



Lavender Notes

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April 2022- Volume 28 Issue 4

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Morris Simpson
26th June 1922 – 18th March 2022

The Bay Area LGBTQ+ community lost one of its long-time activists, Morris Simpson, three months before his 100th birthday. Morris had been in failing health for the last year or so, deciding in September 2021 that he wanted to be assisted by hospice and take his last breath in his own Pt. Richmond home. A retired registered nurse moved into an upstairs bedroom at the home in order to facilitate that wish. When Morris died early Friday morning, 18th March, his nephew, Deren; his friend/nurse, Cynthia; and his housemate/nurse, Peter, were with him. Before his body was taken away for cremation, it was gently wrapped in the American flag from his own military service. Then those gathered with him – along with some long-standing neighbors – waved respectfully and quietly shot off some fireworks to celebrate a long life well-lived as Morris was taken away for the last time. He instructed, however, that his ashes be spread among the many fruit trees in his lush backyard.

Morris was born in New York, growing up in an Orthodox Jewish family, keeping Kosher dietary and culinary practices. Though he remained proud of his Jewish heritage throughout his life, he was not as observant as his parents had been nor was he as critical of the faith as some in his generation.

He was just 19 years old when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in December 1941, hurtling the U.S. into World War II. He served in the Army Air Corps three years before the U.S. Air Force was formed in 1947. Stationed in Florida for basic training, pilots, as well as navigators like Morris, were trained by Pan American Airlines staff – with their extensive trans-oceanic “China Clipper” experience.



Morris (rear 2nd from right) & B-17

During the first two years after the U.S. entered the war, teams flying B-17 missions in the European Theater only averaged about 11 missions before they were shot down, wounded, taken prisoner or killed. When Morris was posted to England in 1944, however, he successfully flew 37 missions (anyone who flew 25 missions automatically qualified for immediate return to the U.S.).

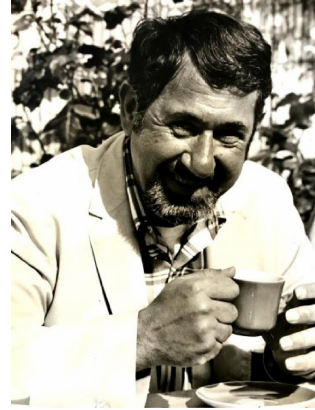
“Morris explained to me that his commanding officer refused to acknowledge that astounding record,” said Peter Manciocchi, Morris’s nurse/housemate the last six months of his life. “For some reason, the guy only wanted to give him credit for 36 missions, in spite of logs documenting all 37. Morris also was wounded by shrapnel in his neck – a frequently-fatal occurrence – miraculously saved by the neck mike that navigators and pilots on the ten-man crews of the B-17 ‘Flying Fortresses’ routinely wore for communication during those very noisy missions. Though imagery showed he still had shrapnel in his neck at the end of his life, he just self-administered a bandage at the time and wasn’t willing to report the incident for a Purple Heart award, because he didn’t want his mother to worry, receiving an alarming and routine form letter with little or no information about the circumstances generating the award. After VE Day on 8th of May 1945, many pilots were released, but navigators were still needed in the Pacific Theater before Victory over Japan was achieved between 15th August and 2nd September later that year. It must be remembered that these navigators had no sophisticated tracking equipment, just a compass, a sextant and plenty of math skills! It can be particularly difficult to navigate over water at night, even with 20-20 eyesight!”

Morris was discharged from the military in 1945 at the ripe old age of 23. Most of the B-17 bomber crews he’d flown with were in their teens and 20s. Of the nearly 4,000 “Flying Fortress” crew members known to be shot down in action, the Army Air Corps reported 54.4% did not survive. The majority of fatalities occurred before there were long-range escort jets routinely assigned to accompany the B-17s and B-29s in 1944-45.

Before the war, young Morris had worked part-time at Coney Island, where he reported seeing all of the “Big Bands” of the era, including Duke Ellington, Tommy Dorsey, Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller and Woody Herman. For the first few year after his discharge, he considered his options by doing a bit of a hop-scotch across the country, around the planet and various universities before he settled down.

“Uncle Morris graduated from Cooper Union in New York and then went to art school near Paris for a year,” according to his beloved nephew, Dr. Deren Sinkowitz,

of Manhattan Beach. "Then, after encounters with Frank Lloyd Wright and the University of Oklahoma, he wound up at UC-Berkeley, where he received his degree in architecture in the early 1950s. Then he pursued a career in his chosen field of architecture until his retirement in 1981 at age 59."



Morris in his 40s

Though he had lived through some of the darkest and most homophobic periods for the LGBTQ community – raids on bars, beaches and rest stops, public outing, McCarthy HUAC hearings and the "Lavender Scare", Morris remained proud of his gayness. He considered himself something of a serial monogamist, with mostly positive relationships over the years.

"Morris was such an inspiration to us in the 'We're Still Here' group, which he co-founded with Marlene Bonner back in August of 2008," recalls long-time group member, Polly Gassler. "He always kept us on track and provided support to any of us who might be going through a rough patch."

He did become involved in a bit of a legal hassle at one point that he brought up with the various support groups he was a member of.

"The one time I can remember us needing to support HIM – for nearly a year, I would guess – was after his last partner, Philip, died of cancer," Jumaane Makalani, another long-time group member, recalls. "A San Francisco house they had spent a lot of time together in was suddenly something Morris had to deal with. His attorney had advised him to publish a 'Legals' notice asking anyone with a stake in Philip's estate to contact the attorney by a certain date. Some alleged 'family members' – none of whom Phillip had ever mentioned – came out of the woodwork. There was a protracted and painful legal process before it was resolved by Morris paying them some small settlement to end the matter. It was a troubling episode for Morris, detracting a great deal from his ability to actually mourn Philip's loss."

Not only was Morris a co-founder for the "We're Still Here" group which met on the first Thursday of every month at the North Oakland Senior Center, but he was also the head cheerleader for the group's annual holiday party in December.



last holiday party, 2019

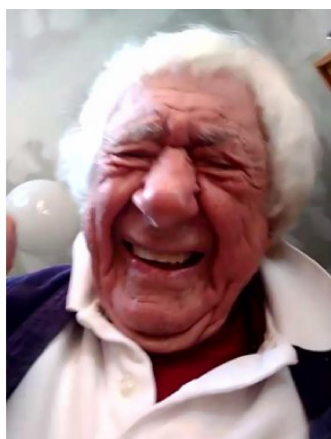
"Though he'd grown up Jewish in New York, he was chief organizer of the holiday party at Christmas time every year," Windsor Young, another group participant, recalls. "He always brought a big turkey, amazing green and red table coverings, centerpieces and the most elegant set of silverware for us all to use. Unfortunately, it broke his heart that the last time we could actually hold that event was in December 2019. I think the pandemic turned all of our worlds upside-down. Morris

continued coming to the Zoom gatherings, when he had assistance from either Clancy or Peter, but it was never the same for any of us as sitting around a table, laughing together and having a good time."

Morris's influence spread across at least the four immediate Bay-area counties. He was a regular member attending G-MOM (Gay Men of Marin) and of the senior program at the Rainbow Community Center in Concord. He had been active in Fellas of the East Bay, where he first met his close friends, Frank Dill and (now deceased) Francis Tom. The three of them were known to hop into Morris's car (he loved driving!) and hit events in all three of the counties, including the Lavender Seniors' Third Friday Lunch Bunch.



at RCC function



A tickled Morris at a Marin gathering, 2020

In Marin, Morris was a member of GMOM, attending dinners and other events. Morris was also active in The Spahr Center, Marin's only non-profit devoted to the LGBTQ+ community. He initiated a Men's Brown Bag Lunch that took place at Spahr's offices until the pandemic caused it to close down. He regularly attended the two monthly in-person discussion groups Spahr featured for the LGBTQ senior community, regaling us with his wit and graciousness. With the arrival of Covid, Spahr quickly moved to offer twice-weekly groups on zoom for seniors that Morris was also active in.

The Spahr Center will join with GMOM and the Social Committee, another grassroots LGBTQ group in Marin, to devote part of its newly rekindled in-person group, *Second Tuesday*, to memories of Morris. It takes place on April 12, 12:30 to 2:30, at the Margaret Todd Senior Center in Novato, 1560 Hill Road 94947. More details are available through Bill Blackburn, LGBTQ+ Senior Program Manager at the Spahr Center, bblackburn@thespahrcenter.org, or GMOM co-founder Rick Esparza, esparza44@verizon.net.

The "We're Still Here" group is planning to devote the Lavender Seniors Third Friday Lunch Bunch Zoom gathering, 17th June (commemorating Morris's 100th birth month) to celebrating his life. Details and Zoom coordinates will be in the June newsletter. Christopher Holden, senior program director at Concord's Rainbow Community Center, reports that there are currently no plans for such a gathering via RCC – which is in the process of moving to new facilities. He is, however, happy to hear from anyone interested in talking about Morris's impact via Christopher@rainbowcc.org.

Morris remained close to his family throughout his life. His older brother, Sid, and older sister, Ruth, predeceased him. His younger sister, Anita, her husband (also Morris) and her three children, Deren, Dana and Jan, saw each other regularly right to the end. There were frequent cross-country trips in both directions as Morris/Anita/Morris – the "trifecta" – traveled up and down both coasts, visiting Canada and National Parks throughout the



Morris, his nephew and grand-nephew
Morris's!

country. Morris had spent time in Japan and even made a trip to Greece at age 90, also enjoying the odd venture to a race track!

When his grand-nephew, Jake, attended Morris's alma mater (UCB), he had a second home whenever he needed it with "Uncle Morris" in nearby Pt. Richmond. It also gave nephew, Deren, and his wife, Mae, one more reason for regular visits to Berkeley and Pt. Richmond. In fact, when Jake graduated, there was a big celebration at

Never one to be held back, after having to give up driving a few years back, Morris arranged with the VA in Martinez to obtain a scooter which he bombed up and down the hills of Pt. Richmond with regularly until quite recently, when his balance became more of an issue for him.

For all of us who have a special place in our hearts for Morris – whatever our religious beliefs, if any – it might be a comfort to think of him bombing around with Phillip, with his parents, his siblings, old friends and fellow B-17 crew members on the great red scooter in the sky!



Morris, age 98, on scooter

John Haberkorn

10th October 1955 – 3rd March 2022

Long-time participant in Lavender Seniors and the Rainbow Community Center, John Haberkorn died on Thursday, 3rd March, after a lengthy struggle with cancer.

John was born in Chicago on 10th October 1955 to Joseph and Irene Haberkorn.

He met his spouse, Robert Chester "Woody" England in West Hollywood in late 1989. John was impressed that 19-year-old Woody was ambitious enough to be moonlighting two jobs, one as barback at REDS bar, as well as doorman at Revolver. They were together for nearly 33 years – literally half of John's 66 years – living first in Santa Monica and in Concord from 2012. They were married in a private ceremony at San Francisco City Hall on 20th April 2016.



John (left) and Woody, 2020

John is described by family and friends as being a funny, smart, easy-going, clever, selfless, inspirational, hard-to-anger man, who always made time for

other people.

John served in the U.S. Navy, spending a good deal of his time on a submarine. Woody describes one of the stories John loved most to tell about his time in the military, generally preceding it with "some of the ladies might not get or appreciate this story, but most of the gay guys probably will."

"One of John's responsibilities was to inspect uniforms on the submarine deck each morning," Woody recounts. "He told me – and others – countless times about the time one morning when he was going down the line – checking out each guy from head to toe, as usual. As he would go down the row, he'd look each guy over and say: "Next! Acceptable!" then "Next! Acceptable!" and so on. On this particular morning, he came up to one sailor – looking hot in his white uniform – but a bit disheveled with mussed-up hair, etc. As John did the top-to-bottom inspection, he could see that this guy had quite an obvious early-morning woodie that hadn't resolved yet. So John brought his gaze slowly – and probably somewhat flirtatiously – back up – looking the guy directly in the eyes and said 'OUTSTANDING' with a smug knowing smile on his face. There was just enough eye contact to see the sailor grin slightly before John moved on to the next guy and continued his 'Next! Acceptable', 'Next! Acceptable' through the rest of the inspection line. He never told me whether he ever got it on with that guy, but I know he always got a good laugh out of telling and re-telling that story to whoever would listen. On another somewhat ironic note, one of his favorite sayings was 'this, too, will pass'..."

John was very active in local organizations, including the Lambda Democratic Club of Contra Costa County. He attended the Third Friday Lunch Bunch with Lavender Seniors, both in person and, subsequently, post-pandemic on Zoom. He assisted with the "Communication Relieves Isolation" program at Lavender Seniors and was active in all aspects of the senior program at the Rainbow Community Center in Concord. He worked with City Councilmember, Carlyn Obringer, as well as with LGBT Youth groups. He volunteered as a Tax Accountant, Actuary and provided endless technical support, particularly to his many octogenarian friends. He was a Commissioner on the Concord Council on Aging. He and Woody participated in the Senior Christmas Gift Drive (BASTAS: Be a Santa to a Senior) at the Rainbow Community Center, resulting in seniors throughout Contra Costa County getting individualized Christmas gifts during that last Christmas before COVID turned all of our worlds upside-down.



John (right) with his always-present beloved dog, Lucy (far lower right), as well as Lambda Democratic Club colleagues

John is survived by his husband, Woody; his brothers, Dan (Nancy) Haberkorn and Joe (Nancy) Haberkorn; his sisters, Karen (Tim) Harrigan and Sheri (Matt) Mink. His sister, Karen, offered the following additional information for this tribute, on behalf of the Haberkorn family:

John was born and raised on the South side of Chicago. He attended Ste. Margaret of Scotland School and then St. Ignatius High School in Chicago his freshman year. He later transferred to Marist High School when the family moved from the Beverly area into Evergreen Park, Illinois. He attended St. John's University in Minnesota.

He joined the Navy after college, remaining in California after his discharge. It was in Southern California that he met Robert "Woody" England, his best friend, partner and spouse for 33 years. ♥.

John was known and loved by many for his kind, optimistic spirit, generosity and compassion.

He was the oldest of five children, the uncle of 17 and great-uncle of 9 and soon to be 11 :)

His family loved his sense of humor and ability to ALWAYS put a positive spin on everything! We will all miss him dearly



John with sisters and niece

Family and friends gathered on 19th March for a memorial service and mass at St. Alexander's Church in Palos Heights, IL. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations are suggested to the American Cancer Society, PO Box 42040, Oklahoma City 73123.

In the event a local – perhaps slightly "raunchy," his friends say – memorial service is arranged for John, this newsletter will make that announcement if/when it is arranged.

Meanwhile, because of several unresolved financial/housing-related

complications for Woody, a GoFundMe page has been set up to help him get through the next few months of potential instability in the face of his bereavement. <https://gofundme.com/f/john-and-woody-stability-fundraiser> Any donations will be appreciated.



Daniel Harris Sohn

Romania – one of those Eastern European countries that may be off the radar for many Americans – is back in the news again. It is one of those Ukraine-bordering countries that has so far welcomed nearly one-quarter million refugees from its war-torn neighbor to the north and east. It is also the birthplace of the man featured in this month's story of a member of the Bay area's LGBTQ community.

Daniel Harris Sohn and his twin brother, Oliver, were born in Bucharest, Romania, in January 1991, in the aftermath of the long-term civil strife ending in Communist President, Nicolae Ceaușescu, and his wife being tried, found guilty of genocide and sentenced to death by firing squad. At that point, there were an estimated 150,000 orphans resulting from both the apparent genocide, as well as the outlawing of both contraception and abortion for decades to meet Ceaușescu's short-sighted goal of "doubling" Romania's population after World War II.

"For whatever their reasons, our parents didn't feel like they could take care of two more kids," Daniel reports. "So my brother and I were among the thousands of adoptees that resulted from the international call for prospective adoptive parents who could provide a better future for kids like us. We were lucky that our Mom and her then-husband had traveled to Bucharest intent on adopting these adorable twin boys! In fact, our Mom temporarily overcame dealing with that stormy domestic relationship in order to continue appearing to be an ideal family for my brother and me. Soon after she got to the U.S. with us, she left her abusive husband and returned from the northeast to her parents and other family members in South Florida, where we grew up!"



Three-month-old Daniel and Oliver in a Bucharest hotel

Prior to the three months that their Mom spent in the Romanian capital city, she had been under the mistaken impression that she was coming to adopt twin girls.

"So little Daniel Harris Sohn and Oliver Coleman Sohn spent some of the first few months of their soon-to-be American lives dressed in pink and lilac," Daniel recalls, "since that was all

she brought with her for finalizing the adoption! Very fitting color choice, as it turns out!"

[Editor's Note: ABC's Diane Sawyer and Tom Jarriel produced "20/20" and "Turning Point" segments between 1990 and 1997 on the "Lost Children of Romania", Romanian adoptees, as well as orphans not adopted and still in the many poorly-run government orphanages. The disturbing Jarriel piece, "Shame of the Nation" can be seen at <https://mn.gov/mnddc/parallels2/one/video/2020shameofthenation.html> and a 1997 Sawyer-narrated Jarriel piece at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-YpcgvOB-4>, "Romania: What Happened to the Children?"]

Daniel has consulted with the American Embassy in Romania, the U.S. Institute of Human Rights and Diplomacy and various "child- and family-finder" organizations in an attempt to find out what happened with his biological parents, as well as an older brother and sister.

"Since I had such a wonderful childhood – being raised by a single Mom and some terrific grandparents," Daniel recalls, "I haven't really pursued these family-finder services. I've been very busy, of course, but there's also dealing with the fact that many people overseas seem to think all Americans are wealthy, so they might be disappointed to find they have just been discovered by ordinary shirt-tail relatives who are middle-class Americans. My brother may be more interested in pursuing this than I am, though we both consider ourselves American, our mother is our mother and we've had incredibly fantastic grandparents! Maybe some day.



Daniel and his twin brother grew up in Dania Beach, FL. He attended and graduated from Broward County's Eagle Charter Academy High School in nearby Lauderdale Lakes. While he was attending Broward State College, he began being involved politically.

"I started working in the Florida Legislature," Daniel recalls, "including, eventually, being a lobbyist, a district secretary and working as a legislative aide. I was Chief of Staff for a state senator. I campaigned and was elected as the first openly-LGBTQ City Councilman in the small Palm Beach County town of Haverhill. Because I believe our economy is bolstered largely by small business, I guess you'd call me a pro-business Democrat devoted to uplifting people and promoting business interests. This has included being involved initially with non-profit chambers of commerce, as well as for-profit chambers later on."

Though Daniel self-identifies as bisexual – his brother, Oliver, is gay – he also identifies as monogamous. He met his husband, Kai, on one of his frequent visits to his grandparents, at a time when his Hong-Kong-born spouse-to-be fortuitously was visiting in Palm Beach County, as well. Their February 2020 wedding made Florida history, being the first same-sex wedding to take place in the state capitol complex of Tallahassee.

"We definitely made news when we were married in the house minority office," Daniel recalls. "It was a memorable event for us, my family – and the Florida Democrats. The vow Kai and I made to each other was certainly one of the most significant things that has ever happened to me. It's a move I'll never forget and never regret."



Daniel and Kai, Florida State Capitol's First Same-Sex Wedding, February 2020, Daniel "weak-in-the-knees" saying "I do!"

Daniel considers himself a "CaliFloridian" since he and his husband, Kai, moved from Florida to California. After considering several jobs, Daniel is currently working as the CEO of a Bay Area Business Association. In addition to that job, he was nominated by Governor Gavin Newsom and appointed by the Biden administration to one of the five Selective Service positions in California. He and Kai attended the Victory Institute's celebration of LGBTQ Presidential appointments in Washington, DC, in December 2021.

"Since the military draft officially ended with the conclusion of the Vietnam War in 1973, many may think the Selective Service no longer exists," Daniel says. "But there is still a standing requirement that all males between ages 18 and 25 register with Selective Service. This is necessary in the event the President and Congress decide there's a military emergency and readiness for defending the country might be required urgently. There is still active debate in Congress about the Constitutionality of only registering males. Some sex discrimination suits have resulted in decisions that the males-only policy is unconstitutional. As a naturalized citizen, I can never run for President, so this is one way I can serve my country. I enjoy working with former military – including LGBTQ veterans – as well as with youth who might want to consider military service as a career, including its educational potential, civic duty and a way of demonstrating patriotism."



Steps on Political Ladder: City Councilman, Chief of Staff, Presidential Appointment (LGBTQ Victory Institute, December 2021)

Daniel and his brother's "coming out" to family as bisexual and gay, respectively – such as it was – went relatively smoothly by comparison with many others in the community.

"When we were growing up, no pejorative terms were allowed in the house," Daniel recalls. "We couldn't call somebody 'fat' or use any sexist, racist, homophobic or anti-semitic slur whatsoever. Everybody was warmly accepted in our home and my grandparents' homes. I'm not sure my brother or I have ever actually 'come out' to our mother, but I don't think either of us ever had 'the talk' with her or feared we would be rejected by her or my beloved grandmother, who we lost at age 101 in January of last year. I miss her so much that I still talk with her regularly. My aunt and cousins in New Jersey –

who I'm fairly close to – as well as my uncle and cousins in Israel – who I don't know that well – also seem to be fine with both me and Oliver being members of the LGBTQ community.”

Daniel has a number of things on his personal, professional and political bucket list.

“I don't suffer from perpetual wander-lust,” Daniel says, “though I'd like to see a number of the world's landmarks, like the Great Pyramids and the Wailing Wall. Kai would like to go to France. I've always been fascinated by tiger and lion cubs and have gone swimming with the dolphins when I was a teenager. I also love dogs. In fact, I have thought about stipulating in my will one day that my ashes be scattered in Costa Rica's 'Land of the Strays' – also known as 'Territorio de Zaguates'. As for any professional or political aspirations, I'll take that one step at a time – I might move up in the Chamber of Commerce sector, might run for office again one day or be appointed to other political positions.”

Whatever the future holds for him, Daniel is forever grateful to the woman who traveled across the Atlantic to try to provide a nurturing home for two of the many neglected Romanian kids.

“Mom has such a big heart,” Daniel says fondly. “And though I consider myself to be fighting for the many underdogs in our society, she has always provided the best model and inspiration for that part of me. Every advocate needs an advocate!”



Fighting for the Equal Rights Amendment – and his Advocate Mom sitting at his desk

Thank you for sharing so much of your story with Lavender Seniors, Daniel, one of Romania's gifts to the U.S. Good luck to you and Kai as you make your way through what promises to be very productive lives!



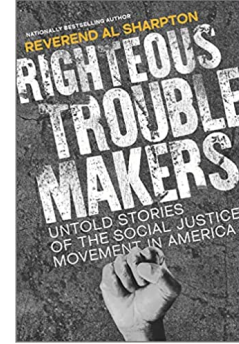
BOOK REVIEW

Righteous Troublemakers: Untold Stories of The Social Justice Movement in America

by Rev. Al Sharpton

It all starts in the summer of 2020 at the steps of the Lincoln

Memorial where Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his "I Have A Dream" speech in 1963. At the "Get Your Knees Off Our Necks" march led by Sharpton, a man who was at the original march says "I'll keep coming back until we see justice". This includes women rights, gay rights and environmental justice.



The George Floyd murder gets big attention.

Rev. Al Sharpton is the host of MSNBC's "PoliticsNation". His radio show is "Keepin' It Real".

- Frank J. Howell

Bonus Book Review



Against the Current: Coming Out in the 40's

Written by Beverly Hickok (a long-time Lavender Seniors participant)

Reviewed by Dr. John David Dupree

I became a Lavender Seniors board member in April 2014, almost exactly eight years ago. I have seen a parade of amazing individuals, couples and groups from the local LGBTQ+ senior ranks during that time. As soon as I joined the board, I became proactive on several levels, largely because of my own personal interests, but also out of concern for promoting wellness and increased self-esteem among LGBTQ+ seniors in the East Bay.

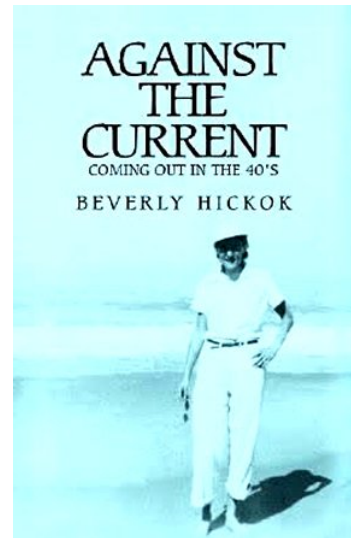
One of those commitments relevant to belatedly reviewing this 2003 book, written by and given to me by its author back in the summer of 2014 is as follows:

I proposed in May 2014 we have a running "Stories of Our Lives" column published in our monthly newsletter to better acquaint LGBTQ+ seniors and our allies with the many outstanding accomplishments of people in our community. I would interview people, collect descriptive photographs from them and write a draft for their review prior to publication in the newsletter – incidentally, the 100th of these profiles will appear this year. I won't bore readers with details of the other "innovations" I proposed, but will just quickly name them: a monthly LGBTQ+-themed film series (ran Third Wednesdays from May 2014 until the pandemic closed them down in March 2020); alternating education and entertainment following each of the three (at the time) "congregant meals" programs, two of which have continued via Zoom since March 2020.

One of the first orders of business in actualizing the "Stories of Our Lives" focus was finding people willing to be interviewed, to scour albums, computer drives and shoeboxes for photos depicting various chapters of their lives; then, finally, see themselves "outed" somewhat via on-line and snail-mailed issues of

the newsletter. It seemed paramount to try to capture the vital stories of the 30+ people considered to be co-founders or early participants in the organization. Three names that came up from various quarters almost immediately were: Beverly Hickok, Bea Howard and Natalie Zarchin. The last two of these outstanding women were only acknowledged via posthumous tributes in the newsletter, though contact had been made with all three.

The only one of these three I actually visited on the "Stories of Our Lives" mission and tried to set up an interview date with was Beverly Hickok (also spelled Hickock, which she didn't mind, though it wasn't how her name appeared on her birth certificate or in her family). We met at her place in El Cerrito early in the summer of 2014. She was a bit under the weather, so I didn't stay long, but she gave me this book as an introduction to who she was – and a source of info for the upcoming interview. Unfortunately, on 9th October 2014, less than three weeks before her 95th birthday, she died. The interview never took place. I recently came across that third-person semi-autobiographical book. Only now – nearly eight years later – am I getting to know more about Beverly Hickok and finally reviewing the book she gave me so many years ago.



As the title suggests, this novel describes a very different – and difficult – time in the evolution of LGBTQ+ rights and awareness in the U.S. Hickok was already 23 years old when I was born in 1942. She had been struggling with her sexuality since she was in high school. While in college, she had an extremely erotic dream about one of her female instructors, which threw her into a most confusing period of fear and anxiety. She left the Bay area – where she grew up – for college in Southern California to prevent embarrassing her parents with her coming out. Her brief foray into the teaching profession – traumatic to her – was followed by joining the U.S. Navy WAVES, where she found other lesbian recruits and a certain amount of collegiality.



As a WW-II Navy WAVE; As a Librarian for three decades; In retirement, also a Lavender Seniors and OLOC volunteer

After earning her master's degree in Library Science, she was hired by UC-Berkeley, where she created the Transportation Library in 1948, a post she held 34 years until her 1982 retirement. She lived for 41 years with her first long-term partner, photographer Cecil (Cece) Davis, until Cece's death in 1988.

Her second long-term partner was Doreen Brand; they legally married after 18 years together in 2008, staying together for 21 years until Doreen's death in 2011. She and Doreen helped found Lavender Seniors and OLOC (Old Lesbians Organizing for Change).

Hickok was interviewed in 2003 by the aforementioned Bea Howard for the Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project (OLOHP). To read more: <https://olohp.org/beverly-hickock.html> (notice the alternative spelling of her surname on this site). Her papers are part of the **June L. Mazer Lesbian Archives** at UCLA.

This book offers a brilliant, sometimes disturbingly familiar view into the difficulties of growing up LGBTQ in the 1930s-1940s. I recommend it to people of any age, whether LGBTQ+ or not.

-- 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!



It’s Time for for full-throttle Community Inclusion!

Hearing from an “Inclusionist”

The LGBTQ community has long – sometimes unrealistically – prided itself on its “inclusiveness” of all members, whatever their sexuality, gender identity, public personae and politics. Over the years, policies like requiring multiple ID to get into establishments, denying minority participants participation in certain activities and even poor exclusionary comments in personal ads (e.g., “no fats, no femmes, no blacks, no muslims,” etc., in personal ads tell a different story.



A Bay area woman known as “The Inclusionist” will be on hand to walk us through some of the past, current and future practices that can help facilitate a more-inclusive feeling in our

community.

Simma Lieberman, internationally known as “The Inclusionist,” creates inclusive cultures where people love to do their best work, and customers love to do business. She is a diversity and inclusion/culture change consultant, speaker, and coach. She has the unique ability to bring people together from diverse, disparate backgrounds to engage in constructive dialogue that results in dramatic improvements in the way they interact and work with each other.

Simma was raised in the Bronx, New York, where she developed a passion for diversity and inclusion. She moved to Eugene, Oregon, an initial culture shock, and now lives in the San Francisco Bay Area. She is a member of the Diversity Community Exchange (DiCE), a multi-cultural organization of people in the US and Europe, who are well-known for their ability to facilitate dialogues amongst people from different racial, ethnic, cultural, and religious backgrounds, political beliefs, genders, gender identities, ages and sexual orientations.

She has worked with such organizations as: Diageo, Motorola, ABM Janitorial,

Pillsbury Bakeries & Foodservice, Kimpton Hotels and Restaurants, Chevron, Briefings Media, Kaiser Permanente, City of San Francisco, Lockheed Martin, American and Empresarial.

Her articles and advice have been featured in such publications as Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Forbes.com, Fast Company, Newsday, CNN.com, Fox.com, Black MBA, Restaurant Hospitality, Managing Diversity Journal, Workforce Diversity Network, and Your Cheating Spouse.com.

Simma co-authored two books. "Putting Diversity to Work, how to successfully lead a diverse workforce" and "The Diversity Calling; building diverse communities, one story at a time."



Simma is a co-host of SWIRL radio, an LGBT-produced talk show that can be heard on AM radio in several cities across the US and on-line. (for more info on local access:

<https://tunein.com/podcasts/LGBT/Swirl-Radio-p214518/>).

She is a former co-chair of the San Francisco Regional Council of Out and Equal.

Here are the Zoom coordinates for Saturday, 9th April, 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: The Inclusionist – Simma Lieberman

Time: Saturday, March April 9th, 2022 – 12:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

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/hear you there!



What is HRC's "Health and Aging" Program?

Many of us may have been donating regularly to HRC (Human Rights Campaign) since its inception in 1980 – maybe even attending the odd HRC

“Gala” in Washington, DC. Some may not be aware, however, of their “Health and Aging Program” and what it does for LGBTQ+ seniors – or younger people in the LGBTQ+ community hurtling (inevitably/providentially) toward senior status!

Fear of discrimination causes many LGBTQ+ people to avoid seeking medical care, mental health or social services. And when they do get treatment or services, studies have shown that LGBTQ+ people are often not treated with the respect or cultural competence that all patients and clients deserve. This combination of situations can lead to health-threatening depression, isolation and negative self-esteem, among other negative side-effects.

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation’s Health & Aging Program works tenaciously to inform and transform the policies, practices and culture of the healthcare industry to better serve their LGBTQ+ patients and employees. Through resources and training, the team helps thousands of healthcare facilities adopt LGBTQ-inclusive policies and practices.



Guiding us in this discussion will be Dan Stewart, MSG, Associate Director of the Aging Equality Project at the HRC Foundation. A proud Chicano, Indigenous, transgender man, and gerontologist, Dan has ten years of experience in the aging and LGBTQ+ advocacy fields, in addition to his Master's in Gerontology. He melds his experiences in the aging field, his former work as an academic, and years of dedicated advocacy to expand equality for LGBTQ+ people across the age spectrum. After our check-in and his presentation, there will be plenty of time for Q&A to get all of those questions answered!



Senior in an HRC T-Shirt



Inter-Generational HRC Function

Details for this month’s Zoom gathering are as follows:

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay invites you to a series of Zoom meetings.

Topic: Third Friday Lunch Bunch

Friday, 15th April 2022 – 12 Noon until 2pm Pacific Daylight Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85235825964?pwd=WmptRG5SU2RDVUNyQ1hFWGM2NlZOQT09>

Meeting ID: 852 3582 5964 – Passcode: 569546

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

Meeting ID: 852 3582 5964 – Passcode: 569546

Hopefully, you can join us for this vital discussion. Whether you can join us or not, we wish you peace, health and happiness for the rest of 2022 and beyond!



A free 10-week group to explore issues of aging in the LGBTQ+ community while caring for ourselves or others

This is a free 10 session group focusing on issues of aging for the full spectrum of the senior LGBTQ+ community. Through personal exploration, group support and education, we will explore topics of interest for people caring for someone or for themselves. Such topics include facing medical illness, caring for self while caring for another, planning for your future, and legal issues for LGBT+ singles or couples.

Mondays 2-3:30 PM on Zoom
April 25-June 27, 2022
July 18-September 26, 2022
October 24-December 26, 2022

For program information and sign-up, **Call: 1-510-736-5428 or email BJue@lavenderseniors.org (Write “Caring Program” on the subject line) leave your phone number, e-mail address, and full name.** Someone from Lavender Seniors will call you to discuss the program.

“This support was critical to my success in caregiving, and critical to my personal well being physically and emotionally while caregiving.”

“This is beyond peer-to-peer counseling.”

Group facilitator is Dr. Melinda Ginne. She is a clinical psychologist with a 40-year career specializing in geriatrics and the treatment of the psychological aspects of acute chronic and life-threatening medical illness. She is one of the founding instructors in the Professional Program in Aging and Mental Health at

UC Berkeley Extension. In the past two decades she has taught a number of classes and workshops in aging as well as in the psychological aspects of medical illness. She has been active in the LGBTQ+ community since 1975.



Sponsors: Amazon Foundation & Give Now Fund of Horizons Foundation

Transgender Day of Visibility

Thursday, March 31, 2022
Civic Park, 1375 Civic Dr, Walnut Creek



All are welcome!

*Transgender identified community members and allies
are invited to be a part of this event.*

4:30pm- Gather at the Gazebo to make signs and mingle

5:00pm- Hear from our Trans Siblings

5:30pm- Witnessing w/ signs, at the corner of Civic & Broadway

Co-Sponsored by:



For more information please contact:

Kiku Johnson, Executive Director of RCC at kikujohnson@rainbowcc.org

Elsie Mills from MDUUC at emills1948@gmail.com

Reverend Will McGarvey at interfaithcocc@gmail.com.



Oakland Gay Men's Chorus
Dr. Ben Riggs, Artistic Director

Be the Change

Saturday, April 9, 7:30 P.M.

First Presbyterian Church of Alameda

Sunday, April 10, 4:00 P.M.

First Presbyterian Church of Oakland

OaklandGMC.org/tickets

    Contact@OaklandGMC.org



OAKLAND GAY MEN'S CHORUS Presents the 2022 Spring Concert By Mel Terry

The Beatles exclaimed "We All Want To Change The World!" To paraphrase Mahatma Gandhi: "Be the Change You Want to See in the World."

Well, I guess that still rings true, especially in these troubling times. We have all gone through so much unwanted change in the last two years it's time for something intentional.

The Oakland Gay Men's Chorus presents our 90-minute, 2-act spring concert "Be The Change."

Our repertoire, including "The Awakening," "Seize the Day" (from Newsies), "Let the Music Fill Your Soul" and "Prayer of the Children," takes us through a journey of coming from the darkness of deprivation to enlightenment, embracing our fellow humans, and taking up the challenge to make the world a better place for us all.

The pieces run the gamut of tender soulful ballads "Love is All that Matters" written by our talented chorus member Wally Bee, to the rousing exhortation. "Make Them Hear You" (from Ragtime)

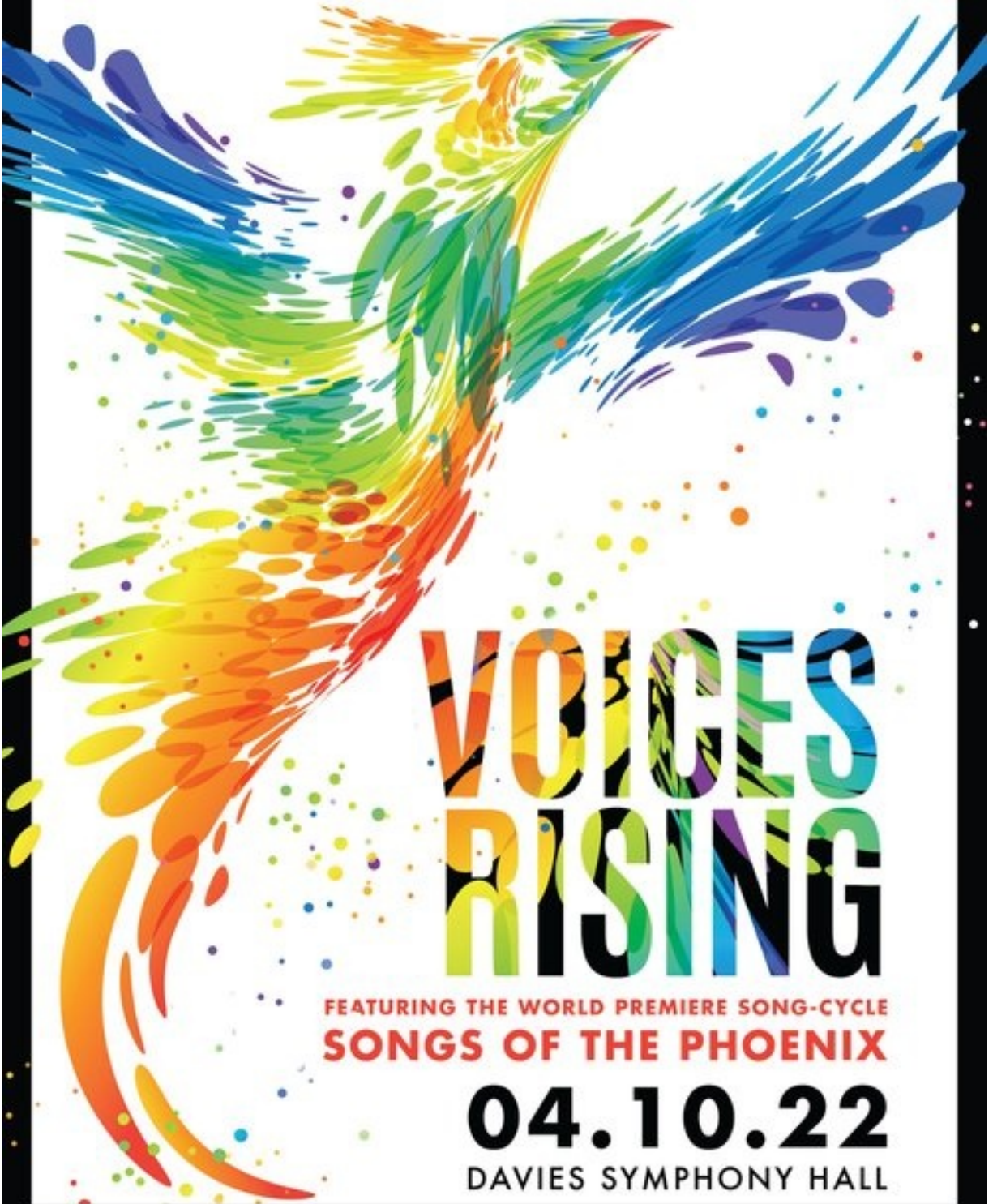
"Look Out Above," arranged for OGMC by composer Jocelyn Hagen and Minneapolis-based hip hop artist Dessa, is a rhythmic ditty with a hip-hop flavor and delightful body percussion.

We the chorus, are doing what we can to be the catalyst for transformation through song, and are delighted to have our audience accompany us on this journey. This concert will entertain you, lift you up, and inspire you to be the change you want to see. We will love to see you there.

SAVE THE DATES:
Saturday April 9, 2022
7:30 PM
First Presbyterian Church, Alameda
Sunday April 10, 2022
4:00PM
First Presbyterian Church, Oakland

[BUY TICKETS NOW](#)

SAN FRANCISCO GAY MEN'S CHORUS



VOICES RISING

FEATURING THE WORLD PREMIERE SONG-CYCLE
SONGS OF THE PHOENIX

04.10.22

DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

SFGMC.ORG



415.392.4400

San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus presents
VOICES RISING
featuring **SONGS OF THE PHOENIX**

A World Premiere Song Cycle
Commissioned by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus
Dr. Timothy Seelig, Artistic Director
Curated by Andrew Lippa

DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL
Sunday, April 10, 2022 (7:30pm)

[Get Tickets](#)



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, 4/13, 4/27

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 Kay George

Newcomers Welcome

Mondays, 3/28, 4/11, 4/25

Are you confused about how to start "connecting" with Well Connected? We will guide you through the process of making that first phone call or how to join online. Learn about what those icons mean in the catalog, or how to take a turn to talk. No question is too silly or simple! Facilitated by Donna Mossholder

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.



**Save
the
Date**

Out Standing Seniors - Hayward - Sponsored by Pacific Center

Apr 5 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

Apr 5, 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

Apr 7 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

Apr 7,14,21,28 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

Apr 6,13,20,27 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. (Wednesdays)

email Anne@pacificcenter.org for current meeting information.

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

Older & Out Therapy Group - Berkeley - Sponsored by Pacific Center
Apr 1,8,15,22,29 - 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

Apr 12 & 26 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

Apr 13 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

Apr 12, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. (The Inclusionist – Simma Lieberman - see info above for joining us via Zoom)

Tri-Valley Rainbows - Sponsored by Pacific Center

Apr 21, 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

Apr 15, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. (HRC's Health & Aging Program - see info above for joining us via Zoom)

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay Board of Directors

President: Victor Aguilar Jr

Vice President: Melissa West

Treasurer: Carmen Chiong

Secretary: Dr. 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

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Newsletter Editorial
Board:

Beckie Underwood
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