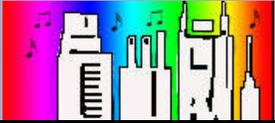


The

Harmonizer



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Monthly Newsletter for Music City Couples

April 2009

Serving Nashville & All Of Middle Tennessee and Surrounding Communities

Iowa Supreme Court Legalizes Gay Marriage Becomes Third State To Allow Same-Sex Couples to Wed



Laura Fefchak, right, and Nancy Robinson, center, of Urbandale, Iowa, react to a ruling from the Iowa Supreme Court, on Friday April 3, 2009 in Urbandale, Iowa. Gay marriage advocates began celebrating early Friday after the Iowa Supreme Court issued a unanimous ruling finding that the state's same-sex marriage ban violates the constitutional rights of gay and lesbian couples.

DES MOINES, Iowa - The Iowa Supreme Court legalized gay marriage Friday in a unanimous and emphatic decision that makes Iowa the third state — and first in the nation's heartland — to allow same-sex couples to wed.

Iowa joins only Massachusetts and Connecticut in permitting same-sex marriage. For six months last year, California's high court allowed gay marriage before voters banned it in November.

The Iowa justices upheld a lower-court ruling that rejected a state law restricting marriage to a union between a man and woman.

The county attorney who defended the law said he would not seek a rehearing. The only recourse for opponents appeared to be a constitutional amendment, which could take years to ratify.

Continued next column.....

"We are firmly convinced the exclusion of gay and lesbian people from the institution of civil marriage does not substantially further any important governmental objective," the Supreme Court wrote.

Iowa lawmakers have "excluded a historically disfavored class of persons from a supremely important civil institution without a constitutionally sufficient justification."

To issue any other decision, the justices said, "would be an abdication of our constitutional duty."

'It's a big win'

The Iowa attorney general's office said gay and lesbian couples can seek marriage licenses starting April 24, once the ruling is considered final

"Iowa is about justice, and that's what happened here today," said Laura Fefchak, who awaited the decision at a party in the Des Moines suburb of Urbandale.

Her partner of 13 years, Nancy Robinson, added: "To tell the truth, I didn't think I'd see this day."

Des Moines attorney Dennis Johnson, who argued on behalf of gay and lesbian couples, said "this is a great day for civil rights in Iowa."

At a news conference announcing the decision, he thanked the plaintiffs and said, "Go get married, live happily ever after, live the American dream."

Plaintiff Kate Varnum, 34, introduced her partner, Trish Varnum, as "my fiancé."

Continued next page.....

Birthdays

- Apr 02 - Kirk (of Donald)
- Apr 04 - LaWanda (of LaTonya)
- Apr 05 - Holly (of June)
- Apr 07 - Diane (of Barbara)
- Apr 09 - Elaine (of Ana)
- Apr 12 - Don (of Russ)
- Apr 14 - Cliff (of Jon)
- Apr 17 - Larry (of Thomas)
- Apr 21 - Matthew (of Doug)
- Apr 22 - Lucy (of Ann)
- Apr 23 - Travis (of Ron)
- Apr 27 - Tony (of Luke)

Anniversaries

- Apr 04 - Robert & Jim (21-Years)
- Apr 05 - David & Noel (1-Year)
- Apr 07 - Stephen & Danny (24-Years)
- Apr 09 - Dawn & Janie (21-Years)
- Apr 10 - Herb & John (13-Years)
- Apr 13 - Lloyd & Joseph (6-Years)
- Apr 15 - Donnie & Todd (2-Years)
- Apr 15 - Nikki & Nancy (1-Year)

Don't See Your Special Day Listed this month?

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



"I never thought I'd be able to say that," she said, fighting back tears.

Jason Morgan, 38, said he and his partner, Chuck Swaggerty, adopted two sons, confronted the death of Swaggerty's mother and endured a four-year legal battle as plaintiffs.

"If being together though all of that isn't love and commitment or isn't family or marriage, then I don't know what is," Morgan said. "We are very happy with the decision today and very proud to live in Iowa."

In its decision, the Supreme Court upheld an August 2007 decision by a judge who found that a state law limiting marriage to a man and a woman violates the constitutional rights of equal protection.

The Polk County attorney's office claimed that Judge Robert Hanson's ruling violated the separation of powers and said the issue should be left to the Legislature.

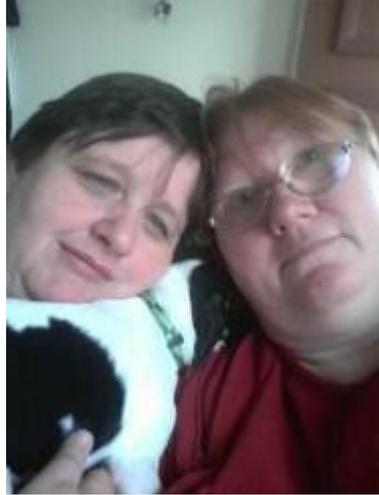


Sean Fritz, left, and Tim McQuillan embrace Friday at the end of their wedding ceremony as the Rev. Mark Stringer looks on in Des Moines, Iowa.

Two men sealed the state's first legal same-sex marriage with a kiss Friday morning, less than 24 hours after a judge threw out Iowa's ban on gay marriage and about two hours before he put his own ruling on hold. It was a narrow window of opportunity.

Polk County Judge Robert Hanson temporarily cleared the way for same-sex couples across the state to apply for marriage licenses in the county when he ruled Thursday that Iowa's 1998 Defense of Marriage Act, which allowed marriage only between a man and a woman, violated the constitutional rights of due process and equal protection of six gay couples who had sued.

New Couples Spotlight



Meet this month's new couple - Darlene & Barbara Murfreesboro, TN

Birthday

Darlene - Set/13
Barbara - Feb/12

Anniversary

February 12, 2009

How you met:

Internet Dating Sight

How you found Music City Couples:

Surfing the Net

Hobbies:

Reading, Walking, Good Food, Spending time with friends, Human Rights, Camping, Art Work of various kinds

Work:

Darlene works on weekend and goes to school through the week to become a Social Worker; she has two more semesters to go.

Family:

Darlene's family lives in Tennessee
Barbara's family lives in Florida
Darlene has 1-adopted daughter who still lives at home

We welcome our newest couple and ask that you drop them an email and welcome to our group.

Welcome Darlene and Barbara

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 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.



Music City Couples Will Provide A Booth Again This Year

Pride Celebration

When: Saturday June 20, 2009

Time: 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

**Where: River Front Park -
Downtown Nashville**

'Mark Your Calendars Today'



Our cost for this year's booth will be \$280.00. We are excited that we can participate again this year. The River Front Park will provide us more visible to Nashville and surrounding communities.

Music City Couples is asking for donations to help cover the cost of the booth rental. Donations can be made through PAYPAL using the following email address:

info@musiccitycouples.org

Donations can also be sent by personal check made out to Music City Couples and mail to the following address:

Music City Couples

P.O. Box 2122

Hendersonville, TN 37077-2122

Entertainment line-up set for Nashville's Pride Festival
Lady Bunny to emcee, Deborah Cox to headline



Nashville Pride announced today that Lady Bunny will emcee and Deborah Cox will headline this year's Pride festival which will be held in Riverfront Park on Saturday, June. 20

With her glitzy outfits, sky-high wigs, and false eyelashes long enough to embarrass even Tammy Faye Bakker, multi-talented drag artiste Lady Bunny would turn heads even if looking glamorous was her only talent. But this isn't just another man in a dress: Bunny is a successful comedienne, emcee, singer, songwriter, actress, DF, and, most famously, the founder, organizer, and hostess of Wigstock, the outrageous festival of drag and music that delighted up to 40,000 New Yorkers every Labor Day for nearly 20 years.

She tours constantly, bringing down the house from Cincinnati to Tel Aviv with her bawdy, Dusty Springfield-meets - Don Rickles mix of potty-mouthed humor, Southern charm, zany "Laugh-In: - style skits, and X-rated pop song parodies. Bunny has emceed events ranging from Absolut Vodka corporate parties to Los Angeles' 2003 Gay Pride parade and has shared the stage with Cyndi Lauper, k.d. lang, and the B-52's.

She's also made the leap to television and the movies, with cameo appearances, INB's "Sex and the City"; Britney Spears' MTV special "In the Zone and up All Night" and the feature films Dragtime, Party Girl, and To Wong Foo,

Continued next column.....

Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar. Bunny also DJs at fashion industry parties and society events around the globe; has collaborated as singer and songwriter with the likes of Lady Miss Kier and The Ones; and is a frequent cultural commentator for magazines such as Visionaire and Interview, as well as talking head for the TV networks like E! and VH1 (look for her on the upcoming "Heroes of Bad Taste"). Talented, glamorous, and funny as hell, The "Lady" Bunny is a glittering comet hurtling toward planet Show Biz. Brace yourself for impact.

Provided by ladybunny.net
<http://www.ladybunny.net>

Other acts to perform during the Nashville Pride Saturday festival include: Nashville-based Kelly King who produced a Top 25 Billboard Pop Hit "I Don't Wanna Sing That Song" on the Adult Contemporary Charts in 2007; rock trio Eric Himan and the Adams with songs from Eric's album Resonate and covers of songs from the likes of Prince and Maroon 5; and Jason Antone who's tracks "Be Free" and Love's Gonna Lead You Back" made the Top 25 on the Billboard Club Charts.

By Joey Leslie
Managing Editor
Out & About Newspaper
Posted 04/09/2009

Current News Corner

*****Coming Soon*****

We are diligently working on producing each monthly newsletter by the first of each month. Included in that goal is to find someone, in the community, that has an inside advanced knowledge of current news and events. We would like to be able to provide a "Month-at-a-Glance" listing of upcoming events so that our couples can plan ahead for events of interest.

Please share your thoughts!

Favorite Recipe

Chicken & Rice Casserole

1 c. uncooked rice
 1 can cream of chicken soup, or cream of mushroom
 1 envelope Good Seasons Italian dressing mix
 2 cups boiling water
 2 1/2 pounds cut up chicken or chicken breasts
 salt and pepper to taste

Preparation:

Wash and drain rice. Spread in 9 x 13 inch baking dish or 3 quart casserole. Mix soup, Italian dressing mix and water. Stir into rice. Lay chicken, skin side up, on top of rice mixture; season with salt and pepper. Cover tightly with foil and cook for 1 hour at 350°. Uncover and cook for 20 minutes longer; until most of the liquid is absorbed and rice is tender. Put casserole under broiler for a few seconds to brown chicken. Serves 6 to 8.

<http://southernfood.about.com/od/chickenrice/r/blbb215.htm>

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

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

COUPLES

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.

2009 Monthly Events

Jan: Event Planning Meeting
 Feb: Dinner Night Out
 Mar: Brunch At Red Restaurant
 Apr: TBD
 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 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.