

Music City Couples
P.O. Box 330717
Nashville, TN 37203

The Harmonizer

Volume 1, Issue 7

August 2002

Mission Statement:

Music City Couples is an organization in which the members are committed gay and lesbian couples in the Greater Nashville and Middle Tennessee area.

The organization serves to provide a forum for those member-couples to strengthen their own relationships while also providing a social and supportive structure for their fellow member-couples. Music City Couples holds no religious or political affiliations and makes every attempt to respect the privacy of its members.

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Talkin' Death, Assets and Funerals

by Tara

On a Wednesday evening last month, 7 interested couples met with Kevin Sommers (no relation to Donna...darn it) to discuss wills, durable power of attorneys, funerals and other much avoided topics. It's not that we really relished the idea of sitting around discussing such things, we just all knew it had been put off for far too long. Bobby and Larry, who have already done their wills with Kevin, were kind enough to drive down from 'up state' to give us moral support. We sat around and ate (that's a given), joked about songs we wanted played at our funerals (Julia wants "I've got the Power"...a psychiatrist would probably have a ball with that) and parents snagging us from the hospital in the night and shipping our butts off to their home state.



Kevin talks to Steve

We learned about choosing executors...you want someone level headed, cool under pressure, not highly emotional, business like, and organized...eliminating many of us right off the bat I realize. Also, Kevin discussed Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare which is the person (if your partner is unavailable) who would make important health decisions for you and ultimately 'pull the plug' if needed. This did cause much concern for Julia and I as we had our friend Diane as the first choice. However, she is both a Predators and Titans season ticket holder, which meant we had a very small window of time in which to get into an accident, become hospitalized, and get her undivided attention. Otherwise we feared she might call on her cell phone during an all important Titan drive and say with eyes glued to the field..."aw, just pull the plug...I'll stop by after the game." You see? These decisions cannot be taken lightly.

Kevin gave out material dealing with all the areas that we in the gay community especially need to have documented and in order. I'm sure we have all read horrifying stories of couples being kept out of the room of the other because of doctors prejudice, family members, etc. Only with the proper documentation are we truly protected and will we have full access in case of a medical emergency, prolonged illness, etc. You will find Kevin's business card in the newsletter and can contact him for an informational packet or schedule an appointment. If you haven't gotten your affairs in order, this is your gentle, loving kick in the pants. **GO DO IT!**

Music City Couples Financial Report

prepared by Russ & Don

Revenues Year to Date

Membership Dues	\$892
Couples National Donation	\$100
Newsletter Advertising	\$ 25

Total Revenue **\$992**

Expenses Year to Date

Bank Service Charge	\$ 33
Check Charge	\$ 13
Misc Pride Expenses	
Banner/Supplies	\$253
Pride Booth Rent	\$120
Newsletter Printing/Expenses	\$ 33.63
“Get to Know You” Potluck	\$136.25
Website Hosting &	
Domain Name	\$98.40

Total Expenses **\$687.28**

Net Funds Available **\$304.72**

Membership Dues Collected Last Month: **\$604**

Membership Dues Collected

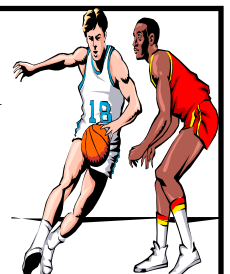
Larry & Bobby	\$48
Paul & Michael	\$24
Barb & Holly	\$24
Ned & Darrin	\$48
Ron & Joseph	\$24
Tim & Chip	\$24
Donald & Jeffary	\$24
Angela & Risa	\$24
Elaine & Ana	\$24
Lori & Lori	\$24

Total Membership Dues Collected **\$892**

Basketball Anyone?

If basketball is your game, then consider playing in the 14th annual Music City Classic, or joining the recreational program. The Music City Classic is on September 14th and 15th. The Classic is a tournament with teams from across the southeast competing. This year there will be a recreational division with the cost being only \$175 for each team. Several organizations from around town will be represented. Why not make Music City Couples one of them?

For this and more information, visit the Storms website at www.NashvilleStorms.com.



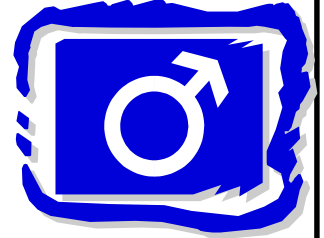
Couple of the Month: Russ and Don

Interview by Julia

So, what do you guys do for a living?

Russ: I'm an accountant. Hmm I didn't know that but it works real well for us since you're one half of our financial couple.

Don: I am a commercial architect. Hmm, did I ever tell you that I was interested in being an architect? Yep until I got kicked out of school for smoking.



In April they celebrated their first year of happiness. They had met previously when Don was acting as a set designer, but Russ was dating someone at the time. There was some mention about Don lookin good to Russ but he looked straight and kind of snobby. Russ ended up answering Don's ad on 'Planet Out' thinking he liked what he saw and realized that they had met before. Hmm, I see where this is going.

Don thinks that Russ is, "the most normal person I've ever met". I would have to say that it's a good thing for Russ to be normal. They seem to be very happy together and destined to live a long happy life together. Russ is glad that, "Don just keeps him laughing". Don says, "that Russ is normal and decent". Together they have one pet and her name is Heidi and she is a poodle. I guess Russ had her before they met and now Don wasn't to sure about her but now she gets the hugs and kisses before Russ these days. I'd say that Don has had a change of heart. If you ever see Don around animals it isn't hard to see that he truly loves all animals.

What these guys love to do the most is work on their house and travel. In the one year they have been together they have taken 5 vacations in 365 days. Let's take a cruise, go to PTown or simply hang out off the coast of Ca. You name it they seem to have done it.

Give yourself a gift and take some time to introduce yourselves to these guys. Don is a little shy at first but worth the wait and Russ, well, you heard it from his partner, he's a decent, normal guy.

Stay tuned for next month when the couple being interviewed will be Julia and Tara, the Hospitality and Events Couple.

Law Offices KEVIN T. SOMMERS

Nashville 615-386-7007
Dickson 615-446-4882
Kingston Springs 615-952-9882
Fax: 615-952-5621
Mail: P.O. Box 399
Kingston Springs, TN 37082

www.sommerslawoffice.com



eden

a garden store

Nancy Robison
Proprietor

2800 Bransford Ave.
Nashville, TN 37204
Phone (615) 383-0038
Fax (615) 383-0607

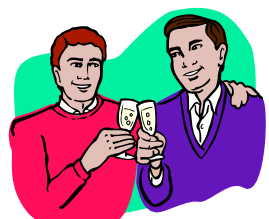
The BIG Gay Adventure on the Little Pink Bus

On Saturday, June 13th, eight couples took an adventure on the “Big Pink Bus”, better known as the company called Nash Trash Tours! Some of you may wonder what Nash Trash is. Well, it’s a 1 1/2 hour entertaining tour on the low-down of Nashville and the untold stories of the country music stars. Our tour guides featured the now famous Jugg sisters, Cheryl Lynn and Brenda Lee. All of their tour is original, hokey and fun all at the same time. Most of the narration is done through songs that poke fun at the trashy side of Nashville and the music industry. Just an FYI, the Jugg sisters will be featured on Emeril Lagasse’s cooking show in September. Be sure to check out their website, www.nashtrash.com.



BIRTHDAYS

Jim (Gary) 8/4
Jon (Cliff) 8/22



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

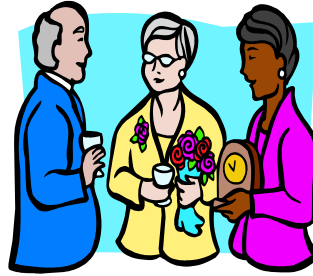
Joe & Gary 8/23
Steve & Scott 8/31

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Paul & Michael
Barb & Holly
Ron & Joseph
Tim & Chip
Donald & Jeffary
Angela & Risa
Elaine & Ana
Lori & Lori

PRIDE Followup Potluck Grand Success

Sunday, July 14th was an exciting day for Music City Couples. Through the cooperative efforts of the chair couples, several member couples, and the help of Gary and Joe in securing a place to host the event, Music City Couples held its first "Get to Know You" potluck dinner, inviting all interested gay and lesbian couples in the Greater Nashville & Middle Tennessee area to learn more about us and what we represent. Many current member couples were in attendance as well as several couples who expressed interest in the organization while visiting our booth at Nashville PRIDE.



More than 50 people were in attendance for an afternoon of games, good food, and great conversation. Many wonderful door prizes were given away to new members, from BBQ utensils to the hand crafted birdhouse donated by the ladies at Eden, the Garden Store. Many interested couples stated that they had been looking to meet other gay and lesbian couples within the community but had no means to do so. We are happy to report that several of these couples became members of Music City Couples, and new friendships were formed.

The "Get to Know You" Potluck was followed by a Tuesday night out at Tribe where many new members were in attendance. To all new members we say "Welcome!"

Some things to look for in the next newsletter are the placing of a classified section. Remember, your junk could be someone else's treasure, so why not advertise it free in the newsletter. Stay tuned to the message board for more info on where to send your classified articles.

A survey is being compiled for a list of activities to be mailed to all members. This will also include kids activities. This will give us an idea of events that you would like to attend in the future. If you have any suggestions for the list please post it on the message board or call Julia and Tara.

Recipe of the Month

GREEK PASTA SALAD

INGREDIENTS:

1/2 cup olive oil	1/2 cup red wine vinegar
1 1/2 teaspoons garlic powder	1 1/2 teaspoons dried basil
1 1/2 teaspoons dried basil	1 1/2 teaspoons dried oregano
3/4 teaspoon ground black pepper	3/4 teaspoon white sugar
3 cups fresh sliced mushrooms	15 cherry tomatoes, halved
1 cup sliced red bell peppers	3/4 cup crumbled feta cheese
1/2 cup chopped green onion	4 ounces black olives
12 ounces sliced pepperoni sausage each slice cut in half	2 1/2 cups cooked macaroni

DIRECTIONS:

In a large bowl, whisk together oil, vinegar, garlic powder, basil, oregano, black pepper, and sugar. Add cooked pasta, vegetables, cheese, olives, and pepperoni; toss until all ingredients are well coated. Cover, and chill 2 hours or overnight.

YIELD: 4 servings

AS OF PRINT DATE, THESE ARE THE MOST CURRENT EVENTS. PLEASE CHECK THE MESSAGE BOARD FREQUENTLY FOR UPDATES.

The Harmonizer is a monthly publication of Music City Couples. Production of the newsletter is the responsibility of the Media Couple. We encourage all members to submit articles to appear in the newsletter. The Media Couple reserves the right to select and edit all articles for publication.

**2002
Music City Couples
Operating Committee**

Chair Couple
Steve & Scott

Finance Couple
Russ & Don

**Media & Member Services
Couple**
Bill & Jerry

Hospitality Couple
Tara & Julia

August 2002

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Cook-out Ken & Greg's
18	19	20 Dinner Night	21	22	23	24 Dog Day at Tara & Julia's 1pm
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Future Events

Dinner night out on August 20 will be held at Hotchicken.com Restaurant (Lorrie Morgan's Restaurant) on I-24 and Old Hickory Blvd on the northwest side of the city.

On August 17th, join us for a cookout at Ken and Greg's in East Nashville, stay tuned to the message board for time, directions, and updates for this event.

MCC has gone to the dogs, or in this case Julia and Tara's house on August 20th. Bring your four legged barking friend to their place around 1pm for what is sure to be an interesting afternoon. 2 dog limit please and stay tuned to the message board for more info.

October 4, 5, & 6 join us for the camping trip at Rock Island State Park. Cost is \$16 per couple.

A Halloween/costume party is in the works for October. We'll keep you posted as to time and place.

Another Nash Trash event is being planned, due to such interest in the last one. 8 couple max, cost is \$30 per person, and worth every penny. Send payment to the post office box. **First deposit, gets first hold.**

September 2002

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Group Mtg 7pm Darfon's
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Dinner Night TBA	18	19	20 Dolly-wood	21 Dolly-wood
22 Dolly-wood	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					