



Lavender Notes

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

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Celebrating 24+ years of service and positive change

May2019 - Volume 26 Issue 5

FOUNDERS CORNER



CARING FOR OUR LGBTQ SENIOR PARTNER/FRIENDS AND OURSELVES

ANNOUNCEMENT



Our free 10-session facilitation of **Caring for Our LGBTQ Senior Partner/Friends and Ourselves** will begin on the first Monday in August.

Location: Bayside Watermark Senior Resident Apts.
1440 Powell, Emeryville, CA

Dates: Mondays, August 5, 2019 –October 14, 2019
(No meeting on Sept 2 - Labor Day)

Time: 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

This is a **no-fee** group limited to 12 individuals therefore we request a commitment to attend the entire series.

Group facilitator is **Dr. Melinda Ginne**, a clinical psychologist with a 35 year career specializing in geriatrics and the treatment of the psychological aspects of acute, chronic and life-threatening medical illness. She is one of the founding instructors in the Professional Program in Aging and Mental Health at UC Berkeley Extension. She has been active in the LGBTQ community since 1975.

For sign-up or program information please contact: Barbara Jue, (510) 755-5691 or e-mail BJue@LavenderSeniors.org subject line Caring for Partners and leave phone number, name, and e-mail address. You will receive a confirmation call.

Transportation from MacArthur BART station: Board the Emery-Go-Round Shellmound/Powell Shuttle or the AC Transit Bus #57. If driving, there is ample parking across the street near the Panera Bread and Target complex.

These sessions are sponsored by grants from the Darby Betts Fund, East Bay Foundation on Aging (administered by East Bay Community Foundation), and Horizons Foundation.



ORCHID SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND ORCHID SHOW AND SALE

FREE ADMISSION—MAY 11 & 12, 2019
ORCHID DISPLAY
TIME: 10 AM – 5 PM

LAKESIDE PARK AND GARDEN CENTER
(JUST PAST OAKLAND FAIRYLAND)
666 BELLEVUE AVE, OAKLAND, CA 94510



CELEBRATES 85TH ANNIVERSARY

FREE Park Fridays - Park entry and other fees will be waived **every Friday in 2019 from April to December**. Day use parking, park entrance, swimming, dogs, horse trailers, boat launching and fishing permits will all be waived.

The fee waiver does not apply to special event permits/reservations, camping and associated fees or state fees such as fishing licenses and watercraft inspections. Fee waiver does not apply to concessions and other purchases in the parks.

FREE CONCERTS IN THE PARKS

Venues and Dates:



LAKE CHABOT CONCERT IN THE PARK: SATURDAY JUNE 22 (LOCATED IN CASTRO VALLEY)

CROWN BEACH CONCERTS AT THE COVE: FRIDAYS, JULY 12, AUGUST 9, and SEPTEMBER 13 (ALAMEDA)

JOHN SUTTER GATEWAY BRIDGEYARD FESTIVAL: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 (OAKLAND)

Free Concerts in the Parks with food and beverages available for purchases.

Visit ebparks.org for map download, activity and events information. For general information, camping and picnic reservations, Naturalist and Recreation Programs: 1-888-327-2757 - TRS Relay Service, dial 711

CORRECTION NOTICE

April's Lavender Notes inadvertently identified **OLOC** as Older Lesbians Organizing for Change. The correct title should be **OLD LESBIANS ORGANIZING FOR CHANGE**. To our kindred Lesbian sisters, we sincerely apologize for the error. A corrected version of the article appears in this edition of Lavender Notes.

OLOC sends the following information for their events:

"Bay Area OLOC, Old Lesbians Organizing for Change, welcomes all lesbians 60+. If you are a lesbian 60+, email patcull70@gmail.com to be put on our mailing list and receive our bimonthly newsletter which includes information on all-day gatherings, retreats and other activities"

For herstory of **OLOC** go to:

(http://oloc.org/wpcontent/uploads/2018/01/OLOC_Herstory_1999-2007_long.pdf)

SCAM TIPS



Identity thieves will try anything to get you to reveal your **Social Security Number**, your **bank account numbers** and even try to **separate you from your monies**. They use legitimate recognizable government or utility names to **create a sense of fear in you**.

A general cautionary tip on scamming schemes: If they ask you to go out and purchase a cash card and tell them the number of the card, be suspicious. If they ask you to verify your "account" by reading off an erroneous number and ask you to correct it, be suspicious. In general, **if you did not make the call out to them and they ask for personal information**, be suspicious.

Because seniors are busy and sometimes forgetful, we need to be more cautious about what is asked of us. If you think there is no reason why you should reveal your social security number or if you just want a moment to think through what is being asked of you, **STOP the transaction and ask** why it is necessary for the caller to receive the information. **You can always ask for information from the caller such as the agency they represent and their phone number or web address and tell them you will call them back.** If they hurry you through the transaction, be suspicious.

The tip given above is but one strategy to prevent you from being scammed. Scammers and identity thieves seem to always be one step ahead of the consumer. Keep alert to what district attorneys and law enforcement agencies offer as suggestions to protect you.

RESOURCES FOR LOW INCOME SENIORS AND DISABLED

Depending on your income, needs and location, there are financial assistance programs that may be helpful: Medicaid, prescription drug assistance, food stamps and energy assistance.

To discover your eligibility go to **BenefitsCheckUp.org**. This is a free, confidential web tool that contains more than **2,500** programs and is part of the National Council on Aging listings



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The U.S. Census 2020 survey does not recognize LGBTQ individuals as a category to be counted. The Alameda County Survey for Residents over Age 55 recognizes the LGBTQ community. This survey is in preparation of the 2021-2024 Countywide Area Plan for Older Adults. This is an opportunity for LGBTQ people over age 55 to express the unmet social service needs in Alameda County. It is important to complete and return the county survey. The survey can be found at senior centers and pop up stations at civic events such as health fairs. The survey can also be completed online at bit.ly/aaa2019survey.



STORIES OF OUR LIVES

Windsor Young

Imagine being a closeted lesbian, newly-promoted to Air Force Staff Sergeant, being transferred to Japan during the 1960s and being told your new assignment includes "purging" unwanted lesbians and gay men from the military! That would qualify as much more than a conundrum – a personal

dilemma of the fourth order. Such was one of the life-changing moments for this month's "Stories of Our Lives" subject, Windsor Young.

Born at Hartford Hospital in Hartford, Connecticut, on 20th September 1943, Windsor was the fifth of her father's children and the second of her mother's – ultimately the older sister to a two-years-younger brother who shared the same parents with her. Unfortunately, he died of an overdose in the early 1990s at the age of 46.

"I had what would have to be called a fairly horrible childhood," Windsor recalls. "My father was an alcoholic – and a very mean one, a man with a Jekyll and Hyde personality. He beat my mother constantly, particularly when he'd been drinking and became a monster. She finally got tired of that when I was about eight years old and took me and my brother from Connecticut to the Chicago area. Unfortunately, she let him know where we were; he followed us there and started beating her again!"

By the time she was 16, Windsor took a strong stand with her mother.

"I told her that if she didn't leave with us, my brother and I were still leaving," she says. "We simply couldn't function living in the same house with the two of them fighting all the time. Actually, I never understood why she would stay with him in the first place, since I know that if a supposed lover of mine ever laid a hand on me, that would be the end right now!"

For two or three years, they moved in with Windsor's sister, who was 21 years older, and her husband, who had moved to a larger apartment to accommodate the three extra people.



Windsor, age 24 (with parents) in Chicago ["Dad had stopped drinking by then!"]

Windsor graduated from Englewood High School in January 1962, a bit late, since her mother did not get transcripts from her Connecticut elementary schools, so she was kept back a grade.

"I loved reading and did very well in school," Windsor reports. "My high school

was huge – one square block three stories high. Though it was fairly mixed-race when I started there as a freshman, it was practically all-black by the time I graduated. There were Chicago Police on each campus, but in those days, our campus cops mainly tried to keep kids from smoking.”

She was a fairly popular teenager, dating and hanging out with the “in crowd.”

“One of the sad things about black people in those days was that you were considered more acceptable if you were lighter-skinned,” Windsor recalls, “so I never had a problem having boys seeking me out – although I’m aware that I always really liked girls. I’ve really been a lesbian all my life, though I just started acting on it much later.”

Because her mother was a domestic and didn’t have much money to spend on her kids, Windsor frequently felt like she was at the mercy of teachers or boys who liked her.

“When it was time to buy class rings, I didn’t have enough money, so my gym teacher fronted the money with the agreement that I’d pay it back some day on installments,” she recalls. “My math teacher would give me the 40 cents I needed to buy lunch at school. And then there was my boyfriend, Malakai, who would always jump when I asked him for lunch money or to run to the White Castle to buy me my favorite hamburger!”

Malakai, who preferred to be called Melcie, was her longest-lasting boyfriend.

“Even long after we’d broken up, he would hang around me to make sure I was alright,” Windsor recalls. “Once, when I was sitting on the couch with one of my new boyfriends, Melcie sat across from us until I finally told both boys I was going to bed and they were welcome to stay there as long as they wanted. I don’t know how long they stayed there – or whether they went off together or what – I just knew I was tired and wanted to go to bed. I’m afraid we had something of an S&M relationship in that way – he was the masochist and I was the sadist!”

When Windsor was 20 years old, she asked her Mom to sign for her to join the Air Force.

“I was coming out of a beauty shop, when I saw a sign in front of the Air Force Recruiting Station next door,” Windsor recounts. “A recruiter came out and invited me in, extolled the virtues of being in the Air Force, gave me a test, told me I’d done very well, gave me some papers for my Mom to sign and there I was, in the U.S. Air Force!”

Early on in her Air Force career, she married a man.

“I met Ernie, who was in the NCO barracks,” Windsor recalls. “He wanted us to have sex and I told him I wasn’t giving up sex until I was married. So we got married – I don’t even know why, because I knew I wasn’t really interested in a sexual relationship with him. But – like with Melcie – if I wanted a sandwich and a coke, he’d run and get it for me. Otherwise, I wasn’t really into him at all.”

It took several years – and a move to Colorado with her husband, who had

just returned from Vietnam – for her to finally divorce him.

“In New York in those days, you had to prove the other person had committed adultery before you could get a divorce,” Windsor recalls. “After he came back from Vietnam, we were both transferred to Colorado. Then I sent for my Mom. After he came out from a stretch in a TB hospital, I knew I really didn’t want to be with him anymore. I moved my Mom and me out of the place we had shared together and moved into military housing at Lowry. I had to fight with the military to get a housing allowance for me and her – it was hard in those days to get an allowance as a single woman – but I was finally successful.”

She worked her way up to Staff Sergeant while she was at Lowry. Though she was given three assignment cards (drill sergeant, recruiter and security service, which required a top-secret clearance), she wound up being primarily in personnel, receiving all outstanding reviews and meritorious awards during her career.

“When they shipped this closeted lesbian Staff Sgt. off to my only overseas assignment in Japan,” she recalls, “I was informed that – as part of my personnel duties – I would be handling discharges of homosexuals. It broke my heart what I was doing under the cover of my job. There was, for instance, one very-well-liked guy with 12 years of outstanding service who made the mistake of writing a love letter to his boyfriend, which somehow got put in the wrong mailbox. The guy who received the letter turned it in to authorities. So, my job – even though everybody loved this guy – was to get him booted out. I was devastated and felt like a fraud.”

Meanwhile, Windsor had fallen in love with a woman, really for the first time as an adult.



Windsor – age 48 – with a friend.



In tux on New Year’s Eve at a club later bombed during the Atlanta Olympics.

“The only other times I’d been ‘involved’ with a female was, first, when I was in elementary school,” she recalls, “and my girlfriend and I had had an innocent kiss in the hallway. Then, I was ‘in love’ with another teenager – her family owned a bakery – but there was never anything physical between us. So there I was in Japan – in the military, no less – having a real physical relationship with a woman. She was about five years younger than me. This

was a brand new and scary thing for me, even though she got scared first, so it didn't last very long at all."

This was, however, when she decided it was time to end her Air Force career.

"I never realized until that assignment that being in a lesbian relationship was the quickest way to get thrown out of the military," she says. "And that's what I was forced to do to other people every day on my job. I decided I had to get out as soon as I could. So a couple months before my scheduled re-enlistment, I told my supervisors that I wouldn't be re-upping and that I really needed to leave as early as I could, because I had to take care of my ailing mother. What I actually wanted to do was get back to Colorado in time for school to start in the fall."

She was given a "humanitarian re-assignment" to return to Colorado. Two months later, she was discharged from the military and began her academic pursuits at University of Colorado's Boulder campus, where she got her degree in business with a focus on finance.

"When I was in undergraduate and graduate school, I was frequently the only black person and either the only woman in the class or one of two or three women," Windsor recalls. "After graduation, I took the first job that was offered to me, working as a cost engineer for Eastman Kodak in Rochester, New York. I only stayed there two years – I was very unhappy in that job – talking about the use of cow-hoofs in creating photographic film, no less! I resigned to pursue my MBA at Golden Gate University in San Francisco."

When she finished her MBA, she – once again – took the first job that was offered to her.

"I went to work for what was then called Pacific Bell – and again got into the odd job as cost engineer," Windsor recounts. "It was such a dumb thing for me to be doing, experimenting with cost engineering for a phone company. I designed physical placement of poles, boxes, underground cables, dealing with splicers, linemen, etc., frequently encountering serious problems because of such things as incompatibility of underground cables. It was the worst job of my life! Though they offered me a transfer to another job, I told them I just wanted out."

She worked in life insurance sales for six years, then did a lot of temp jobs, e.g., waiting tables or – her final job before retirement – as armed guard at a Social Security office in San Rafael.

"Looking back, one of my worst faults is that I never made a plan for what I wanted," she recalls. "Imagine being the rare woman with an MBA – even rarer among black women – who's waiting tables or being an armed guard instead of pursuing a dream that matched her skills!"

In her personal life, she continued to be stalked for years by the girlfriend she'd met in Japan.

"Even during those two months I was back in Colorado before my discharge," she recalls, "I was the highest-ranking enlisted woman on the base and I was called into an orderly room by a phone-call. It was a collect call from

Kalamazoo from this woman who had basically abandoned me in Japan! Even after I moved to California, she would show up unexpectedly, ask me for money or a place to stay. I moved to Atlanta – she tracked me down there; I moved to Florida, she tracked me down there! I think she wanted me for whatever I could provide for her!"

She considered herself something of a "player" during her early years in the Bay Area.

"I would go to Peg's Place, Amelia's or A Little More – where I first saw Sylvester perform," she says. "I might see a pretty face, make moves on her and wind up involved in some fairly meaningless sexual relationship that would never last. I'm not sure if any of my girlfriends has ever loved me in the way I want to be loved. When I was in Atlanta, I had a group of lesbian friends who would meet regularly in each other's houses, eat, play cards, smoke some pot and so on. But even the woman I was lovers with there – though we would frequently spend time together at her house – I'm not sure our connection was ever very deep. When I was involved with a woman here, it became clear that her kids came before me if there was ever a choice, so we're better as friends than lovers."

Windsor is involved in OLOC (Old Lesbians Organizing for Change), attends various Lavender Seniors functions and, for more than ten years, has been part of the "We're Still Here" group of LGBTQ seniors who meet monthly at the North Oakland Senior Center.



Windsor (front row, with other members of what relocated and became "We're Still Here" group) – age 64

"OLOC has been very good to me, sending me to Palm Beach, Tampa and Ohio and putting me on several committees," she recounts. "I've attended some of the Older and Out support groups at the Pacific Center and go to the Oakland LGBTQ Community Center a lot. I'd still like to find a 60+ woman to share my life with, however long that might be. None of us knows, do we?"

One of the things on Windsor's retirement bucket list is visiting every one of

the 13 U.S. Presidential Libraries – managed by the National Archives and Records Administration, except for Barack Obama's, which will be the first managed privately through the Obama Foundation.

"I love traveling – and would love to have a woman traveling companion, since I've traveled alone far too often," Windsor says. "I've seen the LBJ Library, in Austin – an upbeat college town that I wouldn't have minded living in – and the first Bush Library in Houston. I'll definitely see the Obama Presidential Center once it's up and running in Chicago next year."



Windsor, age 75, at Lav Srs Volunteer Celebration, 12/18



– and sporting LGBTQ Center t-shirt at Film Series, 04/19

Asked about any pearls of wisdom for others, Windsor offered this sage advice:

"If you really want to live your life openly as a lesbian, gay man, transgender or whatever," she suggests, "don't apologize to anybody for living your life the way you want to live it! I'm afraid I wasted much of my life undecided on what I wanted and how I wanted to achieve it. Life is way too short to waste time in such a muddle."



BOOK REVIEW

Shortest Way Home: One Mayor's Challenge and a Model for America's Future By Pete Buttigieg

Buttigieg was elected the nation's youngest mayor at age 29. He lives with his husband, Chasten Glezman, in the same South Bend neighborhood where he grew up. South Bend, Indiana has experienced a serious economic decline. There are no jobs and pay is low. But under his leadership, South Bend has changed from a "dying city" to an up-and-coming midwestern town with a renewed and vibrant

downtown area.

As a military officer he was trained in counter terrorism.

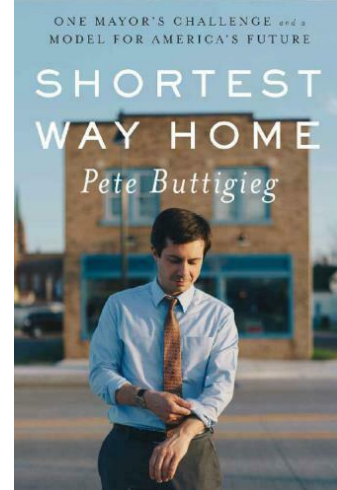
As a politician he was inspired by Obama.

Pete saved South Bend and his life zoomed forward.

He fought Vice President Pence on the issue of the Religious Freedom Act which proclaimed that LGBTs were not entitled to human rights because the Bible said so. The Ku Klux Klan loved Pence.

Pete has a most engaging writing style but those of us in the LGBT universe will find little here that challenges bigots.

- Frank J. Howell



We Did It!

On the April 18th Give OUT Day, records were broken for dollars raised for LGBTQ nonprofits in a single day. Lavender Seniors of the East Bay was a part of that for the first time this year. We are thankful for the individuals that contributed to our first official fundraiser as a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. We learned so much and look forward to next year when we will, hopefully, bring even more awareness to this great event, promoted locally by the Horizons Foundation.

Shout out to ALL of our supporters! We raised \$850.00 from eleven contributors. Thank you for your generosity.

***Editors Note:** If you missed Give-Out Day you can still donate to Lavender Seniors, use the "Donate with PayPal" button at the top of the newsletter.*

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!

Lavender Seniors President Elected to National Post

Victor Aguilar, Jr., President of the Lavender Seniors Board of Directors, has recently been elected Second Vice President of the National League of Cities Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Local Officials (LGBTLO) caucus. Recently elected to the San Leandro City Council, Victor's involvement with the LGBTLO caucus resulted in his being elected during the 2019 Congressional City Conference in Washington, DC. NLC has over 19,000 member cities around the country.

The caucus focuses this year on Census 2020, in hopes that something will indeed be restored to document the increasing numbers of "out" LGBTQ individuals, couples and families.

"We know that funds are allocated on the basis of census data," Victor says. "And if members of the LGBTQ community are not explicitly counted, there will be few or no funds available to our community when it comes time to cut up the funding pie for the next decade."

LGBTLO's broad mission is to provide LGBTQ municipal officials and their colleagues with a forum to share and develop leadership experience.

"I am honored to have been elected to serve on this caucus with the National League of Cities, and proud to represent San Leandro at the national level," said Councilmember Aguilar. "We know that working together collectively and encouraging more representation of the LGBTQ community at local levels will help us be more inclusive and reflective of our communities."

As a leader in this constituency group, Aguilar will play a key role in highlighting issues of LGBTQ municipal officials within NLC. Additionally, the group contributes to NLC's advocacy efforts, ensuring that the needs of diverse communities are reflected in NLC's national municipal policy.

The leadership of this year's LGBTLO constituency group will also include President Tom Green, Vice Mayor, Wilton Manors, FL; and First Vice President Jeffrey Zane Slavin, Mayor, Somerset, MD.

More information on NLC's constituency groups: <https://www.nlc.org/membership/groups-networks>

[Editor's Note: A photo of Victor appears in the "Welcome, Melissa!" story in this newsletter.]

Lavender Seniors Listed in Alameda County "Born to Age"

The 2019 "Born to Age" Directory for Older Adults in Alameda County is out, and for the first time Lavender Seniors of the East Bay is listed as a service provider. On page 5, Victor Aguilar, Jr., our board president, is pictured; on page 7, our program is mentioned under *Activities*; on page 25, we are listed under *Friendly Visitors*; page 34 identifies us under *Telephone/Online Enrichment, Education & Socializing*; and page 37 identifies us under *Volunteer Opportunities*.

The Directory is available for free at many senior centers and throughout many other service facilities in Alameda County or online at https://issuu.com/borntoage/docs/b2a2018_alameda_web.



Welcome, Melissa!

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay is happy to announce the addition of its latest (and youngest) Board of Directors member, Melissa West! On April 10th, she officially joined the board as Communications Director. Melissa - who has recently assumed her new post as BEST Center Coordinator at Laney College – is a recipient of many awards and acknowledgements for her past community involvement. Previously, she was Grant Support Coordinator for nearly four years at CSU-East Bay in Hayward.

During her undergraduate days as a Government major, she minored in Deaf Studies, learning American Sign Language (ASL). She is also proficient in using social media, which some of the older folks on the board are less skilled at, perhaps knowing little or nothing about that 21st century phenomenon.

"We are hopeful that Melissa's many skill-sets," said John David Dupree, Board Secretary, "will help us reach some of the communities – like the LGBTQ deaf community – which we currently don't serve very well. In addition, we're looking forward to her assistance with

recruiting more millennials like herself and Board President, Victor Aguilar, Jr., who are aware that they are next in line after the 'baby boomers' who will perhaps be needing senior services one day – not always readily available for LGBTQ seniors.”

As is the custom with new board members, we hope to include more details about Melissa in an upcoming “Stories of Our Lives” column.



Meanwhile, welcome aboard, Melissa; and thanks for your service to our community!!

In the Picture: The Board (l-r): Victor Aguilar Jr., President; Melissa West, Communications; Carmen Chiong, Treasurer; Gwen Boozé, Vice President; Barbara Jue, Co-Founder; and (insert) Dr. John David Dupree, Secretary

[Editors Note: Others with skills to share with our community by becoming board members, please contact Info@LavenderSeniors.org for an application to join.]



Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch May 11 , Noon-2:00 pm

All Saints Episcopal Church
911 Dowling Blvd, San Leandro

Let's Play: InterPlay

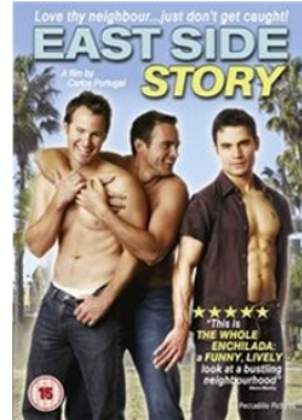
Face it--most of us of a certain age worry about growing older. Will we be healthy? Attractive? Have enough money? Have a good quality of life? Join us for this playful workshop. You'll learn both fun and useful tools to help you embrace aging through: • Deep breathing/meditation • InterPlay • Authentic Movement • And more! Led by Annie Goglia, InterPlay Leader, peer counselor and Life Coach Amos Lans, teacher for 20 years, peer counselor, Laughter Yoga Leader

Check out their website for more Information: [InterPlay](http://InterPlay.org)

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.

East Side Story

This 2008 film involves a young closeted Latino looking for love in notoriously straight East Los Angeles. This gay comedy features Diego (René Alvarado) – who lives with his grandmother and helps run the family restaurant – whose surreptitious love affair with an even-more-closeted gay Latino realtor (Pablo, played by David Berón) is hidden from virtually everybody.



Unfortunately, Pablo tries to cover up his gayness by bedding down Diego's hyper-sexual Aunt Blanca (Gladys Jiménez), who always displays ample cleavage and prefers now to be called the classier name, "Bianca".

Meanwhile, the neighborhood is rapidly experiencing "gay-gentrification" – an enclave for a number of white heterosexual conservatives.

Diego gives up on his non-relationship with Pablo and begins noticing the hunky white guy, Wesley (played by Steve Callahan), who's moved in across the street with his rather unpleasant lover, who is not happy living among working-class Latinos.

The complications of the now-five-way set of relationships – all observed by the confused abuela (Grandma doesn't know Diego is gay or that her daughter is sleeping with Diego's hither-to boyfriend) – makes for some simultaneously fun and heart-rending comedy-drama.



Diego coming out to Grandma at the family restaurant.



Diego can't believe his boyfriend is having sex with his aunt.

Diego's search for a committed relationship goes through many ups-and-downs during this 88-minute film, which received a number of awards (including 2009 GLAAD Media Award Nominee, Audience Award at San Francisco International Latino Film Festival and the Long Island Gay and

Lesbian Film Festival; Festival Favorite at Philadelphia International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival; Festival Plant-A-Seed Winner, Reel Affirmations, Washington, DC; and Best Narrative Feature at the North Carolina Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.) When Rotten Tomatoes reviewed the film, they opened with the following statement:

"Writer/director Carlos Portugal's comedy-drama 'East Side Story' earns a historical footnote, as one of the premier mainstream (though non-Hollywood) American films about a gay Latino character. René Alvarado stars as Diego, an East L.A.-residing Chicano homosexual."



Diego playing games with closeted lover, Pablo



Diego opening up to relationship with Wesley

The film will be shown at 1pm on the Third Wednesday, 15th May, 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. Library staff report that temperature is controlled automatically and cannot be altered for any one room in the facility.

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.

Editor's Note:

*A reminder that – because of scheduling problems – the **June** film will be held the **FIRST** Wednesday of the month (5th June), a one-time-only (hopefully) switch, since change can be difficult for some of us old codgers.*



WTF is an Ombudsman, Anyway?!

Many of us may have heard the term ombuds(wo)man – or maybe even know someone who has used or provided such services. But all of

us who attend this month's Third Friday Lunch Bunch (17th May) will be learning all about the concept from a local man who's currently playing the role of volunteer ombudsman (a word originally derived from Old Norse).



Richard Corriea, a certified volunteer Long-Term-Care Ombudsman, will provide an overview of services available through local Ombudsman programs. Ombudsman programs are required by federal and state laws to advocate for the rights of people living in skilled nursing facilities, residential care facilities for the elderly, and assisted living programs. The Ombudsman receives and responds to individual complaints and issues by, or on behalf of, these residents. These may include allegations of Elder Abuse, whether it be physical, financial, sexual or other types of such abuse involving a vulnerable senior.

Richard is an attorney, an adjunct professor at the University of San Francisco and former San Francisco Police Commander.

The buffet lunch will be served promptly at 12 noon (vegetarian options available), followed by a brief break for community announcements around 12:45. Then the program will be turned over to Richard, followed by adequate time for Q&A. He will be available afterward for answering any personal questions.

The North Oakland Senior Center is located at 5714 MLK Jr Way (corner of 58th Street). Ample parking and entrance are at the rear of the building off of 58th Street.

Save the Dates

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change (OLOC) 2019 Activities & Events

May 17-19, Retreat at Enchanted Hills, Napa:

OLOC will be returning to Enchanted Hills in NAPA for its May 17–19 Spring Retreat (Friday – Sunday). The group is committed to returning that weekend despite some facilities still needing repair from the October 2017 Napa firestorm.

July 21, 2019 Annual picnic in Live Oak Park, Berkeley

August 23 – 25, 2019, National OLOC Gathering at Columbus, Ohio - check the [website](#) for more information.

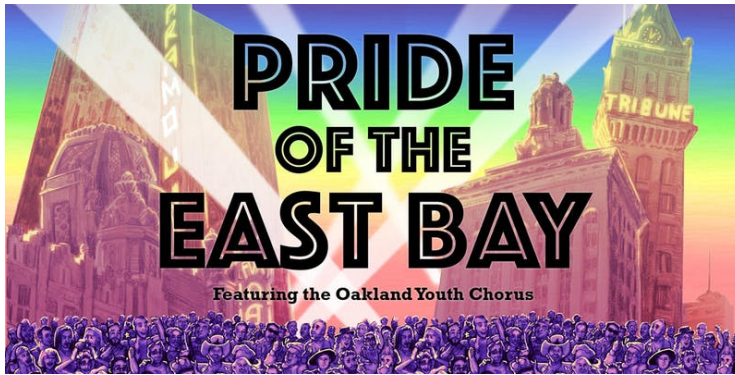
September 13-15, 2019, Fall Retreat at Enchanted Hills, Napa.

November 18, 2019, All Day Gathering, Location to be Determined

For information on local events contact: Laura (925) 980-3842; Pat Cull, patcull70@gmail.com; Susan Chacin (510) 332-8569/susanchnew@gmail.com

More information on the National OLOC meeting will be in the next Bay Area OLOC newsletter. The National organization assists with transportation, registration and hotel assistance, all on a low- or no-cost basis. Free food and hang-out space is provided in a hospitality suite.

[**Editor's Note:** Apologies to OLOC for using the adjective "Older" rather than "Old" in April newsletter. Also, the headline should've referred simply to 2019 Schedule, rather than 2019 Retreat Schedule.]



The Oakland Gay Men's Chorus
celebrates their 20th
season of proudly making
music in the East Bay!

In concert with the **Oakland Youth Chorus**, nearly 100 singers will raise their voices in song, representing a wide range of musical styles, from classical choral music to pop songs.

The concert features a brand new piece for the Oakland Gay Men's Chorus, written by celebrated composer Dominick DiOrio, with text by Oakland high school student Eleanor Wikstrom.

Two performances only in two beautiful venues! Come celebrate our 20th anniversary concert.

Saturday, May 18 - 8pm
First Congregational Church of Berkeley
2345 Channing Way
Berkeley
CA 94704

Sunday, May 19 - 5pm
First Presbyterian Church of Alameda
2001 Santa Clara Ave
Alameda
CA 94501

ORDER NOW



Pride is in the Air...let us know about your celebrations!

Sonoma County, May 31 - June 2, Old Court House Square, Santa Rosa
Concord, June 1 12 - 6 pm, Todos Santos Plaza, Concord
Richmond, June 2 10 am, Marina Way Park in Richmond
Sacramento, June 8 & 9, 11 am – 5 pm at Capitol Park
Emeryville Senior Center, June 14 11 am – noon, 4321 Salem St,
Emeryville
San Francisco, June 29-30, Civic Center Plaza
Castro Valley, July 13, 12:00 - 5:00 pm at Castro Valley High School.
Silicon Valley, August 24, Plaza de César Chávez Park, 1 Paseo De San
Antonio, San Jose, CA
Oakland, September 8, PARADE kicks off 11:00 am at Broadway & 14th St.,
FESTIVAL 11:00 am-7:00 pm.

Editors Note: Hyperlinks to websites available in blue

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 (no group on 5/27)

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

Open Mic Thursdays, 6:30pm – 7:00pm

All are welcome to call in and perform, big talent not required. Singing, spoken word, stand-up comedy, play your favorite instrument, read a poem or more. Enthusiastic spectators are also welcome to join. Joke telling is reserved for the last ten minutes. Facilitated by Kathleen Torres

Noggin Joggin' Thursdays, 2:30pm – 3:00pm

Let's gets those dendrites going and spice up our brains! We will have exercises that may not always be easy but will be a fun way of joggin' our noggins. We're sure to have a great time along the way. Please join us! Facilitated by Nicolette Noyes

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

May 7 & 21 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.

Aging Lesbian Peer Support Group

May 2 & 16, 12:30 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

May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 3:15 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

May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 2:15 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
May 6, 13, 20 1:15 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
May 14 & 28, 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
May 14, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. (2nd 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
May 8, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (2nd Wednesday)
4300 Bermuda, Oakland
A portion of this meeting is open to the public.

Senior Gay Men's Group
May 9 & 23, 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 Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch
May 11, noon - 2:00 p.m.
All Saints Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling Blvd., San Leandro
This month's program: "InterPlay" (see info above)

Lavender Seniors LGBTQ Film Series
May 15, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. (3rd Wednesday)
San Leandro Library, 300 Estudillo, San Leandro
This month's movie: "East Side Story" (see info above)

Island Pride Peer Support Group - Sponsored by Pacific Center
May 8 & 22, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. (2nd & 4th Wednesday)
Mastick Senior Center, 1155 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda
A Peer Support Group is a safe & confidential space for LGBT Seniors 50+ to share thoughts, feelings, resources, information & to support one another.

Tri-Valley Rainbows - Sponsored by Pacific Center

May 16, 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

May 17, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

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

This month's program: " Ombudsperson Presentation" (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

Member: Melissa West

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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Beckie Underwood

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Barbara Jue

[Contact Us](#)

