



SENIOR Wingspan's Elder Voice FORUM

Volume 10 Issue 7
July 2014

Editor: Rick Jorgenson

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

Better a Little Bit Late than....

Courtesy of the Observer Weekly, June 4, 2014 edition: It's Pride Month: Obama and the National Park Service take action.

On May 30th President Obama issued a proclamation calling June "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month" while the National Park Service launched a study to identify places and events associated with the story of LGBT Americans for inclusion in the program on the NPS. Obama, in his proclamation called on every nation to "join us in defending the universal human rights of our LGBT brothers and sisters".



The President reminded us that this June we mark 45 years since the Stonewall riots where participants "defied an unjust policy and awakened a nascent movement". He encouraged everyone to "Follow their example and let each of us speak for tolerance, justice, and dignity because if hearts and minds continue to change over time, laws will too." He expressed that as a country we need to continue to take action to prevent bullying, harassment, and discrimination in housing and hospitals. Noting that in too many states, LGBT people can be fired because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, " I continue to call on Congress to correct this injustice by passing the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, (ENDA)," said Obama.

Elsewhere on the same day, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell announced a theme study as part of a broader initiative to ensure that the National Park Service tells a more complete story of the nation's diverse heritage.

The Stonewall Inn in New York City is the site of a riot in 1969 that is widely recognized as a catalyst for the modern civil rights movement in the LGBT community. It is currently the only LGBT associated site that has been designated a national historic landmark by the NPS as a property having extraordinary significance in American history.

Fabulous Time in Puerto Vallarta

Congratulations to Reveille as, in May, they traveled home from Puerto Vallarta.

An epic time for Reveille as the chorus performed two shows and marched in The Pride Parade in Mexico. Our brother, Ted Rigney, reports from his Facebook page. He says, "What an amazing experience. The music was fantastic, the audience amazing and singing with Reveille and Puerto Vallarta Men's chorus was the best part". Artistic Director Shawn Cullen also reported: "changing lives through music, spreading our mission internationally, representing # GALA CHORUS, and being professional, flexible, and loving always".

Wingspan's June Ice Cream Social

The ice cream social held on June 12th in the Eon Lounge at Wingspan was a huge success!! Over 50 people attended including youth, seniors, and some staff from Wingspan and other health organizations in Tucson. Dea Brasgalla, Dorothea Nobile, and Lavina Tomer served bowls of vanilla, chocolate, and strawberry ice cream along with assorted toppings, sprinkles, and whipped cream. Chocolate, chocolate chip, and sugar cookies were donated and served



continued on pg 2

Wingspan's June Ice Cream Social from pg 1

as well. A huge tub of Eegees was served by a youth volunteer and devoured by the kids. Many thanks to Merlin Spillers and Lee Roden who called their friends to join us.

New Grief Recovery Group in July

In the May issue of Senior Forum we ran an article about a grief support and recovery group run by Ms. Mary Kay LeFevour. She has informed us of a new group starting on Tuesday, July 8 at the offices of Grief Recovery Tucson, 4621 N. 1st Avenue, Suite 11. The group will meet from 6:00 - 7:30 PM for seven weeks. The cost is \$125 and includes a copy of the Grief Recovery Handbook, but space is limited and you are encouraged to call or email to reserve your place. Call 520.661.2350 or email www.GriefRecoveryTucson.com. The Grief Recovery Method® helps you move through the emotional pain of loss from a death, divorce, job loss, health problem or any other loss. Whether your loss occurred a week ago or decades ago, you can start to feel better.



every year Arizona has been a state without full equality – the 2014 HERO Equality Walk will be 102 miles. The HERO Equality Walkers utilize these miles to speak to police, city managers, and faith communities, elected officials and everyday people all across the diversity of Arizona.

The HERO Equality Walk is held in July for a reason. Most folks would agree that walking 102 miles throughout Arizona is crazy! It's also crazy that in Arizona, like 29 other states, it's LEGAL to fire someone simply because of who they are. People are not able to live their lives without the intrusion of state government.

We hope that PFLAG Tucson will become an in-kind Equality Walk sponsor and help us make our day in Tucson beneficial and rewarding for the Tucson community.

We will be in Tucson on Saturday July 19 to walk 12 of our 102 miles and meet with your community!

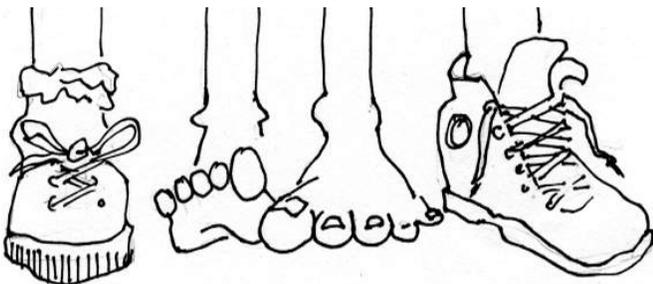
The theme of our walk this year is "Rally the Allies". We understand the importance of our allied community in the journey to full equality in Arizona. We would love for you to host an event, training, rally, walk, or just a meet and greet to talk about the importance of LGBTQ equality.

From Scott Blades, Director of TIHAN

Dear Friends, Thanks to hundreds of donors, volunteers, and attendees, we enjoyed a wonderful "**Treasures for TIHAN**" **Benefit Auction** with a Hearts that Care theme on May 31, 2014, at Doubletree by Hilton, Tucson-Reid Park. 350 people joined us in our beautifully decorated ballroom packed with some great items donated to raise funds for TIHAN's programs and services. Thank you to a great team of people that put on a very successful fund raising event.

Also we saved some great auction items for our upcoming online auction, in which everyone can participate. In July, we'll post over 100 great auction items on a special auction website called **Bidding for Good**, and you can bid online. So if you got outbid at Treasures, here's your second chance. Stay tuned for more details.

PFLAG Tucson and the HERO Equality Walk



On behalf of HERO (Human & Equal Rights Organizers), a local Phoenix-based LGBTQ advocacy group, the Equality Walk seeks the support and sponsorship of PFLAG Tucson. HERO is looking forward to working with PFLAG Tucson and we hope you will be able to support the 2014 Equality Walk!

HERO Equality Walkers walk one mile for

Introduction: Our featured interview this month is with Sandy Davenport. Many of you already know her, but for those who don't we want to introduce you to one of our staunchest allies and friends in Senior Pride. Sandy is a dedicated and compassionate professional who works as a specialist in senior issues and affairs for the Pima Council on Aging (PCOA). She has for a long time been Senior Pride's valued liaison with PCOA and a great help to the events and activities we plan at our monthly meetings. Our roving interviewer, Dea Brasgalla, has provided us with the following interview. We hope this serves to introduce Sandy to a wider audience and provide everyone a profile of her as a person and a valued member of the Tucson community.

Dea Brasgalla: Who is Sandy Davenport? Tell me about yourself.

Sandy Davenport: I grew up in the Midwest, have a brother and sister, and a 93-year-old mother. All my family lives out of state. I went to college on the east coast and studied the great books, with an eye to being a philosopher, before moving to Tucson 37 years ago. My daughter was born at home a year after moving here, and I parted from her father 2 years later. When she was little, we had a Montessori-inspired play group at our house. I went back to school when she got to kindergarten age, and got a Master's in Social Work from the branch of ASU here. While there, I took a class on Feminist Issues by Ellen Litman, and my eyes were opened.

I worked as a counselor, focusing mostly on domestic violence, worked as a hospital social worker, and as Director of the Women's Commission, before coming to my current job at Pima Council on Aging 6 years ago. I also work per diem as a Medical Social Worker at UAHN Medical Center University Campus.

I first had an intimate relationship with a woman in 1989, and it was definitely life changing. I was out with close friends and my daughter, later with other family, but was not ready to be out at work until after I came to PCOA. Now that I just turned 60, it feels great to be comfortable being who I am and saying what I think.

I take great pleasure in friends, gardening, and the delights of nature, as well as dance, painting, and singing. I am grateful to have a wonderful relationship with my daughter. I also have 3 cats.

DB: What inspires you, where does your passion lie?

SD: I find that I am most motivated in my work when I see that people have a strong need for help or are experiencing injustice. I am delighted I get to offer support and resources to families in my role as a Caregiver Specialist at PCOA, and I love working with our Project Visibility Training collaboration to spread awareness, respect and compassion about LGBTQ older adults to those who provide long term care.

DB: Who are your heroes?

SD: Not sure I have heroes, but I admire the Dalai Lama and Lily Tomlin. I also navigate by the statement of Thich Nhat Hanh: "What is most important is to find peace and share it with others." I stand in gratitude to all the pioneers of the LGBT community who have paved the way and paid the dues to bring our rights to the current state of outstanding progress.

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

SD: I would like to see Wingspan solidly funded through its own foundation, so that the services to welcome, advocate for, and provide quality support for the LGBTQ community, can continue to be on the cutting edge of awareness, respect and assistance.

July 2014						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5
6	7	8 Wingspan Senior Pride Meeting Himmel Library 2:00 PM Grief Recovery 6 - 7:30 PM	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Iron Horse Park Cleanup 7:00 AM	16	17	18	19 40s and Better Breakfast Group 9:30 – 11:00 am HERO Walk
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Senior Pride potluck Metropolitan Community Church 12 Noon
27	28	29	30	31		

Due to space limitations in the calendar, see the newsletter itself for complete information for some activities (e.g., HERO Walk).

And Here's a Deal from TIHAN

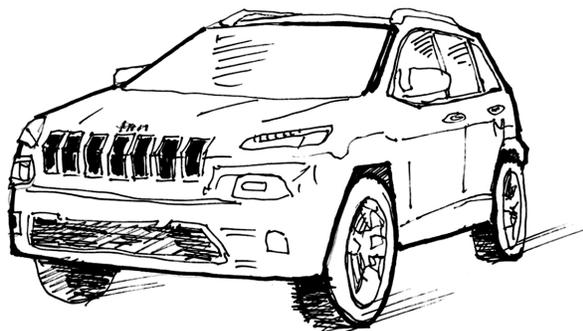
Community Raffle: Win a 2014 Jeep Cherokee courtesy of Jim Click Automotive Team. Raffle tickets: \$25.00 or 5 for \$100.00. Proceeds from our ticket sales will benefit the programs provided by Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) buy your ticket now and get a **chance to win a 2014 Jeep Cherokee!** to support nonprofits in our area. Jim Click Automotive Team is presenting a new 2014 Jeep Cherokee to be used as the featured prize in a raffle to raise funds for local nonprofit organizations in Tucson. This vehicle is valued at \$40,000.00 and it could be yours!

For every raffle ticket that TIHAN sells, we get to keep 100% of the proceeds, and you get a chance to win a 2014 Jeep Cherokee. By purchasing a ticket through TIHAN, you get a chance to win a great car and support TIHAN. Purchasers must be 21 years of age or older to win. Winner need not be present. The winner will be responsible for all taxes, registration, and travel to claim the vehicle. Raffle sales will go on through Oct 31st, and the winner will be announced by a drawing on November 13, 2014. **For tickets, call**

520-299-6647 or visit www.tihan.org.

GOOD LUCK!!

A chance to Win a 2014 Jeep Cherokee



Courtesy of Jim Click Automotive

July 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, July 1 & July 15
(1st and 3rd Tuesday) 7:00 AM

Adopt a Park Iron Horse Cleanup

Iron Horse Park 10th Street between 3rd and 4th Avenue

Tuesday, July 8 (2nd Tuesday) Senior Pride Planning Meeting

2 PM at Himmel Park Library
1035 N. Treat Avenue (off Speedway) ph. 594-5305

Saturday, July 19

(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



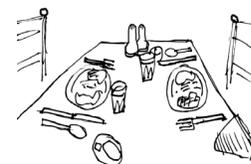
Saturday, July 26 Monthly potluck

A Senior Pride lunch open to all

Water of Life Metropolitan Community Church

3269 N Mountain Ave 12:00 Noon

Phone contact: Lee Roden/Merlin Spillers
520-398-6826





430 E. 7th Street
Tucson, AZ 85705

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Tucson,
Arizona
Permit No. 769

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Once you replace negative thoughts with positive ones,
you'll start having positive results.* ~ Willie Nelson

**No matter what you're going through, there's a light at the end of
the tunnel and it may seem hard to get to it but you can do it and
just keep working towards it and you'll find the positive side of things.**
~ Demi Lovato

Positive anything is better than negative nothing.

~ Elbert Hubbard

*I do believe we're all connected. I do believe in positive energy. I do believe
in the power of prayer. I do believe in putting good out into the world.
And I believe in taking care of each other.* ~ Harvey Fierstein

*A strong, positive self-image
is the best possible preparation for success.*

~ Joyce Brothers