

"Nunc Aut Nunquam"

The Unicorn **HORN**



A Publication of The Unicorn Motorcycle Club / Cleveland, Ohio / Est. 1973©

October 2017

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Unicorn Monthly Meeting scheduled This Saturday at 5:30PM



The October Meeting of the Unicorn Motorcycle Club will be held at 5:30 PM on Saturday, October 21st in the Upstairs Clubroom of the Leather Stallion Saloon. We are meeting early because Dinner is being provided by the Club as we have a Bar Event this evening. (*Giuseppe's Sicilian Style Pizza*)

On the Agenda for the evening will be finalization of the worker schedule for Saturday Nights Bar Event. There is a suggested \$3 donation at the Door which will benefit our Annual Charity Drive. During the meeting member will be encouraged to nominate which Charities should be awarded benefits this year, the only eligibility requirement is that the Charity benefits the LGBTQ Community in Northeastern Ohio.

Also on the agenda proposed Code of Regulation Changes from the By-laws Committee will be distributed so each member will have a chance to review them and prepare for the General Meeting in November, where the Changes will be voted on.

Additionally, member will be asked to nominate their propose Officers for next year, which will also be voted on in November.

The Road Captain informs me that he has the proposed Bar event Calendar Dates to discuss at this months meeting, so that he make seek approval of the Stallion's Management Team.

As you can see we have an ambitious agenda for this month, and a Bar event so we want everyone to come prepared so we can get through the business as fast as possible and we can all enjoy our Fetish Night with our fellow Saloon Patrons and members of the LGBTQ Leather Community. The Doorprizes for Saturday's Event have been provided by Perfect Ash, the Ranger's, and several of the area Leather Title Holders.

Dennis and I are happy to be hosting the Annual Holiday Party again this year on December 9, 2017, 3 PM. The proposed Menu is Fried Chicken and Lasagna. Start planning your covered dish now, Jack will be coordinating the menu we will need appetizers, salads, sides, and a dessert. As always the party will be BYOB, mixers and coffee will be provided. Please provide a present for the gift exchange, aand keep personal gifts separate from those under the tree. There is a \$15 limit on the gift exchange.



Newsweek, October 5, 2017— It's a rainbow-colored triumph whose meaning is compounded by the shadow President Donald Trump's administration has cast over LGBTQ rights. A rainbow flag will soon fly at the **Stonewall National Monument in Manhattan**, the first such flag to be permanently placed on federal land and maintained by the National Park Service, activists announced on Thursday.

"It is a victory for our community to have these symbolic colors flying majestically over our Stonewall, designated as a National Monument by President Obama, even as our LGBTQ brothers and sisters are under attack by the current regime in power," Michael Petrelis, the LGBT and AIDS activist who initiated the effort, said in a statement. The rainbow flag will replace the National Park Service flag on the nautical flagpole outside Stonewall, says Ken Kidd, a friend of Petrelis's and a long-time New York City activist who is helping plan the unveiling ceremony.

The flag will officially go up at noon October 11, which is both **National Coming Out Day** and the **30th anniversary of the March on Washington for LGBT Rights**. On that day in 1987, hundreds of thousands of people gathered to call for an end to discrimination and more federal funding for AIDS research and treatment. **The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt was unfurled and displayed for the first time on the National Mall with 1,920 panels covering a space larger than a football field to commemorate those who had died.**

The Stonewall Inn, a bar located in the Greenwich Village neighborhood, was the site of protests that started on June 28, 1969, that are credited with sparking the modern LGBT rights movement. Former President Barack Obama designated the bar a national monument on June 24, 2016. **"Stonewall will be our first national monument to tell the story of the struggle for LGBT rights,"** said Obama, who had recognized June as Pride Month for several years.

But a lot can change in a year. Obama's successor broke with tradition and failed to acknowledge Pride Month in 2017. Kidd says he was surprised the flag project even got approval under the current administration.

The rainbow flag will be **"flying on this national monument during a time when we have a president who is not particularly kind or loving to the LGBT community,"** Kidd says.

The very first decision Trump made when he snagged the Republican nomination, Kidd says, was to name a **"high-profile anti-LGBT"** politician as his pick for vice president, citing Mike Pence's track record in Indiana. That record includes vehement opposition to same-sex marriage and alleged support for gay conversion therapy. He's not the only one. **"If you look categorically at all of the appointments that 45 has made, who he has chosen to lead agencies in cabinet,"** Kidd says, **"one thing they all consistently have in common is an anti-LGBT agenda."** Trump himself has instructed the Pentagon to move forward with a ban on transgender individuals in the military, and his Justice Department filed an amicus brief in support of so-called **"religious exemptions"** that would allow businesses to discriminate against LGBTQ Americans.

"Stonewall is the site where Americans who had been oppressed, who had been told by their governments they were second class, finally

said enough is enough," Kidd says. **"That was a spark that caused a wildfire that gave great inspiration not only to their contemporaries but to the next generations,"** he adds. **"Our rainbow colors flying in tandem with the stars and stripes is a source of inspiration, a recognition of equality, a recognition of a struggle for equality that is not over by any stretch of imagination."**

Did National Park Service Disrespect the Rainbow Flag?

Advocate, October 11, 2017— **Organizers of a flag dedication ceremony near the Stonewall Inn denounce the Park Service's withdrawal, while the Park Service apologizes for sending mixed signals.**



A ceremony dedicating a rainbow flag flying near New York City's Stonewall Inn went off today **with some controversy over the National Park Service's participation — or lack thereof.**

The bar is known for the series of uprisings against police raids in 1969, a reaction that helped birth the modern LGBT rights movement. **An area near the nightclub was designated a National Monument, under Park Service management, by President Barack Obama in 2016,** reflecting the site's historic significance. The Stonewall itself remains a working bar under private ownership.

The rainbow flag, symbolizing LGBT pride, went up September 28, and the dedication ceremony was scheduled for today, which is National Coming Out Day as well as the 30th anniversary of the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. The Park Service was set to take part in the ceremony, along with several LGBT activists, but pulled out as the day approached, drawing criticism from organizers.

Newsweek ran an article about the dedication last week, and it included quotes from some organizers **denouncing the anti-LGBT actions of Donald Trump and his administration.** By Friday night, **a National Park Service flag flying alongside the rainbow flag had been removed and replaced with a New York City Parks flag,** organizer Ken Kidd told **The Washington Post.** Then **Barbara Applebaum, the Park Service official who was to speak at the ceremony, canceled.**

"Since planning began this past summer, the NPS had been wholly cooperative," Kidd said in a press release. **"This abrupt turnaround as well as the NPS distancing itself from this event is more evidence of the Trump administration's campaign to reduce LGBT people to second-class American citizens. It's no coincidence that this comes on the heels of Attorney General [Jeff] Sessions's support of religious rights over LGBT civil rights."**

A Park Service official, however, said the issue was whether the flagpole was on city property or NPS property. **Jon Laird, commissioner of the National Parks of New York Harbor,** told the **Post** the NPS determined that the pole was on city land, not the area that constitutes the park. **"We did send mixed signals here, which was very unfortunate,"** he told the paper. **"It became a much bigger deal than we ever expected."**

Applebaum ended up changing her schedule so she could attend the ceremony, and Laird was there as well. He offered to speak, but organizers turned him away. **"We said, no, you will not speak,"** longtime activist Ann Northrop, who exceeded the ceremony, told the **Post.** **"This is completely just mean-spirited bigotry on their part, to find a technicality to pull out of what they had already agreed upon and worked on for a week."**

Laird denied that bigotry was involved and said no officials in

(continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Washington had raised concerns about the flag dedication, according to the *Post*. The rainbow flag, he emphasized, has never been taken down, and the NPS has donated it to the city. *"It's still up, it's still flying there,"* Laird said of the flag. *"Visitors to Stonewall National Monument will see it, and 99 percent of them will not care if it's on our property or [the city's] property."*

Kidd agreed that the flag would serve as an important symbol. *"That flag is flying proudly over the Stonewall National Monument in New York City,"* Kidd told the newspaper. *"That symbol is up there for all the people who need it — and boy, do we need it more than ever."*

Trump Kills Proposed Rule That Would Have Protected LGBT Seniors



The administration withdraws a proposed rule on equal treatment of same-sex spouses in long-term care, saying it's not needed

Donald Trump's administration has backtracked on yet another LGBT rights measure.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, part of the Department of Health and Human Services, last week withdrew a proposed rule put forth in December 2014 to assure that same-sex spouses are treated equally to opposite-sex ones in long-term care facilities that receive Medicare and Medicaid funds, which most do.

The rule was proposed after the Supreme Court's 2013 *Windsor v. U.S.* decision, which struck down section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act, therefore allowing the federal government to recognize same-sex marriages. *HHS wanted to assure that long-term care providers did not defer to state law on same-sex marriage, as not all states recognized it at the time.* Barack Obama was president when the rule was proposed.

According to the current administration, the high court's 2015 *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision, which legalized same-sex marriage nationwide, is sufficient to assure equal treatment of all spouses. *"We believe that the Obergefell decision has addressed many of the concerns raised in the December 2014 proposed rule,"* CMS administrator Seema Verma wrote in withdrawing the measure.

But some LGBT-focused health care groups say it's still necessary to include detailed antidiscrimination lan-

guage.

"The Supreme Court has previously found that the practice of specifically naming the groups who are protected from discrimination is essential for a nondiscrimination law to have its intended effect," noted a press release from *Boston's Fenway Health*. The release quoted Justice Anthony Kennedy's majority opinion in the 1996 *Romer v. Evans* decision, overturning Colorado's antigay Amendment 2: *"Enumeration is the essential device used to make the duty not to discriminate concrete and to provide guidance for those who must comply."*

Fenway Health also mentioned the threat to same-sex couples and LGBT people generally from "religious objections" laws, such as the one in Mississippi. (The release was issued before Friday's unveiling of the federal government's "religious freedom" guidance, which allows broad application of such objections nationwide.)

"It could not be more clear that the proposed CMS rule on the rights of LGBT patients and residents is still needed," Stephen L. Boswell, president and CEO of *Fenway Health*, said in the release. *"By rescinding this important guidance, the likelihood has increased that LGBT people and same-sex couples will experience discrimination, neglect and abuse in long-term care, nursing homes, and hospitals."*

How Trump Uses "Religious Liberty" to Attack L.G.B.T. Rights



The President campaigned on nostalgia. By reversing recent civil-rights gains for L.G.B.T. Americans, he signals his commitment to the past. (while disrespecting the Rainbow Flag)

In Mississippi, House Bill 1523, also known as the *Religious Liberty Accommodations Act*, also known as the *Protecting Freedom of Conscience from Government Discrimination Act*, went into effect last week. *It explicitly legalizes discrimination* if it is motivated by one of three beliefs: that marriage is a union between one man and one woman, that sexual relations can take place only within such a marriage, and that gender is an immutable biological characteristic. The law was passed last year and immediately blocked by a federal judge, but last week a circuit court reversed the ruling. *Doctors, lawyers, and adoption agencies, among others, are now licensed to discriminate on the basis of sexual and gender identity.*

Mississippi's is the harshest of a recent wave of so-called religious-freedom

(continued page 4)

(continued from page 3)

laws; its enactment is only the latest blow to the rights of L.G.B.T. Americans in what has felt like a year of injuries. In February, the Trump Administration rescinded protections allowing transgender students to use the bathrooms of their choice. **In May, President Trump signed an executive order directing his Attorney General to support and defend religious-freedom laws like the one in Mississippi. In July, Trump tweeted out a ban on transgender service members. In September, the Justice Department filed a Supreme Court brief in support of a Colorado baker who refused to make a cake for a same-sex wedding. This month, October 6, 2017, Attorney General Jeff Sessions issued detailed guidelines based on Trump's religious-freedom executive order and, separately, instructed U.S. Attorneys to stop interpreting federal law as protecting transgender employees from discrimination on the basis of sex. This timeline is probably missing something; reversals in L.G.B.T. rights have been unremitting.**

The "religious freedom" order means federal agencies and contractors could turn away LGBT people and others without repercussions.

Less than a year ago—one week before the election—Trump unfurled a rainbow flag, albeit upside down, during a rally in Colorado. Someone had scribbled the words "LGBTs for Trump" on it. For much of his campaign, conventional wisdom held that Trump, the secular New Yorker that he is, would not pursue the anti-gay policies that his early supporter Sessions or his Vice-Presidential pick, Mike Pence, would advocate. But a strategy of homophobia has proved irresistible to Trump—and not just because of Pence and Sessions and the backing of the evangelical right. **("So many of them support what I do. They support me from the evangelical-Christian standpoint," the President said in an interview last weekend with Mike Huckabee.)**

In the nostalgic campaign that got him elected, Trump promised to take his voters back to an imaginary past in which they felt better, more secure, and generally more great than they do in the present. **Nothing communicates Trump's commitment to the past as effectively as reversals of L.G.B.T. civil-rights progress**—arguably the most rapid social change in American history. Supreme Court decisions in 2013 and 2015 granting equal status to same-sex marriages were rightly framed as breakthroughs: they had seemed nearly inconceivable just a few years earlier, a fantasy for some and a nightmare for others. It was inconceivable, too, that a Republican nominee for President would drape himself in a rainbow flag. The beliefs that the Mississippi law frames as religious—that marriage is a straight institution, that all people are born male or female and stay that way—are, in fact, many Americans' intuition of the way things always were and should be. The appeal of anti-queer gestures goes beyond the hard evangelical right, and probably includes some people whose best friends are gay.

The appeal can get broader still. Several of the ongoing or upcoming L.G.B.T.-rights battles will concern children. They always do: anyone who has studied the history of homophobic campaigns, or lived through one, knows that, in the end, it's always about the children. Indeed, **"Protect the Children" is the battle cry of xenophobes of all stripes**, but this call carries particular potency in matters of sex and gender.

Going back forty years, the first backlash effort against the gay movement in this country—**Anita Bryant's "Save Our Children" campaign, which began in 1977 to oppose an anti-discrimination ordinance in Miami—trafficked in images of homosexual recruitment and child molestation.** A decade later, following a campaign of panic centered on school materials and children's books, **the British Parliament banned local governments in England, Wales, and Scotland from "promoting homosexuality."** (Known as Section 28, the ban was repealed in 2003.) **Russia's 2013 ban on "homosexual propaganda" followed a prolonged campaign against the imaginary threat of pedophilia and homosexual recruitment.** A week after the propaganda ban, Russia passed a law banning same-sex couples from adopting children. I had to

leave the country to protect my adopted son from state-appointed protectors. Those who lingered have fared worse: last month, for example, social services in the city of Yekaterinburg revoked the guardianship of two children because their mother had undergone top surgery and was blogging about transitioning.

In the U.S., if a state with a religious-freedom law contracts out the placement of adoptive and foster children to private agencies, placements with L.G.B.T. families tend to dry up—because the agencies often hold a religious affiliation. Last month, **the A.C.L.U. filed suit against the state of Michigan for turning away prospective adoptive and foster parents because of their sexual orientation.** If the Mississippi law is challenged again, the case will also likely concern adoption or foster placement. **A proposed religious-freedom bill in Oklahoma solely concerns child-placement agencies.** Another **kind of case concerns transgender high-school students' right to use the bathrooms of their choice.** A federal appeals court recently decided a Wisconsin case in favor of a transgender student, while a different appeals court must review a well-publicized North Carolina case, now that the Trump Administration has reversed course and the Supreme Court declined to hear the case.

It seems both inevitable and ominous that the re-litigation of L.G.B.T. rights will center on children. Much of the success of the American L.G.B.T. movement in the last couple of decades has turned on avoiding confrontation with the perception of the homosexual threat to children. The strategy has been either to desexualize gays by shifting the conversation to marriage and parenting or—brilliantly—to position transgender children as the ones in need of protection. As a result, advances in L.G.B.T. rights have occurred despite a parallel trend toward ever more policing of sex and an intensifying drive for the protection of children from nearly everything.

The era of Trumpian reversal is expressed in terms of religious belief but driven by the desire to see children grow up in a world that their parents understand. With the rhetoric of "religious freedom" ramping up, the strategic decoupling of gays from children will no longer hold. It's going to get ugly.

The Department of Justice guidance document on religious freedom that actually creates a broad license to discriminate against LGBT people, single mothers, and others.

The long-anticipated guidance isn't a law or a rule, but it does lay out what the federal government's position will be in court cases and how federal agencies and contractors will operate, leaders of several civil rights groups explained on a conference call with reporters on October 6, 2017.

"For instance, an employee of the Social Security Administration or Department of Veterans' Affairs could refuse to process benefits paperwork for a widowed same-sex spouse, without repercussions," said JoDee Winterhof, senior vice president for policy and political affairs at the **Human Rights Campaign.** A nonprofit group with a federal contract could refuse to provide services to LGBT people, even in emergencies, and would not be in danger of losing its contract.

"This was meant to have a very deep and broad-reaching impact for people's day-to-day lives," she said.

The guidance means federal agencies, contractors, and more **"can discriminate at will and the government will do nothing to stop it,"** added Winnie Stachelberg, executive vice president for external affairs at the **Center for American Progress.**

"Not only can contractors or federal grantees refuse service to LGBT people and others who offend the institution's religious sensibilities, they can be denied employment or fired," noted Louise Melling, deputy legal director for the **American Civil Liberties Union.** **"The Justice Department guidelines actually encourage companies and nonprofits to**

(continued on page 5)



(continued from page 4)

discriminate," she said. *"It is a deeply troubling guidance,"* she added.

In issuing the guidance, Attorney General Jeff Sessions wrote, *"Religious liberty is, no one should be forced to choose between living out his or her faith not merely a right to personal religious beliefs or even to worship in a sacred place. Except in the narrowest of circumstances and complying with the law. Therefore, to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law, religious observance should be reasonably accommodated in all government activity, including employment, contracting and programming."*

Among the guidance memo's provisions are *"Religious employers are entitled to employ only persons whose beliefs and conduct are consistent with the employers' religious precepts"* and *"As a general matter, the federal government may not condition receipt of a federal grant or contract on the effective relinquishment of a religious organization's exemptions or attributes of its religious character."*

The guidance was issued pursuant to an executive order Donald Trump signed in May. Many activists expected that order to include *"license to discriminate"* language, but it did not, instead focusing on protecting the tax-exempt status of churches and other religiously affiliated organizations if they speak out on political matters. That order did, however, direct Sessions to prepare guidance on interpreting federal law on religious freedom.

"The guidance," Melling said, *"is based on an extremely broad reading of the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993. Religious freedom is an important value,"* she said, *"written into the U.S. Constitution and frequently defended by the ACLU, but religious freedom doesn't give a person the right to harm someone else — which is exactly what this guidance does."*

The good news, activists on the call noted, *"is that state and local antidiscrimination laws remain in effect and that people who have suffered discrimination can sue under these laws."* There are also federal courts that have held that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 bans discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, and lawsuits relying on this interpretation of Title VII are still being heard. The Trump administration has already argued against this interpretation and will continue to do so, but victims of discrimination should keep on suing, the activists advised.

Numerous LGBT and other progressive groups issued statements denouncing the guidance. A sampling:

"The guidance is meant to 'protect' the anti-LGBTQ child welfare worker who is opposed to placing young people in foster care with a lesbian couple. It is meant to 'protect' the transphobic shelter worker who refuses to give a transgender person a place to sleep for the night. It's meant to 'protect' the anti-Semitic restaurant owner who doesn't want to serve a Jewish customer. It's meant to 'protect' the pharmacist who wants to make decisions for others and refuses to administer birth control. The list goes on. This guidance won't stand because we won't stand for it." — Rea Carey, executive director, National LGBTQ Task Force

"Today's Department of Justice guidelines are merely a license to discriminate based on so-called religious freedom, and they are a disaster for this country. Neither individuals nor faith-based organizations — nor any other entity — have the right to elevate their religious beliefs above the laws that protect all Americans. For LGBT elders, this guidance is particularly dangerous because the vast majority of long-term care providers in the U.S. are operated by faith-based organizations. The notion that the federal government would support such organizations putting their religious beliefs above their legal, ethical, and professional responsibilities of providing respectful, discrimination-free care is outrageous. SAGE and LGBT elders will fight any effort to implement this license to discriminate against LGBT elders and the larger LGBT community." — Michael Adams, CEO, SAGE

"This administration has the dubious distinction of making more attempts to remove existing protections from LGBTQ and other marginalized people than any in this nation's history. Freedom of religious belief — which is already protected in the U.S. Constitution — does not, and should not, grant the right to take actions which undermine a person's humanity, yet that is exactly what the 20 principles outlined in the memo from the Department of Justice could do." — Jaime M. Grant, executive director, PFLAG National

"If Jeff Sessions is attacking LGBTQ people, it must be a day that ends in a 'y.' Religious freedom is a fundamental right, but the attorney general's directive is nothing but a license for businesses to discriminate. Despite claiming to support our community, Donald Trump has proved to be one of the country's biggest threats to LGBTQ people. Democrats support the right of LGBTQ people to live and work without fear of being fired or discriminated against simply because of who they are. It's time for Sessions to stop using the Justice Department as a tool for division and discrimination." — Democratic National Committee spokesman Joel Kasnetz

"The Department of Justice has declared open season on transgender and other LGBTQ people, hot on the heels of the Department of Health and Human Services denying necessary healthcare to hundreds of thousands of people. With their actions, these agencies attempt to turn our most cherished civil rights laws into little more than civil rights suggestions." — Mara Keisling, executive director, National Center for Transgender Equality

"The Trump Administration's ongoing attempts to undermine LGBTQ Americans ability to provide for themselves and their families without fear of discrimination highlights the urgent need for national nondiscrimination protections, which are supported by the vast majority of Americans." — Rebecca Isaacs, executive director, Equality Federation

"Federal agencies, government contractors, and grant recipients should not be permitted to discriminate simply by citing a religious belief for doing so. We urge the federal courts to reject the radical efforts by this administration to justify discrimination on the basis of religion. We are strengthened as a nation when we work to protect and balance the rights and dignity of all." — Vanita Gupta, CEO, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

Also today, the *Department of Health and Human Services* issued two new federal rules *gutting the Affordable Care Act's mandate for employer-provided insurance plans to include coverage for contraceptives at no cost to the employee. The rules will let any nonprofit or for-profit employer obtain an exemption from the mandate if they have a religious or moral objection to contraception,* Reuters reports. As issued under President Obama, there was already a provision for religiously affiliated groups to have the coverage funded by their insurers rather than the organization, but some employers found that insufficient.

The *Roman Catholic Church* opposes all forms of *"artificial contraception"*, and some religious groups believe that certain methods of contraception, such as *the birth control pill and the intrauterine device, actually result in an early abortion.*

The *American Civil Liberties Union* has filed a lawsuit Friday aimed at keeping the rules from going into effect, as did *California Attorney General Xavier Becerra,* Politico reports. Other progressive groups joined in denouncing the HHS move.

"The vast majority of women will use birth control in the course of their lifetime. Most Americans support no-copay birth control and consider it a noncontroversial topic, because most Americans understand that a woman's ability to access basic health care should not be up for debate," said Anna Galland, executive director of MoveOn.org Civic Action, in a press release. *"A woman's health care decisions should be kept between her and her doctor — not her boss or the president."*

Cyclops

Tom Johnson, Editor Emeritus



An Aiee for an Aiee

GENITAL READER

Despite all the lies and denial of the scientific facts, there IS Global Warming. Spared the terrible hurricanes, floods, earthquake, and devastating wild fires visited on unfortunate thousands elsewhere, Cleveland, even though our beloved Indians were tragically out pitched by those very lucky New York Yankees, has enjoyed an otherwise seemingly endless, joyful summer which among other things has meant prolonged activities on the Leather Stallion Saloon patio, including the crowning of our brother David Reed, out of a not especially crowded field as Mr. Cleveland Leather. David is a great pride of the Unicorns, a loyal supporter of the LSS, a regular player on the Corn Hole Blue Team, and a real leather man. All of this is a refreshing change from all the sash wannabes, from outside our regional leather community using us for recognition and funding, minus any brotherhood.

Also, we've enjoyed some great eating on the Patio with numerous potlucks, steak roasts, Sunday grilles, plus a sensational Corn Hole banquet, and the best LSS Clambake ever, where the clams, for once, emerged perfectly tender, steaks lusciously grilled, roast chicken and corn on the cob remarkably tender; all held together by the unflappable Chef Chuck Mesrobian, assisted by LSS Manager, the high-kicking Sister Mary-Michael. Through it all, our great bar tenders David, Jeff, Dean, and the Evil One never wore out! And special thanks to Michael and Will for their brave security service at these special events. Speaking of security, the LSS is now fully equipped with a plethora of hidden cameras, so don't do anything (or anyone) I wouldn't.

The fall and winter Leather Stallion Saloon's Tuesday potluck season has just been announced by Lead Bartender David Foxx. (The schedule will follow this column!) Increasingly, desserts are playing a memorable role in the doings. On special occasions, a standout favorite is rashers of chocolate-covered bacon which Sister Mary Michael creates out of her own bacon made from an occasional pig which she smokes out of the men's room! Bob Kirsop arrived at this fall's first potluck with a still-warm cherry pie just out of the oven at Foote's Farm Market on Canal Road.

Corn Hole Banquet, honoring the champion Orange Team which slipped past the brilliant playing of my beloved Blue Team, was crowned by Big Mike's spectacular presentation chocolate layer cake, festooned with thick ropes of fudge ganache. Just recently, at a surprise 89th birthday party for Dean Hicks, Jeff Cartney who always dazzles with perfectly executed cookies and brownies caused a minor stampede for his German Chocolate Brownies. In sync with Dean's party, Jeff certainly honors the timeless classics giving them a luscious new facelift.

Speaking of stampedes, half the West Side have been causing enormous traffic jams in Lower Edgewater Park, packing 'em in for the opening of a multi-storied beach house with changing rooms, topped with refreshment bars with full liquor service on weekends, and spacious observation decks overlooking one of Lake Erie's most polluted beaches, just a quarter mile west of the Westerly Wastewater sewerage treatment facility. A large chunk of the former playing field has been paved over as a car park and the place is well jammed. In the meanwhile the old West Shoreway has entered its sixth year of transformation into a parkway, recently planted with flowers and fledgling shade trees many of which have died in the August drought. The barrels remain everywhere, little or nothing seems to be going on, and the commuter traffic jams are hours in length as the high wage earning Western suburbs struggle to reach downtown. In any event, families and kids really are enjoying the whole beach, but no one, the confusion.

Signs posted indicated that Lower Edgewater Park is part of the Cleveland Metroparks System and is sponsored by the Cleveland Clinic!

How to honor the timeless classics!

WHAT I DID LAST SUMMER... I have proudly never been on or any part of so-called Social Media (Thank Heavens; I don't speak Mandarin!) I only went on a gay chat room once which was quite enough. I found myself connected, electronically, to a trio of New Yorkers and there, it was raining. They all said they were bored. Given that, New York is one of the most lively, fascinating and busy cities on the planet, and, I would charitably deduce that collectively their IQs would total at least twenty, I kindly suggested reading, trying the Public Library, or if all else fails, walking over to Three Lives which never seems to shut. They said: "Fuck You", to which I replied: "Not a Chance", logged off and headed for the nearest gin bottle and a copy of Ella Wheeler Wilcox today a somewhat obscure, turn of the century erotic-expressionist poetess whom Virginia Woolf called the Madame de Stael of Milwaukee. (My favorite of her poems is one about a sunbeam and a moonbeam getting it on under a damp rock and conceiving the first opal! Then there is one called "The Old Stage Queen" which is about Amanda Reckonwith!) Which brings us to exactly what kept me busy during the summer months. Some years ago, quite intrigued about Virginia Woolf, brilliant writer, and sometime Queen of the Bloomsberries, and having read a rather polite biography of her written by a nephew, Quentin Bell, I had heard of a new, wonderfully constructed new biography of her by the exceptional Hermione Lee. Ms. Lee's very detailed, frank, and praiseworthy biography clocks in at 867 pages, including very detailed footnotes; not one page wasted time, but in its own professional way, an inspiration. The book doesn't begin in the traditional: I was born on, in, and at style of Charles Dickens, but in a welter of literary furor which typical of the gestation of Woolf's writing returning to the vital statistics well down the road. (Woolf could have benefitted from Lee's technique in her biography of friend and art historian Roger Fry, her lone venture in that genre, and generally felt to be one of her least effective writings which all things being relative is not exactly shabby.) Lee's style works well because her lifetime in Woolf's extraordinary databank seems to have appeared in her writings. They say that in periods of depression and at the very end of her life (Spoiler Alert, unless one has read or seen Michael Cunningham's "The Hours"), Virginia Woolf heard voices leading her into madness. My speculation is that Virginia Woolf knew so much and possessed so much information that her brain couldn't fully shut down before drowning herself in the River Ouse. Woolf read everything of quality; Proust, passionately, the Russians, the classics, Shaw, et al. Reading great writing can be an enormous satisfaction, a decided antidote to any sort of boredom: such a thing found no time in her extremely active life. Virginia Woolf, who survived a restricted, sometimes sexually cruel childhood, turned to other women for physical affection, though she shared with her husband Leonard, a deep and abiding marriage. In addition to her famous novels, she wrote essays, criticism, and short stories; she worked with Leonard, largely hand setting type in the Hogarth Press which they founded. Together, they introduced and promoted writers as widely diverse as Freud, Vita Sackville-West, Elizabeth Bowen, and T.S. Eliot. She, traveled widely, knew everyone, argued, debated, bore fools and difficult servants not easily. Reading great literature quite naturally cross references other great authors and to me, the mark of a great writer is to how many other fine authors and thinkers they will lead one; Virginia Woolf, to me, Van Wyck Brooks, Anthony Blunt, Walter Peter, Lytton Strachey Edmund Wilson, or Norman Douglas. If any of this is challenging and you're still with me, reading this, I am delighted. One of our associate Unicorns has said that in every piece I write, I am stretching him a bit. This I take as a compliment. Another of you caught me using a double negative; another compliment! Even if you don't read, but paint, travel, antique, run, fish, learn fantastic play skills, oil your leather, keep bikes dazzling, hug your pet skunk, or, ye gods, collect chipped china. There's so much to love before each of us enters that river. Waste no valuable time. **CY**

*Schedule of Leather Stallion Saloon
Tuesday Potluck Suppers*



Halloween~ October 31st (Please wear Costumes!)

November 14, 2017

December 12, 2017

January 9, 2018

February 6, 2018

March 6, 2018

April 10, 2018

May 8, 2018

Please Clip and Save



*Burtonesque Halloween
Fundraiser Held at
the Leather Stallion Saloon*

Saturday, October 14th found the Patio of our beloved Leather Stallion Saloon transformed into a Tim Burton movie set, one could not be sure if you were in *Christmastown* from Director Burton's *Nightmare Before Christmas* or stuck in Lila's dreamscape from *Beetlejuice*. Not only did the décor go to great lengths to convey the Theme, but many of the patrons took it to heart also. I lost track of how many *Jack Skellington* and *Beetlejuice* characters I counted in the crowd.

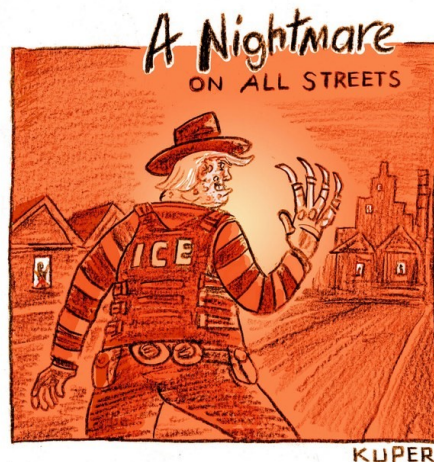


The Burtonesque Fundraiser was held to benefit the LGBT Center of Greater Cleveland and Team Mr. Friendly: Northeast Ohio. This was the seventh year that Mike Parker and his partner Boy Kaz has hosted this event, with this year's Halloween Party being the most successful yet.





Mike thanked everyone after the event, here is his statement: *"We must thank: DJ Bob Ganem, whose stitching together of Danny Elfman's music to open our night was pure perfection; Shamus Veranda L'Ni Dickinson, who took Glamazon to another planet; Steve Bianchi, who manned the Mr. Friendly table and pieced together an amazing "Holiday Survival Basket" donation; Warren Stauffer and Earl Nelson, who made a very strong*

crop of pudding shots; Jim Overholser, boy Tim, Steve Miller; Hank Martin, Dave Leatherman, Johnny Flex, Cody Feucht, Eric Hill, and Parker Coe Murphy for volunteering your time throughout the night; Josh Cleveland (and people previously mentioned) for helping set up all of the scenery); John Krikorian for "Sir-ing" people into buying cookies with the help of others; the Leather Stallion Saloon for supporting our event and busily tending to people's needs all night long; Chuck Mesrobian for making delicious grilled meats; and all of the people who attended and donated money. This year, we raised \$2043 to benefit the Center and Mr. Friendly. It was, by far, our best Halloween fundraiser to date. We hope to see you all next year."



November 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Potluck Dinner 	1	2	3	4 
5	6	7 	8	9	10	11 
12	13	14 Potluck Dinner 	15	16	17	18 
19 	20	21	22	23 	24	25 
26 	27	28	29	30		

October 31, 2017 ~ *Leather Stallion Saloon Potluck Supper, 6 PM, Bring a covered Dish and Dress in Costume, it is Halloween!!!*

November 4, 2017 ~ *Arktos Bear's Chili Cookoff, Cocktails 2.0 Akron, 8 PM, Come see who makes the Best Firehouse Chili!*

November 4, 2017 ~ *Rock'n'Roll Sister's Bar Night, Leather Stallion Saloon, 9 PM, raising funds to buy Turkeys for the Aids Task Force.*

November 7, 2017 ~ *Election Day, Poll open 6:30 AM till 7 PM, Vote it is your Right! If you do not Vote, do not complain about the Government you get!!!*

November 11, 2017 ~ *Veteran's Day, Thank a Vet for your Freedoms.*

November 11, 2017 ~ *Mr. Classic Leather Competition, Leather Stallion Saloon, 9 PM*

November 14, 2017 ~ *Leather Stallion Saloon Potluck Supper, 6 PM, Bring a Dish to share!*

November 18, 2017 ~ *Ranger's "Leatherfest", Mr. Akron Leather Contest, Cocktails 2.0 Akron, 9 PM, Bring your old leathers to trade*

November 19, 2017 ~ *Unicorn's Annual Business Meeting, Election of Officers, Election of Charity Benefit Awards, Voting on Code of Regulations proposed changes, Upper Clubroom of the Leather Stallion 6 PM*

November 23, 2017 ~ *Thanksgiving Day*

November 23, 2017 ~ *Larry Martin's Birthday!!!*

November 25, 2017 ~ *Titleholder Turnabout Night, Leather Stallion Saloon 9 PM, Come see your Local and State Leather, Drag and King Pageant Title Holders trade places for a night of hilarious fun and entertainment!!*

November 26, 2017 ~ *Iron Eagle's Christmas Kick-off, Cocktails 2.0 Akron, 7 PM*

Notice: *If you want your Club's Activities posted Here please send them in by the 15th of each month. December's Activities must be recieved by November 15th to be listed. If you want your event covered as an article please submit what you want written by the 15th of the month after the event happened for inclusion. Thank you, the Editor.*

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Submissions for Publication may made be emailed to the Editor, up until the 15th of each month, and will be published by discretion of the Editorial Committee and space available. There will be NO RENUMERATIONS for Unsolicited Articles.

Deadline for inclusion on the Calendar is the 15th of the month, in advance of the event.

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We welcome your Letters, comments, and suggestions for improvement, as well as opposing positions and criticisms.