

Wingspan Celebrates 10th Anniversary of Benefit Dinner

By Dick Rehse

And what a tenth anniversary this was! From the opening humor of Reveille Men's Chorus to the closing bars of Desert Voices' lullaby, the 10th Annual Wingspan Benefit Dinner was an event not to be missed. Through ticket sales, the silent auction and 50/50 raffle, sponsorships, and many generous contributions towards the evening's challenge gifts; the Benefit Dinner raised \$285,000 to support Wingspan's important programs and services. Host Marga Gomez highlighted the evening, drawing belly laughs while also offering insights into our lives. Speakers told touching stories of how Wingspan has impacted them while highlighting the stunning achievements made

by Tucson's community center in recent years. A video presentation paid tribute to the remarkable contributions made over the past ten years by recipients of Wingspan's Godat, Steve Hall, and Community Ally Awards. Since its premiere in 1998; the Wingspan Benefit Dinner has grown into a much anticipated celebration of our community attended by more than 1,100 Wingspan supporters and friends. Thank you to every member of the Wingspan community who made this year's Benefit Dinner a success. We look forward to 2008, when Wingspan celebrates 20 years of service to Southern Arizona's LGBT community.



Join MOCA & Wingspan for a night OUT with Andy Warhol's Hard to Find Art

Cinema Classic *Lonesome Cowboys*

Filed in Tucson & Oracle in 1968
Saturday, November 17, 7:30pm

As part of MOCA's ongoing presentation of important and influential works of art created in Tucson or by Tucsonans entitled Made in Tucson/Born in Tucson, MOCA and Wingspan will join forces for a one-night-only screening of Andy Warhol's 1968 art house classic *Lonesome Cowboys*. As a special treat at the screening of this hard to find film, former Rancho Linda Vista residents artist Steve Romaniello and writer Charlotte Lowe-Bailey will share stories of the lowlights and highlights of Andy's visit to the Old Pueblo in the winter of '68 and reminisce on the Southern Arizona art scene of the late 60s and early 70s.

Come find out for yourself why this film was all the rage of the 1968 art house film circuit and why, according to Andy, "the grips, the electricians, and the people who built the sets formed a vigilante committee to run us out of town, just like in a real cowboy movie... saying, 'you perverted easterners, go back where you came from.'"

The screening will take place at The Screening Room located at 127 E. Congress Street (at 6th Avenue) on Saturday, November 17, at 7:30pm. Admission is \$5 MOCA Members, \$10 non-members. Free street parking during the evenings or low-cost, covered parking at the Parkwise Garage at Scott and Pennington (above Café Poca Cosa).



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Elizabeth Burden

"As a bisexual African-American woman, I have always found myself pulled toward organizations that examine and address the complex intersections of oppression across the historical divides of ethnicity, sexuality, gender identity, and socio-economic status. It is my experience that the LGBT community is not one homogenous body; to the contrary it is our rich diversity, I believe, that inspires us toward greatness.

Wingspan's commitment to representing and supporting the many diverse communities and people who make up LGBT Southern Arizona reminds me daily of my own commitment to fight for nothing less than full equality for all Southern Arizonans. Only then will Wingspan's mission to promote the freedom, equality, safety, and well-being of LGBT people truly be achieved. I am proud to serve Wingspan and further that mission."

Elizabeth Burden,
Wingspan Interim Executive Director

Winter 2007

04/07

Volume XIX Number 3

2007 THE CENTER

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

I Am Wingspan!

by Kirsten Larsen

Having supported Tucson and Southern Arizona's LGBT community for nearly two decades, Wingspan has benefited from the generous friendship of many exceptional people. The once small group of volunteers who first started Wingspan's youth group so many years ago has grown into a paid and volunteer staff of more than 300 LGBT and allied Southern Arizonans furthering Wingspan's mission to promote the freedom, equality, safety, and well-being of LGBT people. As Wingspan continues to grow and change, we recognize and celebrate a few of the diverse, talented, and extraordinary individuals who make Wingspan great.

So we asked them... what does Wingspan mean to you?

INSIDE

I Am Wingspan!

Spotlight On...
AngieRose
Tilghman

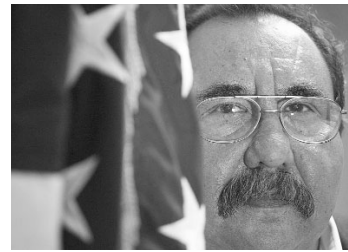
Wingspan
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Join MOCA
& Wingspan
for a Night OUT



"I first came to Eon 5 years ago and I thought it was a fun place where I could meet people who are similar to me. I encourage new people to come and see what Eon has to offer because I'm sure they will help you out as much as they did with me. Wingspan is great because there is a different program for each aspect of my life – that's why I'm proud to be Wingspan!"

Eric Ordonez, Eon Youth Participant, 21



must remember what Cesar Chavez told us:

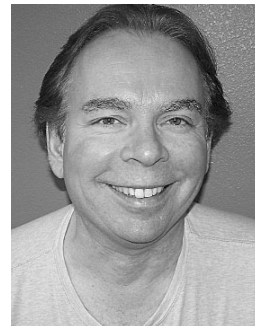
'Once social change begins, it cannot be reversed. You cannot uneducate the person who has learned to read. You cannot humiliate the person who feels pride. You cannot oppress the people that are not afraid anymore.'

"I am so thankful to be a part of the Tucson community, a place where diversity flourishes under our sun. Tucson wouldn't be quite the same without Wingspan's tireless dedication in bringing GLBT issues to the forefront, with pride and perseverance.

This quote is a personal inspiration for me. And I believe it should remind us all that the significance of the work done cannot be underestimated. I am personally grateful to Wingspan for their friendship and I proudly proclaim, I AM WINGSPAN."

But it is at this defining moment in our nation's history, with so much division and uncertainty in the atmosphere, that we

Congressman Raúl Grijalva



"Helping out with the many programs Wingspan offers our community and seeing how effective they are is very rewarding for me. When I first came out in the 1970's there weren't resources like this available to me. It's gratifying to know that people have a place like Wingspan to go now, and I'm proud to be a part of making that happen."

Ken Smelewski, Wingspan Volunteer

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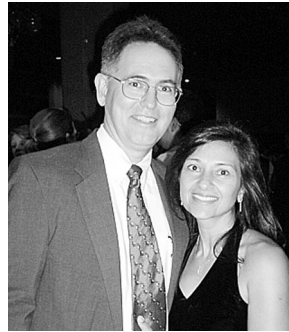
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Dr. J. Kevin Carmichael with his wife, Wingspan Board Member, Dr. Tejal Parikh.

"I have been involved in HIV care since I was in medical school at the beginning of the epidemic. My initial interest was driven by drama of a new infectious disease but

also in recognition that the friends I had that were gay might be directly impacted by what was then a mystery disease. Quickly AIDS became the focus of my work largely because there seemed to be so few other physicians willing to step forward.

My support of Wingspan is simply the logical extension of what my work has shown me. I have seen the best and the worst of people. I have seen patients thrown out by their families because they were gay and had AIDS and I have seen patients who expected to be rejected embraced and empowered. I have seen the powerlessness of science and of the government and I have seen the power of committed communities.

My conviction is that people are what they are. The work of living is hard for us all and there comes a time when anyone (or perhaps everyone) needs some help. Wingspan exists to provide that help to Tucson's GLBT community and by extension to us all...gay or straight. I'm proud to be a part of that."

Dr. J. Kevin Carmichael, Wingspan Supporter

Spotlight On... AngieRose Tilghman

By Ken Smelewski



AngieRose, very popular among her fellow volunteers, has been energetically involved in Wingspan for nearly a decade. Since her first volunteerism with Wingspan as a Front Desk Volunteer ten years ago, AngieRose has participated in Wingspan's AIDSWalk team, staffed booths at Pride in the Desert and other events, and registered and greeted guests

at the Annual Benefit Dinner. Recently, AngieRose completed Wingspan's intensive training program to serve as an advocate with the Anti-Violence Project's crisis line.

Originally from Philadelphia, AngieRose and her life partner are both active at Temple Emanuel and were among the first couples to receive legal recognition through Tucson's domestic partner registry in 2003. When she's taking a break from her busy schedule, AngieRose enjoys the company of three dogs and four cats, all of whom she rescued.

"I really appreciate being a part of Wingspan and all that we do for the community" said AngieRose. Anyone who works a volunteer shift at the Front Desk or helps her staff Wingspan's booth at an event can attest that she truly does put her heart into all she does for our community center.

"I really appreciate being a part of Wingspan and all that we do for the community"

When asked about the most moving experience she has had at Wingspan, AngieRose said, "A woman who was transitioning from male to female came to the center for the first time along with her daughter; they were new to Tucson. They had noticed the rainbow flag on our front door and decided to stop in. They were so happy to discover Wingspan's Southern Arizona Gender Alliance and have been a part of the Center and its activities since."

As AngieRose puts it, "That's the type of experience that keeps you coming back!"



"When I moved to Tucson 5 years ago, I knew that it was time to reconnect with 'my people'. Back then, I didn't use the word 'queer'...in fact I was turned off by it...being a middle aged lesbian I had a different connotation of that word...now I can think of no better way to describe the incredibly vibrant community I have come to know & love! When I first came to Wingspan, I had very limited knowledge & understanding

of my transgender brothers & sisters or of today's queer youth. How quickly this all changed as I was exposed to the many communities who call Wingspan home. That exposure was just the tip of the iceberg so to speak. Now, four years later, Wingspan has turned a passive, non political, label resistant gal into a loud activist dyke! I am proud to be Wingspan!"

Luanne Withee, Wingspan Community Center Coordinator



and just hang out sometimes. I'm excited to be coordinating the 2008 International Foundation for Gender Education Convention in April.

Why? Someone needs to do it. Unity and effort are keys to making sure we all survive. Since I can do something to make a difference, I should. Wingspan is the one place outside my church that allows me to do that – this is why I'm proud to be Wingspan."

Erin Russ, SAGA Advisory Committee

Nearly 20,000 people walk through Wingspan's doors every year. "For some, Wingspan is a safe place to find community and the strength to come out to family and friends; for others, it is a refuge from abuse and violence; and for many, it is the place where we connect to move our community forward. Whatever your reason for supporting Wingspan, we are proud that you too are a part of the Wingspan community and thank you for making Wingspan the Center of our community!"

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Layout and design by WhiteSpace Design, Inc.

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:

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