



# Lavender Notes

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

December 2017

*Celebrating 23+ years of service and positive change*

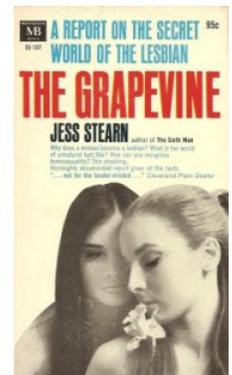
*Volume 24, Issue 12*

## Stories of Our Lives

### SFPD Lieut. Stephan A. Thorne(Retired)

In June of 1969, as trans-activists Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera led the "Stonewall Riots" in New York - igniting the modern gay liberation movement - a 15-year-old girl in Lincoln, Nebraska, was trying to decide if she was merely a "tomboy" or perhaps just someone who would never quite fit in! She preferred the more interesting activities that boys were involved in and had mostly awkward moments with other girls.

Stephanie Toothaker - a very curious, confused and ambitious Midwestern teenager - had wandered into the basement book section of a department store and came across an "adult novel" that changed her life. "The Grapevine: A Report on the Secret World of the Lesbian" by Jeff Stearn finally put a name to what she was probably feeling about herself.



"It was such a welcome revelation," Steph recalls, "being able to put a name to the sense of 'not belonging' that I had always felt. I didn't quite fit in with the boys - and I didn't quite fit in with the girls. Now my job was to figure out where I DID fit in!"

Stephanie was born in Hillsboro, Oregon, back in 1954. When she was just two, her parents split up. At that point, she and her eight-year-old sister were taken back to their mother's hometown, Lincoln, Nebraska, which was basically their home-town from then on.



friend

"I had a fairly happy childhood," Steph reminisces, "though in 21<sup>st</sup> century jargon, I would definitely be considered a 'gender-nonconforming tomboy' who mostly didn't feel like I had found my niche. So I spent many hours at the pool, swimming - occasionally playing with the other kids - but mostly on my own."

After discovering what she "might be," she sussed out a hairdresser friend of her sister's, named Rick - also known as "Sugar" - told him "I think I'm like you" and asked him if he would take her to where "our people" are.

"Since my mother didn't drive, I had taught myself how to drive in her VW bug convertible," Steph recalls. "I picked Sugar up and we headed for Omaha, where I was first introduced to LGBT life at places like The Cave and The Diamond, which Sugar described as 'the wrinkle-room' because it was mostly older men hanging out there. After getting into the bar on a friend's fake ID, dancing a lovely dance with a 40-year-old woman, I then passed out in an alley from euphoria or relief - or maybe just from not having eaten or being dehydrated! Either way, once I recovered, I KNEW I had finally found 'my people!'"

Before long, she was driving solo to Omaha, but also making forays at the Lincoln branch, eventually being hooked up with the Lincoln Gay Action Group (LINGAG) at the University of Nebraska there. By age 16, she had been named co-chair of the group (who thought she was a junior in COLLEGE, rather than a junior in high school)!



Stephanie, age 12, 1966



Stephanie (L), "in man drag", 1970



Stephanie (L) "in man drag", 1972



Stephanie (R), w/Mom, 1974

"Since I knew there were likely many other LGBT youth at my high school, feeling as much the need for community as I did, I posted a notice about the LINGAG meetings on the school bulletin board, which only us student council members had access to," Steph recalls. "That resulted in my being kicked out of school, required to be 'evaluated' by a psychiatrist before I could return to school. When that therapist declared me a 'healthy lesbian,' the school insisted that I had to be evaluated by a psychiatrist of THEIR choice. I opted to forego graduating from that high school, finished my diploma via adult school instead and moved on with my life."

Because of this hiccup in her education, of course, she had come out as a lesbian to her mother and sister.

"Though my mother and I have different memories of how that coming-out process occurred, I have to give her credit for being in my corner at all times," Steph recalls. "For instance, whenever we went out on speaking gigs together with LINGAG as mother and daughter, she always said things like 'Stephie is my pride and joy,' which always made me feel good when I heard it said publicly!"

Stephanie was also instrumental in setting up a "Gay Coffee House", which met every other Sunday from 6-9pm.

"We would spin records, dance and just hang out with friends once every couple weeks," Steph says, "giving us a social outlet in an otherwise gay-unfriendly city - there were no gay bars. We got to be with like-minded people - mostly men, I think - but vital to our own personal growth."

After earning her high school diploma, Stephanie enrolled at UN-Omaha for a few semesters, but didn't complete her degree there. She had her first love affair - with a woman named Nancy, who had "the most luscious thick auburn hair," but it didn't last too long. Stephanie became vice-president of the NOW (National Organization of Women) chapter while she was there.

Instead of continuing her formal education, at age 19, she was hired for a most non-traditional (for women) job as a pipeline maintenance technician with Northern Natural Gas (which subsequently emerged as the controversial Enron).

"It was a perfect job for me," Steph recalls. "It was outdoors, lots of exercise, good pay, I got some terrific experience, driving trucks and developing skills that would serve me well throughout the rest of my life. The guys I worked with learned to respect the job that I did and I was definitely considered part of the team."

Her first foray into eventual law enforcement work occurred during that five-year job on the pipelines of Nebraska. She applied for a job with the Omaha Police Department, but she wasn't hired.

At age 23, she met a single mother with two young kids, age 5 and 3, which became another life-changing event in her life. Stephanie and Judy were attending a 1977 women's conference in Houston, where they roomed together and a long-term relationship resulted. In 1979, the women and Judy's two children moved together to the San Francisco Bay area.

"This was a somewhat contentious time in the history of the movement - particularly between men and women," Steph recalls. "For instance, since we had a son, there were many women's events where we weren't welcome and lesbian separatism was very alive and well."

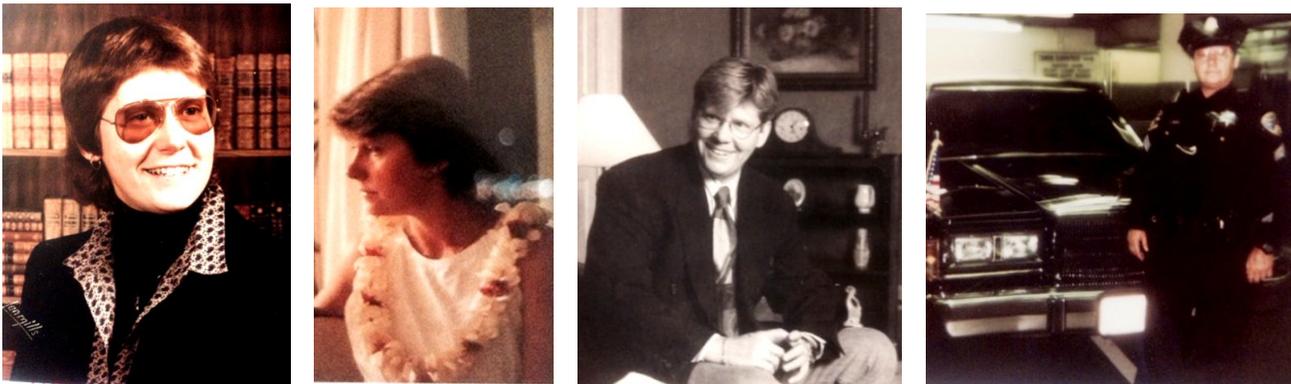
With her vast experience in pipeline maintenance, Stephanie presumed she was a shoo-in for a similar job at PG&E. That did not prove to be the case, since they weren't yet hiring women for those outdoor jobs at that point. Stephanie got a fairly unpleasant job at Sunset Scavengers, which she was not interested in doing long-term.

At that point, she began seeing advertisements for recruitment of lesbian and gay police officers in the local gay newspapers. In addition, Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon began promoting the hiring of openly lesbian and gay police officers and firefighters in San Francisco, which appealed to her very much. So Stephanie applied at both San Francisco Police Department and Palo Alto Police Department.

"I actually didn't even know where Palo Alto was at the time," Steph admits, "but I couldn't have asked for a better place to launch my career in law enforcement. I wound up being an out lesbian there for over three years. During that time, I was included in an article in the San Jose Mercury News, which made me feel like something of a celebrity for being among those who had broken the 'lesbian barrier' in police forces nationwide."

She was so drawn to working with SFPD - a desire that she had harbored for several years - that she resigned her PAPD post to take a few weeks off in Europe to collect her thoughts and plan her future. When she got back, however, it took a few months for her to be called by SFPD. In 1984, she got that very welcome call.

After succeeding in and graduating from the SFPD police academy, she worked her way up from Officer to Sergeant by 1990. She played virtually every law enforcement role possible during that time, including such things as becoming escort/bodyguard for visiting VIPs, routine traffic stops, responding to "911" calls and having dangerous confrontations with criminals.



Stephanie, sorting out who she is, Age 20, Age 30, Age 32 and Age 40, before she decided for sure in 1994

As head of the Women's Officers Network, she was instrumental in getting a change in the name of the Police Officer's Association publication, Policeman, to the POA Journal, a title resulting from a "re-naming contest" held by the department.

Meanwhile, in her personal life, things had continued being somewhat tumultuous.

"I decided I wanted to try to meet my father, who I'd been told repeatedly didn't really care about me and my sister," Steph recalls. "I had decided at age 32 that it no longer made any sense to use the last name Toothaker when there'd been no Toothakers in my life since age 2. So I changed my name to my mother's maiden name, Thorne. When I finally tracked my father down in Alturas, California, I was surprised to learn that I had three half-sisters and a half-brother, all of whom knew about me and my sister, expressing delight to finally meet me! That was a pleasant surprise, but it also made me return somewhat to the confused state I'd been in as a teenager."

On another personal level, beginning in her 30s, she began feeling a recurring sense of dis-connection from her life and the people around her.

"It was like I was behind a veil," Steph recalls. "In the course of seeing a therapist again, I remembered my gender confusion as a teenager and subsequent transition into an avid lesbian feminist activist, where I had channeled all of my energy for a couple of decades. In spite of my many internal struggles about my gender identity - was I male or was I female? - I continued doing an excellent job as Sgt. Stephanie Thorne. One of the key issues all of us who begin considering any such major transitions - from female to male, in my case - is the ever-so-heavy 'who'll ever love this hybrid?' if I were to go through with such a

transition."

Stephanie began meeting in an FTM support group with other people considering transitioning from female to male, a term called many things over the years: from simply a "sex-change" to "sexual re-assignment surgery" and, more recently, "gender confirmation surgery". She began using the unisex disabled rest-room, rather than the women's, for several months in anticipation of this coming-out process.

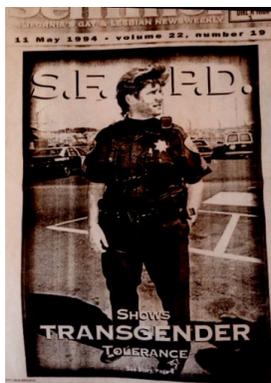
In 1993, with support from her therapist, the FTM group and other key people in her life, Stephanie decided to approach the police chief and tell him what was on her mind. She hired an attorney and approached the SF Human Rights Commission to know how best to avoid any serious complications along the way.

"Luckily for me, the HRC informed me that Proposition L had just passed in San Francisco, prohibiting discrimination based on 'gender identity,'" Steph recalls, "which made me feel a bit more confident in approaching the chief. Luckily he was aware of Prop L and was very supportive, as was the captain at my station, who volunteered to join me in coming out to the other watches before confronting what might be a storm of media reaction."

And the media storm did indeed soon erupt. Even that first coming-out day, there was a bevy of satellite-dished media trucks, dipboard- and microphone-wielding reporters waiting for her by the time she returned to her Ingleside station. Since they had no way yet to recognize her, she went in a side entrance and was told she could work inside that day and other staff would go out and confront the media. Instead, she chose to go out, make herself known and answer a few questions.

"I was depicted that year as history-making, in the sense I was transitioning on the job - protected by Prop. L and my excellent service record," Steph recalls. "I was in great demand by local, regional, national and even international media, which was far from what I wanted. This was a very private decision that had gone very public and somewhat out of control."

Steph underwent gender confirmation surgery in May 1994.



Front-page *Sentinel* news



A new post-surgical look



*Harper's Bazaar*, Sept 1994



The *BAR*, October 2008

Four months later, SFPD Sgt. Stephanie Thorne becoming SFPD Sgt. Steph Thorne appeared as a cover story in the September 1994 *Harper's Bazaar*. He has appeared on the "Phil Donohue Show," "20-20" and "60 Minutes", was a cover story in the *Sentinel*, the *BAR* and the *Bay Times*, as well as appearing in both print and broadcast media throughout the Bay Area and California. Steph testified before the California Public Safety Committee, helped organize the FTM Conference of the Americas, participates regularly in the annual "Gender Odyssey" in Seattle and has been an FTM facilitator at the Pacific Center in Berkeley for four years. He worked for many years with Jameson Greene, speaking and setting up support systems for FTM around the country. He will be working with the newly-formed Oakland LGBTQ Community Center, which is actually not far from the home he has shared with his wife, Michiko, for over two decades.



Stephan and Michiko traveling together, out on the town and with family over their 23 years together: 1996, 2000 and 2017

Sgt. Thorne was promoted to Lieutenant Thorne in 2008 after nearly 25 years of service, finally retiring in 2014 after 30 years of service to the people of San Francisco.

Thank you, Steph, for all the work you've done over the years, as well as for sharing so much of your story with Lavender Seniors and the LGBTQ community at large!

## Book Review

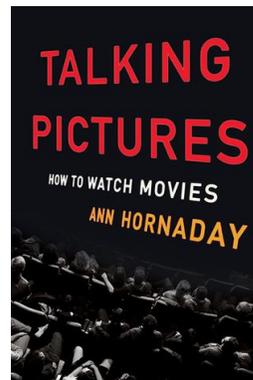
### Talking Pictures: How To Watch Movies

By Ann Hornaday

Hornaday keeps an eye on films for the Washington Post. She was a finalist for the 2008 Pulitzer Prize.

She covers all aspects of film:

- A. Screenplay
- B. Acting
- C. Production Design
- D. Editing
- E. Sound & Music
- F. Directing
- G. Documentaries and Fact Based Dramas



Hornaday tackles the most basic of all questions: What makes a film good or bad.

She makes you hunger for good films. This is a must for all film fans.

- Frank Howell

## CONNECTIONS



© Can Stock Photo

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 [info@lavenderseniors.org](mailto:info@lavenderseniors.org) and we will be in touch with you soon. Thank You!

OAKLAND-EAST BAY GAY MEN'S CHORUS

William Sauerland, Artistic Director

# A Merry Little Concert

Saturday, December 2

**7:30pm - First Congregational Church of Fresno**

Saturday, December 9

**7:00pm - Clayton Valley Presbyterian Church**

Sunday, December 10

**7:00pm - Freight & Salvage, Berkeley**

## Tickets

General Admission \$25

Senior Discount \$23

Youth (21 & under) \$9

**OEBGMC.org/tickets**

contactoebgmc@oebgmc.org

@oebgmc



@oebgmc



fb.com/oebgmc





IN MEMORIAM

# CELESTE NEWBROUGH



THE HONOUR OF YOUR PRESENCE  
IS REQUESTED AT A MEMORIAL SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2017

FROM 5 TO 7 PM

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH  
1 LAWSON ROAD  
KENSINGTON, CA 94707



ILONA PIVAR, 510-506-0291

Lavender Seniors Proposed Holiday Theater Outing, Sunday, 3rd December, 7-9pm

## The Golden Girls: The Christmas Episodes

A group of Lavender Seniors will be attending the 3rd December performance of "Golden Girls: The Christmas Episodes". Though that outing is sold out now, there are 14 other performances that interested parties could try to catch. A brief description follows here:



Take 4 talented drag performers, cast them in two new Christmas episodes of the uproariously funny TV show, *The Golden Girls*, and you have an assured night of theater for the entire family. Now a yearly tradition, this loving tribute to the characters the entire world has come to know and love features [local](#) drag stars Heklina (Dorothy), Matthew Martin (Blanche), D'Arcy Drollinger (Rose), and Holotta Tymes (Sophia). Prepare yourself for Blanche's sexy antics, Sophia's cutting wit,

Dorothy's consternation, Rose's endearing stupidity and lots of beefy shoulder pads, at the Victoria Theatre. No matter the season, nothing warms your heart - or keeps you laughing - like the Golden Girls.

There are 14 performances remaining to choose from between 1st December and 23rd of December (see <http://www.goldengirlssf.com/>).

### [THE GOLDEN GIRLS: THE CHRISTMAS EPISODES](#)

#### [Victoria Theatre](#)

2961 16th Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
415-863-7576

Whether you choose to attend any of these performances or not, we at Lavender Seniors hope you have had a good 2017, including whichever holidays you have chosen - or chosen not to - observe this year (e.g., Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwa'anza, Ramadan, Diwali, Laba, Chinese New Year, etc.). All the best for 2018 and beyond!

### [Second Saturday San Leandro Potluck, 9th December, 12-2pm](#)



Lavender Seniors Saturday Potluck will not be a potluck this month, but will be held at Harry's Hofbrau, 14900 E. 14th, near where it intersects with Bancroft, San Leandro. Lavender Seniors has 40 spaces reserved at the back of the restaurant near the bar. Though cost of the senior lunch is \$13.81, each participant will pay \$7 of that - Lavender Seniors will pay the balance of \$6.81 each.

Please note that Friendly Visitor volunteers who RSVP will be treated to the lunch for free as a small token of our appreciation for their service to the community of LGBTQ seniors.

The senior lunch includes entree, drink and dessert.

When participants come in the door, their name will be ticked off (or added to) the list of attendees and each will be given a little theater-type ticket, after which they will go give the cashier \$7 (and the ticket). Then each person can go through the cafeteria-style buffet line. At the end of the event, Lavender Seniors will pay Harry's Hofbrau the remaining share of the meal for the people attending.

It will make things easier for all concerned if you make reservations beforehand with Gwen Boozé at 510-387-1991. We begin going through the line at noon and only have the space reserved until 2pm, so we have a tight time frame. Please make your reservations early. Reservations close at 5pm on Tuesday,

We look forward to seeing you there!

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

# Desert Hearts

One of the first classic "happy-ending" LGBTQ films of the 20th century, "Desert Hearts" will be December's feature in the Lavender Seniors film series. This 1985 film - Donna Deitch's debut feature, based on Jane Rule's beloved 1965 lesbian-themed novel, *Desert of the Heart* - was a controversial film at the time of its release, since "people like that kill themselves, don't they?" was much more the theme of Hollywood films about LGBTQ people until then.



Set at a "guest ranch" outside Reno in 1959, this romantic drama involves Vivian, a straight-laced university professor waiting the six weeks required for a Nevada divorce. Vivian finds happiness - perhaps for the first time - with Cay, the free-spirited adoptive daughter of the slightly-possessive ranch owner. This ground-breaking film touches off a slow seduction unfolding against a breathtaking desert landscape. With undeniable chemistry between its two leads, an evocative jukebox soundtrack and vivid cinematography, this independent film (by a woman - on a shoestring budget!) exudes a sense of tender yearning and emotional candor.



Lead-up to the romance between Vivian and Cay

The reaction by film critics was mixed. In his scathing *New York Times* review, Vincent Canby criticized the screenplay as "unimaginative", described its characters as having "so little life", and the film as lacking a "voice or style of its own", but did add that it "is so earnest and sincere that it deserves an *A* for deportment".

In comparison, Gene Siskel's *Chicago Tribune* review described the film as "elegant, traditional story-telling" with "complete characterizations and performances, a genuinely tender and erotic love scene and a sweetly satisfying finale". He added that "the film-making and performances are so seamless that *Desert Hearts*" may accomplish on film what hasn't been achieved in society - the de-sensationalizing of lesbianism."

In his seminal critical study about homosexuality, *The Celluloid Closet*, film historian Vito Russo wrote:

"*Desert Hearts* is a love story that recreates with perceptiveness and tenderness what it might have been like for two women of different generations and backgrounds to fall in love in the Fifties. Deitch's refusal to feature the straight world's reaction to lesbianism as the focus of her film made all the difference in the way the relationship between the women was perceived by audiences."

He remarked about Canby's review of the film:

"In the *New York Times*, Vincent Canby complained that we are not given enough information about the quality of Vivian's broken marriage, asking if perhaps her lesbianism was a hysterical reaction to her divorce. This is the point at which many heterosexual critics disqualify themselves from perceptively reviewing gay films."

Please note that - after a vote of attendees in September - it was agreed that the December film will be shown on the **SECOND** Wednesday (13th December) instead of the usual third Wednesday, because of the upcoming holidays. The film will be shown at 1pm, followed by a brief discussion and evaluation of the film, its place in LGBTQ film history and its relevance to the experience of LGBTQ seniors and their allies. The venue is the Carnegie Lecture Hall at San Leandro's Main Public Library, 300 Estudillo, San Leandro.

Lavender Seniors will provide popcorn and bottled water, as usual, to add to the theater ambience in this wheelchair- and walker-accessible venue. Ample parking is provided (both two- and three-hour) outside the library.

Third Friday Lunch Bunch, 15th December, 12-2pm

## On Being a Gay Refugee from a Hostile Land

There are still 76 countries in the world where it is illegal to be LGBTQ. In ten of those countries, there are laws on the book calling for the death penalty for consensual sex between two men or two women (see <https://76crimes.com/> for more information).

Those who attended the Third Friday Lunch Bunch in June 2015 heard from two local American activists involved in the Guardian Group (<http://www.refugeeguardiangroup.org/>), a program that assists persecuted or fearful LGBTQ individuals seeking asylum from the discrimination, harassment, torture, imprisonment or even death they face if they remain in their home countries. Another local agency actively collaborating in this effort is the Jewish Family and Community Services of the East Bay (<https://jfcs-eastbay.org/refugee-resettlement/>), which has several refugee focuses, including those at risk because of religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity.



Map of world: countries in red indicate where LGBTQ people are officially "illegal" - several others (e.g., Chechnya, Russia) don't officially have laws criminalizing homosexuality, but LGBTQ individuals are still being persecuted

<https://76crimes.com/76-countries-where-homosexuality-is-illegal/>

A young gay man from Central Africa - for security reasons, we cannot be more specific than that - will be on hand to share what his experiences have been - at home, in a neighboring country refugee camp, working with UNHCR (United Nations High Commission on Refugees) and with both organizations mentioned in the previous paragraph. For those same security reasons (fear of reprisals against family and friends back home), there can be **NO CAMERAS** allowed at the Third Friday Lunch Bunch this month. We presume that all will be respectful of this courageous young man and his situation.

The Third Friday Lunch Bunch meets from 12-2pm on Friday, 15th December, at the North Oakland Senior Center, 5714 MLK Jr Way (corner of 58th Street). Lunch is served promptly at noon, followed by announcements, the presentation and a question-and-answer session.

The entrance and parking lot are in the rear of the building, which formerly served as University High School and Merritt College.

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).



## Discover Your Family's History!

On the First Wednesday of each Month from 1 pm to 3 pm the San Leandro History Research Volunteer and Genealogy Specialist Kay Arnold will assist those who are interested in researching their family history on a first-come, first-served basis in the San Leandro Library History Room.

This is free. It is recommended, but not necessary, to gather birth dates, any death dates and marriage dates for your parents and both sets of grandparents before coming for a consultation. Budget 30-45 minutes for your consultation and allow time for the researcher to welcome History Room visitors. For more information call 510-577-3986.

## Info on Covered CA from Director Lori A. Cox

*From the Office of Lori Cox, Social Services Agency Director...*

As you may know, the Trump Administration issued an Executive Order directing the development of regulations to implement association health plans and short-term duration plans and cut marketing funding for the federal marketplace states. The impact could be devastating in markets across the country.

Covered California, however, has taken actions to assure Californians will have continued access and coverage today and options for 2018. Covered CA worked with our health insurance companies to price plans accordingly to ensure stability in 2018. As a result, Covered CA will continue to offer quality, affordable health insurance when open enrollment begins on November 1 for 2018 coverage.

Covered CA has shared that they want consumers to understand that the actions in Washington:

- Do not have ANY IMPACT on coverage or rates for 2017;
- Does not in any way limit your access to cost-sharing reduction benefits that make accessing care more affordable now or in 2018.
- Does not affect Covered California's prices for 2018 - which are already posted on their website at [www.coveredca.com/](http://www.coveredca.com/)

**Open enrollment starts Nov. 1 and runs through Jan. 31** and all 11 of California's health plans are committed to participate in the market throughout 2018.

I encourage you to share this information widely.

Best,  
Lori



Greetings Community Partners,

Join us in another amazing month of learning and living a healthy lifestyle!

Below is a listing of **FREE health programs** at Washington Hospital.

## December

- \* **Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 7 - 8 pm; *Diabetes Matters: Difficult Conversations: Tips on How to Talk to Your Health Care Provider*** Conrad E. Anderson, MD, Auditorium of Washington West(2500 Mowry Ave.)

**We encourage participants to call (800) 963-7070 to register.**

To learn more about seminars offered by Washington Hospital, visit <http://www.whhs.com/Events.aspx> or call 800-963-7070. Seminars may be televised on InHealth, a Washington Hospital Channel (Comcast Channel 78) and online at [www.inhealth.tv](http://www.inhealth.tv)

**Please share with others.** Healthy regards,

Lucy Hernández, MPA, Community Outreach Project Manager  
Washington Hospital Healthcare System  
T) 510.494.7009  
F) 510.608.1373

Follow Washington Hospital Healthcare System on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)



## Community Phone Calls

**Just a few of the things offered:**

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

This group is open to all LGBTQ seniors 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 Sylvia Vargas, Openhouse Friendly Visitor Manager

### **Where Were You When? Saturdays, 12:00pm - 12:45pm**

Where were you when you were 50 years old? Or 10? Do you remember where were you on Christmas Eve in 1960 or the summer just before you started high school? Join us to discuss memories of where you were when. Facilitated by Janice Rooker

### **Write for Life Tuesdays, 12:30pm - 1:30pm**

Few of us have been taught to be self-caring and accepting of ourselves. As we continue our journal writing group we are given permission to express our emotions without censorship. Participants are not expected to share journal entries; rather we will discuss what we discover about ourselves as we write. Writers, non-writers, and new participants are welcome! Facilitated by Dr. Sheppard Kominars

### Write for Life: Men's Group Sundays, 1:30pm - 2:30pm

Are you worth 20 minutes a day? Whether you are 65 or 85, and whether you like to write or hate it, a mere 20 minutes a day could change your life! Research has proven that giving ourselves permission to express our emotions without censorship improves the quality of life. Participants are not expected to share journal writing and discussion will focus on what we find about the process as we write. All are welcome - those who enjoy writing and those who don't. Facilitated by Dr. Sheppard Kominars

### Personal Storytelling Tuesdays, 3:00pm - 4:00pm

Under the guidance of Master Storytelling Mary Gay Ducey, Stagebridge Storytellers have been exploring the art of personal storytelling, adapting folk and fairy tales, and creating vibrant stories from real events in history. Stagebridge tellers have taken personal memories, classic stories, and fascinating historical events, and turned them into engaging personal narratives. In this call-in Storytelling Concert, you will hear these stories come alive! Each story is followed by a Q&A and brief discussion. Facilitated by Stagebridge, California

View the [Fall catalog](#) of community phone calls [here](#). Check the [website](#) for more information. 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).



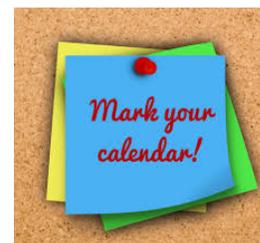
## SAVE THE DATE

DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2017

Fremont Hills Assisted Living Holiday Chamber Mixer

Introducing our "New Kids On The Block"

Cocktails • Networking • Live Entertainment • Prizes





## THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

### Older & Out - Hayward

December 4, 11, 18 1:15pm (Mondays)

Hayward Senior Center, 22325 N. Third Street, Hayward

*A topical therapeutic peer support groups for isolated LGBTQ older adults*

### Queerly Aging Lesbians

December 7 & 21, 1:30 p.m. (1st and 3rd Thursdays)

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

*Find support and like-minded wonderful people!*

### Out Standing Seniors

December 5 & 19, 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (1st and 3rd Tuesdays)

Hayward Senior Center, 22325 N. Third Street, Hayward

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

### Older & Out - Berkeley

December 1, 8, 15, 22 3:15pm (Fridays)

North Berkeley Senior Center, 901 Hearst Ave, Berkeley

*A topical therapeutic peer support groups for isolated LGBTQ older adults*

### Older & Out - Livermore

December 5, 12, 19 1:00pm (Tuesdays)

Livermore Senior Services, Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore

*A topical therapeutic peer support groups for isolated LGBTQ older adults*

### Lavender Seniors Advisory Board Meeting

December 6 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. (\*\*1st Wednesday this month only)

675 Hegenberger Rd., Oakland (location change)

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

### Lavender Seniors Pot Luck

December 9th noon-2:00pm (second Saturday)

This month only we will be meeting at Harry's Hofbrau in San Leandro

*(see info above)*

### Rainbow Seniors

December 12 & 26 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 Film Series

December 13, 1:00 - 3:00pm (\*\*2nd Wednesday this month only)

San Leandro Library, 300 Estudillo, San Leandro

*This month's movie: "Desert Hearts"(see info above)*

### Senior Gay Men's Group

December 14 1:30 p.m. (2nd and 4th Thursdays Pacific Center closed 12/23-1/1)

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!*

**Island Pride Peer Support Group**

**December 21, 10:30-11:30am (3rd Thursday)**

**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.*

**Oakland Lunch Bunch**

**Sponsored by City of Oakland Aging & Adult Services**

**December 15, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. (3rd Friday)**

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

*This month's program: "Gay Refugee" (see info above)*

## **Lavender Seniors of the East Bay Board of Directors**

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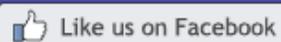
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## Lavender Seniors



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