

Lavender Notes



Vol 5, No 8

NEWSLETTER OF LAVENDER SENIORS OF EAST BAY
P.O. Box 6044, Fremont, California, 94538 Voice Mail: (510) 241-2400
Volunteer Services Program, 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577, (510) 667-9655

August 1999

ELLEFSEN APPOINTED TO COMMISSION ON AGING.

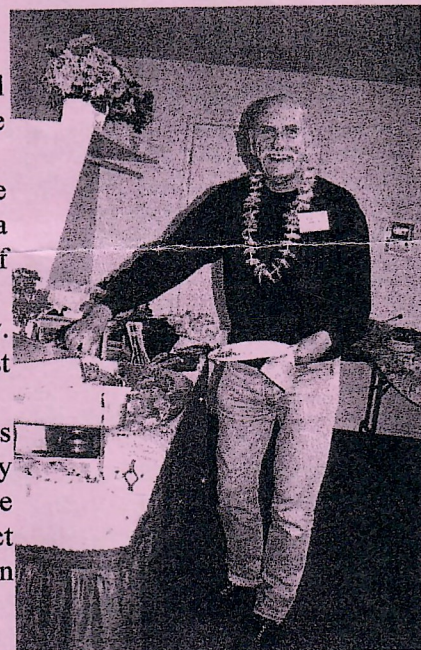
John Ellefsen was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Commission on Aging. He will represent seniors from the Hayward area of Alameda County. John is secretary of the board of directors and a founding member of Lavender Seniors of East Bay.

John is a sixty-six year old gay man currently living in Hayward. He has lived in the East Bay area for 22 years. He retired about ten years ago, after twenty-one years as a social worker. He worked sixteen years with Alameda County Social Services. Most of those years he was a Child Welfare Worker.

John's interest in aging issues and needs started around the time he turned sixty. Primarily that interest has taken the form of being active with Lavender Seniors of the East Bay.

John attended the monthly meetings of the Advisory Commission as a visitor. He was impressed with the quality of work that both the Commissioners and the Aging Agency staff have been doing. He cites the spirit of friendly cooperation among all. When he learned there was a vacancy on the Advisory Commission from the supervisorial district serving Hayward, he decided to apply in hopes of serving better both the aging population in the county in general and his own community.

John writes about the role of the commission on page three of this newsletter.



John Ellefsen

August Meeting:

Back by popular demand!

Ken Miller is back with one of his delicious expose of the past iniquities of mankind. "Sex and Sin in The Catholic Church," will be the provocative topic of discussion. Ken is always detailed in his heavily documented accounts of the erotic weaknesses of the human race. Ken has been associated with Stanford University and brings a curious and inquiring mind to his subject. So join us on Saturday August 14th for our potluck at 12:00, a short business meeting at 1:00 and our outstanding speaker.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES PROGRAM NEWS.

More thank you's!! Rosamaria Zayas, director of the program, wishes to express her appreciation to the following for their generous contributions of time and energy to the new program.

Beth Little - computer instruction ; **Loren Javier** - computer instruction; **Marvin Burrows** - office help;

Dot Hallinan - office help; BJ and Meg - Fax Machine

Rosa is requesting all Lavender Seniors to call the office and give them your birthdays. This will assist them in a new "Birthday Club" (It needs a clever name). She also needs phone numbers of attendees and any former attendees of the Lavender Seniors meetings.

There has been a postponement in the "Volunteer Training Orientation Session" (due to summer vacations and prior commitments). New Date: September 11, 1999 9:30 A.M. to Noon; Location: 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577, Main Floor, Orientation Room, Front Entrance. Everyone is invited to attend. Breakfast will be served. So call Dot or Marvin by September 8, 1999. (So there will enough food for everyone). Lavender Seniors Monthly Pot-Luck will follow the Orientation Session, and all are invited to stay and meet and eat.

Volunteer Services Program; Lavender Seniors provides a Volunteer Services Program to isolated gay and lesbian seniors. The program is funded and managed 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 The Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund. Call (510) 667-9655 for information and referrals.

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 Konechy, 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

- **Marvin Burrows** sent me this note: "I thought everyone would get a kick out of this quote". "If the automobile had followed the same development cycle as the computer, a Rolls-Royce would today cost \$100, get one million miles to the gallon, and explode once a year, killing everyone inside." -Robert X. Cringely
- Speaking of **Marvin**... Did you see his net page? There is a story about a monkey that is amazing.
- If you're old enough to know better, you're too old to do it..
- Pacific Center in Berkeley has a grant to provide a support group for seniors. They are looking for a facilitator to run the program. It will be a mixed group. See the insert on page four in this newsletter.
- Lavender Seniors Board would like to see some one on the Pacific Center board that can represent the interests of seniors. Do you know anyone that would be interested? Contact a LS board member.
- We received this report from **Daisy Chainberlin**. "Some of us were talking to **Jim Joslin** last meeting when he informed us that the dessert he brought to the pot luck was from one of his mothers's old recipes. Here is is: "you take your check book and go to the bakery." Thanks, Daisy. You can learn a lot in the potluck line.
- Remember, half the people in the world are below average. If ignorance is bliss, why aren't more people happy?
- We got this note from **Barbara Jue**; "Hi Folks, thought you would like to know that Barbara K's surgery went Okay... Thanks for your kind thoughts and concern."
- **Dottie Fowler** was missing at last month's potluck. She was in Washington state trying to get in touch with the prosaic side of her psychic. She returned in time for the Volunteer Services open house then returned to Washington to meditate again. Actually she is Kayaking in Puget Sound.
- **Peggy Alices** was leading the "lonely single life" while Bert was on vacation in Illinois visiting family. Did you have fun Peggy? We won't tell.
- Congratulations to raffle winners. **Jean Godin** and **Rita Kresha**. Jean purchased her ticket at the G/L Film Festival. Rita is a Lavender Senior. Rita donated her prize of \$100 back to Lavender seniors. Thank you, Rita.
- A special thanks to **Stella Lopez-Armijo** who did an outstanding job selling tickets at both nights of the festival. She would approach a baby dike and they would reach for their wallet. It was amazing to watch.
- **Stella** and her partner and our founding mother, **Ina Mae Murri**, are off to Utah and Idaho for family and friend visit. The will also taking in a professional women's basketball game in Utah. She says that women's sports are high now after the soccer tournament. "GIRLS RULE"
- Do you know anyone who has a speakers podium that has a microphone installed in it? Would they like to sell it to Lavender Seniors to use at the monthly meetings? Call **Ina Mae Murri**, (510) 490-5425.
- Our own **Don Silva**, **Mamma Portugal**, **The Grand Duchess**, is stepping down from his reign this month. A Royal Grand Ducal Ball was held July 25. All their events are fund raisers for the gay community. The Lavender Seniors will be well represented at the ball.

Donations needed by Lavender Seniors of East Bay

Donations needed to pay for additional hours for our director of the Volunteer Services Program. The budget allows 20 hours only. She needs to increase your work week to 30 hours.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE ALAMEDA COUNTY ADVISORY COMMISSION ON AGING

by John Ellefsen

There are 21 appointed members. Each of the five County Supervisors appoints two; the Alameda County Mayors' Conference appoints four from the North County and four from the South County (8); plus three at-large appointments. The terms are four years long. A person can serve two terms. Each commissioner must serve on at least one committee in addition to attending the regular monthly meeting of the Commission. It usually meets on the second Monday of each month at 8000 Edgewater Drive in Oakland (near 880 and Hegenberger). The public is always welcome to attend the meetings and speak briefly on issues.

The primary committees are: Legislative, Public Relations, and Health and Safety (our own Donna Montgomery

is on the Health and Safety Committee). You don't have to be on the Commission to work on that Committee. There are also three Commissioners who act as liaisons to other Committees: to the Alameda County Para-transit Committee; to the California Senior Legislature (which meets in Sacramento and is supported by public funds and donations (as on Line 49 of your State Income Tax form); and to the TACC, which stands for the Area Agencies on Aging California Council and includes all the Area Agencies on Aging in the state.

The officers of the Commission are elected annually by the Commission members. The Commission is advised and assisted in its work by staff from the Alameda County Area Agency on Aging,

which is part of the Alameda County Social Services Agency. From my observations of the Committee and the staff, they have an excellent working relationship. The meetings of the Commission are business-like, but also friendly and with light-hearted moments as well

After I go through the orientation for new Commissioners, I'll have a better idea of what the Commission does. Some of their work includes producing a bimonthly Senior Update newsletter. (The current issue has the article on Lavender Seniors and the Collaborative

Project that I submitted to them); advising the Board of Supervisors on requests for funding of senior service programs; taking stands on various legislation proposals in Sacramento or Washington DC that affect seniors (this is done only in coordination with the Board of Supervisors and the lobbyists hired by the county); and keeping informed on all services and issues regarding seniors in the county and spreading information about those matters to whatever groups or senior service centers the Commissioners have contact with.

When I applied to be appointed on the Commission, because there was a vacancy in the supervisorial district that covers Hayward (Gail Steele is the current Supervisor), I emphasized my involvement with Lavender Seniors and the Collaborative Project, and said that I wanted to be on the Commission in hopes of serving both the general senior population and the gay and lesbian senior population.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

NO ON KNIGHT

ORGANIZING MEETING

**AUGUST 7TH
EAST BAY**

Contact information:
Telephone: 415-227-1020
505 Howard Street

San Francisco
Email: StopKnight@aol.com

Volunteers needed now

ATTENTION

Do computers scare you?
Are you about to invest in a computer?
Is the computer at home gathering dust?
Or are you just curious?

Come and Learn what you always wanted to know
but never dared ask:

The Computer Made Easy (a monthly series)

Taught by: LOREN JAVIER,
Interactive Media Director of GLAAD

Call Lavender Seniors at: (510) 667-9655 or John
Ellefsen, (510) 583-9638
to register and for more info.

DATES AND TIME TO BE DETERMINED

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We Get Mail

Editor: I will be away for three weeks, stopping in Helsinki and Tallinn, Estonia for three days each. Then, on to St. Petersburg to board a ship. For two weeks, I'll be on the ship, going ashore to see the sights. Maybe, there'll be some sights on board, too (I'd better not look in a mirror.) We (the tour group) will be in St. Pete for four days and in Moscow four three days. There'll be some cruising (of course), on the lakes, rivers and canals of Russia during which time we are supposed to be taught some Russian, some culture and some history of Russia. We will also be entertained aboard ship. We will be stopping to go ashore for various lengths of time from just a few hours to whole days.

One of the sights I am most anxious to see is the Church of the Transfiguration on Kizhi Island. It is very old, has twenty-two domes and is completely wooden and without a nail or bolt. There is an international fund raising campaign to preserve it. There will be at least one evening theatrical or musical performance in St. Pete and a night at the Moscow Circus. There are other optional activities, but I have not yet signed up for them. I have to wait to how much stamina I have....

Regards, Gerson Goodkind

Ed. Note: Sounds like a wonderful trip. Have a good time, Gerson. Write us again when you return. We would be interested in your experiences and impressions of what you saw.

Editor: Ch. 2 TV news is reporting tonight (Sunday, July 4) that the Mormon Church hierarchy in Salt Lake City has sent letters individually to every member of that denomination in California asking them to contribute time and money "to make sure that the initiative to prohibit gay marriages in California" is successful. Of course the letter also urges them to vote for the ban. It was also reported in the Sunday San Francisco Chronicle Examiner.

-- Barbara Jue

Hi folks: It is really great to see so many of my tidbits in the newsletter. However, you have one item which needs corrections. The GLOBE fund raiser had two very important volunteers serving the tables. None of Barbara's grandchildren were assisting. She had one daughter in the kitchen, but the larger part of the effort was borne by three really wonderful guys: Shaun Souther, Marvin Burrows and Robb Crowder. Without their enormous help, we could not have been such a successful event. Please correct the article and run it in the newspaper so that they may see it and our thanks to them for their wonderful, wonderful help. Thanks, -- Barbara Jue

Ed. Note: We understand this may be an annual event. Great idea.

Lavender Seniors: On behalf of my wife, Sue, and myself, I wish to say "Thank you" for your great "OPEN HOUSE" on Friday, June 18th. I shall look forward to seeing members of Lavender Seniors of the East bay at our Commission on Aging meetings.

Best Regards, Don Nelson, Member, Commission on Aging, Alameda County Board of Supervisors

Ed. Note: We heard Mr. Nelson was nervous about attending and brought his wife for protection. Now he is a supporter. Good Job, Lavender Seniors.

Dear Mr. Jolson: In reference to the July 99 Lavender Notes, Page 2, "Short Notes" column, you refer to Jerry Holmes at the bottom paragraph. There is a Jerry Holmes and SHE belongs to the Lavender Seniors and there is a Jerry Hyman and HE too is a member.

I believe the you were referring to Jerry Hyman and HIS trip to Glasgow and Edinburgh. My one chance for fame and you didn't use my last name!

This is the second time for the error referring to my last name. If it happens again, there will be hell to pay!! I would appreciate a correction, if you please, Miss Jolson, I mean Joslin.

Sincerely, Jerry Hyman.

Ed. Note: I have discussed the error with Sidney Poufte. Sidney reminded me that competence was not a prerequisite for working on Lavender Notes.. Willingness is the only requirement. Sidney did not know, as I do, that Jerry Holmes is an intelligent, sophisticated woman who would have very different reports about a trip to Scotland.

Sorry Jerry and Jerry

HAYWARD GAY CENTER PLANNED

A Town Hall Meeting for the GLBTQ Community was held about starting GLBTQ Community Center in Hayward. Special Guest Speakers were Hayward Mayor, Roberta Cooper and Hayward City Council Member, Kevin

Dowling. Mayor Cooper assured the group about the city's support for the creation of the Community Center. Council Member Dowling spoke about how the idea for the Community Center came about, where we are now and future directions. A "Name the Center" contest was started. For more information, call CommPre at (510) 247-8208

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.



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

PACIFIC CENTER

2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

510-548-8283

pcvolunteers@gay.net

www.pacificcenter.org

BOOK REVIEW

by Frank Howell

Columbia Reader on Lesbians & Gay Men in Media, Society, and Politics

Edited by Larry Gross & James Woods

Columbia University Press, paperback

How delicious it is to wallow joyously in a big fat paperback of over six hundred pages of the best gay reporting and thinking since the end of World War II.

These historic articles roam widely over time from a 1947 Newsweek article, "Homosexuals in Uniform," to Cardinal Ratzinger's "Letter to The Bishops of the Catholic Church on the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons." Larry Gross and James Woods, both Professors of Communications, have given us the satisfying gift of historical prospective and exposing us to little known research on gay pockets of complex human interest.

Let's take a quick and tempting sampling:

"Abominable Sin: The Spanish Campaign Against Sodomy And It's Results in Modern Latin America," by Walter Williams. (God! punished the Indians with small pox).

"How To Bring Your Kids Up Gay: The War on Effeminate Boys" by Eve Sedwich.

"Who Hid Lesbian History?" by Lillian Faderman;

"Gay and Lesbian Publishing Boom" by William Mann;

"Gay Teachers Make Their Lives Whole Again" by Deb

Price

"Uptight on Gay News: Can The Straight Press Get The Gay Story Straight" by Randall Pierson

"Why Outing Must Stop" by C, Cam

"The Advocate: Setting The Standard For The Gay Liberation Press" by Roger Streitmatter

"We're Teen, We're Queer, and We've Got E-mail" by Steve Silberman

"Here Comes The Groom: A (Conservative) Case For Gay Marriage" by Andrew Sullivan

"Blacks and Gays: Healing The Great Divide" by Barbara Smith

Read and enjoy. There is something here for all views and tastes. The Columbia Reader will stretch your intellectual horizons and cause all of us to think deeply about our rich and turbulent past.

CREATING CHANGE CONFERENCE IN OAKLAND

Oakland and Bay Area activists are gearing up for the Twelfth Annual Creating Change Conference, the country's largest and most exciting annual gathering of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender movement. Creating Change 1999 will take place at the Oakland Marriott City Center Hotel, November 10-14. The annual conference is expected to attract over 2200 activists and organizers from around the country.

This year's Creating Change Conference will be greatly influenced by its location in Oakland. Because California is preparing for the Knight Initiative vote in 2000, a special training entitled "Defeat Knight: Door-Knock in Your Community" will teach the electoral skill and the human art of door-to-door voter identification and persuasion.

The 1999 Conference is also supported by the Pacific Center for Human Growth of Berkeley, which will serve as the anchor organization for the Host Committee. In this capacity, the Pacific Center will assist the Host Committee by providing

a postal address, financial and accounting services, and additional outreach to the community.

To learn how to get involved with the 1999 Creating Change Host Committee, call 510/834-6333. For more information about the Creating Change Conference, call 202/332-6483, ext. 3329 or visit www.creatingchange.org.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION: Conference Registration: \$150 includes Conference Registration PLUS one pre-conference institute on either Wednesday or Thursday. Conference Registration plus two Pre-conference Institutes - \$175 Includes Conference Registration PLUS two pre-conference institutes on Wednesday or Thursday.

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute 1700 Kalorama Road, NW - Washington, DC 20009-2624 TEL 202-332-6483 - FAX 202-332-0207 - TTY 202-332-6219 <http://www.creatingchange.org> creatingchange@nglftf.org

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

August 10 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)



August 14

Saturday - 12 Noon

MONTHLY MEETING

Sex and Sin in The Catholic Church

Speaker: Ken Miller

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.