

C. Michael Woodward

Writer, Musician, Social Justice Advocate • morphingmichael@gmail.com

A native of Indianapolis, Indiana, **C. Michael Woodward** earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Public and Corporate Communication from Butler University, and previously worked in public relations and as a technical writer and publisher. He authored or contributed to more than a dozen computer books, including *Create FrontPage 2002 Web Pages in a Weekend*, *Microsoft Outlook 2002 fast & easy*, *Adobe Illustrator 9 fast & easy*, *How to Do Anything with Your PC*, and others. After transitioning at age 36, he left his home state and his publishing career for the wild, wild West and settled in Tucson.

Since April 2003, Michael has led the Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (SAGA), the largest program serving the gender-diverse community in the Southwest. Under his direction, volunteer-driven SAGA has developed several ground-breaking programs and services for gender-diverse people and their allies (www.sagatucson.org). In addition to managing SAGA business and programming, Michael writes a variety of magazine and newsletter articles and serves as educator, advisor, peer counselor, lobbyist, advocate, speaker, and trainer to vastly diverse audiences at venues across the country.



Michael performs as lead singer in Tucson's notorious trans+allies rock and blues band, Too Much Information.



Michael and his partner, Cyndi Garrison, at the 2007 Wingspan Annual Dinner.

Transgender Community Support & Advocacy Since 1998

**Southern Arizona
Gender Alliance**

www.sagatucson.org • (520) 624-1779

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

WINGSPAN

Michael is the co-founder of Tucson Transgender Awareness Week, which in 2007 featured more than 20 events, was endorsed by the Mayor, and reached more than 1,100 people. He contributed to the development of Out & Equal Workplace Associates' *Building Bridges Diversity Training*, and is one of Arizona's only professional trainers on LGBTQ workplace issues.

Michael was appointed to the City of Tucson Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues by Mayor Robert Walkup in April 2007. In January 2008, he was elected to the Board of Directors of FTM International, the oldest and largest organization serving the transgender men's community. Michael also serves on the Southern Arizona LGBTQ Behavioral Health Coalition, which works to ensure culturally competent care and services for LGBTQ people.

A charter member and past Co-Chair of the University of Arizona President's LGBT Advisory Council, Michael has directly influenced the university environment by successfully advocating for GLB and/or transgender inclusion and consideration in a variety of campus situations from EEO policies and employee benefits to medical school curriculum and campus life activities. He is a key advisor for the UA's interdepartmental "Transgender Project" to determine related policy recommendations. In summer 2006, the University of Arizona became the first state-funded university in the nation to establish a transgender-inclusive public restroom access guideline.

Michael was the keynote speaker at IBM Tucson's Pride Day 2003 celebration, and has been featured in both local and national media coverage of the transgender community. He made history the same year as part of the first-ever meeting between a national coalition of trans community leaders and the staff of a major Presidential campaign, when the coalition met with the LGBT liaisons of the John Kerry campaign and the Democratic National Committee.



Dean Spade (3rd from left) ventured to Tucson to help launch the 1st Annual Tucson Transgender Awareness Week.



Michael with author Kate Bornstein at the 2nd Annual Tucson Transgender Awareness Week.



Strategizing with National Transgender Advocacy Coalition Chair Vanessa Edwards Foster at NTAC Lobby Days 2003.

Prior to transition, he was involved for nearly two decades in the lesbian community, including 14 years of volunteer service to the National Women's Music Festival, retiring as President of the Board of Directors in 1997.

A lifelong musician and entertainer, Michael Woodward is the lead singer and co-founder of the Tucson-based rock and blues band, Too Much Information. TMI proudly bills itself as an out queer band, and won Runner Up—Best Cover Band at the 2006 Tucson Area Music Awards. In addition to the prestigious Tucson Folk Festival, TMI was the featured entertainment at the 2007 Southern Comfort Conference and at the IFGE Transgender 2008 Conference. The band is a regular on Arizona LGBT and mainstream stages alike.



Michael with Leslie Feinberg



Michael is a graduate of and on-going participant in THE EXPERIENCE, a personal empowerment program for LGBT people that embraces living with integrity and abundance.



Tucson's annual Freedom of Expression March across the University of Arizona campus to downtown Tucson.

He's currently living happily ever after in a one-acre cactus jungle on the outskirts of Tucson with his partner, Cyndi, and their menagerie of dogs, cats, tortoises, and various desert-dwelling critters.

Links:

- www.sagatucson.org
- www.wingspan.org
- www.myspace.com/morphingmichael
- www.tmi-band.com
- www.myspace.com/tmiband
- www.cafepress.com/tmigear

