



# Lavender Notes

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

**October 2016**

***Celebrating 20+ years of service and positive change***

***Volume 23, Issue 10***

## **Stories of Our Lives - A Friendly Visitors Match "Made in Heaven"**

### **Bruce MacDonald and Roy Richards**

Five-plus years ago, Lavender Seniors of the East Bay matched two amazing men through its long-standing Friendly Visitors program. Born a year and 2,500 miles apart, Bruce William MacDonald and Forrest Leroy Richards have since become fast friends, vitally important in each others' daily lives.

Bruce was born in Stratford, Ontario, Canada, in 1953. The second of two children, his sister, Ruth Anne, was four years older. Unfortunately, when he was only nine years old, his mother died of brain cancer.

"My Dad re-married a year or two later," Bruce recalls, "but my sister and I never were able to get along with our step-mother. Then our family's struggle with cancer continued with my father's early death at age 55 from colon cancer and my sister's death from lung cancer just five years ago, after surviving breast cancer. I'm still reeling from that loss. My sister, Ruth, was probably my closest friend through the years."



**Bruce and his sister "During our 'big-hair' period in the '60s"**

"I realized as a teenager that I didn't fit in Stratford - it was just too small a town to accommodate this evolving young gay man," Bruce recalls. "When I moved to Toronto to be with 'my people', my Dad used to come and visit - without my step-mother - take me out to dinner and slip me some money. I know he knew I was gay, but we

never really discussed it. He was happy for me. I also figure my sister - who was very accepting - told my extensive and close-knit cousin network, as well. 'Coming Out' has never really been an issue since."

Though he dated girls in high school, his most significant relationship during those teenage years was with a Stratford police officer.

"We would make out in his cruiser and wind up in a hotel room, which was clearly a risky thing for him to be doing," Bruce recalls. "But after I discovered that you could be openly gay in Toronto, I decided to let that 'undercover' part of my life go. And I've never looked back."

In the process of "finding himself," Bruce hitch-hiked around Europe with three female classmates from his high school, took little trips around the U.S., worked in P-town for two summers, and vacationed in San Francisco in 1979. He met his first lover, Ron - a Spartanburg, SC, native - during that holiday and moved to SF a month later. They began living together immediately. Their loving 13-year relationship ended with Ron's death from AIDS in 1992.



**Bruce (left) and Ron during happier times in the late '80s and early '90s**

They both worked for Bank of America in San Francisco, which offered Ron a job and fully-financed transfer to Concord in 1987, so the happy couple moved to the other side of the hill for the last five years of their life together. During that time - and for a few years afterward - Bruce worked with Kaiser in Oakland.

"With the HIV-positive test results in 1987 - before there were any significant treatment developments - we knew our time together might be limited," Bruce recalls. "When Ron became sick and had to be hospitalized numerous times, we could see we were looking through the wrong end of the telescope. Because of those hospitalizations, I wasn't so terribly involved in his personal care at the end. In fact, when they called me at home to tell me Ron had died, I couldn't believe it. I was numb for several months afterward."

About a year later, Bruce met the man he would describe as "the love of my life", Joe Ray! He was a Latino artist who grew up in Hagerman, NM. Though Joe Ray was 13 years younger, the two connected on virtually all levels, including love of the arts, family and partying. They moved into a rented house in San Leandro and made it beautiful.



**Bruce (right) and Joe Ray (left) with friends at one of their many parties**

"We threw the most lavish parties throughout our time together, particularly at Halloween," Bruce recalls. "Joe Ray would decorate our house and garden in whatever the theme of the event, like 'Beetlejuis' or 'Alice in Wonderland'. Though Joe Ray's income came from computer work, his love was the Arts. He enrolled in Art school, starred in community theater productions, and we were living a wonderful life together."

Though Bruce knew Joe Ray was HIV-positive when they met, he was certain that new treatment developments would prevent his losing another lover to this dread disease. Unfortunately, that didn't prove to be the case. Joe Ray went out on a disability package from his employer, Acer, and was never able to go back to work. The couple spent time with Joe Ray's very warm and accepting family in New Mexico, as well as with Bruce's sister and other family members.

"In the end, Joe Ray did NOT want to end his life in a hospital, so I was much more involved with his daily care," Bruce recalls with tears in his eyes. "We set up a hospital bed in our dining room, I worked with Kaiser Hospice and other friends to make sure he was comfortable. His mother, sister, brother and sister-in-law were all with him when he died in my arms in 2000 at the tender age of 32."

After a life filled with so many losses, Bruce was asked about any "survival guilt" that he might have felt along the way.

"After Ron died, I went through a period of wishing it had been me who died instead," Bruce admits. "But subsequently, my seven-year relationship with Joe Ray was so intense - we had fallen in love so suddenly and deeply - that his loss threw me into such despair that I seriously considered suicide."

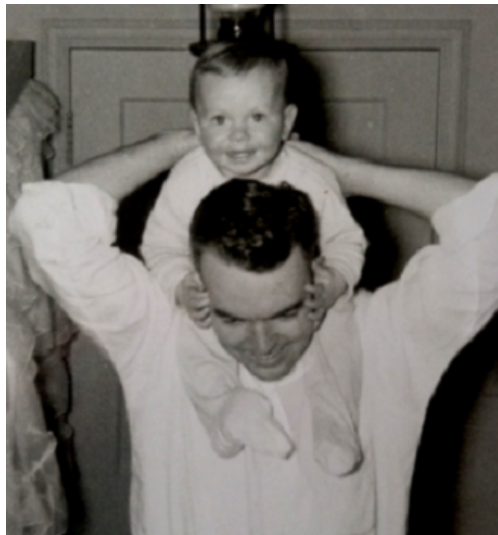
Bruce began seeing a therapist twice a week, presenting symptoms being "How can I go on?" After much soul-searching and many tears, he turned to Buddhism, which continues to sustain him today. In addition to therapy and Buddhism, however, he began to search out ways he could volunteer and give back to his community. He saw an article in the San Leandro Times about a social meeting of Lavender Seniors, serving LGBTQ elders in the East Bay. The rest - including his matching as long-term Lavender Seniors Friendly Visitor with Roy - is history.



**Bruce at home with his companions, Tigger and Archie (brothers from the same litter)**

Meanwhile, in 1954, when Bruce was a one-year-old Canadian, Roy was born in Oakland, the middle child of three: a sister, Robin, three years older; a brother, David, born eight years later. Roy has also suffered considerable loss in his lifetime.

"Many people toss around the term 'dysfunctional' when describing their families," Roy says, "though no other word so perfectly describes my family. My parents were very loving - I have extremely fond memories of them as a child. We have been riddled with mental health and substance abuse issues, however, off and on throughout my life. This - along with my own internalized homophobia - has seriously impacted my ability to relate to other people and live a fulfilled life much of the time."



**Roy as an infant with his father and mother**

Roy was very close to his mother, who, unfortunately, died in his arms from a pulmonary embolism at age 46. His father - an engineer who fell on hard times later in life, largely due to alcohol use - sold the family home to pay for some outstanding debts and moved in with Roy and his brother. Meanwhile, over the years, his brother had personal problems and committed suicide.

"I spent many years escaping my reality, using drugs and alcohol for 'pain management'," Roy recalls. "I was terrified of anybody finding out that I'm gay. The first person I ever told was my mother, who I knew adored me. Her response, however - instead of putting her arms around me and assuring me she would always love me - was to make a flip remark: 'What kind of guy turns you on? Big Al from Laugh-In?' You may remember he was the very effeminate sports-caster on that Rowan and Martin series in the late '60s. That made me very wary of ever coming out again."



He never really told people in his life about his gayness. Other than his mother and sister, there was really nobody who knew his "secret" until he was in his 30s. He was particularly fearful on the job, where "work had become my life".



**Roy and His Sister in Halloween costumes as kids**

"My sister was the one who pulled me out of my frequent deep depressions," Roy recalls. "But we were both diagnosed with ulcers in our teens, so you know the stress on us was pretty intense in that family. When I finally told Dad about my sexuality - when he moved in here in 1975 - it was clear Mom had told him, but he was unaccepting."

Though he has never had any long-term intimate relationships with other men, Roy did have a long platonic friendship with George, an HIV-positive gay man with whom he traveled widely and began to enjoy life. They went to Key West, Hawaii, Las Vegas, as well as spending time with George's gay-friendly family and friends, attending the theater, concerts and films together. It was comforting for Roy to be around such accepting people, showing him a side of life that he wished he had not psychologically removed himself from for most of his life.



**Roy (left) with George**



**Roy "the Hunk"**



**Roy (left), George and his Mom with Carol Channing after a performance of "Hello Dolly"**

Unfortunately, George died of AIDS some years ago, contributing to Roy's on-going sense of loss and lack of well-being. When Roy lost his job in 2009 - after 20+ years as an expeditor and purchasing agent - he felt as if he had lost his entire identity. There was nobody on the planet who knew who he was, now that George - and his professional identity - were both gone.

He spiraled into one of the darkest periods of his life.

"I had bottomed out to a point where I thought ending it all was the only answer," Roy recalls. "Fortunately, an acquaintance in New York contacted Dan Ashbrook at Lavender Seniors. I hired my first attendant and soon Dan had matched me up with this guy [pointing cheerfully to Bruce] as my Friendly Visitor...!"

Both Bruce and Roy describe their match as "delightful, "perfect" and "made in someplace like heaven". They both have charming senses of humor. Bruce and many of his friends have become adopted sisters and brothers to Roy. They take turns bringing him food, helping out around his house and taking him out and about. In fact, Bruce and Roy are among the 20 Lavender Seniors who will be attending "Hedwig..." at the Golden Gate Theater on 12<sup>th</sup> of October.



**Roy (holding Sadie) and Bruce at Roy's front door**

"Though Bruce is only supposed to be here for a few hours - three days a week - he and his friends are always coming in and out of here," Roy says. "In fact, he came over on Sunday to help me take a shower, which always gives me a lift! Life feels very much worth living with all of these folks around me - nobody judging, nobody making me feel bad about myself - largely because of Lavender Seniors. The other person - besides Dan Ashbrook - that we're both so grateful for is Kathleen Miller, their Program Coordinator, who we'll miss very much when she moves up to Placer County! She has helped me feel like life is worthwhile - a gift that we should relish - and I do!"

[Editor's Note: As this interviewer was preparing to leave, a friend named Cindy arrived unannounced, bringing a large chocolate loaf cake - with whipped cream in the middle - and everybody had a generous slice for the road.]

## *Farewell Kathleen*

Kathleen Miller is moving to Placer County

Lavender Seniors is losing one of the most staunch supporters of our programs. We have been most successful in accomplishing our goals and receiving accolades as our programs gain recognition throughout the county. Such accomplishments occur because of leadership, initiative and support.

Kathleen has been with us since July, 2014 - side by side assuring that things get done and we will miss her enormous contribution to our mission.

Best of Luck to you, Kathleen! We will miss you very much!



Book Review:

## Write That Down! The Comedy of Male Actress Charles Pierce

By Kirk Frederick

I vividly recall the first time I saw Pierce perform. I expected just another silly gay man trying to be funny. But Pierce was in a separate class. His classic line aimed at Mae West, "Hey Miss West, I'd like to lay you ten to one." Her reply, "Oh, that's an odd time but I'll be there."

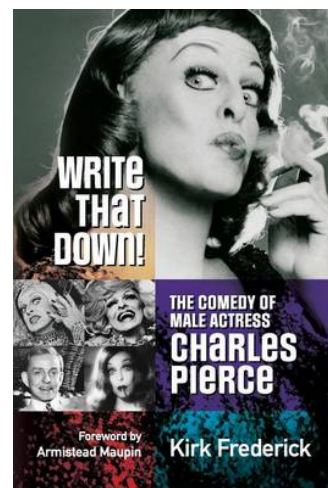
Pierce didn't really want to cultivate a gay fan club. He wanted to appeal to a broad audience.

In 1954 Pierce graduated from the Pasadena Playhouse and soon chose San Francisco as one of his bases of operations. He also did memorable imitations of Bette Davis and Katharine Hepburn. Frederick reserves a separate chapter for Davis.

In 1997 Pierce was confronted with a diagnosis of prostate cancer. In 1999 he died at the age of 73. Bea Arthur attended his funeral.

Frederick has given readers a compelling read. Don't miss it.

- Frank Howell



**National  
Resource  
Center**



**ON LGBT AGING**

September 26,  
2016

## NEWS & NOTES

Our monthly newsletter to keep you informed.

**Stonewall, Sexuality and Aging** is the focus of this [interview](#) with Dr. Jane Fleishman, a comprehensive sexuality educator and consultant with more than 30 years' of experience as a teacher, trainer, and program evaluator. The article discusses Dr. Fleishman's new project [Coming of Age at the Time of Stonewall](#)

which explores the sexuality of older adults who are often overlooked due to myths associated with aging and sexuality.



**HIV and Aging Awareness** was recognized on September 18th, 2016. Bringing awareness to HIV and Aging includes sexual health education geared toward older adults. Check out the our fact sheet, Aging and Sexual Health which is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). Feel free to download and share with others.

**What's New?** Throughout the month, new content is uploaded to our website. Check the [What's New](#) page for the most recent articles, fact sheets and interviews. You can also find the upcoming regional and national conferences where our staff will be presenting on our [Upcoming Events](#) page.



Until Next Time,

Sherrill Wayland

## DID YOU KNOW?

New! [Understanding and Supporting LGBT Older Adults](#) is a FREE of Charge 30 minute recorded presentation designed to provide a basic overview of LGBT aging. Check it out today!

You can stay connected with the [National Resource Center on LGBT Aging](#) beyond our monthly e-newsletter! Be sure to like our [FaceBook](#) page and follow us on [Twitter](#) where we post new and timely articles and resources that important for LGBT older adults and the people who care for them.

305 7th Avenue, 15th Floor \* New York, NY 10001  
lgbtagingcenter.org \* [info@lgbtagingcenter.org](mailto:info@lgbtagingcenter.org)

The National Resource Center on LGBT Aging is a project of Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE) in partnership with:

American Society on Aging \* CenterLink \* FORGE Transgender Aging Network \* GRIOT Circle \* Hunter College \* Meals On Wheels Association of America \* The LGBT Aging Project \* National Aging Pacific Center on Aging \* National Association of Area Agencies on Aging \* National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs \* National Caucus & Center on Black Aged, Inc. \* National Center on Elder Abuse \* National Council on Aging's National Institute of Senior Centers \* National Hispanic Council on Aging \* National Indian Council on Aging \* Openhouse \* PHI \* Southeast Asia Resource Action Center

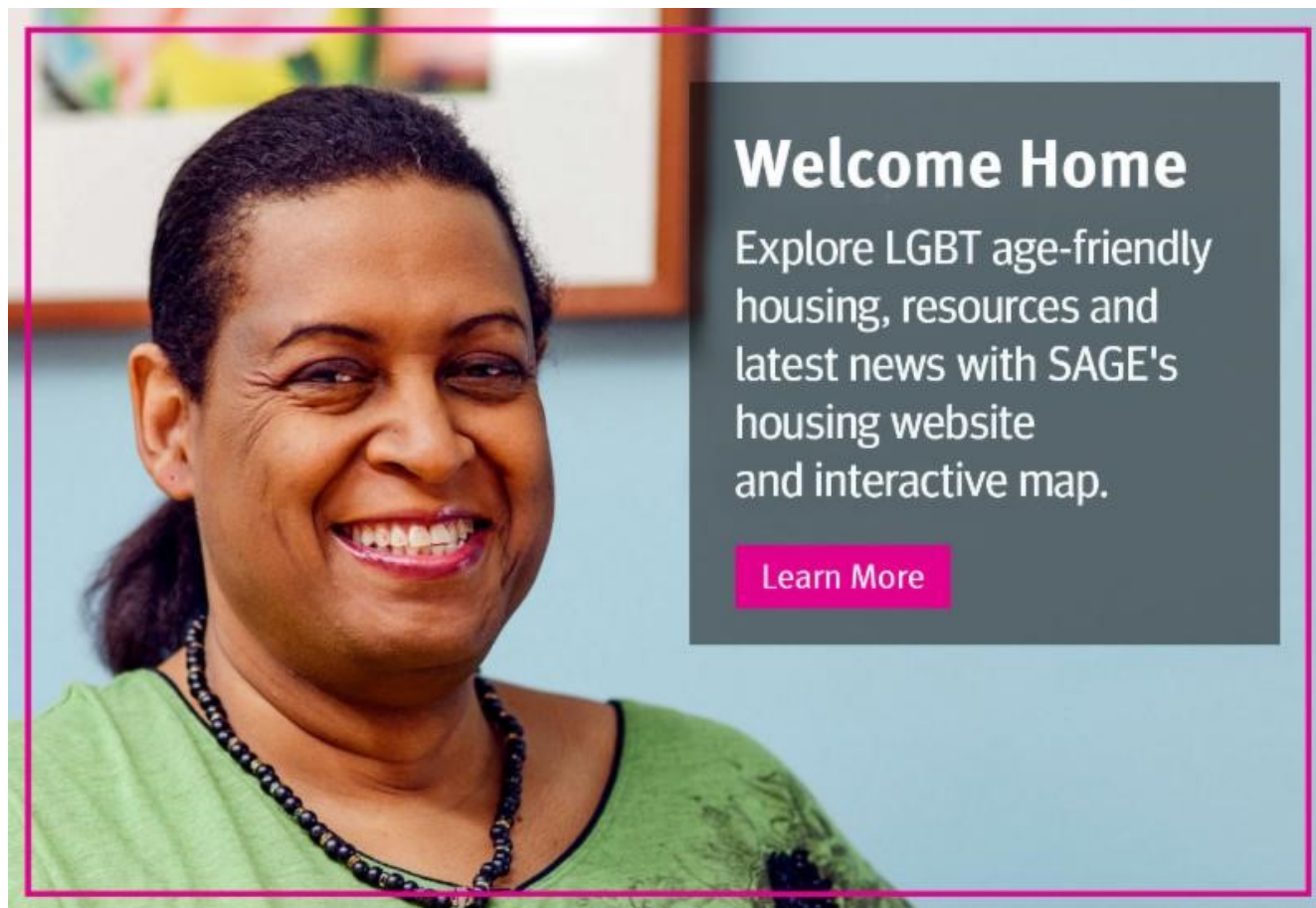


**SAGE Launches LGBT Age-Friendly Housing Website**



# sage Matters

September 2016



Home isn't just where we live - home is our safe place. That's why [SAGE has created a first-of-its-kind housing website](#) that empowers LGBT elders to find a welcoming place to call home. We know that [housing discrimination is on the rise](#), and dependable resources are needed more than ever. Now, you can access housing policies and protections, and find out where LGBT age-friendly communities are being built via SAGE's [new interactive map and resources](#).

[Sign up for updates](#) as SAGE rolls out new stories and resources over the coming months.

## *San Leandro Library*

300 Estudillo Avenue  
San Leandro, CA 94577

The San Leandro Main Library will have its Annual Book Sale, so if you have a yen to fill up your bookshelf with some reading materials the old fashion way, come and look about. It is one of the most successful events of the library.

### **Friends of the Library Fall Book Sale on Sat., Oct 1 and Sun., Oct 2!**

The Friends of the San Leandro Library will be holding their Fall 2-Day Book sale at the [Main Library](#) on Saturday, October 1 and Sunday, October 2. Fall into some great bargains, discover rare collectible books, and support the San Leandro Library! Call 510-577-3986 for more information.

Saturday, October 1

- > 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM - Friends Members Only
- > 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM - General Admission

Sunday, October 2

- > 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM - All-day bag sale. Only \$2.00 per bag!

The library is also hosting a exhibit on our civil rights. Very Interesting displays and speakers. Log on to the San Leandro Main library for upcoming speakers. Google San Leandro Main Library for website and information. This topic will go until Oct 16.

## *San Leandro Sausage and Suds Music Festival*

*Sunday, October 2nd, 10 am-6 pm*  
Parrott St. between E. 14th St and Washington Ave.



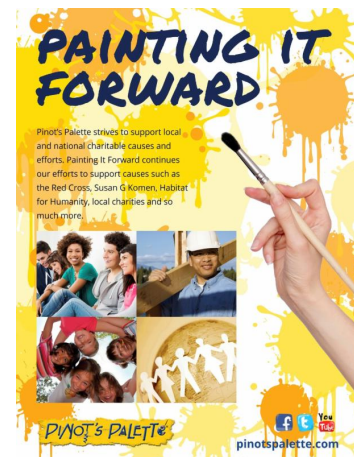
## **Paint. Drink. Have Fun.**

### **An invitation from Pinot's Palette**

We were fortunate to meet a number of your organization members at Oakland Pride-2016 on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup>. We love what you folks are doing for our local LGBTQ seniors. We would be honored to assist your organization.

In addition to holding fundraising and private events we have decided because a number of Lavender seniors requested a Senior Day at our paint and wine studio without the "Younger" people...LOL!

Our Inaugural Senior Day is Tuesday October 4<sup>th</sup> from 1-3PM in the afternoon. Our entertaining stage artist will lead everyone step by step to a masterpiece they paint, no experience required! Here is the link to this event: <https://www.pinotpalette.com/alameda/event/123072>



These Senior Days will be held on Tuesday afternoons at a discounted rate of \$29.00 per person. If you would be kind enough to get the word out we would appreciate it.

We would love to chat when you have a moment about how we can help make your fundraising event both fun and engaging. Have a terrific weekend.

Cheers!

**Sean & Peri Gabriel**

Owners | Pinot's Palette - Alameda

**Studio: 510-263-8770 | Mobile: 510-710-9400**

2210 D South Shore Center

Alameda, CA 94501

[Sean@PinotsPalette.com](mailto:Sean@PinotsPalette.com)

<http://www.pinotspalette.com/alameda>

Click link to experience Pinot's Palette.

<https://vimeo.com/111309590>




*This world is but a canvas to our imagination. - Henry David Thoreau*

## Poetry Reading with music by Smooth Jazz Duo

## WALT WHITMAN: 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY GAY POET

The North Oakland Senior Center and the South Berkeley Senior Center will each be hosting an afternoon of reading poetry of one of the nation's first gay poets, accompanied with music by a "Smooth Jazz Duo".

Scott Duncan  
and Francis Rolfe  
**Poetry Reading**  
with music by Smooth Jazz Duo  
selected readings from  
Walt Whitman  
*Leaves of Grass*



N.O.S.C. Thurs. Oct. 6 1:30 P.M.  
North Oakland Senior Center  
S.B.S.C. Mon. Oct. 3 1 p.m.  
South Berkeley Senior Center

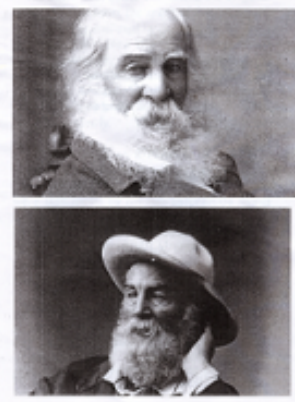
**Walt Whitman**

No other poet better represents the original energy and passion, the spirit of democracy, the grand hopes generated by the seemingly limitless potential of the New World. But when Whitman began writing his unique poetry, he was confronting the European heritage that still dominated American and world culture, and would continue to do so for some time. Whitman's fame grew slowly.

Whitman relied on a distinct, personal and uniquely American vision for the source of his poetic creations. His vocabulary and grammar were influenced by his newspaper and travel experiences working daily in the American idiom as much as they were by the Bible and traditional English literature. His was the emerging American voice that would form the basis for modern writing.

Whitman elevated his own experience, and that of his countrymen, to the realm of great art, transcending the limits of nations and times. *Leaves of Grass* has earned its place as one of the truly universal works of any era.

Walt Whitman  
Born: May 31, 1819, West Hills, NY  
Died: March 26, 1892, Camden, NJ



The North Oakland Senior Center performance will be on Thursday, 6th October, at 1:30pm. The center is at 5714 MLK Jr (corner 58th) in the old Merritt College Building. Entrance and parking in the back.

The South Berkeley Senior Center performance is scheduled for Monday, 3rd October, at 1pm. The center is at 2939 Ellis Street, Berkeley.

## NEW CONSERVATORY THEATRE CENTER





## CELEBRATES 35 YEARS

### 2016-2017 Season Presentations

**+ CASA VALENTINA Oct 7 - Nov 6, 2016**

by Harvey Fierstein  
Regional Premiere

**+ SONS OF THE PROPHET Nov 11- Dec 18, 2016**

by Stephen Karam  
Regional Premiere

**+ AVENUE Q Dec 2, 2016 - Jan 15, 2017**

Music, Lyrics and Original Concept by Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx, book by jeff Whitty

**+ DANIEL'S HUSBAND - Jan 20 - Feb 26, 2017**

West Coast Premiere  
by Michael McKeever

**+ LEAVING THE BLUES Mar 3- April 2, 2017**

**A Play with Music by Jewelle Gomez**  
World Premiere

**+ EVERYTHING THAT'S BEAUTIFUL March 17 - April 23, 2017**

by Elyzabeth Gregory Wilder  
World Premiere

**+ 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.  
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25 Van Ness Ave. San Francisco, CA 94102  
415.861.8972**

## San Leandro Pot Luck

**\*\*\*Now Located at:**

**All Saints Episcopal Church Parish Room,  
911 Dowling Boulevard, San Leandro, CA\*\*\***

**Second Saturday Noon-2:00**

**Mark your calenders....we have some great programs coming up!**

Oct 8: Speaker will touch upon Crisis Helpline for residents in Alameda County.





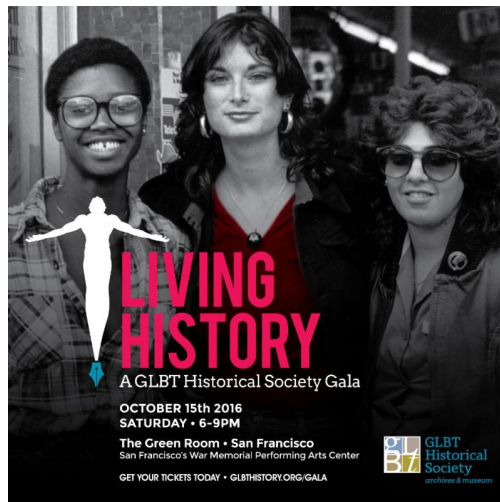
The holidays are a challenging time for many and the Crisis help-line is a resource we can turn to when in need of emotional support. Learn about this agency that is there to help thru this sometime difficult time.

Potluck starts at noon. Bring a friend! Share some stories!

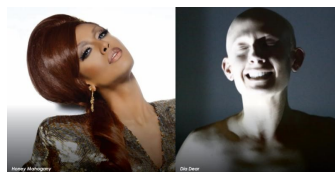
Nov 12: The November 2nd Sat potluck at All Saints will be combined at the 3rd Friday Lunch Bunch at the North Oakland senior Center to celebrate the anniversary of Lavender Seniors. Join us at the North Oakland Senior Center on the 3rd Friday, November 18th. We will not be meeting at All Saints in San Leandro.

Dec 10: December Lavender Seniors Potluck at the All Saints may be shifted to another location. The church is in need of its facilities. If you have any suggestions to where we can meet please let Barbara know: 510 755-5691 or [bj\\_Patbond@yahoo.com](mailto:bj_Patbond@yahoo.com). In the meantime stay tuned.

We are looking for ideas that may pique the interest of Lavender Seniors participants, send your suggestions to [info@lavenderseniors.org](mailto:info@lavenderseniors.org).



We invite you to join us in laying the groundwork for the future of the GLBT Historical Society museum and archives at [Living History: The 2016 GLBT Historical Society Gala](#). Always a high point of the LGBTQ social season in San Francisco, the event will take place on the evening of Saturday, October 15, at the beautifully renovated Green Room of the War Memorial Performing Arts Center in the Civic Center.



Hosted by celebrated performer [Honey Mahogany](#) of RuPaul's Drag Race and featuring performance artist [Dia Dear](#), Living History will feature delicious food and drink,

entertainment and awards. What's more, a fabulous silent auction will offer unique art, photography, queer memorabilia, travel and fine-dining packages and other special lots.

[PURCHASE LIVING HISTORY TICKETS HERE](#)

Click on the link above to purchase individual tickets. We're also eager to hear from those interested in purchasing tables. For details, contact Gregory Stock at [gregory@glbthistory.org](mailto:gregory@glbthistory.org).

**Living History** is sure to be a festive and exciting evening. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Terry Beswick**  
Executive Director

**Karen Boehnke**  
Gala Cochair

**Marke Bieschke**  
Gala Cochair

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Badlands/Toad Hall

Young's Market Company

## Lavender Seniors at Oakland Pride on September 11th

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay continued its ongoing presence at the all-day celebration of Oakland Pride on Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> September.



Long-time board members, Mike Trutner & Frank Howell setting up the Lavender Seniors booth with Harry Ogawa. A group of interestingly-dressed men, women and children wandered by the booth, along with thousands of others!

Though there was a bit of disappointment that we weren't put in the "senior" section of the Pride booths, we made the best of the situation, gave out free bottled water, candy and lots of information about the organization!

See you next September!

## CARA's recommendations...Senior Vote 2016



**WHO WE ARE:** The California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) is a statewide nonprofit organization that unites retired workers and community groups to win social and economic justice, full civil rights, and a better, more secure future for ourselves, our families, and future generations. Join us on [Facebook](#). CARA is the official state affiliate of the Alliance for Retired Americans, [www.retiredamericans.org](http://www.retiredamericans.org).

Senior Vote 2016

<http://www.californiaalliance.org/doc.asp?id=3849>

Seniors Vote Tool Kit

[http://www.californiaalliance.org/pdf/3886.Seniors\\_Vote\\_2016\\_Toolkit.pdf](http://www.californiaalliance.org/pdf/3886.Seniors_Vote_2016_Toolkit.pdf)

### Culinary Arts at San Leandro Potluck in August and September

#### **MAKING RICOTTA CHEESE AND MAKING LATKES**

For the past two months of the Second Saturday Potluck at All Saints Episcopal Church in San Leandro, Lavender Seniors participants have been treated to secrets of the culinary arts. After enjoying a delectable lunch - during the August meeting - our own Dan Ashbrook demonstrated how to produce home-made ricotta cheese. Once we all saw how delicious the finished product looked, he served each of the people a mound of ricotta with two or three fresh raspberries on top. You might've heard the slurping, oo-ing and aww-ing across the Bay!

Then after lunch at the September meeting, our own Bobbe Leviten taught us how to make latkes like she's been doing for an annual lesbian Hanukkah party for years!



A group of Lavender Seniors learning how to make latkes from Bobbe Leviten.

Some of those present had never heard of an "induction plate," but were informed of how practical it is for making foolproof latkes (always the same temperature). As the latkes were produced, slathered with sour cream and/or fresh apple-sauce, the cook could hardly keep up with the demand in the room.

Realizing how much talent we have among our LGBTQ seniors, the suggestion came up: Howzabout a Lavender Seniors Cookbook as a fund-raiser?

Though October's potluck is more about dealing with potential upcoming holiday-linked depression, we're open to having other LGBTQ senior cooks come out of the woodwork and teach us more of your secrets. We're never too old to learn!



## 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).



## Community Phone Calls

### Just a few of the things offered:

**Nourishing Our SELVES Fridays, 7/15 - 10/7 5:00pm - 5:45pm** Participants in this new group will be encouraged to share their experience and knowledge to focus on nourishing ourselves: drawing primarily from psychology and spirituality resources, rather than medical and nutritional, we will explore how we can have more joy in our lives and also more control over our weight. Facilitated by Lynn Rayburn



**Bird Talk Saturdays, 7/16 - 10/8 2:00pm - 2:30pm** Join fellow bird lovers for this informal group to share our admiration and memories of our diverse family of feathered friends. Facilitated by Kaevalya Banks

**Writing Workshop Sundays, 7/17 - 10/9 3:00pm - 4:00pm** Join this peer group for supportive discussions and invite suggestions and feedback about what you are writing. Plus exercises to get those creative juices going! Participants are invited to offer ideas for writing exercises. Facilitated by Jerry Sexton

View the [Summer 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).

### Third Friday Lunch Bunch, Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> October, 12-2pm

## **MEDICAL EXPERIMENTATION ON AFRICAN-AMERICANS**

Medical experimentation on human subjects has historically involved a number of vulnerable groups which include children, the poor, LGBTQ individuals and the institutionalized. Within these groups, African-Americans have disproportionately borne the burden of the most invasive, inhumane and dangerous medical experiments, from the time of slavery to the present day.

Dr. Mary Turner (featured in [Lavender Notes](#), July "Stories of Our Lives"), a well-known Bay area microbiologist and researcher, will join the Third Friday Lunch Bunch in October to discuss the impact of this type of reckless, unauthorized and patently immoral research.



For this presentation, Dr. Turner will focus on two experimental studies performed on African-Americans (1) the Tuskegee Syphilis Study and (2) the Immortal Study of Henrietta Lacks.



Some of the men in the Tuskegee Syphilis Study



Henrietta Lacks, unwilling "donor"

As usual, buffet lunch (there is always a vegetarian option) will begin promptly at noon, with Dr. Turner's presentation following at 12:45pm or so, 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.

**19<sup>th</sup> in Lavender Seniors Film Series, Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> October, 1-3pm**

## MARKOVA: COMFORT GAY

Focusing on Asian, gay and transgender issues, the 19th in Lavender Seniors Film Series is "Markova: Comfort Gay", based on the true-story experiences of a group of Filipino LGBTQ individuals struggling to survive in the 1940s (during a time when some of us were infants, children or just about to be born as "Baby Boomers"). This 2004 dramatic film (in Tagalog, Japanese and English, with English sub-titles) recounts the story of Markova (aka Walter Dempster Jr.), who was among many transgender Filipinos who were abducted and kept as "sex slaves" of the Japanese before, during and after World War II.



Markova - the last known surviving "comfort gay" - finally decided - two years before his death into tell his story to a newspaper reporter after he saw the plaque erected in Manila "In Memory of the Victims of Military Sexual Slavery in World War Two". That marker made no mention of the gay men and transgendered people who had also been mistreated and abused, like the "comfort women" during that dark period in the South Pacific. The role of Markova through the years is played by Filipino character actor, Dolphy, and his two real-life actor sons, Eric and Jeffrey Quizón, dressed alternately in "male" and "female" drag.



**The Quizón Brothers (Jeffrey, left; Eric, right) and the Markova character (center, center) they played in the film.**

The 97-minute film will be shown at 1pm on Wednesday, 21st October, in the Lecture Hall at 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. For those with mobility issues, pick-up from the San Leandro BART station can be arranged (at 12:30) by e-mailing [JohnDavid@LavenderSeniors.org](mailto:JohnDavid@LavenderSeniors.org) or calling John David (510-532-8951) at least 24 hours in advance.

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

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

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

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

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



## Pearl Jubilee Gala

Five years ago we had a grand-scale celebration for our silver jubilee. It's time for the pearl jubilee celebration - a celebration of us all!

It's an event by and for - YOU! Come showcase your talents - Sing... Dance... Tune the moves (DJ)... Mix the drinks (bartend)... Mix with people (host)... Just reach out to [Manju](#) and/or [Suhas](#) with whatever you want to do!

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Let's get together to celebrate the 30 years that passed by at the **Pearl Jubilee Gala** with delicious food, drinks, DJ, dance, performances, and much more...

Time to dance, dine, laugh and enjoy our time.

**Date:** Saturday, November 5, 2016

**Time:** 6:30 PM - 11:59 PM PDT

**Venue:** Events Center, The Cathedral of St. Mary, 1111 Gough Street, San Francisco, CA 94109

[Click here to purchase tickets](#). Ticket price includes three-course dinner, live performances, discounted drinks and open dance floor!

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Looking forward to seeing you there!

Board of Directors

## Monthly Events

### Out Standing Seniors, Hayward

October 4 & 18 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (1st and 3rd Tuesdays)

Hayward Senior Center, 22325 N. Third Street, Hayward

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



### Lavender Seniors Advisory Board Meeting

October 5, 6:00-8:00 p.m. (Wed before San Leandro Potluck Lunch)

San Leandro Public Library, 300 Estudillo, Meeting Room C, San Leandro

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

### Queerly Aging Lesbians

October 6 & 20, 1:30 p.m. (1st and 3rd Thursdays)

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

*Find support and like-minded wonderful people!*

### San Leandro Potluck

October 8, 12:00-2:00 p.m. (2nd Saturday)

All Saints Episcopal Church Parish Room, 911 Dowling Boulevard, San Leandro

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

*This month's program: Crisis Helpline for residents in Alameda County*

### Rainbow Seniors

October 11 & 25 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.*

### Senior Men's Group

October 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!*

### Lavender Seniors Film Series

October 19, 1:00-3:00 p.m. (3rd Wednesday of each month)

San Leandro Public Library, 300 Estudillo, lecture hall, San Leandro

*This month's movie is: "Markova: Comfort Gay" info above.*

### Our Space Intergenerational Community Dinner

October 20, 5:30-7:00 p.m. (3rd Thursday of each month)

Our Space, 22245 Main St in Hayward

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

### Oakland Lunch Bunch

*Sponsored by City of Oakland Aging & Adult Services*

October 21, 12:00-2:00 p.m. (3rd Friday of each month)

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

*This month's program: Dr. Mary Turner, Medical Experimentation on African-Americans (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**

**Chair:** D'Anne Bruetsch**Editor:** Beckie Underwood**Secretary:** John David Dupree

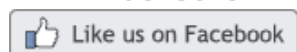
Barbara Jue

Mike Trutner

**Lavender Seniors**

is a project of

LIFE ElderCare

Follow us on **twitter**

Email: [info@lavenderseniors.org](mailto:info@lavenderseniors.org)  
Website: <http://lavenderseniors.org>  
3300 Capitol Avenue  
Fremont, CA 94538  
510-574-2073



Lavender Seniors | 3300 Capitol | Fremont | CA | 94538