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CA Senator presents proclamation honoring children's book on same-sex marriage

By Eric Ross, SF LGBT Issues Examiner March 6th, 2011 11:31 pm PT

I've been writing about LGBT issues on examiner.com for a while now, and I'm excited to announce to all my readers that I just published a <u>children's book on</u> marriage equality.

In less than a week of it's release date, the book titled, 'My Uncle's Wedding' has climbed to #2 on Amazon's Bestseller's list in the Gay & Lesbian Parenting & Families section. There haven't been many opportunities for young children to learn about gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender families, but this new children's book titled, 'My Uncle's Wedding' gives them the opportunity to see gay family members in a positive way.



The launch party for 'My Uncle's Wedding' was last Saturday, March 5th at A Different Light Bookstore in the Castro. The event was packed, and Senator Mark Leno even stopped by to present a proclamation (see the video in the left column of this article).

The proclamation reads:

"Congratulations as we celebrate the launching of 'My Uncle's Wedding!' As one of the few children's books that address LGBT issues, it serves as a conduit by which to bolster understanding in our community. The book plays a vital role in creating a brighter future for our lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth and their parents. Congratulations and thank you for all you do!"

'My Uncle's Wedding' is a 34 page children's book aimed at children ages 4-8. Readers follow a young boy named Andy on an enjoyable journey as he talks about his uncle's wedding, how it affects him, and the things he gets to do in preparation for the ceremony.

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"This children's book is the perfect gift for any child who loves a good story and especially children with gay people in their family," said Molly McKay, National Media Director for Marriage Equality USA. "The author approaches the subject of same-sex marriage with a child's sensitivity and sensibility, and the beautiful illustrations are sure to be enjoyed by kids and parents alike."

The message in the book is one of love and equality, but it is handled well and without being preachy. The protagonist observes the proceedings with childlike innocence, simply accepting that his two uncles love each other and should celebrate that. It's no different from any other wedding. And at no point does the story feel heavy-handed.

Writer and director, Del Shores, best known for his movie Sordid Lives and work on Queer as Folk, also had great things to say about the book. "Eric Ross has written a wonderful, heartwarming and important book in today's climate -- a beautiful educational tool for children -- showing that all love is equal and good."

To learn more about the book, 'My Uncle's Wedding', visit the website at www.myuncleswedding.com.

Tags: same-sex marriage, Prop 8, Proposition 8, Marriage Equality, My Uncle's Wedding, gay children's books

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