



# Lavender Notes

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

Volunteer

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*Celebrating 24+ years of service and positive change*

*December 2018 - Volume 25 Issue 12*

We lost a sweet wonderful woman...way too early! Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Sister, Daughter, Friend.

## **Ary Elizabeth Goldberg**

02/15/1955 to 11/7/2018

Our hearts and hugs go out to D'Anne Bruetsch who lost her wife, Ary, in November. They were married just a few days shy of 2 years, their love brought sunshine into any room they entered.

D'Anne has volunteered with Lavender Seniors as a Friendly Visitor, a group facilitator and on the Board of Directors. She was featured in one of the eight Lavender Scrolls developed by Lavender Seniors in 2006-07. You can read her story in the Stories of our Lives section in the October 2018 Lavender Notes.



D'Anne & Ary on their honeymoon cruise, November 2016

## Mark Schwartz

Participants, volunteers, clients and friends of Lavender Seniors of the East Bay come from all walks of life, parts of the world, races, religions, nationalities and political persuasions. Few, if any, of us fit neatly onto a specific point on the Kinsey 0-6 scale, various definitions of LGBTQ+, socio-economic “brackets”, definitive locations along the radical-conservative spectrum, the IQ continuum or even the amorphous/polar “happy-sad” and “glass-half-full vs. glass-half-empty” self-identities.

Mark Schwartz, featured this month in this “Stories of Our Lives” column, has hop-scotched liberally through and skittering around many of these categories over the years.

Born in the Bronx, NY, June 1st 1954, Mark was the third of five children – two older sisters, one older brother and one younger brother – born to an urban housewife and her husband, a TV repairman, fruit and vegetable wholesaler and strong Teamster Union member. Mark’s early exposure to labor union culture made him a life-long advocate for Unions.

“My Dad played an important role in my life,” Mark recalls, “introducing me to baseball, to the plight of working people and the principle that if you treat your workers well, they’ll treat you well in return. I’ve been a regular contributor to Labor Fest in San Francisco for the decades since I’ve been on the West Coast.”



Mark (R), age 4; sister, Sandra, and brother, Eugene, age 2



Mark, age 5, and sister, Sally

He credits his mother, however, for many of the academic and professional achievements he’s made in his life on both coasts after graduating from DeWitt Clinton High School in 1971.

“My Mom always went to my schools, met with my teachers and generally promoted my education,” he recollects. “Her encouragement was the main reason I wound up getting into Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, where I studied Industrial Engineering and Operations Research. I also focused considerably on game theory, probability and manpower studies.”

His parents divorced when he was in high school. His father later married a

woman who owned several clothing shops. His mother dated his high school baseball coach.

"Though I had a pretty good time with the other students, my high school years were pretty boring and focused on education," Mark says. "Though I never really thought much about sex in those days, I was fairly convinced at an early age that I was probably gay. After a girl tore a loop off the back of my shirt and announced to the world that she'd removed my 'fag tag,' I became intent on developing some kind of agreeable relationship with a girl. I was pretty out of the dating stream, however, given that the one girl I was interested in – somebody I walked home regularly – turned me down when I suggested we go to a basketball game, probably not the most exciting proposal she'd ever had."

While Mark was at Cornell, he began to become politically active. He was one of the co-founders of CUGALA (Cornell University Gay and Lesbian Association). He rarely saw his parents or siblings during those college years.

"I could generally count on my father showing up with his second wife periodically, taking me out to lunch and giving me \$500 or so each semester," Mark recalls. "But I don't think either of my parents was very interested in what I was doing by then. Meanwhile, I was trying to learn how to figure out staffing patterns, like how many doctors, nurses and orderlies does it take to run an efficient nursing home."

He never discussed his gayness with his parents. It was only after Harvey Milk's assassination in November 1978 that he came out to his sister, Sally.

"She never really acknowledged that conversation, though she didn't seem to care one way or another," Mark asserts. "With my mother, when a gay friend came to dinner, she said she didn't want him to come into the house. I also don't know if my brothers know about me – my older brother and I haven't kept in contact and my younger brother has also fallen off the radar. I wish we were better-connected, but I really don't think that's ever going to happen now."

After graduation from Cornell, Mark spent a few years honing his manpower-planning skills with the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) in Washington, DC.

"We studied traffic patterns around airports, trying to optimize, for instance, the numbers of police officers to monitor airport perimeters," he recalls. "At that point, there was a growing fear of hijacking, which meant monitoring gates and other access points with the fewest number of officers to maximize security at the lowest cost. For one of the international airports, eight of our twelve recommendations were accepted by the airport police, saving an estimated \$400,000 per year without reducing the security level."

Mark moved to a job with Union Carbide in Needham, Massachusetts, a decision he soon regretted, though they offered a higher salary, a car and an expense account.

"I left the FAA because I became 'starry-eyed,' thinking I could make more money and have more excitement," he recalls. "Commuting from my Putnam

Avenue apartment in Cambridge was a challenge, but I soon discovered I didn't approve of the work climate – including homophobia – that existed at Union Carbide.”

He had met a gay man named Steve at Morrie's, a gay bar in Ithaca. The duo took a two-week cross-country road trip to Berkeley, an excursion that would eventually result in a permanent move to the West Coast, where he worked for Viacom Cable Vision and was active in the trade union movement. With his childhood love for baseball, he also enjoyed working part-time as an usher with the San Francisco Giants.



Mark (L), age 28, dancing with a friend



Mark, age 55, with a woman friend

“I had 300 of my record albums with us in the back seat of that car,” he recounts. “It was in the Haight-Ashbury District of San Francisco that my gay boyfriend, Dave – who I met at Conard House, a halfway house – introduced me to a bisexual woman, Jane, who I was also involved with for about a year. Both of them had been diagnosed as schizophrenic – and I was even labeled by one psychiatrist as an ‘affective schizophrenic’, perhaps because I took over his office to complain about how he was treating me. Unfortunately, Jane eventually killed herself and Dave died in the AIDS epidemic.”

The AIDS epidemic took a considerable toll on Mark, both personally and politically, losing many friends during the '80s and '90s, both to the disease and to suicides. Though he wasn't Catholic, he became a member of Dignity, a support group for gay Catholics, where he met many of his closest friends.

Meanwhile, his political activities had increased. He became actively involved in the Salvadorian FMLN (Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front) and the farm labor movement in Mexico, including attending various “Encuentro” meetings in Tijuana, as well as FHAR, Farabundo Revolutionary Homosexual Action. He became involved in the local anti-nuclear movement, spending four days in Santa Rita jail after taking part in Livermore Action Group demonstrations. He ran for local offices in Berkeley, joining sometime-lover, David Lamble, as a part of the Fruit Punch Collective at KPFA in Berkeley. He worked with and photographed such controversial activists as Daniel Berrigan, Daniel and Patricia Ellsberg and the Ash Wednesday 13 at Berkeley's Graduate Theological Union.



Photo taken by Mark of Ellsbergs, Berrigan and Ash Wednesday



Photo of KPFA's Lamble Interviewing Berrigan and Ellsbergs

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"I was very moved by the violent deaths of both Matthew Shepard and Gwen Araujo," he recalls, "after having lost Harvey Milk two decades earlier. I felt I needed to be part of a supportive group in order to cope with those losses – as well as the AIDS epidemic – all assaults on my community."

During the first decade of the 21st century, he spiraled in and out of anger and depression. Though he was actively involved in Occupy Oakland-Berkeley-San Francisco for several months beginning in October 2011, his life took a dramatic turn downward, after a tragic accident in October 2013, from which he has never fully recovered, emotionally or physically.

"I was pushing a cart of books over the Gilman Street Union Pacific crossing when I lost my balance and was hit by a train," Mark recalls with horror. "I felt like I was sucked under that train. I lost my leg in that accident and have never been able to get government support to use the prosthesis I was fitted for since then. Some gun-toting Union Pacific authorities – claiming to be 'friends' – took me into my room, itemized the money they were giving me – to make sure that I signed for the \$282.80 'award' I received for the damages! They wanted to make sure I wasn't going to sue them, I guess."

After an extensive recuperative, depressing and frustrating stay at Highland Hospital, Mark now resides at an Oakland skilled nursing facility. He has become a member of Choices in Compassion to help cope with the helplessness and hopelessness he feels at the current state of his life.

"Choices in Compassion is an organization supporting doctors who can help you commit suicide without any pain," Mark says. "The only reason I haven't seriously considered such a dismal ending is that I hate the idea of pain. I must admit I've occasionally felt suicidal since the accident. Living in a place like this is fine if you're an active Christian. But for a gay person with a Jewish-sounding last name, it's definitely not a great and supportive place to be. In fact, I don't let it be known to anyone here that I'm gay or I might actually be mistreated."

Writing poetry has provided something of an outlet for Mark in dealing with his frustration. One of his post-accident poems – written and published in 2016 – is included here:

UNCATEGORIZED

## POETRY FROM MARK SCHWARTZ

NOVEMBER 1, 2016 | SYNCHCHAOS STAFF | LEAVE A COMMENT

Off an alley in North Beach, I spent my boyhood aspirations.

Smoking weed in Kerouac Alley and drinking from pitchers of beer in Specs  
spewing words onto a page.

Some of the words came true, others melted like candle wax over a bridal bouquet.

I got divorced from that son of a bitch

who kept me up all night

Tied to a bed in handcuffs.

I wrote it all down, the screams, noise, words. How do you write noise?

Like this.

AARGHHHGGGRGGHH!!!

And that's that.

— Mark Schwartz and Joie Cook

This summer, Mark reached out to Lavender Seniors to be matched with a Friendly Visitor, hoping that having a regular LGBTQ visitor would help him adjust better to his situation. He was matched with Wayne, a gay man – also an amputee – who had one day felt a similar sense of loss and hopelessness.

“I had hoped to be able to inspire Mark to start wearing his prosthesis, begin exercising a bit and get back to the business of living an active life,” Wayne remarks. “So far, I’ve felt like something of a failure at being his friend, since I think he needs help working through deeper issues like his depression before he can accept my help.”



Mark contemplating his future from his wheelchair

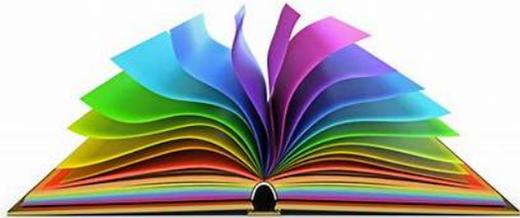


Mark and Wayne, his Lavender Seniors Friendly Visitor

Mark has a few words of advice, however, for those who encounter tragedies like his along the way.

"Become part of the lavender culture and get political," he advises. "Things won't get better if you leave it up to everybody else. If you don't like something that's going on, at least write a letter to your local newspaper or the New York Times, like I used to do! Hopefully, I'll one day be back out on the front lines, as well, a place where I've been happy in the past. In fact, once I'm feeling physically fit, I'd even like to start ushering for the Giants again!"

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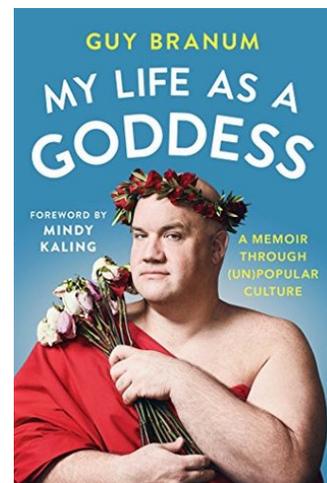
## BOOK REVIEW

### My Life As A Goddess: A Memoir Through (Un)Popular Culture

By Guy Branum

Branum gives us tales of his family and Hollywood gossip. He sees himself as a total misfit.

He was born in Yuba City, California. There was agriculture but not much else. All self-respecting males wanted to be football players and nothing else. Guy asked his family questions about the world outside but the standard reply was, "You don't need to know that". Ignorance was bliss.



Guy explored the essence of gayness and how queers related to each other. He was strongly influenced by Barbara Walters and Hugh Downs on the television program "20/20". They featured help for fat people.

Guy attended the University of California at Berkeley. He was intrigued by student government and served on several committees. He attended law school and came out of the closet. He wrote lots of material for women. In Hollywood he finally discovers his true self by writing situation comedies.

Readers need to become accustomed to his style of communicating and reaching out to his audience but it's definitely worth the trip.

- Frank Howell

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## 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.

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## 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 [karen@lavenderseniors.org](mailto:karen@lavenderseniors.org) and we will be in touch with you soon. Thank You!

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## Lavender Seniors Are Warmly Invited to the Billys' East Bay Potluck Revival on December 2nd!

Sunday December 2nd, 3-7 p.m. Billys & friends will gather for this year's long-awaited East Bay Potluck & Heart Circle+ at Three's home, [380 Garcia Avenue in San Leandro, CA 94577](#) (just .8 mile from SL BART). Thank you, Three (aka Bruce McDonald), for hosting us!

### Who are the Billys & what's a heart circle?

The Billys are an organization of gay, bi, queer, trans men & friends (male, female & other) who are committed to learning how to age with a spiritual, heart-centered focus. Learn more at: [www.thebillys.org](http://www.thebillys.org)

Heart Circles are the signature event at our potlucks & gatherings. At a heart circle, we speak and listen from the heart for about 3-5 minutes apiece in a safe, affirming community. We usually feel much more connected, witnessed, and grounded after a heart circle experience.

### *Rides Available from San Leandro BART at 3pm!*

If you need a ride to Three's house, we will try to provide transportation from San Leandro BART at 3 p.m.

Please email [amoslans6@gmail.com](mailto:amoslans6@gmail.com) if you want a ride at 3. Rendez-vous on side of the station near the taxi stands.

### *Volunteer Drivers Needed to Shuttle Folks from San Leandro BART to 380 Garcia Avenue (.8 mile).*

If you're willing to drive Billys from BART to Three's house, please email [amoslans6@gmail.com](mailto:amoslans6@gmail.com). Thank you to our generous volunteer drivers!

### *Food, Glorious Food? It Depends on You!*

In an effort to provide a somewhat balanced meal, we're asking folks to bring a dish, according to the first letter of your last name (yes, we're attempting to be organized!):

A to H, please bring a main dish

I to L, please bring desserts

M to Q: appetizers  
R-Z: salad or veggie side dishes.

Please rsvp to [amoslans6@gmail.com](mailto:amoslans6@gmail.com) if you're planning to join us or for more info!

Please note that two dogs and a cat live at Three's home, although they will not be there during our Billy event. We apologize if allergies prevent you from attending this potluck. Our next EB potluck will happen in pet-free space. Billys & Billy-kin are most welcome!

Access & Mobility Issues?

Three's house's entrance has 4 steps to climb. The bathroom is not wide enough to accommodate a walker or wheelchair.

*Program for the Afternoon:*

3:00 Doors Open for Greeting, Schmoozing & Set-Up for Heart Circle.

3:30 Opening Warm-up & Song

3:45 Heart Circle

5:00 Set Up for Potluck

5:15 Announcement & Dinner Circle

5:30 Potluck Supper

6:45 Clean up

RSVP & More Info: [amoslans6@gmail.com](mailto:amoslans6@gmail.com)



Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch  
December 8, Noon-2:00 pm

*Combined with 3rd Friday this month for the annual VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION. See separate article below.*

Lavender Seniors Combines Second Saturday & Third Friday Lunches

## Annual Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

Because December's Third Friday is just four days before Christmas and five days before Kwaanza, the two lunches (Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch and Third Friday Lunch Bunch) will be combined (**for this month only!**) into the middle of Hanukkah for the annual Holiday and Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on Saturday, 8th December, 12-2pm. The celebration will be at Harry's Hofbrau, 14900 E. 14th, San Leandro (corner of Bancroft), as it was last year.

Lavender Seniors has reserved a more semi-private space for the gathering this year. Participants will go through the buffet line and choose from this "Senior Menu":

# SENIOR DINNERS

Choice of Hand Carved Entree Includes: Mashed Potatoes, Hot Side Order, Dinner Roll, Jell-O or Ice Cream and Beverage (Substitutions are available at an additional charge)

Active volunteers will receive their meals free, of course, being given a ticket at the door to give the cashier for payment after they've gone through the buffet line and chosen their meal.

For other participants, the standard price for these senior dinners (including tax) is \$12.50. We are asking that those who can afford it pay \$7 of that amount and Lavender Seniors will cover the rest (nobody turned away for lack of funds). To expedite that process, those attending will receive a different-colored ticket from the table at the door, then pay the cashier \$7 plus their ticket, which will be used to calculate what we owe Harry's Hofbrau at the end of the day.

In order to calculate number of participants (volunteers or regular participants), it is important that an RSVP be sent either to [Info@LavenderSeniors.org](mailto:Info@LavenderSeniors.org) or by leaving a voice-mail message at (510) 736-LGBT (5428) by Thursday, 6 December, at 5pm. Anyone bringing a friend, relative or partner should indicate the number and names of their guests – as well as if s/he is a volunteer – in their e-mailed or telephoned RSVP.

Lavender Seniors continues to have need of volunteers to serve on its Board of Directors, for its Friendly Visitors program, its support groups, its twice-monthly lunches, its monthly newsletter, its monthly LGBTQ film series, being trained to participate on speaker panels and training sessions, organizing LGBTQ theater outings, plus set-up, staffing and take-down of tables at health fairs, among other more clerical and logistical needs.

Anyone interested in becoming a Friendly Visitor Volunteer should contact [Karen@LavenderSeniors.org](mailto:Karen@LavenderSeniors.org) or call her at 510-424-7240.

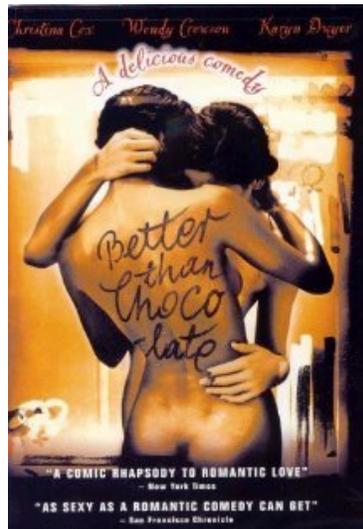
Those interested in doing other volunteer work with Lavender Seniors should make contact either through [Info@LavenderSeniors.org](mailto:Info@LavenderSeniors.org) or by leaving a voice-mail at (510) 736-LGBT.



## Better than Chocolate

Described by the New York Times as "A Comic Rhapsody to Romantic Love" and by the San Francisco Chronicle "As Sexy as a Romantic Comedy Can Be!",

December's Lavender Seniors Film Series presentation is the classic "Better Than Chocolate." The film is also described as "a sexy romp of love and lust with surprising results and strong LGBT characters"!



Maggie (**Karyn Dwyer**) has recently moved out on her own and has started a relationship with Kim (**Christina Cox**). However, Maggie's naïve and recently-divorced mother, Lila (**Wendy Crewson**) and brother, Paul (Kevin Mundy), who are forced to move into her loft sublet with her, are unaware she is a lesbian. Maggie's freedom is compromised, and she believes she must keep her blossoming affair a secret. However, the clandestine romance introduces Maggie's family to a host of new experiences, many of which are "better than chocolate".



Lesbian Heroines Maggie and Kim



Judy, Transwoman with crush on Book-Store Owner

The cast also includes **Ann-Marie MacDonald** as Frances, the owner of a LGBT bookstore where Maggie works, and **Peter Outerbridge** as Judy, a transwoman with a crush on Frances.

A couple of interesting side notes on how times have changed since 2001, when this film was first released on DVD:

The movie poster (shown on DVD cover above), showing two women embracing and one woman's naked back, was banned by the **Hong Kong** Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority as it was deemed "offensive to public morality, decency and ordinary good taste." Also, an advertisement in the **San Diego Union-Tribune** was removed, due to the word "lesbian" being present on the movie poster.

The film will be shown at 1pm on the Third Wednesday, 19th December, 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.

The library – still hoping to replace its aging projection system early in the new year – has made a laptop-driven projector available and has promised to have the speaker system in place for this month’s showing, after some technical hiccups last month (requiring some patience on the part of any hearing-challenged people watching “Freeheld”).

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.



No Lunch Bunch in December. Join us on December 8th for our annual Volunteer Celebration at Harry's Hofbrau in San Leandro. (See information above)

December 3, 2018 - January 29, 2019  
Reception | Saturday, December 8 | 5 - 7p

**Visions of Democracy**  
A Photographic Inquiry into the State of Our Union

A photograph of a large art installation. The word "VALUES" is written in large, bold, blue letters at the top. Below it, a red banner with white text reads "MOMENT WHEN PRO... BECOMES CONTEMP...". To the right, the word "FIRST?" is visible. Two people are standing on a staircase in the foreground, looking at the installation.

We are proud to present a juried photography exhibition that examines democracy from a range of perspectives, including what defines, strengthens, and sustains a healthy democracy in these times of cultural and political upheaval. Join us for a visual referendum from 35 Bay Area photographers.

Abrams Claghorn Gallery | 1251 Solano Avenue, Albany CA 94706  
510.526.9558 | AbramsClaghorn.com

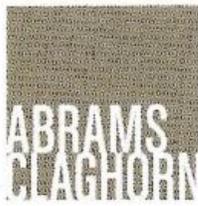
Dear Friends,

I hope that you will be able to attend the opening reception, of this exciting exhibit.

Three of my photos are in this show. If you are unable to attend the opening reception, I hope that you will stop by the gallery while the show is up it is a wonderful exhibit.

Best,

Sandy Morris



# Visions of Democracy

A Photographic Inquiry into the State of Our Union

December 3, 2018 - January 29, 2019

Reception | Saturday, December 8 | 5 - 7pm

The Abrams Claghorn Gallery warmly welcomes you to attend the Visions of Democracy exhibit, a photographic celebration of the art of political striving. The Visions of Democracy curation team selected 73 photographs from 35 artists to tell a collective story about democracy as a work in progress. We chose images with layered meanings and multiple possible narrative interpretations in order to generate thoughtful discussion and debate among viewers. We preferred images that raise complex questions about the state of our democracy rather than answering them too simply.

## HOURS

Tues. - Sat. | 10a - 6:30p

Sunday | 10a - 3p

Abrams Claghorn Gallery | [AbramsClaghorn.com](http://AbramsClaghorn.com)

1251 Solano Ave | Albany, CA 94706

[Gallery@AbramsClaghorn.com](mailto:Gallery@AbramsClaghorn.com) | 510.526.9558

*[Editor's Note: The following has been excerpted from the 14th November issue of the East Bay Citizen. If the results hold, Victor Aguilar, Jr., President of the **Lavender Seniors** Board of Directors and San Leandro School Board member, will have pulled off a major upset, being the only candidate in San Leandro to defeat an incumbent in the 6th November election. If Victor is declared the winner, he will be the first openly-gay City Councilperson in San Leandro history. If Mr. Thomas does not concede and calls for a recount, that request may not be granted, since there has to be a significantly-less margin of victory to warrant a recount than is presently showing. Even if the victory ultimately goes to Mr. Thomas, it is still an incredible accomplishment that an openly-gay man has mounted such a successful campaign against an incumbent! Stay tuned for the Registrar of Voters' final decision, most likely by the end of November, sometime after this newsletter has been put to bed and distributed.*

*Either way, congratulations, Victor!]*

# EAST BAY | CITIZEN

JOURNAL OF EAST BAY POLITICS SINCE 2009

**Steven Tavares November 14, 2018 Election 2018, Uncategorized**

## Too-close-to-call all over the East Bay



**San Leandro school board member Victor Aguilar, Jr., left, leads San Leandro Councilmember Lee Thomas by 262 votes, through Tuesday**

Over in San Leandro, Councilmember Lee Thomas's re-election in District 3 remains on life support. San Leandro school board member Victor Aguilar, Jr.'s lead over Thomas in the head-to-head matchup dropped slightly to 262 votes.

Aguilar, Jr. still appears to be in the driver's seat despite consistently losing ground to Thomas since the initial vote count on Nov. 6. Aguilar has received 9,185 votes, or 50.35 percent, to Thomas's 8,923, or 48.92 percent.

If the result holds, it would amount to a stunning upset during an election season in San Leandro where voters overwhelmingly supported the three other council incumbents on the ballot. Aguilar, Jr. would also become the first openly gay councilmember in the city's history.

>San Leandro City Council D3  
AGUILAR JR. (9,185) 50.35%  
\*THOMAS (8,923) 48.92%

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## 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 seniors 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 Sylvia Vargas, Openhouse Friendly Visitor Manager

Where Were You When? Saturdays, 12:00pm - 12:45pm

Where were you when you were 50 years old? Or 10? Do you remember where were you on Christmas Eve in 1960 or the summer just before you started high school? Join us to discuss these memories of our lives back when. Facilitated by Janice Rooker

Conversation About Elder Bullying Wednesdays, 3:00pm - 4:00pm

Building upon the work of last session's Deliberative Conversations group, this work group will continue gathering concerns about elder bullying, researching current literature and anti-bullying programs, and discussing possible solutions. At the end of this session, we hope to have written a guide that will describe the issue and possible solutions. This guide will be used in the Winter 2019 session to moderate conversations around elder bullying. facilitated by Lynn Parrish and Katie Wade, associate director of Well Connected and Social Call

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](mailto: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.

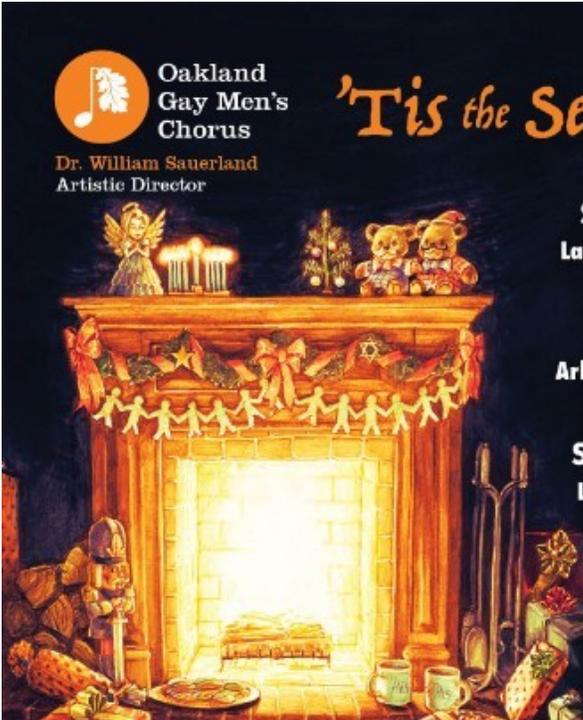
Share experiences, resources, and ideas in a supportive, caring environment. Available 24 hours a day, all you need is e-mail, and it's free!

Visit [LGBT Caring Community Online Support Group](#).

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# Oakland Gay Men's Chorus



 Oakland  
Gay Men's  
Chorus  
Dr. William Sauerland  
Artistic Director

## 'Tis the Season for Singing

**Saturday, Dec. 8 • 7:30pm**  
Lakeshore Ave. Baptist Church, Oakland

**Sunday, Dec. 9 • 4:00pm**  
Arlington Community Church, Kensington

**Saturday, Dec. 15 • 7:30pm**  
Lafayette Christian Church, Lafayette

[OaklandGMC.org/tickets](http://OaklandGMC.org/tickets)  
f i @OaklandGMC

## 'Tis the Season for Singing

*Help us celebrate the launch of our 20th anniversary season this December!*

Whether you are a lover of wintertime or a Scrooge, this concert will warm your heart and fill you with the spirit of the season.

Join the Oakland Gay Men's Chorus for 'Tis the Season for Singing, featuring beloved seasonal carols and songs to celebrate winter solstice, yuletide, and the holiday festivities.

**\*Saturday, Dec. 8 - 7:30pm\***

Lakeshore Ave. Baptist Church, 3534 Lakeshore Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610

**\*Sunday, Dec. 9 - 4:00pm\***

Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Avenue, Kensington CA, 94707

**\*Saturday, Dec. 15 - 7:30pm\***

Lafayette Christian Church, 584 Glenside Drive, Lafayette, CA 94549

### **PLATINUM PREMIUM - Best seats in the house!**

Best seats in the house, with complimentary beverage: \$60+\$5.28 fee

### **GOLD PREMIUM**

Premium seating, with complimentary beverage: \$40+\$4.06 fee

### **GENERAL SEATING**

Theater seating behind Gold Premium: \$25+\$3.16 fee

### **DISCOUNTED SEATING**

Student and senior discounts available: \$15+\$2.55 fee

[Click here to Buy tickets on-line](http://OaklandGMC.org/tickets)



Hello,  
**DECEMBER**  
make my wishes come true.



## THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

### Out Standing Seniors - Sponsored by Pacific Center

Dec 4 & 18 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. (1st and 3rd Tuesdays) **No meeting New**

**Years Day**

**Join their Meet-Up**

Hayward Senior Center, 22325 N. Third Street, Hayward

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

### Queerly Aging Lesbians

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

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

*Find support and like-minded wonderful people!*

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

Dec 7, 14, 21 3:15 p.m. (Fridays) **No meeting Christmas Week**

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

Dec 7, 14, 21 2:15 p.m. (Fridays) **No meeting Christmas Week**

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

Dec 3, 10, 17 1:15 p.m. (Mondays) **No meetings Christmas & New Year's Eves**

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

Dec 11, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. (2nd & 4th Tuesdays) **No meeting Christmas**

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

Dec 11, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. (2nd Tuesdays)

Robert Livermore Community Center Senior Services,

4444 East Avenue, Livermore 94550 [Join their 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

**No meeting in December**

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

### Senior Gay Men's Group

Dec 13 1:30 p.m. (2nd and 4th Thurs) **No meeting Christmas Week**

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

Dec 8, noon - 2:00 p.m.

**Change of location for December**

Harry's Hofbrau, 14900 E. 14th St., San Leandro

*This month's program: "Volunteer Celebration" (see info above)*

### Lavender Seniors LGBTQ Film Series

Dec 19, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

San Leandro Library, 300 Estudillo, San Leandro

*This month's movie: "Better than Chocolate" (see info above)*

### Island Pride Peer Support Group - Sponsored by Pacific Center

Dec 12 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. (2nd & 4th Wednesday) **No meeting Christmas Week**

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

Dec 20, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. (3rd Thursday)

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

[Join their 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 - Cancelled

**Combined with 2nd Saturday Rainbow Lunch this month.**

**See flyer above.**

Dec 8, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Harry's Hofbrau, 14900 E. 14th St., San Leandro

President: Victor Aguilar Jr  
Second Vice President: Gwendolyn M.  
Boozé  
Treasurer: Carmen Chiong

Vice President: Akilah Monifa  
Secretary: John David Dupree  
Founding Member: Barbara Jue

## Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

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

Mailing Address: 4123 Broadway,  
Ste 818  
Oakland, CA 94611

Website: <http://lavenderseniors.org>

newsletter editorial  
board:

Beckie Underwood  
John David Dupree  
Barbara Jue

Contact Us

