



# Lavender Notes

*Improving the lives of LGBTQ older adults  
through community building, education, and advocacy.*

*Celebrating 23+ years of service and positive change*  
*February 2018*

*Volume 25 Issue 2*

## Stories of Our Lives

### Ruth Joan Hurvitz

Long-time Mothertongue Readers Theater member, Ruth Hurvitz, was born in Washington, DC, April 14, 1943, the eldest of two sisters. Although her family was not religious, they had a deep sense of Jewish identity and history. They were proud that their father, a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy, oversaw the installation of sonar on naval ships during World War II.

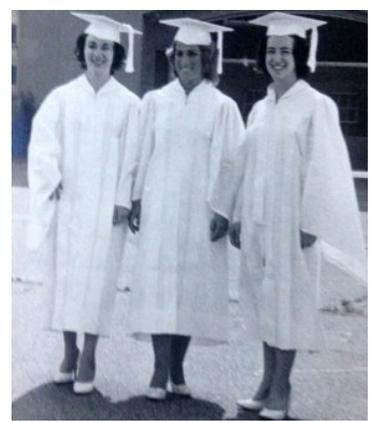
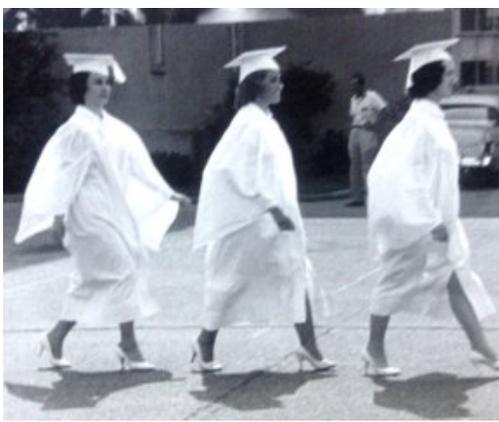
"My sister and I grew up with parents who didn't socialize a great deal with friends and family," Ruth recalls. "Perhaps because I followed that model, I was lonely and confused in my early years. It was not until much later in life that I came to enjoy rich social relationships, connectivity with the world and life became an adventure.

"During the summer, our mother would take us from sweltering DC to her family home in Virginia Beach, where we spent a lot of time with our cousins," she reminisces. "Swimming in the ocean became one of my favorite activities. I'm sure those early experiences contributed to my starting a boogie-boarding group for women over 50 many years later here in California!"



Ruth, her sister and cousins in post-war Virginia Beach, VA, 1949

Ruth graduated from Calvin Coolidge High School - the first legally-integrated school in the nation - in 1961. After attending Penn State for two years, she transferred to George Washington University, where she earned B.A. and M.A. degrees in Speech Pathology, a relatively new field at the time.



Ruth and two of her friends parading around and posing in their graduation caps and gowns, Calvin Coolidge High School, 1961

"I loved the mix of medicine, teaching, psychology and anthropology that underlies the profession," Ruth recalls. "However, my start in the field was shaky. I actually feared failing and being thrown out of my program. Luckily, once the knowledge came together, I excelled and enjoyed myself immensely. In graduate school, based on my skills, I was chosen to work at a prestigious hospital, which had decided to only accept clinical trainees from GW."

After Ruth started dating Mike, a sensitive and caring young man, they moved together to Ann Arbor where Mike was in a PhD program in City Planning. They shared a house with a gay male friend of Mike's. The house became a popular meeting spot for many different groups, including women, academic organizations and members of the lesbian and gay community. Unfortunately, many of their friends during that era would later die of AIDS.

While in Ann Arbor, Ruth received an M.P.H. in Maternal and Child Health from University of Michigan. She was hired to work at the university as part of a demonstration project on Interdisciplinary Care for children, a new approach at that time. Her team included pediatricians, psychiatrists, dentists and nurses. That experience shaped her clinical approach to this day. In addition, Ruth was introduced to the Women's movement during this time.

"Ann Arbor was a major fork in the road of my life," Ruth recalls. "I had so much fun hanging out with women, participating in consciousness-raising groups, running a University-sponsored Women's Faire and just waking up politically. I joined Probe into the Status of Women at the University, where we uncovered statistics that helped change policies. This was a big change for a girl from a quiet suburb of DC."

Though she was devastated at some level to leave her wonderful life with Mike, she had to be true to herself, following one of the most important developments during those Ann Arbor years: her coming out as a lesbian.

"My first woman lover and I went to bed for a week and friends dropped off food supplies," Ruth exclaims. "I still remember the apricot smell of her skin! What had I been missing all those years?"

When Ruth was in her early 30s and ready for adventure, she wound up on separatist women's land in Willits, CA, and lived in a shed behind the worm bins. Before too long, however, she realized that she was not a separatist and wanted the benefits of the City.



D.C.-Born Ruth morphed into West Coast lesbian activist, Mother tongue Feminist Theater reader: Ages 16, 50s, 60s and 70s

As luck would have it, after she moved down from Mendocino County to the immediate Bay area in 1977, she rented a charming North Oakland house. She was able to buy it a few years later from the owners, with the help of a lesbian realtor. She has owned and lived in the house for 33 years.

When Ruth settled in the East Bay, she was hired to teach in and later direct off-campus Bachelor's and Master's degree programs in Health Services Administration at St. Mary's College in Moraga. This program brought college classes to working healthcare professionals where they worked - at hospitals from Santa Cruz to Sacramento. At the time, this was a cutting-edge educational idea, resulting in many men and, especially, women being able to finish degrees, advance professionally

and help fulfill their dreams.

"When it became clear that I needed a doctorate to continue advancing in that position," Ruth recalls, "I decided to return to speech therapy and work privately and in schools with children in special education. I love teaching and the atmosphere of classrooms. I specialized in children with emotional disturbance and autism. However, since I retired in 2014, I must confess I've never looked back."

During this period of professional growth, along came Ann Bailey, Ruth's long-term partner.

"Ann was lively, smart and very handsome," Ruth recalls with a gleam in her eye. "We flirted for a while. I was at our friend, Corky's, house and was fasting for Yom Kippur. Ann followed me into the kitchen and popped a cherry tomato into my mouth. That audacious action got me hooked. Despite the tomato incident, I knew I could trust her with my life. And we laugh together so much even today. That shared sense of humor and trust help keep our relationship on track in even the most difficult times."

They've been friends for 23 years and living together for the last ten years. Ann was twice voted Taxi Driver of the Year and once Paratransit Driver of the Year. She was invited to drive her taxi in the LGBT Pride parade, where Ruth proudly joined her, waving at the crowd along the route.

They've come out to both of their families over the years.



Ruth & Ann: in Costa Rica (1998); with friend, Judith, and their "FUMP TRUCK" placards at the Women's March, January 2017.

"When I came out to my mother on a road trip between L.A. and San Francisco," Ruth recalls, "she said she figured that when Mike and I never married, it probably meant I was a lesbian. Years later, my girl-friend at the time, Sue, traveled to DC to visit Mom in a nursing home. It didn't hurt that Sue was Southern, Jewish and well-spoken! But Mom said after meeting Sue that she could stop worrying about me!"

"We are very close with Ann's sister, brother and their families," she explains. "My sister and I talk on the phone at least once a week and we sometimes spend a week or so together at the New Jersey shore."



Ruth at her 60th birthday party - attended by women from her community; her sister (foreground) flew in from the East coast!

A major part of Ruth's life has been involvement in Mothertongue Feminist Readers Theater. In fact, she and some of her Mothertongue colleagues have performed at Lavender Seniors' Third Friday Lunch Bunch two Novembers in a row. In their November 2017 performance, they focused on work by Ruth Michaels, another long-term Mothertongue participant who passed away in July. Plus they perform regularly at women's events, senior centers and Pride celebrations.

"Though our numbers are dwindling somewhat, Mothertongue has been my core group for many years," Ruth says proudly. "We get to know each other deeply through writing and performing our life stories. We share our histories and

sadness but also much humor and laughter about such themes as Aging, Disability, Lost and Found, Escape and issues with Mothers and Daughters. I love my Mothertongue family so very much!"



**LOST**  
By Ruth Hurvitz

**Lost - an election**  
**Lost - truth**  
**Lost - my sanity.**

**And then I sat Shiva, the tradition of Jewish mourning**

**Swallowed my fear**  
**Ate my despair**  
**Joined a movement**  
**Spoke my truth**  
**Found new ways to protest**  
**And engraved RESIST in my heart**

Judith, Corky & Ruth, Mothertongue, Lavender Seniors 3rd Friday Lunch Bunch, Nov. 2016 - one of Ruth's writings after the 2016 election.

Ruth has many other interests, including jogging, bird watching, participation in a science book club, and a women's literature class at City College. She provides pro bono speech therapy to a Chinese immigrant with speech difficulties. She loves watching house-renovation shows and two years ago directed a complete renovation of the rental unit attached to her house, including electricity and plumbing.

Ruth, Ann and friends took part in the 21st January 2017 Women's March and, in 2016, Ruth participated in a "Rosie the Riveter" rally and parade, commemorating the diverse ways women have contributed in society, as well as being an event competing for a place in the Guinness Book of World Records.

"And whenever possible, we watch the Warriors play and attend many of the Giants games!"



Just two sides of the multi-faceted Ruth Hurvitz: political "Rosie the Riveter" sandwiched between the fun-loving Giants fans

A few years ago, Ruth joined Temple Sinai of Oakland. Still an atheist, she finds spiritual roots in the congregation. She joined the Social Action Committee, where she works on various political projects, phone banks, etc. Recently her own project was to collect 150 pairs of new socks for the Order of Malta podiatry clinic that serves the poor and homeless of Oakland. She is also involved with the East Bay College Fund that provides mentoring, scholarships and other services to under-served students in Oakland.

"Imagine being the first in your family to go to college and not having the money to buy books!" Ruth exclaims. "These kids thrive with just a little support from those of us in a position to provide even a small amount for them."

Thank you, Ruth, for caring, for your ongoing activism in so many diverse causes and for sharing so much of your life story with us!

## Book Review

### The Evangelicals: The Struggle to Shape America

By Frances FitzGerald

The United States as a country was sharply divided geographically. The New England states were liberal and into social action. The southern states devoted to spreading the gospel of repentance and anti-liberalism.

The Civil War brought major upheavals. Blacks were suddenly free but Southern states kept Negroes in economic bondage.

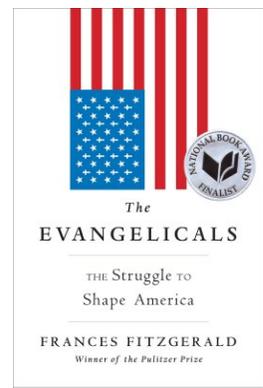
After World War II Billy Graham invented a new drive for fundamentalists that swept the nation.

Gay and lesbian drive for civil rights is frequently cited through the book.

Fitzgerald has received the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award and the Bancroft Prize.

The writer has captured the attention of readers and never lets go. People of all faiths will be caught up in a glorious political account of social action in America.

- Frank Howell



## Addendum to January "Stories of Our Lives"

### William H. "Bill" Beasley

In an editor's note at the end of last month's "Stories of Our Lives," describing the nearly 80-year history of one of the Bay Area's long-time LGBTQ and Black civil rights activists, Bill Beasley, we lamented the fact that Bill had no accessible photographs of his childhood and young adult years. An appeal to his nephew, James Beasley, resulted in Lavender Seniors receiving the following photo the day after the January newsletter was distributed.

We felt it was worth sharing the additional photo to help round out the story, as it was printed. We want to thank James for finding the photo - and want to thank Bill again for his years of activism, good work and agreeing to share parts of his amazing life with [Lavender Notes](#) readers.



Bill (front center, in blue), age 6, with his parents and two older brothers, Atlanta, 1944



© Can Stock Photo

## CONNECTIONS

Have you moved out of the area, do you want to get in contact with other Lavender Seniors near you or someone you have lost contact with? [Email us](#) and we will try to help out. No information will be shared without your specific permission.

### **LAVENDER SENIORS FRIENDLY VISITOR PROGRAM HAS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE.**

Volunteers with the Lavender Seniors Friendly Visitor program are background checked, interviewed and trained, after which they are matched with a senior to visit regularly, usually for a couple hours each week. Visitors can share stories, chat about mutual interests and current events, and if both are willing and able, volunteers can take their seniors out for a walk in the park, a bite to eat, a cup of coffee, shopping or maybe a movie or a trip to the museum.

We ask volunteers to make a commitment of at least six months.

If you are in need of a Friendly Visitor, we can help with that too!

Please contact [info@lavenderseniors.org](mailto:info@lavenderseniors.org) and we will be in touch with you soon. Thank You!

# ***Grief Group***

**Support group for those dealing with loss due to death of a loved one.**

Meeting at the Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley

**Group open to all at No charge.**

Group meets for 8 Mondays from 4-5:30 PM, starting on February 5th.

Group is led by a licensed clinician, Laine Demetria, LMFT

For Individual Counseling, call our Counseling Request line at 510.548.8283 X250

To locate additional resources for the LGBTQ community, see our website:  
[www.pacificcenter.org](http://www.pacificcenter.org)

## **Free Occupational Therapy for Adults with Physical Disabilities**

Samuel Merritt University (SMU) will be hosting its annual free Occupational Therapy Services for Adults this February. The ten, once-a-week sessions begin Monday, Feb. 5, 2018

### **WHAT**

The SMU Occupational Therapy Services for Adults is a student-administered service provided under the direct supervision of several licensed occupational therapists. The OT Services are designed to provide consultation, evaluation, individual treatment and client and caregiver education. Some conditions that might bring a client in for services are stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis or Parkinson's disease, for example.

Occupational therapy uses meaningful activities to promote an individual's participation and engagement in personal occupations. Personal occupations include activities of daily living (ADL) such as personal care and home tasks, as well as work and leisure activities.

### **WHY**

"Our goal is to provide therapeutic intervention to clients with occupational therapy needs. In meeting this goal we sometimes develop partnerships with families, other health and/or support providers and interested parties related to the care of the client," explains Kate Hayner, EdD, OTR/L, and SMU Department Chair of the Occupational Therapy Program. "We also want to assist students with their own development of clinical reasoning and competency that supports research-based practice in adult occupational therapy services."

### **WHEN**

Sessions start Monday, Feb. 5, 2018 with time blocks at 1:30, 2:30, or 3:30 PM

### **WHERE**

Samuel Merritt University - 450 30th Street (Lower Level One) Oakland, CA 94609.

### **HOW**

To begin the enrollment process, download and print the forms below. Complete the **Client Fact Sheet** and ask your physician to complete the **Physician Medical Authorization** form. These forms should be mailed or faxed to:

Liz Kleine, MOT, OTR/L  
Occupational Therapy Department  
Samuel Merritt University  
450 30th Street, 4th Floor,  
Oakland, CA 94609  
Office: (510) 869-6511 x 3721  
FAX: (510)869-6951

Forms:

- [Client Fact Sheet](#)
- [Physician Medical Authorization](#)

## CONTACT

If you have any questions, please contact Drew Ward, Administrative Assistant, Occupational Therapy, at 510.869.8925 or Liz Kleine, MOT, OTR/L, Instructor at 510-869-6511 x 3721 or [kleine@samuelmerritt.edu](mailto:kleine@samuelmerritt.edu)

**Second Saturday Pot Luck Lunch, San Leandro, February 10th 12-2**  
All Saints Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling, San Leandro



A buffet luncheon will begin at noon, followed by announcements and the program (to be determined as of the time of this printing) at approximately 12:40pm. Feel free to bring a dish to share if you wish.

***Cris Williamson at the Freight & Salvage***  
***2020 Addison St, Berkeley***  
***February 10, 8:00pm***

[Tickets & Information](#)



Third Friday Lunch Bunch, 16th February, 12-2pm

## Intersex & Genderqueer Recognition Project

Growing up in the 1930's, '40s, '50s and '60s - as so many of those who are today's LGBTQI seniors did - we became accustomed to being surreptitious, speaking, acting and accessing kindred spirits "in code" - "Oh, he definitely looks like a friend of Dorothy!" or "She's dressed like a bull-dyke (or a 'lipstick' lesbian)" or "He's got a stud in his right ear, so he must be gay!" or even "Did you see he was wearing purple (or green?) on Thursday?"

Those were the days when you could easily wind up thrown out by your family, subjected to electro-shock or "reparative" therapies, in a paddy-wagon, listed on the front page of the newspaper after a raid on the bar (or the truck stop), prosecuted, in jail, evicted from your home, fired from your job, excommunicated by your religious affiliation, dishonorably discharged from the military, lose your children (or your life) if anyone knew who you really were (or wanted to be)!

Many of us thought we were so daring when we would say things like, "Oh, girl.." or "Oh, Mary..." when referring to a person assigned male at birth; or "He looks so fine in those combat boots, don't you think?" when talking about a person assigned female at birth. Some of us, however, still laughed at Liberace, "flamboyant" boys or "tomboy" girls, probably out of some sense of self-protection.

Well, in the 21st century, many people of all ages - not just millennials - are demanding to be recognized for who they are - not for who somebody else thought they should be! A local organization, the Intersex and Genderqueer Recognition Project (IGRP), is one of the strongest advocates for people coming out with such demands. A team from that organization will be on hand for the Third Friday Lunch Bunch on 16th February to help clarify some of the terms and issues that may be unfamiliar to some of us old-time "Friends of Dorothy," but are important for us in understanding what is going on inter-generationally in our community.



Intersex Pride Flag



Genderqueer Pride Flag



Non-Binary Pride Flag



Genderfluid Pride Flag

One of the speakers will be Attorney Toby Adams, Executive/Legal Director of the organization, who has been advocating for LGBTQIA individuals and families since receiving her law degree from McGeorge School of Law. She has worked with such organizations as Equality California, Marriage Equality USA, National Center for Lesbian Rights, Legal Aid Society and Transgender Law Center. According to their website (<http://www.intersexrecognition.org/>), she identifies as "a bisexual, bipolar, cisgender woman, wife and mother." Her spouse, Jean, IGRP Volunteer Coordinator, identifies as a "genderqueer bisexual". Toby will be accompanied by a non-binary individual who will be describing their (not his/her) issues.

The Third Friday Lunch Bunch is held at the North Oakland Senior Center, 5714 MLK Jr Way (corner of 58th Street). A nutritious lunch (with vegetarian options) is served buffet style promptly at 12 noon, followed by community announcements at 12:45 or so, after which the presenters will help educate the group on the issues their agency and its clients are dealing with on a daily basis. There will be ample time afterward for Q&A to help clarify any questions participants might have.

Please come and join us for a very timely and stimulating discussion!

## 11th Annual Fremont Senior Center Crab Feed



*(All proceeds benefit the Fremont Senior Center)*

**Friday, February 16, 2018, 6:00pm**  
**Fremont Elk's Lodge**  
**38991 Farwell Drive, Fremont, A 94536**

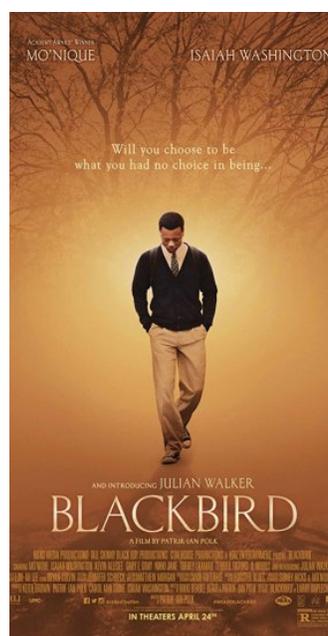
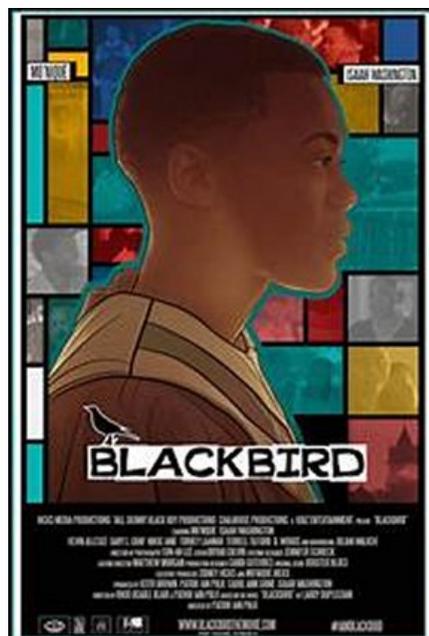
**\$50.00 per person, tickets required at door**

**Questions, call 510-790-6600, 510-790-6606, 510-790-6602**

**Third Wednesday Lavender Seniors Film Series, 21st February 2018, 1-3pm**

## Blackbird

As part of Lavender Seniors' acknowledgment of Black History Month, the February film, "Blackbird", focuses on an African-American teenager - a soloist in the choir of his family's Southern Baptist church. Randy is struggling with his long-felt attraction for other boys and men, rather than girls and women, who his church upbringing demands he is "supposed" to be attracted to.



Randy's parents (played by Isaiah Washington and Mo'Nique) are separated, but are both dealing with the disappearance of their daughter some years ago - in fact, the mother is quite obsessive about it and insists that Randy obsess on it, as well. So there isn't much time to focus on Randy's issues.



Mom and Dad Leaving Church



Randy and Dad having man-to-man talk on truck tailgate

While Randy has ongoing sexual fantasies about his handsome (straight) and very supportive best friend, he finally finds a kindred spirit when he goes outside of his comfort zone - with somebody his mother is initially VERY unhappy about.



Randy in Best-Friend Erotic Fantasies



Praying the Gay Away



Randy Being Comforted

Lavender Seniors will provide popcorn, bottled water and apple juice for refreshments during the showing, which begins promptly at 1pm on Wednesday, 21st February, in the Carnegie Lecture Hall at the San Leandro Public Library, 300 Estudillo. The small theater is wheelchair- and walker accessible, though the room can sometimes be a bit cool, so bringing a sweater or jacket is often suggested.

Following the showing, there will be a brief discussion and evaluation of the film as to its applicability to LGBTQ seniors and their allies.

The library is easily accessible via BART or AC-Transit. For those driving, it is between Bancroft Avenue and East 14th in the north-south direction and Estudillo and Callan in the east-west.

The library has ample two- and three- hour parking available.

## Elders' Guild Meetings - Sunday, February 18th (Third Sundays)

### Changing Aging w/joy & love

North Berkeley Senior Center  
1900 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. at Hearst · Berkeley, CA  
Wheelchair accessible.

Hosted by Barry B. From Elders' Guild

### Details

Conscious Aging for the Greater Good

Our vision is a world in which powerful and conscious elders join together in common purpose to bring healing, joy and connection to our lives, our families, our communities and the world.

Our mission is to create the communities where we re-imagine our old age, look after one another and embody the wisdom that will enable us to help heal the future.

Each Elders' Guild Meeting is a Celebration of Life that Enlivens the Spirit.

Please bring (relatively) healthy treats to share

We shmooze from 1:45 to 2:00 and begin at two

Donations requested to cover the cost of space rental



## LGBT Online Support Group for Caregivers

If you are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender and caring for someone with ongoing health problems...*you are not alone!*

Family Caregiver Alliance's online LGBT Caring Community Support Group connects you with others facing the day-to-day challenges of caregiving. If you're assisting someone with Alzheimer's, stroke, Parkinson's, traumatic brain injury, or other chronic health problems, you can get support from the convenience of your home.

Share experiences, resources, and ideas in a supportive, caring environment. Available 24 hours a day, all you need is e-mail, and it's free! Visit [LGBT Caring Community Online Support Group](#).



## You're getting a new Medicare card!

**Cards will be mailed between April 2018 - April 2019**

You asked, and we listened. You're getting a new Medicare card! Between April 2018 and April 2019, we'll be removing Social Security numbers from Medicare cards and mailing each person a new card. This will help keep your information more secure and help protect your identity.

You'll get a new Medicare Number that's unique to you, and it will only be used for your Medicare coverage. The new card won't change your coverage or benefits. You'll get more information from Medicare when your new card is mailed.

### Here's how you can get ready:

- Make sure your mailing address is up to date. If your address needs to be corrected, contact Social Security at [ssa.gov/myaccount](https://ssa.gov/myaccount) or 1-800-772-1213. TTY users can call 1-800-325-0778.

■

#### **WATCH OUT FOR SCAMS!**

Beware of anyone who contacts you about your new Medicare card. We'll never ask you to give us personal or private information to get your new Medicare Number and card.

- Understand that mailing everyone a new card will take some time. Your card might arrive at a different time than your friend's or neighbor's.

*This message is brought to you by the Senior Information & Assistance Department of the Alameda County Area Agency on Aging (AAA). The AAA provides services and support to seniors and their caregivers in Alameda County. For more information, please contact us at [seniorinfo@acgov.org](mailto:seniorinfo@acgov.org) or 510-577-3530.*

## Alameda County HICAP is recruiting volunteers!

The Alameda County HICAP is recruiting volunteers who want to be Medicare Counselors. The Initial Training

Course starts February 28 and runs through March 21, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays in Pleasant Hill, in conjunction with the Contra Costa HICAP.

HICAP provides the initial training, continuing education, and ongoing support and supervision to its HICAP volunteer Counselors. This is a rewarding volunteer position that helps people on Medicare understand their coverage options, rules, and rights through individual counseling and advocacy.

If you or someone you know is interested in helping others navigate Medicare, please see the attached flyer and the job description and application at [www.lashicap.org/volunteer!](http://www.lashicap.org/volunteer!)



## *Community Phone Calls*

**Just a few of the things offered:**

### **LGBTQ Chat 2nd and 4th Mondays, 1:00pm - 2:00pm**

This group is open to all LGBTQ seniors and is an opportunity to connect with others socially in a supportive environment where participants can share individual and collective experiences. We will create an inclusive place to share our stories with each other and build a sense of community. Facilitated by Sylvia Vargas, Openhouse Friendly Visitor Manager

### **Music's Memory Lane Tuesdays, 1/9 - 4/3 6:00pm - 6:30pm**

Each week we'll discuss a hit song, vintage television variety shows, or a memorable musician in music history. From Big Band music to the Beatles, we'll dive into our recollections of concerts, lyricists, and pop culture. Facilitated by Steve Maraccini

### **Advocacy Now Mondays, 1/8 - 3/12 3:15pm - 4:15pm**

Meet with your peers to discuss strategies that can be used to effectively communicate your opinion to elected officials about issues that directly affect the financial, emotional, and physical health of adults over 60 and/or adults with disabilities. Facilitated by Patt Schroeder, ESC's SCWW Program Specialist

### **Growing an Elder Community Mondays, 1/8 - 3/12 10:00am - 12:00pm**

By speaking with others, older people discover what is beautiful about the latter stages of life, and how getting older, especially as a disabled or homebound person, can contribute positively to our culture-at-large. This is an opportunity to experience what is noble about being human in this world. Facilitated by David "Lucky" Goff, Ph.D., Radio Host, and author

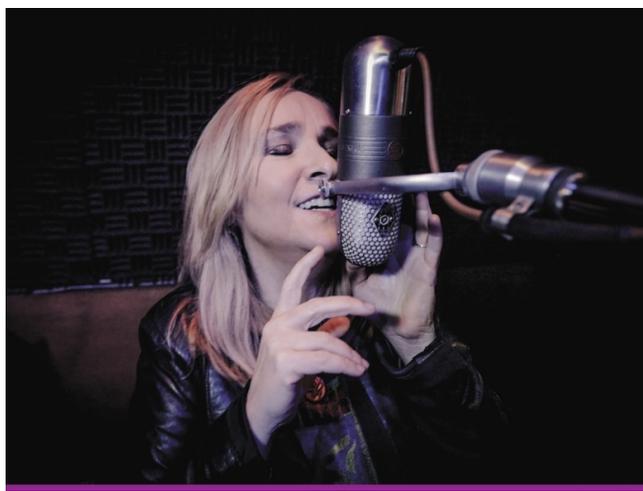
### **Authors Read Aloud Fridays, 1/12 - 4/6 10:15am - 11:00am**

Join independently published authors as they read selections from their works and then answer your questions. Each week will feature a new author representing one of a variety of genres, including romance, drama, biographies, mysteries, and more. Facilitated by Bay Area Independent Publishers Association

View the [Winter catalog](#) of community phone calls [here](#). Check the [website](#) for more information. To participate in these or other Senior Center Without Walls (SCWW) telephone activities, or to learn more about SCWW programs, call 877-797-7299 or email [info@seniorcenterwithoutwalls.org](mailto:info@seniorcenterwithoutwalls.org).

## **Welcoming Melissa Etheridge!**

**On March 3rd, 2018 Melissa Etheridge will Rock The CASA in Walnut Creek at the Leshner Center!**



Openly-lesbian singer, Melissa Etheridge is one of rock music's great female icons. Her critically acclaimed eponymous debut album was certified double platinum. Etheridge's popularity built around such memorable songs as "[Bring Me Some Water](#)," "[No Souvenirs](#)" and "Ain't It Heavy" for which she won her first [Grammy for Best Female Rock Vocal](#). Etheridge hit her commercial and artistic stride with her fourth album, [Yes I Am](#), featuring the massive hits "[I'm the Only One](#)" and "[Come to My Window](#)," a searing song of longing that brought her a second [Grammy](#). The six times platinum album spent more than two and a half years on the album chart. Etheridge is also an Oscar winner for Best Original Song in 2007 ('[I Need To Wake Up](#)' for Al Gore's controversial documentary film '[An Inconvenient Truth](#)'). In 2011 Melissa made her Broadway debut as St. Jimmy in Green Day's rock opera, American Idiot, where she replaced Billie Joe Armstrong for one week, and received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Source: [www.melissaetheridge.com](http://www.melissaetheridge.com)  
[Tickets](#)

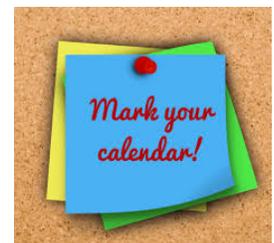
### An Evening of Music for Court Appointed Special Advocates

Imagine the sadness, confusion, and fear a child feels when removed from his or her home because of abuse or neglect. Through no fault of their own, children are taken away from their families in order to protect their health and welfare. But that process puts innocent young people into a legal system that can be intimidating for adults, never mind a child.

But there is a remarkable organization that is there to support and care for children at that frightening time called CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates. The dedicated volunteers of CASA give tirelessly of their time and love to make sure that the children in their care are supported in every way from attending court hearings, to helping with homework, to being a trusted parental figure.

This important work is a labor of love for CASA volunteers who dedicate countless hours to the benefit of children in crisis. Their volunteerism requires extensive training and support.

Dan Ashley, ABC-7 News Anchor and CASA board member, founded Rock the CASA, a California non-profit public benefit corporation, to help provide funding for that critical training.



### THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

#### Out Standing Seniors

February 6 & 20, 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (1st and 3rd Tuesdays)

Hayward Senior Center, 22325 N. Third Street, Hayward

*A safe and confidential space for LGBTQ seniors 50+ to share thoughts, feelings, resources, information, and support. FREE, though donations are welcome.*

### Older & Out - Livermore

February 6, 13, 20, 27, 1:00 p.m. (Tuesdays)

Livermore Senior Services, Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore

*Free drop-in therapy group for LGBTQ community members age 60+*

### Queerly Aging Lesbians

February 1 & 15, 1:30 p.m. (1st and 3rd Thursdays)

The Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Avenue (at Derby), Berkeley

*Find support and like-minded wonderful people!*

### Older & Out - Berkeley

February 2, 9, 16, 23, 3:15 p.m. (Fridays)

North Berkeley Senior Center, 901 Hearst Ave, Berkeley

*Free drop-in therapy group for LGBTQ community members age 60+*

### Older & Out - Hayward

February 5, 12, 26, 1:15 p.m. (Mondays)

Hayward Senior Center, 22325 N. Third Street, Hayward

*Free drop-in therapy group for LGBTQ community members age 60+*

### Rainbow Seniors

February 13 & 27, 12:30-2:00 p.m. (2nd & 4th Tuesdays)

San Leandro Senior Center, 13909 E 14th St, San Leandro

*A safe and confidential space for LGBTQ seniors 50+ to share thoughts, feelings, resources, information, and support. FREE, though donations are welcome.*

### Lavender Seniors Advisory Board Meeting

February 14, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. (2nd Wednesday)

675 Hegenberger Rd., Oakland

*A portion of this meeting is open to the public.*

### Senior Gay Men's Group

February 8 & 22, 1:30 p.m. (2nd and 4th Thursdays)

The Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley

Co-sponsor: The Pacific Center, 510-548-8283

*Feel alone? Need to find space to be yourself and chat with others? Join us!*

### Lavender Seniors Pot Luck

February 10, noon-2:00 p.m. (second Saturday)

All Saints Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling Blvd., San Leandro

*This month's program: "TBA"*

### Lavender Seniors Film Series

February 21, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. (3rd Wednesday)

San Leandro Library, 300 Estudillo, San Leandro

*This month's movie: "Blackbird"(see info above)*

### Island Pride Peer Support Group

February 15, 10:30-11:30 a.m. (3rd Thursday)

Mastick Senior Center, 1155 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda

*A Peer Support Group is a safe & confidential space for LGBT Seniors 50+ to share thoughts, feelings, resources, information & to support one another.*

### Oakland Lunch Bunch

Sponsored by City of Oakland Aging & Adult Services

February 16, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. (3rd Friday)

North Oakland Senior Center, 5714 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland

*This month's program: "Intersex & Genderqueer Recognition Project" (see info above)*

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### Lavender Seniors

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