

**New Orleans Men's Circle Fall Retreat
November 1-3, 2024
King's Arrow Ranch**



Living with Paradox and Love's Confusing Joy

If you want what visible reality can give
You're an employee

If you want the unseen world
You're not living your truth

Both wishes are foolish
But you will be forgiven for forgetting
that what you really want
is love's confusing joy

-Rumi



***If one does not hope, one will not find the un hoped for,
since there is no trail leading to it and no path.
Heraclitus***

Life breaks our hearts. We are all wounded. Yet our wounds can be the source of our greatest gifts. The compassionate exercise of these gifts can crack open our lives with healing and joy -- including the joy sometimes to be found in unexpected ways and ways beyond our hopes. During our Fall 2024 Retreat you are invited to lovingly explore the confusing joy of the paradoxes in our lives as men.



The Fisher King

**In a boat on a lonely lake sits
the Fisher King,
impotent guardian of the Mystery
and of wasteland made barren by a
wound from his own spear.
In the distance, his castle shrouded in
mist where strange enchantments await
the Fool, disguised as Knight
to ask the Question of the Mystery,
and begin again a new turning of Life.**

**-Rohini
Walker**

*What is the question you
are afraid to ask or to
answer?*

*What do you need to say
about yourself that you've
never said to others?*

*What is your deepest
wound?*

*What has healed and what
remains to be healed?*

Where is your joy?



We look forward to seeing you !!

WHAT TO EXPECT:

We seek to provide a safe place for men to connect with themselves, other men, and the environment. Large and small group experiences as well as some time alone are planned. In our mythopoetic tradition, storytelling, poetry, drumming, and experiential learning can be expected.

PLEASE INVITE ANOTHER MAN TO COME WITH YOU.

WHEN:

Arrive Friday, November 1st. On-site registration and bunk assignment will begin by 5 p.m. Please plan to arrive no later than 5:30 P.M. Dinner will be available at 6 P.M., and our opening ceremony will begin at 7 PM. You may arrive as early as you wish on Friday to check out the grounds, hike, meditate, or spend some time in nature. The retreat will end after lunch on Sunday.

WHERE:

King's Arrow Ranch, Hillsdale, MS, just east of I-59 North at exit 35, 75 miles north of New Orleans and 30 miles south of Hattiesburg, MS. In case of emergency, you can be reached through the King's Arrow Ranch phone # 601-796-3423. You will be asked to avoid using your cell phone during the Retreat.

PRE-REGISTER VIA EMAIL:

We ask that you pre-register ASAP so we can estimate lodging and meals required. To register, just reply to this email and let us know you will be there (info@theNOMC.org) or call one the facilitators to register. A confirmation email with more details will be sent upon registration. For confidentiality and privacy, information provided for registration will only be available to retreat participants.

COVID:

What to do about COVID, INFECTION, and our in-person retreat?

First, if you have an INFECTION as of a week or so before the retreat, we ask that you not attend. If you have COVID-like symptoms, please get tested. It would be very cool if you got tested anyway. Be aware that some men in attendance may be especially vulnerable to the virus.

We will not mandate vaccinations and masks. We will, though, have masks on hand. And we do hope you arrive vaccinated. We will make whatever arrangements are possible and practical to help reduce risk of infection.

In sum, we encourage each man to take responsibility for himself regarding attendance and protection.

COST:

The cost of the Retreat is \$140.00, and that fee covers all meals and lodging. You can pay by check or cash upon arrival, Friday, Nov 1st.

SCHOLARSHIPS:

If you need financial assistance, please contact a facilitator ahead of the retreat.

NOMC PLANNING MEETING:

At the conclusion of the retreat on Sunday, a planning meeting to discuss the next retreat, as well as planning for the future of NOMC will be held. All interested are encouraged to stay for the meeting.

QUESTIONS?

For additional information about the retreat, contact a facilitator.



Or call

Francis: 504-390-2947 Robby: 575-209-5992 George: 662-312-2099

VISIT THE NOMC WEBSITE

<http://www.thenomc.org/retreats.html>