



Lavender Notes

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

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Celebrating 25 years of service and positive change

April 2020 - Volume 26 Issue 4

FOUNDER'S CORNER

By Barbara Jue, Co-Founder

Remembering

Bobbie "BJ" Jarvis

Lavender Seniors Pioneer / Co-Founder

December 1933 – March 2020

With heavy hearts, we received notice of the passing of Bobbie June Jarvis, co-founder, pioneer, and designated treasurer of the fledgling Lavender Seniors of the East Bay in 1994. She had turned 87 in December 2019 and died March 1, 2020.

She was always on the lookout for grants. There wasn't much funding in those days for LGBT organizations, but she diligently monitored the income versus expenditures. She was one of the panel of speakers who spoke regularly on behalf of LGBT seniors, sharing her story with senior resident care takers to help them understand the stigma of being LGBTQ at that age, not just something in the pages of a book.

In her later years, she was an imposing figure, someone you had to take seriously. But she was also gentle, the quieter of the two that made the couple of BJ and Meg. They were both very active in early Lavender Seniors events. They worked with friends to forward our mission. Ina Mae Murri and Stella Lopez-Armijo, a couple they met at Lavender Seniors inception, remained very close life-long friends with BJ and Meg.



BJ (right) and Meg on their wedding day (and Meg's 70th birthday), August 10, 2008

As Meg's health deteriorated, we saw less and less of them. BJ stayed closer to

home to care for Meg. After Meg passed, BJ was unable to return as an active leader, restructuring her life as her own health began its decline.

BJ and Meg were subjects in the "Stories of Our Lives" column in the [Lavender Notes](https://lavenderseniors.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Lavender-Notes-October-2015.pdf) column October 2015 edition (see <https://lavenderseniors.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Lavender-Notes-October-2015.pdf> for a more complete description of her life).

Notice of BJ's passing came through her son, Jeff, who informed us that her Celebration of Life was scheduled to occur at the Lima Family Mortuary in the Cedar Lawn Cemetery in Fremont on March 22, 2020. BJ Jarvis is survived by son, Jeff, and wife, Lisa, 4 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Subsequent to those arrangements, California's Governor Newsom issued an order that all Californians be sheltered in place and maintain a 6-foot social distance in response to the world-wide COVID-19 virus pandemic. The Celebration will be rescheduled for a future date.

Remembrances from other Lavender Seniors Pioneers

"Many of the early members of Lavender Seniors have fond memories of BJ and I hope we never forget the contributions she made to our cause. Memories of her will never die."

- Frank Howell

"We are sorry to learn of her passing but know she is in a better place with her Meg. People must leave us, as you well know, but the memories will live on in our thoughts for years to come."

- Dee & Shirley

"I'm saddened by the news of BJ's passing. BJ was inspiring, loving and special in so many ways. Her early and strong leadership was a key reason the Lavender Seniors of the East Bay has been such a successful and focused community organization. Warmest, joyous thoughts to all of BJ's many loved ones."

- Alan Pardini

"My remembrance of BJ is pretty wonderful. She gave me strong yet humble financial guidance. She was always there for me when I had questions. The fact that she was our Lavender Seniors Board Treasurer made it easy for me as Director to get financial questions quickly and correctly answered. She stayed aware of various grants that we received to continue funding programs at LS. For the director of an organization, the person I needed as the financial consultant who was accurate and trustworthy. I never doubted that I had that with BJ. She was an inspirational being who I am so glad crossed my path."

- Barbara Faulkner, former ED

**STORIES
OF OUR LIVES** 

Gabriel T. "Gabe" Quinto

One of the many “firsts” he’s particularly proud of – during his first six decades – was raising the rainbow flag over El Cerrito City Hall, the first Contra Costa County City to do so, acknowledging Pride Month in 2013. Gabe – the first openly-gay City Council Member – then became the first Filipino and the first out-gay Mayor of El Cerrito in 2018.

Born at Berkeley’s Herrick Hospital in June 1961, Gabe was the second of two first-generation Filipino-American children of an immigrant from the Philippines, who had arrived in 1927 as part of an influx of migrant farmworkers needed in California at the time. His father enlisted in the U.S. Army’s 2nd Filipino Infantry Regiment when he was 35. He spent much of World War II stationed in New Guinea and was part of the group that returned to the Philippines with Gen. Douglas MacArthur in October 1944, after having fled the country in March 1942. Gabe’s father and other members of this unit were posthumously recognized in 2017 with the Congressional Gold Medal, one of which was presented to Gabe’s mother at a ceremony in the Presidio.

Gabe’s father met and married his mother on a subsequent trip back to the Philippines. She joined him in Berkeley in 1960. They subsequently moved to El Cerrito, where Gabe finished elementary school and graduated from El Cerrito High School.

“I was fairly lonely as a kid,” Gabe recalls. “My father was in the Merchant Marines until I was a junior in high school. We only saw him every eight months or so, making me feel very sad every time he would leave. So, basically, our Mom – who worked at Kaiser in Oakland for 35 years – raised us as a single mother. Though I could understand the Tagalog that she and other family members spoke, I never did quite learn how to speak it myself, which I regret now, of course.”



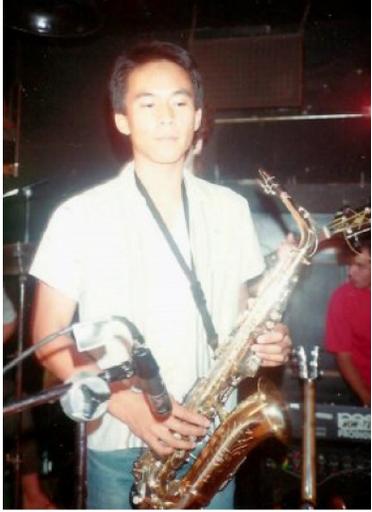
Gabe – Age 4

As an 18-year-old half-year-early high school graduate in 1979, he immediately moved to San Francisco, where he worked in a super market for a year or so and enrolled briefly at San Francisco State University.

“I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life,” Gabe says, “I just knew I couldn’t wait to leave home and strike out on my own. As it happens, I met my first boyfriend, Dennis, during that time and we decided to relocate to Southern California. We moved to Long Beach, where I soon enrolled at California State University, majoring in the Radio-TV-Film program.”

Though he was indeed slightly interested in his academic program, his real love became playing in various bands, rehearsing around his class schedule. His boyfriend introduced him to friends in the L.A. music scene.

“I became one of those classic ‘starving musicians’ during those years in Southern California,” Gabe says. “I played the alto sax and other woodwinds with various rock bands – a working musician – opening for American, British and Australian rock



Gabe on Sax – Age 20

concerts, our music being played on the radio.

As fate would have it, the early 1980s was not a good time to be a sexually-active gay man in big urban centers like L.A., San Francisco and New York. As many of us who lived through it remember, the CDC's MMWR (Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report) on June 5, 1981, published a report of five cases of *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia (PCP) among previously healthy young gay men in Los Angeles. The ensuing two decades became a nightmare in the gay community's struggle with what eventually became known as AIDS. Gabe and many of his friends –

including Dennis – were not spared.

"In my last year of college, my boyfriend and I weren't getting along very well," Gabe recalls. "I suggested we separate and he ought to move back to the Bay area, which he did. He was a very sweet guy. He eventually moved to Japan and taught English there for a few years. Unfortunately, he became ill and died with HIV-related disease in 1991. And dozens of my friends died along the way, as well, which made for a very deep depression on my part. When I had lost one too many of my friends and felt pretty hopeless about my own life – not wanting to live at all sometimes – I left my job in 1993 and moved back to the Bay area. I'm not sure I've ever totally recovered from that period even now."

Gabe became actively involved in various support groups – both in L.A. and in the Bay area.

"I started going to support groups at the Pacific Center," he recalls, "and became actively involved with the API Wellness Center. I became a board member with the Asian-American group set up at 733 Polk Street in San Francisco – a one-stop shopping center which provided a foodbank, mental health, HIV testing and other social services – different floors of the building for different needs!"

As a long-time Shanti Project peer counselor, he provided support for several men along the spectrum of HIV/AIDS, many of whom died, contributing once again to his own ongoing battle with depression and anxiety.

"There were so many AIDS-related deaths – including suicides – that it was hard to keep your spirits up, no matter how many support or supervision groups you were involved in," Gabe recalls. "One of my longest-term clients, however – he'd been given a six-months-to-live prognosis – became a close friend for much longer than six months – he defied the odds! We not only shared a love for greyhounds – especially Italian greyhounds and sighthounds – but had lively discussions about politics, planting the seed for my eventual political activism."

Meanwhile, another friend – aware of how shy and angst-filled Gabe was at the time – set up a date for him in 1996 with the man who has become his partner for the last 23+ years.

"My friend – who was also HIV-positive – knew I always felt a sort of stage-fright the minute there were more than two or three people in a room – bordering on anxiety attacks," Gabe says. "So he pretended to be me and called a guy he'd read about in a personal ad and set up this date. Glen and I had our first date at Sweet Inspiration in San Francisco. And we've been pretty much together for the 23 years since, though we've certainly had our ups-n-downs from time to time! For instance, I'm very proud of his achievements in healthcare and in the sober community."



Gabe and Glen



Gabe, Glen, Lulu and Glen's nephew - 2004



Gabe, Glen and Sergio - 2018

Gabe's parents, family and friends have always been very supportive of his gayness.

"As for the rest of my family, Dad was always fine with it; he loved Dennis and Glen. Unfortunately, he died in 2009 after a protracted period of dementia, so my Mom's life was pretty rough during those last few years of his life. They had to move to a one-story place in Vallejo and, eventually, he had to be put in a memory-care facility for his own safety. He died eight months or so later. My Mom is 85 years old now, so I'm committed to continuing to be a primary caregiver for her now, whatever happens next!"



Gabe and his Mom with his Dad's Congressional Gold Medal

Gabe became involved in different East Bay Democratic Clubs, became a delegate to the State Democratic Convention, volunteered on a Senior Committee in El Cerrito and then became a Human Relations Commissioner.

"When I was having lunch with a City Council member, she suggested I should take her place when she left the council," Gabe recalls. "I told her I wasn't interested at the time, though I then became an East Bay Assembly-member delegate during Lonnie Hancock and Nancy Skinner campaigns. When I became part of an LGBTQ of color caucus at the Democratic Convention, I discovered that I finally felt really at home and wanted to be part of making positive changes in our party."

Gabe ran successfully for the El Cerrito City Council in 2014 and joined the Executive Committee of the Sierra Club, a post he only recently resigned.

"When I became the first out LGBTQ City Council member in El Cerrito, I felt I could really start making a difference in our community," he says. "Then when

I became the first out-gay Mayor of El Cerrito in 2018 – there were only 34 of us in the whole country! – I felt I was really on the right track. Look, even San Francisco has never had an out-gay Mayor yet to date!”

Gabe has taken up the challenge of mentoring other would-be LGBTQ political candidates – including with Equality California and Victory Institute and speaks regularly on how it feels to campaign as an openly-gay candidate.

“It’s hard to believe that I’m the same person now – speaking to very large groups until they have to use the hook to drag me off the stage,” Gabe says, laughing slightly. “For so many years, I was terrified to do public speaking of any sort and – now that I’m totally comfortable with – and proud of – who I am and found my niche in the world, I just love sharing what I’ve learned with my beloved community.”

Gabe is the current Vice President of the LGBTQ Caucus of the League of California Cities. He participates with the LGBTQ Legislative Caucus and has numerous other assignments in the political arena, including being Past President - API Caucus, League of CA Cities 2020; on the LOCC Environmental Policy Committee; Current Chair of the Contra Costa Mayors Conference and on the Contra Costa Hazardous Materials Commission.



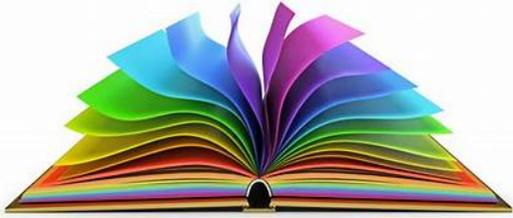
Gabe Campaign Portrait

“I’m not sure what the future holds for me, personally or politically,” Gabe admits. “I’m proud of the fact that El Cerrito is one of the top ten California cities with LGBTQ resident couples. I may run for a third term when my current term runs out in two-plus years. Glen, who’s one year older than I am, would like us to both retire and travel a lot. I’m on Contra Costa’s Democratic Central Committee until 2024, so we’ll see what happens. Let’s put it this way: I’m excited about life now, after having times in my life that I just wanted to stay in my room for days at a time. Being an active part of the LGBTQ community – which has the best volunteers in the world! – is an inspiration to me! I’m not ready to let that go right now!”



Gabe with former South Bend mayor and 2020 presidential candidate, Pete Buttigieg

In an era when the first openly-gay man – running for President – has won the LGBTQ community’s first-ever state-level caucus (Mayor Pete won the most delegates in the 2020 Iowa caucus) and has amassed nearly a quarter-million Super Tuesday votes in California alone – even though he dropped out of the race four days earlier – we can understand why El Cerrito’s own openly-gay City Councilmember continues to inspire, as well!
Thanks, Gabe!



The Lavender Scare: The Cold War Persecution of Gays & Lesbians in the Federal Government

By David K. Johnson

Johnson is a visiting professor in the History Department of the University of Florida. Here we have a significant chunk of gay history. Anti-communism became allied with homophobia. Leftist political figures were pushed together with homosexuals as an enemy of democracy and Americanism. President Eisenhower encouraged the connection.

Scores of Americans were questioned on their political lives. Careers were ruined and many suicides took place. Civil service was said to be filled with gays and lesbians who were not loyal to American values. Gays were seen to be not loyal to America because they could be easily blackmailed and spied for Russia.

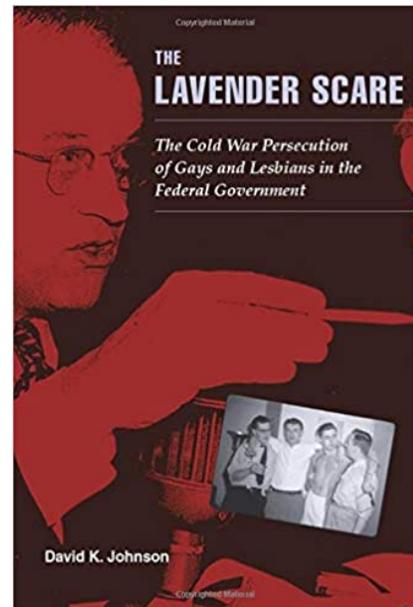
Questions were: Did you live with a homosexual? Were you ever arrested by the police?

Johnson captures the vital issues of homophobia and loose gossip that dominated the era of intolerance and bigotry of the 1940's and 50's.

Read and beware.

- Frank J. Howell

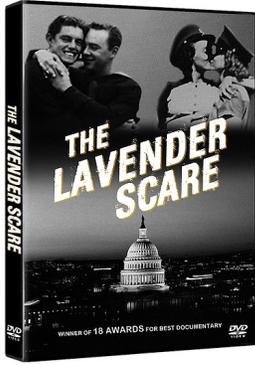
[Editor's Note: Lavender Seniors co-sponsored the documentary film based on Johnson's book at the Frameline Film Festival in 2017. For snippets of this film (shown on PBS in June 2019) see: <https://www.pbs.org/video/lavender-scare-9ugluo/> or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DNfi7u9yvF4>. Eisenhower's April 1953 Executive Order calling for identifying, purging and blackballing LGBT individuals at all levels of government was in force for 42 years (until 1995). The film's website is <https://www.thelavenderscare.com/>]



The Lavender Scare

The first documentary film to tell the story of the U.S. government's decades-long effort to identify and fire gay and lesbian employees.

www.thelavenderscare.com



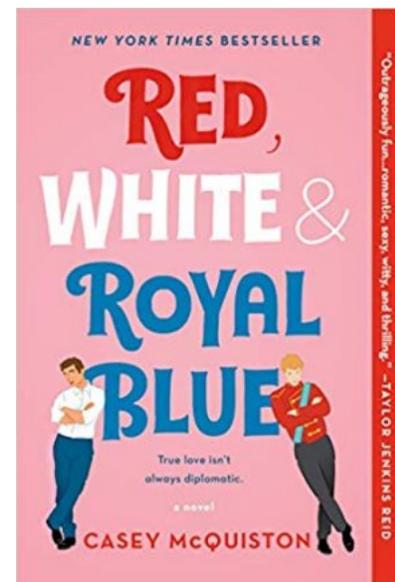
BONUS BOOK REVIEW

Red, White and Royal Blue By Casey McQuiston



Whether we're "sheltering in place," relaxing at the beach or reading to our grandchildren, spending time with fiction requires that we suspend belief for a while and escape from ourselves and the reality of our world.

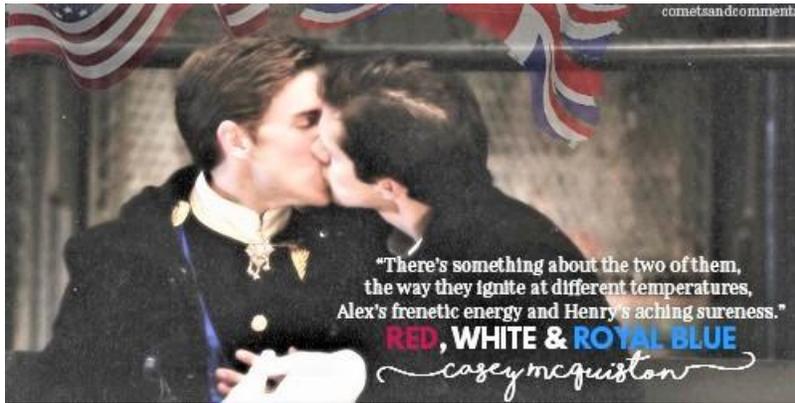
This best-selling 2019 YA (Young Adult) book is really a must-read for any imaginative human beings from age 13 to 113. Readers must, however, brace themselves – and look past – some "foul language" – much of it unrealistic for us commoners – that might not have been permitted in our homes, schools, religious institutions or communities.



Here are the premises we must accept in order to relish this book:

- The 2016 presidential election resulted in the first woman President of the United States (sigh)...
- This white woman has given birth to now-college-age biracial fraternal twins – Alex and June – with the help of her ex-husband, a Latino Senator.
- Both twins seem to have relatively fluid sexuality.
- Alex, the very handsome "First Son (FSOTUS)" initially despises the devastatingly handsome Henry, the Prince of Wales, after meeting him at the 2016 Olympics in Rio (and the feeling appears to be mutual).
- After a dust-up at a royal wedding in London (the handsome duo winds up in the wedding cake), they are forced for diplomatic and public relations to interact publicly.
- The rest is a delicious story about how that initial antipathy turns to something sweet, a hybrid cross between "Call Me by Your Name" and "The Prince and the Pauper".
- Most of the key characters seem unable to express themselves without

regular f-bombs – even to their parents – the President of the United States and the Queen of England!



Sometimes when reality seems too much to bear, throwing oneself into a sexy and fun romantic fantasy can make the unpleasantness less debilitating. November's just seven months away!

Try it – you might like it (currently #15 on the NY Times Best Seller List, available on-line, in libraries, at local bookstores, as an e-book or audio-book)!

- John David Dupree

p.s. Yes, Amazon has bought the film rights to this book and screenwriters are busily at work as we write this review, adapting it into a blockbuster movie, to be produced and released in the near future!

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 us at karen@lavenderseniors.org or (510) 424-7240 and we will be in touch with you soon. Thank You!



As mentioned in our mid-March e-Blast, all Lavender Seniors gatherings – the Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch, the Third Friday Lunch Bunch and the Third Wednesday Film Series have been canceled for March, April and May, given current “shelter-in-place” and “stay-at-home” orders. We will assess in mid-May whether anything can be resumed for Pride Month in June or not.

Meanwhile, we have some suggestions for passing the time, staying connected and being entertained from the safety – and perhaps loneliness – of our own homes.

Notes from Tinamastes

Virtual 2nd Saturday and/or 3rd Friday, Anyone?

Saludos de Costa Rica!

Jumaane and I spent an hour last Sunday morning attending a virtual Unitarian Church service in Santa Cruz via Zoom. We saw (full real-time moving video images) of nearly 100 people – many of them old friends with whom we could have private conversations, as well as communicating with the whole group (when recognized by the host). Then later that night, my bio-daughter and her family (in Thornton, CO); my bio-son and his wife (in Denver); my niece and her wife (in San Rafael); Jumaane and I had an hour-long chat (each family taking up one-quarter of my 17” laptop screen, so nearly life-size!), laughing, catching up, hearing great things about bike-rides and scholarships, as well as sad things like my son (Director of Colorado’s TB Program) and his colleagues trying to do contact tracing on a 29-year-old healthy Colorado man who contracted COVID-19, getting very ill and dying before he could give authorities much information about his contacts.

Since all Lavender Seniors gatherings have been canceled until further notice through March, April and May, some Lavender Seniors board members have discussed trying to hold virtual Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch and Third Friday Lunch Bunch meetings (everybody would have to make their own lunch while sheltering-in-place at home, of course), where people could see and talk with each other on-line (or on their smart-phones!) and have a little community chat/check-in to make sure everybody’s doing alright, if perhaps going somewhat stir-crazy!?

So, we’re proposing the following two meetings (via Zoom) in April for anybody in the world who reads this and is interested in joining us – whether it’s 2 people or 22 or 42 – we are authorized for up to 100 participants! Then we can decide whether we want to do the same thing in May or June, depending on how long the “stay-at-home” order stays in effect. We’ve made no arrangements to have the presenters originally scheduled for March, April or May, since we didn’t know whether/how this was going to work. Maybe we’ll try to incorporate actual speakers/entertainers in the near future. Who says us old folks aren’t adaptable?!

Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch, 11th April, 12-2pm:

Gwendolyn Boozé and John David Dupree invite you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Lavender Seniors 2nd Saturday Rainbow Lunch

Time: Apr 11, 2020, 12:00 PM – 2:00PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/705574305?pwd=cGFKaGw0c29RQXRkci8rU0wydGVaUT09>

Meeting ID: 705 574 305

Password: 183405

One tap mobile

+13462487799 – then Meeting ID 705574305# US (Houston)

+16465588656 – then Meeting ID 705574305# US (New York)

Third Friday Lunch Bunch, 17th April, 12-2pm:

Gwendolyn Boozé and John David Dupree invite you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Lavender Seniors 3rd Friday Lunch Bunch

Time: Apr 17, 2020, 12:00 – 2:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/856114581?pwd=WFP6UXB5d0dWdkdSMU01SW1oL0I5QT09>

Meeting ID: 856 114 581

Password: 360855

One tap mobile

+13462487799 – then Meeting ID 856114581# US (Houston)

+16465588656 – then Meeting ID 856114581# US (New York)

If you already have a Zoom account, you can just sign in, enter the “meeting” ID number and password; if not, use the entire hyperlink to get in and then enter the password when it is requested. Meanwhile, feel free to e-mail Gwen (Gwen@LavenderSeniors.org) or John David (JohnDavid@LavenderSeniors.org) if you have any questions or concerns. It may be complicated for some of us at first – whether we’re on computers or smart-phones!

Hope to “see you” there – another bold experiment at what may be a tender age, for some of us! Either way, take good care of yourselves and each other – just stay healthy! We’ll get through this! Happy “sheltering-in-place” or “staying-at-home” until we meet again!

- John David

* * * * *

Watch Live LGBTQ-Themed Theatre from Your Own Home Now!
Theatre Rhinoceros is Online!

At Theatre Rhino we are moving forward and have a number of Live Theatre options for you available right now and coming up. These can all be accessed from your home.

Theatre Rhinoceros in San Francisco – which bills itself as “**The Longest-Running Queer Theatre in the World**” has developed a “choose what you want to pay” (usually choice of \$5, \$10 or \$15) to have on-line access to a few of their productions between now and the end of August:
https://therhino.audience1st.com/store/8?show_id=80

Because of current deliberations on LGBTQ-related issues at the U.S. Supreme Court, they are also organizing an on-line event for 7pm on Tuesday, 7 April – Running time 90 minutes with no intermission:



Free Online Reading!!!

SCOTUS Gay

Live-Remote Reading:
Tuesday, April 7 at 7 pm
Running time is 90 minutes with no intermission

SCOTUS* GAY: Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia, adapted from the Supreme Court transcripts and the real stories behind the case by John Fisher.

On October 8, 2019 the Supreme Court heard oral arguments about the notorious cases of men and women being fired for sexual orientation. “Will the Supreme Court decide it’s ok for workers to be fired for being gay? At issue is a single word in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which bars discrimination on the basis of ‘sex’.” (Forbes, 10/24/19)

Watch the Supreme Court in action and the story behind the story.

In response to the COVID-19 Crisis, our next project – a staged reading of a new play about the current Supreme Court battles over “gay firing” – will be presented as a Zoom Event. It will be live, but watched on-line and performed by actors in their separate remote locations. This is a completely free event.

The show is on-line and accessed through our website. On Tuesday, April 7, 2020 @ 6:45 pm, please go to www.therhino.org and follow the instructions to access this live performance.

This on-line live performance is free and open to the public.

For more information on their various “access from your home” program, check out the Theatre Rhinoceros website: <http://therhino.org/>

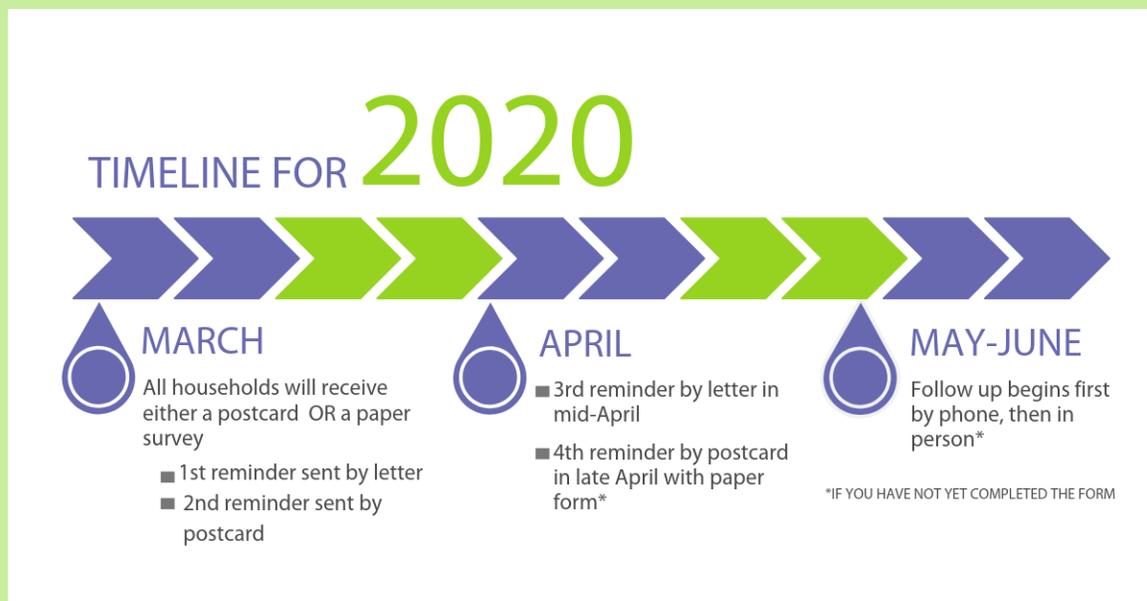
Lavender Seniors will continue trying to keep participants informed on LGBTQ-related issues that are available to us in the comfort of our own homes. Stay

2020 Census – Make Sure You’re Counted!

As you can imagine, the gathering of data for the 2020 Census has been considerably affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, our “stay-at-home” orders and the social distancing required to flatten the curve of the coronavirus here and throughout the country.

The U.S. Census Bureau continues to carefully monitor the situation and follow the guidance of federal, state, and local health authorities. They are adjusting some operations with two key principles in mind: protecting the health and safety of our staff and the public, and fulfilling our statutory requirement to deliver the 2020 Census counts to the government on schedule.

We hope this finds each of you safe and well. As we all work to adjust, we want to remind you that responding to the 2020 Census is safe, important and easy to do from the comfort and safety of your own home (online: my2020census.gov | by phone: 844-330-2020 (English). [Phone number for 12 non-English languages here: https://2020census.gov/en/contact-us.html](https://2020census.gov/en/contact-us.html)).



You can now view live census response rates on a state, county, city, and census tract level at <https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates.html>. This tracker is updated daily at 12:00pm PST through 8/14.

The 2020 Census is underway and is ready for America to respond. Plan to include everyone you expect to live in your home on April 1. You can respond online in one of 13 languages and find assistance in many more.

The first invitations were sent out to an estimated 140 million households between March 12-20. Every household that hasn’t already responded should have received additional reminder letters in the mail between Monday, March 16 and Tuesday, March 24.

Respond to the 2020 Census as soon as you receive your invitation — and when you’re finished, make sure your friends, families, and social networks

know about the importance of responding.

Why the Constitution Calls for Conducting This Count Every Ten Years!

The census provides critical data that business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for you and your community. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources based on census data. The results of the census also determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, and they are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts.

As you may know, Lavender Seniors received a small grant from the United Way of the Bay Area to assist in any way possible to make sure that the LGBTQ community is accurately reflected in Census 2020. For questions or assistance, please feel free to contact us at info@lavenderseniors.org or (510) 736-LGBT (5428). We will help in any way we can. We want to make sure that each member of our community – and their loved ones – get counted!

Oregon Shakespeare Festival 2020

Lavender Seniors Annual OSF-Out Weekend Trip Postponed

For those who have inquired about a “third annual” Lavender Seniors-sponsored trip to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland this year during OSF-Out weekend, the sad news released this week is that the Festival season has been postponed until September, with only six of its eleven productions being mounted at that point, presuming the COVID-19 pandemic has subsided by then. OSF-Out Weekend (the annual celebration of LGBTQ theater) had been tentatively scheduled for the last weekend in July, but the coronavirus has put the kibosh on that, as well. No new date has been set for that celebration given current uncertainties.

Oakland’s own Nataki Garrett, who has been artistic director at OSF for less than a year – taking over for openly-gay Bill Rauch (now at the Perelman Center for the Performing Arts in Manhattan) – says she has had the regrettable task of laying off 80 per cent of the festival staff, in hopes that all can resume in an abbreviated festival beginning in early September.



“We’re trying to make sure we have enough cash to regroup and come back,” Nataki told the New York Times.

“In ordinary seasons, the festival has about 800 performances attended by 400,000+ people. Without money from ticket sales for current shows or future shows, we have to say we have this much cash, and it will only last us this long.”

Whether a new date for OSF-Out Weekend will indeed be set for the fall – or whether the festival will be able to re-open at all – remains to be seen. If the pandemic curve is indeed flattened/reversed by September, Lavender Seniors may indeed try to continue the “annual tradition” of joining that celebration in



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](#).

Well Connected Enriching lives and supporting well-being.

(FORMERLY SENIOR CENTER WITHOUT WALLS)

Community Phone Calls

This award-winning program offers activities, education, support groups, and friendly conversation over the phone or online.

Just a few of the things offered:

(The times are no longer listed in the generic catalog, once you have signed up you will get a link to a catalog with times in your time zone)

LGBTQ Chat 2nd and 4th Mondays

This group is open to all LGBTQ older adults to connect with others socially in a supportive environment where participants can share individual and collective experiences. Facilitated by Ariel Mellinger, ASW, Support and Wellness Coordinator, Openhouse SF

Music's Memory Lane Tuesdays

Each week we'll discuss a hit song, vintage television variety show, 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

Perplexing Questions Sundays

Have you ever wondered how a fly can walk upside down on the ceiling? Or how a camel can go so long without water? Find out the answers to some head-scratching questions. Facilitated by Sharon Schwartz

View the Current catalog of community phone calls [here](#). Check the [website](#) for more information. To participate in these or other Well Connected telephone activities, or to learn more about their programs, call 877-797-7299 or email coviaconnections@covia.org.



**Save
the
Date**

AS OF THIS PUBLISHING WE HAVE A SHELTER IN PLACE ORDER ISSUED WITH NO SPECIFIC ENDING DATE. PLEASE CHECK WITH THE EVENT SPONSORS TO SEE IF THEY ARE MEETING VIRTUALLY THIS MONTH. Dates have been removed from the listings.

Out Standing Seniors - Sponsored by Pacific Center

12:30 - 2:00 p.m. (1st and 3rd Tuesdays)

Hayward Senior Center, 22325 N. Third Street, Hayward

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

LezBold Peer Support Group

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 Therapy Group - Berkeley - Sponsored by Pacific Center

3:00 p.m. (Fridays)

North Berkeley Senior Center, 901 Hearst Ave, Berkeley

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

Older & Out Therapy Group - Oakland - Sponsored by Pacific Center 2:00 p.m.

(Fridays)

Oakland LGBTQ Community Center, 3207 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland

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

Older & Out Therapy Group - Hayward - Sponsored by Pacific Center

1:00 p.m. (Mondays)

Hayward Senior Center, 22325 N. Third Street, Hayward

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

Rainbow Seniors - Sponsored by Pacific Center & Lavender Seniors

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

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

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

Living OUT in Livermore - Sponsored by Pacific Center

2:00 - 3:30 p.m. (1st Tuesdays)

Robert Livermore Community Center Senior Services, 4444 East Avenue,
Livermore 94550

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

Lavender Seniors Board Meeting

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. (2nd Wednesday)

4300 Bermuda, Oakland

A portion of this meeting is open to the public.

Senior Gay Men's Group

1:30 p.m. (Weekly on 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 Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch

Cancelled this month due to Coronavirus precautions.

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

Lavender Seniors LGBTQ Film Series

Cancelled this month due to Coronavirus precautions.

San Leandro Library, 300 Estudillo, San Leandro

Tri-Valley Rainbows - Sponsored by Pacific Center

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

City of Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin 94568

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

Oakland Third Friday Lunch Bunch

Sponsored by City of Oakland Aging/Adult Services & Lavender Seniors of the
East Bay

Cancelled this month due to Coronavirus precautions.

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

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay Board of Directors

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Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

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