

Lavender Notes

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

April 2017

Celebrating 22+ years of service and positive change

Volume 24, Issue 4

Stories of Our Lives

Donald Silva and William Baillie

Don and Bill met each other 50+ years ago and have been together since November of 1966. They bought their current house in East Oakland back in 1972. Not what many people would consider your "typical" couple, this long-term pair - finally married in 2008 before Prop. 8 was passed and subsequently thrown out by the Supreme Court - have spent many happy hours with Don dressed as a stunning woman and Bill his handsome male escort.

Their lives started out in much more traditional ways, however.

Don was born at Providence Hospital in Oakland on May 2nd, 1935, the youngest of three sons, to a working-class mechanic and his homemaker wife.



Even as an infant, Don was frequently mistaken for a girl.

"My Dad came from a very large family of 13 kids," Don explains, "so I was surrounded by family throughout my childhood. My grandfather had a ranch in DeCoto - which is now Union City - with a creek running through it. My brothers, cousins and I spent many happy days there working in the huge vegetable fields and playing at 'bare-ass beach'!"

A member of the first class to graduate from San Lorenzo High School in 1953, Don half-heartedly dated a few girls, but knew at an early age that he was really more into boys.

"I was mostly trying to cover my ass in high school, so people wouldn't know I was gay," Don recalls. "There was one handsome boy who kept flirting with me and asking me if I wanted to play around - implying he would be happy to be the 'passive partner' to my 'active' in fellatio. But I didn't actually start 'fooling around' until after I'd joined the Navy!"



Don as a Navy man (four years active duty / four years reserve)

During his four years of active duty in the Navy, Don had an 18-month shore duty in New Orleans; a stint at Newport News, VA; a Mediterranean tour on an aircraft carrier; plus time for a few "shipboard romances".

"I had plenty of opportunities to explore my budding sexuality in the Navy," Don says. "During those months in New Orleans, I benefited from the 'love-a-man-in-uniform' syndrome, because I could hardly step into the street in my whites before some gorgeous guy would pick me up! Then, later - as a lieutenant - I was given my own private officer's quarters on the ship, so there were several romances that literally came to life during that time on the 'high seas'."

Meanwhile, when Don was only five years old, 2,400 miles away - in Dearborn, Michigan - a son, William, was born on the 13th of May, 1940, to a Ford Motor Company shop foreman and his wife. The youngest of six children (four sisters and one brother), Bill spent a lot of time in northern Michigan and Ontario, first learning how to drive a tractor on family property near Sault Ste. Marie.

He graduated from Dearborn High School in 1958, having - like Don - dated a few girls but much preferring his gay sexual explorations that had begun by age 8 or 10. He decided it was time to leave Dearborn after his father discovered a letter in his room, graphically describing the endowments of gay men in Toronto.



Bill graduating from Dearborn High School in 1958

"Soon after graduation, I set off on my own," Bill recalls, "joining the Army, seeing a bit of the world and - maybe most importantly - exploring my sexuality! I officially came out - to myself and our underground sub-culture - while stationed at Fort Monmouth Army Base in New Jersey. We would meet each other at the beach or under the boardwalk, do the wild thing into the wee hours, then the next morning report for duty like nothing had happened the night before!"

Once they'd each completed their stints in the military, they both wound up in the San Francisco Bay area, Don returning to his home turf and Bill as an "escapee" from the Midwest.

Speaking of turf, it was at the Turf Club in Hayward back in the summer of 1966 that they first laid eyes on each other. After heavily cruising and flirting with one another that fateful evening, bumping into each other in front of the outside men's room, etc., Don left the bar and noticed another car (driven by Bill!) followed him home. The 31-year-old and 26-year-old had a magical hook-up and have virtually been a couple ever since. They moved in together on the 15th of November 1966, then bought their Maxwell Park house in 1972 (where they still live 45 years later!) and celebrated their 50th anniversary last year with a Hawaiian cruise!



Bill (left) and Don on their Panama Canal Cruise in 1985 (their 19th year together).

Neither Don nor Bill ever really discussed their gayness with their parents.

"It was dear that everybody in my family knew what was up," Don recalls. "At one point, my Mom said 'I'm not as stupid as you might think!', but it was never discussed beyond that with either of my parents. Suffice it to say that when we bought our house here, they gave us most of the furniture we needed and that was the end of that!"

Bill's story with parents was similar.

"We'd had a 'pretend' wedding in 1967, where we exchanged rings from Milen's Jewelry Store," Bill recounts. "When we got legally married in October of 2008 (with the same rings) - before Proposition 8 passed - my mother came, but never said a word about our being gay. Never mind the whole family knew that we'd already been together for 42 years by then!"

Until eight years ago or so, the couple was heavily involved in the Royal Ducal Council of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Don performed in drag shows at the Aloha Club, was Queen of Alameda County, was involved with the Hayward Harlots and with Tenderloin Tessie, raising funds to feed the homeless, providing gift bags and clothes - even showers mounted inside of a truck - to needy families, and participating in the Annual Christmas Show and Spaghetti Feed to benefit St. Cuthbert's Charity Account. He was named Grand Duchess (1999-2002) and was widely-dubbed "Mama Portugal" in the community. Bill was not only regular escort to Mama P, but also frequently was DJ in the house.



Portrait of Bill (left) and Mama Portugal (Don)

[Editor's note: apologies for the unavoidable reflections from the picture-frame glass]



Portrait of Mama Portugal

"I always enjoyed dressing in women's clothes," Don recalls, "and was frequently mistaken for a girl when I did. In fact, there was a group of lesbians who came to one of our performances and questioned why we were letting 'real girls' perform in a drag show! And they were referring to me, of course!"

On the occasion of his 80th birthday in 2015, Don was honored with a Certificate of Recognition by the Senate of the State of California:



As reaching three score ten is an auspicious occasion, it is appropriate at this time to recognize your many accomplishments and to reflect on your artistry and contributions to the court system and the community. Your generous spirit, grace and style are greatly appreciated. It is through the efforts of individuals such as you that the world becomes a better place for all. Congratulations and happy birthday!

Signed by Senator Mark Leno, the Certificate of Recognition was awarded on May 3rd, 2015

Don and Bill - already at their current address - were some of the first LGBTQ participants in Lavender Seniors of the East Bay. They are listed on a roster of 63 people dated February 3rd, 1996, just 14 months after the ostensible beginning of the organization in November 1994.

"In fact, we try to donate regularly toward the vital work that Lavender Seniors is doing in the East Bay," Don states. "The Ducal Council and Leather Corps gave \$1,000 from our fund-raising activities again to them this year, as well as to the Oakland East Bay Gay Men's Chorus, which also does important work 'bringing our voice' to the community."

As Don and Bill approach 82 and 77, respectively (both birthdays are next month, in May), they look forward to continuing their lives together for however long remains to each of them. In fact, they just returned from two weeks in Puerto Vallarta the end of March!

"One key to long life - and to a lasting relationship - is making sure not to hold any kind of grudge," Bill concludes. "We will continue traveling together and enjoying our life as much as possible and for as long as we have the good fortune to remain in good health!"



Bill (left) and Don in front of their collection of crosses, crucifixes and rosary beads from all over the world, January 2017

We are grateful to both Don and Bill for their long-term contributions to the LGBTQ community over the years. We wish

them long life, happy travels and love.

Passing of another Lavender Seniors Pioneer

Francis Tom

Francis Tom, who became involved with Lavender Seniors of the East Bay during its first year of existence in the mid-1990s, died at his long-time home on Rand Avenue in Oakland two days before Christmas.



"Many of us were shocked to find out only recently that he had died," states Frank Dill of Richmond, who was a friend of Francis for 33 years. "He helped my lover, Robert, when he was moving into our house back in the early '80s and has remained a friend right to the present. I'd been trying to reach him off and on for a couple of months, but it wasn't unusual for him to be out of touch like that for various lengths of time."



Francis (left), after helping Robert and Frank move in together, 1983



Francis (right) and Frank's lover, Robert, 1990

Frank and Francis were members of an LGBTQ support group called "We're Still Here", formed at the North Oakland Senior Center about nine years ago.

"I was just sitting and talking with him one day after lunch at the center," Frank recalls, "and he told me I should come to the group - for gay and lesbian seniors - so I went with him that week. The rest is history and the group has been helpful for all of us, I think. We reserve the first Thursday of the month to get together, including for a holiday party in December. Francis came to that holiday party again this year, brought his usual potluck contribution of a cake from his favorite Chinese bakery. Little did we know it would be our farewell to him, since it turns out he died in his sleep about three weeks later!"



Francis (right), old friend, Frank; plus other "We're Still Here" members, Mary, Marlene and Morris at 2015 holiday dinner party

Francis was also involved in an ongoing support group at the South Berkeley Senior Center, referred to simply as the Old Farts Club, according to another long-term friend, Joe Horsington.

"Until about five years ago, when the group disbanded, several of us were regular members of that group," Joe states,

"though Francis never did say a lot when he and Don and I would go together to those meetings."

Francis was born in Hawaii in 1937 to a Chinese-American couple. His mother died when he was a young child. His father subsequently remarried and it was decided before he was ten years old that Francis should be sent to Contra Costa County, where he was essentially raised by his uncle.

"This seemed to have caused him a lot of pain over the years," according to Polly Gassler, one of the other "We're Still Here" group members. "He felt rejected, but wasn't sure exactly why he was sent away. He told some of us he wondered if it was because he was gay, maybe because his stepmother was a white woman who had other children or perhaps for some other reason."

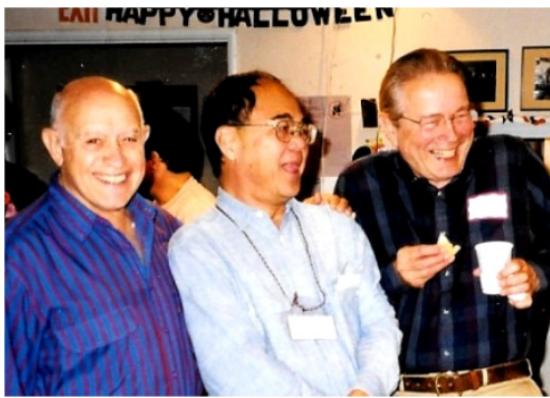
Frank experienced that emotional turmoil in Francis, as well.

"I think he was very hurt and haunted by being uprooted at such a young age," Frank recalls, "for whatever the reason. I heard him mention it a lot, since sending a pre-pubescent kid away so soon after the death of his mother was quite traumatic for him."

Francis graduated from Pleasant Hill High School in its first-ever graduating class back in 1955. He held lots of jobs in various fields over the years. He worked with developmentally disabled at Atascadero, he was a trained cosmetologist, he was a masseur and he spent some years working with hospice care, according to long-term friends.

In his later years, he and his van became well-known for helping other seniors get around to medical appointments, for running errands and for stepping out for social engagements. One of those who benefited from his generosity is Don Hamilton, a 90-year-old friend who continues working on a daily basis tutoring 7- and 8-year-old students in reading and math at a nearby elementary school.

"Here I am a frail, old nearly-blind diabetic, who depended on Francis for getting me out and about, whether it was to the grocery store or to my eye doctor," Don states. "He would call and check up on me regularly, making sure I got what I needed and he would take me out for lunch or dinner on a regular basis! Such a generous guy!"



Francis (center) and friends at a Halloween party, 1998

Francis also regularly attended the Lavender Seniors Third Friday Lunch Bunch at the North Oakland Senior Center, as well as the LGBTQ senior luncheons at the Rainbow Community Center in Contra Costa County.

"Twice a month, Francis, Frank and I would head over the hill or through the tunnel for these social times," Morris Simpson, another member of the "We're Still Here" group, recalls. "Though he was a pretty quiet guy much of the time - and couldn't always hear what was going on for the last couple years - he seemed to look forward to being in the company of other gay and lesbian people in his community."

The friends of Francis interviewed for this tribute are waiting to hear if there will be a memorial service of some kind coming up in the near future. Ed Flemings, who has helped Francis with routine maintenance on his home and apartments, was actually the person who discovered that Francis had died in December. He is currently in Germany dealing with a death in the family. It is expected that a memorial service for Francis might be arranged upon Ed's return from Europe.

Those who knew Francis will miss his quiet and supportive presence. And, unfortunately, Lavender Seniors has lost one more of its intrepid forward-thinking pioneers.



The Eastbay LGBTQ community lost Betty DeForest, a champion of the community on March 11, 2017 at the age of 85. The March 16, 2017 Eastbay Times writes:

"DeForest actively combated discrimination in Hayward.

She served as president of the local chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) for some time. With the aid of city leaders, Project Eden and South Hayward Parish, she helped launch the Hayward Gay Prom in 1994, when gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth were not welcome at other proms.

"I developed a deep respect, love and admiration for Betty and for her unflagging commitment to the least, the last and the lost; for saying what needed to be said, especially when what she said was unpopular; and for maintaining her sense of humor even in the most discouraging times," the Rev. Arlene Nehring, of Eden United Church of Christ, wrote in an email.

DeForest served on the Hayward Human Relations Commission, now the Human Services Commission, in the 1970s and helped craft the city's anti-discrimination plan in 1992.

South Hayward Parish, led by DeForest, spearheaded a grassroots initiative, No Room for Racism, later adopted by the city.

"I remember her just for the good things she did and the way she did it in a gentle way," Mayor Barbara Halliday said. "She was never demanding, harsh or critical, but she got what she needed to help other people," she said.

DeForest, a longtime Eden Youth and Family Center executive director, also served two terms on the Hayward school board in the 1990s and early 2000s.

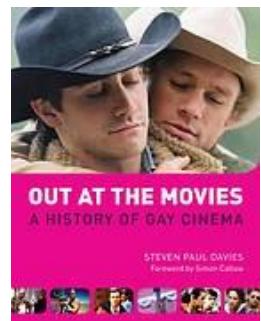
DeForest often deflected any public recognition for her actions. After all, there was still work to be done and people who needed help."

The Hayward Gay Prom continues today and stands as a memorial to the dedication and persistence of Betty DeForest. Her leadership was the social conscience of the Hayward area, and she is sorely missed.

Book Review:

Out At The Movies: A History of Gay Cinema

By Steven Paul Davies



"Brokeback Mountain" was the lavender breakthrough with the movie going public. After that, gay was in.

Davies covers gay movies by the decade: pre 1960's to 2010.

What a parade it was. "Capote" won several Oscars. "Brokeback Mountain" won three Academy Awards in 2006, including best director for Ang Lee, the first Asian Director to ever win that award; plus four Golden Globe awards, including best picture. "Milk" won two Academy Awards in 2008.

And we must not forget TV movies like "That Certain Summer" in 1972, when a gay father comes out to his son. And there were drag queens like Divine.

But what really started the ball rolling was "Boys in The Band" in 1970 when all the characters were pink. As a gay young man at the time, I was liberated by this consuming drama. For once we were not just minor players, bad guys, or comic

relief. And then there was "Cabaret" in 1972, with Liza Minnelli and Joel Grey.

A nice little extra is the gay films that won Oscars. Not covered in the book but should be mentioned was the big breakthrough last month when Moonlight, a film with a black gay youth as the main character, took Best Picture at the Academy Awards.

"Out At The Movies" gives us a dazzling array of color and historical context. This historical account of a significant part of gay lives is not to be missed by anyone.

- Frank Howell

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Lavender Seniors currently seeks volunteers for two areas of work within our organization: the **Advisory Board** and **Program Coordination**.

Have you benefited from Lavender Seniors work during its 20+ years of history? Do you have energy, dedication, and skills to give back and make a rewarding difference in your own life and that of other Bay Area seniors? If so, consider becoming an Advisory Board Member.

The group meets monthly in San Leandro and at this time needs to replace some interim members with longer-term ones to meet its quorum requirement.

Also, presently, Lavender Seniors is served by an Interim Program Coordinator. The group needs someone part-time who will support the growth of the vision, mission, and values of the organization while developing and implementing a strategic plan to accomplish its long-term and day-to-day operational needs. Tasks would include administration, organizing activities, and the pursuit of funding opportunities.

If either of these areas sound good to you, please contact beckie@lavenderseniors.org and one of the current Board members will be in touch with you soon. Thank You!



Contact:
Public Relations
San Francisco Symphony
(415) 503-5474
publicrelations@sfsymphony.org
sfsymphony.org/press

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / February 27, 2017



**MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS AND THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY
PRESENT SYMPHONY PRIDE, APRIL 4, 2017 AT DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL
BENEFIT CONCERT IN SUPPORT OF THE BAY AREA LGBTQ COMMUNITY
FEATURES BROADWAY STAR AUDRA MCDONALD**

Ticket Proceeds Benefit Non-Profits that provide services to Bay Area LGBTQ Community

SAN FRANCISCO, February 27, 2017— On April 4, 2017, Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony, along with Broadway star Audra McDonald, celebrate the Bay Area's spirit of inclusion and diversity with a special concert in Davies Symphony Hall recognizing and supporting the Bay Area LGBTQ community. *Symphony Pride* is scheduled on the eve of the Orchestra's East Coast tour, which was to have included two concerts in North Carolina but cancelled in response to discriminatory legislation adopted by the state. Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony believe strongly in representing the values of the community it serves, offering *Symphony Pride* as an event which not only celebrates and affirms the Orchestra's commitment to inclusion but also supports service organizations working towards equality for all.

"This special evening honors the essential contributions that LGBTQ composers have made in shaping the American musical sound," stated Michael Tilson Thomas. "One of music's greatest roles is to bring people together. I am proud to join with the musicians of the San Francisco Symphony and my dear friend Audra McDonald in presenting an evening that celebrates and honors the spirit of our community. This concert also offers me the opportunity to express my appreciation for the generous welcome extended to me and my husband Joshua Robison since our arrival here over 20 years ago."

"We commend Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony for taking a stand in support of the LGBTQ community," said Mayor Edwin M. Lee. "This great event reaffirms San Francisco's commitment to equality for all, regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Now, more than ever, San Francisco must exemplify what it means to be an inclusive city, devoted to protecting and advancing the rights of all who live here."

Pacific Center Expands Older Adult Services

Pacific Center for Human Growth (Pacific Center) is pleased to announce Alameda County Behavioral Health Services is funding an expansion of our services for older adults.

We are launching a program to provide topical therapeutic peer support groups for isolated LGBTQ older adults in the north, east and central regions of the county launching "Older & Out" groups in three senior centers:

North Berkeley Senior Center
Fridays at 3:15 pm, starting March 24th

Hayward Area Senior Center
Mondays at 1:15 pm, starting April 3rd

Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Senior Services
Tuesday afternoons, time and start date TBD

The groups are free and new members can join at any time, refreshments provided.

Groups will be run on a rotating 8 week cycle for up to a year, with an ideal of 10 members per group and facilitated by a team of Pacific Center clinicians with trained Peer Specialists assisting.

Participants will decide what topics to cover. Meeting suggestions so far include: dating, loss of friends, going back in closet to survive, invisibility in the LGBTQ community, family acceptance challenges, loneliness, and how to find other services in Alameda County.

**For more information contact: Anne at 510.548.8283. x126
or email: anne@pacificcenter.org.**

San Leandro Pot Luck

April 8, noon-2:00pm

All Saints Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling, San Leandro



The 2nd Saturday Potluck speaker will be Dr. Jason Flatt, PhD, MPH.

The topic of his presentation is his study on aging LGBTQ population and how having friendships affect the quality of life and the brain.

Dr Flatt, is an Assistant Professor in the Institute for Health & Aging, Department of Social & Behavioral Sciences, at the University of California, San Francisco School of Nursing. He is also affiliated with the UCSF Center for Aging in Diverse Communities and the UCSF Pepper Center.

The focus of his research has been on aging health disparities and dementia risk and prevention. Specifically, he has shown that older minorities and individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds are more likely to engage in adverse health behaviors (tobacco use and physical inactivity) and experience health disparities, such as higher rates of mental health problems, social isolation, cognitive impairment, and falls. He also studied the role of risk and protective factors in dementia, including PTSD, sleep disorders, and how participating in social activities and having larger social networks are associated with a decreased risk of cognitive decline and dementia.

His current research brings these two areas of research together to better understand risk and protective factors for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD) among older sexual and gender minorities (SGM). Currently, nothing is known about the epidemiology and risk of ADRD in SGM older adults without HIV/AIDS. By 2030, there will be nearly 6 million SGM older adults (aged 60 and older) in the U.S. who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender. Understanding the risk for ADRD in SGM older adults is critical to defining the burden and developing targeted preventive strategies. This work could also lead to improved screenings and treatments, and better targeting of culturally relevant interventions to prevent and reduce the burden of Alzheimer's disease in SGM populations.

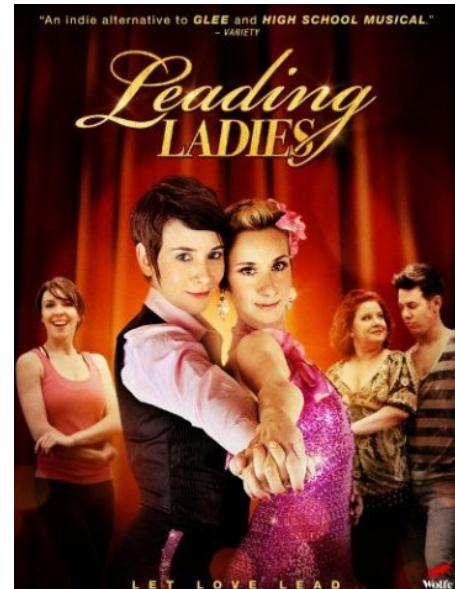
He is also seeking participants for two interviews in his study and will address that opportunity as well.

We are looking for other program ideas for future potlucks that may pique the interest of Lavender Seniors participants. Please send your suggestions to [Lavender Senior Lunches](#).

Lavender Seniors Film Series, Third Wednesday, 19th April , 1-3pm

"Leading Ladies"

This month's presentation in the Lavender Seniors Film Series focuses on a more-than-somewhat dysfunctional family. The Camparis are a family of women in which everyone knows her place. Sheri is the larger-than-life, overbearing stage mom. Once a young and beautiful ballroom champion, Sheri now lives vicariously through her youngest daughter, Tasi, the darling of the local amateur ballroom circuit. Sheri's oldest daughter, Toni, is Tasi's practice partner, the wallflower who must quietly support them all.



The only consistent man in the life of the Campari women is Cedric, Tasi's (flamboyantly gay) performance dance partner and Toni's best friend. This whacko-dance-family comedy-drama takes the viewer through what happens to each of these three women (and, incidentally, the two minor gay male characters) as they re-examine their roles in modern life and on the dance floor and learn to "Let Love Lead."

This zany 2010 comedy about two sisters, their gay best friends, and their overzealous stage mom covers a lot of ground. When one sister gets pregnant and the other plans to waltz out of the closet, the family must hustle to maintain their status quo in the harsh arena of competitive dance.



Wallflower (lesbian) sis watches Mom and sister battle it out, as usual.

For those interested in seeing a trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xiwCYPiNX4w>

Regarding the lead (lesbian) character, from a 2012 review by the GLBT Roundtable of the American Library Association:

There cannot be enough good reviews of Laurel Vail as the main character, Toni. Toni's ability to find joy even in the mundane such as her pizza place job radiates from the screen. She is a rare lesbian character who waltzes between

incredibly realistic and impossibly adorable and charming. She is a character young lesbians will crush on and emulate at the same time. Toni's deadpan sarcasm makes a strong contrast to the high-drama of the other characters that function as dramatic caricatures of the theater scene. Dramatic caricatures for the sake of comedy are not every viewer's cup of tea but they work in this film.

On another note, it would be nice to see more gay male best friends who are not flamboyantly effeminate, but with many of the characters functioning as walking stereotypes, this fits the tone of the film.

During some showings on the festival circuit, producers, directors, cast and crew noted that there were some straight people who were offended (some left the theater) by the make-out scene between the two women. This is the response of Erika Randall Beahm, one of the choreographers (a straight dance professor at University of Colorado, who had just given birth to her first child):

In some of the straight festivals, we've had a couple of older couples leave. We had people say, "There were moments where I was uncomfortable," and it's funny because it's a PG-13 love story with a sweet make-out scene. It's just that it's long and we indulge in it, and I think that makes people think, "How far is this going to go?" It's our hope that they say, "But the dialogue brought me back, and I realize that gay couples have been watching straight couples kiss for decades on film, and so I felt welcomed back to the story."

I feel like we have won over a lot of people who wouldn't typically see a quote-un-quote gay film. I think the dancing and the comedy does that.

The film will be shown at 1pm on Wednesday, 19th of April, in the Lecture Hall of the San Leandro Public Library, 300 Estudillo, a ten-minute walk up Estudillo from the San Leandro BART station - or a five-minute walk from the AC-Transit stop at E. 14th and Estudillo.

Lavender Seniors will provide popcorn, bottled water, Martinelli's apple juice, plus miniature Reese's peanut butter cups. After the showing, there will be a brief discussion and evaluation of the film and the issues it brings up for LGBTQ Seniors and their allies.

For people who are driving, the library is on Estudillo two blocks below Bancroft Avenue in San Leandro. It is accessible via either I-880 or I-580, as well.

From I-880, get off at the Davis exit and head east toward the hills. Davis eventually becomes Callan, which passes the north side of the library two blocks above East 14th.

Coming on I-580, get off at the Estudillo Exit (#31B) and follow that street down toward the Bay until you reach 300 Estudillo.

There is ample free parking - some three-hour and some two-hour - at the library.

Third Friday Lunch Bunch, Friday, 21st April, 12-2pm North Oakland Senior Center



This month's speaker is:

Amanda Enstrom, Ph.D., Associate Director, Immune Monitoring/Biomarker Development, Aduro Biotech

Dr. Enstrom has dedicated her career to the development of immunotherapies for cancer since earning her Ph.D. in Immunology from University of California, Davis. Since then, she has worked on numerous immuno-oncology trials from early Phase 1 through global Phase 3 trials.

She is passionate about the promise of immuno-oncology harnessing a patient's own immune system to battle tumor cells from within and has seen the field develop from the early Herceptin approval to the explosion of immuno-therapy into the public dialogue in part thanks to new drugs such as Keytruda and Yervoy.

She will share lessons learned from over a decade of experience in the field working in developing targeted therapies for breast, prostate, pancreatic, mesothelioma, ovarian, and gastric cancers among others. Dr. Enstrom works closely on clinical trial protocol development and monitoring of clinical trial participants to determine how drugs are working. She will describe how clinical trials work from a company perspective, the development of combination therapies, and emerging trends within the field.

If you have any questions about the scientific efforts to eradicate this disease, this is the person to hear.

As usual, buffet lunch (there is always a vegetarian option) will begin promptly at noon, the presentation following at 1:00pm, after announcements. The North Oakland Senior Center is at 5714 Martin Luther King Jr Way (corner of 58th Street). Ample parking and entrance are in the rear of the building, formerly Merritt College. It has since been retrofitted and renovated, with half of the building for NOSC and the other half for Children's Hospital Research Unit.



NEW CONSERVATORY THEATRE CENTER CELEBRATES 35 YEARS

2016-2017 Season Presentations

- + LEAVING THE BLUES Mar 3- April 2, 2017
A Play with Music by Jewelle Gomez
World Premiere
- + EVERYTHING THAT'S BEAUTIFUL March 17 - April 23, 2017
by Elyzabeth Gregory Wilder
World Premiere
- + SORDID LIVES May 12 - Jun 11, 2017
by Del Shores
SF Premiere
- + WARPLAY Jun 2- Jul 2, 2017
by JC Lee
World Premiere

Subscription Packages provide heavy discounts.

Go to <http://www.nctcsf.org/shows/subscribe> for more details.

25 Van Ness Ave. San Francisco, CA 94102
415.861.8972



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 www.caregiver.org.

Recipes of My Heritage



© Can Stock Photo

Many of our Lavender Seniors come from very rich culinary backgrounds that are not usually carried forward as part of their stories. As a consequence our LGBTQ community loses an important part of its cultural heritage.

From time to time we will publish recipes from the kitchens of LGBTQ individuals in order to share and carry forward a heritage that would hopefully enrich the generations that follow.

If you wish to share recipes from your kitchen, send the recipes with a little history, to Bjue.Lavenderseniorsorg@gmail.com. We will try to publish them as we can.



CARA Alert - February 27, 2017

A publication of the California Alliance for Retired Americans.

CARA' Presence felt around the State during PRESIDENT'S WEEK Congressional RECESS DON'T CUT OR PRIVATIZE MEDICARE, MEDICAID OR SOCIAL SECURITY

During the Week of Feb 17 - 24th, CARA sponsored or participated in dozens of events at key Congressional offices to protest GOP proposals to cut and privatize Medicare, Medicaid, the ACA, and Social Security. Some events drew hundreds like the candlelight vigil at McClintock's office, the march to Rohrabacher's office, and the rally in front of Denham's office. Other CARA folks held meetings with Congressional staffers like those at LaMalfa's office, one with Khanna's staff and a meeting with Feinstein's staff. There was an informational picket in front of Issa's office and congregational flyering after services in Valadao, Nunes and McCarthy's offices.

This is just a small sampling of the events that took place this past week in California. Needless to say, they were all AWESOME and proved that people are mad about these proposals and willing to take to the streets and take on their Representatives. Responses from some of the Congress members called us "anarchists", or "paid agitators", but this did not deter a single protestor. The crowds were diverse, unified, and energized - and sent a very clear message to members of Congress - DON'T CUT OUR SOCIAL INSURANCE PROGRAMS!!! CARA will be planning our next steps to keep the heat on.

Thank you to everyone who attended one of the many events around the State. If you were unable to go to an event - you can check out some of the photos, videos and press from these events on the CARA website at www.californiaalliance.org.

But our work is far from over. Congress plans to take up some of these GOP proposals in the weeks following this recess. We must keep the pressure on - so don't stop calling, writing, emailing and faxing your Congressional representatives. Here's how:

***TODAY and EVERYDAY:
Get Loud by Phone, Mail, or Online:
866-828-4162 (toll free switchboard in D.C.)***

THE HEALTHY CALIFORNIA ACT (SB 562-LARA)

On Wednesday, February 22nd, CARA joined Senator Lara and the Campaign for a Healthy CA to celebrate the introduction of the Healthy CA Act that would provide guaranteed health care to every Californian regardless of age, employment status, immigration status, income, ethnicity: EVERYONE IN and NOBODY OUT! Hundreds of folks rallied to celebrate the introduction of this bill. This legislation comes at a critical time - as Congress attempts to derail and defund the ACA, cut and privatize MediCAL and Medicare, we in California are going to fight to improve health care and finish the job that the ACA began, so that we can be the first state to guarantee health care for everyone - without the insurance companies, while saving money and eliminating deductibles and co-payments.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: UPCOMING CARA STATEWIDE EVENTS: (all in Sacramento)

**THURSDAY, MAY 25TH: CARA LOBBY DAY IN SACRAMENTO/10:30-2:30PM
THURS. AND FRI. MAY 25TH & 26TH: CARA LEADERSHIP ACADEMY IN
TUES. AND WED. SEPT 26TH & 27TH: CARA 14TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION**

You can contact CARA at:

CARA, 600 Grand Ave. #410, Oakland, CA 94610

NORTH: 510-663-4086 * 510-663-4099 (fax) * jreid.cara@gmail.com

SOUTH: 714-488-5488 * Vishnu.cara@gmail.com

TOLLFREE 1-877-223-6107 * www.californiaalliance.org



SENIOR CENTER

Without Walls

Community Phone Calls

Just a few of the things offered:

(Winter session is wrapping up on April 9th as of this printing the Spring catalog is not posted yet. Check out the website after April 9th for new programs.)

Gratitude 1/9 - 4/9 Morning Gratitude Every Day 9:00am - 9:30am Afternoon Gratitude Mondays - Fridays 12:00pm - 12:30pm Saturdays 4:00pm - 4:30pm Sundays 1:00pm - 1:30pm

Call our daily Gratitude Groups to share what you feel grateful for in a safe and welcoming space. Listen to others share as well for an inspiring way to begin each day! Facilitated by Kaevalya Banks, Kathleen Torres, Tom White, Lynn Rayburn, Vi C., Nicolette Noyes, and Patt Schroeder

View the **Winter catalog** of community phone calls [here](#). 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.

From Stonewall to No Walls: Pacific Center Annual Fundraiser



Sunday, April 30, 2017

4 - 7 PM

Z Café and Bar
2735 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612

Featuring the musical styling of:
[Kim Lembo](#)
[Irina Rivkin & Beryl and Nicole](#)

Pacific Center documentary premiere
by producer [Stefano Gonzalez](#)

[TICKETS ON SALE NOW!](#)

Save the date

Third Annual Pride Dance at the Hayward Senior Center

ages 21+ Hosted Happy Hour!

Friday, May
19th, 7-10 pm
Tickets \$17 in
advance, \$20
at the door

Hayward Senior
Center
22325 North
Third Street,
Hayward
510-881-6766

LGBTQ PARTY - ALL ARE WELCOME

GAY PRIDE DANCE

Friday, May 19, 2017

7:00pm-10:00pm

Featuring "Castro Valley Pride DJ" Billy Bradford

Hayward Area Senior Center

Location: 22325 North 3rd St., Hayward, CA

510.881.6766

www.haywardrec.org

\$17 in advance \$20 at door

Happy Hour 7-8pm; Beer & Wine

Online tickets are available at www.haywardrec.org Use code: #44165



Pride Night with the A's



June 6 vs.Toronto BlueJays at 7:05pm

Group tickets are now available at a discounted rate!

All attendees will receive:

An Oakland A's Rainbow Scarf

Access to a pre-game party

Free Parking

If your are interested in getting a block of tickets reserved for Lavender Seniors contact:

[Lavender Seniors Newsletter Editor](#)



THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

Older & Out - Hayward

April 3,10,17,24, 1:15pm (Mondays)

Hayward Senior Center, 22325 N. Third Street, Hayward

A topical therapeutic peer support groups for isolated LGBTQ older adults (see info above)

Queerly Aging Lesbians

April 6 & 20, 1:30 p.m. (1st and 3rd Thursdays)

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

Find support and like-minded wonderful people!

Out Standing Seniors

April 4 & 18 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 - Berkeley

April 7,14,21,28, 3:15pm (Fridays)

North Berkeley Senior Center, 901 Hearst Ave, Berkeley

A topical therapeutic peer support groups for isolated LGBTQ older adults (see info above)

Gay Straight Alliance

April 13, 11:00am - noon, (2nd Thursdays)

Fremont Senior Center, 40086 Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont

Rainbow Seniors

April 11 & 25 12:30 - 2:00 (2nd & 4th Tuesdays)

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

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

Lavender Seniors Advisory Board Meeting

April 12, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

(time and place may be changed, check before coming)

A portion of this meeting is open to the public.

Senior Men's Group

April 13 & 27 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!

San Leandro Potluck

April 8, noon - 2:00pm (2nd Saturday)

All Saints Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling, San Leandro 94578

Come relax for a couple of hours. Share the love, meet others, talk and laugh!

This month's program: Jason Flatt, PhD, MPH will speak on How People Are Good For Your Brain.

(see info above)

Lavender Seniors Film Series

April 19, 1:00 - 3:00pm (3rd Wednesday)

San Leandro Library, 300 Estudillo, San Leandro

This month's movie: Leading Ladies (see info above)

Our Space Intergenerational Community Dinner

April 20, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. (3rd Thursday)

Our Space, 22245 Main St in Hayward

Contact stephanie@baycyouth.org for information

Oakland Lunch Bunch

Sponsored by City of Oakland Aging & Adult Services

April 21, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. (3rd Friday)

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

This month's program: Amanda Enstrom, cancer research (see info above)

Women caring for their woman partners

Every other Friday at 1pm

Please R.S.V.P. to Patricia at [\(510\) 574-2091](mailto:patricia@LavenderSeniors.org)

Facilitated by Dr. Shannon Dubach

2041 Bancroft Way, Suite 307 Berkeley

If you are a woman caring for a sick elderly or disabled woman partner, join us.

President: Victor Aguilar Jr.
Vice President: Akilah Monifa
Secretary: John David Dupree
Treasurer: Carmen Chiong

Editor: Beckie Underwood
Interim Program Coordinator: Barbara Jue
Interim Board Member: mica-Meri Furnari

Lavender Seniors
is a project of
LIFE ElderCare

 Like us on Facebook

Email: info@lavenderseniors.org
Website: <http://lavenderseniors.org>

3300 Capitol Avenue
Fremont, CA 94538
510-574-2073