## **Chapter News**

<u>Donations</u>: Thank you to Elaine Ferrara, Brian Jones, Kathy Maniscalco and Kathleen Shank for their donations.

<u>Gratitude:</u> Thank you members for voting, because your votes have made a difference in our county for same-sex couples and other individual rights as well as in our state, and nation. We need to continue our long march toward equality for all.

<u>Op Ed article sent by Chapter President</u> to county newspapers in support of same-sex marriage. The article supported D. Bruce Hanes, our County Register of Wills and Clerk of the Orphan's Court, who issued marriage licenses to same-sex couples. There was also information about NOW's continuing herstoric support for equal rights for all including actions to write in support of legislation for these marriage rights and in actions to support legislation which opposes all forms of discrimination at the state and national level.

<u>Press Notice article sent by Chapter</u> <u>President</u> to county newspapers announcing our chapter's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

<u>Thanks</u>: Thank you to David Grunfeld one of our chapter's founding members for the information about our chapter's history and 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. He helped contact the state senate about this news. Kathleen Shank contacted the County Commissioners about our 35<sup>th</sup>.

<u>Congratulations:</u> to Im Ja Choi for her award as the 2013 Inspired Service Honoree by Presby's Inspired Life as the Founder of PASSi. Action Alert: Write to urge your state Senator to co-sponsor and vote for the Ethnic Intimidation (Hate Crimes) Act SB 42 this Act is to reestablish protections against crimes which include sexual orientation, gender and gender identity with the other categories. Address: THE HONORABLE (name), PENNSYLAVANIA STATE SENATE, MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING, HARRISBURG, PA 17120-0028

Write your state Representative to vote for and co-sponsor the Human Relations (Anti Discrimination) Act HB 300 which adds "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" to protections in employment, housing and public accommodations. <u>Address</u>: THE HONORABLE (name), HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING, HARRISBURG, PA 17120-0028

Write your U.S. Senator to vote for and co-sponsor S. 598 the Respect for Marriage Act which ensures that all valid marriages are respected under federal law. This means that married same-sex couples and their families would be able to participate in the same benefits as other married couples in our country. This would include but not be limited to programs like Social Security and the Family and Medical Leave Act. This would give their children equitable access to the federal safety net like the children of other families. Address: THE HONORABLE (name), UNITED STATES SENATE, WASHINGTON, DC 20510

**Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid** Enclosed are two form letters to mail to your federal legislators so they will not support cuts in these plans as part of secret or sudden budget cut negotiations.