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Valentine's Day  
Marriage Counter  
Event

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

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## Valentine's Day Marriage Counter Event - Come OUT for Marriage Equality!

Domestic  
Partnership Tax Info

February is Freedom to Marry Month, and Marriage Equality USA is hosting a peaceful **Counter Action event on Valentine's Day, February 14 at the Stanislaus County Clerk Recorder's Office.**

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This is a positive event that focuses on Love and Commitment, and is sure to help change hearts and minds about the issue of marriage equality here in Stanislaus County. We need as many gay and lesbian couples as we can muster for this event, as we are set to have a huge turnout from our supporters and allies, and we really shouldn't disappoint them with a low gay and lesbian turnout.

### Event Highlights

Feb. 16 - [Stonewall Democrats: Taste of Art & Champagne, Stockton, CA](#)

**What:** 4th Annual Valentine's Day Marriage Counter action - Local same-sex couples to request a marriage license.

**When:** Thursday, February 14, 2008 at 12:00 noon

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

**Where:** Stanislaus County Clerk Recorder's Office, 1021 "I" St. Modesto, CA

Feb. 21 - [\\*New\\* GLBT Peer Support Group, Modesto, CA](#)

This could be the last year we have to do this event, as we are awaiting an imminent decision by the CA Supreme Court in the marriage case. Arguments will be heard on March 4, 2008. **Be a part of history and come OUT now.**

## Community Alert: Signatures Being Gathered

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

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



## Anti-Gay Ballot Initiative

Paid signature gatherers are collecting signatures at Wal-Marts, Targets and other stores in Modesto, Turlock and other central valley towns, for an anti-gay ballot proposition to revoke Domestic Partner rights in the State of California.



Anti-gay organizations, National Organization for Marriage and ProtectMarriage.com, are working to promote the measure. As it appears on ProtectMarriage.com's Web site, the proposed initiative reads: "LIMIT ON MARRIAGE. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Amends the California Constitution to provide that only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California.

- Read a recent article from the Bay Area Reporter: [Anti-gay initiative drive back on, 1/31/08](#)

**Below are three ideas for action** from Stephanie Stolte, Marriage Equality USA's Communities of Faith Outreach Director who lives near the Target store in Turlock where they are collecting signatures.

From Stephanie:

"Please let it be known that the people who are collecting signatures are being paid to do so and money is their only motivation. It is my deeply held conviction that we will be victorious in overcoming this oppression only when we can rise above our knee-jerk emotions and respond from a place of peace and love. Blaming, posturing and name-calling are polarizing tactics. Our opponents win whenever we resort to them.

### Here are three ideas:

1. Encourage committed couples, straight supporters and people of faith to attend the peaceful, love-focused Valentine's Day action at the County Clerk Recorder's office to put a human face on this issue.
2. Encourage people to read and widely distribute the Declaration of Religious Support for Equal Civil Marriage Rights.
3. Encourage people to write letters to the editor and talk to others about this issue from a place of love and support, rather than anger and reactivity.

Those who oppose us are afraid. When we lash out at them, it deepens their fear and strengthens their conviction that they are doing the right thing."

In peace and solidarity,  
Stephanie Stolte

## News CA Filing Requirements for Registered Domestic Partners

SB 1827 was signed into law on September 29, 2006, requiring registered domestic partners to use the same filing status as married couples. These new filing requirements apply to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2007. Under current state and federal law, registered domestic partners use the single, or head of household filing status. The new law has no impact on the federal law.



For more information visit the [Official State of CA Franchise Tax Board website](#)

For additional help navigating the complicated world of personal income tax preparation, here are two business listings from the [SPC PRIDE Pages](#):

### **Baudler & Flanders, CPA's**

11120 14th Street #2  
Modesto, CA 95354  
575-2653

### **Thomas Lambert**

Personal Income Tax Preparation  
574-0414

## New Library Procedures at SPC

The Stanislaus PRIDE Center is implementing some new procedures for our Library.

Effective February 20, 2008 new patrons will be asked to fill out an application, show photo ID, and proof of residence. We will also be issuing SPC Library Cards that you will need



to present to Volunteer Staff when checking books out. Our goal is to make sure we receive returned materials when they are due, and more easily track loaned items.

We've recently re-arranged at the Center, making our library, internet workstations, and media viewing areas more comfortable and accessible to all. Stop by and check it out!

Special Thanks to Tery Powers, SPC Volunteer Coordinator, for her many hours organizing and improving our Library and to our enterprising Volunteers Staff, with a flair for moving furniture.

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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