



**Volume 22, Issue 4
April 2022**

www.GayDayton.org

**April Showers Bring
May Flowers**



**Map
Events
Articles
Calendar**

Spring LGBTQ + Community Dinner



April
23rd

Doors Open at 5 pm, Dinner Served at 6 pm
Please bring a side dish to share

**We are building a bigger table and invite
ALL to join us as we share a meal and
build community together!**

com.mu.ni.ty

**a feeling of fellowship with others
as a result of sharing common
attitudes, interests, and goals.**



**24 N. Jeffersons St., STE. 200,
Dayton, OH 45402 ph: (937) 274-1776
www.daytonLGBTcenter.org**

Calendar of Events

Apr. 01, 2022		STI Awareness Month (April)	
Apr. 02, 2022	6:00 PM	The Trans Prom	Center
Apr. 04, 2022	7:00 PM	LGBTQ AA Meeting	Center
Apr. 05, 2022	6:00 PM	Men's Dining	Spaghetti Warehouse
Apr. 06, 2022	11:30 AM	Center "Lunch-n-Learn"	ZOOM
Apr. 07, 2022	6:00 PM	Center Board Meets	Center
Apr. 07, 2022	7:00 PM	Yoga at the Center	Center
Apr. 09, 2022	8:00 PM	HIV/STI Testing	Center
Apr. 10, 2022		Palm Sunday	
Apr. 11, 2022	7:00 PM	LGBTQ AA Meeting	Center
Apr. 12, 2022	6:00 PM	Men's Dining	Spaghetti Warehouse
Apr. 12, 2022	7:00 PM	PFLAG Monthly Meeting	ZOOM
Apr. 13, 2022	7:00 PM	Pozitive Attitudes	Center
Apr. 14, 2022	7:00 PM	Yoga at the Center	Center
Apr. 15, 2022		Good Friday	
Apr. 17, 2022		Easter Sunday	
Apr. 17, 2022	5:30 PM	PRIDE Planning Meeting	Center
Apr. 18, 2022	7:00 PM	LGBTQ AA Meeting	Center/Zoom
Apr. 19, 2022	6:00 PM	Men's Dining	Spaghetti Warehouse
Apr. 19, 2022	7:00 PM	Gatlyn Dame Group	Center
Apr. 20, 2022	5:30 PM	PRIDE Planning Meeting	Center/Zoom
Apr. 21, 2022	7:00 PM	Yoga at the Center	Center
Apr. 22, 2022		Day of Silence (GLSEN)	
Apr. 23, 2022	6:00 PM	Spring Community Dinner	Center
Apr. 25, 2022	7:00 PM	LGBTQ AA Meeting	Center
Apr. 26, 2022		International Lesbian Visibility Day	
Apr. 26, 2022	6:00 PM	Men's Dining	Spaghetti Warehouse
Apr. 27, 2022	7:00 PM	Pozitive Attitudes	Center/Zoom
Apr. 28, 2022	7:00 PM	Yoga at the Center	Center

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Randy Phillips, owner

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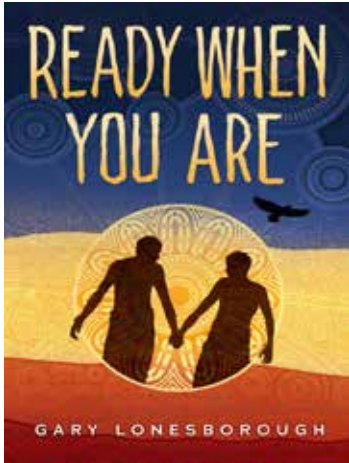
Book Reviews

by: Terri Schlichenmeyer

aka: "The Book Worm"

bookwormsez@yahoo.com

"Ready When You Are" by Gary Lonesborough c.2022, Scholastic PUSH
\$18.99 245 pages



Loud thunder-booms.

Spiders and snakes. The number thirteen, clowns, cemeteries, and heights. There are a lot of things that you can fear, just as there are a lot of ways you can overcome phobias, if you want. Vanquish those shivers by taking classes, being brave or, as in the new novel, **"Ready When You Are" by Gary Lonesborough**, you can let someone gently help you.

If he had to admit it, seventeen-year-old Jackson Barley had a love-hate relationship with

Christmas.

He loved its traditions, and because it was something out-of-the-ordinary. When hanging out with your mates on the Mish is all you normally do, it's nice to have the holidays to break up the same-old. But over Christmas break, his Auntie Pam always brought his cousins around and the house was full of little kids. Jackson loved his younger brother and his cousins, but man, could they make a racket!

This year, another thing was unusual: Auntie Pam arrived Christmas Eve with a teenager she was caring for, a boy named Tomas who'd just gotten out of juvie. Of course, Jackson's mother said that Tomas could bunk in Jackson's room and that wasn't cool, not at first. Jackson's mind was elsewhere: his girlfriend broke up with him for reasons he couldn't discuss. For most of his life, he had known that he was "different." He tried to be like other boys, but it just didn't work that way and he was afraid to even *think* about his feelings. And now there was this outlaw kid, another

Aboriginal boy like him lying on a mattress in Jackson's bedroom and oh, Tomas was beautiful.

But Jackson wasn't gay, or at least he wasn't ready to be. He wanted a summer with his mates, and girls, but he wanted Tomas to kiss him, too. How could he be true to himself? And what would people think?

There are three main characters inside "Ready When You Are": Jackson, Tomas, and alcohol. *Lots* of alcohol, and teenagers who are often excessively drunk, which almost totally mars the sweetness of this novel. Put aside endless Outback parties and repetitious beach forays, though, and you might be charmed by this familiar-not-familiar boy-meets-boy tale.

In placing his novel in an Aboriginal community, author Gary Lonesborough gives U.S. readers a unique setting and immersion in a culture where life feels more relaxed than perhaps they're accustomed – but yet, coming-out struggles for gay teens still exist.

This leads to a story that, scene-for-scene, is predictable and common in YA romance novels – an aspect the genre's most fervent readers passionately rely on. They'll also love Jackson, a boy in a man's skin who acts responsibly and genuinely, but who's not yet too self-assured about it. Life through his eyes is the best part of this book.

Though you'll likely find this novel in the Young Adult section, it's absolutely appropriate for grown-ups with fond memories of first love. "Ready When You Are" has its lows, but it might also make your heart go boom.



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Open Letter to School Board Members

by Randy Phillips

Dear School Board Member,

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to the betterment of ALL students. I must also ask your forgiveness for this rather long email, but I hope you will take the time to read it through that you may understand the gravity of those impacted.

Right now you are being bombarded with outcries over the very complex issues surrounding restrooms and transgender and intersexed students. In a perfect world where budgets and properties are not an issue, you could just add gender-neutral restrooms to each building and resolve a lot of issues. I know the reality is that you do not have unlimited budgets and deal with older buildings that do not easily adapt without major expense. So the dilemma grows.

On one hand, you have parents that will tell you we do not care about these kids. They are different than my kid, so we do not want to associate with them. We have whole states such as Florida that want to legislate it to the point of saying you cannot say "Gay", if we do not say it, they don't exist, and if they don't exist then we do not have to make accommodations, respect them, or acknowledge them. As parents and grandparents of real children, I do not have to tell you how harmful and dangerous this stance really is, what if one of these kids was your child, one of your grandchild, what kind of mental toll would it place on them if they were told, your invisible and do not exist?

National statics tell us that 1 out of 10 people are LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender, intersexed, or simply identify as queer plus). Or ten kids out of one hundred, yes this makes for a minority or a smaller group but these kids are real and important too. We cannot just let them fall between the cracks. Even more alarming is that of those who do self-identify as Q+, 42% of these kids seriously consider attempting suicide within the past year and MORE THAN HALF OF TRANSGENDER AND NOBININARY YOUTH WILL ATTEMPT. Now imagine if we told them they were invisible or do not exist, how will this drive up those numbers? 12% of these students are white, 31% are native/indigenous youth, 21% are multiracial youth and 18% of Latino youth, and 12% of Asian/pacific islander youth.

Michelle Page said, "One of the greatest traumas that gender and sexual minority students experience is not bullying but invisibility and silence. When queer students are not visible in the curriculum on the social networks of school, when the school is silent about their experience, this creates feelings of disenfranchisement and rejection. It creates "stigmatizing messages that these students are not valued students, identities are erased and invalidated." Please do not allow this to happen, don't let our kids be erased.

We have students that each morning will not eat or drink anything each morning of school. Who will not eat or drink while at school, just to ensure they do not have to use the restroom while at school so as to not put themselves at risk while using a restroom. I do not have to tell you how this can lead to reductions in concentration and lower test scores and simply not healthy!

I realize it is complex, especially with aging buildings, limited real estate, and limited budgets so new buildings are not necessarily on the table. Ignoring the situation is not the answer either.

We can begin with offering respect and teaching respect which can begin with the simple use of pronouns, when we use someone's preferred pronoun, we are telling them I see you, I respect you, I care about you all in a simple pronoun. Here in the United States, we are used to only two: he & she, but in other cultures, there are many more. Indigenous folks have seven; Asian cultures have twelve, and even on Facebook if you click on "custom" in this area you will see there are 72 different pronouns listed. Why is this important?

According to a study done in 2018, by Russell, Polliet, and Grossman publishing in the Journal of Adolescent Health, their study showed a direct link to the reduction of depressive, suicidal idealizations, and suicidal behaviors among transgender and nonconforming Individuals when using chosen name and pronoun. By using the chosen names and pronouns we saw a reduction in depression by 71%, reduced thoughts of suicide by 34%, and reduced suicide attempts by 65%. This is huge; by simply using a preferred pronoun we acknowledge them and maybe save their lives. Again, what if this was your child or grandchild? This little bit would be worth it.

When it comes to the restrooms, we cannot always find the space to build new restrooms that are gender-neutral or all-gender restrooms, perhaps the bolder move would be to find one restroom to make an all-gender restroom by installing all restrooms with only stalls and stall doors on them that have very minimal cracks between the doors and stalls, so each user has their own privacy. Yes, the stall doors will have some cost to them but far less than new facilities and it will restore privacy and respect. It may take some monitoring at first to ensure all are respected in this space, but personal respect is worth it as we teach, I see you, I hear you, I respect you.

I know you care about our kids and their education which is why you chose to run for the school board in the first place, please protect ALL kids, including our transgender and nonconforming kids to ensure they are seen, heard, and respected, give them a chance to grow and flourish, I know it is odd to think it can begin with a pronoun and a restroom stall, but it is a profound start. Thank You!

(note, this above was sent as an email to the School Board of Bethel HS)

Spring Fling

Free HIV Testing



SAT | APR 9 | 8 PM - 1 AM

Love is in the air! All the more reason to get a free rapid HIV test. Get tested and be entered in a special raffle. No appointment needed.

The Greater Dayton LGBT Center

24 N. Jefferson St. | Dayton, OH 45402 | (937) 274-1776

 **Equitas Health**
Care for All



April is filled with many events and things to do now that spring is here. We begin the month with a Transgender Prom. Many in our transgender



community have never experienced a Prom as their authentic self, so we wanted to offer them that opportunity. Of course, at Prom you need to look your best, so we have arranged for hair stylist to be present on April 2nd from 3 pm to 5 pm to provide FREE hair cuts and hair styles for those that wish. We have also arranged for Transformational Closets to provide clothing options so all may look their best for the Prom on April 2nd from 6 pm to 10 pm. It will certainly be an evening to remember. This is a FREE event.

The following weekend, April 9th is a testing event as we offer FREE HIV/STI testing from 8 PM to 1 AM. It is recommend that everyone who is sexually active be tested at least twice per year. So give the gift of peace of mind, and know your status.

You may also join us April 10th at 6 pm as we Plan PRIDE. Join a committee and help us put on this Grand Annual PRIDE Event! Join in-person or Online via zoom. All are welcome.

The third weekend in April is Easter as many celebrate this wonderful religious holiday so we encourage you to share with your family.

On April 23rd is our Spring Community Dinner as we all come together as an LGBTQIA family and share and meal, learn a bit more about other groups and build community together. Doors open at 5 pm with dinner served at 6 pm. Bring a dish to share as we welcome all to the table.

Spring LGBTQ +
Community Dinner



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The Greater Dayton LGBT Center
Announces a monthly "Lunch & Learn"
Special Edition: In April we will meet April 6th

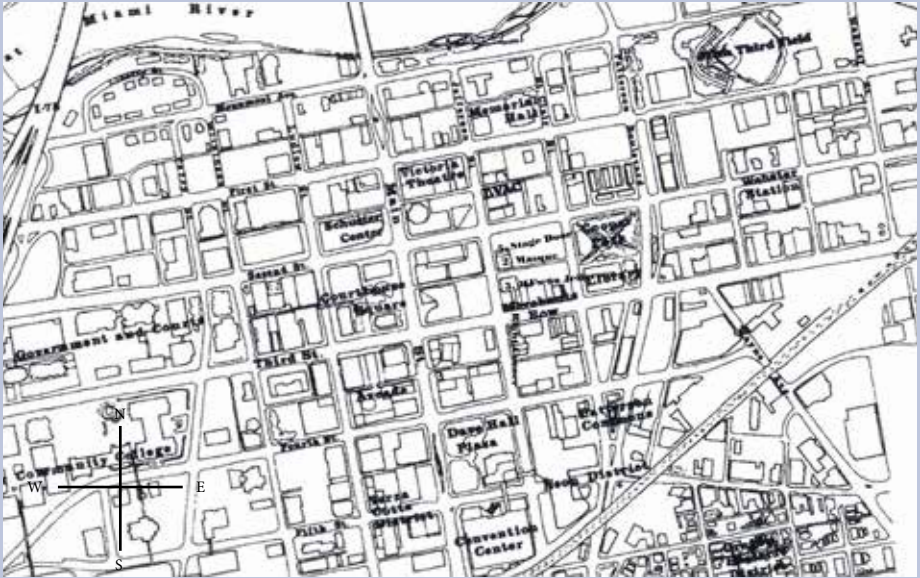
11:30 am - 12:30 pm Via: Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86519115728?pwd=YjloRisZTnA5OTdXbTVlZlRXb1BPZz09>

Visit www.daytonLGBTcenter.org for link and more details.



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. Evolution, 130 N Patterson 203-2582 (18+,Y,G/S,D,E,V,DG)
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, 24 N. Jefferson 274-1776

www.GayDayton.org

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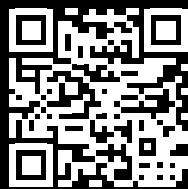
20 N Jefferson St - Dayton, OH - 45402
Phone (937) 223-7340

MASKS SUGGESTED

Open Daily @ 3 pm ~ 2:30 am



Beer Menu



Bourbon Menu