

Lavender Notes

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

Celebrating 23+ years of service and positive change

June 2018 Volume 25 Issue 6



William "Bill" Victor Campisi, Jr., Esq.

Born on 5th September, 1946, in Middletown, CT, into an Italian Catholic family - mother with Neapolitan roots and father Sicilian - Bill was the second of four children. He and his older sister, Christine, were relocated to San Mateo County with their parents when he was less than two years old. Two younger brothers were born in California. They were a working-class family. Their father grew up during the Depression, left school early, rode the rails and lived in hobo camps in his early teens.

"When our Dad moved the family to California, he chose the rather upscale peninsula town of Belmont, not really a working-class town," Bill relates. "Though traditional church-going Catholicism was not really part of our family life when we were growing up, my sister and I both attended Catholic school K through 12. I became a devout Catholic, finding a refuge in the Church as an escape from the turbulent lives of our parents. Dad 'got around' and could be violent. The 'bosom of Jesus' was a relatively safe place!"

When Bill was first exposed to the works of St. Francis of Assisi in elementary school at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Belmont, he decided before he was ten years old that he wanted to become a priest and follow in the compassionate and caring steps of St. Francis.

"Because my father made me feel so unsafe," Bill recalls, "I knew at an early age that I wanted to do something to help other people. St. Francis was a hero to me, someone who rebelled against his father. In fact, he stripped naked in the town square, rejecting his father's fine clothes. I rather liked the idea of naked boy out in the town plaza. I very much wanted to be just like St. Francis."







Bill, Mom and youngest brother, Brian, 1968

Bill remembers learning later in life - from his mother after his father had left her for a 19-year-old woman - that the time they had gone on an expensive family vacation was the result of his father staging an accident involving his mother - and reaping the benefits of a threatened lawsuit. She told Bill that his father had forced her to do it and that she was very scared.

"Our entire family took one of its few family trips as a result of that scam," he recalls. "We stayed in a posh hotel in Long Beach. We kids woke up in the hotel room, our parents were still sleeping. So my sister and I - at age 6 and 8 - gathered up some toys, took our 3-year-old brother - still in diapers and us in our pajamas - down the elevator, out of the hotel and down to play on the beach unsupervised. Back in those days, I don't think that was so unusual, but maybe it was."

Their father had worked in the Civilian Conservation Corps during the 1930s and had been in the Army during World War II, serving in New Zealand, where he fathered a sister that Bill and his California-based siblings have never met.

After graduating from San Mateo's college preparatory Junipero Serra High School, Bill decided it was time to follow through on his childhood decision to emulate St. Francis of Assisi and become a priest. He went to the Mary Knoll Seminary in Glen Ellyn, IL, but only lasted one year.

"When people ask me why I left the seminary, I simply say that I couldn't say for sure that Christ was the son of God," Bill recalls. "Plus I knew from an early age how much I already liked sex (only with myself at that point) way too much to choose a life of celibacy."

He then attended UC-Berkeley, where he lived in dorms and co-op housing, became politically involved and discovered the joys of sex. His first sexual experience was with an older woman when he was only 19. When he was 21, he finally experienced sex with a man, though he was aware of being fascinated by and drawn to men - and their genitals - from early childhood.

"Over Easter holiday 1967 - when most everybody was gone from our dorm complex - Jim, a very attractive guy, and I started drinking vodka in his room," Bill reminisces. "When we were wrestling, I intentionally put my foot in his crotch, we wound up with our pants at half-mast and we started grinding our bodies together. We could hear guys in the next room, so we decided I would go down to my room and he would follow me, so nobody would suspect anything. Before he got to my room, I had taken all of my clothes off. When he came in, he was clearly disappointed. He said, 'Oh, I was hoping I could take your clothes off you!' In later years, it dawned on me that was a pretty romantic thing for a guy to say to me after his first gay experience."

Unfortunately, Bill did not want to own what he had done. When Jim contacted him a few days later to have another go, Bill had changed his mind about "gay sex" and he refused to have anything further to do with Jim. It's a decision he has regretted from time to time over the years.

"In those days, being gay was not as easy as it can be now," Bill says. "Besides which, James was something of a nerd and other guys in the dorm ridiculed him. I wasn't strong enough at the time to tell the other guys to 'fuck off'. Jim insisted we should talk about it a few days later. Walking around Berkeley together, I claimed that the vodka had made me do it, which he thought was B.S. I told him it was over and we couldn't be friends anymore."

In 1967, Bill got involved with a woman, with whom he participated in a March on the Pentagon. They soon began living together.

"She was my girlfriend for a while, though I was sexually frustrated, satisfying my real desires with erotic gay fiction," Bill recalls.

"When one of my best college friends committed suicide while he was in the Peace Corps in El Salvador, I was so devastated probably clinically depressed, crying a lot - she didn't understand at all. She said she couldn't take it anymore and broke up with me."

It was at that point that Bill started cruising Telegraph Avenue, bathrooms in campus buildings and making trips across the Bay to the Ritch Street Baths in the days when it was just an ordinary trucker bath - nothing special.

"I was particularly drawn to black men," he recalls. "I picked them up and they picked me up. I experienced lots of 'firsts,' like giving a man a blow-job in the sauna. Afterward, I would reject the experience. I remember going home and showering for a half-hour trying to wash away 'the germs'. Clearly, I had mixed feelings about what I was doing. What would St. Francis of Assisi think of me now?"

He finished university - without graduating - in May 1969, spending the summer experimenting with both straight and gay sex. Since his mother had become a paraplegic from medical malpractice during cancer treatments, he went to live with her and his stepfather down in Campbell from August until her death on 7 December 1969. The day after Christmas, he headed east to Cornell University - ostensibly to be with a girlfriend - but instead met a man in mime theater there who eventually introduced him to his first male lover, Kevin, whom he lived with for a few months in New York City's East Village.

"Kevin was a bit crazy, so I knew it wasn't going to work out," Bill recalls. "I returned to San Mateo County to help my father in his painting and contracting business. I learned a lot from that experience and, in fact, became a contractor for over a decade. While attending a Berkeley Halloween party in 1970, I met Elizabeth, a British woman I lived with for three years. In fact, we bought a house together out near Mills College, which I totally renovated and - as they say these days - 'flipped' it when I sold it years later and made enough to finance an upscale house in Trestle Glen, as well as several years of my life in the process."

Bill and Elizabeth separated in July 1973 - she went back to nursing school in England. She never knew that he picked up men and brought them back to that house for the odd romp in the sack during the time they were together. During his time with Elizabeth, he kept his gay erotica under a mat in the trunk of his car.

"It was in September of 1973 - nearly 45 years ago - that I met the first man that I had a really mature relationship with," Bill recalls. "We met at the Berkeley Men's Center one night and I tried to get him in the sack right away. Of course, as it turns out, it was almost exactly two months later that we actually got it on - he moved much slower than I did."

The man he was involved with was married, had two kids and was on a post-doctoral fellowship at UCB. This was really the first "openly gay" relationship for both men. In addition to getting involved in a weekly men's "consciousness-raising" group together, they became members of an East Bay men's collective, a group that published a quarterly political newspaper called "Brother: A Forum for Men Against Sexism," a publication that had previously impressed both of them considerably.

"That year was crazy in many ways," Bill recalls. "The men who self-identified as 'gay' in the Brother collective refused to work with the four of us allegedly-bisexual men still in relationships with women. They said we had to work on what they described as our need to continue oppressing women AND gay men, as well. The result - after hammering out many differences among the men - was a 1974 issue of the newspaper focusing on bisexual vs gay men. My lover and I each wrote a three-page article on the subject for that publication - he as a married man acting on his gayness - and me as 'the other man' in that three-way relationship."

In Bill's article, he had both praise and criticism for this "experimental Berkeley" arrangement with his lover, a husband and father of two. He admired that his paramour had the strength to come out to his parents and family, which Bill hesitated to do until near the end of his father's life. His mother never knew that he considers himself to be gay. He was also critical of his lover, because it seemed to him that the man's wife was forced into a sexual relationship with another man in order to provide the freedom her husband needed to explore his homosexuality.





Bill (left) with his first "openly gay" lover relationship, his crazy dog, Rupert, and the wife of his lover, 1974

When the boyfriend left the area to return to his southwestern university, Bill actually followed them there for a couple of months, intending to get a master's degree in engineering while they lived in that threesome. But it soon became clear that it was not going to work out, so he and his faithful but crazy dog, Rupert, took off for a month or two in Mexico to chart a new course.

He returned to the Bay area and began plying his trade as a contractor in early 1975. He found himself in a fairly dysfunctional relationship with a straight man who would only have sex with him if there was a woman involved. He soon realized that he felt he

was in a dead-end pattern and decided to make a couple of trips to Europe on his own. Between 1976 and 1979, he lived in Europe, one year in the U.K. living in a London Zen Center, and two years in France, where he lived for a time in another three-way relationship with a basically-straight man and his wife, as well as having sexual relationships with other Frenchmen and women. He ended his European tour with a sojourn through North Africa, where he had sex with several Arabic men.





Bill in rural France, 1977

Bill in Marseilles, France, 1978

"Having Sicilian ancestors, I really felt like I was home when I was in North Africa," Bill recalls dreamily. "I had come home to my roots in so many ways. And I plan to do another trek through North Africa before my days on this planet are over."

While he was in England, he met the woman he would marry and have two sons with. They started living together in 1980 - in the house he had bought with Elizabeth ten years earlier. They were married at Mills College in June 1982. His first male lover played the organ for the service. The couple's first son was born later that year and their second son was born in 1984.

At least partly due to the pain of his mother's unnecessary death at a young age - and with encouragement from the woman who became his wife - he decided to change course and become an attorney. He enrolled at the New College School of Law in 1981, passed the bar in 1984 and became a licensed attorney to pay the bills for the rest of his career. He had continued supporting his family as a contractor while he went to law school.

"My first successful case was taking on Melvin Belli, who hadn't properly pursued our case against the radiation oncologist who had caused my mother's premature death," Bill recalls. "Though Belli's firm had taken the case, it was actually farmed out to other lawyers. When I found that out, I decided to sue him. When no lawyer would take our case, I decided to go to law school so I could sue him myself on behalf of me and my siblings. He settled the lawsuit and I was able to get a large amount of money which I split with my sister and brothers. Though it didn't bring our mother back, obviously, it did provide us with a certain sense of satisfaction that some justice had been served, finally."

Since that initial victory, Bill has won many malpractice suits, primarily targeting medical malpractice and contractor malpractice. And, of course, he has lost a few, as well. He is currently working on a book to document the kinds of challenges he's faced in his practice with both the legal and medical professions.

"A lot of people have been irreparably harmed or killed by 'the system,' in my experience," Bill says. "If I can make it better for the survivors of people who have lost loved ones through malpractice or incompetence, I feel like I'm fulfilling some of my long-felt need to help others."

Meanwhile, after the birth of his sons, he had begun having secret sexual liaisons with men. He told his wife about two of those relationships, particularly since he had fallen very much in love with a younger African-American man he met at the Berkeley YMCA in 1993.

"Her response was that - unless I was willing to completely and permanently discontinue these gay relationships, I would have to move out on Valentine's Day, 1994," Bill recalls. "So she got the house that had been paid for primarily out of the Belli settlement and proceeds from the Hillmont house sale. My relationship with my sons became quite complicated after that, particularly with the older one, who is married and has a child I've never seen. I maintain a good relationship with my younger son and his wife."

After he moved out of the house, the two men lived together for two years, though it was plagued by a two-decade difference in their ages, among other things. They separated permanently in April of 1997, though they remain friends, as he does with his first Berkeley-based lover from 1973-74. He met another younger black man at the White Horse in September of 1997. Their ten-year relationship was also a stormy one, since the younger man - with some serious health issues - still continued to be a drug user and was selling sex to support his habit.

"I couldn't take it anymore after ten years," Bill complains. "So in 2007, I made a 'deal' of sorts with him: I would give him \$600-\$700 a month for one year if he would just leave and stay out of my life. In retrospect, I realize that I sealed my relationship 'fate' by letting that drag out for so long. I've never really found another man I could relate to long-term in the last decade, though I've

always been open to the odd one-night stand here and there."

For the last couple of years, Bill has been on the board of KPFA, Pacifica Radio, the first listener-sponsored FM station in the country. Using his legal expertise, he is trying to help marshal the organization - at either the local or national level - into a well-functioning and financially stable institution.

"There is such a need for independent media in an era where the likes of Donald Trump can become so-called 'leaders'," Bill insists. "They seem to be manipulating the news cycles of mainstream media, as well as right-wing 'talk-shows', landing us as a country into a position where all of our institutions are at risk. Obviously, the LGBTQ community is being threatened by both Trump and Pence, plus we are in such serious trouble with the Supreme Court right now that I shudder to think what will happen if we aren't successful in turning things around during the upcoming mid-terms before more racist/fascist men are appointed to the court."

Asked what he likes least about being a septuagenarian and what he likes best about it, his responses are manifold:

"I like very much how patient I am now - much moreso than when I was a young man," he says wistfully. "I like the perspective I have now on people and things. I like the quietness and value of solid friendship with people of all ages. I particularly like the relationships I have with children, who inspire me. Yes, I value friendships in my life more than the seeking out of complicated and the often labor-intensive hard work involved in a relationship.



Bill (left) at the Lavender Seniors 20th Anniversary Celebration, November 2014

"On the other hand, I obviously don't like that my bladder keeps me from sleeping through the night these days," he laughs. "I have occasional bouts of atrial fibrillation, have had knee and leg problems and have trouble losing weight. One funny way to think about it - which isn't exactly true, but I get a kick out of thinking about my life in this way - when I was 17, I was prepared to take the vows of chastity, obedience and poverty. Now at age 71, all of that has mostly arrived, but without the priestly garments."





Edited By Mary L. Gray, Colin R. Johnson, Brian J. Gilley

The authors claim that rural USA represents more of a population than urban America in actual numbers. Many gays live in these areas. Rural America is largely anti-gay politically.

The essays range from Nova Scotia, Canada to black sexuality in the South to Kansas City.

The final section offers experts on the methods of analysis.

The editors make a compelling case for citizens who live and work in rural America. Attention must be paid.

- Frank Howell



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

LAVENDER SENIORS FRIENDLY VISITOR PROGRAM HAS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE.

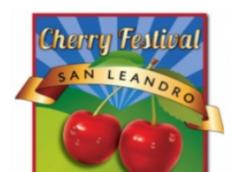
Volunteers with the Lavender Seniors Friendly Visitor program are background checked, interviewed and trained, after which they are matched with a senior to visit regularly, usually for a couple hours each week. Visitors can share stories, chat about mutual interests and current events, and if both are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

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

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

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







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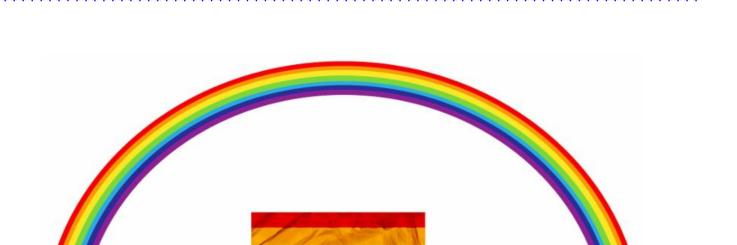
<u>Festival@QWOCMAP.ORG</u> <u>WWW.QWOCMAP.ORG</u>

415 752-0868

Friday June 8 Opening Nite 7:30 pm Fierce & Feral

<u>Saturday June 9 Centerpiee</u> 7:00 pm Breaths Intertwined

Sunday June 10 Closing Night 5:00 pm Indigenous Futures







Milpitas Pride: City of Milpitas first LGBTQ Pride, Friday, June 1, 2018 7-9 PM, Milpitas Civic Center, 457 E. Calaveras Blvd. Milpitas

Concord Pride: Saturday, June 2 at 3 PM - 9 PM, Todos Santos Plaza,2151 Salvio St, Concord, California 94520, After Party at Club 1220, Walnut Creek, 9:00 PM to 2:00 AM https://www.facebook.com/events/2135085236711148/? active tab=about

Richmond Rainbow Pride Event: Sunday, June 3, 2018, at Marina Bay Park, located at Regatta Boulevard & Marina Bay Parkway in the City of Richmond, CA. https://www.facebook.com/RichmondRainbowPride/

San Mateo County 6th Annual Pride Celebration: Saturday, June 16, 2018 11 AM - 5 PM, San Mateo Central Park, 50 E. 5th Ave., San Mateo https://www.facebook.com/events/530262940704292/

SF's premiere Trans Pride: June 22, 2018: http://www.transmarch.org/about/

SF's Dyke March: June 23, 2018: http://www.thedykemarch.org

SF's Pride Celebration: June 23-24, 2018: http://www.sfpride.org

Silicon Valley Pride Events: https://www.svpride.com/

Sacramento Pride: Sunday, June 10, 2018: https://sacramentopride.org/

Castro Valley Pride: Saturday, July 14, 2018: www.castrovalleypride.com/#!

Hayward Pride Dance: Saturday, August 18, 2018 6-10pm, Kenneth Aiken Center, Redwood Road, Castro Valley

Oakland Pride Parade & Festival: Sunday, September 9, 2018 10:30am-7m, Franklin Street, Oakland

https://www.facebook.com/events/178454642888572/

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For More Information contact:

NQAPIA Conference Coordinator: TRACY NGUYEN Coordinator@ngapia.org



Last Call for Lavender Seniors Theater Outing, Saturday, 7th July

"Angels in America" Revival at Berkeley Rep

Lavender Seniors has arranged for an LGBTQ (and allies) seniors group rate to the West Coast revival of Tony Kushner's award-winning play, "Angels in America," at the Berkeley Repertory Theater for a marathon performance on Saturday, 7th July.

(Editor's Note: For those who might be planning an East Coast junket in the near future, the play is also still in Broadway revival at the Neil Simon Theater, starring Anthony Garfield as Prior and Nathan Lane as Roy Cohn, receiving 11 Tony Award Nominations this year - see below):





This fierce and astounding two-part drama is at once an epic exploration of American politics, LGBTQ identity, mythology, and a personal story of love and loyalty.

To obtain Berkeley Repertory Theater tickets reserved for Lavender Seniors on 7th July, please contact JohnDavid@LavenderSeniors.org. For those who don't have internet access, a message can be left at the Lavender Seniors message phone: 510-736-LGBT (510-736-5428), being sure to leave a contact phone number. Instructions will then be sent for submitting a check for \$50/person prior to the <a href="mailto:retailed:retailed:nth:left] 7th June deadline for payment. After checks have been received, tickets will be sent by snail-mail in plenty of time for the performances a month later.

"Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes" focuses on the stories of two troubled couples, one gay, one straight). Set during the early days of the AIDS epidemic, one of the play's key characters is the reprehensible closeted-gay Roy Cohn, an eventually-disbarred and disgraced lawyer, who was instrumental in getting Ethel Rosenberg executed along with her husband, Julius, in 1951; a co-conspirator with Sen. Joseph McCarthy in the anti-communist Army-McCarthy hearings; and, finally, a mentor to Donald Trump in his early dealings as a real-estate magnate who refused to rent to "blacks or other people on welfare", some of the first of many lawsuits that Trump has lost over the years.

Prior to his disbarment and eventual death from AIDS-related complications, Cohn was also an attorney for Rupert Murdoch, owner of Fox News and other right-wing and anti-gay news outlets. As a closeted gay Jewish man - apparently suffering from extreme self-loathing - Cohn was instrumental in getting President Eisenhower to sign the anti-gay "Lavender Scare" Executive Order in April 1953, calling for the identification, purging, prosecution and black-balling of LGBTQ employees at every level of government service. That Executive Order continued to ruin lives of LGBTQ people (or those <u>suspected</u> of being LGBTQ) for 42 years, until President Clinton finally reversed it in 1995.

One theme of Kushner's play includes an "angel" that continues to haunt Cohn during his deterioration: the spirit of Ethel Rosenberg, whose role in the treasonous activities of her husband has never been agreed upon. Most legal ethicists say that - because of the unethical and bullying methods of Roy Cohn - the execution should never have taken place. In fact, the Rosenbergs' two sons - Robert and Michael Meeropol - deeply affected, of course, by their parents' execution when they were young boys - have launched a campaign to have their mother exonerated posthumously.

The Cohn character is currently being played by Nathan Lane in the Broadway revival (he also played the role in the 2017 UK's Royal National Theater production), having been played previously in film, stage and television adaptations by Al Pacino, Frank Wood and Ron Leibman. Stephen Spinella (who won two Tony awards as Prior in the original Broadway production) plays the role of Cohn in this Berkeley Rep production.

The marathon performances at the Berkeley Rep on Saturday, the 7th July, are as follows:

Part I: Millennium Approaches 1-4:30pm (2 intermissions) Berkeley Rep's Roda Theater

2025 Addison, Berkeley

Part II: Perestroika 7-10:45pm (2 intermissions) Berkeley Rep's Roda Theater

2025 Addison, Berkeley

Besides the two intermissions during both Part I and Part II, there is a three-hour dinner break in between, during which people are free to eat at the snack bar or scout out one of the many restaurants within walking distance. Many of the restaurants offer meal discounts to those who have a ticket stub from that day's performance.

Those who followed the Showtime series, "Queer as Folk" (2000-2005) might be interested to know that Randy Harrison (out gay actor who played Justin in that series) will play one of the lead roles as Prior in the Berkeley Rep version (see photo below to jog your memory). The role of transgender home-health nurse, Belize, is played by Caldwell Tidicue.





Cast of Angels in America at Berkeley Repertory Theater.
(I to r seated) Caldwell Tidicue (Belize), Randy Harrison (Prior),

Benjamin Ismail (Louis), Carmen Roman (Hannah), and Bethany Jillard (Harper) (I to r standing) Stephen Spinella (Roy Cohn), Randy Danson (The Angel), and Danny Binstock (Joe) Photo by Cheshire Isaacs/Berkeley Repertory Theatre

Lavender Seniors tries to arrange theater outings like this one at least once or twice a year. Any suggestions for such outings should be sent to JohnDavid@LavenderSeniors.org. We feel that experiencing such LGBTQ-themed performances/showings/films with like-minded sisters and brothers can be uplifting and inspirational in further discussions and consideration of our own lives.

Second Saturday Pot Luck Lunch, June 9th 12-2pm

All Saints Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling, San Leandro

Program: Political Science Lecturer, Al Schendan

A catered buffet luncheon will begin at noon, followed by announcements and the program at approximately 1:00pm. Feel free to bring a potluck dish to share if you wish.



SAN LEANDRO MAIN LIBRARY PRESENTS

Proudly celebrating LGBT Pride Month

Guest Speaker

RAQUEL WILLIS

ACTIVIST, Writer and Storyteller

SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 2018 - 2 PM TO 3 PM MAIN LIBRARY LECTURE HALL

300 Estudillo Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94577

www.sanleandrolibrary.org

Raquel Willis is a queer transgender activist, writer and storyteller dedicated to inspiring and elevating marginalized individuals, particularly women of color. She is a national organizer for the Transgender Law Center (TLC), the largest such organization in the U.S.

Raquel began her career as a news reporter in Monroe, GA. She quickly took her talents for storytelling, writing and advocacy to the digital world and began to uplift grassroots organizing efforts in Atlanta, GA. She worked on behalf of the Solutions Not Punishments Coalition to end police profiling of transgender women of color and mass incarceration.





She also successfully led the Atlanta Trans Liberation Tuesday mobilization effort in conjunction with the larger Black Lives Matter network. Her dedication to trans advocacy opened the door to her current work at TLC in Oakland, CA.

Her writing has been featured on Autostraddle, Buzzfeed, Medium's Cuepoint, ForHarriet, HuffPost, PRIDE, Quartz, The Root and VICE. She is currently working on a collection of essays about her experiences and intersectionality.

In January 2017, she was a speaker at the National Women's March in Washington, D.C. In May 2017, she was named to ESSENCE's Woke 100 Women, which honored "the women who are blazing trails for equal rights and inclusion for Black people in America."

For this program, Raquel will discuss the "Power of Authentic Storytelling." A reception for Ms. Willis and members of her audience will follow.

For more Information call 510 577-3971 Main Library





film series event

"Quiet Heroes"

For the third consecutive year, Lavender Seniors of the East Bay has been invited to co-sponsor a film being shown at the 42nd Frameline International LGBTQ Film Festival in San Francisco (14th- 24th June this year), the oldest and largest such film festival in the world.

This year's co-sponsored film, "Quiet Heroes", deals with the medico-socio-political response to the AIDS epidemic in Salt Lake City, UT. The 69-minute documentary premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in March (see http://variety.com/2018/film/reviews/quiet-heroes-review-1202723702/#article-comments for a Bay Area commentary by Dennis Harvey, who was at one time also a volunteer at the Pacific Center in Berkeley).





This film documents the warmth and dedication of a few heroes who were willing to treat and provide compassionate comfort to the 20th-century "lepers," consistently rejected and refused treatment and comfort initially by most medical, mental health and social service professionals in a "high Mormon" part of the country.

social service professionals in a might hormon part of the country.

From Harvey's review in Variety:

"Focusing largely on the crusading efforts of two women who, backed by a Catholic hospital's nuns, were for a time virtually the only medical professionals who'd deign to treat the HIV-positive in the area, this warmhearted feature offers a pleasingly upbeat take on a tragic era."

Two other East Bay connections to this film are worth noting.

One of the people interviewed in the film is Ben-David Barr, who was Executive Director of the Rainbow Community Center in Contra Costa County for 9+ years until his retirement in January of 2018. Previously, while he was in Utah, he served as Salt Lake Valley Health Department's HIV/AIDS manager, as Executive Director at AIDS Project Utah and then the Utah AIDS Foundation. He was a founding board member of the Utah Harm Reduction Coalition and a Community Organizer for the Seattle-Based Gay City Health Project. Ben received a lifetime achievement award from the Utah Pride Center for his contributions to the development of health and service programs for Utah's LGBTQ community. Here in the East Bay, he has been an adjunct faculty member in the CSU-East Bay School of Social Work, teaching courses in Social Policy, Research and Program Evaluation.

The other East Bay connection to this film involves a young Utahan named John Lorenzini, a self-described HIV/AIDS "refugee" from Salt Lake, who was instrumental in the formation and development of the AIDS Project of the East Bay in the early 1980s. He also worked with Ben-David Barr at the Utah AIDS Project.

"He was one of the pioneers who was always available to go into classrooms, churches, civic groups and other venues to describe in a compassionate way what it was like to be confronted - at such a young age - with what was then considered to be an untreatable disease," recalls Dr. Ann Strack, one of the co-founders of the AIDS Project of the East Bay in the early 1980s. "He inspired other People with AIDS, their families and friends to go 'public' with the impact of the disease on their lives - and eventually inspired otherwise-closeted people in Utah to do the same vital work.

"When I think of John, it still astounds me how he combined ordinary human decency with his seemingly-unlimited supply of energy and positive good-will. He used his diagnosis as a lens through which he could look through to the reality of his life. He was dedicated to the lesbian and gay community, looking death bravely in the face and saw how he could best contribute for whatever time he had left on this planet. Speaking of 'heroes,' he's definitely one of mine!"

The film is currently scheduled to be shown one time only at the Castro Theater on Monday, June 18th, at 1:30pm. Since Lavender Seniors will be given four complimentary passes to that showing, anyone who would like to attend should e-mail JohnDavid@LavenderSeniors.org indicating their interest. Tickets will be distributed on a first-come/first-served basis.

We will try to convince film festival organizers to arrange an East Bay showing either at the Piedmont, the Elmwood or the Grand Lake in one of their "TBA" slots - as they have in the past - though that might not be possible at this late date.

The eleven-day Frameline Film Festival - which has various showings in the East Bay - runs from 14th to 24th June this year. For more information about LGBTQ-themed films being shown this year - on both sides of the Bay - see https://www.frameline.org/festival/film-guide-x3078 (click on "Venue" to see those being shown at the Elmwood in Berkeley or the Piedmont in Oakland, as opposed to the Castro, Roxie or Victoria Theaters in San Francisco).



15th June, 12-2pm

Making Oakland a WHO "Age-Friendly City"

Oakland has been in the news a lot recently, not just on the sports page! Yes, in May, the Golden State Warriors broke a 60-year-old record in the Western Conference Finals and the Oakland A's finished a multiple-game sweep on the road and at home.

Meanwhile, Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf wrote a powerful op-ed piece in response to a tweet-blast against her by Donald Trump regarding her posture on Oakland's "Sanctuary City" status. She had warned the immigrant community of an impending ICE raid, after which she received several death threats. (see https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/no-mr-president-i-am-not-

structing-justice/2018/05/18/0d64e5cc-5ab5-11e8-b656-a5f8c2a9295d_story.html?utm_term=.cc87c90ecdc6).

Also on the socio-political homefront, the Commission on Aging is working quietly and diligently to have Oakland designated an "Age-Friendly City" by the World Health Organization. Scott Means, the City's Aging & Adult Services Manager in the Human Services Department, will be on hand for the Third Friday Lunch Bunch to describe the progress on achieving this designation, one of several steps toward the goal of achieving an "Age-Friendly World". He will discuss the use of inclusive language in initiatives like "Livable Communities for People of All Ages".



"An age-friendly world enables people of all ages to actively participate in community activities and treats everyone with respect, regardless of their age," according to the WHO website. "It is a place that makes it easy for older people to stay connected to people who are important to them. And it helps people stay healthy and active even at the oldest ages and provides appropriate support to those who can no longer look after themselves." (For more information on this initiative, see http://www.who.int/ageing/age-friendly-world/en/).

This is certainly compatible with the Mission Statement of Lavender Seniors of the East Bay, which strives to keep LGBTQ seniors connected with their communities, aging in place rather than in institutions, wherever possible, and continuing to live productive lives.

The Third Friday Lunch Bunch meets from 12-2pm on Friday, 15th June, at the North Oakland Senior Center, 5714 MLK Jr Way (corner 58th Street) in the old Merritt College building. Lunch (including vegetarian options) is served promptly at noon, after which there are announcements before the program is turned over to the speakers and/or entertainers. There is ample time for questions following the presentation.

The parking lot and building entrance are at the rear of the building off of 58th Street.



THIRD WEDNESDAY LGBTQ-THEMED FILM SERIES, 20TH JUNE, 1-3PM

"Jenny's Wedding"

One of the films recommended recently by a frequent film series attendee is "Jenny's Wedding," which has a high-profile cast, is a poignant PG-13-rated family drama and a subject fit for LGBTQ June brides and grooms everywhere.



Unfortunately (for the film's "timeliness") - or fortunately (for us who benefited from the ruling) - it suffered from almost instant

"obsolescence", since it was produced a few months before the June 2015 Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriage - and was only released at Outfest in LA a few weeks after that decision. The entire premise of the film could've been focused on the women's relationship to their families instead of the societal prohibition against lesbian marriages, if the production and distribution timing had been a bit different.

The stellar cast, however, makes the film a time-honored tribute to the courage of LGBTQ individuals and their families, confronting the stigma and shame traditionally "awarded" to same-sex relationships through the 20thand 21st centuries, up to the present. For example, there are still "religious freedom" bills working their way through state houses around the country - and the world - in and attempt to allow open discrimination against LGBTQ people - or anyone who is doing something your "religion" doesn't approve of.

Performances by the actors playing Jenny's family members (acclaimed British actor, Tom Wilkinson, plays the father; Linda Emond, frequent Tony-nominated actress, plays the mother; Grace Gummer, Meryl Streep's daughter, plays Jenny's sister; and the handsome Matthew Metzger of "American Idol" and "One Life to Live" fame, plays her understanding brother) make the film well-worth watching. Jenny is portrayed by Katherine Heigl, perhaps best known for her Emmy-Award-winning role as Izzie Stevens for five years on "Grey's Anatomy".



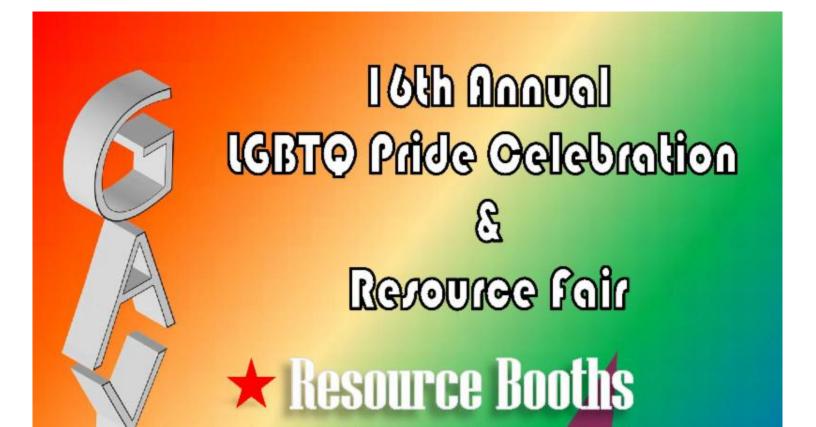


Jenny is the middle daughter of a conservative Catholic family in Cleveland, OH. She is a closeted lesbian who has been telling her family that her partner of five years, Kitty, is her roommate. Her parents, Eddie and Rose, have always dreamed of the day their middle daughter will get married and are always reminding her about her biological clock, their desire for more grandchildren and trying to fix her up with men.

Jenny realizes that she does want to get married and have a family, and proposes to Kitty. She decides to come out to her family. Her parents are shocked that she is not only gay, but engaged to a woman. The announcement threatens to blow the family apart bit by bit. Though some critics found the resolution to be somewhat "formulaic", it is, nevertheless, an enjoyable "feel-good" family drama, something some attendees have asked for in their evaluations after some heavier-themed films!

The film will be shown at 1pm on the Third Wednesday, 20th of June, in the wheelchair-accessible Carnegie Lecture Hall at the San Leandro Public Library, 300 Estudillo. Following the showing, there will be a brief discussion and evaluation of the film and its relevance to LGBTQ seniors and their allies.

The library is accessible via BART (five blocks above the San Leandro station), AC-Transit (three blocks above the Estudillo-East 14th bus stop), Bancroft Avenue, Highways I-580 and I-880. There is ample two-hour and three-hour parking in the library parking lot, as well as angle-parking along both Estudillo and Callan Avenues on either side of the library.





Elders' Guild Meetings - Sunday, June 17th (Third Sundays)

Changing Aging w/joy & love

North Berkeley Senior Center 1900 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. at Hearst · Berkeley, CA Wheelchair accessible.

Hosted by Barry B. From Elders' Guild

Details

Conscious Aging for the Greater Good

Our vision is a world in which powerful and conscious elders join together in common purpose to bring healing, joy and connection to our lives, our families, our communities and the world.

Our mission is to create the communities where we re-imagine our old age, look after one another and embody the wisdom that will enable us to help heal the future.

Each Elders' Guild Meeting is a Celebration of Life that Enlivens the Spirit.

Please bring (relatively) healthy treats to share

We shmooze from 1:45 to 2:00 and begin at two

Donations requested to cover the cost of space rental

CALIFORNIA COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL REAL ID ACT REQUIREMENTS

Under the REAL ID Act, the California DMV must meet requirements set by U.S. Department of Homeland Security for driver licenses and identification cards to be accepted for federal purposes.

HOW THE REAL ID ACT IMPACTS CALIFORNIANS

Beginning October 1, 2020, the federal government will require your driver license or ID card to be REAL ID compliant if you wish to use it as identification to board a domestic flight or to enter military bases and most federal facilities. The California DMV has been offering federal compliant REAL ID driver licenses or ID cards to customers since January 22nd, 2018.

DO I NEED A REAL ID?

If you have a valid U.S. Passport, U.S. Passport Card, military ID, or other form of Transportation Security Administration (TSA) approved ID, you may use it as your form of identification to pass TSA airport checkpoints nationwide and to visit a secure federal building or military base. Check the TSA website at www.tsa.gov for a complete list of approved identification.

If you know you will not be boarding a domestic flight or visiting a secure federal facility or military base, you do not need a REAL ID driver license or ID card.

You DO NOT need a REAL ID to:

- Drive
- Apply for or receive federal benefits (Veterans Affairs, Social Security Administration, etc.)
- Enter a federal facility that does not require ID (i.e., a post office)
- Visit a hospital or receive life-saving services

Those under 18 are not required to have a REAL ID to fly.

Who is Eligible for a REAL ID?

U.S. Citizens and all legal residents of the United States can apply for a REAL ID driver license or ID card.

How to Prepare for REAL ID

To apply for a REAL ID card:

- Make an appointment to visit a DMV field office (recommended)
- Proof of identity (examples: U.S. birth certificate, U.S. Passport, employment authorization document, permanent resident card or foreign passport with an approved form I-94)
- Proof of Social Security Number (examples: SSN card, W-2, paystub with full SSN)
- California residency document (examples: utility bill, rental agreement, mortgage bill, medical document)
- A name change document such as a marriage certificate, may be required.

Original documents or certified copies are required. For more information visit REALID.dmv.ca.gov



What Does a REAL ID look Like?

A REAL ID drier license and ID card will have a special marking in the top right corner of the card. The marking (see red arrow above) is the California grizzly bear with a star.

IMPORTANT DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2020

Federal compliant card required to board an airplane or enter military bases or certain federal facilities. More information on REAL ID is available on the DMV website at REALID.dmv.ca.gov



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 email, and it's free! Visit <u>LGBT Caring Community Online Support Group</u>.



You're getting a new Medicare card!

Cards will be mailed between April 2018 - April 2019

You asked, and we listened. You're getting a new Medicare card! Between April 2018 and April 2019, we'll be

removing Social Security numbers from Medicare cards and mailing each person a new card. This will help keep your information more secure and help protect your identity.

You'll get a new Medicare Number that's unique to you, and it will only be used for your Medicare coverage. The new card won't change your coverage or benefits. You'll get more information from Medicare when your new card is mailed.

Here's how you can get ready:

■■ Make sure your mailing address is up to date. If your address needs to be corrected, contact Social Security at <u>ssa.gov/myaccount</u> or 1-800-772-1213. TTY users can call 1-800-325-0778.

WATCH OUT FOR SCAMS!

Beware of anyone who contacts you about your new Medicare card. We'll never ask you to give us personal or private information to get your new Medicare Number and card.

■■ Understand that mailing everyone a new card will take some time. Your card might arrive at a different time than your friend's or neighbor's.

HICAP: New Fraud Alert on New Medicare Card Scams

Sent on the behalf of Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP)...

We have a new fraud alert for you regarding new Medicare card scams. The Senior Medicare Patrol program with California Health Advocates has received several reports of beneficiaries getting calls from scammers, telling them that they must first buy a temporary card for \$5-50 before their new Medicare card arrives. This is not true. In California, the new Medicare cards will arrive between April and June 2018. They are free, and Medicare will not call them about their new card. Cards will be mailed to people's mailing addresses on file with Social Security. If beneficiaries need to update their mailing address, they can go to https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/.



Event price includes a 6pm gathering in party room, with some food and Pride item, and reserved seat. Drive or BART to Coliseum.

Tickets are \$26-45 plus \$5 fee per individual ticket. Group Discount for 15 or more.

LAVENDER SENIORS INAUGRATION OF PRIDE CELEBRATION EMERYVILLE SENIOR CENTER, JUNE 15 - 29th EMERYVILLE SENIOR CENTER



Grand Re-Opening of Emeryville Senior Center - 8/8/2016

4321 Salem Street EMERYVILLE, CALIFORNIA, 94608 Phone: 510 596-3730 (M-F, 9am-5pm)

LAVENDER SCROLLS DISPLAY BEGINS JUNE 15th LAVENDER SENIORS PRESENTATION AT 11:00 AM JUNE 29th

For the first time, LGBTQ Pride will be celebrated at the Emeryville Senior Center beginning June 15th. Some of the Lavender Scrolls will be displayed until June 29th, when a short presentation on the history of Lavender Seniors will be presented through a video of the founders and a short introduction.

Come celebrate this inaugural event when LGBTQ pride finally comes to Emeryville. You are welcome to order a meal (a day in advance - see phone number and office hours noted above) and enjoy the presentation, after which lunch will be served. Lunch will be served at noon for a cost of under \$5.00.

The Lavender Seniors presentation will be held in the Billiards Room of the Center (formerly the Veterans Memorial Building). The Senior Center is located just east of San Pablo Avenue between 44th and 45th Streets in Emeryville (about a block to Salem street). Parking can be difficult, so come early (center opens at 9 am) or take public transportation.

From Mac Arthur BART, take the Emery-Go-Round bus (Shellmound/Powell). Get off at 40th and San Pablo. Walk north towards 44th Street. Go East (turning right) one block to Salem, go north (or turn left onto Salem) and the Senior Center is there in the old Veterans Memorial Building.

CARING FOR OUR SENIOR LGBTQ PARTNERS/FRIENDS AND OURSELVES

Focused on issues of aging, we are providing a seven-session therapy series serving members of the senior LGBTQ community caring for partners/friends and ourselves

This is a no-fee series limited to 12 individuals We request your commitment to attend the entire series

Location: San Leandro Senior Center

13909 East 14th Street San Leandro, CA 94578

Duration: Mondays Only

June 11th, June 18th, June 25th

July 2nd, July 9th, July 16th and July 23rd

Time: 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

To Register: Call the San Leandro Senior Center - (510) 577-3462

Online registration: www.sanleandrorec.org

Course #13190

Program Information: Contact Lavender Seniors (510) 736-LGBT (5428)

E-mail: info@LavenderSeniors.org

Group facilitator is Dr. Melinda Ginne. She is a clinical psychologist with a 35-year career specializing in geriatrics and the treatment of the psychological aspects of acute, chronic, and life-threatening illness. She is one of the founding instructors in the Professional Program in Aging and Mental Health at UC Berkeley Extension. In the past two decades she has taught a number of classes and workshops on aging as well as on the psychological aspects of illness. She has been active in the LGBTQ community since 1975.

Sponsored by:





San Leandro Public Library and Project Literacy present

AN EVENING OF STORIES AND LAUGHTER WITH

BRIAN COPELAND

JUNE 30th, 2018 - 7:00 PM

SAN LEANDRO MAIN LIBRARY

300 ESTUDILLO AVENUE



Tickets for adults \$30.

Purchase tickets in advance at the circulation desk. Payments accepted via cash or check only.

All proceeds go to Project Literacy Adult Reading Program.

For more information: (510) 577-3944 Cinda Mariscal or cmariscal@sanleandro.org

Pride Night with the San Jose Earthquakes

(Presented by: Wells Fargo)



Avaya Stadium 1123 Coleman Avenue San Jose, California 95110 Sat, Jun 9, 7:15 PM From \$25

Join the Earthquakes for our annual Pride Night celebration as we welcome and highlight our diverse and inclusive Bay Area community. The Quakes welcome high-scoring expansion franchise, LAFC, for their first trip to San Jose. Purchase your tickets then use your personal link to invite your coworkers, friends/family, and teammates--they will automatically be sat next to you!

The night will feature a full stadium presentation of Pride Night including:

- -- Giveaway: 5,000 Pride Sunglasses (Presented by Wells Fargo)
- -- LGBTQ+ Resource Fair and Booths
- -- Local community leader recognition
- -- Rainbow flag held by group leaders included in the pre-game presentation
- -- Special edition merchandise for sale

Individual and group tickets are available starting as low as: \$25

For group tickets or hospitality, season passes, or questions contact: Anthony Perry // 408-556-7712 // aperry@sjearthquakes.com



Community Phone Calls

Just a few of the things offered:

LGBTQ Chat 2nd and 4th Mondays, 1:00pm - 2:00pm

This group is open to all LGBTQ seniors and is an opportunity to connect with others socially in a supportive environment where participants can share individual and collective experiences. We will create an inclusive place to share our stories with each other and build a sense of community. Facilitated by Sylvia Vargas, Openhouse Friendly Visitor Manager

Where Were You When? Saturdays, 12:00pm - 12:45pm

Where were you when you were 50 years old? Or 10? Do you remember where were you on Christmas Eve in 1960 or the summer just before you started high school? Join us to discuss these memories of our lives back when. Facilitated by Janice Rooker

Poetry Sundays, 10:00am - 11:00am

Share with others poetry that you have written or that you admire and join in a lively discussion about the poems. Facilitated by Anne Alle

Father's Day Sunday, 6/17 4:00pm - 4:30pm

Join us to share recollections and stories about your father or other important male influences in your life. Facilitated by Gloria Kasdan

View the **Current catalog** of community phone calls <u>here</u>. Check the <u>website</u> for more information. To participate in these or other Senior Center Without Walls (SCWW) telephone activities, or to learn more about SCWW programs, call 877-797-7299 or email info@seniorcenterwithoutwalls.org.







THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

Out Standing Seniors - Sponsored by Pacific Center June 5 & 19, 12:30 - 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 Therapy Group - Livermore - Sponsored by Pacific Center

June 5, 12, 19, 26 1:00 p.m. (Tuesdays)

Livermore Senior Services, Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore

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

Queerly Aging Lesbians

June 7 & 21, 1:30 p.m. (1st and 3rd Thursdays)

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

Find support and like-minded wonderful people!

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

June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 3:15 p.m. (Fridays)

North Berkeley Senior Center, 901 Hearst Ave, Berkeley

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

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

June 4, 11, 18, 25 2:15 p.m. (Fridays)

Oakland LGBTQ Community Center, 3207 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland

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

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

June 4, 11, 18, 25 1:15 p.m. (Mondays)

Hayward Senior Center, 22325 N. Third Street, Hayward

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

Rainbow Seniors - Sponsored by Pacific Center

June 12 & 26, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. (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. FREE, though donations are welcome.

Lavender Seniors Board Meeting

June 13, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

675 Hegenberger Rd., Oakland

A portion of this meeting is open to the public.

Senior Gay Men's Group

June 14 & 28, 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!

Lavender Seniors Pot Luck

June 9, noon - 2:00 p.m. (second Saturday)

All Saints Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling Blvd., San Leandro

This month's program: "Political Science Lecturer, Al Schendan" (see info above)

Lavender Seniors Film Series

June 20, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. (3rd Wednesday)

San Leandro Library, 300 Estudillo, San Leandro

This month's movie: "Jenny's Wedding" (see info above)

Island Pride Peer Support Group - Sponsored by Pacific Center

June 21, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. (3rd Thursday)

Mastick Senior Center, 1155 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda

A Peer Support Group is a safe & confidential space for LGBT Seniors 50+ to share thoughts, feelings, resources, information & to support one another.

Oakland Lunch Bunch

Sponsored by City of Oakland Aging & Adult Services
June 15, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. (3rd Friday)
North Oakland Senior Center, 5714 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland
This month's program: "World Health Organization" (see info above)

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay Board of Directors

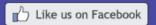
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Lavender Seniors of the East Bay



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John David Dupree
Barbara Jue
Email: info@lavenderseniors.org

Website: http://lavenderseniors.org Message: 510-736-LGBT (510-736-5428) Mailing Address: 4123 Broadway,

Ste 818

Oakland, CA 94611