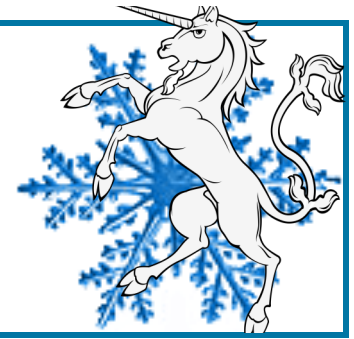


*"Nunc Aut Nunquam"*

# The Unicorn **HORN**



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January 2020

2205 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland Ohio 44114-4046



## EVERYTHING OLD

## IS NEW AGAIN

### *(If Trump Is Reelected What Will We Do?)*

*By John Casey, January 08 2020*

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The new year began with the president nearly starting a war. What more can we expect in 2020 and, possibly, four more years?



## UNICORNS' CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS!

**Willowick, OH** - The membership of the Unicorn MC gathered in early December to Celebrated their Annual Holiday Party at the home of Mr. Jack Giles and Mr. Dennis Sherrill, located in Willowick. The theme of the Holiday decorations was that of an 'Old Fashioned Family Holiday'. The tree featured antique 'Sparkle Glass' ornaments, as well as miniature toys, stick horses and dolls. Other ornaments were a varied collection over the years, some new and some old. The final touches on the tree included more than 10 dozen 4" crystal ice cycles and a Santa hat sporting a Diamond Snowflake Pin. Everyone enjoyed looking for the 'Hidden Pickle' as the tree sported one large pickle and four small Gherkins.

After an hour of Cocktails, socializing, and Conversation, the assembled members were invited into the 'Downtown Abbey' inspired Dining room where a splendid array of cover dishes were served buffet style along with a Spiced Cranberry glazed Ham and an Apricot-Orange glazed Turkey. Thank you to everyone who brought their favorite dishes to the dinner. Everyone present were delighted with the delicious food.

Following Dinner we all assembled once more in the Drawing room to imbibe in more libations and to exchange gifts, and there was a vast array from Lindor Chocolates to Coaster and Socks. I especially would like to thank the secret Santa who took the time to search through Antiques shops until they found the perfect 'Ruby Red Glass Cock Candy Dish' for display in our Dining Hutch, it is beautiful and so thoughtful.

The evening ended with a rousing game of 'Those Damned Dice.' Everyone's favorite as things can get quite hostile. With all of the Gift boxes stacked high in the middle one could just see the greed in everyone's eyes as they spied which box they coveted the most. Just hoping to Roll the right combination to seize their prize. This year there seemed to be a small disabled orphan that everyone wanted to adopt, as the box whose one taped end wouldn't stay taped down was passed from player to player throughout the game. We hope everyone's Holidays were as much fun!!!

When the results of the presidential election of 2000 started coming into question late on election night, I panicked.

When **Al Gore** conceded to **George W. Bush** after the **Supreme Court** ruling, I felt gut-punched.

When then Vice President **Dick Cheney** said that American service personnel would be welcomed as heroes when/if they entered **Iraq**, I laughed.

When the entire premise of the **Bush II Iraq War** became suspect, exposing all the lies, falsehoods, and glaring lack of a longterm strategy, I was angry.

When America elected a president, who could be so easily manipulated by a bunch of old, white, oil hungry warmongers, I said that the country got what it deserved since it took clueless voters to put clueless W into office.

When **Donald Trump** was elected president, I was not surprised, but shaken.

When, like **Gore**, **Hillary Clinton** had lost the **Electoral College**, but won the popular vote, I saw an ominous harbinger.

When **Mike Pompeo** said last week that **Iranians** would be happy after the U.S. took out their military commander, I had *deja' vu*.

***Here we go again — but this time, things are much worse, and we're a long way from finished. What will happen to us?***

We still have a cadre of white men around the commander-in-chief, but they are hapless, spineless and powerless. They don't manipulate but capitulate. They kowtow to a herky-jerky president, whose impetuous, mendacious, and venal actions have finally put not just the country, but the world at great risk. No one is crying over the death of **Iran's Qasem Soleimani**, he got what he deserved after all of the horror he unleashed, but does America deserve the ensuing onslaught of trial, carnage, and disrepute **Trump** is unleashing?

I'm not comparing **Trump** to a war criminal, let's be clear. But look what Trump has done to the fabric of our country, our quilted alliances, and the

thread-bare unsteadiness of the Middle East

We are about to go through a bitter impeachment trial in the Senate. News that former national security advisor and conservative darling **John Bolton** (*who has extolled an extreme hard-line approach to Iran*), has agreed to testify raises the stakes immensely on what should be a solemn, fact-finding trial. But not with **Trump**. He will throw up roadblocks, stifle the



turnover of documents and pulverize the process. **Nixon** resigned before a Senate trial, because he knew he was guilty. **Clinton** cooperated, begrudgingly, but fully, because he knew the charges weren't impeachment-worthy. **Trump**? Anyone should be smart enough to figure why he's stonewalling and wailing to the detriment of our constitution and democracy.

Last month, world leaders of other democracies were caught laughing at **Trump** at the NATO summit in London; however, they are not laughing now. When **Bush II** went into **Iraq**, he at least had some semblance of smarts to coerce a few allies to take part in the ill-advised invasion. **Trump**? He chose to take out **Iran's** adversarial military leader whose actions affected all of **NATO** allied countries — and then some — and didn't bother to tell our allies about the strike.

**Representative Gerry Connolly** of the **House Foreign Affairs Committee** said that the rationale for taking out **Soleimani** wouldn't pass a *"high-school thesis."* Presumably he means there was no imminent threat; maybe it's sort of like **Bush's** claim of **Iraq** buying uranium for their unfound nuclear weapons? So without consulting allies, the **Trump administration** has no one to back their claim. And, for our allies to be in the dark? They had to scurry to protect their own troops and citizens after **Soleimani's sudden assassination**.

But why should **Trump** tell our allies? After all, he pulled out of two of the most consequential world agreements in this century and didn't bother with how the world would react: the *United Nations Paris Climate Treaty* and the Iran nuclear pact (aka *Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action*). Now, **Iran**, as many prognosticators predicted, has shunned the agreement, and vowed to produce enriched uranium for nuclear weapons. The world is on edge and rightfully mortified.

**Iran's** race to a nuclear weapon, and their anticipated *"appropriate response"* to the U.S. killing of **Soleimani** will cause upheaval in the **Middle East** and elsewhere, the likes of which the world may not have yet experienced. And with all of this, the world will blame **Trump**.

**But it's not totally Trump's fault**

**The American people elected Donald Trump** as president. Maybe you didn't, but the electoral college went his way. **Like Bush, the American people are getting what they voted for.** Having second thoughts, many voters flocked to the polls in 2018 to make sure the House went to the Democrats, so that there was some accountability somewhere in **Washington**, and to a degree there was some redemption with impeachment; however, the accountability has always rested with Republicans in the Senate, and their lack of nipping the **Trump** problem in the bud, when many were sounding the alarm, is already deriving the calamitous costs many predicted (*hello Bob Corker and Jeff Flake*).

God help us. The upcoming months will be the very definition of tumultuous, traumatic, and downright terrible. Whether or not **Iran** responds beyond its initial ballistic missile launch into **Iraq** is anyone's guess, but all of this is not pretty and very provocative. We've seen the masses of millions out on the streets of **Tehran** decrying vengeance, and a stampede of the mourners killing dozens. And we wit-



nessed the country's **Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei** sobbing over **Soleimani's** coffin.

We've also seen **Iraq's** call for the U.S. to leave. That was **Soleimani's** goal — to rid the **Middle East of the U.S.** And then **Trump** absurdly Twitter-threatened Islamic cultural sites as potential military targets. Regardless of the history between **Iraq** and **Iran**, it's an us versus them moment. More emotional than rational. Those countries feel a kinship of being torn apart and fragile. Who knows what the future holds for a Middle East that's on tender hooks.

And the United States is also teetering. If you think things are bad now, then you haven't seen anything yet. The risk of the unknown is more riskier and more unknown than ever before. Hopefully, we will not see innocent fatalities if **Iran** lashes back further. If we do, the Republicans will try and defend **Trump's** actions and offer their mind-numbing thoughts and prayers for the victims. They could have done so much more.

And, we will see one person play the ultimate victim during the Senate impeachment hearing, and his words will cause division and rancor while the Republicans continue to defend him. And he'll be spared removal. And then he'll tear apart any decorum that's left in this country by his ruthless behavior during the upcoming presidential election. The carnage will continue — on so many fronts. What have we come to? How did all this unspool? How do we cope? How do we gird ourselves? What can we do to stop all of this? What will we come to? How much more detriment can **Trump** do to us? What will happen to us? What does our future hold?

When **Bush** was reelected in 2004, I bitterly shook my head.

If **Trump** is reelected this year, what will we do? Let's not be forced to answer that question.

## LGBTQ AMERICANS HAVE CAUSE FOR ANXIETY AND HOPE IN THE 2020'S

*There may be a lot of darkness before the dawn.*

In an otherwise difficult year, one bright spot for me was having the opportunity to write for you and the readers of *'The Advocate'*. As I'm sure you're aware, the folks behind this outlet work very hard in making sure you're well informed. We owe a debt of gratitude to this wonderful team, who put their heart and soul into their work.

Together we learned the back-story behind the **first gay Republican Congressman, Steve Gunderson**, who came out 25 years ago, an **'Out 100' actor, Colman Domingo** who turned heads for his role in the Golden Globe-nominated film *'If Beale Street Could Talk'* (based on *James Baldwin's* novel), starred in **HBO's** spicy new series, *'Euphoria'*, and is one of the lead characters in **AMC's** hit series *'Fear the Walking Dead'*. Domingo also starred in Broadway's *'Chicago'*, directed episodes of *'FTWD'*, and wrote numerous theatrical works.

But what makes him especially hot during this month is the fact that as one of Hollywood and Broadway's busiest and most versatile actors and writers, he turned 50 on Thanksgiving Day, and his attitudes about aging are at once comforting and inspirational, and a very special Catholic priest, recently-deceased brother, **Father Angelo Gambatese**, represented the best of Christianity.

*"God doesn't care if you're gay. He only cares about how loving and caring you are, and that you are,"* he empathized. *"You should look at being gay as a gift, because it's an opportunity to give and receive love."* When I made a crack about how tough it was to find a partner to share that love, he had a prophetic answer. *"God will give you love when you're ready for it, and when you get it, you will realize that it was worth all the wait and disappointments."*

Father Angelo knew what real love was all about, and mainly because he lived it, understood it, and saw it up close, during a long career as a Franciscan Friar.



This past year has been an opportunity to share and learn, with you, some wonderful high-points about our community and beyond, including the incredible week of *Pride 2019*, all the colorful benefits of drag queens, and a look behind the scenes of the *Macy's Parade* through the eyes of one of our own. We also had some dubious topics, but had the benefit of wisdom from leaders in our own community, gaining insight from, a gay Ambassador, **Rufus Gifford, former Ambassador to Denmark**, says the world knows America is better than the *'Fraud in Chief'*, a gay and brave, Broadcast Journalist, **ABC News foreign correspondent James Longman** not only reported on the *'Antigay terror in Chechnya'*, he became part of the story. and a **gay Congressman, New York's Sean Patrick Maloney**.

And through sharing aspects of my life with you, and hearing from you, I've grown to appreciate the fact that we're all dealing and coping with something in our crazy, mixed up, and always challenging lives. Perhaps the most consequential piece I wrote in 2019 was my article with *'New York Times'* columnist **Frank Bruni** about gay men and aging, and my very personal experience about turning 65. I hope readers benefitted from the messages of staying positive and being optimistic about the future.

As we look ahead to the 2020s, I think we have some legitimate reasons to be hopeful. Next year will almost feel like a transition year, and some elements of the year won't be easy by any means; however, I think our community is used to taking some hits, fighting back, enduring, and moving forward in venerable ways.

First, we will say goodbye (*again*) to *'Will & Grace'* and sadly and all too suddenly to *'Schitt's Creek'* in 2020. These shows were revolutionary in their own way. Will and Jack made being gay not only enjoyable, but acceptable, and hip immediately after the reaction to the *'Ellen'* coming out show. That show's popularity sadly faltered after Ellen's dimactic moment and was eventually canceled in the spring of 1998, because, according to *'The New York Times'*, *"...the cancellation attracted protests...from gay rights groups, which accused ABC of pulling out because of concerns about [gay] content."* In a nutshell, it was just *"too gay."*

Then, **NBC**, a few months later, launched a show that was just too gay, and with a first, a gay man as one of the title characters. The show became an iconic hit, Without Will and Jack, we wouldn't have the much beloved David and Patrick. *'Schitt's Creek'* still presented gay as fun, with the same dash of outrageousness, and an added sense of boring and normal. The romance between two bookends was at once hilarious and realistic. It's a harbinger for how gay love, in all its messes and marvelousness, and boringness, will be portrayed during the next decade.

Also, the 2020s will be filled with more shows like the breakout hit *'Pose'*, where characters will be unafraid of being themselves, HIV+ and happy, proud and loud about being transgender and creating different types of families. Realism at its realist, like the new surprise hit *'Work in Progress'*, where gender non-conformity is celebrated, with characters who are free to love who they want, and how they want. The next generation, today's younger audiences, who are more open minded and more accepting, will demand broad, expressive and representative depictions of our rapidly changing culture. The days of white, straight vanilla Hallmark movies are over; and hopefully, those will be changing too.

And the 2020s will usher in a wave of professional sports players finally coming out of the closet due to a confluence of events. First, for the most part, society is becoming more nonchalant about gay athletes. European soccer, rugby and hockey stars have come out with barely a kerfuffle, and that wave will hit here soon. **Football star Ryan Russell's** coming out in August, while he was still eligible to play, was met with nearly unanimous support from his **NFL** cohorts. More and more athletes are coming out to their teammates in high school and college, and soon they will almost be encouraged to come out to their co-players and fans in the pros.

Why? Because professional sports are losing their fans, and audiences, most notably from that younger demographic who represent the futures of the sports' fan bases. For a variety of reasons, the leagues are going to have

to start cultivating and captivating this next generation, and part of that is by mandating more inclusivity, and making their athletes more human and relatable. The egomaniacs like **Antonio Brown**, shunned by the **NFL** this year, are being replaced by the humbleness of **LSU** quarterback **Joe Burrow**, who gave a moving speech about supporting hungry kids while accepting the **Heisman Trophy** this month.

And this generation is not only speaking up for causes, but they are speaking up for themselves and coming out to their athlete moms and dads — who also in turn are speaking up for them. **Dwayne Wade** is the most recent and the most outspoken example. His honesty and compassion on behalf of his son has won widespread admiration, and his actions will drive other parent players to do the same, and in effect ease the path of tolerance for the adults in the locker room.

And intolerance won't last long in our government. It may look bleak and bad now, and it will get worse before it gets better in 2020. But it will get improve.

Last year saw the awe-inspiring rise of **Pete Buttigieg**, the first openly gay, married, presidential candidate, and one who **actually leads in the polls for next year's early primary states of Iowa and New Hampshire** as of this writing. What a triumph for our community. ***Gay office holders and candidates are more prevalent than ever; and those numbers will grow during the next decade.*** We already have a lesbian mayor of the third largest city in the U.S. And, could we also see the first openly-gay and HIV+ positive man become mayor of **New York City**?

While all of this is happening there might be a bump in the road next year. ***Regardless of whether Buttigieg is the Democratic presidential nominee or not, the LGBTQ community will likely be a punching bag for Trump and all the down ballot candidates that follow his divisive ways. It's going to be the dirtiest campaign of our lifetime. Trump and his acolytes*** will have no bounds, and unfortunately that means dividing at all costs, and using the **LGBTQ community** as one of its wicked wedges.

Add to that an upcoming decision from the **Supreme Court** about protecting **LGBTQ** people from discrimination, and you might have the perfect storm of hate and vitriol, from **Trump supporters** and the far right. Hopefully, this will be the last gasp of hate directed at our community during a national election, and optimistically, people will stand-up to the fact that there is no room in our campaigns, and in our government, for hate and exclusion, and vote in a more forward-thinking way.

The 2010s brought our community more acceptance and support. We saw the passage of same-sex marriage, but we also saw corporate America wake up and start to look ahead. Diversity programs and inclusionary initiatives are almost a prerequisite for any company that is expected to not only attract top-talent, but to survive and thrive in the eyes of a more diverse consumer base. Industries, particularly technology and retail, are realizing the fact that, again, the next generation, will demand more. If our government fails to protect us, it will be businesses, whose ranks are quickly growing on lists like the **Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Equality Index**, who will jump to our defense.

So, in a perfect world, we should see better representation of our community in television and film, in locker rooms and stadiums, and in government and businesses during the next decade. The 2010s started with the repeal of *"don't ask, don't tell,"* and opening up the military released a plethora of opportunities and advancements for **LGBTQ** folks. The next decade should take us to new heights unseen, with more victories, more achievements, more love and more freedom.

***Happy New Year to all of you, and may the next decade bring you all that is good, right, and joyous.***

***Cyclops will return Next Month, as he has been detained by Cartier's Security. Seems a Diamond cock-ring went missing and Cyclops is the main suspect! (Note it was found on Cy's swollen member. It got stuck while he was trying it on and they are awaiting a Jeweler to remove it with a saw. The cock-ring not Cy's member).***

# February 2020

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 

*Belated January Birthday Wishes to Jim Hitchcock (1/10) and Tony Rotell (1/27)*

February 1 - "Iron Eagle's Leather Swap & Miscellaneous Sale," Cocktails 2.0, Akron OH, 7-11PM

February 4 - "Presidential State of the Union Address"

February 8 - "Mr. Cleveland Bear's Gear Night," Leather Stallion Saloon, Cleveland OH, 9 PM

February 8 - "Rangers' Hearts & Harnesses," Cocktails 2.0, Akron OH, 8 PM

February 14 - "Valentine's Day"

February 16 - "Unicorn's Monthly General Meeting," Leather Stallion Saloon, 6:30 PM

February 17 - "President's Day"

February 18 - "Elijah Ortz's Birthday"

February 18 - "Ohio's Primary Voter's Registration Deadline, and Early Primary Voting begins!"

February 23 - "National Dog biscuit Day"

February 25 - "Mardi Gras"

February 26 - "Ash Wednesday"

February 28 - "Cleveland Pet Contest 2020," (formerly aka Cleveland Puppy Contest), Leather Stallion Saloon, 9 PM

February 29 - "Leap Day"

February 29 - "Cleveland Pet Contest 2020," continues, Leather Stallion Saloon, 9 PM

February 29 - "B. Riley House Spaghetti Queens Benefit Dinner," Maennerchor Hall, Cleveland OH, 6 PM

February 29 - "Iron Eagle's Tropical Getaway," Cocktails 2.0, Akron OH, 9 PM

**Attention All Clubs and Organizations: Your Events can be Listed Here**

**By Submitting the information by the 15th of the Month Prior to the Event to**

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

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