



# SENIOR Wingspan's Elder Voice FORUM

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May 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](http://www.wingspan.org)

## Michael and Rick's 4 bits



### Introducing Wingspan's New Program Director

Wingspan is pleased to introduce a new staff member to the community: Linda Thomas, Wingspan's new program director.

"Over her career, Linda has successfully directed multimillion-dollar projects and managed several large organizations. We are pleased that she will bring her skills and experience to Wingspan," said Wingspan Board President, Cynthia Garcia.

Thomas has served as a colonel in the armed forces, worked as a city manager, and been active in national advocacy for LGBT servicemembers. She earned a masters of public administration from Troy State University and has served on numerous community boards and advisory groups, including the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a non-profit organization dedicated to ending discrimination against, and harassment of, military personnel affected by "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

"From the time my partner and I first moved to Tucson in August 2008, I recognized Wingspan was a special place," Thomas said.

"Not only is it the hub of the LGBT community in Tucson, it also enjoys a great reputation around the country. Being involved with this wonderful organization was something I knew I wanted to do from the beginning, but I never dreamed I'd actually be on staff. I'm so grateful for this opportunity and look forward to working with our

incredible Board, staff, volunteers and community partners to serve Tucson's LGBT community."

Wingspan gratefully honors outgoing Program Director, Courtney Jones, who has shared her tremendous talents with Wingspan for the last six years.

"Courtney's leadership has been invaluable to this organization," said Garcia, Wingspan's board president. "Through her work, homeless youth in Southern Arizona have strong advocates not just at Wingspan but through a wide community network that Courtney helped build. Over the last year, Courtney's leadership has been essential to the organization. She has helped Wingspan to respond with increased efficiency and even more effective programs to meet the growing needs of our community, all while doing so with fewer resources."

Jones first became involved with Wingspan as an Anti-Violence Program volunteer, answering the crisis line one night a month.

She was later hired as a youth outreach specialist and then became the

Homeless Youth Project coordinator. She was instrumental in creating partnerships with groups in the community to increase services for LGBT youth in need.

"I am so proud of the individuals and organizations that have supported Eon's Homeless Youth Project and LGBT homeless and near-homeless youth," said Jones, who also worked as the Youth and Family Programs manager and most recently as Wingspan's program director.

"We often talk about the impact Wingspan's programs have on the participants, volunteers, and the community at large but



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don't express the incredible impact the organization has on staff," Jones said. "During my six years at Wingspan, I have had the pleasure to work in an environment that fosters professional and personal growth and ensures that our diverse LGBT and allied communities are empowered to not only survive but thrive."

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### **A Green Memorial to Maurice**

In honor of Maurice Grossman a mesquite tree was planted in the Iron Horse Park on Monday April 5th by Allen Kinzey of Wingspan Senior Pride and B J Cordova of Tucson Clean and Beautiful. B J proposed the planting as a tribute to Maurice for his contribution to a cleaner, more beautiful Tucson.. Iron Horse Park was chosen because that park was adopted by the Seniors of Wingspan. Maurice was on the original crew and faithfully participated twice a month until his death. The tree is the new one along Tenth Street between Third Avenue and Bean Street.

### **In Memoriam: Maurice Grossman**

Friends, have you had a Maurice sighting lately? I think I might have, just yesterday, in a long cloud laying outstretched as if taking a nap along the foothills or the Catalinas, their peaks poking the sky, cresting waves of burnt dirt, arrested in time.

Then again, I thought I saw him in the grocery store, somewhere between the lettuce and the bread, like last time around New Year's, at Trader Joe's, I stopped for tulips, but found something better – a Maurice smile and hug. I hardly knew him. And he was family.

It was the Hermes/Aphrodite Goddess of small treasures and out of the way luminosities that presented me with that gift -

So, friends, have you had a sighting lately? Maybe you noticed a bolt of joy for nothing in particular, just to be alive, or you loved in a way that left you honest, or maybe you saw a rock, or a pot, or a face, and fire rose up, new light came on behind your eyes, or maybe you were sipping a cup of tea with an old friend, and felt like a chile who had just

discovered orange blossoms – that could be a Maurice sighting. You tell me yours, and I'll tell you mine.

--Karen Hanson, 2/2010--

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### **Dis-N-Dat by m. j.**

Now that your taxes are paid and you've sent back your Census 2010 forms...what are your plans for the long hot summer? Well, for one thing, there is still time to catch "Curtain Call", an exhibition of the UA Vaudeville Collections. The exhibit extends through 16MAY. Pictures, posters and write-ups include quite a few vaudeville stars (e.g., Julian Eltinge and Karyl Norman) that would greatly interest the LGBT community. So get yourself over to the University Libraries @ 1510 E. University Blvd. Their hours are M - F: 9 - 6 (but it's best to double check). [www.library.arizona.edu](http://www.library.arizona.edu).

Since we are supposed to be mired in a "muddle through economy\*", I will attempt to write a rambling column! Are you educating yourself regarding the 18MAY Special Election? Too bad I do not have the name recognition, time or passion to write an 'Arguments "Against" Proposition 100'. Yes, if I was voting, I'd vote "NO". But, for once, I'm not going to vote.

I will also be taking my leave from this column beginning with the JUN issue. This will be the last of my regular monthly WSF "Dis-N-Dat" columns\*\* as my better half and I depart TUS for a longish get-a-way. We both need a break from our various volunteerism to recharge our aging batteries! This decision was made easier by the news that WSP, collectively, has been selected to receive the 2010 Lavina Tomer "Truth to Power" Award on 08MAY. There's word that this comes with a monetary premium! As I won't be at the next WSP monthly meeting, allow me to suggest that some of the funds be set aside for PCOA In Memory of Maurice Grossman. Also, with the award, I am hoping that those of you who have long wanted to get involved with WSP, yet have not, will now be drawn to step forward and show your colours!

**ALOHA FOR NOW!**

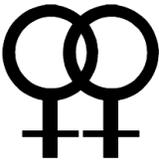
\*attributed to Doug Casey.

\*\*I wrote my first Dis-N-Dat titled column back in SFO for Lavender Godzilla.

## Volunteer for TIHAN

On Saturday, May 22 “Treasures for TIHAN”, mostly a silent auction, will take place in the Doubletree Hotel. If any of you would like to take part, there are several ways: donate an item for the auction, volunteer to help at the event, and/or attend the event. For more information, contact Allen Kinzey at [abkinzey@cox.net](mailto:abkinzey@cox.net).

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### Get Ready for Same-Gender Marriage

TUCSON—Two nationally known leaders will bring the same-gender marriage discussion to Tucson in hopes to find common ground.

**Maggie Gallagher, president and founder of National Organization for Marriage and the Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy, president of Interfaith Alliance**, will meet in Tucson to discuss their views on same-gender marriage and religious freedom.

Television reporter Lupita Murillo of KVOA channel 4, Tucson, will moderate the conversation. The public forum will take place **Tuesday, May 11 from 7 pm to 9 pm at The Berger Performing Arts Center, 1200 West Speedway Blvd. in Tucson**. The forum is expected to draw supporters from both sides of the issue for a discussion that will bring two leaders with different points of view together to explore the issue and see if it is possible to find common ground.

“The national conversation about same-gender marriage is most often played out in sound bites and protest signs. We hope to have a deeper discussion in Tucson,” said local organizer Paul Barby. “This is an important conversation to have because what is really at stake when we talk about same-gender marriage is religious freedom and the nature of democracy.”

The Washington Post has described Gallagher’s National Organization for

Marriage, as “the preeminent organization dedicated to preventing the legalization of same-sex marriage.” Gallagher and her organization played a key role in getting Prop 8 on the ballot in California. She also helped orchestrate the rollback of gay marriage via referendum in Maine, and block gay marriage bills in the New York and New Jersey State Senates.

As president of Interfaith Alliance, the Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy, promotes the idea that marriage is a civil issue, not a religious issue in the United States and that discussions about same-gender marriage should begin from the perspective of religious liberty. Gaddy serves as a pastor at Northminster Baptist Church in Monroe, Louisiana, in addition to leading Interfaith Alliance, a national grassroots organization of more than 150,000 individuals and 75 different religious traditions.

The event is free and open to the public on a first come, first seated basis.

For more information on Interfaith Alliance see: <http://www.interfaithalliance.org>. For more about National Organization for Marriage see: [www.nationformarriage.org](http://www.nationformarriage.org).

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### Hannah Free Raises \$5000 for Wingspan

The benefit showing of "Hannah Free" on March 30th was an amazing success.



Over 450 people attended the event, raising over \$5000 dollars for Wingspan! It was inspiring to see so many community members come out to see the film and support Wingspan. Thank you to the underwriting sponsors: P.A.W.S. (Partners in Animal Wellness Services), Dogoli’s Crop Shop Hair Salon and Natural Healing Massage Therapy. Bentley’s House of Coffee and Teas, A Plus Printing and The Loft also made in-kind contributions. Thanks also to Joyce Bolinger, who arranged the event, the 16 volunteers who helped with logistics and to the community for the overwhelming response.

## Prom is More Fun the Second Time Around!

Whatever your memories  
of your first prom...



Wingspan Senior Pride invites Late Bloomers of any age to our Senior Prom in celebration of love, friendship and community. Come join us as we mingle with friends old and new and dance to great music while enjoying light snacks and refreshments. If you'd like to help plan or work on the dance, come to the next Senior Pride planning meeting the second Tuesday of May (the 11th) at Himmel Park Library from 2 to 3:30PM or call Dorothea at 888-6673.

### So mark your calendar:

Saturday, June 12 4-9 PM  
MCC Water Of Life

3269 North Mountain Avenue

Located on the east side of Mountain, north of Ft Lowell.

Donations for Wingspan will be gratefully accepted. Special thanks to MCC for their gracious donation of the space.

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## Medical Happenings

### A Matter of Balance

The Pima Council on Aging (PCOA) is again offering this 8-session course in preventing and dealing with falls in the senior population. This is a serious health issue for seniors and the class will emphasize ways to improve balance through physical activity, preventing falls from occurring and strategies to make falls less injurious. The class is limited to 15 participants and will take place at the Tucson Medical Center Senior Services Center 1400 N. Wilmot Rd. The course runs for 4 weeks on Mondays and Thursdays starting May 3rd. Cost for the program is \$15 per person or \$25 per couple. Call PCOA at 790-7262 for more information or to register.



## Health Living: Managing Ongoing Health Conditions

Pima Council on Aging's (PCOA) Healthy Living class is offered throughout the year in various locations around Tucson. It is a 6-week workshop of 2-hour sessions for those living with ongoing or chronic health conditions (diabetes, heart and lung disease, hypertension, arthritis) and teaches participants to manage pain and fatigue, lessen depression and frustration, solve problems and establish and meet personal goals, among other strategies. The program was developed at Stanford University, is taught by trained facilitators and a workbook is included entitled "Living a Healthy Life with Chronic Conditions". There is a suggested donation of \$6 per person or \$10 per couple. To enroll in one of these workshops or for more information, call PCOA at 790-7262.

In addition, PCOA is willing to teach this course, in conjunction with Wingspan, for a group of LGBT seniors if enough participants (12 to 15) express interest. A time and location would be selected to accommodate participants. If you would be interested in being a part of this particular workshop, contact Mary Ellen Beaurain at PCOA at 790-7262.

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## A Little Springtime Humor (part 2 of 2)

Love those Church Ladies..  
They're Back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins! Thank God for church ladies with typewriters...

These sentences (with all the BLOOPERS) actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services (supposedly).

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

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from pg 4 **A Little Springtime Humor**

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 AM. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B. S. is done.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy. Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'



## May 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, May 6, 2010 at 1:30 - 3:00 pm at the home of Lee and Merlin. Please call 207-5336 for directions. 

### **Tuesday, May 4 and May 18**

(1st and 3rd Tuesdays) 8AM  
Adopt a Park Iron Horse  
Cleanup  
Iron Horse Park 10th Street  
between 3rd and 4th Avenue



### **Tuesday, May 11 (2nd Tuesday)**

Senior Pride Planning Meeting  
2 PM at Himmel Park Library, 1035 N. Treat  
Avenue (off Speedway) ph: 594.5305

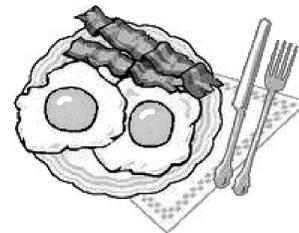
### **Saturday, May 15,**

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

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

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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Cautious, careful people, always casting about to  
preserve their reputations... can never effect a reform.

Susan B. Anthony

**The most potent weapon of the oppressor  
is the mind of the oppressed..**

Steven Biko

Before a group can enter the open society,  
it must first close ranks.

Stokely Carmichael

*I'm not funny. What I am is brave.*

Lucille Ball

In this possibly terminal phase of human existence, democracy  
and freedom are more than just ideals to be valued -  
they may be essential to survival.

Noam Chomsky