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### Event Highlights

Jan. 24 - [HIV  
Outreach Worker at  
SPC, Modesto, CA](#)

Feb. 9 - [LGBTQIA  
Student Conference  
at UOP, Stockton, CA](#)

Feb. 9 - [LGBTQIA  
Youth Conference:  
"Expression Not  
Suppression", Fresno,  
CA](#)

Feb. 16 - [Stonewall](#)

**January 24, 2008**

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

## Stonewall Democrats - "Taste of Art & Champagne" and Lillian Federman

Central Valley Stonewall Democrats present:

**Taste of Art & Champagne** an evening of Champagne, Art, Politics, Live musical performances, and a Silent auction, on **Saturday, February 16** at 6pm in at the Tidewater Art Gallery in Stockton, CA. Pre-event ticket sales only \$25.00, call (209) 937-9038.



**Date:** Saturday, February 16, 2008

**Time:** 6:00 pm

**Location:** Tidewater Art Gallery, 223 E. Weber Avenue, Stockton, CA

**Cost:** \$25.00 (Pre-event ticket sales only)

**Lillian Federman**, internationally known scholar of lesbian history and literature, will be the guest speaker at the next meeting of the Central Valley Stonewall Democratic Club on **Sunday, February 17th**. Among her many honors are six Lambda Literary Awards, two American Library Association Awards, and several lifetime achievement awards for scholarship. The New York Times named two of her books, *SURPASSING THE LOVE OF MEN* and *ODD GIRLS AND TWILIGHT LOVERS*, on its "Notable Books of the Year" list.

**Date:** Sunday, February 17, 2008

**Time:** 4:00 pm

**Location:** Valley Brew, 157 N Adams St., Stockton, CA

**Cost:** FREE TO THE PUBLIC

[Democrats: Taste of Art & Champagne, Stockton, CA](#)

Feb. 17 - [Stonewall Democrats: Guest Speaker Lillian Federman, Stockton, CA](#)

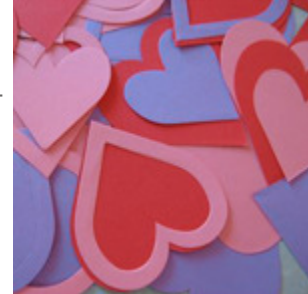
April 5 - [Spring Fling Dance, Modesto, CA](#)



For more information call 209-537-9038 or visit [www.cvstonewall.org](http://www.cvstonewall.org)

## Safe Places to Date for GLBTs

With Valentine's day coming up, SPC is looking for tips, suggestions, recommendations and stories about safe and comfortable places for GLBT couples to date in Modesto and beyond. Please keep your submissions positive. Anything you would be willing to share about your personal experiences would be appreciated. You will remain anonymous. A compilation of recommendations will be published in an upcoming newsletter, so stay tuned! Please send your recommendations to [info@stanpride.org](mailto:info@stanpride.org).



## 11th Annual Freedom to Marry Week - February 10-16, 2008

For the many thousands across the country looking for a way to [get engaged](#) locally in the fight to end discrimination in marriage, the [11th Annual Freedom to Marry Week](#) offers the perfect opportunity. Every year, right around Pres. Lincoln's Birthday and Valentine's Day, gay and non-gay people around the country gather in living rooms, rectories, parks and civic halls to celebrate our lives, our loves, our families and the victories of our movement from the year before.



**Freedom to Marry Day, Tuesday, February 12th**, is a day to celebrate and share our stories, reflect on the values of equality and love, while also engaging our neighbors in the movement for equality and fairness.

[Learn more](#)

## Al Gore Comes Out for Marriage Equality

As the country awaits state high court decisions in marriage cases brought by couples in [Connecticut](#), [California](#), and [Iowa](#); the [New Jersey](#) legislature prepares to deal with the reality that civil unions don't work; and the [11th Annual Freedom to](#)



[Marry Week](#) (Feb. 10-16) approaches, Nobel Laureate Al Gore has added his voice in support of ending same-sex couples' exclusion from marriage. In a video posted on Current TV, Gore said, "I think that gay men and women ought to have the same rights as heterosexual men and women, to make contracts, to have hospital visiting rights, to join together in marriage, and I don't understand why it is considered by some people to be a threat to heterosexual marriage to allow it by gays and lesbians."

[Watch the Video](#)

## New Study on Same-Sex Relationships

### **Study: Being denied marriage diminishes likelihood of same-sex couples staying together**

(Excerpted from [Advocate.com](#))

In two new studies published in the journal *Developmental Psychology*, scientists compared same-sex and heterosexual couples and assessed their happiness. Research shows that gay and lesbian couples are just as devoted in their relationships as straight people and that while being denied marriage or civil unions doesn't affect their happiness, it does diminish their likelihood of staying together.



[Read the full article](#)

### **Would gay couples benefit if breaking up were harder to do?**

(Excerpted from [Time.com](#))

Writer John Cloud looks at how the differences between straight and gay relationships factored into his own breakup and that of same-sex couples in general. Although studies point to better communications and other dynamics between gay partners, vs. straight couples, researchers also have found a higher breakup rate; in one report, 21% of same-sex couples ended their relationship, vs. 14% of married straight couples. "Legalizing same-sex marriage would probably help prolong gay relationships, if only because of the financial and legal benefits married couples enjoy," he writes. TIME (1/17)

[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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