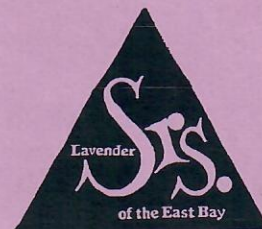




# Lavender Notes



**VOL 6, No 2**

**NEWSLETTER OF LAVENDER SENIORS OF EAST BAY**

**P.O. Box 6044, Fremont, California, 94538 Voice Mail: (510) 247-2406**

**February 2000**

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

## Coffee Connections Socials Expanded

Volunteers will be staffing four new locations for social hours for Lavender Seniors and LGBT Seniors living in the East Bay. The informal coffee hours will be for men & women in a safe and friendly place. The purpose is to meet and have fun getting acquainted with others in our LGBT communities. monthly get-together

### February Coffee Connections Socials:

#### TRI-CITIES AREA - Fremont, Newark & Union City

**1st Wednesday every month**

**February 2nd, 10 - 11:30 AM**

**Location: Call Donna at (510) 651-7305 for directions**

#### SAN LEANDRO AREA

**4th Wednesday every month**

**February 28th, 1:30 - 3PM (note time change)**

**Community Church, 1386 Bancroft**

**Public Transit: Bus stop at Bancroft & Callan**

#### BERKELEY, ALBANY, EL CERRITO, NORTH OAKLAND

#### Area

**3rd Wednesday, every month**

**February 16th, 10 - 11:30 AM**

**Location: Call Carol Beth at (510) 525-8540**

#### CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

**2ND and 4TH Monday 1:30 TO 3:00 P.M.**

**Rainbow Community Center**

**Call Dot for information (925) 829-7379**

**Hayward Area: Look for the Hayward Area site in March**

Volunteer Friendly Visiting and Outreach programs off to an inspiring and rousing start. The set-up and decorating of our office upstairs in the San Leandro Community Church still shows that unique "Rosamaria glow and sparkle." We wish her and her loved ones the very best in the future and hope that she will come back whenever possible to our potluck. Rosamaria, from all of us a heartfelt "thank you" and a big collective hug!

As announced in the December Newsletter, we were fortunate to persuade Joyce Pierson to become the Interim Site Coordinator to take care of evaluating and matching volunteers and participants in the Friendly Visiting program, and to do the outreach work with local mainstream senior service agencies, with the continued assistance of Dot Hallinan and Marvin Burrows in the office. We're happy to say that Joyce has agreed to continue as Interim Coordinator as long as necessary (after her return from a 3-week vacation in Hawaii). We are still looking for more volunteers to help in the office part-time. And again we'd like to remind all our readers that if you know of any GLBT senior who might benefit from our visiting and phone contact programs, please give Joyce or the office a call.

*(Joyce will be on vacation from January 23 through February 15th)*

## February Meeting

**Happy Together or Happily Single?**

In honor of Valentines Day, we're having an informal session of story-telling and discussion on the subject of relationships and not having relationships at our stage of life.

The joys, the sorrows, the pitfalls, the special feelings that emerge whether we are or are not involved with a partner, whether we wish we were in a relationship or prefer to remain single.

Our open discussion will be kicked off by brief presentations from several members of our new speakers' panel to give us some practice in telling our stories succinctly in front of an audience. After those introductory remarks, we'll encourage everybody to share their thoughts, feelings, and experiences.



### Rosamaria Zayas Resigns

### Joyce Pierson Appointed

*by John Ellefsen*

The Lavender Seniors Volunteer Coordinator, Rosamaria Zayas was ordered by her doctor to take disability leave beginning August 23, 1999. The initial seven-week period was extended until after the beginning of the new year. Rosamaria did regain a good deal of her health, but at last she decided, after consultations with her doctor and family and considering her own present needs and goals, that it would be best for her not to attempt to return to the position. So regretfully she has resigned.

We are happy to see her feeling much better, and understand her decision. At the same time, we are very sorry to lose her vision, enthusiasm, dedication, and that special soulful warmth she radiated from the very beginning of her time with us. She got the

**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:

The newsletter of:  
**Lavender Seniors of East Bay,**  
 P.O. Box 6044,  
 Fremont, CA, 94538,  
 Voice Mail: (510) 247-2406  
[lavenderseniors@email.msn.com](mailto: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, 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 Nagy, Ray Robb, 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 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:

Editor, Jim Joslin,  
 1311 Webster St., E213,  
 Alameda, CA 94501,  
 (510) 522-6395,  
 E-mail: [joslin1@gte.net](mailto:joslin1@gte.net)

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

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 Pouffe*

▼If anyone has pictures taken at the Oakland - East Bay Gay Men's Chorus performance at our December potluck, please send copies to John Ellefsen at P.O. Box 27, Hayward, CA, 94543, so he can send them to the chorus as another way to say thank you for a most enjoyable and well-done concert.

▼Nostalgia's like a grammar lesson: the present is tense and the past perfect

▼The Lighthouse Community Center is considering a location that is not fully handicapped compliant. They need some input from anyone who has experience in using or installing those facilities. Contact Marvin Burrows (510) 537-8731 if you can help.

▼John Ellefsen got a laugh while watching a re-run of The Golden Girls on TV the other night. One of the girl's smart remarks: "These aren't the best years of our lives, they are the last! Or as the Romans said: Carpe Diem. Enjoy the day before it slips away!

▼Going to church does not make you a Christian any more than going to McDonald's makes you a hamburger.

▼One of my spies recently asked Natalie Zarchin how her new relationship was coming along, a big smile covered her face and she replied: "Oh, we're still on our honeymoon!" Long may it last, dear Natalie!

▼Action request: Call or write Gov Gray Davis to thank him for the gay-supportive bills he did sign into law this past legislative session, and to urge him to take a strong stand against Prop. 22, the Knight Initiative which threatens to reverse or weaken all of our hard-won gains: 916-445-2841 or [graydavis@governor.ca.gov](mailto:graydavis@governor.ca.gov).

▼And, speaking of recent California laws. We can now register our domestic partnerships. The forms can be downloaded from the Internet at [www.ss.ca.gov](http://www.ss.ca.gov), under "special services." If you have trouble getting the proper form, contact Frank Howell, Marvin Burrows, or John Ellefsen, and they will help you.

▼Advice from another spy. Only sleep with someone you love or can say you love without smirking

▼Dotty Fowler returned safely from another trip to Arizona. We understand she visits a trailer park in the desert for lesbians only. Hope you had fun Dotty.

▼On the evening of February 15th-10:00 p m - Frontline - Assault on Gay America,"explores the roots of homophobia in our churches, schools, and communities." Also-Immediately afterwards, same evening, 11:00-In The Life-a look at the British tv sit com Queer As Folk, plus other items of interest.

**VOTE NO                      VOTE NO                      VOTE NO**

### Prop 22 - The Knight Initiative

*Jim Joslin is Moving On.....*

*by Sidney Pouffe*

Jim Joslin, **Lavender Notes** editor and data base manager, is joining the migration to Palm Springs, a Mecca for senior gay men. The move is effective April 1, 2000. He will resign as of that date. He has served as editor of the **Lavender Notes** since 1995. Jim also edited the newsletter for FELLOWS of East Bay since 1993. He will be able to mail the April 2000 newsletter but another editor will be needed starting with the May 2000 edition..

It is recommended that the data base and editing responsibilities be shared by two or more people. Computer skills would be helpful but not essential. Jim is willing to provide consultation, training, and resource materials. Resources include a large collection of jokes, one liners, articles, book reviews, quotes, and web sites for senior club and health information.

Editing the newsletter is a wonderful opportunity to provide a valuable service to our gay brothers and sisters. It is an important way for the organization to maintain a sense of community and sharing. Those interested in helping in this way are asked to contact the Board of Directors. If the job can be shared by several people, it would not be a heavy burden on one person.



## Jesus Is Watching

A burglar broke into a house one night. He beamed his flashlight around looking for valuables, and when he picked up a CD player to place in his sack, strange, disembodied voice echoed from the dark saying, "Jesus is watching you."

He nearly jumped out of his skin, clicked his flash light out and froze. When he heard nothing more after a bit, he shook his head, clicked the light back on and

began searching for more valuables. Just as he pulled the stereo out so he could disconnect the wires, clear as a bell he heard, "Jesus is watching you." Freaked out, he shined his light around frantically, looking for the source of the voice. Finally, in the corner of the room, his flashlight beam came to rest on a parrot. "Did you say that?" he hissed at the parrot. "Yep,"

the parrot confessed, "I'm just trying to warn you." The burglar relaxed. "Warn me, huh? Who the hell are you?" "Moses," replied the bird. "Moses" the burglar laughed. "What kind of stupid people would name a parrot Moses?" "Probably the same kind of people that would name a rottweiler Jesus," the bird answered. *(Submitted by Bobbie Jarvis)*

## A Big Thank You to the Gill Foundation!

Those of us who were able to attend the 12th Annual Creating Change Conference, sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, which was held in Oakland Nov. 10-14, 1999, heard about the Gill Foundation, which is based in Colorado. Its mission is to fund and in other ways help support GLBT and HIV/AIDS programs. In conjunction with the Conference, the Gill Foundation offered a special project, the "Hometown Heroes Challenge Campaign," in order to encourage Conference attendees to make donation to a GLBT organization in their home area. Within certain limits and stipulations, the Gill Foundation would then not only match, but doubly match the amounts! We got to work on it and eventually accumulated a total of \$1350. We want to especially thank (in alphabetical order) Meg Bruynell and Bobbie Jarvis; Dick Colton; Jim Joslin; Stella Lopez-Armijo and Ina Mae Murri; Donna Montgomery; Margaret Shepherd, Natalie Zarchin, and the four who attended the conference and submitted the grant applications: Marvin Burrows and his partner Bill; Doty Fowler; Dot Hallinan; Frank Howell; and John Ellefsen.

John Ellefsen started to contact other Lavender Seniors for possible contributions, but he ran out of time to

meet the deadline. The good news is that The Gill Foundation did award us with a total grant of \$2700. The grand total was \$4,050! We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Gill Foundation. Especially for small, grass-roots, volunteer-run organizations like ours, such a grant is a tremendous boost.

As Lavender Seniors gradually expands its services, we need more money to support our efforts to reach out to others in our community. In the coming year we will extend our fund-raising efforts and try to make them as varied and enjoyable as possible. Fund-raising ideas will be most welcome. Contact any member of the Board of Directors or office staff.

## California Bills in Effect

AB 26, by Assembly member Carole Migden, would create a statewide domestic partnership registry with the Secretary of State. Domestic partners would include same-sex couples as well as unmarried opposite-sex couples over the age of 62. The bill would provide hospital visitation rights between domestic partners and would provide state and local employers the ability to offer health care coverage to the domestic partners of their employees and annuitants. (SPONSOR).

Status: 10/02/99 - Signed into law by Gov. Gray Davis; 10/10/99 -

Chaptered by Secretary of State: Chapter 588, Statutes of 1999

AB 537, by Assembly member Sheila Kuehl, would amend the California Education Code's general anti-discrimination and harassment provisions (Sections 200, 220, 66251, and 66270) to prohibit discrimination and harassment in the public schools and community colleges' programs and activities "regardless of any basis that is contained in the prohibition of hate crimes set forth in Penal Code Section 422.6(a)."á By referencing the current hate crimes statute, actual or perceived lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered students will be protected from discrimination and harassment. (SUPPORT).

Status: 10/02/99 û Signed into law by Gov. Gray Davis. 10/10/99 û Chaptered by Secretary of State: Chapter 598, Statutes of 1999.

AB 1001, by Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa, would move the provision prohibiting employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation from the Labor Code to the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA). In adding sexual orientation to FEHA, it would codify existing case law prohibiting housing discrimination based on sexual orientation. Status:

10/02/99 - Signed into law by Gov. Gray Davis; 10/10/99 û Chaptered by Secretary of State: Chapter 592, Statutes of 1999.



## BOOK REVIEW

by Frank Howell

### Wilde's Last Stand: Decadence, Conspiracy And The First World War

By Philip Hoare

Duckworth 1997

(British import, available at Different Light Bookstore,,San Francisco)

The fascination with Oscar Wilde and his ultimate tragedy never seems to abate (witness Gross Indecency and a film about his life currently in circulation).

But what came after the Wilde scandal, imprisonment and death? How were later generations affected? What legacy does the witty Irishman leave us?

Noel Pemberton Billing, a right wing combination of Newt Gingrich and "B-I Bob" of Orange County fame, ran a one man band attempting to save Great Britain from the lurid moral threats of the day such as homosexuality, foreign influences and general decline of social standards. He rallied against a production of Wilde's Salome featuring one Maude Adams, a rising matinee idol of her day. She was attacked by both Billing and also Lord Alfred Douglas (Bosie) the former lover of Wilde. Douglas changed radically after his old mentors death, becoming reactionary and haughty. He married and raised children.

A five day trial was held in June, 1918, which gripped all of England in suspense. There emerged rumors of an infamous black book containing the names of 47,000 English men and women who were accused of corrupting the British people and helping Germany to win the

war. The leading socialites of English society were implicated. Gay stigma hung over the trial like dense perfume.

Philip Hoare, noted reviewer, critic, and author of a recent biography of Noel Coward, delivers a chronicle of these events in an engaging and highly readable style, filled with subtle observation and telling detail.

Billing, a maverick inventor and politician, even attempted to implicate lesbians in a so called "Cult of The Clitoris."

Social upheavals caused by the war produced avant garde night clubs and artists of controversial taste. As a result of such a climate, the trial was widely reported in the press and Billing whipped public feeling into a frenzy. German iniquity was detected at every turn. Billing even bullied Prime Minister Lloyd George. He frequently referred to the evil influence of Wilde.

On the final day of the trial the jury was instructed to determine whether Salome was morally corrupting. All other questions were to be ignored.

Billing was found not guilty on all counts. But in later years the British turned against him and he was never again elected to public office. Like "B-I Bob,"

Billing shouted down the speaker in Parliament and he was bodily removed from the building.

Billing railed against the ghost of poor Oscar whenever possible, "This social leper, Oscar Wilde, had founded a cult of sodomy in this country and traveled from end to end of it perverting youth wherever he could. He left behind his works, so that his crimes may be perpetuated even after he was dead."

The final years of Lord Douglas were sad and frustrating. He continued to rant and rave and was widely viewed as a tiresome old crank. He was imprisoned for libel and finally expired in 1945, bitter and worn out. Maude Allen never regained fame as an actress, although she attempted many comebacks. She died in obscurity in Los Angeles in 1956.

The social inheritance of Oscar Wilde survived all obstacles. Gay artists and those of flamboyant gestures flourished quite handily. Noel Coward stands as a notable example, followed by an army of lavender folk such as Christopher Isherwood, W. H. Auden and Cecil Beaton.

Good night Oscar, wherever you are. The world is still safe for your kind.

## **The Southern Alameda County Gay and Lesbian 2000 Film Festival**

**Friday, March 3 and Saturday March 4, 2000**

**Chabot College's Little Theater in Hayward**

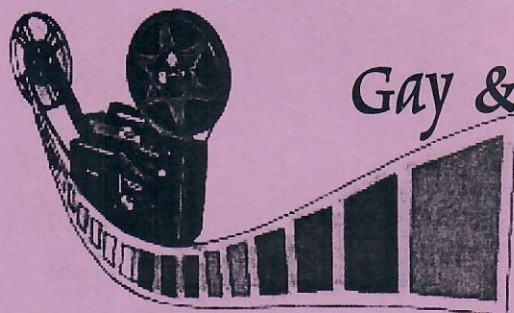
Friday night will feature a film by Rose Troche (Go Fish), titled "Bedrooms and Hallways." This sparkling comedy features a cast of talented actors in an utterly charming story of the trials and tribulations of lust and love. Saturday night will feature "Better Than Chocolate." This terrifically entertaining women's romantic comedy will take you far, far away to a land filled with color, music, sex and love. In addition, a short film will be shown each night, titles TBA.

Doors will open at 6:00 PM and the movies will begin at 7:00 PM. Tickets are \$8.00/night and refreshments will be provided. Call (510) 247-8208 for tickets or visit [www.plasticcow.com/filmfest](http://www.plasticcow.com/filmfest). There will also be an opportunity for GLBTQ groups to participate by having information tables at the event. Please call for information.

CommPre (Community Prevention of Alcohol-Related Problems), a program of Horizon Services, Inc. sponsors the film

festival as an opportunity for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning (GLBTQ) community to come together and socialize in an alcohol-free environment. CommPre is also working with many committed community members to establish a GLBTQ community center in Hayward (The Lighthouse Community Center). For more information about the film festival or the community center, call Darci Meyers at (510) 247-8208.





Southern Alameda County

Gay & Lesbian

2000

# Film Festival

Friday March 3 & Saturday March 4, 2000

Chabot College's Little Theater in Hayward

(doors open at 6:00) Tickets: \$9 per night; \$7 Student/Senior

Hosted by the outrageously funny (& "nearly normal") comedian, Regina Stoops

Friday 7:00 P.M.

**Plus! Shorts:** "Below the Belt"  
"Sleep Come Free Me"

## Bedrooms & Hallways



*A film by Rose Troche (Go Fish)*

A cast of talented actors come together in this sparkling comedy where desire, deep feelings and confusion gleefully mingle.

Saturday 7:00 P.M.

**Plus! Shorts:** "Trevor"  
"Boot Camp"

## Better than Chocolate



A terrifically entertaining women's romantic comedy that takes you far, far away to a land filled with color, music, sex and love.

★ Complimentary Refreshments ★

Film Festival

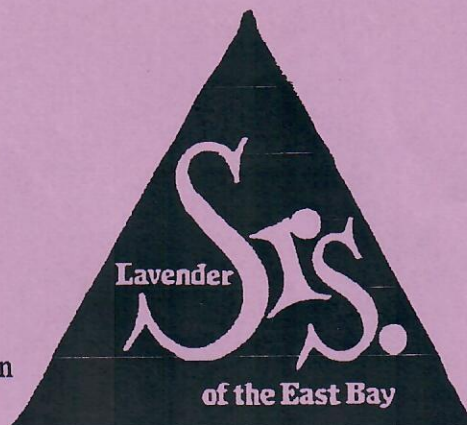
Sponsored by CommPre (Community Prevention of Alcohol-Related Problems), a program of Horizon Services, Inc. For tickets please call (510) 247-8208 or visit [www.plasticcow.com/filmfest](http://www.plasticcow.com/filmfest)



# CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

**February 7 - Tuesday - 6:30 p.m. - Board of Directors**

ALL WELCOME !! Meeting at Harry's Hof Brau at 14<sup>th</sup> and Hesperian Blvd., San Leandro, (Across from Bay Fair) Meets monthly the Tuesday before the potluck meetings.



**February 12 - Saturday - 12 Noon - MONTHLY MEETING**

## Happy Together or Happily Single?

A Panel and Informal Discussion

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 Dessert

San Leandro BART station shuttle is available. Call voice mail: 247-2406 to arrange pickup.

### COFFEE CONNECTIONS SOCIALS

February 2 - **TRI-CITIES AREA** - Fremont, Newark & Union City Coffee connection; 1st Wednesday every month 10 - 11:30 am. Location: Call Donna at (510) 651-7305 for directions

February 16 - **BERKELEY, ALBANY, EL CERRITO, NORTH OAKLAND Area**; 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, every month; 10 - 11:30 AM Location: Call Carol Beth at (510) 525-8540

February 14 and 28 **CONTRA COSTA COUNTY**; 2<sup>ND</sup> and 4<sup>TH</sup> Monday 1:30 TO 3:00 p.m.; Rainbow Community Center; Location: Call Dot for information (925) 829-7379

February 28 - **SAN LEANDRO AREA**; 4th Wednesday every month; 1:30 - 3PM (note time change); Community Church, 1386 Bancroft; Public Transit: Bus stop at Bancroft & Callan

### Happy Birthday

Ann C. Smith 2/9

Anna Johnson 2/2

B.J. Miller 2/1

Barbara Konecny 2/2

Frank Howell 2/16

Gene Windels 2/26

Gerald Hyman 2/8

Jess McVey 2/12

### 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.