



Volume 23, Issue 7
July 2023

Happy
4th of
July

www.GayDayton.org

Map
Events
Articles
Calendar

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MJ's
on jefferson

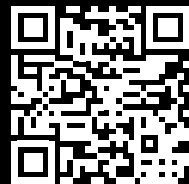


20 N Jefferson St - Dayton, OH - 45402
Phone (937) 223-7340

Open Daily @ 3 pm ~ 2:30 am



Beer Menu



Bourbon Menu

Calendar of Events

Jul. 03, 2023	7:00 PM	LGBTQ AA Meeting	Center
Jul. 03, 2023	7:00 PM	SOAR-Survivors Overcoming Assault and Rape	Center
Jul. 04, 2023		Independence Day	
Jul. 04, 2023	6:00 PM	Men's Dining	Spaghetti Warehouse
Jul. 06, 2023	6:00 PM	LGBT Center Board Meeting	Center
Jul. 06, 2023	7:00 PM	Yoga at the Center	Center
Jul. 08, 2023	Noon	Dayton Black Pride	McIntosh Park
Jul. 10, 2023	7:00 PM	LGBTQ AA Meeting	Center
Jul. 11, 2023	6:00 PM	Men's Dining	Spaghetti Warehouse
Jul. 11, 2023	7:00 PM	PFLAG Monthly Meeting	Library
Jul. 14, 2023		International Non-Binary People's Day	
Jul. 12, 2023	7:00 PM	Pozitive Attitudes	Center
Jul. 13, 2023	7:00 PM	Yoga at the Center	Center
Jul. 17, 2023	7:00 PM	LGBTQ AA Meeting	Center
Jul. 18, 2023	6:00 PM	Men's Dining	Spaghetti Warehouse
Jul. 18, 2023	7:00 PM	Gatlyn Dame Group	Center
Jul. 20, 2023	7:00 PM	Yoga at the Center	Center
Jul. 24, 2023	7:00 PM	LGBTQ AA Meeting	Center
Jul. 25, 2023	6:00 PM	Men's Dining	Spaghetti Warehouse
Jul. 26, 2023	7:00 PM	Pozitive Attitudes	Center
Jul. 27, 2023	7:00 PM	Yoga at the Center	Center
Jul. 31, 2023	7:00 PM	LGBTQ AA Meeting	Center

Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen. **Winston Churchill**

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Book Reviews

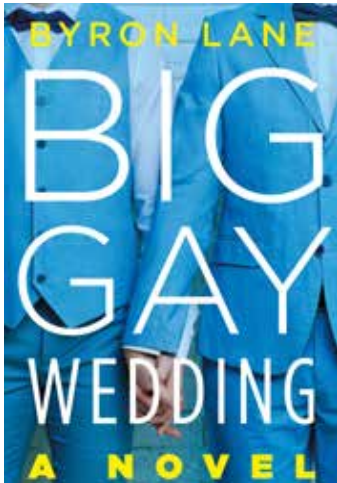
by: Terri Schlichenmeyer

aka: "The Book Worm"

bookwormsez@yahoo.com

"Big Gay Wedding" by Byron Lane
\$26.99

c.2023, Holt
336 pages



Few things are cast in stone. Which means that you've usually got time to change your mind. Do a little research, listen to other voices, get educated, think about things, and pivot. No one will criticize; you may, in fact, be commended for your new open-mindedness. As in the new book, "**Big Gay Wedding**" by **Byron Lane**, you might like the new outlook, too.

Chrissy Durang, "Farmer Mom" and owner of the Polite Society Ranch near New Orleans, checked two things off a list in her notebook.

The school bus filled with noisy children arrived for their tour of the ranch, check. Barnett should be arriving later, check.

Thirty-four-year-old Barnett was the light in Chrissy's world, her son, her only child, the near-exact image of his late father. She was excited for his homecoming; surely, Barnett was flying from California to tell her he was ready to take over the ranch now, take care of the animals, take care of her. Instead, not long after he arrived, Barnett dropped a bombshell about "The Big Thing" that they never discussed: he was engaged. To be married. To another man. And he wanted to do it there in Mader, at Polite Society Ranch.

Chrissy could think of a million things she didn't like about Barnett's intended, Ezra, and they all went into her notebook. Hair a mess, check. Controlling, check. Butt-kisser, check. Dream-killer, check. And *yet*, Barnett loved Ezra. It'd been a long time since Chrissy'd seen her son this happy.

She talked to her priest about the situation, but he disappointed her in a terrible way. It was clear that her father-in-law, Paw-Paw, was supportive of Barnett and Ezra, which was no surprise; Barnett was always Paw-Paw's favorite. Chrissy didn't have many friends in her small Louisiana town, but she was absolutely sure of three things: nobody would approve of any sort of gay nuptials, Ezra's family was downright *weird*, and everybody in Mader would blame her for what was about to happen...

At face value, the story inside "Big Gay Wedding" seems awfully familiar: homophobic mom, gay son, wedding, Kumbaya moment, the end. Keep thinking that, though, and you'll miss one truly wonderful novel.

From the parapsydokian sentences to the Misfit Toys cast of characters, author Byron Lane takes readers from a deep dive into a box of tissues to a good snorting belly laugh, often in the same paragraph. So many unexpected, delightful things occur inside this story, in fact, that you may become disappointed when something conventional occurs.

Which it does, often enough.

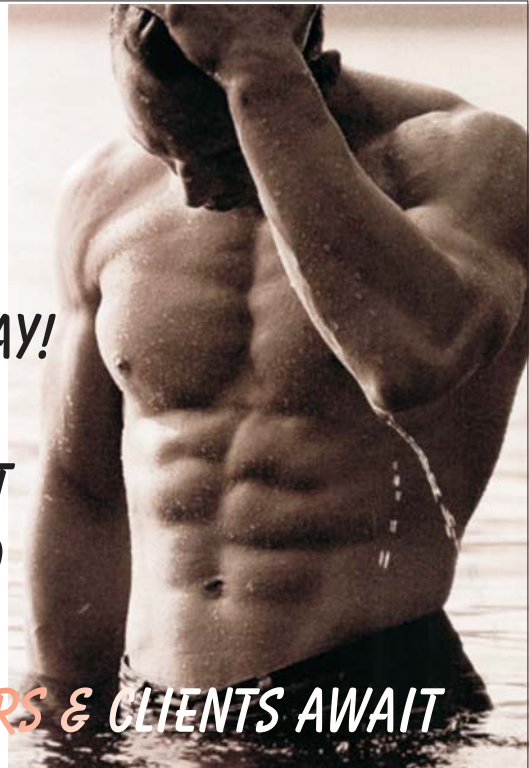
Gay bashing, protesters, haters, misunderstanding, it's-a-phase thinking, all the bad old tropes show up in this story, alas. Still, readers will be happy to know that they're dealt with properly, just as you'd expect from a prissy mother, an alcoholic society matron, two men wild in love, a light-fingered grandfather, and a dying sheep named Elaine.

Summer is always a time for weddings, and it's a great time to enjoy this sweet, funny, excellent novel. Simply, "Big Gay Wedding" rocks.

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An Ode To Light and Dark

by True Hoffman

I'd like to take a moment just to think about some things. How come the dark can capture light? It's always bent my brain. When you switch a lamp off, it all seems cold and strange. And if you turn the lamp back on, light captures dark the same.

When I was young, I'd always wonder where the moon would go, as the sun would take its place and befriend me with a glow. What slept behind the curvature of earth and stars beyond? Would I solve this mystery before I'm dead and gone?

I'd like to take a moment just to think about some things. How come love can capture hate and wash away the pain? For when you hate a soul, the love it runs away in shame. And if you turn the love back on, the hate is locked in chains.

One morning on a summer day, the sun was orange and gold. The moon was right beside it, shining bright in blue and bold. Now tell me this, what light will shine when both of them pass on? I just hope our hearts will glow enough to see the dawn.

I'd like to take a moment just to think about some things. If sadness is a burden, then is happiness the same? Perhaps it's not these things that keep the joys of life from us. Maybe it's a lack of self that's broken our own trust.

If magic only comes when a rabbit leaves a hat, if worth is only there when a soul buys this or that, if you're looking for a gift to match what you have gave, then I'm sure you're filled with selfishness, and I hope you learn to change.

If time is short and you don't know when breath will leave your lungs, be careful with the words that leap so quickly from your tongue. If memory means everything and moments are worthwhile, then you'll never be without a light whenever someone smiles.

I'd like to take a moment just to think about some things. Light and dark are always here, like embers to a flame. They flicker in and flicker out; they do this as you age. So go and fight the darkness, for the light is yours to claim.

What's With These Pro-nouns

Recently a dear friend asked the question, "What's with all these people putting pronouns after their names? It is constantly in your face." Perhaps others have wondered about the same thing so it may be time to explain so we may all understand the reason it is done, and why it is important.

The reason begins in the Transgender community. You see the suicide rate in the Trans community has been 66% of trans folks who have thought about suicide, made a plan, or attempted suicide. More recently, because of all the attacks on the Trans Community by politicians attempting to demonize trans individuals, that percentage has increased two points to 68%. Locally we have a large Transgender and Non-binary support group. When I attended their meetings and we have approached this topic, I have asked the question, how many in this room have ever contemplated suicide, made a plan, or attempted suicide, and 100% the people in the room raised their hands. So, this is why it is important. This is why we do it. When you use a preferred pronoun and preferred name, you are quietly telling folks; "I see you, I hear you, I respect you." This is especially important for educators, when dealing with young people to let them know, "I see you, I hear you, and I respect you."

A common trait among young transgender and non-binary individuals is to self-isolate themselves and this self-isolation leads to dark thoughts. So, if a teacher or counselor uses their preferred name or pronoun it can brighten the whole attitude of a young individual.

A study done in 2018 by Russell Pollitt, A. Li, and Grossman showed that using a transgender youth's chosen name and pronouns reduced depression symptoms by 71%, it reduced thoughts of suicide by 31%, and reduced suicide attempts by 65%. So, if just using a pro-noun might save just one kid's life, isn't it worth it. It may be a little different than you are used to, but if it can prevent a kid from going to a dark place, I am all in.

When I talk to educators about this topic, and I show them the statistics, they too begin a volunteer personal policy of using pronouns. We want students to know; We see them, We hear them, and We respect them, when such a small thing can make such a huge difference. In speaking with them I do encourage modeling, being an example to others about the use of pronouns, and now you to know why. That is why it is important, that is why I do it. It is up to you, what will you do?

Is Democracy Under Attack In Ohio?

Ohio has proposed a change in the State Constitution to raise the simple majority of votes up to 60% of the vote for ballot initiative to change the State of Ohio Constitution.

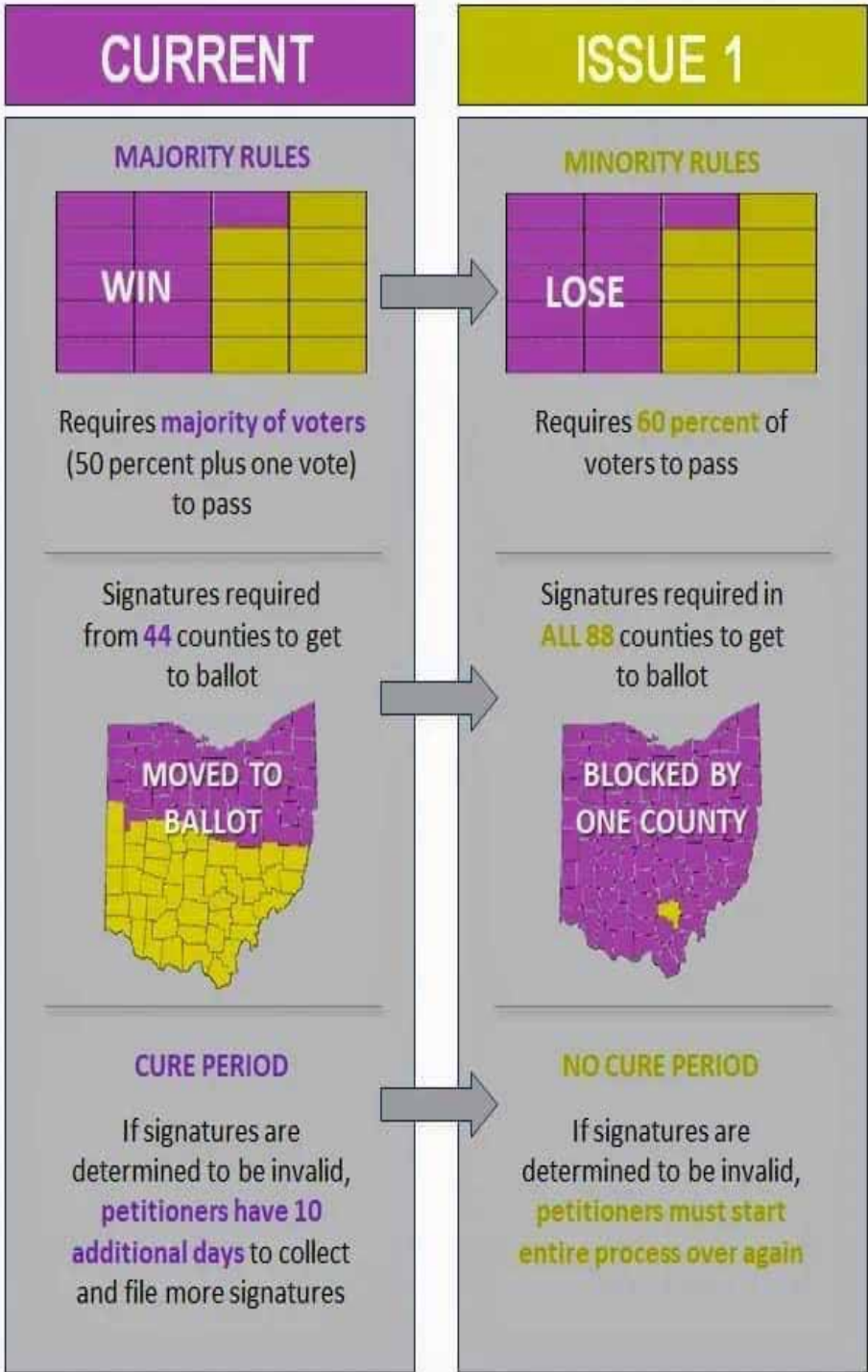
There will be a special August 8th election to offer this change up in what can only be viewed as the most anti-democratic action we have ever seen. Republican cannot want this, democrats cannot want this, so this begs the question; what is behind this and what is the purpose? This is terrible for democracy. The answer is that this is a preemptive strike in an attempt to block a ballot initiative from taking place in the fall election that has really gained traction. There is a large group of individuals and organized groups that are amassing over 400,000 signature to present a pro-choice measure on the ballot this fall. Should this receive 50% of the vote, as current polls say it will, it will pass, according to our currently constitution and become law without state legislature's interference. So it is believed if they pass a 60% threshold this will deny the votes in Ohio the ability to amend the State Constitution by a petition and ballot initiative by the will of the people. The only way to stand up to this change in the threshold is to defeat it. Show up to the polls in the middle of August and defeat it! Whatever the initiative is, the will of the people should always stand! To do anything less is just anti democratic and just another step towards fascism.

This seems to be just the latest in a long line of anti-democratic actions, such as the State's gerrymandering efforts. The republican leadership led by Frank LaRose submitted a gerrymandered plan three times. This comes after the citizens of Ohio voted to put an end to partisan gerrymandering in a previous election. The republican controlled Ohio Supreme Court struck down LaRose's plan all three times stating that it was unconstitutional, yet he just did not care and continues to defy the Court.

So how does this get resolved? One, get out and vote on August 8th and protect your right to petition with a majority voice! The bonus just may be the ability to protect women's rights.

Secondly, voting on August 8th will show that Ohio is serious about democracy and these gerrymandering tactics will not succeed and the public should always have its voice and put an end to rigging the rules against democracy.

CURRENT VS. PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROCESS



Ohio Issue 1 is a legislatively referred amendment to the Ohio Constitution

What is Issue 1? It would require a 60% +1 super majority from voters to approve a constitutional amendment (an increase from a simple majority of 50% +1 that has been the rule since 1912). It would require initiative petitions proposing a constitutional amendment to be signed by at least 5% of the electors in each of Ohio's 88 counties, rather than in 44 counties, though still require signatures from 10% of the electors that have voted for governor in the previous gubernatorial election; and remove the 10-day period for petitioners to gather additional signatures for a constitutional amendment if they filed an insufficient amount of signatures.

When do Ohioans vote on Issue 1? Issue 1 is the sole ballot item on a special election to be held on Tuesday 8 August 2023. What is the League of Women Voters position on Issue 1? The following was submitted to the Dayton Daily News by the Greater Dayton Area League President

Ballot initiatives have improved Ohio through war veteran pensions, school construction, housing and conservation, infrastructure improvements, and economic development. Requiring 60% vote to pass an amendment, rather than a simple majority, Issue 1 would unreasonably restrict the ability of citizens to directly participate in democracy.

The legislature is also planning an August Election for voters to decide this issue only, **despite just voting to limit August Special Elections**, which unnecessarily place strain on elections officials and waste taxpayer dollars. The August 2022 special election drew only an 8% turnout and cost \$20 million. This is too important an issue to be decided by so few.

Who's for this change? Special interest groups and at least one out-of-state megadonor, while former Governors from both parties and nearly 240 civic, labor, and faith groups have expressed opposition. We urge our Ohio legislators to vote no and maintain Ohio's proud tradition of direct democracy.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mario, President
League of Women Voters Greater Dayton Area

Follow the links below for: [The official ballot language](#)

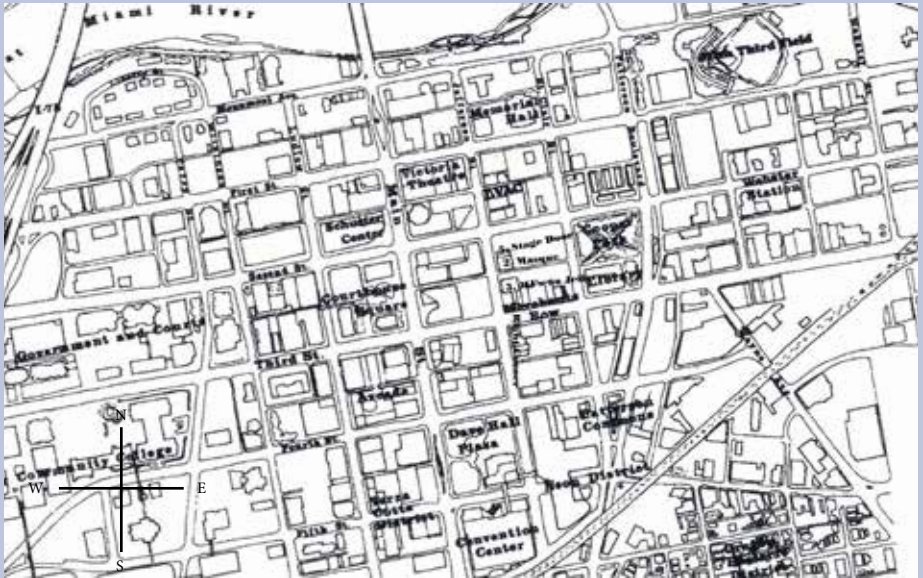
The official arguments for and against Issue 1

[NO POSITION](#)

[YES POSITION](#)

[More information about Issue 1](#)

GayDaytonMap



18 +	18 and Up	E	Other Entertainment	N/H	Neighborhood
A	Alternative	F	Food	S	Strippers
AH	After Hours	G/S	Gay/Straight	T	Mature
C	Country	K	Karaoke	V	Video
D	Dance	L	Leather	W	Women
DG	Drag	M	Men	Y	Young

1. Argo's, 301 Mabel Street 252-2976 (M,L,E,S)
2. Masque, 34 N. Jefferson 228-2582 (18+,Y,G/S,D,E,V,DG,AH)
3. MJ's on Jefferson, 20 N. Jefferson 223-7340 (18+,F,M,D,S,E,DG,V,K)
4. Right Corner, 105 E. Third St 228-2033 (NH,M,T,E)
5. Stage Door, 44 N. Jefferson St 223-7418 (M,L,C,K,T,NH,E)
6. Natalie Clifford Barney Historical Marker
7. The Greater Dayton LGBT Center, 136 N. St Clair 274-1776

www.GayDayton.org



3RD ANNUAL FESTIVAL

90'S

REWIND

SAT., JULY 8, 2023

12:00PM - 4:00PM

MCINTOSH (RIVERVIEW) PARK
Edwin C Moses & W Riverview Ave Dayton OH 45402

VISIT:
www.daytonblackpride.org