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

**IMPORTANT REMINDER -- THERE WILL
BE NO SENIOR PRIDE GENERAL MEETING
AT HIMMEL PARK IN AUGUST.**

High Court Ruling Leaves U. S. With 50 Shades of Equality

Reprinted from the Observer Weekly on July 1, 2015:

The US Supreme Court ruling announced on June 26 confirmed the constitutional right to same-sex marriage in all 50 states - a large step in the right direction.

Take all the time you need to relish the victory, but don't donate your activist gear just yet. There's still work to be done before we have equal civil and social rights compared with heterosexuals.

If the struggle to gain marriage equality has taught us anything, it's taught us that there is a large voting bloc out there that is STILL seething with animus toward the LGBTQ community. Even as we celebrate, haters move to introduce a constitutional amendment that seeks to undo the court's momentous decision on equality. Let's not rest on our laurels while they strive to harm us still.

Let's keep working until the estimated 700,000 transgender Americans are free from daily legal discrimination. Let's not rest until every child can attend school free from being bullied because of who they are. Let's not give up until LGBTQs can no longer be fired from their jobs just because of who they are. Let's create a nation where there is no inequality between genders. We need to keep working until the patchwork of equality in America is a thing of the past.

I heard the news very early in the morning as I drove down 22nd Street toward Kolb. I began blowing the horn, waving my arms with my right thumb in a victory sign, and yelling loudly. People in their cars

were looking at me like I suddenly had gone ballistic!! Never in my lifetime had I expected to see this ruling happen...a statement shared by many older LGBTQ seniors. I went to the rally held that evening by Engage on Scott between Congress and Pennington. I sat near the corner of Scott and Congress with a donation bucket on my lap, a broad smile on my face, and waving both the American and Rainbow flags. I could not have been prouder. I had my picture taken by many press organizations and was interviewed by Fox News and saw myself on the 9 pm news on Channel 11. Absolutely, no one was gonna rain on my parade that day!! After all the hard work we shared not only with members of the community but our straight allies, we finally arrived at equality...in marriage. But there is still lots of work to be done to assure we have equality in the workplace and housing and that our transgender folks are included in that equality as well. So, I keep my steel-toed ass kicking boots ready to march in protest whenever I have to.

Another event I attended, and was a healer for, was Pride on Broadway on the 27th of June at CODAC's new Behavioral Center for our LGBTQ community. Not only was there a DJ, but also a band, food, and a raffle. Many organizations had a table, including Southern AZ Senior Pride giving out informational pamphlets and sign up sheets. It was so good to share this celebration with many friends and especially Chad Mosher the Director. After all, we are family!!

Dea Brasgalla



Serving the LGBT Community

SASP

Southern Arizona Senior Pride

375 S. Euclid Avenue Tucson, AZ 85719

an affiliate of **(SAAF)**

Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation

Building Your Family Is Not Only For The Young

Arizona's recognition of same-sex marriages and nation-wide marriage equality brings great opportunity to LGBTQ couples to build and create families. But the dignity and security of creating a legally recognized family is not limited to just the younger members of the community.

Many same-sex couples joyfully raised children into adulthood, but only one partner was considered the legal parent of the children. With the recognition of marriages of same-sex couples, an opportunity exists to create a legal-parent child relationship between the non-legal parent and an adult child: adult adoption.

Under Arizona law, a person may adopt his or her stepchild of any age. Stepchild is defined as the legal child of a person's spouse. Before the recognition of a marriage, there was no stepparent-stepchild relationship and an adoption was not possible. Now, if the stepchild is over the age of 18, an adult adoption can take place and it is handled by the probate court.

The adult adoption process is relatively straight forward. The person adopting (the Adoptor) and the person to be adopted (Adoptee) enter into a written



agreement with the consent of the legal-parent/Adoptor's spouse. An investigation consisting of personal interviews is conducted and a report sent to the court recommending the adoption. There is a hearing before a judge at which time the adoption is granted. The process generally takes 8-10 weeks.

Creating a legally recognized parent-child relationship between an adult child and his or her non-legal parent provides dignity, legitimacy, and security to a relationship that existed in their hearts. The legal recognition of the relationship creates inheritance rights, eligibility for social security and military benefits, and allows the adoptive parent to appear on the adult child's birth certificate.

Interview with Wendell Hicks

I first met Wendell at a house party given for the Democratic Governor Candidate Fred Duval. It was a great party and I learned a lot. Then when Wingspan moved to SAAF I became better acquainted with him. We have met on many occasions and I find him to be a very knowledgeable, charming, and caring member of our community.

Dea Brasgalla: Who is Wendell Hicks? Tell me about yourself.

Wendell Hicks: I am a husband, a son, a brother, a nephew, a boss, a colleague, and a committed community member. I was born and raised in Texas by the most incredible parents and extended family. I came to Tucson from a small town in Texas after becoming enchanted by my soon to be adopted city after a stop here on a road trip to and from L.A.

Before moving to Tucson to become the Executive Director of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, I was the Executive Director of Special Health Resources for Texas, and previous to that, I worked in direct care services and prevention. I have 25 years working in the HIV prevention and AIDS treatment area.

I graduated from the University of Texas at Tyler with a BAAS and MS.

When the position of the Executive Director of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation became available,

I knew it was an opportunity that I could not pass up. I am one fortunate man! Then if that isn't just the luckiest a man could get, I met my husband.

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

WH: I am inspired by anyone that sees a wrong and works tirelessly to right that wrong. I am inspired everyday by the staff at the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation - they overcome incredible odds to help our clients with food, housing, meds, coping with diagnosis. They are on the front lines of helping every single one of our clients and youth overcome the stigma they face because they are HIV positive, or homeless or on the down side of advantage. The community should find them as inspiring as I.

I have a passion for justice and fairness.

DB: Who are your heroes?

WH: My Daddy. He taught me about real compassion and ways to act on it.

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

WH: If I had a magic wand and the wand provided not just wishes but money, our clients would never want for housing or food. Our testing and outreach programs would extend beyond the boundaries of Tucson and we would reach out to all of Southern Arizona. We would have a special location for our EON youth where they could feel safe, where they could soar to incredible heights. We would continue to provide syringe access without fear of funding loss, our parks would remain free of used needles and people would have a better quality of life and ultimately "get clean". I would build a network with the local schools to educate our children of the power of staying healthy and making good choices regarding comprehensive sexual health and life skills. But the most important thing I hope we can accomplish with or without a magic wand in 1 year or 20 years is the diminishment of shame. If I could help people look at each other without judgment but with acceptance I would die a happy, contented man.

Book Review

The Walking Man

by Jiro Taniguchi.

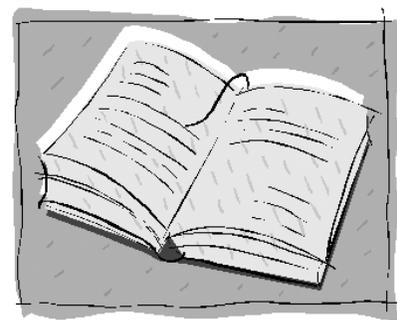
1995, graphic novel, 155 pages

I began reading graphic novels about four years ago. I had quite a learning curve in how to read this genre. After several of them, I realized I was reading the words and practically ignoring the artwork. Obviously, I was missing the part of the story revealed in the illustrations, and, of course, the beauty of the art. I still struggle with this, but I am getting better. Anyway . . .

The unnamed walking man walks all around town. He's almost always alone, though sometimes his wife will wander with him briefly, or he'll take the abandoned dog that they have adopted. The man observes everything, from the mundane to the miraculous. He stops to help strangers. He plays in puddles. Late at night he strips naked and swims in the public pool. Like a child, his attention is fleeting, looking forward to the next thing.

A sweet little book. My favorite artwork is the glossy page, full color, which this is not. It's well drawn in its simple black and white. In today's overly crowded (especially in Taniguchi's Japan) and fast-moving world, this walking man would certainly seem a bit odd: childlike, full of wonder, amazed by the world. Since retiring, I believe I have found a bit of the walking man in myself. Hope you have too.

Submitted by Les Cole



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SASP

Southern Arizona Senior Pride

375 S. Euclid Avenue Tucson, AZ 85719

an affiliate of **(SAAF)**

Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation

Donate to Southern Arizona Senior Pride.

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

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Gary: 520-510-7835 or glart13@aol.com

August Events

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

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 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.

2ND. TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

(NOTE: NO MEETING IN AUGUST)

Senior Pride Planning Meeting

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 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: Irene Read 520.360.4744

SATURDAY, AUGUST 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