

**G  
DAYTON  
Y**

**Volume 24, Issue 12  
December 2024**

**Happy Holidays**

**www.GayDayton.org**

**Map  
Events  
Articles  
Calendar**

The Dayton Gay Men's Chorus  
Presents

# ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS

Join the chorus for an  
afternoon of your favorite  
holiday songs!

December 7, 2024  
2:00 & 6:00 pm

Westminster  
Presbyterian Church


Tickets \$30

\*Purchase online or at the door




[WWW.DAYTONGAYMENSCHORUS.ORG](http://WWW.DAYTONGAYMENSCHORUS.ORG)

# Calendar of Events



Dec. 01	11:00 AM	Belly Dancing with Josh	Center
Dec. 01	2:00 PM	World AIDS Day Open House	Center
Dec. 02	1:30 PM	HIV Testing with Equitas	Center
Dec. 02	7:00 PM	LGBTQ AA Meeting	Center
Dec. 05	7:00 PM	Yoga with Matt	Center
Dec. 07	2 & 6 PM	DGMC Concert	Westminster Church
Dec. 08	11:00 AM	Belly Dancing with Josh	Center
Dec. 09	1:30 PM	HIV Testing with Equitas	Center
Dec. 09	7:00 PM	LGBTQ AA Meeting	Center
Dec. 10	6:30 PM	PFLAG Monthly Meeting	Center
Dec. 11	7:00 PM	Pozitive Attitudes	Zoom
Dec. 12	7:00 PM	Yoga with Matt	Center
Dec. 15	11:00 AM	Belly Dancing with Josh	Center
Dec. 15	3:00 PM	Miami Valley Prime Timers Potluck	Center
Dec. 16	1:30 PM	HIV Testing with Equitas	Center
Dec. 16	7:00 PM	LGBTQ AA Meeting	Center
Dec. 17	7:00 PM	Gatlyn Dame Group	Center
Dec. 19	7:00 PM	Yoga with Matt	Center
Dec. 22	11:00 AM	Belly Dancing with Josh	Center
Dec. 23	1:30 PM	HIV Testing with Equitas	Center
Dec. 23	7:00 PM	LGBTQ AA Meeting	Center
Dec. 30	1:30 PM	HIV Testing with Equitas	Center
Dec. 30	7:00 PM	LGBTQ AA Meeting	Center



**Gay Dayton is published monthly by Gay Dayton, LLC**

Randy Phillips, owner

E-mail: [Advertise@gaydayton.org](mailto:Advertise@gaydayton.org)

Phone: 937-623-1590

All ads must be placed by the 10th of the month prior to inclusion. For Rates call: 937-623-1590 or check out: <https://www.gaydayton.org/newsletter/request.php> Inclusion in this publication does not indicate the sexual orientation of any person or business. All advertisers welcome the business of the LGBT community. All material is copyrighted 2024 by Gay Dayton, LLC ©

P.O. Box 4436, Dayton, Ohio 45401-4436 All Rights Reserved.



# Book Reviews

by: Terri Schlichenmeyer

aka: "The Book Worm"

bookwormsez@yahoo.com

"Low-Hanging Fruit: Sparkling Whines, Champagne Problems, and Pressing Issues from My Gay Agenda" by Randy Rainbow

c.2024, St. Martin's Press

\$28.00

224 pages



Whine, whine, whine.

You got something to say, say it. Got an opinion? The world is waiting. It doesn't do any good to mutter, sputter or whine when something's bothering you. As in the new book, "**Low-Hanging Fruit**" by **Randy Rainbow**, take it to the complaint department.

Randy Rainbow has a lot to say, and he's not afraid to say it.

For starters, he's "resigning from trying to fix you, effective immediately." Any boneheaded thing you want to do now, whatever. Nothing is his

responsibility anymore. He has other issues to worry about.

"The truth is," he says, "I have a lot of complaints about a lot of things."

There are right ways of doing things, he says, and there are wrong ways and we just all really need to know the difference – especially if you're a "Karen." Now, he's compassionate, if you were born with that name, but not too much.

"I'm a flamboyant homosexual who's lived my entire life with the name Randy Rainbow, so you'll get little sympathy from me in this department." Other than that, you may wonder what Rainbow's (ahem) "position" is: he's actually thinking about running for President as a member of "a Rainbow coalition..." He doesn't have much experience but, he says, if there's one thing we've learned in the past few years, that doesn't matter at all. He stands on a green platform, but he can't ban fluorocarbons because, you know, the hair thing and all.

Rainbow misses his twenties, old-school dating sites, hooking up., and his former attention span. He waxes nostalgic about the places he's lived, including an apartment overlooking a "fruit market." He wonders why teenagers are suddenly "successful lifestyle gurus." He hates when "stars

begin losing their luster” and he wishes again for actors like Hayworth and Garbo.

But, he says, “Diva-complaints aside... I really do thank God for all the opportunities I’m given.”

So the Elephant in the Room right now might be one you’ll (never?) vote for, but you know that author Randy Rainbow will reliably skewer that political animal online, hilariously. The fun-poking continues in the most deliciously snarky way in “Low-Hanging Fruit.”

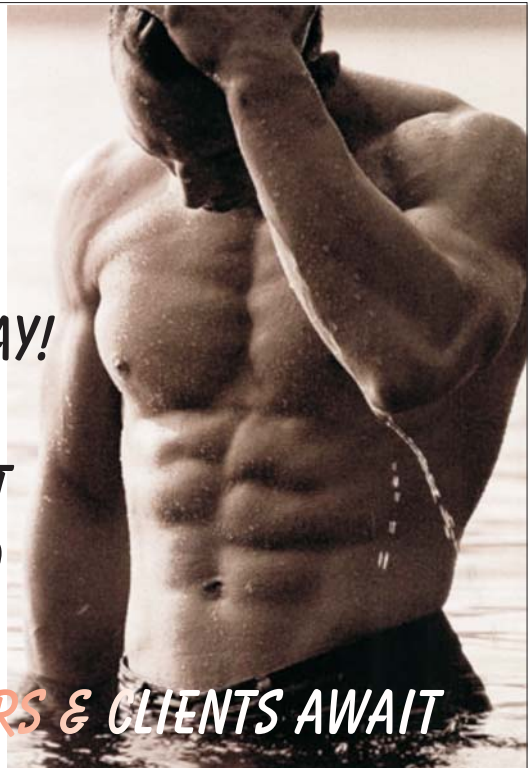
And yet, that’s not the only subject Rainbow tackles. Readers who love catching his posts and videos are treated here to a random string of observations, opinions, and rants-not-rants, with the signature sassy style they’ve come to expect. What you’ll read can be spit-out-your-wine funny sometimes, and other times it touches a nerve with nods toward culture, new and old, that’ll make you nod with recognition. Nothing in Rainbow’s path goes without sharp-edged comment, which is exactly what you want from his books. Unexpectedly, this one also includes a soft word or two and a few slight confessions that are gentle and that might even make you say, “Awwwwwww.”

If you’re ready for something snide and cynical that’ll make you laugh, something that you’ll want to read aloud to a companion, “Low-Hanging Fruit” is what you need. Look for this book now and you’ll have no complaints.

**GET YOURSELF  
NOTICED  
PLACE YOUR  
ADVERTISING  
MESSAGE TODAY!**

**CALL RANDY AT  
937-623-1590**

**NEW CUSTOMERS & CLIENTS AWAIT**





# Poets Corner

by True Hoffman



## "The Spirit of Winter"

When December comes, the snow will fall  
Against the fresh green pines.



A hat over here, a scarf over there,  
Where Christmas glistens and shines.

As doe and dove explore the world,  
The snowflakes dance in flight.

Carols will echo, of boys and girls,  
Singing all into the night.



Evergreens sparkle, and winter is here,  
Deep in December's embrace.



As family, and joy, and love for all,  
Will get us through the days.

For when you think a soul that's passed  
Has not been thinking of you,

Trust, and feel, their presence within,  
For that kind of love - is true.

So if you have a place to go,  
Or not a place to be,

Just know that somewhere up above,  
Their spirits are happy and free.



# Christmas Story: For the Man Who Hated Christmas

By Nancy W. Gavin

It's just a small, white envelope stuck among the branches of our Christmas tree. No name, no identification, no inscription. It has peeked through the branches of our tree for the past ten years.

It all began because my husband Mike hated Christmas. Oh, not the true meaning of Christmas, but the commercial aspects of it – overspending and the frantic running around at the last minute to get a tie for Uncle Harry and the dusting powder for Grandma – the gifts given in desperation because you couldn't think of anything else. Knowing he felt this way, I decided one year to bypass the usual shirts, sweaters, ties and so forth. I reached for something special just for Mike. The inspiration came in an unusual way.

Our son Kevin, who was 12 that year, was on the wrestling team at the school he attended. Shortly before Christmas, there was a non-league match against a team sponsored by an inner-city church. These youngsters, dressed in sneakers so ragged that shoestrings seemed to be the only thing holding them together, presented a sharp contrast to our boys in their spiffy blue and gold uniforms and sparkling new wrestling shoes. As the match began, I was alarmed to see that the other team was wrestling without headgear, a kind of light helmet designed to protect a wrestler's ears. It was a luxury the ragtag team obviously could not afford.

Well, we ended up walloping them. We took every weight class. Mike, seated beside me, shook his head sadly, "I wish just one of them could have won," he said. "They have a lot of potential, but losing like this could take the heart right out of them." Mike loved kids – all kids. He so enjoyed coaching little league football, baseball and lacrosse. That's when the idea for his present came.

That afternoon, I went to a local sporting goods store and bought an assortment of wrestling headgear and shoes, and sent them anonymously to the inner-city church. On Christmas Eve, I placed a small, white envelope on the tree, the note inside telling Mike what I had done, and that this was his gift from me.

Mike's smile was the brightest thing about Christmas that year. And that same bright smile lit up succeeding years. For each Christmas, I followed the tradition – one year sending a group of mentally handicapped youngsters to a hockey game, another year a check to a pair of elderly brothers whose home had burned to the ground the week before Christmas, and on and on.

The white envelope became the highlight of our Christmas. It was always the last thing opened on Christmas morning, and our children – ignoring their new toys – would stand with wide-eyed anticipation as their dad lifted the envelope from the tree to reveal its contents. As the children grew, the toys gave way to more practical presents, but the small, white envelope never lost its allure.

The story doesn't end there. You see, we lost Mike last year due to dreaded cancer. When Christmas rolled around, I was still so wrapped in grief that I barely got the tree up. But Christmas Eve found me placing an envelope on the tree. And the next morning, I found it was magically joined by three more. Unbeknownst to the others, each of our three children had for the first time placed a white envelope on the tree for their dad. The tradition has grown and someday will expand even further with our grandchildren standing to take down that special envelope. Mike's spirit, like the Christmas spirit will always be with us.

17th Annual

# BOWLING

## FOR PRIDE!

**Saturday**  
**February 22nd**

**Poelking Lanes**  
**1403 Wilmington Ave.**  
**Dayton, OH 45420**

Check-in @ 1 PM  
Bowl @ 2 PM

**\$25/person**

(shoes included)

**Pre-Register to guarantee your spot:**

**[WWW.DAYTONLGBTCENTER.ORG](http://WWW.DAYTONLGBTCENTER.ORG)**

**GAME 1: 8 to Eat**

**GAME 2: Bingo Bowl**

**GAME 3: Garbage Bowl**



An 18+ event



**Sponsored By:**



**OXBALLS**

**hünkyjunk**



## The Real Story Of Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer

As the holiday season of 1938 came to Chicago, Bob May wasn't feeling much comfort or joy. A 34-year-old ad writer for Montgomery Ward, May was exhausted and nearly broke. His wife, Evelyn, was bedridden, on the losing end of a two-year battle with cancer. This left Bob to look after their four-year old-daughter, Barbara.

One night, Barbara asked her father, "Why isn't my mommy like everybody else's mommy?" As he struggled to answer his daughter's question, Bob remembered the pain of his own childhood. A small, sickly boy, he was constantly picked on and called names. But he wanted to give his daughter hope, and show her that being different was nothing to be ashamed of. More than that, he wanted her to know that he loved her and would always take care of her. So he began to spin a tale about a reindeer with a bright red nose who found a special place on Santa's team. Barbara loved the story so much that she made her father tell it every night before bedtime. As he did, it grew more elaborate. Because he couldn't afford to buy his daughter a gift for Christmas, Bob decided to turn the story into a homemade picture book.

In early December, Bob's wife died. Though he was heartbroken, he kept working on the book for his daughter. A few days before Christmas, he reluctantly attended a company party at Montgomery Ward. His co-workers encouraged him to share the story he'd written. After he read it, there was a standing ovation. Everyone wanted copies of their own. Montgomery Ward bought the rights to the book from their debt-ridden employee. Over the next six years, at Christmas, they gave away six million copies of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer to shoppers. Every major publishing house in the country was making offers to obtain the book. In an incredible display of good will, the head of the department store returned all rights to Bob May. Four years later, Rudolph had made him into a millionaire.

Now remarried with a growing family, May felt blessed by his good fortune. But there was more to come. His brother-in-law, a successful songwriter named Johnny Marks, set the uplifting story to music. The song was pitched to artists from Bing Crosby on down. They all passed. Finally, Marks approached Gene Autry. The cowboy star had scored a holiday hit with "Here Comes Santa Claus" a few years before. Like the others, Autry wasn't impressed with the song about the misfit reindeer. Marks begged him to give it a second listen. Autry played it for his wife, Ina. She was so touched by the line "They wouldn't let poor Rudolph play in any reindeer games" that she insisted her husband record the tune.

Within a few years, it had become the second best-selling Christmas song ever, right behind "White Christmas." Since then, Rudolph has come to life in TV specials, cartoons, movies, toys, games, coloring books, greeting cards and even a Ringling Bros. circus act. The little red-nosed reindeer dreamed up by Bob May and immortalized in song by Johnny Marks has come to symbolize Christmas as much as Santa Claus, evergreen trees and presents. As the last line of the song says, "He'll go down in history."



*Gage Gatlyn*

LET'S BRING YOUR VISION TO LIFE

[WWW.GAGEGATLYN.COM](http://WWW.GAGEGATLYN.COM)

904-214-4460

[GAGEGATLYN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:GAGEGATLYN@GMAIL.COM)

ALSO AVAILABLE FOR EVENTS!

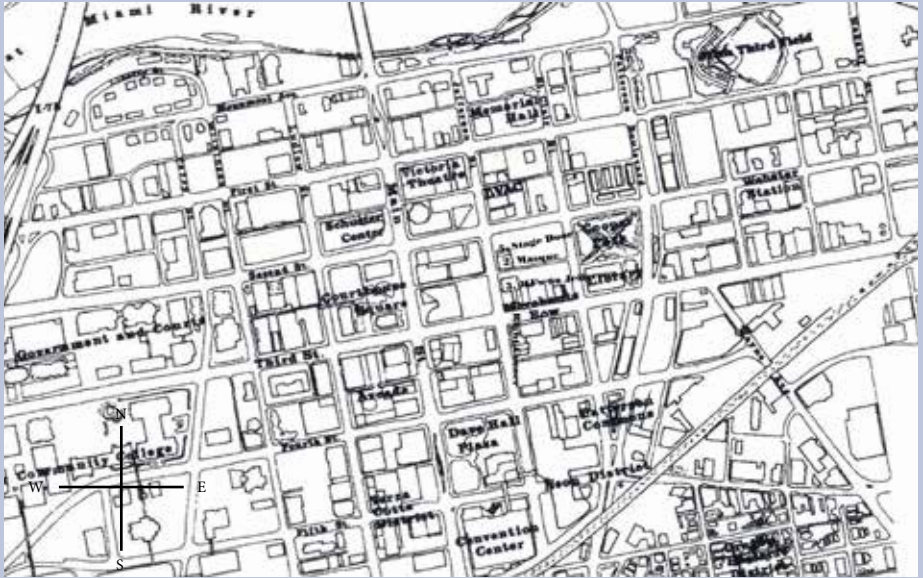
CALL / EMAIL TODAY!



[facebook.com/gagmephotography](https://facebook.com/gagmephotography)

*Gage Gatlyn*

# Gay Dayton Map



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. MJ's on Jefferson, 20 N. Jefferson 223-7340 (F,M,D,S,E,DG,V,K)
3. Right Corner, 105 E. Third St 228-2033 (NH,M,T,E)
4. Stage Door, 44 N. Jefferson St 223-7418 (M,L,C,K,T,NH,E)
5. Natalie Clifford Barney Historical Marker
6. The Greater Dayton LGBT Center, 136 N. St Clair 274-1776

[www.GayDayton.org](http://www.GayDayton.org)

**MJ's**   
on jefferson  
Open 3PM Daily



**A little more sparkle,  
a little less stress.  
This Christmas we wish  
you the very best**

Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year  
From the MJ's Family to yours