

June 28th is Stonewall Rebellion Day

GLBT Teen? Problems? Contact the Trevor Project—1-866-4-U-TREVOR



Greater Cincinnati
GLBT news
Serving the Cincinnati area
We will custom design a cleaning service to meet your individual needs and send the same team of 2 to clean each time.

Final vote—33 for, 29 against N.Y. State YES to Gay Marriage

Friday's historic vote on Same Sex Marriage in New York State has local connections—people working for civil rights for GLBT people here and in the entire country.

Most directly connected to the New York vote was the work of Cameron Tolle.

Tolle, from Kansas City, was president of the Xavier Alliance at Xavier University in his senior year.

He was the organizer of Impact Cincinnati established after Gay Marriage was voted down in California.



Adee

After graduation he went on become on line organizer for the Freedom to Marry Organization in New York City which was very busy on phone banks urging people to call members of the New York State Assembly in support of same sex marriage.

The Rev. Steve Van



Tolle, right, at New York PRIDE Parade

Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church, now an United Church of Christ Pastor in Tucson, Arizona was forced out of his position locally after he officiated at the marriage of two Lesbians.

Even though he was soon reinstated, he and



Van Kuiken

Kuiken, formerly pastor of

several embers left the church to form The Gathering which met in homes and then at Old St. George and is now on Main Street in Over the Rhine. The congregation joined the United Church of Christ while Van Kuiken was there.

Even with the Van Kuiken situation Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church had been and still is a big supporter of GLBT people and issues.

Michael Adee, a member of that congregation at one point was director of the local Stonewall organi-

See *Marriage*, Page 2, Col. 1

Marriage—from Page 1
 zation, moved to Santa Fe and became national director of More Light Presbyterians, a group instrumental in opening the way for full inclusion of GLBT Presbyterians in the life of the church. (See “Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church—key to national change”, June GLBT News, Page 12—<http://www.gbtnews.cincinnati.com>).

Gay-rights advocates, who celebrated Sunday at parades across the country, said New York's move—a bill permitting same-sex marriage that was championed by Democrat Gov.. Andrew M. Cuomo and passed by a Republican-led state Senate on Friday—marked a turning point in the nearly 20-year political and legal debate over the definition of marriage.

“This is an immense win that brings giant momentum to the movement to end marriage

discrimination in the U.S.,” said Evan Wolfson, founder and president of *Freedom to Marry*.

Marching with supporters on Sunday, Governor Cuomo told reporters that the country looks to New York as a guide for many of its progressive politics.

“The point of civil rights laws is to protect everybody -- both the people who look like us or who we relate to and the people who don't,” said Suzanne Goldberg, a professor at New York's Columbia Law School. “The point of a parade that celebrates Gay PRIDE is to make room for all people who identify themselves as Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or Transgender.”

The controversial bill passed a Republican-controlled Senate before reaching Cuomo's desk, in an extended legislative session that left many skeptical over whether lawmakers would bring the

measure to a vote.

Reporters flocked to Sheridan Square near the Stonewall Inn, where the Gay-Rights Movement began more than 40 years ago. Crowds had swelled to nearly 1,000 people, according to the **New York Times**, and after the law passed couples embraced and danced in the streets amid the euphoria. The favorite love story of the night was that of Scott Redstone, who watched the law pass with his partner of 29 years, and popped the question. "I said, 'Will you marry me?' And he said, 'Of course!'" Redstone told the AP that he and Steven Knittweis walked home to pop open a bottle of champagne.

New York's legalization of same-sex marriage marks a historic human rights victory that will give much-needed credibility and visibility to the international movement for equality for Gays and

Lesbians.

Other politicians

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton Spoke at a Gay PRIDE event at the State Department, which celebrated last week's move in the state she once represented in the Senate. She called New York's legislative approval of Gay Marriage a momentous and extraordinary event and said she hoped it would lend momentum to the campaign for Gay Rights.

Clinton also said much more needs to be done to end discrimination around the globe, a cause she has rallied American diplomats to embrace.

“This is an especially momentous and extraordinary time for us to meet,” Clinton told a crowd organized by Gays and Lesbians in Foreign Affairs Agencies, a group that includes employees of the State Department, the U.S. Agency for Interna-

See *Marriage*, Page 3, Col. 1



PFLAG Cincinnati

Meetings on 2nd Tuesdays
 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. at
 Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church

<http://www.pflagcinci.org/>
info@pflagcinci.org
 (513) 721-7900

Members of our congregation:
 Gay, Lesbian, Black, Straight, Atheist,
 White, Buddhist, Christian or Agnostic

www.thegatheringcincinnati.org/
 A United Church of Christ Congregation
 1431 Main St - Over the Rhine



Marriage—from Page 1
 tional Development and other federal offices that deal with foreign policy.

President Obama may be playing coy on his official position concerning Gay Marriage, declaring that his opinion on the subject is “evolving.” However, the President knows that the GLBT Community nationwide will be key to his re-election efforts, so on the eve of New York’s legalization of same-sex marriage, Obama could be found at a \$1,250-a-plate Manhattan fundraiser sponsored by the Democratic National Committee, telling “Gay” doctors, lawyers, financial experts and media moguls and others that if they help him win another four years in the White House (*as they clearly did in 2008 when he garnered some 70 percent of their vote*), “we will write another chapter” in the re-definition of American culture.

Presidential candidate and Minnesota Representative Michele Bachmann on Sunday signaled she's OK with states deciding on whether to allow Gay and Lesbian couples to marry while strongly opposing it as a federal law.

Newspaper takes stand

Same-sex marriage is a matter of common sense, read an opinion in the **Los Angeles Times** — there is no good reason to withhold the legal and social advantages of marriage from a group that has long suffered every sort of discrimination. But it is also an emotional issue. And so, we offer our heartfelt admiration and congratulations to the State of New York for becoming the sixth state — more populous than the other five put together — to legalize the marriage of Gay and Lesbian couples, and we wish joy to the newly engaged couples and the thousands upon thousands who will follow

them through the years.

We're celebrating, yes, but wistfully. While New York is now at the forefront of today's most important civil rights struggle, helping move the nation toward increased understanding and acceptance of same-sex marriage, California is stuck in reverse. That wasn't the case three years when, for six giddy months in 2008, Gay Marriage was legal here, thanks to a powerful and progressive decision by the state Supreme Court.

The opinion continued, But in November of that year, Californians once again banned such unions, after an ugly and divisive campaign that misled too many voters into believing that heterosexual marriages were somehow under threat and that churches would be forced to perform same-sex weddings no matter what their religious beliefs.

The day can't come too

quickly in which the newly enlightened electorate goes back to the voting booth to overthrow Proposition 8.

New York's historic vote should help speed things along. With its large population — third in the nation, behind California and Texas — there will be more same-sex marriages than ever and more opportunity for Americans to observe and grow accustomed to them. Many of those couples will move to other states where they will press to have their rights recognized.

It is also significant that the legislative road to marriage rights for New York's Gay and Lesbian couples was paved in part with major lobbying donations from Republican billionaire Paul Singer, whose son is Gay. Several of the politicians who supported the bill also have Gay and Lesbian relatives. As Gays and

See *Marriage*, Page 4, Col. 1,

1 Tax Quality Tax Preparation
 IRS Representation
 Tax Planning

Scott Renno, EA
 3284 North Bend Road, Ste. 106
 Cincinnati, OH 45239
513-481-1TAX (1829)
 Cel: 513-417-2893
 Fax: 513-481-6444
 scott@1taxcincinnati.com

We will custom design a cleaning service to meet your individual needs and send the same team of 2 to clean each time.

Cleaning Services Bill
 and June Deegan
Ultra Maid
 4240 Airport Road, Suite 123,
 Cincinnati, Ohio 45226
 (513) 731-0007 www.ultra-maid.com jde49@aol.com
Custom maid service; Free phone estimates. Guaranteed,

Marriage—from Page 3

Lesbians have emerged from the closet, more Americans have learned that these are their friends, neighbors and loved ones.

The vote also required the fine strategic work of Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo, who not only lined up key supporters but also brought disorganized Gay-Rights Advocates into line.

The opinion continued, Gay-Rights groups in California were defeated in part because they ran a less organized and effective campaign than Proposition 8's supporters.

Today it is New York's turn to bask in the knowledge that it has moved the entire country forward in the ongoing struggle for equal rights for all. California should learn lessons from New York's victory and quickly put itself back on the right side of history.

Mayor speaks out

In New Paltz, New York about 150 people gathered at the Peace Park site

Saturday evening to celebrate the passage of the new law making Gay and Lesbian Marriages legal.

It's near the same spot where a young mayor, Jason West, performed Gay Marriages in 2004 until legal actions shut down that practice. West is back as mayor, and was back on the site hailing the work of community members who had pressed the state legislature to legalize same-sex unions.

"What happened here in 2004 wasn't the beginning of anything," West told the crowd Saturday. "It was the end product of generations of brave and courageous people coming out to their families."

West said the legislation was also the result of people contacting their state senators to push for fairness and equality in marriage laws.

"You are the reason this is happening," he said to a round of cheers.

Doctors adopt policy

The American Medical Association (AMA) has adopted a policy position declaring that excluding same-sex couples from marriage is "discriminatory."

The AMA also reaffirms its existing policy to support relationship recognition of Gay and Lesbian couples as a means of addressing health disparities faced by those couples and their families.

"With this deliberate policy statement by the American Medical Association, the nation's doctors diagnose the pain and injury that exclusion from marriage inflicts on Lesbian and Gay couples, their children, and loved ones — and make clear that ending marriage discrimination is the cure," said Evan Wolfson, of Freedom to Marry.

"The AMA now joins every other mainstream public health organization in America in making the

case for providing the freedom to marry — and the critical safety-net that comes with marriage — to loving, committed same-sex couples."

NYC PRIDE Parade

Two days after the state legalized same-sex marriages, New York's annual Gay PRIDE Parade seemed more like a brash, colorful wedding procession on Sunday than an annual rally.

Parade organizers estimated as many as two million spectators turned out to celebrate the 42nd annual LGBT PRIDE March Sunday. Many considered it the most electric in the Parade's history.

Although this year's theme was "Proud and Powerful," the New York Gay community feted the legalization of same-sex marriage, which was signed into law late on Friday by Governor Andrew Cuomo.

See *Marriage*, Page 5, Col. 1





Best Friend
PET SALON

25 % off any new client grooming or bath service.
Please call to schedule an appointment.

2940 Hebron Park Drive
Suite 102
Hebron, KY 41048
859-586-5100
www.yourbestfriendpetsalon.com

Marriage—from Page 4
Celebrities speak out
 Celebrities took to Twitter to share their reactions,. Lady Gaga tweeted: “I can’t stop crying. We did it kids. The revolution is ours to fight for love, justice+equality. Rejoice NY, and propose. We did it!!!” Gay talk show host Ellen DeGeneres, who married actress Portia de Rossi while Gay Marriage was legal in California, tweeted: “I’m thrilled about the news from NY. Marriage equality! Every day we get a little closer. What an amazing feeling.” Ricky Martin, who came out last year, tweeted: “Time to celebrate!!! Marriage Equality for NYers! Its about... love!”

John Legend took aim at former NFL player David Tyree's comments by tweeting: “Happy that New York passed marriage equality tonight. A victory for human rights. Progress. I guess New

York will join five other states by descending into ‘anarchy’ now, according to that wide receiver.”

There was plenty of humor as well: Steve Martin tweeted to Alec Baldwin: “Alec! Now we can get married!” He later added: “*sing* I’m gettin’ married in the mornin’! Wait. I am already married. NEW LAW REQUIRED.” Baldwin responded: “... Ok. But if you play that effing banjo after eleven o’clock...”

In the wake of Friday’s final hour vote to approve same-sex marriage in New York state, no doubt thousands of Gay and Lesbian couples are deliberating the decision to tie the knot. This won’t be the only celebrity engagement you hear of, but the news of Neil Patrick Harris and partner David Burtka confirming their engagement has got to make you feel good. Even if it’s not a new development.

Americans are ready!?

“This win shows that Americans are ready, more than ever, to treat Gay and Lesbian couples with full equality. Unfortunately, right-wing forces worked hard to deny this opportunity in Michigan,” said Denise Brogan-Kator, interim executive director of Equality Michigan. “We hope for the day that Gay and lesbian couples achieve the freedom to marry in our own state. It will make our state more welcoming and competitive while honoring our commitment to fairness.

While we’re very happy for New Yorkers, we must recognize that Michigan’s lack of policy addressing discrimination, hate crimes and bullying has a devastating impact on many Gay and Transgender citizens.”

Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio who oversees a Brooklyn diocese released a statement asking “all Catholic schools to refuse

any distinctions or honors bestowed upon them by the governor,” and any state legislators who voted “Yes.”

DiMarzio told the **Daily News** that the marriage equality act “is a further erosion of the real understanding of marriage. The state should not be concerned about regulating affection,” which would be true if he were referring to the infamous “Hug Tax Act” of 1983. In an opinion article for the paper, DiMarzio writes that same-sex marriage is “destructive because we fail to view marriage in the context of a vocation: a calling to participate in...forming the next generation. Marriage is reduced to an empty honor.” And in his statement, DiMarzio complained that proponents of the bill “have demonized people of faith...and identified them as bigots and prejudiced.” Hmmm!

**Volunteer at
 Your GLBT Center**
 Tuesdays with
 Toby Martino

<http://www.cincyglbt.com/volunteers>

