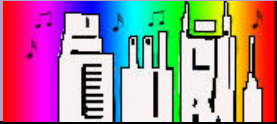


The

Harmonizer



Vol. 3, No. 11

Monthly Newsletter for Music City Couples

November 2008

Serving Nashville & All Of Middle Tennessee and Surrounding Communities

Prop 8 Campaign

Provided by <http://www.noonprop8.com>

We had hoped never to have to write this note.

Sadly, fueled by misinformation, distortions and lies, millions of voters went to the polls November 4th., and said YES to bigotry, YES to discrimination, YES to second-class status for same-sex couples.

And while the election was close, and millions of votes still remain uncounted, it has become apparent that we lost.

There is no question this defeat is hard.

Thousands of people have poured their talents, their time, their resources and their hearts into this struggle for freedom and this fight to have their relationships treated equally. Much has been sacrificed in this struggle.

While we knew the odds for success were not with us, we believed Californians could be the first in the nation to defeat the injustice of discriminatory measures like Proposition 8.

And while victory is not ours this day, we know that because of the work done here; freedom, fairness and equality will be ours someday. Just look at far we have come in a few decades.

Up until 1974 same-sex intimacy was a crime in California. There wasn't single law recognizing the relationships of same-sex couples until 1984 — passed by the Berkeley School District. San Francisco did not pass domestic-partner protections until 1990, the state of California following in 2005. And in 2000, Proposition 22 passed with a 23% majority.

Today, we fought to retain our right to

marry, and millions of Californians stood with us. Over the course of this campaign everyday Californians and their friends, neighbors and families built a civil rights campaign unequalled in California history.

You raised more money than anyone believed possible for an LGBT civil rights campaign.

You reached out to family and friends in record numbers—helping hundreds of thousands of Californians understand what the LGBT civil rights struggle is really about.

You built the largest grassroots and volunteer network that has ever been built – a coalition that will continue to fight until all people are equal.

And you made the case to the people of California and to the rest of the world that discrimination — in any form — is unfair and wrong.

We are humbled by the courage, dignity and commitment displayed by all who fought this historic battle.

Victory was not ours today. But the struggle for equality is not over.

Because of the struggle fought in California — fought so incredibly well by the people in that state who love freedom and justice — our fight for full civil rights will continue.

Activist and writer Anne Lamott writes, "Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come. You wait and watch and work: you don't give up."

We Stand together, knowing....our dawn will come.

Birthdays

- Nov 01 - Chris (of Bryan)
- Nov 01 - Greg (of Duane)
- Nov 03 - Pamela (of Heather)
- Nov 05 - Jane (of Barbara)
- Nov 15 - Danny (of Stephen)
- Nov 16 - Jonathan (of Randy)
- Nov 23 - Janet (of Jeanna)

Anniversaries

- Nov 01 - Matthew & Doug (12-Years)
- Nov 05 - Joseph & Chuck (21-Years)
- Nov 10 - Dawn & Kathy (9-Years)
- Nov 17 - Risa & Angela (11-Years)



If you wish to be featured in next month's issue, please send in your information with a current photo to webmaster@musiccitycouples.org

SPOTLIGHT

Nancy & Stacie



Joined: November 1, 2008
Married: December 21, 2006
Stacie & Nancy met at work, and found Music City Couples searching the web. They enjoy Photography, Painting and animals. They have two children; a daughter-16 and son-15.

Report On Prop 8 From Nashville

By Cole Wakefield, [Special to 365gay.com](http://Special.to.365gay.com)
 11.16.2008 9:31am

Maybe it was the result of my lukewarm success as an organizer back in Arkansas, or maybe I am just growing cynical as I age, but I was really worried no one would show up for Nashville's No on 8 rally.

There seemed to be a lot working against its success: The weather was miserable, it was a Saturday, and it had been organized hastily as a grassroots effort outside of Nashville's "gay establishment."

When I arrived at the public square, about 45 minutes early, the protest site was deceptively barren. I initially worried that either things had been canceled or turnout was even worse than I was expecting. I was reassured somewhat when I discovered a small group huddled in an elevator lobby.



Soon the young group of activists was asked to move out of the elevator lobby and onto the square. By that time, about 50 people had arrived. The crowd wasn't huge, but participants were still very excited and eagerly posed for pictures with the pithiest signs; my favorite: "Gay Tennessee Hillbillies Say No to H8."

By 12:30, the crowd had swelled to over 200, more than anybody had expected, and there were still groups filing in. Soon, the march around the square began. The marchers walking the circular path in the square's center reminded me of the legendary rights marches in Philadelphia in the 1960s.

It's too bad we don't vote by car horn. Things wrapped up (or so I thought) after the organizers and a few members of the crowd spoke about their reasons for attending the protest.



There was the gay couple with two young boys who just wanted to insure their rights as parents and partners; there was the lesbian couple of 20 years frustrated because they would have to go out of state to marry; and there was the straight married guy who expressed frustration about how stupid it was that his LGBT friends couldn't get married.

I left around 1:30 as people started to disperse. It had been a pretty good rally. There were lots of people and almost all of the local press showed up. There had been no negative encounters, except some comments from a homeless guy who I think was more confused than anything else.



My only regret was that the event wasn't in a more public location. As I was headed home, thinking about ways to increase visibility for next time, I got caught in a small traffic jam. When I looked to see why the light was green and no one was moving, I noticed a long line of people marching down the 2nd Ave sidewalk. It was a group of about 100 or so protestors from the rally taking their signs and their message deep into the heart of Nashville's tourist district. I have never been more proud about living in Music City.



Our Signs



"After taking part in this protest, I truly believe we could make a difference if more people, of all races and orientations would participate and support each other".

Larry Gold

Favorite Recipe

La Madeleine's Tomato-Basil Soup

SERVES 8

4 cups fresh tomatoes, cored, peeled, and chopped (8-10) or canned whole tomatoes, crushed

4 cups tomato juice (or part vegetable or part chicken stock)

12-14 basil leaves, washed fresh

1 cup heavy cream

1/4 lb sweet unsalted butter salt

1/4 teaspoon cracked black pepper

lemon juice (optional)

Combine tomatoes, juice/and or stock in saucepan.

Simmer 30 minutes.

Puree, along with the basil leaves, in small batches, in blender, food processor (or better yet, one of those handy hand-held food blenders, right in the cooking pan). Return to saucepan and add cream and butter, while stirring, over low heat. Garnish with basil leaves and serve with your favorite bread.

Email Your Favorite Recipe
info@musiccitycouples.org

Events Calendar

Grand Ole Opry

Package: Main floor seats, Hotel, Tours at an affordable price.

800-251-1864

www.musiccitytours.com

Stirrup Nashville

1529 4th Ave. South

Nashville, TN, 37210

615-782-0043

Your New Favorite Neighborhood Bar

Info@StirrupNashville.com

Tribe

1517A Church St, Nashville, TN, 37203

Sophisticated, straight-friendly gay nightclub fills a niche in Nashville



The Music City Couples Network, an organization of hundreds of loving and committed gay and lesbian couples believes that the Federal Marriage Amendment is an unconscionable assault on the rights of millions of American citizens, and is joining other organizations seeking its defeat.

According to the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the amendment "would not only deny marriage to same-sex couples but could also deny any state legislature or electorate from ever voting to pass their own state's domestic partnership, civil union or marriage laws. Under the Federal Marriage Amendment, courts could be barred from enforcing the legal protections that a legislature provides through civil union or domestic partnership laws." Civil marriage, other forms of relationship recognition, and basic civil rights protections are essential components that make all families, including families headed by same-sex couples, safer and more secure. Civil marriage and religious marriage are two separate things. Religious institutions will never be forced to bless relationships with which they disagree, just as today religious institutions can refuse to marry couples of different faiths or individuals who have been divorced.

*****COMING EVENTS*****

- Jun: Pride Weekend Jun/1st.
- Jul: 4th. Annual Festivities
- Jul: Movie Event "Sordid Lives"
- Aug: Dinner Night Out – Monell's
- Sep: Dinner Night Out – Red Restaurant
- Oct: Wiener Roast & Bonfire
- Nov: Waiting On A Host
- Dec: Waiting On A Host

Newsletter Submissions

Send us your Current News, Favorite Recipe, and Announcements that you would like to have added to our Monthly Newsletter. Send all submissions to, Webmaster@musiccitycouples.org no later than the First Friday of Every Month. Anything received after that Friday will be included in the next month's issue

Hosts Needed

Music City Couples is in search of couples willing to Host a Party in their home, back yard, or even a Park. If you have the desire to be a Host, please contact:

Larry and Bobby.

info@musiccitycouples.org

615-824-9966 – Home

Movie Night Out

Several of our couples have been asking if we plan to re-instate the monthly movie night out. We need your help. If you would like to take charge of our Monthly Movie Night Out, please drop us an email:

info@musiccitycouples.org

Dinner Night Out

Everyone loves to eat. Certainly you have a favorite Restaurant. If you would like to see us have a Monthly Dinner Night Out, please forward your Restaurant Choices and help us plan the monthly event. Simply send us an email: info@musiccitycouples.org

Camping

Contact Barb & Jane
 Kingston, Springs, TN

info@musiccitycouples.org



Music City Couples is an organization of committed gay and lesbian couples in the Greater Nashville and Middle Tennessee area. The organization serves to provide a forum for gay/lesbian committed couples to strengthen their own relationships while also providing a social and supportive structure for their fellow committed couples. Music City Couples holds no religious affiliations and makes every attempt to respect the privacy of its couples.