

The



Harmonizer

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Monthly Newsletter for Music City Couples

July 2009

Serving Nashville & All Of Middle Tennessee and Surrounding Communities

Wine Connoisseur

Basic Wine Knowledge:

Wine enhances the flavor of food, and food can bring out the unique characteristics of wine.

Pairing wines with foods can be relatively easy or highly complex. A big red Cabernet would go well with beef tenderloin, for example, but it would overpower poached fillet of trout.

In general, red wine should accompany gamier fare (such as beef or venison), while white should match the subtle flavors of poultry or fish.

Of course, these aren't steadfast rules. If you're a red wine enthusiast, feel free to pair your favorite Pinot Noir with poultry. Likewise, a larger, more buttery Chardonnay could accompany your steak.

The best and most pleasurable option is to find a wine that you enjoy to drink with the food that you're serving. Learn what you like, and you'll be sure to enjoy an evening of gastronomic excellence.



Pride Festival A Success

As many of you know, this year's pride festival was moved from Centennial Park to Nashville's River Front Park. Also, Pride's standing June 2nd date was changed to June 20th which created a down-line affect to our annually July 4th festivities. We apologize again for canceling our 8th annual July 4th

Festivities, but it was just too much for Bobby and I to do after the preparations and work that went into providing a booth for the Pride Festival. We regret that we canceled July 4th as we received a couple emails from disappointed members and also a new couple that signed up during Pride.



We are very excited at the large number of couples who stopped by our booth, asked lots of questions, and were excited to find a group of committed couples. A total of 28-couples expressed an interest in the group. Out of those 28, we have had 19 sign up and become members. Please help us welcome these new couples to our group:

- Amanda & Debra
- Bridget & Lorrette
- Christopher & Partner
- Clay & Ben
- Don & Sterling
- Donna & Kim
- Elaine & Ramona
- Jackie & Kelvin
- Jim & Tom
- Joe & Dino
- Joey & Keith
- LaWanda & Page
- Melissa & Kim
- Michael & Bert
- Phyllis & Dawn
- Richard & James
- Stacey & Partner
- Steve & Jamey
- Troy & Scott

Birthdays

- Jul 03 - Joseph (of Lloyd)
- Jul 05 - Gary (of Jim)
- Jul 07 - Todd (of Steve)
- Jul 12 - Larry (of Bobby)
- Jul 14 - Don (of Barry)
- Jul 14 - Kim (of Melissa)
- Jul 16 - David (of Noel)
- Jul 20 - Brad (of Rick)
- Jul 20 - Scott (of Barry)
- Jul 21 - Dell (of Tessie)
- Jul 23 - Diana (of Sharon)
- Jul 23 - Kelvin (of Jackie)
- Jul 25 - Sundi (of Stacie)
- Jul 29 - Lorrette (of Bridget)
- Jul 31 - Debbie (of Angie)

Anniversaries

- Jul 04 - Ron & Travis (2-Years)
- Jul 07 - Don & Sterling (6-Years)
- Jul 13 - Cheryl & Sheila (16-Years)
- Jul 21 - Shelley & Peggy (39-Years)
- Jul 23 - Jonathan & Randy (6-Years)
- Jul 26 - Mary & Debra (12-Years)
- Jul 31 - Jackie & Kelvin (6-years)

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



2010? 2012? The Fight in California Continues

2010? 2012? Despite a weekend summit that brought together more than 150 marriage equality activists, consensus over the timing of an attempt to repeal California's Proposition 8 at the voting booth remains elusive.

By Amita Parashar

An Advocate.com exclusive posted July 27, 2009

**2010?
2012?**



Despite a weekend summit that brought together more than 150 marriage equality activists, consensus over the timing of an attempt to repeal California's Proposition 8 at the voting booth remains elusive. But that hasn't stopped some gay groups from preparing for the earlier option. Reactions to the heated LGBT Leadership Summit, organized by Marriage Equality USA and held in a San Bernardino, Calif., church, ranged from "pretty good" to "utter failure." A straw poll conducted at the end of the summit favored a 2010 ballot initiative 93-49.

In preparation for the summit, Marriage Equality USA held 40 town hall meetings in June and July across California to gauge public opinion on a ballot initiative timetable. Participants at meetings in West Hollywood and Bakersfield overwhelmingly favored 2010, while Oakland, Palm Springs, and others preferred 2012.

Regardless, Love Honor Cherish, a grassroots organization founded last year prior to the passage of Prop. 8, will hold a

meeting next month with other groups supportive of a 2010 initiative. The session will allow the groups to organize their signature-gathering effort, which will begin in November, said John Henning, Love Honor Cherish's executive director.

"We'd love to see the larger groups like Equality California join us, but until they do, we'll lead the way," Henning said. Marc Solomon, marriage director for Equality California, said he'd like to see an agreement between groups, but "there's no requirement to do that. If a group chooses to go ahead and [work on 2010], it can." Meanwhile, Equality California is drafting plans for both 2010 and 2012 ballot initiatives and will release its own recommendation next week.

"We need to set up some sort of ongoing structure to coordinate a campaign. Whether it's 2010 or 2012, we are in a campaign now," Solomon said. But he stopped short of naming Equality California to that coordinating role. "It has to be an independent voice, it can't be any one group, but I think we do need some sort of coalition to help us keep moving forward," he said.

Several major donors and policy analysts have already warned that attempting to repeal Prop. 8 in 2010 might be premature and disastrous. David Bohnett, a philanthropist who gave more than \$1 million to the No on 8 campaign, told *The New York Times* he would donate again when he feels the time is right: "The only thing worse than losing in 2008 would be to lose again in 2010." Mark Baldassare, director of research at the Public Policy Institute of California, and Mark DiCamillo, director of the Field Poll in the state, also expressed concern over a 2010 campaign.

In 2008, Prop. 8 opponents raised an estimated \$43 million, compared to the \$83 million raised by the Yes on 8 campaign. Solomon predicts the campaign to repeal Prop. 8 will cost at least \$30 million to \$50 million. "I don't believe you can run an effective campaign with anything less," he said.

Rick Jacobs, founder and chair of the 700,000-strong Courage Campaign, said he left the summit feeling "pretty good." Although the summit did not reach a conclusion, he was heartened that the energy to repeal Prop. 8 still exists and feels that the date issue will sort itself out "really fast."

Jacobs said that his organization has never claimed to lead the campaign, but will continue to work with grassroots organizations to educate and mobilize voters. He also suggested California's groups bring in a professional mediator to move the ballot discussions along quickly. Phillip Minton, who runs Unite the Fight's blog, called the summit an "utter failure" in a Monday post. "Our community has splintered into factions lead by no one, going in all different directions with various agendas," he wrote.

Minton blasted the summit and attendees for straying from the agenda and failing to trust leadership. Like Solomon, he called on marriage equality groups to stop clamoring for a presence and for state leadership to remain accountable.

"It's not about 2010 or 2012 anymore," he wrote. "It's about us uniting."



Favorite Recipe

Pot Roast Recipe Ingredient Choices

Pot Roast Ingredients:

Large Potatoes, cut in half
Carrots
Sliced Onion
Garlic Salt
Onion Salt
Fennel Seeds

This one has a slight "spice" taste. The fennel seeds really bring out the juices of the slow cooked meat

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 325*
2. Place meat in roaster, stab with knife to allow juices to cook thru meat.
3. Fill with about half water (pot roast should be covered with water)
4. Cook for 4-5 hours, checking every hour or so, and flipping roast over.

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/>

Red Restaurant

1517A Church St, Nashville, TN, 37203
Next door to Tribe

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:
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, Info@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.