

BAY WINDOWS

Serving New England's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Communities

Single Copies Free. Multiple copies may be available, with prior approval, for 50 cents each by contacting the BayWindows business office.

For more Prop. 8 coverage, visit baywindows.com

Prop. 8 ruled unconstitutional



Temporary stay issued; marriages will not begin immediately.

by Lisa Keen
Keen News Service

U.S. District Court Judge Vaughn Walker ruled Wednesday, Aug. 3 that California's ballot measure banning same-sex marriage violates the federal constitution's guarantees to equal protection and due process of law. A few minutes after issuing the decision, Walker also issued a temporary stay of its impact and directed attorneys challenging the initiative to respond to request by Aug. 6.

The 136-page decision, which has

been much anticipated by both sides of the same-sex marriage debate, says supporters of Proposition 8 failed to establish any rational or legitimate reason for prohibiting same-sex couples from having marriage licenses.

Judge Walker, an appointee of Republican President George H.W. Bush, applied simple rational basis review in making his decision. He said, "Even if California had an interest in preferring opposite-sex parents to same-sex parents... Proposition 8 is not rationally related to that interest, because Proposition 8 does not affect who can or should become a parent under California law."

"This is a tour de force—a grand

see **PROP. 8**, page 7

Movement to ban gay adoption sacrifices well-being of children

Nationwide efforts to limit adoption to straight couples reduce chances for children.

by Dana Rudolph
Keen News Service

When child protective services took two young children from their home and brought them to Frank Martin Gill and his partner in December 2004, the investigator told the men, experienced foster parents, that the boys deserved a good holiday. The men were planning to move soon but agreed to take them temporarily.

It was clear the boys, ages four years and four months, needed care. The elder boy was wearing a dirty adult-sized t-shirt and sneakers four sizes too small. He did not speak, and his only concern was caring for his infant brother. Both boys had scalp ringworm and the younger had an ear infection, but the medicines brought from their home had been unused. When the older boy began to speak after about a month, the men learned he had never seen a book, could not count, and did not even know letters from numbers.

The brothers stayed and the men did not move. The boys developed friendships at school and in the neighborhood. They bonded with the biological son of Gill's partner and with the men's parents and siblings. They began referring to Gill and his partner (who is not identified in court documents) as "Papi" and

see **ADOPTION**, page 9

QWOC Week kick-off draws diverse crowd

Cocktail party was first in a weeklong schedule of events.

by Rachel Kossman
contributing writer

At Caprice lounge in Boston's theatre district, two dozen men and women gathered on Friday night, July 30 to mingle over appetizers and cocktails. Although the evening was the kick off event for Queer Women of Color's Pride Festival, those in attendance weren't just women, nor were they all of color.

"It's easier to be yourself when there are lots of different types of people," said Queer Women of Color and Friends (QWOC) founder Adaora Asala of both the mixed crowd and her organization as a whole. Since Asala started QWOC four years ago, the group has grown to a grassroots organization run by a core group of dedicated volunteers.

Ana Chavez, who came to Boston from Providence after graduating



ATTENDEES AT QWOC's kick-off party, held at Caprice on July 30. (Rachel Kossman)

from the Rhode Island Institute of Design, is one of those volunteers. With a drink in hand, she happily mingled at the Caprice lounge with her fellow volunteers, whom she said

see **QWOC**, page 8

Pathways to Wellness sets sights on Pepsi's \$25K

South End holistic medical center plans to help chronically ill patients quit smoking with acupuncture.

by Hannah Clay Wareham
associate editor

A local holistic medical center is in the running to receive \$25,000 that will fund the opening of a new smoking cessation clinic that will serve Pathways to Wellness patients suffering from chronic disease, including HIV/AIDS.

The Pepsi Refresh Project offers grants of all sizes (from \$5,000 to \$250,000) each month to the ten "ideas"—or proposals, 1,000 of which are submitted to the Pepsi Refresh website (refresheverything.com) monthly—that receive the most public votes. The Project is designed to fund non-profits, organizations, and individuals who plan to bring positive change to their communities.

"Smoking is, obviously, for some-



PATHWAYS TO Wellness patients receive acupuncture treatment at their South End location. (Courtesy of Pathways to Wellness)

one with a chronic disease, a high risk factor," Demie Stathoplos, Executive Director of Pathways to Wellness, said. "It's a high risk factor for everybody."

According to Stathoplos, regular acupuncture over a period of four weeks can "reduce the cravings that make it difficult for people to quit" by helping to reduce their stress. The procedures are done primarily on patients' ears, making visits quick and easy. "Over the course of four weeks, we find that many people are able to stop

see **PATHWAYS**, page 15

Community reacts to Prop. 8 ruling

page 6

"The Full Monty" comes to RI

page 13



175: days since Senator Scott Brown has been in office

0: number of interviews granted or guest opinions written for LGBT press

Contact Senator Brown at (202) 224-4543, (617) 565-3170, email at www.scottbrown.senate.gov/public to ask if he is representing the LGBT community of Massachusetts

Pathways

Continued from page 1

smoking without experiencing that sense of loss or craving that makes it so difficult,” Stathoplos said.

In addition to acupuncture, the new clinic also plans to provide tools and information to its clients, including smokeless cigarette props that mimic the behavior of smoking with a diminished risk to the patient. “It’s a prop that someone can use to put in their mouth if they need to suck. They look like little cigarette filters, and if [patients] suck on that, they get menthol or some kind of satisfaction from the actual physical release,” Stathoplos said. “We provide [patients] with a number of tools, with some learning materials, education materials, as well as the acupuncture treatment.”

Quitting smoking is especially important for those living with chronic illnesses like HIV/AIDS. “Anything that reduces your oxygen intake is going to throw your whole system down,” Stathoplos said. Pathways to Wellness serves more than 250 individuals living with HIV/AIDS, 20 of whom are homebound as a result of their illness.

A 2001 study from San Francisco General Hospital revealed that people with HIV/AIDS who smoke have a poorer health-related quality of life than those who do not. For those living with HIV/AIDS, smoking is associated with decreased physical functioning, increased pain, decreased energy, and decreased cognitive functioning.

The survey, entitled “Adverse impact of cigarette smoking on dimensions of health-related quality of life in persons with HIV infection,” included responses from more than 580 individuals with HIV/AIDS.

Quitting can also lower the risk facing HIV/AIDS patients of developing certain life-threatening conditions like pneumonia. Acupuncture

in particular, Stathoplos said, can “improve their quality of life so they have [fewer] risks for lung disease.”

The holistic treatment, which may date back to 1600-1100 BCE, can be especially attractive for Pathways to Wellness patients who, because of their illness, already take several different medications and are loathe to add another to their regimen. “For some of our clients who are already receiving multiple medications for their chronic illness, trying to [quit smoking] with a medication or a nicotine substitute isn’t all that appealing,” Stathoplos said. “You can do the patch, you can do the pills, and so forth, but nicotine in and of itself is a stimulant, and not everybody wants to maintain that chemical in their body.”

Stathoplos said an important key to successfully quitting smoking is the reduction of anxiety and stress levels—which for many people means the reduction of nicotine cravings. Quitting can also improve the body’s natural ability to heal itself—an important factor for anyone living with a chronic illness. “The stressors that people [who] smoke experience mean that their body’s not having a chance to do the self-healing it would normally do, so it makes it easier for things to break down,” she said. “It’s sort of like not doing home maintenance for a long time. If something goes wrong, it’s likely to go wrong kind of big.”

Stathoplos thinks that the Pathways to Wellness pitch stands out from others in Pepsi’s Refresh Everything program because “there’s not a lot going on about smoking”—an absence she believes needs to be filled. “Smoking is the number one health risk factor in the United States that if people changed [their behavior], their health would be better,” Stathoplos said. “I believe in low-hanging fruit. If you can do something to improve people’s health that concretely makes that big a difference, then you should do it.”

Kagan

Continued from page 3

“undercut the law’s constitutionality” in *Smelt v. U.S.*, a case which has been dismissed. Kyl said the DOJ mounted only a “half-hearted” defense of DOMA in the *Gill v. Office of Personnel Management* case, recently won by the Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) in a federal district court in Boston. Kyl said Kagan “admitted” to being involved in both cases but “refused” to identify specifically what role she played.

“We will likely never know what Miss Kagan’s advice was in these cases,” said Kyl. “What we do know is that Miss Kagan has a history of ignoring the law when it conflicts with the gay rights agenda.”

Only Democrat Ben Nelson of Nebraska indicated he would oppose Kagan’s nomination.

Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) called Kagan a “wise” choice for the high court. A former mayor of San Francisco, Feinstein applauded Kagan’s willingness to bring conservatives to Harvard and praised her for defending DADT despite her personal objection to the law.

Senator Carl Levin (D-Mich.) disputed claims by some Republicans that Kagan’s actions around DADT demonstrated she was “anti-military.”

According to the *Washington Post* and other sources, five Republican senators have announced plans to vote for Kagan: Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins of Maine, Judd Gregg of New Hampshire, and Richard Lugar of Indiana. The expected vote stands at 55 to 45.

Senate debate is expected to continue Wednesday, followed by a vote on the nomination Thursday.

— Lisa Keen

You are cordially invited...

Send your Wedding, Birth, and Transition announcements to:
HClayWareham@BayWindows.com



South End

Community Health Center

Health Screening

Free Food

Celebrates National Health Center Week

August 7, 2010

11am to 3pm

There is affordable, comprehensive health coverage for uninsured children living in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Face Painting

Arts & Crafts

Music

Live Performers

Raffles

Magic Shows



El Dia Nacional de la Salud

7 de Agosto de 2010

11am a 3pm

Pintura de caritas

Existe cobertura médica para niños que no lo tienen y les permite obtener cuidado de salud primario de calidad en el Estado de Massachusetts.

Espectáculos

¡Payasos!

Sesiones educativas y evaluaciones de salud

Artes & Manualidades

Rifas

Música

¡Comida Gratis!

1601 Washington Street Boston, MA 02118 617.425.2000 www.sechc.org