



# Lavender Notes

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

Volunteer

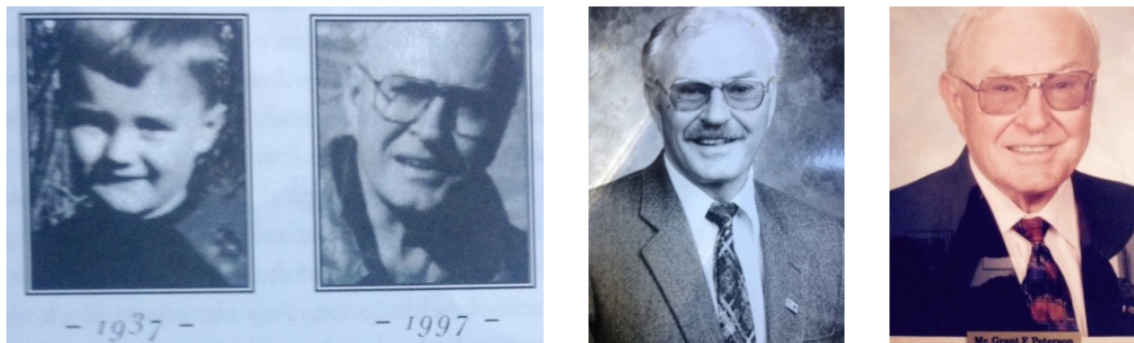
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*Celebrating 24+ years of service and positive change  
April 2019 - Volume 26 Issue 4*

Memorial Celebration Saturday, June 1st

## Grant F. Peterson, East Bay LGBTQ Pioneer

One of the co-founders of Lavender Seniors of the East Bay, long-time educator in the New Haven Unified School District, Union City; co-founder of GLSEN-East Bay, and openly-gay member of the Hayward Unified School District Board of Education, Grant F. Peterson, died peacefully at his Hayward home on 9 January 2019 at the age of 90.



Four stages of life: 1937 (age 9); 1997 (age 69); 1987 (1st school board run – age 59) and 2003 (2nd school board run – age 75)

A memorial celebration of Grant's life will be held on Saturday, June 1, in Hayward. Because there are meal and space considerations, organizers are requesting that those interested in attending should RSVP to John at [hazatone@msn.com](mailto:hazatone@msn.com), who will then be in touch regarding the time and place of the event. For those who don't have internet access and would like to attend, please leave a message for John at (510) 290-4020.

For more information about Grant's very active life, please see the following:

Lavender Seniors "Stories of Our Lives" Column, August 2015:  
<https://lavenderseniors.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Grant-Peterson.pdf>

or the official obituary as published in the San Francisco, Chronicle, 3rd-4th May 2019:

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/sfgate/obituary.aspx?n=grant-peterson&pid=191609257>

(this includes the ability of hearing the 2.5-minute obituary read on-line)

For those who do not have access to the internet, please leave a message at (510) 736-LGBT and a copy of either/both pieces will be posted to you via USPS.

## FOUNDERS CORNER

### Diabetes Self Management Classes

- ⇒ Gain a better understanding of diabetes and how it is diagnosed
  - ⇒ Learn how to eat foods you enjoy while managing your diabetes
  - ⇒ Learn how your medications work
  - ⇒ Learn the 7 self care behaviors
- Eastmont Town Center  
7200 Bancroft Ave. #202  
Oakland, CA
- 10 am to 12 pm  
Thursday's  
April 18th to May 30th
- Questions or to register  
call Alameda County  
Diabetes Program

Eight week series, two hours each class

(510) 383-5185



### Alameda County Highlights

#### MOBILE MARKET

Community Food Bank

Bring your own bag and take home free food and fresh produce.

#### San Leandro Adult School

1448 Williams Street  
San Leandro, CA 94577

April 5th 1-3 PM

May 3rd 1-3 PM

June 7th 1-3 PM

More info:  
800.870.3662



#### ADVISORY COMMISSION ON AGING VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

This Commission on Aging acts as an independent advocate for older persons as mandated by the Older Americans Act by taking positions on matters pertaining to policies, programs and procedures and any legislation affecting older persons.

Location: Eastmont Mall, 6955 Foothill Blvd, Suite #300, Oakland

Term: 4 years and not to exceed 2 terms

Meetings: Monthly, 2nd Monday, 9:30 AM

For more information please visit: <https://acgov.org/bc/>

Or email: [mina.sanchez@acgov.org](mailto:mina.sanchez@acgov.org)

Or contact your Alameda County Supervisor

### Winter Shelter and Warming Center Resources

In San Leandro: Make reservations by calling (510) 924-3787

Alameda County: <https://www.chch.org/winter-emergency-resources-2018-2019.html>

## Philip G. Maldari

In the 1970s, some of us who are now LGBTQ seniors were just finding our way westward to spread our wings in the LGBTQ-welcoming surroundings of the San Francisco Bay area. When we arrived, we might've tuned into KPFA and been inspired by members of its Fruit Punch Collective extolling the virtues of being out and proud. Philip G. Maldari – who became a member of the collective in 1973 – was then and remains now an institution of listener-supported pioneer, Pacifica Radio's KPFA, which is celebrating its **70th year** of broadcasting this month on April 15th.

Philip was born in South Charleston, West Virginia, on 26th April 1947 to a middle-class executive and his wife, though they moved with his three-years-older sister to Appleton, WI, when he was six months old. When he was 14, his father's job called for a move to San Francisco. The family lived in Burlingame and Philip attended Mills High School in Millbrae.

"My sister and I lived a comfortable life with conscientious middle-class parents." Philip recalls. "Though my parents were officially Presbyterian, after the move to California, I pretty much ignored religion beginning at age 14. The most unpleasant part of my childhood and youth was that I was deeply in the closet until my mid-20s."

Philip tried to play along with the script – dating periodically to keep his secret – but mainly did things like going to movies and concerts with friends – mostly boys.

"There was never any pressure from my family to date or get married," Philip says, "but I knew what was expected of me and my friends – job, marriage, kids – and it wasn't something I could see fitting into my life. I finally admitted to myself that I was gay when I was 25 and then coming out to friends and family took another couple of years."

After high school graduation, Philip attended UC-Berkeley for four years, 1965-69.

"Berkeley was a 'hotbed of radicalism' at the time," Philip recalls, "and I truly became radicalized during my time there. I guess I needed to spread my wings a bit elsewhere for a while, so headed to Boston for two years, coming back to the Bay Area in October 1971, when I began to develop a whole new set of friends."

It was in 1973 that Philip was encouraged by his best friend, Ellen, who was involved in feminist radio programming at KPFA, to help cover the phones during a fund-raising drive. That signaled the beginning of a whole new and significant chapter of his life.

"KPFA already had a gay men's collective called Fruit Punch," Philip recalls.

"When I got involved with the collective, it was the first time I was exposed to other leftists who were also gay. Prior to that, my life had been pretty compartmentalized – I'd led two different lives – my gay life and my life as a political activist. Fruit Punch helped give me the motivation to begin my coming out process."



The Kind of "Revolutionary" LGBTQ Programming Fruit Punch was doing in the 1970s-1980s

The new friends he'd developed via KPFA and Fruit Punch obviously had no problems with his "daring" announcement. Some of them were gay and some of them were not.

"When I came out to my Mom, however, she was a bit shocked," Philip says. "She thought it was just a phase – 'you always go too far in all your phases,' she said. She thought it was definitely a temporary thing in my life. Since my Dad was generally passive, he mostly went along with whatever my Mom would say. My sister didn't like the idea, but she was way down in Bakersfield at the time, so her reaction didn't create many ripples in my life."

Virtually all of his KPFA colleagues were leftists, some gay and some straight.

"My core group of closest friends – both women and men – became a revolving and dependable circle of 5-6 people," Philip recalls. "Though I got heavily involved in Fruit Punch programming for a few years, I began to get bored with having everything be gay-related. By the late 70s, I drifted away from Fruit Punch, getting involved in BAGL – Bay Area Gay Liberation, which soon became factionalized into different types of lefties: Trotskyites, Maoists, and other types of liberals, finally self-destructing in the early 80s."

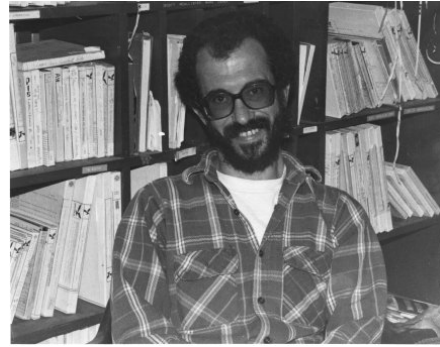
Meanwhile, Philip began making quite a name for himself at KPFA and in any number of Bay Area political activities. He hosted a variety of programs including "Philip the Gardener". He received the Corporation for Public Broadcasting award in 1979 for "Gay Freedom Day, 1978" and shared a CPB award with the KPFA News Department for coverage of the assassinations of Harvey Milk and George Moscone. In recent years, he co-hosted the Morning Show with Kris Welch, Andrea Lewis, and Aimee Allison. He has hosted the Sunday Show since 2010 ( <https://kpfa.org/program/sunday-show/?section=about> for more information on that).



"I lost touch with many of my gay friends in the city and now focus mostly on the East Bay," Philip says. "I was hired in 1982 as Co-Director of Public Affairs, supervising and coordinating 40 volunteers. About that same time, the AIDS epidemic became a threat to our community. Many gay men were much too involved in nursing each other to do radio programs about the epidemic – everybody turned inward toward survival instead of marching in the streets."

Philip also got involved in the disability rights movement. Since the KPFA studio was then located up a long flight of stairs above Edy's Coffee Shop, an alternative site had to be identified for being inclusive of the disabled community.

"We located an accessible facility in downtown Oakland," Philip recalls, "I regularly drove Judy Heumann's van with several disabled folks to that site where I played various roles helping them learn how to be producer, recorder and sound engineer for the 'Disability Rap,' so that people in wheelchairs, walkers, on crutches and braces could record and broadcast regular programming at KPFA."



Philip working at KPFA over the years

Philip was on the local and national Pacifica boards in the late 70s and early 80s. He resigned from the board in 1982, recently running unsuccessfully to be a staff representative on the local board.

"Most of my life has been pre-occupied with KPFA," he recalls. "As Public Affairs Director, I like to think of myself as being responsible for a vast array of crazed, incredibly brilliant and sometimes difficult people! When I was co-hosting with Kris Welch, from 1987 until 2000 – five days a week at 7am – I reduced my dependence on volunteers and began insisting that we have more paid professionals as on-air staff from 7am to 7pm during high-listenership periods. I became less involved in coordinating unpaid people and instead focused more on hosting and programming. Between 2000 and 2010, I dealt with rotating co-hosts."

In 2008, Philip's father died, leaving him an inheritance. Soon afterward, he was offered the Sunday Morning Show.

"Though this meant a reduction in pay," Philip recalls, "I jumped at the chance, since I didn't really need the money as badly as I did before. I officially 'retired' in the summer of 2017, but continue doing the Sunday Morning Show as a volunteer. I'd been a union steward via the CWA – Communications Workers of America – and we have been very pleased with them. When I stopped being a paid employee, I left the steward post and became an unofficial advocate for paid staff members."

Philip and other KPFA staff are keeping eyes and ears open for somebody to replace him on the Sunday Morning Show.

"I'd be glad to see some new blood take over the show," Philip says. "We need a whole new Rolodex, so as not to stick with our 'old reliable' sources. Since KPFA isn't known for its high pay-scale, however – though it has a terrific medical plan – finding someone with all of the requisite skills to take over – and ability to afford exorbitant Bay Area living costs – might be daunting for quite some time – but I'm ready to pass the torch anytime!"

Philip said that he believes there's less need for Fruit-Punch-type collectives these days than there was in 'the old days' of the 1970s and 1980s.

"Though such collectives remain vitally important in places like Uganda," Philip says, "here in the Bay Area, our main shortfall has to do with reaching LGBTQ youth and the elderly. We definitely need to do more outreach to homeless youth and marginalized seniors in the gay community."

So what about life outside of KPFA, co-hosting, programming, supervising and training duties?

"My long-time best friend, Ellen, and I have been living in a North Oakland house we bought together some years ago," Philip says. "Though we don't have a romantic relationship, we are seen as pretty much any old married couple. We have been 'the partner' to each other around both sets of parents, other family members and our circle of friends. Co-purchasing our house has enabled us to defy the outrageous local housing market, which is a comforting thing."

The two have traveled together extensively overseas.



Philip at Lake Bled in Slovenia recently

"We have spent a lot of time in Italy, where I have re-connected with some delightful cousins beginning in 1987, which was my first trip to Europe," he recalls. "We have been to Vietnam, Japan, Spain, the U.K., France, Mexico and even went on an Israel-Palestine fact-finding mission in 1990, which has since kept me pretty active on the Middle East front."

He has not been sexually active with men for over a decade.

"I used to do things like going to the baths," he recalls, "but that soon began to feel dead-end and meaningless. I don't think of myself as a monk. On the

other hand, since I'm turning 72 at the end of the month, I hardly expect to see anybody come riding up on a white stallion to carry me off into the sunset."

One interesting note on a very rich life involves his being a sperm donor in the late 1970s.

"Ellen and I met my 40-year-old son, Carl, who came up from Los Angeles last fall," Philip says proudly. "As it turns out, he is openly gay – living a happy life with his partner, Max. He is an inspiration to me. Some might see this fact contributing something to the 'nature vs nurture' debate around genetic versus environmental issues in determining sexuality. However, I just see this as an interesting development, since it's such a pleasure to have Carl in my life."



Philip (L), Ellen and Carl in Los Angeles, Fall 2018

His sister now lives in Pleasanton and – though they still don't exactly agree on the socio-political aspects of life – they continue to do family things together. She joined him and Ellen for Thanksgiving dinner a few months ago.

Meanwhile, tune in to KPFA 94.1FM some Sunday morning at 9am for one of the best live interview talk shows with listener call-ins, hosted by Philip Maldari. Topics range from current political events, author interviews (usually non-fiction), world history, and science.

Thank you, Philip, for your dedication to the community and for sharing so much of your life with Lavender Seniors and the LGBTQ community! And congratulations to KPFA on its 70th anniversary of innovative public-interest and public-supported broadcasting!



## BOOK REVIEW

### **American Prison: A Reporter's Undercover Journey into the Business of Punishment**

By Shane Bauer

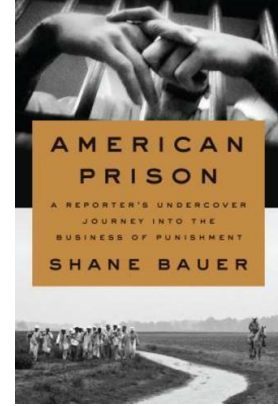
Bauer gives us a compelling account of American prisons and how they punish and attempt to alter prisoner's

behavior.

Some states like California and New York work at altering convict behavior but some states in the South and Midwest do not rehabilitate.

Prison officials assume convicts will never change. "Once a punk always a punk."

Since 2003, the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act compels prisons to prevent sexual assaults. Even convicts who want sex will not be permitted to have it.



[Editors Note: In addition, organizations like Just Detention International (motto: "Rape is Not Part of the Penalty") - formed in 1980 - have become strong advocates for prisoners who have been threatened by or become victims of sexual assault behind bars.]

Bauer is a senior reporter for [Mother Jones](#) magazine. He has received many awards for his compelling accounts.

Bauer shocks readers into wanting to take political and social action.

- Frank J. Howell

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## 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.

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

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**Lavender Seniors of the East Bay** is proud to participate in Horizons Foundation Give Out Day on Thursday, April 18th. We

are aiming to raise funds in support of our Friendly Visitor Program helping aging seniors to avoid isolation and be a part of the larger community of LGBTQ seniors.

Every day there is an LGBTQ senior living at home or in an assisted living facility with no visitors and with no one to share memories. We at Lavender Seniors spread human kindness by matching isolated seniors with friendly visitors.

We hope you will consider joining us on Give Out Day by making a donation to support our Friendly Visitor Program. You can even pre-schedule your gift [HERE](#).

Thank you, in advance. We are always grateful for your support. Make your pledge today.

### Help Lavender Seniors on Give Out Day

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## Transgender Day of Visibility

**Date/Time:** Sunday, March 31, 2019 @ 4:00 p.m.

**Location:** Walnut Creek, CA @ Civic Park

*Transgender Day of Visibility is a Community Celebration where all are welcome to attend! Please reach out to [execdirect@rainbowcc.org](mailto:execdirect@rainbowcc.org) for more information.*

Transgender Day of Visibility  
March 31 at 4:00 p.m., Civic Park in Walnut Creek.

International Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV) is an annual event dedicated

to celebrating transgender people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide.

Join the Mount Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church (MDUUC) and the Rainbow Community Center of Contra Costa County as we show our support, raise awareness in our communities, and celebrate this important day together!

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## California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) April Town Hall Events In the East Bay

### The Schools and Communities First (Prop 13 Reform)

Monday – April 8, 2019 10:00 am TO 12:00 Noon

An initiative that would tax industrial and commercial property at its true value while keeping homeowner taxes stable.

Richmond @ Richmond Civic Center Auditorium  
403 Civic Center Plaza  
2533 Nevin Ave.

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### How Might Medicare for All Impact Seniors and People with Disabilities?

Friday, April 26 10:00 am TO 12:00 Noon

Learn the truth about scare tactics used to intimidate seniors and people with disabilities.

BERKELEY @ROBERTS CAMPUS  
3075 Adeline Street (across from Ashby BART station)



## Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch April 13, Noon-2:00 pm

All Saints Episcopal Church  
911 Dowling Blvd, San Leandro

### Program: Laughing Yoga Time with Amos and Annie

This popular pair brings us yoga techniques to loosen up your laughter and blow away the blues that has settled on us through the many days of rain. Join us for an hour of learning and moving our bones in ways that will strengthen our minds and bodies so that we can keep limber and active. Amos and Annie presented this interactive hour with us in the past and now bring new routines to share. They're here because you asked for them! !

A catered buffet luncheon will begin at noon, followed by announcements and the program at approximately 1:00. Feel free to bring a potluck dish to share if you wish.

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## Oakland Museum of California:

# Queer Stories Reign Supreme

4/13/19 - 8/11/19

There is a \$4 charge for this special exhibition in addition to regular Museum admission (\$10.95 for seniors)

On April 13, the museum will debut an exhibit dedicated to telling queer narratives that include a dandy bachelor in a Japanese internment camp, commemorative art for Compton's Cafeteria Riot, and more.



Photos courtesy of the Oakland Museum of California/Joonbug/Danny Allegretti

The museum, located at 1000 Oak St, will continue this four-month exhibition of art and historical objects honoring the untold and under-recognized stories of California's LGBTQ+ communities until August 11th. According to the museum, [Queer California: Untold Stories](#) is the first exhibition of its kind in California, incorporating queer historical materials, artifacts, and archival documents, as well as representations of social activism, contemporary artwork, costumes, and ephemera

Beyond this, visitors and members of the queer community will also be able to add their voices and stories to the collection through interactive displays. Drawing on the "histories of struggle for self-determination" the museum positions this exhibition as a means to imagine a more inclusive future.



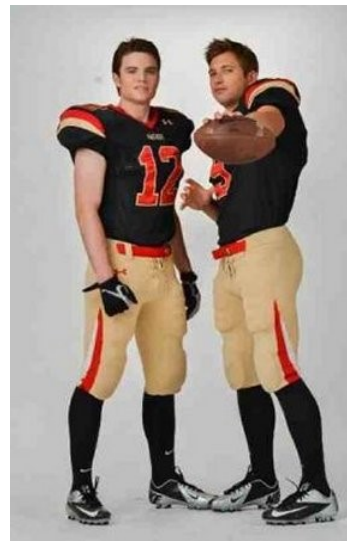
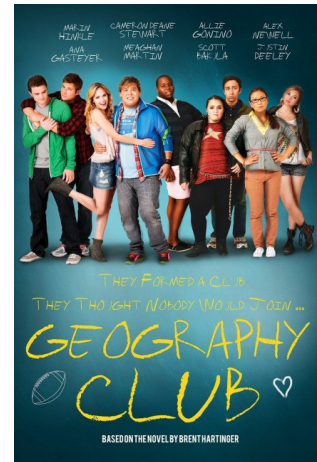
## Geography Club

This 2013 comedy-drama – released on DVD in 2014 – is not your typical "coming-out" film, though it does take place in a typical Midwestern high school. Developed characters range from the stereotypically nerdy to the handsome jock.

Sixteen-year-old Russell is still going on dates with girls while having a secret relationship with football quarterback Kevin, who will do anything to prevent

his football teammates from finding out. Min and Therese tell everyone that they're just really good friends. And then there's Ike, who can't figure out who he is or who he wants to be. Finding the truth too hard to hide, they all decide to form the Geography Club, thinking nobody else in their right mind would ever want to join. However, their secrets may soon be discovered and they could have to face the choice of revealing who they really are.

The movie aims to bust old stereotypes; create fun, relatable characters where few have previously existed in pop culture; and explore a new world – one in which tolerance is slowly growing but peril still lurks for teens who don't quite fit into the usual crowd. Edmund Entin, who wrote the screenplay based on the novel, said, "I was immediately attracted to this project because I have such an affection for the book and jumped at the chance to work on the film. I saw in the novel, a tapestry of characters and emotions that felt specific to these times.



Two guys who don't want anybody to know that they're gay...!

Two of the most interesting characters are played by Alex Jewell (who portrayed "Unique", a male-to-female transwoman during five seasons of "Glee") and Ally Maki (featured on TBS series, "Wrecked" from 2016-present) as Min, one of the co-founders of the Geography Club.



Alex Jewell character, Ike, "not sure if he's gay"



Ally Maki (as Min) discovers two "jocks" kissing



The film will be shown at 1pm on the Third Wednesday, 17th April, in the fully-accessible Carnegie Lecture Hall at the San Leandro Public Library, 300 Estudillo. Following the showing, there will be a brief evaluation and discussion of the film.

We must apologize to all who came to see "Borstal Boy" at the March 20th film series. Though we had been warned that the usual laptop-driven projector wouldn't be available in March to propel the quality speakers available there, it turned out that the appropriate cord to connect the projector with the speakers was nowhere to be found by Lavender Seniors personnel or library staff. As a result, the sound quality was extremely poor, causing people to huddle around the one small speaker. Our deepest apologies to all – the problem should not recur.

We are encouraged, however, to find out that the San Leandro City Council has allocated the money to replace the AV equipment, per this e-mail:

FYI: I talked with the city manager Jeff Kay. The San Leandro Library is due for AV replacement along with other updating. Five million has been set aside for capital improvement. Anticipate replacement of the projector coming this May. This will also include remodeling the bathrooms.

So, hopefully, we can soon resume the problem-free theater-type experience of LGBTQ-themed films we've enjoyed there for nearly four years.

Attendees are reminded that the theater is frequently chilly, so that a sweater or light jacket is recommended. Library staff report that temperature is controlled automatically and cannot be altered for any one room in the facility.

The library can be reached via BART (five blocks above the San Leandro station), AC-Transit (two blocks above the E. 14th and Estudillo bus-stop), Bancroft Avenue, Highways 580 or 880. Ample two- and three-hour parking is available.



## Where to with Memory Challenges?

It happens to us at all ages – we discover we've left the car keys in the refrigerator, don't recognize that old flame at our 20th high school class reunion or can't think of the word we're looking for in order to describe a simple feeling or experience we've had. "They" say that's all par for the course even for 30-somethings and 40-somethings.

But what about when we notice that we're progressively better able to access what happened 20-30 years ago than remember whether we brushed our teeth last night or whether our favorite aunt is still alive? Many of us with latent (or



blatant) hypochondriacal tendencies may tend to see this as the first step toward senility, dementia, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's or some other sort of inevitable mental, intellectual, social and even spiritual decline.



Our presenter for the April 19th Third Friday Lunch Bunch comes with more than a decade of dealing with the issues of short-term and long-term memory challenges.

Tim Johnson has been serving the elder community in various capacities for over 11 years. He holds a national accreditation of Certified Dementia Practitioner (CDP), as well as being licensed by the state as an Administrator qualified to manage a residential care facility for elders (RCFE). For the past 5 years, he has worked as the Community Life Director for The Watermark by the Bay (formerly Bayside Park) in Emeryville. He is a fierce advocate for seniors, especially concerned about members of the LGBTQ community.

Tim will include information on how supported living situations can benefit seniors with memory challenges who still want their independence. He will help explore retirement living options and future planning. He will provide an overview of available options and an explanation of various services, including Independent Living, Assisted Living and Memory Care that are available in various East Bay communities.

As usual, a buffet lunch will be served promptly at 12 noon (vegetarian options available), followed by a brief break for community announcements around 12:45. Then the program will be turned over to Tim, followed by adequate time for Q&A. He will be available afterward for answering any personal questions.

The North Oakland Senior Center is located at 5714 MLK Jr Way (corner of 58th Street). Ample parking and entrance are at the rear of the building off of 58th Street.



## Last Call! All Aboard for LGBTQ Theater in Ashland!

April 22nd is the last date to register for Lavender Seniors' Second Annual outing to Ashland, OR, to participate in LGBTQ-related theater events at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. The dates are 26-28th July, the last weekend that openly-gay OSF Artistic Director,

Bill Rauch, and his husband, Chris Moore, will be in residence and directing plays there before they move to New York. Bill has accepted a post as the first Artistic Director of the Perelman Center for the Performing Arts at the World Trade Center beginning in the fall.



The plays for which Lavender Seniors has reserved senior group-rate tickets (\$35) are:

- **"How to Catch Creation,"** Friday, 26th July, 8pm, Thomas Theater. Written by Christina Anderson, winner of the coveted Lorraine Hansberry Award (honoring the black lesbian feminist writer and political activist). Spanning 40+ years, this play focuses on a black lesbian feminist writer and four other people profoundly affected by something that happened with the writer's girlfriend in the 1960s.
- **"Mother Road,"** 1:30pm, Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> July, Bowmer Theater. Written by Octavio Solis, inspired by Steinbeck's "Grapes of Wrath," a 21st-century story that inventively reverses the Joads' mythic journey from California back to Oklahoma. Directed by openly-gay Artistic Director, Bill Rauch, his directorial swan song before he and his husband move to New York after nearly a decade-and-a-half raising their children in Ashland.
- **"Hairspray,"** 8pm, Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> July, Bowmer Theater. This campy pop musical honors John Waters' original subversive vision for the story in a wildly joyful production that celebrates radical inclusion at its heart, complete with transgender roles previously played by Divine, John Travolta and Harvey Fierstein. Directed by Christopher Liam Moore, husband of Bill Rauch, in his final directorial production before he and Bill move to New York.
- **"As You Like It,"** 1:30pm, Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> July, Bowmer Theater. Written by William Shakespeare, who wrote 126 love sonnets to a young man (including #18 that begins "Shall I compare thee to a Summer's day?"), known only as "Fair Youth" or "Fair Lord" and by the initials "W.H." Shakespeare scholars still debate where Shakespeare fell on the Kinsey scale.
- **"Cambodian Rock Band,"** 1:30pm Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> July, Thomas Theater. Written by Lauren Yee. A musical about those who survived the "Killing Fields" of Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge. Only known LGBTQ connection is that in its March 2018 world premiere in Southern California it became the darling of the San Diego Lesbian and Gay News (see SDLGN review at <https://sdgln.com/entertainment/2018/03/15/theater-review-cambodian-rock-band>). Requested as an option by one of the participants in last year's Lavender Seniors sojourn to Ashland.

As a final viewing option that weekend, Bill Rauch (last year's LGBTQ production of "Oklahoma!" was his brainchild) has offered to hold a private showing of the only authorized existing video version of the production, which can only be seen on the OSF campus due to Actors Equity Association contract stipulations.

For more in-depth information about the plays and OSF, see the archived March newsletter at <https://lavenderseniors.org/wp->

[content/uploads/2019/03/Lavender-Notes-March-2019.pdf](#) or check out the OSF website for 2019 season festival schedule:  
<https://www.osfashland.org/on-stage>.

For those interested in participating in this year's excursion to Ashland, please print out and complete the registration form (available on the Lavender Seniors website: <https://lavenderseniors.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Ashland-Registration-Form.pdf>), then mail it with ticket payment to 4123 Broadway #818, Oakland, CA 94611 by 22nd April, the deadline for claiming the reserve tickets. Any questions or concerns can be directed to [JohnDavid@LavenderSeniors.org](mailto:JohnDavid@LavenderSeniors.org) or by leaving a message at 510-736-LGBT (5428).

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## Save the Dates

### Old Lesbians Organizing for Change (OLOC) 2019 Activities & Events

#### May 17-19, Retreat at Enchanted Hills, Napa:

OLOC will be returning to Enchanted Hills in NAPA for its May 17–19 Spring Retreat (Friday – Sunday). The group is committed to returning that weekend despite some facilities still needing repair from the October 2017 Napa firestorm.

#### July 21, 2019 Annual picnic in Live Oak Park, Berkeley

#### September 13-15, 2019, Fall Retreat at Enchanted Hills, Napa.

August 23 – 25, 2019, National OLOC Gathering at Columbus, Ohio - check the [website](#) for more information.

#### November 18, 2019, All Day Gathering, Location to be Determined

For information on local events contact: Laura (925) 980-3842; Pat Cull, [patcull70@gmail.com](mailto:patcull70@gmail.com); Susan Chacin (510) 332-8569/[susanchnew@gmail.com](mailto:susanchnew@gmail.com)

More information on the National OLOC meeting will be in the next Bay Area OLOC newsletter. The National organization assists with transportation, registration and hotel assistance, all on a low- or no-cost basis. Free food and hang-out space is provided in a hospitality suite.



Pride is in the Air...let us know about your celebrations!

[Sonoma County](#), May 31 - June 2, Old Court House Square, Santa Rosa

[Concord](#), June 1 12 - 6 pm, Todos Santos Plaza, Concord

[Richmond](#), June 2 10 am, Marina Way Park in Richmond

[Sacramento](#), June 8 & 9, 11 am – 5 pm at Capitol Park

[Emeryville Senior Center](#), June 14 11 am – noon, 4321 Salem St, Emeryville

[San Francisco](#), June 29-30, Civic Center Plaza

**Castro Valley**, July 13, 12:00 - 5:00 pm at Castro Valley High School.  
**Silicon Valley**, August 24, Plaza de César Chávez Park, 1 Paseo De San Antonio, San Jose, CA  
**Oakland**, September 8, PARADE kicks off 11:00 am at Broadway & 14th St., FESTIVAL 11:00 am-7:00 pm.

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# 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:

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

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, 6:00pm – 6:30pm**

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, 2:00pm – 2:30pm**

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 and the new catalog that will come out after April 7th. 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](mailto:coviaconnections@covia.org).

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### Upcoming Documentary about Lesbian Activist Sally Gearhart

Director Deborah Craig produced a short 2018 documentary "A Great Ride," about several California lesbians aging with humor and a zest for life. This film premiered at the Frameline International LGBTQ Film Festival in June 2018 and has screened in festivals in the U.S. and abroad. It also screened at February's Lavender Seniors Rainbow Lunch in San Leandro.

Deborah is now working on a new documentary about Bay Area lesbian activist Sally Gearhart. This film will be a funny, poignant, and revealing portrait of this controversial gay rights activist, science fiction writer, and lesbian icon. Charismatic, visionary, and full of contradictions, at 87, Gearhart is a living legend to the first generation of out lesbians, as well as one of feminism's most radical voices. Unfortunately, she is still a somewhat "hidden figure" to the wider world. We think it is high time her story gets told.

For more info about this project, contact Deborah at [dcraig@mi.net](mailto:dcraig@mi.net). Tax-deductible donations can be made via the Center for Independent Documentary (<https://www.documentaries.org/sally>) or by sending checks payable to "The Center for Independent Documentary," 1300 Soldiers Field Road, Suite #5, Boston, MA 02135, putting "Sally" in the memo line.

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## **Alameda County Area Agency on Aging Alert**

### **Survey for Alameda County Residents over the Age of 55**

Under the Older Americans Act, counties are required to prepare a county-wide Plan for Older Adults. In the coming years, Alameda County expects over 100,000 baby boomers to age over 55 and need county services. The county is preparing for that fast-approaching time.

The county-wide plan addresses the unmet needs of older residents in each county. The county survey helps Social Services offices create a plan to distribute federal and state monies among existing social programs or to create new programs to address those needs. Input by county constituents through this survey helps the plan designers target and prioritize those issues that residents consider of highest unmet concerns.

The overall goal of the county and the State of California is to be recognized as an entity that provides age-friendly communities. Currently, the only state having this recognition is New York. The survey began on March 1, 2019 and should conclude by September 2019. The short paper surveys are available at various locations in Alameda County, including senior centers and pop-up locations such as the Alameda County Fair in Pleasanton. Completed paper surveys can be returned to: Alameda County Area Agency on Aging Lobby, 6955 Foothill Blvd., Suite 143, Oakland, California 94605. The survey is also available to be taken online at: [bit.ly/aaa2019survey](http://bit.ly/aaa2019survey).

Outreach by the Area Agency on Aging continues through public forums and focus groups. The AAA is seeking opportunities to provide informational outreach by providing speakers which address the issues and survey through 1½-hour presentations. If you wish to participate in the forums or focus group, or if you want to have speakers make a presentation, contact Jennifer Stephens-Pierre, Director, Area Agency on Aging, 510 577-1966 or Email [jspierre@acgov.org](mailto:jspierre@acgov.org). AAA staff can also tell you how to get the paper survey. Please pass on the availability of this survey for people aged over 55 and living in Alameda County.

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## 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](#).



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## THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

### Out Standing Seniors - Sponsored by Pacific Center

April 2 & 16 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. (1st and 3rd Tuesdays)  
Hayward Senior Center, 22325 N. Third Street, Hayward

#### [Join Meet-Up](#)

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

### Aging Lesbian Peer Support Group (formerly Queerly Aging Lesbians)

April 4 & 18, 12:30 p.m. (1st and 3rd Thursdays) **new time**  
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

April 5, 12, 19, 26, 3:15 p.m. (Fridays)  
North Berkeley Senior Center, 901 Hearst Ave, Berkeley  
*Free drop-in therapy group for LGBTQ community members age 60+*

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

April 5, 12, 19, 26 2:15 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**  
April 1, 8 15, 22, 29 1:15 p.m. (Mondays)  
Hayward Senior Center, 22325 N. Third Street, Hayward  
*Free drop-in therapy group for LGBTQ community members age 60+*

**Rainbow Seniors - Sponsored by Pacific Center & Lavender Seniors**  
April 9 & 23, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. (2nd & 4th Tuesdays)  
San Leandro Senior Center, 13909 E 14th St, San Leandro  
*A safe and confidential space for LGBTQ seniors 50+ to share thoughts, feelings, resources, information, and support. FREE, though donations are welcome.*

**Living OUT in Livermore - Sponsored by Pacific Center**  
April 9, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. (2nd Tuesdays)  
Robert Livermore Community Center Senior Services, 4444 East Avenue, Livermore 94550 [Join Meet-Up](#)  
*A safe and confidential space for LGBTQ seniors 50+ to share thoughts, feelings, resources, information, and support. FREE, though donations are welcome.*

**Lavender Seniors Board Meeting**  
April 10, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (2nd Wednesday)  
4300 Bermuda, Oakland  
*A portion of this meeting is open to the public.*

**Senior Gay Men's Group**  
April 11 & 25, 1:30 p.m. (2nd and 4th Thursdays)  
The Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley  
Co-sponsor: The Pacific Center, 510-548-8283  
*Feel alone? Need to find space to be yourself and chat with others? Join us!*

**Lavender Seniors Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch**  
April 13, noon - 2:00 p.m.  
All Saints Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling Blvd., San Leandro  
*This month's program: "Laughing Yoga" (see info above)*

**Lavender Seniors LGBTQ Film Series**  
April 17, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. (3rd Wednesday)  
San Leandro Library, 300 Estudillo, San Leandro  
*This month's movie: "Geography Club" (see info above)*

**Island Pride Peer Support Group - Sponsored by Pacific Center**  
April 10 & 24, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. (2nd & 4th Wednesday)  
Mastick Senior Center, 1155 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda  
*A Peer Support Group is a safe & confidential space for LGBT Seniors 50+ to share thoughts, feelings, resources, information & to support one another.*

**Tri-Valley Rainbows - Sponsored by Pacific Center**

April 18, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. (3rd Thursday)

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

### **Join Meet-up**

*A Peer Support Group is a safe & confidential space for LGBT Seniors 50+ to 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

April 19, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

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

*This month's program: "Memory Challenges" (see info above)*

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## Lavender Seniors of the East Bay Board of Directors

**President:** Victor Aguilar Jr

**Vice President:** Gwendolyn M. Boozé

**Treasurer:** Carmen Chiong

**Secretary:** John David Dupree

**Founding Member:** Barbara Jue

## Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

Message: 510-736-LGBT (510-736-5428)

Friendly Visitor Program: (510) 424-7240 or

[karen@lavenderseniors.org](mailto:karen@lavenderseniors.org)

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Oakland, CA 94611

Website: <http://lavenderseniors.org>

**newsletter editorial  
board:**

Beckie Underwood

John David Dupree

Barbara Jue

**Contact Us**

