

# The



# Harmonizer

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Monthly Newsletter for Music City Couples

January 2009

Serving Nashville & All Of Middle Tennessee and Surrounding Communities

**Kevin B Johnson, M.D., M.S.**  
**(Member Music City Couples – Partner to Rob)**  
*Associate Professor & Vice Chair of  
Biomedical Informatics*

*Associate Professor of Pediatrics*



*Fellowship Research Topic  
Impact of Computer-Based Documentation on  
Patient-Physician Interaction*

**Position as of February 2008**

*Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Department of  
Pediatrics, Associate Professor and Vice  
Chairman, Department of Biomedical Informatics,  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center*

When pediatrician Kevin Johnson, M.D., talks to a young patient, there is no chart in his hands. There is a desktop workstation in front of him and the child. The screen flashes possible questions to ask, and both he and the patient can look at it while he types in answers.

"It's a totally different way to ask a question," Johnson says.

The visit takes a little longer than the usual visit, but there is less chance of key information falling between the cracks.

Johnson's field is medical informatics, the study of information management in medicine. More specifically, Johnson says he is seeking an answer to the question: "Can you bring computers into medicine without dehumanizing it?"

Johnson has pursued that question through two grants made possible by the [Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program](#) (AMFDP) of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF).

It is not the sort of work one might expect from someone whose original goal was to be a veterinarian.

Johnson had raised all sorts of animals as a youngster in suburban Baltimore — snakes, gerbils, even an octopus — and worked in a veterinarian's office and the National Aquarium in Baltimore.

But after witnessing a college friend's bout with severe depression, and the insensitive care the friend sometimes received from hospital physicians, Johnson says his attention turned to "regular" medicine.

Johnson credits the influence of a series of mentors on his career path. At Stanford University Medical School, Richard Johannes, M.D., "showed me there was this field called medical informatics." During residency at Johns Hopkins, it was Frank Oskie, M.D., who supported his idea of taking general pediatrics training and applying it to medical informatics as a discipline.

But it was his mentor in the AMFDP program, Modena Wilson, M.D., (then at Hopkins), who urged him to take a position offered to him at Vanderbilt University, one of many ways he says that Wilson helped him during his career.

"She said that we have to meet every time you have an offer for something to do," he recalls. "Those kinds of meetings helped me realize there were things I needed to say 'yes' to and things I needed to say 'no' to," Johnson says. "I've taught other students that set of lessons. It's helping you set priorities and helping you self-reflect."

Johnson is continuing the work he started

under his RWJF AMFDP grants. He says that his work so far indicates that introduction of a computer produces no falloff in the quality of the doctor/patient interview.

The greatest concern — that important information would be missing in the patient record — did not happen. The style of questioning did change, however, with doctors asking more open-ended questions and making more eye contact with patients.

Now comes the harder part: In future research, Johnson says he will work to find out whether such subtle shifts in communication can improve the quality of patient care.

## Birthdays

- Jan 03 - Robert (of Jim)
- Jan 13 - Debra (of Mary) New Couple
- Jan 14 - Patricia (of Charlotte)
- Jan 16 - Steven (of Ken)
- Jan 24 - Gene (of Geoff)
- Jan 25 Luke (of Tony)
- Jan 27 - Lloyd (of Joseph)
- Jan 31 - Sheila (of Cheryl)
- Jan 31 - Todd (of Donnie)

## Anniversaries

- Jan 05 - Stefen & Steve (17-Years)
- Jan 21 - Geoff & Gene (6-Years)
- Jan 23 - Andrew & Joe (13-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

## Our Condolences To

*Lloyd & Joseph*



*Randal & Steve*



While Lloyd and Joseph were in New York for the holidays, Lloyd received a call Friday morning from his mother in Nashville. He knew it must have been urgent for his family to be calling him when on vacation. He knew it must be something bad. It was about 9:30am, when he found out that his grandmother had passed away. He said he just couldn't believe it. He never got to say Merry Christmas or good bye.

The funeral was held on January 5, 2009.

The reasoning that Lloyd wanted to share with Music City Couples is because they consider our group as their close friends. He felt that he would like our group to know what's going on in his world.

Also, this is another couple in our group that is affected by this death. Lloyd's cousin, Randall, (of Randall and Steven) Lloyd asks that our group "please pray for Randall also, as it was a hard weekend for both of us and our family." "Thanks for allowing me to share this with all of you."

Bless  
Lloyd Dunn

KABC-TV Refuses to Air TV Ad About Gay Families

In a pique of moral conservatism, a Los Angeles television station, KABC-TV, refused to air an ad from the pro-marriage equality group, GetToKnowMeFirst.org, claiming the material in the ad was not suitable for "family viewing."

GetToKnowMeFirst.org was created to promote marriage equality in California in the wake of Prop 8's passage. The group has created a series of ads that push the message that "Marriage promotes family, so support marriage equality". GetToKnowMeFirst ran these ads in 48 of California's 50 counties where Prop 8 received more than 50% of the vote on election day, in an effort to change California voters' minds about what is really at stake in the fight for marriage equality.

The one and only television station in all of California that refused to run this ad during yesterday's Inaugural festivities? KABC-TV.

KABC has claimed that the ad – which calls for no political/electoral action whatsoever – was not aired because it was "controversial" for "family viewing". The ad features two African American gay men living in Los Angeles and raising five kids.

This is not the first time that ABC-TV has refused to air ads from that carry social/political content. Back in October, Al Gore's group, the Alliance for Climate Protection, tried and failed to get an ad run on ABC-TV following a Presidential Debate. In that ad, the Alliance referred to "Big Oil". However, ABC-TV had no problem running an ad – during that same time slot – by a major member of Big Oil: Chevron.

I live out in Chicago, so I am not "blessed" enough to get to see the wonderful programming offered by KABC-TV out in L.A. But it seems to this observer that KABC-TV has an agenda here; social liberalism is out; conservative corporatism is in.

You tell me: do the families in the video seem to be a threat to KABC-TV's viewing audience? If so, then just who the hell is KABC-TV's viewing audience?

Posted by Joe Moag on January 21, 2009 in Same-sex marriage

## COUPLES

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

### SPOTLIGHT

**Your Story Here**  
**Please Contact The Webmaster**



### About the Movie

Academy Award nominee and Golden glove winner Sigourney Weaver stars in this emotional true story about a 1970a religious suburban housewife and mother who struggles to accept her young son Bobby being gay. What happens to Bobby is tragic and caused Mary to question her faith; ultimately this mom changes her views in ways that she never could have imagined.

Also Starring: Ryan Kelley ("Mean Creek"), Henry Czerny ("The Tudors"), Dan Butler ("Frasier") and Susan Ruttan ("L.A. Law"), Austin Nichols ("John From Cincinnati"), Carly Schroeder ("Mean Creek"), Scott Bailey ("Guiding Light"), and newcomers Shannon Eagen and Rebecca Louise Miller. Based on the book "Prayers for Bobby" by Leroy Aarons.

**Premieres January 24 at 9 PM ET/PT**

**Director:** Russell Mulcahy

**Screen Writer:** Katie Ford

**Executive Producers:**  
Stanley M. Brooks

David Permut

Daniel Sladek

Chris Taaffe

## Obama Outlines His Gay Agenda On WhiteHouse.gov



Talk about efficiency. [WhiteHouse.gov](http://WhiteHouse.gov), the official site of the President, was updated to reflect the changeover from President George Bush to President Barack Obama within a few minutes of Obama's inauguration. Has anyone visited the site yet, and if so, [have you seen The Agenda page?](#) I have to say that I am impressed—it lays out Obama's civil rights agenda, which includes broad support for the LGBT community.

Among Obama's positions: He supports the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and believes anti-discrimination employment laws should be expanded to include sexual orientation and gender identity; and he supports full civil unions that give same-sex couples legal rights and privileges equal to those of married couples.

Additionally, Obama thinks we should repeal the Defense of Marriage Act, and he opposes a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage.

He also wants to repeal the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy; ensure adoption rights for all couples and individuals regardless of their sexual orientation; and develop a comprehensive national AIDS/HIV strategy.

This is all in writing! [On the President's Web site!](#)

What do you think of it, and do you believe he will accomplish all of his LGBT rights goals within his first term?

Posted by [Carter Todd](#) on January 20, 2009 in [Hottest topics](#)

## PORTLAND POLICE ASK OREGON AG TO INVESTIGATE MAYOR SAM ADAMS

Following newly-elected Portland Mayor Sam Adams' confession that he lied about his relationship with a legislative intern he was mentoring in 2005, [Portland law enforcement officials have asked the state to investigate Adams.](#)

Local authorities have asked Oregon's attorney general to investigate Portland Mayor Sam Adams, who has admitted lying about a sexual liaison with a teenager. The request came from Portland Police Chief Rosie Sizer and Multnomah County District Attorney Michael Schrunk. Attorney General John Kroger and aides did not immediately respond to a call for comment about the scope of the investigation



The [Oregonian](#) reports that "The Internet is ablaze with calls for Adams to step down. City Commissioner Randy Leonard said he was "disturbed" that Adams had persuaded Breedlove to lie, and Commissioner Nick Fish said he was disappointed. The Oregonian editorial board called for Adams to resign in today's newspaper

"On Tuesday, county authorities said they would conduct a criminal investigation looking into the possibility that Adams had sex with a minor and whether Adams' lie about his sexual relationship with Breedlove while serving as a city commissioner rose to the level of official misconduct. However, Sizer said such an inquiry poses a conflict for Portland police because the mayor controls the bureau's budget. The mayor also holds the authority to appoint and fire the police chief. 'If there is an investigation, I don't think that it's appropriate that the Police Bureau does it,' Sizer said. 'There are capable investigative entities outside the Police Bureau.' Among the crimes that the investigation could encompass are felony second-degree sexual abuse and the misdemeanors of third-degree sexual abuse, contributing to the sexual delinquency of a minor and sexual misconduct. Even if the sexual contact is consensual, Oregon law says a person younger than 18 doesn't have the

capacity to consent, and as a result, the contact is a crime."

Posted by Towleroad |

<http://www.towleroad.com> |

## The Nation's First Out Governor?

David Cicilline wove his way through a skybox, mixing with prominent politicians at the Democratic National Convention in Denver last August. As president of the National Conference of Democratic Mayors, he played host to notables like San Francisco mayor Gavin Newsom, congressman Barney Frank, and Los Angeles mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

Everyone greeted him as a longtime friend, laughed at whispered jokes, and lounged as if paying a family visit to his living room. Cicilline's star has risen rapidly since he became mayor of Providence, R.I., six years ago. When the 47-year-old Rhode Island native, son of a Jewish mother and Italian-American father, assumed the post in 2003 after winning a landslide 84% of the vote, he became the first openly gay mayor of a state capital. Providence in turn became the largest U.S. city with an out mayor -- until Sam Adams took office in Portland, Ore., this January. Cicilline then proceeded to draw over \$3 billion worth of investments to the city, erasing a \$59 million debt and reducing the crime rate to its lowest level in 30 years. He launched cultural programs, invested in education, and employed incentives to help revamp the once-downtrodden downtown.

Cicilline's audacity has made him a very popular mayor and raised the city's national profile. In 2007, The Wall Street Journal named Providence one of the world's top 10 up-and-coming travel destinations; it was the only U.S. city to make the list. He succeeded a notoriously corrupt mayor, Vincent "Buddy" Cianci Jr., who ran the city like a godfather of sorts for more than 20 years before going to prison in 2001 on racketeering and corruption convictions.

"We have to demonstrate that Rhode Island is an honest place to do business, that it has a state government that works and is transparent, with competitive tax policies," Cicilline says, "you know, good, old-fashioned salesmanship."



**Favorite Recipe**

**Chicken Alfredo with Fettuccini Noodles**



**INGREDIENTS**

- 1 pound fettuccini pasta
- 1 1/2 cups butter, divided
- 1 pound skinless, boneless chicken breast halves - cut into cubes
- 2 (16 ounce) containers whole milk ricotta cheese
- 1 pint heavy cream
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese

**DIRECTIONS**

Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Add fettuccini and cook for 8 to 10 minutes or until al dente; drain.

Melt 2 tablespoons butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Saute chicken until no longer pink and juices run clear.

In a large saucepan combine ricotta cheese, cream, salt, Parmesan cheese and remaining butter. Cook over medium heat until well combined, about 10 minutes. Stir in cooked fettuccini and chicken; cook until heated through.

Email Your Favorite Recipe  
[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



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\*\*\***

- Jan: Business Meeting
- Feb: TBD
- Mar: TBD
- Apr: TBD
- May: TBD
- Jun: Pride Weekend Jun/1st.
- Jul: 4th. Annual Festivities
- Aug: TBD
- Sep: TBD
- 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](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

**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)



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.