



# 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*

*January 2019 - Volume 26 Issue 1*

## Jerry Fishman Memorial 20th January 2019

Another of our esteemed colleagues in the Lavender Seniors community of LGBTQ seniors – Jerome “Jerry” Fishman – passed away in mid-December. A familiar face – with always welcoming arms – at the Third Friday Lunch Bunch, the Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch and the Third Wednesday LGBTQ Film Series – Jerry was one of the best huggers around! He was 90 years old.



His long-time partner, Richard Riffer, has announced that there will be a memorial service for Jerry at 2pm on Sunday, 20th January, at the Jewish Community Center, 1414 Walnut Street, Berkeley. Since the memorial service was just finalized as our newsletter was being completed for distribution, a more thorough version of the story of Jerry’s life will be prepared for the February newsletter.

We’ve lost a treasured friend – and have many sweet memories to help sustain us.

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## Maxine H. "Mica" Daniel

As she approaches her 80th birthday in a few months, Mica (pronounced MEE-ka) is at another fork in the adventurous road of her life. Though you might not suspect it from this clearly West-coast woman, Maxine Harvey took her first breath on September 14, 1939, in Henderson, Kentucky, just a stone's-throw across the Ohio River from Evansville, Indiana.

"I grew up a shy, inquisitive, polite, kind, adventurous and very angry child," Mica recalls. "My father was an alcoholic, a pleasant kind man, but just not very present in our lives. I had a brother, 18 months younger. My grandmother, who lived across the street, took care of us while my Mom worked eight hours a day and six days a week. I stayed close to home with my grandmother, but my brother was out the door and off with the neighborhood boys. He was always focused on doing his own thing. Chores? Forget about them. Skipping school and hanging out with older kids was more his style. I liked school, books and learning new things."

She attended elementary and high school in Henderson, during an era of segregated facilities throughout the south.

"It was unpleasant, to say the least, growing up in the midst of segregation," Mica says. "The schools, water fountains, theaters, restaurants – you name it – were all segregated. Even on a sweltering Kentucky summer day, only the white kids could swim in the city pool or even at the river. I just wanted to get through high school and get out of that town!"

Their mother always stressed learning how to take care of yourself with Mica, her younger brother and the two much-younger half-sisters that her mother subsequently had with her second husband.

"She also told me that I must learn how to cook if I ever expected to get a husband," Mica recalls. "My parents divorced when I was six years old. She remarried about a year later. That was when life really got hard for me. This stepfather was an alcoholic, also. He worked Monday through Friday, but then on the weekends he was an abusive alcoholic. It got even worse, though, when he began inappropriate sexual touching of me occasionally and making me touch his genitals with the words, 'You better not tell; your mother will be mad at you!' Unfortunately, this culminated in his raping me at age 14 followed by a coat-hanger abortion. Plus, he was emotionally and physically abusive to my mother!"

After living through this series of ordeals – always on pins and needles – Mica began spending a lot of time thinking of how to get out of Henderson and, also, how to make things easier for her mother.

"Amazingly enough, looking back, I even tried to think of ways of killing my stepfather," she says, "since he made life so miserable for everybody. Meanwhile, I stopped dating the boy I really liked, since he came from a big

family and I didn't think he would leave town with me. So when I was a junior in high school, I started dating a senior, who went into the military after graduation."



Mica with a cousin (left) and a classmate

Mica was a member of the marching band and the choir in high school. With those skills, she was offered a music scholarship to a school in the Carolinas, which her mother said they couldn't afford, even with the scholarship.

"Since I wasn't going to be able to go to music school, I told my mother I wouldn't start my senior year until she assured me she would sign the papers for me to go into the military after graduation," Mica recounts. "Mom was reluctant to agree, saying clearly that only 'those' types of women went into the military – and the word she used wasn't as kind as 'lesbian'. A few weeks before graduation in 1957, she stated adamantly that she would NOT sign for me. Since my now-military boyfriend – who had been asking me to marry him – was coming for my graduation, we decided to go ahead and get married, I would go to school on the scholarship while he was on a nine-month tour of duty and I would join him in Kansas afterward. What a great temporary solution to my 'what-to-do-to-get-out-of-town-after-graduation' dilemma!"

Unfortunately, her husband's assignments were never very permanent until 1962, when she joined him first in Salina, Kansas, and later in Topeka. From 1960-62, however, she found herself back in Henderson, helping out with transportation, logistical and emotional support for her younger sister, who was having open-heart surgery. She also took the opportunity for more education, which required that she hire a friend to provide child-care for her 11-month-old youngest sister.

"During that time, I took advantage of being trained as a Psychiatric Technician at a school in Evansville, Indiana," Mica recalls. "This was a field that had never before been open to blacks. That was invaluable training that I subsequently used both in Kansas and California."

Meanwhile, during the 1958-1963 years, she was pretty fast-lane, experimenting sexually with both women and men.

"It started with a fixation on one friend," Mica recalls, "and culminated with my declaring myself a lesbian, leaving my husband and Topeka, Kansas, in 1963, heading for California with a woman I was willing to take a chance with starting a new life on the West coast."

After a few years of estrangement from her brother – who had been sent to California as a teenager after an altercation with a local pool-hall owner – she re-connected with him briefly once she and her girlfriend got to Los Angeles in 1963. He helped them locate an apartment in a small hotel, complete with Murphy bed, where they stayed while they were job hunting.

Unfortunately, that first serious lesbian relationship was a fairly troubled one and lasted for only about two years, 1963-65.

"I discovered I'd made a bad choice with her," she recalls. "I wound up in another domestic violence situation with an alcoholic. She managed to wreck not one, but TWO cars in the time we were together. The deal-breaker, though, was when she hit me. The first time I calmly gave her a warning not to ever do that again. The second time, I was NOT calm, but went off on her and that was the end of that relationship!"

In 1975, after major surgery, Mica joined the California Air National Guard. Two years later, she moved to Phoenix, Arizona, where she received some re-training and began working as a security technician on the Air National Guard base near Sky Harbor International Airport. She also earned her realtor's license while she was there and – after completing her last two years in the Air National Guard – sold real estate for the rest of her time in Arizona.

Before she left Arizona, however, she got involved in another lesbian relationship that went sour, so she decided to move back to California in 1982. She worked off and on as a Psych Tech for both state and private facilities. She attended classes at Whittier College and Cal State Long Beach. She was living in Dana Point in 1998, when she decided she no longer wanted to work in the mental health field, beginning to count the days until retirement. She moved to Oakland after she retired, being particularly excited about the possibility of using quality public transportation available in the Bay area and being part of a lesbian-friendly community.



Sgt. Daniel with the Arizona Air National Guard's 161st Air Refueling Division

She had discovered years ago that she really liked the Bay area, but did not move north because her brother was living in the area until he died in 1990. She and her brother were never close and she didn't want to live in the same area as he did again.

"When I was in my early 30s and mostly estranged from my own family, I recognized a need to confront and heal from the abuse of my childhood, to help other women heal, as well, and develop my own extended family," Mica says. "After rather unsuccessfully coming out to my mother as a lesbian in my early 20s, that need to heal and help others heal became the catalyst that caused me to seek professional counseling in my 30s, a relationship I maintain with a therapist to this day. One of the things a therapist suggested is I begin writing my thoughts. My writing has helped me blossom even more to try things I never thought I would try!"

Mica has enrolled in writing courses at the Hayward Senior Center, which has introduced her to an inspiring instructor, other engaged writing students and a way of getting constructive feedback on her vignettes and short stories.





Mica all dressed up and plenty of places to go!

Mica has volunteered with a number of organizations over the years, including La Peña Cultural Center, Ashkenaz, the People's Grocery, battered women's shelters, rape hotlines and – since 1992 – she has been heavily involved in the Green Party, donating more time and energy there since 2005.

Her involvement with Lavender Seniors began a few years after she arrived in the Bay area, when she met co-founders, Ina Mae Murri and Stella Lopez-Armijo, tabling at an event down at Oakland City Hall.

"Like many of us, I was totally impressed by them and then totally devastated by their death in that Idaho car crash back in the summer of 2010," she says. "It was only after I was priced out of my apartment in 2008 and secured space with D'Anne Breutsch in Castro Valley in 2009 that I became involved with Lavender Seniors and continue to be involved as time permits."



Mica trying out indoor sky-diving



Mica at her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday party at Lake Chabot

Besides the occasional adventure shown here, plus developing her writing and her activism, she has many other interests that compete for her time, including gardening, tea blending, farmer's markets, and making the perfect pumpkin bread!

"One October, celebrating my Mom's birthday with her, plus my youngest sister, Sheila, and her kids – who are now in their 30s – we were carving jack-o-lanterns and I couldn't see just pitching them afterward," Mica explains. "So we scooped out the pumpkins, winding up with huge piles of perfectly-good food. Then we made soup with some of it, grabbed a holiday cook-book and started my tradition of constantly improving pumpkin bread every year!

Mica continues to be engaged in her Bay area community, looking forward to a reunion of her writing class participants in the new year.

"Retirement has provided me with the time to get involved at every level from the grassroots to government," she recounts. "I've been able to become a full-time rebel, stating my opinions on how laws and policies are written, by whom and how they are enforced! I have continued writing with a brilliant instructor and an inspirational group of writers like myself, writing and sharing the most interesting, funny and sometimes heart-breaking tales with each other!"

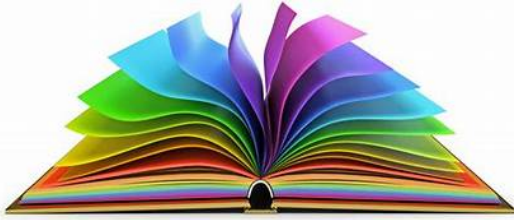
In the past year, Mica joined D'Anne and her late wife, Ary – both well-known to Lavender Seniors – in moving from Castro Valley to a quiet neighborhood in Tracy, where they could be closer to the couple's children and grandchildren.



**Mica, the Small-Town Kentucky-born Native – Nearly 80 years Later a Gift to the Bay Area LGBTQ Community**

[Editor's Note: As this story is being written, Mica has flown to St. Louis to be with her 14-years-younger sister for what will probably be the last time, since Linda is currently receiving hospice services at home. We send our condolences to Mica and her family and thank her for taking the time for this interview out in Tracy in mid-December and for reviewing this final draft from the local library in St. Louis during a very challenging time in her life.]

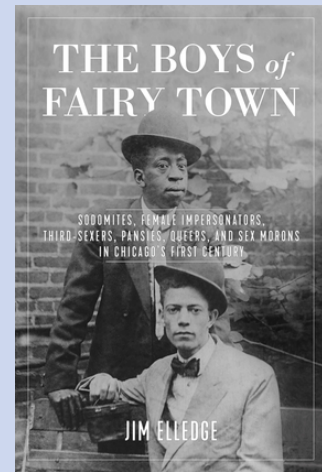
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## The Boys of Fairy Town

By Jim Elledge

Here we have a gripping history of gay Chicago from 1837 to 1940s. Henry Gerber founded the first homophile group in America. He reached out to female impersonators and striptease artists. Alfred Kinsey did his first studies of gay men in Chicago. The text is loaded with provocative pictures. The word "homosexual" was created in 1869. In 1892 the word became public. The baths became a common gathering place for gays.



Masturbation was viewed as the cause of homosexuality by doctors during the First World War. Male strength would be damaged. A penis device was used to prevent masturbation. It was sold by Sears Roebuck & Company.

Henry Gerber founded the Society for Human Rights but he finally admitted defeat. The FBI declared war on gays. They presented a significant threat to public morality. They were called "sex morons".

Elledge has given us a spellbinding chronicle of gay life in the USA. It is a must read for all ages.

-Frank J. Howell

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## Lavender Seniors Year-End Wrap-Up 2018

The twelve months ending 31st December 2018 was a year of major change and growth for the nearly quarter-century-old Lavender Seniors of the East Bay. In fact, everybody should mark their calendars for the Silver (25th) Anniversary celebration scheduled for Saturday, 9th November 2019, from 1-5pm (venue, sponsors and program to be revealed as plans unfold)!

Perhaps most significantly, after much work by board members, Lavender Seniors acquired its own 501(c)(3) non-profit designation from the IRS on 3rd April 2018, retroactive to 29th November 2017. That means that – for the first time in its history – the organization is no longer dependent on a fiscal sponsor to conduct its daily business.

The board is grateful for the four agencies that have played that role over the years – Tides Foundation, Bay Area Community Services, Life Elder Care and The Mentoring Center. However, now that LSEB has its own non-profit status, any grants or donations received can be allocated entirely to vital programs for LGBTQ seniors, instead of having a 10% (usually) fiscal-sponsor fee taken off the top. For example, of the \$15,000 grant awarded by the East Bay



Foundation on Aging in 2017 for 2018, LSEB was only able to spend \$13,500. That has been true, as well, for any donation (e.g., if a person or agency donated \$1,000 to Lavender Seniors, only \$900 could be spent on programming).

With that independence, of course, comes additional administrative responsibilities that were fielded previously by fiscal sponsors. So, for instance, the board Treasurer and Vice President had to prepare our first I-99 required for submission by 31st December!

The board of directors – previously called an “advisory board” with little or no official decision-making power – wants to be totally transparent about where funds are coming from and how they are being spent. In that spirit – before describing past, present and future programming plans – it is important to list funding sources for 2018-19:

- **East Bay Foundation on Aging.** As mentioned above, LSEB was awarded \$15,000 for 2018 by the East Bay Foundation on Aging, housed at the San Francisco Foundation until July 1st. EBFAF is now housed at the East Bay Community Foundation in Ogawa Plaza. LSEB has just been informed it will receive another \$15,000 grant from EBFA for 2019, funds to arrive by mid-January. Two board members, a staff person and a volunteer attended the grantee award luncheon at EBCF in November.
- **Grassroots Gay Rights Foundation.** LSEB received a \$12,500 grant in November from the Grassroots Gay Rights Foundation.



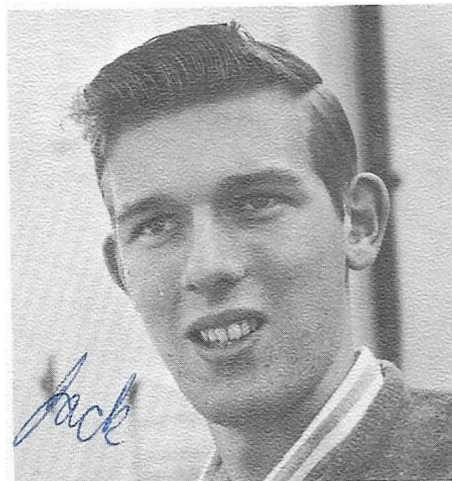
Co-Founder, Barbara Jue, and Board President, Victor Aguilar, Jr., with \$12,500 grant check

- **Horizons Foundation.** LSEB was recently informed that it has received a \$10,000 grant for 2019 through the LGBTQ-focused Horizons Foundation’s 2018 Community Issues Grant program.



Horizons Foundation Grantee Award Meeting, 13th December 2018

- **Darby Betts Fund.** LGBT received a \$4,000 grant in December 2018 from the Darby Betts Fund (co-administered by Covia and the Episcopal Impact Fund).
- **City of Oakland.** LSEB receives \$300/month (\$3,600/year) in support from the City of Oakland Senior Services to help defray the \$500/month catering costs for the Third Friday Lunch Bunch. LSEB absorbs the remaining \$200/month for that event.
- **Jack Murphy Bequest.** LSEB received a generous legacy of \$86,690.50 from the estate of a former volunteer and would-be client, Jack Murphy. He was featured as the lead story in the March 2016 "Stories of Our Lives" column in [Lavender Notes](http://lavenderseniors.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Lavender-Notes-March-2016.pdf) after his 30th December 2015 death at age 67 (see <http://lavenderseniors.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Lavender-Notes-March-2016.pdf>). LSEB expects another \$2,000-\$2,500 from Jack's estate once its executor has finalized payment of all Jack's outstanding bills by the end of 2018.



JACK MURPHY  
Editor-in-Chief

Yearbook photo ('66) as editor of Oakland's Fremont High School newspaper – later PR chief for Gay Games II ('86)

- **Community Donations.** Though LSEB has received generous donations from the community in 2018, including putting money in at events as "the hat" is passed, the board sent out a donation request letter in mid-December, which they hope will bring in funds to help carry on the LSEB mission. On behalf of clients, volunteers and staff, the board wants to express its gratitude for these ongoing contributions. A full tabulation will be forthcoming shortly.

**Programming:**

Lavender Seniors will continue and, hopefully, expand the nine programs it has been sponsoring, plus add a long-overdue support group piloted for seven weeks this summer under its new independent banner:

- **Friendly Visitors:** This flagship program – which has provided services to hundreds of LGBTQ seniors over the years – was re-claimed on 1st July 2018, when the three-year Area Agency on Aging grant awarded to Lavender Seniors via Life Elder Care expired on 30th June. Since proposals for continued funding to AAA were due in January 2018 – three months before Lavender Seniors acquired its 501(c)(3) designation – the board decided not to apply again until it was its own non-profit organization. After running the program for at least six months with existing funding, LSEB will apply for renewed AAA funding later this month. Meanwhile, the very able Karen Anderson has been contracted by the board as the Friendly Visitors Program Coordinator.
- **Website/Facebook/Twitter Accounts:** The Lavender Seniors official website ([www.LavenderSeniors.org](http://www.LavenderSeniors.org)) continues as a repository of information for LGBTQ seniors and their allies regarding medical, mental health and social services available, as well as up-to-date information on other resources, programs and events of interest in the East Bay. LSEB has also re-claimed/re-activated its Facebook and Twitter accounts, so that people can communicate directly via those social media.
- **Lavender Notes:** By the last week of each month, the newsletter is written, edited, compiled and e-mailed to nearly 1,000 East Bay LGBTQ seniors and their allies, with vital information about the upcoming month, as well as a regular “Stories of Our Lives” column and LGBTQ-focused book review. In addition, for those who don’t have e-mail, the newsletter is pared down, printed and posted via US Postal Service, so those people can remain connected and also have information to plan their next month’s activities.
- **Monthly Congregant Meals:** Lavender Seniors has traditionally held three of these meals per month (one in Oakland, one in San Leandro and one in Fremont). However, LSEB currently sponsors only two: the Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch (12-2pm at the All Saints Episcopal Church in San Leandro) and the Third Friday Lunch Bunch (12-2pm at the North Oakland Senior Center). Each of the nutritious buffet-style lunches is followed by either an educational presentation or entertainment. Presentations in 2018 included a lesbian comedienne, Holocaust survivors, laughter yoga, a musical interlude, a transgender panel, a GenderQueer information presentation, Mothertongue Feminist Readers Theater “Happy Hour” program, City staff explaining efforts to designate Oakland as a WHO “aging-friendly” city, plus guest speakers describing other LGBTQ-specific programs (e.g., Pacific Center, the Oakland LGBTQ Community Center and – this month – the Rainbow Community Center in Contra Costa County), as well as another dozen or so presentations on various other subjects.
- **Monthly LGBTQ-Themed Film Series/Theater Outings:** Since many LGBTQ seniors had never seen any positive representations of themselves on stage, on TV or the silver screen during their own youth, middle age or even into their 70s, Lavender Seniors implemented a monthly LGBTQ-themed film series back in April 2015. The series rotates focusing on L-G-B-T, black, white, Asian, Latino, Native American, etc., to be as inclusive as possible. After trying two previous venues for showing the films, the Carnegie Lecture Hall at the San Leandro Public Library was finally chosen as the ideal venue, given its wheelchair/walker accessibility, its central location to public transportation, its theater seating and its ample parking availability (plus the space and its equipment has been provided free). In 2018, the series showed “Call Me By

Your Name," PBS Masterpiece Theater's "Man in an Orange Shirt", "Better than Chocolate," "A Marine Story," "God's Own Country," "Freeheld," "Poster Boy," "Gun Hill Road," "Jenny's Wedding," "Were the World Mine", "The Gymnast" and "Blackbird".

In the same vein, Lavender Seniors organized two **theater outings** again this year: "Angels in America" at Berkeley Repertory Theater; plus the LGBTQ version of "Oklahoma" at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon, during OSF-Out weekend there. In previous years, LSEB has sponsored outings to "Kinky Boots," "Hedwig...", "An Evening with Alan Cumming," and "Golden Girls Christmas". This year's outings will include another trip to Ashland for a production of "Hairspray" and a lesbian-focused new play called "How to Catch Creation" by Lorraine Hansberry Award-winning playwright Christina Anderson.

- **Lavender Scrolls Project:** In 2006-07, Lavender Seniors launched this portable exhibit, producing eight life-size photo-stories of LGBTQ seniors to increase the community's visibility. The scrolls have been displayed at libraries, senior centers, health fairs, civic groups, in religious venues, schools and Pride events throughout the East Bay. LSEB will update the scrolls and produce another group, always including a blank "Silent Scroll" on behalf of those LGBTQ seniors who are still afraid to be "out" in their communities.

- **Training Films/Presentations:** Lavender Seniors produced two widely-used training films ("Safe and Visible 1" and "Safe and Visible 2") – targeting medical, mental health and social service providers, plus staff of skilled nursing facilities. The films are intended to assist caring professionals in providing practices, care and services welcoming to LGBTQ seniors, who may be fearful of being rejected, mistreated or abused by homophobic or transphobic individuals. Some LGBTQ seniors have a history of such discrimination earlier in their lives and may go back into the closet rather than risk repeating such negative experiences. In 2019, LSEB plans to contract a skilled trainer who can systematically approach East Bay medical/mental-health/social-service professionals, as well as staff at skilled nursing facilities to help put the training films into wider practice. In addition, LSEB will continue providing trained speakers to groups seeking additional information about the lives and needs of LGBTQ seniors.

- **Support Groups:** Lavender Seniors publicizes, sponsors and co-sponsors various types of support groups in the East Bay for LGBTQ seniors. This year LSEB plans to make an initial two-year commitment to providing a weekly "Caring for Our Same-Sex Partners/Friends and Ourselves" support group. That way, members of the LGBTQ community – who may not have traditional support systems for end-of-life issues commonly available to the general public – can have a place to discuss the burning and exhausting issues that come up when caring for our LGBTQ spouses, lovers, partners, friends and community members. After offering a seven-week pilot group in summer of 2018 – attended by seven women and men – LSEB was convinced there is a need for such an ongoing group. Thus, the minimum two-year commitment to help ensure people don't feel abandoned by a time-limited support group during a traumatic time.

- **Emblem Project:** This project was intended to encourage helping professionals throughout the East Bay to educate themselves about strategies for openly welcoming LGBTQ seniors. Once they had "proven" their mettle on this count, they were "awarded" an emblem decal for mounting on their office door/window as "proof" that they were welcoming to LGBTQ clients/patients. When a potential LGBTQ client/patient saw such an emblem displayed, the theory goes, they would feel more comfortable being open with the service

provider. This project has been dormant for several years. It may be resurrected this year and combined with the training film project to add another dimension to that process, engendering a sense of pride on the part of the trained individuals/institutions to publicly display their welcoming practices.

As is true of many non-profit organizations serving potentially-marginalized populations, Lavender Seniors of the East Bay depends on donations of time, energy and financial support to function. Anybody willing to volunteer in virtually any capacity with this organization is encouraged to contact [Info@LavenderSeniors.org](mailto:Info@LavenderSeniors.org) or (510) 736-LGBT to inquire about connecting with the group and its target community: LGBTQ seniors in the East Bay.

Wishing everyone a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year – all best for 2019 and beyond!

- The Board of Directors, Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

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Following is a copy of a letter posted in mid-December to people we had mailing addresses for. Apologies for any duplication.

Dear Supporter of the LGBTQ Senior Community:

After nearly a quarter-century under the umbrella of various fiscal sponsorships, Lavender Seniors of the East Bay is now its own 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation! All donations are TAX DEDUCTIBLE, as usual, but our organization is no longer subject to a fiscal agent fee. Please consider making a donation in support of our year-end fundraising drive.

Over the last 24+ years, Lavender Seniors has accomplished much. This year, we are looking to expand our services. Our volunteer teams work to increase access to social services, education, and advocacy. These teams include Friendly Visitors for in-home support, panel speakers to raise awareness of LGBTQ senior issues among service providers, newsletter distribution, outreach teams for events, website expansion, and office volunteers.

At Lavender Seniors, we strive to build a community whose members and volunteers support one another. Our goal is to alleviate the feelings of loneliness and isolation that many seniors experience, help LGBTQ seniors thrive in place and keep connected to their community. The Friendly Visitors program matches trained volunteers with LGBTQ seniors who may be frail, homebound, isolated, or otherwise concerned about aging at home or at institutions with limited social support. We have hired a Friendly Visitor Coordinator to address this ongoing need.

Other Lavender Seniors programs include two monthly lunches with nutritious food, a safe, welcoming environment and insightful programs such as lectures and dynamic discussions with engaging speakers who address senior issues. We offer a monthly LGBTQ-focused film series and plan to resume an ongoing support group, "Caring for Our Same-Sex Partners/Friends & Ourselves."

This is a great year for Lavender Seniors. We are currently serving over 100



seniors per month with direct services. However, our goals cannot be achieved without your continued support. Please donate now by sending an end-of-the-year donation in the enclosed envelope. We encourage you to also make us a part of your estate plan. Thank you so much for your commitment to Lavender Seniors of the East Bay. All best for the holidays, 2019 and beyond!

In Unity,

Victor Aguilar, Jr.  
President

We would appreciate having mailing addresses for anyone who did not receive this letter by post. Please go to the newsletter [link](#) on our website and click the subscribe button and update your profile.

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## First Openly-Gay San Leandro City Councilperson!

### Victor Aguilar, Jr., Sworn In December 18th

After a very tight campaign and lengthy post-election “wait-and-see/count-all-the-ballots” for San Leandro City Council, Lavender Seniors Board President Victor Aguilar, Jr., was declared the winner in the only upset of an incumbent candidate in the race.



Victor surrounded by Lavender Seniors Vice President, Gwen Boozé (left); Karen Anderson, Friendly Visitors Coordinator; Barbara Jue, Co-Founder; and Carmen Chiong, Treasurer; Husband, Nolan, photo-bombing behind

Among the proud people attending the 18th December reception in the Sister Cities Gallery, followed by Victor’s inauguration at San Leandro City Hall were his husband, Nolan, three members of the Lavender Seniors Board of Directors and the organization’s Friendly Visitors Program Coordinator.

We’re all very inspired by Victor’s mounting such an open, intelligent and ultimately-successful campaign, with the help of colleagues, family members and friends who see this as a very positive step for LGBTQ citizens of San Leandro. We look forward to seeing him in action on the Council!

Congratulations, Victor!

## CONNECTIONS



Have you moved out of the e area, do you want to get in contact with other Lavender Seniors near you or someone you have lost contact with? [Email us](mailto:karen@lavenderseniors.org) 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 [karen@lavenderseniors.org](mailto:karen@lavenderseniors.org) and we will be in touch with you soon. Thank You!



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

All Saints Episcopal Church  
911 Dowling Blvd, San Leandro

Program: The Political Landscape...Professor Al Schendan

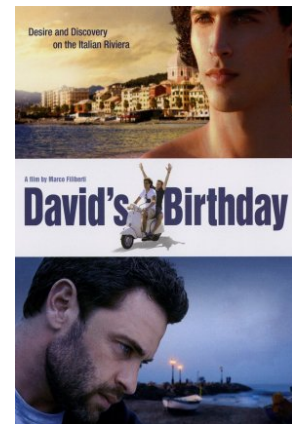
A catered buffet luncheon will begin at noon, followed by announcements and the program at approximately 1:00. Feel free to bring a potluck dish to share if you wish.

LAVENDER SENIORS **FILM SERIES**  
of the East Bay



## David's Birthday

This 2010 film takes place on the Italian Riviera when two couples – long-time friends in their early 40s – decide to rent a beach-side chalet and spend much of the summer together. The first scene opens in an opera house with a very dramatic presentation of “Tristan und Isolde”, which has mesmerized one of the party of four – the other three less interested in the production and more focused on socializing and people-watching.



The summer is going well with the four old friends (Matteo and Francesca, Shary and Diego) until the nearly-18-year-old son of Shary and Diego – who is, incidentally, drop-dead gorgeous – shows up to celebrate his birthday with his parents and their friends. David's beauty sends Matteo (who was most moved by the opening tragic opera) into paroxysms of lust and longing for this young man, the son of his best friends. Matteo is married with a five-year-old daughter. As a clinical psychologist – who has had to work hard to get where he is – he realizes he is struggling with a personal issue that he has buried under his extensive academic and professional pursuits.



The four attractive old friends spending quality beach time together until young David shows up

It's soon clear that Matteo is becoming obsessed with David, which only a sixth character (Shary's brother) seems to be aware of. The mild flirtation between the young man and his parents' best friend quickly escalates into a mutual surreptitious attraction. One of the scenes used in early publicity trailers of the film – showing the two men on a scooter together – is one that portends clearly where this is headed, eventually sending the whole holiday into a perhaps-overly-dramatic tailspin.

(To see the trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehjgSkkBHTI>).



David and Matteo in one of the earlier stages of their mutual flirtation

Several critics have expressed their dismay at the director's use of the tragic opera theme that begins and ends this film, while praising the rest of the film for its exploration of human nature and the mysteries many of us may have buried deep inside our psyches.



David, when Matteo first discovers he's "grown up" so beautifully

The film – in Italian with English sub-titles – will be shown at 1pm on the Third Wednesday, 16th January, 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 has made a laptop-driven projector and quality speakers available again for this month's showing. We are encouraging the San Leandro City Council – including Lavender Seniors Board President Victor Aguilar, Jr., as a newly-elected Councilman – to authorize replacing the Lecture Hall's no-longer-functioning projection system as soon as possible, so we can resume the theater-type experience of LGBTQ-themed films we've enjoyed there for over three years.

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.



# Yours In Sisterhood

## Frameline Encore - Free Screening and Q&A

Wednesday, January 16 7PM

Landmark Theatres Piedmont

4186 PIEDMONT AVE.

OAKLAND, CA 94611

\*All Frameline Encore Screenings are FREE & open to the public\*



YOURS IN SISTERHOOD

DIRECTOR: Irene Lusztig

2018 | USA | 101m

The women wrote their letters to *Ms.* magazine and signed them, as good feminists did, "In sisterhood." Most were never published. Forty years later, award-winning filmmaker and media archeologist Irene Lusztig traveled around the United States, to the towns where the letters had been written, and asked local women to re-embody the letter-writers' voices and read aloud these deepest secrets, angriest rants, and sincerest pleas on camera.

What happens is intersectional, personal, political-and perfectly stunning. In small-town Kansas, a transgender teen reads a 1975 letter proposing a new gender-neutral pronoun: "I'm not a 'he-she-whatever'!" From a lawn chair in Bowling Green, Ohio, a middle-aged African American wonders who from her town would have written such a powerful screed about the media's lack of black representation in



1979. A seventy-something from San Francisco says of a 1974 writer's decision to no longer fake orgasm, "That was *very* me." Poignantly, a woman rereads her own 1976 letter, written when she was sixteen, confronting her fear and sense of loss-but also her optimistic exuberance-about coming out as a lesbian.

These are just a sampling of the powerful portraits-within-portraits the film captures, from 306 interviews in 32 states. Lusztig's camera is still; her takes, unhurried; her shots, simply framed; and her locations, unremarkable. This very ordinariness underlines the extraordinary dialogue she's created between the past and the future of feminism.

*This venue is accessible to wheelchair users. Captions will not be available at this screening.*

#### EXPECTED GUESTS

Director Irene Lusztig

#### CO-PRESENTERS

**Oakland LGBTQ Community Center, Spectrum Queer Media**

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### Legal Kidnapping of Elders Exposed

## Free Film/Panel Discussion on Elder Abuse

Elder abuse doesn't have to be just about beatings, mistreatment and coercive tactics. This free film, to be shown at the Alameda County Board of Supervisors Chambers describes other ways that elders can be taken advantage of by unscrupulous caregivers, family members, court-appointed guardians and even the judicial system:

THE GUARDIANS is a revealing investigative documentary set in Las Vegas, Nevada that exposes allegations of corruption within the Nevada Guardianship and Family Court systems involving the legal kidnapping of elderly people. The film shines a light on a lucrative business that drains seniors' life-savings and robs them of their freedoms. Victims and their families are caught in a scheme that has allowed corrupt court-appointed guardians to take total control over their healthcare and financial decisions. Armed with court-orders obtained under dubious circumstances, guardians are able to forcibly remove elderly wards from their homes, isolate them from their families and systematically empty their bank accounts.

Date: Friday, January 11, 2019

Time: Film Screening: 9:30am-11:45am; Panel Discussion: 11:45am-12:45pm; Lunch: 12:45pm

Location: Alameda County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1221 Oak, 5th Floor, Oakland

Feel free to join the panelists, watch the film and ask the right questions to find out if such things could legally happen to LGBTQ seniors or their loved ones in Alameda or Contra Costa Counties!

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## Contra Costa's Rainbow Community Center

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay serves LGBTQ seniors in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. One of our primary partners in Contra Costa County is the Rainbow Community Center (RCC) in Concord. In December 2017, their long-time Executive Director, Ben Barr, retired and the board launched an extensive search for his replacement. Kevin McAllister (featured in the November "Stories of Our Lives" column), hired as Ben's replacement about a year ago, will be on hand for this month's Third Friday Lunch Bunch to describe exactly what is available for LGBTQ there.

"We have strong programs for people at both ends of the age spectrum," Kevin said when being interviewed for "Stories of Our Lives" in October, "as well as in-between. We have a strong focus on at-risk, homeless and dually-diagnosed LGBTQ youth at one end of the life cycle and providing a safe space for LGBTQ elders, as well."

RCC was originally an offshoot of Berkeley's Pacific Center when it first opened in 1996. Several Lavender Seniors participants in Alameda County programs – particularly those from West Contra Costa County – also continue to attend the senior lunches there, which have recently been changed to first and third Fridays from 1-3pm.



Kevin McAllister, Executive Director of Contra Costa County's Rainbow Community Center

Come prepared to hear what's going on in the "other county" of the East Bay from a hard-working young man who has already accomplished so much in the Sacramento area and continues to make a name for himself in the Bay area's LGBTQ community. Kevin will be accompanied by Christopher Holden, who is the manager of RCC's Seniors Program.



Christopher Holden, RCC Seniors Program Manager

As usual, a nutritious buffet lunch (vegetarian options available) will be served promptly at 12 noon on the Third Friday, 18 January, at the North Oakland Senior Center, 5714 MLK Jr Way (corner 58th Street). At 12:45, there will be a brief period for community announcements, after which the program will be turned over to Kevin. There will be plenty of time for Q&A afterward.

Ample parking and building entrance are at the rear of the facility off of 58th Street. Please plan to join us for the first program of the new year (and mark your calendars for every Third Friday of 2019)!

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## Second Annual December Gathering

### Holiday Celebration / Volunteer Appreciation

Last month, Lavender Seniors' Third Friday Lunch Bunch and Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch were combined for the second annual Holiday Celebration and Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on Saturday, 8th December, at Harry's Hofbrau in San Leandro. Though most participants came prepared to pay \$7 toward their \$12.50 "senior menu" selections, the Board of Directors – in the holiday spirit – decided to pay the full amount for all 30+ participants who attended. The board is grateful to those who decided to donate toward the holiday event, anyway!



Lavender Seniors had a semi-private room with plenty of space for everybody!

After everyone introduced themselves to the group and a few announcements were made, it was time for door-prizes to be awarded to lucky ticket-holding individuals.

Plans are to make this an annual event – next year's will be the third – to help our generous volunteers know how much they are appreciated by the community.

## 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 after the January 6 for the winter catalog). 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).

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**National  
Resource  
Center**



**ON LGBT AGING**

## NEWS & NOTES

Our monthly newsletter to keep you informed.

### 2018 Year in Review

During 2018 the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging added 54 new articles, guides, fact sheets, interviews, and agency listings to our website.

Over 38,000 people visited the site to learn about LGBT aging, downloading

nearly 12,000 guides and fact sheets on topics ranging from spirituality, intimacy, and inclusive intake questions. If you missed one of the top resources, not to worry - you can download them from the following list.

## [Spiritual Themes in the Lives of LGBT Elders](#)

## [The Impact of Trauma History on End of Life for LGBT Elders](#)

## [Intimacy & LGBT Older Adults: Expressing Your Emotional and Intimacy Needs as LGBTQ Older Adults](#)

## [Maintaining Dignity: Understanding & Responding to the Needs of Older LGBT Americans Infographic](#)

## [End-of-Life Perceptions and Preparations of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Older Adults](#)

## [Spiritual Care & Non-Religious Elders: Individualized Spiritual Care](#)

## [Como crear su plan de cuidados](#)

(English version: [Create Your Care Plan](#))

## [LGBT Affirming Intake: Sample Questions](#)

## [La expresion de las necesidades emocionales e intimas como adultos mayores LGBTQ](#)

(English version: [Intimacy & LGBT Older Adults: Expressing Your Emotional and Intimacy Needs as LGBTQ Older Adults](#) )

## [LGBT Older People Built the LGBT Community](#)

## **Eldercare Locator is here to help.**

The [Eldercare Locator](#) is a public service of the U.S. Administration on Aging connecting you to services for older adults and their families. You can also reach them by phone at 1-800-677-1116.

**Collaboration** is key among members of National Consortium on Aging Resources for Seniors' Equity. We invite you to visit the Consortium member websites for information on supporting diverse elder populations. The Consortium members include [SAGE's National Resource Center on LGBT Aging](#), [National Caucus and Center on Black Aging](#), [National Asian Pacific Center on Aging](#), [National Indian Council on Aging](#), and [National Association for Hispanic Elderly \[Asociacion Nacional Pro Personas Mayores\]](#).

Until Next Time,

Sherrill Wayland



## DID YOU KNOW?

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

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



## 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

Jan 15 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. (1st and 3rd Tuesdays) **No meeting Jan 1**

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.*

### Queerly Aging Lesbians

Jan 3 & 17, 1:30 p.m. (1st and 3rd Thursdays)  
The Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Avenue (at Derby), Berkeley  
*Find support and like-minded wonderful people!*

**Older & Out Therapy Group - Berkeley - Sponsored by Pacific Center**  
Jan 4, 11, 18, 25, 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**  
Jan 4, 11, 18, 25 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**  
Jan 7, 14, 28 1:15 p.m. (Mondays) ***No meeting on Jan 21***  
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**  
Jan 8 & 22, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. (2nd & 4th Tuesdays)  
San Leandro Senior Center, 13909 E 14th St, San Leandro  
*A safe and confidential space for LGBTQ seniors 50+ to share thoughts, feelings, resources, information, and support. FREE, though donations are welcome.*

**Living OUT in Livermore - Sponsored by Pacific Center**  
Jan 8, 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**  
Jan 9, 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**  
Jan 10 & 24, 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**  
Jan 12, noon - 2:00 p.m.  
All Saints Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling Blvd., San Leandro  
*This month's program: "The Political Landscape" (see info above)*

**Lavender Seniors LGBTQ Film Series**  
Jan 16, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. (3rd Wednesday)  
San Leandro Library, 300 Estudillo, San Leandro  
*This month's movie: "David's Birthday (Italian/sub-titled)" (see info above)*

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

Jan 9 & 23, 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

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

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

[Join Meet-up](#)

*A Peer Support Group is a safe & confidential space for LGBT Seniors 50+ to share thoughts, feelings, resources, information & to support one another.*

### Oakland Third Friday Lunch Bunch

Sponsored by City of Oakland Aging/Adult Services & Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

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

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

*This month's program: "Kevin McAllister, ED of RCC, Contra Costa Activities" (see info above)*

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## Lavender Seniors of the East Bay Board of Directors

President: Victor Aguilar Jr

Second Vice President: Gwendolyn M.

Boozé

Treasurer: Carmen Chiong

Vice President: Akilah Monifa

Secretary: John David Dupree

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## Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

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