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**Volume 17, Issue 12
December 2017**

Happy Holidays!



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Dayton Pharmacy

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Dayton, OH 45402
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Calendar of Events

- Dec 2 6 pm The Dayton Gay Men's Chorus "Christmas Cotillion"
Westminster Presbyterian Church, 125 N Wilkinson Dayton
- Dec 6 6:30 pm The Greater Dayton LGBT Center Monthly Board
Meeting at the Center 24 N. Jefferson St, STE 200
- Dec 12 6:30 pm PFLAG Holiday Party at Harmony Creek Church
5280 Bigger Road, Dayton 45440
- Dec 12 Chanukah (Hanukkah) Starts
- Dec 13 7 pm Totum Fitness - All Gender Exercise Workout
- Dec 16 9 pm - 1 am "Give the Gift of Knowing Your Status"
A Free HIV/STI Testing Event at the LGBT Center
- Dec 17 2 pm Gatlyn Dame Group Holiday Party at the Center
24 N. Jefferson St, STE 200, Dayton, OH 45402
- Dec 19 7 pm The transgender support group - Gatlyn Dame Group
meets at the Center
- Dec 20 Chanukah (Hanukkah) ends
- Dec 25 - Merry Christmas!
- Dec 27 6 pm Chapter's LGBT Book Club meets at the LGBT Center -
- January 1, 2018 - - Happy New Year!!!! --

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

Randy Phillips, owner

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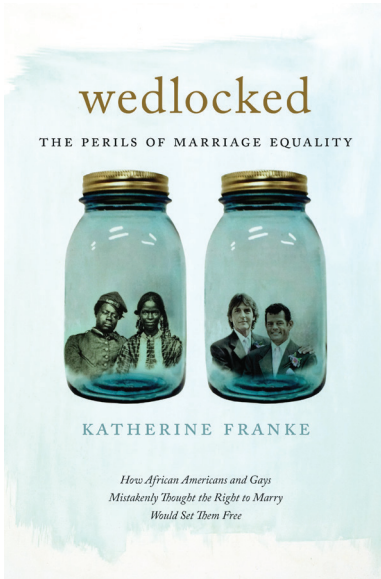
Book Reviews

by: Terri Schlichenmeyer

aka: "The Book Worm"

bookwormsez@yahoo.com

"Wedlocked: The Perils of Marriage Equality" by Katherine Franke
c.2015, New York University Press \$26.00 / higher in Canada
275 pages



You're not in any hurry. The ring's on your finger, the engagement was just announced, and you both feel like you've got plenty of time. Now's your chance to enjoy the process of getting married. Here's your opportunity to plan the future. But **"Wedlocked: The Perils of Marriage Equality"** by Katherine Franke asks the question: why marry at all? When President George Washington died, his will stipulated that his slaves be given their freedom when his wife, Martha, who inherited them, would die. This, says Katherine Franke, accidentally "put a price on" Martha's head but moreover, it was an acknowledgment on Washington's part that shows one complexity of slavery: marriage between

the Washington slaves meant that freeing *his* without freeing *hers* could break up families. This issue, and others before and after the Civil War, illustrates how "many of the experiences of African Americans held out a message to the same-sex marriage movement today."

Throughout American history, Franke says, the "rules" of marriage for non-white or gay individuals hid a double-edged sword of enhanced rights and enforced matrimonial laws complicated by pre-Emancipation fluidity of relationships and looser definitions of "marriage" within African American communities then; and by somewhat of a lack of awareness in the LGBT community, complicated by different state laws now. The bottom line that's often not emphasized: when a couple marries, the state suddenly "acquires a legal interest in your relationship." Now, as then, marriage may also be legally "forced" on a couple: in the case of former slaves, to gain benefits in wartime; for LGBT couples, in the continuation

of health benefits. Even after all that, marriage, as Franke reminds readers, has never offered a guarantee from discrimination.

Is it possible, Franke asks, that “the inability to marry creates a kind of freedom from the ‘bonds’ of marriage?” At a time when the rates of marriage in the Black community are low and LGBT parents are demanding new legal definitions of “family,” will marriage become antiquated? Or is the “freedom” to marry just another way for society to meddle in the lives of marginalized individuals?

Surely, few readers would consider “Wedlocked” a fun weekend read. It’s not exactly what you’d take to the beach with you. Fun, no. Interesting, absolutely.

It’s also quite thought-provoking. Author Katherine Franke is, in part, Director of the Center for Gender and Sexuality Law at Columbia University, and in this book, she asks hard questions between jaw-dropping history lessons and proof that marriage is both burden and boon to anyone who’s not white and straight. That’s not to say that the institution is dead; instead, Franke wonders if, of all rights denied former slaves and gay individuals, marriage may’ve been the oddest choice for legal battles.

But which other right would’ve been better? The answer to that seems to be left open for discussion; indeed, readers are given much to ponder from this heavy-duty, scholarly book. Just beware that *time* is the key to opening “Wedlocked,” now in paperback. Enjoy and contemplate, but don’t be in any hurry.

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Friday:
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130 N.Patterson BLVD Dayton, OH 45402

HALF PRICE HAPPY HOUR 7-9PM 7DAYS A WEEK

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.

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20 N Jefferson St - Dayton, OH - 45402

Hours

3 pm - 2:30 am
7 days

Happy Hour

3 pm - 9 pm
Monday - Saturday

M J's Kitchen Hours:

Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 7 pm to Midnight
Friday & Saturday 7 pm to 2 am

Clothing Exchange December 9th, 1 PM



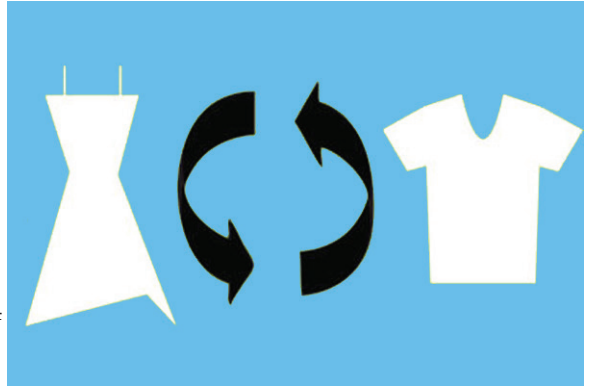
The Clothing Exchange

Why shop if you can swop?

tight that purchasing presents this year is simply out of the question. On December 9th at 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. the Center along with the Gatlyn Dame Group is offerings a Clothing Exchange where you may stop in and pick up gender appropriate clothing, shoes, and accessories. So mark your calendar for December 9th from 1 to 4 p.m. for our Holiday Clothing Exchange.

The Greater Dayton LGBT Center is located at 24 N. Jefferson Street, Ste 200, Dayton, Ohio 45402 (937) 274-1776

As the holidays quickly approach we realize that not everyone will share in a wonderful holiday celebration. Perhaps your budget has become so

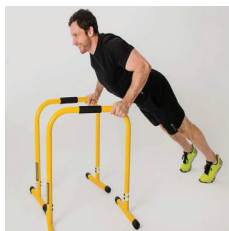


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FREE Class At The LGBT CENTER

December 13, 2017 at 7 pm



TOTUM FITNESS

Presents



Mornings at the Bar

\$20

/class for 1 class

\$15

/class for 5 classes

\$10

/class for 10 classes

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Free Class

Dayton LGBT Center
Dec 13, 2017

24 N. Jefferson St STE 200

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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, 24 N. Jefferson 274-1776

www.GayDayton.org



THE GIFT OF KNOWING YOUR STATUS
SAT, DEC 16 | 9 PM-1 AM

Greater Dayton LGBT Center
24 N. Jefferson St., Suite 200

Know you status! Join us for a special holiday testing event. Raffle: Anyone who test will have chance for special gift bag prizes!

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