

not participated previously are encouraged to attend. Sign up at meetup.com/http-www-lgbtcenterofraleigh-com-site-programs-seniors-events/102506262/.

Other events slated for February at the center are:

- Fem, Butch or Blend... Express Yourself!, Fullstream Brewery, 726 Rigsbee Ave., Durham, 7 p.m.

An official Out!Raleigh event benefiting the Human Rights Campaign and the center features spoken word and performance art. Contributions appreciated at the door.

- LGBT Generations, at the center, 2 p.m.

The first meeting for LGBT parents and children. Will meet monthly on every fourth Sunday.

info: Les Geller, vice chairman, lgeller@lgbtcenterofraleigh.com

— L.M.

Church starts youth ministry

RALEIGH — St. John's MCC, 805 Glenwood Ave., has announced that it will begin a children's ministry on Feb. 17.

Church services will be held on the first and third Sundays of the month at 11 a.m.

Rick Grissom will co-lead the ministry.

They are currently looking for a variety of items to make the ministry more successful. They include: manila envelopes (unfolded letter size or slightly larger), eight-pack boxes of crayons, snacks and sandwich baggies, white paper in reams, construction paper, #2 pencils, small erasers, glue sticks, oak tag paper, religious-themed stickers and one electric pencil sharpener. Items should be taken to the church office.

To learn more about this new youth program, email rgrisso@yahoo.com.

info: stjohnsmcc.org

— L.M.

National/Global

No breakfast of champions

WASHINGTON, D.C. — To the dismay of many within the LGBT community, President Barack Obama joined numerous House and Senate members at the annual National Prayer Breakfast. As always, the Feb. 7 event was hosted by The Fellowship Foundation — a conservative Christian organization that is known to support barbaric anti-gay legislation around the world, including Uganda's "Kill the Gays" bill.

"For another year, President Obama has chosen to set aside his stated values of inclusion in order to attend the National Prayer Breakfast — an event rooted in hatred of LGBT people and covered up by pastries and coffee," said Heather Cronk, managing director of GetEQUAL. "There are so many communities of faith that fully embrace LGBT people and that are rooted in social justice — we really don't understand why President Obama continues to give his permission for 'The Family' to support killing LGBT folks abroad."

— D.S.

Report examines marriage wins

SOMERVILLE, Mass. — For over a decade and a half, same-sex marriage advocates experienced a long and almost unbroken series of defeats at the ballot box, but in fall 2012, things changed. Not only did Minnesota voters defeat a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage, but majorities in Maine, Maryland,

and Washington voted for marriage equality. So, what changed? A new report from Political Research Associates, "The Right's Marriage Message: Talking Tolerance, Marketing Inequality," says the Right's messaging shifted away from what had proven successful in previous campaigns, even as marriage advocates learned from previous failures.

Report author David Dodge, equality activist and researcher, observed: "While this election will likely be looked back upon as a turning point for the marriage equality movement, it is important to remember that none of these victories were won in a landslide. [National Organization for Marriage] and its right-wing affiliates will not concede future battles simply because they are unaccustomed to electoral defeat. Rather, these groups will learn from their mistakes in order to prepare for future campaigns, several of which are just around the corner in states including Indiana and Oregon."

— D.S.

Boy Scout leaders punt on equality

NEW YORK, N.Y. — After more than a week of reports that the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) would consider lifting its national ban on gay Scouts and leaders, on Feb. 6 the organization's Board of Directors decided in a closed door meeting to stall. Instead of taking action, they voted to form a task force to study the issue. According to a later statement, the move will delay a vote on the ban until the group's national meeting in May.

Poll results released the same day by Quinnipiac University revealed a strong majority of U.S. voters believe it is time for the BSA to end its anti-gay policy. Just 33 percent of voters said the ban should remain in place. A coalition of gay and straight Scouts and Scout leaders along with scores of equal rights groups have been working for more than nine months to convince BSA leaders to repeal the policy. Over 1.4 million people have signed petitions on Change.org calling for the

BSA to reverse its position.

— D.S.

Anti-gay law moving forward

MOSCOW, Russia — Representatives of LGBT rights group ILGA-Europe are concerned with what looks to be the impending approval by the Russian federal parliament of a bill aimed at banning "propaganda of homosexuality" in Russia.

If passed, the law will make it illegal nationwide for any organization or individual to publish an article, hold an event or in any way publicly discuss LGBT issues. An overwhelming majority of the members of Parliament (388 out of 390 present for the vote) supported the draft legislation, with one voting against and one abstention.

ILGA-Europe leaders also denounced recent acts of violence in Russia against LGBTI rights advocates and their supporters.

— D.S.

Your Mission is Equality

HRC City Host Committee presents

an Entire weekend of Incredible Events!

Friday | 2-22-2013 • 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
HRC Gala Takeover Event
 Mission: Equal | 5000 North Tryon Street | 7700 | 7700
 Tickets: \$100 | All proceeds support our local LGBT community.

Saturday | 2-23-2013 • 9:00 a.m.
FrontRunners FunRun
 Mission: Equal | 5000 North Tryon Street | 7700 | 7700

Saturday | 2-23-2013 • 2:30 p.m.
Charlotte Pride Band Concert
 Mission: Equal | 5000 North Tryon Street | 7700 | 7700

Saturday | 2-23-2013 • 10:00 p.m.
Various Official After Parties
 Mission: Equal | 5000 North Tryon Street | 7700 | 7700

Sunday | 2-24-2013 • Noon – 4:00 p.m.
Recovery Brunch
 Mission: Equal | 5000 North Tryon Street | 7700 | 7700

Sunday | 2-24-2013 • 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Closing Tea Dance
 Mission: Equal | 5000 North Tryon Street | 7700 | 7700

MISSION: EQUALITY

2013 NORTH CAROLINA GALA

Saturday, February 23rd
Charlotte Convention Center

This event will sell out!
Purchase your tickets NOW

and join us for an incredible evening of action, enjoyment and surprises!

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