



Lavender Notes

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

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June 2022- Volume 28 Issue 6

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GIVE OUT DAY is this Month!

Give OUT Day is June 30! But it's not too early to make a gift now!

<https://www.giveoutday.org/story/LSEBgiveoutday>

Show your PRIDE by making a gift today!



Dr. Joan Margaret, D.C.

10th June 1942 – 15th March 2022

Dr. Joan Margaret, D.C., well-known local chiropractor, singer and lesbian community activist, died of cancer on Friday, March 15th, in Berkeley. Born Joan Margaret Medlin in New York on June 10th, 1942, she was three months shy of her 80th birthday.



Over 30 attended an in-person memorial celebration on April 16th at the Oakland Center for Spiritual Living in Oakland, with more than 30 also attending virtually on-line.

In her last weeks, Joan was surrounded and sung to by women from her many communities of health, lesbians, and music. Joan had a deep love of women and lived as a proud lesbian, building support systems to empower women and girls.

She participated in a variety of women's groups including BIO Sisters, Myra Williams Support Circle, Radical Lesbian Crones, an anti-racist book group, Bay Area Lesbian Archives (BALA), Women Over Fifty and Friends (WOFF), and Old Lesbians Organizing for Change (OLOC). Joan loved making music, singing the low harmony part and playing recorder by ear. She seldom missed the Women Making Music (WoMaMu) retreats. She also sang with the Organic Women's Chorus. For nine years she was part of a locally popular cappella trio, The Tribads, who performed songs that were "not always in the best of taste" at the monthly women's open mike at the Montclair Women's Club.

When Joan was diagnosed with cervical cancer in 1978, she soon found her true calling as a healer. Joan chose treatment with an M.D. Homeopath in Yellow Springs, Ohio, and one month later was declared cancer-free by the Cleveland Clinic, which also had verified the original cancer diagnosis. Joan decided then and there to become a holistic doctor of natural healing "to be able to heal myself and others." In 1989, Joan graduated as a Doctor of Chiropractic—but she didn't stop there.

During the next 32 years of her chiropractic work, Joan studied cutting-edge modalities and alternative techniques, expanding her skills in diagnosing and treating allergies and chronic illnesses. Over time, she established the Labrys Healthcare Circle, creating a safe space for lesbian alternative-health practitioners and their clients. Many practitioners had a sliding scale for women who couldn't otherwise afford treatment. Joan also established the Labrys School for Women and Girls, a non-profit that furthered her mission to create community and independence for women.



Labrys School for Women and Girls



Joan (brown vest) in her element as mentor for women and girls

Joan's early life was full of adventure and challenge, befitting her developing feminist sensibilities. Though born in NY, she grew up in Berkeley, except for two years of grade school in Holland, where her father worked for Shell Oil. After graduating from Berkeley High, she rode the rails with a friend to Alaska, spending the summer canning salmon. Joan was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Bolivia, 1963-1965, working on community health and development projects. In 1967, she graduated from UC-Berkeley in Sociology.

Throughout the 1970s, Joan worked as a journalist, fact checker, and feminist "inside agitator" at magazines such as *Mother Jones*, *Ms.*, and *Ramparts*. She reported for the Women's News Collective at KPFA-FM, recording and broadcasting music of women composers and musicians. In 1977, she came out as lesbian, fully living the love for women long evident in her life. While she lived in Ohio during the late '70s and the '80s, Joan established the Feminist Health Fund to help women in Ohio. She wrote a weekly newspaper column, "Women's Voices." As a member of the Feminist Writers Guild board, she wrote and won a grant for an annual showcase of women's art, music, and writing. With a group of lesbian sisters, she

created the Yellow Springs Dead Bolt Gang that installed dead bolts for free to keep women safe in their homes.

Joan enjoyed gardening at her home in Richmond and nurturing her feline companions.

Joan is survived by her cat Phoenix; by many friends whom she loved and supported; by her nieces, Beverley Medlin and Melissa Medlin in Colorado and Karen Redmon in Alaska; and her stepmother, Faith Medlin, in Houston, Texas. Joan's beloved mother, Harriette, pre-deceased her, dying in 2014 at age 100.

STORIES OF OUR LIVES

Christopher John Holden

The Manager of Rainbow Community Center's Seniors Program (covering Contra Costa County) has experienced a broad spectrum of geographical, professional, personal and emotional issues during his five decades on the planet. This has included living on three continents, working in fields from homelessness to graphic design, dealing with the pain of family divorce and suicide.

Christopher John Holden was born in Colchester, England. He and his two younger sisters all live in California now after crossing the Atlantic to the East Coast in the late '70s and going trans-continental to the Bay Area a decade or so later.



Christopher, during those first years in England: six months, one year and three years old

"I only went to elementary school in England, before we moved to the Boston area when I was about seven," Christopher recalls. "My Dad was a pharmaceutical rep who was spending too much time flying internationally, so he got a temp job in the Boston area to make his life easier. That 'temp job' soon turned into a promotion and a permanent job stateside, so my sisters and I basically grew up in the delightful Boston suburb of Medfield, home of the world-famous Rocky Woods Reservation."

The Medfield school system was unclear on where to place Christopher, so he wound up being one of the oldest in his class through the rest of elementary and high school. Otherwise, however, he and his sisters led what he called an

“idyllic” life with access to the nearby woods.



Teenage Christopher and Sisters

“It seemed totally safe, with lots of kids around to play with in and around those magnificent woods riddled with amazing trails,” Christopher says. “We were totally surrounded by nature, so we built forts in the summer and skated on frozen wetlands in the winter. There were only 10,000 people in town and my graduating class from Medfield High was just 80 students. I had to work at fitting in at first – the ‘British’ kid –

and felt I needed to change to be accepted. This was even a bit more complicated when I became aware of my sexuality a few years later!”

Though Christopher was christened in the Church of England, the family wasn’t actually very religious, only attending Anglican services in the U.S. on holidays once or twice a year.

“It was somewhat strange to be seen as Anglican in a sea of mostly-Irish Catholicism,” Christopher recalls. “Having a few Jewish friends made us feel a bit less peculiar. I actually enjoyed going to mass with some of my friends, particularly if it was held in an architecturally beautiful church like the one in Framingham. I generally found the services borderline innocuous, but on one occasion – actually in Framingham – everyone was lined up to take Communion and I was told I couldn’t come up, since I ‘hadn’t done my sacraments.’ Those first experiences made me wonder whether – since we’re all supposedly children of God – why couldn’t this young boy at least get a wafer and some grape juice!?”



Christopher’s best friend in high school was half-Irish and half-Cuban, which made his mere British-ness pale by comparison. Some of his friends were involved in athletics; he was not much interested in such endeavors.

“I tried participating in some sports initially,” Christopher recalls, “but I wasn’t really that much into competition. I played kickball on the block and signed up for Little League at one point. The frenetic nature of competitive sports did nothing for me. Actually, it wasn’t the other kids who behaved badly; it was the parents and the coaches. I tried ice hockey and was on a downhill ski team for a while, which had the benefit of being an individual, less competitive sport, which appealed to me. That ski team was mostly just goofing off, so I didn’t last long there, either. Though my father had played minor-league soccer and was a coach himself, he never berated me for my lack of interest in athletics. He focused on praising me for the things I WAS good at – puzzles, building treeforts, and so on. He seemed to be resigned to the fact that I was just ‘more of a quiet kid,’ he would say, with only the slightest ring of disappointment.”

Christopher did date girls off-and-on in high school, with most people thinking he was straight.

“I had sort of an agreement with one girl – who wasn’t

interested in the dating scene, either – that we would be seen together a lot,” Christopher says. “In fact, she was one of the first people I told about being gay, after coming out to my family at 17 or so. The eldest of my two younger sisters was the first person I came out to. For some reason, I was most nervous about telling my Mum, though she was supportive from the start, initially more worried about how other people might react to me. I think my Dad was the last family member I came out to – even after my grandparents. The one weird reaction from him was questioning whether I would be involved in S&M – I told him it was more likely that HE would be involved in S&M than me!”



His parents’ divorce when Christopher was 14 had a profoundly negative effect on the family.

“At one point after the divorce, Dad met a Russian scientist while he was on business over there,” Christopher says. “He got together with her and didn’t come back to the U.S. or the family for quite some time. She was finally able to use her scientific merits to come to the U.S. I did not attend their wedding, though I’ve now accepted and am pleased that my father has a partner who makes him happy.”

Christopher knew all four of his grandparents fairly well. He was particularly close to his paternal grandmother, who died in the early 2000s, and his maternal grandmother, who is 94 and living independently outside of London. His mother will be going to England and visiting her shortly.



Christopher, Mum, Grandmum
– Buckingham Palace

Going through adolescence as a young gay man during the height of the AIDS epidemic most likely had an adverse and delaying effect on Christopher’s dealing with his sexuality.

“I was a pretty immature 15- or 16-year old,” Christopher recalls. “I put sexuality out of my mind, for the most part. Though I knew at some subconscious level that I was gay, the stigma and confusion associated with the AIDS epidemic made it unlikely that I would deal with it all right away. I was lucky to have such a supportive family, since the community around us was fairly homophobic. By the time I was 17 or 18, I would go into Boston and hang out at a gay bookstore on Boylston Street, soon advancing to gay bars in the early ‘90s. Coming in from the suburbs, this fresh-faced and naïve boy – who never could hold drinks that might be bought for him there – was really not in danger of getting into any trouble. I just wanted to meet people who might show me what it was like to be gay. I would go to the Man Ray in Cambridge, dance with other men, facing some educational moments, getting toughened up for the future.”

At an expatriate party in Boston, his mother re-connected with a Frenchman who she eventually married and moved to California with.



Christopher & Mum
at Sister's wedding

"Jean-Pierre, who, unfortunately, died recently, was very good to my mother, making me fond of him as my step-father," Christopher says. "Mum and JP had a wonderful life together – he was always so attentive to her, something she didn't really have with my father. Their move here pretty much determined that all three of us would wind up in California at some point."

Meanwhile, Christopher indulged his wander-lust for much of the next decade or so. After graduating from Medfield High School in 1991, he went to design school for two years in Epping Forest outside of London, earning an associates-like degree in graphic design.

When he returned to Boston, he attended Northeastern University for four years, earning a B.S. degree in graphic design and sociology. He met his first significant boy-friend while at Northeastern.

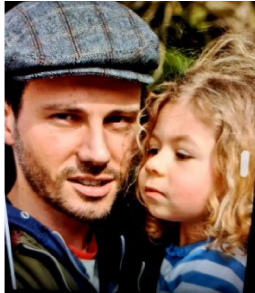
"During those two years in England, my contacts with men were primarily one-night stands," Christopher says. "I met my first actual boy-friend at Northeastern's Gay Alliance. He taught me a lot about gay life, but wound up being emotionally abusive. In fact, when he got physically abusive on one occasion, I immediately ended the relationship. Soon after I moved from Brighton to Cambridge into my own two-bedroom apartment, I met – and fell in love with – a man at a house party. He moved in with me for about two years. It was a good experience, though we grew apart, mostly due to fairly obvious undealt-with mental health issues, perhaps on both of our parts. We remained friends, though he might have been a bit bitter at first."

Christopher began working at Boston area non-profits dealing with housing for potentially homeless people. The organizations arranged Section 8 housing and got involved with renovating Victorian houses in Brookline, converting them into group homes. Though he enjoyed the work, at age 30, he felt drawn to living in and exploring Europe and Asia.

"I had some connections in Switzerland and was offered a job in the graphic design field," Christopher says. "I helped companies launch with letterhead and logo design, made a lot of money and was able to indulge my adventurous streak. I traveled all over the continent, sometimes via Eurailpass, other times rental cars. Swiss trains are excellent, so I traveled to places like Rome and Berlin. I spent most of seven years in Switzerland, except for one year when I traveled to India, since I was approaching burn-out on Swiss personal and professional life. I'd met Indian families while I was in England and was intrigued by their culture. When I landed in Bangalore, I had no plan for what would happen next. In order to see and get acquainted with the country and its tradition, I decided back-packing – with no cell-phone or internet – would allow me to see some of the most brilliant and darkest aspects of the culture that most tourists would not get to see. After living a 'perfect' life in Switzerland, it pushed me to explore all aspects of Indian culture, including meditation. It seems significant to me – both in Switzerland and in India – that I felt like the outsider, the weird one who stuck out like a sore thumb, in order to feel totally free to explore both the joys and the sorrows of life around me."

Christopher had been involved with a German man for much of the time he was in Switzerland.

“That relationship was very predictable, like my previous ones had been,” Christopher recalls. “I knew roughly when it would start and when it would end. It was fairly clear that I just didn’t want to be in a relationship anymore at that time. When I returned to Switzerland from India, I worked some high-paying service jobs at places like gay bars and gay restaurants, just as a way to keep money coming in and to meet new people. I began experiencing the ‘seven-year itch’, becoming aware that I wanted to move out of Switzerland. I had never meant to stay that long in the first place. I came to Mom and JP’s in California for Christmas, at age 37, when I decided I wanted to stay in the U.S. around family, familiar culture. I moved to San Francisco.”



Christopher with niece

After working temp jobs in graphic design for a while, he decided instead on a social work job at Lutheran Social Services at Polk and Geary.

“This was a great job,” Christopher recalled. “I managed two clinicians and case managers, with a lot of responsibility and independence. I found a Twin Peaks apartment and settled into a very productive and meaningful life. I stayed at Lutheran Social Services for 7-8 years. Though I was never much into gay bars, I spent a lot of time at the Castro Theater, in gay bookstores and restaurants.”

In spite of himself, however, he did meet a guy who won his heart.

“Though I wasn’t sure I ever wanted to have another relationship, I did wind up meeting someone who I initially pushed away, but Jonathon persisted, eventually pulling me into his orbit. His idea of a relationship was very similar to mine. I moved in with him in Alamo Square. He was a Florida native working in hotel management, a real ‘people’ person who managed the front desk. After five mostly-wonderful years with him, however, I had the shock of my lifetime. He took his own life. The trauma indelibly marked me! I had never really experienced personal traumatic loss. My whole life was turned upside down. I didn’t know how to put myself back together. Dealing with grief was an unfamiliar concept to me. I believe that experience has helped me deal with my Mum’s grief over the recent loss of her beloved JP.”



Christopher and Jonathon during happy times

Within a few days after Jonathon’s death – since the landlord had never allowed Christopher’s name to be put on the lease – a notice was put on the door informing him the rent had been doubled and he was being evicted. Just the issue to deal with after you’ve suffered such a loss!

“After I caught my breath, I contacted a pro bono attorney in the Tenderloin – experienced with evictions – who helped me deal with the landlord,” Christopher recalls. “Though I realized I didn’t really want to stay in the place without Jonathon, I also didn’t appreciate the way it had been dealt with. I decided I needed to move to Contra Costa County to be near my family where I felt safe. The buy-out that my attorney negotiated for me with the landlord allowed me a cushion to move, to continue my job in Concord – more

administrative than direct service. During that time, I also had to deal with somebody else's trauma: a woman upstairs from where Jonathon and I had lived discovered her boyfriend dead from a drug overdose and I was better prepared to help her deal with that due to my own recent loss."

Part of what Christopher credits with his healing to date was taking his current job four years ago as Manager of Senior Programs at Rainbow Community Center in Concord.



Christopher with sister, 2021

"I've wanted to work with seniors for a long time," Christopher says, "so working with LGBTQ seniors, in particular, made total sense to me. We RCC employees are now unionized, becoming Teamsters, no less! Jimmy Hoffa might be rolling over in whatever grave the Mafia allegedly wound up leaving him in. I had just helped build out the seniors program, advocating for people in nursing homes, developing a friendly visitors program and boom! – along came Covid! We have adapted to an on-line presence. We are moving to our new location, for which I'm on the Design Committee. The old space was larger, but not terribly efficient for programming. The new space is cheaper, much more open and integrated, with private offices for clinicians. We're looking forward to having a grand opening later this year, depending on a number of things, including how any upgrades or renovations progress and how the pandemic evolves."

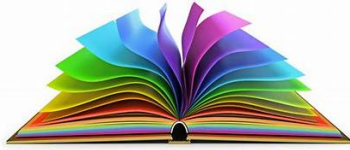
Mother's Day this year was a particularly emotional time for Christopher, since he and his family were dealing with his stepfather's recent death, plus the anniversary of Jonathon's death was the day after Mother's Day.

"Though I don't actively grieve as much now, I look at the photos of our lives together and realize it's like another world," Christopher says quietly. "Our apartment is gone, he's gone, our pet is gone – everything has changed. I just have to deal with the present and move forward as best I can. Covid has shifted my bucket list and long-term goals considerably. I would like to wind up somewhere closer to – or in – nature. Suburbs have eaten into the wilderness that I became accustomed to in my childhood and youth. A move to the countryside might be difficult for an openly gay or trans person – maybe I'll spend some time up at the Russian River with its openness to LGBTQ people. Perhaps one day I may wind up retiring in some rural area of England, where my Mom assures me you can still find fairly progressive and inexpensive places to live – perhaps near the coast. Who knows? But I'll continue enjoying my work at RCC long into the foreseeable future."



Christopher at RCC

Thanks, Christopher, for sharing so much of your life story with Lavender Seniors and for your ongoing dedication to working with LGBTQ+ seniors. All best for the rest of 2022 and beyond!



BOOK REVIEW

Vice Patrol: Cops, Courts, and the Struggle over Gay Life before Stonewall
by Anna Lvovsky

The author takes the patrolman into the spotlight.

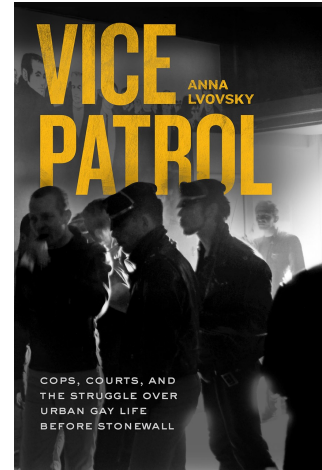
The book is meticulously researched and examines the law and legal history.

There is particular attention paid to the San Francisco and San Jose Police Departments.

There is even speculation about the Salt Lake City Police Department.

There is a very helpful index that covers police in departments all over America.

- Frank J. Howell



Bonus Book Review

Love Makes a Family:

Portraits of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Parents and their Families

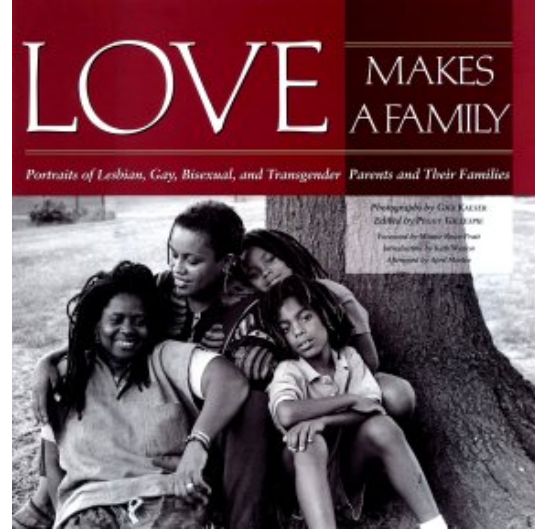
By Gigi Kaeser (Photographer) and Peggy Gillespie (Editor)



This pioneering 1999 work to document the families of LGBT (the Q was only officially added by GLAAD in 2016 in an attempt to be more inclusive of community identity) was still considered quite controversial at the time of its publication. Parents of every stripe throughout the nation were interviewed – as were their children – in an attempt to tell all sides of the story when dealing with local, regional, national, international and internalized homophobia/transphobia.

The book opens with a brilliant – and painful – Foreword by lesbian poet-activist, Minnie Bruce Pratt, founder of the first LGBT studies program at Syracuse University. “The court” had declared her an unfit mother, when her two sons were very young, simply because she was a lesbian. The family was split apart. The lesbian mother had limited visitation with her own sons and was forbidden to have them in her home if she were living in an intimate

relationship of any kind. For their 22 years together, the love of her life, transgender activist-author, Leslie Feinberg, inspired much of Pratt's work – and that was mutual. Nevertheless, "the family" of Pratt-Feinberg was permanently compromised by institutionalized homophobia of the time. The two sons were not actually allowed to feel like part of that family.



Juxtaposing that painful opening story with 43 happier family stories was part of the magic of this endeavor, the message being "things can – and will – get better". Though all of the photographs are in black-and-white, families representing virtually all races, religions, nationalities, occupations and the entire spectrum of sexuality and gender identity are celebrated in this culturally-colorful 262-page coffee-table book.



El Sasser/Robinson Family



Jang/Otto Family



Hickman-Stevenson Family

Anyone perusing this book might want to encourage the co-authors/photographer to follow up with as many of these featured families as possible, now that the children interviewed have also grown up and, perhaps, embarked on their own life stories. A "sequel" like that would be helpful for understanding the evolution of LGBTQ+ family life through the years. Either way, this book is a thought-provoking snapshot that would likely be of interest to people in the LGBTQ+ community, as well as their allies.

-- Dr John David Dupree, Tinamastes, Costa Rica

CONNECTIONS



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

LAVENDER SENIORS 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!



Disaster Preparedness Are you ready?

Join us on June 11th for our regular Second Saturday info session and to update our MacGyver-like resource list of how to feel secure in managing the next big unpredictable disaster.



Lars Eric Holm, Disaster Preparedness Coordinator for [211 Eden I&R, Inc.](https://www.edenir.com) will join us to help us prepare for the unexpected and to help us learn to help

ourselves.

Lavender Seniors invites you to a scheduled meeting on Zoom.

Topic: Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch

Time: June 11, 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



Celebrating his 100 Birthday and His Life

Memorializing Morris Simpson

His friends and family members will hold a Zoom memorial service during this Pride month for Morris Simpson, who died on 18th March, just three months shy of his 100th birthday. Whether we were his family members, friends, neighbors or met him at events he regularly attended at the Rainbow Community Center in Contra Costa County, the Spahr Center in Marin County or Lavender Seniors events in Alameda County, many of us have been feeling deeply the loss of one of the wise, compassionate and entertaining 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 gather for a Celebration of Morris's Life during a Zoom gathering, 12-2pm as the entire focus of this month's Third Friday Lunch Bunch – a meeting he rarely missed for years – on 17th of June, nine days before his 100th 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. We've all become accustomed to "Shared Screen," so photos dug out from photo albums, yearbooks, etc., can also be shown to the assembled folks memorializing Morris on-line. Unfortunately, it's a Covid-era variation on the traditional memorial service, minus the handshakes and hugs we would most

likely prefer to be exchanging in person.

Anyone unable to attend, who would like to have something shared/read/played, please forward to any of the following, who can ensure that your memory is shared with the group:

- JohnDavid@LavenderSeniors.org,
- Christopher@RainbowCC.org,
- BBlackburn@thespahrcenter.org, or
- derensink@gmail.com

Please save the date and time to celebrate our friend and mentor. Zoom coordinates are below:

His Family Members, Lavender Seniors, Rainbow Community Center and Spahr Center invite you to a Zoom meeting.

Topic: *Memorializing Morris Simpson*

Friday, 17th June 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

We look forward to sharing memories with as many folks as can make it from the ranks of the many people impacted by Morris over these 100 years that saw so many changes!



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 (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

**LAVENDER SENIORS CELEBRATES PRIDE
AT SAN LEANDRO PARADE -- JOIN OUR
PARADE CONTINGENT!**

150th Celebration



THE GATHERING

JUNE 4th, 2022

11:00AM TO 5:00PM

W. ESTUDILLO AVE.

BETWEEN SAN LEANDRO BLVD AND HAYES ST.

Mark your calendars for the annual Cherry Parade (and more) on June 4th as part of the year-long celebration planned for the City's 150th Birthday. The parade steps off at 10 a.m. in downtown, so get there early to join in the fun.

The Gathering will be all things San Leandro. Culture, Heritage, Food, Entertainment, Booths, Art Festival, oh and... The San Leandroids.

LGBTQ+ Related Activities:

- There will be an LGBTQ+ contingent in the parade. Whether you wear a Lavender Seniors t-shirt (!), rainbow or tie-dyed shirts or whatever colorful representation of East Bay Queerness, this contingent will meet at 9:30 am in front of the Boys and Girls Club, Marina at San Leandro Boulevard. At that point, we will be assigned an official place for the LGBTQ+ contingent (complete with banner!) in the parade. The walk - all on level ground - west along San Leandro Blvd. is estimated to be about one mile. For those LGBTQ+ seniors who would prefer to bring their two- or three-wheelers, skateboards, Segways or stilts, all are welcome to join in the leisurely stroll. Being a cheering spectator along the parade route is also encouraged for those who don't want to walk the mile.
- At 10am on Sunday morning, the 5th of June, the rainbow flag will be raised above San Leandro City Hall, 835 E. 14th.
- At 6:30 pm on Monday, the 6th of June, Lavender Seniors will be officially receiving the Pride Month Proclamation at the City Council Chambers.

[San Leandro Chamber of Commerce](#) is bringing the Beer, Wine and Food Trucks.

[San Leandro Museum and Casa Peralta](#) is breaking out all the favorite kids games and activities in front of the Casa and you can also visit a special exhibit in the Museum.

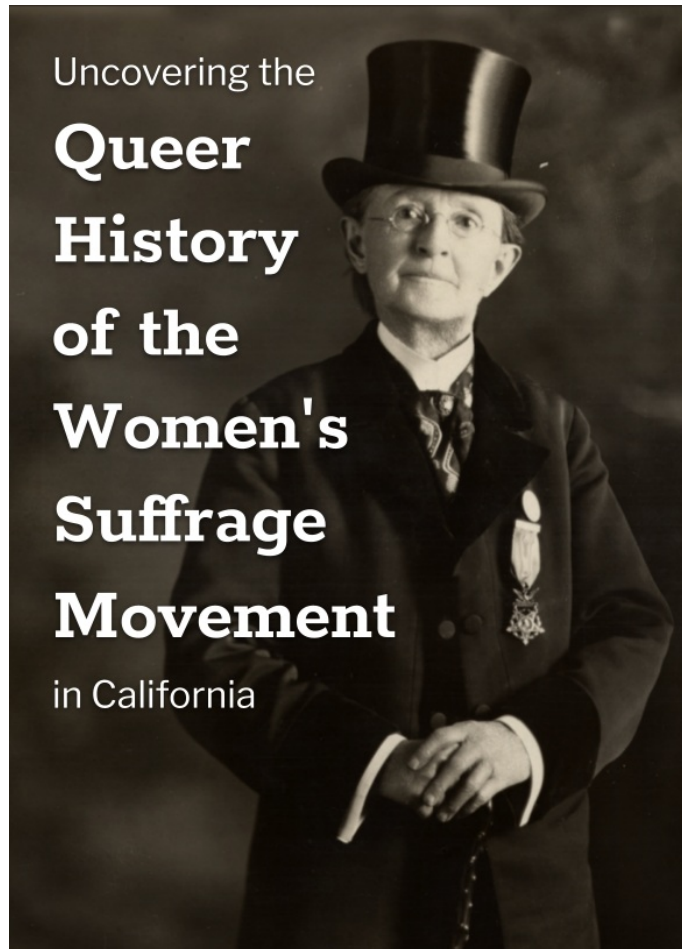
San Leandro History Museum on June 4th Hours of Operation:
Visitors Welcome - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Museum Activities - 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Check out the Cherry Parade first at 10:00 am, visit the Main Library and grab some cherries at the Farmers Market, and head to W. Estudillo in front of the Casa Peralta.

Parade Route Link: <https://www.sanleandro.org/852/Cherry-Parade>

Take BART and get off at the San Leandro station. Walk East towards the hills and East 14th Street.

JOIN US -- SEE YOU THERE



**FREE WEBINAR
TUESDAY JUNE 7, 2022
AT 5:30 PM**

The women's suffrage movement was very queer. The true story of their lives and loves were buried or obscured. Join us to hear how historian Wendy Rouse has begun to reconstruct the queer history of the suffrage movement, revealing the important role of queerness and queer suffragists in the fight for the vote.

tinyurl.com/Queer-history-womens-suffrage

 CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Register here: <https://calhist.me/3wvdH0p>

LGBTQ+ Film Festivals in 2022

Lavender Seniors Co-Sponsoring Two Films at Frameline

For the fifth year, Lavender Seniors has been asked to co-sponsor two films in this month's Frameline Film Festival, the oldest and largest LGBTQ+ film festival in the world. Theme for the festival is "The Coast is Queer!" This year's live festival – featuring LGBTQ+ films from all over the world – is 16-26th June; 24th-30th June streaming. To see the full program, check out:

<https://www.frameline.org/program/browse>
<https://www.frameline.org/program/browse?alpha=streaming>

The two films (for each, four passes will be available on a first-come/first-

served basis to Lavender Seniors participants – contact JohnDavid@LavenderSeniors.org, if interested) include:

“Sissy” (Live Thursday, 23rd June - 9-10:46pm @ New Parkway, 474 24th Street, Oakland) also (Streaming, 24th-30th June – until midnight – in Digital Screening Room)



[Australian film – 102 minutes]. When former childhood besties, Cecilia and Emmy, run into each other for the first time in 12 years, they begin to rekindle their friendship, but the dark trauma of their past refuses to stay put. This modern spin on “Carrie” tackles social media culture and

bullying with darkly comic flair and unexpected twists that make for a bloody good time.

“Pat Rocco Dared” (Live Saturday, 25th June – 9:15-11:04pm – Castro Theater) also (Streaming, 24th-30th June – ‘til midnight – in Digital Screening Room)



[Canadian film – 89 minutes – **World Premiere**]. Pat Rocco’s gay erotica made a splash in the late 1960s, but he would soon re-focus his radical vision on queer liberation. This fascinating documentary tracks his journey from prominent pornographer to political activist and chronicler. Spotlighting

Rocco’s eye-popping early shorts and later reportage, this highlights an unlikely pioneer of the LGBTQ+ rights movement in America.

NewFest (NY): Meanwhile, earlier in Pride Month (2-6 June 2022), the NewFest Pride in New York (available both in person, much of which is also available on-line after buying a \$30 All-Access pass). See all the details of that five-day mini-festival via this link.

<https://newfest.org/newfest-pride/>

One of the most anticipated films focuses on indigenous/Two-Spirit issues (only streaming):



Wildhood: A moving Two-Spirit odyssey about young Link, who embarks on a journey to find his birth mother with his half-brother after discovering their father had lied for years about her whereabouts. As they travel across the gorgeous landscape of Mi’kma’ki, Link finds community and identity with his Indigenous heritage, as well as budding romance with a

handsome new friend he meets along the way. 99 min +Q&A

See trailer: <https://newfest.org/event/nfpride-wildhood/>

There is also the opportunity to buy early access to the full **eleven-day** festival

(14th-25th October, 2022). For information, see this link:

<https://newfest.org/festival/> NewFest LGBTQ+ Film Festival, New York, October 14-25

OutFest (LA) – Tentatively scheduled for 14-24 July 2022. Outfest is the oldest continuous film festival in **Southern** California. It was founded in 1982 and offers year-round screenings, parties, and several affiliated festivals. This non-profit organization is committed to preserving the LGBT film heritage, and showcasing, nurturing and protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender images and artistry in film.

<https://www.outfest.org/>

Sundance Film Festival this year identified seven LGBTQ+ films that we should all be looking for in theaters and film festivals:

<https://www.out.com/film/2022/1/25/lgbtq-queer-movies-at-sundance-film-festival-2022#media-gallery-media-1>

Seattle Queer Film Festival information:

<https://filmfreeway.com/SQFF> - Seattle Queer Film Festival October 13-23, 2022

Phoenix Queer Film Festival – also called Desperado Film Festival (23-25 Sept 2022) info:

<https://www.desperadofilmfestival.com/>



**The OutFronts
Outfest's LGBTQ+
Television Festival
June 3-6, 2022**

Save the date: The OutFronts, a four-day LGBTQ+ television festival kicks off Pride Month from June 3 - 6 with in-person and online events. Go behind the scenes with stars from the biggest

THEOUTFRONTS.COM

PRESENTED BY



THE OUTFRONTS

JUNE 3-6, 2022 LOS ANGELES & ONLINE



EXPERIENCE THE BEST IN LGBTQ+ TV

FEATURING SHOWS FROM:



LGBTQ+ television hits with exclusive conversations, sneak peeks, and special premieres. The OutFronts is FREE to attend virtually, tickets are \$20 for in-person events. Stay tuned for the lineup announcement on May 17 and follow @Outfest on social media for updates! For more information visit theoutfronts.com.





**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**



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

JUNE 10, 11, 12 2022

FESTIVAL FOCUS
LOVE, EMBODIED

FESTIVAL@QWOCMAP.ORG 415.752.0868 WWW.QWOCMAP.ORG

6g | OC | AD | ♿ | 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



SF Giants Pride Day 2022

Saturday, June 11

Giants v Dodgers

Oracle Park 24 Willie Mays Plaza San Francisco, California 94107

[CLICK HERE FOR TICKETS & INFO](#)

The deadline to purchase tickets is Friday, June 3rd!

San Francisco Bay Times & "Betty's List" invite you to join our group going to SF Giants Pride Day! In addition to the game, you will receive the limited edition socks and the chance to show your pride at the ballpark!



PRIDE DAY

PRESENTED BY PEET'S COFFEE

SOCKS

SATURDAY, JUNE 11



* * * * *



**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





August 27-28

SVPRIDE.COM

Plaza de César Chávez Park
Downtown San José



SAN FRANCISCO GAY MEN'S CHORUS

FINAL WORDS

THE FAREWELL CONCERT FOR
DR. TIMOTHY SEELIG
WITH THE ICONIC
SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY
AND SPECIAL GUEST
OAKLAND INTERFAITH GOSPEL CHOIR
SPONSORED BY THE TERRENCE D. CHAN FOUNDATION

**WEDNESDAY
JULY 13
7:30 PM**
DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL

SAN FRANCISCO GAY MEN'S CHORUS

FINAL WORDS

A historic night is in the making as this farewell concert for Artistic Director Dr. Timothy Seelig is also our first concert with the iconic San Francisco Symphony. Audiences will revel in the deeply personal playlist curated by Tim, highlighting the past 10 years of his creative leadership. The acclaimed Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir will perform

alongside San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus with additional special guests to be announced soon.

DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL

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

Get your [tickets](#) now directly through the San Francisco Symphony website.





SANTA ROSA
JUNIOR COLLEGE

OLDER ADULTS PROGRAM SUMMER 2022
FREE ONLINE 8-WEEK CLASS

AGING GAYFULLY!
for older LGBT adults



WISDOM! LAUGHTER! CONNECTION!

Discover empowering aging strategies and enjoy community support as you share your aging experiences, questions and concerns with other LGBT older adults.

-- SPECIAL 8-WEEK SUMMER SESSION --

OA 505 Section 8468

Saturdays 11 am – 1 pm

June 18 – August 6, 2022

Offered Free Online via Zoom
OPEN TO ALL CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS!



Instructor: Gary "Buz" Hermes MA
LGBT Aging Consultant

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

For more information or to register, contact Buz at
ghermes@santarosa.edu or (707) 227-6935



FAMILY CAREGIVER ALLIANCE®
National Center on Caregiving

LGBT Online Support Group for Caregivers

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

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

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

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

Well Connected Enriching lives and supporting well-being.

(FORMERLY SENIOR CENTER WITHOUT WALLS)

Community Phone Calls

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

Just a few of the things offered:

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

LGBTQ Chat - Wednesdays, 6/8, 6/22, 7/13, 7/27, 8/10, 8/24

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

ElderSAFE Center Workshop: Elder Abuse, Scams, and Healthy Relationships Mondays, 6/6 – 6/27

6/6: Scams, Fraud, and Cons: a discussion on the most common scams targeting older adults, including how to identify scams, how to protect yourself, and information on reporting.

6/13: Understanding Elder Abuse: be empowered to help prevent and recognize elder abuse in your own community. In honor of National Elder Abuse Awareness Day, we will discuss the warning signs of abuse and how to best support someone in need.

6/20: Healthy vs. Unhealthy Relationships: a discussion on managing the many relationships in our lives, recognizing unhealthy patterns, and having healthy boundaries.

6/27: Mental Health, Stress and Self-Care: an open discussion on mental health, stress and the importance of self-care.

Facilitated by Sydney Palinkas, Community Education and Outreach Manager,

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



Out Standing Seniors - Hayward - Sponsored by Pacific Center

June 7 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

June 7 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

June 2, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. (1st Thursday)

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

Find support and like-minded wonderful people!

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

June 2,9,16,23,30 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

June 1,8,15,22,29 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. (Wednesdays)

email Anne@pacificcenter.org for current meeting information.

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

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

June 3,10,17,24 - 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

June 14 & 28 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

June 8 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
June 11 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. (Disaster Preparedness - see info above for joining us via Zoom)

Tri-Valley Rainbows - Sponsored by Pacific Center
June 16 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
June 17 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. (Memorializing Morris Simpson - 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

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

