



**SOUTHERN
ARIZONA
SENIOR
PRIDE**

SENIOR
LGBTQI+ Elder Voice
FORUM

**PRIDE IS AGELESS.
CELEBRATE!**
**EL ORGULLO NO TIENE
EDAD. ¡CELEBRA!**
JULY-AUGUST 2023
Volume 19 • Issue Four

Celebrating, Supporting, and Uniting LGBTQI+ Older Adults

Tucson LGBTQI+ Elders... Proud and Concerned

President Biden recently proclaimed June as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex Pride Month. Similar proclamations have been issued before in commemoration of the 1969 Stonewall Uprising that sparked the public fight for the civil rights of members of the LGBTQI+ community. Pride month is about recognition, celebration, and visibility of our community. It is about our communities' past successes and contributions and also some unfinished business. It is about our future—a future that we, as Board members for Southern Arizona Senior Pride, know is currently imperiled.

While “imperiled” may seem a strong statement, the Arizona Daily Star on June 6 reported that the Human Rights Campaign just declared a state of emergency warning that the LGBTQI+ community is being assaulted by “unprecedented and dangerous” legislation. State and local lawmakers, including some in Arizona, have introduced over 600 pieces of legislation targeting our community. Many of these have passed. The homophobic and transphobic hate and intimidation tactics being used in schools, libraries, and health care settings are well publicized. A recent study by **Movement Advancement Project (MAP) published in March 2023** concluded that a segment of US society is acting to “erase GLBTQ people from school and public life.” Nationally, these assaults are being translated systematically into policy change and legislation, in particular against transgender people as well as drag performers. Due to lies and discriminatory tropes about the



LGBTQI+ community spread by certain social and public media outlets, the assaults are being converted into targeted harassment, threats and violence.

Given the strength of the attacks and vehemence of anti-gay activists you might think they are fueled by an outpouring of negative public opinion. That would be untrue. A recent fact sheet on public opinion polls compiled by the Human Rights Campaign shows a majority of likely voters in the US agree that the flood of legislation against the LGBTQI+ is excessive and demonstrates “political theater.” A majority disapprove of banning content on gender identity and sexual identities in schools, classrooms and libraries. A large majority support same-sex marriage. A very large majority, independent of partisanship, religious affiliation, and geography, support non-discrimination protections for members of the community. The point is clear: most Americans view members of our community for who we are—friends, family members and neighbors who, despite having faced some of life’s hardships and setbacks, are resilient, strong and contributing members of society. Most Americans

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

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SAVE THESE DATES:

**Senior Pride in collaboration with Congregation
M'kor Hayim present documentary — *Ruthie and
Connie: Every Room in the House***

2-4 pm, Thursday, July 20, 2023

Community Room, Habitat for Humanity, 3501 N Mountain Ave.

Free admission

*Sandra Butler, Co-producer, will be present to discuss the
making and meaning of the documentary.*

Over two decades ago, many of us were inspired by the story of two Jewish grandmothers from Brooklyn who fell in love and launched the marriage equality movement. Friends from the 1950s, in 1974, the two women fell in love and became a couple. **Continues on Page three,**

Tucson LGBTQI+ Elders... Proud and Concerned

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know our presence takes nothing away from them. Our existence adds to their lives through our contributions to art and literature, science, education, healthcare and other endeavors.

That said, Tucson has been one of the more progressive, accepting and embracing communities when it comes to LGBTQI+ people and for that we are most ordinance appreciative. Tucson has a history of being inclusive, including its decades old anti-discrimination ordinance, yet there is still more to be done. We respectfully ask our fellow Tucsonans to join in thanking Governor Hobbs and Mayor Romero for their displays of rainbow flags on public buildings. Please also advise other government officials and legislators that like us, you do not believe anyone living in the US should be targeted, intimidated or threatened. Tell them none of us should live in fear just because of who we are and who we love. Consider donating to the ACLU, Lambda Legal or our own local LGBTQ Alliance Fund, the umbrella support of Tucson area LGBTQI+ organizations. Encourage the Arizona Daily Star to provide regular coverage of the LGBTQI+ community in Southern Arizona.

As older adults, we have witnessed decades of gradual movement toward the light of inclusion. We can testify to the pain and heartache, isolation and loneliness, loss of family and even economic loss our community has endured.

Please don't turn the page of history back, but instead take a stand and let's celebrate this month together as a celebration of all of us!

*This guest opinion by the Senior Pride Board of Directors was
featured in the Arizona Daily Star, June 14, 2023*

Ruthie and Connie: Every Room in the House

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They became advocates for gay rights and ultimately a range of LGBTQI+ causes. Their decades long story is a case of the personal becoming and remaining political. As activist Jewish lesbians, they were a model and a demand for visibility, insistence and the ongoing need to organize and resist.

In 1994, they and others won groundbreaking rights for domestic partners from the New York Board of Education. Connie Kurtz died in 2018, and Ruthie Berman has moved to Florida. Sandra Butler, the co-producer, who is active in Senior Pride, has interviewed Ruthie since then about her life without Connie.

For those unable to attend, a zoom link of the discussion will be offered. Attendance is limited, please register <https://soazseniorpride.org/event/ruthie-connie/> for in-person attendance or zoom link for discussion.



Photo credit: New York Times

Connie Kurtz and Ruthie Berman

Senior Pride Museum Tour Tucson Museum of Art

140 N Main St.

10 am, Saturday, August 26, 2023

Free admission but registration is limited.

Register at <https://soazseniorpride.org/event/tma-tour/>.

This docent-led tour for Senior Pride will focus on the Arizona Biennial 2023, a six-month showcase which includes 67 works selected by curator Taína Caragol. Caragol is curator of painting, sculpture, and Latino art and history at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C. She is best known to many for leading the gallery's commission of Kehinde Wiley's 2018 portrait of President Barack Obama.

This year, the biennial includes sixty-seven pieces by fifty-six artists selected from 400 open-call entries. Featured media include drawing, painting, photography, sculpture, textiles, video, and more.



Photo by: Julius Schlosburg

According to Southwest Contemporary, this year, the biennial includes sculptures by Nikki Berger Martinez, who incorporated foraged and found objects such as seed pods and wire, as well as video and photography from David Taylor's Complex series exploring migrant detention centers into her work. "I was very impressed with the wide range of media, the rigor of the work, and how you could see the state's ethnic and cultural diversity," Caragol recalls of reviewing artist submissions during her first trip to Arizona in 2022.

"I loved the focus on the environment and the immediate geographical context," adds Caragol.

"You can see the beauty and the harshness, and the way geopolitics are embedded in the landscape of this border state." But she was also struck

by works addressing several additional themes, including labor and obsolescence, pandemic experiences, and cultural assimilation.

Quotes from Lynn Trimble, Southwest Contemporary <https://southwestcontemporary.com/arizona-biennial-2023/>

For more information on the museum, <https://www.tucsonmuseumofart.org>.



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

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

WE ALL NEED ADVANCE MEDICAL CARE PLANNING!

HONORING A LIFE: ADVANCE MEDICAL CARE PLANNING WORKSHOPS

If you haven't yet attended one of our workshops for LGBTQI+ older adults to properly plan for medical care and end of life needs, you really should before you need it!

Easy-to-complete living wills, powers of attorney and other important documents are covered, as well as other ways to ensure your health care wishes are recorded and your identity as a LGBTQI+ individual is protected.

Next 90 minute Workshops on:

**Wednesday, August 9th 1:30 – 3pm (ZOOM ONLY)
and Thursday, September 14th,
10 – 11:30am (in-person and ZOOM)**

The in-person Tucson location will be provided to registrants along with workshop materials a week before the workshop, with Zoom option available upon request. To ensure enough materials, all attendees need to register online via link in upcoming Friday eNews or by clicking the date above.

For more information, or to schedule a follow-up "Meet and Complete" session or one-on-one coaching, please email eol@soazseniorpride.org or call (520) 312-8923.

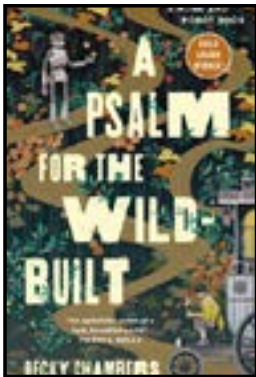
SAVE THE DATE for our Dia de los Muertos Resource Fair on **Friday, November 3rd** to be held at United Way's North Commerce Park Loop campus – we are seeking volunteers for our planning committee and the actual event!

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

A Psalm for the Wild Built

By Becky Chambers

**Wednesday, July 19,
2:00 - 3:30 p.m.**



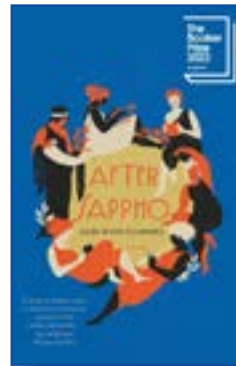
After science fiction writer Becky Chambers won the Hugo Award for her two-novella *Wayfarers* series, she was commissioned to write a "solarpunk" novella that resulted in another two-novella series. The first book is *A Psalm for the Wild Built*. Solarpunk "envision[s] and works toward actualizing a sustainable future interconnected

with nature and community," says Wikipedia. The setting for the book is a moon called Panga. Dex, a tea monk meets Splendid Speckled Mossap, a robot, and they travel to explore the question, "What do people need?" Publishers Weekly called it a "cozy, wholesome meditation on the nature of consciousness and its place in the natural world."

After Sappho

By Selby Wynn Schwartz

**Wednesday, August 16,
2:00 - 3:30 p.m.**



Published earlier this year, Schwartz's *After Sappho* is a "bold and original" novel.

Unique in its conception and its execution, Schwarz combines the voices of women generally of the late 19th and early 20th to "create a chorus that forms the narrative voice." That "we" encompasses

"all the women who have transgressed by asking for freedom and by loving other women.

"The result is not quite narrative fiction and not quite history either. It is, however, a work of stirring genius." Jacob Brogan of the Washington Post.

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
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