



# SENIOR Wingspan's Elder Voice FORUM

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## A Note from the Editor (again)

Again, our top story is the proposed merger of Wingspan and SAAF, along with the continuation of Wingspan's most vital programs. The two boards have been meeting and discussing the most important issues and progress has been made.

In case anyone has missed the news, here is the update for September:

July 30, 2014 Southern Arizona Aids Foundation and Wingspan Update

The Board of Directors for Southern Arizona Aids Foundation (SAAF) voted unanimously Tuesday evening to move forward with plans to acquire Wingspan's LGBT community center and its programs. The SAAF Board has agreed to immediately take on and continue 2 of Wingspan's most vital programs: the Antiviolence Project and Eon Youth Lounge. These 2 programs and associated staff will move to SAAF this Friday, August 1st.

SAAF Board President Miguel Cruz stated, "This is an incredible opportunity to continue to enhance SAAF's already strong programs, while maintaining Wingspan's vital, critical community outreach. Simply put, the SAAF Board of Directors could not image a community without these programs and our vote to continue Wingspan's work is well-aligned with SAAF's mission of creating and sustaining a healthier community.

Over the next several months, staff from SAAF and the Wingspan's Board of Directors will work together to ensure a smooth transition and begin planning for the long term success and reorganization of Wingspan. SAAF's Executive director, Wendell Hicks says, "We recognize and respect Wingspan's brand and reputation to the community. Our hope is to maintain and grow that brand".

There is no doubt that the LGBT landscape is constantly changing and we at SAAF feel that there is still an important role for a LGBT center to play in the community. We're excited to continue the amazing work Wingspan has been doing over the past 26 years. The annual Wingspan dinner originally scheduled for September 2014 has been postponed until Spring of 2015, and details of the event will be forthcoming.

SAAF's mission is to create and sustain a healthier community through a compassionate, comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS. Wingspan's mission is to promote the freedom, equality, safety, and well being of LGBT people.



Our August meeting was the largest meeting we've had - 14 people attended. That does not seem like many, but that's the kind of turnout we need right now to discuss the issues we face and make our plans to progress forward. We are talking with both SAAF and PCOA personnel about Senior Pride's place in the larger community and things are looking good at this point.

Rick Jorgenson, Senior Forum editor

## Senior Pride Potlucks Temporarily Suspended

We want to announce the temporary suspension of our monthly potluck on the 4th Saturday of the month. The merger of Wingspan and SAAF has made this necessary for the time being. When the dust settles we will continue the potlucks, but most likely at a different location. More details will be forthcoming as we work out the best solution for the ongoing monthly event.

## Puertas Abiertas Sidewalk Sale

Puertas Abiertas, the Latino LGBT organization, will be holding a sidewalk sale on Saturday, September 6 from 7 AM to 2 PM at Studio One, downtown at 197 E. Toole. Stop by and see what's available - the sale will include some items from the former Wingspan offices.

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## New Grief Recovery Group in September

A new grief support and recovery group run by Ms. Mary Kay LeFevour will be starting on Tuesday, September 9 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).



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## Latino Pride Week

**September 14 -20, 2014**

Puertas Abiertas is proud to announce that we are still going strong and effective Aug 1st 2014, we have been officially released by Wingspan to continue to live by our mission to provide educational and social outreach to our Latin/Hispanic LGBTQ and allied communities! We are open to ALL and are excited to move forward with another whole week of exciting events during Latino Pride Week in September 2014. We are also working closely with ACLU, the Why Marriage Matters campaign and Wingspans Anti-Violence Programs. We also look forward to collaborating with Senior Pride and other local groups.

### September 2014 Latin Pride week events;

Sunday, September 14th – Rainbow Families Gathering/Picnic at a local park-**5pm- Free Event** \*details for this event are still pending\*

Monday, September 15th- Film Screening of

“Lady Valor-The Kristin Beck story” – (In Lady Valor: The Kristin Beck Story, former U.S. Navy SEAL Christopher Beck embarks on a new mission as Kristin Beck. Kristin's journey in search of the American ideals that she protected have a whole new meaning as she lives her life truthfully as a transgender woman)- **Studio One -197 E Toole Ave- 7pm -Free Event!**

Tuesday, September 16th- Why Marriage Matters Campaign/ Political Event! Get a chance to meet the 2014 Gubernatorial /State Candidates and listen to their positions on LGBTQ and other civil rights issues- **Free Event!** \*details for this event are still pending\*

Wednesday, September 17th- Local Talent Show/Variety Show- be entertained while enjoying delicious food and drinks (\$) - 18+ and up show- **El Casino Ballroom - 437 E 26th St- 7pm- Free Event!**

Thursday, September 18th - Open Mic and Art Show- Open to anyone wanting to share Poetry, spoken word, music or comedy. Art entries are also welcomed! Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be provided- **Studio One -197 E Toole Ave- 7pm -Free Event!**

Friday, September 19th- EL TAMBO! Latin LGBTQ Pride edition / Blowout Pachanga – Featuring Vox Urbana, performances by Lola Torch of Black Cherry Burlesque, the amazing Jaime J, Mr. & Ms. Gay Latin Pride, DJ Tega and DJ Dirty Verbs - **Club Congress- 311 E Congress St- 9pm- \$5 cover charge**

*\*At press time, some details are still pending but you can follow us on **FB-puertasabiertastucson** or call 520-906-4309 with any questions! Look for the official event poster in the Observer, Tucson Weekly and other publications throughout town starting in September 2014!*

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## Upcoming - Feature Films at Studio One

Senior Pride, in conjunction with Puertas Abiertas, is planning to show two important documentary films about the Stonewall

The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) was begun in the Spring of 1994 by members of Saint Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church's congregation with an active Aids Ministry. They reached out to other communities of faith in Tucson, with the support of the Aids Education Project of the University of Arizona College of Medicine; thus, the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS network was born. Scott Blades, the subject of this month's profile, is TIHAN's Executive Director.

Volunteers at TIHAN serve the interfaith communities of Tucson in a variety of ways: through compassionate care, education, training, and spiritual support, TIHAN hopes to make people aware of the health crisis which affects us all. Should you wish more information, contact TIHAN at 520-299-6647 or e-mail us at: [Interfaith@tihan.org](mailto:Interfaith@tihan.org).

**Dea Brasgalla:** Who is Scott Blades, tell me about yourself?

**Scott Blades:** Scott Blades is an out gay man who is proud to be part of the Tucson community. I am the founding executive director of the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN). But I'm more than a member of the gay community and an HIV activist. I'm also a concerned citizen who cares about people, our community, and our world. My mission in life seems to be to help build bridges and encourage people to find causes they believe in and devote their time and resources to helping change ourselves, our community, our world, bit by bit.

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

**SB:** I am a gay man who has witnessed discrimination and persecution, silence and denial. Not because of their sexual orientation but because of society's misunderstanding of their sexual orientation, I have seen my friends kill themselves--directly through suicide, and--even more often--indirectly through slowly killing themselves through drug and alcohol addiction, or through not taking precautions and thus risking being exposed to HIV because they were unable to get the information they needed, or they were afraid to ask the right questions, or maybe they were raised in a homophobic world that didn't teach them to care about themselves.

So I am passionate about addressing homophobia and also HIV.

I am also a person of faith and I know that much of the root of homophobia and HIV stigma too are rooted in religious bigotry. I am passionate that we need to remove the ignorance and hate and homophobic teachings and reclaim our faith traditions that value all of God's creation, reclaim what it means to love and respect each other as being God's beautiful creation, reclaim that belief that sexuality is a gift from God. I believe that faith communities still have tremendous influence in our society, and they must be held accountable for their actions and inactions. When people of faith gather together every week and preach about unconditional love for all people, about justice, about reaching out to the oppressed....I want to keep reminding them, holding them to their word. Love is love.

I am passionate too about working to remove the stigma of HIV, and helping to prevent new infections and to make sure that people who are living with HIV know their status, and receive support to live as well as possible with HIV.

**DB:** Who are your heroes?

**SB:** I love people who are passionate. I love people who are authentic and true to themselves. I love people who risk rejection because of what they know is just and right and real. I love people who give of their time, talents, and treasures for causes they believe in. These are my heroes. People who make a difference in the lives of each other and in the life of our community.

September 2014						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> <b>Labor Day</b>	<b>2</b> Iron Horse Park Cleanup 7:00 AM	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Puertas Abiertas Sidewalk Sale 7 AM -2 PM Stuudio One 197 E. Toole
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Wingspan Senior Pride Meeting Himmel Library 2:00 PM	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Iron Horse Park Cleanup 7:00 AM	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 40s and Better Breakfast Group Royal Sun Best Western Restaurant 9:30 – 11:00 am
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Stonewall Films Studio 1 197 Toole Ave 3PM & 7PM
<b>28</b> Stonewall Films Studio 1 197 Toole Ave 3PM & 7PM	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				

# Latino Pride Week

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

uprising in 1969 which was the beginning of the march for LGBT rights and equality. The films will be shown at Studio One, 197 East Toole, on September 27th and 28th at both 3 PM and again at 7 PM. These are two great films from past years that chronicle the beginning of the worldwide Gay Rights Movement. If you don't wish to be driving at night, please come to the afternoon showing. There is no admission charge for these films, but donations to help Senior Pride will be gratefully accepted.

### **Meandering Down Memory Lane With Wingspan**

We're hoping to inaugurate a new series next month with an article submitted by Dea Brasgalla. We would welcome the memories of anyone who wishes to share some stories about their own experiences at Wingspan and the effect it has had on your lives. If you have a story to share, send it to Editor Rick Jorgenson at [seniorpride@wingspan.org](mailto:seniorpride@wingspan.org).

### **Humor Corner**

A lady calls her neighbor and says, "Please come over here and help me. I have a killer jigsaw puzzle, and I can't figure out how to get started."

Her neighbor asks, "What is it supposed to be when it's finished?"

The lady says, "According to the picture on the box, it's a rooster."

Her neighbor decides to go over and help with the puzzle.

She lets him in and shows him where she has the puzzle spread all over the table.

He studies the pieces for a moment, then looks at the box, then turns to her and says, "First of all, no matter what we do, we're not going to be able to assemble these pieces into anything resembling a rooster."

He takes her hand and says, "Secondly, I want you to relax. Let's have a nice cup of tea, and then," he said with a deep sigh

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*"Let's put all the Corn Flakes back in the box."*



# September 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,**

**September 2 & September 16**  
(1st and 3rd Tuesday) 7:00 AM

## **Adopt a Park Iron Horse Cleanup**

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



## **Tuesday, September 9 (2nd Tuesday) Senior Pride Planning Meeting**

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

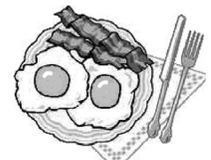
**Saturday, September 20**  
(every 3rd Saturday of the month)

## **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





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*To change one's life: Start immediately. Do it flamboyantly.  
No exceptions.*

~ William James

**Don't be fooled by the calendar.  
There are only as many days in the year as you make use of.**

~ Charles Richards

*Live every day as if it were going to be your last;  
for one day you're sure to be right.*

~ Harry "Breaker" Harbord Morant

**AS YOU GROW OLDER, YOU'LL FIND THE ONLY THINGS YOU  
REGRET ARE THE THINGS YOU DIDN'T DO.**

~ Zachary Scott

*Spend the afternoon. You can't take it with you.*

~ Annie Dillard