



# Lavender Notes

VOL 5, No 5

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

May 1999

## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM OPENS OFFICE IN SAN LEANDRO

Office space at the San Leandro Community Church was chosen for the new volunteer program of Lavender Seniors. New Director, Rosamaria Zayas, and board President, Dottie Fowler, negotiated with the church to establish a permanent office for the program. They were impressed by the interest of the church in the program and their desire to have Lavender Seniors in their building. They offered a reasonable rent and showed a willingness to be helpful in making necessary changes to the office space and entryway. It is important that our new program be housed in a supportive atmosphere.

Lavender Seniors will be sharing space in an active, involved community center at the church. There are services for child care, battered women, food distribution, Welfare to Work program, and computer training.

Work is underway to paint and furnish the new office. A security system is being installed with our own entryway. A new telephone system and with a new number is being installed. (510) 667-9655

Rosamaria Zayas, director, is setting priorities for establishing the program as soon as possible. High on the list will be publicity and outreach to find and train volunteers and seniors in need of their services.

## NEW OFFICE WISH LIST

Do you have any of the following to donate to the new office? Call the Lavender Senior voice mail and leave a message. Director, Rosamaria, promises to "fly on her broom stick to pick up any of these items"

Computer Station

Tables and Chairs

Office Furniture

File Cabinet

Folding Chairs

Desk

Dinning Room Table and Chairs

Rocking Chair

Small Refrigerator

Coffee Maker

Desk Accessories

Book Case

## NOW IS THE TIME....

.....to submit names of potential volunteers and needy seniors to our director, Rosamaria Zayas. The volunteers may be any age. The needy seniors should be Gay/Lesbian or other sexual minority seniors. The program is not ready to open yet, but a list of potential users of the program will be needed as quickly as possible.

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**Film Festival - Friday, May 21 & Saturday, May 22**  
**Chabot College's Little Theater - 7 p.m.**

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## May meeting:

The work of CAPE (California Alliance For Pride and Equality) will be presented by Marty Martinez, East Bay Representative for CAPE. This is a new organization representing G/L/B/T issues in Sacramento.

## WEB PAGE NEEDED

The Board of Directors would like to find someone with expertise in preparing web pages on the Internet. The page would be used to publicize our programs and link this information with other web pages providing services to G/L/B/T populations.



**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.

Lavender Seniors of East Bay is a member of the Lesbian and Gay Senior Services Collaborative and is partially funded by the East Bay Community Foundation

**FOUNDING MEMBERS:**

Doreen Brand, Meg Bruynell, Marvin Burrows, Shirley Dennett, John Ellefsen, Beverly Hickock, Frank Howell, Doris Fischer, Bobbie Jarvis, James Joslin, Barbara Jue, Barbara Konecky, Stella Lopez Armijo, Donna Montgomery, Ina Mae Murri, Camille Scontrino, Bill Swenor, Natalie Zarchin

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: joslin1@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.

## Congratulations and Thanks to our FOUNDING MEMBERS

The following Lavender Seniors contributed \$50 or more to pay expenses of an application to establish Lavender Seniors as a non profit corporation. (One contributor is anonymous)

Doreen Brand	Frank Howell	Stella Lopez Armijo
Meg Bruynell	Doris Fischer	Donna Montgomery
Marvin Burrows	Bobbie Jarvis	Ina Mae Murri
Shirley Dennett	James Joslin	Camille Scontrino
John Ellefsen	Barbara Jue	Bill Swenor
Beverly Hickock	Barbara Konecky	Natalie Zarchin

**SHORT NOTES** by *Sidney Poufte*

▲ Apologies to **Natalie Zarchin**. We reported that she was ill during her vacation in Hawaii. She was not ill. She had a great time. Sorry Natalie. We should have checked with you before reporting the story.

▲ Did you see **John Ellefsen, Ina Mae Murri, and Rosamaria Zayas** on local access, Channel 23? They were interviewed by PFLAG member and moderator, Jennie Savage. They were all great. They talked about the new volunteer program. Does someone have a copy of the program?

▲ **Stella Lopez Armijo** asked me to thank everyone who sent cards and letters to her during her surgery. She appreciated all the concern expressed for her.

▲ **Peggy Alices** tell us she has no reports of anyone ill. The Lavender Seniors are all healthy. She reports she will miss the next meeting. She will be visiting her eldest daughter in Maryland for Mother's Day. Have a nice trip, Peggy.

▲ Another definition from the right-wing "Christian" dictionary. Feminist - Term (derogatory) for women not sufficiently submissive. Responsible for: neglected children, teenage pregnancy, unemployed males, poor SAT scores, breakdown of The Family. -Submitted by **Meg Bruynell**

▲ There have been some complaints about the sound at the monthly potluck. We understand the Church has a loud speaker system in the room. Do you think we could use it?

▲ The Board of Directors meeting will be at **Frank Howell's** home in May. They will order Chinese take out for dinner. The public restaurants are noisy. It is difficult to hear. All Lavender Seniors are welcome and encouraged to attend board meetings. Sometimes they are more fun than the regular meetings.

▲ Shouldn't our new volunteer program have a name? What should it be called? "Lavender Seniors Volunteer Program for G/L/B/T Seniors" sounds boring...but it is descriptive. Any ideas? Let's hear them.

▲ Thanks to **Bert Hendriksen** who volunteered to help develop a new computer data base for Lavender Seniors.

▲ Book recommendation: **Naked** by David Sidarius. He is a comedian who captures those awful feelings from high school gym class, coming out, first loves, etc. He has a funny way of remembering painful memories of our youth. Men might enjoy his humor more, but the feelings will be familiar to all.

▲ Do you have any items for the **SHORT NOTES**. Leave a message for me at (510) 522-6395. — *Sydney Poufte*



## *We Get Mail.....*

Dear Friends: There has been a new burst of enthusiasm and excitement around the Millennium March, and I am eager to keep you fully informed of developments, events and personalities contributing to the success of this upcoming event....

The Millennium March on Washington for Equality will take place on April 30, 2000 in Washington, DC. For additional information on the Millennium March, contact MMOW2000@aol.com by e-mail. We marched to our state capitals in March of 1999. We're marching to our nation's capital in April of 2000. And in November of 2000, we're marching to the ballot box!

Rev. Troy D. Perry of UFMCC

Lavender Seniors: Miss all of you but the meetings fall on my ticket to the ballet. See you in June. - Barry Shafer

Hello, I saw your notice in the San Leandro Times and I would appreciate if you could send me a newsletter of some sort, maybe explaining what your activities are, etc.

I'm a senior and unfortunately, still in the closet. I would like to attend your next potluck, Sincerely, (Name Withheld)

*Ed. Note: Welcome to our Lavender Senior family. We hope to meet you soon at our meetings.*

## **SAN LEANDRO SCHOOLS**

by Barbara Jue (WOFF)

It took almost a full school year, to get the San Leandro Board of Education to agree that a "Human Relations Advisory Committee" was needed. Now just about a year after that decision, it has not yet been implemented. I phoned Tom Himmelberg, Superintendent of the Board of Education 895-4199, today (4/8/99). I asked why nothing had been implemented. He told me that the Chair of the Board Committee for Human Relationship was held by Ken Pon (one of the members of the Board of Education). He also referred me to Jim Bolar, 667-3523, who is in charge of getting committee chosen. I called Jim Bolar, and requested an up date on what was happening, so that I could report to you. He sent me two pages of information and an application serve on the board. They are taking applications until the 16th of April, after that they will decide who they want. I am sure they do not want me. But I asked for an application and I will be sending it in. Tom Himmelberg told me that they now have a "Hate Behavior Policy" in place. I was not given a copy of that. The following is an exact copy of the first paragraph on the first page of the papers that he sent me. I think you can see it is very diluted and probably not much more than worthless. It certainly is not what we fought for.

### *Charge to the Committee*

*Provide informational input in furthering the District's Mission to "educate students to achieve and*

*demonstrate academic excellence and become confident, collaborative and competitive in a global society..." And support the District's beliefs that "all people can learn, every person has value, diversity enriches and strengthens our lives, people have the right to make their own decisions, individuals are accountable and responsible for their behavior, helping others helps ourselves, individuals need to feel safe and secure within their community, it takes a whole community to raise a child, respect for self and other is essential, self-esteem is essential for personal growth, and all individuals have the right to equal access to quality education" by promoting the understanding of the diversities and commonalities among people and to foster respect for both the differences and similarities.*

I informed Tom and Jim, that I was calling for WOFF and we want action now. Please call the men and the following board members. Tom Himmelberg, 895-4199. Jim Bolar, 667-3523, Fred Collins, 357-5272, Esther Holcomb, 562-4024, Kenneth Pon, 483-5544. Pauline Cutter. 5697797, Linda Perry 352-7679 and anyone else you can think of.

Remember..., we are not and have not asked for anything except equal rights for the gay and lesbian students and teachers. I think they are entitled to this.





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**BOOK REVIEW***by Frank Howell***It's not unusual: A History of Lesbian and Gay Britain in the 20th Century***by Alkarim Jiuani*

Indiana University Press

Paperback \$16.00

It is refreshing to see how gays in other cultures and time periods have managed to survive prejudice and ignorance.

Alkarim Jiuani, editor of the London arts magazine, Time Out, has fashioned a lively chronicle of Lavender history from 1918 to the present among our British cousins.

During the 1920's the term homosexual sprang from the psychiatrists's couch and into the street. Radclyffe Hall's, Well of Loneliness punctured the public's innocence forever. One number of the House of Lords proclaimed the women of Britain must never be told that lesbians existed.

Gay people were said to wear brown swede shoes and pink shirts.

British gays and American G.I.'s loved each other during the blackouts in London as they battled Hitler's air raids. As Quentin Crisp fondly recalls, "Never have so many been done by so few."

During the McCarthy era, the English suffered along with American gays. In 1954, the medical journal, The Practitioner, openly displayed a ludicrous bit of homophobia: "Homosexuals should be sent to remote Scottish islands like St. Kilda where the natural and bracing climate would strengthen their resolve."

Police tactics were brutal. Terrified men were hauled to police stations in the dead of night and grilled. Rupert-Croft Cook and other noted writers were caught up in the net of terror. Authorities

demanded that he return his war metals and he refused.

The most famous case involved Lord Montague and Peter Wildblood. They were forced into prison. Wildblood wrote a harrowing account called, Against The Law (1955) detailing his ordeal.

Finally the Episcopal Church formed a committee and urged law reform. This led to the celebrated Wolfenden Report. In 1957 the age old sodomy law was reconsidered for the first time since 1533. But reform didn't come until 1967. Then gays were told, according to Jiuani, to shut up and be eternally grateful for any favor they got.

The 1960's brought a dramatic burst of liberalism. The films, The Trials of Oscar Wilde and Victim heralded a new era. The Gay Liberation Front arrived.

Arch conservative Mary Whitehouse fought back with her Festival of Light and was largely responsible for driving Gay News of London out of business.

However, the age of consent for sexual relations was lowered from twenty-one to eighteen.

Then came AIDS, "Are You Being Served," and more notables such as Ian McKellen came out of the closet.

This stirring sage of gay England is brisk and to the point. And there is a generous selection of photographs depicting the various time periods.

Let us be aware of the lessons of history which the young of today are determined to ignore. The dark ages can always return.

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**Summer '99 Old Lesbian Gathering****OUR LIVES: OPPORTUNITY FOR CELEBRATION****Thursday, August 12 through Sunday Afternoon, August 15****San Francisco State University Conference Centre****800 Font Blvd.****Registration Form: Mail to: OLOC, P.O. Box 980422, Houston, TX 77098****Lavender Senior Contact: Natalie Zarchin, (510) 528-0018**

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# CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES



**May 4, Tuesday - 6:30 p.m. - Board of Directors**

Meeting at Frank Howell's home this month only, 31103 Hershey, Hayward. Call 489-0932 for directions. All Welcome.

Meets monthly the Tuesday before the potluck meetings.

**May 8**

**Saturday - 12 Noon**

**MONTHLY MEETING**

## **Marty Martinez**

**East Bay Representative**

**California Alliance For Pride and Equality**

**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.**

### **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.

### **VARIOUS DATES - 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 at 6 p.m. For information, contact Barbara Konecny or Barbara Jue, 508 Broadmore, San Leandro, (510) 633-0398.

### **MAY 21-22 - FRIDAY AND SATURDAY - 7 P.M.**

#### **SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY GAY/LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL**

Chabot College's Little Theater, Hayward, CA Tickets \$8.00 per evening. See flyer enclosed. Doors open at 6 p.m. Complimentary Refreshments. Sponsored by CommPre, a program of Horizon Services, Inc.





Southern Alameda County

Gay & Lesbian

1999

# Film Festival

Friday, May 21st & Saturday May 22nd 7:00PM (Doors open at 6:00PM)

Chabot College's Little Theater Hayward, CA

Tickets \$8.00 per evening

Friday 7:00 P.M.

Saturday 7:00 P.M.

Plus! Short

• Death in Venice, Ca

"...smoothly  
executed  
comedy."  
-Variety



It's In The Water

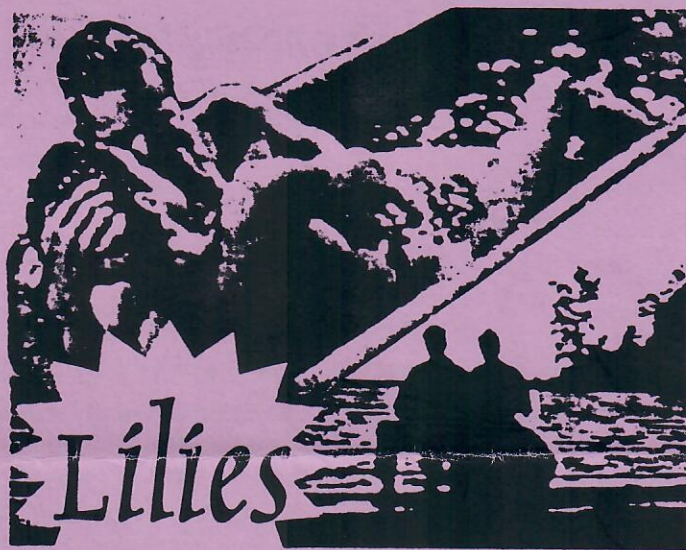


An outrageous comedy with  
a queer little twist!

Plus! Shorts

• Passing

• Look Me Over Closely



Lilies

Elegant compositions and elaborate staging dust  
tragedy with irony and conjure fantasy out of thin air.

★ Complimentary Refreshments ★

Film Festival

Sponsored by CommPre (Community Prevention of Alcohol-Related Problems), a program of Horizon Services, Inc.

For tickets please call (510) 247-8208 or visit [www.plasticcow.com/filmfest](http://www.plasticcow.com/filmfest)