
SASP celebrates, supports and unites Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Seniors in Southern Arizona

Grant for Community Forum on LGBT Senior Issues

An Alliance Fund grant will make possible a Community Forum on LGBT issues to be organized by Southern Arizona Senior Pride (SASP).

At an awards reception May 13 at the Arizona Inn, a grant of \$1,750 was presented to SASP for a Forum that provides a platform for examining the broad scope of current challenges, issues and concerns of LGBT seniors in Southern Arizona and that celebrates a heritage of activism, social change and culture.

SASP Community Forum planning committee (currently in initial stages) is headed by Robert Bell, who has issued a call to the community for suggested issues and concerns to be addressed. Suggestions may be communicated via the SASP facebook or email. The Forum date will be announced and it is likely to be in winter, 2016.

The Alliance Fund supports Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Allies and is a program of the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona.

An Award for SASP's Chairperson

Lavina Tomer was honored May 8 by the Arizona Coalition to End Sexual & Domestic Violence for "a lifetime dedicated to ending sexual and domestic violence" at a Phoenix dinner and awards event.

In her acceptance remarks, Lavina reviewed her experiences as an activist. These included participating in the womens' movement in Tucson against rape and

domestic violence which began in 1973.

In 1993 after surviving domestic violence in a lesbian relationship, she saw that agencies had difficulty serving or recognizing LGBT survivors and that domestic violence among same sex couples was often denied by the LGBT community itself.

In 1997, Lavina founded the LGBT Domestic Violence Project, led advocacy efforts in public policy arenas, set up a "helping" telephone line for those in crisis, and published a significant manual for those experiencing domestic violence.

The project became a program of Wingspan and in 2003, under leadership of Kent Burbank and Cathy Busha, expanded to become the Wingspan Anti-Violence Program. It is now operated under the auspices of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) and Lavina continues to serve as an active volunteer.

Lavina was introduced by Laura Alexander of Alexander-Carillo Consulting, who said "what she did was amazing." Laura joined the DV project as a volunteer and became its first Executive Director.

Lavina chairs Southern Arizona Senior Pride.



Interview with Dorothea Nobile

I have known Rev Dorothea Nobile since July of 2013. And I attended both her graduation from the Principles Course and her Ordination in November of 2014. She continues to dazzle me with her many amazing talents.

Dea Braggalla: Who is Dorothea Nobile? Tell me about yourself.

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Interview with Dorothea Nobile from pg 1

Dorothea Nobile: I was born in Trenton, New Jersey and moved to NYC when I was 17 years old. I came out in 1972 and met my first partner later that year. We marched together in the 3rd Gay Pride March, which began in 1970. I lived in NYC for 13 years and marched every year. In 1974 Mati and I started a typesetting business, which we called Helios Rising, a division of Typogrammazon Graphics, Inc. Together with our friends who owned a printing press called Tower Press, we were called the "Lesbian Publishers." Mati and I as a couple were a well known fixture in the East Village because we were openly affectionate in public. This led to many confrontations from intolerant and bigoted people.

One of our first jobs was the production of the first Feminist newspaper in New York City, "Majority Report." Eventually our connection with this paper, along with a few other leftist publications led to our phones being tapped. I used to answer my phone with the phrase, "I love America, Hello!" I was also on the board of the First Feminist Federal Credit Union and we had a business account at a bank called the First Women's Bank. Looking back, I guess we were among the early foremothers of what was then termed the "Lesbian Feminist Liberation Movement." We met and worked with Kate Millet, Bella Abzug, Gloria Steinem and many other influential Feminists at the time. As business women in the early 70s we experienced a lot of sexism in our dealings with clients. I remember that during a meeting with one customer we were asked, "What will happen to our account if one of you girls gets pregnant?"

I studied operatic and jazz singing, performed with operatic companies and in Jazz clubs, toured Europe with an NYC clown troupe called, "The Cumeezi Bozo Ensemble," and continued to work in the Graphics field with different Ad Agencies.

In the early 80s I owned another business with a partner called, "Duo Real Property, Inc." We bought and sold apartment buildings in the East Village at a time when most people underestimated its potential. One of our competitors at the time was Donald Trump who was just starting to understand the value

of what were then completely trashed properties in the East Village and Lower East Side.

I moved to Tucson in 1983 and have gone through many reincarnations here. Among other things, I've delivered singing telegrams, worked as a clown, performed as an actress/singer with different theater companies in town, among them The Invisible Theater Company, and composed and performed vocally with the Dance Dept. at the UA. I was a DJ on KUAT, the Classical Radio station for 5 years, following which I finished my Undergraduate degree in Music Education at the UA. In 2001 I received my Master of Social Work degree from ASU's Tucson Component. I went on to work with disabled elders as a private Case Manager.

I've been involved in Metaphysical studies since I was in my 20s and in 2011 began formal studies at the United Fellowship Chapel, a non-denominational, Spiritualist chapel, where I was ordained in 2013. In the summer of 2014 I became the Co-Pastor and have subsequently become the full Pastor at UFC.

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

DN: In NYC I was very involved with political causes for the LGBT community, which in

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SAAF

375 South Eculid Avenue
Tucson AZ 85719

Important: please write
"Senior Pride"
in Memo Line so we get it.
Thanks for helping us thrive

Interview with Dorothea Nobile from pg 2

those days was known as the Lesbian and Gay community. I still support LGBT concerns and was overjoyed when the 9th Circuit cleared the way for Same Sex Marriage in Arizona last October. Now all I need is to find my Bride! Of course, I support Human Rights for all, no matter who, where and what. I love to sing and perform, although both of those pursuits have been on the back burner since I've become Pastor at UFC. I dearly love cartoons and funnies. I once considered pursuing a doctorate in the sociological implications of comics and cartoons. I'm also passionate about protection and care of domestic pets. I've supported shelters for abandoned cats and dogs and currently have a feline fur family of 3 beautiful kitties.

DB: Who are your heroes?

DN: Eleanor Roosevelt is a big hero of mine. I admire her intelligence, strength and grace and the remarkable work that she did in the advocacy for Human Rights, especially for insuring the passage of the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I also admire all the so-called "First Wave Feminists," including Elizabeth Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, without them and the remarkable trials that they underwent, we women still would not be recognized as full citizens and would not have gotten the right to vote. And of course, people like Rosa Parks and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King for their work to bring about racial equality, which we know still has a long way to go.

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

DN: I would like to see a reincarnation of the Wingspan Community Center, whatever its new name may be. I was deeply saddened when this nationally reknowned center closed. I look forward to a new iteration that is stronger and more financially stable so that LGBT youth and adults can have a physical location where they can meet and congregate for political action and support to all in our community.

BOOK Review by Les Cole

The author, John Irving

In looking over my previous reviews, I notice that they are all by women writers. In a spirit of fairness, this month I'll discuss one of my favorite male writers: John Irving. Though I've been reading him for over 25 years, I've only made it through six of his maybe 15 books. Two of his works, *In One Person* and *The Fourth Hand*, I didn't like enough to finish. And one of his greatest, *The Hotel New Hampshire*, I still haven't read.

I have never found Irving an easy read. Often I struggle through the first half of a book and am glad that I stuck with it to the end. Many of his books are tomes, averaging 600 pages. And sometimes Irving's "maleness" gets in my way. (But nowhere near as badly as Hemingway.) So here's a very quick look at the six I've read, from most favorite to least:

1. *A Prayer for Owen Meany* (1989). Owen is one of the most wonderful characters you will ever meet. He never grows past 5 feet tall, he never weighs more than 100 pounds, and his childhood voice never changes.
2. *The World According to Garp* (1978)*. A great feminist theme and a wonderful transgender woman.
3. *The Cider House Rules* (1985)*. The story of Dr. Wilbur Larch, who runs an orphanage and is an abortionist, and orphan Homer Wells, who refuses to let himself be adopted.
4. *Last Night at Twisted River* (2009). The story of a father and son living on the run. The depth and detail of this book are marvelous. It really displays Irving's talent for character development and storytelling.
5. *A Son of the Circus* (1994). A book with the unusual setting of Bombay, India, which apparently has large populations of dwarfs, transgenders, cross-dressers, homosexuals, and prostitutes. (Who knew? Sounds like my kind of place.)
6. *A Widow for One Year* (1998). Because of the "maleness" factor, this was one of the hardest to finish. Starring a drunken, womanizing author and his distant wife, who's having an affair with a teenage boy.

*made into very good movies

June 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Wingspan Senior Pride Meeting Himmel Library 2:00 PM	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 40s and Better Breakfast Group Royal Sun Best Western Restaurant 9:30 – 11:00 am
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Senior Pride potluck - 12 Noon Cornerstone Fellowship Hall
28	29	30				

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

Save the Date

Southern Arizona Senior Pride is planning a Senior LGBT Poetry Reading for later this year. It will be held on October 3, 2015 at 2:00 PM at the University of Arizona Poetry Center, 1508 E. Helen St, the Hillman Odeum.

Anyone interested in reading with us at this event should contact Curt Stubbs by email at curtstubbs69@yahoo.com or by phone at 520.293.8401. Please let your interest be known before August 15, 2015.

More details will be forthcoming as the event draws nearer.



Senior Pride Contact Information

email:
soazseniorpride@gmail.com

phone number:
520-704-5830

facebook page:
soazseniorpride
please Like US !!

Classified Ads in **Senior Forum**
15-20 words - \$5. Yard Sales, Events,
Memorials, Anniversaries, Weddings,
Houseing, For Sale, Services, etc.

Gary: 520-510-7835 or glart13@aol.com

Classified Ads

services Available for weddings, baptisms,
and funerals. Also Past Life Regressions, Contact
Rev. Dea Brasgalla Phone: 520-433-2780.

June Events

Meander in Tucson Meetup Group

List of events for lesbian women
www.meetup.com/MeanderinTucson

Monday Meditation Group

Every Monday starting in April (except holidays),
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the United Fellowship
Chapel, 4718 E. Hawthorne St in Tucson.

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, June 9

Senior Pride Planning Meeting

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

Saturday, June 20

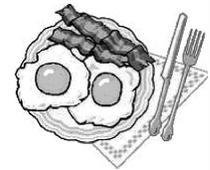
(every 3rd Saturday of the
month)

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, June 27

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

Contact: Lee Roden 520.398.6826



SASP

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*Success consists of going from failure to failure
without loss of enthusiasm.*

~ Winston Churchill

Don't aim for success if you want it; just do what you love and believe in, and it will come naturally.

~ David Frost

Desire is the key to motivation, but it's determination and commitment to an unrelenting pursuit of your goal - a commitment to excellence - that will enable you to attain the success you seek.

~ Mario Andretti

Success makes so many people hate you. I wish it wasn't that way. It would be wonderful to enjoy success without seeing envy in the eyes of those around you.

~ Marilyn Monroe

If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself.

~ Henry Ford