



**SOUTHERN
ARIZONA
SENIOR
PRIDE**

375 S. Euclid Avenue • Tucson, AZ 85719

SENIOR LGBT Elder Voice FORUM

Volume 11
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October 2015
Editor: Rick Jorgenson

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

GENERAL MEETING: 2ND TUESDAY (OCTOBER 13), 2 PM AT HIMMEL PARK LIBRARY

“Words of Wisdom”

Poetry Reading, Sat., October 3

Southern Arizona Senior Pride presents *Words of Wisdom*, a poetry reading by LGBT seniors. The event will take place at the **University of Arizona Poetry Center at 1508 E Helen St. on October 3, at 2:00 PM.** The Poetry center is located one block north of Speedway, between Mountain and Cherry. 9 poets who just happen to be Seniors will read from their works. Light refreshments will be provided. Parking is free and the event is open to everyone regardless of their sexual persuasion or age.

Tucson Pride

Celebrates 38 consecutive years!

In 2015, Tucson Pride will celebrate its 38th consecutive year of Pride. Tucson has the legacy of being one of the oldest Pride events in the nation and the first LGBT organization in the State of Arizona.

Our Pride events history began with a different tragedy...the killing of Richard Heakin in 1976. In addition, it began in 1977, after a city ordinance was passed February 7, 1977 by Tucson Mayor and City Council voting unanimously to approve it. To quote, “to eliminate prejudice, and discrimination due to sexual orientation in places of public gatherings, in employment and in housing”; the first such ordinance in Arizona and the first of this kind in the US.

In response to the slap-on-the-wrist sentence for Richard Heakin’s killers, 61 people, 4 dogs, a two foot python and 1 parrot attended Tucson’s 1st Gay Pride and Richard Heakin Memorial Picnic, organized by the Tucson Gay Alliance and others, at the NE corner of Himmel Park on National Gay Pride Day on Sunday, June 26th, Included in the event were several guitars and congo drums, donated Kentucky Fried Chicken, a couple of squirt guns with 100 proof Southern Comfort and volleyball.

From this beginning evolved Tucson Pride as we know it today.

**Pride In The Desert
Saturday Oct. 17, 2015**

AT KINO SPORTS COMPLEX

“PRIDE”

Film at The Loft Monday, Oct. 12, at 6:30 p.m.

SASP is proud to be a co-sponsor of the screening of “PRIDE”, presented by the Wingspan Multi-Faith Working Group.

This wonderful and little-known feature film is based on a true story. In the summer of 1984, Welsh coal miners go on strike. A nearby Gay Pride group votes to raise money in support of the miners. Not surprisingly, they are rebuffed by the miners. But that doesn’t deter the intrepid lesbian and gay activists. The film depicts the evolution of the relationship between these two very different groups.

Please join us on **Monday, Oct. 12, at The Loft at 6:30 p.m.** Admission is only \$5.00.

SASP MEETINGS - UPCOMING SPEAKERS

On October 13th our guest speaker will be Tucson Pride President April Moss.

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

Book Review

We Are Not Ourselves

by Matthew Thomas, 2014, fiction, 620 pages

The story takes place in Queens, NY. It follows the Leary family, Ed, Eileen, and their son, Connell, through the whole second half of the 20th century. Though Ed is a college professor and Eileen is a nurse, they struggle to make ends meet. They live in a rented apartment in a triplex, but Eileen wants a better life. Ed and Connell are content with the life they have. By the early 1990s, Eileen has managed to move the family to a fixer-upper in the suburbs. Also around this time it's becoming evident that there is something wrong with Ed. He's disinterested in his work, irritable, increasingly forgetful and confused. At the age of 51, he is diagnosed with Alzheimer's. The whole family's focus shifts to his care as he deteriorates pretty rapidly.

It's hard to believe that this is Thomas's debut novel, it is so well written. Thomas is one of those male authors who writes like a woman. (This is a compliment! Allan Gurganus, Edward Kelsey Moore, and Chris Bohjalian are three others who occupy this niche.) The subject matter, the insightful character development (especially of women), the sensitivity, the emotion. Here Thomas charts the story of America in the 20th century through the story of one family. What I love most about this book is the description of the progression of Alzheimer's. It is so detailed, honest, and tender. I've really just touched the surface of all that's happening in this rather long book. It's definitely worth the read. And I'm very interested to see what Thomas produces next.

Submitted by Les Cole



Interview with Amber Norgaard

I have been acquainted with Amber for almost 2 years now and not only enjoy her as a vibrant and loving human being, a Warrior of the Light, but also as a very talented musician and song writer. I have been to several of her concerts and she is truly remarkable. To learn more about Amber, please visit her web-site: ambernorgaard.com.

Dea Brasgalla: Who is Amber Norgaard? Tell me about yourself.

Amber Norgaard: I'm a part of this alchemy of life doing my best to be love on a sometimes messy, but ultimately beautiful and mystifying Earth journey.

I spent 10 years working as a registered nurse – most of it up in Alaska. That is where I felt called to use music in my health-related work. In 1997, we had one of the first school shootings within the nation in my town of Bethel, Alaska. Much of my work that year was with high-risk teen groups as well as with the general community. There was a tremendous need for healing trauma and brokenness. I began using music in our teen groups, and then within my health presentations at the local shelter for survivors of domestic violence/sexual assault, the substance abuse treatment center, the jail and within the general community. Many people's first language there was Yup'ik. I found that music transcended cultural and language differences; and it changed people's hearts. When we would open and close meetings with song, it was like the music took down the walls and opened hearts and minds for true communication and connection – the essential ingredients for healing. While working there, I realized the power of music to heal the masses. I decided that I wanted to explore dedicating my life to this passion. In 2008, I went full-time into my music career. It has been extremely challenging, yet profoundly soul-filling.

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

AN: I find inspiration in the details. Life is filled with poetry. Everything is energy and vibration. Ultimately, the spinning of our cells creates the song of life. Both our challenge and victory are to be in harmony in all aspects. To be alive means that we are victorious on some level in being in harmony with the elements – the dance of carbon, nitrogen, hydrogen, oxygen, phosphorous, sulfur, etc.

I love seeing the spark of life return to someone's eyes upon hearing music. Sometimes this happens when I play in hospitals, assisted livings or out in the community. It's like hearing a song can bring someone back into the grand scheme of the harmony that we are all innately a part of – and this vibration of life, of love, carries us through the joyful times and the hard times. I am passionate about being a channel of this harmony in the world and awakening/reminding humankind about this basic truth of existence.

Some of my general passions are nature, quiet/ meditation time, exercise, animals, loving relationships and studying music and the brain.

DB: Who are your heroes?

AN: Bold and brave humans throughout history and today who have made a difference in how open our hearts are to loving and honoring one another.

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

AN: The 5-4 ruling of the Supreme Court was huge. I did not expect for it to happen this quickly. I am so grateful to see in general the community at large banding together as allies for marriage to be a fundamental right for all.

I am also aware that we have much continued work to do. There continue to be stories of LGBT people and families treated unjustly.

If I could wave a magic wand, I would sprinkle love dust over the major organizations that run this world – especially the large spiritual and political organizations – to walk the talk and be role models for true justice and anti-discrimination efforts. If I had it my way in five years, LGBT people and families would have equal rights and opportunities on all levels and be recognized and honored within our society as equally valued and respected entities. In addition, I would create policies and systems to deal with and heal the emotional trauma that enduring years of discrimination leads to. For example, our LGBT veterans have special needs in dealing with their PTSD beyond war trauma – from the additional trauma of being ostracized and marginalized while enduring war.

Ultimately love does and will win – it's the only truly sustainable energy of life. If I could wave a magic wand, we would already be fully there.

Submitted by Dea Brasgalla

Events of note: _____

Boys R US

On Saturday, September 12, 2015, I and several of my friends attended the new Boys R Us presentation of Reconstruction--a disturbing queer drama at the FLUXX theater. Each of the 14 skits depicted social issues in America; the last named American Oxygen showed that not only do "Black Lives Matter" but also, "All Lives Matter".

Continues on P. 4

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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PRIDE**

Classified Ads

SERVICES

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

Contact Rev. Dea Brasgalla

Phone: 520-433-2780.

It was a night of hilarity and soberness put together par excellence by the cast which included: Big Papa, Salad Bar, Noria Von Tease, Dinah Frost, Honey D'Light, Connie LIngus, Sexual Chocolate (the M.C.), Dozier, The Boi King, Janet Filia, Natalia Flores, Bonnie Tyler, Sheena Easton, and Wilson Philips. The final performance was at 10 p.m. All donations that were collected were given to The Boi King for his forthcoming journey. (Continued on P.4)

I hope we will be seeing more of Boys R Us in the future for they were super great!!

Submitted by Dea Brasgalla

Emcees Tempest and Janee' Toast Marriage Equality at Turnabout for TIHAN.

Over the Labor Day weekend, on Sunday September 6, 2015, Janee' Star and Tempest DuJour emceed Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Networks 19th annual Turnabout for TIHAN--a benefit show in support of HIV/AIDS awareness, education, and services. "Through the years this little drag show has raised more than \$223,000 for TIHAN'S AIDS education programs and our support services for people living with HIV/AIDS," said Executive Director Scott Blades.

Members of Tucson's LGBTQ, allied businesses, and non-profit groups donned their finest clothes, wigs, and makeup to raise thousands of dollars for a great cause. In addition, Senator Paula Aboud was honored with the Stonewall Award, presented by Executive Director Scott Blades for her participation in "Why Marriage Matters". a Marriage Equality organization for Arizona.

Donate to Southern Arizona Senior Pride.

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

Important: please write "Senior Pride" in Memo Line so we get it.

Thanks for helping us thrive



October Events

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3
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 lesbian women
www.meetup.com/MeanderinTucson

MONDAY MEDITATION GROUP

Every Monday (except holidays),
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the United Fellowship Chapel,
4718 E. Hawthorne St. Contact: Rev. Dea Brasgalla 520-433-2780

MAH JONG MONDAYS

Every Monday (except holidays),
noon to 3:00 PM at Himmel Park Library, • 1035 North Treat Ave.

SENIOR PRIDE GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, October 13 (2nd. Tuesday of each month)
2 PM at Himmel Park Library
1035 N. Treat Avenue (off Speedway) Contact: 520-704-5830

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17 (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, OCTOBER 17

PRIDE PICNIC at Kino Sports Complex!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 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 • Contact: Lee Roden 520.398.6826

Contact Information

email: soazseniorpride@gmail.com

phone number: 520-704-5830

website in progress: soazseniorpride.org



Facebook page:

[soazseniorpride](https://www.facebook.com/soazseniorpride)

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