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March 6, 2008

Help Stop Anti-GLBT Petitions!

e-Pw brings you a glimpse of events near and far, from around your neighborhood to around our world.

CA Supreme Court Marriage Case

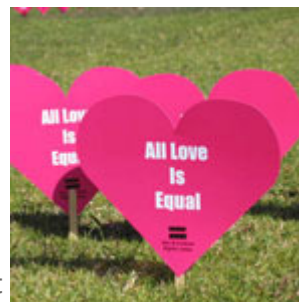
SPC Support & Social Groups

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We Need Your Help in Modesto to Stop the Petition!

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There are over 200 paid signature gatherers on the ground in California, collecting signatures to put an anti-gay ballot measure on the November 2008 ballot. This ballot measure would unfairly and permanently change the California Constitution to deny loving committed couples, who happen to be gay or lesbian, the right to marry in the state of California.



We know that they are getting lots and lots of money from out-of-state groups, and we know they are lying to people to get them to sign the petitions.

Event Highlights

March 12 & 26 - [GLBTQ Youth Group, Modesto, CA](#)

April 4-5 - [PFLAG Yard Sale, Modesto, CA](#)

April 5 - [Spring Fling Dance, Modesto, CA](#)

September 27 - [Stanislaus PRIDE Day 2008](#)

Here's how you can help:

#1 Join the Equality For All Rapid Response Team.

We're looking for dedicated individuals to join our "Rapid Response" team and help us talk to Californians in your area. Working with other Rapid Responders near you, our professional team leaders will call you and train you on how you can help. Join our Rapid Response team today. Please visit <http://www.equalityforall.com> to join.

#2 Help Equality For All Track the Petitions.

In order to track their activities and assess the size/funding of the proponents of this discriminatory amendment, we need you to be on the look out for people gathering signatures and report back to the Equality for All tips line.



Here is what you can do: Please ask what petitions people have when you see them. In many instances, the signature gatherers will have more than one. It is ok to ask them, "What petitions do you have?" Please ask them if they are paid or volunteer- that's also ok to ask. Take samples of any literature they are offering. Do not engage in debate! If the conversation feels tense, move on. If the petitioner is being aggressive towards you, move on. This information is helpful, but it's not worth your safety. Please report back. When you encounter signature gatherers, please email the date, time, location and paid/volunteer information to tips@equalityforall.com.

Bethany Holden, chapter leader for Marriage Equality Stanislaus County, is leading the Rapid Response Team in Modesto to stop the anti-glbtc petitions. Join the team at <http://equalityforall.com>.

CA Supreme Court Marriage Case - Watch the WebCast

On Tuesday, March 4, the California Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the marriage cases challenging the exclusion of same-sex couples from marriage.



The California Supreme Court will issue its decision within 90 days following oral arguments.

If you missed the live webcast, you can [watch a video recording online!](#)

News Highlights:

- [California Supreme Court in gay marriage storm](#) (3/4/08, Mercury News)
- [Gay Marriage: the Impact of the California Case](#) (3/5/08, U.S. News)

California Marriage Case

Shortly after marriage certificates in San Francisco were invalidated, the marriage cases were filed in March, 2004. San Francisco Superior Court Judge Richard A. Kramer ruled that the exclusion of same-sex couples from marriage violates the California Constitution. Then, in a 2-1 vote, the California Court of Appeal reversed Judge Kramer's ruling. Now, the California Supreme Court is poised to hear the case.

SPC Highlight: Core Support and Social Groups

2008 is off to a busy start! Here are some upcoming dates and meeting information for our established groups:



GLBTQ Youth Group

Provides social opportunities and support to Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (GLBTQ) youth, ages 14 to 19. Youth can expect a safe, friendly, and confidential environment.

Meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month from 7-9 pm at College Avenue Church, located at 1341 College Avenue (Corner of College and Orangeburg) in Modesto.

Upcoming Dates:

- March 12 and 26
- April 9 and 23
- May 14 and 28

Food and music will be provided. Allies are welcome. This is a secular, non-religious group.

For more information contact program managers, Ed and Elizabeth Plata by phone at 209-524-1169 or 209-818-2378 or by email at modteens@stanpride.org.

Transgender Support Group

A group of male-to-female and female-to-male transgender persons that **meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm.**

This group is open to all Transitioning, Transitioned and Gender-Questioning individuals. We provide an accepting, caring, kind and nonjudgmental environment in which all Transgender issues and concerns can be expressed. Although our paths may be similar, we all have different situations and life goals. While we celebrate our commonality, we respect our differences and our right to have them.

If you would like to attend a meeting please contact tgsupport@stanpride.org.

Lesbian Social Group

Lesbians of all ages and backgrounds meet the first Saturday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 PM to share good food, socialize, and build community.

The gathering is a potluck and each month features a new theme. This group provides lesbians an opportunity to connect, talk, build community, have fun, share, and show PRIDE within the community. This group is welcome to all who identify as lesbian and provides a forum for socialization and sharing of good food.

For more information email volunteer@stanpride.org or call (209) 338-0855.

Meets next on April 5!

Cross-Dressing Dancers Cheer Islamist Defeat In Pakistan Vote

(February 26 2008, Wall Street Journal)

PESHAWAR, Pakistan -- In one of the more unexpected outcomes of Pakistan's election last week, Leila the drag queen scored a big win.



Leila, the stage name of a 30-year-old man named Adel, wasn't running for office. But the popular dancer had a big stake in the election results in this mountainous province on the Afghan frontier. Voters here last Monday threw out an Islamist administration that had cracked down on the arts.

[Read the full article](#)

The SPC facility is open Wednesday through Saturday from 3:00 PM until 7:00 PM.

The mission of the Stanislaus PRIDE Center is to provide resources to strengthen and support gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons in Stanislaus and surrounding counties."

The SPC has three areas of focus: Culture and Community; Education and Information; Health and Wellness. PRIDE stands for "People Respecting Individuality, Diversity and Education".

SPC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax deductible. Federal tax ID 20-2676088.

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