

"Nunc Aut Nunquam"

The Unicorn HORN



A Publication of The Unicorn Motorcycle Club / Cleveland, Ohio / Est. 1971

October 2019

2205 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland Ohio 44114-4046



Unicorns Set Elections

Elections for the 2020 Officers will be held during the November 17th meeting being held in the Clubroom of the Leather Stallion Saloon, at 6 PM. All member are urged to attend, additionally we will be deciding to whom the Charity Funds collected over the past year will be awarded to. So please come to the meeting prepared with all information for any of the Organization you are proposing as Beneficiaries.

News from our October meeting we are still working with our home bar on setting the dates for the 2020 Calendar year, and hope they will be finalized by the November meeting.

President Tom Johnson, Thanked all who brought Dinner for the Club to enjoy before the meeting everything was delicious, Jim's Buffalo Chicken Mac & Cheese, Jack's Rigatoni, Noel's Salad, Robert's Pumpkin Spice Cup-

Unicorn MC

Meeting Dates 2019-2020

After many hours of contemplation, conciliation, and deliberation, imbibing in salacious amounts of libations, and in a delicious moment of weakness the following Dates have been set in Stone:

- November 17, 2019 - UMC Annual Meeting and Election of Officers LSS, 6 PM
- December 14, 2019 - Annual Christmas Party, hosted by Jack & Dennis, Willowick OH, 3PM
- January - TBA
- February 16, 2020 - UMC Meeting LSS, 6 PM
- March 15, 2020 - UMC Meeting LSS, 6 PM
- April 18, 2020 - UMC Meeting LSS, 6 PM, Bar Event, LSS 9 PM
- May 17, 2020 - UMC Meeting LSS, 6 PM
- June 6, 2020 - UMC Meeting & Cookout, Hiram OH, 3 PM

cakes, and of course Tom's Famous French Bread.

The Sunshine Pony reported that the Club had send out several card over the past month to remind everyone is thinking of our members who for a variety of reasons have not been able to attend, or to celebrate their Birthdays. As a reminder Club Birthdays are listed on the back Calendar of every Horn.

The Editor would also like to take this opportunity to Congratulate the Empire City MC on their 55th Anniversary which they Celebrated with a Dinner on October 12, 2019. They have come a long way since their beginnings in 1964 a full five years before Stonewall!

Jack pointed to a recent article that one in five members of the LGBTQ Citizens in the U.S. are not Registered to Vote in National Elections in response the Unicorns have voted to hold a Voter Registration Drive. With the up coming Federal Elections being of such an importance to our community, it is imperative we maximize the LGBTQ Vote. The Ohio Presidential Primaries are being held on March 10, 2020 with the Deadline to Register Voters to be eligible for that Election being February 7, 2020. Jack has agreed to investigate, coordinated, and Chair this effort in addition to his duties as Editor of the Horn.

After the meeting was adjourned, the Clubroom straightened up the members in attendance joined the usual Happy Hour Crowd downstairs in the Stallion's Bar to Celebrate Bartender Extraordinaire Dean Hicks' Birthday, and to set up for our Fetish Night Fundraiser. Knowing of the conflicting date with the Iron Eagles' Run, the Aktos Event, and the Mr. Ohio Leather Pageant, our event was very low key this year, giving us all time to circulate, converse, and enjoy ourselves rather than work our tails off! Everyone had a wonderful time.



LGBTQ Forum: Trans Kids' Rights, Evils of Conversion Therapy, and More

At the CNN/HRC Town Hall with nine Democratic presidential hopefuls, there was the expected supportive rhetoric but also a few surprises.

A 9-year-old transgender boy who became an instant internet sensation. Trans protesters who occasionally interrupted the proceedings. A description of conversion therapy as "torture." And an awkward mention of bathhouses. Those were among the highlights of the **LGBTQ Power of Our Pride Presidential Candidates Town Hall** held in Los Angeles Thursday

night, October 10th. On the eve of the 31st Annual National Coming Out Day.

The CNN/Human Rights Campaign Foundation event, televised on CNN, featured nine contenders for the Democratic presidential nomination: in order of appearance, U.S. Sen. Cory Booker, former Vice President Joe Biden, South Bend, Ind., Mayor Pete Buttigieg, U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris, former U.S. Rep. Beto O'Rourke, U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro, and businessman-philanthropist Tom Steyer. They took questions from the audience at the Novo Theatre in downtown L.A. and from CNN moderators Anderson Cooper, Don Lemon, Chris Cuomo, and Dana Bash.



Cory Booker: The New Jersey senator called violence against the LGBTQ community a *"national emergency"* and noted that he has proposed an *"Office on Hate Crimes and White Supremacy."* Booker said: *"We live in a country where we still see regular, everyday violence and intimidation and bullying against Americans, because of who they are."*

The candidates agreed on many matters: the need to pass the Equality Act, which would ban anti-LGBTQ discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and other venues on a national basis; to get a favorable ruling on LGBTQ rights in the cases the Supreme Court heard this week; to reverse Donald Trump's transgender military ban and other anti-equality actions by his administration, such as the withdrawal of protections for trans students; to address hate crimes, including the epidemic of violence against Black transgender women; to reduce homelessness and suicide, which disproportionately affect LGBTQ people, especially youth; and to make health care, including prescription drugs, more accessible and affordable. There were some differences in the details of their plans, but on the whole they were united when it came to the big picture.

But there were some standout moments. Warren got a warm welcome from the audience and several laughs. The first question put to her was what she'd say to someone who's old-fashioned and believes marriage is between one man and one woman. She said, assuming the person was male, *"I'm gonna say just marry one woman ... assuming you can find*

one."

Elizabeth Warren: The Massachusetts senator said she was wrong in 2012, to say *"I don't think it's a good use of taxpayer dollars"* to pay for a transgender inmate's gender confirmation surgery. *"It was a bad answer,"* she said. *"And I believe that everyone is entitled to medical care and medical care they need. And that includes people who are transgender who, it is the time for them to have gender affirming surgery. I just think that's important."*

Warren got the most response, though, for her interactions with 9-year-old trans boy Jacob Lemay, attending with his mother, Mimi. *"What will you do in your first week as president to make sure that kids like me feel safer in schools?"* asked Jacob, who became an immediate hit with the audience and on the internet. *"And what do you think schools need to do better to make sure that I don't have to worry about anything but my homework?"*

The senator replied that she'd pick a good secretary of Education, someone who's not Betsy DeVos, Trump's appointee, but she'd have her nominee meet with Jacob and get his approval. *"Does that sound good?"* she said. Jacob seemed satisfied.



Beto O'Rourke: The former Texas congressman said that conversion therapy, a widely discredited practice that seeks to change the sexual orientation of gays, lesbians and bisexuals, *"should be illegal"* because it is *"tantamount to torture."* He said: *"As president, we will seek to outlaw it everywhere in this country."*

When another young trans boy came up to ask a question during O'Rourke's session, however, Black trans woman Blossom C. Brown interrupted the proceedings, noting that no Black trans woman had been given the chance to ask a question yet. Lemon, who was moderating the session, said, *"The reason why we're here is to validate people like you."* When another audience member objected to Lemon's courtesy to Brown, the journalist replied, *"This is what democracy looks like."* Earlier, when Buttigieg was appearing, a group of protesters had marched through carrying banners and chanting, *"Trans lives matter."*

At least one Black trans woman, singer-songwriter Shea Diamond, spoke from the audience later in the evening, asking Castro if he would have transgender advisers, and replied that he would. He said he had always



advocated for trans inclusion, both at HUD and in his previous post as mayor of San Antonio.

Julián Castro: The former Housing and Urban Development secretary said, as president, he would make foreign aid contingent on how the rights that other nations afford to the LGBTQ community. He also called on his successor, Ben Carson, to resign over disparaging remarks the Trump appointee made about transgender people.

Fellow Texan O'Rourke's appearance was also marked by his description of conversion therapy as **"torture, visited on children that are defenseless."** The candidates generally endorsed a national ban on the discredited practice, designed to turn LGBTQ people straight or cisgender, but O'Rourke's statement was especially strong.

Biden, who remains the front-runner in many polls, said the fact that he came out for marriage equality a few days before President Barack Obama did in 2012 **"caused no consternation at all"** in the White House and that Obama even gave him a kiss when he went to work the next day. He also recalled that seeing two men kissing when he was a youth on the way to apply for a job helped him grow up without prejudice, as his father told him, **"It's simple, honey. They love each other."** (No one quizzed Biden on his vote for the Defense of Marriage Act in 1996.)



Joe Biden: The former vice president spoke out about the need to root out discrimination, homophobia and the impact that a country's approach to gay people should have on American foreign policy. Biden said in 2012 that he was **"absolutely comfortable"** with same-sex marriage, a comment that put him – at the time – ahead of then-President Barack Obama.

He surprised the audience a bit, though, with an awkward reference to gay bathhouses at the end of his appearance, saying the stereotype of gay men used to be that they were frequenters of bathhouses and **"it's all about around-the-clock sex."** He added, **"Come on, man. Gay couples are more likely to say together longer than heterosexual couples."**

There was a little more awkwardness when Harris took the stage. After she announced, **"My pronouns are she, her, and hers,"** Cuomo replied, **"Mine too,"** apparently not realizing he was making light of something important to transgender people. After backlash on social media, he tweeted an apol-

ogy, saying, **"I am an ally of the LGBTQ community, and I am sorry because I am committed to helping us achieve equality."**

Kamala Harris: The California senator said that she, as president, would make ending HIV/AIDS within a generation a priority, telling an audience that she learned about the impact of the virus from her first campaign manager. She also vowed to tackle homelessness among LGBTQ youth.

Other noteworthy moments:

Buttigieg, only the second major-party presidential hopeful who's openly gay (Republican Fred Karger was the first), talked about coming out while up for reelection as South Bend mayor—and getting reelected with 80 percent of the vote—and addressed perceptions that as a white cisgender gay man, he's maybe not the right representative of the LGBTQ community.



Pete Buttigieg: The South Bend, Indiana, mayor said he would overhaul rules prohibiting gay men who have had sex within the last year from donating blood — recalling a poignant moment when his office led an annual blood drive. **"So when I'm president, I will direct the FDA to revise the rules based on evidence, based on individual risk factors, and without regard to the prejudice that has driven the current policy."**

"I'm very mindful of the fact that my experience as a gay man, but as a white, cisgender gay man, means that there are dimensions, for example, of what it's like to be a black trans woman that I do not personally understand," he said. **"But I also think the diversity within the LGBTQ+ community is part of what we have to offer right now. ... There is no right or wrong way to be gay, to be queer, to be trans. And I hope that our own community, even as we struggle to define what our identity means, defines it in a way that lets everybody know that they belong among us."**

He and several other candidates addressed the intersection of religion and LGBTQ identity, with Buttigieg noting that his love for his husband, Chas-



ten, makes him feel closer to God. Castro pointed out, ***“There are a lot of people in the LGBTQ community that are also people of faith. ... But, you know, the other side always acts like those two are completely separate.”*** Klobuchar talked about being a member of an inclusive church but noted, as other candidates did, that religion should never be an excuse to discriminate: ***“One faith doesn’t trump another faith.”***

Amy Klobuchar: The Minnesota senator said that so-called conversion therapy should be illegal because it ***“makes no sense at all.”*** Klobuchar also said she would recognize a third gender marker option on a federal level.

The candidates underlined the need not only to unseat Trump but to flip enough seats in the Senate to assure a Democratic majority there. Klobuchar mentioned that the Equality Act, which has been passed by the House, ***“is lying in the graveyard that is Mitch McConnell’s desk.”*** Senate Majority Leader McConnell has refused to advance many progressive pieces of legislation that have been approved by the Democratic-controlled House.

They also talked about the need to make prescription drugs more affordable and accessible, including those used in HIV treatment and prevention. Booker praised California’s recent enactment of a law, signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom this week, to make drugs used in HIV prevention available without a doctor’s prescription if certain conditions are met. Several talked about ways to make prevention drugs available at cost and to end monopolies on them. Steyer called out big pharmaceutical companies’ influence in politics: ***“We have a group of corporations led, really, by the drug companies who’ve bought our government.”***

Harris discussed health disparities based on race, noting that Black men have a disproportionately high rate of HIV. ***“It is still much higher because the hierarchy still exists within the community around access to health care, housing, employment, and things of that nature,”*** she said. ***“So I will, as president, I commit to you, deal with all of those, but also we need to deal with it in the context of having a commitment, which is my commitment, that within a generation we will end HIV/AIDS.”*** Booker noted that populations most at risk for HIV are often those with least access to prevention drugs, motivating his call for lowering the price of Truvada, until recently the only drug approved for the prevention strategy known as pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP.

Several candidates talked about how knowing a member of the LGBTQ community can make straight and cisgender people into allies. But Booker, who was asked about an article he once wrote on overcoming his own homophobia, noted that it’s not always possible to change hearts and minds: ***“I can’t pass a law to change the heartless, but I can change -- pass laws to restrain their violent actions.”*** And support for rights shouldn’t be contingent on knowing somehow who’s affected, he said. ***“If we wait for our empathy to expand in that way we will never get to being the nation of liberty and justice for all, you know?”*** he said.



Many other issues came up, including gun violence, the gay and trans panic defenses, LGBTQ-inclusive school curricula, using trade policy to encourage LGBTQ equality abroad, sex work, criminalization of people with HIV, lifting

the ban on blood donation by sexually active gay and bisexual men, and much more.

Tom Steyer: The businessman said he would put measures in place to increase oversight over health care access to LGBTQ asylum seekers if elected president. ***“I think it’s absolutely critical for the United States of America to treat people in a humane and decent fashion,”*** he said.

Asked if he would put strong measures in place to increase oversight over health care access to LGBTQ asylum seekers if elected president, businessman Tom Steyer said, ***“Of course we will.”***

He took a shot at President Donald Trump and his treatment of migrants in US Immigration, Customs and Enforcement detention facilities.

“I think it’s absolutely critical for the United States of America to treat people in a humane and decent fashion. It’s very obvious that this President and this administration has chosen to not only break the international laws in their treatment of asylum seekers, but to break the basic laws of humanity,” he said.

Steyer continued: ***“When I think about why I started the need to impeach campaign two years ago, yeah, he’s a criminal, it’s true that he more than has earned impeachment, but it goes much beyond this and it goes to exactly this kind of issue. The actual President of the United States committing crimes against humanity, like this, in our name, is something that we should end right now. Certainly the first day of my presidency.”***

The concern about mental health problems and high suicide rates among vulnerable people within the LGBTQ community was a huge focus for many of the Democratic candidates at Thursday’s CNN town halls in Los Angeles. Tom Steyer argued that the alarming statistics themselves should have the power to move public opinion toward the ***“social acceptance of people.”***

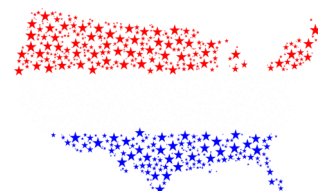
Steyer, a billionaire hedge fund founder, argued that the president needs to ***“show exactly where their heart is”*** through their behavior.

“When I think about this from the standpoint of what you can do to change the way people view themselves, and other people view them in the LGBTQ community, I think on the very first day there should be steps taken to undo the example that Mr. Trump and Mr. Pence have laid for the country,” Steyer said. ***“That would mean undoing the ban on transgender military people. It would mean undoing the ban on visas for same-sex partners of foreign diplomats, and mean appointing people from the LGBTQ community to high important parts of the administration.”***

Steyer touched on the number of LGBTQ people who face discrimination on a daily basis and have no protection under federal law. And he said he was stunned to learn that half of transgender youth attempt suicide.

“If that doesn’t explain to you that the very dire situation that they feel themselves to be in, then you must have a heart of stone,” Steyer said. ***“Anyone who doesn’t want to do whatever it takes to protect the young people, really must search their soul to find out what their deepest values are. As an American that would seem as basic as you can get—in terms of protection, equality, justice. My goodness. I don’t see that there’s another side to the conversation.”***

Editors Note: It is the policy of the Unicorn Horn not to endorse Candidates, and this Article was published only to inform the Community, if and when the Republican Party holds a Town Hall specifically concerning the LGBTQ Community we will give Equal Treatment.



LGBTQ Employment Discrimination Cases Exposes Supreme Court Split

Conservative Justice Gorsuch's Remark During Supreme Court Arguments

May Give LGBTQ Activists and Allies Hope

October 8, 2019

Washington DC - Tuesday, October 8, 2020 the Supreme Court heard arguments in three important cases for LGBTQ workers, and the Court's four liberal judges reportedly seemed more supportive of anti-discrimination arguments than their conservative counterparts.

There is little news coming out of Tuesday morning's Supreme Court oral arguments in three cases that will determine if LGBTQ people have equal rights or can be fired merely for being LGBTQ. But a surprise remark is giving some LGBTQ people a drop of hope. Conservative Justice Neil Gorsuch has at the very least given the appearance he just might understand that anti-gay discrimination is sex discrimination.

Two cases are about discrimination against gay people – *Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia and Altitude Express, Inc. v. Zarda* – and one case about discrimination against transgender people – *R.G. and G.R. Harris Funeral Homes v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission*.

But all three of them are making a similar argument: *the Civil Rights Act of 1964 bans discrimination "because of... sex," and discrimination against LGBTQ people is fundamentally tied to sex-based discrimination and it is literally a form of discrimination based on gender stereotypes.*

The Supreme Court ruled that discriminating based on gender stereotypes – like firing a woman because she's too masculine – is an illegal form of sex-discrimination in the *1989 Price Waterhouse case*, where a woman who was denied a promotion because she didn't wear enough make-up and jewelry won her discrimination claim.

The case has LGBTQ advocates arguing that both the plain text of the law and case law around gender stereotype discrimination back them up, while conservatives are telling the court to ignore the text of the Civil Rights Act and to focus instead on what lawmakers intended when they passed it.

Pamela Karlan represented Donald Zarda and Gerald Bostock, who both lost their jobs when their employers found out they're gay. She told the court, *"that if their employers found out they were attracted to men and they were women, then they would not have been fired, but since they're men who are attracted to men, they were fired."*

Jeffrey Harris represented the employers and argued that they have a right to ban gay men from working for them because "sex" and "sexual orientation" were understood as separate things back when the Civil Rights Act was passed.

"First half of Scotus LGBT job-bias case suggests that gay-rights advocates have a least a chance of winning over Gorsuch (+ the four liberals)," tweets Bloomberg News Supreme Court reporter Greg Stohr. He sums up Gorsuch's seemingly positive remark in this tweet:

Justice Gorsuch - "That when a person is fired because of sexual orien-



tion, that person's sex is at least a contributing cause."]

Justice Samuel Alito – who was appointed to the Supreme Court by George W. Bush – told Karlan, *"You're trying to change the meaning of what Congress understood sex to be."*

Her argument doesn't depend on changing the definition of "sex," but instead on applying the term fairly instead of trying to carve LGB people out of its application.

Karlan responded that the law's *"commitment to providing workers with equal employment opportunities without regard to their sex requires protecting people against discrimination for being lesbian, gay or bisexual."*

After Zarda and Bostock's cases were argued, the Court heard arguments in Aimee Stephens's. She was fired from the funeral home where she worked and at trial her former employer said he fired her because she *"was no longer going to represent [herself] as a man."*

The trial court found that it was a cut-and-dry case of gender stereotype discrimination because her former boss *"contravened Title VII's core premise: that employees should be judged on their merit, not their sex,"* the court wrote.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor asked the lawyer for the Trump administration – which is on the anti-LGBTQ side – at *"what point"* should the courts continue to allow discrimination.

The lawyer said that it was up to Congress, echoing an earlier statement from Justice Neil Gorsuch who said that such a *"massive social upheaval"* should probably go through Congress. Gorsuch could be the swing vote in both cases and sharply questioned both sides.

"It was quite a day. After hearing the Supreme Court justices' questions today, we are hopeful and there are many reasons to be optimistic," said Lambda Legal's Gregory Nevins.

"If the Court simply applies the law as written, LGBTQ workers win. The text of Title VII is as clear as day: if an employer refuses to hire, dismisses, or mistreats an employee 'because of' that employee's sex, they are in violation of the law. In these three cases, and in so many others, LGBTQ employees have been punished simply for not conforming to the employers' sex-based stereotypes about how they should behave or who they should be attracted to."

"The Court has the opportunity to set the record straight and it's time."

According to CNN's Supreme Court reporter Ariane de Vogue, the two hours of arguments showed that the four liberal justices generally favored the argument that the Civil Rights Act already bans discrimination against LGBTQ people.

Which isn't a promising situation when the other five justices are conservative ideologues, at least one of whom believes that the idea of not firing

LGBTQ people for their identities is a **“massive social upheaval.”**

At issue right now is Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and if its stated ban on sex discrimination includes lesbian, gay, and bisexual people (*the second hour of oral arguments focus on transgender workers’ rights*).

But Gorsuch’s remark is deeper than what it says at face value.

Southern Methodist University Law School Professor Grant Hayden, who focuses on employment law, explains that it’s not an all-or-nothing issue. And he says if Gorsuch believes what he reportedly said, **“that should be the ballgame”** – presumably, a win for gay rights.

[If Gorsuch believes this, that should be the ballgame. Title VII’s statutory language clearly prohibits conduct where sex was “a motivating factor,” even if other factors also contributed to the decision]

Hayden says his legal view is that sexual orientation and transgender discrimination **“is necessarily sex discrimination in violation of Title VII.”**

Of course, no one know what will happen until the decision is handed down, presumably in June of 2020, but a glimmer of hope is better than none at all.

MSNBC’s Pete Williams concurs that Gorsuch’s remarks may be the **“best hope”** for LGBTQ people.

The Oral Arguments and a Transcript of the hearing may be found at the following Links:

Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia and Altitude Express, Inc. v. Zarda

<https://www.oyez.org/cases/2019/17-1618>

R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

<https://www.oyez.org/cases/2019/18-107>

Over 100 Activists Arrested Outside SCOTUS Amid Landmark LGBTQ+ Case



Over 100 activists were reportedly arrested Tuesday amid a sit-in outside the Supreme Court as judges heard a trio of landmark LGBTQ+ employment cases.

Housing Works, an organization which aims to end the crises of HIV and homelessness, joined over 1,000 people in calling for justices to rule that queer and trans people are covered by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, a landmark law that extends workplace protections on the basis of characteristics like religion, race, and sex.

LGBTQ+ advocates have long held that the definition of sex-based discrimination includes sexual orientation and gender identity.

If the Supreme Court agrees, LGBTQ+ people around the country would be protected from being fired because of their gender or sexuality. If the judges don’t, these individuals would remain vulnerable to discrimination.

At around noon, activists with Housing Works took the street to call for LGBTQ+ equality after the space had been evacuated and blocked off following a bomb scare. An estimated 80 individuals sat on First Street, the dividing line between the Supreme Court building and the National Mall, as local law enforcement officials cordoned them off with police tape. Footage of the sit-in shows activists holding signs that read **“Liberation Is Justice”** and **“Disobedience Is Self-Defense.”**

The confrontation reportedly ended with 133 people being arrested, between those who directly engaged in the sit-in and others present at the demonstration.

According to **Housing Works**, the action was planned days in advance of the pivotal October 8 hearing. Activist Blaine Metzgar tells *Out* that individuals were bussed in from Union Square in New York City that morning on four buses — two of which left at 1:30 a.m., while the other two departed at 5:30 a.m. All in all, he estimates that the organization brought more than 275 people to the event, and the contingent included representatives from **ACT UP Philadelphia**.

While the majority of the larger crowd gathered in a non-confrontational manner outside the Supreme Court steps, Metzgar says civil disobedience plays an important role in the fight for justice. **“It brings attention to the cause,”** he says, **“and people are willing to risk their bodies for the cause or show we’re willing to fight for something.”**

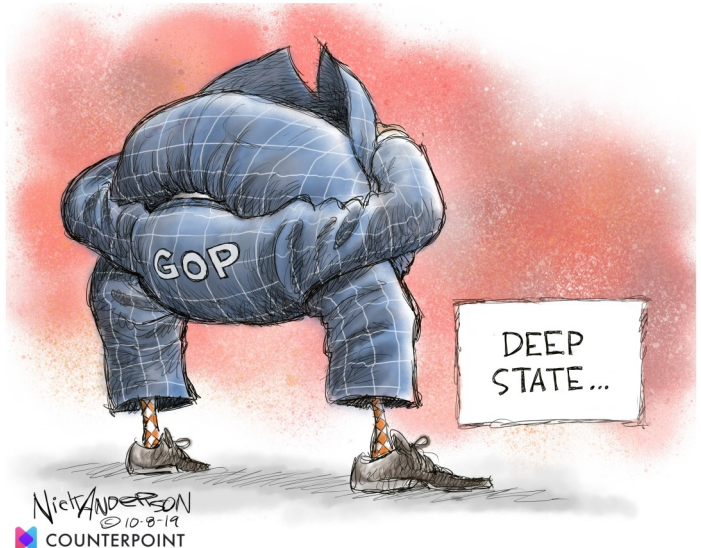
Activist Ken Kidd, who is not affiliated with **Housing Works** but was present at the scene, agrees with Metzgar. Kidd, a co-founder of **Guys Against Guns**, tells *Out* that **“civil disobedience is what made this country great.”**

“Trump talks about Making America Great Again,” he says. **“What makes America great again is still disobedience. Just like this, where people claim their rights, where people claim their turf, and where people take pride in seeing what we were meant to be as Americans.”**

The day’s events also included a counter-protest from anti-LGBTQ+ groups, as well as addresses from SCOTUS plaintiff Aimee Stephens, who was fired for being trans, and **American Civil Liberties** Attorney Chase Strangio. Strangio, one of the lawyers representing Stephens, told the crowd that he was **“moved... to see all these trans people, Black trans women, and queer people of color in the courtroom showing up.”**

“At the end of the day, whatever happens in court is not the end because we’ve built a beautiful movement,” he said. **“It was a powerful testament to our work... and [the justices] knew they were looking into the eyes of trans people when they were hearing the arguments.”**

A verdict is expected in Stephens’ case, which is the first time the Supreme Court will decide on the rights of trans people, by next June.





SOME WORDS ABOUT JESSYE NORMAN



A few weeks ago, the music world (make that “the civilized” world) was deeply saddened at the untimely passing of the great American soprano Jessye Norman who was a legend at home and abroad. For the past three or four decades, Ms. Norman had assumed the mantle of classical music greatness spun and worn in my lifetime by the beloved Mari-

am Anderson, followed by other celebrated African-American women singers such as the stupendous Leontyne Price, Martina Arroyo, Grace Bumbry, Shirley Verrett, and vocally, Kathleen Battle. Like so many vocal and opera buffs, I collected many of Ms. Norman’s discs, from opera and vocal recitals to her lovely Christmas Eve performance recorded on video and CD from *Notre Dame Cathedral* in Paris. I was privileged to hear and see Ms. Norman live on two very different occasions.

The Columbus Symphony Orchestra quite some decades ago had just moved into the rehabbed Loew’s Ohio cinema from the dreadfully anti-acoustic Veteran’s Memorial, happily now demolished. Despite the tireless fund raising activities of the late Eleanor Gelpi, Columbus’s answer to Margaret Dumont’s Mrs. Claypool, the fabled arts patroness of the Marx Brothers’ “A Night at the Opera”, funds for A-list soloists were pretty short. Ms. Norman, then a newcomer was affordable. A second point which must be made. cinema stages are fairly shallow, thus making entrance and exit space at the front of the stage minimal, especially when packed with a large orchestra that will accompany Wagner. Lastly, I must say with great respect, Ms. Norman was an extremely large woman. Quite black skinned, with hair greased back, accented by an off-the-peg, dark blue “formal”, fronted with white sequins, the lady made what must have been the slowest entrance in history, with head lowered, carefully making her way through the crowded bass and cello sections taking every care to not knock over any music stand or injure or disturb any musician or instrument. At the same time, most of the mostly white audience had moved to the edge of their seats in breathless, supportive excitement. Gaining the center of the stage, Ms. Norman looked up, and managed a sheepish little smile of triumph with her dazzling white teeth resembling a Steinway keyboard. The audience went wild with cheering and applause. She had us and kept us for the rest of her life. Equipped with a body which can generously manufacture sublime resonance, her sound, even then, was enormous; filling the entire hall with a majestic wave of sound. Even a minor crack on the top note of the *Libestodt*, from *Tristan und Isolde*, elicited an enormous sigh of support from her captive audience which at evening’s end sprang to its feet in ovation.

Fast forward to Cleveland, about twenty-five or thirty years later. Bob Kirsop and I were having breakfast at his house one Sunday morning. Somewhere between Eggs and Bacon, or Coffee and Danish, he mentioned that there was a concert that evening. Queried for more details, he allowed some sort of opera singer, Wagner, and something about Severance Hall. By then, I was somewhat bananas, so he became more specific: the Cleveland Orchestra, special concert for Black History Month, Jessye Norman, “I already have the tickets!”

We were seated in the balcony of an almost sold out house. This time the audience was white and black, many of whom I believe were newcomers

to Severance Hall. And then, the magic began. Ms. Norman, magnificently coiffed, her facial make up a pale *café au lait* base tone, her gown a magnificent Paris original, with cuffed long sleeves, sweeping full skirt, all of pale blue silk satin. This time, there was no threading with care. The Cleveland Orchestra stood for her entrance. The cheering on stage and in the audience was deafening and long. She arrived like a goddess and sang like one as well. The Cleveland Orchestra would eventually award Ms. Norman its ultimate accolade for any guest soloist. The string section, rather than tapping its approval on the music stands with bows, all placed their instruments on the floor, stood, and clapped approvingly for Jessye Norman and the great performance they had heard, other orchestral sections following suit, along with a rapturous audience. I know I was crying for the beauty of the occasion. Now, I’ll tell you why.

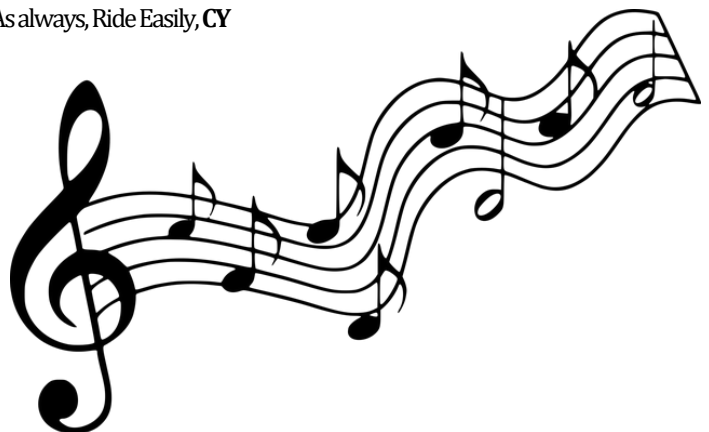
I grew up in Bexley, a suburb of Columbus, Ohio Before my voice changed, I had just matriculated into the Columbus Boychoir School, which much later would move from Columbus to Princeton, New Jersey, as the Westminster and eventually, the American Boychoir School, I grew up in suburban Columbus (Bexley) in a family of definite racial prejudice. My parents and I attended a downtown, East Broad Street church. One Sunday we were late for service and forced to park in a lot of a nearby insurance company’s office. The lot was accessed from an alley of small, low rental houses, lived in by families of color. On this Sunday, a large woman, of vast proportions was standing on her tiny front porch singing a spiritual which I recognized as part of a medley of so-called Negro Spirituals included in the performance repertoire of the Boychoir in which I schooled and sang. It sounded wonderful; the woman’s voice was rich and heartfelt. I was scolded for dawdling. I allowed how the woman’s singing was beautiful. Grabbed by the wrist, I was dragged into church with my mother’s unsolicited reassurance THAT wasn’t real singing, I guess that so long ago, I vowed to reassure myself that it was really fine no matter who was doing the vocalize! It began a lifelong struggle for reason, albeit, not a really difficult one, no matter to what art, skill, or dedication one is exposed, or by whom it is given.

Alas, the struggle is newly intensified at the divisive hands of Donald Trump, the self-proclaimed Chosen One. Hatred and fear of the most base sort is being rekindled by this dreadful man and his minions. Just this month, speaking to a rally of his cult in Minnesota, he warned them of the danger of Somali immigrants whose largest American concentration is in that state. Somalia, as we all know is African, possibly Muslim. Horrors! Everywhere Donald Trump goes, this terrified, vulgar, and hateful man the bad seeds.. I ask you all, what kind of leadership is that?














A FURTHER SAD CULTURAL NOTE Miss A. Grace Lee Mins has recently passed away. Her weekly radio show “The Black Arts” which was broadcast on WCLV every Sunday evening was to her many listeners, a joy and an inspiration. She will be missed on Cleveland’s cultural scene.

HEADLINE OF THE MONTH.....from *The Oberlin Review*, 27 September, 2019: **CITY COUNCIL PREPARES TO RELEASE GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY.**

As always, Ride Easily, CY



November 2019

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

November 1&2, 2019 - *Dias Los Muertos, "Dance with the Dead!"*

November 3, 2019 - *Iron Eagles General Membership Meeting, Cocktail 2.0, Akron, 6 PM*

November 5, 2019 - *U.S. General Election Day, "If you Don't Vote, You can't Complain!"*

November 6, 2019 - *Empire City MC General Membership Meeting, NYC*

November 9, 2019 - *Mr. Classic Leather Contest, LSS, 9 PM*

November 11, 2019 - *Veteran's Day, "Service your Vets!"*

November 13, 2019 - *Sadie Hawkins Day, "Wear your Daisy Dukes!"*

November 17, 2019 - *UMC Annual Business Meeting, Election of Officers, LSS, 6 PM*

November 21, 2019 - *False Confession Day, "Lie to your Priest!"*

November 23, 2019 - *Larry Martin's Birthday. "29 again???"*

November 23, 2019 - *Rangers' Leatherfest & Mr. Akron Leather, Cocktails 2.0, Akron, 9 PM*

November 28, 2019 - *Thanksgiving, "Eat until you need to loosen your Belt, it is a Diet Cheat Day!"*

November 29, 2019 - *Black Friday, "Shop until you Drop!"*

November 30, 2019 - *Titleholder Turnabout Show, LSS, 9 PM*

November 30, 2019 - *Iron Eagles' Christmas Drive Kick-off, Cocktails 2.0, Akron, TBA*

Published by Unicorn MC, Inc.

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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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