



Lavender Notes

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SILVER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

NOVEMBER 9, 2019

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October 2019 - Volume 26 Issue 10

STORIES 
OF OUR LIVES

John Joseph Bauters

What are the odds of two thirty-something gay men – both born in South Bend, Indiana – meeting up as City Mayors at a 2018 Mayors conference in Washington, D.C.? Each could rightfully claim being the “other gay Mayor from South Bend”! During this meeting of Mayors, John J. Bauters was Mayor of Emeryville, California, and Pete Buttigieg was Mayor of South Bend, Indiana – and now the first openly gay candidate for President of the United States.

John Bauters was born 4th December 1979, the first of three children in a close-knit Catholic family; one of sixty grandchildren! The family moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, when he was a toddler. He attended St. Paul the Apostle Elementary School through 8th grade, when the family moved to Ohio, where he attended Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin High School in rural Munson Township. The Catholic Church played a prominent role in his childhood and youth.



South Bend babe crawling (age 1) & walking/swimming (age 2) – who'da thought he'd wind up a California Mayor?!

"My younger brother, sister and I had quite a strict upbringing," John recalls. "We had very little TV and no video games as kids, so I spent a lot of time outdoors – fishing, swimming and boating on a nearby lake – but I was also an altar server, sang in the children's choir, was a sacristan in high school, attended mass every Friday morning at school and served regularly at Children's Mass on Sunday. I helped the Sisters of Notre Dame manage the high school chapel."

John was accomplished as an athlete and a student in high school – which involved a 90-minute bus-ride each way – and later in college. He was Captain of the Cross-Country and Track teams, going to the state finals and earning "All-Ohio" status in both sports. As President of the National Honor Society, he graduated near the top of his high-school class of roughly 160 students. In college, he was active in intramural sports and student government, receiving the University of Notre Dame's Student Leadership Award in 2001 and being elected Vice-President of the Judicial Council.

As early as first grade, however, John knew he was gay.

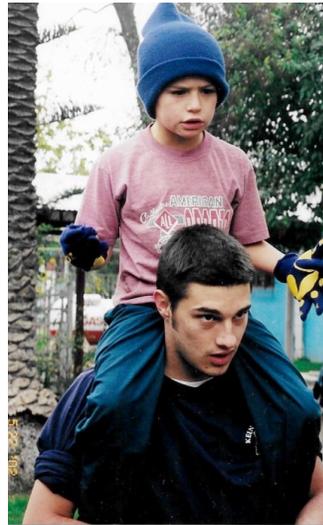
"I was 'outed' at a very young age," John recalls, "when I turned in a spelling test with the name of another boy I had a crush on with a heart drawn around it! Of course, the teacher gave that exposé to my parents during a parent-teacher conference, so my 'cover' was blown before I was seven years old. When my parents confronted me on the issue, I was confused. I remember being told that drawing hearts around boys' names was inappropriate. There were other times through my childhood where it was pretty obvious to people that I was gay and each time I was challenged or confronted about my feelings and actions. Nevertheless, I've never gone out with or even kissed a girl to this day."

Because of the family's focus on the church, John spent some intensive time during his freshman and sophomore years at Notre Dame – back in the city of his birth – trying to decide whether to enroll in a religious order and become a priest.

"This period of 'discernment' was a difficult one for me, in many ways," John recounts. "I grew up heavily involved in the church and it felt like a calling in many ways. However, I knew I would not be happy there, or living a closeted life. I wanted to serve my community and the world, but I ultimately decided there were better paths for doing that."

He majored in government and psychology at Notre Dame and studied in England during his junior year. After his junior year, he took time off to work with Maryknoll Missionaries in slums and orphanages of Kenya and Tanzania, teaching such subjects as English and subsistence farming in Nairobi and Mombasa, Kenya; and Mwanza, Tanzania. After graduating magna cum laude from Notre Dame, he led eight students on a summer learning program in Talagante, Chile, where he and the students worked at Hogar San Jose, a Catholic orphanage.

“Those times in Africa and South America played a very significant role in who I’ve become and how I’ve looked at the world,” John recalls. “I joined AmeriCorps in Los Angeles and became a Disaster Relief Coordinator for the American Red Cross. I could be dispatched to areas in crisis for weeks at a time, coordinating as many as 200 volunteers assisting affected families.”



Life-changing experiences overseas: John carrying Philip in Kenya and carrying Roberto in Chile

During this time, holding such titles as Director of Fatality Response, he traveled quite a bit, offering families assistance with funeral expenses, home payments and repairs, insurance claims, etc. He taught basic first aid and disaster relief in Los Angeles Public Schools, offering such courses as poisons vs non-poisons, CPR, fire-escape plans, training elementary school students on how to help make homes safer for their families.

Though this was mostly rewarding work to him, John sometimes encountered hostility from unexpected sources. For instance, when he was working in Houma, Louisiana, after Hurricane Lili had hit in the fall of 2002, he had a serious run-in with the sheriff of the parish, an incident that changed his life.

“My job was to open a service center for 3,000 people who had been displaced by the hurricane,” John recalls. “This racist human being – who was supposed to be serving people of the Terrebon Parish – had decided he didn’t want any people darker than he was to be given shelter in one of ‘HIS’ facilities. So he closed it down, liberally peppering the ‘N-word’ in every direction. It was such a bizarre situation – one I could barely imagine experiencing on a day-to-day basis. When I tried to confront him, he quipped that he only talked to lawyers and politicians and I was neither of those. I returned from that assignment in Louisiana, spent a couple weeks taking practice LSAT tests and sat for the LSAT. I decided that if I needed to become a lawyer to prevent stuff like that, I

would do it. That's how I ended up in law school."

He scored high enough on the LSAT to be given, first, an Alumni Association Scholarship and, subsequently, a Public Interest Lawyers Scholarship to attend Boston College Law School. During his second year of law school, he worked at the Immigration and Asylum Project, doing such things as representing a Somali refugee seeking political asylum. After earning his law degree in 2006, he sat successfully for three state bars, Massachusetts, Illinois and Minnesota. He then spent a year as a judicial clerk for a female judge in St. Croix, Virgin Islands, where he worked on family, juvenile and probate cases, some of which went up to higher courts.

Instead of staying in the Caribbean, however, John returned to the Midwest, spending 5-6 years as a Legal Aid attorney in Illinois, working with the homeless. He worked under a HUD grant to represent the homeless in such areas as child custody, employment, health care, denial of entitlements, public housing denials and evictions. He managed both civil and criminal cases.

"It became clear to me that entire families could be homeless because one person in the family had done something wrong," John recounts. "I became quite focused on the plight of homeless people. When I came to the Bay Area – working initially with Legal Aid – I soon accepted a post as Policy Director at Housing California, a non-profit advocacy organization. I have been successful in getting over 20 pieces of legislation passed since becoming a policy director and non-profit lobbyist, including a bill to make state ID cards free to homeless people. I've also helped shape the CalWorks Housing Support Program, creating housing interventions for homeless mothers. The program has successfully ended or prevented homelessness for over 12,000 families with children. This program exists in almost every California county now."

John's trajectory from a housing advocate to his election in 2016 to the Emeryville City Council has included a focus on ending mass incarceration through his current "day job" at Californians for Safety and Justice. In 2018, during his tenure as Mayor – a rotating post on the City Council – he championed a \$50 million bond that was passed by 73% of the voters to create affordable housing for low-income residents, including seniors. The expenditure plans for that project, infrastructure improvements for both pedestrian and bicycle access around Emeryville, and environmental stewardship are the major issues he currently has in the works.

His list of committee memberships over the years is extensive, including the Emeryville Housing Committee, he was on the Emeryville Planning Commission prior to getting elected, he is the chair of the Alameda County Healthy Homes Board of Directors, he represents Alameda County on the 9-county Bay Area Air Quality Management District and he chairs the Policy & Legislation Committee at the Alameda County Transportation Commission, where he represents Emeryville.



Mayor John J. Bauters (center) with Emeryville City Council, 2018

Having all these public/political achievements to his credit, did he ever make time for a personal life? And what about being gay? What was his experience like being gay through these events?

"I guess you could say I spent much of the first couple decades of my life sublimating my own sexuality," John recalls. "I was all prepared to come out in high school until the day one of my classmates – who had told a few of his friends he was bisexual – was subjected to a horrific homophobic attack. We were in gym class, changed out of our Catholic school uniforms and into our gym clothes. After class, he was wandering around looking for his clothes. The other guys were huddled around a toilet where all of his clothes had been dropped in and somebody had taken a dump on them. The school administrators lined all of us up against a wall in the gym and interviewed us one at a time. All that while I could see him sitting in an office across the gym, crying. At that moment, I knew I wouldn't be coming out right away – or maybe ever!

"Though the guy's mother brought him some clean clothes, I was worried he might try to kill himself. It made ME feel so awful that I was physically sick for days. I didn't sleep for two or three nights. I was shocked that he returned to school and wondered how he could possibly come back to that place. I am happy to report that my classmate overcame this horrible event and is now a successful high school theater teacher and choir director in a town not far from where we went to school."

As a result of that setback in his own plans, though, John only came out to a few friends during his senior year in high school. When he left Ohio for college back in South Bend, he finally found the courage to come out to his parents. That didn't go very well for several years.

"My Mom had a particularly negative reaction to my revelation," John recalls. "I didn't go home very often in the following years, focusing instead on my grades, sports, and advocacy opportunities. I struggled with depression and feelings of low self-worth. Keeping busy was my antidote to the rejection I felt. They didn't want me to tell my younger sister and brother for fear it would be disruptive to their own high school experiences if others in school knew their brother was gay. I just plodded along, feeling successful wherever I could to mask the sadness that I felt."

It took several years and some very difficult conversations, but his parents

slowly came to recognize that he was the same loving person he had always been. Today, John describes his parents as “loving, accepting, and supportive” and notes that they have counseled some of their friends coping with their own children’s coming-out stories.

Since his sister first learned that he was gay, she has become one of his strongest advocates. His brother – who is seven years younger – is supportive, as well. Meanwhile, his father – who has worked at the same company for 45 years – elevated his hero status in John’s eyes being instrumental in helping gay employees at his firm form an LGBTQ employee support group!

John had a boyfriend for a couple years in college at Notre Dame, before the era of cell phones, texts, e-mails and college-sponsored LGBT support groups.

“At the time, Notre Dame would not allow the campus to be used for any gay-related activities,” John recalls. “So we held off-campus meetings and even had our own ‘Queer Prom’ in a house near the university. The University President recently changed the rules so that LGBT student groups can now meet on the campus and receive student activity funds. So many gay alumni like myself have begun donating to the school to promote such on-campus activities.”

His second significant relationship – with a man also named John – began after the two met at the first-ever legal gay marriage held in the U.S. on 17th May 2004 in Cambridge, Mass., after the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled that there was no compelling state interest in denying LGBT couples the right to marry.

“By midnight that night, dozens of couples had showed up in Cambridge, lining up to be some of the first to get marriage licenses,” John recounts. “I was standing on a ledge strewing flowers down on the soon-to-be-married couples when I spotted this super-cute guy in a yellow baseball hat. I called out to ‘the cutest boy in the crowd’ and tossed him a rose. Later that night he chased me down as I headed home to study for the property law final the next morning. I gave him my name and phone number, he called me two days later, took me to a roof-deck Italian restaurant and we wound up largely inseparable for the next two years. The relationship didn’t work out in the long run and we went our separate ways. As far as I know, he is happy in a long-term relationship back on the east coast.”

John acquired King, his German Shepherd rescue dog, when he was in his final year of law school in Boston. King has remained his best friend for close to 15 years. In 2007, shortly after arriving in Chicago, John met Aaron at a gay bar in Boy’s Town. They started dating and have had periods of time living together and apart ever since.



Three photos of John and his two best friends, King and Aaron

“In 2012, Aaron got a promotion that required him to relocate to California,” John recalls. “I sold my little Chicago condo, packed up and moved out here with him. Since I’m primarily a biking and public transportation kind of guy, I took Amtrak Capital Corridor for two hours each way when I was working in Sacramento. I got a lot of my best work done on the train. We now have an office in Oakland, so I have fewer long train commutes than I once did. Since moving to Emeryville, we’ve always lived in the Park Avenue District neighborhood within a few blocks of City Hall. We have become friends with many of our neighbors here!”

One of the highlights of his very busy life is the every-other-year family vacation that he and Aaron take with John’s parents, sister, brother and their families – 13 people in all.

“In lieu of the busy-ness of Christmas, our family has opted to rotate planning vacation activities like canoeing, zip-lining, etc., in various places,” John recalls. “Last year, for instance, Aaron and I planned a trip on Lake Superior in Minnesota – a favorite place to go – for family time together fishing, hiking, cooking, eating and playing inside and out. That way we have no Christmas shopping madness, instead spending quality time together. We rotate cooking and cleaning duties so each family knows when it’s their night to cook. Next year, my brother will be hosting in Colorado, along with one of his co-hosts, his two-year-old daughter, Joanna.”



John, hiking in New Mexico earlier this year – and always conscious of slums like Kibera outside Nairobi

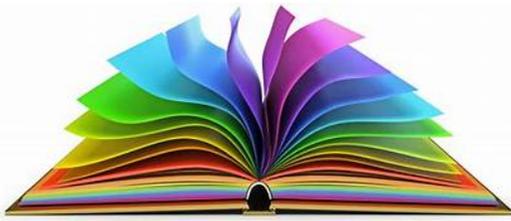
John continues his love for sports. He umpires and plays in gay softball leagues. He was Assistant Umpire in Charge at the last Gay Softball World Series in Kansas City just a few weeks ago, an event he’s been involved with for ten years. But whenever he slows down for a minute, he catches his actions going toward people who need help. He has fund-raised to help provide housing for homeless LGBTQ youth at the Sacramento LGBT Center and he volunteers his time with LGBT seniors regularly. His thoughts also often turn to others he’s had contact with around the globe.

“Hardly a day goes by that I don’t think of kids like Philip who I worked with years ago in Kenya, who was living in a run-down orphanage in Kibera, one of the poorest slums in East Africa,” John recalls wistfully. “He had two siblings – a three-year-old and a one-year-old. Their mother left one night while they were sleeping. She never returned. It’s not clear whether she left them or something happened to her. Neighbors gave them table scraps to eat for a few days before taking them to a local religious orphanage. He suffered from night terrors about being abandoned again. When we were together, I couldn’t put

him down – I carried him around all day. Sometimes I couldn't move my arms for a few days afterward. I know I have to have children like Philip in my life again at some point."

When asked if he had any words of wisdom for the LGBTQ community on being out, John replied: "I believe we must love other people. Doing that well starts with loving ourselves, then being there for those who haven't yet mustered the courage to fully love themselves."

Thank you so much, John, for your commitment to people, in general, and your dedication to the LGBTQ and homeless communities, in particular. You've accomplished more in your four decades on this planet than many of us twice your age have. Keep up the good work! And good luck figuring out how to get some kids like Philip back into your daily life again!



BOOK REVIEW

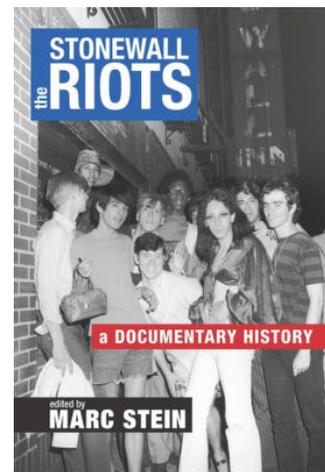
The Stonewall Riots: A Documentary History

By Marc Stein

Stein recounts Stonewall starting from 1965 to the riots of June 1969. This includes articles in gay magazines and newspapers including The Los Angeles Times, The Ladder, One Inc., The Mattachine Society of New York and Vector edited by a local journalist Bill Beardemphl.

Marc Stein has given us the official overview of some of the most stunning moments in gay history. Historians and gays at large must pay attention.

- Frank J. Howell



CONNECTIONS



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

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!



Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch October 12, Noon-2:00 pm

All Saints Episcopal Church
911 Dowling Blvd, San Leandro

Program: TBD

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



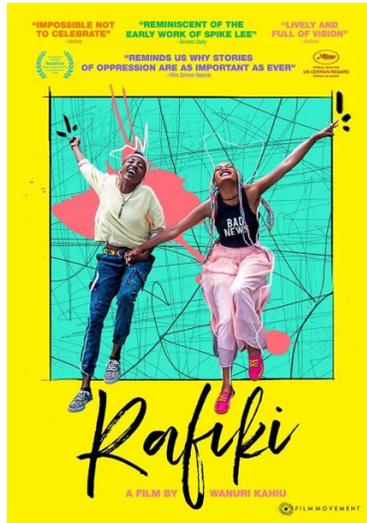
Rafiki

[“Friend” in Swahili]

Kenya is one of 71 countries where homosexuality is illegal (see [Newsweek](#) for an April 2019 list of those countries). Legal punishments in those countries can range from prison sentences (up to 14 years in Kenya) to death by stoning (draconian law enacted in April 2019 by the Kingdom of Brunei).

So, as you might imagine, Kenya is a difficult place to write openly-positive books/articles about homosexuality, to create positive art about the LGBTQ community or produce (or finance) films that show positive representations of lesbian or gay individuals or communities. This month’s film has been banned in Kenya, although it was allowed to be shown once to a sold-out crowd in Nairobi in order to qualify for Academy Awards in the “Best Foreign Film” category. The country chose to submit “Supa Moda” instead – that film was not nominated by the Academy.

Wanuri Kahiu, the director of this 2018 film, was told that the ban could be lifted if they changed the hopeful ending to one where the women “got what they deserved”. He refused.



Kena and Ziki live very different lives in Nairobi. Kena works in her father's convenience store and awaits the start of nursing school, while Ziki passes the days hanging out with her friends and making up dance routines. Their paths cross when their fathers run against each other for seats in the County Assembly, and they find themselves drawn to each other. Soon their interest grows to affection and the girls find ways to love each other despite the ever-watching gaze of the neighborhood.

Feminists will be intrigued by some of the very progressive lines in the film, like when a would-be male suitor mentions that “I could make you happy,” his intended – a lesbian – boldly says, “How do you know what would make me happy?”

Ziki's friends get jealous that she is spending so much time with Kena, and when they attack Kena, Ziki defends her. Ziki takes Kena home to dress her wounds, but Ziki's mom catches them kissing.

They run away together to hide, but are found by the town gossip. They are both arrested, and have to be picked up by their fathers. Both families are in crisis and deal in different ways with their social reality in this developing country context.



The film fast-forwards a few years to show the hopeful ending that the director refused to change. Those who come to see the film will find out how it all plays out.

The film will be shown at 1pm on the Third Wednesday, 16th October, in the fully-accessible Carnegie Lecture Hall at the San Leandro Public Library, 300 Estudillo. Following the showing, there will be a brief evaluation and discussion of the film.

Attendees are reminded that the theater is frequently chilly, so that a sweater or light jacket is recommended (one person brought a blanket last month!). Library staff are now telling us that – if the room is too cold – there may be something to be done about it if it is reported to them immediately. Stay tuned on that.

The library can be reached via BART (five blocks above the San Leandro station), AC-Transit (two blocks above the E. 14th and Estudillo bus-stop), Bancroft Avenue, Highways 580 or 880. Ample two- and three-hour parking is available.



Center for Elders Independence

[and a Special Treat: Dessert Table by Out@Comcast]

When we reach an age where remaining independent and in our own home 24/7 may become too much of a challenge, what are the options for us and those who care about us? Many of us – like our parents before us – have made it clear to our family and friends that we don't want to be put in "a home" for living out whatever remains of the "rest of our lives." But some of us have, indeed, seen our parents placed in a residential treatment facility, "convalescent home" or skilled nursing facility, particularly if they preferred to stay somewhere on the other side of the country and couldn't take care of themselves.

So what are some of the options available in 2019 that might not have been there a generation or two ago?

Maybe you've seen some of the 40+ vans operated in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties by the Center for Elders Independence (CEI), whisking seniors from one place to another and wondered where they were going and what they were doing. What's the difference between these vans and those that say "East Bay Paratransit" on them?

Ron Smith, a CEI Associate Account Manager, will be on hand at Third Friday Lunch Bunch this month to help explain some of those differences. He won't be making a "pitch" for joining up with CEI, but will be explaining what you or a loved one should be looking for in making such a decision.



On another note, a group called Out@Comcast – made up of LGBTQ employees and their allies at Comcast – are planning to set up a special dessert table during this Lunch Bunch, in order to introduce themselves to us.

According to Belinda Ryan, one of the group's members, they have taken an interest in supporting local LGBTQ seniors in any way that they can.

The Third Friday Lunch Bunch will be held from 12-2pm on Friday, 18th October, at the North Oakland Senior Center, 5714 MLK Jr Way (corner 58th Street). Lunch (vegetarian options available) is served promptly at 12 noon. The program begins at 12:50. Ample parking and entrance are in the back of the building (off 58th Street).

Please come and join us.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Anniversary Celebration in the “Home Stretch”

The committee of volunteers planning the Silver (25th) Anniversary Celebration of Lavender Seniors on Saturday, 9th November, is busily soliciting sponsors for the event and advertisers for the take-away program that will be distributed at the event (they can use help on those solicitations, by the way, from anyone reading this newsletter who might have connections)!

Meanwhile, anyone who hasn't marked the date on their calendar, made their reservations and bought their tickets (either on-line or by mailing a check per instructions below) should do so, since Eve's Waterfront Restaurant (the former Rusty Scupper) only has limited space. There will be no tickets sold at the door, since – in order to plan most economically – we need to advise the chef on **exactly** how many fish, chicken and vegetarian meals will be served at this “sit-down” occasion. We seniors (and our allies) will be served by waitpersons (unusual for non-profits like ours)! That will eliminate trying to balance food through a buffet line in our sometimes-not-so-steady hands! We figure we all deserve such a luxury every quarter-century!

(Editor's note: the rest of our ongoing events will remain buffet-style, unfortunately)!

Please plan to join us! Chauffeur a friend or two if you can (valet parking will be offered for those who would rather not have to walk, walker or wheel from the parking lot). Help our community celebrate a colorful past and prepare for a hopeful and exciting future!

LAVENDER SENIORS SILVER ANNIVERSARY



Going strong for 25 years and counting!

Eve's Waterfront Restaurant
15 Embarcadero West, Oakland, CA 94607
Saturday, November 9, 2019
11:30 am – 3:30 pm

MC: Peggy Moore,
Training and Development Director, California Democratic Party

Live Entertainment:

- Oakland Gay Men's Chorus
- VOICES Lesbian A Cappella for Justice
- Mothertongue Feminist Readers Theater

Tickets Information

\$25.00 General Admission (No tickets sold at the door)

[PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE](#)

(pay via credit card)

[DOWNLOAD EVENT REGISTRATION FORM](#)

(pay via PayPal, check, or credit card)

Sponsorship and Advertising opportunities are available!

In addition to helping underwrite the 25th Anniversary of Lavender Seniors, your generous donation also goes towards:

- Underwriting the attendance of Seniors who otherwise could not afford to attend.
- Supporting our Friendly Visitor Program.
- Providing Safe and Visible Training to healthcare, mental health and social service providers.
- Providing lunches for bi-monthly peer-supported and educational luncheons.
- Help afford booth setups at Pride Festivals and Health Fairs, so we can actively inform, support and be involved in the community.

[DOWNLOAD SPONSORSHIP AND ADVERTISING INFORMATION](#)

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(pay via PayPal, check, or credit card)

For more information please contact: gwen@lavenderseniors.org



Lavender Seniors Participates in Development of Governor's Master Plan for Aging

One of Lavender Seniors' board members, Gwen Boozé, and its Friendly Visitors Coordinator, Karen Anderson, were among those who participated in – and spoke at – the 14th-15th September planning meetings in Sacramento as part of Governor Gavin Newsom's Master Plan for Aging Forum.



Gwen, LSEB Vice-President, standing in front of her quote at the entry to the Governor's Master Plan for Aging Forum

Karen Anderson, Friendly Visitor Coordinator for LSEB, was a featured panelist during the two-day forum. She and her wife, Gwen, were greeted by Scan CEO, Dr. Bruce Chernof, and Openhouse founder, Dr. Marcy Adelman.



Karen, Gwen, Marcy Adelman and Dr. Bruce Chernof at the California Master Plan for Aging Forum, September 2019

Recognizing that California's over-65 population is projected to grow to 8.6 million by 2030, Governor Gavin Newsom issued an executive order calling for the creation of a Master Plan for Aging to be developed by October 1, 2020. The Master Plan will serve as a blueprint that can be used by state government, local communities, private organizations and philanthropy to build environments that promote an age friendly California.

The Stakeholder Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet again the first week of November, but plans are still in the works.

Thank you, Karen and Gwen, for representing Lavender Seniors of the East Bay, LGBTQ seniors, in general, and all of California seniors so well!

Stop by and say Hi to your Lavender Seniors Newsletter Editor...I (Beckie) will be at the Lavender Seniors table at the 21st Annual Senior Resource Fair.

Living Longer, Growing Stronger in San Leandro Friday, October 18th.
It's an information packed day with resources and information booths, free health checks and much more!!!

The event is from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the San Leandro Senior Community Center, 13909 E. 14th Street.



Oakland Pride Weekend Wrap-Up/Follow-Up

In addition to having a well-attended booth at Oakland Pride on Sunday, 8th September, Lavender Seniors board members and other volunteers were busy working on the "safe and visible" front for LGBTQ seniors that weekend. They also participated in the Healthy Living Festival at the Oakland Zoo on the 19th September.

Lavender Seniors co-sponsored the "Aging with Pride" celebration at the Oakland LGBTQ Community Center on Friday, 6th September, along with Pacific Center and the Center for Elders Independence. After a lovely buffet luncheon, the group – led deftly by Center Co-Founder, Joe Hawkins, and Pacific Center's Anne Mitchell - discussed how being LGBTQ has changed – and stayed the same – over the years. The group – ranging in age from 20s to 80s – shared some interesting inter-generational stories on the joys and sorrows associated with being out in the 21st century vs the 1950s and the 1990s.

Two days later, Lavender Seniors board and volunteers staffed our booth from 10am until 6pm. During that time, it's been reported that another 70-80 individuals signed up to receive the monthly newsletter and be updated on various volunteer opportunities with the organization. A steady stream of Pride participants stopped by to chat, as well, making the day speed by most enjoyabl



Volunteer, Mica (inside the booth) and Board Member, Melissa with Oakland Councilmember Loren Taylor

Meanwhile, simultaneously, up the road at the Temescal Brewery (41st and Telegraph), a couple board members and a couple volunteers had an awareness and mini-fund-raising activity in conjunction with Oakland Pride. Thanks to Megan and Dannie at the brewery, they and a number of customers contributed a healthy amount of funds to the ongoing activities promoted by Lavender Seniors.



Megan, Gwen, Dannie and Barbara staffing the extra-territorial Oakland Pride table at Temescal Brewery

Then on 19 September, Lavender Seniors had a booth at the Healthy Living Festival held at the Oakland Zoo. As they used to say about the LGBTQ community, "We're EVERYwhere!"

And

San Leandro Marina Community Center

15301 Wicks Boulevard

94579

Thursday, Oct 17

Course # 13969

6:30 Pm – 8:00 Pm

Be prepared for your personal emergencies. We live in earthquake country. Are you prepared? Discussions will be on how to make a plan, build an emergency kit, what items should be included and the proper way to store it. The workshop will also teach basic prevention or mitigation strategies that you can do in our home to protect yourself and valuables.

Space is limited; pre-register by calling Customer Service 1-510 577-3462 and give course numbers above.

Films by Queer Women of Color

Saturday October 5, 2019, 3-5 pm.

Berkeley Unitarian Fellowship, 1606 Bonita Ave/Cedar St.

Donation \$5-20, light refreshments, everyone welcome.

QWOCMAP, Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project (www.qwocmap.org) offers entirely free filmmaking “boot camps” inside and outside California, as well as a free annual San Francisco film festival, highlighting these films.

Bay Area Old Lesbians Organizing for Change (OLOC) is co-sponsoring this event, a benefit to support QWOCMAP’s ongoing work.

Come see powerful and diverse films – poignant, dramatic, inspirational, memorable – in an East Bay location. Filmmakers will be present to discuss their work and you will learn more about QWOCMAP. All films are captioned.

Tickets at the door.

Questions: mslaura@earthlink.net.



Out Standing Seniors**invites you to join us for
A special program open to all seniors:

**Power-of Attorney, Advance Health Care
Directives, POLST, Trusts & Wills”**

Presented by:
Kathleen Day-Seiter, JD, MSW
Elder Law | Trusts and Estates

Tuesday, October 15th
12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Hayward Area Senior Center
22325 North Third Street
Hayward CA 94546

Sponsored by Pacific Center for Human Growth in partnership with Hayward
Area Senior Center



For more info or to sign up contact OutStandingSeniors2@gmail.com

**OUT STANDING SENIORS is a safe & confidential space for LGBTQ seniors
50+ to share thoughts, feelings, resources, information & to support one
another. It is a drop-in peer group, facilitated by trained peers

MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT – CHANGES FOR 2020

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2019

9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

A FREE COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM
Course #15419

San Leandro Senior Community Center
13909 East 14th Street, San Leandro, Ca 94578
Phone: 1-510-577-3462

Legal Assistance for Seniors/Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy

Program (LAS/HICAP) staff will present information on changes to the Medicare Prescription Drug (Part D) Plans and Medicare Advantage (Part C) Plans in the coming year.

Hear an overview of eligibility, costs, benefits, and changes in Medicare Parts A and B. Learn options for supplementing Medicare and getting help with medical costs (including the Extra Help program)

Space is limited; pre-register by calling Customer Service

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:

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

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, 6:00pm – 6:45pm

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, 2:00pm – 2:30pm

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.

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](#).



THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

Out Standing Seniors - Sponsored by Pacific Center

Oct 1 & 15 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. (1st and 3rd Tuesdays)
Hayward Senior Center, 22325 N. Third Street, Hayward

Join Meet-Up

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

LezBold Peer Support Group

Oct 3 & 17, 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

Oct 4, 11, 18, 25 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

Oct 4, 11, 18, 25 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

Oct 7, 14, 21, 28 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

Oct 8 & 22, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. (2nd & 4th Tuesdays)

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

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

Living OUT in Livermore - Sponsored by Pacific Center

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

Robert Livermore Community Center Senior Services, 4444 East Avenue, Livermore 94550 [Join Meet-Up](#)

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

Lavender Seniors Board Meeting

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

4300 Bermuda, Oakland

A portion of this meeting is open to the public.

Senior Gay Men's Group

Oct 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 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

Oct 12, noon - 2:00 p.m.

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

This month's program: "TBD"

Lavender Seniors LGBTQ Film Series

Oct 16, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. (3rd Wednesday)

San Leandro Library, 300 Estudillo, San Leandro

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

Tri-Valley Rainbows - Sponsored by Pacific Center

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

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

[Join Meet-up](#)

A Peer Support Group is a safe & confidential space for LGBT Seniors 50+ to 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

Oct 18, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

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

This month's program: "Center for Elders Independence" (see info above)

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

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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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**Newsletter Editorial
Board:**

Beckie Underwood

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