



## *You Have a Home in PFLAG!*

GREENSBORO, N.C.

Vol. 19 No. 1

January 2012

PFLAG Greensboro  
Monthly meeting  
Tuesday, Jan 17<sup>th</sup>  
**7:30 p.m.**  
Friendship Friends  
Meeting House  
1103 New Garden Road  
Greensboro, NC

### **News Briefs**

[White House Endorses  
"Respect for Marriage Act,"  
Bill Would Repeal DOMA](#)

[By Darryl Morris](#)

On the eve of the first ever congressional hearing on proposals to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), the White House on Tuesday announced President Barack Obama's endorsement of the Respect For Marriage Act — the bill that would repeal DOMA.

White House spokesman Jay Carney told reporters at Tuesday's briefing that the president "is proud" to support the Respect For Marriage Act, "which would take the Defense of Marriage Act off the books for once and for all."

The Respect for Marriage Act, introduced by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) would repeal DOMA and restore the rights of all lawfully married couples, including same-sex couples, to receive the benefits of marriage under federal law.

Advocates of the repeal hailed the White House announcement.

### ***Upcoming Events***

**Tuesday January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012, 7:30 PM**

**Speaker: Addison Ore,  
Triad Health Project  
Friendship Friends Meeting House  
Greensboro, NC**

**Tuesday January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012, 7:00 PM**

**Movie: *Straightlaced*, discussion following  
Sponsored by GSAFE  
Carousel Cinemas  
Battleground Avenue  
Greensboro, NC**

**Tuesday February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012, 7:30 PM**

**Speaker: Linda Stroupe  
Anti-Gay Marriage Amendment  
Friendship Friends Meeting House  
Greensboro, NC**

**Saturday February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**HRC Carolinas GALA  
Raleigh Convention Center  
<http://www.hrccarolina.org/>**

**PFLAG National Spring Gala**

**Monday April 2nd, 2012  
Marriott Marquis Times Square  
1535 Broadway  
New York City, NY  
[pflagevents@pflag.org](mailto:pflagevents@pflag.org)**

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***"When push comes to shove, union members,  
regardless of their personal views, stand on the side of  
social justice."***

--Fred D. Mason Jr., president of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO, speaking about union support for legislation that would give same-sex couples the right to marry, as quoted by [The Washington Post](#)



Parents, Families, and Friends of  
Lesbians and Gays  
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Secretary	Dave Parker
Facilitator	Mitch Mathews
Webmaster	Dave Parker

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## News Briefs

### [High School GSAs and Young Adult Well-Being](#)

Russell B. Toomey  
*Arizona State University*  
Caitlin Ryan and Rafael M.  
Diaz  
*San Francisco State University*  
Stephen T. Russell  
*University of Arizona*

Findings revealed that the presence of a GSA, participation in a GSA, and perceived GSA effectiveness in promoting school safety were differentially associated with young adult well-being and, in some cases, buffered the negative association between LGBT-specific school victimization and well-being. Implications for future research and schools are discussed.

[Read more ...](#)

## [QNotes editor Matt Comer to step down](#)

### Newspaper to launch search for successor

by QNotes Staff - January 3, 2012

CHARLOTTE — On Tuesday, QNotes announced the resignation of editor Matt Comer, who will be stepping down after four years of service from his position on Jan. 20, 2012, to pursue new opportunities with local, statewide and national LGBT communities.



"As with any transition in life or business, saying goodbye can often be bittersweet," said Jim Yarbrough, publisher of QNotes. "While we are sad to see Matt leave, we wish him well on his future endeavors and are excited to tackle the transition process as we look for a new editor."

A search for Comer's successor has already begun in earnest. A job description has been released and follows this announcement. Applicants are encouraged to submit their resumes and writing samples as soon as possible.

A native of Winston-Salem, N.C., Comer was hired as QNotes' editor in October 2007. His more than four years of service at the newspaper saw a flurry of successes and innovation. In April 2008, Comer oversaw the revitalization of QNotes' website, shepherding it into the 21st century with new content management technologies that allowed the paper to publish breaking and regular news reports and features online. Comer also oversaw the publication's new social media strategies, creating QNotes' first social networking profiles on MySpace, Facebook and Twitter.

Today, QNotes reaches thousands of readers and community members via social media and its website, goqnotes.com, which receives an average of 20,000 unique visitors each month – making QNotes, by far, the most read local LGBT arts, entertainment and news publication in print or online in the Carolinas.

Also during his tenure, Comer's insight and experience in local and state community affairs helped to further establish QNotes as the primary, go-to source for progressive advocacy journalism and politics coverage on behalf of LGBT North Carolinians. He also aided in the creation of several important formal and informal partnerships between the publication and other community institutions, including QNotes' recent partnership with The Charlotte Observer's Charlotte News Alliance.

[Read more ...](#)

## News Briefs

### [Two Women's Homecoming Kiss A First For Navy](#)

By [Corinne Reilly](#)  
*The Virginian-Pilot*

VIRGINIA BEACH Dec 21, 2011



It's Wednesday morning around 10:30 when the Oak Hill finally comes into

view, its steel-gray bow peeking out from behind a grove of green trees at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek.

It's been three months since the dock landing ship left home for Central America, and all of the usual fanfare is waiting to greet its crew: crowds of cheering families, toddlers dressed in sailor suits, and the lucky, excited woman who's been chosen to take part in a time-honored Navy tradition - the first homecoming kiss.

In this case, that woman is 22-year-old Citlalic Snell. She's a sailor herself, assigned to the destroyer Bainbridge, but today she's in civilian clothes - jeans, boots and a stylish leather jacket. Watching pier-side as the Oak Hill pulls into port, she absentmindedly twists the small diamond ring on her left hand.

A uniformed liaison who is with her explains how it's going to work: Snell's sailor will be among the first off the ship, and when it's time, Snell will be escorted onto the pier for the kiss.

As it starts to drizzle, the brow is finally lowered. A handful of top officers are first off the ship, and then comes a young woman in dress blues, Petty Officer 2nd Class Marissa Gaeta.

When Snell spots her, she smiles. They embrace. With all eyes watching, they keep the kiss short, and the crowd cheers.

[Read more ...](#)

### [Equality NC Hails North Carolina Psychological Association \(NCPA\) Opposition to the Anti-LGBT Amendment](#)

Raleigh, N.C. - The North Carolina Psychological Association (NCPA) released a position statement in opposition to the Anti-LGBT Amendment that is scheduled to be on the North Carolina primary ballot in May.

[Click here to read the full NCPA position statement.](#)

The NCPA draws its criticism of the amendment from the complete lack of empirical evidence confirming that legal recognition of same-gender relationships poses a threat to the state or its citizens. The statement goes on to identify ways it would *negatively* impact LGBT North Carolinians, providing three pages of scientific references to support the two-page statement of opposition.

One of the most telling arguments made by NCPA is that the amendment would not only revoke and prevent legal rights for same-gender couples, but also cause these individuals to experience significant mental stress, which may ultimately lead to more severe health problems.

This position statement follows on the heels of a resolution passed by the American Psychological Association in August in support of marriage equality, stating that "emerging evidence suggests that statewide campaigns to deny same-sex couples legal access to civil marriage are a significant source of stress to the lesbian, gay and bisexual residents of those states and may have negative effects on their psychological well-being."

The NCPA statement also provides evidence that the amendment may have a more sweeping negative impact on the LGBT community at large, stating, "research suggests that this denial has pervasive negative effects not only on the members of same-sex couples who seek to be married, but on all homosexual persons, regardless of their relationship status or desire to marry."

Equality NC Executive Director Stuart Campbell said that the statement by the NCPA shows that this amendment will bring forth consequences more broad and far-reaching than simply legal repercussions. We know that a majority of North Carolinians support some form legal recognition for same-gender couples," Campbell said. "But the statement of the North Carolina Psychological Association and the empirical evidence the organization has provided proves that this amendment is not only a legal issue for these couples, but also a public health issue for us all."

\*\*\*\*\*

***Join the official campaign to defeat the anti-LGBT constitutional amendment on May 8:***

<http://protectncfamilies.org/>.

## News Briefs

### [\*Girl Scouts' Inclusion of Transgender Child, Prompts Troops To Disband\*](#)

A Colorado-based Girl Scouts troop's decision to admit a 7-year-old transgender child this fall [has prompted three leaders to resign and dissolve their troops](#).

As *The Christian Post* is reporting, all three of the troop leaders were affiliated with the Northlake Christian School in Covington, Louisiana.

The controversy began when Felisha Archuleta protested against a [Denver troop's decision to not initially allow her transgender daughter](#), Bobby Montoya, to join the group. "I believe he was born in the wrong body," Archuleta, who also confessed to having difficulty switching from male to female pronouns when discussing her child, told ABC. "But the Girl Scout leader told us he can't join because he has 'boy parts.'... But no one would know he's a boy unless they pulled his pants down."

The Girl Scouts of Colorado [subsequently released a statement](#) through the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) in support of Archuleta and her excluded daughter, noting, "If a child identifies as a girl and the child's family presents her as a girl, Girl Scouts of Colorado welcomes her as a Girl Scout."

Added Rachelle Trujillo, vice president for communications of the Colorado Girl Scouts: "If a child is living as a girl, that's good enough for us. We don't require any proof of gender."

[Read more ...](#)

## [\*An Unexpected Homecoming\*](#)

*On Being a Gay Parent*  
by Brett Webb-Mitchell

College changes a person. I was an undergraduate and graduate student for 13 years and I've been a faculty member in colleges, universities and seminaries for over 17 years and I'm not sure what it is that brings about the change. Perhaps, transformations happen in the dorm room, fraternity or sorority, in the middle of the hallways and kitchens where people gather informally to discuss the "buzz" about a class or issue on campus. Then again, it could be at a big sports event, musical performance or off-campus party that the real magic takes place and lives are forever changed. Somewhere, somehow, with someone, the change occurs, in which a new perception of life appears over the horizon and the person is never the same.

This is what happened to my son after his first semester in college. He is a changed person. And, I'm not the only one who observed it. So did his girlfriend, his mom, my partner and his sister. The community of love noticed it. Note of the change came when my partner and I picked my son up from college.

We drove all the way to Miami, Fla., on a Saturday in mid-December to gather my son and his belongings as he makes a move to a new school in the spring. On the way back home on Sunday, with a 12-hour ride before us, there was time for us to talk about his first semester experience, otherwise known as "the good, the bad, and the ugly" (with apologies to Clint Eastwood). It was during one of the lulls of traveling that we talked about the changes in his life, from his perspective.

He said that having a gay dad wasn't that big a deal anymore.

I was driving at the time and about slammed on the brakes or drove off the road in amazement. This from the young man who, during high school, made it very clear that he didn't want anyone knowing that he had a gay dad with a partner. It was because of Parker's vote of "no" that I did not run for a place on the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Community School board. It was because of his desire to keep knowledge of my being gay hidden that I tried to keep a low profile when it came to his school events, usually sitting in the back row of sporting events or other ceremonies.

In hindsight, the change was evident when he introduced us to his college friends around the dorm when he was moving out. He hugged me openly, in public, when he came out of the dorm. We met his roommate, his friends across the hall, and the Resident Assistant, without him blinking an eye. "This is my dad, Brett. This is his partner, Dean." He said it just that easily and naturally.

[Read more ...](#)

## [Washington Governor Gregoire to support gay marriage bill](#)

*By MyNorthwest.com, Staff report*

Gov. Chris Gregoire said Wednesday she wants Washington to become the seventh state in the nation to make gay marriage legal.

She said at a news conference she'll introduce legislation that, if passed, would allow same-sex marriage in Washington State. The Democrat had previously supported efforts to expand the state's current law on domestic partner rights for gay couples, but had not previously come out in favor of full marriage rights.

"I can't sit here any longer and say it's OK to discriminate," she said. "I have not liked where I have been for seven years and I have sorted it out in my head and heart. What's more important to me is I believe in equality and respect for all citizens."

In November, a coalition called Washington United for Marriage announced it would lobby the Legislature to approve a gay marriage this year. In 2009 the Legislature passed, and voters later upheld, a bill that greatly expanded the rights of same-sex domestic partners. That measure was known as the "everything but marriage" bill. Nearly 19,000 people in Washington State are registered as domestic partners.

"My church, all the churches, can exercise their freedom on deciding who to marry, but the state of Washington cannot, cannot, engage in discrimination," the governor said.

Lawmakers return to the Capitol on Monday for the start of a 60-day legislative session.

Democratic Sen. Ed Murray of Seattle, a gay lawmaker who has spearheaded past gay rights and domestic partnership laws in the state, said the underlying domestic partnership law has helped lay the groundwork for full marriage. Murray and Rep. Jamie Pederson, D-Seattle, said a bill would be introduced next week.

They said that they would not attach a referendum clause to the bill, which would require the public to ultimately approve the measure if passed by the Legislature.

"We need to take this vote, we need to take it this year, and we need to take it in the Legislature," Murray said. "It's time for the Legislature to catch up with the public."

Murray acknowledged that it would be a tough battle in the Senate, where Democrats hold a 27-22 majority, but where some conservative Democrats have voted with Republicans in opposition to the state's domestic partnership law.

"We're not there yet," he said. "We're a few votes short, but I think we can get there."

Democrats hold a 56-42 majority in the House.

Pedersen noted that there also wasn't a plan to add an emergency clause, which would have the bill take effect immediately if passed. The lack of an emergency clause allows any opposition time to gather signatures for a referendum seeking to overturn a measure passed by the Legislature.

"We need to be prepared for the idea that we might have to fight it at the ballot," Pedersen said.

Same-sex marriage is legal in Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York and Vermont, as well as the District of Columbia.

[Read more ...](#)

**Video:** [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJu6MA\\_wF7o&feature=youtube\\_gdata\\_player](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJu6MA_wF7o&feature=youtube_gdata_player)

## Book Review

### The Lives of Transgender People

*Genny Beemyn & Susan Rankin  
Columbia University Press, NY*

There are few surprises in this report for those of us who have been allies or activists for many years, but this book is the best I have seen so far to help those outside our community understand transgender at least a little better. It should be required reading in all gender studies courses.

Fortunately, the authors use the term transgender in its broadest meaning. One surprising result of their study is expressed as follows: “In our survey, respondents offered ***more than a hundred*** (italics mine) different descriptions for their gender identity besides the traditional categories of men, women, and transgender.” Many, or perhaps most, of these unique categories are somewhere under the relatively new category genderqueer.

This is the most difficult of all for those of us who have spent much of our lives in a binary world. We understand male and female. We may even understand transition from female to male or male to female, although it may be outside our personal experience. It is the hundreds of “in-between” genders that are difficult to understand. If you share this puzzlement, “Nina Here Nor There” by Nick Krieger (available at Amazon.com) is an outstanding book by a transgender writer whose experience places them firmly in the genderqueer category somewhat on the male side of the middle between male and female.

Authors Beemyn and Rankin do a pretty good job of explaining this category through exposition and anecdotal segments quoted from survey participants. The size of their survey group (about 3500 respondents) provides a higher statistical probability to their conclusions. The breadth of their survey – incorporating diversity in gender, ethnicity, race, and religion – further validates that transgender is endemic to all populations.

I heartily recommend this book to anyone who wants to better understand the path our transgender friends have taken – or will take – in their lives.