



LAVENDER NOTES

Newsletter of Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

Volume 5, No.12 – December 2000

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

Senior Outreach Volunteer Support Meeting

1st Thursday, every month: Dec. 7, 12 Noon
1395 Bancroft, San Leandro Community Church
Bring a favorite dish to share. Holiday goodies provided.
RSVP *Joyce Pierson*: (510) 667-9655

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East Bay Women's Support Group, 55+

1st and 3rd Fridays (Dec. only), 1:15 – 3 P.M.
Pacific Center, 2717 Telegraph, Oakland

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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

(Please see other announces and activities on page 6 – 8.)

Workshop For Men on Issues Involving Intimacy

On December 2 a meeting for men on safe sex and other issues will be held at the Lighthouse Community Center in Hayward. The center is located at 1217 A Street (510-881-8167).

The meeting will be led by Merle Yost, a nationally known psychotherapist who is in private practice in Oakland. Yost is the author of several books, including *Reflections For Managers*, *Reflections For The Workplace*, and *When Love Lasts Forever*.

This Saturday event will be held from 1 – 3 P.M.

SENIOR SUPPORT GROUP SET TO START

Feel lonely or isolated from other gay seniors? Need some social stimulation? Then mark your calendar for January 12th (Friday). A senior support group meeting will commence at the Lighthouse Community Center at 1:30 – 3:30. The community center is located at 1217 A Street, in Hayward (510-881-8167). The group is designed for both men and women.

The support group will be facilitated by Lester Marks, a retired medical social worker. Lester is from New York and has done volunteer work at Pacific Center in Berkeley. He plans to have the group meet twice a month.

Lester wants feedback from people over fifty. He would like to know the following:

1. What age group are most of your friends in? 50s? 60s? 70s?
2. Do you know disabled people?
3. Are the seniors you know mobile? Are they isolated? Do they get around?
4. Would it be all right for Lester to speak with seniors you know?

Lester's e-mail address is: SLAM7@ix.netcom.com. Or you may leave a message with the Lavender Seniors at 667-9655.



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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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. §

Elder Law Forum Held

On last November 15, a number of us Lavender Seniors, along with many other LGBT seniors, attended the Elder Law Forum, given by the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Oakland.

The panel of four speakers from the NCLR included those with legal and medical backgrounds and expertise. They opened the forum by giving short presentations of the basic issues and problems faced by us LGBT seniors as we reach the time in our lives when we need to realistically plan for debilitating or terminal illnesses, and to make sure that our wishes as to how we want our lives to end, and how to protect and distribute property and other assets after we die, are carried out properly.

Since we in the LGBT community are without the legal protections that automatically come with marriage or with

blood relationships, we need to take specific measures, primarily by means of what is called an "Advance Health Care Directive," and a "Durable Power of Attorney for Finances."

The panel presentations were followed by questions from those in attendance and covered a multitude of potential problems and concerns. The NCLR plans to give more of these forums next year, and we will inform you of them; meanwhile they can be reached in San Francisco at 415-392-6257, or you may talk to one of us who attended the forum. The NCLR is to be greatly commended for providing this invaluable service to our community.

This free forum was not only very informative but well conducted and enjoyable, in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere.

—John Ellefsen

'Commitment Ceremony'

Lavender Seniors is going forward with plans to celebrate a Commitment Ceremony during February next year for members of our group. We encourage our members to participate, either as someone who would like to commit, or as a member of the committee to plan and carry out this joyous celebration.

If you are interested in helping to make this a successful event, please contact Nancy Fugett, our administrative assistant, at 510-667-9655.

Advertisement Rates:

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

This newsletter was created in
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¡Happy Birthday!

Hope J. Greene

December 7

Nance Rogers

December 8

Carly Rivers

December 9

Mel Scontrino

December 11

Jim Junkin

December 13

Joyce Pierson

December 15

Bonnie J. MacKenzie

December 20

Tom Eyring

December 22

Bobbie Jarvis

December 23

Gerson Goodkind

December 24

John M. Rasche

December 25

¡Feliz Cumpleaños!

Senior Outreach Services – Volunteers Needed for 2001

Building Community for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender Seniors throughout the East Bay is the major focus and mission for Lavender Seniors. The mission of the Senior Outreach Services is to reach out to those of us who are not connected, especially Seniors who are socially isolated; those who have lost touch with former friends and kinships because of health reasons, the hardships that folks experience in advancing years.

We have a wonderful team of trained, dedicated Friendly Visitor/Telephone/and Panel Volunteers who have done an outstanding job during the past year. Our goal for 2001 is to train additional *Volunteers* in underserved areas, Oakland, Alameda, San Lorenzo, Fremont, Castro Valley, San Leandro, and Livermore.

Please consider doing this very important service in your community. Several current *Volunteers* have agreed that being a part of the Senior Outreach Services has given them a new sense of belonging to our LGBT community in ways that enrich their lives and others.

The strength and vitality of Lavender Seniors comes from the many LGBT folks of all ages who have joined together in a common goal of creating a community where we can be ourselves, in safety and in the spirit of good will to all peoples. Call: (510) 667-9655 for information on how you can become a **Senior Outreach Volunteer!**—*Joyce Pierson*



"I never thought about it . . . I guess he's some kind of philanthropist or something."

Book Review

Reviewed by *Frank Howell*

Brave Journeys: Profiles in Gay and Lesbian Courage

By David Mixer and Dennis Bailey
Bantam Books, \$24.95

Role models! Role models! Gay youth are desperately in need of role models. We need look no further than this inspiring study by David Mixer, who has been a prominent backer of Bill Clinton. Newsweek has called him "the most powerful gay man in America."

Mixer has picked out six worthy examples of gay men and women who have gone the extra mile and sacrificed their lives for the greater good of lavender America.

Let us begin with old home week: Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin, long residents of the Bay Area, literally created the lesbian rights movement. They started out in the repressive atmosphere of the early 1950s when people didn't even think of organizing, let alone coming out of the closet. Times were dangerous; jobs could easily be lost. Conformity and anti-communism were the popular slogans. All else was treason. But Phyllis and Del founded the **Daughters of Bilitis** in 1955 and soon *The Ladder* emerged, a newsletter that lighted the dark path. Leaders come and go, but Phyllis and Del are still in the trenches leading the charge. The reader will enjoy the lively account of the police attempt to harass the Council on Religion and The Homosexual.

Ian McKellen, noted British lion of theater and film, blazed a trail by coming out at the height of his career by appearing in *Bent*, a daring exploration of gay love and the holocaust performed on the London stage. He organized a battle against the Thatcher regime in the 1980s when conservatives passed the draconian Clause 28.

McKellen went on to star in the film version of *Bent* and the 1998 hit *Gods and Monsters*. He also made a name for himself bringing Shakespeare to the hungry masses.

Roberta Achtenberg, another Bay Area notable, made a name for herself as an expert attorney for gay rights. She and her partner, Mary Morgan, a judge, adopted a child and inspired others to do the same. But her striking moment of historic fame came when she was nominated by President

Clinton for the post of Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. This required Senate confirmation. Senator Jesse Helms, notorious homophobe from North Carolina, loudly campaigned against her appointment and referred to her as "that damned lesbian." She was confirmed.

Achtenberg served as chairman of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and continues to be active.

Tracy Thorne received top honors in the U. S. Navy flight program. He graduated fourth in his class at the military academy. In spite of his outstanding record he was dismissed for being gay. He came out of his macho closet on the television program *Nightline* and was interviewed by Ted Koppel. After a brave struggle in military hearings, Thorne and his lover became lawyers for the **Human Rights Campaign** in Washington, D. C.

Dianne Hardy Garcia, the champion of gay and lesbian rights in Texas, has long fought for the passage for AIDS legislation and **hate crimes bills**. She has served as the executive director of the **Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby** of Texas. She exposed bigots who gained an "adrenaline high" from beating up gay men. She gained much valuable lobbying experience from working with veteran Texas legislator Glenn Maxey. Representing human rights in a place like Texas is a challenging job in a class by itself.

Of all the sagas of civil rights struggles the chapter that touched my heart the most was the case of Elaine Noble. Elaine, the first openly gay elected official to hold a state office (1970s). She ran in a strong Catholic district and emerged as a strong champion of consumer and gay issues. She was popular with voters in her district. But the personal price she paid was almost beyond endurance. She received forty threatening telephone calls per day, her car tires were slashed, a gun was pointed at her, and Betty Friedan, of the National Organization of Women, attacked her.

Elaine ran for Congress and lost. Bone weary of the ceaseless struggle, she finally retired from public life.

Reading *Brave Journeys* will give you a lift and help all of us to appreciate those who brought us to the present moment. We stand on the shoulders of giants. We must never take them for granted.

—Frank Howell

BOOKS

Once upon a time . . .

there was a frog who lived in a lake all by himself. He had been given special powers by a local witch. One day he finally ventured out of the lake to get his first glimpse of the world outside.

The first thing he saw was a bear chasing a rabbit, and so he called out to them and asked them to stop. Then he said to them: "I am a magical frog and since you are the first two animals I have ever seen, I am going to grant you both three wishes. You will each take turns using them, and you have to use them now."

The bear, being greedy, went first. "I would like for every bear in this forest to be female except for me." A magical sound and it was done.

Then the rabbit. "I would like a helmet." This confused both the frog and

the bear, but after a magical sound there was a helmet.

It was the bear's turn again. "I would like for every bear in the neighboring forest to be female." A magical sound and it was done. The rabbit went again. "I would like a motorcycle." Both the frog and the bear wondered why the rabbit didn't just ask for a lot of money with which he could buy himself a motorcycle, but after a magical sound there was a motorcycle.

The bear took his last wish. "I would like for all the bears in the world to be female except for me." A magical sound and it was done. The rabbit then put on his helmet, started up the motorcycle, and said "I wish the bear was gay" and took off, like a bat out of hell.

—Anonymous

THE HAT

The old lady was standing at the railing of the cruise ship holding her hat on tight so that it would not blow off in the wind.

A gentleman approached her and said "Pardon me, madam. I do not intend to be forward, but did you know that your dress is blowing up in this high wind?"

"Yes, I know," said the lady, "I need both hands to hold onto this hat."

"But, madam, you must know that your privates are exposed!" said the gentleman in earnest.

The woman looked down, then back up at the man and replied, "Sir, anything you see down there is 85 years old. I just bought this hat yesterday!"

At The Beach

A mother and father took their six-year-old son to a nude beach. As the boy walked along the beach, he noticed that some of the ladies had boobs bigger than his mother's, and asked her why. She told her son, "The bigger they are, the dumber the person is."

The boy, pleased with the answer, goes to play in the ocean but he returns to tell his mother that many of the men have larger "units" than his dad. His mother replied, "The bigger they are, the dumber the person is." Again satisfied with this answer, the boy returns to the ocean to play.

Shortly after, the boy returned again. He promptly told his mother, "Daddy is talking to the dumbest girl on the beach, and the longer he talks, the dumber he gets."

(Thank you, *Stella*.)

Newsletter Mailing Party

Thursday, Dec. 28, 10:30 A.M.

1395 Bancroft Avenue
San Leandro Community Church

Call *Dot Hallinan* if you would like to help: 667-9655

The Handkerchief

A wife hands her husband a silk handkerchief and asks him "Doesn't this belong to your secretary?"

"Where did you find that?" he stutters.

"I didn't," she answers. "The mail man found it on your night stand."



"The love ballad I'm about to sing will pose a lot of uncomfortable questions about gender identity and class-based issues. I hope you can handle it."

Volunteer Appreciation Event

On the afternoon of November 5, the Lavender Seniors hosted an elegant volunteer appreciation event at the Montclair Cultural Arts Club. Food, drink and socializing was very much in evidence as most of the 27 volunteers who energize and carry out our multi-pronged program met together to receive kudos for their contributions to our community.

Volunteers take part in five different areas of the program; they are friendly visitors, phone supporters, panel presenters (appearing with a team to train mainstream care providers), office volunteers, and volunteers who are members of the Board. At this event our organization presented an award to the retiring Collaborative Coordinator, Nancy Flaxman, for her dedication and leadership and for the special role she played in the development of the program for the Lavender Seniors.

Nancy will continue her work in senior programming at Spectrum of Marin, one of our Collaborative partners. Many thanks to all who helped to make this event a success. The following individuals received recognition for their work:

<i>Carol Beth</i>	<i>Frank Howell</i>	<i>Angela Niles</i>
<i>Marvin Burrows</i>	<i>Ernest Hunt</i>	<i>Ray Robb</i>
<i>Pipi Diamond</i>	<i>Duane Imhoff</i>	<i>Jim Silva</i>
<i>John Ellefsen</i>	<i>Bobbie Jarvis</i>	<i>Ann Smith</i>
<i>Dottie Fowler</i>	<i>Bob Lindeborg</i>	<i>Dorothy Taylor</i>
<i>Gerson Goodkind</i>	<i>Ruth Michaels</i>	<i>Michael Walensky</i>
<i>Dot Hallinan</i>	<i>Donna Montgomery</i>	<i>Myra Williams</i>
<i>Bert Hendriksen</i>	<i>Bruce Moody</i>	<i>Natalie Zarchin</i>
<i>Bea Howard</i>	<i>Ina Mae Murri</i>	

More Activities of Interest

The Royal Grand Ducal Council

of Alameda County has two fund-raising events in December, which we encourage Lavender Seniors to attend and support: *One* "The Ducal Gospel Get Down," a show, auction, and raffle, on Sunday, Dec. 3, 5 – 10 P.M. at the Bench and Bar, 120 11th St. in Oakland. *Two* "The Duchess IX Birthday and Christmas Party" on Sunday, Dec. 17, 5 – ? P.M., also at the Bench and Bar.

Entertaining Fund-Raiser

by one of Lavender Seniors supporters is: Jeff Miranda, Mr. Alameda County Leather 2000, and Bianca Vigil, Ms. Alameda County Leather 2000 present "The Seventh Annual Santa Slave Auction" on Saturday, Dec. 9, 3 – 6 P.M. at Rumors, 2254 Main St., Hayward. Proceeds for this benefit will go to the Lambda Youth Group in Hayward, and the Hayward High Gay-Straight Alliance.

Winter Discussion Series in San Anselmo

Discussions for LGBT senior women and men will be facilitated by Nancy Flaxman, senior services coordinator; they will take place at Spectrum in San Anselmo (1000 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard) on the second Tuesday of the month, from 1 – 2:30 P.M.

Let's get together, share who we are, and get to know each other. We do not often have opportunities to talk about the past, present, and future of our lives as l/g/b/t seniors. When we come together to talk about ourselves, our struggles and our joys, we affirm our lives as l/g/b/t women and men.

Our Lives – Tuesday, January 9

How We Are Viewed – Tuesday, February 13

What is Important – Tuesday, March 13

For more information, you may call Nancy Flaxman at Spectrum: 415-457-1115, ext. 213.

Calendar of Activities

Annual Celebration — Please bring non-perishable food items to be donated to those in need.

Bring a wrapped gift (under \$5) and join in the fun of our annual Greed Game.

Saturday, 12 Noon • Potluck and Holiday Celebration • December 9

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 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

December 6

Call Donna (510) 651-7305

North Oakland Area

(Berkeley, Albany, El Cerrito)

3rd Thursday every month

11:00 A.M. – Noon, December 21

Emeryville Senior Center

4321 Salem Street

Call Doreen at (510) 524-6206

Hayward Area

Wednesday, December 27

(4th Wednesday each month)

1:30 P.M.

Senior Center

22325 N. 3rd Street, Hayward

Program: *'What you liked best about the year 2000?'*

Call John 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.

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*

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 the Lavender Seniors office at 667-9655. *Your feedback is important for this activity to continue.*

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

THE 8TH ANNUAL EVENING OF KUNG PAO KOSHER COMEDY™!

Saturday – Monday, December 23–25, 2000

Dec 23 @ 8pm at The Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness @ McAllister, SF \$25

For December 23 comedy show tix: (415) 392-4400 or www.tickets.com

Dec 24 & 25 @ New Asia Restaurant, 772 Pacific Ave. (Grant/Stockton), in SF's Chinatown

Attend a Dinner Show @ 6pm, \$45

7-course Chinese banquet & comedy show!

or

Come to the Cocktail Show @ 9:30 pm, \$30

Hors d'oeuvres, soft drink, & comedy show

For Dec 24 & 25, tear off the attached card and return it with your check or credit card info.



MARC MARON
Comedy Central, HBO



PAGE HURWITZ
SF/LA Comedian & Writer



BRIAN MALOW
A&E's Comedy on the Road



LISA GEDDIG
Your Hostess

Questions? Call (415) 522-3737. Visit our new World Wide Web site: www.koshercomedy.com

Partial proceeds benefit: Montefiore Senior Center; Lesbian & Gay Senior Services Collaborative

Note: This is a fund-raising event for Lavender Seniors!

KUNG PAO KOSHER COMEDY TICKETS Order Form (for Dec. 24 & 25 only)

Tear off this card & send in envelope with your check or credit card info (same address below) or e-mail your order to: kpc@comcast.net

Purchase Your Tickets Early! All shows sell out. And yes, Dinner is the most popular.

of **Dinner Show** tix @ \$45 ea. Includes: 7-course Chinese banquet, tax & tip \$ _____

(Please circle one) **Dec. 24th, Dec. 25th 6:00 - 8:30 PM**

of those are **Veggie Meals** Veggie buffet supplements the fixed menu

of **Cocktail Show** tix @ \$30 ea. Includes: Hors d'oeuvres and one soft drink \$ _____

(Please circle one) **Dec. 24th, Dec. 25th 9:30 - 11:00 PM**

check here to reserve a table of 10

Attendees are seated at banquet tables for 10 • Entire tables of 10 can be reserved (sorry, no partial tables and no more than 10 per table) • Otherwise, seating at tables is General Admission

• **Doors open 1/2 hour prior to show** • **DINNER SERVED PROMPTLY AT 6:00 PM**

In the event of our 1st choice not being available, please list your 2nd and 3rd choices.
2nd choice: _____ 3rd choice: _____

Service Charge: \$1 per Ticket \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Ph: _____

E-mail: _____

Credit Card # (MC or Visa only): _____

Please send to: Kung Pao Kosher Comedy, PO Box 410503, SF, CA 94141

Exp: _____

☐ Check Enclosed