

## THE LEAVEN CENTER



A retreat and study center  
nurturing the relationship  
between spirituality  
and social justice

P.O. Box 97  
Lyons, MI 48851  
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www.leaven.org

# Celebrating Our Creativity and Culture

## The Ninth Annual Retreat for Disability Activists and Allies

WITH MIKE ERVIN, RAHNEE PATRICK, AND MELANIE MORRISON

and with support from Allies for Change, Disability Network/Michigan  
and Michigan Disability Rights Coalition



September 11-13, 2009

The Leaven Center, Lyons, MI

September 11-13, 2009

## Celebrating Our Creativity and Culture

### The Ninth Annual Retreat for Disability Activists and Allies

The Disability Rights Movement has a long and powerful history of resisting oppression and generating pride through the creation of art, music, literature, poetry, and other expressions of disability culture. This annual retreat will provide a space for disability activists and allies to celebrate disability culture, reflect on our lives, and nurture creative resources for sustaining our struggle for justice. To learn more about the program, visit the Upcoming Events page on the Leaven website, [www.leaven.org](http://www.leaven.org).

There will be ample time to enjoy the beauty of the land by traversing The Leaven Center's accessible trails. There will also be time to rest, relax, and be in community with disability activists and allies who are committed to confronting ableism in ourselves and the world around us.

***This event is gender inclusive.***

**LEADERS:** Mike Ervin, Rahnee Patrick, and Melanie Morrison (see inside for bios)

**TIME:** Friday, 7:00 p.m.-Sunday, 1:00 p.m.

**COST:** \$190 (\$50 deposit + \$140 balance due) Scholarships are available.

To inquire about scholarships, call 989/855-2606, or e-mail [leavencenter@leaven.org](mailto:leavencenter@leaven.org).

Participants may choose to commute. Commuters do not stay overnight at The Leaven Center, but do eat all the meals offered during the retreat. Commuters will receive a \$50 reduction in the cost.

*For additional information, check the website at [www.leaven.org](http://www.leaven.org), e-mail [leavencenter@leaven.org](mailto:leavencenter@leaven.org), or call us at 989/855-2606.*

## ABOUT THE LEAVEN CENTER



The Leaven Center near Lyons, Michigan (midway between Lansing and Grand Rapids), is administered by Leaven, a non-profit organization committed to nurturing the relationship between spirituality and social justice. The Leaven Center wel-

comes women and men of all races, ethnicities, abilities, sexual orientations, and faith traditions.

Participants will stay at the Leaven Center Lodge and Guest House. The ground floor of both facilities is barrier-free. The beautiful 20-acre property has a spring-fed stream, a pond, and river frontage.

## ABOUT THE RETREAT LEADERS

**MIKE ERVIN** is a writer and disability rights activist. He has published more than 1,200 articles and essays in more than 40 newspapers and magazines, and is a radio essay contributor for NPR in Chicago. Mike's plays, including "The History of Bowling," have been produced at theaters across the United States. A founding member of the Chicago chapter of ADAPT, he is proud to have been arrested more than a dozen times for civil disobedience. Mike is also founder of Jerry's Orphans, which organizes annual protests against the Jerry Lewis telethon.

**RAHNEE K. PATRICK** is Interim Program Director at Access Living in Chicago. She is the 2008 recipient of the American Association of People with Disabilities' Paul Hearne Award and awarded for her short stories. She is a member of ADAPT and Not Dead Yet and a co-founder of Feminist Response in Disability Activism (FRIDA). Rahnee is the oldest of four children, the daughter of a Thai immigrant mother and a European American father.

**MELANIE S. MORRISON** is Executive Director of Allies for Change and an anti-oppression educator who is passionate about working with individuals and organizations to better understand the connections between racism, sexism, ableism, and heterosexism. As an ally, she is committed to learning from, and joining with, colleagues and friends with disabilities who struggle for a more accessible and just world.

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## Ninth Annual Retreat for Disability Activists and Allies

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### REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_ (e-mail) \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

I will be staying at the Leaven Center \_\_\_\_\_ commuting \_\_\_\_\_

Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Roommate request: \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you need a airport pick-up form.

Amount of deposit enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_ (Deposit refundable only if you pay us at least 14 days in advance of event. For Canadian checks indicate "U.S. FUNDS" next to dollar and word amount) To pay with a credit card, call 989/855-2606.



Do you use a wheelchair? \_\_\_\_\_

Will you need ASL? \_\_\_\_\_

Will you need material in alternate formats? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, what kind? \_\_\_\_\_

Any food allergies, etc.? \_\_\_\_\_

Any other needs? \_\_\_\_\_

Checks should be made to "Leaven" and mailed with this form to:  
Leaven, P.O. Box 97, Lyons, MI 48851