



Lavender Notes

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September 2020 - Volume 26 Issue 9

**STORIES
OF OUR LIVES**

Patricia Ann "Pat" Cull

A long-time pillar of OLOC (Old Lesbians Organizing for Change), she is equally comfortable leading a meeting or using a skilsaw. Her dulcet baritone has provided the bottom voice to women's singing groups, she has operated bookstores and student counseling programs. She has been a political activist for much of her adult life and built a house on women's land in Mendocino County. She was Friendly Visitor Program Coordinator for Lavender Seniors for a few years! Like a skein of colorful variegated yarn, she has experienced and demonstrated a wide range of skills along a broad spectrum during her first 78 years on Earth.

Born in Chicago in July 1942, Pat Cull was the elder of two (her brother was four years younger) in a large working-class Italian family (e.g., factory workers, train conductors, truck drivers). Her Mom was one of six; her Dad had three sisters. So, much of Pat's childhood was spent with an extended family of aunts, uncles and cousins.

"Though I was baptized as a Catholic, my younger brother was baptized in a Methodist church," Pat recalls, "so we weren't strongly affiliated with any particular religion. We were not the typical Italian Catholic family of the time. My parents, aunts and uncles spoke Italian when they didn't want the kids to know what they were talking about. We saw our cousins at least monthly and on holidays. Mom and

her sisters held monthly 'Sisters Club' meetings, where the men would come along and play poker while the women did their thing."

Pat got her first taste of the construction trade when she was ten years



Pat – age 3 – in an Illinois park

old.

"My parents decided to move out of the city, presumably looking for better opportunities for their kids," Pat says. "So we moved out to the suburban cornfields of Roselle, where I 'helped' with the building of our new house! Actually, all I really did – for the most part – was nail down the kitchen floor, which was next covered with linoleum, the rage in those days. I think that move from the big city to the country contributed considerably to who I've subsequently become."



Pat portrait – age six

Though her early elementary school years were spent in Chicago, from fifth grade through high school graduation, she attended the Roselle Unified School district, which served five small villages.

"Many working-class families were moving out to the suburbs in hopes of a better life," Pat recalls. "Though there were no girls' sports in those days, even in high school, it was clear that I loved basketball – only half-court for girls, of course – as well as softball and volleyball. But gym was definitely my favorite class.

Though I did occasionally tip-toe on the fringe of the cheerleader crowd, I mostly felt like an outsider."

Pat occasionally dated boys, even going steady for a while; and she attended the senior prom.

"Nevertheless, I was in love with my best friend," Pat recalls. "I think I was pretty clear by age nine that I was only into girls. As an old woman, I've finally 'confessed' to that best friend – we're still in touch – that I was in love with her way back then. She just laughed. From then until now, I've been clearly confirmed as a 'butch' lesbian."

Her sexuality was a bit of a sticking point for years, particularly with her mother.

"I was caught 'wrestling' with one of my friends, and both sets of parents picked up on the possibility that I was a lesbian," Pat says, "but they remained in denial for many years."

Her brother – who now lives back in Illinois – was less problematic than her Mom.

"By the time my very strait-laced younger brother knew, he was living in Seattle with a girlfriend and didn't seem to care one way or another," Pat says. "I fly back to see him once a year or so, and he's come here a few times, particularly when I've needed him. He's always been such the straight-and-narrow guy – I'm sure he's never smoked a joint, for instance – but he's definitely one of the people I have always loved most."



NIU Freshman, Pat, 18, & brother, Ken, 14

After graduating from high school in 1960, Pat went to Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, first majoring in Physical Education, then Psychology, earning her Bachelor's Degree in 1964. Like many other college students, Pat began dealing with her sexuality during that time.

"I was the first in the family to go on to college – my brother was the second. As a freshman, I fell in love with another woman," she recalls. "I believe she loved me, too, but was less likely to acknowledge it. She was very pretty, basically straight, and was asked out on a lot of dates. We sometimes double-dated, in fact – which contributed to how tortured our relationship actually was. She got married in our senior year. I was placed on probation at one point, in part because of this relationship, so knew I had to buckle down and get all A's to stay in school. So I settled down, hit the books and learned to play bridge!"

The first year after college, Pat went to Michigan State University, working and studying for a Master's Degree in Student Personnel and Counseling. She didn't like her jock co-workers much, so she took a job near Rochester, NY – where she became Assistant Dean of Students and a residence hall director at SUNY-Geneseo.

"As usual, I soon developed a crush on somebody and felt a bit dead-end about it," Pat recalls. "I had made a deal with a college friend that whoever was having the best time would invite the other to join her at Thanksgiving. She was obviously having a better time than I was, so I joined her in Baltimore for a holiday visit. She was an out lesbian who took me to my first lesbian bar – where I was assured no men would bother me! What a concept! I was surrounded by all of these beautiful women, waiting to see what my reaction would be to my first lesbian bar! My eyes finally got opened to the fact that I wasn't alone in this world!"

After her first visit, Pat returned to Baltimore as often as she could. In time, she unexpectedly hit it off with her friend's ex-lover.

"Lesbian relationships were a mystery to me at the time," Pat says. "My friend moved on after she got her M.A., so I didn't know whether it was okay for me and her ex to get involved. But my friend seemed fine with it, and so, without

having ever dated, coming somewhat through the 'back-door' into my first relationship, my new girlfriend and I moved back to Chicago together. When we got there, my folks were out of town, so we stayed in their place. Until that trip, we had never slept together."

The couple stayed in Chicago for nearly four years, by which time Pat felt drawn to San Francisco, where she'd heard there were many lesbians. Her lover, however, resisted the idea, so they wound up instead in Seattle, which had a reputation almost as good as San Francisco's.

"It was when we moved to Seattle that some of my issues with my Mom came to a head," Pat recalls.

"She came to help us settle in. Even though she liked my partner, Mom started questioning our relationship because we were buying a house together. 'What're you going to do if one of you dies?' she asked with a definite combative tone of voice. I told her that if – goddess forbid – one of us died, obviously the house would go to the surviving partner."

Her mother came more than a bit unglued at that point.



Pat as confident lesbian in her 40s

"As she sputtered about how such things should be left to FAMILY," Pat recalls, "it was clear she wanted to know if I were in a lesbian relationship. When I told her I was, in fact, a lesbian, she went totally off the rails. She screamed at me, 'I told everybody that you WEREN'T – I always DEFENDED you – and now THIS!'"

There were some strained and difficult times after that animated conversation.

"I think she tried for many years to keep this secret, even from her Sisters Club, but they mostly came around in the end. I feel fairly certain, however, that my Mom never said the word lesbian in her life, and for years afterward, she continued to ask if I wanted a purse for my birthday. Meanwhile, my Dad was just a sweet guy who mostly worked at keeping the peace between me and my Mom."

In Seattle, Pat got her MSW in Social Work at University of Washington, after which she worked with delinquent teens for a couple of years.

"Dealing with gay, lesbian and transgender kids was particularly difficult for me," Pat says. "One small-town girl had decided she must be a boy because she was attracted to girls – she had no idea it was okay to be a lesbian. When I came out in the context of her issue, it was clearly the beginning of the end for me. The institution tried unsuccessfully to fire me, and a year later, I decided it was time to move on. My partner of six years and I had broken up the year before. When I moved down to the Bay Area, it was a good move for me to make."

Before settling in the Bay Area, Pat interviewed and qualified for a job as a social worker. Unfortunately, her

Seattle references chose to out her as a lesbian, so she lost the job she'd been offered before it started. At that point, she decided to take up carpentry, so she joined the union as an apprentice. As a journey carpenter, she worked 8+ years out of doors with a large general contractor, then 11 years for the Parks and Recreation Department of the City and County of San Francisco. She formally retired from carpentry at age 52.



"After that, I built and opened a bookstore in Glen Park. Though the business generally paid for itself, it mostly couldn't pay me or my business partner enough for us to live on. We each earned only about \$100/month, though toward the end of our reign there, we finally worked up to \$500/month. After five years of struggling to survive, we sold the store to a guy who changed the business to a used book store with lots of jazz performances, poetry readings, and so on."

Pat began doing small carpentry jobs, working out of her car, until she ran into an old bookstore customer who was a dean at the Mission Campus of San Francisco City College. On the spot, the woman offered Pat a job at the college.

"The 'old-girls' network," Pat calls it, "worked for me. Since the dean was aware of my MSW, she was able to get me this job as a college advisor for a working-adults program. I worked there for ten years, during which time I moved to the East Bay. For a couple of years, I also worked part-time as the Lavender Seniors Friendly Visitor Program Coordinator. Then, in January 2010, I was diagnosed with breast cancer, which put my life on hold for at least a year."



Fortunately, given the circumstances, having retired as a carpenter from the City and County of San Francisco, she had access to quality medical care through her health insurance, a policy that continues in force to this day.

"I quit everything, taking this diagnosis as a signal that it was time to change my life," Pat recalls. "The chemo and radiation were tedious, painful and exhausting. At the time, it seemed organizations like the Women's Cancer Resource Center didn't have any support groups for people like me, so I rattled a few cages until they offered some programs specifically for women with breast cancer. After sitting on my duff for a couple of years, I got wind that the owner of Laurel Book Store was looking to hire somebody just like me. I worked there for six years, including three at their second downtown location. But bookstores just have a hard time making it in the 21st century, so when the second store closed, I was out of a job once again."

Until recently, Pat was working at a chiropractor's office, which had to close in March due to COVID-19 restrictions. She is hoping to find another bookstore job or get called back to the chiropractor's office when the pandemic is under control.

Pat's personal, social and political lives have been very



fluid over the years. For instance, she initially met her wife in the 1970s, when they were both carpenters and worked together on women's land up in Willits, where Pat was building a house.

"Chivvis and I originally met at a tradeswomen's picnic," Pat recalls. "We got together and lived together in Berkeley for a few months, but it didn't work at that time. We remained friends, however, and re-connected some years later, when she was living in the Middle East and coming back to the U.S. periodically to visit her mother. During one of her three-month stays here, we

're-sparked,' becoming seriously attached to each other. But commuting back and forth between Berkeley and Palestine nearly broke the bank for me, so it became impossible to sustain the long-distance part of our relationship. She moved here in early 2008 and we were married at San Francisco City Hall in September that year.



Pat and Chivvis on their wedding day, September 2008

Politically, Pat was involved in fighting against Proposition 6 in 1978 and Proposition 8 in 2008. Currently, she is involved with Black Lives Matter. She has been heavily involved with OLOC for 15+ years, beginning at age 62.

"I came 'home' to these fabulous women," Pat says, "all of us having grown up at the same time, sharing similar interests, each having done many amazing things in our lives. I was on the local OLOC Steering Committee for several years and briefly

on the national Steering Committee. This is the community I've been looking for all my life."

Music has always played a significant role in her life, as well.

"I sang barbershop for 20 years, taught myself trumpet, clarinet and guitar," Pat recalls, "as well as singing with women's vocal groups, such as 'Out on a Clef' and 'Anything Goes'. In all of those groups, I usually sing baritone, because my voice is too low for most alto and tenor parts.

"The most important thing for me has always been keeping active – not only in the issues of our times, but also in those things that help me feel better about myself and the world."



Singing with "Out on a Clef"

What a fascinating life, Pat, including, of course, your invaluable stint with Lavender Seniors. You are one of the many caring folks who have kept the dream alive of helping LGBTQ seniors stay connected with their community. Thank you!



BOOK REVIEW

Who Was Harvey Milk?

By Corinne Grinapol

Harvey Milk fought for gay rights in San Francisco. He was one of the first openly gay men to run for office in America.

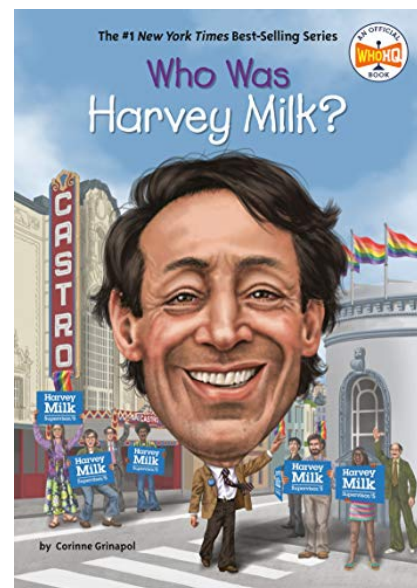
The book is heavily illustrated capturing his life, from boyhood to his unfortunate death and legacy. The book is written for elementary level students.

As a school teacher, Milk taught history and math to high school students. He opened a photo shop on Castro Street. He always played opera as he worked.

He ran for office to represent the Castro district in 1978. He won and was a very progressive member of San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Dan White, a conservative supervisor, resented Milk. White murdered Mayor George Moscone and Harvey Milk in November 1978.

This book is concise and should be required reading for all students everywhere.

- Frank J. Howell



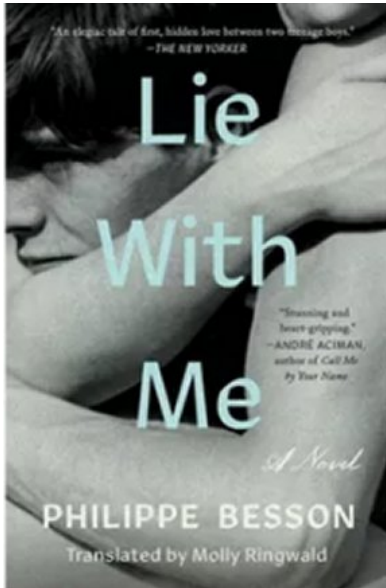
BONUS BOOK REVIEW

Lie With Me

By Philippe Besson
[translated by Molly Ringwald]



The problem with first love is that it's almost always followed quickly by first heartbreak. While some high-school romances do endure for decades, for the most part, today's teenager in love is tomorrow's (at least temporarily) emotionally-destroyed young person. Teenage love is bittersweet, but the bitter has a way of overwhelming the sweet.



Philippe, the 17-year-old narrator of *Lie with Me*, doesn't intend to fall in love with his mysterious schoolmate, Thomas, but nobody ever chooses to set out on a path that they know, deep inside, will lead to heartbreak. In Philippe Besson's latest French-language book, the novelist tells a painful story of love and loss.

Lie with Me is narrated by an adult Philippe, looking back on his teenage self with a bemused resignation. The younger Philippe was a quiet boy with a few friends in his small French town. He's content spending out-of-school time reading. He's neither happy nor depressed, approaching life with a slightly blasé acceptance.

A 2019 English translation of this 2017 best-selling and award-winning French novel is available in bookstores and as an e-book on various platforms. Many of us may remember Molly Ringwald as Claire Standish, the "snobbish beauty" in 1985's Universal Pictures release of "Breakfast Club," listed in 2008 by *Empire* as one of the top 500 films of all time. The actor, singer (she was first "discovered" as "Annie" in an off-Broadway production) and author has turned her many faceted talents to translation. (Perhaps little-known factoids: Ringwald graduated from the Lycée Français de Los Angeles and was married for three years to French novelist, Valéry Lameignère, from 1999-2002).

A few reviews from LGBTQ media:

"One of the best novels you'll read this year was actually published in France in 2017. Translated by actress/author Molly Ringwald, *Lie With Me* brilliantly reminds readers of the joys and agonies of love." Jeffrey Masters, *The Advocate*

"It's as immediately involving and heartbreaking a tale of gay first love as I can recall. Direct and devastating!" *Bay Area Reporter*

"A devastating read about first love. The novel is so irresistible, it can't be put down. *Lie With Me* is the must-read gay novel of the summer." Gary Kramer, *Philadelphia Gay News*

Though this has been widely-acclaimed as being comparable with *Call Me By Your Name*, the André Aciman book made into an award-winning 2017 film,

there's no word currently about negotiations to make a film out of this book. Incidentally, Aciman himself reviewed the Besson book as follows:

"This one sentence: *I remember the movement of his hips pressing against the pinball machine*" had me in its grip until the end. Two young men find each other, always fearing that life itself might be the villain standing in their way. A stunning and heart-gripping tale." André Aciman, author of *Call Me By Your Name*

John David Dupree, Tinamastes, Costa Rica

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 (Zoom) Rainbow Lunch in September

Joys & Sorrows of 'Coming out'

At last month's Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch meeting, most of those attending shared some fairly personal stories about "When (and How) Did Each of Us Know" that we were "different"? In preparation for National Coming Out Day on 11 October, we are proposing something similar this month.

We all have different stories about our "coming out" processes – some of us confronting that hurdle at various times in our personal and professional lives. Coming out to parents might've been the most traumatic (or easiest) experience for some; coming out



on the job or on the football team may have been a complete hassle (or delightful) for others. Many of us come out again every time we move to a new place or have a new friend/family member.

Whatever process we each went through along the way – or continue to face at our tender ages – those of us who choose to attend a 90-minute lunch meeting for LGBTQ+ seniors at noon on the 12th of September 2020 will have an opportunity to share their coming out experiences with each other. It might be interesting to share some of the stories of those journeys with each other – people who would understand our process, perhaps similar – or quite different – from their own.

Meanwhile, as mentioned last month, we have been contacted by a recent UCLA graduate interested in helping LGBTQ+ seniors take “virtual tours” of museums, something he’s been doing for the last year or two. We will be holding a Zoom call with that organizer the first week in September and, hopefully, will be able to have something organized for October. In our communications with him, we have expressed interest in having some of these tours (e.g., Wiesenthal Museum of Tolerance, Holocaust Museum) and tours of works of LGBTQ+ artists/sculptors in such well-known museums as the Louvre, the Prado and the Rijksmuseum available during our shelter-in-place isolation. Anyone potentially interested in participating in any such “virtual tour” should make that interest known via Info@LavenderSeniors.org or by leaving a message at 510-736-LGBT.

Below are the details for joining the Second Saturday Zoom meeting in September (same hyperlink for the rest of the year, as well):

Gwendolyn Boozé and John David Dupree are inviting you to a scheduled **Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch** meeting on Zoom.

Topic: **Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch**

Time: Saturday, September 12, 2020 12:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89671026595?pwd=TGRTbkxaTzZGbWFFTTB1WWpQNFpWZz09>

Meeting ID: 896 7102 6595

Password: 153953

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 896 7102 6595

Password: 153953

We hope to see you there, poised to share some of your own story with kindred spirits!

Communication Options During Covid-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged people of all ages to keep in touch with beloved family and friends. Some – particularly seniors who might be less “tech-savvy” – can be intimidated from even **trying** to join Zoom meetings, Skype, FaceTime, WhatsApp or Google Hangout chats that might be available to help deal with their loneliness/isolation. In addition, this shyness can deny seniors the tele-health/tele-medical services they might benefit from.

For those who have “given up” on joining the many 21st-century communication alternatives – or who would like to learn more about the options available – this month’s Third Friday Lunch Bunch Zoom meeting (12 noon on 18th September) will provide information and offer personal assistance to anybody who wants to leap into the present and future of technology. The services and products to be described are all free to people with any sort of disabilities, including hearing, vision, mobility, speaking or remembering.

These services are provided via the Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program (DDTP) and the California Telephone Access Program, funded by a surcharge on everybody’s phone bill.

Elizabeth Wong, a Berkeley-based Field Operations Specialist for the DDTP, will join us on this month’s Third Friday Lunch Bunch Zoom gathering.



“Lavender Seniors is the first LGBTQ-focused organization we’ve reached out to in the East Bay,” Elizabeth said. “We are delighted to be working with LGBTQ+ seniors in helping them cope with the difficulties of sheltering in place, social distancing and all the rest.”

Elizabeth described assisted clients – suddenly more isolated from family and friends – who could no longer be visited or visit them, whether nearby or far away. For those who can’t make the September meeting, Elizabeth can be reached via Elizabeth@ddtp.org or calling (510) 302-1123. For more information, the program website is www.californiaphones.org.

Below are the details for September’s Third Friday Lunch Bunch Zoom meeting (same hyperlink, meeting ID and password through December 2020):

Gwendolyn Boozé and John David Dupree are inviting you to a scheduled **Third Friday Lunch Bunch** meeting on Zoom.

Topic: **Third Friday Lunch Bunch**

Time: September 18, 2020 12:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85235825964?pwd=WmptRG5SU2RDVUNyQ1hFWGM2NlZOQT09>

Meeting ID: 852 3582 5964

Password: 569546

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 852 3582 5964

Password: 569546

We hope to see you there at this meeting, to participate in the chat (no meal, sorry – BYO), followed by Elizabeth’s presentation and the usual robust Q&A afterward!

Lavender Seniors Co-Presenting Two Frameline Films

For the fifth year in a row, Lavender Seniors of the East Bay has been requested to co-present films at the San Francisco Frameline International LGBTQ+ Film Festival, the oldest (this is Frameline 44!) and largest such festival in the world. This year’s virtual festival is being held from 17-27th September, after trying their virtual wings during a four-day Pride Showcase in June. The films we co-present or co-sponsor generally deal with issues facing LGBTQ seniors.

The two films we co-present this year are: “Two of Us (Deux)” in French with English sub-titles; the other “Forgotten Roads (La Nave del Olvido)”, a world premiere showing in Spanish with English sub-titles. The complete eleven-day festival program: <https://frameline.org/festival/film-guide-x7546>. For a complete program booklet: https://issuu.com/frameline/docs/f44-program-guide_issuu (including instructions on how to stream the films).

As co-presenters, we receive four complimentary passes to each film. These passes will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis by contacting JohnDavid@LavenderSeniors.org. E-mail time-stamps will determine the order of distribution. Meanwhile, for those who are not Frameline members, tickets to view individual films can be bought on the website.

Two of Us [Deux]

Friday September 25, 2020 - 7PM

DIRECTOR: Filippo Meneghetti

2019 | France, Belgium, Luxembourg | 95m

GENRE: [Aging/Elders](#) | Drama | Lesbian | Parenting/Family | Romance

SECTION: World Cinema

The closet has dire consequences in this heart-wrenching tale of two older lesbians who haven’t disclosed their relationship to the kids yet. Mado and Nina live together as a couple but maintain the fiction of neighborly friendship

– and separate apartments – for the benefit of Mado’s adult son and daughter. When an unexpected crisis puts Mado’s children in charge of their mother, Nina finds herself shunted aside, and her attempts to rescue her and Mado’s relationship turn increasingly desperate.

The domestic drama plays like a thriller, with shadowy interiors, peep-hole POVs, and an eerie soundtrack dominated by cawing crows. In this sizzling feature debut from Filippo Meneghetti, arthouse fave Barbara Sukowa (Rainer Werner Fassbinder’s *Lola*) shines as indomitable Nina, who sneaks between apartments and hides like a thief in her lover’s room. Sukowa’s compelling mix of grief and rage is matched by Martine Chevallier (*Farewell, My Queen*), who subtly conveys Mado’s quiet desperation. Theirs is a potent and perilous love story with a late-life coming-out twist – it’s also a timely reminder to check your medical powers of attorney and make sure they’re up to date.

— MONICA NOLAN



Buying Note: This digital screening is available to view between 7:00pm Friday, September 25 and 11:59pm Sunday, September 27 (Please note the limited window!). We suggest watching it at 7:00pm Friday, September 25 followed by the Q&A.

SPONSORED BY: San Francisco Symphony; Co-Presented by Lavender Seniors of the East Bay
LANGUAGE: In French with English subtitles

Forgotten Roads [La nave del olvido]

DIRECTOR: Nicol Ruiz Benavides

2020 | Chile | 71m

GENRE: Aging/Elders | Drama | Latinx | Lesbian | Romance

SECTION: World Cinema

Tuesday September 22, 2020: 6:30 PM

Bereft on an isolated turkey farm after her husband’s death, 70-year-old Claudina – meek, repressed and adrift – moves into town to live with her daughter and grandson. Despite her strained relationship with her daughter, Claudina experiences an unexpected spark of life when she befriends the dynamic and independent married woman next door, Elsa, who seems to travel paths and make choices Claudina never had the chance to make. But in the gossipy Chilean town of Lautaro, their budding relationship doesn’t stay a secret for long. Just as Claudina sees love’s horizons expanding, she may be forced to choose between the traditional role she understands and the open road ahead of her.

Anchored by a soulful performance by Rosa Ramírez Ríos as Claudina, *Forgotten Roads* is a tender, constantly surprising journey. Writer-director Nicol Ruiz Benavides adds delightfully offbeat



touches—the underground club called “The Future,” where Claudina discovers the town’s hidden community of renegades and misfits; the strange UFO sightings the region is reporting—to weave a delicate, refreshing “coming-of-(older)-age” story brimming with sweetness and vitality.

— VICTORIA JASCHOB

Buying Note: This digital screening is available to view between 12:01am Thursday, September 17 and 11:59pm Sunday, September 27. We suggest, however, watching it at 6:30pm Tuesday, September 22 followed by the Q&A.

SPONSORED BY: **Bank of America, N.A.**; co-presented by Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

LANGUAGE: In Spanish with English subtitles

FOUNDER'S CORNER

Barbara Jue, Co-Founder
September 2020

Just when you don’t think anything more can happen, the late August weather resulted in countless dry lightning strikes, wildfires and evacuation orders, causing at least five deaths so far, and NASA says to expect an asteroid to just bypass Earth the day before the election.

Lavender Seniors has donated over 120 masks to its constituents. By and large the majority of masks dispensed are from the colorful handmade cloth masks donated by Jess Forster and her mother-in-law or Christel Cantlin and her daughter. We are grateful for both the hand-made and broad blue colored masks commercially purchased. We have a limited number of N95 masks left over from the northern California Paradise fires in 2018. They have been given to those who suffer lung or other underlying medical conditions. The N95 masks are best for blocking the smoke particles that are flying above the bay area from the many wildfires throughout all counties except San Francisco County.

Some vendors express a backlog of 6 months for N95 masks. Lavender Seniors will continue to seek means of purchasing the N95 masks nonetheless.

Contacting LSEB: leave a detailed message for us at info@LavenderSeniors.org or call and leave a message at 1-510 736-5428 if you need assistance or masks.

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay continues its communication initiative to address senior isolation during this pandemic. Gwen Boozé, John Haberkorn and other members of Lavender Seniors are engaged in the study and exploration of this project.

Oakland LGBTQ Community Center Celebrates 3rd Anniversary

Lavender Seniors congratulates The Oakland LGBTQ Community Center as it is

poised to unveil its new medical clinic in the celebration of its 3rd Anniversary, September 7. The celebration will be virtual (details forthcoming soon on the website www.oaklandlgbtqcenter.org or by calling the office at 1-510-882-2286). In addition, LGBTQ+ community members in need of food, personal care packages, and transportation can find assistance through the center using those same contact details.

Census 2020

The last day to respond to the Census 2020 survey is September 30, 2020. Our LGBTQ + community must assure that our count is complete. The Census 10 question survey can be completed online at www.my2020census.gov.



Experiencing memory loss?

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\$125*

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1-888-655-6646



Safe Communication

Safe, easy, video chatting



Completely Free

*Available in Washington,
Oregon and California*



Receive \$125

** per pair for completing
five phone interviews*

- Coaches provide nine virtual sessions for the person with memory loss and their care partner.
- Sessions are designed to improve the health and well-being of both.
- Either the person with memory loss or care partner must be LGBTQ.
- Call us at 1-888-655-6646 or email ageIDEA@uw.edu. Visit ageidea.org for more information.

Aging with Pride: IDEA

IDEA = Innovations in Dementia Empowerment and Action

Community partners include GenPRIDE, Openhouse, Family Caregiver Alliance, and LA LGBT Center.

Dear Friend,

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, 1 in 4 transgender older people reported experiencing housing discrimination on the basis of gender identity. While homeless shelters funded by the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) are expressly directed to accept trans people based on their authentic gender, the Trump administration is now attempting to remove these critical protections.

This week, SAGE needs your help in the fight against the proposed roll-back of the Equal Access Rule by telling HUD that housing saves lives, especially for transgender elders.

**TELL HUD THAT
#HOUSINGSAVESLIVES**

With LGBT elders at the epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic, discrimination against trans elders in need of shelter is especially harmful at this time. SAGE is committed to doing everything we can to make sure these harmful changes don't go into effect, but we need your help to make that a reality. **From now until September 22, we're asking our supporters to leave a comment to let HUD know we won't stand for any discrimination against our trans elders.**

Visit housingsaveslives.org to learn more. Together, we can fight to protect our trans pioneers.

SAGE
305 7th Ave. 15th Fl.
New York, NY 10001
T: 212-741-2247
sageusa.org

sage | Advocacy &
Services for
LGBT Elders
We refuse to be invisible®



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 Wednesdays, 9/9, 9/23, 10/14, 10/28, 11/25, 12/9

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

Memory Café Thursdays, 9/10, 9/24, 10/8, 10/22, 11/12, 12/10 Reminisce about times gone by. Connecting to the past can be comforting, and is beneficial for brain health as a form of exercise for the brain! Topics could include favorite older movies and songs, favorite holiday memories and more. Facilitated by Linda Howard, Easterseals NH

The Memory Game Tuesdays, 9/1 – 12/29

Use it or lose it! Exercise your brain by being challenged to remember items that you'll have to recall at the end of the group! Facilitated by Lisa Wynne

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**

Out Standing Seniors - Sponsored by Pacific Center

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

Meets via Zoom email outstandingseniors2@gmail.com for info.

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. (Thursdays)

Meets via Zoom email lezboldgroup@pacificcenter.org for info.

Find support and like-minded wonderful people!

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

3:00 p.m. (Fridays)

email Anne@pacificcenter.org for current meeting information.

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)

email Anne@pacificcenter.org for current meeting information.

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)

email Anne@pacificcenter.org for current meeting information.

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)

Meets via Zoom contact rainbowseniors@pacificcenter.org for info.

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)

Meets via Zoom email Anne@pacificcenter.org for info.

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)

Due to COVID-19 shelter-in-place, Senior Gay Men's Group is not able to meet.

For more information email us at seniormensgroup@pacificcenter.org

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

Tri-Valley Rainbows - Sponsored by Pacific Center

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

Meets via Zoom email Anne@pacificcenter.org for info.

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

Mailing Address:

4100 Redwood Rd, Ste 20A #240
Oakland, CA 94619

Website: <http://lavenderseniors.org>

Newsletter Editorial
Board:

Beckie Underwood
John David Dupree
Barbara Jue

Contact
Us

