april 2019

# Openhouse thanks and celebrates our volunteers this month, Volunteer Appreciaton Month, and always. Thank you!

Celebrate Volunteer Appreciation Month with Openhouse Thursday, April 23, 6 - 8PM 55 Laguna St. Community Room

This month is dedicated to honoring volunteers throughout communities as well as encouraging volunteerism. Join Openhouse in celebrating YOU, our amazing volunteers, who are an essential part of supporting our beautiful community. Come learn about more volunteer opportunities, get to know each other and celebrate all of your efforts with us. See you there!

RSVP required contact: Kirk Lorenzo at <a href="mailto:KLorenzo@openhouse-sf.org">KLorenzo@openhouse-sf.org</a> or (415) 231-5888

#### Volunteer with Openhouse! Every little bit counts!

Are you available to volunteer at Openhouse? We have multiple needs for volunteers including for our Rainbow Lunches, Trans Elder Lunch, Sister Circle, Men's Drop-In Social, front desk reception, and more! Give a little time and make a big impact. Volunteers can help behind the scenes, out in the community and here at Openhouse. Let us know your availability and interests – we look forward to having you join our team! Please call Kirk at (415) 213-5888 or email <a href="mailto:klorenzo@openhouse-sf.org">klorenzo@openhouse-sf.org</a> for more details.

# Join us in welcoming our new Friendly Visitor Program Supervisor! Christine Abiba (pronouns: she/they)

Christine is a Bay Area, born and raised, Filipino American whose commitment to understanding what it means to be human is almost as fervent as their love for dancing. Christine studied Theology and Religious Studies at the University of San Francisco and has spent over 5 years working with older adults. Their experiences include working/volunteering with Little Brothers-Friends of the Elderly, Canon Kip Senior Center, StoryCorps, and the Queer Ancestors Project. Christine will be joining the Openhouse team as a Program Supervisor supporting volunteers and community members enrolled



in the Friendly Visitor Program. If you are interested in giving or receiving emotional and social support through the Friendly Visitor Program, please contact Christine by phone or email, or by stopping by our office at Bob Ross LGBT Senior Center, 65 Laguna St.

This month we say goodbye to two members of our team, Jess and Beck.
We wish you both all the very best in your next chapters.
The Openhouse Community will always welcome you!

#### Dear Community Members,



I wanted to let you know that I will be leaving Openhouse at the end of April. It has been my great good fortune to have worked with many of you as your Case Manager. You have enriched my

life and I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of your lives.

I wish you all the very best, Jess

#### Dear beloved Openhouse community,

As you may have heard, I am leaving Openhouse at the end of April to go back to the East Coast. I am beyond humbled and grateful for the immense love, affirmation and mentorship you have



showered on me this past year. Truly, you have taught me that being LGBTQAI means that I come from a revolutionary lineage, and I could not be more proud to call you family. Thank you.

Love, solidarity y hasta la victoria siempre! Beck

# Community Engagement Programs

Staying Connected to Services "In the Life": A Discussion Group for LGBTQ People of Color Monday, April 8 and 22 from 2 - 3:30PM, 930 4th St.

Join a biweekly discussion group in partnership with SteppingStone for LGBTQ people of color. Prejudice, bias and bureaucracy make government systems almost impossible to cope with every day; it's a struggle. Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday, come share your tips, strategies and support with others in a positive environment. We will learn together how to get what we want from community resources, support services and government benefits.

This group will be facilitated by Myles Dixon who has a Master's in Health Systems Administration and has both personal and professional experience working with health-related community organizations.

RSVP required. Please contact D. at (510) 863-0359 or dhilton@steppingstonehealth.org

# Community Engagement Programs

Thank you for your feedback!

We want to give a big shout-out to community members who completed the Openhouse Consumer Satisfaction Survey last month! Thank you for helping Openhouse demonstrate to our partners at the SF Dept. of Aging and Adult Services, that we care about offering quality programs for LGBTQ seniors. As a token of our appreciation, those with the following raffle ticket numbers will receive a \$15 Safeway giftcard!

\*515037 \* 514981 \* 514964 \* 514843 \* 515056\*

If your ticket is a winner, please contact Faire at (415) 347-8509 or email him at <a href="mailto:ffaircloth@openhouse-sf.org">ffaircloth@openhouse-sf.org</a>

### Would You Like a Visitor? Join our Friendly Visitor Program!



No matter our situation, we all need connection and community. If you'd like someone to connect with, our Friendly Visitor program affirms that LGBTQ elders have lifetimes of experience, perspective and know-how. You made history and now younger LGBTQ folks want to be part of the legacy! Through this program, we honor each other's fierceness and vulnerability, and we affirm the beauty and wisdom in

being exactly who we are, at every age. We screen, train and support all volunteers who spend time with community members for: home visits, walks in the park, outings to the museum, shopping, coffee and tea meet-ups, or just to chat and have some laughs. To learn more about the program, please contact Sylvia (415) 659-8123 or email <a href="mailto:sylvia@openhouse-sf.org">sylvia@openhouse-sf.org</a>.

#### I Have Tasted Spring

I have tasted Spring In poached eggs cosseted in sweet green peas ...meat was served but twice a week.

I have tasted Spring in scarlet plum-tomatoes glazed green by fragrant oil ...it was Friday.

I have tasted Spring in peppered bread rendered rich with port drippings ...a feat no chef can repeat.

I have tasted Spring in penny spice cakes dark and rich ...a Sunday evening treat.

I have tasted Spring in vanilla Mello-cups ...chocolate sprinkles were free.

Now...Fall is over and Winter rushes to claim me ...but I have tasted Spring.

~John Caton

# Community Engagement Programs

Questions about any programs listed here or to RSVP?

Contact Faire, OH Activities Coodinator, 415.231.5883 or ffaircloth@openhouse-sf.org

Sister Circle is calling all LGBTQ women-identified folks to join in on these upcoming events:

Tuesday, April 2, 1PM - Sister Circle Community Outing to the Conservatory of Flowers Friday, April 19, 10:30AM – Sisters on the Move walking group Friday, April 19, 1PM – Women's Afternoon at the Movies Tuesday, April 23, 12PM noon – Sister Circle

### Sister Circle Outing to the Conservatory of Flowers - Tuesday, April 2

Meet at Conservatory of Flowers at 1PM. Golden Gate Park, 100 John F. Kennedy Drive Spring is here! Come explore the rare and beautiful plants of the tropics with your fellow LGBTQ-identified Sisters and feel the coming of warmth and life after this wet winter. Admission is free on the first Tuesday of each month! RSVP required-please contact: Faire at 415.231.5883

#### Sister Circle

Tuesday, April 23, 12-1:30PM at 55 Laguna Community Room



Many of us are still living in the city! Let's get together to grow friendships and make new connections. We warmly welcome all women identified community members to join us for a luncheon on the 4th Tuesday of every month.

RSVP required please contact Faire on details above.

#### Sisters on the Move

Friday, April 19, 11AM - 12:30PM Meet at the Bob Ross LGBT Senior Center at 65 Laguna.

Walk at your pace, hang with your Sisters, and build community. Every 3rd Friday of the month preceding Women's Afternoon at the Movies.

#### Women's Afternoon at the Movies "Cloud Burst"

Friday, April 19, 1-4PM, 55 Laguna Community Room

We warmly welcome all LGBTQ women-identified community members to join us every 3rd Friday of the month to socialize and watch movies.

Light snacks and refreshments will be served.

Next film: "Color Purple"

# Resources and Referrals Navigation

#### Housing Workshops at Openhouse

Need help understanding how to apply for affordable senior housing in San Francisco? Openhouse is here to help! Join us for an hour-long presentation at Openhouse where we cover the basics you need to know as you look for housing. We will decode the process of applying for housing and suggest next steps.



Workshops are held at Openhouse, Bob Ross LGBT Senior Center @ 65 Laguna St. on:

Friday, April 12, 11AM Tuesday, April 23, 6PM

### Buying Below Market Rate Workshop

Thursday, April 18, 6PM at the Bob Ross LGBT Senior Center at 65 Laguna St.

Have you ever considered purchasing a home in San Francisco through the Below Market Rate (BMR) ownership? This workshop is offered by the San Francisco Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD)

This month, Openhouse will host this two-hour orientation workshop that both provides an introduction and explanation of the BMR ownership program and fulfills the first workshop requirement of the Homebuyer Education Certificate. Matthew Rizzie, Associate Director of Programs at the SF LGBT Center will present this workshop. They will also briefly cover the services the SF LGBT Center offers and how they can complement Openhouse's housing and resource services.

# Openhouse's Aging and Disability Resource Center Drop-in Hours Update:

Do you need help navigating the resources and services that are available to you in the city? Want assistance filling out tricky applications, or getting connected to activities you'd actually enjoy? Or are you just looking for some extra support in your housing search?

Join our Resources and Referrals Navigator, Tajinder, for drop-in hours every Wednesday and Thursday from 10AM-12:30PM or 1:30-4PM starting in April- please note we will not have drop-in hours on April 11.

### Support and Wellness Programs

Questions about any programs listed here? Need to RSVP? Contact Ariel, OH Program Coodinator, at 415.503.4180 or email <a href="mailto:ariel@openhouse-sf.org">ariel@openhouse-sf.org</a>.

Trans/Gender-Variant Support Group at SteppingStone April 1 and 15, 2 - 3:15PM, 930 4th St. Registration required.



Join ROAR for Aging for a biweekly support group for transgender and gender-variant people at SteppingStone Mission Creek. Held on the first and third Mondays, this is an open-ended drop-in group where members can share their stories, seek referrals and advice, and cultivate a sense of community. This group will be facilitated by D. Hilton, ASW. It is free and requires an interview with the facilitator prior to enrollment. For more info and to set up an interview, contact D. at (510) 863-0359 or dhilton@steppingstonehealth.org

### LGBTQ Group for Those who Care for Someone with Dementia

in partnership with the Alzheimer's Association

April 24, 6-7:30PM, Bob Ross LGBT Senior Center at 65 Laguna St. No need to RSVP

We welcome diverse LGBTQ caregivers to this monthly, free drop-in support group. You may care for a partner, friend, neighbor, or family member routinely or from time to time; in your home or community; or even to someone you love over the phone. "Dementia" is an umbrella term and includes a vast range of symptoms and more than 100 conditions that impair memory, behavior and thinking. Caring for someone with dementia, whether mild or severe, is important work and inspires many questions about how to deal with what is. We welcome you to join the conversation.



#### Friday, April 12, 2PM 255 Alabama St.

We visit Muttville every 2nd Friday of the month and we invite you to join us. You'll hang out with a handful of sweet dogs in a cozy living-room like setting. You can also elect to walk with the dogs. Let us know you can make it- please contact Ariel, OH Program Coodinator, (415) 503-4180 or email <a href="mailto:ariel@openhouse-sf.org">ariel@openhouse-sf.org</a>





SUN	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Drop-In Meditation, 11AM–12PM BR 65 Laguna St. Trans/Gender-Variant Support Group 930 4th St., 2 - 3:15PM, Reg Req'd Men's Group, 2 –3:30PM, 501 Castro Dreams Group, 4–5:15PM, Reg Req'd	2 Gay Gray Writers 4–5:30PM BR 65 Laguna St. Intro to Spanish, 6–7:30PM BR 65 Laguna St. Reg. Req'd	3 Computer/Smartphone Class, 12 - 2PM, Reg Req'd Clearing House: Cluttering Support 12:30 – 2PM, BR 65 Laguna St.	4 Yoga, 11AM - 12PM, Reg. Req'd Sexuality & Aging, 11AM - 12:15PM Reg Req'd: X311 Intermediate Italian, 4–5:30PM	5 Living with Loss: Drop-in Grief Support, 1–2:30PM, BR 65 Laguna St. Yiddish, 4–5:30PM, BR 65 Laguna Reg Req'd X305	6 Games, 10AM–1PM, BR 65 Laguna Queer Elders Writing Workshop 12:30–3:30PM, PAWS Art Group 1:15–4PM, BR 65 Laguna
7	8 Drop-In Meditation, 11AM -12PM BR 65 Laguna St.  LGBTQ Chat, 1–2PM  New! "In the Life" Discussion for LGBTQ People of Color, 2 - 3:30PM 930 4th St, Reg Req'd  Men's Group, 2–3:30PM, 501 Castro  Dreams Group, 4–5:15PM, Reg Req'd	9 Intro to Spanish, 6–7:30PM BR 65 Laguna St. Reg. Req'd Trans 50+ & Fabulous Drop-In, 6–7:30PM Trans Thrive Special Event! Gay Gray Writers Public Reading: "Gray-t Expectations" 6:30 - 8:30PM, Eureka Valley Branch Library 1 Jose Sarria Ct.		11 Yoga, 11AM - 12PM, Reg. Req'd X315 Men's Drop-In Social Hour 1:30–3PM, OHC 55 Laguna St. Sexuality & Aging, 11AM - 12:15PM Reg Req'd: X311 Intermediate Italian, 4–5:30PM Reg req'd: X305	Housing Workshop, 11AM BR 65 Laguna St, RSVP Req'd: X319 Visit to Muttville, 2PM 255 Alabama St, RSVP to X315 Yiddish, 4–5:30PM, BR 65 Laguna Reg Req'd X305	13 Friendly Visitor Discussion Group 10 - 11AM, BR 65 Laguna St.  Games, 10AM–1PM, BR 65 Laguna  Queer Elders Writing Workshop 12:30–3:30PM, PAWS  Art Group 1:15–4PM, BR 65 Laguna
14	15 Drop-In Meditation, 11AM–12PM BR 65 Laguna St. Computer/Smartphone Class 12 - 2PM, Reg Req'd X305 Trans/Gender-Variant Support Group at Stepping Stone, 2 - 3:15PM Reg Req'd: (510) 863-0359 Men's Group, 2–3:30PM, 501 Castro Dreams Group, 4–5:15PM, Reg Req'd	Trans Elder Lunch 12–1:30PM OHC 55 Laguna X322 for info Gay Gray Writers 4–5:30PM BR 65 Laguna St. Intro to Spanish, 6–7:30PM BR 65 Laguna St. Reg. Req'd	17 Computer/Smartphone Class 12 - 2PM, Reg Req'd X305 Clearing House: Cluttering Support 12:30–2PM, BR 65 Laguna St.	18 Yoga, 11AM - 12PM, Reg. Req'd X315 Sexuality & Aging, 11AM - 12:15PM Reg Req'd: X311 Intermediate Italian, 4–5:30PM Reg req'd: X305 Below Market Rate Housing Workshop, 6PM, BR 65 Laguna	19 Living with Loss: Drop-in Grief Support, 1–2:30PM, BR 65 Laguna St. Sisters on the Move, 11 - 12:30PM BR 65 Laguna St. RSVP: X322 Women's Afternoon at the Movies "Cloud Burst" 1–4PM, OHC 55 Laguna Yiddish, 4–5:30PM, BR 65 Laguna Reg req'd X305	20 Games, 10AM–PM, BR 65 Laguna St. Queer Elders Writing Workshop 12:30–3:30PM, PAWS Art Group 1:15–4PM, BR 65 Laguna
21	22 Drop-In Meditation, 11AM–12PM BR 65 Laguna St LGBTQ Chat, 1–2PM New! "In the Life" Discussion for LGBTQ People of Color, 2 - 3:30PM 930 4th St, Reg req'd Men's Group, 2 –3:30PM, 501 Castro Dreams Group, 4–5:15PM, Reg Req'd	23 Sister Circle, 12–1:30PM OHC 55 Laguna, X303 Intro to Spanish, 6–7:30PM Trans 50+ & Fabulous 6–7:30PM, Trans Thrive Volunteer Appreciation Celebration, 6 - 8PM OHC 55 Laguna St. Housing Workshop, 6PM BR 65 Laguna St. RSVP req'd, X319	24 Rainbow Lunch, 12–1:30PM OHC 55 Laguna St. RSVP req'd: X322 LGBTQ Caregivers of those with Dementia Support Group, 6–7:30PM BR 65 Laguna St	25 Yoga, 11AM - 12PM, Reg. Req'd X315 Men's Drop-In Social Hour, 1:30–3PM, OHC 55 Laguna St.  Sexuality & Aging, 11AM - 12:15PM Reg Req'd: X311 Intermediate Italian, 4–5:30PM Reg req'd: X305  Facing Feelings Around Mortality 2:30-3:45pm, Reg Req'd	26 Lesbian Visibility Day  4th Friday Health & Wellness: "Living with Loss", 3–4:30PM OHC 55 Laguna Comm. Rm  Yiddish, 4–5:30PM, BR 65 Laguna Reg req'd X305	27 Games, 10AM–1PM, BR 65 Laguna Queer Elders Writing Workshop 12:30–3:30PM, PAWS Art Group 1:15–4PM, BR 65 Laguna
28	29 Drop-In Meditation, 11AM–12PM BR 65 Laguna St. Men's Group, 2 –3:30PM 501 Castro St.	30 Gay Gray Writers 4–5:30PM, BR 65 Laguna St. Intro to Spanish, 6–7:30PM BR 65 Laguna St. Reg. req'd	May 1 Clearing House: Cluttering Support 12:30–2PM, BR 65 Laguna St.	2 Yoga, 11AM - 12PM, Reg. Req'd Sexuality & Aging, 11AM - 12:15PM Reg Req'd: X311 Intermediate Italian, 4–5:30PM	3 Living with Loss: Drop-in Grief Support, 1–2:30PM, BR 65 Laguna St. Yiddish, 4–5:30PM, BR 65 Laguna Reg Req'd X305	4 Games, 10AM–1PM, BR 65 Laguna Queer Elders Writing Workshop 12:30–3:30PM, PAWS Art Group 1:15–4PM BR 65 Laguna

# Support and Wellness Programs

Questions about any programs listed here? Contact Ariel, OH Program Coodinator, 415.503.4180 or email: <a href="mailto:ariel@openhouse-sf.org">ariel@openhouse-sf.org</a>

Clearing House: Drop-in Clutter
Support Group

Openhouse and the
Mental Health Association
of San Francisco welcome
you to a support group for
all LGBTQ community members age 55+ who
"struggle with stuff."

The group is a non-judgmental, confidential, and supportive space where you can share your struggles and strategies with other LGBTQ folks.

Every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays 12:30-2PM at Bob Ross LGBT Senior Center, 65 Laguna

### Fifty+ and Fabulous!

Trans Drop-In Group and Dinner

Trans Thrive and Openhouse join forces to offer a trans drop-in group, "Fifty+ and Fabulous!" This facilitated group welcomes all transgender folks in their golden years. Group is free and food is served!

Join us every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>
Tuesday of the month from 6-7:30PM
@ 730 Polk Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

For more info please email: transthrive@apiwellness.org or (415) 292-3420 ext 348.

#### LGBTQ Chat Group

in collaboration with Well-Connected. This telephone-based group is held 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of the month.

Community members can participate via phone or computer from the comfort of their own home. The chat is open to all LGBTQ seniors interested in connecting and building community over the phone. We create an inclusive and supportive space to share our stories and perspectives!

The group is facilitated by Ariel Mellinger, ASW.

For more information or to register, please call Senior Center Without Walls, toll-free at 877.797.7299.

### LGBTQ Online Caregiver Discussion Group

For more info: <a href="mailto:sylvia@openhouse-sf.org">sylvia@openhouse-sf.org</a>

Openhouse and Family Caregiver Alliance offer this Online Discussion Group as a place for LGBTQ caregivers of older adults with chronic health concerns to discuss the unique issues of caring for a partner, family member, friend, or loved one. This is a national online group. Caregivers with basic computer access (emails) are welcomed and encouraged to participate in this supportive space!

### •••• CONNECT

Drop-In Meditation- no need to RSVP!

Mondays, 11AM – 12PM, Bob Ross LGBT Senior Center, 65 Laguna St.

Come find some space in the chaos and learn some tools to get along skillfully and with awareness in this complex world.

Instructors David Lewis and Kathy Barr invite all levels of practitioners--as well as those who are just interested in seeing what meditation is all about--to join us!

This program is co-sponsored by Openhouse and Shanti

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# Community Engagement Programs

#### **Trans Elder Lunch**

Tuesday, April 16, 12-1:30PM at 55 Laguna Community Room

Openhouse community is looking to make this lunch intergenerational! Creating connections across generations is key to building a stronger community. This lunch is for ALL trans, gender queer, and nonbinary folks. We hope you'll join us every 3rd Tuesday for a monthly lunch for the TGNC community at Openhouse!



### Men's Drop-In Social Hour

2nd and 4th Thursdays, 1:30-3PM at 55 Laguna Community Room

This group welcomes all male-identified community members for coffee, snacks and informal socializing.



#### Rainbow Lunch a community gathering 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 12-1:30PM at 55 Laguna Community Room

Please join us for a unique opportunity to be with community to socialize, laugh, feel supported, and make new friends in a safe and welcoming space. Due to the wonderful popularity of the lunch, please RSVP no later than 10AM the Monday before the luncheon. RSVP required. We ask folks to please arrive no earlier than 11:45PM and no later than 12:30PM to ensure folks can be escorted up to the 2nd Floor Community Room at 55 Laguna St.

### Bar Stories: A Community Story-Sharing Event at Openhouse Thursday, May 9, 4-6PM at 55 Laguna Community Room

Bars were the first havens where LGBTQ people claimed public space -- and where we found love, drama, joy, trouble, and one another. Join us in reflecting on the role bars have played in our lives. We'll be sharing bar stories from any time period; fact, fiction, or some intriguing combination. Sister Rosemary Chicken of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence will read some of the stories aloud, the authors will read others, and Katie Gilmartin will share research on the infamous 1954 bar raid on the lesbian bar, Tommy's Place, in San Francisco's North Beach. RSVP required please contact Armando Paone at (415) 728-0194 or <a href="mailto:armando@openhouse-sf.org">armando@openhouse-sf.org</a>

# Save the Date for LGBTQ Senior Prom! Saturday, June 1 at SF War Memorial Green Room

Join us for our yearly celebration for seniors and allies of all ages to get another chance at Prom -- with none of the tradition or rules being held once again at the fabulous Green Room! Look out for details in the next newsletter!



### Support and Wellness Programs

#### 4th Friday Health & Wellness: "Living with Loss"

Friday, April 26, 3-4:30PM, 55 Laguna Community Room. No RSVP required

In this free workshop, Ginny Pizzardi will provide an engaging discussion on how loss continuously affects our lives. She will share her expertise on how to find joy, meaning, and happiness while living with the many types of changes and losses we face over our lifetimes.

Ginny Pizzardi, M.S., M.F.T., has been a clinical psychotherapist since 1985. She has a private practice in San Francisco and is a Candidate at the Psychoanalytic Institute of Northern California.

#### Facing the Feelings Around our Mortality

Thursdays, beginning April 25, 2:30-3:45PM. 8 sessions (no session June 6). Location TBD.

This group will focus on processing the feelings and emotions around mortality and how it feels to plan for our final years. This will be a space to explore feelings in a safe and supportive group while all grappling with the same topic.

Registration and interview with the facilitator is required. Please contact

Maggie Furey at mfurey@openhouse-sf.org or (415) 969-6907

#### Living with Loss: Drop-In Grief Group

1st and 3rd Fridays, 1-2:30PM at Bob Ross LGBT Senior Center 65 Laguna St. No need to RSVP

Join Openhouse and VITAS Healthcare for a drop-in grief support group for LGBTQ older adults who have experienced loss and are looking for support in a safe, welcoming environment. There is no cost for this group and no on-going commitment to attend. The group is co-facilitated by Dale Poland and Jane Litman.



For questions, contact Dale Poland at (408) 964-6866 or <u>dale.poland@vitas.com</u>.

### New to Openhouse? We would love to hear your perspective!

Openhouse has an exciting opportunity to learn from you, our community! Through participation in the CRDP (California Reducing Disparities Project), we are looking for input from participants experiencing Openhouse programs for the first time. We are measuring if our programs make a difference in the lives of LGBTQ seniors and we want to hear from you! If eligible, participants will be offered an incentive for enrolling. Participation in the CRDP is completely voluntary and does not impact participation in Openhouse programs.

For questions about how to enroll in the evaluation or to learn more about the CRDP please contact Ariel at (415) 503-4180 or or <a href="mailto:ariel@openhouse-sf.org">ariel@openhouse-sf.org</a>