

# Lavender Notes...Mid June update

## URGENT! URGENT! URGENT!

The Senior Senior Prom at Hayward Senior Center is in jeopardy of getting cancelled!!!!

They need 20 more sign-ups by 3:00 pm tomorrow afternoon. (After the showing of 'Gen Silent' ...flyer also attached.)

If you planned on getting your tickets at the door they need you to call and get them now!

A lot of hard work has gone into this and I personally will be heart-broken if it gets cancelled.

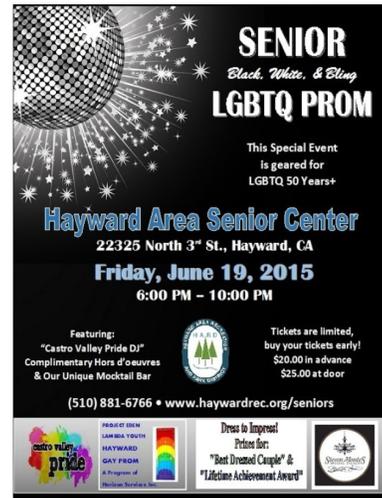
There was a great write-up in the Sunday newspapers yesterday.

You do not need to dress formally, if that is not your thing, dress comfortable. You do not need a date, come alone and join us.

You will not be carded at the door. You do not need to be LGBT identified, allies are welcome too! Don't dance? Me neither. Can't afford to go, there are still some donated tickets available. Got any more excuses go ahead and give them to me to add to the list!

Please everyone, pass this onto anyone you can think of.

Beckie [OutStandingSeniors2@gmail.com](mailto:OutStandingSeniors2@gmail.com) call or text: 510-600-4716



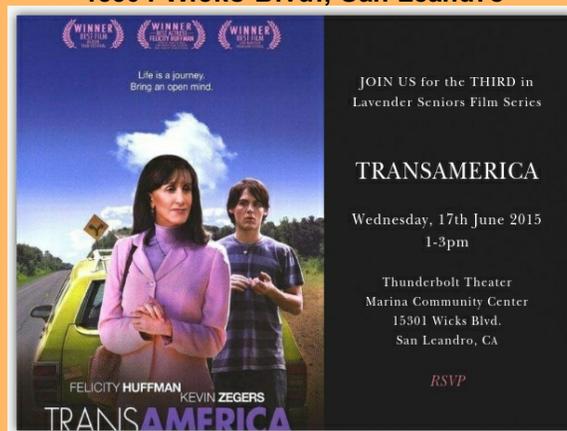
## Reminder

Lavender Seniors Film Festival, Third Wednesdays

Next Showing: "TRANSAMERICA", Wednesday, 17<sup>TH</sup> June 2015, 1-3pm

Thunderbolt Theater, Marina Community Center

15301 Wicks Blvd., San Leandro



sponsor:

[Ascendance: The Angels of Change Documentary](#) (in SF only): JUNE 20 The Center for Trans Youth Health and Development at Children's Hospital LA provides solid ground for trans youth from all socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds, with a full range of medical and social services that provide space for them to transition safely and live authentically. And the wings? Angel wings, worn at the finale of the runway show. Vivacious program coordinator Bamby Salcedo, her colleagues at the Center, and Angels of Change graduates take these fierce youth through their paces, coaching them to walk the runway dressed in their personal style, dressed as their future profession, and totally owning their place as Angels on the runway

[Visible Silence](#) (in SF and Oakland): JUNE 21/SF and JUNE 25/Oakland In Thai society, women can love one another only in private. A woman who embodies a masculine gender presentation and expresses affection toward another woman is labeled a "tom" and devalued for being a lesbian. A more traditionally feminine woman who prefers the company of toms is a "dee" and also considered abnormal. Award-winning filmmaker Ruth Gumnit (Don't Fence Me In: Major Mary and the Karen Refugees from Burma, Frameline29), collaborating with a bi-national team, takes a delicate but probing look at Thai women in such relationships as they must decide whether to regain society's approval by marrying a man and bearing children or risk their careers, family support, and societal reputation for love and love with another woman.

[Realness & Revelations \[shorts\]](#) (in Oakland and SF): JUNE 23/Oakland and JUNE 26/SF These electrifying shorts celebrate an array of voices of queer and trans folks of color. From tomboys playing house, to old butch barbers with swag, to WWB as a transman, to the fierce quest for queer fat femme-topia, these films feature QTPOC folks fostering connections and speaking truths to power. Including ABSENCE: No Fats, No Femmes, No Asians by Celeste Chan.

### Reminder!

#### **Third Friday Lunch Bunch at NOSC, 19<sup>th</sup> June: Assisting LGBTI Refugees from around the World**

Being LGBTI is still a criminal offense in over 70 countries of the world. In 1533, King Henry VIII created the "Buggery Act" in England, prescribing the death penalty for anybody "discovered" to be involved in same-sex sexual activity. In addition to the death penalty, such "criminals" also faced forfeiture of their entire estate to the Crown.

Though historians believe that this was the king's way of decreasing the power of "the church" under his reign, the homophobic Buggery Act was exported to most of the Commonwealth's subsequent many colonies throughout the world. Though the UK has long since rescinded its sodomy laws and embraced same-sex marriage, most of its former colonies in the developing world still have those laws on the books, in some variation or another.

For instance, in Ghana, West Africa (a former British Colony), there is a single line in the Criminal Code that is presumed to apply to homosexuality, though it has never been tested in the courts: It shall be a crime to have "unnatural sex or sex with animals". Full stop!

The punishment for the "offense" of homosexuality can range from simple harassment and discrimination to arrest, torture, imprisonment at hard labor and even execution. The current president of The Gambia, Yahya Jammeh, for instance, who refers to LGBTI people with such pejorative descriptors as "vermin" or "satanic", has recently reiterated his threat that such "abominations" should leave the country, risking decapitation or "having their throats slit" if they stay!

What does all of this have to do with the Lavender Seniors of the East Bay?

An East Bay member of the Refugee Guardian Group - a Bay Area "hands-on" social justice coalition providing support to LGBTI individuals seeking asylum or refugee status - will address the Lavender Seniors Third Friday Lunch Bunch which meets at the North Oakland Senior Center, 19<sup>th</sup> June, noon until 2pm.

Following the buffet lunch and social interaction around the dining tables, Jay Roller (East Bay senior in his 60s) and his colleague, Janet Hewins (SF resident in her 80s), both members of the Guardian Group at the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco, will offer insights into how interested seniors can get involved in this LGBTI refugee settlement program, as well as how the coalition functions.

A few examples of the people they have helped rescue from persecution, prosecution or worse include the following (appearing on the website's blog):

Junior, the only client we have who doesn't mind being publicly identified, and I brunchd at Spinnakers in Sausalito and then walked around the main street taking in the sights. I was able to take Junior on his first trip across the Golden Gate Bridge and share his first reactions to the views and gestalt. Wonderful!

We came back into the city, and later met up with a Tunisian seeking asylum, a Tunisian who has been granted asylum, and my husband (who works with the Tunisian asylee). It was a relaxed, happy day.

Which got me thinking. Much of what the Guardian Group talks about is needs, problems, and the housing crisis. All those issues are real and pressing, but I need to explain that meeting our clients, learning from them, and feeling proud of their successes is selfishly rewarding. Completely a high.

1. F, a now 24-year-old, is a refugee from **Iran**. He has been in the US a bit over two years. He supports himself by working at a restaurant. He's going to junior college and applying to four-year schools. He has Obamacare and is healthy, and he's plagued by the reassuringly normal, and heartbreakingly severe, insecurities of 20-something-year olds. .
2. S, now a 39-year-old asylee from **Tunisia**, has been in the US 2 1/2 years. S is employed full-time at a job in San Francisco that has healthcare, vacation, and benefits. He is very concerned about the high cost of housing and living in San Francisco. I am so pleased those are his issues.
3. Z, a refugee from **Iraq** has been in SF since 2013. He is now 30 years old, is working for a local furniture store, and recently was named employee of the month. Z has stable housing, too.
4. A, a refugee from **Iraq**, has also been in country since 2013. He has stable housing and is getting needed dental care. He is worried about schooling. He is attending City College and maintaining a B average.
5. T, from Uganda, recently was granted asylum and does not receive our financial support any more.
6. A, from **Russia**, was granted asylum in late summer, 2014. He's working 7 shifts a week in restaurants, has a relationship, rents a room in a shared flat, and needs no Guardian Group assistance.
7. A is a 32-year-old asylum seeker from **Nigeria** who is entrepreneurial and professionally trained. He needs better housing while he waits for his date in immigration court. Our support for food, transport, cell phone, and other necessities help him.
8. J from the **Congo** arrived as a refugee in November, 2014. He is graduating from job training, has stable housing for another five months, and enjoying his exploration of the Bay area. He receives the normal government benefits for newly-arrived refugees and doesn't currently need our financial support.
9. A from **Tunisia** has been in the US seeking asylum for approximately two months. He has free stable housing at the moment, and the Guardian Group is helping with other expenses. A is a professional, fluent in English, and very personable.
10. D from **Nigeria** is seeking asylum along with ...
11. J from **Nigeria** They are working through the legal/immigration process. Our support for food, transport, and other necessities help them.

For more information, the Guardian Group website at <http://www.refugeeguardiangroup.org/> has such categories as: · [HOME](#) · [NEEDS](#) · [HOUSING](#) · [LATEST NEWS / BLOG](#) · [TERMS WE USE](#) · [CHURCH'S WEBSITE](#) · [CONTACT THE GUARDIAN GROUP](#)

Lavender Seniors is co-sponsoring with Frameline39 the following film in connection with the San Francisco International LGBTQ Film Festival:

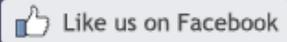
***Broads to Watch Out For (Shorts Program)***

**Sex, love, and activism collide in this brassy program honoring tough broads who paved the way for generations of strong queer women to come! Badass dykes, WWII vets, Olympic champions, insatiable activist-organizers, randy retirees, and fierce mamis make for a truly ripe (and ready) shorts collection.**

***This will be shown at 1:30pm on Sunday, 21st June,  
Victoria Theater, San Francisco.***

**Lavender Seniors**

is a project of  
**LIFE ElderCare**



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