Timeline of LGBTQI+ History IN HONOR OF PRIDE MONTH

By Minor Mutiny Teen Council at MOCA Tucson

Intergenerational dialogue is vital to the preservation of LGBTQI+ experiences. Minor Mutiny’s members, ages 15 - 17, were in awe of the courage and determination of those who came before them as they took some time to learn about milestones in our community’s history. See the list compiled by Joyce Bolinger that inspired this drawing at https://soazseniorpride.org/50-years-of-tucson-pride/

1973
Feminist bookstore Antigone Books opens for business.

1977
Tucson’s first pride event is held at Himmel Park.
Tucson City Council passes an anti-discrimination ordinance to protect gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals.

1988
Tucson’s first AIDS walk is held as a candlelight procession up “A” Mountain.

1992
Wingspan Community Center moves into a storefront on 4th Avenue.

1999
Tucson City Council adds protections for transgender individuals to its anti-discrimination ordinance.

1993
The first annual Lesbian Looks film series is presented on The University of Arizona’s campus.

2002
Southern Arizona Senior Pride is founded as a program of Wingspan.

2014
Pima County begins issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples after a federal court decision.

2017
Conversion therapy is banned by ordinance in Pima County.
ARIZONA QUEER ARCHIVES: LOOKING BACK TO MOVE FORWARD. By Tammy Orr

As we celebrate Pride Month, many are focused on the current issues that face the LGBTQI+ community and how we can keep moving forward, but it is also important to look back and see how much has been achieved over the years. To this end, did you know Arizona has a Queer Archives?

Founded in 2011, the Arizona Queer Archives (AQA) is the first LGBTQI+ archives in the state of Arizona. Directed by UA Associate Professor Jamie Lee, AQA works in collaboration with local community members to build histories together. Originally located in the Institute for LGBTQ+ Studies at the University, part of the archives is now housed at the Blacklidge Community Collective (https://bcctucson.org), an autonomous gathering space featuring a lending library, a community garden, and the Jewish Zine Archive. Other material is part of UA Libraries Special Collections.

Harrison and I recently met with Ph.D. student aems emswiler for a tour and a chat. After showing us around the space, aems pointed out three small collections they currently have on exhibit … items from the “Adela Licona Zine Collection,” “Gay Community Services,” and “CODAC Health, Recovery and Wellness.” They then described AQA’s storytelling project, an oral history collection featured on the Archive’s website, https://azqueerarchives.org/exhibits/show/the-arizona-lgbtq-storytelling. Each video highlights a member of the Arizona LGBTQI+ community sharing their insights into growing up in different parts of the country and living in Tucson. It is AQA’s ongoing goal to collect as many interviews as possible. If you are interested in sharing your story, email aems: azqueerarchives@gmail.com.

For more information about the Arizona Queer Archives— their mission, collection policy and digital collections—go to https://lgbt.arizona.edu/arizona-queer-archives.
As Spring education programs come to an end at MOCA Tucson, it’s a great time to reflect on the experiences of our LGBTQIA+ senior participants. We offered two intergenerational programs: Stay Gold, facilitated by Lex Gjurasic, and School of Drag, facilitated by Dante Celeiro and Frankie Heightchew-Howard.

In Stay Gold, we learned to make miniatures and dioramas from recycled materials and found objects. For inspiration, we took a field trip to The Mini Time Machine Museum of Miniatures. Our wonderful tour guide, Ray, led us through the museum’s galleries, providing us with historical context and useful tips for making our own miniatures. The entire group left feeling inspired and invigorated.

Ranging in age from 23 to 73, each participant approached the project with their own unique perspective and lived experiences. Regardless of age, most participants were inspired by memories of places or events that made them happy. Ben got “high-tech” and installed lights in his glass jar diorama to depict fireflies from his favorite place. Gayle re-lived a family moment by creating a beach scene with a miniature boat. Emily’s diorama was inspired by her memories of San Francisco’s Lesbian culture in the ‘90s.

School of Drag ran concurrently with Stay Gold, focusing on gender performance and personal expression. Participants learned about the history of gender performance and received professional guidance as they created their own costume and routine. Later everyone showed off their skills and outfits at a professional photo shoot and digital showcase. Our senior participants have called this a “life-changing experience,” allowing them to try something new and make lasting friendships.

Having seniors, youth, and everyone in-between learn and work together helps to dispel stigmas of aging and stereotypes of younger generations. Our society doesn’t offer a lot of opportunities for people of different generations to mingle, especially within the LGBTQIA+ community. Education programs like Stay Gold and School of Drag can help bridge that gap.

Be sure to tune into School of Drag’s virtual showcase on Saturday May 14th at 7 PM. Visit https://moca-tucson.org for more information. Also, learn more about Dante by checking out his community profile in this issue!
Introducing the Joyce Bolinger and Lavina Tomer Legacy Society

While annual gifts and grants are critical to the success of Senior Pride, our long-term success depends on sustainable funding that provides for today, tomorrow, and the future. Remembering Senior Pride in your estate plans is a great way for you to meaningfully contribute to this future.

We invite you to become a charter member of the Joyce Bolinger and Lavina Tomer Legacy Society. By creating a bequest in your will or trust, you help ensure that Southern Arizona Senior Pride will serve LGBTQI+ seniors for generations to come.

If you have already remembered Senior Pride in your estate plans, be sure to make sure your designation reflects our new status as an independent 501-c-3 organization. And let us know that you’re remembering Senior Pride with an estate gift so we can include your name in our list of legacy donors and provide you with special reports and invitations to events just for legacy donors.

Two of the first members in this Legacy Society are Joyce and Lavina themselves. Enjoy this letter from Joyce Bolinger about Joyce and Lavina’s passionate investment in Southern Arizona Senior Pride.

Lavina and I met while volunteering for Wingspan, Tucson’s LGBTQI+ Community Center. When Wingspan closed in 2014, it looked like Senior Pride might not survive.

We didn’t want that to happen. And, soon we connected with others who felt the same. For years, we met with these amazing people around our dining table and put in place the building blocks that make possible today’s organization.

Sometimes Lavina and I are asked why we gave such a chunk of our lives to this endeavor. The answer is that working for Senior Pride gives us a sense of purpose and camaraderie that brings joy and meaning to our lives.

We can honestly say that we love our rainbow community and the people who continue to come “out” to give energy to generating change and building community. As we get older, we want to connect with others we trust to accept, support and respect us.

We have pride in the LGBTQI+ people who came before us and pride in our generation’s struggles and triumphs. And, part of pride is leaving for the future a tradition of honoring and strengthening our community. This is your legacy as well as ours.

Joyce Bolinger
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 e-news updates provide a hub for our community.

Our success is made possible by supporters like you. Please donate today.

**By Check:** Make checks payable to Senior Pride or So. AZ Senior Pride
Mail to: 1632 N Country Club Rd, Tucson, AZ 85716

**Online:** Go to our website soozseniorpride.org
Click on “DONATE”

All donations to Senior Pride are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Please note: We no longer qualify for the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit.

---

Community Profile: **DANTE CELEIRO, ARTIST AND ACTIVIST**

By Tammy and Harrison Orr

Dante Celeiro is an artist, activist and organizer in Tucson’s drag community. He never intended to lead a non-profit organization … “it was always just about doing the right thing.” Having worked for 12 years in HIV prevention at the piers of NYC, Dante was suffering from “burn-out,” and ready for a change. So, after visiting Tucson for two weeks with a colleague, he packed up and moved west … that was over 20 years ago.

When Dante first moved to Arizona, he was “in the middle of [his] transition toward having the male body that matched the gender-wiring in [his] brain,” and it was the gender-bending performance group Boys R Us that made him feel at home here. “They had this energy that I didn’t fully understand, but I knew I wanted to be a part of it.” Eventually, Dante gave up his part-time position at SAAF and began managing Boys R Us.

While performing in local bars, as well as bars across the country, a need for creating a safe space for queer artists became clear, and Fluxx Productions, a non-profit multi-cultural community arts organization, was born. Housed in a former art studio in Downtown Tucson, Fluxx Studio & Gallery was a multi-functional safe space designed to host visual/performance art exhibitions, workshops, film screenings, open mic sessions and much more. Unfortunately, in 2016, Fluxx was victim to a burglary and had to vacate its physical space.

Fluxx, now the production arm of Boys R Us, continues to use gender performance to encourage dialogue about queer culture to bridge gaps in understanding, acceptance, and change. “At first, our audience was predominantly Lesbians, but now about half of our audience is straight. To see that evolution tells us that we must be doing something right.”

Away from his role as Executive Director of Fluxx Productions, Dante is a part-time bartender whose favorite drink to mix … and to sip … is the Cosmopolitan. And, if you believe that a person’s favorite go-to cocktail says something about their personality, then it makes perfect sense that Dante chooses this strong, yet fruity concoction. Popularized by Carrie Bradshaw in “Sex and the City,” the Cosmopolitan is a dynamic drink for an equally dynamic personality … in other words, it is Dante Celeiro in a glass!

---

Dante Celeiro is an artist, activist and organizer in Tucson’s drag community. He never intended to lead a non-profit organization … “it was always just about doing the right thing.” Having worked for 12 years in HIV prevention at the piers of NYC, Dante was suffering from “burn-out,” and ready for a change. So, after visiting Tucson for two weeks with a colleague, he packed up and moved west … that was over 20 years ago.

When Dante first moved to Arizona, he was “in the middle of [his] transition toward having the male body that matched the gender-wiring in [his] brain,” and it was the gender-bending performance group Boys R Us that made him feel at home here. “They had this energy that I didn’t fully understand, but I knew I wanted to be a part of it.” Eventually, Dante gave up his part-time position at SAAF and began managing Boys R Us.

While performing in local bars, as well as bars across the country, a need for creating a safe space for queer artists became clear, and Fluxx Productions, a non-profit multi-cultural community arts organization, was born. Housed in a former art studio in Downtown Tucson, Fluxx Studio & Gallery was a multi-functional safe space designed to host visual/performance art exhibitions, workshops, film screenings, open mic sessions and much more. Unfortunately, in 2016, Fluxx was victim to a burglary and had to vacate its physical space.

Fluxx, now the production arm of Boys R Us, continues to use gender performance to encourage dialogue about queer culture to bridge gaps in understanding, acceptance, and change. “At first, our audience was predominantly Lesbians, but now about half of our audience is straight. To see that evolution tells us that we must be doing something right.”

Away from his role as Executive Director of Fluxx Productions, Dante is a part-time bartender whose favorite drink to mix … and to sip … is the Cosmopolitan. And, if you believe that a person’s favorite go-to cocktail says something about their personality, then it makes perfect sense that Dante chooses this strong, yet fruity concoction. Popularized by Carrie Bradshaw in “Sex and the City,” the Cosmopolitan is a dynamic drink for an equally dynamic personality … in other words, it is Dante Celeiro in a glass!

---

Community Profile: **DANTE CELEIRO, ARTIST AND ACTIVIST**

By Tammy and Harrison Orr

Dante Celeiro is an artist, activist and organizer in Tucson’s drag community. He never intended to lead a non-profit organization … “it was always just about doing the right thing.” Having worked for 12 years in HIV prevention at the piers of NYC, Dante was suffering from “burn-out,” and ready for a change. So, after visiting Tucson for two weeks with a colleague, he packed up and moved west … that was over 20 years ago.

When Dante first moved to Arizona, he was “in the middle of [his] transition toward having the male body that matched the gender-wiring in [his] brain,” and it was the gender-bending performance group Boys R Us that made him feel at home here. “They had this energy that I didn’t fully understand, but I knew I wanted to be a part of it.” Eventually, Dante gave up his part-time position at SAAF and began managing Boys R Us.

While performing in local bars, as well as bars across the country, a need for creating a safe space for queer artists became clear, and Fluxx Productions, a non-profit multi-cultural community arts organization, was born. Housed in a former art studio in Downtown Tucson, Fluxx Studio & Gallery was a multi-functional safe space designed to host visual/performance art exhibitions, workshops, film screenings, open mic sessions and much more. Unfortunately, in 2016, Fluxx was victim to a burglary and had to vacate its physical space.

Fluxx, now the production arm of Boys R Us, continues to use gender performance to encourage dialogue about queer culture to bridge gaps in understanding, acceptance, and change. “At first, our audience was predominantly Lesbians, but now about half of our audience is straight. To see that evolution tells us that we must be doing something right.”

Away from his role as Executive Director of Fluxx Productions, Dante is a part-time bartender whose favorite drink to mix … and to sip … is the Cosmopolitan. And, if you believe that a person’s favorite go-to cocktail says something about their personality, then it makes perfect sense that Dante chooses this strong, yet fruity concoction. Popularized by Carrie Bradshaw in “Sex and the City,” the Cosmopolitan is a dynamic drink for an equally dynamic personality … in other words, it is Dante Celeiro in a glass!

---

Dante Celeiro is an artist, activist and organizer in Tucson’s drag community. He never intended to lead a non-profit organization … “it was always just about doing the right thing.” Having worked for 12 years in HIV prevention at the piers of NYC, Dante was suffering from “burn-out,” and ready for a change. So, after visiting Tucson for two weeks with a colleague, he packed up and moved west … that was over 20 years ago.

When Dante first moved to Arizona, he was “in the middle of [his] transition toward having the male body that matched the gender-wiring in [his] brain,” and it was the gender-bending performance group Boys R Us that made him feel at home here. “They had this energy that I didn’t fully understand, but I knew I wanted to be a part of it.” Eventually, Dante gave up his part-time position at SAAF and began managing Boys R Us.

While performing in local bars, as well as bars across the country, a need for creating a safe space for queer artists became clear, and Fluxx Productions, a non-profit multi-cultural community arts organization, was born. Housed in a former art studio in Downtown Tucson, Fluxx Studio & Gallery was a multi-functional safe space designed to host visual/performance art exhibitions, workshops, film screenings, open mic sessions and much more. Unfortunately, in 2016, Fluxx was victim to a burglary and had to vacate its physical space.

Fluxx, now the production arm of Boys R Us, continues to use gender performance to encourage dialogue about queer culture to bridge gaps in understanding, acceptance, and change. “At first, our audience was predominantly Lesbians, but now about half of our audience is straight. To see that evolution tells us that we must be doing something right.”

Away from his role as Executive Director of Fluxx Productions, Dante is a part-time bartender whose favorite drink to mix … and to sip … is the Cosmopolitan. And, if you believe that a person’s favorite go-to cocktail says something about their personality, then it makes perfect sense that Dante chooses this strong, yet fruity concoction. Popularized by Carrie Bradshaw in “Sex and the City,” the Cosmopolitan is a dynamic drink for an equally dynamic personality … in other words, it is Dante Celeiro in a glass!
HONORING A LIFE

Southern Arizona Senior Pride’s own Erin Russ has been selected to present her workshop, “Sixth Wish - End of Life Planning for the LGBTQI+ Community,” at the National Council On Aging’s Age+Action Conference, June 6-8, 2022.

Erin will address the need for specific considerations for serving LGBTQI+ elders and the steps accomplished so far towards this goal. This workshop will provide a roadmap of sorts for the T/GNC individual to prevent unwanted decisions in the event they are unable to make medical care decisions for themselves. The current state of Advance Medical Care Planning for LGBTQI+ individuals will be discussed, including challenges identifying trusted representatives for medical decision making.

Participants of this workshop will leave this seminar with a deeper understanding of the need for Living Wills, Medical Powers of Attorney and the unique challenges facing the T/GNC community.

Closer to home, Erin offers Advance Medical Care Planning workshops to anyone wishing to maintain control of their medical care in all circumstances. Erin and trained volunteers facilitate these workshops and offer optional “Meet and Complete” sessions for those wanting extra help, plus One-on-One coaching by special request. Next Workshop date:

May 25, 22 • 9:30 – 11:30 am;
Register Online or (520)312-8923 by May 17, 2022

For more information or to schedule a One-on-One, contact Erin at eol@soazseniorpride.org or (520) 312-8923.

SENIOR PRIDE BOOK CLUB

MAY SELECTION:
The Selected Works of Audre Lorde
by Roxanne Gay

Audre Lorde declared herself “black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet.” In this book, Roxanne Gay, herself a writer influenced by Lorde, brings us a collection of Lorde’s groundbreaking prose and poems on race, injustice, intersectional feminism, and queer identity. Gay says, “Lorde is an exemplar of public intellectualism who is as relevant in this century as she was in the last.” The collection is an effort to highlight the “grace, power, and fierce intelligence” of Lorde’s writing and the ways it helped make the experiences of Black women more visible. Review: https://www.publishersweekly.com/978-1-324-00461-5

May 18, 2022 • 2-3:30 p.m.
Register Online or email
info@soazseniorpride.org

JUNE SELECTION:
Crossing the Yard: Thirty Years as a Prison Volunteer
by Richard Shelton

From the UA Press: “Richard Shelton was a young English professor in 1970 when a convict named Charles Schmid—a serial killer dubbed the “Pied Piper of Tucson” in national magazines—shared his brooding verse. But for Shelton, the novelty of meeting a death-row monster became a thirty-year commitment to helping prisoners express themselves. Shelton began organizing creative writing workshops behind bars, and in this gritty memoir he offers up a chronicle of reaching out to forgotten men and women—and of creativity blossoming in a repressive environment.”

Richard Shelton is an Arizona writer, poet and emeritus Regents Professor of English at the University of Arizona.

June 15, 2022, 2022 • 2-3:30 p.m.
Register Online or email: info@soazseniorpride.org

Chickpea Salad with Lemon Vinaigrette Dressing --
From the Kitchen of Jobeth Anderson

Chickpea Salad
Drain and rinse chickpeas. (15 oz can)
Put chickpeas into a large bowl and add:
1 cucumber, chopped
1/4 cup red onion or chives, chopped
1 cup grape or cherry tomatoes, halved
1 avocado, cut in chunks
1 or 2 cups greens torn by hand

Toss together well. Chill. Just before serving,
drizzle with lemon vinaigrette dressing or
your favorite dressing. Toss again, top with
1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese.

Lemon Vinaigrette
1/3 cup fresh lemon juice
1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
1 tsp salt
1/4 tsp ground black pepper. 4 cloves minced
garlic or 1/2 tsp garlic granules. Shake all
together in a jar.

1/2 cup chickpeas = 120 cal • 6g protein • 21% of daily fiber needs.