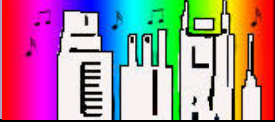


The

Harmonizer



Vol. 3, No. 06

Monthly Newsletter for Music City Couples

June 2008

Serving Nashville & All Of Middle Tennessee and Surrounding Communities

Gay Marriage Is Good for America

By JONATHAN RAUCH

June 21, 2008

By order of its state Supreme Court, California began legally marrying same-sex couples this week. The first to be wed in San Francisco were Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, pioneering gay-rights activists who have been a couple for more than 50 years.

More ceremonies will follow, at least until November, when gay marriage will go before California's voters. They should choose to keep it. To understand why, imagine your life without marriage. Meaning, not merely your life if you didn't happen to get married. What I am asking you to imagine is life without even the possibility of marriage.

Re-enter your childhood, but imagine your first crush, first kiss, first date and first sexual encounter, all bereft of any hope of marriage as a destination for your feelings. Re-enter your first serious relationship, but think about it knowing that marrying the person is out of the question.

Imagine that in the law's eyes you and your soul mate will never be more than acquaintances. And now add even more strangeness. Imagine coming of age into a whole community, a whole culture, without marriage and the bonds of mutuality and kinship that go with it. What is this weird world like? It has more sex and less commitment than a world with marriage. It is a world of fragile families living on the shadowy outskirts of the law; a world marked by heightened fear of loneliness or abandonment in crisis or old age; a world in some respects not even civilized, because marriage is the foundation of civilization.

This was the world I grew up in. The AIDS quilt is its monument.

Few heterosexuals can imagine living in such an upside-down world, where love separates you from marriage instead of connecting you with it. Many don't bother to try. Instead, they say same-sex couples can get the equivalent of a marriage by going to a lawyer and drawing up paperwork – as if heterosexual couples would settle for anything of the sort.

Even a moment's reflection shows the fatuousness of "Let them eat contracts." No private transaction excuses you from testifying in court against your partner, or entitles you to Social Security survivor benefits, or authorizes joint tax filing, or secures U.S. residency for your partner if he or she is a foreigner. I could go on and on.

Continued next page.....



4th Of July

Our 8th Annual Celebration

Bring Your Favorite Dish & Beverage

Home of Larry & Bobby

eVite Invitations Have Been Sent

Check Your eMail To R.S.V.P.

Pride Weekend

Pictures have been
posted To Our
Website



Stefen & Adopted Sons

Anniversaries

Jun 13 - Chris & Tanya (11-Years)

Jun 16 - Cindy & Alison (3-Years)

Jun 17 - Donald & Kirk (3-Years)

Jun 28 - Deb & Cheryl (7-Years)

Birthdays

Jun 03 - Stefen (of Steve)

Jun 04 - Colleen (of Sheralynn)

Jun 05 - Steven (of Joseph)

Jun 09 - Mike (of Gary)

Jun 15 - June (of Holly)

Jun 16 - Alison (of Cindy)

Jun 17 - Stephen (of Danny)

Jun 19 - Randall (of Steven)

Jun 29 - Russ (of Don)

COUPLES

SPOTLIGHT

This spot is where we will "spotlight" one of our couples each month.

Please Contact Music City Couples,
info@musiccitycouples.org,
if you would like to be the July Featured Couple

Marriage, remember, is not just a contract between two people. It is a contract that two people make, as a couple, with their community – which is why there is always a witness. Two people can't go into a room by themselves and come out legally married. The partners agree to take care of each other so the community doesn't have to. In exchange, the community deems them a family, binding them to each other and to society with a host of legal and social ties.

This is a fantastically fruitful bargain. Marriage makes you, on average, healthier, happier and wealthier. If you are a couple raising kids, marrying is likely to make them healthier, happier and wealthier, too.

Marriage is our first and best line of defense against financial, medical and emotional meltdown. It provides domesticity and a safe harbor for sex. It stabilizes communities by formalizing responsibilities and creating kin networks. And its absence can be calamitous, whether in inner cities or gay ghettos.

In 2008, denying gay Americans the opportunity to marry is not only inhumane, it is unsustainable. History has turned a corner: Gay couples – including gay parents – live openly and for the most part comfortably in mainstream life. This will not change, ever.

Because parents want happy children, communities want responsible neighbors, employers want productive workers, and governments want smaller welfare caseloads, society has a powerful interest in recognizing and supporting same-sex couples. It will either fold them into marriage or create alternatives to marriage, such as publicly recognized and subsidized cohabitation. Conservatives often say same-sex marriage should be prohibited because it does not exemplify the ideal form of family. They should consider how much less ideal example gay couples will set by building families and raising children out of wedlock.

Nowadays, even opponents of same-sex marriage generally concede it would be good for gay people. What they worry about are the possible secondary effects it could have as it ramifies through law and society. What if gay marriage becomes a vehicle for polygamists who want to marry multiple partners, egalitarians who want to radically rewrite family law, or secularists who want to suppress religious objections to homosexuality?

Space doesn't permit me to treat those and other objections in detail, beyond noting that same-sex marriage no more leads logically to polygamy than giving women one vote leads to giving men two; that gay marriage requires only few and modest changes to existing family law; and that the Constitution provides robust protections for religious freedom.

I'll also note, in passing, that these arguments constrict homosexuals into marriagelessness in order to stop heterosexuals from making bad decisions, a deal to which we gay folks say, "Thanks, but no thanks." We wonder how many heterosexuals would give up their own marriage, or for that matter their own divorce, to discourage other people from making poor policy choices. Any volunteers?

Continued next page.....



Colleen & Sheralynn with Daughter



Diane & Barbara



Good Crowd



Entertainment



Sisters Of Perpetual Indulgence



Visiting The Many Booths



If the words "*Shoot her Wardell! Shoot her in the head!*" mean something to you; I've got some very good news. First, the brand new (double-wide) trailer for *Sordid Lives: The Series* is up and running, and from the looks of things, the inspired insanity of the movie has transferred intact to the TV show. And second, LOGO has announced that the soap will premiere on July 23rd.

Most of the original cast has returned, including **Olivia Newton-John**, **Leslie Jordan**, and **Bonnie Bedelia**. There are a couple of notable changes, though. **Delta Burke** was unable to reprise her role, so the character of **Noleta** is now being played by **Caroline Rhea**.

Jason Dottley is now playing the character of **Ty**, the struggling gay actor, and in a genius casting decision, the character of the family matriach, **Peggy** (who was a corpse in the movie), is somehow alive and being played by **Rue McClanahan**. Guest stars in the first season include **Margaret Cho**, **Carson Kressley**, and **Candis Cayne**, which means this has the potential to rock a 10.0 on the gaymeter.



Leslie Jordan
As
"Brother Boy"

Honest advocacy requires acknowledging that same-sex marriage is a significant social change and, as such, is not risk-free. I believe the risks are modest, manageable, and likely to be outweighed by the benefits.

Still, it's wise to guard against unintended consequences by trying gay marriage in one or two states and seeing what happens, which is exactly what the country is doing.

By the same token, however, honest opposition requires acknowledging that there are risks and unforeseen consequences on both sides of the equation. Some of the unforeseen consequences of allowing same-sex marriage will be good, not bad. And barring gay marriage is risky in its own right.

America needs more marriages, not fewer, and the best way to encourage marriage is to encourage marriage, which is what society does by bringing gay couples inside the tent. A good way to discourage marriage, on the other hand, is to tarnish it as discriminatory in the minds of millions of young Americans. Conservatives who object to redefining marriage risk redefining it themselves, as a civil-rights violation.

There are two ways to see the legal marriage of Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon. One is as the start of something radical: an experiment that jeopardizes millennia of accumulated social patrimony. The other is as the end of something radical: an experiment in which gay people were told that they could have all the sex and love they could find, but they could not even think about marriage. If I take the second view, it is on conservative – in fact, traditional – grounds that gay souls and straight society are healthiest when sex, love and marriage all walk in step.

Mr. Rauch, a senior writer with National Journal and a guest scholar at the Brookings Institution, is the author of "Gay Marriage: Why It Is Good for Gays, Good for Straights, and Good for America" (Holt Paperbacks, 2004).



Opens Saturday June 27, 2008

Stirrup Nashville, with the catch phrase 'Your New, Favorite Bar!' will soon be opening their doors this month at 1529 4th Avenue South. There will be a soft Opening followed by a big grand opening celebration.



Larry providing video

PRIDE
 2008

Pride 2008, this year, was a bit of a disappointment to many of us. We noticed a decrease in the number of vendor booths. PRIDE NASHVILLE did not provide a parade. As many may remember, last years parade, was around the park. In past years, the parade began on Elliston near Baptist Hospital. Many of us fear that Nashville's Pride Festival is dwindling to the point that we no longer have the opportunity to celebrate our freedom. Please be sure to visit <http://www.nashvillepride.org>, and express your disappointment in the lack of a parade, the dwindling number of vendor booths, the lack of food vendors, and the BIG Stage with various musical talent. Last year's Pride Festival was the best we have had, and I for one would like to see us continue in that direction. This year's pride festival was way TOO LOW KEY! Just my \$0.02 worth

**Larry W Gold
 Hendersonville, TN
 Bobby and Larry are current owners and
 Chair Couple of Music City Couples
 Nashville, Tennessee**

**Mailing
 P.O. Box 2122
 Hendersonville, TN 37077-2122**

I'm a Dad

Actor, singer, and all-around entertainer Sam Harris talks about his journey of adoption and the joys of taking on his latest title: father.

By Sam Harris

An Advocate.com exclusive posted June 26, 2008



It wasn't that I'd come to terms with a childless existence as a gay man. It simply wasn't part of the possible picture, so it just never came up. I was content that I could thrive in an open relationship with a man that I loved. But 20 years later the parental horizon has completely changed. This is the first real generation of gay men and women who are adopting as tried-and-true, real-life couples -- legally and everything. As soon as it was possible I wanted to be a dad. All of my natural fatherhood desires that had been sequestered to an out-of-the-way corner of my heart were suddenly ignited. That was about 10 years ago. But life, the development of my relationship with my partner, Danny, the flux and reflux of a career in show business, living in New York and then Los Angeles, Danny's development of his own successful career, and my coming to terms with alcoholism (oh, that!) distracted and derailed us a bit. In retrospect, I know that life is perfect and happens in the way it's supposed to, in the time it's supposed to

Favorite Recipe

Overnight Fruit Salad

Ingredients

- 1 small head cabbage, shredded (about 5 cups)
- 1 15oz can pineapple chunks, well drained
- 2 11oz cans mandarin orange sections, drained
- 2 cups seedless green grapes
- 1/3 cups light raisins
- 1 1/2 cups cubed Edam cheese
- 1 8oz carton lemon yogurt
- 1 cup dairy sour cream

Instructions :

1. Place cabbage on bottom of large salad bowl.
2. Top with pineapple chunks, mandarin orange sections, grapes and raisins. Sprinkle cheese atop.
3. Combine yogurt and sour cream; spread over salad, sealing to edge of bowl
4. Cover and refrigerate for 4 to 24 hours. If desired, garnish with lemon and lime twist, curly endive, and a grape.

Events Calendar

Grand Ole Opry

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

www.musiccitytours.com

Lipstick Lounge

1400 Woodland St, Nashville, TN , 37206

This relaxed east Nashville dance club also features live music and theme nights.

Tribe

1517A Church St , Nashville , TN , 37203

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

Excess/Orbit

909 1/2 Church St , Nashville , TN , 37203

This late-night spot is a mecca for Nashville's 24-hour party people.

Play Dance Bar

1519 Church St , Nashville , TN , 37203

Gay-friendly dance club boasts DJs, karaoke, female impersonation, theme nights, snack bar and a private lounge overlooking the stage.

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.

COMING EVENTS

- Jun: Pride Weekend Jun/1st.
- Jul: 4th. Annual Festivities
- Jul: Movie Event "Sordid Lives"
- Aug: Waiting On A Host
- Sep: Waiting On A Host
- 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.