

Women's Support Group

Join us for a free women's support group, especially dedicated to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender women age 60 and above. This is a supportive and feminist space to build community, speak your truth, inspire insight in yourself and others, and practice compassion.



When: Tuesdays at 2PM

Where: The Library room at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, **290 Dolores St** (16th Street and Dolores, two blocks from the J Church) Street & the 22 Fillmore bus).

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 Eric J. Erney 408-366- 4385

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

When I Grow Up: A Lifetime of Perspective by LGBT Elders

October 15th—November 16th, 2011

Whatever your media: acrylics, oil, digital, fabric, collage, mixed media, watercolor, photography, sculpture, drawing or pastel, your art is welcome here.



Call Openhouse

and get your application for our juried art show, this Fall at the San Francisco LGBT Center. Entry form, artist biography, photos and fees must be received by August 31st,

Openhouse and Aunt Lute Books are pleased to invite you to a special Second Sunday Event.

A Simple Revolution: Community Dialogue with

Judy Grahn

Sunday, July 10th, 2011

3:00-5:00 PM

145 Guerrero St. (Francis of Assisi)

Cost: Free!

Please join Openhouse and Aunt Lute Books in honoring the history and legacy of the Bay Area Lesbian Movement. Judy Grahn is an internationally recognized poet, writer and social theorist. She has won numerous awards for her work, including The American Book Award, and the Lifetime Achievement Award in Lesbian Letters. Come to hear Judy speak, and learn more about, *A Simple Revolution*, a new project featuring contributions from Grahn.

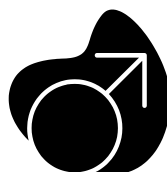


Photo: Dianne Jenett

A Simple Revolution is a new website featuring regular contributions from Grahn about her upcoming memoir, *Riding the Dragon's Breath*. The website hopes to generate community dialogue about the Bay Area lesbian movement. We invite you to participate in this online community by visiting the website: www.auntlute.com/judygrahn. And, we invite you to come hear the always entertaining Grahn *live* on July 10th!

*** People of all genders are invited to this special event.**

Men's 2nd Sunday Potluck 12-2 PM



Bring a dish, if possible according to your last name:
A-G : side dish H-N : salad
O-Z : beverage or dessert

Francis of Assisi, 145 Guerrero Street

Come eat, socialize, and stay for the special Women's Second Sunday Judy Grahn event (above).

Artists will be notified by September 21st of jury selection. Artists must be 60 by 12/31/2011 or have a documented disability.

Programs and Events

MONDAYS

Always Active Exercise Group 10:30 11:30AM
Castro Senior Center, 110 Diamond

Men's Group 2 - 3:30PM
 Call Bruce x 17
The SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market

Movie Afternoons - New Releases 12:45PM
Castro Senior Center, 110 Diamond Street

Men's Writing Group 10AM
Castro Senior Center, library room
 110 Diamond St.

TUESDAYS

Always Active Exercise Group 10-11AM
Castro Senior Center, 110 Diamond Street

**Castro Discussion Group topic: "Is There Such
 Thing as a Queer Eye?" 12:30-2pm**
Castro Senior Center, 110 Diamond Street

Women's Support Group 2-3:30PM
 Library Room, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
 290 Dolores Street @ 16th

WEDNESDAYS

July 6 & 20 10:30AM - 12:30PM
Lunch Bunch
 Everyone is welcome, however please
 call Bruce to reserve lunch x17. *Curry*
Senior Center, 333 Turk Street



Rainbow Lunch
July 13 & 27 12:30 - 2PM
 Please RSVP by calling x10
SF LGBT Center 1800 Market



Housing & Job Clinics
Wednesdays 1-5 PM
 To make a 1-on-1 appointment, Call x 13
LGBT Community Ctr. 1800 Market

Reading & Talking Women
Fourth Monday of every month 6:30-8:30PM
 Good Discussion! Good Food. Good Company.
Join us for our monthly potluck
 190 Coleridge, San Francisco, off Mission St.

THURSDAYS

Always Active Exercise Group 10:30-11:30AM
Castro Senior Center, 110 Diamond Street

Discussion Group at Martin Luther Towers
First Thursday Call x16 for more information

Women's Writing Group
10AM - Noon
 190 Coleridge
 Call x16 for more information



Open LGBT Issues Forum in Mission/Noe
Second Thursday 10- 11:30AM
*30th Street Senior Center, 225 30th Street @
 Dolores*

LGBT Chat: Bernal Heights Discussion Group
Third Thursday 1-2:30PM
Bernal Heights Neighborhood Ctr., 515 Cortland

FRIDAYS

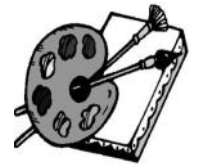
Housing & Job Clinic 60+ 11AM—Noon
 Third Friday each month. To make a 1-on-1
 appointment, call x 13.
30th Street Senior Center, 225 30th Street

Film Classics 12:45PM
Castro Senior Center, 110 Diamond Street

SATURDAYS

Games Day 10:30 AM - 1:00PM
 Board Games, cards, dominos and great company!
LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market

Art Group 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM
*LGBT Community Center,
 1800 Market*



SUNDAYS

Second Sunday of each month:
Frances of Assisi, 145 Guerrero Street

12 noon to 2 PM Men's Potluck Lunch
 An opportunity to share and chat.

3:00PM - 5:00PM Judy Grahn Event
 Interesting topics, good
 conversation, and a chance to know one
 another better.

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

Women's Writing Group

Group meets every Thursday 10 AM – Noon

All levels are welcome. Come and get creative in a dynamic and supportive setting with instructor Rose Tully and a group of Openhouse women. There is no cost to you. Just bring your pen and paper.

Coleridge Park Homes; 190 Coleridge, (behind Big Lots at Virginia), San Francisco. Mission buses & the #24 can get you close by.



SEEKING VOLUNTEERS: Openhouse visits LGBT Residents at Laguna Honda Hospital

Once a month, Openhouse volunteers make a special connection with LGBT residents of Laguna Honda Hospital. We meet on the second Thursday of the month from 2:00 – 4:00 P.M. Here, we try to offset the difficulties of residents' day-to-day circumstances at the hospital. We visit with residents who are in need of companionship. Many are lonely and do not or cannot reach out to others. Volunteers offer friendship and understanding, and play an important part in the residents' well being by helping to restore feelings of self worth, dignity and independence.



Please join us in this worthy volunteer opportunity. Skills Needed: Ability to listen patiently and compassionately, conversing with others; interest in helping plan activities, and entertainment. We also need people who would like to volunteer to provide entertainment, but are not be able to volunteer on a regular basis. For more information, please contact Openhouse (415)296-8995

Writing Group for Men

Mondays 10AM at Castro Senior Center

For the past few Mondays a group of men have been meeting in the Library Room at the Castro Senior Center from 10-11:30 am. Keith Allen, facilitator, explains, "We've been focusing on 'grabbers' or 'hooks' - a few lines that entice the reader to want to continue reading - as well as the 'thrifty use of words. You need no previous writing experience. Be prepared to laugh and have some fun. It's an exciting process, come and join us!"

The job of a writer is not to chronicle gigantic events - but to make small ones interesting.

For more information call x 16 or contact Keith via e-mail:

WordsIBloom.Castro@gmail.com

Health & Wellness Fourth Fridays July 22, 3:00PM - 4:30 PM

"Healthy Kitchen"

housing, services, and community for LGBT seniors
openhouse



How to eat well for optimum health at a price you can afford. Hear a talk from registered dietitian, Laura Scherling. Bring your own questions on diet and nutrition to suit your budget and cooking style.

Body mass and blood pressure screenings, healthy snacks, important information, and engaging conversation.

Location: *The Center, 1800 Market St.*
Cost: *FREE!*

housing, services, and community for LGBT seniors
openhouse

Outreach to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Older Adults
870 Market St., Suite 458, San Francisco, CA 94102

Breaking News

The Openhouse project to build housing at 55 Laguna St. that is welcoming and affordable to LGBT seniors is back on track...and we need your help right away to keep it moving!

Call the San Francisco Planning Commission TODAY at 415-558-6615 (x 6) to express your support and tell them why LGBT seniors need affordable housing NOW. Also, please join us or a public hearing with the SF Planning Commission on August 4th. And— stay posted or a July meeting with Openhouse for all those interested in learning more about and advocating for senior affordable housing.

Call Openhouse for more information.

This is Who We Are

Felicia Elizondo

Felicia Elizonda will be celebrating her 65th birthday on July 23rd. She is not a woman who worries about revealing her age. Born in San Angelo, Texas to a family of four siblings, she knew early that “I was different. I was very feminine and loved to prance around. Other people knew and called me sissy or faggot. The kids in the community called me names but every Halloween they still wanted me to dress up like a girl. I was happy to do it.”

Felicia’s father died of a heart attack when she was three and from then on, she and her family moved between San Angelo, San Jose, San Isidro, and other towns in California where her mother had family.

Felicia experienced a lot of name calling and bullying at every school she went to but didn’t meet any other gay person until she was 13. “That was Victor”, she said, “We became best

friends, but nothing more because he was more femme than me.” By 1962, Felicia was living in San Jose and had met a group of young gays and femmes that hung out together in St. Anthony Park. “We became a new family for one another, all young boys trying to find our way.” She also met the love of her life, “Anthony. Although he was very closeted, I was with him for over two years.”

It was at this point in her life that Felicia became a prostitute, “I was walking down to the park when I met a really handsome red-headed man with blue eyes who offered me money to have sex with him. Afterwards, he told me where to go to make some more money. I was lonely. I missed my big brother (who stayed in Texas when we started moving around), I wanted desperately to be loved.”

Two years later, her younger sister told her mother, “Don’t you know he’s a queer? Don’t you know he wants to be a woman?” That was enough for me to have a breakdown. I lost my boyfriend: I lost all my hair and my family began distancing themselves from me.”

A few years later, Felicia joined the military. Rejected by the army because she was too short, she managed to enlist in the navy. “I thought, “ she said, “that if the navy can’t make me a man, nothing will. I volunteered to go to Vietnam hoping that would be the end of it, I’d die there.”

However, she realized that she would have to be true to herself and asked her priest to go with her to tell her Captain about wanting to be a woman.

“Oh, they got me out of there so fast! I was immediately put into solitary confinement. The FBI came and investigated me and within a week I was given a dishonorable discharge and ended up in San Francisco.”



It was here that Felicia became one of the “Hair Fairies”, young transgender people who lived in the Tenderloin. “No one else would rent to us and no one would give us jobs. The Tenderloin was the only place we could live,” said Felicia. “We were called hair fairies because we wore angora a lot, ratted our hair up and plucked our eyebrows. Those days you knew who was a queen because during the day they’d wear their long hair tucked up into a cap since long hair, like wearing women’s clothes, was illegal. We became female impersonators at clubs and prostitutes outside, regarded by everyone as trash.”

Consistently harassed and hounded by the police for their prostitution, “where else would any of us have made money?” According to Felicia, the “Hair Fairies” formed a close-knit community for young transgender people at their local late-night hangout, the Comptom Cafeteria. One night in 1966, they were harassed one time too many caused a big riot with the police.

Known later as the Comptom Cafeteria riot, it was a precursor to the Stonewall riot that ignited the gay rights movement in New York. For Felicia, “it was frightening. No one wrote about the riot then and nothing changed for us. The police would still pull us in at the beginning of a three-day weekend so that we couldn’t work and we were still locked up and harassed for wearing women’s clothes.

People still bullied us on the streets and our families continued to turn their backs on us.”

Like many others in search of a different life, Felicia began moving around the country. She went to Chicago with one boyfriend, to Reno with another, back to San Jose and again to San Francisco trying to find a place that would accept her and allow her to move out of prostitution. Finally, in 1973, she became a long-distance operator for a telephone company. Shortly afterwards she began attending the famous program for gender dysphoria run by Dr. Loeb in San Mateo. “This was so helpful for me. I was able to fully transition and, in those days, in our time, we had to have the surgery. This is what you were, the surgery is what you did. There were no second thoughts for me because I cut off my penis to change my sex. I am who I was meant to be.”

Felicia transitioned at her job. “One day, I was working as a man, then I took some leave and came back as a woman. The phone company really did a great job, I was never discriminated against there. They just told everyone at the company it was going to happen and that was that.”

Although Felicia became HIV positive in 1987, she has remained in relatively good health, “Being HIV positive didn’t bother me too much, but it distanced me even more from my family, which I regret.”

Over the years, Felicia has made more than 80 AIDS quilts in memory of those who have died from the



HIV/AIDS & Seniors No Cause for Celebration

As we enter the 30th year of the HIV/AIDS epidemic there is still no cure and millions across the planet are dying. Once regarded as a disease affecting only young gay men in urban areas, recent statistics from various research studies across the USA and, internationally, show that HIV/AIDS is rapidly on the increase among seniors, both heterosexual and LGBTQ.

For example, in 2001, about 17% of people with HIV/AIDS were over 50. People over 50 now make up 29%, comprised of three distinct groups: people who have been living with HIV for many years; newly diagnosed people just learning of their HIV status; and older people newly infected with HIV. The rates of HIV/AIDS among older people are 12 times higher in African-Americans and 5 times higher for Latinos, than Caucasians. Older people get HIV the same way as younger people. However, they may not be aware that they are at risk of HIV infection. They also may not know how to protect themselves from HIV transmission. According to aidsinonet.org, the following reasons might account for the rapid increase of HIV/AIDS transmission among older adults:

- Health care providers may not test older people for HIV infection.
- Many older people are newly single. Many get divorced or lose their mates. While partnered they may have believed prevention messages were not relevant.
- Very little HIV prevention education targets older people.
- Many older people believe that HIV only affects younger people.
- Research shows many older people have not received safer sex education.
- Drug use accounts for more than 16% of infections of people over 50.
- Unprotected sexual activity: Viagra and other drugs that help men get and maintain an erection may contribute to increased rates of sexual activity and sexually transmitted diseases among older people.
- Physicians may not diagnose HIV infection in older people. Some early symptoms of HIV may appear to be normal signs of aging.

Know your status. Get tested early and often!

By Emerald O'Leary Statistics from aidsinonet.org

PLAY READING CLUB Coming Early August

Play Reading For Pleasure

The first meeting of this new club will be held in early August. Venue and time TBA.

Director: Rachmael Ben-Avram of San Francisco's Company of the Golden Hind has extensive experience in many forms of theatre.

To register and for more information, please call Rachmael directly at 415- 564-5100 for all details of the venue and time.



Continued from Page 6—Felicia Elizondo

disease. "I have another 15 quilts that people have asked me to make for them. I hate to let them go as it is so rare that we see them any more. I remember visiting the quilt exhibit where the organizers put on extra security because they were scared we were going to steal them back."

After living in Los Gatos for seven years, Felicia moved back to San Francisco. She began volunteering at the SF AIDS Foundation and Project Open Hand, eventually becoming a receptionist there and later at Shanti, the model for community participation and direct volunteer care in HIV/AIDS education. Felicia has now raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for AIDS/HIV organizations and received awards from the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Tenderloin Tessie, the SF AIDS Foundation, Positive Resources, Shanti and Openhouse. She has become a nationally known and welcomed speaker for transsexual rights, HIV/AIDS education, working with seniors, youth, and all ages in between.

This year, Felicia participated in a film with Frameline and the TILT program on the "Tenderloin's: Forgotten History." The TILT program features Bay Area youth and elders identifying as LGBTQI who engage in an intergenerational collaboration for a film on an agreed subject. This film was shown as part of the Frameline LGBT film festival for 2011.

Interview by Emerald O'Leary

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Faith & LGBTQI Aging

Honoring the Spiritual Wisdom and Human Dignity of LGBTQI Elders

Wed. August 17th, 2011 from 11:00 am - 5:30 pm

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 114 Montecito Avenue, Oakland

An open, welcoming, and affirming congregation!



Who should attend? LGBT seniors, allies, advocates, faith leaders, & others who want to know how to reach and empower the LGBTQI senior community within Bay Area synagogues, churches, and sanghas. There will be LGBTQI Elders & Advocates Panels, LGBTQI community resources and breakout sessions to give elders the chance to speak truth about spiritual justice. There will also be a special screening of Stu Maddux's new film, "Gen Silent." FREE lunch & much, much, more!

Call (510) 849-8208 to register or go to:

www.cwcbay.org/faithandaging