MISSION STATEMENT
The mission of Lavender Seniors of the East Bay is to improve the quality of life of older gay and lesbian residents of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties through community outreach, advocacy and education.

OPERATING STRATEGIES
Lavender Seniors of the East Bay will be most effective in achieving its mission by adhering to the following operating strategies:

Collaboration
Lavender Seniors is deeply committed to working in partnership with other organizations, institutions and individuals on issues of mutual interest and concern.

Leveraging
Lavender Seniors will work with existing advocacy and service agencies in the East Bay to increase their awareness of, and responsiveness to, the unique needs and circumstances of the gay and lesbian elders in their service area. This will prevent duplication of services by including gay/lesbian concerns into existing community programs and services, both public and private.

Leadership
Lavender Seniors is committed to identifying and nurturing older lesbian and gay community leaders and by working with local elected officials and government agencies to place gay and lesbian elders in leadership positions.

Neutrality
Lavender Seniors sees itself as a nonpartisan community resource focused on increasing the well-being of older gays and lesbians. In this role, Lavender Seniors will serve as a community educator and convener, working with East Bay agencies on collaborative planning, problem-solving and resource development activities.

Self-sufficiency
Lavender Seniors will support is core functions through dues, donations, subscriptions and other earned income. This will minimize competition with existing community agencies for scarce funding. From time to time, Lavender Seniors may undertake specific projects which may require outside funding.

Diversity
Lavender Seniors is committed to diversity and the benefits diversity brings to any community endeavor. As we see it, diversity has many dimensions, from status to experiences to beliefs and all enrich us individually and as a group.
LAVENDER’S MISSION AND STRATEGIES APPROVED

A draft of the organization mission statement and operating strategies were presented to the general membership at the January monthly meeting. There was a lively discussion on some of the points but agreement on most of the wording. The Steering Committee will meet at 11:30 before the next monthly meeting to finalize the statements.

PROGRAM PLANNING

John Ellefson asked for help and ideas with planning the monthly potluck meeting. An effort will be made to have a program, speaker, or activity at each monthly meeting. Would you like to help or do you have ideas for programs? Call John (331-5754) or attend Steering Committee meetings.

HOST CHURCH SUPPORTED

Lavender Seniors expressed support of our host church. The San Leandro Community Church is under attack for accepting gays and lesbians into their fellowship. The Steering Committee will discuss the most appropriate way to express the feelings of the organization. Do you have any suggestion? The committee would appreciate your input.

VISITATION PROGRAM

Larry Butwinik, volunteered to help organize a visitation program for home-bound gay/lesbian seniors. Group discussion was inconclusive about a specific plan. There was agreement to discuss the idea again next month. Some of the suggestions included 1) organizing a phone-call tree; 2) have a person in each region to monitor and coordinate needs and contacts; and 3) getting funding for a trainer for the volunteers. Concern also was expressed that there should be professional input before organizing any formal program.

VALENTINE’S DAY DANCE

Gay and Lesbian Seniors are urged to attend the Nineteenth Annual Senior Citizen’s Dance in San Francisco on Valentine’s Day. Lavender Senior member Dotty Fowler reports that Del and Phyllis have asked for a gay and lesbian showing at the dance. Call Dotty at 510-525-3864 for more information.

The Dance will be held at the San Francisco County Fair Building, 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way, San Francisco, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. The event is co-sponsored by the San Francisco Recreation and Park’s Department and San Francisco Federal Saving and Loan Association.

ADULTS GIVE GAY YOUTH A HAND

by Frank Howell

The gulf between older gays and lesbians can frequently yawn wide indeed. On January 3, at the state capitol in Sacramento the gulf was closed somewhat when a group of adult gays accompanied over 200 enthusiastic and restless Lavender teens to lobby our August legislators.

Under the sponsorship of Life Lobby, a legislative organization that fights for the civil rights of gays, the young came from all over California. After meeting at the Headquarters of the California Teachers Association, they walked to an assembly hearing room for a briefing on how our State government actually works. At noon, a spirited rally erupted in front of the capitol building, several gay students related their stories of discrimination and harassment at their schools, Patrick Nell Warren, author of the underground classic, The Front Runner, made a few remarks. Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl from Santa Monica is sponsoring a bill to control hate crimes committed against gay students in secondary institutions.

In the afternoon students and the adult mentors visited assembly persons and senators to speak out on behalf of the Kuehl Bill.

After a 6:00 p.m. reception, a tired but happy bunch of teens boarded planes and busses for their return trip.

The youth learned a valuable lesson in democracy and how it works. They also felt empowered and uplifted. Someone out there cared.

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Chinese Dinner
Idle Hours Restaurant
Friday, February 23
6 p.m.
CHINESE DINNER - FEBRUARY 23

Bill Bailey, Don Silva, and Jerry Holmes are inviting Lavender Seniors and their guests to enjoy another dinner at their favorite restaurant. There was a great turn out at the last dinner.

It has security parking next to restaurant. The group cost is $11.00 per person. Cost includes tax and tip. Doggie bags provided. Please feel free to bring friends (seniors or not).

No host bar: 6:00 p.m. Dinner: 7:00 p.m. There will be a sign-up sheet at the February meeting. Deadline for reservations will be the Tuesday February 20. Call Bill Bailey or Don Silva for reservations (510) 261-6353.

The Idle Hour Restaurant,
3340 Foothill Blvd.
Oakland

Menu
Westlake Soup Chicken Salad Broccoli Beef
Lemon Chicken Shrimp Chow Mein Pork Fried Rice
Ice Cream and Cookies

AUTO FACTORY TOUR - MAY 1

A tour of the New United Motors Manufacturing Inc. (NUMMI) is scheduled on Wednesday, May 1, 1996. Tour begins at 11:30 a.m. Meet at the lobby entrance, 45500 Fremont Blvd. Fremont, CA. at 11:15 a.m. Tour the factory from an enclosed cart. Wear earphones to hear the guide. See an automobile built by humans and robots from beginning to end. There is no walking except from parking lot to lobby. The tour is completely motorized. Larry Butwinick has accepted reservations for this trip. Those registered to attend may wish to car-pool from the Hayward BART station. There will also be a shuttle service available from the Fremont BART Station. Call Bobbie or Margaret, 797-1651 or Ina Mae or Stella 490-5425 for pick up at the Fremont station.

Advance reservations were required for this activity. The deadline for reservations is passed. However there may be cancellations. Call Larry Butwinick 510-727-0790 to get on the waiting list.

LESBIAN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN HEALTH STUDY

Ina Mae Murri and partner Stella Lopez-Armijo urged lesbians of Lavender Seniors to volunteer for the Women's Health Initiative. There is specific interest in recruiting lesbians as a subgroup for the study. This research, conducted by the National Institute of Health, will help in treatment of women's health concerns such as heart disease, osteoporosis, hormone replacement therapy, calcium/vitamin D supplements, dietary patterns and other post-menopausal conditions. This is the first study of its kind. Most health studies involve men only.

Ina Mae and Stella were featured in a newspaper article advertising the study. Call Women's Health Initiative, 1-800-54-WOMEN and get involved.

BOOK REVIEW
by Frank Howell

Young Man from the Provinces, by Alan Helms, Faber and Faber, $22.95

"I've learned that being envied is the loneliest pleasure on earth"

Why can't we allow ourselves to grow old? In American culture the youth obsession continues, seniors frantically dye their hair, use wrinkle creams and have their photos retouched. Many older people have missed the joys of simple acceptance of what they really are. "Why can't they realize that youth is only the overture to the opera?"

Alan Helms, a Bostonian, looks back on his feverish, passionate, young manhood of the 1960's and 1970's. He was an exceptionally handsome youth, coveted and lusted over by one and all, spoiled and bored and easily lusted by demon rum. He finally attempted suicide, which led to mind probing by the noted psychologists and author, Dr. Robert Coles. Famous names flowed like water through his early life. He dated Leonard Bernstein and appeared on stage (courtesy of Noel Coward).

He observed how different European gays were from their American counterparts; less self conscious, less hung up on good looks, much better read. In his middle ages, he moved from New York City to Boston to escape the fast track, glamour and temptations. He returned to graduate school as a means of getting a firm grip on his destiny.

Alan is now plain looking like the rest of us seniors. He is now the age when life becomes reflective and deeply satisfying. Welcome home, Alan. I think you now have a message for the rest of us grey headed ones.
CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

FEBRUARY 6 - Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. STEERING COMMITTEE
Meeting at Carrows Restaurant, 15011 Hesperian Blvd., San Leandro, (Across from Bay Fair). All welcome.

FEBRUARY 10 - Saturday, 11:30 a.m. - STEERING COMMITTEE
Meeting before the monthly potluck. Alan Pardini will be available to discuss final approval of the Mission Statement and Operating Strategies. All welcome.

FEBRUARY 10 - Saturday - 1 p.m. MONTHLY LAVENDER MEETING

VALENTINE THEME

Panel On Romance and Relationships

San Leandro Community Church, 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro
If your name begins with the letters
A through H - Bring a Salad
I through P - Bring a Dessert
Q through Z - Bring a Main Dish

FEBRUARY 23 - Friday - CHINESE DINNER
The Idle Hour Restaurant, 3340 Foothill Blvd., Oakland
The group cost is $11.00 per person. Cost includes tax and tip. No host bar: 6:00 p.m. Dinner: 7:00 Deadline for reservations will be the Tuesday February 20. Call Bill Bailey or Don Silva for reservations (510) 261-6353.

FEBRUARY 25, Sunday - NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
Lavender Notes newsletter is mailed on the first of each month. Please submit news items by the last Sunday of the previous month. Contact editor, Jim Joslin, 1311 Webster, E213, Alameda, CA, 94501, (510) 522-6395. You may dictate your news on the answering machine or use E-Mail nilsoj@aol.com

MAY 1 - Wednesday - 11:15 - NUMMI TOUR
See article. Call Larry Butwinick 510-727-0790 for information and to get on the waiting list in case of cancellations.

INCLUSION OF A NAME IN THIS NEWSLETTER DOES NOT NECESSARILY INDICATE A PERSON’S SEXUAL ORIENTATION.