



# Lavender Notes

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

June 2015

*Celebrating 20+ years of service and positive change*

*Volume 22, Issue 6*

## LGBT SENIOR OF THE MONTH

### Charlene Kay "Char" (Olson) Shores

One of the East Bay's pioneering heroines for LGBT civil rights and equal protection under the law, Charlene Kay "Char" (Olson) Shores has lived in the Fairview section of unincorporated Hayward for 35 years. For much of that time, her rambling Clover Road homestead on 2.5 acres has provided shelter for four generations, currently just three generations since the death of her father two years ago.

Her pioneering attitude became clear to her parents, Anita and Virgil Olson, early on, though she was always the "good little girl" who excelled academically, socially and professionally.



Char, Grandma and a cousin.



Char and her only sibling, a younger sister.



Char already demanding justice as a child!

In an era when there were no South County hospitals, Charlene was born on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July 1944 at the Silva Maternity Home in the Niles District of Fremont. She did what was expected of her during high school, then college in San Jose and various residences, never moving too far afield from the San Francisco Bay area (e.g., Half Moon Bay, San Francisco, Fremont).



During her high school and college days, she dated various men, trying to ignore the fact that - whenever there was a choice between such a date and an evening out with "the girls," - there was no question what choice she would make! In her search for understanding herself, she made the decision at one point to get married to a man, a marriage that lasted six years and produced one daughter.

Then suddenly she discovered that she had fallen in love with another woman!

"Though it was initially an 'earth-shattering' discovery that I was 'probably' a lesbian," Char recalled, "everything about my life began to make sense to me!" I had never been so head-over-heels over any man as I was over Tama!

"During our seven years together, we had our ups and downs. Tama was not the greatest step-mother to my daughter and the son that I adopted, Char said. "In those days, there was no such thing as LGBT marriage, but when we broke up, I felt like I was going through my second - and much more traumatic - divorce."

Since that split (she and Tama are still in touch, though Tama is now on the East Coast), Char has focused primarily on her family, her job and socio-political activism. During the past three decades, she has led the fight for LGBT equality on several fronts, beginning with survival of a potential firestorm at her post as a counselor to troubled teenage girls at the Children's Receiving Home, a daily commute across the Hayward Bridge to San Mateo County.

"In the '70s, I was the only out lesbian I knew of in that county," she recalled. "At one point, a teen-age girl began implying that something inappropriate was happening between me and her. I was immediately suspended without pay - pending an investigation by both County Mental Health and Child Protective Services (CPS) staff - after which I was told by a male supervisor that I would be terminated either way, since 'lesbians can't work with teen-age girls!'"

To her surprise, not only did her colleagues at the Children's Receiving Home come to her support, but staff at CPS - including a woman in a high position who followed Char's lead and came out as lesbian - supported her, as well.

"Even colleagues who didn't particularly like the idea of my being a lesbian couldn't deny that I was one of the best shelter care counselors in the field," she remembered. "As a result, my suspension only lasted a week or two, after which I was called into a meeting and reinstated in my post. I was told, however, that I must never 'come out' to any of the girls at the home, many of whom already knew that I was gay.

"There was one girl who kept interrogating me and saying 'Are you gay or not?', to which I would say, 'I've been told if I talk about anything like that, I would be fired,' but that child never seemed to give up. There were SO many troubled girls who seemed unable to make good decisions - or reach logical conclusions like that."

Char was named shop steward at the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 829 in San Mateo County soon after her employment at the home. Then she spent her last 20 years as the Union President, during which time she launched her never-ending campaign to achieve equal rights for LGBT employees, as well as across-the-board fairness for all employees - not just in San Mateo, it turns out, but throughout the state and - by extension - contributing to fairness nation-wide. Her successes included the following:

- Part-time employees getting overtime pay when appropriate
- Upgrading (primarily female) Child-Care Workers to Shelter Care Counselors so they received pay equal to men doing the same job
- Expanding the definition of family (for sick-leave purposes) to include in-laws, foster children, dependent grandchildren, domestic partners and their children
- Eliminating the limit on use of sick-leave hours that could be used for family illnesses
- Getting parental leave for adoptive parents
- Converting extra-help employees and positions to permanent positions
- Implementing non-discrimination policy for transgendered county employees

One of her most outstanding accomplishments, however, was leading the fight for LGBT domestic-partner legislation for county employees. The first bill she wrote with Sen. Jackie Speier for submission was vetoed by then-Governor Gray Davis. In 2001, Sen. Speier re-submitted the bill for consideration, it passed again and Gov. Davis signed SB1049 into law. When the county failed to implement the law, she worked with the governor's office and

Assemblyman Gene Mullin in 2003 to finally force the county to extend health care benefits to domestic partners of LGBT employees via AB266.

She retired from her county position after 33 years of exemplary service to troubled teens.



Charlene during her 20-year tenure as AFSCME 829 President.



Char with her son and daughter in front of the Christmas tree.

In 1994, she was a founding member of the Gay and Lesbian Organization for Betterment and Enrichment (GLOBE), working closely with fellow LGBT activist, Marvin Burrows. Years later, Marvin was in desperate shape after his long-time lover died. So Lavender Seniors' own Frank Howell took him in and provided a home for him until Marvin's death in 2014.

"Marvin and I not only did GLOBE together all those years, but also volunteered on every gay prom from 1995-2012," Char recalled. "I miss him more than I can say, because he always inspired everybody to keep moving forward. And, unfortunately, nobody has emerged to take his place as that inspiration, so we don't know now what's in store for GLOBE's future."

Char was also a founding member of Women Over Fifty and Friends (WOFF), a social group for lesbians, as well as a participant in Slightly Older Lesbians (SOL) at the Pacific Center for a few years.

After her retirement, she took a month-long trip with her long-time friend, Cheryl Greene, to National Parks and Monuments around the country, but returned home to find her father so frail that she needed to stay and care for him in her home until his death. Subsequently, she has taken a journey through Western Europe (e.g., London, Paris, Munich, Venice, Rome and Pompeii) with her daughter. Next on her travel "bucket list" is a trip to Amsterdam, including a river cruise through Belgium; a trip down the Columbia and Snake Rivers, and "any of the hundreds of other interesting and exciting places in the world that this old body can take me!"



Charlene and her daughter in Paris.



Charlene and President Bill Clinton at an International AFSCME Conference in Chicago.

The pioneering spirit of LGBT heroes and heroines like Charlene and Marvin have truly helped pave the way for the generations to come! Thank you, Charlene!

## Monthly Profiles

Beginning in May through December 2015, ***Lavender Notes*** will feature a profile of an East Bay LGBT senior (May's profile was a tribute to long-time Lavender Seniors participant, James Mitchell Armstrong, Jr., who died on 2<sup>nd</sup> April; this issue has a profile of Hayward resident, Charlene Shores).

If you - or someone you know and admire - would be interested in being interviewed and profiled in the newsletter for this monthly series, please either e-mail [JohnDavid@lavenderseniors.org](mailto:JohnDavid@lavenderseniors.org) or phone him at 510-532-8951 to make him aware of the proposed East Bay LGBT senior. Otherwise, he'll be pulling names out of a hat or relying on his own feeble memory to come up with appropriate seniors to be profiled (in the most positive non-police-related sense of that word in this day and age).

## Monthly Book Review

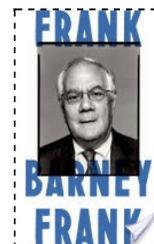
### ***Frank: A Life In Politics, From The Great Society to Same Sex Marriage***

Farrar, Straus and Giroux

Barney tells all: his gay coming out, his political battles and alliances. Barney wants to encourage all Americans to again be active in government, otherwise the rich will be the only force represented in Congress. One of his greatest achievements was forcing the federal government to apologize to Japanese-Americans for mistreatment during World War II.

Frank gives us an inspiring view of how good government can be achieved by working with both friends and enemies in Congress.

- Frank Howell



## LGBT Online Support Group for Caregivers

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

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

### **CARA Alert - May 22, 2015**

A publication of the California Alliance for Retired Americans

### **CARA LOBBY DAY A SPECTACULAR SUCCESS Elders Got Some Respect!!!**

Over 150 CARA Members from around the State took the Capitol by storm on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Covered in bright hats that said "Respect Your Elders", CARA members prepared to visit all 120 legislators to urge them to vote YES on our 4 priority bills - and for a state budget that restores essential programs and moves seniors, people with disabilities, and families out of poverty.

Senator Mark Leno, and Assemblymembers Brown and Eggman, all authors of a CARA priority bill joined us to talk about their bills and how important it was for CARA members to hold their legislators accountable. Mitch Seaman (CA Labor Federation), Stephanie Roberson (CA Nurses Association) and Mike Herald (Western Center on Law and Poverty) briefed CARA delegates on key talking points on our bills so that our 30 Lobby Teams were ready to visit every legislator.

The highlight of the day, and what brought us TV and radio coverage was our SENIOR FLASH MOB. To the tune of

Respect by Aretha Franklin, everyone danced to wonderful choreography, led by Kathe Burick, dance teacher at City College. Following the flash mob, everyone went in teams to visit all 120 legislators. Everywhere you looked in the Capitol you could see the brilliantly colored Respect Your Elders hats - and we gave one to each legislator too. It was a great day, a great event, and helped move our priority bills forward. A big round of thanks goes to everyone who attended and made the day a success. This includes all of you who couldn't attend but made phone calls to your legislators to let them know that you are part of CARA and urged them to vote YES on our bills. **THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!!**

### **HELP CARA FLASH MOB GO VIRAL!!!**

A great video of our Respect Your Elders Flash mob was posted on YouTube by our very own webmaster, Chuck Walker. Please click on this [link](#) and watch the **ENTIRE** video - it is great. Then, send this YouTube link to everyone on your email list and ask them to watch it too. If enough people watch it, it will move to the MUST WATCH list on YouTube and millions will see it. Please do this today. Let's make national news!!

### **BUT OUR WORK IS NOT DONE**

#### ***We need YOU to keep Calling Your Legislators***

Our bills need your help to move them out of their house of origin and to the next house so that they can get to the Governor for signature. We need you to keep calling your State Assemblymember and Senator to let them know you need their vote. To get the local or Sacramento phone number for your Assemblymember and your Senator, click [here](#) then type in your address. Your legislator's names will appear and you can find their numbers. Once you make the call, here is what you should say:

#### **SAMPLE RAP FOR YOUR CALLS**

Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a constituent of Assemblymember or Senator \_\_\_\_\_. I am also a member of the California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA). I am calling to ask for your support on CARA's 4 Priority bills. Specifically, I would like you to support:

**SB 3 (Leno)** would increase the state minimum wage up to \$13/hour by January 2017 and automatically index these wages to the CPI starting in 2019. Older workers, as well as our young children and grandchildren cannot live on the current wage levels - housing costs, food, and health care make the current minimum wage unlivable.

**SB 483 (Beall)** would regulate the current use of "observation units" so that patients who wind up in the hospital get the care they need in a timely manner and with appropriate staffing levels.

**AB 244 (Eggman)** would develop procedures to ensure that spouses and heirs left with property are not foreclosed upon without adequate time to take over payments or re-negotiate the loan conditions.

**AB 474 (Brown)** would raise the grant level for SSI/SSP recipients to the current poverty level and reinstate the COLA for these programs. This bill is now in the budget committee and we need the legislature to include increases to this program as part of the budget that is passed for 2015-2106.

These are the bills we would like you to support - so that seniors can get the respect they need and the ability to age in place with dignity and independence. Thank you for your time.

### **REGISTER FOR CARA'S 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL STATEWIDE CONVENTION MONDAY AND TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> DOUBLETREE-HILTON, ONTARIO, CA**

Invitations have been mailed to all of our members, and the Convention registration is also [online](#) on the CARA website. For room reservations call the hotel directly at 909-418-4873. Be sure to mention our group code: ARL. The rates are \$109 per room plus tax (for single bed or 2 double beds) for Monday night. This rate is also available for the Sunday before and the Tuesday after the Convention. Reservation requests received after October 1st will be accepted on a space and rate availability basis. There is a free shuttle to the Doubletree-Hilton from the Ontario airport. Parking at the hotel is also free. You can reserve your room at the Doubletree-Hilton and send in your registration any time. This is going to be a great event....you won't want to miss it.

### **MEDICARE 50<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY EVENTS - JULY 30<sup>TH</sup> Northern CA in Oakland at 11am • Frank Ogawa Plaza Southern CA in Los Angeles at 4pm • LA Trade Tech**

Medicare will be celebrating its' 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup>. CARA and hundreds of other labor, senior, and community organizations will be celebrating this historic event with P.I.E. - Protect, Improve and Expand Medicare. These events, along with dozens around the country, will be important to help build the drumbeat against the proposed cuts to this important program, and put pressure on the President to veto any cuts and to our representatives to uphold these vetoes. We will need thousands in Oakland and L.A. to make our voices heard. Transportation is being planned from many other cities - check the CARA website for list of bus locations in your area and call to reserve a seat on the bus today. For now, call, email and visit your legislators to demand PIE for Medicare, and mark July 30<sup>th</sup> in your calendar.

#### **You can contact CARA at:**

CARA, 600 Grand Ave. #410, Oakland, CA 94610  
(415) 550-0828 / (510) 663-4086  
510) 663-4099 (fax)

# PRIDE MONTH CELEBRATIONS

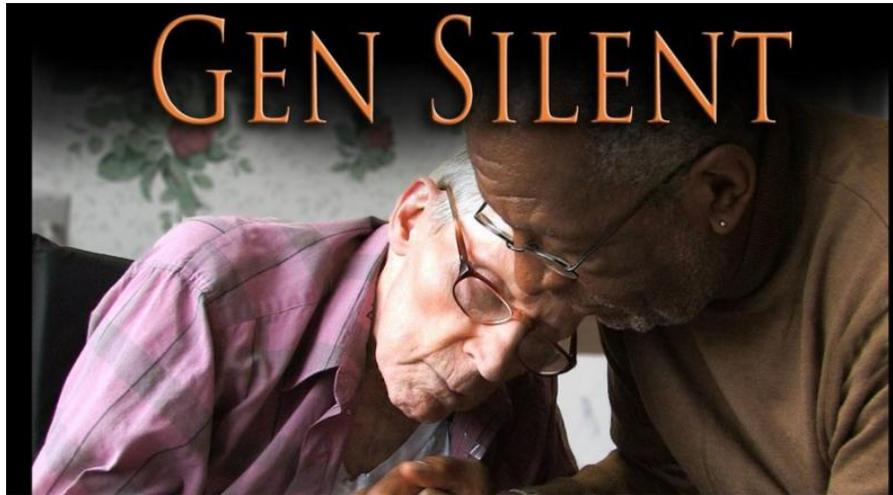
**SCREENING OF AWARD WINNING FILM**

## **GEN SILENT**

**Tuesday June 16, 2015~1:00PM**

**Free! Free!**

**Hayward Senior Center, 22325 North Third St.**



**[Gen Silent wins Audience Choice Award for Best Documentary at Frameline!](#)**

Why are LGBTseniors staying (or going back) in the closet as they seek long-term care? **Our LGBT seniors came of age during a time when it was criminal to be openly gay; when you could lose your job, children or your freedom. Now they're aging and vulnerable.** *If you'd lived like this all your life, what would you do when applying to move into assisted living? Or looking for a chore provider? Or in a wheelchair in a skilled nursing facility? What if you knew it would make people uncomfortable if you mentioned your husband or wife?*

**If you truly believe *all* seniors should age with dignity and without fear - come see this film.**

**If you say "I'm perfectly OK with gays; I just don't need to hear about it" - come see this film.**

**If you think there are no LGBT seniors in your facility, come see this film.**

**Email:**[OutStandingSeniors2@gmail.com](mailto:OutStandingSeniors2@gmail.com) **Phone:**510-600-4716

**Do not miss this critically acclaimed documentary, produced and directed by Stu Maddux.**



# SENIOR

*Black, White, & Bling*

# LGBTQ PROM

This Special Event  
is geared for  
LGBTQ 50 Years+

## Hayward Area Senior Center

22325 North 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Hayward, CA

**Friday, June 19, 2015**

**6:00 PM – 10:00 PM**

Featuring:  
"Castro Valley Pride DJ"  
Complimentary Hors d'oeuvres  
& Our Unique Mocktail Bar



Tickets are limited,  
buy your tickets early!  
\$20.00 in advance  
\$25.00 at door

**(510) 881-6766 • [www.haywardrec.org/seniors](http://www.haywardrec.org/seniors)**

	<p>PROJECT EDEN LAMBDA YOUTH HAYWARD GAY PROM A Program of Horizon Services, Inc.</p> 	<p>Dress to Impress Prizes for: "Best Dressed Couple" &amp; "Lifetime Achievement Award"</p>	
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## First Congregational Church UCC 150th Anniversary Pride Concert

Camp Stoneman Chapel, 200 E Leland Rd, Pittsburg, CA

Mark the 150th Anniversary with a Pride Concert celebrating our extravagant welcome.

Cris Williamson, feminist folk-rock singer-songwriter with more than 30 albums to her credit will grace us with her songs of the earth and the power of the spirit in and around us.

The Oakland East Bay Gay Men's ensemble add their own unique voices to the celebration.

All ticket proceeds go to fill our Heifer International Ark.





June 6, 6:30 p.m. - doors open at 6:30, show starts at 7 p.m. Tickets \$20.00. You can get them through [BrownPaperTickets.com](http://BrownPaperTickets.com)

**RICHMOND**  
Rainbow Pride  
Presents  
**Pride in the Park**

*Bring your Friends & Family*

**Saturday, June 6th**  
**10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**  
**Marina Bay Park, Richmond**

*Picnic style*  
BYO food and drinks (dry-event)

**Music**  
**Entertainment**  
**Games for all ages**

Thank you to our sponsors:  
Mayor Tom Butt  
Councilmember Jovanka Beckles  
Rainbow Community Center

**Family - Community - Friends**

3rd Annual San Mateo County  
LGBTQQI2S Pride Celebration

BEYOND  
THE BINARY

CELEBRATE THE DIVERSITY OF OUR COMMUNITY

SATURDAY, JUNE 13 • 11AM to 6PM  
SAN MATEO CENTRAL PARK



Featuring Emcee Marga Gomez

- Family-Friendly Activities
- Resource Booths
- Food Trucks
- Comedy Performance
- Queer Fashion Show
- Hip Hop, Alternative Rock, Blue Grass, Rap, and Folk Music
- Reception with the San Mateo County LGBTQ Commission



For more information, visit [www.smchealth.org/bhrs/ode/pride](http://www.smchealth.org/bhrs/ode/pride) or  
<http://lgbtq.smcgov.org> or email: [PRIDE@smcgov.org](mailto:PRIDE@smcgov.org).

## Silicon Valley Pride is having a picnic!

Saturday, June 13, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Lake Cunningham Park, Ruby Creek Site  
2305 S. White Road, San Jose

It's our time to come together and celebrate who and what we are - a family! Join Silicon Valley Pride on Saturday, June 13, for a day in the park celebrating our community, our families, and ourselves as we come together for a family picnic. Bring your friends, your family, or your chosen family.

We'll gather at San Jose's beautiful Lake Cunningham Park at the Ruby Creek site where you will enjoy a BBQ lunch, music, raffle prizes, and more. Activities are planned for the children with a bouncy house, toddler play area, and

organized games. Adults can join in too, with volleyball, softball, or just hanging out to enjoy the sun.

**TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/silicon-valley-prides-family-picnic-tickets-16925793504>

You can also join the Facebook event for updates: <https://www.facebook.com/events/437322403115543/>

## Monthly Events

### Out Standing Seniors

**June 2 & 16, 11:15-2:00 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.

**On June 16 we are sponsoring the showing of the film *Gen Silent*.**



### Support Discussion Group for Aging Lesbian Women

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

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

**Find support and like-minded wonderful people!**

### Lavender Seniors Advisory Board Meeting

**June 10, 7:00-8:00 p.m.**

1420 Santa Maria Street, San Leandro

A portion of this meeting is open to the public.

### Senior Men's Group

**June 11 & 25, 1:30 p.m.** (2nd and 4th Thursdays)

The Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley

Co-sponsor: The Pacific Center, 510-548-8283

**Feel alone? Need to find space to be yourself and chat with others? Join us!**

### San Leandro Pot Luck

**June 13, 12:00-2:00 p.m.** (2nd Saturday of each month)

Corner of Joaquin & Santa Maria (Bancroft & E. 14th Street)

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

### LGBT Film Festival

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

Marina Community Center, 15301 Wicks Blvd., San Leandro

**This month's movie: *TransAmerica* (see below)**

### Oakland Lunch Bunch

Sponsored by City of Oakland Aging & Adult Services

**June 19, 12:30-2:00 p.m.** (3rd Friday of each month)

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

**This month's program: *Assisting LGBTI Refugees From Around the World*. (see below)**

## Lavender Seniors LGBT Film Series

3rd Wednesdays, Thunderbolt Theater, Marina Community Center  
15301 Wicks Blvd., San Leandro.

### THIS MONTH

17<sup>th</sup> June, ***TransAmerica***, starring Felicity Huffman, Kevin Zegers, Carrie Preston, Elizabeth Peña, Graham Greene and Fionnula Flanagan.

*Transamerica* stars Felicity Huffman as a pre-operative MTF transsexual named Bree (whose given name was Stanley). One week before her surgery, Bree learns that she fathered a boy who is now 17, handsome, and in trouble with the law (he is a male sex worker, among other things). Bree would like to ignore this information and get on with the surgery, but is forced to meet the handsome young man, Toby (played by Kevin Zegers), by her analyst Margaret (Elizabeth Peña), who will not authorize the surgery unless Bree meets him and confronts this aspect of her past. Upon meeting, the son believes that Bree is simply a do-gooder. She buys a car and the two road-trip back to her home in Los Angeles, Bree all the while attempting to keep from Toby the truth of the situation.



The film runs 93 minutes. For those who are interested, there will be a discussion afterward of the issues raised by the film.

For those using public transportation, the best plan is to take BART to the Bayfair or San Leandro station, then take the 89 AC-Transit bus to the bus stop in front of the Marina Community Center. Arrangements can be made for pick-up at the San Leandro BART station between 12:30-12:45 by contacting [JohnDavid@lavenderseniors.org](mailto:JohnDavid@lavenderseniors.org) beforehand.

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### **Third Friday Lunch Bunch at NOSC, 19<sup>th</sup> June: Assisting LGBTI Refugees from around the World**

As many Lavender Seniors participants know, being LGBTI is still a criminal offense in over 70 countries of the world. The punishment for that offense can range from simple harassment and discrimination to arrest, torture, imprisonment at hard labor and even execution. The current president of The Gambia, Yahya Jammeh, for instance, who refers to LGBTI people with such pejorative descriptors as "vermin" or "satanic", has recently reiterated his threat that such "abominations" should leave the country, risking decapitation or "having their throats slit" if they stay!



**Homophobic Gambian President Al Hadji Yahya Jammeh addressing the UN General Assembly on September 25, 2014 in New York.**

An East Bay member of the Refugee Guardian Group - a Bay Area "hands-on" social justice coalition providing support to LGBTI individuals seeking asylum or refugee status - will address the Third Friday Lunch Bunch which meets at the North Oakland Senior Center, 19<sup>th</sup> June, noon until 2pm. Following the buffet lunch and social interaction around the dining tables, Jay Roller (East Bay senior in his 60s) and his colleague, Janet Hewins (SF resident in her 80s), both members of the Guardian Group at the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco, will offer insights into how the coalition functions and how interested people can get involved.

A few examples of the people they have helped rescue from persecution, prosecution or worse include the following (appearing on the website's blog):

Junior, the only client we have who doesn't mind being publicly identified, and I brunched at Spinnakers in Sausalito and then walked around the main street taking in the sights. I was able to take Junior on his first trip across the Golden Gate Bridge and share his first reactions to the views and gestalt. Wonderful!



We came back into the city, and later met up with a Tunisian seeking asylum, a Tunisian who has been granted asylum, and my husband (who works with the Tunisian asylee).

It was a relaxed, happy day.

Which got me thinking. Much of what the Guardian Group talks about is needs, problems, and the housing crisis. All those issues are real and pressing, but I need to explain that meeting our clients, learning from them, and feeling proud of their successes is selfishly rewarding. Completely a high.

1. F, a now 24-year-old, is a refugee from **Iran**. He has been in the US a bit over two years. He supports himself by working at a restaurant. He's going to junior college and applying to four-year schools. He has Obamacare and is healthy, and he's plagued by the reassuringly normal, and heartbreakingly severe, insecurities of 20-something-year olds. .
2. S, now a 39-year-old asylee from **Tunisia**, has been in the US 2 1/2 years. S is employed full-time at a job in San Francisco that has healthcare, vacation, and benefits. He is very concerned about the high cost of housing and living in San Francisco. I am so pleased those are his issues.
3. Z, a refugee from **Iraq** has been in SF since 2013. He is now 30 years old, is working for a local furniture store, and recently was named employee of the month. Z has stable housing, too.
4. A, a refugee from **Iraq**, has also been in country since 2013. He has stable housing and is getting needed dental care. He is worried about schooling. He is attending City College and maintaining a B average.
5. T, from Uganda, recently was granted asylum and does not receive our financial support any more.
6. A, from **Russia**, was granted asylum in late summer, 2014. He's working 7 shifts a week in restaurants, has a relationship, rents a room in a shared flat, and needs no Guardian Group assistance.
7. A is a 32-year-old asylum seeker from **Nigeria** who is entrepreneurial and professionally trained. He needs better housing while he waits for his date in immigration court. Our support for food, transport, cell phone, and other necessities help him.
8. J from the **Congo** arrived as a refugee in November, 2014. He is graduating from job training, has stable housing for another five months, and enjoying his exploration of the Bay area. He receives the normal government benefits for newly-arrived refugees and doesn't currently need our financial support.
9. A from **Tunisia** has been in the US seeking asylum for approximately two months. He has free stable housing at the moment, and the Guardian Group is helping with other expenses. A is a professional, fluent in English, and very personable.
10. D from **Nigeria** is seeking asylum along with ...
11. J from **Nigeria** They are working through the legal/immigration process. Our support for food, transport, and other necessities help them.

For more information, the Guardian Group website at <http://www.refugeeguardiangroup.org/> has such categories as: · [HOME](#) · [NEEDS](#) · [HOUSING](#) · [LATEST NEWS / BLOG](#) · [TERMS WE USE](#) · [CHURCH'S WEBSITE](#) · [CONTACT THE GUARDIAN GROUP](#)

# Senior Center Without Walls Community Phone Calls



## **This month's LGBT Call:**

Celebrating LGBT PRIDE - Friday, June 26th, 3-4 pm

## **Tall Tales "Truth is Stranger than Fiction" - Mondays, 2 - 2:45pm**

Do you like to tell a good story, or perhaps listen to one? Join SCWW's "Liars" Club and see if you can figure out which stories are true and which are fanciful fabrications. With Kathleen Torres.

## **Book Club - Twice a month! Every 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 3 - 4 pm**

Book lovers unite! Call in to share your favorite books and authors with other book lovers. Raquel de Knust and Andy Andersen facilitating.

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).

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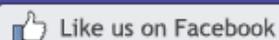
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## Lavender Seniors

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