



# Lavender Notes



VOL 3, No 4

NEWSLETTER OF LAVENDER SENIORS OF EAST BAY  
P.O. Box 6044, Fremont, California, 94538 Voice Mail: (510) 247-2406

April 1997

## April Meeting:

### ALZHEIMER DISEASE WILL BE EXPLORED

by Frank Howell

Marlene Kerr, a volunteer speaker for the Alzheimer Association, will be our featured speaker at the next potluck on April 12th. She will cover various aspects of this mental condition such as human memory, possible causes of Alzheimer and what community resources are available.

Ms. Kerr will also provide free literature for those who desire additional information.

Increasing numbers of Lavender Seniors are finding themselves faced with mates or relatives who have this devastating disorder. It is vital that we be fully informed on this issue.

### LAVENDER SENIORS RECEIVE TRAILBLAZERS AWARD

by Ina Mae Murri

On March 1st, a group from Lavender Seniors attended the first Annual Trailblazers award night. It was sponsored by East Bay Democratic Club, Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund and Amaassi, a group of gay black men serving the HIV/AIDS community. The evening featured dinner and dance in addition to awards to 12 members of the community awarded for their service to the East Bay Lesbian, Gay, bi-sexual, transgender community.

Our own Dottie Fowler was given an award for her service to the seniors. In attendance from our group were Dottie, Ina Mae Murri, Bev Hickock, Doreen Brand, John Ellefson, Dick Colton, and Grant Person who also received an award for this service to youth. We are proud of these two who give countless hours to our community. We should say thank to each of them for their tireless efforts.

## AIDS QUILT PROGRAM IN FREMONT

The Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt will have promotional sections of the quilt on display at various locations in Fremont. See the Schedule of Events on page 4 of this newsletter.

Several events are scheduled throughout the region sponsored by the Ohlone College Quilt Display Committee. Underwriters and other sponsors of the events include Alternative Mortgage Sources; Fremont Bank; Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church; Scruggs Trust; Associated Students of Ohlone College; Mission AIDS; Ohlone College Theatre Guild; Staff and Faculty of Ohlone College (S.O.F.A.); and United Parcel Service.

## LAVENDER SENIORS VOTE ON AGE POLICY

The membership and steering committee have been struggling with a policy on the age limitations for the organization. There is no consensus on the steering committee or participants of monthly meetings. A compromise statement of policy was drafted by the Steering Committee and is presented to Lavender Senior subscribers for their input.

The policy statement does not refer to membership limitations by age because Lavender Seniors has no membership. Likewise there are no officers, elected or otherwise. The organization has a volunteer steering committee only. Therefore the policy does not include any limitation for younger people to hold an office or leadership role. If the organization develops officers and membership policies, the age issue will have to be addressed again. To date, there has been

little support for any structure other than a volunteer steering committee.

There was a request for secret ballot rather than a voice vote on the issue. A ballot is on page 5 and 6 of this newsletter. Please check your approval or disapproval and write your comments. The ballot also provides an opportunity to give feed back to the program committee.

*The number is...*

**26**

See **SHORT NOTES**



## RAFFLE PLANNED NEXT MONTH FOR GAY PRIDE PARADE

Lavender Seniors of East Bay participated in the Gay Day Parade last year with private donations by individuals toward the cost of renting two cable cars. This year, Lavender Seniors will contribute \$200.00 as an organization. A raffle of white elephants will be held at the May monthly meeting to raise the money for the donation. Bring your white elephants and money to buy tickets for the raffle.

### Lavender Notes:

The official monthly newsletter of:  
Lavender Seniors of East Bay,  
P.O. Box 6044,  
Fremont, CA, 94538,  
Voice Mail: (510) 247-2406

### 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.

There are no membership dues. All are welcome at activities.

The cost of mail makes it necessary to request a donation of \$12 dollars per year to receive the newsletter. Visitors or persons interested in learning more about Lavenders Seniors may receive the newsletter for three months without charge. None will be turned away for lack of funds.

**Lavender Notes** is mailed on the first of each month. Entries must be received by the last Sunday of the previous month. Entries may be edited for space or clarity. Send entries to:

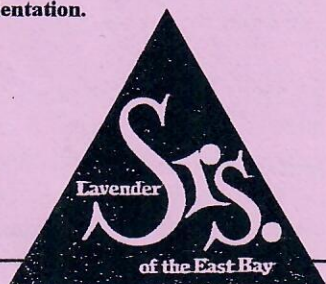
Editor, Jim Joslin,  
1311 Webster St., E213,  
Alameda, CA 94501,  
(510) 522-6395,  
E-mail: nilsoj@aol.com.

### Monthly Advertisement Rates:

\$1 per line  
\$10 for business card size ads.  
Subscribers: Half price.

Signed articles represent the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of Lavender Seniors of East Bay.

Inclusion of a name in this newsletter does not necessarily indicate a person's sexual orientation.



## SHORT NOTES

- KPFA and OUT NOW are publicizing Lavender Senior meetings. Oakland Tribune has refused to run an ad. What is going on in Oakland?
- **THE NUMBER IS 26.** Congratulations to **Peggy Alices and Bert Hutchison** who are celebrating their 26th anniversary as partners on March 26. The March date (26) is also Bert's 67th birthday. A big family celebration is planned. We are proud of you, Bert and Peggy. May you have many more.
- Welcome to newcomers at the March meeting. **Bob** from Grass Valley; **Mike** from San Francisco; **Joe** from Oakland; and **Julie** from Berkeley.
- Does anyone know a Toyota Repair person? Call **John Ellefsen**, (510) 451-2642.
- **Joyce Pierson**, of GLOE in San Francisco wants to know where we get the items in **SHORT NOTES**. The items come from a variety of sources. Most of them are the result of eavesdropping by the editor. There is always a need to get items from a wider number of Lavender Seniors. The editor tends to hear gossip from the same people (i.e. the Steering Committee). We welcome news about Lavenders from anyone. Juicy gossip is always wanted. If too personal or controversial, we can omit names. Most people enjoy seeing their names in the newsletter.
- **Stella** has not washed since she was kissed on the cheek by **ROSIE O'DONNELL** last month. We wondered what that was. Which cheek did you say she kissed?
- The program committee may be getting out of hand. They are proposing a session for the gays and lesbians to ask questions of each other that they have always wanted to ask but were too shy. We have some questions, but we are not sure we want to hear the answers. Get ready for an interesting session.
- No one showed up for a recent Social Committee meeting. Anyone interested to planning socials for the organization? Contact the Steering Committee. Are you having a party and want to invite Lavender Seniors? Call the editor. We can announce the party in **Lavender Notes**.
- It was good to see **Gerson Goodkind** looking so well at the March Meeting. We reported that he was recovering from heart surgery last month. We reported in error that he had a triple bypass. Actually he had a quintuple bypass. Sorry Gerson. We hope you are feeling better.

**Children today are tyrants. They contradict their parents, gobble their food, and tyrannize their teachers.**

- Socrates

## Letters to the Editor

*Editor's Note: No letters this month. What's the matter, Lavender Seniors? Do you have nothing to say? Do you agree with everything that's going on? I don't think so. Let's hear from you.*



## *Spring Ball*

Out in Eden is presenting a Spring Ball, a prom for gay adults on May 9, 1997, 7 p.m. to Midnight at Centennial Hall in Hayward. Formal Attire. The Ball will feature:

- An alcohol and drug free environment
- Dancing to the music of "Jaime" of Pure Sounds
- Lavender liquid (espresso or iced coffee drinks)
- Photographer, Laura Marshall
- Complimentary Hors D'oeuvres catered by ZZA'S, soft drinks, and snacks
- Each guest will receive a special memento of the evening

Tickets are \$40 each or 2 for \$75. Prices will go up after 4/30. Make checks payable to: CommPre/Horizon Services, Inc., P.O. Box 308, Mt. Eden, CA 94557. All profits from the dance will go to Project Eden's Lambda Prom. Call Susan Bishop at (510) 888-4216 for more information or if you are interested in volunteering your services for the event.

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## **BOOK REVIEW**

*by Frank Howell*

### **ONE MORE RIVER TO CROSS**

By Keith Boykin

Doubleday \$23.95

Gayness and blackness do not often impinge on our consciousness. Black gays are on the scene but our community usually thinks of homophile emotions as a white activity.

Keith Boykin, director of the National Black Gay and Lesbian Forum, confronts the issue head on. His writing is cogent and forceful. Boykin is a graduate of Harvard Law School and once served as chief liaison between minorities and the Clinton White House.

Power is an element in any role relationship. Some blacks date white gays because they desire a share in the power structure. Does this mean they feel white is better than black?

Religion in the minority communities constitutes a powerful stumbling block, Boykin tells us. The underlying matriarchal structure; combined with religion, stands in the way of integrating gays and blacks. AIDS also stokes the flames. (Blacks compose twelve per cent of the population, but thirty-nine per cent of all AIDS cases.)

Boykin cites telling examples of prejudice in this vibrant ethnic group. The Bud Bilkin Parade in Chicago, the largest colored gathering in the country, excluded queers from their parade. After much controversy the gay group was finally

included.

In North Carolina the Pomo Afro Homo stage act was excluded from the music festival. The fight to be included was unsuccessful.

Bayard Rustin worked actively with Martin Luther King and A. Philip Randolph, but an arrest for car sex in Pasadena in 1953, and his early association with the Communist Party, trailed him with a shadow throughout his career.

James Baldwin, author of *Giovanni's Room*, is the most frequently cited poster person among black gays.

But the white community has also been conspicuous in excluding dark skinned gays from the bar scene by requiring multiple forms of identification. Blacks are often viewed as sex objects and nothing more.

Gay organizations covertly attempt to de-emphasize the presence of minorities when doing fund raising drives. Perry Watkins, who was separated from the military because of his gayness, apparently made gay leaders uncomfortable whenever he did public appearances.

White gays need full consciousness on this issue and Keith Boykin certainly forces us into awareness of the black struggles in our community. We must pay heed to his urgent message.

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**Schedule of Events**  
**Sponsored by the Ohlone College Quilt Display Committee**  
**Spring Semester 1997**

March 10 - 29: Promotional Quilt Panel on Display at the Fremont Library  
March 15: Panel Making at Newpark Mall: 10am - 4pm  
March 24 - 28: Promotional Quilt Panel on Display at James Logan High School; Union City, CA  
March 31 - April 4: Promotional Quilt Panel on Display at Ohlone College Library

**Saturday April 5, 1997**

6pm - 9pm **Benefit Dinner with Speaker Anthony Turney.**  
Anthony is the Executive Director for the NAMES Project Foundation AIDS Memorial Quilt.  
Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church, Newark, California.  
Tickets are \$25.00/each. To Purchase Tickets Call (510) 793 - 1911 or FAX (510) 794 - 7292.

**Sunday April 6, 1997**

8am **Church Services with Speaker: Anthony Turney.**  
Anthony will speak again at the 9am and 10:45am church services.  
Saint James' Episcopal Church, Fremont, California

1pm - 8pm **Display Open** **Epler Gymnasium**  
1pm **Opening Ceremonies**  
\*Keynote: Daniel Langholtz, LCSW  
Project Coordinator HIV/AIDS Program for the Deaf at UCSF Center on Deafness  
\*Ohlone College Chamber Singers: "It Was Not a Silent Night"  
Directed by Dennis Keller  
\*Panel Unfolding and Reading of Names  
\*American Sign Language Interpreter: Dan Veltri

2pm **Receive New Panels:**  
Anthony Turney will receive new panels to be added to the Quilt.

**Monday April 7, 1997**

10am - 8pm **Display Open** **Epler Gymnasium**

**Tuesday April 8, 1997**

10am - 7pm **Display Open** **Epler Gymnasium**

7pm **Closing Ceremonies**  
\*Speaker: Sharna Sutherin, Pastor of Golden Gate Metropolitan Community Church  
\*Receive New Panels to be Added to the Quilt

**April 11, 12, 18, & 19, 1997**

8pm **Ohlone Student Play: Shadowbox** **Jackson Theatre**  
Tickets Available from Smith Centre Box Office (510) 659 - 6031.

*Opening and Closing Ceremonies will be ASL Interpreted.*

*All Donations Help Bring the Quilt to Our Community and Benefit Mission AIDS and the Tri-City Health Center AIDS Education/Prevention Program. Make Checks Payable to Ohlone College Foundation - Quilt and Send to Campus Activities, Ohlone College, 43600 Mission Blvd., Fremont, CA 94539. Donations are Tax Deductable as Permitted by Law.*





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## WELLNESS GUIDELINES

Early detection is the best weapon in the fight against chronic disease and disabling condition. The U.S. Public Health Service advises people over 60 years of age to have a complete physical check up every two years (every year for those over 70) and recommends the following periodic tests:

|                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Mammogram            | Yearly        |
| Fecal Occult Blood   | Yearly        |
| Pap Smear            | Yearly        |
| Breast & Pelvic Exam | Yearly        |
| Blood Pressure       | Yearly        |
| Sigmoidoscopy        | Every 3 years |
| Cholesterol          | Every 5 years |

Medical experts advise men to have an annual prostate check and women to have a thyroid check every five years. Individual risks vary; how often YOU need to be screened is a matter for you and your primary care provider to discuss. A

yearly visit allows you and your physician to get to know one another and helps keep you informed about the steps you can take to improve your health and the quality of your life. If you haven't had your vision or hearing tested in many years, make an appointment to have them checked now. If everything is okay, have your vision checked again in two years and your hearing in four years. If you already wear glasses or use a hearing aid, you should be checked more frequently. Immunizations are another important element of your Wellness routine. As a rule, everyone over age 65 should have a tetanus booster every 10 years, an annual flu shot in October or November, and a pneumonia shot. Most people need to get the pneumonia shot only once; others may need a booster.

*Editors note: Reprinted from the United Seniors Health Report*

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## SATURDAY OUTINGS AT LAKE ELIZABETH

Out in Eden sponsors an event every Saturday at 10:00 a.m. at Lake Elizabeth (Paseo Padre Parkway and Mission View between Senior Center and Community Center. Meet at the Pavilion. Walkers, runners, babies in strollers and dogs on leashes are all welcome to walk or run together. Complimentary pastries, coffee, fruit and conversation afterwards.





# CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

**April 8 - Tuesday - 6:30 p.m. - STEERING COMMITTEE**

Meeting at Carrows Restaurant, 15011 Hesperian Blvd., San Leandro, (Across from Bay Fair) All Welcome. Meets monthly the Tuesday before the potluck meetings.

**April 12 - Saturday - 12 Noon**

**MONTHLY MEETING**

## **ALZHEIMER DISEASE**

**MARLENE KERR, SPEAKER**

**Meeting at**

**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

**San Leandro BART station shuttle is available.**

**Call voice mail: 247-2406 to arrange pickup.**

**April 27, Sunday - NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Editor, Jim Joslin, 1311 Webster, E213, Alameda, CA, 94501, (510) 522-6395. You may dictate news on the answering machine or E-Mail nilsoj@aol.com

