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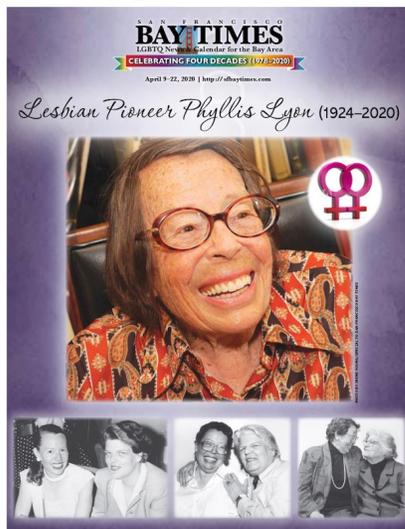
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May 2020 - Volume 26 Issue 5



Lesbian Pioneer Phyllis Lyon (1924-2020)

For immediate release: April 9, 2020, San Francisco Bay Times



Pioneering Lesbian and Civil Rights Activist Phyllis Lyon Dies at Age 95

(San Francisco, CA) Founding *San Francisco Bay Times* contributor, pioneering lesbian, and civil rights activist Phyllis Lyon has died at age 95, according to *Bay Times* columnist Kate Kendell, who was mentored by Lyon and served as the former executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights. Lyon died on the morning of Thursday, April, 9 of natural causes.

Lyon was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on November 10, 1924. After earning a degree in journalism from the University of California, Berkeley, she worked as a

reporter and journalist for several years. In 1950, she met Del Martin and the two became partners a few years later. In 1955, the couple moved to a Castro Street apartment and, with three other lesbian couples, helped to found the Daughters of Bilitis, which was the first lesbian civil and political rights organization in the U.S.

After moving to Noe Valley, they began publication of *The Ladder* in 1956. It was the first

nationally distributed lesbian publication in the country, and continued until 1972.

In 1964, Lyon and Martin helped found the Council on Religion and the Homosexual with Glide Memorial Methodist Church. This was the first U.S. group to use the word "homosexual" in its name. Three years later, they became the first lesbian couple to join the National Organization for Women, and subsequently helped to expand that influential organization's policies to include lesbian rights.

In 1972, the couple were among the first members of the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club. Then they authored the groundbreaking book *Lesbian Woman*, which is considered to be a foundational text of lesbian feminism. This work was followed by *Lesbian Love and Liberation*, published in 1973.

In 1978, the pair chaired San Franciscans Against Proposition 6 (Briggs Initiative). With Cleve Jones and numerous other LGBTQ community leaders, they also became founding contributors of the *San Francisco Bay Times*. The following year, activists founded Lyon-Martin Health Services and named it after them. Now a program of HealthRight 360, Lyon-Martin Health Services continues to provide specialized, non-judgmental healthcare to women and to LGBTQ individuals.

Lyon and Martin were early supporters of now Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi when she was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1987.

The film *Last Call at Maud's*, released in 1993, chronicled the lives of Lyon and Martin, along with other Bay Area-based lesbian community leaders and members. The 2003 documentary *No Secret Anymore: The Times of Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon* as well as the book and film *Different Daughters: A History of the Daughters of Bilitis and the Birth of the Lesbian Rights Movement* are among other works that highlight their achievements.

The couple in 1995 served as delegates to the White House Conference on Aging. In 2000, they signed on as a plaintiff couple in *In re Marriage Cases* filed against the California law enacted by the passage of Proposition 22. On February 12, 2004, launching the "Winter of Love," Martin and Lyon were issued a marriage license by the City and County of San Francisco after then mayor Gavin Newsom ordered that marriage licenses be given to same-sex couples who requested them.

The marriage license of the devoted couple, along with those of several thousand other same-sex couples, was voided on August 12 by the California Supreme Court. It took four more years before Lyon and Martin could be legally wed yet again. The mayor presided over the memorable ceremony on June 16, 2008, making them the first same-sex couple to be married in San Francisco after the California Supreme Court decision concerning *In re Marriage Cases* legalized same-sex marriage in the state. Martin passed with Lyon by her side just four years later.

It was not until June 26, 2015, that the U.S. Supreme Court struck down all state bans on same-sex marriage, thereby legalizing it in all fifty states.

After Martin's passing, Lyon remained very active in the San Francisco LGBTQ community by lending her support to numerous organizations, promoting civil rights causes, and attending numerous events, including those produced by "Betty's List" and the *San Francisco Bay Times*. She was thrilled when the play *The Daughters*, based on her and others' lesbian activism, held its world premiere at the San Francisco Playhouse on October 9, 2019.

Lyon celebrated her 95th birthday November 10, 2019, with Kendell and Rocket Science Associates CEO Joyce Newstat. It was a joyous day commemorated with a special issue of the *San Francisco Bay Times*. As Kendell shared, "We drove, ate, laughed, talked. And felt grateful every second."

On Lyon's final birthday, numerous friends paid tribute to her for the *San Francisco Bay Times*. Those tributes may be found at: <https://bit.ly/3bTzXDV>

Kendell shares that the family wishes to thank the devoted caregivers and community members whose devotion and commitment gave Lyon joy and security in her final years.

Survivors are her beloved sister Patricia Lyon, her devoted daughter Kendra Mon, son-in-law Eugene Lane (dubbed by Lyon an honorary lesbian), granddaughter Lorri Mon, grandson Kevin Mon, his wife Ellen, and Lyon's great granddaughter Kexin Mon.

The family requests that gifts in honor of Phyllis be made to the Lyon-Martin Health Clinic: <https://bit.ly/3b8C1bv>

For interviews and additional information, please contact:

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If you get this newsletter in time you might want to check this out:

With the recent tragic passing of Phyllis Lyon, partner in love and politics of the late Del Martin, Frameline and Roxie are teaming up to offer an online community screening of **No Secret Anymore: The Times of Del Martin & Phyllis Lyon** on Thursday, April 30th at 6pm.

This virtual screening is a collaboration between the Roxie Theater and Frameline. The event will feature personal tributes to Phyllis offered by special guests including Kate Kendell, Jewelle Gomez and Joan E. Biren

\$10 suggested donation. 100% of ticket sales will be donated to [Lyon-Martin Health Services](#).

Get your tickets [HERE](#)

STORIES
OF OUR LIVES



Brendalynn Goodall

Being the first-born of four sisters jump-started a life filled to date with responsibility, compassion, caregiving and service, a trajectory which has culminated most recently in her March election to the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee as an out proud African-American lesbian.

Brendalynn Reane Goodall was born at Oakland's Providence Hospital in March 1951. Her three sisters were born two, three and eight years later. When Brendalynn was born, her parents were teenagers and her father had just graduated from McClymonds High School.

"My parents and I always joked about the 'fact' that we 'grew up' together," Brendalynn recalls. "When each of my sisters was born – even when I was just age seven and eight – I already found myself in the role of third parent to these little bundles of joy. It was as natural to me as breathing to take care of them at such an early age."

Her father was an award winning art director and cartoonist who later evolved into an innovative and artistic entrepreneur. Her mother was a businesswoman and bookkeeper who opened and managed the McGree Goudeau Gallery.

"When his mother was in the hospital, my Dad wanted to send her a card, but couldn't find any black people on any of the cards," Brendalynn recounts. "So he mocked up a few, starting a pioneering greeting card line called 'Goodie' cards – featuring African-Americans – that was very successful." In 1962, it was the first line of African-American contemporary greeting cards.



Brendalynn, Cleveia, Joyce and Sharon



Second-grader @ Melrose Elementary



Graduating from Skyline High

Segregation in the Oakland Schools system varied during Brendalynn's elementary and secondary school periods, but racism was everywhere.

"I went to Elmhurst Junior High School," she recalls. "When I won a student lottery in 1964, I was able to take an early-morning AC-Transit bus up to Skyline, where my parents thought I had a better chance of being prepared for college. It wasn't easy. In French class, for example, the teacher thought nothing of making jokes about black people. I played the flute in the band and orchestra, which was one way of forgetting about the racism that surrounded me. Music has always been therapeutic and calming for me."

The family moved around three times during Brendalynn's childhood, starting out in West Oakland's Campbell Village, then to mid-Oakland in the Melrose

District and finally landing in East Oakland on 96th Avenue from sixth grade through graduation from Skyline.

"My parents tried to buy their first house in 1959," Brendalynn says, "but nobody in San Leandro would sell to a black family back then. That's how we wound up in East Oakland – first living across from the Hunt's packing plant in Melrose and finally on 96th Avenue. Utmost in my parents' minds was putting their kids in a position where they'd be most likely to succeed."

Succeeding academically was utmost in Brendalynn's mind, also, during her high school years.

"None of us really dated or had much of a social life when we were growing up," Brendalynn says. "Though I did go with a boy to my junior prom and senior ball, I wasn't really aware of my attraction to women for many years. My Dad was pretty strict, so even if I'd known then, I have a feeling he wouldn't have allowed it."

After graduating from Skyline in 1968, Brendalynn enrolled at CSU-Hayward, initially intending to pursue a career as an anesthesiologist.

"That aspiration lasted only the first quarter; then I became involved in the black student union and Vietnam War protests," she recalls. "I participated in campus marches and demonstrations. As I racked up units in psychology, I decided that might be better for me than medicine. I graduated in 1973 with a B.A. in psychology – a change in course I've never regretted!"

For the first five years after graduation, she was primarily involved in the mental health field, working her way up from being a live-in counselor at a psychiatric halfway house to being the executive director of Bonita House in Berkeley.

"We did a lot of innovative things at Bonita House," she recalls, "including pioneering vocational rehabilitation projects like training residents in restaurant management. This resulted in such enterprises as Junkman's Palace near Telegraph and Ashby. It was important for people dealing with mental health to have skills needed to stay employed and deal with their reality."

Brendalynn began working on her MSW at San Francisco State University, attending evening classes for three years. She knew she didn't want her career to be strictly focused on mental health. After she received that degree, she began her segway into the aging field, a career that lasted over 30 years. In fact, support for Lavender Seniors' Third Friday Lunch Bunch, a monthly tradition for decades, can largely be credited to Brendalynn's 1990-2002 tenure as Program Director with the City of Oakland, Department of Human Services and then promoted from 2002-2011 to the Division Manager for Aging and Adult Services.

"My three decades of work in the aging field began with Bay Area Community Services (BACS) in Oakland, where I helped direct a senior employment and training program for five years, ultimately becoming Director of the program," Brendalynn recalls. "Under the Older Americans Act, it was our vision to re-connect seniors over age 55 with the workforce, at least part-time. During that period – when a lot of United Way funding was drying up – we placed seniors

with such vital community programs as the AIDS Project of the East Bay. After that stint with BACS, I wound up for 21 years with the City of Oakland.”

Even after she retired from her post in 2011, she continued working with the City’s Summer Jobs Youth Program and was on call when people in the community needed her expertise.

Meanwhile, on the personal and political front, Brendalynn’s story is also as inspirational as her professional accomplishments.

“At age 40, I realized that all of my friends were lesbians,” Brendalynn says, “which, in turn, made me realize I felt complete in my skin as a lesbian. In the course of finding alternatives to the bars and discos, I began attending an African-American 40-plus group, its potlucks and other social events. And behold, I started connecting with Nancy, this delightful woman who has since become my soul-mate, then my significant other, my ‘domestic partner’ and finally, in 2008, my wife. We were married at City Hall by then-Mayor Ron Dellums and Congresswoman Barbara Lee! We’ll celebrate



Wedding Day, September 2008

being together for 29 years on our anniversary in September!”

Brendalynn and Nancy have not only lived together, but have traveled a great deal of the world.



In Seville, Spain



Nancy’s Home-Town of Brooklyn,
NY



Canadian Rockies Glacier

Coming out to her parents when she was in her 40s was not as easy as she might have hoped.

“My parents had moved back to New York,” Brendalynn recalls. “Dad flew in for a visit. One night, Nancy and I took him to Yoshi’s, after which – at 1am or so – I broke it to him: ‘You know that woman who went with us to Yoshi’s? We are in a relationship!’ He closed down for a while, bringing



Mom, Dad and the four sisters, Christmas 2006

up Catholicism, not having grandchildren, etc. When I came out to Mom later, she was mostly upset I hadn't told her first! They were both at our wedding, though, and, of course, fell in love with Nancy, too - what's not to love?! My sisters have mostly been supportive, even though one of them temporarily played the Bible card. They're okay now."

Her father – who reclaimed his family's French-Creole name of Goudeau – died in 2015 and her mother died in 2018. Brendalynn chose, however, to retain the Goodall name.

Brendalynn's political activities have been a major focus of her adult life, beginning with her interest in dealing with mental health, homelessness and LGBTQ issues in the community.

"I would date the serious resurgence of my political activism with my re-connection to Brenda Crawford in 1997," she recounts. "As president of what was then called the East Bay Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club, she asked me to join her in increasing visibility of African-Americans in the political process. Though Brenda only remained at the helm for another year or two, I jumped in with both feet, becoming treasurer, secretary, vice-president and president of the club for six years. During my 23 years of involvement with the club – which became East Bay's Stonewall Democratic Club – we doubled the membership and diversified it to better represent our community, and started the tradition of hosting the annual Oakland Pride Breakfast."



At Stonewall Oakland Pride Breakfast, Oakland Pride Grand Marshal 2018 and Ca-Dem LGBT Caucus

In addition to pioneering such events as endorsement meetings and community forums, she has also been involved in AMASSI (an African-American gay men's AIDS support organization), is on the board of the Health and Human Resource Education Center, the California Democratic Party's LGBT Caucus, the Party's Affirmative Action Standing Committee and recently has joined the board of Berkeley's Pacific Center for Human Growth. Mayor Libby Schaaf has appointed her to the Selection Panel for the Citizen's Police Commission.

Her decision to run for the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee was based on a lifetime of observing and experiencing inequities in our community.



Launching a campaign, receiving award from Emeryville City Council and organizing a Social Security town hall

“Because of the ongoing disparities associated with societal stigma, discrimination and denial of LGBTQ civil and human rights,” Brendalynn asserts, “it is now more important than ever that we continue the fight. We need to promote equality in health care services, affordable housing, immigrant and transgender rights, work-place equity and fighting racism within and outside of our own communities to address critical needs of our LGBTQ elders and youth! Though I’ve officially retired from my profession, it’s in my blood to continue giving back to my community.”

Whether she would ever run for another perhaps-more-political office is anybody’s guess.



At Brendalynn’s 60th Birthday, LGBTQ Night at the A’s and cuddling with sweet Emma

But she’d be in mighty fine company if she ever did!



W/State Senator Nancy Skinner



W/President Barack Obama

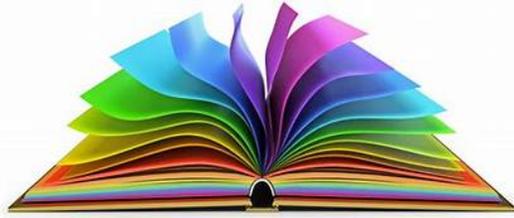


W/Georgia’s Stacey Abrams

She claims that – in her retirement – she wants to relax with Nancy at Sea Ranch, learn how to play the cello, play on-line “Words with Friends” internationally (and perhaps inter-galactically?). But somehow, we’re picturing her in compulsive political activist mode, perhaps in addition to realizing those

more typical retirement bucket lists.

Either way, Brendalynn, thank you for sharing so much of your story with us, for your history of doing so much for the various communities you've represented over the years, including those with mental health or substance abuse issues, LGBTQ seniors, and those suffering from homelessness!



BOOK REVIEW

Out In Time: The Public Lives of Gay Men From Stonewall To The Queer Generation
By Perry N. Halkitis

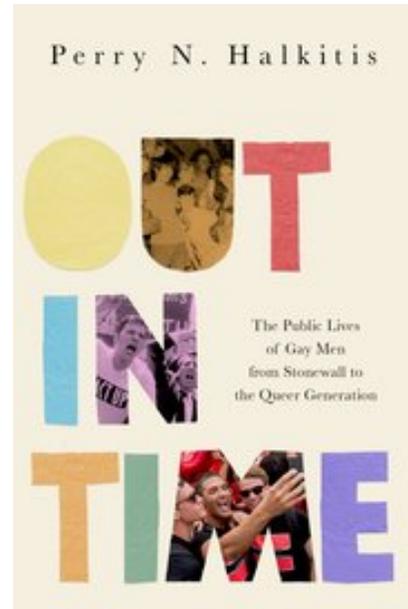
Halkitis tells us that the environment for gays, women, and blacks has greatly improved since the 1950's. Gays were arrested because they existed. This felt like the Deep South in the old days.

Halkitis is dean and professor at the School of Public Health at Rutgers University. His previous book is "The AIDS Generation: Stories of Survival and Resistance".

He points to the LGBT community in the Bay Area. He relates his own story about coming out as a teenager. This book will help us recall our own stories.

Halkitis has helped us recall lavender history in a new and compelling fashion. A must read!

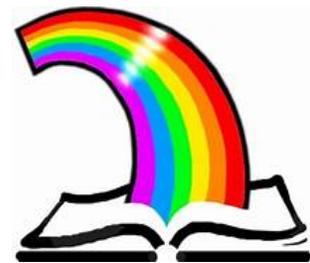
- Frank J. Howell



BONUS BOOK REVIEW

Find Me

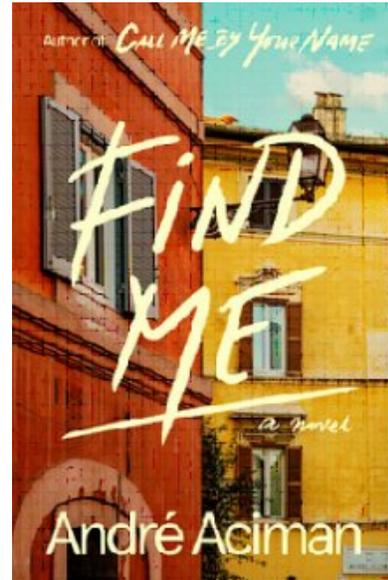
[aka "Call Me By Your Name 2"]



I admit at the outset that I don't represent all gay white men of a certain age. But I – like many other gay men of various stripes that I've known – long for a happy ending on the page and in film. Some of us are addicted to "chick flicks"; others have watched every installment of "Star Trek" or "Star Wars" or each of the nine episodes of the "Fast and Furious!" franchise. When a book or film ends in heartbreak, however, many of us long for an alternative happier

ending – much more satisfying in the final analysis – or at least we delude ourselves it would be.

Well, many of us have read André Aciman's 2007 "Call Me By Your Name" several times – or viewed the Oscar-winning 2017 film version of "CMBYN" a half-dozen times. Watching young Elio gaze bleary-eyed into the burning yule-log for the last four minutes of the film's credits – the epitome of "lost-first-love," with Sufjan Stevens moaning "I have touched you for the last time" in the background – we share his heartbreak and long for some sweeter outcome for Elio and Oliver. Maybe that's all projection from our own lives – the love we left behind, perhaps – or maybe the one who left US behind. But, nevertheless, the longing is real!



It's known that both Director Luca Guadagnino and Timothée Chalamet (Oscar-nominated for his role as 17-year-old Elio) began bugging Aciman for a sequel in 2018. He finished that sequel, "Find Me", and it was published in October 2019 to mixed reviews.



Before proceeding to the review of this sequel, it's important to say that Amazon has bought the movie rights to the book, Guadagnino has signed on as director, plus Chalamet, Armie Hammer (who played Oliver) and Michael Stuhlbarg (who played Elio's father, Samuel Perlman) are all in for filming the sequel, currently alleged to be called "Call Me By Your Name 2". Unfortunately,

COVID-19 has put filming in Italy or France on hold for now, though Guadagnino has allegedly engaged an American screenwriter. It'll be interesting to see how crucial make-up is in moving the story forward 10, 15 and 20 years in the film.

The book – like many sequels – was an okay read, but a bit disappointing. Written in four sections:

- Tempo: All about Samuel – ten years later, divorced from Elio's Mom – and his May-September relationship with a new young love named Miranda;
- Cadenza: All about Elio and his short-term relationship with an older Frenchman named Michel – plus their search to uncover a mystery;
- Capriccio: All about Oliver and his life as a married university professor, father of two sons, in New Hampshire, laced semi-heavily with longing for Elio;
- Da Capo: All about Oliver and Elio re-connecting (no spoiler here).

Unfortunately, what so many CMBYN fans were waiting for was to find out whether Elio and Oliver would re-connect. Of this 272-page book, only the last 12 pages deal with the Elio-Oliver relationship – oh, well, and the child of now-deceased Samuel and his young wife, Miranda – a child who has been named Oliver ("Ollie"), officially Elio's much-younger brother.

Okay, the dialogue between Samuel and Elio toward the end of the 2017 film showed the father-son talk that nearly every son would probably like to have had with his father! Nevertheless, having nearly the first **half** of this book (125 pages = 46%) devoted to what happened to Daddy ten years after the book/movie left off was way too much deferred gratification for this reader. My husband and I – reading to each other under an orange tree outside – repeatedly looked quizzically at each other, wanting to know what ever happened to Oliver and Elio!?!

The second chapter – another 36% of the book – offers no more relief for this romantic. The sweet – but ultimately unrequited – love between Elio, now a Paris music teacher, and classical music aficionado, Michel, an older man – now taking place fifteen years after the book/film ends – still offers few clues to our burning question about Elio and Oliver.

The third chapter – Oliver’s 12% of the book – describes a successful, but fairly-unhappy, suburban New England university professor – heterosexually-married father of two sons – who finally broaches the central question – mightn’t he finally be happier if he re-connected with Elio, who is, in the final analysis, the true love of his life?

The final chapter (less than 6% of the book) deals with whether that re-connection can ever actually happen without turmoil spewed in every direction through all of the characters’ lives.

Anyone who wants to know how the sequel ends needs to buy the book or borrow it from your local library (several are closed or have limited hours now). It’s also available on-line as an e-book or can be purchased on-line for delivery by post for those willing to wait for that process.

Meanwhile, don’t look for the sequel to be filmed by 2021, as originally estimated, but as soon as we’re free of COVID-19 and can safely film in New Hampshire, France and Italy, the director and screenwriter – who I firmly believe will jointly streamline this book to our satisfaction – assure us that we will have this film in a theater near you as soon as possible!

- John David Dupree, Tinamastes, Costa Rica

CONNECTIONS



Lavender Seniors Seeks Webmaster

We have been “spoiled” over the years by having highly-qualified volunteer (Bert Hendriksen for many years, as well as D’Anne Bruetsch for a while) and reasonably-priced (Lisa Stambaugh) webmasters to help us aging, technically-

challenged LGBTQ seniors to maintain a high-quality web-page for our constituents (www.LavenderSeniors.org).

Now, Lisa has decided it's time to retire and move on to all the joys and sorrows of retirement, like so many of us have done or are planning on doing.

As we enter the third month of "sheltering-in-place" and "stay-at-home" orders, it is perhaps even more important that vulnerable (and invincible!) LGBTQ seniors in the East Bay have a reliable and colorful website to go to for information and staying connected with their community.

Therefore, we are looking for any LGBTQ community members – or their allies – who would be willing to take on that task as soon as possible. We would prefer engaging someone who'd want to play the role for at least a year, or, ideally, longer. Someone with creativity, intelligence, website experience, knowledge of our community and a flair for detail would be our first choice.

If you – or anyone you know – might be interested, qualified and have a few hours a month to spend maintaining and sprucing up our internet image, please contact Info@LavenderSeniors.org or leave a message at 510-736-LGBT. Someone will get back to you as soon as possible

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.

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 or (510) 424-7240 and we will be in touch with you soon. Thank You!



Zoom "Gatherings" Continuing in May

As mentioned in our mid-March e-Blast, all Lavender Seniors gatherings – the Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch, the Third Friday Lunch Bunch and the Third Wednesday Film Series have been canceled for March, April and May, given current "shelter-in-place" and "stay-at-home" orders. We will assess in mid-May whether anything can be resumed for Pride Month in June or not.

Meanwhile, we would like to continue what we did in April to help pass the time, stay connected and be entertained from the safety – and perhaps loneliness – of our own homes.

Our “maiden voyages” in April were fun, if somewhat complicated initially for some. We had only three who gathered for the Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch. We had ten who gathered for the Third Friday Lunch Bunch. In both situations, it was good to see people’s faces and hear their voices, help each other overcome initial technical difficulties, etc.

We’re proposing the following two meetings (via Zoom) in May for anybody in the world who reads this and is interested in joining us – whether it’s 2 people or 22 or 42 – we are authorized for up to 100 participants! Then we can decide whether we want to do the same thing in June and ongoing, depending on how long the “stay-at-home” order stays in effect. We’ve made no arrangements to have any presenters yet, since we still don’t know whether/how this all works. Maybe we’ll try to incorporate actual speakers/entertainers – and even resume the film series! – in the near future. Who says us old folks aren’t adaptable?!

Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch, 9th May, 12-2pm:

Gwendolyn Boozé and John David Dupree invite you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch
Time: May 9, 2020 12:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81839377977?pwd=Qy9HZDJMaGtUQkFqSE03aUxpTjNQU09>

Meeting ID: 818 3937 7977
Password: 048643

One tap mobile
+13462487799,,81839377977#,,#,048643# US (Houston)
+16465588656,,81839377977#,,#,048643# US (New York)

Meeting ID: 818 3937 7977
Password: 048643

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 818 3937 7977
Password: 048643

Third Friday Lunch Bunch, 15th May, 12-2pm:

Gwendolyn Boozé and John David Dupree invite you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Third Friday Lunch Bunch
Time: May 15, 2020 12:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82938613171?pwd=ZlAxK01LWTdMZnJ2MU9NUHcvUmtWUT09>

Meeting ID: 829 3861 3171

Password: 311507

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,82938613171#,,#,311507# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,82938613171#,,#,311507# US

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 829 3861 3171

Password: 311507

We haven't quite figured out the difference between "One-Tap Mobile" directions vs just the "Dial by Location" instructions, but, either way, after you've dialed the number, you'll likely then need to enter the Meeting ID and the Password, when prompted.

If you already have a Zoom account, you can just sign in, enter the "meeting" ID number and password; if not, use the entire hyperlink to get in and then enter the password when it is requested. Meanwhile, feel free to e-mail Gwen (Gwen@LavenderSeniors.org) or John David (JohnDavid@LavenderSeniors.org) if you have any questions or concerns. It may be complicated for some of us at first – whether we're on computers or smart-phones!

Hope to "see you" there – another bold experiment at what may be a tender age, for some of us! Either way, take good care of yourselves and each other – just stay healthy! We'll get through this! Happy "sheltering-in-place" and "staying-at-home" until we meet again! Stay safe and keep well!

Restaurants Deliver Home Meals for Seniors

Last updated April 24, 2020 at 1:40pm

From: <https://covid19.ca.gov/restaurants-deliver-home-meals-for-seniors/>

Governor Gavin Newsom announced Friday, April 24, the launch of a first-in-the-nation "Restaurants Deliver: Home Meals for Seniors" partnership with counties, cities, and Tribes.

Restaurants Deliver has two purposes:

Help older and other adults at high risk from COVID-19 to stay home and stay healthy by delivering three nutritious meals a day, and

Provide essential economic stimulus to local restaurants and other food-related businesses and workers struggling to stay afloat during the COVID crisis.

As the local programs get established in the next few days, more information

will be provided at the hyperlink above. The program is a cooperative one with FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), which will pay 75% of the meals' costs. Then the state will pay 75% of the remaining one-quarter of the costs. Counties will be paying the remaining 6.25% of the costs.

The meals will be reimbursed at a rate of \$16 for breakfast, \$17 for lunch and \$28 for dinner or a total of \$61 per day per person. Newsom added that the goal is to connect farms to the effort and to ensure the meals provided include local produce and are of high nutritional value. Though an unlimited number of meals will be provided, Newsom said, there will be eligibility requirements:

- Low income (not defined so far) older adults who have compromised immune systems
- Older adults who are at high risk for COVID-19
- Older adults who have already been exposed to COVID-19

Counties will be making the final determination and will be coordinating with state and local agencies to do outreach to those who may qualify.

In the meantime, here are resources that are available now:

- Enter your location into 211.org to find local services, such as nutrition, financial, health care, and housing assistance. Every community has an Aging and Adult Info Line to connect to aging and adult services: [1-800-510-2020](tel:18005102020).
- Visit the California Department of Aging's [COVID-19 page](#) for a list of resources for older and other at-risk adults.
- Do you suspect someone is being neglected or abused? Call [Adult Protective Services](#) at [833-401-0832](tel:8334010832).
- Suspect fraud? AARP has a [Fraud Watch Network Helpline](#): [877-908-3360](tel:8779083360).
- Concerned about someone with dementia or Alzheimer's or their caregiver? Call the [Alzheimer's Association](#): [800-272-3900](tel:8002723900).

Reach out to California's [COVID-19 hotline](#) for questions about coronavirus: [833-422-4255](tel:8334224255) (833-4CA-4ALL).

Governor's Senior Hotline

Governor Gavin Newsom created a hotline specifically for California seniors who might be experiencing anxiety, fear, etc. during this time. The hotline number is: 1-833-544-2374. Please pass this along, especially to those who do not have access to the internet.

Food "Pick-up" Still Available at North Oakland Senior Center

From Kayla Brown, Manager of the North Oakland Senior Center (where Third Friday Lunch Bunch has been held for decades):

Tired of cooking? Low on Food? NOSC is still providing take away lunches! Reservations are required for a Spectrum Lunch at least 72 business hours in advance, before noon. If you would like to make a reservation, please call us at the Center between 10am-2pm at 510-597-5085 or email Kayla

at kbrown3@oaklandca.gov. There is a suggested donation of \$3.75/meal for those 60+, though no one is turned away for lack of funds. An April or May menu can be e-mailed to you by request. All meals are chilled and sealed and will need to be reheated in your home. Wednesday's are cold meals. Lunches are picked up at NOSC between 11:45am-12:30pm.

Other Seniors Centers in Alameda and Contra Costa County may also be offering such services. If some other Senior Center may be more convenient for you, it may be well to check with one closer to your home to see what they are offering.

FOUNDER'S CORNER

By Barbara Jue, May 2020

THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC

This March 16, 2020 will be a date that many of us will not forget. Here you are minding your own business making plans for the next few days and suddenly our governor directs us to Shelter in Place, wash our hands for 20 seconds, and wear a mask if we have to go out on essential business. And only essential businesses and essential workers can continue their lives going forward with protective gear and taking sanitizing precautions.

How well did you pivot your life? Were you prepared to become sheltered in place? What did that mean for you and how are you doing today? We spent time listening to rising numbers of coronavirus cases in our counties, and we watched maps and numbers on them increase. We are told that our efforts are to try to level the curve and we understood this and responded. We listened to the man in the White House tell us lies and was contradicted by his own experts. It would have been hilarious were it not such a serious subject that put lives in danger. I looked to see how late night talk show hosts pointed the incongruity of fact versus fiction, marketing versus serious preparations to handle the forthcoming surges and demand on our national health system. But that is only the surface. There are domino events as the economy slows to a halt and people by the millions lose their jobs.

We are a compassionate creative people. As shortages of personal protective equipment, sanitizers, masks and ventilators evidenced themselves, we collectively responded. We sought out unused ventilators and repaired them. Our purveyors of alcoholic beverages switched over to make sanitizing fluids which needed at least 65% alcohol in the mix to be effective. Technical manufacturing used 3D printing to make clear face shields and masks for our first responders, and the common family started to make home-made masks with cloths and needle and thread. Some of our closed family restaurants provided takeout meals and took the time to serve those in the front line helping us fight the virus in our hospitals. There was a recent story that a manufacturer had a team of employees stay for 28 straight days working living in the factory making the materials that were needed to make the N95 masks. It required the support of their families who would not see them for those 28 days.

We can be proud of our response to the pandemic. The non-profit world also gathered donations to fund other non-profits that perform essential work for

their constituents. And the good news is that our state government has set aside monies to support the programs that care for our seniors, among the most vulnerable such as immigrants, undocumented workers, children, families of color in the chain of those having acute needs.

We know the congregant meals program is important to some of you and have worked to compensate for its absence. Our VP Gwen and Secretary John David recently hosted a Zoom meeting on the 3rd Friday of April. We will do another Zoom meeting on May's 2nd Saturday and 3rd Friday (see instructions for joining these meetings earlier in this newsletter). And perhaps it will continue to be the format which our "congregant" meals will be held for the foreseeable future. Speaking of which we are exploring ways that the "meals" in some shape or form will be able to return using state funding programs, non-profit programs, and perhaps a combination of them. In the meantime, Lavender Seniors compiled a resource document with information which should help you navigate much of the civic, non-profit, and for-profit agencies out there to keep you going.

We may not be able to put it in the May Lavender Notes and may issue it separately or may post it on our website. Look for it. It is there to help you through the pandemic. If you need any help, please contact Karen Anderson, our Friendly Visitor coordinator at: 510 388-2992.

And if you are in need of some activity and can sew, please help others of Lavender Seniors and even our first responders by making a face mask. Under a scientific study, denim with a flannel center works best. If you have a great dish to share, send it to us so we can share with others of our community. If you can, donate and support other non-profits doing essential work, and help us help you.

Let us know how you are doing (info@lavenderseniors.org or 510 736-5428) and please keep a tab on your Lavender Seniors neighbor. Take care and wash those hands!

And as we obeyed this directive, life went on and in the LGBTQ history, we marked the passing of another icon, Phyllis Lyon.

She and her remarkable partner, Del Martin, prompted the search for authenticity in relationships and fought for the civil rights of women. Little that I say here can match the eloquence of the NCLR National Center For Lesbian Rights who wrote the following, the recognition's speak for all of us and of themselves:

Our community shared a collective sadness with the news of Phyllis Lyon's passing on April 9th at the age of 95. An indicator of how much the world has changed in her lifetime, her fierce and indomitable presence was celebrated and honored well beyond the LGBTQ community. We have linked to some of this national coverage below.

For the National Center of Lesbian Rights, Phyllis Lyon and her partner of 58 years, Del Martin, were guide stars. One of the proudest moments in NCLR 's history was representing Phyllis and Del in California's marriage equality case. Phyllis and Del's courage paved the way for marriage equality under the California Constitution.

Phyllis and Del were the first same-sex couple to be married in San Francisco on June 16th, 2008. Merely weeks later, Del passed away at age 87 with Phyllis by her side. What came before that moment was decades of activism, boldness, humor and love.

NCLR 's former executive director and dear friend of Phyllis Lyon, Kate Kendell, shared this incredible timeline of Phyllis' life: http://support.nclrights.org/site/R?i=O8_BljXxcglopFoRvx1DOA.

As a feminist-founded organization, NCLR stands on the shoulders of Phyllis and Del. At our inception in 1977, the women's rights movement and the Gay movement were changing the political landscape, but lesbians had difficulty finding a seat at either table. Phyllis Lyon was just what we needed. When Donna Hitchens founded NCLR , it was to meet the immediate and dire needs of women losing their children because of their sexual orientation. Today, NCLR 's mission is to hold the heart and create equity for our entire LGBTQ community. No one left behind. Period.

Phyllis Lyon knew no boundaries when it came to her intellectual and activist power and we are forever indebted to her for her bravery and leadership. She set an example for us all. We know for us at NCLR , we intend to do whatever it takes to follow her lead and hold up her legacy.

In gratitude,

All of us at the National Center for Lesbian Rights

IN REMEMBRANCE

"Phyllis Lyon is truly an iconic figure in the history of LGBTQ and women's rights. Her life was marked by courage and the tenacious belief that the world must and could change. She and her love of over 50 years moved from the shadows to the center of civil life and society when they became the first couple to marry in California after Prop 8 was struck down in 2008. Few individuals did more to advance women's and LGBTQ rights than Phyllis Lyon. From the moment I started as Legal Director at NCLR, Phyllis and Del were fixtures in my life. Our monthly lunches gave me the chance to learn at their feet about my own history and the story of much of our movement. I got to be a part of not one but two weddings with them! First in 2004 and then in 2008. After Del's death in August of 2008, I still had Phyllis in my life, even as dementia took a lot of her memory, she never lost her spirit, joy or sense of humor. I will miss her every day, but am comforted knowing she and Del are finally together again."

— Kate Kendell, NCLR Former Executive Director

"Phyllis was a uniquely and remarkably courageous, passionate and humble leader who never lost her sense of humor, compassion or generosity. We are deeply indebted to her for her trail blazing, risk taking and for the opportunities she created for all of us."

— Donna Hitchens, NCLR Founder

LAUNDRY FREE OF CHARGE FOR SENIORS!

- We want to help our Oakland seniors during the crisis. We will wash and fold your laundry, for free.
- How it works: seniors, their caregivers or a group leader need to drop off and pick up at our location below. Sorry, we cannot provide pick up's and drop off's. See hours below.
- One bag per person per week - white plastic tall kitchen trash bag,
- Please note - we wash on warm and dry on hot/high - sorry, no exceptions. We take many precautions to keep you healthy and your laundry safe.
- Please don't send delicates.
- Multi-unit manager w/ group - please write each name on the bag with a sharpie. Multi-unit groups may take more than one day. Please email us.
- For Seniors age 60+.
- Email Adela for info - adela@familylaundry.com

2609 FOOTHILL BLVD., FRUITVALE
DROP-OFF: 7 - 10 AM
PICK-UP SAME OR NEXT DAY: 3 - 8 PM
OR WE WILL CALL YOU WHEN READY



TEMPORARY GRANT-BASED
PROGRAM FOR A LIMITED TIME



Lavender Seniors Among Agencies Receiving Awards

Horizons Foundation Gives 53 Emergency Grants



Lavender Seniors is one of 53 LGBTQ-related organizations in the Bay Area to receive a grant at the end of April from Horizons Foundation through its **LGBTQ COVID-19 Response Emergency Fund**. The grant is intended to help provide services to vulnerable LGBTQ seniors during the next three months (through 31st July 2020).

At press-time, the Lavender Seniors board is discussing various alternatives for providing support through its Friendly Visitors Program, as well as to those who traditionally attend the Third Friday Lunch Bunch, the Second Saturday

Rainbow Lunch and the Third Wednesday Film Series, as well as to other vulnerable and isolated LGBTQ seniors in the East Bay.

Anyone with specific needs arising from this pandemic – or inspirations on the best way to use this generous grant from Horizons Foundation – please e-mail Info@LavenderSeniors.org or call (510) 736-LGBT and someone will get back to you. An e-blast by mid-May will provide more clarification on how this grant will be best used.

Other East Bay agencies awarded these grants include the Oakland LGBTQ Community Center, the Pacific Center, the AIDS Project of the East Bay, the Rainbow Community Center and TurnOut. The 53 agencies combined received a total of \$440,000. For a complete list of awardees, click on the hyperlink below.

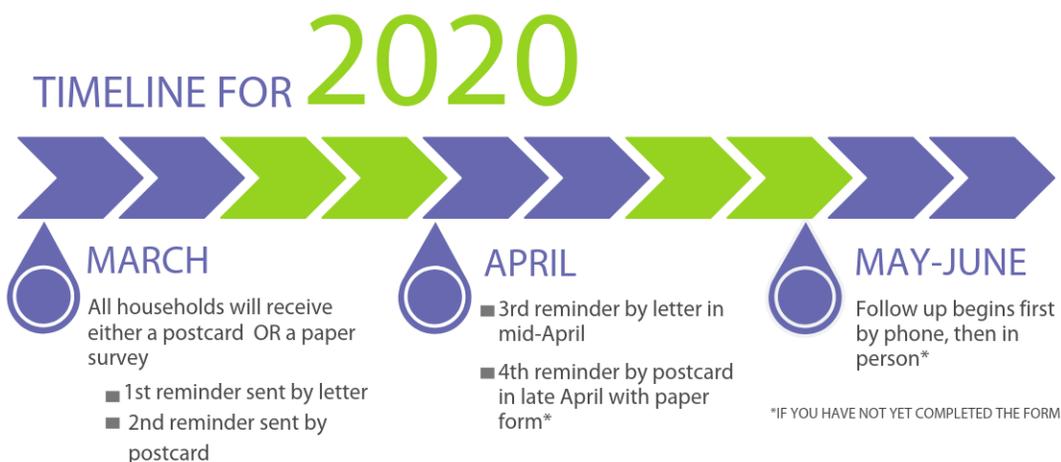
https://www.horizonsfoundation.org/covid19/grantee-partners/?mc_cid=2724de8744&mc_eid=53109c4b90

2020 Census – Make Sure You’re Counted!

As you can imagine, the gathering of data for the 2020 Census has been considerably affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, our “stay-at-home” orders and the social distancing required to flatten the curve of the coronavirus here and throughout the country.

The U.S. Census Bureau continues to carefully monitor the situation and follow the guidance of federal, state, and local health authorities. They are adjusting some operations with two key principles in mind: protecting the health and safety of our staff and the public, and fulfilling our statutory requirement to deliver the 2020 Census counts to the government on schedule.

We hope this finds each of you safe and well. As we all work to adjust, we want to remind you that responding to the 2020 Census is safe, important and easy to do from the comfort and safety of your own home (online: my2020census.gov | by phone: 844-330-2020 (English). [Phone number for 12 non-English languages here: https://2020census.gov/en/contact-us.html](https://2020census.gov/en/contact-us.html)).



You can now view live census response rates on a state, county, city, and census tract level at <https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates.html>. This tracker is updated daily at 12:00pm PST through 8/14.

The 2020 Census is underway and is ready for America to respond. Plan to include everyone you expect to live in your home on April 1. You can respond online in one of 13 languages and find assistance in many more.

The first invitations were sent out to an estimated 140 million households between March 12-20. Every household that hasn't already responded should have received additional reminder letters in the mail between Monday, March 16 and Tuesday, March 24.

Respond to the 2020 Census as soon as you receive your invitation — and when you're finished, make sure your friends, families, and social networks know about the importance of responding.

Why the Constitution Calls for Conducting This Count Every Ten Years!

The census provides critical data that business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for you and your community. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources based on census data. The results of the census also determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, and they are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts.

As you may know, Lavender Seniors received a small grant from the United Way of the Bay Area to assist in any way possible to make sure that the LGBTQ community is accurately reflected in Census 2020. For questions or assistance, please feel free to contact us at info@lavenderseniors.org or (510) 736-LGBT (5428). We will help in any way we can. We want to make sure that each member of our community – and their loved ones – get counted!

Lavender Seniors Participant Targeted

Census 2020 Scam Warning

One of Lavender Seniors' participants has notified us of having had the following experience with (allegedly) Census 2020:

Please warn people that there is a 2020 Census scam going on where you get an email that looks legitimate, which says 2020 Census. When you open it, it looks like a government site. They ask you all the regular questions but they also ask for your Social Security Number. Unfortunately, I filled this out and submitted it. Later, I read an article that said beware 2020 census will never send you an email. They will never ask for your Social Security number. I called the Census and they confirmed that I had been scammed. But I am now trying to run around freezing my credit reports, putting alerts on my bank account and social security, changing passwords, etc. If you have been duped you should do the same. I hope already-vulnerable LGBTQ seniors and their loved ones can protect themselves!

As you may know, Lavender Seniors has received a small grant from the United Way of the Bay Area to assist LGBTQ seniors and their allies with registering for the decennial census, which has been extended to 31st October from the original targeted end-date of 31st July because of complications arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The census is extremely important, since funding decisions and even decisions on how you are represented in the state legislature and Congress will be determined by how comprehensive and accurate the final Census tally is.

If you're in Alameda or Contra Costa County – or stranded elsewhere domestically or internationally, which has been the case with some of our community, due to travel restrictions - and have any questions or concerns about registering for Census 2020, please feel free to contact us at Info@LavenderSeniors.org or by leaving a message at (510) 736-LGBT and someone will get back with you to help answer your questions!

Have You Received Your "Stimulus" or Unemployment Check(s) Yet?

As you probably know, Congress passed a \$2.2 trillion **Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act** to provide some relief to Americans who are under sheltering-in-place or staying-at-home orders. This includes a \$1,200 check for each individual (\$2,400 for couples who have filed joint income tax returns) that should arrive by either direct deposit (if the IRS has account numbers) or by mail (taking longer).

Anybody who hasn't received their "stimulus" check should go to the following website to track its status:

<https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment>

Anybody eligible for extended Unemployment Insurance benefits can track their application here:

https://www.edd.ca.gov/unemployment/Where_Is_My_Payment.htm



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](#).

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 Mondays

This group is open to all LGBTQ older adults to connect with others socially in a supportive environment where participants can share individual and collective experiences. Facilitated by Ariel Mellinger, ASW, Support and Wellness Coordinator, Openhouse SF

Music's Memory Lane Tuesdays

Each week we'll discuss a hit song, vintage television variety show, or a memorable musician in music history. From Big Band music to the Beatles, we'll dive into our recollections of concerts, lyricists, and pop culture. Facilitated by Steve Maraccini

Perplexing Questions Sundays

Have you ever wondered how a fly can walk upside down on the ceiling? Or how a camel can go so long without water? Find out the answers to some head-scratching questions. Facilitated by Sharon Schwartz

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.

**Save
the
Date**



As of this Publishing, a Shelter-in-Place Order has No Specific ending Date.

Please check with event sponsors to see if they will Meet Virtually this Month.

Dates have been removed from the listings.

Out Standing Seniors - Sponsored by Pacific Center

12:30 - 2:00 p.m. (1st and 3rd Tuesdays)

Hayward Senior Center, 22325 N. Third Street, Hayward

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

LezBold Peer Support Group

1:30 p.m. (1st and 3rd Thursdays)

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

Find support and like-minded wonderful people!

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

3:00 p.m. (Fridays)

North Berkeley Senior Center, 901 Hearst Ave, Berkeley

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

Older & Out Therapy Group - Oakland - Sponsored by Pacific Center 2:00 p.m.

(Fridays)

Oakland LGBTQ Community Center, 3207 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland

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

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

1:00 p.m. (Mondays)

Hayward Senior Center, 22325 N. Third Street, Hayward

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

Rainbow Seniors - Sponsored by Pacific Center & Lavender Seniors

12:30 - 2:00 p.m. (2nd & 4th Tuesdays)

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

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

Living OUT in Livermore - Sponsored by Pacific Center

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

Robert Livermore Community Center Senior Services, 4444 East Avenue, Livermore 94550

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

Lavender Seniors Board Meeting

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. (2nd Wednesday)

via Zoom

A portion of this meeting is open to the public.

Senior Gay Men's Group

1:30 p.m. (Weekly on Thursdays)

The Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley

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

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

Lavender Seniors Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch

see info above for joining us via Zoom

Lavender Seniors LGBTQ Film Series

Cancelled this month due to Coronavirus precautions.

Tri-Valley Rainbows - Sponsored by Pacific Center

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

City of Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin 94568

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

Oakland Third Friday Lunch Bunch

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

see info above for joining us via Zoom

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay Board of Directors

President: Victor Aguilar Jr

Vice President: Gwendolyn M. Boozé

Treasurer: Carmen Chiong

Secretary: John David Dupree

Founding Member: Barbara Jue

Communication Director: Melissa West

Member: Ana Bagtas (on hiatus)

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

Message: 510-736-LGBT (510-736-5428)

Friendly Visitor Program: (510) 424-7240 or

karen@lavenderseniors.org

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Board:

Beckie Underwood

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Barbara Jue

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