



**PRESS ADVISORY: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Same-Sex Couples Re-Engage in Annual National Marriage Counter Actions  
Freedom to Marry Day History Commemorated in Dance and Quilt Exhibitions**

**Media Contacts:**

Molly McKay, Marriage Equality USA Media Director, 510-332-0872, [media@marriageequality.org](mailto:media@marriageequality.org)  
Maya Scott-Chung, Winter of Love Quilt Exhibit Curator(510) 381-0876, [quilt@marriageequality.org](mailto:quilt@marriageequality.org)  
Mona Baroudi, "Love Everywhere," by the Erika Chong Shuch Performance Project, (415) 615-2735

**February 12, 2010, San Francisco Bay Area:** On National Freedom to Marry Week, at local marriage counters in cities all over the country, same-sex couples will once again request marriage licenses at their local County Clerk's Offices and engage in other public education outreach to raise awareness of the harms and impact the inability to marry causes on their families.

At 11:00 a.m. on February 12, 2010, marriage equality supporters will gather on the steps of City Hall for a short program of speakers to highlight personal stories from San Francisco's unique experiences and contributions to the marriage equality movement thus far. Immediately following, same-sex couples who are now unable to marry because of Proposition 8 will request marriage licenses at the Clerk's Office and join the Winter of Love Quilt Exhibition opening and Love Everywhere dance performance in the Rotunda at noon.

"Since 2001, Marriage Equality USA chapters have engaged in these annual marriage counter actions to render visible the discrimination that is enforced every day. Married couples, both same-sex and different-sex, will be there in support and solidarity with same-sex couples who are now barred from joining them as married couples," Molly McKay, Marriage Equality USA Media Director.

"LOVE EVERYWHERE" is a new work by the Erika Chong Shuch Performance Project; commissioned by Dancers Group's ONSITE Program; and premieres with a large-scale kick-off event at noon on Friday, February 12, 2010, at San Francisco's City Hall Rotunda, where many thousands of weddings have occurred, including the approximately 4000 same-sex weddings which took place under Mayor Gavin Newsom's authority. Approximately 60 dancers and 15 musicians will participate. A public celebration of love intended to bring strangers together, Love Everywhere reflects on the history of marriage, invites audiences into spontaneous celebrations, and incorporates large groups of dancers and non-dancers alike as performers. In addition to being an entertaining and interactive performance experience, Love Everywhere aims to bring visibility to the ongoing fight for marriage equality. Performances run the weekend of February 12-14, culminating with two performances at Glide Memorial Church on Sunday, February 14.

Visit [www.loveeverywhere.org](http://www.loveeverywhere.org) for details.

"Winter of Love: A Coalition Exhibit Celebrating the Courage, Creativity and Diversity of our grassroots marriage equality movements" is a new installment of The Loving Quilt: A People's Living History of Marriage Equality" a project of Marriage Equality USA, founded in 2007 to honor the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the 4,038 couples married between February 12<sup>th</sup> to March 11, 2004 and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary Loving v Virginia Supreme Court decision. "The new installments celebrate the 18,000 same-sex couples married between June 16<sup>th</sup> to November 4, 2008 through personal stories from people and organizations working to see the Freedom to Marry Day into a

sustained reality for everyone,” said Maya Scott-Chung, The Loving Quilt curator.

For a complete list of Freedom to Marry Day actions go to [www.marriageequality.org](http://www.marriageequality.org).

*Founded in 2000, Marriage Equality USA is a national grassroots organization whose mission is to secure legally recognized civil marriage equality for all, at the federal and state level, without regard to gender identity or sexual orientation . For more information go to [www.marriageequality.org](http://www.marriageequality.org).*