



Older Rainbow Community of Albuquerque, serving LGBTQ+ elders

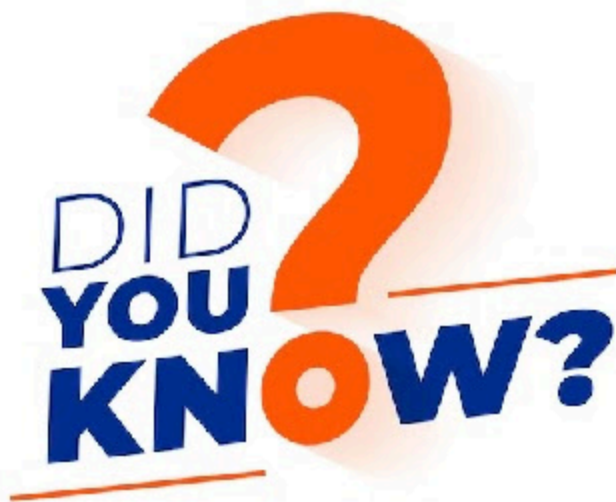
SEPTEMBER 2025

NO ONE IS ALONE

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!



Got a New Online Friend? Be Wary

Scammers may be harder to spot when they pose as pals rather than romantic partners. Instead of seducing vulnerable people online with promises of romance, some scammers are creating a (false) bond with victims by convincing them they share a common interest. They might

both belong to the same religious group, for example — and the trust that comes with it.

A recent caller to the AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline (who asked not to be named) met someone on a friendship app who seemed to share many interests with her. When the new “friend” claimed to be locked out of his bank account, he asked for a loan via the Cash App. He promised to repay the money but never did and ended up stealing \$10,000 from her.

Another caller met someone while playing online video games. When they asked for money, she agreed to help, ultimately losing over \$100,000 sent via Bitcoin and gift cards.

Instead of pretending to fall in love, the criminals act like they share your hobbies or struggles. Whether it’s a sober support group or a Facebook group for classic car lovers, scammers are slipping into these spaces just to gain your trust and take advantage of it.



Criminals lurking on sites like Facebook, Instagram or Reddit initiate contact by sending direct messages or commenting on posts. Or they might try to initiate a relationship using a wrong number text (“*Hi, is this Jane?*”). If you reply, they’ll quickly try to engage you in conversation and forge a connection. Then they often use empathy and “mirroring” — appearing to be in the same circumstances as you — to establish deep emotional connections quickly.

Eventually, conversations move to platforms that are harder to trace, such as encrypted text messaging apps like WhatsApp and Telegram. Finally, scammers invent a personal crisis to ask for financial help, often requesting money via nontraditional channels like gift cards, cryptocurrency or peer-to-peer payment apps. Or they'll say they have an investment opportunity. They have a relative who's done well in cryptocurrency, and they want you to benefit from their knowledge. (The process of creating trust before proposing this sort of bogus investment is known as financial grooming.)

Friendship scams (like many forms of fraud) are becoming even more insidious with the help of artificial intelligence. For example, a male criminal living overseas can use AI to pose as an older American woman who lives in the South and is a master gardener. If he meets you in a Facebook gardening group, he can use ChatGPT to translate his native tongue into perfect English, infuse his writing with Southern dialect, generate insights and observations about growing flowers and vegetables suited to Southern climates, and even fabricate real-looking images of his female alter ego working on rose bushes.

Keep these tips in mind to build online connections safely:

- **Be skeptical of sudden closeness.** Scammers want to build rapport fast. So, proceed cautiously when a new connection gets intimate soon after you meet them.
- **Beware of secrecy and evasion.** If online friends want you to keep your relationship secret, or if they avoid speaking on the phone, having a video chat or meeting you in person, they may be hiding something.
- **Avoid messaging platforms.** If your new friend wants to move your conversation to a messaging service like WhatsApp, Telegram, or Signal, that's a red flag.
- **Don't send money.** Eventually, inevitably, scammers always ask for money. If someone you've never met in person solicits you for cash, that's a red flag — and a red light. Requests that are urgent or involve nontraditional payment methods like gift cards or crypto are especially suspicious.

- **Seek a second opinion.** If something about a new friendship feels off, consider confiding in a trusted friend or family member to get a fresh perspective. There are also tools you can use to sniff out scammers. Norton Genie, AI Scam Detective and ScamSniper all use AI to detect likely scams by analyzing text messages, social media posts, emails and websites.
 - **Cut off contact.** Immediately stop communicating if you suspect the individual may be a scammer, and do not re-engage with them.
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Trans Advocates Are Under Attack. You Can Help.



Did you know?

The Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico doesn't just support trans and nonbinary folks. This year alone, we've **provided over 3,500 meals, helped over 2,700 people at our drop-in center, hosted 108 support groups, given 122 trainings, distributed 564 harm reduction packages, hosted 5 community info sessions,** and helped folks successfully **graduate from our transitional living program at Casa Lola** into stable long term housing and employment. And that's just the tip of the iceberg.



Trans advocates are facing increasing danger by the day. You can help make sure your Resource Center is able to continue offering support to the community.

[More INFO](#)

Don't let this moment mean the loss of something that's so needed and has already helped so many people.

Your Resource Center needs you.



**Fun, free, family-friendly concert brought to you by the
Albuquerque Concert Band!**

The Albuquerque Concert Band begins our fall/winter concert season with

a **Marching into Fall** theme! We have a fun lineup of music for you such as; Marching Down Broadway, Marche Diabolique, American Big Top and more!

This concert will feature the debut of one of our new conductors, Andrew Vaughn, Director of Bands-Manzano HS. Join Andrew and the band as we bring you an hour of wonderful music on **Sunday, October 5th, 3pm to 4pm. Eldorado HS PAC, 11300 Montgomery Blvd NE, 87111.**

For more information:

www.abqband.org@abqconcertband



The 2025 Before I Die New Mexico Festival will take place as a one-day event, combined with the Death is Not a Dirty Word Resource Fair. This upbeat gathering is designed to answer questions about end-of-life issues, plan for death and address what happens afterwards.

Activities include panel discussions on plant medicines and psychedelic therapies, end-of-life options, and the OMI and Bernalillo County's Indigent Program, Death Café conversations, Wind Phones, and music by ABQ Skeleton Crew.

The resource fair will include exhibitors connected with green burial,

hospice, grief, death doulas, estate planning, caregiver resources, and more.

Free registration includes 10 raffle tickets. Paid registration provides extra goodies. Register at: <https://beforeidiefestivals.co...>

NEW MEXICO JEWISH STORYTELLING FESTIVAL November 14-16, 2025



Celebrate a "Storyteller's Shabbat"

Friday night & Saturday morning services filled with storytelling

Saturday night Havdalah

Followed by a Storytelling Concert with featured tellers

Workshops & Storytellings

Saturday afternoon and Sunday: Featuring Rabbi David Zaslow & Maggidah Devorah Gordon Zaslow, Storyteller Gerald Fierst, and many others with a free special Families & Children's Program on Sunday morning

TICKETS & REGISTRATION

\$100 - Friends of NMJSF (adult weekend pass plus donation to NMJSF)

\$62 for adult weekend pass, Students & Seniors \$42:

includes Saturday lunch & evening Storytelling Concert

\$32 for single day / \$18 for Saturday Performance only

(Friday night & Saturday morning Storytelling Services FREE)

(Sunday morning children/family program FREE)

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE FESTIVAL WHEN YOU BUY YOUR TICKET!

Registration, schedule & complete information at www.nahalatshalom.org/storytelling

For questions, email Magiddah Batya Podos at nmjewishstorytelling@gmail.com



A Program of Nahalat Shalom

3606 Rio Grande Blvd NW
Albuquerque, NM 87107



All participants who attend ORCA meetup events are expected to RSVP.

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

When you RSVP, please do so for yourself and any **non-ORCA** member who is attending as your guest. ***All ORCA members should RSVP for themselves.*** This helps us identify how many members are attending events, statistics that are essential for future planning and grant writing.

However, **if your plans change**, just open the event homepage in the ORCA Meetup site, **click Edit RSVP**, and either change the number of guests or cancel your own attendance.

To change the number of guests who'll be going with you (if any), click **"Update"**.

To cancel your own attendance, click **"Not going"**.

Thank you for following good RSVP etiquette.

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. This month it is on Wednesday, October 1, 2025 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

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.

RSVP Now

MEN'S COFFEE



As the first days of autumn cool, Men's Coffee moves into the Highland Senior Center, 131 Monroe St NE, from 10am to 11:30. You have three opportunities this month to fraternize: Oct. 1, Oct. 15, and Oct. 29.

Join us for a fun time socializing, schmoozing, complaining and celebrating our senior days. Topics ebb and flow as different ideas are brought up. We can't promise great coffee, but we guarantee an entertaining hour and a half.

"Going Santa Fe"
A Film about Lesbian and Gay NM

in the 50's and 60's...and More



The film maker Anne Mulford invites ORCA to see two films. The first is a 25-minute work in progress she'll be showing at the Guild on Oct 2 weaves together some of the personal story, as well as the history of Gay and Lesbian culture in New Mexico in the 1950s and 60s. You may already know that Claude's bar was at the place to be during those pivotal decades.

Anne will also show a 10-minute piece - a major story line in the final cut of my film as it brings to light the LGBTQ version of McCarthyism called the "Lavender Scare" of the 1950s; a part of our history which very much reflects (and warns us!) that this is happening all over again today. You can review that history [here](#).

Advance tickets are available , as is the trailer for GoingSantaFe, at. [Going Santa Fe Film](#)

Anne is hoping ORCA members can bring together some LGBTQ Seniors, youth, and other activists from Albuquerque for a panel discussion following the 35 minute screening. WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PART OF THIS PANEL? She is especially interested in getting the elders and some younger folks in our community together to discuss the film and focus on how our history of oppression is returning full force with this current administration

RSVP NOW

Jazz with Hilda Kirschner



You have two opportunities to hear Hilda Kirschner:

***Saturday, October 4th** with David Clauson at the Yucca Gallery, in Old Town at 206.5 San Felipe St NW, 1 Patio Market.

RSVP NOW

***Monday, October 5th** with Jeff Johnston from noon to 2pm at the Tiny Grocer ABQ in Old Town, 1919 Old Town Rd NW.

RSVP NOW

Come hear the beautiful sounds of the American Songbook.

ORCA In Person



Please join us on October 9, 2025, from 2-3pm for our in person monthly event at Highland Community Center. It's a wonderful chance to socialize while expressing your ideas for ORCA.

Considering Matthew Shephard: An Oratorio



This October, join **Coro Lux** as they present **Craig Hella Johnson's** profound oratorio, *Considering Matthew Shepard: An Oratorio*. Remembering the life and legacy of Matthew Shepard on the 27th anniversary of his killing, join *Coro Lux* in honoring Matt through this Grammy-nominated three-part fusion oratorio by Craig Hella Johnson, conducted by the composer.

Performed under the direction of the Grammy-nominated composer himself, this powerful work tells Matthew Shepard's story - beginning with tragedy but ultimately offering a message of **hope, compassion, and healing**. Johnson's work speaks with a fresh and bold voice, incorporating a variety of musical styles seamlessly woven into a unified whole.

Incorporating a wide range of poetic and soulful texts by poets including Hildegard of Bingen, Lesléa Newman, Michael Dennis Browne, and Rumi, passages from Matt's personal journal, interviews and writings from his parents Judy and Dennis Shepard, newspaper reports, and additional texts by Johnson and Browne are poignantly appointed throughout the work. This powerful piece explores themes of compassion, resilience, and the fight for LGBTQIA+ rights.

Adding to the significance of these performances are narrations by **Ali MacGraw**, acclaimed actress and activist, and **Spencer Beckwith**, respected arts journalist and advocate for New Mexico's performing arts.

Here is a sample of this new oratorio: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CYEO3nJqSC4&list=PLcz7vOpQ63af0Lur1_sFHFSGR7TUMwDWo&index=2

The one-time performance will be on October 12, from 4-5:30 at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 114 Carlisle Blvd SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106. Senior tickets are \$30. Since the church is not large, you are urged to purchase your tickets now:

https://www.tickettailor.com/events/corolux/1820023?utm_source=Mailchimp&utm_campaign=235df3d5c8-Coro+Lux+091125&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-822f3fb8e8-31606

RSVP NOW

Statewide Social Gathering



On Monday, October 13, from 9-11am, we'll meet on ZOOM to explore what is going on in our lives, what interests us, and what questions we have about whatever. Please join us on ZOOM!

RSVP NOW

Housing Options/Levels of Care Webinar Focusing on Central New Mexico



NM attendees of Aging Alone Together workshops recently participated in a workshop on community housing options. This was a high level description of the options available across the country and was very informative.

ORCA has invited Nancy Oriola, CEO of Decades LLC, an Albuquerque case management company, to deliver a locally-focused follow up session. Nancy has a superb understanding of the housing options in central New Mexico. She will present information on housing options and answer your questions on a ZOOM workshop on October 14 at 10AM.

The meeting link appears below or at the right of your screen. The meeting number and passcode are:

Meeting ID: 876 0682 9006

Passcode: 492232

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING IN PERSON, WE WILL GATHER IN FIRST CONGREGATIONAL'S MUSIC ROOM ON 10-12 AM on 10/14. The address is [2801 Lomas Blvd NE](#).

Decades LLC provides **elder care services** to assist with making financial and health care decisions related to geriatric care. They offer **adult guardianship, care management** and **conservatorship services**, as well as 24/7 on-call services. The Decades team understands that there are many complicated issues associated with **aging and caring for the**

elderly. This team is a knowledgeable resource for families, seniors, advisors and the judicial system.

RSVP NOW

Back Together  Again Tuesdays



Join us for a fun social meetup with ORCA members from all communities! **Everyone** in the LGBTQia+ communities, including **ORCA new and longtime members** alike, and our allies are welcome to come and hang out. We're 100% onboard with the **Spirit of Inclusion!**

At **ORCA's Back Together** meetups, we socialize, *an unstructured agenda* - mainly a social mixer with new and current ORCA members, share great company, make new friends and enjoy yummy food and bevies. It's a chance to **support each other** across our diverse communities.

The only thing you need to do is have a good time! *Please introduce yourself* so everyone knows who you are.

We meet up at Sawmill Market **on the third Tuesday of every month** at 11 a.m. This month it is on October 21 from 11 to 12:30.

The meeting place at Sawmill Market changes depending on the weather. We meet inside during cold winters and bad weather, and outside in the shaded courtyard during warm summers.

Always look for the ORCA sign to find our group.

Our new website is www.orcaabq.org.

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

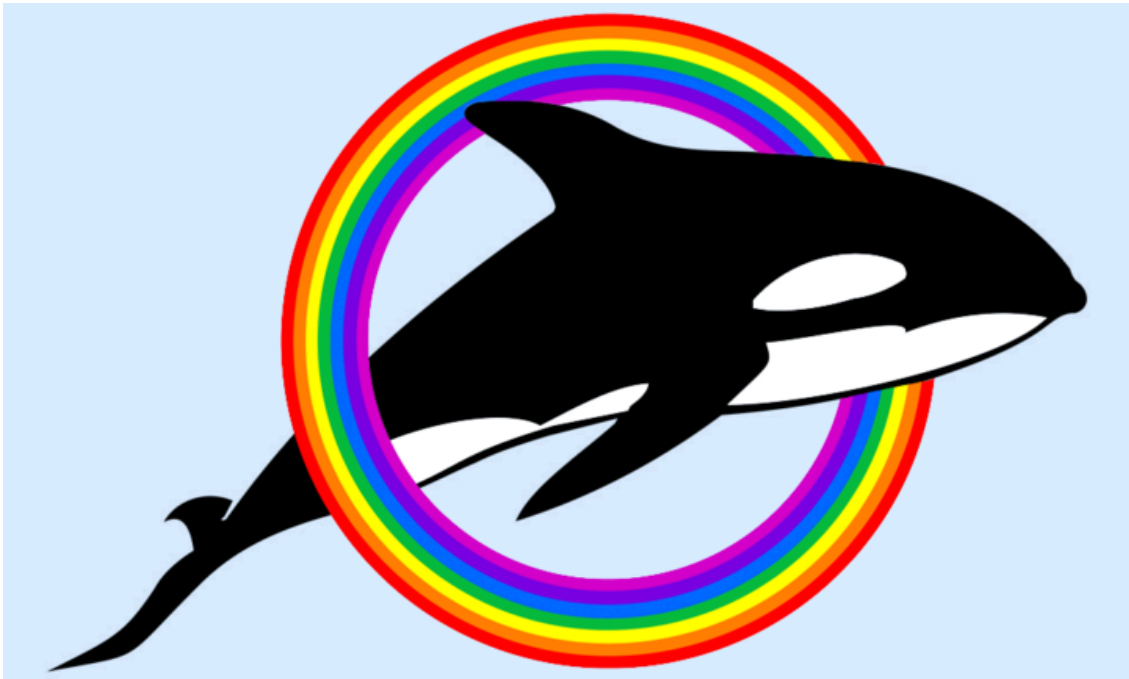
We welcome suggestions about events you'd like to see offered or things you'd like to see on the website. The ORCA website lists a variety of resources that may be helpful:

<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.



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Our mailing address is:

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Albuquerque, NM 87154

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