



**SOUTHERN  
ARIZONA  
SENIOR  
PRIDE**

# SENIOR LGBT Elder Voice FORUM

**PRIDE IS AGELESS.  
CELEBRATE!**

**EL ORGULLO NO TIENE  
EDAD. ¡CELEBRA!**

**September-October 2021**

**Volume 17 Issue Five**

*Celebrating, Supporting, and Uniting LGBTQI+ Older Adults*

## The LGBTQ+ Alliance Fund, Queer for GOOD

The LGBTQ+ Alliance Fund, an initiative of the Community Foundation of Southern Arizona, was created 22 years ago to expand funding opportunities and resources for LGBTQ+ organizations in Tucson and rural southern Arizona (Pima, Cochise, and Santa Cruz counties). The Alliance Fund connects donors with projects that benefit the LGBTQ community through annual competitive grant rounds and has provided generous support to Southern Arizona Senior Pride for the last six years. To date, the Fund has awarded more than \$1 million to local LGBTQ+ initiatives and organizations.

Join us for the **Senior Pride Speaker Series** on **September 14 at 2:00pm** when Alliance Leaders **Kent Burbank** (Board President) and **Andrés Cano** (Director) provide an insider's view of the Alliance Fund and its current goals with their presentation:

***Queer for GOOD: A Conversation with the LGBTQ+ Alliance Fund.***

### Alliance Fund Profile:

#### KENT BURBANK

By Bruce Hyland

Kent was born and raised in Nebraska. He joined the Peace Corps in Thailand; then studied for a non-traditional ministry in Chicago. That's where he met his husband, Vicente. They lived in Mexico City until Vicente was recruited to teach at the University of Arizona, and they've now lived in Tucson for 20 years.

Kent's ministry morphed into social work. He's worked with victims of violence, the LGBTQ+ community, people with disabilities, and migrants. He's currently full-time faculty in the Social Services Department at Pima Community College. Kent was previously the Executive Director of Wingspan, and served on the boards of Planned Parenthood



*"I don't have much to say. Rather, I prefer to listen..."* Kent Burbank

Advocates, Hate Crime Task Force, Coalition for Victim Services, and is the current board chair of the Alliance Fund.

Along the way, he and Vicente adopted two children, now both grown. Kent notes that this turn in the road took more energy and time than they dreamed. Yet, Kent seems to thrive on keeping many things going at once and admits "balance" is not his strength.

Kent started with the Alliance fund as a donor twenty years ago and is the current board chair. His message to Senior Pride. "I don't have much to say. Rather, I prefer to listen, as there is so much history, passion, wisdom and knowledge."

Profiles continue on page 2



**Celebrating, Supporting, and  
Uniting LGBTQI+ Older Adults**

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They serve with **Robert Bell, Lee Crosby, Claire Ellington, and Pam Witting.**

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## Alliance Fund

### Profile: ANDRÉS CANO

By Bruce Hyland

Andrés Cano has extensive roots in Southern Arizona. In 2020, he was named the first Director of the LGBTQ+ Alliance Fund, a fund of the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona. He is also a current Member of the Arizona House of Representatives, where he serves as the state's youngest LGBTQ+ state legislator.

Andrés is a native Tucsonan and was raised by a single mom. He is the first in his family to graduate from college with his degree in Broadcast Journalism. Andrés is very proud to have completed Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government Senior Executives Program in State and Local Government

as a David Bohnett LGBTQ Victory Institute Leadership Fellow.



Andrés prioritizes self-care by reading Sunday's New York Times cover-to-cover. He opens the food section first, as he really likes tackling challenging recipes. His three godchildren are known to devour his creations and he loves spending time with them.

## Isolated? Connect with your LGBTQI+ Community.

### Senior Pride's Community Cares Program.

Trained volunteers offer regular visits, in person or on the telephone, to help end isolation for older LGBTQI+ adults and those with disabilities. Contact us at [community@soazseniorpride.org](mailto:community@soazseniorpride.org)

or 520-351-2724 for more info.



Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation

Senior Forum is printed in-house by the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF), whom we thank for their many services as Senior Pride's fiscal sponsor.



Pima Council on Aging  
Help Line: 520.790.7262  
(M-F 8:30am-5pm)

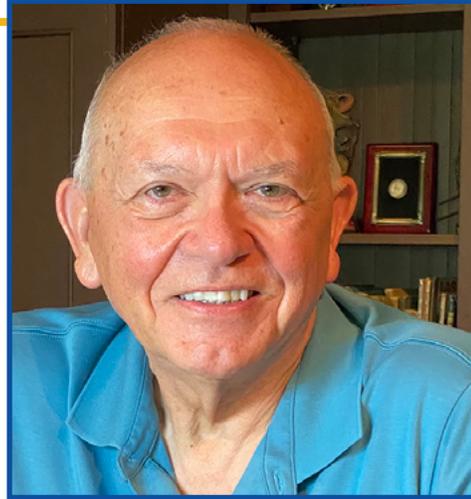
[help@pcoa.org](mailto:help@pcoa.org)

To learn about in house LGBTQ Elder Care specialists on PCOA's staff, email: [SBahnson@pcoa.org](mailto:SBahnson@pcoa.org)

# Community Profile: BRUCE HYLAND, Senior Pride Board Chair

By Keith Ashley

When Senior Pride Board Chair Bruce Hyland describes his passion as “Adventure Travel”, you have to wonder if he isn’t actually describing his entire life’s journey. As he left his home state of Kansas at 21, Bruce seems to have taken some of that Wizard of Oz magic (and a breath of tornado energy?) as his guiding light.



“But none of that is interesting,” Bruce will tell you. Sailing down the Mei Kong River in Cambodia, crawling through the Cu Chi Tunnels in Vietnam, riding elephants in India, visiting the real Count Dracula’s Castle in Transylvania. These are the stops along his yellow brick road that truly excite Bruce. “These experiences bring me into the absolute now,” Bruce explains. “They force me to culturally adapt. They change my perspective. They teach me to connect with people, without relying on my vocabulary.” 45 countries later, Bruce is looking forward to exploring South America next.

“One of the most painful things is losing the people who share your history...” Bruce Hyland

Bruce grew up in a Kansas village of just 300, but his Masters of Business degree made him so marketable that his early career almost got ahead of him. He caught up to it when hired by American Express Financial Advisors, the firm that first brought him to Tucson in the early 1980’s. Bruce soon had a spiritual experience in the Tucson Mountains in which he recognized that Tucson was his one true home—but that didn’t mean he could settle down just yet. Bruce soon joined a consulting firm in San Francisco, where he advised the likes of Sonny Bono (at that time mayor of a small town called Palm Springs). Still Bruce had to keep adventuring... after earning his PhD he became head of Business and Management at City College in San Francisco and eventually an advisor to the Federal Reserve.

As for his work with Senior Pride, Bruce is delighted to be spending some quality time with his tribe. “I’ve lost a lot of people in my life,” he says. “First to the AIDS epidemic, and now just through natural causes. One of the most painful things is losing the people who share your history, personally and collectively. You had to have lived it to really get it.” Bruce compares taking this deep dive into the Senior Pride community to those people who, later in life, return to spend time with their biological families. Bruce reflects: “I just relate much more passionately to my gay tribe than my family tribe.”

Bruce has been back in Tucson for 10 years now. Dorothy was right: There’s no place like home.

## SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, November 13 SENIOR PRIDE VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION:

This is your opportunity to learn all about becoming part of the Senior Pride family of volunteers working together to celebrate, support, and unite older LGBTQI+ adults in our community.

Mark your calendar for 1:00 to 3:00pm

Cornerstone Fellowship Hall (2902 N. Geronimo – near First & Glenn). *More details coming soon...*

# COMING EVENTS

For more information, registration and Zoom links visit [www.SoAzSeniorPride.org](http://www.SoAzSeniorPride.org)

## Senior Pride Presents:

### A NEW BETTER 2022 Writing Workshop with Cat Belue Saturdays 10 am-noon on zoom.

January 15, 22, 29, 2022  
and February 5, 2022

Register on [soazseniorpride.org](http://soazseniorpride.org)  
Free but participation is limited.



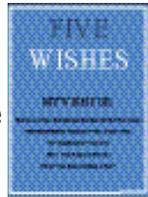
Cat Belue is a daily journaler and a storyteller with the Tucson group, Female Storytellers, aka FST! Her popular Senior Pride writing workshops fill up quickly. Cat believes everyone deserves to have their voice heard and that in the telling of stories, we heal ourselves and the world.

The word 'normal' has never treated the LGBTQ community, or people of color, well. So why would we be content for things to go back there? What changes do you want to see for humanity, the environment, yourself? How can you write your way to a better future for All of Us?

This four week class will invite you to put into words the emotions and revelations from the past year and what you experienced. And, hopefully, how it changed you into seeing A New Better.

## HONORING A LIFE: ADVANCE MEDICAL CARE PLANNING

Zoom workshops give LGBTQ+ older adults the opportunity to explore planning for medical care in the event of an unexpected medical need. We cover all the necessary directive documents as well as other considerations to make sure your health care wishes are recorded and your identity as a LGBTQ+ person is protected in those situations. **Erin Russ and Bruce Hyland** facilitate these workshops and offer optional "Meet and Complete" sessions for those wanting extra help beyond the workshop plus One-On-One coaching by special request.



### Next Honoring a Life Workshop dates

Monday, Sept. 13, 10 am to noon  
Saturday, Oct. 30, 10:30am to 12:30pm  
Friday, Dec. 3, 10am to noon

For more information or to schedule a workshop or One-On-One, contact Erin: [eol@soazseniorpride.org](mailto:eol@soazseniorpride.org) or (520) 312-8923.

Register & receive Zoom link at <https://soazseniorpride.org>

## SENIOR PRIDE HOSTED AA MEETING (on Zoom) Every Monday, 7-8 pm. An open 12x12 Step meeting for LGBTQ+ older adults.

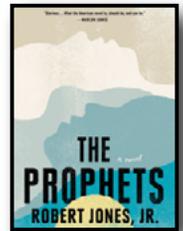
Contact [aarigt@gmail.com](mailto:aarigt@gmail.com)

## SENIOR PRIDE BOOK CLUB

Third Wednesday:  
2-3:30 pm

Please register online

September 15  
*The Prophets* by  
Robert Jones, Jr.



A singular and stunning debut novel about the forbidden union between two enslaved young men on a Deep South plantation, the refuge they find in each other, and a betrayal that threatens their existence." --Penguin Random House  
<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/622773/the-prophets-by-robert-jones-jr/>



## 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:

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