

Ceremonies

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calls that went out statewide following this attack: "Hello, Keith? I just needed to hear your voice and know it wasn't you." I remember the sense of fear and outrage, the need to do something public, something big that could not be ignored.

I remember how this act of violence revitalized the efforts to pass Vermont's Hate Crimes Law. Governor Madeleine Kunin had called the morning following the beating to ask me to express her outrage and sadness to the victim's family and to our community. She said violence such as this would not be tolerated. We organized, were the lead story on

every local network for a week, held a rally in Burlington with over 400 people in attendance, stood side by side with Vermont's political leaders and proclaimed that violence and hate did not have a home here. It was in support of the Hate Crimes Law that Governor Kunin made her only appearance to testify before a legislative committee. I remember the exhilaration when the bill was passed, our first major political victory, and the heady feeling that we were on our way to equality. I remember what it felt like to then walk out of the Statehouse and find my car had been vandalized.

I remember what it is like to be sexually assaulted because you are gay. The hard part is that *Ceremonies* will make you remember all these things as

well. And if you don't remember, then you need to read this book because it's part of our history.

By *Ceremonies's* end, Cathcart reminds us of how fragile acceptance and tolerance can be and how vulnerable we still are. *Ceremonies* deserves to be read for its honest portrayal of what it means to be LGBTQ in America, for its reminder that past can too often become future. ▼

Keith E. Goslant reads and writes in Plainfield, works in Waterbury, and lobbies the governor and the legislature in Montpelier.

Leaping

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Some of us may forget that each revelation has a child or two children, or a dozen, or a hundred children attached to it. These children are real children – they grow up to be adolescents and men who are fundamentally confused about the relationship between sex and power.

Mike Lew's writings bring us back to earth and show us the concrete work that male survivors are doing in their quest for recovery. With the help of the men whose writing he includes, we come out of the quagmire of litigious scandal and recognize that what is most vital in recovery is knowledge, understanding, communication, healthy touch, real connection, empathy, grieving, the ability to feel and the ability to love.

For *Leaping Upon the Mountains*, Mike Lew conducted written interviews with hundreds of survivors in every state, the District of Columbia, all ten Canadian Provinces and 44 other countries. He also used material gathered at survivor workshops and retreats that he conducts all over the U.S. and around the world. Much of the content focuses on making the recovery

process accessible to male survivors no matter where they are in their healing. Men who are sexually abused, like other victims of abuse, are often made to feel isolated and ashamed of the violence perpetrated upon them. In *Leaping*, Mike Lew gives us a diversity of voices, some more eloquent the others, some seemingly banal. All of them are real and provide an opportunity for someone, somewhere to say to himself, "Yes, I felt that way. That person is like me. I'm not alone. I, too, can heal. I can release myself from the hold of abusers of power."

While Mike's Lew's book gives us real voices, he does not shy away from noting the difficulties many men face in overcoming the lasting effects of their perpetrators' actions. *Leaping Upon Mountains* contains voices of black men, crying out for solidarity with white survivors who hold onto myths about black sexual prowess and early sexual maturity. It contains stories of straight men who are so ashamed of their reflexive arousal at the hands of same-gender perpetrators that they can hardly speak to their gay comrades in survival.

Mike notes that, even today, well over ten years after its publication, *Victims No Longer* is still one of the few books avail-

able to male survivors – and virtually all mainstream publishers refused to publish *Leaping Upon the Mountains*. Counseling services sensitive to the needs of non-offending male survivors remain few and far between. To my knowledge, there are virtually no male survivor group services available in Vermont.

And yet, for all of the deafening silence that previously engulfed boy victims and the media sensationalism over clerical perpetrators that currently overwhelms the real needs of survivors, Mike Lew's work offers love and hope. The stories of the men that he includes in *Leaping Upon the Mountains* demonstrate that a strong community of male survivors is available to support us, and to our brothers, sons, nephews, fathers, uncles and lovers.

"With each day I feel the burden lifting. / The burden of my secret. / Now I can tell my story. / Now I can let go of all the shame. / Now I can let go of the deep,
Deep,
Deep,
entrenched fear of being myself."

– Excerpted from a poem entitled "Repressed Memories" by John, age 38, from Alaska, published in *Leaping Upon the Mountains* by Mike Lew. ▼

Mike Lew can be reached at Next Step Counseling and Training, 40 Webster Place, Brookline, MA 02146, Telephone: (617) 277-7172 or at nextstep@jamaicaplain.com. Christopher Kaufman is the Executive Director of R.U.1.2? Community Center. He can be reached at pipin@sover.net.

There are many psychotherapists and psychologists in Vermont who work with men who are survivors of sexual abuse. Here are just a few names and telephone numbers.

Lauren Berrizbeitia MA Cand. 862-6931
Kevin Gallagher, MA 651-7674
Amy Ludwin, MA 862-6931
Eric Nichols, PhD 860-8254
Jim Nelson, MA 651-7764, 524-7545 ext. 1
Walter Zeichner, MA 863-0413

Note: This listing does not constitute endorsement of any of the named practitioners. It is simply a list of people who said that they do work with these issues and were willing to be listed.

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