



Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

a Program of the Oakland LGBTQ Community Center

*Celebrating 30 years of outstanding service and positive change
February 2025, Volume 31 Issue 2*



Happy February and Happy Black History Month to all!

The start of the year has been unsure and unsettling for many people in the world. In spite of that, we are and will always remain committed to protecting our community and continuing to provide safe spaces for LGBTQ+ seniors.

Thank you to everyone that came out for our January's Third Friday Lunch Bunch and Social Seniors new year kick off!

Elder Services was honored to attend the Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County – Making the Difference Conference last month. Wendy Peterson has been a fierce supporter for our program, and it was refreshing to be brought together with other community leaders and advocates, all fighting for seniors.

We were also invited to the Vietnamese American Community Center of the East Bay's Lunar New Year Celebration as special guest dignitaries. A very special thank you to VACCEB CEO and friend, Shirley Gee. Such a joy to celebrate with our San Leandro community.

This month is full of activities to keep you busy, so we hope to see you out and about!

Just in time for Valentines...We are partnering with St. Mary's Center and The Glenn Burke Wellness Clinic to host our first Senior Sexual Health Pop-up. Rates of chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis in people ages 55 and up more than doubled in the U.S. over the 10-year period from 2012 to 2022, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In an effort to increase awareness amongst the senior population, we will be offering free rapid HIV tests (while supplies last), condom/lube packs and PrEP/PEP resources/referrals.

Oakland residents are urged to come out to this month's Third Friday Lunch Bunch. This will be your chance to take part in a listening session on the 5-year strategic plan from the City of Oakland's Aging and Adult Services. The work they are doing directly impacts programs like Third Friday Lunch Bunch, so please come out and let your voice be heard.

Please be mindful of event capacity and RSVP deadlines. If you are unable to attend, please cancel asap. Once the event reaches capacity, all other guests are waitlisted. If you are waitlisted, you will be notified if a spot becomes available - please do not call/email. The safety of our guests will always be our priority.

You can **RSVP** for Third Friday Lunch Bunch by clicking [HERE](#)

You can **RSVP** for Social Seniors by clicking [HERE](#)

*The deadline to **RSVP** is **Tuesday 2/18**.*

In gratitude and love,
Jessie R. Spivey (he/him)
Director of Elder Services

Please click [here](#) to support.



Making the Difference Conference organizers, Wendy Peterson and Monica Kirkland from the Seniors Services Coalition of Alameda County.



The conference included a keynote from Kevin Prindville, Executive Director of Justice In Aging.



VACCEB CEO, Shirley Gee hosting the annual Lunar New Year Celebration.



Honored Guest and Dignitaries included San Leandro Mayor, Juan González III, Vice-Mayor, Xouhoa Bowen and Elder Services Director, Jessie Spivey.





Cathy Cade

1942-2024

Memorial Service

Saturday, February 8th 2025 at 2pm

First Unitarian Church of Oakland

685 14th Street, Oakland CA 94612

Zoom stream: tinyurl.com/cathycade

passcode: Cathy

Memories from 20th Anniversary



Some of the Co-Founders on Hand



Frank Howell, 11/9/14

Barbara Jue, 11/9/14

Alan Pardini, 11/9/14

Bobbi Jarvis, 11/9/14

Some Long-Term Participants



Stephanie Ann Blyth, 11/9/14

Mary Watkins and Cathy Cade, 11/9/14

Gabriel Delgado, 11/9/2014

In Memoriam

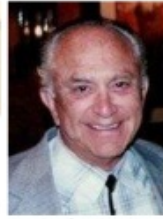
Fifteen Lavender Friends Lost since the 20th Anniversary



Jerry Fishman



Bea Howard



Gordon Osser



Francis Tom



Marvin Burrows &
Bill Swenor



Natalie Zarchin



Bill Heck



Grant Peterson



Celeste Newbrough



James Armstrong



Ron Washington



Bill Baillie



Jan Zobel



Ruth Michaels

In Memoriam

Nineteen Lavender Friends Lost since the 25th Anniversary



Bob Compton



Bobbie "BJ" Jarvis



Bruce MacDonald



Charles Grote



Don Green



Jim McCreia



Joan Margaret



John Haberkorn



Leslie Fetherkile



Marlene Bonner



Mike Mora



Morris Simpson



Peggy Moore and Hope Wood



Peter Dempsey



Richard Riffer



Sue Witt



Verne Nelson



Ann Valliant



Dr. Doris Ilda "Lucki" Allen

Looking Back on Bayard Rustin 60+ years later!

Lavender Seniors Beat Hollywood by 20 Years

This February 2025 newsletter issue includes below a link to the February 2004 newsletter, so people can see the politics, the humor and the pioneering events happening already two-plus decades ago. Several interesting articles in this 20-years-ago issues includes the "new" Domestic Partners legislation (precursor to Obergefell decision 11 years later in June 2015), a Lavender Seniors "survey" and a Frank Howell book review of "The Lost Prophet: The Life and Times of Bayard Rustin," particularly poignant as openly-gay Colman Domingo

STORIES OF OUR LIVES

Dennis Lewis



Dennis Micheal Lewis is a true Bay Area native. He was born in November of 1952 at Providence Hospital, currently part of the Summit Campus of Alta Bates Medical Center, on “Pill Hill” in Oakland. He grew up with his brother, Don (almost 7 years older), and his sister Vicki (4 years younger). While in the Navy, Dennis’ father, Don - a 3rd generation Oakland native - was stationed near Philadelphia where he met Helen, a “good Irish girl”, so he converted to marry her and then brought her to California.

Raised in Hayward, Dennis attended Catholic School at Saint Clement through 8th grade. He watched Moreau High School, where he would be a member of the second graduating class in 1970, be built next door. Dennis explains that he had a hard time with school and didn’t want to be there. He recounts a time when he came to school without socks on, and for that dress code violation he was told to go home. Instead of returning all the way home on the bus, he went up the hill to a friend’s home so he could borrow some socks and return to school, avoiding any trouble. Despite being raised in the Catholic faith, he was “never drawn to it and saw it as more theatrical.” Although he does admit that he still holds a grudge against Adam and Eve for putting us in the position of Paradise lost.

Dennis acknowledges that he was teased as a child, which made it clear he was “different”. He took refuge with his long-time childhood friend, Diane, who lived down the street. In their twenties she married and took a more conservative path, moving to Sonora, California. They have reconnected later in life, and he speaks of their friendship fondly. Another safe haven in childhood was horse riding. He and his sister would go to the stables after school and spend hours with the horses. His love for all things equestrian has been a constant through his life. Dennis returned to it in his forties and then again in his fifties where he was able to help care for a friend’s horse and ride it five times a week. Currently Dennis goes to stables in Livermore twice a week. His home has many figurines and photographs of horses making it a reflection of the comfort he takes in their company.

In High School Dennis was aware that dating girls wasn’t working. He didn’t enjoy his Junior Prom and didn’t attend his Senior Ball. While at Chabot he met Theresa, his first female friend who had a “none of it matters” attitude. He did go to her Prom with her, which they enjoyed because they took LSD. Dennis credits taking LSD and seeing the Cockettes, an avant-garde psychedelic hippie theater group in San Francisco, (but

not at the same time) in the early 1970s as the 2 experiences that changed his life. He describes the atmosphere as “be anything you want to be without a need to alter your body”. He admits that the first time he encountered the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence he was “so young and naïve” he thought they were real nuns.



Baby Dennis with Rocking Horse



Dennis Riding his horse, Ashley



With childhood friend, Diane - 2nd grade St. Clements Elementary, Hayward, 1959.



Dennis with parents. Don and Helen Lewis 1985 Summer Pleasanton CA

At twenty Dennis got involved with Video Free America, a media arts collective founded by Skip Sweeney and Arthur Ginsberg in San Francisco in 1970. While working with them, Dennis was recording a group of gay actors (a predecessor to Theatre Rhinoceros) when he zoomed in on a good-looking young doctor in the troupe. He dated that man, Jim, for about 6 months. Of course, he was heartbroken when that first relationship ended, but that wouldn't be their last contact or his last relationship. Around that time, Dennis recognized that it was time to leave home and took the opportunity to move to San Francisco with a friend from high school. They found a place in Pacific Heights for \$200/month (total!) and Dennis met a bohemian man at Twin Peaks in the Castro. They dated for a few years and remain in contact today.

In 1974, Jim came back into Dennis' life when he contacted him to ask Dennis to document a gay man running for the Board of Supervisor in San Francisco. Dennis agreed to follow Harvey Milk, but when he saw the long-haired men supporting the campaign he really didn't see it going anywhere. Dennis said, “Jim could see things

from a better perspective because he was a little older” and he thinks Jim wanted Harvey to be successful because he had his own political aspirations as a Harvard graduate. Many years later, when KQED was putting together “Neighborhoods: The Hidden Cities of San Francisco: The Castro”, Dennis contributed footage from Harvey Milk’s camera store and scenes of him speaking to seniors in Golden Gate Park so Dennis is credited on the documentary.

Dennis remained single from the ages of 25-27 while he focused on his career. He aspired to be an art dealer, speaking of his inspiration by Gertrude Stein, Ernest Hemingway and the French art scene. So, at the age of 25, he took a position as a stock clerk at Gumps, a high-end department store in San Francisco. He would work his way up as a member of the retail clerk’s union applying for a sales job in the gallery almost a year to the day of starting there. At the gallery he would work under his life-long mentor Helen Heninger. She was about 30 years older than Dennis. He explains that people considered it a compliment to refer to her as “tough, but fair”. Dennis learned a lot from her, even when he thought she did not like him. He now recognizes that some of their working relationship was impacted by external factors because they remained in contact until the end of Helen’s life.

In his late 20s, Dennis met Clayton, who would be his partner for the next 20 years. Dennis’ friend Sebastian Busalachi, who had been on the cusp of a successful career in fashion in Manhattan, was dying from AIDS so he moved back to their family apartment in North Beach. In Sebastian’s final months, Dennis would routinely visit on Fridays. Sebastian was very ill and just days from death (1986 THE PLAGUE), when his mother, Lucille embraced Dennis and said, "Sebastian is not going to live but you are. Promise me you won't let people push you around because you don't deserve it. And promise me that you will make choices that make you happy." Dennis recalls, “That was an exceptionally real moment in my life. She would not release me from her embrace until I repeated those words to her.” Lucille encouraged Dennis to come out to his own parents, so at the age of 32 he brought them lunch, assured them that he was in a long-term relationship with Clayton and that he was healthy, and came out to them. He describes his mom’s reaction as aloof with an “I already knew” response and his dad’s as “So what, let’s move on.”

When Dennis left Gump’s, he went to work at the Harris Gallery located in the Claremont neighborhood of Berkeley. He worked with many art collectors, including celebrities like Gene Kelly, but his most memorable experience was meeting Whoopi Goldberg. The Harris Gallery was going through a transition in ownership when Dennis started to think about a career transition of his own. He contacted Helen, who had retired to Santa Fe, New Mexico and she had Dennis come out to visit. The day he arrived, Helen told him he was focused on the wrong thing because he was a natural teacher, but “due to his late arrival they would discuss it the next day.” This set him on a whole new path in education.

Dennis started by volunteering at the Oakland Museum of California as a docent, but he needed to make money. He saw an ad for substitutes, so he passed the test and started working for Oakland Unified. He was given a 3-week art assignment to Calvin Simmons Middle School. He meticulously laid out art supplies that were immediately stolen by students, so he figured out some quick lessons on classroom management at subbed for the year. His second year teaching he was given a waiver to work in the Special Education classroom where he gained lots of experience while trying to ensure his students were getting education and enrichment while meeting expectations. Dennis went on to work at Garfield Elementary School for a year and a half and then was offered a Case Manager position that came with a salary and benefits. He stayed in that role until retiring from the district in 2011.

Around the time of his career transition, Dennis also transitioned out of his relationship with Clayton. They tried taking a vacation to Italy, but it was clear that this was the end. They essentially went through a divorce, after which Dennis went on the vacation he had wanted to take to Mexico. He did have an additional “great romance with a South American.” Dennis has remained single, describing himself as “satisfied with his independence.” He expresses uncertainty about being able to give a partner what they need emotionally based on his own upbringing. He also shares that he understands what people mean when they talk about starting to feel invisible and overlooked as

they age. He “knows what loneliness feels like,” and is open to developing friendships. Dennis speaks with a beautiful understanding of relationships, people, and values.



Dennis with Taj, 2024

In the next major stage of life, Dennis stepped up as the primary caregiver to his father in 2017. His mother had already passed away and his siblings were not available to provide the level of support Dennis gave to his father. As any caregiver knows, the work is not easy, but Dennis is “glad he helped dad until the end, even though they had rough times earlier in life.” When his dad reached 100 years old, he received a signed picture and letter from President Biden. Dennis is holding onto it in case his brother’s children would like it someday. His dad passed away in May of 2024, making Dennis

an orphan.

Dennis is currently living in San Leandro and hopes to be more involved with Lavender Seniors. He was part of a recovery group for older adults through Kaiser, but he is currently not attending, though he does hope to return. Other future aspirations include travel to places like Africa and India now that he is no longer in a caregiver role. Dennis will continue riding and spending time with horses because they have added value and comfort to his life. He speaks with a lovely sense of awareness about "being grateful for having health and the ability to meet basic needs." He has learned "to focus on each day and its successes" because that is how Dennis thinks life should be lived.

-Jennifer Pardini & Jamie McGrath, Volunteer writers for Lavender Notes

We are actively seeking participants to be interviewed for Stories of Our Lives

If you or someone that you know would like to be featured in Stories of our lives, please email: info@lavenderseniors.org

February Activities

**SATURDAY
FEB 8
12P-9P**

**DRAG
ME
TO THE
CINEMA**

A Queer Film Festival for Everyone

Five themed blocks
Visit our website for
more details, ticket info
and featured films

**WE ARE FAMILY
12pm - 1pm**

**PURE.QUEER.JOY
1pm - 3pm**

**FANTASY ISLAND
3pm - 5pm**

**LIFE'S A DRAG
5pm - 7pm**

**ADULTS ONLY
7pm - 9pm**

~ Meet Filmmakers ~ Engage with Community ~ Experience Joy
~ Attend Film Workshops ~ Dress Up for our Red Carpet Entry

Queer Film Festival makes a splash in Emeryville!

On Saturday Feb 8, come sashay with us for "Drag Me to the Cinema", the first queer film festival at AMC Bay Street. We hope you can get tickets for this fabulous affair as we come together as a community to celebrate our Queer Performing Artists and Filmmakers. For tickets and program information, scan the QR code or visit <https://sweetnothingproductions.com/product/dragmetothecinema>.



SAT FEB 8
BLOCK:
WE ARE FAMILY
12P - 1P

LIVE Performance by:



<-REYREY
&
SLIM->



"THEM CLOWNS"



sweetnothingproductions.com/product/dragmetothecinema

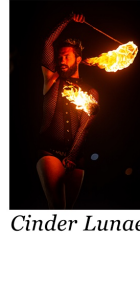


SAT FEB 8
BLOCK:
FANTASY ISLAND
3P TO 5P

LIVE performances by:



Polly Amber Ross



Cinder Lunae



Sage Sanchez
Munro



sweetnothingproductions.com/product/dragmetothecinema



SAT FEB 8
BLOCK:
LIFE'S A DRAG
5P - 7P

Featured Performers



Amoura Teese



Kiki Krunch



Polly Amber Ross



RSVP:



SAT FEB 8
FIVE BLOCKS*
12P TO 9P
**Ind tickets / day pass available*

We have Queer Art to share



sweetnothingproductions.com/product/dragmetothecinema

Senior Sexual Health Pop-Up!



FREE TESTING*
*WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

SEX-ED 101

FREE CONDOMS & SEX KITS

**SENIOR
SEXUAL
HEALTH
POP-UP**



**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 13TH
10AM - 1PM
ST. MARY'S CENTER
925 BROCKHURST STREET**

The Oakland LGBTQ Community Center's Elder Services & Glenn Burke Wellness Clinic present our first Senior Sexual Health Pop-up in partnership with St. Mary's Center. Come out for free rapid HIV testing, condom/lube packs and learn about all of the new advancements in STD treatment and prevention.

For more info, please call 510-882-2286.

TOWN YOUTH CLUB TRIVIA COMPETITION

WIN PRIZES PLAYING NBA & QUEER TRIVIA

MEET & GREET WITH THE NBA
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12
3:00P.M –5:00P.M

**\$50
VISA GIFT CARD
TO FIRST 50
REGISTRATIONS**



ALL STAR 2025

SAN FRANCISCO
BAY AREA



**FREE FOOD , GIVEAWAYS
ARTS & CRAFTS, GAMES, AND MORE...**

ALL YOUTH AND FAMILIES ARE WELCOME

Please register @ <https://bit.ly/3EhZxWC>

458 SANTA CLARA AVE OAKLAND CA 94610



Shake, Rattle & Roll with Bay Area OLOC

Bay Area Old Lesbians Organizing for Change cordially invites you to a women's dance celebrating LOVE. Jessie Ortiz and her band will play live music - with a focus on oldies and goodies - and there will be light refreshments. This event will be open to *all women* on a donation basis with contributions gratefully accepted. If you haven't attended an OLOC event, this is a great way to get to know us, and if you have a friend who likes to dance, bring her along!



Women's Valentines Dance
Saturday, February 15th, 3:00pm - 5:00pm
Berkeley Unitarian Universalists Fellowship Hall
1924 Cedar St (at Bonita)

Questions? Please call 415-637-5002 or email: patcull70@gmail.com

Tools & Knowledge for Volunteers:
Mental Health & Your Older Adult Clients

Sponsored by Friendly Voices Phone Buddies for Seniors



Sunday, February 16, 2025 – Free Online Workshop



3:00 PM – 4:00 PM PT via Zoom (RSVP REQUIRED)



Contact laura@friendlyvoices.org for Zoom link

- **Mental Health in Older Adults** – Learn how to recognize anxiety, depression, and PTSD and how to navigate conversations with affected clients
- **Self-care in Difficult Client Situations**– Tips for managing challenging discussions for better client relationships and your own emotional well-being

**Bring your questions, experiences and thoughts
for an informative and engaging session**

www.friendlyvoices.org



Presented by:

Tung Tran, MA, LMFT
Associate Director of Family
& Children Services
AACI, San Jose
Licensed Therapist
Kaiser Permanente,
Santa Clara



THROUGH PEACE, OAKLAND LGBTQ CENTER,
TUFF LOVE PRESENTS

HATE CRIME SAFETY & SELF DEFENSE WORKSHOP

FREE

FRIDAY

21

FEB

FROM 5 PM TO 7 PM



RSVP

OAKLAND LGBTQ CENTER
3207 LAKESHORE AVE. OAKLAND, CA
94610

RSVP:
WWW.THROUGHPEACE.ORG/EVENTS/OAKLAND

HATE CRIME REPORTING BOOKLETS, SAFETY
WHISTLES, REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED



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

Feb 21

Third Friday Lunch Bunch

Join us for Third Friday Lunch Bunch at the North Oakland Senior Center featuring a special listening session on the 5-year strategic plan from the City of Oakland's Aging and Adult Services. Don't miss the opportunity to share your insights and let your voice be heard.

Register

Free



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

Feb 28

Social Seniors

Join us at the 1440 By the Bay in Emeryville for another fun Friday at Social Seniors.

Register

Free

**COMMUNITY
CALENDAR**

COMING SOON! The Lavender Lounge

Date & time TBA

In-person at The Oakland LGBTQ Community Center

A new drop-in style, respite offering for LGBTQ+ seniors. For more info, please call 510-882-2286 or email: info@lavenderseniors.org.

COMING SOON! Senior Men's Affinity Group

In-person at The Oakland LGBTQ Community Center

A monthly Affinity group for Queer, Gay and Bi identified Men ages 55+. Group start date and facilitator TBA. For more info or to be added to the mailing list, please call 510-882-2286 or email: info@lavenderseniors.org.

COMING SOON! Senior Women's Affinity Group

Every second Tuesday starting March 11th 2:00pm - 3:30pm

In-person at The Oakland LGBTQ Community Center

A monthly Affinity group for Queer, Bi and Lesbian identified women 55+. For more info or to be added to the mailing list, please call 510-882-2286 or email: info@lavenderseniors.org.

Third Friday Lunch Bunch

Friday February 21st 12:30pm - 2:30pm

In-person at The North Oakland Senior Center

A monthly luncheon for LGBTQ+ seniors. 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.

Social Seniors

Friday February 28th 12:00pm - 2:00pm

In-person at 1440 By The Bay

A monthly social group for LGBTQ+ seniors. 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.

Heart to Art

Cohort 2 in session

Bi-weekly on Tuesdays 5:00pm - 6:30pm

In-person at The Oakland LGBTQ Community Center

A new art program for LGBTQ+ seniors facilitated by Artist, Derrick Bell. No drop-ins, Intake is required. For more info or to be added to mailing list for next cohort, please call 510-882-2286 or email: 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. Intake is required. For more info, please call 510-882-2286 or email: info@lavenderseniors.org.

Older & Out

Mondays in-person at The Oakland LGBTQ Community Center
SPONSORED BY: Pacific Center for Human Growth. For more info, please call 510-768-8612 or email: olderandoutgroups@pacificcenter.org. No drop-ins. Intake is required for attendance.

Black Women Connect
Every 3rd Sunday @ 11:00am
In-person at The Oakland LGBTQ Community Center
This groups designed for Black Lesbian and Queer Women to connect, network, build community, have engaging conversations and authentically express themselves in a safe, inter-generational space. For inquiries or to RSVP, please email Dawn Edwards at ms.edwards73@gmail.com.

Trans Masc Affinity Support Group
Every second Wednesday 7:00pm - 8:30pm
In-person at The Oakland LGBTQ Community Center
A monthly Affinity group for community members who identify as Trans Masculine only. For more info, please call 510-882-2286.



James Bond is/was “Queer”?

There they were, standing in front of Oakland’s own Piedmont Theater, six weeks ago in mid-December 2024, the end of a difficult and painful year. These three older gay men – each a Lavender Seniors participant for 10-25 years, respectively, were there to see the East Bay premiere of “Queer,” a long-awaited and highly-touted new film of interest to the LGBTQ+ community nation-wide, perhaps internationally.

These long-time friends from different parts of the country – the oldest at 82 from a village in Midwestern Michigan; the 80-year-old from a mid-size town in central New Mexico; and the 78-year-old – born in Connecticut but raised in San Mateo County South of San Francisco – found themselves giggling like teenagers looking up at the Piedmont marquée, which simply said:

DANIEL CRAIG
is
“QUEER”

For the two Lavender men who had seen all five (2006 through 2021) permutations of ever-so-straight 56-year-old Daniel Craig as “James Bond” and winding up with whichever “Bond Girl” (one wondered who actually wound up with “Pussy Galore” – out of memory that night – but still causing laughter even among the small group of theater-goers gathered to watch these three men react to the marquée), it was cause for mirth and speculation how the simple message might be interpreted.

The men had seen on-line interviews with both retired Bonds-man, Daniel Craig, and Drew Starkey, his Hickory, NC, born youthful (age 30) counterpart in the film, so our Lavender guys knew that both Craig and Starkey had taken on this challenge open-eyed, as a way of increasing the breadth of their acting capacity. Both had mentioned how interesting it had been for them to

interpret this semi-autobiographical film based on the 1985 novel about openly-gay idiosyncratic adding-machine heir, William S. Burroughs, also considered a member of the “Beat Generation” – he died in 1997, after leading quite a drug-fueled, lecherous and dramatic life, including the “accidental” shooting/killing of his second wife, causing his escape from Mexico.

Once inside the theater – positioned center theater midway down toward the screen – the trio of Lavender Seniors was joined by a near-capacity audience ready to be mesmerized by the power of cinema and the magic of place. We are taken to 1950s Mexico City and other sleepy Mexican and European towns, through the flexibility of a Rome-based sound-stage (Luca Guadagnino – who also directed “Call Me By Your Name” - prefers working in his home-country, whenever possible). Later – at the film’s height – viewers are taken to a remote area of the Amazon jungle, where the May-and-December pair of gay thrill-seekers find a source for the legendary drug-of-all-drugs, psychotropic jungle plant called yagé (also known as ayahuasca).

That encounter is where one of the Lavender Seniors and much of the Piedmont Theater audience was LOST and where two of them and some of the audience were GAINED. How the effects of ayahuasca played out with the two American misfits will likely be debated by theater goers and critics alike over the years. Suffice it to say that it might be difficult for people of all ages to watch tongues ballooning to four time their size. The Guardian’s film critic describes the ayahuasca trip sequence as “overlong, baggy and indulgent,” crediting it with being a point in the film where the characters lose all sense of their bodies – and the film (at least temporarily) loses its point until it returns to reality.

For so many of us – who rarely saw leading characters who looked like us – this may have been a step too far in the other direction. Seeing a macho-man like Daniel Craig portray a somewhat down-and-out, but well-off, older gay man leching after a younger man – and seeking to develop higher-and-higher drug-induced psychic abilities might’ve turned a corner none of us wanted to turn just yet. But some of the overheard conversations at Piedmont and Linda that night seemed like that was welcome to at least some of our colleagues. Check it out if you’re curious which camp you might fall in. Daniel Craig is a delight to watch, either way.

Resource Hub



The Center's **Elder Services** promotes a positive and healthy quality of life for 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.

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

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

- PEP/PrEP enrollment
- Transportation Assistance*

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

To inquire about case management/direct services, please click the button below. For more info, please email: info@lavenderseniors.org or call 510-882-2286.

Sign up for Direct Services



**The Center's Food Pantry Is Open
Monday thru Friday, 1pm-4pm**
Please call 510-882-2286 for more information.

Let's Get Excited About...

SEXUAL HEALTH

The **Glenn Burke Clinic** offers our community high-quality, full-service, STI & HIV prevention and treatment services, to help you to stay sexually healthy all year long.

Schedule an appointment by using the QR Code or call 510-781-2639

The Glenn Burke Wellness Clinic is a project of the Oakland LGBTQ Community Center



A recovery meeting for LGBTQIA+ Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

Mondays 7pm - 8:15pm
Starting May 15th at the
Oakland LGBTQ Community Center

This is a discussion meeting with different topics read each week.

For information contact
The Oakland LGBTQ Community Center
Call 1(510) 882-2286 or visit their website at



Narcotics Anonymous®

Every Tuesday @ 7pm

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

East Oakland (EOSC)

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

North Oakland (NOSC)

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

West Oakland (WOSC) *TEMPORARILY CLOSED*

1724 Adeline St | Oakland, CA 94607
(510) 238-7016 | 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

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

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.

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

http://www.lavenderseniors.org

http://www.oaklandlgbtqcenter.org

Contact

Donate

Lavender Seniors | The Oakland LGBTQ Community Center 3207 Lakeshore Avenue |
Oakland, CA 94610-8019 US

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