



LAVENDER NOTES

Newsletter of Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

Volume 5, No.11 – November 2000

Volunteer Services Program • 1395 Bancroft Ave. • San Leandro, CA 94577
• (510) 667-9655 •

November Program

My Life with Pets

(of the four-footed variety and otherwise)

Please bring your stories and pictures of your furry, hairy, feathered and scaly pets to share with others.

Page One Announcements

Senior Outreach Volunteer Support Meeting

1st Thursday, every month: Nov. 2, 12 Noon
1395 Bancroft, San Leandro Community Church
Brown Bag Lunch, Beverage & Dessert Provided
Call Joyce Pierson for information: (510) 667-9655

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East Bay Women's Support Group, 55+

2nd and 4th Fridays, Nov. 10 and 24, 1:15 – 3 P.M.
Pacific Center, 2717 Telegraph, Oakland

Lavender Senior Newsletter Mailing Party

Monday, Nov. 27, 10:30 A.M. – Noon
1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro Community Church
Call Dot Hallinan if you would like to help: 667-9655

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Office Volunteer Needed

One day a week

to help with general office activities. Prefer someone who has experience and can contribute 2-3 hours on a Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday.

Please contact the office to leave your phone number and a good time to return a call. (510) 667-9655

President's Report Fall 2000

Dotty Fowler, President

As the fall season progresses this year Lavender Senior activities are expanding by leaps and bounds. Our first annual volunteer appreciation and reception for volunteers and those who come to support and applaud our volunteers will take place November 5 from 4 to 6 P.M. at the Montclair Cultural Arts Club in Montclair.

We are extraordinarily fortunate to have 28 volunteers donating their time and energy to the Lavenders. We will honor them for they, along with their trainers and guides, are the ones who make our program possible. To quote one of our grant submissions, "Lavender Seniors has proven that we have deep and wide community support, a core of extremely dedicated volunteers, and the ability to deliver valuable services to a community in need."

Anyone who wishes may attend this event to show support for our volunteers. We request a \$20 donation at the door. We will also present a leadership award to our Collaborative Coordinator, Nancy Flaxman, who has made important contributions to the development of the overall Collaborative plan and especially to the start-up of the East Bay services. Lavender Seniors is one member of the Lesbian and Gay Senior Services Collaborative of the Bay Area — two other members are Spectrum of Marin and New Leaf Outreach to Elders in San Francisco.

As a group of agencies we have sought and been granted funding to implement a program which provides phone reassurance, friendly visiting and support for our more frail LGBT elders. These services are carried out entirely by trained volunteers at the three agencies. In addition to this, another component of the program offers training for mainstream service providers about the character of the special needs of the elderly LGBT population. Once again these panel presentations are performed by our volunteers who willingly tell the stories of their lives so that social workers and other service providers might understand the pressures that LGBT seniors have had to cope with through most of their lives.

'President's Report' continues on page 4

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.

LAVENDER NOTES

is the newsletter of
Lavender Seniors of the East Bay
 1395 Bancroft Avenue
 San Leandro, CA 94577
 (510) 667-9655
 lavenderseniors@email.msn.com

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, Dotty Fowler, Dorothy Hallinan, Beverly Hickock, Jerry Holmes, Frank Howell, Doris Fischer, Bobbie Jarvis, James Joslin, Barbara Jue, Barbara Konecny, Stella Lopez Armijo, Bonnie Jean MacKenzie, Donna Montgomery, Ina Mae Murri, Diane Nagy, Ray Robb, Camille Scontrino, Don Silva, Margaret Shepherd, Bill Swenor, and Natalie Zarchin

Board of Directors Officers

Dotty Fowler, President
Frank Howell, Vice President
John Ellefsen, Secretary
Bobbie Jarvis, Treasurer

Site Coordinator *Joyce Pierson*

Administrative Assistant *Nancy Fugett*

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 Lavender 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:

Bert Hendriksen, Editor
 771 Kingston Ave. #405
 Oakland, CA 94611
 hendriksen@aol.com
 (510) 652-6906

Signed articles represent the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of Lavender Seniors of the East Bay.

Inclusion of a name in this newsletter does not necessarily indicate a person's sexual orientation. §

Op-Ed

YES on Measure B

Speaking both as a Lavender Senior and as a Commissioner on the Alameda County Advisory Commission on Aging, I'm urging all of us to vote YES on Measure B in the election, November 7. Measure B is not a new tax, but rather continues the present tax for transportation needs that is due to expire soon. Measure B has been put together over a two year period with a lot of input from community groups such as the Sierra Club, the Alameda County Taxpayers Association, and many others, as well as government agencies.

Measure B addresses in a well balanced way the host of problems with transportation and traffic that we all experience daily, and which especially affect seniors. Funds from the measure will go toward maintaining and improving mass transit, highways and streets, bike and pedestrian routes, and Paratransit, which is the special transportation services for seniors and people with disabilities. If Measure B fails, many of those services will have to be severely curtailed or eliminated altogether. Measure B has wide support. Over 260 organizations and agencies endorse it and strongly urge its passage. The problem is, because it is a tax measure, it must pass with a two-thirds majority. Here is where each one of us can do our part by making sure that we vote for Measure B and get others to do the same.

For more information, and to help get out the vote, contact the Committee to Save Local Transportation, 1904 Franklin, Suite 910, Oakland. (510) 444-4079.

—John Ellefsen

Senior Outreach Services – Volunteer Recruitment Campaign 2001

The Senior Outreach Services (SOS) for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender seniors in the East Bay has been growing week by week, month by month, THANKS to the Volunteers who are currently providing **Friendly Visits** to home-bound Seniors, **Telephone Outreach**, and **Panel Presentations** to community health and social service agencies.

To meet Senior needs in the coming year, 2001, Lavender Seniors' Senior Outreach is recruiting Volunteers who live in Oakland, North Oakland, Alameda, San Lorenzo, Fremont, Castro Valley, San Leandro and Livermore. Our goal in 2001 is to train and organize area teams made up of two to four volunteers who will do Senior Outreach Services in their geographic area. The strength of Lavender Seniors comes from the many LGBT folks who are committed to the well-being of all of us living throughout the East Bay. We are all aging and will need help someday.

If you are interested in volunteering, please call Lavender Seniors at (510) 667-9655, leave a message for Joyce Pierson, Senior Outreach Coordinator.

—Joyce Pierson

Advertisement Rates:

\$1 per line
 \$10 for business card-size ads
 Subscribers: 50% discount

This newsletter was created in **Adobe PageMaker 6.01**; a PDF file is available to be viewed in **Adobe Acrobat Reader**.



¡Happy Birthday!

Fred Jennings

November 1

Robbie Coles

November 3

Dot Hallinan

November 6

Dotty Fowler

November 8

Warren Palmtag

November 10

Grant Peterson

November 13

Edd Dundas

November 22

Betty Dudley

November 25

¡Feliz Cumpleaños!

SHORT NOTES

by Sidney Poufte

Ina Mae Murri and Stella report that their trip to New York was a wild one. They got tickets to see Stella's nephew in "Annie Get Your Gun" on Broadway, went backstage and met the stars. Later on the trip they went to the studio broadcast starring their friend Rosie O'Donnell who gave Ina a lovely peck on the cheek.

Bev Hickok and Doreen Brand plan to spend New Year's on Catalina Island—sounds romantic! Better stick together to keep warm.

Overheard at the Women's Philharmonic concert:

After a stunning performance by a gorgeous 6-foot tall Russian woman playing a 16th century Guanieri cello *Natalie Zarchin* turned to her friends and said: "Boy, I wouldn't mind changing places with that cello for awhile."

Rumor has it that *Dotty Fowler*, who was dressed to the nines, was seen in a church in San Lorenzo on Friday the 13th! How strange? Then it was overheard that she was there to introduce the Reverend Kay Wellington to the crowd who had gathered at a GLOBE dinner to honor her, for her Community Service. She still cut a dashing figure.

—*Sidney Poufte*



Prominent Member Departed

Doris June Wilkins,

a professional artist, died after a short illness on Saturday, October 14, 2000, in her San Leandro home. She was 73. She was a member of Lavender Seniors and WOFF.

Born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Doris was a sculptor and painter. Her art was on display at the LGBTQ Lighthouse Community Center in Hayward as part of the Opening Celebration in July, 2000. Doris studied art at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri in the School of Fine Arts, graduating with her BA in 1948. Doris taught art to children at Central Institute of the Deaf in St. Louis for many years. Over the years her unique work has been exhibited all over St. Louis and the San Francisco Bay Area.

Her artistic style evolved over the many years of living in an ever-changing world. Our most visible legacy from Doris is the logo that she designed for Lavender Seniors – used among other places, in our newsletter and brochures.

Her friends say she could fix anything. She also enjoyed the outdoors, camping, walking and the performing arts.

She is survived by her partner of five years, Hope Greene of San Leandro.

Memorial contributions to the American Lung Association, 295 27th Street, Oakland, CA 94607, are preferred.

—*Marvin Burrows*

Book Review

Reviewed by *Frank Howell*

Politics of Gay Rights

Edited By Craig Rimmerman,
Kenneth Wald, and Clyde Wilcox

University of Chicago Press, Paperback

Only in recent years has the public began to pay meaningful attention to lavender politics. Craig Rimmerman, Professor of political science at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, and two of his colleagues have gathered together a penetrating anthology of viewpoints on all aspects of gay politics.

We can only take a quick sampling. Rimmerman offers an informative survey of the major gay organizations such as the Human Rights Organization, (staff of sixty, budget of ten million dollars, and membership of 175,000) and The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (staff of twenty-two, budget of over two million dollars).

Keith Boykin analyzes the situation regarding blacks in gay politics. There are differences between white and black interests. Whites tend to fight for issues like gay marriage; Blacks are more drawn to fundamental economic issues and affirmative action.

John Green and Didi Herman confront the nature of right wing opposition to the gay and lesbian agenda. Some small businesses oppose gay rights because of the costs involved, but the heart of the opposition is generated by the Christian Fundamentalists groups. Some opposition is generalized such as the Christian Coalition, others are local in nature, such as local ballot issues, and others are specialized and are formed to oppose gays and do nothing else.

Gregory Lewis and Jonathan Edelson examine the politics of attempting to pass ENDA (gay job rights) and fighting against DOMA (anti gay marriage).

The politics of gay and lesbian rights at the state and local level are explored by James Button. He finds that many of these struggles are necessary because of the lack of federal legislation.

There are also penetrating articles on the U. S. Congress, the Supreme Court, and also the state of public opinion regarding homosexuality. Attitudes have been largely negative in the past but attitudes have rapidly changed since 1992.

Readers will find a lot of food for thought in these pages about where we stand in the public arena. Read it and learn. We remain ignorant at our peril. §

—*Frank Howell*

BOOKS

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President's Report

(continued from page one)

These panels have presented in a broad range of venues, including one for a national Catholic church conference in Oakland. To quote again from one of our grants, "Agencies and providers report that because of our outreach and training, they have greater knowledge of an issue that they either had not previously considered or knew little about. Providers — and as we grow older our members become dependent on these services — have been receptive to learning what they can do in their own agencies, incorporating our suggestions into practice, and referring clients to our program when appropriate."

Others of our stalwart volunteer band work behind the scenes in the office at the Community Church keeping members and friends updated on our activities. Overseeing all of this and taking responsibility for the organization as a whole is the Lavender Seniors Board of Directors, many of whom have served loyally for years. They meet once a month and quietly do their committee work.

November is the month we celebrate our sixth birthday at Lavender Seniors! Please join us for this very special event to honor our volunteers. We will be serving wine and soft drinks along with tantalizing finger foods of various sorts.

In February, 2001 we expect to put on another major event around Valentine's Day; this event may surprise and delight you. We'll provide more information about this event very soon.

Bert Hendriksen is the new editor of *Lavender Notes*. Frank Howell has retired to his many other activities, including Vice-President of our Board of Directors and chairman of the nominations committee. Thank you, Frank, for your dedication and the strength of your beliefs. And welcome, Bert. Anyone wishing to contribute to the newsletter may send or e-mail to the office and Nancy will gather them for transmission to the editor.

—*Dotty Fowler*

Thermodynamics of Hell

The following is an actual question given on a University of Washington chemistry mid term. The answer by one student was so profound that the professor shared it with colleagues, via the Internet.

Bonus Question: Is Hell exothermic (gives off heat) or endothermic (absorbs heat)?

Most of the students wrote proofs of their beliefs using Boyle's Law, (gas cools off when it expands and heats up when it is compressed) or some variant. One student, however, wrote the following:

First, we need to know how the mass of Hell is changing in time. So we need to know the rate that souls are moving into Hell and the rate they are leaving. I think that we can safely assume that once a soul gets to Hell, it will not leave. Therefore, no souls are leaving.

As for how many souls are entering Hell, let's look at the different religions that exist in the world today. Some of these religions state that if you are not a member of their religion, you will go to Hell. Since there are more than one of these religions and since people do not belong to more than one religion, we can project that all souls go to Hell. With birth and death rates as they are, we can expect the number of souls in Hell to increase exponentially.

Now, we look at the rate of change of the volume in Hell because Boyle's Law states that in order for the temperature and pressure in Hell to stay the same, the volume of Hell has to expand proportionately as souls are added.

This gives two possibilities:

1. If Hell is expanding at a slower rate than the rate at which souls enter Hell, then the temperature and pressure in Hell will increase until all Hell breaks loose.

2. Of course, if Hell is expanding at a rate faster than the increase of souls in Hell, then the temperature and pressure will drop until Hell freezes over.

So which is it? If we accept the postulate given to me by Ms. Teresa Banyan during my Freshman year, that "It will be a cold day in Hell before I sleep with you," and take into account the fact that I still have not succeeded in having sexual relations with her, then option 2 cannot be true, and thus I am sure that Hell is exothermic and will not freeze.

—Anonymous

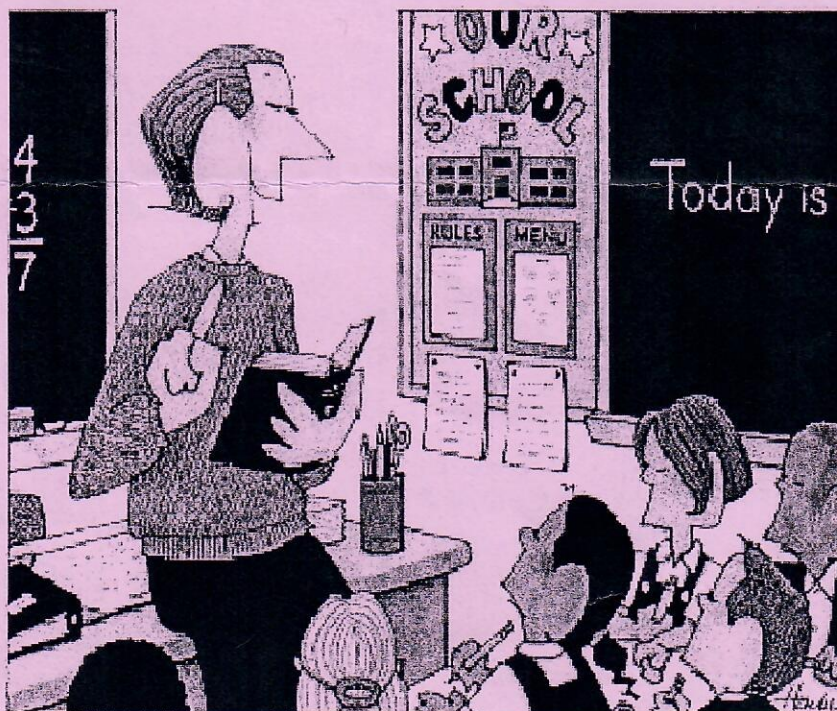
Anniversary Invite

Two of our outstanding Lavender Seniors, *Mama Portugal* (Don Silva) and *Bill Baillie* present their 34th Anniversary Party on Saturday, November 18, 7 – 11 P.M. at Rumors, 22554 Main Street, Hayward. Please come and have fun! There will be raffles, food, auction, and entertainment.

No gifts, please, but charitable donations will be accepted. All monies raised that evening will be given to our Brothers and Sisters with AIDS in Tijuana, Mexico. Checks should be made out to the Tijuana AIDS Grant. §

Thanksgiving Shake-and-Bake Auction

The Royal Grand Ducal Council of Alameda County is having a Thanksgiving Shake and Bake Auction and mini-show on Sunday, November 12, 4 – 8 P.M. at the Rainbow Room, 21859 Mission Blvd., Hayward. Come enjoy the food and show. The Royal Grand Ducal Council has been one of our most faithful supporters. §



"If Heather has two mommies, and each of them has two brothers, and one of those brothers has another man for a 'roommate,' how many uncles does Heather have?"

Calendar of Activities

Presentation of the Month: **My Life with Pets** — of the four-footed variety and otherwise.
(*Your active participation is requested.*)

Saturday, 12 Noon • Monthly Meeting • Program at 1:00 • November 11

If your name begins with the letters A through H — Bring a Dessert

I through P — Bring a Main Dish

Q through Z — Bring a Salad

San Leandro BART station shuttle is available. Call voice mail day before: 667-9655 to arrange pickup.

Coffee Connection Socials

Tri-cities Area
(Fremont, Newark and Union City)

First Wednesday every month

10:30 A.M. — Noon

November 1

Call *Donna* (510) 651-7305

North Oakland Area
(Berkeley, Albany, El Cerrito)

3rd Thursday every month

11:00 A.M. — Noon, November 16

Emeryville Senior Center

4321 Salem Street

Call *Doreen* at (510) 524-6206

Hayward Area

Wednesday, November 29

(5th Wed. this month only)

1:30 P.M.

Senior Center

22325 N. 3rd Street, Hayward

Program: 'Sharing Life Stories'

Call *John E.* at (510) 583-9638

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 Broadmoor Boulevard, San Leandro, (510) 633-0398.

Fellows of East Bay

Second Sunday, 5:30 – 8:30 P.M.

Social Club for mature men and their admirers. Monthly Potluck dinner and social held the second Sunday of every month at **Oak Center Towers**, 1515 Market Street, Oakland. Bring \$3 door charge and food or drink to share.

Nota Bene:

The "High Teas" at the Lighthouse Community Center in Hayward will not be held in November and December due to the 3rd Sunday being so close to the holidays. We plan to resume these in January, 2001. If you would like these **Teas** to continue, please call Lavender Senior's office at (510) 667-9655. *Your feedback is important for this activity to continue.*

Lavender Senior Hosts: *Frank Howell* and *Marvin Burrows*.

English High Tea

3:00 – 4:30

Third Sunday (resumes? Jan. 21, 2001)

Lighthouse Community Center

1217 A Street, Hayward, CA 94541 • (510) 881-8167

Sponsored by *Lavender Seniors*