



# PFLAG of Cape Cod

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

Sept. - Dec. 2011

NEWSLETTER

Brewster, MA

## Mass Legislature Passes Transgender Rights Bill

*[Excerpted from GLAAD.org]*

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts continues its longstanding tradition of promoting equality by passing the Transgender Equal Rights Bill. The bill, which protects transgender residents from discrimination in employment, housing, education, and credit, as well as hate crime violence, passed in the House 95-58, and unanimously in the Senate. Gov. Deval Patrick submitted written testimony in support of the bill and is expected to sign the legislation into law. Massachusetts will join 15 other states and Washington, D.C., in prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity and expression.

Unfortunately, the current bill does not include protections within public accommodations. Jennifer Levi, director of GLAAD, highlights this setback but remains optimistic: "We want complete protections for transgender people – including in public accommodations – but also know that in order to get there, we cannot walk away from the legislature's first step toward achieving those full protections." Today's legislative decision is a clear start to full transgender equality.

A February, 2011, report from the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force found that 76% of the estimated 33,000 transgender people in Massachusetts have been harassed on the job because of their gender identity; 20% have lost a job because of their gender identity; and 17% have been denied a promotion because they are transgender.

## Advice: What to Do If the Sandusky Scandal Comes to Thanksgiving?

*[Excerpted Steven Petrow, advocate.com]*

**Q:** I was having dinner with some friends, and the subject of the Penn State scandal came up. One of the straight guests was on a rant and said, "This is a perfect example of why gays shouldn't be parents." I was so angry I was afraid to say more than just "that's crap!" The group changed the subject immediately — but I feel as though I missed a chance to teach this ignoramus a thing or two. Is there an appropriate way to talk about issues like these without losing my temper?

**A:** I, too, would have been hard-pressed to restrain myself. But I'm a proponent of civility, not only as a value, but also as an effective tool to persuade others to my point of view.

A cool-headed response might have been more like: "It's actually not an example of that at all. Evidence shows that gay people make very good parents, and their children thrive. It is, however, a good example of why pedophiles should be kept away from children."

Or I might have reacted: "It's disturbing to hear someone as intelligent as you confuse pedophilia (a psychiatric disorder in adults usually characterized by sexual interest in children) and homosexuality (the romantic or sexual attraction between members of the same sex or gender), a clear distinction made by every accredited psychiatric association. The alleged charges of child molestation brought against Sandusky have, in fact, nothing to do with sexual orientation or to the suitability of gays and lesbians to parent."

There's a long history of gay people being portrayed as a threat to children, going back at least to 1977 when Anita Bryant ran a successful campaign to repeal a Florida ordinance prohibiting anti-gay discrimination. Her organization, "Save Our Children," repeatedly warned parents that "a particularly deviant-minded [gay] teacher could sexually molest children." In more recent years, this same fallacious argument has been made in efforts to exclude gay scouts and scoutmasters from the Boy Scouts of America.

All of this would have been "appropriate" to discuss at the table, and I would have then turned to the question of how and why this alleged molester was able to continue to prey on vulnerable kids for so many years.

## Backers of Prop 8 Can Challenge Ruling

*[Excerpted from NY Times 11/17/11]*

The California Supreme Court ruled that proponents of Proposition 8 — which banned same-sex marriage in California — have legal standing to challenge the decision by a lower court judge who overturned the ban.

The decision means that the case, *Perry v. Brown*, is now moving from a legal detour — the question of who has the right under California law to appear in court on behalf of a proposition under legal challenge — to the issue of merits: does a legal ban on same-sex marriage violate constitutional rights?

Lawyers on each side proclaimed victory within hours after the decision was released.

# NEWS FROM ALL AROUND

**BRAZIL:** The government granted a foreigner the right to live permanently in the country based on his same-sex relationship with a Brazilian citizen.

**CABESTANY FRANCE:** The mayor of this small town officiated at the marriage of two men in defiance of national law which allows only civil unions, not marriage, for gay couples. The French government was not happy.

**CALIFORNIA:** Michael W. Fitzgerald, an out gay judicial nominee proposed by President Barack Obama for the Central District of California, was favorably reported out of the Judiciary Committee on November 3 on a unanimous voice vote. The favorable action came despite letters targeting his nomination from two anti-gay right-wing groups, FRCAction, the legislative arm of the Family Research Council, and the Traditional Values Coalition.

**DALLAS TEXAS:** Republican George Clayton came out as gay after a whisper campaign threatened to derail his reelection to the state's board of education. He sent an email to reporters: "It has come to my attention that . . . my opponents . . . are questioning my sexual orientation. So as to avoid the tyranny of misinformation and innuendo in this political race, I wish to say that I, in fact, do have a male partner who lives with me in my home in Richardson, Texas."

**ECUADOR:** A campaign by women's and LGBT groups is seeking the closing of 200 illegally-operating forced-confinement clinics whose purpose is to attempt to change the orientation of LGBT people.

**HARVARD UNIVERSITY:** The school may add language to its admission application that would allow prospective students to identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender, according to *The Harvard Crimson*.

**KYRGYZSTAN:** This Central Asian nation is about to make a breakthrough in transgender rights that puts it ahead of many Western countries, with a new law allowing transgender people to change their name and gender marker on official documents without proof of medical intervention. The move has been approved by 13 of the nation's government ministries and awaits the prime minister's signature, according to the Global Fund for Women.

**MILITARY:** Navy lieutenant Gary Ross and his husband, Dan Swezey plan to attend a Marine Corps Ball at Arizona's Fort Huachuca. When Ross purchased tickets for the event, a Marine asked if he was bringing his wife. He responded by saying, "No. I am bringing my husband."

**MINNESOTA:** Activists are raising funds and mobilizing supporters to beat the anti-gay-marriage amendment on the ballot in Minnesota in 2012

**NEPAL:** A tragic romance between a lesbian couple will be the first gay feature film in the 60-year history of Nepalese cinema. It also is the first time a French cinematographer, Sarah Cornu, has worked in a Nepali movie. The film is "Snow Flowers."

**NEW YORK:** Alison Nathan, who was confirmed for a seat on the US Court for the Southern District of New York last month, survived an 11<sup>th</sup>-hour attempt by two right-wing groups to derail her nomination. She was confirmed on a straight-party vote on October 13 after four Republicans who voted for her in committee changed their positions. There are currently three out gay and lesbian federal judges with lifetime appointments – Nathan, Paul Oetken, and Deborah Batts – all of whom serve in New York's Southern District.

**NORTH CAROLINA:** The referendum on a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage was moved from November, 2012, to May. North

Carolina is the only southern state without such a ban.

**SAN DIEGO:** Hotelier Doug Manchester, a major donor to the campaign to repeal marriage equality in California, is buying San Diego's daily newspaper, *The Union-Tribune*.

**SAUDI ARABIA:** Religious leaders hope to make an example of a woman recently caught driving, which is illegal in the Muslim nation. Her sentence is ten lashes. Some Saudi men believe that allowing women to drive will lead to prostitution, pornography, divorce, and homosexuality. The highest Saudi religious council and conservative professors at King Fahd University have stated that granting women the right to drive will mean there will be no more female virgins in the country.

**ST PAUL MINNESOTA:** Demetrius Miller was sentenced to 27 years in prison for the rape and robbery of a transgender man. Miller was found guilty of first-degree aggravated robbery and first-degree criminal sexual conduct. The victim was born biologically female but identifies as male. While robbing the victim, Miller began to undress him to gain access to his iPod, phone, and cash, and when he saw that the victim had female genitals, Miller raped him.

**UGANDA:** Frank Mugisha, who works to defeat legislation that would make homosexuality an offense punishable by death, was honored as the first advocate for LGBT equality to receive the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award. Mugisha will also receive a financial boost and a six-year partnership with the Foundation to support his work.

**WASHINGTON DC:** A conservative group said Hillary Clinton's announcement that Ellen DeGeneres had been chosen as a special envoy for global HIV/AIDS awareness was a blatant example of the Obama Administration pushing a "homosexual agenda."

## Local PFLAG Board Gears Up for Growth

PFLAG of Cape Cod's Board of Directors is reorganizing to position itself for growth. The new Board will be larger (9-10 people) and include representation from the Falmouth group. The board will be a working group, with each member assuming a specific position and related responsibilities. Positions include President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Support Group Facilitator / New Member Chair, Program Chair, Fund Raising Chair, Electronic & Written Communications, Scholarship Committee Chair, Outreach / Speakers, and Photographer. Anyone interested in joining the board is encouraged to email [amy@pflagCapeCod.org](mailto:amy@pflagCapeCod.org). The Board membership will be voted on at Brewster's November 20 meeting.

Treasurer Joanne Hush has a proposed budget for the coming year, based on this past year's income and expenses: \$4650 income from dues, donations, sale of crafts, and fundraisers; \$1450 expenses; and \$3200 for scholarship awards. We hope to increase this budget for the coming year, raising more money through fundraising events and business sponsorships, and spending more on activities to increase awareness of PFLAG across Cape Cod. We welcome input from our readers.

*Amy Mesirov*

## Straight for Equality

"Straight for Equality" is a national outreach and education project created by PFLAG National to empower allies in supporting and advocating for GLBT people by:

- Inviting allies to speak up
- Educating allies
- Engaging allies in the pursuit of equality

Our board is particularly interested in the project's "Straight for Equality in Healthcare" materials. These materials were created by PFLAG National after hearing from healthcare providers. Some providers said they were seeing more and more LGBT people in their practices and wanted

to help, but they didn't know what form that help should take, or even where they could find information to get started. Others expressed discomfort with the topic, but realized that it was something they needed to learn more about to do their jobs effectively. In the coming months, PFLAG of Cape Cod will provide "Straight for Equality in Healthcare" materials to doctors' offices and other healthcare professionals to help them begin this process. Anyone interested in helping us with this effort, please email [info@pflagCapeCod.org](mailto:info@pflagCapeCod.org).

## Boston Gay Men's Chorus Will Perform Benefit for CIGSYA

Mark your calendars for the evening of Saturday, April 28, 2012! The Boston Gay Men's Chorus has generously agreed to hold a benefit concert for the Cape & Islands Gay and Straight Youth Alliance (CIGSYA). The concert will take place from 7:00 to 8:30 at the Barnstable High School Knight Auditorium. Tickets will go on sale in February or March; \$10 for students, \$25 general admission, and \$50 for "premium" tickets (preferred seating and entrance to a post-concert wine and cheese reception with the Chorus members). We hope you will join us for this wonderful celebration of community.

The concert is co-sponsored by PFLAG of Cape Cod and the Barnstable High School Gay/Straight Alliance. We are currently seeking business sponsors for the event. Sponsorship packages will allow sponsors to show their support for the LGBT community. The specific sponsor benefits (ads in the program book, press releases, flyers, e-blasts, webpage, and Facebook advertising) and number of premium concert tickets are based on the level of sponsorship. Three levels of sponsorship are available: Diamond (\$2,500), Gold (\$1,000) and Silver (\$500). Anyone interested in becoming a business sponsor, or who is able to suggest potential sponsors, please email [amy@pflagCapeCod.org](mailto:amy@pflagCapeCod.org).

## Two Spirits Documentary on DVD

*[Excerpted from [advocate.com](http://advocate.com)]*

When President Obama declared November National Native American Heritage Month, he did so with a call to "celebrate the contributions and heritage of Native Americans during this month." He also said, "We recommit to supporting tribal self-determination, security, and prosperity for all Native Americans."

That call is too late to offer security to Fred Martinez, but a new film, which broke audience records earlier this year on PBS and is now available on DVD, documents both Martinez's life and the long history of different perceptions of gender and sexuality among the Navajo Nation.

Fred Martinez was a Navajo boy who was *nádleehí*, a male-bodied person with a feminine spirit. When Fred was 16-years-old, Shaun Murphy bludgeoned him to death for being different. The film interweaves the tragic story of a mother's loss along with Native American cultural traditions that once held places of honor for people of integrated genders. In ancient Navajo culture, being *nádleehí* was a special gift; but in modern culture Martinez was the victim of a hate crime.

The film brings home the resounding message that being true to oneself is the bravest thing anyone can do. The DVD will appear on Netflix in the near future.

## GAYLA Ball

**February 11, 5:30 to Midnight**

Cape Codder Resort and Spa  
1225 Route 132 Hyannis, MA

This is the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Gay/Straight Dinner Dance sponsored by First Parish Brewster. \$65 per person includes dinner and dancing with DJ Shelly Cullen.

Advance Reservations only.  
Call Joanne Hush at 508-255-5476  
or email [hush@pflagCapeCod.org](mailto:hush@pflagCapeCod.org).

## 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.

### Special Plea from Our Treasurer

The National PFLAG fiscal calendar begins Oct. 1 of each year, as does our own PFLAG of Cape Cod fiscal calendar.

I appreciate the fact that some members joined mid-year, and others have renewed at varying times during the year, but I ask – please – that everyone move to an October-to-September schedule.

Our financial obligation to PFLAG National, which is \$15 for each membership, should be paid in the fall of each year. It is difficult for me to know what our membership roster looks like when the dues come in throughout the year. So please, if you have not yet renewed for fiscal year 2011-2012, would you please send it to me now? Thanks very much for your cooperation.

An application is included with this Newsletter and is also available at [www.pflagCapeCod.org](http://www.pflagCapeCod.org).

## Help Raise Money

**For people who have a TDBank account:** the Bank will make an annual contribution to the GALE Fund based on the average yearly balances in cooperating member accounts — checking, CD's, savings, etc.

Members' accounts are not affected in any way by this contribution. Ask to have your account balances included as part of the **GALE Fund Affinity Membership Program**. The code is A3170.

## Join Rainbow Crafters

If you or someone you know is a knitting or crocheting maven, or wants to become one, please come to our next Rainbow Crafters meeting, Tuesday, Apr. 12 (or any 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues) 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, 7pm, 1<sup>st</sup> Parish UU Church  
PFLAG/Falmouth, every last Tues 6:30. UU Fellowship  
PFLAG Crafters every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues, 1:30-3, Falmouth Library  
CIGSYA 56 Barnstable Rd, Hyannis, 4-7pm Wednesdays for ages 12-22. See Calendar at [www.cigsya.org](http://www.cigsya.org)  
Falmouth Gay Men's Group: [www.FalmouthMensGroup.org](http://www.FalmouthMensGroup.org)  
Lesbian Groups: [www.meetup.com/CapeCodWomen](http://www.meetup.com/CapeCodWomen)  
Gender Discussion, Age 18+ every Wed, 8pm CIGSYA House  
Transgender Support: every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 7pm, First Parish Winslow House, off Rte 124 at 6A, 508-292-0393

## Dates to Remember

Nov 21, Dec 19, Jan 16: Brewster PFLAG, 7 pm, 1<sup>st</sup> Parish UU  
Nov 29, Dec 27, Jan 31: Falmouth PFLAG 6:30, UU Falmouth  
Jan 16, Mar 19, May 21: PFLAG of Cape Cod Board Meetings  
Jan 21: Welcoming Congregations Mtg, First Parish, 10am  
Feb 13: GAYLA Ball 5:30 - Midnight (see article page 3)  
Mar 17: Welcoming Congregation Conf., St Davids, Yarmouth  
April 28: Boston Gay Men's Chorus (see article page 3)

### 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 Mesirov; Newsletter & Website—Joann Figueras; Fundraising—Paul Goddu; Rona Robinson.

**NEWSLETTER:** Email [info@pflagCapeCod.org](mailto:info@pflagCapeCod.org)

**WEBSITE:** [www.pflagCapeCod.org](http://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, 11 Anthony Drive, Orleans, MA 02653

To receive Newsletter by email instead of print copy, email [joann@pflagCapeCod.org](mailto:joann@pflagCapeCod.org)