



# Lavender Notes

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

May 2017

*Celebrating 22+ years of service and positive change*

*Volume 24, Issue 5*

## Stories of Our Lives

### Barbara Susan "Bobbe" Leviten

Bobbe Leviten is one of the most ecumenical Lavender Seniors you're ever likely to meet! Born to a Philadelphia-born Jewish mother (thus making her officially Jewish in the eyes of Judaism); raised largely as a Unitarian (default religion after her Mom mostly abandoned Judaism) and a 21st-century convert to Islam, Bobbe first saw the light of day at the old Kaiser Hospital at MacArthur and Broadway in Oakland on 10th February 1954.

"Yeah, there are people in my life who refer to me as 'the trinity,'" Bobbe says, "because I cling to the good parts of all three of the 'Abrahamic' religions: Christianity, Judaism and Islam."

Bobbe has also become well-informed on the culinary aspects of each of the religions (as well as food, in general). For instance, she is well-known in the local lesbian community for preparing hundreds of latkes (specifically Jewish kind of potato pancakes) each year for an annual Hanukkah party, usually in December. She demonstrated latke-making to a group of Lavender Seniors at the Second Saturday Potluck last fall, though she still vigilantly guards the secrecy of her hit cardamom-bar recipe.

"I enjoy cooking a lot - for myself, a few close friends or even a few dozen," she says. "I've introduced people to such cooking aids as induction hot plates and induction-ready cookware - essential for the steady temperature required to make the best latkes."

Like many lesbians who come out later in life, Bobbe knew she was attracted to girls as well as boys by the time she was a teenager. Born to a military couple (Mom was a Marine and Dad was in the Air Force - he left when she was 15 months old), both Bobbe and her Mom had many difficulties during her adolescent years.



Bobbe "with a purse like Mommy", 15 months



Portrait of Bobbe at age 2.5

"My Mom declared me 'incorrigible' by age 14, because I kept running away from home, heading to my friend, Louise's house. Mom would usually come and get me within hours," Bobbe recalls. "We experimented a bit with 'girl-girl' sex, but nothing to really amount to much - we were so young we didn't even have pubic hair yet! At one point, I ran away to Inverness, where a school/camp friend lived and the Unitarians had a rustic cabin. I stayed there for a week or so. When I came back to my Mom's house in East Oakland, she called the police, who carted me off to Juvenile Hall for 33 days, after which I was made a ward of the court."

When "Barbara" was placed into a San Francisco group home (Homewood Terrace), she decided to "re-invent" herself as "Bobbe" in a place where nobody knew her or her history and had no expectations of her.

"This was the Jewish version of Mt. St. Joseph's," Bobbe recalls, "with six girls or six boys in a home with two house parents who traded off shifts. In the house I was in originally, there were four large bedrooms, two girls to a room and a bedroom for whichever house parent was on duty. The exception was the house at the corner of Funston and Balboa, which was three stories and each girl had the luxury of her own room. My roommate, Paula, and I didn't really get along that well, so I agreed to move to Funston House (which at that time housed the younger girls) provided I could keep my in and out and smoking privileges - it was not a bad place to spend my high-school years."

After being expelled from high school for non-attendance, she was sent to Homewood's private school, located on the old orphanage grounds out on Ocean Avenue. She still managed to graduate from Washington High School in San Francisco right on time.



Barbara Leviten

High School photo of Bobbe at age 16, in 1970

"Two of us - Mel and Julie - remain friends to this day," Bobbe says. "When we were at the private Homewood school, Mel and I received our assignments for the week on Monday, finished everything within a day or two, then played gin rummy the rest of the week! Though both Mel and Julie are experiencing serious health issues and live out of the area, whenever we DO get together, it's like we pick up right where we left off four-plus decades ago!"

Bobbe had a fairly low self-image as a teenager and young adult, causing her to feel somewhat unattractive and awkward socially.

"I had one guy try to take me into the bushes when I was in high school," Bobbe recalls, "and when I refused him, he dumped me. I thought it was my fault. When I look at photos of myself as a teenager NOW, though, I think 'hey, I was quite a BABE' and people like that guy lost out!"

An avid reader, she went to Merritt College, where she finally began to find her own footing. Though her original dream career was veterinarian ("I love animals!"), the math and algebra requirements were too daunting for her. She got an A.A. in General Education, studying French, Spanish, German, Russian and Mandarin. Though she nearly finished her B.A. in Health Services Administration at St. Mary's College, she's unlikely to complete the two remaining requirements for that degree. She has, however, continued to pursue languages. If she were ever to go back to school, she says she would focus on philology and genetics of the Russian language.

In the 1970s, Bobbe decided she wanted to become a costume designer, so she headed to Hollywood, where she lived for eleven years (1979-1990). During that time she became involved with the Masquer's Club, which boasted such old actors as Virginia O'Brien, Tony Caruso and members of the Barrymore family. In 1984, she met Phil, the man who would become her husband for nearly six years after a Reno wedding in 1985.

"The man was nothing but an albatross the whole time," Bobbe says, "and I should have known better. Everybody warned me that I couldn't believe anything he said. Turns out he was a verbally- and psychologically-abusive alcoholic who manipulated everybody around him, including me. When we had reached the depths of despair - financial and emotional wrecks - we made the very bad decision to 'start over' in another English-speaking country, flying to Australia in mid-September 1990. He began drinking immediately and finally, one night, he came home drunk at 2am and threw me out into the street. I flew home three weeks later and have never seen or heard from him since. And good riddance!"

When she returned to the U.S., she got an apartment, a job and an Akita ("for comfort "). She's been happily working as a medical transcriptionist for over 30 years. Her current four-footed companion, Oshun, is an emotional support dog that she has joint custody of with a friend living in Canada the last few years.



Bobbe as a (finally) out lesbian in the 1990s



Bobbe as the "Latke Queen" in a friend's kitchen, 2015

One of the greatest joys of her life these days, however, is being co-moderator of two on-line support groups for Lesbian Muslims on Facebook and Yahoo.

"Right after 9/11, I started reading more about Islam to find out what motivated people to be either a 'good Muslim' or a 'bad Muslim,'" Bobbe recalls. "As a pacifist, anti-death-penalty, pro-choice, marriage-equality lesbian, I know if I'd been a man, I would've been a conscientious objector during the Vietnam War. As I was approaching the tender age of 50, I wanted to know where I fit in best. After spending many fascinating hours studying Islam, asking tons of questions, and attending services at the Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California - particularly influenced by Dr. Hamid Mavani - I converted to Islam. My first shahada - Islamic Initiation Ceremony - in 2002 was a bit half-hearted, I must admit, but my second in 2003 - led by Dr. Mavani at ICCNC - was my way of committing to practicing the best of Islam, like him and his followers."

At that second shahada, many of her friends and colleagues came to witness this solemn and celebratory occasion, which included a large bouquet of red roses to herald a special lunch.

"Dr. Mavani's world view is so inclusive and uplifting to me," Bobbe says. "He explains that God doesn't want you to suffer. He's fine with you having a Mercedes, but if you have TWO, give one of them away. It's all about being a good person, helping people, being there and not doing any damage. "

Though she's aware that some Islamic cultures are openly homophobic, Bobbe believes - like Scott Kugle, who wrote [Homosexuality in Islam](#) - that most of that negativity is based on mis-interpretations of the story of Lot in the Qur'an, Bible and Torah, the three primary Abrahamic scriptures.

"The Qur'an has nothing overtly negative to say about gayness," she explains. "Like the other scriptures, the best interpretations of that story focus on the prohibition of rape, as opposed to sex between consenting adults. We must protect the weak and the vulnerable in our societies!"

Two of her proudest accomplishments in the recent past were personally arranging for the rescue of a pit bull from death-row in Ontario (the pooch is now living happily in Nova Scotia); and traveling herself to Toronto to deliver a paper at a Queer Muslim conference in 2003.

Bobbe joined WOFF (Women Over Fifty and Friends) back in the late 1990s and still regularly attends those meetings. In addition, she began regularly attending Lavender Seniors functions - particularly the Third Friday Lunch Bunch and the Second Saturday San Leandro potluck - after attending the memorial service in 2010 for long-time lovers and WOFF members, Ina Mae Murri and Stella Lopez-Armijo, who were also Lavender Seniors pioneers.

"I'm very grateful to be part of a strong LGBTQ community here in the East Bay," Bobbe says. "I couldn't have come leaping out of the closet as a 'happy dyke' so painlessly in the '90s if it hadn't been for people like 'Stina' - as Stella and Ina Mae were called - and other courageous women and men who fought the good fight even before Stonewall!"



Bobbe (left) as tuxedoed "Party Animal" with friend, Steve

Besides her activities as an out (and outspoken) lesbian, multi-cultural culinary expert and moderator of on-line support groups, Bobbe still works full-time as a medical transcriptionist. In whatever spare time she has, she continues to pursue hobbies like machine embroidery, sewing, baking, cooking, eating, dogs/cats ("I want to rescue them all!"), reading, audio-books and languages.

She's already planning what exotic dish she'll be bringing to the Lavender Seniors potluck on the 2nd Saturday in May!

Book Review:

## Pride Parades: How A Parade Changed The World

By Katherine McFarland Bruce

The annual Pride Parade has become a sacred event. In 1971, I vividly recall how my lover John Wise and I marched proudly in the parade. But many gays refused to even be seen at the event because they feared being fired by their employers. We shouted at the frightened observers and urged them to join us. This lasted for the next two years and then the whole community responded.

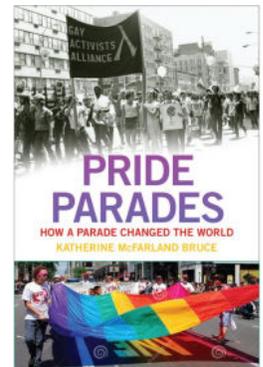
The fundamentalist Christians carried signs like, "The Wages of Sin is Death."

Now 116 cities in America and the rest of the world celebrate the event. The Pride parades - like the Women's March this year - boast some of the most diverse participant pools on the planet, including people of all ages, races, nationalities, gender identities, abilities, religions, socio-economic levels and all the rest! "We are everywhere!"

Katherine Bruce covers the lavender waterfront in all its glory. She also wanted to survey small towns and rural areas.

This is a really fun read. Inspiring and unforgettable.

- Frank Howell



## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

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

## Program Coordination.

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

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

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

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

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

De Anza College, 21250 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino  
May 1 - June 31, 2017.

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

◆◆ Fabled Asp- panels and Quilt (2010)  
<http://fabledasp.com/>

◆◆ COLAGE That's So Gay! Posters (2005)  
<http://www.colage.org/thats-so-gay/>

◆◆ Let CA Ring multilingual posters (2008)

◆◆ United By Love, Divided by Law - Out for Immigration banners (2008)  
<http://www.out4immigration.org>

◆◆ API Family Pride Wall of pride Exhibit  
<http://apifamilypride.org/wall-of-pride/>

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

**The GLBT Historical Society presents**

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



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

All of them brought their perspectives as artists, visionaries, and sexual outsiders to the uprising; all made a lasting impact on American culture. In addition, the exhibition documents how the city's homophile community responded to the Summer of Love. The show will include historic photographs, ephemera, and artifacts from the GLBT Historical Society and private collections.

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

#### WHEN:

April 7th through September 27th, 2017  
Exhibition Opening April 7th | Friday | 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

#### WHERE:

The GLBT History Museum | Front Gallery  
4127 18th Street | San Francisco, CA 94114  
[www.glbthistory.org](http://www.glbthistory.org)

#### HOURS

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

#### ADMISSION

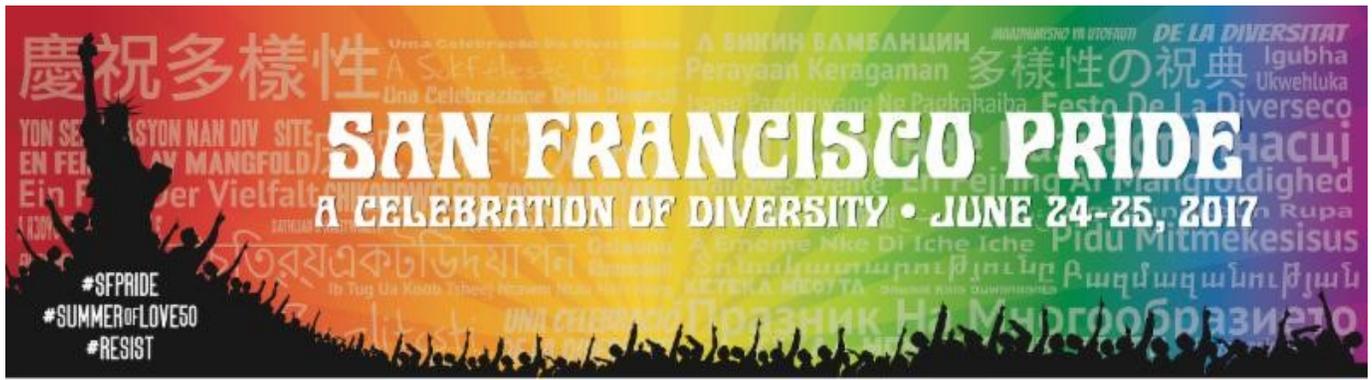
General: \$5 | California Students: \$3 | Members: Free

#### ABOUT THE CURATOR

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

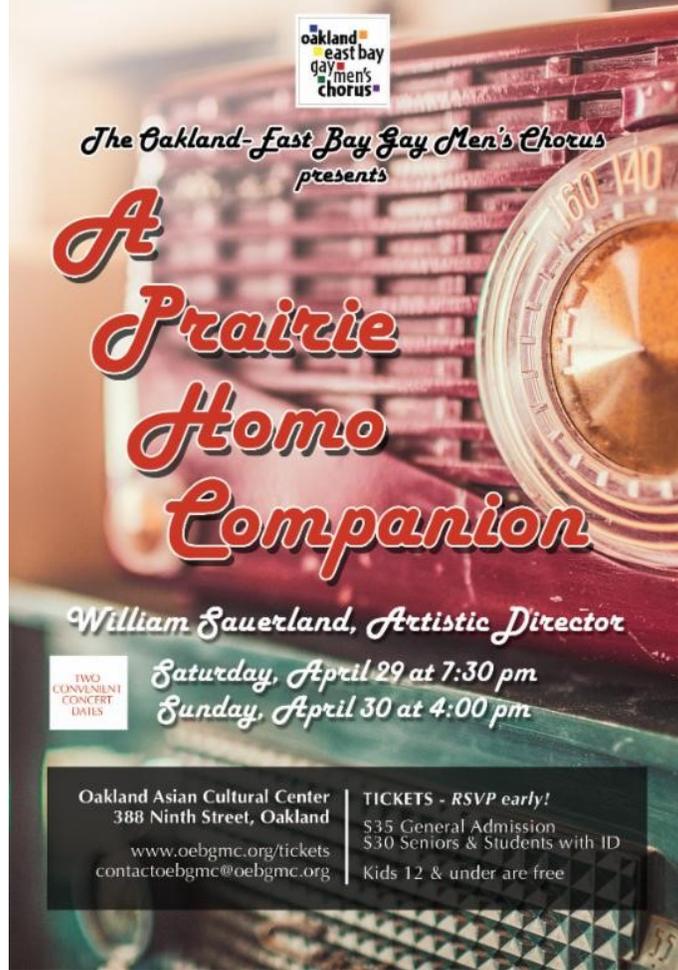
Cain served for eight years on the Board of Directors of the San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade and Celebration Committee, including four years as president. His writing has appeared in RFD Magazine, the Walt Whitman Quarterly Review and most recently in the collection *The Fire In Moonlight: Stories From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

pleased to partner with the GLBT History Museum.



oakland  
east bay  
gay men's  
chorus

*The Oakland-East Bay Gay Men's Chorus gives voice  
to  
a community where everyone matters*



## ***A PRAIRIE HOMO COMPANION***

---

***Saturday, April 29 @ 7:30pm***  
***Sunday, April 30 @ 4:00pm***

***@ the Oakland Asian Cultural Center***  
***388 Ninth Street, Oakland***

---

***\$35 General Admission***  
***\$30 Seniors & Students with Valid ID***  
***Kids 12 and under are free***

---

***Join the Oakland-East Bay Gay Men's Chorus for the whimsical and witty  
"A Prairie Homo Companion", a  
parody of everyone's favorite radio show.***

***Artistic Director, William Sauerland, crafts a show that highlights a diverse repertoire, from opera hits of Giuseppe Verdi and Sigmund Romberg to popular tunes of Anne Murray and Sandi Patty, along with some blues, bluegrass, and American folksongs.***

***Classic radio drama-parodies are sprinkled throughout the show, including "Gay Noir, Private Eye," "Days of Our Lives of the Cowboys," and "News from Lake Merritt."***

***The chorus will be joined by two guest soloists, soprano Shawnette Sulker and songstress Annie Herring.***

***Even if you aren't familiar with the timeless radio show that has inspired our spinoff, you will love the hilarity, bravura, and exceptional artistry of the Oakland-East Bay Gay Men's Chorus!***

***Two convenient show times!***

**[Buy tickets now!](#)**

***We'd love to have you in our audience.***

***Also feel free to email this invitation to your friends - a personal invitation from you is a great way to encourage others to attend.***

***It's OK if you can't make it...***

**Whether in person or in spirit, your support will help us further our mission and reach into the communities that we serve, touching hearts, and opening minds.**

**[DONATE HERE.](#)**

The Oakland-East Bay Gay Men's Chorus is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization.  
Donations are tax deductible.

# 11th Annual Senior Health & Wellness Resource Fair



**Thursday, May 4, 2017 • 9:00am-1:00pm**

- Over 55 Vendors in one location
- Informational Seminars & Class Demonstrations
- Medication review with a pharmacist to make sure you are taking your prescriptions correctly and there are no contradictions. Please bring all your prescriptions.
- Expired medication take back of non-controlled substances
- On the spot Senior Clipper Card registration for ages 65+ (Must show proof of age via valid Driver's License or Passport)
- Tour an AC Transit Flex Bus
- First 100 people through the door receive a special gift

**Fair Held at the:**

Kenneth C. Aitken Senior & Community Center  
17800 Redwood Road  
Castro Valley, CA 94546  
(510) 881-6738  
HaywardRec.org



Learn with H.A.R.D.

## San Leandro Pot Luck

May 13, noon-2:00pm

All Saints Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling, San Leandro

The 2nd Saturday Potluck speaker will be Sharon Davenport of the BALA project (Bay Area Lesbian Archives). Sharon is a archivist who received her degree in North Hampton. She will give us guidance on how to prepare our



significant papers and archival material for archiving should that be where you of this generation of pioneers choose to offer your historical artifacts, documents, etc for archiving to museums and libraries.

Lenn Keller, Rebecca Silverstein, and Sharon Davenport are archivists representing the BALA. Over the last 2 years BALA has presented archiving workshops in Oakland and Berkeley. BALA's mission is to preserve the history of lesbian lives in the Greater San Francisco Bay Area and to make the material accessible to the general public.

Bay Area Lesbian Archives

PO Box 22467

Oakland, CA 94609

415-789-8537

[balezarchives@gmail.com](mailto:balezarchives@gmail.com)

<http://labryshealthcarecircle.com/ace/balhap>

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

## May 16, LGBTQ Advocacy Day in Sacramento

LGBT Advocacy Day on May 16 at the Capitol in Sacramento! We are really trying to drive as diverse a group of attendees as possible and would love your support!

The rights of LGBT Californians and other minorities are under attack - and we must make our voices heard. Join Equality California and a number of progressive organizations, including the ACLU, APLA Health, Lambda Legal, NCLR, GSA Network, LA LGBT Center, SF AIDS Foundation and Project Inform as we bring together a coalition of LGBT leaders, community members, and activists to lobby on a number of pressing issues.

**Travel grants are also available here: [action.eqca.org/travelgrant](http://action.eqca.org/travelgrant)**

Participants will be trained on our legislative priorities and will then engage in face-to-face meetings with Assemblymembers, Senators and their staff at the Capitol. Registration includes lunch, training and the legislative visits.

**When:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017

**Time:** 9:00am - 5:00pm

**Where:** Area 27, California State Capitol, Sacramento, CA

**Register at:** [eqca.org/advocacyday](http://eqca.org/advocacyday)

**We invite Lavender Seniors of the East Bay constituents to join us in Sacramento on May 16 to meet with policymakers and help pass critical civil rights and social justice legislation!**

If you have any additional questions contact Brad Lundahl at [brad@eqca.org](mailto:brad@eqca.org) or 323-848-9801.

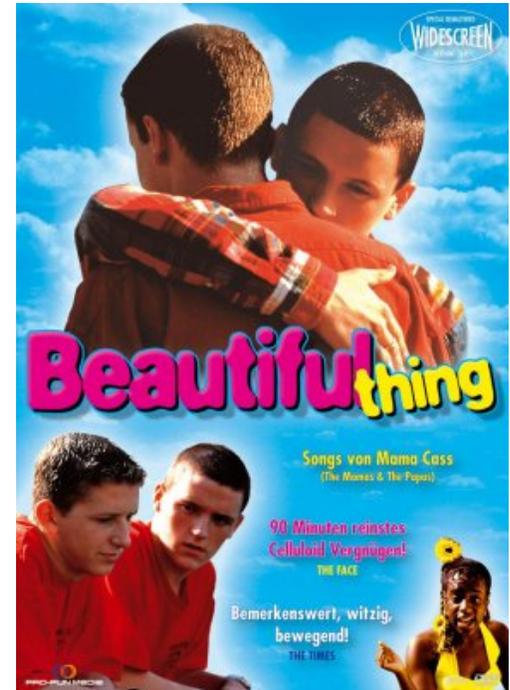
**Lavender Seniors Film Series, Third Wednesday, 17th May , 1-3pm**

## Beautiful Thing

A classic "coming-out/coming-of-age" film - featuring a delightful "Mama Cass" Elliott soundtrack - will be this month's Lavender Seniors film.

In a London suburb, young and sensitive Jamie is escaping athletics classes, to avoid being the victim of his comrades'

taunting. His more athletic next-door neighbor, young Ste (which may sound like "Steve" to those of us in "the states"), who is regularly beaten by his father and older brother, seeks refuge one night with Jamie and his Mom, feisty Sandra. As a result, Sandra invites him to stay overnight in their two-bedroom flat. Though the boys start out sleeping in the same bed "head-to-toe", they soon discover new feelings that they've both been struggling with.



German DVD Jacket promoting Cass Elliott soundtrack

Their slightly-wacky Afro-English neighbor, Leah (who is obsessed with Mama Cass), though she appears to be a high-school dropout, plays a key role in the coming-out drama going on between Jamie and Ste.

Review from the San Francisco Chronicle:

*An affecting gay love story from England about two high school boys who find romance in the bleak, turbulent atmosphere of a public housing project in southeast London.*

*The coming-of-age film is the impressive feature debut of director Hettie Macdonald, based on a play by [Jonathan Harvey](#), who adapted it for the screen.*

*Two boys, neighbors in the housing complex, are the central characters. Jamie (Glen Berry) is an introspective sort who loathes rowdies and football, and lives with his tough-minded mom, Sandra (Linda Henry), a pub manager. Next door lives Ste (Scott Neal), a handsome kid who plays football and suffers regular beatings at the hands of his drunken father and angry, bullying older brother.*

*Jamie's mother, tough as she is, is a doting type when it comes to the kids. But she works long hours. And desperate to have an adult life, she's almost always entertaining her boyfriend, Tony ([Ben Daniels](#)), a '90s hippie hanger-on who fancies himself a California-type guy. Sandra has a soft spot for Ste, and aware of the abuse he suffers, she offers him refuge in her place with son Jamie.*

*"Beautiful Thing" is tender and sweet in the way it builds up the boys' friendship. They're refugees from a hostile world, and while they initially resist the temptation to show affection toward each other, the tug proves irresistible. But the movie doesn't play it pat, making victimization an excuse for their homosexual urges.*



*In portraying romance, the film transcends its homosexual themes, while at the same time celebrating them. The fine line is walked, through story and directing, with grace.*

*Characters are smartly developed, especially that of an Afro-English teenage girl named Leah (Tameka Empson), who lives a risky life and dreams of becoming a pop singer in the mold of Mama Cass. A bout of despondency and her ventures into drugs and alcohol prompt others in the complex to take stock of their lives.*

*There's some contrivance to "Beautiful Thing." But a sense of joy in young love prevails, overcoming a hastily developed lesbian theme and a slightly hokey finale. The soundtrack features the music of Mama Cass adding a bright earnestness to the film.*

The film will be shown at 1pm on Wednesday, 17th of May, in the Lecture Hall of the San Leandro Public Library, 300 Estudillo, a ten-minute walk up Estudillo from the San Leandro BART station - or a five-minute walk from the AC-Transit stop at E. 14th and Estudillo.

The film will be shown at 1pm on Wednesday, 17th of May, in the Lecture Hall of the San Leandro Public Library, 300 Estudillo, a ten-minute walk up Estudillo from the San Leandro BART station - or a five-minute walk from the AC-Transit stop at E. 14<sup>th</sup> and Estudillo.

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

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

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

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

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

### Third Friday Lunch Bunch, Friday, 19th May, 12-2pm

### North Oakland Senior Center



This month's speaker is psychologist, LaRee Marquardt-Byrd of the Recovery Connections Center (RCC) in Marin County. As a practicing psychologist, LaRee will discuss the subject of depression, what it is, how to identify it and how to handle this issue.

LaRee has been a licensed Marriage Family therapist in California since 1994. She has been working with children,

adolescents, adults and entire families, focusing on individuals struggling with substance abuse and addiction since the late 1980s.

LaRee has worked as Clinical Director of an acute psychiatric facility, as well as with sub-acute psychiatric populations in both locked and non-locked facilities. She has been Clinical Director of a residential substance abuse treatment facility - as well as intensive outpatient programs - serving adolescents and adults.

Since joining the San Rafael-based Bay Area Community Resources team in 2012, she has conducted Substance Abuse/Psych Assessments with RCC's mental health team, focusing on individuals entering or succeeding with recovery from Alcohol and Other Drug issues. LaRee is the Coordinator for Recovery Connections Center, now working full-time as Consulting Addiction Specialist for Marin County mental health and social services agencies, as well as continuing to work via BACR/RCC providing consultation services to Marin County citizens who struggle with co-occurring disorders. She also provides trainings regarding co-occurring disorders for various Marin County Mental Health Substance Use Services (MCMHSUS) and Marin County Health & Human Services (MCHHS).

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

## UCSF Rainbows of Aging

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

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

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



*NEW CONSERVATORY THEATRE CENTER  
CELEBRATES 35 YEARS*

### 2016-2017 Season Presentations

+ **SORDID LIVES** May 12 - Jun 11, 2017  
by Del Shores  
SF Premiere

+ **WARPLAY** Jun 2- Jul 2, 2017  
by JC Lee  
World Premiere

Subscription Packages provide heavy discounts.  
Go to <http://www.nctcsf.org/shows/subscribe> for more details.  
25 Van Ness Ave. San Francisco, CA 94102  
415.861.8972



## LGBT Online Support Group for Caregivers

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

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

## Recipes of My Heritage



© Can Stock Photo

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

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

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



## Community Phone Calls

Just a few of the things offered:

**LGBTQ Chat 2nd and 4th Mondays, 5/8, 5/22, 6/12, 6/26 1:00pm - 2:00pm**

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

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

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

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

*Get your tickets now!!*

**Third Annual Pride Dance at the Hayward Senior Center**

**\*\*\*ages 21+\*\*\* Hosted Happy Hour!**

Friday, May  
19th, 7-10 pm  
Tickets \$17 in  
advance, \$20 at  
the door  
-also-  
email [Beckie](mailto:Beckie) for  
tickets.

Hayward Senior  
Center  
22325 North Third  
Street, Hayward  
510-881-6766



# LGBTQ & ALLIES PRIDE DANCE

## Friday, May 19, 2017

7:00pm-10:00pm

Photo Booth

Unlimited Dancing

Hors d'oeuvres

Unique Mocktail Bar



Featuring "Castro Valley Pride DJ" Billy Bradford

Hayward Area Senior Center

Location: 22325 North 3rd St., Hayward, CA



510.881.6766

[www.haywardrec.org](http://www.haywardrec.org)



\$17 in advance \$20 at door

Happy Hour 7-8pm; Beer & Wine

Online tickets are available at [www.haywardrec.org](http://www.haywardrec.org) Use code: #44165

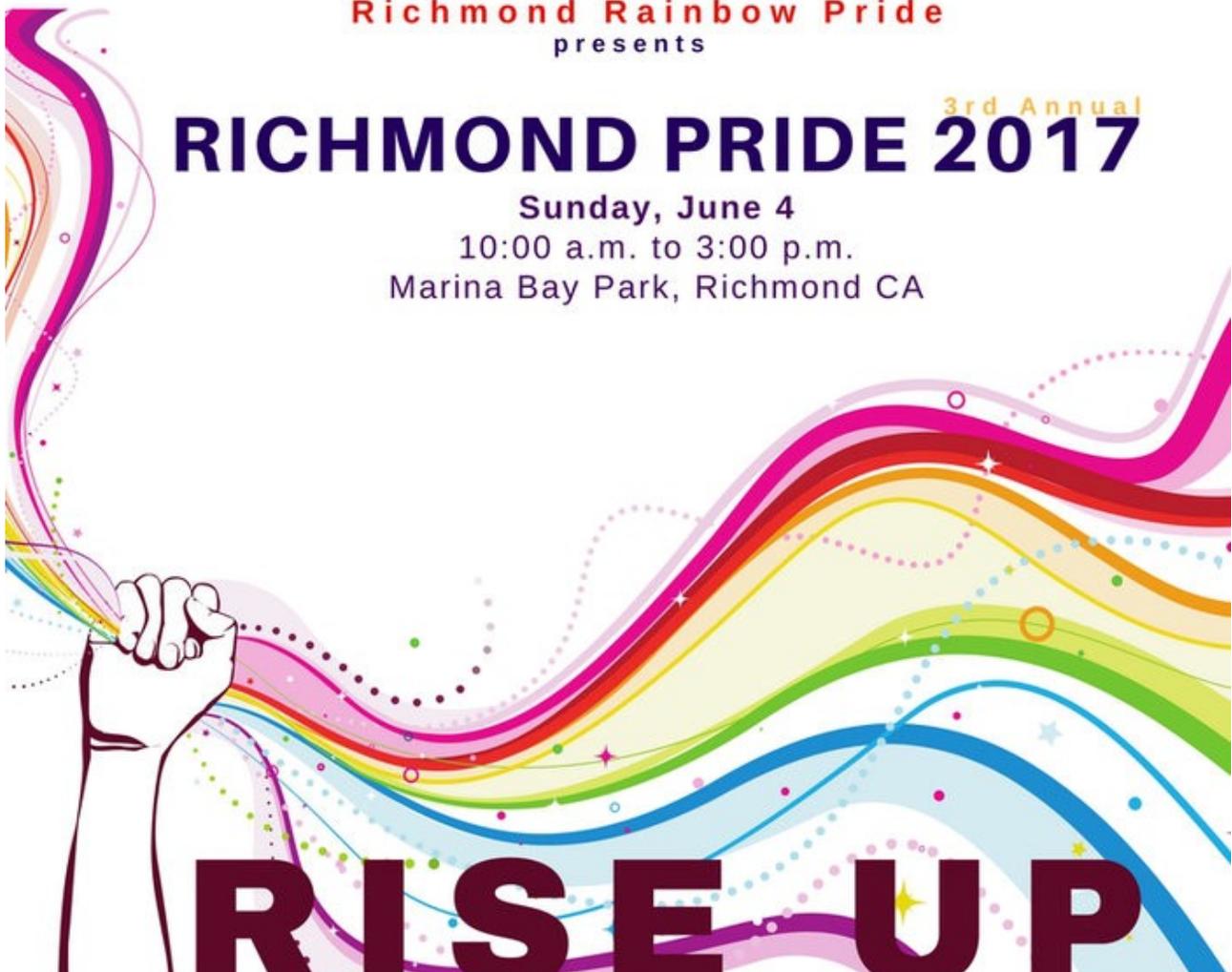


Richmond Rainbow Pride  
presents

3rd Annual

# RICHMOND PRIDE 2017

Sunday, June 4  
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Marina Bay Park, Richmond CA



**RISE UP  
TOGETHER**

[www.RichmondRainbowPride.org](http://www.RichmondRainbowPride.org)



## THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

### Older & Out - Hayward

May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 1:15pm (Mondays)

Hayward Senior Center, 22325 N. Third Street, Hayward

*A topical therapeutic peer support groups for isolated LGBTQ older adults*

### Queerly Aging Lesbians

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

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

*Find support and like-minded wonderful people!*

### Out Standing Seniors

May 2 & 16\* 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (1st and 3rd Tuesdays)

Hayward Senior Center, 22325 N. Third Street, Hayward

\* on May 16 we will be meeting at the Kenneth Aiken Senior Center, 17800 Redwood Rd., Castro Valley

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

### Older & Out - Berkeley

May 5, 12, 19, 26, 3:15pm (Fridays)

North Berkeley Senior Center, 901 Hearst Ave, Berkeley

*A topical therapeutic peer support groups for isolated LGBTQ older adults*

### Gay Straight Alliance

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

Fremont Senior Center, 40086 Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont

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

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

### Rainbow Seniors

May 9 & 23 12:30 - 2:00 (2nd & 4th Tuesdays)

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

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

### Lavender Seniors Advisory Board Meeting

May 10, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

San Leandro Library, 300 Estudillo, San Leandro

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

### Senior Men's Group

April 13 & 27 1:30 p.m. (2nd and 4th Thursdays)

The Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley

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

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

### San Leandro Potluck

May 13, noon - 2:00pm (2nd Saturday)

All Saints Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling, San Leandro 94578

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

*This month's program: Sharon Davenport from BALA (see info above)*

### Lavender Seniors Film Series

May 17, 1:00 - 3:00pm (3rd Wednesday)

San Leandro Library, 300 Estudillo, San Leandro

*This month's movie: Beautiful Thing (see info above)*

### Our Space Intergenerational Community Dinner

May 18, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. (3rd Thursday)

Our Space, 22245 Main St in Hayward

*Contact [stephanie@baycyouth.org](mailto:stephanie@baycyouth.org) for information*

### Oakland Lunch Bunch

Sponsored by City of Oakland Aging & Adult Services

May 19, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. (3rd Friday)

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

*This month's program:*

*LaRee Marquardt-Byrd (see info above)*

### *Women caring for their woman partners*

Every other Friday at 1pm

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

Facilitated by Dr. Shannon Dubach

2041 Bancroft Way, Suite 307 Berkeley

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

# Lavender Seniors of the East Bay Board of Advisors

**President:** Victor Aguilar Jr.

**Vice President:** Akilah Monifa

**Secretary:** John David Dupree

**Treasurer:** Carmen Chiong

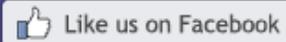
**Editor:** Beckie Underwood

**Interim Program Coordinator:** Barbara Jue

## Lavender Seniors

is a project of

LIFE ElderCare



Email: [info@lavenderseniors.org](mailto:info@lavenderseniors.org)  
Website: <http://lavenderseniors.org>

3300 Capitol Avenue  
Fremont, CA 94538  
510-574-2073