



Lavender Notes

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

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Celebrating 23+ years of service and positive change

August 2018 - Volume 25 Issue 8

STORIES OF OUR LIVES

Steve Toby

Twelve years after he was interviewed for one of eight "Lavender Scrolls", roving life-size exhibits depicting LGBTQ seniors, Steve Toby of Richmond was interviewed again last week as an update for the "Stories of Our Lives" column in this month's [Lavender Notes](#). When he was interviewed by Lavender Seniors of the East Bay in 2006, he was 66; he will be 78 in October.

Born Janice Toby in San Francisco on 15th October 1940, Steve was the oldest of four children of a precision woodworker and his homemaking wife, an active volunteer in several programs, including Campfire Girls.

"Dad was self-employed with a workshop in the basement of our house," Steve recalls. "I spent a lot of time in the shop, learning how to use various tools and machinery, being shown how blueprints work to build with precision. Dad was definitely not an 'absent father'. Though neither of my parents could be described as particularly 'nurturing', they were both definitely very caring. My brother, sisters and I had a good childhood with all of our physical needs always met."

The Toby siblings were part of an active network of 12 first cousins from both sides of the family, experiencing many family events, holiday get-togethers and generally friendly relatives, all in all. As a child, however, Steve was aware of feeling like a boy, strongly drawn to boys' toys, clothes and activities, but being urged by his mother and other family members to be less of a "tomboy" and spend more time with the 'more appropriate' girls' toys, clothes and activities.



Mom, Dad and baby Janice,
1940



As one year old, 1941



With parents, younger sister & brother,
1946

Up until he was 12 years old and first read about Christine Jorgensen's "sex-change" in Denmark, however, he felt very much alone with his gender confusion. There was certainly nobody nearby to discuss such things with.

"I thought I was the only person who was unhappy about his gender, until I read that first Jorgensen story," Steve reminisces. "And then I presumed that Christine and I were the only TWO on the planet. This sudden burst of insight into my own confusion was not reinforced in my family or in the popular culture. There was nothing known or written about transsexuality in the popular media at the time, so it just wasn't being discussed."

Steve didn't consider himself particularly popular in high school, though he was active in the Lutheran church youth group and choir, teaching Sunday school and developing an interest in stamp and coin collecting. Some of his first semi-political awareness came as a member of the girls' athletic association, when it became clear that there were no intramural sports, uniforms and such for the girls, only for the boys.

"I think we all just took for granted that boys got all the perks of organized sports and scheduled events," Steve recalls somewhat bitterly. "Us girls were dealt with as somewhat second-class citizens with fewer opportunities for development, having to settle for the odd game during a PE class. Over my high school and college years, however, I signed up to learn about and participate in such activities as basketball, bowling, swimming and horseback-riding."



Age 8, 1948



Age 18, Graduation, 1958



Age 19, with camper at Camp Joan Mier, 1959

From his senior year in high school on through attending San Francisco State University for six years (earning a teaching credential), Steve participated in an

ongoing platonic-but-allegedly-heterosexual relationship with a male friend of the family.

"Having a male 'date' for such things as social events and church activities gave me at least a modicum of social acceptance," Steve recalls, "although he and I never even held hands, much less did anything more. We were both intellectual, loved classical music, ushered at the San Francisco Opera and were more like brother and sister than boyfriend and girlfriend.

In 1963-64, Steve decided to join the Peace Corps. He spent three years in Malaysia as a Peace Corps Volunteer. "I taught math and science in a rural high school at a time when Malaysia was not nearly developed as it is now. I thoroughly enjoyed it and consider it one of the highlights of my life."



Peace Corps Volunteer,
1964-67



Age 40, College Graduation, with Mom
& Dad, 1980



Age 50, in the Kitchen, 1990

Back in the US, Steve took a job in San Francisco teaching math to junior high school students. It was a rough ride. At the end of two years, he went to a two-week retreat which changed his life.

"I realized how stress-free I had felt during that retreat, compared to how stressful my teaching job was," Steve recalls. "I decided to resign my teaching post. I just knew I couldn't go back to the stress of teaching."

He subsequently worked at various jobs, primarily in the computer field. He was a research assistant at San Francisco's public health hospital. When that job ended, he spent a brief period receiving food stamps, which displeased his mother.

"She informed me that she would rather clean toilets than apply for food stamps," Steve recalls.

Steve then got a job as a mail carrier. This also made his mother angry as she felt it was beneath his dignity. Steve said he thought carrying mail was a step above cleaning toilets.

Steve became a programmer and coder for UC-Berkeley for six years, after which he was hired by the City and County of San Francisco as the only woman in the computer division.

"I had a difficult boss and after seven years, I was ready to quit," Steve recalls, "but I also knew I was probably too old by then to get a new job elsewhere and work long enough to have a significant retirement package and ongoing health care. So I stayed on for 20 years. I must say that, during that 20 years, I experienced much more sexism from being a woman than I subsequently felt from transphobia as a transman!"

In 2001, the City/County of San Francisco approved transgender health benefits for employees and retirees. That prompted him to move forward on his transition. Steve attended his first transgender support group at that time. Within one year, he had taken major steps toward his transition. Recent changes in the standards of care meant that he could move forward without much delay.

"I was like a race-horse that had been at the starting gate for 61 years" Steve recalls. "I first saw my transition therapist in July 2001, and immediately started hormone treatment. I had my top surgery in January of 2002 and my legal name change went through in February of 2002. I waited seven years for the bottom surgery, going back and forth between wanting the surgery and questioning whether at my age, I really needed it. I made the decision to go when I realized it was necessary in case I wound up some day in a 24-hour care facility where I might be forced to live as defined by my genitals."

Since his transition, Steve has been very involved in providing education for medical, mental health and social service providers, participated in the Lavender Scrolls project, helped Lavender Seniors conduct trainings and did a lot public speaking on the issue. He was also a peer facilitator of an FTM (female-to-male) support group at Pacific Center for many years.



Steve, age 61, 2001



Steve, age 67 in front of Lavender Scroll, 2007



Steve, Age 75, 2015

"Even though I was old enough to be the father or grandfather of all the other guys, I felt accepted and respected." Steve recalls.

Coming out as a transman to family and friends – once he knew for sure what was going on with him – was mostly uneventful, though some friends and family across the country (e.g., a cousin in Pennsylvania) found out via an article in the San Francisco Chronicle.

"My story post-transition is not as 'angst-filled' as many others might be," Steve opines. "When I told my father, for instance, it went like this. I asked him how he felt about people having surgery to change their sex. His initial response was very compassionate, saying things like 'oh, how sad – they must suffer so much!' But when I told him that I was trans, as well, it was initially like I had punched him in the stomach. But, as it turns out, like any caring parent, he was mostly concerned about my happiness, safety and security. One nephew has since told me he's never seen me so happy; one sister was loyal but never totally comfortable with it."

Steve is pretty open about his feelings toward relationships and sexuality, in general.

"I've always had a pretty low libido, both as female and male," Steve recalls, "But when I started taking testosterone, I went through male adolescence and was very turned on. That resulted in a one-year relationship with a female friend of mine. But eventually the hormone high came down and I realized I'm attracted to men, not women. So I went back to being unattached. Still, I've always longed for companionship – perhaps 'with benefits' – though it's never taken the 'want-to-get-married' fantasy as either woman or man. Besides, never having been part of the gay community and being elderly, bald and short I don't feel like I'm particularly a candidate for getting hooked up with a gay partner at this point."

Steve still lives in the Richmond house he bought back in 1980. He pursues his childhood interest in stamp and coin collecting (he is president of a stamp club). One of his primary interests for the past few years comes via the East Bay Chapter of the Native Plant Society, for which he serves on the Tilden Park Nursery steering committee. He helps raise plants from seeds and cuttings, plus encourages and educates landscapers on how best to incorporate native plants into their gardening schemes. He is also a member of Ashby Village and helps by giving seniors rides and helping people in their homes as a handyman, having learned such skills long ago in his father's basement workshop.

Thank you, Steve, for your contributions to not only the LGBTQ community, but to the planet!

[Editor's note: For those who might want to know more about Lavender Seniors' "Lavender Scrolls" project – or Steve Toby's contribution to it – the following hyperlinks will take you there. One of the scrolls – called simply the "Silent Scroll" – speaks to the ongoing need many LGBTQ seniors have to keep their identities secret, for fear they'll be subjected to homophobia/transphobia, rejection, mistreatment and/or abuse in their tender senior years – particularly those who have suffered from any of these forms of discrimination at previous points in their lives.]

<http://lavenderseniors.org/lavender-scrolls-project/>

http://lavenderseniors.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Steve_Scroll_1.jpg

http://lavenderseniors.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Steve_Bio_1.jpg



BOOK REVIEW

Harvey Milk: His Lives & Death

By Lillian Faderman

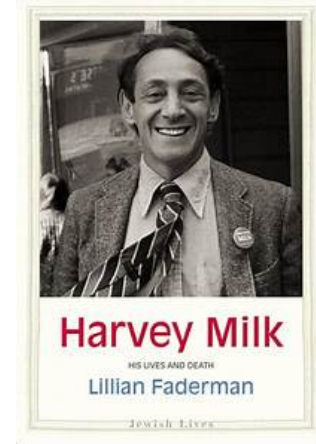
Faderman is a noted historian of gay and lesbian rights.

Time Magazine considers Harvey Milk as one of the

most significant figures of the 20th Century.

Before his big breakthrough in lavender rights he worked as a school teacher, labored on Wall Street and supported Barry Goldwater. As a teenager he was a big fan of grand opera. He also joined the U. S. Navy.

Harvey's political adventure took off when he met Dianne Feinstein and Jim Foster, head of the Alice B. Toklas Memorial Democratic Club. In 1971 he was their first gay person to speak at the Democratic Convention.



I first encountered Harvey at his camera shop in the Castro. I didn't buy any film.

Faderman has delivered a stunning political adventure that all admirers should promote. Conservative writers should also remember this stunning political history. Harvey Milk's enemies could never keep him down. Only a bullet could do that.

- Frank Howell

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 karen@lavenderseniors.org and we will be in touch with you soon. Thank You!

Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch
August 11, 12:00pm -2:00 pm



All Saints Episcopal Church
911 Dowling Blvd, San Leandro

Program: "What Does My Insurance Contract Say?" Mary Pouncil, retired insurance agent will answer this and your other questions.

A catered buffet luncheon will begin at noon, followed by announcements and the program at approximately 1:00. Feel free to bring a potluck dish to share if you wish.



"Call Me By Your Name"

Many in the LGBTQ community have already seen this month's Third Wednesday film series presentation, though perhaps not sitting in a room of like-minded kindred spirits. Either way, it's worth seeing a second (or third) time! Nominated this year for four Academy awards, "Call Me by your Name" is one of those films that couldn't have been made when most LGBTQ seniors were youngsters attending the Saturday morning matinee at their home-town or urban movie theater. (Of course, in the 1940s-50s, the closeted young LGBTQ person could also show up clutching only a quarter; then, for 25 cents, see a cartoon, a newsreel, a double feature AND get a box of popcorn and a soda, to boot)...! Not so in 2018!

The film takes place in the summer of 1983. Precocious 17-year-old Jewish-Italian-American Elio Perlman (played by Timothy Chalamet, nominated for two Academy Awards this year), is spending the languid days with his family at their 17th-century villa in Lombardy, Italy. Oliver, a handsome Jewish-American doctoral student (played by Armie Hammer), arrives from the U.S. to work as this year's summer intern for Elio's researcher-professor father (perhaps a bit on the closeted side himself). Amid the sun-drenched splendor of coastal Italy, Elio and Oliver discover the heady beauty of awakening desire over the course of a summer that will alter their lives forever.



Based on the best-selling 2007 novel of the same name by American author, André Aciman, the film chronicles the blossoming relationship between Elio and Oliver, a summer romance that affects both of their lives. Though the film only takes them through the first few months after their budding gay connection, the novel describes the long-term effect on both of their lives over the next two or three decades, so viewers might want to buy the book, take it out of the library or download it as an e-book to get the full range of the novel's reach.



Young Elio literally in hot pursuit of Oliver



The guys have finally connected



Teen Elio feeling the heartbreak of first love

Incidentally, the film did win an Academy Award for James Ivory in the "Best Adapted Screenplay" category. The 89-year-old Ivory (of Merchant & Ivory fame) was the oldest winner of a competitive Oscar in the history of the Academy (which might give us creative seniors a second wind). Merchant & Ivory Productions collaborated on several gay-themed films like E.M. Forster's "Maurice". In fact, Ivory's original direction of Armie Hammer in this current film called for two frontal-nudity scenes (some might think of Ivory as a "dirty old man"?), which Hammer ultimately declined to do for fear his teen-age daughter would see his junkie on Instagram one day, he explained. Interested viewers must settle for a few rear-end "butt-shots" of the 30-year-old 6'5" actor (who had no stunt doubles on the set).

The Lavender Seniors film series is held in the fully-accessible Carnegie Lecture Hall at the San Leandro Public Library, 300 Estudillo. Screening begins at 1pm on the Third Wednesday, 15th August 2018. Following the showing, there will be a brief evaluation and discussion of the film.

The library can be reached via BART (five blocks above the San Leandro station), AC-Transit (two blocks above the E. 14th and Estudillo bus-stop), Bancroft Avenue, Highways 580 or 880. Ample two- and three-hour parking is available.



**CORE Neighbors Helping Neighbors
Preparedness Workshop and Lunch
Hosted by: The Lavender Seniors
of the East Bay**

Friday, August 17, 2018

12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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

CORE wants to help you help your neighborhood

The Oakland Fire Department offers free emergency preparedness training classes through its CORE program (Communities of Oakland Respond to Emergencies) that enables citizens to better prepare and deal with an emergency should one occur. CORE promotes the spirit of neighbor helping neighbor by teaching self-reliance skills, team building, and instilling confidence, which is geared towards organizing a neighborhood response to a major disaster.

Learn How to Make a Plan, Build a Kit and Get Involved

For more information, e-mail info@lavenderseniors.org
or visit the CORE website www.oaklandcore.com



This program made possible by
Lavender Seniors of the East Bay
North Oakland Senior Center and the
Oakland Fire Department CORE Program



Do you need an ASL, Cantonese, Mandarin or Spanish interpreter or other assistance to participate?

Please email core@oaklandnet.com or call (510) 238-6351 or TDD/TTY (510) 615-5883 five days in advance.



SUMMER OF LOVE

- Hors d' oeuvres
- Mock tail bar
- Prizes for the best "Summer of Love" outfit

Dance Party

Geared for LGBTQ, Allies and Friends.

Saturday, August 18, 2018

6:00pm-10:00pm

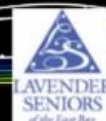
Tickets: \$20/advance \$25/door

Class #: 50102

Kenneth C. Aitken Community Center
17800 Redwood Rd., Castro Valley

Castro Valley Pride
DJ Billy Bradford

Information: (510) 881-6738 HaywardRec.org



Oakland Pride

Oakland Pride Parade & Festival: Sunday, September 9, 2018 10:30am-7:00pm, Franklin Street, Oakland

<https://www.facebook.com/events/178454642888572/>



CARA Alert – July 16, 2018

A publication of the California Alliance for Retired Americans

Print/Download

CARA 15th Annual Regional Conventions in September
Register for one or more of these exciting events!!
(Each one will be a bit different)

EAST BAY AND NORTH BAY (ALAMEDA, CONTRA COSTA/SOLANO, MARIN AND SONOMA)

Tuesday, Sept 11th, 10a.m.–2p.m. Richmond Auditorium, 403 Civic Center Dr, Richmond (Buses available from San Rafael and Santa Rosa)

SACRAMENTO AND PLACER COUNTY (CD 4)

Wednesday, Sept 12th, 10a.m.–3p.m. Maidu Community Center, 1550 Maidu Rd, Roseville (Bus available from Sacramento)

REDDING/5 COUNTIES (CD 1)

Friday, Sept. 21st, 12p.m.–3p.m. Redding City Hall Community Room, 777 Cypress, Redding

SAN FRANCISCO AND SOUTH BAY (SAN FRANCISCO, SAN MATEO, SANTA CLARA)

Thursday, Sept 27th, 10a.m.–2p.m. IBEW #332, 2102 Almaden Rd., San Jose (Buses available from San Francisco and San Mateo)

CENTRAL VALLEY (CD 10)

Thursday, Sept 20th, 11a.m.–3p.m. Salida Library, 4835 Sisk Rd., Modesto

FRESNO AREA AND BAKERSFIELD (CD 21/22)

Tuesday, Sept 25th, 10a.m.–3p.m. Hanford Fraternal Hall, 1015 N. 10th St., Hanford (Buses available from Bakersfield and Fresno)

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Monday, Sept 17th, 10a.m.–2p.m. Steelworkers Local #675, 1200E 220th St., Carson (Bus available from San Gabriel Valley and Downtown LA)

SAN DIEGO COUNTY (CD 49)

Tuesday, Sept 18th, 10a.m.–3p.m. Sheetmetal Workers #206, 4594 Mission Gorge Pl, San Diego

ORANGE COUNTY (CD 48)

Wednesday, Sept 26th, 10a.m.–3p.m. UFCW #324, 8530 Stanton Ave., Buena Park

Each event includes continental breakfast, lunch, materials, and lots more. The cost is only \$10 per person. Register online here.

You can contact CARA at:

CARA, 600 Grand Ave. #410, Oakland, CA 94610

NORTH: 510-663-4086 • 510-663-4099 (fax) • jreid.cara@gmail.com

CENTRAL VALLEY: 714-488-5488 • Vishnu.cara@gmail.com

SOUTH:

LA COUNTY: 917-434-3220 • jennichang.cara@gmail.com

ORANGE/SAN DIEGO: 714-460-3542 • smeyer.cara@gmail.com

OTHER SOUTHERN CA COUNTIES: 714-488-5488 •

Vishnu.cara@gmail.com

TOLLFREE 1-877-223-6107 • www.californiaalliance.org



Dear Community Members,

The County of Alameda and the Alameda County-Oakland Community Action Partnership (AC-OCAP) are now accepting applications for two exciting community engagement opportunities. Please see the announcements below for more information.

Sincerely,
Supervisor Wilma Chan

Alameda County Citizens Academy

The Alameda County Citizens Academy is a free 6-session interactive program that provides insight to County services and operations and offers opportunities for civic engagement in the County.

It provides an excellent opportunity for the community to increase their knowledge of county government and its impact. Through presentations by top County leaders, participants benefit from a unique interactive learning and behind the scenes experience. Refreshed programming includes tours of key County facilities, demonstrations of specialized equipment, hands-on exercises designed to illustrate the impact of County services in the community and opportunities for citizen engagement.

The program's goals are to provide the community with a better understanding about what is required to run the county, promote civic engagement, and connect Alameda County residents to one another.

Applications are due by August 5, 2018. Fifty (50) participants are selected on a first-come, first-served basis (with consideration given to geographic location to ensure representation to all five Board of Supervisors districts).

***Applications are available
online: <http://www.acgov.org/academies/citizens/index.htm>.***

(Editor's Note: Lavender Seniors member and your newsletter editor had the opportunity to participate in this last year, it was a great experience! I highly recommend taking the opportunity to do this! - Beckie)

AC-OCAP Board

AC-OCAP, Alameda County-Oakland Community Action Partnership, is committed to reducing poverty by providing services and programs targeted to low-income individuals and families. AC-OCAP has been funding programs and projects in the low-income community since 1971. AC-OCAP is now accepting applications for openings in Oakland CDBG Districts 1, 2 & 6, and one opening in Alameda County (excluding Oakland and Berkeley).

The AC-OCAP Administering Board members are responsible for planning, developing, and executing the local Community Action Plan for alleviating poverty and working toward institutional change to enhance the ability of low-income residents to achieve self-sufficiency in Oakland and throughout Alameda County (excluding the City of Berkeley). AC-OCAP's priority focus areas are: family self-sufficiency, job training and employment placement, housing and community economic development, supportive services, civic engagement, advocacy, and capacity building.

Applications are due on a rolling basis until all openings are filled. The deadline for the first round is August 30, 2018. Applications are available online: <http://www.ac-ocap.com/>.



Community Phone Calls

Just a few of the things offered:

LGBTQ Chat 2nd and 4th Mondays, 1:00pm - 2:00pm

This group is open to all LGBTQ seniors 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 Sylvia Vargas, Openhouse Friendly Visitor Manager

Where Were You When? Saturdays, 12:00pm - 12:45pm

Where were you when you were 50 years old? Or 10? Do you remember where were you on Christmas Eve in 1960 or the summer just before you started high school? Join us to discuss these memories of our lives back when. Facilitated by Janice Rooker

Poetry Sundays, 10:00am - 11:00am

Share with others poetry that you have written or that you admire and join in a lively

discussion about the poems. Facilitated by Anne Ale

View the Current catalog of community phone calls [here](#). Check the [website](#) for more information. To participate in these or other Senior Center Without Walls (SCWW) telephone activities, or to learn more about SCWW programs, call 877-797-7299 or email info@seniorcenterwithoutwalls.org.



Save the Date
15th Annual

Healthy Living Festival

at the Oakland Zoo

"Promoting Health and Wellness for Sixty+ Adults"

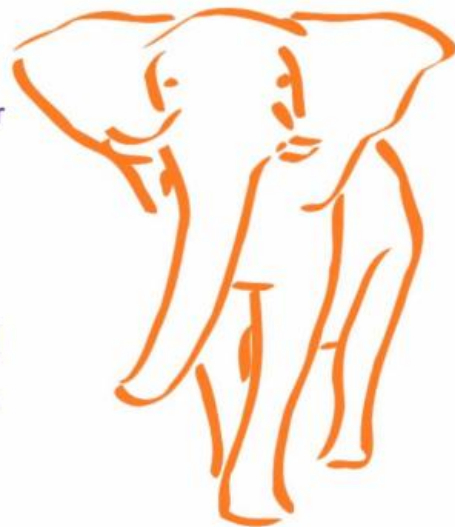
Thursday, September 13, 2018
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Fun, Friends, Health Screenings/Resources,
Great Music, Physical Activity, Lunch, Medication Take Back,
The Zoo & More!**

****This event involves a lot of walking and encourages participants to be physically active. If you have a medical condition and/or have mobility challenges, please consult your doctor and/or bring an attendant to assist you.****

Join us as we take collective action to improve the quality of life for seniors throughout Alameda County. Together, we can make positive change!

Contact United Seniors
for more information at (510) 729-0852 or
email Mary at Mary@usoac.org
or visit www.usoac.org



ORGANIZED BY

USOAC
United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County
Empowering Seniors • Enriching Youth • Enhancing Community





An LGBTQ Version of "Oklahoma"? No WAY!!

For those who may have been unaware – as Lavender Seniors board members were until recently – there has been an exciting LGBTQ development this year at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland – just 5+ hours' drive north! Bill Rauch, long-time OSF artistic director – departing Ashland next spring to become the first artistic director of the Perelman Center at the World Trade Center in New York – decided to use his chops as an out gay director to mount a longed-for all-LGBTQ version of "Oklahoma!" as his swan song at this year's festival.

Many gay men – pre-pubescent/adolescent when we may have been drooling over Gordon MacRea (or over Shirley Jones perhaps for young lesbians) – belting out such classic show-tunes as "Oh What a Beautiful Morning" and "People Will Say We're In Love" in the 1955 film version – are eager to see how that gender change works in the OSF "same-sex" version.

So, Lavender Seniors has reserved seats (at a reduced \$35 Lavender Seniors rate) for the Monday, 1st October, 8pm performance so that some of us East Bay LGBTQ seniors can indeed venture north to witness this innovative and inclusive take on the first-ever collaboration on a musical between Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein.



The mixed-race lesbian lead
couple



The guys all dancing together



The lead gay male couple serenading
each other

Before he could modify the script, cast a lesbian couple, a gay male couple and "Aunt Eller" as a transwoman, however, Rauch had to approach the Rodgers and Hammerstein estate to get permission to mount such a production – which he did! Reviews have been "over the moon", including extensive standing ovations from most appreciative audiences.

One of the perks OSF is providing for Lavender Seniors is a next-morning 10am session with the actors from "Oklahoma" (including out LGBTQ actors) who will talk about the performance from their perspectives. The festival will

be providing the venue and the actors for free to us.

Those interested in attending this performance can contact

JohnDavid@LavenderSeniors.org to be put on a list of participants.

Admission tickets will be \$35 apiece. Transportation will not be included in the package, but arrangements have been made at three levels for those who will attend and need accommodation for one or two nights (listed from least to most expensive – all accommodations/theaters have wheelchair/walker accessibility available):

- Green Springs Inn: An LGBTQ-friendly B&B approximately a half-hour up a mountain outside of Ashland. Two-person cabins at \$51.90 per person (including 1.8% tax). If anyone wants a single room, the cost will be \$103.80. Breakfast is included and other meals are available on request (and payment). <http://www.greenspringsinn.com/>
- Holiday Inn Express: A corporate hotel with no particular policy on LGBTQ customers. Located three miles from the theater with no shuttle service available. Basic continental breakfast included. Double rooms at \$79.32 per person (including 11.8% tax). Anyone wanting a single room, the cost will be \$158.64 (including 11.8% tax). <https://www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/ashland/hsaor/hoteldetail>
- Arden Forest Inn: A gay-owned/operated inn walking distance to the theater with off-street parking and a two-course gourmet breakfast. Theater-knowledgeable hosts. Double rooms at \$100 per person (including 11.8% tax); one upstairs suite has two bedrooms (accommodating four people – one room with a queen bed and the other with twin beds) still \$100/person (including 11.8% tax). <https://afinn.com/results.cfm>

People are free to make any other arrangements for accommodations, of course, since these are just three that have been tentatively arranged by Lavender Seniors.

For those who may want to see a second play in the Festival, Lavender Seniors has also reserved \$35 seats for the 1:30pm matinee performance of "Manahatta" (Lenape language for Manhattan) Tuesday, 2nd October. The world-premiere production of this ground-breaking play, written by celebrated playwright, activist and attorney, Mary Kathryn Nagle, deals with the tragic consequences of Europeans "conquering" Native American peoples, beginning with "buying" the island of Manhattan from the Lenape tribe for the legendary \$24 worth of trinkets. Melding the past with the future – switching between 17th-century New York and 21st-century Oklahoma – the play has received rave reviews since it opened at OSF in March. For those with the interest, time and financial ability, on the third day, Wednesday, 3rd October, some \$35 seats have been reserved for the 1:30pm matinee performance of Shakespeare's "Othello".



21st century Lenape vs 17th century in



Iago attempting to influence his commander in "Othello"

Obviously, anyone can decide to take advantage of other productions at the Festival, but these are the only ones currently receiving the \$35 discounted rate for Lavender Seniors and allies.

The festival and accommodations packages require a 25% non-refundable deposit by Wednesday, 22nd August, which means Lavender Seniors must have a list of those intending to attend by then, in order to confirm all reservations. The final non-refundable payment is due in full on Monday, the 3rd September.

Individual transportation arrangements for the 345-mile trek between Oakland and Ashland can include any of the following (one-way, using 65+ senior rates, whenever available):

- Driving/car-pooling can take 5-6 hours straight up Highway 5. Estimated fuel cost \$35.50. [Directions](#)
- Greyhound bus – 15.5 hours (beginning at 1am) - \$53-\$58/person, one-way, depending on day of departure. [Bus Schedule](#)
- Amtrak: 15 hours (beginning Jack London at 9:39pm, including transfer to Amtrak bus at Klamath Falls, OR) - \$73.80 - \$311.30, one-way, depending on whether sitting up or in stateroom. [Train Tickets](#)
- Airline (SFO-MFR): Only local flight is United Airlines from San Francisco to Rogue Valley International Airport in Medford. \$167-\$319 (one-way), depending on day of departure. Non-stop flights take 90 minutes. [Find a Flight](#)

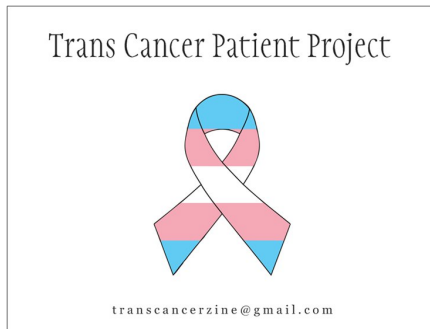
When the Downtown Oakland Senior Center takes its twice-a-year trips (three days) to Ashland, they hire a bus to take 65 people each time. The cost for that entire trip (including play tickets, transportation, accommodation, many meals and lectures) is generally about \$500/person. Their next Ashland trip is 4th-6th September. Since they already saw "Oklahoma" on their April trip (<http://www2.oaklandnet.com/oakca1/groups/dhs/documents/marketingmaterial/oak068832.pdf>), they won't be including it – nor "Manahatta" or "Othello" – on their upcoming September trip.

Lavender Seniors needs to finalize arrangements by the 22nd of August, so anyone interested should contact JohnDavid@LavenderSeniors.org before then to be considered for inclusion – first-come/first-served.

For more information about Oregon Shakespeare Festival and plays offered this season, follow this hyperlink: <https://www.osfashland.org>



To read the New York Times article announcing the same-sex "Oklahoma", follow this hyperlink:
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/19/theater/oregon-shakespeare-festival-season-includes-a-same-sex-oklahoma.html>



Transgender Cancer Patient Zine

In search of transgender cancer patients (in treatment or not) who are interested in submitting an artistic expression of this unique lived experience through poetry, stories, photography, drawing, etc.

Submit and/or contact: transcancerzine@gmail.com



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](#).

Need a Ride? Easy Pick-Up with Just One Call

VIP Zip – Rides for Seniors

VIP Zip, a partnership between LIFE Elder Care, the California State Automobile Association (CSAA), Lyft and Uber Health, is an EASY and SAFE ride service for seniors. The program has been declared a success after a three-month pilot program ended on July 31st. An on-demand ride anywhere in the county is just a phone call away! Program staff can take your call any time between 9am and 4:30pm, Monday through Friday.

VIP Zip will monitor your ride to make sure you arrive at your pre-determined destination safely and on time.



To see a video of how the system works: <https://lifeeldercare.org/get-help/vip-zip/>

The program is particularly designed for seniors who either don't have a smart-phone or are uncomfortable using it, according to Patricia Osage, Life Elder Care's Executive Director. There is low-income assistance available, so you can ask about subsidized rides when you call the VIP Zip number, she said!

Go anywhere you want, whenever you want, using the following steps.

When you need a ride, start by calling (510) 820-3201 to get started with VIP ZIP. If you are 60+ and live in Alameda County, VIP Zip will help you get to where you need to go during the week on YOUR schedule.

Once you sign up, it is easy to pay with a credit or debit card on file with VIP/ZIP. You will pay only for the cost of the ride, no additional fees.

This service should help Alameda County seniors (including LGBTQ!) gain better access to healthcare and life's necessities. In addition, VIP Zip customers can make spontaneous trips to visit family or friends or to go strolling in the park; visit the doctor or run to the store to pick up last minute groceries. There is no need to wait for the bus or to inconvenience someone else. This door-to-door service takes the hassle out of travel.

If you're ready to get started, call (510) 820-3201 or visit www.VIPZip.org. Another way to sign up or ask questions, contact Valerie - vdraeseke@LifeElderCare.org - (for Fremont, Newark, and Union City); contact Andrea M - amok@LifeElderCare.org (for all other Alameda County locations), or sign up online - <https://lifeeldercare.org/services-sign-up-form/>.

To see an example of how the system works with Uber, see www.UberHealth.com.

Here's a quick look at how Uber Health works with VIP Zip:

1: A healthcare associate (calling 510-820-3201) books a ride on demand or for

a future appointment, using the Uber Health dashboard to seamlessly coordinate rides for those in need.

2: The passenger is contacted by text or call with their trip details at the time the ride is booked and once again when a driver is on the way to pick them up.

3: The passenger is picked up and dropped off on schedule. No additional action on behalf of the healthcare associate is required to get them to and from care.

VIP Zip is a partnership between Life Elder Care, CSAA, Lyft and Uber Health



THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

Out Standing Seniors - Sponsored by Pacific Center

August 7 & 21 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. (1st and 3rd Tuesdays)

Hayward Senior Center, 22325 N. Third Street, Hayward

A safe and confidential space for LGBTQ seniors 50+ to share thoughts, feelings, resources, information, and support. FREE, though donations are welcome.

Queerly Aging Lesbians

August 2 & 16, 1:30 p.m. (1st and 3rd Thursdays)

The Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Avenue (at Derby), Berkeley

Find support and like-minded wonderful people!

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

August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 3:15 p.m. (Fridays)

North Berkeley Senior Center, 901 Hearst Ave, Berkeley

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

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

August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 2:15 p.m. (Fridays)

Oakland LGBTQ Community Center, 3207 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland

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

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

August 6, 13, 20, 27, 30 1:15 p.m. (Mondays)

Hayward Senior Center, 22325 N. Third Street, Hayward

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

Rainbow Seniors - Sponsored by Pacific Center

August 14 & 28, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. (2nd & 4th Tuesdays)

San Leandro Senior Center, 13909 E 14th St, San Leandro

A safe and confidential space for LGBTQ seniors 50+ to share thoughts, feelings, resources, information, and support. FREE,

though donations are welcome.

Lavender Seniors Board Meeting

August 8, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (2nd Wednesday)

675 Hegenberger Rd., Oakland

A portion of this meeting is open to the public.

Senior Gay Men's Group

August 9 & 23, 1:30 p.m. (2nd and 4th Thursdays)

The Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley

Co-sponsor: The Pacific Center, 510-548-8283

Feel alone? Need to find space to be yourself and chat with others?

Join us!

Lavender Seniors Second Saturday Rainbow Lunch

August 11, noon - 2:00 p.m.

All Saints Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling Blvd., San Leandro

This month's program: "What Does My Insurance Contract Say?" (see info above)

Lavender Seniors LGBTQ Film Series

August 15, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. (3rd Wednesday)

San Leandro Library, 300 Estudillo, San Leandro

This month's movie: "Call Me By Your Name" (see info above)

Island Pride Peer Support Group - Sponsored by Pacific Center

August 8 & 22, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. (2nd & 4th Wednesday)

Mastick Senior Center, 1155 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda

A Peer Support Group is a safe & confidential space for LGBT Seniors 50+ to share thoughts, feelings, resources, information & to support one another.

Oakland Third Friday Lunch Bunch

Co-Sponsored by City of Oakland Aging/Adult Services & Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

August 17, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

North Oakland Senior Center, 5714 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland

This month's program: "CORE" (see info above)

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay Board of Directors

President: Victor Aguilar Jr

Second Vice President: Gwendolyn M.

Boozé

Treasurer: Carmen Chiong

Vice President: Akilah Monifa

Secretary: John David Dupree

Founding Member: Barbara Jue

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

Message: 510-736-LGBT (510-736-5428)

newsletter editorial

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John David Dupree
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Contact Us

