

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

A New Name For Senior Pride

Wingspan Senior Pride is now "Southern Arizona Senior Pride" (SASP) -- but we're the same feisty group of activists that we've always been. We were proud to be part of Wingspan while it existed and we honor that legacy. But, now that we're on our own, we wanted a more independent, less confusing name. SAAF is our fiscal agent only. SASP will continue, for now, to use the website www.wingspan.org to post our newsletter, Senior Forum. We can still be reached at our contacts listed until we create our own website and Facebook page. Our monthly potlucks continue. We continue to meet monthly for discussion, speakers and networking. And we are working on plans for more Community Forums and events. Join us.

Old Lesbians Organizing For Change - OLOC

Mission Statement: We are committed to:

- addressing what it means to be old and to be a lesbian
- finding ways to gather groups of old lesbians together for ongoing support
- working against all oppressions that affect old lesbians
- standing in solidarity with allies for racial, economic and social justice

Vision Statement: OLOC will be a cooperative community of Old Lesbian feminist activists working for justice and the well-being of all Old Lesbians.

Join us at our next meeting: Saturday, April 4, 2015; 11AM-1PM. Location: Vista Grande Library -1556 N. Arizona Rd., Casa Grande, AZ 85122. (520) 421-8652 For directions go to website: Vista Grande Library

Project Visibility – Progress in Changing the Culture of Care

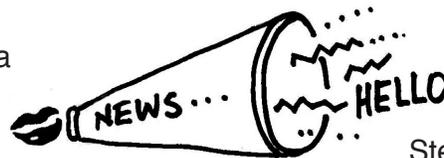
Because LGBTQ older adults are five times less likely to access senior services, and often

feel they have to hide their sexual orientation and/or gender identity/expression, in order to get safe, respectful care; because LGBTQ older adults deserve to be proud and visible when using long term care providers, without fear of prejudice, neglect or abuse, Pima Council on Aging, in partnership with Wingspan Senior Pride, coordinates a collaboration of planners and trainers to provide Project Visibility Trainings to administrators, staff, and care providers of nursing homes, assisted living facilities, home health agencies and other elder-focused community groups.

Project Visibility is a no-cost training to help service providers become more informed, sensitive to, and supportive of the needs of LGBTQ older adults and their families. Created by Boulder County Area Agency on Aging, this outstanding training is the winner of two national awards.

Current local trainers

are Denise Rose,
Briana Averill,
Kay Smith,
Robert Bell,



Steve Higley, Suzy Bourque, and Sandy

Davenport. In the trainers-in-training preparation phase are Terri Waldman, Chad Mosher, Hector Felix, and Linda Travis.

The trainings, 1.5 hours each, include a DVD featuring inspiring interviews with LGBTQ older adults and care providers, a power point for discussion and role plays, and a 50-page manual to help facilities improve their policies and practices. These trainings were recently supported in part by a grant from the LGBT&S Alliance Fund. We have presented this training to over 1,225 individuals since our start in 2012.

Local organizations that have welcomed Project Visibility Trainings for at least some of their staff and/or management include: Pacifica Senior Living, Devon Gables Healthcare Center, Bayada Homecare, Our Family Services Senior Companions and CORE training program,

continued on pg 5

Interview with Dea Brasgalla

I have known Dea Brasgalla for just about 3 years but..... it feels like i've known Dea for a LIFETIME. Actually both Dea and I would agree that both she and I have known each other in what some may call another Lifetime. And in that past lifetime there has been a deep respect we both shared for each other that remains up to this present moment and without a doubt will remain forever. I. B. Bear

I.B.Bear: Who is Dea Brasgalla? Tell me about yourself.

Dea Brasgalla: I was born protesting I think in 1933 and raised in Michigan until I left there, after graduating from Highland Park General Hospital School of Nursing in 1955 to move to California. And I came out that year after I met my first partner. I was out on a limb as there was no Wingspan, Glisten, Glaad, or even PFLAG and it was rather scary at the time. I even got fired after I told a co-worker I was gay. The American Psychiatric Association still considered homosexuality a mental illness until 1974, but I certainly didn't consider myself mentally ill. Loving a woman was very natural to me and I was with her until I found her cheating on me with another woman. Boy! Was I ever naive, socially backward and inexperienced, but I learned quickly how to survive.

In 1963, I left nursing for 3 years to become a meter maid with the City of Beverly Hills and what a trip that was! Everybody hated us; however, I can tell when a person is going to lie to me before they ever open their mouth - it's their body language. After 3 years, I took a job for a special project on the Hopi Indian Reservation and loved it. I was drawn to these loving, gentle people with their great sense of humor and I admired their Spirituality so much. Today, my Spirituality encompasses the Native path as well as being a Metaphysician. This is a spiritual based belief, not a Christian one. After finishing the project on Hopiland, I was transferred to Phoenix (which I detest) and finished working with the Papagos and the Pimas. Then I moved to Connecticut for 24 years before returning to my beloved Arizona. My experiences there are too numerous to mention but I learned so very much. When I returned,

I lived in Hopiland for 14 years and have many friends there. And I adopted my son Ernie Northrup after his mom died. We have know each other for 21 years. I have lived in Tucson twice and moved back here from the Sedona area in 2013. And I got in touch with Wingspan Senior Pride upon my return. At present, I am the roving reporter for the Senior Pride Forum and involved with different committees. Also I have been a big political activist for equality for all people of diversity and worked on many political campaigns.

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

DB: My passion lies in the fight for total equality for all people of the LGBT community, folks of diversity whether they be brown, black, or Native American and I am inspired by those who have given their lives so that we may achieve 1st class citizenship. I was thrilled that marriage equality finally came to Arizona and, as a Minister, I am ready to marry whomever desires to do so.



continued on pg 3

Senior Pride Contact Information

email:
wingspanseniorpride@gmail.com

phone number:
520-704-5830

facebook page:
wingspanseniorpride
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

Interview from pg 2

However, our work is not finished. We need protection for our jobs, housing and a bill to be passed to that end. So, I stand to march again should the Legislature, with Cathi Herrod on the Governor's staff, try to discriminate against us with her homophobic agenda.

IBB: Who are your heroes?

DB: Dr. Martin Luther King, Harvey Milk, Susan Boyle, Amy Goodman, and Rachael Maddox; and, of course, anyone who is an advocate and activist for social injustices.

IBB: If you could wave a magic wand, what would Wingspan look like in 5 years?

DB: Like the Phoenix, Wingspan will rise out of the ashes to become not only a community center but also a cultural center with programs designed to meet the needs of all members of our community no matter what their ages. I would like to see more diversity, that is more people of color, Native Americans, and transgender folks be a part of Wingspan as well, not just as members of the community, but also as paid staff. We have such talented and dedicated members in our community and there is no reason why Wingspan shouldn't become the leading LGBT community/cultural center in the country. We need members of the community to step up to the plate and make it happen.



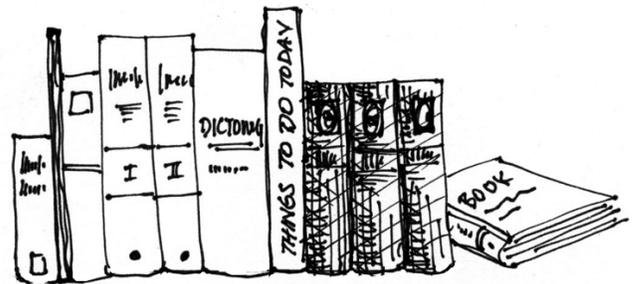
BOOK Review by Les Cole

I'll Give You the Sun by Jandy Nelson. 2014, Young Adult (YA), 371 pages

Don't be put off by the genre of this book. I've been reading a few YA novels lately, which gives me some concern about my aging brain. Or on a more positive note, maybe it's about the growing sophistication of the genre. Every YA novel I have read, including this one, is wonderfully written and has taken on a meaningful issue.

This is the story of fraternal twins, Noah and Jude (a girl) Sweetwine, bonded by that special twin thing. That bond begins to unravel, however, as they reach puberty. Both are talented young artists seeking admittance to a prestigious art school. Both are secretly struggling with their sexuality. Noah is gay, and Jude is recovering from a horrible first sexual experience. Both are adrift on their own after a devastating family tragedy.

The story unfolds in chapters alternately told by each of the twins. Noah's chapters take place when they are 13; Jude's three years later when they are 16. I often find this device a little off-putting, but here it works. The different times and perspectives bring a richness to the story and a few "a-ha" moments. And of course Noah's story made me think back to my own struggle with sexuality so many decades ago.



Donation Received

Southern Arizona Senior Pride received a generous donation from Dr. Barbara Hort of



Vancouver, Washington in memory of her father and in honor of Ron Zack, Don Black and David Osollo.

"It is a great pleasure for me to support Senior Pride, but all the glory goes to Ron, David and Don for the amazing legal and financial work that they did with my Dad at the end of his life. They deserve all the honor."

Thank you Barbara. We all appreciate your incredible support.

**We welcome your submissions of
poetry, articles, calendar items,
events and announcements.**

deadline the 15th of each month
submit to: deapipecarrier@gmail.com

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

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

Project Visibility from pg 1

Prestige Assisted Living, Mercy Care and United ALTCS programs, UofA Nursing Class on Aging, Assisted Living Federation of Arizona Conference, Direct Care Workers' Conference, SAFEE (Stop Abuse and Financial Exploitation of the Elderly group), Desert Dialysis, Pima County Health Department Public Health Nursing, TMC Senior Services, the Southwest Nephrology Conference, Mountain View Retirement Village, Copper Canyon Care Center, Santa Rita Nursing and Rehab Center, Hacienda de Milagros Assisted Living Home, S. AZ Family Services, and TMC Gero Psych Unit. Devon Gables asked us back to give the presentation to interested residents. We have recently begun regular trainings for students at the Caregiver Training Institute, and are excited to help these up-and-coming service providers receive quality training on the needs of their current and future LGBT clients.

At the Project Visibility Planning Meetings, in addition to reporting updates on trainings, we plan further outreach to new facilities. Those interested in becoming trainers, after attending the planning meeting, can be invited to participate in an orientation session, study the materials, attend a training, be a back-up trainer, then be a trainer with back-up. Our next Planning Meeting is Thursday, May 7, 10:00-11:00, at PCOA, 8467 E. Broadway, 790-0504. If you would like to see the DVD, come at 9:30.

By Sandy Davenport

What is Project Visibility ?

to Schedule a Project Visibility training - call PCOA Help Line 520-790-7262

Donate to Southern Arizona Senior Pride. Make your tax deductible donations to our Fiscal Agent:

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

April Events

Meander in Tucson Meetup Group List of events for lesbian women
<http://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. information: 520-433-2780

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, April 14

Senior Pride Planning Meeting

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

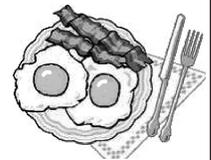
Saturday, April 18

(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

Contact: Carol Ehrlich 520.584.0339



Saturday, April 25

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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Tucson, AZ 85719

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*The beautiful spring came; and when Nature resumes
her loveliness, the human soul is apt to revive also.*

~ Harriet Ann Jacobs

**Never cut a tree down in the wintertime. Never make a negative decision
in the low time. Never make your most important decisions when you are
in your worst moods. Wait. Be patient. The storm will pass.**

The spring will come.

~ Robert H. Schuller

*In the Spring,
I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours.*

~ Mark Twain

Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush.

~ Doug Larson

Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!'

~ Robin Williams