



Lavender Notes

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

Celebrating 20+ years of service and positive change

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STORIES OF OUR LIVES

LESLIE ELAINE FETHERKILE

Though she was considered male at birth - and fathered several children - she knew from age 11 or 12 that she was meant to be a girl. In fact, her mother named her Leslie Elaine. Having spent most of her life thinking, feeling and acting like a female, it was only 80 years after that birth certificate was issued that Leslie Elaine actually transitioned to live as the woman she always felt herself to be.

Leslie, who turns 85 on the 16th of June, was born the "baby" of four on a farm outside of DuBois, Nebraska, in 1931. Unfortunately, her first-born brother, Lester, died in infancy nearly seven years before Leslie was born; the next two "senior" siblings were Sylvia (five years older) and Ivan (two years older).

"I was repeatedly told by my parents - particularly my father - that I was an unwanted child," Leslie recalls. "Whenever he was angry - which was often - he would tell me he wished I'd never been born, while he was horse-whipping me or beating me with a two-by-four that he kept in the barn just for those occasions."

The Fetherkile boys spent most of their childhood and teenage years doing chores on the farm (e.g., feeding and milking cows; harnessing horses for plowing, disking, dragging and harvesting the fields; feeding the hogs and chickens). Even their mother would spend much of her time riding on the back of the farm implements, lowering the drags and providing necessary weight to engage equipment with the soil. Only sister, Sylvia was spared the field-work, but was expected to be inside the house at all times doing the "women's work".

"He treated us like slaves from the time we could walk," Leslie recounts, "even insisting we come home immediately after school, rather than get involved in any extra-curricular activities like music or sports, which all three of us would love to have done! So none of us got involved with school, much less with the 'dating scene,' since we had no extra time whatsoever. Even doing schoolwork, we were only allowed to study late at night after all of the chores were done,

so it's amazing any of us completed school successfully!"

Many of Leslie's fondest memories of her childhood and youth were spent with her sister, Sylvia, dressed up in her sister's clothes, playing various gender-swapping games together.

"She didn't have a great wardrobe, either, because of our generally-low farm income," Leslie recalls, "but what she DID have was so much more exciting to me than the bib overalls and blue jeans that were available to me as a farm-boy!"

Through elementary school, Leslie and her siblings attended a one-room country schoolhouse with thirty other first- to eighth-grade students. After her father bought a ranch near the small village (population: less than 100) of Burchard in Southeastern Nebraska, Leslie attended and graduated from Burchard High School, which closed permanently in 1959 due to a decline in post-war enrollment.



"This is me at 15 running toward Burchard High School," Leslie recalls, peering through a magnifying glass. "People seeing this have said 'you run like a girl'- to which I respond 'that's because I WAS and AM a girl!'"

Leslie remembers receiving countless beatings and whippings from her father - for such serious offenses as crying or being caught dressing up in her sister's clothes - beginning at least at age 7 in Pawnee City, Nebraska. As a teenager, she recalls getting involved in at least one altercation during which Leslie intended to beat HIM to death with a 16" crescent wrench! That's when she knew she had to get out of there, escaping that troubled home life as soon as possible, before she or somebody else got seriously hurt.

"I was 16 years old when I graduated," Leslie reminisces, "and, luckily, my godfather - Uncle George, the husband of my Mom's sister - agreed to go down to the recruiting station with me, vouch for my being 18 years old and I was in the Army! Though it meant leaving behind the car I'd just bought and not saying goodbye to my siblings - particularly my beloved sister, my best friend - I just escaped that so-called life as quickly as I could!"

After a six-week basic training at Camp Atterbury in Indiana, 16-year-old Leslie was shipped off to post-war Germany, where she was initially a prison guard until it was discovered that she was fluent in German. In her childhood and youth, Leslie and her mother were the only people in the family who could communicate with their German-speaking grandparents. Now she was assigned the task of translating - both interpersonally and with documents.

"Though I enjoyed speaking German - particularly with the prisoners and their families - it soon

became boring to spend so much time translating dull and painfully-detailed German documents," she recalls. "So I asked to be trained in and transferred to a munitions unit, where we were defusing 80mm weapons and disarming medium-sized German tanks. I subsequently was among the American soldiers assigned - during the division of post-war Germany among the four Allied powers - to explore and secure Hitler's 'Eagle's Nest' near Berchtesgaden in the Bavarian Alps. After going through the tunnel and confiscating various artifacts and documents, I subsequently shipped and donated them to the Smithsonian in Washington, DC."

It was during her time in Germany - still living as a male with the birth-name Leslie Elaine and being chided for that regularly by fellow soldiers - that she officially changed her name to Leslie Eugene to curtail the harassment. It cost \$50 then; it would cost \$350 now to change it back, so she's decided not to do that! It was also during this time that she met the woman who eventually became her wife and the mother of her children.

"I tried to fit into the role of man-soldier by changing my name to a man's name," Leslie recalls, "and by responding to this German girl's flirtations, the woman I eventually married. It was also during that time that - at the officer's club - I taught Germans and Americans alike how to square dance. I had learned how to be a square-dance caller when I was a teenager and that came in handy in this particular social context."



Leslie (left), sister Sylvia and brother, Ivan, during happier times. Sylvia has since died of cancer.

In 1950, Leslie and her pregnant girlfriend were required to be married several times in Germany. Then they had to repeat that process in the U.S. after Leslie sent for her wife and daughter a few years after her military discharge in 1953.

"We were married at the American consulate, the German consulate, the American church and the German church on both sides of the Atlantic," Leslie recalls. "Our first child was born in Germany, but I had to officially adopt my daughter after her mother and I were re-married in 1954 here in the U.S., in order for her to have my name!"

The marriage survived the birth of three children, Leslie's being committed twice in the mid-1950s by her wife and father into two involuntary hospitalizations and more than a dozen electro-convulsive ("shock") therapy sessions while the family was still in Nebraska, allegedly to eliminate Leslie's "sex-change" madness. Subsequently, her wife gave birth to a fourth child.

"My mother got me out of that first hell-hole hospital, coming to claim me the first time I was committed," Leslie recalls. "The police later came and took me from the VA hospital - arrested for being transgender - and I received the same treatment in the second hospital. So I 'escaped' to Iowa - where laws prohibited my wife and father from re-committing me as they'd

been doing. I signed myself into an Iowa psychiatric hospital for two or three months (without seeing my kids, which was very painful to me) before deciding - for the last time - that I had nothing to be 'cured' of. I have, though, always continued having a psychiatrist to keep me balanced and secure in that decision."

Previously, Leslie had gone to the Police Academy in Omaha, spending four years as a beat cop before launching her career as a mechanic. In 1962, she found out she could get ten times the salary in California (\$4/hr in Omaha; \$40/hr in Concord). For ten years, she worked in the service department of a Concord car dealership, where she made enough money to buy her first California house, sending for her family in Omaha.

"We paid \$20,000 for our first house in Concord," Leslie recalls, "and things went fairly smoothly for a few years, in spite of the strain my previous hospitalizations had put on me and my family. By 1970, however, I was desperate to start discussing my transition from male to female, started seeing a transition psychiatrist and began taking hormone-replacement therapy. Unfortunately, our divorce in front of a transphobic judge resulted in my losing the house and the car - keeping responsibility for payments on both, of course - plus paying child support for all four children until they were 18."



Leslie (left) and brother, Ivan, after the divorce.

As a result, Leslie had to put her transition on hold, work three jobs to survive, changing career paths a couple of times. When she left the car dealership, she started a well-known automotive shop and car dealership on Highway 4. Subsequently, she bought a security-company conglomerate that served the Greater Bay Area.

"I had 20 vehicles, a very healthy monthly income, over 400 employees, all well-trained in security, escorting everything from rock stars to funerals, serving a wide area from Pacheco to Half-Moon Bay, from Sonoma to San Jose," Leslie recalls. "I decided that - since I couldn't do everything - I would take on two partners; one would staff the office; one would deal with sales; and I would handle the field. When I came home from a trip at one point, it appeared the partners had cleared out all of our accounts and disappeared - they have still not been found, as far as I know. I had to declare bankruptcy, sell my body shop and dealership on Highway 4 to pay off my debts and go find at least two or three jobs! So transitioning took a back seat once again."

In spite of all the adversity and stalling of her transition, Leslie finally began living fully as a woman five years ago at age 80. Since that time, she says her ex-wife and children have all disowned her.

"One son left a phone message for me, saying he never wanted to see or hear from me again," Leslie recalls, fighting back the tears. "My ex-wife told me that my other son never wanted to see or hear from me again. Once, when I was working on his mother's car a few years back, he knocked me off a chair and we really got into it - I beat the hell out of him - reminding me of unpleasantness with my own father, though I'd never laid a hand on my kids prior to that. And, finally, my daughter - now seriously ill on the other side of the country - hasn't spoken to me in a couple years."

Leslie stored all of her memorabilia, souvenirs, documents, photographs, etc., with one son, who now says he gave it all to the other son, who has made her treasure trove of material inaccessible. Thus, she has very few photos available from her childhood, from her military days and even her recent past.

"The only thing we've ever been given back from that stash is a ring that was important to me, something I gave to a very supportive friend," Leslie recalls. "She deserved at least that much for all of the wonderful attention she's given me over the years. Another friend will inherit this mobile home that I'm living in now, so she'll always have a place to live! Though I don't really know my kids or grandkids, I have very good friends like these two who make my life feel very rich indeed."



Leslie Eugene ten years before her transition, determined to unofficially reclaim her birth-name, Leslie Elaine

"I own only one flannel shirt now from my life as a man. Though I don't have the most beautiful clothes, when I walk down the street or even just sit in my living room, I finally feel totally complete, rather than like a half-person. Though I had to wait 80 years for it to happen, I'm finally the woman I was meant to be - and that's a wonderful feeling!"



Leslie with her First Friendly Visitor Leslie at home in May 2016 Leslie getting her 85th birthday "do"

Though Leslie is legally blind and has significant hearing loss from her time working with munitions, she has been an outspoken advocate for LGBTQ issues. Thank you, Leslie, for speaking out on behalf of yet another generation of young questioning and transitioning individuals who continue to come under fire in much the same way you did in your childhood, youth, young adulthood and even mature adulthood! Let's hope things will change dramatically and soon, so that they will feel respected, appreciated and whole at a much earlier age than you have!

Thanks, also, for being such an active participant and speaking out in support of Lavender Seniors of the East Bay, as you did so forcefully in the *Bay Area Reporter* back on 26th April 2012!

And finally, Happy 85th Birthday in 16 days! Enjoy the celebration!

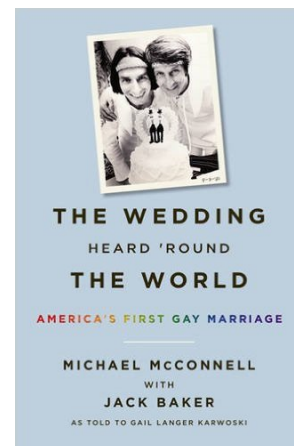
Book Review: The Wedding Heard 'Round The World: America's First Gay Marriage

By Michael McConnell with Jack Baker, As told to Gail Langer Karwoski

In the 1960s gay marriage was unheard of. Gay men were consumed with sexual freedom with no obligations. McConnell and Baker proclaimed their love for each other and support was world wide. They met at a Halloween party in Norman, Oklahoma. They were introduced by a loving friend who declared, "you two are destined for each other". Parents of Michael were totally supportive. He finally left the Baptist Church that preached hatred of gays. His parents demanded he see a psychiatrist. The doctor administered some personality tests and decided he was completely normal.

Jack was a member of the Air Force. His honorable discharge was changed to a general discharge. Michael was a librarian and Jack was a lawyer. Jack became a media champion for gay rights at Columbia University. Jack finally won his case against the Air Force and his honorable discharge was reinstated.

In 1971 **Look Magazine** ran an article, "**The Homosexual Couple**" about them. The same



year the couple was officially married by a Methodist minister.

McConnell and Baker fought for legal recognition by the U.S. Supreme Court. They refused to hear the case (Baker vs. Nelson).

Oklahoma recognized their marriage which was a first in the country. What a joy to behold for any enlightened reader. It is a delicious shot in the arm for any true believer.

-Frank Howell

Announcement

LONG FOUNDATION AWARDS \$85,000 TO LAVENDER SENIORS

Lavender Seniors has been awarded \$85,000 by the Thomas J. Long Foundation (Walnut Creek headquarters) to produce a follow-up training video/course for staff of assisted-living and other residential facilities working with LGBTQ seniors.

"We are delighted to have this news," said Patricia Osage, Executive Director of LIFE Elder Care, parent organization to Lavender Seniors. "As this project unfolds, we will keep the community informed on the necessary research, design and implementation steps necessary to produce a high-quality training video like the extremely successful internet training course we released in May of 2015."

Meanwhile, congratulations to Patricia and to Lavender Seniors for being awarded this grant, which will enable the organization to contribute even more toward a higher quality of life for LGBTQ seniors in the East Bay - and beyond!

Rainbow Seniors (aka Out Standing Seniors, San Leandro)

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

Our first meeting was a great success and well attended. Join us on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from noon to 2:00 pm. If you want, bring a bag lunch or order lunch from the San Leandro Senior Center by Monday. Coffee and snacks will be provided during the meeting.



THE SENIOR VOTE COUNTS: SEPTEMBER 2016

CARA Regional Conventions/Town Hall Forums

- NORTHERN CA**
 - **ALAMEDA COUNTY**, Tuesday, Sept. 13th, 10am-2pm
CA Endowment/Oakland Conference Center, 1111 Broadway/Oakland, Laurel Room
 - **CONTRA COSTA/SOLANO**, Monday, Sept. 12th, 10am-2pm
Richmond Memorial Auditorium, Bermuda Rooms, 403 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond
 - **CENTRAL VALLEY**, Monday, Sept. 26th, 10am-2pm, Manteca Transit Center, 220 Moffat Blvd., Manteca
 - **FRESNO**, Tuesday, Sept. 27th, 10am-2pm, IAMAW Local 653, 544 W. Olive St., Fresno
 - **NORTH BAY** (Marin & Sonoma), Tues., Sept. 6th, 1-4pm, Marin Public Employees Assoc., 16 Mitchell Ave., San Rafael
 - **PLACER COUNTY**, Wednesday, Sept. 14th, 12-4pm, UDW – Placer, 4220 Rocklin Rd., Suite 3, Rocklin
 - **REDDING/5 COUNTIES**, Friday, Sept. 16th, 11am-3pm, IBEW 340, 900 Locust St., Redding
 - **SACRAMENTO**, Thursday, Sept. 15th, 10am-2pm, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1300 N. St., Sacramento
 - **SAN FRANCISCO**, Thursday, Sept. 8th 10am-2pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco
 - **SANTA CLARA**, Thursday, Sept. 22nd, 10am-2pm, IBEW Local 332, 2125 Canoas Garden, San Jose
- SOUTHERN CA**
 - **SAN GABRIEL VALLEY & LA COUNTY**, Monday, Sept. 19th, 10-2pm,
USW Local 675, 1200 E. 220th St., Carson
 - **ORANGE COUNTY**, Wednesday, Sept. 21, 10am-2pm, UFCW Local 324, 8530 Stanton Ave, Buena Park
 - **SAN DIEGO COUNTY**, Tuesday, Sept. 20th, 10am-2pm, Sheetmetal Workers Local,
4594 Mission Gorge Place, San Diego
 - **BAKERSFIELD**, Saturday, Sept 24th, 10am-2pm, Kern, Inyo and Mono CLC, 200 W Jeffrey St, Bakersfield



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.

San Leandro Potluck

*****New Location:**

All Saints

Episcopal Church Parish Room,

911 Dowling Boulevard, San Leandro, CA***

Second Saturdays, Noon-2:00

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

June 11: Professor Al Schendan S.F. State Political Science Professor-- What the political landscape looks like now

July 9: Tricia Hoekwater - Decluttering Your Environment - Certified Professional Organizer ***due to church use, we will start and end a half hour earlier this day.***

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

Sept 10: Stev Taal - short classical piano pieces

Oct 8: ??

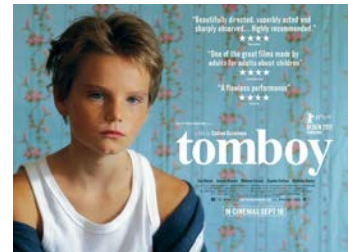
Nov 12: ??(We need something special for this month because it is our Lavender Senior's anniversary

Dec 10: ??

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

Lavender Seniors Film Series, Wednesday, 15th June, 1-3pm

"TOMBOY" [UN GARÇON MANQUÉ]



The 15th in Lavender Seniors Film Series is a lovely 2012 French film (with English sub-titles) describing beautifully the plight of "the new kid in town", particularly complicated because the 10-year-old "tomboy", Laure, self-introduces to the neighborhood kids as Mikael.

For much of the film, "Mikael" keeps the male personae secret from parents and adorable younger sister, Jeanne. When neighbor girl, Lisa - who has taken a major shine to "Mikael", even initiating a lakeside kiss - comes to the door asking for "him", six-year-old Jeanne plays along, since this has happened before. Jeanne's threat to "tell Mummy" is tamed by "Mikael" agreeing to take Jeanne along to play with the other neighborhood kids.



Lisa blindfolding "Mikael" as she initiates their first kiss

Pre-pubescent gender confusion runs rampant throughout this 82-minute film, which has earned acclaim worldwide, including the Teddy Award at the Berlin Film Festival, the Golden Duke Award at Odessa Film Festival, and the coveted Audience Award at San Francisco's Frameline Film Festival. Zoé Herán, the lead, playing Laure/Mikael, was nominated for several Awards, including Best Leading Young Performer in an International Film, also winning Best Actress at New York's Newfest.

The film will be shown in the totally-accessible Lecture Hall of San Leandro's Main Public Library, 300 Estudillo Drive, San Leandro, from 1-3pm on the Third Wednesday, 15th June. It was unanimously agreed in the evaluation session (and on evaluation forms) after the last film ("Undertow/Contracorriente") that the film series should continue. The venue has been secured through the end of 2016, at which time Lavender Seniors must re-apply to use the space for another six months.

Lavender Seniors will provide popcorn, bottled water, Martinelli's apple juice and sparkling cider, plus miniature Reese's peanut butter cups. Following the 1-3pm screening, there will be a brief discussion/evaluation of the film and the issues it brings up for us as LGBTQ seniors and allies.

The library is a ten-minute (five-block) walk up Estudillo from the San Leandro BART Station. For those with mobility issues, pick-up from the San Leandro BART station can be arranged (12:30-45) by either e-mailing JohnDavid@LavenderSeniors.org or calling John David (510-532-8951) at least 24 hours in advance.

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

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

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

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

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

Four Free Tickets available for 18th & 20th June

LAVENDER SENIORS CO-PRESENTING AT FRAMELINE FILM FESTIVAL

The 40th Frameline International LGBTQ Film Festival in San Francisco has asked Lavender Seniors to co-present two documentary films at this year's landmark showing of 155 films from 24 countries!

The first co-presented film, "The Joneses", will be shown at 1:30 on Saturday, 18th June:

THE JONESES

DIRECTOR: Moby Longinotto

Saturday, June 18th, 1:30 PM

Roxie Theater, 3117 16th Street, San Francisco

It isn't easy keeping up with the Joneses. A working-class family born and bred in the Mississippi Bible Belt, they are an uncommon clan with a unique set of challenges-which they meet with an innate philosophy that "family is everything." And this family sure is something.



At the heart of their story (both figuratively and literally) is sprightly Southern matriarch Jheri Jones, a trim, platinum blonde transgender woman with a bedazzled air of both brass and refinement. After marrying and raising four sons, she divorced and became her authentic self, Jheri, in her 30s and finally saved enough money to complete her gender confirmation surgery in her 60s.

Now 74, she lives in her tidy trailer park home with two of her grown sons, after years of estrangement encouraged by her embittered and religious ex-wife. Brad, the eldest, suffered brain damage at childbirth and, while functional, has significant cognitive disabilities. Trevor struggles to find his place and purpose in life while dealing with anger issues that ultimately reveal a deeply held secret. Trevor's twin brother Trent, diagnosed with schizophrenia and autism, lives in a homecare facility nearby, while Wade is happily married with two teenage kids who have yet to discover their grandmother's story.

In his feature documentary debut, Moby Longinotto gracefully embraces this family of outsiders who, despite all their struggles, always trust that "if there is enough love, you can overcome."

- Joanne Parsont

Board Chair, D'Anne Breutsch, will represent Lavender Seniors at this showing, giving a one-minute presentation on the mission of the East Bay organization.

The second co-presented film, "Conversations with Gay Elders: An Intergenerational Film Project," will be shown at 4pm on Monday, 20th June:

CONVERSATIONS WITH GAY ELDERS: AN INTERGENERATIONAL FILM

PROJECT

DIRECTOR: David Weissman

Monday, June 20th, 4:00 PM

Castro Theatre, 429 Castro, San Francisco



In this unique project-in-progress screening, documentary filmmaker David Weissman brings us inside both the stories and the unusual process that comprise his ongoing mission to capture the experiences of gay men of the pre-Stonewall generation. Now living in Portland, Oregon, longtime San Francisco resident Weissman—as in his previous films *We Were Here* (Frameline34) and *The Cockettes* (Frameline25)—is fiercely dedicated to listening to the voices and stories of a generation of gay men that is quickly passing. But in this project, after conducting his on-camera conversations with "gay elders," Weissman turns the filmmaking itself into an intergenerational collaboration by pairing each elder's footage with an editor from a much younger generation. The resulting filmed dialogues become an informal history as listened to and, in a sense, interpreted by a new generation of gay men.

Weissman's focus is to create multiple in-depth individual character studies rather than a single feature film, and to amass a rich repository of these histories for future generations who won't have direct access to the men who lived them. This program will feature excerpts from four of the conversations shot thus far, selected by the young editors themselves. These excerpts include San Franciscans Robert Dockendorff (76) and Jack Lasner (87) as well as New Yorkers Gene Fedorko (72) and Daniel Maloney (77). Following the screening will be a discussion including director-producer Weissman, subjects Dockendorff and Lasner, and editors Alex Bohs, Aron Kantor, Jake Stein, and Ben Zweig.

- Peter L. Stein

Board Secretary, John David Dupree, will be representing Lavender Seniors at the showing.

Besides publicizing the showings to their constituents, each co-presenting agency is offered FOUR free tickets to each of those showings. These tickets will be offered to Lavender Seniors participants on a first-come/first-served basis. Those interested in seeing "The Joneses" on Saturday, 18th June, should contact D_Anne@LavenderSeniors.org; those interested in seeing "Conversations..." on the 20th should contact JohnDavid@LavenderSeniors.org. D'Anne's and John David's names will be put on the "will-call" packet of four tickets for their respective show times, so it is important that they know as soon as possible the names of people who would like to attend the films.

We are fortunate indeed to have one of the biggest film festivals in the world right here in our back yard. The Lavender Seniors Film Series picks up a number of the best films after each Frameline Film Festival and shows them to East Bay LGBTQ seniors and their allies on the third Wednesday of every month (see June film, "Tomboy" in story above).



The Openhouse Community at 55 Laguna - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender-Friendly Housing

55 Laguna, San Francisco's first affordable, LGBT-welcoming housing, will open its doors to residents in Fall 2016. Openhouse is partnering with Mercy Housing to create a community at 55 Laguna where the lives, history, and relationships of LGBT residents and all residents are affirmed and celebrated. From our new on-site service center at 55 Laguna, Openhouse will provide support for San Francisco's community of LGBT seniors, and will offer resources, services, and community building activities to help all residents live healthy and independent lives.

Look for applications in the second week of June 2016. To receive updates on the applications process, please join our interest list. You can join by visiting openhouse-sf.org/join55 or by calling 415-530-2783.



Community Phone Calls

Pride! 6/3/16

Celebrate Gay Pride Month by recalling the history of Gay Pride Celebrations and by listening to LGBT members of our SCWW community share their personal experiences of when they first participated in a Gay Pride Celebration. Learn about what is being planned for Celebrations in 2016 that will take place on the last week-end of June. Facilitated by D'Anne Bruetsch, Chairperson, Lavender Seniors Advisory Committee

Growing an Elder Community Mondays | Part 1 10:00am - 11:00am Mondays | Part 2 11:00am - 12:00pm

This is a two-part program. Participants may call into either one or both sessions. Part 1: By speaking with others, older people discover what is beautiful about the latter stages of life, and how getting older, especially as a disabled or homebound person, can contribute positively to our culture-at-large. This is an opportunity to experience what is noble about being human in this world. Part 2: This segment can be experienced as a continuation of Part 1 or separately, and represents a chance to deepen our experience. Facilitated by David "Lucky" Goff, Ph.D., "Growing an Elder Culture" Radio Host, and author and psychotherapist specializing in psycho-spiritual development.

Open Mic Thursdays 6:30pm - 7:00pm

All are welcome to call in and perform, big talent not required. Singing, spoken word, stand-up comedy, play your favorite instrument, read a poem or more. Enthusiastic spectators are also welcome to join. Facilitated by Kathleen Torres

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

Senior Center Without Walls will be on a Break: June 20, 2016 - July 10, 2016

Third Friday Lunch Bunch, Friday, 17th June, 12-2pm

LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR SENIORS

A team from LASHICAP (Legal Assistance for Seniors / Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program) will be on hand to provide LGBTQ seniors information they might need when charting the unfamiliar waters of the often-confusing legal or health insurance systems.

The team will explain the following regarding Legal Assistance available:

- The mission and funding of Legal Assistance for Seniors
- The subject areas in which LAS offers legal services
- Eligibility criteria for services



The team will explain the following regarding Consumer Fraud, particularly those scams targeting seniors, with tips for protection and prevention:

- Common scams and forms of fraud
- Practical tips on how to recognize scams and protect yourself
- Information on referral sources and where to get help

The LASHICAP team will include James Treggiari, Executive Director; and Elizabeth Combs, Staff Attorney.

James was a senior staff attorney at LAS since 2014 and a staff attorney since 2009. His primary areas of focus were elder abuse and conservatorship. He is a 2008 graduate of Golden Gate University Law School in San Francisco and worked as a social worker in Los Angeles and New Hampshire before law school. He also holds a master's degree in social work from UCLA. He is excited to continue serving the senior community in Alameda County in his new role as Executive Director of LAS.

Elizabeth is a staff attorney at LAS, working on elder abuse and guardianship teams. Prior to joining LAS, she practiced in a large firm in San Francisco. She earned her law degree from Golden Gate University School of Law and her undergraduate degree from California State University, Hayward. She was born and raised in Alameda County and lives with her partner in Berkeley, CA.

In addition, there is a possibility that a video team from Daily Kos (in their new Oakland offices since Christmas week of 2015) - billed on their website as "A Daily Weblog with political analysis on US current events from a liberal perspective" - might be on hand to interview and take photos/videos of Lavender Seniors participants. Headed by Elizabeth Strong, Video Editor, the group is working on a story on Lavender Seniors to be published on their WebBlog during LGBTQ Pride Month. Anyone interested in being interviewed might want to come early.

As usual, the Third Friday Lunch Bunch - beginning at noon - provides a free lunch, social interaction with other LGBTQ seniors and some kind of educational/informational or entertainment program afterward. The luncheon is served at the totally-accessible North Oakland Senior Center, 5714 MLK Jr Drive (corner 58th Street). Parking and entrance are at the rear of the building, formerly the site of Merritt College.

Lavender Seniors Goes to Washington!

CONGRESSIONAL LGBT EQUALITY CAUCUS INVITATION

The Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus - in conjunction with the House Democratic Caucus - has arranged a meeting of LGBT leaders from around the country in our nation's capitol on Thursday, 23rd June, and Lavender Seniors of the East Bay will be there!

Congresswoman Barbara Lee, representing California's 13th District - and a member of both caucuses - has invited Lavender Seniors to participate in the gathering, coinciding with June LGBTQ Pride Month.

The East Bay will be represented by Patricia Osage, Executive Director of LIFE Elder Care, the parent organization of 22-year-old Lavender Seniors since July 1st, 2014.

There are nearly 200 anti-LGBTQ "religious freedom" legislative bills meandering through state houses around the country, in addition to those percolating in Congress. For example, when the Oklahoma legislature re-convened in February, there were a record-breaking 26 anti-LGBTQ bills on the docket. Strategies for confronting this backlash nation-wide will be discussed during the meeting.



The LGBT Equality Caucus was formed eight years ago (4th June 2008) by out representatives Tammy Baldwin and Barney Frank. In the 113th Congress, there were 112 members (111 Democrats and one Republican!), an increase from 104 members in the previous Congress and only 91 during the 111th Congress. The caucus is co-chaired by the six openly gay LGBT Representatives: [Jared Polis](#), [David Cicilline](#), [Sean Patrick Maloney](#), [Kyrsten Sinema](#), [Mark Pocan](#), and [Mark Takano](#). Roddy Flynn serves as Executive Director.

The mission of the caucus is to work for [LGBT rights](#), the repeal of laws discriminatory against LGBT persons, the elimination of [hate-motivated violence](#), and improved health and well-being for all persons, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. The caucus serves as a resource for [Members of Congress](#), their staffs, and the public on LGBT issues. Unlike the [Congressional Black Caucus](#), which admits only black members, the LGBT Equality Caucus admits any member who is willing to advance LGBT rights, regardless of their sexual identity or orientation.

Osage will prepare a "report-back" on the event for East Bay LGBTQ seniors and their allies for the July or August Lavender Seniors newsletter, [Lavender Notes](#). Safe travels, Patricia!

For anybody wanting to know more about the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus, the organization's website is: <https://lgbt-polis.house.gov/>

The announcement earlier this year of an LGBT Elders Task Force - chaired by Rep. Ted Deutch (D-FL) - can be reviewed at: <https://lgbt-polis.house.gov/media-center/editorials/new-congressional-task-force-seeks-to-help-lgbt-elders>



2118 Willow Pass Rd. #500, Concord 94520
925-692-0090 www.rainbowcc.org
Wheelchair accessible. Parking available.

Summer Special Events 2016

Events are at Rainbow, unless otherwise indicated.

May 2016

Family Movie & Pizza Night (Free)

Tuesday, May 31st 6:00pm to 9:00pm

For LGBTQ+ youth 11-18 and their families.

RSVP & Information: mayela@rainbowcc.org

June 2016

LGBTQ and \$\$\$ [Money], Too!

Wednesday, June 8th, 7:00pm to 9:00pm A financial workshop presented by Rebecca Freeling, Licensed Financial Advisor. Learn about growing and keeping your money. For information, contact Jill@rainbowcc.org

Dine and Donate at Round Table Pizza

June 13th from 11:30am to 9:00pm
Round Table Pizza, 1734 Willow Pass Road in Concord. Dine-in or take out - 15% of profits will be donated to SF Aids Walk.

Pride Palooza & Open Mic Youth Variety Show - Sunday, June 18th 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Walnut Creek United Methodist Church - event hall.
Support young LGBTQ artists at our annual youth variety show.
Contact Teresa Gaines: teresa@rainbowcc.org

LGBTQ+ Adult Grief Group (18+)

Dates and time to be announced
Beginning late June, in collaboration with Contra Costa Crisis Center. For information, call our confidential counseling intake line, 925-692-2056 or email Jennifer@rainbowcc.org or Erin@rainbowcc.org San Francisco Pride Parade
Sunday, June 26th 9:00am
Come walk with RCC in the San Francisco Pride Parade with our partners at Each Mind Matters! Meet near Embarcadero BART in San Francisco at 9am. For more info please contact: tawny@rainbowcc.org

July 2016

Queer Body Image Workshop (18+)

Sunday, July 10 4pm to 6pm - RSVP requested Donations benefit RCC Programs:
Facilitated by Elizabeth J. Cooper, Queer Body Love Coach
For info contact Jill Meyers jill@rainbowcc.org

Mormon/Ex-Mormon Discussion Group (18+)

Saturday, July 16th 10:00am - 12:30pm
With Pioneer Days around the corner, join in the discussion.
Facilitated by volunteer Dennis F. Info: rcc@rainbowcc.org

AIDS Walk Charity Show (21+)

Saturday, July 16th 6:00pm, 9:30pm show
Club 1220 - 1220 Pine St. Walnut Creek All funds raised benefit RCC SF AIDS Walk Team!

San Francisco AIDS Walk

Sunday, July 17th



938 The Alameda
San Jose, Ca 95126
(408) 293-3040

Click here for the [Pride Month Calender](#)



ARTISTS OF STRAWBERRY CREEK LODGE

Maija Williams, Jill Van de Wege,
Nevon Stuckley, Charlotte Rivers, Cynthis Morse,
Jeanne Lupton, Joanna Katz, Raymond Holkko, Lucy Finch,
Jerry Essel, Richard Craig, Shani Campbell, Cathy Cade, Susana Cabrales

ProArts **OPEN STUDIO**

1320 ADDISON STREET, BERKELEY
(one block south of University Ave., between Acton & West Streets)

**Saturday & Sunday,
June 4th & 5th, June 11th & 12th,
from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

On display are photographs, paintings, drawings, collage, mixed media,
sculpture, ceramics, woven baskets, jewelery, greeting cards.

photo by Cathy Cade

2nd Annual

Family Day

Richmond, the best is yet to come.

Sunday, June 5, 2016

Music, Entertainment, Family.

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Marina Bay, Richmond CA

Presented by



RICHMOND
Rainbow Pride

www.RichmondRainbowPride.org



San Leandro Public Library Gay Pride Month Celebration

In celebration of Gay Pride Month, a panel of authors, Julie Blair, Heather Blackmore, Kathleen Knowles and Missouri Vaun, will discuss their latest works in contemporary lesbian fiction.

A book-signing session for each author will follow the panel discussion.

Admission is free.

Lavender Senior Scrolls will also be on display in the library for the entire month.

For more information, please call (510) 577-3971.

When: Saturday, June 11, 2016

Time: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

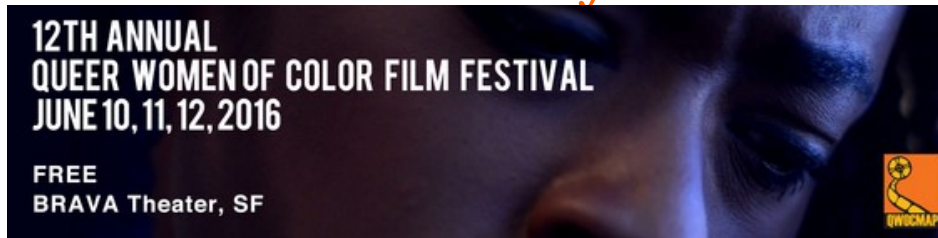
Where:

San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94577

Event Type: Public Library, Library - General

Contact: Mary Lee Barr - (510) 577-3986

It's All The Way LIVE!



Dear QWOCMAP Community,

It could be that you've had premonitions about the magic spark of the 12th annual San Francisco International Queer Women of Color Film Festival Film Festival.

Our 2016 [Festival Trailer](#) is LIVE.

Our [Online Auction](#) is LIVE.

With less than 2 weeks to go, it's time to turn all eyes on [YOU](#), the folks who make our 2016 Film Festival LIVE!



Gay Pride Dance

Friday, June 17th,
Hayward Senior Center

The LGBT Senior Senior Prom here last year was such a wonderful event. This one is less formal and will be a lot of fun. Another formal one will happen in December.

Get your tickets ahead and as soon as you can – not only will it save you money, it will help the committee to know how much food, etc. to order. They are planning a fun night and we want it to be a success and to encourage other senior centers to plan special events like this for us. -Beckie

50+ LGBTQ PARTY

GAY PRIDE DANCE

Friday, June 17, 2016
7:00pm–10:00pm

Photo Booth

Unlimited Dancing

Hors d'oeuvres

Unique Mocktail Bar



Featuring "Castro Valley Pride DJ" Billy Bradford

Hayward Area Senior Center

Location: 22325 North 3rd St., Hayward, CA
510.881.6766
haywardrec.org/seniors

\$20 in advance \$25 at door

Tickets are limited buy your tickets early!



Come join the City of Fremont Human Relations Commission in its 5th year of participating in the SF Pride Parade!



Have fun with us as we
decorate the float on Saturday, June 25, 2016 Or come walk
with us on Sunday, June 26 and enjoy dancing in the streets!



For more information or to sign up please email
mljohnson@fremont.gov
or call 510-574-2040



**SAN FRANCISCO
LGBT PRIDE**

JUNE 25 & 26, 2016

"FOR RACIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE"

click to view

[Community Calendar of Events](#)

The Best of Pride 2016 in the San Francisco Bay Area

Letters to the Editor

Tell us what you think of this new column. Send your letters to the editor to: info@lavenderseniors.org



Lost & Found

A column for items left behind at Lavender Seniors Functions

If you've lost or found something at a Lavender Seniors event or function, please send your inquiry including the event, date and description of what you found or lost to: info@lavenderseniors.org. Items found while the function facilitator or LS board member is present should be turned in to them.



Monthly Events

Out Standing Seniors, Hayward

June 21 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (1st and 3rd Tuesdays)

***No meeting on election day.

Hayward Senior Center, 22325 N. Third Street, Hayward

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

Queerly Aging Lesbians

June 2 & 16, 1:30 p.m. (1st and 3rd Thursdays)

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

Find support and like-minded wonderful people!

Rainbow Seniors (Out Standing Seniors, San Leandro)

June 14 & 28 12:30-2:00 (2nd & 4th Tuesdays)

San Leandro Senior Center, 13909 E 14th St, San Leandro

A safe and confidential space for LGBTQ seniors 50+ to share thoughts, feelings, resources, information, and support. See info above.

Lavender Seniors Advisory Board Meeting

June 8, 6:00-8:00 p.m. (Wed before Potluck Lunch)

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

A portion of this meeting is open to the public.

Women Caring for their Woman Partners (new group)

Every other Friday at 1pm

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

Facilitated by Dr. Shannon Dubach

2041 Bancroft Way, Suite 307 Berkeley

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



Senior Men's Group

June 9 & 23, 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

June 11, 12:00-2:00 p.m. (2nd Saturday)

(New location)

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

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

This month's program:

Professor Al Schendan S.F. State Political Science Professor-- What the political landscape looks like now

Lavender Seniors Film Series

June 15, 1:00-3:00 p.m. (3rd Wednesday of each month)

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

This month's movie is: "Tomboy"; info above.

Our Space Intergenerational Community Dinner

June 16, 5:30-7:00 p.m. (3rd Thursday of each month)

Our Space, 22245 Main Sreett in Hayward

Contact stephanie@baycyouth.org for information

Oakland Lunch Bunch

Sponsored by City of Oakland Aging & Adult Services

June 17, 12:00-2:00 p.m. (3rd Friday of each month)

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

This month's program: "Legal Assistance for Seniors" see info above.

Thank you to our sponsor, Chapel of the Chimes

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

Call and set up your Health Care Directive today!

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



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

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay Board of Advisors

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Secretary: John David Dupree

Mike Trutner

Beckie Underwood

Barbara Jue

Lavender Seniors
is a project of
LIFE ElderCare

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<http://lavenderseniors.org>

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