



# PFLAG of Cape Cod, Brewster

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

July - September 2006

NEWSLETTER

Brewster, MA

## GLAAD Representative to Speak at PFLAG's Oct. 16 Meeting

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) works to ensure fair, accurate, and inclusive coverage of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community in the media. Northeast Media Field Strategist Mike Lavers will be the guest speaker at PFLAG Cape Cod's monthly meeting on Monday, Oct. 16, at 7 p.m. at the First Parish Church in Brewster. He will discuss his work with PFLAG chapters across the Northeast and will answer questions about GLAAD's work in Massachusetts and across the region.

## "Transcending Boundaries 2006" & PFLAG Regional Conference

October 27 - 29 is the date, and the place is the DCU Convention Complex in Worcester, MA. This conference combines two groups with similar goals—PFLAG and its goal of ending discrimination and securing civil rights for all GLBT persons—and Transcending Boundaries Conference (TBC), which is for and about those who do not fit into the simple categories of gay/straight, male/female. A list of conference topics is on the next page.

Registration is \$70 (\$50 low income). Randy has registration forms at Cranberry Goose, or a form can be downloaded at [www.transcendingboundaries.org](http://www.transcendingboundaries.org). For more information call Randy at 508-430-2818 or email [bbarry@ne.rr.com](mailto:bbarry@ne.rr.com).

## Gays Can Learn From Civil Rights Backlash

[GD Frasier, PFLAG, 8/9/06]

In May, 1954, overjoyed by the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education* that racially segregated public schools were unconstitutional, NAACP attorney Thurgood Marshall predicted school segregation would vanish within five years.

Instead, a decade later, only 1% of black children in the Deep South sat in classrooms with whites.

What had interfered? A fierce backlash by the white majority. That backlash prompted black leaders to debate whether full-throated demands for equality should be replaced by a go-slow approach aimed at giving white supremacists more time to see the error of their ways.

The aftermath of the *Brown* decision has much to teach those of us who are gay and feeling wobbly after a string of heartbreaking setbacks in our push for equal marriage rights. Legal scholar Carlos Ball offers historical perspective and a much-needed pep talk in "The Backlash Thesis and Same-Sex Marriage" in the *William & Mary Bill of Rights Journal*.

[Continued on page 3]

## A Gay Day in MA!

[Excerpted from baywindows.com]

Sept. 19 was a good day for Marriage Equality in MA. At least six of the legislators who oppose equal marriage lost their primaries, the most notable of whom is Parente, a foe of all GLBT inclusion.

Marc Solomon, campaign director of Mass-Equality, said the primary results send a strong message to lawmakers that even in the districts that produced some of the most vocal opponents of same-sex marriage, candidates can win at the ballot boxes while supporting same-sex marriage. "In conservative parts of the state, ...voters are comfortable with marriage equality, don't view it as a key issue in the race, and are ready to move on," said Solomon. "...the wins by new pro-equality candidates [like Sarah Peake] in seats formerly held by same-sex marriage opponents speak volumes about the growing power of the same-sex marriage movement."

## News from All Around

**Berlin's** openly gay mayor easily held on to his office after Sept. 17 elections, with his party winning more than 30% of the vote. The election also saw the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party fail to pick up seats in Berlin's parliament, despite the party's success in other regions of the country. [Baywindows.com]

**Florida:** A man was sentenced to life in prison this week for the 2003 murder of a transgender woman. William McHenry stabbed Reshae McCauley to death after she left a nightclub in Largo, Florida. [hrc.org]

**Georgia:** A federal judge issued a decision requiring White County High School to allow PRIDE, the Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA), to meet on campus. The case was argued by the ACLU.

**Hollywood:** Brad Pitt, ever the social activist, says he won't marry Angelina Jolie until the restrictions on who can marry whom are dropped. "Angie and I will consider tying the knot when everyone else in the country who wants to be married is legally able," as revealed in *Esquire's* Oct. issue. [MassEquality.org]

**Jerusalem:** The High Court of Justice ruled that the controversial Gay Pride Parade can take place in Jerusalem on Nov. 10. [Jerusalem Post]

**New Jersey:** Avoiding further controversy in the worldwide Anglican family, the Episcopal Diocese of Newark chose a Massachusetts priest as their new bishop, rather than an openly gay candidate from North Carolina. [365gay.com]

**South Africa:** Archbishop Desmond Tutu, in the first authorized biography of the Nobel peace laureate, said he was ashamed of his Anglican church's conservative position that rejected gay priests.

**South Korea** has picked a low-budget, gay-themed film—*The King and the Clown*—to be its official submission for the best foreign language film Oscar at the 79th annual Academy Awards. [Guardian Unlimited]

**Uruguay** is expected to pass a law permitting civil unions between both same-sex and heterosexual couples who have lived together for five or more years. The law would extend inheritance rights to couples and grant them shared parental rights and pension benefits, among other protections. [Bay Windows.com]

**Washington, DC:** In July, the U.S. House of Representatives again voted against the Federal Marriage Amendment which would have inserted a definition of marriage as "the union of a man and a woman" into the Constitution of the United States.

## Hope for Religious Blacks

Boston's Black religious leaders should take as their role model the Rev. James Forbes, pastor of Riverside Church in New York. Forbes is black, and his diverse congregation has gone on record as supporting same-sex marriages—and all other families based on the principles of love and justice. Forbes says acceptance might increase as African-Americans become more aware of scientific evidence that suggests sexual orientation is innate, and not a choice.

"I see marriage as a civil right, and no group's religious beliefs should be allowed to deny the rights of others. And because blacks have suffered from bigotry and injustice that were cloaked by religion and morality, we should avoid doing the same thing to others." [massequality.org]

---

### Gays Can Learn From Civil Rights Backlash

[Continued from page 1]

He stresses that the heterosexual backlash after the '03 MA ruling opening marriage to gay couples was a predictable majority response to minority progress—much like the backlash after Brown.

...White parents were furious; outsiders burned crosses; schools were boycotted. ...Southern voters replaced moderate politicians with strict segregationists. The Ku Klux Klan spread like a virus. Nearly 100 Southern congressmen blasted the high court. Some towns shut down their schools.

Recent gay marriage setbacks—court losses in New York and Washington state...are painful. But civil rights movements are "struggles"—difficult and long.

Gay rights attorneys Wolfson and Davidson note that only after losses in 14 states' courts did a challenge to a ban on interracial marriage succeed—in California's Supreme Court in 1948. Inter-racial marriage remained illegal in 29 states. Nineteen years later in 1967, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the last 16 bans.

Thank goodness advocates of racial equality didn't wait for attitudes to change. In 1958, just 4 percent of whites approved of interracial marriage. That rose to 17 percent in 1968, the year after the court's ruling, but it took until 1997 for a majority of whites—61%—to approve. In 2003 when Gallup last asked, 27 percent still objected to interracial marriage.

*The durability of prejudice is no reason to go slow in pushing for full equality. Speak up for fairness, and trust that the nation will catch up.*

## Workshops, Panels, and Talks at “Transcending Boundaries” Oct. 27-29

Ask the Doctor / HIV and the LGBT Community  
Getting the Sex you Want (and Not the Sex you Don't)  
Transgender Health: What We Need to Know  
Coping with Alcoholism & Addiction in Queer Intimacy  
Young, Gay, and My Parents are Really Religious  
Coming out as transgendered or transsexual  
Raising a Transgender Child – Compassionate Parenting  
Transgender Youth & Gender Variance  
Bisexuality and Sexual Orientation  
Intersex 101  
How do we talk about BDSM/Leather/Fetish?  
Demystifying Kink for Families, Allies, and Professionals  
Safer Sex is a Many-Generational Thing  
Polyamory Panel  
A Closet for Two? TransGendered Marriage Journeys  
Celebrate Genderqueer Identities  
Misogyny within the Queer Women's Community  
Transcending Boundaries within the MTF Spectrum  
Redefining Masculinity: Transmen are Changing Definitions  
Why Bi? Women's reflections about (bi)sexual identity  
Queer Feminism and Transfeminism  
Exploring Trans Sexuality: How Transition Affects Sexual  
Identity for Trans People and Their Partners  
PFLAG and Transgender – Sharing a Future  
The State of Marriage Equality in MA and Beyond  
Workplace Diversity – challenges yet to be addressed  
PFLAG Membership, Recruitment, & Retention  
Embracing the Exiled: Psychological Effects of Antigay  
Religious Rhetoric  
History of Bisexual and Trans Activism  
Know Your Rights: Legal Landscape for Trans/Genderqueer  
Facilitating Groups Like a Superhero!  
“T” & “I” Aren't Just Tack-ons; being a true trans ally  
Ethnic Diversity – the multifocal perspective  
Does My White Privilege Make Me Look Racist?  
Queercrips: We exist, we have sex, and we can be really hot  
Working Class Identity and Sexual Identity  
Kink Legal Issues  
NELA and Valerie White  
Lifelines for Trans Youth: Helping Youth Make Successful  
Transitions to Adulthood  
Trans on Campus: Measuring and Improving the Climate for  
Transgender Students  
Taking a Stand: Creating Safe Schools for All Students  
Celebrating Our Adult Lesbian and Gay Children and their  
Children with Children's Books  
Working With Faith Groups  
Hope Along the Wind: The Life of Harry Hay  
Hineini: Coming Out in a Jewish High School  
Queer Spirituality Panel  
Queer Media Matters: BTI Representation and Activism  
Coming-Out Party and Book Signing for Bi Men

## Story from PFLAG's Executive Director, Jody M. Huckaby

[Excerpted from *PFLAG Weekly*]

As I was heading out of the office late on Tuesday evening, I got a call from a young man in California that brought me back to the basics of why PFLAG is such a critical resource in our communities. He found the PFLAG telephone number in a book about coming out. Mark explained to me that he had just been thrown out of the house by his parents because he admitted that he was gay.

Mark is in his late 20s and a recent college graduate who had returned home temporarily while he started his career. He described himself as a military brat, having lived in several places around the globe as his career Army father and conservative religious mother built a family. He was successful in high school and followed the strict rules common to kids growing up in military families. As he put it, “There was no room for gray in our family; just black and white.” Mark knew he was different very early on, but he wasn't sure what it was about until he moved away for college. It was there he realized that his difference was about his sexual orientation—he was gay.

Mark told me that he had his own coming out process thousands of miles from his parents and family. He dated another man and felt good about who he was as a gay man. He surrounded himself with compassionate and supportive people. However, he always knew that the affirmation and freedom he was experiencing was not something he could talk about with his parents.

That Tuesday morning Mark's father passed through the hallway and saw a book on Mark's nightstand about coming out and said, “What's this? A gay book? Why the hell are you reading that crap?”

Mark was stunned and too surprised to think of something to change the subject as he had done for so many years. This time, he just stood there in silence. His father pressed, “So, what, Mark? Are you a faggot? Is that what this is? Are you a faggot?” Mark looked right at him and quietly said, “Yes, Dad, I'm gay.”

His father yelled, “No way any son of mine is a faggot!” Hearing a commotion, his mother ran down the hall as his father yelled, “Mark's a faggot—he just said he's a faggot!” Mark's mother burst into tears.

Before Mark was even aware of what was happening, his father was shoving him out the door, throwing stacks of clothes on the lawn, and hurling his shoes at him. Everything became a blur with his father yelling and his mother crying. He gathered up his clothes, put them in his car and drove away. When he reached the outskirts of town, Mark called the PFLAG National Office for help.

## American Airlines Discount

American Airlines will give PFLAGers a 10% discount on any fare above \$200 to any destination. Must be booked and ticketed by 22 Oct and travel complete by 15 Dec. The following codes are one-time use good for up to 6 people on the same booking. Go to [www.aa.com/rainbow](http://www.aa.com/rainbow); In the 'Book Now' section, press 'More Options'; Select cities and dates and shop by fare; In #8, enter the discount code to display the flights with discount!

After you choose your flights you can put in the PFLAG Business Extra number in the Passenger Details area so that PFLAG will get the credit! Effortless Philanthropy!

BBNW66HE856F, BBNW68T9Q9TT,  
BBNW6TU6UM89

## The Fall Fling

### A dance to celebrate diversity

Friday, October 6, 2006 7:30 pm to 11:00 pm  
Yarmouth Senior Center, 528 Forest Rd, S  
Yarmouth

Desert Bar ♦ Dress as you are Comfortable ♦  
BYOB

Must be 21 years of age to attend  
Music by Betho of "mobile cape spin"

## CIGSYA BENEFIT

### At Cranberry Goose Gift Shop

551 Main St, Harwich Port 508-430-2818

Day of Holiday Shopping Nov. 12

20% of all purchases donated to CIGSYA House  
Noon – 6PM

## New Fiscal Year for PFLAG

It's once again time to renew PFLAG memberships. Our fiscal year begins Oct 1, and we appreciate timely renewals because it makes book-keeping simpler. If you have been receiving a complimentary copy of our Newsletter, now would be a good time to become a member of PFLAG.

Your dollars support our scholarships, purchase of books and DVD's, and support of like-minded groups. In Massachusetts and other parts of the country powerful groups are attempting to reverse the legal and social advances toward full equality for GLBT persons. We need to work harder than ever to ensure that our GLBT friends and families are truly 'welcomed' into the larger society and given all the privileges and rights they deserve.

## GLBT Group Meetings

**PFLAG/Brewster** every third Monday, 7pm, 1<sup>st</sup> Parish Church  
**CIGSYA** 56 Barnstable Rd, Hyannis, 7pm Wed & Thur

Family-Parent Meetings, 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, CIGSYA House

**Lesbian Connections:** 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Potluck, 6:30pm; 1<sup>st</sup> Parish  
Winslow House; 430-2653

**Metropolitan Community Church:** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays, 6pm,  
Chapel in the Pines, Eastham 508-398-6471 or 432-8361

**Straight Spouse Group:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 7pm, 1<sup>st</sup> Parish, 896-2620

**Transgender Support:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 7-9pm, 1<sup>st</sup> Parish Barn  
top floor, on Harwich Rd, 362-4435

## Dates to Remember

**Oct 16, Nov 20, Dec 18: Brewster PFLAG, 7 pm**

**Oct 10, Nov 14, Dec 12: Straight Spouse Gp, 896-2620**

**Oct 11, Nov 8, 13: Transgender Support 362-4435**

**Oct 27-29: Transcending Boundaries Conf. see p.1**

**Oct 6: LGBT Dance at Yarmouth Senior Center**

**Oct 11: National Coming Out Day**

## PFLAG/Cape Cod, Brewster

PO Box 1167 Orleans, MA 02653

**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; everyone is welcome. For information call 508-398-6471.

**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:** Coordinator, Randy Lewis-Kendell; Treasurer, Joanne Hush; Corresponding Sec'y, Pem Schultz; Publicity, Joanne Hush & Pem Schultz; Newsletter, Joann Figueras & Doris Scherbak; Library, Randy Lewis-Kendell.

**NEWSLETTER:** Email [joann@pflagcapecod.org](mailto:joann@pflagcapecod.org).

**WEBPAGE:** [www.pflagcapecod.org](http://www.pflagcapecod.org)

## Membership Application PFLAG/Brewster

\_\_\_\$35 Family \_\_\_\$25 Individual \_\_\_\$15 Limited income

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Additional donation for local chapter

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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