



SENIOR Wingspan's Elder Voice FORUM

Volume 11 Issue 1
January 2015

Editor: Rick Jorgenson

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

The December Senior Pride Planning meeting brought forth a vote on a proposed mission statement and objectives of the Southern Arizona Senior Pride organization:

Mission: Wingspan Senior Pride celebrates, supports and unites Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender seniors in Southern Arizona.

Objectives:

- Strengthen the community of LGBT seniors through outreach, referrals and events.
- Provide social, volunteer and educational opportunities.
- Network and inform through our newsletter, e-mail, website, Facebook, as well as Senior Events.
- Advocate for LGBT seniors
- Educate and collaborate with Senior Service Organizations to promote and develop services for LGBT Seniors.
- Make available information and referral services.

These statements are subject to change and modification. The next general meeting will be on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at the Himmel Park Library. All are welcome to attend.

PFLAG'S Couples Celebration and Other News

PFLAG's 2015 LGBT Couples Celebration will be on Wednesday, February 4, from 7:00-8:30 at the Ward 6 City Council offices at 3202 E. 1st Street. The Ward 6 office is PFLAG's regular meeting place. PFLAG provides all of the refreshments and appetizers. All we ask is that people RSVP so that we know how much food and drink to bring. People can do that to Mick Meader at pflagtuc@pflagtucson.org, (520) 360-3795. The gathering both celebrates committed

LGBT relationships and provides an opportunity for PFLAG parents and friends to see what committed LGBT relationships are like. This gives parents, allies, and LGBT people themselves hope and encouragement for lasting LGBT relationships. And with the advent of marriage equality in Arizona this should be a celebration for many people.

Also, PFLAG will be offering LGBT scholarships again in 2015. We will have the materials posted on the PFLAG website in mid-January, with applications due March 31, 2015. We won't be able to offer as many scholarships this year because we don't have the support of the Alliance Fund. They delayed their 2014 grant application round until 2015, when we will apply for funds for 2016. As always, LGBT graduating high school seniors, undergraduate students, and graduate students can apply. Applicants need to be from southern Arizona or be attending an Arizona university.

And, of course, we thank PFLAG again for putting on its annual holiday dinner for Senior Pride. This year's event was a little small for all the food there was, but the weather had something to do with that. Rain came at the most inopportune time and kept a few people away. Still, those who were there enjoyed a time of good fellowship and food and thank you PFLAG for doing so much.



News Flashes

Our very own Editor, Rick Jorgenson, has been named Wingspan's Volunteer of the Year and will be honored at the Annual Wingspan Dinner to be held February 14, 2015 at Loew's Ventana Canyon Resort, 7000 N. Resort Drive, Tucson, AZ 857590. Take N. Craycroft to N. Resort Drive and turn left. The event begins at 5:30 p.m. and ends at 9:00 p.m. There will be a silent auction, Awards, and a Comedy performance. Tickets are \$125 if purchased before January 15th and \$145 after that.

During the Recession of 2008, Rick not only continued to publish the Senior Forum but also helped to continue having Senior Pride meetings...with only 4 or 5 in attendance. We are grateful, Rick, for your persistence and thank you for a job well done.

Wingspan Senior Pride has a new Facebook page, courtesy of Chad Mosher. In addition, we have a new gmail account. wingspanseniorpride@gmail.com. Lastly, Wingspan Senior Pride has a phone number: 520-704-5830, manned by volunteers. You may call between 10 AM and 4 PM for information and referrals. If your situation is an emergency, hang up and call 911.

Our roving reporter, Dea Brasgalla, was ordained a minister in the United Fellowship Chapel located at 4718 E. Hawthorne St. off N. Swan. Along with her classmates, she received her Certificate of Ordination from her teacher of Metaphysical Principals, Reverend David Miller. The Chapel is all inclusive; come join us for a wonderful spiritual experience. Services are on every Sunday at 10 AM and 2 PM. Co-pastors, Reverend Dorothea Nobile and Reverend Susan Wright may be reached at 327-0142 or 322-4550 for more information on classes and other events. After the first of the year, Reverend Dea may be reached at 433-2780 or e-mail her at deapipecarrier@gmail.com for weddings, baptisms, funerals, and Past Life Regressions.

Interview with Michael Woodward

I have known Michael Woodward for several years now, and we were very privileged to introduce Leslie Feinberg at the Wingspan Dinner in 2008. Leslie was the author of "Stone Butch Blues"; he recently died, at the age of 65 after a long battle with tick-borne illnesses.

Over the years, Michael has been involved in many community organizations: Saga, Wingspan, and Pride Alliance at the University of Arizona. Michael graduated December 9, 2014, with a Master of Public Health Policy degree and a Graduate Certificate in Collaborative Governance. He plans to work as an Advocate for the LGBT community in Public Health.

Dea Brasgalla: Who is Michael Woodward? Tell me about yourself.

Michael Woodward: For the past 15 years I've been a Trans guy. I was raised in Indianapolis, Indiana and have always been a musician and a singer; and in earlier years performed as a singer in community theater. When I first went to college, I studied voice management but dropped that major because I wanted to be like Pat Benatar, not Beverly Sills. Music has always been a hobby not a career although, at present, I have two bands: Too Much Information which plays classic

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Classified Section of Senior Pride Newsletter

We talked about a classified section of the newsletter, categories could be:

**Community, For Sale,
Housing, Personals, Services,**
(including retail and restaurants)

please let us know your thoughts.

email: wingspanseniorpride@gmail.com

phone: 520-704-5830

or Gary: glart13@aol.com

An Update from PCOA on Project Visibility

PCOA continues to promote Project Visibility to assisted living facilities, nursing homes and health care centers around the state of Arizona. One of the more recent presentations took place in Phoenix for a workshop with the NICOA (National Indian Council on Aging) Conference. The workshop was titled "Creating Welcoming Environments for LGBT and Two-Spirit Older People" and was in the November issue of PCOA's Newsletter. Sandy Davenport and Dea Brasgalla of Wingspan Senior Pride presented along with Robert Espinoza of the national SAGE office. Project Visibility was promoted, and select PV handouts were given to attendees.

The next PV meeting will take place on January 29, 2015 at PCOA from 10 to 11 AM. PCOA is located at 8467 E. Broadway. Come at 9:30 to see the DVD. Phone 305-3413 for further information or for questions about Project Visibility.

The LGBT Jewish Inclusion Project

The LGBT Jewish Inclusion Project is entering its 10th year of operation within the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona. The Project fosters a warm and inclusive Jewish community for Southern Arizona's LGBT Jews through social and festival gatherings, community events, arts and educational programs. We work both independently and with local congregations and Jewish Institutions to recognize and celebrate the full breadth of life cycle events, as well as the communal and spiritual needs of LGBT Jews and their families in accordance with core Jewish values.

On Monday, February 2, 2015 the Tucson Jewish Community Center will host a Community Book Read and Luncheon with author Masha Gessen. The book is Gessen's "Ester and Ruzya: How My Grandmothers Survived Hitler's War and Stalin's Peace". Tickets are \$20/person and are available at jfsa.org/mashagessen or contactt Suzanne Amador, 577-9393/samador@jfsa.org.

And Finally...Looking Ahead

Casting a backward glance, we see that 2014 was a watershed year for our community. Great strides were made in some of the issues that affect us and there is hope for the future of LGBT members of the greater society in the United States of America. "...with liberty and justice for all" is becoming more of a reality every day and not just a phrase from our Pledge of Allegiance. It seems that a great segment of the general population is finally waking up to what we've been telling them all along - that we're basically no different from anyone else when it comes to human needs and wants.

Senior Pride wishes everyone a joyous and prosperous 2015!

Serving the LGBT Community

SASP

Southern Arizona Senior Pride

Senior Pride Contact Information

email:

wingspan seniorpride@gmail.com

phone number:

520-704-5830

facebook page:

Wingspan Senior Pride

please Like US !!

website:

www.wingspan.org

(on right, click) Programs

(then menu to) Senior Pride

January 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Year's Day	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Wingspan Senior Pride Meeting Himmel Library 2:00 PM	14	15	16	17 40s and Better Breakfast Group 9:30 – 11:00 am
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Senior Pride potluck - Cornerstone Fellowship Hall 12 Noon
25	26	27	28	29 Project Visibility Meeting - PCOA 10 - 11 AM (see newsletter for details)	30	31

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

Interview with Michael Woodw... from pg 2
rock of the 70's and 80's and Black Magic
which a focus on Carlos Santana's latin
music.

Before that I lived as a Lesbian for 20
years and was ok with that role. I read an
article about Anita Bryant who defined the
role of gays and lesbians, and I thought,
"Since I'm more masculine in a female
body, I'm shocked to learn I can be and act
like a man". So in 1998, I started on
hormone therapy.

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

MW: My passion is music, and I am
inspired by the resilience of the LGBT
community and the potential of what we
can do. I saw it with our protests against
SB 1062. I won the volunteer Spirit of
Activism Award in 2013 from Equality
Arizona, and I am still involved with that
organization.

DB: Who are your heroes?

MW: At the moment, my hero is Laverne
Cox, who portrays Sophia on Netflix's
"Orange is the New Black", a story about a
women's prison, and for the first time,
featuring a transgender woman on
mainstream T.V. In April of 2014 she was
honored by GLAAD with the Stephen F.
Dzak award for her advocacy work in the
transgender community. My hero is
anyone who uses a position of privilege to
work to make the world a better place.

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

MW: I would love to see Wingspan strong
and nationally recognized like it was before
the economic crash in 2008. I loved the
Wingspan I worked for..it was not a mini-
HRC, we are so much more than that. It
would have a full range of services for the
community, like health issues. There is a
need for programs for ages 25 to 50, I
would want more transgender awareness,
transgender staff members...there were

25% before, but there is a need for the
right person who is qualified...and that is
hugely important. We need to come
together to rebuild Wingspan and it needs
to be more diverse and inclusive to include
more people of color and transgender
folks, since there is a general perception
that Wingspan is a white organization.

January 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, January 13

Senior Pride Planning Meeting

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

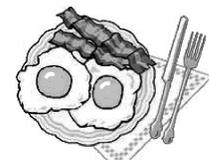
Saturday, January 17

(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, January 24

Senior Pride Monthly

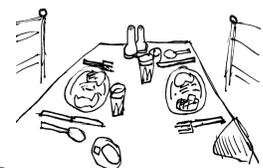
Potluck (every 4th
Saturday of the month)

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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New Year's Day. A fresh start. A new chapter in life waiting to be written. New questions to be asked, embraced, and loved. Answers to be discovered and then lived in this transformative year of delight and self-discovery. Today carve out a quiet interlude for yourself in which to dream, pen in hand. Only dreams give birth to change.

~ Sarah Ban Breathnach

*Write it on your heart that every day is
the best day in the year.*

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Your success and happiness lies in you.
Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form
an invincible host against difficulties.

~ Helen Keller

*Cheers to a new year and another chance
for us to get it right.*

~ Oprah Winfrey