



Lavender Notes

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July 2021 - Volume 27 Issue 7

STORIES OF OUR LIVES

Ruth Villaseñor and Diane Pfile

Born about five years and 2,000 miles apart, this dynamic pair of socio-political activists, motorcycle buffs, pet-lovers and promoters of two-spirit culture have left a significant mark on the Bay area LGBTQ+, Native American and tradeswomen communities. They were clearly destined to wind up together 23 years ago!

Ruth was born in July 1957 in Los Angeles, with a seven-year-older sister. Neither of them ever knew their fathers. At the time Ruth was born, her sister had been sent to be raised by their grandmother for a few years.



Ruth Baby Photo

"I think of us both as survivors," Ruth recalls. "I know they say any family with more than one person is probably dysfunctional, but we were surrounded by the dysfunction shared by many Mexican and indigenous families at the time, facing such issues as alcoholism, drug use and unwed motherhood. I've needed many years of therapy to figure out why my sister, my mother and my grandmother all had so much anger – which, of course, was handed down to me, as well. I realize that trauma was everywhere, beginning with internalized genocide, lack of resources and support faced by so many indigenous people and People of Color! If you were pregnant and out of

wedlock – unprepared to be a parent – what were your choices in a Catholic sub-culture?"

Soon after Ruth was born, their grandmother returned Ruth's sister to their mother, indicating she should be raising her own children. The family moved around a lot: from L.A. to San Pedro to Long Beach, among others.

"I wasn't so much bothered by being the 'new kid in school' as I was about being the 'darkest kid in school' wherever we went," Ruth says. "I knew I was a different color from the rest of the kids and I desperately wanted to be white and fit in with the others. My sister's father was white, so she could 'pass' easier than I could. So, it seems I was either treated like the exotic Mexican girl or shunned by many. We were also forbidden to learn Spanish – much less speak it in school.



Ruth in Junior High

My mother would get hit as a child if she spoke Spanish, so she intentionally tried to assimilate by not developing an accent. It was only as an adult that I discovered that her side of the family was also Chiricahua Apache, something they were forced to be ashamed of – and something I've continued trying to learn more about."

Ruth considers herself a "recovering Catholic," because not only was the mixture of practicing native spirituality and Catholicism confusing, but she felt – sadly – that her family had a very passive attitude about colonization. She later decided that they really suffered from trauma and internalized genocide.

"When I was in kindergarten, I fell in love with a beautifully-dressed girl in my class," Ruth says. "When I ran home to tell my mother that I was in love with this little girl, she got very upset and told me that couldn't be true – girls don't fall in love with other girls. She told me I was probably just jealous of the clothes the other girl was wearing and wanted to look like her. She bought me a fancy skirt, but even as a five-year-old, it taught me a couple things. I didn't feel comfortable in that fancy skirt and I shouldn't ever talk about liking girls. I learned that this was NOT a phase – and that I shouldn't talk about it with my mother anymore."

Ruth was bussed to Woodrow Wilson High School in Long Beach as part of an effort to integrate a primarily white school. Her sister attended Polytech School in Compton, where there were more African-American students.

"There were exactly three People of Color at Woodrow Wilson," Ruth recalls. "Though the other students were basically friendly, I once again felt that combination of being exotic and being shunned, not fitting in. I caught myself attracted to many girls. My tennis teacher – a bit of a 'butch' – was very nice to me, so I began to excel at tennis. At the same time, there was a young guy who was interested in me and we started dating. He was from Naples, a wealthy section of Long Beach, and I know his mother would've had a fit if she ever found out he'd come to our neighborhood. When he bragged about how he and a carload of guys had gone to Ripples – a gay bar that has recently closed – and 'beat up a bunch of fags,' that was the end of that. From that day on, my friends and I kept our eyes open for any sign of gay-bashing and were ready to jump out and fight any thugs who thought that was a good thing to

do.”

After high school graduation, Ruth tried her wings at Long Beach City College and Cal State Long Beach. Though she developed many new interests – Art History, hanging out with artists, perhaps interested in living a “Bohemian Life” – she felt like she was basically marking time.



Ruth (L), her sister and niece

“I had a somewhat strange relationship with a guy at the time,” Ruth says. “Strange because we were the same size and he liked to wear my clothes. I dropped out of school and we took a trip to Europe. He thought he might have Jewish ancestry through his Polish father, so we visited a few concentration camps, looking for his family name. We also were somewhat devoted ‘Dead Heads’, so we followed

the Grateful Dead around on a couple of their European tours at the same time.”

When Ruth returned to Southern California, she moved to L.A., where she opened a small art gallery with a group of artist friends. She also became involved in tattooing and body piercing, which – unknown to her at the time – would eventually change her life profoundly.

“I became acquainted with Jim Ward, who was on the forefront of body piercing,” Ruth says. “I began working at the Gauntlet, doing body piercing, realizing there was a major intersection of the art world and body piercing. I discovered Robert Mapplethorpe through the piercing community at a time when he was making a splash in the media. Though I hadn’t finished any formal Art History curriculum anywhere, I was fascinated by both art and piercing. As it turns out, my long-time fantasy of moving to San Francisco – the mecca for being free and being yourself – was realized after a couple of Halloween visits in the Castro of the 1970s. The Gauntlet was opening a second shop in the Castro, so I got a job there. Moving to San Francisco, I also learned a lot about gay or two-spirited Native American people and eventually began working at the Native American Health Services, collaborating with the National Native American AIDS Project, as well.”

When the Gauntlet opened a third store in New York, she decided to work there and see what that was all about, spending four years there.

“While I was in New York, people started saying to me, ‘why don’t you come out?’ – it’s clear you’re into women!” Ruth recounts. “I did have a few girlfriends while I was there, but I was more attracted to their art than to anything that could be called a relationship or a commitment. I’d clearly internalized a lot of homophobia and had very low self-esteem. I seemed to be drawn into extremely dysfunctional relationships that harked back to my own childhood: alcohol and drug abuse. I was in a butch-femme relationship with a Colombian woman who started ordering me around, flirting openly with other women and even telling me how to dress and which side of her I should walk on when we were in public! Though I thought I was in love for the first few weeks – and enjoyed being the femme to her butch – the infatuation didn’t

last long!”

It might be time to return to San Francisco, where she could try working again at the Gauntlet – and meet the love of her life!

Meanwhile, in November 1962, when Ruth was just five years old, Diane Pfile was born in Freeport, Illinois, to a devout Mennonite couple. She had a sister one year older and would have a younger brother four years later. They lived in the country near a small town called Ridott. Though Dad was a truck driver and later supervisor of a trucking company, the family had farmland where they raised sheep; and their cousins would grow and harvest alfalfa and corn on their land.



Diane Baby Photo

“I don’t think it was just middle-child syndrome that I was never the favorite child,” Diane says. “I think virtually everybody in the family was somewhat put-off by my early-onset tomboyish behavior. Though I had a fairly okay childhood, I remember getting in trouble a lot. Even my grandmother – who had been a basketball player herself – had it in her mind that I was the bad child. I often played by myself, spending a lot of time in the woods. I would make little jumps for my bike on trails. I even had to get ‘boy’ glasses because my ‘girly’ glasses kept getting broken by my tomboy activities. I did try to run away from home twice as a child, but never got too far with that plan!”



Diane in Forbidden Adidas shirt

Because they lived so far out of town, Diane wasn’t able to participate on athletic teams, since nobody would drive her into town. She occasionally rode her bike into the next town to play football with her cousins, which was forbidden! Her grandfather set her up with a basketball hoop, where she enjoyed shooting baskets by herself, along with playing catch against the barn. She was sad when her mother tried to throw away her favorite old Adidas t-shirt because she wasn’t supposed to be seen in public wearing it – see the adjacent photo, posing with her football.

“I was bussed into town to attend Taylor Park Elementary School, which was in a primarily black neighborhood, so I had a lot of black friends,” Diane recalls. “My parents were fine with that, but when my grandmother visited from Iowa, she was more critical of my friendships. We lived a pretty simple life. Mom was a stay-at-home housekeeper who made all of our clothes. I never owned a pair of blue jeans until I was making my own money!”



The Pfle family on a bike outing – note that the three sibs all have matching shirts hand-sewn by Mom!

Though the Mennonite faith played a major role in Diane's childhood, it was clear early on that it was not considered acceptable in her family's religion to be gay.

"It was impossible to come to terms with my gayness until I went away to college," Diane says. "I didn't even have the words to describe what was going on with me, though one cousin was also a tomboy, so I didn't feel totally alone. After high school graduation in 1980, I opted to go to a Mennonite College in Hesston, Kansas, for two years, where I earned an AA in Business. There were girls playing sports, usually suspected of being lesbian, of course. At one point that first year, another girl and I were simply spooning – taking a nap – and some of our dorm-mates caught us and we became the talk of the dorm. I knew I had a crush on Jodie Foster when I was younger – certainly never telling anyone – and that I had crushes on various girlfriends in high school, some of whom were the 'popular girls' and not into sports. They were cheerleaders and such – I don't know how I ever got in with that crowd, but I did. Now that I was in college, though, I felt the need to begin dealing with my sexuality, but had no clue how to go about it."

Diane's Mennonite background both at home and early college days confirmed for her the faith's pacifist and environmental ideals. Having a good work ethic, caring for the Earth, growing their own food, and helping the less fortunate continued to be part of her psyche and remains so to this day. When she finished her second year in Kansas, she returned home for the summer, after which she and a college roommate decided to move to Arizona.

"We just packed up the car and headed for Scottsdale," Diane recalls. "That lasted less than six months, because I had little luck finding a job as a college grad. On my way back home, I decided to stop in Kalona, Iowa, where my grandmother lived. I soon found a job in nearby Iowa City, moved out and got my own place with another friend. Through playing soccer and rugby, I met friends who were like me and I began coming to terms with being gay. I started dating girls. I met a woman who was Mexican and Native American and started attending events at the Chicano-Native American Cultural Center and the Women's Resource Center. I was in a relationship with her for four years. In fact, when my grandmother would invite us for Sunday dinner, she would always say things like 'it's nice that you have a special friend like Daria,' so I think she must have suspected something, though we never really talked

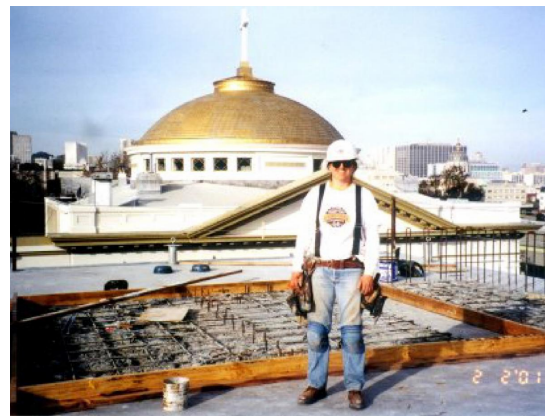
about it. When my parents came to visit in Iowa City, they saw my bedroom decorated with photos of women, so I think they finally got it, as well.”

After her grandfather died and Diane had taken her girlfriend with her to the funeral, she decided it was time to write her parents and make it official.

“They were both very upset, particularly my Mom,” Diane recalls. “I think that was largely because of the church – what was she supposed to tell her friends in the congregation? She wrote a couple of letters saying things like ‘we love you, but the Bible says you’re living in sin’, all very painful to me. My Dad was a bit more accepting, but it took Mom years to come around. My cousin was also coming out at the same time, so my Mom and my aunt supported each other a bit. My sister accepted my gayness sooner than my brother – who said at one point he didn’t want me and Ruth around his kids. Only when my mother died did I finally meet my brother’s kids when they came to the family home.”

Diane earned her B.A. in 1987, focusing on social work. After working – rather unsatisfactorily – in youth homes, she saw a sign encouraging women to apply for apprenticeships in the trades. In 1990, she started a carpenter’s union apprenticeship, moving to San Francisco in 1992.

“My friend told me the Bay Area was way better for women in the trades,” Diane says, “and it made total sense to make that leap and continue my apprenticeship in San Francisco. I worked on San Francisco landmarks like the Yerba Buena Gardens, Kaiser Hospital, various schools and I was especially proud being foreman on the LGBTQ Center project in 2001-02. The money was great – particularly for someone who had grown up working class. I finally felt really good about myself. One of my metrics was I wanted to be making enough money to go into any restaurant and order whatever I wanted without considering the price. I had achieved that – plus I now had a Yamaha motorcycle parked at my place in the Mission District, next to the Women’s Building and near several dyke bars. I did a lot of traveling – not only weekends on my bike but real travel that I could now afford. I felt fortunate that I saved money for the first time in my life!”



Diane as foreman on the SF LGBTQ Center Construction Project

“I had met some native friends at the Stud, who apparently mistook the favorite bandana I was wearing to mean that I was a native myself,” Diane recounts. “They invited me to go to a Native Drum gathering in the Mission with them. Since I had been involved with the Chicano-American Indian Center in Iowa – participating in sweat lodges and so on – I said I’d love to go. So my Friday nights were spent learning songs at the Drum. One Friday in 1998, Ruth – who had also been active with this gay native group – came to the Drum while she was in town from New York, piercing at the Gauntlet in the Castro. From the moment I first saw her, I thought she was cute. In fact, I asked her if she wanted a ride home. She refused the first time, but accepted the second. When I found out she worked at the Gauntlet, I told my best friend – who had been thinking about having her tongue pierced. She made an

appointment and it gave me an excuse to see her again and ask her out!"

Meanwhile, Ruth was trying to decide whether to return to New York or stay in San Francisco.

"A confusing hook-up at the Stud resulted in a mutual friend deciding that Diane and I were better-suited for each other than she and Diane," Ruth recalls. "When I saw Diane dressed in full black leather motorcycle gear, my heart started pounding and I really wanted to be on the back of this woman's motorcycle! So, soon I felt like I had to go back to New York and break-up the dysfunctional relationship I had with the woman who I knew was lying to me and come back to San Francisco where I belonged – maybe with this wild motorcycle-driving dyke in black leather. Though I was still terrified of making any kind of commitment to anybody, there was no denying the excitement I felt being around Diane!"

Being the "butch-about-town," Diane confessed early on that she had an ad running in the *Bay Times*, and was interested in seeing other women. But that didn't dissuade Ruth. They've now been together 23 years! In 2000, they bought a house together in Oakland's Dimond District. Earlier, when they were dating and had gone on vacation together, they came home to find the Gauntlet had gone belly up and Ruth was out of a job. Ruth learned she qualified for state money to be re-educated, becoming a medical assistant, working initially at the Native American Health Center.

"The NAHC was pretty homophobic at the time and I took it as a challenge to be an out gay medical provider," Ruth says. "It also propelled me into working actively with HIV-positive clients and persisting in my role as a model out-gay medical provider."

The pair was very involved in Marriage Equality USA and were among the first married by then-Mayor Ron Dellums on June 16, 2008, with Barbara Lee and Jean Quan in attendance. Shortly after their wedding, Diane went back to Illinois to visit her dying mother and was excited to show her their wedding photos. When Diane later returned home with Ruth for her mother's funeral, she was thrilled to tears that her Dad had listed Ruth as her spouse in the obituary, making the events around her mother's funeral easier for them both.



The newlyweds with Mr/Mrs Ron Dellums, Barbara Lee and Jean Quan

In 2004, the pair decided they wanted to start a business together. Since they both loved animals, Paws & Claws became more than a pet-food and grooming space. At the Grand Opening, it was important to Ruth to have pow-wow singers, dancers and frybread be part of the celebration. The shop evolved into a community center where people could pick up lawn signs during the Prop 8 campaign, where Native Drumming could be held regularly and where LGBTQ+ activists could congregate and discuss matters of interest to the

community. When they realized they had outgrown their little store, they expanded into a larger space in 2011. Ruth created a film via Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project (QWOCMAP) relating her Prop 8 experience to colonization – not only in the LGBTQ+ community but nation-wide – and the miscegenation laws that once prohibited people of different races from marrying.



The first Bay Area Gay Native American Pow-Wow, 2012

"We were already involved with BAAITS (Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits), when a group of us decided to organize the first-ever Gay Native American Pow-Wow in February 2012," Ruth says. "Diane has been very supportive of two-spirit events and has attended many gatherings, confronting the stigma, re-learning our history and shedding some internalized negative stereotypes gay native people have endured over the years."

Similarly, Ruth has been supportive of Diane's Mennonite background and keen interest in motorcycles, including her membership in 2010 as a patch-holder to Soul Fire, a dyke motorcycle club. In fact, the pair has participated in many Pride Parades – both walking the route with BAAITS and leading the Parade with "Dykes on Bikes." In addition, even when their business was thriving, they would occasionally escape to San Francisco on Sunday to worship with the gay-friendly Mennonite congregation in the Mission District.



First Pride Together, 1998



"Justly Married," June 2008



Dykes on Bikes, 2015

"We knew that owning a business together for 15 years could very well have wiped out our relationship," the pair echoed each other. "But we've survived – no, we've thrived – not only as a married couple, but also as business partners, traveling buddies, pet-owners and activists working on issues important to our community!"



Working in home garden, 2001



Grand opening of Paws & Claws, 2004

After selling their business in 2019, the couple has driven several times with their pups to their casita in Bucerias, Nayarit, Mexico. They enjoy visiting other parts of Mexico along the way and relaxing on the sunny beaches around the Bay of Banderas during the winter months.

They have also traveled to other places within the U.S. When they are in the Bay Area, each of them continues working. Currently, Ruth is a part-time caregiver through Senior Alternatives, where she can continue providing peer support and using her medical knowledge. She loves working with seniors and with early-stage Alzheimer's patients. Diane is an office administrator for ACE Quality Control, an engineering firm offering special inspections on various construction projects in the Bay Area.



Ruth, Diane and the Dogs on their post-business-sale trip to Mexico, 2019

Thank you, Ruth and Diane, for the work you've done and continue to do for the community, as well as sharing so much of your amazing lives with Lavender Seniors newsletter readers!



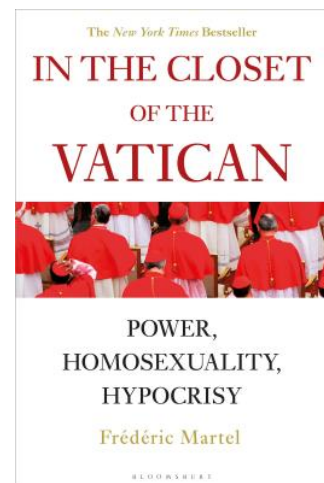
BOOK REVIEW

In the Closet of the Vatican: Power, Homosexuality, Hypocrisy

By Frederic Martel

Martel reveals the internal scandal and corruption in the Roman Catholic Church. He offers many interviews and documents. Even the current Pope has admitted to a scandal.

Hostility against gays has been with us since the Middle Ages. Pius XII looked the other way when gay sex was suspected. Pope Paul XXIII declared same sex love violated church doctrine. In October 1979 the Pope invited his fellow priests to reject all gay desires. He didn't want a divided church. There must be complete unity. Gays were welcomed but there must be no sex.



Readers will be charged up by tales of eroticism and preaching.

- Frank J. Howell

Bonus Book Review

The New Testament

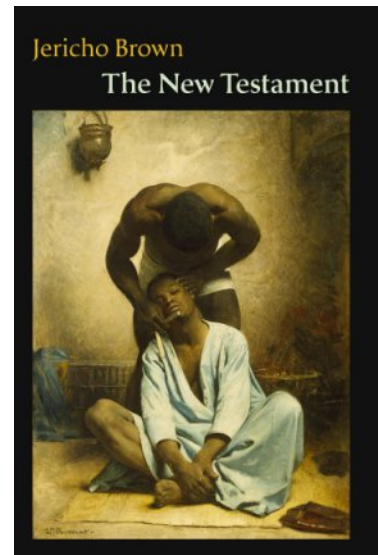
By Jericho Brown



This Pulitzer Prize-winning black gay Shreveport native – now in charge of the Creative Writing program at Emory University in Atlanta – provides a map for his evolution as a poet and now an unapologetic HIV-positive author through his three published books of poetry, culminating in last year's Pulitzer Prize

Since this reviewer was out of the country for all of 2020 and the first half of 2021, this review will deal only with the middle of his three celebrated works of poetry: *The New Testament*, published in 2014. The plan is to acquire the first and third books in this trilogy and review them during our seven-month stay back in the U.S. of A.

The 40 poems in this collection – in addition to covering a number of quasi-Biblical-sounding topics – seem to provide the seminal transitional work between his early coming out of the closet and subsequent full acceptance of his HIV-positive status. Like so many talented writers, some of what he writes is semi-autobiographical, a way of sharing his own experience through his preferred medium.



One of the things he notes in this collection that many of us may not have thought about recently is that the same election (2008) that provided California's 55 electoral votes to Barack Obama, the country's first black President, also approved Proposition 8, denying same-sex marriage for California residents for nearly seven more years. One step forward for racial equity; one step backward for LGBTQ+ rights.

To read an informative recent *Poz* interview with Jericho on his evolution through three books:

<https://www.poz.com/article/heart-heart-jericho-brown#lid=d5ab18bd98.93d19d8963>

Jericho's personal and professional web page is: <https://www.jerichobrown.com/>

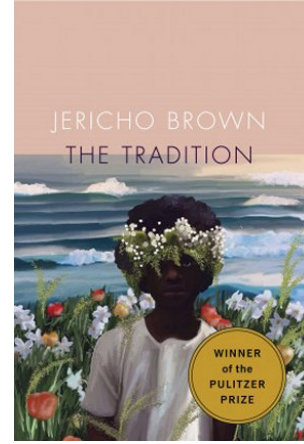
Here are the covers of his other two books that will be reviewed in 2021: *Please* (2008) and *The Tradition* (2019):



His first published collecti



At a poetry reading



His Pulitzer-winning third book

- John David Dupree, Tinamastes, Costa Rica

CONNECTIONS



Have you moved out of the area, do you want to get in contact with other Lavender Seniors near you or someone you have lost contact with? [Email us](#) and we will try to help out. No information will be shared without your specific permission.

LAVENDER SENIORS FRIENDLY VISITOR PROGRAM HAS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE.

Volunteers with the Lavender Seniors Friendly Visitor program are background checked, interviewed and trained, after which they are matched with a senior to visit regularly, usually for a couple hours each week. Visitors can share stories, chat about mutual interests and current events, and if both are willing and able, volunteers can take their seniors out for a walk in the park, a bite to eat, a cup of coffee, shopping or maybe a movie or a trip to the museum.

We ask volunteers to make a commitment of at least six months.

If you are in need of a Friendly Visitor, we can help with that too!

Please contact us at karen@lavenderseniors.org or (510) 424-7240 and we will be in touch with you soon. Thank You!

Reminder: Lavender Seniors Birthday Program

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

Anyone whose birthday (year of birth is not necessary, though it is appreciated) hasn't been acknowledged should provide their full name,

mailing address and date of birth (with or without year) either via Info@LavenderSeniors.org or by leaving a message at +1-510-736-LGBT and your name will be added to the list. Also, any volunteers who want to assist in this program should make contact, as well.



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



The Staff of Life Foodie Special

Let's Talk about FOOD!

For July's Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch, the postponed-from-April subject will be talking about one of the major connectors for all human beings - a necessity to life and something which can make life so much more sensational and enjoyable – that is, of course, FOOD! Join us on Saturday, 10th of July, as we discuss our earliest and/or fondest memories surrounding food and mealtimes, participate in this-or-that games and learn more about each other through our shared love of food.

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

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

A little info about your host for July...

Leah: Recently married and moved to the Castro District, San Francisco (local move), she lives with her wife, Heather, and their favorite activity is eating together. Favorite meals are BRUNCH & DINNER. Whether it's making meals that they've curated for the week, getting take-out, or eating al fresco at one of San Francisco's many amazing restaurants, the Morrett household is all about FOOD! Leah has been in the kitchen since she was young, and found herself particularly attracted to the world of baking due to having a very prominent

sweet tooth. She runs a wordpress blog where she uploads all of her favorite recipes which you can find here: [Big Spoon Baking](#). Her specialty is sweet/breakfast breads, muffins and cakes. She has a fondness for cookies, trying new and unique flavors and was recently gifted a Kitchenaid stand mixer from her wedding registry, which is very exciting and she is looking forward to using it all the time.

Here are the Zoom coordinates for Saturday, 10th July, from 12 noon to 2pm:



Leah(R) & Heather Wedding, 02/21

Lavender Seniors invites you to a scheduled **Saturday Rainbow Lunch** meeting on Zoom.

Topic: Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch: FOODIES

Date/Time: Saturday, 10th July 2021 – 12 noon to 2pm Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89671026595?pwd=TGRtYkxhTzZGbWFFTTB1WWpQNpWZz09>

Meeting ID: 896 7102 6595 – Password: 153953

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

Meeting ID: 896 7102 6595 – Password: 153953

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



[LGBTQ Artworks Include Gay March 1984, Leather Dykes](#)

Third Quarterly Museum/Artist Tour 16th July

Lavender Seniors is co-sponsoring the third quarterly Museum/Artist Tour series for 2021 at this month's Third Friday Bunch Zoom Gathering on 16th July. The tours, begun in October 2020, have also been presented previously in January and April 2021. The well-received tours have featured works of LGBTQ+ artists, such as Romaine Brooks, Mickalene Thomas, Reynaldo Rivera, Monica Majoli, Rafa Esparza, Kori Newkirk, and Lari Pittman.

This tour will include an online conversation about artworks by LGBTQ+ artists: Hedi El Kholi, Yolanda Andrade and Catherine Opie. These artists explore overlooked histories of LGBTQ+ communities in their work. The conversation will be led by educators from the UCLA-affiliated Hammer Museum, including student educators, UCLA students from diverse disciplines who bring unique perspectives to the

artworks.

Hedi El Kholti, Born in Rabat, Morocco, moved to Los Angeles in 1992, working in the film industry before earning a BFA degree at Art Center College of Design. He developed an intimate collage practice, materializing in a series of books and smaller fanzines. The collages draw content from various eras and include movie stills, book covers, images from art publications and gay magazines. Part pop culture time capsule, part unfettered stream of consciousness, these works are deeply personal and autobiographical. Through his colorful and eclectic compositions, El Kholti reflects on insecurities regarding queerness, fear of illness and virility, and feelings of alienation from his provenance.



Hedi El Kholti, *By the Time You Read This, I'll be Gone*, 2020

Hedi El Kholti has compiled a new folio of his esoteric collaged works, bound into the catalogue for *Made in L.A. 2020*, and a new double-sided poster, presented as a takeaway stack in the galleries of the Hammer Museum and The Huntington.

In *Made in L.A. 2020: a version*, the artist's work is present in two institutions, across Los Angeles. [See Hedi El Kholti's work on view at The Huntington.](#)

Yolanda Andrade, born in 1950 in Villahermosa, Mexico, moved to Mexico City when she was eighteen to study theater. In 1974 she shifted her focus to photography after becoming involved with the Club Fotográfico de México. In 1976 and 1977 she studied photography at the Visual Studies Workshop in Rochester, New York, under the guidance of Nathan Lyons (1930–2016). While in the U.S., Andrade became more familiar with and influenced by the work of street photographers such as Walker Evans (1903–1975), Robert Frank (b. 1924), and Garry Winogrand (1928–1984). On returning to Mexico, she started her career as a still photographer for movie companies and as a freelancer for magazines and books. At the same time she began documenting everyday life and popular culture on the streets of Mexico City. For more than twenty-five years Andrade created black-and-white images using analog cameras. In the early 2000s she started to explore color in digital photography, a practice she has continued.

An accomplished teacher of photography, Andrade has taught since 1992 at the Escuela de Fotografía Nacho López and Centro de la Imagen in Mexico City and Instituto Tecnológico in Monterrey, Mexico. Among other accolades, she received a Guggenheim Fellowship for Creative Arts in 2004 as well as grants from the Mexican National Endowment for Culture and the Arts to fund her



Yolanda Andrade, *Artist, Marcha gay (Gay pride march)*, 1984

publications and projects in 1993, 1997, 2000, and 2003. Her work has appeared in more than ten photographic books, including *Los velos transparentes, las transparencias veladas* (1988) and *Pasión mexicana / Mexican Passion* (2002). She has participated in group exhibitions such as the 1st Havana Biennial (1984), *Superreal: Alternative Realities in Photo-graphy and Video* (2013) at El Museo del Barrio in New York, and *Urbes Mutantes: Latin American Photography, 1944–2013* (2014) at the International Center of Photography in New York. Institutions that house her work include the Visual Studies Workshop; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago; and Kiyosato Museum of Photographic Arts, Hokuto, Japan.



Catherine Opie, Artist, Self Portrait/ Nursing, 2004

Catherine Sue Opie (born 1961, Sandusky, Ohio) is an American fine-art photographer. She lives and works in West Adams, Los Angeles, as a tenured professor of photography at University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA).

Opie studies the connections between mainstream and infrequent society. By specializing in portraiture, studio and landscape photography, she is able to create pieces relating to sexual identity. Through photography, Opie, documents the relationship between the individual and the space inhabited.

She is known for her portraits exploring the Los Angeles leather-dyke community.

Guides for this third tour will be the same two Hammer Student Educators that conducted our January tour: Moses Mascuch, a senior art history major at UCLA, and Marissa Hong, a junior studio art major.

Lavender Seniors invites you to a Zoom meeting: **Third Friday Lunch Bunch**

Time: Friday, July 16th 2021 – 12 noon – 2pm Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 852 3582 5964 - Passcode: 569546

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

Meeting ID: 852 3582 5964 - Passcode: 569546

We hope you will join us for the third of our 2021 quarterly series of Museum/Artist Tours via the Third Friday Lunch Bunch Zoom gatherings.



LGBT Online Support Group for Caregivers

If you are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender and caring for someone with ongoing health problems...[you are not alone!](#)

Family Caregiver Alliance's online LGBT Caring Community Support Group connects you with others facing the day-to-day challenges of caregiving. If you're assisting someone with Alzheimer's, stroke, Parkinson's, traumatic brain injury, or other chronic health problems, you can get support from the convenience of your home.

Share experiences, resources, and ideas in a supportive, caring environment. Available 24 hours a day, all you need is e-mail, and it's free!

Visit [LGBT Caring Community Online Support Group](#).

Just wanted to share this great article in the Bay Times this week:

First National Landmark of San Francisco Lesbian Activism Established

On May 21, Mayor London Breed signed an ordinance establishing the landmark status of 651 Duncan Street in San Francisco. Lesbian and civil rights activists Del Martin (1921–2008) and Phyllis Lyon (1924–2020) purchased the home at the Noe Valley property in 1955 and lived there until they both passed away. The home is now the first piece of lesbian history to receive landmark status in the western U.S.

Read the full story here:

[*Memories of Life, Love, and Activism at the Lyon-Martin House*](#)

Well Connected
Enriching lives and supporting
well-being.

(FORMERLY SENIOR CENTER WITHOUT WALLS)

Community Phone Calls

This award-winning program offers activities, education, support groups, and friendly conversation over the phone or online.

Just a few of the things offered:

(The times are no longer listed in the generic catalog, once you have signed up you will get a link to a catalog with times in your time zone)

LGBTQ Chat 2nd and 4th Wednesdays

This group is intended for participants who identify as LGBTQ, and is an opportunity to connect with others socially in a supportive environment, where participants can share individual and collective experiences. We will create an inclusive place to share our stories with each other and build a sense of community. Facilitated by Jerry W. Brown, Covia Senior Director Affordable Housing

Story Time

Thursdays, 5/6 – 6/10, 7/8 – 8/26

Saturdays, 5/8, 5/22, 5/29, 6/12, 6/26, 7/10, 7/24, 7/31, 8/14, 8/28

What are your favorite short stories? Have you read or written anything you'd like to read? We also read books in serial form each week. Anyone is welcome to participate....or you may prefer to just listen to the magic provided by others. Facilitated by Pat Brunetti and Nicolette Noyes

Is it Cold, Flu, Pneumonia, or COVID-19? July 13th

The initial symptoms of pneumonia are the same as influenza: fever, a dry cough, headache, muscle pain, and weakness. Within hours, there is increasing breathlessness; the cough becomes worse and produces a small amount of mucus. We will compare the symptoms of these bacterial and viral illnesses, and the proper actions to take to maintain your health. Presented by Vanessa Talania, Program Manager, BREATHE California, www.lungsrus.org

View the Current catalog of community phone calls [here](#). Check the [website](#) for more information. To participate in these or other Well Connected telephone activities, or to learn more about their programs, call 877-797-7299 or email coviaconnections@covia.org.



Out Standing Seniors - Sponsored by Pacific Center

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

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

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

Living OUT in Livermore - Sponsored by Pacific Center

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

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

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

LezBold Peer Support Group

Jul 1 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. (1st Thursdays)

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

Find support and like-minded wonderful people!

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

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

email Anne@pacificcenter.org for current meeting information.

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

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

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

email Anne@pacificcenter.org for current meeting information.

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

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

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

email Anne@pacificcenter.org for current meeting information.

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

Lavender Seniors Board Meeting

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

A portion of this meeting is open to the public.

Lavender Seniors Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch

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

Tri-Valley Rainbows - Sponsored by Pacific Center

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

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

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

Oakland Third Friday Lunch Bunch

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

Jul 16, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. ("Museum/Artist Tour" - see info above for joining us via Zoom)

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay Board of Directors

President: Victor Aguilar Jr

1st Vice President: Melissa West

Treasurer: Carmen Chiong

Secretary: John David Dupree (on hiatus)

Founding Member: Barbara Jue

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

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Friendly Visitor Program: (510) 424-7240 or

karen@lavenderseniors.org

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