

Southern Arizona's Lesbian,  
Gay, Bisexual & Transgender  
Community Center

New Address!  
425 East 7th Street  
Tucson Arizona 85705  
Telephone 520-624-1779

wingspan.org

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## Inside

*Holiday events* **03**

*Several long-time  
Wingspan friends*

*honored at UA*

*Women's Plaza* **04**

*The most  
successful benefit  
dinner yet* **07**

# Wingspan's New Space Helps to Grow Community

**com-mu-nity** (kə myōō' nə tē)

**n., 1.** a group of people having common interests **2.** sharing, participation, fellowship **3.** an intersecting population of various kinds of individuals

Never before has Wingspan's physical space reflected so accurately the word community used in its name: Southern Arizona's LGBT Community Center. With its recent move to 425 E 7th Street and grand reopening in July, Wingspan now offers expanded meeting space, larger offices, and a greater ability to bring LGBT and allied people together under one roof.

There has never been a shortage of interest from community members in partnering with Wingspan to offer support, social, political and other gatherings to our communities; in the past, however, limited space occasionally made that difficult. For a while, Wingspan rented an additional space, the "annex" on 4th Avenue, in order to accommodate additional gatherings. Now, with much needed additional square feet and two more private meeting rooms, Wingspan is able to offer plenty of space in one location, and that makes a real difference to community members.

"It's great to finally have a home for our group," says Maurice Grossman, a member of the Buddhist Meditation group that meets weekly at Wingspan. "The Buddha's smile is much bigger now," he adds with a chuckle.

Wingspan Office Coordinator Victor Ventura confirms that the new

meeting spaces are a big success.

"The response has been tremendous," Ventura says. "The annex groups are all back under one roof, and new groups approach us weekly about using the space. All of this has increased traffic, making Wingspan feel like a true community center."

As Wingspan has expanded, so has the center's need to actively manage its resources and space. To that end, a new staff position, Community Center Coordinator, was created and has been filled by Jaecin Harris. Harris, whose first name is pronounced like Jason, previously worked for eight months as the activist/organizer for EON, Wingspan's youth program in conjunction with SAAF, CODAC, and the Department of Health. She began her new job as Community Center Coordinator in early October and has enthusiastically tackled her new responsibilities, including oversight of the front desk and its volunteers, Wingspan's Information & Referral service, the library, the cyber center, and facilities management.

Says Harris of her new job, "Our community benefits so much from our programs, commitment, and drive. I would love to have Wingspan's name in the community be synonymous with resources *and fun*." To that end, Harris plans to bring a wide variety of new activities and events to Wingspan. Community members can anticipate socials, movie nights, poker tournaments, crafts, a book club, sex chats, and much more.



Volunteer Jim Sincox and staff member Mellita Quance enjoy the new community space



Community Center Coordinator Jaecin Harris

Wingspan is for the community and needs you to become involved. What would you like to see offered at Wingspan? A new social or support group? A unique event? Wingspan needs your ideas and help to make these things happen. To book a room at Wingspan or to talk about starting something new, please contact Jaecin Harris at 520-624-1779 x 15 or [jharris@wingspan.org](mailto:jharris@wingspan.org).

**by Kirsten Larsen**

## AZ Together Spreads Wings

Along with the Arizona Human Rights Fund (AHRF), Wingspan was a prime founder of Arizona Together, formed in early 2005 to combat the proposed Protect Marriage Amendment (PMA) to the state constitution, which is anticipated to be on the November 2006 ballot. Now that relationship is changing a bit.

"As a community center, our strength is connecting with the community; doing education, providing volunteers, and recruiting new members and allies," says Kent Burbank, Wingspan's *(continued on page 6)*

02

**Wingspan Board of Directors**

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 Michael Woodward, *Southern Arizona Gender Alliance Program Coordinator*

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Wingspan publishes *The Center* quarterly. Notices of events, news entries, and articles must include the name of the contact person or writer, telephone number and/or email address and may be sent to: Newsletter/Wingspan 425 East 7th Street Tucson, Arizona 85705-8513 or [wingspan@wingspan.org](mailto:wingspan@wingspan.org) Please email text as a Microsoft Word attachment.

**Make a Difference Day 11/06/05**

On Sunday, November 6, Wingspan volunteers will join with other community members for the 14th Annual Make a Difference Day. The group will work on the home of a local Holocaust survivor and will pack up local charity Worldcare for their move to a new location. To volunteer, contact Glenn Fournie at 520-883-1027.



**“Ballot Measure 9” Forum 11/09/05**

Wingspan hosts a Community Forum on Wednesday, November 9 from 6-7:30 pm focusing on the documentary “Ballot Measure 9.” The film follows the courageous grassroots organizing of the Oregon community in response to a discriminatory initiative. After the film, stay for a discussion about ways for people to increase both their activism and safety during these politically charged times.

**Catie Curtis Concert 11/10/05**



Wingspan, Green Fire Music, and Tucson PFLAG present dynamic, out lesbian, singer-songwriter Catie Curtis on Thursday, November 10, at 7:30 pm at Green Fire Music & Art Collective, 925 East Fort Lowell Road. Tickets are \$16 at Green Fire Music. Call for information at 520-408-0677.

**Rainbow Build Open House 11/12/05**

To celebrate the Habitat for Humanity Rainbow Build home, an open house will be held on Saturday, November 12, from 1-4 pm at 2891 N. Balboa Ave. Rainbow Build is coalition of LGBT groups and allies through which more than 200 volunteers put in 2,000+ hours to complete the home.



**“Red Without Blue” Sneak Preview 11/14/05**

Tucson-native director Brooke Sebold visits from San Francisco to screen her film, “Red Without Blue,” on Monday, November 14, at the Loft Cinema. \$10 tickets include the film and speakers’ panel, \$25 also includes a private reception. Reception begins at 6 pm, film at 7:15 pm. For more information contact Ed Leven at [LGBTinfo@jfsa.org](mailto:LGBTinfo@jfsa.org). Sponsored by the LGBT Jewish Inclusion Project.

**Gay American Smoke Out 11/17/05**



The LGBT community has the highest rate of smoking of any marginalized population. On Thursday, November 17 from 5-7 pm Wingspan hosts the Gay American Smoke OUT. Celebrate your smoke-free lifestyle or find resources to begin kicking the habit. Includes information tables, giveaways, music, food, and fun.

**Senior Pride Thanksgiving 11/19/05**

Senior Pride, Wingspan’s LGBT 55 and older social group, hosts a “family” Thanksgiving dinner at Wingspan on Saturday, November 19 from 1-4 pm. This will be a potluck feast to remember. Don’t sit home alone- come on down and join us. Call Pat Woelke at 520-624-1779 x 22 for more information.

**Festival For Life 11/19/05**

The Jérôme Beillard Festival for Life is Saturday, November 19 at 5 pm at the UA Student Union Memorial Center Grand Ballroom. A splendid evening of art, food and spirits, gaming and live music will benefit the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation. Tickets are \$50 in advance or \$60 at the door. To purchase tickets, call Mae at 520-628-7223 or visit [www.FestivalForLife.org](http://www.FestivalForLife.org).



**Trans Day of Remembrance 11/20/05**

The Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (SAGA) hosts an observance of the Seventh Annual International Transgender Day of Remembrance on Sunday, November 20 at 4:30 pm at Catalina Park (4th Avenue and 2nd St.), featuring music and speakers followed by a reception at Wingspan.



**Creating Change Forum 11/30/05**

Wingspan hosts a "Report Back from Creating Change" Community Forum on Wednesday, November 30 from 6:30-8 pm. The forum will feature Wingspan staff and community members who attended Creating Change, the country's most unique and stimulating conference for the LGBT political movement.

**World AIDS Day 12/01/05**



Thursday, December 1 is World AIDS Day. Join with others on this day of remembrance at Pima Community College's Downtown Campus Amethyst Room. Information booths begin at 3 pm; speakers from 5-7 pm. For more information about World AIDS Day, call 520-879-6643.

**Partner Registry 12/03/05**

On Saturday, December 3 from 4-6 pm Wingspan celebrates the second anniversary of Tucson's Domestic Partner Registry. Registered couples can stop by Wingspan with their certificate and have their picture taken. Couples can register at the event--all you need is your partner, a \$50 check made out to the City of Tucson, and a smile.

**Desert Voices Concert 12/03/05-12/04/05**

Music about love, snow and the season: "As We Dream By The Fire" is the Desert Voices Winter Concert, held Saturday, December 3 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, December 4 at 2 pm Dunbar Auditorium, 325 W. 2nd Street. Tickets are \$18 at the door or \$15 in advance from [www.desertvoices.org](http://www.desertvoices.org) or Antigone Books (520-792-3715).



**Senior Pride Holidays 12/10/05**

Senior Pride participants will celebrate the holidays with a volunteer recognition celebration and white elephant gift exchange on Saturday, December 10 from 4-7 pm in a volunteer's home. Have you attended a Senior Pride BBQ, tea, social or forum? You are on the invitation list! Call Pat Woelke at 520-624-1779 x 22 for more information.

**Reveille Concert 12/10/05-12/11/05**



Reveille's annual Christmas show, "Behold That Star", will take place on Saturday, December 10 at 8 pm, and Sunday, December 11 at 3 pm at Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2331 E. Adams St. Tickets are \$12.00 in advance, \$15.00 at the door and are available at [www.reveillegmc.com](http://www.reveillegmc.com), or by calling Reveille at 520-617-3100.

**Fiesta de los Osos 01/13/05-01/16/05**

The Bears of the Old Pueblo host the 10th Annual Fiesta de los Osos from Friday, January 13-Monday, January 16. This year the Bears expect up to 300 participants for the theme "The Venerable Cowboy". For more information, contact the Bears of the Old Pueblo at [www.botop.com](http://www.botop.com) or 520-790-5775.



*Register your partnership! >>*

*Don't miss the Senior Pride holiday celebration! >>*

## 04

*The Women's Plaza of Honor was dedicated September 30 at the University of Arizona >>*

## Longtime Wingspan Leaders Honored

An arch celebrating "Southern Arizona Women Activists" at the Women's Plaza of Honor includes tributes to two longtime Wingspan leaders. The plaza was dedicated September 30 at the University of Arizona. Engraved on the arch, which was underwritten by the Amazon Foundation, are the names of Jean Baker and Lavina Tomer, as well as other Tucson social activists. Jean, a psychologist, is a tireless advocate for people living with



*Jean and Lavina are among LGBT&S honorees at the UA Women's Plaza*

HIV/AIDS and a staunch supporter of Wingspan who has played an especially important role in the youth program. Founder of the Wingspan Domestic Violence Program (now the Wingspan Anti-Violence Project), Lavina began speaking out about the need for resources for LGBT domestic violence victims in 1993. Her activism before many city and state commissions and social services agencies broke down many barriers for LGBT victims and advanced the provision of services and counselors.

Wingspan Board Member Josefina Ahumada and other key figures in the LGBT&S community, including Katharine "Kittu" Riddle and Meredith Little, also are honored in the plaza's brick courtyard.

Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano was among the dignitaries at the dedication.

The plaza is on the University of Arizona campus in an area west of Centennial Hall and east of the Arizona State Museum. For more information about the project, please contact the UA Women's Studies Department or access the website [www.womensplaza.arizona.edu](http://www.womensplaza.arizona.edu).

**by Joyce Bolinger**

## Seniors Select New Books

Volunteers with Wingspan's new Senior Pride program realized that the Wingspan library didn't have many resources for seniors. Thanks to a grant from the Stocker Foundation, Wingspan has been able to acquire many new books for LGBT seniors. The selections were made by a collaboration of several staff members, volunteers

on the library committee, and LGBT senior community members. Most of the books were purchased locally from Antigone Books.

Nonfiction titles include *Whistling Women: a Study of Older Lesbians*; *One of the Boys: Masculinity, Homophobia, and Modern Manhood*; and *The Man I Might Become: Gay Men Write About Their Fathers*. In the fiction category are books whose characters lived in the '40s and '50s or whose plots detail life pre-Stonewall, like Ethan Morddan's epic *How Long Has This Been Going On?*

We owe a debt of gratitude to the bravery and tenacity of our seniors, many of whom came out when it was much riskier than it is today. "It's important that seniors see themselves as part of our community," says Pat Woelke, Wingspan's Senior Outreach Specialist, "and that we don't become invisible as we age." **by Bryan Scott**

## TMI Rocks The House

Six months after their official Tucson debut, local band Too Much Information (TMI) is going strong. Entertaining crowds at parties, open houses, cafés, and clubs, TMI brings the music of the 70s and 80s to life through the vocals of Michael Woodward, Jennifer Lopez, and Tracy Payer plus the fabulous musicianship of Bruce Blackstone, Sandra Starling, and Susan Banes. TMI is proud to point out that its members are transgender, transsexual, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and straight, reflecting the true diversity of the Tucson LGBT&S community. Woodward says that's important, but not critical, to an audience's enjoyment of the music. "We just want to make great music and show folks a good time, regardless of their—or our—gender identity or sexual orientation." Come out and get your groove on with TMI! The band's next public gig will be at The Humane Society of Southern Arizona's Doggie Boogie Benefit at AVA Amphitheater on November 19. For more information, or to request a demo, visit [www.tmi-band.com](http://www.tmi-band.com) or call 520-571-7878. **by Kirsten Larsen**



*TMI represents a well-rounded cross section of the LGBT&S community*



*Senior Pride members enjoy new library selections*

05

Research here resulted in a prestigious three-year grant from the Rockefeller Foundation >>

The Imagine Project began as a dream of a youth who wanted change >>

## UA LGBT Studies Program is Nationally Prominent



Dr. Eithne Luibheid, the new director of UA's Committee on LGBT Studies

Dr. Eithne Luibheid is the new director of the University of Arizona's Committee on LGBT Studies. Previously an assistant professor of ethnic studies at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, Dr. Luibheid received a Ph.D. in Ethnic Studies from the University of California, Berkeley. She is the author of *Entry Denied: Controlling Sexuality at the Border* (University of Minnesota Press, 2002), and co-editor of *Queer Migrations: Sexuality, U.S. Citizenship, and Border Crossings* (University of Minnesota Press, 2005.) Her research focuses on the intersections between sexual regulation, racial formation, and immigration control in transnational contexts.

The UA LGBT Studies Committee has attained national prominence for its pioneering work in examining the connections between sexuality, globalization, and social justice struggles. Their groundbreaking research resulted in a prestigious three-year grant from the Rockefeller Foundation.

Dr. Luibheid was born and raised in the Irish Republic and came to the U.S. at age 16. She has always been interested in the politics of migration.

"Being a migrant myself, of course was part of that interest," she says. "But also just understanding how migration is so often part of the basic human struggle." She accepted the position as director of LGBT Studies at the UA because she was excited about their past work linking sexual studies with issues of globalization and other social justice movements. She said she "is excited to develop and build upon this body of work."

Find more information about the UA LGBT Studies Committee at <http://web.arizona.edu/~lgbcom/> or call 520-626-3431.

by **Richard DiRusso**

## GSA Network's Imagine Project Supports Local Youth

Tucson's Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) student groups began this school year with a lot of energy and a growing network of community support. As the number of GSA groups in local high schools hit 14 last year, the student-led Imagine Project GSA Network was created to provide support and resources to GSAs throughout Tucson and Pima County.

Program Coordinator David Leimsieder says, "The Imagine Project began as a dream of a youth who wanted change." Student delegates meet to get and give advice about their GSAs and community events, and GSA alumni provide outreach by visiting the groups at their schools. Now in its second

year, the Imagine Project has made great strides in bringing students together.

This September, the group hosted Tucson's first county-wide GSA conference, called *Imagine This*. 40 students and advisors gathered to learn how to create change in their schools. Participants attended workshops on the legal rights of GSAs in schools, how to plan events, and how to be a strategic activist. According to participant Sam McMillan "It was nice to see LGBT youth joined together and becoming stronger."

The Imagine Project is working to bring students together for upcoming events, including the National Day of Silence, where students take a vow of silence to raise consciousness about those who have been silenced by hate.

The Imagine Project works with the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network (GLSEN) of Tucson and the Eon Youth Center, a program of Wingspan, SAAF, the Pima County Health Department, and CODAC Behavioral Health Services. by **J.C. Olson**



The Imagine Project Advisory Board

*Arizona Together needs its own Tucson office >>*

*A silent auction, dinner proceeds, and pledges raised a record-breaking total of \$170,000 for Wingspan >>*

## Arizona Together

*(continued from page 1)* Executive Director. Now, "it's time for Arizona Together to leave Wingspan's nest and fly solo," he says.

Wingspan will continue to support Arizona Together with a part-time staff member "working on volunteer aspects of the campaign, doing community education and outreach to the LGBT community, as well as to allies in the general community, especially faith-based ones," Kent added.

But Arizona Together now needs its own Tucson office, and Jessica Knutson is leaving Wingspan to become the full-time Outreach and Field Manager for the campaign as well as its Southern Arizona Coordinator.



*Arizona Together members Vicky Gaubeca and Fred Hubbard*

As Jess says, "We'll still have many meetings at Wingspan, including the every Thursday evening 'Double Trouble for PMA,'" which meets from 6- 8 pm to do data entry, phone bank calling, sign making, and more. New volunteers are always welcome. "Wingspan has been great in recruiting volunteers, educating people, and overall support," says Knutson, adding that "our partnership will continue to be a close one."

Arizona Together is urging all partnered individuals except those who are heterosexually married to sign up on their partner census at [www.PartnerCensus.org](http://www.PartnerCensus.org). Arizona Together's web site is [www.AzTogether.org](http://www.AzTogether.org). **by Joe Heller**

## Wingspan Dinner Was a Tremendous Success

On Saturday night, September 24th, more than 1,100 Wingspan supporters filled the Copper Ballroom of the Tucson Convention Center for our Eighth Annual Dinner. A silent auction, dinner proceeds, and pledges raised a record-breaking total of \$170,000 for Wingspan.

Keynote speaker Mandy Carter, Executive Director and a co-founder of Southerners On New Ground (SONG),

delivered a powerful message about "the power of one to make change." She emphasized the importance of making voters aware of the far-reaching scope of so-called "anti-gay marriage" initiatives.



*Attendees enjoy salsa music at the record breaking benefit dinner*

The event featured presentation of Wingspan's three annual awards.

The Hall Award was presented to Kathy Altman, long time Wingspan supporter and Board member, for her dedication and perseverance in working towards Wingspan's mission. In accepting the award, Kathy said "It is the incredible collective skill of many wonderful people that earned this award tonight."

The 2005 Godat Award was presented to Mae Krueger, a local artist and social activist who has drawn upon her leadership skills and artistic talent to build community and bring music to the people of Tucson. In her acceptance comments, Mae said "Please, get involved. I just want to encourage each of you to find that group, that cause, that you are passionate about, and give yourself to it."

The 2005 Community Ally Award was presented to Detective Tim Rupel, an officer with the Tucson Police Department's Special Investigations section who specializes in hate crimes. Detective Rupel has built strong relationships with local LGBT communities and has been an outstanding educator, speaker, liaison, and advocate for Wingspan. **by Joe Heller**

## Thanks for the Landscape

Wingspan has new landscaping thanks to the services of Jeffrey Loevenguth and Stephen Gordon of Loedon Landscaping, as well as the potted plants from Marylee Pangman of the Contained Gardener. It's beautiful!



*Thanks Loedon Landscaping and Contained Gardener for the new look*

## 07

**Wingspan thanks its corporate sponsors for their support**

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**Wingspan also acknowledges the generous support of its funders**

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## Community Shows Unprecedented Support

On September 24, Wingspan supporters stepped forward to demonstrate their long-term commitment to our work. In addition to the generous gifts of Randy Soderstrom and Steven Quinlan (\$15,000), Claire Thomas and Lori Kirgan (\$5,000), and an anonymous donor (\$5,000), “surprise” challenge grants were put forward by Centra Realty (\$5,000) and Gloria DeVore and Marge Sloane (\$6,000). This total challenge of \$36,000 was doubled as dinner guests contributed more than \$80,000. Many supporters are also in Wingspan Giving Circles, below.

**Ruby Circle- \$10,000+/yr for three years**

Kathy Altman & Ivy Schwartz

**Emerald Circle- \$5,000-\$9,999/yr for three years**

Margo Barnes & Vicky Stromee  
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 Claire Thomas & Lori Kirgan

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 Alan Storm & Bill Jones

\* Indicates new members as of the 8th Annual Dinner.

## Volunteer Profile



Alison Davison

Wingspan volunteer Alison Davison was born in New Jersey but calls Seattle, where she spent more than 30 years, home. She lived as a hippie in the Bay Area and found herself jailed for anti-war activities during the Viet Nam era. She has worked in the mental health field, served as a union organizer, detoured into corporate America, and today works as a case manager at the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation.

A proud transgender woman, Alison was still living and working in her birth sex part-time when she arrived in Tucson. Now those days are far behind her—in late September, she left for Thailand to receive the surgery that transformed her genitals from male to female.

Davison believes that sharing her experience is important because so many people need help through the journey of gender transition. Alison facilitates SAGA's Desert Girlz support group, coordinates the Goodrum Transgender Mental Health Project, serves on the SAGA Advisory Committee, and a variety of other committees. She's also one of only two certified trainers on trans-related HIV/AIDS issues in the state of Arizona.

Her daughter recently delivered Alison's first grandchild. Alison is still getting used to the idea of being a grandmother—especially given that her daughter still sometimes calls her “Dad”.

Alison cites her first Wingspan Annual Dinner as one of her favorite Wingspan experiences. “It was my first opportunity to comfortably be Alison in public. It felt really good to be so freely out and open, especially at such a classy event.”

“Wingspan is the best integrated LGBT center I've ever seen—a place where all the letters fit and are welcome.”

**by Michael Woodward**



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# Save the date for the 2006 Wingspan FilmFest!

**C'mon out and watch!**  
**March 3-5, 2006**

Look for the invitation in your mailbox or check the website updates February 2006.

Call 520-624-1779 for more information.  
[www.wingspan.org/FilmFest](http://www.wingspan.org/FilmFest)

## Wingspan is looking for a long-term relationship! Sign on and offer your support every month of the year.

Name	Partner's Name	
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Email		

### I Pledge

**\$10** per month for the next 12 months

**\$25** per month for the next 12 months

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**\$** per month for the next 12 months

Please charge my: Visa / MasterCard / AmEx #

Expiration	Signature
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Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to "Wingspan"

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Please do not include my name in Wingspan's donor recognition materials.

Wingspan is a not-for-profit organization. Your contribution is tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by the law. **Mail this form to Wingspan at 425 East 7th Street, Tucson, AZ 85705**