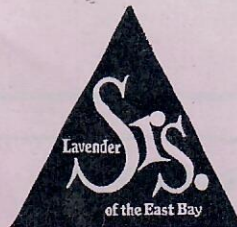




Lavender Notes



VOL 6, No 1

NEWSLETTER OF LAVENDER SENIORS OF EAST BAY
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Volunteer Services Program, 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577, (510) 667-9655

2000
January 1999

Happy New Century/Millennium!

by Dottie Fowler,
President, Board of Directors

As I begin to take a serious look at calendar availability for the new year it seems as though everything is changing. As I write the year 2000 on paper I realize that it requires changing all four of the numbers at once, learning the number language of a new period. Without question this phenomenon symbolically raise the issue of endings and beginnings in a big way although in a more simple reality it resembles the action of an odometer or a one-armed bandit in Reno flipping over numbers over one by one stopping for a moment at 2-0-0-0 in Roman time.

Stopping to reflect as I did at 30 when I wondered to myself - would I live until the end of the century and the beginning of the new millennium? Well, here we are. living our outrageously determined lives as LGBT's and building community for ourselves and those who follow us. Lavender Seniors has accelerated its development in this last year (of the century). Now as we move forward into the second year of our funded program our focus as a group is to expand our visibility in this large area of Alameda and Contra Costa counties. This visibility connects to our own vision for our community - to offer to others of community a place to feel comfort, safety and support. We intend to reach out north, south, east and west where we can, to develop individual contacts and friendship groups from El Cerrito to Fremont and east to Concord and beyond, to keep in touch with and offer support to our more isolated friends and to let those mainstream agencies who serve us know about our lives - about who we are and what we need.

You can help us expand our vision and visibility by getting the word out to groups and individuals about the existence of our program - by talking about our activities, bringing your friends and acquaintances to join us at potlucks and get-togethers, making donations of your time and energy as a volunteer, and as always donating what you can in the way of money. This group was born and continues to grow with the energy and caring of volunteers, there is no greater strength than that.

This year of 2000 marks the beginning of our future. Help us on our trip into the new millennium

JANUARY MEETING:

Ina Mae Celebrates 65 Years plus The Mothertongue

Our "founding mother," Ina Mae Murri, will be 65 years old this month. She will celebrate her birthday with us at the January meeting. She is inviting some of her friends to join us. She will bring a ham and turkey to the dinner. She asks us to bring some extra complimentary food to help with the celebration and feed about 15 extra people. Please do not bring gifts.

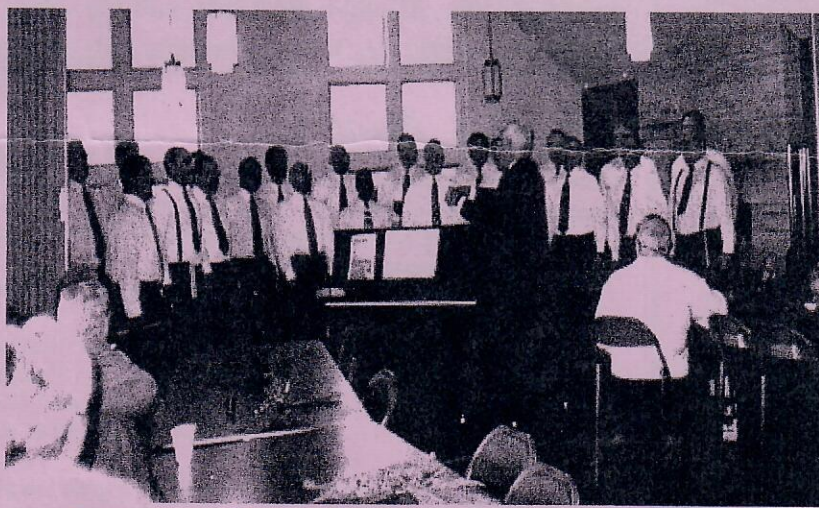
Also at the January meeting, we will have a small group of performers from The Mothertongue Feminist Theater Collective. They recently completed a program at Venue Nine on Ninth Street in San Francisco. The program was called, "Women and Escape - Stories and Poetry of Our Lives." They will present some of their repertoire and tell us more about their program. Our Program Committee member, Ruth Michaels, arranged this program. Ruth asks that we bring some extra food for the seven or eight performers. It should be a great birthday party and interesting program. See you there.



MEN'S CHORUS S OAKLAND EAST BAY GAY SERENADES LAVENDER SENIORS

What a wonderful sound! This new chorus is a great addition to our community. Dick Kramer, conductor of the chorus, showed us he is still the top of his field. He was the original conductor of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus in the 1970s. He has conducted the Contra Costa Community Chorus for many years. His beginning efforts with the new gay chorus show real skill in finding voices that blend and molding them into a well disciplined, cleanly delivered harmony. Lavender Seniors were honored to be the first concert of this new chorus.

Is it possible not to cry when they sing, "We Kiss in the Shadows?" No. It is not possible.



Oakland East Bay Gay Men's Chorus (Photographer Peggy Alices)

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.

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Lavender Seniors of East Bay,
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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

Carol Beth, Bill Baillie, Doreen Brand, Meg Bruynell, Marvin Burrows, Shirley Dennett, John Ellefsen, Dottie Fowler, Dorothy Hallinan, Beverly Hickock, Jerry Holmes, Frank Howell, Doris Fischer, Bobbie Jarvis, James Joslin, Barbara Jue, Barbara Konechy, Stella Lopez Armijo, Bobbie Jean MacKenzie, Donna Montgomery, Ina Mae Murri, Diane E. Nagy, Ray Rob, 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:

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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 *by Sidney Poufte*

▲ Our Treasurer, BJ and partner, Meg, just returned from a trip to Las Vegas. Their eyes sparkled when the described in detail the high kicks of the Rockettes. They are still kicking very well, apparently.

▲ Natalie Zarchin and a friend from Arkansas are off to Hawaii for three weeks. There are 10 women in their party. Have fun Natalie..

▲ BJ told the board of directors that our nonprofit status should be official any day. We have a number now. We will not be able to deduct donations in 1999 but probably can in 2000.

▲ If at first you don't succeed, redefine success.

▲ There will be a conference for gay seniors in New York City May 5 and 6, 2000. There is a call for papers and presenters to make application. More information later.

▲ Best wishes to Stella Lopez-Armijo who had knee surgery recently.

▲ There is a plan pending to prepare a welcome packet with brochures, information about the volunteers services for visitors when they come to the potluck. The staff and volunteers are getting it together.

▲ One chorus member was heard to say when he saw the potluck dinner, "WOW! I can hardly wait till I turn 55 so I can come to the pot lucks dinners."

▲ An unremembered poet says, "Age is when beauty rises to the face."

▲ Remember to send name of sick or ill members to Peggy Alices, (510) 632-6292. She will send cards to all members who are ill.

CARE GIVER'S SUPPORT GROUP

There is a LGBT Care Giver's Support Group available in the East Bay for friends and family members of the loved one who has memory problems cause by a medical condition or brain injury. Sponsored by the Bay Area Alzheimer's Association, the support Group meets the first Wednesday of every month, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., at the East Bay Alzheimer's Resource Center, 2420 Channing Way, Berkeley. This group is for LGBT's - adult children of a parent, relative or friend - for a partner and/or close friend or roommate. The support Group is also open if your loved one does not live locally. Call Joyce Pierson, Facilitator at (510) 6679655 for more information. New members are always welcome.

→ → Coffee Connections ← ←

Beginning Monday, January 24, 2000, Lavender Seniors will be having a once-a month gathering from 10:30 to Noon, Fireside Room, SL Community Church, 1395 Bancroft Street. Hot drinks and light snacks will be provided. A time and safe place to be with friends, meet new people, share stories, current events, celebrate being LGBT/Q and growing older. If you need a ride, call the office the week before (667-9655). Dot, Marvin, John and others will be there.

We Get Mail

Editor: Please thank Joyce Pierson, Volunteer Coordinator, for me. She sent me a copy of the December 1999 Lavender Notes. I was quite amused to see that I became a female over night. Jean (name withheld) is a man's name in France, but Americans and English took the "Jean" and use it as a woman's name ...

I am sending you my check for \$12.00 for a year's subscription to Lavender Notes. I enjoyed it today.

As I do not drive I have to depend on AC Transit or BART and is the future I will see that I make the right connections to come to your "dos."... Sincerely, Mr. Jean L.

Ed Note: We hope you can attend one of our functions soon. Remember to call us to be picked up by our shuttle service to and from the San Leandro BART station.

Editor: Congratulations to Jim Joslin for doing a great job as master of ceremonies at our holiday celebration. His "spontaneous wit was very clever and made the "greed game" lots of fun. Stuffed animals ruled the day!! -- Kathy McCarter and Carol Beth, Berkeley

Ed Note: Thank you for your kind letter. Judging from the shocked faces in the crowd, you may be a minority voice. Glad you enjoyed it.