



SENIOR FORUM

Wingspan's Elder Voice

Volume 6 Issue 3
March 2010

Funding by Arizona Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families Division for Women and Wingspan Anti-Violence Program

430 East 7th Street, Tucson, AZ 85705 — 520-624-1779 — www.wingspan.org

Michael and Rick's 4 bits



We want to open our March Senior Forum on the same note as last month's issue, although with our lingering sadness tempered by gratitude and fond memories:

In Memoriam
MAURICE K. GROSSMAN
September 16, 1927 - January 21, 2010

As a tribute to Maurice Grossman, who passed away in January, Wingspan Senior Pride will be showing the video of his "Colorful Life" presentation on Sunday March 21st at 2 PM at the Ward 6 City Council office, 3202 E. First St., just east of Country Club behind the Walgreens on Speedway. This presentation took place last year and was a taped memoir of the life of one of Tucson's most colorful LGBT members. If you missed the original presentation, come see and hear Maurice talk about his colorful life. If you were there the first time, come re-experience the event in memory of Maurice. This event is free and open to all!

Remembering Maurice

In all thy humors, whether grave or mellow,
Thou'rt such a touchy, testy, pleasant fellow,
Hast so much wit and mirth, and spleen
about thee,

That there's no living with thee, nor without thee.

--Joseph Addison-- 1672-1719.
(submitted by Carolyn Cortesi of Pima Council on Aging)



We met Maurice when we were in Tucson for a week eight months before moving here. We immediately learned what a fun character he was and how extremely well known he was in Tucson. In the nearly six years that we've lived here, we've only met two people who did not know him or at least know who he was.

I (Merlin) model for art classes at the university. One day in class I nearly fell over laughing when I heard the instructor and a student talk about "that Maurice Grossman thing". The student, a woman about 20 years old, did a take-off on Maurice that was close to perfect. That is how well known he was. We now treasure the day when, at a meeting in our living room, Maurice began talking about his life and told about parts of it in some detail.

Maurice was always such as imp, and when I (Lee) think of Wingspan and support for the gay community, I think of Maurice who was such an advocate. He always seemed to be around and participating. I hope and expect that Wingspan will justly again honor his contributions.

The world suddenly seems to be a much emptier place.

--Lee & Merlin--



His sweet, smiling face seemed to be everywhere. He had so many friends and was so generous with his many natural gifts that we thought he would always be there for us.

Maurice and I had a mutual friend: Hal Riegger, also a gifted potter and teacher. Hal taught primitive pottery all around the Western United States and Canada. Like Maurice, his effect on his students was lifelong. Both were Gay men, devout pacifists, gifted artists, craftsmen and

continued on next page

teachers. The world was a better place for their being here. We shall never forget them.

--Alta Fly--

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### **A man for all seasons and all reasons**

Maurice Kenneth Grossman left too soon. My partner and I were shocked at hearing of the sudden passing of Maurice. On Sunday the 7th of February we were among an overflowing group of people who attended the memorial service for Maurice at the Tucson Art Museum. This was a grand gathering of people of all walks of life who came together to celebrate this wonderful man's life.

As a traveler in life currently assigned to this planet, I have crossed paths with many people. Some grand, some not so. Some average, and once in a while, some stellar. Maurice was a Star. Being in Maurice's presence was intoxicating in many ways. He was a most talented artist, and also a great artist in the media of life. His dedication to justice, freedom and his support to our LGBT community and the community of humanity was his passion.

He blessed us with great charm and wit, and his colorful dramatics made me and many others always feel so uplifted. Just hearing his name would put a smile on my face. He was a handsome man, truly never as old as most people his age. Maurice, you will be remembered by so many.

Buona Fortuna, in your new place.  
Remember us, we love you.

--John & Mike--

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### **The Next "Colorful Life"**

Come join Senior Pride for a new installment of the Colorful Life series on Sunday April 18th at 2PM at the Ward 6 Council office, 3202 E. First St. This presentation will feature 2 speakers, Ike Gaskin and Ken Cooper, who have been partnered for over 30 years and will talk about their lives and time spent living in the Middle East countries of Egypt, Oman,

Turkey and Iran. As always, this event is free and open to all. Mark your calendar early!

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### **Tell your story at Odyssey Storytelling**

On the first Thursday of each month Southern Arizona folks get on stage and share stories from their lives with an audience. If you'd like to join in, either as a teller or an audience member, here's how:

Each month six people are invited to tell ten-minute personal stories on a theme.

The themes for the rest of the year are:

**March 4**, New shoes: the fashion show

**April 1**, Green stories: adventures in sustainability

**May 6**, Borders: cross-cultural stories

**June 3**, Monsoon: water, water everywhere

**July 1**, I Quit: moving on

**August 5**, Airport Stories: are we there yet?

**September 2**, Crazy for you: an evening about insanity

**October 7**, Bad Behavior: the crime show

**November 4**, Masks: the hidden identity show

**December 2**, Belly Laughs: humor for the holiday

The event takes place at 7 pm. in the Club Congress, 311 E. Congress. Admission is \$7.

The themes are meant to be interpreted from a broad range of perspectives. We're always looking for people with lots of life experiences and diverse backgrounds, so don't be shy about telling a story. We give lots of support and helpful hints and there's always a rehearsal the week before each event.

To submit your story for consideration, send us a one-paragraph synopsis of your story and a brief bio about you. Visit our website, [www.odysseystorytelling.com](http://www.odysseystorytelling.com), to see the hundreds of people who have already shared their stories.

Contact Penelope Starr, 520-730- 4112, [Penelope@Odysseystorytelling.com](mailto:Penelope@Odysseystorytelling.com), or Adam Hostetter, [Adam@Odysseystorytelling.com](mailto:Adam@Odysseystorytelling.com), for more info. To get on the mailing list send an email with "subscribe" in the subject line.

## More News from Former Wingspan Staff Members

We would like to introduce you to **The Adobeland Project** and ask for your story.

Adobeland is a rich part of Tucson's and the nation's lesbian history and dozens of women have lived there since the 1970s. We want this amazing story preserved!

We are 3 women who have formed a nonprofit called StoryArts Group and we are making a documentary film that preserves the story of Adobe and Adobeland! We are making a feature length documentary film and hope to reach a broad audience through film festivals and a wider release. We think it is important to document and preserve this story and part of "herstory" for future generations and hope you do too.

What you can do? If you have a history with Adobeland we want to hear your story. Please send us an email and provide us with your contact information and we will get in touch with you to set up an interview. If you're in town, we'll meet with you and film the interview. If you're out of town, we'll conduct an interview by phone. Additionally,



we would love to include photographs, writings or art that you have that relates to Adobeland

Who we are:

We are former Wingspan staffers: Pat Woelke and Penelope Starr as Senior Programs Coordinators and Luanne Withee as Community Center Coordinator. Penelope is the producer & editor; Luanne is the principal photographer, videographer and editor; Pat is the researcher & interviewer. You can see our bios on our website.

PLEASE contact us to set up your interview or for more information!

Website: [www.storyartsgroup.org](http://www.storyartsgroup.org)

Penelope: 520-730-4112,  
[penelope@storyartsgroup.org](mailto:penelope@storyartsgroup.org)

Luanne: 520-904-8977,  
[lu@storyartsgroup.org](mailto:lu@storyartsgroup.org)

Pat: 520-904-0774, [pat@storyartsgroup.org](mailto:pat@storyartsgroup.org)

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## Rock for Equality

If members of our community lose a partner, current Social Security regulations deny the survivor benefits—one of the ways LGBT elders face special challenges according to a new report by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force.

continued page 4

## Sharon Gless in "Hannah Free"

"Hannah Free," a new lesbian romantic film, will be premiered in Tucson on Tuesday, March 30, at The Loft Cinema, 3233 E. Speedway. A reception starts at 6:30 pm. with the screening at 7:30 pm.

Starring Sharon Gless, whose considerable lesbian following dates from her '80's television series "Cagney and Lacey," the \$10 admission is a fundraiser for Wingspan.

The film portrays the story of two women who grow up in the same small midwest town, weaves back and forth between past and present, revealing how the women maintained their love affair despite a marriage, world war, infidelities and family denial.

At the film's outset, Hannah, unable to walk, is confined to a nursing facility where her longtime lover, Rachel, lies dying in a separate wing. Denied access to the woman she loves, Hannah remembers the two as children, young lovers, adults and her adventures exploring the world—these memories are depicted in flashbacks.

"Even at death's door, a lesbian couple still find peace elusive," says the New York Times. The film dramatizes many issues LGBT elders face including prejudices against the elderly compounded by homophobia, family divisions, patronizing caretakers, and overzealous religious proselytizers.

More information is at [www.hannahfree.com](http://www.hannahfree.com) or [www.wingspan.org](http://www.wingspan.org).



**Rock** from page 3

As the LA Gay & Lesbian Center points out, "all of us are required to pay into Social Security equally, but many LGBT seniors are denied vital benefits afforded to others. This is wrong no matter what city, state, country, or planet you are from."

The NGLTF report, *Outing Age 2010*, states that "While widows and widowers or even divorced spouses can count on a portion of the deceased's Social Security income, this does not apply to non-married partners..."

The two organizations have joined together to form "Rock for Equality" to "fight to eliminate the unfair and unequal Social Security policies." Protests will take place April 11 in Los Angeles and April 18 in Washington, D.C.

Visitors to the website [www.lgbtpov.com/tag/rock-for-equality/](http://www.lgbtpov.com/tag/rock-for-equality/) can register online to show support and get more information about issues and protests.

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### Arroyo Jeopardy!

**Answer:** 2 shopping carts, a swimming pool ladder, a crib and the kitchen sink

**Question:** What were some of the items found in the Arroyo Chico Wash in Iron Horse Park?



On Friday February 19th, 5 seniors worked on cleaning debris out of the wash that runs through Iron Horse Park near downtown Tucson. This was an extra effort by the Senior Pride Adopt-a-Park group which cleans up litter from the park twice a month. We are planning another wash cleanup in mid-March, as there is still plenty of stuff to remove. If you'd like to help, call Michael at 884-8320 for more details.

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### Get Ready for the "Senior" Prom

Senior Pride is in the process of planning a dance sometime in May or June featuring music from our past. Where else can you go to do the Watusi, Mashed Potato, the Slide, the Pony and the Jitterbug? If you'd like to

help plan or work on the dance, come to the next Senior Pride planning meeting the second Tuesday of March (the 9th) at Himmel Park Library from 2 to 3:30PM or call Lee or Merlin at 207-5336. More info in later issues as details are finalized.

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### Tucson Medical Center Senior Services

The following presentations are all free of charge and will take place at TMC Senior Services, 1400 N. Wilmot Rd. Pre-registration is required.

**Alzheimer's Series** - 1 to 3:30PM

Wed. March 3rd - Caregivers - examines challenges faced by family and friends caring for people with Alzheimer's

Wed. March 17th and Wed. April 7th -

Momentum in science - research efforts to uncover causes of, treatments, and possible cures for Alzheimer's

For the above, call 324-1960 to register.

**Elder Law Series** - 11AM to noon

Wed. March 24th - Advance directives, estate planning, probate, guardianship and conservatorship

**Physician Lecture Series** - 9 to 10:30AM

Wed. March 10th - Diabetes and Kidney Disease

Tue. March 16th - Stroke Awareness

Wed. March 24th - Cholesterol

For the above, call 324-4345 to register and for more information.

**Pima County Access Program (PCAP)**

PCAP is a program which provides discounts for medical care to eligible adults and children in Pima County. Eligibility is based on gross monthly income and family size ( for a single person - \$903 to \$2256 a month). There are many enrollment sites throughout Pima County and one of them is Wingspan! A representative is on hand every Monday from 11AM to 1PM to answer questions and enroll members. Some of the services provided include primary care and specialty services, inpatient and outpatient services, lab work, radiology and physical

continued on page 5

*Pima County Access Program from p 4*

therapy. For more information, call 694-0418, visit the website at [www.mypcap.org](http://www.mypcap.org) or meet with the representative at Wingspan on Mondays from 11AM to 1 PM.

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### **SAGE Receives Federal Grant for National LGBT Resource Center**

Services & Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Elders (SAGE) has been awarded a three-year, \$900,000 grant to create the first and only national resource center on LGBT aging.

HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced the grant in early February, saying "The Resource Center will provide information, assistance and resources for both mainstream aging organizations and LGBT organizations and will provide assistance to LGBT individuals as they plan for future long-term care needs."

The group's plans: "In creating the Resource Center, SAGE will forge a partnership with 10 organizations with expertise in a wide range of areas including mainstream aging, LGBT aging, culture change and competency and program evaluation. These organizations include PHI (a national training expert), the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), the National Council on Aging's National Institute of Senior Centers, the American Society on Aging, the Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging and Longevity, Centerlink (the national association of LGBT community centers), GRIOT Circle, FORGE Transgender Aging Network, Third Sector New England/The LGBT Aging Project, and openhouse. The Resource Center will seek to engage, empower and support mainstream aging providers, LGBT providers and LGBT older adults to ensure that LGBT elders have the necessary and culturally appropriate supports and services to successfully age in place. Among other tools, SAGE plans to develop a comprehensive, web-based clearinghouse targeting all three audiences. The clearinghouse will include diverse resources, social networking tools, an "Ask the Experts" service, web-based trainings and other features."

## March Events

All events with our logo take place at EON Youth Lounge, 430 E. 7th Street, just across the street from old Wingspan, details on these calendar events.



### **Meander in Tucson Meetup Group**

List of events for lesbian women  
<http://www.meetup.com/MeanderinTucson>

**Elder Circle** - Elder Circles consist of Elder (not older) people who are interested in Saging rather than aging. These circles have dialogues in the journey to conscious aging and how the participants can make changes in their communities. The next Elder Circle for GLBT people will be on **Thursday, March 4, at 1:30 - 3:00 pm** at the home of Lee and Merlin. Please call 207-5336 for directions.

### **Adopt a Park Iron Horse Cleanup**

**Tuesday, March 2 and March 16, 9AM**

(1st and 3rd Tuesdays)  
Iron Horse Park 10th Street  
between 3rd and 4th Avenue



### **Senior Pride Planning Meeting**

**Tuesday, March 9 (2nd Tuesday) 2 PM**  
at Himmel Park Library, 1035 N. Treat Avenue (off Speedway) ph: 594.5305

### **40s and Better Breakfast Group**

**Saturday, February 20, 9:30 - 11:00 AM**  
(every 3rd Saturday of the month)

A welcoming network of lesbians  
Royal Sun Best Western  
Restaurant

SW corner of Speedway and Stone  
Phone contact: Carol Ehrlich 520-584-0339





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In these times you have to be an optimist to open your eyes when  
you awake in the morning.

- Carl Sandburg

**The best way to predict the future is to create it.**

- Peter Drucker

In our society old people are put out to pasture. I don't believe in  
pasteurized elders. I would remind them that Theodore Roosevelt said,  
'It is better to wear out than rust out.

- David Brower

**Society has always seemed to demand a little more from human  
beings than it will get in practice.**

- George Orwell

We live in a rainbow of chaos.

- Paul Cezanne