



# SENIOR Wingspan's Elder Voice FORUM

Volume 10 Issue 11  
November 2014

Editor:  
Rick Jorgenson

---

Southern Arizona Senior Pride - Serving the LGTB Community

---

## An Update from Senior Pride/SAAF/PCOA

Our October Senior Pride Planning meeting was one for the record books. We had no fewer than 27 people show up to hear the latest news. It seems that the current state of flux is enough to bring people out of the closet, so to speak. We thank everyone who was there for their interest and attendance. There were the usual few of us who have been regulars plus many others, some also from Green Valley.

Most of this meeting was taken up with discussions around the pros and cons of Senior Pride going with either SAAF or PCOA as an umbrella organization. And there are pros and cons to each organization, but no definite vote was taken as yet and no final decision was made. We invite all interested parties to join us for the November meeting on the 18th of the month at 2:00 PM. NOTE: The usual meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of the month is on the 3rd Tuesday instead because of Veteran's Day which falls on the second Tuesday this year. The library will be closed in observance of this holiday.



---

## That Was the Week That Was!

WOW!! To coin a phrase, "Talk about the week that was". Starting with the Tucson Pride Parade down 4th Ave on the 11th of October, and culminating in Pride in the Desert on the 18th, it was a week of incredible "highs".

The parade featured many local colorful groups including the SAAF float which many

helped to decorate. We were the last float in the parade and I rode on the float behind the Wingspan Senior Pride banner. What a thrill and high to see all those happy faces and well-wishers acknowledging our presence. A block party followed the parade but I settled for a cup of coffee with friends at Delectables.

The next event was the 6th Annual Multifaith Community Celebration on Tuesday the 14th at the Jewish Temple, Emanu-El, on Country Club which lasted from 7 to 9 pm with refreshments. There was music, poetry, prayers offered by the many clergy from different churches, and a Wiccan Priest offering the closing prayer. I really enjoyed the touching candle-lighting ceremony for loved ones who had died of AIDS. and I met up with old friends that I haven't seen in a long time.

Of course, the biggest thrill of all was the celebration ceremony at Grace St. Paul church in the evening of Oct 17th after Judge Sedwick of the 9th Circuit Court declared the ban against gays and lesbians marrying in Arizona as unconstitutional. We were all ecstatic. And four of our own, Lee Roden and Merlin Spillers and Connie Bennett and Robann Heidig, tied the knot earlier in the day. Former Senator Paula Aboud was the M.C. and she introduced Mayor Rothchild, Rep Raul Grijalva, and a business man who all spoke the praises of our victory as did many clergy who were also present.. It brought tears to my eyes at such a poignant moment. --Dea Brasgalla--

## Interview with

### Senator Paula Aboud

May I introduce Senator Paula Aboud who served 2 sessions in the Arizona Senate. She is a tireless worker for LGBT rights and for social justice for all. I met Paula when I lived in Tucson the first time when she was running for her first term and I did phone banking for her. At present, she and her partner are working on Fred Duval's campaign for Governor. In addition, she was the M.C. at our victory celebration on Oct 17th at Grace St. Paul's church. And she worked very hard on the campaign, "Why Marriage Matters Arizona". We applaud you, Paula, for all your hard work on our behalf.

**Dea Brasgalla:** Who is Paula Aboud? Tell me about yourself.

**Paula Aboud:** A 3rd generation Tucsonan, I am the middle child in a family of Republicans and Democrats. I was an outstanding athlete at the U of A and a successful high school and college coach and was inducted into the Pima County Sports Hall of Fame in 2006.

I am property manager and co-owner of their family-owned real estate business and previously worked as a high school English teacher, a college athletic coach and a realtor. Along with mediation and facilitation training, I am a trained life coach.

While living and coaching in Maine in the 1980's and learning of the death of a young gay high school student, I was motivated to join the LGBTQ movement for equality and was a founding member of the group that is now called Equality Maine, eventually becoming their lobbyist and President of the Board. That movement inspired me to transition out of sports and teaching to become politically active on a full time basis.

Returning to Arizona to care for ailing parents, I first worked in neighborhood and Democratic politics leading many organizations, including co-chairing Southern Arizona

Stonewall Democrats in 2002-4.

I was selected to replace Congresswoman Giffords in the Arizona State Senate when Gabby resigned to run for Congress in 2006 and served for 7 years until January 2013. My passionate advocacy and thoughtful demeanor earned me the respect of my colleagues and the Capitol community. I was voted **Most Effective Democratic Senator** in 2 of my last 3 legislative sessions by the Arizona Capitol Times.

I was well-known for bringing heart and passion to the Capitol as well as powerful advocacy for LGBTQ rights, women and children, civil rights, education, environmental rights, animal rights, seniors, etc.

Since retirement from the Legislature, I am continuing my efforts to educate and empower young people, and most recently she founded the organization, Women Ignited Now, to empower women's voices. I am working diligently to elect a Democratic governor for Arizona who will support equality for us all.

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

**PA:** My passion lies in helping others. Nowadays, I look for the area that will give the biggest return on my time investment, which is why I'm working so hard to elect a Governor that will support LGBTQ rights.

**DB:** Who are your heroes?

**Billie Jean King:** no person has done more for women and LGBTQ rights in sports than Billie Jean King. She came out in the very early days and paved the way for Martina and others to come out more easily. She helped make room for us all to come out. She still inspires me today.

**Gloria Steinem:** such a smart, articulate woman. She inspires me to be bold in my actions, to be innovative, to never give up the fight. She helped me to see that working for women's equality was working for LGBTQ equality, too.

continued on pg 3

**Interview...** from pg 2

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

**PA:** As I write this in the summer of 2014, as I work to elect a Democratic Governor, I hope that in 5 years, Fred DuVal has been our Governor and that Arizona has swung back to its moderate ways. I see the economy improving in our state for small businesses and we become a welcoming state that values our diversity. How we get there is by working to heal our wounds with the immigrant, women and gay communities, especially. I see legislators standing on the Senate floor apologizing for all the ways they've hurt these communities through discriminatory legislation.



I see a thriving Arizona with businesses marketing Arizona as a "Marriage for All" destination. I see businesses advertising for "gay friendly" employees. I see a thriving LGBTQ caucus at the Capitol promoting a healthy agenda for all citizens. There will be a large and active statewide LGBTQ political organization headed by board members from the entire state, especially rural Arizona. I see youth and senior LGBTQ community centers popping up in towns across the state all taking on a version of the name Wingspan. And I see an end to the political and social drought in Arizona.

---

### **Other October/November Events**

A big 'THANK YOU' to everyone who came out and participated in the Sunday October 12, 2014, AIDS WALK in Tucson! We had a great day and raised \$158,000 dollars for people SAAF serves. Will see you next October for another amazing AIDS WALK Tucson.

### **New Grief Recovery Group in November**

A new grief support and recovery group run by Ms. Mary Kay LeFevour will be starting on Tuesday, November 4 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](http://www.GriefRecoveryTucson.com).

---

### **26th Annual Jerome Baillard Festival for Life**

The event is Saturday, November 8, 2014 at Tucson's Chinese Cultural Center at 1288 W. River Road. Doors open at 6 pm. Tickets are \$45/advance and \$55 at door. About Jerome Baillard: December 8, 1989 was the first Festival of the Trees, a fundraiser for the people with AIDS Coalition of Tucson. (P.A.C.T.). The event auctioned off hourly 200 decorated trees and wreathes for the Holiday



Season. Over the years the event grew and in 1992, Festival of Trees became Festival for Life, adding artwork, menorahs, and celebrity items. In 1995, P.A.C.T. co-founder and Executive Director Jerome Baillard passed away from AIDS complications and Festival for Life was renamed honoring a great man Jerome Baillard.

As the years passed the event has grown and changed, but the main attraction continues to be the collection of fine artwork on display, gift certificates, celebrity collectibles, trips, one-of-a kind experiences and paper prayers. Our guests recognize this great opportunity to find amazing works of art and great gifts, just as the holiday shopping season begins.

<b>November 2013</b>						
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> El Día de los Muertos	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Iron Horse Park Cleanup 7:00 AM  Election Day	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Jerome Baillard Festival for Life (see newsletter)
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Veteran's Day	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 40s and Better Breakfast Group 9:30 – 11:00 am
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Senior Pride Meeting 2 PM Himmel Park Library	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Senior Pride potluck - Cornerstone Fellowship 12 Noon
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Thanksgiving Day	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>						

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

## TIHAN's POZ Cafe

For all you newcomers to the area. TIHAN's POZ Cafe is on the 3rd Thursday of the month; volunteers from local Tucson congregations provide a fantastic delicious and nutritious lunch for people living with HIV. The Cafe is open from 11:30 am to 2 pm and is located at St. Francis in the Foot-hills church at the corner of Swan and River Roads. It is a beautiful setting, somewhat away from the hustle and bustle of life in the middle of the city. Transportation can be provided with advanced notice. Lunch is followed by time to "hang out", chat, participate in a game or two of Bingo, enjoy our raffle of fun and useful gifts, or even shop in the POZ Marketplace.

People with HIV and their guest(s) are invited to join this wonderful opportunity. A guest may be a partner, spouse, relative or friend, or a volunteer. Please call 520-299-6647 to let staff know that you will attend and/or to arrange transportation.

### About November

November might be called one of the more "American" months of the year. The first Tuesday after the first Monday in November is Election Day in all election years. It is the time when we cast our votes for our choices in leadership and exercise the privilege and responsibility that come with our freedoms. Please be mindful of this and go to the polls if you have not already submitted your ballot and be as American as you can be. All political opinions, positions and persuasions are welcome at this November tradition.

Then there is the last Thursday of the month when we gather with family and friends to feast and socialize over mountains of good food and give thanks for all our bounty. Thanksgiving Day is a uniquely American holiday that stands as one of our signature days of the year. Senior Pride wishes a Happy Thanksgiving to all of our readers and subscribers!



# November 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, November 4 & November 18** (1st and 3rd Tuesday) **7:00 AM**

### Adopt a Park Iron Horse Cleanup

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



**Tuesday, November 18** (3rd Tuesday) (NOTE: Library closed for Veteran's Day, 2nd Tuesday)

### Senior Pride Planning Meeting

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

### Saturday, November 15

(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, November 22

### 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



375 Euclid Ave. S.,  
Tucson, AZ 85719

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

**If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.**

John Quincy Adams

*A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way,  
and shows the way.*

John C. Maxwell

**It is better to lead from behind and to put others in front, especially when you celebrate victory when nice things occur. You take the front line when there is danger. Then people will appreciate your leadership.**

Nelson Mandela

*A man who wants to lead the orchestra  
must turn his back on the crowd.*

Max Lucado

**Lead, follow, or get out of the way.**

Thomas Paine