





Older Rainbow Community of Albuquerque, serving LGBTQ+ elders

MARCH 2025

Community is vital as we age, and being around others who share similar experiences and interests is crucial for our well-being. ORCA provides a welcoming space for LGBT+ elders to come together, share ideas, and enjoy fun, meaningful activities tailored to your interests.

By joining ORCA MeetUp, you become a member of ORCA at no cost. This is your chance to meet new friends, exchange ideas, and participate in events designed for the LGBT+ elder community.

Sound interesting? Visit <https://www.meetup.com/Albuquerque-LGBT-Elders> to join today!





RSVP NOW!

Does this button look familiar? If you have ever responded to an event, you know this button. But did you know there is more to pushing it than meets the eye? Well, let us tell you all about the RSVP button, particularly when it comes to including "guests."

1. What's ORCA's Guest policy?
2. When I RSVP for an ORCA meetup, why can I add Guests to some but not others?
3. How do I add a Guest (or Guests)?
4. Who can be a Guest at an ORCA event?

Here are the answers:

1. ORCA doesn't have a specific policy about Guests. That answers the first question. However, a Guest should be a guest and not an ORCA member. Read on.

2. ORCA's Event Hosts, the community volunteers who put ORCA events on meetup, decide whether to let attendees invite Guests to each event. They can turn on or off an "Allow Guests" setting to allow Guests for that event. They can also set the Guest limit. That's all handled by the volunteer Event Host. By default, the setting to allow Guests is turned off. Sometimes that setting is left off unintentionally. So, it pays to message the host to see if they really meant "no guests." That answers the second question.

3. When the Host enables the 'Allow Guests' setting in the Meetup settings, you'll see a 'Bringing Guests?' option right next to the RSVP button. If you don't see that option, then the Host hasn't opted in to allow Guests for that specific event.

If you want to bring a Guest and you DO see that option, just input the number of Guests. If you DON'T see that option to add Guests when you RSVP but still want to bring a Guest, just message the Host directly through Meetup. Be patient for the Host to reply and respect their decision. That answers the third question.

4. Quite simply, "Guests" are non-members of ORCA. So, if you are RSVPing for yourself, that's fine. If your "guest" is a member, they should RSVP for themselves. I know this might seem foolish, but we need to know how many members are attending which events. Otherwise, it screws up our numbers. This is particularly important when we are asked how many active members we have and do they participate in events. Therefore, we encourage ALL ORCA members to always RSVP as individuals and not as guests in order to be counted in attendance and as participants at our events.

Here are a few reasons why the suggestion above is the best practice:

A. ORCA counts attendance and participation statistics for its members. This information is crucial for obtaining grants and forming partnerships. If our "active member count" is underestimated, it could negatively impact our funding efforts and advocacy success.

B. Members who don't RSVP on their own but rely on others to mark them as "Guests" don't count in our membership level for events and participation. Only members who RSVP factor into ORCA's "active member" statistics.

C. Members who don't RSVP but show up or come as a "Guest" appear as "inactive" in ORCA. "Inactive members" could miss out on future messages or newsletters from ORCA about upcoming events and meetings.

D. Guest attendees don't receive any reminders or alerts from Meetup about the events, so they wouldn't be notified of any changes to the meetup event. It is very beneficial for ALL members to RSVP to receive the reminders and alerts from meetup.

E. ORCA Event Hosts can't identify or communicate with Guests about the events. Only members get such communications.

F. Guests are essentially "invisible" and "anonymous", and attending ORCA members who RSVP can't see any profile information for the members who get added on as Guests. Plus, those who come as Guests miss out on messaging between RSVP'd members before, during, or after the event. All reasons to never add an ORCA member as a Guest.

G. Calendar updates, event location changes, or event cancellations ONLY go to the members who RSVP and not to Guests. There is NO contact with

Guests. Therefore, a member who is added on as a guest will not receive any communications about the event.

H. Whenever ORCA events reach attendance limit and have a "Waitlist," only the individual ORCA members who'd RSVP'd get moved over from the Waitlist to attend the event if space becomes available. If there is only one space that opens up and your guest is also a member, there is no space for that member in the event. You will have to decide which of you gets to go.

I. Event Hosts rely primarily on member RSVPs, not Guest counts, to gauge the interest level of the event. That's another reason why every ORCA member who attends events should RSVP. It gives us an accurate account of member's interest in an event.

J. Meetup members should RSVP for events because it helps Event Hosts plan for the right number of people, make sure there's enough space, and have enough resources for ORCA members who are coming. It's a way to show that you're committed to attending an event and respecting the Event Host and other ORCA attendees.

K. Also, guests are friendly people who want to accompany ORCA members at ORCA events, but only if the Event Host says it's okay. Every ORCA member is encouraged to add Guests who will share our values to our event experiences. However, it's BEST practice not to ever add someone who's already a joined member of ORCA in meetup and part of the ORCA family to the attendance list as a "guest."

Please contact me if you have any questions, about this particular topic or any other matters having to do with ORCA's meetup.

Thanks to y'all for being part of the ORCA family and for participating (via RSVP) to our gatherings!

---Stu Garber

Finally! Our Own Account!



From its beginning, ORCA has been under other organizations' sponsorship, including our finances. ORCA is on the road to being its own non-profit 501(c)3, with our finances under our own name.

For starters, our donation button now heads to ORCA's own PayPal account. So, be the first to donate money and watch it go to ORCA's own account under its own name and not the name of a sponsoring group.

DONATE TODAY





Remember:

RSVP for yourself and a non-member guest. Members should RSVP for themselves and not as a guest.

Let's Plan Some More Dances



Following the huge success of our February Valentine's Dance (thanks to Annie, Essie, and all the other volunteers!), let's meet up for our second dance committee meeting on **Monday, March 3, 2025 at 3pm.**

We aim to conduct our planning meeting efficiently and to finalize the details for the next ORCA dance. Just a heads up, if you'd like, you can ask the Host to email to you a meeting agenda prior to this event. Here's a summary of what you can expect to see on the agenda:

- * Music choices
- * Possible Dance venues
- * Funding options
- * Specific dates for the next ORCA dance, and possibly for more dances to come

Our peer ORCA member, Rane Richardson, is hosting this meeting at his Nob Hill area home. Please RSVP to let the Host know you'll be joining us. The

address for the meetup location will be sent to each community member who RSVPs through Meetup.

Finally, if you RSVP with a guest(s), please make sure that guest(s) is not a member of ORCA. All members should RSVP on their own individually.

RSVP NOW

West Side ORCA Women (WOW)



This event meets the first Wednesday of every month at Books on the Bosque, 6261 Riverside Plaza Lane NW, Suite A-2, at 11am.



There is no set topic for discussion. If anyone has a story to tell, we're ready to listen. This is a place to get together, meet other women and chat. There will sometimes be an announcement about ORCA and its activities.

There are drinks and goodies available for purchase. The bookstore is woman owned and is welcoming to the LGBTQ community.

So, won't you please join us.

Finally, if you RSVP with a guest(s), please make sure that guest(s) is not a member of ORCA. All members should RSVP on their own individually.

RSVP NOW

UNM March Music Madness Part One



If you think of an old-time John Phillip Sousa concert when you hear Symphonic Band, then you have not been to a band concert in a long time. Much of the music written for symphonic band started in the mid-1950s and continues to be created up to the present time. No oo-pah-pahing here. Rarely played are band orchestrations of 19th century famous classical works. No. It's very contemporary, exciting and often moving music.

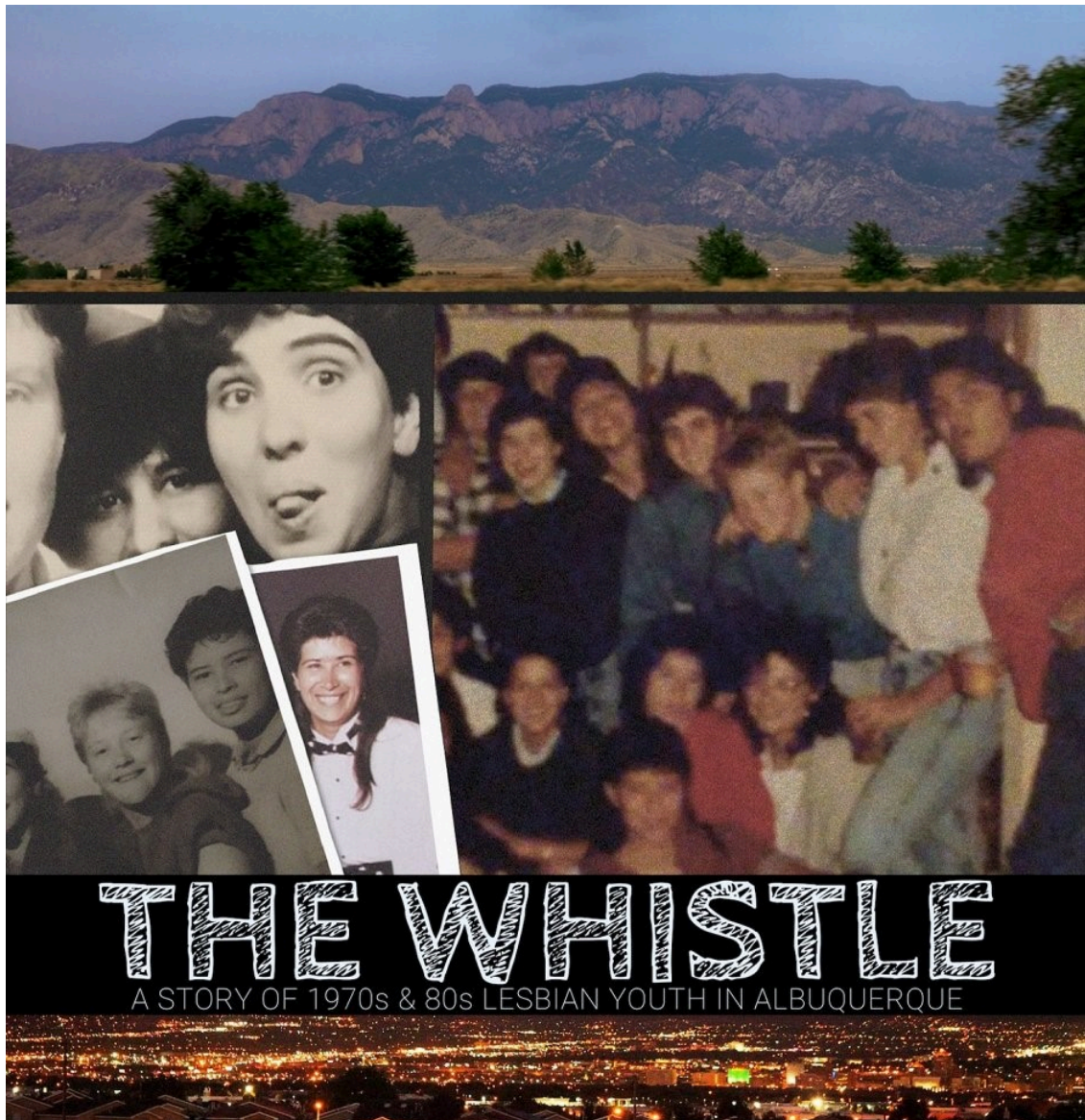
Join us at **Popejoy Auditorium** on the UNM campus on **March 5th at 7:30pm** for our very own UNM Symphonic Band's Spring concert. While the program hasn't been announced yet, you can be assured that these highly skilled musicians will enthusiastically impress you with their playing of both an ambitious and familiar range of music. Even better, **senior tickets are only \$10** and can be bought at Popejoy's box office before the performance.

If you want to have dinner beforehand, please join us at **El Patio de Albuquerque, 143 Harvard Drive**, across from UNM for delicious Southwestern cuisine. We will meet there at 6pm.

Finally, if you RSVP with a guest(s), please make sure that guest(s) is not a member of ORCA. All members should RSVP on their own individually.

RSVP NOW

Screening of the Lesbian film "The Whistle" ABQ Queer Women's Meetup



The ABQ Queer Women's MeetUp invites WOMEN to attend the March 8th (Saturday) afternoon film screening of "The Whistle." **The screening starts at 1pm at the Erna Ferguson Library, 3700 San Mateo Blvd. NE.**

The history of the LGBTQ community is often told in big, bold strokes. That's not the case in ***The Whistle***, a documentary feature crowd funded and directed by StormMiguel Florez, a 45 year old Xicane trans man, who returned to his hometown in search of the origin of a secret code he learned when he identified as a young dyke in the 1980s.

By focusing on the queer history of his hometown of Albuquerque, New Mexico, during the 1970s and 1980s, this queer Chicanx trans man is intent on giving

voice to the oft-forgotten stories of the local, LGBTQ community. In this case, the doc takes the filmmaker back to the time when he came out as and identified as a lesbian in 1987 — during his freshman year at Del Norte High School in Albuquerque.

During that time, several of his lesbian peers took him under their wings and taught him how to navigate the stresses and joys of being gay in Albuquerque in the mid 1980s. They took him to house parties, introduced him to lesbians from other high schools, cruised the parking lots of gay bars that they were too young to get into, and taught him slang like “wrecked” (the process of coming out) and “1-4-3” (code for “I love you”). And, as the title suggests, they taught him “the dyke whistle.”

The high-pitched, but quite subtle whistle was a code of sorts. The whistle was a way to let other girls know you, too, were a lesbian. “It was part of the language that we used in order to protect ourselves,” one woman clarifies. For this was still a time and a place when homophobia ran rampant, when all of these young girls knew there was a line never to be crossed.



The high-pitched, but quite subtle whistle was a code of sorts. As many of Florez’s subjects share, the whistle was a way to let other girls know you too were a lesbian. “It was part of the language that we used in order to protect ourselves,” one woman clarifies. For this was still a time and a place when homophobia ran rampant, when all of these young girls knew there was a line never to be crossed.

Finally, if you RSVP with a guest(s), please make sure that guest(s) is not a member of ORCA. All members should RSVP on their own individually.

RSVP NOW

These Stories Are The Best! They Slam!!



Everyone has a story to tell. Everyone in Orca has a least one story. Probably more. But would you stand up in front of a bunch of strangers and reveal incidences from your life? You'd be surprised. One of our members attended, stood up to tell a story and won a prize!

Well, that's what the storytellers at the **Duke City Story Slam** do every other month at **Canteen Brewhouse, 2181 Aztec Road NE**. Three tellers--including female, male, trans, cross-dressing, non-binary, etc.--reveal stories from their lives. They can be dramatic, humorous, uplifting, emotional, deeply personal and often with twists that are very moving (some involving LGBTQ+ experiences). And as you can see from the photo above, lots of people want to

hear these stories. Plus, four people in the audience can get up and in five minutes tell their stories. It's **a community event of sharing** unlike anything else in Albuquerque. And **you can be part of it:** as a storyteller and/or an audience member.

DUKE CITY STORY SLAM

THEME: BEST LAID PLANS

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 6-8 PM

DETOUR

**True stories of unexpected
twists and resilience.
Open Mic spots available,
sign up at the event.**

**ST
NM**

Duke City
DCSS
Story Slam

**CANTEEN
BREWHOUSE**

Canteen Brewhouse- 2381 Aztec Rd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87107

Join us on **March 11th at 6pm** for **one of the best deals in town**. You get two entertaining hours of some of the most interesting and often surprising personal stories around while being part of a community that supports you, all for a \$5 donation. **It's an event that can't be beat.** Plus, there's food and drink you can

order. (Dress warmly if its chilly since the Slam takes place on the patio with heaters.)

Finally, if you RSVP with a guest, please make sure your guest is *not* a member of ORCA. Members should RSVP individually on their own. But it's okay if you come together. 😊

RSVP NOW

ORCA's Monthly Town-Hall Style Community

Update



TOWN HALL MEETING

Hey everyone! **March 13th** is our monthly get together to chat about everything and anything happening in ORCA! Whether you're a newbie to our meetups or a long-time member, an ORCA event planner or a meetup attendee, we'd love to hear your thoughts and insights. Come to learn, share, and meet new people and current friends alike!

Friends and allies who share the vision of ORCA, a welcoming and inclusive community, are welcome to be our guests.

We'll be meeting at the **Highland Senior Center**, which is conveniently located in **Nob Hill, 131 Monroe St NE**, Albuquerque, NM 87106 from **2PM to 4PM**.

We'll have an open discussion format, answer any questions you have about ORCA, and give you an update on our activities.

Thanks for RSVPing - that lets the Host know you'll be attending.

RSVP NOW

UNM March Music Madness Part Two



There is nothing quite like a mixed chorus blending their voices in a soul stirring composition. It will take you away from whatever you are thinking about as you experience another dimension. Such is the enjoyment of listening to the voices of the UNM Concert Choir. While the program has yet to be announced, you can be assured it will be a well-chosen blend of traditional and contemporary choral works by a broad range of composers.

This concert will take place on **March 13th at Keller Hall** across from Popejoy auditorium. **Senior tickets are \$10.** Because Keller is much smaller than Popejoy, **you are advised to buy your ticket in advance**, either at the box office next to the UNM bookstore or on-line at UNM Ticketing Services.

If you want a bite to eat before the concert, join us at **Mazaya Middle Eastern Cafe, 120 Harvard SE**, across from the UNM Campus. **We will meet at 6pm.**

Finally, if you RSVP with a guest(s), please make sure your guest(s) is not a member of ORCA. All ORCA members need to RSVP individually. Thank you.

RSVP NOW

UNM March Music Madness Part Three



The **nationally acclaimed UNM Wind Symphony** is comprised of the **50 most talented wind, brass, and percussion students at the University of New Mexico** and its purpose is to prepare musicians and music educators for the rigors of a professional life in music. **Under the direction of Emily Moss**, the Wind Symphony has performed at the regional and national conferences of the College Band Directors National Association, Society for Composers, Inc. National Conference, North American Saxophone Alliance Conference, and New Mexico Music Educators Conference.

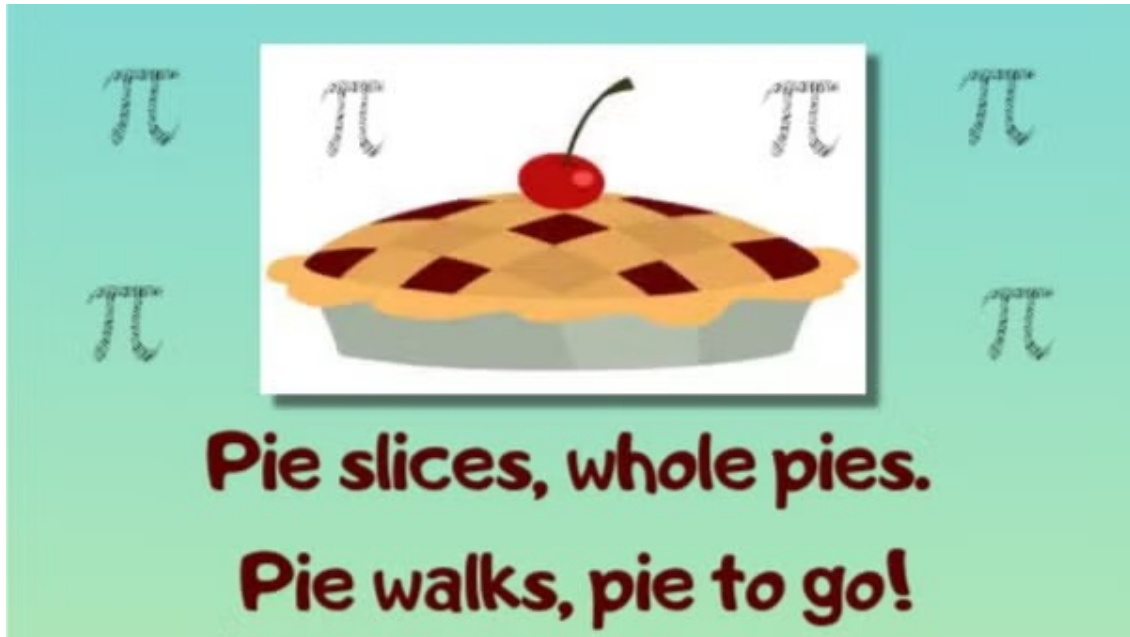
On **March 14th at 7:30 in Popejoy Hall**, the Wind Symphony will perform a program of contemporary pieces written specifically for wind instruments. The program includes *Circuits* by Cindy McTee, *Clarinet Polka* Arr. by Jim Self, *Tour de Force* by Jim Self, *Stone Colors* by Stephen Gryc, and *Masks and Machines* by Paul Dooley. Played by this exceptional group of highly skilled musicians, this concert is a selection of works guaranteed to make you a life-long fan of wind symphony compositions. **Senior tickets are \$10** and can be purchased at the Popejoy box office before the concert.

We will be meeting prior to the concert for a quick bite at **Frontiers Restaurant** on the corner of Central and Cornell across from the campus. Frontiers is a down-to-earth counter-serve restaurant offering homestyle Southwestern fare since 1971. Inexpensive but tasty.

Finally, if you RSVP with a guest(s), please make sure they are not ORCA members. Members should RSVP individually. Thank you.

RSVP NOW

Hungry for Something Sweet?



Join us for our Annual Fun-raising event: **Pie Palooza.**



On **March 15th** there will be pies of all sorts and lots of friendly people at the **Albuquerque Balloon Museum, 9201 Balloon Museum Dr NE, from 1-3pm**. Bring your friends, neighbors, relatives...and an appetite!

If you can donate a pie, please let us know by emailing us at sc@orcaabq.org. And if you need a glass pie container in which to bake your pie, contact Dennis Weber at dosokieskd@msn.com

RSVP NOW

Back Together 🏳️‍🌈 Again Tuesdays



Everyone is welcome, ORCA member or not, **on the third Tuesday of every month**. Just look for the ORCA sign. We meet at the **Sawmill Market, 1909 Bellamah Ave. NE, just North of Old Town at 11 a.m.**



ORCA's Back Together is mainly a social mixer with *an unstructured agenda* in order to share great company, make new friends and enjoy yummy food and bevies. **Everyone in the LGBTQia+ communities and our allies** are welcome to come and hang out. It's a chance to **support each other** across our diverse communities.

RSVP NOW

UNM March Music Madness Part Four



The **UNM Symphony Orchestra** program has been in existence for more than **fifty years**. It constitutes one of **the most important cultural student organizations of the campus** of the University of New Mexico and is open to all students regardless of academic major.

On **March 27th in Popejoy Hall at 7:30pm**, the UNM Symphony Orchestra presents an evening of music that celebrates both intimacy and brilliance. The program begins with Paul Dukas's *Fanfare from La Peri*, a short yet powerful opening statement. Jessie Montgomery's *Starburst* follows, dazzling with its explosive energy and shimmering textures. The timeless vitality of Mozart's *Haffner Symphony (Symphony No. 35)* brings a classical brilliance to the evening, and the program concludes with Adolfo Mejía's *Pequeña Suite*, a charming and vibrant work that reflects the rich traditions of Latin American music.

This **breathtaking collection of classic and contemporary compositions** from male and female composers is a music lovers dream. And **senior tickets are only \$10** and can be purchased at the Popejoy Box Office the night of the concert.

If you want to join us for something to eat beforehand, we'll be at **Sahara Middle Eastern Restaurant, 2622 Central Ave. SE, at 6pm**, three blocks from the campus. They have a fine selection of sandwiches and entrée plates guaranteed to satisfy your palate, and it's walking distance to the campus.

Finally, if your RSVP includes a guest(s), please make sure they are not members of ORCA. ORCA members should RSVP individually.
Thank you.

RSVP NOW





Cris Williamson Concert



Thursday, May 15, 2025 7:30PM

Location

South Broadway Cultural Center
1025 Broadway Blvd SE, Albuquerque, NM 87102

**NOTE: She is having another concert May 16th @ 7:30 in Santa Fe, St Francis Auditorium at the New Mexico Museum of Art
107 W Palace Ave, • Santa Fe NM**

Decades before indie labels were the norm, and years before women had any real access to the industry, Cris Williamson was busy changing the face of popular music. In 1975, the twenty-something former schoolteacher recorded *The Changer and the Changed*, for her brainchild, Olivia Records, the first woman-owned woman-focused record company.

Her music and voice quickly became the soundtrack of a movement and was the cornerstone of what would become known as "women's music," music created, performed, and marketed specifically to women.

Today, that recording, *The Changer and the Changed*, remains one of the best-selling independent releases of all time. Says Bonnie Raitt, "The first time I heard Cris' music, it was like hearing honey dripped on a cello... Cris has been a whole lot of women's heroes—including mine."

[RSVP NOW](#)

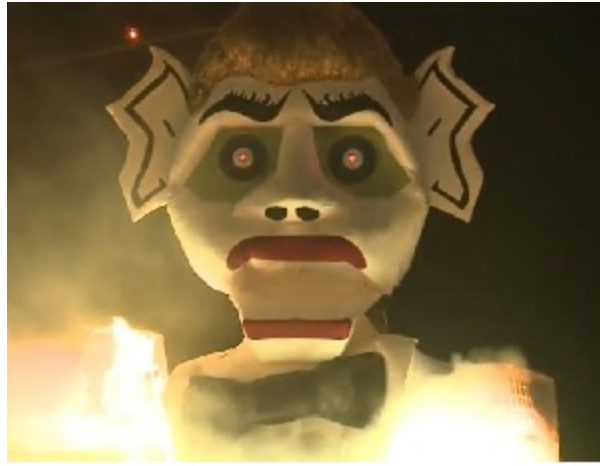




Duke City Story Slam January 2025



Old Town Stroll December 2024



Zozobra Santa Fe October 2024



Telebration Fusion Theater December 2024



La Fonda Luncheon December 2024



New Year's Eve Brunch December 2024



Metamorphosis Vortex Theater January 2025



Valentine's Day Dance February 2025

Our new website is www.orcaabq.org.

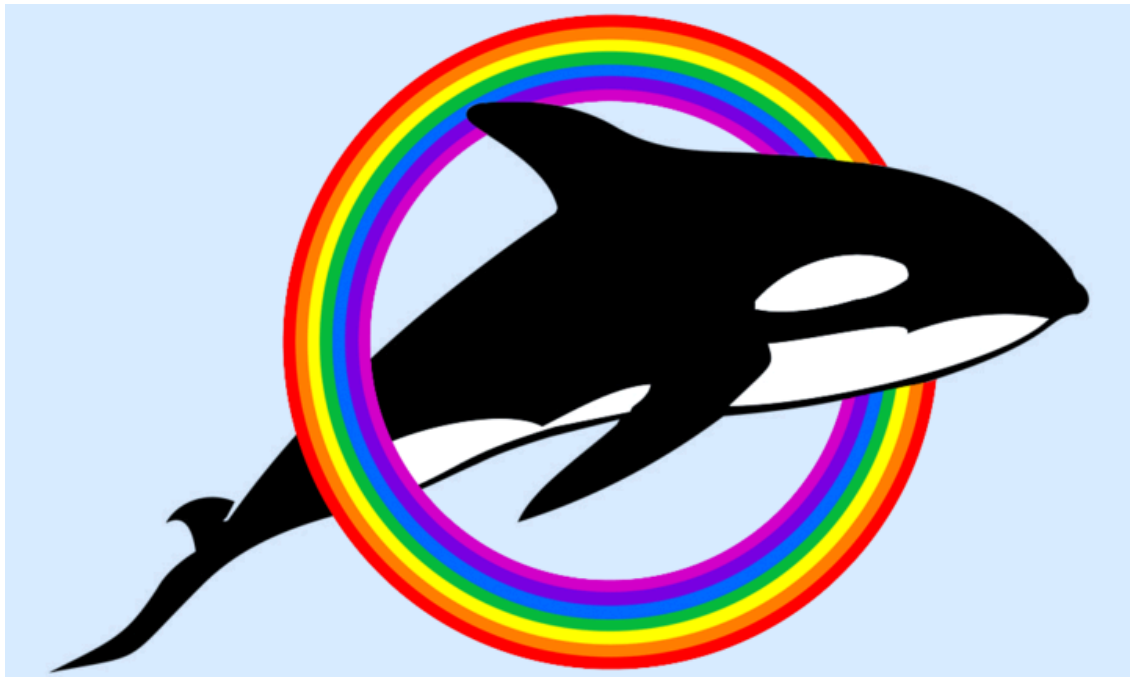
Email SC@orcaabq.org to reach the Steering Committee.

We welcome suggestions about events you'd like to see offered or things you'd like to see on the website. The ORCA website lists a variety of resources that may be helpful:

<https://orcaabq.org/resources/>

Questions about ORCA Albuquerque and the events listed above? Email us: sc@orcaabq.org.

ORCA seeks diverse community groups to partner on common projects. Please contact sc@orcaabq.org, if you'd like to explore collaborating with us.



Copyright © 2025 Older Rainbow Community of Albuquerque, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website or signed up at one of our events.

Our mailing address is:

Older Rainbow Community of Albuquerque

PO Box 20421

Albuquerque, NM 87154

Add us to your address book

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

