



Lavender Notes

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

*Celebrating 25+ years of service and positive change
October 2020 - Volume 26 Issue 10*

STORIES OF OUR LIVES

Hosea Turner

A long-term volunteer in the Lavender Seniors Friendly Visitors Program – honored at our Silver Anniversary last November – is this month's featured LGBTQ+ senior. He has spent much of his adult life volunteering with various Bay Area causes – and continues to do so.

Hosea Turner, born May 1950 in Cleveland, Ohio, had what he describes as an "amazing" childhood.

"I was raised by a foster mother who spoiled me rotten," Hosea recalls. "I never wanted for anything, since she provided a stable home, a secure living environment, community and much socializing with family and friends. Because my birth mother felt unable to care for me and work at the same time, my foster mother agreed to take care of me temporarily. I never really knew my biological father, although my natural mother told me he held me once when I was an infant."

Subsequently, his birth mother married his stepfather, after which his only brother – four years younger – was born.



Hosea – Age three months



Hosea – age three

"The original plan was that my mother and stepfather would come and get me after they were married," Hosea says, "but child welfare authorities had other ideas. It seems my stepfather had a checkered past, so they were unwilling to let them reclaim me. Fortunately, his mother and my foster mother were friends, so I've always remained in contact with my bio-Mom, although I've generally called my foster mother 'Mom' for most of my life."

His stepfather wound up back in prison for several years, until Hosea was 16.



Hosea – age eight

"My stepfather played a major role in my life for a couple crucial years, age 16-18," Hosea recalls. "He gave me a taste of what it was like to have – and how to be – a father. It felt really good. He taught me how to drive. He chauffeured and chaperoned me and my brother on my one and only date while I was in high school. Then he took us all back home. Unfortunately, he was killed during a local robbery, which was a very sad day for me, my brother and both my birth mother and foster mother."

Hosea attended Cleveland's East High School, graduating in 1968.

"As many may recall, 1968 was a very traumatic year in our country," Hosea recalls. "I'd been going to totally-integrated schools, meaning I had Jewish, Italian and black classmates. The day after Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated, however, my school became all-black. All the white kids were kicked out of the school in my senior year and only allowed back briefly for their graduation. Many of my classmates were shouting about wanting to become Black Panthers after the riots in the Hough area of Cleveland, which is where we lived. My brother lived in a more affluent section of Cleveland with our mother."

Subsequently, all the schools Hosea attended in Cleveland have been torn down.

"The area where I grew up became a ghetto," Hosea says, "a highly depressed area of the city. When I've returned there over the years, it's hard to imagine I ever lived and survived there."



Hosea at age 16

Hosea began "messaging around" with other boys when he was still in elementary school.

"Though I tried being attracted to girls, it just wasn't there for the most part," Hosea recalls. "We had no word like 'gay' to explain what we boys were doing with each other – there were pejorative words like 'sissy,' 'punk' and later 'in the life' or 'on the down low' that tried to make sense of men wanting to be intimate with other men. What we were doing was particularly dangerous in our neighborhood – we could have been beaten up or killed – but I continued 'on the sly' thinking nobody would know what was going on. I tried 'messaging around' with older men a great deal, too, and felt generally scared of being caught."

He was one of 70 black students in Ohio selected to attend all-white Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, as part of a post-assassination affirmative action program.

"I was in no way ready for college," Hosea recalls. "There was one other person from my high school, but that wasn't enough to make me feel comfortable or perform well there. I wound up on academic suspension by my sophomore year. In order to stay in school, I had to bring my GPA up to 2.0 – I only made it to a 1.9. Part of the problem was I came home on weekends to help care for my seriously ill foster mother, continued seeing older men and wasn't really focused. I brought some of these men home with me, too, which I think my foster mother knew, probably hearing us together in the next room. In fact, she asked me one night whether I was okay, meaning she must've had an inkling of what was going on."

Hosea never discussed his gayness with his foster mother, who died in 1971, when he was 21. "I don't remember exactly when or how," Hosea says, "but my brother and birth-mother have known about my gayness for years and it doesn't seem to bother them much. My mother is 94 years old now and we're still in touch. I have happy memories of spending weekends with her and my brother, celebrating birthdays and holidays together and so on. But it was my foster mother who taught me how important it is to take care of others, to be kind and honest at whatever cost to yourself."

After his academic suspension, Hosea returned to Cleveland, where he worked at the May Company, initially as temporary Christmas help, but continued full-time as a stock clerk for three more years. During that time, he decided he needed to change his life dramatically.

"I started dating a woman from church and actually married her, trying to cover up my secret life," Hosea recalls. "There were so many messages – not only from church but from the media – that told me being gay was wrong and sinful. Maybe if I got married, I could change. I could hide who I really was. If I was married to a woman, any suspicion about my sexuality would be blown away. So we got married in 1971 and we had a daughter in the first year. I soon realized that I was living a lie and began pulling away. I couldn't tell her why, but I just couldn't keep up the 'loving' and sexual part of our bargain anymore. Our marriage only lasted about two-and-a-half years. She and my daughter moved out. That very night, I called a guy I'd been seeing, he came over and I wound up over at his place. She filed for divorce. I didn't contest the divorce. I have always provided for my daughter, who I supported until she got married. She is now 48 years old."



Hosea and bride, 1971

When his daughter was 12, he proposed to her mother that he become custodial parent. She agreed to the plan and the rest became their father-daughter relationship history. More on that later.

Since he only made \$1.90/hr at May Company, he decided to change career course after three years.

"I had enjoyed – and been good at – mechanical drawing in high school," Hosea recalls, "so I decided to try my wings at becoming a draftsman. Maybe I could break into the white man's world with all of the affirmative action programs that sprung up at the time. I went to a vocational placement program, tested well on the draftsman scale, was hired at one of the three agencies I was referred to and stepped through the white man's doors. I stayed working with that company until 1978, when they offered to transfer me to either Houston or San Francisco. Because my boss was moving to Texas, I chose to follow him to Houston, left my daughter and her mother in Cleveland and headed to the Gulf Coast. My brother, a guy from work and I switched drivers for 26 hours straight through!"

Once in Houston, he began scoping out gay places with the help of kindred spirits at work. After two years there, he was again given a choice: back to Cleveland or out to San Francisco.

"It was clearly time for that move West," Hosea says. "As it turns out, there's no place like the Bay Area. I went for two weeks to the San Francisco office, found an affordable apartment in the first week and took that as an omen. I moved to Northern California permanently in 1980 and have never looked back! Though I felt a bit lonely for the first six months or so – people all seemed to be going 'somewhere else' – after that I started having a ball. I felt like a tourist for the first few years, understanding full well the area's notoriety as a gay vacation destination! It was exciting being there, discovering various aspects of the gay community, including the bars, the baths and the clubs. One of the problems I encountered was racism in gay places like the Twin Peaks – also called the 'glass coffin' by many of us – since the bar didn't allow blacks in the door at all in those days."

And then along came the AIDS epidemic.

"A group called Black and White Men Together (BWMT) was my lifesaver," Hosea recalls. "There was a social, personal and political aspect to my involvement there. I immersed myself in the social life, picnics, party-planning, decorating, meeting lasting friends, solidifying my place in the Bay Area! By the time the epidemic was full-blown, I had begun to wean myself from the baths and the bars, trying to figure out how to survive in what was called at first 'the gay plague'. It was pretty scary!"

So – after volunteering with BWMT events – Hosea discovered and volunteered with Shanti Project, founded in 1974 to provide support for people with any life-threatening illness. During the AIDS epidemic, they shifted a major focus toward supporting People with AIDS, their families and friends.

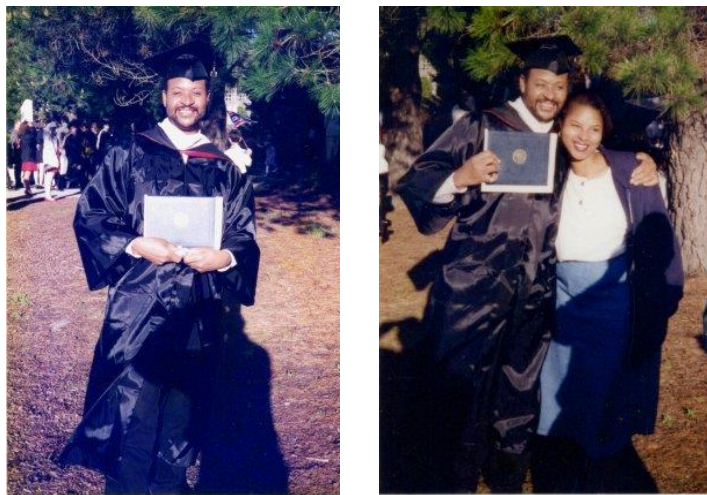
"At first, I was a practical support volunteer," Hosea says. "Instead of running scared all the time, it gave me a way to work against the epidemic – not so much terror any more. Then I became an emotional support counselor, serving about 20 clients during my time in that role –quite emotionally draining. I was involved with Shanti for about 12 years, including as a driver in the transportation pool. I became a staff person, growing the transportation services into a paratransit program for developmentally disabled individuals, seniors, health centers and so on. That program grew from three van drivers to eighteen drivers and twenty vehicles. When they wanted it to morph into a profit-making venture, it became too much for me, so I left – and the whole program was discontinued."

Meanwhile, as mentioned earlier, his daughter came to live with him when she was 12.

"In my proposal to my ex-wife, I pointed out that she had made most of the sacrifices for the first 12 years," Hosea recalls, "and it was now my turn to do the next 12! 'It's your turn to live your life as a single woman, discovering who you might become'. Though she knew since Cleveland days that I was gay, that didn't seem to be an issue for her in making this decision. Though she never remarried, we still have contact from time to time, though our daughter still maintains a close relationship with her."

By 1990, he had tired of San Francisco, so he moved to Hayward, commuting to Shanti for four years. He went to St. Mary's College in 1996, earning a degree in Health Services Administration in 1998.

"It was much more rewarding the second time in college," Hosea says. "I almost graduated with honors, having received all A's and one B."



St. Mary's graduation, 1998 – Hosea and his daughter

For a year or two, he did odd jobs, then running a transportation program in Newark, until he found just the right match. He applied for and was hired for a job with the City of Concord.

"I worked in the transportation division of the City of Concord – plus at the Senior Center there," Hosea recounts. "For five years, I commuted 30 miles via Crow Canyon Road to 680 and to my post. When I decided to retire in 2010, it was a relief, because I was quite weary from all that driving! And it freed me up to devote more time to the volunteer work that feeds my soul!"

Hosea took about a year off after his retirement before he launched his decade of extensive volunteer work, including the following:

- ✚ He became a Friendly Visitor Volunteer with Lavender Seniors, serving about 20 long-term (six months to five years) clients.
- ✚ He was a literacy tutor at Hayward Public Library for eight years.
- ✚ He served four years on the Hayward Human Services Commission.
- ✚ He was on the board of the Lighthouse (Hayward's LGBTQ Center)
- ✚ He has worked as a volunteer at Kaiser-Hayward (now Kaiser-San Leandro), performing such tasks as staffing the information/reception desk and conducting patient discharge. His always-friendly motto when wheeling patients out of the hospital after discharge has been "We'll pamper you until you get to the curb!" Because of COVID-19, volunteers have only recently returned and have been relieved of many of their discharge duties, except for making sure that newborns and their mothers still get wheeled out to the curb to start their new life together.



Hosea at 70

"My foster mother taught me generosity and the importance of taking care of each other," Hosea recalls fondly. "I firmly believe in the 'do unto others' and 'never mistreat anyone' policy she showed me in her words and deeds. If someone's in pain or in trouble, perhaps after a death in the family, I feel this natural inclination to at least cook and clean for them. Being of service is the most important part of my life – I come alive when I'm helping others – it's my religion, really. I've loved being able to play that role with organizations like Lavender Seniors."

Hosea met his husband, Mark, in an on-line chat room in 1994.



Mark and Hosea out socializing

"We waited a year before we moved in together," Hosea reports. "This has been 26 of the best years of my life. At first we were at his place in San Leandro, but then decided to get a place together, ending up here in Hayward for the last 20 of those years. A licensed contractor, Mark has done a lot of renovation and repairs around our house, making it really feel like home!"

The pair has traveled together, several times to Puerto Rico and spending time in New Orleans, where Hosea had attended a BWMT Convention in the French Quarter many years ago.

"Our families get along well together," Hosea says. "My brother and his wife have visited us and we are regularly in touch with his sister near Sacramento. We went to Connecticut together to help when his father was dying. We stopped by the Gulf Coast and the Grand Canyon on our way back. Since the pandemic began, we're mostly just homebodies, doing lots of work around the house, only venturing out to the grocery store and the pharmacy now and then, as needed. It's been a good life!"



Hosea Receiving a Commendation from Rep. Barbara Lee

Thank you, Hosea, for sharing so much of your life with the Lavender Seniors Friendly Visitors clients and others you've served so well over the years.



BOOK REVIEW

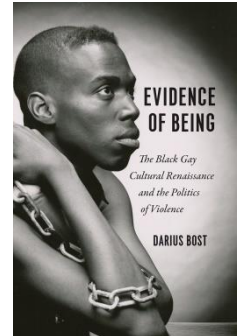
Evidence of Being

The Black Gay Cultural Renaissance and the Politics of Violence
by Darius Bost

In 1979 the DC Coalition of Black Gays became a local branch of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians & Gays.

Black men, women and children were disproportionately affected by the AIDS epidemic in the U.S.

Poverty is especially bad for blacks. Poverty is still the big issue for blacks in spite of social advances. This book details blacks in the 1970s, 80s and 90s. The author presents essays, speeches, gossip columns, diaries and anthologies. Blacks want better health and outreach in American culture.



Both broad and detailed in a stunning exploration of the black experience in America.

- Frank J. Howell

BONUS BOOK REVIEW

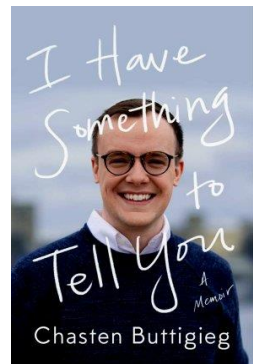
I Have Something to Tell You

A Memoir by Chasten Buttigieg

Any LGBTQ+ individual – no matter what their age – who grew up feeling alone – like “the only one in town” – will resonate with this memoir by Chasten Buttigieg, husband of the first openly gay candidate for President of the United States in 2020.



Chasten Glezman was born in a relatively small (15,000 population) northern Michigan summer resort town known for its annual National Cherry Festival (95 years old) and – more recently – the home of Michael Moore’s Traverse City Film Festival (15 years old). His memoir depicts a rather chaotic childhood and young adulthood, though he has mostly been close with his mother and semi-playful father. His two older brothers have been less accepting of his gayness, his marriage to “Mayor Pete” and his participation in his husband’s history-making Presidential campaign, which ended on March 1, 2020, the day before he endorsed Joe Biden.



Successes in his high school 4-H Club (Head, Heart, Hands & Health for those who didn’t grow up in a rural area) provided Chasten with virtually the only comfort through fairly troubled teenage years, when he couldn’t come out to anybody, including himself, for the most part. He finally kissed a boy for the first time while he was an exchange student in Germany.

After several semi-botched attempts at going away to college in nearby Wisconsin, he supported himself doing odd jobs (e.g., barista at Starbucks) until he finally found his niche as an elementary-school teacher. Like many before and after him, he amassed a considerable student-loan debt in the process. He also suffered several setbacks during this time in the pursuit of his dream of finding the right guy, settling down, getting married, raising a family in a cozy home surrounded by a white picket fence. He began to fear he wasn't destined for such a dream relationship, even considering "going straight" or possibly suicide, in particularly bad moments along the way.

Chasten's memoir reveals an emotional honesty about his life story, which includes sexual assault, homelessness, estrangement from his family of origin and bullying.



When he was in graduate school at DePaul in Chicago – frustrated at his lack of success in relationships with other men – he finally resorted to "internet dating" on the Hinge app. One of the guys who responded was a man named Pete. After seeing a photo of this guy – standing at a mayor's podium – he read the "coming-out" essay Pete had written in the *South Bend Tribune* after his return from a tour of duty in Afghanistan to resume his post as Mayor. After a month of FaceTime

"dates", they finally met in person, beginning in a rental car Chasten had driven down from Chicago. On this first dinner date, Chasten took the risk of "confessing" his dream of marriage and family.

For those who followed the couple on their history-making campaign tour around the country – separately and together – the rest has been, as they say, history (so far). Anyone who might want to know more about that relationship – one that had the country making jokes (friendly and hostile) about the "First Gentleman" preparing to measure the White House windows for drapes – needs to buy or download the book, available in book-stores, on-line, as an e-book or audio book! It was #12 on the New York Times Best Seller List for Non-Fiction on the 20th of September, when this review was written.



Chasten-Pete Wedding – 2018

- John David Dupree, Tinamastes, Costa Rica

CONNECTIONS

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

LAVENDER SENIORS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Lavender Seniors Friendly Visitor volunteers are background checked, interviewed and trained, then matched with a senior to visit regularly, usually a couple hours a week. Visitors share stories, chat about mutual interests and current events, and if both are willing and able, volunteers may take seniors for a walk, a bite to eat, a cup of coffee, shopping or maybe a movie or a trip to the museum.

We ask volunteers to make a commitment of at least six months.

If you are in need of a Friendly Visitor, we can help with that too!

Please contact us at karen@lavenderseniors.org or (510) 424-7240 and we will be in touch with you soon. Thank You!

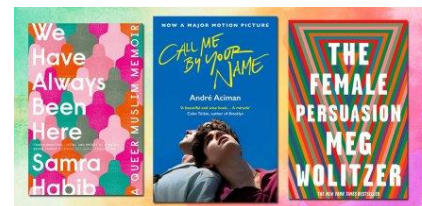


Second Saturday (Zoom) Rainbow Lunch in October

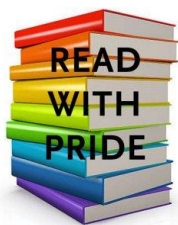
Sharing Favorite LGBTQ+ Literature

At last month's Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch meeting, one of the suggestions for October was that we discuss some of our favorite LGBTQ+ literature during October's Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch gathering. Hopefully, each participant will be able to share a bit about one of their favorite books, novels, essays, short stories or other sources of information – something that has moved one or more of us in some way as members of the LGBTQ+ community.

Each of us has likely been influenced by different books – fiction and non-fiction – either inspiring or discouraging our own coming-out and ongoing lifestyle issues over the years, including in the present. Who of us hasn't secretly scoured the Webster's Dictionary or set of Encyclopedia Britannica/Americana at our Aunt Sally's house to try discovering who we were under some esoteric definition or description of homosexuality, as well as the various socially-forbidden sexual acts associated with it.



How many of us actually waded through (or at least tried to) Kinsey's watershed 1948 and 1953 studies on human sexuality in the human male and female? Where do/did YOU find yourself on the controversial 0-6 "Kinsey Scale"? When did we each become comfortable enough with our own sexuality to actually enjoy a book like E.M. Forster's "Maurice" (which he forbade being published in his lifetime, because of his own internalized homophobia), Evelyn Waugh's "Brideshead Revisited", Radclyffe Hall's "The Well of Loneliness" (tagged by some as the "lesbian bible" for generations) or André Aciman's "Call Me by Your Name"? How do we feel about on-line LGBTQ-focused websites? What role might pornography have played for some?



Whatever process we each went through getting life-saving information about "the love that dare not speak its name" – unspoken information that our own parents and families, schools and religious institutions might not have known about or been willing to discuss – we have all somehow evolved to a point where we are willing to be involved with an organization like Lavender Seniors.

Let's share a little of that process with each other at the Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch this month! We have a lot to learn from each other!

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

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

Topic: **Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch**

Time: Saturday, October 10, 2020 12:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 896 7102 6595 - Password: 153953

Dial by your location - +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 896 7102 6595 - Password: 153953

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



Third Friday Lunch Bunch Zoom Gathering

First Virtual "Museum/LGBTQ+ Artist Tour"

This month (Friday, 16 October, 12 noon) will see the inaugural Lavender Seniors' virtual museum and LGBTQ+ artists tour program! A 2019 UCLA graduate, Weiwen Balter, will facilitate a conversation looking at two works by lesbian artists Romaine Brooks (1874-1970) and Mickalene Thomas (1971-present). Our dialogue will explore the ways these two artists from different styles and epochs of art history give women agency in their work and how their unique aesthetics are shaped by their lesbian identities.



Mickalene Thomas's "Liz and Raquel #4"



Weiwen Balter (they/them or he/him pronouns) is an arts educator currently based in Boston who has worked in several museums and non-profits, including the Hammer Museum and California African-American Museum in Los Angeles. They are passionate about the intersections of social justice, community engagement, and the arts. As a Queer and Transgender Person of Color, they care deeply about the LGBTQ+ community and are excited to be able to provide this program to seniors who have paved the way for their generation. We are extremely grateful for their volunteering to give back to our community of LGBTQ+ seniors!

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

Gwendolyn Booze & John David Dupree invite you to **Third Friday Lunch Bunch** meeting on Zoom.

Topic: **Third Friday Lunch Bunch – Museum/LGBTQ+ Artist Tour**

Time: October 16, 2020 12:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85235825964?pwd=WmptRG5SU2RDVUNyQ1hFWGM2NIZOQT09>

Meeting ID: 852 3582 5964 - Password: 569546

Dial by your location - +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 852 3582 5964 - Password: 569546

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

Please Make Sure You and All Your Family/Friends have registered!

Census 2020 Gets a Judicial Reprieve

Thanks to Northern California District Court Judge Lucy H. Koh (appointed by Barack Obama in 2010), the Trump administration attempt to markedly shorten the data collection stage of the 2020 Census – to take control of the 2021 apportionment process – has been thwarted for now. The traditional plan to have the final decennial census data available to Congress by April 2021 – instead of being given to Trump by 31st December 2020 – was also ordered by her decision.

Judge Koh – the first Korean-American District Court Judge in the U.S. – sits on the bench in San Jose. Prior to her 2010 appointment by Barack Obama, she was a Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge, appointed by Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Judicial analysts consider her being appointed by both a Republican and a Democrat to contribute to her non-partisan credibility.

Anyone receiving this newsletter still has until October 31st to make the vital move of registering for the 2020 census (required by the Constitution every ten years since 1790, when there were still only 13 states and the country's population was 3,929,214).

FYI: The 2010 census indicated 308.7 million people in the U.S. (a 78-fold increase in 220 years) and a 9.7% increase from the 2000 census. The U.S. Census Bureau expects the 2020 population count to be around 332.6 million people. The actual count will determine what funding is available for which populations and locales, as well as how local, state and national governing bodies are apportioned.

Lavender Seniors – originally scheduled to work via a small grant from the United Way of the Bay Area to promote LGBTQ+ participation in the census until 31st July – extended its work through the end of September, when census-takers take over the data-collection task. The Board of Directors was scheduled to submit its final report to the UWBA by 30th September.

Those who haven't registered with the Census 2020 before the 31st October can still do so through 11:59pm that day via completing a simple nine-question form at my2020census.gov or by calling 844-330-2020.



Anyone who hasn't yet completed the form might expect the following, in the form of census takers visiting your home between now and the end of October:

Census takers will come to the door, wearing masks and Census 2020 t-shirts, carrying proper identification and following local public health guidelines when they visit your home. All census takers complete a virtual COVID-19 training on social distancing and other health and safety protocols before beginning their work in neighborhoods.

Census takers are hired from your area, with a goal to help you and everyone in your home on 1st April 2020 be counted in the 2020 Census. If the census taker does not speak your language, **you may request a return visit from a census taker who does speak your language.**

Census takers work between 9am and 9pm, including weekends. If no one is home when the census taker visits, the census taker will leave a notice of their visit with information about how to **respond online, by phone or by mail**.

If you respond online or by phone (844-330-**2020**) today, a census taker is less likely to have to visit your home to collect your response. Even if you've responded, a census taker may still visit to verify your address or response. You're encouraged to cooperate so they can ensure an accurate count.

Please make sure that all members of the LGBTQ+ community – you, plus all of your family and friends - are properly represented in this census.

Thanks to all who have completed this every-decennial civic duty! See you again in 2030!

For more information on this vital decision in the 25th September issue of the *New York Times*:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/25/us/trump-census-deadline.html?referringSource=articleShare>

Updated “Boys in the Band” Begins Streaming on Netflix

The 2020 updated version of “Boys in the Band” – with its all-out-gay cast – begins streaming on Netflix on 30th September. Mart Crowley, playwright on the original 1968 Broadway version and 1970 film, also consulted on the Broadway reprise and this film version – starring the all-gay cast from that 2018 Broadway reprise. Unfortunately, Crowley died in March before filming completed, so was not able to see the final product.

During the Panel Preview Q&A conducted at the all-virtual Frameline International LGBTQ+ Film Festival two weeks ago, the director (Joe Montello) and two of the gay cast members (Matt Bomer and Tuc Watkins) discussed similarities and differences between the 1970 film, as well as differences and similarities between the socio-political realities of the two time periods. The fact that Stonewall happened between the Broadway run and production of the 1970 film was certainly significant.



All-Gay Cast, Director and Screenwriter of the 2020 Film Version



Cast of the 1970 film version – a Different Era

As discussed during that Q&A, some LGBTQ+ people – many of them still closeted at the time – recall having arrived home from seeing the 1970 film very depressed – or even suicidal – considering that film to be a bit of a “downer”, full of “gay shame”. The director and both stars of the 2020 version defended the changes that have eliminated much of the “shame” and replaced it with a certain amount of pride, as well as more cast diversity. The addition of Robin de Jesus as a Latinx character means the latest version includes story lines of two men of color, as well as seven white men.

For a trailer of the 2020 version: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=862Pb9oDDAo>.

For a trailer of the 1970 version: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SF7a04aa5Mg>

[Editor's Note: Many things can (and many of us have) changed in these 50 years!]

We're all in this together.

Click on the image below for COVID-19 information.



SF Bay Area LGBTQ+ COVID-19 Relief



On June 27, 1970, a small group of LGBTQ people marched down Polk Street—then San Francisco's most prominent queer neighborhood—to mark an event called "Christopher Street Liberation Day." Commemorating the one-year anniversary of the historic Stonewall uprising on Christopher Street in New York City, the march was followed the next afternoon, June 28, by an intimate "gay-in" picnic at Speedway Meadows in Golden Gate Park.

Fifty years later, the modest gatherings of 1970 have evolved into San Francisco Pride, a globally famous annual parade and celebration. One of the city's most beloved public festivals, Pride welcomes hundreds of thousands of participants & spectators from around the world the last weekend in June.

This exhibition features nearly 100 photographs spanning five decades of Pride celebrations.



LGBT Online Support Group for Caregivers

If you are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender and caring for someone with ongoing health problems...[you are not alone!](#)

Family Caregiver Alliance's online LGBT Caring Community Support Group connects you with others facing the day-to-day challenges of caregiving. If you're assisting someone with Alzheimer's, stroke, Parkinson's, traumatic brain injury, or other chronic health problems, you can get support from the convenience of your home.

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

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

Well Connected

Enriching lives and supporting well-being.

(FORMERLY SENIOR CENTER WITHOUT WALLS)- Community Phone Calls

This award-winning program offers activities, education, support groups, and friendly conversation over the phone or online.

Just a few of the things offered:

(The times are no longer listed in the generic catalog, once you have signed up you will get a link to a catalog with times in your time zone)

LGBTQ Chat Wednesdays, 10/14, 10/28, 11/25, 12/9

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

Memory Café Thursdays, 10/8, 10/22, 11/12, 12/10 Reminisce about times gone by.

Connecting to the past can be comforting, and is beneficial for brain health as a form of exercise for the brain! Topics could include favorite older movies and songs, favorite holiday memories and more. Facilitated by Linda Howard, Easterseals NH

The Memory Game Tuesdays, 10/1 – 12/29

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

View the Current catalog of community phone calls [here](#). Check the [website](#) for more information. To participate in these or other Well Connected telephone activities, or to learn more about their programs, call 877-797-7299 or email coviaconnections@covia.org.



Out Standing Seniors - Sponsored by Pacific Center

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

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

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

LezBold Peer Support Group

2:00 p.m. (Thursdays) - Meets via Zoom email lezbolddgroup@pacificcenter.org for info.
Find support and like-minded wonderful people!

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

3:00 p.m. (Fridays) - email Anne@pacificcenter.org for current meeting information.
Free drop-in therapy group for LGBTQ community members age 60+

Older & Out Therapy Group - Oakland - Sponsored by Pacific Center 2 p.m. (Fridays)

email Anne@pacificcenter.org for current meeting information.
Free drop-in therapy group for LGBTQ community members age 60+

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

1:00 p.m. (Mondays) - email Anne@pacificcenter.org for current meeting information.
Free drop-in therapy group for LGBTQ community members age 60+

Rainbow Seniors - Sponsored by Pacific Center & Lavender Seniors

12:30 - 1:30 p.m. (2nd & 4th Tuesdays)

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

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

Living OUT in Livermore - Sponsored by Pacific Center

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

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

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

Lavender Seniors Board Meeting - 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (2nd Wednesday)

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

Senior Gay Men's Group - 1:30 p.m. (Weekly on Thursdays)

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

For more information email us at seniormensgroup@pacificcenter.org

Feel alone? Need to find space to be yourself and chat with others? Join us!

Lavender Seniors Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch

see info above for joining us via Zoom

Lavender Seniors LGBTQ Film Series

Cancelled due to COVID-19 precautions.

Tri-Valley Rainbows - Sponsored by Pacific Center - 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. (3rd Thursday)

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

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

Oakland Third Friday Lunch Bunch

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

see info above for joining us via Zoom

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay Board of Directors

President: Victor Aguilar Jr
Vice President: Gwendolyn M. Boozé
Treasurer: Carmen Chiong
Secretary: John David Dupree

Founding Member: Barbara Jue
Communication Director: Melissa West
Member: Ana Bagtas (on hiatus)

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

Message: 510-736-LGBT (510-736-5428)
Friendly Visitor Program: (510) 424-7240
or **karen@lavenderseniors.org**

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Oakland, CA 94619

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Newsletter Editorial Board:

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John David Dupree

Contact Us

