



# Lavender Notes

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

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*Celebrating 26+ years of service and positive change*

*June 2021 - Volume 27 Issue 6*



This Pride Month, we are participating in Give OUT Day, a month-long fundraising campaign culminating on June 30, the only national day of giving for the LGBTQ community. Lavender Seniors of the East Bay is raising \$5,000 to help support LGBTQ seniors who may be isolated and lack critical services.

Please consider making a \$20 gift now, which funds our work to continue to enrich the lives of often-overlooked LGBTQ seniors.

<https://www.giveoutday.org/story/Lsebgiveoutday>

Give OUT Day is June 30, but our campaign starts today. Why? Because every donation made on our Give OUT Day page, from today through midnight on June 30, counts toward Leaderboard prizes. This means that your donation could help us win thousands in additional prize money! Put simply, your gift can go so much further.

Give OUT Day offers so much hope, but only if we have your support. Will you show your pride by making a gift?

P.S. Want to take your support to the next level? It's not too late to create a fundraiser page for us! Just visit

<https://www.giveoutday.org/organization/lavenderseniors>

**STORIES  
OF OUR LIVES**



# Michael Jack Colbruno

What do you get when you start with a bilingual German/English-speaking toddler, add an early love of music, fascination with cemeteries, passion about politics, avid about sports, a flair for publicity and late-breaking news of Native American ancestry? You get this month's featured openly-gay subject – a colorful activist and creative man with ever-expanding life interests.

Michael Colbruno, who celebrated his 60th birthday last year, was born at Edwards Air Force Base in Southern California in October 1960, with a sister three years older. A brother born five years later, unfortunately, died of SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome).



Mom, Dad, Sister, Michael and Beloved Irish Setter

"I've always wondered how it would've affected my life if I'd been the middle child rather than the youngest," Michael ponders. "As it is, I know I got so much attention from my mother, who piqued my curiosity about music, history, politics, religion and all the rest at an early age. We used to stroll through cemeteries together, which is where I first learned how to do math in my head, figuring out from the dates on

tombstones how old the occupant buried below would've been."

Michael's multi-lingual mother, an immigrant, had lived through the World War II-torn and post-war years in her native Germany. Because his father was an Air Force medic, the family moved around a lot. He spent much of the first five years of his life in Germany, where his mother's native language became one of two languages he spoke until the family's return to the U.S.

"For the first year or so back in this country, I would frequently respond to English questions in German," Michael recalls. "Until I was in eighth grade, though, I never had two years in a row in the same school. Besides those years in Germany, we also moved from base to base both at home and abroad – in Illinois, California and finally Colorado. When I was 12 or 13, we wound up in Colorado, which is where I attended both Thomas Jefferson High in Denver and finished up in advanced classes at Hinkley High School in Aurora."

Michael came out about his gayness early and publicly before he was 16.

"A couple of my lesbian friends were co-organizers of one of the first Denver Pride marches," Michael says. "As it turns out, a photo of me waving a banner of some sort appeared on the front page of the next day's *Rocky Mountain News*. My Mom called to ask me if I'd seen it yet, advising me to go buy a copy. When I saw the photo and realized everybody in my life had probably seen it by now, for some reason, I cried. Though my parents later told me they had 'known' I was gay since I was 5 years old, this public announcement came as a bit of a shock to them. It did, however, become an amazing and very supportive ride, on the whole. Along with my Mom's eventual

unconditional support, my German teacher called me into his office to make sure I was okay and to assure me his door was always open if I needed to talk. As for my Dad, I always knew he loved me, but his military background seemed to make it challenging for him to talk about it.”

Michael’s sister – who lives in Switzerland with her husband and four children – had some initial resistance to his coming-out process, though that has largely passed now. He feels very close to his three nephews and niece.

“My sister was less intrigued by our frequent moves than I was,” Michael recounts. “She was afraid of losing newly-made friends and seemed to need more stability at an early age than I did. I loved meeting new people and seeing new places. When I came out, three generations of women in my life had slightly different reactions. My sister had recently become religious, so responded more coolly than I’d anticipated. My



Twenty-something Michael and Grandmother

Mom was on my side, culminating in her setting up weekly lunch meetings where we talked about everything. But my grandmother – who I always adored – called a family meeting and started with the question ‘does anybody have a problem with Michael’s announcement?!’ After a few issues were discussed, she concluded the meeting brilliantly with ‘so now we’ve all learned something new about Michael! Do we love him any differently now that he cared enough about us to share this important part of who he is with us?’ From that time on, I’ve continued being blessed with a very loving family.”

In addition to this quote from his grandmother, Michael has several guiding-light principles he gleaned from her.

“She was a fount of wisdom throughout my life, giving me many of the values I’ve continued to cling to throughout my life,” Michael says. “One bit of sage advice she gave me was that ‘if they try to pass judgment on you, that’s their s\*\*t not yours!’ That convinced me that I was never going to let myself get beaten down because I am gay. She also said ‘it takes a lot of energy to hate and a lot less energy to love’. She also told me that ‘you can be nice to ANYONE for an hour – just be polite and gracious – because that first impression may determine how somebody in the room treats you for the rest of your life!’ It took me a while to comprehend how important that lesson was. She was full of such pearls of wisdom that have helped me become who I am!”

In addition to dispensing sage advice, his grandmother also had a dry sense of humor.

“She liked saying things like ‘I was married for 50 years; just took me four husbands to pull that off!’,” Michael recalls fondly. “This sense of humor is just one more reason why she was so important to me up until the day she died in our Oakland home – and remains so to this day!”

In spite of all this family support, while he was in high school, he lived two

separate lives.

"I had my high school friends – mostly straight except for one," Michael recalls, "but would take THREE buses to get to the gay and drag bars in downtown Denver to be totally myself. I met the most beautiful people. Imagine seeing Barry Manilow live at the Broadway back then! Two friends would consistently go with me or meet me there. Unfortunately, one of them has since passed away and the other, I'm still in touch with. I also connected with my first serious relationships there. Of those 'first loves,' one went off to become a big-name performer in Las Vegas. One had been a dancer with the Utah Ballet. Unfortunately, another of my first loves wound up in prison for murder."

When he finished high school at age 17, he moved out of the family home in Aurora to a Capitol Hill neighborhood in Denver known to be a "gay ghetto". He went off-and-on to Metropolitan Community College and to UC-Denver, majoring in political science and linguistics.

"During that period, I was lucky enough to be mentored by an older New Yorker I referred to as my 'gay dad'," Michael recounts. "He never married, had been in the military and helped me gain a sense of normal life. He and I listened to all of the major Shakespeare works on LP. He nurtured a love of opera in me. We could watch opera all day long! He was an upstanding citizen who kept me out of trouble, instilled a sense of discipline in me and kept me from staying out all night like some of my friends would. In fact, he encouraged me to always be home by 10:30 or 11 at night and studying for the next day's classes!"

Because Michael jumped back and forth between colleges – for various reasons ranging from being financially strapped to taking care of his own or his mother's health – he was on what he describes as "the six-year plan" toward graduation in 1984. One of the perks of his education was that he got to complete much of his political science degree by working on Capitol Hill – as an intern for the Senate budget chair and for the Lieutenant Governor.

"This early work 'under the dome' gave me a head start on some of my later political work in the Bay Area," Michael says. "I also got involved in providing publicity for legislative issues with things like billboards and boards on the sides of trucks, which also helped later in my career."

Having developed such a love for opera under "Gay Dad", Michael made at least annual trips to the Santa Fe Opera. On one of those occasions, he met another Denver-based opera fan.

"I met my first long-term relationship on a backstage tour," Michael recalls, "and we wound up a bit distracted at one point in the wig and make-up room. He later got in touch with me and we started dating. After it had become a bit serious, he got a job offer from the San Francisco Opera and I had an offer to work for a Congressman in D.C. We decided we would check out both places and see which one felt the best. When I saw Joan Sutherland as Anne Boleyn in Donizetti's "Anna Bolena", I knew where I wanted to be! This is where I need to live!"

Though the pair broke up after six years, Michael continued living and working in San Francisco for a

total of 14 years. He worked for the *San Francisco Sentinel* as political reporter and news editor. He also volunteered on Harry Britt's Congressional campaign facing Nancy Pelosi in 1987. In the course of that work, he met the woman he has since titled his "political godmother," a woman with her own history in the East Bay as Executive Director of the Pacific Center in the late 1970s, until she left for Operation Concern in San Francisco.



"I took on a second job working with then-Supervisor Carole Migden, as an aide and her chief of staff," Michael reminisces. "She is such an incredible resource, politically savvy with great insight about what needs to be done. Though she puts on this front as a brash New Yorker, she is one of the softest, most sensitive people I've ever known. During the AIDS epidemic, we might hop into her Alfa Romeo and spend the afternoon in a hospital AIDS ward, where she would comfort AIDS patients who were feeling all alone. As a powerful woman, she taught me a lesson about the importance of grace and kindness, no matter what your status in the world."

Michael followed Carole Migden to Sacramento through much of her six-year career in the Assembly. As an avid sports fan, he got side-tracked for a while trying to help with a successful stadium initiative. When the 49'ers mounted Ballot Propositions D&F to get funding for a new stadium, Michael took a leave of absence from Migden's office to help.

"After I participated in a televised debate on the stadium, Mayor Willie Brown saw the debate and, backstage later, declared my performance to be brilliant," Michael recalls proudly. "As a result, I was immediately hired to be Legislative Director for the man I declared my 'political godfather,' who taught me the nuances, ins and outs of politics. I credit much of my success in life to him and to Carole Migden – those two have had a most profound effect on me!"

When he left Willie Brown's office, he took an East Bay job with Clear Channel, as VP of Government Affairs for their outdoor advertising division.

"I hadn't really considered the East Bay as a viable place to live and work during my 14 years in San Francisco," Michael reports. "But I quickly adjusted to the pace of the East Bay, less frenetic and all-consuming. In fact, while Jerry Brown was Mayor, my boyfriend (more about that later) and I had just returned from Berlin where Mayor Klaus Wowereit was focused on developing gay neighborhoods. Mayor Brown suggested we try that in Oakland, as well! Future U.S. Treasurer, Rosie Rios, and I tried to scope out such a potential neighborhood – perhaps near Merritt Bakery – and discovered many of the LGBTQ+ couples here wanted to get away from the gay scene, integrate into Oakland's various neighborhoods, raise and school their kids as part of a larger more diverse community. It was one of those later-in-life lessons for me – there are people who also want a quiet, secure and flourishing family life!"

Speaking of family life, let's learn more about Michael's personal life in the East Bay:

"In 1999, I was taking a German class at San Francisco's Goethe Institute," Michael recalls. "One

night, I forgot to bring my book and wound up sharing one book with this really sweet-looking guy named Alex. One thing led to another, as they say, and we've been together ever since. On July 1st, 1999, I bought this charming little Craftsman-style house in the East Bay, a place Alex soon moved into with me – a place we still call home two decades later. We are long-time domestic partners – something that Carole Migden and I fought for together – and are not sure we'll ever take that next leap, even though Obergefell cinched marriage for folks like us. A few years back – when I was in Israel - Alex rescued our adorable pet, Kit, who has become my constant companion ever since."



Michael and Kit Frolicking at the Beach



FOLLOW YOUR PORT IN THE COMMUNITY!



Port Board President Michael Colbruno receives honor

Michael has also been involved in the Leadership Oakland Program, on the board of the Chabot Space and Science Center, a City Commissioner for 15 years, two terms as an Oakland Planning Commissioner and three terms as Oakland Port Commissioner. He has been a delegate to numerous state and national political conventions. As an opera/classical music fan, he has commissioned a number of works, many of which have premiered with Musica Marin. He annually sponsors Merola Opera Program singers.

"As for the future, Alex and I have bought a farm up in Lake County," Michael reveals, "so we'll be doing a stint as farmers, as well. But I will continue commissioning music annually. We want to celebrate the American art song tradition. We're looking at songs about fathers and sons, since few of that parent-child combination have been focused on much in American music. We're studying various African-American poets, one of whose works can contribute to an all-black team voicing the black experience, listening to black composers for just the right sound. We did "Boom Boom Baroque" at an outdoor beer hall, have re-created an 18th century Oktoberfest. Though I love classical opera, how many times can you see 'Carmen', when there are so many other deep subjects to be tackled relevant to the human condition?"



Michael Colbruno / partnered with Musica Marin

One of the issues that has colored his political activism in the last few years was discovering that he has Native American ancestry.

"I always thought my father's lineage was Italian and Mexican," Michael recounts. "When I was informed I had Native American DNA in my blood asked my Dad – who, sadly, died last year – about it. It seems my grandmother, Patricia Chacon, and her family, actually Mescalero Apache in northern Mexico,

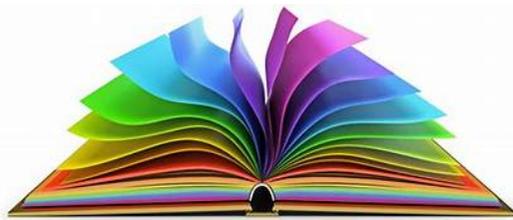
were severely discriminated against throughout her life. So it was just easier to 'pass' as Mexican rather than be able to own the pride she might've wanted to feel about her culture and language. In the current political climate in this country, it just makes me feel so bad for my beloved grandmother. I will do whatever I can to keep that from happening to more generations of people defined as 'different', whether that's based on their culture, their skin color, their sexuality, religion or for any other reason!"

Since we're running out of space, here's a few of the many other sides of Michael Colbruno:



- Left: Cooking Impossible burgers. In 2015, he was featured as a "Vegan Business Leader."
- Middle: In keeping with his political animal-ness, a long-time friend of VP Kamala Harris.
- Right: As a docent at Oakland's Mountain View Cemetery, he has a book: "Lives of the Dead" (how many of us knew cemeteries HAD docents?!)

As we said at the outset of this piece, Michael is not likely to be sitting on the front porch watching the grass grow! He's got places to go, people and sights to see! Thank you, Michael, for your seemingly boundless energy and dedication to helping your various communities!



## BOOK REVIEW

**White Feminism:  
From the Suffragettes to Influencers and Who They  
Leave Behind**  
By Koa Beck

Beck advocates intersectionality. The traditional feminine approaches have failed to provide real power. White femininity only reinforces western supremacy.

Beck was executive editor at Vogue. She was interviewed by the BBC, Harvard University, Metropolitan Museum of Art and Columbia Journalism School. She lives in Los Angeles with her wife.

Beck's major point is that labor laws should help all genders. The future is gender fluid.



Bonus Book Review

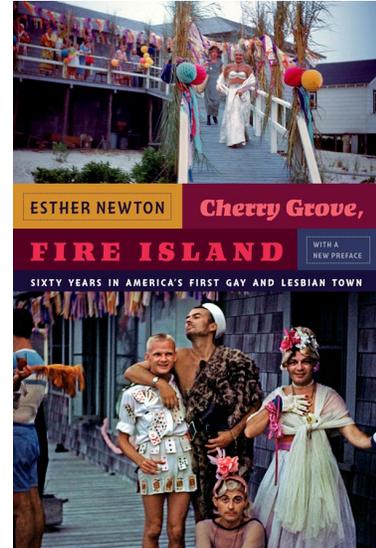
# Cherry Grove, Fire Island

Sixty Years in America's First Gay and Lesbian Town

By Esther Newton



This book – originally published in 1993 – was reprinted in 2014 with a new, 14-page preface describing the impact having a “gay and lesbian town” might’ve had on the evolution of the LGBTQ+ rights movement. Since we’re kicking off Pride Month as we slowly trudge out of the 2020 Covid pandemic – with all the residual negative side effects of the last administration – we thought it might be time to re-visit some of our country’s LGBTQ+ history.



As indicated by extensive interviews with 46 current and former residents of Cherry Grove over the years, this book describes the many tricks and creative manipulations members of the LGBTQ+ community needed to learn in order to survive in an environment that could be hostile a few hundred meters or a few hundred miles away in the “real world”.

For those of us who have never made it to this historic Fire Island community, Newton has included a map of Ocean Beach, The Pines and the Meat Rack, as well as photos of various eras in development of this unique community in LGBTQ+ history. Though there have been waves of separatism in our community through the decades, Cherry Grove seems to have survived all of that most congenially.



Strolling/jogging down one of the Cherry Grove boardwalks – lollygagging by one of the pools

For seekers/lovers of LGBTQ+ history in this country, this is a fascinating stroll down our own memory lane.

# SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

LSEB is looking for an experienced professional to transcribe the Board's meetings and develop minutes. Please help us find the right person for the Transcriber position by spreading the word to your network. We appreciate your assistance.

## Job Description: Meeting Transcriber

Lavender Seniors is looking for someone who will transcribe board meetings. This person will be submitting the minutes for approval. In this position, you will receive recordings from our staff, listen to the audio, and create a coherent, written document and keep information confidential. In many cases, you will need to expand on sentence fragments or audio notes to create a concise document. You will mainly transcribe live dialogue at board meetings. Our ideal applicant either has significant experience or a certificate in transcription. You must also have excellent critical thinking and strong typing skills.

This commitment will be once a month of regularly scheduled board meeting. Short term duration (6-month commitment) Payment: \$150 stipend per month. (LSEB will issue a 1099 if total payment is greater than \$600 a year)  
Transcriptionist Duties and Responsibilities

- Listen to and write out audio recordings
- Transcribe live meetings
- Edit your transcriptions before filing them
- Keep transcriptions organized for later use

## Transcriptionist Requirements and Qualifications

- High school diploma or GED certificate
- Transcription certificate or equivalent experience
- Strong typing skills
- Strong listening skills
- Strong analytical skills
- Must be able to keep confidential information

Applicants must send a cover letter indicating your interest in the position and a detail resume. Please send your resume to: [carmen@lavenderseniors.org](mailto:carmen@lavenderseniors.org).  
Deadline to apply is: June 30, 2021.

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## CONNECTIONS



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

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LAVENDER SENIORS FRIENDLY VISITOR PROGRAM HAS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE.

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

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

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

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

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## Reminder: Lavender Seniors Birthday Program

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

Anyone whose birthday (year of birth is not necessary, though it is appreciated) hasn't been acknowledged should provide their full name, mailing address and date of birth (with or without year) either via [Info@LavenderSeniors.org](mailto:Info@LavenderSeniors.org) or by leaving a message at +1-510-736-LGBT and your name will be added to the list. Also, any volunteers who want to assist in this program should make contact, as well.



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



Pride Month Memories

## What has Pride Meant to You?

For June's Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch, we will be taking a Zoom stroll together down Pride Month memory lane. Some of us have been involved in Pride marches – at home and/or abroad – for the 52 years following the Stonewall uprising – and the bravery of its participants – in June 1969. We want to hear each other's stories – at least virtually – that Saturday!

These parades have been held on the last Sunday in June to commemorate the bravery of participants in that landmark event. In June 1970, pride/protest marches were held in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York City, and San Francisco on that first

anniversary. Initial resistance in L.A. included the Chief of Police declaring that giving a parade permit "to a bunch of homosexuals to parade down Hollywood Boulevard would be like giving such a permit to a bunch of thieves and robbers!" Because of judicial interventions, however, the initial \$1.5 million "fee" was first reduced to just \$1,500 "for police protection", then eliminated by the courts, since no other parades were charged for such protection. Death threats (sound familiar?) ensued for the parade organizers, but the parade went off without any major hitches or violence.

The events became annual and grew internationally. In 2019, New York, São Paulo and the world saw the largest international Pride celebration in history: Stonewall 50 - WorldPride 2019, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, with five million attending in Manhattan alone, appearing to tie attendance at Brazil's parade that year.



This image, for instance, shows the 18th annual São Paulo Gay Pride Parade in 2014. The "Parada do Orgulho LGBTQ de São Paulo" (in Portuguese) is an annual parade that has taken place in Avenida Paulista since 1997, when an estimated 2,000 people attended. It is now South America's largest Pride parade, listed by Guinness World Records as the biggest

pride parade in the world starting in 2006 with 2.5 million people. They broke the Guinness record in 2009 with four million attendees, keeping the title from 2006 to at least 2016. They had five million attending in 2017. In 2010, the City of São Paulo invested 1 million reals (nearly \$200,000) in the parade.

An estimated five million people defied the newly-elected and rabidly homophobic president, Jair Bolsonaro (compared by many to Donald Trump) and attended the event in 2019, billed as the "Most Important Parade in Brazil's History". Bolsonaro has notoriously been quoted as saying he would rather have a dead son than a gay son and has stated that support for same-sex marriage is promoting pedophilia. In this Associated Press photo from the 2019 parade, two partners kiss during the parade in São Paulo, which acted as a "confrontation with the policies" of Bolsonaro, who has actively pushed to roll back LGBTQ rights. Because of the pandemic, the parade was held virtually in June 2020, re-scheduled for November 2020, then ultimately canceled. The pandemic continues to rage there.



For a list of "largest Pride event attendance" around the world, Wikipedia has assembled the following: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_largest\\_LGBT\\_events](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_LGBT_events).

For those interested in a list of San Francisco Pride events in the area for this month – some of which are reported elsewhere in this newsletter – see <https://sfpride.org/2021-celebration.html>.

For those interested in a list of San Francisco Pride events in the area for this month – some of which are reported elsewhere in this newsletter – see <https://sfpride.org/2021-celebration.html>.

Here are the Zoom coordinates for Saturday, 12th June, from 12 noon until

2pm:

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

Topic: Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch: Participating in Pride

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89671026595?pwd=TGRtYkxaTzZGbWFFTTB1WWpQNFpWZz09>

Meeting ID: 896 7102 6595 – Password: 153953

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

Meeting ID: 896 7102 6595 – Password: 153953

Hope to see you then! Fun to share where we've been as individuals and as a community, plus where we are now and where we're going when this epidemic is finally under control! Hopefully, all will be live again for Pride in June 2022!

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LAVENDER  
SENIORS  
of the East Bay

Join  
The

**LUNCH  
BUNCH**

The MMAA: Merger with AMPA and  
OUTServe/SLDN

## Status of LGBTQ+ in the U.S. Military

*[Editor's Note: This discussion was originally scheduled for March 2021, but had to be re-scheduled for June. Apologies for that postponement.]*

The LGBTQ+ community has been at the mercy of early-morning Twitter whims and mean-spirited polices to "clean out" the military for the past four years. (We've even had Alito and Thomas threatening to reconsider Obergefell and same-sex marriage as the law of the land – but that's another story for another time).

Thus, many LGBTQ+ individuals and organizations might be wondering what the "facts" are after feeling relatively buoyed up and accepted since "Don't Ask; Don't Tell" was officially rescinded during the Obama administration in September 2011. For those with math issues, that's meant five steps forward (2011-16) and then four steps backward (2017-2021). Where are we now?



After acting as Interim Executive Director of the Modern Military Association of America (MMAA) since January 2020, Jennifer Dane – a former intelligence analyst and threat-prevention specialist in the U.S. Air Force – has recently been named to that ED post permanently, requiring her to move from Belmont. Jenn will be speaking with us at the June 18th Third Friday Lunch Bunch on the current status of LGBTQ+

individuals in the military. She may be accompanied by a gay and/or trans MMAA member, as well, hopefully.

Among the many accomplishments during Jenn's tenure at the helm of MMAA – the largest organization in the country serving LGBTQ+ active military, veterans and their families:

- Assisted the Biden-Harris transition team to ensure the transgender service ban was repealed in the first 100 days and that LGBTQ voices were heard by the Department of Defense and the Veterans Administration
- Shared her knowledge and expertise of the LGBTQ military and veteran community with Dr. Jill Biden at the new launch of Joining Forces
- Worked to bring remote and freelance employment opportunities to military spouses by partnering with Instant Teams
- Provided crucially important input to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) on LGBTQ veterans access and treatment at VA care facilities
- Began working with the Maryland Governor's Challenge Team on mental health services and suicide prevention for LGBTQ+ military and veterans
- Filed a Supreme Court amicus in a case involving a government-funded foster care program's objection to serving LGBTQ people
- Worked with Members of Congress to pass legislation in the U.S. House that would de-fund both the Trump-Pence transgender military ban and a new DoD policy effectively banning the LGBTQ pride flag on military installations
- Awarded scholarships to ten military spouses to pursue their higher educational goals.
- Hosted Pride Month events with The Mission Continues, featuring special guests Col. Margarethe Cammemeyer, Col. Patsy Thompson and former Army Secretary Eric Fanning.
- Continued assisting transgender servicemembers seeking waivers to join or to continue serving, as well as veterans seeking assistance with upgrading their military discharges due to discriminatory policies like the former "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"
- Continued moving forward our lawsuits challenging the Trump-Pence transgender military ban in court and outdated policies harming servicemembers living with HIV
- Hosted virtual events for chapters, such as online meet and greets, happy hours, game nights and watch parties



Details for this month's Zoom gathering are as follows:

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay invites you to a series of Zoom meetings.

Topic: Third Friday Lunch Bunch

Friday, June 18, 2021 – 12 Noon until 2pm Pacific Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85235825964?pwd=WmptRG5SU2RDVUNyQ1hFWGM2NIZOQT09>

Meeting ID: 852 3582 5964 – Passcode: 569546

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

Meeting ID: 852 3582 5964 – Passcode: 569546

Hopefully, you can join us for this vital discussion. Whether you can join us or not, we wish you all peace, health and happiness for the rest of 2021 and beyond!

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**Lavender Seniors** is proud to be a sponsor of **The 17th Annual Queer Women of Color Film Festival**. (Click anywhere on the poster to register---it's FREE!)

QWOCMAP presents

# 17TH ANNUAL QUEER WOMEN OF COLOR FILM FESTIVAL

EVENT FULLY CAPTIONED

## JUNE 11, 12, 13 2021

FESTIVAL FOCUS  
**MOLTEN CONNECTIONS**

FREE — ONLINE LIVESTREAM WITH INTERACTIVE FILMMAKER Q&A



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415.752.0868

[WWW.QWOCMAP.ORG](http://WWW.QWOCMAP.ORG)



**SPECIAL  
EVENTS**

Pride Month Film Festivals

Though in-person film festivals and Pride marches are still mostly on hold (OK, there are a few LGBTQ+ film showings at stadiums, some drive-ins and even socially-distanced in some theaters for fully-vaccinated individuals - e.g., the Castro and the Roxie!), there are several ways that we can enjoy some of these screenings from our homes until this \*#%\* epidemic is behind us (maybe Pride Month 2022!?). Here are just a few of the Pride month offerings (in roughly chronological order):

## PRIDE: FX Series on Hulu (available for Hulu subscribers throughout Pride Month)

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) rights in the United States have evolved significantly over time. Prior to 1962, all 50 states criminalized same-sex sexual activity, but by 2015, LGBT Americans had won the right to marry nationwide. Additionally, in many states and municipalities, LGBT Americans are legally protected from discrimination in employment, housing, and access to public accommodations, though LGBT Americans still lack comprehensive legal protections from discrimination at the Federal level.

### To Access "Pride" Series:

<https://www.hulu.com/series/pride-43ac99ac-a3c6-4a3d-b03f-953f40be0fdb>





#### EPISODE 1

##### 1950's: People Had Parties

A revealing look at the vibrant and full lives lived by queer people in the 1950's amidst a steep rise in governmental regulations against the LGBTQ+ community led by Senator Joseph McCarthy, who ushered in an era of government-sanctioned persecution.



#### EPISODE 2

##### 1960's: Riots and Revolutions

Even before Stonewall, Pride took root in the 1960's when lesser-known heroes from marginalized communities, including queer girls of color and trans women, played an integral role in the advancement of the movement.



#### EPISODE 3

##### 1970's: The Vanguard of Struggle

In this personal journey, Cheryl Dunye interweaves archival footage, personal testimonies and interviews to show how the 1970's helped forge a national movement.



#### EPISODE 4

##### 1980's: Underground

New York City in the 1980's, reinvigorated by the prior era's sexual revolution and the ascendance of the Gay Liberation Front, saw an influx of queer people to downtown Manhattan and the rise of the underground ball scene.



#### EPISODE 5

##### 1990's: The Culture Wars

The 1990's were supposed to herald a new era for the LGBTQ+ community. With the election of Bill Clinton, they finally had an ally in the White House – or so they thought. The “Culture Wars” were in full swing, and being fought everywhere.



#### EPISODE 6

##### 2000's: Y2Gay

The 2000's ushered in a new age of queer visibility where gays and lesbians were gaining acceptance in the mainstream media. But even as cisgender white members of the LGBTQ+ community found a place in society, the struggle for trans rights continued.



## On TV: LGBTQ Pride Month — June 2021 | KQED

Premier dates and descriptions can be accessed by clicking on the blue title above, which is the hyperlink to the extensive list (something almost every day). Enjoy!



[From New York's NewFest Film Festival:](#)

# NEWFEST

LGBTQ+ Film and Media | New York

Get ready for NewFest Pride, June 4-7!



“We are thrilled to kick off Pride month with a virtual program that celebrates the very many things we are — **rebellious, romantic, riveting and radical**. And, for good measure, a queer Elle Woods!”

- David Hatkoff, Executive Director

Read Deadline exclusive

We're ringing in Pride with a special lineup featuring six new films and a shorts program presented with Vimeo, in addition to queer-focused panels & events – including an [LGBTQ+ screenplay table read of LEGALLY BLONDE!](#)

Get a 4-day Pass to access our full program lineup, or purchase individual tickets! **Films will be available to stream anywhere within the United States 🇺🇸**

**Four-day Pass – \$25 -- Individual Film – \$12**

*\* For NewFest Members: weekend passes are \$22 and single tickets are \$10*

Info + Tickets

All films available June 4 12AM EST through June 7 11:59PM EST



## **BOY MEETS BOY**

*"The next great gay love story" – i-D Magazine*

Two young men share a brief yet joyous romantic encounter in modern-day Berlin



## **MA BELLE, MY BEAUTY**

*Sundance Audience Award winner*

A soulful polyamorous romance unfolds in the south of France



## **REBEL DYKES**

Rabble-rousing documentary set in 1980s post-punk London tells the unheralded story of a community of activist dykes



## **SEE YOU THEN**

*SXSW 2021 Official Selection*

Two college exes reunite for an intimate, revelatory conversation



## **SUMMERTIME**

*"Most inspirational movie to hit the indie circuit this year" – Variety*

Exuberant slam poetry musical follows the lives of 25 young Angelenos



## SWAN SONG

*"Heartfelt salute to a real-life local legend" – The Hollywood Reporter*

A retired hairdresser embarks on a journey for one last job



## Shorts Showcase

For the 3rd year, NewFest & Vimeo are presenting a showcase of contemporary LGBTQ+ short films!

*Full shorts program lineup to be announced soon*



# Frameline

## Introducing: Frameline45, the San Francisco International LGBTQ+ Film Festival!

Slated to be the largest and most attended in Frameline's history, our 18-day festival features a mix of in-person and virtual offerings running June 10–27 on the ground in the Bay Area, and June 17–27 streaming nationally.

Our successful Drive-In series is expanding, and will kick-start the season. Frameline's two biggest ever screenings will take place at **Pride Movie Nights at Oracle Park**. We're delighted to be re-opening the iconic **Castro Theatre** for two days of special screenings June 26–27, as well as returning to the **Roxie Theater** June 20! And for the first time, Frameline's huge line-up of films will be available for **nationwide** streaming.

Watch our [Frameline45 sizzle reel here!](#)

From San Francisco's Frameline International LGBTQ+ Film Festival:

### ***Everybody's Talking About Jamie* joins *In the Heights* for Pride Movie Nights at Oracle Park, June 11–12.**

Frameline, San Francisco Pride and the San Francisco Giants are proud to announce the title of our Night #2 film, ***Everybody's Talking About Jamie***! This smash-hit musical is leaping off the stage to and onto the Jumbotron for the first ever sneak peek before premiering on Amazon Prime. Tickets below!

Pre-movie festivities will take place each evening at Oracle Park beginning at **6:30 p.m.** with a lineup of in-person and virtual appearances.

The movie screenings will begin at 8 p.m. each evening.



## Saturday, June 12: *Everybody's Talking About Jamie*

Inspired by true events, *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* is the film adaptation of the award-winning hit musical from London's West End, about Jamie New, a teenager in a blue-collar English town with a dream of life on stage.

In rousing and colorful musical numbers, Jamie and his community inspire one another to be more accepting, and to see the value in facing adversity stepping out of the darkness into the spotlight.



## Friday, June 11: *In the Heights* lights up the Jumbotron on opening day!

Lin-Manuel Miranda's passion project prior to his smash hit *Hamilton*, tells the story about the vibrant and tight-knit community of Washington Heights... a borough north of Harlem where the scent of a cafecito caliente hangs in the air just outside of the 181st Street subway stop. At the intersection of it all is the likeable, magnetic bodega owner Usnavi (**Anthony Ramos, *A Star is Born***), who hopes, imagines, and sings about a better life.

[Get Tickets](#)

### Ticketing Breakdown:

**General Admission** tickets are priced at **\$24.99 + booking fees** and are located in Lower Box Sections 101–135. General Admission ticket holders have access to food and

beverage options on the promenade, as well as in-seat ordering.

**Club Level Experience** tickets are priced at **\$44.99 + booking fees** and are located in Club Level Sections 202–217. Club Level Experience ticket holders have access to an exclusive food and beverage experience only available on the Club Level. This exclusive food and beverage experience is also available for in-seat ordering.

The **On-Field Experience** package is priced at **\$2,499.96 + booking fees** and includes tickets for up to 12 guests. These tickets grant patrons access to a 20' x 20' "pod" in the outfield. Soft seating will be provided, as well as a welcome snack and one free alcoholic beverage for every 21+ adult. On-Field Experience ticket holders will be able to order from a carefully curated menu with gluten-free, vegan, and vegetarian options available.

## Four Frameline Tickets Available for "Milkwater"

For the fifth year in a row, Lavender Seniors is co-sponsoring at least one film during the Frameline Film Festival this year. There is also consideration of two more films focusing on LGBTQ+ seniors being co-sponsored.

As a result we will currently be able to offer four first-come/first-served tickets for the film, "Milkwater," available for streaming from Thursday, 17th June until Sunday, 27th June, though Frameline suggests watching at 3pm on the 27th. To request one of these comp tickets – or to find out if there are more being co-sponsored – contact [JohnDavid@LavenderSeniors.org](mailto:JohnDavid@LavenderSeniors.org).

### Milkwater



Straight girl Milo (*Younger's* Molly Bernard) is content with a comfortable life of snark and social media, supported by her alterna-family of lesbian best friend and gay roommate. But as the gays in her life begin to pair off, this millennial fruit fly is cast adrift. Enter Roger, an older gay man who dreams of

being a dad. When Milo offers to be his surrogate, is it an impulse born of generosity or neediness?

Director Morgan Ingari lets the audience decide in a beautifully crafted dramedy that captures in nuanced detail this post-nuclear model of the modern family and its Brooklyn home. Both Bernard as Milo and Patrick Breen (*After Louie*, Frameline41) as Roger shine in the lead roles, supported by a spot-on ensemble. Pop culture references, ironic drag, trivia nights, and a cameo from East Village gay bar The Phoenix all add to the authenticity.

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**JUNE FABULOUS FRIDAY FORUMS at NOON**  
**JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup>/ JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup>**

CARA continues to host our popular FRIDAY FORUMS in June. Please mark your calendars for Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup> – a special presentation on LGBTQ and Seniors, along with a Celebration of PRIDE month. On Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup> we will focus on Emergency Preparedness with special attention on Fire/Heat and Power Outage safety as we move into the summer. Both of these forums will be held at NOON PST and will be held via ZOOM and Teleconference. Materials will be sent in advance – you must RSVP below to reserve a seat. Each Forum will have some element of fun and informative

You must register in advance for these events. You will be sent a link for the Forum upon registration.  
Register for both forums below:

**FRIDAY, JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup> at 12 NOON PST**  
**GAY AND GRAY: LGBTQ ISSUES FACING**  
**SENIORS (CELEBRATION OF PRIDE MONTH)**  
**FORUM**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Learn about the specific issues facing LGBTQ seniors and how CARA can work to address concerns and advocate on behalf of these communities. Since June is PRIDE month, we plan to include a bit of celebration as part of this FORUM.



**FRIDAY, JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup> at 12 NOON PST**  
**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, FIRE AND HEAT SAFETY, WATER CONSERVATION**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

With summer upon us, learn some tips about Emergency Preparedness in general, as well as specific suggestion as we approach the wildfire season, hot temperatures, and potential power outages. We will also share some water conservation tips as California moves into another drought season. Speakers from the Community Living Campaign, CA Foundation for Independent Living Centers, CALFire, and water conservation groups will join us.



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Homo-erotic Music Video with "Lil Nas X"

## Season Finale of "Saturday Night Live"

Some of us have become accustomed to seeing semi-suggestive hetero-erotic music videos (e.g., Madonna, Jennifer Lopez or Mariah Carey surrounded by hunky men brushing up against them – and Nick Jonas, Drake or Justin Bieber focused on female bodies surrounding them). A bit of network television history was made, however, during the "Saturday Night Live" season finale on 22<sup>nd</sup> of May.

A homo-erotic video titled "Montero" (and, with appropriate permission, subtitled "Call Me by your Name", a frequently-repeated phrase in the song) was performed, starring openly-gay rapper/singer, Lil Nas X, seven male dancers and another male vocalist. The three-minute music and dance video, complete with a bit of neck-licking and gentle crotch-brushing, appears to be a first all-male homo-erotic music video played live on a commercial television network (though some of the cable networks and YouTube have been known to show such things previously).

The first packed SNL audience (all fully-vaccinated, of course) since the beginning of the Covid pandemic 14 months earlier seemed to be filled with appreciative (and screaming) female and male fans, who gave the performance a standing ovation afterwards.

One amusing part of the performance occurred when the star strode over to a "stripper pole", handed off his mike to the other vocalist, began to do a stripper routine on the pole and then realized he'd had a Janet-Jackson- or Lenny-Kravitz-like "wardrobe malfunction" (his very tight pants apparently split out). So he gracefully finished the routine with the microphone (handed back by his fellow vocalist) in his right hand and his left hand strategically placed so nobody could even get a glimpse of the split seam.

Though probably not true of all grandparents, some of us have granddaughters and grandsons who seem to appreciate homo-erotic videos and love scenes more than the more usual counterpart scenes in media. Couldn't have happened when WE were coming of age back in the '40s, '50s, '60s and '70s!



This spring, Lil Nas X was indirectly involved in a dispute with Nike for marketing 666 pairs of "Satan" shoes via MSCHF Studio, which allegedly inserted a drop of human blood in the midsole of a certain model of Nike shoe to go with the "devil" theme of an earlier song. The dispute was resolved in April with MSCHF agreeing to pay \$1,018 refunds for recalled shoes.

For any who might be interested in viewing this landmark three-minute video (nothing even remotely pornographic here), it can be seen with a click on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SbqLa4uOzo0>

An earlier YouTube version – also slightly controversial – premiered on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6swmTBVI83k>

See an explanation of what was SUPPOSED to happen before the singer's wardrobe malfunction, this conversation with Jimmy Fallon early in the week of 24<sup>th</sup> May: [Click Here](#)

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**Paid Research Opportunity:**

# Participate in an LGBTQ Sexual Health Study



Zebra Strategies is an NYC-based market research company that specializes in studies focused on marginalized communities. They are looking for members of the LGBTQ community to participate in an online virtual study in June about sexual health in the LGBTQ community nationwide. The study is confidential and each participant will be paid \$125.

Sign Up: <https://turnout.secure.force.com/VolunteerSignUp?campaignId=7011U000000K4jl>

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**What are personal pronouns and why do they matter?** <https://www.mypronouns.org/>

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## LGBT Online Support Group for Caregivers

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

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

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

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

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# Well Connected

## Enriching lives and supporting well-being.

(FORMERLY SENIOR CENTER WITHOUT WALLS)

### Community Phone Calls

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

#### Just a few of the things offered:

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

#### LGBTQ Chat 2nd and 4th Wednesdays

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

#### Story Time

Thursdays, 5/6 – 6/10, 7/8 – 8/26

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

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

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

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

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



Jun 1 & 15, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. (1st and 3rd Tuesdays)

Meets via Zoom email [outstandingseniors2@gmail.com](mailto:outstandingseniors2@gmail.com) for info.

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

**Living OUT in Livermore - Sponsored by Pacific Center**

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

Meets via Zoom email [Anne@pacificcenter.org](mailto:Anne@pacificcenter.org) for info.

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

**LezBold Peer Support Group**

Jun 3 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. (1st Thursdays only \*starting this month)

Meets via Zoom email [lezboldgroup@pacificcenter.org](mailto:lezboldgroup@pacificcenter.org) for info.

*Find support and like-minded wonderful people!*

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

Jun 3,10,17,24 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. (Thursdays)

email [Anne@pacificcenter.org](mailto:Anne@pacificcenter.org) for current meeting information.

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

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

Jun 2,9,16,23,30 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. (Wednesdays)

email [Anne@pacificcenter.org](mailto:Anne@pacificcenter.org) for current meeting information.

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

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

Jun 4,11,18,25 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. (Fridays)

email [Anne@pacificcenter.org](mailto:Anne@pacificcenter.org) for current meeting information.

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

**Lavender Seniors Board Meeting**

Jun 9 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (2nd Wednesday) via Zoom

*A portion of this meeting is open to the public.*

**Lavender Seniors Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch**

Jun 12, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. (see info above for Zoom: Remembering Pride)

**Tri-Valley Rainbows - Sponsored by Pacific Center**

Jun 17, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. (3rd Thursday)

Meets via Zoom email [Anne@pacificcenter.org](mailto:Anne@pacificcenter.org) for info.

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

**Oakland Third Friday Lunch Bunch**

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

Jun 18, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. (see info above for Zoom: LGBTQ in Military)

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**Lavender Seniors of the East Bay  
Board of Directors**

President: Victor Aguilar Jr  
Treasurer: Carmen Chiong  
Secretary: John David Dupree (on hiatus)

Founding Member: Barbara Jue  
Communication Director: Melissa West  
Member: Ana Bagtas

## Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

Message: 510-736-LGBT (510-736-5428)  
Friendly Visitor Program: (510) 424-7240 or  
[karen@lavenderseniors.org](mailto:karen@lavenderseniors.org)

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Oakland, CA 94619

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Newsletter Editorial  
Board:  
Beckie Underwood  
John David Dupree

Contact  
Us

