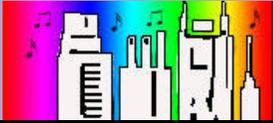


# The

# Harmonizer



Vol. 4, No. 03

Monthly Newsletter for Music City Couples

March 2009

Serving Nashville & All Of Middle Tennessee and Surrounding Communities



**GLBTQIF  
Deaf & Hard of Hearing  
Discussion Forum  
Saturday, March 14  
5 p.m.**

People who are deaf and hard of hearing --and their friends--are invited to join in a discussion on how we can unite our community.

**Phone: 615.294.4834  
Sorensen: 1-800-659-4810  
>> FREE EVENT <<**



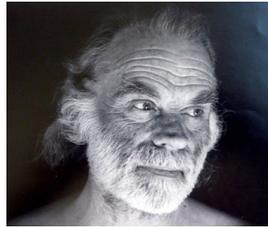
**Nashville Opera  
On Tour at Out Central  
*An Evening of Wine & Opera***

**Thursday, April 2  
7 p.m.**

Join us for an evening of wine and appetizers with live operatic performances from Nashville Opera's upcoming performance of **La Boheme**.

Out Central will be transformed into Giacomo Puccini's Paris. Don't miss this event!

**Members: \$7 / Non-Members: \$10**



**Out Central Presents:  
"Listen, Men. Listen."  
The James Broughton  
Film Festival  
Saturday March 21  
7 p.m.**

James Broughton (1913 - 1999) was an American poet, and poetic filmmaker. He was part of the San Francisco Renaissance, and an early bard of the Radical Faeries. Five short films filled with joy...

*Erogeny, Testament, Devotions, Shaman Psalm, and The Bed*

There will also be a panel discussion, with contemporaries and friends, and several readings of his work.

**Members: \$10  
Non-Members: \$15**

**Got A Favorite Restaurant?**



Send an email to [info@musiccitycouples.org](mailto:info@musiccitycouples.org)

Tell us what you liked about the restaurant and we will post your review here

## Birthdays

- Mar 01 - Cathy (of Ginny)
- Mar 05 - Sheralynn (of Colleen)
- Mar 05 - Garry (of Joe)
- Mar 06 - Mary (of Debra) **New Couple**
- Mar 06 - Ron (of Travis)
- Mar 07 - John (of Herb)
- Mar 08 - Duane (of Greg)
- Mar 08 - Randy (of Gerald)
- Mar 09 - Dawn (of Kathy)
- Mar 12 - Anne (of Bev)
- Mar 14 - Donnie (of Todd)
- Mar 28 - Sharon (of Diana)

## Anniversaries

- Mar 01 - Don & Berry (27-Years)
- Mar 04 - Pastor Greg & Brian (3-Years)
- Mar 07 - Eddie & Joey (33-Years)
- Mar 08 - Ed & Bob (3-Years)
- Mar 13 - Sundi & Stacie (5-Years)
- Mar 15 - Barb & Jane (29-Years)
- Mar 23 - Randall & Steven (3-Years)
- Mar 25 - Janet & Jeanna (3-Years)
- Mar 28 - Diane & Barbara (13-Years)
- Mar 28 - Rick & Brad (7-Years)

**Don't See Your Special Day  
Listed this month?**

Send an email to [info@musiccitycouples.org](mailto:info@musiccitycouples.org) and ask to be added. We don't want to miss anyone's birthday, anniversary, or special dates



## Can Marriage Equality Be Compromised?

Three key people immersed in different aspects of the marriage-equality effort weigh in on a New York Times op-ed attempting to forge a compromise on how the federal government handles same-sex unions.

By Michelle Garcia

An Advocate.com exclusive  
posted February 27, 2009



RINGS: GETTY IMAGES, WOLFSON: DAVID SHANKBONE

The February 21 edition of *The New York Times* featured an op-ed by writers Jonathan Rauch and David Blankenhorn attempting to forge a compromise on how the federal government should recognize same-sex unions. They suggest that Congress acknowledge statewide marriage laws, extending federal civil union status to marriages and civil unions that are lawful in specific states, so long as those states also extend protections to religious organizations that object, legally exempting any such organizations from participating in same-sex unions.

We asked three key people immersed in different aspects of the marriage-equality effort to weigh in on Rauch and Blankenhorn's reconciliation.

Evan Wolfson, executive director of Freedom to Marry

Although I trust these writers are sincere, this is a misdirected solution to a phony problem. In 2006, for example, David Blankenhorn, a self-proclaimed moderate, participated in a [debate with me on C-SPAN](#), and then wrote a whole book regarding his opposition to our freedom to marry. That opposition had nothing to do with "religious exemptions" (an odd concept when it comes to who should be able to marry) or anything in this piece.

The core of the real opposition we face is not really about marriage -- it's about gay. The same forces against our freedom to marry are also against its products, which include civil union and partnership. We will never give enough ground to appease them, nor should we. Why take on the burden of inventing and then selling a second-class, cobbled-together, unworkable new system with all its headaches and intrinsic and complex flaws (including this op-ed's dangerous and wholly unnecessary religious carve-outs and complete withholding of marriage itself) -- instead of the system that exists, marriage -- just because gay couples are starting to participate? Why surrender the moral high ground we are successfully claiming -- with principle, persuasion, patience, and persistence -- for an illusory common ground when, as witness the most recent and vociferous rejection of even civil unions and any such half-measure by the so-called moderate new chair of the Republican Party, Michael Steele, this is a nonstarter.

So-called compromises such as this are just a distraction from the real work at hand to address the real problem: the need to end the "gay exception" to marriage and fair treatment of families. We should not allow opponents to divert us from engaging the reachable-but-not-yet-reached public in the resonant vocabulary of marriage, which, after all, is what is moving us forward (as the creation and greater embrace of civil union itself shows). Our advocates should stop bargaining against us, and help engage people on the merits, making the case for why marriage matters and why equality is the right answer.

Obviously, this compromise won't satisfy anyone who wants full social equality regardless of sexual orientation. Nor should it satisfy people who prioritize practicalities, such as taxation and access to health care. Marriage-equality campaigns shine a much-needed spotlight on the injustices caused by treating married and unmarried relationships differently. But it is wrong to think that same-sex marriage or civil union will solve these problems.

Let's assume that, after an initial rush of civil unions fulfill the pent-up demand among same-sex couples, the rate of union and divorce becomes the same for all couples regardless of gender (for ease, let's use the verb "union" to include all government-certified civil unions and marriages). Eventually, there will still be

about as many un-unions as unions. If there are 90 million un-unions in the United States, there will still be over 90 million un-unions, and about one or two in every 10 un-unions will still be cohabiting with an intimate partner with whom, for a variety of reasons, they haven't unioned.

At that point, will it be any more fair that unioning raises or lowers your taxes? Will it be OK that people must union or divorce, or can't union, in order to get affordable health care? Will any more people exercise their rights around medical decision-making? Will there be any fewer green-card unions? Will judges know how to help un-unions divide their property after a breakup? Will caretakers who aren't unioned to their dependents get any relief? Will surviving dependents have any more access to benefits if they weren't unioned to their deceased providers? Will health clubs, travel agents, and employers stop basing rates and rewards on union status? Will parents let un-unions partners share bedrooms?

No. This compromise should not satisfy anyone who is looking forward to the end of discrimination on the basis of marital or relationship status.



## Beachaven Wine Tasting



## Jazz on the Lawn 2009 Concert Dates:

May 9th	August 8th
May 23rd	August 22nd
June 6th	September 5th
June 20th	September 26th
July 11th	October 10 <sup>th</sup>
July 25th	October 24th



# Food & Film



Join us Tuesday, March 24, at our monthly membership meeting with guest speakers from the Nashville Film Festival.

NaFF's Artistic Director Brian Owens and Financial Administrator Ted Crockett will offer a sneak preview of gay-themed movies which will show at this year's festival, April 16 - 23, including: "The Baby Formula," "Ask Not," and a variety of short films.

### 'Soap Box' Speakers

Chamber members Susan Gates (Love they Pet) and Gary Richardson (Harpeth Graphics) will also take the podium for the Chamber's first round of Soap Box Speakers to tell us more about themselves and their businesses.

Inquire at the meeting about how you can take to the soap box at a future meeting.

The meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. in the Loews Vanderbilt Hotel, Lyric Room. Light refreshments and a cash bar will be provided. Parking will be validated.



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## Member Spotlight

Jeffrey Johnson - Jeffrey Designs, LLC

Jeffrey Johnson knew soon after graduating from college that he'd one day own his own business.



Now, some 25 years later, he stays busy selling and styling homes - switching hats between his own interior design firm, [Jeffrey Design, LLC](#), and selling real estate as an affiliate broker for

Keller Williams through [The Johnson Real Estate](#).

## Art and fashion will fuse at More Unpredictable Fourth annual fundraiser set for April 26



Plans are underway for the fourth annual Unpredictable fashion show which is set to be held on Sunday, April 26, at Play Dance Bar. This year's **More Unpredictable** show - presented by Bridgestone and Gish, Sherwood and Friends - will combine the funkiest in fashion with the finest of art and a silent auction which already boasts several high-dollar items.

One hundred VIP tickets are available this year and, at only \$50, will sell out quickly. The VIP package include a VIP goodie bag and VIP seating by the stage. There are 300 general admission tickets available for \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.

Visit [UnpredictableNashville.com](http://UnpredictableNashville.com) to buy tickets, make a donation or volunteer your time to create another successful fundraiser for Nashville's GLBT Chamber of Commerce.



### 2009 Festival - April 16-23

Nashville Film Festival (NaFF) is hosted by the Regal Green Hills Stadium 16 in the Green Hills area of Nashville, Tennessee. With over 22,000 people attending our 2008 edition, it is one of the best-known arts events in Tennessee and is the biggest, most international film festival in the mid-South.

### Favorite Recipe

#### Old Fashion Coffee Cake

Cream together:

- 1/2 cup shortening
- 2 cups sugar
- 4 eggs

Add:

- 4 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 teaspoons soda
- 1/2 cup milk
- 4 cups of apples, finely cut (I use yellow apples because they're sweeter and more moist.)

Place into two loaf tins.

#### Topping:

Mix together and sprinkle over the top of the batter - 1/2 on each loaf.

- 4 tablespoons sugar
- 4 tablespoons soft butter or margarine
- 4 tablespoons flour
- 2 tablespoons cinnamon

Bake at 350 degrees for approximately 50 minutes

Email Your Favorite Recipe  
[info@musiccitycouples.org](mailto:info@musiccitycouples.org)



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.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:info@musiccitycouples.org)

### Camping

Contact Barb & Jane  
Kingston, Springs, TN  
[info@musiccitycouples.org](mailto:info@musiccitycouples.org)

### Events Calendar

#### Grand Ole Opry

Package: Main floor seats, Hotel,  
Tours at an affordable price.  
800-251-1864

[www.musiccitytours.com](http://www.musiccitytours.com)

#### Stirrup Nashville

1529 4th Ave. South  
Nashville, TN, 37210  
615-782-0043

Your New Favorite Neighborhood Bar

[Info@StirrupNashville.com](mailto:Info@StirrupNashville.com)

#### Tribe

1517A Church St, Nashville, TN, 37203  
Sophisticated, straight-friendly gay nightclub fills a niche in Nashville

<http://www.tribenashville.com/>

### 2009 Monthly Events

- Jan: Event Planning Meeting
- Feb: Dinner Night Out
- Mar: Brunch At Red Restaurant
- Apr: Nashville Zoo
- May: Hosts - Don & Russ
- Jun: Gay Pride - Centennial Park
- Jul: Annual 4th of July Celebration
- Aug: Canning 101
- Sep: Art Crawl
- Oct: Annual Halloween Bonfire
- Nov: Thanksgiving
- Dec: Christmas

### 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](mailto: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



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.