

January 2011

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Dawn M. Bates
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New Center Event! Reading Q Book Club

Curling up with a good book is a pleasant way to pass a few hours, but what better way to get even more out of the experience than by joining a thought-provoking conversation with other bibliophiles.

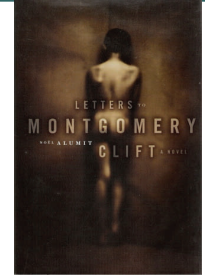
If your tastes run toward LGBT-themed literature or LGBT authors, you'll find like-minded lovers of the written word in New Mexico GLBTQ Centers' LGBT Book Club, *Reading Q*. Members discuss works of every genre, from contemporary novels to memoirs to historical fiction.

At each meeting, you'll share your ideas about the month's selection and discuss everything that the writer puts forth, deepening your understanding of the book while giving you an opportunity to meet other

enthusiastic readers.

Everyone is welcome to attend and there is no need to RSVP, just drop-in! Attendees are encouraged to have read the month's book selection prior to attending. *Reading Q* is a peer led, non-facilitated book club. Everyone is welcome, regardless of sexual identity.

Reading Q
1st Sunday of each month
1:00 pm to 2:30 pm



February 6th, 2011 book selection:
Letters to Montgomery Clift by Noel Alunit



March 6th, 2011 book selection:
I Can't Think Straight by Shamim Sarif

Fundraising at the Center

The Fund Development Committee is in need of volunteers to help plan fundraising events, and to raise much needed funds for the NM GLBTQ Centers. We currently have a small committee, and would love to expand with

your help. Currently we are working on 2 concert projects, one in January and one in March. We currently need donations of "in kind" items such as office supplies along with money for expenses our normal operating

expenses. For more information, contact Bonnie at 575/405-8884. To Make a Donation-please visit our website, or call the center at 575/635-4902.

—Bonnie Zeiler-Fund Development Chair and Board Member

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Special points of interest:

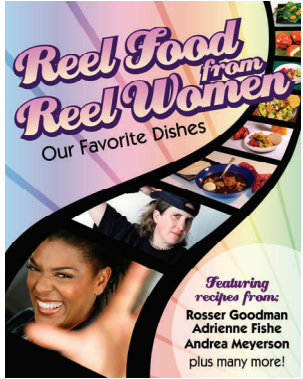
- *Wondering what's coming up at the Las Cruces GLBTQ Center? Find a list of our regular events on page 4!*
- *Interested in volunteering? Check out page 2 for more information.*
- *Already a volunteer? Come to our Volunteer Recognition Event on January 30th at 2:00 pm!*



NEW MEXICO GLBTQ CENTERS

Community Connections

Nina Knapp Offers Advice to Writers



In late October, the Center was honored to have writer and filmmaker, Nina Knapp visit the Writing Group. Nina was promoting her book,

Reel Food from Reel Women, a collection of recipes from women in film. Check out the book's website at www.reelrecipes.com.

In addition, Nina shared some tips with the Writing Group on how to be more

effective writers. We'd like to share some of those tips with those of you who might also be aspiring writers!

1. **Promote yourself as a writer.** Nina suggested that you start crafting your identity as a writer. She said you should start introducing yourself to others as a writer. If you have a Facebook or Myspace page, start mentioning your writing or even sharing it. If you have your own webpage, use it to share your writing or blog about what you're doing. You can increase your confidence and your writing by identifying yourself this way.
2. **Join online writing groups.** Nina likes the groups offered through Yahoo Groups. She suggested doing a search for writing groups that fit

with your interests or style.

Members of these groups support each other and offer advice and feedback about writing pieces.

3. **Find a writing group to join!** Nina highly recommends Southwest Writers, a group based out of Albuquerque. They have educational programs at every meeting, twice a month, writing contests, and opportunities for networking. Check out southwestwriters.com. Or you could join a local writing group, like the one at the Center! We meet on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays every month at 1 pm.

—Dawn M. Bates, Writing Group facilitator

Featured Volunteer—Paul Lawrence

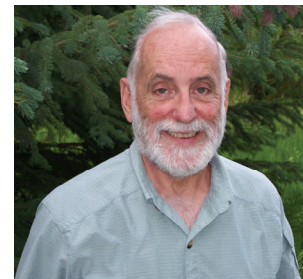
Paul Lawrence was one of our first volunteers when the Las Cruces Center opened in the spring of 2010. Paul escaped the cold and snow of Wyoming moving to Las Cruces a year and a half ago. Prior to the move to the desert he lived 47 years in Jackson Hole.

Paul is retired, his many pursuits include writing, he is the author of the **Sierra Club Hiking Guide to the Tetons**, and photography with photos displayed in several Four Seasons Hotels and published in magazines. He was a

mountain guide at the Jenny Lake Lodge in Grand Tetons National Park and an explorer. Paul located the source of the Snake River in 1970.

As an advocate for fluid gender presentation Paul believes that current terms such as trans and cross do not adequately describe an individual's gender experience. Paul volunteers at the Las Cruces GLBTQ Center because, "the GLBTQ Center is an important part of the community and an opportunity to support GLBTQ individuals."

Paul works on special projects at the center and organized the center's successful art show and sale at the Preston Contemporary Art Center in Mesilla last September.



Volunteer Opportunities

Are you interested in volunteering at the GLBTQ Center?

Becoming a volunteer is easy! If you are interested, please contact us by phone at (575) 635-4902 or email at volunteer@newmexicoglbtccenters.org. All we ask is that you fill out a Volunteer Application and return it to the Center.

The last step is connecting with our Volunteer Coordinator, Dawn Bates or

our Operations Manager, Cassie Davis to set up a time for informal training and set your volunteer hours.

What would you do as a volunteer? Currently, we need people to act as Center Host. Center Hosts greet people as they visit the Center, answer the phone, respond to questions and requests, and work on special projects as assigned.

If you have a special interest, such a

group you would like to lead, or have an event idea, we are open to suggestions and great ideas! We also occasionally need help with groups or special events and will ask volunteers to assist.

The possibilities are endless! Please join us for a rewarding and fun volunteering opportunity!



New Mexico Women's Chorus Visits this January

New Mexico Women's Chorus

Herstory (from the NMWC website at http://www.nmwomenschorus.org/about_us.html)

"The New Mexico Women's Chorus started as the dream child of a small group of women who joined together to sing and have fun in the fall of 1993. In February 1994, the New Mexico Gay Men's chorus put out an invitation to any women interested in starting a women's chorus to come to the NMGMC season-opening dinner and open rehearsal. From that first meeting came a strong commitment to the development of a women's chorus in New Mexico.

It has been a long journey from that first group of six Founding Mothers, one of whom, Peggy Roberts, remains a member of the chorus, to twenty-four singers.

During that journey, in addition to at least two seasonal concerts per year, NMWC has stopped to perform for the United Nations Association, the Coalition for Equality, the Unitarian Church, the First Congregational Church, Zia Rodeo, Breast Cancer Vigil, World AIDS Day Memorials, the Breast Exam Project, and Pride Celebrations. We have traveled within New Mexico from Albuquerque, to Santa Fe and to Las Cruces to honor our mission of providing enjoyable opportunities for women to create music together. Our chorus is non-auditioned, and everyone finds a place for expression. Why don't you come and make some memories with us? "

Discover more about the NMWC at their website: www.nmwomenschorus.org!

The GLBTQ Center presents

**The New Mexico Women's Chorus
Passport to America**

January 29th, 2011

7:30 pm

Good Samaritan Center

Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. For more information call the Center at (575) 635 4902.



Anti-Bullying Legislation in Las Cruces

On Saturday, December 4, 2010, forty-two people participated in a Community Forum on Bullying hosted by Dona Ana County Commissioner Scott Krahlung in the Commission Chambers in Las Cruces.

In addition to New Mexico GLBTQ Centers, PFLAG Las Cruces and EQNM participated in a panel discussion with representatives of the city, county, all three school districts, NMSU, the media, and Bishop Ramirez and other members of the faith community. Also in attendance were the Las Cruces Police Chief, Richard Williams and Sheriff

Todd Garrison, a representative of the DA's office, two County Commissioners other than Mr. Krahlung, and one City Councilor.

The consensus of the group was that bullying is not just a school issue it is a community issue and reducing it will take a community wide effort. Carrie Hamblen of PFLAG suggested a Diversity Council to create a unified strategy to be used as the basis for the community effort. Mayor Ken Miyagishima suggested using existing groups like Neighborhood Watch,

neighborhood associations and PTOs in the effort to reduce bullying. These ideas are moving forward with Commissioner Krahlung organizing a group to begin establishing a strategy. The city and county have committed to taking action on a community wide anti-bullying initiative by the end of January 2011 and are currently drafting resolutions.

These are significant developments in creating a safe community for GLBTQ kids and all kids in New Mexico.

—David Stocum, Executive Director,
New Mexico GLBTQ Centers

A Blessing for Those Who Are Being Bullied

If you are a GLBT boy or girl, man or woman who is being bullied, then this blessing is for you. Carry it with you. Keep it near you at all times. Let it be a light through any darkness as you find your path to the dignity and respect you deserve as a child of God.

My Name is _____

Whatever others may try to call me, My Name is _____

God knows me by My Name because God gave me life. God calls me by name because God has a purpose for my life.

God remembers my name because God loves me just as I am.

Therefore, I will not be afraid. I will not be intimidated. I will not be denied my dignity.

I will not harm myself. I will not be

called by any other name than My Name.

My Name is _____

And I am beautiful and precious in the eyes of the Lord.

—adapted from the Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston, courtesy of Integrity USA & The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine

NEW MEXICO GLBTQ CENTERS

1210 N. Main St.
Las Cruces, NM 88001
Phone: (575) 635-4902
Email: info@newmexicoglbtcntrs.org

Las Cruces Center Hours:
Monday through Friday
12:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Saturday and Sunday
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

***Connecting Communities,
Enriching Lives.***

**Check out our website at
www.gaynewmexico.org**



Our Mission

We reduce homophobia and enrich the lives of individuals living in New Mexico who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning through education, advocacy, support, example and collaboration.

Our Vision

*Six Regional GLBTQ Community Centers
Satellite Centers, Remote events, Mobile outreach to rural areas
Quality needs based programs and services
A New Mexico where EVERYONE is equally respected
A model repeatable in other rural states*

Center Events—Something for Everyone!

Support Groups

Women's Group

1st & 3rd Thursdays each month (starting in February)
7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Men's Group Meeting

1st & 3rd Wednesdays each month
7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Parents of GLBTQ Youth Support

2nd & 4th Thursdays each month
7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

GLBTQ Youth Group

2nd & 4th Wednesdays each month
7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Bisexuals' Support Group

2nd & 4th Thursdays each month
7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Southern New Mexico Trans Support Group

1st & 3rd Saturdays each month
4:00 pm to 5:30 pm

Services

Sexual Compulsives Anonymous (SCA)

Every Monday
7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Pride on Main Al-Anon

Every Tuesday
5:30 pm to 6:30 pm

HIV Testing with New Mexico

Department of Health
2nd Tuesday each month
2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

FUN!

Family Fun Night

1st Friday each month
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Stonewall Coffeehouse and Open Mic Night

4th Friday each month
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Pride Cinema

3rd Friday each month
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Writing Group

2nd & 4th Saturdays each month
1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Reading Q Book Club

1st Sunday each month
1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Special Events

New Mexico Women's Chorus:

Passport to America
Saturday, January 29, 2011
7:30 pm
Good Samaritan Center

Volunteer Recognition Event

Sunday, January 30, 2011
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
We value our volunteers and want to do something special to show our appreciation. Please join us in recognizing them!

