



Lavender Notes

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

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December 2022 - Volume 28 Issue 12

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**STORIES
OF OUR LIVES**

Dr. John David Dupree

John David – who leaves the Lavender Seniors Board of Directors this month after nearly nine years – knew he was gay when he was a confused six-year-old Michigan boy. It took another 24 years, however – after surreptitiously playing around with neighbor boys through elementary and junior high and with his best friend (can it be called monogamously?) through high school, getting married, fathering two children, earning BA/MA/PhD degrees and becoming a university professor – that he finally came out during his post-doc at UC-Berkeley. A late “out-bloomer”.

Born 80 years ago at Lincoln Memorial Hospital in Motown, he was the younger of two sons birthed by a displaced Kentucky “hillbilly” – married at 15, mother at 17 and 20, grandmother at 40. The youngest of 13 siblings, she gracefully and courageously faced lung cancer, B-Cell lymphoma, an aortal-femoral bypass and Hepatitis C before dying from one of her surgeries at age 78. Her husband (married at 19, father at 20 & 24), was a skilled blue-collar tinsmith at many of his jobs over the years. The fourth of eight siblings, he retired from General Motors at 60, was diagnosed with Parkinson’s at 66 and died of Parkinson’s-related pneumonia at age 77.



Mom,Dad,Wayne,JDD – Detroit

"I had 20 first-cousins on Dad's side and 34 on Mom's," John David recalls. "So I had many family playmates. We regularly traveled in our Model A Ford around Michigan and to Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee, keeping up with the aunts, uncles and cousins. Just before my 8th birthday, we left our two-bedroom Detroit bungalow, moving up to the home where my Dad, his Dad and all their siblings grew up in a small coal-mining/lumbering town. That was a good move, since I had already been involved in a gang, the 'Blueboys.' The older boys stole hubcaps and such, while us younger kids stood watch.

Unfortunately – especially for Mom – our toilet was a two-holer outhouse and water only available by a hand pump, which meant we took baths in the kitchen after water was heated on a wood- or coal-burning stove."

John David became a leader early on, as President of his 7th and 8th grade classes, editor of his high school newspaper, the *Bulldog's Bark*, from age 15, member of and later President of the Student Council. In addition to being active in music, he also lettered in athletics and was named Outstanding Athlete-Scholar of the Year in his senior year.

"My Mom taught me to read when I was three years old," John David says, "so when the other four-year-old boys were outside playing 'Capture the Flag,' I was inside reading the 'yellow magazine,' *National Geographic*, from cover-to-cover. I'm sure it colored people's perceptions of me as the odd nerdy-kum-gay kid, but I also know that early exposure colored my life-long interest in doing international work."



Mom,Dad,Wayne,JDD – St. Charles



The brothers – two photos in metropolitan Detroit, MI – two in rural St. Charles, MI – over the years

One of the great pains of his life – and that of his mother prior to her death in 2000 – was that he was disowned by his only sibling in 1978.

"It broke her heart that the last 22 years of her life, she couldn't be in the same room with all of her kids and grandkids," John David recalls, "particularly since she only worked outside the home for one year and considered her two sons her major accomplishments on this planet. She loved that one year that she worked as a teacher's aide, with an amazing talent for helping kids with

reading problems. The first thing Reagan did after he was elected was eliminate the program under which she had been hired, so as brilliant as she was, she never worked again, other than her regular stints as pollworker in various elections over the years."

Music was a major influence on John David's life. He financed his social life in high school by working as organist – and sometime choir master – for the local Methodist church (\$10/week) from ages 11-17. He was also in the high school marching band, symphony orchestra, dance band and well-known and widely-sought-after area sax quintet in Central Michigan.



JDD-teenage organist / baritone sax player – playing piano/singing along with Mom and Dad, 1960

At age 17, John David left the rural village of 800 and went off to Michigan State University, which had a larger population than the whole catchment area for his "unified" high school.

"I definitely felt like a small-town boy gone big-time," John David says. "In my little high-school – graduating class of 66 – if you had two legs and half-a-brain, you were king! That wasn't true when there were more people in my dorm than in my entire town! I was intimidated initially, but soon, through becoming an active journalist, screwed up my courage and confronted those small-town demons in the 'town without pity', where nobody was allowed to be different. Also, though I got a Trustees scholarship, I still had to work in the Brody Hall cafeteria, where some of my so-called 'friends' seemed to make fun of the poor country bumpkin bussing their tables."



Graduation from junior high school, high school, college (BA), university (PhD) and returning to organist role in an Alameda church

When he went away to college, however, he burned the confusing bridges from his high school years, when he was in love with both the head cheerleader and his best friend.

"I cut both of them off cold-turkey when I left town," John David recalls. "There were two couples – the boys would take the girls home and then wind up in bed together at his house or my house afterward. Or we would go 'camping' together, play around in our pup tent all night under the wraps of sleep, wake up in the morning, stretch, yawn and go 'pick up some chicks' for

the day! My girlfriend wrote me nearly every day and my boyfriend wrote me a half dozen times during that first quarter at MSU. I felt like a freak, because nowhere in my world – or in the media – was it okay to love a woman AND a man! I decided I had to go totally straight.”

Between his bachelor’s degree and his master’s degree, he married a woman he’d met on his first job as a reporter for the *Saginaw News*, one of the Booth chain of Michigan newspapers. He continued as a legislative correspondent from the capital, Lansing, during school years.



“Before we were married, I told her that I’d been sexual with my best friend throughout my high school years,” John David recalls. “Her response was ‘well, you’re not attracted to men anymore, are you?’ to which I responded, semi-indignantly, ‘we’re getting married in September, so what do you think?!’ Answering a question with a question can be the ultimate cover-up, it turns out. I knew better, but also knew what

family, church, community and society expected of me!”

The marriage lasted for ten years, including the birth of a son, Peter, while JDD was working on his doctorate at UNC-Chapel Hill and a daughter, Andrea, when he was a first-year university professor at NMSU in Las Cruces, NM. When they were in their 8th year of marriage, he applied for and received a generous post-doctoral fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities. He chose Berkeley – where he’d never been – based on its reputation for being progressive around issues of sexuality. It was time to face his gayness at age 30!



New Mexico Christmas Card, 1970



Post-Doc Berkeley Brown Shingle, 1973



Last NM Christmas Together, 1974

“In many ways, that Berkeley year was the happiest year of my life,” John David says. “I had my wife, my kids, I allowed myself to fall in love with a man again! My wife demanded a schedule – we were together MWF and I had TThS with the men in my life. Many Saturday nights, she’d be upstairs in our bedroom with her boyfriend, I’d be downstairs with mine. Sunday morning, the kids would pile in bed with her and Dick, then pile in bed with us downstairs. We’d all have breakfast together, wander around the Marina, Tilden or Golden Gate Park. It seemed perfect to me, but not to her. After our return to NM, our marriage fell apart and we were divorced after 10 years in July 1975.”



After the divorce, the last year together with the kids, 1977-78: Yosemite, Point Reyes, Berkeley, Santa Cruz

A painful and protracted custody battle ensued, after which a joint custody settlement was reached. That worked for two years. Then, when he was heavy-laden with Christmas presents, waiting to pick the children up at LAX in 1978, they didn't arrive. He was devastated to be informed by their apologetic stepfather that the kids had been taken to see "Superman: the Movie" in El Paso, instead of being taken to the airport to catch their flight. A subsequent contempt-of-court hearing resulted in the judge confirming a joint custody arrangement. After a failed attempt to pick up the children for their time with him, they disappeared for several months. His parents came to Oakland for Christmas in 1980 to inform him that they'd found the children in Colorado, the mother and stepfather having remarried after their first divorce.

"Throughout that painful process, my Santa Fe attorneys, Joan and Morty – the only lawyers in the state who would take my case – kept reminding me that the judge – whose attitudes on gayness were unknown – could theoretically ban a 'faggot father' from seeing his kids until they were 18, presuming they would want to see me by then," John David recalls. "So – like many gay parents fearful of losing their children – I had worked myself up into such a state that I'm surprised I functioned at all. After the kids disappeared, however, I finally gave up on ever seeing them again. Since I was bursting into tears in the middle of teaching a class – very professional – and screaming awake from nightmares of seeing them falling off cliffs as I ran after them – I realized I was becoming dysfunctional. So I did the unthinkable – I declared them dead and I no longer identified as a father. After my parents found them, it was as traumatic for me to deal with their resurrection as it had been to deal with their 'death', which had seemed necessary at the time for me to move on!"

Once the dust had settled somewhat on all of that trauma, John David took his first post as an openly-gay employee at the Pacific Center in Berkeley, as it moved up from San Pablo Avenue to 2712 Telegraph. He was Director of Education, Training and Advocacy for several years, Interim Executive Director after Carole Migden left the post, and returned to his former position for several years after that. When the AIDS epidemic came along, John David and some of his colleagues began confronting the "gay plague" immediately, breaking away from the Pacific Center as co-founders to form the AIDS Project of the East Bay.

"We did not want to contribute to the notion that this was a 'gay' disease," John David says, "though it caused a considerable flap when the breakaway happened. We acquired offices in Oakland – most of us working part-time at other jobs to support the effort. When we got our first funding from United

Way in April 1983, you'd have thought we struck gold! We offered full AIDS services to both Alameda and Contra Costa County, including my personal facilitation of support groups for Parents of People with AIDS; Family, Friends and Lovers; people with AIDS and Survivors of Successful Suicide. It was quite exhausting and suffered from bad boundaries, simply because I could question – in my mind – People with AIDS, thinking 'that's not what your mother said on Monday night or what your lover said on Tuesday night'..."

In spite of his dedication to the clients and volunteers of APEB, he accepted a post as Program Officer for the Washington, DC, based Academy for Educational Development – funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development – to become a "Global AIDS Warrior."

"I knew I wanted to work internationally from those first *National Geographic* magazines as a toddler," John David says. "But it was a difficult decision, because I deluded myself into thinking I was indispensable to all the clients and their families. Subsequent globe-trotting into developing countries to assist in confronting the epidemic was proof that all of my training and experience up to that point made it a perfect – if painful – next step for me and my career."

In addition to the dozens of developing countries he did AIDS work in – always connecting with the gay community – he and his family lived for three years in South Africa and nine years in Ghana before his retirement in June 2013 at age 70. In fact, he helped coordinate the first-ever LGBTQ Pride March on the African continent in Johannesburg, October 1990. That globe-trotting family included his husband, Jumaane (they're in their 44th year together) and Marco, the first of their four adopted children. Subsequently, he formally adopted Lamin (a promise he'd made to Lamin's father, Hassan, who died of AIDS in Sierra Leone) and informally adopted two Ghanaians, Tony and Gina. Lamin is a long-distance truck-driver in North Carolina with four children; Tony is a commercial pilot with a four-year-old daughter; Gina has completed UCLA's film-making program. His first-born son, Peter, in charge of Colorado's HIV program for a decade – now heads the state TB program. His daughter, Andrea, and her husband, Mike, started Lighthouse Writers Workshop in Denver 25 years ago – plus they have two daughters, Emerson and Joanna, both currently in college.



With Marco, 1989 – Same clothes, 25 yrs later – Peter/Ariana – Andrea/Mike/Em/Jo – Lamin/Fenda&Family – JDD/Tony/Gina

"Soon after I returned to the U.S. – after Barack Obama's election – I joined the Oakland Gay Men's Chorus and the board of Lavender Seniors," John David recalls. "My first-ever flu shot at age 71 resulted in a diagnosis of Guillain-Barré Syndrome in January 2014. It took several months to recover. Among the Lavender Seniors programs I got intimately involved in were grant-writing, the 'Stories of our Lives' column, the monthly LGBTQ+ film series and the Third Friday Lunch Bunch, all of which I hope will continue or resume in 2023 under new leadership."



Always exploring: mountains, castles, rocky crags, South Africa Valley of a Thousand Hills, Costa Rican Pacific Shoreline

Since he has worked in dozens of countries, traveled in another dozen and lived in three (he and Jumaane spend half of the year in their Costa Rican home), his retirement bucket list is limited – maybe the Trans-Canada and Trans-Siberian (post-Putin) Railroads. He has only finished two of his nine novels and half of his 30+ short stories. As he always says to his family and friends, "I don't want to be the oldest person to ever accept the Nobel Prize for Literature, so I'd better get cracking!" Good luck with that, JDD, goddess willing and the creek don't rise!

Book Review

The Guncle

By Steven Rowley



This somewhat playful book – released in early 2021 – is the story of Patrick, a confirmed (and self-isolated) gay resident of Palm Springs. Once a well-known TV star, cancelled four years ago – he is suddenly confronted with the custody and care of his nine-year-old niece and six-year-old nephew. Parents of the two kids happen to be his inseparable bestie from college, who winds up married to his brother. When Sara (the mother) unexpectedly dies and the father, (Patrick's younger brother, Greg) needs a 90-day stint in rehab, Greg requests that his kids be cared for by his somewhat flamboyant gay brother rather than the brothers' uptight sister.

Since Patrick has never entertained any desire to be a parent – or even any interest in children – it is considered uncharacteristic by all concerned that he would be the one to take even temporary custody of his brother's young kids. He has been living in relative seclusion in his swank Palm Springs house – complete with ultra-expensive Japanese "washlet" – a combo toilet and bidet. He seems to have become bored with licking his own wounds for such a long time. The children are initially an annoying way of escaping his reality as a man who feels like a failed TV sitcom star.



As the book-cover indicates, the Guncle and his wards soon become four with the addition of Marlene Dietrich, a rescue dog from the local pound, adding a definite family dimension that also shocks many in Patrick's orbit. Among the interesting characters that Rowley has conjured up is a neighboring polyamorous "throuple" known only as JED (which stands for John, Eduardo and Dwayne). This trio winds up playing "child-minder" – not your typical

baby-sitters— for Patrick from time to time, particularly when he decides he might like to reprise his role as famed sitcom star again. Enter Cassie as his new-found agent!

Meanwhile, the subdued grief felt by all concerned – Patrick has lost Joe, the love of his life, in a car crash and now his best friend from college (mother of the two children) has died – is largely undealt with. Enter uptight sister from the East Coast, threatening to take the children back with her, since she sees Patrick’s gay community setting as unfit for raising children.

This book – though considered to be in the humor genre – grapples with issues of family, relationships, adult-child connections, homophobia, livelihoods and all the rest in a sometimes laugh-out-loud way and, in others, not-so-muffled sobs, perhaps resurrecting some of our own painful childhood memories.

Incidentally, the movie rights – to make this into a film – have been bought by Lionsgate. Steven says he will be writing the screenplay, when/if this materializes. When asked in a recent interview who he would like to see play Patrick in the film, he mentioned Dan Levy, Billie Eichner or Andrew Rannells, emphasizing that he would like the role to be played by an out gay actor, “someone who is slightly prickly on the outside but warm and gooey in his center.”

[Editor’s Note (Pure Unadulterated Gossip):
The author and his husband, Byron Lane, live in Palm Springs with their dog, Raindrop. Byron proposed to Steven in the acknowledgment section of his own 2020 book, *A Star is Bored*. They have been together for almost ten years, but only tied the knot last year. Byron has also written the book *Big Gay Wedding*, which will be reviewed here after its release in the spring of 2023. For a recent interview with the couple, check out the YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iX6BbmdrlFw>]



Steven Rowley



Steven and Byron

- Dr. John David Dupree, Oakland, CA

CONNECTIONS



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

LAVENDER SENIORS FRIENDLY VISITOR PROGRAM HAS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE.

Volunteers with the Lavender Seniors Friendly Visitor program are background checked, interviewed and trained, after which they are matched with a senior to visit regularly, usually for a couple hours each week. Visitors can share stories, chat

about mutual interests and current events, and if both are willing and able, volunteers can take their seniors out for a walk in the park, a bite to eat, a cup of coffee, shopping or maybe a movie or a trip to the museum.

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

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

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



Continuing on Zoom

Pacific Center Update

Though Lavender Seniors has been unable to offer hybrid (both in-person and virtual) access to the Third Friday Lunch Bunch, our Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch continues being held via Zoom. Because North Oakland Senior Center's internet service is sketchy at best, we decided we didn't want to take a chance on disappointing people who wanted to attend activities there virtually until there is better wi-fi on site.

This month's guest on the Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch, 12 noon on the 10th of December, will be the relatively-new Executive Director of the Pacific Center for Human Growth, an organization that has provided services to so many of the local LGBTQ+ community over the years. Some of us met Lasara Firefox Allen, MSW (they/them/Mx) for the first time at the Oakland Pride event in September.



Having recently joined the team at Pacific Center, Lasara is excited to engage with the community and to build on the amazing legacy that PC offers. Lasara currently resides in Oakland, with/in the ancestral and contemporary lands of the Ohlone people. Lasara practices from an intersectional, anti-oppression-focused, feminist framework. They are a co-conspirator for our collective liberation.

"I was born in the South Bay area, at home on a Commune in the La Honda Hills," Lasara says. "I grew up in the wilds of Mendocino County as part of a Back-to-the-Land association. I was home-schooled through high school. I went to a number of colleges, finally graduating with my bachelor's in social work, and then my master's in social work, from Humboldt State University just before it became Cal Poly Humboldt. I have worked in a lot of fields, with Harm Reduction being the most recent before I moved over into community-based mental health services. I am a writer and coach in my free time, and am working on my third book. I have two children, 25 and nearly 23, and have been married to my spouse for nearly 15 years.

Find out more about Lasara at:

www.linkedin.com/in/lasarafirefoxallen/
twitter.com/firefoxallen
instagram.com/lasara_firefox_allen, or
facebook.com/lasara.firefox.allen.

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

Topic: Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch: Pacific Center Update

Date/Time: Saturday, 10th December 2022 – 12 noon to 2pm Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89671026595?pwd=TGRtYkxhTzZGbWFFTTB1WWpQNFPWZz09>

Meeting ID: 896 7102 6595 – Password: 153953

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

Meeting ID: 896 7102 6595 – Password: 153953

Oakland Gay Men's Chorus to Serenade Outgoing Lavender Seniors



Oakland LGBTQ Center Five Years Later

Joe Hawkins, Jeff Myers and their supporters took myriad deep breaths five-plus years ago and co-founded the long-overdue Oakland LGBTQ Community Center at 3207 Lakeshore. The organization has been very successful in launching vital programs in support of the local LGBTQ+ community. From the get-go, there were discussions of collaboration with Lavender Seniors to bolster the Center's "Aging with Pride" program, including perhaps providing office space at the Center. Joe came to the Third Friday Lunch Bunch in conjunction with the Center's first anniversary in September 2018.



Joe and some of the Center staff will be on hand at the North Oakland Senior Center, 16th December, 12:30-2:30, to explain to Lavender Seniors participants the numerous program expansions (including the Glenn Burke Wellness Clinic) and how the Center might take Lavender Seniors into its fold during this transition time. As explained elsewhere in this newsletter, six of the seven LSEB board members and two of the three contractors will be resigning at the end of the month, just from aging/terming out. Though the Center's

board has approved taking LSEB under its umbrella, the fine points of that arrangement have yet to be finalized.

Here's an excerpt from Joe's 2018 presentation that reflect the Center's commitment

Aging with Pride

The center's **Aging with Pride** initiative promotes a positive and healthy quality of life for elder LGBTQ individuals in the Greater Bay Area by ensuring they continue to be supported, respected, and connected as we advance in age. We will collaborate with existing agencies working with LGBTQ seniors to connect people to needed resources and work to identify gaps in services so that we can find ways to fill those gaps. Check our website calendar (<https://www.oaklandlgbtqcenter.org/calendar>) or Join our email list to be notified of upcoming discussion groups and workshops.

Third Friday Lunch Bunch – co-sponsored by the City of Oakland and Lavender Seniors – is held on the 16th of December from 12:30-2:30pm. Because of the need for individually-wrapped meals, RSVPs will be required to order the nutritious buffet lunch by noon on Monday, 12th December. This month's options will be pasta primavera (vegetarian) and roast chicken (non-vegetarian).

- Those who are members of the North Oakland Senior Center (NOSC) should RSVP to KBrown3@oaklandca.gov or by calling 510-597-5085, including meal preference.
- Those NOT members of NOSC should RSVP to JohnDavid@LavenderSeniors.org, listing name, phone number, email address and meal preference.

After community announcements, the program will be turned over to Joe and Center staff for the five-year update on OLGBTQCC.

To close this important transitional meeting, an ensemble from the Oakland Gay Men's Chorus will be on hand to serenade the outgoing Lavender Seniors board and staff. Earlier in the month, of course (see notice of their holiday performances elsewhere in this newsletter), the chorus will be performing in their three "Make the Yuletide Gay" concerts, which we strongly encourage community members to support.



An **ensemble** from this group will be performing at the end of this month's Third Friday Lunch Bunch

The North Oakland Senior Center, 5714 MLK Jr Drive (at 58th Street) continues providing the meeting facilities. Parking lot and entrance are at the rear of the building off 58th Street.

An Editorial Comment

Lavender Seniors Beginning a New Chapter

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay was formed 28+ years ago in San Leandro by a group of LGBTQ+ seniors who were concerned about the lack of medical, mental health and social services welcoming to our community. There have been several chapters in those nearly-three decades. We are currently turning the page on another of those chapters.

We are, hopefully, going to become a program of the Oakland LGBTQ+ Community Center in the near future. The Center's board has tentatively agreed to becoming fiscal sponsor of LSEB, pending negotiations and working out the wrinkles of the arrangement later this month. Since six of the seven board members and two of the three contractors are resigning as of 31st December, the time seems right to all concerned to make this happen now.

It may be butchering a quote and a simplistic way of thinking about it, but it seems to be an appropriate way of celebrating this transition.

'People come into your life for a reason, for a season or for life.'

Over the years, LSEB has had at least four fiscal sponsors – the Tides Foundation, Bay Area Community Services, Life Elder Care and The Mentoring Center. Each of those worked for a reason at the time – and, as it turned out, for an important season. Each of them had at least a small part of their mission statement that coincided with ours – mental health/social services in general, focusing on senior needs, guiding youth to be responsible adults, etc., but none of them was a total match across the board.

So, five years ago – at the same time Joe Hawkins and Jeff Myers were co-founding the Oakland LGBTQ+ Community Center – we acquired our own IRS 501(c)3 status as an independent non-profit organization determined to implement our own mission statement to the fullest. There was a lot of talk in that first year or two about what the two organizations have in common – and there was even discussion about finding office space for LSEB at the Center. Then, along came Covid and we all went primarily virtual for nearly three years. Both organizations proved we could survive the isolation, mask-wearing and social distancing required to make it through.

Now, as we begin opening up our activities in-person again, the board members of both organizations think we've found we have more in common than just our length of operation as non-profits. We think we have found that third category of people from the quote: the people who will be in the lives of local LGBTQ+ seniors for the duration, for as long as such organizations are needed in a culture that hasn't always been welcoming – and continues to be

threatened in state houses across the land, in Congress and in the Supreme Court.

We hope and pray the constituents of both organizations will join in celebrating whatever is worked out to combine their efforts: improving the lives of LGBTQ+ people of all ages, races, religions, ethnic/cultural backgrounds, socio-economic classes, ranges of abilities/disabilities, gender identities and marital status.

OAKLAND LGBTQ CENTER

Presents:

- * INDOOR CANDLE LIGHT VIGIL & ACTIVITIES
- * RAFFLES
- * MUSIC
- * FOOD
- * LINKAGE TO SEXUAL HEALTH CARE -ON SITE

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3207 LAKESHORE AVE. OAKLAND CA 94610

JOSE@OAKLANDLGBTQCENTER.ORG



HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR

WE'VE GOT SOME *CHER* FOR YOU!

SFGMC rings in the holiday season with its much-anticipated annual tradition, *Holiday Spectacular*. The music will be joyous, the costumes will be fabulous, and the dancing will be thrilling. Audiences can expect the entertaining flair, fun, and heart that the Chorus always delivers.

There will be holiday favorites, including *Jingle Bells* and *I'll Be Home for Christmas*, classical choral works—including *Sure on this Shining Night*, and unexpected originals, including a holiday-themed Cher medley...yes, that Cher!

SAN FRANCISCO'S SYDNEY GOLDSTEIN THEATER
Friday, December 2 and Saturday, December 3

GET TICKETS

BERKELEY'S FREIGHT & SALVAGE
Sunday, December 11

GET TICKETS - SOLD OUT

ROHNERT PARK'S GREEN MUSIC CENTER
Saturday, December 17

GET TICKETS



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

Make the Yuletide Gay!



OaklandGMC.org/tickets
Contact@OaklandGMC.org



Friday, December 9, 7:30
Montclair Presbyterian Church
Saturday, December 10, 7:30
Del Valle Theater, Walnut Creek
Sunday, December 11, 4:00.
First Presbyterian Church of Oakland

GET TICKETS NOW

LGBTQ+ CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Presented by the Alzheimer's Association®



4th Wednesday of the month

6-7:30 p.m.

Virtual via Zoom

For more information or to register, email kesamodurov@alz.org or call 415.463.8504.

Not only do LGBTQ+ people have an increased risk for developing Alzheimer's or another dementia, we also become caregivers at a higher rate than the general population. Caregiving for someone with dementia is difficult work, and can include specific challenges for our LGBTQ+ community.

Our LGBTQ+ Caregiver Support Group can offer you:

- » Information on available community resources and inclusive care providers;
- » A chance to learn from others going through similar experiences;
- » An opportunity to build a support network; and
- » A safe space where everyone is welcome — whether you are caring for a spouse, life partner, parent, grandparent, friend, or chosen family member.



In partnership with:

housing, services, and community for LGBTQ seniors
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Visit [alz.org/CRF](https://www.alz.org/CRF) to explore additional education programs in your area.



LGBTQ+ Community Support: Caregiving for our Families and Friends

This online support group LGBTQ+ Community Support Caregiving for our

Families and Friends offers a place for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender caregivers of adults with chronic health problems to discuss the unique issues of caring for their loved ones.

Subscribe to [LGBTQ+ 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, 12/14, 12/28

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, 11/28, 12/12

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, and how to take a turn to talk. No question is too silly or simple! Facilitated by Well Connected Staff

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



Save
the
Date

Out Standing Seniors - Hayward - Sponsored by Pacific Center
Dec 6 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. (1st Tuesday)

Meets via Zoom email outstandingseniors@pacificcenter.org 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

Dec 6 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. (1st Tuesdays)

Meets via Zoom email livingoutlivermore@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

Dec 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 - on Zoom - runs in 9 week sessions

Dec 6, 13, 20; Jan 3, 10, 17, 24 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. (Tuesdays)

Please email olderandoutgroups@pacificcenter.org for more information. No drop-ins. Intake is required for attendance.

Free therapy group for LGBTQIA+ community members age 55+

Older & Out Therapy Group - Oakland - Sponsored by Pacific Center - In-person at Oakland LGBTQ Community Center - runs in 9 week sessions

Dec 7, 14, 21; Jan 4, 11, 18, 25; Feb 1; 1:15pm - 2:45pm (Wednesdays)

Please email olderandoutgroups@pacificcenter.org for more information.

Intake is required for attendance.

Free therapy group for LGBTQIA+ community members age 55+

Older & Out Therapy Group - Berkeley - Sponsored by Pacific Center - in-person at N. Berkeley Senior Center - runs in 9 week sessions

Dec 2, 9, 16, 23; Jan 6, 13, 20, 27; 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. (Fridays)

Please email olderandoutgroups@pacificcenter.org for more information.

Intake is required for attendance.

Free therapy group for LGBTQIA+ community members age 55+

Rainbow Seniors

Dec 13 & 27 12:30 p.m. (2nd & 4th Tuesdays)

San Leandro Senior Community Center

email rainbowseniors@pacificcenter.org 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

Dec 14 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (2nd Wednesday) via Zoom

A portion of this meeting is open to the public.

Lavender Seniors Rainbow Lunch

Dec 10 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. (Second Saturday)

This month's program: ("Pacific Center ED" - see info above for joining us via Zoom)

Tri-Valley Rainbows - Sponsored by Pacific Center

Dec 15 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. (3rd Thursday)

Meets via Zoom email trivalleyrainbows@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

Dec 16 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. (Third Friday)

North Oakland Senior Center

This month's program: (OLGBTQCC and OGMC' - see info above)

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

