



**SOUTHERN
ARIZONA
SENIOR
PRIDE**

SENIOR
LGBTQI+ Elder Voice
FORUM

**PRIDE IS AGELESS.
CELEBRATE!**
**EL ORGULLO NO TIENE
EDAD. ¡CELEBRA!**
MAY-JUNE 2023
Volume 19 • Issue Three

Celebrating, Supporting, and Uniting LGBTQI+ Older Adults

Off and Running: Scott McDonald, Senior Pride's New Executive Director

Scott McDonald, the new Executive Director of South Arizona Senior Pride, has launched an exciting new chapter for the organization.

Scott brings a wealth of expertise and skill to the position. Most recently, he served as Interim Executive Director for Arizona Land and Water Trust, following four years as Deputy Director.

Previously, he served in corporate leadership roles in businesses including General Motors, Rain Bird, and Fluidmaster as well as entrepreneurial ventures. In the 1990's at General Motors, Scott co-founded the company's first openly LGBTQ employee group, "GM PLUS" (GM People Like Us).

"Scott brings substantial commitment and dedication to Senior Pride. The Board is pleased to work with him to develop a sustainable and increasingly influential organization," said Robert Bell, Chair, Senior Pride Board of Directors. Scott began in March.

Scott's commitment to Senior Pride began as a volunteer with the Finance Committee.

Scott completed his undergraduate studies at General Motors Institute (now Kettering University) in Michigan. He received an MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business in California.

He has served on a number of nonprofit boards, including the National Urban League and Second Harvest Food Bank in Tennessee.

Photo credit: Denise Barnes



He and his husband, Tracy Mack, celebrate twenty years together.

Scott is the first salaried Executive Director for Senior Pride. He builds on the groundwork of Lavina Tomer, who served voluntarily as Executive

Director for many years and laid the foundation for the current progress. Most recently, Keith Ashley was Interim Executive Director.

Message from Scott McDonald

Greetings! I am honored and humbled to serve as the first full-time Executive Director of Southern Arizona Senior Pride, joining many others in celebrating, supporting and uniting LGBTQI+ older adults. I invite you to join in this effort if you aren't already active with our organization!

Senior Pride has a long history based in volunteerism and community spirit. Next year, we will celebrate its 20th anniversary of celebrating Tucson's LGBT Older Adults.

With my work experience spanning 30+ years in the corporate sector, I recently served as Deputy Director and interim Executive Director of a local environmental nonprofit over the last 5 years. I believe in listening first and ensuring we are the best possible stewards of all funds generously provided by individual, foundation and corporate supporters.

I look forward to meeting each of you and working together to recognize and respond to the unique concerns and needs of our incredible community and I thank you for this opportunity!



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

1632 N. Country Club Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85716

(520) 312-8923

info@soazseniorpride.org
www.SoAzSeniorPride.org

FOLLOW US!

facebook

YouTube

Board of Directors

Robert Bell, Chair

Luis Ortega, Vice Chair

Linda Philips, Secretary

Lavina Tomer, Interim Treasurer

They serve with Lee Crosby,
Joyce Bolinger, Fred Rodriguez,
and Josefina Ahumada

Staff:

Scott McDonald, Executive Director

Lavina Tomer, Executive Director
Emeritus

Erin Russ, Coordinator, Advance
Medical Care Planning Program

Kim Hamel-Brown, Part-time
Assistant

About Senior Forum

Meredith Glaubach and
Joyce Bolinger, Newsletter Editors

Connie Rose, Graphic Designer

*To receive printed copies by
mail, call (520) 312-8923
to be put on the Forum's
mailing list or email us at
info@soazseniorpride.org*

SAVE THESE DATES:

SENIOR PRIDE MUSEUM TOUR CENTER FOR CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY: LINDA MCCARTNEY RETROSPECTIVE —

10:30 AM on Saturday, May 27, 2023

This docent-led exhibition tour for Senior Pride celebrates McCartney's thirty year, barrier-breaking career, as well as her connection to Tucson. This exhibition covers Linda McCartney's career, from 1965 to 1997. Featuring 176 photographs and additional archival materials that offer insight into her working methods, the exhibition is presented in three sections: Family, Photographic Experimentation, and Artists. Family features poignant accounts of her life as mother, wife, and animal activist. The Photographic Experimentation section includes several unique artworks. In Artists, we see McCartney's early portraits of the dynamic 1960s music scene which capture the vulnerability of future world-conquering rock stars. The range of works in the exhibition, including never-before-seen Tucson views, reflect the spontaneity and ease of her photographic style.



Free admission. Register <https://soazseniorpride.org>

Address: 1030 North Olive Road

For directions: info@ccp.arizona.edu Phone: 520-621-7968

SENIOR PRIDE CULTURAL TOUR: VALLEY OF THE MOON

2544 E Allen Rd.*

Saturday, June 24 2023 at 8 AM

Looking for a unique experience in Tucson? Welcome to Valley of the Moon, a magical outdoor fairyland park. Valley of the Moon is a little known local historic landmark. Designed and constructed by George Phar Legler between 1923 and 1932, this is an imaginative landscape with Storybook Style buildings. Operated by an enthusiastic community of volunteers, Valley of the Moon continues a strong tradition of theatrical performances and fantasy adventures which have delighted generations of guests and volunteers. A special docent- led tour for Senior Pride will conclude with an opportunity for sharing experiences and coffee and snacks in the outdoor picnic area.



Free, however donations to Valley of the Moon are appreciated.

Register <https://soazseniorpride.org>

* For directions: 520 312-8923 or email info@soazseniorpride.org.
Valley of the Moon • <https://www.tucsonvalleyofthemoon.com>

Open the camera app on your smartphone and point the camera at this QR code). Tap the yellow square that appears to connect directly to our website homepage. ¡VOILA!



COMMUNITY PROFILE: PAT O'DONNELL BY MEREDITH GLAUBACH

Pat O'Donnell has dedicated her life to serving her community, but her life as a Lesbian nun was quite complicated. As a young woman, she knew she was interested in nursing (which she learned through doing lab work for her military doctor dad), teaching, and supporting poor communities. She found that becoming a nun at the Dominican Mission in Houston would be a way to pursue all of her passions. By the time she joined she had been proposed to three separate times, but had yet to fully discover her own sexuality. Once she joined the mission, she became Sister Rosita. As is custom, every few years her post would change, and she would be assigned to a new community with a new job. She taught everything from pre-school to college classes.

During this time, she developed a relationship with another nun. She was overcome with guilt. Eventually, she was assigned to the Picture Rocks Retreat outside of Tucson. There she attended a retreat at the Desert House of Prayer, where she was guided through intensive dream work. Over the retreat her dreams reflected her fear, confusion, safety, and ultimately self-acceptance and celebration of her sexuality.

SPECIAL EVENT: Vegetarian Cook-off

Senior Pride joined Congregation M'kor Hayim for a culinary challenge in March at the Jewish Philanthropies of Southern Arizona.



Photos by: J Bolinger

LBGTQ+ communities. For recipes contact J Bolinger info@soazseniorpride.org

Mock chopped liver is a food often made for the Jewish holiday of Passover. Four cooks offered versions of vegetarian Pâté for judging by Senior Pride and M'kor Hayim participants. Purpose: to create alliances with the Tucson Jewish and



Jane Levin, the creator and organizer of the event

Photos by: Meredith Glaubach



Pat O'Donnell and her Dream Art

A few years later she submitted an essay to be published in the book "Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence". She was proud of her openness and sent it to her colleagues. She believed that a center focused on accepting people as they are, would extend the same warmth to her; unfortunately, they did not. She received significant harassment from staff and community members in response to her participation in the book, and felt that if she stayed in the position, she would be relegated to a hidden role, like filing paperwork in the basement. Instead, after 28 years of service, she decided she wanted a clean break from her life as a nun. She wrote to Rome for a disposition, which she received very quickly.

She had come to love Tucson and her vast network of friends here, and with their help she created a life here. She transformed her experience with Spiritual Direction and Holistic Counseling into a career, which she did until retirement at the age of 80. Now, she identifies more with spirituality than Catholicism, and enjoys her many cats, the local birds, and her rock collection

 **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: SBahnsen@pcoa.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 necessary directive documents like living wills and powers of attorney, as well as other considerations to make sure your health care wishes are recorded and your identity as a LGBTQI+ individual is protected. 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 are in-person and on zoom, unless noted. Location TBA.

Next Workshop dates:

Workshop: Thursday, May 25, 11 am-1 pm.
and Tuesday, June 27, 2-4 pm.

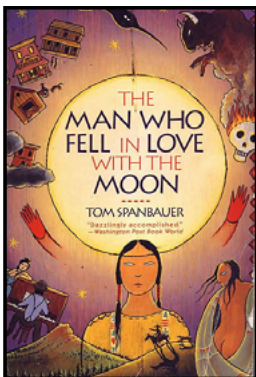
The in-person location will be provided to registrants along with workshop materials the week before the workshop. If more than one person will be attending with you, have them also register so we can send sufficient materials for every attendee.

Register Online – <https://soazseniorpride.org>

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

The Man Who Fell in Love With the Moon: A Novel By Tom Spanbauer



Wednesday, May 17,
2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Publishers Weekly says "Spanbauer fuses raunchy dialogue, pathos, local color, heartbreak and a serious investigation of racism in this stunning narrative." But this is not the final word on his book.

Goodreads reveals readers who were passionately disappointed - and even angry - about this story

of a native American boy on a journey to find himself. An Amazon reader says, "Spanbauer reinforces the idea that it's rarely the destination but the journey that transforms." We expect a lively discussion when we meet in May.

Gender Queer: A Memoir By Maia Kobabe



Wednesday, June 21,
2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

What started to explain to their family what it means to be non-binary and asexual, is now Gender Queer which is, according to NPR, the most banned book in the U.S. Onipress.com explains, "Gender Queer is more than a personal story: it is a useful and touching

guide on gender identity—what it means and how to think about it—for advocates, friends, and humans everywhere."

This 2019 graphic memoir is also illustrated by the author.

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
<https://soazseniorpride.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.