

Same-sex weddings arrive in California as New York couples look West

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Upper West Siders Jennie Talley and Inga Sarda-Sorensen plan a September wedding in Malibu.

Gay couples rang in the legalization of same-sex marriage Monday night with joyous I do's across the Golden State.

Octogenarians Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, who have been together for more than 50 years, took the first vows in San Francisco's ornate City Hall.

At the same time, on the steps of the Beverly Hills Courthouse, Rabbi Denise Eger officiated at the wedding of Robin Tyler and Diane Olson, two of the original plaintiffs in the case that led the California Supreme Court to overturn the state's ban on same-sex nuptials.

"I now pronounce you spouses for life," Eger declared as the couple, wearing matching cream-colored suits, smiled broadly.

"Star Trek" star George Takei, 71, will register for his license with partner Brad Altman in a West Hollywood auditorium Tuesday.

"It's a historic, landmark day. It's going to be a glorious and celebratory day," said a beaming Takei, who played Enterprise helmsman Hikaru Sulu.

Gay marriage became legal at 5:01 p.m. Pacific Time Monday.

Thousands of gay New Yorkers are expected to flock here to tie the knot.

Jeff Friedman, 40, and Andrew Zwerin, 39, of Rockville Centre, L.I., are planning an Oct. 11 wedding in Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif., and will come next month to meet with event coordinators.

"We're doing this because of our love, obviously, but also because we want to instill in our 4-year-old son the message that our country considers us equal to others," Friedman said

More than 12,000 gay couples from New York are expected in the next three years, a UCLA study reports.

"We're thrilled," said upper West Side resident Inga Sarda-Sorensen, 43, who's planning to wed partner Jennie Talley, 54, at a ceremony in Malibu this September.

"We have friends who have gone to Canada to get married, and that's been a wonderful experience. But for us, it's very important that we're able to get married in our country," said SardaSorensen, a spokeswoman for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "This is where we live and this is where we were born and raised, and that's important to us."

New York Gov. Paterson issued an edict last month that state agencies must recognize gay marriages performed legally outside of New York - a move praised by Takei as "very progressive."

"I'm very optimistic about the ripple effects that will flow from California," he said.