

Ongoing Programming (see Calendar for all one-time events)

MONDAYS

Always Active Exercise 10:30-11:30AM

Castro Senior Center, 110 Diamond

Movie Afternoons - New Releases 12:45PM

Castro Senior Center, 110 Diamond Street

Men's Group 2-3:30PM

Call Bruce x 17, SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market

Reading, Writing Women, 4th 6:30-8:30PM

190 Coleridge

TUESDAYS

Always Active Exercise Group 10-11AM

Castro Senior Center, 110 Diamond Street

Castro Discussion Group 12:30-2PM

Third Tuesday

Expectations: How Do Our Expectations Shape Our Reality?

Castro Senior Center, 110 Diamond Street

Women's Support Group 2-3:30PM

290 Dolores St. Call x16 for information

WEDNESDAYS

Lunch Bunch: 1st and 3rd

10:30 AM—12:30PM

Call to reserve lunch x 17

Curry Senior Center, 315 Turk Street

Rainbow Lunch: 2nd and 4th

12:30—2:00 PM

LGBT Center, 1800 Market Street

RSVP x 10

Housing & Services Clinics

Wednesdays 1-5PM

To make a one-on-one appointment, call x13

LGBT Center, 1800 Market St.

Caregiver Support 4th Wednesday 6-7:30PM

Institute on Aging, 3575 Geary

THURSDAYS

Always Active Exercise 10:30-11:30AM

Castro Senior Center, 110 Diamond Street

Discussion Group at Martin Luther Towers

First Thursday Call x16 for more information

THURSDAYS (continued)

Donation Based Yoga 10-11:30AM

66 Sanchez Street, near Duboce

Open LGBT Issues Discussion Group

Second Thursday 10-11:30AM

Join us for lively discussion at the 30th Street Senior Center, 225 30th Street @ Dolores

LGBT Chat: Bernal Heights Discussion Group

3rd Thursday

Open to all. Join us!

1-2:30PM

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Ctr., 515 Cortland

FRIDAYS

Housing and Social Services Clinics

1st and 3rd Fridays 10AM-2PM

Please call x 13 for more information

30th Street Senior Center, 225 30th St. at Dolores

Classic Films

12:45PM

Castro Senior Center, 110 Diamond Street

SATURDAYS

Games Day

10 AM-1PM

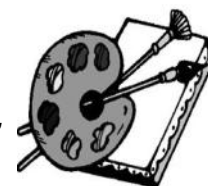
Board Games, cards, dominos and great company

LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market (Lobby)

Art Group 11:30 AM - 2PM

Meet to explore, create, discover, play and support one another through art.

LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market, Room Q11



SUNDAYS

Second Sunday, January 8th:

Men: 12-2PM: Potluck and Birthday Party for All!

Women: 3-5PM: Birthday Party for All. Join us!

145 Guerrero

Francis of Assisi Dining Hall

Openhouse gratefully acknowledges our partnership with the

San Francisco LGBT Community Center in bringing you these programs.



CALL OPENHOUSE AT (415) 296-8995 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PROGRAMS

Pariah: Celebrated film hits San Francisco

An immense success at its Sundance world premiere, this deeply felt human drama is the feature debut for Ms. Rees. Adepero Oduye portrays Alike (pronounced "ah-lee-kay"), a 17-year-old African-American woman who lives with her parents (Kim Wayans and Charles Parnell) and younger sister (Sahra Mellese) in Brooklyn's Fort Greene neighborhood. A gifted student, Alike is quietly but firmly embracing her identity as a lesbian. With the support of her best friend Laura (Pernell Walker), she is especially eager to find a girlfriend. Wondering how much she can confide in her family, Alike strives to get through adolescence with grace, humor, and tenacity. This film was Winner of the Excellence in Cinematography Award, U.S. Dramatic Competition (Bradford Young) at the Sundance Film Festival and has been touted by critics as a must-see. Openhouse will purchase a limited number of tickets, at no-cost to you. The film is being screened at the Landmark Embarcadero theater at 1 Embarcadero Center, starting December 28th, but at the time of press, show times have not been announced. Please call Openhouse, 415-296-8995 X16 if you are interested in joining us for this historic film. Date and time to be determined when available.



In partnership with the California Pacific Medical Center, and the Community Health Resource Network, Openhouse presents...

Health and Wellness Fourth Fridays:

Managing Stress



This free talk will help identify stressors and support you in creating and strengthening healthy coping strategies. You will learn how you to reduce the negative effects of stress with research-based tension-reducing techniques, tips and exercises.

Where: Room Q11 SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market

When: Friday January 27th, from 3-4:30 PM

Don't stress out about it, just come join us!

Interested in Being a Friendly Visitor?

Come and learn about the Caring Connections Friendly Visitor Program. Volunteers are matched with LGBT older adults who are seeking companionship. Volunteers usually visit twice a month for about an hour. Getting involved requires attending this information night, and includes ongoing support from Openhouse. We are particularly seeking lesbian and women-identified volunteers, but all are welcome. To find out more please contact Ellyn at 415-296-8995 x13 or at ellyn@openhouse-sf.org

When: Tuesday, January 10th, 6-7:30PM

Where: The San Francisco LGBT Center, 1800 Market

Trained Friendly Visitor Volunteers:

Mark your calendar for a meeting and check-in. Please plan to meet *either* Wednesday the 11th and *or* Tuesday the 17th from 6-8PM at the SF LGBT Center. For more information, please contact Ellyn at 415-296-8995x13 or by email at ellyn@openhouse-sf.org

What's Next? Planning for Life After Retirement

Join Openhouse and the San Francisco Public Library on **Saturday January 7**, for a free all-day resource fair for retired – and soon to retire – adults 50+. The event features Miriam Goodman, author of *Reinventing Retirement: 389 Bright Ideas About Family, Friends, Health, What to Do and Where to Live*. Her books are acclaimed guides to many aspects of retirement, from continuing to work, to moving, to finding new interests and community. A book sale by Readers Books follows her talk.

Meet organizations with information on continuing education, volunteer opportunities, community resources, and financial planning. Then, groove to the tunes of *The 7th Sons* who will play rock songs of the 60's and 70's.

Resource Fair: Main Library, Latino Hispanic Community Room, **11AM – 4PM**

Meet the author: Miriam Goodman talk at 11AM, Main Library, Koret Auditorium

The 7th Sons, 1:30, Main Library, Koret Auditorium

Where: The San Francisco Public Library Main Branch, 100 Larkin St.



San Francisco Public Library

Sponsored by The Bernard Osher Foundation and the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1 <i>New Years Day</i> Center Closed <i>No Activities</i></p> <p>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</p>	<p>2 <i>New Year Holiday</i> <i>(Observed)</i> <i>No Activities</i></p>	<p>3 <i>Always Active</i> 10:00 AM Castro</p>	<p>4 <i>Lunch Bunch</i> 10:30 AM-12:30 Curry RSVP Bruce x17</p> <p><i>Housing & Services Clinic</i> 1-5 PM The Center Call x13 for 1-on-1 appt</p>	<p>5 <i>Always Active</i> 10:30 AM Castro</p> <p><i>Martin Luther Tower Discussion Group</i> 10:30AM 1001 Franklin</p>	<p>6 <i>Classic Movies</i> 12:45 PM Castro 110 Diamond St.</p> <p><i>Housing and Social Services Clinic</i> 10AM-2PM 225 30th St.</p>	<p>7 <i>Games</i> 10:00 AM -1 PM <i>Art Group</i> 11:30 AM-2 PM The Center <i>Friendly Visitor Training</i> 9AM-4PM Call Ellyn X13</p>
<p>8 <i>Second Sunday:</i> Francis of Assisi 145 Guerrero "Birthday Party for All"</p> <p><i>Men's Potluck:</i> 12-2PM</p> <p><i>Women's Gathering</i> 3-5PM</p>	<p>9 <i>Always Active</i> 10:30 AM Castro</p> <p><i>Community Council</i> 11:30 Suite 1185 870 Market St.</p> <p><i>Movies</i> 12:45 PM Castro</p> <p><i>Men's Group</i> 2-3:30 PM The Center</p>	<p>10 <i>Always Active</i> 10:00 AM Castro</p> <p><i>Friendly Visitor Information Night</i> 6:00-7:30 PM The Center</p>	<p>11 <i>Rainbow Lunch</i> 12:30-2 PM The Center</p> <p><i>Friendly Visitor Volunteer Support Group</i> 6:00-8:00PM The Center</p>	<p>12 <i>Always Active</i> 10:30 AM Castro</p> <p><i>Yoga</i> 10:00 AM 66 Sanchez</p> <p><i>Open LGBT Issues</i> 10-11:30 AM 30th St. Senior Center</p> <p><i>Kaleidoscope</i> 2PM Laguna Honda</p>	<p>13 <i>Classic Movies</i> 12:45 PM Castro 110 Diamond St.</p>	<p>14 <i>Games</i> 10:00 AM -1 PM The Center</p> <p><i>Art Group</i> 11:30 AM-2 PM The Center</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>16 <i>Always Active</i> 10:30 AM Castro</p> <p><i>Movies</i> 12:45 PM Castro</p> <p><i>Men's Group</i> 2-3:30 PM The Center</p>	<p>17 <i>Always Active</i> 10:00 AM Castro</p> <p><i>Friendly Visitor Volunteer Support Group</i> 6:00-8:00PM The Center</p> <p><i>Castro Discussion</i> 12:30-2PM Castro</p>	<p>18 <i>Housing & Services Clinic</i> 1-5 PM - The Center Call x13 for 1 on 1 appt</p> <p><i>Lunch Bunch</i> 10:30 AM-12:30 Curry RSVP Bruce x17</p>	<p>19 <i>Always Active</i> 10:30 AM Castro</p> <p><i>Yoga</i> 10:00 AM 66 Sanchez</p> <p><i>LGBT Chat</i> 1-2:30PM 515 Cortland</p>	<p>20 <i>Classic Movies</i> 12:45 PM Castro 110 Diamond St.</p> <p><i>Housing and Social Services Clinic</i> 10AM-2PM 225 30th St.</p>	<p>21 <i>Games</i> 10:00 AM -1 PM The Center</p> <p><i>Art Group</i> 11:30 AM-2 PM The Center</p>

JANUARY 2012

22	<p>23 <i>Always Active</i> 10:30 AM Castro</p> <p><i>Movies</i> 12:45 PM Castro</p> <p><i>Men's Group</i> 2-3:30 PM The Center</p> <p><i>Reading, Writing, Women</i> 6:30-8:30 Coleridge</p>	<p>24 <i>Always Active</i> 10:00 AM Castro</p>	<p>25 <i>Rainbow Lunch</i> 12:30-2 PM The Center</p> <p><i>Housing & Services Clinic</i> 1-5 PM The Center Call x13 for 1-on-1 appt</p>	<p>26 <i>Always Active</i> 10:30 AM Castro</p> <p><i>Yoga</i> 10:00 AM 66 Sanchez</p>	<p>27 <i>Classic Movies</i> 12:45 PM Castro 110 Diamond St.</p> <p><i>Health and Wellness Seminar: Stress</i> 3 PM 1800 Market</p>	<p>28 <i>Games</i> 10:00 AM -1 PM The Center</p> <p><i>Art Group</i> 11:30 AM-2 PM The Center</p>
29	<p>30 <i>Always Active</i> 10:30 AM Castro</p> <p><i>Movies</i> 12:45 PM Castro</p> <p><i>Men's Group</i> 2-3:30 PM The Center</p>	<p>31 <i>Always Active</i> 10:00 AM Castro</p>				

Key to Locations:

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center: 515 Cortland Street, #24 bus
Castro Senior Center: 110 Diamond Street, two blocks from Castro Muni Station & #24 bus
Curry Street Senior Center: 315 Turk Street @ Hyde Street, #31 Balboa, #19 Polk
Coleridge: 190 Coleridge Street, behind "Big Lots" on Mission, #14, #49 bus
Francis of Assisi: 145 Guerrero Street, 2 blocks from F Line Trolley
San Francisco LGBT Community Center, "The Center," 1800 Market Street, F Line
30th Street Senior Center: 225 30th Street between Dolores and Church, J Line, #24 bus
Sha'ar Zahav: 290 Dolores at 16th, two blocks from J church muni and #22 bus line
Yoga: 66 Sanchez

New Fire World Premiere Performance

Theater I Written & Directed by Cherrie Moraga
 Designed by Celia Herrera Rodriguez



In celebration of Brava's 25th anniversary, Brava is thrilled to have feminist author Cherrie Moraga, one of Brava's founding members, back for this inspiring tale. Theater and ceremony at once, *New Fire* follows the sacred geography of indigenous American ancestors to tell a post-modern story of rupture and return.

Openhouse has ten sliding-scale (\$12-\$15) tix. for the January 12th preview show. Call Cheryl Woodie, X10, to reserve yours!

Cherrie Moraga is the co-editor of *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color* (with the late Gloria Anzaldúa). Other publications include: *Waiting in the Wings: Portrait of a Queer Motherhood*. Her most recent collection of writings, *A Xicana Codex of Changing Consciousness: Writings 2000 - 2010*, was published by Duke University Press in 2011. She is an Artist in Residence in the Department of Drama and the Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity program at Stanford University. She calls Oakland, California home.

Celia Herrera Rodriguez is a visual and performing artist and educator whose work reflects a full generation dialogue with Xicana and Xicano, Indigenous Mexican and North American Native thought, spirituality and politics. She teaches in the Chicano Studies Program at the University of California, Berkeley.

THIS IS WHO WE ARE: Mary Midgett

The Openhouse Monthly Interview

At 75, Mary Midgett aka Midgett, is ebulliently, happily and wildly in love. "I've been in love for a little over a week and I'm not sure if I'm on the planet right now! We have 97% of things in common," said Midgett. "She has the look. She's just so cute and handsome, and I've never felt this way about anyone."

In between lyrical bursts of passionate information about her bright new love, she talked about a life filled with children, teaching, activism and counseling.

Born in Boston, MA to a hard working West Indian family with three brothers, Midgett's parents were always supportive of her. Still, after neighbor complaints that she was always wearing pants, her parents sent her to a psychiatrist. She was eight.

"He gave me a blood test and asked me to draw a family. I drew a house with five boys and two girls. I told him I wanted to have more boys so that I could teach them to love women. That was the last time I saw the shrink. My parents never sent me back."

Although Midgett says she did not experience outward racism growing up within the divided community of Boston, her mother did not allow her to associate with southern black people. "My mother said to me, 'When you were born you were the prettiest child in the hospital.' I was born very black. She said, 'We don't look at color. If you talk correctly with the King's English, white people will think you have a degree.' My mother prepared me for that and my father was the first black man to work in the post office."

Her parents' also prepared her to work. In Midgett's West Indian community, everyone had two or three jobs, a tradition she happily carried on in much of her working life in New York and San Francisco.

Midgett moved from Boston to New York after a short stint in the army. "Oh, I loved that, all those lovely women in one place." When making the decision to have children, Midgett never gave up her girlfriends through two marriages. Her first husband was gay, then "I made a choice about marrying my second husband because of economics. The fortunate part of it was it was seldom we had sex. He had three young daughters and I brought my son into the marriage and later had another daughter. Some years into the marriage, I realized that he was bi-polar and schizophrenic with multiple and rapid mood changes."

During those nine years of marriage, Midgett started her college education at the New School of Social Research and Lehman College in the Bronx, finally graduating from Antioch University some time later. But her double life as lesbian and wife was stressful.



"My girlfriend lived across the street and at the weekends I'd go to my friends' lesbian parties. I ended up having hives from stress. I played that game for 9 years. Finally, I realized I'd have to make the break and talked to my brother who was living in the Bay Area. I sent clothes out there. The day I left, I told my husband I would go buy his favorite Chinese food. I saw my brother in his white van across the street, grabbed my suitcases that I had stashed in a friend's apartment and we barreled out of there down to South Carolina where my son was on vacation. Then we drove non-stop to California."

Midgett says it was heart breaking to leave her stepdaughters behind, "I came into their lives when they were two, five and eight years-old and we spent nine years together. We've remained in close contact. I wrote to them and they wrote to me. Between her son and daughter and her three stepdaughters, Midgett now has 12 grandchildren.

Arriving in San Francisco in 1974, Midgett began working as a teacher with the Booker T. Center in Western Addition. Through friends there, Midgett became involved with Operation Concern and met Betty Shoemaker. "We became fast friends. She took me to Marin and I met all those rich white alcoholics. I kept wondering where all the black people were. I gave lots of parties for holidays but then I got tired of these women telling me how much they hated men. So I started hanging out in the East Bay and we started Bay Area Black Lesbians and Gays."

One night at Amelia's, the famous lesbian bar on Valencia Street, she met Marie Renfrew and asked her if she could run a workshop on parenting called "Past, Present and Future Mothers" at the "Becoming Visible" conference. This began Midgett's activist life as workshop leader and facilitator within many groups in the Bay Area. Old Lesbians Organizing for Change, Lesbians and Gays of African Descent, and New Leaf are just a few of them. However, it is the NIA Collective that Midgett has been most closely associated with over the last 24 years. It was created by and for Lesbians of African descent and founded in 1987 during the Black Caucus at the Lesbian of Color Conference in San Francisco. The "purpose" of NIA Collective is to collectively build a network through self-definition, self-acceptance and acceptance of each other as lesbians, as people of African descent and as women. For Midgett, the NIA Collective has mirrored much of what she was taught by her mother, "I'm a very visible strong black woman," she said, "and my mother taught me that."

Through the NIA Collective, Midgett met some of her closest friends and it has given her space to grow as an activist and as a writer. A recipient of the Pat Bond Award, it was at the annual conference of NIA that she met her new love that she later told: "I go to our NIA meetings with one particular friend and that's not going to change because of you; Oh yes, I've learned you have to put down your boundaries straight away."

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Midgett is the author of *Grandma Brown*, a collection of black lesbian erotica and has had stories published in volumes I, II and III of *Hot and Bothered*.

“My daughter told me the other day that someone was using *Grandma Brown* in a course syllabus. That surprised the hell out of me because I only ever sold that book at conferences. My next book *NY Flava with a San Francisco Beat* will have sequels and I’m putting those up on Amazon.” After that, Midgett will finish another book on the changes that happen for women over 60, physiologically, medically and in employment. She is also working on her autobiography and has a regular column in the Western Addition community newspaper.

Midgett has one question about racism that she asks at every workshop she leads: “Did you ever invite anyone black to your house?” She is not hopeful that racism will change significantly in her lifetime but she intends to enjoy herself anyway in her neighborhood of Bernal Heights where she can go dancing and is known by young and old alike. As for Openhouse, Midgett is delighted that it took over from New Leaf, “as long as there is a thriving place for LGBT seniors, I’m happy.”

Interview by Emerald O’Leary

Mark your calendars for...
“Professor Ming’s Mansion”
A Bilingual Production....



Join us at Lunar New Year for dramatic storytelling set in ancient China. This play follows the life of a physician whose compassion and generosity to the poor inspire all around him. Presented in English and Cantonese, this show is filled with song, traditional Chinese dance, and Kung Fu martial arts!

When: Saturday, February 4th

Cost: \$10 for the play, plus optional \$12 lunch in Chinatown with Openhouse.

Call Ellyn Bloomfield X13 for more information and to reserve your spot!

HIV Support Group

Openhouse’s free weekly HIV Support Group has space to accept new members. Please contact facilitator, Bruce Thompson at extension 17 if you are interested.

Join us at the 30th St. Senior Center, every second Thursday for...

Open LGBT Issues Discussion Group! Free.



We’re talking, laughing and pondering matters great and small at the 30th St. Senior Center. While you’re there, check out the center’s gorgeous garden! It’s an oasis in the city. All are welcome.

225 30th St, every 2nd Thursday, 10-11:30AM

For more information call (415) 296-8995 X10.

Breathe and Relax with YOGA

**Every Thursday 10 -11:30 AM
66 Sanchez Street, near Duboce**



Openhouse is proud to present donation-based yoga specifically dedicated to the older LGBT Community. Instructor Kevan Houser is an RN who is a Yoga Alliance-recognized yoga teacher and has

taught yoga for over 8 years. According to Houser, “The class is targeted to the mature LGBT community, but is open to anyone with an open heart and a desire to practice gentle, integrative hatha yoga in a nurturing, loving environment.” Openhouse community members have reported great benefit and enjoyment from their practice with him. Said longtime participant Lew Ellingham, “the dozen or so of us who regularly attend feel ourselves in the safest of possible hands.” For information call Openhouse: 415-296-8995 X16.

Caregiver Support Group for LGBT caregivers of those with dementia

**4th Wednesday of the month
6 - 7:30PM**

**Institute on Aging
3575 Geary
San Francisco**

For more information:
Call Erica J. Erney
408-366- 4385



This free group is co-sponsored by the Alzheimer’s Association, Institute on Aging and Openhouse.

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Openhouse Holiday Party a Rousing Good Time

Many thanks to all who attended the Openhouse Holiday Party at Francis of Assisi. A special thanks goes out to The Linwood Project Community Chorus who provided beautiful and clever takes on holiday standards. Another big thanks goes out to the Bread & Roses organization whose partnership with Openhouse made this show possible. As you may have read in our last issue, our partnership with Bread & Roses will be providing entertainment for Openhouse community members throughout the year. Please let us know what kind of acts and performances interest you! Your feedback is valuable in securing exciting and relevant entertainment.

With two holiday parties under our belt, we move into the new year with a return to regularly scheduled men's and women's Second Sunday events. Please join us:

Men's Second Sunday: 12-2PM, Jan. 8th, 145 Guerrero

Larry Nelson, aka, "Larry Larissa, The Hostess With The Mostest" will gayly host a "Birthday Party for All" potluck. If you can, please bring something to share.

Women's Second Sunday: 3-5PM, Jan. 8th, 145 Guerrero

Cheryl Woodie and Fairley Parson host a "Birthday Party for All." Finger food provided, but you are welcome to bring something to share.

Come for cake, community, and a chance to share something about yourself to the group: When were you born? What does your birthday mean to you? What would you like to see for yourself in the New Year? We will also welcome your ideas for what you would like to see from Openhouse.

No matter what your answers, please join us in bringing in the new year this Second Sunday!



*Top: The Linwood Project Community Chorus
Bottom: Community members enjoy the party.*