



Community Connections

The Newsletter of New Mexico GLBTQ
Centers

Spring 2010

Las Cruces Flagship Center Opens

By Richard Scramstad

The Center, a first for Las Cruces, will provide social, educational, cultural, and support services to enrich the lives of GLBTQ residents of Las Cruces, Dona Ana County and surrounding counties. It is the first of six regional community centers New Mexico GLBTQ Centers (NM Centers) plans across New Mexico.



“We’re excited to have the center open and to start rolling out programming over the next month or so,” stated David Stocum, Executive Director of NM Centers. Stocum continued, “There will be a grand opening celebration during Southern New Mexico Pride, June 18-20, with an open house and other events all weekend.”

Currently, the Las Cruces GLBTQ Center is open Tuesday through Friday from Noon to 8:00PM and Saturday from 1:00PM to 5:00PM. The center is home to a teen/youth center, a transgender support group, a men’s support group, Stonewall Coffeehouse and open mic night. HIV testing and Pride Cinema are slated to begin in May with a support group for Parents Raising Gay Youth starting in June. The Center’s calendar is available on its website www.newmexicoglbtccenters.org.

The Center is looking for individuals to lead or co-lead several groups or activities including:

Family Fun Night – GLBTQ family hanging out and having fun together

Gay Parents Group – discussion, support and activities for GLBTQ parents

Woman’s Group – discussion, support and activities for women

Seniors’ Group – discussion, support and activities for men and women 60+

Hobby or Interest Groups – have a hobby or interest you’d like to share? Start a group at The Center.

The Las Cruces GLBTQ Center is also looking for volunteers for several opportunities with flexible schedules. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact the center at (575) 635-4902 or info@newmexicoglbtccenters.org



Why Does It Matter

As a community, we can accomplish much more together than we ever could alone. NM Centers is our place to connect, to be together and share our common ground. NM Centers is our place to enrich our lives through shared experience. As members of the GLBTQ community, we can help each other meet our unique needs in ways that only we can.

NM Centers offers opportunities to connect from social and cultural events to human services programs to offering information resources. When you support NM Centers, you make a difference in the lives of people in your world locally, people like you who want to do more than stand on the sidelines, people who want to take action and be connected while enriching their lives and others. By becoming a member of New Mexico GLBTQ Centers you make our community stronger.

You may become a member online here <http://www.newmexicoglbtccenters.org/membership.html> or by mailing your contribution to New Mexico GLBTQ Centers, PO Box 2371, Las Cruces, NM 88004.

Centers Celebrate Las Cruces Grand Opening

By David Stocum

New Mexico GLBTQ Centers will celebrate the Grand Opening of its Las Cruces community center during Southern New Mexico Pride the weekend of June 18 to 20. The Center will play hosts to several events as part of what is shaping up as the gayest weekend in Las Cruces history.

Center Grand Opening events begin Friday with a workshop, "Coalition Building For A New Age," co-sponsored by EQNM and PFLAG New Mexico. This capacity building workshop will be open to all New Mexico GLBTQ organizations and activists free of charge. The details will follow in the near future. Friday's events continue in the evening when Pride Cinema at The Center presents Family DVD Night. The movie and popcorn are on us.



Saturday begins with a ribbon cutting at The Center before the Pride Parade and Picnic. During the Pride Picnic, The Center will host an Open House with shuttle service to and from Pioneer Women's Park. New Mexico GLBTQ Centers will also have a booth at the picnic. We are looking for volunteers to help with the booth, open house and shuttle service. If you would like to help, call the Center at 575-635-4902 or email info@newmexicoglbtccenters.org. Saturday wraps up with an invitation only VIP Reception.

Sunday will feature an Interfaith Brunch with a panel discussion featuring representatives of several Las Cruces churches.

All events are free, donations accepted.

Grand Opening sponsorships are available starting at \$50; contact Board President Richard Scramstad at president@newmexicoglbtccenters.org.

Southern New Mexico Pride events (from their website):

Friday, June 18, 7-10 PM

Gaylapalooza: A night of Queer Indie Rock featuring Namoli Brennet, Daniel Cartier and Eric Himan at the Rio Grande Theatre, Downtown mall with admission \$20.

Saturday, June 19, 10 AM - 3 PM

Pride

Pioneer Women's Park, 500 Las Cruces Avenue

9:50 a.m. Parade line-up

10:00 a.m. Walking parade led by Grand Marshall Jeff Stevens/Save Mart

10:40 a.m. Pride Awards

11:00 a.m. Pet Blessing

11:30-12:00 noon Concert

12:30 p.m. Queer Bake-Off

2:00-2:30 p.m. Concert

Throughout the Day: Dancing in the gazebo, and over 100 food and craft vendors in the park

Saturday, June 19, 12:30-1:30 PM

Queer Bake Off!

12:00 noon Contestant sign-in

Women's Club, directly across the street from the Pride Picnic

12:30 p.m. Judging and awards

1:00 p.m. Auctioning off of recipes and desserts

Saturday, June 19, 9:00 PM. to Close

Dance and Pride After-Party

Rainforest, 1765 South Main Street

21 and older, please

Sunday, June 20

Pool Party!

Desert Hills Pool, 5800 La Reina Rd

4-6 p.m. Family Swim

6-8 p.m. Adult Swim (18 and older only, please)

It will be a fun packed, exciting weekend to be queer in Cruces.



Research Help Requested

By Lavinia Nicolae

I'm a graduate student at the University of New Mexico in the department of anthropology doing doctoral research on same-sex families and marriage. I am interested in interviewing gay, lesbian, and transgender couples (with and without kids) about their lives in different parts of New Mexico, including Las Cruces and Doña Ana County.

My research investigates the ways in which New Mexico gay, lesbian, and transgender individuals, couples, and parents create family and display their intimate relationships in the context of political struggle for marriage and family rights. The research focuses on every-day life experiences of gay, lesbian and transgender couples and individuals and their experience with the political and legal battle to gain domestic partner rights in the state of New Mexico.

I do an interview that starts with a survey that is part demographic and part experience. The interview lasts as long as couples would like it to, but at the very minimum I ask for two hours time (this includes the survey time). Your participation in interviews will include talking about your history as a couple and/or family, your ethnic background and cultural heritage, the kinds of support systems you have in place for yourselves, and your interpretation of ideas of marriage, tradition, and values. If there are no objections I would also like to record the interview. Depending on your interest and how the first interview goes I may also request a second interview. The second interview concentrates on couples' opinions and experience with the current political climate surrounding issues of marriage/domestic partnership and family recognition. The second interview is generally shorter (1-1.5 hrs).

Because this research is for graduate study and funds are limited, I cannot financially compensate couples for their time. Information and material you share with me will be part of my dissertation and may also be referenced for work I may produce after the completion of the dissertation. There are no benefits to you as participants in this study, but I believe the study can benefit New Mexico LGBT communities and society more generally. I believe this study offers the opportunity to present important ways that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender couples culturally, socially, politically and legally utilize, negotiate and possibly challenge ideas and norms about marriage and family. I believe such information can prove useful to LGBT organizations interested in gaining rights for LGBT New Mexicans. I also believe my research tells an important story about LGBT people's experiences as couples and families, which I believe continue to be denied and misrepresented. Therefore, information from this study will be made available to NM LGBTQ organizations, including NM GLBTQ Centers.

Please contact me by email at lavinia@unm.edu if you interested in participating in this project. Thank you for your consideration.

Creating Our Future

By David Stocum

New Mexico GLBTQ Centers is one of 23 finalists for a share of \$300,000 in City of Las Cruces Health – Related Public Services funds for fiscal year 2011 beginning July 1st. The funds we have

requested will fund our Rainbow Youth program. Rainbow Youth includes the Youth Center at the Las Cruces GLBTQ Center, Life Skills training, Empowered Expressions and the Lead, Excel, Act, Persevere (LEAP) coaching program; all designed to empower young people to make better choices and thrive as gay teens. Self-confident, empowered teens are less likely to engage in risky behaviors or attempt suicide. Our presentation before the Health and Human Services Advisory Committee is April 21 and City Council will approve the committee's choices in May.

NM Centers is also in discussions with OptumHealth New Mexico to become a part of their TeleHealth network. As a part of the network, we would provide a teleconference connection for behavioral health clients to access medication management and other services. This alliance would be a fee for service revenue source which would support general operating expenses. It also will give us teleconference capabilities which could be used for other purposes when not in use with TeleHealth.

In March, Executive Director, David Stocum, met with the New Mexico Department of Aging and Long Term Services to discuss senior services for GLBTQ elders. New Mexico GLBTQ Centers is working with Services and Advocacy for Gay Elders (SAGE) to develop senior programs. SAGE is a national organization and expert on GLBTQ aging issues. They recently were awarded a three year, \$900,000 grant to create the National Technical Assistance Center for LGBT Seniors by the Department of Health and Human Services.

We hope to have good news about these initiatives in the near future.

In The News

By David Stocum



Recently, the Las Cruces GLBTQ Center's soft opening, mentioned earlier in this newsletter, was featured in media outlets locally in Las Cruces and around the state. In addition to the stories linked to below, the opening was first reported on KFOX-TV out of El Paso.

Democracy for New Mexico

http://www.democracyfornewmexico.com/democracy_for_new_mexico/2010/04/las-cruces-gets-first-glbtc-community-center.html

Grass Roots Press

<http://www.grass-roots-press.com/index.php?s=glbtq+center>

Prescription for Health on KSNM 570

<http://feeds.ksnm570.am/2010/04/13/rx-for-health-3312010-hour-1.aspx>

Center Links: News from LGBT Community Centers Everywhere

<http://hosted-p0.vresp.com/472573/7df58e1424/ARCHIVE>

KRWG TV and FM

<http://www.youtube.com/KRWGnews#p/u/1/eMwKFHJmU7c>



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ManREACH: Gathering and Empowering Gay and Bisexual Men in Southern New Mexico

By David Stocum

New Mexico GLBTQ Centers is proud to announce a unique and powerful community building experience for gay and bisexual men in Southern New Mexico.

In May 2010, the Centers' new ManREACH program will begin hosting a series of Community Dinners. The dinners will provide us with the opportunity to meet, be ourselves and learn more about each other. They also will help us identify the core values of the community we want to create and sample the ManREACH experience.

The Community Dinners will kick off a summer long, gay and bisexual community building campaign that will culminate with the first Southern New Mexico ManREACH Gathering at Black River Retreat in Carlsbad, August 27-29, 2010. The Gathering at Black River promises to be an exciting and memorable experience for all who attend. Here men from throughout the region will come together to share our stories and begin charting a course for our future. The Community Dinners and the Gathering are at no cost to you except for any donations you wish to give.

ManREACH (REACH stands for Rural Education in Action for Community Health) embraces the belief that the individual benefits that come from being part of a community are not just social, but emotional, mental, physical and spiritual, too. For that reason, New Mexico ManREACH was created to provide gay and bisexual men in Southern New Mexico with safe, comfortable, recreational drug and alcohol free locations where we can relax, have fun and create the community we want and deserve.

This summer a powerful peer based experience of sharing, connection and learning comes to New Mexico. Please accept this invitation to join New Mexico ManREACH at any of the upcoming Community Dinners and the Gathering at Black River in August. For more information, email info@newmexicoglbtqcenters.org or call 575-635-4902 or toll free 888-286-9306.

New Mexico ManREACH is made possible by private donations, the Gamma Mu Foundation, Colorado ManREACH, the New Mexico GLBTQ Centers, and a great group of volunteers.

Join The Fun.... Volunteer

Volunteers

Opportunity: Community Center Hosts

Description: Community Center Hosts welcome visitors to the community center. They are the friendly face of the Las Cruces GLBTQ Center and New Mexico GLBTQ Centers. Community Center Hosts interact with a variety of groups from the young people coming to the youth center to elders joining our seniors group. If you enjoy making friends, this is a great opportunity for you.

They assist visitors as needed with information regarding programs, upcoming events, activities and other organizations in the area. Community Center Hosts also answer phones and perform other duties and projects as needed.

Schedules are flexible with the Center being open Tuesday through Saturday.

Requirements: Knowledge of the Las Cruces GLBTQ community would be helpful but is not required.

Type: Ongoing Opportunity

Opportunity: Librarians and other book lovers

Description: New Mexico GLBTQ Centers is fortunate that several members of the community have donated or loaned books to the Las Cruces GLBTQ Center to start a GLBTQ Library. We are looking for a few book lovers to set up, organize and maintain our library. This would be an excellent volunteer opportunity for a retired librarian or anyone who loves books and connecting with people through books.

Library team may also organize book related events and groups at the center.

Requirements: You will enjoy this opportunity most if you have good computer skills, are well organized and have an attention to detail.

Type: Ongoing Opportunity

[To contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Darlene Berg.... click here](#)



Because I'm gay? [FIND OUT NOW](#)

Come as you are at chemistry.com

Additional Research Request

Dear friends at the New Mexico GLBTQ centers;

Greetings from the San Francisco Bay Area! My name is Alan Shindel. I am a physician in the Department of Urology at the University of California in San Francisco. With help from colleagues in the Department of Urology and Obstetrics/Gynecology here at UCSF, I am conducting a survey of urinary and sexual wellness in women who have sex with women (WSW) and men who have sex with men (MSM). We are asking for help in this important research project from leaders within the LGBTQI communities.

Urinary and sexual health problems in the MSM and WSW have not been extensively researched; hence, the unique healthcare needs of this population may not be receiving adequate attention. The lack of attention to the particular health needs was highlighted in a recent report published in the New England Journal of Medicine, which found that 15% of clinical trials in sexual medicine specifically excluded lesbians and gay men from enrolling.

Please help us raise awareness in the medical community of the urinary and sexual health needs of WSW and MSM. We are hoping to collect data from at least 10,000 MSM and 10,000 WSW. With more participants, our results will become more important and meaningful. We ask that you, as a leader in the LGBTQI community, help us to reach as many people as possible with our survey. If you are so inclined, please forward our survey to women and men who may be willing to take it. This can be efficiently done by email forwarding or postings to your website or message boards. We can also e-mail flyers and postcards that can be posted in real world locations. We will post an analysis of the survey results on our website after the survey is closed to share our findings with the LGBTQI community.

The survey is meant for people 18 and older, is TOTALLY ANONYMOUS and takes 10-15 minutes to complete. The survey website does not record any personal information or IP addresses; tracking cookies or other forms of spyware are not a part of this survey.

The surveys may be accessed at the links below:

For women who have sex with women: <http://urology.ucsf.edu/wswhealth.html>

<<http://urology.ucsf.edu/wswhealth.html>>

For men who have sex with men: <http://urology.ucsf.edu/msmhealth.html>

<<http://urology.ucsf.edu/msmhealth.html>>

We are dedicated to improving treatment and raising awareness of LGBTQI health issues. With your help we can make a difference and improve healthcare for MSM and WSW.

Sincerely yours,
Alan W. Shindel, MD (shindela@urology.ucsf.edu)



Support Your Community Center - Buy Groceries

If you shop at Albertson's there is a painless way to support New Mexico GLBTQ Centers. Albertson's Community Partners Program will make a donation of from 1% to 5% of your purchase every time you swipe your NM GLBTQ Centers key tag. Nothing is added to your bill, it's no cost to you or NM Centers. It's like free money! Pick up a tag at the Center in Las Cruces, or email [mailto:info@newmexicoglbtcntr.org?subject=Community partner tag](mailto:info@newmexicoglbtcntr.org?subject=Community%20partner%20tag)