



Lavender Notes

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

July 2017

Celebrating 22+ years of service and positive change

Volume 24, Issue 7

Stories of Our Lives

Celeste Newbrough

Born in New Orleans 78 years ago, Celeste E. Newbrough was the fourth of five siblings in a large extended family (one of 18 grandchildren). Having since become a well-known author, artist, lecturer, independent scholar and LGBT and women's rights activist, Celeste is now the only sibling left and one of only a few cousins left from her generation. She still has close contacts with many in the next two generations, however.

"I never knew my brother, Andrew, who died of meningitis as a toddler before I was born," Celeste recalls wistfully, "though I have always looked at his photos with such fondness and mystery. Then when my oldest sister died, leaving my teenage nephew, Halsey, motherless, I took over as his guardian. He and I are extremely close and his children are like my own grandchildren to me!"

Celeste's mother, Norita, was an artist, who had many exhibitions of her work in New Orleans during the 1920s and 1930s. She drew several portraits of Celeste and her siblings. In fact, Celeste compiled a book of her mother's art in a 2003 book titled *The Norita Book*. Her father, Joseph, was a ship radio and electronics officer for military, commercial and scientific voyages.



Celeste (far right), mother and aunts



Mom's portrait of Celeste
at age three



Celeste (right) and two of her sisters

Though she has always thought of herself as a happy and optimistic person, she has experienced several family tragedies including her younger sister and her family being killed in a plane crash.

While in an all-girls Catholic school, she dated several boys and considered herself quite popular.

"I knew from an early age that I was more interested in girls than in boys," Celeste recalls, "but I did go so far as to 'go steady' until my senior year. Until I was 23 or 24, I related to both men and women, until finally I admitted to myself and began to celebrate the fact that I was born a lesbian!"

At age 19, she dropped out of college and went with a friend to New York City for two years.

"It was important to me to find 'my people,' which I did during those wonder-filled years," Celeste explains. "While I was there, I did a number of poetry readings, plus wrote and directed a one-act café drama, 'Whitman, Was He or Wasn't He?' and an abridged version of Gertrude Stein's 'The Mother of Us All'.



Celeste at age 19

After discovering her community and personal/political issues in New York, she returned to Louisiana, where she completed a degree in English literature at LSU and did post-graduate studies in Anthropology at Tulane. In the mid-60s, she became deeply involved in the politics of race, gender and sexuality. She played a pivotal role in removing so-called "protective legislation" that had denied American women the right to higher-paying "hard-hat" jobs and helped organize the New Orleans chapter of NOW, becoming its founding president. She even returned to New York in 1969 to participate in a protest at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

"We organized a demonstration confronting the long-held belief that God is a male!" Celeste recalls. "We used the face of my dear friend, Fran Ross, on a Grifalconi poster questioning whether God might as well be a black female as the bearded white male used in cultures world-wide. That poster was subsequently distributed widely by women's groups around the globe!"

Celeste's writing career and activism shifted into high gear in the 1970s, when she became active in the Equal Rights Amendment movement, became co-editor of *Distaff*, published her first book, *Lavender Menace*, and in protesting the 1973 fire-bombing of The Upstairs Lounge, a gay bar in New Orleans' French Quarter, which resulted in 32 deaths.

"As you can imagine, last year's massacre at Orlando gay bar, Pulse, brought that painful time back to me like a bad recurring nightmare," Celeste says. "In the process of lobbying the City Council for a non-discrimination ordinance after that tragic event, I came out publicly as a lesbian, which many had advised me against at the time, since such declarations could end careers in those days."



Celeste in Boston at age 33

At various points in her life, Celeste has lived not only in Louisiana and New York, but also in Washington, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Mexico and, of course, California. While she was honing her writing and activist skills in New England, she helped organize women's anthologies and even became involved in anti-nuclear protests, writing and publishing a song:

No-Nuke Woman Blues

Well, I heard it through the grapevine, 'bout the power strategy
Building nuclear reactors to give jobs and energy.
They say it's for the good of all, But it don't seem that way to me
'Cause nothing seems good about radioactivity!

CHORUS:

'Cause I'm a No-Nuke Woman, Don't you lay that power trip on me
'Cause I'm a No-Nuke Woman, Don't you lay that power trip on me
And I'm a sunshine Momma, Slip me some Solar Energy

Well, they say if there's an accident, it won't be a tragedy.
Only four thousand people will die for energy.
But it's really quite disturbing, 'bout the possibility,
That one of those four thousand folks might very well be me.

CHORUS

So I'm going to the commission and I'm going to testify
That I get my energy from the earth, the sea and the sky
I don't need you destroying my ecology
As long as you have atoms for peace, you'll have no peace from me!

CHORUS

In late 1976, Celeste moved to San Francisco, where she became involved in poetry-reading, writing and artistic circles of the area.



Celeste in 1978 (back cover of her first book of poetry).

However, the times were critical and she quickly became involved in LGBT and human rights groups, such as the San Francisco Coalition for Human Rights (chairing the first meeting in 1977) and the 1977 and 1978 Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parades and Celebrations. She was coordinator and co-chair of the 1978 event, the year that Proposition 6 (the Briggs Initiative, intended to "purge" LGBT teachers and staff from schools) was on the ballot.

On June 25th this year, the 2017 Pride Parade honored her along with others who successfully fought the good fight against Anita Bryant and John Briggs nearly 40 years ago. Along with Paula Lichtenberg, she rode a convertible in the contingent.



Celeste (leather jacket on the right) honored at the 2017 parade for her work against Anita Bryant and the Briggs Initiative

It was via the Lesbian Rights Alliance, however, that Celeste met the love of her life, Dr. Ilona L. Pivar, in 1977. They have just celebrated their 40th year together.

"When I first saw this beautiful woman with the striking blue eyes, I knew I wanted to 'make her acquaintance!'" Celeste recalls. "We traveled in the same social and political circles for a few months until we finally faced the fact that we were meant to be together. She has been and always will be one of the greatest joys of my life!"



The pair has lived together in San Francisco, Berkeley, Tacoma, and Santa Fe. They've traveled widely, both together and separately, including Celeste spending a summer in Mexico, five weeks in Greece and exploring Paleolithic caves in France. When Celeste's health became challenging in 2014, they decided to return from Santa Fe to Berkeley, where they still live with their long-time four-legged companion, Sara.

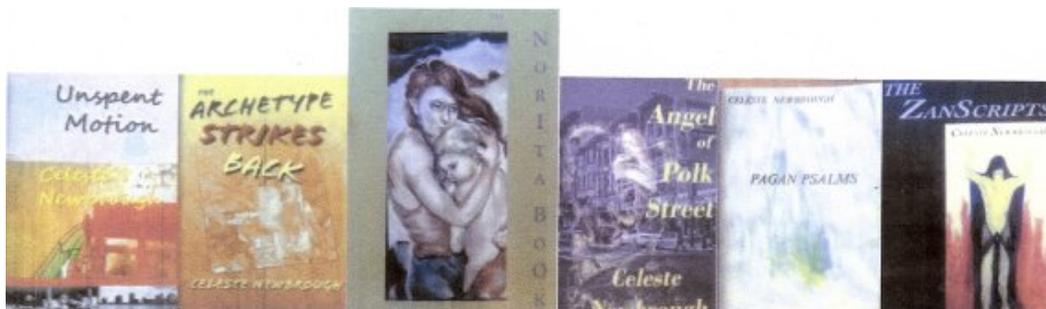
Celeste's 53-year-old daughter (a physician) and two grandchildren, plus nephew, Halsey, and his two children are very much in their lives on a regular basis. Though all of Celeste's "nuclear family" is gone now, father, mother and siblings were eventually as accepting as their own time would dictate.

"Though my father - who lived to be 95 - was relatively homophobic and regularly referred to heterosexuality as 'God's way' - he was never rude to Iлона," Celeste recalls. "My mother, on the other hand, with whom my lesbianism was never really discussed, accepted me and loved me unconditionally. Though she died before I met Iлона, I know she would have loved her!"



Painting Celeste did in Santa Fe, Framed and hung in their bedroom by Iлона

Meanwhile, even with her health compromised, Celeste continues being her usual creative self. She has recently published "The Angel of Polk Street" (reviewed in last month's *Lavender Notes*). The list of her publications is too long to include here, but a sample of her published works (not in chronological order) is shown here:



More information about her amazing life can be seen via the following hyperlink:

<http://celestenebrough.net/celestenebroughbiography.html>



We are most grateful to Celeste and Ilona for their many contributions to the women's movement, the LGBTQ rights movement and various other aspects of human rights. We share their dismay that the Equal Rights Amendment was only ratified by 35 of the 38 states necessary for it to become imbedded into the Constitution.

Book Review:

Unspeakable: On The Most Forbidden Topics in America

by Chris Hedges

Hedges has a notable family when it comes to LGBT rights. His father fought for gay rights. His younger brother was gay. He encouraged gay speakers to come to his college.

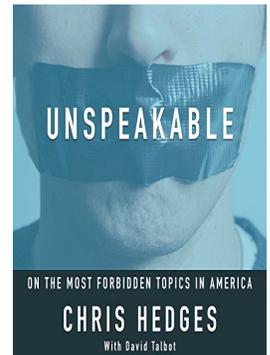
Hedges received a Pulitzer Prize for articles on the war in Cambodia. He was also a reporter for the New York Times. He has worked with Bernie Sanders and was inspired by George Orwell. He worked for better conditions in the prison system.

Hedges blames the capitalist system for much injustice.

He loves Chelsea Manning, Julian Assange and Edward Snowden.

He challenges much of our notions of justice. Much more will be heard from him.

- Frank Howell



San Leandro City Council Proclamation

On June 19th, Mayor Pauline Cutter of San Leandro rose from the dais and directed that Lavender Seniors of the East Bay co-founder and board member Barbara Jue lead in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. From that short introduction, the San Leandro City Council meeting proceeded to announce four proclamations in support of residents, students, and organizations of San Leandro origins. The Lavender Seniors of the East Bay was one of them.

Representatives of Lavender Seniors receiving the San Leandro Proclamation are pictured below:



Carmen Chiong, Treasurer; Victor Aguilar, Jr., Chair; Mayor Cutter; Barbara Jue, Pioneer Member of Lavender Seniors

The Proclamation is as follows:

Proclamation

Issued By The Mayor

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUESTIONING/QUEER (LGBTQ) SENIOR SAFE, VISIBLE AND CELEBRATED MONTH

WHEREAS, San Leandro is proudly one of the most diverse communities in California and the founding city of the Lavender Seniors of the East Bay; and

WHEREAS, San Leandro's diversity includes many Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning/Queer (LGBTQ) individuals, couples, and their children, seniors, and families; and

WHEREAS, many LGBTQ seniors have provided decades of hard work to organize their communities, taking risks and making many sacrifices to pave the way for the civil rights we enjoy today; and

WHEREAS, the Lavender Seniors of the East Bay has been at the forefront in providing advocacy and education to the understanding of diversity in the LGBTQ community, helping establish greater safety and services for LGBTQ youth, seniors, and other residents; and

WHEREAS, the Lavender Seniors of the East Bay has enriched and contributed to the fabric and quality of life in San Leandro for the past 23 years, transforming a climate of fear and intimidation to one of understanding and celebration through art, music, literature, public and private service; and

WHEREAS, the Lavender Seniors of the East Bay have developed culturally responsive and innovative training films such as, "*Safe and Visible – Creating a Healthcare Practice Welcoming to LBGt Seniors*" and "*Safe and Visible 2 – Creating Safe Living Spaces for LBGt Seniors*," the former of which has received an award from the Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services (ACBHSC) 2016 Award; and

WHEREAS, San Leandro encourages, welcomes and celebrates participation in the Senior Community Center programs from seniors of all races, sexual orientations, gender identities, disabilities, ages, and national origins.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pauline Russo Cutter, Mayor of the City of San Leandro, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim June 2017 as "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning/Queer (LGBTQ) Senior Safe, Visible and Celebrated Week 2017", to honor and recognize the special contributions and challenges faced by LGBTQ Seniors in San Leandro and the surrounding area.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of San Leandro to be affixed this 19th of June 2017.



Pauline Russo Cutter

Mayor
City of San Leandro, California

In response, Victor Aguilar, Jr., Board Chair of Lavender Seniors responded with a short history of the organization and introduced Barbara Jue, as one of the last surviving members of the founding meeting in November 1994.

During the last few years many of the pioneering members have passed on and other survivors were unable to make this event. We thank them and the past executive directors, Jeff Vessel, Barbara Faulkner, Dan Ashbrook and Patricia Osage who help guide the organization in its innovative work throughout it's almost 23 years.



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](mailto:info@lavenderseniors.org) 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 too!

Please contact info@lavenderseniors.org and we will be in touch with you soon. Thank You!



Immediate Action is Needed to Save Guaranteed Healthcare!

Healthy California joins the California Nurses and other supporters of guaranteed healthcare in condemning the insider, secret action by Speaker Rendon to stop SB 562 (see release below).

Immediate action is needed! Join our canvass tomorrow in his district and all, tweet, Facebook, email Speaker Rendon today and through the weekend to send a strong message. With federal attacks on our healthcare moving forward, we know SB 562 is the ONLY solution that saves billions and covers everyone. With 70% support in California, Speaker Rendon is standing between us and guaranteed healthcare for all.

What to say when you call:

"I strongly support S.B. 562, the Healthy California Act, because every Californian deserves guaranteed healthcare. I'm urging Speaker Rendon to stop doing secret insider deals on our healthcare. He must move SB 562 forward as the best solution to the federal attacks on our healthcare. No other solution saves billions and covers everyone with medical, dental, vision, mental health and more."

Anthony Rendon, Speaker of the Assembly (D-63)
916-319-2063

Twitter: [@Rendon63rd](https://twitter.com/Rendon63rd)
assemblymember.rendon@assembly.ca.gov

Canvass Speaker Rendon's District TOMORROW

Date: Saturday, June 24

Time: 9:45 AM - 4 PM

Location: 4833 Candlewood St, Lakewood, CA 90712-1832

<https://www.facebook.com/events/121463918441154>

<http://www.healthycaliforniaact.org/event/sb562-canvassing-anthony-rendons-district/>

Onward,
HealthyCA Team

PS. Help us [get out the word on Facebook](#) and [Twitter too!](#)

Statement released by the California Nurses Association:

The California Nurses Association condemns the decision by Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon to destroy the aspirations of millions of Californians for guaranteed health care without being bankrupted or forced to skip needed care.

Announcing this decision at 5 p.m. on a Friday afternoon is a cowardly act, developed in secret without engaging the thousands of Californians who have rallied to enact real health care reform.

Speaker Rendon's decision is especially ironic given the pending action by the U.S. Senate to withdraw health coverage for millions of Americans, including Californians, and drastically increase costs for tens of millions more of the most ill among us.

Acting in secret in the interests of the profiteering insurance companies late Friday afternoon abandons all those people already threatened by Congress and the Trump administration.

The people of California are counting on the legislature to protect them now, not sometime next year, and as polls have shown Californians support this proposal by a wide majority. A solution to this health care emergency could be at hand; Speaker Rendon is standing in opposition.

Thousands of Californians have been in motion for guaranteed health care. They are not finished.

Deborah Burger, RN, co-president, California Nurses Association

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You are receiving this email because you chose to be informed whenever CARA sends out late breaking news!

Our mailing address is:

California Alliance for Retired Americans

600 Grand Ave.

Suite 410

Oakland, Ca 94610

Film Review: Lavender Seniors Co-Presentation at Frameline Film Festival

The Lavender Scare

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay was asked again this year to co-present a film at the Frameline International LGBTQ Festival in June. Since most people who consider themselves seniors at this point in their lives lived through the "Lavender Scare" period (1953-1995), the organization was happy to co-present at both the sold-out Castro Theater

showing on Sunday, 18th June, and its East Bay showing at the Piedmont Theater on Saturday, 24th June.



A handful of brave protesters in the '50s fight for LGBT equality.

Two men in the '50s who would've been targeted by Ike's order.

The film was a shock for many in both audiences who were either too young (or unborn) when President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued his draconian Executive Order 10450 on April 27, 1953. This order was aimed at "protecting national security" by "purging" all federal agencies of lesbian, gay, bisexual and (little-known at the time - Christine Jorgensen only returned from her Denmark surgery less than two months earlier in February 1953) transgender individuals. Unfortunately, jurisdictions at the state, county, city and local levels took the order as license to purge any LGBT individuals, as well. Who wants to have a lesbian dog-catcher, a gay garbage collector or a trans street-sweeper, after all?!

The film shows that it is impossible to measure and document all the damage done during those 42 years - lives ruined, careers destroyed, lives lost - since many people opted to resign quietly, refuse to choose or advance their careers and - in some tragic cases - end their lives rather than face the "shame" associated with being fired and/or blackballed for being LGBT. In fact, one of the women featured in the film was in line to be the first-ever female Admiral in the Navy Reserve, but opted NOT to pursue it for fear she would be outed, humiliated and fired. Her somewhat happier ending is revealed at the end of the film, but this review is not going to provide any "spoilers" for those who may intend to see the film elsewhere in the future.

As the film unfolds, the efforts of Frank Kameny, a Harvard-trained astronomer who was fired from his job for being gay, are featured, along with the stories of many other women and men affected by the executive order. Before Kameny's death, he was formally thanked by President Barack Obama in a White House ceremony for his contribution to equal human rights for all.

On an upbeat note, though many of us thought that there would be little interest in a documentary film being shown at 11am on a Sunday morning at the Castro Theater, the line to get in snaked down and around to 18th Street in one direction (for Frameline members) and up and around to 17th Street in the other (for non-member ticket-holders). The 1,400+ seats in the theater were sold out. The echos of anger, anguish and tears resounded throughout the theater at various points in that showing. After the film, there was a lengthy standing ovation for director, Josh Howard, and for David Phillips, author of the 2004 book, *The Lavender Scare*, which was the genesis for the film, followed by considerable research on the part of both filmmaker and author. They were both on hand for a lengthy and robust Q&A.

The film will likely be shown on PBS in the near future, so those who are interested and didn't have a chance to see it will be able to be educated on a dark period in American history. For those who were unaware, Secretary of State John Kerry issued an apology to the LGBT community for that 42-year period of blatant discrimination. On January 22nd of this year (when significant changes were taking place in Washington, DC, and around the country), that apology was removed from the State Department website, along with all references to LGBT issues on most federal websites. A decision has been made to remove questions about sexual preference from the 2020 census (on which many funding decisions are made), after having finally been included in the 2000 and 2010 censuses

(http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/us-census-lgbt-americans_us_58db3894e4b0cb23e65c6cd9, in which LGBT activists complain that "we have been erased"). Renewed vigilance is called for after viewing this film!

More information about the film and Executive Order 10450: <https://www.thelavenderscare.com/>

- John David Dupree

The GLBT Historical Society presents

Lavender-Tinted Glasses: A Groovy Gay Look at the Summer of Love



"Lavender-Tinted Glasses: A Groovy Gay Look at the Summer of Love" highlights the roles of four queers in San Francisco's 1967 Summer of Love: gay poet **Allen Ginsberg**, gay filmmaker **Kenneth Anger**, bisexual astrologer and philosopher **Gavin Arthur**, and bisexual rock star **Janis Joplin**.

All of them brought their perspectives as artists, visionaries, and sexual outsiders to the uprising; all made a lasting impact on American culture. In addition, the exhibition documents how the city's homophile community responded to the Summer of Love. The show will include historic photographs, ephemera, and artifacts from the GLBT Historical Society and private collections.

"In San Francisco's Haight Ashbury district, young people were seeking a way out of what they saw as the soul-destroying alienation of materialism," curator Joey Cain says. "They created new art, philosophies, politics, forms of self-expansion, music and relationships. The city already had a dynamic LGBTQ community, and many members saw the developments of the Summer of Love as opening the way to greater liberation."

WHEN:

April 7th through September 27th, 2017
Exhibition Opening April 7th | Friday | 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

WHERE:

The GLBT History Museum | Front Gallery
4127 18th Street | San Francisco, CA 94114
www.glbthistory.org

HOURS

Monday & Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sunday: Noon-5 p.m.

ADMISSION

General: \$5 | California Students: \$3 | Members: Free

ABOUT THE CURATOR

Joey Cain is a San Francisco-based community activist, researcher, and historian specializing in the history of gay and queer men. He has curated numerous exhibitions for the San Francisco Public Library.

Cain served for eight years on the Board of Directors of the San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade and Celebration Committee, including four years as president. His writing has appeared in RFD Magazine, the Walt Whitman Quarterly Review and most recently in the collection *The Fire In Moonlight: Stories From the Radical Faeries* (White Crane Books, 2011).

The San Francisco LGBT Pride Celebration and Parade is pleased to partner with the GLBT History Museum.



**Fremont's Human Relations Commission
Invites you to show your Fremont Pride
And at the **Fremont 4th of July Parade****



**Our staging area and time are still TBA
To get details when announced, RSVP to parade@fremont.gov**

Tuesday, July 4, Time TBA - Fremont 4th of July Parade

Show your national and Fremont pride at our hometown 4th of July parade!

- Please RSVP to parade@fremont.gov so we can send you staging area location and assembly time as soon as it announced. Last year we met at 9:00 a.m.
- Wear festive clothing and bring water, snacks, and sunscreen! Be safe. Plan for time in the sun, so wear sunscreen and stay hydrated/fed.
- Banners or t-shirts representing other organizations you belong to and would like to highlight through your participation in the Human Relations Commission parade entry are welcome.

Lastly, a sincere thanks to our sponsors for both these events and our participation in the

Fremont 4th of July :

Fremont Mayor Lily Mei

Fremont Vice Mayor Rick Jones

Fremont City Councilmember Vinnie Bacon

Fremont City Councilmember David Bonaccorsi

Fremont City Councilmember Raj Salwan

FUSD Trustee Michelle Berke

Assemblymember Kansen Chu

Assemblymember Bill Quirk

Senator Bob Wieckowski

Congressman Ro Khanna

Congressman Eric Swalwell

County Supervisor Scott Haggerty

County Supervisor Richard Valle

Nurture Kids Preschool and After School Learning Center (Dharminder Dewan)

Festival of Globe Silicon Valley

With additional support by:

Ohlone College Trustee Jan Giovannini-Hill

castro valley pride

awareness - community - diversity

**JULY 8, 2017
12:00-5:00 PM**

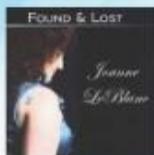
CASTRO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL
19501 REDWOOD RD.
NEAR HEYER AVE.



VENDORS, FOOD AND MUSIC
FAMILY-FRIENDLY, ALCOHOL FREE, LGBTQ
PRIDE EVENT



ENTERTAINMENT BY
MC CHARMALINA
BAD ASS BOOTS
STANDOFF



JOANNE LEBLANC
DEUCES & DIAMONDS
KIPPY MARKS



CASTROVALLEYPRIDE@GMAIL.COM
FACEBOOK.COM/CVPRIDE



Home Front Festival and **ROSIE RALLY**

Lucretia Edwards Park and Craneway Pavilion, Richmond, California

August 12th, 2017 - 10am-4pm

Let's set the record, again!



Home Front Festival and **ROSIE RALLY!**

Bring your friends and family and be a part of history!

AUGUST 12TH, 2017 10 AM - 4 PM

***Let's set the Guinness World Record for Most
People Dressed as Rosie the Riveter, Again!
Enjoy food and 40's music in the park***

10:00 am - Rosie Rally check-in begins at the Craneway Pavilion.

11:00 am - Arrive before 11am to be counted in the Guinness
Record setting effort.

11:45 am - Walking parade to the Home Front Festival

Noon-4pm – Food and Live Entertainment at Lucretia Edwards park.

Rally - Craneway Pavillion, Ford Assembly Plant

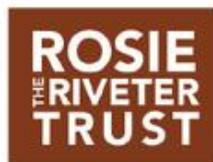
1414 Harbour Way South, Richmond, CA 94804

(next door to the National Park Visitor Center)

Festival - Lucretia Edwards Park

Lucretia Way at end of Marina Way South, Richmond, CA 94804

For more information and to RSVP, please go to www.rosietheriveter.org



RICHMOND
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU



RICHMOND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

“SAFE AND VISIBLE”

Creating a Care Facility Welcoming to the LGBT Community



A highly engaging one-hour course on creating a more safe and welcoming environment for LGBT residents in your residential care facility.

[Watch the new video...share the link!](#)

San Leandro Pot Luck

No July Pot luck...attend Castro Valley Pride instead!

Richard, a former Organic Chemist will continue his super interesting presentation on **BE BETTER INFORMED ABOUT FOOD AND HEALTH** in August .



The Potluck will be held at the All Saints Church Fireside room which is just to the right of the pathway at the entrance to the parish hall. Come join us for a lively discussion.

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](#).

RAINBOW



COMMUNITY CENTER

Petit Dejeuner Drag Brunch



\$15 bottomless drinks
\$25 BRUNCH BUFFET \$30 at door
1ST MIMOSA OR BLOODY MARY IS FREE



For tickets call
(925) 692 0090
or email christian@rainbowcc.org

Saturday, July 15th 12:00pm-3:00pm

Concord Senior Center

2727 Parkside Cir
Concord, CA 94519



**AIDS
WALK**

RAINBOW
COMMUNITY CENTER



THE OAKLAND-EAST BAY GAY MEN'S CHORUS
WILLIAM SAUERLAND, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
PRESENTS



Come Swing with Us
WITH
CITY SWING
- BIG BAND -

BRADLEY CONNLAIN, CONDUCTOR

SATURDAY, JULY 15 @ 7:30 PM
SUNDAY, JULY 16 @ 4:00 PM

OAKLAND ASIAN CULTURAL CENTER
388 NINTH STREET, OAKLAND

\$25 GENERAL SEATING
\$40 COCKTAIL TABLE SEATING
(INCLUDES ONE GLASS OF WINE OR
NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE)

OEBGMC.COM/TICKETS
CONTACTOEBGMC@OEBGMC.ORG



WITH GUEST ARTIST, LEANNE BORGHESI

OAKLAND ASIAN CULTURAL CENTER



WEAR YOUR DANCING SHOES!

[Buy Tickets](#)



NEW MEMBER AUDITIONS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 29 @ 7:00 PM

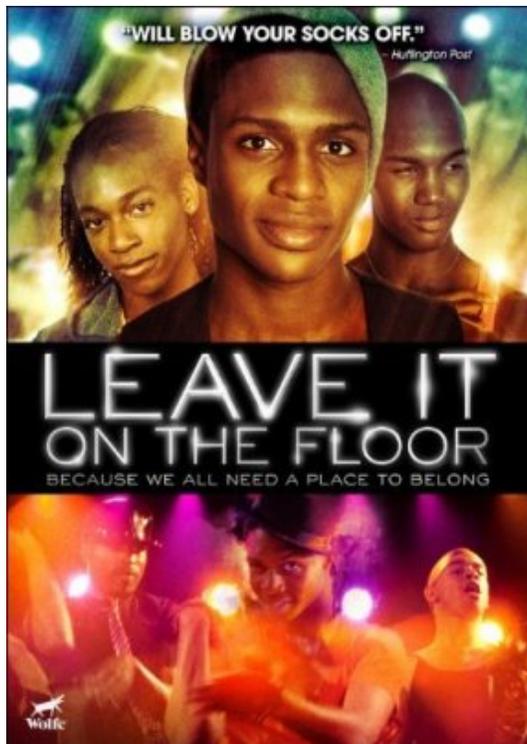
AUDITION INFO: MEMBERSHIP@OEBGMC.ORG
OEBGMC.ORG/AUDITIONS

COME SING IN OUR 2017 HOLIDAY CONCERT!
WEEKLY REHEARSALS BEGIN THE FOLLOWING WEEK ON TUES., SEPT. 5TH

Lavender Seniors Film Series, Wednesday, July 19th, 1-3pm

Leave It On the Floor

This delightful depiction of the African-American "ballroom scene" set in 2011 Los Angeles is one of those films that combines delightful music and dance with several dramatic (and melodramatic) plots and sub-plots that will keep viewers on the edge of their seats.



Starring the very handsome, athletic, and well-built Ephraim Sykes - who has also played on Broadway as James Madison in "Hamilton," and won awards in "Motown the Musical," "Newsies," "Memphis" and "The Little Mermaid," - the film begins with "Bad Brad" (Sykes) being thrown out of the house by his mother for being gay. He has to find other ways to survive as "A Loser" (one of the film's highlight songs). Joined by super-star Beyoncé's creative team, the film was developed and choreographed with the University of Southern California's Department of Cinematic Arts.



Brad (in jail) being finally rejected by his mother



Ephraim Sykes and Co-Star (Love Interest) Andre Myers

"Leave It on the Floor" describes a different kind of coming out from most gay features, focusing less on declaring one's sexuality than on discovering an environment in which outcast identities can flourish. That cultural haven is Los Angeles' vibrant underground ballroom scene, never before depicted on film, where black men find confidence through fierce - and fiercely competitive - fashion shows. Though the resulting film trades heavily in melodramatic clichés, "Floor" excels at capturing its milieu, offering positive, high-energy escapism for LGBT audiences.

The ballroom environment provides as colorful a backdrop as any director could want for a gay love story, and yet, Larry and editor Charles Bornstein dice the footage so finely, audiences may not take it all in until the pic's third and final ball, alternating fleeting glimpses of fashion, flesh and mad moves by Beyoncé

choreographer Frank Gatson Jr.

The film will be shown at 1pm on Wednesday, 19th of July, in the Lecture Hall of the San Leandro Public Library, 300 Estudillo, a ten-minute walk up Estudillo from the San Leandro BART station - or a five-minute walk from the AC-Transit stop at E. 14th and Estudillo.

Lavender Seniors will provide popcorn, bottled water, Martinelli's apple juice, plus miniature Reese's peanut butter cups. After the showing, there will be a brief discussion and evaluation of the film and the issues it brings up for LGBTQ Seniors and their allies.

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 14th.

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

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

Third Friday Lunch Bunch, 21st July, 12-2pm, North Oakland Senior Center



Triple Treat: Paella, Peace Corps & Olympics

July's Third Friday Lunch Bunch has a triple-plus treat in store for attendees. For those who remember the Mercer LGBT Resource Group preparing three different types of paella - shellfish, chicken and vegetarian - last year, the first treat is that they have generously offered to do the same again on the 21st of July!

"We have no other agenda than acknowledging how much LGBTQ seniors have paved the way for those of us who enjoy the benefits of that hard work," according to Diego Ramirez, M.D., a Global Health Leader with Mercer. "We want to say 'thank you' in this small way. Through our ongoing motto ('Making a difference in the health, wealth and careers of 110 million people every day'), one of our focus projects this year is to work with companies throughout the country to provide medical benefits for covering transgendered individuals seeking gender affirmation treatment, through comprehensive care including any 'masculinization' or 'feminization' procedures. We are also encouraging organizations to provide inclusive benefits which address needs of all family options."

The other treats being provided to those attending this month will be provided by Marjorie Larney, one of the activists/writers of the Bay Area lesbian community since 1980. Given the 1953 Eisenhower executive order attempting (for 42 years!) to purge LGBT employees from federal service, she will be discussing issues she confronted as a Thailand Peace Corps volunteer, as an Olympic javelin thrower, and as a civil rights specialist-advocate with the State of Louisiana among other challenging (and satisfying) experiences along the way in her life.



Marjorie Larney
Marjorie Larney, MA in Human Rights, works with youth in Northern California and Bangkok. She majored in Sociology/Anthropology at Queens College, competed in the javelin at two Olympics and was a teacher with the Peace Corps in Thailand. Her publications include *The First Baton Rouge Youth Conservation Corps* and *Josephine Miles, Teaching Poet*.

One of Marjorie's Book Jackets: "LGBT Youth Human Rights"

The Third Friday Lunch Bunch (July 21st this month) is held at the North Oakland Senior Center, 5714 MLK Jr Way (corner of 58th Street). Paella will be served at 12 noon, followed by announcements and Marjorie Larney's presentation from 12:45pm or so.

The parking lot and entrance are at the back of the building, which was once the site of Merritt College. The building, which has since been retrofitted, is shared with the Children's Hospital Research Unit.



An open group for 18+ LGBTQ folks who live in the East Bay and have experienced the loss of a loved one in the last few years. You do not have to be a Kaiser member. This group is offered free of charge and is open to people of all ethnicities and genders.

THURSDAY AUGUST 3

6:00pm-7:30pm

THURSDAY AUGUST 10

6:00pm-7:30pm

THURSDAY AUGUST 17

6:00pm-7:30pm

THURSDAY AUGUST 24

6:00pm-7:30pm

4501 Broadway Avenue, Oakland CA 94611. Parking is free, available and easy in our lot. Please arrive 5-10 minutes early to find parking and a seat in the group. For questions please call group facilitator Ari Cohen at (510) 752-1353

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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 www.caregiver.org.

Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County

#IRelyOn Campaign

Take Action NOW and PROTECT Funding for Aging Services

We know how critical aging services are to the people who rely on them. We can't afford to lose our aging services infrastructure.

WHAT'S AT RISK?

Right now and over the next several months, Congress is debating federal funding for aging services. This includes legislation affecting the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid and the Federal Budget. Proposed cuts will harm older people and destroy the aging services safety net.

Older adults and the families and community-based organizations that serve them must make our voices heard in opposition to these cuts.

Join our #IRelyOn campaign!

HOW YOU CAN TAKE ACTION

Participating is easy and you can do it in just a few minutes:

Step 1: [Download and print out our sign](#). Write in the aging service that you rely on (use the "cheat sheet" on the back for ideas). Or use it as a guide to make your own sign.

Step 2: Take a photo of yourself holding your sign.

Step 3: Post the photo on social media using the #IRelyOn hashtag. Tag your Senator or Representative. We're happy to help! If you're not on social media, send us your photo and we'll post it. We'll come to your staff meeting, community gathering, etc. to lead a #IRelyOn activity. Click [here](#) to contact us.

THANKS for your continued action. We look forward to seeing your posts as we continue the fight to protect aging services.



© Can Stock Photo

Recipes of My Heritage

Many of our Lavender Seniors come from very rich culinary backgrounds that are not usually carried forward as part of their stories. As a consequence our LGBTQ community loses a important part of its cultural heritage.

BECKIE'S MUSHROOM CHICKEN

1 CUT UP CHICKEN OR CHICKEN PARTS OF CHOICE, BONE IN OR NOT, SKINLESS OR NOT. PUT IN SINGLE LAYER IN BAKING PAN

MIX TOGETHER AND SPOON THICKLY OVER THE CHICKEN PARTS, COVERING COMPLETELY:

1 PINT OF SOUR CREAM (OR LITE OR REGULAR)

1 CAN OF REGULAR CAMPBELL'S CREAM OF MUSHROOM SOUP (CONDENSED)

1 ENVELOPE OF LIPTON ONION SOUP MIX

BAKE UNCOVERED, 350 FOR 1 HOUR

REALLY GOOD OVER RICE! EVEN THE PICKIEST EATERS GOBBLE THIS UP!

From time to time we will publish recipes from the kitchens of LGBTQ individuals in order to share and carried forward a heritage that would hopefully enrich the generations that follow.

If you wish to share recipes from your kitchen, send the recipes with a little history, to BJue@Lavenderseniors. We will

try to publish them as we can.



SENIOR CENTER

Without Walls

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, 5/6 - 7/8 12:00pm - 12:45pm

Where were you when you were 10? 50? Do you remember where were you on Christmas Eve in 1950 or the summer just before you started high school? Join us to discuss memories of where you were when. Facilitated by Janice Rooker

View the [Spring catalog](#) of community phone calls [here](#). Check the [website](#) after July 9th for the Summer Catalog. 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.



THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

Older & Out - Hayward

July 10, 17, 24, 31 1:15pm (Mondays) no meeting July 3rd
Hayward Senior Center, 22325 N. Third Street, Hayward

A topical therapeutic peer support groups for isolated LGBTQ older adults

Queerly Aging Lesbians

July 6 & 20, 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

July 20, 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (1st and 3rd Tuesdays)

no meeting July 4th...but...join us with Rainbow Seniors for a pot luck at Lake Chabot on July 11th.

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

July 7, 14, 21, 28 3:15pm (Fridays)

North Berkeley Senior Center, 901 Hearst Ave, Berkeley

A topical therapeutic peer support groups for isolated LGBTQ older adults

****New Group** Older & Out - Livermore**

July 11, 18, 25, 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

Gay Straight Alliance

July 13, 11:00am - noon (2nd Thursdays)

Fremont Senior Center, 40086 Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont

The theme for this group is 'Action for Happiness'.

For more info call Patricia from Life ElderCare at (510) 574-2091

Rainbow Seniors

July 11* & 25 12:30-2:00 (2nd & 4th Tuesdays)

***11:30 a.m. join us with Out Standing Seniors for a pot luck at Lake Chabot on July 11th**

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

July 12, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. (2nd Wednesday)

San Leandro Library, 300 Estudillo, San Leandro

A portion of this meeting is open to the public.

Senior Men's Group

July 13 & 27 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

No July Pot Luck...join us at Castro Valley pride! see flyer above!

Lavender Seniors Film Series

July 19, 1:00 - 3:00pm (3rd Wednesday)

San Leandro Library, 300 Estudillo, San Leandro

This month's movie: "Leave It On the Floor" (see info above)

Oakland Lunch Bunch

Sponsored by City of Oakland Aging & Adult Services

July 21, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. (3rd Friday)

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

This month's program: "Triple Treat: Paella, Peace Corps & Olympics" (see info above)

Women caring for their woman partners

Every other Friday at 1pm

Please R.S.V.P. to Patricia at POsage@fremont.gov (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.

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay Board of Directors

President: Victor Aguilar Jr.

Vice President: Akilah Monifa

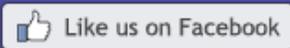
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Lavender Seniors



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