



SENIOR Wingspan's Elder Voice FORUM

Volume 10 Issue 12
December 2014

Editor: Rick Jorgenson

Southern Arizona Senior Pride - Serving the LGBT Community — www.wingspan.org

The November Senior Pride Planning meeting has resulted in a decision to align with the Southern Arizona Aids Foundation for the purpose of retaining our association with Wingspan in its new structure. The following is a press release that has been drafted to reflect this decision.

Wingspan Senior Pride Seeks SAAF Umbrella

The organization of LGBT Seniors, has voted to affiliate with the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF). They will join other programs of Wingspan, Southern Arizona's Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender community center, which are now under the umbrella of SAAF since Wingspan has merged into SAAF.

The organization will continue to be known as Wingspan Senior Pride.

"It is very compelling to continue the legacy of Wingspan and to work with SAAF towards bringing together the LGBT community," said Lavina Tomer, chair of the Senior Pride Coordinating Committee.

After assessing options at the November 18 meeting, a majority of those attending voted to request that SAAF assume the role of fiscal agent to receive and disburse donations and funds and to allow Wingspan Senior Pride to use SAAF's non-profit status to seek donations, apply for grants, receive tax-exempt status on purchases and discounts on parades and other events.

The Senior Forum newsletter will be printed and mailed at SAAF and notices will be posted on the Wingspan website now maintained at SAAF.

<http://wingspan.org>

Anyone who wishes to receive the Senior Forum, Senior Pride's monthly newsletter, can request either a "snail mail" hard copy or to be added to the online notification list. Send your name, address and other contact information to editor Rick Jorgenson at rajorgenson@cox.net or call the Wingspan phone number at 624-1779 during business hours. Please note that we do not send out the Senior Forum as an attachment to an email, but rather a notification once it is published online. You can then download and read/print it at your convenience.

Why I walk...AIDSARIZONA--Tucson

Many people may not know how long I have worked in the HIV/AIDS field, I wasn't always a supervisor or in leadership position. I started as a volunteer case manager. Before the early 90's, when funds became available to do this work, I volunteered to support people with HIV/AIDS. While there are many people I remember from that time, one of the stories that is always on my mind, is one of a childhood friend.

We grew up together riding horses from a young age all the way up through our teenage years. She was the person who taught me how to kiss. Later she fell in love, got married, and had two beautiful children. Her husband had contracted HIV through a blood transfusion, which she shared on our first formal meeting in my role as her volunteer case manager. She was living with HIV and didn't know what to do. She found her community as an ally to her LGBT brothers and sisters who were also living with HIV. When she passed away she left her

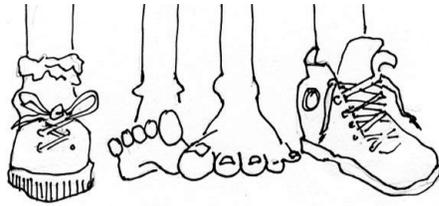


Why I walk...AIDSARIZONA from pg 1
young daughters behind. If we knew then what we know now, her story might have been different. But if she was here, she would tell you that she didn't regret the family she found as a result of her status.

She is one of the million reasons why I choose to fund raise and walk in the AIDS WALK this year. On October 12, 2014 in downtown Tucson, there were close to 2,000 people who registered to walk, run, or work to fund raise for SAAF (Southern Arizona Aids Foundation). The commitment of people in this community and show of support is incredible. I am honored to stand beside people who have lost a loved one or who support us with donations, or who volunteer.

We have joined to celebrate those we lost through their quilt panels. I know you felt a sense of community that my friend needed over two decades ago and that we all need today.

--Wendell Hicks, Executive Director, Southern Arizona Aids Foundation (SAAF)--



course, the ocean. We also love living in Portland - in many ways, it reminds us of Tucson. After I left Wingspan in 2007, I've continued to work for social justice. I've lived in the Denver/Boulder region of Colorado where I served at the GLBT Center of Colorado, followed by serving as Co-Executive Director of Out Boulder. For the past three years, I've been teaching social work full-time at a community college in Salem, Oregon; however, starting in July 2014, I'll be serving as the new Director of Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement at Lewis & Clark College in Portland.

DB: What inspires you? Where does your passion lie?

CB: I am inspired by potential -- the potential of systems to change for good and the potential of people (including me!) to learn, grow and change for the good of themselves and others. I strive to hold what Carl Rogers called "Unconditional Positive Regard" for everyone, including people who may be on the opposite side of me politically.

DB: Who are your heroes?

CB: My s/he-roses include Mandy Carter, who spoke at the Wingspan dinner in 2005 - she is a passionate, kind, smart African-American lesbian activist. I admire Sister Jeannine Gramick, who I met in Colorado and who works for change within the Catholic Church. I also admire activist Dolores Huerta, who I had the opportunity to have dinner with a few years ago. I admire the life and work of poet Mary Oliver (who our son is named after) and Ernie McCray, a graduate of Tucson High and The University of Arizona, who is a friend and an outspoken ally for the LGBT community. Kent Burbank, former Wingspan Director, remains one of my s/heroes, as well. He continues to lead with such wisdom and grace. From teaching at a community college for three years, many of my s/heroes are also my students who overcome many personal challenges to attend school and graduate. Truly, my heroes are people who strive to live an authentic life in the service of social justice with others.

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Interview with Cathy Busha, former Wingspan Program Director

Ms. Busha's interview was originally meant to appear earlier this year before the big upheaval in the Wingspan organization. But her responses are still valid in spite of all the recent changes to Wingspan's organizational structure. And it is good to hear from her again even though she is no longer a Tucson resident.

Dea Brasgalla: Who is Cathy Busha? Tell me about yourself.

Cathy Busha: I live in Portland, Oregon with my partner of 8 years, Anna, and our almost 2 year old son, Oliver. My family and friends are very important to me. Anna and I were legally married in November 2013. As a family, we love to hike, camp and explore Oregon's beautiful forests, mountains, farms and, of

Interview with Cathy Busha from pg 2

DB: If you could wave a magic wand, what would Arizona look like in 5 years?

CB: Since leaving Wingspan, I haven't kept up closely with the work it's doing, so it is difficult for me to answer what I think it should look like in five years. That said, I believe that Wingspan must continue to work for social justice for all, particularly the most marginalized in the LGBTQ community: people of color; immigrants; trans people; seniors; people with disabilities; and poor/working class. Wingspan must work in meaningful, active coalition with other groups advocating for social justice. Additionally, Wingspan must serve as a connecting place for LGBTQ people to find one another and celebrate our gifts and our lives. Finally, with such a focus on legal relationship recognition, Wingspan must continue to work with and for people harmed by relationships. It was 16 years ago I left the abusive partner I moved to Tucson with. She used physical and emotional violence to try to control me. While I didn't seek out Wingspan services directly, through Wingspan's outreach and community education, I was able to realize that what was happening in my relationship was domestic violence.

Starting in January of 2015, Cathy Busha will be the Associate Dean of Student Engagement at Lewis and Clark Community College. She will oversee the Departments of Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement; Student Leadership and Service; Student Activities and College Outdoors. Additionally, she will serve on the Welfare Intervention Network and as Title IX Deputy Coordinator. WOW!! So many hats and so little time!! That's our Cathy!!! Congratulations!!!

Special Equality Arizona Meeting

A meeting, organized by Scott Blades, Executive Director of TIHAN, was held Thursday, Nov 6th at the Old Pueblo Grille. There were significant leaders and volunteers

from former political causes in attendance. There is a move by Equality Arizona, from Phoenix, to organize the LGBT community Statewide. Instead of hiring an Executive Director, the folks who volunteer want to hire a Lobbyist to represent us at the State Legislature. Organizers pointed out that our best bet to counteract Cathi Herrod and CAP's agenda is to lobby as other groups do. We know that they were angry over Judge Sedwick's decision to overturn the ban on gay marriage. Many others are encouraging those folks who have been in a long term commitment or who want to legalize their union, to think about marrying asap, at least to make your union legal and you can have a more elaborate ceremony later. Those who attended spoke about having a Council formed here in Tucson with a group of volunteers who would also advocate for our rights. Anyone interested in getting involved should contact Scott Blades at 520-299-6647 or e-mail him at: friends@tihan.org, and give your contact information.

PFLAG Honors LGBT Seniors with Holiday Dinner



Tucson's PFLAG chapter is going to have a dinner for Senior Pride at 4 p.m., Saturday, **December 13**, at the Rincon United Church of Christ's Fellowship Hall. Rincon UCC is

located near the intersection of Broadway and Craycroft Rd - the Fellowship Hall is a separate building from the church.

Also on the 13th, Desert Voices will perform: From Our Home to Yours: Music to Celebrate the Holidays

December 13th, 7PM, December 14th, 3PM, St. Marks Presbyterian Church, 3809 E. 3rd St., Tucson, AZ 85716. The 13th is a great date for dinner and a show! Join Senior Pride for both.



December 2014						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 Reveille Mens Chorus concert Grace St. Paul's Episcopal 8:00 PM	6 Reveille Mens Chorus concert Grace St. Paul's Episcopal 8:00 PM
7 Reveille Mens Chorus concert Grace St. Paul's Episcopal 3:00 PM	8	9 Wingspan Senior Pride Meeting Himmel Park Library 2:00 PM	10	11	12	13 PFLAG Dinner for Seniors - 4:00 PM Desert Voices Concert (see newsletter)
14	15	16 Hanukkah begins at sundown	17 Hanukkah	18	19	20 40s and Better Breakfast Group 9:30 - 11:00 am
21 Winter begins	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26	27 Senior Pride potluck - Cornerstone Fellowship Hall 12 Noon
28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve			

Due to space limitations in the calendar, see the newsletter itself for complete information for some activities.



A yes vote for SAAF on Nov 18, the Senior Pride meeting at the Himmel Park Library

World AIDS Day

World Aids Day is Monday, December 1, 2014. An event in Tucson to honor and celebrate a community of people living with and to educate about HIV/AIDS. Hotel Congress is our Sponsor highlight. It has been supporting World Aids Day and the work of our incredible community partners, agencies, and organizations for a long time. This historic Tucson staple is more than just a hotel; it is a real icon. Check it out at:

<http://hotelcongress.com>. If you have the World Aids t-shirt or the red ribbon signifying support for those with HIV/AIDS, be sure to wear it to show your support.



Happy Hanukkah



Happy
New Year

December Events

Meander in Tucson Meetup Group

List of events for lesbian women

<http://www.meetup.com/MeanderinTucson>



Monday Mah Jongg

Every Monday (except holidays),
12:00 noon to 3:00 PM at Himmel Park Public Library branch, 1035 North Treat Ave.

Tuesday, December 9

Senior Pride Planning Meeting

2 PM at Himmel Park Library
1035 N. Treat Avenue (off Speedway)
ph. 594.5305

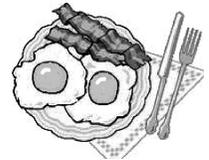
Saturday, December 20

(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
9:30 - 11:00 AM

Phone contact: Carol Ehrlich
520.584.0339



Saturday, December

NOTE: NO POTLUCK IN DECEMBER

Senior Pride Monthly
Potluck

(every 4th Saturday of the month)

Cornerstone Fellowship - Fellowship
Hall 2902 North Geronimo (and
Laguna....near First Ave. and Glenn)
12:00 noon - 2:00 PM

Phone contact: Lee Roden
520.398.6826





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The excellence of a gift lies in its appropriateness
rather than in its value.

~ Charles Dudley Warner

*Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love,
every time we give, it's Christmas.*

~ Dale Evans

The main reason Santa is so jolly is because he knows where all the bad girls live.

~ George Carlin

Let's be naughty and save Santa the trip.

~ Gary Allan

*Maybe Christmas, the Grinch thought,
doesn't come from a store.*

~ Dr. Seuss