



## ***Lavender Seniors of the East Bay***

***a Program of the Oakland LGBTQ Community Center***

*Celebrating 30 years of outstanding service and positive change*

♥ February 2024 ♥ Volume 30 Issue 2



Happy February and Happy Black History Month! There are so many unsung Black LGBTQ+ heroes and figures that deserve to be honored. In this issue of Lavender Notes, we are honoring #blacklove by featuring an intimate conversation with husbands Mali (he/him) & Randy (he/him), longtime bay area residents and well-respected community Elders.

Thank you to everyone who came out for January's Third Friday Lunch Bunch. A huge thank you to Kayla and the amazing staff at The North Oakland Senior Center, the Market Hall catering staff as well the deli team from Lucky's who always make sure our Seniors are well taken care.

This month we are celebrating all things amour with a red romance themed Third Friday Lunch Bunch and the highly anticipated return of Social Seniors at The Watermark. We are releasing a new code of conduct for participants who attend our activities and events. As we grow and move forward, we will continue to ensure our spaces remain safe, respected and protected for all.

I am happy to announce that our new LGBTQIA+ Elders Therapy Group is making its debut, in addition to the Friendly Visitor Program is being relaunched as Rainbow Buddies. We are coordinating a new service called Carpool Buddies for participants too! It has been a very busy start to the new year for Elder Services at The Center...but stay tuned because there is so much more to come!

There is a first of its kind survey that was recently released from the California Department of Aging you can access in this month's issue of Lavender Notes. Our friends out at the City of San Leandro are conducting their first age-friendly survey and LGBTQ+ listening session. You can pick up the survey in-person at The Oakland LGBTQ Community Center or Third Friday Lunch Bunch - we highly encourage residents of San Leandro to let your voice be heard! Representation matters!

It is only through the support of community members like you, that our program and services can exist. Please click [here](#) if you would like to sponsor and support Lavender Seniors and our Elder Services Program, as we continue to serve the amazing LGBTQ+ Senior and Elder community in Oakland and the East Bay.

In gratitude and love,

**Jessie R. Spivey**

Director of Elder Services, Oakland LGBTQ Community Center

## Introducing NEW LGBTQIA+ Elders Therapy Group

Our Therapist led Senior support group is finally back! There have been a lot of questions about the status of this group so we are happy to bring this offering back!

Grace Walcott (she/he) joins Lavender Seniors as Facilitator of this amazing group. Grace is a therapist, activist and actor who deeply believes in cultivating community connection in the LGBTQ+ and poly community. She/he is a drama therapist and uses her creativity in her craft. Grace is also the Author of "Wide Open: My Adventures in Polyamory, Open Marriage and Loving On My Own Terms". She/he is a graduate of California Institute of Integral Studies in Drama Therapy, currently leads groups and sees individual clients in the Oakland and Bay Area.



**For sign up information please  
call 510-882-2286 or email:  
[info@lavenderseniors.org](mailto:info@lavenderseniors.org)**



The new LGBTQIA+ Elders Therapy Group meets weekly on Wednesdays in-person at The Oakland LGBTQ Community Center. This is not a drop-in group, you must be pre-registered and enrolled by the Facilitator to participate.



## Heart to Art Project debuts to rave reviews!

We are thrilled to announce the successful launch of the first cohort in the Heart to Art Project with Derrick Bell. We can't wait until the student showcase in the summer!

For community members who are interested in participating in the program, the first cohort is closed and at capacity. Our next cohort will start in the summer and be announced in a future issue of Lavender Notes. To be added to the mailing list for the Heart to Art Project, please email: [info@lavenderseniors.org](mailto:info@lavenderseniors.org).



The first cohort from the Heart to Art Project in session with Artist Derrick Bell



## A new program for LGBTQ+ Seniors

### THE HEART TO ART PROJECT DERRICK BELL ART

THE MISSION:  
USING ART AS THERAPY  
TO HELP HEAL,  
INSPIRE, AND  
EMPOWER US TO  
BECOME THE BEST  
VERSION OF  
OURSELVES.

Art!  
Healing!  
Empowerment!

Tuesdays  
@  
The Oakland LGBTQ  
Center

featuring  
Derrick  
Bell

For sign up info: [info@lavenderseniors.org](mailto:info@lavenderseniors.org)



**S P E C I A L**  
**ANNOUNCEMENT**



The California Department of Aging (CDA) is supporting research partners and a statewide coalition of LGBTQIA+ community-based organizations to design and launch California's first statewide survey documenting the needs, hopes and priorities of mid-life and older LGBTQIA+ residents across the state.

Mid-life and older LGBTQIA+ Californians are part of a generation that faced extreme levels of stigma during their lifetimes as well as pride in a movement that asserted civil rights for LGBTQIA+ people of all ages. Despite the central role that LGBTQIA+ Californians play in California's history and in communities across the state, no baseline data are available that describe their aging experiences. Some studies, such as a COVID-19 study of LGBTQIA+ older adults in San Francisco, suggest higher rates of isolation, depression and suicide ideation, all of which could be addressed with more responsive and accessible services. As CDA and others seek to learn more about the aging experience of all Californians in support of the California Master Plan on Aging (MPA) goals for equity and inclusion, it is crucial that the unique life experiences within LGBTQIA+ communities are visible and honored.

California's survey of mid-life and older LGBTQIA+ residents will paint an up-to-date and comprehensive statewide portrait. To offer insights about the experiences of marginalized and underserved LGBTQIA+ communities, the survey team will oversample Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), Hispanic/Latinx, and Asian Pacific Islander (API) communities, as well as rural and frontier communities. The survey data will form a first-ever baseline data set, which will be available to other researchers in an open-source format to encourage additional research and policy attention to the needs of mid-life and older LGBTQIA+ Californians.

Questions? Please contact: **[LGBTQIA\\_study@ucsf.edu](mailto:LGBTQIA_study@ucsf.edu)**

**Take the Survey!**

## Friendly Visitor to relaunch as Rainbow Buddies

The Friendly Visitor Program will officially relaunch as the Rainbow Buddies program. Active participants and volunteers are being contacted via phone, email or in-person to get transferred into the new program.

Volunteers - We have received a large number of volunteer requests while the program was on hold. Please give us grace while we shift through those messages and establish contact with people. If you are interested in becoming a Rainbow Buddy, the application will be uploaded to our website soon.



Untitled Design

For community members who are interested in becoming a participant in the Rainbow Buddy program, please be patient as we roll this program out. We will prioritize enrolling active and past participants before accepting new participants in the program. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

A formal announcement will be made once the landing and sign-up page go live.



## Introducing Carpool Buddies

Participants have been reaching out to inquire about volunteering to Carpool for activities and events, so we are launching **Carpool Buddies!**

*Carpool Buddies* will connect *program participants* that live in the same vicinity with other *program participants* that volunteer to provide carpooling service to and from activities.

If you are a current *program participant* and interested in volunteering to become





a Carpool Buddy (*Driver*), please email: [info@lavenderseniors.org](mailto:info@lavenderseniors.org) and include Carpool Buddies in the subject line. A valid CDL, insurance and background check are required.



- Senior Gay Men's Affinity Group (In-person)
- Senior Lesbian Affinity Group (In-person)

If you are interested in being joining one of the above groups, please email: [info@lavenderseniors.org](mailto:info@lavenderseniors.org) and request to be added to the mailing list for upcoming announcements. Group meeting dates and times TBD/TBA.



## STORIES OF OUR LIVES





Ernest Mali Andrews, he/him (L) and Randy Jordan, he/him (R)

A handsome army brat, model and fashionista from Eatonton, Georgia crossed paths with a charming, thespian and choreographer from Brooklyn, New York, and an eternal flame was ignited...

This is the (love) story of Ernest Mali Andrews and Randy Jordan.

Eatonton is known as the dairy capitol of Georgia. World renown writers, Joel Chandler Harris, and Alice Walker both hail from Eatonton but who



would have thought that Eatonton would be the birthplace of one of the Bay area's prominent Black LGBTQ Elders, fashion influencers and community health workers, Mr. Randy Jordan. Randy was born in the 50's and while being Black and gay in the south does not sound ideal, his family and community were always very loving and supportive, so he never mistreated or that he had to "come out". Randy was always Randy and he remained in Putnam County until he enlisted in the Army and headed out west to the Golden State.

After getting his cosmetology license while serving in the Military, he quickly got his BA in Fashion after landing in San Francisco in the 70s. Randy was a regular on the Ebony Fashion Fair circuit until one moment changed his life forever. In 1986, Randy was diagnosed with HIV. He was saddened to see his friends start to die around him but remained optimistic and considers himself a survivor of a time when an already oppressed group of people were being further oppressed by ignorance and stupidity around this new thing called AIDS.

The 90's offered some reprieve with advancements in medications, but Randy suffered another blow when he was diagnosed with cancer in 1994. It was during this time that Randy decided to retire due to his health. In true Aquarius fashion though, he bounced back and was ready to return to work after only 2 years, kicking off a very successful run with MVET, a non-profit for HIV+ veterans.



All the way up the easts coast, in the city that never sleeps, another one of the Bay area's most prestigious Black LGBTQ+ Elders and community leaders, was coming into his own. Bedford-Stuyvesant is the birthplace of many notable people like Lena Horne, Shirley Chisholm, Jay-Z, Lil' Kim and many others. Add to that list our very own, Mr. Ernest Mali Andrews.

Growing up in New York and the busy borough of "Bed-Stuy" (as it is known to most), was a young, gay Black youths dream, right? Well not quite, when your family is not "comfortable" with your "lifestyle" or tells you, "We can't have *that* in this house." It is a phrase and sentiment heard all too often by members of the LGBTQ community navigating growing up and finding their identities. Mali, however, did not let that hold him back. He started theater and dance at age nine and left home at the tender age of 15.

This was in part, because Mali was outed by his father, a Veteran and strict disciplinarian, who was so militant, "he would throw a quarter on the bed and if it bounced you had to remake it!". Mali's father grew so suspicious of his "lifestyle" and closeness with a certain, older choreographer "friend" of his, that he got the friend to confess about their relationship after intentionally overserving cocktails at a family dinner. Despite the circumstances, his family remained supportive and eventually became more accepting and understanding. Mali was determined to finish high school and became the first recipient of John F. Kennedy Memorial Citizenship Award. He was also the first Black student body president. After high school Mali went on to act in several Broadway productions most notably the Richie Havens produced, Safari 300.

Although they were each destined for success in their own respective careers, it was through community health work with AIDS/HIV, that Randy and Mali's paths crossed and eventually intertwined forever. It would take a couple of fateful run-ins though. Mali first saw Randy on the cover of Sierra Domino, the first Gay men's publication to feature all Black models. They ran into each other at the Eagle Creek bar in San Francisco while Mali was doing outreach and again at rehearsal for a fashion show that Randy was in years later. It was not until a night at Cables Reef in Oakland in 1992, however, that stars aligned for these two souls to unite. A run in at the bar turned into a date, which led to them making it "official" in 1995 and eventually getting married in 2008.



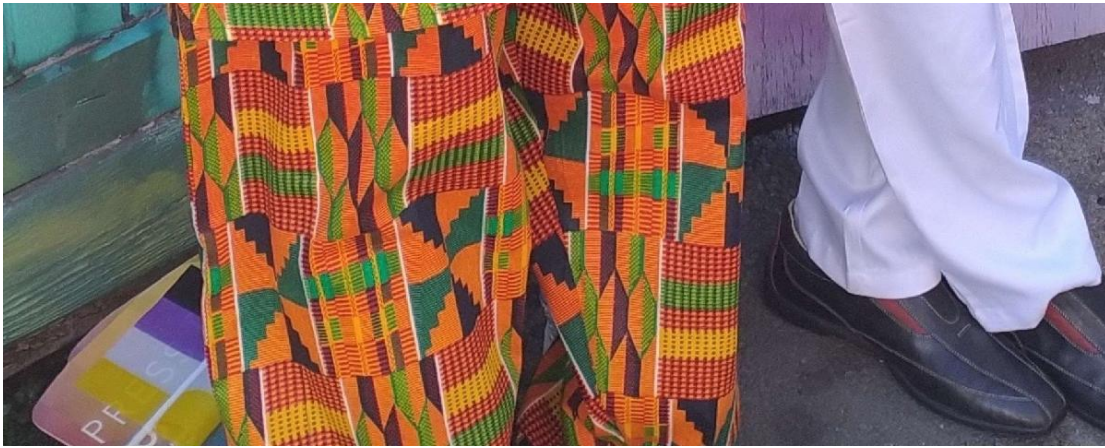












Both Randy and Mali are now retired and living a “peaceful, blessed and highly favored,” life in Concord where they were able to find neighboring and conjoined apartments. Randy still hopes to publish a book of poetry and short stories and travel to Asia. Mali has been focusing on taking care of Randy and making sure “me and my husband are both happy, healthy and able to enjoy life together.” They were both recently involved in a car accident on their way to Lavender Seniors Third Friday Lunch Bunch.

When asked about legacy, Mali feels like he has always ended up where he needed to be. He wanted to learn and be an advocate for people of color living with HIV and his work has been recognized by the cities of San Francisco and Oakland, The CA Senate and he even has two days named after him. The day he retired from the AIDS task force in June of 1995 and October 22 in Oakland are officially known as “Ernest Mali Andrews” Day! Randy, who is living with no regrets, remains thankful for “the wonderful spirit God put in my path.” He wishes more people can experience coming out as he did and reminds us that, “You are worthy. Love yourself. Know yourself. Trust yourself.”

We honor and celebrate you, Mali and Randy. Not just for the amazing legacy you have created for the LGBTQ+ community, but for your amazing testimony about #blacklove. Cheers to the both of you!

Check out Sampson McCormick's interview below with Mali and Randy in his Profiles on Black Love feature from September 2022 via YouTube.





*If you or someone that you know are interested in being featured in Stories of Our Lives, please email: [info@lavenderseniors.org](mailto:info@lavenderseniors.org)*



## February Activities



LAVENDER  
SENIORS  
of the East Bay

T H I R D  
**FRIDAY**

**LUNCH BUNCH**

O A K L A N D

# *Third Friday* **Lunch Bunch**

**RSVP  
REQUIRED**

Every **Third Friday @ 12:30pm**  
North Oakland Senior Center  
5714 MLK Way



For more info please call **510-882-2286** or email: [info@lavenderseniors.org](mailto:info@lavenderseniors.org)

Feb 16

## **February Lavender Seniors Third Friday Lunch Bunch**

Join us February 16th and every Third Friday for Lavender Seniors Third Friday Lunch Bunch. February's luncheon will include local Saxophonist, Ashley Jemison. Lunch will be provided for all registered guest(s). RSVP required.

**Register**

Free



**SOCIAL SENIORS**

**EVERY LAST FRIDAY 12:00PM**

**RSVP REQUIRED**

**A MONTHLY SOCIAL FOR LGBTQ+ SENIORS**  
**THE WATERMARK, 1440 40TH STREET, EMERYVILLE, CA 94608**  
**FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CALL 510-882-2286 OR EMAIL: [INFO@LAVENDERSENIORS.ORG](mailto:info@lavenderseniors.org)**

Feb 23

## February Social Seniors

Social Seniors is a monthly social for LGBTQ+ Seniors to connect and combat isolation. The is a free event however, RSVP is required to attend. Lunch will be provided for all registered guest(s).

Register

Free



QUEER BLACK HISTORY SPOTLIGHT

# OAKLAND LGBTQ COMMUNITY CENTER, FRAMELINE, AND CINEMAMA PRESENT

WWW.OAKLANDLGBTQCENTER.ORG



## TONQUES UNTIED

DIRECTED BY MARLON RIGGS

**FREE** screening + panel  
discussion

Sunday 2/4  
12-2 pm

Grand Lake Theatre

3200 Grand Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94610



IN OAKLAND'S NEW LGBTQ CULTURAL DISTRICT

## Grand Lake Theater Black Queer Film Screenings

Starting Sunday February 4th, 12pm - 2pm

This screening is **FREE**

Tongues Untied (55 minutes)

Location: Grand Lake Theater, 3200 Grand Ave, Oakland

Egyptian Theater

*Panel discussion will follow.*

Filmed in Oakland, San Francisco, and New York City, Tongues Untied shares fierce examples of homophobia and racism: the man refused entry to a gay bar because of his color; the college student left



bleeding on the sidewalk after a gay-bashing; the loneliness and isolation of the drag queen or trans woman. Yet, they also affirm the Black, gay male experience: protest marches, smoky bars, "snap diva," humorous "musicology" and vogue dancers, in Marlon Riggs' seminal film.

Marlon Riggs graduated magna cum laude from Harvard and received his Master's degree in journalism from the University of California, Berkeley, where he became the youngest tenured professor at the Graduate School of Journalism.

In 1989, Marlon completed his landmark experimental documentary film *Tongues Untied*. Ultimately, it was aired on national PBS as part of the television series *P.O.V.* The three principal voices of *Tongues Untied* are those of Riggs, and poets Essex Hemphill, and Joseph Beam. *Tongues Untied* had political backlash; Republican Senator Jesse Helms famously argued to defund the arts after its release. He produced, wrote, and directed several documentary films, including *Ethnic Notions*, *Tongues Untied*, *Color Adjustment*, and *Black Is...Black Ain't*. His films examine past and present representations of race and sexuality in the United States.

Marlon Riggs was an Oakland resident and lived in the Adams Point neighborhood where he died of AIDS related complications in 1994 at the age of 37.

"A Black male warrior fighting for the right to love other Black men, Marlon Riggs affirms what was nearly lost, newly found: the certainty that Black male lives are utterly precious."

—Alice Walker, Author, *The Color Purple*

Stay tuned for our closing screenings of short films at the Grand Lake Theater on Thursday evening, February 22.

For more info please call 510-882-2286, scan QR code or visit:

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

**Tickets**

# LGBTQ+ EMBODIED 9-WEEK IN-PERSON WORKSHOP

**ARE YOU LOOKING FOR YOUR “PEOPLE” IN THE  
LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY?  
DO YOU WANT TO FEEL SEEN AND ACCEPTED FOR  
YOUR TRUE IDENTITY?  
A PLACE TO FIND COMMUNITY & HEALING?**

**WHEN:** DRAMA THERAPY GROUP, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH, FROM 6 PM TO 8:15  
9-WEEK

**WHAT WE DO:** RIVER OF LIFE LGBTQ+ WORKSHOPS ARE MULTIGENERATIONAL GROUPS THAT  
USE DRAMA THERAPY, PLAY, AND EXPRESSIVE ARTS

- CHANNEL YOUR CREATIVITY TO HEAL AND GROW
- TRANSFORM NEGATIVE PATTERNS
- HEAL INTERNALIZED QUEERPHOBIA & TRAUMA
- RECLAIM & CARE FOR OUR BODIES
- HEAL OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH FOOD AND/OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE
- REACH OUR GREATEST POTENTIAL FOR HEALTH, JOY AND EXPRESSION OF WHO WE ARE

**IMPORTANT INFO:** \$60 PER SESSION WITH A 9-WEEK COMMITMENT.  
IN-PERSON (NEAR ROCKRIDGE BART IN OAKLAND) SLIDING SCALE AVAILABLE.

**CONTACT:** [GRACEWALCOTTAUTHOR@GMAIL.COM](mailto:GRACEWALCOTTAUTHOR@GMAIL.COM)  
510-459-0346 (TEXT PLEASE) [WWW.GRACEWALCOTT.COM](http://WWW.GRACEWALCOTT.COM)

**ALL IDENTITIES ARE WELCOME!  
SPACE IS LIMITED; PLEASE REGISTER**

SUPERVISED BY GENEVIEVE FAHEY, LICENSED MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST, LICENSE #102153

*Marga Gomez's*  
**Swimming with Lesbians**  
In Person at The Marsh Berkeley  
Written & Performed by Marga Gomez

# EXTENDED!

**February 4 – 25**  
**Sundays at 5pm**

## Ticket Information

Tickets: \$25 – \$35 General Seating sliding scale | \$50 & \$100 Reserved Seating

Online ticket sales close 2 hours before each performance, and additional tickets may be available for purchase at the door.

65 minutes | No Intermission | Ages 18+  
Please do not bring infants to the show

## About the Show

Marga Gomez's *Swimming With Lesbians* is a full steam farce that takes place aboard "The Celesbian," regarded as the most notorious cruise ship on the high seas. Throughout the show Marga morphs into a boatload of twisted characters including: Isabelle a disgraced Lacrosse player yearning for her first Lesbian affair, Captain Debbie who is always ready to go down in the ship and the outwardly jovial but secretly meek bingo caller Pru Perez. Passengers look up to Pru as an alpha lesbian until the fateful day at sea when her old boarding school bully, Arlene, shows up on the Lezzo Deck ready to expose Pru's darkest secret. Pru is forced to sink or swim while The Celesbian's crew and cruisers must navigate through lust, endless buffets and rogue waves. This seafaring story was hailed as having "all the makings of a great voyage, starting with scrumptious characters" by the San Francisco Chronicle." Following its run at The Marsh, Gomez' fourteenth solo show, *Swimming with Lesbians*, will begin performances at New York's La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club this spring.

## Tickets



## Community Calendar

### The Heart to Art Project

*Cohort 1 starts Jan 2024*

**Bi-weekly on Tuesdays 4:30pm - 6:30pm**

**In-person at The Oakland LGBTQ Community Center**

***A new art program for LGBTQ+ seniors facilitated by local Artist Derrick Bell. No drop-ins, pre-registration is required. For more info, please call 510-882-2286 or email: [info@lavenderseniors.org](mailto:info@lavenderseniors.org).***

### Lavender Seniors Third Friday Lunch Bunch

**February 16th 12:30pm - 2:30pm (Third Fridays)**



**In-person at The North Oakland Senior Center**

*A monthly luncheon for LGBTQ+ Seniors/Elders. A guest speaker or informative presentation is followed by a Lunch provided for registered guests. FREE but RSVP is required to attend. For more info, please call 510-882-2286 or email: [info@lavenderseniors.org](mailto:info@lavenderseniors.org).*

**LGBTQIA+ Elders Therapy Group**

**Wednesdays 1:00pm - 2:00pm**

**In-person at The Oakland LGBTQ Community Center**

*This group provides a therapeutic space in which LGBTQIA+ (includes questioning) older adults, age 55+, feel welcome to express their thoughts and feelings in an environment that is non-judgmental, inclusive and supportive. The group process works to reduce isolation, stigma and discrimination related to LGBTQIA+ identities, mental health issues and all the issues that affect each group members life. This group meets weekly for multi-week sessions. No Drop-ins. Pre-Registration is required to participate. For more info, please call 510-882-2286 or email: [info@lavenderseniors.org](mailto:info@lavenderseniors.org).*

**Social Seniors**

**February 23rd 12:00pm - 2:30pm (Last Fridays)**

**In-person at The Watermark Emeryville**

*A monthly social group for LGBTQ+ Seniors/Elders. A themed luncheon that usually includes music and/or performances. Lunch is provided for registered guests. FREE but RSVP is required to attend. For more info, please call 510-882-2286 or email: [info@lavenderseniors.org](mailto:info@lavenderseniors.org).*

**Older & Out**

**Returning Soon...TBA**

**In-person at The Oakland LGBTQ Community Center**

*SPONSORED BY: Pacific Center for Human Growth. For more info, please call 510-548-8283 or email: [olderandoutgroups@pacificcenter.org](mailto:olderandoutgroups@pacificcenter.org). No drop-ins. Intake is required for attendance.*

**Older & Out Social**

**1st Thursdays 1:00pm - 3:00pm**

**In-person at The North Berkeley Senior Center**

*SPONSORED BY: Pacific Center for Human Growth with support from North Berkeley Senior Center. For more info, please call Keith, 510-685-7691 or email: [kcarroll@lmi.net](mailto:kcarroll@lmi.net).*

**Outstanding Seniors**

**1st & 3rd Tuesdays 12:30pm - 1:30pm via Zoom**

*A confidential space for LGBTQ+ seniors (50+) to safely share thoughts, feelings, resources, information & to support one another. For more info, please email: [OutStandingSeniors2@gmail.com](mailto:OutStandingSeniors2@gmail.com).*

**Living OUT Livermore**

**1st Wednesdays 4:00pm - 5:00pm via Zoom**

*A safe and confidential peer support group for LGBTQ seniors 50+ to share thoughts, feelings, resources, information and to support one*

*another. This is a free drop-in group facilitated by trained peers. For more info + link to join email: [livingoutlivemore@pacificcenter.org](mailto:livingoutlivemore@pacificcenter.org).*

#### **Rainbow Seniors**

**2nd & 4th Tuesdays 12:30pm - 2:00pm**

**In-person at The San Leandro Senior Center**

*Rainbow Seniors LGBTQ Peer Support Group is a safe & confidential space for LGBTQ seniors (50+) to share thoughts, feelings, resources, information & to support one another. It is a peer support group, facilitated by trained peers. For more info and to join email: [rainbowseniors@pacificcenter.org](mailto:rainbowseniors@pacificcenter.org).*

#### **Tri-Valley Rainbows**

**3rd Thursdays 5:30pm-7:30pm via Zoom**

*Tri-Valley Rainbows is a safe & confidential peer support group for LGBTQIA+ older adults age 50+ to share thoughts, feelings, resources, information & to support one another. It is a drop-in peer group, facilitated by trained peers. For more info + link to join email: [trivalleyrainbows@pacificcenter.org](mailto:trivalleyrainbows@pacificcenter.org).*

## Resource Hub

Jessie R. Spivey (he/him)  
Director of Elder Services

Julian Leus (they/them)  
Elder Services Coordinator

### **Sign up for Elder Services**

The Oakland LGBTQ Community Center's Elder Service Program is now offering Direct Services and Case Management. The Center's Elder Services promotes a positive and healthy quality of life for senior and elder LGBTQ+ individuals 55+ by ensuring they continue to be supported, respected, and connected as they advance in age. We 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. We also host support groups and activities designed to help keep LGBTQ+ seniors and elders engaged with other elders and younger members of our community.

The Center's Elder Services Program participants also have access to other Center services to include:

- Transportation Assistance\*
- Food Pantry

- Emergency Rental Assistance\*
- Mental Health Subsidies\*
- HIV/STI testing and treatment
- PEP/PrEP enrollment
- Benefits Enrollment
- Linkage to Primary Care
- Care Management & Service Coordination Assistance

\*rental/transportation assistance and other subsidies are limited and provided to qualified enrolled program participants as they become available.

To get enrolled and connected to our Elder Services Coordinator for direct services and case management, call 510-882-2286 or email: [info@lavenderseniors.org](mailto:info@lavenderseniors.org).

### **City of Oakland Senior Centers**

Four senior centers are located throughout the City of Oakland and managed by the City's Human Services Department - Aging & Adult Services Division. Senior centers provide social, recreational, nutritional and educational activities to older adults in our community.

<https://www.oaklandca.gov/resources/senior-centers>

#### **Downtown Oakland (DOSC)**

200 Grand Ave | Oakland, CA 94610  
(510) 238-3284 | [DOSC@oaklandca.gov](mailto:DOSC@oaklandca.gov)

#### **East Oakland (EOSC)**

9255 Edes Street | Oakland, CA 94603  
(510) 615-5731 | [EOSC@oaklandca.gov](mailto:EOSC@oaklandca.gov)

#### **North Oakland (NOSC)**

5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way | Oakland, CA 94609  
(510) 597-5085 | [NOSC@oaklandca.gov](mailto:NOSC@oaklandca.gov)

#### **West Oakland (WOSC)**

1724 Adeline St | Oakland, CA 94607  
(510) 238-7016 | [WOSC@oaklandca.gov](mailto:WOSC@oaklandca.gov)

### **Pacific Center for Human Growth**

Founded in 1973, Pacific Center for Human Growth is the oldest LGBTQIA+ center in the Bay Area, the third oldest in the nation, and operates the only sliding scale mental health clinic for LGBTQIA+ and QTBIPOC people and their families in Alameda County.

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

2130 Center St Suite 200 | Berkeley, CA 94704  
(510) 548-8283 | [info@pacificcenter.org](mailto:info@pacificcenter.org)



## Rainbow Community Center

The Rainbow Community Center of Contra Costa County started in 1995 and continues to envision a society that embraces acceptance, safety and equality for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

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

2380 Salvio Street, Suite 301 | Concord, CA 94520

(925) 692-0090 | [rcc@rainbowcc.org](mailto:rcc@rainbowcc.org)

## Community Phone Calls

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

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](mailto:coviaconnections@covia.org).

## Friendly Voices Phone Buddies for Seniors

Our mission is to create a vital human connection for isolated seniors through weekly phone conversations with trained, compassionate volunteers.

Sign up [here](#) or call (650) 395-8017

<https://friendlyvoices.org/>

## Lavender Seniors of the East Bay, a Program of the Oakland LGBTQ Community Center

Mailing Address:

490 Lake Park Ave. #10530,  
Oakland, CA 94610-8019

Donations:

*Please make all checks payable to "The Oakland LGBTQ Center" and include "Lavender Seniors" in the memo section*

**510-882-2286**

[info@lavenderseniors.org](mailto:info@lavenderseniors.org)

<http://www.lavenderseniors.org>

<http://www.oaklandlgbtqcenter.org>

**Contact**

**Donate**

Lavender Seniors | % Oakland LGBTQ Community Center, 490 Lake Park Ave. #10530,  
Oakland, CA 94610-8019

[Unsubscribe](#) [jessie@oaklandlgbtqcenter.org](mailto:jessie@oaklandlgbtqcenter.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

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