

Freedom to Marry E-Update
Issue #26 | October 11, 2006

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http://www.freedomtomarry.org/images/eupdate/eupdate_issue26.html

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1) A Note from Evan Wolfson

Dear friends –

In my previous E-Update Note, I talked about why we, understandably, are losing the unfairly premature and preemptive votes that the anti-gay industry, aligned to the White House, are mounting in their ongoing state-by-state wave of assaults on constitutions. And I promised that I would use this week's Note to set forth what our side's campaign message should be in these election battles – not just to lay the groundwork for greater understanding and victory over time, but also to have even a hope of winning on the short-term election timeframe that presents a nearly insuperable challenge to a minority in the early stages of a civil rights conversation.

In visits this past week to Virginia, where gay families are currently under attack, and Kentucky, where advocates of fairness are regrouping following the assault in 2004, I underscored the importance of using these early battles as a chance to give non-gay people the message that this is not a freebie vote on how they feel in the abstract about marriage or about gays in Massachusetts. Rather, we need to help the reachable-but-not-yet-reached understand that this question of marriage equality is about how discriminatory laws are treating couples and children right there at home in South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Wisconsin, or any other community or state. We must make our appeal to them personal (why I care enough to ask you to care), local (this is about people here who are being hurt), and persistent (I trust you're a good person and I am going to engage with you and address your concerns as you think it through), giving them the information and time to absorb it that will allow them to push past discomfort and rise to fairness.

LINKS:

* THE REST OF EVAN'S NOTE - <http://www.freedomtomarry.org/document.asp?id=4914>

* Evan's previous Note - Rise to Fairness -
<http://www.freedomtomarry.org/document.asp?id=4861>

* Evan in Virginia -
http://www.freedomtomarry.org/images/rss/evan_wolfson_debate100506.mp3

* Evan in Kentucky -
http://www.freedomtomarry.org/images/rss/evan_wolfson_kentucky.wav

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2) Children of Lesbian and gay parents speak about the freedom to marry  
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With National Coming Out Day upon us, COLAGE (Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere) is working to ensure that the voices of young people are heard, talking about their families and how the denial of marriage and respect affects their parents and their own lives.

Tune in to the COLAGE Radio Tour and hear COLAGERS Dakota Fine, Marina Gatto and Emily McGranachan talk about the joys of a diverse family life and the urgency they see in our work for the freedom to marry. This week you can hear COLAGERS on: Wednesday, Oct. 11th, 10:30-10:39 a.m. ET with Marina Gatto, 10:40-10:49 a.m. ET, and with Dakota Fine on WMFN-FM in Tampa, FL.

Hear Dakota Fine again on Friday, Oct. 13th from 12:20-12:40 p.m. ET on The Frankie Boyer Show on WBNW-AM in Boston and nationally on Lifestyle Talk Radio Network.

Tune in to National Public Radio in Duluth, MN, on Monday, Oct. 16th, from 9:35-9:50 a.m. ET to hear Marina Gatto again discussing the importance of marriage equality and fairness for all American families. This interview can also be heard on WOJB-FM in Superior, WI.

Log in to our website to keep up with Freedom to Marry News, and for more information on upcoming COLAGE Radio Tour interviews.

Thanks to Meredith Fenton, COLAGE Program Director, for her input and assistance.

LINKS:

- * The full report - <http://www.freedomtomarry.org/document.asp?id=4925>
- * COLAGE - <http://www.colage.org/>
- * Freedom to Marry News - <http://www.freedomtomarry.org/node.asp?id=3295>
- * Join COLAGE & learn more - <http://colage.org/programs/events/upcoming.htm>

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3) Freedom to Marry Voice of Equality Marina Gatto receives prestigious award  
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Freedom to Marry's youngest Voice of Equality, 18-year-old Marina Gatto was recently awarded the Hispanic Heritage Foundation Youth Award for community service in recognition of her work as an advocate for equal rights, especially the freedom to marry.

As the daughter of lesbian parents, Gatto has already spent several years advocating for gay rights. Gatto recently took part in the nationally televised 20th Annual Hispanic Heritage Awards at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

"The Hispanic Heritage Foundation is an utterly amazing and wonderful organization

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that has taken the lead in acknowledging the importance of recognizing the importance of working together for a better world," said Gatto.

"They are paving the way for other organizations to follow in their actions," she continued. "I am honored that I have been chosen and identified as one of the top Latino youth leaders in the nation to represent them, and proud that they honor and value my work as an LGBT rights activist."

LINKS:

- * Voices of Equality - <http://www.freedomtomarry.org/voe.asp>
- * Marina Gatto's website - <http://www.marinagatto.com>

4) Get Engaged! Join Freedom to Marry's Communications team

Researcher/Writer

This exciting new position is based in our New York City office. Click below to read the full job description, or find other volunteer, internship and job opportunities with Freedom to Marry and our partners on our Get Involved pages.

LINK:

- * Researcher/Writer position - <http://www.freedomtomarry.org/node.asp?id=3709>
- * Get involved - <http://www.freedomtomarry.org/node.asp?id=3456>

5) Get Freedom to Marry News Alerts

Our new, once-a-day email updates offer the latest marriage equality news delivered straight to your in-box!

Sign up today for the News Alerts to monitor developing news, trends, podcasting and multi-media updates and other daily items to help you get engaged in the movement for marriage equality.

LINK:

- * Freedom to Marry News Alerts - http://www.freedomtomarry.org/news_alerts.asp
- * Get involved - <http://www.freedomtomarry.org/node.asp?id=3456>

6) ACT OUT: the National Parenting Conference

October 27-29 the Family Pride Coalition and COLAGE are co-hosting "ACT OUT: the National Parenting Conference" in Dallas, TX.

LINKS:

- * The Family Pride Coalition - <http://www.familypride.org/site/pp.asp?c=bhKPI7PFI mE&b=289159>
- * COLAGE - <http://www.colage.org>
- * ACT OUT - <http://www.familypride.org/site/pp.asp?c=bhKPI7PFI mE&b=289159>

QUOTE:

"Ensuring that our children are loved, respected and treated with dignity is what every parent wants. However, this will only happen if mothers and fathers take the first step and not allow their gay child to be treated as a second class citizen. Gay and lesbian children should have equal rights and equal opportunity to a happy successful life."

- Freedom to Marry Voice of Equality Dolores Huerta, Dolores Huerta Foundation

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST:

Most visited pages last week:

- Rise to Fairness - <http://www.freedomtomarry.org/document.asp?id=4861>
- E-Update Issue #25 Online - http://www.freedomtomarry.org/images/eupdate/eupdate_issue25.html
- Sharing Our Stories - <http://www.freedomtomarry.org/document.asp?id=4863>

Listen to Evan Wolfson's debate with VA anti-gay amendment sponsor

Evan Wolfson's October 5, 2006, debate with VA Delegate Bob Marshall, co-sponsor of a proposed amendment to the VA Constitution to prohibit legal recognition or benefits for same-sex relationships.

LINK:

- * http://www.freedomtomarry.org/images/rss/evan_wolfson_debate100506.mp3

Subscribe to our podcast here: <http://feeds.feedburner.com/FreedomToMarryPodcast>

Do you want the latest marriage equality news from Freedom to Marry in your news feed? Get it here: <http://www.freedomtomarry.org/node.asp?id=3619>

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Let us know what's going on in your community to advance the cause. Email the editor at editor1@freedomtomarry.org.