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**SOUTHERN
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SENIOR
PRIDE**

SENIOR
LGBTQI+ Elder Voice
FORUM

**PRIDE IS AGELESS.
CELEBRATE!**

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EDAD. ¡CELEBRA!**

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2023
Volume 19 • Issue One

Celebrating, Supporting, and Uniting LGBTQI+ Older Adults

Visibility Matters: Pima Council on Aging's Answer to Inequities in Healthcare & Care Giving By Harrison Orr

Have you ever sat in a doctor's office wondering if you should tell your doctor or their staff that you identify as part of the LGBTQI+ community? Perhaps you also wondered if you would be treated differently if you did tell them or if it would even make a positive difference in your care. I know I've thought about these things, especially when my doctor told me that my insurance wouldn't cover the cost of a routine HIV test, and therefore he wouldn't order one for me. I thought, "Should I tell him I'm a gay man and see if that makes a difference or just let it go?" I let it go. Wouldn't it be great if we didn't have this extra layer of concern when seeking medical help? And yet we do.


Sarah Bahnson, Pima Council on Aging's LGBTQI+ Community Liaison, is trying to do something about it by training healthcare providers to be more sensitive and responsive to the needs of aging LGBTQI+ patients. Visibility Matters is a series of two-hour workshops for anyone serving LGBTQI+ older people in Pima County. Supported in part by Senior Pride, among other great organizations, the workshops provide trainees with the resources and information needed to better understand and serve the needs of LGBTQI+ older people. Trainees will be given historical context on the ways in which LGBTQI+ people may have difficult relationships with community institutions. Trainees will also learn about the impact of intersectionality on basic needs, specific vulnerabilities of LGBTQI+ older

people in healthcare environments, and how to provide the best support and resources to these individuals.

Sarah states, "Discrimination, past and present, creates health disparities and barriers to care for LGBTQI+ people accessing aging services." This program is intended to help alleviate these disparities and barriers. In addition to Visibility Matters, Pima Council on Aging offers a wealth of resources and programs for older adults and their loved ones. Their website provides information on services such as transportation, housing, and nutrition. They host Memory Cafés for individuals living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, as well as their caregivers. The cafés provide a safe space for individuals to interact with art, music, and one another.

To learn more about Visibility Matters, visit <https://pcoa.org/ways-we-help/visibility-matters.html> or email Sarah at sbahnson@pcoa.org.

To learn more about PCOA and their services, visit <https://pcoa.org>.

 **PCOA**
Aging with Pride
Pima Council on Aging
Help Line: 520.790.7262
(M-F 8:30am-5pm)
help@pcoa.org

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



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

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SAVE THESE DATES:

Senior Pride Presents: Exhibition Tour



Photo credit: Julius Schlossburg

The work of iris yirei hu on display at MOCA Tucson.

Museum of Contemporary Art Tucson

Sunday, February 5, 2023 at 2 pm

Tour leader: Harrison Orr, Education Manager, MOCA Tucson

Join us for another awe-inspiring tour with MOCA Education Manager and Senior Pride Volunteer, Harrison Orr. The tour will cover three exhibitions featuring work created in a variety of different mediums: Cecilia Vicuña: Sonoran Quipu, Kenneth Tam: Silent Spikes, and Plein Air.

Cecilia Vicuña is a Chilean artist and activist who resides in New York City. She is interested in the ancient Andean technology known as a quipu. These devices, made of woven textiles, are thought to have been used for recording keeping, with knots representing different numbers. Through her artwork, Vicuña seeks to honor the traditions of Indigenous peoples across the globe. She hopes to make others aware of the impact society has on the earth by using plant matter and artists' studio scraps in her Sonoran Quipu, a site-specific installation at MOCA Tucson. Come see this homegrown, immersive sculpture for yourself!

Free event – Register at <https://moca-tucson.org>

MOCA Tucson, 265 S Church Ave.

Street parking is free on Sundays.

Senior Pride Presents: Age to Sage Workshop: LGBTQI+ Elders Reflect on the Paths We Took

Thurs, March 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd, 10 - 11:30 AM

Workshop lead by Josefina Ahumada

Reflection is important as we consider our life's journey. The thread that binds us is our shared identity as LGBTQI+ Elders. Through discussion and voluntary sharing of short written memories, we look at the values, people, joys, and sorrows that shaped our lives. An optional meeting for sharing works will be held on March 30th.

Free workshops - Register at <https://soazseniorprideorg>

COMMUNITY PROFILE: TOBY WEHNER, PCPL LIBRARY ASSOCIATE

BY HARRISON & TAMMY ORR

If you've ever been to a public library in Tucson, there is a good chance that you've interacted with Toby Wehner, a friendly library associate in a homemade tie dye shirt. Over a span of thirty years, Toby has worked in some capacity at 23 of the Pima County Public Library's (PCPL) 27 branches. Passionate about sharing his love of reading, his goal is to eventually work at all 27 branches. In February 1992 Toby bought a one-way ticket to Tucson and left his small town home in Wisconsin. He was determined to be out as a gay man in every aspect of his life in Tucson. He found PCPL to be an accepting employer for LGBTQ+ employees when he started working at the Murphy-Wilmot Library as a page, shelving books. Not only did he discover what was to become his lifelong career and passion, but he also met his husband, Rick, who worked as a page as well.

After having been together since 1993, Rick and Toby were married in the historic courthouse in Downtown Tucson in 2014. While Rick's tenure with the library was short lived, eventually settling on interior house painting as a career, Toby, on the other hand, is proud to say that he "just never left" the library. He now calls the Joel D. Valdez Main Library home. He loves working in the heart of downtown where people of all backgrounds come together. The main library has become a public services hub for many people living and working downtown. Whether you need an at-home COVID test, want to register to vote, or are looking for a large print book, the library has you covered. Toby is proud of the variety of services the library provides for the community.

One of Toby's favorite tasks at the library is to take the PCPL book bike for a spin, filling free mini libraries with used books. When it's not

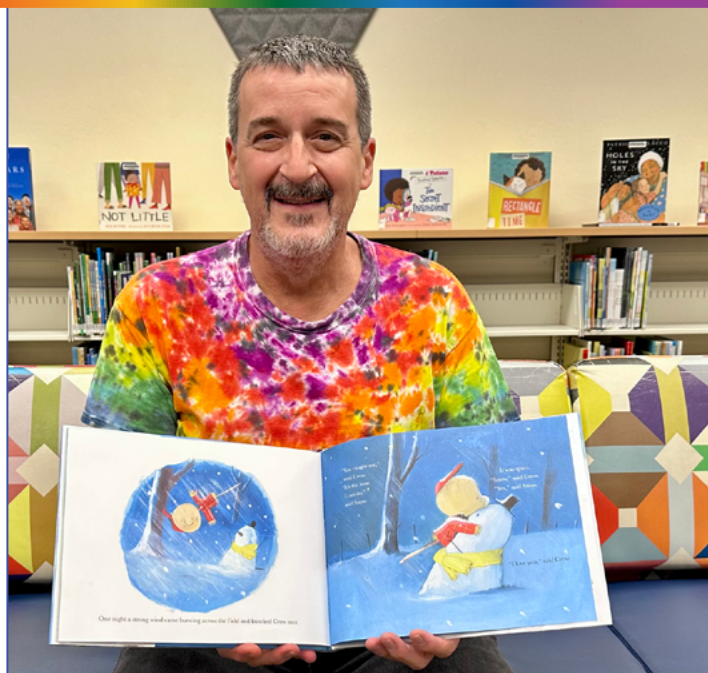


Photo credit: Tammy Orr

in use, the book bike is parked in the lobby of the main library. Flyers for upcoming library events, as well as bookmarks and other useful information, can be found on top of the book bike's cart.

He strongly believes in the work Senior Pride does throughout the community and loves to collaborate with us.

The LGBTQ+ community is very important to Toby. He is one of the founding members of the PCPL Pride Committee, which started in 1997 as the LGBTQ+ Services Committee.

The committee strives to make the library a welcoming place for all members of our community. Readers can visit their website for staff-selected LGBTQ+ book recommendations. The committee also hosts community events, such as author talks. Toby became acquainted with Senior Pride through a virtual artist talk with local celebrity and Senior Pride favorite, Carlos Valenzuela. He strongly believes in the work Senior Pride does throughout the community and loves to collaborate with us. If you're ever in a library and see Toby in his tie dye shirt putting away a cart of books, helping guests at the counter, or filling in for story time, be sure to stop by and say hello.

ONGOING EVENTS: For more information, registration and Zoom links visit www.SoAzSeniorPride.org

HONORING A LIFE: ADVANCE MEDICAL CARE PLANNING WORKSHOPS

These workshops give LGBTQI+ 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 LGBTQI+ individual is protected in those situations. Erin Russ 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. Workshops will be both in-person and on zoom, unless otherwise noted. Location TBD.

Next Workshop dates:

Workshop: Sunday, Jan. 22 2023, 2 – 4 PM
Register Online – <https://soazseniorpride.org>
Register by Wednesday, Jan. 18.

Workshop: Thursday, March 16, 2023, 1 - 3 PM
Register Online – <https://soazseniorpride.org>
Register by Thursday, March 9

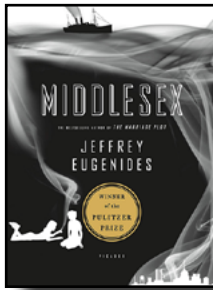
The in-person location will be provided to registrants along with workshop materials the week before the workshop. If more than one person will be attending with you, have them also register so we can send sufficient materials for every attendee.

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

SENIOR PRIDE BOOK CLUB – <https://soazseniorpride.org> for more information and registration. Or email: info@soazseniorpride.org

Middlesex By Jeffrey Eugenides

January 18, 2023
2:00 - 3:30 p.m.



Winner of the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for fiction, this book is narrated by Cal, a boy with a vestigial penis who's mistaken for a girl for the first 14 years of his life and who is "funny, humane, endearingly self-aware..." (*San Francisco Chronicle*)

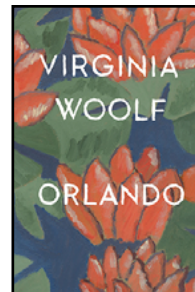
"Here's a novel that emphatically declines to state whether it's a guy book or a chick book. Instead, it's the most reliably American story there is: A son of immigrants finally finds love after growing up feeling like a freak ... [Eugenides'] rarer power resides in the ability to craft scenes whose freshness of incident matches their freshness of description." (*San Francisco Chronicle*)

Find this book at the Pima County Public Library: <https://pima.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S91C2030447>

Orlando: A Biography

By Virginia Woolf

February 15, 2023
2:00 - 3:30 p.m.



February's selection is *Orlando: A Biography* by Virginia Woolf. Published in 1928 Woolf plays fast and loose with this "biography," which is actually a fictional yet truthful tribute to Woolf's friend and lover, Vita Sackville-West. A

journey through history (not in historical order), gender changes (back and forth), and long life (how about 400 years?) Woolf questions our expectations relating to gender and allows us to wonder if gender roles aren't just a bit arbitrary. *Orlando* was made into a movie in 1962 starring Tilda Swinton and also has been adapted for the stage.

Find this book at the Pima County Public Library: <https://pima.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S91C1058604>

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