



Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

a Program of the Oakland LGBTQ Community Center

*Celebrating 30+ years of outstanding service and positive change
April 2025, Volume 31 Issue 4*



“April hath put a spirit of youth in everything.”
— William Shakespeare, Sonnet XCVIII

The second cohort from our Heart to Art program concluded in March. Without Derrick Bell, none of this would have been possible. You truly are a gift to our seniors and this program. Thank you and congratulations to the second cohort for another successful session and beautiful art show and reception.

Thank you to the East Bay Front Runners and Walkers and a huge shout out to Stewart and Simone for the awesome presentation at March's Third Friday Lunch Bunch!

Thank you to the amazing staff at 1440 By the Bay as well, for the delicious lunch and fun Friday at Social Seniors.

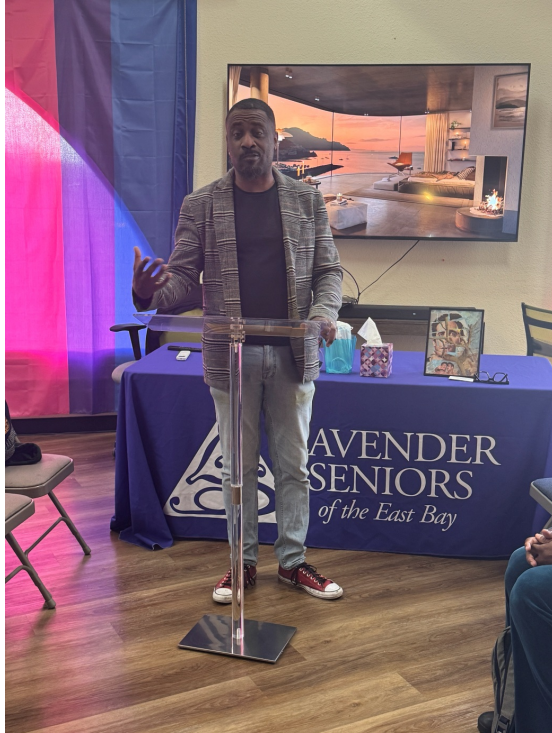
You can **RSVP** for April's Third Friday Lunch Bunch by clicking [HERE](#)

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

*The deadline to **RSVP** is **Tuesday 4/15**.*

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

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



Artist and Heart to Art Facilitator Derrick Bell



"Inside/Outside" by Heart to Art participant Luis de la Garza.



Oakland LGBTQ Center COO, Dawn Edwards with Derrick Bell



Heart to Art participants Luis de la Garza. and Craig Morris with Derrick Bell.



Cohort 2 on display at the art show and reception



LSEB participant and EBFRW, Stewart Merrit, EBFRW Vice-President, Simone Adair, and OLGBTQ ESD, Jessie Spivey.

Join Our Volunteer Team!

The Oakland LGBTQ Center is looking for passionate volunteers to support our programs, events, and community outreach. Whether you have a few hours to give or want to get more involved, your time and skills make a difference. We only have 40 slots open so sign up now! Once signed up, you will receive a confirmation email with more details.

- Help create an inclusive and affirming space
 - Support LGBTQ+ programs & events
 - Connect with an amazing community

Sign up today by using the link or scan QR Code.

<https://bit.ly/oaklandlgbtqcentervolunteer>



COME AND JOIN OUR

Volunteer Team

The Oakland LGBTQ Center is looking for passionate volunteers to support our programs, events, and community outreach. Whether you have a few hours to give or want to get more involved, your time and skills make a difference!

We only have 40 slots for new volunteers, sign up now!

We Need Help With

- ✓ Administrative Support
- ✓ Community Outreach Programs
- ✓ Event Planning and Support
- ✓ Youth and Elder Services
- ✓ Glenn Burke Clinic

To join, you must attend the Volunteer Orientation on April 19th from 12pm-2pm.

Orientation will be held at the Oakland LGBTQ Center

Questions?

Contact: Stephanie@oaklandlgbtqcenter.org

To register use link or scan QR Code:

<https://bit.ly/oaklandlgbtqcentervolunteer>



April 19th @ 12pm-2pm



3207 Lakeshore Ave,
Oakland, CA 94610



Gay Male Take-Off on the “Golden Girls”?

“Mid-Century Modern” Premieres on Hulu

Some months before the untimely death of Lesley Jordan (“Will & Grace”, “Sordid Lives” and his hit memoir “How Y’all Doing?”) in October 2022, there had been a lot of Hollywood talk about doing a gay male spin-off of the iconic NBC hit sit-com, “Golden Girls” (1985-1992). Obviously, Jordan would’ve been perfectly cast in such a production. His tragic death put the project in mothballs for a year or so as the country still recovered from the Covid pandemic.

Then the creators of “Will &



Matt Bomer (Jerry), Nathan Lane (Bunny) & Nathan Lee Graham (Arthur) as the "Golden Gays"

Grace" (David Kohan & Max Mutchnick) put their heads together once again, deciding to follow up on that original inspiration, placing the new series in one of California's gayest sanctuary cities, Palm Springs.

Enter the all-gay cast: Nathan Lane (age 69), Nathan Lee Graham (age 56) and Matt Bomer (age 47). They take on the roles of three slightly-aging gay men who decide to live together (not exactly seniors, like Dorothy, Rose, Blanche and Sophia), appealing to some of the same demographics as the "Golden Girls" had, including many members of the LGBTQ+ community.

All ten episodes of the initial pilot season landed on Hulu Friday, 28th of March, and can be "binge-watched" or paced, as desired. Those who are not already subscribers to this streaming service can obtain "free trial" packages (usually seven- or thirty-day), after which – if not canceled – a monthly fee (depending on which package chosen) can range from \$1.99/month (for students) to \$95.99/month for ad-free plans that include live TV, Disney+ and ESPN+.

We watched the first four half-hour episodes the night they 'dropped' on Hulu from our perch in Costa Rica (using a thirty-day free trial). It's clear that they ARE trying to imitate the "Golden Girls" – sometimes more successfully than others – and seem to have a lot of fun filming the series. We are treated to a few cameo guest appearance, including Jesse Tyler Ferguson ("Modern Family") and Vanessa Bayer ("SNL"), which adds to the fun. The series begins with the funeral of fourth best friend, George, which means the fabulous four fairies is now pared down to the terrible three tomgirls. This season, they decide to move in together, along with Bunny's mother, played by the fabulous Linda Lavin, who, unfortunately, dies before the first season finishes filming.

Critiques based on the trailers released prior to the premiere have ranged from "this is a disaster with tired worn-out 1990s humor" to "with both Nathans and Matt in this ensemble cast, it is bound to be a hit which will be renewed season-after-season, just like the 'Golden Girls' were". Several critics have predicted it will never be picked up after the first season. So we decided at Lavender Seniors to watch the first few episodes as they were dropped on Hulu a few days before this newsletter went to press. Here are some of our conclusions:

- Matt Bomer is undeniably cute and easily fits into a combination of the "Blanche" role as the somewhat fast-lane member of the trio – as well as the slightly ditzy "Rose" role, not quite understanding what's going on around him. ("Is that playing into a negative stereotype of gay men?", some critics ask – or is that just one of the ranges of human experience in the 21st century, wherever one falls on the human sexuality spectrum?). One of the scenes in the trailer (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-m1JjIFXLuM>) shows Bomer's character being briskly whisked off by a handsome young suitor-in-pursuit to the Graham character's observation: "Just like a white man hailing a cab."
- Nathan Lane is a master at the "one-liner", as usual, easily taking on the "Dorothy" role as the Elmer's Glue of the family.

- Nathan Lee Graham’s regular comments on differences between the way black men and white men are treated in the gay community – and in a racist society, in general – is a welcome addition to the rare instances of non-white characters on the “Golden Girls.”
- Linda Lavin was a delightful addition to the ensemble cast as the live-in mother of Lane’s character. As mentioned earlier, Lavin, unfortunately, died before the pilot series finished filming. It will be difficult to replace that element in the series, although the creators are rumored to be considering introduction of one of the other men’s mothers rather than casting a new woman to play the Lavin role for the second season, presuming it’s picked up again.

Several critics were annoyed by the “laugh track” that seemed “so very 1950s” to some, rather than being filmed before a live audience, which would’ve seemed more 21st century. Some film-watchers, quoted in various reviews - reported observing the tapings and felt there would be no difference in how the laugh-lines were perceived by a live audience vs. the “laugh-track.”

Our observations in watching the first four of the ten episodes in this first season is that it’s a light-hearted and fun way to spend each half-hour with some great actors and cameos. Lots of one-liners and “inside” jokes that we in the brotherhood/sisterhood can laugh at/with.

Take a gander or two. You might like it – if not, at least you can be part of the conversation.

- Dr John David Dupree, Tinamastes, Costa Rica

STORIES OF OUR LIVES



Stories of our lives will return soon

March Activities



GEM

GAY ELDER MEN

A NEW AFFINITY GROUP FOR GAY SENIOR MEN 55+
1ST THURSDAYS @ 2:00PM
THE OAKLAND LGBTQ COMMUNITY CENTER
3207 LAKESHORE AVENUE (ENTER ON RAND AVENUE)



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 Rand Avenue)

For more info, please call 510-882-2286 or email: info@lavenderseniors.org



Third Friday
Lunch Bunch

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

RSVP REQUIRED

Oakland LGBTQ COMMUNITY CENTER

LAVENDER SENIORS of the East Bay

Filter Services

AGING & ADULT SERVICES CITY OF OAKLAND

For more info please call **510-882-2286** or email: info@lavenderseniors.org

SOCIAL SENIORS

EVERY LAST FRIDAY 12:30PM

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

Filter Services

LAVENDER SENIORS of the East Bay

Oakland LGBTQ COMMUNITY CENTER

THE WATERMARK BY THE BAY

Apr 18

Third Friday Lunch Bunch

Join us for Third Friday Lunch Bunch at the North Oakland Senior Center featuring Johanna Holden, Development Director from The Oakland LGBTQ Center. This is your chance to learn about our new Legacy Giving program.

[Register](#)

Free

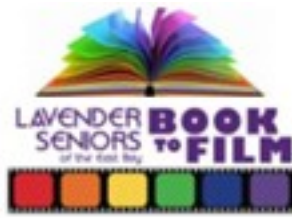
Apr 25

Social Seniors

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

[Register](#)

Free



Red, White and Royal Blue (YA Novel)

By Casey McQuiston (2019)

Original Film Streaming on Amazon Prime (2023-Present)



Five years ago in this newsletter, we published a review of the YA (Young Adult) novel, “Red, White and Royal Blue,” describing it as a wonderful social-political science fiction which would replace the aberration of the 2016 election in the U.S. Instead, in this novel, the first woman president has been elected, bringing with her two bi-lingual/bi-cultural children, the First Son (Alex Claremont-Diaz, the FSOTUS) and First Daughter (June Claremont-Diaz, the FDOTUS), the first two openly sexually-fluid occupants of the White House.

We also warned our readers that there would have to be some suspension of belief, since reality in our lives might be harder for us to handle than this wonderfully-fictionalized account of what could have happened that year in our nation’s history. So, we had a copy of the book sent to our second-born granddaughter for her sixteenth birthday (subsequently including the 2024 viewing of the film being reviewed here with two of our granddaughters, by then ages 21 and 23).

As the p.s. in that April 2020 newsletter review revealed: “Yes, Amazon has bought the film rights to this book and screenwriters are busily at work as we write this review, adapting it into a blockbuster movie, to be produced and released in the near future!”

And a blockbuster it has become! It has been named one of Prime Video’s top three rom-coms of all time. We were delighted when the brilliantly-cast and delightfully-written film – adapted from the novel – began streaming on Amazon. We watched it (for the first time) in November 2023 and have watched it at least a half-dozen times since then as a sure-fire “feel-good” antidote to so many troublesome anti-LGBTQ+ issues emerging politically and socially since the troublesome 2024 election.

To review the most-imaginative premises (some things changed from the novel, as often happens in adaptation from book-to-film):

- The gorgeous and charismatic First Son (Alex) and the (equally gorgeous/charismatic) “Spare” Prince of England (Henry) have become sworn enemies during the Melbourne Climate Conference some years ago (instead of the Rio Olympics as in the book).
- The First Son has no fraternal twin, June (as in the book), but is the bi-cultural child of the first woman president (white) and her Latino husband, Congressman Oscar Diaz, an immigrant from Mexico in early childhood. There is no step-father (as in the book).
- The First Son’s best (very wise and very beautiful) friend is Nora, granddaughter of the Vice President.
- The First Son is sent to represent the First Family at the royal wedding of Prince Henry’s older brother, Phillip, in a grand Westminster Cathedral Ceremony.
- In a remarkably-well-done scene, Alex and Henry have a bit of a “set-to” at the wedding, resulting in the £75,000 multi-tiered wedding cake being knocked over and falling on top of both the FSOTUS and the Prince, creating an international scandal.
- To repair potentially-troubled trade-deal negotiations between the two nations, the White House and Buckingham Palace decide to promote a story that the two young men just had a misunderstanding and have been best friends since Melbourne, a ruse that both Alex and Henry resist initially, since they each appear to strongly dislike the

other.

- Through a delightful turn-of-events, the two morph between sworn enemies to best friends to passionate lovers in the course of a two-hour film (that most observers have wanted to go longer – and certainly have hoped for a sequel to.)
- Amazon MGM Studio announced in May 2024 that a sequel is indeed in the works with screenwriters busily working on it as this review is being written. The co-stars have allegedly signed on to appear in the sequel. Stay tuned on that.



Co-Stars, Nicholas Galitzine and Taylor Zakhar Perez, in character as the First Son and the UK's "Spare" Prince

For anyone who might think that fictional characters can't be successfully portrayed on the screen, this film should receive an Oscar for casting and for writing a book-to-film adaptation. Two of the scenes make both Alex and Henry very humanized: one of the most romantic love-making scenes and when Alex asks Henry if he's ever had his heart broken. Henry's response (watch the film if you want to know what that response is) humanizes "the prince" in a simple heart-rending way that perhaps no fictional character has been humanized in cinematic history.

If any readers of this newsletter ever feel a need for respite from any (perhaps – this is only projection) protracted depression, angst, feelings of helplessness or hopelessness, viewing this film (and/or reading this book) might be just what you're looking for – it definitely works for my husband and me periodically, at least briefly...

The newsletter with the April 2020 "Bonus Book Review" is available (page 8) on the website at: <https://lavenderseniors.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Lavender-Notes-April-2020.pdf>

- 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 at 2:00pm

In-person at The Oakland LGBTQ Community Center

A new monthly Affinity group for GBQ 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 at 2:00pm

In-person at The Oakland LGBTQ Community Center

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

Third Friday Lunch Bunch

Friday April 18th 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 25th 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.

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 Femme Affinity Support Group
Every first Wednesday 6:00pm - 7:30pm
In-person at The Oakland LGBTQ Community Center
A monthly Affinity group for community members who identify as Trans Femme. For more info, please call 510-882-2286 or email: tobias76@gmail.com or seaniwhit@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.

Heart to Art
Returning Fall 2025
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.

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.

LGBTQIA+ Elders Therapy Group

WEDNESDAYS IN-PERSON AT
THE OAKLAND LGBTQ CENTER
FACILITATED BY GRACE WALCOT, AMFT



Participants must be pre-screened by Facilitator

For more info:
510-882-2286

info@lavenderseniors.org



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



LGBTQ+ SUBSTANCE ABUSE RECOVERY GROUP

**DRAMA THERAPY, EXPRESSIVE ARTS,
HEALING PLAY, STORYTELLING, AND
COMMUNITY**

7 WEEK GROUP FOR LGBTQ+ FOLX

**OAKLAND LGBTQ CENTER
3207 LAKESHORE AVENUE
OAKLAND**

APRIL 16- MAY 28, 2025

WEDNESDAYS

5-6:30PM

FREE! FOR MORE INFO CALL 510-459-0346



**GRACE WALCOTT
(SHE/HER, HE/HIM)
AMFT (#138185),
GRACEWALCOTTAUTHOR
@GMAIL.COM
WWW.GRACEWALCOTT.
COM.**



**JAMIL MOISES LIBAN-
ORTANEZ, AMFT
(HE, THEY, SIYA)
FOR MORE
INFORMATION VISIT
HTTPS://PAHINGALA
YHEALINGARTS.SQUA
RESPACE.COM**

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

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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