housing, services, and community for LGBT seniors OPEN TOUSE



Sister Circle's Not Your Stereotypical Fashion Show & Luncheon

Tuesday, March 24, 12 - 1:30PM 55 Laguna Community Room RSVP Required

In recognition of Women's History month, please join us for our monthly Sister Circle luncheon AND "Not Your Stereotypical Fashion Show". Let's have fun supporting staff and sisters who will be walking the runway in attire that fits their style and brings out their sense of play and flair. If you would like to walk the runway, please let us know when RSVPing for the lunch, by March 17.

To RSVP, contact Faire at (415) 231-5883.

Trans Day of Visibility Lunch

Tuesday, March 31, 12:30 – 2:30PM 55 Laguna Community Room RSVP Required

Openhouse honors our transgender elders! TDOV aims to bring attention to the accomplishments of trans people around the globe while fighting cissexism and transphobia. This is a day of empowerment and offering recognition to the trans elders in our community. Join Openhouse for a special brunch honoring the leadership and lives of transgender community members.

To RSVP, contact Faire at (415) 231-5883.

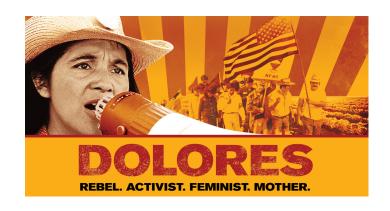


Come be inspired by the documentary, *Dolores*!

Friday, March 13, 1 – 3:30PM Bob Ross LGBT Senior Center at 65 Laguna St. RSVP required

Dolores is a portrait of activist icon Dolores Huerta, who tirelessly led the fight for racial and labor justice. An equal partner in co-founding the first farmworkers union with Cesar Chavez, her enormous contributions have gone largely unrecognized. Come watch this documentary to learn more and enjoy a discussion afterwards. Popcorn and other snacks will be provided. Film runs for 120 mins and will have closed captioning.

To RSVP, contact Faire at (415) 231-5883 or faire@openhouse-sf.org



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 and suggest next steps.



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

Tuesday March 10 at 2AM | Tuesday March 25 at 2PM

To register, contact Jessi Lawrence at (415) 231-5870 or jlawrence@openhouse-sf.org

Volunteering at Openhouse

Friendly Visitor Volunteers come in all ages!

We're looking for volunteers of all ages to become Friend Visitors. Plenty of our Friendly Visit-tees request to have peers around their age as Friendly Visitors. Connections in the Friendly Visitor Programs can take shape in many forms: going on walks, museum visits, sharing stories over coffee, or simply connecting over shared interests! You would help provide companionship, emotional support, and some practical assistance to foster connections to our community members. Join us at one of our Friendly Visitor Program trainings where we go over the scope of the program and the role of the volunteer!

Upcoming Friendly Visitor Program trainings: Saturday, March 28 from 1:30pm - 4:30PM Saturday, April 25 from 1:30pm - 4:30PM Saturday, May 16 from 1:30pm - 4:30PM

For more information, contact Kirk Lorenzo at (415) 231-5888 or KLorenzo@openhouse-sf.org



New to Openhouse and curious about what's going on?

Come learn about the programs we offer!

Monday, March 23, lunch or dinner. RSVP for details. Bob Ross LGBT Senior Center at 65 Laguna St.

RSVP required

We invite you to an afternoon or evening of eating and learning. You will learn about the various activities and programs Openhouse offers. You will also have a chance to learn about an ongoing feedback opportunity that we have for new participants at Openhouse. Join us for either lunch or dinner. We encourage community members who have attended 5 or fewer activities to join us!

To RSVP, contact Ariel at (415) 503-4180 or ariel@openhouse-sf.org

Openhouse is proud to host a "Groundwater" Training from the Racial Equity Institute

March 21, 1 - 4:30PM Bob Ross LGBT Senior Center at 65 Laguna St RSVP Required

Openhouse is thrilled to host the Racial Equity Institute (REI) for one of their first Bay Area trainings! REI has been working closely with Openhouse staff and board for the past year and we are excited to share their model with the broader Openhouse community. In this lively and participatory presentation, REI organizers will use stories and data to present a perspective that racism is fundamentally structural in nature. By examining characteristics of modern-day racial inequity, the presentation introduces participants to an analysis that most find immediately helpful and relevant to their daily lives.

To RSVP, contact Ariel Mellinger at (415) 503-4180 or ariel@openhouse-sf.org



There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives.

-Audre Lorde



Do Tell! A new storytelling group

Thursdays, March 12 – May 7 11AM – 12:30PM Bob Ross LGBT Senior Center at 65 Laguna St Registration Required

"Do Tell" is a new supportive group where participants can share their stories with others who will be hanging on their every word. Serious, funny, emotional stories are all welcome, and each week we will have a creative prompt. Get ready with 5-10 minute snippets of your life.

In describing the intention of this group, facilitator Renee Mayer (she/her) writes, "As a Sister of Perpetual Indulgence, listening to stories of members of our community is the most precious thing I do. I've come to believe that telling our stories, and being deeply and knowingly heard, resonates with the core of our being. Feeling seen and heard by others is a life affirming experience."

For info or to register, contact Ariel at (415) 503-4180 or ariel@openhouse-sf.org

Community Engagement Programs

Queer Elder Short Stories Class

Saturdays, beginning March 28, 12:30 - 3:30PM PAWS, 3170 23rd St. (wheelchair accessible location) Registration required



Queer Elder Short Stories is a 10-week multi-themed class culminating with a public reading on June 13. If you wish to develop your writing to a lengthier format in an encouraging atmosphere, join us! Space is limited to seven participants. First come first serve basis. You must attend the first class and present your prospectus of what you wish to develop and commit to all the sessions thereafter. This group will be facilitated by community members and passionate writers Betsy Bannerman, Luis de la Garza, and Sandra Marilyn.

To register or for more info, email Sandra Marilyn at vocdiversity@aol.com

Learning How to Use a Smartphone

In partnership with Openhouse, Community Living Campaign is offering instruction on how to use your smartphone effectively. Please note that both the iPhone and Android classes are a series of four sessions each.

All classes will take place at Community Living Campaign at 1663 Mission (between South Van Ness and Plum) Suite 525. Registration required.



iPhones: Tuesdays, April 7, 14, 21, 28 from 2 – 4PM Androids: Wednesdays, April 8, 15, 22, 29 from 2 – 4PM

To register, contact Armando Paone at (415) 728-0194 or armando@openhouse-sf.org

Social Connections keep us healthy! 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. Friendly Visitor volunteers are honored to get to know you. 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 Carrie Schell at (415) 535-1237 or cschell@openhousesf.org

Community Engagement Programs

TransGenerational Lunch

Tuesday, March 17, 12 - 1:30PM 55 Laguna Community Room No RSVP required

Creating connections across generations is key to building a stronger community, reducing isolation, and passing on our histories. 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 our TGNC communities!

Questions? Contact Faire at (415) 231-5883.



Men's Drop-In Social Hour

Thursday, March 12 and 26 1:30 - 3PM 55 Laguna Community Room No RSVP required

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

Contact Faire at (415) 213-5883 or faire@openhousesf.org

Women's Afternoon at the Movies on hiatus

Friday, March 13, 1 - 4PM 55 Laguna Community Room No RSVP required

Please join us for our special screening of *Dolores*, a documentary about the life of Chicana labor union activist, Dolores Huerta.

Following this screening, we will be taking a hiatus from Women's Afternoon at the Movies. After hearing community feedback, we are looking to secure a different space to show films. We look forward to the return of Women's Afternoon at the Movies very soon.

For questions, contact Faire at (415) 231-5883.

Rainbow Lunch

Wednesday, March 11 and 25 12 - 1:30PM 55 Laguna Community Room RSVP required

Due to the popularity of this lunch and limited seating capacity, we need RSVPs no later than 10AM the Monday before the luncheon. RSVP is required.

We ask folks to arrive between 11:45AM and 12:10PM to ensure folks can be escorted up to the 2nd Floor Community Room at 55 Laguna St.

To RSVP, contact Faire at (415) 231-5883 or faire@openhousesf.org

SUN	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Drop-In Meditation, 11AM – 12PM BR 65 Laguna Yoga, 1 – 2PM, Reg req'd: X322 Men's Group, 2 – 3:30PM, 501 Castro Trans/Gender-Variant Support Group, 2 – 3:15PM 930 4th St, Reg req'd: (510) 863-0359 Conversational Japanese, 4 – 5:30PM BR 65 Laguna St, Reg req'd: X305	3 Gay Gray Writers, 4 – 6PM BR 65 Laguna St. Closed group, X322 for info	4 Clearing House: Cluttering Support, 12:30 – 2PM BR 65 Laguna Intermediate Spanish 2 5 – 6:30PM, BR 65 Laguna St Reg req'd: X305	5 Avoiding Elder Abuse Forum 9:30AM – 1PM, 1800 Market St. Grief Group, 4:15 – 5:30PM BR 65 Laguna, Closed group	6 Living with Loss: Drop-in Grief Support, 1 – 2:30PM, BR 65 Laguna Yiddish, 4 – 5:30PM BR 65 Laguna, Reg req'd: X305	7 Games, 10AM – 1PM BR 65 Laguna St Queer Elder Writing Workshop 12:30 – 3:30PM, PAWS Closed group Art Class: Exploration of Mediums 1:30 – 4:30PM, BR 65 Laguna Closed Group
8 Int'l Women's Day	9 Drop-In Meditation, 11AM – 12PM Yoga, 1 – 2PM, Reg req'd: X322 LGBTQ Chat, 1 – 2PM Men's Group, 2 – 3:30PM, 501 Castro "In the Life" Discussion for LGBTQ People of Color, 2 – 3:30PM, BR 65 Laguna, X322 for info Conversational Japanese, 4 – 5:30PM BR 65 Laguna St, Reg req'd: X305	10 Housing Workshop, 2PM BR 65 Laguna St, RSVP req'd: X310 Trans 50+ & Fabulous Drop-In, 6 – 7:30PM 730 Polk St.	11 Rainbow Lunch, 12 – 1:30PM OHC 55 Laguna St. RSVP req'd by 10AM on Monday 3/9: X322 Intermediate Spanish 2 5 – 6:30PM, BR 65 Laguna St Reg req'd: X305	12 Do Tell! Storytelling Group 11AM – 12:30PM, BR 65 Laguna Reg req'd: X315 Men's Drop-In Social Hour 1:30 – 3PM, OHC 55 Laguna Grief Group, 4:15 – 5:30PM BR 65 Laguna, Closed group	13 Walking Group, 11AM – 12PM BR 65 Laguna St Special Screening of Dolores 12 – 2:30PM, OHC 55 Laguna St, RSVP to X322 Visit to Muttville, 2PM 255 Alabama St, RSVP to X315 Yiddish, 4 – 5:30PM	14 Games, 10AM – 1PM BR 65 Laguna St Queer Elder Writing Workshop 12:30 – 3:30PM, PAWS Closed group Art Class: Exploration of Mediums 1:30 – 4:30PM, BR 65 Laguna Closed Group
15	16 Drop-In Meditation, 11AM – 12PM BR 65 Laguna St. Yoga, 1 – 2PM, Reg req'd: X322 Men's Group, 2 – 3:30PM, 501 Castro Trans/Gender-Variant Support Group, 2 – 3:15PM 930 4th St, Reg req'd: (510) 863-0359 Conversational Japanese, 4 – 5:30PM	17 TransGenerational Lunch 12 – 1:30PM OHC 55 Laguna X322 for info Gay Gray Writers, 4 – 6PM BR 65 Laguna St Closed group, X322 for info	18 Clearing House: Cluttering Support, 12:30 – 2PM BR 65 Laguna St. Intermediate Spanish 2 5 – 6:30PM, BR 65 Laguna St	19 Do Tell! Storytelling Group 11AM – 12:30PM, BR 65 Laguna Reg req'd: X315 Grief Group, 4:15 – 5:30PM BR 65 Laguna, Closed group	20 Living with Loss: Drop-in Grief Support, 1 – 2:30PM, BR 65 Laguna Yiddish, 4 – 5:30PM BR 65 Laguna, Reg req'd: X305	21 Games, 10AM – 1PM Queer Elder Writing Workshop 12:30 – 3:30PM, Closed group Groundwater Training, 1 – 4:30PM Reg req'd: X315 Art Class: Exploration of Mediums 1:30 – 4:30PM, BR 65 Laguna Closed Group
22	23 Drop-In Meditation, 11AM – 12PM Yoga, 1 – 2PM, Reg req'd: X322 Men's Group, 2 – 3:30PM, 501 Castro New Member Event, BR 65 Laguna St. RSVP req'd: X315 LGBTQ Chat, 1 – 2PM "In the Life" Discussion for LGBTQ People of Color, 2 – 3:30PM, BR 65 Laguna, X322 for info Conversational Japanese, 4 – 5:30PM	24 Sister Circle, 12 – 1:30PM OHC 55 Laguna RSVP to X322 Housing Workshop, 2PM BR 65 Laguna St. RSVP req'd: X310 Trans 50+ & Fabulous Drop-In, 6 – 7:30PM 730 Polk St.	25 Rainbow Lunch, 12 – 1:30PM OHC 55 Laguna St. RSVP req'd by 10AM on Monday 3/23: X322 LGBTQ Caregivers of those w/ Dementia Support Group 6 – 7:30PM, BR 65 Laguna St	26 Do Tell! Storytelling Group 11AM – 12:30PM, BR 65 Laguna Reg req'd: X315 Men's Drop-In Social Hour 1:30 – 3PM, OHC 55 Laguna Grief Group, 4:15 – 5:30PM BR 65 Laguna, Closed group	Walking Group, 11AM – 12PM BR 65 Laguna St 4th Friday Health & Wellness "LGBTQ Veterans: Services,	28 Games, 10AM – 1PM BR 65 Laguna St Queer Elder Writing Workshop 12:30 – 3:30PM, Closed group Art Class: Exploration of Mediums 1:30 – 4:30PM, BR 65 Laguna Closed Group
29	30 Drop-In Meditation, 11AM – 12PM BR 65 Laguna St. Yoga, 1 – 2PM, Reg req'd: X322 Men's Group, 2 – 3:30PM, 501 Castro Conversational Japanese, 4 – 5:30PM BR 65 Laguna St, Reg req'd: X305	Transgender Day of Visibility Trans Day of Visibility Lunch 12:30 – 2:30PM OHC 55 Laguna RSVP to X322	April 1 Clearing House: Cluttering Support, 12:30 – 2PM BR 65 Laguna Intermediate Spanish 2 5 – 6:30PM, BR 65 Laguna St WRITE ON! "Queer and Present" Public Reading, 6:30 – 8PM 1 José Sarria Court Center (BR): 65 Laguna St. 415.2	2 Do Tell! Storytelling Group, 11AM – 12:30PM, BR 65 Laguna Reg req'd: X315 Grief Group, 4:15 – 5:30PM BR 65 Laguna, Closed group	3 Living with Loss: Drop-in Grief Support, 1 – 2:30PM, BR 65 Laguna Yiddish, 4 – 5:30PM BR 65 Laguna, Reg req'd: X305	4 Games, 10AM – 1PM BR 65 Laguna St Queer Elder Writing Workshop 12:30 – 3:30PM, Closed group

Community Wellness and Services

4th Friday Health and Wellness: LGBTQ Veterans: Services, Benefits, and More

Friday, March 27, 3-4:30PM, enter at BR 65 Laguna St No RSVP required



Join us for a free seminar where Bob Alexander, of Swords to Plowshares, will discuss the challenges faced by LGBTQ former servicemembers as a result of their military service, including how many have been conditioned to think that they are not veterans, when indeed they are. Bob will discuss how LGBTQ veterans are over-represented in all the risk categories experienced by veterans generally but are under-represented in the VA system receiving services and benefits. Bob will explain how LGBTQ veterans with discharges that are less than fully honorable may be entitled to VA services and benefits, or discharge upgrades. Bob will answer questions from community members and arrange for those who are interested to receive evaluations of their cases.

Bob Alexander is an attorney and Equal Justice Works Fellow with Swords to Plowshares. He is an LGBTQ community member and a retired Lieutenant Colonel with over 22 years of active duty service in the United States Air Force.

For more info, contact Ariel at (415) 503-4180 or ariel@openhouse-sf.org

Join the Openhouse Walking Group!

Join us every 2nd and 4th Friday as we move together, talk, and explore the neighborhoods around Openhouse. Everyone is welcome and snacks and water will be provided. If rain is in the forecast, please call before joining.

Leading us will be community member, Freddie Kendrick. Freddie has been a certified nursing assistant for 30 years and is a volunteer Chaplain at Davies. With a desire to do more for the community and to increase wellness, joy, and connection, Freddie is looking forward to leading the Openhouse community in fun neighborhood jaunts twice a month.

For more info, contact Faire at (415) 231-5883 or faire@openhouse-sf.org



Visit Muttville with Openhouse!

Friday, March 13, 2PM 255 Alabama St. RSVP Required



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. If the weather is nice, you can also elect to walk the dogs!

For more info, contact Ariel at (415) 503-4180 or ariel@openhouse-sf.org

Community Wellness and Services

LGBTQ Caregivers of Those with Dementia Support Group

in partnership with the Alzheimer's Association

Wednesday, March 25 6 - 7:30PM Bob Ross LGBT Senior Center at 65 Laguna St. No RSVP required



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 ncludes 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.

Contact Ariel for more info at (415) 503-4180 or ariel@openhouse-sf.org

Staying Connected to Services In the Life:

A Discussion Group for LGBTQ People of Color

Monday, March 9 and 23 2 – 3:30PM Bob Ross LGBT Senior Center at 65 Laguna St. RSVP encouraged

In partnership with Steppingstone, join us for a discussion group for LGBTQ people of color. Prejudice, bias and bureaucracy make government systems almost impossible to cope with every day; it's a struggle. Come share your tips, strategies and support with others in a positive environment. This group is 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.

For more info or to RSVP, contact Faire at (415) 231-5883 or faire@openhousesf.org

Join us from home for a phone-based LGBTQ Discussion Group! In collaboration with Well-Connected

This telephone-based group is held 2nd and 4th Mondays, 1-2PM

Community members can participate via phone or computer from the comfort of their own homes. 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!

For more information, contact Ariel at (415) 503-4180. To register call Well-Connected toll-free at (877) 797-7299.

Community Wellness and Services

Trans/Gender-Variant Support Group at SteppingStone

Monday, March 2 and 16 2 - 3:30PM 225 Berry St Registration required



Join ROAR for Aging for a support group of transgender and gender-variant people at SteppingStone Mission Creek. 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 is facilitated by D. Hilton, ASW.

It is free and requires an interview with the facilitator prior to enrollment.

Contact D. at (510) 863-0359 or dhilton@steppingstonehealth.org

Fifty+ and Fabulous! Trans Drop-In Group and Dinner

Tuesday March 10 and 24 5 - 6:30PM 730 Polk Street, 4th Floor No RSVP required

Trans Thrive and Openhouse join forces to offer a trans and gender nonconforming (TGNC) drop-in group, "50+ and Fabulous!" This facilitated group welcomes all TGNC folks in their golden years. Group is free and food is served!

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

Clearing House: Drop-in Clutter Support Group



Wednesday March 4 and 18 12:30 – 2PM Bob Ross LGBT Senior Center at 65 Laguna St.

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.

Living with Loss:
Drop-In Grief Group
1st and 3rd Fridays
1 – 2:30PM
Bob Ross LGBT Senior
Center at 65 Laguna St
No RSVP required



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 dale.poland@vitas.com

WRITE ON! "Queer and Present": A Queer Elders Writing Workshop Public Reading

Wednesday, April 1, 6:30 – 8PM SFPL Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk Branch Library, 1 José Sarria Court No RSVP required

At this gayborhood's library branch, WRITE ON! authors will read new works they have developed after the launch of their publication last November. Community members participating in this program have all been part of the Queer Elders Writing Workshop which Openhouse offers on an on-going basis.

Discount Theatre Tickets

New Conservatory Theatre Center The Book Of Mountains And Seas Showing March 6 - April 5

Andrew is in a weird position. His boyfriend Archie's dad keeps sending him birthday gifts, holiday cards, and even care packages. Only one little problem: Archie has been kind of dead for two years. What ensues is an adventure filled with clashing cultures, unlikely friendships and the review of a lifetime. The Book Of Mountains And Seas was written by Yilong Liu and directed by Becca Wolff and is being world premiered at New Conservatory Theatre Centre.



Use discount code NCTCVIP to enjoy 20% off individual tickets. To purchase tickets or for more info, call the box office at (415) 861-8972.

Photo of the Month

Community members explore the colors and techniques of gouache during the Saturday Art Class. Photo by Penn Weldon.

Think you have the next Photo of the Month?

Submit your Openhouse-related photo and caption to ray@openhouse-sf.org.

Monthly selections will be featured in our newsletter and social media!





Bob Ross LGBT Senior Center 65 Laguna St. San Francisco, CA 94102 (415) 296-8995

MARCH 2020



Join us for an interactive workshop. Learn from experts about how to empower yourself to live with dignity and justice and free from scams and elder abuse.

Light refreshments will be served. Community agencies will be present to share resources.