



SENIOR FORUM

Wingspan's Elder Voice

Volume 10 Issue 8
August 2014

Editor: Rick Jorgenson

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A Note from the Editor

As I sit down to write this, my feelings are in a mixed state containing both sadness and hope. Wingspan as we know it is no more. The news media has taken notice and reported on Wingspan's financial troubles that have become so severe that a major change must take place in order for our LGBT center to survive at all.

In case anyone has missed the news, here is what has transpired:

A Message from the Board of Directors of Wingspan and the Southern Arizona Aids Foundation (SAAF). July 1, 2014:

"The boards of directors for SAAF and Wingspan have begun conversations exploring the possible merger of Wingspan's programs and activities with SAAF. Both boards are excited about the possibilities of this new relationship and are looking forward to finding ways to continue and grow vital services Wingspan has provided for the LGBTQ community for more than a quarter of a century.

Over the next several weeks, representatives from SAAF and Wingspan will continue to meet and make important decisions about Wingspan's future and we are committed to keeping you apprised of developments as they occur."

A July 8, 2014 Message from the Board of Directors of Southern Arizona Aids Foundation and Wingspan:

"The Board of Directors for SAAF and Wingspan met again on Monday July 1, 2014 to further discuss the opportunities of a

merger between both organizations. We are carefully evaluating the details surrounding programs, staffing, physical location needs and financial position of both organizations. The discussions are agreeable and cooperative with the intent to focus on solutions that serve the community, clients, and staff.

Both boards are committed to ensuring programs will continue during the process to minimize the impact on clients, staff, and the LGBTQ community. To facilitate this continuity of programming, Wingspan employees will be provided temporary work space at SAAF's offices. Over the next several weeks, both Boards will and meet together and

individually. It is expected more decisions will be made during this time. We will continue to provide updates on our progress.

Sincerely,
Miguel A. Cruz, SAAF Board of Directors
Paul Guerrero, Wingspan Board of Directors
President.



Senior Pride is one of those programs, although we are not in danger of disappearing. Since 2009 Senior Pride has been an all-volunteer undertaking and we have remained afloat for 6 years as such. There is no reason to believe that we cannot continue our existence since that is the case - we are not funded by grants or any other source simply because we do not need this kind of backing. We will continue to provide the Senior Forum as a source of information for our senior LGBT population.

Rick Jorgenson, Senior Forum editor

Responses to Wingspan's Move:

Catherine Aspenwall says: "We need to continue to provide critical access for vulnerable LGBTQ people, especially youth. I was devastated to read on Newsnet that Wingspan was going to close after 26 years. I have been a supporter for years and wondered how this could have happened without more warning from Wingspan. Hopefully the board of directors can secure an affordable path forward that will still provide safe havens and support for our LGBTQ population."

Senior Pride certainly echoes these sentiments and agrees that Wingspan's programs must find a new home somewhere. For now, Wingspan has been given space at the SAAF offices until the boards of both organizations can complete their talks and negotiations. We will keep our readers apprised of any and all new developments.

A Few Words About SAAF

SAAF (Southern Arizona Aids foundation) is located at 375 S. Euclid Ave in Tucson, AZ 85719. Its phone number is: 520-628-7223 or 1-800-771-9054. It is open from 8am to 5 pm Monday through Friday and closed on all major holidays. SAAF is involved in HIV Prevention and Testing, care services including case management, peer counseling and support groups, food programs, and housing services to name a few. In addition, there are volunteer programs and different ways by which to donate.

What the Future Looks Like Right Now

Wingspan's lineup of diverse programs has grown over the years, but the present situation is going to bring about some big changes. The EON program for LGBT youth and the Anti-Violence Program are probably going to remain as Wingspan's signature programs. The Southern Arizona Gender Alliance(SAGA) has already gone its own way as a separate entity and Puertas Abiertas is most likely going to follow suit. Senior Pride can also continue to survive by remaining a volunteer group, although there

are some other ideas floating around to see if it can be attached to some other umbrella organization as it has been to Wingspan.

As of this time nothing is certain except that we need the help and input of all our community. Senior LGBTs are just as important to the larger community as the youth or any other sector. Senior Pride requests your active participation in determining its future. Please consider joining us at our monthly meetings at Himmel Library to give us your thoughts and ideas as to how we can best continue to be of service to you and your network of friends and acquaintances. We invite your comments, questions, and ideas as to how we can best remain a viable social group - your participation is most important in this difficult time.

REVEILLE Kickoff Party

Announcing Reveille's Men's Chorus's 20th SEASON KICKOFF PARTY at Hotel Congress Sunday, August 17th 6-9 P.M.. Current Reveille Singers, family/friends/fans of Reveille, Reveille's Alumni, and curious, interested parties, and potential new singers are invited.! Come sip a cocktail, win FABULOUS raffle prizes, and sing your heart out to your favorite Karaoke songs.



DESERT VOICES Kickoff Party

Not to be outdone, Tucson's mixed LGBT chorus will hold their season's kickoff party on Wednesday, August 13 at Metropolitan Community Church where they rehearse each week. Anyone and everyone who would like to sing with Desert Voices is invited to join them on this special evening. August 13 will be a time to socialize and get to know the chorus members and their activities. Doors will open at 6:30 and there will be refreshments served. They will repeat this invitation a week later on August 20, although there will not be quite as much socializing. Auditions are NOT required - just a desire to sing and have fun.

Introduction by Dea Brasgalla: I have known Dr. Boyer since I first moved to Tucson in 2005 until I left in 2009. She had seen my pets then which I no longer have except for my cat Chessie. Her clinic is located at 3736 E. Speedway Blvd just before Alvernon. She told me before that her Vet business has been in existence for the past 16 years. I am very impressed that in addition to the usual services in caring for pets she is doing stem cell research for animal diseases. She is very caring, honest, and knowledgeable, and a strong supporter of Wingspan.

Dea Brasgalla: Who is Kayla Boyer? Tell me about yourself.

Kayla Boyer: I grew up primarily in Oklahoma City, but spent a considerable amount of time on my grandparents farm/ cattle ranch. Like most veterinarians, I knew I wanted to be a vet from a very young age. I was blessed to have opportunities working in several different family businesses, including a horse drawn carriage service. I obtained my DVM at Oklahoma State University where I tracked equine medicine. I spent a year in the horse business in Maryland before relocating to Tucson in 1996 where I transitioned to small animal medicine and surgery.

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

KB: I developed my love for animals from my grandmother. She always made sure I was exposed to as many animals as possible on the farm. I'm pretty sure the only reason she kept the lambs and rabbits where for me to play. My father has been a great inspiration to me; he is a smart business man, very gregarious, and made sure he exposed me to as many learning situations as possible.

DB: Who are your heroes?

KB: My hero..... that's easy..... my mom. She has faced some of the most spirit-killing situations any human can, and she has come through it witty, compassionate, talented, generous, and gentle-strong. I want to be her when I grow up.

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

KB: I think sometimes we Tucsonans take for granted how fortunate we are to have an LGBT community center- something I surely never saw growing up in Oklahoma. I would love to see Wingspan with program offerings which benefit every section of the LGBT community. I would love to see our community be more involved in the workings of, support for our community center. Personally, I think Tucson is so integrated that we forget the importance of having an LGBT devoted center.

August 2014						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5 Iron Horse Park Cleanup 7:00 AM	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Wingspan Senior Pride Meeting Himmel Library 2:00 PM	13 Desert Voices Open Invitation 6:30 PM MCC	14	15	16 40s and Better Breakfast Group 9:30 – 11:00 AM
17 Reveille Kickoff Party 6-9 PM Hotel Congress	18	19 Iron Horse Park Cleanup 7:00 AM	20 Desert Voices Open Invitation 7:00 PM MCC	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

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

Humor Corner

AMAZING SIMPLE HOME REMEDIES:



Avoid cutting yourself when slicing vegetables by getting someone else to hold the vegetables while you chop.

Men, avoid arguments with the females about lifting the toilet seat by using the sink.

For high blood pressure sufferers ~ simply cut yourself and bleed for a few minutes, thus reducing the pressure on your veins. remember to use a timer.

A mouse trap placed on top of your alarm clock will prevent you from rolling over and going back to sleep after you hit the snooze button.

If you have a bad cough, take a large dose of laxatives. then you'll be afraid to cough.

You only need two tools in life - wd-40 and duct tape. if it doesn't move and should, use the wd-40. If it shouldn't move and does, use the duct tape.

If you can't fix it with a hammer, you've got an electrical problem.

Daily thought:

Some people are like slinkies - not really good for anything but they bring a smile to your face when pushed down the stairs.

An elderly couple had dinner at another couple's house, and after eating, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen.

The two gentlemen were talking, and one said, 'Last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was really great.. I would recommend it very highly.'

The other man said, 'What is the name of the restaurant?'

The first man thought and thought and finally said, 'What is the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know.... The one that's red and has thorns.'

'Do you mean a rose?'

'Yes, that's the one,' replied the man. He then turned towards the kitchen and yelled, 'Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?'

August 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, August 5 & August 19

(1st and 3rd Tuesday) 7:00 AM

Adopt a Park Iron Horse Cleanup

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



Tuesday, August 12 (2nd Tuesday) Senior Pride Planning Meeting

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

Saturday, August 16

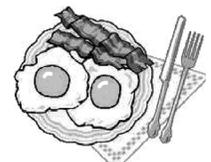
(every 3rd Saturday of the month)

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





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Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past
or present are certain to miss the future.
~ John F. Kennedy

**If you don't like something, change it.
If you can't change it, change your attitude.**
~ Maya Angelou

*When we are no longer able to change a situation -
we are challenged to change ourselves.*
~ Viktor Frankl

**change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are
the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.**
~ Barack Obama

*The only way to make sense out of change is to
plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance.*
~ Alan Watts