

Monday Marriage Message from Freedom to Marry  
Issue #12 | June 25, 2007

To view the online HTML version of the Monday Marriage Message, click here -

<http://www.freedomtomarry.org/images/eupdate/mmm12.html>

Contents:

- 1) The Message
- 2) The Report
- 3) The Resource
- 4) The Number
- 5) The Map
- 6) The Spotlight: New York
- 7) The News

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1) The Message

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Higher Expectations Lead to Better Results

What a difference a year can make! Just last week, the New York Assembly passed a bill to end exclusion in marriage, less than one year after the courts stumbled and failed to do their job. Looking ahead, City Council Speaker Christine Quinn said, "All conventional wisdom in New York state on gay marriage is out the window. I think we are really doing better than anyone would ever have thought we could be doing on this."

Continuing to refuse to take 'no' as an answer to ending exclusion in marriage in New York, Alan Van Capelle, Executive Director of Empire State Pride Agenda, said, "Now that the Assembly has acted, we will be working with Senator Duane and our allies in that chamber everyday to protect same-sex couples and our families by passing the marriage equality bill and making it law in New York."

LINKS:

\*Evan Wolfson's response to the NY state high court's decision:

<http://www.freedomtomarry.org/document.asp?id=4585>

\*Empire State Pride Agenda: <http://www.prideagenda.org/index.html>

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2) The Report

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Same-Sex Couples and Same-Sex Couples Raising Children in New York: Data from Census 2000  
(The Williams Institute)  
September, 2005

LINK:

\*The Report:

<http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/publications/NewYorkCouplesReport.pdf>

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3) The Resource

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The Freedom to Marry: Keep Dancing  
Evan Wolfson's response to the NY state high court's decision  
July 12, 2006

LINK:  
\*The Resource: <http://www.freedomtomarry.org/document.asp?id=4585>

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4) The Number

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1,324, the number of legal rights and duties that New York statutes and regulations confer on married individuals.

LINK:  
\*The Number: [http://www.nycbar.org/pdf/report/marriage\\_v7d21.pdf](http://www.nycbar.org/pdf/report/marriage_v7d21.pdf)

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5) The Map

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2007 Proposed State Bills Ending Marriage Discrimination

LINK:  
\*The Map: <http://www.freedomtomarry.org/node.asp?id=3476>

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6) The Spotlight: New York

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Following the lead of California's legislature, which passed a marriage bill in 2005 and has begun moving forward on legislation again this year, the New York State Assembly voted for the freedom to marry, 85-61. For the first time, we saw some Republican legislators join their Democratic colleagues in voting for fairness.

Governor Spitzer introduced the bill, a contrast to the disappointing failure of leadership shown by his California counterpart, Arnold Schwarzenegger, so far. Lead Assembly sponsor, Danny O'Donnell, worked hard to build the support needed to send the bill on to the Senate. The Senate majority leader, Joe Bruno, is trying to dampen hopes that the bill will advance -- but the Pride Agenda and other voices for equality are not taking no for an answer. The milestone Assembly vote shows the power of spiraling expectations up, and then working to rise to them, rather than taking the invitation to give up and go away.

LINKS:  
\*Empire State Pride Agenda: <http://www.prideagenda.org/index.html>

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7) The News

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National

Elizabeth Edwards Supports Marriage Equality

San Francisco Gate; June 24, 2007

Elizabeth Edwards, starring at the kickoff event of San Francisco's signature Gay Pride Parade, came out in support of legalized gay and lesbian couples' marriages – taking a position which she acknowledged is further along than her husband, presidential candidate John Edwards.

'Homo history'

The Stranger; June 20, 2007

Touting this as the "comprehensive, unabridged, and completely indispensable guide to everything a queer person needs to know about queer history from the dawn of humanity to the present," The Stranger assembled essays from 26 notable gay people. Includes the essay "Same-Sex Marriage Comes to the U.S." by Evan Wolfson.

Regional

Marriage Equality Digs Roots, Gains Momentum

The Detroit News; June 25, 2007

An elderly Massachusetts woman felt her opposition to gay marriage melt away after "this lovely couple" moved in next door with their children.

Marriage Touches Legislators' Emotions

New York Times; June 21, 2007

As the debate ended, Assemblyman Matthew J. Titone, a Staten Island Democrat who is also gay, held up his cellphone and announced that his partner had just proposed. "Now everyone's asking, 'So when's the wedding?'" Mr. Titone said yesterday, "and my response is, 'We'll have to ask Joe Bruno when it will be.'"

LINKS:

\*Elizabeth Edwards Supports Marriage Equality:

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/06/24/BAGPTQL1NF5.DTL>

\*'Homo history': <http://www.thestranger.com/seattle/Content?oid=247561>

\*Marriage Equality Digs Roots, Gains Momentum:

<http://www.detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070625/OPINION03/706250317>

\*Marriage Touches Legislators' Emotions:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2007/06/21/nyregion/21marriage.html?\\_r=1&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/06/21/nyregion/21marriage.html?_r=1&oref=slogin)

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OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST:

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The Must Sees

Listen to Evan Wolfson discuss his book Why Marriage Matters: America, Equality, and Gay People's Right to Marry at the NYC Google office.

View Think Equal's marriage equality ad series.

LINKS:

\*Evan Wolfson at Google NYC: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZbyQuXzG14A>

\*Think Equal marriage ads: <http://www.bluejersey.com/thinkequal/ads.html>



