The Big Show
by Dotty Fowler

The National Lesbian and Gay Task Force brings its big show, The Creating Change Conference, to Oakland November 10 to 14. It will all take place at the Oakland Marriott, 12th and Broadway in that city. There will be workshops on every conceivable subject you can imagine including Aging and Ageism, Freedom to Marry, Community Centers, Organizational Development, Statewide Coalitions, Electoral Strategies, Civil Rights Laws, Domestic Partnership, Sexuality and Gender Identity and on and on. At least 150 workshops are scheduled plus a series of plenaries.

This is 12th Annual Conference by the Task Force and it is estimated that there will be over 2000 participants present. There will be a performance evening on Saturday night, November 13 with Lea Delaria, following her recent smash on Broadway. Also appearing will be, Karen Williams and SF's own Kinsey Sicks and the Safer Sex Sluts. Tickets cost $20.00 in advance (Mama Bears), $25.00 at the door.

Please note that there will be a special suite reserved for the exclusive use of elders. It will be set up with snacks and comfortable places to sit and take it easy. In addition to all this there will be a catered Sunday morning brunch on November the 14th at the hotel for elders and others who work in aging services from all over the country. The whole thing promises to be incredible!

It will cost $200.00 to get in to the conference and $100.00 on limited income. You can register on site or you can call 510-891-9485. Join us.

November Meeting:

Gay Republican Group Highlighted

Mike German, President of the San Francisco chapter of the Log Cabin Republican Club, will make his case for Gay Republicans, at the November 13th potluck of the Lavender Seniors. German hails from Gary, Indiana. He holds a Bachelors Degree in History from the University of Illinois and received his law degree from the University of San Francisco in 1981. Mike has been on the cutting edge in several gay rights cases revolving around gay couples and sexual privacy protection. In 1996 Mike won a seat on the San Francisco Republican Central Committee. Three openly gay Republicans were elected to the committee. Mike's appearance is sure to raise our level of political awareness. Hope to see all you Lavender Seniors there! (Submitted by Frank Howell)

CHORAL DIRECTOR BIG HIT AT POT LUCK
by Frank Howell

Dr. Stan Hill, director of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, kept his audience enthralled at the October meeting of the Lavender Seniors. Stan very generously donated six CDs featuring the music of the chorus. The group was founded in 1978 and currently has 240 members. The youngest member is 24 and the oldest is 75.

Plans are underway to organize an East Bay chorus, under the direction of Dick Kramer, the original founding director. One of the highlights of the groups history was a tour of Australia. Dr. Stan noted that the Catholic Church forbids the Gay Chorus to sing in any Catholic facility located in San Francisco.

Volunteer Services Program: Lavender Seniors provides a Volunteer Services Program to Isolated gay and lesbian seniors. The program is coordinated by the Lesbian and Gay Senior Services Collaborative, a joint project with Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders in S.F. (GLOE), and Spectrum in Marin County. The collaborative is funded in part by the S.F. Foundation, Marin Community Foundation, East Bay Community Foundation, Horizons Foundation, Donor Circle for Queer Youth and Elders, Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights, Gateway Initiative, and Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund.
**SHORT NOTES**

*Women! Get your mammogram! If you have had a mammogram in 1999, you can obtain a t-shirt from Rosie O’Donnell. To do so send a copy of your receipt from your mammogram source to Rosie GM Concept Cure Sweepstakes: Don’t be a Boob, P.O. Box 65695, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84165-0695. Be sure to give a size and your name and address. Your name also will be entered in a sweepstakes for a gym sports utility vehicle.*

*Let’s give equal time to the men. Senior men should have prostate exams annually especially if you have a history of problems in your family. There are new improved blood tests available to detect problems early. A digit exam is recommended also. Jim Joslin, our editor, offers free digital exams. However, I am recommending that you see your doctor.*

*Frank Howell reports he returned safe and sound from Turkey, no earthquake trouble at all. Great balloon ride, five days on yacht, many historic sites and museums. Leaned much about the Moslem religion. Only seven on tour. Delicious food, highly informative tour guide. Inca Floats of Emeryville is a wonderful tour company.*

*Senior couples have it easy. They never argue. They can’t hear each other.*

*Stella and Ina Mae went to Lake Tahoe last month for Affirmation, Gay & Lesbian Mormons Conference. They stayed at the Embassy Suites and drove around the lake on the way home. They report they had a very nice week-end seeing old friends who they usually see just once a year.*

*Stella and Ina Mae also report they went to Los Angeles in September to watch a taping of the Wheel of Fortune show. Ina Mae’s niece is a lesbian whose partner was on the show. Her name is Elizabeth, a professional basketball player. Ina will not give away the game results. You will have to watch the show on November 24 to find out what happened.*

*Speaking of Ina Mae (and isn’t everybody) she is planning a big celebration at the January meeting for her 65th birthday. She is inviting her friends and providing a big feast. More information later.*

*Why is the severity of the itch inversely proportional to the ability to reach it.*

*Frank Howell announced that Christian Right groups are currently attacking American Airlines for their support of the gay community. Seniors are urged to contact the airline and voice gay support. Bob Crandall, is president of American Airlines. (email: at Webmaster@Amcorp.com).*

*Hope Greene is home bound these days. She has injured her hip and had a mild heart attack. You are in out thoughts and prayers, Hope. Get well soon.*

*Joseph Jang is losing his lease after ten years of business in Berkeley. Bring this newsletter to the store for extra discounts on all merchandise. A private pre-closing sale is extended to members of Lavender Seniors and Fellows of East Bay. The final “going out of business” sale will be scheduled later. There are some excellent buys for holiday gifts.*

*Natalie Zarchin is recovering from hip surgery. Hope you are up and around soon, Natalie.*

*Ina Mae Murri is still looking for a sound system for our meetings. Does anyone have a Karoke system that can be used also for sound only? Call Ina Mae Murri, (510) 490-5425.*

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**Lavender Notes:**

The 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, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered residents of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties through community outreach, advocacy and education.

**Founding Members**

Bill Baillie, Donn Brand, Maq Braynell, Marvin Burrows, Shirley Derritt, John Elleson, Dottie Fowler, Beverly Hickock, Frank Howell, Dora Fischer, Bobbie Jarvis, James Joslin, Barbara Jue, Barbara Kono, Stella Lopez Arrojo, Donna Montgomery, Ina Mae Murri, Camille Scarronne, Don Silva, Margaret Shepherd, Bill Swener, and Natalie Zarchin

**Board of Directors Officers**

Dottie Fowler, President,
Frank Howell, Vice President,
John Elleson, Secretary,
Bobbie Jarvis, Treasurer

There are no membership dues. All persons over 55, their partners, and guests are welcome. 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: JoslinX1@gte.net

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.

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**Jang Gabang**

**Luggage**

**Backpacks & Sporting Goods**

2656 Telegraph Avenue
Berkeley, California 94704

phone: (510) 843-8767
fax: (510) 843-8768

Joseph M. Jang
Call for New Board Members

Marvin Burrows and Frank Howell, members of the Board of Directors are looking for people to serve on the board. If you are interested or know someone that can serve, please call Frank Howell, (510) 489-0932.

Founding Members List Deadline Extended

Did you miss the opportunity to join the list of contributors to Lavender Seniors to help establish our organization as a non-profit organization? Many supporters of Lavender Seniors want to be added to the list of founding members but missed the deadline. If you would like to add to this important list, give a contribution to Lavender seniors of $50 or more per person. You will be presented with a certificate of appreciation. Your name will be added to the list of founding members honored in the each issue of Lavender Notes. You will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are supporting an important program for others and siblings who are isolated and lonely. To join this group, send a contribution check to Bobbie Jarvis, Treasurer, for $50 or more. Please submit your contribution before December 1, 1999.

We Get Mail

Hello all: I need to ask for your help! As you know, November 10-14, 1999 the NGLTF’s 12th Annual Creating Change Conference will arrive here in Oakland, drawing some 2200 national LGBT activists to the Oakland City Center Marriott Hotel and Oakland Convention Center. Not every attendee can afford to stay at the conference hotel, and so we turn to YOU—our colleagues and friends—to open your hearts and homes to those who will be coming to town. If you ever wanted to show off your East Bay hospitality to visiting queer-folks coming from all across the country, the occasion of the Creating Change ’99 conference is the perfect time! We don’t ask for the Taj Mahal! A couch, maybe the floors and a sleeping bag will be sufficient for some. For others, you may have a spare room, guest room or cottage you could offer. We can use whatever you can share! If you are interested in helping us house people traveling to the conference, PLEASE REPLY by return email or CALL our voice mail to leave an address where we can fax or snail-mail a form. PASS ON this request to people who might also help us, TELL people how important this work is for making the conference accessible to everyone. You will receive our undying gratitude for your generosity! Thanks for your assistance and hope to hear from you, and maybe see you at the conference. Sincerely, Jonathan Winters, Co-chair, on behalf of the Oakland Host Committee for Creating Change ’99

NEW AFTERNOON GROUP FORMING

FOR Retired and Interested Gays and Lesbians

Please join us in a comfortable, confidential setting to enjoy chats, interests, activities, and ???

Together ~

in the afternoon.

The Rainbow Community Center is offering a first meeting to get to know each other, talk, and decide what kind of afternoon group we might prefer (Support, discussions, hobby sharing, activities.)

Thursday

1:30 until 3:00 PM

Please call Margaret for any further information or questions.

Phone: (925) 210-0563

Email: board@rainbowcc.org

Website: http://www.rainbowcc.org

2657 Pleasant Hill Road, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Donations requested; no one turned away for lack of funds.

Hello everyone, The East Bay Pride and Pete King have graciously donated the top floor of the Oakland Marriott for a No On Knight fund raiser on Sat. Nov. 13th from 9:30 to 1:30. It will be a dance party in conjunction with the National Gay Lesbian Task Force Conference happening from Nov. 10th to the 14th. Over 2000 grassroots activists are coming together to be trained and meet and organize. The cost is $20 proceeds go directly to the campaign. This is a great reason to start making calls to your list of friends and colleagues you are inviting to your first house party. You could also use this as an opportunity to inform people about the campaign, get them involved and ask them to host or co-host a house party. The commitment level would be relatively simple. 1.Let me know if you would like to be on the committee today or tomorrow and give me your street address so I can send you a few flyers. 2. Invite and call people 3. Get ten commitments by making calls 4. Make reminder phone calls 5. Attend the party. You are also invited to attend the public portions of the conference itself. More information is available at creatingchange@ngltf.org. Thanks, Derek

Computer Classes Scheduled.

The introductory computer classes are beginning this month, taught by Loren Javier, the Interactive Media Director for GLAAD (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation), who spoke at our potluck several months ago and then graciously volunteered to teach these classes. About 12 have signed up for the 3 classes scheduled. The classes must be kept small, but in case of last minute cancellations, if you are still interested, please call John Ellefson, (510) 583-9638
Focus Group Formed by Horizon Foundation

by John Ellefson

On Tuesday, Oct. 19, 1999, Dotty Fowler and I attended a "Focus group" hosted by Horizons Foundation at the headquarters of the San Francisco Foundation. The purpose of the Focus Group was to assist a new foundation, called the Community Technology Foundation, in designing its grant making program to bring existing and new technology to traditionally under served communities. Pacific Bell and Southwest Bell collaborated to start the foundation and have committed $5 million to be spent in California over the next 5 years.

To quote from the foundation's mission statement: "The Community Technology Foundation believes that all Californians are entitled to use technology to enhance participation in education, health care, and community economic development, and to build mutual aid and support in our neighborhoods, towns, and cities, as well as among people with common interests and goals, regardless of location." Technology in this sense ranges from basic to advanced, including among other things, telephones, fax machines, e-mail, computers, and the Internet. The intention of the foundation is to help communities maintain cultural identity, reduce isolation, and empower individuals and the groups serving them.

Fortunately, the Community Technology Foundation recognized from the start that the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer community in general, usually overlooked by mainstream foundations and government programs, and as a socially stigmatized and marginalized group, might be under served or face special problems in having access to or effectively using electronic technology, so they asked the Horizons Foundation to facilitate a Focus Group, one of 52 others being conducted all over California, to gather information and ideas on how technology is being used currently; what barriers exist to using technology; and the future role that technology could play in our community. Dotty and I were among the 17 others who attended the Focus Group, coming from a wide variety of GLBTQ organizations representing disabled, transgender, deaf, ethnic minorities, youth, and other groups. Making contact with some of those organizations and leaders was one of the benefits of the meeting.

The discussion, facilitated by Paula Morris, the Program Director of Horizons, was very interesting and everybody had a chance to speak. For example, we discussed the special needs of non-profit organizations, like ours, who have severely limited budgets and depend primarily on volunteer participation, and need advice on what equipment and software would best meet our requirements, and also need on-going assistance and support. We're happy to report that the meeting started and ended on time, delicious pizza, salad, and desserts were served—and each participant was given a stipend of $100! Dotty and I wish that would happen at every meeting we attend! Needless to say, the money has been turned over to Lavender Seniors for our general fund.

Senior Ombudsman Program Reaches Out to GLBT

by John Ellefson

On Wednesday, October 20, Nancy Flaxman, the Coordinator of the Collaborative Project, Dot Hallinan, our office manager, Dotty Fowler, and John Ellefson, attended a workshop at the North Berkeley Senior Center, put on by Ombudsmen, Inc., on the subject: "Serving Lesbian, Gay Male, Bisexual, and Transgendered Elders and Elder Abuse Victims." Ombudsmen, Inc., is a non-profit organization, funded through the Older Americans Act by the Alameda County Area Agency on Aging, for the purpose of insuring a good quality of care and life for the frail elderly living in long term care facilities. Volunteers for Ombudsmen are trained and then go out to nursing homes and board and care homes to provide practical information and emotional support, receive and resolve complaints, monitor conditions, advocate for residents' rights and needs, and as a watchdog group, investigate and prevent abuse of elders in those facilities. We were very pleased to be asked by Ombudsmen, Inc. to take part in the workshop.

The main speaker was Loree Cook-Daniels, who worked for a long time in Washington, D.C., and is a nationally recognized authority in the area of LBGT elder abuse and neglect. Fortunately for us, Loree now lives and works in the Bay Area. She gave a very informative talk, which was geared toward mainstream providers, on the special problems faced by LGBT seniors in facilities, gave advice on how to establish rapport with LGBT seniors (many of whom are closeted or don't identify with the gay community), provided written material, and answered questions, including what local resources exist to help LGBT elders. That's where the participation of Lavender Seniors was especially pertinent. We described our Collaborative Project and potlucks and handed out our literature. Our hope is that eventually we will get referrals from the various staff persons who attended the training and are now aware of our services. (Submitted by John Ellefson)
The National Gathering: Shevy Meets with Women Over 70
by Joan Emerson

One thing Shevy Healey learned from 10 years in OLOC, (Old Lesbians Organized for Change) as she told us when she addressed a local OLOC meeting in March, 1998, was that being in your 70's was quite different from being in your 60's. At the gathering, Shevy scheduled a meeting with women over 70 to focus on their special experience. Approximately 34 women sat in the circle; four were in their 80's. Shevy asked each person to say what was good and bad about their present lives and then what they had learned from hearing the others.

Most of the negativity referred to deteriorating health. Some women felt their body was failing apart. Women mentioned aches and pains; diminished teeth, eyes and ears; having to watch what they ate; lack of stamina; not being able to do what they used to do; and fear of bad health. "How will I live when I can't drive?" One woman regretted she could no longer pass the physical examination to pilot airplanes. Another said, "If I get an ache I don't know whether I should wait five minutes to see if it goes away or call the doctor immediately."

Other concerns were: "I can't find a partner," not enough contact with friends, trouble finding work; at lesbian gatherings most are younger; it's hard to lose independence, fear of being a burden; and being invisible.

The positive aspects were more diverse. A few were thankful they still had good health. One joked that she got a lot of brain exercises figuring out how to do things within her new limits. Some mentioned feeling wise and having a better perspective on life. One felt good about having acquired solid beliefs and values. Others were glad they did not have to take orders any more, that they didn't have to work, and a few referred to having authority because they were old. Some spoke of the freedom to do what they wanted to do. Women appreciated their supportive communities. A woman in her 80's was glad that she was still sexual. One had a new lover and was "terribly in love." A woman said she was in a better place in life than she had ever been. Someone was learning about herself, another growing and changing--being an activist still interested in another. A few mentioned senior discounts, disabled parking, and getting seats on the bus. Women were glad they still had curiosity.

Shevy summarized the responses by saying it was important to talk about the fragility of the body and how we go about getting support. One woman urged the participants to start a support network now. We have to ask for what we need and ask for community. Another mentioned the fear of being alone when help was needed in a medical emergency. Who will take care of the animal? How can we learn to use the system? We need to learn how to evaluate medical options Retirement homes for lesbians are needed, someone concluded. One mentioned the importance of volunteering to do service. A woman declared, 'Age is not a deterrent to a caring relationship.'

The comments reflected both the diversity of the group and what everyone had in common. What came across to this 64 year old observer was that despite the obstacles of aging these women remain powerful, engaged in life, and eager to talk about their current situations. (Submitted by Dottie Fowler)

SPECIAL EVENT IN DECEMBER
Do your share in the "Fight against Knight"
And come to a party too!

AT THE END OF THE CENTURY, LET'S PUT AN END TO HOMOPHOBIA!

"NO ON KNIGHT"
FUND RAISER

Hosted by members of GLOBE
and Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

To be held at:
Westminster Hills Presbyterian Church
27287 Patrick Avenue
Hayward, CA 94544

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4TH, 1999, 1 PM TO 3 PM

A donation of $25 per person is suggested.
Please donate more if you can afford it, and invite your friends!

Food and refreshments will be provided.

A speaker from the "no on knight" campaign will address us on
what is happening in the campaign and why this
initiative is important to all of us.

If you cannot attend, but would like to contribute to this
campaign ($25 or more is suggested), please make out your
checks to:
CALIFORNIA FOR FAIRNESS
and send them (before December 1st, 1999) to:
Californians for Fairness C/O John Ellersen, P. O. Box 27,
Hayward, CA 94543

CAN YOU ATTEND THE FUND RAISER?

Happy Thanksgiving
CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

November 9 - Tuesday - 6:30 p.m. - Board of Directors
ALL WELCOME!! Meeting at Harry’s Hof Brau at 14th and Hesperian Blvd., San Leandro, (Across from Bay Fair) Meets monthly the Tuesday before the potluck meetings.

November 13 - Saturday - 12 Noon  MONTHLY MEETING

MIKE GERMAN, PRESIDENT
SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER
LOG CABIN REPUBLICAN CLUB,

Meeting at
San Leandro Community Church, 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro

If your name begins with the letters  
A through H - Bring a Main Dish
I through P - Bring a Salad
Q through Z - Bring a Dessert

San Leandro BART station shuttle is available.
Call voice mail: 247-2406 to arrange pickup.

NOVEMBER 10 - 14 - CREATING CHANGE 99
National Lesbian and Gay Task Force Conference, Marriott City Center Hotel

SECOND SUNDAY - 5:30 - 8:30 P.M. - FELLOWS OF EAST BAY
Social Club for mature men and their admirers. Monthly Potluck dinner and social held the second Sunday of every month at the Parish Hall, Good Shepherd Episcopal Church (No affiliation), 1823 9th Street, Berkeley. Bring $3 door charge and food or drink to share.

FIRST SATURDAY - 6 P.M. - WOMEN OVER FIFTY AND FRIENDS
WOFF, a social club for lesbians, has an active social schedule. Monthly potluck/planning meeting the first Saturday of each month. For information, contact Barbara Konecny or Barbara Jue, 508 Broadmore, San Leandro, (510) 633-0398.

DECEMBER 4, SATURDAY, 1-3 P.M. - NO on Knight Benefit Party