



Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

a Program of the Oakland LGBTQ Community Center

*Celebrating 30 years of outstanding service and positive change
March 2025, Volume 31 Issue 3*



March is upon us, and with that comes the Spring equinox, hopefully ushering in excitement for all upcoming events and activities. This includes the launch of not one, but two brand new affinity support groups for LGBTQ+ seniors. Find out all you need to know about "GEM" a new group launching for men, and "Queer Womxns Lesbian Circle" a new group launching for women, this month. You can also meet your new group facilitators in this month's issue of Lavender Notes.

The second cohort of Heart to Art will hold their Art show and Reception on Friday **3/14** from 5:00pm - 6:30pm at The Oakland LGBTQ Community Center. Please come out and support our seniors, displaying their amazing work with Derrick Bell!

Third Friday Lunch Bunch on **3/21** we will be joined by East Bay Front Runners, an awesome nonprofit running/walking club. Come out and find out how you can get active with the Front Runners.

Last month was a favorite for participants of Social Seniors who enjoyed a Black History Month themed lunch provided by 1440 by the bay. Our March event will happen on **3/28** and is expected to reach capacity. Early RSVP suggested.

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 3/18**.*

Lastly (and sadly) we lost one of my favorite Lavender Seniors, John Herbert Hendricksen in February. It was devastating, but I remain so incredibly grateful (and honored) for the time we shared, especially those days before he transitioned. Please enjoy the memorial graciously provided by Dr. John David Dupree. May his memory live on and forever be felt within the Lavender Senior community and beyond.

In gratitude and love,

Please click [here](#) to support our seniors, programs and activities.



"East Bay Senior Pride" won "Outstanding Event/Recreation Program" from The California Parks and Recreation Society D3. Pictured L-R: Stacey Dempsey, Jessie Spivey, Kim Burrows, Robby Kendell and Jessica Wallner



John Herbert “Bert” Hendriksen

9/24/1931 – 2/10/2025

Bert Hendriksen – who spent more than two decades with Lavender Seniors – first as a participant, then newsletter editor, then webmaster – passed away on the 10th of February after a protracted series of medical challenges, including myasthenia gravis, a considerable loss of vision and a constellation of gastro-intestinal disorders. He was 93, six months shy of his 94th birthday, for which he’d been making plans with friends.

He first started attending Lavender Seniors events in the late 1990s. As indicated in the clippings (below) from past Lavender Seniors newsletters, he soon began offering his many skills (computer, writing, photography and web design/management), becoming Editor of the newsletter for 3+ years in November 2000 and Webmaster for 13+ years in May 2005, two years after resigning as Editor. He was also known to help many LGBTQ+ seniors learn how to navigate emails and “the web”.

LAVENDER NOTES

is the newsletter of
Lavender Seniors of the East Bay
1395 Bancroft Avenue
San Leandro, CA 94577
(510) 667-9655
lavenderseniors@email.msn.com

Mission Statement

The mission of Lavender Seniors of the East Bay is to improve the quality of life of older gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered residents of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties through community outreach, advocacy and education.

Founding Members

Carol Beth, Bill Bailie, Doreen Brand, Meg Bruynell, Marvin Burrows, Shirley Dennett, John Ellefson, Dotty Fowler, Dorothy Hallinan, Beverly Hickock, Jerry Holmes, Frank Howell, Doris Fischer, Bobbie Jarvis, James Joslin, Barbara Jue, Barbara Kosowaty, Stella Lopez Arrijo, Bonnie Joan MacKenzie, Donna Montgomery, Ina Mae Murri, Diane Nagy, Ray Robb, Camille Scorrino, Don Silva, Margaret Shepherd, Bill Swenor, and Natalie Zarchin

Board of Directors Officers

Dotty Fowler, President

Frank Howell, Vice President

John Ellefson, Secretary

Bobbie Jarvis, Treasurer

Site Coordinator Joyce Plerson

Administrative Assistant Nancy Fugett

There are no membership dues. All persons over 55, their partners and guests are welcome. The cost of mail makes it necessary to request a donation of \$12 dollars per year to receive the newsletter. Visitors or persons interested in learning more about Lavender Seniors may receive the newsletter for three months without charge. None will be turned away for lack of funds.

Lavender Notes is mailed on the first of each month. Entries must be received by the last Sunday of the previous month. Entries may be edited for space or clarity. Send entries to:

Bert Hendriksen, Editor
771 Kingston Ave. #403
Oakland, CA 94631
hendriksen@aol.com
(510) 652-6906

LavenderNotes

is the official newsletter of
Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

Mission Statement

The mission of Lavender Seniors of the East Bay is to improve the quality of life of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender seniors (age 55 and older) through community outreach, advocacy, and education.

Advisory Board

Frank Howell & Ina Mae Murri, Co-Chairs

Jeanine DeBacker, Secretary

Bobbie Jarvis, Treasurer

Fred Banuelos D'Anne Bruetsch, Meg Bruynell,

Rose White & Natalie Zarchin Members at Large

Next Advisory Board Meeting

May 10th at 7PM. Call the office for more information. Interested persons are welcome; public comments take place at 7PM.

Staff

Barbara Faulkner, Director

Mitchell Foudray, Care Coordinator

Nancy Fugett, Administrator

Christina Cappelletti, Outreach Specialist

Newsletter

Barbara Faulkner, Editor

Webmaster

Bert Hendriksen

Bert Hendriksen Retires as Editor New Newsletter Editor Needed

After completing three years as editor of Lavender Notes, with this edition, Bert Hendriksen has announced he is retiring from the position."

Bert is a true friend to all of us who are concerned about LGBT seniors," said Jeff Vessels, Director of Lavender Seniors. "Bert has an eye for quality and detail, and we will miss his expertise very much."

Lavender Seniors seeks a new editor who is interested in LGBT senior issues and is experienced and skilled in layout using any one of the most common computer programs. The editor's chief responsibility is laying out the newsletter using provided materials. The Director suggests edits and has authority over decisions about content. The newsletter editor is a volunteer position.

Interested persons should contact Jeff at 510-667-9655 or by email

jeff@lavenderseniors.org

He is first listed as Editor in the 11/2000 newsletter; resigned as editor in 10/2003; first listed as webmaster in 05/2005. Note that Bert helped marshal the move from AOL/MSN to our website.

Bert and his twin brother were born in Utah on 9/24/1931 of a Mormon couple. They had 11 children. When Bert was 10 or 12 years old, he declared – with little resistance, particularly from his father, who also left the church – that he was not interested in continuing as one of the LDS faithful. This ultimately created a bit of a rift with his mother and some of his siblings, but he told friends that he felt virtually all religions had perhaps done as much or more harm than good. His twin died about a year ago. Only a couple of his siblings reportedly contacted him later in life, having discovered that he'd made his way without the temple to a productive personal and professional life, had his own home, etc. He was happy for the contact, though he still basically remained relatively aloof from his birth family most of his life.

While in high school, he took one year of Spanish, which set the stage for a life filled with the language and its various cultures around the world. He lived in Mexico as a young man, perfecting his language skills, and returned there several times. His Spanish-language skills served him well personally, socially and professionally over the years. He received his Master's in Public Health from UC-Berkeley, helping him embark on a long bilingual career with the California Department of Public Health.



Bert and his dogs – plus enjoying a drink at Nick's house

He met one of his few close life-long friends in the early 1950's during his stint in the Air Force at Allbrook Air Force Station (turned over to Panama in 1977 and now the Allbrook-Gelabert International Airport). That close friend's second daughter, Diane Gonzales, has known Bert for nearly six decades, since she was 8-9 years old.

“Because Bert and my Dad, Nick, shared so many interests – photography, writing and anything international or cross-cultural – they became the best of friends almost immediately,” Diane recalled recently. “Though I was born in Merced years after my parents and sister left Panama, the relationship between Bert and my parents – particularly my Dad – was legend early-on. Once those two started talking, they could go all night – mostly in Spanish, but also sometimes in English. They both loved words, dictionaries, puns, and grammar, and both of them knew how to write a good letter and tell a great story.

“After I came along and we were all back in California in the '60s, how my Dad and Bert re-connected is one of our favorite family stories. Since both Bert and my Air Force family had moved around so much, they had lost track of each other—with no internet back then. Well, after my father left the military and started working for the State of California, his department was invited to a big Bay Area conference. This was about 1964 and there were government people, non-profits, faith-based groups—a couple hundred people meeting and then sitting down to eat together. After my father took his seat at a long table, he looked across and there was Bert! They couldn't believe that they were seeing each other again after nearly a decade! They remained forever friends from that day on. They never let that helpless feeling of losing touch happen again.

“We had Bert come over to our house many times in the ‘60s and ‘70s. I was such a shy child when I first met him and I was always worried about my manners. At table, Bert and my parents often switched to Spanish, so my sister and I could hardly wait for dessert in order to excuse ourselves. But that dessert was often something Bert made himself—like flan. He was quite the gourmet chef and later invited us to his house, where he put together so many colorful and exotic dishes that my father wanted to take photos of the spread!”

Diane remained good friends with Bert after she moved back to San Francisco and later moving on to San Jose, where she lived with her father as his caregiver. Nick and Diane invited Bert to come over to their house often in the ‘80s, ‘90, and early 2000s. He would stay over for a few days—and not just for fine dining and conversation, but to help Nick with his word processor and later his Mac and PCs.

“Bert was so skilled with computers and technology,” Diane recalls, “that he could disassemble the PC on the kitchen table, diagnose the problem, and add more memory or replace a part by dinnertime – all while telling us a fascinating story!”

After Diane’s father passed away in 2010, Diane continued the friendship with Bert and would BART or drive over to Oakland so they could check out a new Thai restaurant or take in a movie. Bert loved great movies, especially if they took place in other countries. French, Italian and Spanish movies were among his favorites, but he could get into an American-made film if the story was challenging enough.

“The last movie we saw together at a theater,” Diane recalls, “was ‘Lincoln,’ shown at the Grand Lake. Bert liked it so much that I later got the DVD so we could watch it again on Bert’s home PC. Since walking or going out to a restaurant was starting to be a problem for Bert, I kept up with him by phone, e-mail and visits to his home, especially when we celebrated our birthdays each September. Our close friendship continued in this way until it was rudely interrupted by COVID in March of 2020. I waited until we’d both had the second or third booster before I dared to venture into his space again, always afraid of somehow exposing him to something.”

Meanwhile, in 2018, Bert happened onto another great friend, while attending a memorial service. Joanne Jasson, a retired nurse, soon pivoted into multiple roles as friend, chauffeur, co-shopper, etc., after Bert had to stop driving because of his impaired vision. She helped him with financial and logistical issues, completing forms for the VA and other service agencies, setting up Meals on Wheels, etc. One of the many very special things she did for him was to buy him a clock with large time and date displays on it, which helped him organize his life for the last couple of years! “I always wished I could do more for him,” Joanne said. “particularly during the last year or so, when so many of his systems were shutting down. Since I had been a nurse and had seen my mother through Alzheimer’s, I think I might’ve been better prepared than some to deal with the range of moods he went through as he felt his life slipping away. We had lots of fun times together, though there were those moments when he might bark at me, ‘you’re NOT my mother!’ He was generally such a sweet, caring guy that you couldn’t help but be fond of him.”



Bert proudly showing off his new window blinds in February 2024

Joanne expressed considerable relief when she found out that Bert had contacted Lavender Seniors to see if he could be assigned a Friendly Visitor volunteer. She and Stephan Thorne became quite a team on a regular caregiving basis with Bert, along with infusions of time and energy from Diane, plus Jessie Spivey at Lavender Seniors. And Stephan began taking him out of the house and into social situations, including Lavender Seniors events, out to lunch or dinner, etc.

“I had been looking to volunteer with the LGBTQ+ community, so this seemed like a perfect match,” Stephan says. “For instance, I witnessed him come out of himself when he was spending time with other Spanish-speaking participants at the Third Friday Lunch Bunch – everybody was so impressed with his language skills even at his advanced age. He never lost that ability!”

“The saddest thing we ever talked about – other than his various medical challenges – concerned the house that Bert and his partner had built in Costa Rica some years ago. They had planned to spend lots of good times there, since they were both fluent in Spanish and shared a love for Latin cultures. After his partner unexpectedly died, his first trip back to Costa Rica was very painful for him. He decided he didn’t have the emotional or physical strength to take care of the place alone. So he signed the property over to a friend of theirs, so the friend could do all the proper maintenance, bill-paying, etc. As it turned out, that guy sold the property, kept all of the money and disappeared. It shook Bert’s faith in human beings to the core and I’m not sure he ever fully recovered from that disappointment.”

All of these caregivers agreed that – from what they could gather – his discovery of and involvement with Lavender Seniors as he rolled into the 21st century had been a significant marker for his moving forward, staying engaged, plying his skills and feeling useful again.

“When he and my Dad were together, Bert needed to show him every little graphic design he was implementing as an editor and then all the issues involved in being a webmaster,” Diane recalls. “He was feeling connected again, loved what he was doing and wanted to share that exhilaration with one of his best friends whenever he could. And my Dad – an old news writer himself – was always delighted to discuss the latest

issue of the Lavender Seniors newsletter with his high-tech writer-and-editor friend.”

When Bert felt his vision was hampering the work he was doing as webmaster, he made the difficult decision to resign the post that he’d loved serving in so much for over a decade. So in late 2017 or early 2018, he made that hard phone-call to Dr. John David Dupree, who was then Secretary of the Board of Directors at Lavender Seniors.

“I could tell as soon as I answered the phone that something was seriously wrong,” John David recalls. “I’d never heard him cry before. For me, I had just taken Bert and his skills so much for granted that it didn’t occur to me that he would ever feel he wasn’t doing a good job. But clearly it had become a burden rather than a joy for him. We have remained in touch right up to the end, including a brief visit with him and Stephan at the Third Friday Lunch Bunch in January, the day before my husband and I were leaving for five months in Costa Rica. It seemed clear – from the in-person visits to the various phone calls over the months – that he was deteriorating more rapidly now. All of us who knew him for so many years were very sad to hear of his passing. He had such an impact on the organization over two-plus decades, so his contributions will live on and always be part of Lavender Seniors history!”

Bert’s stated personal preference (orally and in writing) was to not have an in-person memorial service. May his memory be a blessing.

STORIES OF OUR LIVES



Stories of our lives will return in April 2025

New groups, new facilitators!



A native of Detroit, Ken Ingraham has lived and worked in Oakland for more than 40 years, where he has achieved a distinguished career in Arts Administration; holding senior level positions with Alonzo King LINES Ballet, Museum of the African Diaspora and Oakland Symphony. His expertise in nonprofit management and

organizational development served Ken well in positions of Program Associate with the Kaiser Permanente Northern California Regional Contributions Program and Senior Community Relations Specialist with Mervyn's. He also served as Executive Director of the City of Detroit Council of the Arts; appointed in 1978, at the age of 27, by Mayor Coleman Young (the youngest department head in the City's history at that time).

Ken's expertise served him well on grant review panels of the National Endowment for the Arts, Michigan Council for the Arts and San Francisco Arts Commission. He currently maintains a practice as an Organizational Development Consultant. Clients have included AIDS Project of the East Bay, Oakland Theater Project and (currently) the Sacred and Profane Chamber Chorus and SambaFunk! Ken Ingraham is a graduate of Harvard University, where he co-founded The Kuumba Singers of Harvard College (celebrating its 55th Anniversary this year as a vital part of the campus community).

In 2006, Ken was awarded Harvard University's distinguished W.E.B. Du Bois Medal by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.. The Medal is Harvard's highest honor (of The Hutchins Center for African and African American Research) in the field of African and African American Studies, awarded to individuals in the U.S. and internationally in recognition of their contributions to African and African American culture. Recipients have included Maya Angelou, Colin Kapernick, and more recently, Queen Latifah, Spike Lee and Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

Ken writes poetry, is an avid listener of jazz (which he calls "America's classical music," and is currently working to produce a feature length documentary about The Kuumba Singers.

GEM is every 1st Thursday at 2pm starting March 6th in-person at The Oakland LGBTQ Community Center.



Hello, my name is Sheila Cotton. I would like to introduce myself.

A little about me

I was born and raised in San Francisco, and have lived in Oakland for the past 30 years. I have worked in the community for more than three decades, counseling in domestic violence shelters, re-entry and employment programs, and with people experiencing homelessness and surviving violent crime. For the past 10 years, I have worked in private practice, focused on people processing trauma. I love this work and especially have a passion for working with women. I strive to be compassionate and friendly, taking this work seriously while keeping our collective sense of humor.

I am a certified domestic violence counselor and constellation facilitator, with extensive training in resonance counseling, restorative justice, co-counseling, harm-reduction and motivational interviewing. I participated in a year-long program in Personal Leadership and Non-Violent Communication/ Social Justice. These are techniques that help us talk honestly about what is happening in our lives and take steps towards reaching our goals.

I am committed to working with issues around LGBTQ, oppression, racism and trauma - tools that support women to attain the resources necessary to empower themselves in every area of their lives.

What she has to offer

I am a skilled community facilitator, with extensive experience providing counseling, running support groups, teaching workshops and providing resources. I provide support, insight and knowledge using a compassionate, non-judgmental approach – meaning the goal always is support people in healing and moving forward in life. I include somatic techniques to relax tension and to support being present in the body.

I will listen through a collaborative process and support us to have a conversation about our experiences, feelings and needs. Sessions will incorporate resonant attention, where listening to each other with resonance supports an empowered dialogue, leading to healing and personal liberation. I strive to always be flexible in how we work together, focusing on the changing needs of the individual or group and knowing that we each need something different.

What can you expect from Sheila

I am an excellent and compassionate listener with a knack for being willing to work outside of clinical models of mental health that have looked at BIPOC communities, queer people and women from a deficit model. Throughout my career, it has been important to focus attention on the widespread generational trauma from systemic oppression. This lens helps us shift from asking “what is wrong with me?” to “what has happened to me?”

Queer Womxn Lesbian Circle is every 2nd Tuesday at 2pm starting March 11th in-person at The Oakland LGBTQ Community Center.

March Activities



Mar 21

Third Friday Lunch Bunch

Join us for Third Friday Lunch Bunch at the North Oakland Senior Center featuring the East Bay Front Runners and Walkers. We'll be joined by EBFRW Vice-President, Simone Adair and Lavender Seniors participant and EBFRW, Stewart Merritt.

[Register](#)

Free



Mar 28

Social Seniors

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

[Register](#)

Free



GEIM



Oakland
LGBTQ COMMUNITY CENTER

GAY ELDER MEN

A NEW AFFINITY GROUP FOR LGBTQ SENIOR MEN 55+
1ST THURSDAYS @ 200PM
THE OAKLAND LGBTQ COMMUNITY CENTER
3207 LAKESHORE AVENUE (ENTER ON RAND AVENUE)

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CALL 510-882-2286 OR EMAIL INFO@LAVENDERSENIORSORG



Royal Spaghetti/Pasta Feed & Drag Show

Saturday March 8 2025

1:30 - 5 pm

Doors @ 1:30

Pasta @ 2

Drag show to follow



St John's Episcopal Church
1707 Gouldin Rd Oakland CA

Tickets \$20
includes Door Raffle Ticket

Door Prize value \$100

Proceeds to benefit the Monarchs Charity Fund
& St John's Episcopal Church





Queer Women Lesbian Circle



A new affinity group for LGBTQ Senior Women 55+
2nd Tuesdays @ 2pm

The Oakland LGBTQ Community Center
3207 Lakeshore Avenue (Enter on Sand Avenue)

For more info, please call 510-882-2285 or email: info@lavenderseniors.org



FREE VETERINARY OUTREACH CLINIC + HUMAN HEALTH TOO

VETERINARY EXAMS ✦ VACCINATIONS ✦ MICROCHIPS ✦ PET FOOD

✦ PET SUPPLIES ✦ HUMAN WELLNESS ✦ HEALTH SCREENINGS ✦

FOOD PANTRY ✦ HARM REDUCTION

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 2pm - 4 pm

Location: Serenity House - 2363 San Pablo Avenue Oakland, CA 94612

First come, first served. Space is limited.
Serving unhoused families with dogs or cats
living in Oakland.



THE HEART
TO ART
PROJECT

ART★SHOW



5-6:30
PM

14 MARCH
2025



ARTISTS:
STUART AARON
LA CAMPOS-DE LA GARZA
CRAIG MORRIS

OAKLAND LGBTQ COMMUNITY CENTER
3207 LAKESHORE AVENUE
OAKLAND, CA 94610



THE LEGENDARY SYLVESTER
THE QUEEN OF DISCO.

Celebrate Sylvester

BEST DRESS
DISCO COSTUME
CONTEST

THE ACADEMY
2166 MARKET STREET
MARCH 14
7PM-10PM



THE ACADEMY





FREE VETERINARY OUTREACH CLINIC + HUMAN HEALTH TOO

VETERINARY EXAMS ✎ VACCINATIONS ✎ MICROCHIPS ✎ PET FOOD
✎ PET SUPPLIES ✎ HUMAN WELLNESS ✎ HEALTH SCREENINGS ✎
FOOD PANTRY ✎ HARM REDUCTION

Friday, March 21, 2025 10am — 12 pm

Location: Verdese Carter Park - 9600 Sunnyside St, Oakland, CA 94603

First come, first served. Space is limited.
Serving low income families with dogs or cats
living in Oakland.



Book-to-Screen Review

Lie with Me (2022 Film)

Based on the 2017 Novel, *Arrête avec les mensonges*, by Philippe Besson
Translated into English (2019) by Molly Ringwald
Directed (2022) by Olivier Peyon (with English subtitles)

When my husband and I made our annual winter pilgrimage to Costa Rica for 5-6 months in December 2019, we expected we'd be staying until late May or early June 2020. As virtually everyone on the planet knows now, many plans for 2020-21 were turned upside-down by Covid-19. We ultimately spent 18 months (until June 2021) somewhat stranded in our rural “upgraded-tico” house – with 20,000 acres of tropical rain forest as our back yard – since there were no planes going in or out of the country. There was not even any mail being exchanged with the U.S. (by Costa Rica or 107 other countries, who refused to deal with U.S. mail)!

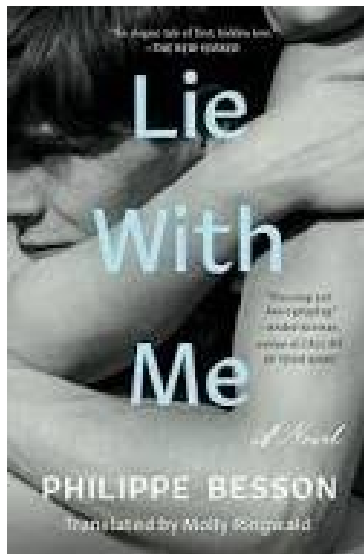
In fact, I casually approached our little post office in nearby Pérez Zeledón to send a graduation check – and a grandfatherly cheerleading letter, of course – to my first-born granddaughter, who was graduating in that awful upending-for-graduates year (they held “drive-by” graduation for Horizon High that year – and in 2021 – no whirling mortar-boards

in the air with all of your fellow/sister classmates)! The corréo agent serving the “preferencia” line (for disabled, old or pregnant customers, who go to the front of the line) just laughed at me when – after a bit of a chat about things – I plunked down my nicely-printed envelope and told him what I wanted to do. This was NOT going to happen that year! I had to give up my plan of the USPS actually delivering the letter and \$\$\$ – I learned instead about Venmo and emailed the letter. It was hard to miss my first grandchild’s first graduation, but them was the rules, grampalonghair!

Normally, since both of my bio-kids are avid readers (my daughter and her husband also started a now-world-renowned literary school in Denver – Lighthouse Writers Workshop), we receive a number of good books as Christmas presents (family tradition: each person opening a gift-book reads aloud the first couple paragraphs for the assembled family members). Those books – frequently with LGBTQ+, African or Aging themes – usually hold us, since we read to each other a couple of hours each day. Everything moves slower down here in Central America.

By the time it had become clear we would be spending our first full calendar year down here, we had run out of newly-published books to read. Did we really want to read “Little Women,” “Maurice” or “Anne of Green Gables” again? As fate would have it, the highly-acclaimed Besson novel mentioned above had been translated into English (by Molly Ringwald of “Breakfast Club” fame) in 2019. So I promptly downloaded that version on my Kindle when it became available as an e-book. I had a feeling that – since there was no Walt Whitman Bookshop or Mama Bear’s down here – it might be years before such a translation would be available in Tinamastes.

(Incidentally, the only foreign language offered in my small-town Michigan high school was Latin, so semi-fluency in Russian, French and Spanish only happened in adulthood – much of that fluency lost during 30 years in mostly Anglophone – and sometimes Francophone – Africa).



Once we’d finished reading that amazing book, I immediately wrote a review of it for the September 2020 *Lavender Notes* newsletter. I’ve just re-read that (immodestly, brilliant!) review and was struck by one paragraph in that review:

“Though this widely-acclaimed LGBTQ+ themed book is being compared with *Call Me By Your Name*, the André Aciman book made into an award-winning 2017 film, there’s no word currently about negotiations to make a film out of this book.



Incidentally, Aciman himself reviewed the Besson book as follows:

“This one sentence: *‘I remember the movement of his hips pressing against the pinball machine’*” had me in its grip until the end. Two young men find each other, always fearing that life itself might be the villain standing in their way. A stunning and heart-gripping tale.”
André Aciman, author of *Call Me By Your Name*

For the whole [book](https://lavenderseniors.org/wp-) review: <https://lavenderseniors.org/wp->

Well, imagine our surprise, poring over last summer's 2023 Frameline Film Festival schedule, we discovered that the book HAD been made into a movie in 2022, subtitles added in time for the rigorous 2023 film festival circuit around the world, and was scheduled to be in "a theater near you" this month sometime (the DVD is also available on line as of 15th February). We streamed it by ourselves (at home) twice and once more with a friend. It was a remarkable book-to-screen adaptation of an amazing French novel (with star-studded eye candy, no less, including Victor Belmondo, whose grandfather was the famous French film actor, Jean-Paul Belmondo, a star many of us seniors may remember well).



The thrust of the book – captured very well from the outset of the film – is that a renowned author, Stéphane, has been requested to return to his home near Cologne, France, to give a speech, sell some books and be recognized by the local community. During a signing ceremony for one of his novels, Stéphane is confronted by Lucas, the son of Thomas, who had been the love-of-Stéphane's-life when they were teenagers.

With a swarm of brilliant flashbacks, the very secretive love life of Stéphane and Thomas is described in breathtaking fashion. Thomas was much more afraid of being "found out" at school or in the community than Stéphane was. After being secretive lovers through much of their high-school years, Thomas suddenly disappears and moves to his mother's family's farm in Spain. Stéphane is devastated, permanently damaged, having spent much of his life sublimating the pain of that unrequited love. He has even named one of his best-known heroes after his lost love. For 35 years, he's been dreading (though subconsciously eager to know more about what happened to Thomas) any re-visit to his home turf.

The narrator of this film is a gay senior – and he has secretly spent the remainder of his life in love with this gorgeous youth from his teen-age years. Many of us who have our own past that we may dwell on – or be haunted by – from time to time, may be very moved by this film. Whether a person reads the book first or not, I guarantee this film will make you think back on your own life.

- Dr. John David Dupree, Tinamastes, Costa Rica



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

COMING SOON! The Lavender Lounge

Date & time TBA

In-person at The Oakland LGBTQ Community Center

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

NEW! GEM (Gay Elder Men)

Every 1st Thursday starting March 6th 2:00pm - 3:30pm

In-person at The Oakland LGBTQ Community Center

A new monthly Affinity group for LGBTQ identified men ages 55+. For more info, please call 510-882-2286 or email: info@lavenderseniors.org.

NEW! Queer Womxn Lesbian Circle

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

In-person at The Oakland LGBTQ Community Center

A new monthly Affinity group for LGBTQ identified women ages 55+. For more info, please call 510-882-2286 or email: info@lavenderseniors.org.

Third Friday Lunch Bunch

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

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

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



Try email marketing for free today!