



**SOUTHERN
ARIZONA
SENIOR
PRIDE**

375 S. Euclid Avenue • Tucson, AZ 85719

SENIOR LGBT Elder Voice FORUM

Volume 11
Issue 11
November 2015
Editor: Rick Jorgenson

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

GENERAL MEETING: 2ND TUESDAY (NOVEMBER 10), 2 PM AT HIMMEL PARK LIBRARY

Day of the Dead Celebration November 8, 2015

All Souls and Day of the Dead Procession is a 2 mile, human-powered, one-of-a-kind ceremonial march through downtown Tucson that ends with a celebratory ritual featuring the burning of a gigantic urn filled with messages, prayers, and remembrances provided by participants near and far.

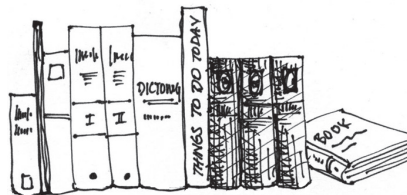
Gathering begins at 4 pm at 6th Ave. and 7th St. Fun to watch or participate, the website has further great information.

<http://allsoulsprocession.org/event/all-souls-procession-finale-ceremony/>

Festival for Life The Jerome Beillard Festival for Life will be held Saturday, November 14, 2015

at the Chinese Cultural Center, 1288 W, River Road, Tucson. It will celebrate *its 27th anniversary in 2015*, in memory of Jerome Beillard.

The Festival for Life is an evening, featuring a live and silent auction of fine art and other unique gifts. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are: \$50 before October 31st and \$65 as of November 1st. For more information contact: Monique Vallery at 547-6107.



Book Review All the Light We Cannot See

by Anthony Doerr, 2014, historical fiction, 531 pages

This historical novel takes place in the time period of 1934-1944, when Europe is ravaged by World War II. The action

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Pima Council on Aging (PCOA) An Important Statement

Pima Council on Aging has long been an advocate for the needs of LGBTQ older adults, we participate actively in Southern Arizona Senior Pride, and we assist in coordinating educational community events on issues affecting LGBTQ older adults.

In order to make all our services more accessible to the LGBTQ community, PCOA has the following designated in-house Specialists in LGBTQ Elder Care:

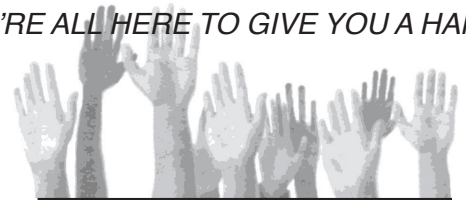
- Intake Specialist **John Barnes**
- Neighbors Care Alliance Outreach Co-ordinator **Bridget Roads**
- Elder Rights and Benefits Specialists **Jennifer Walker** and **Fran Orman**
- Caregiver Specialist **Sandy Davenport**

Help Line: 520.790.7262

Business Line: 520.790.0504

(M-F 8:30 am - 5 pm)

WE'RE ALL HERE TO GIVE YOU A HAND!



SASP MEETINGS - UPCOMING SPEAKERS

Our November 10th speaker for SASP at 2:00 pm Himmel Library will be Penelope Starr, who founded the Odyssey Storytelling Project in 2004.

Book Review - continued

takes place in Germany and France and follows the lives of two children. As the story begins, Marie-Laure is 6 years old, blind, and living with her father in Paris. At the same time, in Germany, Werner is 8 years old and living in an orphanage in the mining town of Zollverein.

In 1940, Marie-Laure and her father flee Paris for the historic town of Saint-Malo on the Brittany coast of France. Werner is accepted at a prestigious school, now run by the Nazis. By 1942, though only 16, he is sent into active duty.

By 1944, the Germans are losing the war. Americans are bombing Nazi-held France. Paris is in ruins and Saint-Malo is almost completely destroyed. The fates of Marie-Laure and Werner are soon to be joined.

I cannot do this book justice in a few short paragraphs. It is well researched, deep, and emotionally charged. The writing is superb, driven by wonderful character development. Marie-Laure is the most incredible description of the life of a blind person that I have ever read. It's not the easiest of reads, as it alternates between locales, main characters, and time periods. But it is so worth the work. It is written several levels above most new fiction. I guess that's why it won the 2015 Pulitzer Prize.

Submitted by Les Cole



Interview with Bobbie Vandegriff

I have known Bobbie Vandegriff for over a year now and find her to be a very passionate and caring straight ally for the LGBT community. As a member of PFLAG, Bobbi and I shared stories on a panel at Pima College West. She is a delightful person and is the researcher for Equality Update. I vividly remember her with a capped rainbow flag running through the crowd at our celebration rally for marriage equality.

Dea Brasgalla: Who is Bobbie Vandegriff? Tell me about yourself.

Bobbie Vandegriff: I am a person who basically

won the "Lucky Life Lottery". Which resulted in me being able to flourish and become the person you now know. How so? The first 14 years of my life were not filled with joy, abundance of anything, stability, parental love or support. All changed when my deceased father's parents decided the living conditions of my family were, well, not just of poverty. As a result of the grandparents stepping in (calling the equivalent of CPS in Calif.), I ended up living with an aunt and uncle, who although already raising their three small children at the time, took me in. Living with them provided the security, safety, structure and support which children need to develop into the best they can be. In short, that one lucky intervention changed the course of my life.

Who I have become is definitely a result of the experiences (probably some genetic influence) and people I've encountered. How I came to think the way I do is a mystery. I remember an English teacher assigning the topic of prejudice and I responded in a positive instead of the negative manner providing a much different answer than everyone else's.

My positive outlook I believe developed because of being placed in a new safe, structured, supportive environment. Things like having food, shelter, a weekly allowance and participating in school activities beyond academics made me happy and secure enough to participate in school activities.

My uncle being both the "B" football coach, and shop teacher at the high school which meant everyone at the school was looking out for me. (Lucky Me). Boys were afraid to date me.

A financial grant (more luck) assisted in making it possible to attend a small (650) liberal arts, Brethren college. Upon graduation I became a Physical Education teacher for 17 years.

I'm one of the many faces of PFLAG Tucson. A person whose curiosity has led to exploring a variety of topics, through reading, attending classes and traveling. Like many folks I am concerned for the well being of the people with whom we share our lives and the planet. The concern for people and planet leads to my selective involvement in actions to improve, protect and provide justice and fairness within either the realms of people and/or the planet.

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

BV: Inspire? People! Past and present. Past, reading about individuals within movements, cultures, politics and their histories of struggles, defeats and successes. Present, being involved with people working towards similar ends. Not just inspired, but actually energized.

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SOUTHERN ARIZONA SENIOR PRIDE

LGBTQ Aging Issues Community Dialogue

You are invited to share your ideas, concerns, and hopes for improving the lives of LGBTQ Elders in Arizona.

All are welcome. Your voice is important and vital.

Please join the committed efforts of SAGE, PCOA, AARP, ONE Community, Southern Arizona Senior Pride, Competitive Arizona and the ACLU.

Thursday, November 12, 2015 • 1:00-4:00PM

**Abrams Public Health Center
3950 S. Country Club Rd. Suite 100
(SW corner of Country Club and Ajo Way)**

The event is free but seating is limited. Registration is required.

RSVP online: www.lgbtagingdialogue.eventbrite.com or
phone Serena Worthington at 773-508-1048

Tucson LGBTQ Community Building And Programs Forum

Thursday November 12, 2015 • 6:00-9:00 PM

**Donna Liggins Recreation Center; 2160 N. 6th Ave.
(One Block South of Grant Rd.)**

A Coalition of community members and supporters of the LGBTQ community are hosting a Community Forum to discuss current and future programming for our community. This Forum will include presentations from SAAF, SAGA and other organizations who serve the LGBTQ Community in Tucson and Southern Arizona. Facilitated discussions will gather the wisdom of our community on what needs are not currently being met and how to address them. We will also focus on potential areas of action that the community would like to commit to for the future.

For further information visit Facebook: Tucson LGBTQ Community Building and Programs Forum
or call Marc Paley: 520-306-0157

**Please put both of these important events in your calendar
and attend both if possible.**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH SASP

We are getting more active in the LGBTQ Community and want to increase our volunteer pool. Don't want to attend meetings? Sign up to volunteer with us instead! Here are opportunities that you may be interested in:

- 1 Attending Community Functions to Table, bring our literature, introduce Southern Arizona Senior Pride and encourage people to sign up for our newsletter.
- 2 Helping to cook and provide a dinner for EON Youth Program. We join EON Homeless Youth every third month. Our next dinner is December 2015.
- 3 Donate clothing (larger sizes too!), shoes, personal hygiene products, canned goods, and money to the EON Homeless Youth Project. Bring your donations to SASP General Meetings every 2nd Tuesday at Himmel Park Library or to the dinner.
- 4 Show up for Pride marches, parades, and other functions as a representative of SASP. Bring literature and our Banner.
- 5 We are in the process of becoming a Neighbors Care Group with Pima Council on Aging. This group helps elders stay at home and independent for as long as possible. We think that more LGBT Elders will request help if an LGBT group provides some services. Join us in being available for transportation to appointments, shopping, company, light household tasks, and telephone contact. This will be a major undertaking and we will need many volunteers to help and to inform LGBT Seniors that they can call for assistance. Training is required and will be provided.

TO BECOME PART OF A VOLUNTEER EFFORT ON BEHALF OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA ELDERS

PLEASE CONTACT US. *Thank you.*

Contact Information

email: soazseniorpride@gmail.com

phone number: 520-704-5830

website in progress: soazseniorpride.org



Facebook page:
[soazseniorpride](https://www.facebook.com/soazseniorpride)
Please Like US !!

Donate to Southern Arizona Senior Pride.

Make your tax deductible donations
to our Fiscal Agent: SAAF
375 South Euclid Avenue • Tucson AZ 85719

By Check: please write "Senior Pride" in Memo Line

*On Line: WWW.SAAF.ORG Click "ABOUT SAAF"
Click on "Southern Arizona Senior Pride" in menu box on right*

*By Telephone: Call Lauren. 520.547.6099
SPECIFY SOUTHERN ARIZONA SENIOR PRIDE*

Thanks for helping us to thrive!



Interview - continued _____

Main passion, without a doubt Equality. Coupled with Equality is respect for the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights and the possibilities established within that framework to continue expanding human rights as our knowledge of the world and humans evolves. Hence my being watchful of Separation of Church and State issues. etc.

Second passion, which was my primary passion before Equality entered my world, is environmental security. Not for the sake of any individual species, polar bears, frogs, owls, or butterflies, but because in the often ignored big picture, ecosystems are crucial and/or critical to human survival.

DB: Who are your heroes?

BV: Although there are many leaders to look up to, I have great admiration for the scores, multitudes of individuals in the ranks or trenches that make commitments and put their energy and creativity towards working to achieve the shared visions of the leaders. These are the people that provide the momentum, carry the torches of knowledge, put in hours of labor.

My heroes cover a spectrum of varied topics and differing time periods. Some are contemporary, like my buddy Mick working to protect the environment, others include historical figures such as Mary Dyer, who following her faith in early America in the 1600s, which resulted in her being hanged.

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

BV: An illustration of what I'd like my magic wand to achieve is described by this conversation I had while waiting for the Pride Parade to begin last night. I approached three teenagers from Flowing Wells school District during our discussion asked them if there is a GSA (gay, straight, alliance) at their school. They said no. Then explained there had been one but no one was attending. Being curious they conducted a survey and the results indicated there was so much acceptance of gays there was no need.

I would wave my magic wand to create a total national community where private matters such as sexual orientation or matters of conscience will be accepted and respected, then there will not be a need for the kind of effort PFLAG now engages. We'd of course continue the fun celebration stuff.

Submitted by Dea Brasgalla

We Want to Hear From You!

We're starting a new feature in the newsletter:
Letters to the Editor.

Let us know how the newsletter is serving you and how it could be improved. Tell us what issues you would like to see covered, share your ideas and insights, or say anything you want.

We will publish as many as we have room for and respond, if necessary.

If you do not want your letter published, be sure to clearly state "DO NOT PUBLISH."

Send letters to:

SASP -- Letters to the Editor

375 S Euclid Avenue

Tucson, AZ 85719

Or you can email them to: soazseniorpride@gmail.com

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor, I want to commend you for hanging in after the Recession of 2008 and keeping Senior Pride and the newsletter in publication. As we have discussed there were not many in attendance but you kept your nose to the grindstone and now we have you to thank for it.

Dea Brasgalla --Roving Reporter.



**SOUTHERN
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Classified Ads

SERVICES

Available for weddings, baptisms, and funerals. Also Past Life Regressions.

Contact Rev. Dea Brasgalla

Phone: 520-433-2780.

Events Review

Pride in the Desert


Tucson Pride in the Desert was a big success with lots and lots of people attending, both gay and straight. Many booths dotted the area not only giving out information but also serving food. Of course SASP was there sharing a table with SAAF. And we signed up quite a few interested people.

Lady Ashley and Lucinda Holiday performed on stage and there were two lesbian weddings: one couple renewed their vows and another got married. All in all it was a fun day and a day without rain!!

Tucson Pride Parade

A fabulous Gay Pride Parade was held on October 10, 2015. We learned from April Moss that there were 15,000+ spectators at the Parade. There were numerous groups marching as well as decorated floats and cars and people. Of course, Southern Arizona Senior Pride had a very colorfully decorated car with banner, flag, and lots of rainbow colored balloons attached. As the driver and owner of the car, I was interviewed by Channel 4 which aired at their 10 pm newscast. I especially loved the decorated float from The Heritage Cat Shelter, where I adopted Okana, that had a sign reading: "Purring With Pride". Of course, the parade started late (which usually is true when one uses gay time). We marched down the left side of Fourth Avenue to avoid the streetcars, and ended at Eighth Street. I simply kept driving while giving the love sign in silent language to throngs of cheering crowds along the parade route. I had a blast!!

Dea Bragalla




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520-704-5830

email:
soazseniorpride
@gmail.com

website in progress:
soazseniorpride.org

FACEBOOK: soazseniorpride
Please Like US !!





November Events

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7
Men's Social Network (MSN)
monthly potluck and social

First Saturday of the month

Casas Adobes Congregational Church • 6801 N. Oracle Rd.
7:00 PM - Must be MSN member or male guest
Lee Roden 520.398.6826 or Thom Goodrich 520.305.6976
website: www.menssocialnetwork.org

MEANDER IN TUCSON MEETUP GROUP

List of events for lesbians

www.meetup.com/MeanderinTucson

MAH JONG MONDAYS

Every Monday (except holidays),

noon to 3:00 PM at Himmel Park Library, • 1035 North Treat Ave.

SENIOR PRIDE PLANNING MEETING

Tuesday, November 10, (2nd. Tuesday of each month)

2 PM at Himmel Park Library

1035 N. Treat Avenue (off Speedway) Contact: 520-704-5830

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21 (every 3rd Saturday)

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 • Contact: Irene Read 520.360.4744

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

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

AIDS WALK : Walking in Memory of My Uncle.

by Wendell Hicks, Director of SAAF

For me, AIDS WALK is more than just another fund raiser for SAAF. AIDS WALK is so important to me, because my Uncle Louis died of AIDS in 1992, at age 35, a decade before I was born. My uncle is an inspiration to me to this day although I never met him. Like me, he was a ballet dancer and he performed in New York City. My mom tells me that dancing was my uncle's joy in life, and just like me, my uncle felt free when he was dancing. He is the main reason why I walk: to honor him, to remember him, and to be a part of a community of people who come together, as those affected by this disease.