



# One of US

## (a Northern AZ LGBAT Newsletter)

October 2009

Volume 7, Issue 5

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Harvest time, it is colder outside and time to go in the field and toil over what you have sweated over months ago.

Simply, you reap what you sow. IF you sow love, you will get love back, if you sow hate, you will get hate back, if you sow fear, you will get frights back and so on...

I think it is a nice set up of holidays, months and traditions in the late part of the year, we are given opportunities to gather together and celebrate our growth over a year. That is the way I view the Fall and Winter holidays, sharing with your friends and families your wins, losses and stalemates. And it seems every year the table setting just gets bigger and bigger (when you allow it) and more people stream into your life. [even a recluse can make contact.]

We are social creatures, people. Whether you admit or not, you want at least another person in the room with you sometimes. So come participate, join in the events, communicate. Be heard and be seen, You are always welcome here, in these pages which I associate with my extended arms.

In this issue, Steve takes us back to the original mission of this year– Coming Out. He relates to us what happens when you come out gay being of Middle Eastern descent. (pages 4-5)

Bob keeps the religious right in check in this issue and does it well. (pages 6-7)

Both wonderful writers,-give them abundant kudos.

Yet I desire more insight, more knowledge from you, the community. It is silly to rely the newsletter on only two writers, what if one gets tired or retires, then what? I want and need more input, readers.

Tell me your thoughts, your dreams, your ideals. Show me your events, happiness, your identity, your coming out or staying in experiences. Do not fear, just do.

Until next, take care always,

Dan.

### Come OUT!!!

- Closets are for hangers
- Be honest with yourself and loved ones
- There is nothing to fear, You are not alone.
- Support is available (friends, family, community members and online– [www.hrc.org/issues/coming\\_out.asp](http://www.hrc.org/issues/coming_out.asp))

### AIDS IS NOT DEAD, Play safe Always

- Know your partner
- Use condoms and/or gloves
- Don't mix excessive amounts of drugs and/or alcohol with sex, keep a clear upper head
- STDs (and babies) are other risks of unsafe sex
- Get tested often–stay healthy

### Feedback. / Comments / Submissions / Suggestions

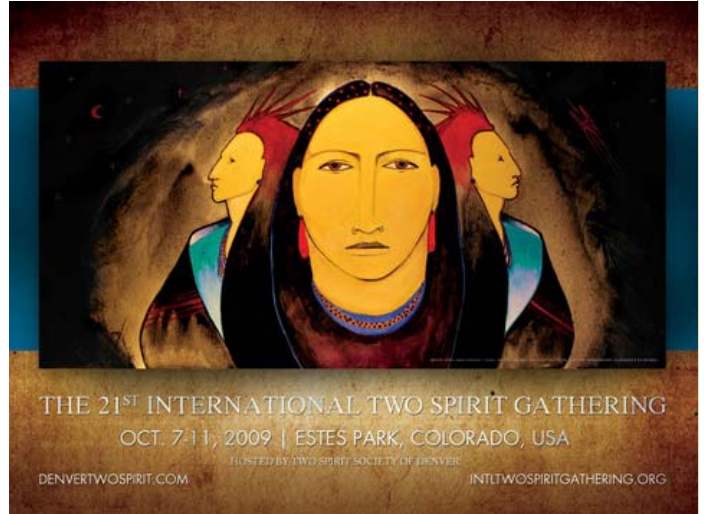
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## October 2009 Events

- Weekly on Wednesday Evenings from 6:00 to 9:00 PM join the GLBT community for some camaraderie and drink specials at REDS, Sedona Rouge and Hotel, 2250 West Hwy 89A, in Sedona
- **Saturday, Oct. 7th to 11**– 21st International Two Spirit Gathering in Denver, CO– See flyer on the right for more details.
- **Saturday, Oct 10th**– Tucson Pride-see <http://www.tucsonpride.org/> for more info.
- **Sunday, Oct. 11th**- OUTdayPHX, Hang out with all your friends from Phoenix Pride all day at the Phoenix Zoo; receive a FREE OUTdayPHX t-shirt, enjoy lunch on us and all day Zoo admission for \$10. Join us at 1pm in the Plaza de Los Ninos (the Phoenix Zoo's outdoor amphitheatre) for a Celebration of National Coming Out Day and hear personal coming out stories from our What's Your Story? Community Essay Contest winners, local community leaders and our celebrity speakers Daniela Sea and Wilson Cruz. GET YOUR \$10 TICKETS NOW at [www.pride-tickets.org](http://www.pride-tickets.org)
- **Saturday, October 17th**– X-Chain-G of Flagstaff bdsm monthly play party. For more details, contact Craig at [railman3@hotmail.com](mailto:railman3@hotmail.com)
- **Saturday, October 17th**- Avatar Club LA Cordially Invites You To OFFICERS' INSTALLATION \$30/Person for Dinner. Cocktail Reception: Eagle LA @ 6:30 PM. Installation of New Officers Ceremony: Eagle LA @ 7:00 PM. Thai Buffet Dinner: Sompun Thai Restaurant - 4156 Santa Monica Blvd. (across from Eagle LA) @ 8:00 PM. RSVP by 10/10/09 to: [President@Avatarla.org](mailto:President@Avatarla.org) (Alan Stroik, President)
- **Saturday Oct. 17th**- Out in Jerome, is every third Saturday of the month, in Jerome, Arizona. This is a monthly GLBT event where the galleries, shops and ghost tours extend their hours. Entertainment is often provided at the Mile High Grille on Main Street. Have a great time out in Jerome and visit the many gay owned businesses.
- **Friday to Sunday, Oct. 23rd-25th**– Attend the best BDSM Educational Event of the year in Chicago, IL. To Celebrate The 5th Anniversary of Kinky Kollege, The Nation's Most Famous Presenters Have Been Gathered: Guy Baldwin M. S., Skip Chasey, Mark Frazier, Boymeat, Jack Rinella, Scott Smith, Fakir Musafar, Elwood, Cleo Dubois, Ms Cynthia (CM Hurt), Jim Duvall, Lolita Wolf, Jay Wiseman, FetLife Creator John Baku, Molly Devon, Allena Gabosch, Michael Sol, Felice Shays, Alex Jade, Florida "Fire" Dom... Along with Kink.com's Lochai, Matt Williams & Princess Donna will all be there... you should be too! Kinky Kollege 2009 is sponsored by International Mr Leather, Fetlife.com and Kink.com. and proceeds from this event benefit the Leather Archives & Museum (LAM), The Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) and the National Coalition for Sexual Freedom (NCSF). Pricing for an entire Weekend Event Package is only \$225 and INCLUDES a fantastic Meal Package. Basic Registration with NO Meals is \$125. Kinky Kollege will have exclusive use of the Host Hotel's Convention Center and we have reserved a large room block for exclusive use of Kinky Kollege Guests. We have also negotiated a very good room rate of \$119 per night to make this event affordable. No matter what your kink... Come join us for a weekend of learning, yearning, great play, entertainment, activities, shopping, fun and friendship. REGISTER NOW- [kinkykollege.com](http://kinkykollege.com) Registration Closes October 16, 2009
- **Saturday, October 24th, 12-3:00 PM** – Avatar Leather Lab ( A.L.L. ) Avatar Leather Laboratory for Education (A.L.L.) is a university style educational experience offering classes in BDSM topics. Classes focus on safety, creativity, BDSM techniques and skill building. Classes are taught by recognized experts in each area. These classes of 10 are for men only. Students will be expected to participate in training from the Top and bottom perspective as we believe that the best understanding of BDSM dynamics comes from experiencing all aspects of a scene. Consistent with Avatar's mission - training will follow the principles of safe, sane, consensual and fun. Supplies / tools / equipment appropriate to the subject matter will be provided. A signed release of liability and a completed registration form will be required prior to admission to classes. COCK & BALL TORTURE \$30. This is a fun "hands-on" class.[www.AvatarLA.org](http://www.AvatarLA.org)
- **Saturday, October 24th, 3:30 -6:30 PM**- ELECTRICAL PLAY \$30 Ever wonder where the fun is in the "zap!?" In this class you'll learn about safe & fun ways to harness Ben Franklin's discovery. Safety, kinds of devices, and a chance to experience a wide variety of toys & sensations are part of this class. Don't miss this shockingly good afternoon. Register at: [www.AvatarLA.org](http://www.AvatarLA.org)
- **Saturday, October 31st**– Halloween!! FBB presents "When Swayze met Hughes on Halloween"– Meet at 2534 E Joshua Lane in Flagstaff at 6pm, bring your costume, favorite Patrick Swayze and John Hughes movies and we will watch movies, eat & drink while getting ready for Halloween, handing out Candy and go out en masse at 10:00pm downtown to join the freakfest.



### Quotes of the Month

“99% of lawyers give the rest a bad name.”  
-Stephen Wright

“Conscience is what hurts when everything else feels so good.” -Unknown

**Golden Girls Moment:** “I live in Florida. Who can tell the difference between a hot flash and a weather front?”  
-Rose (Betty White)

Wake up.  
-from Neil Gaiman’s Preludes & Nocturnes and The Wake

“You don’t stop laughing because you grow old, you grow old because you stopped laughing.”  
-Unknown

### Humor for the Masses

When you have a 'I Hate My Job' day, [even if retired, you have those sometimes] try this:  
On your way home from work, stop at your WALGREENS and go to the thermometer section and purchase a rectal thermometer made by Johnson & Johnson.

Be very sure you get this brand. When you get home, lock your doors, draw the curtains and disconnect the phone so you will not be disturbed. Change into very comfortable clothing and sit in your favorite chair. Open the package and remove the thermometer. Now, carefully place it on a table or a surface so that it will not become chipped or broken.

Now the fun part begins.

Take out the literature from the box and read it carefully. You will notice that in small print there is a statement: 'Every Rectal Thermometer made by Johnson & Johnson is personally tested and then sanitized. ' Now, close your eyes and repeat out loud five times, 'I am so glad I do not work in the thermometer quality control department at Johnson & Johnson.'

HAVE A NICE DAY AND REMEMBER, THERE IS ALWAYS SOMEONE ELSE WITH A JOB THAT IS MORE OF A PAIN IN THE ASS THAN YOURS!

KNOW YOUR STATUS!!

Free HIV Counseling and Testing

Call Cher at 928-679-7276

FAST \* FREE\* CONFIDENTIAL

***Business owners, event organizers, and bar owners-***

***Advertisements are free to post- any size!!!***

## Gay...To Be, or Not To Be

By Steve Youngdahl

If you read the first couple of articles in this series, you'll remember my little soapbox about tolerance. Specifically, that there are many, many ways to come out, and that just because people do things a certain way in the US doesn't mean that it's the only way to do things. There's more than one way to skin a cat. I've tried to set a tone of acceptance and tolerance toward other social, cultural, and spiritual values and to be respectful of them all.

Ever since the World Trade Center bombings in New York, Americans in general have had a comfort in being politically incorrect related to people from the Middle East. It doesn't matter if a person is Lebanese, Syrian, or Arabic, because a lot of Americans don't even know there's a difference between them. We (Americans) hate, and we seem to have lost our qualms about doing so. I am not going to debate whether or not that is justified; that is for another article by another author. I am, however, going to ask you to remove that mantle, yourself, personally, if you're wearing it, and maybe learn a little something.

Anyone who has been around long enough to have come out knows that there is a history of intolerance toward the GLBT community in the United States. Some of this has been spawned by homophobic individuals. Some of these individuals have been elected to public office. Some of them run major corporations. Some of them are church leaders. All of them live in fear. They use this fear to inspire fear in others. The fear spreads, like a miasma. Fortunately, through the past several decades, people have started to wake up and think for themselves. They see that being a homosexual doesn't automatically mean that you march in a parade wearing pink marabou every year. They've experienced homosexuality on a personal level, through themselves, their brothers or sisters, their children, their parents...the list goes on.

Church doctrine, too, has changed. I know a person, Hugo, who is a minister in a mainstream protestant faith (I'm being deliberately vague here and Hugo knows why). If you haven't guessed, Hugo happens to be gay. When Hugo was ordained, church doctrine stated that it was fine for their ordained clergy to be gay, as long as they didn't act on it. Church doctrine has changed since Hugo's ordination and Hugo has been happy to proclaim, to the world, the partnership shared with a long time companion.

While church doctrine has not evolved as quickly as some of us may have liked, neither has legislation. Heck, up until the last decade, there were states proclaiming sodomy illegal. Now, states are slowly moving in the direction of recognizing gay marriage.

What does this all mean on a personal level?

Absolutely nothing.

I will tell a little story on myself. On the eve of the new millennium, I got down on one knee and proposed to Hugo, my partner for the past 8 1/2 years as of that time. We married in a Catholic Church.

What? You say? Yes, a Catholic church. I was and am not Catholic. How did we manage that? Simple. We rented the church.

(Gay... continued on the next page)

(Gay..continued from the previous page)

For \$150, we got the use of a Catholic church in downtown Chicago and we had ourselves a wedding, guests, rings, and a minister (the aforementioned Hugo of the protestant clergy fame). My father was best man. As I like to say, just goes to show ya, the dollar is mightier than the Pope.

What's my point here? My point is that just because the church and the law say that people can't get married, that doesn't stop people from doing it, and other people from supporting it. Church and state are overruled when decisions are made on a personal level.

Okay, so what does all of this have to do with coming out in the Middle East? Time for another story.

A man of Middle Eastern descent, Hugo, was attending college on the east coast of the United States. While there, he fell in love with a man.

Purely by accident, his brother found out. Fearful that his brother would out him to his parents, he purchased an airline ticket, got on a plane, and flew overseas to come out to his parents.

His father had a heart attack. Right there, on the spot. Fortunately, he survived. His mother renounced him and didn't speak to him for years.

Is this part of your coming out story? I don't mean the flying overseas part. I mean the rejection by your family part. It is, for a lot of people. And here I emphasize the word "people." It doesn't matter if you're Caucasian or African American or Mexican or Canadian or Peruvian or Japanese or Danish or Palestinian. There are people worldwide who come out and face rejection. It doesn't happen to all of us. But it happens to more of us than it needs to. Race, nationality, religious affiliation, it doesn't matter.

There is a happy ending to Hugo's story. Dad recovered from his heart attack. Both he and Mom have welcomed him back to the family. They have even gone so far as to embrace Hugo's boyfriend and love him as a child of their own. The ties of family are strong. Stronger than those of government and church.

And that's the way it seems to be in all the places I've written about. In daily practice, family responses to a person's coming out are similar in the Middle East to what they are in the rest of the world. Church doctrines of almost every faith without exception have condemned homosexuality for as long as such doctrines have existed. Various faiths have eased their positions on this issue, and there is some drive in the Middle East for these positions to be rethought as well, as evidenced by varying levels of legal tolerance in some Middle Eastern countries. Just like every place else we've looked, we're more similar than we are different.

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#### **Activist Sites of Interest:**

Human Rights Campaign- <http://www.hrc.org/>

Save the Peaks!- <http://www.savethepeaks.org/>

Black Mesa Indigenous- <http://www.blackmesais.org/>

Cloned Food- <http://ga3.org/campaign/Cloning>

## Keeping the Religious Right-wing Alive

Minor Details By Bob Minor

Almost 80 million people voted for a Barack Obama that talked about real change including single-payer healthcare and the end of Wall Street and other corporations pulling the strings in Washington. A march of -- at most -- 60,000 in Washington in September should mean nothing -- that's only about 1/10th of one percent of the people who voted for the loser.

But for reasons I'm not clear about, bipartisanship, meaning making sure the majority doesn't rule, is a mantra of this president and a gang of six who act morally superior to the rest of the misguided citizens and politicians who want healthcare for all and fair economic rules.



Every time I hear one of these six paragons speak, the issues they are working on are always those from the right-wing. The views of the left were rejected before we began with the excuse that the left is impractical and naive. It's the losers on the right that get their attention, especially as a reward for disrupting a joint session of Congress shouting the President lies.

One comedian quipped that the goal of bipartisanship for Obama and conservative Democratic leaders is to keep the Republican Party alive so they can take back the Congress in 2010. Another, Bill Maher, calls the Democrats our national corporate party and the Republicans the party of nutcases.

None of this works with the right-wing. It does alienate the base of people who wanted real change and makes the voters wonder if anyone but the right-wing can get things done in this country. It helps those who attempt what they believe is a high road feel good, but it also feeds the cynicism out there.

How many times do they have to promote a bill for a stimulus package or health care that's compromised so much to the right-wing to be ineffective, only to watch no Republicans support it? How many times does one give in to a right-wing bully who's goal is to prove Obama is a bad president by picking on one presidential advisor (Czar) after another, before one realizes that bullies aren't defeated by letting them win.

Expecting to win over any of the right-wing who didn't vote for Obama or the more progressive Democrats by enabling them is doing the same thing over and over again but expecting different results -- a definition of insanity.

When will people get that THE ONE GOAL of the Republican Party is to defeat this President and Democratic Congress. For more extremist elements on the right-wing, it's to lynch the uppity Negro.

Nothing has changed. What looks like a threat to the right-wing -- the election of a "liberal" non-white president to reverse the triumph they thought they had secured with the election of the Christian hero they thought they had in Bush -- is the new greater evil they must fight.

Adele Stan, Washington Bureau Chief for AlterNet is dead on. The religious right "is not dead; it has simply had a make-over." ("Right-Wingers Marching in DC Is Big News -- But the Same Old Faces Are Pulling the Strings," 9/14/09) It's been folded into a new coalition, "which emphasizes the resentments of white people who feel economically and culturally threatened, while occasionally referencing the evangelical fervor that marks the latter-day religious right."

The religiously addicted are still here and still shooting up. Always in the background are their usual causes: anti-women's choice and dehumanizing LGBT people.

They haven't given up undoing any gains that have been made. Equality Maine knows that now, and Iowa will see it happen too. They can't go cold turkey on what gives them the feeling of being righteous when all around them seems to be contradicting what they've bet their worth on.

But something else is the personification of every evil now.

As I argued in *When Religion Is an Addiction*, their fix is still political activities. What gives them their high is all the user activities seen in marching and organizing to defeat evil, now personified in this non-white President who can represent every satanic threat from socialism to fascism, from Communism to the end of the country as we know it.

(Keeping the Religious...continued on the next page)

(Keeping the Religious... continued from the previous page)

No wonder it's easy to get church-going people to carry thoroughly disgusting signs or throw aside all decorum to disrupt what they see is the devil before them, represented by elected officials. No wonder it's easy for their signs to picture the President in terms of every demonic image for them -- a witch doctor, the Joker, or Hitler. It might as well be the anti-Christ or Satan.

The mainstream media isn't going to do anything but enable the addicted. Even without FOX News, it's still trying to portray them as having legitimate grievances.

The enabling response is to try to appease, to reason with, to compromise, to act as if out-nice-ing them more will bring the addicts around. But this attention only feeds their addiction.

A healthy response is to move forward, stay on task, protect ourselves, and pursue the change that will fix a country that is desperately sick. We don't have to be mean or hateful, just confident about what needs to be done.

America's disastrous health care system is responsible for incalculable amounts of illness, death, lost productivity and federal deficit — not to mention anxiety, anger and disgrace, writes investigative reporter Matt Taibbi in Rolling Stone. And it's not going to get fixed, he adds, because it's encased in another failed system: the U.S. government. Rather than attempt to remedy the problem this summer, our government sat down and demonstrated its dizzying ineptitude. "We might look back on this summer someday and think of it as the moment when our government lost us for good," writes Taibbi. "It was that bad."

I hope he's wrong.

We must do this for ourselves. The addicted will just have to stand back and complain.

But, they'll grow even stronger if we continue to appease what can never, ever be appeased in them.

Robert N. Minor, Ph.D., Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Kansas, is author of *When Religion Is an Addiction, Scared Straight: Why It's So Hard to Accept Gay People and Why It's So Hard to Be Human and Gay & Healthy in a Sick Society*. Contact him at [www.fairnessproject.org](http://www.fairnessproject.org).

#### Get Involved!! Health Sites:

Parkinson's:

<http://www.parkinson.org/>

HIV and AIDS:

<http://www.hiv.com/>

Male Depression:

<http://www.maledepression.com/>

Diabetes:

<http://www.diabetes.org/>

## Where is Everybody?

## Speak your mind.

## Get published, see front cover for details.