



Lavender Notes

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

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January 2022- Volume 28 Issue 1



The Community Has Lost Another of Our Own

Leslie "Elaine"/"Eugene" Fetherkile

[Editor's Note: We use "them" and "their" pronouns throughout this tribute, though it is unclear whether Leslie ever actually adopted those pronouns during their life. Much of this tribute is based on an interview with and profile of Leslie published in a June 2016 "Stories of Our Lives" column in this newsletter some 5½ years ago. See: <https://lavenderseniors.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Lavender-Notes-June-2016.pdf>]

Our own Leslie Elaine Fetherkile died in Gridley, CA, on 27th November 2021, less than six months after their 90th birthday.

Though Leslie was assigned as male at birth on 16th June 1931, they realized at age 11 or 12 that they were meant to be female. Their childhood was plagued by extensive physical and emotional abuse on their Nebraska farm by a transphobic/homophobic father. This abuse included an excruciating bout of electro-shock therapy to "cure" them of the notion they were born in the wrong body.



Leslie as Male: With beloved sister, Sylvia, and brother, Ivan; with brother, Ivan; and as a Concord businessman

Leslie was eager to get out of the abusive home situation. With help from an older friend, they joined the Army at age 16 following graduation from Burchard (Nebraska) High School. In the military, they were a German translator, in addition to being involved in the post-war securing of Hitler's "Eagle's Nest" and teaching some of the troops how to square dance. They married a German woman and fathered three children, started three businesses in Contra Costa County to support those children and lost everything to unscrupulous partners. They only gathered the strength and resources to finally transition to female at age 80. At the time of this 2016 interview, they were 85 and still mourning what they perceived to be the devastating loss of those children, who Leslie felt had permanently disowned them because of that decision to transition.



Leslie as female: Happy after their transition in 2011; at home, May 2016

As Leslie's health deteriorated in 2021 – including heart attacks, strokes, further vision and hearing losses – they made some compromises about their gender identity in order to re-connect with their children, though this compromise was not part of their interactions with members of the LGBTQ community. One of their sons was subsequently involved in their move to a Concord facility and eventually to a VA facility in Gridley, where they were in and out of a coma before dying a few weeks later. There will reportedly be a memorial service at a Sacramento VA facility at some point in February. Any specifics on dates or locations for such a service that Lavender Seniors is apprised of will be reported in the February newsletter.

Leslie frequently attended the Lavender Seniors Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch in San Leandro, accompanied at various times by two different Friendly Visitors, between 2012 and 2018, when they were forced to sell their home and be moved to a residential treatment facility in Hayward. Though they had

lived in Nebraska, Concord and Salinas, they spent most of those post-transition years in Castro Valley and Hayward.

Since Leslie's mother had allegedly been so convinced that her fourth child would be female, she kept the feminine name she had chosen, Leslie Elaine, on the original birth certificate. In later years, so embarrassed from being teased for the obviously feminine middle name, Leslie legally had their name changed to Leslie Eugene. They reported that this name change cost \$50 at the time and it would cost an unaffordable \$350 to change it back to the original Leslie Elaine at age 80, so that never officially happened.

We have missed having Leslie in our midst since 2018 and through the pandemic. Their vision and hearing losses – combined with quarantines and lockdowns in the facilities where she was living – made it nearly impossible to communicate with them. May they rest in peace after suffering so much in order to be true to their true self.



Brenda Joyce Crawford

This month's featured LGBTQ+ community member began life on a Mississippi sharecropper farm and – among many other things accomplished in her life – became one of the founders and long-time President of the East Bay Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club (now called the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club).

Brenda Joyce Crawford was born to a 17-year-old sharecropper's daughter on Christmas Eve of 1946 near Vaughn, Mississippi. Her sister was born two years later. Because their mother was so young and inexperienced, the girls lived with their grandparents in Jackson, the capital city, until Brenda was 10 or 11 years old.

"During those years with our fairly-strict grandparents, they were very protective and fairly hard on me," Brenda recalls. "My grandmother would make me go out and get my own switch used for discipline in those days. Also, the family was very involved in the Bethel AME Church in Jackson. I was baptized when I was eight or nine years old. That church – and what I learned there – played a role for most of my life. Funerals for both of my grandparents were held at that church."

Brenda's grandmother was a traveling school teacher who helped teach sharecropper children.

"Sharecropping was big in Mississippi during my childhood," Brenda says. "So, after working in the fields all summer, the cotton picked and baled, she would travel around to different plantations to teach school. This was the only way some of these kids ever got any education, so I've always been proud of how she must've helped them during that

oppressive Jim Crow era.”

Brenda and her sister were sent to New York to live with their Mom when Brenda was 11.

“My grandmother made lunch in a shoebox, fried chicken and coconut cake, put me on a plane and said goodbye,” Brenda recounts. “I knew I would be the new kid in a slightly-integrated, but still quite racist school. I also knew that – since my mother was so young when she had us – that we would basically be growing up together. And that’s exactly what happened.”



Amityville Memorial High School, 1964

Their mother was looking for somebody to help her take care of her kids.

“Unfortunately, she married this useless no-account man,” Brenda states firmly. “As far as I’m concerned, there’s no earthly reason why he was ever born. He was violent and brutal to her. They might call it domestic violence now, but it was just brutality. Once, he made her go out and sleep in the car. I went out and asked if I could stay in the car with her rather than go back into the house with him. I couldn’t sleep at all that night, trying to think of ways I could poison him when I made his stew. The worst thing that ever actually happened between us, though, was when I tried to bat him with a broom. And the best thing that ever happened was the one time he came to my rescue when a man started pushing me around when I was flirting with the guy’s girlfriend.”

After a brief stint in Brooklyn, the family moved to Amityville out on Long Island.



Brenda, Sister and Mom

“Social and academic life in Memorial High School was fairly limited,” Brenda recalls. “There were two tracks for students: most of the white kids were on an academic track for college and the black kids were on a commercial track to become somebody’s clerk typist. I found shorthand to be a complete mystery! The black guys played football and the white guys played chess. Socially, we had these basement parties where boys would come over. I never actually dated boys – I basically tolerated them. My only semi-serious

relationship with a guy named Vincent only became important to me when I started experimenting with drugs and seriously considered marrying him to escape from that habit.”

When Brenda graduated from Amityville’s Memorial High School in 1964, she knew she didn’t want to live her life as a clerk typist.

“Even in high school, I worked for the Office of Economic Opportunity as a public service employee,” Brenda says. “I left Amityville as early as possible, first to Salem, Massachusetts and later in Dorchester, where I spent several years. My first job was to help line people up for public service jobs. This was

when CETA (the Comprehensive Employment Training Act) was in full swing.”

When she was still in high school, she began exploring her sexuality.

“The owners of a local juke joint also owned a place called Wood’s Bar, which was also a restaurant,” Brenda recalls. “I used to sneak in there before I was legal and made goo-goo eyes at the woman bartender there. Though she never responded to my flirtation, there was another barmaid who picked me up on one of the infamous corners of Amityville and took me home, as she said, ‘to show me who I was.’ I would go in when she was working and she would give me rum and coke, Harvey wallbangers or gin and tonic. It was in that context that I was flirting with Tina and one of her admirers got upset that she was talking to this teenage girl rather than paying attention to him that a brawl ensued. My useless stepfather went up to him in the bar and told that dude he would kill him if he ever touched me again. The one semi-useful interaction my stepfather and I ever had.”

Soon after Brenda arrived in Massachusetts, she developed a relationship with a school teacher.

“She was one of the first African-Americans to become a school principal in the area,” Brenda recounts. “We lived together in Dorchester, she introduced me to her family and, in fact, her Dad moved in with us for a few months before he moved to South Carolina. That meant, of course, that she and I HAD to sleep together – ‘oh, dear, what would people think!?’”

While Brenda lived in Dorchester – until her early 20s – she worked for Rise Together House, which was the first licensed African-American alcohol treatment center in Massachusetts.

“A group of us started this organization, even though I wasn’t quite finished with my own drinking game,” Brenda recalls. “I didn’t sober up just yet, since I was still dealing with the trauma of having lived for so many years in an abusive household with my stepfather. Unfortunately, I was ultimately fired from my job, because there were suspicions that some of the funds that had been used weren’t exactly for the purposes of the recovery program. That was how I wound up in California. One of the first people I spoke with out here was one of OJ’s lawyers, John Burrows, who told me that it was unlikely the Dorchester folks would try to prosecute me for their suspicions. I still worried about perhaps being convicted of something and going to jail, but, fortunately, the case was dropped and never proceeded.”

Brenda’s first California job was in Salinas, working on a critical relief program for prisoners being released from Soledad Prison (also known as the Salinas Valley State Prison, which will be closing its Southern Facility in July 2022).

“I also worked with such federal and state prisons as Pleasanton and the State Penitentiary,” Brenda recalls, “doing re-entry planning. Though nearby Seaside had a lot of African-Americans because of its military bases, I wanted to be some place where there were more black people. I got a job offer up in Redding, but really didn’t want to be up there. So when I was offered a job at Friends Outside, a Quaker re-entry program, I soon left Salinas and moved to Vallejo. It was important to reduce the recidivism rate, particularly among black prisoners who might get into trouble on their first visit to a 7-11 on the

outside.”



Brenda, Tonya & Friend, Christmas 2018
ever since – it was definitely instant magic!”

Brenda started dating a woman in Santa Cruz, where there were “lots” of lesbians.

“I spent a lot of time down there, hanging out in the lesbian bookstore, drinking tea and getting acquainted with my community there,” Brenda says. “I soon also started dating women in Vallejo and had a particularly serious relationship with a woman in Napa. She and I remain really good friends, though we never really became lovers, in spite of romantic feelings between us – Barbara is in her 80s now. But 20 years ago, at one of the on-line sites, I met the love of my life – Tonya – and we’ve been together

Brenda became a political activist during her time living in Oakland, including co-founding what was then called the East Bay Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club.

“During my 20 years in Oakland – before I came to live in Solano County – I was active not only in politics, but in housing for LGBTQ seniors. In addition to being President of the East Bay Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club for ten years, I was on the Alameda County Central Democratic Committee. There was a period where it seemed the Democratic Party had lost its way. When I moved to Solano County, I tried to re-create Oakland there, but it didn’t quite work out. I’ve been on the board of the Pride Center here, trying to get LGBTQ community members back at the table. I’ve been involved in the Vallejo Sister City Association, which maintains relationships with six cities around the world. Another ongoing concern is that young black men – and women – are still being killed in Vallejo and around the country, which we all need to be paying more attention to!”



Brenda at Sister City Association, 2019

Brenda was nominated for – and received – an award from the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for her community organizing in the black lesbian communities of the Greater Bay Area. To see a brief discussion of that award, follow this link: <https://vimeo.com/371079595/6b83373fd3>

“I was nominated for this recognition by Mary Anne Adams, Executive Director of the National Organization on Black Lesbian Aging,” Brenda says. “They have a program in Georgia that I would love to replicate here, where they buy old relatively-inexpensive houses, renovate them and provide public-housing level rents – there are currently three old lesbians living in one of the houses – and loving it! We need to assess our own communities here, perhaps have individuals and couples leave such a legacy for our community!”



Brenda's 20-year relationship with Tonya successfully involved raising their two sons.

"Our boys are terrific young men now, I'm proud to say," Brenda recounts. "It was a challenge from time to time – lesbians raising boys – including our decision to take one of the boys out of public school and putting him in the Hanna Boys' School in Santa Rosa. Since they're both out on their own now – one in West Palm Beach, Florida, and one in nearby Santa Rosa – our house seems too big for us now. Tonya is the only one of my

girlfriends through the years that my Mom ever really loved – same with my sister. Unfortunately, my Mom and my sister died within one year of each other – we helped care for my Mom considerably at the end of her life three years ago. I am still just 'Auntie Brenda' to my sister's kids and still close with our boys."

Brenda's bucket list involves continued travel with Tonya and deciding where to move from their current house.

"I'm hoping I can stay healthy enough for us to travel a lot," Brenda says. "We've been to the Caymans, where we have a timeshare, plus Jamaica and Aruba, but there are so many other places – particularly in Central America and other islands in the Caribbean – that we'd like to see. I really want to see and experience how other people live! We also need to figure out where we'll be living here if we down-size a bit to a smaller more manageable living situation."

Congratulations again on your well-deserved award from Astraea, Brenda – and thank you for sharing so much of your life with the LGBTQ community and with Lavender Seniors, in particular!



Book Review

Queer Love In Color By Jamal Jordan

This book features touching color photos and text. "I never saw Black queer people as objects of desire...I never thought that someone would want to love me or someone who looked like me. I thought for a very long time that my only hope in finding companionship was to convince a white person to love me." - Aimee.



Each person tells their story. One story caught my eye. Mike and Phil in

Detroit, Michigan. They have been together since 1967. They are in their 70s. "You must be strong in who you are, what you are and what you think you want to be." There is too much attention paid on being single. Couples constitute the core of our society.

These powerful stories will linger in the reader's memory.

- Frank J. Howell

Bonus Book Review

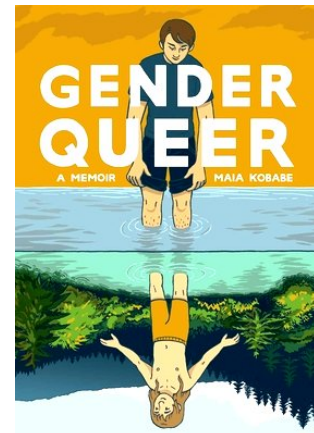


Gender Queer: A (Graphic) Memoir

By Maia Kobabe

Though many of us LGBTQ+ seniors might think – when we see such a thing as a “graphic memoir” – that this is merely a “comic-book” in disguise. When you actually read the deliberations of the artistic Maia Kobabe (pronouns they/them/theirs), you can see that it is much more profound than Superman, Wonder Woman, Dick Tracy and all the rest of that genre from our childhood and youth.

Kobabe, who was assigned the feminine gender at birth, has never really felt like a girl OR a boy during their years of processing gender identity. This memoir is an attempt to explain the thought process of a non-binary individual negotiating through a very unsafe world that has demanded binary decision-making over the years until the late 20th and early 21st centuries. What do you do if neither of the boxes to be checked on this form or that document really fits for you? Reading this memoir might help any of us who might be mystified by this focus on pronouns and non-binary concepts.



Interestingly, this 239-page graphic memoir is one of the most controversial books being debated by school boards and parent groups around the country. It has become a lightning rod nation-wide – particularly in states like Texas and Florida – among some parents and Republican officials who say they’re worried public schools are trying to radicalize students with progressive teachings and literature. For instance, the Fairfax County School Board in Virginia banned the book, considered to be “obscene” for its references to masturbation, homosexuality and oral sex. The board later reversed its decision, in spite of the strong parental objections to the “indecent” content in the book. Similarly, just a few days before Thanksgiving in Downers Grove (a suburb of Chicago, IL), the fate of the book on school library shelves was debated by very angry parents on both sides.

The American Library Association’s Office for Intellectual Freedom is very opposed to any type of censorship of school library shelves, insisting that removing such materials from school libraries is a denial of students’ right to know about their world, as well a denial of their agency and lives as

individuals.



Maia Kobabe and one of the pages of their controversial graphic memoir, "Gender Queer"

As a long-time member of the mostly-binary generation, I found this graphic memoir most educational, informative and easy to read. In fact, it has encouraged me to be more explicit about my own pronouns as one small way of supporting non-binary individuals who may still remain a mystery among many in both the general public and even among the LGBTQ+ community. I recommend it as a way of promoting intergenerational and inter-gender understanding!

-- John David Dupree (he/him/his), Oakland, CA

CONNECTIONS



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

LAVENDER SENIORS FRIENDLY VISITOR PROGRAM HAS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE.

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

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

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

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

Reminder: Lavender Seniors Birthday Program

Lavender Seniors' Friendly Visitor Program – in collaboration with its "Communication Relieves Isolation" program has organized a "birthday acknowledgment" activity with one of our volunteers sending birthday cards to LGBTQ+ seniors and their allies each year.

Anyone whose birthday (year of birth is not necessary, though it is appreciated) hasn't been acknowledged should provide their full name, mailing address and date of birth (with or without year) either via Info@LavenderSeniors.org or by leaving a message at +1-510-736-LGBT and your name will be added to the list. Also, any volunteers who want to assist in this program should make contact, as well.



Letter- and card-writing may seem like a lost art to some, since it appears that many of our grandchildren are not even being taught how to write in script anymore. Many of us aging "Palmer method" script-writers, however, still enjoy seeing a nicely-written card or letter in our snail-mailboxes! It's always nice to be remembered!



LAS/HICAP Presentation

Making the Most of our Medicare in 2022

Since we don't know what the outcome will be with President Biden's "Build Back Better" bill and its promise of improved benefits for medical, dental, vision and hearing services and products, we may need to know how best to take advantage of what Medicare benefits we DO have as of January 2022!



This month's Second Saturday presenter comes to us from (LAS/HICAP) Legal Assistance for Seniors/Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program. Jenny Pardini is the Community Education Coordinator with the organization. She will help us stay informed and plan those New Years Resolutions to figure out how to get the most out of our Medicare benefits in 2022.

She has a BA in French from San Francisco State University. Jenny joined the Older Adult Services field in 2017 and has enjoyed serving her community in Alameda County ever since. Jenny lives in Hayward with her wife, Connie, and their 6-year-old daughter, Frankie. They enjoy traveling as a family and cannot wait for the world to be safe enough for their next international trip. She looks forward to one day being a Lavender Senior herself. She will cover at least the

following, plus be available for Q&A afterward:

- Challenges to access and visibility in the health care system
- The impact on coverage since marriage laws changed in 2015.
- Information about pertinent services for transgender beneficiaries.
- Estate planning areas to consider.
- Identifying fraud and abuse and where to report it

About our presenter:

Jenny was introduced to LGBTQ+ activism when she founded the Gay-Straight Alliance at Carlmont High School in 1999. She has a BA in French from San Francisco State University. After receiving her degree, she taught French in Bay Area high schools, then worked for Olivia Travel, before finding her place in the Older Adult Services field in 2017. She lives in Hayward with her wife, Connie, and their 5-year-old daughter, Frankie. Jenny looks forward to one day being a Lavender Senior herself.



Jenny and family in Paris

Here are the Zoom coordinates for Saturday, 8th January, from 12 noon until 2pm. Please note that we have reserved the time/date through Saturday, 10th December 2022:

Lavender Seniors invites you to a scheduled **Saturday Rainbow Lunch** meeting on Zoom.

Topic: Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch: Making the Most of Our Medicare Benefits

Time: Jan 8, 2022 12:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the Second Sat, until Dec 10, 2022, 12 occurrence(s)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89671026595>

Meeting ID: 896 7102 6595

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,89671026595# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 896 7102 6595

Hope to see you there!

Organized Religion and our Community

Many organized religions have traditionally been unkind to and rejecting toward members of the LGBTQ+ community, sometimes even choosing to discriminate against their children. For example, a decision by the Mormon Church in effect from 2015-2019 prohibited the baptism of a child born to same-sex couples until s/he reached the age of 18 and renounced their parents' homosexuality.

On the other hand, some religions like Unitarian Universalism have long since decided to affirm and provide solace – rather than suffering – to LGBTQ+ community members. Other denominations have touted having “LGBTQ+ Welcoming” congregations.

Many organizations have been developed to deal with the contradiction between various “scriptures” and interpretations of admonitions against homosexuality through the ages. One of the first was the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC), organized by the Rev. Troy Perry in 1968, the year before the Stonewall Riots in New York signaled the semi-formal beginning of the “gay liberation movement”.



Other religions have suffered schisms based on differences between congregation members within a single denomination on matters of sexuality and/or gender identity, causing a type of rift/secession/division between the two factions. Some denominations have repeatedly brought up the issue at general assemblies with still no resolution.

In addition, members of various religions have begun LGBTQ-affirming organizations to assist them in reconciling their sexuality or gender identity with whatever religion they might have grown up with. For instance, here are some of the groups formed over the years:

- Dignity for LGBTQ+ Catholics
- Affirmation for LGBTQ+ Mormons
- Integrity for LGBTQ+ Episcopalians
- Keshet for LGBTQ+ Jews
- Al-Fatiha Foundation for LGBTQ+ Muslims
- Muslims for Progressive Values for LGBTQ+ Muslims
- Kinship International for LGBTQ+ Seventh-Day Adventists
- More Light Presbyterians for LGBTQ+ Presbyterians
- The Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists
- The Brethren for LGBTQ+ Mennonites
- Emergence International for LGBTQ+ Christian Scientists
- The Evangelical Network for LGBTQ+ Evangelicals

- Evangelicals Concerned for all LGBTQ+ Evangelical Christians
- Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries for LGBTQ+ Lutherans
- Reconciling Works for LGBTQ+ Lutherans
- Reconciling Ministries for LGBTQ+ Methodists
- Friends for LGBTQ Concerns for LGBTQ+ Quakers
- GALA for LGBTQ+ Community of Christ (formerly Reorganized LDS)
- The Gay Christian Network for all LGBTQ+ Christians
- The Gay, Lesbian and Affirming Disciples Alliance for LGBTQ+ Disciples of Christ
- Global Alliance of Apostolic Pentecostals for LGBTQ+ Pentecostals
- Soulforce for LGBTQ+ Christians fighting homophobia/transphobia
- United Church of Christ Coalition for LGBT Concerns for LGBTQ+ Church of Christ

This month's Third Friday Lunch Bunch will focus on how our religious upbringings may have affected our coming-out processes, whether that has resulted in such terms as "lapsed Catholics," "Queer Jews" or "Fallen Mormons," etc. Though we have invited the MCC of San Francisco to participate, we haven't heard a final acceptance or declination at press time. So it is hoped that each participant in the Zoom session will come prepared to share their own life experiences in this regard, at least during the check-in portion of the gathering.

Here are the Zoom coordinates for the Third Friday Lunch Bunch gathering on January 21st. Please noted that – although we are hoping for face-to-face meetings to resume sometime in 2022 – we have reserved the same Zoom coordinates on the Third Friday for the entire year.

Lavender Seniors is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Third Friday Lunch Bunch – Organized Religion and Our Community

Time: Jan 21, 2022 12:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the Third Fri, until Dec 16, 2022, 12 occurrence(s)

Join Zoom Meeting: [/https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85235825964](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85235825964)

Meeting ID: 852 3582 5964

One tap mobile: +16699009128,,85235825964# US (San Jose)

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

Meeting ID: 852 3582 5964

"Adopt-a-Senior" Gift Packages

Lavender Seniors, in partnership with the Ghirardelli Chocolate Company has donated 30 gift packages to Friendly Visitor clients and isolated seniors. Each package included a wool blanket, winter hat, rainbow socks, personalized cards and world-famous Ghirardelli chocolates. For those in residential care, the gifts were delivered in person to facilities in Alameda, Berkeley, Castro Valley, Oakland and San Pablo.

"We can't thank Ghirardelli Chocolates enough for the time and energy which they

have focused to create the Adopt-A-Senior Program,” says Karen A. Anderson, Friendly Visitor Program Coordinator. “This lets our LGBTQ senior community members know that they have not been forgotten. The personal greeting cards have been exhilarating and more than appreciated. Thanks to their thoughtfulness we may look forward to 2022 being a year full of rainbows. □□□□□□□□



The Ghirardelli “Adopt-a-Senior” Gift package; one client holding the package and one sleeping under the blanket
[Editors Note: both clients have agreed to show their gratitude by sending these photos for the newsletter]

News from Oakland Senior Centers Re: 2022

As we all wait with bated breath for the re-opening of Senior Centers in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, we have this news from Scott Means, Aging Services Director for the City of Oakland:



LIONEL J. WILSON BUILDING • 150 FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA, SUTIE 4340 • OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612

Dear Oakland Senior Center Members,

We are excited to announce the City of Oakland Senior Center staff line-up for 2022. This group brings the skills and dedication needed to safely deliver the in-person programming we are determined to offer you next year. In addition to bringing back familiar activities we know you enjoyed with your friends in the past, you will have an opportunity to experience new and innovative programs that will be created based on community feedback and interest. It is my great pleasure to introduce the staff who will be at each of the City of Oakland Senior Centers:

- Downtown: Jessi Cutter, Sharia Lewis
- East: Nalleli Albarran, Michelle Gomez Thompson
- North: Kayla Brown, Patricia Toscano
- West: Mia Thibeaux, Amy Miller

What I find is the most remarkable characteristic of this group of center staff is their focus on equity and fairness across communities and their generous spirit of sharing and assistance with each other. I ask you to look at this group as a unified Team with representatives placed at Centers across the City.

In addition to the eight City of Oakland member services staff, the four Senior Centers will continue to be supported by Custodians, Information and Assistance staff, Senior Aides, and various program facilitators. There have even been recent Case Manager sightings at some of your centers; more to come in 2022.

Aging Services is looking forward to fully serving you in 2022. Please look for more information after the first of the year. Have a happy New Year!

Sincerely, Scott Means – Aging Services Manager

Downtown Oakland Senior Center
200 Grand Avenue, Oakland
510-238-3284 * Dosc@oaklandca.gov

East Oakland Senior Center
9255 Edes Avenue, Oakland



SUPPORT OUTMUSEUM

BECOME A REEL FRIEND

NEW EXHIBIT: A QUEER HOLIDAY



It's the holiday season and what better way to celebrate than great films that embrace the holiday spirit of compassion, grace, love, and family and illuminating conversations. Check out our newest exhibit titled "A Queer Holiday" which features a fantastic roundtable discussion with the team of Prime Video's With Love.

WATCH NOW

NOW ON VIEW

Join us for a conversation with team of Prime Video's With Love moderated by Dino-Ray Ramos. With Love is created, written and executive produced by Gloria Calderón Kellett. With Love is a premium, beautiful and diverse series that is full of



In Conversation: The team of Prime Video's "With Love"

MODERATED BY DINO-RAY RAMOS

light and love, perfect for the holidays. The episode structure spans several months, with each episode occurring on a holiday: Nochebuena (Christmas Eve), New Years, Valentines Day, 4th of July, and Dia de los Muertos. [WATCH NOW](#)

As Outfest moves into its 40th year, we wish to acknowledge another significant 40th anniversary for LGBTQ+ individuals around the globe: the 40th Anniversary of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. This exhibit commemorates the resilience and humanity of our community throughout the HIV/AIDS epidemic, told both through the people who have been affected directly by the virus and the stories that have been crafted around it. [WATCH NOW](#)



Positive Impact



Chosen:

TRANSGENDER REFLECTIONS
ON FAMILY

The OutMuseum exhibit Chosen: Transgender Reflections on Family, is an online exhibit featuring three digital programs exploring the theme of family from a trans point of view. Through conversation, through humor, through poetry, through storytelling, each program offers a profound reflection on the meaning of family and the trans experience. Curated by Kieran Medina. [WATCH NOW](#)



SANTA ROSA
JUNIOR COLLEGE

OLDER ADULTS PROGRAM SPRNG 2022
FREE ONLINE CLASSES

AGING GAYFULLY!
for older LGBTQ+ adults



WISDOM! LAUGHTER! CONNECTION!

Discover LGBTQ+ aging strategies and community support as you share your unique life experiences and sense of humor with your Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender peers!

OA505 Section 5121

INTRODUCTORY CLASS

Saturdays 11 am – 1 pm

January 22 – May 28, 2022

Offered Free Online via Zoom
OPEN TO ALL CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS!



**Instructor: Gary "Buz" Hermes MA
LGBTQ+ Aging Consultant**

Buz has facilitated workshops, classes, and discussion groups for the LGBTQ+ community for over thirty years. He now loves sharing his passion for empowering aging strategies with his peers. More bio info at <https://profiles.santarosa.edu/gary-hermes>

For more information go to www.aginggayfully.net or contact Buz at ghermes@santarosa.edu or (707) 227-6935

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ELDER LGBTQ+ LIFE STORY RECORDINGS

60+
LGBTQ+
AND HAVE
STORIES
OF
OAKLAND?

PAID

RECORDING LIFE
STORIES AND OAKLAND
MEMORIES WITH
LGBTQ+ PEOPLE AGE
60+ FOR A PROJECT
"MAPPING OAKLAND
QUEER HISTORIES"

GEMSHISTORIES@GMAIL.COM
341-226-6859



This project
is funded
by the City
of Oakland



FAMILY CAREGIVER ALLIANCE®
National Center on Caregiving

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

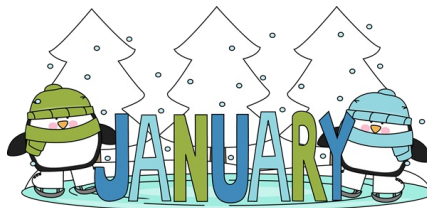
This award-winning program offers activities, education, support groups, and friendly conversation over the phone or online.

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)

At the time of this publishing the winter catalog is not posted yet.

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.



**Save
the
Date**

Out Standing Seniors - Hayward - Sponsored by Pacific Center

Jan 4 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. (1st Tuesday)

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

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

Living OUT in Livermore - Sponsored by Pacific Center

Jan 4, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. (1st Tuesdays)

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

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

LezBold Peer Support Group

Jan 6 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. (1st Thursday)

Meets via Zoom - email lezboldgroup@pacificcenter.org for info.

Find support and like-minded wonderful people!

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

Jan 6,13,20,27 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. (Thursdays)

email Anne@pacificcenter.org for current meeting information.

Free drop-in therapy group for LGBTQI community members age 60+

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

Jan 7,14,21,28 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. (Wednesdays)
email Anne@pacificcenter.org for current meeting information.
Free drop-in therapy group for LGBTQ community members age 60+

Older & Out Therapy Group - Berkeley - Sponsored by Pacific Center
Jan 3,10,17,24,31 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. (Fridays)
email Anne@pacificcenter.org for current meeting information.
Free drop-in therapy group for LGBTQI community members age 60+

Rainbow Seniors
Jan 11 & 25 12:30 p.m. (2nd & 4th Tuesdays)
San Leandro Senior Community Center
email rainbowseniors@gmail.com for info.
A welcoming space for LGBTQI seniors 50+ to share thoughts, feelings, resources, information, and support. FREE, though donations are welcome.

Lavender Seniors Board Meeting
Jan 12 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (2nd Wednesday) via Zoom
A portion of this meeting is open to the public.

Lavender Seniors Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch
Jan 8, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. (Making the Most of Our Medicare Benefits - see info above for joining us via Zoom)

Tri-Valley Rainbows - Sponsored by Pacific Center
Jan 20, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. (3rd Thursday)
Meets via Zoom email Anne@pacificcenter.org for info.
A welcoming space for LGBTQI seniors 50+ to share thoughts, feelings, resources, information, and support. FREE, though donations are welcome.

Oakland Third Friday Lunch Bunch
Sponsored by City of Oakland Aging/Adult Services & Lavender Seniors of the East Bay
Jan 21, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. (Organized Religion and Our Community see info above for joining us via Zoom)

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay Board of Directors

President: Victor Aguilar Jr
1st Vice President: Melissa West
Treasurer: Carmen Chiong
Secretary: John David Dupree

Founding Member: Barbara Jue
Member: Khilynn Fowler
Member: Nolan Quinabo

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

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

Mailing Address:

Newsletter Editorial
Board:
Beckie Underwood
John David Dupree

4100 Redwood Rd, Ste 20A #240
Oakland, CA 94619

Contact
Us

Website: <http://lavenderseniors.org>

