

PRESS RELEASE

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Qspeak

A Speaker Series of All Things LGBTIQ

For over 30 years, The Center of Long Beach has been a central force and cultural hub for the LGBTIQ community in Southern California. As part of its current renaissance, The Center of Long Beach continues this tradition with “QSpeak” a lecture series that features university scholars, activists, artists, and public figures in the LGBTIQ community once a month throughout 2011. “QSpeak” will host academic talks, interviews and ethnographies on queer studies, art, culture, social justice, and history and become a venue for open discussion to a broad and diverse audience in Southern California. “QSpeak” seeks to inspire, educate, challenge, and entertain its audience and aspires to re-energize the collective consciousness of the LGBTIQ community and their allies so that we may envision a future where there are spaces for everyone to exist and thrive.

Academic Speakers

March 26th – Dr. Judith Halberstam

In the early years of the 21st Century, the press thrilled to the images and testimony of the world’s “first pregnant man.” At the same time, the US acknowledged a huge decrease in marriages and a rise in divorces. This talk is going to offer a map to the new terrain of gender, sexuality and pleasure in a post-marriage, post-heterosexual, post-gay, post-post world.

April – Dr. Marie Cartier

Artist, Lecturer, and Author, Dr. Cartier will present “Baby You are My Religion: Butch Femme/Gay Women’s Bar Culture 1940s to 1980s,” where she will include the tales, testimonies, and photos of pre-Stonewall gay women and men who considered the bar space as an alternative church. Dr. Cartier conducted over 100 interviews for this presentation, many with local women from the Long Beach community.

May – Dr. Jennifer Reed

Dr. Reed, a professor of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at CSULB, will present portions of her work from her latest book, “Productive Partnerships: The Queer Cultural Work of Lily Tomlin and Jane Wagner.” The book will trace the public presence that Lily Tomlin and Jane Wagner have created through their multi-media work from 1972-1986, and their own relationship to each other over the past 40 years. She sees them as queer foremothers who used feminism and humor to carve out subjective space for queer women.