Falmouth—every last Tuesday at 6:30 at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 840 Sandwich Road. Please come or pass the word to someone who may be interested in attending.

The PFLAG Board is very grateful to the GALE Fund for their support in funding and attending our workshops. These were a first for us, and we hope to offer other educational events in the future.

Amy Mesirov

Gay Rights & the Legal Profession

[Excerpted from *New York Times* 4/29/11]

The prestigious law firm King & Spalding withdrew from assisting Congress in defending the law that forbids federal recognition of same-sex marriage. Its reversal suggests the extent to which gay men and lesbians have persuaded much of the legal profession to accept the basic proposition that sexual orientation is irrelevant to a person’s worth and that the law should reflect this judgment. Gay-rights supporters have transformed the law and the legal profession, opening the doors of law firms, law schools and courts to people who were once casually shut out because of their sexual orientation.

But it was a process that took a half-century to unfold. In 1961, a Harvard-trained astronomer, Frank Kameny, stood alone against the federal government. Fired from his federal job simply for being gay, he wanted to petition the Supreme Court. But at a time when all 50 states still criminalized sodomy, even the ACLU declared it had no interest in challenging laws “aimed at the suppression or elimination of homosexuals.” Mr. Kameny wrote his own appellate brief; without comment, the court turned him away.

Over the next quarter-century, lifted by change in sexual morality and in the status of women, gay-rights advocates mobilized at every level of the legal profession. In the late 1960s, they successfully challenged the anti-gay civil service policies under which Mr. Kameny had been discharged. In 1973, a small group of gay lawyers formed the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, enlisting the help of prominent heterosexual lawyers. They drafted legislation protecting gays from discrimination in housing and employment.

[You can read the whole article by Dale Carpenter, law professor and author of “Flagrant Conduct: The Story of Lawrence v. Texas,” at pflagCapeCod.org.]

12-Year-Old Asks Red Sox to Fight Homophobia

Inspired by his late uncle who felt passionately about preventing antigay bullying, 12-year-old Sam Maden launched a campaign on **Change.org** to ask the Boston Red Sox to make an “It Gets Better” video and help fight homophobia in sports. Thousands have already signed the petition generated by the seventh-grader from Nashua, N.H.



Last month, in response to a similar petition on **Change.org**, the **San Francisco Giants** became the first professional sports team to create an “It Gets Better” video; the **Chicago Cubs** agreed to make one, and the **Red Sox** will be the third. More than 10,000 videos have been created since September when the project began in response to the epidemic of suicides among bullied gay teens and those perceived to be gay.

PFLAG Meetings in Falmouth

Meetings are on the last Tuesday of each month at 6:30 at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Falmouth, 840 Sandwich Road, East Falmouth! This is not a separate chapter, but an additional meeting place of PFLAG Cape Cod.

The group hopes to provide support to those in need and work to bring education about diverse families, gender nonconformity, and name calling into the elementary school. The June 28 meeting will offer support from 6:30 to 7:00pm, and then show a free film, *Bullied; a Student, a School, and a Case that made History*. The film chronicles one student's ordeal at the hands of anti-gay bullies and offers an inspiring message of hope to those fighting harassment today.

Trans Rabbi Will Talk June 24

"Created Beings of Our Own: Transgender Issues in Judaism" is the title of a talk at the Falmouth Jewish Congregation. Guest speaker Rabbi Elliot Kukla will discuss transgender realities, specifically within a Jewish context. A transgender Reform rabbi, he brings a unique perspective to an issue of concern to us all. Please plan to attend and spread the word, as this special Shabbat service and talk are open to the public. 7 Hatchville Road, East Falmouth, 7:30 pm.

Home Depot Boycott

The American Family Association is urging its members to boycott Home Depot because it refuses to stop supporting Gay Pride events. It would be a nice gesture to thank Home Depot for their support and refusal to back down.

Our Chapter is on Facebook!

We want to be your friend! Please "friend" us by searching "Pflag Cape Cod" on Facebook.

Join Rainbow Crafters

If you or someone you know is a knitting or crocheting maven or wants to become one, please come to our one of our meetings every 2nd Tuesday from 1:30 to 3:00 in the Falmouth Public Library, Bay Room. We'll provide yarn, needles/hooks, patterns, etc. You provide the labor in return for good conversation, tasty snacks, and much appreciation!



We're making scarves, hats, gloves, mittens,

bags, purses, watches, beaded bracelets, stuffed animals, and more. Crafts are sold at craft fairs and PFLAG events. Proceeds fund educational events and student scholarships. For more information on our meetings or on purchasing crafts, please call Amy at 508-420-0696.

GLBT Group Meetings

PFLAG/Brewster, every 3rd Monday, 7pm, 1st Parish Church
PFLAG/Falmouth, every last Tues, 6:30pm, UUF Falmouth
CIGSYA 56 Barnstable Rd, Hyannis, 4-7pm Wednesdays for ages 12-22. See Calendar at www.cigsya.org

Gay Men's Group information: email CapeCodTrade@aol.com

Lesbian Groups: www.meetup.com/CapeCodWomen

Gender Discussion, Age 18+ every Wed, 8pm CIGSYA House

Rainbow Crafters every 2nd Tues, 1:30-3, Falmouth Library

Transgender Support: every 2nd Wednesday, 7pm, First Parish Winslow House, off Rte 124 at 6A, 508-292-0393

Dates to Remember

Jun 20, Jul 18, Aug 15: Brewster PFLAG, 7 pm, 1st Parish Ch.

Jun 28, Jul 26, Aug 30: Falmouth PFLAG (see left column)

Jun 11: Boston PRIDE March and Festival

Interfaith service Old South Church, Copley Square 10am

Parade meet corner Dartmouth & Tremont Sts 11 - 11:30am

PRIDE Festival after parade at City Hall, Government Ctr

Aug 18: P'town PRIDE parade on Thursday afternoon

PFLAG Cape Cod will sell crafts in P'town on Saturday, June 25, Mon. Aug 1, and Wed. Aug 10.

PFLAG of Cape Cod, Brewster

PO Box 241 Harwich Port, MA 02646

MISSION: Promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons, their families and friends, through Support, to cope with an adverse society; Education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and Advocacy, to end discrimination and secure equal civil rights.

MEETINGS: 7 pm on the third Monday of each month at 1st Parish UU Church, Brewster (Rte 6A near Rte 124 intersection). Everyone is welcome. For information call 508-398-6471 or see our webpage.

MEMBERSHIP: Dues-paying members support the efforts of PFLAG both locally and nationally. Fifteen dollars goes to PFLAG National (includes subscription to Pflagpole), and the balance is used for our own Newsletter and the purchase of pamphlets, books, and videos. Our fiscal year begins Oct. 1.

OFFICERS & BOARD: Coordinator-Randy Lewis-Kendell; Treasurer-Joanne Hush; Corresponding Sec'y-Pem Schultz; Publicity, Crafters, Falmouth Group-Amy Mesirow; Newsletter & Website-Joann Figueras; Fundraising-Paul Goddu; David Sigler, Rona Robinson.

NEWSLETTER: Email info@pflagCapeCod.org

WEBSITE: www.pflagCapeCod.org

Membership Application PFLAG of Cape Cod

___\$35 Family ___\$25 Individual ___\$15 Limited income
\$ _____ Additional donation for local chapter

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I prefer to receive Newsletter by email only. Yes ___ No ___

Checks are payable to PFLAG/Brewster. Mail to Joanne Hush, 200 Breakwater Rd, Brewster, MA 02631

To receive Newsletter by email instead of print copy, email joann@pflagCapeCod.org