



Lavender Notes

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September 2022- Volume 28 Issue 9



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Mary Aleatha Midgett

She was 38 when she came to the Bay Area; and 50 when she co-founded the local NIA Collective chapter (to celebrate black lesbians). She was in her 60s when she wrote a couple books of lesbian erotica. She was a mere 79 when she was named a Grand Marshal at the San Francisco Pride Parade and she started a new business at 84. Now she's a substitute teacher at 86 and not planning to retire anytime soon. You simply can't keep a good woman down!

Mary Aleatha Midgett – known simply as “Midgett” since her Army days – was born in August 1936 at the Boston Lying-In Hospital (Brigham and Women's Hospital since 1980), originally founded as a facility for “poor and deserving women”. Her parents were a housewife and the first black man to work at the local Post Office. She was the second of four children, the only girl with three brothers. Her parents separated as she was becoming a teenager.

“My mother told me that I was the darkest and most beautiful baby in the hospital,” Midgett recalls. “In my very racist elementary school, I was the only black kid. There were mostly Italian and Jewish students during those first years and I was a pretty quiet and shy kid. It wasn't until junior high school –

7th, 8th and 9th grades – that I came out of my shell, discovered what a great person I was, blossomed and began to thrive. I became the grandest of the grands, in spite of the fairly unhappy nuns who ran the show at St. Francis de Sales Catholic School!”



Midgett – Age 8



Midgett – Age 12



Midgett – High School Graduation

That winning personality continued to flourish through her three years at nearby Brighton High School, which involved taking a half-hour city-bus ride each way.

“I never knew exactly why my mother decided I should commute to Brighton every day instead of going to the local high school,” Midgett explains, “but she announced that’s where I would be going after I finished at St. Francis de Sales. It turned out to be a good choice for me, I think. There were five black students there – two guys and three of us girls – who became buddies for life. The school focused on training students for some sort of college after graduation. I was enrolled in the commercial track, which was supposed to prepare girls for business school, being secretaries or administrative assistants, so I took typing and general business classes.”

During the 10th, 11th and 12th-grade years, Midgett rarely took time to think about her future.

“High school flew by in a wink,” Midgett recalls. “My buddies and I hung out, played tennis on the weekends and I worked at a grocery store as a cashier. Though I started experimenting with sex when I was about 12 (a little pre-pubescent frottage with a girlfriend!), it wasn’t much on my mind, either. My best guy-friend claimed he was bisexual, but never really owned it by doing anything about it. In those days, there was no talk of lesbian and gay – we just hung out and had a lot of fun.”

After she graduated at age 18 in June of 1955, Midgett was confused about what to do with the rest of her life.

“I went to a commercial college for about six months,” she reports, “but that was not even as challenging as high school had been. Because I had spent a month during summers at a camp in Framingham – sponsored by the Robert Gould Shaw House in Boston – I had learned how to braid the tall grass there. So I thought maybe I should be a beautician. I also began to have an unexplained hankering to have children – I don’t know where that came from!”

So she dealt with her confusion by joining the Army at age 19.



Midgett in Uniform

"After basic training at Fort McClellan in Alabama, I was posted several places, including Fort Meade in Maryland and the Frankfurt Medical Center in Germany. Once again, I caught myself in boring mindless jobs, typing and running errands. Meanwhile, lesbians and gay men were being purged from the ranks regularly by particularly mean-spirited first sergeants. Though I was well aware by then that I was into women – particularly butch women – I also knew the writing would be on the wall if I was ever caught. So I soon figured out how to elude them. Some of those officers tried to keep their eyes on me, but they knew they couldn't catch me. I got out of there as soon as I could, after three years – I didn't need that kind of pressure!"

It was in the military context that she became known as simply "Midgett".

"Growing up in the Boston area, I was always one of five or ten girls named Mary," she recalls, "a very common name then and now. So when I was in the Army, there wouldn't be a bunch of other women who responded to the roll-call surname 'Midgett'. It caught on and I liked it. So I've kept that a vital part of who I am ever since. I even have that name in my email address!"

After her discharge, she returned to the Boston area, where she began hanging out with her old friends again.

"My Mom knew this gay guy, so – for any number of reasons – we became buddies," Midgett says. "We formed what might be called a 'marriage of convenience', indulging my unexplained need to have children. I gave birth to a sweet little boy, who will be 60 this month! The marriage didn't last long – my husband just wandered off with some guy, I think. Then, when I was looking for somebody who might help support me and my son, I met this straight guy, we got married and I had my daughter together with him. Meanwhile, for the ten years he and I were together, I was secretly having an affair with the woman living across the street! Combining that confusion with the fact that I was also involved with a married woman from Army days, it was pretty stressful keeping my life in order."

She lived for a while in Manhattan, where she embarked on a new chapter of her life: teaching.

"While I was a stay-at-home Mom and volunteering at my daughter's nursery school, the director noted that I was really good with kids," Midgett recalls. "Getting some help with tuition to the School of Social Research, I got a job at another school and became a school teacher – a role that has served me well for much of my life, even now. With all of my complications at home, however, I decided to remove myself from all that stress and move to California, where my two surviving brothers lived. My mother had rented an apartment to be nearer to them. Unfortunately, my older brother had been killed earlier when his plane went down during a training exercise at Travis Air Force Base, just an hour north of San Francisco."

In 1974, Midgett moved with her son and daughter into the San Francisco

apartment her mother had rented.

"Mom had moved back to Boston herself, but had kept this apartment, just in case she wanted to be back here at some point," Midgett says. "My youngest brother and I had dinner together nearly every night those first few months and he became very close with my two kids. I applied for a teaching job in San Francisco, was hired within one week, went to City College for an AA degree, went on to Antioch to get the full teaching credential and the rest has been history!"



Midgett – trying out various Looks in her 20s, 30s and 40s

Midgett soon became active in the women's community, particularly involved via San Francisco's Women's Building on 18th Street from the moment of its founding in 1979.



Midgett in NIA Sweatshirt

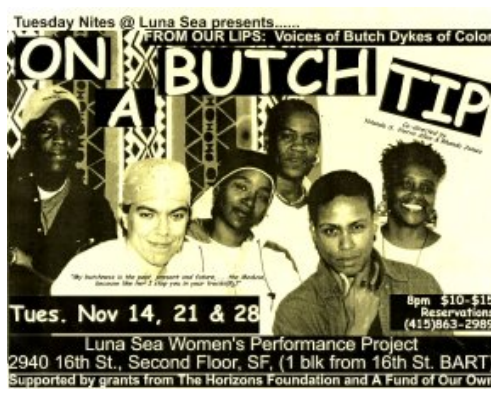
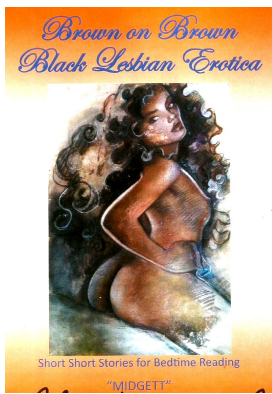


Getting Pat Bond Award

"I conducted one of the first lesbian groups at the Women's Building," Midgett recalls. "I also started a lesbian introduction service after graduating from w.i.s.e. (Women's Initiative for Self-Empowerment). I co-founded the Bay Area Black Lesbians and Gays. I was a co-founder of the NIA Collective, after a Women of Color Conference at the Women's Building. The room seemed to be divided with white women here, Latinas there and black women on the other side of the room. There were 15 of us black women who decided we needed to organize. I was 50 – the rest of them were likely no older than 30! That organization went for 30 years, after which the energy sort of dissipated. Finding people to be on the board of so many organizations became too much for us. I did receive a Pat Bond award for my role in helping form these various organizations."

In the course of political activism in her 60's, her creative side included publishing books of lesbian erotica and involvement in performance art, among other things, as indicated in the following, focused on black and brown

lesbians – particularly butch lesbians - over age 55:



"Brown on Brown" Lesbian Erotica – "On a Butch Tip" – "New York Flavor with a San Francisco Beat" Erotic Stories



Showing some leg

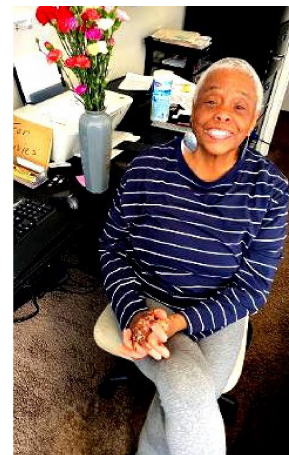
One of her proudest moments was being named a Grand Marshal of the 2015 Pride Parade.

"There I was – on the back of that BMW convertible – a dazzling butch dyke homecoming queen of the rainbow sort," Midgett recalls fondly. "I felt it was, in many ways, the culmination of that chapter of my life to be throwing kisses to the adoring crowd at age 79! For so many of those early years, it had been hard to find other black lesbians – we'd go to the Pacific Center in Berkeley to meet up with both black women and black men there. But now – with campaigns over the years, like 'Becoming Visible' – it is now easier for us to find each other. I'm so sad that one of the pioneers in helping us find each other – Pat Norman – has recently passed on to whatever that next chapter might be for her."

[Editor's Note: To see a YouTube snippet of Midgett as Grand Marshal https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dhLHk88k_MU |

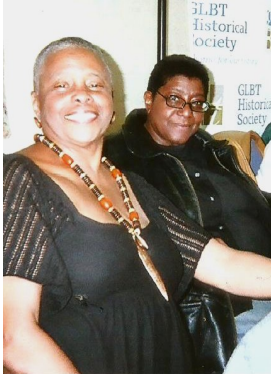
Midgett formally retired in 2002 after 40+ fulfilling years as a school teacher. But she hasn't been letting any moss grow under her feet in the subsequent two decades. She's organizing, for instance, a support group for black lesbians between age 50 and 100+!

"I've been teaching in the Asian Kai Ming School District for two years," Midgett says. "I've worked with and publicized findings from CUAV (Community United against Violence) and taught human sexuality at SFSU for 20-plus years – focusing on demystifying homosexuality – and will continue doing that. I've worked with and trained law enforcement, high school staff and students on dealing sensitively with members of the LGBTQ+ community. I'd like to produce a podcast and continue being actively involved in the Bay Area LGBTQ+ community."



Midgett in her home office

"I've been a long-time member of OLOC (Old Lesbians Organizing for Change). I'm regularly interviewed by academics from around the country, including, most recently, a Columbia University researcher interested in old lesbians. I continue writing and have started 'Midgett's



Reading Room'. Either way, my ego continues being inflated by all the things I've accomplished in these first 86 years! It's been a marvelous ride and I have no regrets!"

Midgett & Photographer Lenn Keller at GLBT Historical Society, 2019

Thank you for sharing some of your story with Lavender Seniors, Midgett, and for your ongoing contributions to the community! All best for the rest of 2022 and beyond!

It's clear you're just getting started – again!



BOOK REVIEW

My American History: Lesbian and Gay Life During the Reagan/Bush Years by Sarah Schulman

This book was first published in 1994 and this is the second edition. Schulman uses news articles and letters for this book. She is a professor of English at the College of Staten Island. She is also a novelist, playwright and screenwriter.

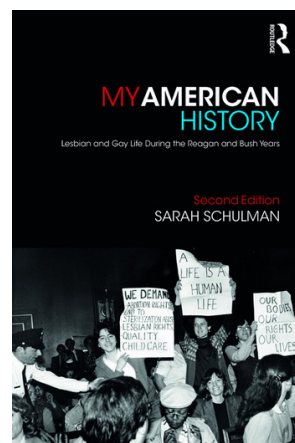
During the Clinton years, the right wing mounts a massive campaign against the LGBT community. Gays were slow to resist them because of AIDS and Reaganism.

Schulman was concerned about abortion rights especially in cases of rape and incest. The anti-LGBT groups saw abortion as similar to Nazi experiments with Jews. A classic example was Howard Philips who used the biblical law that women were just property.

In 1985, the ACLU raises money to support national gay and lesbian rights projects. Gay books were back in school in New York.

This book is a monumental treasure trove of gay history. Readers will feel pure joy.

- Frank J. Howell



BONUS BOOK REVIEW



The LGBTQ Book of Days:
A Fun & Comprehensive Guide to Important Dates in LGBT History



This entertaining and informative work – published first in 2013 and revised in 2019 - documents day-by-day – every day of the year – something significant that has happened in LGBTQ+ history. This is a treasure trove of trivia related to our community’s history – not just in the U.S. but around the world. Gathering all of these nuggets of LGBTQ+ history must have taken years and included story boards mounted on at least 365 posters around a huge room.

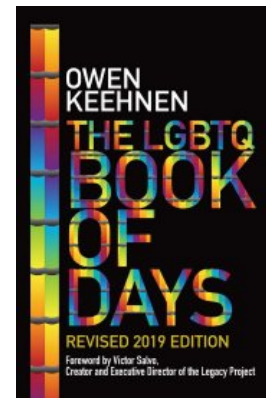
Each entry provides a snippet of information that could encourage a reader to run to the library or hop on the internet to learn more about the person, place or event. For example, taking the three entries for 11th November (an important date in this reviewer’s history) in the 2013 edition result in the follow-up questions:

- **November 11, 1950:** The early homophile organization, the Mattachine Society (originally called the Society of Fools) meets for the first time in the living room of Harry Hay in Los Angeles. Drawing its name from medieval French renaissance secret societies and the papier-mâché masks they wore to conceal their identities, the group’s core members – Hay, Rudi Gernreich, William Dale Jennings, Bob Hull and Chuck Rowland – met in secret and remained anonymous during the group’s early years.

Though many of us may have heard of the Mattachine Society – or even met its co-founder, Harry Hay, in the course of 20th-century Radical Faeries activities – little factoids like the reference to Society of Fools, the source of the name or the names of the other four main organizers prompt the impulse to Google and fill in much more of our own history. It speaks, of course, to the historical need to be “secret” and “anonymous” during the era of police raids, arrests, prosecutions and convictions, as well as ever-present gay-bashing fears.

- **November 11, 1985:** NBC airs “An Early Frost”, the first film to cover AIDS/HIV in the gay community to be broadcast in the U.S.

Though many of us of a certain age may have seen the award-winning film that night or subsequently – introducing us to handsome 25-year-old actor, Aidan Quinn (now 63 years old) for the first time – “An Early Frost” was seen by over 34 million viewers (beating out even Monday night football!). This created a considerable stir around the country. Quinn played an attorney who had to come home and tell his parents and grandmother that he was gay and had AIDS (something hundreds of thousands in our community ultimately had to do). It was the first film with big-time stars like **Gena Rowlands**, **Ben Gazzara**, and **Sylvia Sidney**, who won a Golden Globe for best supporting actress as the understanding grandmother.



- **November 11, 1994:** “*The Real World San Francisco*” gay reality TV star, Pedro Zamora, died at age 22 from an AIDS-related illness in Miami, FL.

This young and openly-gay 21-year-old Latino star of the MTV series has subsequently been the subject of an award-winning bio-pic, "Pedro"; a PBS documentary, "Keep the Cameras Rolling: The Pedro Zamora Way"; and a graphic novel, "Pedro and Me", written and illustrated by his MTV roommate and friend-for-life, Judd Winick. Pedro, a Cuban immigrant and accomplished HIV/AIDS educator, has been credited with raising the level of HIV/AIDS awareness, not only in the Latinx community, but also credited by President Bill Clinton (in both of the films) as key in educating the American public on LGBTQ+ issues.



Owen-Carl-Flannery-Fitzgerald

As any reader can see, there are myriad things one can learn each day from the compilation of facts in this well-researched book.

The author, his partner, Carl, and their dogs, Flannery and Fitzgerald, live in Chicago, where Owen was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame in 2012. More information on the prolific author: <https://www.owenkeehnen.com/about>.

-- Dr John David Dupree, Oakland, California

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!



Shared/Sharing Memories

September is the month we observe not only Labor Day (September 5th) but also Grandparents Day (September 11th) and National Voter Registration Month. In addition, the 10th September is National Swap Ideas Day!

September is also the birth month of some well-known LGBTQ celebrity personalities who are still with us and what age they will be on this year's birthday:

- Lily Tomlin (Sep 1) comedienne/actress/author – age 83
- Michael Huffington (Sep 3) politician/LGBT Activist/Film Producer – age 75
- Kristy McNichol (Sep 11) – age 60
- Johnny Mathis (Sep 30) singer – age 87

Other well-known LGBTQ celebrity personalities – born in September – but no longer with us:

- Freddie Mercury (Sep 5) musician – died of HIV-related complications, age 45, 1991
- Sylvester (Sep 6) musician – died of HIV-related complications, age 41, 1988
- Claudette Colbert (Sep 13) actress – died of a series of strokes, age 92, 1996
- Greta Garbo (Sep 18) actress – died of heart/kidney failure, age 84, 1990

Join us for the Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch, September 10th, for senior chit-chat about shared memories and experiences. Let's have a little fun and mutual nostalgia. There may even be a prize or two involved!

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

Topic: **Shared/Sharing Memories**

Time: Saturday, September 10th, 2022 - 12 pm Pacific Time (US and Canada)

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

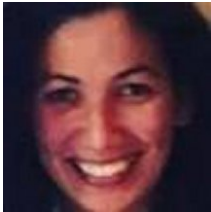
Meeting ID: 896 7102 6595

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

Meeting ID: 896 7102 6595

Learn about the Six Programs of “Meals on Wheels”

The Covid-19 pandemic – with its numerous subsequent variants – has taken 2+ years to slow down to its current levels (100,000 new cases, 6,000 hospitalizations and 400 deaths per week during August, the CDC reports). Many of us vulnerable seniors are still relying on home deliveries of food, medications and other survival needs. LGBTQ+ seniors seem to be no exception to that rule so far, though we are experimenting with in-person Third Friday Lunch Bunch at North Oakland Senior Center in October (see story elsewhere in this newsletter).



Since many of us may still be unaware of the various services provided by organizations like Meals on Wheels, we have asked Marisa Melo, Executive Director of Meals on Wheels of Alameda County, to join us at September's Third Friday Lunch Bunch. She took her position with the organization in 2016.

Meals on Wheels of Alameda County was founded in 1987 (as Countymeals-on-Wheels) and has a non-profit 501(c)3 designation. It is an umbrella organization to the six independent Meals on Wheels delivery programs throughout the county, which prepare and deliver nearly 3,200 meals to homebound seniors every delivery day (500,000+ each year).



Meals on Wheels
OF ALAMEDA COUNTY

The organization's mission is to assist frail, homebound seniors in maintaining independence by providing financial support, community outreach and strategic assistance to Meals on Wheels programs in Alameda County that deliver nutritious meals and perform wellness checks.

Following are the Zoom coordinates for this month:

Topic: *Meals on Wheels*

Friday, 16th September 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 hope you will join us to hear more about this multi-function East Bay program.

January 25, 1922 - September 8, 2021

A memorial celebration of the 99+ year life of our friend, Robert "Bob" Compton, will be held on Wednesday, 7th September, just one day shy of one year after his passing on 8th September 2021. He would've turned 100 on January 25th this year if he'd lived.



Bob – Age 3 with Dog



Bob – 20s in WW-II



Bob in his 90s

His love and devotion to the LGBTQ community was reflected in his years of participation with Lavender Seniors and the Pacific Center, as well as the League of Women Voters.

A lover of nature, reading and politics, Bob always had a natural curiosity concerning life and people. A retired military man and professional social worker, Bob had acquired active listener skills and was a devotee of his Berkeley community. When he was able to navigate his lanky frame to make the meetings – whether with a walker or in a wheelchair – he was a member of the "We're Still Here" LGBTQ+ group meeting at the North Oakland Senior Center and he continued meeting occasionally via Zoom from March 2020 up until his passing in 2021.

Those of us who miss him most will be able to celebrate his life together on 7th September. If you are interested in attending this celebration – to be held at a restaurant in Berkeley from noon-3pm – RSVP by contacting either Karen@LavenderSeniors.org – (510) 388-2992 – or nelsonfgonsalves@gmail.com for details and address. The RSVP is necessary in order to have food for everybody attending.



RSVP If You're Going to Join Us in October!

In-Person 3rd Friday Lunch Bunch Resuming in October!

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, Lavender Seniors has been invited by the North Oakland Senior Center (5714 MLK Jr Way) to resume conducting its long-standing Third Friday Lunch Bunch in-person beginning on Friday, the 21st of October. After meeting on Zoom for 30 months (including this month), we are trying this bold experiment to see how many people might be

interested in resuming this now-traditional activity face-to-face.

During past Third Friday gatherings – attended by anywhere from 20+ to 100+ LGBTQ+ seniors, their allies, families and friends – participants received a nutritious meal and a half-hour or so of social interaction eating together at round tables. Then, after five minutes for community announcements, the program would be turned over to presenters who might be offering education or entertainment (sometimes both) for 20-40 minutes, followed by a usually-robust Q&A period before closing out at/around 2pm.

The plan is to resume that program, if possible, but a bit more complicated given Health Department and City of Oakland regulations, as well as new considerations about providing food in a congregant lunch setting. Because we have been advised that some people are leery of gathering their food buffet style ("somebody else has been touching that spoon and digging into the lasagna!"), we've been advised that lunches should be individually wrapped. This will add to the expense incurred by this joint City and Lavender Seniors venture.

Therefore, we are requesting that people RSVP as soon as possible – no later than 5pm **Monday, October 10th**, to let us know exactly how many people we need to plan meals for. We need to have an exact count. Anyone who doesn't RSVP will not have a meal waiting for them if they join us that day. RSVPs should include at least the following:

- Full name
- Contact details (phone number and/or email address)
- Whether you need vegetarian or non-vegetarian meals
- Whether you have already registered with the North Oakland Senior Center or not

E-mailed RSVPs should be sent to Info@LavenderSeniors.org with the subject line: ***RSVP Third Friday Lunch Bunch***. RSVP message by phone should be left at (510) 736-LGBT (5428).

Because of scheduling issues, the meetings will have to resume at **12:30-2:30pm** instead of the former 12-2pm timeslot. The Center Manager, Kayla Brown, has suggested that – weather-permitting – we hold the first meeting at tables set up outside on the patio just to begin easing our way back inside the facility for the winter months. If there is enough interest – and comfort – with meeting together again face-to-face, we would likely move inside to either the old dining room or to the larger Multi-Purpose Room, depending on level of interest. If, for instance, we only have 30 people show interest, our old meeting space might be sufficient. If we have more than that, we might need to pursue engaging the larger meeting space, allowing room for social distancing in the era of Omicron BA-5. We will repeat the City-mandated requirements here:

Requirements for participants:

- Mask must be worn throughout the Center, **except** when eating in designated area.
- Must be an active NOSC member (still-friendly cost of \$12/year), paid by

check, money order or exact cash preferred. Credit cards not accepted, though reflected on form. Non-members would be welcome to set up an appointment or come to the Center M-F, 10am-2pm. A membership form can be found [here](https://cao-94612.s3.amazonaws.com): (cao-94612.s3.amazonaws.com) (If the \$12 is a challenge, any person interested in attending is welcome to reach out to Kayla by email or phone and she will work with them directly and privately.)

- Must have proof of Covid-19 vaccination. Currently, boosters are not required, though that could change before October, depending on health department protocols.
- Must take temperature and check-in at the kiosk with their membership key tag when they come to NOSC.
- Contact can be made with NOSC/Kayla at: KBrown3@oaklandca.gov or 510-597-5085
- Questions to Lavender Seniors at: JohnDavid@LavenderSeniors.org or 510-736-LGBT (leave name, phone number and e-mail address, if available, to be contacted).

Following is the flyer NOSC has graciously developed to welcome us back in October.

Lavender Seniors
3rd Friday
LUNCH
BUNCH

 Join us for community, connection,
lunch and fun!

 3rd Friday's every month
12:30pm-2:30pm

 At the North Oakland Senior Center
5714 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
Oakland, CA 94609

 Sponsored by:  

 NOSC membership, proof of vaccination and mask
covering nose and mouth required in the building.

Questions?
email: [johndavid@lavenderseniors.org](mailto: johndavid@lavenderseniors.org) or 510-736-LGBT (5428)
NOSC 510-597-5085, M-F, 9a-3p or nosc@oaklandca.gov

S.O.S. – Calling all Able-Minded Good-Hearted People!

Lavender Seniors at Significant Fork in the Road

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay was formed – nearly 28 years ago – at a restaurant in San Leandro’s Bayfair Mall. The group of LGBTQ+ seniors – many of whom have been profiled in the “Stories of Our Lives” column – thought there were inadequate medical, mental health and social services available for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender seniors in the East Bay.

During these three decades, the organization has gone through several iterations, being under the fiscal sponsorship of the Tides Foundation, Bay Area Community Services, The Mentoring Center and – for a brief time – Life Elder Care – before it received its IRS 501(c)3 non-profit designation in 2017. The organization has had paid Executive Directors, Friendly Visitor Coordinators, Newsletter Editors and a Director of the Communication Relieves Isolation program. All of this has fluctuated on the vagaries of funding for LGBTQ+ organizations. Lavender Seniors, largely dependent on community donations and legacies, has successfully obtained grants from the Horizons Foundation, Area Agency on Aging, the San Francisco Foundation, East Bay Foundation on Aging, Kaiser Permanente, the Darby Betts Foundation, the Long Foundation, Alameda County’s Innovation Fund and various other funding sources over the years.

The board of directors has consistently been inclusive of the range of sexualities/gender identities, races, ethnic/religious, socio-economic, ability/disability and educational backgrounds. The current seven-member board is comprised of three cis-men, three cis-women and one transwoman; two Latinx, two Asian-Pacific Islander, one black and two white, with both half-time contractors being black lesbians.

After continuing to provide services through 30 months of Zoom gatherings and board of director meetings, the board and the organization are at a significant fork in the road. Two or three of the board members will be resigning at the end of 2022, as will one of the contractors and, likely, several significant volunteers. In order to continue thriving, the board needs to recruit more volunteers at virtually every level – from the board to volunteers for the various programs. The following is a non-comprehensive list of the skills sets needed for the organization to continue providing services to the East Bay’s LGBTQ+ seniors community, remembering that the above-mentioned demographic inclusiveness needs to stay in force:

- Board members (fund-raising, event planning, financial management, volunteer coordination, personnel management, grant-writing, and program planning skills).
- Newsletter production and website management
- Journalism/story-writing/graphic design
- Computer/internet skills
- Medical / Mental Health / Social Services Issues (particularly for LGBTQ+ community)
- Social/Friendly-Visitor Skills
- Program management (e.g., finding educational/entertainment programs for Third Friday Lunch Bunch, Second Saturday Brunch Bunch and special events)
- Public speaking (and training of public speakers)
- Hosting skills (for anniversary celebrations, program events)

Anyone with any of these skills and 5-15 hours a month to spare volunteering

for the community is encouraged to complete a volunteer form (available on the website to be completed/submitted electronically; or printed out, completed and snail-mailed for those who would rather complete the form by hand):

- <https://lavenderseniors.org/volunteer/> (to complete and submit on-line)
- <https://lavenderseniors.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/VOLUNTEER-APPLICATION-3.pdf> (to download, print out, complete and snail-mail or hand-deliver)

This is a solid organization that has done a lot of good in our community over the years. Let's hope we get many responses from people who could join the effort between now and the end of the year.

Any questions or concerns can be sent to Info@LavenderSeniors.org or left on voice-mail at (510) 736-LGBT (5428).



12th ANNIVERSARY OF OAKLAND PRIDE!



Celebrate
PRIDE!
September 4
2022



- The 2022 event, which will be the 12th anniversary of Oakland Pride, is set to take place on **Sunday, September 4th, 2022.**
- Oakland Pride PARADE and FESTIVAL are open to people of all ages. In fact, Oakland Pride has been reported as the most diverse and family friendly PRIDE in the country. A Family & Children's Garden within the FESTIVAL focuses on providing a fun and safe area for children and their parents/guardians with free programs and activities. All children must be accompanied by adults at all time.
- Oakland Pride PARADE kicks off **10:30am** at Broadway & 14th Street. Oakland Pride FESTIVAL kicks off at **10:30am** and ends at **7:00pm.**
- Oakland Pride PARADE starts at Broadway & 14th Street (Oakland City Hall) and ends at Broadway & 20th Street (Oakland Pride Festival Main Entrance).
- The Oakland Pride FESTIVAL main entrance is located at Broadway & 20th Street. Secondary entrance located at Webster and 21st Street.
- General admission to the Oakland Pride FESTIVAL is **\$10**, children under 12 is **\$5.**

- NO FEE to watch Oakland Pride PARADE (except in VIP/Grandstand* seating along the Parade route).



Delivered By: **amazon** | MADE BY AND FOR THE COMMUNITY

Pridefest

OAKLAND

Featuring **BIG FREEDIA** **MADAME GANDHI**

CRYSTAL WATERS

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11
20TH & BROADWAY, OAKLAND
11AM-6PM

3 STAGES OF ENTERTAINMENT • FOOD & VENDORS
BRINGING TOGETHER SOME OF OAKLAND'S HOTTEST PROMOTERS FOR A PARTY LIKE NO OTHER

Click on picture above to go to the Pridefest Oakland website...or click [here](#).

ACTION SQUAD

ENERGIZED AND READY FOR CHANGE

Hello **Lavender Seniors**,

We need YOUR voice to strengthen protections from discrimination in healthcare spaces like home and community-based services, nursing homes, health insurance, and others, across the nation. [Can you join SAGE in submitting a comment in support of a proposed rule from the Department of Health and Human Services that would explicitly protect people on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in healthcare settings?](#)

SUBMIT YOUR COMMENT

Here's some background: Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act is an historic provision that for the first time in American history protected people across the nation from discrimination in healthcare based on their sex (among other characteristics). The Obama administration interpreted the law to include protections from discrimination based on gender identity and sex stereotyping. Despite efforts from the Trump administration to chip away at the Obama administration's interpretation of the law, thousands of comments from the community and a lawsuit reaffirmed the protections that Section 1557 provided.

Now, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has proposed that sexual orientation also be explicitly protected. If the rule goes into effect, it would make it much harder for a future President to do away with these rights.

Will you write a comment to support protecting all LGBTQ+ older people from discrimination in healthcare? [Tell us your story about a time where you, a loved one, a friend, or a client experienced discrimination or feared discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.](#) Even if you don't have a story, HHS needs to hear that you support LGBTQ+ older people receiving healthcare free from discrimination.

In solidarity,

Emma Bessire, *Grassroots Organizer*

[Connect on Twitter](#) | [Friend on Facebook](#) | [Follow our Instagram](#) | [Browse our YouTube](#)



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,

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,

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 posting the Fall catalog has not post yet so 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

Sept 6 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

Sept 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

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

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

Find support and like-minded wonderful people!

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

Sept 1,8,15,22,29 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

Sept 7,14,21,28 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. (Wednesdays)

email Anne@pacificcenter.org for current meeting information.

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

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

Sept 2,9,16,23,30 - 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

Sept 13 & 27 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

Sept 14 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

Sept 10 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. (Shared/Sharing Memories - see info above for joining us via Zoom)

Tri-Valley Rainbows - Sponsored by Pacific Center

Sept 15 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

Sept 16 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. ("Meals on Wheels" - 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)

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karen@lavenderseniors.org

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Newsletter Editorial
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John David Dupree

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