

# PFLAG Cape Cod, Brewster

Parents, Families, Friends of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transgenders, & Questioning  
Oct. - Dec. 2010  
**NEWSLETTER**

## Seminars Planned for Parents of LGBT Kids

Our PFLAG chapter recognizes a need to help parents and other family members of LGBTQ persons understand, accept, and support their loved ones. In light of the recent suicides of gay teens, there is a clear need, not only for strong anti-bullying programs in schools, but also a need to equip parents to help their LGBT children become happy, healthy, and self confident.

PFLAG/Brewster is planning three "Discourse and Discussion" events. These will be identical sessions, held over three consecutive weeks in Falmouth, Hyannis, and Eastham. Please encourage people you know who may benefit from participation in one of the events to save Thursday, March 24, March 31, or April 7 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Specific locations, dates, agenda, and speaker names will be posted on our website ([www.pflagcapecod.org](http://www.pflagcapecod.org)) within the next month and described in our February newsletter.

## Two New Lawsuits Challenge DOMA

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

Two new lawsuits filed by GLAD and the ACLU challenge the Defense of Marriage Act, the 1996 law prohibiting the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages.

The lawsuits follow a ruling from a federal judge in Massachusetts in July that struck down section 3 of DOMA, the part of the law that limits marriage to one man and one woman for

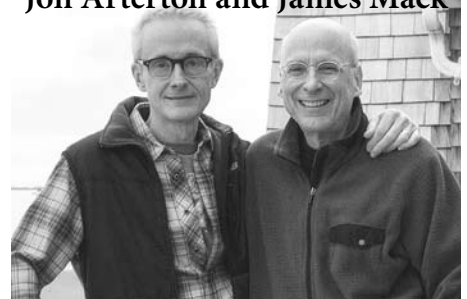
federal purposes. The Obama administration is appealing the decision in the case, Gill et al. v. Office of Personnel Management, which was brought by GLAD.

According to *The New York Times*, "The two new lawsuits, which involve plaintiffs from New York, Connecticut, Vermont, and New Hampshire, expand the attack geographically and also encompass more of the 1,138 federal laws and regulations that the Defense of Marriage Act potentially affects — including insurance costs amounting to several hundred dollars a month in the case of Ms. Pedersen and Ms. Meitzen, and a \$350,000 estate tax payment in the ACLU case."

The GLAD case, Joanne Pedersen and Ann Meitzen (one of five married couples) and a widower, was filed in federal district court in Connecticut. Pedersen et al. v. Office of Personnel Management addresses the plaintiffs' having been denied federal rights and protections because they are married to a same-sex partner. In New York the ACLU is suing on behalf of Edith Windsor, whose spouse, Thea Spyer, died last year. Although their Canadian marriage was recognized in New York, the women were not recognized as married by the federal government for estate tax purposes, and the case, Windsor v. USA, seeks to have the money returned.

In a conference call with reporters, Mary Bonauto, civil rights project director for GLAD, said the Pedersen case expands the core equal protection argument of the Gill case to another federal judicial circuit while providing evidence of DOMA-induced harms in more areas of plaintiffs' lives.

## "Legally Married — The Sky Didn't Fall" Jon Arterton and James Mack



Jon and James will present a musical revue about love and marriage for PFLAG's winter fundraiser. These wonderful singers offer witty and poignant looks at relationships, politics, the Bible, and the issue of gay marriage in America. Donations accepted.

Sunday, January 30, 3pm, St Peter's Lutheran Church, Rte 137, Harwich.

## CALL SENATORS!

### Repeal "Don't Ask Don't Tell"

- Please call the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121, tell them where you live, and ask them to connect you to your senators' offices.

- Tell them your name and where you're calling from. Then say, "I'm calling to tell the senator that "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" must end BEFORE the new Congress takes over."

- Hang up and call your other senator's office.

The Human Rights Campaign website ([hrc.org](http://hrc.org)) includes a form to be filled out so they can track calls and print advertisements, but whether or not you visit their site, **CALL YOUR SENATORS!** [I also called the Boston office of Sen. Brown at 617-565-3170. He needs our calls!

# NEWS FROM ALL AROUND

**ALASKA:** Willow Palin (16), responding to an online critique of her mother's reality show, replied on Facebook, "Haha your so gay. ...Your such a faggot." She apologized later.

**Barbara Bush** on Sarah Palin's possible run for president: "I sat next to her once...." Thought she was beautiful, and I think she's very happy in Alaska and I hope she'll stay there."

**CALIFORNIA:** The first openly transgender judge in US history has officially been elected in Alameda County. Victoria Kolakowski, a 49-year-old patent attorney, won with 51% of the vote over deputy district attorney John Creighton to be the next superior court judge.

**CHINA:** The majority of men in China who have sex with other men are already married to a woman or will eventually marry a woman. In a nation of approximately 20 million gay men, about 16 million of them are married to a woman.

**COLUMBUS OHIO:** The City Council approved health insurance for same-sex and unmarried opposite-sex partners of city workers, effective February 1

**ENGLAND:** Eight couples, gay and straight, are planning a coordinated legal challenge to the U.K.'s ban on same-sex marriage. Tom Freeman and Katherine Doyle were rejected by officials at their local town hall when they requested a civil partnership, the type of legal union only available to same-sex couples in Britain. They plan to go to court to win that right. Activists hope a ruling that allows straight couples the right to a civil partnership would mean, in turn, that gay couples have the right to wed.

**FILM:** *Out: The Glenn Burke Story* is a documentary on the life of the late professional baseball player Glenn Burke. The film raises haunting questions about the impact of homophobia in major league sports. Burke died of AIDS in 1995 at age 42. He came out in 1982 after he left baseball.

**FLORIDA:** The department of health will stop paying for pharmaceuticals for nearly 350 uninsured people with HIV or AIDS due to the state's budget crisis.

**GERMANY:** Two undertakers in Cologne are offering coffins designed with nude male images. "We believe you should be able to have a coffin that lets you embark on your last journey in a way that reflects how you lived your life."

**HOUSTON TEXAS:** Phyllis Frye was appointed by mayor Annise Parker as the city's first transgender judge and one of the few transgender judges in the country. Frye got her start as an activist and worked to repeal the city's cross-dressing ordinance in 1980. She said being in the same chamber where the appointment was made official brought tears to her eyes. "I remembered 31 years ago, in that very same chamber, I was subject to arrest," she told the *Chronicle*.

**ILLINOIS:** Laine Tadlock, a former administrator at Benedictine University in Springfield, says she was forced from her job at the Catholic institution after officials objected to the publication of her wedding announcement in a local newspaper.

**MARYLAND:** Out Maryland state senator Richard Madaleno said he is "guardedly optimistic" that the state legislature will pass a marriage equality bill in early 2011. Maryland also increased its number of out gay lawmakers from four to seven.

**NEW JERSEY:** Senate and Assembly panels approved a tougher Anti-Bullying Law, and the bill now moves to the full House and Senate.

**OKLAHOMA:** 18-year-old Melissa McKenzie said she was kicked out of Del City High School at the beginning of the semester when the principal found out she was living with her girlfriend instead of her family. The principal then told her if she returned to her family's home, she would be welcomed back to school.

**OKLAHOMA:** When members of the Westboro Baptist Church finished protesting the funeral of a fallen Army sergeant recently, they returned to their car to find their tires slashed. They had trouble finding anyone who would repair the front and back passenger-side tires. An estimated crowd of 1,000 counterprotesters met the small group from Westboro, who were confronted by chants of "USA, USA" and motorcyclists revving engines to drown out the sound of the Westboro protesters. The funeral was for Army sergeant Jason James McCluskey.

**RHODE ISLAND:** Democrat David Cicilline beat Republican challenger and State Rep. John Loughlin to secure RI's first district seat. He will be the fourth openly gay member of the House of Representatives.

**RUSSIA:** A gay rights demonstration in St. Petersburg, the first such state-sanctioned event in Russia, was greeted by egg-throwing protestors and shouted insults, leading to the arrest of 10 people.

**SPORTS:** Superbowl star Scott Fujita stands up for marriage equality, one of many athletes to speak out for gay rights in 2010.

**UK SURVEY:** The age at which people in the U.K. are coming out as GLBT has gone from 37 to 17 in about two generations.

**VATICAN:** In a striking exception to Catholic Church teaching, Pope Benedict XVI said he could understand the justification for condoms in some instances, such as for male prostitutes to prevent HIV infections.

**WASHINGTON:** Republican senators Lisa Murkowski and John Ensign announced their support for repealing the military's ban on openly gay and lesbian service members. KTV's Matt Felling told CNN he's noticing a "different" Murkowski since she won the election in Alaska with a write-in vote as the moderate candidate versus Tea Party candidate Joe Miller.

## Vigil for Suicide Victims

On Sunday, November 14, a “Vigil of Hope and Support” was held at the Orleans Methodist Church. It was a service of remembrance for the recent teen suicide victims and support for the Massachusetts Anti-Bullying law passed last spring. The vigil was held specifically in response to the tragic teen suicides caused by the constant bullying by their peers.

The Rev. Wesley Williams welcomed everyone to the Orleans Church. Other speakers included representatives of the Welcoming Congregations Coalition, clergy from the participating churches, members of PFLAG and CIGSYA House in Hyannis, and the Police Chief from the town of Yarmouth. Inspiring and beautiful music was provided by Jon Arterton and the Outer Cape Chorale. A donation was made to the CIGSYA House (Cape & Islands Gay, Straight, Youth Alliance) to help continue their work of support for our young people on the Cape.

The Welcoming Congregations Coalition was organized two years ago to find ways to make congregations more welcoming and affirming. Representatives from local Congregational, Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist, Unitarian-Universalist, and the Falmouth Temple have met on a monthly basis ever since. For more information call Linda Bailey-Davies, 508-255-6832 or Judy Recknagel, 508-362-3017.

*Joanne Hush*

## Bishop Robinson Plans to Retire in 2013

He plans to pursue a greater role in worldwide evangelism and in his work with LGBT advocacy. Robinson said he would continue to commit his full energy to his diocese until that date. He retires after 35 years in the diocese, nine of which will have been spent as Bishop, and a career devoted to physical and spiritual wellness, including immense work on AIDS education and prevention. He denied accusations that he is leaving because of death threats.

## Trouble Brews in Iowa

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

Although the freedom to marry remains intact, Election Day in Iowa saw a vicious attack from some of the nation’s most notorious antigay organizations and leaders. Politicizing for the first time ever a low-attention, normally routine down-ballot vote regarding whether to “retain” three of the justices, these groups flooded the state with more than \$700,000. The target was judges who, out of respect for the judicial selection system, did not campaign for retention or run ads defending themselves. Sadly, all three went down.

At the same time as they were warping the retention vote, NOM (National Organization for Marriage) and its fellow antigay groups (Focus on the Family and American Family Association) also went after Iowa attorney general Tom Miller, who was attacked for not challenging the ruling that led to the freedom to marry. Miller won reelection because, along with his record over seven four-year terms of service as attorney general, he could defend himself against baseless attacks in a political campaign, unlike the three justices. Also, by a two-thirds majority, Iowans rejected a “Call the Convention” campaign that would have initiated a constitutional convention at which the antigays could pursue a change in Iowa’s constitution that would end the freedom to marry in the state.

Like many state legislatures this election, Iowa’s house has now flipped to Republican control, and the Democratic margin in the senate has decreased substantially in a way that requires vigilance. It will fall to senate majority leader Mike Gronstal, a true champion, to hold the line against efforts to railroad through a constitutional amendment stripping the freedom to marry from gay couples. “One Iowa” will need support from all of us committed to defending liberty and justice in Iowa against the out-of-state attacks that will again swamp the state in an effort to advance an attack amendment aimed at undoing the freedom to marry.

## US Catholic Bishop Elections Signal Continued Targeting

The leaders of “Equally Blessed,” a coalition of Catholics working for justice for LGBT people, issued a statement expressing deep concern over the outcome of the election of new leaders for the US Catholic Bishops Conference.

“The election of New York Archbishop Timothy Dolan and Louisville, Kentucky, Archbishop Joseph Kurtz as President and Vice-President of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops sends an ominous message to LGBT Catholics and our families,” said Francis DeBernardo, Executive Director of New Ways Ministry and an Equally Blessed member. “Both men have made strong statements against gay and transgender people. Indeed, for the past two years, Archbishop Kurtz has led the US Bishops’ nationwide campaign against marriage for gay couples.” The election broke with tradition by not electing the past year’s vice-president, Bishop Gerald Kicanas of Tucson, someone known to be more moderate on LGBT issues.

“Equally Blessed” is a coalition of Fortunate Families, New Ways Ministry, DignityUSA, and Call To Action. All of them support GLBT Catholics.

## Talking Like a Woman?

Nicole Hatch had spent six figures on her transition from male to female, including flying to Thailand for sexual reassignment surgery plus at least \$20,000 on facial hair removal.

But her voice still gave her away; callers referred to her as “sir” when she answered the phone.

So Hatch went to the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where speech pathologists teach transgender people how to speak like people of the sex they’re becoming or have become.

The former Florida chiropractor took eight private classes at UNCG, learning to redirect her voice through the front of her mouth instead of her throat or chest so that she sounds more feminine.

## PFLAG Returns to P'town

Amy Mesriow and friends are returning to Provincetown to sell knitted, crocheted and beaded crafts at the after-Thanksgiving Craft Fair in the renovated Town Hall. The items are made by our wonderful Falmouth-based "Rainbow Crafters."

## "Bullied" Draws Attention

At our November meeting, PFLAG Brewster presented the film, "Bullied," a documentary chronicling Jamie Nabozny's ordeal at the hands of anti-gay bullies from the time he was in seventh grade (1988) until he left the Ashland, WI, school in 1992. He began the first legal action against the school in 1995, and finally won his case in 1996, receiving a million-dollar verdict and settlement. The film offers an inspiring message of hope to those fighting harassment today. You may borrow the CD by calling Pem at 508-432-8119.

## Fiscal Year Ended October 31; Dues are Due NOW

Please mail the enclosed renewal slip before the end of the year. Your contact information is printed for your convenience, so all you have to do is fill in the blanks — if there are any — and write a check. PFLAG thanks you and all gay kids thank you.

## Join Rainbow Crafters



This monkey needs your help! 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, Jan. 11 (or 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues of future months) 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 Church  
CIGSYA 56 Barnstable Rd, Hyannis, 3-7pm Wednesdays for ages 14-22. See Calendar at [www.cigsya.org](http://www.cigsya.org)

Gay Men's Group information: email [capecodtrade@aol.com](mailto:capecodtrade@aol.com)

Gender Discussion, Age 18+ every Wed, 8pm CIGSYA House  
Rainbow Crafters every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues, 1-2 pm, Falmouth Lib.

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

## Dates to Remember

Dec 20, Jan 17, Feb 21: Brewster PFLAG, 7 pm, 1<sup>st</sup> Parish

Jan 30: Concert by Jon Arterton & James Mack (see p. 1)

Feb 12: GAYLA Ball at Cape Codder Resort

## SAVE THE DATE

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Gayla Ball will be held on Saturday, February 12, at The Cape Codder Resort and Hotel in Hyannis. For more information, please call Joanne Hush, 508-896-3406.

## PFLAG/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, Amy Mesriow; Newsletter, Joann Figueras & Doris Scherbak; Fundraising, Paul Goddu.

**NEWSLETTER:** Email [info@pflagcapecod.org](mailto:info@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 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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](mailto:joann@pflagCapeCod.org)