



# Lavender Notes

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*May 2022- Volume 28 Issue 5*

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**SPECIAL  
EVENTS**

*Save the Celebration Date!*

## *Memorializing Morris*

Some of us are only slightly recovering from the loss of Morris Simpson, age 99+, since his death on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March. Whether we were his family members, friends, neighbors or attended events at the Rainbow Community Center in Contra Costa County, the Spahr Center in Marin County or the Lavender Seniors events in Alameda County, many of us have been feeling deeply the loss of one of the wise (and fun!) elders of our community.



A number of his family members, friends, participants in the "We're Still Here" and "Third Friday Lunch Bunch," friends and colleagues in the GMOM (Gay Men of Marin) group at the Spahr Center and regular attendees in the Senior Programs at Rainbow Community Center will hold a Celebration of Morris's Life during the regularly-scheduled Zoom gathering, 12-2pm as the entire focus of next month's Third Friday Lunch Bunch, 17<sup>th</sup> of June, nine days before Morris's

100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Though some may prefer just to watch and listen, anybody wanting to share a memory, poem, photo, song or story will be able to raise his/her/their hand in the Zoom window and be called on by the host in the order that the hand goes up. Not exactly your father's memorial service, as some might say, when we would likely rather gather together, hug and comfort each other at some place like the North Oakland Senior Center, where Morris spent so much time. If he was in town and not in sick bay, he could always be seen there on the First Thursday and the Third Friday of every month in recent memory (until Covid forced us – including Morris – to Zoom).

Please save the date and time to celebrate our friend and mentor. More details and Zoom coordinates will appear in the June newsletter.



## Ann Valliant

From a farm girl in northwest Arkansas in the 1940s to an accomplished carpenter in 1970s Massachusetts to a business operations consultant for businesses in the Bay Area beginning in the 1980s to proud member of OLOC, this month's featured LGBTQ+ senior community member has hop-scotched around the country wearing various personal and professional hats.

Margaret Ann Valliant was born in August 1945 in Brady, Texas, the second of four children – two boys and two girls – to a truck driver and his wife. When Ann was a year old, part of her extended family moved from central Texas to Northwest Arkansas.

"The family migration," Ann reports, "included nine family members, besides the four of us: Mother's parents, Nanee and Daddy Jim; her youngest brother, her older sister, brother-in-law and their four kids. Daddy wanted to live in hills and woods, rather than the flat treeless semi-desert terrain of central Texas. Then there were the rumors about Daddy Jim needing to leave Texas because of killing a guy in a knife fight and selling bags of 'sheep-sheared' wool that actually had a lot of fence-snagged wool hidden among the good stuff."

The family first settled on a farm on Coon Creek in Benton County about five miles from Cherokee City, Arkansas, population 50.



Ann, age 7, 1952

"Nanee and Daddy Jim ran a little corner store in Cherokee City where we visited every Sunday," Ann recalls. "When I was five, we moved to a farm near Maysville, Arkansas, on the Oklahoma border – population 35 – which is what I consider to be my 'hometown'. After we'd finish our chores in the summertime, my sister Dixie, brother Allen and I would pick some icebox watermelons from our big kitchen garden and carry them a mile or so barefoot down the dirt road to swim in Spavinaw Creek. We'd play in the creek 'til our lips turned blue, then break open the melons on the rocks, dig out the fruit with our hands, then have

watermelon rind fights, finally walking back up the hill before suppertime. It was a pretty wonderful life, in many ways. The combination of hard work and lots of independent playtime made us pretty resourceful at an early age. Our parents taught us how not to get snakebit and how not to fall off the bluffs, but otherwise we were pretty much on our own after chores were done. I don't know of a single kid who died from roaming wild like that in those woods!"

At age 10 at Maysville Elementary School, Ann became very active in 4-H (Head, Heart, Hands, and Health, for those who might not have come from rural or farming backgrounds).

"My 4-H activities were the centerpiece of my life on and off the farm," Ann says, "That got me my first taste as a community activist. We organized and documented events and projects, in addition to the hard farm work we all were involved in. We were expected to do whatever we were capable of as soon as we could, as part of the labor force that kept family and farm going. I was accepted and approved of for my competence at so many things. For 4-H, you had to keep good records on, for example, how many jars of food you'd canned. When I was ten, Mother had a serious bout with rheumatoid arthritis, so my two-years-younger sister, Dixie, and I cooked breakfast for the whole family: biscuits, gravy, eggs, coffee, oatmeal, pancakes and all. After Mother's condition worsened, Dixie and I also cooked supper most of the time, plus lunches in summertime and on weekends."



Ann (R), Mother, sis & brothers



on typical 4-H local farm tour



Daddy with fox hounds and trophies

Her sense of humor also shines through as she discusses graduating "at the bottom of my 8th grade graduating class." There were only three in that class. Graduating from high school in nearby Gravette, she would rank fifth out of 47. The school bus between Maysville and Gravette provided a smooth ride since the road was one of the few recently-paved highways in the area.

Because of her skills developed at home and in 4-H, at age 16, she won the Arkansas State Foods and Nutrition Award, earning her a trip to the 1961 National 4-H convention in Chicago.

"I took a bus to Little Rock and a train to Chicago, then stayed on the 16<sup>th</sup> floor of the Conrad Hilton, overlooking Lake Michigan," Ann recalls. "It was the biggest hotel in the biggest city on the biggest lake this farm girl had ever seen!"

During her senior year in high school, Ann's mother came home from a PTA meeting with the news that the home economics and bookkeeping teachers had taken her aside and suggested Ann showed such promise that she should apply for college. They would help her.

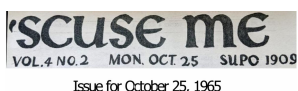
"It took me about 30 seconds to agree that this would be a good idea," Ann says. "Those two set me up with all of the paperwork for applying to the University of Arkansas. Unfortunately, Mother died about a week before I got the acceptance letter. Mother's death blew the family apart: she was the glue that held the family together. Dad always had a short fuse and losing her shortened that fuse considerably. I decided that I needed to get out while the getting was good. Daddy, Dixie and Allen drove me 50 miles to Fayetteville so I could start 1963 summer school there rather than waiting for the fall. This move changed my life in countless ways."

Before describing the rest of her life, Ann cited two steps in the evolution of her own sexuality.

"When I was nine or ten years old, I sat between two older girls, Shirley and Peggy, and could feel the warmth between them flowing through me," Ann recalls. "It was an absolutely DELICIOUS feeling! One day Shirley disappeared and Mother explained that Shirley's parents had decided she and Peggy were getting too close so they sent Shirley to live with a relative. It shook me to think that such a delicious feeling could be wrong. Later, one of my money-making projects as a teenager was gathering black walnuts to sell in Gravette. In order to have more to sell, sometimes I would climb up into the tree and shake the branches, knocking many more walnuts loose to be picked up. One day, I was straddling one of these large branches, shaking it for all I was worth, and I noticed this fascinating sensation coming up from my crotch. Though I never actually achieved an orgasm that way, I could certainly tell that there was some sort of magic happening down there. Of course, I had no words for what I was feeling; neither orgasm, homosexuality, gay nor lesbian was in our small-town vocabulary."

Because of her connections, she was one of the 50 girls housed at the University's 4-H House.

"This large house, sponsored by the Home Demonstration Clubs of Arkansas, had us assigned two to a room," Ann says. "I liked my roommate a lot, as well as most of the other Arkansas farm girls who lived there. Though I had thought teaching was a girl's only option, I was drawn almost immediately to sociology because of its exploration of cultural differences. I learned about architecture, European classical music and lots of middle-class and urban issues for the first time. Rural and farm values applauded competence in girls like me who could milk cows, raise pigs and even build houses like I did with Daddy and my older brother. But at the UofA, girls had to wear dresses even going to gym class! What was more of an adventure, however, was when I started going to the Methodist Student Union and participating in political activism for the first time. My activism got me kicked out of the 4-H house, after which I lived one year in a dorm, where I was also kicked out for being a bad influence – ostensibly for not emptying my waste basket every day."



Ann also became involved in production of an underground newsletter, *'Scuse Me*, mimeographed and distributed early in the morning before the students publishing it could get caught.

"We covered controversial issues like black civil rights and 'in loco parentis' in that publication," Ann recalls. "For instance, the record-winning football coach

at the UofA was on record saying he would resign before he would allow any black players on the college team. In the 1960s, I was aware of only about nine black students on the campus.”

Ann registered black voters in Birmingham, marched on Montgomery, and raised money to rebuild a burned black church in Mississippi. In 1965, the black elementary school in Fayetteville, AR, was going to be closed and black children integrated into the white schools. At the suggestion of their black teacher, Ann taught Spanish to the elementary school students so they would have some knowledge in middle school that the white students hadn't yet learned.

Ann married a man, a conscientious objector opposed to the Vietnam War, and began four years of draft counseling to help men avoid the draft.

“In 1966, Rip and I moved to Stillwater, OK, where I got my degree in Political Science at OSU,” Ann says. “In 1967, we packed up our pick-up truck and headed for New York City, stopping to visit friends in Bloomington, home of Indiana University. His mother in Texas warned him the draft board was looking for him, so he got an alternative service job in Bloomington Hospital to continue his deferment. I went to work in the IU Sociology Department and started attending women's liberation meetings in 1968. It was such a breath of fresh air to be in a situation where women – strangers to each other – were telling the truth to each other about our lives. Rip and I separated. He became involved with another woman and I got involved with another man who introduced me to psilocybin mushrooms and my first orgasm! Previously in my life, it had felt strictly forbidden to touch yourself 'down there', much less let somebody else do that!”

The one lesbian she knew made Ann feel leery about being gay.

“That woman had another horror story – like Shirley being separated from Peggy when I was in grade school,” Ann recalls. “When the woman's parents found out she was a lesbian, they committed her to a mental institution. The only way she got out was to make out with a gay man in the lobby to 'prove' they were straight, at which time they were both released, still gay as they'd always been. So my feelings for women remained sublimated, totally non-sexual. To my surprise, I met a woman at a women's liberation meeting who instantly and totally captivated me. Cynthia Hales gave me my first clue that I was into butch women. She showed up looking sharp in a well-ironed shirt, a vest, nicely-creased pants and shiny black shoes, talking about class differences. She not only taught me about class issues I'd been unaware of, she also showed me what would work for regularly giving me amazing orgasms!”

While Ann was still in Bloomington, she, Cynthia and many other members of the Women's Liberation Support Group took a karate class to learn self-defense. Cynthia went on to earn her black belt and teach karate in San Francisco.

In 1971, Ann and Cynthia moved to New Hampshire to help turn an apple orchard organic. That was where she first met Cathy Cade, a beginning photographer, soon to become an outstanding Bay Area photographer. Her photos are now archived at UC Berkeley's Bancroft Library.



First Cathy Cade Photo

"One of our Bloomington friends, Ruth Mahaney, arrived with Cathy," Ann recalls. "They had recently become lovers, the first lesbian relationship for both of them. Cathy took this great shot of me and has since documented much of my life in photographs. After the apple harvest that year, Cynthia and I moved to Provincetown, into a lesbian-owned house needing renovation, right up my alley. We lived rent-free in exchange for my carpentry work. Our relationship wound up having too many issues, so I was soon on the prowl for another woman. I met Maria at a bar across the street from our house and I soon moved into her apartment in Boston. We met a lot of lesbians, some of whom I worked with to develop a "Womancraft" course

to help women develop healing, psychic and other traditionally female skills. It was in that context that I composed 'I Am Woman' which is still available in various versions on the internet."

(Editor's note: See one version at <https://northerncrone.wordpress.com/2007/01/11/ann-valliant-i-am-woman/>)



1971 Carpenter in Kitchen Apron

Ann also volunteered at Rosie's Place, a homeless women's shelter in Boston. There Ann met and became involved with two other women. One was a Catholic nun from New York, who was lovers with two other nuns in the same order. The other was Nadine. The two of them moved out to California from Boston, where they felt inter-racial couples would be more welcomed. That turned out to be true.

"Two waves of friends arrived from Boston," Ann recalls. First came Nadine and I, our friend Lavidia, and two dogs. Next came a family who were our closest interracial friends, Lovey and her four children. Through Lovey, I soon met one of the major players in my life, Bobbi LaNoue.

Early in our relationship, I inexplicably began child-proofing the house and having never-before-considered visions of having a child. Bobbi and I, with help from Cathy Cade, looked for a donor and found a gay man who was visiting from Seattle. As I was inseminating in the back seat of a car in the Golden Gate Park, I had to laugh about my mother's many efforts to keep me from getting pregnant in the back seat of some Arkansas farmboy's car! Our son, Loren, was born in 1981, with a home birth, assisted by a lesbian ob-gyn and a straight midwife!"



Before, during and after the pregnancy – Ann and Bobbi, then with baby Loren – Photos by Cathy Cade

Dealing with addiction in friends, lovers and herself has played a significant role in Ann's life.

"I was fairly astute at recognizing problems with addiction in others." Ann says bluntly. "Right before Christmas 1981, my Boston friend, Kathleen, suggested I should go to Al-Anon, a 12-Step program for families of alcoholics. It soon became clear I needed to work on myself. Though I'd always thought I could control my drug and alcohol use, I became compulsive about both. I passed out one night. Promptly the next morning, I went to a women's Narcotics Anonymous meeting close to our house, at the Brick Hut. I decided to take a break from serial monogamy, so was single for more than a decade. Bobbi and I continued raising Loren together, though we no longer lived together. Life became much less lesbian-centered and involved much more dealing with schools, parents of Loren's classmates, etc."

It was during this somewhat chaotic period that Ann began her contact with the Siddha Yoga Ashram in Oakland, including meditation, ashram projects and meeting Gurumayi.

"I came out of a fog I'd been in for years," Ann explains. "I'd been focused almost exclusively on being a welfare mother, attending 12-step programs and little else. I found myself crying at Gurumayi's feet. Life turned around after that. I have been a committed devotee of Gurumayi's since 1982."

Soon after this meeting, Ann began finding new goals and challenges in her life.

"I took a computer course at Berkeley City College and realized that some of the new spreadsheet programs were going to revolutionize business practices," Ann says. "Even my one-woman carpentry business could've benefited from this. As a result, I developed the most wonderful career from the mid-1980s until my retirement in 2020. I helped businesses, large and small, established and start-up,



Ann as Business Operations Consultant

to use whatever computer programs they might need to optimize success of their enterprises. What a gift that gave me! And I hope it was helpful to them, as well!"

In 1999, Ann started going to same-sex partner dances in Oakland and meeting the butch-femme community, coming out as femme.

"When I was finally able to own that I was most attracted to masculine women, after a dozen years of being single, I met Marilyn one night out dancing," Ann recalls. "We were together for eight years and were actually married at the First Unitarian Church of Oakland. But we drifted apart, and we broke up a couple years later. After decades of being clean and sober, I began using again. I moved up to women's land north of Jenner for a couple of years to sort things out. On February 28, 2012 I had come into town for Texas Rose, one of the same-sex dances., when a woman looked at my 'Ann V' nametag on my high-femme outfit and asked incredulously, 'Are you Ann *Valliant*?' I found out later that she'd heard about me living in a trailer house off the grid on women's land, and my outfit was incongruous to her. mariKo immediately captured my attention. When I caught myself lying to her in the beginning of our relationship, I knew I needed Narcotics Anonymous again. Within a few months, I was clean and sober again. We attended Recovering Couples Anonymous for a few years, which has been very helpful. And I've been in recovery ever since."



Ann and mariKo – Hawaii - 2013

Ann had a serious bout with Covid in March 2020. Even before Covid, she started experiencing falls, weakness in her legs and other symptoms that required her to use a cane. By December, 2020, she was in a manual wheelchair and going through numerous diagnostic tests. The medical conclusion was a diagnosis of ALS ("Lou Gehrig's Disease"), for which there is currently no known cause, treatment or cure. She and her family are making peace with that diagnosis.

"mariKo and I have talked with the neurologist at the ALS Clinic about assisted dying," Ann says. "The End of Life Option Act of 2016 was recently enhanced and renewed. It is a blessing for folks like me who will lose control of our voluntary muscles until we can no longer eat or breathe. In the meantime, I am organizing materials from all of my activist days to donate to the GLBT Historical Society. I'm trying to lighten the load for those I'll leave behind, particularly mariKo, Bobbi, and our son, Loren, who all remain major supports in my life. I want to enjoy whatever time I have left with family and friends. There's a foundation that provides ALS patients with one last adventure. Though I'd love to go back up on the land (Jeanne Jullion has offered a place for me to stay up there which she and Kitty Cone built to be accessible for Kitty), I don't really feel a need for any other great adventures. I just feel blessed for the life I've had and the wonderful people I've been surrounded by



over the years!”



Ann (R), son Loren, co-parent Bobbi, and Loren's wife Kelly



In wheelchair w/van mariKo got for them to get around in

In addition to her down-sizing project, Ann continues being involved with groups like OLOC (Old Lesbians Organizing for Change), the Tenants Association of Strawberry Creek Lodge and Narcotics Anonymous.

Thanks for sharing part of your story with Lavender Seniors, Ann! All best for 2022 and beyond!



## BOOK REVIEW

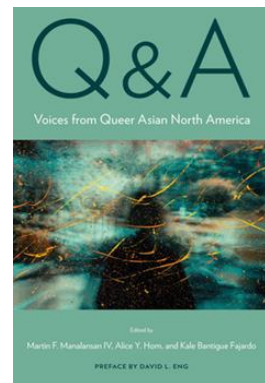
### Q & A: Voices from Queer Asian North America

Edited by Martin F. Manalansan IV, Alice Y. Hom, and Kale Bantigue Fajardo

The text covers the entire globe. There are many references to San Francisco. The Bay Area is cited on pages 170-177 and 193-196. The Daughters of Bilitis is a classic example.

The book is loaded with thousands of timely references.

- Frank J. Howell



## Bonus Book Review

### Renegades: Born in the U.S.A.

Written by Barack Obama and Bruce Springsteen

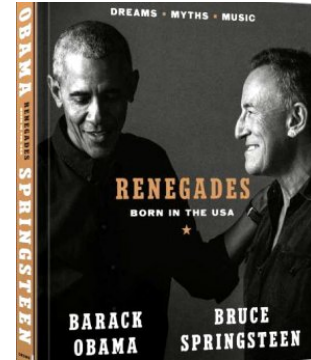
Reviewed by Dr. John David Dupree



This joint effort by two of my heroes – in the form of a “coffee table” book –

brought tears to my eyes as my husband and I read through the incredibly moving and inspiring 303-page photo/narrative volume. The book was released on 26th October 2021, just in time for me to request it from my kids and grandkids for my 79th birthday in November!

Besides chronicling the tandem social and political efforts of these two men from different generations – one in his late 50s and one in his early 70s – this book screams loudly for why we need to support each other and not be a “single-issue” community. We wouldn’t be where we are in the LGBTQ+ community today without champions like Marsha P. Johnson (Stonewall), James Baldwin (literature), Bruce Springsteen (music – remember “Philadelphia” even before his song won an Oscar?) and Barack Obama. The list is limitless in length and boundless in chronology over the centuries.



The first chapter – titled “Our Unlikely Friendship” – could’ve been written by many of us to describe friends and family who have contributed to our (and their) personal, social and political growth. These two met in the course of a landmark political campaign in 2008 (spoiler alert: Obama won two consecutive terms in the White House), just like many of us met our longest-term friends and colleagues in the course of some political action or another. From that point on – through their series of podcasts in 2020-2021 – they remained friends and confidantes (some grammarians say an “e” on the end of that word implies “feminine” – I’ll still use it here)...!



Obama and Springsteen bombing around rural New Jersey in Bruce’s Classic 1960 C1 Corvette

Laced with narrative, photos and original drafts of Obama speeches and Springsteen lyrics, this book documents so many changes in American society (including the book title itself, an obvious sleight to Obama’s successor’s would-be “birther” campaign – both authors of this book were indeed “Born in the U.S.A.”). The book reminds us about many successes for our community during Obama’s terms in office, including repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” in 2010; reversal of DOMA and vacating of Prop. 8 in 2013; and legalizing of same-sex marriage in 2015.

The book describes the mixed significance of June 26, 2015. On that day, when Obama was singing “Amazing Grace” so emotionally during his powerful eulogy for Rev. Clementa Pinckney – one of nine assassinated by a racist during Bible study at the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC – Michelle and Malia Obama were sneaking out of the White House to see it lit up with rainbow colors in honor of the day’s Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriage. Reading Obama’s words – and he usually mentioned the LGBTQ+ community in his speeches nation-wide – signifies how important it is

to be fighting on all fronts – and how imperative it is for us to have allies across the age/sex/racial/socio-political spectrum.



Repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell", 2010; Repeal of DOMA/Prop 8, 2013; Legalization of Same-Sex Marriage, 2015

Any American of reading/viewing age would be well-served to digest and internalize the values on virtually every page of this highly-recommended, inspiring and emotional book!

-- John David Dupree (he/him/his), Tinamastes, Costa Rica

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## 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.

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### 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](mailto:karen@lavenderseniors.org) or (510) 424-7240 and we will be in touch with you soon. Thank You!

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## 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](mailto: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!



Hear About it from the District Attorney’s Office!

## Scams & Schemes & Other Things – 2022

Calling all seniors, LGBTQ+ and otherwise! There are thousands of new scams every year, both by strangers and, unfortunately, even by some of those we trust. Seniors are thought of as particularly vulnerable targets by some of these predators, which is why we have elder abuse task forces within law enforcement around the country. Sometimes it’s challenging to keep up with all of these scams, especially when they’re getting increasingly sophisticated.



At this month’s Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch, Alameda County Deputy District Attorney Cheryl Poncini will discuss best practices to help us recognize and defeat scams and scam artists, as well as teach us what to do if any of us – or someone we know – becomes the victim of such a scam. Learn about senior financial exploitation, including innovative COVID-19 scams currently at the forefront of the scam ecosystem.

Cheryl, a Past-President of the Alameda County Bar Association, has worked for over 40 years in the Alameda County District Attorney’s Office. She has focused on a variety of assignments in both the juvenile and adult divisions. She is currently assigned to the Elder and Dependent Adult Protection Unit.

Please come armed with any stories you’ve heard about or experiences you may have had with scam artists, during the check-in, plus any questions you might have for our usually-robust Q&A session after Cheryl’s presentation.

Here are the Zoom coordinates for Saturday, 14th May, from 12 noon until 2pm. Please note that we have reserved the time/date through Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2022:

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

Topic: Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch: Scams & Schemes & Other Things – 2022

Time: Saturday, May 14th, 2022 – 12:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the Second Saturday, until Dec 10, 2022, 7 more occurrences

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!**



## Countering Far-Right Extremism & Anti-LGBTQ Hate

How many of us knew that – even though “Conversion Therapy” has been banned in 20+ states and 100+ municipalities around the country – it can now be easily accessed on the internet?! Those of us of a certain age remember when we and/or some of our peers were subjected to hospital-based electro-shock/convulsive “therapy” or aversion “therapy” at LGBTQ sometimes-locked “cure camps,” often run by “religious” cults peppered liberally around the country.

In an age where “Don’t Say Gay/Trans” laws are popping up around that same country and Supreme Court Justices on the 6-3 Conservative majority speak openly and publicly about reversing the June 2015 Obergefell vs Hodges same-sex marriage decision banning state laws against LGBTQ marriage, our community has to be particularly vigilant. Fortunately, there are organizations like Lambda Legal, the ACLU, HRC and GPAHE (Global Project Against Hate and Extremism) that are poised to help confront these threats to our “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” as unalienable rights mentioned in our country’s Declaration of Independence (happiness, unfortunately, not mentioned in the Constitution).

We will be joined this month by co-founders of the GPAHE, Heidi Beirich and Wendy Via. Prior to co-founding GPAHE, Heidi led the Southern Poverty Law Center’s Intelligence Project, the premier organization tracking hate and anti-



Heidi Beirich, Co-Founder

government movements in the U.S. Similarly, prior to co-founding GPAHE, Wendy was the Chief Communications and Development Officer at the Southern Poverty Law Center, where she led numerous teams, including helping launch the Justice for Migrant Women program.

GPAHE's mission is to help expose and counter racism, sexism, homo/transphobia, anti-semitism and other forms of institutionalized and internalized bigotry and hate. They promote the human rights values that support flourishing, inclusive societies, and democracies. The pair will discuss current domestic and transnational far-right extremist movements, anti-LGBTQ organizations and activities, and the online hate and disinformation landscape. They will emphasize those issues posing the greatest threat to democracies and human rights. They will describe how GPAHE tackles these issues through research, coalition work, policy advice, and tech company lobbying.



Wendy Via, Co-Founder

More about their work to counter the far right is on their website, [www.globalextrism.org](http://www.globalextrism.org), as well as on Twitter, @globalextrism, @heidibeirich and @wendyvia.

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

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

Topic: Third Friday Lunch Bunch: "Conversion Therapy" and Other Hate Activities

Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022 – 12 Noon until 2pm Pacific Daylight Time

Join Zoom Meeting

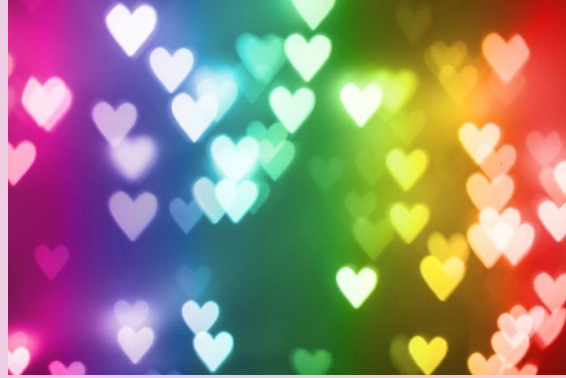
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85235825964?pwd=WmptRG5SU2RDVUNyQ1hFWGM2NlZOQT09>

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 LGBTQ+ singles or couples.

**Mondays 2-3:30 PM on Zoom**  
**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](mailto: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.

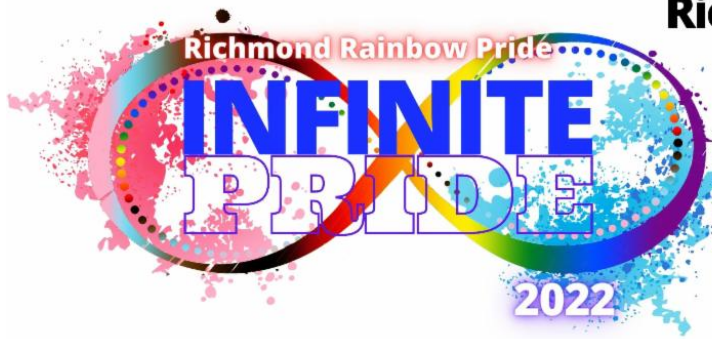
"This support was critical to my success in caregiving, and critical to my personal well being physically and emotionally while caregiving."  
"This is beyond peer-to-peer counseling."

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

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**Richmond Rainbow Pride's  
2022 Digital Pride Show!  
June 5th 2022  
12pm Noon**

@ twitch.tv/RichmondRainbowPride  
@ facebook.com/RichmondRainbowPride

**Hosted by  
Baron Lorde Valentine and  
Baroness Princess Monet Sparkle**

**Featuring:  
Oakland Gay  
Men's Chorus  
and  
Be Steadwell**



**A celebration of  
the LGBTQI  
community that  
lives, works,  
and plays  
in Richmond!**



**RICHMOND**  
Rainbow Pride







**FREE**

QWOCMAP presents  
**18TH ANNUAL  
 QUEER WOMEN OF COLOR  
 FILM FESTIVAL**  
FILMS FULLY CAPTIONED & DESCRIBED

**PRESIDIO THEATRE**  
 99 MORAGA AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO

- FRI. JUNE 10. 7PM**  
 Opening Night  
**INTIMATE  
 REGENERATIONS**

- SAT. JUNE 11. 3PM**  
 Featured  
**JEWELLE:  
 A JUST VISION**

- SAT. JUNE 11. 7PM**  
 Centerpiece  
**HEARTS A FLUTTER**

- SUN. JUNE 12. 1PM**  
 Centerpiece  
**ARCHIVAL  
 LONGING**

- SUN. JUNE 12. 5PM**  
 Closing Night  
**SACRED CARE**




# STILL HERE STILL PROUD

San Mateo County LGBTQ+PRIDE 2022

**SAN MATEO COUNTY  
PRIDE CELEBRATION 2022!!**  
Saturday, June 11, 2022 @ 11am-5pm  
San Mateo Central Park



**JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE  
10 YEARS OF PRIDE ON THE PENINSULA!!**  
**SOBER EVENT**  
**FREE ATTENDANCE**  
**Resource & Vendor Booths - Entertainment**  
**Food Trucks - Live DJ - Family Friendly**



SAN MATEO COUNTY HEALTH  
**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
& RECOVERY SERVICES**



**[smcpridecelebration.com](http://smcpridecelebration.com)**



# PRIDE IN THE PARK

## NCLR's PRIDE IN THE PARK

Saturday, June 18th

3:00-7:00 PM

National AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park  
San Francisco, CA

It's been awhile and after more than two years apart,  
we are coming back strong in 2022!

Bring your family, grab all your friends and spend the day with us!

In addition to great food, drink, entertainment and friends,  
we will be honoring Juneteenth and the 50th Anniversary of Title IX!

**SPONSORSHIPS & TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW**

### FOOD AND DRINK ACTIVITIES ENTERTAINMENT

- BAY AREA'S BEST FOOD TRUCKS
- POPSICLES AND ICE CREAM
- COCKTAILS BY TROOP
- OYSTERS AND BUBBLY
- SNO-CONES (SPIKED AND NOT)

- SF BUBBLE MAN
- DRAG QUEEN STORYTELLING
- 1 AM GRAFFITI ART
- SCREENPRINTING
- YARD GAMES
- QUEER ART SHOW

- SF CHEER
- BATALÁ SAN FRANCISCO
- FREDDIE
- DRAG PERFORMANCES BY:  
MAD DOG 20/20 MELANIE SPARK  
KIPPER SNACKS MAHLAE BALENCIAGA

We will continue to add new entertainment and activities. Sponsorship opportunities (including both June and November), tickets, and [more details here](#). Pride in the Park sponsor packages include NCLR picnic supplies and special treats for kids – or the kid in all of us!

**GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY**





SAN FRANCISCO PRIDE  
WILL KEEP US  
TOGETHER 2022

# SAN FRANCISCO PRIDE RETURNS IN-PERSON!

Saturday & Sunday  
June 25-26, 2022

#LoveWillKeepUsTogether  
#SFPRIDE52

San Francisco Pride is back for our 52nd Year.

We're proud to return to San Francisco's **Civic Center** for our two day Celebration, and march down **Market Street** for Sunday's Parade. This year's theme **Love Will Keep Us Together**, chosen by our members, will be felt throughout the celebration and parade, made alive by the many people in our diverse LGBTQ community gathered to celebrate.

We know that San Francisco Pride is essential to our communities as we recover from the pandemic, and we are eager to give people the celebration they deserve.

See you in June!



**Suzanne Ford**  
she/her/hers  
*Interim Executive Director*



 SILICON VALLEY  
**PRIDE.**  
PARADE AND FESTIVAL



**AUGUST  
27-28  
2022**

PLAZA DE CESAR CHAVEZ PARK  
DOWNTOWN SAN JOSE  
[INFO@SVPRIDE.COM](mailto:INFO@SVPRIDE.COM)



**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**



**Frameline46 Castro Passes**



We are thrilled to return home to the Castro Theatre for 10 days of our 11-day-festival this year!

Frameline's Castro Pass is your golden ticket to 100+ queer narratives, docs, and short films at the Castro Theatre over the course of Frameline46: June 16–26, 2022.

Castro Passes are now **ON SALE** to all current Frameline Members at the price of \$280. Not a Member? [Join or renew today!](#)

Quantity is limited!

**Frameline46 adds a National "Streaming Encore" June 24–30, 2022!**



Frameline is pleased to announce that Frameline46: the San Francisco International LGBTQ+ Film Festival will feature a National Streaming Encore!

Frameline46 is the Festival's BIG return to a traditional 11-day in-person experience happening June 16–26, with Closing Night coinciding with Pride

Sunday in San Francisco.

The Streaming Encore will begin Friday, June 24 and be available to view over Pride Weekend from anywhere in the US until Thursday, June 30 at midnight.

About half of Frameline46's film program will make up the slate of streaming titles, as well as a few limited release titles from Frameline Distribution.

Frameline46's full program will be announced May 25, 2022. Passes and single tickets to the in-person festival, as well as the Streaming Encore, will be available from this date. More info coming soon!



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## San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus presents **FINAL WORDS**

Wednesday, July 13, 2022 (7:30pm)

DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL

This one-night-only event is sure to sell out. "Final Words" is curated and conducted by Artistic Director Dr. Timothy Seelig and will be his farewell concert. Showcasing some of his favorite pieces, history will be made as over 250 chorus members perform for the first time with the San Francisco Symphony. Come bid farewell as Tim brings the curtain down on his ten extraordinary years leading the chorus. Get your [tickets](#) now directly through the San Francisco Symphony website.



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](#).

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## Well Connected Enriching lives and supporting well-being.

### 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, 4/27

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, 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](#). (As of this printing the [Spring Catalog is not out.](#)) Check the [website](#) for more information. To participate in these or other Well Connected telephone activities, or to learn more about their





**Out Standing Seniors - Hayward - Sponsored by Pacific Center**

**May 3 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. (1st Tuesday)**

Meets via Zoom - email [outstandingseniors2@gmail.com](mailto: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**

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

Meets via Zoom - email [Anne@pacificcenter.org](mailto: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**

**May 5 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. (1st Thursday)**

Meets via Zoom - email [lezboldgroup@pacificcenter.org](mailto:lezboldgroup@pacificcenter.org) for info.

*Find support and like-minded wonderful people!*

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

**May 5,12,19,26 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. (Thursdays)**

email [Anne@pacificcenter.org](mailto: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**

**May 4,11,18,25 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. (Wednesdays)**

email [Anne@pacificcenter.org](mailto: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**

**May 6,13,20,27 - 4:30 p.m. (Fridays)**

email [Anne@pacificcenter.org](mailto:Anne@pacificcenter.org) for current meeting information.

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

**Rainbow Seniors**

**May 10 & 24 12:30 p.m. (2nd & 4th Tuesdays)**

San Leandro Senior Community Center

email [rainbowseniors@gmail.com](mailto: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**

**May 11 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**

**May 14, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. (Scams & Schemes & Other Things – 2022 - see info**

above for joining us via Zoom)

**Tri-Valley Rainbows - Sponsored by Pacific Center**

**May 19, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. (3rd Thursday)**

Meets via Zoom - email [Anne@pacificcenter.org](mailto: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**

**May 20, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.** (Countering Far-Right Extremism & Anti-LGBTQ Hate -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](mailto:karen@lavenderseniors.org)**

**Mailing Address:**

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

**Website: <http://lavenderseniors.org>**

**Newsletter Editorial  
Board:**

**Beckie Underwood  
John David Dupree**

**Contact  
Us**

