



Lavender Notes

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April 2021 - Volume 27 Issue 4

COVID Takes Another of Our Loved Ones

Carmen Bravo Aguilar

The beloved mother of Victor Aguilar, Jr., Lavender Seniors Board President and San Leandro's well-known Vice Mayor, lost her lengthy and valiant battle against the Coronavirus last month on March 5th. She lived in Southern California and was 68 years old when she passed.

Carmen was born on 8/23/1952 in East Los Angeles, a graduate of James A. Garfield High School. She married Victor Aguilar, Sr. in June 1979. The couple moved to El Monte, where they raised their four children.

She worked for the El Monte City School District at Le Gore Elementary School, where she spent over 30 years as a noon time aide. Carmen supported and changed the lives of so many. She was an advocate for the underserved and a beacon for the unsheltered. She always helped anyone she found in need.



Carmen, her husband, two sons, two daughters and son-in-law in happier times: the San Leandro wedding of her son and husband

Carmen was a strong LGBTQ+ advocate and accepted those that were denied by their families as her own.

"She was an incredible cook," Victor recalls. "Her chiles rellenos were particularly amazing. We will all sorely miss her, her delightful sense of humor and forever-accepting personality."

She is survived by her husband, Victor Aguilar, Sr.; her first-born son, Victor

Aguilar, Jr; her son, Ray Lara; Daughters, Naomi Bettina Aguilar and Nina Jean Aguilar; grandchildren Zöe (4) and Oliver (9mo). A COVID-compliant memorial service will be held at 9:30 am on Wednesday, 28th April, at the Forest Lawn

STORIES OF OUR LIVES

Kristen Elizabeth Loomis

One of Lavender Seniors' loyal and capable Friendly Visitor volunteers, Kristen Elizabeth (after her grandmother, who used an S instead of a Z) Loomis, has always been reliable and steadfast – as a friend, family member, wife, librarian, LGBTQ advocate, stepmother and – undeterred by the COVID-19 epidemic – a faithful friend and advocate for her Friendly Visitor client.



Kristen - age 3

Born on Memorial Day weekend in May 1950 at Kaiser in Oakland (that maternity ward has since been replaced by a parking lot), Kristen was the first of three siblings. Their father was raised in Southern California. He and his mother convinced Kristen's Mom to emigrate from her home near Innsbruck, Austria. Kristen's brother, Peter, arrived when she was two-and-a-half. Her brother, Tim, was born when she was ten years old.

"My father was in the military in Europe, where he met my Mom," Kristen recounts. "When he got back home, he kept writing to her, trying to convince her to come to the U.S. and marry him. The story goes, however, that when HIS mother wrote to her and told her she would be welcome here, that was the letter that convinced her that she had nothing to lose – things were still not great in post-war Austria. So she used her influence on a young employee of the passport office to help her get a passport, very precious at the time. It was agreed that – since rubber was rationed during and after the war – she would pay him with a bicycle tire – until he found out she wanted to go to the U.S. instead of another European country. So he raised his rate to TWO bicycle tires – which she did pay, getting her to the front of the line for coming west!"



Their Dad built new sandboxes for them in every place they lived.

Her father was taking advantage of the GI Bill* at UCB, so the young couple lived on Regent Street in Berkeley for the first few years after their marriage.

"In fact, Dad graduated from UC a week or so after I was born," Kristen recalls. "I would characterize my early childhood as cheerful, well-funded and perhaps a bit nomadic. The war was over; Dad was highly-sought-after with his intellect and newly-acquired education, so we were definitely moving up in the world. We lived in Redwood City and down the peninsula for a while. Then, by the time I was six and began having strong memories, his job at Hunter's Point had seen him and his slide rule achieving success in Alamogordo, NM, from which he was sought after for a Chrysler-related project

outside of Detroit. So I lived with my family in Royal Oak, MI, from about age 6 to 8."

While in Michigan, Kristen's Dad was able to design his own California-style house in a new housing development there. Plus the family socialized with scientists who became big names in the upcoming space age.

"We were invited to parties with people like German-born aerospace engineer, Wernher von Braun, and his wife," Kristen says. "My Austrian-born mother was a great resource at that point, since she could play the role of German translator. Whatever Dad was doing during that space-pioneering period was secretive enough, it seems, that his military records have disappeared – they were presumably 'vanished' for security, I'm being told."

Her father was then offered a job with Sacramento Aerojet General back in California, so another family move was eventually in order.

"I did third grade back in California, living at least initially with my grandmother," Kristen recalls. "Dad was involved in solid-fuel missile design and he stayed in a Sacramento boarding house while Mom and six-year-old Peter stayed in Michigan for a while. One of the major milestones in my life occurred that next year when my brother and I were both sent to private school in nearby Carmichael: the Thomas Parker School. Originally begun in just a small and very homey room in Mr. Parker's house, the 'student body' was 18 of us – all eager to learn – who ranged from first grade to eighth grade. It was a modern-day 'one-room schoolhouse' at the beginning. He subsequently built two or three other classrooms in separate buildings."

Parker – who had been a bright and experienced teacher, principal, and even a custodian – taught a number of the classes himself, but also hired outside teachers, who taught such subjects as French, "the new math", Latin and literature.

"My brother and I both got the most wonderful education at the Parker School," Kristen says. "There were so few of us, we got all the attention we craved, but also were able to pursue many of our own interests. After Mr. Parker died, they closed down the school, but there's still a 'mob' of 'Parkerites' who have an ongoing Facebook group. My brother, Peter, has been much more involved in that than I have, but he has also had much more genealogical interest in both sides of our family than I've had."

Kristen was one of THREE students of Parker School's 8th grade graduating class that year. Then she was off to France for a year at age 13!

"My parents sent me and two friends – twins, Gail and Claire – to France to stay with my Mom's sister in a small village in southwest rural France, population 174 in the winter; 300 in the summer," Kristen recalls. "Going to school in a foreign country as you're headed into adolescence was quite an experience. It was beautiful there – so green compared with the rolling golden hills of California! We made quite the spectacle when we showed up at school the first day in our regular



Kirsten (center), twins Gail and Claire, off to France, 1963

clothes, when proper attire was to wear blue apron-like covers called tabliers over our clothes. Auntie went out that night and bought some for us so we didn't stick out like the sore thumbs we were that day. We were so big and tall compared to all of them that it was like comparing cows and goats! Some of my classmates went out hunting for truffles to earn extra money, since we were living in a quite economically-depressed little village."

Meanwhile, brother Peter was in a public school back in Citrus Heights.

"Very funny story about his return to public school," Kristen laughs. "At the Parker School, we all carried our books and papers in briefcases. But when he showed up with his briefcase in Citrus Heights, he was considered quite the odd laughable child, so he immediately chucked the briefcase and started using the more acceptable backpack!"

When Kristen returned from France to Citrus Heights, she had to scurry to catch up with the year she'd lost in France, so she enrolled in summer school at San Juan High School. The family had bought a house on a big plot of land on a single street in the middle of an almond orchard.

"It was during my early high school years that I very innocently asked my Mom whether it was okay for two people of the same sex to get married," Kristen recalls. "Her response was very gruff, informing me in no uncertain terms that I was never to ask such an evil question again! Since I'd missed the freshman year – and most other students had already developed their friendship systems – I felt a bit like the outsider, fitting in only with the other outsiders. I discovered the library and one friend, Frances, who soon became the 'bee's knees' to me. I couldn't figure out why the other girls were all talking about being attracted to boys – I just didn't get it! On another note, we girls couldn't wear pants, couldn't take woodshop. I was on a college track, so just focused on academics and followed the rules like a 'good girl'."

After high school graduation, Kristen went off to UC-Santa Barbara, which wasn't the best decision she ever made.

"I was attracted to UCSB because they had a noted French department and there was a professor there who had written a great book on anthropology," Kristen says. "Because I had done so well on the entrance exams, they put me in the 'scholar's lounge', which wasn't as interesting to me as learning how to play bridge and hearing about protests aimed at burning the Bank of America. After two-and-a-half years, I dropped out of school to pursue more activism, but just wound up getting fired from dishwashing jobs at convalescent hospitals. I stayed a year or two more in Santa Barbara, but soon decided to move north and pursue my love of books, going through the UCB library program in record time, finishing in 1973. I discovered as an adult that they speak a different, more-grounded and direct language in Berkeley, which attracted me."

After graduation from library school, Kristen took a job at Holmes Book

Company, but also began a bit of long-overdue academia-free introspection.

"Somehow I got involved in a bisexual discussion group with other supposedly like-minded women and men," Kristen recalls. "We met in someone's house, but soon discovered none of us was really open enough to know what to talk about. It finally dissolved fairly unsatisfactorily. But it set me in motion trying to figure out for myself what this sexuality thing was all about."

She began working with LGBTQ people in the community. For instance, she worked with John David Dupree and Jim VanBuskirk at the Pacific Center on developing a library display (simply called "Out of the Closet") in the late '70s and early '80s. In spite of considerable controversy at several of the sites, it was shown at numerous public libraries throughout the state and in northern Nevada. She also began volunteering at A Woman's Place Bookstore, did an unsuccessful stint at UCB's Museum of Vertebrate Zoology ("the most interesting – and disturbing – thing about that job was the box of crickets brought in to feed to the animals"). She finally accepted a job at the Solano County Library in Vallejo, where she stayed for five years, 1979-84, and in the context of which she met the love of her life.



Kristen at Mary's Bar in Vallejo

"I had made something of a name for myself – via the Pacific Center and Women's Place Bookstore work – as somebody who could be spoken with about LGBTQ issues," Kristen recalls. "In fact, my Vallejo home was already being used for a self-facilitated youth group. During one of those meetings, a knock came at my door and there was a woman who had seen a personals ad about that youth group. The woman worked at Juvenile Hall and wanted to discuss the issue of lesbian and gay youth with somebody else in Solano County. When she peeked around the corner to see the youth group meeting in my kitchen, she recognized one of the kids she worked with, so we went elsewhere to talk about various issues. As a result, Kathy and I started dating informally. We attended the SOL group (over 30 to be 'slightly older') at the Pacific Center a few times. Since she was from Fairfield, I subsequently requested a transfer to the library there. By late 1983, she had convinced me to move in with her and her two sons! It was a bit like the stereotypical lesbian love story of the second date involving a U-Haul!"



Kristen, Kathy and the boys, HS graduation, 1987

At the outset of this arrangement, Kathy made it clear that she would continue being the boys' mother, but that she would appreciate Kristen's support on several fronts.

"Since Kathy continued working night shift at Juvenile Hall, it was a bit difficult to keep track of what the boys – then ages 11 and 14 – were up to," Kristen says. "So I was sort of the Auntie who chauffeured them around, helped with their homework, attending their sporting and Boy Scout events – they both became Eagle Scouts – always encouraging them to prepare for college. As a family, we went camping, swimming and took fun road trips to places like Southern California and Canada. In 1984, when we

had outgrown the Fairfield house, we bought the house in Vacaville, where we lived until Kathy's death in June 2012 and my return to Oakland in 2013.



The boys as Eagle Scouts



The boys, Christmas 1983



Family Portrait, 1988

Among the many feminist activities they participated in, Kristen and Kathy provided a space for both women's and men's groups in their home and opened a women-centered bookstore (1988-96), where they also provided community space, including even a site for the local newspaper to conduct interviews.



Kristen staffing the bookstore

"Our bookstore soon became known as a 'lesbian' bookstore, though we made clear that we stocked books and held events focused on everybody in the community," Kristen recalls. "It became so busy at times that we would have the boys – who were both at UC-Davis by then – come down and earn some extra money working in the coffee house attached to the store. Once, when a men's leather group was being held in our house and our adorable youngest son became noticed, we had to chuckle at the fact that he was at least a temporary leather fan after that. Unfortunately, a few years later, he left our

house and lived with his Dad in Dixon, because he'd decided living in a lesbian household was not for him anymore. Luckily, after he went to UC-Davis on a wrestling scholarship, all was resolved with him, his mother and me. He and his brother both have delightful families that I'm still regularly in touch with."

Kristen and Kathy got married twice – once in 1989 at a standing-room-only ceremony at St. Paul's Methodist Church in Vacaville – and again in June 2008 in Fairfield.

"After her father died and the boys left, Kathy started becoming quite depressed," Kristen recalls. "Plus she began experiencing serious mobility issues, mostly staying at home and spiraling downward. I decided it was time to close the bookstore and focus more on her well-being. We bought her a little scooter at one point, facilitating our being able to go on ten Princess cruises up and down the west coast, even venturing as far south as Costa Rica, where she organized an accessible bus for all of us to see some of the country. It was on one of those cruises in 2008 – to Alaska – that we got the news that same-sex marriage had been approved by the California Supreme Court. We were the second couple in line for a marriage license – behind two of the men who had campaigned so heavily for the cause. It was very important to us that we be legally married. I'm also proud to say my involvement with SEIU 1280 played a



Kristen and Kathy at OSF "Feast of Will," Ashland, OR, 1987

small role in Solano County finally allowing medical coverage for LGBTQ spouses!"



Kristen and Kathy at Friends' Wedding, Suisun

Within a couple years after that 2008 wedding, Kathy's mental and physical health began to deteriorate dramatically.

"Kathy's depression became all-consuming," Kristen recalls sadly. "During her last years at work, she had begun experiencing subtle and not-so-subtle homophobic harassment, including nasty notes left in her locker, her food being stolen from the fridge, so she

resigned. With her Dad's death and the boys' departure, life seemed very bleak to her. We hired someone to be with her during the days while I was at work. One day, her caregiver called me and told me Kathy was dizzy, so I rushed home and insisted we go to the hospital. The doctors informed us that her kidneys were shutting down. After considerable effort – including putting her in a 'soft coma' to try to repair the kidney function – a decision had to be made. Since Kathy did not want to live on mechanical dialysis, etc., the difficult decision was made. Her boys came and we all sat together for a couple of hours before she died the next morning."

The memorial service was held at St. Paul's in Vacaville, once again filling the church beyond capacity. Kathy's ashes were spread in Yosemite. Kristen slogged back to work, depressed herself at this turn in her life's plans. After one year, she rented out the Vacaville house. She and a friend bought a house in Oakland, where she re-connected with several old friends.



Kirsten reading with son and first grandchild

"The commute back and forth from Oakland to Fairfield for the next two years nearly killed me," Kristen recalls. "So I sold the Vacaville house, retired in 2015 and have lived in Oakland ever since. I look back on the trajectory of my personal and professional life – I have volunteered at the Oakland LGBTQ Community Center, Lavender Seniors; am involved with CARA, as well as a local justice circle, two book clubs, Oakland and North Oakland Senior Center activities and SEIU 1021. I recall high points, like helping acquire medical coverage for same-sex spouses in Solano County. And there are low points like trying to show the "Out of the Closet" display at the Fairfield Library in 1983. It was so controversial – in the only Bay Area County that subsequently voted against same-sex marriage in 2008 – that we had to move the display from the large display case in front to a tiny little space in back of the library where nobody would see it. All in all, however, I'd say it's been a good life. Yes, my Mom said 'we don't have to talk about EVERYTHING!' when I came out to her – and one of my in-laws thinks LGBTQ people are perhaps the scourge of Satan – but mostly life has been sweet and I'm very grateful."

We're grateful for all you've done for the LGBTQ+ and women's communities. Thank you, Kristen!

*[Editor's Note: As an adult, Kristen came to be troubled by the fact that the

GI Bill – which changed their family’s lives so dramatically – was not made available to many black or LGBTQ veterans, who instead received “blue discharges” until 1947. This meant they were not given the same benefits, setting them at an unfair long-term disadvantage. Thus, her strident long-term support of movements like the black civil rights movement, Black Lives Matter, Black Voters Matter and the ongoing fight for LGBTQ and women’s rights!]



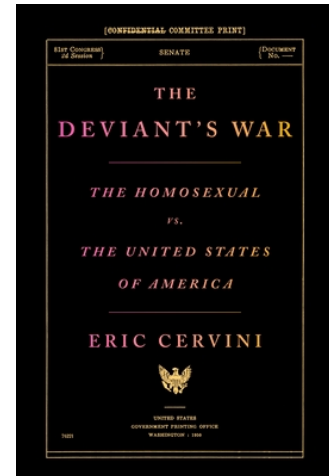
BOOK REVIEW

The Deviant's War: The Homosexuals vs. the United States of America

By Eric Cervini

The Deviant's War begins with the story of Frank Kameny, a key figure in the gay liberation movement. Kameny is widely considered the grandfather of the gay rights movement.

Kameny is abruptly fired for being gay in 1957. Boston and Washington, D.C., are the primary setting of anti-gay activities of the federal government.



President Eisenhower declares members of the LGBT community to be enemies of America but Americans finally tire of the homophobic hysteria. Gay men flee to other countries or rural America.

Gay organizations are formed and today freedom is firmly established and sexual marriage is joyfully in place.

Cervini showers us with extremely detailed literature. Enjoy and rejoice.

- Frank J. Howell

BONUS BOOK REVIEW

The Man I Might Become:

Gay Men Write About their Fathers

Edited by Bruce Shenitz with a Foreword by Andrew Holleran

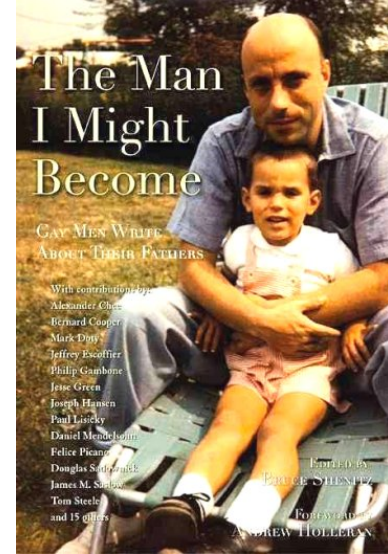


Since the first model of maleness for many, if not most, of us in American culture is our father, the fact is that many of us hope or worry that we might become like that first man in our life. Throw in the complication of being either gay, transgender or gender-nonconforming and the impact of that first influence on our subsequent self-image and easily-internalized homophobia or transphobia can be most profound.

The editor of this 2002 anthology of 28 stories –

all written by gay men – decided to gather men of all ages and ethnic backgrounds – to write about their relationships (or lack of same) with their biological father (and in some cases, step-father). Those relationships ranged from very close to warm to distant, indifferent/apathetic, combative/competitive or even hostile.

This is not the kind of book that a person would likely be able to read cover-to-cover in one or two sittings. Each of the stories in the 320-page book may require taking a break (perhaps until the next day or more) in order to digest what was just read. Frequently, the question to be considered might be “how much was the situation in this story similar to – or different from – MY relationship with MY father?”



In 2003, Mr. Shenitz won the Lambda Literary Award for Best Nonfiction Anthology for this book.

Though these stories were likely actually written over two decades ago – and some of the authors were 20-something at the time – several were in middle age or beyond – the issues being dealt with are eerily familiar as we launch into the third decade of the 21st century. Methinks it might be time for Mr. Shenitz – or someone with his ability for screening contemporary writing – to produce a follow-up version – perhaps including some of the authors who might still be accessible and interested – to see what, if anything, has changed or stayed the same, since we now have same-sex marriage and have (mostly) given the boot to “don’t ask, don’t tell”. Relationships between fathers and sons – whether Korean or Iraqi War veterans, baby-boomers, GenX, GenZ, millennials or anywhere in-between – may continue providing valuable insights on the “human condition” – well worth considering.

- John David Dupree, Tinamastes, Costa Rica

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!

Reminder: Lavender Seniors Birthday Program

Lavender Seniors' Friendly Visitor Program – in collaboration with its "Communication Relieves Isolation" program has organized a "birthday acknowledgment" activity with one of our volunteers sending birthday cards to LGBTQ+ seniors and their allies each year.

Anyone whose birthday (year of birth is not necessary, though it is appreciated) hasn't been acknowledged should provide their full name, mailing address and date of birth (with or without year) either via Info@LavenderSeniors.org or by leaving a message at +1-510-736-LGBT and your name will be added to the list. Also, any volunteers who want to assist in this program should make contact, as well.



Letter- and card-writing may seem like a lost art to some, since it appears that many of our grandchildren are not even being taught how to write in script anymore. Many of us aging "Palmer method" script-writers, however, still enjoy seeing a nicely-written card or letter in our snail-mailboxes! It's always nice to be remembered!



The Staff of Life Foodie Special

Let's Talk about FOOD!

For April's Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch (there's a movement afoot to rename it the Second Saturday Brunch Bunch to match Third Fridays!), we are going to talk about the number one connector of all human beings - a necessity to life and something which can make life so much more sensational and enjoyable – that is, of course, FOOD! Join us on Saturday, April 10, as we discuss our earliest and/or fondest memories surrounding food and mealtimes, participate in this-or-that games and learn more about each other through our shared love of food.

Frequent Flyer and Rainbow Lunch participant, Leah Morrett, will be hosting a discussion on food including a round-robin style game where we learn people's popular and maybe not so popular food opinions...! (Leah asks: "Pineapple on pizza - who's with me? Anyone??") The check-in will open a dialogue about our past memories and current interests surrounding food and all the wonderful meals we've eaten and cooked, as well as how these memories have stayed with us throughout

our lives.

Check out [this PDF](#) in advance to take a look at a template and resource guide for baking a super easy muffin/breakfast loaf! (There are two easy recipes included at the end!) If you have any questions, Leah will have a little time towards the end of the Brunch Bunch zoom chat to answer them.

A little info about your host for April...

Leah: Recently married and moved to the Castro District, San Francisco (local move), she lives with her wife, Heather, and their favorite activity is eating together. Favorite meals are BRUNCH & DINNER. Whether it's making meals that they've curated for the week, getting take-out, or eating al fresco at one of San Francisco's many amazing restaurants, the Morrett household is all about FOOD! Leah has been in the kitchen since she was young, and found herself particularly attracted to the world of baking due to having a very prominent sweet tooth. She runs a WordPress blog where she uploads all of her favorite recipes which you can find here: [Big Spoon Baking](#). Her specialty is sweet/breakfast breads, muffins and cakes. She has a fondness for cookies, trying new and unique flavors and was recently gifted a KitchenAid stand mixer from her wedding registry, which is very exciting and she is looking forward to using it all the time.



Leah(R) & Heather Wedding, 02/21

Details for this month's Zoom gathering is as follows:

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay invites you to a Zoom meeting.

Topic: Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch: FOODIES

April 10, 2021 – 12 Noon until 2pm – Pacific Daylight Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89671026595?pwd=TGR Tb k x a T z Z G b W F F T T B 1 W W p Q N F p W Z z 0 9>

Meeting ID: 896 7102 6595 – Password: 153953

Dial by your location: +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 896 7102 6595 – Password: 153953

Hope to see you then! If you don't COME with an appetite, you're sure to LEAVE with one!

The Second Museum/Artist Tour of 2021

Lavender Seniors has arranged four quarterly museum/artist tours during the Third Friday Lunch Bunch Zoom gatherings in 2021: January, April, July and October.

The April tour will focus on three works in the Hammer Museum's collections by queer artists based in Los Angeles: *Sebastian as Chalchihtlicue* by Rafa Esparza, *Still Nothing* by Kori Newkirk, and *Untitled #5* by Lari Pittman. The tour will be led by two Hammer Student Educators, Jennifer Uribe, a PhD student in Sociology, and Herman Chavez, a junior studying ethnomusicology, both at UCLA.

Rafa Esparza is a Los Angeles-based multi-disciplinary artist whose work reveals his interests in history, personal narratives, and kinship, as well as his own relationship to colonization and the disrupted genealogies that it produces. Using live performances as his main form of inquiry, Esparza employs site-specificity, materiality, memory, and what he calls “(non)documentation” as primary tools to investigate and expose ideologies, power structures, and binary forms of identity that establish narratives, history, and social environments.



Rafa Esparza at work

Esparza's recent projects are grounded in laboring with land and adobe-making, a skill learned from his father, Ramón Esparza. In so doing, the artist invites Brown and Queer cultural producers to realize large-scale collective projects, gathering people together to build networks of support outside of traditional art spaces.



Kori Newkirk, born in 1970 in the Bronx and based in Los Angeles, works seamlessly across multiple disciplines often sourcing common and everyday materials to speak about personal history, remembrance, popular culture and identity. Newkirk received his BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and his MFA from the University of California, Irvine. In 2007, a survey of his work was presented at the Studio Museum in Harlem, New York and the Pasadena Art Museum, CA. He has had solo exhibitions at LAXART, Los

Angeles; the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego; and Jessica Silverman Gallery in San Francisco. Notable group exhibitions include the 2006 Whitney Biennial, New York; 'The Artist's Museum' at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; and 'Blues for Smoke,' at MOCA at the Geffen Contemporary, Los Angeles and the Whitney Museum, New York. Newkirk's work is in the collections of the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; the Art Institute of Chicago; Henry Art Gallery, Seattle; and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Lari Pittman first experimented with collage and

decoration during his formative years at California Institute of the Arts; then to the iconic paintings produced in response to the AIDS crisis and culture wars of the 1990s, to his present philosophical investigations into the history-telling of textiles. His works have remained some of the most prescient and influential of any artist since the 1980s. His highly detailed works on panel and paper—grand tales about love, sex, death, art, and citizenship—feature a rich visual language that he has developed over the course of his four-decade career, replete with owls, Victorian silhouettes,



flying text, and exaggerated and sexualized bodies. These meticulously crafted works have become emblematic of a generation of Los Angeles artists who reclaimed ornamentation and lush detail during the 1980s, employing them as part of their political and personal iconography. At the same time Pittman shared the noirish sensibilities of many of his peers whose influences included that era's thriving punk rock scene and the legendary Feminist Art Program at CalArts. In 1992 his work was featured in the critically acclaimed exhibition *Helter Skelter: L.A. Art in the 1990s*, along with that of Mike Kelley, Liz Larner, Raymond Pettibon, Jim Shaw, and others. Pittman's blend of densely painted surfaces and codified references to sexuality and other charged topics, such as the history of racial violence in the United States, aligned his works with the discourse surrounding the contested body in the early 1990s.

"We don't have a public image of Rafa Esparza's work," said Hallie Scott, museum tour organizer, "so it's better if we save that one for the tour, rather than reveal it ahead of time."

Details for this month's Zoom gathering is as follows:

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay invites you to a Zoom meeting.

Topic: Third Friday Lunch Bunch – Museum/Artist Tour

April 16, 2021 – 12 Noon until 2pm – Pacific Daylight Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85235825964?pwd=WmptRG5SU2RDVUNyQ1hFWGM2NlZOQT09>

Meeting ID: 852 3582 5964 – Passcode: 569546

Dial by your location: +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 852 3582 5964 – Passcode: 569546

Hopefully, you can join us for this interesting presentation. Whether you can join us or not, we wish you all peace, health and happiness for the rest of 2021 and beyond!

Save the date!



We have an exciting announcement! Again this year, Lavender Seniors of the East Bay will be participating in Give OUT Day, a month-long fundraising campaign culminating on June 30, the only national day of giving for the LGBTQ community.

Mark your calendar! This year, Give OUT Day is June 30, but the campaign lasts all of Pride Month. That means that every donation through the month of June helps us win prizes that can expand our impact.

We hope you'll join us! We can't wait until June!

New Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Rule



LGBTQ+/Gender-Identity Discrimination Outlawed

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) has issued a new rule clarifying that prohibition against sex discrimination under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act includes discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The agency's protections also apply to actual or perceived non-conformity to sex- and gender-based stereotypes. This ruling has been brought to our attention by the Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Law and Public Policy at UCLA's School of Law.

The rule is in line with Williams Institute's recommendation that CFPB interpret the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA) to protect LGBTQ+ people from discrimination consistent with the Supreme Court's 2020 decision in *Bostock v. Clayton County*.

The ECOA is vital to the approximately **8 million LGBTQ+ adults** who live in the 35 states and D.C. without state-wide statutes prohibiting discrimination in credit based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Research indicates that LGBTQ+ people face widespread discrimination in credit-related activities. And this discrimination contributes to lower homeownership rates among same-sex couples and LGBTQ+ individuals.

"Research on LGBT people's experiences with credit discrimination is limited – in part because creditors are not currently required by the Bureau to collect data specifically on applicants' sexual orientation or gender identity," said Christy Mallory, Legal Director at the Williams Institute. "It is important that CFPB require creditors to collect this information in order to address possible discrimination against LGBT applicants."

Compared to different-sex borrowers,
same-sex borrowers experienced a
3% to 8% lower approval rate.

Key findings from Williams Institute research include

- Compared to different-sex borrowers of similar profiles, same-sex borrowers experienced a [3% to 8% lower approval rate](#).
- Among the loans approved, same-sex borrowers were charged higher interest and/or fees, equivalent to between [\\$8.6 million and \\$86 million](#) more over time.
- Additional evidence suggests that LGBTQ+ people often encounter challenges while attempting to buy homes – including homophobic/transphobic discrimination. An [analysis of data](#) found that 15% of LGBTQ+ people report being prevented from moving into or buying a house compared to 6% of heterosexual people.
- LGBTQ+ adults are more likely to rent than non-LGBTQ+ adults: About [50% of LGBT adults](#) own their homes compared to 70% of non-LGBTQ+ adults. Home-ownership is even lower among LGBTQ+ racial minorities and transgender people.
- [Same-sex couples](#) are less likely to own their homes than different-sex couples (64% and 75%, respectively).

editors note: for more details on this, click on the blue hyperlinks included throughout.



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 Wednesdays

This group is intended for participants who identify as LGBTQ, 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 Jerry W. Brown, Covia Senior Director Affordable Housing

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

Life Stories: Acknowledgment and Inspiration Thursdays

When we articulate our stories, we contribute to the wisdom that is generated in the group. Sharing stories can be an opportunity for learning and sharing more about ourselves and others, it can be a time for acknowledgment and inspiration, a path to transformation and growth. It can also simply be a time and place to connect with each other, share a few laughs, and appreciate those moments of connection. Facilitated by Phalguni Freeman, Counseling Student, Palo Alto University, CA

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**

Out Standing Seniors - Sponsored by Pacific Center

Apr 6 & 20, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. (1st and 3rd Tuesdays)

Meets via Zoom email outstandingseniors2@gmail.com for info.

A welcoming space for LGBTQ seniors 50+ to share thoughts, feelings,

resources, information, and support. FREE, though donations are welcome.

Living OUT in Livermore - Sponsored by Pacific Center

Apr 6, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. (1st Tuesdays)

Meets via Zoom email Anne@pacificcenter.org for info.

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

LezBold Peer Support Group

Apr 1 & 15 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. (1st & 3rd Thursdays)

Meets via Zoom email lezboldgroup@pacificcenter.org for info.

Find support and like-minded wonderful people!

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

Apr 1,8,15,22,29 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. (Thursdays)

email Anne@pacificcenter.org for current meeting information.

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

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

Apr 7,14,21,28 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. (Wednesdays)

email Anne@pacificcenter.org for current meeting information.

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

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

Apr 2,9,16,23,30 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. (Fridays)

email Anne@pacificcenter.org for current meeting information.

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

Lavender Seniors Board Meeting

Apr 14 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (2nd Wednesday) via Zoom

A portion of this meeting is open to the public.

Lavender Seniors Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch

Apr 10, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. (see info above for joining us via Zoom)

Tri-Valley Rainbows - Sponsored by Pacific Center

Apr 15, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. (3rd Thursday)

Meets via Zoom email Anne@pacificcenter.org for info.

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

Oakland Third Friday Lunch Bunch

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

Apr 16, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. (see info above for joining us via Zoom)

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay Board of Directors

President: Victor Aguilar Jr

Treasurer: Carmen Chiong

Secretary: John David Dupree (on hiatus)

Founding Member: Barbara Jue

Communication Director: Melissa West

Member: Ana Bagtas

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

Message: 510-736-LGBT (510-736-5428)
Friendly Visitor Program: (510) 424-7240 or
karen@lavenderseniors.org

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**Newsletter Editorial
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John David Dupree

**Contact
Us**

