



Lavender Notes

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

June 2017

Celebrating 22+ years of service and positive change

Volume 24, Issue 6

Stories of Our Lives

George David PérezVélez

One of Puerto Rico's most gracious gifts to the East Bay LGBTQ community is an island native son, George David PérezVélez, born in Santurce, PR, in November 1964. He and his husband, Thomas, have been together for 23 years, the last 15 of which have found them living very full lives from their home in the North Berkeley hills.

George was the "middle child" - between two sisters - born to a hard-working self-made restaurant-owner and his wife. The three kids were raised as Catholics, with George baptized and confirmed by the Marianists (Society of Mary).

"My Dad - who was orphaned as a child, only had a third-grade education and could barely sign his own name - was the most moral and ethical person I've ever known in my life," George recalls wistfully. "He taught me my work ethic, showed me by example how to be open and caring with all different people and was one of the most generous human beings in the world."

As a child, George saw his father working hard, running two restaurants from 5am until 11pm six days a week. On Sundays, George would accompany him to the seafood, meat and vegetable markets, adhering to the healthy "farm-to-table" model many years before it became vogue on the mainland.

"Equally important to me was how he modeled treatment of 'others' in his world," George says. "There were prostitutes, homeless, transgendered, down-and-out, sometimes mentally-impaired or drug-addicted people of all ages on the streets outside his restaurants. Instead of judging any of them, he offered them free food and treated them with the utmost respect. That lesson has stayed emblazoned between these two ears and in this heart - as a gay man, it was an invaluable lesson! We all deserve respect!"

George's relationship with his mother was a bit more complicated.

"I felt like Mom doted on the girls and paid very little positive attention to me," George recalls, "although she did take us to Europe as kids and did teach us some important life lessons, as well. When I was 10 or 12, for instance, she forced me to fight with an older kid who had been bullying me. She did stop the fight after we'd each got in a few good punches. But the lesson that I took away from that experience was that we should never live in fear. And I don't!"

One of their mother-son disagreements, however, degenerated into a very dramatic scene.

"In the course of our argument, I exchanged disrespectful words with her. After she smacked me a good one, I escaped to my private bedroom hideaway!" George explains. "We had a stand-off for several hours - her insisting I should come out; me refusing - at which time she warned me she would burn down the door to my room if I didn't come out. And she DID! Even years later, she never replaced that door, the moral being 'never dis-respect your parents' and "words and actions have consequences", another life lesson that has stayed with me."

As for her attitude toward his gayness, the only conversation George recalls having with her on the subject occurred when she came with his sisters from Tennessee to visit with him and Thomas at their home in Atlanta.

"All she ever said was that she was aware I had a boyfriend and she made no particular comments about that," he says. "Her last word on the subject, however, was 'but I don't want you to be wearing any wigs and dresses' - which I can say that I've

never done, largely because of her request, although I never have and never will have any judgment about anyone who does drag or is transgender and finding their truth".

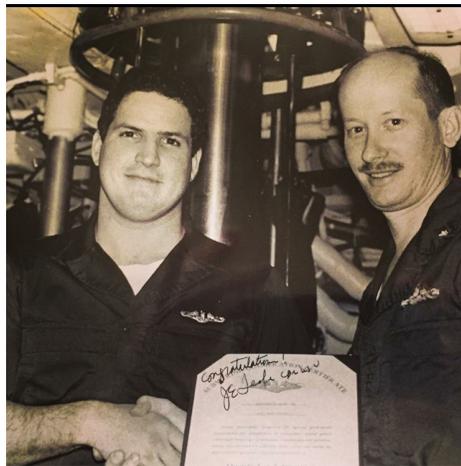
Though he dated girls in high school, he was never seriously involved in a long-term relationship with any of them.

"I think those friendships taught me more about dealing with and appreciating women than my family life did," George recalls. "I feel blessed to have so many amazing women in my life, who have mentored me, respected me for my choices, as I've respected them for theirs."

After graduating from high school in 1983 at age 18, George left Puerto Rico for Clark University in Worcester, MA, where he received a B.A. in Political Science. He also attended Boston University for two years. In addition, he subsequently earned a Culinary Arts degree from Johnson and Wales in Charleston, SC.

"It was my experience coming out in the gay scene and the ACT UP movement in the Boston area that inspired me to become a political activist, particularly around police misconduct," George reminisces. "In those days, the BPD routinely harassed, arrested and jailed LGBTQ folks via the bar and street scene. If you were a hooker and would put out for them, they'd leave you alone; but if not, you were fair game for not only harassment, but police brutality."

When George finished college, he joined the Navy, where he served aboard the Submarine Fleet in South Carolina. Because of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell", he remained closeted during those years in the military. He earned a Veteran's designation and was honorably discharged in 1993.



George (I) receiving the Submarine Qualification Dolphin Pin

After leaving the military, George went with a friend to Atlanta, where the city was preparing for the 1996 Olympics. Soon after that move, he met Thomas, the man who was to become his domestic partner for 14+ years and then husband for over eight years at this point.

"It was after Christmas in 1993, when I first laid eyes on him," George recalls. "When I saw this gorgeous 6'2" blond blue-eyed tanned muscular guy in a tank-top, I said to my friend, 'You know what, I'm going to meet him!' But of course, I was too scared to follow up on that brazen prediction. A few days later, at a New Year's Eve party, the same beautiful man walked in, eventually walked over to me and said, 'Hey, you're very good looking!' which we ex-military guys were not used to responding to. So I just said 'thanks'. We exchanged phone numbers, he called me two days later, we had our first date on January 7th, 1994 - I remember exactly what he was wearing: blue jeans and a green plaid long sleeve shirt - and we've been together ever since!"

Thomas was raised in South Dakota, the only child of his mother and father, who were both up in years by the time he came along. His father died when Thomas was still a toddler, so his mother raised him essentially by herself. Like George's father, she made many sacrifices to ensure that Thomas had everything he needed to get a good education. He has an engineering degree from South Dakota State University, a Master's in Hydrology from Purdue and a Master's in Business from Emory University.

"By the time I met Thomas, his mother had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's and was failing very quickly," George recalls. "He moved her to Atlanta, so he could take care of her, as she had taken care of him. When I saw her the first time, she was wearing a pantsuit and smoking a cigarette. We never truly had a long conversation. I think her strict Lutheran background made her resist approving of our relationship, but I don't know that for sure. I do know that she was never unkind and never expressed negativity to Tom. She loved him for who and what he was."



George and Dolores Huerta at the 2017 Convention



George & Stonewall colleagues with Assemblyman Evan Low, El Cerrito
Vice-Mayor Gabriel Quinto and Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin

After Thomas's mother died, he told George that it was time to leave Atlanta. They had difficulty with the politics of places like nearby Forsyth County, where blacks, Latinos and gays faced unwelcoming and threatening billboards, policies and violence. They felt they would never be able to come out personally or professionally in Georgia. So in 2002, the couple sold their house and headed to California, where Thomas had been offered a job with a water conservation non-profit in Sacramento.

"We were not very happy in Sacramento, so we only stayed one year," George explains. "I found that - in spite of all of my culinary credentials - I could not get a job there, primarily because of my Latino surname. Thankfully, I finally got a job offer at a high-end restaurant in Palo Alto - thanks to a hotel general manager who knew me from Atlanta. So we finally wound up in the Bay area, where we belonged!"

After an extensive search, they wound up with a home in the North Berkeley hills, where they live to this day. Since arriving here, both men have been very active politically and on commissions. Thomas is a past member and Chair of the Berkeley Public Works Commission and a former union E-board member while he worked at EBMUD. He is now the Water Resources Manager at BAWSCA (Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency). George is a current member and founding Chair of the BART Police Oversight Agency (BART Police Citizens Review Board); current longest-serving member, past Vice-Chair and Chair of the Berkeley Police Review Commission and a past member of the Berkeley Commission on Labor.

"One of my two proudest accomplishments was helping with Out4Immigration.com," George states. "After the Supreme Court ruling on same-sex marriage, watching LGBT folks being able to stay TOGETHER after years of being forced to live apart - has been balm for my soul".

The other achievement was his advocacy in implementing Police General Orders on the treatment of Transgender individuals at BART, San Francisco and Berkeley.

"I know my Dad - who inspired me so profoundly as a kid to love everyone- is celebrating with us from his celestial perch somewhere!"



George with other LGBTQ-supportive immigration activists - and at a Berkeley Police Review Commission meeting

George attended the State Democratic Convention in Sacramento the third weekend in May as a Nancy Skinner delegate for the 9th Senate district, as well as an Alameda County Central Committee Associate Member for the 15th district. His political credentials at this point read like a California Democratic "Who's Who". An Executive Board member of the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club (and former Chair of its Policy and Advocacy Subcommittee), he's also a member of the Berkeley Democratic Club, the Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club and the El Cerrito Democratic Club. In addition, he's a member of the following California Democratic Party caucuses: Chicano/Latino, Environmental, LGBT, Progressive and Veteran's. And finally, he's a member of the Bay Area Chapter of ACLU Northern California, the Sierra Club, National Council of La Raza and the NAACP,

among other activist organizations.

"Yes, I've been thinking about running for political office again at some point," George admits. "Since that happy day when Thomas and I were finally married in 2008 - right before the controversial Prop 8 passed - I've had my eye on making a political difference locally."

George ran for the Rent Board in Berkeley in 2010, and although he did not win, he garnered close to 10 thousand votes and great endorsements from 6 out of the 9 Berkeley City Council members and the Alameda County Central Committee.

"There's no reason why so many myths about LGBT individuals should be perpetuated. There was a time when gay men were afraid to even baby-sit other people's kids for fear of being labeled child molesters. I am glad that in the Bay Area and California there are different perspectives and everyone is respected regardless of gender identity, religion, nationality or sexual orientation. We need to start at the local level, continuing to change minds and hearts, so that we can then succeed at the regional, state, national and international levels and make the world a safer place for everyone. The Berkeley City Council would be a great platform for my Democratic and Progressive ideals. Thank you, Larry Kramer, for getting me started!"



George and Tom at Pride 2014

For those who might be unaware, there's only been one Latino Governor of California since it was admitted into the Union: one Romualdo Pacheco, the 12th Governor for ten months in 1875, which is 142 years ago. It wouldn't come as a great surprise to see George PérezVélez follow in Governor Pacheco's footsteps one day - probably for much longer than ten months, however! And, just think, the Governor's Mansion would be occupied by the Governor and his "First Gentleman"!

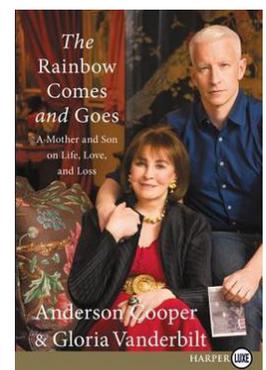
Good luck, George! And thank you for your military, political, personal and professional service to the community at large, as well as to the LGBTQ community, specifically!

Book Review:

The Rainbow Comes And Goes: A Mother And Son on Life, Love and Loss

By Anderson Cooper and Gloria Vanderbilt

Anderson Cooper is, of course, well-known for his program on CNN and frequent appearances on "60 Minutes". The equally-famous Gloria Vanderbilt, American artist, author, actress, fashion designer, heiress, and socialite, is his mother. She is a hearty 92 years of age. She is the only member of his family left. His father died in 1978 and his brother committed suicide in 1988.



The chapters alternate between Anderson and Gloria.

The family income was limited and supervised by the state. His father spent it all.

Gloria knew Anderson was gay and seemed to accept it. He felt that he lacked role models.

He was both Catholic and Episcopal. He once had tea with Cardinal Spellman. He now considers himself an agnostic.

His first visit to Hollywood was graced by socializing with Constance Bennett and Gilbert Roland. He had dinner with Marlene Dietrich.

I have mixed feelings about Anderson's accounts. Fans will be disappointed. Anderson fails to tell us about his life partner. There is too much about Gloria and her son and how they felt about each other. "Rainbow" is too subjective and personal. Anderson should write another book. Let's hear about his real emotions.

- Frank Howell

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Lavender Seniors currently seeks volunteers for two areas of work within our organization: the **Advisory Board** and **Program Coordination**.

Have you benefited from Lavender Seniors work during its 20+ years of history? Do you have energy, dedication, and skills to give back and make a rewarding difference in your own life and that of other Bay Area seniors? If so, consider becoming an Advisory Board Member.

The group meets monthly in San Leandro and at this time needs to replace some interim members with longer-term ones to meet its quorum requirement.

Also, presently, Lavender Seniors is served by an Interim Program Coordinator. The group needs someone part-time who will support the growth of the vision, mission, and values of the organization while developing and implementing a strategic plan to accomplish its long-term and day-to-day operational needs. Tasks would include administration, organizing activities, and the pursuit of funding opportunities.

If either of these areas sound good to you, please contact beckie@lavenderseniors.org and one of the current Board members will be in touch with you soon. Thank You!

LAVENDER SENIORS FRIENDLY VISITOR PROGRAM HAS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE.

Volunteers with the Lavender Seniors Friendly Visitor program are background checked and interviewed after which they are matched with a senior to visit once a week 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, 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 interested in joining our program, please contact the program coordinator, Linda Hoyne at LIFE ElderCare 510-574-2097.

There is a current list of men and women from San Pablo to Fremont waiting Friendly Visitor volunteers.

If you are a senior who feels isolated in their home and would like a visitor, you may contact L. Hoyne as well.

Queer and Now: Generations of Resilience and Resistance is a mixed media, intergenerational, intercultural exhibit.

**De Anza College, 21250 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino
May 1 - June 30, 2017.**

There will be art forms from the following LGBTQ organizations & others.

◆◆ Fabled Asp- panels and Quilt (2010)

<http://fabledasp.com/>

◆◆COLAGE That's So Gay! Posters (2005)

<http://www.colage.org/thats-so-gay/>

◆◆Let CA Ring multilingual posters (2008)

◆◆United By Love, Divided by Law - Out for Immigration banners (2008)

<http://www.out4immigration.org>

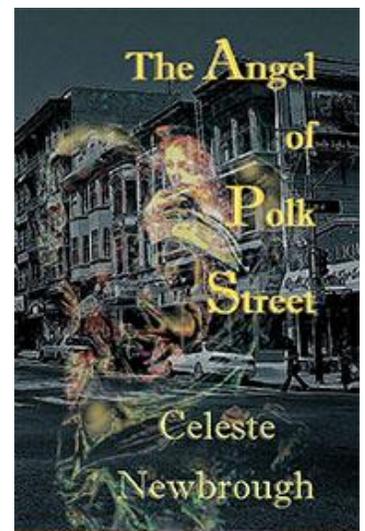
◆◆API Family Pride Wall of pride Exhibit

<http://apifamilypride.org/wall-of-pride/>

Contact De Anza College, Office of Equity, Social Justice and Multicultural Education, 408-864-5636 for more information.

Review of Celeste Newbrough's "The Angel of Polk Street"

By Stephanie Ann Blythe



Celeste Newbrough weaves together two stories in "The Angel of Polk Street." One is a narrative tale of survival, redemption and transformation, and the other is a dialogue between the protagonist, Lee/Leslie, and her angel. Several contemporary themes regarding gender identity are explored in the story as well.

The "nature versus nurture" argument about homosexuality and/or transsexuality is taken to the extreme when dealing with the captivity and abuse that Lee suffers. This reviewer has seen how two different transgender people have responded to childhood sexual abuse. We may not find the answer in "The Angel of Polk Street," but the theme is intelligently explored.

In a time when gender transitions become tawdry spectacles on cable channels, Newbrough thoughtfully takes the reader through Lee's transition into Leslie. The grudging acceptance by her mother, contrasted with her father's hostile stance, mirrors the experience of many transgendered persons and their families. The tension is heightened by the difficulties of a family attempting to reunite years after being suddenly torn apart.

Leslie finds a stabilizing influence in her life through a relationship with Hanai, an intersexed person, who is also exploring self-identity. If I have one point of contention with "The Angel of Polk Street," it is the way intersexuality is treated and discussed. I found Hanai's character to be very believable, but I found Newbrough to be a bit loose in how she describes intersexuality. To be sure, if transsexuality is not well understood by the public, intersexuality is even less understood. The author actually plays on that by having Leslie's father call her intersexed because she has not yet had gender reassignment surgery.

I am very drawn by the angel in the dialogue with Lee/Leslie. In my mind, I see the angels who appeared in "The Laramie Project" and the angels at the funeral of Gwen Araujo who shielded her family from the goons of the Westboro Baptist Church. But the angel here appears from without, but it is really the angel within. It is the voice within responding to our questions of who we are. Indeed, the artist cannot see and cannot draw the wings that Leslie knows she has.

"The Angel of Polk Street" is an enjoyable and compelling read. It asks many questions and sometimes answers questions with more questions. Read it, and then look around you. How many angels (with or without wings) do you see?



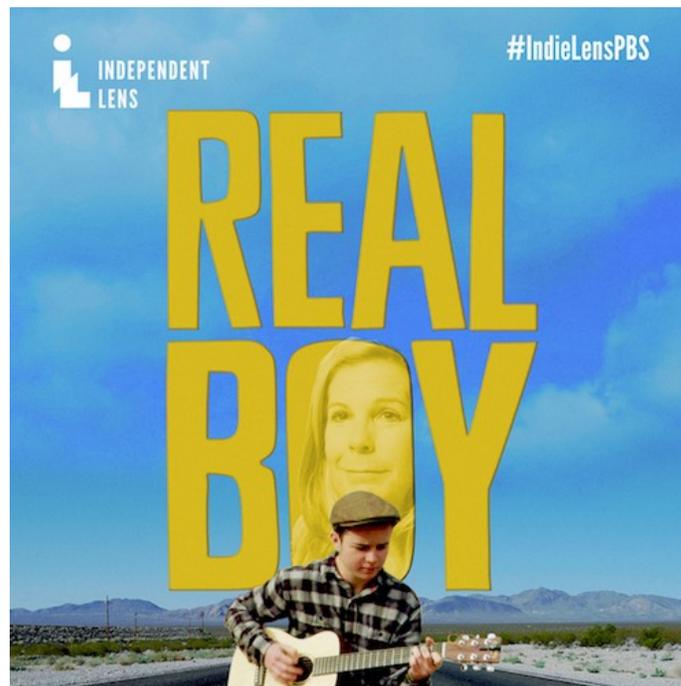
Biographical sketch

Stephanie Ann Blythe is a retired United States Postal Service mid-level manager who has been active in the transgender community since transitioning between 1998 and 2003. After being involved in several transgender support groups in the San Francisco Bay Area she now focuses her social justice activities through her lay leadership in Unitarian Universalism. She keeps a broader perspective on LGBT issues as a member of Lavender Seniors of the East Bay. Her hobbies include bicycle riding, 3-D photography, and competitive cribbage. Stephanie Ann also writes a monthly column for a transgender publication.

Free Screening of *Real Boy* [RSVP Required]

Independent Lens is inviting Bay Area residents to a free screening of this remarkable film by filmmaker Shaleece Haas on Wednesday evening, May 31st, at the Gray Area Foundation for the Arts, 2665 Mission St, San Francisco.

Real Boy is an intimate story of a family in transition. As 19-year-old Bennett Wallace navigates early sobriety, late adolescence, and the evolution of his gender identity, his mother makes her own transformation from resistance to acceptance of her transgender son. Along the way, both mother and son find support in their communities, reminding us that families are not only given, but chosen.



Doors will open at 6pm; the event is scheduled from 6-9pm. Following the showing, there will be a panel discussion with filmmaker Shaleece Haas and moderated by Cecilia Chung, Senior Strategist, Transgender Law Center. The event will also include live musical performances from film protagonists Bennett and [Joe Stevens](#).

Light hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Though the event is free, RSVP is required:

For more information and to watch a trailer:

<http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/films/real-boy/>

For those who are interested, but unable to make this free screening, KQED will be airing it at 10pm on the 19th of June.

Indie Lens Pop-Up is a neighborhood series that brings people together for film screenings and community-driven conversations. Featuring documentaries seen on PBS's *Independent Lens*, Indie Lens Pop-Up draws local residents, leaders, and organizations together to discuss what matters most, from newsworthy topics, to family and relationships. Make friends, share stories, and join the conversation. Can't attend in person? [Find Independent Lens on Facebook](#) for information on online Pop-Up events.

The GLBT Historical Society presents

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



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

All of them brought their perspectives as artists, visionaries, and sexual outsiders to the uprising; all made a lasting impact on American culture. In addition, the exhibition documents how the city's homophile community responded to the Summer of Love.

The show will include historic photographs, ephemera, and artifacts from the GLBT Historical Society and private collections.

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

WHEN:

April 7th through September 27th, 2017

Exhibition Opening April 7th | Friday | 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

WHERE:

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

HOURS

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

ADMISSION

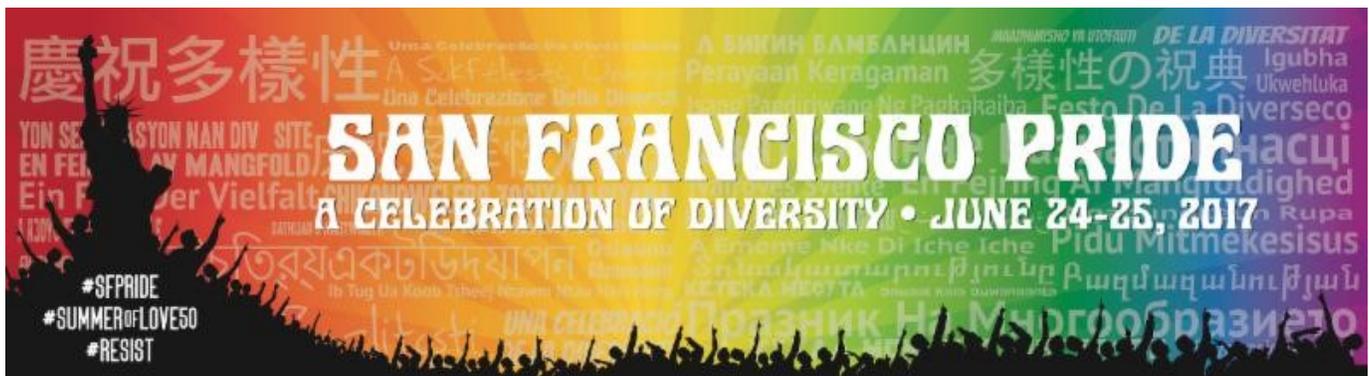
General: \$5 | California Students: \$3 | Members: Free

ABOUT THE CURATOR

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

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

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





Receiving Line Volunteers Needed!!!

**Come Welcome Gay Prom Goers
From 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm.
Complimentary Refreshments Following**

PROJECT EDEN/LAMBDA YOUTH 23rd ANNUAL GAY PROM

"Beneath the Mask we are Strong, Proud & Visible"
We Welcome LGBTQQI2-S & Allies Ages 20 & Under
Saturday, June 3, 2017 / Time: 7:00 pm - 12:00 am

- Chabot College -
25555 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, CA 94544
Use Parking Lot B12

For More Information Contact: 510.247.8200
www.gayprom.org / Facebook: Hayward Gay Prom
Project Eden, A Program of Horizon Services, Inc.

Lesbian Poet & Activist, Judy Grahn

Celebrating Sexuality and Activism

Saturday, June 3rd 1pm – 4pm

Organized
with a grant
from the
Health Trust



FREE Event
Refreshments
Everyone
Welcome

**Discuss Activism, Fireside Chat
Poetry Reading**

Held at 938 The Alameda, San Jose



Rainbow Women's Chorus



SACRAMENTO
LGBT
COMMUNITY CENTER
PRESENTS

SAC 
PRIDE

SATURDAY
JUNE 3

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



2017

**CAPITOL
MALL** BETWEEN 3RD
& 7TH STREETS

Richmond Rainbow Pride
presents

3rd Annual

RICHMOND PRIDE 2017

Sunday, June 4

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

Marina Bay Park, Richmond CA



RISE UP TOGETHER

www.RichmondRainbowPride.org



Tuesday, June 6 vs. Blue Jays | 7:05 p.m.

Come celebrate the Bay Area's LGBTQ community with family, friends and allies at A's Pride Night on Tuesday, June 6. All participants that purchase a SPECIAL TICKET for this event will receive an exclusive A's Pride Scarf, as well as admittance into the pre-game party on the Westside Patio. As an added bonus, June 6 is also a FREE PARKING Tuesday.

Buy Pride Night Tickets

Viewing of the new training film, Safe and Visible, plus meet some of our Lavender Seniors from the film. Our part is 9:30-11:30am.

The Office of Ethnic Services and the Pride Coalition of Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services (ACBHCS) and The City of Berkeley Mental Health Division Presents a Free Training Event...in honor of Gay Pride Month 2017....



***The Wisdom of our Elders:
Learn how to better serve LGBTIQQ-2S
people across the lifespan***

Date

**Thursday, June 8, 2017
9:00 AM—3:00 PM**

Location

**Ed Roberts Campus
3075 Adeline Street (At the ASHBY BART STATION)
Berkeley, CA**

Featuring Keynote Speakers and Community Activists:

Roma Guy and Ken Jones

***Both also featured in the TV Documentary Series: "When We Rise"
and a Presentation/Panel from LIFE ElderCare/Lavender Seniors
and Innovative Programs by PACIFIC CENTER and more...***

Learning Objectives: Explore how to become a more culturally responsive provider of LGBTIQQ2S services for persons over 60 years; Be informed about how successful and innovative LGBTIQQ2S programs for older persons are being offered in our county; and hear of the "lived experience" of LGBTIQQ2S people over 60 years in our diverse community.

Registration is limited. Open until filled. To register, go online to this link:

<http://alameda.netkeepers.com>

For registering info, contact: Training.Unit@acgov.org, or (510) 567-8113

For more information, contact:

or Paul Takayanagi, (510) 639-1373 or Paul.Taka@acgov.org

CE Credits: This course meets the qualifications for 5 hours of continuing education credit for MFTs, LPCCs and/or LCSWs as required by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences, Provider Approval Number PCE 307, the California Board of Registered Nurses, BRN Provider Number 12040, and the California Foundation for Advancement of Addiction Professionals (CFAAP), Provider Number 4C-04-604-0618.

Tom Taylor & Dr. Jerome Goldstein and
The Diversity Foundation present...

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE GILBERT BAKER

Creator of the Rainbow Flag (1951 - 2017)



Photo by
Daniel Nicoletta

**THURS. JUNE 8, 2017 - 7:00 PM (DOORS 6:30 PM)
CASTRO THEATRE | 429 Castro St. SF 94114**

FREE ADMISSION WITH RSVP

Tickets must be obtained in advance:

tinyurl.com/gilbertbakermemorial

Facebook: Gilbert Baker Memorial

5th ANNUAL

2017 SAN MATEO COUNTY



STILL WE RISE

LGBTQ PRIDE CELEBRATION

JUNE 10, 2017 • 11AM TO 5PM
SAN MATEO CENTRAL PARK



Resource Booths • Food Trucks • Vendors
Music Entertainment • Family-Friendly Activities

San Leandro Pot Luck

June 10, noon-2:00pm

All Saints Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling, San Leandro

*****this month we will meet in the Fireside Room*****



Our speaker, Richard, is a former Organic Chemist and is one of our faithful Pot Luck and Lunch Bunch attendees. He will speak on **BE BETTER INFORMED ABOUT FOOD AND HEALTH.**

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

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

Third Friday Lunch Bunch, Friday, 16th June, 12-2pm

North Oakland Senior Center

The 3rd Friday Lunch Bunch will be at noon at the North Oakland Senior Center. Board Secretary John David will be back as your host and he will regale you with tales of his and Jumaane's 5-month annual winter escape to their hideaway in Costa Rica.



Thanks to Harry Ogawa for holding down the fort for the 6 months and to co-founder and board member Barbara for setting up the stimulating speakers that entertained and informed us on topics of interest.

July's scheduled speaker is Dan Ashbrook former Executive Director and Chair of Lavender Seniors of the East Bay. And it looks like the Mercer Group LGBT Caucus will again offer a special lunch for us (some may remember last year's outstanding paella)! They have offered to give us a choice of menus, though I think many would opt to re-do the fabulous paella (including a vegetarian option) if given the choice! Stay tuned for the final outcome on that!

Welcome back John David! !

As usual, buffet lunch (there is always a vegetarian option) will begin promptly at noon, the presentation following by 1:00pm, after announcements. The North Oakland Senior Center is at 5714 Martin Luther King Jr Way (corner of 58th Street). Ample parking and entrance are in the rear of the building, formerly Merritt College. It has since been retrofitted and renovated, with half of the building for NOSC and the other half for Children's Hospital Research Unit.

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay to be honored with San Leandro City Proclamation

Join the Lavender Seniors as they receive recognition from the San Leandro City Council on June 19th at 7 PM, San Leandro City Hall, 835 E 14th St.

The City Council will bestow a proclamation in celebration of the June Pride month upon the Lavender Seniors of the East Bay for its leadership.

Come join us as we are acknowledged in behalf of the LGBTQ community.

Participate in a study about the health and aging concerns of the LGBT community.

- Open to people ages 60 and older.
- Study involves completing up to two in-person interviews.
- Participation is voluntary and all information will be kept private.
- Participants will receive \$50 for completing the interviews.

For more information please call: Jason Flatt, PhD at 415-841-3342

Lavender Seniors Film Series, Wednesday, June 21st, 1-3pm

A Perfect Ending

This month's Lavender Seniors Film presentation, "A Perfect Ending", is an award-winning 2012 film involving a high-priced lesbian escort/call-girl and a woman in an unhappy marriage, who has recently received some disconcerting medical news.

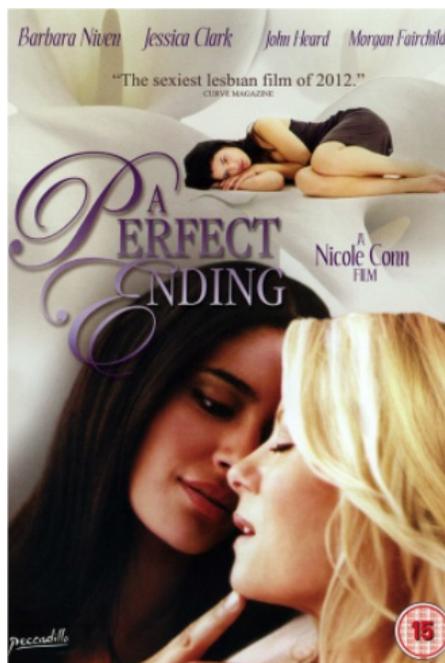
The movie immediately introduces the two main protagonists. Paris (Jessica Clark) is a young, dark-haired woman who works as a high-priced escort/call-girl, but is a creative artist by nature. Rebecca (Barbara Niven) is a rich, blond, straight, middle-aged wife.

Rebecca has lived a wealthy, privileged existence in creating a perfect family with her husband Mason Westridge (John Heard). The only signs of troubles are their hostility towards each other and conflicting opinions about whether Jessica, Rebecca's only daughter who has a different father, should receive equal stock shares of the family business as her two half-brothers. It is implied that Mason had previously attempted to sexually assault his step-daughter.

Rebecca feels an emotional emptiness and confides in her two lesbian best friends that she has never hit the peak of sexual climax, and that she and Mason only have sex once or twice a year, which is fine with her. One of her friends suggests that Rebecca try a very discreet escort service run by her own cousin (Morgan Fairchild).

It is then that Rebecca meets Paris and through a series of very discreet meetings, Rebecca eventually warms up to Paris' gentle advances and achieves her goals of having sex with another woman, and experiencing true happiness and satisfaction for the first time in her life.

We learn that Paris, who is well appreciated for her services, seems to be in agony over a past mistake that had led her to this profession. It is implied that Paris' husband died after being hit by a car shortly after their wedding day. It is Rebecca who later helps Paris to let go of her past and heal.



This is a very dramatic, extremely erotic and emotional "two-hanky" film, which covers a lot of ground vis-à-vis family dynamics, sexuality, wealth and realizing unrequited dreams. It has received many rave reviews, including the following:

"Sizzling, romantic drama." - *SheWired.com*

"A fresh, empowering chic flick that starts out with natural humor and evolves into an erotic journey... Yes, there is lot of sex, but it didn't feel gratuitous. It felt natural, a tough accomplishment for a film about essentially one woman's affair with a call girl." - *TAGG Magazine*

"(Features) a bold, beautiful, unleashed performance by Niven and a star turn from drop dead gorgeous Clark." - *Frameline, San Francisco LGBT Film Festival*

"Conn's film upends traditional prejudices regarding a woman's age, beauty and sexuality through depicting tender and joyous lovemaking." - *BeyondChron.com*

"Raw, moving, and often humorous." - *OUTFEST, Los Angeles LGBT Film Festival*

"The performances of Clark and Niven add so much depth and humanity, pain and bliss." - *My LGBT Plus*

"Hugely entertaining... and it's HOT. The leads have fantastic chemistry." - *Birds on the Blog.com*

"A strong supporting cast and astonishing performances by the film's central leads will enthrall audiences." - *Philadelphia Q Fest*



The film will be shown at 1pm on Wednesday, 21st of June, in the Lecture Hall of the San Leandro Public Library, 300 Estudillo, a ten-minute walk up Estudillo from the San Leandro BART station - or a five-minute walk from the AC-Transit stop at E. 14th and Estudillo.

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

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

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

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

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



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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.

Free Tickets Available for Lavender Seniors to Showing at Frameline

Lavender Seniors to Co-Present "Lavender Scare"

The Frameline International LGBT Film Festival in San Francisco has requested that Lavender Seniors co-present a film in the

festival again this year. It will be shown once at the Castro Theater in San Francisco, Sunday, June 18 (11am) and again at the Piedmont Theater in Oakland, Saturday, June 24 (at 2:15pm).

"The Lavender Scare" is a documentary about what happened after President Dwight D. Eisenhower's 1953 Executive Order banning LGBT people from any government posts (intact and enforced until Clinton reversed it in 1995)! The threat is still there, of course, for it to be reinstated under the current "non-administration" #45. Those of us who lived through this in the 1950s may see it recur 60+ years later!



The Lavender Scare is the first documentary film to tell the little-known story of an unrelenting campaign by the federal government to identify and fire all employees suspected of being homosexual.

In 1953, President Eisenhower declared gay men and lesbians to be a threat to the security of the country and therefore unfit for government service.

In doing so, he triggered the longest witch hunt in American history.

Over the next four decades, tens of thousands of government workers would lose their jobs for no reason other than their sexual orientation.

The actions of the government had an unintended effect. They inadvertently helped ignite the gay rights movement.

In 1957, after thousands had lost their jobs, a Harvard-trained astronomer named Frank Kameny became the first person to fight his dismissal. His attempts to regain his job evolved into a lifelong fight for the rights of LGBT people.

The Lavender Scare is a compelling story of one man's fight for justice. And it is a chilling reminder of how easy it can be, during a time of fear and uncertainty, to trample the rights of an entire class of people in the name of patriotism and national security.

CO-PRESENTED BY
[The GLBT Historical Society](#) / [Lavender Seniors of the East Bay](#)



As one benefit of co-presenting this film, Frameline is providing four complimentary passes for Lavender Seniors participants to attend. These passes will be allocated on a first-come/first-served basis to the first four individuals contacting

JohnDavid@LavenderSeniors.org. Also, if any Lavender Senior was actually affected by this Executive Order personally, please let John David know so that s/he might make a statement at the Piedmont Theater showing!

For the Festival blurb: <https://www.frameline.org/festival/film-guide/the-lavender-scare>

For an early film trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4CuMkTSIB1A>

For Joan Cassidy's story from the film: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvQ8EMdl6Jk>



Recipes of My Heritage

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

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

If you wish to share recipes from your kitchen, send the recipes with a little history, to BJue.Lavenderseniorsorg@gmail.com. We will try to publish them as we can.



castro valley pride

awareness - community - diversity

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

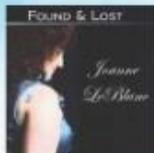
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VENDORS, FOOD AND MUSIC
FAMILY-FRIENDLY, ALCOHOL FREE, LGBTQ
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MC CHARMALINA
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SENIOR CENTER
Without Walls

Community Phone Calls

Just a few of the things offered:

LGBTQ Chat 2nd and 4th Mondays, 6/12, 6/26 1:00pm - 2:00pm

This group is open to all LGBTQ seniors and is an opportunity to connect with others socially in a supportive environment where participants can share individual and collective experiences. We will create an inclusive place to share our stories with each other

and build a sense of community. Facilitated by Sylvia Vargas, Openhouse Friendly Visitor Manager

Where Were You When? Saturdays, 5/6 - 7/8 12:00pm - 12:45pm

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

View the [Spring catalog](#) of community phone calls [here](#). 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.



JUNE



THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

Older & Out - Hayward

June 5, 12, 19, 26 1:15pm (Mondays)

Hayward Senior Center, 22325 N. Third Street, Hayward

A topical therapeutic peer support groups for isolated LGBTQ older adults

Queerly Aging Lesbians

June 1 & 15, 1:30 p.m. (1st and 3rd Thursdays)

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

Find support and like-minded wonderful people!

Out Standing Seniors

June 6 & 20 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (1st and 3rd Tuesdays)

Hayward Senior Center, 22325 N. Third Street, Hayward

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

Older & Out - Berkeley

June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 3:15pm (Fridays)

North Berkeley Senior Center, 901 Hearst Ave, Berkeley

A topical therapeutic peer support groups for isolated LGBTQ older adults

Gay Straight Alliance

June 8, 11:00am - noon (2nd Thursdays)

Fremont Senior Center, 40086 Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont

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

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

Rainbow Seniors

June 13 & 27 12:30-2:00 (2nd & 4th Tuesdays)

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

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

Lavender Seniors Advisory Board Meeting

June 14, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. (2nd Wednesday)

San Leandro Library, 300 Estudillo, San Leandro

A portion of this meeting is open to the public.

Senior Men's Group

June 8 & 22 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 10, noon - 2:00pm (2nd Saturday)

All Saints Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling, San Leandro 94578

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

This month's program: Be Better Informed about Food and Health (see info above)

Lavender Seniors Film Series

June 21, 1:00 - 3:00pm (3rd Wednesday)

San Leandro Library, 300 Estudillo, San Leandro

This month's movie: A Perfect Ending (see info above)

Our Space Intergenerational Community Dinner

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

Our Space, 22245 Main St in Hayward

Contact stephanie@baycyouth.org for information

Oakland Lunch Bunch

Sponsored by City of Oakland Aging & Adult Services

June 16, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. (3rd Friday)

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

This month's program: John David shares his stay in Costa Rica

(see info above)

Women caring for their woman partners

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.

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay Board of Advisors

President: Victor Aguilar Jr.

Vice President: Akilah Monifa

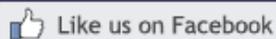
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Treasurer: Carmen Chiong

Editor: Beckie Underwood

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Lavender Seniors

 Like us on Facebook

Email: info@lavenderseniors.org
Website: <http://lavenderseniors.org>