



Lavender Notes



July
99

Vol 5, No 7

NEWSLETTER OF LAVENDER SENIORS OF EAST BAY

P.O. Box 6044, Fremont, California, 94538 Voice Mail: (510)
Volunteer Services Program, 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577, (510) 667-9655

BOARDS SUPPORTS EXPANSION OF SUPPORT SERVICES TO BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDERED

Board voted last month to include bisexual and transgender seniors in the mission statement as groups served by the Lavender Seniors. This addition is in concert with other agencies and funding sources that include all sexual minorities. Outreach to seniors in these groups will present new challenges to our organization.



Pride Parade 1999
Senior Programs Cable Car
Is that Natalie Zarchin?

COMPUTER CLASS OFFERED

Loren Javier, last month's speaker, offered to give a short course for Lavender Seniors who want to become familiar with computers and the internet. The class probably will be one day only and held in the Volunteer Program office. If interested in attending this class, contact John Ellefsen, (510) 583-9638. A class can be scheduled when enough people express an interest.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES PROGRAM NEWS

Rosa Zayas, Program Director, expresses her thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the open house a great success. The open house was well attended by Lavender Seniors and community agency personnel. There was a wonderful buffet provided a charming gay vendor. She wishes to extend special thanks to Marvin Burrows for his "physical labor, intellectual, emotional and spiritual support."

Lavender Seniors office will benefit from a closing federal social security office. Book cases have been donated to the office. This donation completes the furniture needs for the office. Rosa could use a laptop computer. She needs to do some work when away from the office. There is a continuing need for paper supplies, cups, coffee, sugar, etc.

The first training class for the volunteer friendly visitors will be July 24 at the program office in San Leandro. All are welcome to attend whether or not you intend to be a volunteer. Call the director to make sure there is room in the class.

Dot Hallinan and Marvin Burrows will be volunteer administrative assistants in the program office. They will be available to monitor the telephone and do general office duties when the director is not in the office. Dot will work on Monday and Tuesday mornings. Marvin will work Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Would you like to help? Call Rosa (510) 667-9655.

Grant received for Cable Car in Pride Parade

GLOE received a grant for \$1500 to pay for the cable car used by senior programs in the Pride Parade last month. The money Lavender Seniors promised GLOE to help pay for the cable car will not be needed. Consequently, the money raised in the raffle will not be needed for this purpose. The membership will be asked how they want to spend the money raised by the raffle. A suggestion was made that a sound system be purchased for our meeting hall. Some members have complained about the poor acoustics at the monthly meetings.

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, and Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund.

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

Board of Directors Officers

Dottie Fowler, President
Frank Howell, Vice President
John Ellefsen, 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: joslin1@gte.net

Monthly Advertisement Rates:

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

SHORT NOTES *by Sidney Pouffe*

■ The East Bay Business and Professional Alliance (the Gay "Chamber of Commerce") has issued their new directory. You can call the editor to find a GLBT professional. Or get your own directory at **EBBPA**, po Box 20980, Oakland, CA 94620. (510) 287-2571.

■ On the wish list for the Volunteer Services was the item, "floppy boy." We all wondered what Director, **Rosa Zayas**, might want with a floppy boy. Indeed, what would anyone want with a floppy boy. Some said it must be a mistake. What she really wanted was a floppy box. Is that really better? We figured it out. She needed a computer floppy disk box.

■ It is good to see **Barbara Konecny** up and around again. She was in fine form at the English tea last month. She had her children and grandchildren there to help. There was good turn out for the tea. The food was great, the ambiance was wonderful. The two Barbaras have a beautiful home. Did you know that **WOFF** is a non-profit corporations now?

Summer is here. **Ray Robb** and **Dick Colton** are showing their handsome legs in shorts at the monthly meetings. Isn't summer grand?

■ Where is the change jar? Do we have to carry our heavy change home now?

■ Did you see the article about Lavender Seniors in the Daily Review? It may have been in the other ANG newspapers also.

■ **Marvin Burrows** reports Lavender Seniors was mentioned in the "Senior Journal" in a three-paragraph statement on the opening of the office in San Leandro.

■ **Margaret Shepard** send a note to the editor saying she does not need to be anonymous anymore. We now are free to announce that she is one of the founding members. The editor can use her name in the newsletter. Welcome to the out club, Margaret.

■ **Jerry Holmes** reports that he ignored his age and "discoed" four nights in row in a recent trip to Glasgow and Edinburgh. You remember what the **Quentin Crisp** said about disco, don't you? He said, "Disco is too high a price to pay for one's sexual preference." Jerry apparently enjoyed it.

THE MORNING SONG ... FOR NON-MORNING PEOPLE

I woke early one morning. The earth lay cool and still. When suddenly a tiny bird perched on my window sill. He sang a song so lovely, so carefree and so gay, that slowly all my troubles began to slip away. He sang of far off places; of laughter; and of fun. It seemed his very trilling brought up the morning sun. I stirred beneath the covers; crept slowly out of bed, gently lowered the window; and crushed his freakin' head. *(Submitted by Marvin Burrows)*

It is sad to grow old but nice to ripen.

- Brigitte Bardot *(Submitted by John Ellefsen)*

Remember The Picnic July 17 - Cull Canyon



HAVE YOU TRIED THIS? A VISIT TO THE DOCTOR

A couple, aged 65 and 67, went to the doctor's office. The doctor asked them, "What can I do for you?"

The man said, "Will you watch us have sexual intercourse?"

The doctor looked confused but agreed. When the couple had finished, the doctor said, "There is nothing wrong with the way you have intercourse." And he charged them \$20.00.

This happened several weeks in a row. The couple would make an appointment, have intercourse, pay the doctor and leave. Finally the doctor asked, "Please explain, just exactly what are you trying to find out?"

The old man responded, "We're not trying to find out anything. She is married and we can't go to her house. I am married and we can't go to my house. The Sheraton Hotel charges \$52.00 and Hilton Hotel charges \$37.00. We do it here for \$20.00 and I get \$18.00 back from the insurance company for a visit to the doctors office."

We get Mail

Editor: **VOLUNTEER SERVICES PROGRAM**
DIRECTOR'S REPORT JUNE 1999

A small group of us have been meeting weekly on Tuesday mornings to go over our outreach program and to plan the open house. Thanks to all of the folks who have attended. Your help is what makes this organization work....

We have received so very much help from the following people. They are listed in random order.

Rev. Kay Wellington, Arnel Cheung, and Gene Clarence E Bass from the San Leandro Community Church	
Francine Copeland, Anne Anderson and Kyle Black from the SOS (Service Opportunities for Seniors - Meals on Wheels)	
Felson Company	Dottie Fowler
Ina May Murri	Stella Lopez
Frank Howell	Marvin Burrows
Bill Swenor	Jim Joslin
Meg Bruynell	Bobbie Jarvis
Dona Montgomery	John Ellefson
Peggy Alices	Bert Hutchison

If I have forgotten someone please let me know as I want everyone's name on this thank you list. With out all of you/them we could not have done all of the work that we have been able to do. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you!

-Rosa Zayas, Director

Volunteer Services Program

Editor: **ACTION ALERT! SUPPORT AB 26 (MIGDEN) DOMESTIC PARTNERS HEALTH CARE BENEFITS**

AB 26, by Assembly member Carole Migden, would provide for the registration of domestic partnerships with the Secretary of State. Additionally, this bill would provide hospital visitation rights for domestic partners, and also would require health care insurance carriers, i.e., HMOs, to offer coverage to employers and group associations that elect to provide healthcare benefits to the domestic partners of their employees or subscribers. This bill is an important public policy measure that is both pro-civil rights and pro-business.

Today, hundreds of employers, including Fortune500 companies, offer health care coverage to the domestic partners of their employees. Many small businesses that would like to offer these health benefits are precluded from doing so because their HMOs do not give them the option to elect for such coverage. By offering these benefits, smaller employers will have a comparable competitive edge in attracting and retaining the best employees.

AB 26 will be heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday, July 6th, 1999, 1:30 p.m., State Capitol, Room 4203. Please fax letters of support asap to: Senator Adam Schiff, Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee, Capitol Building, Room 2205, Sacramento, CA, 95814 fax: 916-445-8390

Please send a copy of your letter to Assembly member Migden, Fax: 916-319-2113... If you have any questions, please contact Eric Astacaan at 916-455-1049.

-Barbara Jue

Editor: The Senate will very likely consider the Hate Crimes Prevention Act IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS! We urge you to contact your Senators immediately and ask them to support the Kennedy-Leahy-Schumer-Smith-Wyden Hate Crimes Amendment to the Commerce, Justice, State (CJS) Appropriations bill. This Amendment would add the Hate Crimes Prevention Act to the CJS bill and may come to a vote as early as Tuesday (June 29) or Wednesday (June 30)...

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA) (S. 622/H.R. 1082) addresses the long-standing problem of violence against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. The HCPA would make hate crimes based on race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender and disability prosecutable under federal law. It will allow the federal government to assist in the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes, especially when local police authorities fail to act. Call your Senators at (202) 224-3121 (ask for his or her Legislative Director) and urge them to vote for the Kennedy-Schumer-Smith-Wyden Hate Crimes Amendment

E-mail from PFLAG Paul Clifford.

Editor: Please thank the school board members. Hey Guys, While we were off having a good time last Wednesday evening, June 9th, the Fremont School Board was hard at work and did something rather important at its poorly attended meeting. They included "sexual orientation" in their list of reasons students should not be discriminated against. The resolution was introduced by Guy Emanuele, and carried with only one "No" vote from Linda Widmar. You can thank yourselves for all your testimony before the board over the past several years. The board also deserves a note of thanks from all of us.

Editor: These are the Legislation bills in the pipeline of which you should be aware and tracking. Your help to motivate the legislature may be called upon at a moment's notice. It wouldn't hurt for you to start nudging them now.

SB 75 Domestic Partner Registry; hospital visitation, conservatorship rights, and survivors benefits.

SB 118 Domestic Partnership Benefits; employee receives unpaid family and medical leave to care for seriously ill domestic partner, among others.

SB 1237 Bans insurance discrimination; prohibits discrimination against any party who brings a claim against a policy on the basis of sexual orientation, among others.

AB 103 HIV Bill - a coded system to report HIV+ detections, instead of reporting names of HIV+ infected persons.

AB 27 (a mirror of SB 75) - domestic partner registry.

AB 107 - also dealing with domestic partner registry.

AB 1001 Employment non-discrimination.

AB 208 Hate crimes. - Barbara Jue.

EAST BAY PRIDE PARADE - AUGUST 28

The Ferry Parade, the East Bay's first Gay Pride Parade, is scheduled to take place on Saturday evening, August 28th as a kick-off to Stonewall 30 celebrations.

In China, there is a legend that a famous poet many hundreds of years ago threw himself into a river out of love for his country, which was being invaded. The story goes that the gods appeared as dragons and carried the poet's body down the river to a safe resting place. Ever since, Chinese communities around the world have held "Dragon Boat" races

each year to commemorate the occasion. Gays and lesbians challenge the telling of this tale, claiming that the poet was actually in love with the Emperor. And so this year for the first time, Hong Kong's gay community celebrated pride and chose the same weekend as the city's dragon boat festival. It just happens to turn out that August 28th is Oakland's annual Dragon Boat Festival and Chinatown Streetfair, so we are hoping to capitalize on it and strengthen our outreach and inclusiveness with the queer and mainstream Asian community.

The idea behind The Ferry Parade is simple. To have a parade unique to the East Bay (different in style from SF), to create visibility and to have fun.

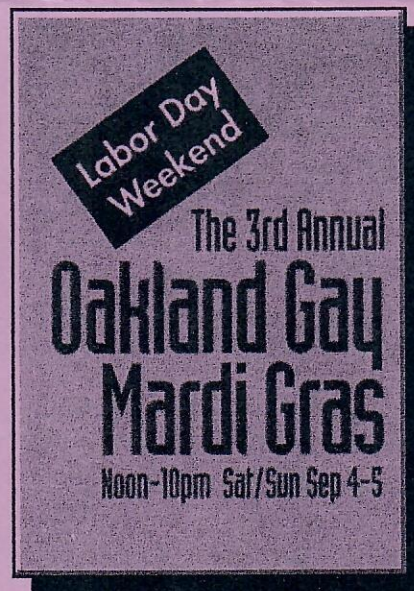
Politically it is very significant in that it effects several large, important East Bay organizations: The Port of Oakland, The Coast Guard, and the City of Oakland --- none of which have been very good to date on gay issues.

There is no "fee" to enter the parade. Groups are encouraged to charter boats and throw a party on board. The boats can be sponsored by non-profit, social or business organizations. Or just groups of friends! And the theme/party/music/decor is up to you! Ticket prices can vary according to the wishes of the organizers. The timing of the event is not clearly defined because we are waiting to hear the needs of various groups involved.

The event will start around 6pm in order for the dragon boats to clear out. At that time of year, it is still light out so that small pleasure boats, kayakers, and jet skiers can take part. Large charters like Hornblowers generally start their evening charters around 7:30 and have a 3-4 hour minimum. Costs vary according to the glamour-level of the boat.

The event will be more like a regatta than an actual parade but that at some point we might take a trip down the estuary (make them open up all of those bridges for us!) It is an exciting time for the East Bay, hosting our first parade, then Stonewall 30 along with Johannesburg in September.

Other events that groups are encouraged to participate in include the Mardi Gras (booth) the Stonewall 30; Honors Gala at City Hall (table); and sponsorships!!! Call the office at (510) 663-3980 or check out our website at www.stonewall30.org. Pete King President/CEO, East Bay Pride Chair, Stonewall 30 Worldwide



PICNIC - JULY 17



BOOK REVIEW

by Frank Howell

Oldest Gay Couple in America:**A Seventy-Year Journey Through Same Sex America**

By Gean Harwood

Birch Lane Press \$22.50

Right wing hacks constantly belabor the point that gay relationships don't stand the test time (no proof, of course). This latest memoir should silence the peanut gallery of the uninformed.

Gean Harwood and Bruhs Mero first encountered one another in 1930 in New York City. To read their story is to witness 20th century history passing in review: the depression, World War II, the long post war era. They never possessed a comfortable amount of cash and they frequently moved from one cramped apartment to another. (The grand piano was always a vexing problem).

Gean worked for Paramount Pictures for years arranging transportation for movie stars (Mae West, the Marx Brothers) and Bruhs danced with major New York companies until serious health problems forced him into a civil service career. Gean lost his Paramount job in 1950 and his job history took a similar route.

During World War II they both founded a gay social club which lasted three to four years. Our heroes spent much of their everyday lives in the closets of that time. Gean explains, "In traveling the corridor of fear, the more invisible we made ourselves the

GAY COUPLE



IN AMERICA

A 70-Year Journey
Through Same-Sex America

GEAN HARWOOD

safer we felt. This was a grim fact of life for us and we felt we had to abide by it to survive."

Gean and Bruhs witnessed the birth of One, Inc. in the early 1950s. Gean wrote an article for the Mattachine Review. Many old timers recall these brave early efforts on behalf of gay liberation.

In the 1970s and 1980s, they emerged as the gay medial darlings in a 1985 PBS documentary, *Silent Pioneers*. From this exposure came numerous TV, radio, and in-person appearances. They also served as Grand Marshalls for the New York City Gay Parade.

During this time, a notable Catholic layman congratulated them for their long lasting union, but wanted to be reassured that during those long years they had never committed sodomy! They were unable to give such assurances.

Gean recalls that during the struggle against Hitler, prejudice against lesbians was heavily disguised. But signs were seen in restaurants, "We are not obligated to serve women wearing slacks."

Gean and Bruhs recall landlords kicking them out of apartments because of pressure from the vice squads.

In his final years Bruhs slipped into Alzheimers and died in 1995. Gean is eighty-nine and still thriving.

The writing is intimate and lively. You will not forget these two inspiring gents. Hopefully they will end up as more than just footnotes in lavender history.

LGBTQ

The Afternoon Group**for seniors, disabled folks and others**

**Interested in meeting
people who enjoy
afternoon activities
like you do?
Join us!**



**Wednesdays
1:30-3:30pm**

Pacific Center is offering a new support and social group for people who prefer to join afternoon activities. This group is for both men and women and will include games, hobbies, discussions, and support.

PACIFIC CENTER

2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

510-548-8283

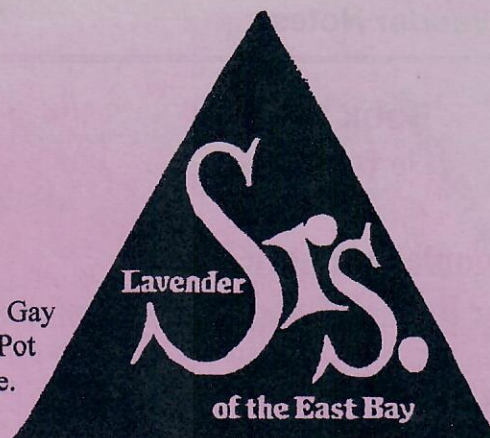
pcvolunteers@gay.net

www.pacificcenter.org



\$5-10 sliding scale donation requested. No one turned away for lack of funds.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES



July 4 Sunday - 9 am - Alameda Parade - *City of Alameda* Gay Community, OOTI, (Out On The Island), PFLAG, and the Lesbian Pot Luck Society of Alameda are marching in the 4th of July Mayor's parade. Meet at Lincoln and Park St. Bring your rainbow flags to wave.

July 6 Tuesday - 6:30 p.m. - Board of Directors

Meeting at Harry's Hof Brau at 14th and Hesperian Blvd., San Leandro, (Across from Bay Fair) All Welcome. Meets monthly the Tuesday before the potluck meetings.

July 10

Saturday - 12 Noon

MONTHLY MEETING

Panel Discussion: How Well Are We Adjusting to Old Age?

We will share our joys and troubles as we grow older.

(Program previously scheduled and canceled in April 1999)

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.

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.

SATURDAY - JULY 17 NOON-ISH LAVENDER SENIORS AND GLOBE PICNIC

Meet at the swim area at Cull Canyon. Bring swim suits, games, music and potluck to share. Cost is \$3.00 for ages between 16-62. All others are \$2.00. There is no barbeque. You need to bring your foods already cooked. Drinks and paper products are supplied. Children and young people are welcomed. there is a paved walking path to the picnic area. It is a good walk from the parking lot. We suggest you bring your things on wheels. Also suggest umbrellas as it can get pretty hot there

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.