Celebrating, Supporting, and Uniting LGBTQI+ Older Adults

A New Year, a Fresh Start! by Tom Buchanan

Challenging as it was, 2020 was a time for us to live our mission, meet community needs, and prepare for a leap into a bright future. Here’s a quick look at the good things ahead for 2021.

• First and foremost, this year we will gain full independent status as a 501 (c) 3 organization. We have filed all necessary papers and have kept SAAF, our fiscal sponsor, fully apprised of our plans. They have been wonderfully supportive as we strike out on our own. Through this transition, Lavina Tomer remains our esteemed volunteer Executive Director, and Keith Ashley continues as our tremendous Associate Director.

• We will expand online programming, helping our community stay connected and remain safe and healthy. Events include the Catching Fire poetry workshop and Honoring a Life, a service to help all of us plan to make our health care wishes known. On a lighter note, we’ll be announcing a drive-in movie night, and an online broadcast featuring John Birdsall talking about his new biography of James Beard, The Man Who Ate Too Much. He will be interviewed by author and TV personality Ted Allen, host of Food Network’s Chopped. And of course we’ll add more in-person programs when it is safe. (See page 4).

• Our monthly speakers series, book club, workshops, women’s grief group, and an expanded Community Cares Program all continue to grow. We’re even increasing our Connect Now! outreach, providing tablets and internet access to older adults so that they can engage with their community.

• We recently wrapped up our 2017-2020 strategic plan, having achieved our major goals. It’s time to embark on a new strategic plan to take us forward through...
Community Profile: LUPE CASTILLO

by Joyce Bolinger

Growing up in Tucson’s barrio, Lupe Castillo learned at an early age about the fight for social justice. Even as a child, she was keenly aware of the intense segregation that existed at the time.

Her parents, Carlos and Eliza Castillo, set examples for Lupe and her three brothers and one sister: “My mother was a real fighter for the rights of people and my father took us to labor union meetings.

In the 1960s, Lupe encountered Chicano House, a neighborhood center in Barrio Hollywood on Niagara Street dedicated to bettering conditions of Mexican Americans. “As a result of my initial contact with Chicano House, I incorporated myself into the activism that I continue to this day,” she says.

2023. We began exploring goals for Senior Pride at an October volunteer gathering and hope you’ll join us on January 12th for a town hall to give your thoughts on what you envision for the future of Senior Pride and our older adult LGBTQI+ community.

- Senior Pride is working closely with the UA Southwest Institute for Research On Women (SIROW) on a Pima County needs assessment of the needs of older LGBTQI+ adults 50+. This survey will include representation from diverse communities and takes a huge step toward better serving all of our older adults.

- We’ve engaged local experts to help us be the most inclusive organization possible. Through a series of conversations and exercises on topics of inclusion, diversity, equity and access (IDEA), we will include leadership from our wonderfully diverse community.

So stay with us! It’s going to be a wonderful year, and we want you to be part of it!
Lupe Castillo is a retired history professor at Pima Community College where she was one of the first to teach Chicano/a studies. She received undergraduate and master’s degrees from the University of Arizona.

Lupe is a co-founder of the University of Arizona’s Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (MEChA). In 1970, she helped organize Tucson residents to establish the El Rio Neighborhood Center and fought to build the Joaquin Murrieta Park on Tucson’s west side.

In the 1970’s, she came together with Margo Cowan, Isabel Garcia, and Raquel Rubio Goldsmith at the Manzo Area Council, a program devoted to justice for all. They became known as las Mujeres de Manzo.

The group led humanitarian groups including “No More Deaths” and Coalición de Derechos Humanos. In the 1990’s

Lesbianas Latinas supported Derechos Humanos—raising donations through dances and volunteering.

Lupe was also active with the Arizona-Sonora AIDS project and the Sanctuary Movement to aid Central Americans seeking asylum.

Margo and Lupe have been life partners for decades—they were celebrated by family and friends when they married 12 years ago in California. An immigration lawyer, Margo is a Defense Attorney in the Law Offices of the Pima County Public Defender.

Lupe’s activism continues today with Keep Tucson Together—Mantenga Tucson Unido—(https://www.keephtucsontogether.org/home) which works to stop deportations, assist asylum refugees, and has aided hundreds to obtain citizenship.

Lupe says, “My calling is to be out in the streets and teaching.”

On March 9, 2021, from 2–3 pm, Lupe will discuss “Chicanas in Resistance” for the Senior Pride Speakers Program. Lupe will discuss Chicanas fight for justice, past and present. For Zoom invitation email info@soazseniorpride.org

COMMUNITY CARES

Senior Pride volunteers currently visit by phone with LGBTQI+ elders 55+ and people with disabilities of any age who are homebound or living in a continuing care community (assisted living, skilled nursing home, independent living).

Call 520-351-2724 to volunteer or to receive telephone visits.
With Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) serving as Southern Arizona Senior Pride’s fiscal sponsor, all donations to our organization are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

**By Check:** Payable to our Fiscal Sponsor: SAAF
375 South Euclid Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85719
Write SENIOR PRIDE in the Memo Line

**For Zoom invitation: email info@soazseniorpride.org**

**GARDENING IN THE DESERT**

**Tues. FEB. 9 • 2-3:30 pm**

Two master gardeners give tips on raising native plants and growing vegetables:

- Jan Schwartz will cover cultivating flowering plants, planting native seeds and garden maintenance.
- Jessica Paul. Learn about veggie gardening from Jessica.

**LGBTQI+ ELDER SUPPORT GROUP**

Jan 9 & 23, Feb 6 & 20
Alternate Saturdays, 1-2:30 pm
The LGBTQI+ Elder Support Group is an open and welcoming forum.
Contact group facilitator, Claire Ellington, at info@soazseniorpride.org

**AA MEETING HOSTED BY SENIOR PRIDE**

Every Monday, 7-8 pm
An open 12x12 Step meeting for LGBTQI+ older adults. Contact the coordinator at aaright@gmail.com

**SENIOR PRIDE WOMEN’S LBTQ GRIEF GROUP**

Thursdays, 1:30 pm on Zoom
Weekly support group (free) for Lesbian, Bisexual, Trans, and Queer women 18 years of age and older who are looking for an accepting space in which to share their loss. A facilitated, peer support group. info@soazseniorpride.org

**SENIOR PRIDE BOOK CLUB**

Third Wednesday each month: 2-3:30 pm.

For Zoom invitation: email info@soazseniorpride.org

**HONORING A LIFE WORKSHOPS**

These informative, down to earth workshops give LGBTQI+ older adults necessary documents and guidelines for making sure their health care wishes are known. Erin Russ and Bruce Hyland lead. Jan. 6, 2021 (Wed) at 1:30 pm Feb.18, 2021 (Thurs) at 1 pm April 2, 2021 (Fri.) at 1 pm May 1, 2021 (Sat.) at 10 am Contact Erin: eol@soazseniorpride.org or (520) 312-8923.

**COMING THIS SPRING**

**Dates and Times TBA**

Senior Pride Presents John Birdsall, author of James Beard: The Man who Ate too Much being interviewed by Ted Allen, host of the Food Network’s popular game show, Chopped.

**LIFE REFLECTION AND REVIEW WORKSHOPS**


**Senior Pride Connects Our Community -- Your Donations Keep Us Strong!**

Senior Pride’s cultural events, support groups, Community Cares Program, workshops, website with local resources, Facebook page, YouTube channel and weekly news updates provide a hub for our community.

This work is made possible by supporters like you. Please donate today.

**By Check:** Payable to our Fiscal Sponsor: SAAF
375 South Euclid Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85719
Write SENIOR PRIDE in the Memo Line

**Online:** Go to our website soazseniorpride.org click on “Donate Today”

**By Telephone:** (520) 547-6119
Specify: Senior Pride