

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



September 10-12, 2010

Leaven Center, Lyons, MI

Politicizing Pleasure and Disability: YOUR SEX, OUR MOVEMENT

with Bethany Stevens

The 10th Annual Retreat for Disability Activists & Allies

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The 10th Annual Retreat for Disability Activists & Allies

The Disability Rights Movement has a rich history of improving the lives of people with disabilities through political action yet continues to largely be silent about sexual and reproductive health. It is time we politicize our pleasure by adding sexual and reproductive health to the agenda of the Disability Rights Movement. Through exploring the personal aspects of sexuality and analyzing how disability stigma impacts our sexual health, we will work together to develop concrete approaches and methods for addressing sexual and reproductive health on a broader sociopolitical level. Essential to this method is the creation of a safe and inclusive space to prompt discussion of our deepest pleasures and pains related to these issues.



Through in-depth discussion, journaling, meditation in nature, and media analysis of films provided by the successful *disThis* film series in NYC; we will render visible the political nature of our personal sexual lives. By confessing our truth in this space we will begin the task of ending the silence around sexuality thus providing practice on how to do the same in the Disability Rights Movement.

This retreat is gender inclusive and open to disability activists, allies and partners.

LEADER: Bethany Stevens (see inside for bio)

TIME: Friday, 7:00 p.m. – Sunday, 1:00 p.m.

COST: \$190* (\$75 deposit + \$115 balance due). (Partial scholarships are available — for info, e-mail 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.

ABOUT THE LEAVEN CENTER



Leaven Lodge

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.

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.

The Leaven Center welcomes people of all races, ethnicities, abilities, genders, sexual orientations, and faith traditions.

ABOUT THE RETREAT LEADER



Bethany Stevens has identified as an uppity crip activist and disability studies nerd for a decade. She's currently a faculty member and policy analyst at the Center for Leadership in Disability at Georgia State University. Diligently striving to infuse her work with a radical disability ethos, she hosts disability awareness-raising campus and community events as well as implements coursework at a graduate and undergraduate level. Bethany researches the nexus of disability and sexual health, media representation, gender, transability, and social movement capacity building. Before joining the faculty at Georgia State University, she served

as a Center of Excellence for Sexual Health Scholar under former Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher at Morehouse School of Medicine. Bethany has a B.A. in Art History, a J.D., a M.A. in Sexuality Studies and is a member of the California Bar Association.

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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 an airport pick-up form.

Amount of deposit enclosed: \$_____ (Deposit refundable only if you notify 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 or register at www.leaven.org.



Do you use a wheelchair? _____ Can you use stairs? _____

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