



# Lavender Notes

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

August 2016

*Celebrating 20+ years of service and positive change*

*Volume 23, Issue 8*

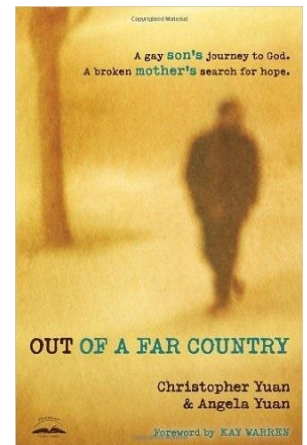
## Book Review:

### ***Out Of A Far Country: A Gay Son's Journey to God. A Broken Mother's Search for Hope***

By Christopher Yuan and Angela Yuan

We have seen this story countless times. A mother and son confront homophobia. This time prejudice gets nourishment in the church but they are finally united in religion that is free of hate. Much conflict and growth are the result. Christopher is arrested on a drug charge and has HIV but all turns out well.

- Frank Howell



## LGBT Online Support Group for Caregivers

If you are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender and caring for someone with ongoing health problems . . . ***you are not alone!*** Family Caregiver Alliance's online LGBT Caring Community Support Group connects you with others facing the day-to-day challenges of caregiving. If you're assisting someone with Alzheimer's, stroke, Parkinson's, traumatic brain injury, or other chronic health problems, you can get support from the convenience of your home.

Share experiences, resources, and ideas in a supportive, caring environment. Available 24 hours a day, all you need is e-mail, and it's free! Visit [www.caregiver.org](http://www.caregiver.org).

## Castro Valley Pride

Saturday, July 9th

Thank you, Out Standing Seniors for setting up, staffing, and breaking down our booth. It was a great day!



### THE SENIOR VOTE COUNTS: SEPTEMBER 2016

#### CARA Regional Conventions/Town Hall Forums

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>NORTHERN CA</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ALAMEDA COUNTY</b>, Tuesday, Sept. 13th, 10am-2pm<br/>CA Endowment/Oakland Conference Center, 1111 Broadway/Oakland, Laurel Room</li> <li>• <b>CONTRA COSTA/SOLANO</b>, Monday, Sept. 12th, 10am-2pm<br/>Richmond Memorial Auditorium, Bermuda Rooms, 403 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond</li> <li>• <b>CENTRAL VALLEY</b>, Monday, Sept. 26th, 10am-2pm, Manteca Transit Center, 220 Moffat Blvd., Manteca</li> <li>• <b>FRESNO</b>, Tuesday, Sept. 27th, 10am-2pm, IMAAW Local 653, 544 W. Olive St., Fresno</li> <li>• <b>NORTH BAY</b> (Marin &amp; Sonoma), Tues., Sept. 6th, 1-4pm, Marin Public Employees Assoc., 16 Mitchell Ave., San Rafael</li> <li>• <b>PLACER COUNTY</b>, Wednesday, Sept. 14th, 12-4pm, UDW – Placer, 4220 Rocklin Rd., Suite 3, Rocklin</li> <li>• <b>REDDING/5 COUNTIES</b>, Friday, Sept. 16th, 11am-3pm, IBEW 340, 900 Locust St., Redding</li> <li>• <b>SACRAMENTO</b>, Thursday, Sept. 15th, 10am-2pm, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1300 N. St., Sacramento</li> <li>• <b>SAN FRANCISCO</b>, Thursday, Sept. 8th 10am-2pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco</li> <li>• <b>SANTA CLARA</b>, Thursday, Sept. 22nd, 10am-2pm, IBEW Local 332, 2125 Canoas Garden, San Jose</li> </ul> |
| <b>SOUTHERN CA</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SAN GABRIEL VALLEY &amp; LA COUNTY</b>, Monday, Sept. 19th, 10-2pm,<br/>USW Local 675, 1200 E. 220th St., Carson</li> <li>• <b>ORANGE COUNTY</b>, Wednesday, Sept. 21, 10am-2pm, UFCW Local 324, 8530 Stanton Ave, Buena Park</li> <li>• <b>SAN DIEGO COUNTY</b>, Tuesday, Sept. 20th, 10am-2pm, Sheetmetal Workers Local,<br/>4594 Mission Gorge Place, San Diego</li> <li>• <b>BAKERSFIELD</b>, Saturday, Sept 24th, 10am-2pm, Kern, Inyo and Mono CLC, 200 W Jeffrey St, Bakersfield</li> </ul>   |

## Lavender Seniors getting more LGBTQ Seniors Out and About

After the success of the Ardenwood Farms outing earlier this year, Lavender Seniors has now finalized arrangements for 16 LGBTQ seniors (participants signed up include 10 women and 6 men) to attend the 12<sup>th</sup> October matinee performance of "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" at the Golden Gate Theater. This will be the first theater outing



organized by Lavender Seniors, with \$179 orchestra seats going at a senior group rate of \$25/person! Though those ADA-accessible seats (including one wheelchair space) have already been taken, if there are any others interested, we might still be able to arrange for some of the few orchestra seats remaining for that day, but we would need to know by mid-August (by which time there may be no seats left).

Meanwhile, we would be interested in hearing about other activities that Lavender Seniors participants might be interested in attending around the Bay area. Many of us went to see "Kinky Boots" last year and will be seeing the Carole King "Beautiful" next month. When seats can be made affordable for seniors (free would be even better!), it's much more likely that we will summon the energy and time to go out and enjoy the world of theater, music, athletics, the arts, etc., with each other more regularly (not many retirees can afford \$179 for one afternoon or evening of entertainment).

Anyone with an interest in "Hedwig..." or having suggestions for other outings should contact [JohnDavid@LavenderSeniors.org](mailto:JohnDavid@LavenderSeniors.org) to put their ideas in the hopper for future consideration.

For more information about the multi-award winning play, check out the website:

[https://www.shnsf.com/Online/default.asp?BOparam::WScontent::loadArticle::permalink=hedwigan&dtheangryinch&BOparam::WScontent::loadArticle::context\\_id](https://www.shnsf.com/Online/default.asp?BOparam::WScontent::loadArticle::permalink=hedwigan&dtheangryinch&BOparam::WScontent::loadArticle::context_id)

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## San Leandro Pot Luck

**\*\*\*Now Located at:**

**All Saints Episcopal Church Parish Room,  
911 Dowling Boulevard, San Leandro, CA\*\*\***

**Second Saturday Noon-2:00**

**Mark your calendars ... we have some great  
programs coming up!**



August 13: Dan Ashbrook and Allison Rodman (Professional chef) - Recipes from our Ancestors (easy cheese making demo)

September 10: Stev Taal - short classical piano pieces

We are looking for ideas that may pique the interest of Lavender Seniors participants, send your suggestions to [info@lavenderseniors.org](mailto:info@lavenderseniors.org).

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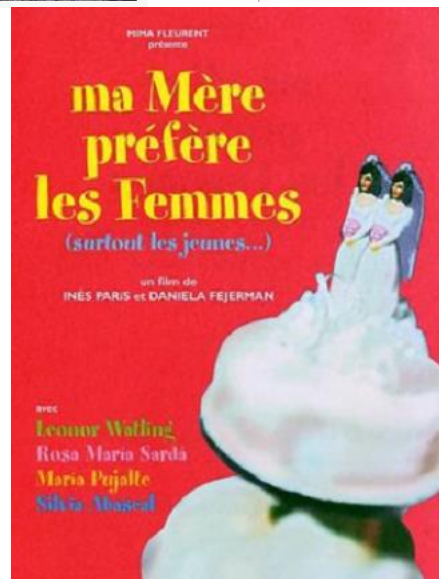
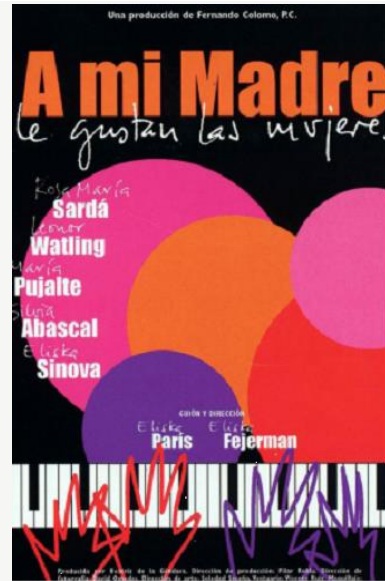
**Lavender Seniors Film Series, Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> August, 1-3pm**

## **MY MOTHER LIKES WOMEN**

### **[A MI MADRE LE GUSTAN LAS MUJERES]**

In Madrid on her birthday, a divorced middle-aged pianist, Sofía, discloses to her daughters - Elvira, Gimena and Sol - that she is in love with the talented Czechoslovak pianist Aliska, who is a woman closer to her daughters' ages - twenty-years younger than she. The bigoted sisters are shocked with the revelation and do not accept the idea that their mother is a lesbian.





This 2002 romantic family comedy/drama - in Spanish with English sub-titles - takes the family - including mother, lover, three daughters and even ex-husband - on quite a roller-coaster. Elvira is an insecure and neurotic young aspirant writer that has a lousy job in a publishing house; Sol is the singer in a rock band; and Gimena is married with a son and a troubled marriage with Raúl. The daughters plot together on how to get their mother's Czech girlfriend - a brilliant pianist herself - out of her life. Their plot goes terribly wrong and turns the film from a light-hearted comedy into an amusing and moving drama.



An easy and good film, it's about love, not simply lesbian love: family love, male-female love, girl-girl love ... and sex? Not at all (amusing film anyway). A well-constructed comedy with a funny and beautiful Leonor Watling.

The film will be shown in the Lecture Hall at San Leandro Public Library, 300 Estudillo, a ten-minute (five-block) walk up Estudillo from the San Leandro BART Station. For those with mobility issues, pick-up from the San Leandro BART station can be arranged (at 12:30) by e-mailing [JohnDavid@LavenderSeniors.org](mailto:JohnDavid@LavenderSeniors.org) or calling John David (510-532-8951) at least 24 hours in advance.

Lavender Seniors will provide refreshments. Following the 1-3pm screening, there will be a brief discussion/evaluation of the film and the issues it brings up for us as LGBTQ seniors and allies.

The AC-Transit 1R has a bus stop at East 14<sup>th</sup> and Estudillo, which involves a 1.5-block walk up Estudillo to the library.

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

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

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

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



## ***Community Phone Calls***

### **Just a few of the topics offered:**

**Writing Workshop Sundays, 7/17 - 10/9 3:00pm - 4:00pm** Join this peer group for supportive discussions and invite suggestions and feedback about what you are writing. Plus exercises to get those creative juices going! Participants are invited to offer ideas for writing exercises. Facilitated by Jerry Sexton

**Think Thursdays: Strong Brains, Sharp Minds Thursdays, 8/18, 9/15 1:00pm - 2:00pm** Join us for our popular Think Thursday series to discuss current research highlights from the exciting fields of neuroscience, memory, and creative aging. Explore the exciting world of brain science for aging minds!

**Open Mic Thursdays, 7/14 - 9/15 6:30pm - 7:00pm** All are welcome to call in and perform, big talent not required. Singing, spoken word, stand-up comedy, play your favorite instrument, read a poem or more. Enthusiastic spectators are also welcome to join. Facilitated by Kathleen Torres.

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

## ***Castro Valley Pride***

**Saturday, July 9th**

Thank you, Out Standing Seniors, for setting up, staffing, and breaking down our booth. It was a great day!



### **Third Friday Lunch Bunch, 19<sup>th</sup> August, 12-2pm, NOSC**

## **AT HOME WITH GROWING OLDER: ACTIVISM BEGINS IN YOUR OWN HOME**

This month's Third Friday Lunch Bunch will feature a presentation by a Bay-area-based organization called At Home with Growing Older (AHWGO). Architect, social entrepreneur and co-founder of AHWGO, Susi Stadler, will help the audience discover the potential of our homes to adapt to our changing needs over the years.

"Our homes are a resource for us as we age," according to Stadler. "Age-friendly design is mostly focused on supporting mobility and preventing accidents, but it is as important to think about how we can live with delight in our homes as we age."

AHWGO is a non-profit network that brings together professionals, academics, and activists to explore what it takes to provide services, infrastructure, and homes that meet the needs and desires of an aging population. The organization is part of a growing movement that promotes integrated solutions, especially those focusing on the home and its context, rather than an institutional environment, as a major contributor to healthy aging.

AHWGO sponsors monthly events, and offers workshops and consultations for being "at home with growing old". The organization - soon becoming an officially-recognized non-profit - serves individuals, organizations, corporations, cities and neighborhoods.



Susanne Stadler is an architect focused on providing safe and secure living spaces for seniors. Her firm specializes in the design of age-friendly and inter-generational environments and lifelong homes. She co-founded AHWGO with Natasha Boissier, a social worker, in 2009 with the intent to promote imaginative responses for the challenges of this phase of life across disciplines.

"A Home For All Ages gives us the option to live long-term in our home if we choose to," Stadler explains. "In a recent presentation at the Avenidas Housing Conference, I emphasized that it is

time for personal activism in our own homes. Setting the right priorities is key in making one's home safe and delightful. We can build on the hard-won baseline of accessibility, think of our homes as adaptable 'beings' and make them livable for all ages. This should be a balanced relationship - not just us adapting to a home that has smaller and bigger inconveniences!"



One of the AHWGO team, Chuck Baroo, is a long-time participant in Lavender Seniors of the East Bay. Focusing on Community Outreach, Chuck has spent much of his professional life as an adult educator, organizational development consultant and cross-cultural facilitator. He has traveled extensively - backpacking around the world, as a mature adult, for two years - a life altering experience. He has been involved with Inter-religious dialog programs on three continents. For the past 20 years he has been active in SAGE/NY, as well as Lavender Seniors. Chuck is bi-coastal, living & involved in a NYC workers housing cooperative. Because of his yearly schedule, he will be unable to attend this presentation, as he's tending to East Coast issues right now.

As usual, the Third Friday Lunch Bunch (19th August) is held from 12-2pm at the North Oakland Senior Center, 5714 MLK Jr Way (corner 58th Street) in the old Merritt College Building. Lunch is partially sponsored by the City of Oakland prior to the AHWGO presentation. The entrance is behind the building, where there is also ample parking.



## OAKLAND EAST BAY GAY MEN'S CHORUS

Come out and audition for **Oakland East Bay Gay Men's Chorus** upcoming season!

Auditions for our 17th year are on August 30th at 7:00pm. Weekly rehearsals are on Tuesday nights starting Tuesday, September 6, 2016 and our annual holiday concert is the first two weekends in December.

For more information and to schedule your audition, email [contactoebgmc@oebgmc.org](mailto:contactoebgmc@oebgmc.org) or call/text **510.229.8719**.



# 6<sup>th</sup> Annual LEGACY Film Festival on Aging

September 16 - 18, 2016 in San Francisco

## 2016 FILMS

### **Friday, September 16, 5:30pm**

OPENING NIGHT: THE ART OF LIVING

#### ***The Presence Project (4:42 min.)***

**Lisa Fierstein, 2015.**

A recent art school graduate works with a senior living community devoted to people with Alzheimer's disease and dementia to form a special bond with each of the residents. After hearing their stories, the artist (not the filmmaker) paints beautiful portraits of them, honoring who they were and who they are now.

***Student filmmaker Lisa Fierstein will be present.***

#### ***There is a Place (17 min.)***

**Tania Ku, 2015.**

Every week, Bay Area singer-songwriter Lior Tsarfaty visits 15-20 different Alzheimer's care communities around the San Francisco Bay Area, a suitcase of percussion instruments in tow. At one, a circle of residents sit and wait quietly. Smiles quickly spread, as residents and staff join in with their own expressions of song and dance.

***Filmmaker Tania Ku and subject Lior Tsarfaty will be present.***

#### ***A New Color: The Art of Being Edythe Boone (57 min.)***

**Mo Morris, 2015.**

An exuberant and inspiring film about Edythe Boone, a 74-year-old African-American artist who teaches public art to middle-schoolers and Richmond seniors. Tough and compassionate, wise and funny, she lived through segregation and Jim Crow maintaining her faith in humanity, despite recent and alarming challenges to that faith. In the classroom, Edy's creative example inspires students to imagine new possibilities, challenge stereotypes and become agents of change.

***Filmmaker Mo Morris, and subject Edythe Boone will be present.***

*Total screening time: 82 minutes. Q&A follows screening.*

### **Saturday, September 17, 11:30am**

WHO CARES?

#### ***A Letter From Fred (15 min.)***

**Oceanna Colgan, 2013.**

A heartwarming film about how a music studio saw the potential in 96-year-old Fred's song to his "Sweet Lorraine," and the public's emotional reaction.

#### ***Queen Mimi (75 min.)***

**Yaniv Rokah, 2014.**

One stormy night, Mimi, who had been living on the streets for many years, found her home in a California laundromat. For the next 20 years, thanks to its generous owner, she continued to live there, while her philosophy that 'the past is the past' endeared her to regular 'fluff and fold' clients as well as some unlikely new friends. Now 90, Mimi reminds us to never give in and never give up, and that if you ever find yourself in the gutter, to never stop looking at the stars.

*Total screening time: 90 minutes. Q&A follows screening. Program ends at 1pm.*



**Saturday, September 17, 1:30pm**

**DEEP LEARNING**

***The Dog (8:31 min.)***

**Zackary Canepari, 2015.**

When Sony stopped manufacturing replacement parts for its Aibo pet robot, owners scrambled to save the robot-dogs that had become part of their families.

***Alice Cares (Ik ben Alice) (80 min.)***

**Sander Burger, 2015.**

A fascinating documentary about a Dutch pilot program that tests the use of an emotionally intelligent "care-bot" named Alice to ward off isolation and provide socialization. Can technology be combined with human care to support seniors' living independently?

***In Dutch, with English subtitles.***

***Koko Kawasaki, MA will be the key facilitator for the program.***

*Total screening time: 89 minutes. Q&A follows screening. Program ends at 4pm.*

**Saturday, September 17, 4:30pm**

**GENERATIONS**

***Remember Me (90 min.)***

**William Goldbloom, 2016.**

Academy Award winner Rita Moreno stars in this coming-of-age comedy about two competitive 30-something cousins faced with a family crisis, who unexpectedly end up on a road trip delivering their seemingly frail grandmother to an assisted care facility. Along the way, it becomes clear that their grandmother is not so frail, but, instead, over-medicated. When she returns to her feisty, vibrant self again, they make a decision that changes all of their lives.

***Sparklight Films' producers Nanou Matteson & Heather Haggarty will be present.***

*Total screening time: 90 minutes. Q&A follows screening.*

**Saturday, September 17, 7pm**

**MEMORY**

***The Old Man (7 min.)***

**Erin Kelley, 2015.**

A new mother, played by Erin Kelly, watches an old man waiting for a bus all day. Her attempts to connect are rebuffed until she finally manages to break through to him.

***Florida (Floride) (120 min.)***

**Philippe Le Guay, 2015.**

Famous French veteran actor Jean Rochefort headlines this bittersweet French family comedy-drama about a feisty octogenarian father who is still as imposing as ever, and is determined to stay independent, although his bouts of forgetfulness and confusion are becoming increasingly frequent. Carole, his oldest daughter (Sandrine Kiberlain), wages a daily and taxing battle to ensure that he's not left on his own. Claude suddenly decides on a whim to go to Florida. What lies behind this sudden trip?

***In French, with English subtitles.***

***Doris Bersing, PhD, Director, Living Well, will be the key facilitator for the program.***

*Total screening time: 127 minutes. Q&A follows screening.*

**Sunday, September 18, 12pm**

LIFE, DEATH, AND LOVE

***Snow Day: Life, Death, and Skiing (60 min.)***

**Erica Milsom, 2015.**

An inspiring film about six aging skiers on their weekly trip to ski in the Rockies. Full of life, they frequently face profound adversity and share their stories of love, loss, and personal growth, which play out in high contrast to the freedom and athleticism they exhibit on the mountain.

***Filmmaker Erica Milsom will be present.***

***Wayne (9:40 min.)***

**Mario Galarreta, 2015.**

After 50 years of marriage, and afflicted with senile dementia, Wayne is drawn into the deep recesses of his youth in search for a forbidden love.

***Filmmaker Mario Galarreta will be present.***

***Albertine (20:39 min.)***

**Alexis Van Stratum, 2014.**

The elderly Albertine has recently lost her husband and with him, her desire to live. She spends her days attending funerals and planning her own until an elderly man in her apartment building comes to change a light bulb for her.

***Belgian film in French, with English subtitles.***

*Total screening time: 98 minutes. Q&A follows screening. Program ends at 2pm.*

**Sunday, September 18, 2:30pm**

GOTTA DANCE!

***Opting-Out (Desconexión Territorial) (10:43 min.)***

**Lucas Villa, 2015.**

A whimsical story about a Spanish woman who visits her husband's urn at the cemetery, and talks to him about the strange things that are going on in her kitchen and on her radio.

***Student film, in Spanish, with English subtitles.***

***Hip Hop-eration (90 min.)***

**Bryn Evans, 2015.**

A feel-good documentary following the journey of New Zealand senior citizens, ages 65-93, as they train to compete in the World Hip-Hop Championships in Las Vegas. The film also explores their lives and motivations, and conveys the enthusiastic support they get from their young Hip

*Total screening time: 102 minutes. Q&A follows screening.*

**VENUE**

**NEW PEOPLE CINEMA**

**1746 Post Street (at Webster)**

**Japantown, San Francisco**

**415-525-8600**

# Monthly Events

## Out Standing Seniors, Hayward

August 2 & 16 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (1st and 3rd Tuesdays)

Hayward Senior Center, 22325 N. Third Street, Hayward

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



## Queerly Aging Lesbians

August 4 & 18, 1:30 p.m. (1st and 3rd Thursdays)

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

*Find support and like-minded wonderful people!*

## Rainbow Seniors

August 9 & 23 12:30-2:00 (2nd & 4th Tuesdays)

San Leandro Senior Center, 13909 E 14th St, San Leandro *A safe and confidential space for LGBT seniors 50+ to share thoughts, feelings, resources, information, and support. FREE, though donations are welcome.*

## Lavender Seniors Advisory Board Meeting

August 10, 6:00-8:00 p.m. (Wed before San Leandro Potluck Lunch)

San Leandro Public Library, 300 Estudillo, Meeting Room C, San Leandro

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

## Senior Men's Group

August 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!*

## San Leandro Potluck

August 13, 12:00-2:00 p.m. (2nd Saturday)

All Saints Episcopal Church Parish Room, 911 Dowling Boulevard, San Leandro

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

*This month's program: Dan Ashbrook and Allison Rodman (Professional chef) - Recipes from our Ancestors (easy cheese making demo)*

## Lavender Seniors Film Series

August 17, 1:00-3:00 p.m. (3rd Wednesday of each month)

San Leandro Public Library, 300 Estudillo, lecture hall, San Leandro

*This month's movie is: "My Mother Likes Women" info above.*

## Our Space Intergenerational Community Dinner

August 18, 5:30-7:00 p.m. (3rd Thursday of each month)

Our Space, 22245 Main Street, Hayward

*Contact [stephanie@baycyouth.org](mailto:stephanie@baycyouth.org) for information*

## Oakland Lunch Bunch

*Sponsored by City of Oakland Aging & Adult Services*

August 19, 12:00-2:00 p.m. (3rd Friday of each month)

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

*This month's program: At Home with Growing Older: Activism Begins in Your Own Home*

### Women caring for their woman partners

Every other Friday at 1pm

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

Facilitated by Dr. Shannon Dubach

2041 Bancroft Way, Suite 307 Berkeley

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

## Thank you to our sponsor, Chapel of the Chimes

[Chapel of the Chimes](#) is proud to be a Lavender Seniors "LGBT elder-friendly" business since 2007. A member of the Lifemark Group, [Chapel of the Chimes](#) is a family of premier Bay Area cemeteries, funeral homes, crematories, and mausoleums providing full end-of-life services.

*Call and set up your Health Care Directive today!*

Chapel of the Chimes, Oakland  
4499 Piedmont Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94611  
FD# 1254



Allison Rodman, Family Service  
Counselor  
... Care, Comfort & Plan  
[allison.rodman@lifemarkgroup.com](mailto:allison.rodman@lifemarkgroup.com)  
[510-593-697](tel:510-593-697)

## Lavender Seniors of the East Bay Board of Advisors

**Chair:** D'Anne Bruetsch

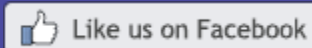
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