

This week was Valentine's Day. I enjoyed reading these headlines that reflect *the power of love to counter oppression* this past week:

February 7: Federal Appeals Court Rules California's Ban on Gay Marriage Is Unconstitutional all but ensuring that the case will proceed to the United States Supreme Court.

February 13: The New Jersey State Senate voted on Monday to legalize [same-sex marriage](#), a significant shift in support from two years ago, when a similar measure failed. The legislation faces a vote today in the State Assembly, but it is expected, Gov. [Chris Christie](#), will veto it.

February 14: Washington State's Governor Christine Gregoire signed legislation on Monday to bestow marriage rights on gay and lesbian couples. It is expected that repeal advocates will put the issue before the electorate as a referendum.

I am glad to be part of a community that has lived a message of equality as a Welcoming Congregation and continually strives to learn how to *harness the power of love* to counter oppression in our community and world.

Be well,
Barbara