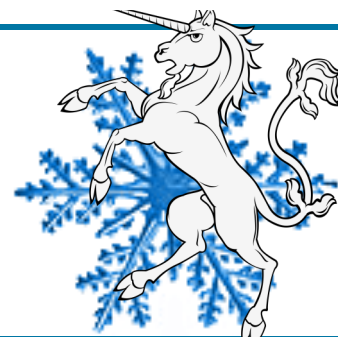


"Nunc Aut Nunquam"

The Unicorn **HORN**



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

February 2020

2205 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland Ohio 44114-4046

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



A Personal Note from your Club President:

My apologies for not keeping everything up to my past standards over the Winter Break, I have been having some Health Issues with my Back and Hips, Hopefully they will be resolved in the near future. As a Result in January I failed to set the Planned Voter Registration Initiative and additionally we cancelled our meeting due to Inclement Weather.

Here is Hoping Everyone had a wonderful Valentine's Day, You all Know how much you are Loved and Cherished.

Jack Giles

Ohio Fairness Act Fills Hearing Room With Advocates, Business Groups

*From the Ohio Capital Journal:
By Susan Tebben - February 6, 2020*



For the first time ever, the **Ohio Fairness Act** has had multiple hearings in both chambers at the **Ohio Statehouse** in the same **General Assembly**. It has been more than 10 years since the effort to get the bill passed started, and only now can they say supporters have been able to testify on the bill in front of lawmakers from both chambers in a **General Assembly**. The work to build a coalition of support has been a slow process that has yielded ever growing results. Last General Assembly the **Ohio Chamber of Commerce** supported the bill for the first time ever.

The groups pushing to see this legislation signed into law say they have continued to grow support and are pleased with this momentous occasion. But they are not blinded by it either, saying this is by no means a guarantee of victory; in fact they may still be quite a ways off from that.

It wasn't the many hordes of people that crowded into a **Statehouse** hearing room that got people's attention on Tuesday, February 4th. It wasn't even the more than 250 testimonies filed on the issue at hand.

It was the 11-year-girl bending the microphone so she could reach it, telling her story of being bullied by kids and adults alike. It was her perspective on why she should be able to live in Ohio under the protection of law that brought tears to legislators' and attendees' eyes.

Sean Miller told the **House Civil Justice Committee** how she felt when a teacher singled her out for wearing a pink backpack as a kindergartner. It was then that she began to feel the pressure of gender roles.

Her mother had to call around to school districts to see if they would accept the fact that her child was a transgender girl. When Miller reported bullying and discrimination to her principal, the school administrator said, **"there were no grounds to protect the young student based on her**

gender identity."

"Having an adult tell you that she will not protect you and that you are not safe is horrifying," Miller told the committee. Miller and her family have since physically moved away from that situation. Miller says, *"she feels she isn't always safe in Ohio, that there are places that do not protect her because of who she is, and that scares her."*

"Everyone deserves basic human rights and it scares me that people can be kicked out of their apartments and lose their jobs just because they're like me or because they're LGBT," said Miller.

The *Ohio Fairness Act* adds sexual orientation and gender identity or expression to the laws that make discrimination illegal in Ohio.

"That's right—in most parts of Ohio, it's still legal to discriminate against LGBTQ people."

Only 26 localities in Ohio already have these protections, but not everybody lives in one of those areas creating a patchwork of protections where an LGBTQ person could lose their civil rights on their daily commute. The only solution is for a statewide law like HB160.

Under the current *Ohio Civil Rights Law*, sexual orientation and gender identity are not *"covered characteristics"* for which protections are a legal right. *The Civil Rights Law is in place to prohibit discrimination in the workplace, in housing decisions like the lease of an apartment or purchase of real estate, and other good and services. (also known as public accommodations).*

The covered characteristics named in the law are *"race, color, religion, age, sex, familial status, marital status, military status, national origin, ancestry, or disability."*

But the movement to add to that list is strong; so strong in fact, that the committee is scheduling a second day for proponent testimony due to an overwhelming response.

According to committee chair *Stephen Hambley, R-Brunswick*, as of Tuesday, February 4th, 278 pieces of testimony had been submitted, though not all of them would be presented in person to the committee.

Along with personal stories of how the *Ohio Fairness Act* would impact lives, the committee heard from local chambers of commerce, heads of business agencies, and an attorney who specializes in labor and employment-based law.

Attorneys and business representatives were asked. *"mainly about the skepticism some have of the bill, saying it could be damaging to businesses, including added expenses for the mediation of more discrimination claims."*

"If you're treating them fairly and providing them equal opportunity, that is what creates a more hospitable business environment and leads to better business in general," said *Leigh Anne Benedic*, of the firm *Porter Wright Morris & Arthur, LLP*.

Steve Brown, of the real estate trade organization *Ohio Realtors*, was asked, *"How he and his colleagues would treat a 23-year-old man without any debt, who had been turned away by other realtors because of mere assumptions about the man."*

"I would love to have an opportunity to meet with this fellow," Brown said. *"Why? Well, it's good business, we're going to sell him a house, and he is going to be able to enter into that American dream."*

Opponents of the bill will have the opportunity to testify in a later committee hearing, but groups like *Citizens for Community Values (a "Hate Group" listed by the Southern Poverty Law Center, alongside neo-Nazi and white supremacist groups)* came out against the bill, and its companion bill in the *Senate*, as soon as it was introduced.

"Our message on this is simple, this bill is so devastating to families and businesses and ministries that it should never get another hearing again," said Aaron Baer, *"This bill should go nowhere."*

Baer says that it has had many hearings over its more than 10

year existence and the opposition to the bill has widely been reported on.

He says, the coverage of their grievances against the legislation has been so extensive lawmakers do not need to hear from them to know where they stand. However, he said opponents to the bill would be happy to share their opinions, *"anytime, anywhere."*

And that is what long-time champion *State Senator Nickie Antonio* wants. She says, the bill cannot address their grievances if they never get to share them. She also says, that further hearings in the House could put pressure on the Senate to continue to hold hearings on her bill on that side of the building.

Antonio's bill in the Senate has had three hearings this General Assembly, one of them only to make changes to the bill and not to hear testimony. As is the normal process, Antonio and her joint sponsor were given a hearing to explain the bill to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

A following hearing allowed for supporters of the bill to share their testimony with the committee, this hearing was closed to cameras that had not previously been approved by the chairman. Then work on the bill just stopped in the Senate. Opponents were never given a chance to tell lawmakers why it should not be turned into a law, and it has sat there in limbo ever since.

In the meantime, the bill was introduced by a bi-partisan duo of lawmakers in the Ohio House of Representatives who were also given an opportunity to explain the bill, this time to the House Civil Justice Committee.

As *Ohio's Family Policy Council, Citizens for Community Values* is a part of a national network of independent organizations who share a commitment to Gospel-centered principles. We are grateful to partner with these national organizations to protect religious freedom, build up families, and protect life: Dr. Dobson's *Focus on the Family*, the *Alliance Defending Freedom*, and the *Family Research Council. (All 'Hate' Groups, listed by the SPLC)*

Citizens for Community Values, whose Mission Statement is a Document of Theocratic Orwellian Newspeak:

"As Ohio's Family Policy Council, Citizens for Community Values seeks the good of our neighbors throughout Ohio by advocating for public policy that reflects the truth of the Gospel.

We believe in an all-powerful, all-knowing God and His perfect Word for us, the Bible. Through education, communication, partnerships and direct action, we reach citizens, churches and policy makers to protect and spread Judeo-Christian values which, by honoring God, benefit and guide our civic life.

We endeavor to create an Ohio where God's blessings of life, family, and religious freedom are treasured, respected, and protected"

CCV President Aaron Baer, (whom replace Group Founder, Phil Burress in 2016) called the House bill "the single greatest threat to religious freedom, parental rights, and the privacy and safety of women and children."

"Nobody wants to see somebody fired because they're gay, but the reality is that the proponents of the bill have still not demonstrated that we have this massive epidemic, actually they keep celebrating how many businesses have signed up to support this thing," said Baer. *"If so many businesses are saying we support this bill, they're clearly not discriminating; so where is the problem."*

TransOhio and *Equality Ohio* say the problem is real.

Citing a survey conducted by the *National Center for Transgender Equality*, 30% of transgender Ohioans who participated in the survey who held a job or applied for one in 2015 were fired, denied a promotion, or not offered a job because of their gender identity or expression.

The survey would go on to note that of the respondents who visited a place of public accommodation where the staff knew they were transgender, 32% experienced at least one type of mistreatment that year; about 16%

were denied service, nearly 26% were verbally harassed, and 1% were physically attacked.

Eleven year old **Sean Miller** doesn't want to be attacked. She wants to go to school and get good grades so she can get a good job, and not be denied that job or a promotion at it for excelling, because she is transgender.

In her testimony she asked the House lawmakers to protect her from bullies that would seek to treat her differently than someone else. **Democrat State Representative Tavia Galonski** was moved to tears by Miller's account of what happened to her; and told her so. None of the Republicans on the committee said a word to the child, other than **Chairman Rep. Stephen Hambley (Brunswick-R)** who dutifully, kept the hearing moving.

For **Sean Miller**, the **Ohio Fairness Act** is a long time coming, and the result of promises made to her and others in the **LGBTQ Ohio community** for years. **"The time for promising has passed,"** she said. **"Please act."**

The next steps in moving the **Ohio Fairness Act** forward through the State Legislature according to **Equality Ohio** will be:

A hearing for opposition testimony. If opposition testimony is given, then the committee will hear only from people who oppose **LGBTQ equality**. This is a normal part of the legislative process.

For the bill to be voted out of committee. If the bill is voted out of committee, then it can be considered for a floor vote by the entire Ohio Senate. **If it is voted out of the Ohio Senate, then the process repeats in the Ohio House.**

What you can Do to Help!



Help Move the Ohio Fairness Act Forward

Cleveland-Marshall College of Law
Feb 18, 6:30 PM

Equality Ohio and the **Human Rights Campaign** are partnering up to advocate for LGBTQ equality next week and we need your help!

It's still legal in Ohio to discriminate against people in the LGBTQ community. There's a bill, the **Ohio Fairness Act**, that will make that type of discrimination illegal. It's got bipartisan support in both the **Ohio House (HB369)** and **Ohio Senate (SB11)**. One of the most impactful tools we have is the power to drive phone calls to the legislators who can move this bill forward. This is why we need YOU to help us call Ohioans and connect them with their elected leaders. Please bring your phone and laptop with you, if you're able. We'll have a few available for folks to use. Our hope is that you will leave feeling empowered, and knowing you've made a difference.

Please register here: <https://secure.everyaction.com/r9RBTG3hckG48NpetGDYqA2>

If you are unable to make it, here's a link to register to join us virtually: <https://secure.everyaction.com/6YnzoEFF00CzkZi4hk90VQ2>.

We will be meeting at our office in Northeast Ohio, located on the first floor of **Cleveland Marshall College of Law (on the campus of Cleveland State University)** at 1801 Euclid Ave, Cleveland, OH 44115.

Enter the building on E. 18th Street. After you enter, our office is just to the right after the staircase. If you have questions or need directions that day, feel free to call or text Gio at 216-220-7116.

Most metered parking in downtown Cleveland is free on weekends and on weekdays after 6pm. There are also several pay lots available. For additional options, visit Cleveland State University's parking recommendations here: <https://www.csuohio.edu/parking/general-information-visitor-parking-information>

or visit <http://www.riderta.com/> to take the bus or train!

Additional Date will be Tuesday, March 3rd, at 6:30 PM

Medina split over LGBTQ protections

By Amanda Garrett, Akron Beacon Journal

In 2018, the year Medina turned 200 years old, its City Council began debating whether to extend the city's anti-discrimination laws to protect the LGBTQ community.

"I was so anxious," Sarah Hoag said last week, remembering how she and her mother crowded into the City Hall rotunda with about 150 others a year later to watch the final vote.

Hoag, who had just graduated from high school, carried a magenta, lavender and royal blue flag symbolizing her own bisexuality. Her mom carried a rainbow flag to support her daughter.

Council passed two ordinances that day in July 2019 prohibiting intimidation or discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, making Medina only the 25th community in Ohio to adopt such protections.

"This was history in the making," Hoag said Friday. **"When I turned and looked at my mom that day, she was crying."**

Since then, there have been a series of efforts to overturn one of the ordinances, the one aimed at protecting LGBTQ people from discrimination at work, in matters of housing and in public accommodations, which can include everything from restaurants and public parks to bus service and medical offices.

At least three men who opposed the ordinance, including a **former chair of the Medina County Republican Party**, ran for City Council, challenging council members who backed the LGBTQ measure and vowing to overturn it.

And last week, a group of Medina residents backed by the **Akron-based Ohio Christian Alliance** asked the **Ohio Supreme Court** to let them put the issue up for a citywide vote because they believe most of Medina's 26,000-plus residents would overturn the anti-discrimination measure if given a chance.

Marie Nauth, a widow in her 70s, is the lead plaintiff in the Supreme Court case. She lives in a tidy house on the northern end of Medina next door to **Luke Lindon**, the senior pastor at the **United Church of Christ Congregational**, who is among the leading supporters of the LGBTQ ordinance.

Last week, **Nauth** gushed over what a beautiful family **Lindon** and his wife have. And when it snowed Friday, **Lindon** didn't hesitate to volunteer, as usual, to shovel **Nauth's** sidewalk.

But when it comes to the LGBTQ issue, these Christian neighbors are at loggerheads.

"What about Sodom and Gomorrah?" Nauth asked, referring to the Bible story where God destroys two ancient cities because of their sinful ways.

Nauth believes and she said, **"the pastor of her nondenominational church confirmed, God unleashed his wrath on Sodom and Gomorrah because of homosexuality. That's the meaning behind "Sodom" and "sodomites,"** she said.

But Lindon said, **"that's a common misinterpretation. There is no word in biblical Greek or Hebrew for "homosexual" and "homosexual" didn't appear in any version of a Bible translation until 1946."**

"Sodomites were simply residents of Sodom. And the sin they were punished for had nothing to do with LGBTQ issues, he said, but with a lack of hospitality, which was sinful."

"They were destroyed for their wickedness and inhospitality to their neighbors," Lindon said.

Nauth said she also believes the Medina LGBTQ anti-discrimination ordinance is wrong **"because it gives special rights"** to LGBTQ people. **(I**

would ask her how, treating me like a decent Human Being is a 'Special Right?')

Lindon, who points out he has supported the LGBTQ ordinance personally, not representing his church, said, "the measure only provides equal rights."

"In the 1960s, we barred biracial marriages, we barred black people from renting, and those were not the right things to do," Lindon said. "What [the LGBTQ ordinance] boils down to for me is how we love our neighbor."

How did we get here? **Sandy Vardell** said her son came out as trans, or transgender, a person whose identity and gender does not correspond with their birth sex, in 2012 when he was a student at **Medina High School**.

The Vardells had lots of questions and, at the time, there was no source of information or support for LGBTQ people or their families or loved ones in Medina, so **Vardell** founded **Out Support in 2013**. Since then, more than 500 people have been part of their support groups.

"There was a steep learning curve," Vardell said. "One of the things I learned along the way is that LGBTQ people can be fired simply for being who they are. They can also be evicted from their home or not served in a public place. And I just thought that was wrong and is wrong and continues to be wrong."

But she didn't know how to fix it until 2015 when her group set up a table at a job fair next to a table run by **Equality Ohio**, a nonprofit pushing for state and local LGBTQ rights. **Vardell** found out **Akron** and most of **Ohio's largest cities** and **college towns** had already worked with **Equality Ohio** and passed local anti-discrimination laws protecting the LGBTQ community.

"It dawned on me that maybe Medina could do something like this," Vardell said.

Vardell began talking to city leaders and rallying support.

Medina City Council began debating the legislation during the summer 2018 and approved the measures in July 2019.

In a compromise worked out before the vote, religious institutions — like churches and schools — were exempted from the Medina anti-discrimination law after some church leaders said the law could force them to violate their beliefs.

Immediate backlash

Within days of the ordinances passing, the conservative **Ohio Christian Alliance (OCA)** said a Medina citizens committee opposed to the legislation was considering filing a referendum to force the anti-discrimination ordinance onto the November ballot for a citywide vote.

OCA President Christopher R. Long at the time also threatened City Council members who voted in favor of the ordinances saying they would pay a political price.

"There's going to be a challenger to every one of those candidates," Long told **The Medina Gazette**.

A group calling itself **Concerned Citizens of Medina**, with support from the **OCA**, quickly assembled about 50 volunteers to gather 983 voter signatures to put the LGBTQ rights issue on the ballot.

Marie Nauth was among them. She said the group knocked on doors and stood outside churches, where some pastors encouraged people to sign the petitions. The **Concerned Citizens** lied telling, "the community the LGBTQ ordinance would force Medina City Schools to allow transgender students to enter restrooms, locker rooms and showers of the opposite sex."

It wasn't true. **Medina School Superintendent Aaron Sable** last week said, "the schools haven't changed any policies since the LGBTQ ordinance passed."

Within a month, **Concerned Citizens**, with the backing of **OCA**, turned in 1,173 signatures to officials, believing that was enough to put the LGBTQ measure to a citywide vote. **The Medina County Board of Elections later determined that only 939 signatures were valid, falling short of the 983 required.**

Meanwhile, three men opposed to the LGBTQ ordinances filed paperwork to run against three council members who supported the measures.

Medina Ward 3 Councilman Eric Heffingera, Wadsworth High School teacher who had been very vocal about the need for Medina to support its LGBTQ community said, "He planned to run on the creation of an arts district on the south side of Medina and the ongoing battle over how to rework the historic courthouses on Medina's town square."

But that changed when his challenger, former **Medina County Commissioner Adam Friedrich**, decided to make the race all about a single issue, Heffingera said.

"The recent LGBT ordinance is contrary to the will of the residents of Medina and bad for business," Friedrich told **Cleveland.com** in the run-up to the election.

Friedrich and two other candidates who vowed to overturn the LGBTQ ordinance all lost in November.

But **Concerned Citizens** and the **OCA**, which has since launched an effort to overturn a new LGBTQ anti-discrimination laws passed in the **Columbus suburb of Westerville**, hadn't given up in **Medina**.

After filing a public records request, the group learned which petition signatures the county **Board of Elections** had determined were invalid. The group then gathered sworn statements from those petition signers to verify who they were and that their signatures should be valid.

The **Concerned Citizens** and **OCA** appealed to the **Medina County Board of Elections** and to the **Ohio Secretary of State Office**, which oversees elections. The board of elections did not change its decision. Officials last week declined to comment because of pending legal action over the petitions.

A spokeswoman for **Secretary of State Frank LaRose** said Friday, "That his office does not have authority to supersede the county's decision and informed OCA's Long that he, like anyone else, could challenge the matter in court."

On Feb 3, **Concerned Citizens**, led by **Nauth** and backed by the **OCA**, filed legal action asking the **Ohio Supreme Court** to intervene. "We believe it's our constitutional right to vote," Nauth said last week.

Both sides confident People on both sides of the LGBTQ issue last week said their side would win if the ordinance ever makes it to a citywide election ballot.

"I'm confident because a lot of people didn't know council even passed this," Nauth said of the ordinance, which passed in July after a year of public debate, rallies and stories in the local newspaper. (Even though No One should be able to Vote of the Right of their Fellow Citizens. It's Un-American!)

Sandy Vardell, who launched the LGBTQ equality effort, said last week that voters have already decided.

"In a way, with the City Council races in November, it's already been on ballot," Vardell said. "Everyone who wanted to overturn the LGBTQ ordinance was defeated."

Sarah Hoag, now a freshman at the **Columbus College of Art & Design**, is watching what happens in her hometown from afar.

No one has filed a complaint yet under the LGBTQ laws in Medina, but Hoag wants the protections to continue.

"I want to come back to Medina and feel safe," Hoag said Friday. "I always feel safe with my family, but in Columbus, when you're walking down the street, no one cares if you are [LGBTQ]. That's what I want for Medina."

Cyclops



ASK THE MAN WHO READS ONE

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS: First of all, a very Happy New Year to my faithful readers and thanks for all the small change you donated to my bail fund! I had been falsely arrested for shoplifting *les bijoux pour les pipes* at Cartier's in Biarritz. Truly, I was just comparison shopping for Dean Rufus' House of Fun. Deliciously, the ring had been installed on a dream of a security guard and I was caught hot handed and given a sham trial where I was allowed no witnesses, no testimony, and no evidence; just breakfast and believe me, the croissants are better in Lakewood at the Blackberry Bakery! Later, there was a surprise guest appearance in court by the security guard who had been unable to remove that lovely hunk of jewelry. Naturally, he caused a sensation in the courtroom. During the ensuing melee, punctuated by screams of "Vive les Republicains!", he and I were able to slip away for a very passionate and painful adieu during which I got the ring off. I hate squealers!

Home again, totally spent, I've been catching up on my post and E-mails, one of which was from those earnest ladies at Loganberry Books on Larchmere in Shaker Heights. They're enthused because ghastly January the month of snow and ice, illness, deaths, Trump amok, Moscow Mitch defiantly amok-er, not to exclude Jim Jordan, that loud, off-key, one-man marching band from the Firelands, at last has past. It's February and the Loganberries are very excited that we have nearly an hour more daylight, and it's being leap year, an extra day in the month. What better way to utilize this near-awakening than to read. So, this year, what are we and our friends reading during hibernation season? We must glance back, a year or so ago.

A fine fall morning, my friend Clint Rohrbacher and I were having one of our days together scavenging old book stores for treasures long sought, as well as unknown pleasures awaiting our discovery. We happened upon a new, large source in Kent, Ohio. As a long cultivated habit, dating back to professional days, I often head straight to the cookery section for cook books and books of food literature, especially by the woman I consider peerless in the field, the English Elizabeth David, CBE. Starting back in the nineteen fifties, many educated American foodies, returning from Europe, tucked into their luggage those Penguin, paperback reprints of Elizabeth David's cook books. Domiciled in our kitchens here, these books with their taste, erudition, and surprising simplicity took on an almost biblical importance. David's books are rarely shared or sold. I've always fancied that upon an owner's untimely demise, they will be collected together, their old Saran wrap protections peeled away and rubber bands discarded, then their well splattered pages dropped into boiling water which would produce delicious broth, highly protein indeed. Others of us might simply and quietly, but not too inconspicuously, shelve Mrs. David's books their whereabouts amply confirmed by a host or hostess' producing for guests superlative French or Italian in her straightforward, tasteful style.

Happening on an original Elizabeth David cookbook or cookery book is a major event. The latter, mostly collected essays and reprints of her publications in newspapers and magazines are a great introduction to her writing, similar to the essays and criticisms of Virginia Woolf, if not in Woolf's unique style, but similar in their intelligence. This past month of dreaded January, I took off my shelves a well thumbed copy of her *An Omelette and a Glass of Wine* (London, Hale, 1984) now, newly reissued, in trade paperback, by the Connecticut publisher Lyons Press. Topically, runs the gamut from French country inns, provincial markets, Armenian pizza, wild asparagus, and intensive shellfish lore, to reminiscences of the famous, one of

them, Norman Douglas, a great personal friend and lifestyle mentor of David, and author of the hilarious, wicked novel *South Wind*, a favorite of mine and of Virginia Woolf, who highly praised its timeless inevitability, a novel which she insisted long deserved to be written but awaited Norman Douglas to write it.

Here gentle reader is a perfect example of what one might consider the essence of addictive and vindictive pose, give or take an art historian or two, like Anthony Blunt, or one of those damned Yankees always writing in botanical metaphors about the flowering and/or abscission on their home turf, authors who lead us imperatively to other writers, other books, and lives devoted to reinforcing and extending our own perilously sagging bookshelves. Clint lovingly refers to such writers as diggers of rabbit holes. A-men. I have spoken; so let it be written; so let it be Donne.

Not surprisingly, the culinary cupboard of the Kent bookstore was bereft of Elizabeth David, or many other serious culinary writers such as James Oseland, Jane Grigson, Peter Reinhardt, Rosemary Brissenden, David Thompson, Paula Wolfert, or Elizabeth Luard. For the most part, these are in contrast to the current crop of pop-culture culinary scribes who market food fads *du jour*, expensive equipment, costly exotic ingredients, bare feet (terribly dangerous in the kitchen), and proffer instead a battery of instantly discarded food hints to produce a sort of tabloid, mock-cuisine. With a few exceptions, most of the books by these aforementioned writers are keepers, much used and seldom discarded.

And so, one moves on to the Biography Section where for some time now, the best of lot has been dominated by and about English women: Victoria Glendinning, *Vita* (Sackville West), *Elizabeth Bowen*; *Hermione Lee*, *Virginia Woolf*, *Penelope Fitzgerald a Life*; and *Antonia Fraiser* who covers just about everybody else with a title, great acting chops, money, suspect LGBT, or beheaded and/or disemboweled. So, it was an important moment to find a major biography of a man named Patrick Leigh Fermor, a fascinating person of whom I was completely ignorant and in the ensuing year became a literary boon companion. What drew me to this fine volume was a seal on the cover which announced that it had won the Costa Award which is the biography equivalent of the very prestigious Man Booker Prize for fiction written in the English language, similar to our Pulitzer Prizes. Called *Michael Lee Fermor* (London, 2012), it is written by Artemis Cooper, related to the celebrated Duff and Diana Cooper, a relationship which she does not use as a marketing device, and also, the author of *Writing at the Kitchen Table* (New York, 2000), the authorized biography of Elizabeth David. The Fermor bio is rich in detail and inspiration; a very enthralling read.

"Paddy" Fermor, upper class Englishman of Irish descent, decidedly no intellectual sluggard, by 1934, at the age of eighteen, was fed up with school discipline and regulations, so he embarked on a "walk" from the Hook of Holland, where the ferry from England puts in to the continent just north of Rotterdam, all the way to Constantinople, now Istanbul. The English, as I have well learned, positively dote on long excursions by foot. W.H. Hudson, in *Afoot in England*, wrote a charming personal account of this activity better enjoyed by me from a wing chair with a soothing libation at hand. Some years ago, in England, on the morning of my godsons' wedding, his entire family dragged me out of a comfortable, warm bed for a banger, porridge, and tea, followed by a three-hour trudge through the weeds of Botsford Field where loosing his famous battle, nasty, hunchbacked Richard III offered his kingdom for a horse, and died during the haggling, thus ending The War of the Roses. I personally would have bought a dozen or so of Mrs. Miniver's roses for anyone kind enough to have lent me a camp chair or shooting stick during this carry-on. Now, back to young Fermor's monumental stroll into history.

Fermor's journey, which, despite its bringing him fame and immortality, still remains to me, a singular case of overkill. It took over two years, proceeding from Holland through Germany, Austria, Hungary, and southward through Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, thence westward into Greece. Aided with regular letters of credit and money sent *poste restante* from England to prearranged cities and towns along his planned route. Using letters of

introduction from home and extended for him along the way by charmed hosts and hostesses, Fermor made his way usually in adequate comfort and safety even during this perilous time of influential growth of the Nazis. His incredible instinct for learning a plethora of eastern European languages and their derivations, as well as the historic and social mores of so many diverse countries are amazingly detailed in three books got out of this unique journey: *A Time of Gifts*, *Between the Woods and the Water*, and *The Broken Road (From the Iron Gates to Mount Athos)*. The last of this trilogy was assembled and written by Fermor's editor and his biographer out of a large carton of hastily jotted notes, scrap pages, and other assorted memorabilia and detritus. Miraculously, the resulting text sounds uncannily like Fermor's own writing.

During World War Two, Fermor, as part of an Anglo-Irish brigade, was stationed on Nazi occupied Crete, an officer of an underground allied commando group. His wide range of dangerous operations even included engineering the kidnapping of Crete's German commandant and spiriting him off the island to British confinement in Egypt. (This episode has been recreated in the film *Ill Met by Moonlight* with the popular film star Dirk Bogard portraying Fermor.) Incidentally after the war Fermor and the general became socially reunited. These exploits are also gathered together in *The Cretan Runner*, a story of the German occupation of the island by George Psychoundakis. Written in Cretan dialect Greek, the book has been translated by Fermor, quite modestly adding only a few informative, explanatory footnotes of his own. The voice remains that of the author.

Fermor has further written two landmark books about travel, life, and culture in the Peloponnese,

Mani and Roumeli, which are arguably, his most important works, delving deeply into the history, life, art, flora, fauna, and culture of Greek people in remote areas. His work, *The Traveler's Tree* deals with visits to Caribbean islands of mixed national colonial cultures with sympathy and honesty. A newly found work, *A Time to Keep Silence*, deals with visits to and the challenges of living within three entirely disparate monastic communities. Not unexpectedly, this book is serene and moving reportage.

In his heyday, Patrick Leigh Fermore, was possessed of striking physical beauty, a wide ranging intellect, enormous social *savoir faire*, great military fame, money, a knighthood, and hopefully, a great streak of the genuine in a lifetime of such diverse experience. The British lionize their warrior gods, Fermor, modestly among them. Women and men all sought him. He has become a fashionable version of T.E. Lawrence. I really doubt that he had a truly deep interest in being quite so chic; yet he handled all the fuss with his customary aplomb. He married late in life to a fairly indestructible and highly inspirational woman named Joan Rayner.

I once knew a Joan too: Canadian born and widely traveled, my Joan lived in Worthington, now suburban Columbus, Ohio in a reasonably avant-garde house, designed by a dreadfully boring architect and self-proclaimed disciple of Frank Lloyd Wright, which I rented after Joan had moved to France. A few months later, a rather obsequious and fussy little woman who knew me only from my two weekly food broadcasts on a local PBS radio station, came up to me at a little alfresco wine and cheese party and croaked: "Yew live in Joan Rongieras' house out with those weirdos in Rush Creek! Yew know, I can't imagine why anyone would leave Columbus, Ohio to go live in Paris" Not as tactful and lovable as I am these days, I replied: "Probably to get away from people like you." Both the aforementioned Joans were adored, each an inspiration, mine despite a few otherwise maddening moments. Every man of discrimination should be lucky enough have had a Joan! *Sic transit or whatever. Enter Deborah Mitford!*~

Last Christmas my friend Clint gifted me with the latest installment, or shall we say, the most recent layer of the Paddy Cake. It is called rather preciously *In Tearing Haste* and is a volume of letters between Deborah, Duchess of Devonshire and P.L.F., edited by Charlotte Mosley (nee Mitford too!). That's a lot of Chatsworth! It is said, hopefully, to inform the End of an Era! Naturally Fermor is the dominant correspondent, the Duchess, she is the one in the most tearing haste. It is published by the miraculous new

press operated by the *New York Review of Books*, which seems gung-ho on bringing literature back to life. God love 'em; they're heavily into the Fermor oeuvre and even have published two seminal cook books by Elizabeth David whose writing is quite as delicious as her cuisine. The two are *Mediterranean Food* which caused a sensation in 1950 when it was first published and wartime rationing was still on in Great Britain and most of the ingredients were unavailable to her salivating readers. The other book is *Summer Cooking*, an absolute delight in any season.

Now, who else is reading what? Bob Kirsop, a subscriber to the *Cook's International Timetables* collects data of every country. Preferring a generation ahead of Fermor, but not too far, he is a great fan of humorist P.G. Wodehouse. He has recently passed on to me *The Case of the Purloined Paperweight*. I, in turn, have passed on to him a rare comedy by Lawrence Durrell, *Antrobus Complete*, high jinks and low in the British Foreign Service. At the moment, as the result of a daytime fall outside the Map of Thailand restaurant, he is spending time in the Beachwood (Sic.) Sports Injury and Rehab. Hospital of the Cleveland Clinic taking restorative physical exercise, possibly at bayonet point! Our hearts go out to all involved.

A quick glance at the dining room sideboard *chez* The Craftsman reveals a fascinating new biography of Denis Diderot, the 18th-century French philosopher, encyclopedist, novelist, and man of scientific inquiry. In his spare time Diderot managed to be an active enthusiast of the English Enlightenment, in France, a definite *non-non*. So he was forced to live by his wits and of wit, he had plenty. I have also seen there a History of Movie Musicals on that sideboard. Separating the grain from the chaff in that genre can be a tough job, as it always seems to have begun probably before *The Broadway Melody* thudded its weary way across a stretched bed sheet. The Craftsman also probably knows more about contemporary cinema than any other bright soul, but I'm still skeptical about musicals and him. Still, he never fails to amaze. I recently gifted him with a ridiculous Joan Crawford/Warner Brothers angst epic called *Humoresque* in which sad, excessively rich, myopic Joan is trying to push a young violinist (John Garfield) onto the Posturepedic as well as center stage at Carnegie Hall (Actually, Hieftz does most of the sawing while Oscar Levant cracks jokes about the rest of the cast.) However, Garfield's a workaholic genius bound for glory; Joan's an alcoholic bound for the bottom of Long Island Sound.) When I asked the Craftsman how he liked the film, his report was as professional as an editorial in *Cahiers du Cinema*. Camp be damned! This man delivers. Bye-the-bye, his old system of awarding wrist watches to films instead of stars has changed. In these dark, socio-fixated times, he awards coat hangers, one to four! It's fascinating to speculate how much of this Diderot would pull off the sideboard and bring to the table. I'm certain the Craftsman could cope handily. Recently, the Craftsman purchased one of those new jumbo-sized, Ninja-type does-it-all pressure cookers which claim that one can remain at work and still whip up anything from *boeuf bourguignon* to an atom bomb, merely at the turn of the timer and the flicks of a couple of switches. It all comes with a small stack of Martha Stewart-y looking cook books full of trendy ideas to keep your family and friends guessing. Caveat: don't dawdle on the way home. Fortuitously, the Craftsman lives within staggering distance of a Trauma Center and, like myself, seldom steps out without reading material.

The bulk of my friend Clint's literary gleanings of late centers about an impressive, well researched volume by the pop culture critic Mark Dery entitled *Born to Be Posthumous, the Eccentric Life and Mysterious Genius of Edward Gorey* (New York, Boston, Little, Brown, 2018). By the late 1950's, Chicago-born, Harvard educated Edward Gorey, was noted as one of New York's most elegant reigning eccentrics (A patron of the New York City Ballet, he attended performances in white tie, tails, and white Keds sneakers!). Gorey soon reached beyond the Hudson river to achieve a ghoulish renown in the Boonies. With national distribution of his ghastly little books,

horror stories about tiny children faced, alone, without parental supervision, unknowingly with fatal dangers; completely innocent and unawares of the fates awaiting them. Such plots and themes, beastly yet embarrassingly hilarious, were illustrated by Gorey himself in a style which combined the Victorian lithographic bleakness of soap wrappings with the morbid exoticism of Aubrey Beardsley. The books, eagerly awaited and devoured by a cynical public, created a minor sensation and still do.

Although he never actually visited England, except for one brief stopover en route to the Continent, Gorey appeared the perfect anglophile. His literary and lifestyle inspiration was Ronald Firbank, "Queen" of London's homosexual elite, called by many the Precious Things. One of the many hilarious Firbank legends, perhaps apocryphal, involves a group of these rarefied creatures lunching in the Grille of London's Savoy Hotel. Firbank ordered only a single pea! When the dome was lifted from the plate containing just one little green pea. Firbank swallowed the wee thing, pronounced it perfection, then, in total ecstasy, swooned and, unconscious, had to be carried from the room before a large assemblage of incredulous London.

Firbank's behavior at the Savoy is medically explained by Gorey's biographer as an attack of hyper-aesthesia, with complications, said to strike down doughty old dowagers, built like Vuitton steamer trunks, and usually flaunting cultural pretensions, founded upon the coming true of eighty-year-old dreams of finding the missing arms of the Aphrodite of Milos, during an Aegean cruise, while on Mykonos, poking some old compost heap on the nude beach, or eating Dover sole *meuniere* for the first time, like Meryl as Julia, or getting laid by someone who looks exactly like Patrick Lee Fermor.

If one wants a closer look at Edward Gorey's adorable little nasties, they have all been gathered together into three omnibus anthologies: *Amphigorey*, *Amphigorey Too*, and *Amphigorey Also* – where one might thrill to the likes of "The Blue Aspic", "The Gashlycrumb Tinies" (one should memorize them), "The Willowdale Handcar" (propelled by little school children into a deserted railway tunnel from which they never emerge again), "The Gilded Bat" the wretched life and death of a prima ballerina, especially by one who dances in red shoes, or white Keds.), "The Glorious Nosebleed", "The Curious Sofa", and worst of all, "The Hapless Child" (A millionaire's little girl is kidnapped by Gypsies and forced into a life of street begging and petty crime. A few years later, aged ahead of her time by her awful life, she is run over by her father's limousine on Christmas Eve. The little corpse has changed so much, the father does not recognize her. He drives on!) We roared with laughter.

Gorey, in death, has become a cottage industry. In addition to the anthologies one can buy calendars, greeting cards, Tee-shirts, mugs, prints, ball caps, wrapping paper, aprons, tote bags plaques, coasters.....you name it. The beneficiary from the sale of all this junk is an eponymous Edward Gorey Charity Foundation, or some-such; his shade's laughing all the way to the blood bank.

I respect my friend's judgment that Mr. Dery has done a fine job in his book which is next on my must-read agenda. Literary skill will always transcend the topic if the real talent is there. My problem is that way, way back in my salad days, I was an enormous fan of Edward Gorey and his ghastly output, I roared, I cheered, I bought.

In the last fifty or more years, our nation has changed. American Society today is almost equally polarized into two spheres, one of which might think that Gorey's work is just jim-dandy and high camp. The other, horrified by a law and Constitution defying autocrat and his mob like cult members who rip little children from their parents and place them in cages because their skin is off-white and they don't speak English *too good*, if at all. Well folks, my sphere, the other one, doesn't think that the autocrat's cult doesn't speak English *too good* either and today, cruelty to little ones, either being gunned down in a classroom or bullied on the internet, is no longer

funny. Cynicism is slowly taking over. Ignorance is bliss to the autocrat and his mob. Reading is something the autocrat's cult is terribly against; unprejudiced thought is the mortal enemy of these godless bigots many of whom are masquerade as disciples of Jesus Christ, to their utter shame and probable damnation. Dealing with the autocrat is like trying to expel a square turd, painful but do-able. Perhaps a good dose of Edward Gorey might help, even those of us who have outlived him and his work.

Ending my annual Reading Survey with a more controversial premise. Sudanese writer Tayeb Salih's fascinating *Season of Migration to the North*, has been called the most important Arab novel of the twentieth century. It is the tragic story of an Afro-Islamic man transplanted to and from an agrarian life of complex tradition into sophisticated London where his striking physical exoticism and sexual mores prove irresistibly fatal to the insatiable appetites of women there, and in turn prove ruinous to the man's soul. It is a vivid glimpse into an unusual cultural despair. The moral is that if one migrates, change the new landscape or perish. Although I am no specialist in Arabic, the translation into English by Laila Lalami preserves a beautiful cadence which makes this a fascinating, lyrical read, but for the tough minded only. It's yet another treasure from the *New York Review of Books* Press.

A very pleasant announcement from M.O.C.A., the Museum of Contemporary Art, the imposing black glass structure on Euclid Avenue at the foot of Mayfield Road which looks like an enormous escape module from *Star Wars* has announced a new policy of NO admission charge.

And finally, the big Nigerian tree happening has departed the Atrium at the Cleveland Museum of Art, and the very popular piece of mind candy *Michelangelo: Mind of the Master* has been clicked back into its PhD candidate's computer files; gone but decidedly not forgotten. I'm going to miss the joyous screams of the kids lolling on those marvelous cushions all over the Atrium floor, or barricading their fathers with more seating and lots more cushions. I still cringe remembering the mortifying grunts and groans of security guards hauling me out of the cushions and back onto my feet after a brief post-luncheon snooze. There was also a wonderfully silly rumor circulating that the recorded Nigerian folk songs accompanying all the fun contained some lyrics that in English would be termed risqué. Actually, over the years my commands of both Nigerian languages, Yoruba and Igbo have grown rather rusty, so you can't prove it by me.

Also continuing in the little gallery across from the Museum Shop is the twinkling collection of beautiful Tiffany glass lamps, plus a marvelous illuminated window. Usually ignored, the lamp bases of various metals are a wonder in themselves, equally important as the shades on genuine Tiffany lamps. Visitors love this colorful array. Highly popular!

But things at C.M.A. get better and better. The atrium has a new attraction, deliciously unobtrusive, just adjacent to the bamboo alley. It's the marvelous Snowman. He's about twelve feet high, so welcoming, so charming and grinning, enclosed in a glass-sided refrigerator with its own cooling system to keep him properly frozen and a misting system to keep him appropriately portly. On entering the museum from the Wade Oval. some of his fans even race past the marvelous Susan at the reception and validation desk to see how the Big Guy is faring. He is on loan until June, but there is a growing groundswell to keep him here permanently. In the true spirit of Cleveland philanthropy, I might even start the rumor that inside the Snowman are the exhumed remains of Leonard Hanna, Jr.

Keep twinkling **CY**

March 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	30	31				

- March 1 ~ "National Pig Day," Celebrate your Inner Piggy *wink, wink
- March 3 ~ "Equality Ohio & Human Rights Campaign Phone Banking," Cleveland State Marshall Law School, 6:30 PM
- March 5 ~ "Interfaith Prayer Vigil for Immigrants," Anthony J. Celebreeze Federal Building, Cleveland OH 4 PM
- March 7 ~ "Mr. Cleveland Bear's Gear Night," Leather Stallion Saloon, 9PM
- March 9 ~ "International Panic Day," Do Not Forget Your Towel
- March 13/15 ~ "Spearhead's 50th Anniversary Celebration," Toronto, Ontario, Canada *See Jack for Registration Papers
- March 14 ~ "National Steak and Blow Job Day," Give your man some Meat and a Treat!
- March 14 ~ "R&J Leather's Cleveland Bear Contest," Leather Stallion Saloon, 9 PM
- March 15 ~ "Rangers' 31st Anniversary Party," Leather Stallion Saloon, 4 PM - 9 PM
- March 17 ~ "Ohio Primary Day," Remember to Vote Early and Often!
- March 17 ~ "Saint Patrick's Day," Parade Downtown Cleveland, 12 Noon
- March 17 ~ "Dennis Sherrill's Birthday," Me personal Leprechaun, He's magically Delicious!
- March 20 ~ "International Earth Day," Recycle we have only one Earth!
- March 21 ~ "Polar Bear Ride," Rock n Roll City Harley-Davidson, Cleveland OH, 10 AM - 3 PM
- March 21 ~ "Dark Dance ~ Leather Invasion," Interbelt Nite Club, Akron OH
- March 21 ~ "Mike Samolis' Birthday"
- March 22 ~ "Unicorn Monthly Meeting," Leather Stallion Saloon's Clubroom, 6 PM
- March 23 ~ "National Puppy Day," Who's a Good Boy?
- March 24 ~ "Jim Broginski's Birthday"

Is Your Event Listed here? Why Not?
Submit them to editor.unicornhorn@gmail.com
Deadline is the 15th of each Month prior to your event!

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