

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

We apologize for the late appearance of the following article - it should have been published in either the March or April edition of the Senior Forum, but due to space considerations and the importance of other news we had to wait until now. If you were there, you should enjoy remembering.

### **February 14, 2015; Our Wingspan Dinner At Loew's Ventana Canyon**

#### *Celebrating Legalized Love*

What a night! More than 300 supporters, looking fancy, attended with smiles and hugs all around. We were all happy to see each other. It was our opportunity to show our love of and commitment to our beloved Wingspan and to acknowledge that life is changed. Dinner organizers included people from Wingspan's Dinner Committee and SAAF staff and volunteers.

It was clear that tremendous thought was given to each detail. The decorations (Valentine themed of course) were sweet and colorful, the silent auction had great items, the dining hall was aglow with rainbow colors and lights and the tables had lovely flower bouquets. We were in for a fabulous program! The evening began with an outstanding video timeline of national and local LGBT History from 1903 to the present. What a surprise to learn that there were efforts to make our community visible and credible in 1903. Did you know?

Our energetic and good looking emcees were Tony Paniagua and Betsy Bruce. Speakers? We had speakers. Most notably: Wendell Hicks, SAAF's CEO, and the

keynote speakers, Kelli Olson and Jennifer Hoeffle-Olson who were two of the courageous people who helped to usher in same-sex marriage in Arizona.

Wendell was thoughtful and sincere. Kelli and Jennifer were thought provoking, powerful, and fun. We saw several slides of their twin daughters in between a call to not become complacent now that we have legalized marriage but to turn our focus on other pressing lgbt issues like economics, job security, and violence against transgender women of color. We were also thrilled to recognize three outstanding men with Wingspan Awards.

Rick Jorgenson, our very own Senior Forum editor, received the Steve Hall Award for his long-time contributions and activism within Wingspan. Kent Burbank received the Godat Award for his incredible efforts to promote LGBT equality, protection, visibility, and justice in Tucson and beyond. And, Supervisor Richard Elias received the Jean Baker Community Ally Award for his long standing and on-going support of LGBT citizens in Tucson/Pima County. We were shown a short video interview with each recipient and each one spoke with gratitude and honor.

When Lavina Tomer and Tom Buchanan were on the stage asking for donations to sustain Wingspan Programs we were shown video interviews with EON youth and Anti-Violence Project volunteers and consumers. Wingspan Youth Program and Anti-Violence Project continue to provide services and to grow because of our community needs and the generosity of our community supporters.



**Celebrating Legalized Love** from pg 1

**Our evening entertainment diva was Tempest Dujour. She was funny, raunchy, silly and wild! She was the emcee for a Newlywed Game-like show where four brave couples answered questions about each other. You can imagine, right? The audience and the contestants were laughing a lot. There were a few frowns and groans too!**

**I was delighted to be among Wingspan supporters again. There was a wonderful and comforting feeling of community.**

**Lavina E. Tomer**

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**Interview** with Rick Jorgenson

I have know Rick Jorgenson for many years and, if memory serves me right, I took computer classes from him at Wingspan back in the day. Rick has kept both the newsletter and Senior Pride going through the lean times and I am proud to know him. He deserves our accolades and applause for a job well done.

**Dea Bragalla:** Who is Rick Jorgenson? Tell me about yourself.

**Rick Jorgenson:** I am the oldest of 5 children - 3 brothers and 1 sister - and come originally from Minnesota. My father was a jeweler/watchmaker who owned his own business and mom joined him after her family-raising years were over. I graduated in 1969 from Macalester College in St. Paul, MN with a BA degree in Russian Area Studies (language, history, culture, etc). I spent all of my life in Minnesota except for some travel during college years which included trips to Western Europe, mainly Italy, and then a trip to the Soviet Union in January (brrr!) of 1969. After college I spent 4 years in the Air Force which included a 13-month tour of duty in South Korea.

My work career began as a computer programmer in 1975 and lasted for 10 years when I moved laterally into more office support functions. I moved to Tucson in 2004 after being 'downsized' from Honeywell in MN after 12 years of employment there.

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

**RJ:** My greatest interests in life are in classical music and foreign language studies. Here in Tucson I belong to a Meetup Group called Italians in Tucson since my Italian is in the best working order of the languages I'm familiar with. Music is called the Universal Language and I find that to be true no matter what musical genre interests you. Music and language are often paired in academic circles as a study in what might be called, in the broadest sense, "communication". I think that's my real passion if you can distill it into one word.

**DB:** Who are your heroes?

**RJ:** I don't really have any heroes in that sense. I admire and am inspired by famous people who have overcome great odds in their lives - Beethoven, for instance, who composed some of the world's greatest music even though he went completely deaf. Or think of Helen Keller and the world she inhabited until her teacher Annie Sullivan broke through to her in the early 1900s. "The Miracle Worker" is her story on film, but many others had their

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

**SAAF**

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Important: please write  
"Senior Pride"  
in Memo Line so we get it.  
Thanks for helping us thrive

## In Memoriam

There will be a Celebration of Life for Hannah Blue Heron on May 3rd at 2:pm at Far Horizons at 5000 E. Grant Road. It will be held in the Clubhouse. Parking is limited at Far Horizons though there is side street parking on the south side of the street right before the entrance to Far Horizons. Hannah was a musician, educator, author, composer and builder in the Tucson lesbian community. The video, A Colorful Life, will be shown and there will be time to share stories. Light refreshments will be served. You may contact Margaret Moore at 325-0849 or Annette Vaughan at 883-3127.

We must also announce the recent passing of Alta Fly, a longtime Wingspan supporter and community member. Alta was also the subject of Wingspan's "A Colorful Life" series. Per her wishes no service or memorial has been planned.

## Annual AIDS Memorial

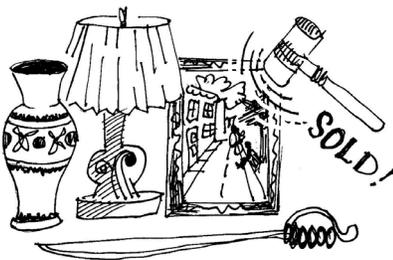
The 33rd Annual International Candlelight Memorial will be on Sunday, May 17, 2015 at Himmel Park, Tucson. It will be celebrated world-wide. This is a free event and open to the public. This year's event will include: a multi-faith blessing, performances, a moment of silence, and the reading of names. Please join us.



## Treasures For TIHAN Auction

Dear Friends, We are especially excited about our biggest event of the year, and hope you will join us on Saturday, May 30th at 6 pm at the Marriot University Park Tucson for Treasures for TIHAN. Get your tickets in advance and save \$10.00. Advance tickets are \$65.00 and by calling 299-6647 or e-mail Scott

Blades at [scott@tihan.org](mailto:scott@tihan.org). Tickets on the day of the event are \$75.00. Join us for a sparkling event of cocktails, great

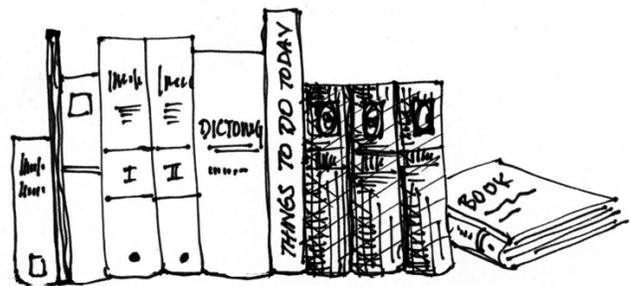


music, fantastic food, and wonderful auction items.

Show your support and add your name to the list of caring and generous people and businesses contributing to a healthy and strong community where everyone is valued, included, and supported. Deadline to donate is by April 30th and may be done on-line. Check the TIHAN website for instructions. Hope to see you there!

## BOOK Review by Les Cole

**Having Our Say** by Sarah and A. Elizabeth Delaney. 1993, Non-fiction, 210 pages



I'm going back to a book I read more than twenty years ago, when I was a young thing in my mid-forties. I loved this book then, but because I was not yet dealing with the aging process, it did not reach me on a gut level. Twenty years later, it's a different story.

The book is subtitled: The Delaney Sisters' First 100 Years. At the time of the writing, Sadie is 103 and her younger sister Bessie is 101. They are the descendants of slaves, free blacks, and whites. All ten of the Delaney siblings went on to higher education, with Sadie becoming a teacher and Bessie a dentist. This is as much the story of one hundred years of black history as it is the story of the Delaney sisters. They certainly do have their say and they pull no punches.

It's one of the most delightful books I have ever read. I just wish it was twice as long. Besides sage advice on living a long life, the sisters have an incredible perspective on one hundred years of the African-American experience.

May 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>3</b> Hannah Blue Heron - Celebration of Life 2 PM - see newsletter	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>Cinco de Mayo</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Wingspan Senior Pride Meeting Himmel Library 2:00 PM	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 40s and Better Breakfast Group 9:30 – 11:00 AM
<b>17</b> AIDS Candlelight Vigil - Himmel Park (see newsletter for details)	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Senior Pride potluck - 12 Noon Cornerstone Fellowship Hall
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Memorial Day</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Treasures for TIHAN (see newsletter)
<b>31</b>						

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

**Interview** from page 2

own 'miracles' in their lives which allowed them to rise above some terrible circumstances.

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

**RJ:** I became involved with Wingspan almost immediately by teaching Saturday morning computer classes in basic computer skills such as email and word processing, mainly to seniors and others who were unfamiliar with computers. And that, I guess, has led to my involvement with Senior Pride over the ensuing years. After the economic downturn in 2008, Senior Pride was forced to become a completely volunteer program which is how it began in the first place. Hopefully, we will now be able to keep Southern Arizona Senior Pride afloat as its own entity with our colleagues at SAAF and the Wingspan programs which still exist under that organization. Senior Pride with its new name, Southern Arizona Senior Pride (SASP), will continue as a more far-reaching and geographically inclusive entity.

## 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

## Classified Ads

**services** Available for weddings, baptisms, and funerals. Also Past Life Regressions, Contact Rev. Dea Brasgalla Phone: 520-433-2780.

## May Events

### Meander in Tucson Meetup Group

List of events for lesbian women  
[www.meetup.com/MeanderinTucson](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.

### 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, May 12

### Senior Pride Planning Meeting

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

Saturday, May 16

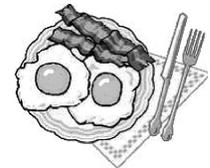
(every 3rd Saturday of the month)

### 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, May 23

### 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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*A smile is the light in your window that tells others  
that there is a caring, sharing person inside.*

Denis Waitley

**A smile is a curve that sets everything straight.**

Phyllis Diller

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

Leo Buscaglia

**The real man smiles in trouble, gathers strength from distress,  
and grows brave by reflection.**

Thomas Paine

*If you smile when no one else is around, you really mean it.*

Andy Rooney